

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

Autumn 2025



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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 2025 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 government funded childcare offer has changed and increased in the last few years, since April 2024 working parents have been eligible for up to 570 hours of funded childcare. This offer has increased in September 2025 with working parents becoming eligible for 1140 hours of funded childcare. The aim of the increased funding offer is to make childcare more affordable for families and enable more parents to work.

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

In February 2025 the DfE issued new guidance to local authorities and early years funding providers regarding their expectation about what can be charged for in addition to the childcare funding received from Government and how this information must be made readily available to parents using childcare. In February 2025 there was a High Court case 'R (Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch Council) v Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman' that ruled mandatory "top-up" fees for government-funded childcare hours are unlawful. Derby is reviewing all providers' charging information to ensure compliance and has published charges information in-line with the DfE requirements on the childcare directory for all providers by the January 2026 deadline.

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:

- 60,400 childcare providers were registered with Ofsted, down by 1,370 (2%) since 31 August 2024. Most of this decline was due to a fall in the number of childminders.
- the number of childminders registered with Ofsted had decreased by 1,250 (5%) since 31 March 2024, to 25,300 childminders. The percentage decline seen was in line with the previous financial year
- 1.29 million childcare places were offered by providers registered on the Early Years Register (EYR), up by 17,400 (1%) since 31 March 2024. Most of this increase was due to a rise in the number of places offered by childcare on non-domestic premises providers
- 98% of childcare providers had been judged good or outstanding at their most recent inspection, an increase of less than 1 percentage point since 31 March 2024

Since the last CSA 2024, Derby has increased its number of day nurseries however two pre-school playgroups have closed. The drop in childminder numbers continues to evidence a reduction in numbers and places delivered.

There is a total of 6,449 full time equivalent childcare places for the 0 to 5 age group in the city, an increase of 12% from Autumn 2024 data. When places are compared with population data Normanton (3.7), Chaddesden North (3.6) and Blagreaves (3.5) 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
2020	137	
2021	127	-7%
2022	125	-1.6%
2023	120	-4%
2024	105	-12.5%
2025	96	8.6%

This represents a 30% reduction in the number of registered childminders over a five-year period; this reduction could be linked with a cohort of experienced childminders who have now retired and others who have moved on to job opportunities outside the home as their own children get older. The decreasing number of childminders reduces choice for parents and the number of places available in home based childcare provision.

Childcare Places Available:

There may be a shortfall of 0- to 5-year-old childcare places in some wards within the city; Normanton, Chaddesden North and Blagreaves have the highest child to place ratios. However, as 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, it may be that there are sufficient places for local demand. It is also the case, that some families choose to use childcare in other parts of the city on route to, or close to where they work or attend education / training.

Early Years Funding Take up:

- 9-months to 23-months funding take up has increased by 143 funded places over 2025.
- In Autumn 2025 Derby's take up of Flying Start places was 88.4%. Littleover (52%), Chaddesden West (66.7%) and Oakwood (70%) have the lowest percentage of 2-year-old take up.
- Working parents 2-year-old funding take up has increased by 53 places over 2025.
- Derby can evidence that 3-year-old universal offer take up has increased from 95.9% in 2024 to 96.6% in 2025, and 4-year-old take up has increased from 100.6% in 2025 to 104.2% in 2025.

Ofsted Inspection Outcomes:

Ofsted has judged that 80% of childcare providers in Derby are delivering 'Good' or 'Outstanding' childcare. The number of providers pending their first Ofsted inspection has decreased to 10.5% from 12% in 2024.

Childcare costs:

The parent survey evidence that whilst the cost of childcare remains the main barrier to access, the take up of the working parents childcare offer has started to mitigate the impact of cost for some families, dissatisfaction with cost and cost as a barrier has fallen since 2024. Average hourly costs data indicates that childcare is most expensive in Abbey (£7.17)



and least expensive in Alvaston South (£5.65). In 2024 the average hourly rate was £5.78, this has increased to £6.16, an increase of 6.57%.

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

This year the [report's](#) key findings evidenced that working parents of children under three in England now pay less than half of last year's cost for a part-time nursery place. However childcare costs for three- to four-year-olds across Great Britain are up by almost 5%. The report also finds continued gaps in availability of childcare places for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

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 as directed by Statutory Guidance.

CFIT will use the 0-to-5-years-old CSA 2025 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 to support the on-going delivery of the expanded childcare funded offer in-line with the revised [DfE Statutory guidance](#) Early education and childcare April 2025 and the revised expectation relating to providers charging practice and policies. CFIT is aware that further [guidance](#) will be issued by the DfE in March 2026, and this will then inform all future funding and compliance work undertaken by the team.

CFIT will survey childcare providers in summer 2026 to ensure that current supply and future opportunities for expansion are collected and noted in readiness for the next academic year. CFIT will continue to analyse the barriers providers face to offering the 1140hrs 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.

CFIT will deliver a rolling funding compliance audit programme to ensure that parents can access funded places in line with the Department of Education's (DfE) funding guidance that states that there should not be any mandatory charges to parents in relation to the funded entitlement.

In line with the DfE guidance FIS will ensure that childcare providers evidence their chargeable extras on their own and the FIS directory web site. FIS will ensure that the information is clear, up-to-date and easily accessible to parents so that they can make informed choices.

FIS will continue to support anyone wanting to become a childminder in the city by offering one to one advice and guidance during the Ofsted registration process.

With cost still being stated as a 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 briefings to key professionals to raise awareness of TFC and increase confidence to promote with parents.

1. Introduction

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.

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) 2025 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.

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 deliver funding modules flexibly to meet parents' needs.

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 increased funded 1140hr childcare offers for children 9mths+.
- the childcare staff recruitment and retention issue.
- parents changing need for childcare.

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)

To robustly map the supply of childcare for the 0 to 5 early years provision in the city.

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.

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 funded 1140 hours 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 fee-paying attendance.

To identify any possible gaps in the supply of funded and fee-paying childcare.

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.

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 childcare providers survey conducted during summer 2025 regarding providers readiness for the Expanded Childcare Offer (ECO) and barriers to delivering. We received responses from 152 providers:

- 45 Day Nurseries (96%)
- 15 Pre School Playgroups (100%)
- 5 Maintained Nursery Schools (71%)
- 26 Nursery Units (53%)
- 61 Childminders (57%)

9- to 23-Month-Olds

Providers told us that a total of 1501 working parent 30-hour places for 9-to- 23-month-olds will be offered across the city from September 2025.

From September 2025 an additional 11 providers will start to offer 9-to-23-month places, creating 122 places.

15 providers will increase capacity in their 9-to-23-month rooms, creating an additional 121 places. 119 of these places will come from Day Nurseries.

Providers have told us that the number of 30 hour places they will offer from September 2025 are 52% above the number of 15-hour places taken up in the summer term.

20 providers will not be able to accommodate all increased hours requests for existing funded children in September, of which 10 are Day Nurseries.

35 providers hold a waiting list for children aged 9-to-23-month for September 2025 with a total of 162 children on the waiting lists. Of these, 14 are Day Nurseries with a total of 109 on waiting lists.

Locality 4 has the most children on waiting lists for September (65) followed by locality 1 (34) and locality 2 (31). At ward level Mickleover has the most children on waiting lists (47), followed by Alvaston North (24) and Spondon (13).

26 providers hold a waiting list for children aged 9-to-23-month for January 2026 with a total of 126 children on waiting lists. Of these 8 are Day Nurseries with a total of 88 children on their waiting lists.

Locality 4 has the most children on waiting lists for January 2026 (74), followed by locality 2 (20) and locality 1 (15). At ward level Mickleover has the most children on waiting lists for January 2026 (54), followed by Alvaston North (16), Blagreaves (10) and Littleover (10).

102 funded 9-to-23-month children from September live outside Derby City.
33 providers are limiting the number of 9-to-23-month places they deliver:

- 18 due to space,
- 7 due to staff vacancies
- 4 due to demand.

2- Year-Olds

118 providers, that responded to the survey (77%), will offer Flying Start places in September 2025. 100% of Day Nurseries will offer Flying Start places.

Of these, 21 providers are restricting the number of Flying Start places available, 8 of which are day Nurseries. These 8 Day Nurseries are offering an average of 5.6 Flying Start places.

123 providers will be offering working parent 30 hours places in September. Providers have told us that the number of 30 hours places they will offer from September 2025 are 43% above the number if 15-hour places taken up in the summer term.

10 providers have had to increase capacity in their 2-year-old room to offer their 30 hours places, creating an additional 135 places across the city. 6 of these were Day Nurseries, creating 104 places.

19 providers will not be able to accommodate all increased hours requests for existing funded children in September, 6 of which are Day Nurseries.

32 providers have a waiting list for 2-year-old places from September 2025 with a total of 163 children on waiting lists. Of these, 14 providers are Day Nurseries with 91 children on their waiting lists. 10 are Pre School playgroups with 33 children on waiting lists.

Locality 3 has the most children on waiting lists (52), followed by locality 4 (50) and locality 2 (30). Mickleover is the ward with the most children on waiting lists (36) followed by Normanton (25), Alvaston North (18) and Abbey (15).

22 providers have a waiting list for January 2026 with a total of 111 children on waiting lists. Of these, 7 providers are Day Nurseries with 51 children on their waiting lists.

Locality 4 has the most children on waiting lists for January 2026 (45), followed by locality 4 (41) and locality 2 (17). By ward Normanton has the most on waiting lists with 37, followed by Mickleover (30) and Alvaston North (11).

121 funded 2-year-olds from September live outside of Derby City.

37 providers (12 Day Nurseries) are currently limiting the number of 2-year-old places they deliver:

- 23 due to space,
- 10 due to staff vacancies
- 5 due to demand.

3- and 4-year-olds

40 providers have waiting list for September, 255 children. Of these 9 are Day Nurseries, with 57 children currently on their waiting lists. 13 are Nursery units with 74 children on waiting lists.

Locality 2 has the most children on waiting lists for September (84) followed by Locality 3 (69). Chellaston and Shelton Lock is the ward with the most children on waiting lists (51) followed by Alvaston North (27) and Arboretum (27).

32 providers have a waiting list for January 2026, a total 233 children. Of these 18 are nursery units with a total of 117 children on waiting lists.

Locality 3 has the most children on waiting lists for January 2026 (98) followed by locality 2 (43). At ward level Normanton has the most children on waiting lists (77) followed by Alvaston North (36).

19 providers intend to increase 3- and 4-year-old universal 15-hour places in September 2025, creating 191 places.

22 providers intend to increase 3- and 4-year-old 30-hour places, creating 195 places.

48 providers are currently limiting 3- and 4-year-old places:

- 28 due to space,
- 9 due to staff vacancies
- 9 due to demand.

135 funded 3- and 4-year-olds from September will live outside of Deby city.

Staff Vacancies

We also asked childcare providers if they had any issues with recruitment and retention of staff. Childcare providers must meet Ofsted child to staff ratios at all time so staff vacancies could impact of childcare places available.

Position	Number of vacancies
Part time unqualified	8
Part time Level 2	7
Part time Level 3	34
Full time unqualified	5
Full time level 2	8
Full time level 3	26
Full time above level 3	8
Total	96

Source: Families Information Service September 2025

In total there are 49 part time and 47 full time vacancies across the city.

The findings of the Department for Education's tenth to twelfth waves of the [Provider Pulse Surveys](#), conducted between November 2024 and May 2025 tracks the sector's response to the phased expansion of funded childcare entitlements, as well as workforce pressures, financial, and other policy developments. The Key findings were published in October 2025:

September 2024 entitlements expansion - The proportion of providers reporting that they faced challenges delivering the September 2024 expansion in funded childcare entitlements fell from 30% in November 2024 to 24% in May 2025. Group-based providers (34% in May) were most likely to report challenges and childminders (17%) the least likely. Across all three surveys the most frequently cited challenges were current funding rates not making additional places worthwhile and not having enough staff/childminder assistants.

Readiness to deliver the September 2025 entitlements - In May 2025, 58% of providers expected to be able to fully meet parental demand for the 30 funded hours of funded childcare for eligible working parents of children aged 9 months and up from September 2025. Childminders (63%) and school-based providers (60%) were more confident than group-based providers (53%). Of those unable to fully meet demand, 33% of providers said they would offer all parents at least some of the hours or some parents some of the hours they want.

Capacity and Places - Expansion plans for new places for under-3s are concentrated in a small number of providers. In May 2025, 15% of group-based providers and childminders already caring for under-3s expected to offer more

places, whilst just 2% of group-based providers and 9% of childminders currently not offering places for under-3s, expected to start to offer places by September 2025. However, for those providers that are likely to expand, they anticipate significant increases: group-based providers by 10 places on average, childminders by 3.

Workforce Pressures - There has been little change in number of vacancies and applications per vacancy across surveys, with a small reduction in the number of weeks taken to fill a vacancy. An increasing proportion (50% in November, 62%) of school-based providers reported no increase nor taking actions to ensure staffing requirements meet increased demand, in contrast only a fifth of group-based providers reported the same across all three surveys. The most common actions taken by group-based providers were to have increased pay of existing staff (44% in May) and increase staff working 10hours (37%). Reflecting on new workforce flexibilities introduced in the EYFS in September 2023 and January 2024, equal proportions of providers said the changes had improved and worsened their ability to recruit; whilst slightly more said the changes had improved (11%) than worsened (8%) retention.

Financial Viability - There are tentative signs of provider financial positions improving over 2025. In May, 48% of providers said their income covered costs (up from 46% in March). In response to cost pressures, 56% of providers mentioned having already or planning to increase fees in May, down from 66% in March; and 57% reported reducing spend on materials and equipment in May, down from 64% in March.

Waiting Lists - Waiting lists have grown since the September 2024 childcare entitlements expansion, with 66% of providers reporting increases in November. Group-based providers had the largest average waiting lists (14 children), compared to 10 for school-based providers and 3 for childminders. Lack of physical space and not being able to accommodate the hours / days required were the most cited reasons for having a waiting list.

4. The Childcare Expanded Offer – ECO

A range of new childcare offers have been introduced for working parents since April 2024. 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. 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.
- Updating of the FIS, 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.
- Distribution of a range of updated funding posters for families, which included QR code for a quick link to application routes.
- Attendance at Family Hub fun days and other outreach events.

It was important for Derby's childcare providers to be able to support and advise parents on the childcare funding offers. Childcare providers are regularly provided with:



- Regular ECO news updates
- Provider briefings
- Promotional materials, to share with families and to give at a glance eligibility start dates and application routes.

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 expanded childcare 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 Autumn 2025, 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 53 families and responses were received from most wards in the city, with the exception of Normanton and Blagreaves. Darley (16%), Allestree (12%), and Mickleover (12%) had the highest number of returned surveys whilst Oakwood, Alvaston South and Chaddesden North (2%), along with Arboretum and Chaddesden North (no returns) had the lowest response rates.

Ward	Percentage of returns
Abbey	4
Allestree	12
Alvaston North	6
Alvaston South	2
Arboretum	4
Blagreaves	0
Chaddesden East	4
Chaddesden North	2
Chaddesden West	6
Chellaston and Shelton Lock	8
Darley	16
Littleover	8
Mackworth and New Zealand	4
Mickleover	12
Normanton	0
Oakwood	2
Sinfin and Osmaston	8
Spondon	4

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 32 children in the 3-to-4-year-old age group (44%), whilst the lowest number was captured for 2-year-olds at 15 children (20%). 26 of the children were under 2 (36%).

Age of Children	Percentage
Under 2	36%
2 Years old	20%
3 and 4 years old	44%

What parents told us

Overall, most parents were satisfied with their childcare arrangements with 88.7% being either very satisfied or satisfied, up from 77% in 2024.

Cost continues to be the main barrier facing families, with 6% (down from 9% in 2024) of all families surveyed not being able to use childcare due to cost. 41% of families surveyed indicated that the cost of childcare prevented them from using the childcare that they need, down from 52% in 2024.

Use of Childcare:

Under 2

50% of families told us they have used a day nursery, down from 54% in 2024. 42% of families told us that they have used a family member, down from 49% in 2023.

8% of families used friends.

17% of families used a childminder

Aged 2

50% of families used a day nursery, down from 75% in 2024.

17% of families used a family member, down from 28% in 2024.

17% used a childminder, up from 13% in 2024.

3–4-Year-olds

38% of families used day nurseries, down from 45% from 2024.

25% of families used a pre-school playgroup, down from 37% in 2024.

31% used a family member, down from 47% reported in 2024.

38% of families reported using a school nursery, up from 32% in 2024.

13% used childminders, down from 21% in 2024.

Barriers to accessing childcare:

From families that indicated they had faced barriers in using childcare, 86% of families reported that they had been stopped from using the childcare that they need because it is too expensive, up from 76% in 2024.

14% mentioned that childcare was not available at times that they needed it, down from 21% in 2024.

14% of families told us that their preferred providers are full, down from 17% in 2024.

11% of families indicated that they weren't satisfied with their childcare arrangements, down from 18% in 2024.

25% of families indicated that they weren't satisfied with the cost of their childcare arrangements, down from 37% in 2024.

Location of childcare:

Being closest to home was the most important factor in childcare locations according 91% of families, up from 95% in 2024. This may be explained by a continued increase in parents working from home compared to pre pandemic levels.

23% families indicated that being close to work was important, 18% told us that being close to school was important, up from 16% in 2024.

Why families use childcare.

86% of families indicated that one of the main reasons for using childcare was their child's learning and development, up from 61% in 2024.

88% indicated it was because they work, up from 81% in 2024.

70% of families told us that they use childcare so that their child can play with other children, up from 48% in 2024.

Barriers to using childcare.

Of the families that have not used childcare in the last 12 months, 43% of families reported that childcare is too expensive, down from 57% in 2024. 14% gave a reason that they don't receive financial support for childcare, down from 43% in 2024. 43% indicated that they choose to look after their children and 43% told us that their partner or spouse looks after the children.

Availability of childcare

72% of families agreed or strongly agreed that they have found it easy to get the type of childcare they want in their local area, down from 87% in 2024.

55% of families agreed that there should be more childcare in their local area, down from 65% in 2024.

14% of families disagreed that childcare is available at the times of day that they need it, up from 10% in 2024.

9% disagree that they can get childcare during the weeks that they need it, down from 13% in 2024.

One in five (20%) of families agree that they would change their childcare if they had any other choice, down from 26% in 2024.

Paying for Childcare

Tax Free 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.

Of families whose 3- or 4-year-old child attends for more than 30 funded hours, 62.5% of them use tax free childcare to pay for their childcare costs.

In Derby 2,835 families currently have a used TFC account, this represents a 9.9% 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	2024-2025	% Growth last year	% Growth all time
Derby	185	525	1,080	1,290	1,815	2,290	2,580	2,835	9.9	1432.4
East Midlands	4,200	11,900	24,155	29,210	40,530	51,870	59,600	66,140	11.0	1474.8
UK	57,000	160,185	315,040	374,135	512,415	649,935	740,385	816,120	10.2	1331.8

80% of families were already aware, prior to completing the survey, of the new expanded offer that help to fund childcare for working families.

9- to 23-month-old

68% of families with 9- to 23-month-old children currently have a working families funded place. These families use an average of 23 funded hours per week.

46% of families with a working families funded place reported that their provider expects them to take additional hours on top of their funded hours.

23% of families informed us that they have not been able to access all of the funded hours that they need. These families told us that the reason for this is that their chosen providers only offer certain days or hours.



62% of families are asked to pay for meals at an average cost per day of £6.74. One family informed us that they are charged additional enrichment activities - £7.20 for a full day including meals or £3.20 for a half day.

2-Year-olds

63% of families with 2-year-olds currently have a working families funded place.

These families use an average of 19 funded hours per week.

40% of families with a working families funded place reported that their provider expects them to take additional hours on top of their funded hours. All families have been able to access all the funded hours that they need.

80% of families are asked to pay for meals at an average cost per day of £5.50.

50% of families surveyed with a 2-year-old currently have a flying start 15 hour funded place. Of these, half of the providers expect families to take additional hours on top of their funded hours. These families use on average 7.5 hours of funded hours per week.

1 family eligible for a flying start place told us they have not been able to access a funded place as their chosen provider does not have funded places available.

3- and 4-year-olds

All families surveyed with a 3- or 4-year-old use their Universal 15-hour place, with an average of 14 funded hours per week used.

13% of families have faced barriers when trying to access a funded place, reporting that their chosen providers only offer certain days or hours.

83% of families know about the extended entitlement 30 hours of funded childcare for working parents, down from 85% in 2024. 74% of parents told us they are eligible for a 30-hour place. 82% use some or all, of their 30-hour place.

Parent Employment and Training

Respondent Employment	Percentage
Employed working 30 hours plus	45.1
Employed working 16 to 29 hours	31.4
Employed less than 16 hours	3.9
Self Employed over 16 hours	3.9
Self Employed less than 16 hours	2.0
Unemployed	13.7

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

25% of families that responded to the survey are one parent families.

Partners Employment	Percentage
Employed working 30 hours plus	92.1
Employed working 16 to 29 hours	2.6
Self Employed over 16 hours	2.6
Unemployed	2.6

In 2 parent households more than 9 in 10 partners to the survey respondent work more than 30-hours per week.

Respondents Shift Pattern	Percentage
Fit work to child's school hours	11.6
Nights	7.0
Shift work	7.0
Traditional office hours no flexi	11.6
Traditional office hours with flexi	46.5
Work from home	9.3
Work term-time only	7.0

Partners Shift Pattern	Percentage
Evenings	2.7
Shift work	16.2
Traditional office hours no flexi	27.0
Traditional office hours with flexi	45.9
Work from home	8.1

6. New housing developments

Derby has a significant number of planned housing development sites in the city, data suggests that in 2025/2026 this will deliver 445 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 445 new homes, Derby should predict that we may have an additional 49 early years children accessing childcare.

7. Supply Data

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.

In this CSA, supply data has been established based on what childcare providers have told us they currently offer rather than rely on Ofsted registered numbers. Providers have confirmed that they are offering a total of 6,449 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 October 2024 there were 5,755 places, which indicated that there has been a 12.1% increase of childcare places within Derby.

Types and numbers of childcare providers

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 providers included in this CSA are registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register and or the Childcare Register.

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.

Childcare on domestic premises, these are childminders where 5+ 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.

Childminders 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.

Day nurseries usually care for children from birth to five years between 8am and 6pm each weekday and are open all year round. Some providers also offer before, after school and school holidays care for school aged children.

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 generally only run during term time.

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.

For the purpose of this CSA group providers are either private, voluntary, independent, or maintained providers that care for children on non-domestic premises.

For the purpose of this CSA childminders are providers that care for children on domestic premises or are register as childminders without domestic premisses.

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.

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 2025 and providers submitted data returns in July 2025 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 2024 there was 15,231 children, in 2025 there are now 15,268. This evidences a slight increase in the 0- to-5-year-old.

Locality 1

Chaddesden East

- 166 full time equivalent (FTE) 0- to 5-year-old childcare places, the 2nd lowest number of places by ward in the city.
- It has the second lowest 0-5 population in the city (536).
- a ratio of 4.8 children to 2-year-old working family funded places delivered, the fourth highest in the city.

Chaddesden North

- 144 FTE 0- to 5-year-old childcare place, lowest in the city.
- the lowest 0-5 population (523) in the city.
- 2nd highest ratio of 3- and 4-year-olds to 15-hour funded places delivered (2.9)
- 3rd lowest hourly rate (£5.75)
- 2nd highest ratio of 0- to 5-year-old children to places (3.6)

Chaddesden West

- 215 FTE 0 to 5 childcare places, the third lowest.
- Hourly rate of £5.85, less than the average for the city.
- Lowest 2-year-old population in the city

Oakwood

- 276 FTE 0- to 5-year-old childcare places.
- 70.6% take up figures for funded 2-year-old places, the third lowest in the city.
- 2.1 child ratio to each childcare place.

Spondon

- 331 FTE 0- to 5-year-old childcare places.
- It has the joint highest number of childminders (10)
- It has the third lowest ratio of 0- to 5-year-old population to childcare places (1.8).
- Highest ratio of 3- and 4-year-old children to 15-hour funded places delivered (3.1)

Locality 2

Alvaston North

- 554 FTE 0- to 5-year-olds childcare places, second highest in the city.
- Joint highest number of childminders (10).
- Hourly rate of £6.03, less than the average for the city.

Alvaston South

- 306 FTE 0- to 5-year-old childcare places
- Average hourly rate is the lowest in the city (£5.65).
- Lowest day nursery rate in the city (£5.10)

Chellaston & Shelton Lock

- 397 FTE 0- to 5-year-old childcare places.
- 4th lowest ratio of 0- to 5-year-old children to places (1.9)
- 4th lowest ratio of 2-year-old children to working parent places delivered (2.4)

Sinfin & Osmaston

- 381 FTE 0- to 5-year-old childcare places.
- has the third lowest average cost per hour (£5.72).
- Sinfin & Osmaston has the second highest 0 to 5yr old child population (1193)
- Lowest ratio of 3- and 4-year-old children to 15 hour funded places delivered (1.6)

Locality 3

Abbey

- 472 FTE 0- to 5-year-old childcare places.
- Joint highest number of day nurseries (6).
- Highest average cost per hour in the city (£7.17)
- Lowest ratio of 3- and 4-year-old children to 15- hour funded places delivered (1.6)

Arboretum

- 491 FTE 0- to 5-year-old childcare places.
- Highest 0–5-year-old population (1271)
- Second highest ratio of 2-year-old children to working parent places delivered (8.8)

Normanton

- 478 FTE 0- to 5-year-old childcare places.
- Highest ratio of 0- to 5-year-old children to places (3.7)
- The highest 0- to 5-year-old population in the city (1771).

Locality 4

Blagreaves

- 263 FTE 0- to 5-year-old childcare places.
- Joint highest number of childminders (10).
- Fourth highest cost per hour (£6.70)

Littleover

- 381 FTE 0- to 5-year-old childcare places.
- Second lowest cost per hour (£5.68)
- Lowest take up of 2-year-old flying start places (52%)

Mickleover

- 349 FTE 0- to 5-year-old childcare places.
- Cost per hour (£6.31) higher than the city average.
- Second lowest ratio of 2-year-old children to working parent places delivered (1.8)

Locality 5

Allestree

- 234 FTE 0- to 5-year-old childcare places which is the fourth lowest number of places by ward in the city.
- Cost per hour (£6.74) third highest in the city.
- It has the second lowest number of day nurseries (1)

Darley

- 698 FTE 0- to 5-year-old childcare places which is the highest number of places by ward.
- Cost per hour (£6.76) second highest in the city.
- Lowest ratio of 0- to 5-year-old children to places (0.9)

Mackworth & New Zealand

- 313 FTE 0- to 5-year-old childcare places.
- There are no pre-school playgroups in Mackworth.
- Average cost per hour of £6.50

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

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

- 74.8% of childcare is delivered by providers judged as 'Good'.
- 5.3% of childcare is delivered by providers judged as 'Outstanding'.
- 2.7% of childcare is delivered by providers judged as 'Requires Improvement'.
- 0.9% of childcare is delivered by providers judged as 'Inadequate'.
- 8.4% of childcare is delivered by providers pending their first Ofsted inspection.

It should be noted that 8 childminders in the city are registered with a childminding agency and do not receive an Ofsted inspection outcome but are monitored and inspected by their agency and that 5 childminders, 9 day nurseries, 3 pre-school

playgroups and 2 nursery schools/classes are newly registered and are pending their first Ofsted inspection.

The majority of childminders currently hold an Ofsted inspection outcome of 'Good' (77), 2 have been judged as 'Outstanding', 1 as 'Requires Improvement' and 1 as 'Inadequate'. 10 childminders have had a judgement of 'Met' and none as '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.

The majority of day nurseries currently hold an Ofsted inspection outcome of 'Good' (38), 4 have been judged as 'Outstanding', 0 'Requires Improvement' and 1 as 'Inadequate'.

Most pre-school playgroups currently hold an Ofsted inspection outcome of 'Good' (11). No pre-school holds an 'Outstanding', 'Requires Improvement' or 'Inadequate'. Most nursery schools and nursery classes currently hold an Ofsted inspection outcome of 'Good' (43), 6 have been judged as 'Outstanding', 5 as 'Requires Improvement' and none as 'Inadequate'.

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 2024.

Ofsted summary report <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/childcare-providers-and-inspections-as-at-31-august-2025/main-findings-childcare-providers-and-inspections-as-at-31-august-2025>

SEND support

All Ofsted registered childcare providers must evidence and deliver inclusive practice; to support inclusion, Derby offers two additional funding payments to providers.

The Disability Access Fund (DAF) is government funding paid annually to the provider, nominated by the parents, it is worth £938 per year. Currently 122 children in Spring, Summer and Autumn 2025 terms have received funding. Funded children aged 9 months and over are eligible for the Disability Access Fund if they receive child disability living allowance (DLA) and access the funded entitlement with the early years' provider. The early years provider can claim the DAF payment via the funding process.

DAF payments by term:

Age group	Spring 2025	Summer 2025	Autumn 2025	Total
9 to 23 months	n/a	n/a	3	3
2 years old	9	7	8	24
3 and 4 year olds	29	30	37	96
Total	38	37	48	123

The Early Years Inclusion Fund is administered by the Specialist Teachers and Education Psychologist Service (STePS). Early Years providers can apply on the School Information Portal for inclusion funding to support with any additional care costs for an individual child. In 2025, 934 successful applications were funded within the year. Summer term saw the highest number of funded applicants at 347 and Autumn term saw the lowest number of funded applicants, this could be mirroring the general increase in take up of places during the academic year. The highest number of funded applications were from providers located in Arboretum (153), Normanton (127) and Alvaston North (100).



During the funding admin process childcare providers are asked to record the number of children who have Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP), are currently in the assessment process for an EHCP or who they have identified as needing SEND support. In Autumn 2025 across the total 3- and 4-year-old funded children there were a total of:

- 24 children with EHCPs,
- 2 children in the EHCP assessment process,
- 443 children identified for SEND support.

Migration

The city faces added pressure, in some wards on childcare places, linked to migration from children based in Derbyshire and other neighbouring local authorities, or from cross city migration from neighbouring wards. In Autumn term 2025 we can evidence that children living in Derbyshire accessed 1102 childcare places within the city and Derby's children accessed 693 places within Derbyshire, this resulted in a net loss of 409 places for Derby families, a significant increase from Summer 2024 when there was a net loss of 286 places, a 43% increase. Derby city children attend a wide range of Derbyshire and other local authority childcare settings this is particularly noticeable in Oakwood where a number of children take up their childcare places in two large day nurseries that boarder the city.

Migration by age group:

FEED Area	Derbyshire Children accessing in Derby City	Derby City Children accessing in Derbyshire	Net Position
9-23m	254	176	78 places lost
2 year olds	258	195	63 places lost
3and4 YO Universal	352	180	172 places lost
3and 4 YO Extended	238	142	96 places lost
Total	1102	693	409 places lost

Price Increases

Prices have increased across the city since 2024, with locality 1 facing the biggest price increase at 12.4%, or £0.65 per hour on average.

Childcare Price Increase by locality:

	2025	2024	Increase £	% Increase
Locality 1	5.91	5.26	0.65	12.4%
Locality 2	5.85	5.61	0.24	4.30%
Locality 3	6.39	6.14	0.25	4.10%
Locality 4	6.23	5.76	0.47	8.20%
Locality 5	6.67	6.14	0.53	8.60%
Grand Total	6.16	5.78	0.38	6.60%
Source: Families Information Service September 2025				

Childcare Expansion

Early Years Capital Grant and School-based Nursery Capital Grant

The Early Years Capital funding was distributed in 2024/25 to the early years providers who had submitted successful Expressions Of Interest (EOI). The funding was used by providers to create additional funded places for 9–23-month-old children, funded places for 2-year-olds, expand the length of day/weeks per year or creates additional funded places for 3 and 4-year-old.



Early Years Grant funding by place and ward:

Ward	Places created by 31/08/2025
Darley	86
Mickleover - due to open January 2026	90
Alvaston South	11
Sinfin & Osmaston	6
Chaddesden East	25
Arboretum	51
Normanton	38
Chellaston & Shelton Lock	30

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

School-Based Nursery Capital Grant

The School-Based Nursery Capital Grant has opened for its third round of applications, the local authority is aware that if all applications are approved it could generate 97 new places, 15 for funded 2-year-old and 82 for funded 3- and 4-year-olds.

New places will be available in 3 wards:

Ward	New 2-year-old funded places	New 3- and 4-year-old funded places
Alvaston North	5	52
Alvaston South	0	30
Spondon	10	0

Ofsted Applications

The Local Authority is currently aware of 5 new providers that have applied to Ofsted to join the Early Years Childcare Register. This includes 1 group provider who will be registered to deliver 45 places in the Sinfin and Osmaston ward, and 4 childminders spread across Chaddesden South, Alvaston South and Spondon wards. There is also one day nursery provider that is now Ofsted register and will be offering 59 places once they open in the Spring Term.

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

All 9mths+- 2- 3- and 4-year-olds, who meet the working parents' eligibility criteria, are entitled to 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 up to maximum of 1140 hours.

Families that meet eligibility criteria for the Flying Start 2-year-old offer are eligible 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.

Further information on Take Off 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 Flying Start 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 All Aboard 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](#)

DfE Charging Guidance - April 2025

The DfE published [guidance](#) to all childcare providers and local authorities about how they expect parents to be made aware of the costs and funding that they are able to access and take up- with a childcare provider. New DfE [guidance](#) will come into effect in March 2026 and will give further confirmation around funding and additional charges.

In the Department of Education (DfE) guidance, it sets out new expectations around the delivery of funded childcare places. The guidance states that all childcare invoices and receipts should be itemised and clearly state the cost of:

- the free entitlement,
- additional private paid hours,
- food charges,
- non-food consumable charges,
- additional activities charges.

The guidance requires childcare providers to publish clear and accessible information on their web site about their fees and charging policy, where a provider does not have a web site then the Families Information Service (FIS) must publish this information on their behalf. The fees and charging information must be published no later than January 2026 and must comply with the DfE guidance.

To meet the DfE guidance the FIS has audited all providers to ensure that funding is being delivered within the DfE expectations and fees and charging information has been collected from providers and published on the FIS childcare directory so that it is available to parents.

Funded childcare places

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.

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 87 childminders (42%), 52 day nurseries (25%), 55 nursery units/schools (26%), and 14 pre-schools (7%) actively delivering funded places In Autumn 2025 term.

Early Years Pupil Premium is an additional funding payment of £1 per hour for up to 15 hours, that childcare providers can be paid to support children from less economical advantaged household. In autumn 2025 25% of 3- 4-year-olds and 59% of Flying Start 2-year-olds are eligible to access this additional funding.

Growth of funded places take up:

The DfE no longer shares predicted take up data, however now that the working parent offer is established CFIT is able to map termly take up, evidence growth and use this term-on-term data to access demand and sufficiency.



Age range	Spring 2025	Summer 2025	Autumn 2025
9 to 23 months	951	1018	1094
2 year olds Flying Start	629	616	644
2 yr old working parents	1049	1043	1102
3 and 4 yr oldsuniversal	4000	4615	2957
3 and 4 yr old extended	1689	1943	1302
Total per term	8318	9235	7099

9mths - 23months funded places

CFIT assesses demand for 9mths+ funded places by using current take up rates. In 2025 there was an increase in take up of 143 funded places across the year.

Working parents who meet the eligibility criteria are eligible the term after their child turns 9 months to childcare funding.

2-year-old Flying Start funded places:

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.

Appendix 2 Table 3 provides a breakdown by ward of eligible children and evidence 88.4% take up levels for Autumn 2025. It should be noted that this represents a 5.1% increase on the take up numbers for Autumn 2024. The reason for this increase could include, but is not limited to, that the local authority is now checking all 2-year-old funding claims to ensure families eligible for both the working parents and Flying Start offers are recorded as 15 hours for both entitlements.

Derby can evidence using January 2025 DfE statistics that 2-year-old Flying Start take up nationally was 65.2% and 60.3% in the East Midlands whereas in Derby it is currently 88.4%.

Working parents who meet the eligibility criteria are also eligible for 2-year-old childcare funding. In 2025 there was an increase in take up of 53 funded places across the year.

3- and 4-year-old funded places:

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.**

The government publishes annual statistics reporting on national and local authority take up of the universal childcare offer. [Funded early education and childcare, Reporting year 2025 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)

Derby does not yet publish ward level take up data due to the complexity of sourcing accurate take up data for 4-year-olds and termly GP date of birth data to match this against. 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.

Derby can evidence using January 2025 DfE statistics that 3-year-old universal offer take up has increased from 95.9% in 2024 to 96.6% in 2025, and 4-year-old take up has increased from 100.6% in 2024 to 104.2% in 2025.

Derby is significantly exceeding national take up which is currently 90.6% for 3-year-olds and 95.6% for 4-year-olds. It is also exceeding average take up within the East Midlands which is currently 91% for 3-year-olds and 97.1% for 4-year-olds.

9. Gaps Analysis

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 2025	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 places taken	2 year old population projection 2025	Ratio of 2 year old children to working parent places delivered	3 and 4 year old 15 hr funded places delivered	3 and 4 year old 30hr funded places delivered	3 to 4 year old population projection 2025	Ratio of 3 and 4 year old children to 15 hour funded places delivered
Locality 1	Chaddesden East	2	0	1	4	£5.80	166	536	3.2	17	23	73.9%	31	26	116	4.5	83	70	238	2.9
	Chaddesden North	2	0	0	3	£5.75	144	523	3.6	26	33	78.8%	29	32	126	3.9	83	48	238	2.9
	Chaddesden West	4	2	0	1	£5.85	215	616	2.9	28	42	66.7%	39	29	103	3.6	97	40	220	2.3
	Oakwood	7	2	0	2	£6.18	276	580	2.1	12	17	70.6%	55	34	104	3.1	83	66	229	2.8
	Spondon	10	4	0	2	£5.99	331	584	1.8	18	19	94.7%	62	56	117	2.1	81	68	250	3.1
Locality 1 Total		25	8	1	12	£5.91	1,132	2,839	2.5	101	134	75.0%	216	177	566	3.2	427	292	1,175	2.8
Locality 2	Alvaston North	10	6	0	2	£6.03	554	1119	2.0	55	74	74.3%	57	59	224	3.8	175	87	435	2.5
	Alvaston South	9	1	1	4	£5.65	306	908	3.0	31	35	88.6%	47	65	167	2.6	179	97	383	2.1
	Chellaston & Shelton Lock	6	3	2	2	£5.99	397	750	1.9	20	25	80.0%	58	69	155	2.2	124	72	311	2.5
	Sinfin & Osmaston	3	3	1	5	£5.72	381	1193	3.1	66	76	86.8%	27	42	250	6.0	197	78	508	2.6
Locality 2 Total	28	13	4	13	£5.85	1,638	3,970	2.4	172	210	82.0%	189	235	796	3.4	675	334	1,637	2.4	
Locality 3	Abbey	2	6	0	4	£7.17	472	783	1.7	60	57	105.3%	25	47	155	3.3	197	69	319	1.6
	Arboretum	0	4	1	6	£6.07	491	1271	2.6	73	71	102.8%	28	30	246	8.2	224	43	522	2.3
	Normanton	4	5	0	5	£5.93	478	1771	3.7	99	126	78.6%	23	34	350	10.3	277	42	748	2.7
Locality 3 Total	6	15	1	15	£6.39	1,441	3,825	2.7	232	254	91.3%	76	111	751	6.8	698	154	1,589	2.3	
Locality 4	Blagreaves	10	3	1	1	£6.70	263	927	3.5	38	42	90.5%	43	62	187	3.0	149	71	387	2.6
	Littleover	8	3	2	2	£5.68	381	791	2.1	13	25	52.0%	38	44	153	3.5	137	83	348	2.5
	Mickleover	8	2	3	3	£6.31	349	795	2.3	19	19	100.0%	96	78	135	1.7	157	113	349	2.2
Locality 4 Total	26	8	6	6	£6.23	993	2,513	2.5	70	86	81.4%	177	184	475	2.6	443	267	1,084	2.4	
Locality 5	Allestree	7	1	2	0	£6.74	234	567	2.4	4	2	200.0%	74	74	117	1.6	109	100	250	2.3
	Darley	1	5	0	7	£6.76	698	645	0.9	31	22	140.9%	43	48	137	2.9	130	99	228	1.8
	Mackworth & New Zealand	3	2	0	3	£6.50	313	909	2.9	43	59	72.9%	62	39	151	3.9	164	106	391	2.4
Locality 5 Total	11	8	2	10	£6.67	1,245	2,121	1.7	78	83	94.0%	179	161	405	2.5	403	305	869	2.2	
Grand Total		96	52	14	56	£6.16	6,449	15,268	2.4	653	767	85%	837	868	2,993	3.4	2,646	1,352	6,354	2.4

Source: Families Information Service September 2025

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, Spondon, Alvaston North, Abbey, Normanton, Darley, Mackworth & New Zealand and Darley) and Allestree does not offer nursery schools/classes. Arboretum does not have a childminder.

Average costs data indicates that childcare is most expensive in Abbey (£7.17) and least expensive in Alvaston South (£5.65). In October 2024 the average hourly rate was £5.77, whereas in September 2025 it is £6.16 which represents a 6.8% increase.

There is a total of 6,449 full time equivalent childcare places for the 0- to 5-age group in the city, an increase of 12.1% from October 2024. When places are compared with population data, Normanton (3.7), Chaddesden North (3.6), Blagreaves (3.5) and Sinfin & Osmaston (3.1) 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

The 2025 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 Autumn 2024 was used for comparison and evidenced change over time.

This CSA considers the impact of the increased 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 how all 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.

An online questionnaire survey of parents and carers was published in Autumn 2025 with the aim of exploring current use, barriers to use, changing and unmet demand for childcare. The online survey was completed by 53 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.

An in-depth vacancy and availability survey for childcare providers was undertaken in summer 2025 and the data was refreshed in autumn 2025, using the quick update e-forms within the Synergy data base, 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.

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 July 2025. Please note nursery schools/unites figures may appear inflated this is because private, maintained and academy unites are calculated under one provider type.

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.

Funded early education place sufficiency and take up has been mapped against local Autumn 2025 term take up data. Data on entitlement for a funded early education **Flying Start** places for 2-year-olds is provided 7x per year by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

Assessing childcare places is complex. In 2025, there are a couple of additional factors to consider, the increase in funded hours for working parents from 570hrs to 1140hrs and how staff recruitment has affected providers' ability to deliver their maximum 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.

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

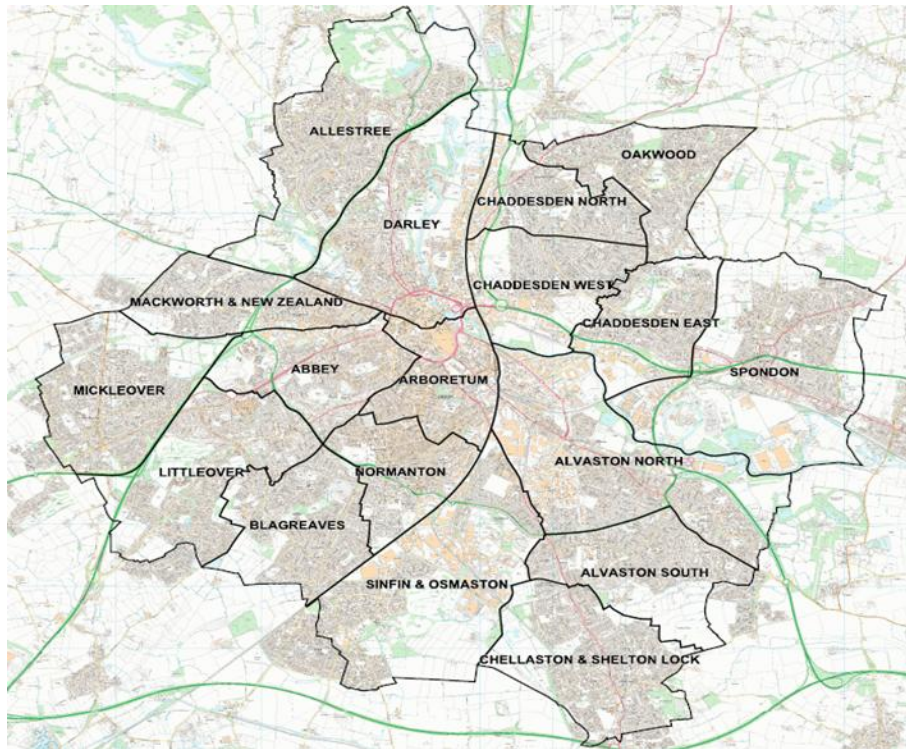
provision would need to review this analysis to ensure that unmet parental demand still exists and that any new provision or expansion would be sustainable in the medium to longer term.

11. For further information please contact details:

Judith Allbutt - Families Information Service Co-ordinator
Duncan Kerr – Sufficiency and Data Officer
Families Information Service
School Organisation and Provision
People's Services Directorate
Derby City Council
The Council House
Corporation Street
Derby
DE1 2FS

Email: fis@derby.gov.uk
Tel: 01332 640758

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	2	5	£6.00	0	0	n/a	1	42	£6.00	4	119	£5.50	166
	Chaddesden North	2	15	£5.75	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	3	129	£4.00	144
	Chaddesden West	4	25	£5.38	2	164	£8.25	0	0	n/a	1	26	£3.00	215
	Oakwood	7	36	£5.88	2	175	£7.10	0	0	n/a	2	65	n/a	276
	Spondon	10	69	£5.65	4	210	£7.33	0	0	n/a	2	52	£4.00	331
Locality 1 Total		25	150	£5.73	8	549	£7.56	1	42	£6.00	12	391	£4.13	1132
Locality 2	Alvaston North	10	59	£5.70	6	379	£6.83	0	0	n/a	2	116	£5.26	554
	Alvaston South	9	57	£5.83	1	32	£5.10	1	45	£4.16	3	172	£6.00	306
	Chellaston & Shelton Lock	6	27	£5.33	3	220	£7.97	2	98	£5.00	2	52	£5.00	397
	Sinfin & Osmaston	3	9	£5.33	3	162	£6.50	1	36	£5.00	5	174	£5.25	381
Locality 2 Total		28	152	£5.55	13	793	£6.60	4	179	£4.72	12	514	£5.38	1638
Locality 3	Abbey	2	6	£5.75	6	336	£7.64	0	0	n/a	4	130	£5.90	472
	Arboretum	0	0	n/a	4	227	£6.62	1	28	£6.00	5	236	£5.53	491
	Normanton	4	12	£5.50	5	260	£6.18	0	0	n/a	3	206	n/a	478
Locality 3 Total		6	18	£5.63	15	823	£6.81	1	28	£6.00	12	572	£5.72	1441
Locality 4	Blagreaves	10	35	£6.35	3	176	£7.47	1	26	£6.00	1	26	£8.00	263
	Littleover	8	38	£5.15	3	225	£6.97	2	64	£6.00	2	54	n/a	381
	Mickleover	8	39	£6.00	2	141	£8.10	3	91	£6.98	3	78	£4.60	349
Locality 4 Total		26	112	£5.83	8	542	£7.51	6	181	£6.33	6	158	£6.30	993
Locality 5	Allestree	7	36	£6.00	1	96	£8.20	2	102	£6.50	0	0	n/a	234
	Darley	1	3	£5.60	5	477	£7.43	0	0	n/a	5	218	£5.33	698
	Mackworth & New Zealand	3	18	£6.00	2	177	£7.85	0	0	n/a	2	118	£6.00	313
Locality 5 Total		11	57	£5.87	8	750	£7.83	2	102	£6.50	7	336	£5.67	1245
Grand Total		96	489	£5.72	52	3457	£7.22	14	532	£5.74	49	1971	£5.24	6449

Source: Families Information Service September 2025

Table 2: Childcare quality by Ofsted outcomes

Locality		Childminders Registered and Inspected by a Childminding Agency	Childminding Agency Effective	Childminding Agency Not Effective	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate	Met	Not met with actions	Pending first inspection	Day nurseries	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate	Pending first inspection	Pre-school playgroups	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate	Pending first inspection	Maintained, academy and independent nursery schools and classes	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate	Pending first inspection
Locality 1	Chaddesden East	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	3	1	0	0
	Chaddesden North	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	1	0	0
	Chaddesden West	5	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
	Oakwood	7	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0
	Spondon	11	0	0	0	9	1	0	0	0	1	4	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0
Locality 1 Total		27	0	0	0	22	1	0	1	0	3	8	0	6	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	12	0	9	3	0	0	0
Locality 2	Alvaston North	10	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	6	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0
	Alvaston South	9	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	1	2	0	0	1
	Chellaston & Shelton Lock	6	1	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
	Sinfin & Osmaston	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	0	0
Locality 2 Total		28	2	2	0	23	0	0	1	0	13	0	11	0	0	2	4	0	3	0	0	1	13	1	10	1	0	1	1
Locality 3	Abbey	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	6	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0
	Arboretum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	6	1	5	0	0	0	0
	Normanton	6	3	3	0	1	0	1	1	0	5	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	1	1	0	1	
Locality 3 Total		8	3	3	0	1	0	1	3	0	15	2	9	0	1	3	1	0	1	0	0	15	3	10	1	0	1	0	1
Locality 4	Blagreaves	10	0	0	0	8	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
	Littleover	11	0	0	0	8	0	0	2	0	1	3	0	2	0	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
	Mickleover	8	2	2	0	6	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	1	3	0	3	0	0	0	0
Locality 4 Total		29	2	2	0	22	0	0	3	0	2	8	1	6	0	1	6	0	5	0	0	1	6	1	5	0	0	0	0
Locality 5	Allestree	7	0	0	0	6	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Darley	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	1	6	0	0	0
	Mackworth & New Zealand	4	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0
Locality 5 Total		12	1	1	0	9	0	0	2	0	0	8	1	6	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	10	1	9	0	0	0	0
Grand Total		104	8	8	0	277	1	1	10	0	52	4	38	0	1	9	14	0	11	0	0	3	56	6	43	5	0	2	
Percentage			7.7	7.7	0.0	1.9	74.0	1.0	1.0	9.6	0.0	4.8	7.7	73.1	0.0	1.9	17.3	0.0	78.6	0.0	0.0	21.4		10.7	76.8	8.93	0	3.6	
2024 inspection overview		104				273	1	0	11	2	12	49	3	38	2	0	6	15	0	12	1	0	2						
Change		0				0	4	0	1	-1	-2	-7	3	1	0	-2	1	3	-1	0	-1	-1	0	1					

Source: Families Information Service September 2025

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

Ward	Children in Place	% take up against DWP	DWP List August 2025
Abbey	60	105.3	57
Allestree	4	200	2
Alvaston North	55	74.3	74
Alvaston South	31	88.6	35
Arboretum	73	102.8	71
Blagreaves	38	90.5	42
Chaddesden East	17	73.9	23
Chaddesden North	26	78.8	33
Chaddesden West	28	66.7	42
Chellaston & Shelton Lock	20	80	25
Darley	31	140.9	22
Littleover	13	52	25
Mackworth & New Zealand	43	72.9	59
Mickleover	19	100	19
Normanton	99	78.6	126
Oakwood	12	70.6	17
Sinfin & Osmaston	66	86.8	76
Spondon	18	94.7	19
Out of Area Children	36	300	12
Total	689	88.4	779

Table 4: Population data

Locality 1						
Age	Chaddesden East	Chaddesden West	Chaddesden North	Oakwood	Spondon	Total 2025
Age 0	99	117	89	118	100	523
Age 1	83	135	111	129	117	575
Age 2	116	126	103	104	117	566
Age 3	113	104	106	124	129	576
Age 4	125	134	114	105	121	599
Total 0-4	536	616	523	580	584	2,839
Locality 2						
Age	Alvaston North	Alvaston South	Chellaston & Shelton Lock	Sinfin & Osmaston		Total 2025
Age 0	225	185	133	221		764
Age 1	235	173	151	214		773
Age 2	224	167	155	250		796
Age 3	225	197	146	257		825
Age 4	210	186	165	251		812
Total 0-4	1,119	908	750	1,193		3,970
Locality 3						
Age	Abbey	Arboretum	Normanton			Total 2025
Age 0	154	235	332			721
Age 1	155	268	341			764
Age 2	155	246	350			751
Age 3	158	270	381			809
Age 4	161	252	367			780
Total 0-4	783	1,271	1,771			3,825
Locality 4						
Age	Blagreaves	Littleover	Mickleover			Total 2025
Age 0	192	141	151			484
Age 1	161	149	160			470
Age 2	187	153	135			475
Age 3	217	176	174			567
Age 4	170	172	175			517
Total 0-4	927	791	795			2,513
Locality 5						
Age	Allestree	Darley	Mackworth & New Zealand			Total 2025
Age 0	100	143	182			425
Age 1	100	137	185			422
Age 2	117	137	151			405
Age 3	130	122	201			453
Age 4	120	106	190			416
Total 0-4	567	645	909			2,121
Grand Total						15,268

Source: Corporate Performance and Intelligence August 2025 - using most recent data available. This material is intended to give a flavour of future populations; it is in no way intended to be a rigid guide to what the future population structure of the city will be, as regardless of the complexity of calculation there will always be a significant margin of error. Consequently extreme caution should be used as to this material.

Table 5: Early Years Inclusion Fund: Recipients by Ward

Locality	Ward	Spring 2025	Summer 2025	Autumn 2025	Total
Locality 1	Chaddesden East	5	13	1	19
	Chaddesden North	1	0	2	3
	Chaddesden West	13	14	1	28
	Oakwood	7	8	5	20
	Spondon	5	11	6	22
Locality 1 Total		31	46	15	92
Locality 2	Alvaston North	35	27	38	100
	Alvaston South	28	26	19	73
	Chellaston & Shelton Lock	4	8	4	16
	Sinfin & Osmaston	31	36	24	91
Locality 2 Total		98	97	85	280
Locality 3	Abbey	16	16	15	47
	Arboretum	60	58	35	153
	Normanton	41	44	42	127
Locality 3 Total		117	118	92	327
Locality 4	Blagreaves	12	12	12	36
	Littleover	8	3	1	12
	Mickleover	15	13	9	37
Locality 4 Total		35	28	22	85
Locality 5	Allestree	1	5	0	6
	Darley	30	26	20	76
	Mackworth & New Zealand	21	27	20	68
Locality 5 Total		52	58	40	150
Grand Total		333	347	254	934

Source: Families Information Service October 2025

Table 6: SEND support overview

		Spring 2025 SEND Assessm ent Breakdo wn			Summer 2025 SEND Assessm ent Breakdo wn			Autumn 2025 SEND Assessm ent Breakdo wn		
Locality	Ward	EHCP Held	EHCP Assessm ent	SEND Support	EHCP Held	EHCP Assessm ent	SEND Support	EHCP Held	EHCP Assessm ent	SEND Support
Locality 1	Chaddesden East	0	0	16	0	1	15	0	0	10
	Chaddesden North	0	0	20	0	0	25	0	0	20
	Chaddesden West	1	1	26	3	1	25	1	0	18
	Oakwood	0	0	12	0	0	11	0	0	10
	Spondon	0	0	15	0	0	18	0	0	14
Locality 2	Alvaston North	1	1	51	1	1	57	1	0	43
	Alvaston South	1	1	43	1	1	48	3	0	34
	Chellaston & Shelton Lock	3	1	17	4	1	21	3	1	10
	Sinfin & Osmaston	4	1	39	4	1	46	3	0	29
Locality 3	Abbey	0	0	43	1	0	52	1	0	37
	Arboretum	0	0	58	0	0	69	0	0	43
	Normanton	0	1	77	1	1	78	2	1	50
Locality 4	Blagreaves	2	3	24	1	2	35	2	0	26
	Littleover	0	0	14	0	0	18	0	0	12
	Mickleover	0	1	22	0	1	29	2	0	24
Locality 5	Allestree	0	0	7	0	0	7	2	0	4
	Darley	0	0	22	0	0	29	2	0	18
	Mackworth & New Zealand	2	2	49	3	2	56	2	0	41
	Total	14	12	555	19	12	639	24	2	443

Source: Families Information Service December 2025



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

**Derby City Council, Peoples Services Directorate,
1st Floor, The Council House, Corporation Street, Derby DE1 2FS**

Tel: 01332 640758

www.derby.gov.uk

