

# **Childcare Sufficiency Annual Report 2017**

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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Guidance for Local Authorities on the Exercise of their Duties Relating to Early Education and Childcare”; this repealed the requirement on Local Authorities to prepare detailed assessments of the sufficiency of provision of childcare in their area, every 3 years.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 (2017) 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 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

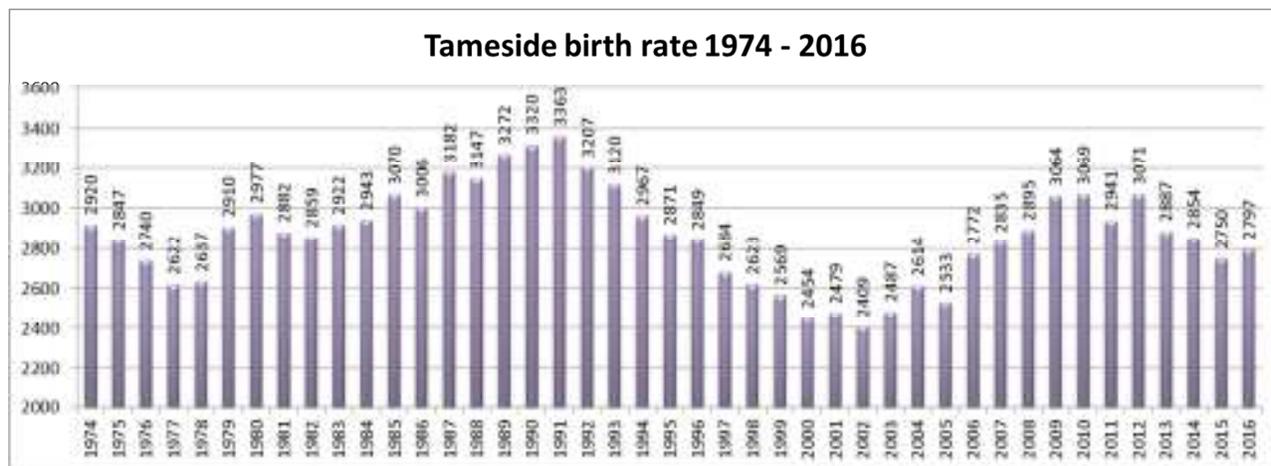
Notably from a childcare demand perspective, approximately 65% of the population is of working age: 16 to 64 years. This figure becomes significant when considered in conjunction with Birth Rate data.

	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 2016 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 2016 the birth rate increased slightly to 2797 which is around the level of births in 2006 which highlights an expected continued downward trend. Based on proportionate data for 2017, 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 2016 and indicates that during 2016 the number of claimants is decreasing in all areas of the borough. When comparing the numbers from December 2015 to December 2016 the number of claimants

has decreased by 285 which is a decrease of 17.86% and indicates a significant reduction in JSA claimants and shows the boroughs continued economic recovery.

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

	March 2016		June 2016		September 2016		December 2016	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Tameside</b>	1,948	1.4	1,773	1.3	1,661	1.2	1,595	1.1
<b>East</b>	514	1.4	463	1.2	424	1.1	393	1.1
<b>North</b>	512	1.7	484	1.6	468	1.6	462	1.6
<b>South</b>	420	1.4	399	1.4	372	1.3	377	1.3
<b>West</b>	493	1.1	414	0.9	382	0.9	343	0.8

Source: NOMIS (ONS)

Data taken from Nomis – official labour market statistics reports

All people – Economically active – Unemployed During the period:

	<b>Tameside</b>	<b>North West</b>	<b>Great Britain</b>
April 2015 – March 2016	5900 5.5%	5.3%	5.1%
April 2016 – March 2017	6100 5.7%	5.1%	4.7%

When comparing this figure to the North West during the same period the percentage is 5.7% indicating that whilst the levels of unemployment in Tameside have reduced significantly since 2011, the level of unemployment in Tameside is higher than both the North West and Great Britain.

This illustrates that the number of adults (aged 16 – 65 years) who are no longer claiming out of work benefits in Tameside; has remained fairly static.

**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 2015 the number claiming out-of-work benefits was 16465 so over a period of 12 months there has been a reduction of 925 which is approximately 5.95%.

Key Out of work Benefits

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<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.

	February 2016		May 2016		August 2016		November 2016	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Tameside</b>	16,320	11.7	15,980	11.4	15,565	11.1	15,540	11.1
<b>East</b>	4,035	10.9	3,960	10.7	3,860	10.4	3,795	10.2
<b>North</b>	4,285	14.6	4,190	14.2	4,070	13.8	4,080	13.9
<b>South</b>	3,615	12.3	3,605	12.3	3,460	11.8	3,480	11.9
<b>West</b>	4,385	10.0	4,225	9.7	4,175	9.5	4,185	9.6

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.

	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

Source: Census 2011

### 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 2017 66% 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 3 percent on the previous year. The National Average for 2016 was 69% which has increased to 71% in 2017 which is an increase of 2 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 2016 67% of children achieved a good level of development which has increased to 68% in 2017 which is a 1 percent increase overall therefore Tameside has achieved above the percentage increase of growth of 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 minor changes since the last annual sufficiency report completed in 2016, overall the childcare market and the number of childcare places has remained fairly stable. With the introduction of 30 hours free childcare from September 2017 for eligible parents, it is anticipated that the childcare market will evolve to meet demand. Further analysis of the sufficiency of current 2 year and 30 hour provision in the borough is detailed later in this report.

Type	2014	2015	2016	2017	Difference + -
Childminders	329	308	285	280	-5
Pre-school playgroups	22	21	21	20	-1
Private nurseries	45	48	49	51	+2
Out of school clubs	55	54	53	57	+4
Maintained School Nursery Classes	64	65	66	66	-

(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	2014 Number of Providers	2014 No of Places	2015 Number of Providers	2015 No of Places	2016 No of Providers	2016 No of Places	2017 No of Providers	2017 No of Places
PDN	12	881	13	1040	12	994	11	977
Childminder	47	141	52	156	46	138	51	153
Playgroup/ Pre-School	3	86	5	167	5	167	6	213
Out of School (Registered)	12	306	12	317	10	265	10	275
Maintained	15	494	16	554	16	554	16	598
<b>Totals</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>1908</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>2174</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2118</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>2216</b>

In Ashton there is an increase in the number of childminders and pre-school/playgroups however a reduction in numbers and places for private day nurseries. Overall provision and the total number of places available have increased in this area.

### Denton/Droylsden/Audenshaw Area

Type	2014 Number of Providers	2014 No of Places	2015 Number of Providers	2015 No of Places	2016 Number of Providers	2016 No of Places	2017 No of Providers	2017 No of Places
PDN	10	846	9	793	11	853	12	931
Childminder	130	390	117	351	109	327	108	324
Playgroup/ Pre-School	7	213	7	275	7	275	7	275
Out of School	21	584	16	440	17	440	19	475
Maintained	18	728	18	728	18	728	18	780
<b>Totals</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>2761</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>2587</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>2623</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>2785</b>

This area has seen an increase in the number of private day nurseries and out of school clubs. Overall the total number of places available in this area has also increased.

### Dukinfield/Stalybridge/Mossley Area

Type	2014 Number of Providers	2014 No of Places	2015 Number of Providers	2015 No of Places	2016 Number of Providers	2016 No of Places	2017 No of Providers	2017 No of Places
PDN	13	871	13	896	15	1076	17	1216
Childminder	93	279	91	273	84	252	80	240
Playgroup/ Pre-School	8	207	5	133	5	133	4	97
Out of School	16	481	19	532	19	532	19	544
Maintained	17	572	17	572	17	572	17	546
<b>Totals</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>2410</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>2406</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>2565</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>2643</b>

In this area there is an increase in the number of private day nurseries, however the number of childminders, preschools/playgroups and out of school clubs has decreased. Despite this decrease with the increase to private day nurseries the overall effect is an increase in the total number of places available in this area.

### Hyde/Longdendale

Type	2014 Number of Providers	2014 No of Places	2015 Number of Providers	2015 No of Places	2015 Number of Providers	2015 No of Places	2017 No of Providers	2017 No of Places
PDN	9	469	13	814	11	804	11	804
Childminder	59	177	48	144	46	138	41	123
Playgroup/ Pre-School	4	122	4	122	4	122	3	77
Out of School	6	191	7	179	7	179	9	208
Maintained	14	520	14	520	15	546	15	494
<b>Totals</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>1479</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>1779</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>1789</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>1706</b>

In this area there has been a closure of a preschool and a reduction in the number of childminders, therefore the overall number of provision and places that are available across the area has decreased.

## Totals for Tameside

Type	2014 Number of Providers	2014 No of Places	2015 Number of Providers	2015 No of Places	2016 Number of Providers	2016 No of Places	2017 No of Providers	2017 No of Places
PDN	45	3067	48	3543	49	3727	51	3928
Childminder	329	987	308	924	285	855	280	840
Playgroup/ Pre-School	22	628	21	697	21	697	20	662
Out of School	55	1562	54	1468	53	1416	57	1502
Maintained	64	2314	65	2374	66	2400	66	2418
<b>Totals</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>8558</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>9006</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>9095</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>9350</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 four Out of School Clubs. This highlights that the childcare market is evolving continually. A further two new group providers have opened since the data was collated which will also 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 2016 the Families Information Service (FIS) received a total of 1780 enquiries of various types. Of these 1194 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 93% of the enquiries, which highlights continued demand for formal childcare.

On analysis of the short enquiries where full details were not provided, 84% of this type of enquiry related to childcare, nursery education, 2 Year Funded places or from childcare providers.

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 November 2016 and 31 October 2017 approximately 672 questionnaires were sent out via email, of these 83% related to 2 year funding and free early education and 17% related to childcare. The response rate for returns to date has been very low as only a very small number of questionnaires were returned during the same period. In total 10 forms were returned but only 3 of these provided feedback on the success of their search which is only a 1.6% 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 the period of 1 November 2016 and 31 October 2017 a total of 3 questionnaires were returned to the Families Information Service.

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

From the feedback questionnaires returned, all indicated that they found their preferred childcare choice, with all also indicating the childcare selected, met all their requirements.

Feedback suggests that there were several factors that affected customer's choices for childcare and most enquirers indicated multiple factors, all indicated their search was affected by cost, opening hours, location and quality of provision, however one also indicated the choice was determined by vacancy availability.

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

Of the questionnaires returned all found their preferred choice of childcare.

## **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 FIS service provided.

During the period of 1 November 2016 and 31 October 2017, the customer comments forms were completed and returned by 10 customers. Of those, 90% of the customers rated the FIS service as excellent and 10% as good.

100% 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.

Customers found out about the FIS service in various ways, including recommendations by friends, where they had used the service before or referred via a childcare provider.

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, 30% indicated a suggestion to advertise the service.

70% of customers found that the information and advice offered, helped them to make a decision about their family life.

40% 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:

- 'Very helpful advice and pleasant to deal with'
- 'My enquiry was dealt with swiftly and very efficiently and I have used this service numerous times over the last 15 years'

#### 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 2017 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>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	96%	97%	99%	98%	99%	99%

Take up for 2 year funding remains similar term on term, which is very positive. There are no reported issues with families having difficulties accessing places and with the addition of new providers potentially offering places by the end of 2017, there appears to be plenty of choice and opportunity for parents 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>	86%

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 2017, two additional capital projects were completed from funding made available by the Department for Education (DfE) for the creation of new 2 year old provision. Both schemes were prioritised in geographic locations where more places were required. Both settings are now open and offering part time 2 year old places (15 hours), in the following areas:

- Droylsden
- Longdendale

A detailed assessment of the number of two year places was collated during summer 2017 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. In Tameside we have a high take up of places which is monitored term on term

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

- Potentially eligible families identified by the DfE during April 2017 by ward
- Total number of vacancies – Supplied from all group providers delivering free early education (Summer 17)
- Total number of 2 year olds attending provision by ward area (summer 17)

All ward areas were showing vacancies but a number of areas indicated minimal places available at the time of the audit e.g.

- Droylsden East and West
- Longdendale
- Denton West
- 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.

**Droylsden East and West** - additional 2 Year old places have now been created in this area which will provide much needed places. There is still one capital project that whilst approved has not been able to progress and will be reviewed. Places within the wards of Droylsden will continue to be monitored.

**Longdendale** - additional 2 Year old places have now been created in this area which will provide much needed places. Places within the wards of Longdendale will continue to be monitored.

**Denton West** - vacancy levels in Denton West were low but there were large surpluses in both other wards of Denton.

**Stalybridge North** - in Stalybridge based on the number of families who were potentially eligible there appeared to be sufficient places available, assuming all families took up a place but there were vacancies in the neighbouring ward of Dukinfield/Stalybridge.

The data also highlighted that not all families take up their place within the ward in which they live, 11% of parents migrated into provision in other wards.

Further analysis was obtained to ascertain how families were taking up their places across Tameside and whether they chose provision located in their home ward or elsewhere in the borough. This data highlights that during the summer term which is the busiest of the 3, on average 78% of families took up a place within the ward in which they live whereas 17% travelled to a neighbouring ward. The remainder which is around 5% is families who reside outside of Tameside but have chosen to take their 2 year place here.

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

No further action is planned for place creation in Longdendale area.

In the Droylsden area a review of the outstanding capital project is planned and the number of childcare places will be monitored including vacancies and take up of places by ward area.

The areas for Denton West and Stalybridge will also be monitored.

At the close of 2017 approximately 120 childminders were registered to accept funded children and the number of childminders looking to deliver early education places continues to rise.

## **4.9 30 Hours Free Childcare**

From 1<sup>st</sup> 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 also renew their eligibility regularly as per their renewal dates. Further information can be located on the HMRC <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

During the first term approximately 1100 families took up some or all of their additional entitlement either via their Private, Voluntary or Independent provider or via their school nursery, as approximately 26 of the 66 primary schools with a nursery are delivering the offer.

## **Further Action**

There is no detailed statistical data available on qualifying numbers for 30 hours, so careful termly monitoring will be needed to see where and how families are taking up their place. Also as predominantly this offer is aimed at working parents/carers to monitor how far parents are travelling from home to a provider e.g. they may source childcare near work or to extended families. During summer term which is expected to have the highest take up, to monitor the overall sufficiency of places and whether there are any gaps in provision.

From very early initial data this has highlighted overall that 52% of families accessed provision outside of their home ward which will impact on assessment of places as a wider search area is considered.

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

In Tameside at the time of analysis the number of Out of School clubs had increased to 57 clubs, indicating an increase in the overall number of places in the borough by 86 places.

### **Maximum Number of Full and Part Time places for 4-8 year olds in School Holidays**

Compared to 2016, the total number of full time places for 4-8 year olds in school holidays decreased by 3% across the borough.

Compared to 2016, the total number of part time places for 4-8 year olds in school holidays increased by 13% across the borough.

### **Maximum Number of Full Time and Part Time places for 8 year olds and over in School Holidays**

Compared to 2016, the total number of full time places for 8 year olds and over in school holidays increased by 19% across the borough.

Compared to 2016, the total number of part time places for 8 year olds and over in school holidays increased by 16% across the borough.

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

## **4.11 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 a 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 have been introduced to support children with disabilities and special education needs:

- Disability Access Fund
- SEN Inclusion Fund

Both measures are 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.

## 4.12 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 2017):

Group Settings and Independent Schools	Data Collated Spring 2014		Data Collated Autumn 2015		Data Collated Autumn 2016		Data Collated Autumn 2017	
	Actual	Percentage %						
Inadequate	3	4.5	1	1.4	0	0	1	1.41
Requires Improvement/Satisfactory	13	19.4	6	8.6	5	7.14	4	5.63
Good	38	56.7	38	54.3	37	52.86	40	56.34
Outstanding	10	14.9	12	17.10	12	17.14	12	16.90
Not Yet Graded	3	4.5	13	18.60	16	22.86	14	19.72

There are 71 group providers in total with approximately 73% rated as good or outstanding, which is an increase on the previous year. The number of providers who are awaiting their first inspection has decreased by 3.14%. If these numbers were excluded, the total achieving good or outstanding is 91%. The number of settings rated inadequate or requires improvement has decreased by 1.51% which highlights continued improvements in quality within this sector.

Out of School Clubs	Data Collated in Spring 2014		Data Collated Autumn 2015		Data Collated Autumn 2016		Data Collated Summer 2017	
	Actual	Percentage %	Actual	Percentage %	Actual	Percentage %	Actual	Percentage %
Inadequate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Requires Improvement/Satisfactory	18	32.7	7	13.5	4	7.55	2	3.51
Good	27	49.1	22	42.3	24	45.28	29	50.88
Outstanding	7	12.7	6	11.5	6	11.32	8	14.04
Await 1 <sup>st</sup> Inspection	3	5.5	17	32.7	19	35.85	18	31.58
Exempt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

There are 57 Out of School Clubs and some may also run alongside group provision, with 64.92% rated as good or outstanding, which is an increase on the previous year. In addition 31.58% are awaiting their first inspection. Again if these were excluded, the total achieving good or outstanding is 95%, an overall increase on the previous year.

Childminders	Data Collated Spring 14		Data Collated Autumn 2015		Data Collated Autumn 2016		Data Collated Summer 2017	
	Actual	Percentage %	Actual	Percentage %	Actual	Percentage %	Actual	Percentage %
Inadequate	8	2.4	3	0.97 %	1	0.35	9	3.21
Requires Improvement/Satisfactory	81	24.6	46	14.98 %	46	16.14	13	4.64
Good	172	52.3	156	50.8 %	148	51.93	174	62.14
Outstanding	8	2.4	14	4.56 %	12	4.21	12	4.29
Other	60	18.3	88	28.66 %	78	27.37	72	25.71

**Included in Inadequate are 7 childminders classed as not met (require actions)**

In total there are 280 childminders within the borough, a decrease on the previous year. 66.43% of the childminders are rated as good or outstanding, which is an increase of 18.33%. There are a number of childminders branded as 'Other', of which 72 have not yet been inspected, or are classed as 'Met'. Therefore if those awaiting inspection are excluded, the total achieving a good or outstanding result is actually 76%, an increase on the previous year.

Schools	Data Collated Summer 16	
	Actual	Percentage %
Inadequate	0	0
Requires Improvement	10	15.15
Good	43	65.15
Outstanding	5	7.58
New Academy	8	12.12

In total there are 66 schools within the borough that have a nursery class, of these 72.73% are rated good or outstanding.

In total there are 66 schools within the borough, 34.85% of which are offering the 30 hours free childcare for 3/4 year olds from September 2017. Of the 34.85% of schools offering the 30 hours free childcare, 78.26% of those are rated as good or outstanding.

Schools	30 Hours	
	Actual	Percentage %
Yes	23	34.85
No	43	65.15

## 4.13 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 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	£174
Under twos per week attending 25 Hours	£127
Aged 2 plus per week attending 50 hours	£172
Aged 2 plus per week attending 25 Hours	£125

- 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	£188.50
Under twos per week attending 25 Hours	£94.50
Aged 2 plus per week attending 50 hours	£188.50
Aged 2 plus per week attending 25 Hours	£94.50

- The most expensive rate for under two's for 25 hours was £155
- The cheapest rate for under two's for 25 hours was £97.50

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

Out of school club for 15 hours per week	£51.00
A typical weekly cost for childminder's who pick up after school providing care till 6pm	£57.50

According to the Daycare Trust's annual childcare survey 2017 *"there is some reprieve for families as nursery prices held steady and childminder prices rose just above inflation at 1.9 per cent but this is scarce relief for families who can be spending up to 45 per cent of their disposable income on average childcare cost"*. However it also reports that costs are not the only problem as many parents can't find the childcare they need and reporting that in England only half of areas have enough childcare for parents working full time. In Tameside the childcare prices recorded for 2017 do appear to reflect this statement and at the time this report was collated we are not reporting any difficulties with meeting demand for early education places. Within the key findings it confirms that 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 that there are questions about the operation of the 30 hour entitlement, with many local authorities having significant concerns on availability and market stability. This is an area that will require monitoring and assessment to evaluate take up of the offer and parents ability to access suitable provision.

## **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 realised resulting in the provision closing in some cases.

## **5. Conclusion**

During 2017 the childcare market in Tameside has again remained stable, there has been a small 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 the number of childcare places available across the borough has increased which impacts positively on parental choice.

Further analysis of two year provision hasn't 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. Since last years assessment only one of the projects has completed.

Analysis of the sufficiency of two year places will remain under review and further consideration will be given to the remaining capital project to ensure its progress to completion. 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. 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 analyse take up of 30 hour places will be considered termly and take account of a number of options.

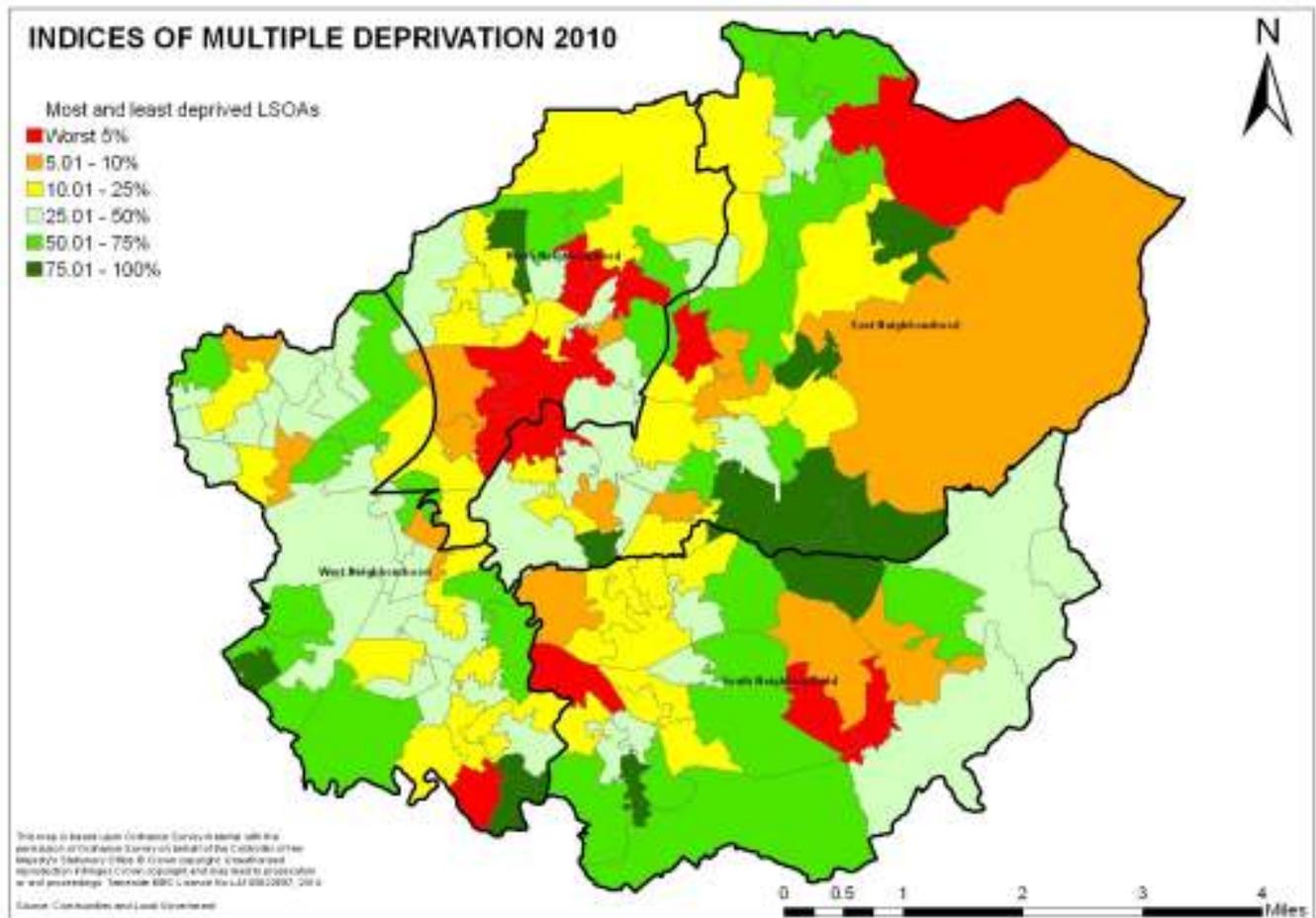
## **6. Recommendations**

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:

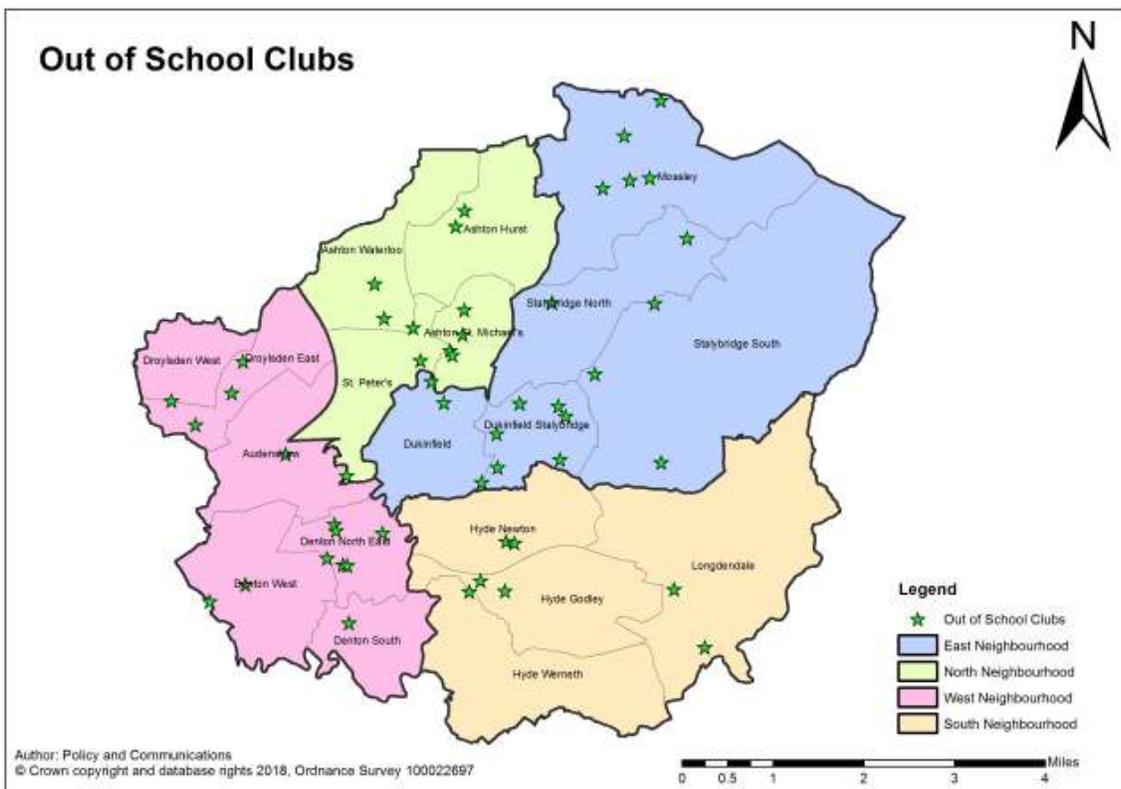
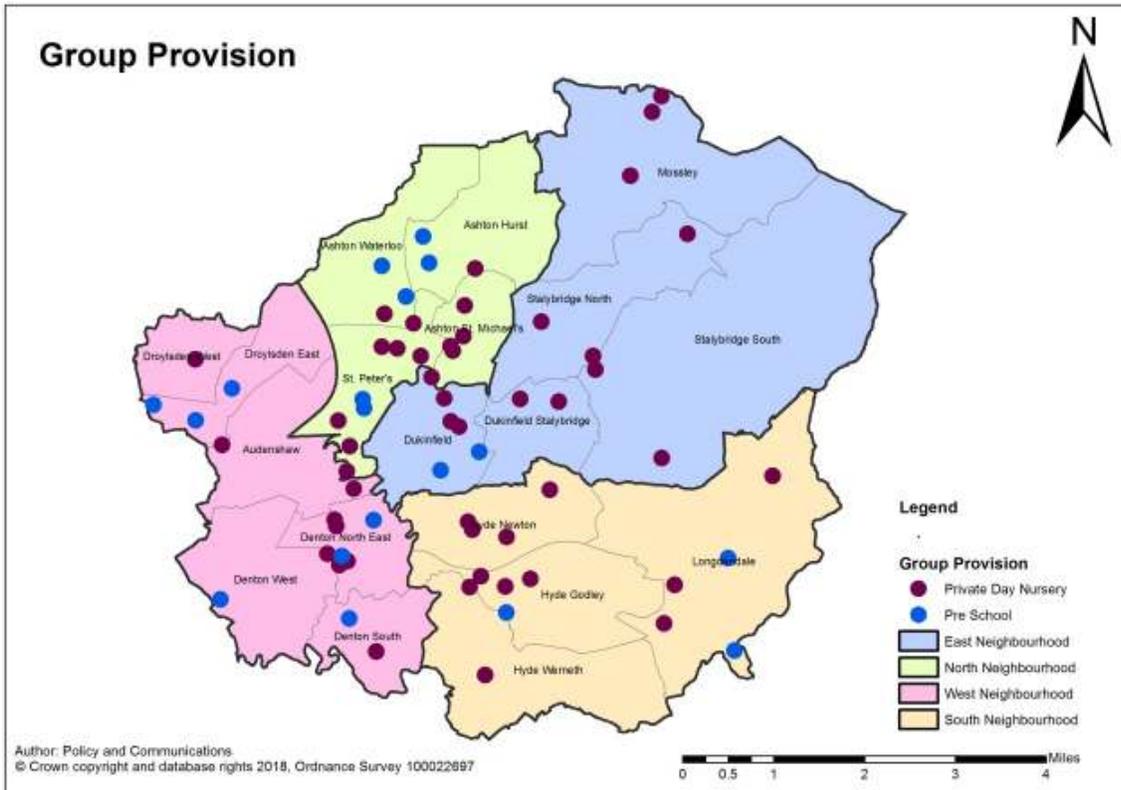
1. To continue to work with all our childcare providers to improve the quality and content of the data provided to inform an annual assessment of childcare available for all age ranges. To report findings and identify a sustainable approach for the longer term annual review of sufficiency of childcare 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. Review place take up of 30 hours and analyse the sufficiency of the number of places required for families who will qualify
4. To continue to offer a range of support to all providers around the delivery of 30 hours free childcare until the new offer is embedded
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

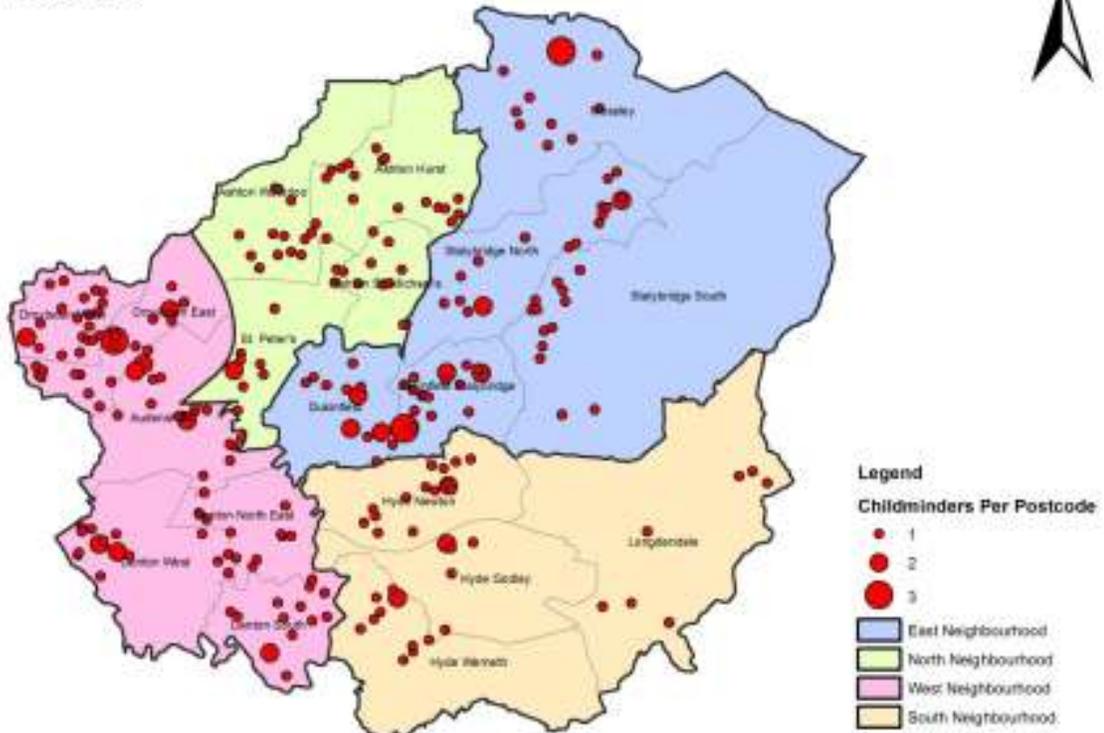
## Appendix 1



## Appendix 2



# Childminders



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Appendix 3

