

Herefordshire childcare sufficiency report 2019

Draft Version 1



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Introduction and the strategic context of childcare sufficiency

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment for Herefordshire presents a comprehensive picture of the childcare market in Herefordshire. This year we had 134 parents share their views of the availability, cost and quality of childcare in Herefordshire through an online questionnaire survey, including parents of children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND). In April 2017 we saw the introduction of the National Funding Formula, which levelled Early Years funding across the sector.

The Family Information Service and WISH provide information and guidance on a range of childcare and out of school activities for children and young people aged 0-14 inclusive, and up to 18 years for children and young people with special needs and disabilities.

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) aims to provide an assessment of childcare provision for children aged 0-14 years old (and up to 18 years old for children with SEND) to meet the needs of working parents and those studying or training for work. Childcare sufficiency assessment is a statutory duty under the Childcare Act (2006).

The CSA draws on the earlier 2016 CSA which provides a benchmark to assess changes in the market, specifically relating to supply. The CSA has drawn on data provided by early years providers, the early years census and a questionnaire survey of parents and carers. Additional desktop research was used to inform an assessment of current supply and future need.

The Childcare Act (2006) requires local authorities in England to ensure a sufficiency of childcare for working parents, parents studying or training, and for disabled children.

Childcare sufficiency, relates to the provision of registered childcare for children aged 0-14 years old, and up to 18 years old for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

The duties in the Act (Section 6) require local authorities to shape and support the development of childcare in their area in order to make it flexible, sustainable and responsive to the needs of the community. This role is described as a 'market management' function, supporting the sector to meet the needs of parents, children and young people, and stakeholders.

Under Section 6 of the Act, there is a requirement on local authorities to produce an annual sufficiency report on the availability and sufficiency of childcare in their area. This information should be made available to parents and elected members.

To meet Section 6 duties, local authorities need to collect and publish information on the supply of provision and demand for childcare in their area. Statutory guidance provides clear indication of what must be included in the annual review.

Section 7 requires local authorities to secure prescribed early years provision free of charge. This provision is for children aged 2, 3 and 4 years of age. From September 2017, eligible families have access to free 30 hour extended entitlement for three and four year olds, extending the current provision of up to 15 hours a week (570 hours a year) universal early years entitlement for this age range.

Section 12 places a duty on local authorities to provide information, advice and assistance to parents and prospective parents relating to the provision of childcare, services or facilities, that may be of benefit to parents and prospective parents, children and young people, something that is strengthened in the Childcare Act (2016).

The focus of childcare sufficiency is on supporting working parents/carers and those studying or training to do so, and supports a number of other policy priorities, including:

The Government's Child Poverty agenda, supporting parents into work through the Work Programme, Help to Work scheme, flexible support through Jobcentre Plus, Troubled families programme and the Children Centre remit.

Methodology

Desktop and field research has been undertaken to ensure that demand for childcare takes account of future trends, including employment and population:

- An online questionnaire survey of parents and carers was undertaken aimed to explore current use and unmet demand for childcare. The online survey was completed by 134 parents and carers.
- A childcare audit of 118 early years providers took place in January 2018 (Childcare Works). This represents an overall response rate of 62% from the private and voluntary group settings, independent, academies and schools and childminders.
- Findings from the early years census in January 2018.
- Ofsted statistical data May 2018

Herefordshire Geography and Infrastructure

Herefordshire covers a land area of 2,180 square kilometres (842 square miles) (excluding inland water), and is a predominantly rural county with the 4th lowest population density in England, although the population has been growing slowly, largely as a result of international migration to the county.

Herefordshire is situated in the south-west of the West Midlands region bordering Wales. The city of Hereford, in the middle of the county, is the centre for most facilities, and other principal locations are the five market towns of Leominster, Ross-on-Wye, Ledbury, Bromyard and Kington.

Herefordshire has beautiful unspoilt countryside; distinctive heritage, remote valleys and rivers. The River Wye divides the county, flowing east from the Welsh border through Hereford city before turning south into the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Malvern Hills rising to 400m, border the east of county, and the south-west is dominated by the western reaches of the Black Mountains with altitudes of more than 600m.

Population of Children and Young People in Herefordshire

The population of children in Herefordshire – by Children’s Centre reach area and age – in the Office for National Statistics 2016 mid-year estimate was as shown below:

Children centre reach area	Age 0	Age 1	Age 2	Age 3	Age 4	Age 5	Age 6	Age 7	Age 8	Age 9	Age 10	Age 11	Age 12	Age 13	Age 14
Broadlands	227	250	257	301	300	342	293	316	229	306	268	273	290	283	295
Leominster	234	237	240	292	265	269	252	242	260	271	283	294	286	245	228
Golden valley	105	106	126	120	124	129	137	148	149	127	149	127	143	111	149
Bromyard	94	101	92	111	92	114	85	91	102	80	111	113	93	111	111
Kington	109	100	107	110	140	147	143	132	142	145	118	149	149	131	142
Ledbury	157	131	144	174	192	190	189	190	195	195	197	207	213	179	202
Ross on Wye	212	224	236	257	236	281	272	250	300	389	252	240	271	294	284
South Hereford City	324	374	416	415	390	367	407	362	349	318	305	284	329	290	278
North Hereford City	291	294	284	305	336	326	298	322	298	296	280	288	249	257	228

Source: Mid-2016 population estimates for lower super output areas. Office for National Statistics. There are 11,800 0-5 year olds and 29,835 0-14 year olds.

Looked after children (LAC)

In April 2017 there were 313 looked after children in Herefordshire.

Disability Access Fund (DAF)

The government announced from April 2017, increased support for children with disabilities through the introduction of a Disability Access Fund (DAF). This fund will provide £615 per year for every eligible child. Claimants will need to provide evidence of the child’s Disability Living Allowance certificate (DLA).

Early Year Pupil Premium (EYPP)

The early years pupil premium (EYPP) is additional funding for early years settings to improve the education they provide for disadvantaged 3 and 4 year olds.

3 and 4 year olds in state funded early education will attract EYPP funding if their parents meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Income Support
- Income based Jobseeker’s Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided they are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit)

and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)

- Working Tax Credit run-on, which is paid for 4 weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit
- Or if children are currently being looked after by a local authority in England or Wales, or they have left care in England or Wales through an adoption or a special guardianship order or a child arrangement order

*Children must receive free early education in order to attract EYPP funding.

They do not have to take up the full 570 hours of early education they are entitled to in order to get EYPP. Children become eligible for free early education at different points in the year depending on when they turn 3.

Herefordshire funded 259 children in the spring term 2017.

Predicted Housing Developments

Predicted Housing Development – Source: Local Housing Market Assessment (Core Strategy 2018).

COUNTY: Number of proposed estimated houses	2019
HEREFORD	325
LEOMINSTER	115
ROSS	45
LEDBURY	40
BROMYARD	25
KINGTON	10
GOLDEN VALLEY	14

Economy

Working age population

Herefordshire has a lower proportion of younger working age adults (from the age of 16 to mid-forties) compared with England and Wales as a whole, but has a higher proportion of older working age adults (mid-forties to the age of 64). There was a sharp increase in the number of 16 to 64 year olds during the middle of the decade, largely due to international migration. However, since 2008 numbers have been gradually

declining due to relatively lower migration levels and since 2010 by the post war 'baby boomers' moving into retirement age, thereby increasing the number and proportion of older people.

Businesses

Latest published data from Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR) shows that in 2016, Herefordshire's total enterprise count (that is, overall businesses) totalled 10,070 representing a one per cent increase from 2015 (9,950 enterprises). In line with regional and national figures, the majority (90 per cent) of these were 'micro' enterprises employing 9 or fewer employees, while 8.5 per cent were 'small' (employing 10 to 49 people) and 1.3 per cent were 'medium' size enterprises employing 50 to 249 employees. The enterprises classified as 'large' (employing 250 employees or more) accounted for a very small percentage of businesses (0.2 per cent) in Herefordshire.

By far the largest industry in Herefordshire, is 'agriculture, forestry and fishing' accounting for 24 per cent of total businesses in the county, but employing the fewest number of employees in the county. The second largest industry is taken up by 'construction and professional, technical activities' (22 per cent).

There were more new business start-ups in 2015 than at the onset of the recession in 2008, which indicates a steady trend of economic recovery from the recession in Herefordshire. In 2015, there were 8,290 active businesses in Herefordshire and it was the third consecutive year in which there were more business births than deaths in the county. The new business registration rate in Herefordshire is lower than that of the West Midlands region but higher than England as a whole.

In Herefordshire, there were an estimated 71,200 employees in 2015, a decrease from 71,700 in 2014. Of these, the majority are employed in the private sector (85 per cent) with the remaining 15 per cent working in the public sector, a figure lower than for the West Midlands (19 per cent) but higher than for England and Wales as a whole (17 per cent). Locally annualised earnings were approximately £23,200, a figure 13 per cent lower than the West Midlands (£26,600) and 18 per cent lower than England as a whole (£28,350). In 2016, women's earnings in Herefordshire were 16 per cent lower than that for men. While this is considered to be a significant gap it is lower than the West Midlands gender earnings gap of 21 per cent and that for England of 18 per cent.

Fig 1 Business in Herefordshire by size, type and employee numbers



Policy Direction

There are a number of national policy initiatives that have impacted on childcare sufficiency and will continue to do so. These include:

- National Living Wage
- Automatic enrolment for employees pensions from April 2016
- Tax Free Childcare
- 30 hour Childcare Extended Entitlement
- Funding for eligible 2 year old children
- National Early Years Funding Formula
- Roll out of Universal Credit from June 2017 in Herefordshire

Support with Childcare Costs

If you are eligible, you might be able to qualify for the childcare element of Working Tax Credit. You need to be using registered or approved childcare and if you are the childcare element can help with up to 70% of your eligible childcare costs per week.

The actual amount you get will depend on your income. The lower your income, the more tax credits you can get. For more information visit: www.hmrc.gov.uk

Childcare Vouchers

Some employers offer their staff childcare vouchers via 'salary sacrifice' schemes. You won't pay tax or National Insurance contributions on the first proportion, so you could save a significant amount each year. Childcare voucher companies administer the scheme on behalf of your employer, and will ensure that the payments are made correctly to your child carer. HM Revenue and Customs has an online calculator which can help you calculate whether you would be better off using childcare vouchers. For more information visit: www.gov.uk/childcare-voucher-better-off-calculator

Tax Free Childcare

Tax Free Childcare (TFC) is a government initiative designed to help working families afford childcare. The scheme was launched in 2017 and will offer eligible families 20 per cent support towards the cost of their childcare. Operated through an online account, parents will pay money towards qualifying childcare costs and the government will automatically make "top up" payments of 20p for every 80p that families pay in. Tax free childcare is expected to replace the use of childcare vouchers and make it easier for more families to access financial support. For more information on how to apply visit: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

Free education places

All 3 and 4 year olds in England and some 2 year olds are entitled to free early education sessions. This is usually taken as 15 hours of free early education per week for 38 weeks of the year. This applies until they reach compulsory school age (the term following their 5th birthday). This is known as the free early year's entitlement. The offer for 3 and 4 year olds is doubled from 15 hours to 30 hours a week for working families.

Quality Improvement

Herefordshire Council Early Years Improvement Team provides information, advice, support and training to the early years and childcare workforce.

Information, Advice and Support includes the following:

- Provision of information, advice and training for childcare and education providers to ensure they meet the requirement of the Early Years Foundation Stage
- Safeguarding concerns
- Ofsted registration and inspection
- Advice and training for childcare workers who are judged less than 'good' by Ofsted and for newly registered providers yet to be inspected
- Statutory moderation of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Profile at the end of reception year across all schools.
- Staff have a generic role to support settings to improve, close attainment gaps and ensure duties are met under legislation including the Equality Act 2010, section 13 of the Childcare Act 2006 and The Early Years Foundation Stage (Learning and Development Requirements) order 2007.

Ofsted Inspections of early year's settings

In Herefordshire we have a very high proportion of 'good' and 'outstanding' early year's provision.

Childminders - 97% of childminders are inspected by Ofsted as good or outstanding.

Group settings – 98.7% of group settings are inspected by Ofsted as good or outstanding.

School based early year' provision – 94% of school based early years provision (e.g. governor run/maintained nursery classes/academy nursery classes) are registered by Ofsted as good or outstanding.

Percentages correct in October 2018

Staff Qualifications

From 120 early years providers who completed the early years census in January 2018, there were a total of 874 staff who held qualifications below:

874 staff	
Level 2 staff	10.4%
Level 3 (non-management)	51%
Level 3 (Management)	14.2%
Qualified Teacher Status	6.9%
Early Years Professional Status	4.6%
Early Years Teacher Status	3.2%

(source; early years census January 2018)

Childcare Sufficiency - current supply

Herefordshire has a childcare market which is made of private, voluntary, independent, maintained nurseries, childminders, academies and schools.

Type of provision:	Total number:	Registered childcare places
Childminders	84	524
Group settings	77	3,094
Governor run-provision exempt from early years registration	15	294
Academy School Nurseries	4	60
Maintained Nurseries	11	435
Total:	191	4,407

Collectively settings are registered to deliver **4,407** childcare places. The majority of which (70%, 3094 places) are available in group settings (source: provider audit and Ofsted registered data for non-respondents).

Group settings

The majority of registered places available across Herefordshire are for children aged under 5 years of age and are group settings (64%) offering full day care. Provision for older children (aged 5 years old and over) is predominantly through out of school care and holiday provision. Childminders continue to play an important role for childcare with older children.

The number of places offered in group settings differs widely with a range from between 16 places to 120 places. Smaller settings are common, due to the rural nature of the county but more vulnerable to sustainability pressures as they do not benefit from economies of scale and may be more negatively impacted by changing levels of demand. These are considered in the Herefordshire nursery education funding formula with a supplement built in for the smaller rural settings.

Provision in schools

The majority of settings in the maintained sector (includes governor run exempt from early years registration, academies and maintained school nursery classes), are sessional - offering a morning and an afternoon session with (4, 15%) offering a morning session only.

Provision for children aged 11-14 years old is more likely to be out of school (in the form of clubs, activities and groups) and are delivered by schools, for their own pupils and for less than 2 hours a day. As such, it is not required to be registered as 'childcare' with Ofsted. The extent to which such provision can be classed as 'childcare' to meet the sufficiency duty is a key question. After school activities provided by schools may be available for limited hours (e.g. 45 minutes to an hour and therefore be too short for formal registration) and may be subject to short term cancellation (for example, if a teacher is off sick or is required elsewhere and therefore not be reliable enough to support parent/carers to work).

Opening Hours

The majority of early years and childcare provision, opens between 7.30am and 9am (72%). In general, provision offered before 7.30am is by childminders (45%).

Just less than half of settings (47%) close between 5pm and 6pm with 12% closing after 6pm. There is very little childcare after 7pm but there is little or no demand for this currently.

Weeks per year setting are open

Across all provision, 34% of providers are open between 48 and 52 weeks a year. 44% of the group settings are open all year round and childminders tend to operate an all year round service. Nearly half of all settings 49% are open term time only (38 weeks a year). Herefordshire will likely need to encourage more all year round settings to meet demand in the future.

Places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds

Ofsted registration includes the number of places a provider can offer, and maximum limits on age ranges. To provide an estimate of the number of places for pre-school aged and school aged children, it has been assumed providers will work to the maximum 0-4 year old registration and the remaining places allocated to older children.

Places data may under-estimate provision for older children (aged 8 years old and over). Out of school provision may also be available after school (in the form of clubs, activities and groups) that are run by the school, for pupils attending the school, and for less than 2 hours. It is not required to be registered as childcare and is not always advertised with the Family Information Service or WISH.

2 year places

Based on responses, 22% of childminding places, 22% of places available in group settings and 15% of places available in maintained settings, were 2 year old places (fee paying and funded). Of those 55% of childminder places, 58% of places in group settings and 79% of places in maintained settings were offered for funded places. Providers also reported the number of vacancies for funded 2 year olds. Data from the audit has been used to estimate the number of places across the whole market (including where settings did not respond to the audit); this is shown in the following table:

Estimating 2 year old places

Type of provision	Total number of registered places (all ages)	Number of places available for 2 year olds fee paying and funded on a given day (% of all registered places)	Number of 2 year old places offered as funded places (% of 2 year old places)	Number of additional funded places that could be delivered for 2 year olds (% of all 2 year old places)
Childminding	524	115 (22%)	63 (55%)	92 (80%)
Group settings	3,094	681 (22%)	395 (58%)	327 (48%)
Maintained settings	789	118 (15%)	93 (79%)	47 (40%)
Total	4,407	914 (21%)	551 (60%)	466 (51%)

Source: Herefordshire provider audit; Ofsted data

36% of childminders, 63% of group settings and 33% of maintained settings reported having a vacancy or vacancies for funded 2 year olds at the time of the audit. The additional number of places will over-estimate spare capacity (as a place could be filled with a child of any age within the registered age range). However, findings do

show there was spare capacity in the market for funded 2 year olds in the autumn term. This capacity will start to be used up in spring and summer terms as numbers of funded children increase in the private and voluntary sector market ahead of the intake into schools of Reception children in the autumn term.

Statistical First Release (SFR) data (2017) shows a total of 360 funded 2 year olds in settings in January 2017. According to SFR data 78 non-maintained childcare providers (includes childminders) and 2 maintained schools in Herefordshire were funded for 2 year olds as at January 2017.

Universal entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds (15 hours per week FREE childcare)

According to SFR data 197 childcare providers and maintained settings in Herefordshire were funded for 3 and 4 year olds as at January 2017; 115 PVI settings (which includes childminders), 4 independent schools and 78 maintained settings. Not all providers will be delivering the universal entitlement for this age range but findings suggest the majority of group and maintained settings are.

Based on audit responses, 18% of childminding places, 49% of places available in group settings and 61% of places in maintained settings were 3 and 4 year old year old places (fee paying and funded). Of those 44% of childminder places, 94% of places in group settings and 81% of places in maintained settings were offered for funded places for the universal entitlement.

Estimating 3 and 4 year old places – universal entitlement

Type of provision	Total number of registered places (all ages)	Number of places available for 3 and 4 year olds fee paying and funded on a given day (% of all registered places)	Number of 3 and 4 year old places offered as funded places for the universal entitlement (% of 3 and 4 year old places)
Childminding	524	94 (18%)	41 (44%)
Group settings	3,094	1,516 (49%)	1,425 (94%)
Maintained settings	789	481 (61%)	390 (81%)
Total	4,407	2,091 (47%)	1,856 (89%)

Source: Herefordshire provider audit; Ofsted data

Extended entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds (30 hours)

Eligible families will be entitled to 30hr Childcare Extended Entitlement from September 2017. The 30hr Childcare Extended Entitlement includes the 15 hours early years entitlement and an additional 15 hours (per week up to a maximum of 38 weeks, or 570 hours stretched across more weeks of the year).

Based on audit responses of the places available for 3 and 4 year olds, 56% of childminder places, 60% of places in group settings and 57% of places in maintained settings were offered for funded places for the universal entitlement.

Estimating 3 and 4 year old places – extended entitlement

Provision type	Total number of registered places (all ages)	Number of places available for 3 and 4 year olds fee paying and funded on a given day (% of all registered places)	Number of 3 and 4 year old places offered as funded places for the extended entitlement (% of 3 and 4 year old places)
Childminding	524	94 (18%)	41 (44%)
Group settings	3,094	1,516 (49%)	1,425 (94%)
Maintained settings	789	481 (61%)	326 (81%)
Total	4,407	2,091 (47%)	1,792 (86%)

Source: Herefordshire provider audit; Ofsted data

SFR data (2017) shows a total of 3,990 funded 3 and 4 year olds in Herefordshire, of whom 32% (1,274 children) were in infant classes in primary schools (on school roll). Of the remaining 2,716, 3 and 4 year olds benefitting from funded early education, the majority were funded in private/voluntary and childminding settings (2,215, 78%). Adding together estimates of the number of funded 3 and 4 year old places (universal and extended) provides an estimate across all provision of 2,985 funded places.

30 hours childcare

Audit responses show a high level of engagement with 30-hours childcare, particularly in group and maintained settings.

Settings delivering 30-hours childcare

Childminding	Group settings	Maintained settings	Overall
55%	93%	96%	86%

Settings delivering 30-hours childcare were asked if they had a stretched offer (this allows parents to take fewer than 15 additional hours a week for more than 38 weeks a year, hence stretching the entitlement across the whole year). Only 25% of all respondents (25 settings) indicated this is the case – a number of settings delivering 30-hours childcare did not answer the question and is assumed a non-response equates to not stretching the entitlement. The majority of settings indicating they are delivering a stretched offer were group settings (22, 34% of group settings delivering 30-hours childcare).

Demand for 30-hours childcare

All respondents were asked to describe parental demand for 30-hours childcare. Responses indicate relatively high levels of demand, in particular in group settings where 61% of existing parents are very interested. Childminders report lower levels of demand with 43% of respondents reporting they have not had many enquiries/parents do not seem interested. Maintained settings report relatively high levels of demand from existing and new parents:

Reported demand for 30-hours childcare

Reported demand	Type of setting			
	Childminding	Group setting	Maintained setting	Overall
Existing parents are very interested	43% (9)	61% (40)	50% (14)	57% (63)
Enquiries received from new parents	14% (3)	15% (10)	39% (11)	22% (24)
Not many enquiries/parents do not seem to be interested	43% (9)	32% (21)	7% (2)	29% (32)

Source: Herefordshire provider audit

Base: all respondents, 111; percentages rounded.

Settings were asked, where there was demand for 30-hours childcare, the type of delivery parents were looking for. According to responses there is a relatively small demand for stretched delivery – this could reflect relatively low stretch delivery currently; parental demand may change as the extended entitlement embeds and new cohorts of children (not currently in provision with established patterns of take-up) become eligible.

Type of 30-hours childcare parents are looking for – all provision

15 additional hours a week term-time	Less than 15 hours a week term-time	Stretched deliver	No demand/not applicable
46% (49)	28% (30)	17% (18)	9% (10)

Source: Herefordshire provider audit

Base: all respondents, 107; percentages rounded.

Vacancies for funded 3 and 4 year olds in the non-maintained sector

Based on audit responses, settings had capacity for an additional 940 funded 3 and 4 year olds on the day they completed the audit questionnaire. This equates to 45% of all 3 and 4 year old places across childminding, group and maintained settings.

It should be reiterated, the additional number of places will over-estimate spare capacity (as a place could be filled with a child of any age within the registered age range). However, findings do show there was spare capacity in the market for funded 3 and 4 year olds in the autumn term. 67% of group settings, 41% of childminders and 77% of maintained settings reported having a vacancy or vacancies for funded 3 and 4 year olds at the time of the audit.

Impact of 30 hours on 2 year old and universal 3 and 4 year old entitlements

The majority of settings report thinking there will be no impact on 2 year old and universal 3 and 4 year old early learning entitlement places (74%). A minority of settings report a reduction in 2 year olds places (11%) and 8% a reduction in places

for the universal entitlement of 3 and 4 year olds. 25% of respondents (27 settings) reported a different outcome, or provided a comment about potential impact of 30-hours childcare on 2 year old and universal 3 and 4 year old early learning entitlement places.

Estimated number of registered childcare places by children centre reach area

Children Centre Reach Area	Group Settings registered places	Childminders registered places
Broadlands	582	53
Leominster	602	78
Golden Valley	499	6
Bromyard	256	36
Kington	334	24
Ledbury	472	18
Ross on Wye	614	66
South Hereford City	522	100
North Hereford City	526	143
Total	4,407	524

Breakfast clubs, after school and holiday clubs

We have 99 schools across Herefordshire that support breakfast, after school and holiday care provision:

Type	No.	Breakfast Club	After School Club	Holiday Club
Primary & Special Schools	82	63	58	21

Secondary & Pupil Referral Unit	16	10	10	2
Steiner (primary/secondary)	1	0	1	0

(source: School census Jan 2018)

Of the 118 group settings delivering childcare 0-5 years, 61 of them offer full day registered (breakfast/after school and holiday care) childcare for 46 weeks or more throughout the year.

Cost of childcare in Herefordshire

The cost of childcare has increased in the last 3 years from an average of £4.00 per hour to an average of £4.50 an hour.

Day Nursery hourly rate - Childcare in a day nursery in Herefordshire varies between £3.75 per hour to £7.70 per hour. The average hourly rate is £4.50 per hour.

Breakfast club hourly rates – Costs vary from £2.00 per hour being the cheapest to £6.00 per hours most expensive. The average hourly rate is £4.00 per hour.

After school club hourly rates – Costs vary from £3.35 per hour being the cheapest to £7.80 per hour being the most expensive. The average hourly rate is £5.00 per hour.

Holiday club hourly rates – Costs vary from £2.50 per hour being the cheapest to £6.00 per hour being the most expensive. The average hourly rate is £4.00 per hour

Childminders hourly rates– Costs vary from £3.50 to £6.00 per hour. The average rate is £4.00 per hour.

Children with Special Educational Needs/Disabilities

There are 865 children and young people (aged 0 to 25 years) who are supported by Herefordshire Council with either a statement of special educational needs (SEN) or education, health and childcare plan (EHC plan). (Source 18 Jan 2018). 178 children under 5 years of age receive Inclusion support (April 2018).

In Herefordshire all mainstream early years providers include children with special educational needs (SEND) in their settings and are supported to do so by the local authority's early years team. There is one specialist childcare provision for children

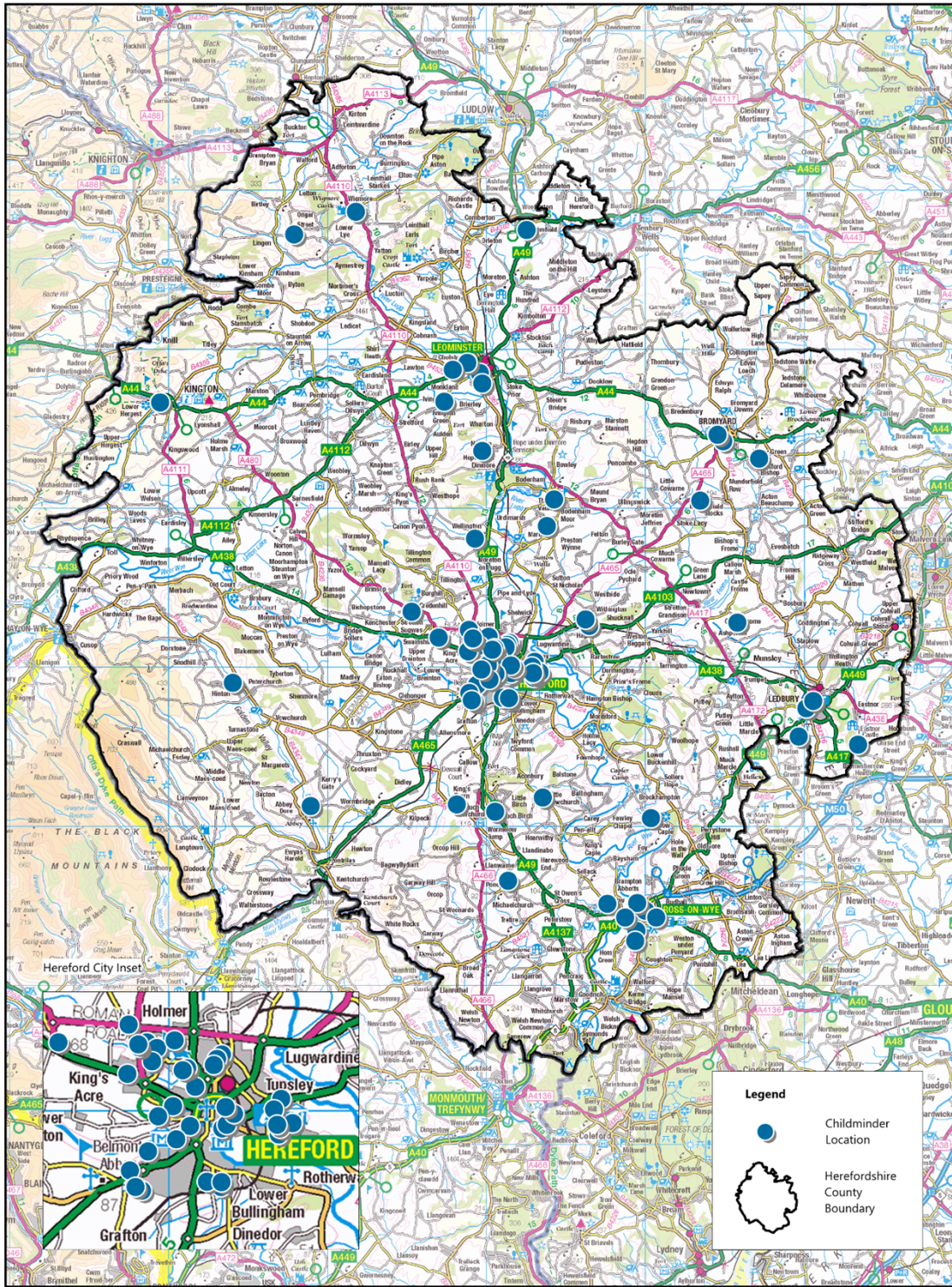
with severe and complex needs in a nursery attached to one primary age special school (Blackmarston, Hereford) with one other special school nursery (Westfield, Leominster).

There are also specialist groups provided by the Child Development Centre (CDC) run jointly by health and Herefordshire Council. This offers specialist interventions rather than childcare. Admission is by referral and/or assessment. There is no charge to parents for this and most of these children also attend mainstream early years provision with outreach from the CDC and financial support, if appropriate, from the council.

Children's centre services also offer evidence based support packages for referred children which include 1:1 support and small group work. Universal activities are also available.

Additional funding is available through the Early Years Grant to enable early year's providers to support children who are SEN to access provision.

Map of the spread of childminders across Herefordshire



Herefordshire - Childminders by Postcode

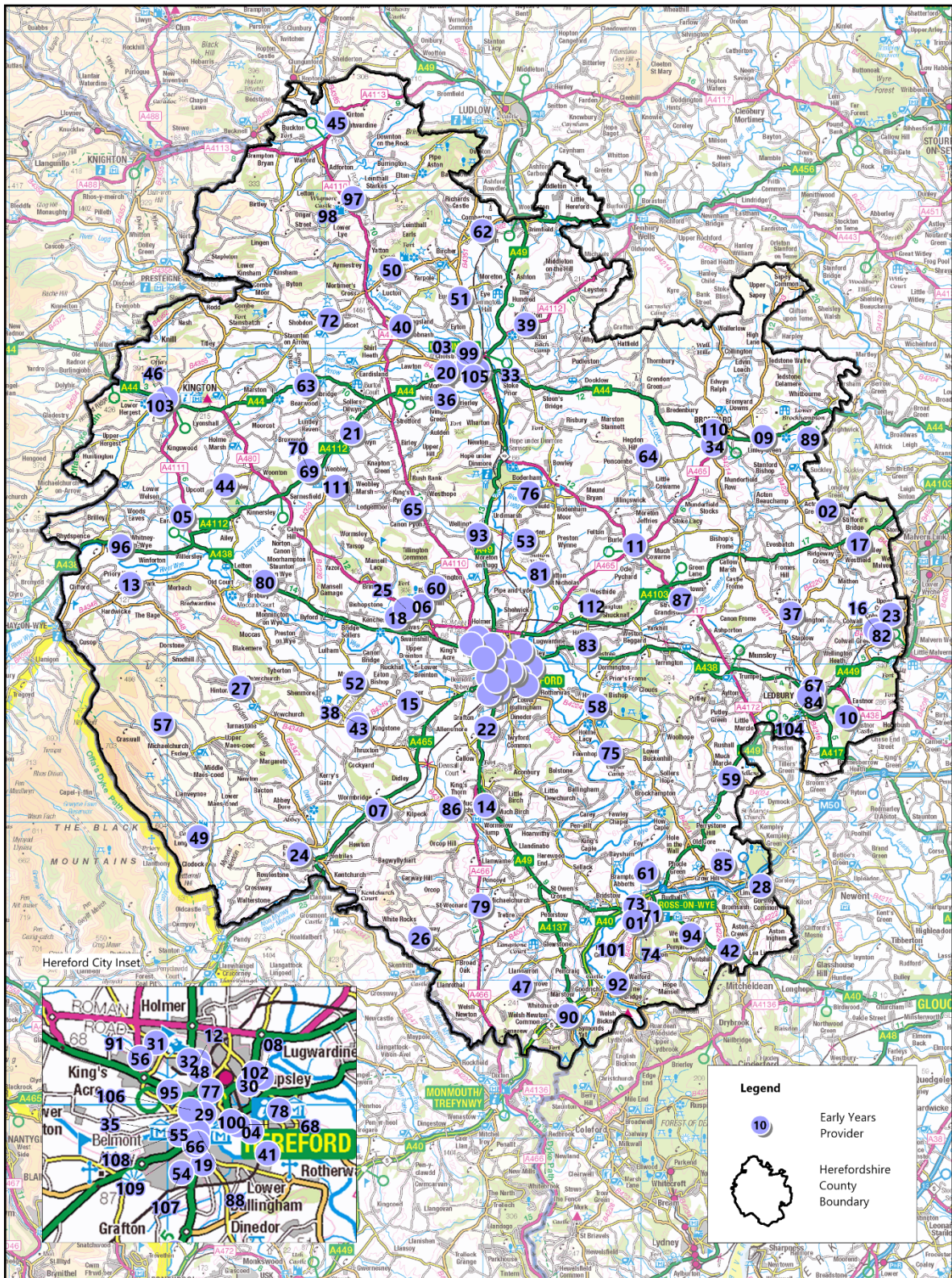
Map Produced: 17.05.2018

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Herefordshire Council
Plough Lane
Hereford
HR4 0LE

Map of the spread of early years group settings across Herefordshire



Herefordshire - Early Years Providers by Postcode

Map Produced: 17.05.2018

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Herefordshire Council
Plough Lane
Hereford
HR4 0LE

Key	Provider
01	Abacus 2000 Nursery School
02	Acton Mill Education
03	Bargates Children's Centre
04	Beech House Nursery School Limited
05	Bizzie Lizzie's
06	Bracon Mobile Crèche
07	Bridges Childcare
08	Broadlands Bright Sparks Playgroup
09	Brackhampton Pre School
10	Bubbles Nursery
11	Burley Gate
12	Busy Bees Nursery and Creche
13	Busy Bees Nursery and Pre school
14	Cabin Childcare Ltd
15	Clehonger Little Gems Pre-School
16	Cohwall Pre-School
17	Cradley C.E Primary School Nursery
18	Credenhill Pre School
19	Cut and Paste Childcare
20	Daisy Chain Pre-School
21	Dihayn Playgroup
22	Down On The Farm
23	Downs Malvern College Pre-Prep
24	Ewyas Harold Preschool
25	Field House Kindergarten Ltd
26	Garway Pre-School
27	Golden Valley Preschool
28	Gorsley Pre school
29	Hereford Cathedral Junior School Nursery
30	Herefordshire and Ludlow College Nursery
31	Highmore Hedgehogs Nursery
32	Holmer Pre School
33	Honey Bees Day Nursery
34	Hope for Children and their Families
35	Hunderton Neighbourhood Nursery & Kids Club
36	ington CE Primary Pre-School
37	Jack In The Box (Bosbury) Ltd
38	K.E.S Childcare
39	Kimbolton Nursery Group
40	Kingstand Pre-School

Key	Provider
41	Lake View Nursery Ltd
42	Lea Pre-School
43	Little Acorns Day Nursery Ltd
44	Little Elms Nursery
45	Little Leintwardine Nursery
46	Little Orchard Day Nursery
47	Llangrove Leapfrogs
48	Lollipops Nursery & Creche
49	Longtown Pre School
50	Lucton School Nursery
51	Luston Primary Nursery
52	Madley Pre-School
53	Mardon Pre School
54	Merry Go Round @ Green Croft
55	Merry-Go-Round @ Riverside
56	Merry-Go-Round @ Trinity House
57	Michaelchurch Pre-School
58	Mordiford Dragons Playgroup
59	Much Marcle Nursery School
60	Muddy Boots @ Burghill Primary Academy
61	Oak House Nursery School Ltd
62	Orleton Pre-School Group
63	Pembridge Pre-School
64	Pencombe Under Fives
65	Pippins Pre-School & Kids Club
66	Play And Learn Nurseries Ltd
67	Playstation Day Nursery Ltd
68	Rainbow Nursery
69	Red Roof Nursery
70	Red Roof Nursery And Holiday School
71	Ross Preschool Playgroup
72	Shebbaton Arches Pre-School
73	Springgate Nursery School
74	St Josephs Nursery
75	St Mary's Pre-School (Fownhope)
76	St Michael's Nursery
77	St Thomas Cantlupe Nursery (2-11)
78	St. Paul's Church Childcare Services
79	St. Weonards Preschool
80	Staunton-on-Wye Preschool and Kids Club

Key	Provider
81	Sutton Seedlings
82	The Elms School
83	The Gateway Nursery
84	The Hive
85	The Red House Nursery School
86	The Steiner Academy Hereford Kindergarten
87	The Townsend Nursery
88	The Wye Nursery
89	Tiblands Nursery School
90	Tiny Beginnings@Whitchurch
91	Trinity Treetots Nursery
92	Walford Pre-School
93	Wellington Primary Nursery
94	Weston-Under-Penyard Primary Nursery
95	Whitecross Day Nursery
96	Whitney Crocodiles Pre-School
97	Wigmore Nursery
98	Wigmore Nursery
99	Wise Owls Nursery
100	Wyeside Day Nursery and Out of School Care Ltd
101	Ashfield park school nursery
102	Broadlands primary school nursery
103	Kington primary school nursery
104	Ledbury primary school nursery
105	Leominster Primary School Nursery
106	Lord scudamore nursery
107	Marlbrook Primary School
108	Riverside primary school nursery
109	st martins primary school nursery
110	st peters primary school nursery
111	woobley primary school nursery
112	withington primary school nursery

Parent Survey Results

Herefordshire Council has a statutory obligation to provide support to parents who are in employment, education or training to find suitable childcare. The childcare provision in Herefordshire survey sought the views and experiences from parents seeking childcare in Herefordshire in order to improve this support. It also serves to identify any gaps in provision.

Methodology

An online questionnaire was produced and published on Herefordshire Council's website from May 14th to June 8th 2018. Promotion and advertising of the childcare survey was carried out through all schools, early years providers, childminders, Hereford Carers Support, Marches Family Network and Special Schools. It was also advertised through social media (Facebook & Twitter). There were 134 responses to the survey compared to 131 in 2015.

400 paper copies were produced and distributed to all Special Schools, Portage Workers, Child Development Centre, Marches Family Network and Hereford Carers Support. 19 copies were returned.

Results

85% of parents surveyed did not use the Family Information Service to search for childcare. Childcare was found using family & friends (65%) or through local knowledge of a nursery or childminder (28%).

By far the most popular type of childcare parents are wishing to access is day nurseries for 0-4 year olds (70%). This has seen a sharp increase since 2015 where it was 53%. This is likely due to the new government initiative in September 2017, around the extended entitlement of 30 hours. Sessional childcare (16%), childminders (15%) afterschool clubs (23%), breakfast clubs (17%) and holiday play schemes (27%) and specialist holiday play schemes for disabled children were identified.

61% of parents said they found the childcare they were looking for, compared to 58% in 2015. 23% found some of the childcare, and only 5% of parents didn't find any childcare they were looking for. This would suggest that in most cases parents are finding the childcare they need. Where parents did have trouble finding childcare, the main reasons were location of childcare was not suitable (43%), the hours of childcare were not suitable (33%), or the childcare was too expensive (28%).

The age range of parents looking for childcare were between 26-35 years (47%) and 36-45 years (37%). 17% were lone parents. Working arrangements varied between couples with one parent working part time 55% and 93% of their partners working full time. For those parents no working or in training, this was not due to insufficient childcare but other reasons 72%.

41% of respondents earned over £35,000, with 23% earning between £25,000 - £35,000. Only 16% were earning below £16,190.

A small number of parents with children with very complex needs had challenges around finding specialist holiday play schemes to cater for their child's needs. Some parents expressed concern that children with complex needs did not have access to breakfast, afterschool and holiday care at their special schools and that this type of provision for children aged over 5 years was difficult to find.

The recommendations from the last childcare sufficiency report (2016-2019) said we would...

- 1. Support for parents in rural areas particularly via the childminding Community and aimed at 0-2 years and holiday provision.**

We have continued with the recruitment and retention of childminders over the past 3 years, with 25 newly recruited childminders. We have seen a decline from 101 childminders in 2016 to 87 in 2018 mostly due to existing childminders retirement. The Local Authority will continue to recruit and sustain a childminding market.

- 2. Support schools where they have no breakfast and after school provision to consider offering this where there is demand.**

We now have over 73 primary/secondary and special schools across Herefordshire delivering a breakfast club, after school club or both for children aged 4 to 16 years.

- 3. Support all early years providers to deliver flexible 2, 3 and 4 year old nursery education funded places.**

In September 2017 the Local Authority rolled out the government initiative of 30 hours extended childcare for parents. 86% of all early years providers in Herefordshire delivered the 30 hours offer with 1,792 three and four year olds taking up a funded place in January 2018.

- 4. Support development of expansion of childcare places across all areas based on housing proposed.**

We have supported additional childcare places across Herefordshire since 2015 and notably in Ledbury, North Hereford City, Leominster and Colwall. Further childcare places were developed for Ross on Wye, Stretton Sugwas and North Hereford City from September 2018.

- 5. Support the childcare market to expand where it is feasible and demand dictates to offer holiday play scheme provision.**

We have 99 schools and academies in the county (primary, secondary and special schools) of which 23 deliver holiday club provision for children aged from 5 – 16 years.

Actions for 2019 – 2020

1. We will encourage early year's providers to consider more flexible childcare delivery, including care throughout the day and throughout the year. We will also support options and strategies for partnership delivery to enable settings currently unable to deliver 30 hours free childcare to be part of the solution for working parents and help them to understand local parental demand in a changing environment and the business opportunities this introduces.
2. We will improve our information and signposting through the Family Information Service (FIS) and WISH in order to maximise the ability for parents to identify and secure childcare.
3. We will support recruitment and retention to the childminding sector, supporting stand-alone and partnership models of delivery to meet the needs of parents.
4. We will continue to work with providers to ensure childcare is inclusive and meets the needs of children with special educational needs and disabilities, and we will actively promote inclusive childcare to families who require it.
5. We will encourage special schools to see if it is feasible for them support parents by offering breakfast, after school and holiday provision.
6. Given the rural nature of the county and the introduction of the 30 hour childcare extended entitlement from September 2017, Herefordshire is committed to working with all providers to support them to understand local parental demand and monitor trends and gap analysis.

We will continue to promote the 2 year old entitlement with children centre services and health colleagues to ensure our most disadvantaged youngsters have access to funded early years education.