

Childcare Sustainability Intelligence Assessment

**The Royal Borough of Windsor and
Maidenhead**

June 2021



Place =

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1. Introduction and Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Childcare Act 2006 placed a duty on all local authorities to secure sufficient, accessible and high-quality childcare for children aged 0-14 years, so far as is reasonably practicable for working parents, parents/carers who are studying or training for employment. Therefore, the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead has a statutory duty to work with early years and childcare providers from the private, voluntary, independent and maintained sector to create sustainable, accessible, affordable and high-quality childcare sufficient to meet the needs of all parents and carers. There is a further duty to secure funded childcare for qualifying working parents following the introduction of the 30 hours extended entitlement.
- 1.2 This 2021 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) report summarises *intelligence* about the supply of childcare in the Royal Borough - aligned to the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 1.3 Essentially, it also provides an overview of the childcare market the Royal Borough in early summer 2021, within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 1.4 The information within this document - as with previous CSAs - will help the Royal Borough plan and support the local childcare economy at this critical time, as the country emerges from the third national lockdown. Indeed, at the time of the finalisation of this CSA, early Summer 2021, the government was maintaining its policy of trying to keep early years and childcare provision open and the sector at work.
- 1.5 This CSA enables a key conclusion that although 2020-2021 has been an extremely testing period for the Royal Borough early years and childcare sector, especially its childminders - due to the COVID-19 pandemic - (encouragingly) there was not any feedback indicating that a specific provider had had to close or go out of business. For example, again encouragingly, the majority of early years childcare providers/settings (70%) expected to still be in business in 2 years-time.
- 1.6 It is likely - aligned to the intelligence received - that the sector's rejuvenation will be dependent on how summer and autumn 2021 evolve, and how the sector (like all sectors), will be impacted by the conclusion of the government's furlough scheme, in late September 2021, and any *notable* return to work of employees in the Windsor, Maidenhead and Ascot localities. If childcare providers did have to close at any point again in the second half of 2021, like they did during the period late March 2020-July 2020, there was feedback that suggested that this will lead to inescapable sustainability challenges, especially within the childminding sector - where feelings of anxiety and isolation had evidently been experienced due to the pandemic.
- 1.7 As the sector approaches summer 2021, it is therefore evident that although the sufficiency (and supply) of childcare and early years places in the Windsor, Maidenhead and Ascot localities has not been *critically* affected by COVID-19, the demand for formal childcare (and thus occupancy rates) has been affected, particularly due to the evident fact that a number of parents/carers have found themselves not requiring formal childcare due to a change in their work circumstances, or them working from home, or them still being on furlough.

2. Childcare Provision, Occupancy and COVID-19

- 2.1 For the 2021 Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead CSA the following approaches were used in order to consult with childcare providers.
- 2.2 70 of the localities 74 **early years childcare providers/settings (i.e. PVI nurseries, maintained school nursery classes and pre-school/playgroups)** responded to a request to participate in a structured telephone interview.
- 2.3 Going into the CSA research there were 120 **registered childminders** operating across the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead locality. 50% of the localities registered childminders were invited to participate in a structured interview and other childminders/professionals responded to a request to complete an on-line survey. 70 registered childminders were ultimately interviewed or provided structured feedback online.
- 2.4 Finally, the reader can note that the use of the term ‘childcare provider[s]’ in the following section denotes a reference to both type of providers, i.e. (a) early years childcare providers/settings and (b) registered childminders.

Childcare and Occupancy

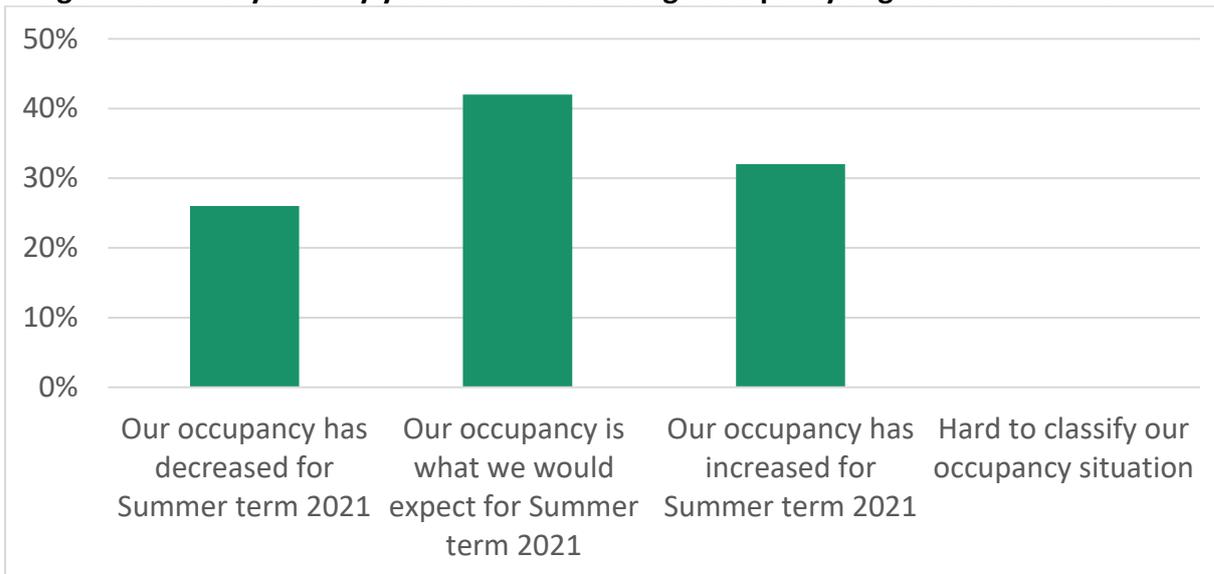
- 2.5 In terms of fundamental occupancy, 47% of early years childcare providers/settings had a waiting list in spring 2021, with 12% stating that its size had *decreased* since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. (Encouragingly, 42% stated that its size had *increased* since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic).
- 2.6 27% of registered childminders had a waiting list in spring 2021, with 15% stating that its size had decreased since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. (9% stated that its size had increased since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic).
- 2.7 Table 1 below presents the situation reported by childcare providers in terms of vacancies, in Spring 2021.

Table 1 - Vacancies within childcare providers in Spring 2021

Type of Provision	Percentage reporting vacant places in early summer 2021	Age group evidently accounting for the highest number of vacant places across the locality
Early Years Childcare Providers	60%	2 years
Registered Childminders	33%	1 year

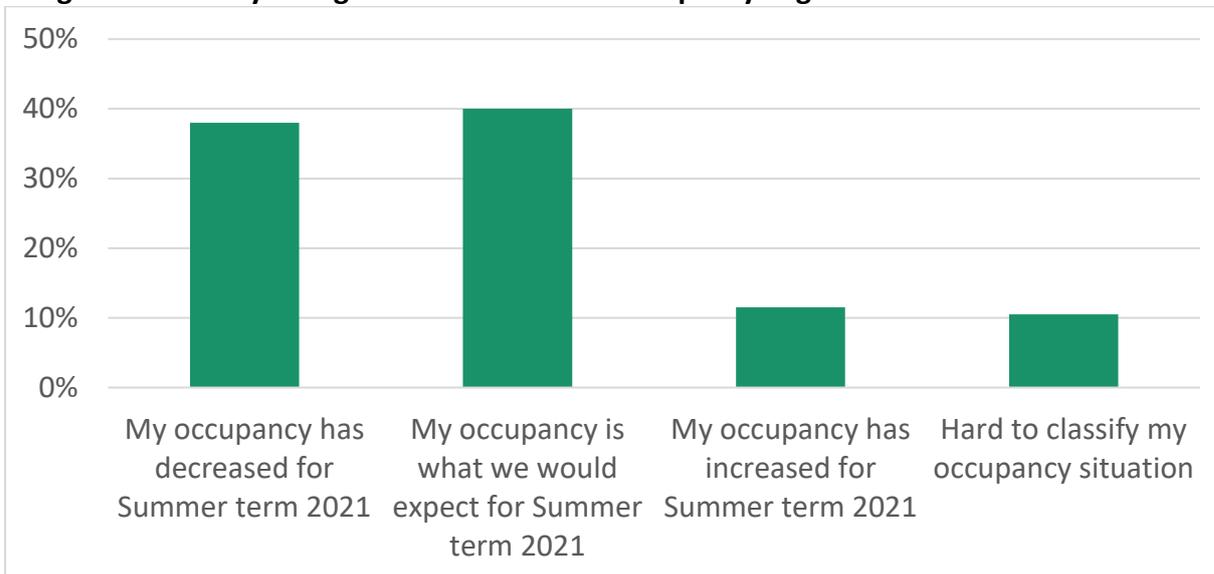
- 2.8 For early years childcare providers the Eton and Castle ward accounted for the highest number of settings reporting vacant places.
- 2.9 For registered childminders the Clewer and Dedworth East ward accounted for the highest number of settings reporting vacant places.
- 2.10 Image 1 shows how early years childcare providers/settings summarised their occupancy in May 2021 compared to February 2020/pre-COVID-19 pandemic.

Image 1 - Summary of early years childcare settings occupancy aligned to COVID-19



- 2.11 The St. Mary’s ward accounted for the most frequent number of providers who stated it had decreased.
- 2.12 Image 2 shows how registered childminders summarised their occupancy in May 2021 compared to February 2020/pre-COVID-19 pandemic. This sector has seen more of a decrease in occupancy than the early years childcare provider/settings – i.e. day nurseries and pre-schools.

Image 2 - Summary of registered childminder occupancy aligned to COVID-19



- 2.13 51% of early years childcare providers/settings stated that they had witnessed new trends since June 2020, with the top 5 being (in order of frequency):
- i. Rising demand for places for 2 year olds.
 - ii. Increased demand for half day sessions.
 - iii. Increased demand for baby places (with two providers attributing this to a lockdown 'baby boom').
 - iv. Increased incidence of parents requesting flexibility in terms of hours of childcare.
 - v. Increased incidence of parents "looking for" 30 hours childcare offer.
- 2.14 Correspondingly, 57% of registered childminders stated that they had witnessed new trends since June 2020, with the 4 repeated being (in order of frequency):
- i. Increased demand for/enquiries about part-time places.
 - ii. Increased incidence of parents requesting flexibility in terms of hours of childcare.
 - iii. Increased request for "shorter days" or "fewer hours".
 - iv. Increased demand for baby places (with two providers attributing this to a lockdown 'baby boom').
- 2.15 Each of the responding childcare providers/settings were requested to state what they considered to be their standard opening hours.
- 2.16 For early years childcare providers, the most frequent opening time was: 9.00am with the *average* opening time across all settings being: 8.20am. The most frequent closing/pick-up time was: 18.00pm with the *average* closing time across the across all responding settings being: 16.38pm.
- 2.17 For childminders, the most frequent opening time was: 7.30am with the *average* start time across all settings being: 7.43am. The most frequent finish/pick-up time was: 18.00pm with the *average* finish/pick-up across the across all responding settings being: 17.43pm.
- 2.18 Early years childcare providers/settings and registered childminders outlined how higher or lower they expected demand for certain places to be in autumn 2021 – compared to spring 2021, i.e. approximately six months on.

Table 2 - Envisaged demand for types of early years and childcare places in autumn 2021

Early Years Childcare Providers/settings	Fee paying places in autumn 2021...	Free entitlement for 2 year old places in autumn 2021...	Universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds in autumn 2021...	Extended 30 hours childcare offer places for 3 and 4 year olds in autumn 2021...
% stating: significantly higher	1.5%	0	0	0
Higher – but not significantly	17.5%	14.5%	23%	20%
About the same	40%	34%	39%	40%
Lower – but not significantly	19%	10%	22%	9%
Significantly lower	4.5%	4.5%	1.5%	6%
Don't Know	13%	20%	13%	11.5%
Rather not say	0	0	0	0
Non applicable	3%	13%	0	11.5%

Table 2 (continued)...

Childminders	Fee paying places in autumn 2021...	Free entitlement for 2 year old places in autumn 2021...	Universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds in autumn 2021...	Extended 30 hours childcare offer places for 3 and 4 year olds in autumn 2021...
% stating: significantly higher	3%	4%	3%	1%
Higher – but not significantly	20%	14%	14%	13%
About the same	40%	45%	42%	33%
Lower – but not significantly	13%	3%	7%	7%
Significantly lower	4%	3%	3%	6%
Don't Know	7%	16%	17%	23%
Rather not say	10%	10%	9%	7%
Non applicable	3%	4%	4%	9%

2.19 Table 2 shows that early years childcare providers/settings envisaged that demand for fee paying and/or funded childcare places would be lower in autumn 2021 more frequently than their childminding colleagues. Almost one-quarter of early years childcare providers/settings stated that they envisage demand for 15 hours universal free entitlement places will be (to some extent) lower in autumn 2021.

- 2.20 13% of early years childcare providers/settings said that they have plans to *increase* their capacity over the forthcoming 2 years.

Table 3 - Intentions to increase places/capacity during 2021-2023

Type of Provision	Percentage with an intention to increase the number of places over the next 2 years	Total number of places stated by all relevant providers	Ward accounting for the highest number of reported/intended new places
Early Years Childcare Providers/Settings	13%	193	Hurley and Walthams
Registered Childminders	3% [two]	5	n/a

Fees and Finances

- 2.21 Table 4 below shows the average standard hourly fees applicable for each type of childcare provision for specific key age groups, **for fee paying places**.

Table 4 - Average standard hourly fees per age group

Type of Provision	Aged 0 – 12 months	Aged 1 year	Aged 2 years	Aged 3 years	Aged 4 years	Aged 5-8 years
Early Years Childcare Providers	£7.02	£7.08	£6.39	£6.29	£6.27	n/a
Registered Childminders	£6.04	£5.82	£5.79	£5.90	£5.89	£5.80

- 2.22 43% of all childcare providers stated that they had made some form of contractual changes with parents/carers as a result of COVID-19.
- Early years childcare providers/settings had most frequently: initiated a more flexible offer to accommodate changes in demand (23%).
 - Registered childminders had also most frequently: initiated a more flexible offer to accommodate changes in demand (11%).
- 2.23 (Only) 7% of early years childcare providers/settings had accessed the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Business Interruption Loan Scheme in 2020-2021 and 9% Coronavirus Bounce Back Loan Scheme. Such providers were most frequently located in the Bray ward. Experiences of government financial support – including aligned to supporting cash-flow included:

“The application process was very simple and the bank and our insurance company were brilliant”.

“I found the process simple and it helped to keep us sustainable”.

“The Bounce Back loan helped... but we are mindful that you still have to pay the debt back”.

2.24 Correspondingly 92% (the majority) of registered childminders had accessed the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS). Feedback about the SEISS was very positive with typical feedback being:

*"It was really **easy** to access and it **helped**".*

*"It was **easy** and **helped** me tick over".*

"I couldn't have kept going without it".

2.25 It should be noted that 8% of registered childminders had *not* accessed the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS), with recurrent reasons:

"I was not eligible as I only started my business in October 2019" – and similarly:

"I was not eligible as I had only working as a Childminder for 2 years".

"I stayed open so didn't need to use the SEISS".

2.26 Additionally, 6% of registered childminders (including those among the 92% above) had accessed Universal Credit during the pandemic – feedback *included*:

"I am on Universal Credit at present. My husband had mental health problems and was on 'UC' and so it made it easier for me to apply because we were on the system. It has helped sustain our income"

"It's all online and get paid regularly. I wouldn't have been able to pay the rent without it".

2.27 9% of PVI early years childcare providers/settings were *still* (in May 2021) accessing the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS). The Eton and Castle ward accounted for highest number of applicable such providers.

2.28 19% of PVI early years childcare providers/settings had evidently been eligible for the government's business rates relief/holiday due to COVID-19, and had made a claim. Feedback was positive and included:

"It has helped a lot but comes to an end in July, I think?"

"It was fairly straightforward, and it helped financially".

2.29 9% of PVI early years childcare providers/settings had evidently been eligible for a Local Discretionary Fund Grant due to COVID-19, and had made a claim. Feedback was positive and included:

"A friend put me on to it. When I applied the first time, we weren't eligible but then in the autumn we were eligible and this helped financially, particularly with the lack of income due to low demand last September. It enabled us to keep our heads above water".

“It was easy to apply and was very positive. It helped a little with sustainability. It would have been good to have had the option to apply for a second grant further down the line, but we were grateful with what we got”.

- 2.30 Table 5 below shows the incidence of childcare providers that have deferred payments to the HMRC, again as a result of COVID-19, which is not significant.

Table 5 - Incidence of deferring payments to HMRC as an outcome of COVID-19

Type of Provider	Yes, we/I have deferred payments
Early Years Childcare Providers	(Only) two providers
Registered Childminders	(Only) one childminder

Effects of COVID-19

- 2.3.1 Table 6 shows (in order of frequency for each type of provider) the five most frequent effects of COVID-19 – in some cases ongoing effects – outlined by childcare providers in spring 2021.

Table 6 - Most frequent effects of COVID-19 outlined by childcare providers in spring 2021

Type of Provision	Early Years Childcare Providers	Registered Childminders
Effect 1:	Financial effect and a loss of revenue – stated by approximately 50% of providers.	Financial effect and a loss of revenue – stated by, again, approximately again 50% of childminders.
Effect 2:	Reduction in occupancy and an increased incidence of parents now working from home.	Reduction in occupancy, though with signs of recovery – for example: “We are optimistic as there has been a bounce back in demand”.
Effect 3:	Staff issues – with some staff leaving due to COVID-19 concerns; problems with morale; problems with managing bubbles; problems recruiting; and an incidence of increased wage bills.	A significant reduction in demand for before school and after school hours childcare and wraparound care.
Effect 4:	Reduction in the ability to provide (revenue generating) wraparound care, breakfast clubs and after school clubs.	Parents maintaining services of childminders however wanting greater flexibility and reduced hours.
Effect 5:	Extra expenses of PPE.	Feelings of “stress”, “weariness” and “isolation” – and thus mental health challenges.

- 2.31 18% of early years childcare providers had changed their fundamental business model during 2020-2021 as an outcome of COVID-19 - with varied (opening hours themed) adaptations being:

“We are considering offering 9.00am to 3.00pm instead of the full day which we

have at the moment”.

“We have changed from term time only to full time 48 weeks of a year”.

“We reduced our hours by half an hour at the beginning and end of the day, and we won't change this back”.

- 2.32 14% of registered childminders had evidently changed their fundamental business model during 2020-2021 as an outcome of COVID-19, with similar adaptations including:

“I am closing an hour earlier to do the cleaning and I will continue to close at 17:30pm”.

“I have changed my working hours from 6.30am-18.00pm to 7.30am-17.00pm, I will stick to this even after the pandemic is over”.

“I have reduced my hours by half an hour each day, now closing at 17.30pm instead of 18.00pm”.

- 2.33 With regard to early years childcare providers/settings, the Ascot and Sunninghill ward accounted for the highest number of (all types) of childcare providers whose business model had been adapted, as an outcome of COVID-19. With regard to responding registered childminders, the Clewer and Dedworth East ward accounted for the highest number of (all types) of childcare providers whose business model had been adapted, as an outcome of COVID-19.

- 2.34 9% of early years childcare providers/settings and 3% of registered childminders stated they would appreciate (continued) advice and support with business modelling/sustainability.

- 2.35 23% of early years childcare providers/settings and 3% of registered childminders stated they would appreciate advice and support with marketing, including virtual marketing - with requests from early years childcare providers/settings *including:*

“Virtual marketing is not my strength, and we need to do more social media marketing”.

“I'd welcome advice on how to increase our presence online e.g. via Facebook, but without costing”

“Advice on marketing that isn't expensive would be great, as we are a small charity”.

“I am a childminder and I have a Facebook page and it gets a little bit of interest - but I would like pointers on what else I should have regarding social media and in what direction I should go? I have thought about a website but is it worth it as it could be costly?”

- 2.36 15% of all childcare providers outlined that they would welcome advice and/or support on the theme of costs and savings (20% of early years childcare providers/settings and 10% of registered childminders).

2.37 Repeated plans to also re-energise income were (...as stated by 40% of early years childcare providers/settings):

- increasing capacity.
- focusing on dedicated marketing time and utilizing social media.
- establishing *Stay and Play*-type sessions.
- finessing methods of virtual marketing.

2.38 Images 4 and 5 show how confident parents/families were with returning to formal childcare as perceived by the two types of providers themselves:

Image 4 - Parents/families confidence as perceived by early years childcare providers/settings

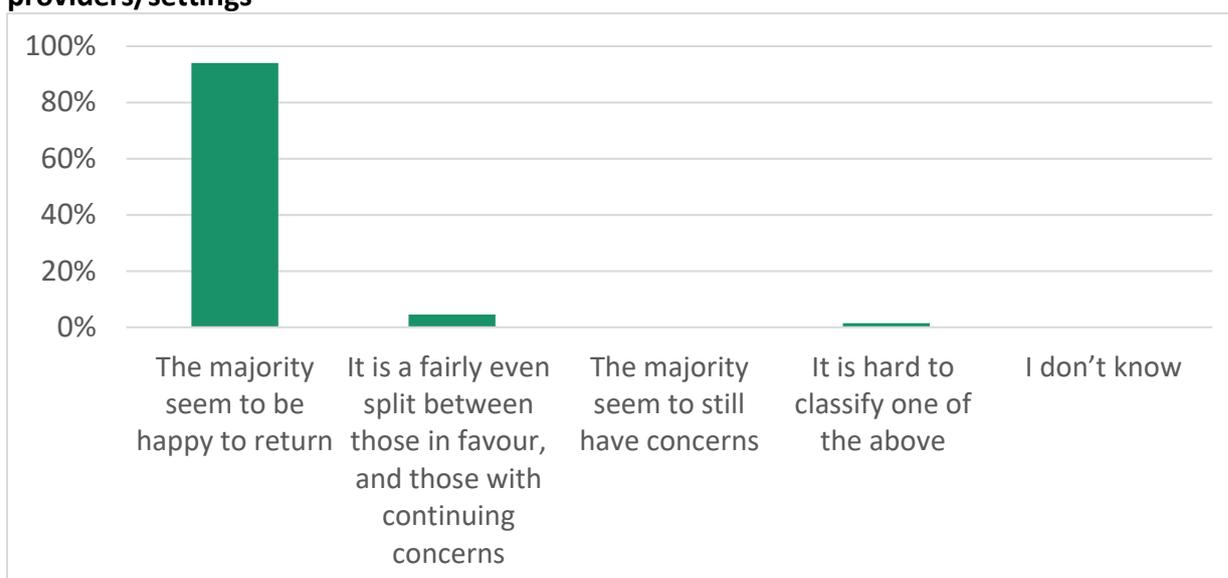
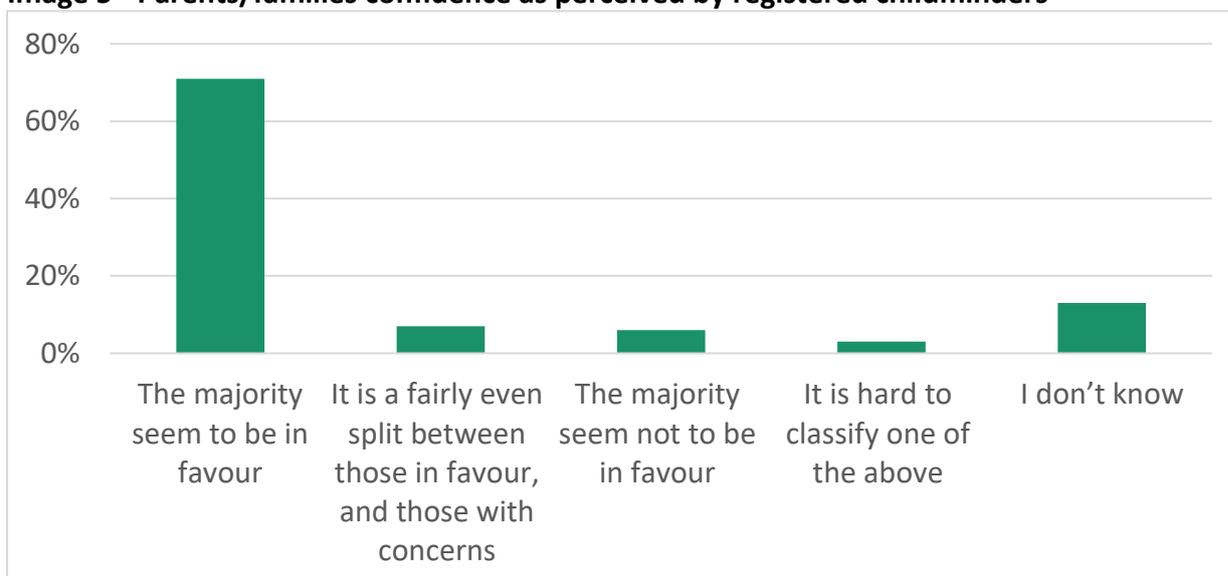


Image 5 - Parents/families confidence as perceived by registered childminders



2.39 (Only) 9% of childcare settings said that they would welcome further advice or support in terms of a COVID-19 'protect your setting' policy/risk assessment, or a staff and parent policy/protocol. Two repeated types of ongoing advice/support requested were:

- A 'training course' for practitioners about the new policy and risk assessment.

ii. Monthly general (continued) COVID-19 updates (one childminder stated: “More information that is specific to childminders and right up to date. Sometimes parents asked me about a COVID rule before I knew about it”).

2.40 Images 6 and 7 present percentages aligned to how long the two types of childcare providers expected to continue to be offering a service/operating.

Image 6 - How long do you expect to be offering childcare?... early years childcare providers/settings

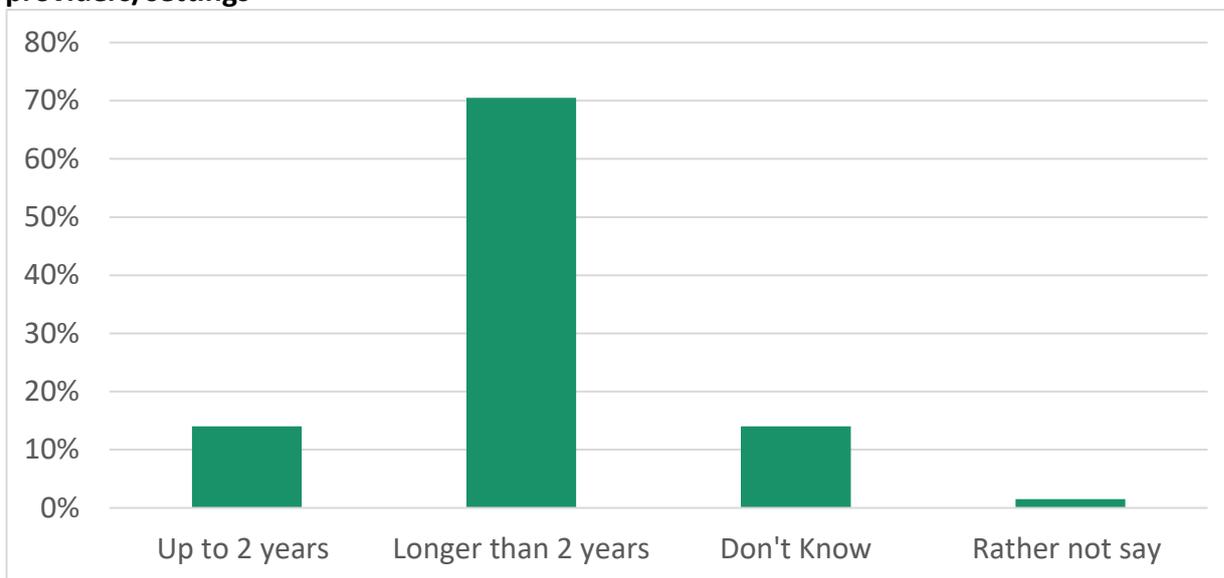
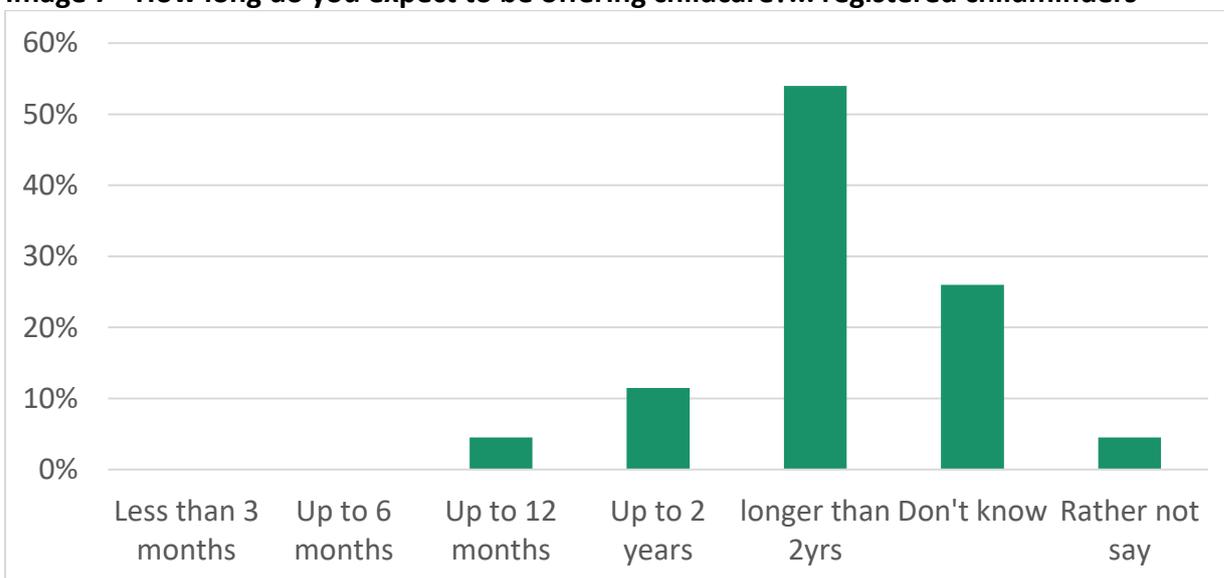


Image 7 - How long do you expect to be offering childcare?... registered childminders



2.41 Table 7 below shows the five most frequent forms of support and advice that childcare providers have said they would welcome from the Royal Borough aligned to COVID-19.

Table 7 - Types of ongoing support and advice requested from the local authority

Type of Provision	Early Years Childcare Providers (with 72% specifying a type of support)	Registered Childminders (with 59% specifying a type of support)
Support type 1:	To continue and “prioritise” their role in promoting funded childcare to parents – for example: “Signposting parents to us so that they know we offer the funded hours”.	To continue to advise and support childminders, particularly about the new Early Years Foundation Stage framework.
Support type 2:	To continue to support providers through training, on themes including “Makaton”, “mental health of staff” and “training on the new EYFS”.	To (continue to) help childminders network, aligned to the specific theme of emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic.
Support type 3:	Give advice on grant funding sources and help/support with making applications.	Acknowledging that feelings of loneliness and stress have been experienced over the past 14 months: “making it clear we are not forgotten and that we are valued”.
Support type 4:	For members of the Early Years team to look at the logistics of recommencing actual on-site visits.	For them to continue their communication about training opportunities.
Support type 5:	Help (if possible) to offset the expense of training courses.	

2.42 Finally, on the theme of COVID-19, some childcare providers (12%) outlined concerns about disruptions to the continued implementation and delivery of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Feedback on this theme, included:

“It has been a difficult time for the children, they do not know what has been happening and have missed out on life-time experiences”.

“There probably will be an effect where many of the children coming to us in autumn 2021 may have been at risk, had fewer experiences than other children, may not be as adept as other children their age and not be as physically able”.

"I personally think the new [Early Years Foundation Stage] framework will make it more difficult for us providers to communicate with schools".

"I have seen more children with behavioural problems coming to me now [as a childminder]".

"Us childminders can see a big change. I have two babies who have just started and they are not able to do the normal things that they should doing at their age. There is going to be ongoing effects, they will need extra support. Babies have only known adults wearing masks and this has affected their speech and language. There is going more anxiety in the future and more children needing long term support".

COVID-19 and staffing

- 2.43 In terms of the early years childcare providers/settings - the following metrics aligned to staff were evidently experienced within each of the Royal Borough wards:

Table 8 - Staff employment within early years childcare providers/settings each ward

Cluster	Average number per setting	Number of settings where staff had exited <i>due to</i> COVID-19
Ascot and Sunninghill	9	1
Belmont	14	0
Bisham and Cookham	9	0
Boyn Hill	18	2
Bray	7	1
Clewer and Dedworth East	7	0
Clewer and Dedworth West	9	0
Clewer East	22	1
Cox Green	12	0
Datchet, Horton and	6	3
Eton and Castle	11	1
Furze Platt	12	1
Hurley and Walthams	11	0
Old Windsor	9	1
Oldfield	5	1
Pinkneys Green	8	0
Riverside	n/a	0
St. Mary's	12	0
Sunningdale and Cheapside	13	0

- 2.44 17% of early years childcare providers/settings said that they experienced examples of staff leaving their setting in the past 12 months as a direct consequence of COVID-19.

- 2.45 The wards that accounted for the highest incidence of this theme, were: (a) Datchet, Horton and Wraysbury and; (b) Boyn Hill.
- 2.46 The three most frequent reasons for staff leaving were evidently:
- a specific team member being anxious about contracting COVID-19.
 - a team member being unhappy that hours had to be reduced.
 - a team member being pregnant and taking maternity as due course .
- 2.47 (Only) 8 early years childcare providers/settings had had to make redundancies as a direct result of COVID-19. A further 3 said it was possible they would have to make redundancies in summer 2021.
- 2.48 However, encouragingly 78% stated that they did not envisage they would have to make redundancies in the forthcoming future.
- 2.49 37% of interviewees from early years childcare providers/settings said that they had *personally* experienced mental health challenges aligned to their job and COVID-19, with 74% saying that they had staff who had experienced challenges and problems.
- 2.50 43% of childminders said that they had personally experienced mental health challenges aligned to their job and COVID-19. One childminder gave feedback which represented the views of others when she stated: *"...If you can find those childminders who are suffering, but people don't like to say they are suffering, so it's hard. Encouraging people to join a group like a 'Maidenhead and Windsor Childminding Group' might be helpful as childminders who are suffering would realise they aren't the only ones"*.
- 2.51 Types of support that relevant interviewees believed that the Royal Borough could *continue* to offer aligned to this mental health theme wellbeing included:
- continue to offer courses on wellbeing.
 - continuing to support mentoring for managers, including through talk therapy.
 - establish a *"helpline"* or *"system"* specifically for members of the local childcare profession which could help to signpost and refer – including aligned to financial worries caused by COVID-19.
 - in-situ training sessions on mindfulness.
- 2.52 30% of early years childcare providers/settings had staff training needs/gaps and the three repeated were (in order of frequency):
- i. training about the new/reforms to Early Years Framework
 - ii. refreshed safeguarding training
 - iii. SEND themed training
- 2.53 Correspondingly, 35% of registered childminders had staff training needs/gaps and the three repeated were (in order of frequency):
- i. training about the new/reforms to Early Years Framework
 - ii. training on the theme of mental health
 - iii. refreshed safeguarding training

2.54 19% of registered childminders said that they had employed a childminding assistant before the COVID-19 pandemic and all but one of these childminders had been able to retain the assistant during the pandemic.

3. Conclusions and Recommendations

Key findings	Ward(s) footprint (where relevant feedback was notable)	Relevant recommendation for LA
Occupancy		
<p>1/Approximately 50% of early years childcare providers/settings and registered childminders - reported a loss of income and revenue as a result of COVID-19 and the three lockdown(s).</p> <p>2/Approximately 60% of early years childcare providers/settings and registered childminders have seen occupancy levels reduced as an outcome of COVID 19, including due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) parents/carers now working from home; (b) parents/carers having anxieties related to COVID-19 and; (c) parents/carers needing less days or hours. <p>However, there was feedback indicating that demand was beginning to consistently revive.</p>	Royal Borough-wide.	A) The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead should continue as much as is feasible re-energise and rejuvenate parental demand for formal childcare places - including via (continued) marketing of funded childcare.
<p>3/Approximately 15% of registered childminders outlined a concern that their school drop-off and/or pick-up scheduling and day-management has been disrupted by COVID-19 – for example:</p> <p><i>“I lost my after school children as parents were able to collect themselves from school”.</i></p>	Notably stated by childminders from the Bisham and Cookham ward.	B) The Royal Borough should continue to: (a) be mindful of and; (b) monitor this particular school aged-based theme, which has been an evident issue in terms of certain childminder’s occupancy.

Key findings	Ward(s) footprint	Relevant recommendation for
<p>4/60% of early years childcare providers confirmed that they had vacant places in spring 2021. In comparison, 33% of the responding registered childminders confirmed that they had vacant places in spring 2021.</p> <p>5/Approximately 15% of early years childcare providers/settings and registered childminders reported that they had vacant funded childcare places.</p>	<p>Royal Borough-wide, though in terms of funded childcare places: Pinkneys Green ward recurred.</p>	<p>C) The Royal Borough should continue to <i>demonstrate</i> to their childcare providers that they will help them - as much as is feasible - to understand what the <i>future demand</i> for their provision may be, including for (the three types of) funded childcare places.</p>

Key findings	Cluster footprint(s)	Relevant recommendation for
<p>6/A number of representatives (i.e. managers and proprietors) of early years childcare provider/settings (approximately 35%), and registered childminders (approximately 45%) outlined how they had been experiencing issues such as “stress” and “feelings of isolation” as a result of the challenges that the COVID-19 outbreak had created.</p>	<p>Royal Borough-wide.</p>	<p>D) Relevant officers from the Royal Borough should retain their ongoing awareness that certain childcare professionals (in particular childminders), reported feeling and suffering from “stress” and/or “anxiety” during the 2020-2021 COVID-19 outbreak.</p>
<p>7/17% of early years childcare providers/settings said that they experienced examples of staff leaving their setting in the past 12 months as a direct consequence of COVID-19.</p>	<p>Notably stated by representatives of the early years childcare sector from the: (a) Datchet, Horton and Wraysbury ward and; (b) Boyn Hill ward.</p>	<p>E) The Royal Borough should continue to monitor how they may have to support/advise a possibly growing number of out of work/unemployed local childcare professionals, and also support early years childcare providers/settings with retention and recruitment.</p>
<p>8/12% of early years childcare providers/settings and registered childminders reported concerns about how COVID-19 had caused disruptions to the continued implementation and delivery of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).</p> <p>There were also concerns (from childminders) about the advent of the new EYFS and their understanding of its directives.</p>	<p>Royal Borough-wide.</p>	<p>F) The Royal Borough should continue to monitor (as effectively as it can) how the early development of 2019-2021 cohort children has been disrupted by the effects of the pandemic.</p>

Key findings	Cluster footprint(s)	Relevant recommendation for LA
<p>9/43% of all childcare providers stated that they had made some form of contractual changes with parents/carers as a result of COVID-19 - most frequently they had initiated a more flexible offer to accommodate changes in parental demand.</p>	<p>Royal Borough-wide.</p>	<p>G) The Royal Borough should retain their awareness that there is a growing incidence of childcare providers responding to the ongoing challenges of COVID-19 by (necessarily) initiating a more flexible offer and opening hours.</p>
<p>10/Almost 15% of early years childcare providers/settings stated that they envisage demand for 15 hours universal free entitlement places will be (to some extent) lower in autumn 2021.</p>	<p>Royal Borough-wide, though in terms of funded childcare places: Sunningdale and Cheapside ward recurred.</p>	<p>H/ The Royal Borough should continue to demonstrate to their childcare providers that they will help them - as much as is feasible - to understand what the future demand for their provision may be, including for (the three types of) funded childcare places - and will support with the promotion of funded childcare places.</p>

4. Appendix – Supply metrics aligned to possible sustainability risks

- 4.1 The following tables outline fundamental supply and availability metrics aligned to the early years childcare providers/settings that are situated in each of the Royal Borough's wards. Each table concludes with a row showing the number of such settings that outlined a tangible potential (and possibly forthcoming) sustainability concern in summer 2021, that could – theoretically – lead to a reduction in the number of places accessible in that ward, should the setting have to close. Such sustainability concerns were invariably related to a setting's post COVID-19 pandemic recovery.

Ward: Ascot and Sunninghill

Metric:	No.
Number of registered early years childcare providers/settings located in the ward	7
Number of total registered places offered by all early years childcare providers/settings in 2021 in the ward	257
Number of free entitlement for 2 year olds places evidently accessible in late summer 2021	28
Number of universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds places evidently accessible in late summer 2021	57
Number of 30 hours extended free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds places evidently offered in late summer 2021	55
Number of stated vacancies: free entitlement for 2 year old places in summer 2021	10
Number of stated vacancies: universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year old places in summer 2021	9
Number of stated vacancies: 30 hours childcare offer places in summer 2021	7
Number of early years childcare providers/settings stating evident Sustainability concerns in summer 2021	1 of 7

Ward: Belmont

Metric:	No.
Number of registered early years childcare providers/settings located in the ward	4
Number of total registered places offered by all early years childcare providers/settings in 2021 in the ward	216
Number of free entitlement for 2 year olds places evidently accessible in late summer 2021	3
Number of universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds places evidently accessible in late summer 2021	115
Number of 30 hours extended free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds places evidently offered in late summer 2021	39
Number of stated vacancies: Free entitlement for 2 year old places in summer 2021	0
Number of stated vacancies: universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year old places in summer 2021	0
Number of stated vacancies: 30 hours childcare offer places in summer 2021	0
Number of early years childcare providers/settings stating evident Sustainability concerns in summer 2021	0 of 4

Ward: Bisham and Cookham

Metric:	No.
Number of registered early years childcare providers/settings located in the ward	4
Number of total registered places offered by all early years childcare providers/settings in 2021 in the ward	118
Number of free entitlement for 2 year olds places evidently accessible in late summer 2021	9
Number of universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds places evidently accessible in late summer 2021	41
Number of 30 hours extended free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds places evidently offered in late summer 2021	18
Number of stated vacancies: free entitlement for 2 year old places in summer 2021	1
Number of stated vacancies: universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year old places in summer 2021	6
Number of stated vacancies: 30 hours childcare offer places in summer 2021	0
Number of early years childcare providers/settings stating evident Sustainability concerns in summer 2021	1 of 4

Ward: Boyn Hill

Metric:	No.
Number of registered early years childcare providers/settings located in the ward	6
Number of total registered places offered by all early years childcare providers/settings in 2021 in the ward	372
Number of free entitlement for 2 year olds places evidently accessible in late summer 2021	16
Number of universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds places evidently accessible in late summer 2021	100
Number of 30 hours extended free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds places evidently offered in late summer 2021	96
Number of stated vacancies: free entitlement for 2 year old places in summer 2021	0
Number of stated vacancies: universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year old places in summer 2021	1
Number of stated vacancies: 30 hours childcare offer places in summer 2021	0
Number of early years childcare providers/settings stating evident Sustainability concerns in summer 2021	1* of 6

* "Only if a fourth national lockdown".

Ward: Bray

Metric:	No.
Number of registered early years childcare providers/settings located in the ward	3
Number of total registered places offered by all early years childcare providers/settings in 2021 in the ward	86
Number of free entitlement for 2 year olds places evidently accessible in late summer 2021	19
Number of universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds places evidently accessible in late summer 2021	36
Number of 30 hours extended free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds places evidently offered in late summer 2021	22
Number of stated vacancies: free entitlement for 2 year old places in summer 2021	3
Number of stated vacancies: universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year old places in summer 2021	6
Number of stated vacancies: 30 hours childcare offer places in summer 2021	3
Number of early years childcare providers/settings stating evident Sustainability concerns in summer 2021	1 of 3

Ward: Clewer and Dedworth East

Metric:	No.
Number of registered early years childcare providers/settings located in the ward	3
Number of total registered places offered by all early years childcare providers/settings in 2021 in the ward	90
Number of free entitlement for 2 year olds places evidently accessible in late summer 2021	13
Number of universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds places evidently accessible in late summer 2021	30
Number of 30 hours extended free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds places evidently offered in late summer 2021	32
Number of stated vacancies: free entitlement for 2 year old places in summer 2021	2
Number of stated vacancies: universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year old places in summer 2021	0
Number of stated vacancies: 30 hours childcare offer places in summer 2021	0
Number of early years childcare providers/settings stating evident Sustainability concerns in summer 2021	1 of 3

Ward: Clewer East

Metric:	No.
Number of registered early years childcare providers/settings located in the ward	2
Number of total registered places offered by all early years childcare providers/settings in 2021 in the ward	182
Number of free entitlement for 2 year olds places evidently accessible in late summer 2021	4
Number of universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds places evidently accessible in late summer 2021	44
Number of 30 hours extended free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds places evidently offered in late summer 2021	39
Number of stated vacancies: free entitlement for 2 year old places in summer 2021	1
Number of stated vacancies: universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year old places in summer 2021	7
Number of stated vacancies: 30 hours childcare offer places in summer 2021	6
Number of early years childcare providers/settings stating evident Sustainability Concerns in summer 2021	0 of 2

Ward: Cox Green

Metric:	No.
Number of registered early years childcare providers/settings located in the ward	2
Number of total registered places offered by all early years childcare providers/settings in 2021 in the ward	128
Number of free entitlement for 2 year olds places evidently accessible in late summer 2021	5
Number of universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds places evidently accessible in late summer 2021	35
Number of 30 hours extended free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds places evidently offered in late summer 2021	34
Number of stated vacancies: free entitlement for 2 year old places in summer 2021	0
Number of stated vacancies: universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year old places in summer 2021	0
Number of stated vacancies: 30 hours childcare offer places in summer 2021	0
Number of early years childcare providers/settings stating evident Sustainability concerns in summer 2021	0 of 2

Ward: Datchet, Horton and Wraysbury

Metric:	No.
Number of registered early years childcare providers/settings located in the ward	5
Number of total registered places offered by all early years childcare providers/settings in 2021 in the ward	178
Number of free entitlement for 2 year olds places evidently accessible in late summer 2021	15
Number of universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds places evidently accessible in late summer 2021	91
Number of 30 hours extended free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds places evidently offered in late summer 2021	35
Number of stated vacancies: free entitlement for 2 year old places in summer 2021	0
Number of stated vacancies: universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year old places in summer 2021	14
Number of stated vacancies: 30 hours childcare offer places in summer 2021	0
Number of early years childcare providers/settings stating evident Sustainability concerns in summer 2021	1 of 6

Ward: Eton and Castle

Metric:	No.
Number of registered early years childcare providers/settings located in the ward	12
Number of total registered places offered by all early years childcare providers/settings in 2021 in the ward	469
Number of free entitlement for 2 year olds places evidently accessible in late summer 2021	47
Number of universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds places evidently accessible in late summer 2021	108
Number of 30 hours extended free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds places evidently offered in late summer 2021	126
Number of stated vacancies: free entitlement for 2 year old places in summer 2021	7
Number of stated vacancies: universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year old places in summer 2021	14
Number of stated vacancies: 30 hours childcare offer places in summer 2021	10
Number of early years childcare providers/settings stating evident Sustainability concerns in summer 2021	2 of 12

Ward: Furze Platt

Metric:	No.
Number of registered early years childcare providers/settings located in the ward	3
Number of total registered places offered by all early years childcare providers/settings in 2021 in the ward	122
Number of free entitlement for 2 year olds places evidently accessible in late summer 2021	9
Number of universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds places evidently accessible in late summer 2021	40
Number of 30 hours extended free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds places evidently offered in late summer 2021	27
Number of stated vacancies: free entitlement for 2 year old places in summer 2021	0
Number of stated vacancies: universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year old places in summer 2021	5
Number of stated vacancies: 30 hours childcare offer places in summer 2021	5
Number of early years childcare providers/settings stating evident Sustainability concerns in summer 2021	1 of 3

Ward: Hurley and Walthams

Metric:	No.
Number of registered early years childcare providers/settings located in the ward	6
Number of total registered places offered by all early years childcare providers/settings in 2021 in the ward	246
Number of free entitlement for 2 year olds places evidently accessible in late summer 2021	22
Number of universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds places evidently accessible in late summer 2021	100
Number of 30 hours extended free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds places evidently offered in late summer 2021	23
Number of stated vacancies: free entitlement for 2 year old places in summer 2021	1
Number of stated vacancies: universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year old places in summer 2021	0
Number of stated vacancies: 30 hours childcare offer places in summer 2021	0
Number of early years childcare providers/settings stating evident Sustainability concerns in summer 2021	1 of 6

Ward: Old Windsor

Metric:	No.
Number of registered early years childcare providers/settings located in the ward	3
Number of total registered places offered by all early years childcare providers/settings in 2021 in the ward	136
Number of free entitlement for 2 year olds places evidently accessible in late summer 2021	10
Number of universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds places evidently accessible in late summer 2021	63
Number of 30 hours extended free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds places evidently offered in late summer 2021	19
Number of stated vacancies: free entitlement for 2 year old places in summer 2021	4
Number of stated vacancies: universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year old places in summer 2021	5
Number of stated vacancies: 30 hours childcare offer places in summer 2021	0
Number of early years childcare providers/settings stating evident Sustainability concerns in summer 2021	0 of 3

Ward: Oldfield

Metric:	No.
Number of registered early years childcare providers/settings located in the ward	2
Number of total registered places offered by all early years childcare providers/settings in 2021 in the ward	112
Number of free entitlement for 2 year olds places evidently accessible in late summer 2021	7
Number of universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds places evidently accessible in late summer 2021	23
Number of 30 hours extended free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds places evidently offered in late summer 2021	11
Number of stated vacancies: free entitlement for 2 year old places in summer 2021	5
Number of stated vacancies: universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year old places in summer 2021	0
Number of stated vacancies: 30 hours childcare offer places in summer 2021	0
Number of early years childcare providers/settings stating evident Sustainability concerns in summer 2021	1* of 2

* "Only if a fourth national lockdown".

Ward: Pinkneys Green

Metric:	No.
Number of registered early years childcare providers/settings located in the ward	2
Number of total registered places offered by all early years childcare providers/settings in 2021 in the ward	63
Number of free entitlement for 2 year olds places evidently accessible in late summer 2021	2
Number of universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds places evidently accessible in late summer 2021	27
Number of 30 hours extended free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds places evidently offered in late summer 2021	17
Number of stated vacancies: free entitlement for 2 year old places in summer 2021	0
Number of stated vacancies: universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year old places in summer 2021	0
Number of stated vacancies: 30 hours childcare offer places in summer 2021	0
Number of early years childcare providers/settings stating evident Sustainability concerns in summer 2021	0 of 2

Ward: St Mary's

Metric:	No.
Number of registered early years childcare providers/settings located in the ward	3
Number of total registered places offered by all early years childcare providers/settings in 2021 in the ward	134
Number of free entitlement for 2 year olds places evidently accessible in late summer 2021	4
Number of universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds places evidently accessible in late summer 2021	40
Number of 30 hours extended free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds places evidently offered in late summer 2021	39
Number of stated vacancies: free entitlement for 2 year old places in summer 2021	0
Number of stated vacancies: universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year old places in summer 2021	0
Number of stated vacancies: 30 hours childcare offer places in summer 2021	0
Number of early years childcare providers/settings stating evident Sustainability concerns in summer 2021	0 of 3

Ward: Sunningdale and Cheapside

Metric:	No.
Number of registered early years childcare providers/settings located in the ward	6
Number of total registered places offered by all early years childcare providers/settings in 2021 in the ward	237
Number of free entitlement for 2 year olds places evidently accessible in late summer 2021	23
Number of universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds places evidently accessible in late summer 2021	58
Number of 30 hours extended free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds places evidently offered in late summer 2021	81
Number of stated vacancies: free entitlement for 2 year old places in summer 2021	18
Number of stated vacancies: universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year old places in summer 2021	17
Number of stated vacancies: 30 hours childcare offer places in summer 2021	12
Number of early years childcare providers/settings stating evident Sustainability concerns in summer 2021	1 of 6