

# **Childcare Sufficiency Annual Report 2014**

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Guidance for Local Authorities on the Exercise of their Duties Relating to Early Education and Childcare”; this repealed the requirement on Local Authorities to prepare assessments of the sufficiency of provision of childcare in their area, every 3 years.

This is replaced with a duty to secure sufficient childcare so far is 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 (2013) 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. This has not changed significantly since the last report.

|                 | 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 Area
- East - Mossley, Stalybridge, Dukinfield
- South - Hyde and Longdendale
- West - Denton, Droylsden, Audenshaw

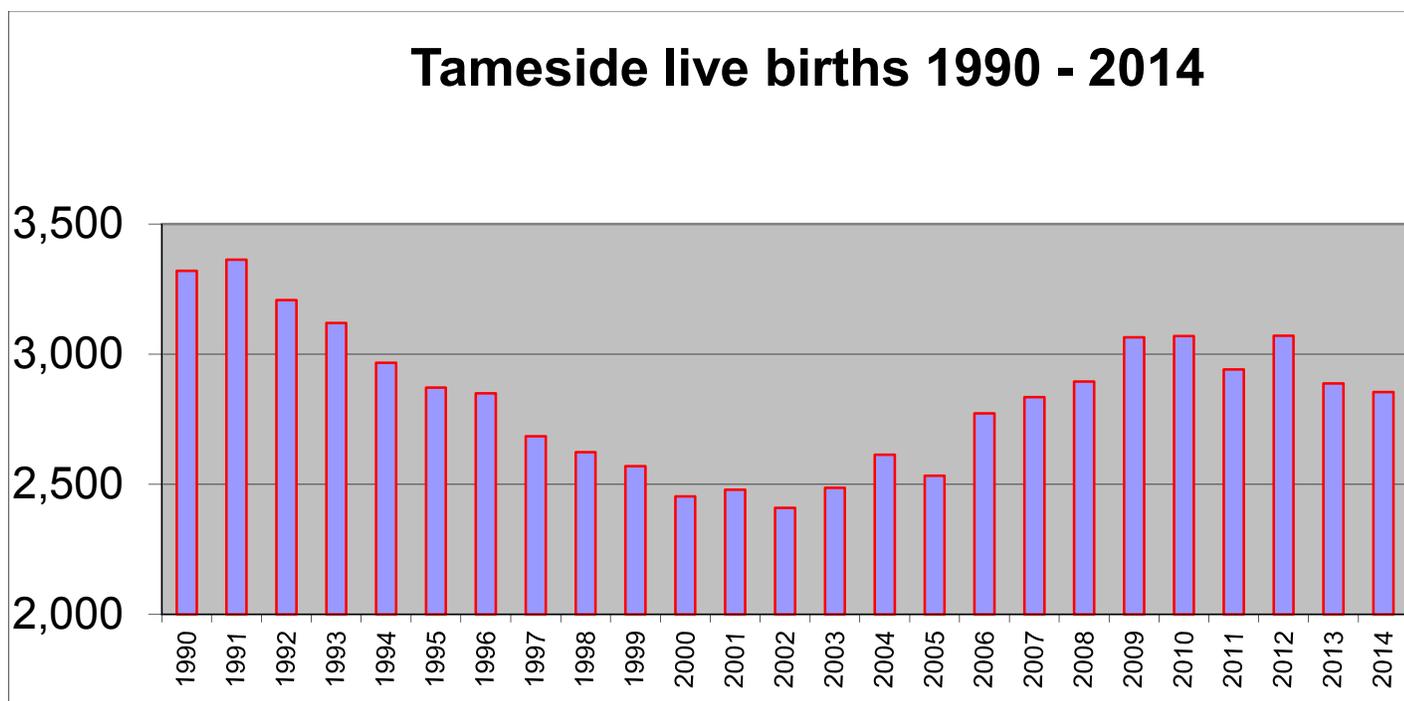
Notably from a childcare demand perspective, approximately 65% of the population is of working age: 16 to 64 years. This figure becomes significant when considered in conjunction with Birth Rate data.

|                 | 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 2014 and illustrates there has been an upward trend for births across the borough from 2005 onwards, which has an impact on demand for childcare places for early years and school age children. The current trend for the last 2 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.



### 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 2013 and indicates that during 2013 the number of claimants is decreasing in all areas of the borough which indicates that Tameside is now showing signs of recovery.

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

|                 | March 2013 |     | June 2013 |     | September 2013 |     | December 2013 |     |
|-----------------|------------|-----|-----------|-----|----------------|-----|---------------|-----|
|                 | No.        | %   | No.       | %   | No.            | %   | No.           | %   |
| <b>Tameside</b> | 7187       | 5.1 | 6606      | 4.7 | 5791           | 4.1 | 4888          | 3.5 |
| <b>East</b>     | 1848       | 4.9 | 1758      | 4.7 | 1552           | 4.1 | 1296          | 3.5 |
| <b>North</b>    | 1852       | 6.3 | 1608      | 5.5 | 1352           | 4.6 | 1116          | 3.8 |
| <b>South</b>    | 1546       | 5.3 | 1492      | 5.1 | 1345           | 4.6 | 1177          | 4.0 |
| <b>West</b>     | 1941       | 4.4 | 1748      | 4.0 | 1542           | 3.5 | 1299          | 2.9 |

Source: NOMIS (ONS)

Data received via Job Centre Plus compares the numbers of JSA claimants over the last 4 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

This illustrates that despite minor fluctuations in the number of claimants from 2010 until 2013 overall there has been a significant reduction - some 2625 adults (aged 16 – 65 years) who are no longer claiming out of work benefits, this is a significant reduction when comparing to the previous year.

## 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 2012 the number claiming out of work benefits was 26700 so over a period of 12 months there has been a reduction of 6865 which is approximately 25.7%.

|                 | February 2013 |      | May 2013 |      | August 2013 |      | November 2013 |      |
|-----------------|---------------|------|----------|------|-------------|------|---------------|------|
|                 | No.           | %    | No.      | %    | No.         | %    | No.           | %    |
| <b>Tameside</b> | 22580         | 16.1 | 21700    | 15.5 | 20835       | 14.8 | 19835         | 14.1 |
| <b>East</b>     | 5490          | 14.6 | 5350     | 14.2 | 5180        | 13.8 | 4865          | 13.0 |
| <b>North</b>    | 5905          | 20.1 | 5605     | 19.1 | 5320        | 18.1 | 5015          | 17.1 |
| <b>South</b>    | 4915          | 16.8 | 4795     | 16.4 | 4650        | 15.9 | 4485          | 15.3 |
| <b>West</b>     | 6270          | 14.2 | 5950     | 13.5 | 5685        | 12.9 | 5470          | 12.4 |

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

<sup>1</sup> Key out-of-work benefits consists 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 not available by areas. In July 2014 52% 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, which highlights that 48% of children were below this level. This is not dissimilar to statistical neighbours and strategies are in place across partners and agencies to address this situation.

## 4. Review of the Local Childcare Market

### 4.1 Childcare Supply

The total number of childcare provision that is currently available has not changed dramatically since the last annual sufficiency report completed in March 2013.

The most significant change is that there has been an increase in group provision and an overall reduction of childminder numbers approx. 9.72%, which account for the biggest change. However with the impending implementation of free early education for targeted two year olds and capital monies being made available for 2 year place creation it is anticipated that the childcare market will naturally expand to accommodate these children over the coming 12 -18 months. (See section 4.8 for a more detailed description around the need for additional 2 year places within the borough.).

| Type                  | 2011 | 2012 | 2014 | Difference + - |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|----------------|
| Childminders          | 363  | 361  | 329  | -32            |
| Pre-school playgroups | 25   | 22   | 22   | -              |
| Private nurseries     | 36   | 39   | 45   | +6             |
| Out of school clubs   | 54   | 55   | 55   | -              |

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

## 4.2 Breakdown of Current Childcare by Area

### Ashton Area

| Type                       | 2008 Number of Providers | 2010 Number of Providers | 2010 No's of Places | 2013 Number of Providers | 2013 No's of Places | 2014 Number of Providers | 2014 No's of Places |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| PDN                        | 9                        | 8                        | 651                 | 11                       | 830                 | 12                       | 881                 |
| Childminder                | 57                       | 46                       | 125 (0-5)           | 51                       | 153                 | 47                       | 141                 |
| Playgroup/ Pre-School      | 2                        | 2                        | 78                  | 2                        | 42                  | 3                        | 86                  |
| Out of School (Registered) | 16                       | 11                       | 392                 | 12                       | 306                 | 12                       | 306                 |
| Maintained                 | 15                       | 15                       | 580                 | 15                       | 494                 | 15                       | 494                 |
| <b>Totals</b>              | <b>82</b>                | <b>82</b>                | <b>1826</b>         | <b>81</b>                | <b>1825</b>         | <b>88</b>                | <b>1908</b>         |

Within the Ashton area there are minimal changes, there is a reduction in the number of childminders but overall the number of places available has increased which is due to 2 new group providers. It is anticipated that numbers will alter across 2014 with the creation of new 2 year provision.

### Denton/Droylsden/Audenshaw

| Type                  | 2008 Number of Providers | 2010 Number of Providers | 2010 No's of Places | 2013 Number of Providers | 2013 No's of Place | 2014 Number of Providers | 2014 No's of Place |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| PDN                   | 10                       | 10                       | 697                 | 10                       | 783                | 10                       | 846                |
| Childminder           | 150                      | 139                      | 369                 | 142                      | 426                | 130                      | 390                |
| Playgroup/ Pre-School | 11                       | 7                        | 203                 | 8                        | 230                | 7                        | 213                |
| Out of School         | 19                       | 12                       | 446                 | 21                       | 584                | 21                       | 584                |
| Maintained            | 18                       | 18                       | 828                 | 18                       | 728                | 18                       | 728                |
| <b>Totals</b>         | <b>208</b>               | <b>186</b>               | <b>2729</b>         | <b>199</b>               | <b>2751</b>        | <b>186</b>               | <b>2761</b>        |

Again this area has remained largely the same with the exception of a reduction in childminders however some of the existing group provision has expanded their places so overall number of places available in this area has slightly increased.

### Dukinfield/Stalybridge/Mossley

| Type                  | 2008<br>Number<br>of<br>Providers | 2010<br>Number<br>of<br>Providers | 2010<br>No's of<br>Places | 2013<br>Number<br>of<br>Providers | 2013<br>No's of<br>Place | 2014<br>Number<br>of<br>Providers | 2014<br>No's of<br>Place |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| PDN                   | 6                                 | 8                                 | 668                       | 11                                | 880                      | 13                                | 871                      |
| Childminder           | 131                               | 112                               | 285                       | 99                                | 297                      | 93                                | 279                      |
| Playgroup/ Pre-School | 7                                 | 8                                 | 210                       | 8                                 | 232                      | 8                                 | 207                      |
| Out of School         | 13                                | 11                                | 421                       | 16                                | 481                      | 16                                | 481                      |
| Maintained            | 17                                | 17                                | 669                       | 17                                | 572                      | 17                                | 572                      |
| <b>Totals</b>         | <b>174</b>                        | <b>156</b>                        | <b>2253</b>               | <b>151</b>                        | <b>2462</b>              | <b>147</b>                        | <b>2410</b>              |

In this area there are minimal changes with the exception of a reduction in pre-schools playgroups however this is due to a number of these changing categories to offering full day care. Numbers of childminders has reduced which has affected overall places available in this area.

### Hyde/Longdendale

| Type                  | 2008<br>Number<br>of<br>Providers | 2010<br>Number<br>of<br>Providers | 2010<br>No's of<br>Places | 2013<br>Number<br>of<br>Providers | 2013<br>No's of<br>Place | 2014<br>Number<br>of<br>Providers | 2014<br>No's of<br>Places |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| PDN                   | 6                                 | 7                                 | 376                       | 7                                 | 412                      | 9                                 | 469                       |
| Childminder           | 63                                | 71                                | 212                       | 69                                | 207                      | 59                                | 177                       |
| Playgroup/ Pre-School | 10                                | 6                                 | 131                       | 4                                 | 95                       | 4                                 | 122                       |
| Out of School         | 11                                | 3                                 | 80                        | 6                                 | 191                      | 6                                 | 191                       |
| Maintained            | 14                                | 14                                | 598                       | 14                                | 520                      | 14                                | 520                       |
| <b>Totals</b>         | <b>104</b>                        | <b>101</b>                        | <b>1397</b>               | <b>100</b>                        | <b>1525</b>              | <b>91</b>                         | <b>1479</b>               |

In this area we have seen 2 new day nurseries open across this year and expansion within the pre-school playgroup places available, however with a reduction in childminders the number of overall places that are available across the area has decreased slightly.

## Totals for Tameside

| Type                  | 2008<br>Number of<br>Providers | 2010<br>Number of<br>Providers | 2010<br>No's of<br>Places | 2013<br>Number of<br>Providers | 2013<br>No's of<br>Places | 2014<br>Number of<br>Providers | 2014<br>No's of<br>Places |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| PDN                   | 31                             | 33                             | 2392                      | 39                             | 2905                      | 45                             | 3067                      |
| Childminder           | 401                            | 368                            | 991                       | 361                            | 1083                      | 329                            | 987                       |
| Playgroup/ Pre-School | 30                             | 23                             | 622                       | 22                             | 599                       | 22                             | 628                       |
| Out of School         | 59                             | 37                             | 1339                      | 55                             | 1562                      | 55                             | 1562                      |
| Maintained            | 64                             | 64                             | 2675                      | 64                             | 2314                      | 64                             | 2314                      |
| <b>Totals</b>         | <b>585</b>                     | <b>525</b>                     | <b>8019</b>               | <b>541</b>                     | <b>8463</b>               | <b>515</b>                     | <b>8558</b>               |

Overall across the borough the total number of places available has increased slightly due to an increase in Day care and expansion of pre-school Playgroup places. This highlights that the childcare market is evolving as at the time of this report being finalized the capital programme for 2 year place creation had not been finalized; expectations are that there will be significant changes over the next few years which will have a positive outcome on parental choice for childcare. The number of childminder places is an estimated number based on each childminder having the ability to take 3 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 2013 the Families Information Service (FIS) received a total of 4443 calls. Of these 933 were named enquiries where full details were taken. A further breakdown confirmed that the majority of the named enquiries related to more than one topic but in particular they related to childcare, nursery education or to find out about leisure within the borough.

Approximately 1242 of the total calls related to the Youth and Family Service queries or referrals and some of these could be attributed to the fact that FIS no longer provides an outreach service.

FIS routinely send out “request feedback” questionnaires in relation to childcare enquiries and during the period 1<sup>st</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013, 465 were issued and 57 were completed and returned.

From the questionnaires families reported that 88% successfully found their preferred choice of childcare. The reasons cited for not finding childcare were:

- No availability at their preferred choice
- Not able to offer drop off and pick up from their local primary school
- Childcare Costs

Parents are still reporting that quality, location, opening hours and cost are important factors when choosing childcare.

## **4.4 Parental Questionnaires**

As a matter of course the Families Information Service (FIS) 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 2014, 54 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.

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

From the feedback 88% of customers found their preferred childcare choice, with the same customers also saying the childcare met all their requirements.

Enquiries feedback that there were several factors that affected customers' choices for childcare, with 24% of customers being affected by cost, 30% of customers being influenced by location, 18% of customers affected by quality of provision, 21% of customers affected by opening hours and hours required, 5% reported their choice was based on choosing a childcare provider as it was the only available with a vacancy.

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

54% of enquiries were searching for a child minder, with 71% of the enquirers wanting part time childcare.

There were various reasons for customer's not finding childcare, with the most common reasons being that the enquirer childcare requirements were not met - 32%, some of the main reasons for this were around the childminders' ability to pick up or drop off at a chosen primary school, childcare costs, or the provider had no vacancies. A further 32% of enquirers reported that they had not started to look into finding childcare at the time they completed the feedback.

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

Of the questionnaires returned a small number were received in relation to a search for Free Entitlement Funding.

Of those received the majority had found their preferred choice of provision with some being able to access it immediately.

## **4.6 Parental Questionnaires - Service**

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

During 2013, the customer comments forms were completed and returned by 22 customers. Of those 91% of the customers rated the FIS service as excellent, with only 1 person saying the information and advice did not meet their needs.

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 referrals by children’s centres, through the FIS website and online research, the Local Authority and health centres.

There were a number of suggestions for improving the FIS service, which included the distribution of leaflets, further update to the FIS web pages, to advertise the service more and a suggestion to provide a diagram to show how the FIS service works.

91% of customers found that the information and advice given helped them to make a decision about their family life. Families were helped to make a decision on what type of childcare to choose.

36% of customers went on to contact other services following contact with FIS, which included childcare providers (which 56% of customers contacted), schools, food banks, other activities and other services.

#### **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 during 2014, where data is sourced from the January census 2014 it indicates that 99% of 3 and 4 year olds are taking up some or all of their free early education funding, which is 15 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year.

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

The level of take up indicates that there are sufficient places across the borough. However with the implementation of early education for 2 year olds it is anticipated that the impact of place creation for two year olds across the borough will also impact on general place creation for other age ranges.

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

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

From 1st September 2013, 20% of two year olds nationally have been entitled to a free 15 hour early education and childcare place. Eligibility for phase 1 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). Anticipated target numbers for places from September 2013 is around 800 children. (Data supplied via DfE estimates)

A detailed assessment of the number of two year places was collated during autumn 2013 and will also be completed during February 2014 to inform on the number of two year places available within the borough and to identify gaps.

Capital monies have been made available by the Department for Education (DFE) for Tameside to increase the number of registered 2 year old places within the borough to help meet the needs of the expanded free entitlement funding. There are considerable capacity issues for the local authority to address with the funding to ensure sufficient places are available when phase 2 is implemented in September 2014. Early data received from the DfE indicate eligible numbers of two year olds will increase to approximately 1500. A Capital Grant application process is underway and applications have been received from existing providers looking to expand their existing premises and also applications for new provision across the borough. Early indications highlight a need for a further 800 part time equivalent places across the borough. At the time of writing this report the final decisions had not been approved but priority will be given to applications in the geographic location where places are required, followed by quality of provision and of least importance the type of development proposed.

It is anticipated that with recent changes in the childcare market where providers are already looking at expansion and as more childminders are registering to accept funded children we should have sufficient places to accommodate phase 1 eligible children, especially as numbers will increase gradually. It is not anticipated in the early months that all families will take up the offer of a free funded place and this will build naturally over the course of time. However the capital programme will need to progress quickly to ensure there are sufficient places available for all potentially eligible families when phase 2 of the implementation is introduced in September 2014.

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

The number of Out of School clubs remains the same as the previous year at 1562 which indicates a continued demand for this service. It is also worth noting that childcare for children aged 5-11 can be provided by a range of other providers e.g. day nurseries and childminders. Using the sufficiency data collated by FIS across 2013 it indicated that 13% of their enquiries related to information requesting details on out of school club provision. Of the parental questionnaires returned to FIS there were a number of families looking for out of school provision, of the 7 responses received 5 found suitable provision that met all their requirements with 2 that did not. Reasons provided for this was that the opening times did not meet their need e.g. a need for late opening and weekends or the provision nearest only provided before and after care during term time and did not provide a holiday club. These circumstances identified do not constitute an identified gap in provision and it is expected that as the childcare market expands to meet the demand for two year old provision it will also create additional places for other age ranges.

## 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

## 4.11 Quality of Childcare

The DfE report “More Great Childcare – Raising Quality and Giving Parents More Choice” (January 2013) sets 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 years 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 is currently progressing to a move to OfSTED becoming the sole arbiter of quality for delivery of Early Education Funding which will result in a changed role for Local Authorities. In response to this the following tables provide a breakdown of all the key types of providers according to their OfSTED rating (data collated as at Spring 2014):

| Group Settings and Independent Schools | Data collated Autumn 2012 |              | Data Collated Spring 2014 |              |
|--|---------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|--------------|
|  | Actual                    | Percentage % | Actual                    | Percentage % |
| Inadequate                             | 0                         | 0            | 3                         | 4.5          |
| Requires Improvement/Satisfactory      | 17                        | 24.6         | 13                        | 19.4         |
| Good                                   | 44                        | 63.8         | 38                        | 56.7         |
| Outstanding                            | 4                         | 5.8          | 10                        | 14.9         |
| Not Yet Graded                         | 4                         | 5.8          | 3                         | 4.5          |

There are 67 group providers in total with approx. 71.6% rated as good or outstanding which is an increase of 1.6% on the previous year.

| Out of School Clubs               | 2012   |              | 2013 - Data Collated in Spring 14 |              |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
|                                   | Actual | Percentage % | Actual                            | Percentage % |
| Inadequate                        | 0      | 0            | 0                                 | 0            |
| Requires Improvement/Satisfactory | 20     | 35           | 18                                | 32.7         |
| Good                              | 31     | 54.4         | 27                                | 49.1         |
| Outstanding                       | 3      | 5.3          | 7                                 | 12.7         |
| Await 1 <sup>st</sup> Inspection  |        |              | 3                                 | 5.5          |
| Exempt                            | 3      | 5.3          | 0                                 | 0            |

There are 55 Out of School Clubs and some may also be run alongside group provision with 61.80 % rated as good or outstanding which is an increase of 1.80% on the previous year.

| Childminders                      | 2012   |              | 2013- Data Collated in Spring 14 |              |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
|                                   | Actual | Percentage % | Actual                           | Percentage % |
| Inadequate                        | 2      | 0.6          | 8                                | 2.4          |
| Requires Improvement/Satisfactory | 112    | 32           | 81                               | 24.6         |
| Good                              | 170    | 48.60        | 172                              | 52.3         |
| Outstanding                       | 8      | 2.2          | 8                                | 2.4          |
| Other                             | 58     | 16.60        | 60                               | 18.3         |

There are in total 329 childminders within the borough, over half of these are rated good or outstanding, which is an increase of 3.7%. There are a number of childminders banded as other, of which 45 have not yet been inspected, the remainder are classified as Met, with 3 classified as Not Met with Actions.

#### 4.12 Affordability of Childcare

Childcare costs vary from area to area within the borough and from type to type however some typical childcare costs in Tameside based on a full time attendance e.g. 50 hour of care per week and 15 hours for sessional care are:

##### Day Nurseries

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Under two's per week attending 50 Hours | £182 |
| Aged 2 plus per week attending 50 hours | £153 |

##### Childminders

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| The average hourly rate is £3.75, however many offer concessions on these amounts for full time childcare based on an average hour cost of 3.75 per hour for under and over 2's | £187.50 |
|---|---------|

**Pre-school and playgroups** offer sessional care so cannot be compared like for like, attendance based on 15 hours per week cost vary between £37.50 and £54.35.

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

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Out of school club for 15 hours per week   | £60.00 |
| Weekly costs for childminder's who picks up after school providing care till 6pm | £56.00 |

The most expensive full day care provision in Tameside after concessions is £182.00 per week

According to the Daycare Trust's annual childcare survey 2014 over the last 5 years childcare costs have risen 27% meaning parents pay £1214 more in 2014 than they did in 2009.

The cost of childcare in the North West when comparing provision in a number of categories show average weekly childcare cost remains lower than national average, apart from after school club's where the north west is slightly over the national average

## 5. 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. Where there were geographical gaps these

were not necessarily reflected in the demand for places as OfSTED gaps may 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.

## 6. Conclusion

One of the biggest challenges in Tameside during 2013 and 2014 will be to oversee the allocation of capital monies to ensure there are sufficient places to meet expected demand for the implementation of phase 2 of the new 'Two Year Childcare offer' which commences from September 2014. Current projections suggest the following number of places is required for September 2014. (Identified via a local sufficiency assessment of 2 year places during December 2013)

|   | <b>September 2014 (children in families meeting criteria also used for free school meals, and looked after children)</b> | <b>Notes</b>   |
|---|--|--|
| Estimated number of children requiring 15 hour places               | 1530   | Assumptions taken to calculate this number?<br>*(Based on the DfE estimated figures) |
| How many 15 hour places do you estimate already exist in your area? | 810  | 324 vacancies plus 486 already in place from December 2013                           |
| How many new 15 hour places do think will be needed?                | 720  |  |

Currently, the Capital Application process is well underway following an agreed process determined via a Council Key Decision by the Executive Member for Children and Families.

Approximately 27 applications were received during 2013 and 15 applications are currently progressing towards the development of these places. They will be monitored on a termly basis with individual strategies developed in areas where place availability is a cause for concern.

The impact of further childcare expansion across the borough to meet demand will impact on place creation across all age ranges which are in line with the rise in birth rate over the last few years.

Analysis of the sufficiency of two year places is under particular review. In addition, 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 an increase in group provision and the number of places available. It is anticipated that this is set to continue throughout 2014 with the rising birth rate and new demand for 2 year provision. This will have a positive impact on the market leading to new childcare places across the age ranges and in the areas highlighted as being those most in need.

From the information available no identified gaps in provision have been highlighted other than the requirement to closely monitor and create more places for the two year age range.

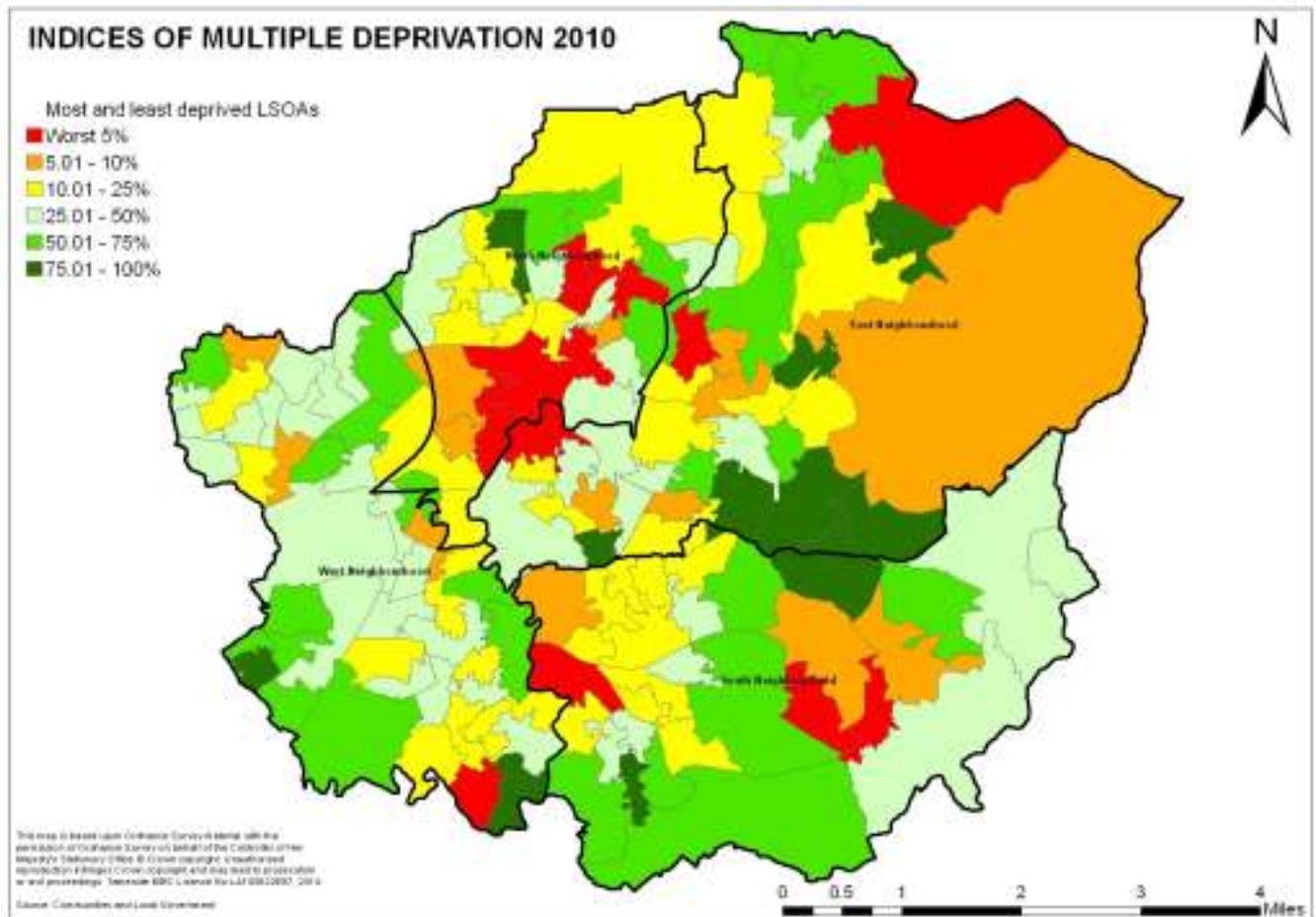
## **7. Recommendations**

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:

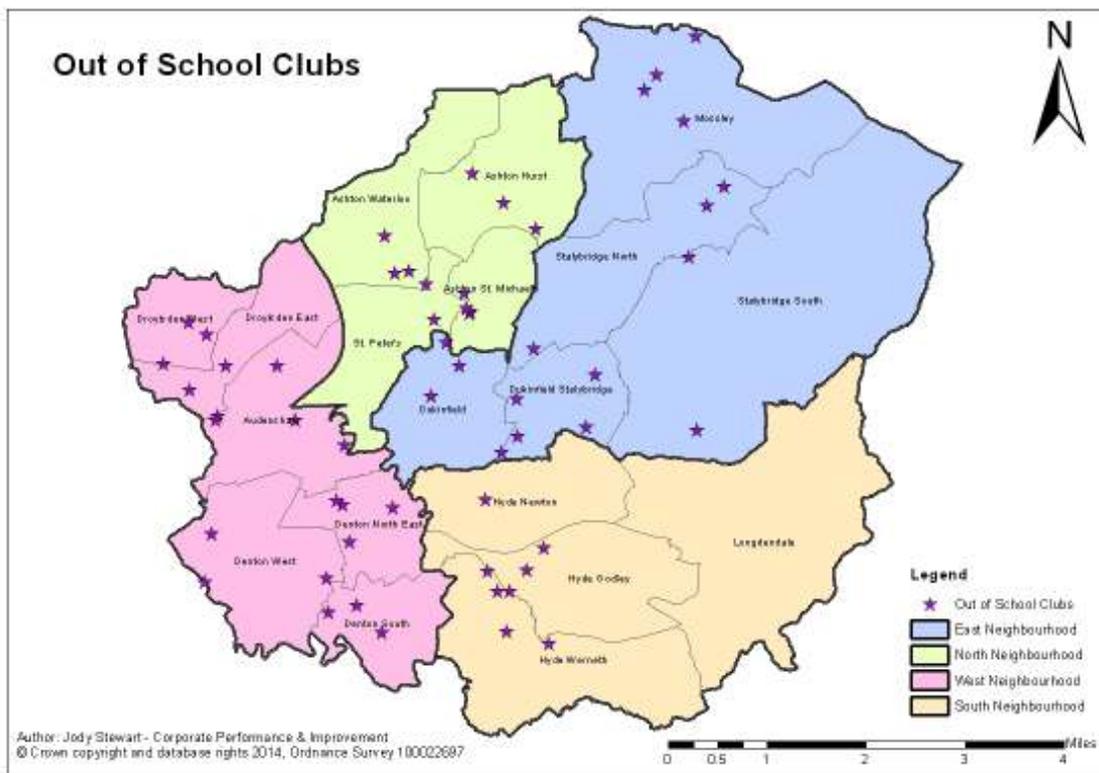
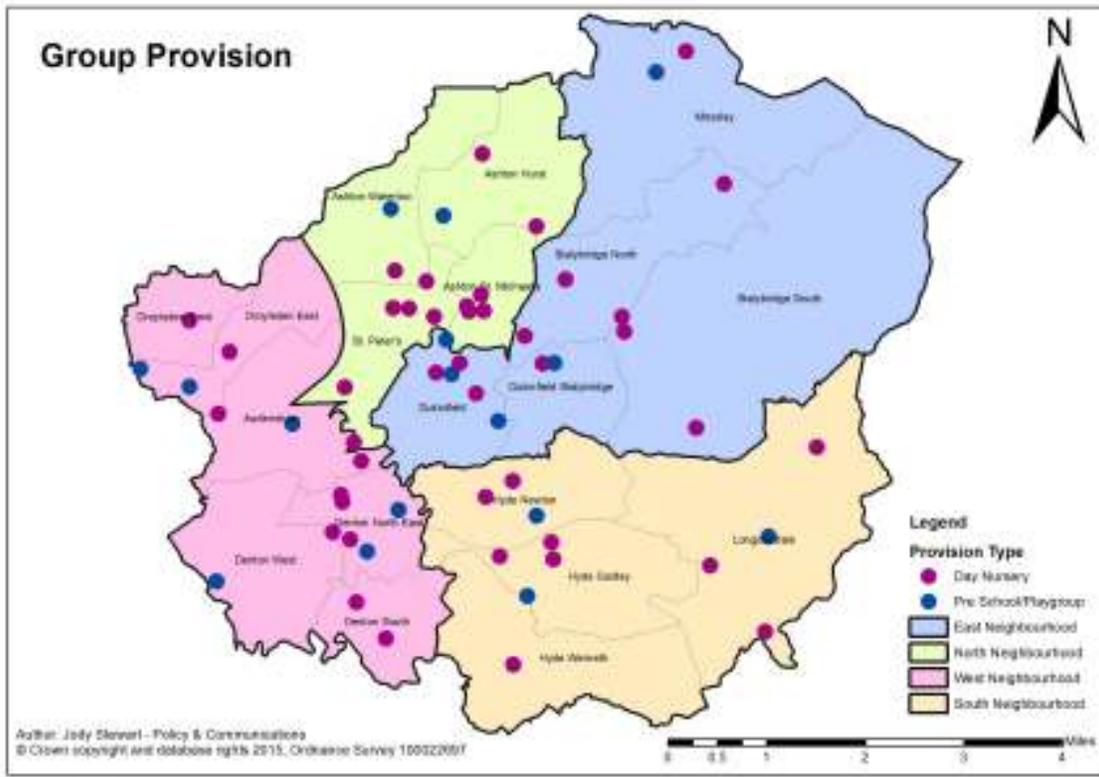
1. Continue progress on the action plan for the development of new 2 year places across the borough. To include a regular assessment of termly sufficiency to inform on future place creation, implementation of the project and strategies to monitor progress. This should involve the allocation of capital monies to successful applications and encourage providers to develop additional funded 2 year old places where required.
2. To continue to identify strategies to enable providers to become more self-reliant and responsible for improvement of their quality of childcare and workforce development. Build upon existing strategies and where required identify new strategies to identify a sustainable approach for the longer term annual review of sufficiency of childcare across the borough.

## 8. Appendices

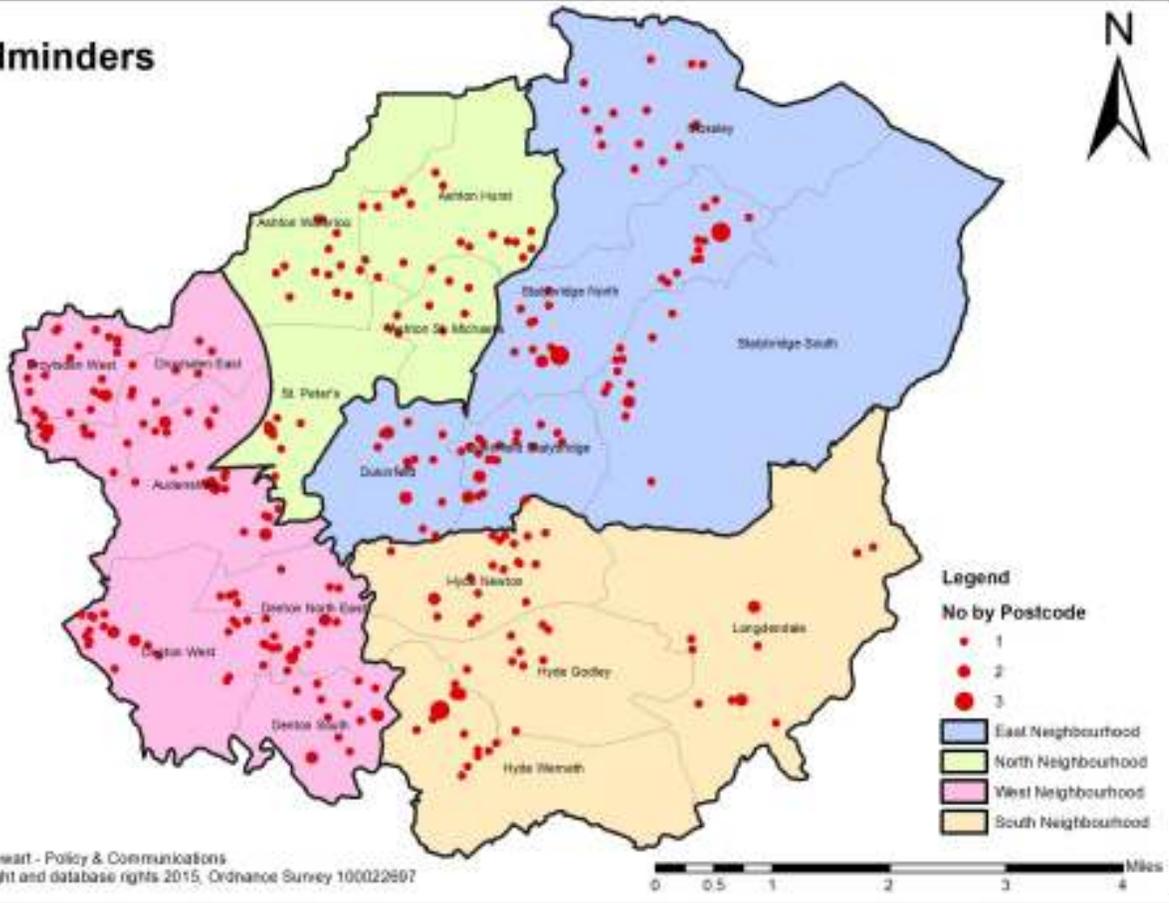
### Appendix 1



Appendix 2



# Childminders



Appendix 3

