

# **Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA)** **Annual Report 2019-2020**



**Update on the sufficiency of childcare places in Bury**

**Bury**  
COUNCIL

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## **Introduction**

***'High quality early education and childcare...can have a powerful impact on young children...a good start in these early years can have a positive effect on children's development, preparing them for school and later life'***

In Bury we are passionate about improving outcomes for children, particularly for those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Evidence from the most recent Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) data (2019) shows the percentage of children achieving a Good Level of Development in Bury sits at 71.4%

Our aim is to continue to narrow the gap in attainment between our most vulnerable children and their peers and reduce the number of children living in workless and benefit dependent households.

### **1. What is a childcare sufficiency assessment**

- 1.1 Under Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006, local authorities are required by legislation to; 'Secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children).'

This duty includes the need for local authorities to make sure that sufficient childcare is available for some two year olds (those who meet the eligibility criteria), and all three and four year olds, in respect of their funded early education entitlement.

- 1.2 This assessment is a summary of the childcare position in Bury and provides useful information for:

- Parents – to understand the types of childcare on offer in Bury, to look specifically at the number of childcare places by provider near to the family home and help to inform decisions about childcare options for their family.
- Childcare providers – to understand the local childcare market and to help them make informed choices about future developments for their business.
- Councillors and Executive Members – to have clarity on services available for local residents and to support the decision making process.
- Local authority officers – to have a clear picture about childcare in Bury, to tailor support for providers and to ensure that there is a balanced childcare market meeting local demand.

1.3 Childcare sufficiency is a judgement made by reviewing:

- Childcare market analysis – type of provision, quality of providers, number of children and number of places.
- Referrals to the Family Information Service for brokerage (support to find services), where demand has not been met.
- Analysis of the local employment market – to identify employment trends which may result in an increase / decrease in demand for childcare places.

1.4 The last childcare sufficiency assessment for Bury was published in 2017.

## **2. What childcare do we have in Bury?**

2.1 On the whole, Bury has a balanced childcare market, despite the type of provision varying on an individual ward basis. Childcare is provided through:

- Before and After School Care (18)
- Childminders (116)
- Crèche (1)
- Holiday Care (independently registered) & Holiday Childcare / Playscheme (Part of existing registration e.g. Nursery or Primary School) (7)
- Home Care (15)
- Maintained nursery schools and classes, including in some primary schools (32)
- Nursery unit of an Academy (10)
- Nursery unit of independent School (3)
- Pre-School Playgroup (10)
- Private Day Nursery (52)

2.2 Most childcare providers are registered to offer childcare places across age groups, subject to Ofsted regulations, and therefore is flexible to the needs of local families. Capacity and vacancy data shared between the provider and the local authority can often change according to the demands of the market – for example, if there is more demand for two year old places than three and four year olds, providers may allocate places and staffing within their setting to meet this need. The data held by the local authority is therefore correct at the time of data collection. Providers are approached throughout the year to update this information and data can change on a daily basis. It is important that this is taken into consideration in the context of this Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.

***Appendix A shows a map of borough wide childcare providers by provider type (Ofsted)***

### 3. **Do we have enough childcare in Bury?**

#### 3.1 Childcare Market Analysis

##### 3.1.1 Places & vacancies

- **Appendix B** breaks down the number of places and vacancies by provider type for each ward. Bury has a healthy mix of childcare providers operating across the Borough and available data indicates that all wards currently have childcare vacancies which support parental choice when sourcing childcare. Providers are able to update their vacancy and capacity information regularly online. It is worth noting that the data used in this assessment was taken at a single point (4<sup>th</sup> September 2020), and that vacancy information changes frequently.
- Three occurrences of unmet demand have been recorded in 2019 and 2020 which suggests Bury has sufficient high quality childcare places available to meet the needs of working parents and children who are entitled to funded places
- Take-up of free places for 2 year old funding in Bury is currently at 79.1%. The national take up figure is at 69.2%. There is still scope to improve the take up of 2 year old funding.
- Take-up of free places for three and four year old funding in Bury remains high at 94%. The national take up figure is at 92.8%
- The support for pre-school children with SEND has improved with the refinement of the Local Offer and dedicated funding
- The ever changing nature of employment and growth in non-standard working hours could impact upon the supply and demand for childcare.
- Bury appears to have sufficient childcare places for children at present in all township areas

Bury is made up of 6 townships, Bury, Ramsbottom, Tottington, Radcliffe, Whitefield and Prestwich and 17 electoral wards. There is a mix of affluence and deprivation across the borough. This can be found on **Appendix A**.

3.1.2 Children Mid-year population estimates from the Office of National Statistics (2016) suggests the following number of children in Bury see Figure 1 below:

**Figure 1.** Office for National Statistics (ONS) produce population projections – 0-15's

	Estimate	Projections		Numbers		Percentage	
	2016	2024	2034	2024	2034	2024	2034
Aged 0 to 4	12,500	12,300	12,000	-200	-500	-1.6%	-4.0%
Aged 5 to 9	12,100	12,500	12,500	400	400	3.3%	3.3%
Aged 10 to 14	11,000	13,000	12,800	2,000	1,800	18.2%	16.4%

**Data Source: ONS mid-year population estimate 2016**

### 3.1.3 Affordability

Childcare costs vary between providers across Bury. With the introduction of the new Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance in the summer of 2017, with a further update in early 2018, early education providers have been made aware of the need to have a charging policy in place, which is shared with parents prior to registration. Providers have also been made aware of the need to ensure parents are not charged for top up fees for differences between market value rates and the amount paid by the local authority for funded early education places. Providers have been advised that parents need to receive clear invoices outlining any costs for parents.

It is however recognised that early education and childcare providers have been required to review their business plans in light of changing economic circumstances, the roll out of additional funded early education programmes, and additional staffing costs. It is anticipated that revised business models may have an impact on future charging policies.

The Local Authority online process to allow providers to submit more timely cost of care data.

The information in Figure 2 below shows typical costs as a guide:

**Figure 2.**

	<b>0-4 Years</b>				<b>School Age</b>	
	Childminder (Per day)	PVI (excluding childminders) (Per Day)	Childminder (Per week)	PVI (excluding childminders) (Per week)	Out of School (Per 3hr Session)	Holiday (Per day)
Average Cost	£36.03	£45.39	£164.75	£171.42	£16.87	£23.78
Least Expensive	£27.55	£26.00	£115.00	£130.00	£15.00	£10.25
Most Expensive	£45.00	£56.00	£225.00	£246.00	£20.00	£39.00

Parents are provided with information on the financial support that they can receive to access childcare through the council website and social media feeds. Parents are signposted to the Childcare Choices website to make use of national information around funded early education programmes and the childcare calculator which provides parents with more detailed information relating to their financial circumstances

Analysis of the take up of funded early education places has identified that some:

- Families access childcare outside of the ward in which they live – amongst other factors, it is recognised that this could be due to parents choosing provision close to their work place or families living close to ward boundaries.
- Children only access their free entitlement, possibly fit in around parental work / training patterns or informal childcare, which in practice enables providers to split a full time equivalent place between two children.
- Families are not accessing formal childcare – this may be due to parents choosing to stay at home, parents being out of work, the use of informal childcare such as grandparents or possibly the lack of knowledge of funded early education places.
- Providers continue to report that government funding does not sufficiently cover their costs, this has been an ongoing issue nationally for some time and is certain to continue to be a hot issue for most, if not all providers
- Early Years National Funding Formula: 2019-20 hourly rates for all local authorities for 3 & 4 yr olds we see that Bury's allocation is £4.30 p/hr, this is the joint lowest funding rate in the North West and also the country.

#### 3.1.4.1 Additional activity to support targeted families

- The local authority has a duty to ensure that there is sufficient childcare for all, where reasonably practical. To ensure that this happens, and also as part of the local authority's commitment to protect the most vulnerable, additional activities have taken place within the local childcare market to ensure that more targeted groups are able to have their childcare needs met. These are summarised in Figure 3 below.

**Figure 3.**

Target group	Additional activity
Disabled children / young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Training and support for providers to offer inclusive childcare</li><li>• Providers who are able to offer specialist support identified in service provider records on The Bury Directory</li><li>• Promotion of suitable childcare through the Local Offer (<a href="http://www.theburydirectory.co.uk/send-local-offer">www.theburydirectory.co.uk/send-local-offer</a>)</li><li>• Brokerage service through the Family Information Service to help families understand the options available and make links to providers</li></ul>
Children from families in receipt of childcare element of working tax credit or universal credit	<p>Upon request, information is provided for all families to help them understand childcare options. Those families eligible for free childcare are supported to access their free place through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Children's Centres,</li><li>• Links between providers / Families Information Service</li><li>• Via phone / email</li></ul> <p>Parents are signposted to <a href="http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk">www.childcarechoices.gov.uk</a> to access national information and calculators to support making childcare decisions</p>
Children with parents who work irregular hours	<p>Recording of provider working hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brokerage support</li><li>• Explaining childcare options</li><li>• Links with Economic Development to understand emerging employment needs</li></ul>



<p>Children aged two, three and four eligible for 15 hours / 30 hours early education places</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information on Bury Council Website and Gov.uk website</li> <li>• Universal marketing in the community – social media posts / adverts, posters, leaflets, vinyl banners outside of childcare providers and presence at events</li> <li>• Increasing awareness amongst professionals working with families on a day to day basis to help share information e.g. Social Worker, Health Visitors, Job Centre Plus</li> </ul> <p>Note: Various marketing campaigns have in the past been trialed including advertising with online pop ups on social media and on community billboards. Changes to funding has refocused marketing to lower cost options.</p> <p>The local authority has not identified any sufficiency issues as a result of the 30 hours programme Significant promotion of this programme has taken place through social media and word of mouth through providers. Details of the programme are shared through the same routes as other funded early education programmes.</p> <p><b>Appendix C</b> shows the take up rates for the 2, 3 &amp; 4yr olds across Bury.</p>
<p>School aged children and children needing holiday care</p>	<p>Online information at <a href="http://www.theburydirectory.co.uk">www.theburydirectory.co.uk</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online information hub <a href="http://www.theburydirectory.co.uk">www.theburydirectory.co.uk</a></li> <li>• Face to face support through Children’s Centres</li> <li>• Support through the Family Information Service</li> </ul>

### 3.1.5 Informal childcare

In addition to formal childcare arrangements, and in the current financial climate, it is recognised that a major contributor to the childcare market is informal care such as family or friends. The latest national data available on this comes from the 2009 Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents suggests that 32% of parents of three and four year olds combine formal and informal childcare, with nursery and informal provision being the most popular option.

### 3.1.5 Feedback from parents

Parents are able to feedback childcare sufficiency issues at any point in the year by phoning / emailing Bury's Family Information Service Council.

Bury Council ran a childcare survey for parents between October and December 2017. All information submitted in the survey was used to help develop the childcare market in Bury. A parental feedback will be run in Autumn 2020 this will help us understand the current childcare market and support provider in future planning. We are aware that following Covid-19 parental choice and demand may have changed.

## 3.2 Referrals to the Family Information Service

3.2.4 The Family Information Service (FIS) A free council service providing information for parents, carers, children and young people and those working with families in Bury. Offering a range of services to help families' access information, advice and guidance. These services are delivered:

- **Over the phone** – through the Family Information Service Officer
- **Via email** – through the [childinfo@bury.gov.uk](mailto:childinfo@bury.gov.uk) email address
- **Online** – through The Bury Directory

3.2.5 Through these services, families can access information on support with childcare costs and local childcare providers / services. There is information specifically for disabled young people up to the age of 25 in the SEND local offer which offers information on support services, activities and places of interest.

3.2.6 The majority of families are able to access the information they need without assistance however, a brokerage service is available for those who may require it, the service is for parents and carers who:

- have exhausted the normal routes of finding childcare and are still unable to find childcare which meets their needs
- need extra support to understand the options available to them, this may be because of individual child's circumstances such as a disability or special educational needs
- need childcare as an emergency/short notice
- Are unable to find a free early learning or childcare place for their child

3.2.7 There are very few reports made to the Family Information Service about families not being able to access suitable childcare. Within the last 12 months, there have been 39 brokerage enquiries made to the Family Information Service. From the 39 enquiries, only 3 of which resulted in unmet demand (7%). There has been no pattern to this in terms of

geography, or need of the child. None of these cases were related to cost and, whilst the local authority will always look for solutions for families, it was not reasonably practical to enter into discussions to increase the market to meet this need.

Were this to change and we start to see more cases of unmet demand this would be a red flag for sufficiency in Bury and cause to investigate further some of the concerns raised in this and possibly previous assessments. Hopefully we will not reach this point though as the pre-emptive work already under way would hopefully identify smaller issues before they become bigger problems.

#### **4. Support for Bury's childcare providers**

##### **4.1. Pre-registration information and guidance / universal promotion**

The Family Information direct prospective providers to pre-registration information via The Bury Directory. The Early Years Advisors also offer support and guidance to prospective providers around set up and quality and offer pre-registration visits.

There is a substantial amount of information available online to support potential new providers and providers continue to open across the borough without financial support from the LA. The vast majority of new providers become approved to deliver funded places with existing settings encouraged, where applicable, to expand their provision in order to meet increasing demand, therefore the potential to further increase capacity for the two, three and four year olds to meet statutory duties remains realistic.

##### **4.2 Developing quality provision**

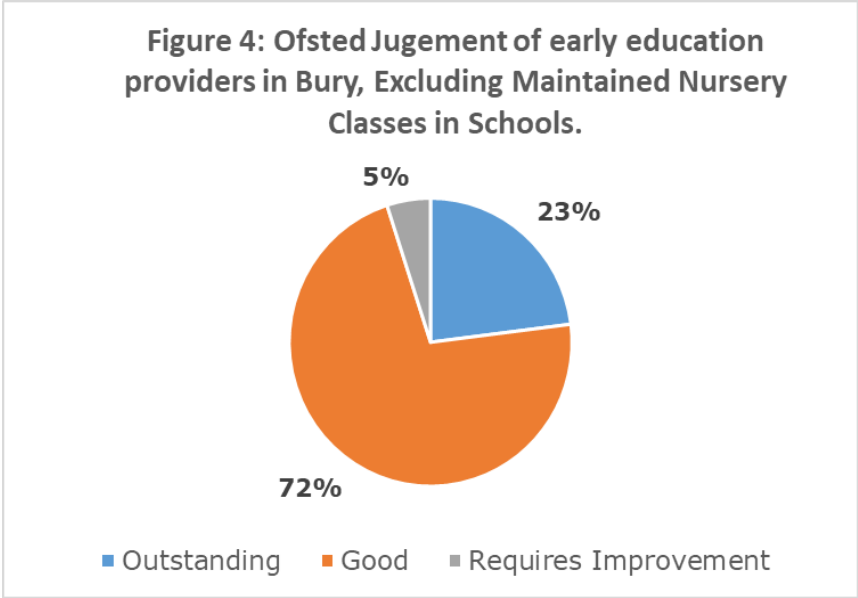
The Early Years Advisors offer support to all providers includes information and advice, Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), business development support, pre and post Ofsted guidance, training and development activity and opportunities to share best practice.

Providers with an Ofsted grade of Outstanding or Good can offer two, three and four year old funded places. Providers with a Satisfactory/Requires Improvement grade can deliver funded places for three and four year olds but must be working with the local authority to improve the quality of their provision. There is a Quality Improvement Process in place and providers who receive a 'requires improvement' or 'inadequate' grade are supported through this process by the Early Years Advisors. Support for these settings are more frequent where a provider's inspection grade falls below 'good' support the interpretation of Ofsted guidance, identify training needs and produce action plans where necessary.

The government has a very clear outcome for all children to be able to take up their entitlement to funded early education in a high quality setting. Ofsted are the sole arbiters of quality and providers are graded as Outstanding/Good/Requires Improvement (previously Satisfactory) or Inadequate.

With 95% of all providers being graded as Good or Outstanding, this puts Bury 23<sup>rd</sup> in the country and 3<sup>rd</sup> in AGMA (Association of Greater Manchester Authorities).

Ofsted judgements have varied throughout the year, judgements are shown in Figure(s) 4 below:



AGMA - All Providers	
LA	% Good or Outstanding
Bolton	97%
Tameside	97%
Rochdale	96%
Trafford	96%
Wigan	96%
Bury	95%
Salford	95%
Stockport	95%
Oldham	93%
Manchester	91%

% Good or Outstanding	
England	97%
North West	97%

***The information is from the most recent inspection outcomes provided by Ofsted as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.***

#### 4.3 Continuing professional development (CPD)

Opportunities are offered to all settings registered with Ofsted in Bury. This comes in many formats including formal training, online training and work shadowing for example. This has developed as a result of demand from childcare providers across Bury and also as a result of local and national policy changes.

#### 4.4 Workforce Development

Strong effective leadership and a highly skilled and knowledgeable early year's workforce are crucial to our vision for every young child to have a strong start and to be school ready.

The "DfE Early Years Census 2020 - Teaching Staff Report" tells us there are approximately 941 teaching staff employed within settings who deliver EEC in Bury, of which 842 or 89.5% hold a relevant qualification at level 2 or above. This is broken down into ward areas - See Figure 5 (next page)

As per the DfE (Department for Education) we record the number, by headcount, of staff, by their qualifications, within the establishment who work with children under 5 years of age. For each member of staff who works with children aged under 5, only the highest qualification is to be recorded to endure no double-counting of staff occurs. See Figure 5 (next page).

**Figure 5.**

Ward	Total staff who work with children under 5	Number of staff with a full and relevant EY level 2 qualification	Number of staff with a full and relevant EY level 3 qualification and not in a managerial role	Number of staff with a full and relevant EY level 3 qualification and in a managerial role	Number of staff with qualified teacher status	Number of staff with EY professional status	Number of staff with EY teacher status
Besses	45	2	16	8	2	4	1
Church	28	1	12	10	2	2	0
East	48	8	25	10	2	3	0
Elton	101	10	63	14	3	4	1
Holyrood	105	10	63	3	8	1	1
Moorside	40	5	20	8	1	1	1
North Manor	63	3	36	15	1	3	0
Pilkington Park	36	5	17	5	1	3	0
Radcliffe East	127	11	72	19	2	6	1
Radcliffe North	37	11	11	11	0	2	0
Radcliffe West	35	3	16	11	0	1	0
Ramsbottom	60	8	25	22	0	2	0
Redvales	43	4	21	12	1	2	4
Sedgley	63	9	26	11	1	4	1
St Mary's	38	3	23	7	0	2	0
Tottington	48	2	33	3	1	3	0
Unsworth	24	2	11	6	0	2	0
	941	97	490	175	25	45	10

***The full breakdown, reach area, taken from the DfE 2020 Early Years Census return.***

## **5. Do we have sufficient childcare?**

5.1 Overall, Bury currently has sufficient childcare to meet demand and to offer families childcare choices.

5.2 However, as a local authority we will continue to:

- Provide accurate, accessible, up to date, online information for childcare providers and families on all aspects of childcare and early education
- Support families by offering a brokerage service to make links with providers where needed
- Work with providers to share childcare market trend data
- Offer business support to childcare providers to help maintain a sustainable childcare sector in Bury
- Develop systems and processes to make it easier for providers to share their capacity, vacancy and service information with the local authority, and ultimately parents
- Refresh marketing materials for parents to ensure all are aware of the financial support available for childcare
- Explore different ways of engaging parents and encouraging take up of funded early education programmes.

## **6. Future of Sufficiency in Bury 2020/21**

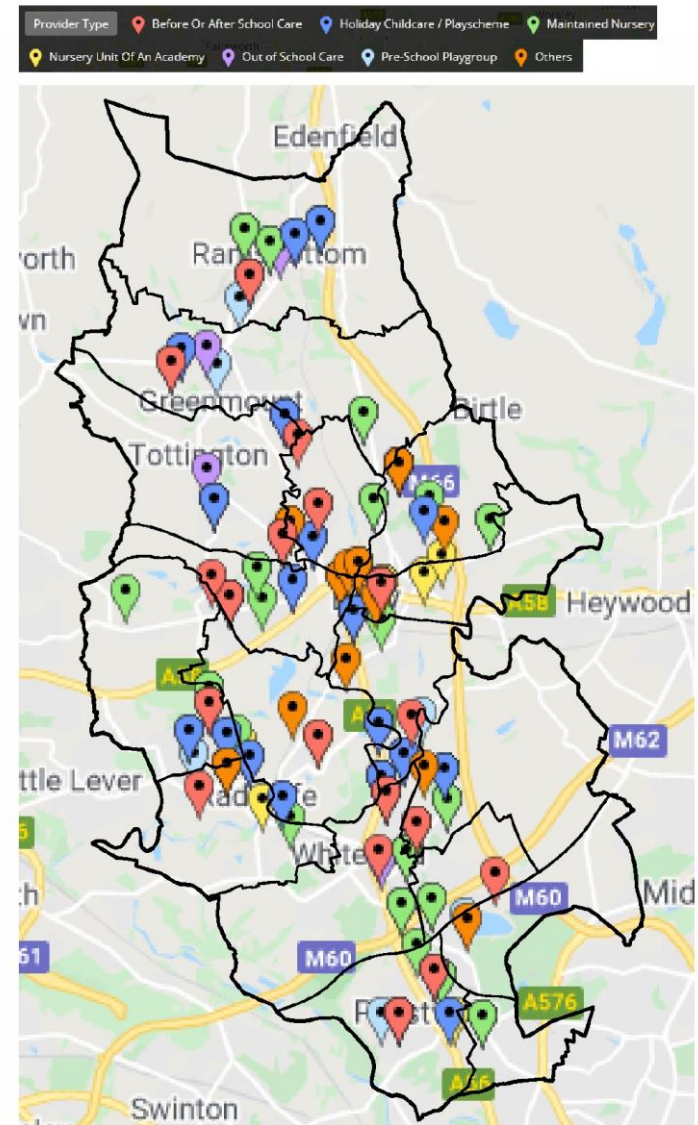
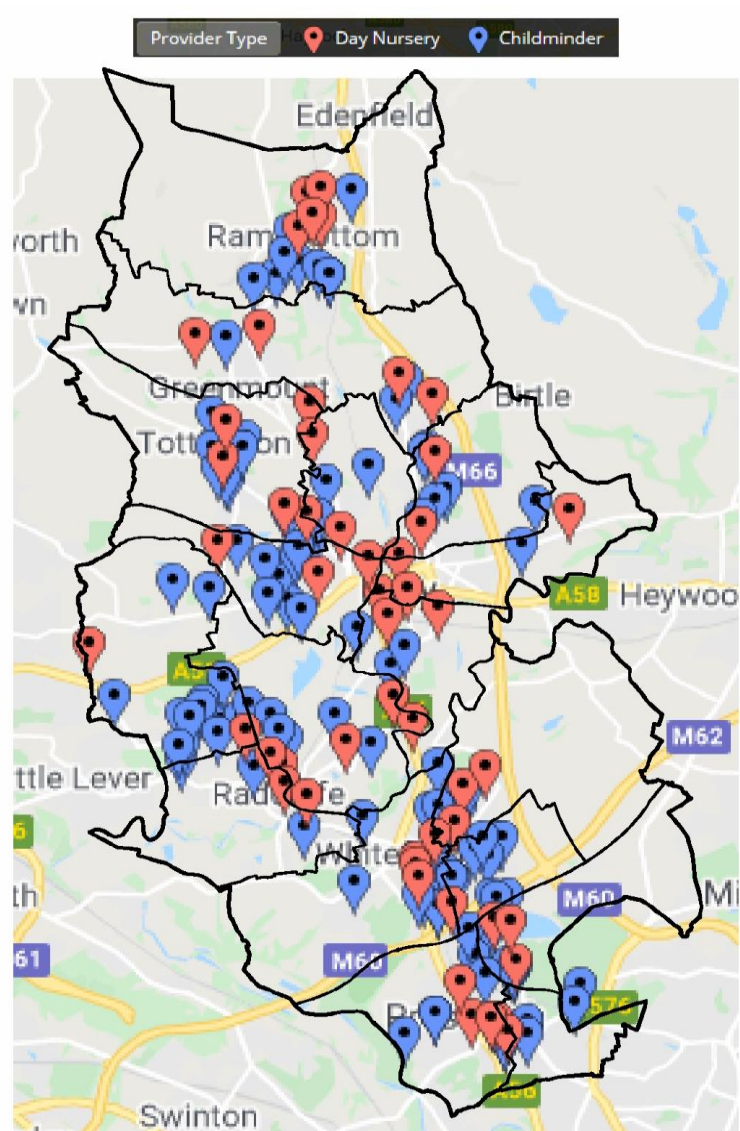
### **6.1 Sufficiency following Covid-19**

- Impact of Covid 19 on 2yo funded places (between March – June 20, there was an increase of 77% in UC applicants in Bury)
- Impact of Covid 19 on 30 hours funded places
- Potential reduction in staffing capacity following Covid 19
- Potential reduction in funded places following Covid 19
- Impact on childcare providers if there is a second wave of Covid 19 (further lockdown)
- Future sustainability of our childcare providers following Covid 19
- Parent survey to be completed during Autumn Term 2020 around take up following impact of Covid 19
- Gather more information on Provider Business Models to help analyse sufficiency further



## **Appendix A**

### **A map of borough wide childcare providers by provider type (Ofsted)**



## **Appendix B**

### **Places and vacancies by provider type for each ward**

Ward	School/Academy			PVI			Childminder			Total No. of settings	Total No. of places	Total No of vacancies
	No. of settings	No. of places	No. of vacancies	No. of settings	No. of places	No. of vacancies	No. of settings	No. of places	No. of vacancies			
Besses	3	80	27	2	88	2	15	82	32	20	250	61
Church	2	55	5	3	58	15	9	47	1	14	160	21
East	5	135	36	7	343	29	2	6	0	14	484	65
Elton	3	105	33	5	435	53	3	24	7	11	564	93
Holyrood	1	32	3	5	320	0	5	26	7	11	378	10
Moorside	3	82	17	2	171	42	7	29	7	12	282	66
North Manor	1	25	5	5	236	6	3	24	5	9	285	16
Pilkington Park	0	0	0	3	114	4	4	29	11	7	143	15
Radcliffe East	3	85	17	5	513	50	7	39	8	15	637	75
Radcliffe North	3	80	8	2	96	13	10	59	20	15	235	41
Radcliffe West	3	60	12	3	217	16	6	38	5	12	315	33
Ramsbottom	3	64	11	6	256	31	9	49	6	18	369	48
Redvales	2	50	0	6	343	20	3	16	8	11	409	28
Sedgley	3	102	15	4	213	60	16	57	16	23	372	91
St Mary's	3	80	18	3	173	80	5	48	24	11	301	122
Tottington	1	25	0	2	143	2	8	39	12	11	207	14
Unsworth	3	50	0	3	110	40	4	29	6	10	189	46
<b>Bury Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1110</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>3829</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>5580</b>	<b>845</b>

## Appendix C

### Take up rates for 2, 3 and 4 year olds

	Children accessing funding Summer Term 20			No of children eligible Summer Term 20			% take up Summer Term 20	
	Age (at the end of the previous term)			Age (at the end of the previous term)			Age (at the end of the previous term)	
Ward	2	3&4		2	3&4		2	3&4
Besses	40	217		45	310		88.9%	0.0%
Church	23	152		26	207		88.5%	0.0%
East	63	277		96	403		65.6%	0.0%
Elton	40	203		49	276		81.6%	0.0%
Holyrood	19	170		22	257		86.4%	0.0%
Moorside	56	262		82	375		68.3%	0.0%
North Manor	15	109		11	155		136.4%	0.0%
Pilkington Park	8	114		14	203		57.1%	0.0%
Radcliffe East	57	230		75	340		76.0%	0.0%
Radcliffe North	20	149		27	242		74.1%	0.0%
Radcliffe West	52	224		67	366		77.6%	0.0%
Ramsbottom	23	154		28	238		82.1%	0.0%
Redvales	49	254		77	376		63.6%	0.0%
Sedgley	32	184		107	541		29.9%	0.0%
St Mary's	14	133		30	267		46.7%	0.0%
Tottington	17	152		14	195		121.4%	0.0%
Unsworth	14	123		24	191		58.3%	0.0%
Out of Area	28	328		0	0		0	0.0%
	570	3435		794	4942		71.8%	94.0%

**2yo Take up figures taken from Summer Term 2020 headcount, Eligibility as of March 2020 DFE list**

**3&4yo Take up figures from Summer Term 2020 headcount – eligible children not collated take up published from EY census 2020**