

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA)

2018

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1. Overall assessment and summary

Introduction

This document outlines the local authority's work in meeting its childcare sufficiency duty.¹ It outlines the work that is being undertaken to promote high quality early years provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities, two- three- and four year-olds eligible for free childcare places, school age children and children needing holiday care.

Local authorities are required by legislation to secure sufficient childcare, so far as reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children). This means that parents are able to work because childcare places are available, accessible and affordable and are delivered flexibly at a range of high quality settings.

This document will provide information about the current and projected supply and demand of childcare for particular age ranges of children, the affordability, accessibility and quality of provision; and details of how gaps in childcare provision will be addressed.

Assessment of Sufficiency

The 2014 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment identified areas for development which have been worked on whilst increasing the number of children accessing free/funded places and implementing new support such as the 30 Hours places.

Medway has been providing free/funded childcare spaces for disadvantaged two-year-olds since 2013. This offer was extended to over 40% of two-year-olds and in the current data provided by the DWP the number of potentially eligible two-year-olds is 44%.

Medway is committed to supporting as many families as possible to take up the offer of free/funded places for an eligible two-year-old. There are enough registered places to accept all of the potentially eligible two-year-olds in Medway, with the current take up rate being 66%. A significant increase in two-year-old take up would require the authority to reassess the potential impact on sufficiency in the sector however, current sufficiency is ample to cover an increase consistent with the highest rates in the South East (84%).

In the Summer term 2018, there were vacancies in all of the childcare sectors for three- and four-year-olds. The vacancy rate is relatively small per setting, but this does not take into account developments in the Summer Term which include additional provision in three settings and the addition of 15 new childminders. The largest vacancies per setting occur in the school sector and discussion with schools are ongoing.

From September 2017 Medway has provided funding for eligible families to access the 30 Hour entitlement. The Department for Education (DfE) estimated that there would be 2100 eligible families in Medway. With an average take up of 80%, this would equate to approximately 1680 children taking up a place across the year. A slow start in Autumn

¹ Sufficiency is defined as meeting the needs of local parents who require childcare in order to enable them to take up or remain in work or undertake training or education that will lead to work.

2017 has been reversed in Spring and Summer with the number of children accessing a place almost doubling between Autumn 2017 and Summer 2018. The number of children accessing the funding in Summer 2018 is 92% of the expected take up. Take up for Autumn 2018 is consistent with projections made in Summer 2018 and 20% higher than Autumn 2017.

The developments in 30 Hours provision has not had a detrimental impact on the number of 15 Hour places offered across Medway. The number of places/hours offered in Summer 2017 is consistent with the number of places/hours offered in Summer 2018 even though the number of 30 Hours places has increased significantly.

Children identified with SEN (EHCP and SEN Support) are accessing settings with an Outstanding or Good Ofsted rating (96%).

Medway CSA Action Plan 2018-19

Key	Action required	Timeline
<p><i>To have a sufficient, sustainable and high quality childcare market.</i></p>	<p>Implementation of monthly sufficiency data collation including occupancy.</p> <p>Annual review of CSA</p> <p>Childcare occupancy and cost reports</p> <p>Ofsted information on registered provision from download</p> <p>To support providers on a traded basis to have robust business models that support childcare places in remaining sustainable. This must include opportunities for training for different providers</p>	<p>Monthly from Spring 2019</p> <p>Summer 18/19</p> <p>Termly</p> <p>Daily</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Jan 19</p>
<p><i>To identify wards and age ranges for childcare sufficiency.</i></p>	<p>Work with existing providers to manage the market.</p> <p>Stimulate the market by signposting new potential developers/providers to the areas indicated in the wards below.</p> <p>Develop dynamic information sharing routes with local partners through the development of the provider portal.</p>	
<p><i>2 year olds</i></p>	<p>Monitor the wards of Princes Park, Rainham North, Cuxton & Halling, Chatham Central, Rochester East for increases in two-year-old funding take up.</p> <p>Develop information sharing protocols with Health Visitors to allow targeting of information to eligible two-year old funding families.</p>	<p>Sept - Dec 18/19</p>

<p><i>3-4 year olds</i></p>	<p>Monitor the fluctuation of child demographic in wards to ensure that changes to demographics are being supported by changes to provision.</p> <p>Monitor the wards of Rochester East, Rochester West, Rochester South and Horsted, Gillingham North and Princes Park for increases in three-year-old funding take up.</p>	<p>Sept - Dec 18/19</p>
<p><i>To ensure Out of School Care is available to families</i></p>	<p>Monitor wards without provision to enable sufficient places to be accessible.</p>	
<p><i>Breakfast Club</i></p>	<p>To implement a consistent information audit to provide a dynamic picture of extended provision across Medway.</p>	<p>Ongoing 2018/19</p>
<p><i>Afterschool Club</i></p>	<p>To implement a consistent information audit to provide a dynamic picture of extended provision across Medway.</p>	<p>Ongoing 2018/19</p>
<p><i>To ensure that SEN children and those with additional needs are able to access the entitlement.</i></p>	<p>Monitor the quality of provision for children with EHCPs and SEN Support to ensure that children are being provided with the best support in the Early Years to meet their individual needs.</p>	<p>Termly meetings with the SEN Team following the Headcount data.</p>

2 Demand for childcare

Population of Early Years' children

Numbers by age (**Birth Data and School Services Forecast**)

In total, there are 18,045 children under the age of five living in our local authority. These children may require early years' childcare.

Age	Number of children
Age 0	3412
Age 1	3499
Age 2	3790
Age 3	3692
Age 4*	3652

Numbers by age (**ONS Mid-Year Estimates for 2017**)

In total, there are 18,566 children under the age of five living in our local authority. These children may require early years' childcare.

Age	Number of children
Age 0	3,650
Age 1	3,748
Age 2	3,688
Age 3	3,785
Age 4*	3,695

* Some four-year-olds will have started reception

Population of school age children (**May School Census 2018**)

In total there are 24,565 children aged 5-11, and 9815 children aged 12-14 living in our local authority. These children may require childcare before and after school, and/or during the school holidays.

Numbers by age

Age	Number of children
Age 5	3531
Age 6	3666
Age 7	3650
Age 8	3478
Age 9	3474
Age 10	3404
Age 11	3362
Age 12	3371
Age 13	3209
Age 14	3235

Population of school age children (ONS Mid-Year Estimates for 2017)

In total there are 25,633 children aged 5-11, and 9,889 children aged 12-14 living in our local authority. These children may require childcare before and after school, and/or during the school holidays.

Numbers by age

Age	Number of children
Age 5	3,918
Age 6	3,747
Age 7	3,719
Age 8	3,637
Age 9	3,587
Age 10	3,508
Age 11	3,517
Age 12	3,291
Age 13	3,342
Age 14	3,256

Number of children with special educational needs and disabilities

Children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) are entitled to support with childcare up to the age of 18 (age 14 for children who do not have a special need or disability). The number of children with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan in our local authority is:

Age	Number of children
Birth to school age	54
Primary school (reception to year six)	658
Secondary school (year seven to thirteen)	1084

Children's needs change over time and are identified at different ages. Among the youngest children, SEND may only be identified when they start in childcare or school, and it can take some time from problems being identified to an EHC plan being issued. It is therefore possible that the number of children with SEND aged 0-4 is an underestimate. Some children have SEN but do not have an EHC plan.

The children identified with an EHCP in the Headcount for Summer 2018 take up their places in 38 settings. The Ofsted outcomes for these settings show that 88% of the children take their place in a Good or Outstanding setting which is a key indicator in the Medway SEND and Inclusion Strategy for 2016-2020. Of the 6 children who attend a setting without an overall Good or Outstanding judgement, four attend a school with a judgment of Good in the EYFS. This means that 96% are in Good or Outstanding settings when considering their EYFS judgement.²

Additionally there are 170 children identified with SEN needs in Medway. These children take their places in 72 settings. The Ofsted outcomes for these settings show that 89% of

² Data provided from the Early Years Headcount Summer 2018 and Ofsted grading at Summer 2018.

the children with SEN take their place in a Good or Outstanding setting. Of the 19 children who attend a setting without an overall Good or Outstanding judgement, 13 attend a school with a judgment of Good in the EYFS. This means that 96% are in Good or Outstanding settings when considering their EYFS judgement.³

Disability Access Funding

In 2017-2018, there have been 83 applications for Disability Access Funding. Only two applications have been found to be non-eligible and 81 children have accessed the funding in 47 different providers. The Ofsted outcomes for these settings show that 75 children accessing DAF funding attend a setting with an overall Good or Outstanding judgement (89.6%).

Changes to population of children in our area

The Schools Services Team use the birth data to forecast need in different areas of Medway. The analysis provided by the service shows the changes to population over time in different areas of Medway.

Area	Number of Births	Number of Births	Number of Births
	Sep 15 - Aug 16	Sep 16 - Aug 17	Sep 17 - Aug 18
Chatham	511	515	524
Cuxton/Halling	79	103	96
Gillingham	708	692	677
Peninsula	288	277	275
Rainham North	251	268	252
Rainham South	366	342	356
Rochester	303	284	274
Strood	517	489	474
Walderslade	505	491	483

A consistent year on year increase can only be seen in the Chatham area. In five of the areas there has been a consistent drop in the birth rate over the previous three years (Gillingham, Peninsula Rochester, Strood and Walderslade), however, although the number of births has fluctuated in the last three years, the overall trend for Medway has seen an increasing birth rate over the last ten years.

³ Data provided from the Early Years Headcount Summer 2018 and Ofsted grading at Summer 2018.

Year (September – August)	Number of Children 0-4 Years Old
2007-2008	16439
2008-2009	16745
2009-2010	17143
2010-2011	17632
2011-2012	18038
2012-2013	18375
2013-2014	18442
2014-2015	18371
2015-2016	18296
2016-2017	18150
2017-2018	18044

This general increase in the birth rate is expected to continue with the current proposed housing developments in Rainham, Chatham, Rochester and Halling.

The take up of provision for 4 Year Olds as a percentage of birth rates identifies areas of greatest mobility/migration.

Area	4 Year Old Take-up	4 Year Old Take-up	4 Year Old Take-up
	Sep 14 - Aug 15	Sep 15 - Aug 16	Sep 16 - Aug 17
Chatham	85%	92.7%	95.2%
Cuxton/Halling	121.2%	129.7%	106.4%
Gillingham	90.4%	87.2%	90.7%
Peninsula	86.9%	85.1%	96.3%
Rainham North	96%	94.8%	88.2%
Rainham South	105.3%	110.1%	113.4%
Rochester	78.8%	89.4%	83.7%
Strood	92.5%	88.7%	90.2%
Walderslade	95.2%	90.5%	91.4%

The figures above show that there are three areas of high migration/mobility in Medway, particularly when comparing birth rates to the number of 4 year olds accessing a Reception place. These areas are Rainham South, Cuxton and Halling. There are also two areas of rising mobility/migration in Chatham and the Peninsula. School places in Medway have been developed to take account of these figures. In 2018 210 Primary School places have been added in Rainham, 140 in Halling, 210 in Chatham and 210 on the Peninsula.

3 Supply of childcare

Number of Early Years' providers and places

In total, there are 215 Early Years' childcare providers in our local authority, offering a maximum of 6313 Early Years' childcare places:

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Number of registered places</i>
Childminders ⁴	222	N/A
Childminders providing funded places ⁵	82	264
Nursery classes in schools	39	2144
Maintained nursery schools	0	0
Private, voluntary and independent Day Nurseries and Preschools	94	3905

For private, voluntary and independent nurseries and childminders, the number of registered places represents the maximum number of children who can be on the premises at any given time. In practice, many providers choose to operate below their number of registered places.

Children may attend childcare full time or part time. This table records places for children who are attending full time, or for as many hours as the setting is open. In some cases, two or more children attending part time may use one full time equivalent place. For example, one child may attend in the morning and one child may attend in the afternoon. This results in more children accessing places than is noted as the setting's maximum registered number.

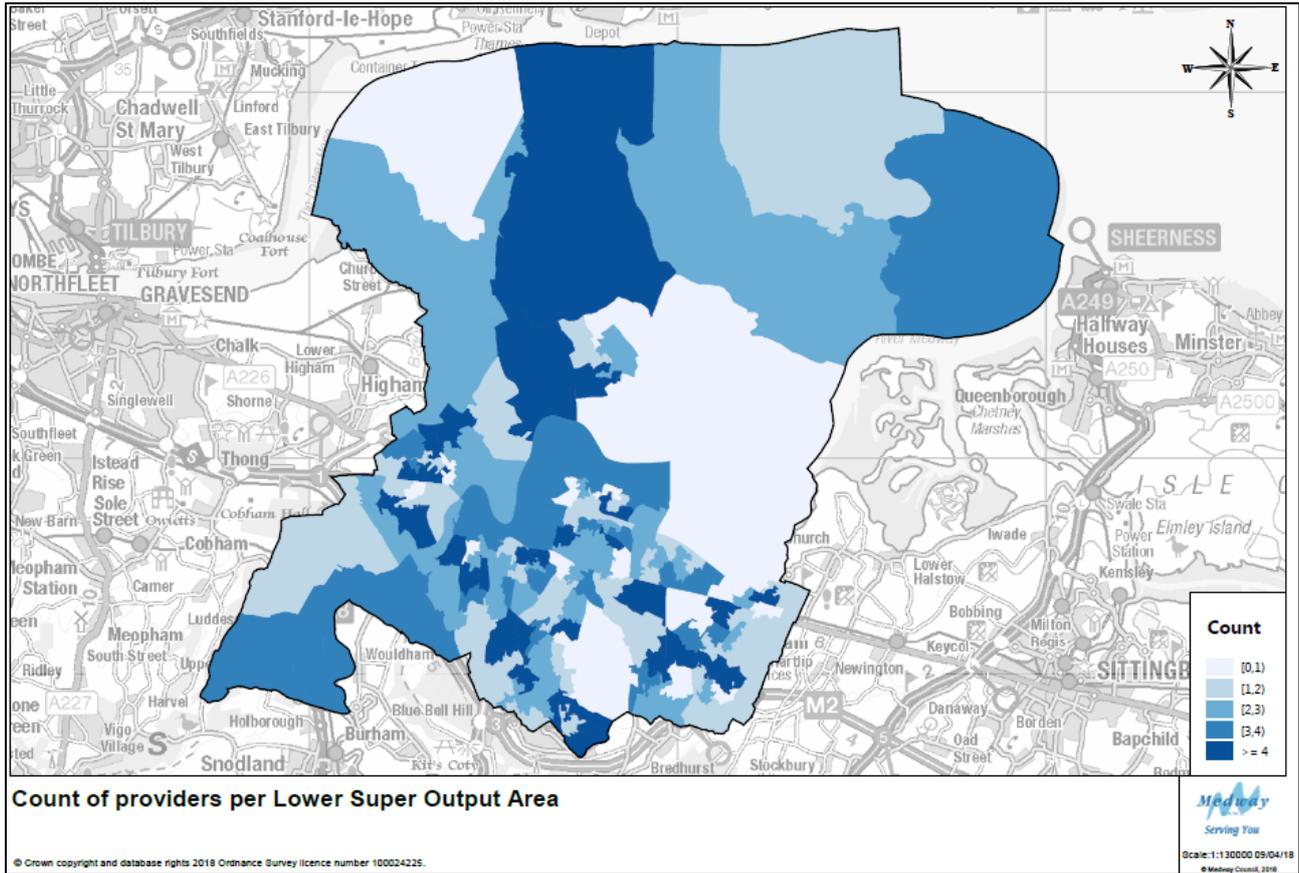
Access to Providers

Parents in Medway employ a variety of models for accessing childcare including provision close to home, provision on key work routes and provision in relation to school locations. An analysis of provider locations by Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) shows that provision is spread across Medway with populated rural areas such as Hoo, Grain and Halling being well served by local Early Years provision.⁶

⁴ Some childminder places will also be available for older children and this includes all childminders identified as active in the Family Information Service Directory, not just childminders providing services for children under 5 years old.

⁵ The number of childminders has increased in the Summer term to 94, but this is not counted in sufficiency as the childminders were not providing funded places in this term.

⁶ LSOAs are smaller geographical areas than wards showing that local provision is sufficient.



Early Years' Vacancies

Type of provision	Number of providers	Total number of vacancies	Vacancies as an average FTE per setting
Childminders providing funded places	82	31	0.4
Nursery classes in schools	39	412	10.6
Maintained nursery schools	0	0	
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	94	272	2.9
Total	215	715	3.3

Vacancy rates are a snapshot, and often change rapidly. In some cases, providers may have a vacancy which is only available for a specific age group, or for a particular part time arrangement. In general, vacancy rates are higher in the autumn, when children move to school.

We are anticipating an increase in 30 Hours places in the 2018-2019 and the vacancies suggested in the data above will need to be carefully monitored as more children accept 30 Hours spaces. This could have an impact on the number of places available for Medway children by the Summer term 2019.

Number of Early Years' Breakfast and After School Clubs

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>
Breakfast club – primary school	46
After-school club – primary school	36
Childminders	160
Holiday club	31

Tracking supply of childcare for school age children is difficult because not all of this type of provision is registered with Ofsted. It is possible that we have under-counted the provision of breakfast and afterschool clubs and holiday clubs. Parents may also use provision which is not considered 'childcare', for example sports or arts clubs after school or in the holidays.

4 Funded early education

Introduction to funded early education

Some children are entitled to free childcare, funded by the government. These entitlements are for 38 weeks per year.

- Children aged 2 whose families receive certain benefits (including low income families in receipt of in-work benefits), or those who meet additional non-economic [criteria](#), are entitled to 15 hours per week. Nationally, about 40% of 2 year olds are entitled to this offer, but the proportion varies by area
- All children aged 3 and 4 are entitled to 15 hours per week until they start reception class in school
- Children aged 3 and 4 where both parents are working, or from lone parent families where that parent is working, are [entitled](#) to 30 hours per week until they start reception class in school⁷

Parents do not have to use all the hours of their funded entitlement. They may choose to split them between providers. With the agreement of their provider, parents may also spread them across the year – for example, rather than taking 15 hours for 38 weeks a year they could take just under 12 hours for 48 weeks a year.

Take up of funded early education

The proportion of eligible children taking up their funded place (for at least some of the available hours) in our local authority is:

Age	Percentage of eligible children		
	Medway	South East	England
Age 2	66%	70%	72%
Age 3 and 4	91%	95%	94%

The data in this table is based on Department for Education data in January 1918

Breakdown of funded early education take up by age of children

Age	Percentage of eligible children		
	Medway	South East	England
Age 2	66%	70%	72%
Age 3 and 4	91%	95%	94%
<i>3 year olds</i>	90%	94%	92%
<i>4 year olds</i>	92%	95%	95%

⁷ Available to families where each parent (or one parent in a single adult household) are earning the equivalent of working sixteen hours per week on the minimum wage

Proportion of 2-year-old children entitled to funded early education

In our local authority, 44% of 2 year olds are potentially entitled to funded early education. This equates to around 1680 children per year in 2017-18.

Providers offering two-year-old funded early education places

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers in Medway</i>	<i>Number of Providers offering two-year-old places</i>	<i>Percentage of Providers offering two-year-old places</i>
Childminders	82	29	35%
Nursery classes in schools	39	6	15%
Maintained nursery schools	0	0	0%
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	94	89	95%

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers in Medway</i>	<i>Number of Children in each type of provision</i>	<i>Percentage of children in each provision</i>
Childminders	82	45	5%
Nursery classes in schools	39	88	11%
Maintained nursery schools	0	0	0%
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	94	718	84%

Geographical monitoring of Wards for Funded early education

Two-year-old monitoring

There are 5 areas in Medway where the take up of two-year-old funding needs constant monitoring. The Wards below all fall below the 60% take up rate:

Ward	Percentage of potentially eligible two-year-olds taking their funding place
Princes Park	45.95%
Rainham North	52.17%
Cuxton & Halling	54.55%
Chatham Central	55.56%
Rochester East	58.93%

Three-year-old monitoring

There are 5 areas in Medway where the take up of three-year-old standard places needs constant monitoring. The Wards below all fall below the 85% take up rate:

Ward	Percentage of potentially eligible three-year-olds taking their funding place
Rochester South and Horsted	73.81%
Rochester West	75.89%
Princes Park	81.58%
Gillingham North	84.21%
Rochester East	84.35%

3 and 4-year-old funded entitlement applications

Parents who think they are entitled to a 30 hour extended hours place apply for this online through the Government's Childcare Support website. The same website is used to apply for tax free childcare and parents can apply for either or both. If a parent is eligible, the system creates a code which they can use with their chosen childcare provider. If they are ineligible, they will still be entitled to the universal 15 hours of early education and childcare.

<i>Autumn 2017</i>	<i>Number of codes</i>	<i>% of codes issued</i>
Issued with a code	1007	NA
Codes validated	929	92%
Accessing a place	790	78%

<i>Spring 2018</i>	<i>Number of codes</i>	<i>% of codes issued</i>
Issued with a code	1525	NA
Codes validated	1369	90%
Accessing a place	1345	88%

<i>Summer 2018</i>	<i>Number of codes</i>	<i>% of codes issued</i>
Issued with a code	1751	NA
Codes validated	1607	92%
Accessing a place	1550	89%

The data shows that not all parents use the code they receive, although this has dropped from 22% not accessing their valid code in Autumn 2017 to only 11% not accessing their valid code in Summer 2018 at the same time as the number of valid codes increasing by 74%.

Providers offering funded early education places

Providers are paid directly by government for delivering funded early education. They are not required to offer them to parents, but of course parents may choose to use a different provider if they do not. Some providers offer a restricted number of funded places. The percentages show the total percentage of providers offering funded places for the specified ages.

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Age 2 targeted</i>	<i>Age 3 and 4 universal 15 hours</i>	<i>Age 3 and 4 – extended 30 hours</i>
Childminders	82	35%	100%	89%
Nursery classes in schools	39	15%	100%	31%
Maintained nursery schools	0	0%	0%	0%
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	94	95%	100%	85%

Comparing take up of funded early education over time

<i>Age</i>	<i>This year</i>	<i>Year -1</i>	<i>Year -2</i>
Age 2 – targeted	66%	67%	66%
Age 3 and 4	91%	92%	95%

Funded hours provided for the Standard and Extended 3 and 4 year old entitlement

<i>Entitlement</i>	<i>Summer 2017</i>	<i>Summer 2018</i>	<i>Autumn 2017</i>	<i>Autumn 2018</i>
Standard (Hours)	78321	77817	50772	50619
Extended (Hours)	0	19756	11346	14007

The addition of the extended entitlement from Autumn 2017 onwards has not impacted upon the offer for the standard 15 hour entitlement for three and four year olds. In like terms the number of hours provided for the extended entitlement has increased significantly, whereas the number of hours offered for the standard entitlement has not changed significantly from before the introduction of the extended entitlement.

5 Prices

Prices of early years childcare

For early years childcare outside the funded entitlements, we report on average prices per hour, reported to us by settings.⁸ There may be variations to prices based on the number of hours a family uses, with reductions for longer hours, or discounts for sibling groups. There may be additional payments for additional services, e.g. lunch and other meals which are not included in these prices.

Price per hour	Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	School and maintained nursery schools which make charges to parents	Childminders
0 and 1 year olds	£6.16	N/A	£4.18
2 year olds	£5.19	N/A	£4.18
3 and 4 year olds	£6.16	N/A	£4.18

Prices of school age childcare

For school age children during term time, we report on average prices before school per day, after school per day, and for childminding per hour. For holiday childcare, we report on holiday club prices per week.

Setting and price unit	Price
After-school club per hour	£3.44
School age childminder per hour	£3.52
Holiday club per day	£24
Holiday club per week	£100

⁸ This data is collected on an annual basis and the current data was collated in January 2018.

6 Quality of childcare in our area

Ofsted inspection grades

All childcare providers must register with and be inspected by Ofsted, who give them an overall grade for the quality of their provision. Childminders and private and voluntary providers are on the Early Years Register, and schools and standalone maintained nursery schools are on the Schools register. The grades for both registers are equivalent. Schools with nurseries have an overall inspection grade for the whole school and most also have a separate early year's grade.

Both schools and early years providers have four possible Ofsted grades: 'outstanding', 'good', 'requires improvement', and 'inadequate'.⁹ Some providers are still awaiting their first full inspection. These providers are excluded from our calculation.

Nursery classes in independent schools do not generally have an Ofsted grade.

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Total number of providers</i>	<i>% achieving good or outstanding</i>	<i>New Childminders/ Academies with no current report</i>
Childminders	97	97%	26
Nursery classes in schools ¹⁰	39	64%	14
Maintained nursery schools	0	0%	0
Private and voluntary nurseries	94	94%	7
<i>Total</i>	230		47
<i>Total (with grades)</i>	183	91%	

This includes maintained schools and Academies

Providers with met/not met grade

When providers do not have any children on site at the time of their first inspection, they are given an Ofsted grade of 'met' or 'not met'. This shows whether they are meeting the requirements for Ofsted registration, and usually happens when new providers are being set up. At present, we have three providers with a 'met' grade and one provider with a 'not met' grade.

⁹ For more information see <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/about-our-inspection-reports>

¹⁰ The small number of completed Ofsteds for the academy groups alongside the number of requires improvement outcomes skews the percentage of Good and Outstanding schools.

Comparing inspection grades over time¹¹

<i>% of providers 'good' or 'outstanding'</i>	<i>Year 2017-2018</i>	<i>Year -1 2016-2017</i>
Childminders	97%	97%
Nursery classes in schools	64%	82%
Maintained nursery schools	0%	0%
Private and voluntary nurseries	94%	92%
<i>Total</i>	91%	90%

The Ofsted outcomes for providers with at least Good have increased over the last year except for Nursery classes in Schools. However, academisation is providing a false reading in this sector. There are currently 14 schools without an Ofsted grade and this accounts for 36% of the total number of schools with nursery classes. The vast majority of children in Medway attend providers with at least a Good Ofsted grade.

¹¹ The changes to maintained schools and Academy schools makes a direct comparison between years more problematic. Schools that transition to Academy status have no current Ofsted rating in that particular year.

7 Methodology

- Unless otherwise stated the data comes from the Summer Term 2018. This is generated from the data provided in the May 2018 Headcount and data held in the Medway Family Information Service Directory.
- Number of children: based on Medway population projections and the ONS.
- Children with EHC plans: based on data held by the Medway SEN Team.
- Supply of childcare: based on data provided to us by Ofsted, who regulate Early Years' provision in schools and childcare provision. In some cases, we have supplemented this with local intelligence where providers are not registered with Ofsted.
- Vacancy rates: based on the number of registered places against actual places filled by children across Medway in the different childcare sectors.
- Funded early education: data on take up of funded early education entitlements is based on the Early Years and Schools Censuses, which are taken every January and published by the Department for Education in the statistical collection *Education provision: children under five years of age*. Data on entitlement to a funded early education place for 2 year olds is provided by the Department for Work and Pensions.
- Price of childcare: based on the data held in the Medway Family Information Service Directory.
- Quality of childcare: data on childcare quality is provided by Ofsted and collated in the Medway Family Information Service Directory.
- Data from providers and parents.

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