CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ANNUAL REPORT 2023





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1. INTRODUCTION

Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006 introduced a new statutory duty on local authorities to ensure sufficient childcare to meet demand. The act defines sufficient childcare as:

"As far as is reasonably practicable, that the provision of childcare is sufficient to meet the requirements of parents in the area who require childcare in order to enable them:

- a) To take up or remain in work
- b) To undertake education or training which could reasonably be expected to assist them to obtain work"

The duty also applies to the provision of free early education and childcare for 3 and 4 year old children.

A sufficient childcare market is defined as one that develops sustainable childcare that is affordable and of high quality.

2. LEGISLATION

Local Authorities are required to secure sufficient childcare so far as reasonably practicable for working parents or those studying or training for employment with children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children).

Local Authorities should take into account where it is 'reasonably practicable' when assessing what sufficient childcare means in the area and include:

- The state of the local childcare market, including supply and demand
- The state of the labour market
- The quality and capacity of childcare providers including funding, staff, premises and experience

The Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on the Delivery of Free Early Education for Three and Four Year Olds and Securing Sufficient Childcare (2023) suggest that Local Authorities should "report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare".

3. THE BOROUGH OF TAMESIDE

3.1 **Description**

Tameside Borough was created on 1 April 1974 and is one of the ten metropolitan districts of Greater Manchester. It consists of nine towns in a mainly urban area, stretching from the city of Manchester to the Peak District and shares its borders with Stockport, Oldham, Manchester and the Borough of High Peak.

Tameside is comprised of 19 wards and is characterised by some of the worst 5% of deprived areas nationally. Tameside is noted to be the 37th most deprived borough nationally on the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019.

See **Appendix 1** Income Deprivation affecting Children 2019 - for further information.

3.2 Population

The population of Tameside as recorded by the Census 2021 highlighted an increase of 5.4%, or 11,747 residents compared to the previous Census 2011.

The population using the latest mid- year population estimates is approximately 231,199. This is an increase of 1.8% or 4,082 residents over the previous mid-year population estimate figure of 227,117.

3.3 Ethnicity

The following table shows 82.32% of residents recorded by the Census 2021 in Tameside describe themselves to be White British. This is above the national average of 74.42% but less than the Census 2011 when 88.51% of residents identified as White British.

| | White British | | Other | |
|----------|---------------|------|--------|------|
| | Number | % | Number | % |
| Tameside | 190,305 | 82.4 | 40,765 | 17.6 |
| East | 53,930 | 90.2 | 5,940 | 9.8 |
| North | 33,931 | 67.9 | 16,672 | 32.1 |
| South | 41,904 | 83.6 | 8,311 | 16.5 |
| West | 60,540 | 86.2 | 9,839 | 13.8 |

(Source Census 2021)

3.4 **Age**

Using data extracted from the Census 2021 the following table shows the breakdown of age across the borough and by the administrative neighbourhoods – north, east, south and west:

- North-Ashton
- · East- Mossley, Stalybridge, Dukinfield
- South-Hyde and Longdendale
- · West-Denton, Droylsden, Audenshaw

Notably, from a childcare demand perspective, approximately 63% of the population is of working age: 16 to 64 years which is a small decrease compared to the Census 2011 when it was 65% approximately. This figure becomes significant when considered in conjunction with Birth Rate data.

| | 0 to | 4 | 0 to 15 | | 16 to 64 | | 65 | + |
|----------|--------|-----|---------|------|----------|------|--------|------|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| Tameside | 13,664 | 5.9 | 45,934 | 19.9 | 144,620 | 62.6 | 40,509 | 17.6 |
| East | 3,367 | 5.6 | 11,616 | 19.3 | 37,548 | 62.6 | 10,729 | 18.0 |
| North | 3,364 | 6.6 | 10,926 | 21.5 | 31,653 | 62.3 | 8,041 | 16.1 |
| South | 3,186 | 6.3 | 10,368 | 20.6 | 31,417 | 62.4 | 8,416 | 17.0 |

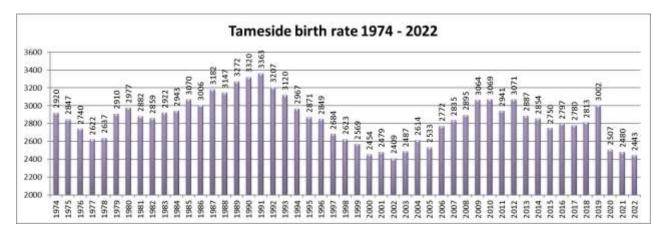
| West | 3,756 | 5.3 | 13,034 | 18.5 | 44,034 | 62.5 | 13,320 | 19.0 |
|------|-------|-----|--------|------|--------|------|--------|------|
| | | | | | | | | |

(Source Census 2021)

3.5 Birth Rate

The graph shows Tameside births from 1974 to 2022 and illustrates there has been an upward trend for births across the borough from 2005 onwards, which caused an increase in demand for childcare places for early years and school age children.

The graph shows that the birth rate, following a notable decrease has remained static, until 2020 when it has dropped to similar levels to that in 2005. Traditionally, the birth rate tends to follow a fluctuating 25 year cycle, it is expected therefore that this trend will repeat again in future years. During 2022, the birth rate decreased slightly compared to 2021. Birth rates will continue to be monitored and remain one of the key factors in determining demand for childcare, especially given the sustained decrease during 2020 to 2022, and with the predicted birth rate for 2023 to be at a similar lower levels. A sustained lower birth rate can affect demand for childcare and primary school places, which may start to impact early years' provision from 2023 onwards. This could negatively affect the supply of early years' provision where providers are struggling with low numbers. Low occupancy levels may affect sustainability, potentially resulting in a reduction of early years places, which will in turn affect early years roles and in a worst-case scenario potential closures.



3.6 **Economic Growth**

Since 2008, Tameside's economy has been adversely affected by the global recession and has suffered to a greater extent than most other parts of Greater Manchester. Despite experiencing steady employment growth over time, it is notable that Tameside has secured the lowest level of employment growth in the past 5 years compared to other Greater Manchester (9GM) authorities. However, Tameside does have a reasonably strong employment rate and the business growth rate over the past five years has been fairly strong compared to the others in GM

Due to the rollout of Universal Credit replacing Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) and other benefits for many claimants, the following table illustrates the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance plus those who claim Universal Credit and are required to seek work and be available for work. This data set replaces the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance as the headline indicator of the number of people claiming benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed.

The Claimant count during 2022 has decreased compared to the previous year, which is a fall of approx. 11.34% from January to December 2022. The claimant count represented as a percentage of the population using age 16 to 64 has also decreased from 5.3% in January 2022 to 4.7% in December which represents an 11.32% decrease in claimants.

Claimant Count Numbers for 2022 (to the nearest 5)

| | North Total | West Total | South Total | East Total | Tameside Total* |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| January 2022 | 2,180 | 1,855 | 1,515 | 1,900 | 7,450 |
| February 2022 | 2,175 | 1,870 | 1,525 | 1,910 | 7,485 |
| March 2022 | 2,125 | 1,830 | 1,470 | 1,855 | 7,280 |
| April 2022 | 2,080 | 1,745 | 1,405 | 1,740 | 6,965 |
| May 2022 | 2,055 | 1,690 | 1,375 | 1,690 | 6,820 |
| June 2022 | 2,035 | 1,695 | 1,380 | 1,675 | 6,785 |
| July 2022 | 2,000 | 1,705 | 1,380 | 1,670 | 6,755 |
| August 2022 | 2,005 | 1,710 | 1,365 | 1,670 | 6,750 |
| September 2022 | 2,020 | 1,685 | 1,390 | 1,660 | 6,760 |
| October 2022 | 1,975 | 1,670 | 1,350 | 1,620 | 6,620 |
| November 2022 | 1,965 | 1,685 | 1,325 | 1,580 | 6,555 |
| December 2022 | 1,995 | 1,670 | 1,360 | 1,575 | 6,605 |

(Source: NOMIS: Claimant Count Jan – Dec 2022)

*The Tameside total is sometimes higher or lower than the sum of its constituent neighbourhood totals. This is because each neighbourhood figure is calculated by adding together the totals of its constituent lower-super output areas (about 35 LSOAs per neighbourhood) and the LSOA totals are pre-rounded by NOMIS to the nearest 5 whereas the total Tameside figure is extracted by NOMIS separately.

Claimant count represented as a percentage of 16-64 population

| | North Total | West Total | South Total | East Total | Tameside Total* |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| January 2022 | 6.9 | 4.3 | 5.0 | 5.1 | 5.3 |
| February 2022 | 6.9 | 4.4 | 5.0 | 5.1 | 5.3 |
| March 2022 | 6.7 | 4.3 | 4.9 | 4.9 | 5.2 |
| April 2022 | 6.6 | 4.1 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.9 |
| May 2022 | 6.5 | 3.9 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.8 |
| June 2022 | 6.4 | 4.0 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 4.8 |
| July 2022 | 6.3 | 4.0 | 4.6 | 4.4 | 4.8 |
| August 2022 | 6.3 | 4.0 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.8 |
| September 2022 | 6.3 | 3.9 | 4.6 | 4.4 | 4.8 |
| October 2022 | 6.2 | 3.9 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.7 |
| November 2022 | 6.2 | 3.9 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.6 |
| December 2022 | 6.3 | 3.9 | 4.5 | 4.2 | 4.7 |

(Source: NOMIS: Claimant Count Jan - Dec 2022)

3.7 Economic Activity

The following table indicates the breakdown of the borough according to economic activity, which highlights at the time of Census 2021, 60.50% of the borough is economically active.

| | Economically Active | | | | Active: Self- | | Economically Active: Unemployed | | Active: Full- Time Student | | Economically Inactive | |
|----------|---------------------|------|--------|------|---------------|-----|---------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------|-----|-----------------------|------|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| Tameside | 112,079 | 60.5 | 91,692 | 49.5 | 13,963 | 7.5 | 6,424 | 3.5 | 3,215 | 1.7 | 73,057 | 39.5 |
| East | 29,012 | 60.1 | 23,930 | 49.6 | 3,718 | 7.7 | 1,364 | 2.8 | 769 | 1.6 | 18,479 | 38.3 |
| North | 22,041 | 55.6 | 17,625 | 44.5 | 3,008 | 7.6 | 1,408 | 3.5 | 770 | 1.9 | 16,873 | 42.5 |
| South | 23,537 | 58.9 | 19,423 | 48.4 | 2,979 | 7.5 | 1,135 | 2.8 | 706 | 1.8 | 15,605 | 39.4 |
| West | 34,282 | 59.7 | 28,480 | 49.6 | 4,168 | 7.2 | 1,634 | 2.9 | 968 | 1.7 | 22,098 | 38.6 |

(Source: Census 2021)

3.8 School Readiness

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets the standards that all early years' providers must meet to ensure children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children are school ready and gives them the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life. (Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage, page 5).

Tameside accepts that being school ready is about more than just the child being ready for school. This transition needs the support and cooperation of all individuals involved, to create a holistic approach so a child has an enjoyable and positive experience. Schools should be ready for the child as much as the child is ready for school, helping smooth the transition between play based early learning and more formal classroom based teaching. Parents are encouraged to recognise that they are key to preparing their children for school. Key to this successful transition is positive cooperation between parents, childcare professionals and teachers.

In 2023, 61% of pupils in Tameside have achieved a good level of development (GLD) on the revised EYFS profile – an increase of 1% on 2022. The national average for achievement of GLD is 67% (though this is subject to change) compared to 65% in 2022%.

From September 2021, the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) reforms and new framework became statutory, which is designed to improve outcomes for the most disadvantaged children to narrow development gaps at school entry. The reforms are also designed to reduce bureaucracy in the early years' assessments and planning, which will enable practitioners to have more time to spend developing a rich curriculum focusing on the needs of the children in their care.

4. REVIEW OF THE LOCAL CHILDCARE MARKET

4.1 Childcare Supply

The amount of childcare provision that is currently available has seen some minor changes since the last annual sufficiency report completed in 2022, the most notable change is a further decrease in the number of registered childminders within the borough.

Based on the information collected during summer 2023 the childcare market and the number of childcare places in School Nursery classes, Out of School Care and Independent Schools appears

to have remained stable. The number of childminders, private day nurseries and pre-school playgroups have all fallen and will continue to be monitored.

A high proportion of providers offer 30 hours free childcare which indicates continued demand and we have also seen an increase in take up over the last 12 months. Further analysis of the sufficiency of current 2 year and 30 hour provision in the borough is detailed later in this report.

| Туре | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Difference +/- |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------------|
| Childminders | 285 | 280 | 271 | 254 | 223 | 211 | 188 | 167 | -21 |
| Pre-school playgroups | 21 | 20 | 17 | 16 | 16 | 17 | 16 | 14 | -2 |
| Private nurseries | 49 | 51 | 55 | 54 | 54 | 56 | 55 | 53 | -2 |
| Out of school Care | 53 | 57 | 54 | 84 | 92 | 94 | 96 | 97 | +1 |
| School Nursery Classes | 66 | 66 | 66 | 66 | 65 | 64 | 63 | 64 | +1 |
| Independent School with Early Years | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - |

(The figures given above are for providers who are listed with the Families Information Service, some providers are not listed e.g. crèches that are not required to be registered with Ofsted as they offer less than 2 hours of provision).

4.2 Breakdown of Current Childcare by Area

The following tables highlights the number of providers and places reported during the summer term 2023, where available.

Ashton Under Lyne Area

| Туре | 2020 No of Providers | 2020 No of Places | 2021 No of Providers | 2021 No of Places | 2022 No of Providers | 2022 No of Places | 2023 No of Provid ers | 2023 No of Places |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| PDN | 14 | 989 | 14 | 946 | 12 | 771 | 12 | 834 |
| Childminder | 36 | 117 | 31 | 103 | 32 | 112 | 28 | 95 |
| Playgroup/ Pre-School | 3 | 108 | 3 | 112 | 3 | 92 | 3 | 95 |
| Out of School Care | 20 | 576 | 22 | 689 | 19 | 700 | 21 | 777 |
| School Nursery Class | 15 | 607 | 15 | 599 | 14 | 476 | 14 | 463 |
| Totals | 88 | 2397 | 85 | 2449 | 80 | 2151 | 82 | 2264 |

In Ashton-under-Lyne, we have seen a further decrease in the number of childminders but the overall number of reported places in other sectors has increased on the previous year. Overall the total number of childcare places has increased in this area which is positive and provides for parental choice.

Denton/Droylsden/Audenshaw Area

| Туре | 2020 No of Providers | 2020 No of Places | 2021 No of Providers | 2021 No of Places | 2022 No of Providers | 2022 No of Places | 2023 No of Provid ers | 2023 No of Places |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| PDN | 13 | 1013 | 13 | 1015 | 13 | 965 | 13 | 972 |
| Childminder | 93 | 313 | 93 | 303 | 82 | 306 | 74 | 228 |
| Playgroup/ Pre-School | 7 | 345 | 7 | 345 | 7 | 275 | 7 | 311 |
| Out of School Care | 30 | 808 | 28 | 695 | 31 | 1087 | 31 | 977 |
| School Nursery Class | 18 | 874 | 18 | 908 | 18 | 903 | 18 | 810 |
| Totals | 161 | 3353 | 159 | 3266 | 151 | 3536 | 142 | 3298 |

In this area the number of childminders has reduced further, which accounts for most of the overall reduction in providers, there are the same number of Out of School Care providers and School Nursery classes, however the total places for both has reduced. Both of these changes account for the overall reduction in providers and places in these areas.

Dukinfield/Stalybridge/Mossley Area

| Туре | 2020 No of Providers | 2020 No of Places | 2021 No of Providers | 2021 No of Places | 2022 No of Providers | 2022 No of Places | 2023 No of Provid ers | 2023 No of Places |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| PDN | 16 | 1084 | 16 | 1093 | 17 | 1169 | 15 | 1049 |
| Childminder | 62 | 200 | 53 | 174 | 46 | 201 | 40 | 124 |
| Playgroup/ Pre-School | 2 | 45 | 3 | 65 | 3 | 61 | 1 | 20 |
| Out of School | 24 | 791 | 24 | 859 | 26 | 1068 | 26 | 999 |
| School Nursery Class | 17 | 662 | 16 | 584 | 16 | 494 | 17 | 555 |
| Independent School | 1 | 14 | 1 | 14 | 1 | 13 | 1 | 13 |
| Totals | 122 | 2796 | 113 | 2789 | 109 | 3006 | 98 | 2760 |

In this area, we have seen of the loss of 2 Private Day Nurseries and pre-schools and playgroups which has reduced overall place numbers. There is a further reduction in the number of childminders which again has impacted places. A school nursery class has reopened which has added extra places which is positive. Numbers remain the same for Out of School Care however places appear to have fallen slightly. Whilst there is a reduction in total number of providers, the overall reduction to places remains comparable to 2020 and 2021 where we retained sufficient places in this area, which is positive.

Hyde/Longdendale

| Туре | 2020 No of Providers | 2020 No of Places | 2021 No of Providers | 2021 No of Places | 2022 No of Providers | 2022 No of Places | 2023 No of Provid ers | 2023 No of Places |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| PDN | 11 | 764 | 13 | 867 | 13 | 897 | 13 | 820 |
| Childminder | 32 | 106 | 34 | 116 | 28 | 96 | 25 | 83 |
| Playgroup/ Pre-School | 4 | 100 | 4 | 100 | 3 | 68 | 3 | 68 |
| Out of School Care | 18 | 587 | 20 | 716 | 20 | 717 | 19 | 794 |
| School Nursery | 15 | 525 | 15 | 506 | 15 | 482 | 15 | 529 |
| Totals | 80 | 2082 | 86 | 2305 | 79 | 2260 | 74 | 2294 |

In this area, the total number of places remains virtually the same as the previous year which is positive. We have seen a further reduction in childminders and the loss of 1 Out of School Care and a reduction in places in private day nurseries but overall reported places in most of the other sectors have increased or remained the same.

Totals for Tameside

| Туре | 2020 No of Providers | 2020 No of Places | 2021 No of Providers | 2021 No of Places | 2022 No of Providers | 2022 No of Places | 2022 No of Provid ers | 2022 No of Places |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| PDN | 54 | 3850 | 56 | 3921 | 55 | 3802 | 53 | 3675 |
| Childminder | 224 | 736 | 211 | 696 | 188 | 715 | 167 | 530 |
| Playgroup/ Pre-School | 16 | 598 | 17 | 622 | 16 | 496 | 14 | 494 |
| Out of School | 92 | 2762 | 94 | 2959 | 96 | 3572 | 97 | 3547 |
| School Nursery Class | 65 | 2668 | 64 | 2597 | 63 | 2355 | 64 | 2357 |
| Independent School | 1 | 14 | 1 | 14 | 1 | 13 | 1 | 13 |
| Totals | 438 | 10628 | 443 | 10809 | 418 | 10953 | 396 | 10616 |

Across the borough, the most marked reduction of places is linked to childminder places due to a reduction overall in the numbers operating. The total number of childcare providers has decreased, however total reported places highlights only a small reduction of places compared to the previous year. Despite these changes, the data highlights that overall the number of places across the borough remains similar to the previous year, which will impact positively for parental choice for childcare.

The number of childminder places where no data is provided is an estimated number based on each childminder having the capacity to take three children under the age of 5 (as per Ofsted guidance) so this will depend on how many under 5 children childminders elect to take.

See Appendix 2 – Maps highlighting Group Provision, Out of School Clubs and Childminders

4.3 **Demand for Childcare**

During 2022, the Families Information Service (FIS) received a total of 7112 enquiries of various types. Of these 549 were enquiries where full details were taken. A further breakdown confirmed that a large proportion of these full enquiries initiated, related to childcare, nursery education or 2 year funded places, totaling 97.26% of the enquiries, which highlights continued demand for formal childcare.

On analysis of the short enquiries where full details were not provided, 34% approx. of this type of enquiry related to childcare, nursery education and 2 year funded places or from childcare providers. The number of enquiries relating to early help during 2022 amounted to 71% of the overall calls. This follows the amalgamation of Early Help Access Point together with Families Information Service.

Many parents search online and Tameside provides an 'Online Childcare Finder'. Statistics inform that during the period between January to December 2022 there were 4042 different searches for childcare on the Families Information Service Online service, which is a 5.92% increase from the previous year in 2021.

This can be accessed from the following web link: https://www.tameside.gov.uk/childcarefinder

The Tameside website also provides access to a Service Information Directory, which is a much wider online search function providing, parents with information on services for children, young people and their parents/carers e.g.

- Activities
- Children Centre Activities
- SEND Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- Parenting
- Youth Clubs
- Toddler Groups and more

This site can be found by accessing the following link https://www.tameside.gov.uk/Tameside-Service-Information-Directory

4.4 Parental Questionnaires

The Families Information Service emailed a brief survey to all those who had made an enquiry for childcare during 2022 to establish data about their search and ascertain any issues or barriers to finding the type of childcare they were seeking.

Of those who responded 73% were successful in finding childcare with 27% not able to find provision at that time.

Of those who found childcare, the following confirmed if they were able to find their first choice:

| 100% Found their 1st Choice of childcare |
|--|
|--|

Of those who were unable to find suitable childcare, the following reasons were offered:

| 33% | Indicated no places available at their 1st Choice of |
|-----|--|
| | Childcare |

| 33% | There were no Ofsted registered providers in their locality only childminders |
|-----|--|
| 34% | Indicated there were no wraparound places for school aged children who attend specialist provision |

Of those who responded, the following confirmed their preference for the type of childcare sourced:

| 50% | Looking for a Group Provider e.g. Private Day Nursery/Pre |
|-----|---|
| | School Playgroup |
| 7% | Looking for a Childminder |
| 29% | Looking for a School Nursery |
| 14% | Looking for Out of School Care |

Of those who responded, the following replied to confirm their preference for the amount of childcare required

| 13.33% | Looking for Full Time Childcare |
|--------|---|
| 13.33% | Looking for Part Time Childcare |
| 60% | Looking for just their free early years hours |
| 13.33% | Looking for Out of School Care |

Of those who responded and had sourced childcare, the following indicated their overall experience with their provider:

| 100% | Found the experience positive |
|------|-------------------------------|

Of those who responded, they were all asked what the main factor in choosing childcare was:

| 12.5% | Indicated Location |
|-------|---|
| 37.5% | Indicated they had used the provision before |
| 12.5% | Indicated it was based on recommendation |
| 25% | Based on the overall Environment of the provision |
| 12.5% | Stated other reasons |

Of those who responded and found childcare, they were all asked if they felt the costs were reasonable

| 50% | Indicated zero costs as they were accessing their free hours |
|-----|--|
| 50% | Felt the costs were reasonable |

Parental Comments on their Chosen childcare

Of those who responded and found their chosen childcare, parents were asked about their experience with their childcare provider so far, the following comments were offered:

"Its been great"

"Very satisfying"

"Good"

"Great"

"Amazing"

"Fantastic"

Child Comments

The following responses were given by children to ask for what they think of their childcare/nursery

"I like nursery when I can play, I love my friends"

"I like nursery because we sing songs"

"I like the snacks"

"I like playing outside on the climbing frame"

"I like playing with the bricks"

"I have lots of friends at nursery"

Location and Reputation of childcare are the main reasons parents choose their provision, whilst cost is important it is not the main factor in a parent's decision making.

The quotes provided by Parents about their chosen childcare highlight a positive experience for their children whilst attending.

4.5 Free Places for Three and Four Year Old Children

In Tameside according to Department for Education national statistical release data, (provided to all local authorities in 2023 from data sourced from the January census) and comparing to population data, 96.6% of 3 and 4 year olds are taking up some or all of their free early education funding. This is a 1.6% increase on the previous year and hopefully if this trend continues we may achieve the pre pandemic levels of take up, of approx. 98%.

| Year | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Percentage | 98% | 99% | 99% | 98% | 98% | 95% | 93% | 95% | 96.6% |

Again using data from the January 2023 DfE statistical release, take up for 2-year funding saw a decrease during both 2020 and 2021 however, during 2022 take up started to recover again and this has also continued into 2023 where the increase of take up has increased by a further 4.4%. This reflects the ongoing work by teams within the council to encourage families to take up this offer. Despite some loss of provision and changes to places, there were no reported issues with families having difficulties accessing places during summer 2023 which is the busiest term and based on data collected during summer there appears to be adequate choice and opportunity for parents to take up the offer.

| Percentage of by local authors | ority | | | | from fu | ınded e | arly edı | ucation | places |
|---|-------|-----|-----|-----|---------|---------|----------|---------|--------|
| Year 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 | | | | | | | | | |
| Percentage | 59% | 73% | 85% | 85% | 77% | 75% | 71% | 77% | 81.4% |

See **Appendix 3** - Map of Childcare providers delivering free Early Education Funding.

4.6 Free Places for Two Year Old Children

The complete eligibility criteria for 2 years olds who are entitled to a free 15-hour early education and childcare place can be found on the following page: https://www.tameside.gov.uk/surestart/childcare/2yearoldfunding

The council receives DfE target lists, approx. 7 times per year and from this the council contact families who may be eligible to apply. This list is not exhaustive so parents who feel they meet the criteria can apply and be eligible for the offer despite not appearing on one of the DfE lists.

Numbers for potentially eligible 2 year olds from the DfE target lists remained relatively static up to autumn 2021 when the target number was 1215. However, since summer 2022 the target list have been decreasing steadily to 916 in summer 2023, which is quite a substantial decrease but this also aligns with other nearby authorities. A detailed assessment of the number of two-year places was collated during summer 2023 to inform on the number of two-year places available within the borough and to identify any further gaps.

In Tameside, we generally have a good take up of places, which are monitored term on term. Take up, taken from data from the January census for 2023 increased to 81.4% compared to 2022 which was 77%.

The information provided to collate this information was based on the following data sets:

- Potentially eligible families identified by the DFE during summer 2023 by ward
- Total number of vacancies Supplied from all providers delivering free early education (summer 2023)
- Total number of 2 year olds attending provision by ward area (summer 2023)

This year's data is highlighting that only 51% of families take up a 2 year place in the ward in which they live, with 44% taking up their place in another ward in Tameside, we also import 5% of families from outside the borough. This makes it difficult to map places and identify any gaps in provision as families are not all looking to take up a place in their home ward.

The data highlights that 809 families are taking up a place with 5% of these coming from outside of Tameside. Therefore we know that 145 families who were on the target list are not accessing a place in Tameside. However some of these families could be accessing a place in a bordering local authority or they are actively choosing not to take up their place or they may not feel their child is ready. The information is highlighting further vacancies of 313 across the borough, which would ensure that all children that wish to access a place could do so.

Taking into consideration the above, there were a number of wards that were highlighting a shortfall in places however in some of these wards the vacancy shortfall was minimal.

The following wards indicated minimal places: (assuming every family on the list was to take up a place)

- Ashton Waterloo
- Audenshaw
- Denton West
- Droylsden West
- Mossley
- Stalybridge North

The eligible family data was collated, analysed and mapped according to their postal address, and additional data was added to pinpoint group provision and childminders delivering free early education to show location in relation to potentially eligible families.

Consideration was given to other provision located in bordering wards that were also within a reasonable walking distance (approx. half mile radius) to ascertain sufficiency of 2-year-old provision.

Ashton Waterloo – this area is showing 70% of families who live in this ward taking up a place in Tameside. From the data it highlights a large proportion of families migrating into this ward from other wards in the borough to take up their place. This has resulted in a small deficit of vacancies, however there are sufficient places in other wards in the Ashton area that are within walking distance in Ashton St Michaels and Ashton St Peters.

Audenshaw – this area is showing that 68% of families who live in this ward are taking up a place within Tameside. Data highlights of those accessing a place in this ward, 57% is by families who do not live in Audenshaw and 29% coming from outside Tameside. The data highlights a small shortfall of overall places, however there are some surplus places in the area of Ashton St Peters which borders Audenshaw.

Denton West – this area is showing that 58% of families who live in this ward are taking up a place within Tameside. Data highlights a small deficit of places within this ward however there are surplus of places in Denton North East and Denton West which both have places within a half-mile radius.

Droylsden West – this area is showing that 85% of families who live in this ward are taking up a place within Tameside. Data highlights a small deficit of places within this ward however there are a surplus of places in Droylsden East which is within a half-mile radius.

Mossley – this area is showing that 63% of families who live in this ward are taking up a place within Tameside. Data highlights that whilst there is some inward migration from outside Tameside for parents accessing a place, the remainder of families are those who reside in Mossley and are accessing a place there. This could be due to the accessibility for families accessing a place in other nearby wards, but there could also be further inward migration for working families from Saddleworth who are paying for childcare which, will reduce the overall number of places available. There is a small deficit of places in this area, but the amount of places required, would not sustain another group provider on just 2 year places alone and this area will continue to be monitored.

Stalybridge North – this area is showing that 63% of families who live in this ward are taking up a place within Tameside. The data indicates a deficit of places in this area but there is a proportion of the children accessing provision in this area who reside in Stalybridge South. The data indicated there is a deficit of places which is largely due to the closure of a nursery in this area. This area

borders Dukinfield/Stalybridge, which had surplus places that could provide places for all families that require a place, however not all of these places will be within a reasonable walking distance for all families living in Stalybridge North. At this point it is unlikely that the loss of places at the closed nursery will be replaced therefore this area will continue to be monitored.

See **Appendix 4** – Analysis of 2 Year Free Places and Take up

Further Action – 2 Year Place Creation

The current level of deficit places within wards in the main are quite small e.g. less than 10 places with the exception of Stalybridge North. Overall there are sufficient places for all families who may want to access a place in Tameside but not all families will want to take up the offer. From the places that are available not all families could access a place in their home ward however we know that approx. 50% of families will take up a place in another ward or are coming from outside Tameside.

We are unable to track how many families residing in Tameside maybe accessing a place in a neighbouring authority and if this data was available it would indicate how many more children were accessing a place.

With the new expanded entitlement for 2 year olds commencing from April 2024 we will continue to monitor 2 year places and review the impact of room closures and issues sighted by providers in recruiting experienced and trained staff as this may prevent some providers from expanding their places to pre pandemic capacities. Staff recruitment has been highlighted as a national issue and has been raised at both national and regional level.

The birth rate for the first half of 2023 is highlighting similar projected birth levels as in 2020 2021 and 2022, which confirms a further year of births at anticipated lower levels; the birth rate is also predicted to remain at lower levels for the next few years.

In light of a predicted lower birth rate, which is one of the biggest factors for demand for early years and childcare places, this is a key consideration in the decision making for place creation. Overall there are sufficient places based on the summer 2023 data and with a lower demand for places, adding new places into the market place could adversely impact on the sustainability of existing provision. With the announcement of the expanded entitlements commencing from April 2024, further data is needed from the sector to understand how many providers will be offering the expanded entitlement for working families with a 2 year old. Therefore further place creation will not be considered until more data is available.

4.7 30 Hours Free Childcare

Since 1 September 2017, parents/carers that qualify are entitled to a further 15 hours of free early education per week or a maximum of 570 hours per year, giving them up to 30 hours free early education per week over a maximum of 38 weeks. To apply parents/carers must apply directly to Her Majesty's Revenues and Customs (HMRC) and renew their eligibility regularly as per their renewal dates. Further information can be located on the HMRC website https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/

The take up of places pf the 30 hours offer during summer 2023 increased to some of the highest levels of take up seen since its implementation. Continued monitoring of take up and available places will continue.

| No's | No's of Families taking all or part of their Extended Entitlement (30 Hours) | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|--|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|--|--|
| 2018-2 | 2018-2019 2019-2020 2020-2021 2021-2022 2022-2023 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Term | Take up | Term | Take Up | Term | Take Up | Term | Take Up | Term | Take Up | | |
| Autumn 2018 | 1251 | Autumn 2019 | 1307 | Autumn 2020 | 1242 | Autumn 2021 | 1282 | Autumn 2022 | 1299 | | |
| Spring 2019 | 1651 | Spring 2020 | 1760 | Spring 2021 | 1649 | Spring 2022 | 1719 | Spring 2023 | 1820 | | |
| Summer 2019 | 1938 | Summer 2020 | 1996 | Summer 2021 | 1971 | Summer 2022 | 1992 | Summer 2023 | 2111 | | |

The majority of all group providers and childminders on the directory are registered to deliver the offer, and 53 of the 64 primary schools with a nursery, are also delivering the offer or registered to deliver the offer.

30 Hours Free Childcare

Following the effects of the pandemic where we saw a decrease in take up, levels have increased again in 2023 to their highest levels of take up which is very positive. After analysis of the data provided during summer 2023, approximately half of all families (49.50%) taking up their offer sourced provision within their home ward, 43.58% took up a place in another Tameside ward and approximately 6.92% of families taking up a place, came from outside of Tameside.

This level of movement makes it difficult to plan for the sufficiency of places as potentially families are sourcing provision which is convenient, for either extended family, on routes into work or as a preference for a particular provider. (See **Appendix 5**)

The analysis during summer 2023 highlighted a total of 506 vacancies for universal 15-hour entitlement, with recorded vacancies in all wards of Tameside. For the 30 hours or the extended part of the entitlement there were a total of 244 vacancies, again with recorded vacancies in all wards, however there are three areas where the level of vacancies were minimal and this will continue to be monitored. (See **Appendix 5**)

Further Action

There is no detailed statistical data available on qualifying numbers of families for 30 hours, so monitoring will be ongoing to see where and how families are taking up their place. In addition, this level of monitoring will be expanding for summer 2024 with the introduction of the new offer of 15 hours for working parents from April 2024. As the 30 hour offer is predominantly aimed at working parents/carers, it is difficult to monitor how far parents are travelling from home to an early years provider e.g. they may source childcare near work or extended family. Information from the 2023 sufficiency data collection indicates that more families took up a place within their home ward (approx. 6%) which is also a positive indicator.

The number of recorded vacancies across the whole sector for the extended part of the entitlement has decreased from the previous year, however, there was an increase in vacancies for the universal entitlement.

Based on vacancy data available during summer 2023, it appears that there are sufficient places available. However more work is need to understand how many providers may change their models of delivery for the new entitlements from April 2024 when the expanded entitlement

commences. Further data will be sought from providers to establish how many will offer the expanded entitlement and what this offer will look like and the continued monitoring of places, take up and vacancies will support this.

4.8 Childcare for Children Aged 5-11 and During School Holidays

In Tameside at the time of analysis, there were 97 Out of School clubs, (includes holiday clubs) but in total 186 providers offering out of school care, which includes childminders. The overall number of places has decreased slightly by 3%, which could be due to the decrease in the number of childminders.

From September 2024 the government are implementing a new programme to encourage more provision for wraparound care for primary school age children. The new programme will encourage the expansion of existing provision and also the development of new provision to provide term time wraparound care from 8 am to 6pm. More details will be available to local authorities towards the end of autumn 2023 and early 2024.

Before and After School places for children aged 4 years and over

The analysis of vacancy data highlighted that there were vacancies for both before and after school places within all wards within the borough, with the exception of Hyde Werneth where there were no vacancies for before school and only 1 place for after school however, all the other Hyde wards were showing availability of places.

Holiday Club Places for 4 years and over

The analysis of vacancy data highlighted that there were full time vacancies for Holiday Club places within 17 wards within the borough, there was 1 ward with zero vacancies and 1 with only 1 part time place.

The areas that were showing minimal vacancies is:

- Audenshaw –2 full time places
- Droylsden West 1 part time place
- Hyde Werneth 1 full time place
- Mossley 1 full and 1 part time place
- Stalybridge South no places

The data also highlighted that there has been a considerable drop in the overall number of Holiday Club places with a decrease of 17% compared to last year. This will account for the reduction in overall vacancies when comparing data from 2023 to the previous year.

The Department for Education is offering Childminder start up grants with applications commencing during 2024, which may hopefully stimulate interest in this part of the childcare sector, that has been showing reducing numbers year on year.

In all of the reported wards where places were minimal, places were available in neighbouring wards and overall there were still full and part time vacancies available across the borough, however places will continue to be monitored. (See **Appendix 6**)

4.9 Childcare for Disabled Children and Children with Special Educational Needs (SEND)

Tameside Early Years Provides registered with Ofsted can access advice, support and guidance for Children with SEND from The Early Years Quality Team, via training, visits, networks, SENDCo surgeries and consultations.

Childcare providers are able to support children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) and there has been increased parental confidence that Early Years providers are able to meet the needs of children with SEND.

Data provided from the Census 2021 highlights that 19.90% of residents in the borough are identified as Disabled under the Equality Act. (At the time of publication data was not available from Census 2021 to identify the percentage of children.)

| | Total: All residents | | the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a lot | | Disabled the Equa Act: Day- activities a little | lity to-day | Not disabled under the Equality Act | | |
|----------|----------------------|-------|---|------------|---|----------------|---|------|--|
| | Number | % | Number | Number % N | | % | Number | % | |
| Tameside | 231,071 | 100.0 | 21,138 | 9.1 | 25,071 | 10.8 | 184,862 | 80.0 | |
| East | 59,868 | 100.0 | 5,358 | 8.9 | 6,685 | 11.2 | 47,825 | 79.9 | |
| North | 50,600 | 100.0 | 4,941 | 9.7 | 5,311 | 10.5 | 40,348 | 79.7 | |
| South | 50,217 | 100.0 | 4,520 | 9.0 | 5,542 | 11.1 | 40,155 | 79.9 | |
| West | 70,382 | 100.0 | 0.0 6,319 9.0 7,530 10.8 | | 10.8 | 56,533 | 80.2 | | |

(Source: Census 2021)

Since July 2017, there has been a dedicated Special Educational Needs Caseworker available for early years. They work closely with the Early Years Quality Officers and Early Years Settings, including those in the maintained, non-maintained and Private Voluntary and Independent Sector.

Three Dedicated Early Years Quality Officers (EYQO) have a focus on SEND in Early Years provision across the borough. The EYQO will ensure the highest quality of care and education is offered to meet children's needs. They support the Tameside SEND process, making sure all early years' practitioners are collecting relevant information to ensure smooth transitions to the most appropriate educational setting for children with SEND.

All Early Years Childcare providers are able to access additional support for children with identified disabilities and special education needs, by means of the:

- Disability Access Fund
- SEN Inclusion Fund

Both measures are intended to enable Early Years providers to promote equal access to opportunities and resources for children in early years whom have an identified SEND.

4.10 Quality of Childcare

The DfE identify within current statutory guidance that they would like the outcome for all children to be able to take up their free hours in a high quality setting. Evidence shows that higher quality provision has greater developmental benefits for children, particularly for the most disadvantaged children, leading to better outcomes.

Legislation was agreed and Ofsted is now the sole arbiter of quality for delivery of Early Education Funding, which has resulted in a changed role for Local Authorities. In response to this, the

following table provides a breakdown of all the key types of providers according to their Ofsted rating (data collated as at summer 2023):

| Group Settings and Independent Schools | Summer | | Data Col Summer 2021 | | Data Co Summer 2022 | | Data Collated Summer 2023 | | |
|--|--------|-------|----------------------------|--------|---------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|--------|--|
| | Actual | | | Percen | Actual | Percen | Actual | Percen | |
| | | -tage | | -tage | | -tage | | -tage | |
| | | % | | % | | % | | % | |
| Inadequate | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1.39 | 1 | 1.47 | |
| Requires Improvement | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2.78 | 2 | 2.94 | |
| Good | 54 | 76.1 | 52 | 70.27 | 51 | 70.83 | 44 | 64.71 | |
| Outstanding | 9 | 12.7 | 9 | 12.16 | 7 | 9.72 | 4 | 5.88 | |
| Not Yet Graded | 7 | 9.8 | 13 | 17.56 | 11 | 15.28 | 16 | 23.53 | |
| Meets Standards | 1 | 1.4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1.47 | |

There are 68 group providers in total with approximately 70.59%% rated as good or outstanding, which is a decrease on the previous year. The number of providers who are awaiting their first inspection has increased to 23.53%. This is largely due to a number of nurseries changing hands or re-registering during the year which has increased the number of those not graded. The number of settings rated inadequate or requires improvement has increased slightly.

| Out of School Clubs | Data Collated Summer 2020 | | Data Co Summer 2021 | | Data Co Summer 2022 | | Data Collated Summer 2023 | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| | Actual | Percen -tage % | Actual | Percen -tage % | Actual | Percen -tage % | Actual | Percen -tage % | |
| Inadequate | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1.04 | 2 | 2.06 | |
| Requires Improvement | 1 | 1.09 | 1 | 1.10 | 2 | 2.08 | 1 | 1.03 | |
| Good | 61 | 66.30 | 66 | 72.53 | 65 | 67.71 | 60 | 61.86 | |
| Outstanding | 10 | 10.87 | 8 | 8.79 | 9 | 9.38 | 5 | 5.16 | |
| Await 1st Inspection | 16 | 17.39 | 13 | 12.09 | 14 | 14.58 | 13 | 13.40 | |
| Met | 4 | 4.35 | 5 | 4.39 | 5 | 5.21 | 15 | 15.46 | |
| Other | | | 1 | 1.10 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1.03 | |

There are 97 Out of School Clubs with 67.02% rated as good or outstanding, which is a decrease on the previous year. In addition, 15.46% are awaiting their first inspection.

| Childminders | Data Collated Summer 2020 | | Data Co Summer 2021 | | Data Co Summer 2022 | | Data Collated Summer 2023 | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| | Actual | Actual Percen A -tage % | | Percen -tage % | Actual | Percen -tage % | Actual | Percen -tage % | |
| Inadequate | 7 | 3.14 | 5 | 2.37 | 7 | 3.72 | 0 | 0 | |
| Requires Improvement | 6 | 2.7 | 6 | 2.84 | 3 | 1.60 | 2 | 1.20 | |
| Good | 145 | 65.02 | 132 | 62.56 | 125 | 66.49 | 131 | 78.44 | |
| Outstanding | 13 | 5.83 | 12 | 5.69 | 8 | 4.26 | 3 | 1.80 | |

| Awaiting Inspection | 30 | 13.45 | 37 | 17.54 | 29 | 15.42 | 9 | 5.39 |
|---------------------|----|-------|----|-------|----|-------|----|-------|
| Met | 22 | 9.86 | 19 | 9.00 | 16 | 8.51 | 22 | 13.17 |

In total, there are 167 childminders within the borough, which is a further decrease on the previous year. Of these, 131 or 80.24% of the childminders are rated as good or outstanding. 31 childminders have not yet been inspected, or are classed as 'Met'.

| Schools with a Nursery | Data Collated Summer 2022 | | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|--|--|--|--|
| Class | Actual | Percentage % | | | | |
| Inadequate | 1 | 1.56 | | | | |
| Requires Improvement | 2 | 3.13 | | | | |
| Good | 56 | 87.50 | | | | |
| Outstanding | 5 | 7.81 | | | | |
| Yet to be Inspected | 0 | 0 | | | | |

In total there are 64 primary schools within the borough that have a nursery class and provide early education, of these 92.06% are rated good or outstanding, with only 1 school awaiting inspection.

Of the 64 schools, 53 or, 82.81% are currently offering the 30 hours free childcare for 3/4 year olds.

4.11 Affordability of Childcare

Childcare costs vary from area to area within the borough and from type to type, however the tables below illustrate typical average childcare costs in Tameside collated during summer 2023 based on a full time attendance e.g. 50 hours of care per week and 25 hours:

Average cost for group providers offering up to 50 hours per week:

| Under twos per week attending 50 Hours | £236 |
|---|------|
| Under twos per week attending 25 Hours | £138 |
| Aged 2 plus per week attending 50 hours | £235 |
| Aged 2 plus per week attending 25 Hours | £136 |

- The most expensive rate for under two's for 25 hours was £159.50
- The cheapest rate for under two's for 25 hours was £100
- The most expensive rate for aged 2 plus for 25 hours was £173
- The cheapest rate for aged 2 plus for 25 hours was £93
- The most expensive rate for under two's for 50 hours was £297.50
- The cheapest rate for under two's for 50 hours was £190
- The most expensive rate for aged 2 plus for 50 hours was £297.50
- The cheapest rate for aged 2 plus for 50 hours was £190

Childminders - The typical average weekly costs for a childminder in the area:

| Under twos per week attending 50 Hours | £200 |
|---|------|
| Under twos per week attending 25 Hours | £104 |
| Aged 2 plus per week attending 50 hours | £200 |

| Aged 2 plus per week attending 25 Hours £104 |
|--|
|--|

Out of School provision can be offered at various providers however typical costs include:

| Out of school club typical average weekly Cost for a place for 15 hours | £79.00 | |
|---|--------|--|
| per week | | |

The data highlights that childcare costs within the borough has increased in all sectors and age ranges which is reflective of the increased costs for childcare providers to run their businesses and also pay their staff e.g. increased pension and national insurance contributions, plus increases to the national minimum wage..

5. CONCLUSION

During 2023 the initial indicators highlight the childcare market in Tameside has contracted, this could be aligned to the lower birth rates over the last 3 years reducing demand for formal childcare and the lasting effects of the pandemic and changing family circumstances e.g. working from home. There has been a reduction in the number of Private Day Nurseries, Pre-Schools/Playgroups and Childminders which has decreased the total number of places but not considerably. From the data and anecdotal information received from providers on the reductions, a reduced demand for places is an overarching factor. A number of provision reported issues with recruiting experienced staff with desired levels of qualification as another factor. Most have confirmed that as demand increases again for places subject to the ability to recruit they can reopen rooms that have been closed. Whilst there is generally place reductions in 3 of the 5 childcare types, because of the predicted lower birth rate for the next few years, providers are adapting to meet these lower levels of demand for childcare. The childcare market in Tameside is constantly changing and at the time of reporting data, we were made aware of 5 further expected closures. This will impact the childcare market and could affect the roll out of the expanded entitlement from April 2024.

For 2023 despite a reduction in providers overall, the number of childcare places available across the borough has remained stable which impacts positively on parental choice.

The number of families that were potentially eligible for a 2 year place at the time of the data collection (summer 2023) has decreased further which impacts on demand. The data shows an increase in take up, which could be attributed to growing confidence with families to return to formal childcare and the consistent and sustained approach by a number of teams within children's services to assist parents with applications and sourcing provision.

Further analysis of two-year provision highlighted a number of areas to monitor. All areas will be reviewed but because of the predicted and sustained lower birth rate, no further action for capital projects is required at this time.

In light of the additional closures announced post data collection, more work will be needed to understand the market for the roll out of the expanded entitlements. In addition it is expected that the hourly rate offered to providers for 2, 3 and 4 year olds is set to increase further, which will support providers with sustainability and offsetting some of their higher operating costs. More detailed analysis is required into how many providers will offer the new expanded entitlements and their ability to quickly expand to meet increasing demand. Providers who have reduced their places in identified wards due to demand, have indicated that they can increase their 2 year places as the

need for places grows. Any corresponding increase for places should influence the market, with providers responding to meet any increased childcare need.

Analysis of the sufficiency of two-year places and the take up of the free entitlement for three and four year olds will remain under review. The DfE statistical release 2023 indicates that take up of 3 and 4 year olds is 96.6% in comparison to the total 3 and 4 year population; this is considered a high take up and is evident across the borough at maintained, private, voluntary and independent providers.

Whilst there are some places with less vacancies on further investigation, most families in these areas can be served by neighbouring wards with vacancies. There were 2 areas specifically identified for monitoring, Mossley and Stalybridge North. Mossley is on the outskirts of the borough and therefore further for families to travel to other provision in neighborouring wards. It also borders Saddleworth and this could be impacting access to provision with families migrating in, as there are 2 large Day Nurseries serving this area. Currently the number of childminders in this area is minimal and would benefit from generating interest in childminder startups who would be able to access the new grant. In Stalybridge North, during 2022 a large private day nursery closed and the latest information is that this building will no longer be used for childcare leaving a reduction of places in this area. Families could travel to neighbouring wards to access a place but again this area would benefit from more childminders.

This year's data collection was much improved on the number of returns submitted however not all sectors of childcare providers responded to the request to provide data, which prevents a full assessment of the sufficiency of childcare places in all areas. Without any other anecdotal information to highlight any specific gaps in provision for childminders, we have been unable to fully assess sufficiency of all places, but conclude from the vacancies available from those that did submit that there is still adequate provision.

The current costs for energy remains a cause for concern as it is evident it is impacting the childcare sector, government announcements to expand the entitlements and also to increase the hourly rates for delivery of the free entitlements will be welcome, however this is still an area for concern and the longer term impact on the sector. Some businesses may need to increase fees further for parents or as we have already seen, will cease to trade due to sustainability. Both may have a detrimental effect on the sector as the loss of childcare providers will reduce choice and availability and some parents may be priced out of the cost to afford formal childcare. However with the roll out of 30 hours for 2's and under 2's which should be fully implemented by September 2025, it is anticipated that this will have a positive impact on the sector with more families being able to afford formal childcare.

30 Hours Free childcare

The roll out of 30 hours free childcare is now in its seventh year and from the information available, there are no reported issues with parents experiencing insufficient provision. Approximately 80% of the boroughs primary schools with a nursery offer 30 hours, which provide much-needed additional places. At the time of data collection which was during the busiest reported term, (summer) there were vacancies for 30 hours in all areas of the borough. This will be continually monitored and reported upon annually.

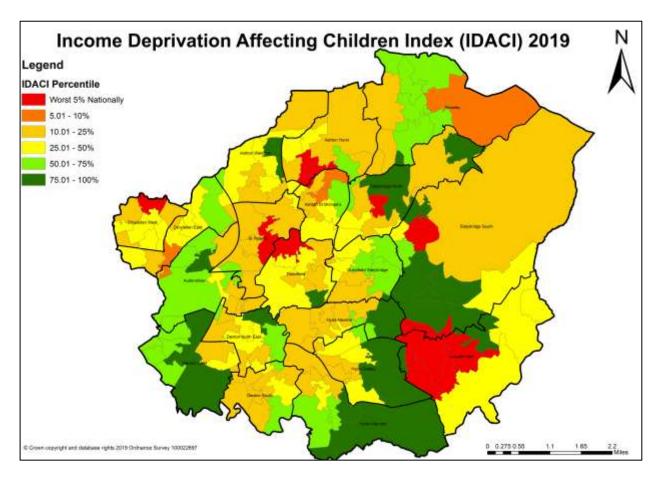
6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2023 annual report highlighted some contraction in the childcare market which warrant further analysis especially in light of the expanded entitlement roll out commencing in April 2023 and the new programme for Wraparound care.

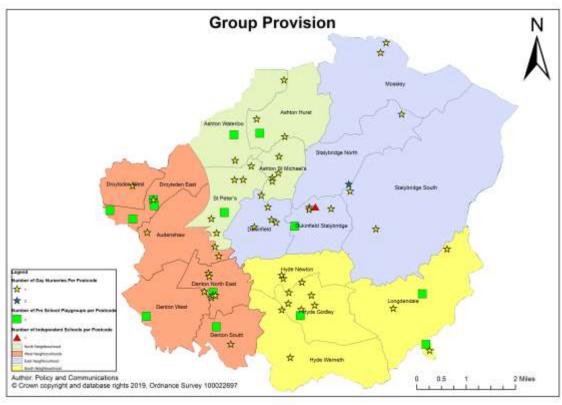
The following recommendations are suggested:

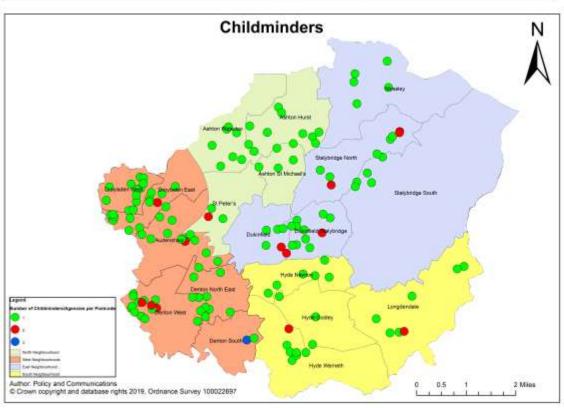
- To conduct additional analysis with all early years providers to ascertain their ability to
 offer the new expanded entitlements for working parents launching in April 2024 and to
 collate data from them to gauge potential take up, prospective eligible families on
 waiting lists, vacancy levels and demand for future places
- 2. Continue to monitor the number of places across the borough for all age ranges of children to analyse any trends or shifts in the market place and the sufficiency of the number of places available
- 3. Conduct more detailed analysis of Out of School Care for children aged from reception to year 6, to support the work to plan and deliver the new government programme to develop term time out of school care between the time of 8 am to 6pm

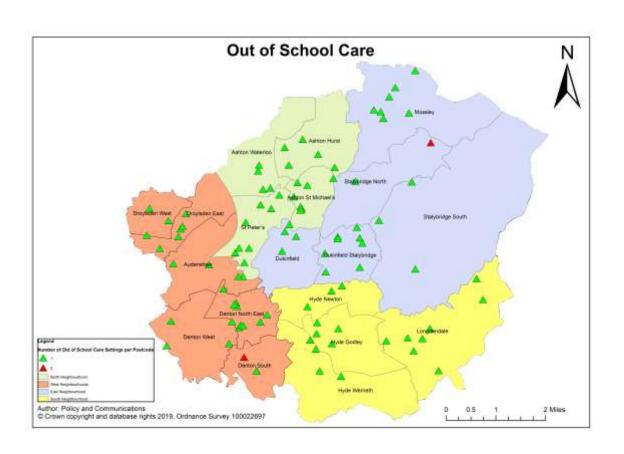
APPENDIX 1



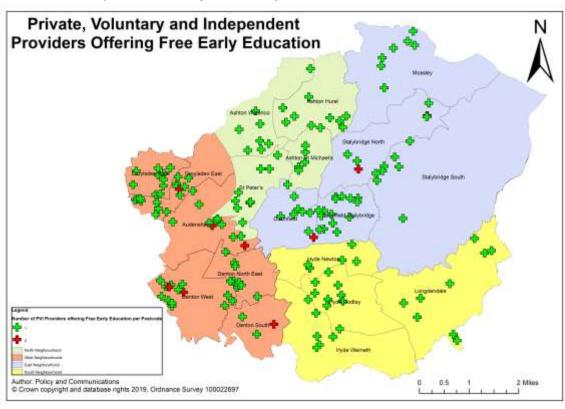
APPENDIX 2 All Maps updated for 2023

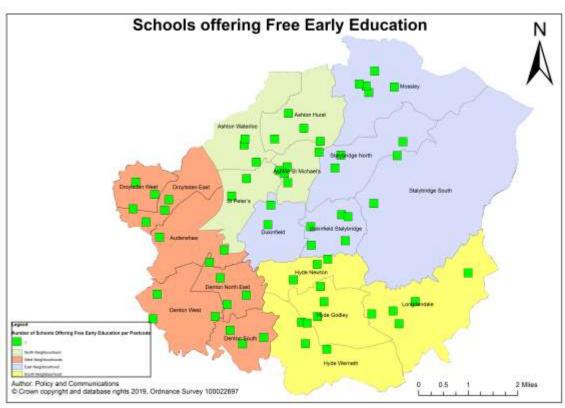






APPENDIX 3 - (FEE- Free Early Education)





APPENDIX 4

ANALYSIS OF 2 YEAR FREE PLACES AND TAKE UP – SUMMER 23

| | Take Up from Ta | rget List | | | Breakdown | of Attendance l | y Ward | | % Breakd | own of Attenda | nce by Ward |
|--------------------------|--|---|---|---|-----------|---|---|--|---|----------------|-------------|
| Ward | August DfE target list for Summer 2023 Families residing in this ward | 2 Year Olds living in this ward accesing a place in Summer 2023 | % of children from this ward that have taken up a place in Tameside | Total 2 Year Olds in a place during Summer 2023 attending provision in this ward | | Children who attend from another TMBC ward | Children from outside TMBC who attend in this ward | Total Number of FEF Vacancies for 2 Year Olds in this ward | % of Childre attending i their home ward | _ | Migration |
| Ashton Hurst | 70 | 59 | 84% | 47 | 31 | 13 | 3 | 16 | 66% | 28% | 6% |
| Ashton St Michaels | 64 | 52 | 81% | 68 | 31 | 37 | 0 | 16 | 46% | 54% | 0% |
| Ashton St Peters | 86 | 62 | 72% | 99 | 48 | 48 | 3 | 31 | 48% | 48% | 3% |
| Ashton Waterloo | 50 | 35 | 70% | 28 | 15 | 13 | 0 | 9 | 54% | 46% | 0% |
| | 270 | 208 | 77% | 242 | 125 | 111 | 6 | 72 | 52% | 46% | 2% |
| Audenshaw | 34 | 23 | 68% | 14 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 14% | 57% | 29% |
| | 34 | 23 | 68% | 14 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 14% | 57% | 29% |
| Denton North East | 37 | 38 | 103% | 71 | 28 | 38 | 5 | 33 | 39% | 54% | 7% |
| Denton South | 51 | 53 | 104% | 31 | 28 | 3 | 0 | 13 | 90% | 10% | 0% |
| Denton West | 19 | 11 | 58% | 20 | 4 | 10 | 6 | 1 | 20% | 50% | 30% |
| | 107 | 102 | 95% | 122 | 60 | 51 | 11 | 47 | 49% | 42% | 9% |
| Droylsden East | 47 | 41 | 87% | 74 | 33 | 33 | 8 | 14 | 45% | 45% | 11% |
| Droylsden West | 41 | 35 | 85% | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 50% | 33% | 17% |
| | 88 | 76 | 86% | 80 | 36 | 35 | 9 | 14 | 45% | 44% | 11% |
| Dukinfield | 60 | 66 | 110% | 78 | 51 | 27 | 0 | 31 | 65% | 35% | 0% |
| Dukinfield / Stalybridge | 25 | 20 | 80% | 38 | 6 | 31 | 1 | 29 | 16% | 82% | 3% |
| | 85 | 86 | 101% | 116 | 57 | 58 | 1 | 60 | 49% | 50% | 1% |
| Hyde Godley | 61 | 67 | 110% | 58 | 31 | 27 | 0 | 37 | 53% | 47% | 0% |
| Hyde Newton | 56 | 52 | 93% | 63 | 31 | 30 | 2 | 11 | 49% | 48% | 3% |
| Hyde Werneth | 37 | 31 | 84% | 26 | 14 | 11 | 1 | 16 | 54% | 42% | 4% |
| | 154 | 150 | 97% | 147 | 76 | 68 | 3 | 64 | 52% | 46% | 2% |
| Longdendale | 56 | 45 | 80% | 36 | 25 | 10 | 1 | 16 | 69% | 28% | 3% |
| | 56 | 45 | 80% | 36 | 25 | 10 | 1 | 16 | 69% | 28% | 3% |
| Mossley | 35 | 22 | 63% | 19 | 16 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 84% | 0% | 16% |
| | 35 | 22 | 63% | 19 | 16 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 84% | 0% | 16% |
| Stalybridge North | 57 | 36 | 63% | 14 | 3 | 11 | 0 | 2 | 21% | 79% | 0% |
| Stalybridge South | 30 | 23 | 77% | 19 | 11 | 8 | 0 | 30 | 58% | 42% | 0% |
| | 87 | 59 | 68% | 33 | 14 | 19 | 0 | 32 | 42% | 58% | 0% |
| Totals | 916 | 771 | 84% | 809 | 411 | 360 | 38 | 313 | 51% | 44% | 5% |

(Includes data provided by Private, Voluntary and Independent Early Years Providers)

APPENDIX 5

ANALYSIS OF 3/4 YEAR FREE PLACES AND TAKE UP OF UNIVERSAL AND EXTENDED ENTITLEMENT – SUMMER 2023

| | | Uı | niversal E | ntitleme | nt - 15 H | ours | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| Ward | 3/4 Year Olds in a Universal place during Summer 2023 | Children who attend in their home ward | Children who attend from another TMBC ward | Children who attend from outside TMBC | Maximum Number of FEF Vacancies for 3/4 Years Universal | Total Universal Places (Children in place + Vacancies) | | % of Children attending in their home ward | % of Children attending outside their home ward but within TMBC % | % of Inward Migration from outside TMBC |
| Ashton Hurst | 201 | 108 | 77 | 16 | 19 | 220 | | 53.73% | 38.31% | 7.96% |
| Ashton St Michaels | 317 | 165 | 142 | 10 | 29 | 346 | | 52.05% | 44.79% | 3.15% |
| Ashton St Peters | 386 | 214 | 159 | 13 | 40 | 426 | | 55.44% | 41.19% | 3.37% |
| Ashton Waterloo | 143 | 101 | 37 | 5 | 36 | 179 | | 70.63% | 25.87% | 3.50% |
| | 1047 | 588 | 415 | 44 | 124 | 1171 | , | 56.16% | 39.64% | 4.20% |
| Audenshaw | 210 | 88 | 96 | 26 | 8 | 218 | | 41.90% | 45.71% | 12.38% |
| | 210 | 88 | 96 | 26 | 8 | 218 | , | 41.90% | 45.71% | 12.38% |
| Denton North East | 272 | 118 | 147 | 7 | 21 | 293 | | 43.38% | 54.04% | 2.57% |
| Denton South | 126 | 98 | 26 | 2 | 31 | 157 | | 77.78% | 20.63% | 1.59% |
| Denton West | 152 | 81 | 40 | 31 | 2 | 154 | | 53.29% | 26.32% | 20.39% |
| | 550 | 297 | 213 | 40 | 54 | 604 | , | 54.00% | 38.73% | 7.27% |
| Droylsden East | 272 | 125 | 121 | 26 | 8 | 280 | | 45.96% | 44.49% | 9.56% |
| Droylsden West | 110 | 60 | 42 | 8 | 22 | 132 | | 54.55% | 38.18% | 7.27% |
| | 382 | 185 | 163 | 34 | 30 | 412 | , | 48.43% | 42.67% | 8.90% |
| Dukinfield | 283 | 170 | 107 | 6 | 25 | 308 | | 60.07% | 37.81% | 2.12% |
| Dukinfield / Stalybridge | 234 | 74 | 156 | 4 | 35 | 269 | | 31.62% | 66.67% | 1.71% |
| | 517 | 244 | 263 | 10 | 60 | 577 | , | 47.20% | 50.87% | 1.93% |
| Hyde Godley | 285 | 152 | 128 | 5 | 73 | 358 | | 53.33% | 44.91% | 1.75% |
| Hyde Newton | 267 | 181 | 78 | 8 | 24 | 291 | | 67.79% | 29.21% | 3.00% |
| Hyde Werneth | 169 | 109 | 53 | 7 | 33 | 202 | | 64.50% | 31.36% | 4.14% |
| | 721 | 442 | 259 | 20 | 130 | 851 | , | 61.30% | 35.92% | 2.77% |
| Longdendale | 129 | 85 | 32 | 12 | 25 | 154 | | 65.89% | 24.81% | 9.30% |
| | 129 | 85 | 32 | 12 | 25 | 154 | , | 65.89% | 24.81% | 9.30% |
| Mossley | 183 | 143 | 16 | 24 | 45 | 228 | | 78.14% | 8.74% | 13.11% |
| | 183 | 143 | 16 | 24 | 45 | 228 | , | 78.14% | 8.74% | 13.11% |
| Stalybridge North | 162 | 105 | 57 | 0 | 18 | 180 | | 64.81% | 35.19% | 0.00% |
| Stalybridge South | 127 | 82 | 44 | 1 | 12 | 139 | | 64.57% | 34.65% | 0.79% |
| - | 289 | 187 | 101 | 1 | 30 | 319 | | 64.71% | 34.95% | 0.35% |

| | | | Ex | tended I | Entitleme | nt - 30 h | ours | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| Ward | 3/4 Year Olds in a Uni + Ext place (with | 3/4 Year Olds accessing Extended | Total 3/4 Year Olds accessing extended | Children who attend extended | Children who attend extended | Children who attend extended | Maximum Number of Extended Vacancies | Total Extended Places (Children | % of Children attending in their | % of Children attending outside | % of Inward Migration from |
| | same provider) during Summer 2023 | hours only in this ward | hours during Summer 2023 | hours in their home ward | hours from another TMBC ward | hours from outside TMBC | for 3/4 Years | in place + Vacancies) | home ward | their home ward but within TMBC % | outside TMBC |
| | 24 | | 07 | | 25 | | | 404 | 10.500/ | 44.000/ | 45.000/ |
| Ashton Hurst | 84 | 3 | 87 | 37 | 36 | 14 | 17 | 104 | 42.53% | 41.38% | 16.09% |
| Ashton St Michaels | 134 | 2 | 136 | 51 | 75 | 10 | 16 | 152 | 37.50% | 55.15% | 7.35% |
| Ashton St Peters | 144 | 3 7 | 147 | 43 | 99 | 5 0 | 5 | 152 | 29.25% | 67.35% | 3.40% |
| Ashton Waterloo | 32 394 | 15 | 39 409 | 24 155 | 15 225 | 29 | 4 42 | 43 451 | 61.54% 37.90% | 38.46% 55.01% | 0.00% 7.09% |
| Audenshaw | 137 | 0 | 137 | 61 | 62 | 14 | 14 | 151 | 44.53% | 45.26% | 10.22% |
| Addensilaw | 137 | 0 | 137 | 61 | 62 | 14 | 14 | 151 | 44.53% | 45.26% | 10.22% |
| Denton North East | 151 | 12 | 163 | 60 | 98 | 5 | 4 | 167 | 36.81% | 60.12% | 3.07% |
| Denton South | 53 | 2 | 55 | 39 | 15 | 1 | 13 | 68 | 70.91% | 27.27% | 1.82% |
| Denton West | 92 | 4 | 96 | 59 | 18 | 19 | 49 | 145 | 61.46% | 18.75% | 19.79% |
| | 296 | 18 | 314 | 158 | 131 | 25 | 66 | 380 | 50.32% | 41.72% | 7.96% |
| Droylsden East | 156 | 1 | 157 | 71 | 71 | 15 | 11 | 168 | 45.22% | 45.22% | 9.55% |
| Droylsden West | 66 | 4 | 70 | 33 | 32 | 5 | 2 | 72 | 47.14% | 45.71% | 7.14% |
| | 222 | 5 | 227 | 104 | 103 | 20 | 13 | 240 | 45.81% | 45.37% | 8.81% |
| Dukinfield | 144 | 1 | 145 | 84 | 56 | 5 | 11 | 156 | 57.93% | 38.62% | 3.45% |
| Dukinfield / Stalybridge | 134 | 5 | 139 | 44 | 93 | 2 | 11 | 150 | 31.65% | 66.91% | 1.44% |
| | 278 | 6 | 284 | 128 | 149 | 7 | 22 | 306 | 45.07% | 52.46% | 2.46% |
| Hyde Godley | 140 | 3 | 143 | 67 | 71 | 5 | 25 | 168 | 46.85% | 49.65% | 3.50% |
| Hyde Newton | 142 | 8 | 150 | 91 | 52 | 7 | 14 | 164 | 60.67% | 34.67% | 4.67% |
| Hyde Werneth | 93 | 1 | 94 | 58 | 29 | 7 | 10 | 104 | 61.70% | 30.85% | 7.45% |
| | 375 | 12 | 387 | 216 | 152 | 19 | 49 | 436 | 55.81% | 39.28% | 4.91% |
| Longdendale | 42 | 5 | 47 | 23 | 16 | 8 | 12 | 59 | 48.94% | 34.04% | 17.02% |
| | 42 | 5 | 47 | 23 | 16 | 8 | 12 | 59 | 48.94% | 34.04% | 17.02% |
| Mossley | 132 | 3 | 135 | 98 | 13 | 24 | 11 | 146 | 72.59% | 9.63% | 17.78% |
| | 132 | 3 | 135 | 98 | 13 | 24 | 11 | 146 | 72.59% | 9.63% | 17.78% |
| Stalybridge North | 89 | 3 | 92 | 50 | 42 | 0 | 2 | 94 | 54.35% | 45.65% | 0.00% |
| Stalybridge South | 79 | 0 | 79 | 52 | 27 | 0 | 13 | 92 | 65.82% | 34.18% | 0.00% |
| | 168 | 3 | 171 | 102 | 69 | 0 | 15 | 186 | 59.65% | 40.35% | 0.00% |
| | 2044 | 67 | 2111 | 1045 | 920 | 146 | 244 | 2355 | 49.50% | 43.58% | 6.92% |

(Includes data provided by Schools and Private, Voluntary and Independent Early Years Providers)

APPENDIX 6

ANALYSIS OF OUT OF SCHOOL PROVISION – SUMMER 2023

| 2023 | | | Be | fore and After Sch | ool | Holiday Club | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--|--|--|---|------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| | | | Places | | Vacancies | | Places | | Vacancies | |
| Area | Ward | Number of Providers | Number of Before School Places 4 Yrs and over | Number of After School Places 4 Yrs and over | Total Vacancies Before School 4 Yrs and over | Total Vacancies After School 4 Yrs and over | Number of Providers | Number of Places 4 Yrs and over | Number of Full Time Vacancies 4 Yrs and over | Number of Part Time Vacancies 4 Yrs and over |
| Ashton under Lyne | Ashton Hurst | 10 | 255 | 205 | 49 | 49 | 7 | 83 | 10 | 14 |
| | Ashton St Michaels | 7 | 224 | 124 | 44 | 33 | 4 | 50 | 21 | 3 |
| | Ashton St Peters | 13 | 246 | 125 | 93 | 48 | 9 | 188 | 47 | 37 |
| 0.1.1.1 | Ashton Waterloo | 8 | 118 | 36 | 18 | 9 | 4 | 27 | 3 | 6 |
| Sub totals | | 38 | 843 | 490 | 204 | 139 | 24 | 348 | 81 | 60 |
| Audenshaw | Audenshaw | 15 | 181 | 175 | 25 | 33 | 8 | 39 | 2 | 0 |
| Sub totals | | 15 | 181 | 175 | 25 | 33 | 8 | 39 | 2 | 0 |
| Denton | Denton North East | 8 | 134 | 139 | 29 | 36 | 6 | 82 | 20 | 8 |
| | Denton South | 6 | 178 | 82 | 71 | 32 | 4 | 82 | 28 | 26 |
| | Denton West | 17 | 210 | 205 | 55 | 54 | 13 | 141 | 14 | 10 |
| Sub totals | | 31 | 522 | 426 | 155 | 122 | 23 | 305 | 62 | 44 |
| Droylsden | Droylsden East | 12 | 179 | 179 | 59 | 31 | 9 | 73 | 4 | 2 |
| Code Andrein | Droylsden West | 11 23 | 161 340 | 146 325 | 56 115 | 54 85 | 8 17 | 74 147 | 0 4 | 1 3 |
| Sub totals | | 23 | 340 | 325 | 115 | 85 | 1/ | 14/ | 4 | 3 |
| Dukinfield | Dukinfield | 10 | 142 | 142 | 14 | 10 | 6 | 73 | 27 | 6 |
| | Dukinfield / Stalybridge | 14 | 233 | 231 | 48 | 35 | 10 | 129 | 26 | 11 |
| Sub totals | | 24 | 375 | 373 | 62 | 45 | 16 | 202 | 53 | 17 |
| Hyde | Hyde Godley | 8 | 299 | 89 | 37 | 18 | 6 | 170 | 15 | 1 |
| | Hyde Newton | 7 | 184 | 184 | 45 | 18 | 5 | 118 | 5 | 4 |
| | Hyde Werneth | 6 | 108 | 108 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 116 | 1 | 0 |
| Sub totals | | 21 | 591 | 381 | 82 | 37 | 17 | 404 | 21 | 5 |
| Longdendale/Hattersley | Longdendale | 7 | 158 | 88 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 25 | 10 | 0 |
| Sub totals | | 7 | 158 | 88 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 25 | 10 | 0 |
| Mossley | Mossley | 10 | 300 | 162 | 100 | 71 | 5 | 56 | 1 | 1 |
| Sub totals | | 10 | 300 | 162 | 100 | 71 | 5 | 56 | 1 | 1 |
| Stalybridge | Stalybridge North | 9 | 110 | 104 | 33 | 33 | 7 | 100 | 15 | 8 |
| | Stalybridge South | 8 | 213 | 213 | 63 | 58 | 4 | 118 | 0 | 0 |
| Sub totals | | 17 | 323 | 317 | 96 | 91 | 11 | 218 | 15 | 8 |
| Grand Totals 2023 | | 186 | 3633 | 2737 | 844 | 632 | 125 | 1744 | 249 | 138 |
| Grand Totals 2022 | | 196 | 3725 | 992 | 992 | 594 | 142 | 2108 | 499 | 320 |
| % change from previous yea | r | -5% | -2% | 176% | -15% | 6% | -12% | -17% | -50% | -57% |

(Includes data provided by Schools and Private, Voluntary and Independent Early Years Provider)