

Childcare Sufficiency Report

September 2015

Gateshead Council

Introduction

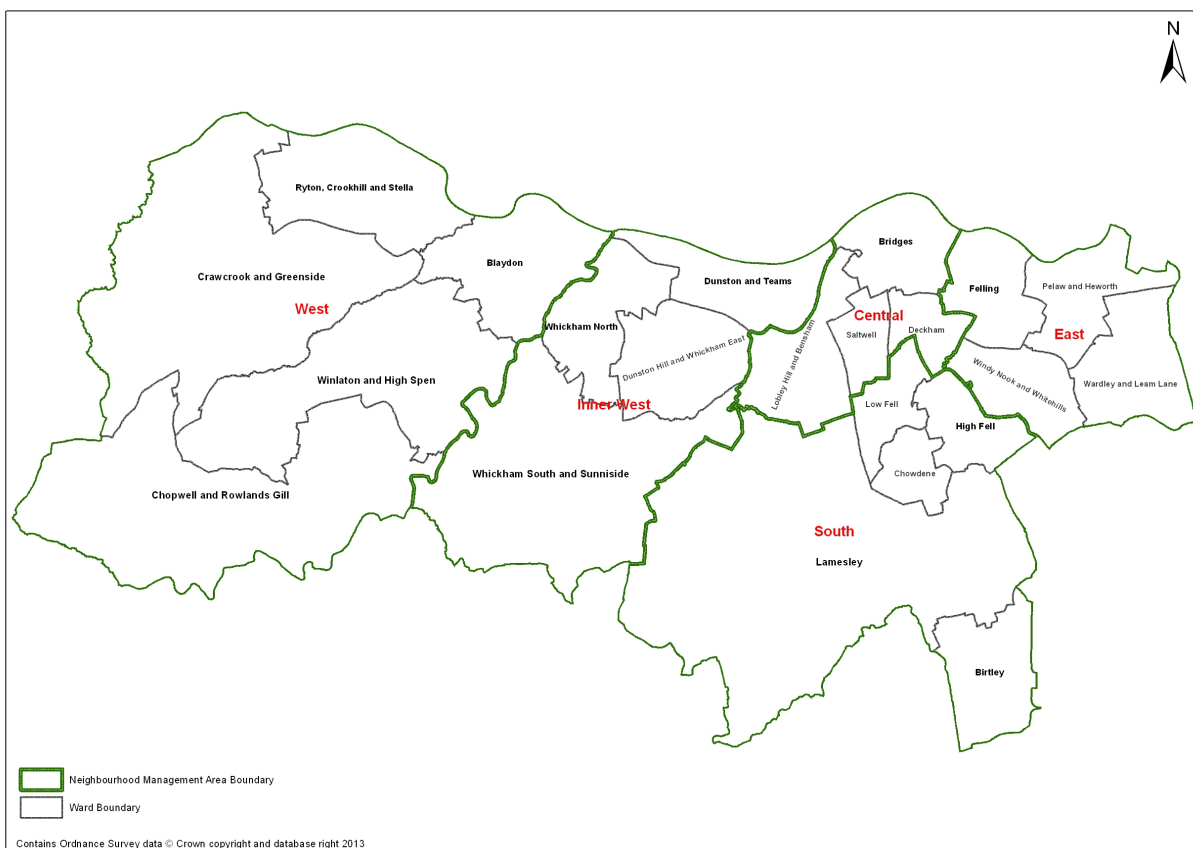
The Childcare Act 2006 (Section 6) places a duty of Local Authorities to “secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0 – 14 years (or up to 18 for disabled children).” This duty requires Local Authorities to shape and support the development of childcare in their area to make it flexible, sustainable and responsive to the needs of the local community.

Local Authorities also had a duty (under Section 11 of the Act) to undertake a childcare sufficiency assessment (CSA) every three years, with annual refresh reports to update the changes affecting the childcare market. Assessments and reports were published on the Council website and made available to parents upon request.

The Children and Families Act 2014 has repealed Section 11 of the Childcare Act 2006. This means that Local Authorities no longer have to undertake and publish a detailed and prescribed CSA every 3 years. Instead, an annual sufficiency report will be published.

The Government wants to ensure that parents are able to easily access information about childcare and other services in their area. Through the Childcare Bill 2015, the Government will require local authorities to publish information which will support parents to make informed choices about childcare. Regulations will set out how data should be published and the frequency of publication.

Information given below is divided between the 5 Neighbourhood areas in Gateshead, Central, East, Inner West, South and West (see map below).



The data used to inform this refresh largely covers the period 31st September 2014 to 31st September 2015.

There have only been minor changes in population when compared against last year's figures, these have stabilised and the upward trend has stopped (against the national trend).

Methodology

Data collection forms were e-mailed to all Ofsted registered group providers and childminders. Follow up telephone calls were made by Early Years Officers to each provider to arrange a date and time convenient to the provider to complete the form over the telephone. This approach worked well leading to 100% return for group providers and a 68.5% return from non-group providers (childminders and home childcarers).

Number of Providers and Places

We have a mixed market providing childcare places in Gateshead, comprising 149 childminders, 32 day nurseries, 24 pre-schools, 28 after school clubs, 24 breakfast clubs, 15 holiday clubs and 11 home childcarers.

The number of childminders has remained the same since last year although numbers have slightly declined in South and West Neighbourhood Management Areas (NMAs) and increased slightly in Central and East NMAs. This stability has halted the decline in the numbers of childminders seen over recent years in Gateshead and goes against the national trend.

One Pre School in the West is no longer part of the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) sector. This seems to give a reduction of 102 places. However, these places are still on offer but now being run as part of the school.

Two new day nurseries have opened in the Central NMA giving an additional 129 places. One new day nursery also opened in the East giving an additional 26 places.

One out of school club has closed in the East but the club will re-open in September 2015 under the control of a different provider. One out of school club closed in the Inner West but these places have not been lost as they are now offered directly by the school and therefore a separate Ofsted registration is not required. One new out of school provider opened in the South and offers 40 new places and one provider opening in the West offering 16 places.

Two breakfast clubs have closed in the East; one because the provision is now run by the school and one which will re-open in September 2015 under the control of a new provider. One breakfast club has closed in the Inner West although, again, places have not been lost as they are now being offered directly by the school. Two new breakfast clubs have opened in the South. Together they offer 88 new places.

One holiday club has closed in the Inner West but places have not been lost as they are now offered by the school.

The numbers of Home childcarers have remained the same since last year although there has been a reduction of 2 Home childcarers in Central and 1 in the East and an increase of 1 Home childcarer in the Inner West and the 2 in the South.

In spite of this movement in the sector, the number of places on offer in the PVI sector has increased slightly (against the national trend), 5,929 places in 2014 and 5,943 in 2015, an increase of 0.24%.

Occupancy

The level of occupancy of each type of childcare is a key indicator of sufficiency. Occupancy remains high across all types of early education and childcare.

There has been a significant increase in the take-up of after school places with a matching decrease in the take-up of breakfast club places in PVI provision. The decrease in breakfast club take-up may be due to the fact that parents prefer to use school-based breakfast clubs, which are often subsidised by the school. These places are not required to be registered separately with Ofsted and therefore not included in the above figures.

There has been no unmet need reported as an enquiry to FIS.

From the information that we have received from childminders, occupancy has fallen from 87.7% in 2013 to 80.7% in 2014 and to 75.3% in 2015.

Whilst breakfast and after school clubs are registered for children up to 8 years of age, there are no regulations governing how many children 8 years and over that may attend. Occupancy has been assessed against Ofsted registered places.

Costs

In Gateshead, the cost of all types of childcare except holiday clubs has risen over the last year.

Costs at day nurseries, breakfast clubs and after school clubs have had small increases of approximately 3%. Pre-schools offer a combination of 3 hour and 5 hour session, on average they show an increase in cost of 7.4%.

Cost of holiday clubs have slightly decreased by 1.8%. Average daily costs in 2014 were £20.17 and are now £19.80, which is against the national trend (7.8% increase over the last 12 months – Holiday Childcare Survey 2015).

Costs charged by childminders have increased by 2.1%, more than the 1.5% increase reported in 2014. Childminders are competing on cost with group providers such as day nurseries, pre-schools and out of school clubs. However, on average, for children over 2, childminders have a slightly higher hourly rate than Day Nurseries.

In England part-time nursery costs for a child under two rose by 5.7 per cent and childminder costs by 4.5 per cent. This is well above the rate of inflation, which in December 2014 stood at 0.5 per cent, a historically low figure. Prices have remained stable for after-school childcare over the last year, with no increase in the price of after-school clubs. (Childcare Costs Survey 2015)

Funded Early Education

The Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient 15-hour places of free early education for all 3 and 4 year olds across Gateshead. The current take up of Early Education for Three and Four Year Olds remains stable and very high at 98%. In June 2015, there were 2,114 children (54%) accessing their free entitlement in school nurseries and 1,794 children (46%) in PVI nurseries.

The Council also has a statutory duty to provide 15 hours per week of free early education for eligible 2 year olds. This duty came into effect from September 2013 for 20% of all 2 year olds and was extended to include 40% of all 2 year olds from September 2014.

Eligibility for the initial 20% of children is the same as for Free School Meals (FSM) and included Looked After children (LAC). The eligibility criteria for the additional 20% of 2 year olds are an extension of benefits criteria, some children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and children who have left care through special guardianship, adoption or arrangement orders.

Across Gateshead in September 2014, take up was 67% of eligible families. By June 2015, this had risen to 77.6%.

The East had a lower level of take up but this could be due new places recently being opened in this area and not being widely known to parents at the time the sufficiency assessment was carried out. Take up in this area should improve by the time of the next assessment. Further provision is still needed in the Felling area and confirmation that funding is available to create two year old places in the Felling hub is awaited from the Secretary of State for Education.

Two projects in the Whickham and Swalwell areas are also awaiting confirmation from the Secretary of State for Education. These two projects will create a total of 40 full time places for eligible two year olds.

Overall, the West area has good take-up. However, this masks an underlying issue with places in the Crawcrook and Ryton areas. Local Authority officers are exploring options to create new places in these areas.

Childcare Bill 2015

The Childcare Bill 2015 is intended to deliver the Government's election manifesto commitment to giving families where all parents are working an entitlement to 30 hours of early education for their three and four year olds. This means a total of 1,140 free hours per year; 570 through the existing early education entitlement for all three and four year olds and 570 through the new entitlement. The additional 570 hours for working parents will help families by reducing the cost of childcare and supporting parents to work.

The eligibility conditions will be set out in regulations but are expected to include:-

- Working parents with children aged three and four,
- Parents working part-time or full-time – each parent must be working the equivalent of 16 hours per week at the national minimum wage,
- Parents who are employed or who are self-employed and lone parents who are working the equivalent of 16 hours per week at the national minimum wage to support their families.

The Government intends that the extended entitlement must be delivered in a way that provides flexibility and quality for parents. The number of new childcare places that will be needed depends not only on how many eligible parents take up the new entitlement but also the extent to which they already pay for additional hours of childcare over and above the existing 15 funded hours.

The extended offer will be implemented from September 2017, although the Government has made clear its intention to roll out the extended entitlement in certain areas from September 2016 to test out the important operational details for delivering the extended entitlement and provide a source of intelligence to support the Government in refining the systems to deliver the entitlement.

The Government have also launched a review of the cost of providing care and education and has given a commitment to increase the average rate paid to providers.

Quality

Within Gateshead all funded 2 year olds are in Good or Outstanding provision or provision that is yet to be inspected. Evidence shows that higher quality provision has greater developmental benefits for children, particularly for the most disadvantaged children. Government has indicated that, as far as is possible, early education for two-year olds should be delivered by providers who have achieved an overall rating of Outstanding or Good in their most recent Ofsted inspection report or awaiting their first inspection.

Ofsted now carry out first inspections within the first 30 months of operation following registration. The previous time scale was between 5 and 7 months.

Quality remains generally high across Gateshead with the following types of provision being graded Good, Outstanding or Met by Ofsted; 88% of daycare providers, 100% of pre-schools, 91.4% after school clubs, 95.5% breakfast clubs, 92.9% holiday clubs and 83.3% of home childcarers.

Quality standards of childminders has risen since the last sufficiency assessment. In June 2014, 75% of childminders were graded as Outstanding, Good or Met. By June 2015, this had risen to 76.9%. Over the same period, the number of childminders graded as Satisfactory or Requires Improvement has fallen from 21% to 17.7%.

In June 2015, there was one childminder graded as Inadequate. Following intensive support from the Early Years and Childcare Service and EducationGateshead, this childminder has now been re-inspected by Ofsted and is now graded as Good.

Standards are rising

- 1. Across the country, 85% of early years registered providers are now good or outstanding, a dramatic increase of 18 percentage points in five years. As a result, many more parents now have a better chance of finding a high quality early education place in their area.*
- 2. Quality in all the English regions is rising for both nurseries and pre-schools and for childminders. There is still variation between the regions, but for the quality of childminders in particular, variation is now small. Variation is slightly wider for nurseries and pre-schools, in part due to the very high proportion of good or outstanding provision in the North East, at 91%.*

From "Early Years. The report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills 2015" OFSTED

Whilst the improvements listed above are welcome, there still remains 29 childminders (22.3%) who are graded by Ofsted as Satisfactory, Requires Improvement or Not Met. The childminder sector is the one that continues to require the greatest level of support and Officers from the Early Years and Childcare Service and EducationGateshead have put strategies in place to support childminders to raise their standards but not all childminders are willing to engage fully with officers.

Percentage of children eligible for free school meals achieving a good level of development at the end of the EYFS (From "Early Years. The report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills 2015" OFSTED)

Local authority	Percentage of children achieving a good level of development (GLD)		
	2013 %	2014 %	% point change
Gateshead	20	37	*17
England and Wales	36	44	8

* Denotes local authorities with a higher increase in the percentage of children eligible for free school meals achieving a good level of development than the national average increase of eight percentage points.

A Good Level of Development is defined as the number and proportion of children achieving at least the expected level within the three prime areas of learning: communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development; and the early learning goals within the literacy and mathematics areas of learning.

New Housing Developments

The Gateshead Local Plan provides a strategy for delivering 11,000 new homes and it will take until 2030 for the full plan to be completed.

Between 2012 and 2015, a relatively small number of homes have been built in Bensham, Birtley and Gateshead town centre. These developments have not posed any sufficiency issues.

Between 2015 and 2020, housing developments are planned in a number of areas. The potential increased demand for childcare places may give rise to sufficiency issues in Bensham, Birtley, Crawcrook, Felling and Ryton areas.

Officers will continue to monitor supply and demand of places and continue to report their findings year on year.

Schools

A questionnaire was emailed to all the schools in Gateshead during the Summer Term asking for information on any Breakfast Clubs, Out of School Clubs and Holiday Clubs that they might run.

These clubs do not require a separate Ofsted registration and are therefore not included in any of the earlier analysis.

We received 65 responses from a possible 68 primary schools, a (96%) return. The following is an analysis of those forms that were returned.

Special Educational Needs and disability (SEND)

A child or young person has special educational needs (SEN) if he or she has learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for him or her to learn than most other children and young people of about the same age. Many children and young people who have SEN may also have a disability.

The total of pupils in Gateshead schools has risen in 2015 from 2014 by 257 (0.1%) which is against the national trend.

This year is the first year we have received detailed analysis although the return in Private, Voluntary and Independent settings was only 48% 27/56 and cannot be used to give a fully

informed picture. This will be improved next year when SEND audits are sent out to schools and settings with the general childcare audit and we will be able to get a more informed picture to get a better statistical return.

Children with SEND in Gateshead can be referred to the Early Years Assessment and Intervention Team who can offer assessment of the child and advice and support to a setting. The EYAIT team work in settings with children from 2+ years. At the beginning of September 2014 there were 90 children on the EYAIT caseload and 131 new referrals were made during the academic year. The academic year 2014-2015 was the first full year the EYAIT was in existence. In September 2015 there were 106 on the EYAIT caseload before any new referrals were made to the team.”

Conclusion

In Gateshead we have a strong and stable mixed economy providing a range of childcare places and apart from Felling, Whickham and Crawcrook, there are sufficient childcare places. The quality of the vast majority of these places has been judged by Ofsted to be high.

Although costs have risen, they are in line with regional and national charges.

There is little flexibility to be found in schools that offer early education for 3 and 4 year olds but this does offer private providers a unique selling opportunity.

The existing high levels of occupancy matched with growth in demand for two year old places and significant housing developments in certain areas, could lead to the need to develop new childcare places in a number of areas.

Officers will continue to provide information on a yearly basis and will endeavour to continue to manage the childcare market on behalf of the Local Authority and work in partnership with interested partners.

Appendix A

Childcare Sufficiency Data

	Central	East	Inner West	South	West		Total
Population							
Persons 0 - 2	1,093	840	720	954	963		4,570
Persons 2 - 3	567	445	401	528	525		2,466
Persons 3 - 4	1,092	864	773	1,016	1,025		4,770
Persons 5 - 11	2,982	2,699	2,466	3,433	3,219		14,799
Persons 12 - 14	1,104	1,155	1,034	1,520	1,459		6,272
(Based on Office for National Statistics Mid Year Population Estimates for 2013)	6,838	6,003	5,394	7,451	7,191		32,877
Provider Statistics	Central	East	Inner West	South	West		Total
Number of Providers							
Childminder	25	27	22	35	40		149
Day Nursery	11	4	3	9	5		32
Pre School	1	2	7	7	7		24
Out of School Club	4	2	8	6	8		28
Breakfast Club	2	2	8	6	6		24
Holiday Club	4	1	3	3	4		15
Home Childcarer	2	0	4	5	0		11
Total	49	38	55	71	70		283
Child Registered Places	Central	East	Inner West	South	West		Total
Childminder	125	143	107	171	204		750
Pre School	35	51	193	215	256		750
Day Nursery	803	157	271	590	230		2051
Out of School Club	188	56	273	214	223		954
Breakfast Club	98	56	251	248	201		854
Holiday Club	164	30	119	112	159		584
Total	1413	493	1214	1550	1273		5943
Occupancy and % occupancy	Central	East	Inner West	South	West		Total
Childminder	81 64.8%	104 72.7%	80 74.8%	136 79.5%	164 80.4%		565 75.3%
Pre-school	28 80.0%	48 94.1%	163 84.5%	192 89.3%	208 81.3%		639 85.2%
Day Nursery	705 87.8%	128 81.5%	252 93.0%	478 81.0%	195 84.8%		1758 85.7%

Out of School Club	161 85.6%	56 73.2%	240 87.9%	175 81.8%	213 84.2%		845 88.6%
Breakfast Club	79 80.6%	40 71.4%	208 82.9%	190 76.6%	160 79.6%		677 79.3%
Holiday Club	148 90.2%	30 100%	101 84.9%	82 73.2%	106 66.7%		467 80.0%
Total	1202	406	1044	1253	1046		4951 83.3%

Costs (in pounds - £)							
Childminder hourly cost under 2	Central	East	Inner West	South	West	OOB	Gateshead
Max	7	4.50	4.20	4.50	8		
Min	3.5	3	2.50	3.50	2.80		
Average	4.20	3.82	3.56	3.79	3.82		3.84
Childminder hourly cost over 2	Central	East	Inner West	South	West		Gateshead
Max	7	4.50	4.20	4.50	8		
Min	3.5	3	2.50	3.50	2.80		
Average	4.31	3.82	3.56	3.79	3.82		3.86
Pre-School session	Central	East	Inner West	South	West		Gateshead
Max	10	14	13	16.50	15		
Min	10	12	9	8	9		
Average	10	13	10.86	11.50	12.21		11.51
Day Nursery under 2	Central	East	Inner West	South	West		Gateshead
Max	46	40.50	39.25	46.90	44		
Min	21.60	38.50	37.65	35	38		
Average	37.54	39.50	38.55	41.30	40.17		38.41
Average cost per hour (based on 10hr day)	3.75	3.95	3.86	4.13	4.02		3.84
Day Nursery over 2	Central	East	Inner West	South	West		Gateshead
Max	46	38.4	36.25	43	42.35		
Min	21.60	34	34.50	35	33.50		
Average	30.89	36.25	35.50	39.78	36.77		35.84
Average cost per hour (based on 10hr day)	3.09	3.51	3.55	3.98	3.68		3.58
OOSC	Central*	East	Inner West	South	West		Gateshead
Max	9	6.50	10.50	10.50	10		
Min	8.75	6.50	6.50	7.30	8		
Average	9	6.50	8.3	8.56	8.88		8.25
Average cost per hour (based on 3 hr session)							2.75
Holiday Club (per day)	Central	East	Inner West	South	West		Gateshead
Max	23	15	20	26	38		
Min	18	15	16	18	18		

Average	20	15	18.67	21.33	24		19.80
Breakfast Club	Central	East	Inner West	South	West		Gateshead
Max	8.50	4.00	5	8.50	6		
Min	4.50	4.00	2.50	4.2	3.3		
Average	6.50	4.00	4	6.10	4.36		4.99
Funding Statistics							
3 & 4yr funding total take-up %	98%	Statistical First Release					
Maintained/School Sector	Central	East	Inner West	South	West		Total
Actual Numbers June 2015	485	459	313	353	504		2,114
Pupil Admission No (PAN)	544	572	372	467	650		2,605
% Take Up	89.1%	80.2%	84.1%	75.6%	77.5%		81.2%
Two Year old Funded Places							
<i>(OOB – Out of borough)</i>	Central	East	Inner West	South	West	OOB	Total
2yr take up (June 2015)	243	124	89	134	129	18	737
2yr eligible children	276	195	146	170	163	0	950
2yr % take – up	88.0%	63.6%	61.0%	78.8%	79.1%		77.6%
National 2yr % take – up (Jan 2015)							58%
Ofsted Grades							
Childminders	Central	East	Inner West	South	West		Total
Outstanding	1	0	1	1	2		5 (3.8%)
Good	11	16	13	23	24		87 (66.9%)
Satisfactory/Requires Improvement	5	5	2	3	8		23 (17.7%)
Inadequate	0	0	0	1	0		1 (0.8%)
Met	0	2	2	2	2		8 (6.2%)
Not Met	1	2	2	1	0		6 (4.6%)
New – No Grade	7	2	2	4	4		19
Total	25	27	22	35	40		149
Day Nurseries	Central	East	Inner West	South	West		Total
Outstanding	2	0	0	2	0		4 (16%)
Good	7	1	3	2	5		18 (72%)
Satisfactory/Requires Improvement	1	1	0	1	0		3 (12%)
New – No Grade	1	1	0	4	0		6
Total	11	3	3	9	5		31
Pre-Schools	Central	East	Inner West	South	West		Total
Outstanding	0	1	1	0	1		3 (13.6%)
Good	1	1	5	7	4		18 (81.8%)
Satisfactory/Requires Improvement	0	0	0	0	0		0 (0%)
Met	0	0	1	0	0		1 (4.6%)
New	0	0	0	0	2		2
Total	1	2	7	7	7		24
Out Of School Clubs	Central	East	Inner West	South	West		Total
Outstanding	0	0	0	0	0		0 (0%)

Good	3	1	6	3	6		19 (82.7%)
Satisfactory/Requires Improvement	0	1	0	0	0		1 (4.3%)
Met	0	0	1	0	1		2 (8.7%)
Not Met	1	0	0	0	0		1 (4.3%)
New – No Grade	0	0	1	2	1		4
Total	4	2	8	5	8		27
Breakfast Clubs	Central	East	Inner West	South	West		Total
Outstanding	0	1	0	0	0		1 (4.5%)
Good	2	1	6	4	6		19 (86.5%)
Satisfactory/Requires Improvement	0	1	0	0	0		1 (4.5%)
Met	0	0	1	0	0		1 (4.5%)
New – No Grade	0	0	1	1	0		2
Total	2	3	8	5	6		24
Holiday Clubs	Central	East	Inner West	South	West		Total
Outstanding	1	0	0	0	0		1 (7.1%)
Good	3	0	2	2	3		10(71.5%)
Satisfactory/Requires Improvement	0	1	0	0	0		1 (7.1%)
Met	0	0	1	0	1		2 (14.3%)
New – No Grade	0	0	0	1	0		1
Total	4	1	3	3	4		15
Home Childcarer	Central	East	Inner West	South	West		Total
Met	2	0	1	2	0		5 (83.3%)
Not Met	0	0	1	0	0		1 (16.7%)
New – No Grade	3	1	2	3	0		9
Total	5	1	4	5	0		15

Schools Data - 2015

Neighbourhood areas	Central	East	Inner West	South	West	Total
Primary Schools who run a Breakfast Club	8	7	3	6	8	32
Highest cost session	£1.50	£2.05	£4.25	£2.50	£3.00	£4.25
Lowest cost session	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Average cost session	0.20	0.43	£1.42	£1.42	£1.69	£1.03
Free	6	3	1	2	1	13
Primary Schools who run an OOSC	7	3	3	2	4	19
Highest cost	0.16	£3.20	£7.75	Free	£7.75	£7.75
Lowest cost	Free	Free	Free	Free	£5.00	Free

Average cost	0.05	£1.06	£2.65	Free	£6.25	£2.00
Free	3	1	1	2	Nil	7
Primary Schools who run a Holiday Club	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	2
Highest cost	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	£10	£10
Lowest cost	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	£5.50	Nil
Average costs	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	£7.75	£7.75
How do you deliver the 15hr free entitlement?						
Morning and afternoon sessions	6	5	3	2	5	21
5 x 3hr sessions (did not specify am or pm)	3	4	2	4	4	17
Other	1 = 5 X 4 hrs	Nil	Nil	Nil	1 = M T W am & W T H F pm	2

SEN data of children with SEND by Neighbourhood Areas – Primary Schools – 2015

Neighbourhood Area	Central	East	Inner West	South	West	Out of Borough	Totals
SEN							
Statemented	115	113	96	157	144	49	674
Single Plan	40	45	32	46	53	15	231
Non-Statutory Plan	10	3	3	7	9	1	33
Totals	165	161	131	210	206	65	938
Category							
Social, Emotional and Mental Health	25	29	21	45	32	14	166
Sensory and Physical Needs	8	7	13	24	23	6	81
Communication and Interaction	59	56	40	67	56	20	298
Cognition and Learning	73	68	57	74	95	25	392
Other		1					1
Totals	165	161	131	210	206	65	938

All schools: Pupils with SEN statement/ EHC plan, based on where the pupil attends school, January 2014 and January 2015

Data taken from "Special educational needs in England: January 2015" Department for Education

Total number of pupils - 2014	Pupils with Statements	% of pupils		Total number of pupils - 2015	Pupils with statements or EHC plans	% of pupils
29,442	789	2.7	Gateshead	29,699	843	2.8
390,730	11,380	2.9	North East	393,805	11,590	2.9
8,331,385	232,190	2.8	England	8,438,145	236,165	2.8

Number of children with SEND in Early Years settings by gender and stage of identification and intervention. (2012)

Data taken from "An audit report of children with SEND in early years settings and schools in Gateshead. September 2012"

Schools	Boys	Girls	Total	PVI Settings	Boys	Girls	Total
Early Concern	225	139	364	Early Concern	117	57	174
Early Years Action	80	50	130	Early Years Action	39	16	55
Early Years Action Plus	87	26	113	Early Years Action Plus	42	19	61
Statutory Assessment	15	2	17	Statutory Assessment	33	6	39
Statement of SEN	12	5	17	Statement of SEN	6	2	8
Totals - (Schools)	419	222	641	Totals - PVI Settings	237	100	337

SEN data of children with SEND in Private, Voluntary and Independent Settings - 2015

Neighbourhood Area	Age of child	Central		East		Inner West		South		West		Totals	
		Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl
SEND (Graduated Approach)	0-2					1							
	2-3	12		5	1	11	3	4	1	6	3	38	8
	3-4	28	5	20	11	15	10	15	5	8	8	86	39
EHC (Single Plan assessment process)	0-2												
	2-3	1						1		1	1	3	1
	3-4	7			1	1	2	2	1	5	1	15	5
EHC (Single Plan)	0-2												
	2-3									1	1	1	1
	3-4	1				1		3	3	7		12	3
		49	5	25	13	29	15	25	10	28	14	155	57
												212	

(data taken from 48% return of Day Nurseries and Pre-Schools – 27/56)

Background - Children and Families Act 2014 - Appendix B

Through the Special Educational Needs and Disability reforms (SEND reforms), the government, is requiring Clinical Commissioning Groups and local authorities to work together to integrate services across the 0-25 age range. Under the new system there will be a much clearer emphasis on offering help at **the earliest possible point**, with children and young people with SEN and their parents or carers fully involved in decisions about their support and what they want to achieve. The reforms are set out in the Children and Families Act 2014, and the new SEND Code of Practice: 0-25 years.

The majority of children with SEN or disabilities will continue to have their needs met within mainstream early years settings. Early Years Action and Early Years Action Plus will be replaced by **SEN Support**: a graduated approach to identifying and meeting SEN, with early years provision following the principles and commitments of the EYFS statutory framework in involving parents in identifying needs, deciding outcomes, planning provision and seeking expertise at whatever point it is needed.

- **Health services must** inform the parent and the local authority if they identify a child under compulsory school age as having SEN or disability (e.g. through the neo-natal screening programmes or the Healthy Child Programme two year old check).
- Early Years providers will work together with parents/ carers to agree ambitious outcomes for identified children and set clear progress targets, and be clear in their planning about how resources are going to support and reach the targets.
- Parents will be fully involved in discussions about their child's progress and reviews of the provision needed to achieve the agreed outcomes.
- Education health and care plans are intended for those with more complex needs The education health and care plan assessment and planning process is much more joined up, outcome focused and delivered in partnership with parent carers. It will be delivered and agreed within a maximum of 20 weeks.
- A local authority should conduct an EHC needs assessment for children under compulsory school age when the special educational provision required to meet the child's needs cannot reasonably be provided from the resources normally available to the early education provider or school, or when it is likely the child will need an EHC plan in school.
- Where young children do need an EHC plan, the local authority **must** seek advice from the early years setting in making decisions about undertaking an EHC needs assessment and preparing an EHC plan. LAs should consider whether the child's current early years provider can support the child's SEN or whether they need to offer additional support through a plan.
- Families of children with an education health and care plan must be offered a personal budget.
- Statements will be transferred over to Education, Health and Care (EHC) assessments and plans from September 2014, usually during an annual review or at a key transition point such as preparing to go into reception.
- All children develop at their own pace. Where a child has a complicated and long term need which covers education, health and care, an EHC Plan may be appropriate. However, there are other issues, such as speech and language delay or behavioural problems, which are not necessarily caused by a special educational need or disability.

Local offer

From September 2014 every local authority will be required to have a "local offer" which informs parents, carers and young people with SEN or disabilities what education, health, care and other services such as transport and leisure are available in their local area. This includes childcare provision which is suitable for disabled children and those with SEN. It will also set out what information services are available locally, how parents and young people can request an EHC plan assessment, the arrangements to resolve disagreements, including through access to mediation. The Local Offer should also cover the support available to all children and young people with SEND from universal services such as GPs, targeted services for those who need additional short term support and specialist services for those needing specialized, longer term support. The local authority must involve parents, young people and education settings such as childrens centres and early years settings in the local offer. It must also publicly consult on the local offer, and publish the results of that consultation, including what they have done as a result of the consultation feedback. The local offer must contain provision for children and young people with SEN or disabilities from across the 0-25 year old age range. The Code encourages LAs to consider commissioning services such as Portage, or peripatetic services for children with hearing or visual impairment.