

# Childcare Sufficiency Annual Report 2016

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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.

The assessment published in March 2011 reported that Tameside had a healthy and vibrant childcare market that was successfully meeting the needs of its population.

## 2. Legislation Update

In September 2013 the Department for Education implemented changes to the role of the local authority in early education and childcare. The changes included new “Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on the Exercise of their Duties Relating to Early Education and Childcare”; this repealed the requirement on Local Authorities to prepare detailed assessments of the sufficiency of provision of childcare in their area, every 3 years.

This has been replaced with a duty 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 (2014) 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 characterized by some of the worst 5% of deprived areas nationally. Tameside is noted to be the 42<sup>nd</sup> most deprived borough nationally on the Index of multiple Deprivation 2010.

See Appendix 1 Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2010 - for further information

#### 3.2 Population

In 2013 the total population of Tameside was estimated to be 220,600 (estimated via the Office for National Statistics). However, the Census 2011 recorded a population of 233,763 which shows a difference of 13,163 or approximately 5.97%.

#### 3.3 Ethnicity

The following table shows that the majority (91%) of residents in Tameside describe themselves to be White British. The remaining 9% being of Black and Minority Ethnic origins.

	White		BME	
	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Tameside</b>	199,429	90.9	19,895	9.1
<b>East</b>	55,386	95.5	2,604	4.5
<b>North</b>	36,360	79.8	9,196	20.2
<b>South</b>	41,678	90.1	4,555	9.9
<b>West</b>	66,005	94.9	3,540	5.1

Source: Census 2011

#### 3.4 Age

Using data extracted from the Census 2011 the following table shows the breakdown of age across the borough and also by the administrative neighbourhoods – north, east, south and west:

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

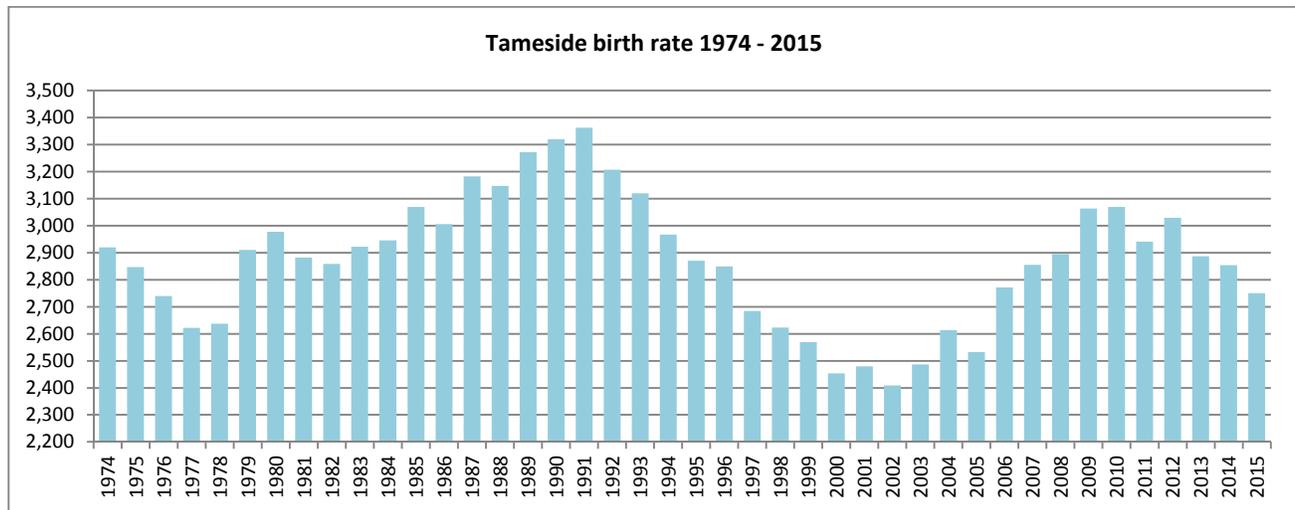
Notably from a childcare demand perspective, approximately 65% of the population is of working age: 16 to 64 years. This figure becomes significant when considered in conjunction with Birth Rate data.

	0 to 4		0 to 15		16 to 64		65+	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Tameside</b>	14,439	6.6	42,708	19.5	142,415	64.9	34,201	15.6
<b>East</b>	3,797	6.5	11,230	19.4	38,343	66.1	8,417	14.5
<b>North</b>	3,263	7.2	9,288	20.4	29,767	65.3	6,501	14.3
<b>South</b>	3,305	7.1	9,545	20.6	29,636	64.1	7,052	15.3
<b>West</b>	4,074	5.9	12,645	18.2	44,669	64.2	12,231	17.6

Source: Census 2011

### 3.5 Birth Rate

The graph shows Tameside births from 1990 to 2015 and illustrates there has been an upward trend for births across the borough from 2005 onwards, which has caused an increase in demand for childcare places for early years and school age children. The current trend for the last 3 years shows that the birth rate is beginning to decrease again, however 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 2015 the birth rate dropped to 2750 which is around the level of births in 2006 which highlights an expected continued downward trend. Based on proportionate data for 2016, it is expected that the number of births may be similar to numbers in 2015.



### 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. Key indicators and information from Job Centre Plus indicates that Tameside is likely to experience a slower recovery than its neighbouring authorities.

The following table shows the number of adults within the borough who are claiming job seekers allowance at each quarter during 2015 and indicates that during 2015 the number of claimants is decreasing in all areas of the borough. When comparing the numbers from December 2014 to December 2015 the number of claimants has decreased by 594 which is a decrease of 31.59% and indicates a significant reduction in JSA claimants and shows the boroughs continued economic recovery.

**Job Seekers Allowance (Age 16-64)**

	March 2015		June 2015		September 2015		December 2015	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Tameside</b>	2,320	1.7	2,037	1.5	1,899	1.4	1,880	1.3
<b>East</b>	667	1.8	589	1.6	533	1.4	518	1.4
<b>North</b>	627	2.1	545	1.8	477	1.6	483	1.6
<b>South</b>	521	1.8	464	1.6	441	1.5	443	1.5
<b>West</b>	505	1.2	439	1.0	448	1.0	436	1.0

Source: NOMIS (ONS)

Data received via Job Centre Plus compares the numbers of JSA claimants over the last 6 years taken at the same point in the year:

- April 2010 6802 Taken from last sufficiency report published in 2011
- April 2011 6418 5.64% reduction
- April 2012 7240 12.81% increase
- April 2013 7078 2.24% reduction
- April 2014 4453 37.09% reduction from the previous year
- April 2015 3735 16.12% reduction
- April 2016 3905 The figure reported also includes 'Out of work element of Universal Credit' which could explain the 4.5% increase on the previous year.

This illustrates that since 2013 overall there are 3343 adults (aged 16 – 65 years) who are no longer claiming out of work benefits; whilst for 2016 there is an increase from Job Centre Plus data it confirms that the number of people unemployed in the UK has fallen in the three months Jan to March 2016 to 1.69 Million, 2000 less than the previous quarter.

National Unemployment rate (United Kingdom) is currently 5.1%

Great Britain Unemployment rate is currently 5.2%

North West Unemployment rate = 5.3%

Tameside Unemployment is 5,600 rate = 5.1%

(Numbers and % are for those aged 16 and over. % is a proportion of economically active)

### Key Out of Work Benefits<sup>1</sup>

The following table shows the number of people in the borough claiming out-of-work benefits. This includes: Job Seekers Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), incapacity benefits, lone parent benefits and other income related benefits.

At the same point in November 2014 the number claiming out of work benefits was 17585 so over a period of 12 months there has been a reduction of 1120 which is approximately 6.8%.

	February 2015		May 2015		August 2015		November 2015	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Tameside</b>	17,555	12.6	16,940	12.1	16,670	11.9	16,465	11.8
<b>East</b>	4,400	11.8	4,220	11.3	4,130	11.1	4,045	10.8
<b>North</b>	4,625	15.3	4,495	14.9	4,420	14.6	4,425	14.7
<b>South</b>	3,970	13.6	3,795	13.0	3,760	12.9	3,675	12.6
<b>West</b>	4,560	10.6	4,430	10.3	4,360	10.2	4,320	10.1

Source: NOMIS (ONS)

### 3.7 Economic Activity

The following table indicates the breakdown of the borough according to economic activity which highlights that 68.8% of the borough is economically active.

Source: Census 2011

	Economically Active		Economically Active: Employees		Economically Active: Self Employed		Economically Active: Unemployed		Economically Active: Full Time Student		Economically Inactive	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Tameside</b>	111,016	68.8	86,923	78.3	12,022	10.8	8,052	7.3	4,019	3.6	50,443	31.2
<b>East</b>	30,616	71.0	24,083	78.7	3,442	11.2	2,085	6.8	1,006	3.3	12,505	29.0
<b>North</b>	21,967	65.8	16,918	77.0	2,261	10.3	1,929	8.8	859	3.9	11,429	34.2
<b>South</b>	22,656	67.4	17,476	77.1	2,677	11.8	1,709	7.5	794	3.5	10,943	32.6
<b>West</b>	35,777	69.7	28,446	79.5	3,642	10.2	2,329	6.5	1,360	3.8	15,566	30.3

<sup>1</sup> Key out-of-work benefits consist of the groups: job seekers, ESA and incapacity benefits, lone parents and others on income related benefits.

### **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 recognize that they are key to preparing their children for school. Key to this successful transition is positive cooperation between parents, childcare professionals and teachers.

Since the 2013 annual report, there has been a change in how data is collected on the number of children who are identified as school ready and is now collated for the borough as a whole and is not available by area.

In July 2016 63% of children attending in the Early Years Foundation Stage using Early Years Foundation profile data completed at the end of the year were identified in Tameside as having a good level of development. This is an increase of 5 percent on the previous year. The National Average for 2015 was 66% which has increased to 69% in 2016 which is an increase of 3 percent. In Tameside we have increased more than the National Average growth however we are still below the National Average. In the North West in 2015 64% of children achieved a good level of development which has increased to 67% in 2016 which is a 3 percent increase overall therefore Tameside has achieved a higher percentage increase of growth than the North West Average. This shows that Tameside's strategies are improving on the number of children who are school ready above both national and regional annual increases.

## **4. Review of the Local Childcare Market**

### **4.1 Childcare Supply**

The amount of childcare provision that is currently available has seen some changes since the last annual sufficiency report completed in 2015, a number of settings have changed hands and are now under new ownership. In addition to this there have been a small number of closures. Despite these changes over the last 12 months the childcare market and the number of childcare places has remained fairly stable, however a notable change is a further drop in the number of childminders in the borough which equates to 7.46%. The childcare market is continuing to grow and after data was collated for this report four new group providers have opened or are due to open during 2016. With the introduction of 30 hours free childcare from September 2017 for eligible parents, it is anticipated that the childcare market will evolve and change to meet the demand. Further analysis of the sufficiency of current 2 year provision in the borough is detailed later in this report.

Type	2011	2012	2014	2015	2016	Difference + -
Childminders	363	361	329	308	285	-23
Pre-school playgroups	25	22	22	21	21	-
Private nurseries	36	39	45	48	49	+1
Out of school clubs	54	55	55	54	53	-1

(The figures given above are for providers who are listed with the Families Information Service, some providers are not listed i.e. 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

### Ashton Area

Type	2013 Number of Providers	2013 No of Places	2014 Number of Providers	2014 No of Places	2015 Number of Providers	2015 No of Places	2016 No of Providers	2016 No of Places
PDN	11	830	12	881	13	1040	12	994
Childminder	51	153	47	141	52	156	46	138
Playgroup/ Pre-School	2	42	3	86	5	167	5	167
Out of School (Registered)	12	306	12	306	12	317	10	265
Maintained	15	494	15	494	16	554	16	554
<b>Totals</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>1825</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>1908</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>2174</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2118</b>

In Ashton there is a reduction in the number of childminders and private day nurseries, pre-school/playgroup provision remains static, therefore there is an overall reduction in the total number of places available in this area.

**Denton/Droylsden/Audenshaw Area**

Type	2013 Number of Providers	2013 No of Places	2014 Number of Providers	2014 No of Places	2015 Number of Providers	2015 No of Places	2016 Number of Providers	2016 No of Places
PDN	10	783	10	846	9	793	11	853
Childminder	142	426	130	390	117	351	109	327
Playgroup/ Pre-School	8	230	7	213	7	275	7	275
Out of School	21	584	21	584	16	440	17	440
Maintained	18	728	18	728	18	728	18	728
<b>Totals</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>2751</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>2761</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>2587</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>2623</b>

This area has also seen reduction in the number of childminders however private day nurseries have seen an increase. Overall the total number of places available in this area has increased.

**Dukinfield/Stalybridge/Mossley Area**

Type	2013 Number of Providers	2013 No of Places	2014 Number of Providers	2014 No of Places	2015 Number of Providers	2015 No of Places	2016 Number of Providers	2016 No of Places
PDN	11	880	13	871	13	896	15	1076
Childminder	99	297	93	279	91	273	84	252
Playgroup/ Pre-School	8	232	8	207	5	133	5	133
Out of School	16	481	16	481	19	532	19	532
Maintained	17	572	17	572	17	572	17	572
<b>Totals</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>2462</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>2410</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>2406</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>2565</b>

In this area there is an increase in the number of private day nurseries, however the number of childminders has also decreased. Overall the effect of this has increased the total number of places available in this area.

## Hyde/Longdendale

Type	2013 Number of Providers	2013 No of Place	2014 Number of Providers	2014 No of Places	2015 Number of Providers	2015 No of Places	2015 Number of Providers	2015 No of Places
PDN	7	412	9	469	13	814	11	804
Childminder	69	207	59	177	48	144	46	138
Playgroup/ Pre-School	4	95	4	122	4	122	4	122
Out of School	6	191	6	191	7	179	7	179
Maintained	14	520	14	520	14	520	15	546
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1525</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>1479</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>1779</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>1789</b>

In this area there has been a closure of two private day nurseries, however with other existing providers expanding their places, the impact on the number of places in this sector has been minimised. A new primary school opened in September 2016 creating a 26 place nursery, therefore the overall number of places that are available across the area has still increased slightly.

## Totals for Tameside

Type	2013 Number of Providers	2013 No of Places	2014 Number of Providers	2014 No of Places	2015 Number of Providers	2015 No of Places	2016 Number of Providers	2016 No of Places
PDN	39	2905	45	3067	48	3543	49	3727
Childminder	361	1083	329	987	308	924	285	855
Playgroup/ Pre- School	22	599	22	628	21	697	21	697
Out of School	55	1562	55	1562	54	1468	53	1416
Maintained	64	2314	64	2314	65	2374	66	2400
<b>Totals</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>8463</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>8558</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>9006</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>9095</b>

Across the borough the total number of childcare places available has increased due to an overall increase in day care provision and the opening of a new primary school offering nursery places. This highlights that the childcare market is evolving. There is an expectation of further change as there are 3 new group providers who are expected to open during 2016 which will impact positively for parental choice for childcare. The number of childminder places 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 children childminders elect to take under the age of 5.

**See appendix 2** – Maps highlighting Group Provision, Out of School clubs and Childminders

### **4.3 Demand for Childcare**

During 2015 the Families Information Service (FIS) received a total of 2038 calls. Of these 988 were named enquiries where full details were taken. A further breakdown confirmed that the majority of the named enquiries related to childcare, nursery education or 2 Year Funded places, totaling 90% of the enquiries, which highlights continued demand for formal childcare.

It is routine that FIS issue, service feedback questionnaires asking parents to provide comment about the quality of the service and their success in finding suitable childcare, these are sent out periodically throughout the year. During the period of 1 January and 31 October 2016 approximately 450 questionnaires were sent out via email, of these 79% related to 2 year funding, 19% related to childcare and 2% relating to free early education. The response rate for returns to date has been fairly low as only a small number of questionnaires were returned during the same period, in total 16 forms were returned which is only a 3.5% return rate.

### **4.4 Parental Questionnaires**

Families Information Service (FIS) generally issue feedback questionnaires to all enquirers to ascertain information around their search for childcare and to establish if they were successful in finding suitable provision or to establish if FIS could assist the family further.

During 2016 a total of 16 questionnaires were returned to the Families Information Service, the feedback questionnaire requests information to identify enquirers who were able to find childcare and those who did not and also to provide feedback on the service.

#### **Feedback from customers who found childcare**

From the feedback sample 5 returned questionnaires indicating that they found childcare of these 83% of customers found their preferred childcare choice, with all 5 of the same customers also saying the childcare selected met all their requirements.

Feedback suggests that there were several factors that affected customers' choices for childcare and most enquirers indicated multiple factors, 3 customers indicated that it was affected by location and quality of provision, however one indicated the choice was determined by vacancy availability, one had not cited a reason.

#### **Feedback from customers who did not find childcare**

Only one questionnaire was returned for a parent who was unsuccessful, they were searching for an alternative childminder for pick up from a Special Education Needs School, and were not able to locate childcare to suit their needs.

## **4.5 Parental Questionnaires - Free Entitlement Funding**

Of the limited number of questionnaires returned during the indicated period, none were in relation to a search for Free Entitlement Funding.

## **4.6 Parental Questionnaires - Service**

Families Information Service (FIS) also issue feedback questionnaires to all enquirers to ascertain their views on the quality of the service provided.

During 2016, the customer comments forms were completed and returned by 10 customers. Of those 100% of the customers rated the FIS service as excellent.

90% of customers thought the service was easy to access and that the information was accurate, up to date and would recommend the service to others, one return did not provide a response to this question.

Customers found out about the FIS service in various ways, including recommendations by friends, where they had used the service before, referred via a Children's Centre or through the FIS website and online research.

When asked how we could improve the FIS services offered, those who responded to this question indicated that they were very happy with the service, one responded to suggest having an online childcare finder, however this is a service that is already available to parents.

90% of customers found that the information and advice offered, helped them to make a decision about their family life. The other 10% had not provided a response to this question.

30% of customers indicated that they went on to contact other services following contact with FIS, in all cases this was found to be with childcare providers.

6 Questionnaires provided written comments about FIS all of which were very complimentary about the staff and the service:

- 'Excellent staff team and very supportive'
- 'I only hope this service can continue and develop further. I think it is a great help for working families'
- 'What a lovely lady. Extremely helpful, so unusual from call centres/telephone help lines these days!'
- 'Went out of her way to suggest other alternatives and sent the information immediately. Thank you so much'
- 'Most helpful staff/fab service!'

## **4.7 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 2016 from data sourced from the January census) 99% of 3 and 4 year olds are taking up some or all of their free early education funding.

<b>Percentage of 3 and 4 year-old children benefitting from funded early education places by local authority All providers - Percentage of population</b>						
<b>Year</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	97%	96%	97%	99%	98%	99%

If we consider the take up of each age range separately, take up for 3 year olds in 2016 increased to 97% from 95% and for 4 year olds this exceeded 100% (101%) of the population in Tameside, which implies children from outside of the area are also included within these figures.

The level of take up indicates currently that there are sufficient places across the borough for 3 and 4 year olds.

From September 2017 the government is introducing 30 hours free childcare for working parents who meet the eligibility criteria. A detailed analysis of places for 3 and 4 year olds will be required to ensure sufficient 30 hour places are available for families who wish to take up the offer.

<b>Percentage of 2 year old children benefitting from funded early education places by local authority All providers - Percentage of population</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>September 2016</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	89%

Take up for 2 year funding is increasing term on term, which is very positive. There are no reported issues with families having difficulties accessing places and with 3 new providers potentially offering places by the end of 2016, there appears to be plenty of choice and opportunity for parents to take up the offer.

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

## **4.8 Free Places for Two Year Old Children**

From 1st September 2014, 40% of two year olds nationally have been entitled to a free 15 hour early education and childcare place. Eligibility is the same as for the entitlement to Free School Meals (i.e. they are families whose income is below £16,190 and on certain benefits) and also families who are in receipt of working tax credit with an annual income of below £16190, looked after children and children in receipt of DLA. Target numbers for places from September 2015 was around 1450 children. (Data supplied via DfE)

During 2016, two additional capital projects were approved for capital funding, made available by the Department for Education (DfE) for the creation of new 2 year old provision. Both schemes were approved and

prioritised in geographic locations where more places were required. It is expected that both will open during the early part of 2017 to create 100 part time 2 year old places (15 hours)

There are also two projects who are at an advanced stage with the expectation of completion during autumn 2016 or early 2017 with the objective of creating a further 122 places.

A detailed assessment of the number of two year places was collated during summer 2016 to inform on the number of two year places available within the borough and to identify any further gaps following completion of the initial capital programme.

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

- Potentially eligible families identified by the DFE during summer 2016 by ward
- Total number of vacancies – Supplied from all group providers delivering free early education (Summer 16)
- Total number of 2 year olds attending provision by ward area (summer 16)

The eligible family data was collated, analyzed 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.

Further analysis was obtained to ascertain how families were taking up their places and whether they chose provision located in their home ward or elsewhere in the borough. This data highlights that on average 58% of families take up a place within the ward in which they live whereas 38% travel to a neighbouring area. The remainder which is around 3% is families who reside outside of Tameside but have chosen to take their 2 year place here.

During 2015, 3 areas were reported to have a potential gap in provision and the council invited applicants to come forward to apply for Capital Funding to create additional places for 2 year olds:

These following areas were identified as having a potential gap in the number of available places:

- Ashton Waterloo
- Droylsden West and East
- Denton South

**Droylsden East and West** - Applications are now progressing to create further places in this area which when open will provide the much needed additional 2 Year old places in this area.

No applications were received in relation to Ashton Waterloo or Denton South and these areas have been examined again during the 2016 assessment.

**Ashton Waterloo** – since collating this report an existing Out of School provider in the Waterloo area has now relocated into their own premises and also opened a new pre-school on the border with Ashton Waterloo which is within a reasonable walking distance for some families residing in the Waterloo area.

Taking this into account whilst there is scope for a small amount of place creation it has reduced from the previous analysis, however as not all families take up provision within their home ward (38%) the number of places that are needed has reduced and could be filled by accessing places in neighbouring wards e.g. Droylsden East or Ashton Hurst or St Peters.

**Denton South** – This area was identified in the previous report as a potential gap however provision has increased in the Denton North East area and take up in Denton South is relatively good (72%). The vacancy data provided in this area for summer 2016 indicated there were sufficient vacancies within this area for all potentially eligible families.

#### **Further Action – 2 Year Place Creation**

No further action is planned for place creation in the Ashton Waterloo or Denton South area however the number of childcare places will be monitored including vacancies and take up of places by ward area.

At the close of 2016 approximately 90 childminders were registered to accept funded children and it is anticipated the number of childminders looking to deliver early education places could continue to rise.

### **4.9 Childcare for Children Aged 5-11 and During School Holidays**

There have been considerable changes within this sector as 19 of the clubs are relatively new and awaiting their first OfSTED inspection. The total number of Out of School clubs has reduced by 1 to 53 however with the other changes this has created a reduction of approximately 52 places across the borough.

This implies continued demand for this service, it is also worth noting that childcare for children aged 5-11 can also be provided by primary schools who are not included in the above numbers due to lack of data about their service.

### **4.10 Childcare for Disabled Children and Children with Special Educational Needs (SEND)**

The Early Years Provider Development Team provides training and support to childcare settings to enable them to offer inclusive childcare provision. Since October 2013 all providers are able to access SENCO surgeries where they receive guidance to effectively deliver the SEN code of practice. The 2011 sufficiency assessment identified that parents of children with additional needs felt there was not enough childcare available to them. However it also found that many childcare providers were able to support children with disabilities and/or additional needs. There also appeared to be a misconception by parents that mainstream childcare settings could not meet their needs and that only specialist childcare settings could do this. This is an issue that is experienced nationally.

Data provided from the Census 2011 highlights that 3.9 % of children in the borough are identified as having long term health problem or a disability (Age 0 to 15):

	Day-to-day activities limited		Day-to-day activities not limited	
	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Tameside</b>	1,655	3.9	41,053	96.1
<b>East</b>	406	3.6	10,824	96.4
<b>North</b>	387	4.2	8,901	95.8
<b>South</b>	326	3.4	9,219	96.6
<b>West</b>	536	4.2	12,109	95.8

Source: Census 2011

From September 2017, two new measures are being proposed as part of the introduction of the National Funding Formula to support children with disabilities and special education needs:

- Disability Access Fund
- SEN Inclusion Fund

Both measures will be to support providers to make reasonable adjustments and help them better address the needs of individual children to enable them to access their free entitlement.

Further details will be provided during the course of 2017.

#### 4.11 Quality of Childcare

The DfE report “More Great Childcare – Raising Quality and Giving Parents More Choice” (January 2013) set out a plan of action for how the government will achieve its vision of a dynamic childcare market for early education. It emphasizes that good quality childcare is vital to ensuring global success by helping parents back to work and readying children for school and, eventually employment.

The plans in the document are the first step to encourage all providers to learn from the best, and learn from effective practice in other countries. They set out the government’s proposals to build a stronger and more professional early year’s workforce and to drive quality through everything it does. The document outlines the government’s aims to:

- build a stronger, more capable workforce, with more rigorous training and qualifications, led by a growing group of Early Years Teachers;
- drive up quality, with rigorous OfSTED inspection and incentives for providers to improve the skills and knowledge of their staff;
- attract more, high quality providers with new childminder agencies, which will recruit new people, train and guide them and lever up quality in an area of the sector that has lagged behind;
- Free providers to offer more high quality places, with greater flexibility to invest in high-calibre staff and more choice for parents.

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 autumn 2016):

Group Settings and Independent Schools	Data collated Autumn 2012		Data Collated Spring 2014		Data Collated Autumn 2015		Data Collated Autumn 2016	
	Actual	Percentage %						
Inadequate	0	0	3	4.5	1	1.4	0	0
Requires Improvement/Satisfactory	17	24.6	13	19.4	6	8.6	5	7.14
Good	44	63.8	38	56.7	38	54.3	37	52.86
Outstanding	4	5.8	10	14.9	12	17.10	12	17.14
Not Yet Graded	4	5.8	3	4.5	13	18.60	16	22.86

There are 70 group providers in total with approx. 70% rated as good or outstanding which is a slight decrease of 1.40% on the previous year. However the number of providers who are awaiting their first inspection has increased, if these numbers are excluded the figure that are good or outstanding is actually 91%. The number of settings rated inadequate or requires improvement has decreased by 1.46% which highlights continued improvements in quality within this sector

Out of School Clubs	2012		Data Collated in Spring 2014		2015 - Data Collated Autumn		2016 - Data Collated Autumn	
	Actual	Percentage %	Actual	Percentage %	Actual	Percentage %	Actual	Percentage %
Inadequate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Requires Improvement/Satisfactory	20	35	18	32.7	7	13.5	4	7.55
Good	31	54.4	27	49.1	22	42.3	24	45.28
Outstanding	3	5.3	7	12.7	6	11.5	6	11.32
Await 1 <sup>st</sup> Inspection			3	5.5	17	32.7	19	35.85
Exempt	3	5.3	0	0	0	0	0	0

There are 53 Out of School Clubs and some may also be run alongside group provision with 56.66 % rated as good or outstanding which is an increase on the previous year. In addition 35.85% are awaiting their first inspection again if these are excluded the total that are good or outstanding is actually 88%.

Childminders	2012		Data Collated Spring 14		2015- Data Collated Autumn		2016- Data Collated Autumn	
	Actual	Percentage %	Actual	Percentage %	Actual	Percentage %	Actual	Percentage %
Inadequate	2	0.6	8	2.4	3	0.97 %	1	0.35
Requires Improvement/Satisfactory	112	32	81	24.6	46	14.98 %	46	16.14
Good	170	48.60	172	52.3	156	50.8 %	148	51.93
Outstanding	8	2.2	8	2.4	14	4.56 %	12	4.21
Other	58	16.60	60	18.3	88	28.66 %	78	27.37

In total there are 285 childminders within the borough, 56.14% of these are rated good or outstanding, which is an increase of 1.14%. There are a number of childminders banded as 'Other', of which 53 have not yet been inspected, or are classified as 'Met.' Therefore if those awaiting inspection are excluded the total achieving good or outstanding result is actually 69%.

#### 4.12 Affordability of Childcare

Childcare costs vary from area to area within the borough and from type to type however some typical average childcare costs in Tameside collated for the "2016 Childcare Survey for Local Authorities in England" based on a full time attendance e.g. 50 hour 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	£169
Under twos per week attending 25 Hours	£126
Aged 2 plus per week attending 50 hours	£166
Aged 2 plus per week attending 25 Hours	£124

- The most expensive rate for under two's for 25 hours was £155
- The cheapest rate for under two's for 25 hours was £91.25

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

Under twos per week attending 50 Hours	£188
Under twos per week attending 25 Hours	£94
Aged 2 plus per week attending 50 hours	£188
Aged 2 plus per week attending 25 Hours	£94

- The most expensive rate for under two's for 25 hours was £155
- The cheapest rate for under two's for 25 hours was £91.25

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

Out of school club for 15 hours per week	£53.00
A typical weekly costs for childminder's who picks up after school providing care till 6pm	£57.00

According to the Daycare Trust's annual childcare survey 2016 *"the number of English local authorities reporting a shortage of free early education places for 3 and 4 year olds has more than doubled. Over a third of councils are now struggling to meet demand."* In Tameside this does not appear to be the case and currently we are not reporting any difficulties with meeting demand for early education places. Within the key findings of the report it is noted that prices have slowed compared to the previous year and are now increasing in line with inflation. The cost of childcare in the North West when comparing provision in a number of categories shows average weekly childcare costs still remain lower than national average.

The report also highlights a number of areas for urgent action to prevent the extension of free early education up to 30 hours in 2017 being jeopardized; the full report can be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/childcare-survey-2016>

## **Context and Highlighted Extracts from the Summary of the CSA 2011**

The report of 2011 did not highlight any major geographical gaps in the borough however in order to determine the state of the market place a full gap analysis was recommended but given the current level of resources available this is no longer feasible. Where there were geographical gaps these were not necessarily reflected in the demand for places as often gaps can exist where there is a low population of people in a large area.

The report identified that half of the parents surveyed felt that while cost of formal childcare was a consideration, quality, location and opening hours were regarded to be more important.

Parents of disabled children reported that they found childcare expensive. Various reasons were given including personal financial circumstances and situations when providers passed on additional resource costs to parents. Parents of children with disabilities also expressed the view that there was not enough choice of childcare providers that they were confident could safely look after their children. This situation is experienced nationally.

The general opinion of parents and employers is that there was adequate childcare at the times when most people needed it, with the majority using childcare for the working day over Monday to Friday. As expected there is less demand for full week care and limited need for care before 7.30 am or after 6pm.

It was reported that there was an adequate range of childcare for all age ranges although there was less demand for older children. For this age range it was noted there have been some issues with sustainability when expressed demand was not realized resulting in the provision closing in some cases.

## 5. Conclusion

During 2016 the childcare market in Tameside has remained stable, there has been a reduction in the number of childminders, however the number of places within group providers has increased and offset any losses in the childminder sector. Overall number of childcare places available across the borough has increased which impacts positively on parental choice.

As the borough continues to show signs of moving out of the economic downturn there are less people claiming out of work benefits, this could also increase demand for formal childcare.

Further analysis of two year provision has not highlighted any areas for action at this time other than to ensure all ongoing capital projects are completed and additional places are made available as early as possible.

Analysis of the sufficiency of two year places will remain under review and it is planned to undertake a further assessment of places each year. The take up of the free entitlement for three and four year olds is identified at 99%. This is considered to be a high take up and is evident across the borough at maintained, private, voluntary and independent providers.

Changes are noted within the childcare market but overall there has been an increase in group provision and the number of places available. It is anticipated that this is set to continue throughout 2016 with demand for 2 year provision increasing. From the information available no identified gaps in provision have been highlighted other than the requirement to closely monitor places for the two year age range.

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. In particular at the time of concluding the report not all Out of School clubs had responded, however from those that did respond most were reporting vacancies. Without any other anecdotal information to highlight any specific gaps in provision for out of school club places, we have been unable to fully assess sufficiency of places but conclude from the vacancies available that there is sufficient provision.

### **30 Hours Free childcare**

Work to support providers will commence during autumn 2016 to ensure the council can meet its statutory obligation to ensure there are sufficient places for all families who will qualify for the extended entitlement of 30 hours free childcare. At the time of concluding this report we are awaiting the revised Statutory Guidance and National Funding Formula from the DfE, to inform on the final detail of the offer and funding levels for providers.

The Department for Education had awarded the contract to 'Childcare Works' to support early years providers nationally who are considering offering 30 hours free childcare.

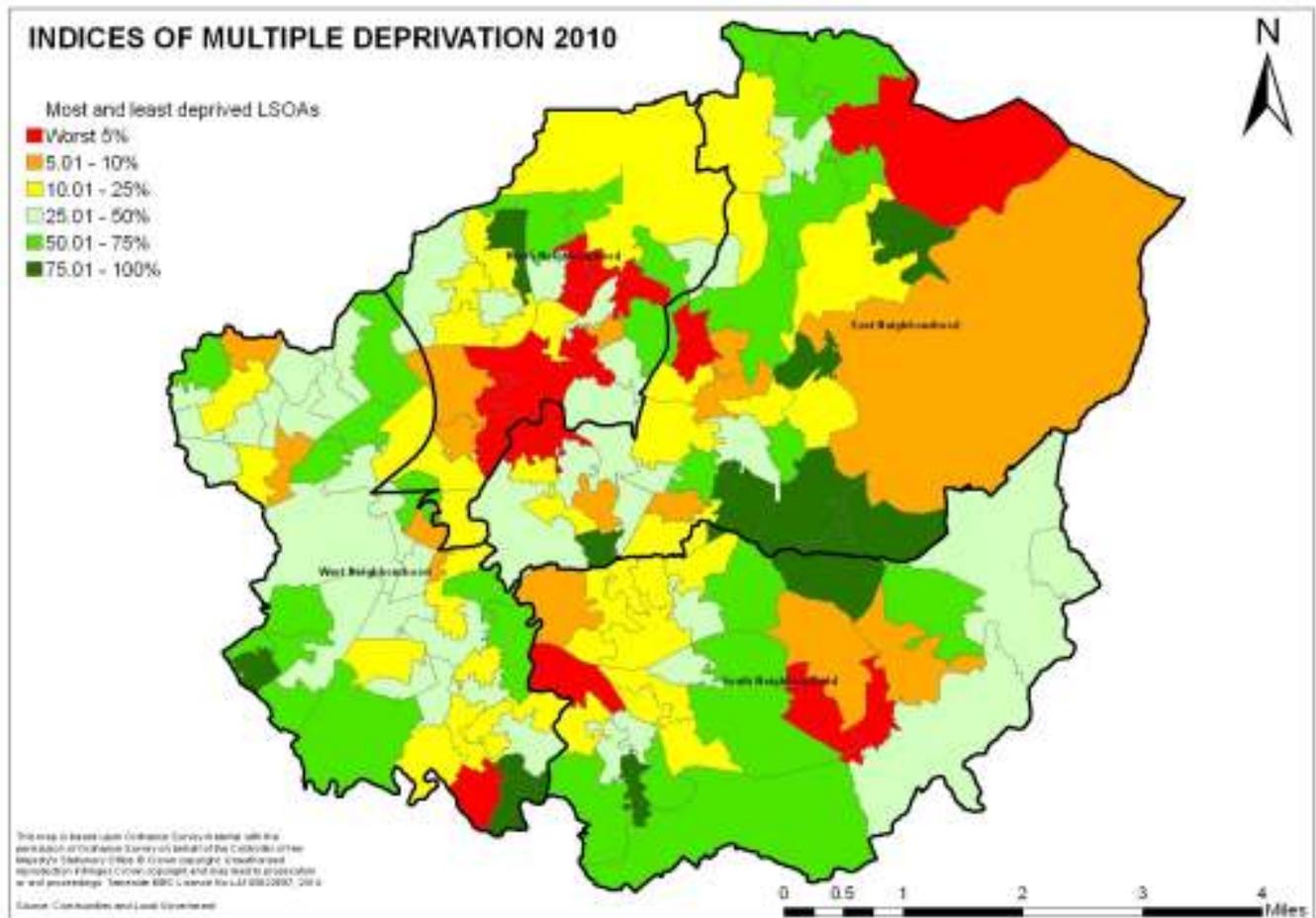
## 6. Recommendations

The report of 2011 and the annual report 2013 did not highlight any major gaps in the borough, the data compiled for this report shows that the position is currently broadly similar. However to ensure sufficiency the following recommendations are suggested:

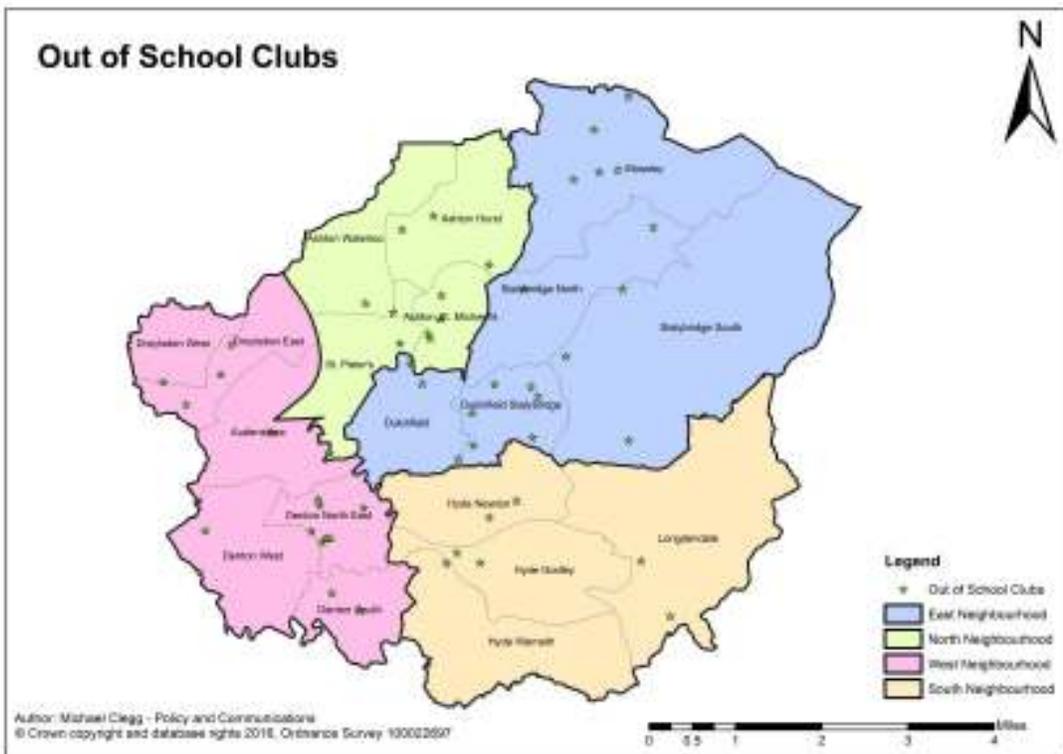
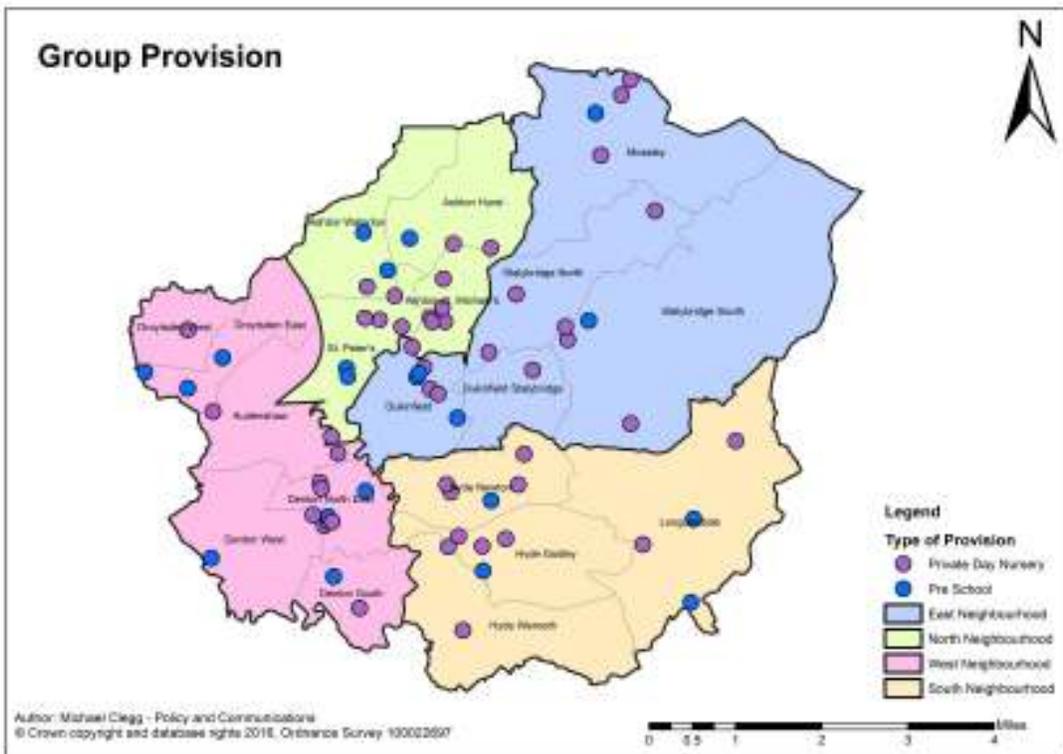
1. To continue to work with all our childcare providers to improve the quality and content of the data provided to inform an annual assessment of childcare available for all age ranges. To report findings and identify a sustainable approach for the longer term annual review of sufficiency of childcare across the borough.
2. Continue to monitor the number of 2 year places across the borough to address any identified gaps. To include an annual assessment of sufficiency which will inform any future place creation required.
3. Develop an action plan in partnership with Early Years Provider Development Team and Finance Team for the implementation of the 30 hours of free childcare and Early Years National Funding Formula which will include an assessment of the sufficiency of the number of places required for families who will qualify.
4. To develop a communication strategy to signpost providers and schools to 'Childcare Works' for support in delivering the 30 hours free childcare
5. To continue to identify strategies to enable providers to become more self-sufficient and responsible for improvement of the quality of their childcare and workforce development.

# 7. Appendices

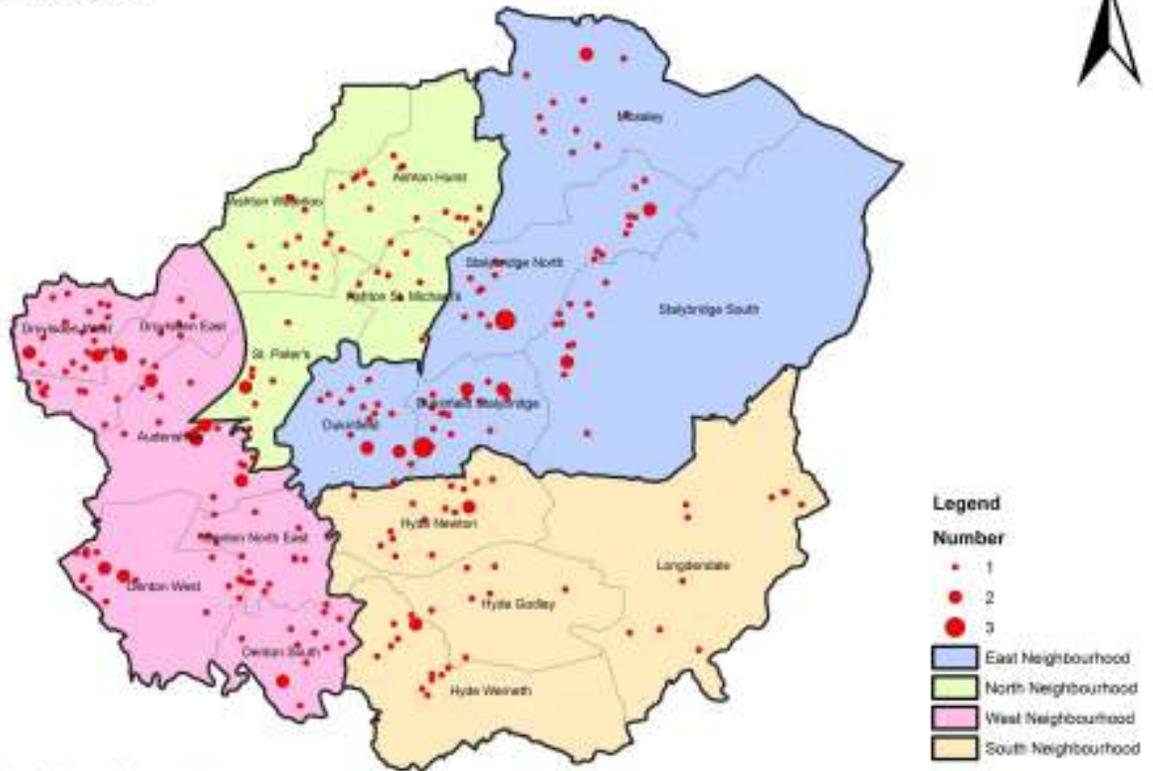
## Appendix 1



Appendix 2



# Childminders



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Appendix 3

