



**Children's Services**

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**Isle of Wight  
Childcare Sufficiency Assessment  
2023 - 2025**

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## 1. Introduction

### A New Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

- 1.1. The Isle of Wight Council (IWC) has a statutory duty to ensure there is sufficient access to childcare provision for parents on the Isle of Wight.
- 1.2. This duty is annually reviewed through the publication of this report, the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA), with an accompanying action plan to elected council members and is available to local parents. With sufficient childcare, families are able to find provision that meets their child's needs and supports parents to make an informed choice about their employment and training opportunities.
- 1.3. This report is an assessment of childcare sufficiency for 2, 3 and 4-year-olds utilising a range of local and national data sources to identify the type, amount and capacity of childcare that is available and whether this matches the demand from parents on the Isle of Wight. For the first time the report includes an update on Out of School (OOS) childcare including the Government funded Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF).
- 1.4. The IWC will use this information to inform the work of the Early Years service and the subsequent actions to facilitate and shape a diverse and sustainable local childcare offer for the Isle of Wight.

### Statutory Duty

#### Childcare Act 2006<sup>1</sup>

- 1.5. The act gives Local Authorities a key role in shaping the childcare market in their area. Working with providers from the Private, Voluntary, Independent (PVI) and maintained sectors, the Local Authority will look to create a strong, sustainable, and diverse childcare market that meets the needs of local parents.
- 1.6. Section 6: gives Local Authorities a duty of securing, so far as reasonably practicable, that the provision of childcare (whether or not by them) is sufficient to meet the requirements of parents in their area in order to enable them to:
  - Take up, or remain in, work, or
  - Undertake education or training which could reasonably be expected to assist them to obtain work.
- 1.7. Section 7: also gives Local Authorities a related duty to secure funded early years provision in the area. The Local Authority needs to secure early years education places offering 570 hours a year over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year, for every three and four-year-old child in their area from the term after their third birthday until the child reaches compulsory school age, known as 'Universal Entitlement'. There is also a requirement to secure Early Years Education provision for eligible two-year-old children, from the term after their second birthday.

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<sup>1</sup> [Childcare Act 2006](#)

## Childcare Act 2016<sup>2</sup>

- 1.8. Section 2: In September 2017 this act placed an additional duty on the Local Authority to secure funded childcare for those children who qualified to receive an 'extended entitlement'. This requires childcare places to be made available to working parents who meet eligibility criteria to secure a further 15 hours for three and four year olds on top of their universal entitlement. Early Years Education and childcare should be accessible, flexible, inclusive, and provided through a range of settings to meet parental demand.
- 1.9. Section 12: gives Local Authorities the duty to provide information, advice and assistance to parents and prospective parents relating to the provision for childcare, services or facilities that may be of benefit to parents and prospective parents, children, and young people.
- 1.10. Section 13: gives Local Authorities the duty to provide information, advice, and training to childcare providers.

## What is Childcare?

- 1.11. A statutory definition from section 18 of the Childcare Act 2006 is 'any form of care of a child' including 'education and any other supervised activity'. Early years provision is defined in Section 20 of the Childcare Act 2006, as 'the provision of childcare for a young child beginning with their birth and ending immediately before the 1st of September next following the date on which he attains the age of 5'.
- 1.12. Childcare plays a crucial role in the lives of most families. It enables parents to go out to work to contribute to the family income and maintain their careers when they have young children. There is an established body of academic evidence showing that good pre-school childcare positively effects a child's future educational attainment, health and happiness<sup>3</sup>.
- 1.13. Working parents with children utilise many different forms of formal and informal childcare with their choices dependent on factors such as family income, employment patterns, geographical location, parental preferences, childcare availability and the age of their child.

## The Early Years Service on the Isle of Wight

- 1.14. The Childcare Acts 2006 and 2016 place a variety of duties on all local authorities. There are a number of services across the Isle of Wight that focus on 'Early Years' which is usually defined by the DfE as children up to the age of 5. The aim of these services is to make sure Island children and their families can access high quality childcare and early years to achieve the best start in life and education.

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<sup>2</sup> [Childcare Act 2016](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Best start in life: a research review for early years - 2022- Ofsted - GOV.UK](#)

- 1.15. The Early Years Advisory Team (EYAT) has responsibility for supporting high quality Early Years and childcare provisions across the Isle of Wight, including within schools, in their practice and provision.
- 1.16. The Early Years Special Educational Needs (SEN) Advisory Team provide advice and information to early years settings on how they might meet the needs of a child with a Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND).
- 1.17. The CSA report is a deliverable outcome from the Isle of Wight Early Years Service Plan 2022/23.

### Methodology

- 1.18. The Isle of Wight CSA has been based upon a measurement of the supply and demand for childcare using both national statistics referenced throughout this report and a variety of data collected by the IWC<sup>4</sup> up to the end of December 2022.
- 1.19. The previous CSA<sup>5</sup> covered the period 2019-2020, this report will reflect the changes in the childcare market since January 2020.

### Feedback

- 1.20. The IWC welcomes feedback on our Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Report from the communities, businesses, and the individuals we serve. If you wish to feedback to or engage with the IWC on this report, please email: [EYAT@iow.gov.uk](mailto:EYAT@iow.gov.uk) and share any thoughts you may have on how we can work with you to help deliver Early Years childcare for the Isle of Wight.

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<sup>4</sup> [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment - Isle of Wight Council](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Isle of Wight Childcare Sufficiency Report 2019-2020](#)

## 2. Demographics

### The Isle of Wight

- 2.1. The Isle of Wight covers an area of 147 square miles, with a coastline that runs for 57 miles. The Isle of Wight (herein referred to as 'the Island') is the largest and second most populous island in England. The Island is separated from the mainland of England by a stretch of water known as the Solent, but is connected to the ports of Lymington, Southampton, and Portsmouth on the mainland by six passenger and vehicle ferry routes, including a dedicated hovercraft link. Although physically separated from the mainland, the Island influences and is influenced by the wider sub-regional, regional, national, and international context. The Island features a wide variety of natural, rural, and urban landscapes. Over 50% of the Island is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and 28 miles of coastline is designated as Heritage Coast, and in June 2019 the whole island was designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.
- 2.2. Even though 84% of the island is rural, there are a wide range of settlements across the island. However, 60% of the Island's residents live within the urban east of the Island in the main towns of Newport, Cowes, East Cowes, Ryde, Sandown and Shanklin. Ryde is its largest town by population (30,000) with Newport as the second largest with a population of 25,000. Newport is the County Town of the Island and is the main employment centre, with the IWC offices, HMP Isle of Wight, St Mary's NHS Hospital, IW College and the main shopping area serving the Island.
- 2.3. The rural west of the Island is more sparsely populated with Freshwater, Totland and Yarmouth as its main settlements and Ventnor is the largest town on the south coast. Outside of these settlements there are around 30 villages and hamlets Island wide. Several larger villages provide services and facilities to surrounding villages and hamlets.

### Characteristics of current population

- 2.4. The findings of the 2021 Census<sup>6</sup> will need to be considered by the childcare sector when planning to meet future parental childcare needs on the Island. The Isle of Wight's resident population over the decade between 2011 and 2021 only rose by 1.5% from 138,300 to 140,400 people. These figures were below the official estimates for the Island's population used between Censuses<sup>7</sup> and has revealed a significant shift in the age of the local population. The Island's population growth figures are also below our statistical neighbour (Torbay – 6.4%), the South East (7.5%) and England & Wales (6.3%) for the same period. The growth is more in line with our neighbouring local authority area of Portsmouth (1.5%), while Gosport (-0.9%) and New Forest (-0.4%) underwent reductions in population over the same period.

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<sup>6</sup> [Census 2021 - Office for National Statistics](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Population projections \(2020\) - Office for National Statistics](#)

- 2.5. Within this slight increase in overall population there is hidden a significant shift in the age range of the population with a rapid expansion (24.7%) in the number of residents aged 65 and over (32,954 in 2011 to 41,100 residents in 2021) now accounting for 29.5% of the Island's population as opposed to the England average of 18.4%. During the same period the population of residents aged 0-15 (down 6.3%) with a more marked reduction of 13% of children under 5 on the Island. This has placed the Isle of Wight in the top 20 local authority areas nationally that have seen a reduction of 5% or more in this five-year age group (under 15) since the 2011 Census.
- 2.6. The 2019 Subnational Population Projections for England report from the Office of National Statistics (ONS)<sup>8</sup> had projected a pattern of a declining working age population but a stable 0-15 population on the Island to continue into mid-2030s. The next Subnational Population Projections for England will be based on the 2021 Census and is due in early 2024. This will provide a revised projection of the longer-term trends in the Island's population across all age groups going forward into 2030s.
- 2.7. Previous Censuses<sup>9</sup> had always highlighted a net outflow of age 15 to 29 year olds as young people leave the Island for higher education, employment and career opportunities, followed by a net inflow at age 30 and above as people return to raise their families or older people moving to retire on the Island. The increase in migration in the older age groups (65 to 79 in particular) has become more marked over time, and they are not generally related to the local population so cannot be used as an alternative, informal childcare option for working parents on the Island.

### **Number of Early Years children**

- 2.8. In total there are 5,552 (down from 6,462 in 2020) children under the age of five living on the Isle of Wight, broken down by age in the table below. This is the available pool of children who may require places in a childcare provision. From a market viability perspective, there has been a 18% reduction in the age range in last 5 years which will start to impact on the demand in the marketplace within 18 to 24 months. The numbers of under five-year-olds and within that the single year age cohorts are projected to stabilise over the next two years, at a level that is 25% lower than 10 years ago.

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<sup>8</sup> [Subnational population projections for England \(2019\) - Office for National Statistics](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Population and migration - Census 2021 and Census 2011 - Office for National Statistics](#)



Table 1: Number of children under 5 by age on the Isle of Wight

Age	Number of Children	
	2019	2021
Under 1	1,144	991
1 years of age	1,226	1,053
2 years of age	1,265	1,127
3 years of age	1,413	1,180
4 years of age	1,414	1,201

(Source: CSA Report, 2021 Census)

- 2.9. Not all of the children aged 4 years included in the table above will be accessing Early Years funded education within the nursery and PVI sector. A significant proportion of these children who are rising five are captured in the school places planning as they will potentially be already attending Year R through the September annual intake of new pupils. Based on previous experience an estimated 40% of those aged 4 will still need to be considered for a preschool place throughout the year, this calculates at approximately 480 children across the Island, a further reduction on the 2020 figure of 565 children.

Table 2: Number of applications to Primary Schools on the Isle of Wight 2020-2022

School Year	Numbers of applications
September 2020	1183
September 2021	1225
September 2022	1182

(Source – IWC School Admissions)

### Number of school age children

- 2.10. Using the 2021 Census there are a total of 9,685 (9,867 in 2020) children aged 5-11 and 5,636 (5,728 in 2020) children aged 12-14 living on the Island. These children may require childcare before and after school, and/or during the school holidays. The relatively stable numbers across primary and secondary shown in table 3 (2021) will start to change as the current under five-year-olds enter the school system.

Table 3: Number of children in each single year age cohort on the Isle of Wight in 2021

Age	Number of children
5 years of age	1,302
6 years of age	1,355
7 years of age	1,366
8 years of age	1,396

9 years of age	1,444
10 years of age	1,412
11 years of age	1,410
12 years of age	1,369
13 years of age	1,424
14 years of age	1,434
15 years of age	1,409

(Source: 2021 Census)

- 2.11. Another important statistic is the level of Free School Meals (FSM) in school aged children which will help inform planning for OOS provision and in particular HAF activities for the school holidays in 2023. In 2022 the total number eligible for FSM grew by 3% from 3,678 to 3790 children on the Island.

### Birth Data

- 2.12. Planning the future shape of childcare provision on the Island requires gathering, analysing, and informing the sector of key trends. None more important than understanding the number of future parents and children in the local community. The following table provides information on the number of live births historically over the last 5 years and the current projected births on the Island through until 2025:

Table 4: Live and projected births on the Isle of Wight 2017-2025

Year	Live Births	Projected Births
2017	1230	
2018	1080	
2019	1036	
2020	1009	
2021	1028	
2022		1083
2023		1070
2024		1069
2025		1061

(Source - ONS)

- 2.13. It is clear from this data that there will be fewer under 5-year-olds accessing early years provision going forward. The reasons for this reduction in the birth

rate are varied from changes in fertility rates, social and economic change, and older population<sup>10</sup>.

- 2.14. In response, many Island primary schools are considering plans to reduce their published admission numbers (PAN). Further work with colleagues in Public Health and the publication of more data sets from the 2021 Census should highlight any emerging areas of concern at local level around this drop in the birth rate.

### Levels of Deprivation

- 2.15. The English Indices of Deprivation 2019<sup>11</sup> were published by the Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government. The Indices are based on seven distinct domains, each of which represent a specific form of deprivation that when combined using a variety of weights, produce an overall relative measurement of deprivation (Indices of Multiple Deprivation – IMD) for small areas (Lower Super Output Areas - LSOA).
- 2.16. The Isle of Wight is ranked 98 based on the average score on the overall IMD scale, where 1 equals the most deprived. This is out of 317 local authority districts in England. It represents a drop of 11 places from 2015 when the Island was ranked 109, which, was a further drop of 12 places from 126 in the 2010 IMD.
- 2.17. While based on the IMD's average rank the Isle of Wight is ranked 80, where once again 1 equals the most deprived out of 317 local authority districts in England. It represents a drop of just 2 places from 2015 when the Island was ranked 82, which is a total drop of 26 places from 106 in the 2010 IMD.
- 2.18. There are 12 LSOA on the Island in East Cowes, Ryde, Newport, Shanklin and Ventnor that are within the 20% most deprived in England. In particular the following LSOA's of Ryde North East B, Pan A and Pan B are also listed within the 10% most deprived for the whole of England.
- 2.19. Further evidence of levels of deprivation on the Island can be seen in the DWP's most recent Child Poverty report<sup>12</sup> from data covering 2020-21. This reported 22.2% (4,866) of Island children under 16 were living in poverty, of which 1,416 were under 5, against a national figure of 18.7%. The term 'living in poverty' is defined as those earning less than 60% (£18,840) of the national median household income, before housing costs are considered. Of this figure 17.3% are living in absolute poverty compared to 15.1% nationally, the definition for this measure is those earning less than 60% (£15,660) of the national median household income from 2010/11, before housing costs are considered.

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<sup>10</sup> [Childbearing for women born in different years - ONS \(2022\)](#)

<sup>11</sup> [English indices of deprivation 2019 - DLUHC - GOV.UK](#)

<sup>12</sup> [Children in low income families: local area statistics, financial year ending 2021 - DWP- GOV.UK](#)

## The Island's Economy and Labour Market

- 2.20. The employment opportunities have a direct influence on the parental demand for Early Years childcare on the Island, additional factors around the type and pattern of work will also have an impact on how a parent accesses childcare.
- 2.21. The Isle of Wight's economy has performed well in recent years; but it still lacks the high productivity service sectors that has driven growth in the rest of the South East. Employment opportunities are still concentrated in the 'traditional sectors' of retail, tourism, health care and education.
- 2.22. The Island continues to face several challenges around below average educational attainment and skills levels, outward migration of its young people to higher education and careers which all has an impact on lowering productivity levels and wages. Despite some long-term changes in the local economic activity many employment opportunities remain seasonally based, with fewer full-time jobs (63%) and more part time (38%) employment compared to the wider South East (67.4%,32.7%) and national figures (68.1%, 31.9%). The Island's economy, by employment, remains dominated by its foundational sectors of health & social work (16.3%), wholesale & retail (16.3%), accommodation & food (14.3%), education (8.2%), and administration (7.1%). Average earnings for individuals on the Island remain low and at a level that is 80% of those across the South East.<sup>13</sup>
- 2.23. The Isle of Wight is part of the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) which drives economic development for the Solent area. Commissioned research<sup>14</sup> by the Solent LEP highlights future growth is likely to be centred in health and social care, admin and support services, construction, and recreation, reflecting both the ageing population trend and the size and strength of the tourism sector. The more traditional sectors such as manufacturing and agriculture are expected to continue to decline in overall terms.
- 2.24. The Isle of Wight is below the national and regional rates of employment with 72.5% of the working age population being employed compared to 78.6% nationally and 80.9% for the South East. 27.5% of the working age population are economically inactive which is 6.1% higher than the national average, a significant reason given is due to long term health issues. The level and number of employees is again below regional and national averages, while self-employment (11%) long seen locally as a visible and viable alternative is above both regional (10%) and national (9.2%) figures, all factors that will affect the demand for childcare locally.
- 2.25. The lower levels of pay on the Island compared to the South East and the UK generally make returning to work before childcare funding starts a lot harder, and once in work it can put an upper limit on hours worked by the parent.

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<sup>13</sup> [Labour Market Profile \(2021\) - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#)

<sup>14</sup> [Economic Outlook \(2017\) - Solent LEP](#)

- 2.26. By utilising the ONS Monthly unemployment claimant count<sup>15</sup> the Isle of Wight saw a fall of 555 claims from November 2021 to November 2022. For the months of June, July and August each year the number of claimants on the Island decreases due to seasonal work. The percentage of claimants when compared nationally (3.7%) is similar at 3.5% but remains well above the South East average of 2.9%. The local jobs market has remained buoyant through 2022 with high number of seasonal and year round jobs being advertised.
- 2.27. Due to low average wages from both employment and self-employment in the local economy there has been a significant take up of the 'in work' benefit Tax Credits (Working, Child) as a way of topping up household incomes for parents and to potentially help towards additional childcare costs. In April 2022 HMRC estimated 8,155 households (12.6%) are in receipt of one or both Tax Credits on the Island.
- 2.28. Where work is based will be a major influence on where parents access childcare especially if their work requires commuting or is still home based. The Island is a highly self-contained labour market with limited out flows of commuters off the Island and general flow of commuters from rural areas to the main employment centres of Newport and to a lesser extent Ryde. Available data shows that many settings serve their immediate geographic areas (LSOAs), with those settings in or near employment centres attracting children from other LSOAs across the Island. Due to the nature of the Island's economy home working is unlikely to have a long term impact beyond public sector employees post Covid-19.
- 2.29. The Government closed Tax Credits to new applicants with the launch of Universal Credit (UC), a benefit that covers those in work, out of work or unable to work. A broader span of claimants are now required to look for work than under the previous unemployment benefits of Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) and Income Support. When claiming UC, the parent who is the designated 'main carer' for a child is expected to return to the labour market and look for work (16 hours) when their youngest child turns three-years-old. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has recently confirmed that all customers on Tax Credits will be moved across to UC by the end of 2024<sup>16</sup>.

### New Housing

- 2.30. The IWC remains in the drafting stage of its Island Planning Strategy (July 2021)<sup>17</sup> which will include a proposed range of housing targets outlined in the table below. Across the Island the IWC are proposing to build 607 dwellings of varied sizes on differing size of developments per year over the first five years of the strategy, which will include a target for affordable housing. All figures used remain subject to change as they are from the draft version of the Island Planning Strategy and may well be updated following the outcome of the current national planning consultation.

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<sup>15</sup> [Unemployment December 2022 - Office for National Statistics](#)

<sup>16</sup> [Managed move of claimants to Universal Credit set to restart - DWP- GOV.UK](#)

<sup>17</sup> [Draft Island Planning Strategy July 2021 Isle of Wight Council](#)

- 2.31. The IWC's Planning team consults with the Early Years Advisory Team to ensure any proposed developments take into consideration early years places within that area. We will continue to use Hampshire County Council's Early Years Development guide to forecast the change in demand for childcare and early years from proposed housing developments. This guide and associated formula for forecasting childcare demand from a housing development is currently being revised by HCC.
- 2.32. The current formula amounts to a 0.03 child yield per dwelling, with five age groups covered (under 1s to under 5s) the average number for each individual age group will be  $0.3/5 = 0.06$ . This will be what is termed the 'cohort size' and IWC will then have the statistical trends to calculate future additional figures for funded 2, 3 and 4 year olds places. On this basis the proposed housing targets could generate an additional 29 children per year (under 5s) across the Island.

Table 5: Draft Indicative Housing Trajectory 2022-2037 for the Isle of Wight

Source of supply	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Years 6-10	Years 11-15	Total
<b>Large sites with permission</b>	209	70	55	90	97	305	285	1,083
<b>Allocated sites</b>	328	420	465	429	373	1,862	830	4,707
<b>Windfall</b>	100	100	100	100	100	500	500	1,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>2,742</b>	<b>1,512</b>	<b>7,290</b>

(Source – Draft Island Planning Strategy)

- 2.33. The allocated sites (and the 'larger sites with permission') will see growth in housing centred on the main settlements of Ryde, Newport and Cowes over the period of the draft Planning Strategy. These could potentially have an impact on the sufficiency for childcare at a LSOA level and would require working with colleagues in the Planning team with the potential to access S106 funding for new or additional provision if needed. 'Windfall sites' are ones with a net gain of less than 10 dwellings and are spread out across all towns and most of the larger villages. These developments are unlikely to affect local or overall demand for childcare or school places.

### Looked After Children

- 2.34. 'Looked After Children' (LAC) are defined as those children who have been in the care of the local authority for more than 24 hours. They may be placed with foster carers, or in residential homes or with parents or other relatives. These children become looked after when their parents are unable to provide ongoing care in either a temporary or permanent capacity.
- 2.35. The IWC has responsibility for 42 children (December 2022) under 5 as LAC/CIC, the total number is rising at about 1-2 children per year. If the child is then adopted, they will generally move off the Island, and will no longer be considered as the responsibility of the IWC.

- 2.36. The EYAT have an SLA in place with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Virtual School which covers the delivery of support services for children in care aged 0-5. A member of the EYAT will attend all Personal Education Plans (PEP) for children under 5, advise on placements with settings and support settings in applying for additional funding. In addition, EYAT will deliver as part of their CPD programme for EY practitioners specific training on the latest guidance around LAC.

### **Refugee families on the Isle of Wight**

- 2.37. The Island has hosted families arriving through official schemes from Afghanistan (Afghan Relocation and Assistance Programme), Hong Kong (Hong Kong British Nationals (Overseas) programme) and more recently Ukraine (Homes for Ukrainians and Families for Ukraine). Community Action Isle of Wight have co-ordinated the local response and liaised between refugees, host families and local services.
- 2.38. At this time, 42 Ukrainian children, 4 Afghan children and 2 Hong Kong Children have been offered school places (primary & secondary) on the Island (May 2022)<sup>18</sup>. The EYAT's Data Collection survey (December 2022) has reported that 13 0-4-year-olds are accessing childcare places with Island childcare providers. All refugee parents still have to meet the eligibility criteria to apply for funded childcare places with Island settings. There should be some familiarity from the early years provision in Ukraine which is organised along similar lines to the UK but with a school entry age of 6/7 years old.

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<sup>18</sup> [School-placements-for-children-from-outside-of-the-uk \(2022-may\) DfE](#)

### 3. Supply of Childcare on the Isle of Wight

#### Early Years Providers & Places

3.1. Parents have a variety of different types of Ofsted registered childcare providers to choose from on the Island, they include the following:

- **Childminders** – these are self-employed childcare professionals who work in their own home. They are limited to smaller numbers of children and often a wider age range. Childminders do offer more flexibility to meet parents' working patterns.
- **Childcare on Domestic Premises (CoDP)** - is classified by Ofsted as "where there are four or more people working together, for example four childminders, or two childminders and two assistants, or one childminder and three assistants."
- **Nursery classes within Schools** - A nursery class is a pre-school class attached to a primary school.
- **Maintained nurseries** - A maintained nursery school is a local authority school and is funded and controlled by the local authority.
- **PVI nurseries** – A nursery that have identified their business structure as private ('for profit'), voluntary (committee led) or independent school.
- **Home childcare** – A nanny providing childcare in the child's home.
- **Out of School (OOS) Provision** – Childcare that is provided term time outside school hours, for example breakfast clubs and after school clubs.
- **Holiday play providers** - Childcare that is available during school holidays for a variety of ages.

Ofsted also uses several other terms when referring to childcare provision. They include:

- **'Childcare on non-domestic premises'** - a collective term used by Ofsted to describe nurseries, pre-schools, play groups, creches and out of school providers all operating from premises not being used as a home.
- **'Group based providers'** - an alternative title for PVI nurseries that operate in non-domestic premises.
- **'School based providers'** - covers both maintained nursery schools and nursery classes within schools.

3.2. In total there are 84 childcare providers on the Isle of Wight, offering a maximum of 2528 Early Years childcare places. The table below gives an overview of the numbers and types of provision on the Island.



Table 6: Number and change in providers and places 2019-2022

Type of Provision	Number of providers			Number of registered places		
	2019	2022	% Change	2019	2022	% Change
Childminders	38 (active)	33 (active)	-13%	214 places	217 places	+1.4%
	4 (inactive)	2 (inactive)	-50%	0	0	0%
Childcare on Domestic Premises (CoDP)	1	1	0%	15 places	15 places	0%
Pre School classes within schools	10	12	+20%	234 places	318 places	+36%
Maintained nursery schools	1	1	0%	45 places	30 places	-33.3%
Private, voluntary and independent (PVI) nurseries	42	37	-12%	2146 places	1948 places	-9%
Totals	91	84	-8%	2639 places	2528 places	-4.2%

(Source – Data Collection Dec 2022)

- 3.3. For all types of provision, the number of registered places represents the Ofsted registered maximum number of children who can be on the premises at any given time. In practice, many providers choose to operate below their number of registered places for a variety of business and operational reasons (cost, staffing availability).
- 3.4. The changes in the local market for childcare since the last CSA provide a mixed picture compared to national trends<sup>19</sup> over the last two years. Please note that due to the small size of the local market, it only takes 2+ changes in provider numbers to produce a significant % change.

<sup>19</sup> [Childcare and Early Years provider survey 2022 - DfE](#)

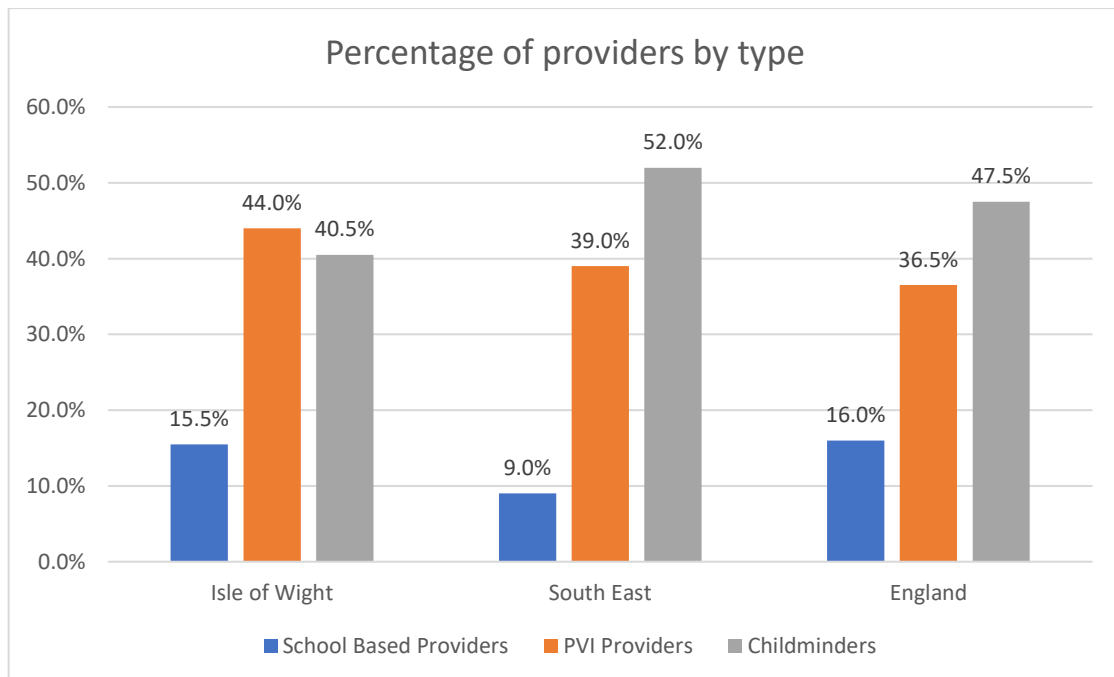
The headlines changes are:

- The Island has seen 8% decline in the total number of providers over the last 2 years which is in line with the national figure of 9% decline in providers.
- There has been 20% growth in school-based providers against a national increase of just 2%, with the number of places they offer increasing by 25%.
- While the number of group-based providers (PVI) declined by 12%, nationally this group rose by 3% in the last year. This can be partially explained by 2 PVI's changing to become school-based providers.
- The drop in the number of childminders, down 11% on the Island, mirrored the national trend of a further 9% decline in numbers, yet places on offer remained at a similar level to the previous report.
- Overall, the number of places available has declined by 4.2% (111 places) over a two year period, this is against a slight rise nationally of 1% in places in the last year.

3.5. A comparison to our closest statistical neighbour (Torbay) using data from 2021, sees childcare in their LA area being delivered by 46 school based and PVI providers with 69 childminders offering in total 2061 places<sup>20</sup>.

3.6. The graphs below show how the market breaks down into the different types of provision by provider and then in the second graph how the places are distributed by type of provision.

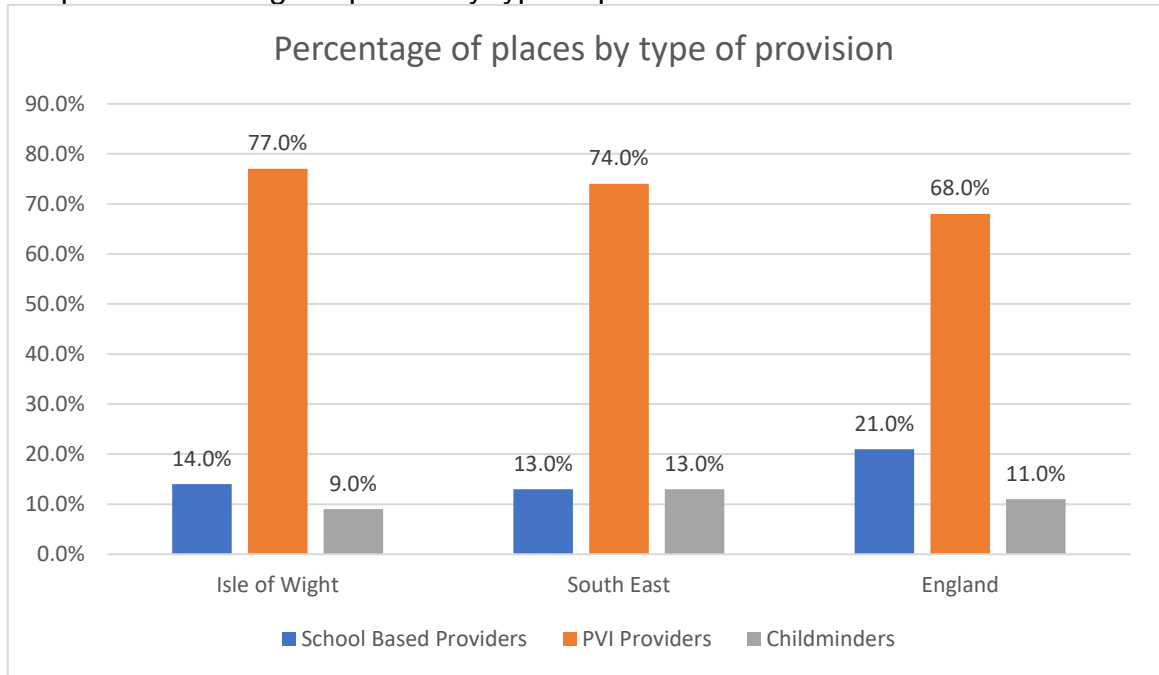
Graph 1: Percentage of providers by type of provision



(Source - EYAT)

<sup>20</sup> [Childcare-sufficiency-report-2021 Torbay Council](#)

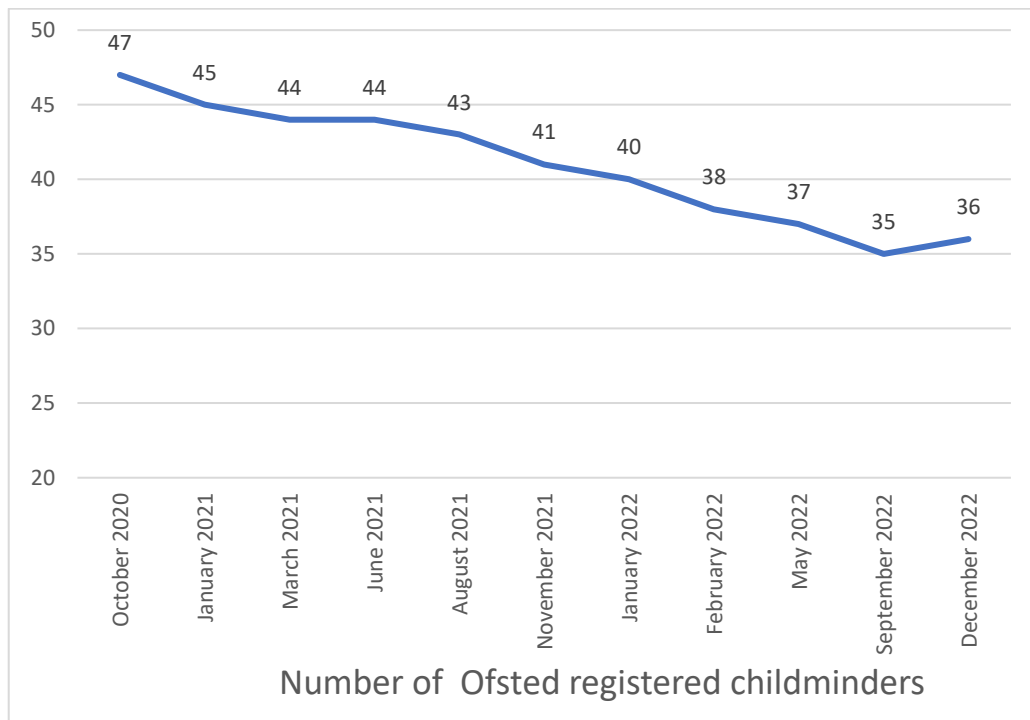
Graph 2: Percentage of places by type of provision



(Source - EYAT)

- 3.7. The EYAT will continue to monitor the decline in the number of active childminders on the Island and will support the recruitment and training of new childminders as well as existing childminders.

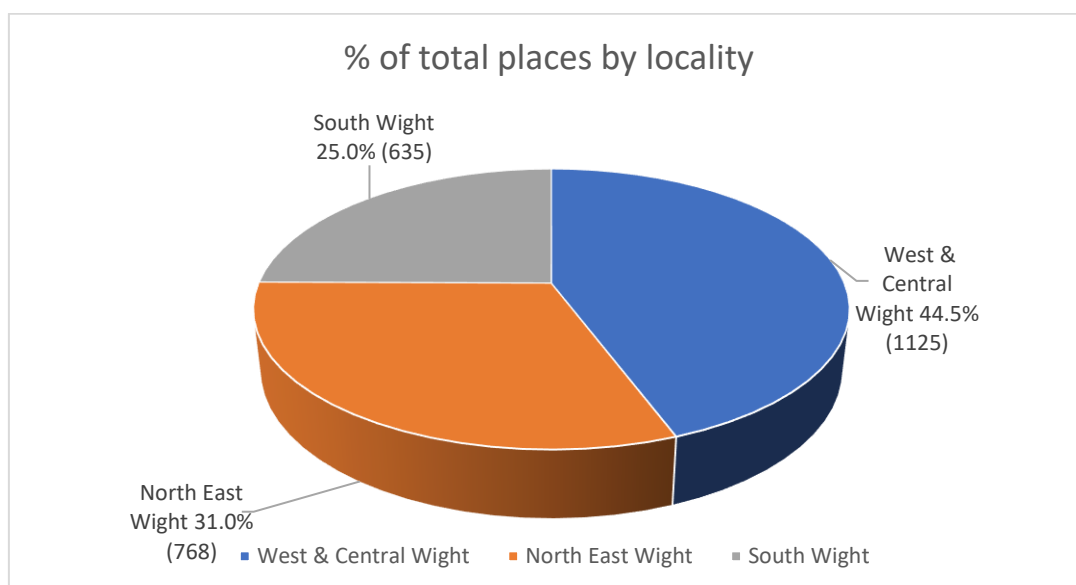
Graph 3: The number of Ofsted registered childminders on the Isle of Wight



(Source – Ofsted)

- 3.8. According to the charity Children England<sup>21</sup> the UK childcare market is dominated by the 'for profit' sector providing 84% of places (2021) with several chains taking significant market share. The Island has a more 'mixed economy' with the private 'for profit' sector (19 providers, 34 childminders/CoDP) providing 55% of places (1,389) and the 'not for profit' (12 voluntary & 13 school-based providers) providing the remaining 45% of places (1,139).
- 3.9. The 11 Island Schools that operate pre-schools/nursery provision do so under Section 27 (community powers) of the Education Act 2002<sup>22</sup>. This section allows schools to provide for any charitable purpose (in this case early years education) for the benefit of families of pupils at the school, or families who live or work in the locality of the school. Schools are not allowed legally to subsidise these activities, so the business case and the budget needs to be robust and sustainable.
- 3.10. 81 providers are locally owned or run businesses, schools, or associations/organisations with just 3 providers (offering 243 places) being part of 2 regional private and charitable childcare chains. Currently 4 organisations operate 2 providers each and 1 has 3 providers locally, with all the remaining providers operating from single sites.
- 3.11. The next two graphs show the distribution of places by locality, starting off with the overall distribution of places followed by a chart detailing the distribution of the different types of provision on the Island again by locality. Most providers (including childminders) and places are focused in the main towns on the Island, in particular Ryde and Newport have 51% of places on the Island, with a few school based providers based in rural village locations.

Graph 4: Total numbers and percentage of places by locality on the Isle of Wight

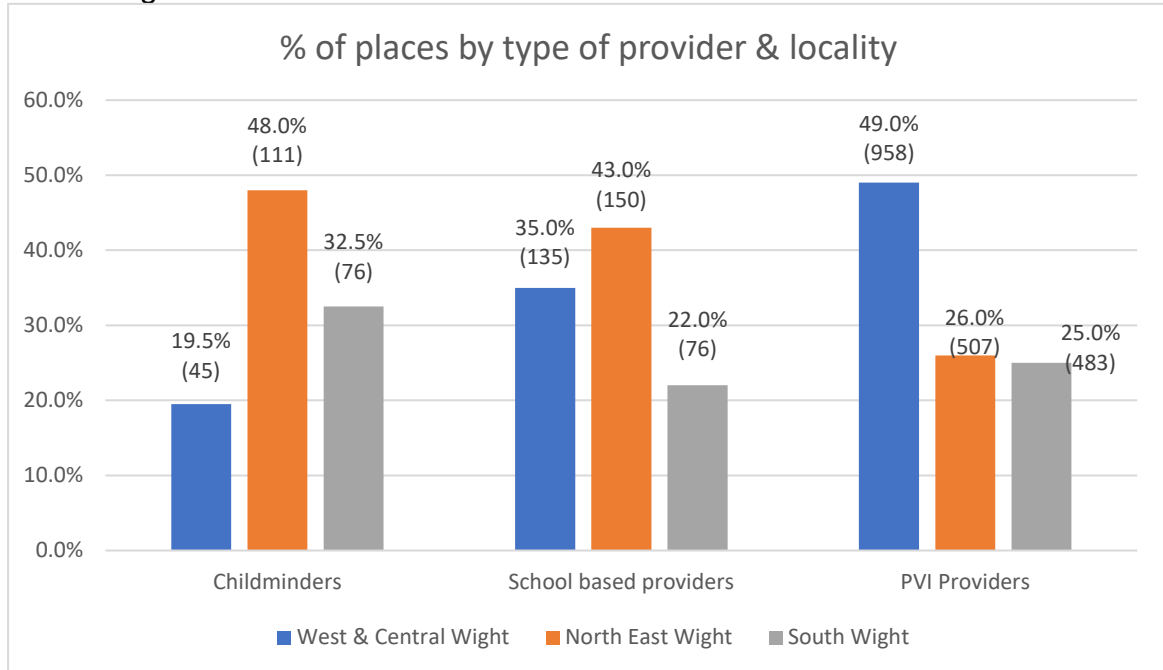


<sup>21</sup> ['The childcare market in England' \(2021\) - Children England](#)

<sup>22</sup> [Education Act \(2022\) - DfE](#)

(Source – Data Collection Survey December 2022)

Graph 5: Numbers and percentages of places by type of provider and locality on the Isle of Wight



(Source- Data Collection Survey December 2022)

3.12. The next table breaks down the ownership structure of the operators of childcare provision on the Island. The ‘Private Limited Company’ are the ‘for profit’ privately owned businesses. The ‘Private Limited Company by guarantee’ are usually community owned (by parents and staff), committee led and may have charitable status.

Table 7: Ownership structure of PVI Providers and childminders

Ownership Structure	Numbers of PVI Operators	Number of Childminders
Private Limited Company	13	1
Private Limited Company by Guarantee	8	0
Sole Traders	3	33
Partnerships	2	0
Educational Charity	1	0

Committees (Unincorporated Associations)	3	0
Totals	30	34

(Source – EYAT December 2022)

- 3.13. The following table examines the size of the 30 PVI businesses/organisations by the number of employees, excluding all childminders (34) and schools (12 providers). In this respect business size and ownership in this market reflects the wider local economy which leans strongly towards the micro end of the SME designation.

Table 8: Size of business by number of employees

Size of Business	Numbers of Providers
Micro (0-9 employees)	13
Small (10-49 employees)	14
Medium (50- 249 employees)	3
Total	30

(Source – Data Collection Survey December 2022)

- 3.14. The final table in this section looks at the average size of providers on the Island in terms of the number of childcare places available. It shows that school-based providers on the Island are considerably smaller in terms of the average number of childcare places offered, but childminders and PVI nurseries offer on average 8-9% more places compared to the national figure for England.

Table 9: Average number of childcare places per provider, IOW compared to England

Type of Provision	Average number of childcare places		
	Isle of Wight	England	% IOW Difference to National
Childminders	6.5	6	+8%
CoDP	15	N/A	N/A
Pre-School classes within schools	26	35	-25%

Maintained nursery school	30	95	-68.5%
PVI nurseries	52.5	48	+9%

(Source: Data Collection Survey December 2022, 2022 Childcare and Early Years Provider Survey<sup>23</sup>)

3.15. Overall looking forward to 2023 and based on the data there will be sufficient childcare places across the Island, with the three locality areas well served by providers and childminders. Most areas have a degree of capacity in childcare places to absorb children should a setting close, the EYAT will work with parents and providers to minimize the disruption to childcare.

### Parental Demand

3.16. As part of assessing the parental demand for childcare going forward and to see how parents' childcare choices had been affected by Covid-19, the EYAT undertook a Parental Survey between 4<sup>th</sup> November and 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022.

3.17. The survey produced 691 responses from parents, carers, grandparents and guardians across the Island. Apart from some general questions this year's survey had two themes, specific questions around the Out of School (OOS) offer and then asking parents for their views on SEND provision on the Island.

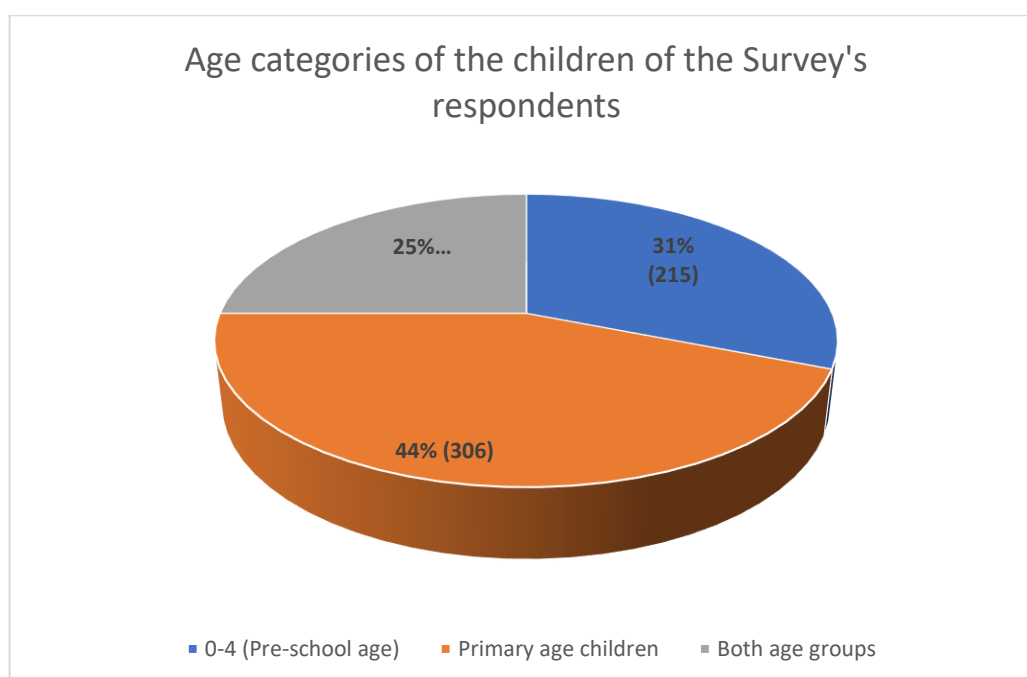
Table 10: Localities of respondents to the 2022 Parental Survey

Locality	Number of Responses	% of Responses
West and Central Wight	291	42%
North East Wight	219	32%
South Wight	176	25%
Other	5	1%
Total	691	100%

(Source – 2022 Parental survey)

<sup>23</sup> [Childcare and early years provider survey, Reporting Year 2022 – DfE – GOV.UK](#)

Graph 6: Age categories of the children of the 2022 Parental Survey's respondents



(Source – 2022 Parental Survey)

3.18. Headlines from the survey's general results include:

- As can be seen in the above table all areas of the Island are represented in the survey responses, South Wight was under represented overall. When using postcodes and population figures there was a higher response rate from the Newport area (PO30) and a lower response from the West Wight area (PO39, PO40, PO41).
- The ages of the respondents' children gave a broad mix of households with under 5-year-olds, primary aged and those with children in both areas of provision.
- How and where parents accessed information about childcare gave some interesting results, 77% still asked friends and family relying on word of mouth over using social media (39%), IWC websites (24%) and third party specialist information sites such as Childcare Choices (17.5%).
- 33% of respondents made use of a variety of Government funding support for their childcare, of those who answered this question Tax Free Childcare accounts was the most popular option (28.5%) with Tax Credits and UC being the choice of a further 10%.
- In this same question 18% made use of the Universal Entitlement and Extended offer (30 hours) combined with 6.5% just accessing the basic Entitlement of 15 hours of childcare. There was a good uptake of EYPP at 15% but a relatively small number made use of the 2-year-old offer (3.5%).

3.19. Then looking at the results from parents accessing Out of School (OOS) provision:

- In the survey around 37.5% of respondents used OOS childcare for their school aged children. Choosing OOS provision run by the school



(60.5%) as their first choice, followed by OOS run privately (43.5%) and finally making use of a childminder (9.5%). This could be either one option only or a combination of OOS provision to fit with a parent's work pattern.

- When choosing OOS provision parents' priorities were availability in terms of days and hours, followed by quality and finally that the OOS was located on a school site. Secondary factors for parents included being able to claim back partial childcare costs through Tax free Childcare/Tax Credits/ UC, and the specific activities align with their child's interests.
- The overwhelming reason (88%) for parents needing OOS was to support their work/learning commitments.
- 33% of those accessing OOS said that since Covid-19 pandemic their requirement for this childcare had changed, with 80% then saying that this meant more childcare after school. The main reason for this change was work related, either a change in job or working pattern, but also the survey reported less availability of informal childcare from family.
- The final question in this section asked how OOS requirements might change for parents in the next 2 years. Parents are anticipating greater need for before and after school provision and in the school holidays.

3.20. Finally, the survey results of parents with children with a special educational need or disability:

- A relatively small sample of 16% (105) of respondents said that they had children (Early Years and primary aged) who have SEND.
- Of this sample 30% said their child already had an ECHP while a further 32% said they were going through the assessment process.
- When all respondents were asked if they were aware of the Island's Local Offer webpages for information, advice and support only 20% (136) said they were but numerically this was more than 105 who had said they had a child with SEND.
- The final question was about awareness of the Isle of Wight SENDIASS which offers free, impartial information, advice and support to parents and carers of young people aged 0-25 with SEND, as well as young people themselves. It was encouraging to see that awareness was 30% of the survey's respondents.

3.21. The parental survey is an annual exercise of the EYAT to gauge service users' views on the Early Years childcare marketplace. The results of this survey will help inform work around developing the OOS marketplace, raising further awareness of 2-year-old funding and SEND services.

### Other Childcare

3.22. Other available childcare options for parents could include home childcarers (Ofsted's term for nannies) and creches.

3.23. At this time there are 11 home childcarers (nannies) who have voluntarily registered with Ofsted on the Island, they will provide childcare in the child's own home. Nannies will generally register with Ofsted to allow them to access

funding via Tax Credits, Tax Free Childcare accounts and more recently UC. In a similar way to childminders they can provide a flexible service to parents. The EYAT has little contact with home childcarers as this is not required under the IWC's statutory childcare duties.

- 3.24. Creches are defined as nurseries that offer sessions while the parent(s) are doing something else, such as shopping, leisure activities or training. Currently there are no creches or creche providers either registered or active on the Island, the demand for this type of childcare provision is met by existing providers.
- 3.25. As a tourist destination, the Island has two residential holiday camp operators, PGL Little Canada and 123 Camps, who are voluntarily registered with Ofsted as 'childcare on non-domestic premises'. Their primary market is organised school aged groups, generally from the Mainland, who stay for a week of activities at their respective sites (Wootton and Bembridge).

## Out of School & Holiday Childcare

### Out of School

- 3.26. Out of School (OOS) childcare includes breakfast clubs, after school clubs and holiday play schemes. This form of childcare can operate either on or off a school site and can be run by the school or by a PVI childcare provider or a childminder. There is another Ofsted registered provider in the North East Wight locality that provides day camp holiday provision. The Holiday Activity and Food programme has provided opportunity for growth in the number of providers (up to 14 locations) that support holiday provision, and these are being targeted to register with Ofsted.
- 3.27. Responses to the Data Collection survey (December 2022) show in the table below that Early Years providers offered some form of OOS provision. Those providers offering before and after school provision were either school based providers or PVI providers operating on school premises.

Table 11: Out of School and holiday provision offered by early years providers on the Isle of Wight

Out of school provision	Numbers of Providers
Before & after school	27
Before only	3
After only	3
None	16
Holiday Club	24

(Source – Data Collection Survey December 2022)

- 3.28. Apart from formal after school clubs, parents may also use school-based activity clubs as childcare, but as these clubs provide a specific activity (football, dance, etc) for children over eight, they do not have to be registered and regulated as childcare by Ofsted. This means they are not officially counted as childcare, and parents will be unable to pay for them using childcare support through UC, Tax Credits or through their Tax Free Childcare accounts. Further considerations for working parents looking to access this wrap around childcare include not offering enough hours of care per week, or as they are usually school based not enough weeks per year, to provide reliable year-round childcare.
- 3.29. Going forward the EYAT will undertake an annual survey of OOS provision with primary schools to gather more intelligence about the wider market. The findings of the 2022 Parental survey indicated that parental demand for OOS could grow over the next two years. These surveys will inform further activities to stimulate the OOS/wrap around market available to Island parents from Early Years upwards.

### Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF)

- 3.30. HAF is a DfE funded initiative that has been running on the Island since 2021 but delivered through our partners Hampshire County Council (HCC)'s Connect4communities Programme<sup>24</sup>. The programme's aims are to provide free enriching activities and healthy food for free school meal (FSM) eligible children and young people aged 5 to 16. These activities have been run through the main school holidays of Easter, Summer and Christmas.

Table 12: HAF on Isle of Wight 2021 to 2022

<b>Holiday</b>	<b>Number of Providers</b>	<b>Number of Venues</b>	<b>Number of unique FSM eligible primary aged children</b>	<b>Number of unique FSM eligible Secondary aged young people</b>	<b>Total unique FSM eligible children attending</b>	<b>Estimate of total FSM eligibility*</b>
Easter 2021	8	8	303	49	352	3276
Summer 2021	12	14	1503	163	1666	3276
Christmas 2021	4	4	452	75	527	3276
Easter 2022	7	11	1224	151	1375	3678

<sup>24</sup> [connect4communities | Hampshire County Council](#)

Summer 2022	9	13	1028	386	1414	3678
Christmas 2022	8	10	673	224	897	3790

(Source – HCC HAF DFE returns: \*FSM eligibility from IWC schools attendance data.)

- 3.31. HAF was initially delivered through a grant system for Easter and Summer 2021 but has since moved to a commissioning model based on the HAF Framework and accompanying mini-competition format. Established providers and organisations now bid to deliver programmes of art, cultural and sporting activities at local venues including schools, community centres, and sports centres. HCC’s HAF team have been working with Island based providers as well as established off Island providers to deliver a comprehensive offer to young people on the Island through the school holidays in 2021 and 2022.
- 3.32. The table above outlines the number of unique FSM children attending between 2021 and 2022 and the estimated numbers of FSM eligibility. From Easter 2022 with the change to contracted delivery the scrutiny of the returns from providers had increased and the accuracy of unique children is more reliable as a consequence. The programme has seen an increase in the numbers of secondary aged children attending and generally the same for primary aged. There is one exception: the Summer holiday 2022 compared with Summer 2021 saw 252 less primary aged children attending, this was due to difficulties in contracting providers for the summer 2022 period, despite offering previous providers a grant opportunity to engage. Booking rates from parents was also very low. The programme did not receive any notification of unmet demand. The numbers of free school meals children on the Island have seen a 16% increase since the start of the HAF delivery at Easter 2021 up to Christmas 2022. The commissioning process for 2023/24 will contract for delivery in February 2023 across all three holiday periods. This will give early identification of any gaps in delivery and enable strategies to be put in place to ensure sufficient provision across the year.
- 3.33. Funding allocations have been confirmed by the DFE and the programme will run through the three school holidays in 2023. In 2023 HCC supported by the IWC will seek to build on the firm foundations already established by the HAF programme on the Island. Objectives for 2023 will be ensuring provision is:
- More geographically available across the Island especially in rural areas.
  - Improved take up by young people in secondary education.
  - Greater engagement with local community and Island parents.
  - Improved signposting to relevant local agencies to better support parents.
  - Registers with Ofsted as appropriate for age range of delivery.

## Covid Response

- 3.34. Since the last CSA Report the Covid-19 pandemic has had an impact on the sector. Providers and childminders had to follow Government guidelines but remained open during the lockdowns to support key workers with childcare.
- 3.35. Where needed providers were able to put members of staff on furlough under the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention scheme, as well as apply for support from the IWC run grants programmes and the Bounce Back Loan Scheme (BBLs), offered by several lenders and backed by the Government.
- 3.36. During this period (March 2020 to September 2021) there was no discernible permanent impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on the Island's childcare market, no providers closed and only 4 childminders stopped during this time but citing other reasons for their decisions. Post-pandemic, demand for childcare by parents took the best part of 2022 to recover to pre-Covid levels, while engagement in some form of early years provision by 3 and 4-year-olds is yet to reach pre-Covid-19 levels. The recent Data Collection survey (December 2022) has shown that the Cost of Living crisis has put pressure on many providers around inflation led increases in business costs, especially wages, utilities, rent and consumables.

## New, Transferred, and closed providers

- 3.37. The market has been almost static since the last CSA report was published in January 2020. It has seen several providers exiting the market, the ownership of others moving between existing providers and former staff and limited entry of new provisions into the local market. A breakdown of the numbers of the different types of providers and places available can be found in table 6.
- 3.38. The key business developments in the marketplace include the following:
- Group and school based Settings:
- 5 early years childcare providers have closed losing 164 places and 30 employees.
  - 1 early years childcare provider has opened, offering initially 25 new places but with room to grow to a maximum of 68 places and currently employing 6 practitioners.
  - 5 early years childcare providers (173 Places) have changed ownership and/or status, they have retained 43 employees.

### Childminders:

- 17 childminders (33 places) have de-registered.
  - 2 childminders remain registered but inactive.
  - 10 new childminders (51 places) have registered.
- 3.39. It should be noted that the number of places quoted as lost to market capacity reflects the number of children receiving childcare when the setting closed rather than the capacity of the setting when fully operational.

- 3.40. Overall, the sector's capacity is now 2528 places, a decrease of 4.2% since 2020. This is out of line with national trends (6% increase since 2019) and reflects more on the local market and the changing demographics on the Island. All children from the closing provisions were found places with other group providers and childminders. Further research has established that all former employees of closed provisions have left employment in the sector.
- 3.41. Change in ownership has been another trend in the market with 2 PVI providers (67 Places) being taken over by schools following owner retirement and the withdrawal of a multi-site PVI provider. While 3 PVI providers have changed hands with employees purchasing the businesses from the original owners.
- 3.42. According to the DfE's 2022 Childcare and Early Years Provider Survey<sup>25</sup> the trend nationally is a continued decline in the number of active childminders, down 19% since 2019. The Isle of Wight has followed this trend with a 14% decline in the number of registered childminders from 42 (with 214 places) in December 2019 down to 36 (with 217 places) in December 2022. The overall number of places on offer has remained almost constant during this period. The reasons given for stopping childminding include changes in personal circumstances, retirement and moving out of area. Childminding is not a business that can be sold on to a new operator/provider in the same way a group provision can be. It should also be noted that a number of those childminders deregistering during this time had been inactive for several years.
- 3.43. The Island has seen more childminders operating at scale by taking on assistants (4 childminders have done so to date) or seeking 'Childcare on Domestic Premises' (CoDP) classification (1 Childminder), a multi EY practitioner model that brings more reliability, less reliance on just the sole childminder and in doing so hopefully more flexibility for parents.
- 3.44. The IWC continues to provide training and business support to active childminders and seeks to encourage new entrants to the local market. In recent years this type of childcare has faced a reduction in initial Government financial support, greater regulation by Ofsted and additional economic barriers to entry due to changes in the domestic housing market.
- 3.45. The EYAT anticipate further activity around the ownership of group providers and the potential for further closures as the sector deals with the effects of the Cost of Living crisis. Responses to the Data Collection Survey (December 2022) by childminders indicate that more individuals might exit the market over the coming year, citing rising costs and fixed incomes from EYE funding.

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<sup>25</sup> [Childcare and Early Years provider survey 2022 - DfE](#)

### Opening hours of settings

3.46. Nationally childcare is most commonly delivered between 8am and 6pm on weekdays reflecting the traditional working week. On a daily basis it is usually booked on the 2 session model of morning and/or an afternoon. However, as reported in the 2022 Parental Survey more parents require childcare outside these times to fit with their more flexible work patterns, longer commutes or other caring responsibilities.

Table 13: Opening times of childcare provision

Type of Provision	Number of Providers	Open 8am or earlier weekdays	Open 6pm or later weekdays	Open weekends	Open Term Time only	Open for more than 38+ weeks	EYE funded open for 38+ weeks
Childminders	33	32	16	0	1	32	20
CoDP*	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
Nursery classes in schools	12	3	0	0	11	0	0
Maintained nursery schools	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
PVI nurseries	37	35	12	0	1	36	36

(Source- Data Collection December 2022 \*CoDP = Childcare on Domestic Premises, Ofsted)

3.47. The above table illustrates a still fairly flexible childcare market allowing parents to access their childcare around their work commitments, yet there remain some key limitations in the market around early evening, weekend, and school holiday periods. Other key changes since the last report include:

- More flexibility by school based providers to cater for early starts.
- All school-based providers remain term time only.
- Fewer PVI providers offering provision after 6.00pm.
- No provider offers weekend provision.
- All but 1 PVI providers have gone to an all-year operating model.

3.48. Based on anecdotal evidence from Jobcentre Work Coaches who report that weekends and the summer holidays still provide a challenge for parents to find suitable childcare, this usually results in a mixture of paid for and informal family childcare to try and bridge this period.

### Vacancies & Waiting Lists

3.49. Vacancy rates can change rapidly on a day-to-day basis. The EYAT have asked providers to report vacancies to the team so we can help promote them, however not all providers choose to do this. Providers will use social media,

parental messaging groups and conversations with parents to help fill available sessions. As already noted, many providers will operate at below capacity due to a variety of operational models.

- 3.50. In general, vacancy rates are higher in the Autumn, when 4 year old children move on to a school place. Anecdotal evidence from the local Jobcentres report that more parents commit to re-entering the jobs market in the autumn when more childcare places become available.
- 3.51. The EYAT are aware of 22 providers and 9 childminders operating a waiting list system as of December 2022. Group providers reported in the recent Data Collection survey that recruitment and staffing with its impact on ratios were barriers to increasing the number of places available. The EYAT has not received any feedback from parents that they are struggling to find childcare places. Further work is required with these providers to understand the high need for waiting lists and to explore some tailored solutions for providers.

### **Fees & Charges**

- 3.52. Not all Early Years childcare is provided through funded entitlements, for example parents working full time might need to access further hours above the 30 hour limit, they may have children under 2-years-old or due to parental income maybe unable to access the funded entitlement.
- 3.53. The table below details the average cost per hour, reported to us by providers in the Data Collection survey in December 2022. Providers will vary prices based on the number of hours booked, with reductions for longer hours, or discounts for siblings. The national figures are on the basis of a parent accessing 25 hours of childcare per week, for 3 and 4-year-olds the universal entitlement applies (15 hours) and parent is paying for 10 hours. These average local figures from 2019 and 2022 do contain a wide range of fees being charged by individual providers and childminders and due to the small size of the local market, it only takes 2+ outliers to produce a significant % change.
- 3.54. As expected over a 2 year period with higher inflation, the price per hour has increased, for nursery providers the hourly rate has gone up between 6.5% and 8% for under 3-year-olds, but it has risen by 41% for 3 and 4-year-olds to bring them broadly in line with younger age range and the wider national market. This compares to a national increase of between 13-15% across the age ranges. The price per hour varies across Island providers between a base of £4.25 and the highest at £7.64 per hour depending on the age of the child.



Table 14: Average cost of childcare by nursery providers on the Isle of Wight, South East and England.

Age of child	Average price per hour – Nursery providers					
	Isle of Wight		% Change	England		% Change
	2019	2022		2019	2022	
	0-2-year-olds	£5.30	£5.73	8%	£5.62	£6.37
2-year-olds	£5.10	£5.43	6.5%	£5.39	£6.21	15%
3 and 4-year-olds	£4.00	£5.65	41%	£5.18	£5.93	15%

(Source – Data Collection 2022, Childcare and Early Years Provider Survey 2022)

- 3.55. In 2019 childminders' prices on the Island were significantly lower than the national figures, reflecting lower parental incomes on the Island, so there is an element of catch up taking place since the last survey. The hourly rate has risen on average by 14% for 0- 2-year-olds and up 38% for 3-4-year-olds over the last two years, well above the 8-9% increase during the same period nationally. The price per hour charged by individual Island childminders varies between £3.50 up to £6.50 per hour in each age range. Many childminders have reported in the recent Data Collection survey resistance to raising prices further as they believe parents will not or cannot pay any more for childcare.

Table 15: Average cost of childcare by childminders on the Isle of Wight, South East and England

Age of child	Average price per hour – childminders					
	Isle of Wight		% Change	England		% Change
	2019	2022		2019	2022	
	0-2-year-olds	£4.00	£4.56	14%	£4.92	£5.36
2-year-olds	£4.00	£4.55	14%	£4.88	£5.28	8%
3 and 4-year-olds	£4.00	£4.51	13%	£4.80	£5.23	9%

(Source – Data Collection 2022, Childcare and Early Years Provider Survey 2022)

- 3.56. Neither DfE or Ofsted provide formal regulation of non-funded childcare fees or charges made by providers, including for before or after school clubs. DfE does provide guidance to EYE providers around fees and charges, advising such settings on what is or not included in the free entitlement and to have a clear, fair, and transparent policy in place.
- 3.57. In 2017 DfE revised the statutory guidance on what is included in the funded entitlement, and what provider can charge for (meals and snacks) and what they can seek as a voluntary contribution from parents for items such as consumables etc. Due to the Cost of Living crisis these revenue streams have become more important for providers to ensure financial sustainability.
- 3.58. As already reported in table 11, 33 early years providers currently deliver either or both before and after school provision. A better insight into the wider market for out of school provision will be gained from the Out of School survey seeking information from the Island’s primary schools.
- 3.59. The following table shows the average prices per hour for breakfast clubs (before school) and after school clubs delivered by nursery providers, the line for childminders covers both before and after school as part of their longer standard working day. An average cost of £4.00 per hour was reported in the previous CSA, a small rise in the cost of breakfast/ before school provision but a more substantial rise in the hourly rate for after school provision. More work will be required with providers to better understand the dynamics of this part of the market, not just in pricing but where and what the demand is across the Island.

Table 16: Average cost of before and after school provision delivered by early years providers

Type of provision	Average price per hour				
	Isle of Wight			South East	England
	2019	2022	% change		
Before school	£4.00	£4.29	+7%	£4.20	£4.45
After school	£4.00	£4.98	+24.5%	£4.20	£4.45
Childminders	£4.00	£4.65	+16%	£4.76	£4.74

(Source- Data Collection Survey December 2022, Coram Childcare Survey 2022<sup>26</sup>)

<sup>26</sup> [Childcare Survey 2020 | Coram Family and Childcare](#)

- 3.60. In conclusion the reasons for the price rises for non-funded childcare are varied both sector specific and an example of the impact of the Cost of Living crisis on business. Island prices are coming more broadly in line with national and regional averages. It is an area that will be closely monitored through 2023 to understand better the factors driving prices rises and the response of parents already under considerable financial pressure.

### **Parental Information, Advice and Guidance**

- 3.61. The IWC has a statutory requirement under Section 12 of the Childcare Act 2006 to have a Family Information Service (FIS) in place to provide free impartial information and signposting for families with children aged 0 to 19 (up to 25 years for those with additional needs). The current site hosting FIS and the Local Offer covering all providers offering funded childcare places can be found on this link [Local Offer \(iow.gov.uk\)](https://www.iow.gov.uk/local-offer)
- 3.62. The IWC has invested in a new platform to host FIS and the Local Offer which is due to be launched in March 2023. The site will be regularly updated and will contain a directory of extra support services open to families and for the first time the site will be user friendly for mobile users. In addition, the details and appropriate Local Offer information from HAF providers will be added in due course.

## 4. Quality of childcare on the Isle of Wight

### Background

- 4.1. Statutory guidance states that all children should have the opportunity to take up their Government funded hours in high quality early years provisions.
- 4.2. Ofsted suspended inspections due to the Covid-19 in March 2020 and finally returned to a full programme of inspections in 2022.
- 4.3. Ofsted carry out regular inspections to evaluate the overall quality and standards of early years provision in line with the principles and requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework (EYFSSF)<sup>27</sup>.
- 4.4. Since 2019 Ofsted have started to use the EIF (Education Inspection Framework)<sup>28</sup> to help provide consistency across inspections of early years and childcare providers, maintained schools, academies, non-association independent schools, and further education and skills providers in England.
- 4.5. Going forward Ofsted have announced in their new five year strategy for 2022 -2027<sup>29</sup> that there will be a greater focus on Early Years in terms of evidence gathering to inform policies, they will develop specialist training to demonstrate what high quality early education looks like, and they will also look to raise awareness and understanding with the wider public of education and care in children's' early years.

### Ofsted outcomes: Providers

- 4.6. The current data shows 98% of Early Years education providers on non-domestic premises on the Island had inspection outcomes of Good or Outstanding (January 2023). The Island is above the national average figure (96%) for this part of the Early Years register, and the Island also matches the same national percentages found to be Outstanding (18%) or Good (78%). The chart below also illustrates the historical consistency of Ofsted judgements on the Island showing the consistent high-quality childcare being delivered in pre-schools. The Island also compares favourably with our closest statistical neighbour in achieving better inspection grades from Ofsted.

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<sup>27</sup> [Early years foundation stage \(EYFS\) statutory framework 2021 - DfE - GOV.UK](#)

<sup>28</sup> [Education inspection framework \(EIF\) 2022 - DfE - GOV.UK](#)

<sup>29</sup> [Ofsted strategy 2022–27 - Ofsted - GOV.UK](#)

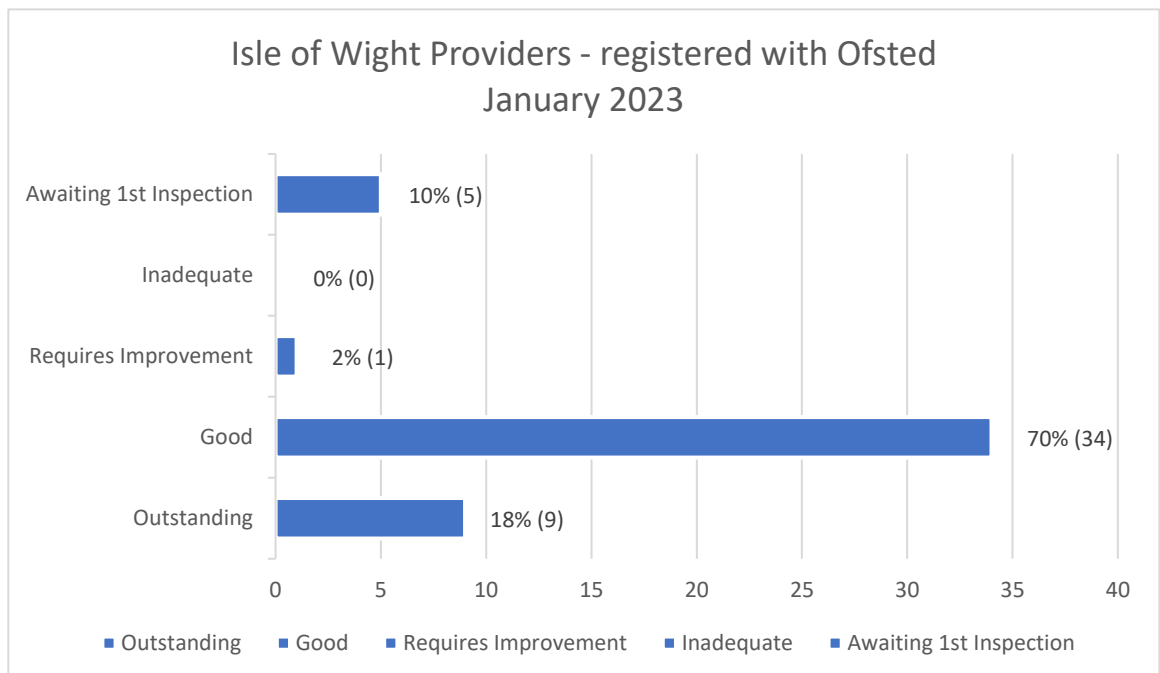
Table 17: Comparison of Ofsted judgements locally, regionally, and nationally

Area	Total number inspected	% Outstanding	% Good	% Good and Outstanding	% Requires Improvement	% Inadequate
All England	40,030	16	81	96	2	1
South East	7,692	17	80	97	2	1
<b>Isle of Wight</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
Statistical Neighbour (2021)	51	21	53	74	4	4

(Source – Ofsted)

- 4.7. There are currently 5 providers awaiting their first inspections, one is a new provider and the other 4 have changed ownership and are considered newly registered with a new Ofsted registration number, however the service continues and is not closed. Due to the size of the Island market, the 2% that ‘Requires Improvement’ represents just 1 provider.

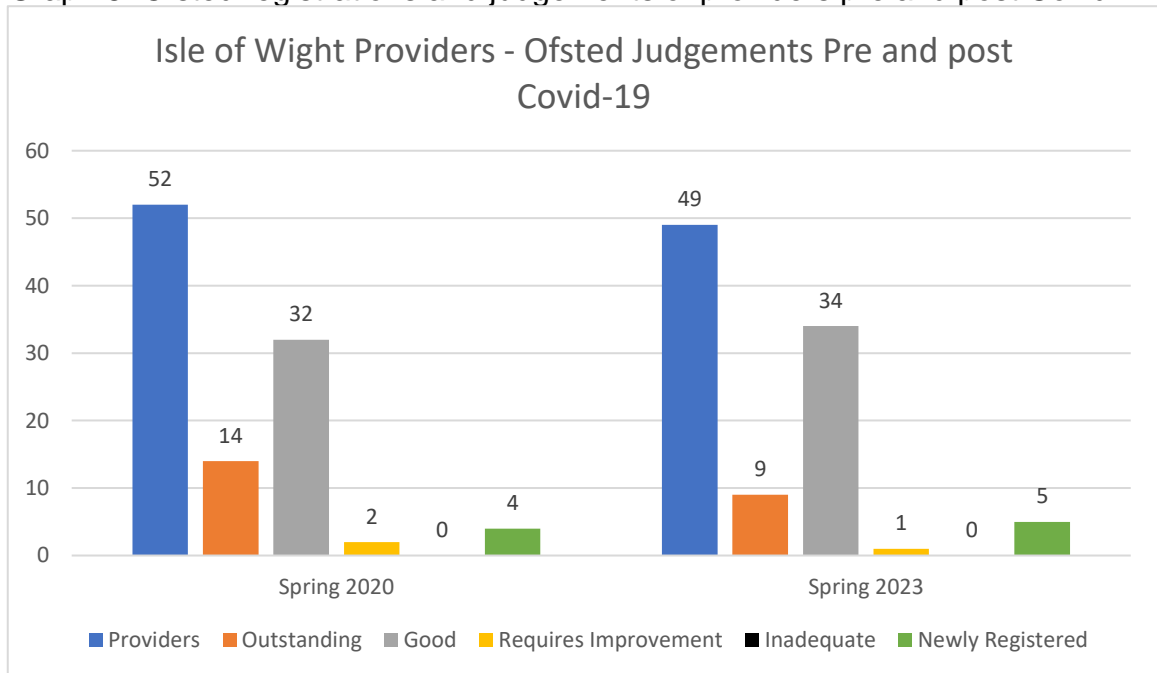
Graph 7: All Ofsted registered providers as of January 2023



(Source - Ofsted)

4.8. Over the past two years as shown in Graph 8 there has been a recognisable shift in Ofsted’s inspection grading for providers on the Island while still maintaining 96-98% at the highest two grades. Prior to Covid 29% of those inspected achieved Outstanding with 67% rated Good, now the Island has 20% and 78% respectively at these grades. The main reason for this change was the introduction of Ofsted’s revised Inspection Framework which made it more difficult to be judged Outstanding as the new Early Years Framework had to be embedded in settings’ practice.

Graph 8: Ofsted registrations and judgements of providers pre and post Covid

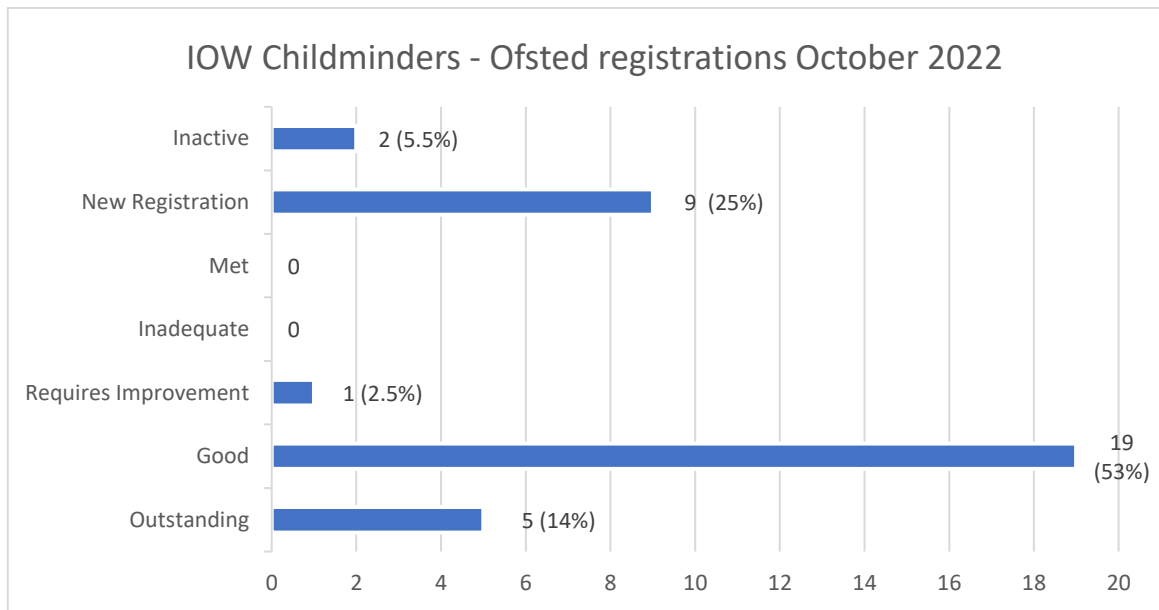


(Source - Ofsted)

### Ofsted Outcomes: Childminders

4.9. As of October 2022, 96% of childminders that had been inspected had achieved outcomes of Good or Outstanding which is broadly in line with the national figure of 97%. There is one childminder that Requires Improvement and none currently that have either Met or have been rated as Inadequate by Ofsted. A further 9 new childminders are awaiting their first Ofsted inspection, this will happen within the first 30 months of registering, and there are 2 childminders currently inactive on the Island.

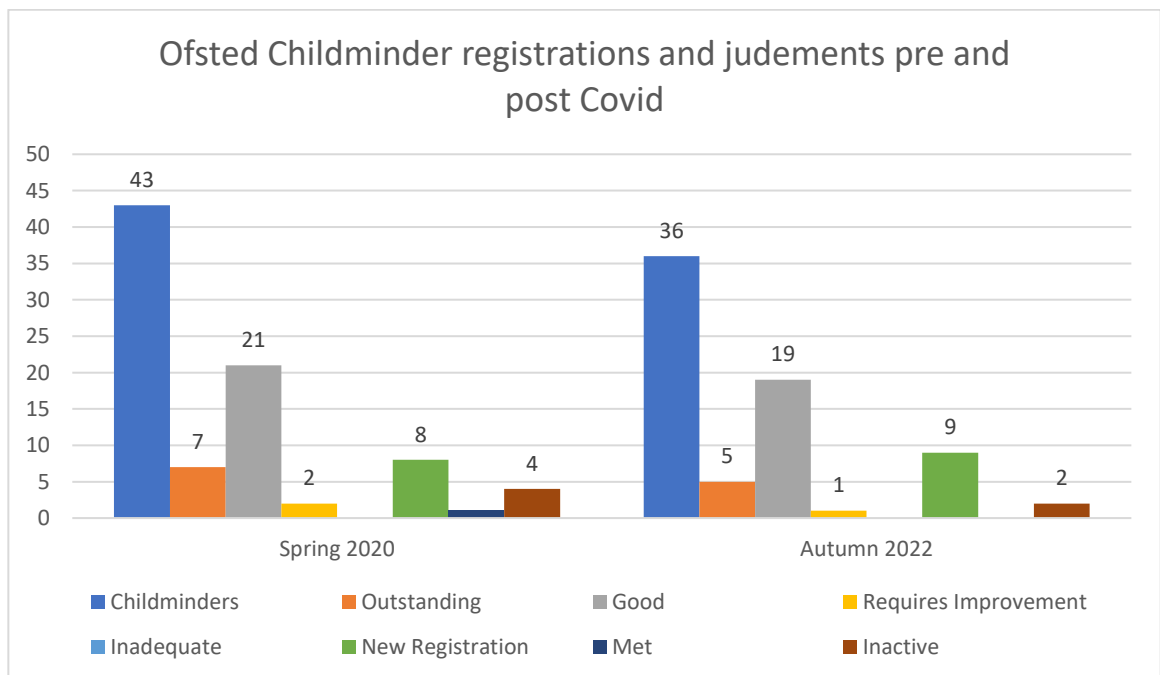
Graph 9: All Ofsted registered Childminders on the Isle of Wight



(Source - Ofsted)

4.10. The next graph illustrates the historical change in the childminder sector pre and post Covid-19, while the total number of childminders has reduced by 5 the quality of provision judged as Good or Outstanding by Ofsted has improved from 90% to 96% on those childminders that have been inspected. In line with local settings the figures show a shift to a Good inspection grade (67.5% to 76%) following the introduction of the revised Inspection Framework by Ofsted.

Graph 10: Ofsted Childminder registrations and Judgements pre and post Covid



(Source - Ofsted)

- 4.11. Childminders can choose to register with Ofsted or register as part of a Childminder agency (CMA), currently no childminder on the Island is registered with a CMA.
- 4.12. Any Early Years provider or childminder receiving a 'Requires Improvement' or 'Inadequate' grading by Ofsted is offered an immediate package of support by the EYAT to address the issues raised in the inspection.
- 4.13. In both parts of the marketplace, settings and childminders, the Island's Ofsted inspection figures have maintained a consistent trend of being in line with the national data.
- 4.14. Work with the Out of School (OOS) childcare market is at an early stage, and the current Out of School survey will inform a clearer picture of the range and quality of provision available to parents on the Island. Within the Early Years marketplace 33 providers and 27 childminders offered OOS and/or holiday provision.
- 4.15. The HAF programme is seeking to raise the quality of the OOS provision on the Island, it is engaging with and is now requiring providers to register with either of Ofsted's childcare or Early Years registers.

#### Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) outcomes

- 4.16. The evidence shows having good quality early years education has a real impact upon outcomes for young children especially from disadvantaged backgrounds. This had been measured against a series of outcomes (Good Level of Development - GLD) in areas of learning (Early Learning Goals – ELG) at the end of EYFS/Year R. It gives primary schools a summative assessment at the end of Year R of the progress of a child as they enter Key Stage 1 in the prime areas of learning, specifically literacy and mathematics.
- 4.17. The previous Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) data had suggested that children on the Island do the same and, often better than the national average measured by the Good Level of Development (GLD). Covid-19 meant that the DfE cancelled the 2020-2021 assessment for that year's Year R.

Table 18: GLD outcomes for the Isle of Wight compared to national averages

% of Year R achieving GLD			
	2017	2018	2019
England	71%	71.5%	71.8%
<b>Isle of Wight</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>73.0%</b>	<b>71.5%</b>
<i>Difference</i>	0	+1.5	-0.3

(Source - DfE)

- 4.18. In September 2021, the EYFS was reformed and children are now assessed against significantly revised Early Learning Goals (ELG). Due to the substantial changes made comparisons against previous scoring of GLDs are



no longer valid. The first results from the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile 2021- 2022<sup>30</sup> are shown in the table below, with the Island’s reception year broadly in line with both the national average and the statistical neighbour’s average score.

Table 19: Revised GLD outcomes compared to national and statistical neighbour averages

Area	2021-2022	Difference
Isle of Wight	63.2%	-2%
England	65.2%	0%
Statistical Neighbour	63.7%	-0.5%

(Source – Early Years Foundation Stage Profile, DfE)

## Safeguarding

- 4.19. All settings and childminders follow safeguarding guidance in line with Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership (IOWSCP) and Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth, and Southampton (HIPS)<sup>31</sup> procedures.
- 4.20. The EYAT team ensure that all settings have a safeguarding policy in place, a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and are aware of the referral process when raising a concern locally. It is a requirement of Ofsted registration that all providers and childminders must be aware of and use the ‘Safeguarding in Early Years, Education and Skills’ guidance.
- 4.21. Further support is provided through the team’s ongoing training and continuous professional development programme for the sector, providers, and practitioners. All practitioners must have undertaken safeguarding training, which should be renewed every 3 years.
- 4.22. Safeguarding audits are mandatory requirements for all providers to ensure they are compliant with section 3 of EYFSS<sup>32</sup>. This is backed up by safeguarding visits by the EYAT on a 4 year rolling programme to ensure processes and paperwork are all in place.
- 4.23. The EYAT report back to the IOWSCP annually on any trends and recommendations on safeguarding in the sector locally.

## Workforce

### Existing workforce

- 4.24. The DfE requires providers to inform them of the qualification status of their staff through the Statutory Early Years census return. Below is a table which illustrates the levels of qualifications that have been obtained by Early Years Practitioners on the Island and reported via the EYAT’s Data Collection survey

<sup>30</sup> [Early years foundation stage profile results: 2021 to 2022 - DfE - GOV.UK](#)

<sup>31</sup> [Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton Safeguarding Partnership](#)

<sup>32</sup> [Early years foundation stage \(EYFS\) statutory framework 2021 - DfE - GOV.UK](#)

(December 2022). The headlines from most recent survey of the workforce's qualifications are:

- Overall, the size of the workforce has shrunk by 12% from 555 employees in 2019 to 490 employees, this is in line with the reduction in the number of active providers.
- 83% of the Island's Early Years workforce hold a level 3 and above qualification.
- The Level 6 and Level 7+ qualifications are concentrated in school-based providers with 21% (15) of the schools early years workforce at these levels compared to 5% (19) of the PVI group providers early years workforce and 19% (7) of the childminders.
- School based providers tend to have less unqualified staff, only 5.5% are unqualified, compared to 7% of the workforce in PVI providers.
- The childminders survey in December 2022 was more comprehensive than previous ones covering all childminders (plus assistants) and not just the ones in receipt of Early Years Education (EYE) funding.
- The new childminders have not changed the qualification profile of this part of the sector which remains less qualified.

Table 20: IOW Childminder, School, and providers staff qualifications December 2022

Qualification	School based providers	PVI Providers	Childminders (including assistants)	Market Combined Totals	
				Qualifications Totals	Level of Qualification % of total staff number
Unqualified	4	28	13	45	8.5%
No of staff that have a full and relevant early years level 2 qualification/s	3	34	4	41	8%
No of staff that have a full and relevant early years level 3 qualification/s	42	285	3	330	63%
No of staff that have a full and relevant early years level 3 qualification/s and in management	8	52	10	70	13%

No of staff with early year's professional status (Level 6)	4	5	4	13	2%
No of staff with qualified teacher status (Level 7)	7	9	3	19	3.5%
No of staff with early year's teacher status (Level 7)	4	5	0	9	2%
<b>Total number of staff</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>100%</b>

(Source – Data Collection Dec 2022)

4.25. The EYAT also asked in the recent Data Collection survey a number of additional questions around whether providers had issues with recruitment and also if they had employed Ukrainian practitioners in the last year. 10 providers indicated that they had experienced problems in recruitment during 2022, with just 1 provider taking on a Ukrainian refugee during the year.

4.26. The EYAT continues to support this well qualified workforce with an ongoing programme of continued professional development, alongside making sure providers and practitioners are aware and able to access external training programmes from DfE.

### Future workforce

4.27. The Island has two well established post 16 training providers (Isle of Wight College and HTP Apprenticeship College) delivering full time campus-based courses (Levels 2 and 3) and work-based apprenticeships (Levels 2, 3 & 5) with local childcare providers.

4.28. The following table provides student numbers since September 2020 on full time courses on the Island. Feedback from the training providers indicates lower interest in childcare courses this academic year for the following reasons, students are seeking courses that will be gateways into higher paid careers and secondly apprehensive about the implications of the new T-level with its higher academic requirements.

Table 21: Numbers of students studying f/t childcare course on the Isle of Wight

Course Level	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
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Level 1 & 2	69	62	40
Level 3	45	36	22
T Level	0	0	17
Total No of Students	114	98	79

(Source – IW College, HTP Apprenticeship College)

- 4.29. The IW College introduced the Government’s new T Levels in September 2022 with HTP due to follow in the 2023-24 academic year, this new qualification replaces the existing Level 3 qualification. T Levels are 2-year courses which are taken after GCSEs and are broadly equivalent in size to 3 A Levels. These courses have been developed in collaboration with employers and education providers so that the content better meets the needs of business and prepares students for entry into skilled employment. Childcare T Levels will offer students practical and knowledge-based learning at the college and on-the-job experience through an industry placement of at least 315 hours equivalent to 45 days.
- 4.30. The next table provides current childcare apprenticeship numbers from both training providers. It should be noted that these figures represent current apprentices, there remains as with all sectors a significant ‘churn’ as young people that start an apprenticeship but will then drop out as they rethink their career choices or find alternative employment.

Table 22: Numbers of childcare apprentices on the Isle of Wight 2022

<b>Apprenticeship Level</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>
Level 2	8
Level 3	18
Level 4	2
Level 5	8
Total No of Apprentices	36

(Source – IW College, HTP Apprenticeship College)

- 4.31. The IWC supports future childcare & early years practitioners through the apprenticeship model working with providers that are part of maintained schools to access the IWC’s Apprenticeship Levy.
- 4.32. Further routes for career progression are provided by the IW College who offer an Early Years Level 5 Foundation Degree in partnership with University of Portsmouth as a stepping stone to achieving Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS) or Qualified Teaching Status (QTS) for primary and above.
- 4.33. Most secondary schools on the Island offer BTEC levels 1 and/or 2 in Child Development and Care from Year 9 as part of Pathway Process for Key Stage

4 study. This firmly embeds childcare and Early Years as viable and visible career option.

### Recruitment

- 4.34. Job vacancies in the sector remain at a low level with peak recruitment around the beginning of each academic year. Providers are not required to report vacancies, so the EYAT monitor local and national employment data on a regular basis. In December 2022, there were 2 vacancies for practitioners with 2 providers being advertised locally and online.
- 4.35. During 2021-22 the DWP's local Jobcentres have supported the sector in helping with recruitment. They ran a Childcare Sector Based Work Academy programme (SWAPs) that seeks to attract older workers into or back into employment opportunities in the sector. A SWAP consists of three elements pre-employment training in the sector, work experience and a potential job interview, and lasts for up to 6 weeks. Several childcare providers accessed the DWP's Kickstart programme that provided 6 months paid employment for a young person under 25 on Universal Credit (UC). This was useful support for the sector recovering from Covid-19 and an entry level opportunity for young people to gain valuable insight and work experience in this sector.
- 4.36. Feedback from schools and both training providers report continued interest from young people in the available courses, apprenticeships, and career opportunities in this sector. Anecdotal evidence from training providers and the Jobcentres is flagging up the sector's continued low pay as an issue reducing numbers of new full-time students at post 16 and as a barrier for older workers looking to enter the vocation.
- 4.37. The 2022 Data Collection survey reported 1 in 3 settings (excluding childminders) were experiencing issues with recruiting staff but as already noted there is a very low level of formal job recruitment taking place. Anecdotal feedback from providers reports that they are losing higher qualified staff attracted by higher wages in other sectors and then experience a higher turnover of younger replacement staff. Further work with settings is planned in 2023 to identify the issues around recruitment as part of a wider workforce development strategy.

### Surveys

- 4.38. The EYAT undertake a number of surveys of parents/service users and providers across the year to monitor the state of the marketplace for childcare on the Island, they include the following:
- Early Years Census (annual)
  - Data Collection (annual)
  - Parental Survey (annual)
  - Out of School Childcare (annual)
- 4.39. This CSA draws on a range of recent information and data gathered as part of the annual Data Collection survey completed by all settings and childminders on the Island in December 2022.

4.40. While DfE and Ofsted undertake their own surveys of the sector which have also informed the IWC's sufficiency assessment.

- Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey (annual)
- Childcare and Early Years Parents Survey (annual)<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> [Childcare and Early Years parental survey 2022 - DfE](#)

## 5. Funded Early Years Education on the Isle of Wight

### Introduction

- 5.1. The current Government funded regime for Early Years education has evolved over the last 10 years based around the core offer of the 'Universal Entitlement' first introduced in September 2010.
- 5.2. The DfE has funded local authorities for their expenditure on schools, early years and children and young people with high needs through a specific grant known as the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), made under section 14 of the Education Act 2002. Within the DSG the DfE provides local authorities with 6 specific funding streams which together form the early years block of the DSG. They are:
  - the 15 hours entitlement for disadvantaged 2-year-olds.
  - the universal 15 hours entitlement for all 3 and 4-year-olds.
  - the additional 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of 3 and 4-year-olds.
  - Early Years pupil premium (EYPP).
  - Disability Access Fund (DAF).
  - Maintained nursery school (MNS) supplementary funding.
- 5.3. Within these funding streams, the Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF) sets the hourly funding rates that each local authority is paid to deliver the universal and additional entitlements for 3 and 4-year-olds, with a separate formula that sets the hourly funding rates for 2-year-olds.
- 5.4. All providers (settings and childminders) in receipt of direct funding, otherwise known as Early Years Education (EYE) funding, must sign annually the IWC's Terms and Conditions document which is based on DfE guidance. This requires providers to work with the IWC and provide market information to help the IWC manage the market better as well as provide data for DfE. All school based and PVI providers are signed up to access EYE funding, however only 24 of 34 childminders take children with EYE funding.
- 5.5. The table below is a snapshot of the number of funded and non-funded places reported in the Data Collection survey (December 2022) and illustrates how important EYE funding is to most childcare providers. In future EYAT will continue to collect more information on non-funded places to build up a more detailed data set of this part of the market. That will then allow the EYAT to make comparisons and track trends in parental demand for non-funded childcare.

Table 23: Number of funded and non-funded childcare places on the IOW December 2022.

Type of Provision	No of funded places			No of non-funded places			
	2 year olds	3-4 year olds	% of total places	0-2 year olds	2-3 year olds	3-4 year olds	% of total places
Childminders	18	67	34%	83	69	17	66%
School based providers	44	170	79%	12	40	4	21%
PVI providers	249	915	59%	394	381	52	41%

(Source – Data Collection December 2022)

- 5.6. Providers and childminders can also seek indirect Government support through parents who may claim back a percentage of eligible childcare costs through the support they are claiming, at this time these are tax free childcare accounts (extra 20%), Tax Credits (up to 70%) and Universal Credit (up to 85%). Some of the costs of non-funded places included in the table above will be claimed back in that manner by parents.

### Universal Entitlement

- 5.7. The 'Universal Entitlement' covers all three-year-olds from the term after their third birthday and all four-year-olds, they are eligible for up to 15 funded hours of childcare or up to 570 hours per child's eligible birthday year. This equates to 15 hours over a minimum of 38 weeks and can also be stretched over 52 weeks to cover school holidays.

Table 24: Number of 3 & 4 years olds in some form of EY education

Year	Number of 3 & 4 year olds benefiting from some early years education	Percentage of 3 & 4 year olds benefitting from some early years education			
		Isle of Wight	Statistical Neighbour	South East	England
2019	2639	96%	95%	93%	92%
2020	2448	93%	93%	95%	92%
2021	2287	91%	90%	95%	93%
2022	2295	93%	92%	94%	93%



(Source – LA Interactive tool<sup>34</sup>)

- 5.8. The take up of early years education hours under the Universal Entitlement on the Isle of Wight has remained fairly static over the last three years in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic. This illustrates that 7% of the population are not accessing any Early Years education, this equates to approximately 172 children. However, when compared to national and regional data the Island is performing well, the Island is in line with its statistical neighbour on this measure.

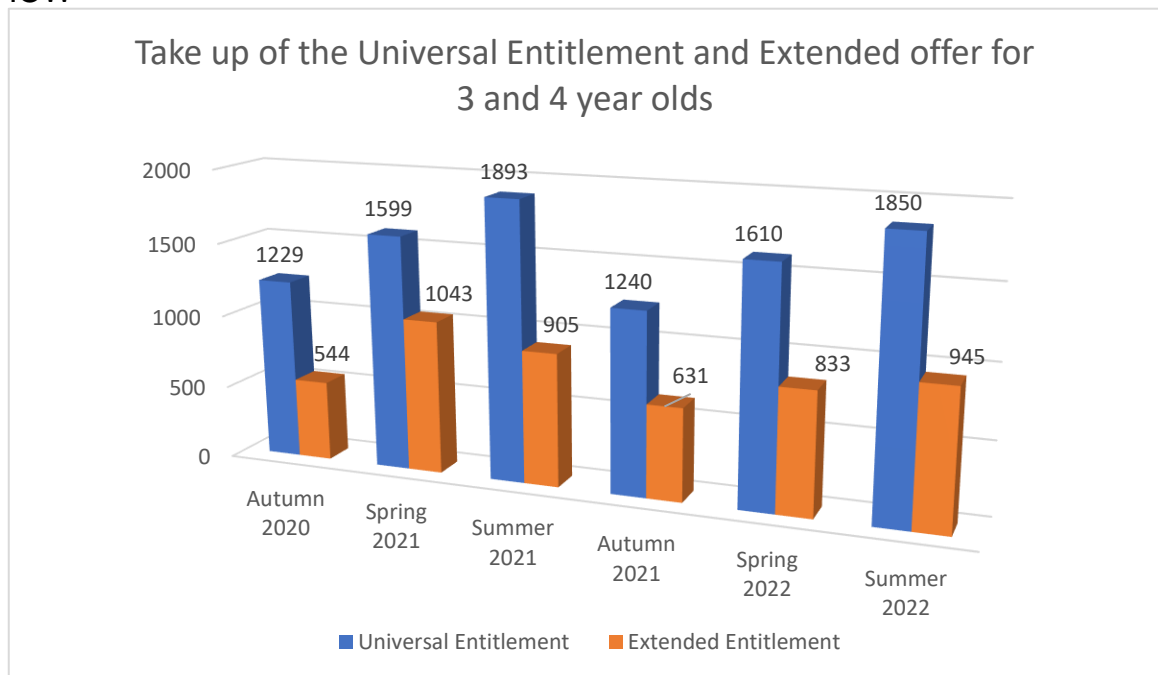
### **Extended Early years Entitlement (30 hours)**

- 5.9. In September 2017 the DfE added to the ‘Universal Entitlement’ with an extended 15 hours entitlement for working families. This provided eligible families with the opportunity for children (aged 3 and 4-years-old) to have up to 30 funded hours of childcare per week. Eligibility for the additional 15 hours was based on both parents or the sole parent being in work. A parent can apply when the child is 2 years and 36 weeks for this additional childcare support.
- 5.10. To qualify each parent or a lone parent would need to earn an average weekly minimum income of £152.00 per week (16 hours x National Living Wage) for over 23’s and less than £100,000 per year. Parents would then need an eligibility code from HMRC, and this would then be verified by their childcare provider before the funding period starts 4 times a year.
- 5.11. The graph below shows the take up of the Universal Entitlement of 15 hours and then alongside how many have then qualified for a further 15 hours under the Extended offer on the Island. It shows a consistent level of take up term on term for 3 and 4-year-olds over the past 2 academic years, with the working parents of 51% of the children then stretching the hours to 30. In part this reflects the seasonal nature of employment on the Island, the tourist season running from Easter through until the October half term.

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<sup>34</sup> [Local authority interactive tool \(LAIT\) 2022 - DfE - GOV.UK](#)

Graph 11: Take up of the Universal Entitlement and Extended offer on the IOW



(Source - EYAT)

### Two year old Entitlement

- 5.12. The Two year old entitlement was first introduced in 2013 by the DfE and paid through Early Years National Funding Formula as part of the DSG.
- 5.13. The offer aims to improve disadvantaged children’s social and cognitive outcomes so that by the age of five they are as ready as their more advantaged peers to start and fully benefit from school. This is delivered through accessing 15 hours of funding in a high-quality Early Years provision per week or 570 hours across the year.
- 5.14. This entitlement is subject to the parent being in receipt of a qualifying benefit or if a child is looked after by the Local Authority or receives Disability Living Allowance. Eligible 2-year-olds can access the funded childcare from the term after their second birthday, for example a child born on January 20<sup>th</sup> will be eligible for funding from the beginning of the summer term after Easter.

Table 25: Numbers of 2 year olds benefiting from funded Early Years education

Year	Number of 2 year olds benefiting from funded early years education	Percentage 2 year olds benefitting from funded early years education			
		Isle of Wight	Statistical Neighbour	South East	England
2019	320	69%	73%	68%	68%
2020	323	76%	75.5%	69%	69%
2021	280	67%	65%	61%	62%
2022	300	77%	76%	69%	72%

(Source – LA Interactive tool, Dec 2022)

- 5.15. The take up of two year old funding on the Isle of Wight as a percentage of the population for the age can be seen in the above table, take up has significantly increased over the last year, placing the Island well above regional and national averages, and in line with our statistical neighbour. The current headcount data from Autumn 2022 confirms this has improved further to 325 children (83%) claiming. 45 School based and PVI providers and 9 childminders offer places to 2 year olds and are registered to claim the available funding.
- 5.16. The IWC receives a list 6/7 times a year from the DWP of potentially entitled parents in receipt of a DWP benefit. The DWP list now includes email addresses and mobile phone numbers so potentially entitled parents are now contacted using these contacts via the Gov.uk/notify service instead of the letter based approach which was previously used. These messages contain a link to the Citizen’s Portal for parents to make an application. Going forward with the migration of the legacy benefits to Universal Credit (UC) this relationship with the DWP will allow us to develop as a stronger relationship with this group of parents to enable them to access funded quality childcare.

### Early Years Pupil Premium

- 5.17. The Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) provides extra funding for 3 and 4-year-old children whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits or children who have been in care or adopted from care. The provider may be entitled to up to £302 per year of funding to support 3 and 4-year-old child's development, learning and care to ensure they are ‘school ready’.
- 5.18. The table below shows the numbers of 3 and 4-year-old children where local providers have made a claim for EYPP since summer 2020 term. The highest numbers of child claims will be in the spring and summer terms with relatively low figures in the Autumn term once the 4-year-olds have moved onto Year R in schools. Post Covid-19 there is a clear upward trend in the numbers claiming as parents and providers become more aware of this additional funding.

Table 26: Number of children per term with EYPP claimed

Term	Numbers of children	% EYPP of total population	Total population of 3 & 4 year olds
Summer 2020	234	9%	2630
Autumn 2020	161	6%	
Spring 2021	226	9%	2510
Summer 2021	357	14%	
Autumn 2021	213	8%	
Spring 2022	303	12%	2460
Summer 2022	374	15%	
Autumn 2022	223*	9%	

(Source – EYAT, \* provisional figure)

- 5.19. In December 2022 the number of applicants for the Autumn 2022 term reached provisional figure of 223, further work needs to be done on mapping areas and providers where this funding should be best deployed to support children in settings.

### Other Funding

- 5.20. There are further indirect funding options for childcare available from the Government (through HMRC and DWP) depending on parents' circumstances and incomes. These should be applied for directly by parents from the relevant organisation. Going forward more work needs to be done to raise parental and provider awareness of these other indirect government funding for childcare costs.

### Tax Free childcare

- 5.21. This financial support is for parents whose income are above the eligibility for help either through Tax Credits or UC. The parent is required to open an online childcare account through Gov.uk. The parent will have the account topped up by the Government on the basis that for every £8.00 the parent pays in, the Government will provide a further £2.00, this must be spent with approved childcare providers (Ofsted registered) up to £2000 in a year or £500 in a quarter. This can also be used in combination with the 30 hours of free childcare to pay for any additional hours. The scheme does require parents to renew eligibility every quarter.
- 5.22. The table below shows the annual number of families and children where Tax Free Childcare accounts had been opened and used on the Island. There has

been a year on year growth in numbers, which is an encouraging sign of parents' awareness of this Government support.

Table 27: Number of Tax Free Childcare accounts opened and used on the Isle of Wight

Year	Annual number of families with used Tax Free Childcare Accounts	Annual number of children with used Tax Free Childcare Accounts
2017- 2018	100	120
2018- 2019	250	305
2019- 2020	470	585
2020- 2021	510	625
2021- 2022	675	825

(Source – HMRC<sup>35</sup>)

- 5.23. Childcare providers also need to be signed up to the scheme to receive payment via this method. Providers are not required to report on registration so the EYAT is not aware of how many providers and childminders are currently registered for payments, future Data Collection surveys will be asking this question of providers.
- 5.24. Despite year-on-year improvements in the numbers of families using the scheme on the Island, HMRC estimate less than 50% those eligible nationally have opened or used a tax free childcare account<sup>36</sup>.

### Tax Credits

- 5.25. Working Tax Credits (WTC) and Child Tax Credits (CTC) are working age benefits administered by HMRC. It provided a top up to parents on a low income both in (WTC and CTC) and out of work (CTC only). Through Tax Credits a working parent can claim back up to 70% of eligible childcare costs from an approved childcare provider (Ofsted registered) through an additional 'element' to their Working Tax Credit payment, this equates up to £122.50 (1 child) and £210.00 (for 2 or more children) per week. The benefit has now been closed to new entrants.
- 5.26. Recent figures from HMRC (April 2022)<sup>37</sup> stated that there were 7,270 households with children on the Island that were claiming CTC, of whom 1,120 working households were accessing support for childcare through their tax credits.

### Universal Credit (UC)

- 5.27. The DWP introduced Universal Credit (UC) in 2013 to radically reshape the welfare state, it will progressively replace both Tax Credits (Working & Child) and four other legacy DWP benefits, with one monthly payment to help with

<sup>35</sup> [Tax-Free Childcare Statistics, March 2022 - HMRC - GOV.UK](#)

<sup>36</sup> [More than 500,000 families used Tax-Free Childcare in the last year - 2022 - HMRC - GOV.UK](#)

<sup>37</sup> [Personal tax credits statistics - 2022 - HMRC - GOV.UK](#)

living costs, whether you are out of work, can't work or are in work on a low income. It is now the main working age benefit available to Island residents. The DWP announced in April 2022 that all Tax Credits and legacy benefit recipients will be transferred to UC by the end of 2024.

- 5.28. Parents in work and on UC can claim back up to 85% of eligible childcare costs on a monthly basis, up to a maximum of £646.35 (for 1 child) or £1108.04 (for 2 or more children) per month. There is potentially additional help when starting work with up front childcare costs. Parents on UC are required to report and claim for eligible childcare costs monthly within their Assessment Period (AP) for their claim, what they receive is affected by the level of income from employment above their work allowance.
- 5.29. The IWC works closely with the DWP to contact those UC customers who are eligible for the 2-year-old Entitlement for their children. Currently the DWP do not publish figures for the number of households with children claiming UC.
- 5.30. Going forward more work needs to be done to raise parental and provider awareness of these other indirect government funding for childcare costs. This will be particularly important with the planned move of claimants from Tax Credits to UC which will include a significant number of households on low incomes with early years and school aged children.

### **Childcare Vouchers**

- 5.31. This Government scheme to help parents in work with childcare costs closed to new applicants on 4 October 2018, there is unlikely to be any childcare still being paid through the voucher scheme.

### **Future Demand**

- 5.32. Predicting future demand for childcare on the Island is one of the outcomes of producing the CSA report on annual basis. Looking forward, as already explained in section 2 of this report, there is a clear trend in the reduction in the birth rate on the Island which will affect numbers of children requiring childcare places over the next few years.
- 5.33. In the short term it is possible to get a better understanding of future 2, 3 and 4-year-olds by looking at the numbers of under 2-year-olds already accessing childcare places. Currently there is no direct Government funding for this age group, so parents must rely on their own incomes and/or indirect Government support through Tax Credits and UC to pay for this childcare. Over the last two years the hourly rate charged by nursery providers have gone up by 8% to on average £5.73 per hour while childminders' fees have risen by 14% to an average cost of £4.56 per hour.
- 5.34. The table below provides a snap shot from January 2022 and then December 2022 of the numbers of under 2-year-olds in childcare places on the Island. During the year there has been 8% rise in the overall number of places being used by under 2 year olds, but this could partly be explained by children qualifying for 2-year-old funding in January and the incomplete survey in

January 2022 of childminders. It is the PVI providers who are most active in meeting this demand, with only one school-based nursery offering places for this age group.

- 5.35. Further work will be required over the next year to better understand the size, demand, and trends in this age group from parents and providers to help the EYAT better forecast demand for 2-year-old plus childcare.

Table 28: Numbers of providers and childcare places active in the under 2-year-old provision

Type of Provision	No of providers offering places to under 2 year olds			No of places used by under 2-year-olds		
	January 2022	December 2022	% change	January 2022	December 2022	% change
Childminders	20	28	+40%	62	74	+19%
School based providers	1	1	0%	15	12	-20%
PVI providers	25	26	+4%	391	418	+7%
Totals	46	55	+20%	468	504	+8%

(Source- Data Collection Surveys January 2022 and December 2022)

## 6. Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

### Current SEND offer

- 6.1. Childcare and early years education for children with special educational needs and disabilities is available on the Isle of Wight, both within mainstream provision and a Special school offering early years places where this has been assessed as appropriate to meet the needs of the child.
- 6.2. The Local authority provides a range of training across the entire childcare sector. This includes training and advice to support the early years market to offer high quality, inclusive childcare and early education for children with SEND.
- 6.3. The Childcare and Families Act 2014 requires each Local Authority to produce and publish a Local Offer [Local Offer \(iow.gov.uk\)](http://iow.gov.uk) which sets out, in one place, information about provision available across education, health and social care for children and young people in the area, who have special educational needs and or disabilities.
- 6.4. The Early Years SEN team ensure all registered Early Years childcare providers have their own versions of the local offer. This includes their arrangements for the admission of children with SEN, the steps being taken to prevent disabled children from being treated less favourably than others, the facilities provided to enable access to the pre-school for disabled children and their accessibility plan showing how they plan to improve access progressively over time. This information is held on the Local Offer site and by providers on their websites, all registered early years providers have their own local offer in place.
- 6.5. The Early Years SEN team also offer a 'portage service' for children who have a significant delay in their development, this is a home visiting education service for pre-school children with SEN. A child can be referred to the SEN team if they are delayed in two areas of learning by half their age. Portage is at its most effective when parents/carers are committed to carrying out agreed activities and strategies and work closely with all those involved with the child.
- 6.6. There are currently 101 children (1.8%) under 5 with SEND supported directly by the Early Years SEN Team. This represents growth of 20 from 81 (1.25%) in 2019.
- 6.7. In September 2022 the first SEN hub for Early Years on the Island was launched and based at a PVI provider in Newport and provides 6 - 8 places for 15 hours per week additional specialist support managed by the IWC. Going forward it is hoped additional funding and support might be available for further SEN hubs in the other localities on the Island.
- 6.8. To help inform SEN services going forward one of the two themes of the 2022 Parental Survey was SEND, please see section 3 of this report for findings of the survey.



### Disability Access Fund (DAF)

- 6.9. First introduced as part of the Early Years National Funding Formula in 2017 local authorities have been allocated a Disability Access Fund (DAF). This funding ensures providers receive an additional annual lump sum of £615.00 for each child attending their setting who is in receipt of Child Disability Living allowance (DLA). This is set to rise in the funding settlement for 2022-23 to £800.00 per eligible child per year.
- 6.10. The DAF is designed to aid 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 all children attending the setting.

Table 29: Numbers of children in receipt of DAF

Provider	Number of children claiming DAF 2020-21	Number of children claiming DAF 2021-22	Number of children claiming DAF in 2022-23
Early Years Providers	32	18	37

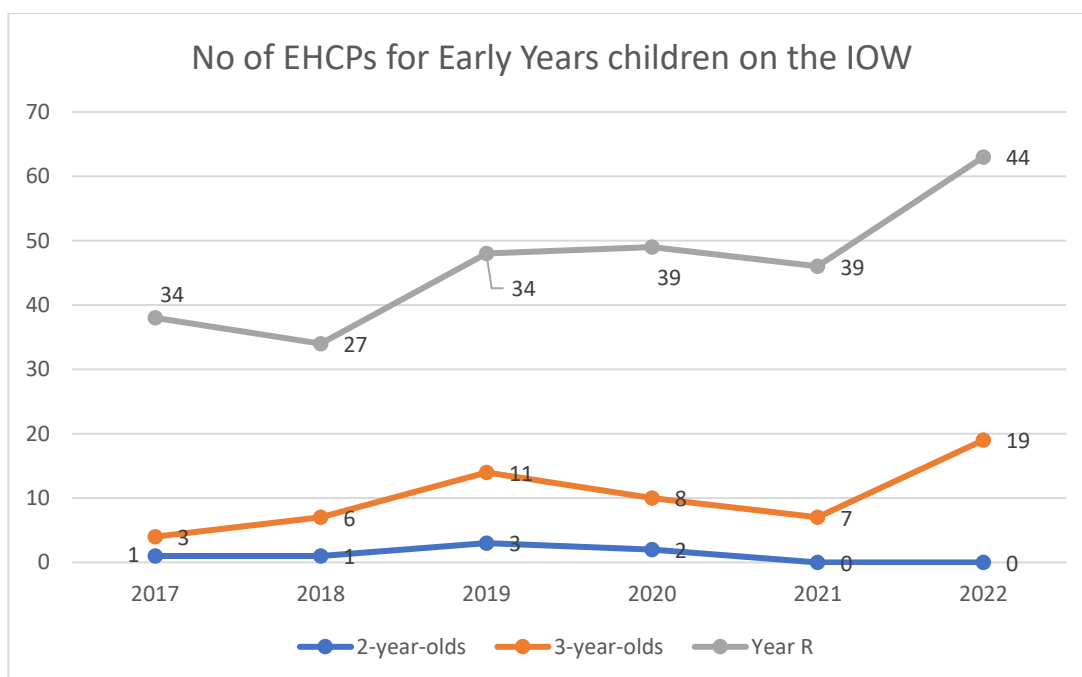
(Source: IWC EYAT)

- 6.11. The number of children who are claiming DAF on the Island is currently 37 across 14 providers, this represents 0.6% of the under 5 age group on the Island.

### Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP)

- 6.12. Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) and the needs assessment process through which these are made, were introduced under part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014. The Act, and an accompanying SEND Code of Practice, sets out how local authorities must deliver these responsibilities.
- 6.13. An EHCP sets out the education, health and care support that is to be provided to a child or young person aged 0-25 years who has Special Educational Needs (SEN) or a disability (SEND). It is drawn up by the local authority after an Education, Health and Care (EHC) needs assessment of the child or young person has determined that an EHCP is necessary, and after consultation with relevant partner agencies and with children, young people and parents.
- 6.14. The graph below shows the number of Early Years children with EHCPs since 2017, Year 0 represents Year R and 'Year-2' and 'Year-1' are children who will join Year R in 2 and 1 year respectively. The upward trend in EHCPs for this age group can be seen in the graph and is borne out by already higher figures reported for the start of January 2023. In part this is the effect of Covid-19 lockdowns and restrictions on this age group, with speech and language skills being particularly effected.

Graph 12: Number of ECHPs for Early Years Children on the IOW 2017-2022



(Source – IWC EY SEN Service)

- 6.15. The Early Years census in January 2023 will give up to date data on the number of children aged 0-3-years-old with an EHCP and the number of children identified as SEN without an EHCP. This early identification is important as it results in prompt intervention to support children and their families so that difficulties can be addressed and, educational gaps do not continue to widen as they prepare to enter primary school.

### **‘Short Breaks’ and Out of School provision**

- 6.16. Short Breaks is a statutory service funded through the IWC and aims to increase activity opportunities available for children and young people (0-19) with disabilities and/or additional needs to participate in.
- 6.17. Section 25 of the Children and Young Persons Act 2005 creates the requirement for local authorities to provide Short Breaks for Disabled Children. As a result of this, the Government made a commitment to Short Breaks through the implementation of a new Short Break Duty which came into effect from April 2011 and created a legal duty on local authorities to provide a range of Short Break services. Currently the IWC’s Short Breaks programme offers a range of opportunities including after-school, evenings and weekend activities and overnight stays, full details of the service can be found here: [Short Breaks \(iow.gov.uk\)](http://www.iow.gov.uk).
- 6.18. The EYAT is aware of one local Ofsted registered childcare provider offering specialist SEND OOS childcare for early years and primary aged children.
- 6.19. The Holiday activity and food (HAF) programme provides inclusive access for SEN children with the programme’s providers supporting children with a range of SEND.

## Vacancies

- 6.20. There is currently one Special school (Medina House) on the Island that caters for Early Years children with complex needs from the age of two. There are currently no vacancies in this school in either their Nursery or YR class. There are 9 children aged 3-4-years-old attending the Specialist nursery and 12 YR children attending the Specialist school.
- 6.21. In addition to this there are four specialist units on the Island attached to primary schools who cater for children with range of issues, there are no Early Years children attending these units.

## 7. Overall Sufficiency and Action Plan

### Conclusions

- 7.1. At the end of 2022 the Isle of Wight has sufficient childcare places (2,528) to meet the current demand from parents for high quality childcare, delivered through a diverse, stable marketplace of 84 childcare providers. This childcare marketplace consists of 13 school-based providers, 37 PVI providers, 34 childminders and additionally there are 11 home childcarers. The EYAT has had no requests or enquiries from parents in rural areas suggesting that childcare provision is geographically spread across the Island serving all the main towns and employment centres.
- 7.2. The most important long-term trend facing the sector is the declining birth rate on the Island, with the number of under 5-year-olds having declined by 13% according to the 2021 Census and the data on projected births is showing that going forward they have stabilised at a level 25% lower than 10 years ago. The IWC's EYAT will work with the marketplace to ensure that a reduction in capacity is managed properly to support business viability and sustainability and that access to high quality childcare remains available to parents across the Island.
- 7.3. The Early Years & childcare sector is worth a conservative estimate of £6.7 million (2022) to the Island economy, it employs 527 people on a full time and part time basis to deliver childcare. In a wider context, childcare is a foundational sector<sup>38</sup> of the local economy and helps parents access employment and underpins wider economic and business performance and growth. It is a good example of the IWC's commitment to community wealth building principles in its service delivery<sup>39</sup>. Childcare providers have a commitment to training and job retention, and through its unique level of local ownership is non-extractive and generative in supporting the wellbeing of the local community.

### Providers, places, and Out of School

- 7.4. Over the past 2 years the sector has had a small overall change since the Covid-19 pandemic with the number of providers drop by 8% from 91 to 84 which is in line with national data from DfE, and the number of available places reduced by 4.5% in the same period from 2639 to 2528 places. There has also been changes in ownership with 5 PVI providers either taken over by schools or by former employees. Following national trends, the number of childminders on the Island reduced by 11% over this period with 34 active in the market in December 2022, yet the number of available places (232) has remained virtually the same. These changes could be an early indication of the impact on the sector of a declining birth rate and an aging population on the Island. The EYAT will work with the sector to manage the transition to a smaller marketplace and fewer children requiring childcare at aged two, three and four and consider the need for under twos childcare if the trend of increased take up of under two years old care continues, alongside the careful review of the impact of new housing.

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<sup>38</sup> [Own the Future report 2020 - CLES](#)

<sup>39</sup> [Procurement Strategy 2022-25 IWC](#)

- 7.5. In terms of opening hours, all settings provide good coverage with all day opening, but with a slight shift towards term time only through the growth in number of school-based providers. This assessment has identified a lack of provision in the market around early evening and none at weekends, this will need to be further reviewed to consider if there is demand at these times. Vacancy rates remain low with 22 providers and 9 childminders reporting that they maintain waiting lists, the EYAT will work with these providers to identify if the waiting lists are suggesting an under supply or just that parents are preferring to put names down early. The EYAT will also review any providers where there is failing demand and look at the business issues at the root of this situation.
- 7.6. As expected in this time of higher inflation in the wider economy, fees for non-funded childcare have risen over the last two years. Local providers have been generally below (7+%) national rises while childminders have been above (14+%) the national average fee increase for under 3 year olds. It is the rise in fees for 3 and 4 year olds which will require further work to ascertain the factors leading to the 40% increase over the last two years. Results of recent local and national surveys indicate further rises will be expected in 2023 as these providers deal with inflationary pressures on business costs.
- 7.7. Knowledge of the Island's Out of school (OOS) provision remains limited in scope and will require further research over the next year. A range of actions are included in the action plan to establish awareness, availability, and cost for parents. This is a particularly important issue for parents as highlighted in the 2022 Parental survey that demand for school holiday provision will grow over the next 2 years. In the meantime, the HAF programme has made an impact over 2021-2022 in increasing the range and availability of quality holiday provision on the Island and is set to build on these foundations during 2023 with a focus on better access in rural areas and greater engagement with secondary age children as well as ensuring registration of schemes with Ofsted.

### Quality and workforce

- 7.8. Quality is all important in the provision of childcare and the Island continues to maintain high standards in this area with 98% of settings inspected by Ofsted achieving 'Good' and 'Outstanding'. This is matched by childminders with 96% achieving 'Good' and 'Outstanding' at Ofsted inspections. Both parts of the Early Years register are in line with national figures for inspections, the EYAT will continue to support providers to maintain high standards in the year ahead. 94% of 3 and 4-year-olds in funded early education on the Island are in settings rated as 'Good' or 'Outstanding'<sup>40</sup>.
- 7.9. Early Years and childcare is a sector that requires a highly trained and qualified workforce, and the Island is no exception with 83% of those employed in the sector achieving a relevant level 3 qualification and above. The task going forward is to ensure this trained workforce in the sector and

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<sup>40</sup> [Local authority interactive tool \(LAIT\) - GOV.UK](#)

keeps up to date with training and accesses new educational opportunities. It is also about understanding why people leave the sector at an early stage of their training. The aim is to build a future workforce in partnership with training providers using apprenticeships and embracing the new T-Levels to set a high standard in vocational education.

### **Early Years Entitlement**

- 7.10. Funded Early Years education is an important element of the offer from all our providers and 24 of the local childminders. The Island has a high level of engagement of 3 and 4-year-olds with early years provision, whether that is with childcare providers or primary schools for Year R. In 2022 93% of 3 and 4-year-olds on the Island were in early years provision, this is in line with both regional and national averages for this age group but still not back to pre-Covid levels (96%).
- 7.11. The Universal Entitlement of 15 hours for all 3 and 4-year-olds is the core of the offer with 1850 children accessing these hours in the Summer 2022 term. For this same term there were 51% (945) of parents who were in work whose children also qualified for the Extended offer of up to another 15 hours funded of childcare. This shows how important the Extended offer is to support parents to be able to work.
- 7.12. The final part of the funded offer is for 2-year-olds, the EYAT has worked with the DWP to identify and engage 77% of those qualifying in some form of early years provision, this puts the Island well above the regional (69%) and national averages (72%). More work needs to be done with parents of qualifying 2-year-olds to better understand the barriers that prevent them accessing this funded childcare, with the aim to increase the level of take up going forward.

### **Support for vulnerable children**

- 7.13. The Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) provides additional funding to qualifying children to ensure they are 'school ready', since Covid-19 the Island has seen an increase in claims for this funding as parents and providers have become aware of its availability. Over the last year 12% on average of the 3 and 4-year-olds on the Island had made a claim for EYPP funding.
- 7.14. Early Years providers are also increasingly applying to the Disability Access Fund (DAF) to support children in receipt of DLA to access Early Years childcare, with 37 children (0.6%) across 14 providers at this time.
- 7.15. The demand and need for SEND services continues to grow on the Island. The Island's joined-up approach of using the portage service to support children within the early years sector with the greatest need. The number of early years children with ECHPs continues an upward trend with 49 children in reception year on the Island with agreed ECHPs at the start of January 2023.

- 7.16. The Island has a well-developed offer through the Short Breaks service which is now complimented by the inclusive approach of the HAF programme to include children with SEND.
- 7.17. In conclusion the Isle of Wight continues to have a successful, high quality childcare market and based on the evidence in this report should deliver sufficient childcare places for the under 5-year-olds on the Island over the next year.

### **Update on 2019-2020 Action Plan**

- 7.18. The IWC has made good progress and steady delivery against the actions and priorities detailed in the previous CSA despite the significant impact and disruption of Covid-19 pandemic to the sector's business operation and how the IWC delivered services during this time.
- 7.19. The EYAT ensured every child requiring an early years childcare place during this time was found one. The details and outcomes of other Covid-19 related activities and actions have already been covered in the relevant sections of this report, but it is important to highlight that no providers closed because of the pandemic during this difficult time for the sector.
- 7.20. A major success has been the roll out by the IWC of the self-update Early Years Portal and its adoption by all required providers. The Portal has given the IWC a single platform to interact in real time with providers to gather required data around details of funded hours claimed, payments, headcount of children in settings and vacancies. For providers it has seen an improved level of service from the IWC giving them 24-hour access to the system and empowering them to maintain information about their provision themselves. Further enhancements to the Portal will take place as and when required.

### **2022-23 Action Plan**

- 7.21. Over the next year the EYAT will prioritise the following for development and implementation as part of the CSA's action plan. The priorities are mapped against the statutory duties of the IWC in this area of service delivery, but they will be dynamic to allow the IWC to respond effectively to how the Cost of Living crisis affects the sector's stability and sustainability in a recessionary business climate.
- 7.22. These actions will further enhance our knowledge and understanding of sufficiency and management of the local early years market and help ensure continued sufficient high-quality childcare for all children.

### **Early Years Childcare market (section 7, childcare Act 2006)**

- 7.23. We will:
- Support the recruitment of new childminders to sustain the current market with the intention on growing the market in areas where needed.
  - Offer a business support package to all Early Years Providers to help ensure their viability and sustainability in a challenging business environment.

- Develop a workforce strategy in partnership with local training providers and the DWP/Jobcentres to help employers in the sector recruit, train and retain more qualified staff.
- Establish a database of other funding and grants available to the sector.
- Continue to support all early years providers to deliver flexible 2,3 and 4-year-old nursery education funded places, as well as supporting where needed the expansion and development of new childcare places across the Island.
- Undertake further research into the size, demand and trend for under 2-year-old provision on the Island.
- Continue to ensure childcare is inclusive and meets the needs of children with special educational needs and disabilities by ensuring the Local Offer is fit for purpose.
- Work with the IWC's Planning team on new housing developments to ensure Early Years places are prioritised in the initial planning stage to meet possible future childcare demands.
- Develop and expand an Early Years business risk register across all providers to identify any risks that might affect business viability and the availability of sufficient childcare places.
- Develop the marketplace for Out of School/wraparound childcare and enhance the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme's reach and effectiveness on the Island.
- Develop a dashboard of data sources on all available aspects of the marketplace built around the existing Power BI interactive mapping tool to better inform market management, future CSA reports and other IWC reporting requirements.

### **Promotion of childcare options (section 12, childcare Act (2006))**

7.24. We will:

- Seek to continue to improve the Family Information Service website to ensure information is accurate and signposting is clear to maximise the ability for parents to identify and secure childcare.
- Ensure the Early Years websites are kept up to date with accurate information to enable parents to secure the childcare that meets their needs.
- Promote the availability and monitor the level of take up of 2-year-old and the Extended Entitlement funding to parents.
- Work with DWP/Jobcentres to promote the available childcare options as part of their return to work agenda.

### **Early Years Education (sections 1 & 2, Childcare Act (2016))**

7.25. We will:

- Continue to monitor and promote 2, 3 and 4-year-old funding to ensure sufficient places.
- Continue to monitor and promote entitlements for disadvantaged children of EYPP and DAF funding and SEND services.
- Liaise with neighbouring authorities at regional meetings to share processes and identify good practice models.



### Other plans and strategies

7.26. Beyond the IWC's statutory duty in this area the EYAT have considered IWC's other relevant strategies and plans, and will contribute to achieving them, in particular the following:

- Corporate Plan 2021 -2025
- 'Inspiration Island' – Isle of Wight Regeneration Strategy (June 2019, IWC)
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the Isle of Wight 2018-2021
- Delivering Better Education action plan
- Mission Zero: Climate and Environment Strategy 2021 -2040
- Procurement Strategy 2022 -2025
- Digital Strategy 2022 -2027

## Appendix 1: Childcare Providers on the Isle of Wight

### Settings

This is a breakdown of childcare providers and places available and their locations by locality on the Island.

Table 30: Childcare providers (School based and PVI) and places mapped to locality of business location

Locality	Number of Providers	Number of Places
West and Central Wight	21	1080
North East Wight	17	657
South Wight	12	574
<b>Totals</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>2311</b>

(Source – Data Collection Dec 2022)

### Childminders

A second table showing childminders and places on offer across the Island by the locality where they are based.

Table 31: Childminders and places mapped to the locality of business location

Locality	Number of Childminders	Number of Places
West and Central Wight	9	45
North East Wight	15	111
South Wight	10	61
<b>Totals</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>217</b>

(Source - Data Collection Dec 2022)

Full details on all school based and PVI providers and childminders with their Local Offer can be found on this link: [Local Offer \(iow.gov.uk\)](https://www.iow.gov.uk/local-offer)

### Localities

The following table lists the postcodes covered by each of the three locality areas used by the IWC:

Table 32: Postcodes covered by IWC's locality areas

<b>Locality</b>	<b>Postcodes</b>
West and Central Wight	PO30, PO31, PO39, PO40, PO41
North East Wight	PO32, PO33, PO34, PO35
South Wight	PO36, PO37, PO38

## Appendix 2: Professional Qualifications and Ratios

### Full and Part Time Courses

To retain staff in a modern workforce it is important to be able to provide a means to become professionally qualified and here on the Island we have the support of two education providers in that delivery. Here is a list of the available qualifications for the sector's workforce from taking those first steps in secondary school to degree level.

Table 33: Childcare qualifications available from training providers on the Isle of Wight

Education Provider	Qualification	Ratio Inclusion
Secondary Schools (Key Stage 4)	BTEC Tech Child Development Level 1 & 2	No
HTP Apprenticeship College	NCFE - Introduction to Health, Social Care and Children's & Young People's Settings Level 1 Certificate	No
Isle of Wight College	NCFE Caring for Children Level 1 Diploma	No
Isle of Wight College	NCFE Early Years Practitioner Level 2 Diploma	Yes
HTP Apprenticeship College	NCFE Children & Young People's Workforce Level 2 Certificate	Yes
Isle of Wight College	OCN Forest School Assistant Level 2 Award	No
Isle of Wight College	OCN Forest School Leader Level 3 Certificate	No
HTP Apprenticeship College	BIIAB Level 3 Diploma in Children's Learning and Development (Early Years Educator)	Yes
Isle of Wight College	NCFE Early Years Workforce Level 3 Diploma	Yes
Isle of Wight College	Childcare T-Level Level 3	Yes
Isle of Wight College (through Portsmouth University)	Early Years Care & Education Foundation Degree (Level 5)	Yes
Open University	Certificate in Higher Education in Early Childhood (Level 4)	No
	Diploma in Higher Education in Early Childhood (Level 5)	No
	BA Hons Early Childhood	No
Portsmouth University	Graduate Certificate in Early Years Initial Teacher Training (with Early Years Teacher Status) Level 6	Yes

## Apprenticeships

As an alternative to full time and part time study, the apprenticeship model can offer a professional qualification while working and earning in the sector, here are the qualifications available through this route.

Table 34: Childcare apprenticeships available on the Isle of Wight

Apprenticeship Provider	Qualification
HTP Apprenticeship College	Early Years Practitioner Level 2
HTP Apprenticeship College	Early Years Educator Level 3
HTP Apprenticeship College	Early Years Lead Practitioner Level 5
Isle of Wight College	Childcare Apprenticeship Level 1 to 3
Isle of Wight College	Early Years Educator Level 3

## Ratios

The DfE's EYFS Statutory Framework details the level of staffing required depending on the age of the children in question. It goes on to determine the level of qualifications needed by staff to manage a setting and to look after the children in that setting.

All childcare and early years settings must adhere to the following ratio of suitably qualified adults (with the appropriate childcare qualifications at Level 2 and above) to children:

- 0-2 years – one adult to three children
- 2-3 years – one adult to four children
- 4-8 years – one adult to six children

In addition, the manager of the setting is required to have a Level 3 or above qualification.

Here is the link to DfE's approved list of qualifications that meet the criteria for counting in the EYFS Statutory Framework's child ratios: [Check early years qualifications - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Childminders are not required to be qualified but must be registered with Ofsted. According to the Statutory Framework, childminders (whether providing the childminding on domestic or non-domestic premises) may care for a maximum of six children under the age of eight. Of these six children, a maximum of three may be young children, and there should only be one child under the age of one.

A child is a young child up until 1st September following his or her fifth birthday. Any care provided for older children must not adversely affect the care of children receiving early years provision. If a childminder employs an assistant, they in turn are able to look after a maximum of six children under the age of 8.