

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) 2023/24

Produced by Ealing Council

March 2024

CHILDREN

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Overall assessment and summary

Introduction - about childcare sufficiency assessments (CSA)

Ealing council is 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'. We have prepared this report to meet this duty.

Having sufficient childcare means that families can 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 assessed sufficiency using data about the need for childcare and the amount of childcare available. We use information about childcare sufficiency to plan our work supporting the local childcare economy.

From April 2024 there will be changes in the funded childcare offer as set out in the government's 2023 budget statement. This CSA will help us support the sector to prepare for these changes in Ealing.

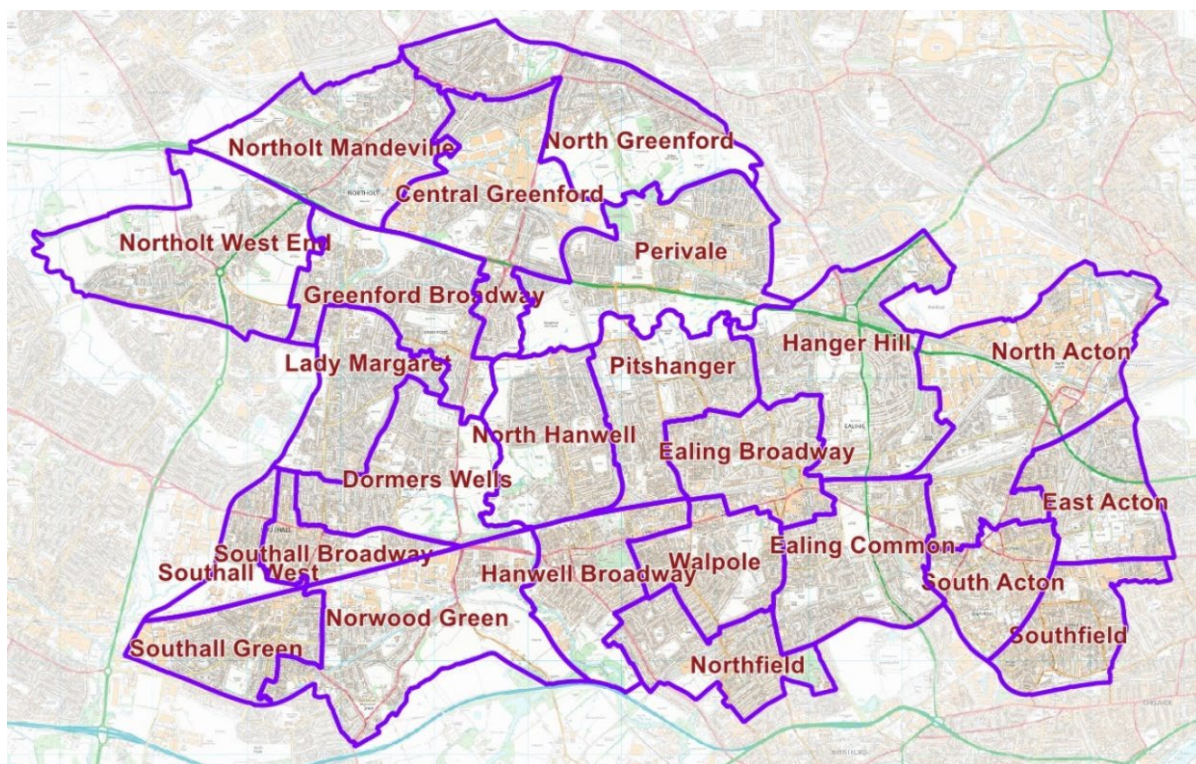
Local information

Child population

According to data from the Office National Statistics, at the 2021 Census, there were 67,411 children and young people aged up to 14 years residing in Ealing. This equates to 18% of the local population.¹

Ealing is made up of 24 wards as illustrated in the map below.

¹ [Age by single year, census 2021 ONS](#)



Northolt West End, Greenford Broadway and Northolt Mandeville have the highest total number of children aged 0-14 with Southall Broadway and Southall West having the lowest number of children in this age range.

Northolt West End, South Acton, Greenford Broadway, and Northolt Mandeville have the highest numbers of children in the 0-4 age range.

2021 census data, 0-14 years by ward

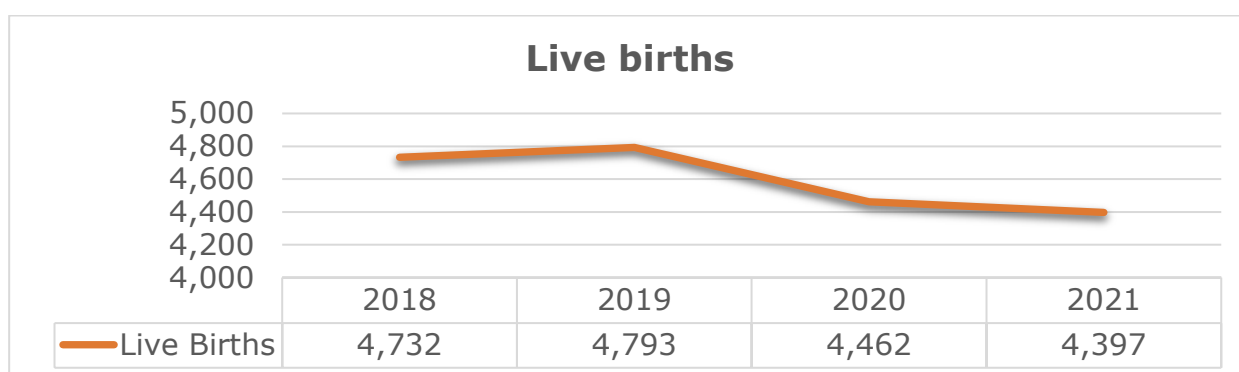
Ward	Age 0 to 4	Age 5 to 7	Age 8 to 9	Age 10 to 14	Total
Central Greenford	799	489	349	930	2567
Dormers Wells	868	605	436	1114	3023
Ealing Broadway	769	436	276	595	2076
Ealing Common	767	432	275	736	2210

Ward	Age 0 to 4	Age 5 to 7	Age 8 to 9	Age 10 to 14	Total
East Acton	878	454	362	932	2626
Greenford Broadway	1109	704	486	1319	3618
Hanger Hill	1058	629	451	1032	3170
Hanwell Broadway	958	584	410	1020	2972
Lady Margaret	810	554	416	1086	2866
North Acton	915	570	412	976	2873
North Greenford	825	485	362	954	2626
North Hanwell	842	592	444	1178	3056
Northfield	810	552	388	996	2746
Northolt Mandeville	1102	654	492	1269	3517
Northolt West End	1259	716	482	1356	3813
Norwood Green	1028	554	447	1117	3146
Perivale	870	544	386	996	2796
Pitshanger	872	537	405	1057	2871
South Acton	1142	552	422	897	3013
Southall Broadway	598	417	269	721	2005
Southall Green	897	599	430	1236	3162
Southall West	390	248	207	513	1358

Ward	Age 0 to 4	Age 5 to 7	Age 8 to 9	Age 10 to 14	Total
Southfield	1049	579	367	818	2813
Walpole	897	465	325	801	2488

Live births

Data from the Office for National Statistics via Nomis indicate that the birth rate in Ealing has been steadily decreasing for several years.²



General population

- Between the last two censuses (held in 2011 and 2021), the population of Ealing increased by 8.5%, from just over 338,400 in 2011 to around 367,100 in 2021.
- The population in Ealing increased by a greater percentage than the overall population of London (7.7%), and by a greater percentage than the overall population of England (up 6.6% since the 2011 Census).
- In 2021, Ealing was home to around 47.2 people per football pitch-sized piece of land, compared with 43.5 in 2011. This area was among the top 10% most densely populated English local authority areas at the last census.

² [Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://nomisweb.co.uk)

- In the 2021 census, around 174,900 Ealing residents said they were born in England. This represented 47.6% of the local population. The figure has risen from around 168,300 in 2011, which at the time represented 49.7% of Ealing's population. India was the next most represented, with around 31,800 Ealing residents reporting this country of birth (8.7%). This figure was up from around 25,800 in 2011, which at the time represented 7.6% of the population of Ealing. The number of Ealing residents born in Poland fell from just over 21,500 in 2011 (6.4% of the local population) to around 18,800 in 2021 (5.1%).³

Income deprivation in Ealing

- In Ealing, 14.0% of the population was income-deprived in 2019. Of the 316 local authorities in England, Ealing is ranked 94th most income deprived.
- Of the 196 neighbourhoods in Ealing, 35 were amongst the 20 percent most income-deprived in England. 12 neighbourhoods were in the 20 percent least income-deprived in England. In the least deprived neighbourhood in Ealing, 2.8% of people are estimated to be income deprived. In the most deprived neighbourhood, 34.8% of people are estimated to be income deprived. The gap between these two, is 32.0 percentage points in Ealing. The overall income deprivation score for Ealing is 14.0%.⁴

³ [How life has changed in Ealing: Census 2021 \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/census/2021-census)

⁴ [Exploring local income deprivation \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/census/2021-census)

Percentage of children under 16 living in families with low income (2021/22)⁵



School census 2023

The January 2023 school census showed that the overall number of pupils in Ealing state funded schools (secondary, primary, special, maintained children's centres and the PRU) has increased slightly from 54,580 to 55,029, an increase of 449 (0.8%) pupils since January 2022.

The secondary school population is now 22,509, up from 21,871, an increase of 638 pupils (2.9%) since January 2022. The number of high school pupils in years 7 to 11 has increased by 3% (530 pupils) to 17,960 from 17,430.

The overall primary school population has continued to fall, this year from 31,232 in January 2022 to 31,015 in January 2023, a drop of 217 pupils (0.69%). 94 of those were in the main school (R-Y6) where the population fell by 0.5% since last January from 28,547 to 28,405.

The number of children in primary school nursery classes fell from 2,685 to 2610 this year, a fall of 2.8% (75 children). This is 25% lower than it was 5 years ago, when we had 3,270 children in school nursery classes.

⁵ [Deprivation – UTLA, Ealing data](#)

The number of children attending Ealing maintained special schools is now 951, compared to 931 in January 2022, a 2.1% increase.

The number of children (born on or after 01/01/2021) attending the four maintained children's centres increased by 2.1% this year, from 480 in January 2022 to 490 in January 2023.⁶

Ethnicity

The population of state-funded schools in Ealing borough is very ethnically diverse, with 85.1% of all pupils classified as being of minority ethnic heritage in 2023. Ethnic minorities account for 86% of all primary school pupils, and 84% of high school pupils. The breakdown of ethnicity for all state-funded pupils is as follows: 30% Asian or Asian British, 28% White, 13% Black or Black British, 10% from Mixed/Dual backgrounds and 18% of Other Ethnic Heritage. Almost every school in the borough has pupils from all the broad ethnic groups.

The most common ethnic groups in Ealing are:

- Indian at 15%
- White British 13%
- Eastern European 9%
- Asian Other 7%
- Pakistani 6%
- Somali 6%
- Arab Other 6%
- Afghan 5%
- Black Caribbean 3%

⁶ [Summary of pupil numbers May 2023](#)

Language spoken

60% (32,788) of pupils in Ealing schools do not speak English as their first language, with a higher proportion of EAL in primary (62%) than secondary (56%). Ealing remains well above the 2022 national figures of 20.9% for primary and 17.2% for high schools. There are more than 170 different languages spoken in Ealing schools. After English, the most common languages (each with over 2000 speakers) are Panjabi (8%), Arabic (8%), Polish (6%), Somali (5%) and Urdu (4%).

Special educational need (SEN)

15.2% (8,361) of pupils in Ealing schools were identified as having a Special Educational Need in 2023. 10.6% had SEN Support, while 4.6% (2,534) had an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), with 951 of those pupils attending special schools. At high school (including pupils attending additionally resourced provision or units) the proportion of EHCPs is above the national average (2.6% compared to 2.2% nationally in 2022). This is also the case at primary school (3.2% in Ealing compared with 2.3% nationally in 2022). The proportion of pupils in Ealing schools with SEN Support is 9.4% at high school and 11.4% at primary, lower than the national figures in 2022 of 11.9% and 13.0% respectively.

The proportion of pupils with SEN ranges from 4% to 23% in high schools, and 5% to 28% in primary schools. 3.8% of pupils have Cognition and Learning Needs, 2.1% have Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs, 7.6% Communication and Interaction Needs, and 0.6% Sensory and/or Physical Needs.

Entitlement to free school meals (FSM)

In Ealing state-funded schools, 27.5% of pupils (12,971) were recorded as entitled to Free School Meals in January 2023. This has increased from 26% of pupils (12,098) in January 2022 and 23% (10,917) in January 2021. In

primary schools, 26.9% of Ealing pupils are eligible for free school meals, and 27.5% at secondary schools.⁷

Overall sufficiency in our area

Provider engagement in the sufficiency assessment



This assessment was primarily conducted through the provider survey. 137 providers completed the survey which is 36% of the providers the survey was sent to. This response rate provides a snapshot of sufficiency and potential gaps in Ealing. We will be reviewing the survey format and content to try and increase the uptake for the next survey.

Key findings

Key findings include:

- the CSA data and research suggests that there is currently a sufficient supply of childcare for children aged 0 to 5 years
- growth will be required over the next 12 months to prepare for the expansion of funded early education and childcare entitlements and wraparound childcare
- 692 eligible families took up a 2-year-old funded place which is an uptake of 65% overall
- 3,323 3-year-olds and 1,256 4-year-olds are taking up their funded NEG place which is an uptake of 76% of 3-year-olds and 29% of 4-year-olds (some 4-year-olds will have started their reception year at school)
- the CSA suggests that there is a lack of sufficient childcare for school aged children with not all schools having before and after school provision

⁷ [School Census summary of Contextual Data 2023.pdf \(egfl.org.uk\)](https://egfl.org.uk/School-Census-summary-of-Contextual-Data-2023.pdf)

- providers are seeing an increase in the numbers of children accessing their provision with SEND and the CSA suggests that there is a lack of sufficient childcare for children with SEND
- Ofsted data suggests that the quality of childcare in Ealing overall is of sufficient quality with 96% providers being graded good or outstanding
- In 2023 the HAF programme reached 36% of eligible children and young people. 4,371 unique participants attended 31,606 HAF sessions. 1,145 (26%) of HAF participants stated on their booking that they had Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND). 82% of participants were primary school aged and 18% were secondary aged

Sufficiency

73% of providers agree or strongly agree that there are sufficient childcare places in their immediate geographical area for children aged 0-4 years.

79% of providers agree or strongly agree that there are sufficient childcare places in their immediate geographical area for children aged over 5.

However, only a quarter of providers agree or strongly agree that there are sufficient childcare places in their immediate geographical area for children with SEND*.

**Data from providers that gave either a positive or negative response only, those who neither agreed nor disagreed removed.*

64% of providers said they had vacancies; however, these were small numbers averaging three spaces across all respondents. 23% of childminders and 42% of PVI nurseries said they had a waiting list with 32 children on childminder waiting lists and 368 on PVI waiting lists. 6% of providers are already planning to increase their places, 18% would like to increase their places and 17% would increase their places with further support. When asked what support they needed to increase spaces the top answer was help recruiting staff followed by an increase in funding and help extending or opening a new venue in third place.

78% of providers expect to continue to provide childcare in Ealing for over 5 years with only one provider currently expecting to cease providing childcare in the next year.

EY sufficiency: DfE LA readiness data

Estimated places needed and proportional increase in supply hours:

In Ealing the DfE estimate that overall, 443 places will need to be created by September 2025. This relates to a 9% increase in supply of childcare hours.

However, when estimates are mapped across each Ward, we can clearly see the distribution of places is uneven, leaving some Wards with a deficit of places and families needing to seek places outside of their Ward in which they are resident particularly in Southall, Northolt, Acton and Greenford.



Our plans for childcare

Ealing works alongside our Early years providers to ensure that provision is accessible to families and is of high quality.

Providers in Ealing have been awarded increased funding rates for 2024/25 and this will create opportunities for some of our providers to extend provision and increase the number of places.

Early years providers that have taken part in engagement events and through the survey have expressed an interest in business support from the local authority. In response to this Ealing have arranged a series of events and are developing online tools to support providers to develop their businesses and thrive in Ealing.

Schools have expressed an interest in extending their 30hour provision for some children and would be happy to engage with further parent demand surveys to ascertain the level of demand before developing further provision for example 2-year-olds.

Survey results demonstrate that areas such as Greenford and Acton will require increased capacity to meet predicted demand. It would be pertinent to consider development opportunities in these areas over the coming year to ensure supply has been supported to increase before September 2025, particularly for children from 9months.

Ealing is working alongside children centre and Health colleagues to ensure expectant and new parents are aware of what funding they are entitled to when the time comes for them to return to work. Ensuring they are fully informed of all support available to them and what nurseries have vacancies will be supported through our families information service and through development of our digital communications pathways for families in Ealing.

Recruitment of appropriately trained early years staff has been referred to as a barrier by several settings both in early years and wraparound care. In

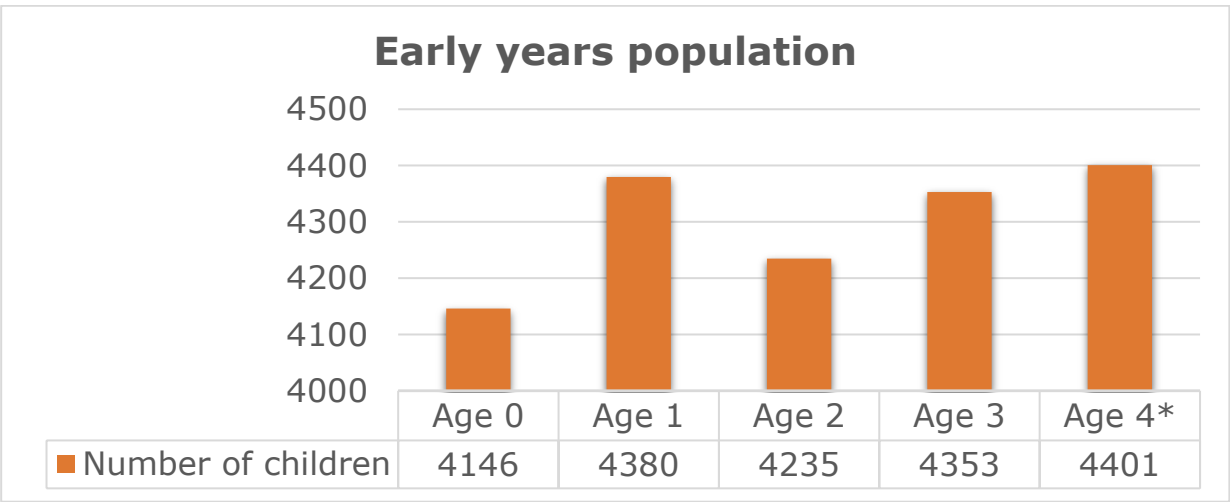
response the early years team has increased its engagement with both the apprenticeship team and Work Ealing to provide opportunities for the early years sector in Ealing to engage with teams that can support with advertising and apprenticeship schemes for their organisations.

There will be a strong focus on supporting primary schools in Ealing to create additional before and after school places for children from Reception to Year 6. Support will be provided to schools to ensure parents requirements in each area assessed and that services are developed accordingly. It has been noted that support for children with SEN in wraparound provision is an area that providers would like support with, and Ealing would support this through training opportunities and additional resources for settings.

Demand for childcare

Population of early years children

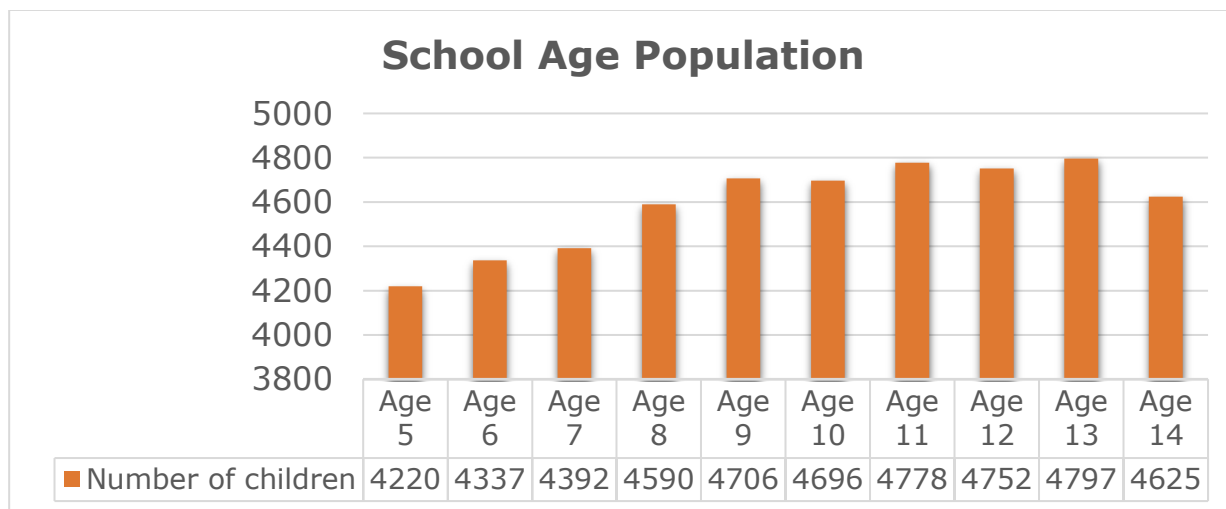
In total, there are 21,515 children under the age of five living in our local authority. These children may require early years childcare.



** Some four-year-olds will have started reception*

Population of school age children

In total there are 31,719 children aged 5-11, and 14,174 children aged 12-14 living in our local authority. These children may require childcare before and after school, and/or during the school holidays.



Number of children with SEND

As of January 2023, national data indicates that there are 2686 children aged between 0 and 15 years in Ealing with an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP)⁸. The table below shows this figure broken down into age groups.

Age Range	EHCP Caseload
Under 5	179
5-10 years	1,337
11-15 years	1,170

Local data from the January 2024 school census shows that there are 31 children in the early year age range attending a school or maintained

⁸ [Education, health and care plans, Reporting year 2023, GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)

nursery with an EHCP and an additional 276 children receiving SEN support bringing the total in this type of provision to 359 children.

Supply of childcare

Number of early years providers and places

According to Ofsted, as of August 2023, there are a total of 315 Early Years Registered childcare providers in Ealing providing a total of 8,413 registered places.⁹

The breakdown of the provider types and numbers of places are broken down below:

Childminder

- Providers: 139
- EYR places: 896

Childcare on non-domestic premises

- Providers: 175
- EYR places: 7,505

Childcare on domestic premises

- Providers: 1
- EYR places: 12

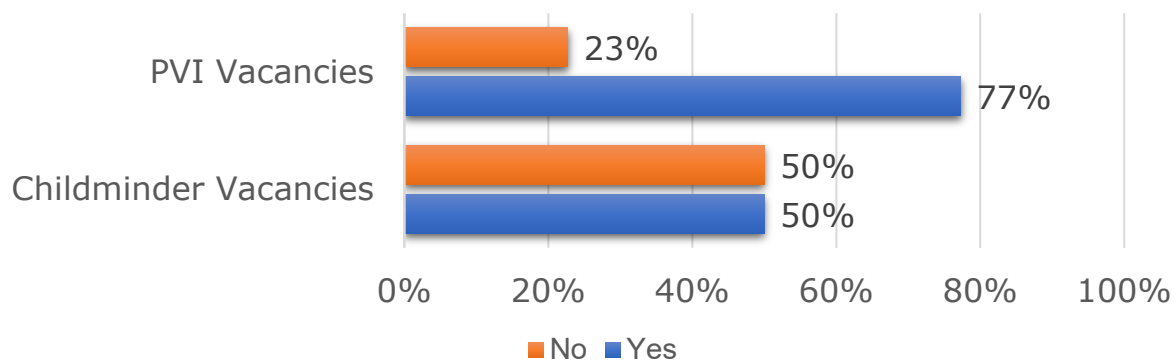
All provision

- Provider: 315
- EYR places: 8,413

Early years: vacancies

110 early years providers responded to our survey question regarding current vacancies. Overall, 64% of childminders and PVI Nurseries who responded currently have vacancies in their provision. The graph below illustrates how this is broken down between the different types of early years providers.

⁹ [Childcare providers and inspections as at 31 August 2023 - GOV.UK](#)



When asked how many vacancies they had available, providers who responded to this question mostly had a small number of vacancies averaging three spaces each although some providers indicated that if they were able to recruit more staff, they would be able to increase the number of spaces they offer.

23% of childminders stated that they had a waiting list this rose to 42% for PVI nursery settings. Providers were asked how many children were on their waiting list. Childminders had a total of 32 children on their waiting list and PVI nurseries have a total of 368 children on their waiting lists.

Early years: atypical hours

When rounded to the nearest quarter of an hour, the average operational hours for childminders is 7:45am to 5:45pm, for PVI nurseries, the average hours are 8am to 6pm and for maintained nurseries the average hours are 8:30am to 4pm.

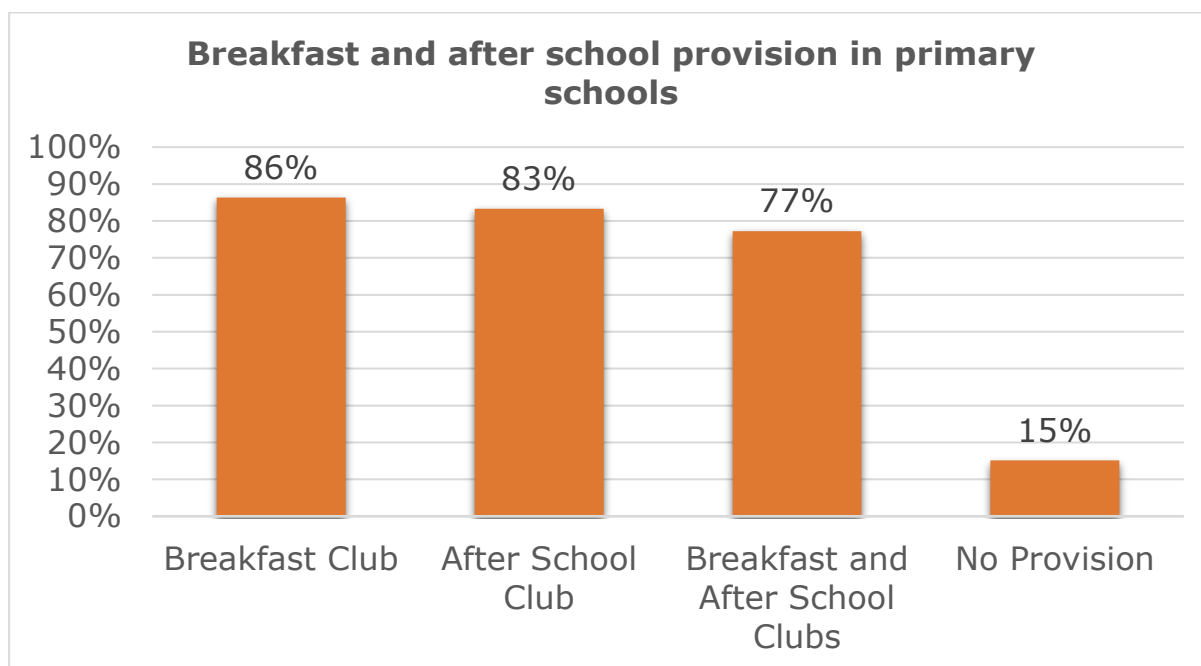
62% of survey respondents stated that they never offer childcare outside of their normal operating hours. 37% of survey respondents have operated before 8am and 8% have operated beyond 6pm. In terms of overnight and weekend care, only three childminders had offered these services with one offering overnight and weekend care and two offering weekend care only.

Number of school age providers and places

According to Ofsted, as of 31 August 2023 there are 25 childcare providers registered on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the childcare register.¹⁰

Many providers in this sector are exempt from Ofsted registration due to the activities on offer, the age range they work with or because they are run in house by schools.

Information published in the 2023 primary school prospectus indicates that 77% of Ealing primary schools have both before and after school childcare provision. 86% have a before school childcare provision, 83% have an after-school provision. 15% of Ealing primary schools do not have any before or after school childcare provision.



¹⁰ [Childcare providers and inspections as at 31 August 2023 - GOV.UK](#)

The table below shows what before and after school provision each school offers.

Primary schools	Breakfast club	After school club
Acton Gardens Primary School	yes	yes
Alec Reed Academy (Primary)	yes	yes
Allenby Primary School	no	no
Ark Byron Primary Academy	yes	yes
Ark Priory Primary Academy	yes	yes
Beaconsfield Primary School	yes	yes
Blair Peach Primary School	yes	no
Brentside Primary Academy	yes	yes
Christ The Saviour Church of England Primary School	yes	yes
Clifton Primary School	no	no
Coston Primary School	yes	yes
Dairy Meadow Primary School	yes	yes
Derwentwater Primary School	yes	yes
Dormers Wells Primary School	yes	no
Downe Manor Primary School	yes	no
Drayton Green Primary School	yes	yes
Durdans Park Primary School	no	yes
East Acton Primary School	yes	yes

Primary schools	Breakfast club	After school club
Edward Betham Church of England Primary School	yes	yes
Featherstone Primary and Nursery School	no	no
Fielding Primary School	yes	yes
Gifford Primary School	yes	yes
Grange Primary School	yes	yes
Greenwood Primary School	yes	yes
Hambrough Primary School	yes	yes
Havelock Primary School	yes	yes
Hobbayne Primary School	yes	yes
Holy Family Catholic Primary School	yes	yes
Horsenden Primary School	yes	yes
John Perryn Primary School	yes	yes
Khalsa Primary School	yes	yes
Lady Margaret Primary School	no	yes
Little Ealing Primary School	yes	yes
Mayfield Primary School	yes	yes
Montpelier Primary School	yes	yes
Mount Carmel Catholic Primary School	yes	yes

Primary schools	Breakfast club	After school club
North Ealing Primary School	yes	yes
North Primary School	no	no
Oaklands Primary School	yes	yes
Oldfield Primary School	yes	yes
Our Lady of the Visitation Catholic Primary School	yes	yes
Perivale Primary School	yes	yes
Petts Hill Primary School	yes	no
Ravenor Primary School	yes	yes
St Anselm's Catholic Primary School	no	no
St Gregory's Catholic Primary School	yes	yes
St John Fisher Catholic Primary School	yes	yes
St John's Primary School	yes	yes
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	yes	yes
St Mark's Primary School	yes	yes
St Mary's Church of England Primary School	yes	yes
St Raphael's Catholic Primary School	yes	no
St Vincent's Catholic Primary School	yes	yes
Selborne Primary School	no	yes

Primary schools	Breakfast club	After school club
Southfield Primary School	yes	yes
Stanhope Primary School	yes	yes
Three Bridges Primary School	yes	yes
Tudor Primary School	no	yes
Vicar's Green Primary School	yes	yes
Viking Primary School	yes	yes
West Acton Primary School	yes	yes
West Twyford Primary School	yes	yes
Willow Tree Primary School	yes	no
Wolf Fields Primary School	yes	yes
Wood End Primary School	yes	yes
Woodlands Academy	yes	yes

Primary schools were invited to complete a survey about their current wraparound provision (before and after school provision) between 18 December 2023 to 26 January 2024. 31 primary schools completed the survey.

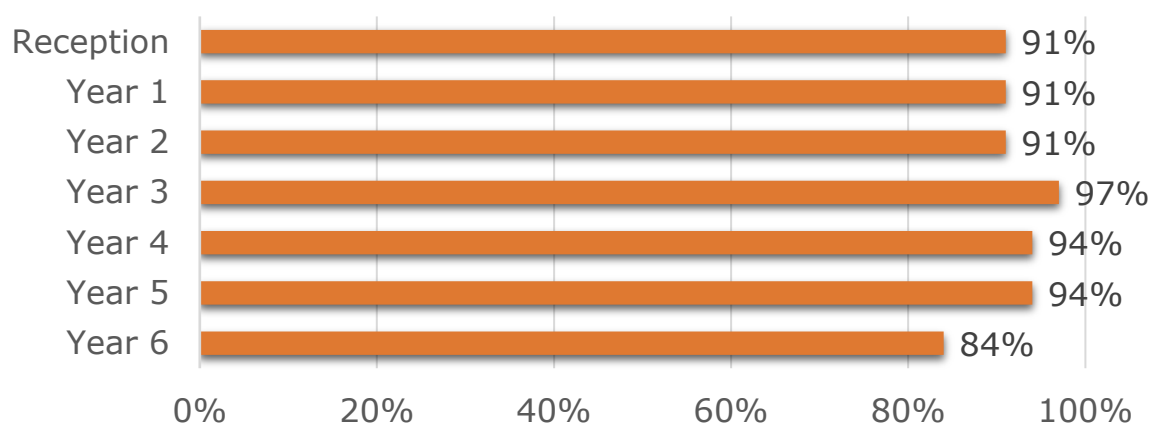
- 84% of schools participating in the survey currently provide 'wrap around' provision
- 6.3% participating in the survey provide either before or afterschool provision

- 3.1% of schools participating in the survey offer no provision

Before school provision

The overall average number was 34 places, but the range for those schools who have a before school club was from 13 places to 200 places, with one school stating the number was unlimited, as it is staffed accordingly to uptake.

Which year groups use the before school provision?



The response shows that all year groups are well represented in attending the before school provision, with a slight tail off as pupils reach year 6.

The operational range starts at the earliest from 7:30am up to 9am in the morning. The majority run from 7:45am to 8.45am

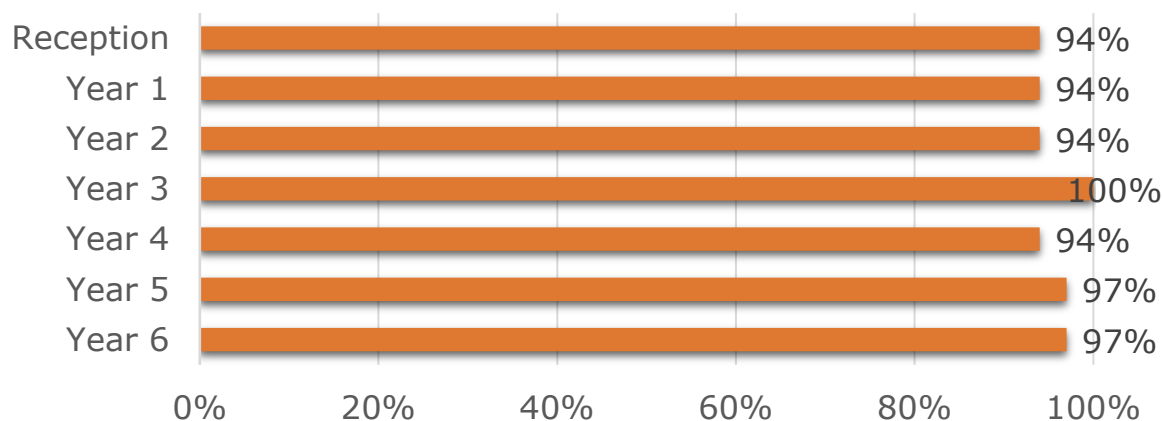
The majority of schools have no waiting list. Of the two that do, one school has a waiting list of 3 places and the other consists of families who need places either only a few days a week or sporadically.

With regards to children who are disadvantaged, 83% of school state they have sufficient places, but this drops to 60% for children with SEND.

After school provision

The overall average number was 43 places, but the range for those schools who have a before school club was from 10 places to 300 places, with one school stating the number was unlimited, as it is staffed accordingly to uptake.

Which year groups use the after school provision?



The response shows that all year groups are well represented in attending the after-school provision. We are not seeing a slight tail off as pupils reach year 6 as was demonstrated in the before school section.

The operational range starts at the earliest from 3pm up to 6pm in the afternoon. The majority run from 15:15pm to 6pm

The majority of schools have no waiting list. Two state that they do.

One school commented, "Not necessarily a waiting list every day, but we do have to turn down families on some days when it is full, with priority given to regularly attending children of working parents".

Another school commented, "Not at the moment but that may change in January 2024".

The schools' statements regarding demand, indicate that 81% of schools state they have sufficient provision. 36% are planning for additional places

and 35% expanding to meet the new wrap around offer. With regards to children who are disadvantaged, 75% of school state they have sufficient places, but this drops to 59% for children with SEND.

Holiday activities and food (HAF) programme

The holiday activities and food (HAF) programme is funded by the department for education (DfE) to offer school aged children in receipt of benefits related free school meals (FSM) access to funded activities and a nutritious meal during the Easter, Summer, and Christmas school holidays. The offer is for 4 hours a day, 4 days per week for one week each during Easter and Christmas and for 4 weeks over the summer holiday and is optional.

In 2023, 56 providers delivered the HAF Programme across 81 venues, 40 of which were school buildings:

- 29 primary schools
- 7 high schools
- 4 special schools

The table below indicates the schools that had HAF provision in 2023 and for which holidays.

Primary Schools	Open Spring 2023	Open Summer 2023	Open Winter 2023
Acton Gardens Primary School	yes	yes	yes
Ark Priory Primary Academy	yes	no	no
Blair Peach Primary School	yes	no	no
Coston Primary School	yes	no	yes
Dairy Meadow Primary School	yes	yes	yes

Primary Schools	Open Spring 2023	Open Summer 2023	Open Winter 2023
Dormers Wells Primary School	yes	yes	no
Drayton Green Primary School	yes	yes	no
Gifford Primary School	no	yes	yes
Grange Primary School	yes	yes	yes
Greenwood Primary School	no	no	yes
Hambrough Primary School	yes	yes	yes
Havelock Primary School	yes	no	no
Horsenden Primary School	yes	no	no
Lady Margaret Primary School	yes	yes	no
Mayfield Primary School	yes	yes	yes
Montpelier Primary School	yes	yes	no
North Ealing Primary School	yes	yes	yes
North Primary School	yes	no	no
Oldfield Primary School	no	yes	no
Perivale Primary School	yes	yes	no
Ravenor Primary School	yes	yes	yes
St Gregory's Catholic Primary School	yes	yes	no
St John's Primary School	no	yes	no

Primary Schools	Open Spring 2023	Open Summer 2023	Open Winter 2023
St Mark's Primary School	yes	yes	yes
St Raphael's Catholic Primary School	no	no	yes
Three Bridges Primary School	yes	yes	yes
West Twyford Primary School	yes	yes	yes
Wood End Primary School	yes	yes	no
Woodlands Academy	yes	no	yes

Secondary Schools	Open Spring 2023	Open Summer 2023	Open Winter 2023
Alec Reed Academy	yes	yes	yes
Brentside High School	yes	yes	yes
Drayton Manor High School	yes	yes	yes
Ealing Fields High School	no	yes	yes
Featherstone High School	yes	yes	yes
Northolt High School	yes	yes	no
The Ellen Wilkinson School for Girls	yes	yes	yes

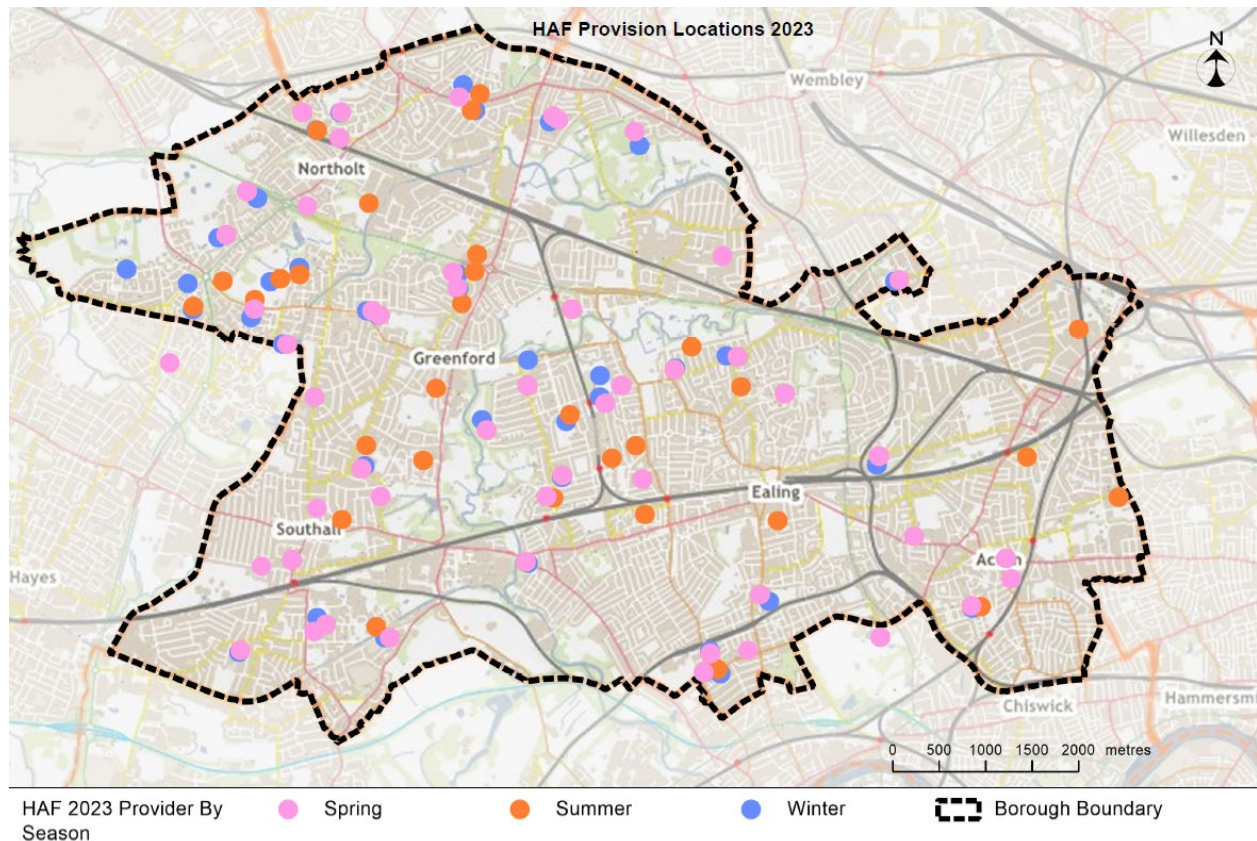
Special Schools	Open Spring 2023	Open Summer 2023	Open Winter 2023
Belvue School	no	yes	no
Castlebar School	yes	yes	no
Mandeville School	yes	yes	yes
Springhallow School	no	yes	no

The baseline figure of eligible children provided by the DfE was 12,093. In 2023, 4,371 unique participants attended a HAF provision which is 36% of those eligible. A total of 31,606 sessions were attended. 1,145 (26%) of HAF participants stated on their booking that they had Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND). 82% of participants were primary school aged and 18% were secondary aged.

During the Spring HAF (Easter) 36 provisions of 61 that ran were registered with Ofsted, in the Summer, 38 of the 85 provisions that ran were registered and over the Winter Programme, 30 out of the 54 providers that ran were registered with Ofsted. Those that were not registered were exempt from registration for the following reasons:

- offering a programme for children and young people over 8 years of age
- exempt due to the type of activity or activities they deliver (tutoring and coaching exemption)
- offered activities for the whole family where parents were responsible for their own children

The map below shows the spread of HAF locations across the borough in 2023.



Funded early education

Introduction to funded early education

All 3 and 4-year-olds in England are entitled to 570 hours of free early education or childcare per year. This typically translates to 15 hours each week for 38 weeks during term time but can be used flexibly with one or more providers. Some providers will allow you to 'stretch' the hours over 52 weeks, using fewer hours per week.

Additionally, some 2-year-olds may also be eligible for this benefit. The goal is to provide accessible and quality early education to support children's development. From April 2024 the eligibility for funding will be extended to 2-year-olds of families working 16hrs or more and earning less than 100k a year. From September 2024, eligible children aged from nine months will also be able to access funding.

For those who meet certain criteria, there’s an extended entitlement of up to 30 hours per week. This extended provision aims to assist working families by allowing more flexibility in accessing childcare services.

Proportion of 2-year-old children entitled to funded early education

Data from the 2021 census shows that there are 4235 two-year-olds in Ealing. Data from the Department for Education (DfE) indicated that in February 2024, 1068, 2-year-olds were eligible for the 2-year-old entitlement based on these figures, a quarter of the two-year-olds in Ealing are entitled to funded early education. 692 eligible families took up a funded place in Ealing which is an uptake of 65% overall.

When looking at take up by ward, Southall Broadway had the highest with 97% followed by Dormers Wells with 88%. Northfield, South Acton, and Ealing Broadway all had a take up rate of 83%. The take up rate in Southfield was the lowest at 32% followed by Southall Green with 48% and Hanger Hill at 50%.

It should be noted that children receiving a funded 2-year-old place do not need to attend provision in the borough in which they live. This means that some children that are Ealing residents may choose to attend provision in other boroughs and Ealing provisions accommodate eligible 2-year-olds who live outside of Ealing.

WARD	Number of 2YO funded children - Aged 2 on 01/01/24	Number of 2YO funded children - Aged 3 on 01/01/24	TOTAL OF 2YO FUNDED CHILDREN	Number of Eligible 2YO	% of uptake Spring term 24
Central Greenford	25		25	33	76%

WARD	Number of 2YO funded children - Aged 2 on 01/01/24	Number of 2YO funded children - Aged 3 on 01/01/24	TOTAL OF 2YO FUNDED CHILDREN	Number of Eligible 2YO	% of uptake Spring term 24
Dormers Wells	35	1	36	41	88%
Ealing Broadway	19		19	23	83%
Ealing Common	17	1	18	29	62%
East Acton	32	7	39	54	72%
Greenford Broadway	41	1	42	61	69%
Hanger Hill	18	2	20	40	50%
Hanwell Broadway	27		27	46	59%
Lady Margaret	28	1	29	51	57%
North Acton	37	6	43	65	66%
North Greenford	26		26	42	62%
North Hanwell	28	1	29	50	58%
Northfield	10		10	12	83%
Northolt Mandeville	36	1	37	65	57%
Northolt West End	52	1	53	74	72%

WARD	Number of 2YO funded children - Aged 2 on 01/01/24	Number of 2YO funded children - Aged 3 on 01/01/24	TOTAL OF 2YO FUNDED CHILDREN	Number of Eligible 2YO	% of uptake Spring term 24
Norwood Green	30		30	57	53%
Perivale	26	1	27	53	51%
Pitshanger	24	1	25	42	60%
South Acton	57	1	58	70	83%
Southall Broadway	29		29	30	97%
Southall Green	27		27	56	48%
Southall West	18		18	25	72%
Southfield	6	1	7	22	32%
Walpole	18		18	27	67%
Sub Total	666	26	692	1068	65%
OUT OF BOROUGH	84	0	84		
GRAND TOTAL	750	26	776		

Take up of funded early education

All children aged 3 and 4 years old are entitled to 15 hours of funded early education per week. The 2021 census recorded 4353 children aged 3 years and 4,401 children aged 4 years. Data extracted from the Synergy system

on 22/03/2024 tells us that 3323 3-year-olds and 1256 4-year-olds living in Ealing are taking up their funded early education place. This is equivalent to 76% of 3-year-olds and 29% of 4-year-olds.

It is important to remember that 4-year-olds born between September 2018 and August 2019 will already be attending their reception year at primary school and therefore won't be accessing funded early education. Therefore, for the purpose of this assessment, we will focus only on the take up of 3-year-olds.

When looking at the take up by ward, three wards in Southall (Southall West, Broadway, and Green) show take up of over 100%. This is likely due to changes in the population of this age group since the 2021 census. South Acton has a take up rate of 91% and Lady Margaret 90%. Take up is lowest in Southfield with 36%. The remaining wards have a take up rate of between 62% - 85%.

As with funded education for 2-year-olds, families can access provision outside of the borough in which they live. And additional 474 children who live outside of Ealing are accessing the funded early education in the borough.

WARD	AGE 3			AGE 4		
	ON 01/01/24	CENSUS POPULATION ESTIMATE	% OF POPULATION	ON 01/01/24	CENSUS POPULATION ESTIMATE	% OF POPULATION
Central Greenford	123	152	81%	48	184	26%
Dormers Wells	138	182	76%	44	160	28%

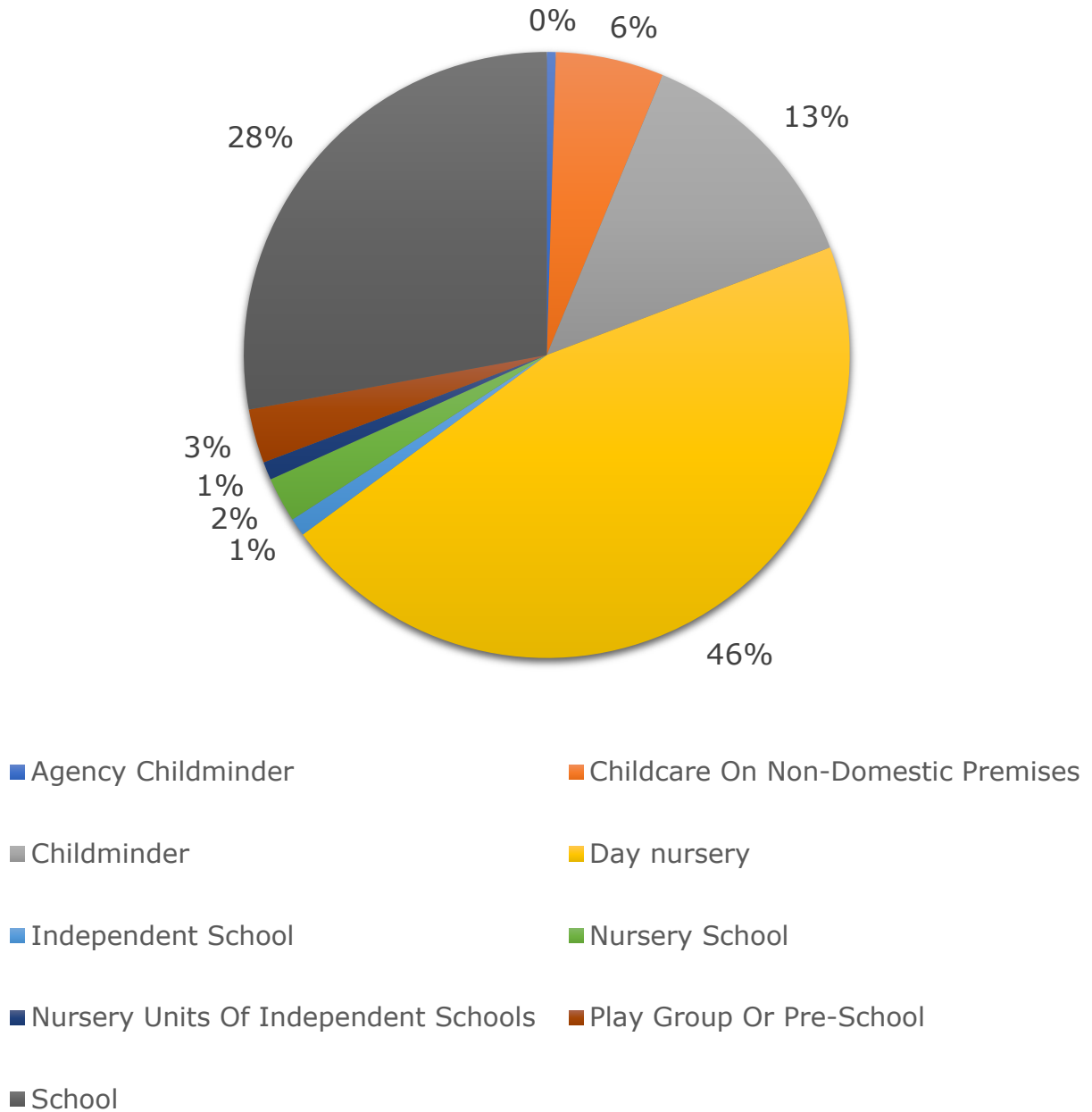
WARD	AGE 3 ON 01/01/24	AGE 3 CENSUS POPULATION ESTIMATE	% OF POPULATION	AGE 4 ON 01/01/24	AGE 4 CENSUS POPULATION ESTIMATE	% OF POPULATION
Ealing Broadway	112	140	80%	42	161	26%
Ealing Common	118	152	78%	43	161	27%
East Acton	136	181	75%	50	175	29%
Greenford Broadway	162	220	74%	69	244	28%
Hanger Hill	143	217	66%	64	230	28%
Hanwell Broadway	136	214	64%	56	198	28%
Lady Margaret	151	167	90%	39	152	26%
North Acton	139	176	79%	65	187	35%
North Greenford	127	163	78%	36	162	22%
North Hanwell	116	188	62%	58	199	29%
Northfield	129	168	77%	40	147	27%
Northolt Mandeville	172	213	81%	54	229	24%
Northolt West End	169	245	69%	66	252	26%
Norwood Green	176	208	85%	70	212	33%

WARD	AGE 3 ON 01/01/24	AGE 3 CENSUS POPULATION ESTIMATE	% OF POPULATION	AGE 4 ON 01/01/24	AGE 4 CENSUS POPULATION ESTIMATE	% OF POPULATION
Perivale	133	186	72%	68	170	40%
Pitshanger	133	193	69%	53	209	25%
South Acton	190	209	91%	63	194	32%
Southall Broadway	123	106	116%	46	131	35%
Southall Green	195	192	102%	77	185	42%
Southall West	86	71	121%	30	92	33%
Southfield	77	216	36%	24	188	13%
Walpole	139	191	73%	51	175	29%
SUB-TOTAL	3,323	4,350	76%	1,256	4,397	29%
OUT OF BOROUGH	474			172		
NO DETAILS	5			1		
GRAND TOTAL	3,802			1,429		

Providers offering funded early education places

As of March 2024, there are 208 providers who have funded 3- and 4-year-olds on role. The breakdown of the provider types as categorised on the Synergy system is illustrated in the graph below.

Provider types - NEG funded children on role



The graph shows that day nurseries are the biggest group of NEG funded early education providers with 46% followed by schools at 28% and childminders at 13%.

Expansion of funded early education, childcare entitlements, and wraparound childcare

The DfE provided Ealing local authority (LA) with information related to the expansion of funded early education and childcare entitlements and wraparound childcare announced in the Spring Budget of 2023.

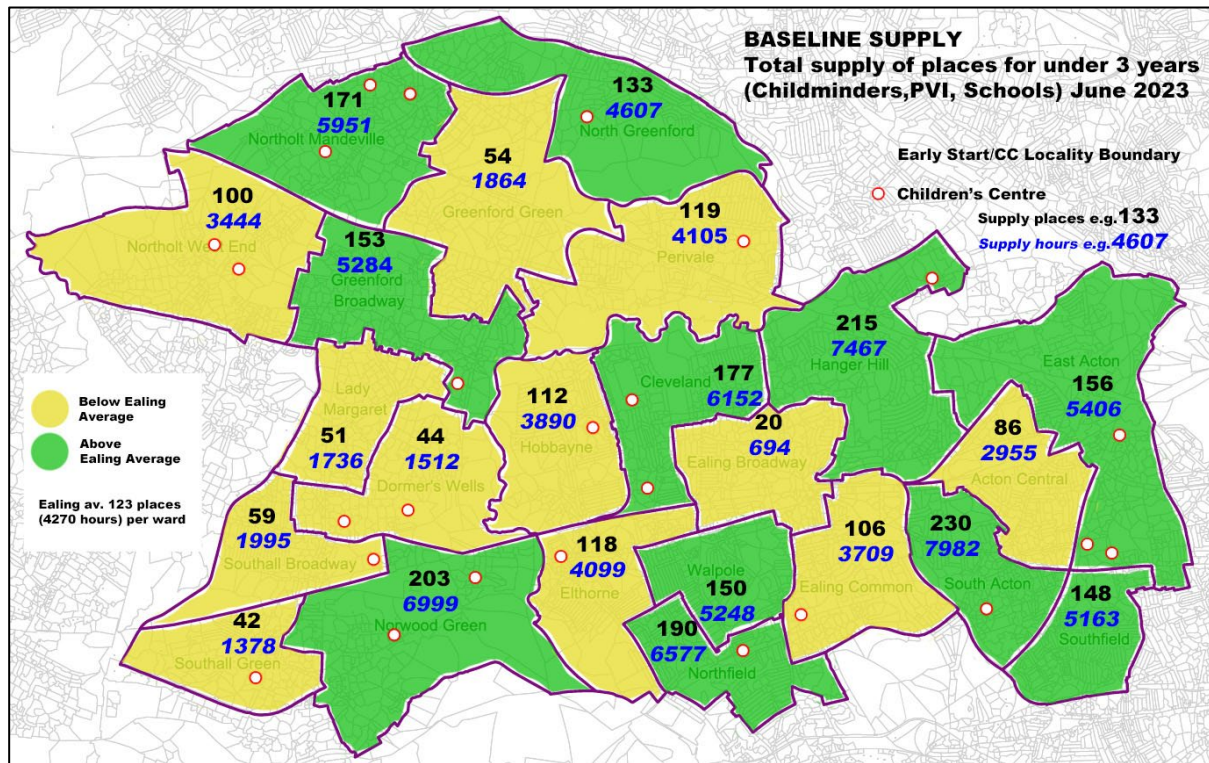
This information is presented to assist LAs in planning for the roll-out of the new 30 hours childcare entitlement for working parents of 9-month to 36-month-olds and help LAs identify where increased supply of wraparound childcare may be needed, so that all parents of school-age children can access childcare from 8am to 6pm, if they need it.

EY sufficiency: baseline supply

Notes on maps:

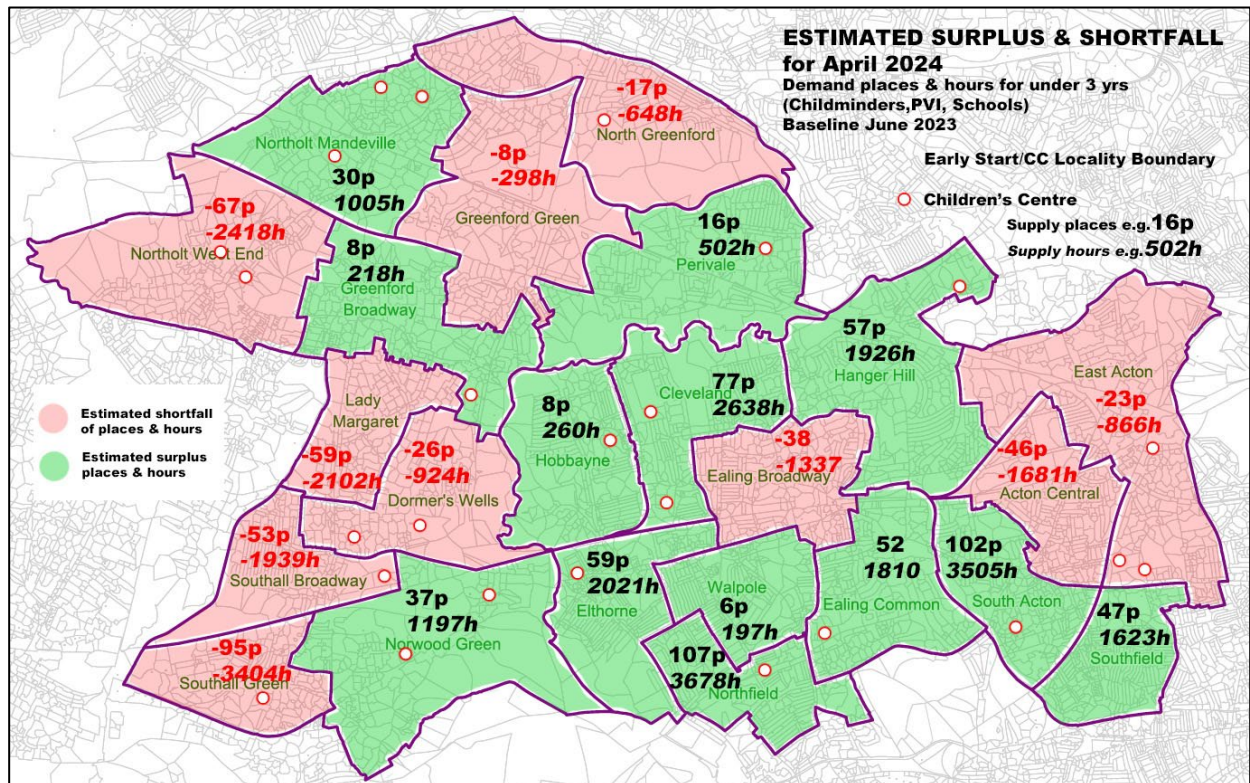
1. due to the time periods in which data was utilised by the DfE for the calculations, the former configuration of wards has been used for analysis
2. data for each Ward has been given in both in estimated places and estimated supply hours

This map is illustrating the distribution of places/supply hours at June 2023. This is used as the baseline in the calculations to determine the supply of EY as the new expansion of eligibility come into effect. We can already observe an uneven distribution across the wards.



EY sufficiency: estimated surplus and shortfall across wards: April 2024

This map illustrates those wards estimated to have a surplus of places/ hours and those which are estimated to have a shortfall. Although it is estimated that we will have sufficient places in total across the borough to meet the demand in April 2024, it is evident that parents' resident in wards, particularly in Southall, Northolt, Acton and Greenford may have to travel outside of their Wards to secure EY places.

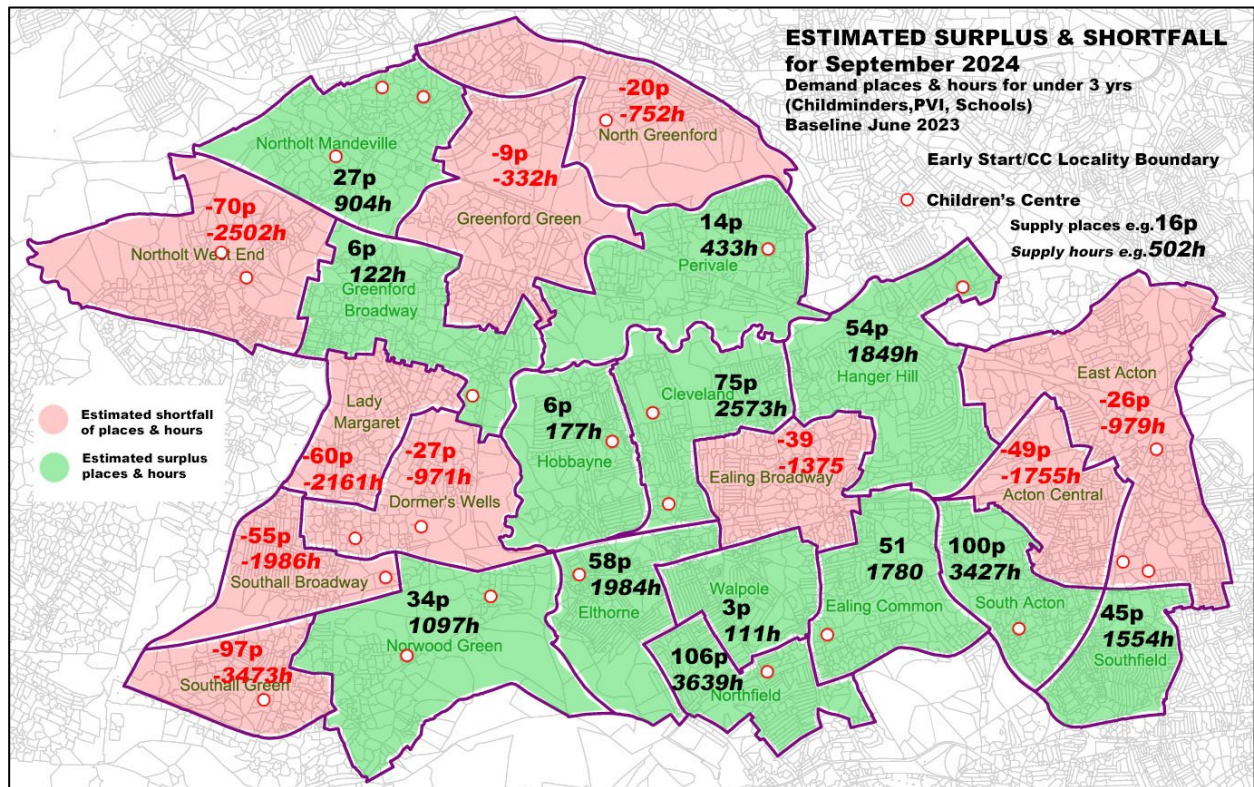


EY Sufficiency: estimated surplus and shortfall across wards:
September 2024

This map illustrates those Wards estimated to have a surplus of places/ hours and those which are estimated to have a shortfall.

It is estimated that we will have to increase places by 2% by September 2024, it is evident in this map that demand is increasing, and supply is decreasing.

The sector will need to be closely monitored and supported to increase the baseline supply of EY places, particularly in areas with large deficits of places.

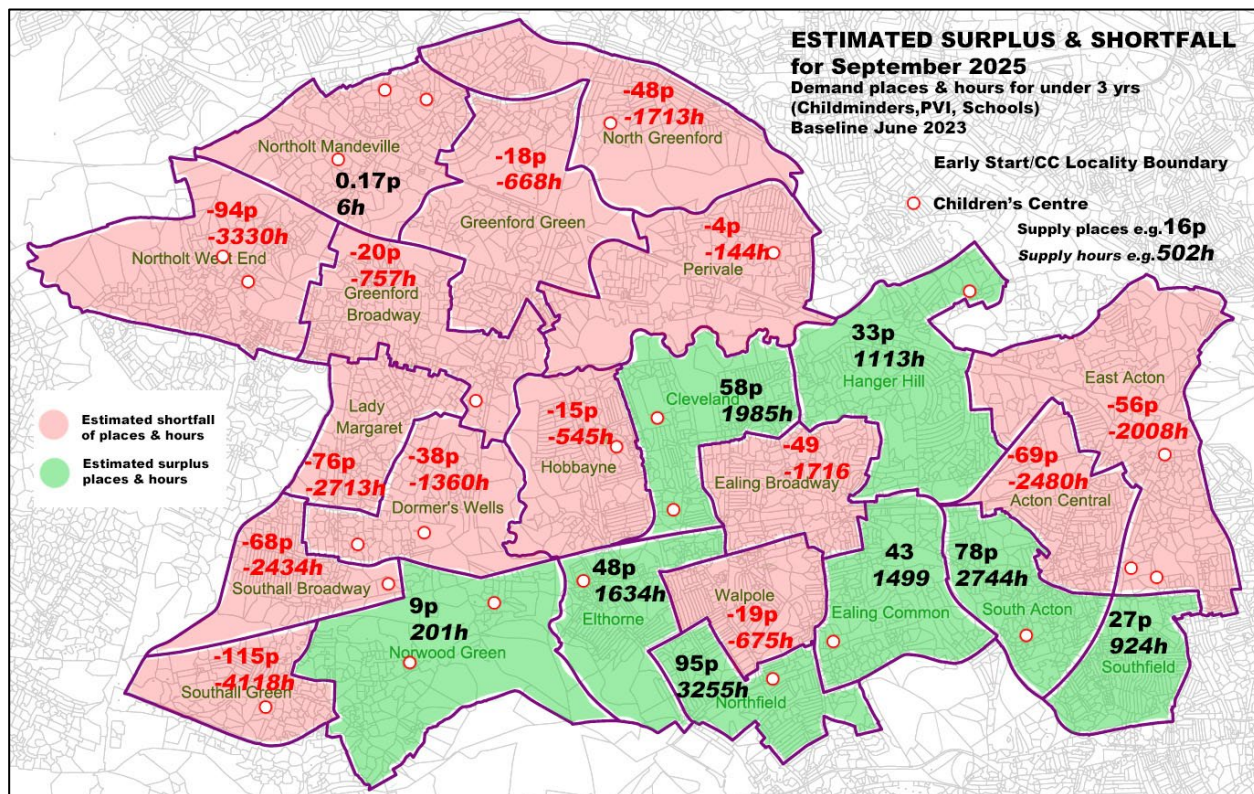


EY Sufficiency: estimated surplus and shortfall across wards: September 2025

This map illustrates those Wards estimated to have a surplus of places/hours and those which are estimated to have a shortfall.

It is estimated that we will have to increase places by 9% by September 2024.

This map illustrates, that without a concerted strategy to increase the availability of EY places, the majority of the Wards in the West of the borough will have no available EY places, with high demand also in Central and East Acton.



EY sufficiency: baseline supply by provider type June 2023

This table provides the detail regarding the baseline supply and could be utilised to identify sectors and Wards which may need support to increase provision and to monitor the fluctuations of supply over the next two years.

Ward name	Childminders Supply hours (CM)	Places (1 place converted into 35 supply hours)	Group based providers supply hours (GBP)	Places (1 place converted into 35 supply hours)	School based providers supply hours (SBP)	Places (1 place converted into 30 supply hours)	Total (supply hours)	Total places
Acton Central	265	7.6	2,453	70	237	7.9	2,955	85.6
Cleveland	728	20.8	5,131	147	293	9.8	6,152	177.2

Ward name	Childminders Supply hours (CM)	Places (1 place converted into 35 supply hours)	Group based providers supply hours (GBP)	Places (1 place converted into 35 supply hours)	School based providers supply hours (SBP)	Places (1 place converted into 30 supply hours)	Total (supply hours)	Total places
Dormers Wells	0	0.0	1,260	36	252	8.4	1,512	44.4
Ealing Broadway	331	9.5	363	10	0	0.0	694	19.8
Ealing Common	430	12.3	3,172	91	107	3.6	3,709	106.5
East Acton	397	11.3	4,707	134	302	10.1	5,406	155.9
Elthorne	375	10.7	3,474	99	250	8.3	4,099	118.3
Greenford Broadway	265	7.6	4,553	130	466	15.5	5,284	153.2
Greenford Green	187	5.3	1,465	42	212	7.1	1,864	54.3
Hanger Hill	463	13.2	6,623	189	381	12.7	7,467	215.2
Hobbayne	871	24.9	2,839	81	180	6.0	3,890	112.0
Lady Margaret	66	1.9	1,357	39	313	10.4	1,736	51.1
Northfield	507	14.5	5,645	161	425	14.2	6,577	189.9

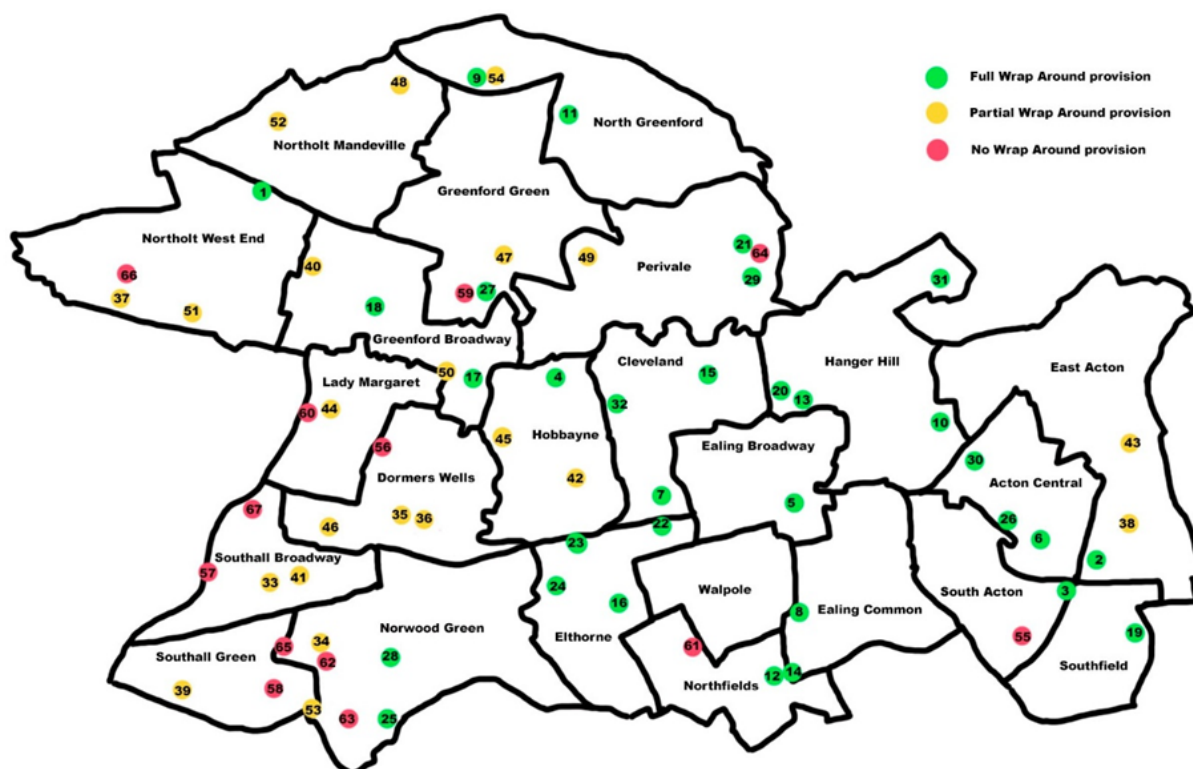
Ward name	Childminders Supply hours (CM)	Places (1 place converted into 35 supply hours)	Group based providers supply hours (GBP)	Places (1 place converted into 35 supply hours)	School based providers supply hours (SBP)	Places (1 place converted into 30 supply hours)	Total (supply hours)	Total places
North Greenford	662	18.9	3,649	104	296	9.9	4,607	133.0
Northolt Mandeville	816	23.3	4,958	142	177	5.9	5,951	170.9
Northolt West End	529	15.1	2,580	74	335	11.2	3,444	100.0
Norwood Green	66	1.9	6,337	181	596	19.9	6,999	202.8
Perivale	441	12.6	3,283	94	381	12.7	4,105	119.1
South Acton	99	2.8	7,463	213	420	14.0	7,982	230.1
Southall Broadway	66	1.9	1,438	41	491	16.4	1,995	59.3
Southall Green	132	3.8	672	19	574	19.1	1,378	42.1
Southfield	1,114	31.8	4,049	116	0	0.0	5,163	147.5
Walpole	948	27.1	4,193	120	107	3.6	5,248	150.5
Totals	9,758	279	81,664	2,333	6,795	227	98,217	2838.6

EY Sufficiency: baseline map for wrap around school provision at January 2023

The map is indicating a higher proportion of partial or no wrap around provision in the Southall Wards

School census regarding Wrap Around Provision

Distribution of primary schools offering full, partial or no wrap around provision. January 2023



Prices of early years childcare

Information collated from the provider survey indicated that for childminders, the hourly cost of childcare ranged from £6 per hour to £12.50 per hour the average cost for childminders was £7.49 per hour although, the information from the survey did not consider any changes in hourly rate for children of different ages.

For PVI settings, the hourly cost of childcare ranged from £5 to £18 per hour with a mean hourly fee of £9.71 per hour however, there was variation based on the age of the child as illustrated in the table below.

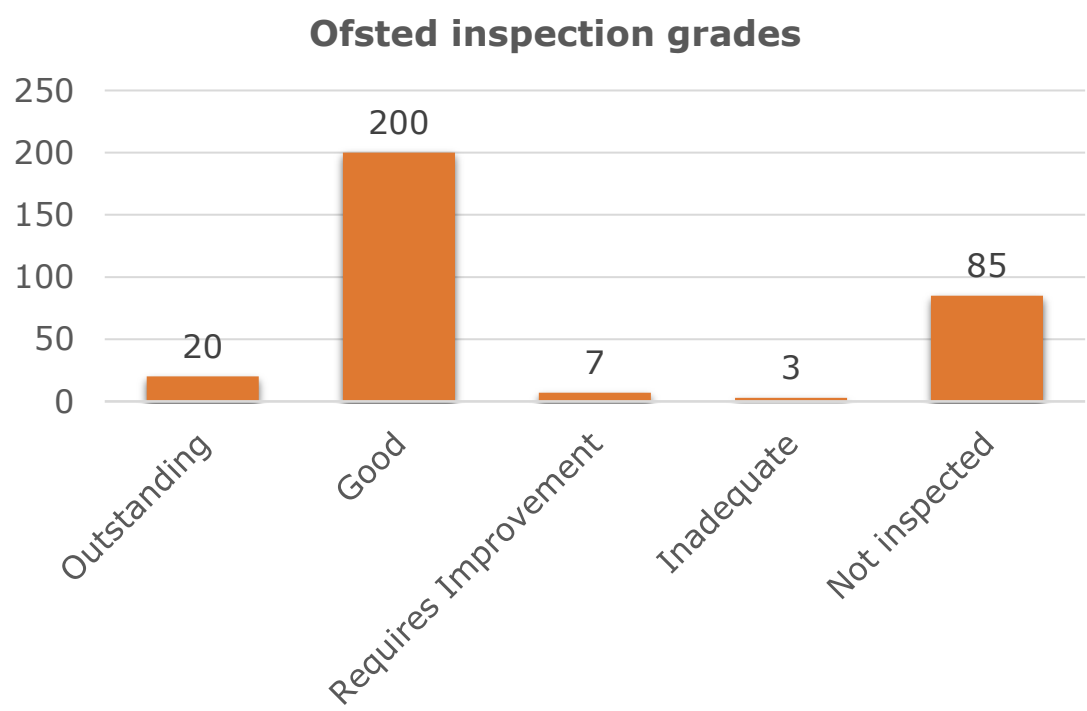
0-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years
£9.90	£9.67	£9.55

Quality of childcare in our local area

Ofsted inspection grades

As of 31 August 2023, 230 of the 315 registered early years providers had been inspected. ¹¹ 9% were graded as outstanding, 87% were graded as good, 3% requires improvement and 1% were graded as inadequate.

The graph below shows the number of providers within each grade. 85 providers have not yet had an inspection.



¹¹ [Childcare charts and tables as of 31 August 2023](#)

Parents views of sufficiency of childcare in our local area

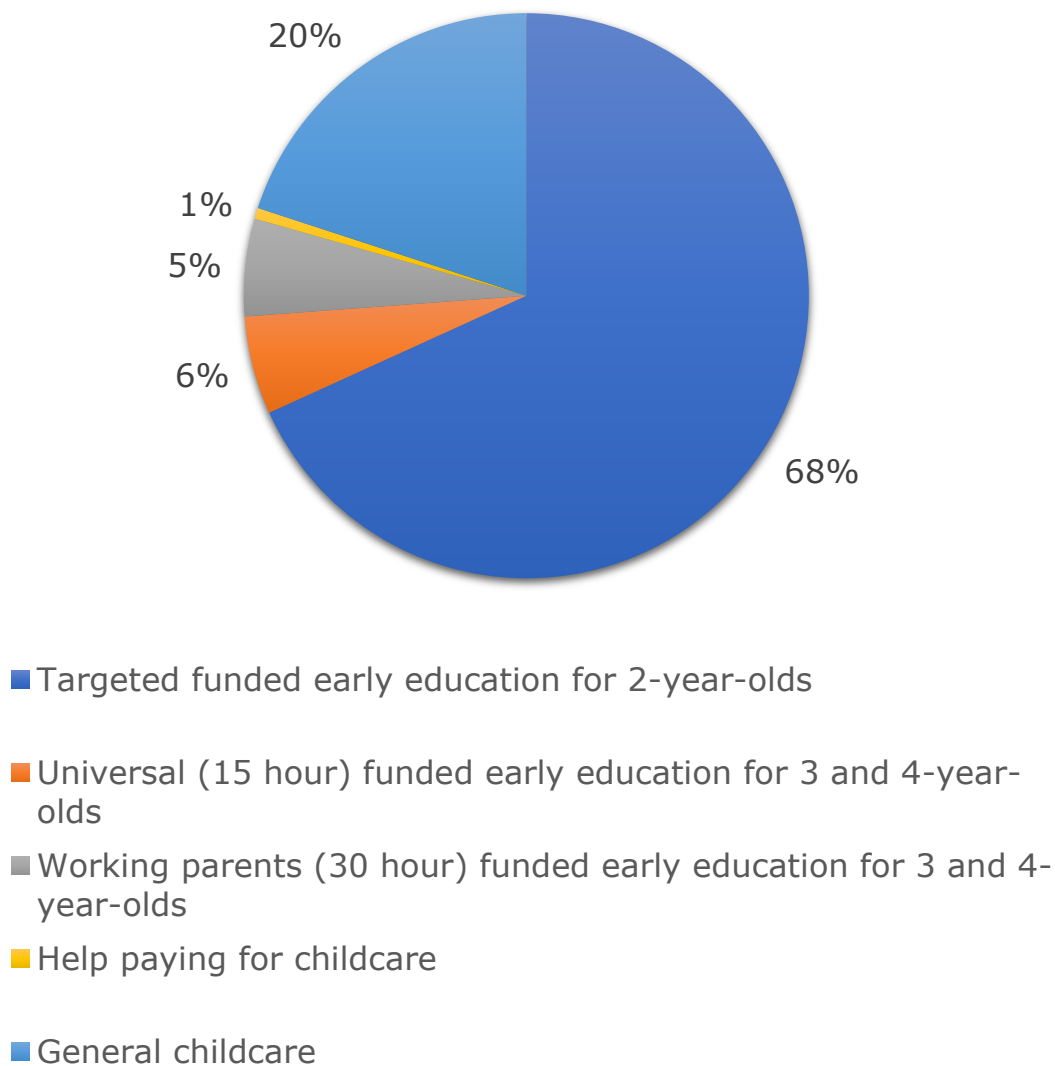
Family information service

The family information service (FIS) provides valuable information, advice, and guidance for children, young people, and families across the Ealing borough in London. The key areas covered by the FIS are:

- **Childcare providers:** The FIS offers details about Ofsted-registered childcare providers, including nurseries, childminders, and holiday schemes.
- **Free early years childcare:** Information on free early years childcare for two, three, and four-year-olds is available.
- **Holiday activities and food (HAF) program:** The FIS provides information about the HAF program, which ensures children have access to nutritious meals during school holidays.
- **Parenting support:** Parents can find resources and information on parenting courses.
- **Support for families with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND):** The FIS assists families in accessing services and support related to SEND.
- **Access to family support services:** Information on accessing family support services is also provided.

Between March 2023 and March 2024, the FIS took a total of 6,014 calls. Calls are categorised by type and the chart below illustrates the breakdown of call types over this period.

FIS call types March 2023 to March 2024



Most of the calls received (68%) were regarding targeted funded early education for two-year olds, 20% of the calls received were general childcare queries. With the remaining 12% being made up of queries about universal funded education for 3- and 4-year-olds (6%), 30 hours funded childcare for working parents of 3- and 4-year-olds (5%) and help paying for childcare (1%).

Parent surveys

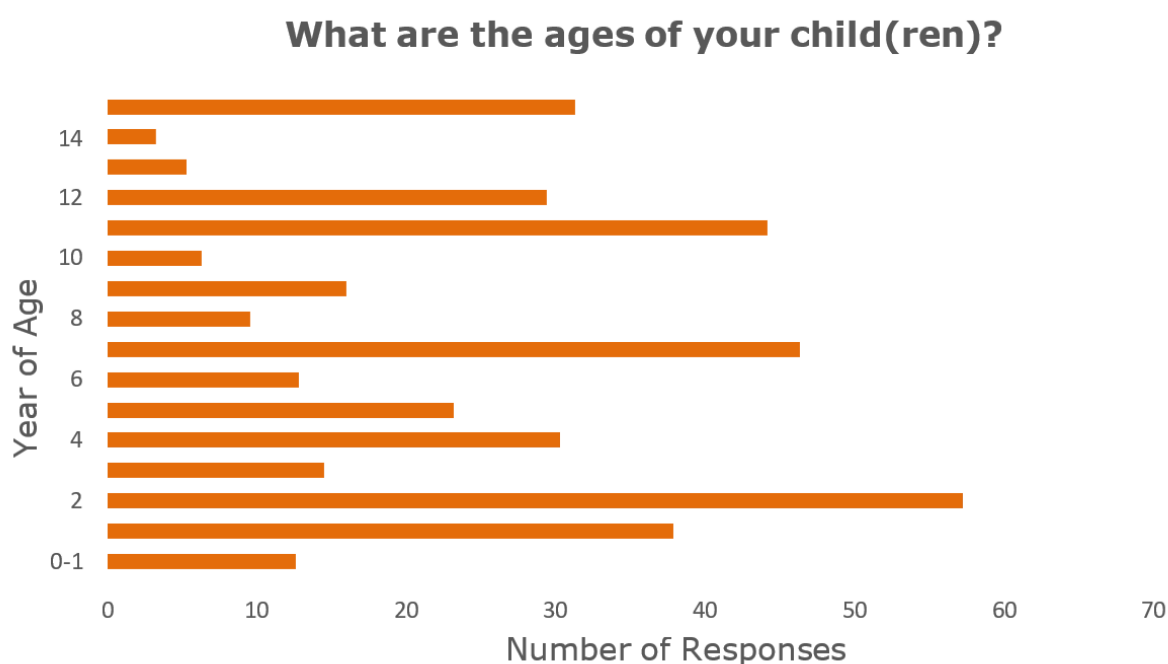
Premier Advisory Group (PAG) carried out an online survey. 102 parents responded to the online parent survey hosted on Survey Monkey and

promoted through the council website, parent/toddler groups, SEND parent groups and social media from May 2022- December 2022. The survey was designed for parents of children aged between 0 and 19 years old, as well as parents of children with SEND from up to 19 years old to participate.

The following section outlines the socioeconomic characteristics of the parents who engaged with the online survey. The subsequent sections (6.2 onwards) focus directly on parents' experience in accessing childcare. Please note that "parents" includes all carers throughout this section.

Socioeconomic characteristics of responding parents

The ages of responding parents' children are represented in a bar chart below. 5.6% (3) out of the 54 respondents' parents who answered the question were pregnant at the time of taking the survey.



Geographic breakdown

A total of 100 parents completing the survey filled in their postcode. These responses were broken down by electoral ward. North Hanwell had the highest representation, followed by Hanwell Broadway and South Acton. Although concerted efforts were made to ensure every ward in the borough

was represented, some wards, including Acton Central, Cleveland, Elthorne, Greenford Green, Hobbayne, Lady Margaret, Southall Broadway, and Southfield, did not receive any responses from parents. As a result, responses to the parent survey may not fully reflect the current childcare sufficiency in these wards. 14% of the 99 responding parents are new to the Borough.

Ethnicity of parents

Participants of the survey were asked to state which of the available options best described their ethnicity. Of the 62 parents who answered this question, 56.5% (35) of respondents identify as White, with 35.5% (22) identifying as White British. Asian Indians were the next highest ethnic group among respondents with 11.3% (7) identifying as this. Those parents who indicated 'other' nationality identified as the following:

- Pacific island/White
- Afghan
- Japanese

Faith of parents

62 parents provided an answer regarding what best described their religious beliefs. The percentage of parents who said they are Christians was approximately 37% (23). Over 27% (4) of parents stated that they did not practise any religion whilst 8% (5) stated that they did not want to specify their religion. The table below shows the breakdown of the faith of respondents.

Faith	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Christian	23	37.1%
No religion	17	27.4%
Rather not say	5	8.1%
Muslim	8	12.9%
Other (please specify)	2	3.2%
Hindu	3	4.8%
Jewish	0	0.0%
Buddhist	2	3.2%
Sikh	2	3.2%

Single parent families

Out of the 99 parents who answered, most respondents are from two-parent families whilst 20% (20) of respondents come from single parent families. This is in line with national trends.

Employment of parents

73% (45) of 62 respondents stated they were employed full-time, part-time, or self-employed. 15% (9) of 62 parents indicated that they are currently unemployed.

Which of the following best describes your current employment status?	Percentage of respondents	Number of respondents
In full-time employment/self-employment (30 hours + per week)	48.4%	30

Which of the following best describes your current employment status?	Percentage of respondents	Number of respondents
In part-time employment/self-employment (less than 30 hours per week)	24.2%	15
Not in work	14.5%	9
Other (please specify)	9.7%	6
Retired	0%	0
Volunteering	1.6%	1
Studying full-time	1.6%	1

A further question for respondents with partners addressed the employment status of their partner. 58 respondents indicated that they had a partner and of those, 69% (40) worked full-time or were self-employed more than 30 hours per week with a further 9% (5) in part time employment.

If applicable, which of the following best describes your partner's employment status?	Percentage of respondents	Number of Respondents
In full-time employment/self-employment (30 hours + per week)	68.9%	40
In part-time employment/self-employment (less than 30 hours per week)	8.6%	5
Not in work	3.5%	2
Studying full-time	0.0%	0

If applicable, which of the following best describes your partner's employment status?	Percentage of respondents	Number of Respondents
Retired	0.0%	0
Volunteering	0.0%	0
Single Parent	15.5%	9
Other (please specify)	3.5%	2

Annual income bracket

All respondents were asked about their gross household income. Of the 62 parents who responded 25.8% (16) stated their household income was between £55,000 and £99,000, 17.7% (11) stated they earned above £100,000 and 16.1% (10) stated they earned up to £16,190.

Respondents whose children have SEND

Parents were asked whether any of their children had some form of SEND. Of the 74 parents who responded to this question, 54% (40) stated that they had at least one child with some form of SEND.

The most common type of SEND designations for children of parents surveyed were Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), followed by speech, language, and communication needs.

SEND designation	Number of respondents
Physical Disability	0
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties (SEMH)	5
Speech, language, and communication needs	7

SEND designation	Number of respondents
Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)	21
Moderate Learning Difficulties	2
Visual Impairment	1
Physical Disability	0
Severe Learning Difficulties	3
Hearing Impairment	2
Complex Needs	5
Other	5

When asked how parents had found finding an Early Years place for their child(ren) with SEND, 28 parents responded, a mix of responses were given. Some of the key and recurring responses are summarised below:

- "I found it hard to find a childminder who would take him"
- "We found a place...but it was only part time, very few hours. We had to pay for a private nanny to enable me to go back to work which was very expensive and would be impossible for many people to afford"
- "Lack of staff expertise, Inflexible hours, Lack of funding for 1-2-1, Poor attitude, Poor communication, High fees or charges"
- "Our community speech and language therapist helped to arrange an assessment and subsequently a place at South Acton ICAN"

- “Support network has been put in place by the school, however there are no one- on -one therapist for one child. Usually, it’s group therapist which is not helpful”

Current and future use of childcare

Parents were asked whether they currently access formal or informal childcare. The following findings outline the current early years childcare situation of 89 parents who responded to this question:

- 9.5% of parents reported that they were using formal Ofsted registered childcare, such as a Nursery or Pre-School
- 9.5% of parents reported using other Ofsted registered childcare than a nursery or pre-school, such as before and after school clubs
- 9.5% of parents reported using only informal childcare
- 19.05% of parents reported using a mixture of formal and informal childcare
- 9.52% of parents reported using an Ofsted registered childminder
- 27% of parents reported that they use holiday play schemes

Respondents’ future childcare arrangements

Parents who are not currently using childcare whilst completing the survey were asked if they intended to use formal or informal childcare in the next term. The following findings outline their response (out of 42 responses):

- 11.9% of parents reported that they would use both formal and informal childcare next term.
- 2.4% of parents reported that they would use formal Ofsted registered childcare (Other), such as breakfast or after school clubs.
- 4.8% reported that they would use informal care.

- 40.5% of parents reported that they would use Ofsted registered childcare – Nursery or Pre-school.
- 7.1% said that they would use formal Ofsted registered childcare i.e., childminder.

This group of respondents were further asked why they were not considering using childcare in the following term, with 20 parents providing responses. The high cost of formal childcare and the lack of formal provisions for proper catering for their children's SEND type were the two main reasons given by respondents, accounting for 40% and 30% respectively. Parents' working from home arrangements was cited as a reason for 15% of respondents.

Those who stated 'other' (35%) specified:

- "currently not available at the school".
- "nursery places are just too expensive. It makes it hard for me to work. I can just about afford 3 mornings a week with a childminder. Children under 2 should also be eligible with childcare. I know so many mums who are struggling to go back to work because of this".
- "I had to give up work to support my child".
- "currently work from home for school hours only. Hoping this continues indefinitely".

Parents experience of childcare services for children with SEND

When parents were asked if any of them were currently receiving or using childcare services, there was mixed responses in all sessions. The main reasons found for parents needing to access childcare for their SEND child were:

- parents working
- needing specialist support
- exposing children to different people and activities

- wanting personal and social time with other adults

When asked to elaborate on their experiences with childcare services, parents went in turn to express their frustrations, feedback, and suggestions for improvement.

With regards to holiday clubs and activities, some key themes of discussion were:

- after school club – Not suitable for the need of their children as no SEND provisions - there is not individualised level of support which is required for children with SEND (smaller groups, 1-1, or at least higher level of support until the children feel comfortable with the new environment). One parent mentioned they used to use after school clubs, but this was shut down during COVID and hasn't reopened
- breakfast clubs - Too expensive and SEND children are sometimes not even allowed in it
- geography - Parents also mentioned multiple challenges in terms of geography of services, reporting that for example, Acton has a lot more things to offer compared to in the South, where it is too far/costly to travel from

Accessibility of childcare provision for children with SEND

A strong theme arising from discussions with parents was how childminders are not trained to support children with SEND, which would benefit the needs of their children who would not do so well in a setting with other children. Difficulties in finding childminders who would take SEND children were emphasised. A small majority of parents felt there is a lack of care across primary and secondary school aged children, and that there is more for primary age than secondary, but the level is still low. Furthermore, it was felt that there is an inadequate number of staff trained for children with SEND in other settings, and that hours were not flexible enough and did not

consider the needs of SEND children – one parent supported this wider feeling by stating:

“My child could not be left for a full day, or full half-day somewhere, that would be too overwhelming for him. He would need a progressive familiarisation with the service such as starting with 2 hours, then 4 hours, then half day, so he builds the trust and does not feel stressed or panicked.”

One example offered by an attending parent was that he, as an individual with English as a second language, felt highly challenged in understanding how he could access out of school childcare to suit his work hours. He mentioned that he had no idea where to start to get information or advice from regarding childcare for his child. He further indicated that he is struggling to place his 5-year-old child with SEND anywhere, and that he is only receiving one hour of childcare per week, which he says is ‘nonsense’ as it takes him 30 mins to get there. He mentioned he would benefit for more provisions during Saturdays/Sundays.

Barriers for SEND

When asked if the parents felt there were any barriers to childcare provision for SEND children, the following concerns were discussed.

Cost

The majority of parents agreed that even if childcare is partly funded, there is still the issue of travel costs due to there not being a wide variety of choice in their local area.

Waiting lists

A theme arose from the focus groups which highlighted issues with waiting lists. The following points were expressed by the groups:

There is a known charity setting where children with SEND can go socialise, grow, and have fun alongside their mainstream peers, which is popular among parents of children with SEND, however this has a huge waiting list.

Claims of 6 month waiting lists for nurseries, private nurseries being very expensive and so unaffordable for long term childcare.

Mentions of a smaller nursery which is a charity and much cheaper (£20 per day), however this is only available in the morning. Increased availability in sessions are desired for parents with SEND.

The most popular and demanded ones are pre-schools but they are impossible to get. People need to apply in December for the next September, and just hear in April.

A supporting quote from a parent:

"It is crucial that nurseries with Good and Outstanding ratings provide more places ASAP, or that those other nurseries improve ASAP".

Lack of staff awareness and training

During the focus groups, a strong theme arising from parents' discussions was that they felt a lack of understanding of SEND needs in current local childcare provision. This was expressed through their experiences, with some examples of parents having had to search around for providers that they trust will consider the individual needs of their child, and not just consider the overarching symptoms of their disabilities. An emphasis on the point that it is not just a 'one size fits all' approach to children with a particular SEND type was echoed throughout the focus groups with SEND parents. Other examples included experiences with childminders invalidating parents by not listening as much as is preferred, and a lack of understanding that parents know the needs of their children best.

One specific example case relating to this theme is a parent's child being banned from a charity setting for SEND children due to an incident, which

involved the child running off and getting lost for a few hours. She said the issue was the staff did not understand the level of her child need and was not trained appropriately, as a child with severe ASD should have been watched much more closely. This parent also expressed struggling to find affordable childcare for after 6 pm especially as her child has severe ASD. She continued to say most carers/agencies are not trained appropriately, which was echoed by a few others in the group. It was further expressed that this was impacting her life due to the fact she could not find childcare for after 5pm, and this was affecting her finding a job with the flexibility for picking up her child, and this is subsequently affecting her happiness and social life.

This overall theme was countered by a smaller majority of parents who contradicted these perceptions however, by saying that they had had no issues with finding providers that are knowledgeable and that show a keenness to continue their learning on specific needs.

“I have felt really supported by my setting and they have even pointed me towards some resources that will help my child in the future”.

Feedback and future suggestions from SEND parents

One point of discussion in the focus groups was potential feedback to the council. Some of the following themes emerged from this, involving the following points:

- discontentment with the Ealing website, with claims that there is no clear 'Childcare' tab on the council website, and that on the list of childminders it is not easy to see which ones are SEND trained
- a lack of information sharing about available services, when asked how she found out about the nurseries, or found out about a charity one she likes, she mentioned having looked up online or asked other parents

- suggestions that there should be some out of school provisions for children who have additional needs where they can go in the summer and continue for maybe 1-2 days a week to learn or rehearse their learning from the year. This would help avoid the transition problem of children who when returning to school from the holidays, forget everything, and struggle with the return to schools
- holiday club was not appropriate. Holidays club get too noisy for children with SEND. The way to improve access for children with SEND would be to:
 - have better trained staff and SEND provisions there
 - have the family able to be there, but of course they do not really have the time for this

Key findings of parent focus groups

- parents of children with SEND do not feel the childcare provisions are suitable for the need of their children
- geography challenges
- lack of SEND trained childminders
- big waiting lists for nurseries (private or not), pre-schools
- high nurseries staff turnover
- lack of clarity on website from Ealing
- costs rising, lack of free access, and lack of clarity on what is free and accessible for parents

Providers views of sufficiency of childcare in our local area

137 childcare providers responded to a survey designed to assist the Council in understanding the sufficiency of provision in the borough and be able to better support the sector in meeting the challenges of the early years reforms. Many of the respondents run different types of provision, for example PVI nurseries who also offer breakfast and after school provision

and schools that offer holiday provision. Providers were asked to select all the types of provision they offer. Full daycare had the highest number of responses with 26% followed by childminders with 21%. Agency childminders and sessional daycare made up the smallest groups with 2% and 3% respectively.

Type	Count	Percentage
Afterschool Club	11	6%
Agency Childminder	4	2%
Breakfast Club	10	6%
Childminder	37	21%
Full Daycare Setting	47	26%
Holiday Playscheme	8	4%
Maintained Nursery	18	10%
Pre-school	14	8%
School	26	14%
Sessional Daycare Setting	5	3%

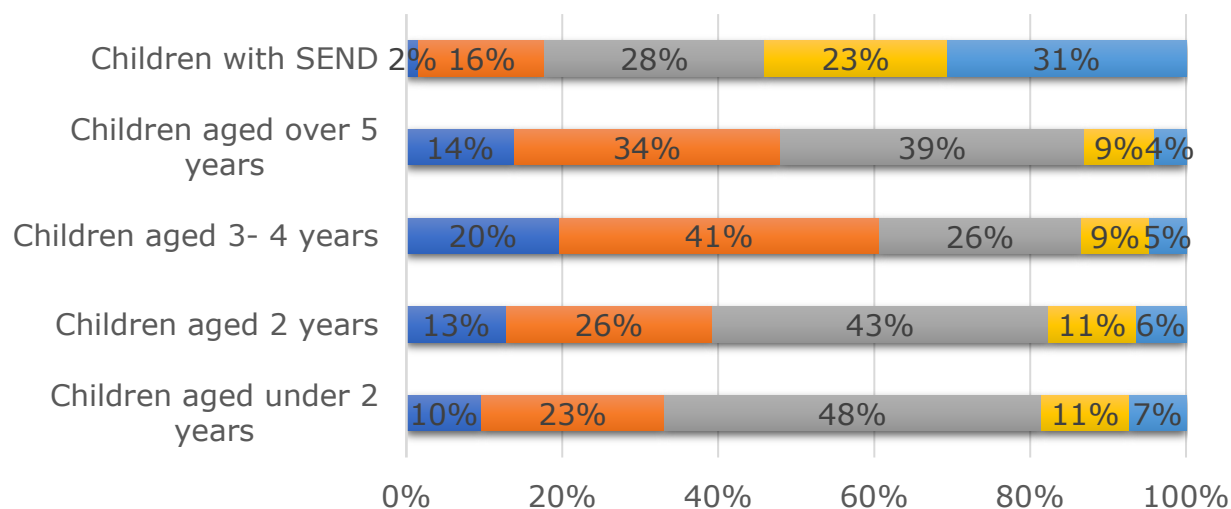
Providers were asked if they thought there are sufficient childcare places in their immediate geographical area for various age ranges and children with SEND.

For children under 2 years, 33% strongly agreed, or agree that there were sufficient places and 19% disagreed or strongly disagreed with 48% saying they neither agreed nor disagreed. For children aged 2, 39% said they

agreed or strongly agreed, 18% said they disagreed or strongly disagreed and 43% said they neither agreed nor disagreed. For children aged 3-4 years, 61% said they agreed or strongly agreed that there was sufficient childcare, 13% said they disagreed or strongly disagreed with 26% saying they neither agreed nor disagreed. For children 5 years and over, 48% said they agreed or strongly agreed, 13% said they disagreed or strongly disagreed and 39% said they neither agreed nor disagreed.

For children with SEND, 18% said they agreed or strongly agreed that there is sufficient childcare, 54% said that they disagreed or strongly disagreed with 28% saying they neither agree nor disagreed.

Do you consider there are sufficient childcare places in your immediate geographical area?



	Children aged under 2 years	Children aged 2 years	Children aged 3- 4 years	Children aged over 5 years	Children with SEND
Strongly agree there are sufficient places	10%	13%	20%	14%	2%
Agree	23%	26%	41%	34%	16%
Neither agree nor disagree	48%	43%	26%	39%	28%
Disagree	11%	11%	9%	9%	23%
Strongly disagree	7%	6%	5%	4%	31%

When asked their opinion about whether the demand for childcare would be higher or lower over the next two years (2024-2025) 30% of childcare providers believed that demand would be significantly higher and 28% though demand would be higher but not significantly. 18% though that demand would remain about the same whilst 5% thought demand would be lower and 5% said demand would be significantly lower, 14% were unsure.

Providers were asked about their plans to increase childcare places over the next two years. Responses showed that overall, providers were not planning to increase places (60%). Only 6% are currently planning to increase places. 18% would like to increase their places and 17% would like to increase their places with some further support.

	Children aged 0-2 years	Children aged 2 years	Children aged 3-4 years	Children aged 5 years and over?	Children with SEND
Planning to increase places	7	6	8	10	6
Would like to increase places	20	31	30	15	13
Would increase places with further support	22	17	21	11	31
Not planning to increase places	75	71	69	83	71

Providers who had selected that they would like to increase their places with support were asked what support they required. 14 providers stated that they needed more staff some needed more qualified, or specialist staff, childminders were keen to employ an assistant. 13 providers stated that they required an increase in funding. Premises and finding venues was a common theme with 12 wanting support to identify a new venue and 6 wanting support and/or funding to extend their existing venue. In terms of expanding for children with SEND providers mentioned that they needed resources providing, specific SEND training and more support from advisors and SEND specialist teams. 4 providers also stated that they needed a more affordable training programme.

Quotes from providers on this subject:

- "help sourcing sites to provide care from. We are actively looking for new provisions to expand our offering"
- "payment per child should meet the minimal wage. If I'm a government funded childminder who only has 1 child to look after, being paid £4/hr is not sustainable. The government should top up the payment in these cases to meet the minimal wage requirements"
- "with the new changes next year for 2-year-old free funding, the demand will be higher. Have been thinking of extending my annexe. Some support and guidance and advice would be good"
- "firstly, I wish to open my second nursery as I am turning down many families, I have difficulty finding premises and I wish that Ealing council could provide us with premises, secondly, even if I am lucky enough to find the premises, the Ofsted timing to visit and approve us to open is long"
- "extra support with free courses"

Observed trends since 2021

Providers were asked if they had noticed any notable trends in the last 2 years regarding demand, working parents and circumstances of families accessing provision. 21 respondents did not notice any trends, 67 did. Of the responses from those who had observed trends, some similar themes emerged with the cost-of-living crisis being cited by 27% (18 respondents). 9% of respondents were still feeling the effects due to the drop in demand due to COVID-19. 13% stated they were unable to meet the needs of customers. In some cases, this referred to families wanting full time care starting from an earlier age and for others this was a need for flexible childcare to fit in with working from home or more flexibly and care provided by family such as grandparents. Comments from providers included:

- “cost of living is really high and parents are having to go back to work earlier”
- “as a sessional preschool not providing full afternoons we have noticed a decline in numbers. For those parents who choose us, we are what they want but there a fewer families for whom this is the model they are looking for. We see more families choosing us for say 2 mornings whilst sending their child to full day care for the rest of the week. We see more grandparents dropping off or picking up or mum drop, dad pick up whilst parents juggle working from home. Also some parents who would have sent their children to us can't afford to now and if they wait for the universal funding they will miss us completely and go straight to the nursery class attached to a school”
- “there has been an increase in the uptake of neurodiverse children within the setting and within the borough”
- “the need for flexibility. Parents not always wanting to commit to places, so more ad hoc bookings”

Support required

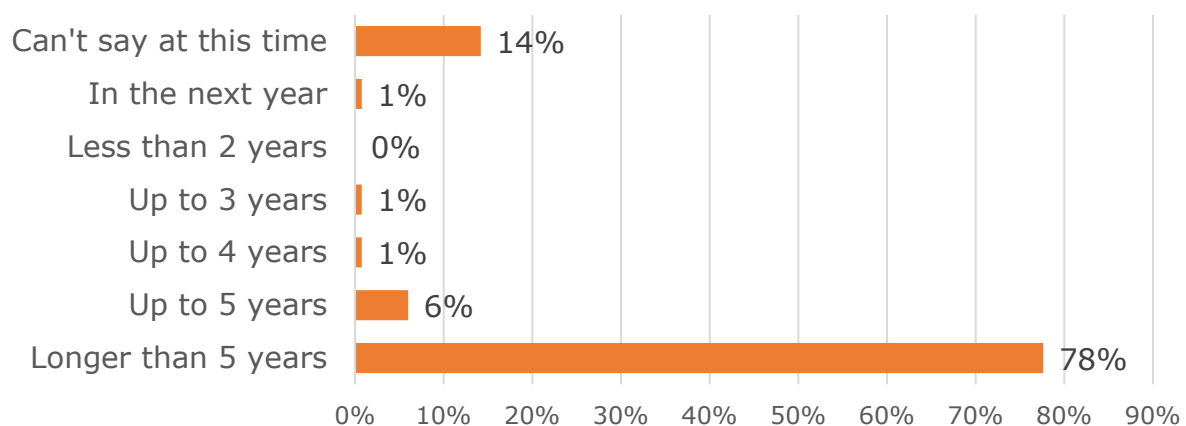
Providers were asked, 'What would be the three key areas that the council could support you in the next two years?':

- 28% (55 responses) stated they needed an increase in funding
- 16% (32 responses) stated that wanted additional support around children with SEND
- 10% (19 responses) requested more free and accessible training opportunities for staff outside working hours

Future sustainability

Providers of all types were asked about their future sustainability. In response to the question asking providers to indicate how long they expected to continue to provide childcare in the borough. 134 providers answered this question. 78% of respondents thought they would still be providing childcare in the borough for longer than 5 years, 6% thought up to 5 years. In the next year, up to 3 years and up to 4 years were each selected by 1 provider. 14% of respondents said that they couldn't say at this time.

Please indicate how long you expect to continue to provide childcare in the borough



Methodology

Data sources

This assessment was completed in partnership between Ealing Council and Premier Advisory Group (PAG) using a combination of desktop research, face to face workshops and survey analysis.

Between December 2023 and March 2024 an online survey was conducted with childcare providers listed on the Synergy data system. The survey was sent to a total of 380 childcare providers. The provider type breakdown was as follows:

Provider Type	Surveys Sent	Responses Received	% Response Rate
Childminders	89	40	45%
PVI Nurseries	154	55	36%
Schools	77	36	47%
Out of School Providers	60	6	10%
Total:	380	137	36%

A total of 137 responses were received, 36% of those sent the survey. It is important to note that the total of 380 providers who were sent surveys included nursery chains who run more than one provision in the borough but many of these chains only returned one survey rather than one for each of their nurseries.

Some respondents offer different types of childcare for example, day care that also runs a before and after school service and holiday provision during the school holidays. Respondents were asked to select all types of early years and childcare provision that they currently provide. The graph below shows the types of childcare that respondents provide.

Type	Count
Childminder	37
Agency Childminder	4
Full Day Care Setting	47
Sessional Day Care Setting	5
Maintained Nursery	19
Pre-School	14
School	27
Holiday Playscheme	8
Breakfast Club	11
After School Club	12

Parent research

Premier Advisory Group (PAG) carried out interviews and online surveys using Survey Monkey and during April to November 2022. The survey and focus groups were promoted through contacting schools and nurseries and requesting them to spread awareness to their parents, as well as using social media local forums. A total of 102 parents responded to the survey.

Responses were analysed, detailing trends in terms of accessibility, affordability, and flexibility of childcare for parents across the county.

A total of six focus groups were conducted with parents across Ealing, with three being in-person visits to children's centres and schools. The responses gathered during these sessions were collated and analysed, and any strong themes identified were evidenced in the parental research section.

EY sufficiency: DfE LA readiness data

Data on the supply of childcare places in Ealing has been gathered from Ofsted management information as at the 30 June 2023 and the annual school census. These data allow supply of childcare places by type (places in childminders, group-based providers, and school-based providers) to be associated to each ward.

Once the number of childcare places in each ward has been established we can work out how many supply hours these places represent.

Assumptions used

- Each place can provide 35 hours of child contact time in a week if supplied by a group-based provider or childminder.
- We assume that school-based providers offer 30 place per week.
- However, different provider types tend to offer different numbers of places to different age groups.