

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment of Derby City's Early Years 0 – 5 Childcare

Autumn 2024



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Executive summary

The council has a statutory duty to report annually on how the local authority is meeting its duty to secure sufficient childcare and to make an assessment report publicly available. (Childcare Act 2006 Part 1 sections 6 – 11). Local authorities' Childcare Sufficiency Assessments (CSA) should be easy to find and accessible to parents, professionals, and Councillors. The report is published [here](#).

This 0- to 5-year-old Autumn 2024 CSA is a strategic tool which evaluates the current childcare market and its ability to flex and meet future market demands and is available to a range of stakeholders and incorporates key local intelligence, demographic and supply data. It can be used to support new and existing childcare providers to make business decisions that will impact on the supply of childcare in the city and the strategic planning of the council's childcare sufficiency priorities.

The [Spring 2023](#) budget stated that a significant number of new childcare offers, will be available from April 2024, that aim to support the childcare market and make childcare more affordable for families:

- From April 2024, working parents of 2-year-olds have been able to access a total of 570 hours of funded childcare per year.
- From September 2024 this funding has been extended to working parents of 9mths+ to 3-year-olds.
- From September 2025 this funding will be increased to 1140 hours per year for working parents of children over 9mths+ and under 5 years.
- Staff-to-child ratios have change from 1:4 to 1:5 for 2-year-olds.
- Parents on UC will see an increase in the UC childcare cost maximum amounts available to £1,014.63 for one child and £1,739.37 for two children.
- Upfront support for childcare costs to parents on UC moving into work or increasing their hours rather than in-arrears.
- A national pathfinder scheme for wraparound childcare in England, to stimulate supply in the wraparound market and support the ambition that all children should be able to access 8am-6pm childcare provision in their local area.
- Start-up grants for childminders; £600 for those registering with Ofsted, £1200 for those registering with Childminder Agencies. New childminders who wish to apply for the grant will need to finalise their Ofsted or CMA registration by 31 March 2025.

In addition to these changes, as of the 1 November 2024, the DfE has introduced some changes to childminder registration, the main changes will:

- Create a new category of childminder called 'childminders without domestic premises. This is for childminders who will work solely from somewhere other than a home, such as a community or village hall.
- Increase the total number of people (including childminders and assistants) who can work together under a childminder's registration from 3 to 4.
- Give a childminder more flexibility to operate outside of their home (or someone else's) for more of their time. This will remove the requirement that at least 50% of the childcare must be provided in a home.
- Mean that any childminders who want to work with 4 or more other adults (5+ in total) will need to register as 'childcare on domestic premises.

With the expansion of funded early years childcare places over the next 2 years this CSA is an opportunity to assess and report on the market's current delivery and its ability to respond to new expectations in their short-, medium- and long-term business sustainability planning.

The council has mapped the current supply of early years childcare and identified current pressure points linked to the sufficiency of early year's provision for 0-to-5-years-olds. All wards offer a choice of childcare options to parents; however, some wards do not offer all types of childcare provision.

Ofsted reported **nationally** on the number of registered providers:

- 61,200 childcare providers were registered with Ofsted, down by 1,030 (2%) since 31 August 2023. Most of this decline was due to a fall in the number of childminders.
- 1.28 million childcare places were offered by providers registered on the Early Years Register (EYR), up by 12,100 (1%) since 31 August 2023. Most of this increase was due to a rise in the number of places offered by childcare on non-domestic premises providers.
- There has been an increase of 420 group childcare providers since 31 August 2023.
- There has been an increase of 11 childcare on domestic premises since 31 August 2023.

Since the last CSA 2023, Derby has maintained its number of day nurseries however one pre-school playgroup has closed. The drop in childminder numbers is higher than the normal 'churn' of providers in this sector and continues to evidence a reduction in numbers and places delivered.

A [survey](#) of early years providers by the Early Years Alliance (EYA) suggests the measures announced in the October 2024 Budget to increase employer National Insurance contributions (NICs) and boost the national minimum wage will 'push the sector to the brink' if funding rates do not take into account the extra costs faced by businesses.

As of April 2025, employer National Insurance Contributions (NICs) will increase from 13.8% to 15%, with the per-employee threshold at which employers start to pay NICs reduced from £9,100 to £5,000 per year. The national living wage will increase by 6.7% for employees ages 21 and over, and the national minimum wage will rise by 16.3% for 18-20 years olds, and 18% for under-18s and apprentices.

The Government has previously said that minimum wage increases will be reflected in next year's early years funding rates, however EYA reported that there is concern that these increases will not be enough. The most recent funding rates can be found [here](#).

The EYA's survey of 1,007 providers reveals:

- 95% are set to increase their fees if the Government fails to mitigate the combined impact of the NICs and minimum wage rises.
- 87% are likely to introduce or increase charges for optional extras.
- 61% are likely to introduce or increase restrictions on when the 15 and 30 funded hours can be taken.
- 52% are likely to reduce the number of early years entitlement places.
- 39% are likely to withdraw from some or all the funded hour offers.
- 40% are likely to close their setting permanently.

Derby's childcare provider's survey confirms that the number of childcare places registered by Ofsted does not represent the number of places being delivered in the city. CFIT colleagues, during provider visits are hearing anecdotally, that providers are having to restrict funded and non-funded places due to the difficulties they are experiencing in recruiting and retaining staff. Section 3.1 and 3.2 detail the barriers providers reported. The provider survey evidenced that whilst providers are currently restricting the number of funded and non-funded places they deliver, there is an appetite to increase places in readiness for

the working parents 1140 hours funded childcare offer coming into effect in September 2025 for all 9mths+ age groups.

There are a total of 5,755 full time equivalent childcare places for the 0 to 5 age group in the city, a decrease of 7.2% from Spring 2023 data. When places are compared with population data Normanton (4.8), Blagreaves (3.9), Sinfyn & Osmaston (3.7) and Chaddesden West (3.7) have the highest child to place ratios.

Each year there has been a decrease in the number of registered childminders in the city:

Year	Number of registered childminders	% Reduction
2018	182	
2019	149	-18%
2020	137	-8%
2021	127	-7%
2022	125	-1.6%
2023	120	-4%
2024	105	-12.5%

This represents a 43% reduction in the number of registered childminders over a six-year period, which reduces choice to parents and the number of places available in home based childcare provision. Ofsted reported on the 20 November 2024, that nationally, that there are currently 26,000 registered childminders this is a drop of 1,060 (4%) since 31 August 2023. Ofsted stated that this decline has been slowing in each academic year since 2021/22, mostly due to decreasing numbers of leavers. However, Derby is not mirroring this national trend as 12.5% resigned their Ofsted registration in 2023/2024.

The parent survey evidences that whilst take up of the working parents childcare offer has exceeded DfE predicted number, the cost of childcare remains a barrier to access. Parents stated that the biggest barrier to them accessing or using more childcare is cost. Average hourly costs data indicates that childcare is most expensive in Darley (£6.37) and least expensive in Chaddesden North (£5.06). In Spring 2023 the average hourly rate was £4.93, this has increased to £5.78, an increase of 17%.

Coram Family and Childcare report annually on the national cost of childcare:

<https://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/childcare-survey-2024>

This year the report's key findings evidenced a continued decrease in the availability of childcare and that the cost of a childcare place has risen by 7% against 2023 data.

There may be a shortfall of 0- to 5-year-old childcare places in some wards within the city; Normanton, Blagreaves, Sinfyn and Osmaston and Chaddesden West have the highest child to place ratios. However, as not all families choose or need to use childcare in their pre-school years and some families will use informal childcare such as extended family members, it may be that there are sufficient places for local demand. It is also the case, for some families, that they choose to use childcare in other parts of the city on route to or close to where they work or attend education / training. In recent years there has been a shift to home-working, this many have had an impact of parents need and use of childcare.

Littleover (40.9%), Oakwood (52.2%), and Alvaston North (57.1%) have the lowest percentage of 2-year-old take up. See appendix 2 Table 3.

Ofsted has judged that 77% of childcare providers in the city are delivering 'Good' or 'Outstanding' childcare, this is no change from 2023 inspection data. The number of providers pending their first Ofsted inspection has increased from 9.7%.to 12%.

What happens next

The council's Childcare and Family Information Team (CFIT) will continue to ensure that the 0- to 5-year-old CSA is produced annually and made available to elected members, parents and childcare providers as directed by Statutory Guidance.

CFIT will use the 0-to-5-years-old CSA 2024 as a key strategic planning tool and a starting point to assess the needs of the childcare market and providers' ability and appetite to engage with the council in its planning to support the delivery of the expanded childcare funded offer (Spring Budget 2023).

CFIT will survey childcare providers in early summer 2025 to ensure that current supply and future opportunities for expansion are collected and noted in readiness for the roll out of the working parents 30hrs childcare offer in September 2025. CFIT will also analyse the barriers providers face to offering the 30hrs expanded childcare offer and ensure that these are collated and fed back to the DFE.

CFIT will continue to work with all childcare providers to look at possible sufficiency gaps and support the creation of new places where demand and long-term sustainability can be evidenced. In Spring 2024, CFIT led an Expression of Interest (EOI) Early Years Capital funding project, 16 applications were taken forward to funding with an expected of creating 337 new childcare places by September 2025.

FIS will continue to support anyone wanting to become a childminder in the city by offering one to one advice during the Ofsted registration process. FIS will signpost childminders to the government start up grant, as announced in the Spring 2023 budget, with the hope that the grant funding will reduce the financial barrier to registration. New childminders who wish to apply for the grant will need to finalise their Ofsted or CMA registration by 31 March 2025.

To support providers with the delivery of the new expanded childcare funding offers, CFIT asked providers to participate in Derby's Extended Entitlement Providers Group (DEEP). Expressions of Interest were requested, and 21 providers joined the group representing all childcare provider types. A key factor of the group was to improve the flow of information from the council to providers and from providers to the council, a closed Facebook Group was created in Autumn 2024 for childcare providers, currently the group has 51 members and CFIT are posting daily on a wide range of related topics.

In Spring 2024, the DfE released Early Years Capital funding to support the development of 'new' funded childcare places with the ambition of creating additional places to meet the increasing demand generated by the new expanded childcare funding offers. Derby delivered a transparent Early Years Capital Grant application round, with all childcare providers being invited to submit expressions of interest set against an eligibility criteria. Applications were received from all provider types and will support the creation of a total of 337 additional new places by September 2025.

Some wards face added pressure on places due to migration from children living in Derbyshire and other neighbouring local authorities, or from cross city migration from neighbouring wards. In Summer term 2024, migration into the city resulted in a net loss of 286 places being available to Derby families.

With cost still being stated as a major barrier to accessing childcare, an issue that is likely being exacerbated by the general cost of living increases, CFIT will continue to work with all providers, encouraging the promotion of Tax Free Childcare (TFC) and other childcare funding offers. FIS will continue to deliver an active social media campaign to raise awareness of all childcare funding support options. CFIT will also continue to deliver a number of briefings to key professionals to raise awareness of TFC and increase confidence to promote with parents.

CFIT are currently collating SEND baseline data, this will be used to map and monitor the effective use of the SEND inclusion funding and its impact on supporting children to access funding places across the city.

CFIT continue to work at a strategic level to co-ordinate SEND baseline data so that further in-depth analyses of need and support can be considered.

FIS continues to support childcare providers with the recruitment barriers they are reporting, FIS has a designated recruitment web page that links directly to the governments 'Do Something Big, Working in Childcare' campaign and its associated job listing's function.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Childcare Act 2006 Part 1 sections 6 - 11 covers the duties on local government in England so far as is reasonably practical to:
- Secure sufficient childcare for working parents and those undertaking training or education, with the intention of returning to work and to assess supply, taking action to fill any gaps in provision, including choices for parent/carers.
 - consider ways that they can work with childcare providers to improve the affordability of childcare.
 - have regard to the provision of childcare which is suitable for disabled children.
- 1.2 A strong childcare market is critical to the success and regeneration of Derby's local economy by improving outcomes for young children and for parents to go out to work, education, or training. This Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) 2024 focuses on the sufficiency of early year's childcare for 0- to 5-year-olds across the city and identifies possible sufficiency pressure points. Early year's childcare plays a crucial role in the lives of many families, supporting parent/carers back into work, education, or training.
- 1.3 Local Authorities are accountable for managing the childcare market and have a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient childcare places for 0- to 5-year-olds. To do this the council has to adopt the role of 'market facilitator' and respond to changes in the supply and demand. The council also has a responsibility to support all childcare providers and consider the changing demand for childcare places, the creation of additional childcare places, as well as encouraging providers to delivery modules flexibly to meet parents' needs.
- 1.4 The constantly changing level, nature, and quality of childcare in the city means it is often a difficult market to predict in terms of gaps, under or over-provision and how well this matches families' needs. Provision can look very different within a short period of time; this is particularly relevant in this CSA as we start to assess:
- the markets' ability and appetite to deliver the new funded childcare offers for children 9mths+ as announced in the Spring budget 2023.
 - the childcare staff recruitment and retention issue.
 - parents changing need for childcare.
- 1.5 The council's expectation is that existing and prospective childcare providers undertake their own market research to fully understand local childcare needs and reference the indicative information set out within in this CSA.

2. Aims of this 0-to-5-year-old Early Years Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA)

- 2.1.1 To robustly map the supply of childcare for the 0 to 5 early years provision in the city.
- 2.1.2 To robustly map the supply of funded 9mths+-, 2-, 3- and 4-year-old places and match this data against take up figures using Department of Works and Pensions (DWP) and population data.
- 2.3 To use demographic data and a parental survey to assess possible changes in demand for childcare and to undertake detailed research to assess the parental demand and take up of the extended funded childcare offer for children 9mths+, and the childcare market's ability to respond to the increase in take up of funded places and the possible decrease in use of fee-paying attendance.
- 2.4 To identify any possible gaps in the supply of funded and fee-paying childcare.

- 2.5 To fulfil the council's market facilitator role by raising awareness of the current childcare market for 0- to 5-year-olds with new and existing childcare providers.
- 2.6 To meet the council's statutory duty on the sufficiency of 0- to 5-year-olds childcare and identify and undertake any actions needed to minimise risk in relation to lack of childcare places for parents.

3 Provider ECO Survey Key Findings

This section provides an overview of the findings of a survey of childcare providers conducted during February 2024 regarding providers readiness for the Expanded Childcare Offer (ECO). We received responses from 103 providers including day nurseries, maintained nursery schools, maintained nursery classes, pre-schools, and childminders.

3.1 General places

- 3.1.1 Just over a quarter of group providers (28%) intended to increase the number of under 2 places in their setting for September 2024.
- 3.1.2 Over a third of group providers (35.9%) told us they are limiting the number of under 2 places delivered in their setting.
- 3.1.3 35.9% of group providers have had to limit the number of 2- to 3-year-old places that they offer.
- 3.1.4 26% of group providers have had to limit the number of 3- to 4-year-old places that they offer.
- 3.1.5 28% of childminders intended to increase the number of under 2-year-old places from September 2024.
- 3.1.6 20% of childminders currently limit the number of under 2 places delivered.
- 3.1.7 18% of childminders are currently limiting the number of 2-year-old places delivered.
- 3.1.8 18% of providers are currently limiting the number of 3- or 4-year-old places delivered.

3.2 Funded places

- 3.2.1 39% of group providers intended to increase the number of 15 hours funded 2-year-old places in their setting to meet demand.
- 3.2.2 Almost half (48.7%) of group providers intended to increase the number of 30 hours funded 2-year-old places to meet demand.
- 3.2.3 One third (33.3%) of group providers have had to limit the number of Flying Start for 2-year-old places that they offer.
- 3.2.4 Almost a third (31%) of group providers have needed to limit the number of funded places they offer to 3- and 4-year-old children.
- 3.2.5 10% of childminders have had to limit the number of Flying Start places that they offer 2-year-olds.
- 3.2.6 36% of childminders do not intend to continue offering Flying Start places for eligible 2-year-olds.
- 3.2.7 36% of childminders intend to increase the number of 15-hour funded 2-year-old places in their setting to meet demand.
- 3.2.8 28% of childminders intend to increase the number of 30-hours funded 2-year-old places to meet demand.
- 3.2.9 26% of childminders have found they have needed to limit the number of funded places offered to 3- and 4-year-old children.
- 3.2.10 18% of childminders intend to increase their number of 3- or 4-year-old 15-hour places.
- 3.2.11 23% intend to increase the number of 3- or 4-year-old 30-hour places.

3.3 SEND places

- 3.3.1 44% of group providers have had to limit the number of places they offer to children with SEND.
 - 3.3.2 62% of childminders have had to limit the number of places they offer to children with SEND.
 - 3.3.4 Early Years Inclusion Fund (EYIF) is intended to support the inclusion, participation and progress of children with special educational needs and disabilities in the early years. The fund enables pre-school children with SEND to access their early years entitlement and in support of early intervention and inclusion. Table 5 shows recipients of the EYIF across Derby
- 3.4 According to the [DfE Pulse survey of childcare and early years providers Research report, published in November 2024:](#)

The majority of providers (60% in May, 64% in July) were not facing any challenges delivering the 15 hours of funded childcare per week for working parents of 2-year-olds.

Among providers who reported facing challenges in July, group-based providers were most likely to report not having enough staff (59%) followed by a lack of space (50%), whilst childminders were most likely to report insufficient funding rates (36%) and a lack of funds to expand premises (23%).

In May, 17% of providers who looked after under 3s said that they were likely to offer more places to children under 3 by September 2025. In July, 17% of providers who looked after under 3s said they were likely to offer more places to children under 3 by this time next year.

In May, 9% of providers who do not currently look after under 3s said they were likely to start to offer places to children under 3 by September 2025. In July, 11% of providers who do not currently look after under 3s said they were likely to start to offer places to children under 3 by this time next year.

In May, 70% of providers said they are currently on track to deliver all of these additional places by September 2025. In July, 70% of providers said they are currently on track to deliver all of these additional places by this time next year.

In July, the majority of providers (67%) reported that their staffing levels have remained the same since May 2024. 20% reported an increase and 13% cent reported a decrease.

In July, group-based providers had on average 1 vacancy available and typically received 7 (5 in May) applications per vacancy, while school-based providers had on average 1 vacancy available, and typically received 14 (3 in May) applications per vacancy.

On average, it took group-based providers 14 weeks (13 in May) to fill a vacant post in when reporting in July, compared to 8 (17 in May) weeks for school-based providers.

The most common actions taken by providers in relation to staffing issues were ask managers to work with children more to meet ratios (63% in July); have more staff working overtime (52% in July) and increase pay (48% in July).

In the May survey, there was a slight increase in the proportion of providers who reported their current income covers their costs (47%) versus those reporting as such in November 2023 (43%).

20 per cent of providers overall, (10% of group-based providers, 11% of school-based providers and 30% of childminders) said that they thought the funding rates for 2024-2025 set by their local authority would increase their profitability.

Providers who thought their profitability would increase because of the new funding rates were most likely to anticipate spending the additional revenue on learning materials and improving the quality of their provision.

Providers were asked a series of questions in July around waiting lists, specifically about “children who are on a waiting list to start immediately, rather than by choice to start in the future”. 54% of group-based providers, 21% of school-based providers and 40% of childminders had at least 1 child on their waiting lists. Of these providers, group-based providers had on average 8 children on their waiting list, school-based providers an average of 3, and childminders had on average 1 child on their waiting list.

For providers who said they have children on a waiting list, the most common reason was due to a lack of physical capacity (55%). 44% of providers said it was because they could not accommodate the hours / days required.

61% of providers with a waiting list reported that since the April 2024 entitlements expansion the number of children on their waiting list has increased.

In May 2024, 59% of childminders reported they were considering leaving the profession at some point, with 11% considering leaving within the next year. Results show very similar proportions to when the same question was asked in the November 2023 Pulse survey.

4. New Childcare Expanded Offer – ECO

4.1 In the Spring 2023 Budget a range of new childcare offers were introduced for working parents. To ensure that families were aware of the new offer, the eligibility criteria and the application routes FIS undertook a wide range of promotional activities to support parents make informed choices and not miss out on the childcare funding available.

4.1.1 The promotional work undertaken included but was not limited to:

- An active social media campaign delivered via our FIS Facebook and DCC social media accounts.
- Individual letters to parents already using and paying for childcare via childcare providers.
- Development of a NAFIS (National Association of Family Information Services) award winning new funding offers booklet, that collates all the childcare funding offers, explains the eligibility criteria and directs families to the application routes.
- Development of a range of new funding posters for families, which included QR code for a quick link to application routes.
- Delivery of ECO event in the Derbion community room
- Attendance at Family Hub fun days and other outreach events.

- 4.1.2. It was important for Derby's childcare providers to be able to support and advise parents on the new childcare funding offers. Childcare providers were provided with:
- Regular ECO news updates
 - Development of DEEP provider reference group
 - Development of ECO delivery board
 - Promotional materials, to share with families and to give at a glance eligibility start dates and application routes.
- 4.4 To ensure a wide a reach as possible FIS also engaged with a comprehensive range of professionals that work with children and families, this included but was not limited to family hub colleagues, libraries, health visitors, school nurses, Department of Work and Pensions work coaches. FIS delivered on-line and face to face briefings where the new offers were discussed and supporting materials distributed. FIS also visited all Family Hubs and Children Centres to refresh their childcare display boards and support reception staff with the queries that they receive.

5. Parental Demand

This section presents a picture of the potential scale of childcare insufficiency across the city, by applying the data collected from the survey undertaken with parents/carers during March 2024, to the overall number of families in the city. It gives an indicative figure only of the scale of potential challenges.

The parental survey was promoted via our Facebook page, FIS webpages, childcare providers, and key partners such as children centres. The survey was completed by 91 families and responses were received from most wards in the city, with the exception of Arboretum and Chaddesden North. Alvaston South (10%), Spondon (9%), and Darley (9%) had the highest number of returned surveys whilst Abbey (1%), along with Arboretum and Chaddesden North (no returns) had the lowest response rates.

Ward	Percentage of returns
Abbey	1
Allestree	4
Alvaston North	6
Alvaston South	10
Arboretum	0
Blagreaves	6
Chaddesden East	8
Chaddesden North	4
Chaddesden West	0
Chellaston and Shelton Lock	8
Darley	9
Littleover	8
Mackworth and New Zealand	8
Mickleover	6
Normanton	3
Oakwood	5
Sinfin and Osmaston	8
Spondon	9

The parent survey captured information on the childcare needs of children aged between 0 and 4 years old. The largest number of childcare needs were captured for 45 children in the 3-to-4-year-old age group (39%), whilst the lowest number was captured for 2-year-olds at 29 children (25%). 41 of the children were under 2 (36%).

Age of Children	Percentage
Under 2	36%
2 Years old	25%
3 and 4 years old	39%

5.1 What parents told us

- 5.1.1 Overall most parents were satisfied with their childcare arrangements with 77% being either very satisfied or satisfied, slightly down on 78% in 2023.
- 5.1.2 92% of families were satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of their childcare, down from 99% in 2023.
- 5.1.3 Cost continues to be the main barrier facing families, with 9% of all families surveyed not being able to use childcare due to either cost. 52% of families surveyed indicated that the cost of childcare prevented them from using the childcare that they need, down from 61% in 2023.

5.2 Use of Childcare:

5.2.1 Under 2

54% of families told us they have used a day nursery, up from 46% in 2023.
 49% of families told us that they have used a family member, down from 72% in 2023.
 16% of families used a childminder, down from 21% of families in 2022.

5.2.2 Aged 2

75% of families used a day nursery, up from 66% in 2023.
28% of families used a family member, down from 55% in 2023.
13% used a childminder, down from 15% in 2023.
13% used pre-school playgroups.

5.2.3 **3–4-Year-olds**

45% of families used day nurseries, down from 56% from 2023.
37% of families used a pre-school playgroup, up from 21% in 2023.
47% used a family member, up from 43% reported in 2023.
32% of families reported using a school nursery, up from 29% in 2023.
21% used childminders up from 17% in 2023.

5.3 **Barriers to accessing childcare:**

- 5.3.1 From families that indicated they had faced barriers in using childcare, 76% of families reported that they had been stopped from using the childcare that they need because it is too expensive, down from 85% in 2023.
- 5.3.2 One in 5 (21%) mentioned that childcare was not available at times that they needed it, the same as in 2023.
- 5.3.3 17% of families told us that their preferred providers are full, up from 11% in 2023.
- 5.3.4 18% of families indicated that they weren't satisfied with their childcare arrangements, up from 7% in 2023.
- 5.3.5 37% of families indicated that they weren't satisfied with the cost of their childcare arrangements, down from 47% in 2023.
- 5.3.6 92% of families indicated that they were satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of their childcare arrangements, up from 88% in 2022. 8% were dissatisfied.

5.4 **Location of childcare:**

- 5.4.1 Being closest to home was the most important factor in childcare locations according 95% of families, up from 90% in 2023, remaining higher than the 87% in 2022. This may be explained by a continued increase in parents working from home compared to pre pandemic levels.
- 5.4.2 3 out of 10 families indicated that being close to work was important, the same as 2023.
- 5.4.3 16% told us that being close to school was important.

5.5 **Why families use childcare.**

- 5.5.1 61% of families indicated that one of the main reasons for using childcare was their child's learning and development, up from 60% in 2023.
- 5.5.2 81% indicated it was because they work, down from 86% in 2023.
- 5.5.3 48% of families told us that they use childcare so that their child can play with other children.

5.6 **Barriers to using childcare.**

Of the families that have not used childcare in the last 12 months, 57% of families reported that childcare is too expensive, down from 58% in 2023. 43% gave a reason that they don't receive financial support for childcare. 36% indicated that they choose to look after their children and 36% told us that they would be worried about leaving their children in the care of people they don't know.

5.7 **Availability of childcare**

- 5.7.1 87% of families agreed or strongly agreed that they have found it easy to get the type of childcare they want in their local area, up from 66% in 2023.
- 5.7.2 65% of families agreed that there should be more childcare in their local area, down from 68% in 2023.
- 5.7.3 10% of families disagreed that childcare is available at the times of day that they need it, down from 23% in 2023.



- 5.7.4 13% disagree that they can get childcare during the weeks that they need it, down from 14% in 2023.
- 5.7.5 A quarter (26%) of families agree that they would change their childcare if they had any other choice, down from 29% in 2023.

5.8 Paying for Childcare

- 5.8.1 9 families told us that they use the childcare element of Universal Credit to pay for childcare.
- 5.8.2 49 families surveyed told us that they use Tax Free Childcare (TFC) to pay for childcare. TFC is a government offer, where working parents can set up a special bank account and receive a 20% contribution from HMRC toward their childcare fees. In Derby 2,580 families currently have a TFC account, this represents a 12.66% growth in parents using TFC within the last year:

Annual Number of Families with Used Tax-Free Childcare accounts								
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	% growth all time
Derby	185	525	1080	1290	1815	2290	2580	1295
UK	57000	160185	315040	374135	512415	649935	740385	1199
East Midlands	4200	11900	24155	29210	40530	51870	59600	1319

- 5.8.3 95% of families were already aware of the new expanded offer that help to fund childcare for working families.
- 5.8.4 27 families indicated they had a 2-year-old child that would be eligible for the new expanded funded childcare for working families from April 2024. Of these families 96% intended to use their entitlement.

5.9 Funded early years places.

- 5.9.1 94% of families indicated that they use their funded hours for eligible 2-year-olds, up from 79% in 2023. Of these families, all used 11-15 hours per week.
- 5.9.2 Of the families with a 3- or 4-year-old child, 76.5% indicated that they use the funded 15 hours funded entitlement, compared to 78% in 2023. 92% of these families use 11-15 hours week.
- 5.9.3 73% of families use their hours during term time with 27% choosing to spread the hours across the year.
- 5.9.4 No families feel they have faced barriers when trying to access a funded 2-year-old place.
- 5.9.5 12% of families have faced barriers trying to access a funded 3-year-old place. Of these families, 50% informed us that their chosen providers only offer certain days or hours.

5.10 Additional Hours

- 5.10.1 54% of families pay for extra hours in addition to the funded 15 hours early education entitlement, up from 41% in 2023.
- 5.10.2 1 in 4 families (27%) purchase additional weeks, up from 25% in 2023.
- 5.10.3 Of the families that indicated the number of extra hours they paid for; the average was 11 hours per week.
- 5.10.4 Over half of families (57%) used the additional hours that they purchased spread across the year up from 54% in 2023.
- 5.10.5 33% of families that don't currently buy extra hours would like to, down from 2023 (44%).
- 5.10.6 Cost is the biggest factor preventing families purchasing extra hours, half of families (50%) indicating that this stops them from purchasing extra hours.

5.11 Extended entitlement 3- and 4-year-olds

- 5.11.1 85% of families indicated that they know of the extended entitlement of funded childcare for working parents, up from 90% in 2023.
- 5.11.2 59% of families indicated that they are eligible for the extended entitlement.
- 5.11.3 Of those families that are eligible, 90% use some or all, of the extended entitlement.
4 out of 5 families (81.8%) use the extended entitlement at the same provider they use for the 15 hours funded early years entitlement.

5.12 Parent Employment and Training

Respondents Employment	Percentage
Employed 30 hours plus	46.6
Employed 16 to 29 hours	27.3
Unemployed	11.4
Self employed over 16 hours	5.7
Employed less than 16 hours	4.5
Studying	3.4
Self employed less than 16 hours	1.1

Almost half of parents that responded, to the survey, work more than 30 hours per week, with over a quarter working 16-29 hours per week. More than one in ten parents were unemployed.

Partners Employment	Percentage
Employed 30 hours plus	77.2
Employed 16 to 29 hours	8.9
Self employed over 16 hours	6.3
Studying	1.3
Self employed less than 16 hours	1.3
Other	5.1

Over three quarters of partners to the main respondent work 30 hours or more per week.

Respondents Shift Pattern	Percentage
Traditional office hours with flexi	29.3
Traditional office hours no flexi	22.7
Shift work	14.7
Term time only	9.3
Work from home	8
Other	5.7
Evenings	2.7
Fit work to childs hours	2.7
Occasional work	2.7
Nights	1.3

Partners Shift Pattern	Percentage
Traditional office hours no flexi	37.8
Shift work	27
Traditional office hours with flexi	24.3
Nights	2.7
Work from home	2.7
Evenings	1.4
Fit work to child's hours	1.4
Occasional work	1.4
Other	1.4

13.2% of families that responded to the survey are one parent families.

6. New housing developments

Derby has a significant number of planned housing development sites in the city, data suggests that in 2024/2025 this will deliver 598 new homes made up, in the main, of mixed housing stock.

The DfE has released data on pupil yields arising from new housing developments. For Derby, the data shows that for every 100 houses (combined market and affordable housing), we should anticipate 9 early years children. This is probably the most accurate formula we have for early years. With 598 new homes, Derby should predict that we may have an additional 54 early years children accessing childcare.

New housing record by ward:

Development Name	Ward	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	Deliverable Dwellings	
Manor/Kingsway Hospital Site	Abbey	1	2	3	4	5	313	Mix of family housing and apartments
Manor/Kingsway	Abbey	27					27	Housing
Castleward	Arboretum	258	112			172	542	Mix of apartments
Rolls Royce Main Works	Sinfin & Osmaston	92	171	53			316	Mixed housing
North Of Onslow Road	Mickleover	47	15				62	Mixed housing
Boulton Moor East	Derbyshire	80	80	80	80	80	400	Mixed family housing
Triangle Land	Sinfin & Osmaston	30	30	15			75	Mixed housing
Total (with PP)		598	472	212	144	309	1735	

7 Supply Data

- 7.1 Many parents will need to use childcare to enable them to work and/or study, however they may face difficulties in finding the right childcare for their child that offers the flexible access that they need or availability on the days that childcare is needed. The delivery of childcare differs greatly in each of the five localities across Derby and there is limited choice and provision in some parts of the city. See appendix 1 for locality and ward map of the city.
- 7.2 In this CSA, supply data has been established by asking childcare providers what places they offer rather than rely on Ofsted registered numbers. Providers have confirmed that they are offering a total of 5,755 full time equivalent places for 0- to 5-year-olds. There are several reasons that providers offer fewer places than they are registered for, this could be local demand for places, staff recruitment or business modelling. In Spring 2023 there were 6,196 places, which indicated that there has been a 7.11% decrease of childcare places within Derby.
- 7.3 **Types and numbers of childcare providers**
- 7.3.1 0- to 5-year-old childcare is delivered by a variety of providers such as but not limited to, childminders, day nurseries, pre-school playgroups, nursery schools and nursery units. The provision can be delivered in a variety of venues and those operating from school sites may be delivered by the school themselves or by third party childcare

- providers. All childcare provides include in this CSA are registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and or the Childcare Register.
- 7.3.2 **Childminders** can care for children from birth onwards, looking after them in their own home and usually offer an all-year-round service. Childminders have the option to register either with Ofsted or with a childminder agency.
 - 7.3.3 **Childcare on domestic premises** these are providers where 4 or more people look after children together in a home that is not the child's. Providers of childcare on domestic premises have the option to register either with Ofsted or with a childminder agency.
 - 7.3.4 **Childminder without domestic premises**, can work solely from somewhere other than a home, like a community or village hall. Childminders without domestic premises cannot work from their or anyone else's home at any time under this type of registration. Providers of childcare without domestic premises have the option to register either with Ofsted or with a childminder agency.
 - 7.3.5 **Day nurseries** usually care for children from birth to five years between 8am and 6pm each weekday and are open all year round. Some provide care before and after school and in the school holidays for school age children.
 - 7.3.6 **Pre-school playgroups** mainly care for children aged two to five years old. Some pre-school playgroups offer part-time places with either morning or afternoon sessions and others offer longer sessions such as 9am to 3pm. Pre-school playgroups only run during term time.
 - 7.3.7 **Nursery Schools and units** mainly care for children aged two to five years old. Some offer part-time places such as either morning or afternoon sessions and others offer longer days such as 9am to 3pm. Most nurseries only run during term time.
 - 7.3.8 For the purpose of this CSA group providers are either private, voluntary, independent, or maintained providers that care for children on non-domestic premises.
 - 7.3.9 For the purpose of this CSA childminders are providers that care for children on domestic premises.
- 7.4 CFIT encourages providers to offer flexibility in delivery, so that parents' needs can be met, and parents are supported back into work and or study.
 - 7.5 **Supply data by ward:**
Please note that for information included in this section refers to the data tables in Appendix 2. The data was compiled in October 2024 and providers submitted data returns in September 2024 in readiness for this CSA.
Population data evidenced a year-on-year decrease in the number of children in the 0 to 5 age group. In 2023 there was 15,481 children, in 2024 there are now 15,231. This decrease in population is evidenced in all age brackets, including 2-year-olds eligible for a flying start funded place.

Locality 1

Chaddesden East has 168 full time equivalent (FTE) 0- to 5-year-old childcare places which is the fourth lowest number of places by ward in the city. It has the second lowest 0-5 population in the city (544). Chaddesden East has no day nurseries and only 1 pre-school playgroup but a higher-than-average number of nurseries (4). Chaddesden East has a ratio of 4.8 children to 2-year-old funded places delivered, the second highest in the city.

Chaddesden North has 150 FTE 0- to 5-year-old childcare places, and they have the lowest 0-5 population (150). Chaddesden North also has lowest hourly rates (£5.06). It has no pre-school playgroups Chaddesden North has the highest ratio of 2-year-old population to funded places delivered at 6.6.

Chaddesden West has 156 FTE 0 to 5 childcare places and the third highest ratio of children to places in the city at 3.7 children per place. It has the second lowest hourly rate (£5.15). It has a good number of childminders (8). Chaddesden West has the second highest ratio of 3- and 4-year-old children to funded places delivered at 3.3.

Oakwood has 274 FTE 0- to 5-year-old childcare places. It has the joint second lowest number of nursery schools (2) and no pre-school playgroups. Oakwood day nurseries have the 4th lowest price per hour at £6.45. There are 2 day nurseries in Oakwood and 2 day nurseries that neighbour Oakwood but have Derbyshire addresses however these settings are used by Oakwood children. Oakwood has a 52.2% take up figures for funded 2-year-old places, the second lowest in the city. It has the fourth lowest number of eligible 2-year-olds identified by the DWP (23).

Spondon has 317 FTE 0 to 5 childcare places. It has the third highest number of childminders (10) and the fourth lowest childminder rate (£4.92). It also has the fourth lowest day nursery rate (£6.47). There is only one pre-school playgroup in Spondon. It has the second lowest ratio of 0- to 5-year-old population to childcare places (1.9).

Locality 2

Alvaston North has 346 FTE 0 to 5 childcare places. It has the highest number of childminders (12) who between them are offering the third highest number of places (56) for this provider type. Take up of 2-year-old funded places is 57.1% the third lowest in the city.

Alvaston South has 292 FTE 0- to 5-year-old childcare places and only one day nursery. The day nursery price of £7.70 per hour is the highest in the city, the ward has a higher-than-average number of nurseries (4). Alvaston South has the fifth highest take up rate of 2-year-old funded places at 85.5%.

Chellaston & Shelton Lock has 304 FTE 0- to 5-year-old childcare places. The average day nursery rate is the 4th highest at £7.28 per hour. Pre-school playgroup cost is the highest in the city at £7.50 per hour. Chellaston & Shelton Lock's funded 2-year-old places take up is 81.0%. The 21 eligible 2-year-olds identified by the DWP is the third lowest of any ward in the city.

Sinfin & Osmaston has 302 FTE 0- to 5-year-old childcare places. It has the second highest ratio of children to childcare places (4.1). It has the third lowest cost (£5.24). Sinfin & Osmaston has the third highest 0 to 5yr old child population (1243) and the second highest number of eligible 2-year-olds identified by the DWP (100).

Locality 3

Abbey has the joint highest number of day nurseries (6) which between them are offering the second highest number of places (298) for this provider type. There are no pre-school playgroups in the ward. Abbey has one of the lowest children to places ratios in the city (1.9). It has the third lowest ratio of 2-year-old children to funded places delivered (1.0) and the fourth lowest ratio of 3- and 4-year-old children to funded places delivered. Take up of 2-year-old funded places is currently 85.4%.

Arboretum has the second highest 0–5-year-old population (1302) and the second highest number of places (563). It has no childminders but does have the highest number of nursery school / unites (6) which between them offer the second highest number of places (270) for this provider type. Arboretum ward has the third highest number of eligible 2-year-olds (92) and a take up rate of 88% of 2-year-old funded places against the DWP stated numbers, up from 69% in March 2023.

Normanton has the highest ratio of 0- to 5-year-old children to places (4.8), with the highest 0 to 5 population in the city (1871). It has the third highest ratio of 2-year-old children to funded places delivered (4.7). It has the second highest cost at £6.34 per hour. It has the highest number of eligible 2-year-olds (137) and the third lowest take up rate at 67.9, which has increased from 52.6% in March 2023.

Locality 4

Blagreaves has the second highest ratio of 0- to 5-year-old children to places (3.9), It has the third highest number of childminders places offered (70). It has the fourth highest ratio of 2-year-old children to funded places delivered (3.3) and the third highest ratio of 3- and 4-year-old children to funded places delivered (3.1). Blagreaves has the highest funded 2-year-old take up rate at 110.7%.

Littleover has 334 FTE 0- to 5-year-old childcare places. It has the second highest number of childminders (11) offering 56 places, the second highest in the city. The 2 pre-school playgroups between them offer 34 places. Littleover's funded 2-year-old take up rate has significantly dropped to 40.9%. Littleover has a ratio of 1.7 2-year-old children to funded places delivered and 1.4 3- and 4-year-old children to funded places delivered.

Mickleover has 324 FTE 0- to 5-year-old childcare places. Between them the 3 pre-school playgroups offer the highest number of places (79) for this provider type. Mickleover has a ratio of 1.1 2-year-old children to funded places delivered and 1.5 3- and 4-year-old children to funded places delivered.

Locality 5

Allestree has 167 FTE 0- to 5-year-old childcare places which is the third lowest number of places by ward in the city. It has the second lowest number of day nurseries (1) offering the second lowest number (77) of places offered by this provider type. There are no nursery schools or classes in the ward. Allestree has the lowest number of eligible children for 2-year-old funding (5) and its take up rate has risen from 25% in March 2023 to 80% in November 2024. It has the highest Ratio of 3- and 4-year-old children to funded places delivered at 4.3.

Darley has 672 FTE 0- to 5-year-old childcare places which is the highest number of places by ward. It has the joint highest number of day nurseries (6) who between them are offering the highest number of places (427) by provider type. Darley has the lowest ratio of 2-year-old children to funded places delivered (0.6) and also the lowest ratio of 3- and 4-year-old children to funded places delivered (0.7)

Mackworth & New Zealand has 317 FTE 0- to 5-year-old childcare places. There are no pre-school playgroups in Mackworth. At £6.30 the ward has the third highest average cost per hour in the city. Mackworth & New Zealand has the second highest funded 2-year-old take up rate in the city at 98.2%.

7.6 Childcare quality by Ofsted inspection outcomes – Appendix 2 Table 2.

Ofsted assesses the quality of childcare being delivered by registered childcare providers in Derby.

- 74.5% of childcare is delivered by providers judged as 'Good'.
- 3.0% of childcare is delivered by providers judged as 'Outstanding'.
- 2.4% of childcare is delivered by providers judged as 'Requires Improvement'.
- 0% of childcare is delivered by providers judged as 'Inadequate'.
- 12.1% of childcare is delivered by providers pending their first Ofsted inspection.

- 7.6.1 It should be noted that 4 childminders in the city are registered with a childminding agency and do not receive an Ofsted inspection outcome but are monitored and inspected by the agency and that 12 childminders, 6 day nurseries and 2 pre-school playgroups are newly registered and are pending their first Ofsted inspection.
- 7.6.2 The majority of childminders currently hold an Ofsted inspection outcome of 'Good' (73), 2 have been judged as 'Outstanding', 1 as 'Requires Improvement' and 0 as 'Inadequate'. 11 childminders have had a judgement of 'Met' and 2 of 'Not Met' – these gradings either indicate that the childminders only provider childcare for children over 5 years old and are on Ofsted's Childcare Register or that they are on the Early Years register but had no children present at the time of inspection.
- 7.6.3 The majority of day nurseries currently hold an Ofsted inspection outcome of 'Good' (38), 3 have been judged as 'Outstanding', 2 'Requires Improvement' and 0 as 'Inadequate'.
- 7.6.4 Most pre-school playgroups currently hold an Ofsted inspection outcome of 'Good' (12). No pre-school holds are 'Outstanding', 1 'Requires Improvement' and none have been judged as 'Inadequate'.
- 7.6.5 Ofsted reported nationally, that at providers most recent inspection, 98% of childcare providers were judged Good or Outstanding, an increase of 1 percentage point since 31 August 2023.
- Ofsted summary report <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/childcare-providers-and-inspections-as-at-31-august-2024/main-findings-childcare-providers-and-inspections-as-at-31-august-2024>

7.7 Migration

The city faces added pressure, in some wards, on childcare places from migration from children based in Derbyshire and other neighbouring local authorities, or from cross city migration from neighbouring wards. In Summer term 2024 we can evidence that Derbyshire's children accessed 997 childcare places within the city and Derby's children accessed 771 places within Derbyshire, this resulted in a net loss of 286 places being available to Derby families.

EEEE Area	Derbyshire Children accessing in Derby City	Derby City Children accessing in Derbyshire	Net Position
9-23m	238	176	62 places lost
2YO Flying Start	49	16	33 places lost
2YO WE	248	164	84 places lost
3and4 YO Universal	284	200	84 places lost
3and 4 YO Extended	178	155	23 places lost
Total	997	711	286 places lost

7.8 Price Increases

Prices have increased since 2023, with locality 3 facing the biggest price increase at 26%, or £1.27 per hour on average.

	2024	2023	Increase £	% Increase
Locality 1	5.26	4.7	0.56	12
Locality 2	5.61	4.56	1.05	23
Locality 3	6.14	4.87	1.27	26
Locality 4	5.76	5.12	0.64	13
Locality 5	6.14	5.4	0.74	14
Grand Total	5.78	4.93	0.85	17

7.9 Early Years Capital Grant

In Spring 2024, the DfE released Early Years Capital funding to support the development of 'new' funded childcare places with the ambition of creating additional places to meet the increasing demand generated by the new expanded childcare offer. Derby delivered a transparent Early Years Capital Grant application round, with all childcare providers being invited to submit Expressions Of Interest (EOI) set against an eligibility criteria.

Projects had to evidence that they met at least one of the criteria below:

- Creates additional funded places for 9–23-month-old children.
- Creates additional funded places for 2-year-olds.
- Expands your funded offer: length of day/weeks per year.
- Creates additional funded places for 3 and 4-year-old.

EOI had to be returned by the 7 June 2024, in total 21 EOI were received. After the first assessment 16 applications reflecting all childcare provider types were taken to the next stage:

- 1 Childminder
- 8 Private Day Nursery
- 3 Pre-school playgroup
- 3 Maintained Nursery schools
- 1 Maintained school.

An approval panel assessed the EOI and funding was granted to create new funded places where demand was evidenced.

Early Years Grant funding by place and ward:

Ward	Places created by 31/08/2025
Darley	86
Mickleover	90
Alvaston South	11
Sinfin & Osmaston	6
Chaddesden East	25
Arboretum	51
Normanton	38
Chellaston & Shelton Lock	30

The Early Years Grant funding will support the creation of a total of 337 additional new places, each application evidenced significant provider contributions and time frame by which the places will become available.

Early Years Capital Grant budget overview:

DfE allocation	£479,424
Total cost of projects	£1,410,333
Provider contributions	£935,331
Council contribution	£475,002
Unallocated	£4,422
Number of places to be created by 31/08/25	337

8 Funded places for 9mths+ 2- 3- and 4-year-olds

8.1.1 8.1.1 All 9mths+ 2- 3- and 4-year-olds, who meet an eligibility criteria, are entitled to 570 hours funded early education entitlement (FEEE), generally delivered as 15 hours a week over 38 weeks (school term time) a year. The entitlement can be taken as a stretched offer with fewer hours a week taken over more weeks in the year.

8.1.2 Further information on 9mths+ funding eligibility and how to access a funded place can be found on

[Take Off funding for 9 month to 4 year olds - Derby City Council](#)

Further information on 2-year-old funding eligibility and how to access a funded place can be found on:

[Flying Start funding for 2 year olds - Derby City Council](#)

Further information on 3 and 4 year old eligibility and how to access a place can be found on:

[All Aboard funding for 3 to 4 year olds - Derby City Council](#)

8.1.3 The 3-and-4-year-old extended entitlement, sometimes called the 30hr, offer allows, where the eligibility criteria is met, 3-and-4-year-olds to access a total of 1140 hours funded early education entitlement (FEEE), generally delivered as 30 hours a week over 38 weeks (school term time) a year. The entitlement can be taken as a stretched offer with fewer hours a week taken over more weeks in the year.

[Take Off funding for 9 month to 4 year olds - Derby City Council](#)

8.1.4 It should be noted that in September 2025 the working parents' entitlement for children aged 9mths+ will increase to 1140 hours per year, which can be taken as 30-hours per week over 38 weeks of the year or less hours per week over more week of the year as a stretched offer.

8.2 CFIT continues to closely monitor local demand, supply and accessibility of funded places so that current market pressures such as recruitment issues, the cost-of-living crisis and the increased take up of funded places can be fully assessed and childcare providers medium- and long-term sustainability can be reviewed and where possible supported.

8.3 The city has a mix of childcare providers delivering funded places across all types of providers. There are 208 funded providers in total, made up of 88 childminders (42%), 50 day nurseries (24%), 54 nursery units/schools (26%), 16 pre-schools (8%) and 1 out of school.

8.4 Early Years Pupil Premium is an additional funding payment of 68 pence per hour for up to 15 hours, that childcare providers can be paid to support children from less economical advantaged household. In summer 2024, 24% of Derby's 3- and 4-year-olds and, 41% Flying Start 2-year-olds were eligible to access this additional funding. In autumn 2024 it is currently 21% for 3- 4-year-olds and 51% for Flying Start 2-year-olds.

8.5 To support inclusive practise childcare providers can claim Disability Access Funding (DAF), for children with additional care needs, this is currently paid at £910 per year. In autumn 2024 Derby supported 53 children to receive DAF funding.

8.6 9mths - 23months funded places

8.6.1 CFIT assesses demand for 9mths+ funded places by using prediction data provided by the DfE and by analysis of the take up of 30hr places by 3- and 4-year-old. As the eligibility criteria is the same for both offers, a percentage by population was used to calculate probable demand and take up.

8.6.2 Working parents who meet the eligibility criteria are eligible the term after their child turns 9 months to childcare funding. The DfE predicted that Derby would have 800 eligible children. Derby has exceeded this predicted number and has 990 eligible working parents 9mnths+ places being delivered.

8.7 2-year-old Flying Start funded places:

8.7.1 The council promotes this offer for less advantaged families as 'Flying Start for Two Year Olds'. FIS uses the termly data from the Department for Works and Pensions (DWP) to identify potentially eligible 2-year-olds. DWP data is then used as the benchmark to assess demand for and take up of 2-year-old funded places.

8.7.2 **Appendix 2 Table 3** provides a breakdown by ward of eligible children and evidence 83.3% take up levels for Autumn 2024. It should be noted that this represents a 6.7% decrease on the take up numbers for Autumn 2023. Reasons for this decrease could include, but are not limited to, parents using the childcare element of Universal Tax Credits or applying for the working parent s entitlement.

8.8 Working parents who meet the eligibility criteria are also eligible for 2-year-old childcare funding. The DfE predicted that Derby would have 915 eligible children. Derby has exceeded this predicted number and has 1011 eligible working parents 2-year-old places being delivered.

8.9 3- and 4-year-old funded places:

8.9.1 CFIT assesses the demand for 3- and 4-year-old funded places using population data projections provided by the council's Corporate Performance and Intelligence Team. **Appendix 2 Table 4 details current population levels for children aged 0 - 4 years.**

8.9.2 The government publishes annual statistics reporting on national and local authority take up of the universal childcare offer.

[Education provision: children under 5 years of age, Reporting year 2024 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)

8.9.3 Derby does not yet publish ward level take up data due to the complexity of sourcing accurate take up data for 4-year-olds. Whilst Derby can collate 3-year-old data as these children are funded through the headcount portal, with a once-a-year September reception class intake many of Derby's 4-year-olds are using a school place and are therefore not funded through the Early Years universal funding stream. Take up data is further complicated by the migration of Derby's children to out of area provision, in Derby this is mainly to Derbyshire and children who live out of the city using Derby providers.

8.9.4 Derby can evidence that 3-year-old universal offer take up has increased from 92.2% % in Jan 2023 to 97.1% in Jan 2024, and 4-year-old take up has increased from 99.8% in Jan 2023 to 102.2% in Jan 2024.

Overall, 3- and 4-year-old take up has increased from 96.1% to 99.7%. Derby is significantly exceeding national take up which is currently 94%.

Compared to Derby's 11 statistical neighbours Derby is the 3rd best performing local authority as of Jan 2024.

8.9.5 Derby has 1275 children accessing the working parents extended entitlement for 3- and 4-year-olds in autumn 2024, this is representing a 9% increase on autumn 2023 take up numbers (1171).

In summer 2024 Derby can evidence that 41% of children accessing their universal entitlement are also accessing the working parents' entitlement.

9 Gaps Analysis

9.1 The gaps analysis table below summarises the source data found in appendix 2 and demonstrates the high- and low-pressure points by ward across the city.

Locality	Ward	Childminders	Day nurseries	Pre-school playgroups	Nursery Schools / Classes	Average cost per hour	Total places per ward	0 to 5 years old population projection 2024	Ratio of 0 to 5 year old children to places	2 year old flying start 15hr places taken up	DWP 2 year old data	% take up against DWP	9 to 23 month funded places taken up	2 year old working parents 15 hr places taken	2 year old population projection 2024	Ratio of 2 year old children to funded places delivered	3 and 4 year old 15 hr funded places delivered	3 to 4 year old population projection 2024	Ratio of 3 and 4 year old children to funded places delivered
Locality 1	Chaddesden East	3	0	1	4	£5.46	168	544	3.2	24	31	77%	5	10	119	3.5	105	242	2.3
	Chaddesden North	2	0	0	3	£5.06	150	527	3.5	23	34	68%	3	1	92	3.8	97	222	2.3
	Chaddesden West	4	2	0	1	£5.15	156	572	3.7	47	62	76%	26	26	133	1.8	72	237	3.3
	Oakwood	8	2	0	2	£5.33	274	596	2.2	12	23	52%	82	57	141	2.0	123	216	1.8
	Spondon	10	4	1	2	£5.32	317	596	1.9	18	24	75%	96	90	110	1.0	133	255	1.9
Locality 1 Total		27	8	2	12	£5.26	1,065	2835	2.7	124	174	71%	212	184	595	1.9	530	1,172	2.2
Locality 2	Alvaston North	12	3	1	2	£5.66	346	1114	3.2	44	77	57%	39	65	275	2.5	173	395	2.3
	Alvaston South	8	1	1	4	£5.37	292	891	3.1	59	69	86%	23	63	184	1.5	195	344	1.8
	Chellaston & Shelton Lock	7	3	2	2	£6.15	304	756	2.5	17	21	81%	89	75	136	1.5	157	325	2.1
	Sinfin & Osmaston	3	3	1	5	£5.24	332	1243	3.7	79	100	79%	24	21	253	2.5	188	515	2.7
Locality 2 Total		30	10	5	13	£5.61	1,274	4004	3.1	199	267	75%	175	224	848	2.0	713	1,579	2.2
Locality 3	Abbey	2	6	0	4	£5.87	415	770	1.9	70	82	85%	92	85	133	0.9	191	304	1.6
	Arboretum	0	5	1	6	£6.22	563	1302	2.3	81	92	88%	17	34	284	2.5	361	511	1.4
	Normanton	6	4	0	4	£6.34	393	1871	4.8	93	137	68%	24	28	382	3.2	283	738	2.6
Locality 3 Total		8	15	1	14	£6.14	1,371	3943	2.9	244	311	78%	133	147	799	2.0	835	1,553	1.9
Locality 4	Blagreaves	9	3	1	1	£6.10	231	908	3.9	31	28	111%	39	41	212	2.9	116	360	3.1
	Littleover	11	2	2	2	£5.30	334	782	2.3	9	22	41%	80	80	152	1.7	190	354	1.9
	Mickleover	7	2	3	3	£5.88	324	732	2.3	14	20	70%	69	134	159	1.1	206	307	1.5
Locality 4 Total		27	7	6	6	£5.76	889	2422	2.7	54	70	77%	188	255	523	1.7	512	1,021	2.0
Locality 5	Alleestree	7	1	2	0	£5.74	167	546	3.3	4	5	80%	26	53	122	2.1	56	241	4.3
	Darley	1	6	0	7	£6.37	672	605	0.9	26	30	87%	161	156	117	0.6	326	233	0.7
	Mackworth & New Zealand	5	2	0	3	£6.30	317	876	2.8	56	57	98%	39	51	215	2.0	148	359	2.4
Locality 5 Total		13	9	2	10	£6.14	1,156	2027	1.8	86	92	93%	226	260	454	1.3	530	833	1.6
Grand Total		105	49	16	55	£5.78	5,755	15,231	2.6	707	914	77%	934	1070	3219	1.8	3,120	6,158	2.0

Source: Families Information Service October 2024

9.2 All wards offer a choice of childcare options to parents, however Chaddesden East and Chaddesden North do not offer a day nursery, other wards do not offer pre-school playgroups (Chaddesden North, Chaddesden West, Oakwood, Abbey, Normanton, Darley, Mackworth & New Zealand Darley) and Alleestree does not offer nursery schools/classes. Arboretum does not have a childminder.

9.3 Average costs data indicates that childcare is most expensive in Darley (£6.37) and least expensive in Chaddesden North (£5.06). In March 2023 the average hourly rate was £4.93, whereas in October 2024 it is £5.77 which represents a 17% increase.

- 9.4 There are a total of 5,755 full time equivalent childcare places for the 0 to 5 age group in the city, a decrease of 7.6% from March 2023 data. When places are compared with population data, Normanton (4.8), Sinfyn and Osmaston (4.1) and Chaddesden West (3.7) have the highest child to place ratios. Data suggests that there is a short fall of places in these wards when compared to population. However, it should be noted that not all families choose or need to use childcare in the pre-school years and some families will use informal childcare such as extended family members. Therefore, further analysis would be needed to fully understand if this shortfall needs active market management.

10 Methodology

- 10.1 The 2024 CSA has drawn on providers' stated places delivered and historical funded places available data, rather than just Ofsted registered numbers. This has enabled FIS to benchmark real places available in the childcare market and to accurately plot this against population data. The CSA for 0- to 5-year-olds published in Spring 2023 was used for comparison and evidenced change over time.
- 10.1.1 This CSA considers the impact of the new funding offers available to working parents, and the effect it is having on providers sustainability, and the availability of places. It also looks at the impact parents' changing work patterns are having, as well as the childcare staff recruitment issues, identified by providers, and all how these issues are impacting on supply and demand of places available.
The CSA has drawn on data provided by the Derby City Council's FIS, an in-depth provider online survey and an online survey of parents and carers with additional desk research to inform an assessment of current supply and future need.
- 10.2 An online questionnaire survey of parents and carers was published in Spring 2024 with the aim of exploring current use, barriers to use, changing and unmet demand for childcare. The online survey was completed by 91 parents and carers. FIS raised awareness of the survey with webpage articles, Facebook posts, engagement with childcare providers, Children Centres, Schools, Health, Job Centre Plus, Libraries and Leisure services.
- 10.2.1 An in-depth vacancy and availability survey, using the sufficiency tab within the Synergy data base suite, ran in September 2024 for childcare providers, with the aim of accurately mapping the number of funded and non-funded childcare places being take up and vacancy availability. FIS worked with provider to ensure a good return, this included calling providers and supporting them to complete.
- 10.3 Supply data held by FIS provided details of Ofsted registered provision, including places and vacancy data and fees charged. A provider online survey was used to collect real time availability, vacancies, and staff recruitment on their short-, medium- and long-term sustainability and was collected in February 2024. Please note nursery schools/unites figures may appear inflated this is because private, maintained and academy unites are calculated under one provider type.
- 10.4 CFIT has worked with the council's Corporate Performance and Intelligence to provide population data and local intelligence for this CSA for children aged 0 to 5 years of age.
- 10.5 Funded early education place sufficiency and take up has been mapped against local Spring 2024 term take up data. Data on entitlement for a funded early education **Flying Start** places for 2-year-olds is provided by the Department for Work and Pensions. Data for the new early education **Take off** places for working parents is provided by the Department for Education (DfE). Data for the existing universal early education **All Aboard** places is provided by the DfE.

- 10.6 Assessing childcare places is complex. In 2024, there are four additional factors to consider, the introduction of funded places for working parents, parents changing work patterns, the impact of the cost-of-living crisis and how staff recruitment has affected providers' ability to deliver their normal childcare place numbers and have sufficient staff available to maintain ratios. The analysis is based upon a combination of gathering existing local intelligence, making future predictions and horizon scanning to drill down and give the most up to date picture of a local ward/locality.
- 10.7 There are several significant risks factors in assessing childcare sufficiency. It should be noted that any analysis can only be a best estimate of local sufficiency and is a snapshot in time. Childcare providers considering creating or extending existing provision would need to review this analysis to ensure that unmet parental demand still exists and that any new provision or expansion would be sustainable in the medium to longer term.

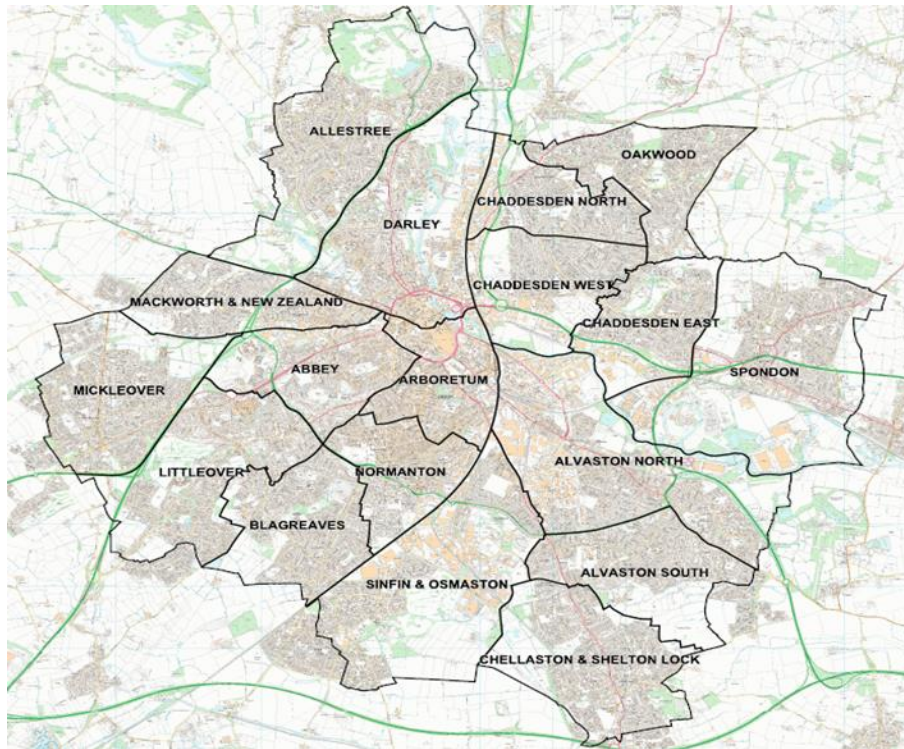
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Appendix 1

Table 1: Map of city showing Wards



Locality	Wards
1	Chaddesden North, Chaddesden East, Chaddesden West, Oakwood, Spondon
2	Alvaston North, Alvaston South, Chellaston & Shelton Lock, Sinfin & Osmaston
3	Abbey Arboretum, Normanton
4	Blagreaves, Littleover, Mickleover
5	Allestree, Darley, Mackworth & New Zealand

Appendix 2

Table 1: 0- to 5-year-old places by provider type and ward

Locality	Ward	Childminders	Childminder places offered	Childminder cost per hour	Day Nurseries	Day Nursery Places Offered	Day Nursery Cost per hour	Pre School Playgroup	Pre School Playgroup places offered	Pre school playgroup cost per hour	Nursery Schools/Classes	Nursery Schools/Classes : Places Offered	Nursery Schools/Classes : cost per hour	Total Places per ward
Locality 1	Chaddesden East	3	12	£5.30	0	0	n/a	1	31	£6.00	4	125	£5.42	168
	Chaddesden North	2	17	£5.40	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	3	133	£4.62	150
	Chaddesden West	4	15	£4.98	2	93	£6.55	0	0	n/a	1	48	£4.00	156
	Oakwood	8	36	£5.01	2	175	£6.45	0	0	n/a	2	63	£0.00	274
	Spondon	10	65	£4.92	4	210	£6.47	0	0	n/a	2	42	£5.12	317
Locality 1 Total		27	145	£5.12	8	478	£6.49	1	31	£6.00	12	411	£4.79	1065
Locality 2	Alvaston North	12	56	£5.54	3	200	£7.10	1	12	£5.00	2	78	£5.01	346
	Alvaston South	8	48	£5.21	1	44	£7.70	1	21	£3.66	4	179	£6.00	292
	Chellaston & Shelton Lock	7	32	£5.44	3	179	£7.28	2	41	£7.50	2	52	£5.00	304
	Sinfin & Osmaston	3	8	£4.89	3	120	£6.33	2	62	£6.00	5	142	£4.58	332
Locality 2 Total		30	144	£5.27	10	543	£7.10	5	136	£5.54	13	451	£5.15	1274
Locality 3	Abbey	2	3	£3.50	6	298	£6.88	0	0	n/a	4	114	£5.12	415
	Arboretum	0	0	n/a	5	266	£7.58	1	27	£6.00	6	270	£4.78	563
	Normanton	6	16	£5.83	4	175	£6.33	0	0	n/a	4	202	£6.08	393
Locality 3 Total		8	19	£4.67	15	739	£6.93	1	27	£6.00	14	586	£4.90	1371
Locality 4	Blagreaves	9	70	£5.41	3	109	£7.27	1	26	£5.00	1	26	£8.00	231
	Littleover	11	56	£4.76	2	190	£5.99	2	34	£5.50	2	54	£6.35	334
	Mickleover	7	52	£5.79	2	122	£7.08	3	79	£5.75	3	71	£5.25	324
Locality 4 Total		27	178	£5.32	7	421	£6.78	6	139	£5.42	6	151	£6.53	889
Locality 5	Allestree	7	36	£5.74	1	77	£7.60	2	54	£4.79	0	0	n/a	167
	Darley	1	0	n/a	6	427	£6.95	0	0	n/a	7	245	£5.96	672
	Mackworth & New Zealand	5	16	£5.75	2	187	£7.23	0	0	n/a	3	114	£6.25	317
Locality 5 Total		13	52	£5.75	9	691	£7.26	2	54	£4.79	10	359	£6.11	1156
Grand Total		105	538	£5.20	49	2872	£6.95	16	387	£5.55	55	1958	£5.50	5755

Source: Families Information Service October 2024

Table 2: Childcare quality by Ofsted outcomes

		Childminders	Registered and inspected by a Childminding Agency		Childminders					Day nurseries					Pre-school playgroups					All other providers				
Outstanding	Good				Requires Improvement	Inadequate	Met	Not met with actions	Pending first inspection	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate	Pending first inspection	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate	Pending first inspection					
Locality	Ward																							
Locality 1	Chaddesden East	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1		
	Chaddesden North	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Chaddesden West	4	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Oakwood	8	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Spondon	10	0	0	9	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Locality 1 Total		27	0	0	22	1	0	2	0	2	8	0	5	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1		
Locality 2	Alvaston North	12	2	1	8	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0		
	Alvaston South	8	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0		
	Chellaston & Shelt	7	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0		
	Sinfin & Osmaston	3	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0		
Locality 2 Total		30	2	2	23	0	0	1	0	2	10	0	9	0	0	1	5	0	4	1	0	0		
Locality 3	Abbey	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	6	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Arboretum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	4	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0		
	Normanton	6	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	4	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Locality 3 Total		8	1	0	1	0	0	2	2	3	15	1	11	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0		
Locality 4	Blagreaves	9	0	0	6	0	0	1	0	2	3	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0		
	Littleover	11	0	0	8	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0		
	Mickleover	7	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	1		
Locality 4 Total		27	1	0	20	0	0	4	0	2	7	1	6	0	0	0	6	0	5	0	0	1		
Locality 5	Allestree	7	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0		
	Darley	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	1	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Mackworth & New	4	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Locality 5 Total		12	0	0	7	0	0	2	0	3	9	1	7	0	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	0		
Grand Total		104	4	2	73	1	0	11	2	12	49	3	38	2	0	6	15	0	12	1	0	2		
Percentage			1.7	60.8		0.8	0.0	9.2	1.7	10.0		6.1	77.6	4.1	0.0	12.2		0.0	70.6	5.9	0.0	11.8		
2023 inspection overview		120	5	4	83	6	1	7	3	16	49	3	39	4	2	1	17	0	15	0	1	1		
Change		-16	-1	-2	-10	-5	-1	4	-1	-4	0	0	-1	-2	-2	5	-2	0	-3	1	-1	1		

Source: Families Information Service October 2024

Table 3: Funded 2-year-old by DWP eligibility and take up:

Ward	Children in Place	% takeup against DWP	DWP List August 2024
Abbey	70	85.4	82
Allestree	4	80.0	5
Alvaston North	44	57.1	77
Alvaston South	59	85.5	69
Arboretum	81	88.0	92
Blagreaves	31	110.7	28
Chaddesden East	24	77.4	31
Chaddesden North	23	67.6	34
Chaddesden West	47	75.8	62
Chellaston & Shelton Lock	17	81.0	21
Darley	26	86.7	30
Littleover	9	40.9	22
Mackworth & New Zealand	56	98.2	57
Mickleover	14	70.0	20
Normanton	93	67.9	137
Oakwood	12	52.2	23
Sinfin & Osmaston	79	79.0	100
Spondon	18	75.0	24
Out of Area Children	54		
Total	761	83.3	914
*Note: 54 postcodes did not match to a Derby Ward			

Table 4: Population data

	Locality 1					
Age	Chad East	Chad North	Chad West	Oakwood	Spondon	Total
Age 0	79	101	108	123	102	513
Age 1	104	112	94	116	129	555
Age 2	119	92	133	141	110	595
Age 3	124	113	120	108	131	596
Age 4	118	109	117	108	124	576
Total 0-4	544	527	572	596	596	2835
	Locality 2					
Age	Alvaston North	Alvaston South	Chellaston & Shelton Lock	Sinfin & Osmaston		
Age 0	226	187	149	253		815
Age 1	218	176	146	222		762
Age 2	275	184	136	253		848
Age 3	204	163	156	243		766
Age 4	191	181	169	272		813
Total 0-4	1114	891	756	1243		4004
	Locality 3					
Age	Abbey	Arboretum	Normanton			
Age 0	183	269	360			812
Age 1	150	238	391			779
Age 2	133	284	382			799
Age 3	160	251	369			780
Age 4	144	260	369			773
Total 0-4	770	1302	1871			3943
	Locality 4					
Age	Blagreaves	Littleover	Mickleover			
Age 0	152	123	125			400
Age 1	184	153	141			478
Age 2	212	152	159			523
Age 3	144	159	144			447
Age 4	216	195	163			574
Total 0-4	908	782	732			2422
	Locality 5					
Age	Allestree	Darley	Mackworth & New Zealand			
Age 0	99	121	164			384
Age 1	84	134	138			356
Age 2	122	117	215			454
Age 3	117	110	169			396
Age 4	124	123	190			437
Total 0-4	546	605	876			2027
Grand Total						15231
Source: Corporate Performance and Intelligence October 2024						

Table 5: Early Years Inclusion Fund: Recipients by Ward Autumn 2023 - 24

		Autumn 2023 SEND Assessment Breakdown			Spring 2024 SEND Assessment Breakdown			Summer 2024 SEND Assessment Breakdown			Autumn 2024 SEND Assessment Breakdown		
Locality	Ward	EHCP Held	EHCP Assessment	SEND Support	EHCP Held	EHCP Assessment	SEND Support	EHCP Held	EHCP Assessment	SEND Support	EHCP Held	EHCP Assessment	SEND Support
1	Chaddesden East	1	1	4	1	1	7	1	1	11	1	0	10
	Chaddesden North	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	14	0	0	7
	Chaddesden West	0	1	4	0	0	9	0	0	10	0	0	10
	Oakwood	1	1	23	0	1	21	0	1	20	0	0	20
	Spondon	1	1	6	1	1	13	2	2	17	1	1	12
2	Alvaston North	0	3	21	1	4	31	3	3	31	2	1	30
	Alvaston South	2	1	41	1	1	52	3	0	45	2	0	27
	Chellaston & Shelton Lock	1	0	11	1	0	27	0	1	20	0	0	8
	Sinfin & Osmaston	2	3	42	2	2	63	2	3	61	1	1	31
3	Abbey	1	1	23	1	1	33	1	1	38	0	1	15
	Arboretum	0	2	52	1	3	84	1	3	97	0	0	53
	Normanton	0	2	20	1	1	28	1	0	45	0	0	25
4	Blagreaves	1	0	14	1	0	22	0	0	27	1	0	15
	Littleover	3	0	14	5	0	20	3	0	11	0	0	2
	Mickleover	1	0	18	1	0	20	1	0	27	0	2	28
5	Allestree	0	1	4	0	1	7	0	1	8	0	0	7
	Darley	0	2	18	0	3	35	1	4	47	1	1	26
	Mackworth & New Zealand	1	6	33	3	6	41	4	5	59	1	2	29
	Total	7	14	196	13	15	290	12	14	359	3	6	200



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