

# **Report to the Schools, Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

**21<sup>st</sup> March 2018**

## **Annual Childcare Sufficiency Report - March 2018**

### **Purpose of the Report**

To brief the Committee on the findings of the Annual Childcare Sufficiency Report produced March 2018 before being made available in the public domain. Production and public access to the report is a statutory requirement for the Council.

### **Recommendation**

Members note the information contained in this report and recommend any changes before the final version is published.

### **Contact Officer Details**

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## **Background**

Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on English local authorities to secure sufficient childcare for working parents.

The outcome of the statutory requirement is to enable parents to work because childcare places are available, accessible, affordable and delivered flexibly in a range of high quality settings.

To secure sufficient childcare places, the Council is required by legislation to:

Secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children).

The Council is required to report annually to elected council members on how we are meeting our duty to secure sufficient childcare, and make this report available and accessible to parents.

This report summarises:

- Information about the current and projected supply and demand of childcare for particular age ranges of children, and the affordability, accessibility and quality of provision

- Details of how any gaps in childcare provision will be addressed

- The current childcare sufficiency position for Birmingham in relation to children with special educational needs and disabilities; children from families in receipt of the childcare element of Working Tax Credit or Universal Credit; children with parents who work irregular hours; children aged two, three and four taking up free places; school age children; and children needing holiday care

- Priorities and actions for 2018/19

## **Key Issues**

Is the Council meeting its statutory duty across the required age ranges?

Is the Council meeting its statutory duty regarding Children with SEND?

## **Conclusions**

The Council is currently meeting its statutory duty to ensure sufficient childcare places are available to meet potential demand in the majority of wards in the city for under 5's, based on latest sufficiency assessments.

The 30 hour Early Education extended entitlement for eligible working parents from 2017 has been successfully implemented.

More detailed work is required in 2018/19 to support those wards where there are gaps in 2 year old Early Education Entitlement (EEE) places if eligible parents take up the offer. Those wards are currently absorbing demand but any increase may not be met in the future.

More detailed work is required in 2018/19 to establish if there are sufficiency gaps for over 5's i.e. Out of School and Holiday provision.

More detailed work is required in 2018/19 to establish if there is a sufficiency gap for children with SEND. This work will complement the ongoing wider Council Inclusion strategy

The Early Years and Childcare Service will continue to improve its data collection activities to further strengthen the Sufficiency assessment and reporting processes.

## **List of Appendices**

Annual Childcare Sufficiency Report – March 2018

Appendix 1 to 16 (A range of data sets analysed by ward)