

# **Croydon's Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2020**

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## 1. Introduction

All councils are required by law to 'report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare, and make this report available and accessible to parents'.<sup>1</sup> We have prepared this report in order to meet this duty.

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 with disabilities. Sufficiency is assessed for different groups, rather than for all children in the local authority.

In this report, we have made an assessment of sufficiency using data about the need for childcare and the amount of childcare available, along with feedback from local parents about how easy or difficult it has been for them to find suitable childcare.

We use information about childcare sufficiency to plan our work supporting the local childcare economy.

As a result of the COVID-19 virus, England has been in various stages of lockdown since March 2020. This has impacted on everyone and childcare is no exception, Ofsted suspended inspections in March, there was no moderation of the Early Years Foundation Stage profiles and childcare businesses continue to be directly impacted.

Although the majority of providers re-opened in June as requested, not all did and the guidance around which businesses can re-open, childcare 'bubbles' and social distancing has had a significant impact on the out of school sector in particular.

In addition, the ongoing spread of the virus and temporary closures means that provision is even more fluid than normal but in November we completed an update on all current registered provision in the borough which is reflected in this report. However there is no question that 2020 is an exceptional year and that the hard work and dedication of all Croydon childcare workers should be celebrated.

<sup>1</sup> Statutory guidance on Early Education and Childcare, effective from 1 March 2018.

## 2. Methodology

Quantitative and qualitative data as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 is used within this report and consideration given to supply and demand, availability, affordability, choice and flexibility and quality under three main themes:

- childcare for children aged 0 to 4 years
- childcare for children aged 5 to 14 years and
- childcare for children with disabilities or special needs (all ages)

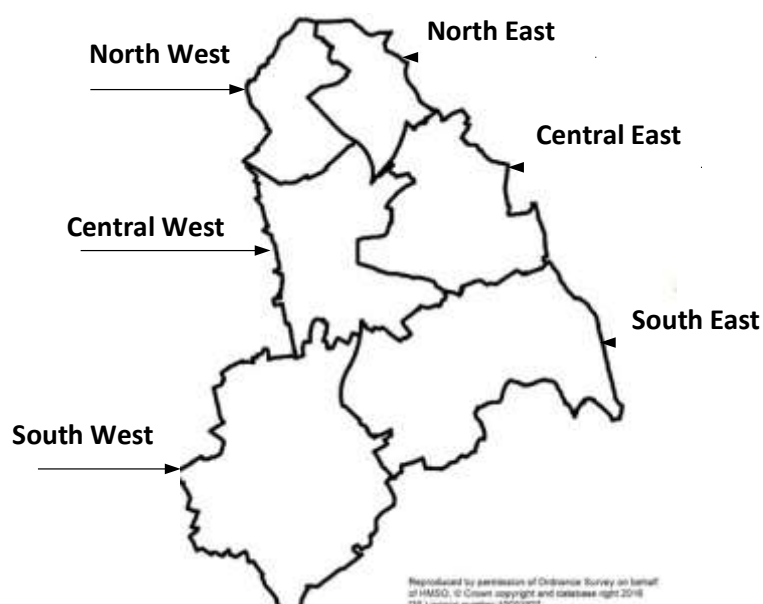
Analysis of demographic and socio-economic data was conducted by the Early Intervention Performance and Strategic Intelligence team and provides an indication of how the population is growing and therefore the impact on the childcare market.

Supply information on the number, cost and quality of childcare places was largely gathered from the Ofsted data held within the sufficiency department. Additional data was gathered from childcare providers via telephone calls and email updates.

Please note that all the details in this report were accurate as at November 2020 but that numbers of children, setting details including prices change constantly.

There are a number of factors that affect the demand and ability to pay for childcare. It is necessary to consider these wider issues when considering how demand levels may differ in particular areas of the borough.

As part of the strategy to deliver services more effectively, the borough has been re-aligned into six locality areas with the intention of bringing services closer to the communities they serve. These localities replace the Planning Areas previously in place. Please see page 11 for the detailed ward breakdown by locality.



### 3. About Croydon<sup>1</sup>

Croydon is an outer London borough and is in the far south of London, making it London's southern-most borough. It covers an area of 87 square kilometres. To the very north of the borough, the five local authorities of Croydon, Lambeth, Southwark, Bromley and Lewisham meet, whilst to the south Croydon borders Surrey. To the north-east, east and south-east of Croydon the borders are with the London Borough of Bromley, whilst to the west the borders are with the London Boroughs of Sutton and Merton.

**Population** – Croydon has the second largest population of all London Boroughs at 386,710 just behind Barnet. Croydon has the 4<sup>th</sup> largest population of young people in London: 22.2% (85,672) of the population are aged 0–15 years. Croydon also has a large population of working age adults, 64.0% of the population are aged 16-64, whilst the proportion of older adults, aged 65+, is much lower than the national average making up only 13.8% of the population<sup>2</sup> (ONS mid-2019 population estimates).

**Migration** – Based on the latest figures for 2018, domestic migration has had little impact on the growth of the Croydon population. 22,897 people moved into the borough whilst 27,263 people left the borough to go to other areas of the UK. The international inflows into Croydon continue to exceed the international outflows and this results in more migrants from outside the UK. For 2018, the ONS has estimated that around 17.1% of the Croydon population is made up of non-British residents.

**Ethnicity** – Croydon has a diverse population; its communities speak more than 100 different languages and as with other London boroughs, Croydon has a higher proportion of residents from black and minority ethnic backgrounds than the national average. According to the Census 2011, the younger population is more diverse than the older population in Croydon.

**Economy** – The top three industries in Croydon, which accounted for nearly half (43.6%) of all businesses in the area in 2019 were professional, scientific and technical; construction and information and communication<sup>3</sup>.

There are fewer jobs in Croydon per head of population than the London average, with many residents commuting to work in other areas, such as central London. The high proportion of residents commuting to central London is one of the factors that influences the difference between the average earnings of people who work in Croydon and those of people who live in Croydon, although it should be noted there is some overlap between the two groups. The average gross earnings for male full-

<sup>1</sup> Unless stated Croydon data are taken from the Croydon Observatory (<http://www.croydonobservatory.org/>) and the latest Borough profile. Further ward data are also available on the Croydon Observatory.

<sup>2</sup> Population estimates available at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesforukenglandandwalesscotlandandnorthernireland>

<sup>3</sup> ONS (2019) UK Business Activity, Size and Location

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/business/activitysizeandlocation/datasets/ukbusinessactivitysizeandlocation>

time workers is about £45 higher a week for those who work in Croydon than those who live in Croydon. For female full-time workers it is higher by about £12 a week<sup>4</sup>.

In October 2020, there was an estimated 22,765 people in Croydon claiming out of work benefits. The number is more than double what it was a year earlier and is as a direct result of the Covid-19 pandemic with a significant increase since April 2020, as the table below shows. The proportion of out of work claimants is higher than the London and national (GB) proportion.

**TABLE 1: Total Out of Work Claimants**

Date	Croydon (%)	London (%)	Great Britain (%)	Croydon
Jun-19	4.1	2.8	2.7	10,270
Jul-19	4.1	2.8	2.8	10,230
Aug-19	4.2	2.8	2.8	10,415
Sep-19	4.2	2.9	2.8	10,475
Oct-19	4.3	2.9	2.9	10,540
Nov-19	4.3	2.9	2.9	10,555
Dec-19	4.2	3.0	2.9	10,525
Jan-20	4.2	3.0	2.9	10,440
Feb-20	4.4	3.1	3.0	10,820
Mar-20	4.4	3.1	3.1	10,835
Apr-20	6.8	5.0	5.1	16,790
May-20	8.8	7.5	6.4	21,860
Jun-20	8.7	7.5	6.2	21,520
Jul-20	8.8	7.6	6.4	21,855
Aug-20	9.2	7.8	6.5	22,720
Sep-20	9.2	7.9	6.4	22,890
Oct-20	9.2	7.9	6.3	22,765

Source: ONS claimant count by sex and age

Note: % is number of claimants as a proportion of resident population of area aged 16-64 and gender

**Housing** – Based on the 2011 Census, at a borough level 70.8% of Croydon residents lived in one family only households<sup>5</sup>, this was an increase of 2.4% compared to the 2001 figure. 25.3% of all households were married couples or couples in a civil partnership living with dependent children, 5.4% were co-habiting couples living with dependent children. 13.1% were a lone parent living with dependent children; the number of lone parent households increased from 17,347 in

<sup>4</sup> ONS (2018) Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.croydonobservatory.org/document-library/> The Croydon Household Profile provides detailed information from the 2011 Census about the type of households that make up the borough of Croydon. "There are a range of household types that reflect the living arrangements that exist between people. These are: One person households, one family households (couple with or without children; single parents with child (ren), and Other households: multi-person households including unrelated adults sharing, student households, multi-family households and households of one family and other unrelated adults." ONS Households and Household Composition in England and Wales, 2001-11 [http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171776\\_361923.pdf](http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171776_361923.pdf)

2001 to 23,160 households in 2011. The rest of the households in Croydon were one-person households, aged over 65 or had non-dependent children.

According to the 2011 Census, 60.1% of all Croydon households were owner occupied, 22.1% were private rented or rent free households and 17.8% were households living in social housing. Croydon has the largest borough housing stock in London but its social housing stock is smaller than many other London boroughs.

For the quarter ending 31st December 2019, there were 1,980 households in temporary accommodation. In these households children made up 77.1% of the total which is an increase of 4.5% on the same time last year.

There remains a disproportionately high percentage (5 in 10) of homeless people from the Black community. The majority of people in Croydon who applied for help from the council for homelessness were in the 25–44 year old age group (58%); One in 5 (22%) are aged between 16 and 24 years and one in 5 (20%) are aged 45-59 years. There are very few people aged 60 years and over. The most common reason for homelessness is parental evictions, followed by exclusions by relatives and friends.

Education and skills – 49% of the eligible 2 year old population benefitted from a funded early education place in January 2020<sup>6</sup>. 85% of 3 and 4 year olds benefitted from a funded early education place in January 2020<sup>6</sup>. For both age groups, take up is below the London and England averages.

In 2019 74.6% of pupils achieved a good level of development in Croydon in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) in line with London and above England (71.8%)<sup>7</sup>. For Key Stage 1 the proportion of pupils in Croydon achieving the expected standard in reading (77%) in 2019 remains in line with the regional average (77%) but higher than the national average of 75%. In Croydon, 72% of pupils achieved the expected standard in writing in line with the outer London average (72%) and better than the national average (69%).

At Key Stage 2 the proportion of pupils achieving the expected standards for reading, writing and maths has improved from 55% in 2016 to 67% in 2019. Performance is above the national average (65%) but remains below the London average (71%)<sup>8</sup>.

Until 2016, attainment at Key Stage 4 was measured by counting the number of A\*-C grades at GCSE. This measure has since changed to Average Attainment 8 score per pupil. This measures the average achievement of pupils in up to 8 qualifications. The average Attainment 8 score in Croydon has decreased from 49.9 in 2015 to 45.5% in 2019. Over the last 3 years, Croydon has been in line with the national average but below the London average.

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<sup>6</sup> Early Years Census, School Census, School Level Annual School Census 2019

<sup>7</sup> Early Years Foundation Stage Profile attainment data

<sup>8</sup> DfE LAIT, data released October 2020.

The latest figure for 2019 showed that 84.1% of young people in Croydon had achieved a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19. This is a poorer performance compared to the previous year (84.7%) but is above the national average of 81.8%. 10.1% of A-level students achieved grades AAB or better in 2019, up on the previous year (8.7%) but still significantly below the London average (19.2%) and national average (21.3%)<sup>11</sup>.

Community Safety – The overall number of offences committed in Croydon has fallen in recent years based on the last 10 financial years of reporting. There is a high number of offences in Croydon but the borough has one of the largest populations in London which means that the overall rate of offences per 1,000 population in Croydon is not as high as other parts of London. The number of victims of serious youth violence has increased slightly in recent years.

Croydon is in the top third of London councils for highest domestic abuse incidents with a rate of 21.5 per 1,000 of population for the 12 months rolling to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Of the total victims of domestic abuse in Croydon, 76% were female. One in 3 (33%) of those subjected to domestic abuse were in the 25-34 year age band. 23% were in the 35-44 year band and 18% were in the 18-24 year band.

There were 1,152 proven offences committed by children age 10-17 in Croydon during the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018<sup>9</sup>. This is an increase of 29% on the previous year. By far the highest proportion of proven offences committed is violence against the person. In Croydon, 88% of the youth offenders are male. There is a greater proportion of youth offenders, aged 10-17 years, who are from BAME backgrounds (68.9%). This is above the proportion of BAME offenders in London (63.5%). The proportion for England and Wales is much lower at 25.6% for the same period. There continues to be a disproportionately high percentage of young people from a Black or Black British background amongst the first time entrants in Croydon.

Health – Low birth rate is classified as any weight less than 2,500 grams. The Public Health Profile for 2018 shows that the percentage of low birth weight babies in Croydon was 3.52%. This is higher than the previous year figure of 3.31%. The national average figure for 2018 at 2.86% is also higher than the previous year's figure of 2.82%.

In 2017/2018, childhood immunisation rates in Croydon remained statistically lower than both the London average and the England average for all immunisations. For the year, Croydon failed to meet a single child immunisation national target set at 90% coverage<sup>10</sup>.

The proportion of Croydon pupils in Reception year (aged 4-5) measured as having excess weight was 21.8% in the latest year (2019/2020)<sup>11</sup>. This is lower than both

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<sup>9</sup> Youth Justice Board.

<sup>10</sup> PHE, Public Health Outcomes Framework (based on NHS Cover of Vaccination Evaluated Rapidly (COVER) data)

<sup>11</sup> PHE, NCMP Profiles (based on National Childhood Measurement Programme data)



the London average at 24.6% and the national rate at 23.0%. The proportion of Croydon pupils in Year 6 measured as having excess weight was 39.5% (2019/2020) and remains in line with the London average (38.2%) but higher than the England average (35.2%).

In the last 10 years life expectancy in Croydon has progressively increased. For males the life expectancy from birth increased from 79 years in 2008-2010 to 80.4 years in 2017-2019, this is in line with the average for London (80.9) and slightly higher than the England average of 79.8. Similarly life expectancy from birth for females has increased from 82.5 years to 83.9 years in the same period, however this is slightly below the London average of 84.7 years but similar to the England average of 83.4<sup>12</sup>.

Deprivation – Croydon became relatively less deprived compared to other local authorities in England between 2015 and 2019 according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (produced by DCLG). The Index of Multiple Deprivation looks at a range of different aspects of deprivation: income, education skills and training, employment, health deprivation and disability, barriers to housing and services, crime, and living environment deprivation. There continues to be geographic inequality in the distribution of deprivation in the borough with the north and south-east of the borough remaining more deprived. Some wards have low levels of disadvantage whilst others are amongst the most deprived in England.

Five of the seven deprivation domains indicate that there is less deprivation in Croydon relative to the previous index. The domains of barriers to housing and services and the living environment have shown more deprivation since IMD2015.

The Index Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) is a supplementary index looking at the proportion of children in an area that are living in families affected by income deprivation. In Croydon, 23.2% of children were living in families affected by income deprivation according to the IMD 2015 yet this was down to 18.5% with the IMD 2019 results.

Current population figures – Based on the 2011 census there are 22,044 families with children aged under 5 living in Croydon. Using the latest mid-year population estimates (2019) these have risen to 33,056 children aged under 5 and 53,234 aged 5 to 14 in Croydon.

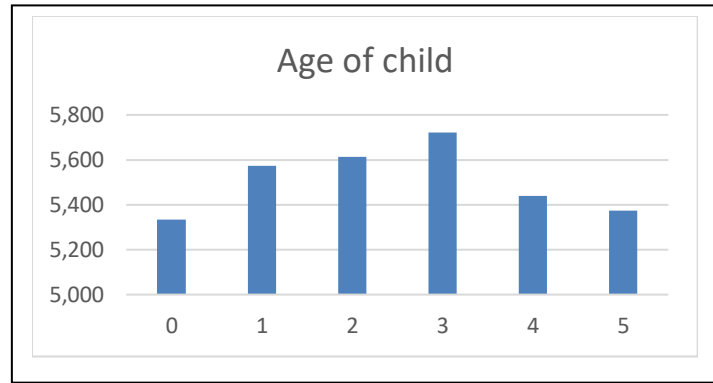
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<sup>12</sup> 2017-2019 data from PHE's Children and Young People's Health Benchmarking Tool.

**Table 1 – Number of children aged under 5 living in Croydon**

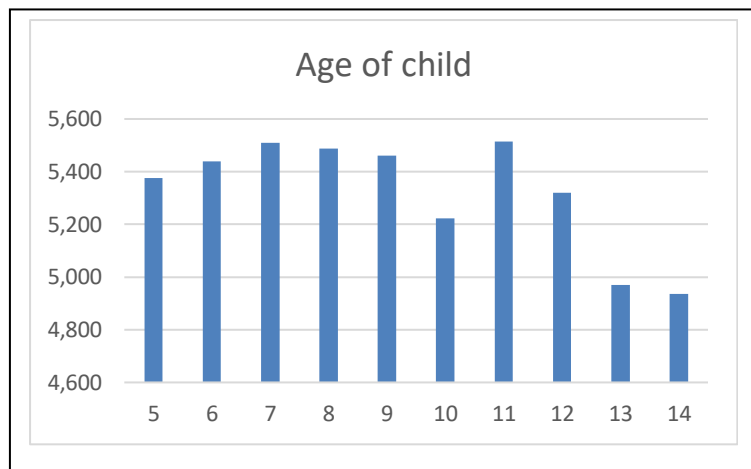
Name	Croydon
0	5,333
1	5,574
2	5,613
3	5,721
4	5,440
5	5,375

Source: ONS Mid-2019 population estimates

**Table 2 – Number of children aged 5 to 14 living in Croydon**

Name	Croydon
5	5,375
6	5,438
7	5,510
8	5,488
9	5,460
10	5,222
11	5,515
12	5,320
13	4,971
14	4,935

Source: ONS Mid-2019 population estimates

**4. Childcare in Croydon**

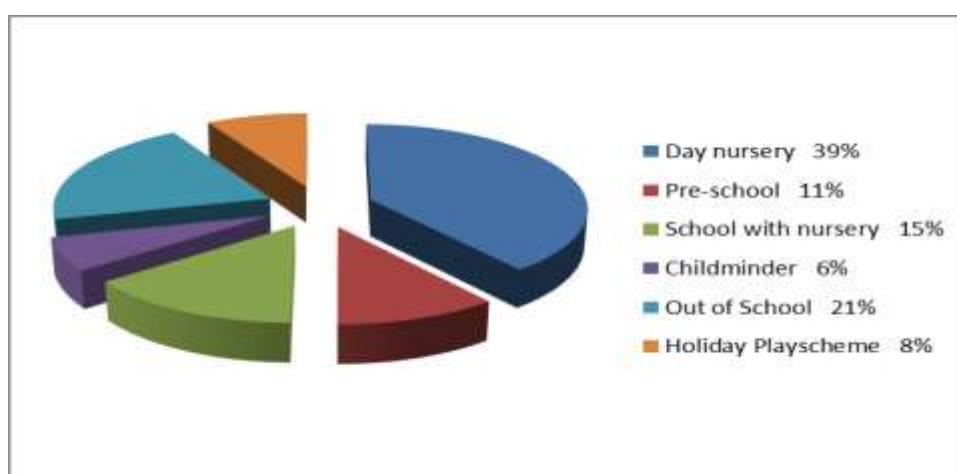
## Supply of childcare

For the purposes of this assessment the supply of formal childcare includes private day nurseries, pre-schools, schools with nursery provision, childminders (funded childminders are accredited to deliver the free entitlement on behalf of the local authority), out of school clubs and holiday clubs.

Schools offering out of school provision are exempt from separate registration on the Ofsted Childcare Register but are included within the data. However crèches are not included as any care of less than three hours is not required to register with Ofsted.

## Childcare places

In total the 630 providers offer 14,555 childcare places. The distribution of places by provider is shown below.



In Croydon there are an estimated 17 childcare places per 100 children based on 86,290 children aged 0 to 14 years.

## Quality of childcare in Croydon

Ofsted inspect all registered provision and the table below shows the current quality judgements along with the national average.

	Outstanding		Good		Sub-total	Requires Improvement		Inadequate		Awaiting	
	Count	%	Count	%		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Day nurseries	10	12%	74	87%	99%	0	0%	1	1%	22	n/a
Pre-school	7	18%	31	82%	100%	0	0%	0	0%	8	n/a
Schools with nursery	12	26%	30	65%	91%	4	9%	0	0%	11	n/a
Childminders	32	11%	226	79%	90%	4	2%	23	8%	85	n/a
Out of School	9	18%	37	76%	94%	2	4%	1	2%	21	n/a
Holiday Playschemes	1	7%	11	79%	86%	0	0%	2	14%	7	n/a

Ofsted's national figures as at 31.8.20 state that the proportion of childcare providers on the Early Years Register judged to be good or outstanding was 96%. However, the proportion of providers judged outstanding has decreased by 3 percentage points since 31 August 2019.

## Childcare providers

Across the London Borough of Croydon there are a total of 630 Ofsted/Independent School Inspectorate registered childcare providers. In addition, there are 41 school run breakfast and/or after school and holiday clubs, which come under the school's registration. This gives a total of 671 childcare service providers.

The table below shows the geographical distribution of the various types of provision against the 28 wards within Croydon as at November 2020.

	Locality	DN	PS	SCH w N	CM		OOS	HP
					Funded	Not funded		
Bensham Manor	NW	5	0	2	5	12	2	1
Norbury Park	NW	5	2	3	6	12	3	1
Norbury & Pollards Hill	NW	4	3	1	10	5	0	0
West Thornton	NW	6	1	1	6	15	5	1
Crystal Palace & Upper Norwood	NE	3	2	4	3	9	4	1
South Norwood	NE	3	2	3	6	6	4	2
Thornton Heath	NE	8	1	3	7	22	3	0
Addiscombe West	CW	3	4	3	6	7	2	0
Broad Green	CW	5	2	2	3	12	2	0
Fairfield	CW	7	2	1	1	1	2	2
Selhurst	CW	5	2	2	4	7	3	2
South Croydon	CW	9	1	4	5	13	4	0
Waddon	CW	7	1	2	0	7	3	2
Addiscombe East	CE	3	1	0	3	8	2	1
Park Hill & Whitgift	CE	2	0	0	1	1	1	1
Shirley North	CE	1	4	2	8	10	2	0
Shirley South	CE	4	0	0	2	8	4	1
Woodside	CE	5	1	2	9	15	1	1
Coulsdon Town	SW	3	1	3	5	15	2	1
Kenley	SW	4	0	1	2	7	5	0
Old Coulsdon	SW	2	2	1	7	6	2	1
Purley & Woodcote	SW	3	2	4	0	10	4	1
Purley Oaks & Riddlesdown	SW	2	0	2	1	6	0	1
New Addington North	SE	0	2	4	1	10	3	0
New Addington South	SE	2	2	2	6	9	2	0
Selsdon & Addington Village	SE	0	2	2	1	8	1	1
Selsdon Vale & Forestdale	SE	3	2	1	4	6	2	0
Sanderstead	SE	3	4	2	5	6	2	0
Total		107	46	57	117	253	70	21

Key

DN – Day nursery

PS – Pre-school or sessional and term time

Sch w N – School with nursery provision

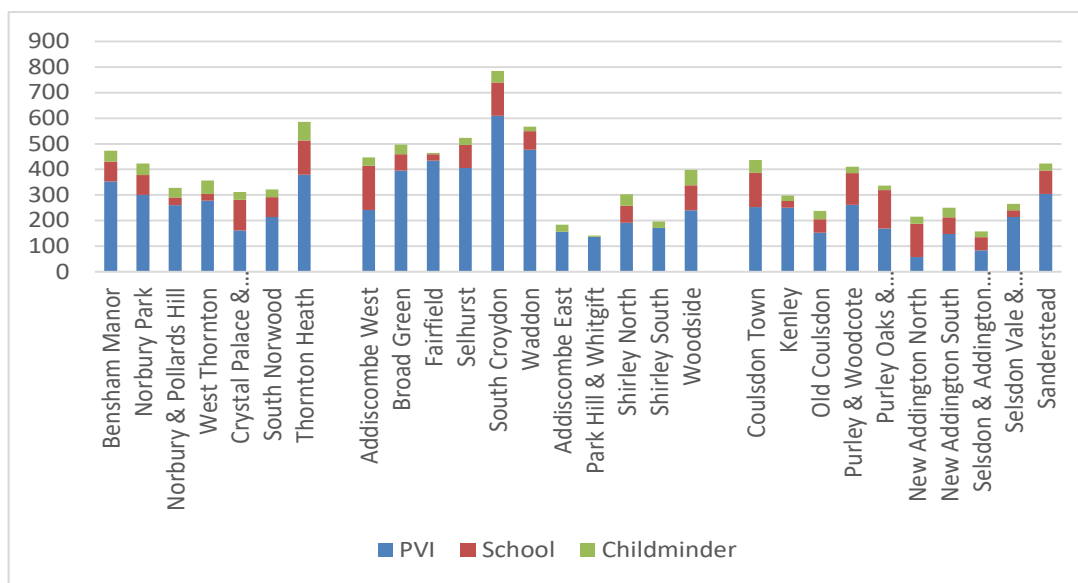
CM – Childminder; funded childminders offer free entitlement places

OOS – Out of School club

HP – Holiday playscheme

**Early Years Childcare**

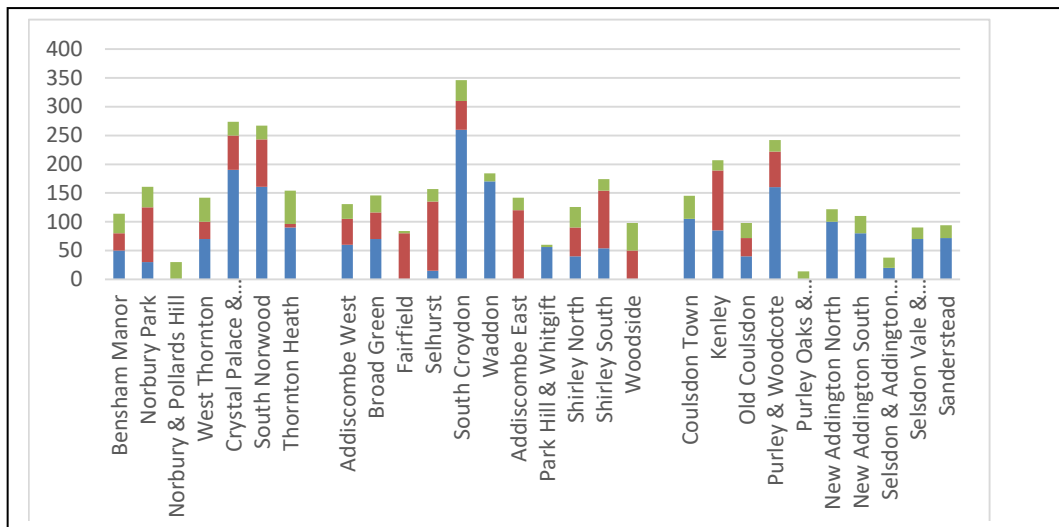
In Croydon there are currently 10,339 day care places for pre-school children aged 0 to 4 years. This is comprised of 7,298 nursery places in private settings, 2,116 via school provision and 925 with childminders; full details on previous page. Based on the mid-2019 population estimate of 27,681 this equates to 37 full-time places per 100 children aged 0 to 4 years across the borough.



However this varies across the borough but the high concentration of nursery provision in specific areas will also serve families living or travelling to neighbouring areas. Therefore any potential over or under supply of places should be considered within this context, please see North, Central and South specific breakdowns later in the report for more information.

## Out of School Childcare

Out of school childcare comprises of before and after school clubs as well as provision offered by childminders. In total there are 3,210 out of school places available at out of school clubs with up to 740\* additional spaces available with childminders. This equates to 7 places per 100 children aged 5 to 14 years (including disabled children) using the mid-2019 population estimate of 53,234.



\*

Please note that the figure of 740 childminder places is based on 66% of childminders offering 3 spaces.

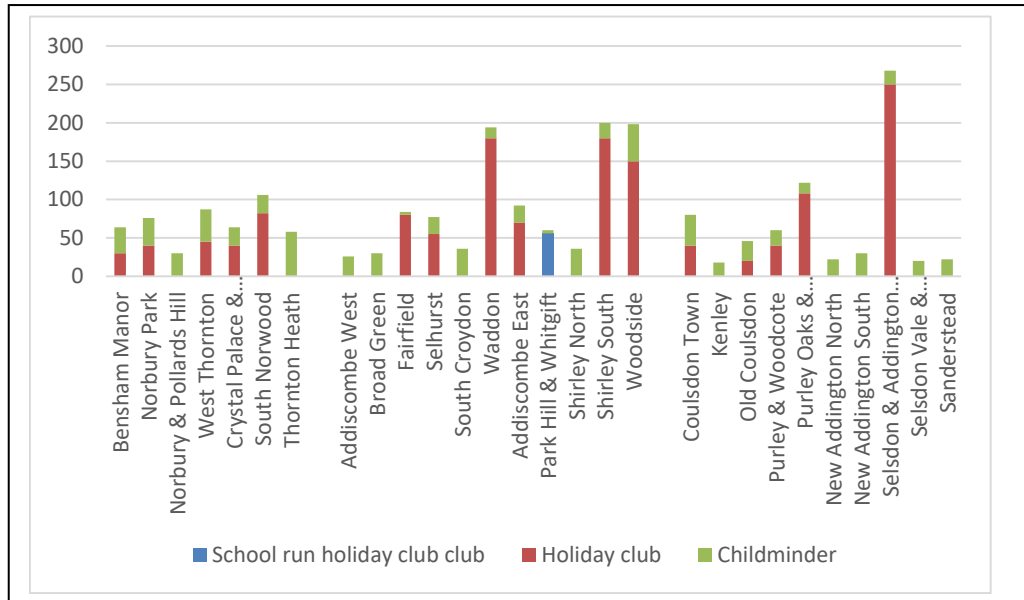
When considering the accessibility of out of school childcare, it is important to consider the number of schools served by individual clubs or childminders rather than a club's proximity to a child's home.

The borough average hourly rate for breakfast clubs is £4.30 and £4.59 for after school.

This year many out of school clubs did not run during the summer because of issues around 'bubbles' and government guidance recommending children only attending one childcare provider where at all possible.

## Holiday Care

Holiday childcare includes holiday playschemes as well as provision offered by childminders. In total there are 1,466 out of school places available at holiday clubs with up to 740\* additional spaces available with childminders. This equates to 4 places per 100 children aged 5 to 14 years (including disabled children). The average hourly rate across the borough for a holiday club is £3.62



\*Please note that the figure of 740 childminder places is based on 66% of childminders offering 3 spaces.

This year as a direct result of the pandemic, many holiday clubs did not run during the summer.

## 5. Qualification levels in Croydon

Each year the Department of Education instructs local authorities on what data to collect within the Early Years census and in January 20 the information replicated the straightforward count of qualified staff requested in 2019.

The current statutory guidance dictates minimum qualified staffing levels and can be summarised as:

For children under 2: 1:3 staff to child ratio

For children aged 2: 1:4 staff to child ratio

For children aged 3 and over: 1:8 staff to child ratio

Irrespective of the child's age, at least one member of staff must hold a full and relevant level 3 qualification and at least half of all other staff must hold a full and relevant level 2 qualification. However please note that for children aged 3 and over this ratio changes to 1:13 when a person with Qualified Teacher Status or Early Years Professional Status (level 6 qualified) is working directly with the children; there is no difference to the ratios for younger children when cared for by a level 6 qualified person.

In addition anyone completing a level 2 or 3 qualification on or after 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016 must also have either a full or emergency Paediatric First Aid certificate within 3 months of starting work to count in qualified staff ratios.

Over the last 3 years our January census submissions for the Private, Voluntary and Independent sector have shown increasing numbers of staff and high level qualifications. However recruitment continues to be an issue for the whole sector as there is a shortage of quality, qualified childcare practitioners.

	Total number of staff	L2 qualified staff	L3 qualified staff	QTS/EYPS/EYT	Unqualified
2020	2,005	318 (16%)	1,103 (55%)	149 (7%)	435 (22%)
2019	1,795	283 (16%)	981 (55%)	101 (5%)	430 (24%)
2018	1,793	273 (15%)	1,022 (57%)	136 (8%)	362 (20%)



## 6. Early Years Funding

### Take up of 3 and 4 year old funding

All 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to 15 hours of childcare a week over 38 weeks (570 hours) this is known as the universal offer. Parents can access their entitlement over a longer period of time known as the stretched offer dependent on each setting's individual offer.

In September 2017 the government introduced '30 hours' whereby working parents of 3 and 4 year old children could apply for an additional 570 hours of funded childcare.

The Department for Education latest figures indicate that within England 93% of 3 and 4 year old children take up their universal free entitlement, within London that figure is lower. The figures over the last four years are shown below:

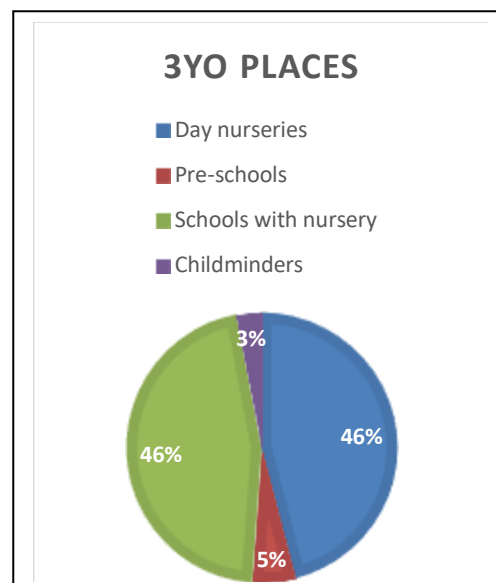
Year	Number 3YOs	%	London average	Number 4YOs	%	London average	Total	%	London average
2020	4692	82%	82%	4932	89%	87%	9624	85%	84%
2019	4622	80%	82%	4721	86%	86%	9343	83%	84%
2018	4540	80%	83%	4741	87%	86%	9281	83%	84%
2017	4581	82%	82%	5104	91%	87%	9685	87%	84%

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/education-provision-children-under-5> & published 29.7.20

Based on this year's data Croydon's take up is just above the London average for the universal entitlement.

The take up of extended hours continues to grow, in Summer 19 32% of 3 and 4 year olds were eligible for extended hours, in Summer 20 it had grown to 35% which represents 2,608 children were accessing additional funded hours.

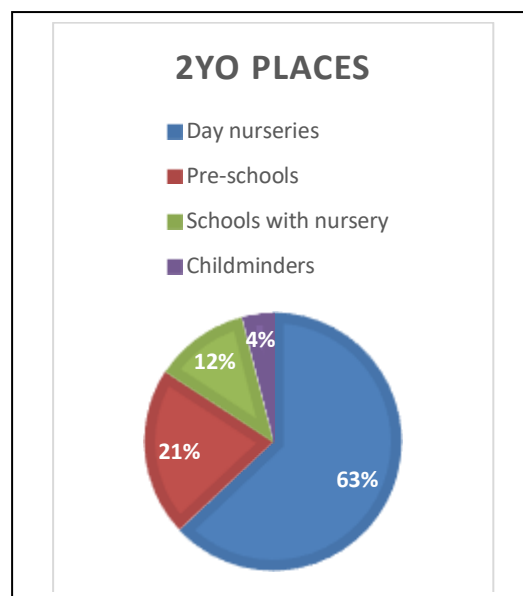
The distribution of funded spaces in Summer 20 by provider is shown below:



## Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

In April 2015 the government introduced EYPP for disadvantaged 3 and 4 year olds. Children are eligible if they are receiving their early years' entitlement and meet the benefits related criteria for free school meals or are in/have left the care of the local authority. The setting receives an additional 53p an hour for any eligible children and the intention is that these funds are used to close any developmental gaps the child may have and to enhance provision for these children.

EYPP criteria effectively matches the 2YO funding criteria and as the graph below shows the majority of 2YO places are delivered by private providers therefore those children would be eligible for EYPP when they turn 3 unless their home circumstances have changed.



In Summer 19 we had 470 pupils claiming EYPP, in Summer 20 we had 660 pupils and we anticipate this figure continuing to rise. EYPP pupils now also attract an additional deprivation uplift of £1.02 per hour therefore in total an additional £1.55 per hour can be claimed for eligible pupils. Historically the majority of EYPP claims have been from the school sector but for the first time ever in Summer 20 the PVI sector had 53% of the EYPP pupils, up from 32% last year.

## 2 year old funding (2YO)

Some 2 year olds are also entitled to 570 hours of funded childcare. This funding stream targets low income families (below £15,400) and applications are assessed by HMRC based on the information attached to their National Insurance number. In Croydon there is an online checker on Family Space Croydon which was used by over 2,000 parents and carers in 2019 but this figure includes some duplicates as parents often run more than one check.

2 year old funding is also available if the child:

- Is looked after by the local authority or has left care under a special guardianship order, child arrangement or adoption order
- Has a current statement of special educational need or an education, health and care plan
- Receives Disability Living Allowance

In 2019 additional criteria were also introduced:

- Children of Zambrano Carers
- Children of families with no recourse to public funds with a right to remain in the UK on grounds of private and family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights
- Children of a subset of failed asylum seekers (supported under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999)

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) continue to provide lists to local authorities of potentially eligible families in order to target marketing.

The Department for Education latest figures indicate that within England 69% of eligible 2YOs are taking up their free entitlement, within London that figure is lower. The figures over the last four years are shown below:

Year	Number of funded Croydon 2YOs	%	London average
2020	1014	49%	59%
2019	1021	47%	56%
2018	1230	82%	61%
2017	1270	66%	58%

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/education-provision-children-under-5> & published 29.7.20

Croydon's 2YO take up figure has been largely stable but we have seen a slight reduction in numbers alongside the introduction of the extended hours.

According to DWP figures in November 1,801 families may be eligible and in Summer 20 905 2 year olds accessed a funded place. Marketing is now being done direct by the sufficiency team within the local authority rather than children's centres and it is hoped that will increase take up.

During 2019 2,038 parents used our online portal to confirm eligibility but not all then chose to go on to take up a place. We continue to monitor 2YO numbers closely but as there is no reported shortage of place and the actual number of children remains broadly constant no additional action is necessary.

## 7. Profile outcomes

Local Authorities have a statutory duty to improve outcomes for children which is known as the Early Years Outcome Duty and is often referred to as 'school readiness.' This is measured through the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile at the end of the reception class year when children are 5 years old (or rising 5).

Children who achieve at least "expected" in 12 of the 17 aspects of learning are said to have achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD).

Table 1 shows the percent of children who achieved the GLD in Croydon and nationally. There is no national or local data for 2020. Due to the pandemic, all assessments were cancelled.

<b>Percentage of children achieving a GLD</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Croydon</b>	<b>National</b>
<b>2015</b>	64.7 %	66.2 %
<b>2016</b>	70.3 %	69.3 %
<b>2017</b>	73.6 %	70.3 %
<b>2018</b>	73.5%	71.5%
<b>2019</b>	74.6%	71.8%

Table 1

<b>Percentage gap between children eligible for free school meals (FSM) and those not eligible achieving the GLD</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Croydon</b>	<b>National</b>
<b>2015</b>	13 %	18 %
<b>2016</b>	11.5 %	18 %
<b>2017</b>	13.8 %	17%
<b>2018</b>	8%	18%
<b>2019</b>	11.2%	18.5%

Table 2

It was noted in the 2019 data that outcomes for Croydon children in the area of Communication & Language were lower than for children nationally. This area is a focus for the coming year.

## 8. Children with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability)

Nurseries, pre-schools and childminders across Croydon are supported in developing and maintaining good inclusive practice, in line with the principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage and the 2015 SEND Code of Practice, by the Early Years Inclusion and Intervention Team and the Portage Team.

The Early Years Inclusion and Intervention Team supports private, voluntary and independent settings and childminders through a range of services for children, aged 0-5, who have identified special educational needs and disabilities. These range in severity from mild learning disabilities to profound multiple learning difficulties. The team ensure that a package of support is delivered that reflects the individual needs of the child. This may include individual support packages or whole setting training. The team also provide strategic support to the maintained nursery schools.

The Portage service was reinstated in Croydon in September 2018 following a review of the Early Years SEND provision. Within this review a need to provide parental support and intervention for preschool children with disabilities who were not in education was identified. Prior to the reinstatement of the Portage service families of those children had received educational advice and transition support into nursery or school. The intention is that the Portage model delivers support and advice with sufficient frequency to make an impact on children's developmental progress.

In the academic year 2019-2020 a total of 358 new referrals were received through SPOC by the team. Of these 266 were children supported within the settings and 92 within the home.

When a health care professional identifies that a young child, under 5, may have a special educational needs and/or disabilities they are required by law to tell the local authority. There were a total of 188 health notifications received via direct meetings with Gill Brock, Designated Medical Officer.

### Specialised placements

The local authority has commissioned the following places across the borough:

St Giles Nursery (Central)	12 places
Willow Tree (South)	12 places
Winterbourne (North)	12 places

The team have overall responsibility for children placed in the specialist nursery provisions named above but do not offer regular support as each setting has an allocated Educational Psychologist.

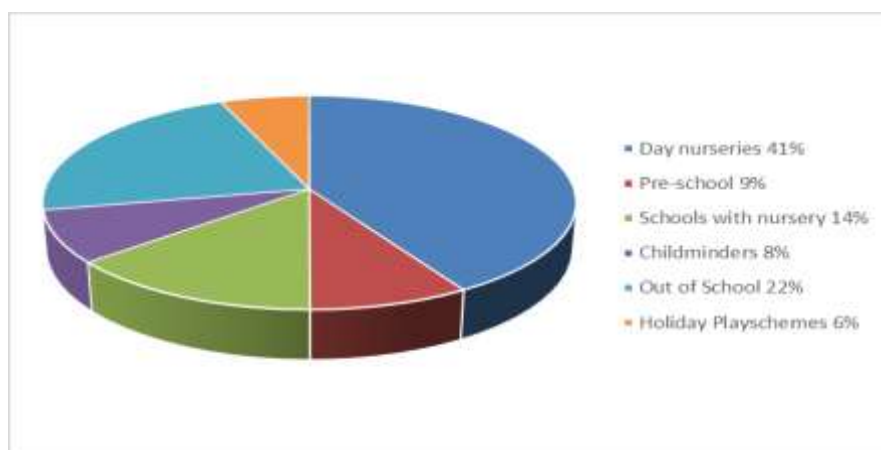
There were 90 new applications for personalised funding agreed and 37 for targeted funding for children attending PVI and maintained settings.

Whilst this data represents service delivery for children with SEND at a sustained personalised or targeted level, it does not fully depict the wider 'value added' work completed to initially assess needs (within the family home and in settings) in order to ensure that children have received an appropriate graduated response to their SEND. A considerable amount of service delivery involves managing demand and expectation within settings and family intervention for those children whose needs

are initially unclear and, through effective, short-term targeted intervention, no longer meet criteria for a long-term intervention. Data is not currently held for this aspect of service delivery but consideration is being given to methods for recording going forward.

## 9. Childcare in the North

There are seven wards in the North – Bensham Manor, Norbury Park, Norbury & Pollard’s Hill and West Thornton constitute the North West and the wards Crystal Palace & Upper Norwood, South Norwood, Thornton Heath are designated as North East. In the North there are 213 childcare providers offering 3,895 places. The distribution of places by provider is shown below.



The Ofsted grades are summarised in the following table

	Outstanding		Good		Requires Improvement		Inadequate		Awaiting	
Day nurseries	0	0%	26	100%	0	0%	0	0%	8	n/a
Pre-school	1	14%	6	86%	0	0%	0	0%	4	n/a
Schools with nursery	2	13%	11	74%	2	13%	0	0%	2	n/a
Childminders	9	10%	74	79%	0	0%	11	11%	30	n/a
Out of School	4	29%	10	71%	0	0%	0	0%	7	n/a
Holiday Playschemes	0	0%	5	100%	0	0%	0	0%	1	n/a

Ofsted’s statistics published on 31.8.20\*\* state that as at 31.3.20, 96% of childcare on the Early Years Register was Good (79%) or Outstanding (17%) In the North only Schools (87%) and Childminders (89%) are below this figure.

Take up of funding in group provision as at 31.8.20

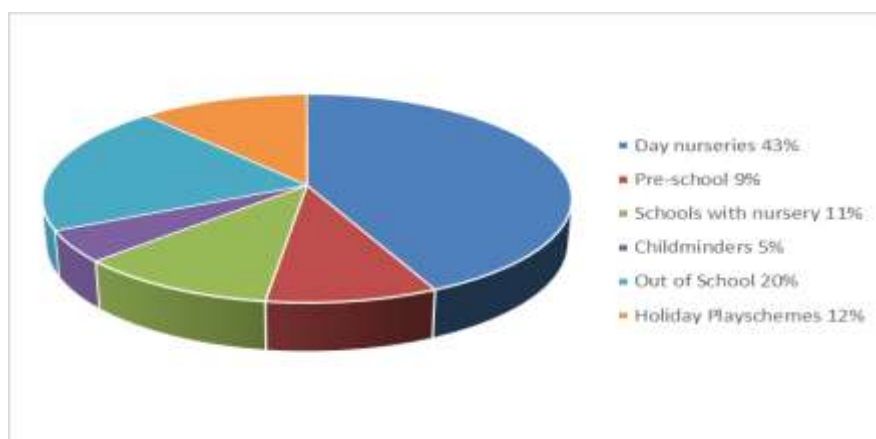
	No. of 2YOs	% within North	No. of 3&4YOs	% within North	No. of ext. hrs. 3&4 YOs	% within North
Day nurseries	175	71%	863	53%	336	69%
Pre-school	34	14%	184	11%	42	8%
Schools with nursery	37	15%	591	36%	111	23%
Total	246		1638		489	

In 2019 North was home to 30% of the under 5s in 2020 group provision delivers:  
 27% of the borough’s funded 2YO places  
 22% of the borough’s funded 3 and 4 year old universal places and  
 19% of the borough’s funded 3 and 4 year old extended entitlement places.

\*\*<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childcare-providers-and-inspections-as-at-31-august-2020/main-findings-childcare-providers-and-inspections-as-at-31-august-2020>

## 10. Childcare in Central

There are eleven wards in Central – Addiscombe West, Broad Green, Fairfield, Selhurst, South Croydon and Waddon constitute Central West and the wards Addiscombe East, Park Hill & Whitgift, Shirley North, Shirley South and Woodside are designated as Central East. In Central there are 254 providers offering 6,620 places. The distribution of places by provider is shown below.



The Ofsted grades are summarised in the following table

	Outstanding		Good		Requires Improvement		Inadequate		Awaiting	
Day nurseries	6	15%	32	82%	0	0%	1	3%	12	n/a
Pre-school	3	20%	12	80%	0	0%	0	0%	3	n/a
Schools with nursery	3	20%	10	67%	2	13%	0	0%	3	n/a
Childminders	9	9%	83	80%	3	3%	8	8%	28	n/a
Out of School	3	14%	15	71%	2	10%	1	5%	5	n/a
Holiday Playschemes	0	0%	6	75%	0	0%	2	25%	2	n/a

Ofsted's statistics published on 31.8.20\*\* state that as at 31.3.20, 96% of childcare on the Early Years Register was Good (79%) or Outstanding (17%) In Central only Day nurseries (97%) and Pre-schools (100%) achieve this figure.

Take up of funding in group provision as at 31.8.20

	No. of 2YOs	% within Central	No. of 3&4YOs	% within Central	No. of ext. hrs. 3&4 YOs	% within Central
Day nurseries	289	67%	1749	51%	774	66%
Pre-school	93	21%	607	18%	138	12%
Schools with nursery	54	12%	1070	31%	255	22%
Total	436		3426		1167	

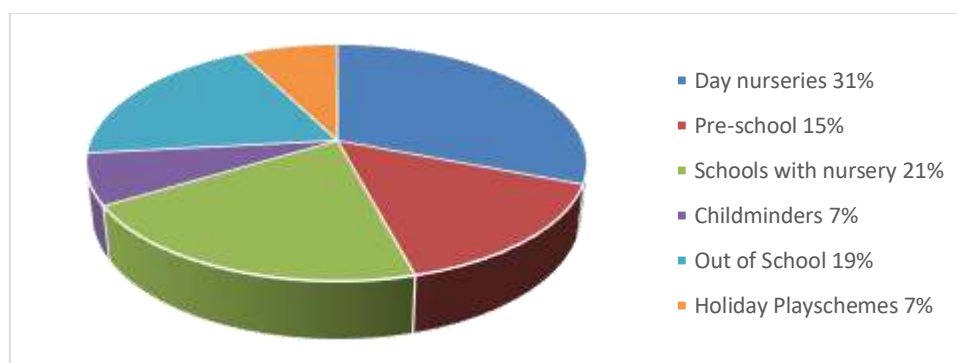
In 2019 Central was home to 42% of the under 5s, in 2020 group provision delivers:  
 48% of the borough's funded 2YO places  
 46% of the borough's funded 3 and 4 year old universal places and  
 45% of the borough's funded 3 and 4 year old extended entitlement places.

\*\*<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childcare-providers-and-inspections-as-at-31-august-2020/main-findings-childcare-providers-and-inspections-as-at-31-august-2020>



## 11. Childcare in the South

There are ten wards in the South – Coulsdon Town, Kenley, Old Coulsdon, Purley & Woodcote and Purley Oaks & Riddlesdown constitute the South West and the wards New Addington North, New Addington South, Selsdon & Addington Village, Selsdon Vale & Forestdale and Sanderstead are designated as South East. In the South there are 202 childcare providers offering 4,136 places. The distribution of places by provider is shown below.



The Ofsted grades are summarised in the following table

	Outstanding		Good		Requires Improvement		Inadequate		Awaiting	
Day nurseries	4	20%	16	80%	0	0%	0	0%	2	n/a
Pre-school	3	19%	13	81%	0	0%	0	0%	1	n/a
Schools with nursery	7	44%	9	56%	0	0%	0	0%	6	n/a
Childminders	14	16%	69	78%	1	1%	4	5%	27	n/a
Out of School	2	14%	12	86%	0	0%	0	0%	9	n/a
Holiday Playschemes	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	2	n/a

Ofsted's statistics published on 31.8.20\*\* state that as at 31.3.20, 96% of childcare on the Early Years Register was Good (79%) or Outstanding (17%) In the South only Childminders (94%) are below this figure.

Take up of funding in group provision as at 31.8.20

	No. of 2YOs	% within South	No. of 3&4YOs	% within South	No. of ext. hrs. 3&4 YOs	% within South
Day nurseries	106	57%	830	38%	430	54%
Pre-school	65	35%	484	22%	159	20%
Schools with nursery	16	8%	884	40%	213	26%
Total	187		2198		802	

In 2019 South was home to 27% of the under 5s, in 2020 group provision delivers: 21% of the borough's funded 2YO places 30% of the borough's funded 3 and 4 year old universal places and 31% of the borough's funded 3 and 4 year old extended entitlement places.

\*\*<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childcare-providers-and-inspections-as-at-31-august-2020/main-findings-childcare-providers-and-inspections-as-at-31-august-2020>

## 12. Cost of childcare

The table below shows the average hourly rate for day nurseries and the average hourly sessional rate for pre-schools across each of the three areas.

	0-2 years	2-3 years	3-5 years
North			
Day nursery	£6.03	£5.78	£5.65
Pre-school	n/a	£7.22	£6.81
Central			
Day nursery	£5.84	£5.67	£5.51
Pre-school	n/a	£5.71	£5.62
South			
Day nursery	£5.89	£5.86	£5.65
Pre-school	n/a	£5.77	£5.58
Borough average			
Day nursery	£5.92	£5.77	£5.60
Pre-school	n/a	£6.23	£6.00
Childminder	£6.19	£6.19	£6.19

The current funding rates from the Dedicated School Grant are as shown:

2YOs are funded at £5.74 per hour

3YOs are funded at £4.87 per hour

However the introduction of the single funding formula requires local authorities to pass through 95% of the government rate, Croydon are paid £5.21 therefore 95% is £4.95. The difference is used to fund a deprivation uplift. Traditionally we calculated deprivation using children's postcodes but this year we have attached the deprivation uplift to those children eligible for EYPP. This ensures that the additional funding directly follows the child, the current deprivation rate is £1.02 per hour on a child's universal entitlement and is paid in full in arrears at the end of term.

All Croydon providers are paid as described above with the exception of the five nursery schools who also receive a Maintained Nursery School supplement from central government.

According to the Coram Family and Childcare's "Childcare Survey 2020", in Outer London the hourly rate

for a child under 2 is £6.24 and £6.04 for an over 2 in nursery and

for a child under 2 is £6.00 and £5.98 for an over 2 at a childminder.

### **13. Childcare compared to last sufficiency assessment in 2019**

Croydon continues to have a diverse range of childcare providers – we have several small independent one-site providers, 21 providers who operate more than one setting within Croydon and/or the neighbouring boroughs including 4 of the large chains and two franchised nurseries.

#### **Childminders**

The number of childminders has decreased from 394 to 370, a net overall reduction of 16 which is in keeping with national trends. However we are seeing a steady flow of new childminders with 37 registering in the last year. The percentage of childminders eligible to deliver funding has again increased from 29% to 32% despite being significantly less than their average hourly rate which has increased by 10p. Childminders are the only sector to offer weekend care.

#### **Pre-schools**

Although the number of pre-schools has reduced by one, there have been changes in ownership since the last assessment and one pre-school provider has moved premises and now offers full day care. In addition a new provider is offering outdoor pre-school sessions but currently has reduced opening hours due to limited demand. There are only 3 pre-schools who do not offer more than 15 hours. A small number of pre-schools are unable to offer a full 30 hour service because of shared premises and the halls being used for other activities but most offer 30 hours. The average hourly cost has risen significantly again but this average is distorted by the high cost of the outdoor pre-school sessions.

#### **Day Nurseries**

The number of day nurseries in the borough has again increased this year, up by 8, including registration of a number of new sites. Only one provider closed as a result of the pandemic but one local chain has also not yet opened one site. Three of the new nurseries are not yet accredited to deliver funding and only two providers have chosen not to offer the 30 hours of extended entitlement. Average costs per hour have risen by 37p for 0-2 years, 50p for 2-3 years and 46p for 3-5 years, each age band has a different legally stated adult:child ratio. These increases represent an annual increase of approximately 8% which while higher than inflation reflects the additional costs being placed on individual businesses in terms of increased cleaning and hygiene practices resulting from Covid-19. Across the borough opening hours remain largely unchanged from last year and although non-core hours can be accessed at various settings, there is limited demand for very early mornings, late evenings or weekends.

#### **Out of school care**

The number of out of school clubs in the borough has fallen by 3 with the average cost of a 1.5 hour breakfast club being £4.30 and £4.59 for a 3 hour after school club.

The number of holiday schemes in the borough has decreased by 1 and the average daily rate for 10 hours is £36.20, an increase of £4.90 on last year.

The number of Tuition Centres often focussing on key skills such as literacy and numeracy across all age ranges continues to increase, up 4 to 24 this year.

## **Parental Childcare Questionnaire**

This year we did not complete a parent questionnaire. We normally conduct our Childcare Sufficiency Assessment in the summer term but this year there was so much uncertainty stemming from the pandemic we did not feel it appropriate to canvas either the market or parents. However as almost all providers re-opened in the autumn and parent confidence has grown during the autumn we have completed our audit of provision.

We have ample childcare places available and although during lockdown we did experience some challenge over wrap around care this was largely due to central government restrictions on 'bubbles'. Although out of school and holiday provision are not back at pre-pandemic levels the increased flexibility in parental working patterns along with limited social contact has meant that many families are managing within their own childcare bubbles.

Our hope is that in 2021 we can conduct a more detailed parental survey.

## Identified Issues and Actions

2019 Action	Progress	Status
Continue to monitor the take up of 30 hour entitlement places and the impact this may have on overall market capacity.	Take up of the extended hours has increased steadily and is being accommodated within the sector, as such further monitoring will occur within the annual sufficiency assessment.	Completed
Introduce a new online parental questionnaire.	Deferred due to increased work relating to Covid-19 and initial uncertainty over sustainability of childcare sector.	Outstanding
Update the Provider Agreement to reflect recent developments including privacy statements, term time only claims, removal from the directory of providers.	Unfortunately this task was deferred due to additional reporting requirements relating to the pandemic.	Outstanding
Family Space Croydon upgrade	Website was re-configured to improve presentation on a mobile phone which is how the site is most commonly accessed. We also have improved upload abilities which has been particularly useful in light of all the Covid-19 updates.	Completed
Promote Family Space Croydon to parents	Systems now in place for regular vacancy updates and the sufficiency team have once again taken over promotion of 2YO funding which signposts all parents to the site.	Completed

## 2020 Actions and Overview

1. This year has largely focussed on Covid-19. Initially we had to ensure that sufficient places were available for key workers and the PVI sector. We had several day nurseries who stayed open throughout and they were able to accommodate children whose original setting was not open. Central government introduced weekly monitoring of take up. In June the vast majority of PVI providers welcomed the children back as did a few of the school nursery classes. In the autumn everyone was initially struggling with low numbers but these have continued to grow through the term, the actual autumn headcount closed on 15<sup>th</sup> December and we will compare with last year's totals. The sector has seen intermittent closures due to confirmed cases but these have been few and far between. Overall the response from Croydon childcare providers to the pandemic has been excellent and Croydon are fortunate to have such hard working and resilient providers. We will continue to monitor the long term impact on the childcare sector.
2. The early years services had been commissioned from the Best Start Early Learning Collaboration but this contract is being terminated on 5<sup>th</sup> February

2021 as part of cost saving measures and the service delivered in-house.  
The local authority is committed to supporting the sector.

3. Although local authorities have a duty to ensure that there is sufficient childcare, they have limited mechanisms to affect the supply as the majority of funded places in Croydon are delivered by the private sector. Financial factors clearly play an important role in what type of funded offer is available and although the Early Years National Funding Formula guaranteed a 95% pass through rate for providers, it also effectively removed the ability for local authorities to incentivise and support places e.g. 2 year old places that may be less cost effective.
4. Demand for early years' places is also difficult to predict as early education is not statutory and while there is a wealth of research about the benefits of early education, ultimately it is still a parental choice. Price and availability of specific hours will also play a part and are inextricably linked to demand as full day providers offer a variety of funded offers to parents that also need to accommodate business considerations and while pre-schools offer more affordable packages they are by definition term-time.
5. At this point in time we believe we have sufficient childcare available across the borough. However ongoing uncertainty in relation to Covid-19 and ever-changing guidance make predictions more challenging. Based on the sector's performance and resilience to date and the steady stream of new providers to the borough we believe we already have sufficient capacity to continue to nurture and care for Croydon's children. We continue to see a net export of children from North and South into Central where there are more settings but also all the main transport links.
6. Although Croydon are constantly reviewing their property portfolio, there are currently no vacant council properties available from which a childcare business could be run. Therefore any providers hoping to open a childcare business in Croydon should first establish if there is a local demand for their service and then source their own premises and contact Ofsted regarding registration; the local authority does not offer any pre-registration support nor site visits. However once registered as Active, all providers will be contacted and asked for information to advertise their service on our Family Space Croydon website to which all parents are signposted and offered a programme of support.