

Croydon's Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2019

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1. Introduction

All councils are required by law to 'report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare, and make this report available and accessible to parents'.¹ We have prepared this report in order to meet this duty.

Having sufficient childcare means that families are able to find childcare that meets their child's learning needs and enables parents to make a real choice about work and training. This applies to all children from birth to age 14, and to children with disabilities. Sufficiency is assessed for different groups, rather than for all children in the local authority.

In this report, we have made an assessment of sufficiency using data about the need for childcare and the amount of childcare available, along with feedback from local parents about how easy or difficult it has been for them to find suitable childcare.

We use information about childcare sufficiency to plan our work supporting the local childcare economy.

¹ Statutory guidance on Early Education and Childcare, effective from 1 March 2018.

2. Methodology

Quantitative and qualitative data as at 31st July 2019 is used within this report and consideration given to supply and demand, availability, affordability, choice and flexibility and quality under three main themes:

- childcare for children aged 0 to 4 years
- childcare for children aged 5 to 14 years and
- childcare for children with disabilities or special needs (all ages)

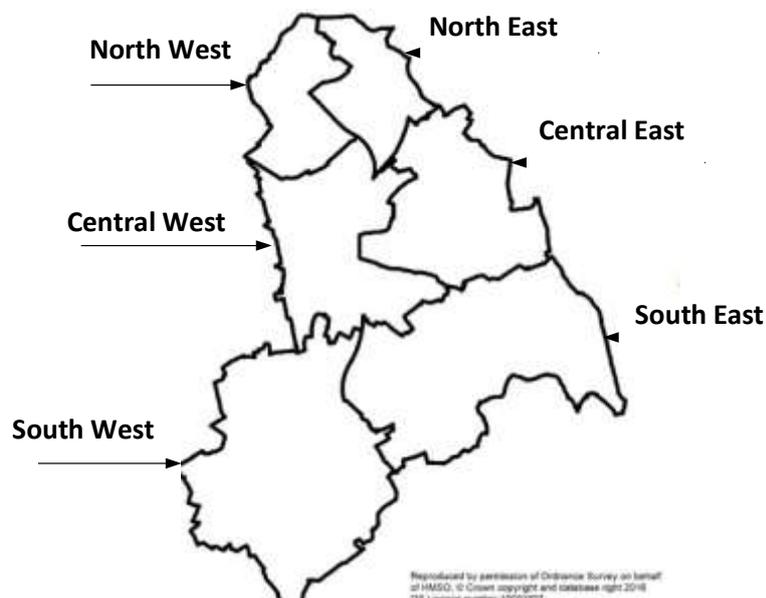
Analysis of demographic and socio-economic data was conducted by the Early Intervention Performance and Strategic Intelligence team and provides an indication of how the population is growing and therefore the impact on the childcare market.

Supply information on the number, cost and quality of childcare places was largely gathered from the Ofsted data held within the sufficiency department. Additional data was gathered from childcare providers via telephone calls and email updates.

Please note that all the details in this report were accurate as at July 2019 but that numbers of children, setting details including prices change constantly.

There are a number of factors that affect the demand and ability to pay for childcare. It is necessary to consider these wider issues when considering how demand levels may differ in particular areas of the borough.

As part of the strategy to deliver services more effectively, the borough has been re-aligned into six locality areas with the intention of bringing services closer to the communities they serve. These localities replace the Planning Areas previously in place. Please see page 11 for the detailed ward breakdown by locality.



3. About Croydon¹

Croydon is an outer London borough and is in the far south of London, making it London's southern-most borough. It covers an area of 87 square kilometres. To the very north of the borough, the five local authorities of Croydon, Lambeth, Southwark, Bromley and Lewisham meet, whilst to the south Croydon borders Surrey. To the north-east, east and south-east of Croydon the borders are with the London Borough of Bromley, whilst to the west the borders are with the London Boroughs of Sutton and Merton.

Population – Croydon has the second largest population of all London Boroughs at 384,837 just behind Barnet. Croydon has the largest population of young people in London: 22.2% (85,728) of the population are aged 0–15 years. Croydon also has a large population of working age adults, 64.5% of the population are aged 16-64, whilst the proportion of older adults, aged 65+, is much lower than the national average making up only 13.4% of the population² (ONS mid-2017 population estimates).

Migration – Based on the latest figures for 2016, domestic migration has had little impact on the growth of the Croydon population. 20,700 people moved into the borough whilst 23,700 people left the borough to go to other areas of the UK. The international inflows into Croydon continue to exceed the international outflows and this results in more migrants from outside the UK. For 2016, the ONS has estimated that around 11% of the Croydon population is made up of members from the EU and about 8% come from the rest of the World.

Ethnicity – Croydon has a diverse population; its communities speak more than 100 different languages and as with other London boroughs, Croydon has a higher proportion of residents from black and minority ethnic backgrounds than the national average. According to the Census 2011, the younger population is more diverse than the older population in Croydon.

Economy – The top three industries in Croydon, which accounted for nearly half of all businesses in the area in 2018 were professional, scientific and technical; construction and information and communication³.

There are fewer jobs in Croydon per head of population than the London average, with many residents commuting to work in other areas, such as central London. The high proportion of residents commuting to central London is one of the factors that influences the difference between the average earnings of people who work in

¹ Unless stated Croydon data are taken from the Croydon Observatory (<http://www.croydonobservatory.org/>) and the latest Borough profile. Further ward data are also available on the Croydon Observatory.

² Population estimates available at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesforukenglandandwalesscotlandandnorthernireland>

³ ONS (2018) UK Business Activity, Size and Location

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/business/activitysizeandlocation/datasets/ukbusinessactivitysizeandlocation>

Croydon and those of people who live in Croydon, although it should be noted there is some overlap between the two groups. The average gross earnings for male full-time workers is about £45 higher a week for those who work in Croydon than those who live in Croydon. For female full-time workers it is higher by about £12 a week⁴.

In March 2019, there was an estimated 10,105 people in Croydon claiming out of work benefits. The number has been steadily increasing since March 2017. The proportion of out of work claimants is higher than the London and national (GB) proportion.

Housing – Based on the 2011 Census, at a borough level 70.8% of Croydon residents lived in one family only households⁵, this was an increase of 2.4% compared to the 2001 figure. 25.3% of all households were married couples or couples in a civil partnership living with dependent children, 5.4% were co-habiting couples living with dependent children. 13.1% were a lone parent living with dependent children; the number of lone parent households increased from 17,347 in 2001 to 23,160 households in 2011. The rest of the households in Croydon were one-person households, aged over 65 or had non-dependent children.

According to the 2011 Census, 60.1% of all Croydon households were owner occupied, 22.1% were private rented or rent free households and 17.8% were households living in social housing. Croydon has the largest borough housing stock in London but its social housing stock is smaller than many other London boroughs.

2,449 Croydon residents were recorded as either homeless or in temporary housing as at 31st March 2018. There was a disproportionately high percentage (5 in 10) of homeless people from the Black community. The majority of people in Croydon who applied for help from the council for homelessness were in the 25–44 year old age group (58%); this age group only made up 29% of the total resident population in 2017 (ONS mid-2017 population estimates). The most common reason for homelessness is parental evictions, followed by exclusions by relatives and friends.

Education and skills – 47% of the eligible 2 year old population benefitted from a funded early education place in January 2019⁶. 83% of 3 and 4 year olds benefitted from a funded early education place in January 2019⁶. For both age groups, take up is below the London and England averages.

In 2018 74% of pupils achieved a good level of development in Croydon in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) in line with London and above England (71.5%)⁷.

⁴ ONS (2018) Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)

⁵ <http://www.croydonobservatory.org/document-library/> The Croydon Household Profile provides detailed information from the 2011 Census about the type of households that make up the borough of Croydon. “There are a range of household types that reflect the living arrangements that exist between people. These are: One person households, one family households (couple with or without children; single parents with child (ren), and Other households: multi-person households including unrelated adults sharing, student households, multi-family households and households of one family and other unrelated adults.” ONS Households and Household Composition in England and Wales, 2001-11 http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171776_361923.pdf

⁶ Early Years Census, School Census, School Level Annual School Census 2019

⁷ Early Years Foundation Stage Profile attainment data

For Key Stage 1 the proportion of pupils in Croydon achieving the expected standard in reading (77%) in 2018 remains in line with the regional average (78%) but higher than the national average of 75%. In Croydon, 72% of pupils achieved the expected standard in writing which was only just behind the outer London average (73%) and better than the national average (70%).

At Key Stage 2 the proportion of pupils achieving the expected standards for reading, writing and maths has improved from 55% in 2016 to 66% in 2018. Performance is above the national average (64%) but remains below the London average (68%)⁸.

Until 2016, attainment at Key Stage 4 was measured by counting the number of A*-C grades at GCSE. This measure has since changed to Average Attainment 8 score per pupil. This measures the average achievement of pupils in up to 8 qualifications. The average Attainment 8 score in Croydon has decreased from 49.9 in 2015 to 45.7 in 2018. Over the last 3 years, Croydon has been in line with the national average but below the London average.

The latest figure for 2017 showed that 85.5% of young people in Croydon had achieved a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19. This is a poorer performance compared to the previous year (87.0%) but is still close to the national average of 85.6%. 8.4% of A-level students achieved grades AAB or better in 2018, a decrease from 2017 and significantly below the London average (19.5%) and national average (20.6%)¹¹.

Community Safety – The overall number of offences committed in Croydon has fallen in recent years based on the last 10 financial years of reporting. There is a high number of offences in Croydon but the borough has one of the largest populations in London which means that the overall rate of offences per 1,000 population in Croydon is not as high as other parts of London. The number of victims of serious youth violence has increased slightly in recent years.

Croydon is in the top third of London councils for highest domestic abuse incidents with a rate of 18.2 per 1,000 of population for the 12 months rolling to 31st March 2019. Of the total victims of domestic abuse in Croydon, 76% were female. One in 3 (33%) of those subjected to domestic abuse were in the 25-34 year age band. 23% were in the 35-44 year band and 18% were in the 18-24 year band.

There were 1,152 proven offences committed by children age 10-17 in Croydon during the year ending 31st March 2018⁹. This is an increase of 29% on the previous year. By far the highest proportion of proven offences committed is violence against the person. In Croydon, 88% of the youth offenders are male. There is a greater proportion of youth offenders, aged 10-17 years, who are from BAME backgrounds (68.9%). This is above the proportion of BAME offenders in London (63.5%). The

⁸ DfE LAIT, data released October 2018.

⁹ Youth Justice Board.

proportion for England and Wales is much lower at 25.6% for the same period. There continues to be a disproportionately high percentage of young people from a Black or Black British background amongst the first time entrants in Croydon.

Health – Low birth rate is classified as any weight less than 2,500 grams. The Public Health Profile for 2017 shows that the percentage of low birth weight babies in Croydon was 3.31%. This is higher than the previous year figure of 2.96%. The national average figure for 2017 at 2.82% is also higher than the previous year's figure of 2.79%.

In 2017/2018, childhood immunisation rates in Croydon remained statistically lower than both the London average and the England average for all immunisations. For the year, Croydon failed to meet a single child immunisation national target set at 90% coverage¹⁰.

The proportion of Croydon pupils in Reception year (aged 4-5) measured as having excess weight was 22.0% in the latest year (2017/2018)¹¹. This is in line with both the London average at 21.8% and the national rate at 22.4%. The proportion of Croydon pupils in Year 6 measured as having excess weight was 38.0% (2017/2018) and remains in line with the London average (37.7%) but higher than the England average (34.3%).

In the last 20 years life expectancy in Croydon has progressively increased. For males the life expectancy from birth increased from around 74 years in 1991-1993 to 80.3 years in 2014-2016, this is in line with the average for London (80.4) and slightly higher than the England average of 79.5. Similarly life expectancy from birth for females has increased from just over 79 years to 83.6 years in the same period, however this is slightly below the London average of 84.2 years but similar to the England average of 83.1¹².

Deprivation – Croydon became relatively more deprived compared to other local authorities in England between 2010 and 2015 according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (produced by DCLG). The Index of Multiple Deprivation looks at a range of different aspects of deprivation: income, education skills and training, employment, health deprivation and disability, barriers to housing and services, crime, and living environment deprivation. There continues to be geographic inequality in the distribution of deprivation in the borough with the north and south-east of the borough remaining more deprived. Some wards have low levels of disadvantage whilst others are amongst the most deprived in England.

The Index Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) is a supplementary index looking at the proportion of children in an area that are living in families affected by

¹⁰ PHE, Public Health Outcomes Framework (based on NHS Cover of Vaccination Evaluated Rapidly (COVER) data)

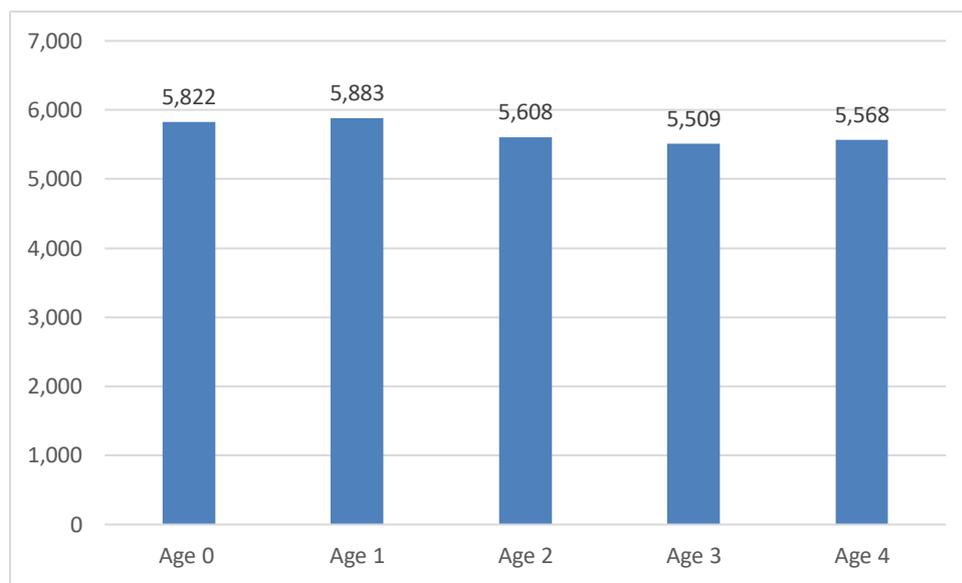
¹¹ PHE, NCMP Profiles (based on National Childhood Measurement Programme data)

¹² 1991-1993 data from Borough Profile. 2014-2016 data from PHE's Children and Young People's Health Benchmarking Tool.

income deprivation. In Croydon, 23.2% of children were living in families affected by income deprivation. 4% of the LSOAs were in the top 10 most deprived LSOAs in the country.

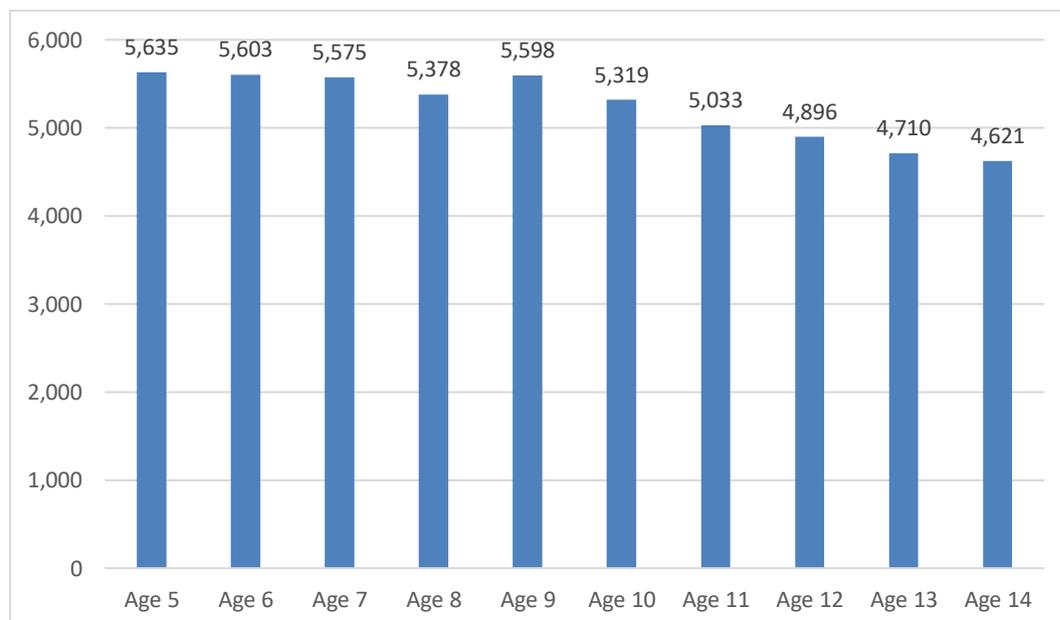
Current population figures – Based on the 2011 census there are 22,044 families with children aged under 5 living in Croydon. Using the latest mid-year population estimates (2017) these have risen to 28,390 children aged under 5 and 52,368 aged 5 to 14 in Croydon. This is detailed in the table below.

Figure 1 – Number of children aged under 5 living in Croydon



Source: ONS Mid-2017 population estimates

Figure 2 – Number of children aged 5 to 14 living in Croydon



Source: ONS Mid-2017 population estimates

4. Childcare in Croydon

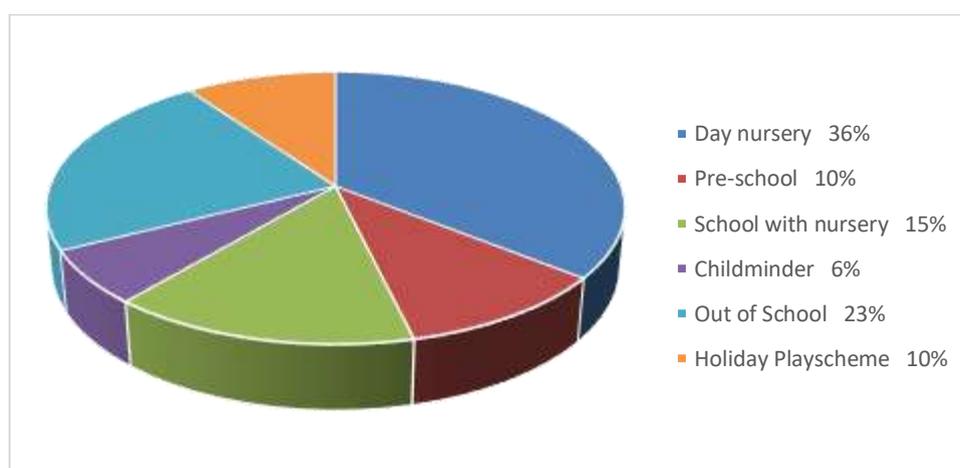
Supply of childcare

For the purposes of this assessment the supply of formal childcare includes private day nurseries, pre-schools, schools with nursery provision, childminders (funded childminders are accredited to deliver the free entitlement on behalf of the local authority), out of school clubs and holiday clubs.

Schools offering out of school provision are exempt from separate registration on the Ofsted Childcare Register but are included within the data. However crèches are not included as any care of less than three hours is not required to register with Ofsted.

Childcare places

In total the 698 providers offer 15,415 childcare places. The distribution of places by provider is shown below.



In Croydon there are an estimated 19 childcare places per 100 children based on 80,758 children aged 0 to 14 years.

Quality of childcare in Croydon

Ofsted inspect all registered provision and the table below shows the current quality judgements along with the national average.

	Outstanding		Good		Sub-total	Requires Improvement		Inadequate		Awaiting	
	Count	%	Count	%		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Day nurseries	11	12%	75	84%	96%	2	2%	2	2%	16	n/a
Pre-school	12	27%	33	73%	100%	0	0%	0	0%	1	n/a
Schools with nursery	13	29%	27	60%	89%	5	11%	0	0%	13	n/a
Childminders	44	14%	235	76%	90%	6	2%	24	8%	85	n/a
Out of School	9	18%	35	72%	90%	3	6%	2	4%	24	n/a
Holiday Playschemes	2	13%	12	80%	93%	0	0%	1	7%	5	n/a

Ofsted's national figures as at 31.3.19 state that the proportion of childcare providers on the Early Years Register judged to be good or outstanding was 95%. This is slightly better than the London average of 93% but within London the differential between childcare on non-domestic premises (96%) and childminders (92%) is greatest.

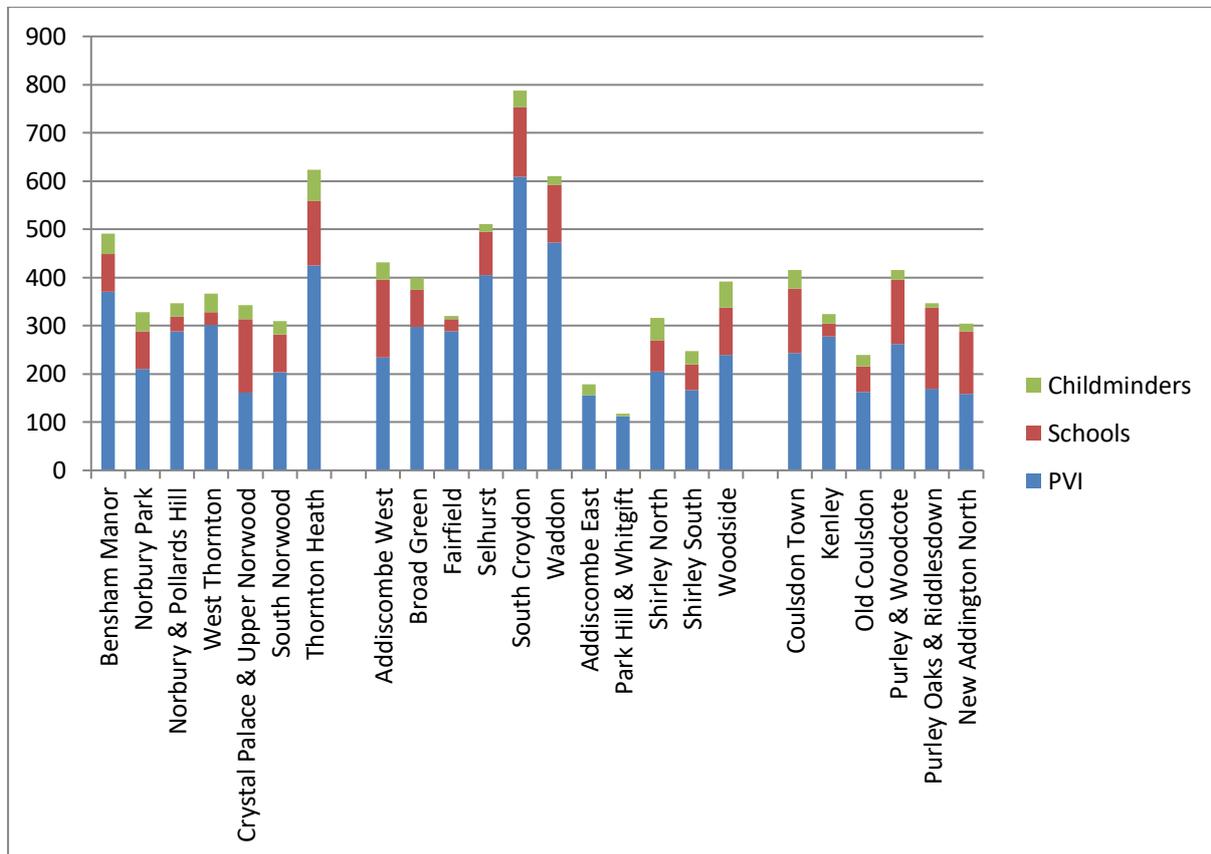
Total		106	46	58	113	281	74	20
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Key

- DN - Day nursery
- PS - Pre-school or sessional and term time
- SCH w N - Schools with nursery provision
- CM - Childminder; funded childminders offer free entitlement places
- OOS - Breakfast & Out of School club
- HP - Holiday Playscheme

Early Years Childcare

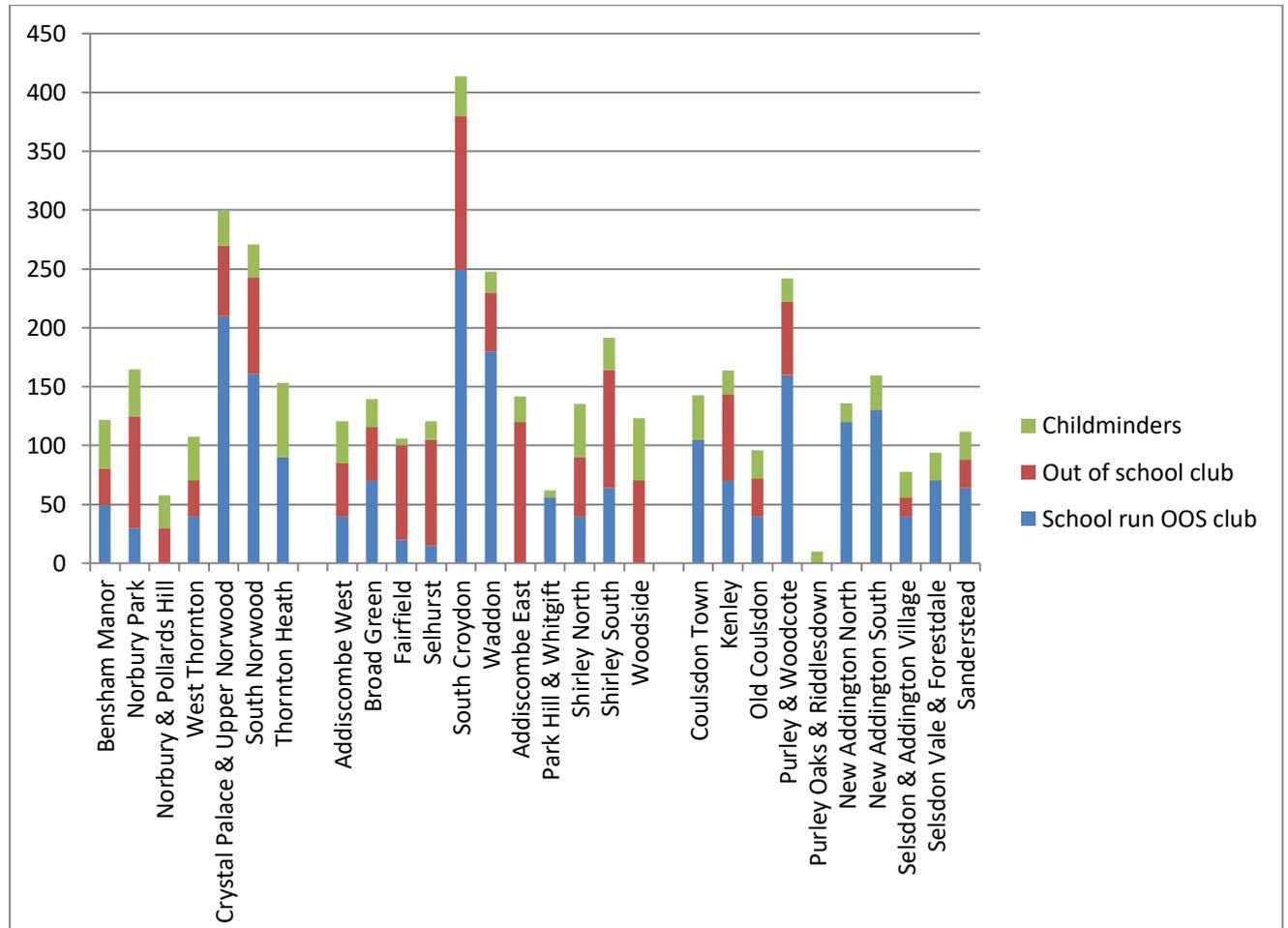
In Croydon there are currently 10,411 day care places for pre-school children aged 0 to 4 years. This is comprised of 7,133 nursery places in private settings, 2,293 via school provision and 985 with childminders; full details on previous page. Based on the mid-2017 population estimate of 28,390 this equates to 37 full-time places per 100 children aged 0 to 4 years across the borough.



However this varies across the borough but the high concentration of nursery provision in specific areas will also serve families living or travelling to neighbouring areas. Therefore any potential over or under supply of places should be considered within this context, please see pages 22 to 24 for more information.

Out of School Childcare

Out of school childcare comprises of before and after school clubs as well as provision offered by childminders. In total there are 3,431 out of school places available at out of school clubs with up to 780* additional spaces available with childminders. This equates to 7 places per 100 children aged 5 to 15 years (including disabled children) using the mid-2017 population estimate of 57,338.



* Please note that the figure of 780 childminder places is based on 66% of childminders offering 3 spaces.

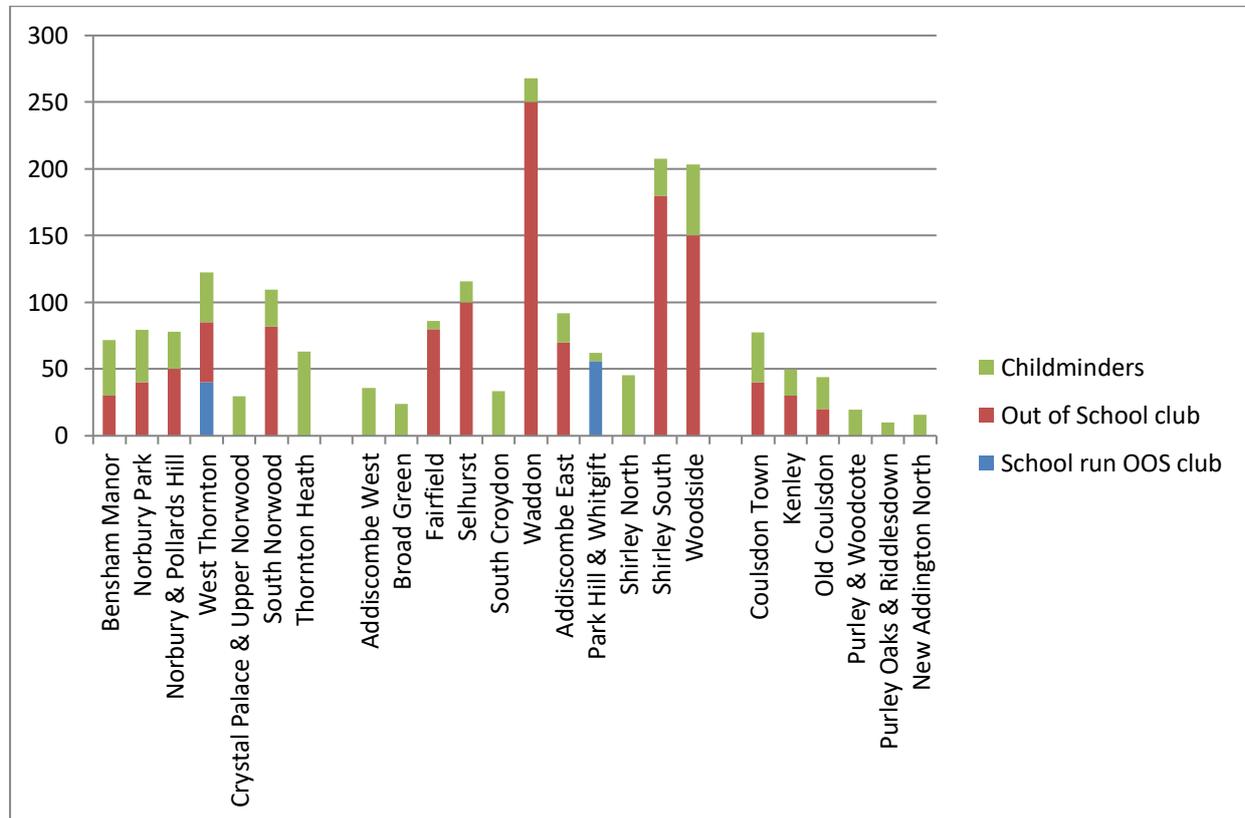
When considering the accessibility of out of school childcare, it is important to consider the number of schools served by individual clubs or childminders rather than a club's proximity to a child's home.

The borough average hourly rate for breakfast clubs is £4.16 and £4.27 for after school.

Holiday Care

Holiday childcare includes holiday playschemes as well as provision offered by childminders. In total there are 1,513 out of school places available at holiday clubs with up to 780* additional spaces available with childminders. This equates to 4 places per 100 children aged 5 to 15 years (including disabled children).

The average hourly rate across the borough for a holiday club is £3.13



* Please note that the figure of 780 childminder places is based on 66% of childminders offering 3 spaces.

5. Qualification levels in Croydon

Each year the Department of Education instructs local authorities on what data to collect within the Early Years census and in January 19 the information replicated the straightforward count of qualified staff requested in 2018.

The current statutory guidance dictates minimum qualified staffing levels and can be summarised as:

For children under 2: 1:3 staff to child ratio

For children aged 2: 1:4 staff to child ratio

For children aged 3 and over: 1:8 staff to child ratio

Irrespective of the child's age, at least one member of staff must hold a full and relevant level 3 qualification and at least half of all other staff must hold a full and relevant level 2 qualification. However please note that for children aged 3 and over this ratio changes to 1:13 when a person with Qualified Teacher Status or Early Years Professional Status (level 6 qualified) is working directly with the children; there is no difference to the ratios for younger children when cared for by a level 6 qualified person.

In addition anyone completing a level 2 or 3 qualification on or after 30th June 2016 must also have either a full or emergency Paediatric First Aid certificate within 3 months of starting work to count in qualified staff ratios.

According to census information received in January 2019 staff qualifications in the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) daycare sector can be summarised as shown below.

	Total number of staff	L2 qualified staff	L3 qualified staff	QTS/EYPS/EYT	Unqualified
Day nurseries (106)	1,329	251 (19%)	762 (57%)	74 (6%)	242 (18%)
Pre-schools (46)	335	33 (10%)	254 (76%)	14 (4%)	34 (10%)
Total	1,664	284 (17%)	1,016 (61%)	88 (5%)	276 (17%)

In terms of total staff numbers, day nurseries have an average of 63% of total staff team qualified at Level 3 or above and pre-schools have an average of 80% of total staff qualified at Level 3 or above. This produces a Croydon average of 66% of early years' staff qualified at Level 3 or above which is an improvement on last year's figure of 63% despite the universally acknowledged shortage of qualified staff.

6. Early Years Funding

Take up of 3 and 4 year old funding

All 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to 15 hours of childcare a week over 38 weeks (570 hours) this is known as the universal offer. Parents can access their entitlement over a longer period of time known as the stretched offer dependent on each setting's individual offer.

In September 2017 the government introduced '30 hours' whereby working parents of 3 and 4 year old children could apply for an additional 570 hours of funded childcare. The criteria is that both parents need to be working and earning the equivalent of 16 hours a week at minimum wage i.e. approximately £125 subject to an income cap of £100,000 per parent. All applications are made online via the HMRC and successful applications receive an eligibility code. These codes need to be renewed every 3 months to ensure the parents still meet the criteria.

The Department for Education latest figures indicate that within England 94% of 3 and 4 year old children take up their universal free entitlement, within London that figure is lower. The figures over the last four years are shown below:

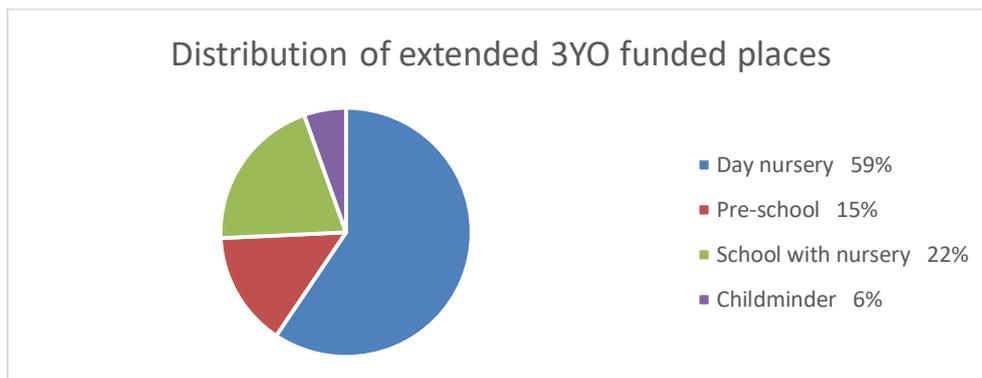
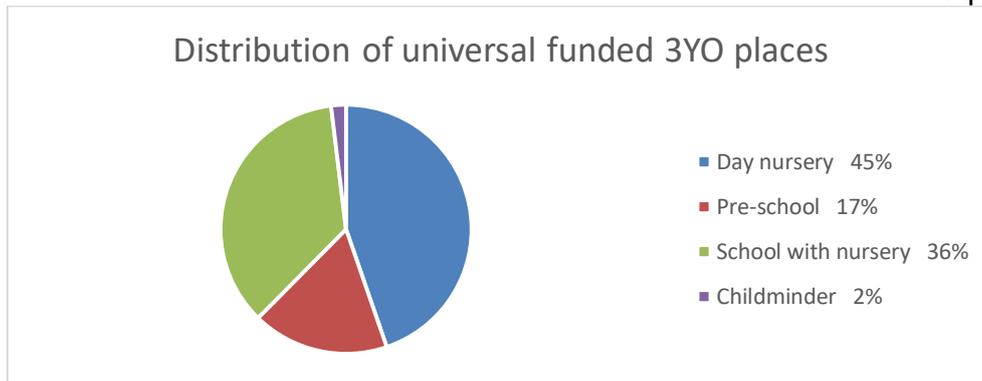
Year	Number 3YOs	%	London average	Number 4YOs	%	London average	Total	%	London average
2016	4805	83%	82%	5118	91%	89%	9923	87%	84%
2017	4581	82%	82%	5104	91%	87%	9685	87%	84%
2018	4540	80%	83%	4741	87%	86%	9281	83%	84%
2019	4622	80%	82%	4721	86%	86%	9343	83%	84%

Taken from Provision for children under 5 years of age in England, January 2019 & published 27.6.19

Based on this year's data Croydon's take up remains just below the London average for the universal entitlement.

However in Croydon the growth of extended hours is double the England average. In January 19 the published take up of extended hours was up 11% on the previous year but in Croydon there was a 23% increase between Spring 18 (1,649 children) and Spring 19 figures (2,031 children). No cross borough comparative statistics have been published for the extended entitlement but government estimates indicate approximately 410,000 children were eligible which would be 30% as a percentage of all 3 and 4 year olds. In Summer 19 2,436 children received extended hours funding which represents 32% of Croydon's 3 and 4 year olds.

The distribution of funded spaces in Summer 19 by provider is shown below:



Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

In April 2015 the government introduced EYPP for disadvantaged 3 and 4 year olds. Children are eligible if they are receiving their early years' entitlement and meet the benefits related criteria for free school meals or are in/have left the care of the local authority. The setting receives an additional 53p an hour for any eligible children and the intention is that these funds are used to close any developmental gaps the child may have and to enhance provision for these children.

In the summer term we had 470 pupils eligible for EYPP which is the equivalent of 6% of our total number of children accessing early years funding which is slightly below the January 2019 DfE's 7% percentage. However despite the fact the majority of funded hours are delivered by the private sector, the majority of EYPP claims are from the school sector, 68% of EYPP children are accessing their entitlement in a nursery provision within a maintained school.

The EYPP criteria effectively matches the 2YO funding criteria and as the graph below shows again the majority of 2YO places are delivered by private providers therefore those children would be eligible for EYPP when they turn 3 unless their home circumstances have changed. However private providers have reported a reluctance on behalf of parents to provide the necessary information to run the checks.

Distribution of funded 2YO places



2 year old funding (2YO)

40% of 2 year old children are also entitled to 570 hours if the parent is in receipt of:

- Income support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Support through part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act
- Tax Credits and an annual income of £16,190 or less before tax
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- The Working Tax Credit 4-week run on
- Universal Credit and a combined annual income from work of £15,400 or less after tax

Or if the child:

- Is looked after by the local authority
- Has a current statement of special educational need or an education, health and care plan
- Receives Disability Living Allowance
- Has left care under a special guardianship order, child arrangement or adoption order

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) continue to provide lists to local authorities of potentially eligible families which are used by our children's centres to offer targeted 2YO information.

Parents can complete an online 2YO eligibility check via the Family Space Croydon website and between August last year and this July over 1,700 successful checks have been run but this figure does contain a small number of repeat checks. Croydon's 2YO take up figure has been largely stable but recently we have seen a slight reduction in numbers which potentially is linked to the success of the extended hours.

The Department for Education latest figures indicate that within England 68% of eligible 2YOs are taking up their free entitlement, within London that figure is lower. The figures over the last four years are shown below:

Year	Number of funded Croydon 2YOs	%	London average
2016	1257	53%	57%
2017	1270	66%	58%
2018	1230	82%	61%
2019	1021	47%	56%

Taken from Provision for children under 5 years of age in England, January 2019 & published 27.6.19

Based on this year's data Croydon's take up percentage looks very low and our figures have dipped a little over the last year. However our final termly 2YO count was 1,230 in Summer 18, 1,293 in Autumn 18 and 1,184 in Spring 19; the above figure was the January forecast number rather than the actual end of term figure. In addition, the number of DWP eligible families is also falling from 2,057 in January 19 to 1,621 in June 19. We are watching the 2YO numbers closely but while the actual number of children remains broadly constant there is less concern than the percentage would imply and in Summer 19 there were 1,085 funded 2YOs.

7. Profile outcomes

Local Authorities have a statutory duty to improve outcomes for children which is known as the Early Years Outcome Duty and is often referred to as ‘school readiness.’ This is measured through the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile at the end of the reception class year when children are 5 years old (or rising 5).

Children who achieve at least “expected” in 12 of the 17 aspects of learning are said to have achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD).

Table 1 shows the percent of children who achieved the GLD in Croydon and nationally. This year’s (2019) non-validated data shows that the number of children is, once again, above the national figure, and has improved on last year’s figures.

Percentage of children achieving a GLD		
Year	Croydon	National
2015	64.7 %	66.2 %
2016	70.3 %	69.3 %
2017	73.6 %	70.3 %
2018	73.5%	71.5%
2019	74.6% (provisional)	71.8% (provisional)

Table 1

Percentage gap between children eligible for free school meals (FSM) and those not eligible achieving the GLD		
Year	Croydon	National
2015	13 %	18 %
2016	11.5 %	18 %
2017	13.8 %	17%
2018	8%	18%
2019	11.2% (provisional)	18.5% (provisional)

Table 2

Nationally the number of children eligible for Free School Meals has risen slightly from 12.4% of children in 2018 to 12.9% of children in 2019. However in Croydon the number of children claiming FSM has fallen from 21.4% in 2018 to 17.2% in 2019 but still significantly higher than the national figure.

8. Children with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability)

Nurseries, pre-schools and childminders across Croydon are supported in developing and maintaining good inclusive practice, in line with the principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage and the 2015 SEND Code of Practice, by the Early Years Inclusion and Intervention Team and the Portage Team.

The Early Years Inclusion and Intervention Team supports private, voluntary and independent settings and childminders through a range of services for children, aged 0-5, who have identified special educational needs and disabilities. These range in severity from mild learning disabilities to profound multiple learning difficulties. The team ensure that a package of support is delivered that reflects the individual needs of the child. This may include individual support packages or whole setting training. The team also provide strategic support to the maintained nursery schools.

The Portage service was reinstated in Croydon in September 2018 following a review of the Early Years SEND provision. Within this review a need to provide parental support and intervention for preschool children with disabilities who were not in education was identified. Prior to the reinstatement of the Portage service families of those children had received educational advice and transition support into nursery or school. The intention is that the Portage model delivers support and advice with sufficient frequency to make an impact on children's developmental progress.

In the academic year 2018-2019 a total of 269 new referrals were received through SPOC by the team at the time of reporting. Of these 198 were children supported within the settings and 71 within the home. There were a further 16 referrals received from health for children who attended a mainstream nursery setting.

When a health care professional identifies that a young child, under 5, may have a special educational needs and/or disabilities they are required by law to tell the local authority. There were a total of 146 health notifications received via direct meetings with Gill Brock, Designated Medical Office. Approximately 70% of these were already known to Early Help services.

Specialised placements

The local authority has commissioned the following places across the borough:

Rainbow Group (Central) 27 places, 15 main cohort and 12 medical unit

Willow Tree (South) 12 places

Winterbourne (North) 12 places

The team have overall responsibility for children placed in the specialist nursery provisions named above but do not offer regular support as each setting has an allocated Educational Psychologist.

There were 83 new applications for personalised funding agreed and 13 for targeted funding for children attending PVI and maintained settings.

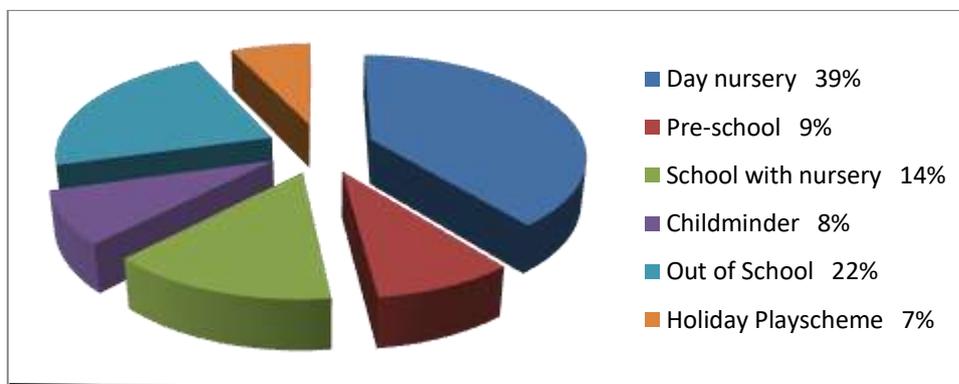
Total number of pre-school children (aged 3-4) with an EHCP or under assessment and setting type:

	Under assessment	EHCP
PVI	20	9
School Nursery	7	8
Nursery School	2	13
Specialist Nursery	2	22
Total	31	52

Whilst this data represents service delivery for children with SEND at a sustained personalised or targeted level, it does not fully depict the wider 'value added' work completed to initially assess needs (within the family home and in settings) in order to ensure that children have received an appropriate graduated response to their SEND. A considerable amount of service delivery involves managing demand and expectation within settings and family intervention for those children whose needs are initially unclear and, through effective, short-term targeted intervention, no longer meet criteria for a long-term intervention. Data is not currently held for this aspect of service delivery but consideration is being given to methods for recording going forward.

9. Childcare in the North

There are seven wards in the North – Bensham Manor, Norbury Park, Norbury & Pollard’s Hill and West Thornton constitute the North West and the wards Crystal Palace & Upper Norwood, South Norwood, Thornton Heath are designated as North East. In the North there are 224 childcare providers offering 4,061 places. The distribution of places by provider is shown below.



The Ofsted grades are summarised in the following table

	Outstanding		Good		Requires Improvement		Inadequate		Awaiting	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Day nurseries	0	0%	28	97%	0	0%	1	3%	7	n/a
Pre-school	1	10%	9	90%	0	0%	0	0%	0	n/a
Schools with nursery	2	14%	11	79%	1	7%	0	0%	3	n/a
Childminders	13	13%	79	77%	1	1%	9	9%	32	n/a
Out of School	3	25%	8	67%	1	8%	0	0%	7	n/a
Holiday Playschemes	0	0%	5	100%	0	0%	0	0%	2	n/a

Ofsted’s statistics published on 17.7.19 state that as at 31.3.19 95% of childcare on non-domestic premises was Good (75%) or Outstanding (20%), In the North, the figures are 97% for day nurseries and 100% for pre-schools. 90% of childminders were Good (77%) or Outstanding (13%).

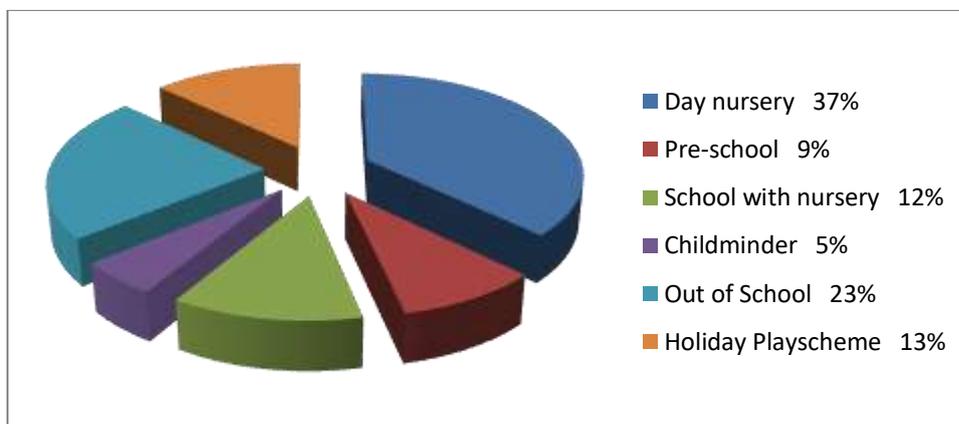
Take up of funding in group provision as at 31.7.19

	No. of 2YOs	% within North	No. of 3&4YOs	% within North	No. of ext. hrs. 3&4 YOs	% within North
Day nurseries	222	77%	851	52%	312	66%
Pre-school	26	9%	162	10%	39	8%
Schools with nursery	41	14%	623	38%	120	26%
Total	289		1636		471	

Therefore although North is home to 30% of the under 5s, group provision delivers: 28% of the borough’s funded 2YO places
22% of the borough’s funded 3 and 4 year old universal places and
20% of the borough’s funded 3 and 4 year old extended entitlement places.

10. Childcare in Central

There are eleven wards in Central – Addiscombe West, Broad Green, Fairfield, Selhurst, South Croydon and Waddon constitute Central West and the wards Addiscombe East, Park Hill & Whitgift, Shirley North, Shirley South and Woodside are designated as Central East. In Central there are 270 providers offering 6,844 places. The distribution of places by provider is shown below.



The Ofsted grades are summarised in the following table

	Outstanding		Good		Requires Improvement		Inadequate		Awaiting	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Day nurseries	6	15%	32	80%	1	2.5%	1	2.5%	6	n/a
Pre-school	7	39%	11	61%	0	0%	0	0%	0	n/a
Schools with nursery	3	22%	9	60%	3	20%	0	0%	4	n/a
Childminders	13	11%	92	77%	5	4%	9	8%	28	n/a
Out of School	3	15%	15	75%	1	5%	1	5%	10	n/a
Holiday Playschemes	1	12.5%	6	75%	0	0%	1	12.5%	1	n/a

Ofsted's statistics published on 17.7.19 state that as at 31.3.19 95% of childcare on non-domestic premises was Good (75%) or Outstanding (20%), In Central, the figures are 95% for day nurseries and 100% for pre-schools. 88% of childminders were Good (77%) or Outstanding (11%).

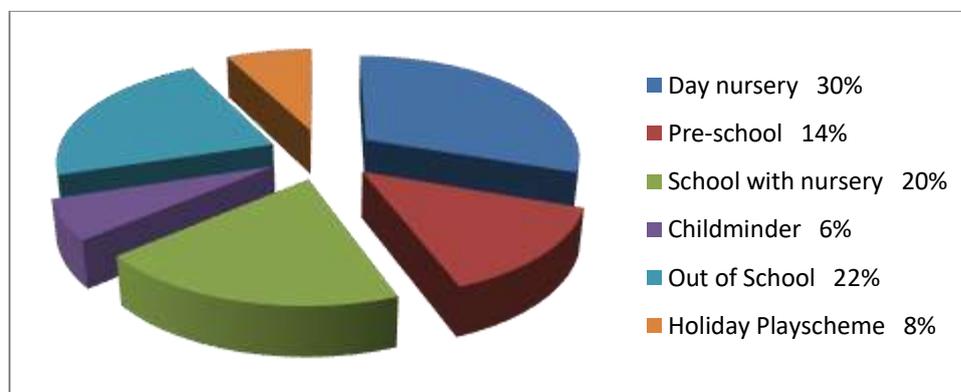
Take up of funding in group provision as at 31.7.19

	No. of 2YOs	% within PA2	No. of 3&4YOs	% within PA2	No. of ext. hrs. 3&4 YOs	% within PA2
Day nurseries	332	58%	1694	48%	736	69%
Pre-school	120	28%	662	18%	164	15%
Schools with nursery	83	14%	1206	34%	174	16%
Total	535		3562		1074	

Therefore although Central is home to 42% of the under 5s, group provision delivers: 51% of the borough's funded 2YO places 48% of the borough's funded 3 and 4 year old universal places and 47% of the borough's funded 3 and 4 year old extended entitlement places.

11. Childcare in the South

There are ten wards in the South – Coulsdon Town, Kenley, Old Coulsdon, Purley & Woodcote and Purley Oaks & Riddlesdown constitute the South West and the wards New Addington North, New Addington South, Selsdon & Addington Village, Selsdon Vale & Forestdale and Sanderstead are designated as South East. In the South there are 202 childcare providers offering 4,510 places. The distribution of places by provider is shown below.



The Ofsted grades are summarised in the following table

	Outstanding		Good		Requires Improvement		Inadequate		Awaiting	
Day nurseries	5	24%	15	71%	1	5%	0	0%	3	n/a
Pre-school	4	24%	13	76%	0	0%	0	0%	0	n/a
Schools with nursery	8	50%	7	44%	1	6%	0	0%	6	n/a
Childminders	18	20%	64	73%	0	0%	6	7%	25	n/a
Out of School	3	18%	12	70%	1	6%	1	6%	7	n/a
Holiday Playschemes	1	50%	1	50%	0	0%	0	0%	2	n/a

Ofsted's statistics published on 17.7.19 state that as at 31.3.19 95% of childcare on non-domestic premises was Good (75%) or Outstanding (20%), In the South, the figures are 95% for day nurseries and 100% for pre-schools. 93% of childminders were Good (73%) or Outstanding (20%).

Take up of funding in group provision as at 31.7.19

	No. of 2YOs	% within PA3	No. of 3&4YOs	% within PA3	No. of ext. hrs. 3&4 YOs	% within PA3
Day nurseries	120	57%	863	38%	399	53%
Pre-school	90	18%	519	23%	159	21%
Schools with nursery	14	6%	891	39%	201	26%
Total	224		2273		759	

Therefore although South is home to 27% of the under 5s, group provision delivers: 21% of the borough's funded 2YO places 30% of the borough's funded 3 and 4 year old universal places and 33% of the borough's funded 3 and 4 year old extended entitlement places.

12. Cost of childcare

The table below shows the average hourly rate for day nurseries and the average hourly sessional rate for pre-schools across each of the three areas.

	0-2 years	2-3 years	3-5 years
North			
Day nursery	£5.79	£5.50	£5.39
Pre-school	£6.50	£6.33	£5.90
Central			
Day nursery	£5.58	£5.41	£5.25
Pre-school	n/a	£5.54	£5.44
South			
Day nursery	£5.63	£5.46	£5.32
Pre-school	n/a	£5.66	£5.47
Borough average			
Day nursery	£5.67	£5.46	£5.32
Pre-school	£6.50	£5.84	£5.60
Childminder	£6.09	£6.09	£6.09

The current funding rates from the Direct School Grant are as shown:
 2YOs are funded at £5.66 per hour
 3YOs are funded at £4.65 per hour

However the introduction of the single funding formula requires local authorities to pass through 95% of the government rate, Croydon are paid £5.13 therefore in addition to the above, a group setting will also receive the following additional funds:

Deprivation uplift, this is calculated based on the child's postcode and run against the IDACI scales with payments tiered according to level of deprivation. Band 1 corresponds to postcodes in the 10% most deprived areas and Band 2 to the next 10% to 20% most deprived. This year the amounts paid are £216.55 for those in decile 1 i.e. the 10% most deprived postcodes and £180 for decile 2 i.e. the next 10% to 20% of deprived postcodes. Given the variable nature of postcodes it is almost impossible to anticipate levels of IMD (Index of Multiple Deprivation).

All group settings in Croydon are paid as described above with the exception of the five nursery schools who also receive a Maintained Nursery School supplement from central government.

According to the Coram Family and Childcare's "Childcare Survey 2019", in Outer London the hourly rate

for a child under 2 is £6.04 and £5.74 for an over 2 in nursery and
 for a child under 2 is £5.75 and £5.55 for an over 2 at a childminder.

13. Childcare compared to last sufficiency assessment in 2018

Croydon continues to have a diverse range of childcare providers – we have several small independent one-site providers, 22 providers who operate more than one setting within Croydon and/or the neighbouring boroughs including 3 of the large chains and two franchised nurseries.

Childminders

The number of childminders has decreased from 410 to 394, a net overall reduction of 16 which is in keeping with national trends. However we are seeing a steady flow of new childminders with 37 registering in the last year. The percentage of childminders eligible to deliver funding has again increased with 29% offering funded places despite being significantly less than their average hourly rate which has increased by 25p. Childminders are the only sector to offer weekend care.

Pre-schools

Over the course of the year another two term time settings closed, one was a morning only provision in a church hall and the other site now has a new day nursery operating. There are only 5 pre-schools who do not offer more than 15 hours. A small number of pre-schools are unable to offer a full 30 hour service because of shared premises and the halls being used for other activities but most offer 30 hours. The average hourly cost has risen significantly by 73p this year as given the limited opening hours pre-schools need to charge a realistic rate for any hours being privately purchased as the vast majority of their hours are local authority funded places and there is therefore limited opportunity to charge for additional services.

Day Nurseries

The number of day nurseries in the borough has increased this year with five new sites registered including a Forest School. In addition two previously registered but dormant properties have re-opened with new providers and four sites changed provider. Three nurseries are not yet accredited to deliver funding and only two providers have chosen not to offer the 30 hours of extended entitlement. Average costs per hour have risen by 12p for 0-2 years, 19p for 2-3 years and 18p for 3-5 years, each age band has a different legally stated adult:child ratio. These increases represent an annual increase of approximately 3% which while higher than inflation reflects the additional costs being placed on individual businesses in terms of business rates and staff wages and pensions. Across the borough opening hours remain largely unchanged from last year and although non-core hours can be accessed at various settings it would appear that there is limited demand for very early mornings, late evenings or weekends.

Out of school care

The number of out of school clubs in the borough has fallen by 6 with the average cost of a 1.5 hour breakfast club being £6.24 (up from £6.07) and £12.81 (down from £12.99) for a 3 hour after school club.

The number of holiday schemes in the borough has decreased by 9 and the average daily rate for 10 hours is £31.30, a decrease of 4p on last year.

The number of Tuition Centres (currently 21) often focussing on key skills such as literacy and numeracy across all age ranges continues to increase year on year.

Parental Childcare Questionnaire

This year we posted an online childcare questionnaire on the Croydon website for four weeks from 29th June to 26th July. The questions focus on type of childcare used, satisfaction levels, reason for using, barriers and knowledge of available funded childcare, see page 30 for the actual questionnaire.

The key facts and future considerations are detailed below:

There were 274 respondents which is more than double last year's response and probably the result of promotion via the Best Start Facebook page and the council Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Within the early years' sector i.e. 0 to 4 years, the most popular choice of childcare was a day nursery at 44% but 19% of respondents also chose a pre-school with a further 10% using a childminder and 20% use family and friends. However it should be noted that some 78% of respondents selected more than one option but given the distribution of summer funded places detailed on page 16, schools are under-represented in this survey as only 10% of parents cited a school provision. The vast majority of respondents (85%) are happy with their childcare but of those who were unhappy, the main reason is cost although three parents raised concerns over staffing.

The majority of school age responses don't use any childcare (58%) but of those who do, the most popular care was after-school provision (43%). However an identical number of respondents (24%) use informal childcare by family and friends as use a breakfast club. The take up of holiday care is the lowest category with only 5% using this service. Again 85% are satisfied with their childcare but four dissatisfied parents cited a lack of holiday provision.

77% of respondents use childcare to facilitate work but half of this number acknowledge that it also benefits the child in terms of education and social enjoyment. The main barrier to using childcare is cost although 22 parents cited session times which will again be inextricably linked to cost as the majority of providers offer early start or late finish as an additional service to the standard day.

According to the survey responses,

82% of respondents claimed to be aware of 2YO funding

86% of respondents claimed to be aware of universal 3YO funding and

82% of respondents claimed to be aware of the extended entitlement for 3YOs

Only 18% of respondents used Family Space Croydon to search for childcare which has significant implications for the local authority as that is the main website that parents are signposted to containing all our registered childcare and early years' information. The vast majority of responses are saying they have never heard of it.

Identified Issues and Actions

Support for the sector

The Best Start Early Learning Collaboration have been commissioned to support the childcare sector and the contract sits within the Commissioning and Procurement team. They regularly review the key performance indicators covering take-up of training, Learning Community events, apprentice placements and setting quality in terms of Ofsted grades, support programmes and inspection preparation visits.

2018 Action	Progress	Status
Continue to monitor the take up of 30 hour entitlement places and the impact this may have on overall market capacity.	Take up of the 30 hour offer has grown steadily and in Summer 19 almost a third of our 3/4YOs were accessing an additional 15 funded hours. However there has been a slight drop in the number of funded 2YOs so further investigation is required.	Ongoing
Portal information will be fed into our sufficiency analysis and reviewed in conjunction with ward data about tax credits and working families in attempt to identify trends, patterns and potential hot spots.	This year's data reflects the new ward boundaries which means we no longer have a direct comparison with last year. However this year we have included the under 4 population ward data which shows the pressure on places in Central as they are effectively a net importer of children in addition to homing 42% of the borough's under 4s.	Completed
Introduce a new online parental questionnaire.	Revised version used this year which indicated that very few parents were aware of the Family Space Croydon website but more work required on questionnaire structure.	Ongoing
Encourage settings to provide us with termly vacancy information which again will be very useful for parents.	Following a successful recruitment the 2.6 sufficiency team is now complete and vacancy information is now regularly requested, provided by the sector and updated.	Completed
Update the Provider Agreement to reflect recent developments including privacy statements, term time only claims, removal from the directory of providers.	As a result of management restructures and department realignment, there has been a marked increase in involvement with early years' finances which has resulted in this task not being completed.	Outstanding
Review how effective partnership arrangements between providers are in terms of sharing observations about children and general transition.	Transition is working well across the sector but providers rarely share observations and next steps. This area will be addressed within the Provider Agreement update with the universal hour provider taking the responsibility for liaising with other providers.	Completed

Family Space Croydon upgrades.	All information has been updated and realigned within the new wards. The website is currently being upgraded to give us increased upload capabilities and improve display on mobiles which analysis shows is how it is most commonly accessed.	Ongoing
New online 2YO portal introduced.	Our data handling has improved and we now have more rigorous checking systems in place. The service is also well used by parents and we have on average over 150 successful applicants every month.	Completed
Restructured SEND service.	As can be seen (p.20/21) there is a new format to the SEND reporting and internally there are stronger links between professionals and across teams e.g.SEND payments requested alongside other early years payments.	Complete
Contact the out of school sector with a view to promoting sign up to Tax Free Childcare as we believe this is an area that could benefit both parents and providers.	Out of school contacted and TFC sign up encouraged but limited feedback although our registration document has been amended to include this information.	Completed

2019 Actions and Overview

1. Continue with upgrades to Family Space. Over the last year we have been able to analyse site usage and as a result we are having modifications made to improve the site look as the majority of users are accessing via their mobile phone. In addition, we are increasing our ability to upload useful documents and have requested a new one-line promotional message. We intend to use this to highlight legislation changes and also signposting to current initiatives and information such as Healthy Child London, school application dates, 30 hour code renewal reminders, local family events etc.
2. As mentioned previously we were concerned by the lack of parental awareness of Family Space Croydon therefore we need to review this and identify how the site can be promoted especially as we are now receiving regular sector vacancy information and have improved the information available to parents e.g. a Parent & Toddler timetable showing what groups are on and when.
3. The Provider Agreement should be updated and we are hoping to include not only more information about how funding works but also clarify removal from the directory following audit visits that highlight significant areas of concern.
4. In order to ensure that the information received from the Parental Childcare questionnaire can be used to best effect, more work needs to be done on the question structure and also consider whether responses should be

anonymous as currently we have no data on where respondents live nor the ability to explore further any issues raised.

Although local authorities have a duty to ensure that there is sufficient childcare, they have limited mechanisms to affect the supply as the majority of funded places in Croydon are delivered by the private sector. Financial factors clearly play an important role in what type of funded offer is available and although the Early Years National Funding Formula guaranteed a 95% pass through rate for providers, it also effectively removed the ability for local authorities to incentivise and support places e.g. 2YO places that may be less cost effective.

Demand for early years' places is also difficult to predict as early education is not statutory and while there is a wealth of research about the benefits of early education, ultimately it is still a parental choice. Price and availability of specific hours will also play a part and are inextricably linked to demand as full day providers offer a variety of funded offers to parents that also need to accommodate business considerations and while pre-schools offer more affordable packages they are by definition term-time. As already mentioned we are monitoring our 2YO places closely along with the growing numbers of extended hours' places which again are difficult to predict given that parents need to re-confirm their circumstances every three months to remain eligible.

At this point in time we believe we have sufficient childcare available across the borough. However in September 2019 Ofsted are introducing a new inspection framework which will inevitably effect Ofsted judgements which are key when placing funded 2YOs but given the high number of funded childminders there is still considerable capacity within that specific sector to nurture our youngest children.

Unfortunately as a result of the ward boundaries being re-drawn, it is not possible to directly compare to last year. However the inclusion of the under 5 population data by ward is very helpful and allows us to see that there both North and South are effectively exporting children into Central where the main transport links are. At an individual ward level there is a high level of provision in Coulsdon Town, South Croydon and Selhurst; similarly the wards with the least provision are South Norwood, Broad Green and West Thornton.

Although Croydon are constantly reviewing their property portfolio, there are currently no vacant council properties available within the shortfall wards from which a childcare business could be run. Therefore any providers hoping to open a childcare business in Croydon should first establish if there is a local demand for their service and then source their own premises and contact Ofsted regarding registration; the local authority does not offer any pre-registration support nor site visits. However once registered as Active, all providers will be contacted and asked for information to advertise their service on our Family Space Croydon website to which all parents are signposted and offered support from our commissioned partner the Best Start Early Learning Collaboration.

This survey is to find out from parents and carers what their experiences and needs are in relation to childcare. The information will be used to inform our Childcare Sufficiency Assessment which helps us review and plan high quality childcare places across the borough.

We estimate this survey will take approximately 5 minutes to complete. The survey will close on 26th July 2019.

All of your answers will remain confidential and you will not be identified in any way in the reporting and use of this survey.

1. **How old are your children?**

Age	Number of children	Does your child have a Special Educational Need or Disability?
Under 2 years		
Aged 2 years		
Aged 3 to 4 years		
Primary school age		
Secondary school age		

2. **What type of childcare do you use for your children who are below school age?** Please select all that apply.

Childminder	
Day nursery (open all year round)	
Pre-school (term time)	
Nursery class in school	
Standalone nursery school	
Nanny/Au pair	
Family/Friends	

3. **Are you satisfied with the childcare received from all your below school age providers?**

	Yes	No
Childminder		
Day nursery (open all year round)		
Pre-school (term time)		
Nursery class in school		
Standalone nursery school		
Nanny/Au pair		
Family/Friends		

If you answered No, please detail the issue(s) below

--

4. **What type of childcare do you use for your school age children?** Please select all that apply

Breakfast club	
After school club/activities	
Holiday club	
Childminder	

Nanny/Au pair	
Family/Friends	
None	

5. **Are you satisfied with the childcare received from all your school age providers?**

	Yes	No
Breakfast club		
After school club/activities		
Holiday club		
Childminder		
Nanny/Au pair		
Family/Friends		

If you answered No, please detail the issue(s) below

--

6. **If you use childcare, please say why.** Please select all that apply.

So that I can work	
So that I can look for work	
So that I can study/train	
So that I can fulfil other caring responsibilities	
So that I can go shopping/attend appointments/socialise	
For my child's benefit e.g. educational/social/enjoyment	
Other, please specify	

7. **Did you use Family Space Croydon when searching for childcare?** YES / NO

8. **Are there any barriers to you using childcare?** Please select all that apply.

Too expensive	
Cannot find an available place	
Sessions are not available at the times I want	
I am not happy with the quality available	
Transport difficulties getting to a provider	
Children don't want to go	
Provider unable to meet child's SEN needs (if any)	
I do not need childcare	
Other, please specify	

9. **Are you aware of the following funded childcare options?**

	Yes	No	Already using
15 hours of funded childcare per week for some 2 year olds			
15 hours of funded childcare per week for all 3 and 4 year olds (universal funding)			
30 hours of funded childcare per week for some 3 and 4 year olds (extended funding)			

If you would like to [find out more](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) about free childcare entitlements and eligibility, please visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Appendix 3

Thank you for your time.