



Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2018



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1 Introduction

The Childcare Act 2006 and 2016 and the associated statutory guidance for local authorities on Early Education and Childcare – March 2017, 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).

The duty is detailed in the following sections of the Acts:

Childcare Act 2006

Section 6	secures sufficient childcare for parents;
Section 7	secures free early years provision free of charge;
Section 7A	discharges its duty;
Section 9	gives LA's the power to attach requirements to the arrangements they make with providers (other than the governing body of a maintained school) to deliver childcare including free early years provision;
Section 9a	allows regulations to be made which prescribe the requirements local authorities may or may not impose when they make arrangements;
Section 12	provides information, advice and assistance to parents about childcare in the area;
Section 13	to secure the provision of information, advice and training to childcare providers and childcare workers

Childcare Act 2016

Section 1	places a duty on the secretary of state to secure the equivalent of 30 hours free childcare over 38 weeks of the year for qualifying children;
Section 2	allows the Secretary of state to discharge her duty under section 1 of the Act by placing a duty on English local authorities to secure free childcare for qualifying 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 including the sufficiency of the local childcare workforce;
- the quality and capacity of childcare providers and childminders registered with a childminder agency, including their funding, staff, premises, experience and expertise;
- should encourage schools in their area to offer out-of-hours childcare from 8.00am until 6.00pm and in school holidays;
- should encourage existing providers to expand their provision and new providers to enter the local childcare market; and

- should encourage providers to take sustainable business approach to planning and signpost providers to resources to support them.

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: children with special educational needs and disabilities disabled children; 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.
- 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; and
- Details of how any gaps in childcare provision will be addressed.

In addition, the Local Authority is required by legislation to maintain a service that provides information, to parents and prospective parents on the provision of childcare in their area, as listed in Schedule 1 of the Childcare Act 2006 and from 1st September publish this information electronically on the local authority website and update it at a minimum termly on 1st January, 1st April and 1st September, 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 childcare providers in addition to 183 childminders (See section 4.1). Three Independent Schools provide early years places for 3 & 4 year olds. Primary schools play a key role in offering the majority of universal 15 hour places for 3 & 4 year olds along with a few offering 30 hour childcare places, 2yr funded places, and after school places for school aged children.

The Local Authority has an excellent relationship with childcare providers and good partnership working has ensured that the quality of settings has continued to improve, closing the gap and exceeding the national average.

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

1.2 The Report

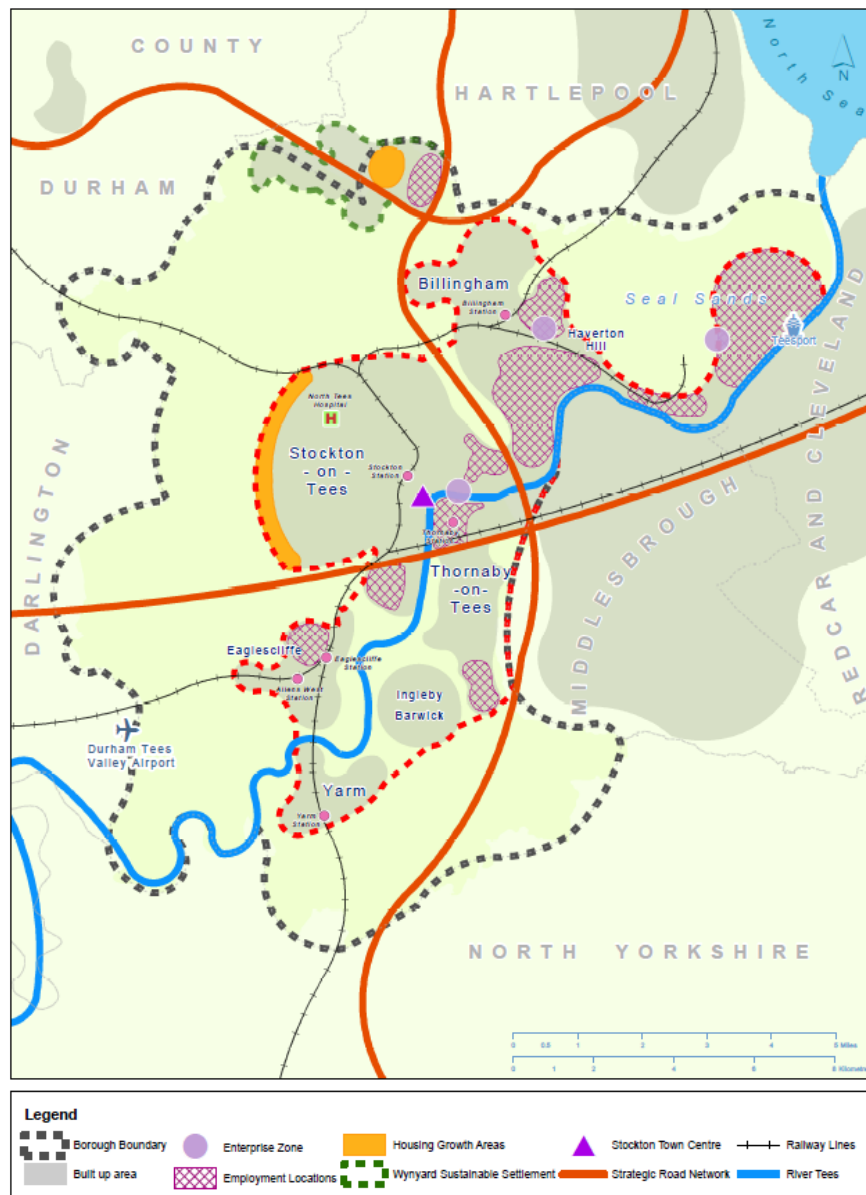
This report takes into account what the Local Authority means as 'sufficient childcare' in the borough and includes the following:

- 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 ward 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 on the Stockton Information directory www.stocktoninformationdirectory.org

2 Stockton-on-Tees in context

2.1 Economic geography



Location and Economic Profiles

Stockton-on-Tees covers 20,393 hectares. The principal settlements are Stockton, Billingham, Thornaby, Ingleby Barwick, Norton, and Yarm with the western part of the Borough characterised by more rural and village settlements.

As an economic asset, the River Tees courses through the Borough and sustains a variety of uses; from a working river upstream; a leisure destination; and forming part of the tranquil green corridors. The Borough is bounded by County Durham to the north; Darlington to the west; Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Hartlepool to the east; and Hambleton to the south.

Stockton-on-Tees benefits from good access to the strategic road network – A1M, A19, A66 and A67 – and a network of bus routes that provide frequent services to connect residents to work and leisure destinations predominantly across Tees Valley, and for the movement of goods and services. There are six train stations in total providing frequent access to

destinations in Tees Valley and across the North, and a direct link to London via the East Coast Mainline.

The Borough is home to Durham Tees Valley Airport located in the South East. It provides freight services, and international connections via three flights per day to Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam, as well as regular flights to Aberdeen.

The Borough forms part of the Tees Valley Combined Authority wider functioning economic area, which is home to some 667,469¹ people.

2.2 Demographic profile

In 2016 the population was estimated at 195,958 living in approx. 85,630² households. In the last ten years, it is estimated that the population has risen by 4.6%, compared to an increase in the North East of 3.3%³. The population in the Borough is projected to grow to 204,411 by 2026 which is an increase of 4.3% over the ten year period 2016-2026⁴.

19.6% of the population within Stockton-on-Tees are children and young people aged (0-15), which is slightly higher than across the North East (17.7%) and nationally (18.9%).

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

Age range	2014	2018	2022	2026
0-4 years	12,449 6.41%	12,017 6.07%	12,298 6.10%	12,351 6.02%
5-9 years	12,162 6.26%	12,903 6.52%	12,435 6.16%	12,610 6.14%
10-14 years	10,865 5.60%	12,038 6.08%	12,986 6.44%	12,666 6.17%
Total population	194,119 100%	197,895 100%	201,738 100%	204,411 100%

Source: ONS 2014- 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 2015 shows that seven of Stockton's 26 wards are within the 10% most deprived wards nationally and five are within the 10-20% most deprived⁵. By contrast, one ward is within the 10% least deprived wards nationally.

¹ Valuation office agency – council tax statistics for April 2017

² Comparisons with ONS mid-2006 and mid-2016 populations estimates

³ ONS mid-2014 based population projections

⁴ Census

⁵ TVU IMD 2015 Executive Summary https://teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/4.-imd_borough_report_2015.pdf

Of particular note is the fact that Stockton Town Centre⁶ ranks as the 13th most deprived ward in the country, whilst Ingleby Barwick West is amongst the least deprived wards. Compared with the other Tees Valley Local Authorities Stockton has lower deprivation in relation to Crime and Disorder. In the Borough, the percentage of the population in good health is 79.8% in 2011⁴, which is just above the Tees Valley average and below the national average.

2.3 Labour Market Information (LMI)

In 2016 there were around 82,100 jobs in Stockton-on-Tees, which is growth of 600 compared to 2011. The largest employment sector was 'Health' sector made up 14.0% of the employment⁷ equating to 11,500 jobs; of which around 700 could be classified as 'Child Day Care Activities' (growth of 65% since 2011).

The 'Manufacturing' sector made up 11.6% of jobs the Retail sector made up 10.4% of jobs and the Professional Scientific and Technical Sector made up 9.1% of all jobs. All of these sectors have seen growth in estimated employment over the 2011-2016 period with an extra 1500 jobs in the Manufacturing sector and an extra 500 jobs in both the Retail and Professional, Scientific and Technical sector.

The sub-sector of 'Manufacture of Chemicals and Chemical Products' makes up almost 1 in 4 (23.7%) of all manufacturing jobs in Stockton-on-Tees and has seen growth of around 625 jobs since 2011. This represents a specialism locally; as the proportion of jobs in the Manufacture of Chemicals is 9.2 times higher than the national equivalent.

82.6% of jobs in Stockton-on-Tees are in the private sector, which is similar to the national proportion (82.9%) yet higher than the Tees Valley (77.3%) and North East (77.6%) figures.

As well as additional jobs due to expansion (new job creation) there is a significant demand for jobs created by retirements in the existing workforce. Between the years 2014-2024 it is forecast⁸ that in the Tees Valley around 293,000 jobs in 2014 will grow by 17,000 to 310,000 by 2024 due to expansion demand, but during this time there will be replacement demand for 116,000 jobs. The replacement demand created by retirements is equivalent to 40% of the 2014 workforce.

Employee Jobs by Industry (2016)

Industry	Stockton Employment	% of total employment		
		Stockton (%)	North East (%)	England (%)
Mining, quarrying & utilities	850	1.0	1.1	1.1
Manufacturing	9,500	11.6	10.7	8.0
Construction	5,500	6.7	4.2	4.7
Motor trades	2,375	2.9	2.1	1.9
Wholesale	2,750	3.3	2.7	4.1

⁶ Employment figures are from the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) (ONS – 2016). Employment includes employees plus the number of working owners. BRES therefore includes self-employed workers as long as they are registered for VAT or Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE) schemes. Self-employed people not registered for these, along with HM Forces and Government Supported trainees are excluded.

⁷ UKCES- UK labour market projections: 2014 to 2024 (Working Futures)

Retail	8,500	10.4	10.1	9.6
Transport & storage (inc postal)	4,000	4.9	4.3	5.0
Accommodation & food services	5,500	6.7	7.9	7.5
Information & communication	1,125	1.4	2.6	4.4
Financial & insurance	2,000	2.4	2.1	3.6
Property	1,500	1.8	1.7	1.8
Professional, scientific & technical	7,500	9.1	6.0	9.2
Business administration & support services	5,500	6.7	7.7	9.1
Public administration & defence	3,750	4.6	6.3	3.9
Education	7,000	8.5	9.6	8.8
Health	11,500	14.0	16.3	12.7
Arts, entertainment, recreation & other services	3,250	4.0	4.7	4.7

Source: ONS business register and employment survey 2016

2.3.1 Economic activity

Economic activity refers to the number or percentage of people of working age who are in employment plus those that are unemployed (actively seeking and available for work). Economic activity rates in Stockton-on-Tees (74.4%) are higher than the Tees Valley (73.7%) but lower than the North East (75.5%) and United Kingdom.

For those without a job it is only those who are actively seeking work that count towards unemployment figures and those who aren't seeking work are classed as economically inactive. Unemployment estimates in Stockton-on-Tees are relatively low at 4.8% compared to 6.5% in the Tees Valley, but lower than the UK at 4.4%. (This estimate of unemployment, like employment figures, is based on a sample survey and subject to sampling error.) A model based estimate of unemployment strengthened by figures from DWP benefit claimants is available which predicts that for the year ending December 2016 around 6,100 people were unemployed in Stockton-on-Tees. This is the lowest figure since before the 2008 recession, and as a proportion of the economically active population (6.4%) is higher than the national equivalent (4.8%) but lower than the North East figure (6.6%).

Estimated Economic activity rates (Jan 2017 – December 2017)

	Stockton	Tees Valley	North East	United Kingdom
All people (aged 16-64):	121,600	411,400	1,646,100	41,145,500
Economically active	92,200	303,100	1,240,700	32,191,500
	76.4%	73.7%	75.4%	78.2%
In employment	87,500	282,300	1,162,000	30,750,500
	72.0%	68.6%	70.6%	74.7%
Employees	78,300	253,300	1,031,400	26,261,700
	64.4%	61.6%	62.7%	63.8%
Self employed	8,600	27,700	127,700	4,355,900

	7.0%	6.7%	7.8%	10.6%
Unemployed (Modelled with Claimant count figures to improve accuracy)	5,100	21,000	79,200	n/a
	5.4%	6.8%	6.2	n/a

Source: ONS annual population survey - year ending December 2017

2.3.2 Economic Inactivity

Economic inactivity refers to people who are of working age (16-64, but are not actively seeking work. Reasons for this may include sickness, study, retirement or choosing to look after family/home. An estimated 23.6% of residents in Stockton-on-Tees are economically inactive⁹ which is higher than nationally (21.8%) and regionally (24.6%) which itself is lower than the Tees Valley (26.3%).

2.3.3 Patterns of work

A slightly higher percentage of employee jobs are full-time (more than 30 hours a week) in Stockton-on-Tees compared to the Tees Valley, North East but the rate is lower than nationally.

Employee Jobs (2015)

Total employee jobs	Stockton-on-Tees	Tees Valley	North East	England
Part-Time	32.5	34.6	34.0	31.9
Full-time	67.5	65.4	66.0	68.1

Source: ONS business register and employment survey 2016

2.3.4 Working age benefits

The claimant count includes those seeking Jobseekers Allowance (JSA), which is an employment benefit payable to people under pensionable age who are available for and actively seeking work. The count also includes those who are on Universal Credit and do not have a job but are seeking and are available for work. Universal Credit is currently being rolled out across the Borough and will replace JSA. As of March 2018 a total of 3,995 people made up the 'claimant count', which is 3.1% of the working age population. The highest concentration of claimants at 5.5% is for those aged 18-24 population.

Claimant Count by Gender (March 2017)

	Stockton-on-Tees	Tees Valley	North East	United Kingdom
All claimants	3.2%	4.3%	3.6%	2.1%
Males	4.3%	5.8%	4.7%	2.7%
Females	2.2%	2.9%	2.5%	1.6%

Source: ONS claimant count (NOMIS)

⁸ Office for National Statistics - Annual Population Survey – Year Ending December 2017

Claimant Count by Age (March 2018)

Age	Stockton-on-Tees	Tees Valley	North East	United Kingdom
16+	3.2%	4.3%	3.6%	2.1%
18-24	5.5%	7.0%	5.2%	3.0%
25-49	3.4%	4.6%	3.8%	2.2%
50+	2.4%	3.2%	2.8%	1.9%

Source: ONS claimant count (NOMIS) March 2018 (Rates based on mid-2016 population)

2.3.5 Income

Based on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2017 the average gross weekly pay in Stockton-on-Tees is £518.20; more than the average for the North East region (£504.10), but lower than England as a whole (£550.40).

Average gross weekly pay 2017

Gross weekly pay	Stockton	North East	United Kingdom
Full time workers	£518.20	£504.10	£550.40
Male FT workers	£544.30	£543.20	£591.50
Female FT workers	£436.80	£452.30	£493.60

Source: ONS annual survey of hours and earnings – resident analysis (NOMIS) (in published reports, median earnings rather than the mean will generally be used. The median is the value below which 50% of employees fall. It is preferred over the mean for earnings data as it is influenced less by extreme values and because of the skewed distribution of earnings data.)

2.4 Potential impact from approved and strategic housing developments

The Local Authority considers 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 is considered when planning any future childcare arrangements. The Local Authority also considers the impact on the 'childcare offer' of the other strategic sites (1,000 or more homes) and their likely pupil yield numbers.

3 Demand for childcare

Estimated child population as a percentage of total by Ward area

Ward Areas	Estimated population 0-15 years 2014	Estimated population 0-15 years 2015	Estimated population 0-15 years 2016	% increase/ decrease 2015 / 2016	% of ward population 0-15 years 2016
Billingham Central	1,590	1,610	1,608	-0.12%	21.60%
Billingham East	1,640	1,670	1,767	5.45%	23.21%

Billingham North	1,510	1,470	1,431	-2.65%	16.43%
Billingham South	1,450	1,450	1,462	0.83%	21.66%
Billingham West	670	690	635	-7.97%	12.16%
Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree	1,010	1,000	1,039	3.90%	15.75%
Eaglescliffe	1,930	1,970	1,961	-0.46%	18.64%
Fairfield	840	840	784	-6.67%	14.29%
Grangefield	1,190	1,160	1,170	0.86%	17.73%
Hardwick	1,880	1,900	1,890	-0.53%	25.25%
Hartburn	980	980	1,019	3.98%	15.92%
Ingleby Barwick East	2,350	2,340	2,309	-1.32%	21.86%
Ingleby Barwick West	3,070	3,040	3,135	3.13%	25.79%
Mandale & Victoria	2,410	2,510	2,560	1.99%	20.72%
Newtown	1,780	1,820	1,804	-0.88%	24.58%
Northern Parishes	650	700	723	3.29%	19.29%
Norton North	1,320	1,300	1,285	-1.15%	19.50%
Norton South	1,280	1,300	1,307	0.54%	16.78%
Norton West	930	920	911	-0.98%	14.81%
Parkfield & Oxbridge	1,640	1,730	1,901	9.88%	21.12%
Roseworth	1,620	1,680	1,729	2.92%	23.09%
Stainsby Hill	1,230	1,240	1,229	-0.89%	19.31%
Stockton Town Centre	1,320	1,350	1,234	-8.59%	17.62%
Village	1,390	1,380	1,386	0.43%	19.42%
Western parishes	540	550	541	-1.64%	16.17%
Yarm	1,560	1,560	1,567	0.45%	15.90%
Stockton-on-Tees	37,790	38,100	38,381	0.74%	19.61%

Darlington	20,090	20,100	20,044	-0.3%	18.97%
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Hartlepool	17,650	17,600	17,700	0.6%	19.07 %
Middlesbrough	28,300	28,600	28,879	1.0%	20.57 %
Redcar and Cleveland	24,100	24,200	24,200	0.0%	17.87 %
Tees Valley	127,930	128,600	129,204	0.5%	19.29 %
North East	463,860	456,000	467,789	2.6%	17.74 %
National	10,858,400	10,960,400	11,086,179	1.1%	18.99 %

Source: TVCA Population Estimates (exact fit using ONS OA *2014 population and **2015 population estimates)

3.1 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 27/07/2017 (SFR37/2017) based on where the pupil attends schools using the January 2017 school census indicated that there were a total of 855 pupils with Education, Health and care Plan/Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) – an increase of 51 pupils on 2016.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) with statements/EHC plans, based on where the pupil attends schools – Table 12

2015			2016			2017		
Total pupils	Pupils with statements	%	Total pupils	Pupils with statements	%	Total pupils	Pupils with statements/EHC Plans	%
32,029	843	2.6	32,428	804	2.5	32,966	855	2.6

Total number of Pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) within all schools – Table 15

Total pupils	Pupils with Statements / EHC plans		Pupils with SEN Support		Total pupils with SEN	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
32,996	855	2.6	4,091	12.4	4,946	15

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 assists 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 31st March 2018 there have been a total of 437 children registered by parents and carers since its launch, which is a slight increase on 2017.

Diagnosis	Age				Total
	1-7	8-12	13-17	Above 18	
Asperger's	0	4	17	23	44
Attachment Disorder	1	6	6	5	18
ADHD	0	9	30	19	58
Autistic Spectrum	6	42	57	40	145
Development Delay	13	44	30	18	105
Epilepsy	2	15	11	12	40
Learning Difficulties	10	77	67	70	224
Physical Impairment	4	24	18	20	66
Sensory Loss	1	5	7	8	21
Sensory Loss Visual	2	6	12	6	26
Speech & Language	19	56	32	21	128
Waiting for Diagnosis	6	27	12	3	48
Other	10	42	35	31	118
No response	0	1	1		2
Total	32	147	136	122	437

Source: Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Disability Register March 2018

LAC – The DfE's 'Children looked after in England, including adoption' SFR updated 7th December 2017 (SFR 50/2017) indicated that at 31 March 2017 there were a total of 435 Looked After Children in Stockton-on-Tees this equates to 101 children per 10,000 aged under 18 years. This is an increase of 13 children per 10,000 on 2017 figures.

4 Supply of childcare

Data has been supplied by either the Local Authority's Families Information Service (FIS) or from the DfE Statistical First Release (SFR 29/2017) 'Provision for Children under 5 years of age in England: January 2017' published 30th June 2017 to inform this report.

Since September 2008 childcare for children aged less than 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.

4.1 Number of registered childcare places

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.

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				
Childminding	190	194	194	570	218	1366	30.3%	183	
Crèche	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0	
Day Nursery	546	765	651	115	12	2089	46.3%	41	
Out of School Care	0	0	123	467	238	828	18.35%	32	
Pre-school / Playgroup		123	105			228	5.05%	8	
Totals by age range	736	1082	1073	1152	468	4511			
% of all registered places	16.3%	24%	23.8%	25.5%	10.4%				
Total registered places 0-5 years = 2891 (64% of total places)									

Source: Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council FIS March 2018

4.2 Unregistered childcare

There are currently 44 primary schools offering a range of before school and after school clubs. Tracking supply of childcare for school age children is difficult because not all of this type of provision is registered with Ofsted. It is possible that provision for school aged children has been undercounted as parents may also use provision which is considered ‘childcare’ for example sports or arts clubs after school or in holidays.

Type of provision	Number of providers
Before school	37
After school	10

4.3 Geographical distribution of childcare places including vacancies

The following table details the number of childcare places and the number of vacancies, by type of childcare provider, based on Local Authority ward areas.

Ward	Number of registered childcare places					Number of Vacant Places
	Child-minding	Day Nursery	Out of School Care	Pre-School Playgroup	Total Places	
Billingham Central	33	57	0	32	122	25
Billingham East	46	124	73	0	243	86
Billingham North	80	0	0	0	80	10
Billingham South	21	96	39	0	156	107
Billingham West	53	0	0	24	77	8
Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree	79	0	0	0	79	16
Eaglescliffe	126	100	84	18	328	104
Fairfield	24	24	24	0	72	18
Grangefield	87	0	0	0	87	8
Hardwick	20	60	0	0	80	48
Hartburn	64	182	157	32	435	146
Ingleby East	148	41	61	0	250	45
Ingleby West	163	84	80	48	375	82
Mandale & Victoria	8	124	12	0	144	88
Newtown	20	159	20	0	199	71
Northern Parishes	0	108	48	0	156	24
Norton North	44	54	0	0	98	37
Norton South	29	84	28	0	141	36
Norton West	89	0	16	0	105	51
Parkfield & Oxbridge	24	308	16	0	348	101
Roseworth	27	75	0	0	102	25
Stainsby Hill	23	162	14	38	237	48
Stockton Town Centre	0	24	0	0	24	2
Village	46	119	30	0	195	70
Western Parishes	32	17	32	0	81	48
Yarm	80	87	94	36	297	90

Source: Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council FIS March 2018

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 childminder may be registered for 6 children but could choose to care for no more than 4. Vacancies analysed against registered capacity is likely to over-estimate supply.

The FIS had records of 1,394 vacancies in registered provision as at 23rd March 2018. This represents 30% of total places.

The majority of recorded vacancies were in day nursery and out of school provision (accounting for 51% and 24% respectively of all vacancies). The highest number of vacancies was for children aged 2 years old (345 vacancies, 26% of total).

4.4 Vacancies by age range and type of provision

Age range (years)	Number of vacancies by type of provision					Total
	Childminding	Day Nursery	Out of school care	Pre-school	Crèche	
0 - 1	64	180	0	0	0	244
2	44	265	0	36	0	345
3 – 4	31	234	32	30	0	327
5 – 7	99	25	210	0	0	334
8 – 10	11	12	69	0	0	92
11 – 14	27	0	14	0	0	41
15 – 17	11	0	0	0	0	11
Total	287	716	325	66	0	1394

Source: Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council FIS March 2018

4.5 Children with SEN or a Disability accessing childcare

Number of children with SEN attending settings by ward

Ward	Age				Total	No. with EHC Plan
	<2	2	3	4		
Billingham Central			1		1	
Billingham East		1	7	7	15	
Billingham South		1	3	1	5	
Fairfield		1	2		3	1
Hardwick			1		1	
Hartburn		1	1		2	
Ingleby Barwick West			1	1	2	
Mandale & Victoria		1	4	2	7	3
Norton North			1	1	2	
Parkfield &		4	4	2	10	1
Roseworth			2		2	
Stainsby Hill	1	3	3	2	9	1
Village				2	2	
Yarm		1			1	
Total	1	13	30	18	62	6

Source: Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Sen & Engagement Team spring 2018

5 Early years funded places for the 2, 3 and 4 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.

5.1 Two year old entitlement

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 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.

In September 2014 and in addition to the above eligibility criteria, additional places were offered to two year olds where parents/carers where in receipt of:

- Income Support
- Income based Jobseekers Allowance (JSA)
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit – For places starting in the summer term of 2018 (on or after 1st April 2018), or any subsequent term, if a parent is entitle to Universal Credit they **must** have an annual net earned income equivalent to an not exceeding £15,400, assessed on up to three of the parent's most recent Universal Credit assessment periods
- Tax Credits and they have an annual income of under £16,190, before tax
- The Guaranteed Element of state pension credit
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

Or:

- The child has a statement of Special Educational Need (SEN) made under section 324 of the Education Act 1996
- The child has an Education, Health and Care Plan prepared under section 37 of the Children and Families Act 2014
- The child is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance under section 71 of the Social Security and Contributions and Benefits Act 1992
- They are looked after by a Local Authority (under section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989)

- They are no longer looked after by a local authority as a result of an adoption order, special guardianship order or a child arrangement order (within the meaning of section 8(1) of the Children Act 1989 which relates to either or both of the following:
 - with whom the child is to live;
 - when the child is to live with any person.

At the end of March 2018, there were 868 2 year olds accessing a free childcare place, this equates to 93.63% of eligible children accessing a place. (The number of children eligible for a free place is provided by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) seven times a year and is based on those claiming benefits, therefore the total number of eligible places fluctuates on each report received from DWP)

No. of 2 year olds taking up a free early education place by type of provider

Type of provider	2013	2014	2016	2017	Mar 2018
PVI	348	554	722	785	760
Independent schools	0	0	0	0	0
Maintained nursery	8	24	95	48	65
Special schools	0	0	0	0	0
Childminders	-	17	35	44	43
Total	356	595	852	877	868

Source: Statistical First Release and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council FIS end of Mar 2018

Percentage of 2 year old children benefitting from a free early education place.

	2015	2016	2017	2018
2 year olds	58%	78%	93%	94%

Source Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council FIS end of Mar 2018 (percentages have been rounded up)

Number of 2 year old children accessing a free early education place by ward

Ward	No. of 2yr olds accessing a place	No. of eligible 2y olds as per DWP	Percentage take-up
Billingham Central	47	37	127.03%
Billingham East	63	70	90.00%
Billingham North	13	13	100.00%
Billingham South	31	45	68.89%
Billingham West	8	9	88.89%
Bishopgarth & Elm Tree	11	21	52.38%
Eaglescliffe	18	15	120.00%

Fairfield	11	15	73.33%
Grangefield	12	16	75.00%
Hardwick & Salters	72	83	86.75%
Hartburn	6	9	66.67%
Ingleby Barwick East	18	23	78.26%
Ingleby Barwick West	18	22	81.82%
Mandale & Victoria	103	109	94.50%
Newtown	42	72	86.11%
Northern Parishes	4	3	133.33%
Norton North	52	50	104.00%
Norton South	35	30	116.67%
Norton West	6	3	200.00%
Parkfield & Oxbridge	66	66	100.00%
Roseworth	58	66	87.88%
Stainsby Hill	36	44	81.82%
Stockton Town Centre	63	58	108.62%
Village	25	30	83.33%
Western Parishes	1	4	25.00%
Yarm	15	14	107.14%
Out of area	14	0	
Total	868	927	93.64%

5.2 3 and 4 year old entitlement

Universal Entitlement

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).

All primary schools in Stockton-on-Tees have nursery classes; 87% of places taken up in January 2017 were accessed through maintained provision which is significantly higher than the England figure of 57%.

No. of 3 and 4 year olds taking up or benefiting from universal funded early education places by type of provider.

Type of provider	Actual no. of children benefitting from funded early education (570hrs)
PVI	492
Independent schools	139
Maintained nursery	4347
Special schools	16
Total	4994

Source: DfE Statistical First Return (SFR 29/2017) 'Provision for Children under 5 years of age in England: January 2017' published 30th June 2017 (Table 2LA)

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

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
3 year olds	96%	101%	96%	98%	95%	97%	100%
4 year olds	102%	98%	101%	100%	101%	99%	99%
Total	99%	100%	99%	99%	98%	98%	100%

Source DfE Statistical First Return (SFR 29/2017) 'Provision for Children under 5 years of age in England: January 2017' published 30th June 2017 (Table 5LA)

Extended Entitlement (30 Hours Free Childcare)

In September 2017, the Government introduced an extended free childcare entitlement for working parents (employed persons, self-employed persons, and parent on zero hours contracts) of three- and four-year-olds which provides eligible parents with a total of 30 hours of free childcare per week, over 38 weeks or the equivalent number of hours across more weeks per year.

A child qualifies for free childcare if they are resident in the England and under compulsory school age:

- Both parents are working (or the sole parent in a lone parent family) and each parent **earns**, on average:
 - A weekly minimum wage equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum wage or national living wage and
 - Less than £100,000 per year.

Families where one parent does not work (or neither parent works) will not usually be eligible.

However the free childcare will be available where:

- Both parents are employed but one (or both parents) is temporarily away from the workplace on:
 - Parental leave
 - Maternity leave
 - Paternity leave
 - Adoption leave
 - Statutory sick leave
 - One parent is employed and one parent has substantial caring responsibilities based on specific benefits received for caring; or
 - One parent is employed and one parent is disabled or incapacitated based on specific benefits.

No. of 3 and 4 year olds taking up a 30 hour free childcare place by type of provider.

Type of provider	Actual no. of children benefitting from 30 hour free childcare
PVI	743
Independent schools	0
Maintained nursery	182

Special schools	0
Childminders	157
Total	1082

Source: Stockton-on Tees Borough Council FIS March 2018

Percentage of 3 and 4 year old children taking up a 30 hour free childcare place.

Autumn 2017	Spring 2018
30%	45%

Source Stockton-on Tees Borough Council FIS March 2018

30 hour places take-up and vacancies by ward level

Ward	Number of places available	Take-up of places	% of vacant places
Billingham Central	94	25	73%
Billingham East	101	81	20%
Billingham North	12	4	67%
Billingham South	42	27	36%
Billingham West	74	23	69%
Bishopsgarth and Elm Tree	56	43	23%
Eaglescliffe	99	76	23%
Fairfield	58	29	50%
Grangefield	16	17	-6%
Hardwick & Salters Lane	25	13	48%
Hartburn	89	71	20%
Ingleby Barwick East	95	38	60%
Ingleby Barwick West	175	100	43%
Mandale and Victoria	71	17	76%
Newtown	73	38	48%
Northern Parishes	109	85	22%
Norton North	35	10	71%
Norton South	52	35	33%
Norton West	63	22	65%
Parkfield and Oxbridge	93	82	12%
Roseworth	38	18	53%
Stainsby Hill	157	64	59%
Stockton Town Centre	8	6	25%
Village	75	45	40%
Western Parishes	34	14	59%
Yarm	166	72	57%
Total	1910	1055	45%
	Number of vacant places		855

Source Stockton-on Tees Borough Council FIS March 2018

Disability Access Fund

The disability access fund is available for childcare providers to claim for a child attending their setting who is attracting disability living allowance. It was introduced in April 2017 and is for children who are claiming universal 3 and 4 year old early years funding.

Children benefitting from the disability access fund

	Summer 2017	Autumn 2017	Spring 2018
No. of children benefitting	5	14	11
No. of providers receiving funding	4	4	8

Early Years Pupil Premium

Early years pupil premium was introduced in April 2015 and is an extra amount of funding providers receive to help them support their most disadvantaged children. Children qualify if they are 3 or 4 years old, are receiving government-funded early education, and their parents receive benefits used to access eligibility for free school meals.

Evidence shows that children from less advantaged backgrounds can start school 19 months behind their peers, but that good quality childcare can reduce this gap and have a significant benefit in terms of a child's development.

Children who receive good-quality early years education go on to earn around £27,000 more during their career compared to those who don't, and are also likely to do better at school - the equivalent of 7 GCSE grades at grade B compared to grade C.

Children benefitting from early years pupil premium

	Summer 2017	Autumn 2017	Spring 2018
No. of children benefitting	673	392	500
No. of providers receiving funding	88	76	93

6 Charges

The FIS hold detailed information on charges for individual settings, across a number of different charging patterns. Below are the average charges by setting type.

For further information on an individual providers charges please visit to the

www.stocktoninformationdirectory.org/childcare

Type of provision / Charges								
Charging period	Day Nursery	Child-minder	Pre-School playgroup	Out of School Clubs Registered			Out of School Clubs Unregistered	
				Breakfast Club	After School Club	Holiday Club	Breakfast	After School
Per hour	£5.99	£4.08	£4.60	£5.62	£5.62		£1.91	£3.03
Per session / half day	£26.35	£20.66	£8.00	£6.56	£10.43	£14.90		
Per day	£38.85	£32.60	£26.00	£6.56	£10.43	£25.68		
Per week	£173.50	£150.00				£95.00		

After school	£12.54	£11.37	£8.50					
Before school	£8.05	£5.80	£3.25					
Holiday care per day	£29.88	£30.00	£22.00					

Source: Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council FIS March 2018

There are a number of schools who offer breakfast clubs for free.

7 Opening times

As with charges there is considerable variation in opening times, both within and between different types of provision. The majority of nurseries are open from between 07.30am to 6pm. 10 childminders open on Saturdays and 3 are open on Sundays. Below are some of the most popular opening/closing times.

Opening/ Closing time	Nurseries	Childminders	Playgroup	Out of School Open all day	Breakfast Clubs	After school Clubs	Holiday Clubs
07:00 – 18:00	9	20		6			
07:30 – 18:00	20	24	1	8			
07:30 – 17:30	1	30					
08:00 – 17:30		22	1				
08:00 – 18:00	3	19					
07:30 – 09:00					6		
15:00 – 18:00						4	
15:15 – 18:00						3	
15:30 – 18:00						2	
07:00 – 18:00							10
07:30 – 18:00							9

Source Stockton-on Tees Borough Council FIS March 2018

Further information on individual opening times for specific childcare settings can be found by visiting www.stocktoninformationdirectory.org/childcare.

8 Quality of provision

The majority of childcare provision in Stockton-on-Tees is rated good or outstanding and this trend is improving year on year. Support and challenge is given to settings and childminders that are less than good in order to improve provision and Ofsted ratings.

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

Ofsted Inspection Outcomes – (March 2018)

	Total providers with current inspection judgements	Outstanding		Good		Requiring Improvement		Inadequate		No. Awaiting Inspection
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Childminders	139	20	14%	117	84%	1	1%	1	1%	24
Providers	44	14	32%	30	68%	0	0	0	0	13
Total	183	34	19%	147	80%	1	1%	1	1%	37

Source: Stockton Council Early Year's Team March 2018

The above table indicates that at the end of March 2018 Stockton-on-Tees had 99% of Early Years settings rated 'good' or 'outstanding' which is an increase of 1% from 2017. The regional position as at August 2017 was 97% and the national was 95%. 99% of childminders are either rated 'good' or 'outstanding' which is an increase of 5% from 2017. The regional position as at August 2017 was 94% which is slightly higher than the National position of 93%.

At the heart of the Council's commitment is to ensure quality childcare with opportunities and experiences for all children across the borough. To meet this commitment a document has been designed in partnership with schools and settings; 'The Early Years Assessment and Moderation Toolkit. Using this document gives opportunities for practitioners to moderate and assess within their own practices and across external partners, ensuring accurate assessments of children as they enter school for the first time. It helps to develop knowledge, promote quality observations, strategies and techniques, shares good practice and enhances seamless transitions incorporating the 'Moving Forward: Early Years Foundation Stage 0-5 years: A Transition Guarantee.

If you would like to read the latest Ofsted report for an individual setting these can be found on the Stockton Information Directory on each childcare provider record at www.stocktoninformationdirectory.org/childcare

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	1156	25
Good	3152	68
Satisfactory / Requires Improvement	332	7
Inadequate	0	0
Did not match to Ofsted	354	
Total	4990	100

Source: DfE Statistical First Return (SFR 29/2017) 'Provision for Children under 5 years of age in England: January 2017' published 30th June 2017 (Table 11LA)

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	140	23
Good	481	77
Satisfactory / Requires Improvement	0	0
Inadequate	0	0
Did not match to Ofsted	147	
Total	770	100

Source: DfE Statistical First Return (SFR 29/2017) 'Provision for Children under 5 years of age in England: January 2017' published 30th June 2017 (Table 14LA)

9 Workforce development

In March 2017 the government published the Early Years Workforce Strategy which sets out the departments plans to support the early year's sector to remove barriers to attracting, retaining and developing the early year's workforce. On the back of this Stockton established its own Early Years Workforce Strategy Group as we knew from provider feedback this is also an issue at a local level. The remit of the group is to improve outcomes for children through the development of a highly skilled early year's workforce. The group includes officers from the Families Information Service, Early Years, Economic Regeneration and Engagement and Employability Teams.

The scope of the work of the group is to: -

- Provide the existing and future workforce for businesses providing childcare in Stockton-on-Tees
- Provide self-employment opportunities in childcare
- Improve the quality of childcare provision and leadership and management

Local Authority Training

The Early Years Team continue to provide a programme of safeguarding training and regular safeguarding updates to ensure all children in settings are safeguarded.

10 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. The following section gives an update on activity during 2017 and details of the key priorities for 2018:

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

All childcare providers are required to meet the needs of disabled children.

Update on activity during 2017:

Information on childcare for disabled children and children with special educational needs (SEN) continues to be included and updated in the Local Offer for Stockton-on-Tees.

The 'Early Years High Needs' funding ensures 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.

Childcare providers and schools are accessing the Disability Access Fund (DAF) which aids access to early years places by, for example, supporting providers in making reasonable adjustments to their settings and/or helping with building capacity (be that for the child in question or for the benefit of children as a whole attending the setting).

Childcare providers can also access the SEN inclusion fund which supports to address the needs of individual children.

Key priority for 2018:

- Ensure that parents have an understanding of the availability of childcare for disabled children and children with special educational needs (SEN) via the Local Offer and the provision of specific information, advice and assistance through the Families Information Service and the Stockton Information Directory (for Families) including advice on funded childcare.
- The Families Information Services and SEN & Engagement Team continue to work closely to ensure there are enough places to meet demand.

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

Update on activity during 2017:

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 the Families Information Service provide up to date information, advice and assistance to support them in making choices.

Tax Free Childcare was introduced in 2017 and is designed to help working parents with their childcare costs, the scheme allows parents to open an online bank account to pay registered childcare providers directly. For every £8 parents pay into these accounts, the government will add £2. The money can then be spent on childcare. Parents can receive up to £2,000 in government support per child, per year, or £4,000 for disabled children.

Key priority for 2018:

- The Families Information Service will continue to ensure that information remains current and up to date in order to assist parents in making choices, particularly in relation to the Tax Free Childcare, the childcare element of WTC and the new Universal Credit which will be rolled out in Stockton in July.
- Information will be available over the telephone by contacting the Families Information Service and on-line through the Stockton Information Directory (for Families).

• Children aged two taking up early education places**Update on activity during 2017:**

A range of promotional activities have taken place over the year which has secured a continued increase in the take up of places along with the outreach work undertaken by the Early Years Engagement Worker. Over the last year take up of places for 2 year olds has improved again with a slight increase of 1% as at March 2018. 868 children are now benefiting from free childcare.

Key priorities for 2018:

Continue to:

- maintain at the least the current percentage of eligible 2 year olds accessing a place
- market and promote activities to maximise take up
- raise awareness with parents' on the advantages of taking up a place

• Children aged three and four taking up early education places

Stockton-on-Tees has a 100% take up of 570 hours of early education places for 3 & 4 year olds which is above the national average of 95%. However, choice of provision will continue to be promoted to ensure take up is maximised.

In September 2017, Government introduced an extended free childcare entitlement for working parents of three and four year olds which provides eligible parents with a total of 30 hours of free childcare per week, over 38 weeks or the equivalent number of hours across more weeks per year.

The additional free childcare helps families by reducing the cost of childcare and will support parents into work or to work more hours, should they wish to do so.

Update on activity during 2017:

The Families Information Service implemented a marketing and promotion action plan to ensure parents were fully informed of eligibility for 30 hours free childcare and how they applied for a funded place and ensured childcare providers fully understood the eligibility criteria so they too could inform parents and also claim funding.

A number of capital builds took place during 2017 early 2018 to ensure there were enough places available to meet demand. Sufficiency of places is now monitored on a termly basis.

Key priorities for 2018:

- Monitor the demand for 30 hour free places against vacancies on a termly basis to ensure there are enough places to meet demand.
- Support the establishment of expanded or new provision which will offer additional places
- Continue the marketing campaign to inform families of the entitlement.
- Work with Children's Social care team to develop a local policy for foster carers to access 30 hours free childcare

• **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.

Update on activity during 2017:

The Families Information Service gathered up to date information from schools and settings on places available for older children in out of school clubs.

Key priorities for 2018:

- Ensure there continues to be sufficient before and after school places for older children by monitoring provision on a termly basis.

• **Ensuring sufficiency for children needing holiday care**

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.

Update on activity during 2017:

The Families Information Service gathered up to date information from schools and settings on places available for older children in holiday clubs.

Key priorities for 2018:

- Ensure there continues to be enough holiday places to meet demand, in particular, for those parents wanting to use part of their 30 hour free childcare entitlement for a stretched offer.

• Developing a high quality early years workforce**Update on activity during 2017:**

Work to date has included exploring the development of a sector based work academy (SBWA), which is designed to help meet childcare employers immediate and future recruitment needs as well as to recruit a workforce with the right skills to sustain and grow the business.

Designing a system of ensuring apprentices are placed in good quality childcare settings.

Delivery of CPD training for IAG Officers within Youth Direction has taken place so they can advise teachers and pupils within Stockton's secondary schools of the requirements of working within the childcare sector.

Key priorities for 2018:

- The Early Years Workforce Strategy Group will continue to meet to support the needs of the sector

10 Gap Analysis and 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 2018 – 2019 and the implementation plans for the delivery of the specific actions identified can be found within individual team delivery plans.

Gap analysis and action plan 2018/19

No.	Action	Activity	Timescale	Responsibility
1	Ensuring sufficient childcare available to meet the needs of disabled children	Keep published information relevant and current.	Apr18 - Mar19	FIS Team
		Increase usage of text messaging service by service providers	Apr18 - Aug18	FIS Team/SEN Team
		Keep settings informed on how to apply for funding.	Apr18 – Mar19	FIS Team/SEN Team
2	Ensuring sufficiency for children from families in receipt of the childcare element of Working Tax Credit or Universal Credit	A programme of targeted outreach sessions, referral systems and promotional activities taking place	Apr18 – Aug18	FIS team
		Information, advice and guidance on childcare and employment, access to funding, grants and benefits re childcare is updated with relevant changes to benefits	Apr18 – Jul18	FIS team
3	Children aged two taking up early education places	Continue to analyse and monitor take-up of the entitlement on a Ward area basis and maintain take-up to at least 90%.	Termly Apr18 – Mar19	Business & Project Manger
		Continue to review existing marketing strategies and materials to ensure information is made available in a variety of ways to ensure that families understand their entitlement at the earliest opportunity; make a timely application and then agree a place.	Apr18 – Mar19	FIS Team
		Work closely with other professionals to identify eligible families and promote the offer.	Apr18 – Mar19	Early Years Engagement Worker

		Support parents, once approved, in accessing a place that meets their needs	Apr18 – Mar19	Early Years Engagement Worker
4	Children aged three and four taking up early education places	Continue to map supply of 30 hour free childcare places to potential demand on a ward area basis.	Apr18 – Mar19	Business & Project Manger
		Continue to provide information, advice and guidance to childcare providers on 30 hour eligibility and submitting funding claims	Apr18 – Mar19	FIS Team
		Work with childcare providers to create places in ward areas where gaps are identified	Apr18 – Mar19	Business & Project Manger
		Continue to ensure information is made available in a variety of ways to ensure that families understand their entitlement at the earliest opportunity and make a timely application	Apr18 – Mar19	FIS Team
		Develop a local policy for foster carers to access 30 hours free childcare from September 2018, when legislation will be amended to include them as eligible parents.	Apr18 – Aug 18	Business & Project Manger
5	Ensuring sufficiency for school age children	Monitor and record available and vacant places across the borough.	Termly	FIS Team
		Place sufficiency information on the Stockton Information Directory	Apr18 – Mar19	
6	Ensuring sufficiency for children needing holiday care	Monitor and record demand for places and vacant places across the borough.	Termly	FIS Team
		Place sufficiency information on the Stockton Information Directory	Apr18 – Mar19	

7	Developing a high quality early years workforce	Continue to explore the opportunity of developing a sector based work academy	Apr18 - Mar19	Early Years Workforce Strategy Group
		Continue to ensure there are enough good quality childcare settings available for apprentices to be placed.	Apr18 - Mar19	Early Years Workforce Strategy Group
		Youth Direction IAG Officers offering up to date advice and guidance to secondary schools on childcare as a career	Apr18 - Mar19	Early Years Workforce Strategy Group