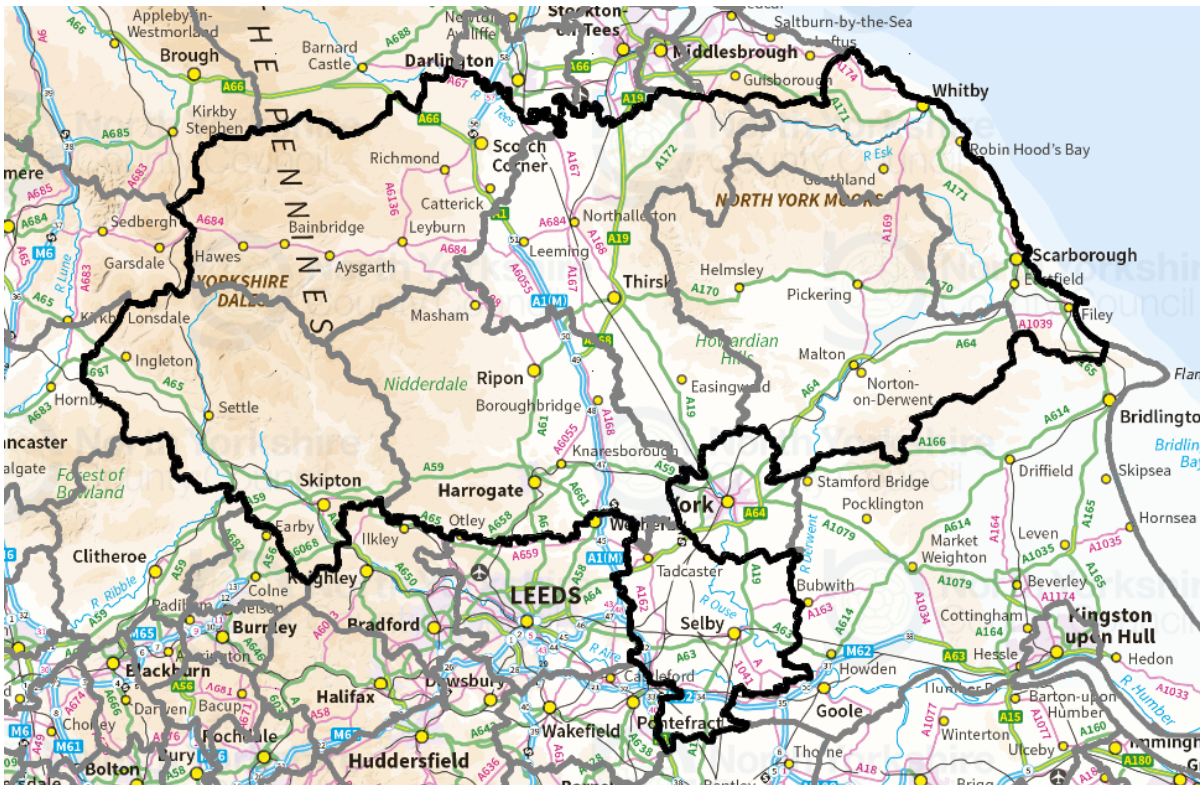


# Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2020

## The impact of COVID-19 on the Early Years and Childcare market in North Yorkshire County Council



Based on Spring, Summer and Autumn Terms 2020

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## 1. Introduction

North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) is a large rural county in the north of England. It is divided into seven districts: Craven, Hambleton, Harrogate, Richmondshire, Ryedale, Scarborough and Selby.

### **Purpose of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA)**

The purpose of the CSA is to provide an overview of the childcare market in North Yorkshire, identify gaps and review changes. The Childcare Act (2006) states that the Local Authority must make arrangements to ensure that early childhood services in their area are provided in such a way that facilitates access to those services, and maximises the benefit of those services to parents, prospective parents and young children.

The council is required by law to report annually to elected members on how it is meeting its duty to secure sufficient childcare and make this report available and accessible to parents and other interested parties. Having sufficient childcare means that families are able to find childcare that meets their child's learning needs and enables parents to make a real choice about work and training. This applies to all children from birth to age 14 and to children up to 18 with disabilities. Sufficiency is assessed for different groups rather than for all children in the local authority. Information about childcare sufficiency is then used to plan any changes needed to support the local childcare economy.

The CSA report for 2020 must be placed within the context of a global pandemic and reflects the impact of COVID-19 on the sector, including national lockdowns and the recovery period.

This report, therefore, can only consider what is already known about the childcare market in North Yorkshire. It can report on what childcare was available on 23rd March 2020 as the first lockdown began and what happened through the early phases through to the gradual re-opening of schools and settings in the Summer term and full re-opening in the Autumn term. The situation remains fluid.

The aim of the report is to present a summary of childcare sufficiency in North Yorkshire and to consider how the childcare market may look moving forwards. The report also considers the ongoing impact and risks to childcare sufficiency due to market sustainability.

The report provides a baseline of childcare sufficiency in North Yorkshire from 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 and reports on how the supply of childcare places was affected, and continues to be affected, by the pandemic. It shows take up of two, three and four-year-old places, as well as 30 hours funded places, and gives an update on previous recommendations from the 2019-20 CSA. In producing the report, the previous methodology has had to be revised.

The primary focus of the childcare assessment is on the childcare market being sustainable.

### **Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic**

Between 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 and end of July 2020, when the first national lock down was in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the duty on the Local Authority changed and childcare providers and schools were required to close to all children **with the exception of children of critical worker families and children deemed to be most vulnerable**.

The pandemic and the first national lockdown had, and continues to have, a massive impact on families' lives and childcare businesses.

The childcare market changed overnight and the repercussions of COVID-19 continue to have an impact on the local childcare market. The expectation is that the changes in the childcare sector will continue throughout the lifetime of the virus and probably beyond.

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, business and sustainability grant funding and fluctuations in demand for childcare places as schools, early years providers and out of school club provision (OOSC) closed and re-opened in phases had an impact. Government guidance on social distancing and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), keyworker and vulnerable children and shielding status have also had an impact.

It is not easy to predict how the local childcare market will look in the future and how further national and local lockdowns might affect the sector. There are many uncertainties around the global pandemic, which will certainly affect the local economy. Demand for childcare and in particular two, three and four-year-old and 30 hours places is highly dynamic and is likely to fluctuate as the ongoing effects of the pandemic are felt.

Furlough and redundancy could mean family economic circumstances decline with an impact on demand for 2-year-old places as more families claim Universal Credit and become eligible for the funding, which is allocated to the 40% most disadvantaged children. Childcare providers will need to make business decisions on their viability and sustainability which will influence the local market. The ending of Government policy on job retention schemes, business grants and business rates holidays will also play a part in shaping childcare in the future.

Families' changing needs will also influence the demand for childcare, especially as the economic impact of COVID-19 is felt with the possibility of rising unemployment and the increase in parents working from home long term. The demand for paid-for childcare and wraparound services may also be affected.

It is also difficult to predict how many families will return to using formal childcare after the end of the pandemic and how many may choose to use informal childcare instead. Using informal childcare, such as grandparents and family members, has been impacted by Government policies on shielding and other lockdown restrictions. The possibility of more homeworking and more part-time working may have an impact on demand for childcare places and may, conversely, lead to a greater demand for 30 hours places. There may also be a decline in the use of formal childcare as parents lose confidence in childcare provision being safe for their child.

Throughout the pandemic, the local authority continues to play a critical role in supporting children and family's access childcare during this time.

#### First Lockdown Period: 23<sup>rd</sup> March – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020

The Government announced that all schools and childcare providers would remain closed until further notice except for children of key/critical workers and vulnerable children.

Parents who were classed as key/critical workers were broadly in the following groups:

- NHS staff
- Emergency Services
- Those providing support to the vulnerable
- Probation workers
- Social workers
- Teachers and school staff
- Delivery drivers
- Supermarket workers

Children who were classed as vulnerable were:

- Children with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- Children known to social care

Children in receipt of two-year-old funding based only socio-economic criteria were not classed as vulnerable.

By 21<sup>st</sup> April 2020, the DfE estimated approximately 35% of settings were open nationwide with approximately 59,000 key worker children and 6,000 vulnerable children attending settings. This reflected the picture in North Yorkshire with just under a third of providers open or partially open in April.

Many early years providers that closed continued to support some aspects of children's learning at home through a variety of ways including distributing home learning packs and providing digital story times online.

On 12<sup>th</sup> May, Government announced that early years settings and schools could re-open to more children from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020, within certain guidelines.

On 15<sup>th</sup> May, updated guidance included “otherwise vulnerable children” referring to children who had been assessed as vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities but still did not include children in receipt of two-year-old funding based on only socio-economic criteria.

From 1<sup>st</sup> June, early years providers were asked to welcome children back following the DfE guidance “Implementing Protective Measures” which included taking children in smaller, consistent “bubbles” and “*prioritising vulnerable children and children of critical workers then 3- and 4-year-olds, in particular those who will be transitioning to reception in September.*” The guidance acknowledged that not all children would be able to return and settings were required to undertake a risk assessment and, where necessary, “cap” the number of children who attended.

By 1<sup>st</sup> July, nationally 48,000 out of the 72,000 childcare providers were open or had re-opened. Nationally 40% of childcare remained closed until mid-July.

From 20<sup>th</sup> July, restrictions were relaxed and settings were asked to prepare to welcome back all children without the need to keep children in small, consistent “bubbles”. Additionally, parents were encouraged to limit the number of settings their child attended during a week.

From September 2020, infection rates had dropped and settings welcomed back all children with various measures in place to try and limit the spread of infection such as staggered drop off times.

On 17<sup>th</sup> September, the DfE estimated that 619,000 children were attending early years settings nationally. By 26<sup>th</sup> November, this had increased to 806,000.

### Second lockdown

The second national lockdown began for a four-week period from 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020 but early years settings remained fully open.

### Support for the sector

Early Years providers were supported throughout the pandemic through regular communications from, and conversations with local authority teams including the Family Information Service (FIS). Although all LA staff were required to work from home with limited exceptions, the FIS telephone help line remained open to families and providers throughout the pandemic. Providers were able to access individual support and advice through email and telephone communications with local authority staff. The decision was made to base all advice and guidance given to the sector on Government directives.

Between the period 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020 – 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 (the start of lockdown), 26 separate communications were sent to providers through FIS including:

- Central Government guidance and updated guidance
- DfE Daily Updates
- Public Health guidance
- Ofsted updates
- COVID-19 checklist and impact documents
- Letters from CYPS Corporate Director and the Children’s Minister

From 24<sup>th</sup> March – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, a further 48 communications were issued by email to early years providers. Advice was provided to support interpretation of latest guidance documents to providers and parents.

During this period, the Early Years Funding Team issued 23 support documents with guidance relating to early years funding by email to early years providers.

A dedicated website was created on the CYPS website [cyps.northyorks.gov.uk/covid-19](https://cyps.northyorks.gov.uk/covid-19) as well as a dedicated COVID-19 email address.

In North Yorkshire, childcare hubs were created to support NHS staff and critical workers who were finding it difficult to secure childcare for their children. Data showed how many childcare providers

were within close proximity to the 23 main hospitals and 15 main police stations. Initially, the expectation was that demand for early years places would be high and that there would be insufficient childcare available for key workers. In reality, as families secured other forms of childcare, the demand for childcare places was lower than originally anticipated. All children were accommodated either in existing early years provision that remained open or in one of the NYCC hubs.

Early years hubs were created in:

- Harrogate
- Malton
- Northallerton
- Hutton Rudby
- Ripon
- Catterick

## **Funding Streams**

### **National Funding in response to COVID-19**

The Government introduced the following package of support to early years providers over the course of the lockdown and recovery periods: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-financial-support-for-education-early-years-and-childrens-social-care>

- Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (known as Furlough)
- Self-Employment Income Support Scheme
- District or Borough Council Discretionary Grant Fund
- A Business Rates 'holiday' for one year
- COVID-19 Bounce Back Loan Scheme
- COVID-19 Business Interruption Loan Scheme
- VAT deferral

As many early years settings are in receipt of both Government funding and parental fees, the furlough scheme only applied partially to the early years sector. PVI settings were only able to furlough staff in line with the percentage of income lost which they would have received from parental fees.

Not all early years providers were able to take advantage of the above package of support due to their business type, size and (for self-employed childminders) the length of time they had been self-employed. Business Interruption insurance cover was also available through some insurance companies but it would appear that access to being able to claim this was very limited.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-your-nursery-is-eligible-for-business-rates-relief-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19>

During the Spring and Summer terms, the early years sector continued to receive early years Government funding for children who would have attended childcare provision if the pandemic had not happened.

For Autumn 2020, Government guidance issued on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020 suggested that providers could be paid on their headcount figures from Autumn 2019 to take into account any loss of anticipated take up for the actual term.

*“The intention is to fund on the basis of “as if Autumn term 2020 were happening normally”. In order to do this, local authorities might, for example, use the number of children in places in the previous Autumn to inform funding levels this Autumn.”*

By providing finance based on Autumn 2019 figures, the impression given is that the childcare market appeared resilient.

## **National Context**

There are a number of policies that affect the childcare market including:

- National living wage and national minimum wage rises
- Automatic enrolment for employees' pensions
- Tax-funded childcare
- Universal Credit
- Benefit changes

### **National Living Wage and National Minimum Wage**

The National Living Wage increased by 6.20% in April 2020 to £8.72. The National Minimum Wage increased from £7.70 per hour to £8.20 per hour for people aged 21 to 24; from £6.15 per hour to £6.45 per hour for people aged 18 to 20 and from £4.35 to £4.55 for 16/17 year olds. Staff costs constitute the largest part of the base cost for childcare providers.

### **Automatic enrolment pension schemes**

From April 2016, employers have been required to enrol workers into a workplace pension scheme if they are aged between 22 and state pension age and earning more than £10,000 per annum. Minimum employer contributions are 3%.

### **Tax-funded childcare**

Tax-funded childcare applies to all children of working families, including the self-employed, aged 0 – 11 (or under 17 for children with disabilities). For every £8 parents pay in, the Government will add an extra £2, up to £2,000 per child per year.

### **Universal Credit**

Universal Credit has replaced the following benefits:

- Child Tax Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Working Tax Credit

### **Universal Credit for childcare**

For working families claiming Universal Credit, up to 85% of eligible childcare costs can be claimed.

## **Funded Early Education Entitlement (FEEE)**

Government funded places in North Yorkshire for 2020 were paid at the following rates:

- Eligible two-year-olds in all settings £5.28 per hour
- Eligible three and four-year-olds in all settings £4.09 per hour

### **1) Two-year-old funded early education entitlement (FEEE)**

Some parents and/or carers of two-year-old children are eligible for FEEE. Eligibility is based on the following national criteria:

- Income Support

- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit and household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax, not including benefit payments
- Tax credits and household income is £16,190 a year or less before tax
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- The Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment qualification for Working Tax Credit stops)

Two-year-old children can also receive funded childcare if they:

- are looked after by a local authority (LAC)
- have a statement of [special education needs \(SEN\)](#) or an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- get [Disability Living Allowance](#)
- have left care under an adoption order, special guardianship order or a child arrangements order

For non-EEA citizens who cannot claim benefits, families may get two-year-old funded childcare if:

- Getting support under the Immigration and Asylum Act and have either:
- Claimed asylum in the UK and are waiting for a decision (known as 'part 6')
- been refused asylum in the UK (known as 'section 4')

A two-year-old may also get free childcare if a household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax, and have any of the following:

- leave to remain with 'no recourse to public funds' on [family or private life grounds](#)
- support from your local council because you have 'a child in need', for example they have a disability or a child protection plan
- the right to live in the UK because you're the main carer of a British citizen (known as a '[Zambrano Carer](#)')

### Introduction of "Golden Ticket" letters in North Yorkshire for disadvantaged two-year-olds

As part of NYCC's Grow and Learn project, Grow and Learn the Behavioural Insights Team identified the two-year-old funding process as an area that could be improved for families, as well as increasing the uptake of two-year-old funded places. This could result in an increase in the number of children reaching a good level of development (GLD) at the end of the Foundation Stage. This is explained further in the report.

### 2) Universal FEEE – 15 hours

All three and four-year-old children in England are eligible for 570 hours of funded childcare per year from the term after their third birthday. This is usually taken as 15 hours a week for 38 weeks of the year and is known as the "universal entitlement". This entitlement continues until the child starts reception in a state funded school or until the term that they turn five if they attend an independent school.

### 3) Extended Entitlement (EE) FEEE – also known as "30 hours funding"

The Government extended the funded childcare entitlement for working parents of three and four-year-olds by a further 15 hours per week to 30 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year (1,140 hours per year). This is known as the Extended Entitlement (EE) or "30 hours funding". National criteria for eligibility of the EE FEEE can be found on the Childcare Choices website

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

During the first lockdown and recovery period, the Government made temporary changes to the eligibility criteria for 30 hours funding. Parents whose income had fallen because of the pandemic, or parents who were critical workers and whose income exceeded the top threshold due to working



increased hours, would continue to receive financial support through the 30 hours funding. The following factors affected income:

- furlough scheme
- working less hours or not working at all
- self-employed
- critical workers.

This provided financial security to parents who would otherwise have fallen out of eligibility. Further details are available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-you-can-get-tax-free-childcare-and-30-hours-free-childcare-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

#### 4) Additional funding to support vulnerable children

##### Special Educational Needs Inclusion Funding (SENIF)

Additional SENIF is available for children with emerging, targeted and higher level of SEND needs. This funding continued to be paid to providers to support settings remaining open for the most vulnerable children. Disability Access Funding (DAF) is an annual payment for children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance.

##### Deprivation and Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) Funding

Additional payments are made to supplement the hourly funding rate for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Deprivation funding and EYPP is paid to providers via the headcount to support disadvantaged 3 and 4-year-olds who access their provision.

#### **The Council's Strategic Priorities: January 2019 – December 2020**

The following priorities have all been actioned:

- Improve processes within the local authority to help improve the percentage take up of two-year-old funded childcare places.  
**The local authority has implemented a Golden Ticket process from Autumn 2020 to remove barriers for parents by ending the need for parent application if they are on the Department for Works and Pensions (DWP) list. Links have been made with managers and staff at Job Centre Plus sites to promote two-year-old funding as part of their financial support package to families.**
- Improve the local authority's relationship with Out of School Club (OOSC) providers to ensure flexibility for working parents.  
**The local authority continues to explore different ways to engage with the OOSC sector.**
- Help support providers to work together in partnership to offer 30 hours funding for working parents.  
**The local authority has supported providers to do this when parents wish to use more than one setting for their childcare funded entitlement.**
- Carry out further research as to whether there is sufficient OOSC provision for children with SEND.  
**The local authority has begun a review of early years SEND provision, which includes children taking wrap-around care, and out of school provision.**
- Continue to work with providers to develop systems for monitoring availability of places by age range across the county.  
**The local authority introduced the Sufficiency Tab on the Families Information Service (FIS) Provider Portal for the providers to complete the number of vacant places available in their provision. The local authority has undertaken a twice weekly, and then weekly, data snap survey collection exercise with providers that is submitted to the Department for Education (DfE). This enables the local authority to monitor the sufficiency of childcare places.**

- Continue to monitor the childcare market across the county but with particular focus on Craven, Scarborough and Selby districts.  
**The local authority has continued to do this especially with regard to the impact COVID-19 has had on the sustainability of provision across the county and in particular these districts.**
- Continue to link early years sufficiency work with strategic planning work.  
**Partnership working between services continues to strengthen and services work cohesively to ensure that early years provision across the county meets the needs of families and supports a varied yet sustainable childcare market.**
- Continue to support schools who are considering offering early years provision whilst maintaining overview and need for a flexible childcare market.  
**The local authority continues to provide information, advice and support to individual headteachers and governors who are considering expanding their provision to include pre-reception early years or who are considering altering the type of provision currently offered. The local authority does this with its responsibility to take into consideration existing provision in the area whilst ensuring that the childcare market is flexible for parents and viable long-term.**
- Continue to monitor staff vacancies and staff recruitment within the PVI sector to ensure availability of quality childcare provision across the county.  
**The local authority promotes staff vacancies for all PVI providers through FIS. The local authority encourages providers to work in partnership with other settings to maximise potential and capacity within the market to ensure sufficient childcare is available.**

## 2. Demand for Childcare

### Population information for North Yorkshire

NYCC has a population of around 618,000 (ONS mid-2019 population estimate). Just over a quarter of the population live within the Harrogate district (160,800), whilst Scarborough district has the second largest population (108,750). Craven district (57,100) and Ryedale district (55,400) have the lowest populations. 43% of the overall population lives in either the Harrogate district or Scarborough district

Approximately 95% of North Yorkshire's population identifies as White British.

Population estimates for North Yorkshire by single year of age (source: Nomis 18/01/2021)

Age	Population	+/- from previous year
<b>0 – 4 years</b>	29,248	-458
<b>5 – 9 years</b>	33,495	-171
<b>10 – 14 years</b>	34,263	+486
<b>15 – 19 years</b>	31,814	-12
<b>20 – 24 years</b>	25,606	-12
<b>Total Population 0 – 24 years</b>	154,426	-167
<b>Total Population (all persons)</b>	618,054	+3,549

This reflects a fall in the number of children in the 0 – 4-year-old age group. This is consistent with national data that shows a 2.5% decrease in recorded births from 2018 to 2019 <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/livebirths>. With provisional birth rates predicted to fall from 481,767 in 2019 to 464,437 in 2020 <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/livebirths/datasets/provisionalbirthsinenglandandwales>

Live Births 2018/2019

District	Number of births 2018	Number of births 2019	+/- from previous year
Craven	470	419	-51
Hambleton	720	645	-75
Harrogate	1,357	1,284	-73
Richmondshire	513	417	-96
Ryedale	413	460	+47
Scarborough	918	924	+6
Selby	921	900	-21
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,312</b>	<b>5,049</b>	<b>-263</b>

(Source: NYCC Strategic Planning Dept.)

This represents a 5% decrease in births in North Yorkshire between 2018 and 2019. With birth rates falling, this will have an impact on the demand for early years places. However, data from suggests that projected birth rates are due to increase over the next few years.

### Projected births 2020 – 2023

2020	5276
2021	5237
2022	5194
2023	5172

### Population of early years children

There are a total of 29,248 children under the age of five living in North Yorkshire (January 2021). This is an increase of 1,037 children from the previous year. The increases are in Craven, Ryedale, Scarborough and Selby. Hambleton and Harrogate both saw decreases whilst Richmondshire remained static.

Population of early years children								
	North Yorks	Craven	Hambleton	Harrogate	Richmondshire	Ryedale	Scarborough	Selby
Age 0	5256	461	691	1323	480	446	927	928
Age 1	5567	478	749	1439	521	442	966	972
Age 2	5863	460	818	1519	539	473	1052	1002
Age 3	6214	533	891	1650	505	514	1054	1067
Age 4	6348	507	843	1646	580	550	1129	1093
Aged 0-4	29248	2439	3992	7577	2625	2425	5128	5062

### Population of school age children

There are 62,653 children aged 5 – 14 years living in North Yorkshire (School Census, January 2020). This is a decrease of 138 from the previous year.

Number of children in receipt of Inclusion Funding for 2020

Number of Early Years children with SEND

Families who have children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) are entitled to support with childcare up to the age of 18. North Yorkshire County Council supports early years providers through a dedicated team from the Inclusion service. NYC is aware that some families who have children with SEND prefer to defer their place in a reception class until the following year and that there is not always sufficient provision in out of school and holiday clubs for children with SEND.

Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Age	North Yorks	%	Craven	%	Hambleton	%	Harrogate	%	Richmond	%	Ryedale	%	Scarborough	%	Selby	%
Age 5	544	9%	42	8%	44	5%	190	12%	51	10%	45	9%	100	10%	72	7%
Age 6	515	9%	44	8%	67	8%	166	11%	44	9%	36	8%	71	7%	87	9%
Age 7	593	10%	47	9%	69	8%	193	12%	42	8%	45	9%	105	9%	92	9%
Age 8	575	9%	62	10%	55	6%	176	11%	59	11%	49	9%	80	7%	94	9%
Age 9	579	9%	45	8%	63	8%	192	12%	52	10%	34	7%	99	9%	94	9%
Age 10	607	10%	54	9%	83	9%	195	12%	48	10%	42	8%	96	9%	89	9%
Age 5-10	3413	9%	294	9%	381	7%	1112	12%	296	10%	251	8%	551	9%	528	9%
Age 11	659	10%	109	15%	52	6%	231	12%	44	9%	34	6%	100	9%	89	9%
Age 12	626	10%	155	19%	63	8%	199	11%	38	7%	34	5%	67	7%	70	8%
Age 13	597	9%	134	17%	39	5%	214	11%	38	8%	35	6%	75	8%	62	6%
Age 14	546	9%	128	17%	31	4%	197	10%	29	6%	30	5%	78	8%	53	6%
Age 11-14	2428	9%	526	17%	185	6%	841	11%	149	7%	133	6%	320	8%	274	7%

Number and percentage of BME pupils  
Numbers and percentages by age as at January 2020 census

There are a total of 5,841 BME children aged 5 – 14 years living in North Yorkshire (School Census, January 2020). This is a decrease of 392 children from the previous year.

Population of school age children who are Black Minority Ethnic (BME)

Age	North Yorks	Craven	Hambleton	Harrogate	Richmond	Ryedale	Scarborough	Selby
Age 5	5935	523	832	1528	532	492	1033	995
Age 6	5940	563	858	1549	486	475	1002	1007
Age 7	6191	548	887	1612	525	498	1119	1002
Age 8	6304	612	894	1628	522	568	1089	991
Age 9	6192	564	820	1665	542	497	1069	1035
Age 10	6274	583	899	1658	504	537	1128	965
Age 5-10	36836	3393	5190	9640	3111	3067	6440	5995
Age 11	6613	729	837	1850	517	573	1089	1018
Age 12	6457	822	812	1761	539	623	985	915
Age 13	6440	773	745	1891	487	592	980	972
Age 14	6307	770	747	1877	466	578	975	894
Age 11-14	25817	3094	3141	7379	2009	2366	4029	3799
Total 5-14	62653	6487	8331	17019	5120	5433	10469	9794

Population of school age children  
Numbers by age as at January 2020 census

Age	Spring term 2020 – 1 <sup>st</sup> half	Spring term 2020 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> half	Summer term 2020 – 1 <sup>st</sup> half	Summer term 2020 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> half	Autumn term 2020 – 1 <sup>st</sup> half	Autumn term 2020 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> half
2	0	0	27	27	9	14
3 & 4	185	191	169	170	71	85
Total	185	191	196	197	80	99

### Number of children in receipt of Disability Access Funding (DAF) for 2020

Term	Number children in receipt of DAF
Spring 2020	25
Summer 2020	18
Autumn 2020	22

### Children with new Educational Health Care Plans (EHCP) for children aged 0 – 4 years

Term	Number of new EHCPs
Spring 2020	21
Summer 2020	44
Autumn 2020	38

### Number of school age children with SEND

There were 9,604 children aged 5 – 14 years living in North Yorkshire with SEND. This is an increase of 710 children from the previous year. (Schools Census, January 2020).

Number and percentage of SEN pupils (EHCP and SEN Support)																
Numbers and percentages by age as at January 2020 census																
	North Yorks	%	Craven	%	Hambleton	%	Harrogate	%	Richmond	%	Ryedale	%	Scarborough	%	Selby	%
Age 5	613	10%	41	8%	99	12%	141	9%	64	12%	56	11%	115	11%	97	10%
Age 6	814	14%	66	12%	156	18%	207	13%	60	12%	66	14%	138	14%	121	12%
Age 7	1022	17%	61	11%	180	20%	237	15%	89	17%	104	21%	212	19%	139	14%
Age 8	1078	17%	71	12%	178	20%	275	17%	92	18%	108	19%	208	19%	146	15%
Age 9	1143	18%	84	15%	161	20%	304	18%	116	21%	84	17%	203	19%	191	18%
Age 10	1198	19%	100	17%	190	21%	296	18%	89	18%	114	21%	231	20%	178	18%
Aged 5-10	5868	16%	423	12%	964	19%	1460	15%	510	16%	532	17%	1107	17%	872	15%
Age 11	1070	16%	114	16%	163	19%	257	14%	91	18%	93	16%	208	19%	144	14%
Age 12	1025	16%	98	12%	174	21%	258	15%	99	18%	73	12%	179	18%	144	16%
Age 13	829	13%	80	10%	150	20%	218	12%	66	14%	66	11%	138	14%	111	11%
Age 14	812	13%	76	10%	133	18%	210	11%	65	14%	54	9%	160	16%	114	13%
Aged 11-14	3736	14%	368	12%	620	20%	943	13%	321	16%	286	12%	685	17%	513	14%

## 3. Supply of Childcare

NYCC has a variety of childcare providers offering flexibility and a range of childcare provision.

As of 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020, there were 716 providers offering childcare to children under 5 years. The childcare market includes Ofsted registered PVI providers (i.e. private day nurseries, preschools/playgroups, childminders, childcare on domestic premises), maintained schools and academies with nursery provision, maintained nursery schools and independent schools with nursery provision.

As of December 2020 there were 709 providers offering 13,175 Government funded places and 1,027 non-Government funded places.

As of 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020 there were 141 registered out of school club providers. As of December 2020, this has dropped slightly to 138.

Number of early years providers and places (under 5)				
Numbers by funded/non-funded				
North Yorks				
	Providers	Funded	Non Funded	Total
Academy	0	0	0	0
Academy Governor-Run	0	0	0	0
Academy Nursery Class	40	902	0	902
Breakfast Club	6	0	6	6
Childcare On Domestic Premises	2	41	0	41
Childcare On Non Domestic Premises	0	0	0	0
Childminder	332	646	294	940
Creche	2	0	0	0
Day Nursery	141	6855	238	7093
Governor-Run Early Years Provision	24	408	0	408
Holiday Club	34	0	38	38
Home Childcarer	62	0	5	5
Maintained Nursery Class	75	1569	10	1579
Maintained Nursery School	3	152	0	152
Maintained Nursery Schools And Classes	1	83	0	83
Nursery Units Of Independent Schools	13	419	0	419
Out Of School Provision	138	45	436	481
Pre-School Playgroup	84	2055	0	2055
Total	957	13175	1027	14202

### Supply during lockdown

During lockdown, early years providers were advised to remain open for vulnerable children or children of critical key workers. At the beginning of lockdown, many early years providers closed for all children but some providers remained open as requested.

At the start of lockdown, only 27% of the PVI providers remained open. This grew steadily over the weeks to 31% in May. Nationally approximately 32% of providers remained open.

The Department for Education (DfE) launched a twice-weekly data collection process in April 2020 to ensure there was up to date information on childcare and early years provision during the COVID-19 pandemic. The data was published as a summary on the Gov.UK website.

The DfE asked Ofsted to monitor which providers on the early years register were open or closed. This information gave setting level data required by Ofsted to fulfil its safeguarding requirements as a regulator.

Close monitoring of early years provision was undertaken throughout this period to ensure that childcare needs were being met throughout the county.

During lockdown, childminders provided vital support to families, with the greater number of individual childminders remaining open compared to group providers. However, childminders are not able to take the volume of children that group providers can. The picture in North Yorkshire was similar to many

other local authorities across the country who shared, anecdotally, that childminders were the backbone of childcare provision in the early days of the first national lockdown.

Data as at 15/4/2020 showing open and closed providers across the county

	Childminders	Nurseries	Preschools	OOSC	Independent	Total
<b>Richmondshire</b>						
<b>Open</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>
Closed	36	8	5	7	1	57
Not known	3	1	2	2	0	8
<b>Ryedale</b>						
<b>Open</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>			<b>10</b>
Closed	15	9	7	3	1	35
Not known	4					4
<b>Harrogate</b>						
<b>Open</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28</b>
Closed	59	19	15	33	6	132
Not known	2	2	3	11	0	18
<b>Craven</b>						
<b>Open</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
Closed	28	11	7	13	0	59
Not known	2	0	1	3	0	6
<b>Coast</b>						
<b>Open</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>
Closed	34	15	12	8	1	70
Not known	5			3		8
<b>Hambleton</b>						
<b>Open</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>
Closed	34	15	9	16	0	74
Not known	4	1	1	3	0	9
<b>Selby</b>						
<b>Open</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>
Closed	48	19	14	18	1	100
Not known	6			2		10

Data showing PVI providers open as at 15/04/2020

District	Childminders	Preschools and private day nurseries	Total for District
Richmondshire	8	3	11

Ryedale	7	3	10
Harrogate	16	10	26
Craven	4	1	5
Coast	13	6	19
Hambleton	8	6	14
Selby	15	10	25
<b>Total Providers Open</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>149</b>

Data showing PVI providers open as at 11/05/2020

District	Childminders	Preschools and private day nurseries	Total for District
Richmondshire	16	3	19
Ryedale	11	6	17
Harrogate	24	15	39
Craven	7	4	11
Coast	15	8	23
Hambleton	14	17	31
Selby	21	11	32
<b>Total Providers Open</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>172</b>

Supply during recovery (from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020)

Following the Government's advice that settings could open for more children from 1<sup>st</sup> June, there was a steady increase in the number of PVI providers re-opening. Guidelines stated that children had to be kept in bubbles of 8 or up to 16 with consistent staff and limited mixing of the groups. This meant that some providers effectively had to "cap" the number of children who attended and re-model their delivery.

The data continued to be collected by the DfE beyond 1<sup>st</sup> June (recovery period) to ensure the local authorities and the DfE had information on which children were accessing provision and if there were sufficiency issues.

The DfE data collection survey reduced from twice-weekly to weekly during the Autumn term 2020.

In North Yorkshire, the number of PVI providers open in June doubled to 66% and continued to rise to 74% by the end of the Summer term. Nationally, between 48% and 50% providers were open.

Data showing PVI providers open as at 4/6/2020

District	Childminders	Preschools and private day nurseries	Total
Richmondshire	28	15	43
Ryedale	16	18	34
Harrogate	40	43	83
Craven	16	16	32
Coast	27	28	55
Hambleton	25	32	57
Selby	29	35	64
<b>Total Providers open</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>368</b>

Data showing PVI providers open as at 16/7/2020



District	Childminders	Preschools/Day Nurseries	Total
Richmondshire	29	16	45
Ryedale	16	19	35
Harrogate	41	54	95
Craven	18	19	37
Coast	30	33	63
Hambleton	27	34	61
Selby	37	41	78
<b>Total</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>414</b>

PVI preschools, day nurseries and childminders who were not open by the end of the recovery period were contacted to establish the reason for their not re-opening and to keep lines of communication open.

#### Preschools and Day Nurseries not open on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020

District	Opening before end of term	Not opening until September/no contact.	Reason for not re-opening
Richmondshire	0	0	
Ryedale	0	0	
Harrogate	0	1 Preschool	Problems with the venue
Craven	0	1 Preschool	Problems with the venue
Coast	0	1 Preschool	No demand
Hambleton	0	1 Day Nursery 1 Preschool	No demand No demand
Selby	0	1 Preschool	Problems with the venue
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	

#### Childminders not open on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020

District	Opening before end of the Summer	Not opening until September or no response.
Richmondshire	0	17
Ryedale	1	7
Harrogate	0	33
Craven	0	14
Coast	1	18
Hambleton	3	16
Selby	3	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>129</b>

## Factors affecting the supply of childcare provision

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<p><b>Health and safety</b> of the workforce, parents, families, and children. Physical and mental health and wellbeing.</p>	<p><b>Demand from families</b> for paid-for childcare, and for funded entitlements. Parental confidence, and changes in employment patterns and household routines.</p>	<p><b>Availability of workforce</b> ability and willingness (impacted by school and childcare availability for own children, health, household needs, family economics, employment offer, and anxiety).</p>
<p><b>Finances and funding</b> income levels from Govt. inc. COVID-19 financial support and funded entitlements. Paid-for childcare. Increased costs of delivery.</p>	<p><b>PPE</b> ability to source and need and preferences of use (DfE, workforce and parents) within an early years context.</p>	<p><b>Premises</b> control of and access to own or shared premises e.g. community buildings or school sites. Being able to adapt to new requirements.</p>
<p><b>Groups in need</b> meeting the needs of vulnerable children and the children of keyworkers, helping children's wellbeing, supporting families.</p>	<p><b>Service delivery</b> the impact on previous models of delivery and the design and delivery of emerging new ones. Balancing workforce deployment and costs.</p>	<p><b>Children's cohorts</b> managing groups and bubbles of children, including children moving around settings/schools and changing setting(s).</p>

## Wraparound provision/Out of School Club Provision (OOSC)

In January 2020, there were 141 wraparound providers, 40 of which were based in schools. The demand for wraparound provision was affected by the first lockdown, as many parents no longer required the service for their children due to their own change in circumstances and the requirement for children to be kept in bubbles, where possible these should be consistent with school bubbles, limiting their operating model. As a result, many out of school providers closed during the first lockdown and remained closed during the initial recovery period.

Government guidance on managing schools and health and safety have had an impact on how wraparound services can be delivered.

During the Summer term, NYCC FIS sent a survey to all out of school providers in preparation for wider re-opening in September 2020. Responses were received from 42 providers (30%) with the following results:-

- 25 respondents are based on a school site (60%)
- 29 respondents offer year round provision (69%)
- 31 respondents would not be changing their operating model from September (74%)
- 39 respondents were able to meet demand for all children (93%)
- 30 respondents were able to meet demand for children with SEND (75%)

Qualitative data gathered reflected concerns in this sector of the market for future sustainability.

## Supply of childcare places from September 2020

All early years providers could open fully from September and welcome back all children. There were 17 childminders who chose to remain closed due to personal reasons but the majority of these childminders did not offer Government-funded places to early years children.

NYCC FIS asked PVI providers to complete a survey indicating their intentions for the Autumn Term. 239 providers (42%) completed the survey with 99% indicating that they would be open and 96% open fully (5 days a week). 202 providers (85%) would be offering the same business model and 154 (64%) did not expect their offer to change over the Autumn term.

Providers answered that reduced children in the Autumn term would be the biggest impact on their businesses. Providers could answer more than one reason, the main reasons being:

Reason for reduced children	% of responses
Transition to Reception	55%
Parent anxiety	65%
Change in parents' circumstances	78%

Providers were asked if they anticipated being able to meet the demand for childcare:

Meet demand for all children	94%
Meet demand for Government funded places	94%
Meet demand for children with SEND	89%
Meet demand for vulnerable children	91%

Providers were asked if they would like help from Business Support. Business Support contacted those who required it.

Yes	10%
No	90%

### Permanent Closures from March 2020 – December 2020

Although the financial shock of lockdown hit providers unequally, the continuation of early years Government funding meant that funded hours were continued more or less unchanged.

For hours funded by parental fees, the situation was more complicated. Nationally, according to the Institute of Fiscal Studies, parental fees account for an average of 64% of income for each setting and the key questions for sustainability are: how much demand there will be for childcare and how quickly it returns <https://www.ifs.org.uk/publications/14990>

Each year, the childcare market experiences turnover as providers close and new ones open and the market adjusts to parental preferences. The pandemic has left the childcare market in a hazardous position.

The Early Years Alliance conducted a national survey and its report, "The Forgotten Sector: The financial impact of COVID-19 on early years providers in England" published 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020, found that 69% of providers were expecting to operate as a loss over the coming months and 25% of providers felt it "likely" that they would be forced to close within a year. <https://www.eyalliance.org.uk/forgotten-sector-report>

The PVI sector cited lack of parity between themselves and the maintained sector concerning the extra operating costs involved during the pandemic. This mainly focused around the costs of extra cleaning equipment and PPE equipment (gloves/aprons etc.) which they had to self-fund compared to schools who were provided with financial support from the Government. Anecdotal accounts from the PVI sector reported that the cost of these items had increased significantly during the pandemic.

Not all closures were entirely due to the pandemic but the pandemic was the catalyst that ultimately led to the decision to close their businesses.

The net loss in NYCC was four providers with three private day nurseries and one preschool closing in the Craven area. Although all children were able to find provision at alternative childcare settings, Craven is an area to monitor closely.

### Total Closed and Open Ofsted Registrations across the county Spring 2020 – Autumn 2020

	<b>Closed</b>	<b>Open</b>	<b>-/+</b>
<b>Childminders</b>	33	26	-7
<b>Playgroup/Preschools</b>	6	4	-2
<b>Day Nurseries</b>	4	4	0
<b>Out of school clubs</b>	5	6	+1
<b>Maintained nursery</b>	6	3	-3
<b>Academy nursery</b>	0	4	+4
<b>Gov run preschools</b>	0	3	+3
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>-4</b>

The biggest loss in the sector is the number of childminders and although the number of places they offer is relatively small compared to nurseries, they often provide vital childcare in rural areas.

### Provider availability across NYCC

There is a wide range of different types of childcare provider offering a breadth of experience and expertise across the early years sector. The variety and diversity of settings offers parents a range of flexible childcare options with many local providers working together in partnership to enable parents to meet their work commitments. This reflects that there is no homogeneity in early years and childcare provision. Harrogate and Selby offer the most funded childcare places.

### Demand for early years provision during lockdown and recovery

In March 2020, the Government announced that all schools and childcare providers would remain closed until further notice except for children of key workers and vulnerable children.

In the initial weeks of lockdown, it was difficult to estimate how many children were attending early years provision. Online submission and reporting of data to the DfE did not start until week three of lockdown. Figures from early survey returns showed as few as 292 children attended childcare settings. This rose to approximately 2,071 children by the end of Summer term.

The response rate to the survey remained low at approximately 30% from PVI providers and data was not collected from schools at this time.

During lockdown, the demand for childcare was low during this period as families made alternative arrangements for childcare provision.

*“All my parents have made alternative provision, especially with most working from home.”*

*“We are closed and all our children are being cared for at home.”*

*“We are open this week but numbers have been dropping of critical workers children as parents lost jobs or are now at home. We will be reducing to one or two days next week and some days only 1 which unfortunately is not possible to do.”*

*“We spoke to all Key Workers and the majority had one parent at home. We explained that we should be used as a last resort and if they could stay at home, they should. All found alternative care and under the current guidelines without Key Worker children we closed.”*

The changes to demand for childcare places based on parental preference in North Yorkshire are consistent with the national picture from data supplied by Hemsall’s (below).

<p><b>Health &amp; safety/PPE</b> views about their children's health and safety and how children attending childcare affects their own households.</p>	<p><b>Employment changes</b> redundancy, reduced or different hours, new jobs, new lower or higher income levels, change of location of work.</p>	<p><b>Ability to pay</b> reduced or increased ability or desire to pay for childcare.</p>
<p><b>Anxiety</b> feelings of apprehension and nervousness around coming out of lockdown, wellbeing issues.</p>	<p><b>Single setting</b> wanting to use only one setting to reduce H&amp;S risk, or for more convenience, as a result of guidance, or to fit new needs.</p>	<p><b>Changes of eligibility</b> families could fall in and out of eligibility for two-year-olds and 30 hours funding.</p>
<p><b>Vulnerability</b> families and children becoming vulnerable where they were not before.</p>	<p><b>Household routines</b> work and life changes, e.g. working from home, reduced commute times, new beginnings and ends to the day, parents working.</p>	<p><b>Change of mind</b> switching from wanting a group setting or home-based setting and vice versa, or opting for informal or familial care.</p>

## 4. Funding

Many pre-school children are eligible for 570 hours of childcare and education funded by the Government (equivalent to 15 hours a week for 38 weeks a year). This includes:

- All three and four-year-old children
- Most disadvantaged two-year-old children

In addition, children of working parents may be eligible for an additional 15 hours per week, based on certain criteria, enabling them to access 30 hours per week equating to 1,140 hours per year (Extended Entitlement).

### **Golden Ticket Process for disadvantaged two-year-old children**

The Children and Young People's Service identified that the online process of parents having to apply for two-year-old funding was potentially creating barriers to accessing and taking up a funded childcare place for their two-year-old child.

High quality early education can make a dramatic difference to children's life chances and can improve later academic results.

*'Disadvantaged children are already behind when they start school. The Sutton Trust argues that there is a 19-month gap at the start of school between the most and least advantaged children. Gaps between disadvantaged children and their peers are apparent in the early years, persist and widen throughout school and beyond. Eradicating this inequality is fundamental to ensuring all children get the best start in life.'* DFE

Research says that 26% of children from low-income families will not reach a good level of development at the end of their reception year compared to 4% of children from the highest earning households. This gap is likely to grow even wider following the COVID-19 pandemic making the need for us to maximise the uptake of two-year-old funding an even greater priority.

*"Demographic profile of COVID-19 mortality rates suggests pandemic will re-inforce existing deprivation and inequality hitting low-income households particularly hard."* CEEDA.

As part of the School Readiness pilot, the Behavioural Insights Team identified that two-year-old funding was as an area where a behavioural insights approach could be used to increase uptake of

funding. This would help support an increase in the numbers of children reaching a good level of development at the end of the Foundation Stage.

A change to the existing process would make the customer journey easier and simpler for parents by removing the need for parents to apply through a complicated, intensive online application process that presented barriers to parents accessing the funding and children accessing a funded childcare place. The new process would enable as many children as possible to take up a two-year-old funded place in a quality early years setting preferably for three terms. The change to the existing application process would support children and their families get the best possible start in life by enabling access to quality first education.

Eligible families on the Department for Works and Pensions (DWP) list would be sent a Golden Ticket style letter through the post, in a family friendly envelope, within days of the local authority receiving the DWP list.

Families on the DWP list are eligible due to socio-economic reasons and/or have children who are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance. If they are on the DWP list they are, or have been, in need due to their socio-economic circumstances. Research supports that children born in poverty are at greater risk of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and those circumstances at birth are indicators of predicted risk long term.

The potential cost of funding a child whose parent(s) may have fallen out of eligibility could be balanced against the potential savings across all services throughout the child's life for example, exclusions from school, youth offending service.

*'Auto-enrolling eligible parents to receive EYF2 (with the option of opting out if they do not want to use the offer) is the most powerful way to simplify the process for parents. It is well-established that auto-enrolment can dramatically increase the probability that people participate in a scheme: after legislation was introduced so that employees were auto-enrolled in workplace pensions rather than having to sign up themselves, the percentage enrolled increased from 47% in 2012 to 76% in 2018.*

*Other councils in the UK (including Dorset, Staffordshire, and Durham) have encouraged parents to take up EYF2 by sending eligible parents a 'golden ticket' in the post. Parents can take the ticket to their chosen childcare setting, where staff will call the council to validate the ticket and claim the funding. Dorset County Council reported that take-up improved by 6 percentage points (from 81% in 2018 to 87% in 2019) when they introduced the golden ticket scheme.*

*We suggest that NYCC augment the efficacy of the auto-enrolment strategy outlined in section 4.3 by also employing the 'golden ticket' strategy.'* BIT Solution Report

It was agreed by Children and Young People's Leadership Team on 22<sup>nd</sup> June to implement the Golden Ticket letter approach to two-year-old funding across the county from November 2020 on a trial period.

The Golden Ticket letters were translated into Polish, Arabic and Romanian as template letters as these are the three main additional languages spoken in NYCC.

In November 2020, 688 families received a Golden Ticket letter which included newly eligible children but also families whose children had been eligible but who had not taken up their funding.

Anecdotal feedback from families and providers is positive:-

*"Also I would just like to say how much the golden ticket is brilliant - the families that have brought the golden tickets to the setting have understood them much better and how easy it now is they do look bright and inviting, just thought some feedback might be nice." (Provider).*

*"The first parent this morning said we had no idea how welcome this funding was, she said it made her cry just to know she was eligible and what a relief it was as she had struggled to pay for the couple of hours she currently sent her child, she could now add to those hours for her*

child knowing that the fees were covered. The second parent had not heard about the two year old funding, her previous authority didn't mention it, she had rung to check it was for real and we wouldn't ask for the money back." (Two phone calls from parents to FIS).

It is expected that the number of two-year-old children who will be eligible for Government funding will increase due to the economic effects on family household incomes due to the pandemic and more families accessing universal credit.

The implementation of the Golden Ticket letter process supports families to be able to access a funded childcare place for their child easily and more accessibly. This is more important to families who are suffering the economic and social effects of the pandemic.

### Take up of funded two-year-old provision

The tables below show how the percentage take up was measured only against those families who were matched on the DWP list. The tables show the numbers of two-year-old children who were eligible for funding and were registered to take up a place. The tables do not reflect how many children actually attended provision due to parents' choosing not to take up their place due to Covid-19.

Spring 2020								
Summer 2020								
1. Childrens Centre Area	2. Parents on List	3. Number matched	4. % Match	5. Number Eligible	6. Funding taken	7. % take up (of matches)	5. Num	
Craven	87	64	74%	62	49	79%		
East/Southern	88	66	75%	64	52	81%		
Hambleton North	113	89	79%	87	68	78%		
Hambleton South	47	34	72%	32	26	81%		
Hambleton North and Town Centre	80	54	68%	53	33	62%		
Hambleton South	88	66	75%	65	49	75%		
Harrogate	86	51	59%	50	41	82%		
Richmond	109	82	75%	81	55	68%		
Ripon and Rural Harrogate	105	81	77%	78	64	82%		
Ryedale	68	51	75%	51	48	94%		
Scarborough Central	102	75	74%	75	67	89%		
Scarborough North	78	61	78%	60	41	68%		
Scarborough South	67	48	72%	46	38	83%		
Scarborough North	87	65	75%	65	48	74%		
Scarborough	61	41	67%	41	32	78%		
Selby North	126	92	73%	91	62	79%		
Selby South			72%		51	71%		
Tadcaster and Rural Selby			71%		54	76%		
Whitby and the Moors			57%		37	65%		
<b>Total</b>		<b>1307</b>		<b>910</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>77%</b>		

Autumn 2020						
1. Childrens Centre Area	2. Parents on List	3. Number matched	4. % Match	5. Number Eligible	6. Funding taken	7. % take up (of matches)
Craven	100	71	71%	70	53	76%
East/South Harrogate and Knaresborough	82	55	67%	53	38	72%
Hambleton North	115	84	73%	78	53	68%
Hambleton South	58	41	71%	38	24	63%
Harrogate North and Town Centre	87	63	72%	57	42	74%
Richmondshire	101	64	63%	62	50	81%
Ripon and Rural Harrogate	109	65	60%	61	49	80%
Ryedale	131	92	70%	90	72	80%
Scarborough Central	108	67	62%	65	56	86%
Scarborough North	78	61	78%	61	57	93%
Scarborough South & Filey	105	72	69%	71	62	87%
Selby North	81	59	73%	59	48	81%
Selby South	57	34	60%	33	28	85%
Tadcaster and Rural Selby	90	59	66%	59	40	68%
Whitby and the Moors	61	36	59%	34	34	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1363</b>	<b>923</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>891</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>79%</b>

A significant number of funded two-year-old children usually take up their offer in the Summer term (after Easter) but this did not happen this year, as most children did not attend any provision during this period.

During the initial lockdown, children who were eligible for two-year-old children were not included in the criteria of vulnerable children provided by the Government. These children were only identified as meeting the Government criteria if they were also known to Social Care and/or had an EHCP.

The table below shows how many two-year-old children were funded on each termly headcount.

Term	Number of 2-year-olds Funded Children on headcount
Spring 2020	1,264
Summer 2020	909
Autumn 2020	981

## **Support for vulnerable children during lockdown**

### **Support from Early years providers**

Early years providers who closed were asked to notify the local authority and/or social worker if they had vulnerable children who needed alternative provision and asked to work with the family to support this.

All providers were asked to consider how to:

- continue to support the learning of children who did not attend their setting including maintaining contact with their key person
- support parents and carers to create a positive home learning environment.

During lockdown and recovery, early years providers remained in contact with families through social media for example, having online story times, leading activities, online newsletters, virtual tours of settings for new families and informal parent chats/sessions.

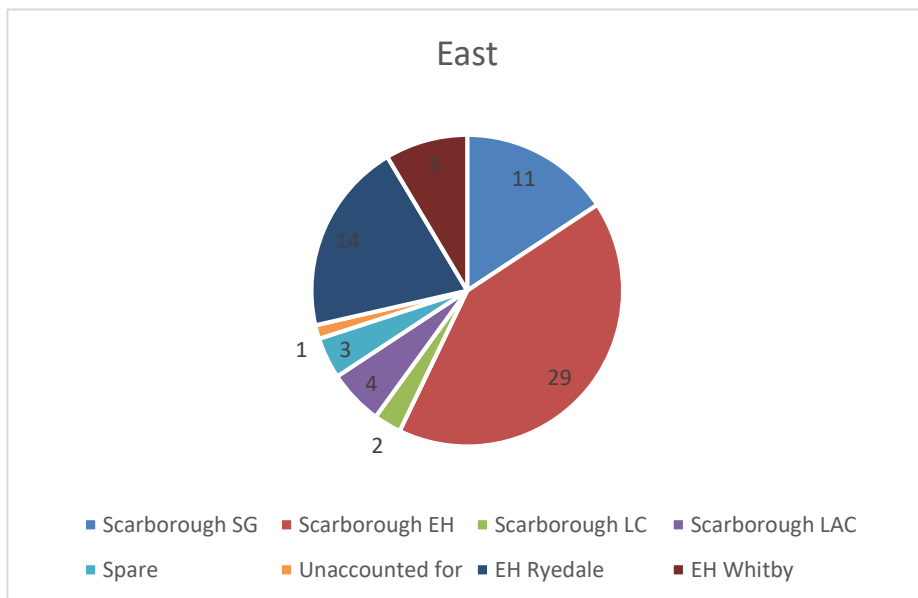
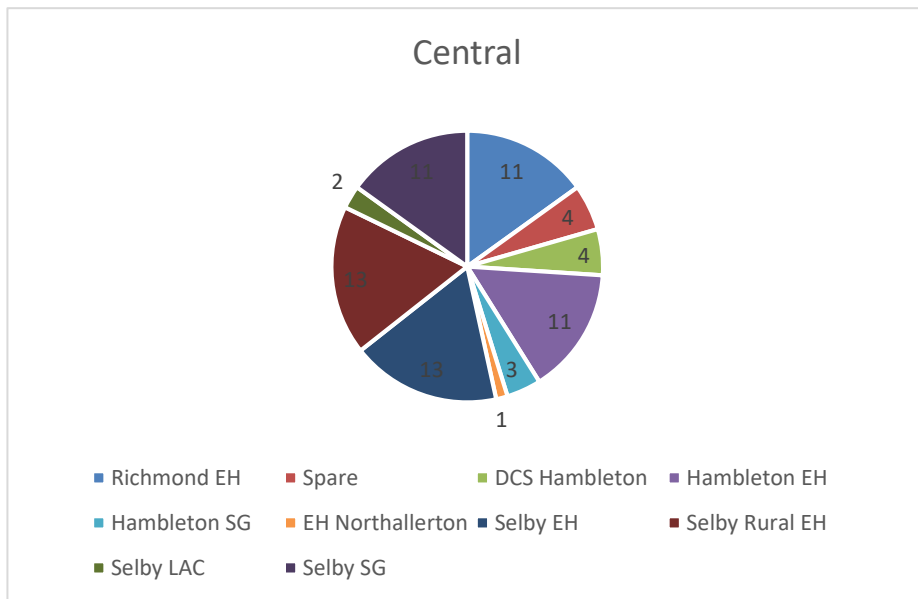


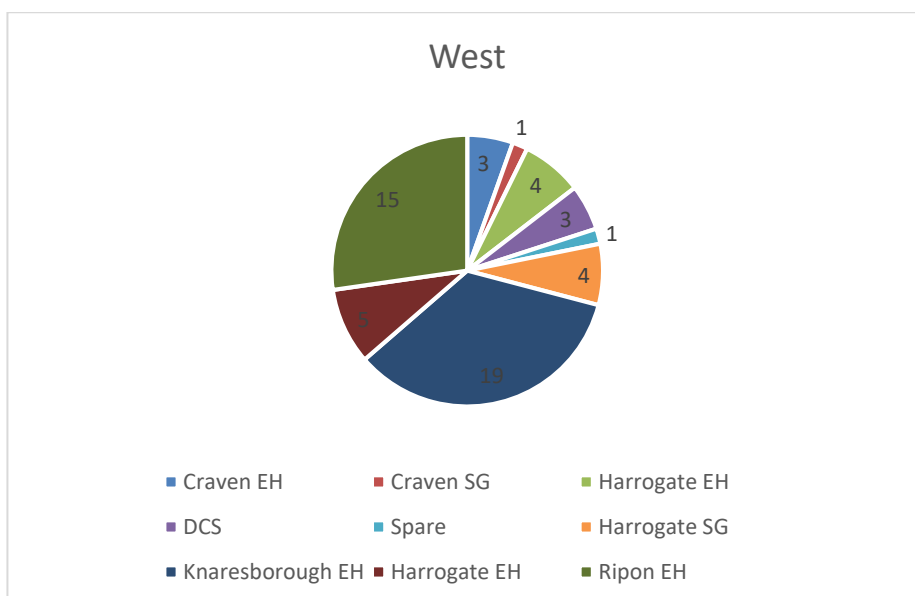
Support from Early Help

Our Early Help Service continued to offer a programme of targeted activities, drop-in sessions and courses for children and their parents online. A monthly newsletter was produced for parents, which was circulated to the Children and Families Service, schools, Early Years settings via Key Messages and through Community First Yorkshire. Different teams provided support packs for vulnerable families including 153 Sports Packs and 198 Early Years packs. Christmas Packs, containing toys donated from local businesses and Yorwaste, were distributed to 440 families across North Yorkshire.

Support through the “Grow and Learn” pilot

Staff involved in the “Grow and Learn” pilot Grow and Learn produced two different resource packs, one containing craft materials and one containing books, that were distributed to vulnerable families with early years age children during the lockdown and recovery periods.





### Support from the Inclusion Service

Practitioners from the inclusion team who were involved with families who had children with SEND developed a number of strategies for maintaining contact during the first lockdown, including telephone calls and different video calling services, depending on the family's circumstances. They also continued to be involved in joint virtual meetings with families and settings to support where needed. Some practitioners were also able to undertake elements of assessment or delivery of intervention to young children through virtual platforms. All provision for all children with an EHCP was monitored centrally.

### Support through NYCC COVID-19 Winter Food Grants (CWFG)

The DWP stated aim of this grant was "...to give vulnerable households peace of mind in the run up to Christmas and over the winter months during the pandemic by helping those who need it to have food on the table and other essentials, so every child will be warm and well-fed this winter". NYCC focused on distributing the grant through PVI providers by asking them to purchase supermarket and food vouchers to support families with food and other essential costs. Children in receipt of two-year-old funding and three and four-year-old children with Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) were identified. Early Years providers were asked to buy and distribute vouchers equivalent to £20 per eligible child per week for the Christmas holiday period. A total of £69,750 was paid to 314 early years providers to support vulnerable families.

### Providers offering funded early education places

Providers are paid directly by the Government for delivering funded early education.

	Total Number of providers	Age 2 targeted	Age 2 targeted %	Age 3 and 4 universal 15 hours	Age 3 and 4 universal 15 hours %	Age 3 and 4 extended 30 hours	Age 3 and 4 extended 30 hours %
Academy Nursery Class	40	24	60%	40	100%	40	100%
Childcare On Domestic Premises	2	2	100%	2	100%	2	100%

Childminder	332	213	64%	214	64%	214	64%
Creche	2		0%		0%		0%
Day Nursery	141	135	96%	135	96%	134	95%
Governor-Run Early Years Provision	24	22	92%	24	100%	24	100%
Maintained Nursery Class	75	24	32%	75	100%	75	100%
Maintained Nursery School	3	1	33%	3	100%	3	100%
Maintained Nursery Schools And Classes	1		0%		0%		0%
Nursery Units Of Independent Schools	13	12	92%	13	100%	13	100%
Out Of School Provision	138	4	3%	4	3%	4	3%
Pre-School Playgroup	84	84	100%	84	100%	84	100%
Total	855	521	61%	594	69%	593	69%

**The percentage of 2, 3 and 4-year-old children benefitting from funded early education in NYCC**

Age	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Age 2	76%	81%	96%	76%	75%
Age 3	100%	96%	97%	95%	98%
Age 4	101%	98%	97%	98%	96%

(DfE Stats, 2020)

**Number of 2, 3 and 4-year-old children in receipt of Government funding in NYCC**

**NB: The figures below are for children registered to take up a place and NOT those actually in attendance.**

Termly Headcount	Age of children	Number of children	Age of children	Number of children
Spring 2020	2-year-olds	1,264	3 & 4-year-olds	8,737
Summer 2020	2-year-olds	909	3 & 4-year-olds	9,954
Autumn 2020	2-year-olds	981	3 & 4-year-olds	6,089

(NYCC, EYFT)

### **Number of eligible 3 and 4-year-old children and take up by district**

District	Number of eligible children	% Take up
Craven	329	83%
Hambleton	695	80%
Harrogate	1049	66%
Richmondshire	296	72%
Scarborough	675	91%
Selby	613	77%
North Yorkshire	3923	76%

### **Number of eligible 3 and 4-year-old children taking up Extended Entitlement Funding**

District	Number of eligible children Spring 2020	% Take up Spring 2020	Number of eligible children Summer 2020	% Take up Summer 2020	Number of eligible children Autumn 2020	% Take up Autumn 2020
Craven	412	90%	450	90%	292	92%
Hambleton	647	94%	738	88%	455	93%
Harrogate	1226	93%	1410	92%	838	92%
Richmondshire	371	92%	422	94%	270	93%
Ryedale	346	90%	396	90%	233	91%
Scarborough	703	93%	825	93%	523	93%
Selby	765	90%	879	90%	523	92%

### **Number of children in receipt of EYPP**

Age of children	2020	2019	+ / -	% change
3 Y O children	543	607	-64	-10%
4 Y O children	227	292	-65	-22%

(DfE stats, January 2020)

### **NYCC funding support to the sector during the pandemic**

In line with Government guidance, providers with vacant places who remained open were asked to take additional children from closed settings if they had spare capacity.

A financial support package consisted of:

- An up-front payment to registered funded providers of 80% of the Summer 2020 term funding payment that was made on 14th April 2020, with the 20% balance being paid in August 2020; this is in place of the monthly payment that is usually made.
- Payments to registered funded providers remaining open over the Easter holidays and May half term for the children of key workers and vulnerable children. This is when early years funding would not normally apply.
- Double funding for children of key workers and vulnerable children who had been unable to access their funded place with their normal provider and were accessing a funded place at an alternative provider for the period 23<sup>rd</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020.
- The provision of an Early Years Financial Support Fund of up to £1.4 million to support the early years' sector to continue the delivery of provision during the COVID-19 crisis and to support the sector during the removal of the current restrictions.

The initial phase of the Early Years Financial Support Fund invited applications from providers who had remained open and continued to deliver provision during the initial period of the COVID-19 crisis and lockdown. Funding allocations made through the initial phase were based on the following factors:

- Provider type with recognition of the associated overhead cost of operations
- Hours delivered
- Age of children attending provision
- Maximum funding allocations of £250 per week for a childminder and £1000 per week for other providers
- Funding provided for the 6 week period 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020

In total, 92 providers made successful applications to the Early Years Financial Support Fund with £194,757.000 being paid to providers.

Funding for the Easter and May holidays and double funding amounted to £61,000 paid to providers. Funding paid up to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020 amounted to £26,349.22. Payments for May half term and double funding amounted to an additional £34,650.78.

Funding Type	Total paid up to 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	Number of children
COVID-19 2-year-olds Spring temp funding	£79.20	1
COVID-19 Spring temp funding	£2,023.05	15
COVID-19 Deprivation funding	£8.72	7
COVID-19 Easter holiday 2-year-olds	£1,846.98	11
COVID-19 Easter Holiday Universal funding	£14,008.30	158
COVID-19 Easter holiday Extended funding	£8,029.31	121
COVID-19 Deprivation funding	£353.66	99
<b>Total</b>	<b>£26,349.22</b>	

During Autumn 2020, NYCC gave providers the option of being paid 75% of their income upfront if they required the payment for cash flow reasons.

In Autumn term 2020, 570 providers offered Government funded childcare places.

NYCC paid 285 providers (50%) additional funding based on their Autumn 2019 headcount hours due to the number of Government funded 2, 3 and 4- year- old children attending in Autumn 2020 being lower.

During lockdown and the recovery period, NYCC continued to pay Disability Access Funding (DAF) to providers for that year even if the child was not in attendance. This is an annual payment to providers who have 3/4 year- old children with SEND attending their setting.

## **5. Cost of Early Years Childcare**

### **Cost of early years childcare nationally**

According to the Children and Early Years Survey of Parents in England 2019 Report, 42% of parents rated the affordability of local childcare as very or fairly good.

[assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/85333 58/CEYSP\\_2019\\_Report.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/85333/58/CEYSP_2019_Report.pdf)

The Coram Family and Childcare Costs Survey 2020 showed that childcare prices for children under three have risen above inflation. The average cost of 25 hours of nursery provision for a child under two is £131.61 per week. The average cost of 20 extra hours on top of the 30 free hours for three and

four year olds is £99.66 per week. The average cost of after school club for five days a week is £60.99 per week.

**Price increases since 2019 for 25 hours childcare for under 5's in England**

Under 2's	2-year-olds	3 and 4 year olds
+ 5%	+4%	+6%

<https://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/childcare-survey-2020>

**Average childcare costs in Yorkshire and Humberside 2020 for two year olds and under**

Type of provision	Average weekly costs part time (25 hours)	Average weekly cost full time (50 hours)
Day Nursery = under 2's	£113.76	£222.68
Day Nursery = over 2's	£111.15	£215.64
Childminders = under 2's	£100.57	£200.58
Childminders = over 2's	£100.22	£199.89

(Coram Family and Childcare Costs survey 2020)

**Average childcare costs in Yorkshire and Humberside for three and four year olds**

Type of provision	Average cost for 25 hours (after 15 hours universal = paying for 10 hours)	Average cost for 50 hours (after 30 hours extended entitlement = paying for 20 hours)
Day Nursery	£45.44	£85.50
Childminder	£40.08	£79.93

(Coram Family and Childcare Costs survey 2020)

The Government-funding rate paid in NYCC for three- and four-year-olds is £4.09 per hour. Government funding for disadvantaged two-year-old children is paid at £5.28 per hour.

Through the FIS provider portal, early years childcare providers report the average paid for cost per hour. Variations are based on the number of hours used with reductions for longer hours or discounts for siblings. Providers are entitled to charge for additional services such as meals, nappies etc.

**Average cost per hour of early years childcare in North Yorkshire**

	Average Hourly Price							
	North Yorks	Craven	Hambleton	Harrogate	Richmond	Ryedale	Scarborough	Selby
Academy								
Academy Governor-Run								
Academy Nursery Class	£4.42		£4.50	£4.40	£4.00	£3.90	£4.35	£4.70
Breakfast Club	£3.25	£4.50					£2.00	
Childcare On Domestic Premises								
Childcare On Non Domestic Premises								
Childminder	£4.50	£4.58	£4.57	£4.68	£4.57	£4.21	£4.06	£4.31
Creche								
Day Nursery	£5.48	£6.55	£5.72	£5.61	£5.53	£5.17	£5.08	£4.86
Governor-Run Early Years Provision	£4.38		£4.10	£5.18	£4.00	£4.16		£3.75
Holiday Club	£4.96		£4.18		£4.50		£7.00	
Home Childcarer	£5.00		£5.00					
Maintained Nursery Class	£4.30	£4.33	£4.50	£4.29	£3.60	£4.29	£4.17	£4.62
Maintained Nursery School	£5.25	£6.00					£4.50	
Maintained Nursery Schools And Classes								
Nursery Units Of Independent Schools	£5.49	£4.45				£7.53		£4.50
Out Of School Provision	£4.04	£3.92	£4.50	£4.75	£4.50	£4.17	£3.18	£3.50
Pre-School Playgroup	£4.59	£5.24	£3.96	£4.98	£4.71	£4.38	£4.25	£4.62
Average price	£4.64	£4.95	£4.56	£4.84	£4.43	£4.72	£4.29	£4.36

## Average costs per hour in 2019 and 2020 in North Yorkshire

Provider Type	Childminder	Day Nursery	Preschool	Maintained Nursery School	Maintained school with nursery	Academy school with nursery
Average cost per hour 2019	£4.24	£5.23	£4.40	£5.25	£4.17	£4.51
Average cost per hour 2020	£5.06	£6.28	£5.24	£5.25	£4.87	£5.04

For school age children during term time, we report on average prices before school per hour, and after school per hour. For holiday childcare, we report based on holiday club prices by day or by week. This does not include after school clubs such as choir/chess etc.

## Average costs per hour across North Yorkshire for wraparound provision

Provider Type	Average cost per hour 2019	Average cost per hour 2020
<b>Before school/breakfast club</b>	£3.25	£3.25
<b>After school/out of school club</b>	£4.03	£4.04
<b>Holiday club per hour</b>	£4.25	£4.96

## 6. Quality of childcare in North Yorkshire

In group PVI settings, the manager must hold at least a full and relevant level 3 qualification and at least half of all other staff must hold at least a full and relevant level 2 qualification in Childcare settings. Childminders must have completed training that helps them to understand and implement the EYFS.

### Ofsted Inspections

Routine Ofsted inspections were suspended on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020. The last inspection received before lockdown was on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Between 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and 16<sup>th</sup> March, 40 Ofsted inspections were carried out across the PVI provision including OOSCs and holiday clubs.

#### Ofsted Inspection Judgements – 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020

Type of provision	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate	Met	Not Met
Day Nursery	1	7	0	0	N/A	N/A
Preschool	2	3	0	1	N/A	N/A
Childminder	2	15	1	1	2	0
OOSC/holiday club					5	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>

As Ofsted had suspended inspections, early years providers that had previously been judged “Requires Improvement” or “Inadequate” were not re-inspected within the usual timescale.

#### Total number of providers at 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 judged “RI” or “Inadequate”

Type of provision	Inadequate	Requires Improvement
Day Nursery	2	0
Preschool	2	1
Childminder	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>

During Autumn term 2020, Ofsted undertook monitoring visits either virtually or by telephone with the providers who had been judged “Inadequate”. All providers were judged to have met the actions required of them by Ofsted. The decision was made to re-instate two-year-old funding to these providers to enable children to take up a Government-funded place from January 2021.

There were 567 PVI providers registered with Ofsted; 98.4% of PVI providers were judged to be “Good” or “Outstanding” in North Yorkshire. This is above the average for Yorkshire and Humberside (97%) and above the average for England (96%) as published in Ofsted’s annual report for 2019/2020 [Ofsted Annual Report 2019/20 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

## 7. Information and support for parents

The Families Information Service (FIS) exists to fulfil the statutory duty (Section 12, Childcare Act 2006) to offer a service to provide information, advice and assistance about childcare and other activities to benefit parents, children and young people. During COVID-19, the FIS helpline remained open for parents as well as access through email.

Information from FIS supported the Community Services Directory NY Connect to ensure that parents and carers had access to a range of information including childcare provision, wraparound care and holiday clubs.

Parents and carers also had access to a dedicated COVID-19 email address created by NYCC.

We worked closely with NY Comms and Early Help to post a series of different re-assurance messages on social media on the “Grow and Learn” and Early Help Facebook pages to promote positive messages about the safety and benefits of children attending provision.



During the first lockdown period, many parents lacked confidence about sending their children into childcare provision, even if they were eligible, and found alternative forms of childcare. Anecdotal feedback from parents and providers suggested the following reasons were:

- Fear of catching COVID-19
- Mixed messages about children getting/transmitting COVID-19 from media and Government
- Confusing Government guidance



- Concerns about whether appropriate risk assessments and safety measures were in place.

Childcare providers that remained open retained the trust of the parents who continued to use the provision during lockdown so recovery appeared to be easier for them. Parents appeared to be more confident about returning for the Autumn term and accessing provision.

## 8. Summary and recommendations

Overall, the childcare market in North Yorkshire appears to be resilient and, on the surface, the picture looks positive with a sufficient supply of childcare and few settings closing. There have been a small number of closures throughout the county but largely these can be attributed to pre-existing issues and the county did not see an excessive number of closures in the sector. During a period of recession and change (such as introduction of 30 hrs funding), providers make critical decisions about whether to continue or not. What is typical during periods of recession is the number of new childminders offsets the number who resign. However, the situation in the Autumn term 2020 was helped by Government financial support and local LA financial support.

The longer-term risks for the sector will depend on what Government funding support is available for the Spring and Summer Terms 2021 and what demand will be depending on the social and economic impact on families' employment circumstances and finances.

Potentially, some losses within the childcare market may ensure the future sustainability of other providers whilst demand for childcare places returns to its pre-COVID-19 level.

The Children's Commissioner identified that only 9% of local authorities' two-year-old reviews were fully integrated between Healthy Child practitioners and early years practitioners. The possibility of how this can be better integrated within North Yorkshire needs to be explored and how the information is shared with each other and with parents to ensure accurate early identification of children's needs.

On 5th January 2021, the country entered a third period of national lockdown with the directive that "Early years provision should remain open and continue to allow all children to attend full time or their usual timetable hours" (Education and childcare settings: national lockdown from 5 January 2021). Uncertainty and the economic impact of COVID-19 continues to characterise the future of the childcare sector.

### Recommendations

To ensure the local authority meets the statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare, *as far as is reasonably practicable*, the following are recommended:

1. To continue to monitor the childcare market across all areas of county
2. To continue to monitor sustainability across the county but especially in areas of deprivation
3. To continue to promote and develop the take up of two, three and four--year-old funding
4. To promote additional funding streams including DAF/EYPP/SENIF to improve take up
5. To continue to support existing and new providers to deliver flexible, accessible and sustainable provision
6. To explore how to better integrate the two-year-old reviews between Healthy Child practitioners and early years practitioners
7. To promote the benefits of children accessing early years education and childcare and ensure families are aware of the funding streams available
8. To continue to measure the impact of the Golden Ticket letter approach on two-year-old funding take-up