

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting15th September 2022

1. Title of Item/Report

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report that outlined how the Local Authority (LA) was meeting its duty to secure sufficient childcare and included 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.

The Childcare Act 2006 and 2016 and the associated statutory guidance for local authorities on Early Education and Childcare – June 2018, required Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (the Local Authority) to secure sufficient childcare, as far as was reasonably practicable and within available resources, for working parents, or parents who were studying or training for employment, for children aged 0 – 14 (or up to 18 for disabled children). Local authorities were also required to report annually to elected council members on how they were meeting this duty.

Take-up of universal 3 & 4 year places continued to be high at 95% take-up, which was 3% lower than 2021 (98%) but still higher than the national average of 92%. 4yr old take-up is 99% and 3 year old take-up was 91% as per figures from the January 2022 census collection.

Take-up of 30 hour free childcare places for working parents of 3 & 4 year olds had increased to 1495 which was an increase of 9.76% on the previous year and there were 80% of primary schools offering places.

Stockton continued to maintain a high percentage take-up of 2 year funded places (92%), which was an increase of 5% on the previous year. The table on page 20 of the assessment showed the take-up at a ward level basis. To be noted the number of children eligible was provided by the Department for Work and Pensions which didn't include any on-line eligibility applications received by Stockton.

Stockton had a good range of quality childcare across the Borough with the majority (98.6%) of provision rated good or outstanding as at July 2022, which was higher than the national percentage (96%) and regional

percentage (97%) as at March 2022.

The sufficiency assessment would be placed on the Stockton Information Directory once it had been through the Cabinet process, so it was available for parents/carers, childcare providers, and employers to read.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

3. Reasons for the Decision

Detail on how the Local Authority (LA) was meeting its duty to secure sufficient childcare.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None.

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None.

6. Details of any Dispensations

None.

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight Monday 26 September 2022

Proper Officer
20 September 2022