

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

24 April 2014

REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM

CABINET DECISION

Children and Young People – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Ann McCoy

CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT 2014-2015

1. Summary

This report outlines how the Local Authority (LA) is meeting its duty to secure sufficient childcare and includes information about the supply of and demand for childcare, details on any gaps in provision and an action plan on how they will be addressed.

2. Recommendations

Members are asked to approve:

- The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and the associated priorities for 2014-2015.
- The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Action Plan for 2014-2015.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations

The Childcare Act (2006) and the associated statutory guidance for local authorities on Early Education and Childcare – September 2013, requires Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (the Local Authority) to secure sufficient childcare, as 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).

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (**paragraph 8**) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (**paragraphs 10 and 11 of the code of conduct**).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held -

- in a case where the Member is attending a meeting (including a meeting of a select committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under statutory right or otherwise, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence as the case may be;
- in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at the meeting;

and must not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (**paragraph 12 of the Code**).

Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc, whether or not they are a Member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting (unless the interest arises solely from the Member's membership of, or position of control or management on any other body to which the Member was appointed or nominated by the Council, or on any other body exercising functions of a public nature, when the interest only needs to be declared if and when the Member speaks on the matter), and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room, subject to and in accordance with the provisions referred to above.

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24 April 2014

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT 2014-2015

SUMMARY

- 1 This report outlines how the Local Authority (LA) is meeting its duty to secure sufficient childcare and includes information about the supply of and demand for childcare, details on any gaps in provision and an action plan on how they will be addressed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2 Members are asked to approve:
 - The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and the associated priorities for 2014-2015.
 - The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Action Plan for 2014-2015.

DETAIL

- 3 The Childcare Act (2006) and the associated statutory guidance for local authorities on Early Education and Childcare – September 2013, requires Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (the Local Authority) to secure sufficient childcare, as 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).
- 4 To secure sufficient childcare places, local authorities should take into account:
 - what is ‘reasonably practicable’ when assessing what sufficient childcare means for their area;
 - the state of the local childcare market, including the demand for specific types of providers, in a particular locality and the amount and type of supply that currently exists;
 - the state of the labour market; and
 - the quality and capacity of childcare providers.
- 5 The Children and Families Act 2014 repealed the duty on the local authority to prepare assessments on the sufficiency of provision of childcare in their area at least every 3 years and replaced this with the duty to report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare. There is also a requirement to make this report available and accessible to parents.

- 6 As part of the changes there is no longer a requirement to undertake consultation to support the Assessment.
- 7 Local authorities are responsible for determining the appropriate level of detail in their report, geographical division and date of publication. However, the report should include:
- a specific reference to how they are ensuring there is sufficient childcare available to meet the needs of disabled children; children from families in receipt of the childcare element of Working Tax Credit or Universal Credit; children aged two, three and four taking up early education places, school age children; and children needing holiday care.
 - Information about the supply and demand of childcare for particular age ranges of children, and the affordability, accessibility and quality of provision; and
 - Details of how any gaps in childcare provision will be addressed.
- 8 In addition, local authorities are required by legislation to provide information, advice and assistance to parents and prospective parents on the provision of childcare in their area, ensuring parents are aware of:
- Early education places for two, three and four year olds;
 - The option to continue to take up their child's 15 hour early education place until their child reaches compulsory school age;
 - How to identify high quality provision in their area.

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) Report (Appendix 1)

- 9 The CSA Report provides information on how the Local Authority will meet its legal duty as detailed earlier in this report.
- 10 For planning purposes and to ensure consistency of approach, the delivery of early years and childcare services is brought together within the twelve Children's Centre Areas across the seven Early Years Communities.
- 11 The report provides the following:
- Background and contextual information about the Borough regarding population and Labour Market Information (LMI).
 - Early years and childcare information including Ofsted registrations, geographical distribution, vacancies, charging, opening and closing times and quality of provision.
 - Details of identified gaps in childcare provision and key priorities.

- An Action Plan with timescales.

Summary of 'gaps in provision' and key priorities

12 Stockton-on-Tees has a good range of quality childcare across the borough; however specific gaps in provision have been identified, as follows:

13 Ensuring sufficient childcare available to meet the needs of disabled children

- There is a lack of understanding from parents regarding the availability of childcare for disabled children and children with special educational needs (SEN).
- Information on childcare for disabled children and children with special educational needs (SEN) must be included in the Local Offer for Stockton-on-Tees.
- Early years and childcare settings require clarity around the criteria for Early Years High Needs funding and the application process to ensure maximum accessibility for disabled children and children with special educational needs (SEN).

14 Ensuring sufficiency for children from families in receipt of the childcare element of Working Tax Credit or Universal Credit

- Low income areas have the lowest take up of Working Tax Credit childcare element.

15 Children aged two taking up early education places

- Insufficient 2 year olds, who are looked after, or eligible for a free school meal, accessing a place.
- Insufficient places available to meet the target for 2014.
- Improved marketing and promotion required to maximise take up.
- Lack of awareness by parents of the advantages of using a childminder.

16 Ensuring sufficiency for school age children

- Gaps in Thornaby have been identified due to lack of childminder provision in the area.

Action Plan

17 The Plan sets out the actions that will need to be taken in order to address the identified gaps and key priorities. The detail of each action will be found in individual implementation plans held by the responsible officer/team. The action plan covers 2014 – 2015 and the implementation plans for the delivery of the specific actions identified will be found within individual team delivery plans.

CONCLUSION

- 18 The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2014-2015 underpins the Government's aim to ensure there is sufficient childcare, as 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).

APPENDICES

- 19 Appendix 1 - The Stockton-on-Tees Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan 2014-2015.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 20 The cost of delivering the priorities within the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2014-2015 has been included in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

RISK ASSESSMENT

- 21 A risk assessment has been carried out and this proposal is categorised as low/medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

- 22 Children and Young People

Securing sufficient childcare in accordance with Section 6, 7, 12 and 13 of the Childcare Act 2006.

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 23 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and the score is ???, no negative impacts have been identified.

CORPORATE PARENTING

- 24 The Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure that all 2 year olds who are looked after by the LA or, from September 2014, have left care through special guardianship or an adoption or residence order, have access to 570 hours of free early learning and childcare.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

- 25 No consultation has taken place at this stage.

Jane Humphreys
Corporate Director Children, Education & Social Care

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<u>Environmental Implications</u>	None
<u>Community Safety Implications</u>	None
<u>Background Papers</u>	None
<u>Education Related Item?</u>	Yes
<u>Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:</u>	Not Ward specific
<u>Property Implications</u>	None

Appendix I

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

2014

Draft report

Contents

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Stockton-On-Tees Childcare Market**
- 1.2 Early education places for the two, three & four year olds**
- 1.3 The Report**

2 Stockton-On-Tees in context

- 2.1 Economic geography**
- 2.2 Demographic profile**
- 2.3 Children with SEN, those that are looked after and those registered with a disability**
- 2.4 Labour Market Information (LMI)**
- 2.5 Potential impact from approved and strategic housing developments**

3 The supply of childcare

- 3.1 Registered childcare**
- 3.2 Geographical distribution of childcare places**
- 3.3 Vacancies**
- 3.4 Charges**
- 3.5 Opening times**
- 3.6 Quality of provision**

4 Summary and key priorities

5 Gap analysis and action plan

I Introduction

The Childcare Act (2006) and the associated statutory guidance for local authorities on Early Education and Childcare – September 2013, requires Stockton-On-Tees Borough Council (the Local Authority) to secure sufficient childcare, as 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).

To secure sufficient childcare places, local authorities should take into account:

- what is ‘reasonably practicable’ when assessing what sufficient childcare means for their area;
- the state of the local childcare market, including the demand for specific types of providers, in a particular locality and the amount and type of supply that currently exists;
- the state of the labour market; and
- the quality and capacity of childcare providers.

The Children and Families Act 2014 repealed the duty on the local authority to prepare assessments on the sufficiency of provision of childcare in their area at least every 3 years and replaced this with the duty to report annually to Elected Council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare. There is also a requirement to make this report available and accessible to parents. As part of the changes there is no longer a requirement to undertake consultation to support the Assessment.

The Local Authority is responsible for determining the appropriate level of detail in the report, geographical division and date of publication. However, the report should include:

- a specific reference to how we are ensuring there is sufficient childcare available to meet the needs of disabled children; children from families in receipt of the childcare element of Working Tax Credit or Universal Credit; children aged two, three and four taking up early education places, school age children; and children needing holiday care.
- Information about the supply and demand of childcare for particular age ranges of children, and the affordability, accessibility and quality of provision; and
- Details of how any gaps in childcare provision will be addressed.

In addition, the Local Authority is required by legislation to provide information, advice and assistance to parents and prospective parents on the provision of childcare in their area, ensuring parents are aware of:

- Early education places for two, three and four year olds;
- The option to continue to take up their child’s 15 hour early education place until their child reaches compulsory school age;
- How to identify high quality provision in their area.

1.1 The Stockton-On-Tees childcare market

Stockton-On-Tees has a robust childcare market with a combination of privately owned and voluntary sector facilities in addition to almost 200 childminders (See section 3.1). Three Independent Schools also provide early years places for 3 & 4 year olds. Primary schools continue to play a key role in ensuring childcare places for school aged children are available, generally delivered in partnership with a Private, Voluntary & Independent (PVI) provider on a commissioned basis.

The Local Authority has an excellent relationship with childcare providers and good partnership working has ensured that the quality of settings is continuing to improve to above the national average. The sector benefits from a comprehensive programme of training and support and as a result the qualification levels of practitioners are on the increase.

The childcare sector works closely with Local Authority Officers to explore sufficiency issues and identify workable solutions.

1.2 Early education places for the two, three and four year olds

All children who meet the prescribed criteria are able to take up high quality early education, regardless of their parents' ability to pay – benefiting their social, physical and mental development and helping to prepare them for school. Evidence shows that regular good quality early education has lasting benefits for all children.

Two year olds:

In September 2013 the Government imposed a legal duty on local authorities to secure early education places for 2 year olds by offering 570 hours a year over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year for every eligible child in the borough.

A child can access a place if they are looked after by the Local Authority or eligible for Free School Meals. The entitlement commences from the term after the child's second birthday.

From September 2014 and in addition to the above eligibility criteria, additional places will be offered to two year olds where:

- families are in receipt of Working Tax Credits and earning no more than £16,190 a year;
- children have a current statement of special educational needs (SEN) or an education, health and care plan;
- they get Disability Living Allowance; and/or
- they have left care through special guardianship or an adoption or residence order.

Three and four year olds:

The Local Authority are required by legislation to secure early education places by offering 570 hours a year over no fewer than 38 weeks for **every** child in the borough from the relevant date;

until the child reaches compulsory school age (the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday).

1.3 The Report

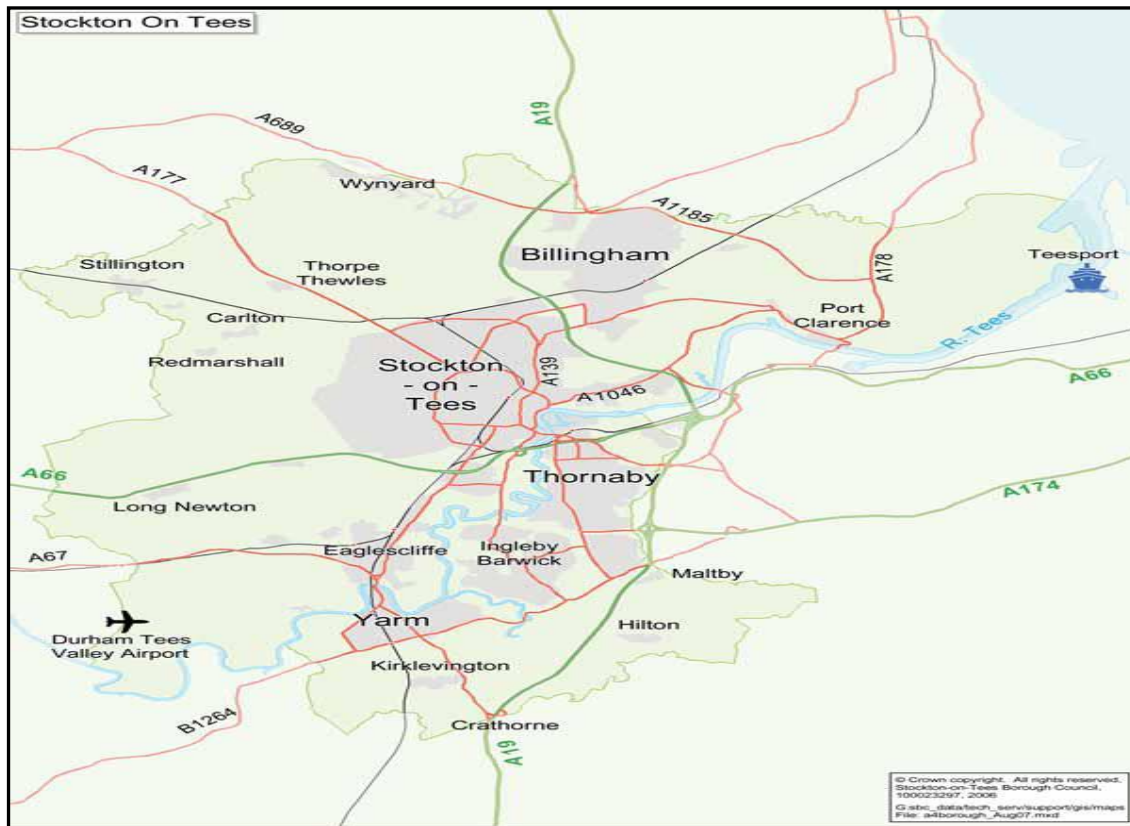
This report takes into account what the Local Authority means as 'sufficient childcare' in the borough and includes the following:

- Background and contextual information regarding population, Labour Market Information (LMI), early years and childcare numbers across the borough.
- Information about the supply of childcare for particular age ranges of children, and the affordability, accessibility and quality of provision.
- The state of the local childcare market, including the demand for specific types of providers, in particular early years communities and children centre areas and the amount and type of supply that currently exists.
- The quality and capacity of childcare providers.
 - Details of how gaps in childcare provision will be addressed.

This Assessment Report will be updated and reported to the Council's Cabinet for endorsement annually. The Assessment Report will also be made available and accessible to parents.

2 Stockton-On-Tees in context

2.1 Economic geography



Stockton Borough Council's vision is Stockton-On-Tees driving Economic Renaissance at the heart of a vibrant Tees Valley city-region.

Stockton-On-Tees is a diverse Borough located at the heart of the Tees Valley. The area has a thriving population of more than 191,800¹ people and is within easy reach of city shopping and leisure facilities, the coast and rural North Yorkshire. A mixture of urban centre, market towns and villages and with an expanding University, Stockton is a place with an exciting future. Stockton covers 78.7 square miles and comprises of six villages, three district centres and a main town centre.

The Borough forms part of the Tees Valley, home to some 663,600² people. It includes Stockton, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland, Darlington and Hartlepool. We are at the forefront of partnership work to develop the Tees Valley through supporting the Tees Valley Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and by working towards the vision of the Tees Valley and North East competing with the rest of the country within the next twenty years. The vision for the Tees Valley is shaped and driven by the Tees Valley Unlimited (TVU) Statement of Ambition and Delivery Plan.

¹ Census 2011

² ONS 2012 Mid-year Population Estimates

It is not enough to focus on economic regeneration, however, alongside improvements in the Tees Valley's economic performance, we must pay attention to the quality of life of local people by regenerating local communities and providing opportunities and services for individuals, promoting achievement and tackling disadvantage within our borough; targeting our approach at those in most need. The availability of childcare underpins a family's capacity to take up work or training.

2.2 Demographic profile

In 2012 the population is estimated at 192,406³ living in approx. 79,200³ households. In the last ten years, it is estimated that the population has risen by 4.4%, compared to an increase in the North East of 2.2%⁴. The population in the Borough is projected to grow to 206,717 by 2021⁴ which is an increase over the next ten years of 7.4%⁴.

19.4% of the population within Stockton-On-Tees are children and young people aged (0-15) and this trend is reflected in the Tees Valley, North East and nationally.

Estimated resident population in '000s (% of total population)

Age range	2010	2012	2015	2017
0-4 years	12.1 (6.4%)	12.4 (6.5%)	12.3 (6.1%)	13.3 (6.6%)
5-9 years	10.8 (5.6%)	11.4 (5.9%)	12.2 (6.1%)	13.0 (6.5%)
10-14 years	11.6 (6.1%)	11.0 (5.7%)	11.1 (5.5%)	11.7 (5.8%)
Total population	190.9 (100%)	192.4 (100%)	201.5 (100%)	200.1 (100%)

Source: 2010 & 2012 data ONS Population Estimates (2011 Census Based) / 2015 & 2017 data ONS 2011 based Population projections

The percentage of the Borough's population from a BME background has increased from 2.8% in 2001 to 5.8% in 2011⁵. The largest minority ethnic group is Asian or Asian British; this ethnic group accounts for 3.4% of the population, which is double the figure recorded 10 years ago.

The Borough has a unique social and economic mix, with areas of disadvantage situated alongside areas of affluence. The English Indices of Deprivation 2010 shows that six of Stockton's 26 wards are within the 10% most deprived wards nationally and seven are within the 10-20% most deprived⁵. By contrast, two of our wards are within the 10% least deprived wards nationally.

Of particular note is the fact that Stockton Town Centre⁶ ranks as the 17th most deprived ward in the country, whilst Ingleby Barwick East and West are two of the more affluent wards. Compared with the other Tees Valley authorities Stockton performs best in the overall Index of Multiple Deprivation and Disability, and Crime and Disorder domains.

³ ONS 2012 Mid-year Populations Estimates

⁴ Comparisons with ONS mid-2001 and mid-2011 populations estimates

⁵ Interim ONS 2011 Sub national Population Projections – comparisons are between 2011 projections as same age bands are not available in mid-year estimates

⁶ TVU IMD 2010 Executive Summary

In the Borough the percentage of population in good health is 79.8% in 2011³ which is just above the Tees Valley average and below the national average.

For planning purposes and to ensure consistency of approach, the delivery of early years and childcare services is brought together within the twelve Children's Centre Areas across the seven Early Years Communities.

The child population (aged 0-15 years old) is greatest in the Southern area and lowest in the Western area:

Estimated child population as a percentage of total by Early Years Communities and Children Centre Areas

Early Years Communities	Children Centre Areas	Estimated population 0-15 years*	% of population 0-15 years
Central (East)	Star	2032	5.4%
	Sunrise	3346	9.0%
Central (South)	High Flyers	2962	8.0%
	Riverbank	2380	6.4%
Central (West)	Frederick Natrass	1725	4.6%
	Redhill	3414	9.1%
Northern	Northern	4605	12.3%
Eastern	Footsteps	2452	6.6%
	New Life	2446	6.5%
Southern	Barley Fields	5424	14.5%
	Layfield	2651	7.1%
Western	Elm Tree	3884	10.4%
Overall		37321	100%

Source: Mid 2012 LSOA data prepared at Ward Level by TVU

2.3 Children with Special Educational Needs (SEN), those looked after and those registered with a disability

SEN – The Department for Education (DfE) 'Children with SEN' Statistical First Release (SFR) published 23/10/2013 (SFR42/2013) which was based on where the pupil attends schools using school census indicated that there were a total of 800 pupils with statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN) attending Stockton schools of a population recorded of 31,341 (2.6% of the school population). A further 4,392 pupils with SEN are recorded without statements, with 1,613 pupils at School Action plus and 2,544 pupils at school action.

LAC – The DfE's 'Children looked after in England, including adoption' SFR updated 11th December 2013 (SFR 36/2013) indicated that at 31 March 2013 there were a total of 360 Looked After Children in Stockton-On-Tees this equates to 86 children per 10,000 aged under 18 years. This

represents an increase of 31% on the same period in 2009 when there were 55 children per 10,000. There were 260 (72%) of looked after children placed with a foster carer who were placed within the borough.

The reform of services as detailed in the Children and Families Act 2014 will influence the development of appropriate childcare services for children and young people with SEN.

Planning for childcare sufficiency will take into account changes arising from SEN reform and also the information recorded through the Disability Register.

The Local Authority launched its 'Children's & Young People's Disability Register Stockton (C&YPDR)' in the summer of 2013 as a confidential record of information about children and young people with disabilities living in the Stockton-On-Tees area. It will assist with service planning to meet the needs of children with disabilities and additional needs, now and in the future. Children's names are added to the register, and in return parents can receive information about services and special events available in their area. At 21st March 2014 there have been a total of 325 children registered by parents and carers since its launch.

2.4 Labour Market Information (LMI)

Over the last 30 years, employment in the Borough has declined in traditional industries such as manufacturing and engineering. In 1991 24,000 people were employed in manufacturing in the Borough, against a figure of 10,000 in 2005. Set against this there has been a 50% increase in service sector jobs over the same period (Source: Regeneration Strategy for Stockton Borough 2007-2012).

The pattern of full-time and part-time work in Stockton-On-Tees is in line with the North East but a little lower than England & Wales as a whole. 70.6% of all employee jobs are full-time, 29.4% part-time (source: ONS 2011 Census).

The largest single employment sector is public admin, education and health, accounting for 31.6% of employee jobs. The employment sector is not as reliant on public service employment as other local authority areas in the North East which averages at nearly a third across the region. Other service industries, including Retail & Wholesale, Transport & Communication, hotels and catering and finance, and other business activities are also large scale employment sectors in the borough:

Employee jobs by industry (2011)

Industry	% of total employee jobs		
	Stockton	Tees Valley	England & Wales
Manufacturing	11.9	11.8	10.2
Construction	8.3	8.5	7.7
Services	79.8	79.5	82.2
Of which:			
Retail & Wholesale	16.6	16.2	15.9
Hotels and Catering	5.0	5.5	5.6
Transport and communications	7.0	7.3	9.0
Financial Intermediate, Real Estate and Business Services	14.5	13.3	17.2
Public admin, education and health	31.6	31.7	28.4
Other services	5.1	5.5	6.1

Source: ONS 2011 Census

2.4.1 Economic activity

Economic activity refers to the number or percentage of people of working age who are either in employment or who are unemployed. Economic activity rates in Stockton (68.4%) are higher than the Tees Valley (66.2%) and England & Wales (66.5%). A lower percentage of people in employment are self-employed compared to England & Wales.

Unemployment levels in Stockton are relatively lower at 5.7% compared to 6.5% in the Tees Valley but higher than England & Wales at 4.4%. Unemployment levels are higher for men than women:

Percentage of Economic activity rates 2011

	Stockton	Tees Valley	England & Wales
All people:			
Economically active	68.4	66.2	66.5
In employment	59.7	56.7	61.9
Employees	53.3	50.6	52.2
Self employed	6.4	6.1	9.7
Unemployed	5.7	6.5	4.4

Source: 2011 Census. Percentage is a proportion of population aged 16-74

2.4.2 Economic inactivity

Economic inactivity refers to people who are neither in work nor employed. This group includes, for example, those looking after a home or retired. Economic inactivity rates in Stockton are lower than found across the Tees Valley and across England & Wales.

2.4.3 Patterns of work

A slightly higher percentage of employee jobs are full-time compared to the Tees Valley and England & Wales:

Patterns of work

Total employee jobs	Stockton	North East	Great Britain
Full time	70.6%	69.7%	73.8%
Part-time	29.4%	30.3%	26.2%

Source: 2011 Census

2.4.4 Working age benefits

Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) is payable to people under pensionable age who are available for, and actively seeking, work. As of October 2013 there were a total of 5,985 people claiming Jobseekers

Allowance (JSA) in Stockton, 4.8% of the population. JSA claimant levels were relatively high particularly amongst men:

JSA claimants by age and gender (October 2013)

	Stockton	North East	England
All claimants	4.8%	4.5%	3.0%
Males	6.5%	6.0%	3.8%
Females	3.2%	3.1%	2.2%

Source: ONS claimant count (NOMIS)

2.4.5 Income

Based on the ONS annual survey 2013 the average gross weekly pay in Stockton is £577.50, more than the average for the North East region (£553.00) but lower than England as a whole (£629.50):

Average gross weekly pay 2013

Gross weekly pay	Stockton	North East	Great Britain
Full time workers	£577.50	£553.00	£629.50
Male FT workers	£632.60	£597.60	£687.40
Female FT workers	£491.30	£486.80	£538.10

Source: ONS annual survey of hours and earnings – resident analysis (NOMIS)

Conventionally low income households are defined as those with a household income of less than 60% of the national median household income. The median household income for the whole population in 2013 was £517.50 per week (before housing costs), equating to £26,910 per annum. Using the conventional definition, low income families would be those with a household income of less than £16,190 a year (£311.35 a week) before housing costs.

2.5 Potential impact from approved and strategic housing developments

The Local Authority must consider any potential future children yield numbers in terms of planning sufficient childcare places from approved housing developments across the borough. All housing developments must include a percentage of affordable housing within its development that should be considered when planning any future childcare arrangements. The Local Authority also needs to consider the impact on the 'childcare offer' if the other strategic sites (1,000 or more homes) and their likely pupil yield numbers.

3. The supply of childcare

3.1 Registered childcare

Data has been supplied by either the Local Authority's Families Information Service (FIS) as part of the Planning & Partnership team or from the DfE Statistical First Return (SFR 23/2013) 'Provision for Children under 5 years of age in England: January 2013' published 27th June 2013 to inform this report.

Since September 2008 childcare for children aged under 8 years old has had to be registered on one of two Ofsted childcare registers.

- The Early Years Register (EYR) – all childcare providers caring for children aged up to five are required to join the Early Years Register (unless exempt).
- The Ofsted Childcare Register (OCR) – this has two parts:
 - The compulsory part – providers of childcare to children aged 5 to 7 years must register on the compulsory part of the OCR (unless exempt);
 - The voluntary part – providers of childcare to children aged 8 and over, and care for children of any age that is activity based or provided in the child's own home, can choose to be registered on the voluntary part of the OCR if they meet the requirements.

There are advantages to providers to register (for example, inclusion on the Families Information Services website available to the public and if registered, parents / carers can claim the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit, if eligible, to help towards the costs of childcare).

Provision in schools does not have to be registered unless they provide for children that do not go to that school.

The following section provides an overview of registered provision.

Free entitlement provision in Stockton-On-Tees

Two year old entitlement

In September 2013 the Government introduced a new entitlement for up to 40% of all two year olds to access funded early education. The legal entitlement is being introduced in two phases, the first phase from September 2013 offers funded early education to **571** qualifying children across Stockton-On-Tees and, from September 2014, the second phase will extend the offer of places to a total of about **1,153** qualifying children.

The free places available will be targeted towards those children that will benefit the most, with the primary focus being on economic disadvantage. An eligible child will be entitled to receive a maximum of 570 hours of funded provision across the year.

This free entitlement has stimulated an increased demand for high quality early years places for 2 year olds in communities where there previously has been a limited requirement for provision.

Up to mid December 2013, there have been 379 eligible 2 year olds that have been placed (including transfers) of which 91 will move onto 3 & 4 year old funding from Spring 2014 with 61 children having already left. There are another 50 eligible 2 year olds waiting to be placed from autumn 2013 applications and a further 79 from spring 2014 applications. A total of 508 eligible children have taken up a place to date.

In order to ensure maximum take up the Local Authority has two key priorities over the coming year:

1. To ensure there are sufficient places available across the borough to meet the increasing demand for provision.
2. To actively promote the entitlement to ensure as many eligible children as possible benefit from free, good quality early years care and education.

3 and 4 year old entitlement

All primary schools in Stockton-On-Tees have nursery classes; 84% of places taken up in January 2013 were accessed through maintained provision which is significantly higher than the national figure of 55%. Statistical First Release on the Provision for Children under five years in England (January 2013) indicates that 4,448 three and four year old children benefitted from funded early education in the maintained nursery and state funded primary schools sector with 308 children benefitted in the PVI sector.

Stockton-On-Tees has experienced continued growth in the take up of places since the last CSA.

2 year old entitlement – Stockton-On-Tees

Number of 2 year olds taking up funded early education places by type of provider

Type of provider	Actual no. of children benefitting from funded early education (570 hrs)
PVI	348
Independent schools	-
Maintained nursery and state funded primary schools	8
Special schools	-
Total	356

Source: Stockton-On-Tees Borough Council FIS 2014

3 and 4 year old entitlement – Stockton-On-Tees

Number of 3 and 4 year olds taking up or benefiting from funded early education places by type of provider.

Type of provider	Actual no. of children benefitting from funded early education (570 hrs)
PVI	308
Independent schools	147
Maintained nursery and state funded primary schools	4448
Special schools	16
Total	4920

Source: DfE Statistical First Return (SFR 23/2013) 'Provision for Children under 5 years of age in England: January 2013' published 27th June 2013 (Table 1a)

Percentage of 3 and 4 year old children benefitting from early funded early education places.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
3 year olds	92%	101%	96%	101%	96%
4 year olds	98%	102%	102%	98%	101%
Total	95%	102%	99%	100%	98%

Source: DfE Statistical First Return (SFR 23/2013) 'Provision for Children under 5 years of age in England: January 2013' published 27th June 2013 (Table 1b)

Given that registration on the Ofsted childcare register for places for children aged over 8 is voluntary, the following table will underestimate the actual supply of places for older children as some provision (including extended services in schools) will not be registered on the childcare register.

Provision of registered childcare places – local authority level

Type of provision	Number of registered childcare places					Total places	% all places	Number of providers
	0-1 years	2 years	3-4 years	5-7 years	8+ years			
Child minding	197	183	158	543	187	1,268	30.1%	197
Creche	21	21	20			62	1.5%	3
Day nursery	561	573	622	18		1,774	42.1%	34
Out of school care			148	390	294	832	19.7%	26
Pre-school / playgroup		147	132			279	6.6%	10
Totals by age range	779	924	1,080	951	481	4,215		
% of all registered places	18.5%	21.9%	25.6%	22.6%	11.4%			
	Total registered places 0-5 years							
	2,783 (66% of total)							

Source: Stockton-On-Tees Borough Council FIS 2014

3.2 Geographical distribution of childcare places

The following table highlights the distribution of childcare places across the Local Authority's Children Centre Areas within the Early Years Communities.

Type of provision	Number of registered childcare places (% of total for each type of provision)						
	Central East	Central South	Central West	Eastern	Northern	Southern	Western
Child minding	5%	6%	7%	8%	22%	35%	17%
Creche	33%	48%	19%				
Day nursery	15%	31%	11%	8%	10%	16%	9%
Out of school care	12%	6%	9%			52%	21%
Pre-school		15%		14%	9%	34%	28%
Overall places	11%	18%	9%	7%	11%	29%	15%

Source: Stockton-On-Tees Borough Council FIS 2014 (percentage's rounded)

3.3 Vacancies

Vacancies are calculated against registered places. A large number of settings are likely to operate fewer places than they are registered for. For example, a child minder may be registered for 6 children but choose to care no more than 4. Vacancies analysed against registered capacity is likely to over-estimate supply.

The FIS had records of 1,040 vacancies in registered provision as at 18 March 2014. This represents 25% of total places.

Vacancy levels compared to registered places.

Early Years Community	Number of vacancies recorded	% of registered places
Central East	151	33%
Central South	229	31%
Central West	53	14%
Eastern	49	17%
Northern	91	19%
Southern	254	20%
Western	213	34%

Source: Stockton-On-Tees Borough Council FIS 2014 (percentage's rounded)

The majority of recorded vacancies were in child minding and day nursery provision (accounting for 23% and 48% respectively of all vacancies). The highest number of vacancies was for children aged 5 to 7 years old (269 vacancies, 26% of total).

Vacancies by age range and type of provision

Age range	Number of vacancies by type of provision (% of vacancies for each age group)					
	Child minding	Day Nursery	Out of school care	Pre-school	Creche	All provision
0 - 1 years	64	156			6	226
2 years	40	156		47	6	249
3 - 4 years	20	181	19	43	6	269
5 - 7 years	62	7	101			170
8 - 10 years	46		60			106
11 - 14 years	4		16			20
Overall (all age groups)	236	500	196	90	18	1040

Source: Stockton-On-Tees Borough Council FIS 2014 (percentage's rounded)

3.4 Charges

Comparing charges across different providers and Early Years Communities is made more difficult by different charging patterns; some child minders, for example, charge by the hour, some by the day and some weekly. Child minders (and other settings) may charge differential costs according to the time of day (pre 8am, post 6pm, age of child or service (pick-ups, drop offs, breakfast or before and after school)).

The FIS hold detailed information on charges levied by individual settings, across a number of different charging patterns. Here the focus is on developing a better understanding of charges as they might impact on affordability.

Stockton-On-Tees

Charging period	Type of provision / charges levied			
	Child minding	Day Nursery	Out of school care	Pre-school playgroup
Per hour	£3.67			£4.73
Per session / half day	£18.95	£24.32		£7.42
Per day	£28.89	£35.91		£27.88
Per week	£132.20	£158.68		
After school	£9.34	£10.84	£9.61	
Before school / breakfast club	£5.07	£6.88	£5.96	
Holiday care per day	£28.89	£30.33	£23.36	£27.88

Source: Stockton-On-Tees BC FIS March 2014

The different charging patterns and ranges of charges levied make it very difficult to compare costs across different providers. Whilst data is presented as average costs by type of provision this is misleading. If, for example, there is only one provider in an area charging per session, those charges have been presented as averages. It would be useful to develop a system of simplifying how information about charges is recorded, to enable a more direct comparison. The table does not contain all charges information provided as there are so many different ways in which these charges are recorded (e.g. before and after school per day and/or per week; per 2,3 or 5 hour session; wrap around; differential charges by age of child; lunch and tea; drop off and pick up etc).

3.5 Opening times

As with charges there was considerable variation in opening times, both within and between different types of provision. Collectively, child minders offer childcare for early in the morning (from 6.30am) until late in the evening (up to 9pm), and at weekends, including Sundays. The most commonly offered opening times are between 7 - 7.30 am and 6 - 6.30 pm (57 child minders 29%, operate these opening times) and 8 - 8.30am and 4.30 - 5.30pm (offered by 31 child minders 16%).

Child minders – opening times (top 5)

Start time	Finish time	Number (% of all child minders)
07:00 – 07:30	18:00 – 18:30	29% (57)
08:00 – 08:30	16:30 – 17:30	16% (31)
08:00 – 08:30	18:00 – 18:30	15% (29)
07:00 – 07:30	17:00 – 17:30	11% (22)
07:00 – 07:30	19:00 – 19:30	4% (8)

Source: FIS base of 147, percentages rounded

14 child minders (7%) open on Saturdays and 5 (3%) open on Sundays, information regarding opening times is not available for all providers

Out of school care

The majority of settings registered for out of school care offer after school provision 27 settings (100%). Almost all of out of school care settings offer before and after school provision 26 settings (96%).

Day nursery settings

The majority of day nurseries 25 settings (74%) are open from between 7.30am to 6.00pm.

3.6 Quality of provision

The majority of childcare provision in Stockton-On-Tees is good and this trend is improving to exceed the national average. Support and challenge is given to settings and childminders that are less than good in order to improve provision and Ofsted ratings. The Local Authority has produced a quality improvement tool, 'Journey to Outstanding' which the majority of settings use to effectively underpin their self- assessment and development plans.

The following table shows the latest inspection ratings against each type of provider:

Ofsted Inspection Outcomes (1st Sept 2012 to 31st Aug 2013)

Type of provision	Number of Early Years settings (Stockton)	% of Early Years settings (Stockton)	Number of Early Years settings (National)	% of Early Years settings (National)	Number of Child Minders (Stockton)	% of Child Minders (Stockton)	Number of child minders (National)	% of child minders (National)
Number included in review	49		7043		162		7761	
Of which, rated:								
Outstanding	2	4.1%	694	9.9%	15	9.3%	348	4.5%
Good	37	75.5%	4054	57.6%	99	61.1%	4826	62.2%
Satisfactory/ Requiring Improvement	9	18.4%	1678	23.8%	47	29%	2103	27.1%
Inadequate	1	2%	617	8.7%	1	0.6%	484	6.2%

Source: Education, Early Years and Complex Needs QEC Jan 2014 – Rounded

The above indicates that in Stockton-On-Tees we have almost 80% of our Early Years settings that are either rated 'good' or 'outstanding' which is higher than the National position of 67.5%.

We also have 70.4% of Child minders that either rated 'good' or 'outstanding', also higher than the National position of 66.7%.

Actual number and percentage of 3 and 4 year old children benefitting from funded early education in PVI and in maintained nursery, primary and special schools by Ofsted inspection rating

Ofsted rating	Number	Percentage
Outstanding	916	19
Good	2793	57
Satisfactory / Requires Improvement	862	18
Inadequate	82	2
Not yet inspected	-	-
Did not match to Ofsted	266	5
Total	4920	100

Source: DfE Statistical First Return (SFR 23/2013) 'Provision for Children under 5 years of age in England: January 2013' published 27th June 2013 (Table 10)

Actual number and percentage of 2 year old children benefitting from funded early education in PVI and in maintained nursery, primary and special schools by Ofsted inspection rating

Ofsted rating	Number	Percentage
Outstanding	3	0.8%
Good	327	91.8%
Satisfactory / Requires Improvement	8	2.3%
Inadequate	-	-
Not yet inspected	18	5.1%
Did not match to Ofsted	-	-
Total	356	100%

Source: Stockton-On-Tees Borough Council FIS 2014 (20th March)

4 Summary and key priorities

Stockton-On-Tees has a good range of quality childcare across the borough; however specific gaps in provision have been identified, as detailed below:

- **Ensuring sufficient childcare available to meet the needs of disabled children**

All childcare providers are required to meet the needs of disabled children. The introduction of 'Early Years High Needs' funding will ensure that sufficient resources are targeted to support children in accessing childcare provision and their families in having the confidence that the individual needs of their child will be met within a setting.

- There is a lack of understanding from parents regarding the availability of childcare for disabled children and children with special educational needs (SEN).
- Information on childcare for disabled children and children with special educational needs (SEN) must be included in the Local Offer for Stockton-On-Tees.
- Early years and childcare settings require clarity around the criteria for Early Years High Needs funding and the application process to ensure maximum accessibility for disabled children and children with special educational needs (SEN).

- **Ensuring sufficiency for children from families in receipt of the childcare element of Working Tax Credit or Universal Credit**

The cost of childcare is an issue in certain areas across the borough; however there are high levels of childcare use. In order to support families in taking up work and employment it is essential that up to date advice and information is available to support them in making choices.

- Low income areas have the lowest take up of Working Tax Credit childcare element.

- **Children aged two taking up early education places**

The principle key priority for the Local Authority during 2014-2015 will be to increase capacity within the childcare market in order to ensure there are sufficient places to meet demand from eligible 2 year olds. The increased target for September 2014 is a challenge, and work will be prioritised to ensure sufficient places are available. The following table demonstrates where some capacity exists and where place development will be a priority:

Early Years Community	Children's Centre area	Additional places required	Additional places available	To be developed
Central (East)	Star	90	40	50
	Sunrise	75	16	59
Central (South)	High Flyers	74	74	0
	Riverbank	67	50	17
Central (West)	Frederick Natrass	62	0	62
	Redhill	59	0	59
Northern	Northern	17	17	0
Eastern	Footsteps	44	0	44
	New Life	48	0	48
Southern	Barley Fields	13	13	0
	Layfield	7	7	0
Western	Elm Tree	26	26	0
TOTAL		582	243	339

Although it has been estimated that an additional 339 places are required to ensure the Local Authority meets the 2014 target of 1153 places (571 for 2013 and 582 for 2014); it is estimated that a number of eligible children will already be attending childcare, particularly where the family is in receipt of Working Tax Credits. The DfE will be providing information on those families in April and a piece of work will be undertaken to ascertain how many are currently accessing a childcare place. In addition, take up of places against the 2013 target of 571 needs to be improved. Currently 356 children are accessing a place. Therefore a further 215 places need to be filled to ensure we are maximising take up. In terms of sufficiency of places this will be managed through the existing vacancies within settings (Section 3.3). The following are the key priorities for 2014-2015:

- Insufficient 2 year olds who are looked after or eligible for a free school meal, accessing a place.
 - Insufficient places available to meet the target for 2014.
 - Improved marketing and promotion required to maximise take up.
 - Lack of awareness by parents of the advantages of using a child minder.
- **Children aged three and four taking up early education places**

Stockton-On-Tees has a 98% take up of early education places for 3 & 4 year olds which is above the national average of approximately 95%, therefore this is not a key priority for the Local Authority in terms of sufficiency. However, choice of provision will continue to be promoted to ensure take up is maximised.

- **Ensuring sufficiency for school age children**

A range of breakfast and after school provision is in place across the borough, through childminders, day care settings and school based childcare. In addition, parents/carers use a range of school based activities to supplement their childcare requirements. Current demand for places shows a lack of provision within Thornaby due to low numbers of childminders and a lack of school based childcare.

- Gaps in Thornaby have been identified due to lack of childminder provision in the area.
- **Ensuring sufficiency for children needing holiday care**

Since the last Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, Stockton-On-Tees has seen a decline in the demand for formal holiday provision. Parents are looking to family and friends to share the care of their children during these times. Childminders also continue to offer flexible holiday provision and parents of older children are using 'activity' based programmes rather than formal provision. Childcare providers assess demand for services on the run up to holidays and will offer sessions where sufficient interest has been identified.

This is not seen as a priority area for development this year.

To note: The Local Authority will consider the impact of approved and strategic housing developments across the borough on the sufficiency of childcare places.

5 Action Plan

The following plan sets out the actions that Stockton-On-Tees Borough Council will take to deliver priorities set out in the above section. The detail of each action will be found in individual implementation plans held by the responsible officer/team. The action plan covers 2014 – 2015 and the implementation plans for the delivery of the specific actions identified can be found within individual team delivery plans.

5 Gap analysis and action plan

		Gap analysis		Action plan		
				What	How	When
I	Ensuring sufficient childcare available to meet the needs of disabled children	<p>Ia. There is a lack of understanding from parents regarding the availability of childcare for disabled children and children with special educational needs (SEN).</p> <p>Ib. Information on childcare for disabled children and children with special educational needs (SEN) must be included in the Local Offer for Stockton-On-Tees.</p> <p>Ic. Early years and childcare settings require clarity around the criteria for Early Years High Needs funding and the application process to ensure maximum accessibility for disabled children and children with special educational needs (SEN).</p>	<p>Ia. The Families Information Service (FIS) to ensure up to date information is available to parents/carers to ensure they are well informed and supported in the childcare choices they make for their children.</p> <p>Ib. FIS to ensure that information is included in in the Stockton-On-Tees Local Offer.</p> <p>Ic. Promote the availability of Early Years High Needs funding to providers.</p>	<p>Ia. (i) FIS to update on line and published information.</p> <p>Ia. (ii) Childcare providers to be briefed on how to market services to parents/carers.</p> <p>Ia. (iii) FIS to increase take up of text messaging service and sign up to the Disability Register.</p> <p>Ib. (i) FIS to link with relevant LA Officers to ensure information is available.</p> <p>Ib. (ii) Presentations to childcare providers regarding implications take place.</p> <p>Ic. (i) Information sessions delivered.</p>	<p>July 2014</p> <p>September 2014</p> <p>March 2015</p> <p>September 2014</p> <p>July 2014</p> <p>May 2014</p>	

Gap analysis			Action plan		
			What	How	When
2	Ensuring sufficiency for children from families in receipt of the childcare element of Working Tax Credit or Universal Credit	2a. Low income areas have the lowest take up of Working Tax Credit childcare element.	2a. Develop a plan to promote childcare related benefits to parents/carers, working closely with Children's Centres and childcare providers.	2a. (i) FIS to provide a programme of targeted outreach sessions, referral systems and promotional activities. 2a. (ii) FIS to provide information and advice on childcare and employment, access to funding, grants and benefits relating to childcare in locality areas and via the telephone.	December 2014 On-going
3	Children aged two taking up early education places.	3a. Insufficient 2 year olds who are looked after or eligible for a free school meal, accessing a place. 3b. Insufficient places available to meet the target for 2014.	3a. LA to target families in Children Centre Areas where there has been low take up. 3b. Identify suitable premises within areas of low capacity in order to develop new childcare businesses offering additional places. 3b. Work with existing providers to identify additional capacity within their settings.	3a. (i) Work through the Children's Centre Operational Group to review and improve existing procedures including links to health and social care. 3a. (ii) Target low paid sector to raise profile of entitlement and take up. 3b. (i) Promote new business opportunities to providers in areas with low capacity. 3b. (ii) Build on existing Guaranteed Places Programme, signing up providers to deliver	July 2014 August 2014 May 2014 May – July

		Gap analysis		Action plan		
				What	How	When
		<p>3c. Improved marketing and promotion required to maximise take up.</p> <p>3d. Lack of awareness by parents of the advantages of using a child minder.</p>	<p>3c. Information needs to be made available in a variety of ways to ensure that the families understand their entitlement at the earliest opportunity, make a timely application and then agree a place.</p> <p>3d. Potential to look at a 'Hub and Spoke' approach linking PVI's with Child minders.</p>	<p>additional places where there is capacity.</p> <p>3c. Develop and produce marketing plan detailing type of materials and media to be adopted e.g. postcards, Website, twitter, Text messaging service.</p> <p>3d (i) Increase the number of existing childminders offering funded places to improve capacity within the childcare market.</p> <p>3d. (ii) Link childminders to PVI settings to strengthen offer to parents.</p>	<p>2014</p> <p>June 2014</p> <p>June 2014</p> <p>September 2014</p>	
4	Children aged 3 & 4 taking up early education places.	4a. No significant gaps in this area.	4a. Take up maximised.	4a. Promote choice to parents/carers to maximise take up.	March 2015	
5	Ensuring sufficiency for school age children	5a. Gaps in Thornaby have been identified due to lack of childminder provision in the area.	5a. A priority for the coming year is to explore the potential of targeting the recruitment of childminders in Thornaby.	5a. Undertake promotional exercise through childminder advisory sessions.	February 2015	

Gap analysis			Action plan		
			What	How	When
6	Ensuring sufficiency for children needing holiday care	6a. No evidence that there is a gap in provision in this area.	6a. Monitor demand for provision across the borough.	6a. FIS to record any unmet demand for holiday care.	March 2015