

Isle of Wight

Childcare Sufficiency Report

2019-2020



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Introduction

This report provides an overview of childcare sufficiency on The Isle of Wight (CSA). The Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient childcare places that are accessible to parents. This duty is annually presented through this report to elected council members and, is made available to parents. Having sufficient childcare means that families are able to find childcare that meets their child's learning needs and enables parents to make an informed choice about going to work and/or training. In this report an assessment of sufficiency is undertaken by utilising data about the need for childcare and the amount of child care that is available. The Local Authority uses this information to inform our work to support the local childcare economy.

Statutory Duty

The Childcare Act 2006 gives Local Authorities a key role in shaping the childcare market in their area. Working with Providers from the Private, Voluntary, independent and maintained sectors, the Local Authority will look to create a strong, sustainable and diverse childcare market that meets the needs of parents.

Section 6, of the 2006 Act 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.

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.

In September 2017 the Childcare Act 2016 section 2 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.

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.

Section 13 gives Local Authorities the duty to provide information, advice and training to childcare providers.

What is Childcare?

Childcare plays a crucial role in the lives of most families. It enables parents to go out to work to contribute to a decent family income when they have very young children. A growing body of evidence shows that good pre-school childcare gives children a flying start and leads to better outcomes as they move through school. (*securing Sufficient Childcare: Statutory guidance for local authorities in carrying out their childcare sufficiency duties (DSCF1, 2007)*)

Working parents with children utilise many different forms of childcare with their choices dependent on factors such as family income, employment patterns, parental preferences, childcare availability and the age of their child.

The Nursery Education Grant was introduced to allow children to access funded childcare. Over time the number of hours that can be accessed has increased and the lowering of the age of children who can access this funding.

Demographics

The Isle of Wight covers an area of 147 square miles, with a coastline that runs for 57 miles. The Isle of Wight 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 passenger and vehicle ferries. 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.

Even though 84% of the island is rural, there are a wide range of settlements across the island. 60% of the Island's residents live within the main towns of Newport, Cowes, East Cowes, Ryde, Sandown and Shanklin. Newport is the County Town of the Island and is the main employment centre. Freshwater, Totland and Yarmouth are the main settlements to the west of the Island and Ventnor is the largest town on the south coast. Outside of these settlements there are around 30 villages and hamlets. Several larger villages provide services and facilities to surrounding villages and hamlets.

Characteristics of current population

The Isle of Wight's resident population over the decade between 2005 and 2015 expanded from 137,200 to 139,400 people. The increase was driven by an expansion in the number of residents aged 65 and over (30,500 to 37,000 residents). During the same period the population of residents aged 0-15 and working age (residents aged 16-64) population decreased. The Island's current population (26.5% residents aged 65 and over) is proportionally older than the Solent LEP area and England average (20.1% and 17.7% residents aged 65 and over respectively).

The Office of National Statistics (ONS) projects that between 2016 and 2036 this pattern will continue. The population aged over 65 is forecast to increase by 44.1% over the time period, equivalent to an additional 16,600 people. This trend is in line with the Solent LEP and England, which are forecast to expand at a faster rate than the Island (47.9% and 48.5% respectively). The working age population on the Island is forecast to continue to decline by a further 4,200 residents; while the number of residents aged 0-15 is expected to remain steady at 22,900 people in 2036.

There is a net outflow of age 15 to 29 year olds as young people leave for higher education, employment and career opportunities, and a net inflow at age 30 and above as people return to raise their families or older people moving here to retire. The increase in migration in the older age groups (65 to 79 in particular) is becoming more marked over time, with more than three times as many arriving on the Island in 2016 than in 2012.

Population of Early Years children

In total there are 6,462 children under the age of five living on the Isle of Wight. These children may require early years childcare.

Numbers by age:

Age	Number of Children
Under 1	1,144
1 years of age	1,226
2 years of age	1,265
3 years of age	1,413
4 years of age *	1,414

*Not all of these children will be accessing Early Years funded education. Children who are rising five are captured in the school places planning as they will attend Year R. However circa 40% of those aged 4 will need to be considered for a preschool place throughout the year. This calculates at approximately 565 children.

Population of school age children

In total there are 4,205 children aged 5-11 and 5,728 children aged 12-14 living on the Island. These children may require childcare before and after school, and/or during the school holidays.

Age	Number of children
5 years of age	1,396
6 years of age	1,448
7 years of age	1,400
8 years of age	1,418
9 years of age	1,369
10 years of age	1,404
11 years of age	1,432
12 years of age	1,500
13 years of age	1,428
14 years of age	1,419
15 years of age	1,381

Population Forecast 0-5

Year	Total Population	Under 1	1 years of age	2 years of age	3 years of age	4 years of age	5 years of age	Total number 0-5	% change
2019	141,637	1,240	1,266	1,276	1,288	1,423	1,407	7,900	
2020	142,193	1,232	1,265	1,289	1,294	1,304	1,447	7,831	-0.88%
2021	142,776	1,212	1,256	1,287	1,306	1,308	1,330	7,699	-1.71%
2022	143,366	1,212	1,238	1,279	1,304	1,321	1,333	7,687	-0.16%
2023	143,950	1,206	1,237	1,260	1,296	1,319	1,346	7,610	-1.01%
2024	144,530	1,200	1,232	1,260	1,278	1,311	1,344	7,625	+0.20%
2025	145,095	1,193	1,226	1,254	1,278	1,294	1,336	7,581	0.58%

4.14%

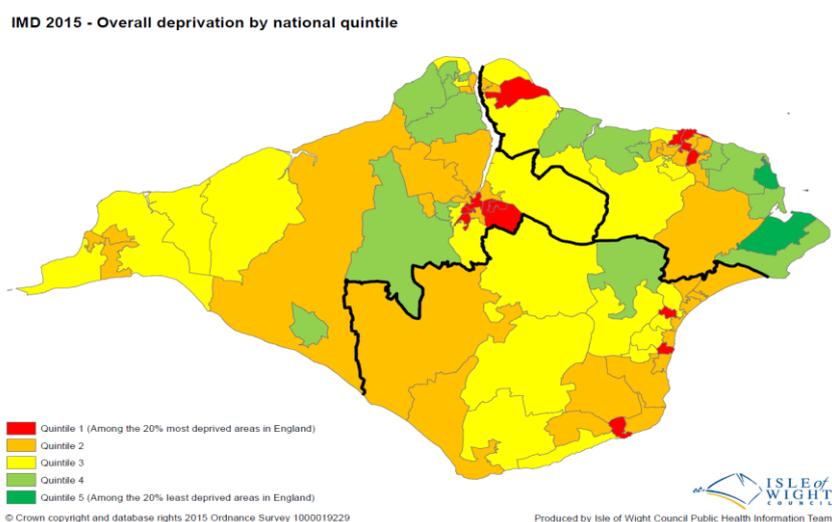
The table illustrates the predicted growth and reduction in each group across this period. Overall the 0-5 population is forecast to decline by 4.14% by 2025. With the largest predicted decline being in the 4 year old population in 2020 at 9.1%.

Deprivation

The English Indices of Deprivation 2015 were published by the Department for Communities and Local Government. The indices are based on seven distinct domains, each of which represent a specific form of deprivation. The index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) combines information from the seven domains to produce an overall relative measurement of deprivation. The domains are combined using the following weights: Income (22.5%), Employment (22.5%), Education, Skills and Training (13.5%), Crime 9.3%, Barriers to Housing & Services (9.3%), Living Environment (9.3%).

The Isle of Wight is ranked 109 on the overall IMD scale, where 1 equals the most deprived. This is out of 326 local authorities. It represents a drop of 17 places from 2010 when the Island was ranked 126, which, was a drop of eight places from 134 in 2007.

There are 13 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) on the Isle of Wight within the 20% most deprived in England. The LSOA s Ryde North East B and Pan B are also listed within the 10% most deprived.



Economy and Labour Market

Employment opportunity on the Isle of Wight has a direct influence on parental demand for Early Years childcare.

The Isle of Wight's economy has performed reasonably strong in recent years, including growth in a number of specialist higher value sectors, particularly where the Island benefits from the presence of leading international businesses. However, it faces a number of challenges as productivity levels are generally below the mainland, with lower wage levels, challenges in terms of educational attainment and skills levels, and many employment opportunities are seasonal only.

In 2016 the largest sectors, by employment, were health & social work (18.4%), wholesale & retail (16.3%), food & accommodation (12.2%), manufacturing (9.2%), education (9.2%), and administration (7.1%). Average earnings for individuals on the Island are low and at a level that is 80% of those across the South East.

Latest economic forecasts from Oxford Economics indicate that employment on the Isle of Wight is expected to increase by 4,600 jobs between 2015 and 2036, a growth rate of nearly 8% which is broadly similar to the LEP average. Most growth is anticipated in health and social care, admin and support services, construction and recreation, reflecting both the ageing population trend and tourism sectors. More traditional sectors such as manufacturing and agriculture are expected to decline in overall terms.

The Isle of Wight is below the national rate of employment with 71.2% of the population being employed compared to 75.7% nationally. 25.4% of the population are economically inactive which is 4.3% higher than national and 14.1% of the population are retired, again higher than national by 1.2%.

By utilising the ONS Monthly unemployment claimant count the Isle of Wight saw an increase of 540 claims from January 2019 to January 2020. For the months of June, July and August on the Island the number of claimants decrease due to seasonal work on the Island. The percentage of claimants when compared to national is similar with the most recent (January 2020) percentage of the population on the island being 3.1% and national 3% and marginally above the South East by 1%.

Housing

The Local Authority is currently consulting through an Island wide housing need survey which will feed into a clear Island wide housing strategy. Across the Island the Local Authority are proposing to build 641 dwellings of varied sizes per year up to 2034 with 242 of these dwellings being affordable housing. The planning team consults with the Early Years Team to ensure any proposed dwellings take into consideration early years places within that area. Using the Hampshire Early Years Development guide there would be 0.06 yield per household.

Isle of Wight Council – Draft Planning Strategy

Regeneration Area	2019/20 Year 1	2020/21 Year 2	2021/22 Year 3	2022/23 Year 4	2023/24 Year 5	2024/25-28/29 Years 6-10	2029/30-33/34 Years 11-15	Total
West Wight	15	30	35	75	90	192	115	557
West Medina	0	0	86	177	170	263	282	978
Newport	0	6	56	78	230	1675	1650	3695
East Medina	0	33	30	45	115	171	60	454
Ryde	15	45	185	170	275	643	26	1358
The Bay	0	11	68	209	187	324	40	839
Allocation Total	30	125	460	754	1067	3268	2172	7876
New Garden Communities							300	300
Windfall Sites	100	100	100	100	100	500	500	1500
TOTAL	130	225	560	854	1167	3768	2972	9676

Table 5.1 Island Planning Strategy Housing Trajectory

Supply of Childcare on the Isle of Wight

Early Years Providers

In total there are 91 childcare providers on the Isle of Wight, offering a maximum of 2639 Early Years childcare places.

Type of Provision	Numbers of Providers	Number of registered places
Childminders	38 active childminders	214 places
Nursery classes within schools	9	234 places
Maintained nursery schools	1	45 places
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	42	2146 places
Totals	90	2639 places

For private, voluntary and independent nurseries and childminders, the number of registered places represents the 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.

Number of new and closed provisions

Over the past 12 months we have not seen a huge movement in the early years market. Three early years childcare providers have closed and two have opened. Five childminders have de-registered with four new childminders registering.

There is a growing trend nationally of the decrease in the number of childminders staying in the workforce. The Isle of Wight has experienced a fairly static number with 45 in December 2018 compared to 42 in December 2019 (4 childminders are currently inactive). The Local Authority continues to train and support childminders within and new to the workforce.

Currently we are not anticipating a shortfall of places on the Island.

Hours

Childcare is most commonly delivered between 8am and 6pm on weekdays. However, some parents require childcare outside these times in order to fit with their work or other responsibilities.

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
Childminders	42	33	21	1	13	29
Nursery classes in schools	9	0	0	0	9	0
Maintained nursery schools	1	0	0	0	1	0
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	42	35	19	0	9	33

The above table illustrates a flexible workforce allowing parents to access their childcare around their work commitments including school holiday periods.

Vacancies

Vacancy rates are a snapshot, and often change rapidly. In some cases, providers may have a vacancy which is only available for a specific age group, or for a particular part time arrangement. We ask providers to report vacancies to us so we can help promote them. Not all Providers choose to do this. In general, vacancy rates are higher in the autumn, when children move to school.

Costs

For early years childcare outside the funded entitlements, we report an average cost per hour, reported to us by Providers. There may be variations to prices based on the number of hours a family uses, with reductions for longer hours, or discounts for siblings. There may be supplementary payments made for additional services, e.g. Lunch and other meals which are not included in these prices.

Age of child	Average price per hour - PVI	Average price per hour – childminder
0-1 year olds	£5.30	£4.00
2 year olds	£5.10	£4.00
3 and 4 year olds	£4.00	£4.00

For school age children during term time, we report on average prices for breakfast clubs before school and after school clubs per hour.

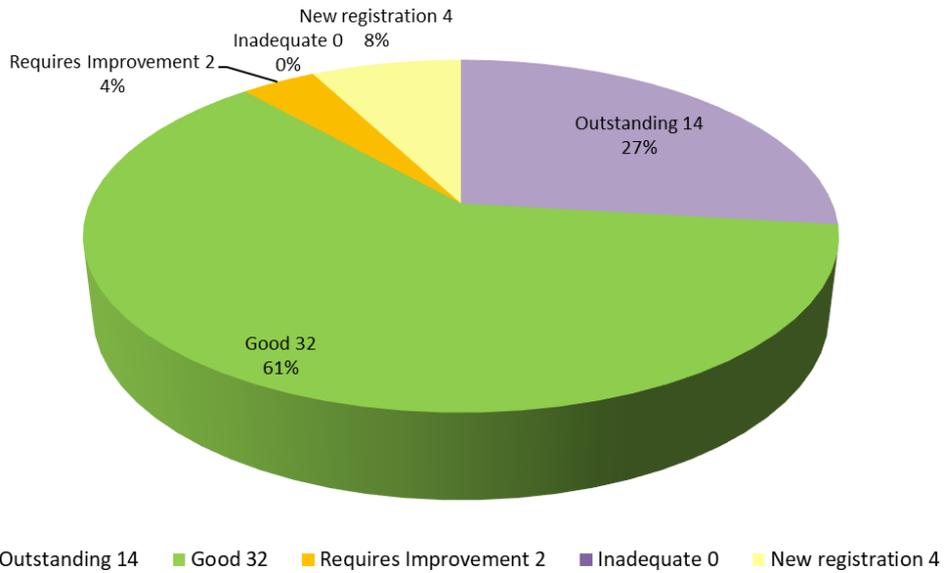
Type of provision	Average price per hour
Breakfast Club	£4.00
After school club	£4.00

Quality of childcare on the Isle of Wight

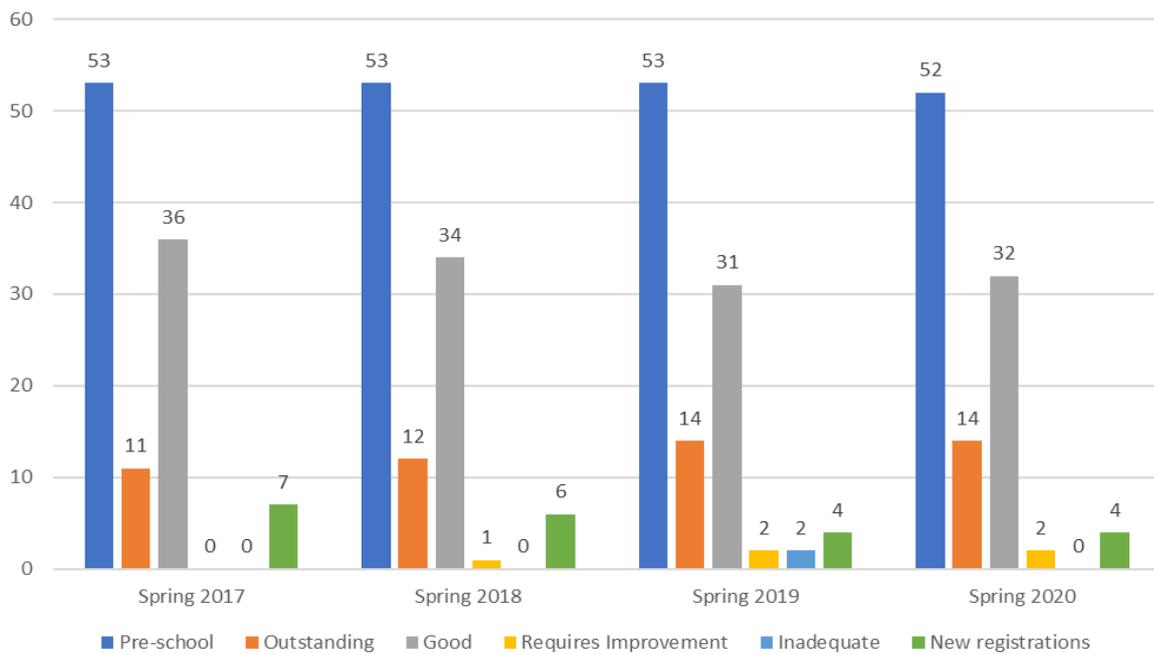
Statutory guidance states that all children should have the opportunity to take up their Government funded hours in high quality early years provisions. Evidence illustrates the higher the quality of provision the greater developmental benefits for children and, in particular the most disadvantaged children leading to better outcomes. The evidence also shows the higher quality provision at age two brings benefits to children's development.

The current data shows 96% of Isle of Wight Early years education providers on non-domestic premises had inspection outcomes of Good or Outstanding (January 2020). This is the same as the national picture where 96% was also judged to be Good or Outstanding. 27% of the Providers on the Isle of Wight have been judged to be Outstanding which is above national at 23% (August 2019).

Isle Of Wight Provider Ofsted Judgements 27th February 2020

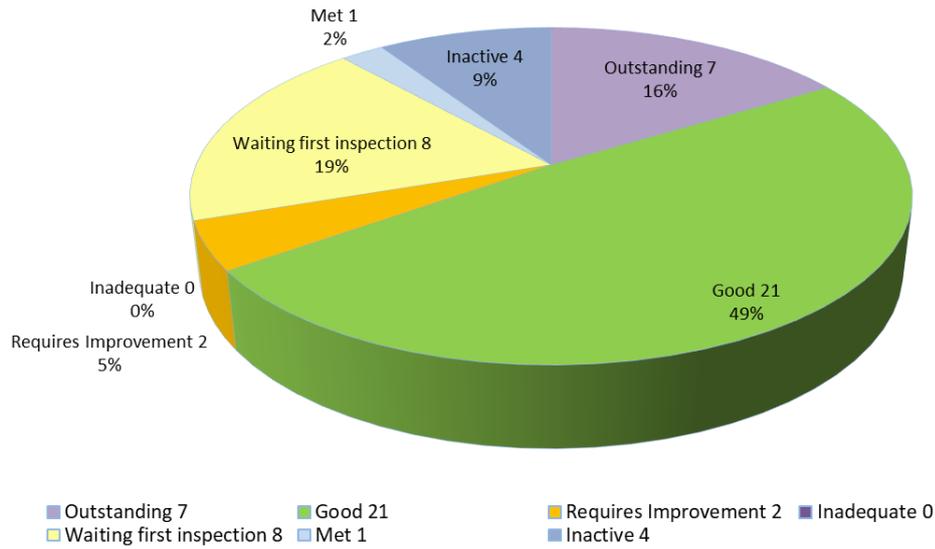


Ofsted judgements - Pre-schools

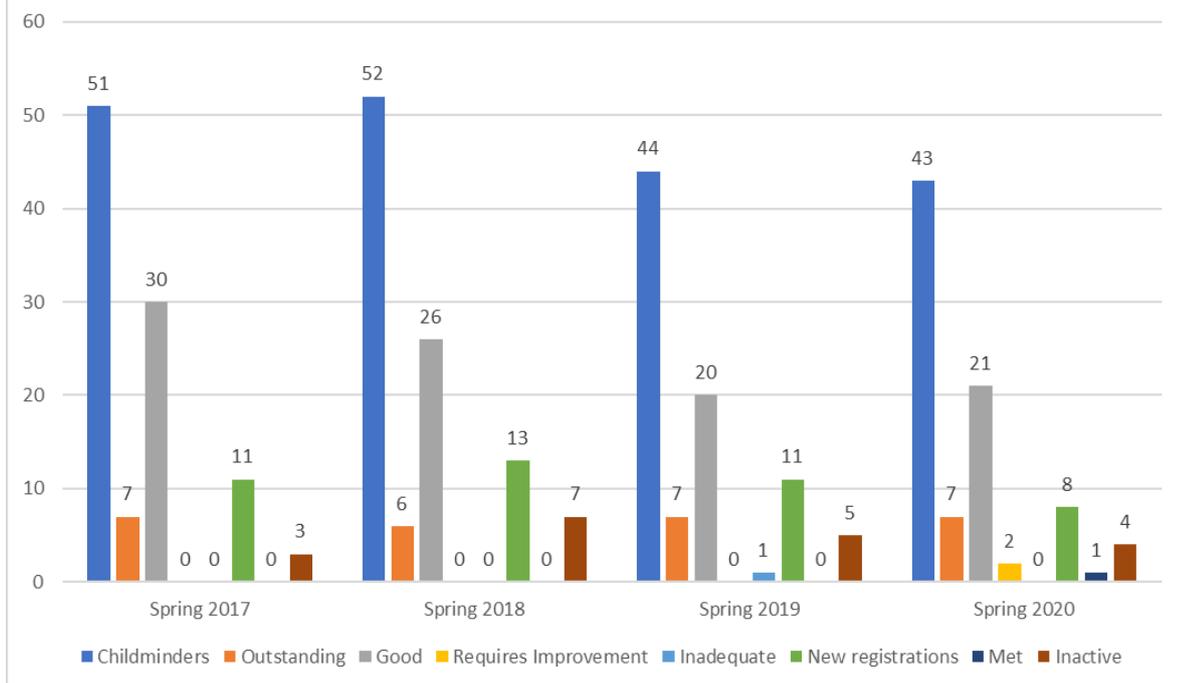


93% of Early Years education Providers on domestic premises had inspection outcomes of Good or Outstanding which again is the same as the national picture.

Isle Of Wight Childminder Ofsted Judgements 27th February 2020



Ofsted judgements - Childminders



Quality Early Years Foundation Stage outcomes

Having sufficient good quality early years education has an impact upon outcomes for young children. Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) data suggests the children on the Island do the same and, often better than the national average measured by the Good Level of Development (GLD) made by individuals against areas of learning. The slight decrease in % achieving GLD from 2018 to 2019 equates to 20 children fewer achieving GLD. These outcomes are still positive and indicate that the majority of children are in line with National expectations and are being well prepared for Key stage 1.

% achieving GLD			
	2017	2018	2019
England	71%	71.5%	71.8%
IOW	71%	73.0%	71.5%
<i>Difference</i>	0	+1.5	-0.3

Workforce

Having strong numeracy and literacy skills are vital for those working with young children at a critical time in their development. It is essential for Early Years Practitioners to model excellent communication and language skills, as well as having excellent mathematical and problem solving skills. Early Years Practitioners need to have the skills and confidence to communicate to a wide audience, including parents, health workers, local authority officers as well as other professionals.

Below is a table which illustrates the levels of qualifications that have been obtained by Early Years Practitioners on the Island.

Qualification	Pre-school	Childminders offering Early Years funded places (including assistants)
Unqualified	29	6
Total number of staff that have a full and relevant early years level 2 qualification/s?	49	1
Total number of staff that have a full and relevant early years level 3 qualification/s?	381	10
Total number of staff that have a full and relevant early years level 3 qualification/s and in management?	65	6
Total number of staff with qualified teacher status?	15	0
Total number of staff with early year's professional status?	10	1
Total number of staff with early year's teacher status?	6	0
Total number of staff	555	24

The DFE requires providers to inform them of the qualification status of their staff through the Statutory Early Years census return.

The EY Foundation Stage Statutory Framework requires that for group provision the manager must hold a level 3 qualification. In addition, at least half of the other staff must hold at least a full and relevant level 3 qualification. In Spring 2020, 477 (86%) of the Early Years childcare workforce held a level 3 and above qualification.

Funded Early Years Education on the Isle of Wight

Early Years education take up offer

All three year olds from the term after their third birthday and all four year olds are eligible for up to 15 funded hours of childcare, known as the Universal Entitlement. They are entitled 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.

Year	Number of 3 & 4 year olds benefitting from some early years education	Percentage of 3 & 4 year olds benefitting from some early years education
2016	2720	97%
2017	2710	98%
2018	2670	96%
2019	2639	96%

Source – LA Interactive tool

The take up of some early years education Universal Entitlement on the Isle of Wight as a percentage of the population has remained fairly static over the last four years. This illustrates that 4% of the population are not accessing any Early Years education, this equates to approximately 113 children. However, when compared to national data the uptake is 2 % higher and, the Local Authority is ranked 4 when compared to its statistical neighbours.

Extended Early years Entitlement (30 hours)

In September 2017 the DfE implemented extended 15 hours entitlement for working families. This provided eligible families with the opportunity for children to have up to 30 hours funded hours childcare per week. The additional 15 hours is available to families where both parents (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family) are working. Each parent will earn on average a weekly minimum equivalent to approximately £125.00 per week for over 25's and, less than £100,000 per year. Parents that wish their child to access 30 hours must obtain an eligibility code from HMRC and have this verified by their childcare provider before the funding period starts.

EYE period	Eligibility codes issued by HMRC valid for the period	Codes validated by Providers for claiming in the period	Codes validated %of those issued	Children in a 30 hours place	Children in a 30 hours place as a percentage
Autumn 2017	476	461	97%	476	100%
Spring 2018	729	703	96%	694	95%
Summer 2018	867	829	96%	842	97%
Autumn 2018	598	581	97%	577	96%
Spring 2019	812	790	97%	803	99%
Summer 2019	943	912	97%	845	90%

2 year old Entitlement

Two year old entitlement was first introduced in 2003 from the Department for Education (DfE) and upscaled in 2013. 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 through accessing 15 hours of funding in a high-quality Early Years provision. This entitlement is subject to an economic criteria or if a child is looked after by the Local Authority or has additional needs. Eligible two year olds can access the funded childcare from the term after their second birthday.

Year	Number of 2 year olds benefiting from funded early years education	Percentage 2 year olds benefitting from funded early years education
2016	420	72%
2017	430	76%
2018	370	70%
2019	320	69%

Source – LA Interactive tool

The take up of two year old funding on the Isle of Wight as a percentage of the population has slightly declined but still remains 1% above national and, is ranked 8th against its statistical neighbour. The current headcount data from Autumn 2019 confirms this has remained static with 320 children claiming. The SDA checker the LA currently utilises states there are 393 eligible two year olds in February 2020 illustrating there are approximately 73 children 2 year olds who could be eligible are not taking up the offer.

Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

Background to SEND on the Isle of Wight

The Isle of Wight Authority is currently undertaking a strategic review of specialist SEND places. As a co-production with key stakeholders, this review will take account of the number of specialist educational places available for 0-25 year olds with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), in mainstream and special schools and other educational settings on the Isle of Wight. The review will also consider the suitability of these places to meet current and future needs of pupils and students with EHCPs, across the range of special educational needs and disabilities.

The information, which will inform the review, will come from the views of people who live and work with children and young people with SEND and will include the opinions and experiences of children and young people themselves. Data and statistical analysis will be a key part of the review, as well as national research in SEND; all contributing to a report that will show the current picture, future trends and recommendations for specialist educational provision on the Isle of Wight. This review will part of the next annual CSA report.

Current SEND

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.

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.

The childcare and Families Act 2014 requires each Local Authority to produce and publish a Local Offer 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.

The Early Years SEND Team ensure all registered Early Years childcare providers have their own versions of the local offer, which outlines how they support children with special educational needs or disability. The document is made available to parents via the Local Authority website. Currently 100% of registered early years Providers have their own local offer.

Disability Access Fund (DAF)

As part of the Early Years National Funding Formula (April 2017) local authorities introduced a Disability Access Fund (DAF). This funding ensures providers receive an additional lump sum £XXX for each child attending their setting who is in receipt of Disability Living allowance.

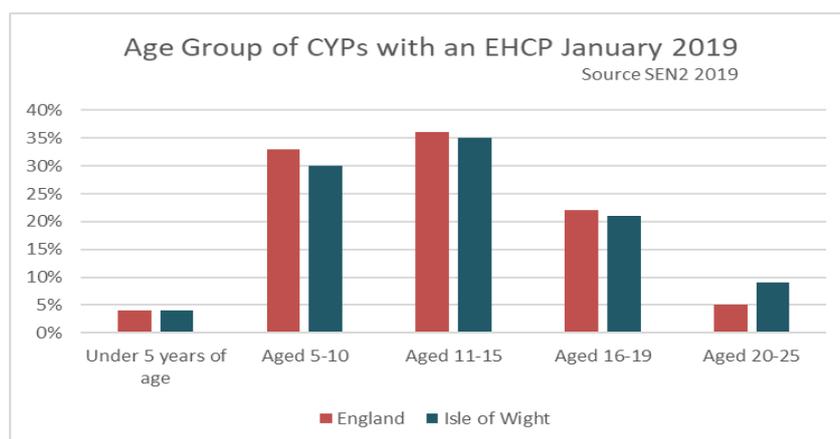
Provider	Number of children claiming DAF 2017	Number of children claiming DAF 2018	Number of children claiming DAF in 2019
Early Years Providers	32	45	35

The number of children who are claiming DAF on the Island is currently 35.

Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP)

An Education, Health and Care plan (EHC plan) 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 EHC plan is necessary, and after consultation with relevant partner agencies and with children, young people and parents.

EHC plans, and the needs assessment process through which these are made, were introduced as part of the Children and Families Act 2014. The Act, and an accompanying SEND Code of Practice, sets out how local authorities must deliver these.



The distribution of EHCPs amongst age groups is broadly in line with national data, except there are higher percentage of young people aged 20-25 with EHCPs on the Isle of Wight. The Early Years census January 2020 illustrates children under the age of 5 are being identified early with currently 28 children aged 0-3 having an EHCP and 116 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.

Vacancies

There is currently one Special school on the Island that caters for Early years children with complex needs from the age of three. There are currently no vacancies in this school in either their Nursery or YR class. There are 10 children aged 3-4 attending the Specialist nursery and 7 YR children attending the Specialist school. In addition to this there are four specialist units on the Island who cater for children with Autism Spectrum disorders (ASD) There are no Early Years children attending these units.

Methodology

The Isle of Wight CSA has been based upon a measurement of the supply and demand for childcare using both national statistics and a variety of data collected by the Local Authority.

Overall Sufficiency and our plans for the future

Currently the Isle of Wight has sufficient childcare overall. This is based on the available birth data, projections of future demand and information that is available about childcare provision on the Island.

Over the following year the Early Years Advisory Team will prioritise the following areas for development or implementation. This will further enhance our knowledge of sufficiency and management of the early years market, as we strive to ensure continued sufficient high quality childcare for all.

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

- Continue to recruit and train childminders to sustain the current market with the intention on growing the market in areas where needed.
- Offer business support to all Early years Providers to ensure sustainability.
- Continue to support all early years providers to deliver flexible 2,3 and 4 year old nursery education funded places, as well as supporting the expansion and development of childcare places across 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.
- Review all known housing developments to ensure Early Years places are a priority in the initial phases to meet possible future childcare demands.
- Implement an Early Years Business risk analysis across Early Years Providers to identify vulnerability with regards to future sustainability of providers to identify risks to ensure sufficient childcare places.

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

- Improve the Family Information Service to ensure information is accurate and signposting is clear to maximise the ability for parents to identify and secure childcare.
- Design and create a funding leaflet for parents to ensure information is clear and up to date.
- Ensure the Early Years websites are kept up to date with accurate information to enable parents to secure the childcare that meets their needs.

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

- Continue to monitor and promote 2 year old funding to ensure sufficient places.
- Continue to monitor and promote 30 hours childcare to ensure sufficient places.
- Continue to monitor to ensure take up entitlements for disadvantaged children: EYPP, DAF, SEND.
- Liaise with neighbouring authorities at regional, meetings to share processes and identify good practice models.

Early Years Portal (section 6, childcare Act (2006))

To roll out an Early Years portal for Early Years Providers. The benefits of having this additional system includes:

- A single system for collecting secure data which will reduce administration duties for the Local Authority.
- A single system where Providers can check the eligibility of children claiming funded hours.
- Empower Early Years Providers to maintain up to date information about their provision such as vacancies.
- Enable the Local Authority to have current live information.
- Allow parents/carers to have access to the very latest information to ensure their childcare needs are being met.