

Childcare Sufficiency Annual Report 2015

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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Guidance for Local Authorities on the Exercise of their Duties Relating to Early Education and Childcare”; this repealed the requirement on Local Authorities to prepare detailed assessments of the sufficiency of provision of childcare in their area, every 3 years.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 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 (2014) suggest that Local Authorities should “report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare.”

3. The Borough of Tameside

3.1 Description

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

Tameside is comprised of 19 wards and is characterized by some of the worst 5% of deprived areas nationally. Tameside is noted to be the 42nd 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.	%
Tameside	199,429	90.9	19,895	9.1
East	55,386	95.5	2,604	4.5
North	36,360	79.8	9,196	20.2
South	41,678	90.1	4,555	9.9
West	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

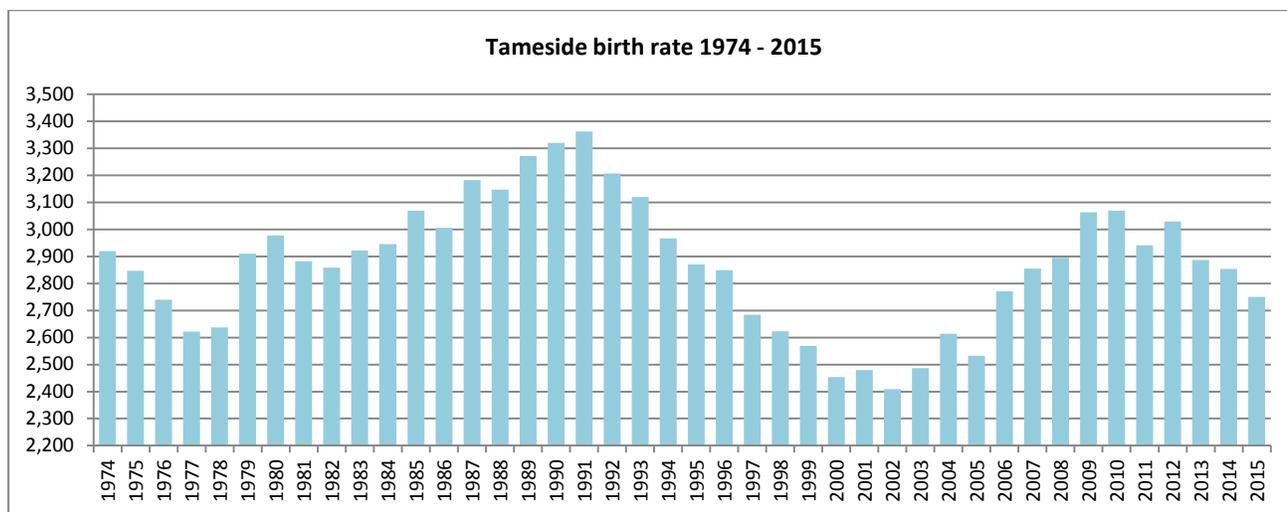
Notably from a childcare demand perspective, approximately 65% of the population is of working age: 16 to 64 years. This figure becomes significant when considered in conjunction with Birth Rate data.

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

Source: Census 2011

3.5 Birth Rate

The graph shows Tameside births from 1990 to 2015 and illustrates there has been an upward trend for births across the borough from 2005 onwards, which has caused an increase in demand for childcare places for early years and school age children. The current trend for the last 3 years shows that the birth rate is beginning to decrease again, however traditionally the birth rate tends to follow a fluctuating 25 year cycle. It is expected therefore that this trend will repeat again in future years. During 2015 the birth rate has dropped to 2750 which is around the level of births in 2006 which highlights an expected continued downward trend.



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 2014 and indicates that during 2014 the number of claimants is decreasing in all areas of the borough. When comparing the numbers from December 2013 to December 2014 the number of claimants has decreased by 2414 which is a decrease in claimants of 49% and indicates a significant reduction in JSA claimants and indicates the boroughs continued economic recovery.

Job Seekers Allowance (Age 16-64)

	March 2014		June 2014		September 2014		December 2014	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Tameside	4678	3.3	3975	2.8	3081	2.2	2474	1.8
East	1253	3.3	1056	2.8	848	2.3	684	1.8
North	945	3.2	828	2.8	673	2.3	551	1.9
South	976	3.3	787	2.7	597	2.0	478	1.6
West	1504	3.4	1304	2.9	963	2.2	761	1.7

Source: NOMIS (ONS)

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

- April 2010 6802 Taken from last sufficiency report published in 2011
- April 2011 6418 5.64% reduction
- April 2012 7240 12.81% increase
- April 2013 7078 2.24% reduction
- April 2014 4453 37.09% reduction from the previous year
- April 2015 2200 50.60%

This illustrates that since 2013 overall there are 4878 adults (aged 16 – 65 years) who are no longer claiming out of work benefits; this is a significant reduction and a decrease of 50.60% from the previous year.

Key Out of Work Benefits¹

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 2 years there has been a reduction of 6865 which is approximately 25.7%.

¹ Key out-of-work benefits consists of the groups: job seekers, ESA and incapacity benefits, lone parents and others on income related benefits.

	February 2014		May 2014		August 2014		November 2014	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Tameside	19740	14.1	19085	13.6	18265	13.0	17585	12.5
East	5445	14.5	5270	14.0	5030	13.4	4850	12.9
North	4265	14.5	4170	14.2	4050	13.8	3830	13.0
South	3940	13.4	3805	13.0	3660	12.5	3545	12.1
West	6090	13.8	5840	13.2	5525	12.5	5360	12.1

Source: NOMIS (ONS)

3.7 Economic Activity

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

	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.	%
Tameside	111,016	68.8	86,923	78.3	12,022	10.8	8,052	7.3	4,019	3.6	50,443	31.2
East	30,616	71.0	24,083	78.7	3,442	11.2	2,085	6.8	1,006	3.3	12,505	29.0
North	21,967	65.8	16,918	77.0	2,261	10.3	1,929	8.8	859	3.9	11,429	34.2
South	22,656	67.4	17,476	77.1	2,677	11.8	1,709	7.5	794	3.5	10,943	32.6
West	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 areas.

In July 2015 58% 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 6 percent. The National Average for 2014 was 60% which has increased to 66% in 2015 which is also an increase of 6 percent. In Tameside we have increased in line with the National Average growth however we are still below the National Average. In the North West in 2014 58% of children achieved a good level of development which has increased to 63% in 2015 which is a 5 percent increase overall therefore Tameside has achieved a slightly higher percentage increase of growth than the North West Average. This shows that Tameside’s strategies are improving on the number of children who are school ready in line with both national and regional annual increases.

4. Review of the Local Childcare Market

4.1 Childcare Supply

The amount of childcare provision that is currently available has seen some changes since the last annual sufficiency report completed in 2014, one of the key changes is the providers running the provision with a number of new providers.

There has been a reduction in the number of pre-schools/playgroups and an increase in Private nurseries. Also a further reduction of childminder numbers approx. 6.08%, which account for the biggest change. However the childcare market is continuing to change which is highlighted more specifically, after data was collated for this report that a further 2 group providers have announced their closure and 3 new providers are due to open in early 2016. It is anticipated that the childcare market will continue to grow and change during 2016 and further analysis of the sufficiency of current 2 year provision in the borough is detailed later in this report.

Type	2011	2012	2014	2015	Difference + -
Childminders	363	361	329	308	-21
Pre-school playgroups	25	22	22	21	-1
Private nurseries	36	39	45	48	+3
Out of school clubs	54	55	55	54	-1

(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 less than 2 hours of provision).

4.2 Breakdown of Current Childcare by Area

Ashton Area

Type	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	2015 Number of Providers	2015 No's of Places
PDN	8	651	11	830	12	881	13	1040
Childminder	46	125 (0-5)	51	153	47	141	52	156
Playgroup/ Pre-School	2	78	2	42	3	86	5	167
Out of School (Registered)	11	392	12	306	12	306	12	317
Maintained	15	580	15	494	15	494	16	554
Totals	82	1826	81	1825	88	1908	98	2174

Within the Ashton area there are minimal changes, there is an increase in the number of childminders, pre-school/playgroup and also private day nurseries which has increased the total number of places available in this area.

Denton/Droylsden/Audenshaw Area

Type	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	2015 Number of Providers	2015 No's of Place
PDN	10	697	10	783	10	846	9	793
Childminder	139	369	142	426	130	390	117	351
Playgroup/ Pre-School	7	203	8	230	7	213	7	275
Out of School	12	446	21	584	21	584	16	440
Maintained	18	828	18	728	18	728	18	728
Totals	186	2729	199	2751	186	2761	167	2587

This area has remained largely the same with the exception of a small reduction in childminders and Out of School Provision. Some of the existing group provision have expanded their places, however overall the total number of places available in this area has decreased.

Dukinfield/Stalybridge/Mossley Area

Type	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	2015 Number of Providers	2015 No's of Place
PDN	8	668	11	880	13	871	13	896
Childminder	112	285	99	297	93	279	91	273
Playgroup/ Pre-School	8	210	8	232	8	207	5	133
Out of School	11	421	16	481	16	481	19	532
Maintained	17	669	17	572	17	572	17	572
Totals	156	2253	151	2462	147	2410	145	2406

In this area there is 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 slightly decreased the overall total number of places available in this area.

Hyde/Longdendale

Type	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 Places	2015 Number of Providers	2015 No's of Places
PDN	7	376	7	412	9	469	13	814
Childminder	71	212	69	207	59	177	48	144
Playgroup/ Pre-School	6	131	4	95	4	122	4	122
Out of School	3	80	6	191	6	191	7	179
Maintained	14	598	14	520	14	520	14	520
Totals	101	1397	100	1525	91	1479	86	1779

In this area we have seen 4 new day nurseries open across this year which has greatly increased the number of places available, there is a reduction in childminders however the number of overall places that are available across the area has increased by 300.

Totals for Tameside

Type	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	2015 Number of Providers	2015 No's of Places
PDN	33	2392	39	2905	45	3067	48	3543
Childminder	368	991	361	1083	329	987	308	924
Playgroup/ Pre-School	23	622	22	599	22	628	21	697
Out of School	37	1339	55	1562	55	1562	54	1468
Maintained	64	2675	64	2314	64	2314	65	2374
Totals	525	8019	541	8463	515	8558	496	9006

Overall across the borough the total number of places available has increased due to an increase in day care and expansion of pre-school Playgroup places. This highlights that the childcare market is evolving however there is an expectation of further 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 2014 the Families Information Service (FIS) formed part of a review of services within the council and the service was only provided on a part time basis, however during this time they received a total of 1966 calls. Of these 1178 were named enquiries where full details were taken. A further breakdown confirmed that the majority of the named and quick enquiries related to childcare, nursery education or 2 Year Funding, totaling 84% of the enquiries, which highlights continued demand for formal childcare.

During this time, service feedback questionnaires asking parents to provide comment about the quality of the service and their success in finding suitable childcare, were sent out at the end of the year. This impacted on the number of questionnaires as only a small number of these were returned.

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.

The number of questionnaires that were returned during 2015 was very low, this is largely due to changes within the service and not being able to issue the questionnaires until the end of the year which negatively affected the return rate.

During 2015, 4 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 sample 100% of customers found their preferred childcare choice, with the same customers also saying the childcare met all their requirements.

Feedback suggests that there were several factors that affected customers' choices for childcare and most enquirers indicated multiple factors that affected their choice with 2 of customers indicating that it was affected by cost, 2 indicated they were influenced by location, 2 also indicated their choice was affected by quality of provision and also 2 also affected by opening hours and hours required.

Feedback from customers who did not find childcare

Based on the limited number of questionnaires returned at that time, from the sample available all of the feedback questionnaires returned has been successful in finding childcare, therefore there is no feedback to record in this section.

4.5 Parental Questionnaires - Free Entitlement Funding

Again due to the limited number of questionnaire returned during the indicated period, none of the questionnaires returned 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 information around their views on the quality of the service provided.

During 2015, the customer comments forms were completed and returned by 9 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.

91% 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, however the one that indicated the information wasn't up to date highlighted that it was likely that the provider had not updated their details following their recent resignation.

Customers found out about the FIS service in various ways, including recommendations by friends, where they had used the service before, or referred via another department or in the main through the FIS website and online research.

There were a number of suggestions for improving the FIS service, which included having an online childcare finder and to ensure provider details are updated to ensure the information offered is accurate.

100% 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.

55% of customers went on to contact other services following contact with FIS, which included childcare providers (of which 55% of customers contacted childcare providers)

Also received was an email sent by a parent directly to the Families Information Service, to thank them for the service they provided to her over a query around Tax Credits.

The parent commented “ At first I was unsure as to how the Tax Credit funding worked” she went on to comment around the service offered from the Families Information Officer, “she was always very happy to help, nothing seemed to much for her and in my opinion she always went the extra mile. She is one of the most helpful, kindest people I have ever dealt with and made me feel valued as a person.

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.

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

If we consider the take up of each age range separately, take up for 3 year olds in 2015 increased to 95% from 93% and for 4 year olds this exceeded 100% (102%) of the population in Tameside, which implies children from outside of the area are also included within these figures.

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

Percentage of 2 year old children benefitting from funded early education places by local authority	
All providers - Percentage of population	
Year	2015
Percentage	59%

As early education for 2 year olds was implemented fully in September 2014, take up is still growing across the borough and also the country, but by the end of 2015 take up had increased to 85%. As previously identified in Section 4.1, the childcare market is still changing and some of this is around the impact of place creation for two year olds across the borough.

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 £16,190, 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 2015, 14 capital projects were completed across the borough using capital monies made available by the Department for Education (DfE) for the creation of new 2 year provision. Schemes were approved and prioritised in geographic locations where places are required, then after location, consideration was prioritised on the quality of provision and of least importance the type of development proposed.

To help meet the needs of the expanded free entitlement for 2 year funding, 5 new providers were approved, with 9 existing providers with the capability of expansion. The aims being to address the capacity issues for the local authority and ensure sufficient places are available.

In total 17 schemes were approved with 14 Schemes completed by the end of 2015 creating 630 new 2 year places, of the remaining three schemes 2 are still progressing with the objective of creating a further 102 places during 2016.

We are already aware of further changes ahead and have identified 3 additional group providers who are planning to open in 2016 providing additional 2 year provision.

A detailed assessment of the number of two year places was collated during summer 2015 to inform on the number of two year places available within the borough and to identify any further gaps following completion of the initial capital programme.

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

- Potentially eligible families identified by the DfE during summer 2015
- Total number of 2 year places – supplied from group providers delivering free early education (summer 15)
- Total number of vacancies – Supplied from all group providers delivering free early education (Summer 15)
- Total number of 2 year olds attending provision by ward area (sum 15)

The eligible family data was collated, analyzed and mapped according to their postal address, then grouped by ward in conjunction with group provision and childminders delivering free early education and pinpointed to show location in relation to those families.

Consideration was given to other provision located in bordering wards that were within a reasonable walking distance to ascertain sufficiency of 2 year provision.

The following wards which are all located on the outskirts of the borough are identified as having a potential gap in the number of available places:

- Ashton Waterloo
- Droylsden West and East
- Denton South

Each area was scrutinized to identify other provision located in neighboring wards still within a reasonable walking distance, however due to the geographic location of these wards, the walking or driving distance was considered too far. A Capital Grant application process is underway for all of these areas for 2 year place creation. Priority will be given to applications in the geographic location where places are required, however the selection process will also prioritize the quality of provision, with least importance given to the type of provision proposed.

At the close of 2015 approximately 90 childminders were registered to accept funded children and during 2016 it is anticipated this number will continue to rise.

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

There have been considerable changes within this sector as 18 of the clubs are relatively new and awaiting their first OfSTED inspection. The total number of Out of School clubs has reduced by 1 to 54 however with the other changes this has created a reduction of approximately 100 places across the borough.

This implies 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.

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.	%
Tameside	1,655	3.9	41,053	96.1
East	406	3.6	10,824	96.4
North	387	4.2	8,901	95.8
South	326	3.4	9,219	96.6
West	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 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 tables provide a breakdown of all the key types of providers according to their OfSTED rating (data collated as at autumn 2015):

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

There are 70 group providers in total with approx. 71.4% rated as good or outstanding which is a slight decrease of 0.20% on the previous year, however the number of providers who are awaiting their first inspection has increased. The number of settings rated inadequate or requires improvement has decreased by 13.90% which highlights improvements in quality within this sector

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

There are 52 Out of School Clubs and some may also be run alongside group provision with 53.85 % rated as good or outstanding which is a decrease on the previous year, however as 32.7% are awaiting their first inspection this is affecting percentages. There has been an improvement in the number of provision that requires improvement reducing from 32.7% to 13.5 %.

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

In total 307 childminders within the borough, 55% of these are rated good or outstanding, which is an increase of 0.3%. There are a number of childminders banded as 'Other', of which 53 have not yet been inspected, the remainder are classified as 'Met', with 11 classified as 'Not Met with Actions' and one 'Not met with enforcement actions'.

4.12 Affordability of Childcare

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

Day Nurseries

Under twos per week attending 50 Hours	£169
Aged 2 plus per week attending 50 hours	£166

The average cost has dropped from the previous year, this is largely due to a number of pre-school provisions now offering care over a full day and their daily charge is lower.

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
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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	£53.00
Weekly costs for childminder's who picks up after school providing care till 6pm	£57.00

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 2015 childcare prices have continued to rise at levels above the rate of inflation and since 2014 by a 5.1 per cent rise. Over the last parliament the cost for a part time nursery place for a child under two has increased by 32.8%. A family paying for this type of childcare now spends £1533 more than they did in 2010, however wages have remained largely static. 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.

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 however given the 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 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

During 2015 the childcare market in Tameside has evolved and there are now more childcare providers available which impacts positively on parental choice. We have seen a number of playgroups/pre-schools now offering all day care at a lower cost level than some other group provision. The Out of School club sector has also seen change with quite a number of new providers, however the number of clubs within the borough is still broadly the same.

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

Further analysis of two year provision has highlighted a number of areas which do need particular attention and a further round of Capital Grant is underway to address 3 areas, where gaps have been identified.

Analysis of the sufficiency of two year places will remain under review and it is planned to undertake a further assessment of places during the summer 2016. 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 there has been an increase in group provision and the number of places available. It is anticipated that this is set to continue throughout 2016 with demand for 2 year provision. 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.

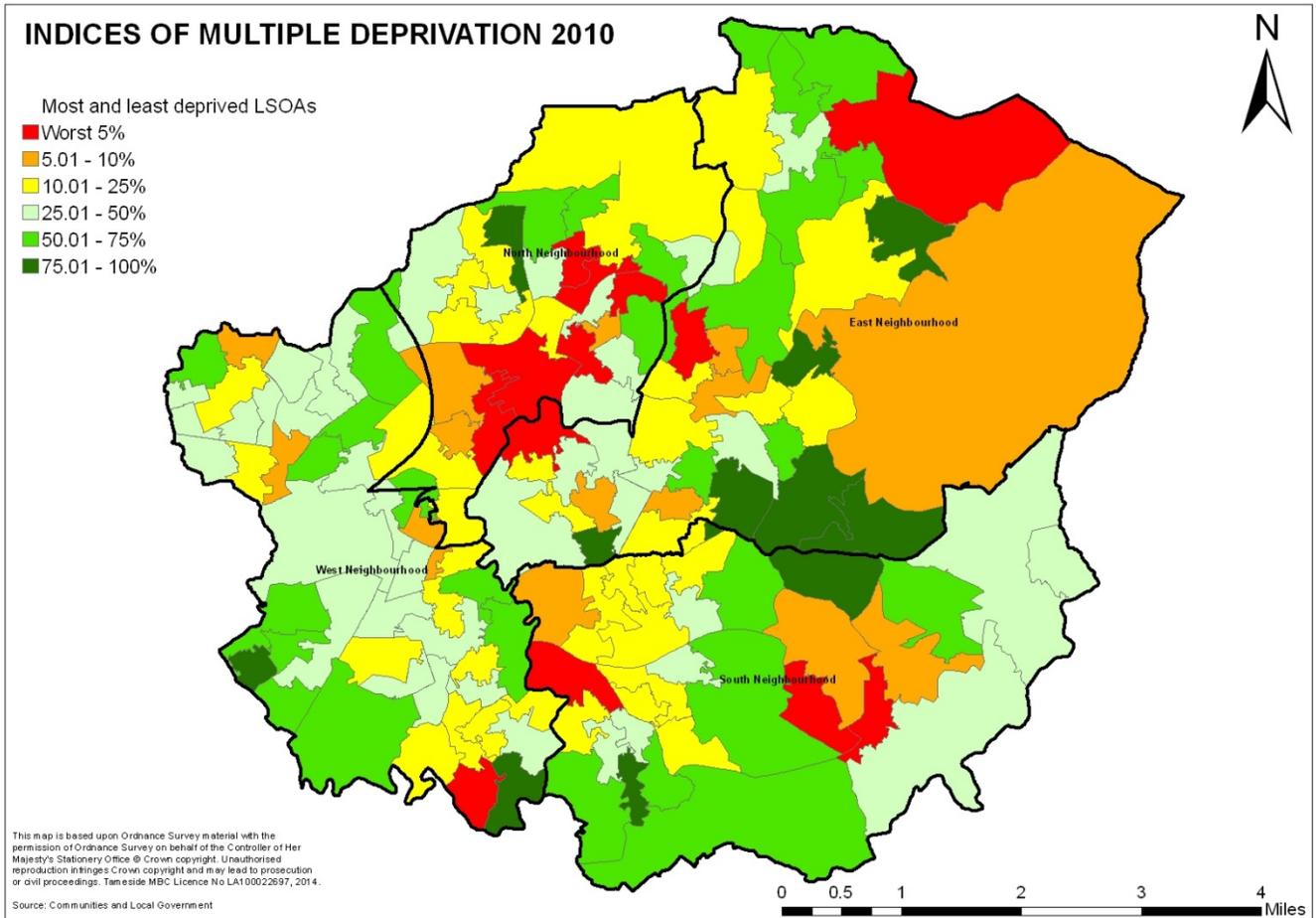
7. Recommendations

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:

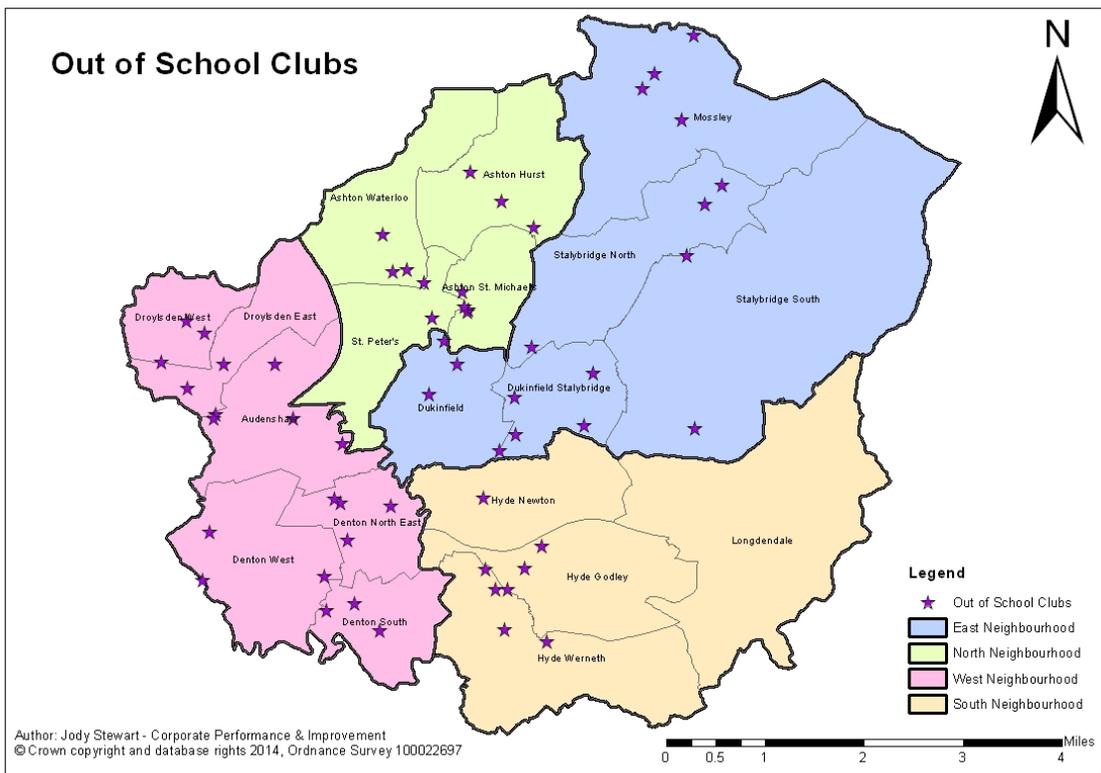
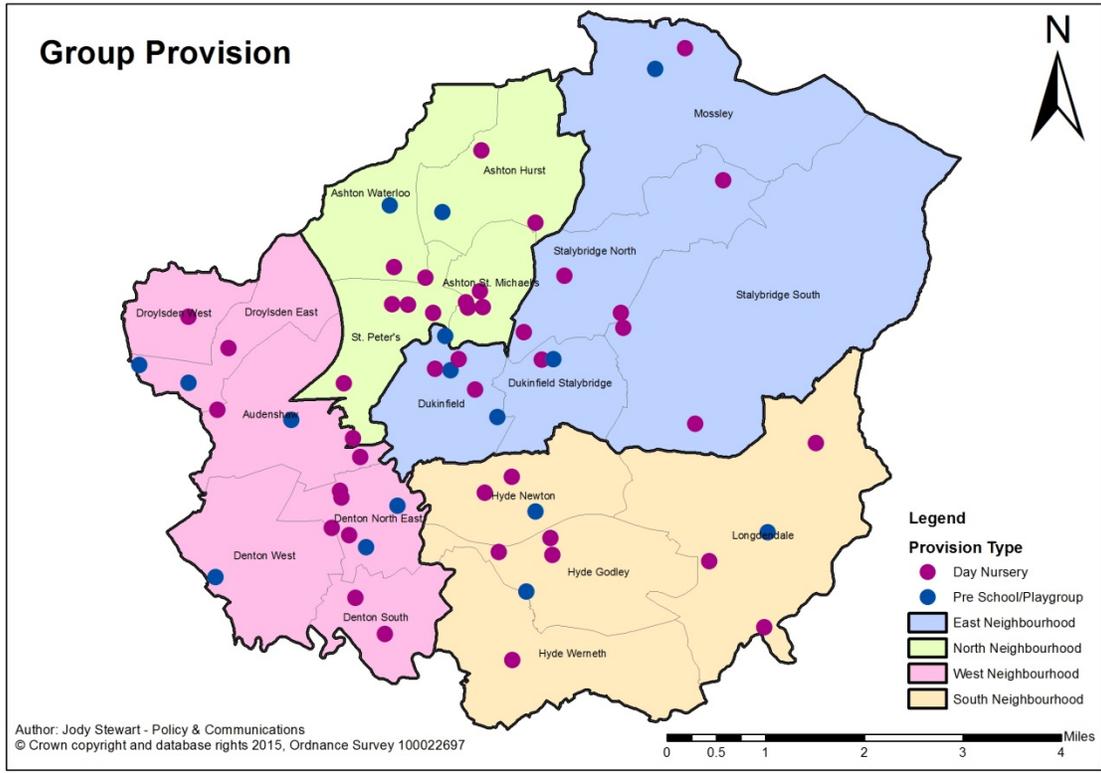
1. To work with all our childcare providers to receive meaningful and timely data that can inform an annual assessment of childcare available for all age ranges. To report findings and identify a sustainable approach for the longer term annual review of sufficiency of childcare across the borough.
2. Continue progress on the action plan for the development of new 2 year places across the borough to address the identified gaps. To include an annual assessment of 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.
3. 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.

8. Appendices

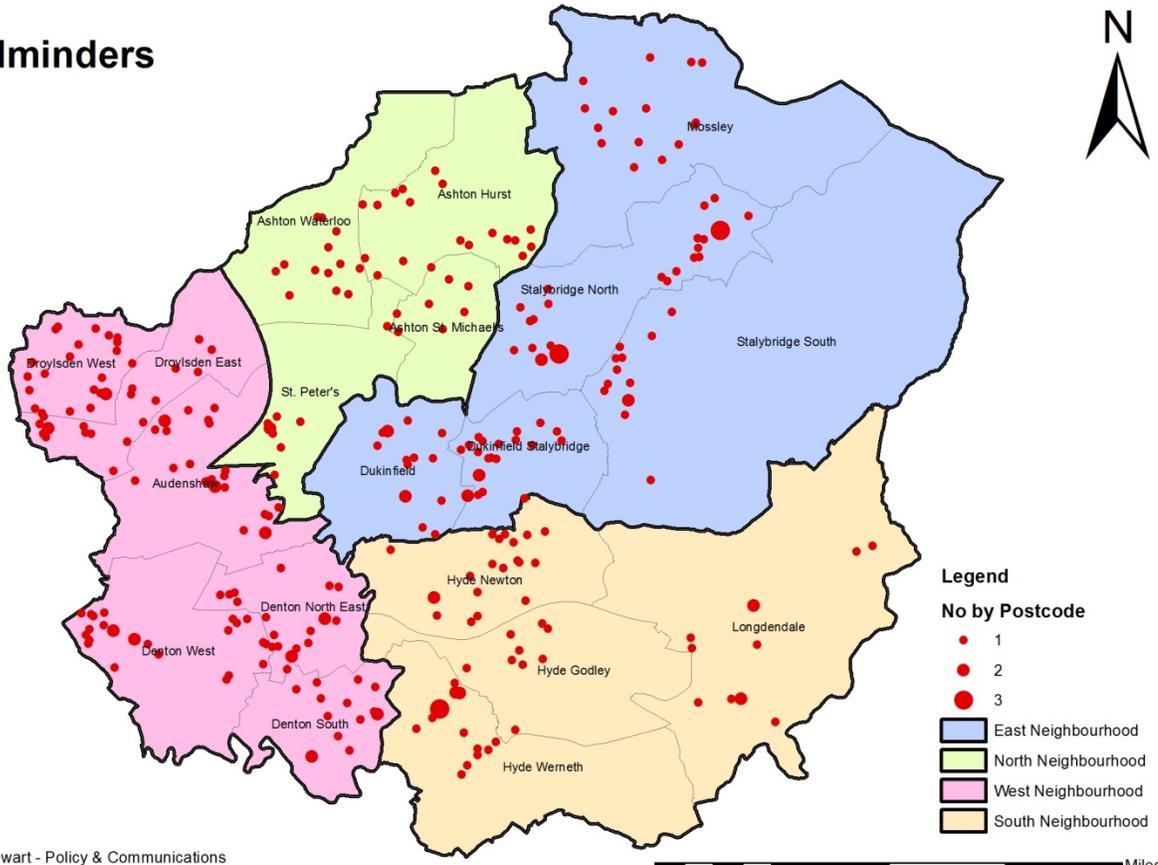
Appendix 1



Appendix 2



Childminders



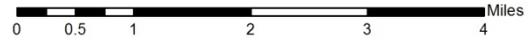
Legend

No by Postcode

- 1
- 2
- 3

- East Neighbourhood
- North Neighbourhood
- West Neighbourhood
- South Neighbourhood

Author: Jody Stewart - Policy & Communications
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Appendix 3

