



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

2011 - 2014

Executive Summary



Contents

	Page
1 Introduction	2
2 Methodology and acknowledgements	4
3 Gap analysis	5
4 Stockton-on-Tees in context	17
5 The supply of childcare	28
6 Further information	40



1 Introduction

The Childcare Act (2006) requires Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (the Council) to ensure a sufficiency of childcare for working parents, parents studying or training, and for disabled children.

The duties in the act (section 6) require the Council to shape and support the development of childcare in Stockton-on-Tees in order to make it flexible, sustainable and responsive to the needs of the community. This role is described as a 'market management' function, supporting the sector to meet the needs of parents, children and young people, providers and stakeholders.

The Council also has a duty (section 11 of the act) to undertake a detailed childcare sufficiency assessment (CSA) every three years, with annual updates as and when new data becomes available. In doing so, the Council should consult with a range of stakeholders including parents and carers, children and young people, employers, community groups, schools and providers of childcare. The CSA should include a detailed analysis of local demographics and include an overall up-to-date picture of the supply, parents' use of, and demand for, childcare in the local authority area. The assessment's purpose is to complete a gap analysis identifying where childcare supply does not match the needs of families and communities. This gap analysis informs the Council's sufficiency action plan which should be published alongside the assessment. The action plan shows how the Council aims to meet its section 6 duty to ensure a sufficiency of childcare.

Sufficient childcare is defined as¹:

"Sufficient to meet the requirements of parents in the [local authority's] area who require childcare in order to enable them –

- a) To take up, or remain in, work, or
- b) To undertake education or training which could reasonably be expected to assist them to obtain work.

¹Securing Sufficient Childcare DCSF April 2010

In determining whether provision of childcare is sufficient a local authority:

- a) Must have regard to the needs of parents in their area for:
 - the provision of childcare in respect of which the childcare element of the working tax credit is payable, and;
 - the provision of childcare which is suitable for disabled children.
- b) May have regard to any childcare, which they expect to be available outside their area.”

Stockton-on-Tees Council commissioned Hemsall's in January 2010 to undertake all aspects of the childcare sufficiency assessment 2010 – 2011 on behalf of the Local Authority.

2 Methodology

A range of different qualitative and quantitative methods were used to collect the childcare needs and demand for the CSA.

Questionnaire surveys were complemented by one-to-one interviews and focus groups with parents and carers, children, young people, employers, providers and other stakeholders. All fieldwork was completed between March and August 2010.

We gratefully acknowledge the support and co-operation of everyone involved with the assessment, including schools, children's centres, local authority staff, key stakeholders and local employers. And a special thanks to Hemsall's for their work in producing this assessment.

3 Gap analysis, key findings and priorities

3.1 Gap analysis

Geographical Gaps: where a geographical area has a general shortage of supply

- There is a lower use of childcare in Central (South) Stockton and within that, a relatively high use of informal care only.
- There is identified unmet need amongst current users of childcare in all Integrated Service Areas (ISAs), with slightly lower levels of unmet need in Central (North).
- Qualitative research identifies a general need for childcare in the Port Clarence area.
- Based on local knowledge, there are gaps in provision in: Billingham (all childcare types); Ingleby Barwick (out of school and sessional care); Fairfield/Grangefield (out of school and sessional care); and Central North (full daycare and out of school following a recent closure).
- There are insufficient places for disadvantaged two year olds in Central North and Billingham.

Income Gaps: where there is a shortage of affordable childcare for the income groups populating an area.

- The cost of childcare is an issue in the Billingham area with 23% dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with childcare costs (19% across the borough). However the area has the second highest levels of childcare use.
- Low income areas also have the lowest take up of Working Tax Credit childcare element.
- Higher income households reported difficulties with childcare costs.

Specific Need Gaps: where there is a shortage of suitable places for disabled children, or children with other specific needs or requirements, including those from particular faiths or community groups

- Holiday and out of school childcare for disabled children and children with additional needs.
- Availability of childcare generally for disabled children and additional needs. Most notable gaps appear to be in the Central Stockton-on-Tees area.
- Availability of culturally appropriate childcare for families from BME backgrounds. Issues identified with venue types and locations of childcare, set amongst a context of a growing BME population.

Time Gaps: where there is a shortage of childcare at a time that parents would wish to use childcare

- There is unmet demand for childcare between 5.30pm and 6.00pm on weekday evenings.
- 35% of respondents' partners work nights, evenings, weekends or shifts, childcare is therefore provided by the other partner limiting their employment choices and use of formal childcare (potentially increasing use of informal childcare and increasing unemployment).
- There is a mis-match in week day supply and evening/weekend and shift working.

Age Gaps: where there is a shortage of childcare suitable to the needs and requirements of a certain age group (for example, school-aged children up to 18 years, if they are disabled). This may be difficult to detect if it is masked by over provision of childcare suitable for other age groups.

- Daycare provision for disadvantaged two year olds.
- After school and holiday childcare for children aged 5-10 years.
- A lack of appropriate provision for children aged 11 years and over.

Type Gaps: where there is a shortage in the type of childcare for which parents may be expressing a preference.

- Levels of use of informal childcare for children aged under two and over 11 years suggest a gap in provision.
- Extended schools data does not indicate much provision of childcare. Whilst parents request more provision, young people are expressing a preference for unsupervised and safe places to be, including after school and holiday provision.

Information Gaps: where information and knowledge is not reaching parents, or understanding is not developing into knowledge about provision and services on offer.

- There remains a need to consider how the Families Information Service (FIS) reaches parents and raises its profile to be the first port of call for all parents wanting childcare (and other) information.
- High preference for using informal childcare as a result of low confidence and trust in formal childcare suggests a need to promote choice, benefits and affordability of formal provision.
- Employers would benefit from clearer and more accessible information about childcare and support, with a direct route to the FIS.

3.2 Key findings

3.2.1 Use of childcare

The majority of parents/carers use childcare of some type for their child or children, formal, informal (friends and extended families) or a mixture of both; overall, 79% of respondents were using some form of childcare.

Respondents may have been using formal childcare for some children and informal only for others, or childcare for one child but no childcare for another; patterns of childcare take-up and use can be complex. Use and non-use differs within families for children in different age ranges. A parent/carer may, for example, use childcare for their 3 year old but not for

their 7 year old. Or use formal childcare for a 6 year old and informal childcare for a 2 year old.

Of those using some form of childcare 24% (150 respondents) were only using informal childcare (for all children where there was more than one child being cared for).

Use of childcare is highest for children aged 2, 3 and 4 years of age, reflecting the impact of the free early years entitlement. Childcare use for older children, in particular those aged 11 to 14 years, is relatively very low – only 50% of parents/carers of a child or children in this age group use childcare, and where they do, it is more likely to be informal childcare than with other age groups.

Much lower use of childcare was reported in households with an annual income of below £10,000 a year.

Parents/carers use childcare for a variety of reasons, chief amongst them being because they work. Parents/carers also recognise and value the benefits of childcare for children, including opportunities to socialise with others.

Whereas the majority of parents/carers do use some form of childcare, one in five respondents were not using any form of childcare and amongst those that were, nearly a quarter (24%) were using informal childcare (friends and extended family) only.

Use of childcare is lower in Central (South) and Eastern area and in Central South where childcare is used, it is more likely to be informal childcare.

Respondents who had not used childcare in the past twelve months were asked why. Reasons varied but findings suggest that for a large proportion of respondents non use of childcare is a choice, or has been made possible by finding a childcare solution based on using informal childcare, sharing childcare responsibilities with a spouse or working around school hours. In focus group discussions with parents and carers, informal childcare was identified as preferable to formal childcare by some participants. This was not a preference based solely on cost but also on the value placed on familial care. For others however a lack of formal childcare was associated

with limiting options and costs of childcare had influenced decisions not to work or to work around school hours.

3.2.2 Location of childcare

The majority of parents/carers use childcare provision in Stockton-on-Tees; only 7% of survey respondents reported accessing all of their childcare provision outside of the borough. When choosing childcare, proximity to the home is an important determinant, albeit school and proximity to work are also considerations.

Parent/carer survey findings suggest that for the majority, the location of childcare provision accessed is satisfactory. However, one in five survey respondents reported finding it difficult to get the type of childcare they want in their local area. This suggests that for some parents/carers, finding appropriate childcare can be a struggle, but when childcare is established, it meets needs in terms of its location.

Focus group participants identified gaps in provision in the Port Clarence area

3.2.3 Satisfaction with childcare used

The majority of people using childcare are satisfied with their current childcare arrangements (89% of survey respondents).

3.2.4 Unmet demand for childcare

In cases where parents/carers are not using childcare it is difficult to establish levels of unmet demand. Survey responses suggest that for the majority, non use of childcare is an active choice, for others, a pragmatic solution achieved by adjusting working patterns or working different hours than a spouse to ensure children's care needs are met.

Meeting childcare needs can be regarded as the outcome of sometimes complex juggling around school, informal childcare and formal provision that differs according to the number of children, their ages and any specific needs. The cost of childcare is identified as a barrier for a number of parents and carers and the decisions taken to work around school hours, or to not work or juggle working hours may mask unmet need. If childcare

were less expensive or more affordable, it is probable that demand would increase.

Survey findings suggest that amongst non childcare users there may be some unmet demand but it is not generally high demand. There is no clear evidence of a lack of childcare provision to meet need and few respondents indicated barriers to take up.

However, 23% of all respondents and 28% of those already using childcare stated that they needed more childcare than they were already using. Further, 25% of all respondents would change their childcare if there was another choice.

The type of childcare required by those needing more childcare differs according to the age of the child. Day nursery and childminding provision was identified by parents/carers of very young children, day nursery and pre-school for parents/carers of 2 year olds and out of school and holiday provision for parents/carers of children aged 5 – 14 years. It should be noted that whilst unmet demand is identified, the percentages of parents/carers requiring additional childcare by type of provision is relatively small, particularly for parents/carers of children aged 3 and 4 years of age.

Older children (aged 11 years and older) do not themselves identify a need for childcare, preferring to spend their time when not in school with friends and without adults present. However, they do identify demand for youth clubs, holiday provision and after school clubs in their local area.

A relatively high percentage of survey respondents reported that there was insufficient childcare in their local area and that additional provision is required.

Stakeholders identified a shortage of crèche provision to support parents/carers accessing training and short courses. For job seekers, although there was reported to be scope for improving access to childcare information and support, and for increased take-up of childcare places and employment, gaps in supply were also evident, particularly during summer holidays.

3.2.5 Times at which childcare is required

There is evidence of relatively high levels of work outside of 'standard office hours' (e.g. 9/9.30am to 5/5.30pm). The highest proportion of people using childcare need it between 8am and 6pm but there is also identified need for childcare outside of office hours, before 8am, at weekends and to cover shift work. Survey respondents identified a need for childcare from the end of the school day to 5.30/6pm, identifying this as a gap in current provision.

Childminding provision offers the greatest flexibility in terms of opening hours with a quarter of childminders working between the hours of 7/7.30am and 6/6.30 pm. There is very little weekend childcare available in Stockton-on-Tees and a lack of evening care and outside of childminders, early morning care.


3.2.6 Disabled children and children with additional needs

Respondents to the parents' survey were caring for a total of 86 disabled children and children with additional needs, with the majority (52%) being in the 5-10 year old age range.

Of all the comments received from parents during the childcare sufficiency assessment, nine per cent (14) related specifically to the needs of disabled children and children with additional needs. The majority of these related to there being no suitable childcare being available to meet their children's needs, with the Central Stockton-on-Tees area having the largest number of comments about this issue.

Respondents reported a lack of suitable childcare for disabled children and additional needs as a reason for not using childcare. Five per cent of respondents said they could not find anything suitable for their children's needs. There was a reported difficulty in finding suitable out of school and holiday activities. In contrast, stakeholders consulted could not identify any gaps or barriers for disabled children's access to childcare. This is unusual and suggests two things: firstly that there may be no gaps in service provision; secondly that the issue is not as prominent as it could be.

Satisfaction levels with the cost of childcare were broadly similar between



parents of disabled children and others, the higher the household income the less satisfied they were with the cost of childcare (27% of respondents with a household income over £40,000 were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the cost of childcare).

Those parents who had accessed the Families Information Service spoke highly of the service they had received, describing it as a single information point and gateway.

3.2.7 Three and four year old entitlement

The majority of parents/carers express a preference for accessing a free early years place 5 days a week/3 hours a day however, there is also preference for fewer days a week using more hours a day. The school nursery is the most preferred setting to access a place. Survey responses identify interest in stretching the offer of 570 hours over more weeks a year.

The local authority has a duty to ensure that there are enough places to allow eligible children aged two, three and four to take up their offer of free childcare, regardless of parents' working or training status. In doing so, the local authority supports their statutory duty under section 7 of the Childcare Act (2006).

Whilst not all providers offer flexibility, all children have been able to access the extended free entitlement of 15 hours since September 2010 in Stockton-on-Tees. Some families have been accessing this provision since September 2009 as part of the national pilot. The free entitlement in Stockton-on-Tees is offered through a diverse market of providers from the voluntary, private, independent and maintained sectors. There are 95 settings in the Directory of Providers of which 61% are maintained nursery classes, providing 86% of the places that are available.

Free entitlement provision summer 2010

Provider Type	Number of Providers	Number of PTE places available (summer 2010)
Nursery class	59	3,220
PVI	33	428
Independent school	3	113
Total	95	3,761

Source: Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Stockton has a traditionally high take up of the free entitlement 100% of children benefit from a place which is higher than the national figure of 97%.

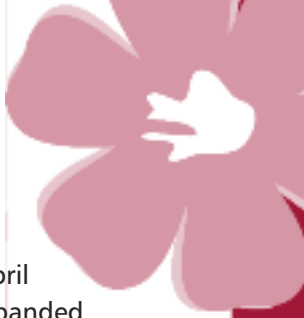
Free entitlement provision January 2010

All primary schools in Stockton-on-Tees have nursery classes; 91% of places taken up in January 2010 were accessed through maintained provision which is significantly higher than the national figure of 36%. Statistical First Release on the Provision for Children under five years in England (January 2010) indicates that 4,345 part-time equivalent places were filled in the maintained sector and 420 part-time equivalent places were accessed in the PVI sector (this figure is higher than the figure reported previously as this data includes four year olds in reception and other classes not designated as nursery classes).

Stockton-on-Tees has experienced growth in the take up of places since the last CSA. Statistical first release data indicates places taken in the PVI sector grew from 365 (2008) to 420 (2010). In the maintained sector, there has also been growth in take up from 3,775 places (2008) to 4,345 (2010).

Two year old entitlement

The provision of free entitlement for two year olds is a relatively new government initiative. From 2008 pilot schemes were rolled out to test how this could be achieved and were made available for the most



disadvantaged children. 25% of the most disadvantaged two year olds in every local authority have been able to access at least 10 hours per week of free provision from April 2009. In time, it is expected that such provision will be expanded towards the ultimate goal of universal provision.

Stockton-on-Tees' implementation started in September 2009; the Authority received central government funding to deliver 74 places in 2009-10 and 74 places in 2010-11. The places are specifically linked to economic disadvantage and parents/carers must qualify for national and local criteria before a place is allocated. Stockton-on-Tees provided places through 12 providers who had Ofsted inspection outcomes of good, or who had a satisfactory grading and were willing to work with the Local Authority on a focussed improvement plan.

Parents can take 10 hours over 38 weeks. Over the two year period 172 children and their families have accessed the two year old entitlement in Stockton-on-Tees.

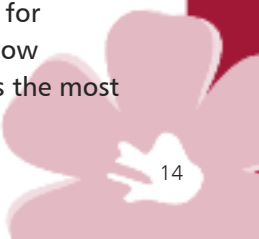
3.2.8 Information about parenting, activities or services for families

Word of mouth (including work colleagues, friends and family) is an important source of family and parenting information.

Awareness of the Families Information Service (FIS) is not universal, either amongst parents/carers or amongst employers. In focus group discussions participants described having undertaken independent research to identify and explore childcare options. Where parents/carers are aware of the FIS the service is valued.

For newly arrived migrants the health visiting service was identified as an important source of information and advice.

Young people consulted for the CSA identified a lack of information as a barrier to participation in out of school activities. Suggestions for improving the availability of information and preferences for how information could be received identified posters and leaflets as the most popular method.



3.2.9 The cost of childcare

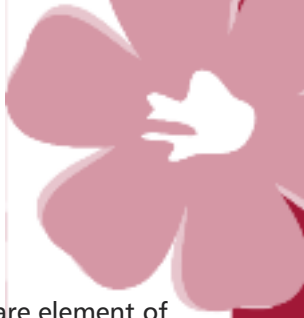
Cost of childcare is identified as an issue by a large minority (1 in 5), and in particular those living in the Billingham area. Childcare costs in Billingham are comparable to other areas across Stockton-on-Tees. The relationship between household income and satisfaction with the cost of childcare arrangements is not straightforward. Higher income households were more likely to be dissatisfied with the cost of their current childcare arrangements. A smaller percentage of lower income families expressed dissatisfaction with the cost of their childcare arrangements and a higher percentage were unable to offer an opinion. In the case of lower income families there is lower use of childcare overall which may account for the higher proportion of 'no opinion' responses.

There is a general perception of childcare costs being high. Focus group discussions identified affordability issues that have impacted on childcare and lifestyle choices (for example, choosing to not return to work because childcare costs would be too high).

The single biggest childcare barrier to recruiting and retaining staff identified by employers was cost of childcare. Despite that there is little evidence (outside of major employers such as the Local Authority and the Health Trust) of employers offering employees support in terms of information and advice, childcare subsidies or flexible working arrangements. In part this may be attributable to low levels of knowledge and awareness of information and support available and how it might support employees and employers alike. In-depth interviews with employers (and in particular the NHS Trust) identify examples of good practice.

3.2.10 Labour market factors

Consultations with parents/carers and employers identified relatively high levels of employment outside of 'standard office hours', including shift patterns, weekend work and nights. Employers identified the times at which childcare is available as a challenge in terms of recruiting and retaining staff, particularly for non standard hours work.




The employer survey identified that the percentage of employees working less than 16 hours a week was low (an estimated 4%) but significant in that these staff members would not be eligible for Working Tax Credits or the childcare element of WTC to help support the cost of childcare. Often people working part-time will hold more than one part-time job and this can mask the real hours worked (and consequently a demand for childcare).

3.2.11 Other issues for consideration

The demographic profile of the borough is changing with a predicted increase in the Black and Minority ethnic (BME) community. Cultural norms and expectations may provide barriers to the take-up of childcare with physical arrangements (e.g. women only activities), venue location and cultural links to venues being identified by stakeholders as important considerations to overcoming barriers to inclusion and promoting access to childcare and use of other services

At the time of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Stockton-on-Tees was experiencing relatively high levels of unemployment, particularly amongst women. Data also shows that over a third of dependent children were living in single parent households. Research was undertaken before the announcement of the Comprehensive Spending Review (the outcomes of which are predicted to impact on employment, particularly within the public sector in the shorter term) and before the change in benefits impacting on single parents. Whilst Stockton-on-Tees is less reliant on public sector employment than other local authorities in the North East, public sector work remains the single biggest source of employment.

A change in benefit entitlements affecting single parents will be likely to increase the number and percentage of people registered as unemployed and seeking work. Both of these factors are likely to impact on demand for childcare over the next few years. Additionally Tax Credits will be affected, with the threshold for eligibility being raised from an adult in the household working for a minimum of 16 hours a week to 24 hours a week minimum, and to the childcare element covering up to 70% of childcare costs from the previous maximum of 80%.



4 Stockton-on-Tees in context

4.1 Population demographics



Stockton-on-Tees is located at the heart of the Tees Valley in the North East of England. The area has a total estimated population of 194,400 (ONS 2006 mid-year population estimates); the resident population is increasing – from 189,100 in 2006 with growth predicted to continue. The child population (aged 0-14 years) is predicted to remain fairly static, increasing marginally between 2010 and 2015:

Estimated resident population (percent of total population)

Age range	2006 '000s	2010 '000s	2012 '000s	2015 '000s
0-4 years	10.7 (5.6%)	11.8 (6.1%)	12.1 (6.1%)	12.3 (6.1%)
5-9 years	11.4 (6.0%)	10.8 (5.6%)	11.8 (6.0%)	12.2 (6.1%)
10-14 years	12.8 (6.8%)	12.0 (6.2%)	11.1(5.6%)	11.1 (5.5%)
Total population	189.1 (100%)	194.4 (100%)	197.3 (100%)	201.5 (100%)

Source: ONS mid-year population estimates 2006: supplied by Tees Valley Unlimited April 2010

Almost 5% of the population is from a Black or Minority Ethnic (BME) community and this is expected to increase. The majority of people living in Stockton-on-Tees who identify themselves as belonging to a minority ethnic group are of Asian/Asian British origin².

The delivery of services for young people is brought together in four Integrated Service Areas (ISAs): Billingham, Central (North), Central (South), and South. For the purposes of this report the South area has been divided into East and West.

The child population (aged 0-15 years old) is greatest in Eastern ISA and lowest in Western ISA:

²Audit Commission December 2009 'Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council-On-Tees overview' www.oneplace.audit-commission.gov.uk/infobyarea/region/area/Pages/areaoverview.aspx?region=52&area=411

Estimated child population as a percentage of total by Integrated Service Area

Integrated Service Area	Estimated population 0-15 years*	% of population 0-15 years
Billingham	6,875	18.4%
Central (North)	8,475	22.7%
Central (South)	7,870	21.1%
Eastern	9,980	26.8%
Western	4,085	11.0%
Overall	37,285	100%

Source: ONS data prepared at ward level by Tees Valley Unlimited

*Note: age range presented 0-15 is different from previous tables

In 2006, 10.6% of all households were single parent households. Across Stockton-on-Tees over a third of all dependent children were living in a single parent household (37.3%).

According to 2008 data³, 20% of children were living in households in receipt of key out of work benefits. This ranks Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council at 106 out of 377 local authorities in GB (where 1 = the worst in the country).

4.1.1 Children with additional needs

In 2010 there were a total of 825 pupils in Stockton-on-Tees who had a statement of special educational needs and a further 149 pupils under School Action Plus.

As at 31 March 2010 there were a total of 287 Looked After Children in Stockton-on-Tees. The majority of Looked After Children placed with a foster carer were placed within the borough (75%).

³Department of Work and Pensions 2008, cited on www.poverty.org.uk

4.2 The labour and employment market in Stockton-on-Tees

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-on-Tees Borough Council 2007-2012).

The pattern of full-time and part-time work in Stockton-on-Tees is in line with the North East and Great Britain (GB) as a whole. 68% of all employee jobs are full-time, 32% part-time (source: ONS annual business enquiry employee analysis 2008).

The largest single employment sector is public admin, education and health, accounting for 25.8% 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 distribution, hotels and restaurants and finance, IT and other business activities are also large scale employment sectors in the borough:

Employee jobs by industry (2008)

Industry	% of total employee jobs		
	Stockton-on-Tees	North East	Great Britain
Manufacturing	12.1%	12.0%	10.2%
Construction	7.9%	5.6%	4.8%
Services	78.8%	81.0%	83.5%
Of which:			
Distribution, hotels and restaurants	22.9%	22.1%	23.4%

Industry	% of total employee jobs		
	Stockton-on-Tees	North East	Great Britain
Transport and communications	6.5%	5.3%	5.8%
Finance, IT and other business activities	19.2%	16.6%	22.0%
Public admin, education and health	25.8%	32.2%	27.0%
Other services	4.5%	4.8%	5.3%

Source: ONS annual business enquiry employee analysis (NOMIS)

4.2.1 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-on-Tees are higher than the North East region and GB as a whole. A lower percentage of people in employment are self employed compared to the North East region and GB as a whole.

Unemployment levels in Stockton-on-Tees are relatively high (9% compared to 9.8% in the North East and 7.9% in GB). Unemployment levels are higher for women than for men:

Economic activity rates April 2009 – March 2010

	Stockton-on-Tees	North East	Great Britain
All people:			
Economically active	77.2%	73.0%	76.5%
In employment	70.7%	65.8%	70.3%
Employees	65.2%	59.4%	60.9%
Self employed	5.3%	5.9%	9.0%
Unemployed	9.0%	9.8%	7.9%

Source: ONS annual population survey (NOMIS). Percentage is a proportion of economically active

4.2.2 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-on-Tees are lower than found across the North East region and slightly lower than found across GB.

Economic inactivity rates April 2009 – March 2010

	Stockton-on-Tees	North East	Great Britain
All people: economically inactive	22.8%	27.0%	23.5%
Wanting a job	5.0%	7.0%	5.6%
Not wanting a job	17.9%	20.0%	17.9%
Males: economically inactive	18.5%	21.8%	17.3%

	Stockton-on-Tees	North East	Great Britain
Wanting a job	4.0%	6.4%	4.8%
Not wanting a job	14.4%	15.4%	12.5%
Females: economic inactivity	27.1%	32.0%	29.7%
Wanting a job	5.9%	7.5%	6.4%
Not wanting a job	21.1%	24.5%	23.3%

Source: ONS annual population survey (NOMIS)

4.2.3 Patterns of work

A slightly higher percentage of employee jobs are full-time compared to the North East region and GB:

Patterns of work

Total employee jobs	Stockton-on-Tees	North East	Great Britain
Full time	70.6%	68.2%	68.8%
Part-time	29.4%	31.8%	31.2%

Source: ONS annual business inquiry employee analysis (NOMIS)

4.2.4 Working age benefits

Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) is payable to people under pensionable age who are available for, and actively seeking, work. As of September 2010 there were a total of 6,137 people claiming Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) in Stockton-on-Tees, 4.9% of the working age population. JSA claimant levels were relatively high particularly amongst men:

JSA claimants by age and gender (September 2010)

	Stockton-on-Tees	North East	Great Britain
All claimants	4.9%	4.7%	3.5%
Males	7.3%	6.7%	4.9%
Females	2.6%	2.7%	2.2%
Aged 18-24 years	32.5%	31.8%	29.3%
Aged 25-49 years	53.0%	53.4%	55.3%
Aged 50 and over	14.4%	14.6%	15.1%

Source: ONS claimant count (NOMIS)

Department for Work and Pensions data (2009) shows that 17.4% of the working age population were in receipt of key out of work benefits. This is high in comparison to the North East region and rates across the country as a whole, with Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council being ranked at 81 out of 377 local authority areas in GB. Key out of work benefits include JSA, Income Support, Incapacity Benefits, Lone Parent and others on income related benefits.

4.2.5 Income

Average gross weekly pay in Stockton-on-Tees is £477.60, more than the average for the North East region (£443.10) and lower than GB as a whole (£501.80):

Gross weekly pay	Stockton-on-Tees	North East	Great Britain
Full time workers	£477.60	£443.10	£501.80
Male FT workers	£536.50	£483.80	£541.90
Female FT workers	£397.20	£394.80	£440.00

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

Whilst average (median) weekly pay is relatively high, over a quarter of employees are paid less than £7 per hour (26.3%) ranking Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council at 67 out of 377 local authorities in Great Britain (with 1 being ranked as the highest in terms of percentages of employees earning less than £7 per hour)⁴.

Conventionally, low income households are defined as those with a household income of less than 60% of the national median household income⁵. The median household income for the whole population in 2008/09 was £407 per week (before housing costs), equating to £21,164 per annum. Using the conventional definition, low income families would be those with a household income of less than £12,698 a year (£244.20 a week) before housing costs⁶. The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) May 2010 report 'Households Below Average Income' notes that families with children, particularly lone parent families, are more likely to be in low-income households than their childless counterparts.

4.2.6 Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)

Stockton-on-Tees is a borough of contrasts. There are areas of relatively high deprivation – half of the 26 wards in Stockton-on-Tees fall into the top 10% most deprived according to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (2007) with a cluster of most deprived wards in Central Stockton-on-Tees. A further 3 wards fall into the top 20% most deprived wards in the country.

In contrast there are areas of relative affluence, including for example, Yarm, Norton West, Ingleby Barwick, Eaglescliffe, Fairfield and Billingham West, that sit alongside areas of deprivation.

Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) level IMD are summarised at district level using six different measures which allows districts (local authority areas) to be ranked according to how deprived they are relative to other districts. The North East region generally has high levels of relative deprivation;

⁴ONS annual survey of hours and earnings, November 2009 (average 2007 to 2009), cited on www.poverty.org.uk

⁵Definition of low income www.poverty.org.uk

⁶Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Resource Centre May 2010: 'Households Below Average Income' www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbai.asp

nearly 18% of its LSOAs are amongst the 10% most deprived in England. Whilst Stockton-on-Tees fairs better than some of its neighbouring local authorities overall, and there are strong indications of an improving picture, there are concentrations of very deprived LSOAs across the borough⁷.

The six measures are:

- **The local concentration** measure shows the severity of multiple deprivation in each authority, measuring ‘hot spots’ of deprivation.
- **The extent** measure is the proportion of a district’s population that lives in the most deprived LSOAs in England.
- **The ‘average scores’** and **‘average ranks’** measures are two ways of depicting the average level of deprivation across the entire district.
- **The income scale** and **employment scale** measures show the number of people experiencing income and employment deprivation respectively.

Stockton-on-Tees rankings have improved between 2004 and 2007 (they have increased; for example the local concentration rank has increased from 17 in 2004 to 33 in 2007). In terms of the Rank of Average Score – which can be regarded as approximate to an overall measure of deprivation across the borough, Stockton-on-Tees ranked 98 in 2007 (compared to 75 in 2004) and now has the highest rank (lowest level of deprivation) out of all Tees Valley local authority areas.

Stockton-on-Tees position in each district level measure

	Local concentration	Extent	Average Score	Average Rank	Income Scale	Employment Scale
Rank	33	77	98	138	75	62

Source: Communities and Local Government, English Indices of Deprivation 2007

⁷English Indices of Deprivation 2007, Communities and Local Government

4.2.7 Regeneration, housing and development

The Regeneration Strategy for Stockton-on-Tees 2007-2012 identifies a number of developments that could impact on childcare sufficiency. These include:

- North Shore, Southern Gateway and Bowesfield Riverside – regeneration to deliver mixed-use developments, housing and leisure facilities;
- £45 million redevelopment at Billingham town centre scheduled for completion 2013;
- an area action plan for Yarm and Eaglescliffe to strengthen Yarm’s role as a commercial centre;
- expansion of Durham Tees Valley airport; housing developments in Hardwick, Mandale and Parkfield.

5 The supply of childcare

5.1 Registered childcare

Data has been supplied by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Families Information Service to inform the CSA. Data was extrapolated as at October 2010.

As from September 2008 childcare for children aged under 8 years old is 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 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.

There are a total of 4,415 childcare places in Stockton-on-Tees (this includes registered places 0-7 years and places for older children), 28% of which are in childminding provision, 72% in group provision (including nursery classes in independent schools, crèche, daycare and out of school care).

Of the 4,415 places, the majority (69%, 3,043 places) are for children aged 0 to 5 years. 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							
	0-1 years	2 years	3-4 years	5-7 years	8+ years	Total places	% all places	Number of providers
Childminding	219	202	149	555	163	1,288	29%	210
Crèche	76	78	53	0	0	207	5%	12
Day nursery	599	443	449	78	0	1,569	35%	30
Holiday provision	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	1
Nursery unit independent school	0	0	117	0	0	117	3%	3
Out of school care	0	0	207	439	137	783	18%	29
Pre-school/ playgroup	12	213	226	0	0	451	10%	15
Totals by age range	906	936	1,201	1,072	300	4,415		
% of all registered places	21%	21%	27%	24%	7%	100%		

Total registered places
0-5 years

3,043 (69% of total)

The 2008 CSA reported a total of 3,445 registered childcare places for children aged under 8 years old. Comparing registered provision for children aged 0-7 years 2010 over 2008 shows that the number of childcare places in Stockton-on-Tees has decreased by 630 places, or 13% of stock.

Registered childcare places (0 to 7 years) 2010 compared to 2008

Type of provision	2008 number (reported in the CSA)	2010 number (provided by FIS October 2010)	Percentage difference 2010 – 2008
Childminding	1,300	1,125	-13%
Crèche	300	207	-31%
Day nursery	1,784	1,569	-12%
Out of school care	821	646	-21%
Pre-school/ playgroup	540	451	-16%
Nursery unit independent school	(included in day nursery data above)	117	n/a
Overall	4,745	4,115	-13%

Source: Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2008; FIS 2010

5.1.1 Geographical distribution of childcare places

Eastern ISA has the highest number of childcare places overall and for childminding, day nursery and out of school care. Billingham ISA has the lowest number of overall childcare places with particularly low levels of out of school care; pre-school and day nursery provision is also relatively low.

Geographical distribution of places is shown in the following table:

Geographical distribution of places at Integrated Service Area level

	ISA – number of places (% of total for each type of provision)				
Type of provision	Billingham	Central (North)	Central (South)	Eastern	Western
Childminding	289 (22%)	188 (15%)	211 (16%)	375 (29%)	225 (17%)
Crèche	20 (10%)	95 (46%)	0 (0%)	92 (44%)	0 (0%)
Day nursery	273 (16%)	249 (17%)	374 (22%)	455 (31%)	218 (13%)
Nursery unit of independent school	0 (0%)	52 (44%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	65 (56%)
Out of school	90 (11%)	132 (19%)	115 (14%)	248 (31%)	198 (25%)
Pre-school	56 (12%)	60 (13%)	137 (30%)	90 (20%)	108 (24%)
Overall places	728 (16%)	776 (18%)	837 (19%)	1,260 (29%)	814 (18%)

Source: FIS. Percentages rounded

5.2 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 childminder may be registered for 6 children but choose to care for no more than 4. It is recommended that an assessment of operating capacity vs. registered capacity is undertaken. Vacancies analysed against registered capacity is likely to over-estimate supply, however, the FIS have reviewed vacancies against operating capacity and estimates the difference at 80 places.

The FIS had records of 1,071 vacancies in registered provision as at 7th October 2010. This represents 26% of total places. The highest level of vacancies was in Central (South) with 251 vacancies or 30% of registered places. The lowest level of vacancies was in Billingham with 120 vacancies or 17% of registered places.

Vacancy levels compared to registered places

Integrated Service Area	Number of vacancies recorded	% of registered places
Billingham	120	17%
Central (North)	172	21%
Central (South)	251	30%
Eastern	302	24%
Western	226	28%
Overall	1,071	26%

Source: Families Information Service, October 2010. Percentages rounded

The majority of recorded vacancies were in childminding and day nursery provision (accounting for 30% and 41% respectively of all vacancies). The highest number of vacancies was for children aged 5 to 7 years old (259 vacancies, 24% 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)					
	Childminding	Day Nursery	Out of school care	Pre-school	Nursery Unit Independent School	All provision
0-1 years	69 (33%)	138 (67%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	207 (19%)
2 years	29 (14%)	122 (58%)	0 (0%)	58 (28%)	0 (0%)	209 (20%)
3 – 4 years	22 (10%)	108 (48%)	42 (19%)	34 (15%)	21 (9%)	227 (21%)
5 – 7 years	113 (44%)	24 (9%)	122 (47%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	259 (24%)
8 – 10 years	66 (44%)	50 (33%)	35 (23%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	151 (14%)
11 – 14 years	18 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	18 (2%)
Overall (all age groups)	317 (30%)	442 (41%)	199 (19%)	92 (9%)	21 (2%)	1,071 (100%)

Source: Families Information Service, October 2010. Percentages rounded

5.3 Charges

Comparing charges across different providers and ISAs is made more difficult by different charging patterns; some childminders, for example, charge by the hour, some by the day and some weekly. Childminders (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. If charges for one specific type of provision, for example, are much higher than for others, or if charges in one ISA are higher or lower than others, does this reflect in take-up or impact on demand? This analysis will inform the assessment of gaps, particularly affordability gaps. Data has been simplified in an attempt to identify some areas of comparison (for example just looking at core charging patterns). Average costs by provider in each Integrated Service Area are shown on the following pages.

Billingham – average costs by type of provision

Charging period	Type of provision/charges levied					
	Childminding	Crèche	Day nursery	Nursery unit Independent school	Out of school care	Pre-school playgroup
Per hour	£3.29	Not given	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Per session/ half day	£15.25	n/a	*£17.04	n/a	£9.00	£8.00
Per day	£25.69	n/a	*£32.88	n/a	n/a	n/a
Per week	£116.40	n/a	£134.04	n/a	n/a	£25.00
After school	£9.83	n/a	n/a	n/a	£7.50	n/a
Before school /breakfast club	£5.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	£4.70	n/a
Holiday care per day					£16.00	n/a

*average of under two year old and over two year old charges – full day

Central (North) – average costs by type of provision

Charging period	Type of provision/charges levied					
	Childminding	Crèche	Day nursery	Nursery unit Independent school	Out of school care	Pre-school playgroup
Per hour	£3.23	Not given	n/a	n/a	£7.70	n/a
Per session/ half day	n/a	n/a	*£21.00	n/a	£11.00	£5.50
Per day	£26.00	n/a	*£29.20	n/a	n/a	£14.50
Per week	£104.00	n/a	*£130.62	£159.70	n/a	n/a
After school	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	£8.50	n/a
Before school /breakfast club	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	£6.50	n/a
Holiday care per day	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	£18.50	n/a

*average of under 2 year old and over 2 year old charges – full day

Central (South) – average costs by type of provision

Charging period	Type of provision/charges levied					
	Childminding	Crèche	Day nursery	Nursery unit Independent school	Out of school care	Pre-school playgroup
Per hour	£3.55	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Per session/ half day	£18.00	n/a	*£25.50	n/a	n/a	£5.97
Per day	£27.83	n/a	*£33.63	n/a	n/a	£15.50
Per week	£135.56	n/a	£130.00	n/a	n/a	n/a
After school	£8.17	n/a	n/a	n/a	£10.25	n/a
Before school /breakfast club	£5.00 - £5.50	n/a	£6.50	n/a	£5.43 - £7.33	n/a
Holiday care per day	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	£23.63	n/a

*average of under 2 year old and over 2 year old charges – full day

Eastern – average costs by type of provision

Charging period	Type of provision/charges levied					
	Childminding	Crèche	Day nursery	Nursery unit Independent school	Out of school care	Pre-school playgroup
Per hour	£3.41	£3.50	*£5.00	n/a	n/a	n/a
Per session/ half day	£18.70	n/a	*£22.33	n/a	n/a	£10.00
Per day	£26.62	n/a	*£32.00	n/a	n/a	£23.00
Per week	£121.42	n/a	*£138.25	n/a	n/a	n/a
After school	£7.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	£9.00	n/a
Before school /breakfast club	£4.63	n/a	n/a	n/a	£5.00 - £6.25	£3.00
Holiday care per day	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	£24.98	n/a

*average of under 2 year old and over 2 year old charges – full day

Western – average costs by type of provision

Charging period	Type of provision/charges levied					
	Childminding	Crèche	Day nursery	Nursery unit Independent school	Out of school care	Pre-school playgroup
Per hour	£3.22	n/a	£6.50	Not given	£5.00	n/a
Per session/ half day	£20.00	n/a	£28.00	n/a	£8.75	£6.17
Per day	£26.67	n/a	*£35.75	n/a	£20.00	£16.50
Per week	£137.00	n/a	£162.50	n/a	£63.75	£26.00
After school	£5.00	n/a	£9.00	n/a	£5.50	n/a
Before school /breakfast club	£5.00	n/a	£6.00	n/a	£2.50 - £3.33	£2.00
Holiday care per day	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	£20.67	n/a

*average of under 2 year old and over 2 year old charges – full day

5.3.1 Comment

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 tables above do 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.).

5.4 Opening times

As with charges there was considerable variation in opening times, both within and between different types of provision.

Collectively, childminders offer childcare from 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 7/7.30am and 6/6.30pm (a quarter of childminders – 25%, 53 childminders, operate these opening times) and 8/8.30am and 6/6.30pm (offered by 21%, 44 childminders).

Childminders – opening times (top 5)

Start time	Finish time	Number (% of all childminders)
07:00/07:30	18:00/18:30	25%
08:00/08:30	18:00/18:30	21%
08:00/08:30	16:30 – 17:30	11%
07:00/07:30	17:00/17:30	9%
07:00/07:30	19:00/19:30	6%

Base: 210, percentages rounded

Eight childminders (4%) open on Saturdays and 6 (3%) open on Sundays.

Information regarding opening times is not available for all providers. In the case of group providers, information is not available for 27 (27% of total). This includes 9 home childcarers (no place data is available for this category) and 11 crèches.

Out of school care

The majority of settings registered for out of school care offer after school provision (60%, 15 settings). A quarter of out of school care settings offer before and after school provision (24%, 6 settings) and 12% (3 settings) offer all day provision.

Day nursery settings

The majority of day nurseries (80%, 24 settings) are open from between 7/7.30am and 6/6.30pm.

Pre-school/playgroup settings

The majority of pre-school settings offer sessional care – one or two sessions a day, for example 8.50am – 11.45am and/or 1pm – 3.30pm. 23% (3 settings) are open from between 9am and 3/3.30pm.

5.5 Quality of provision

The quality of provision in Stockton-on-Tees is generally good, however is below the national average. Latest Ofsted inspection data supplied by the FIS shows nearly half of all childminders have an inspection rating of outstanding or good (46%); 67% of pre-schools, 53% of day nurseries and 42% of out of school providers have a rating of good.

Ofsted Inspection Outcomes

Type of provision	Childminding	Pre-school	Day nursery	Out of school
Number included in review	210	15	30	26
Of which, rated:				
Outstanding	11	0	0	0
Good	86	10	16	11
Satisfactory	83	4	10	13
Registration inspection only	25	1	4	2
Other	5	0	0	0

Source: FIS, December 2010

5.6 Extended schools activities

Childcare under the Childcare Act (2006) means any form of care for a child except education provided by a school during the standard school day for a registered pupil or any form of health care for a child (e.g. a hospital stay).

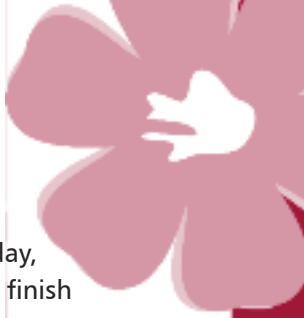
As well as the more formal Ofsted registered childcare settings in private day nurseries, childminding, playgroups, out of school provision and crèches, this wider definition includes many of the 'varied menu of activities' offered by primary and secondary schools. As long as the activity offered by the school (for example, a homework club or a football session) is supervised by an adult and is run on a 'reliable' basis which enables parents/carers to work or access training with a view to gaining employment, under the Childcare Act (2006) this activity can now be classed as childcare.

Provision in schools does not have to be registered unless they provide care for children that do not go to that school. This can result in difficulties fully assessing the supply of childcare. Parents/carers may however be using extended schools services (including sports and drama/arts clubs and homework clubs) as part of their childcare package allowing them to work or to train for work.

Data has been collated to provide an overview of the nature and range of provision available in schools to inform the 2010 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment. Data is not complete (no data is held on extended services provision in Central (South), Eastern or Western ISAs. Available data has however been analysed to provide a description of availability in areas where data is held.

There are some common themes:

- The majority of clubs/activities delivered on school site and delivered on a termly basis
- In general, academic subjects are provided by the school, specialist activities are provided by external provider
- There is a small charge or no charge for activities

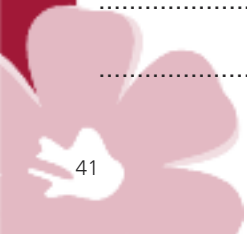
- 
- Data supplied identifies an extensive range of activities
 - Activities are delivered predominantly Monday to Thursday, very few Friday or weekend activities; a large proportion finish before 5pm, so would not support childcare for working parents
 - The majority of activities are not open to the wider community or to other schools
 - There are very few waiting lists for activities
 - Few family learning opportunities have been identified
 - Before and after school childcare is classed as a reliable activity by the schools that provide the care.

6 Further information and associated action plan

The full report of the childcare sufficiency assessment 2011-2014 is available on request from the Childcare Strategy Team on 01642 527222. The associated action plan can be found on the local authority's website: www.stockton.gov.uk along with the executive summary.

Notes

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Notes

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تہ گھر حضرت لون بہ ہم را بارہ بہ دستت کہونت بہ زمانہ کنی بر زبان بہ سنیوہ بہ کی تر نو نمونہ چابی گھورہ ایان بہ تنبی ہمارکراو نکایہ بہ ہونہ دی کہ بہ 'نیمی دایورسیتی' Children and Young People's Strategy Group | لہ سمر زمانہ تہ تہ فون 01642 527044

KURDISH

ئەگەر تۆ ئۆز ئۆزىڭىزنىڭ تىلىدا ياكى باشقا ئۇسۇلدا (مەسىلەن، چوڭ خەتتە) بۇ مەلۇماتنى ئالماقچىسىڭىز، ئۇ ئۇچۇرنى Children and Young People's Strategy Group غا 01642 527044 نۇمۇرىدا تەلەپ قىلىڭ.

PUNJABI

اگر آپ ان معلومات کو کسی بھی اور زبان یا انداز میں پڑھنے یا دیکھنے میں مدد چاہیں تو 'ڈایورسٹی ٹیم' (Children and Young People's Strategy Group) کو اس نمبر پر فون کیجئے 01642 527044

URDU