
CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY REVIEW, 2014

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to:
 - (a) inform members of the findings of the 2014 Childcare Sufficiency Review; and
 - (b) set out the Local Authority's 2014-15 Childcare Sufficiency action plan (please see Appendix A, page 11).

Summary

2. The Children and Families' Act, 2014 has changed the local authority's statutory duty regarding childcare sufficiency. Local authorities still have a duty to ensure sufficient childcare, as far as is reasonably practicable; however, instead of conducting a large scale sufficiency assessment every three years with annual reviews in the intermediate years, local authorities now have a statutory duty to 'report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare, and make this report available and accessible to parents'. (Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities, September 2014, Department for Education, page 18).
3. Factors which affect childcare demand include the number of parents in work in the Borough and data shows a small increase in employment rates and a reduction in the number of Job Seekers' Allowance (JSA) claimants. Also, the availability of appropriate family housing is an issue affecting childcare demand and although in the short term, housing completions are far from those prior to the recession, there are signs of house building or consultations in progress regarding potential developments across the Borough.
4. Supply data shows that in 2013-14, perhaps surprisingly, the education and childcare market in Darlington which consists of maintained nursery schools, academy and maintained nursery units, private day nurseries, playgroups, childminders, breakfast, after school and holiday clubs was fairly stable.
5. In 2014 there was no budget available for childcare sufficiency so it was not possible to conduct valid, reliable parental demand research as in 2008 and 2011. However, a more simplified childcare demand questionnaire has been distributed via People and Families' Information Support (PFIS) and the PFIS unmet demand list has also been utilised.

6. This parental feedback has shown that, as in 2008 and 2011 there is:
- (i) unmet demand for affordable, after-school and holiday childcare/activities for all age groups and older children (over 8 years) in particular; and
 - (ii) unmet demand for affordable, accessible and appropriate childcare for children and young people with disabilities (up to the age of 18 years).

In addition, the cost of childcare has been highlighted as a significant barrier for parents in Darlington.

Recommendation

7. It is recommended that :-
- (a) Members note for information the findings of the 2014 Childcare Sufficiency Review; and
 - (b) Members note for information the Local Authority's 2014-15 Childcare Sufficiency action plan and monitor this annually. (please see Appendix A, page 11).

Murray Rose
Director of Commissioning

Background Papers

The following papers were used in this report:

The Department for Education's Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities, September 2014
Darlington's 2014 Childcare Sufficiency Review
Family and Childcare Trust's Childcare Costs Survey, 2014

Nicola Davies: Extension 2803

S17 Crime and Disorder	The report is about the 2014 Childcare Sufficiency Review and will not impinge on the duty on the authority to prevent crime and disorder in the Borough.
Health and Well Being	Good quality early education and childcare for children from birth to 14 years old and 18 years old for those young people with a disability, will assist in improving the health and well being of Darlington's 0 to 14/18 population.
Carbon Impact	There are no carbon impact implications in this report.
Diversity	There are no specific proposals within the report that impact on diversity issues. All providers must meet their duties under the Equality Act 2010 when delivering education and childcare.
Wards Affected	All wards are affected.
Groups Affected	All children aged 0 to 14 years/18 years for those young people with a disability will benefit from being able to access high quality, education and childcare in the Borough.
Budget and Policy Framework	This decision does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	This is a key decision as it affects all wards in the Borough.
Urgent Decision	A delay in the information being reported to elected council members will delay the report becoming available to parents as required by the Department for Education's Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities, September 2014.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	Access to high quality, affordable and reliable education and childcare will improve the quality of life and the health and well being of children and young people in the Borough and will also enable their parents to access or maintain training or work opportunities.
Efficiency	There may be some resource issues for the Early Years Team in supporting settings to plug the out of school childcare gaps which have been identified.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

Background

1. In March 2014 the Children and Families' Bill received Royal Assent and became the Children and Families' Act, 2014. This Act repeals Section 11 of the Childcare Act 2006 whereby Local Authorities in England had a duty to assess sufficiency of childcare provision at least every three years. However, the Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities, September 2014 states that Local Authorities must still 'secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children)'.
2. In order to do this, Local Authorities are required to assess the local childcare market, taking into account the demand for specific types of providers, in a particular locality and the amount and type of supply that currently exists; the state of the local labour market and; the quality and capacity of childcare providers, including their funding, staff premises, experience and expertise. Local Authorities must then report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare, and make this report available and accessible to parents.
3. The report should include specific reference to the sufficiency of childcare for disabled children, children from families in receipt of the childcare element of Working Tax Credit or Universal Credit; children with parents who work irregular hours; children aged two, three and four taking up early education places; school age children; and children needing holiday care. The report should also include information about the supply and demand of childcare for particular age ranges of children, and the affordability, accessibility and quality of provision; and details of how any gaps in childcare provision will be addressed.
4. In 2008 and 2011 Darlington Local Authority conducted full Childcare Sufficiency Assessments and there was a budget in each of these years to undertake in depth parental demand research, ensuring that a full gap analysis comparing demand with supply could be conducted. However, in 2014 there was no budget for childcare sufficiency, resulting in minimal demand research and so a full gap analysis has not been possible as part of the 2014 review.

Social Issues during 2013-14 and beyond

5. The most obvious factors which will affect childcare demand in the Borough are the number of families with children in the area and this in turn, is dependent upon local employment opportunities and available, appropriate housing.
6. Although the recession has had a significant impact on Darlington's economy, where available, recent trends (2011 -2013) show a slightly improving picture with a small increase in employment rates and a reduction in the number of Job Seekers'

Allowance (JSA) claimants. For example, by January 2014 the number of (JSA) claimants resident in Darlington Borough as a percentage of the working age population was 4.5%, this is compared to 5.7% in January 2013 and 5.9% in January 2012. (Data source: Nomis, March 2014). Most recent data shows that in 2012/2013, 30.8% of all jobs in Darlington were within the Public Administration, Education and Health sector, which equates to 15,500 jobs. The distribution, hotels and restaurants sector is the second largest, accounting for 22.9% of all jobs (11,500). Manufacturing (3,700) and Construction (2,700) sectors account for 5.3% and 7.3% of jobs and the Agricultural sector accounts for only 1.2% of all jobs in the Borough. In Darlington, 86.7% of enterprises are categorised as micro (0 – 9 employees); 10.87% are classified as small (10 – 59 employees); 1.58% are classified as medium sized (50 – 259 employees); and 0.79% are classified as large (250+ employees).

7. Regeneration projects are evident throughout the Borough, for example, Central Park will see the opening of Business Central in April 2015, establishing essential high-quality accommodation for new and growing small and medium sized businesses. 2015 will also see the opening of the National Biologics Manufacturing Centre, a ground breaking development by the Centre for Process Innovation that will position Darlington as a national and international centre for the biologics and bio-pharma industries. Future developments include possible further investments in Central Park by Teesside University in the National Horizons Centre and the Centre for Process Innovation in the Factories of the Future. These developments will all act as catalysts for the creation of new jobs, particularly in the Biologics, advanced manufacturing and sub-sea sectors. Within the town centre, the Department for Education will soon re-locate to the Feethams area, which in addition to safeguarding these jobs, will also see the creation of a leisure development incorporating a multi-screen cinema, hotel and bars and restaurants that will create new jobs and additional town centre footfall. There will also be investment in Darlington's edge of town industrial and employment areas with strategic infrastructure installed to enable growth in the North West, Central and Eastern Growth Zones. Finally, there will be investment in Bank Top station to improve it as an economic driver for the whole of Tees Valley and to exploit opportunities from strategic investment to decrease journey times to London (source: Economic Regeneration Team).
8. When we look at the local housing market, the net number of additional dwellings (completions minus demolitions) has been steadily declining from a high of 580 in 2007/08 to 205 in 2010/11 to 182 new housing completions signed off by Darlington Borough Council and the National House Building Council in 2012-13 and 67 demolitions. However, this figure does not include housing developments signed off by private, independent inspectors where figures look higher, indeed, during the period 2014-16 on three of the Borough's strategic housing sites, at Lingfield Point, West Park and Central Park 188 new houses are being built. If we take the figures for the next five years up to 2018/19, in excess of over 2,000 new houses in many wards across the Borough are either being built or are in the process of being consulted on (source: Economic Growth Team, Indicative Housing Delivery Programme). However, planned dwellings only become a reality if there is confidence in the housing market that families have sufficiently secure employment

to enable them to obtain mortgages and purchase properties.

9. Other factors having an impact on parental ability to pay for childcare and childcare demand are the changes to income support for lone parents which have gradually been phased in between November 2008 and April 2011 and the inclusion of lone parents of children who are aged five from May 2012 (the age limit was previously seven). This has gradually created a decline in the claimant figures – in August 2008 there were 1,400 lone parent claimants in Darlington as opposed to 1,350 in May 2009, 1,180 by August 2011, 1,040 by August 2013 and 1,020 by February 2014 (Nomis website). Other additional factors affecting a family's ability to pay for childcare include the capping of household benefit payments and the changes to Housing Benefit generally. This all comes at a time when real wages are still falling for most people.

Childcare Supply

10. Darlington Local Authority had a target of 288 funded places for two year olds to be provided by September 2013. By working with the private and voluntary sector 292 funded places for two year olds were made available by September 2013. The target given to Darlington by the Department for Education (DfE) for September 2014 was 634 places in total but Darlington Local Authority estimated that 5 per cent of children (the DfE estimate for larger Local Authorities was 20 per cent of their target) in Autumn 2014 may become eligible and may already be in an appropriate childcare place which can then be counted towards the stock of places. This takes the Darlington target to 602 places. As at September 2014 494 places are available in local private day nurseries, playgroups and with childminders and at Borough Road Nursery and Red Hall Primary.
11. By January 2015 with the aid of the DfE capital grant, an additional 44 places will have been created at George Dent Nursery and Gurney Pease Academy and by the beginning of April 2015 another 88 places will be available at St. John's Academy, Mount Pleasant Primary and at Eastbourne Playgroup situated within the new Eastbourne Sports complex. This takes the total number of places available in the Borough to 626, compared with the target of 602. Although capital funding has been used to create places in the more disadvantaged areas of the Borough because a large number of private day nurseries are providing places, many of them situated in the west end of town, supply is geographically spread fairly evenly across the Borough. Of the 49 settings, schools and childminders providing funded places for two year olds 41 are Ofsted rated 'outstanding' or 'good', 6 'require improvement' and are receiving intensive support from the Early Years Team (these providers were 'outstanding' or 'good' when they were accepted on to the scheme) and 2 are awaiting their Ofsted inspection following registration.
12. As of the end of the Summer 2014 term around 300 funded two year old places were occupied. This is an increase from 50 places occupied as part of the pilot and then 213 places filled in March 2014. When assessing take-up rates it is important to note that, some parents have commented they feel a child who is in the term following their second birthday is too young to access a place, some parents would prefer to delay access until their child is an older two year old. Also, another factor

impacting the take-up rates will be unemployment rates in the Borough i.e. parents who are not in work do not need to access this childcare.

13. Darlington Local Authority introduced the full national eligibility criteria in April 2014, six months earlier than required by the DfE. Darlington started an on-going marketing campaign in Summer 2013 which has consisted of a local radio advert, coverage in the local press, adverts in 'Darlington Together' magazine, articles in the Council tenants' newsletter and the local businesses e-newsletter, advertising on local bus stands, information bulletins in the Dolphin Centre, libraries and in the Customer Contact Centre, via People and Families' Information Support 'outreach' and by ensuring that the Children's Centres, childcare providers, schools, health visitors and other interested stakeholders, such as the Citizens' Advice Bureau are kept up-to-date.
14. When looking at sufficiency of Free, Flexible Entitlement (FFE) places for 3 and 4 year olds, Darlington has historically had a strong private and voluntary childcare sector. Currently, our three and four year olds access their FFE in 18 private day nurseries (out of a total of 18), 10 playgroups (out of 13), with 10 childminders (out of 105), in two nursery schools and in 17 nursery units. Also, take-up of nursery FFE in Darlington, as with most other local authorities is high, as although nursery education is not statutory, the offer is universal and has been up and running for nearly twenty years. Data indicates that in Darlington 96 per cent of three and four year olds are accessing a free 15 hour a week place (data: mid-2012 birth estimates used, source: Organisational Planning, 26th February 2014). Darlington does import and fund a small number of children from other local authority areas but historically, the number of children we import is fairly equal to the number of children we export to bordering local authority settings.
15. There are no indications via the People and Families' Information Support unmet demand list or the web page childcare questionnaire that the current supply for FFE places for three and four year olds in the Borough does not meet demand. However, this is an area which will need to be monitored as providers have increased the number of places they are able to offer for funded two year olds, we must ensure that these children are able to seamlessly move on to their FFE after they turn three years old.
16. Between March 2013 and March 2014 the number of private day nurseries in the Borough has dropped from 20 to 18. In addition, during 2013-14 one playgroup in Area 2 has closed but this closed due to low numbers of children attending so this is unlikely to have much of an impact on the local childcare market. This leaves 13 playgroups in Darlington, 10 of which offer early education. During the same period, after school clubs have remained static at 23, breakfast clubs have stayed at 15 and holiday clubs have remained at 23. Perhaps surprisingly given the current economic climate, Darlington's childcare market in 2013-14 has remained fairly stable.
17. The childcare market in Darlington can also be assessed in terms of quality by using Ofsted gradings. In March 2014 the Ofsted gradings given to the various settings in Darlington were as set out in the table below:

Ofsted Gradings (source: PFIS)

	Outstanding	Good	Requires improvement	Inadequate	Met	Total
Private Day Nurseries	17%	55%	23%	0%	5%	100%
Holiday Clubs	12%	50%	16%	12%	10%	100%
Out of School Clubs	17%	55%	18%	8%	2%	100%
Playgroups	0%	77%	23%	0%	0%	100%
Childminders	7%	56%	25%	1%	11%	100%

Childcare providers who only work with children from the end of Early Years Foundation Stage are registered on the childcare register. They are expected to meet the requirements relating to people, premises and provision and make a declaration that they will do so. They are inspected to ensure they are still complying with these requirements and are judged as either meeting the requirements of the register or not meeting the requirements i.e. 'Met' or 'Unmet'.

18. Other methods of analysing the childcare market include looking at how accessible and affordable provision is. Geographically, the Borough of Darlington is not a huge area and unless parents are looking for a parent and toddler group or a playgroup within walking distance, if they can, parents will travel to access childcare. However, the cost of childcare has been highlighted by parents in this and previous reviews as either being a barrier to accessing childcare altogether or as being a barrier to accessing as much childcare as they would like. In December 2013 the average cost per session for a child under 2 years old in the private or voluntary sector in Darlington was £23, this compares with a national figure (which includes data for London where costs are historically higher) of £22.55 and an average cost across the North East of England of £21.65. The average cost of using a childminder for 25 hours per week for a child under 2 years old was £83.25 in Darlington whereas £90.88 was the average cost across the North East of England and the national average was £99.77. Childcare costs are a recognised issue nationally, indeed, 'for a family with two children in full-time childcare, yearly childcare costs are 62 per cent higher than the cost of the average mortgage for a family home' ('Childcare Costs Survey, March 2014', Family and Childcare Trust).

Outcome of Consultation

Parental Demand for Childcare

19. During February 2014 a simple questionnaire was issued on-line or by post to parents who had approached People and Families' Information Support with a childcare enquiry. 73 questionnaires were returned. The results were:
- (a) 8 stated that local childcare is not available at the times when it is needed;
 - (b) 8 said that childcare is not available in a convenient location;
 - (c) 3 thought that childcare is not of a good standard;

- (d) 15 parents explained that childcare is not affordable;
- (e) 7 stated they have been unable to take up employment or training due to a lack of childcare;
- (f) 13 responses have had problems accessing breakfast, after school or holiday club places for their child;
- (g) 5 parents have had problems accessing childcare /activities for their child or young person with a disability;
- (h) 2 parents have had problems accessing a funded place for a two year old;
- (i) 0 responses stated problems accessing a nursery place for a 3 or 4 year old; and
- (j) 28 parents or carers said their childcare needs will change over next 12 months.

20. It should be noted that because participants were not randomly selected for inclusion, the number of responses were relatively small, prospective parents were not questioned and the questionnaire was simplistic to enable a faster response rate, the results cannot be treated as a reliable, valid indicator of parental satisfaction with the childcare market or an indicator of future demand. However, perhaps the most interesting element of the feedback was the comments from parents which highlight the main themes of parents not being able to afford childcare due to other pressures on family budgets, issues with access to holiday and out of school provision (historically, there has been little parental demand for overnight or weekend care in Darlington) and issues with access to suitable childcare and activities for children and young people with a disability. For example, comments included:

'the cost of childcare outweighs many people's salaries. Employers are not flexible and it leaves very little reason for many women to return to work full-time.'

'I do feel there should be more funding from government for help towards childcare for working families'

'there is a shocking lack of childcare for disabled children from 2 years old in Darlington, finding suitable provision has been nearly impossible, very disappointing.'

'every school should have an after school facility for Year 3 to Year 6 children, as this is the area where services are lacking.'

'there is no provision for childcare after junior school age, before school care starts too late (8.00am), and extra time after 5.30pm is chargeable.'

'require earlier childcare, only currently available from 8.00am, no access to after school club at our local school'

'I wish all schools could provide an after school club during term for each day of the week.'

21. The average number of monthly childcare enquiries to Darlington People and Families' Information Support in 2013-14 was 22. The average number of parental

childcare enquiries per month to the FIS between April 2012 and February 2013 was 31, a decrease from a high of 47 per month during the same period in 2008-09 but similar to an average of 31 enquiries per month by February 2012. One explanation apart from the obvious fact that families who lose income into the family home may no longer be able to afford to pay for childcare, could be that even parents entering the employment market are opting to maximise their income by using relatives and friends to provide informal childcare. Another possible explanation for the decrease in the number of childcare enquiries could be linked to the gender bias towards women in public sector employment. Recent cuts in the public sector workforce have led to a disproportionate number of jobs lost amongst women, who are then much less likely to continue to access paid childcare.

22. The instances of unmet demand which have been recorded with People and Families' Information Support have reduced. Between April 2013 and March 2014 there have been 5 recorded instances of unmet childcare demand, the corresponding figure in 2012-13 was 9. The nature of the unmet demand is linked to finding childcare for children with a disability or additional needs, a lack of childminders in certain areas of the Borough and one relates to childcare to cover changing shift patterns of work.

Childcare Sufficiency Action Plan

Childcare Sufficiency Targets: Improve access to out of school and holiday childcare/ activities, particularly for children aged 5 to 14 years or 18 years for disabled young people, ensure that all childcare/activities are inclusive, ensure that parents are well informed regarding income maximisation and childcare costs and ensure that the childcare sector has access to business advice.

CSA research has been historically based on the 9 Benchmarks of Childcare Sufficiency:

- ❖ number of places (B1)
- ❖ accessibility of places (B2)
- ❖ range of places (B3)
- ❖ quality of places (B4)
- ❖ flexibility of places (B5)
- ❖ access to sufficient knowledge & information about places (B6)
- ❖ affordability of places (B7)
- ❖ inclusivity of places (B8)
- ❖ sustainability of places (B9)

Gap identified by 2011 CSA & subsequent reviews	2014-15 Objectives	2014-15 Actions	Responsibility & timeframe	Outcome
<p><u>Benchmarks 1, 2 and 3</u></p> <p><u>Maintained Nursery Schools / Units</u> Supply is sufficient to meet the free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds.</p>	No action required.			
Gap identified by 2011 CSA &	2014-15 Objectives	2014-15 Actions	Responsibility & timeframe	Outcome

subsequent reviews				
<u>Day Nursery Provision</u> Overall volume and location for this type of care is sufficient across the Borough.	No action required.			
<u>Childminders</u> Small gaps in some areas (particularly Area 1) for day/sessional care indicated by parents but occupancy is relatively low therefore additional sessions are not required.	Support childminders to improve their quality and sustainability. Enable childminders to keep u-to-date with new regulations. Support childminders to advertise their services.	* Continue to provide support from the Early Years Team regarding quality and sustainability. * Provide support from PFIS to advertise childminder services.	Childcare Development Officers, Foundation Stage Advisory Teachers, PFIS - ongoing up to March 2015.	Increase the number of childminders in the Borough offering good quality, inclusive, sustainable care.
<u>Pre-School Playgroup Provision</u> Gaps exist between parents' ideal use and current supply, however, provision has closed in recent years due to low occupancy rates. Overall volume is sufficient.	Support playgroups to improve their quality and their sustainability. Enable playgroups to keep u-to-date with new regulations. Support playgroups to advertise their services.	* Continue to provide support from the Early Years Team regarding quality and sustainability. * Provide support from PFIS to advertise playgroup services.	Childcare Development Officers, Foundation Stage Advisory Teachers, PFIS - ongoing up to March 2015.	Maintain the number of playgroups in the Borough offering good quality, inclusive, sustainable care.
Gap identified by 2011 CSA & subsequent reviews	2014-15 Objectives	2014-15 Actions	Responsibility & timeframe	Outcome

<p><u>Funded Places for Two Year Olds</u> Ensure that there is a sufficiency of funded places in the DWP identified areas of the Borough to cater for demand from the 40% children by September 2014.</p> <p>Increase the number of funded two year olds places offered on schools sites and by childminders.</p>	<p>Support private and voluntary childcare sector to improve their quality, sustainability and marketing and offer funded places, including the 'stretched offer', particularly those in or serving the 'hotspot' areas.</p> <p>Support private and voluntary providers offering places to two year olds to also offer FFE for 3 and 4 year olds.</p> <p>Ensure prospective good quality providers are encouraged to offer services in the 'hotspot' areas where sufficiency of places is not yet met.</p> <p>Support academy and maintained schools who are in or serving the 'hotspot' areas, to meet the target of a sufficiency of places and to provide good quality, flexible (including the 'stretched offer'), inclusive funded places for two year olds and FFE for three and four year olds.</p>	<p>* Continue to provide support from the Early Years Team regarding quality and sustainability.</p> <p>* Provide support from DBC to enable the termly headcount for funded children to be undertaken.</p> <p>* Continue to advertise funded places.</p> <p>* Continue to keep parents, providers and other interested stakeholders up-to-date regarding the offer.</p>	<p>Childcare Development Officers, Foundation Stage Advisory Teachers, Commissioning Projects Officer, PFIS, Finance and Capital teams - ongoing up to March 2015.</p>	<p>A sufficiency of funded places for two year olds to meet demand by September 2014.</p>
<p>Gap identified by 2011 CSA & subsequent reviews</p>	<p>2014-15 Objectives</p>	<p>2014-15 Actions</p>	<p>Responsibility & timeframe</p>	<p>Outcome</p>

<p><u>Holiday Care</u> (in day nurseries/schools/holiday clubs/childminders) Parents indicate significant gaps with demand being more than 3 times current supply, however, occupancy very low with provision perceived to be age inappropriate for older (11 to 14 year olds/18 year olds with a disability) age groups (53% of provision is in day nurseries so for 11-14 year olds demand is 10.5 times current supply with only 29% occupancy).</p>	<p>Where appropriate, build on the infrastructure developed through the Holiday Childcare Pilot, 'Aiming High for Disabled Children' and D-CATCH to ensure that fully inclusive holiday places are available for older children, to meet considerable unmet demand.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Maintain links with existing holiday childcare pilot providers (in particular those who cater for children aged 11 and over), Sports Development Team and Groundwork and ensure they are aware of considerable demand. * Ensure parents have access to timely, up-to-date information about inclusive holiday places (particularly for older children) via the PFIS, schools, Children's Centres, providers and other media. * Ensure parents have access to income maximisation sessions via Children's Centres. * Monitor unmet demand. 	<p>O-11 Development & Commissioning Manager, Childcare Development Officers, Commissioning Projects Officer, PFIS Manager - ongoing up to March 2015.</p>	<p>Availability of inclusive holiday places for older children.</p>
<p>Gap identified by 2011 CSA & subsequent reviews</p>	<p>2014-15 Objectives</p>	<p>2014-15 Actions</p>	<p>Responsibility & timeframe</p>	<p>Outcome</p>
<p><u>After School</u> (in day nurseries,</p>	<p>Meet the considerable unmet</p>	<p>* Monitor unmet demand and</p>	<p>Childcare Development</p>	<p>Met demand for after school</p>

<p>out of school clubs, childminders but not including reliable school activities) Childminder market for after school is sufficient (apart from small pockets in Area 1), however, there are significant gaps for other provision with demand being 2.7 times current supply. Parental feedback suggests choice restricted by lack of reliable provision in schools.</p>	<p>demand for regular, reliable after school activities on school sites.</p>	<p>where possible, identify providers to 'plug gaps' for example, if schools are able, speak to the Governing Bodies or have discussions with local after school clubs or holiday providers who might be more age appropriate.</p>	<p>Officers, PFIS, Commissioning Projects Officer - ongoing up to March 2015.</p>	<p>care on school sites.</p>
<p><u>Breakfast Club</u> (in schools, day nurseries, childminders) There is over capacity across the Borough and therefore no need to increase sessions, however, parents indicate there is a small gap for sessions for 11-14 year olds/ 18 year olds with a disability.</p>	<p>Close the minimal gap across the Borough for 11-14/ 18 year olds with a disability.</p>	<p>* Monitor unmet demand for breakfast provision for older children via PFIS and where possible, identify providers to 'plug gaps'.</p>	<p>* Childcare Development Officers, PFIS, Commissioning Projects Officer - ongoing up to March 2015.</p>	<p>Improve access to breakfast clubs/ early morning 'safe place to be' for 11-14 year olds/ 18 year olds with a disability.</p>
<p>Gap identified by 2011 CSA & subsequent reviews</p>	<p>2014-15 Objectives</p>	<p>2014-15 Actions</p>	<p>Responsibility & timeframe</p>	<p>Outcome</p>
<p>Benchmark 4 49% of parents reported the</p>	<p>Improve the quality of</p>	<p>* Monitor the outcome of</p>	<p>Foundation Stage Advisory</p>	<p>Improved quality of care</p>

<p>quality of childcare to be high. Disabled parents were more likely to have negative perceptions of quality of care (16%) compared to parents without a disability (11%). Parents with a disabled child are also more likely to have negative perceptions of quality (23% compared with 10% for parents without a disabled child). Holiday clubs display highest 'churn' (change of customer) at 28%, closely followed by childminders at 27%. Parents suggested areas for improvement are communication about a child's progress (18%), extended opening times (11%) and increased flexibility (10%).</p>	care/education in settings.	<p>Ofsted inspections and work with those providers receiving an 'unsatisfactory' or 'requires improvement' judgement to improve the elements of care highlighted in the Ofsted report as needing improvement. * Monitor reasons for childcare places either not being taken up or previously leaving a childcare place via PFIS, to find out whether quality has been a barrier.</p>	Teachers, Childcare Development Officers, PFIS, Commissioning Projects Officer - ongoing up to March 2015.	/education in settings.
Gap identified by 2011 CSA & subsequent reviews	2014-15 Objectives	2014-15 Actions	Responsibility & timeframe	Outcome
<p>Benchmark 5 Only 44% of parents agree that childcare in Darlington is</p>	Improve flexibility within the childcare sector for parents	* Monitor reasons for childcare places not being	Commissioning Projects Officer, PFIS - ongoing up to	Greater access to more flexible childcare places for

<p>available on the days needed and 19% feel care is not available at the times needed. Groups who have most difficulties around lack of flexible childcare arrangements are disabled parents, parents of a disabled child, families where one or more parents work nights or outside the standard working day (7:30am until 6:00pm), parents of children aged 11 years onwards and lone parents. Unmet demand exists in all types of care for earlier and later opening, especially for day nursery and after school clubs. Demand for overnight care is extremely low and supply is limited, requests should be assessed for this type of care on a case by case basis. Demand for weekend care is also relatively low.</p>	<p>and employers.</p> <p><i>Employer feedback shows that more than 1 in 10 local companies say childcare is a barrier to staff recruitment, 9% say it causes problems with staff retention and 16% say childcare problems impact on work performance.</i></p>	<p>taken up, particularly with regard to day nurseries and after school clubs, to find out how many cases are due to lack of flexibility.</p>	<p>March 2015.</p>	<p>parents.</p>
<p>Gap identified by 2011 CSA & subsequent reviews</p>	<p>2014-15 Objectives</p>	<p>2014-15 Actions</p>	<p>Responsibility & timeframe</p>	<p>Outcome</p>
<p>Benchmark 6 30% of parents reported that they do not feel fully informed about the childcare options</p>	<p>Increase in parental awareness of the PFIS.</p>	<p>* Monitor PFIS/ Service Directory website to ensure information is inclusive ie</p>	<p>PFIS Manager - ongoing up to March 2015.</p>	<p>Improved access to information about local childcare for parents.</p>

available to them. Top sources of information were: internet, school, friends and relatives.		<p>available in different languages and formats.</p> <p>* Ensure relevant parents are aware of the Brokerage Service.</p> <p>* Continue with PFIS outreach sessions in places where parents meet eg schools, doctors' surgeries, Jobcentre Plus</p> <p>* Look at alternative forms of marketing/becoming more visible/accessible as a service.</p>		
Gap identified by 2011 CSA & subsequent reviews	2014-15 Objectives	2014-15 Actions	Responsibility & timeframe	Outcome
Benchmark 7 30% of parents feel that childcare is not affordable. Price acts as a complete barrier at current market	Improve income maximisation awareness amongst parents, especially sources other than tax credits.	* Monitor the reasons for childcare places not being taken to find out whether affordability has been a	PFIS, Childcare Development Officers, Commissioning Projects Officer - ongoing up to March 2015.	Increased parental awareness around income maximisation.

<p>rates for between 21% and 33% of parents depending on their chosen care type, price is a significant barrier across all care types. Price sensitivity was high for after school club users (19% would use more care if the price dropped by 10%) and very high for holiday provision (32% would use more care if the price dropped by 10%). Awareness of the Working Tax Credit was high at 96% but lower for Child Tax Credit (88%).</p>		<p>barrier</p> <p>* Ensure parents have up-to-date information about income sources, especially those in addition to tax credits.</p> <p>* Ensure parents are aware of any income maximisation sessions they may have access to eg at a Children's Centre.</p>		
<p>Gap identified by 2011 CSA & subsequent reviews</p>	<p>2014-15 Objectives</p>	<p>2014-15 Actions</p>	<p>Responsibility & timeframe</p>	<p>Outcome</p>
<p>Benchmark 8 <u>Disabled Children & Young People up to 18 years</u> - 31% of parents with a disabled child or young person say childcare arrangements are not fully</p>	<p>Improve access to a range of good quality, flexible care for</p>	<p>* Where appropriate, maintain links with existing holiday</p>	<p>Childcare Development Officers, PFIS - ongoing up to</p>	<p>Improved access to good quality, flexible childcare</p>

meeting the needs of their child (compared with 14% for parents with children without a disability). 45% of parents with a disabled child say supply of holiday childcare is insufficient (compared with 25% of parents of children without a disability), 40% say care is not sufficiently flexible (compared with 18%) and 39% say the range and choice of childcare is not good (compared with 20% of families with a child without a disability).	disabled children and young people (in particular holiday care).	childcare pilot providers, Sports Development Team and Groundwork. * Ensure local childcare training providers, such as Darlington College, are aware of this unmet demand * Ensure parents are aware of the PFIS Brokerage Service. * Ensure parents have access to timely information about inclusive holiday places via the PFIS, schools, Children's Centres, providers and other media.	March 2015.	provision for disabled children and young people up to 18 years.
Gap identified by 2011 CSA & subsequent reviews	2014-15 Objectives	2014-15 Actions	Responsibility & timeframe	Outcome
Benchmark 9 As a result of the recession 52% of day nurseries have reported a loss of customers. Economic uncertainty is seen as a significant challenge by 57% of day nurseries and 40% of	Ensure providers have access to business support.	* Monitor the number of childminder vacancies and collate the number of playgroup and other sector vacancies via the termly supply audit.	PFIS, Childcare Development Officers, Economic Regeneration, Commissioning Projects Officer - ongoing up to March 2015.	Improve sustainability within the childcare sector which will in turn enable children and their families to access more stable childcare places.

childminders.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ensure providers have up-to-date information about any parental income maximisation sessions. * Ensure providers have access to business support via DBC. * Ensure providers are aware of sufficiency gaps. 		
---------------	--	---	--	--