

## **Rotherham Schools' Forum**

**Venue: Rockingham Professional Development Centre**

**Date: Friday 26 April 2024**

**Time: 8.30 a.m.**

### **A G E N D A**

1. Welcome and Introductions

Welcome by the Chair and introductions by all Forum Members present.

2. Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies from any Forum Member who are unable to attend the meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest

To invite Forum Members to declare any interests they may have on agenda items to be considered at this meeting, to confirm the nature of those interests and whether they intend to leave the meeting for the consideration of the item.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 5 - 14)

Recommendation:- To receive and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

To consider and report on any matters arising from the previous minutes:-

6. Membership and Constitution of the Rotherham Schools Forum (Standing Item)

To consider any updates or amendments to the membership of the Schools Forum.

7. Rotherham Schools Forum Review

Julien Kramer to report.

Recommendation: - To receive an update on the proposals for the Schools Forum Review.

8. Early Education Funding Update (Pages 15 - 89)

Aileen Chambers to report.

Recommendation:- To receive the report and note the contents.

9. SEND Sufficiency Update (Pages 91 - 96)

Mark Cummins to report.

Recommendation:- To receive the report and note the progress and next steps identified for the SEND Sufficiency Programme.

10. Exclusions, Suspensions and PRU Data (Pages 97 - 100)

Kelly Crompton to report.

Recommendation:- To receive the report and note the contents.

11. Latest Schools DSG Outturn Position 2023-24 (Pages 101 - 105)

Joshua Amahwe/Louise Keith to report.

Recommendation:- (1) To note the information contained within this report.

(2) To note that the centrally retained early years balance is subject to change dependent on the early years' adjustment for the Spring 2024 census count.

12. High Needs Block Budget Funding Arrangements 2024-25 (Pages 107 - 117)

Joshua Amahwe/Vera Njelic to report.

Recommendation:- (1) To note the high needs funding settlement (including the outcome of the disapplication request) for 2024/25.

(2) To note the proposed funding requirements for 2024/25, particularly in relation to the number of commissioned specialist places and the payment of top up funding to mainstream, special schools /academies, and other providers and settings.

13. Schools Forum Forward Plan (Pages 119 - 120)

Recommendation:- To consider the attached Forward Plan of agenda items and receive any updates.

14. Any Other Business

Recommendation:- To receive any other items of urgent business.

15. Date of Next Meeting

Recommendation:- To consider and agree the date and time of the next meeting of the Rotherham Schools' Forum on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024 at 8.30 a.m. at Rockingham Professional Development Centre.

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**ROTHERHAM SCHOOLS' FORUM  
FRIDAY 19 JANUARY 2024**

**In Attendance:**

Kirsty Peart - Sitwell Infant (Maintained) (in the Chair)  
 Deborah Ball - Treeton Primary (Primary Academy)  
 Dr. Sipra Deb (PVI Nursery)  
 Guiseppe DiLasio – Wales (Academy)  
 David Horrigan – Maltby Learning Trust (Primary Academy)  
 Louise Keith – Principal Finance Officer, CYPS  
 Julian Kramer - Interim Assistant Director: Education and Inclusion  
 Angela McComb – Primary Maintained Governor  
 Lisa McCall – Wales (Academy)  
 Lee Morritt – Aspire  
 Ian Muffett, Finance Manager, CYPS  
 Steve Scott – Happy Kids (PVI Nursery)  
 Karen Smith – Nexus MAT (Special Academy)  
 Nevine Towers - Head of Business and Operations (Primary Academy)  
 Nathan Williams – Roughwood Primary (Primary Academy)  
 Mark Windle – Badsley Primary (Primary Maintained)

**Apologies were received from:-**

Steve Rhodes – Winterhill (Academy)  
 Aileen Chambers, Head of Early Years and Childcare, CYPS  
 Councillor Victoria Cusworth – Cabinet Member for CYPS  
 Chris Eccles – Oakwood (Academy)  
 Andy Krabbendam – CEO JMAT (Academy)  
 Vera Njelic - Principal Finance Officer, CYPS  
 Colin Price – NEU Representative  
 Sharon Stones – Head of Arnold Nursery and Children’s Centre  
 Pam Ward – Head of Service, Education, CYPS  
 Sarah Whitby – Head of Service, Access to Education, CYPS

**40. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to today’s meeting and introductions were made.

**41. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made

**42. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Consideration was given to the minutes from the previous meetings held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

**Agreed:** That the minutes be approved.

**43. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

There were no matters arising.

**44. MEMBERSHIP AND CONSTITUTION OF THE ROTHERHAM SCHOOLS FORUM (STANDING ITEM)**

Consideration was given to the membership and constitution of the Schools' Forum and the suggested changes put forward for approval.

Angela McComb wished to place on record her thanks to the Forum on the support she had received during her term of office which had unfortunately come to an end both as a Forum Member and as a Governor.

Pepe Dilasio also confirmed he would be replaced by Lisa McCall as Head of Wales High School and was also tendering his thanks to the Forum.

Julian Kramer was invited by the Chair to share proposals to commence an independent review of the Schools' Forum and its constitution.

It was suggested to Forum Members that a focused, facilitated session be arranged to provide the Forum with an opportunity to deliberate the following issues:-

- The powers and competencies of the Schools' Forum,
- Responsibilities of Forum Members,
- Agree common themes across Rotherham that the Forum would want to explore in further detail,
- Discuss the direction the Forum would wish to take into the future,
- Review the overall membership and constitution (as several vacancies still existed and would need to be considered as part of the review).
- Reinforcement of meeting protocols e.g timely briefing papers with clear recommendations.

It was pointed out that the review would have implications for the High Needs Sub Group and its future work plan. It was the general consensus that the Schools' Forum should set the agenda and work plan for the High Needs Sub Group.

Forum Members were very supportive of the proposal to conduct a review and welcomed the approach discussed. It was noted that the review would be supported and funded by the Local Authority.

Forum Members suggested that an analysis of numbers within each sector be provided to aid further discussion on future membership arrangements.

- Agreed:
- (1) That Lisa McCall, the new Head of Wales High School replace Pepe Di'Lasio as a Secondary Academy Representative.
  - (2) That thanks be given to Pepe Di'Lasio for his contributions as a Schools Forum Member
  - (3) That thanks be given to Angela McComb, outgoing Local Authority Governor, who's term as a Forum Member would end on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024.
  - (4) That a piece of work be commissioned to review the operation and effectiveness of the Rotherham Schools' Forum and share findings with Forum Members at a future meeting.

**Action: Julian Kramer**

- (5) That an analysis of numbers within each sector be provided to the Forum to aid further discussion and consideration of future membership arrangements.

**Action: Chris Stones/Sarah Whitby**

#### **45. SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA UPDATE**

Consideration was given to the report presented by Louise Keith, Principal Finance Officer, CYPS which provided an update as to the 2024/2025 Dedicated Schools Grant Block Funding for Rotherham.

On 19th December 2023, the Department for Education issued the indicative DSG allocations for the 2024/2025 financial year (detailed within the report). It was noted that the allocations remained indicative at this stage due to expected changes being made to the Early Years figures.

In terms of the Schools Block the final allocation was mainly based on funding rates of £5,190.82 for primary children (£4,915.14 in 2023/2024) and £6,747.09 for secondary children (£6,426.61 in 2023/2024) as at the October 2023 pupil census counts plus actual amounts for premises related costs and historic pupil growth.

The October 2023 census count showed that there were a total number of pupils across the borough of 40,078; this was an increase of 55 (-149

in primary and +204 in secondary) pupils from the October, 2022 census count.

Details were provided on overall school block funding allocation which had increased from £230.617 in 2023/2024 to £243.723m in 2024/2025.

In accordance with Minute 31 of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2023, the request to transfer 0.5% from the school block to the high needs block was submitted to the Secretary of State.

A further report providing details of the rates applied to the individual formula funding rates would be presented at the next meeting in April 2024. The rates applied would continue to be in line with the previous decisions reached in respect of the gradual transition to the national funding formula.

A summary of comparative information was provided on the Central Services Schools Block allocation and details on rates for pupil premium in 2024 to 2025 that was announced on 19th December 2023 was referred to as detailed in the report submitted.

The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) would continue to pay the Teachers Pay Additional Grant (TPAG) as a separate grant that would cover the whole of the 2024/25 financial year.

Mainstream academies would receive an additional allocation to cover April to August 2025 due to their funding cycle following the academic year.

Forum Members were advised that the High Needs Waiver disapplication was still awaiting formal approval.

**Agreed:-** That the report be received and the contents noted.

#### **46. EARLY YEARS UPDATE**

Consideration was given to the report presented by Julien Kramer, Interim Assistant Director: Education and Inclusion which provided information on the statutory guidance in place for the allocation of early education funding and proposals for the local funding formula 2024/25.

The report provided substantial detail on the following areas:-

- The changes to the National Funding Formula and expanded entitlements
- The Early Years Block and increase in Department for Education (DfE) funding rates from 2023/24
- Local Authorities central retention from the Early Years Block
- Funding for 9-month-old entitlement



- Inclusion Support Grant
- Proposals to distribute the Early Years Teachers Pay Additional Grant

The Department for Education (DfE) had consulted on changes to the National Funding Formula for 2024/25 with the introduction of an entitlement for 2-year-olds of working parents from April 2024 and children from 9 months from September 2024.

Local Authorities were required to allocate the funding to early education providers based on a local funding formula which was detailed in the report.

Forum Members were made aware of several adjustments to the allocation. Local Authorities could retain up to 5% across 3 / 4 year old, 2 year old and 9 month entitlements (reducing to 3% in future years), Early Years Pupil Premium would apply across all age ranges (previously 3 / 4 year olds only) and the Disability Access Fund would apply across all age ranges (previously 3 / 4 year olds only). It was emphasised that Schools Forum could express a view on the recommended retention; in line with DfE guidance, it would be for the local authority to finally determine.

Forum Members were advised that the projected Early Years Block funding for 2024-25 was £29 million which would be distributed to 250 schools / providers again in line with DfE guidance. It would be allocated initially as an 'indicative' allocation in January 2024.

Local Authorities were also required to consult providers on annual changes to their local formula, including the Schools' Forum, on changes to local early years funding formulas, including agreeing central spend by 28th February, 2024 whilst noting the final decision rested with the Local Authority.

Details were shared on the options that were being proposed for consultation with the sector, and with interested parties. These were detailed as:-

**Option 1:-** Retain the current local funding formula in 2024/25 as set out in detail as part of the report with the addition of a Central Retention on 2 year old and 9 month old funding streams.

**Option 2:-** Central Retention of 5% of 3 / 4 year and 30 hour funding and 3% from 2 year old and 9 month funding streams. Retain 1% of 3 / 4 year old budgets to distribute as a deprivation supplement.

This model would maximise the 3 / 4 year old base rate to all providers and provide the mandatory additional deprivation supplement to all providers who would have qualified under Option 1 but at a single rate. There were 9% of providers who received 2p / hour less increase than

Option 1 however 91% of providers would benefit from an increased base rate.

### **Option 3:-**

Either Option 1 or 2 for 3 / 4 year olds and no deprivation supplements to be introduced for 2 year olds or 9 month – 2 year olds single rates for all providers as detailed in the report.

It was noted that the Early Years and Childcare Team had held detailed informal discussions with providers regarding the proposals. The consultative process would commence as soon as possible subsequent to Schools Forums briefing.

Discussion focussed on the detail available on rates retention and its purpose. A Forum Member felt that the increase in deprivation supplement may not be enough to deliver the necessary impact required.

There was wide ranging discussion on the scale of the task, the cost of delivery and the anticipated impacts from the extra funding.

Forum Members were interested in the proposal to retain an initial 5% which would be reducing to 3% in future years. Julien Kramer offered to provide a supplementary briefing note to cover this issue. The note would be distributed promptly and would provide elucidation on this matter. Several Forum Members believed that the level of funding proposed for 3 / 4 years olds was insufficient to meet the needs of Rotherham children.

The expansion plan was welcomed. Those present also felt that due consideration should be given to the delivery and the sustaining of provision given the sector was experiencing difficulty in recruiting and retaining staff.

Forum Members suggested that it would be useful for an analysis to be provided on nursery closures and numbers of places lost. This would help provide further perspective to the current situation.

A Forum member suggested that there may be a disconnect between the detail within the report and what was in fact reality within the sector. It was queried what provisions would need to do should all options proposed be unsuitable. In this unlikely eventuality, the Local Authority would take guidance from the Department for Education (DfE).

It was confirmed that various supplementary information would be made available as part of the formal consultation process.

The Chair agreed to follow up with officers in relation to timescales for the consultation to be concluded.

Forum then voted on the five recommendations that were put forward.

The outcomes of the vote were:

1. Forum unanimously did not support the option to retain 5% of 3 / 4 year old and 30 hour funding and 3% of 2 year old (working and disadvantaged) and 9 month funding to cover central Early Years and Childcare Service running costs as there was no information shared with the Forum about what this money will be used for.
2. That consultation on the Early Education funding options presented be supported.

**Action: Julien Kramer/Aileen Chambers**

3. The complex distribution of the Inclusion Support Grant (ISG), based on the current model, was not supported.
4. That the Teachers Pay Additional Grant be distributed in a lump sum to all providers.

**Action: Julien Kramer/Aileen Chambers**

5. That the funding of the above entitlement for the EY Block with any shortfall being funded through the High Needs Block was not supported, pending further clarification.

Following the vote, it was agreed by Schools Forum that the interim director will:

- provide a supplementary briefing note to share information about in the proposal to move from retaining an initial 5% which would reduce to 3% in future years.
- Provide an analysis to forum on nursery closures and numbers of places lost to support understanding of current provision in the local area.
- Make a representation to the Department for Education (DfE) to implement a simplified system for the distribution of Inclusion Support Grant (ISG).

#### **47. EDUCATION SAFEGUARDING ROLE**

Consideration was given to the report presented by Julian Kramer, Interim Assistant Director of Education and Inclusion which was deferred from the previous meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023. Further information had been included within the report for Forum Members to consider in relation to the funding and associated impact on schools regarding the provision of the Education Safeguarding Lead post.

Attention was drawn to details within the report that all Forum Members

had previously agreed to subscribe to at its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022. A recap on the arrangements regarding the appointment of the Safeguarding Lead role was provided along with details regarding the associated funding agreement also agreed at that time.

Reference was made to the commentary provided within the report regarding the outcomes achieved since the Education Safeguarding Lead had been in post.

The post would continue to be funded through a traded service offer with schools alongside the part funding from the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP). The traded service would offer a core level of support with additional charges for some aspects of the menu detailed in the report. This would be offered at a small subsidy cost to schools.

A funding formula had been developed to cover the single post for 2023-24 and information regarding the safeguarding post recharges were outlined in the report.

A funding formula for any future posts would be considered at a later date.

The traded service would be prioritised for all Rotherham schools although it was noted that there was potential to take the offer to a sub-regional market in the future.

Discussion ensued by Forum Members on the provision of a Service Level Agreement for schools to sign in view of the previous concerns raised by Forum regarding the funding arrangements for the role.

Forum Members acknowledged that this was a critical and valuable role however shared their concerns in relation to how consistent and quality standards would be maintained across the borough and sought assurances on the robustness of the arrangements being proposed.

Forum Members suggested that a three-to-five-year model is developed to support future planning and would welcome an annual Safeguarding progress report being presented back to Forum. Specific details on what the core offer would be and what additional services would be available to purchase would also need to be shared with Forum Members.

Forum Members noted the need to explore how schools continue to trade in the future, how they can become more creative and use means to share good practice.

Agreed: (1) That the report be received and the contents noted.

(2) That consideration be given to developing a three to five year model.

**Action: Julian Kramer**

(3) That a Safeguarding progress report be presented to future Schools' Forums annually.

**Action: Julian Kramer**

#### **48. HIGH NEEDS SUB GROUP**

Consideration was given to a verbal update by Julien Kramer, Interim Assistant Director: Education and Inclusion.

It was suggested that the High Needs Sub Group, once re-established, should be instructed on its requirements by the Schools Forum. Reference was then made to the discussions that had taken place earlier in the meeting regarding the agreement to commission a refresh of the Forum's purpose and direction and Forum Members were advised that this work would be prioritised in the first instance.

Forum Members recognised the value of completing the refresh exercise before re-establishing the High Needs Sub Group and acknowledged that they would then be in a better position to instruct the Sub Group on its requirements once the refresh exercise had been completed.

**Agreed:** That the information be received and noted.

#### **49. SCHOOLS FORUM FORWARD PLAN (NON-FINANCE REPORTS)**

Further to Minute No. 37 of the previous meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2023, views were sought on which officers would lead on the suggested items previously discussed and agreement was sought on which dates those items could be programmed to come forward to Forum.

The following proposed agenda items were discussed and dates for future reporting was noted by the Clerk and would be added to the Forward Plan for future reference.

- High Needs Sub-Group Updates – Reporting arrangements to be agreed following the Forum's Refresh.
- Early Years Provision – April meeting (subject to consultation timescales).
- Attendance, Exclusions and Suspensions Data – April meeting
- PRU Numbers – April Meeting
- SEND Sufficiency – Standing Item at all meetings.
- Reduced Timetables – Understanding and Impact – June meeting.

**Agreed:-** That the information be received and the Forward Plan be updated by the Clerk.

**50. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chair invited Forum Members to share any other items for business.

Forum Members were advised that Joshua Amahwe, would be the new Head of Finance for Children and Young Peoples Service and would commence in post on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

Forum Members requested that it be placed on record their disappointment at the number of officer apologies submitted for today's Forum meeting and further emphasised that non-attendance of report authors was not considered appropriate and had resulted in limited expertise being available at the meeting to answer Forum Member questions.

**51. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Agreed: That the next meeting of the Schools' Forum take place on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 at 8.30 a.m. at Rockingham Professional Development Centre.

<h1 style="margin: 0;">BRIEFING</h1>	<b>TO:</b>	Schools Forum
	<b>DATE:</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
	<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	Aileen Chambers Head of Service – Early Years and Childcare
	<b>TITLE:</b>	Early Education Funding Update
<b>1. Background</b>		
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to follow up on the briefing submitted on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide a supplementary briefing note to share information about in the proposal to move from retaining an initial 5% which would reduce to 3% in future years.</li> <li>• Provide an analysis to forum on nursery closures and numbers of places lost to support understanding of current provision in the local area.</li> <li>• Make a representation to the Department for Education (DfE) to implement a simplified system for the distribution of Inclusion Support Grant (ISG).</li> </ul>	
1.2	<p>The Department for Education (DfE) consulted on changes to the National Funding Formula for 2024-25 with the introduction of an entitlement for 2 year olds of working parents from April 2024 and children from 9 months from September 2024. One of changes implemented was to allow LA's to retain up to 5% across 3 / 4 year old, 2 year old and 9 month entitlements (reducing to 3% in future years when the new entitlements are embedded.). Previously LA's could retain up to 5% on 3 / 4 year entitlements only. This change reflects the increased activity that will be required by LA's in terms of distribution of the funding, supporting the sector to ensure sufficiency of places, supporting ongoing quality of delivery and supporting parents to access the free entitlements.</p>	
1.3	<p><b>EY Block Retention:</b> The LA previously retained 5% of the EY Block to contribute to the cost of delivery of the Early Years &amp; Childcare Service (EY&amp;CS) . It is proposed to retain 5% from 3 / 4 year old funding and 3% from 2 year old and 9 month funding in 2024/25 to enable us to increase capacity within the Early Years and Childcare Team to meet the increased workload.</p>	
1.4	<p>The central retention is used to ensure delivery of the following functions to ensure childcare act statutory functions are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure availability of high-quality, substantiable childcare and early education provision and take-up of early education entitlement, leading to improved outcome for children</li> <li>• Delivery of a Families information service</li> <li>• Eligibility checks for two-year-old early education funded places.</li> <li>• Eligibility checks for 30 hour entitlement places</li> <li>• Eligibility checks for Early Years Pupil Premium.</li> <li>• Maintaining and promoting take up of two, three and four-year old early education places.</li> <li>• Contract with early education private, voluntary, academy and maintained school providers for the delivery of early education places.</li> </ul>	

- Managing EY Block, including processing claims and allocating funding for early education places appropriately.
- Advice, support and challenge to early education and childcare providers across all aspects of the Early Years Foundation Stage (teaching and learning, assessment and safeguarding and welfare).
- Provide SEND advice and support to private and voluntary early education providers to ensure children can access provision without barriers or delays, and support transition into Foundation for children with complex SEND.
- Promote and deliver priority training for early education and childcare providers.

1.5 The distribution of the EY block funding requires receipt of child level information to enable the accurate calculation and distribution of monthly payments as well as allocation of early years pupil premium and disability access fund payments.

1.6 Currently the total number of children funded each term is detailed below, with the projected increased numbers also shown:

	Autumn 22	Spring 23	Summer 23
<b>2 year old</b>	914	834	784
<b>3 / 4 Universal</b>	2747	3628	4177
<b>3 / 4 Extended</b>	1257	1661	2760

Date	April 2024	September 2024	September 2025
Projected number of additional children taking up a 'free' place	997	2YO's –1047 Under 2's - 919	2YO's –917 Under 2's - 919

1.9 The increased entitlements will increase the work of the team as detailed below:

- Increased parental enquiries to the Families Information Service
- Increased early education funding claims to process (twice termly child level data submissions from all schools / providers which informs monthly payments)
- Increased early years pupil premium checks to be processed (to ensure maximisation of funding)
- Increased support to childcare providers to ensure ongoing quality whilst increasing capacity
- Support to potential new providers and childminders
- Recruitment of new early years professionals into the sector and link to appropriate training
- Increased sufficiency analysis both for expanded entitlements and wraparound childcare offer

1.10 The increased EY block retention is required to increase capacity within the EY&C Service to carry out the additional workload.

1.11 It is proposed to decrease the percentage retention as the EY block budget increases to maintain the required budget. It is anticipated that the percentage retained will be decreased to 3% across each funding stream by 2026/27.

1.12 **Childcare / Early Education Sufficiency in Rotherham:**



Despite the challenging environment for the early years sector, provision in Rotherham has been relatively stable.

Financial Year	Early Years Settings	Childminders
2021/22	60	190
2022/23	59	163
2023/24	56	149

\*\*In addition 14 schools deliver funded 2 year old places

1.14 2 new Day Nurseries have opened since data capture for 2023/24 (The Fun Hub and All Children Great and Small Maltby)

1.15 The decrease in childminders is also mirrored nationally, Ofsted reported in March 2023 that there were 27,900 Childminders, down by 3,500 (11%) since 31 March 2022. This continues a downward trend in number of Childminders, with 20,000 fewer than on 31 August 2015. Source: [Main findings: Childcare providers and inspections as at 31 March 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/main-findings-childcare-providers-and-inspections-as-at-31-march-2023)

1.16 The full childcare sufficiency report is also attached for information.

1.17 **Appendices 1 – 4** show the capacity position as at Summer 2023. The data indicates that there is some capacity in the sector across each geographical area, although there is a limited out of school offer in some areas. We also appreciate that there would be further pressure if all eligible early education children chose to take up their full entitlement.

1.18 **Appendices 10 – 12** show the potential capacity position for April 2024 and September 2025 when the expanded entitlements are available. These tables show a number of areas of capacity pressure, particularly for the under 2's entitlement where additional places would be needed to meet the projected demand.

1.19 The DfE have provided capital funding for the LA to support expansion of provision. Commissioning processes are currently being developed to enable providers to apply for this funding.

1.20 One of the biggest challenges which affects number of places available is recruitment of early years professionals.

1.21 The Early Years and Childcare Service have recruited an additional post to support recruitment of early years professionals in Rotherham through liaising with training providers to ensure the training offer is appropriate; promoting early years as a career; taking part in careers events; promoting job vacancies.

1.22 **Inclusion Support Grant (ISG) (Special educational needs inclusion fund (SENIF))**

**The following is an extract from DfE guidance:**

1.23 With the introduction of the new working parent entitlements for 2024 to 2025, local authorities were required to establish SENIFs for all children with SEN eligible for or taking up the entitlements, regardless of the number of hours taken. These funds are intended to support local authorities to work with providers to address the needs of individual children with SEN who are taking up the entitlements. This fund will also

<p>1.24</p> <p>1.25</p> <p>1.26</p> <p>1.27</p> <p>1.28</p> <p>1.29</p>	<p>support local authorities to undertake their responsibilities to strategically commission SEN services as required under the Children and Families Act 2014.</p> <p><b>Eligibility:</b> Local authorities should target SENIFs at children with lower level or emerging SEN. Children with more complex needs and with an education, health and care plan (EHC) plan continue to be eligible to receive funding via the high needs block of the DSG. Further information on the high needs funding system can be found in the <a href="#">high needs funding arrangements: 2024 to 2025</a>. As with other elements of early years funding, SENIFs should apply to children attending settings in the relevant local authority area, regardless of where they live.</p> <p><b>Value:</b> The value of the fund should consider the number of children with SEN in the local area, their level of need, and the overall capacity of the local childcare market to support these children. Local authorities should consult with early years providers to set the value of their local SENIF sources of funding: Local authorities should establish their SENIFs using funding from the early years block and/or the high needs block of their DSG allocation.</p> <p>Local authorities should pass the majority of their SENIF to providers in the form of top-up grants on a case-by-case basis. Local authorities can also support specialist SEN services in their local area. Funding used for these local authority-wide support services will not count towards the 95% pass-through; they will be counted within the 5% centrally retained funding.</p> <p>Eligible providers: All early years providers that are eligible to receive funding for the entitlements are eligible to receive funding from the SENIF to support children with SEN attending their settings.</p> <p>A Rotherham review of ISG funding was carried out in 2019/20 including a benchmarking exercise across Yorkshire and Humber. A further consultation was carried out with schools / providers in 2023 to inform implementation of the 3 tier model from September 2023.</p> <p>The DfE included the SENIF within a consultation carried out between July and September 23 on the extension of the early education entitlements. The results of the consultation are attached at Appendix 1. The DfE have committed to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>conduct a detailed assessment of the SENIF arrangements that local authorities currently have in place, looking at how SENIFs are being used nationally and how far they are meeting current need. We will look to draw examples of best practice together, with a view to sector-wide dissemination, and recommend longer term changes that we think will improve the extent to which SENIFs can meet the needs of children taking up the entitlements</i></li> <li>• <i>consider current local authority arrangements and what longer term changes could be made</i></li> </ul>
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**3. Key Actions and Timelines**

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**4. Recommendations**

<p>4.1</p>	<p>It is recommended that the content of the report is noted.</p>
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## Appendix 1

## Extract from Early years funding - extension of the entitlements Government consultation response: November 2023

## Question 11:

Local authorities currently should have a special educational needs inclusion fund (SENIF) in place for all 3-and-4-year-olds with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) who are accessing the free entitlements. These funds are intended to support providers in addressing the needs of children with lower or emerging levels of SEND. In the consultation, we proposed that local authorities should extend their SENIF to cover children aged 9 months to 2-years-old.

Do you agree with our proposal that local authorities should establish a special educational needs inclusion fund for children aged 9 months to 2-years-old who are taking up the entitlements?

Answer	Total	Percent
Yes	854	87%
No	42	4%
Unsure	78	8%
Not Answered	9	1%

**Government response:** We will proceed as set out in the consultation. This means that for 2024-25, LAs should extend SENIFs to children aged 9 months to 2 years with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) who are eligible for the free entitlements.

## Question 12:

We recognise the challenges faced by the early years sector in meeting the needs of children with SEND. We have already committed to working with stakeholders across the sector to understand whether changes may be required to the SENIF, and other associated elements of the wider current early years funding system, as part of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan.

We are considering ways in which we can support local authorities to improve the administrative processes around the SENIF, particularly to reduce bureaucracy and ensure funding is made available in a timely manner. Therefore, questions 12 and 13 were used to gather views and feedback on the current process for SENIF funding and options for potential change.

What more can be done to support local authorities and providers to reduce bureaucracy and streamline SENIF processes whilst also ensuring the system remains fair and financially sustainable.

Responses: From local authorities, the primary suggestion made was for the Department for Education to set a standardised, national criteria or process for local authorities to follow as opposed to having different processes in place in different areas of the country. It was felt this would reduce the expectation for local authorities to create their own process, ensure parity between each local authority, and streamline the process overall

**Government response:** We have reviewed all feedback received in response to this question. Building on the feedback received, we intend to conduct a detailed assessment of the SENIF arrangements that local authorities currently have in place, looking at how SENIFs are being used

nationally and how far they are meeting current need. We will look to draw examples of best practice together, with a view to sector-wide dissemination, and recommend longer term changes that we think will improve the extent to which SENIFs can meet the needs of children taking up the entitlements

### Question 13:

As stated above, this question was used to gather views and feedback on the current process for SEND funding and options for potential change. Would local authorities and providers find it helpful for the department to be more prescriptive about the operation of local SENIFs?

Answer	Total	Percent
Yes	551	56%
No	97	10%
Unsure	305	31%
Not Answered	30	3%

**Government response:** Our planned assessment of the SENIF arrangements mentioned above will consider current local authority arrangements and what longer term changes could be made. In doing this we will take full account of the range of views reflected in the responses to this question, noting that some LAs would welcome something more prescriptive whilst others would not. Our priority is to see SENIFs operate in a way that is consistent and of greatest benefit to early years children with SEND.

[Early years funding - extension of the entitlements Consultation response \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

# **Rotherham**

## **Childcare Sufficiency Report**

### **2023-24**

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If you would like to comment on the Rotherham Childcare Sufficiency Assessment please send an e-mail to:

[earlyeducation@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:earlyeducation@rotherham.gov.uk)

## Section 1 – Introduction

### 1.1 Childcare Sufficiency Duty

The Local Authority has a statutory duty under Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006 to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, that sufficient childcare places for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children) are available across the borough to enable parents to work, or undertake education or training leading to employment, and under Section 7 of the Childcare Act 2006 to secure free early education provision for each eligible young child in their area (i.e. all three / four year olds and eligible two year olds).

### 1.2 Purpose of the Report

Statutory Guidance includes a requirement to report annually to elected council members on how the duty to secure sufficient childcare is being met, and to make this report available and accessible to parents.

This report and additional background data analysis are also used to assist Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council in its duty to understand the childcare market and to assist in planning. The report is also useful to assist existing and potential childcare providers to inform ongoing development of childcare places.

The early education vacancy and occupancy data was calculated using 2 datasets:

School data: Take-up of places had been deducted from maximum number of places available (pupil admission number) to give a number of vacant early education places.

Childcare data: Vacancy information for the early education age groups had been gathered as the number of 'morning' or 'afternoon' sessions vacant on a daily basis for each provider. The total number of sessions vacant for each provider has been divided by 3 (for providers

delivering 5 hour sessions) or by 5 (for providers delivering 3 hour sessions) to give the maximum number of 15 hour early education places the provider has available.

Existing and potential childcare providers should always undertake their own market research to understand local childcare needs and use the information in this report as an indicator only. This report represents the position based on data gathered between June – August 2023 and changes may have taken place since the report was written.



## Section 2 – Key Findings

There is sufficient childcare / early education capacity based on current take-up levels with some spare capacity across all age ranges, however, there is limited availability for out of school childcare at specific schools.

### 2.1 Choice and Availability

- The total number of childcare / early education providers (including school Foundation 1 classes, Day Nurseries, Pre-Schools, Childminders and Out of School providers) has increased slightly since 2022 from 416 to 421.
- There are 219 early years childcare providers in Rotherham offering daycare to children aged between 0 and 5 years old, 21 out of school clubs offering a combination of breakfast / after school and holiday care (plus 79 breakfast clubs provided by primary schools) and 73 Foundation 1 classes. - Section 4.1.
- Most areas of the borough have a range of childcare provision available (Day Nurseries, Pre-Schools, Childminders and Out of School provision) – Section 4.1 and Appendix 1a.
- Childcare provision is available before 8am in all areas and most areas have childcare available after 6pm. Availability of childcare at weekends varies from area to area – Section 4.8, Appendix 1a.
- The majority of primary schools in Rotherham have some level of after school childcare (delivered either by an Out of School Club or Childminders) - Section 4.3 and Appendix 5.
- There is some spare **childcare** capacity across all areas – Appendix 1a & 1b.
- There is some early education capacity across all areas for three and four year olds to take up their universal 15 hour entitlement, including projected increase in capacity needed through new house building; however, there would not be sufficient capacity in the Coleridge (Canklow, East Dene / Clifton and Eastwood / Town Centre) area if all three year old children wished to take up their entitlement – Section 5.1 & 5.2, Appendices 3 & 4.
- There is some **early education** capacity across all areas for eligible three and four year olds to take up the extended 30 hour entitlement, however, there would not be sufficient capacity in the in Coleridge, Arnold and in Aughton (Aughton / Aston, Catcliffe / Treeton

and Whiston) if all eligible children wished to take up their full entitlement. Section 5.1 & 5.4, Appendix 4.

- There is some early education capacity for two year olds in all areas of the borough including projected increase in capacity needed through new house building; however, there would not be sufficient capacity in the Coleridge (Canklow) areas if all eligible two year old children wished to take up their full entitlement.– Sections 5.1 & 5.3, Appendix 3.
- Unmet demand: There has been six instances of unmet demand in the period 01/09/22 and 31/08/23, all needing out of school care at Sitwell Infants, Canklow Woods Primary, Badsley Moor Lane Primary, Kilnhurst Primary, Rawmarsh Sandhill Primary and Aston Fence Junior and Infants indicating limited availability at childcare providers servicing these schools. - Section 4.8, Appendix 1a.

## **2.2 Costs**

- The average costs of childcare in Rotherham are significantly lower than the national average costs – Section 4.6.
- The cost of childcare for a full day in Rotherham ranges from £31.82 to £68.50 depending on the type of provider and geographical area – Section 4.6
- The average childcare costs in Rotherham have increased slightly for group daycare providers (Day Nurseries) and Childminders.

## **2.3 Quality**

- The quality of childcare provision in Rotherham remains above the National and Yorkshire & Humber levels at 97.6% of providers with a ‘Good’ or ‘Outstanding’ Ofsted judgement in 2023 - see Section 4.7.

## 2.4 Expansion of Early Years Entitlements

- The expansion to early years entitlements is planned to roll out between April 2024 and September 2025. Projections show that there should be sufficient availability for the April 2024 stage of the roll out but there are some areas of concern for the September 2024 and September 2025 stages.
- Further analysis and monitoring will take place to ensure that there are sufficient places to meet demand.

## 2.5 Summary

**There is currently adequate childcare and early education provision in the borough to meet needs for 0 – 5 year olds.** However, there is a risk that there will not be sufficient provision in a small number of areas for all eligible children to take up their early education entitlement. Unmet demand also indicates lack of availability of out of school childcare at specific schools.

The childcare market is kept under review on an ongoing basis. Take-up of early education for two, three and four year olds is reviewed termly and a full childcare analysis is carried out annually to ensure there continues to be adequate provision to meet needs. Childcare sufficiency information is shared with existing and potential childcare providers to enable informed decisions to be made on the creation of additional childcare in the borough. The action plan in Appendix 13 has more details on how the Rotherham Early Years and Childcare Service will monitor and support sufficient childcare/early education provision in Rotherham.

Supply of out of school provision varies on an ongoing basis. The majority of primary school pick ups are provided by Childminders and coverage of individual schools varies depending on demand at any one time (see Appendix 5).

**Section 3 – Demographic Information**

**3.1 Population Data:**

Demographic and socio-economic data helps us to build a better picture of demand for childcare and a parent’s ability to pay. For instance, local population changes can have implications for the demand for childcare which could impact on childcare providers.

**Chart 1. Projected Rotherham Child Population (ONS 2018-based)**

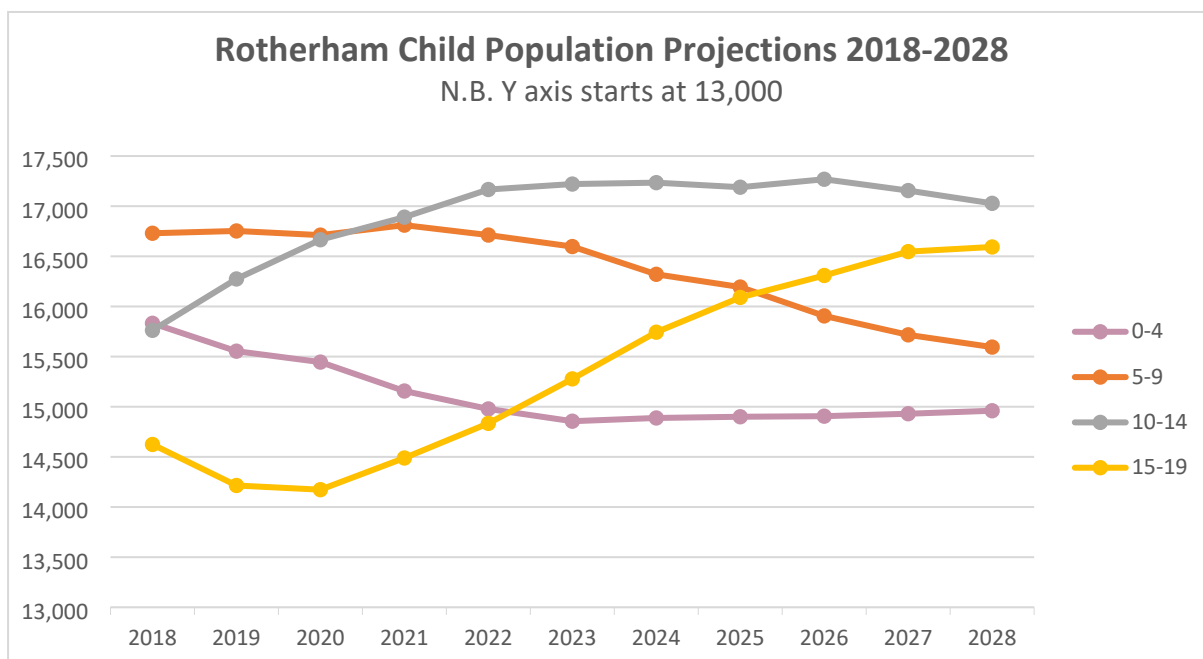


Chart 1 shows that the population of 0-4 year olds is projected to increase very steadily over the next four years. The population aged 5-9 years is projected to fall slowly from 16,597 in 2023 to 15,595 in 2028. The increase seen in the 10-14 age group since 2018 has now steadied with a projected rise from 17,221 in 2023 to 17,269 in 2025. The number of young people aged 15-19 is forecasted to rise steadily over the next five years.

There has been a steady decrease in the number of two year olds eligible for two year old early education funding in Rotherham (data supplied from Department for Work and Pensions to local authorities seven times per year) since 2018 with a further decrease of 4% since 2022, this reflects the reduction in 0-4 year olds overall (see Chart 1 above). This is also mirrored nationally with a 11% decrease in the estimated number of eligible two year olds between 2022 and 2023, this is due to a “fall in parents of 2-year-olds receiving legacy benefits which

Universal Credit has replaced hasn't been offset by the rise in those receiving Universal Credit. In addition, the maximum income thresholds for the eligibility criteria have remained unchanged in recent years whilst average incomes have increased".<sup>1</sup>

Demographic information including the following details can be found at Appendix 6.

- Worklessness and Benefit Claimants
- Ethnicity and Migration
- Employment and Average Earnings
- Deprivation in Rotherham
- Child Poverty

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<sup>1</sup> Data from Department for Education [Education provision: children under 5 years of age, Reporting Year 2022 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)

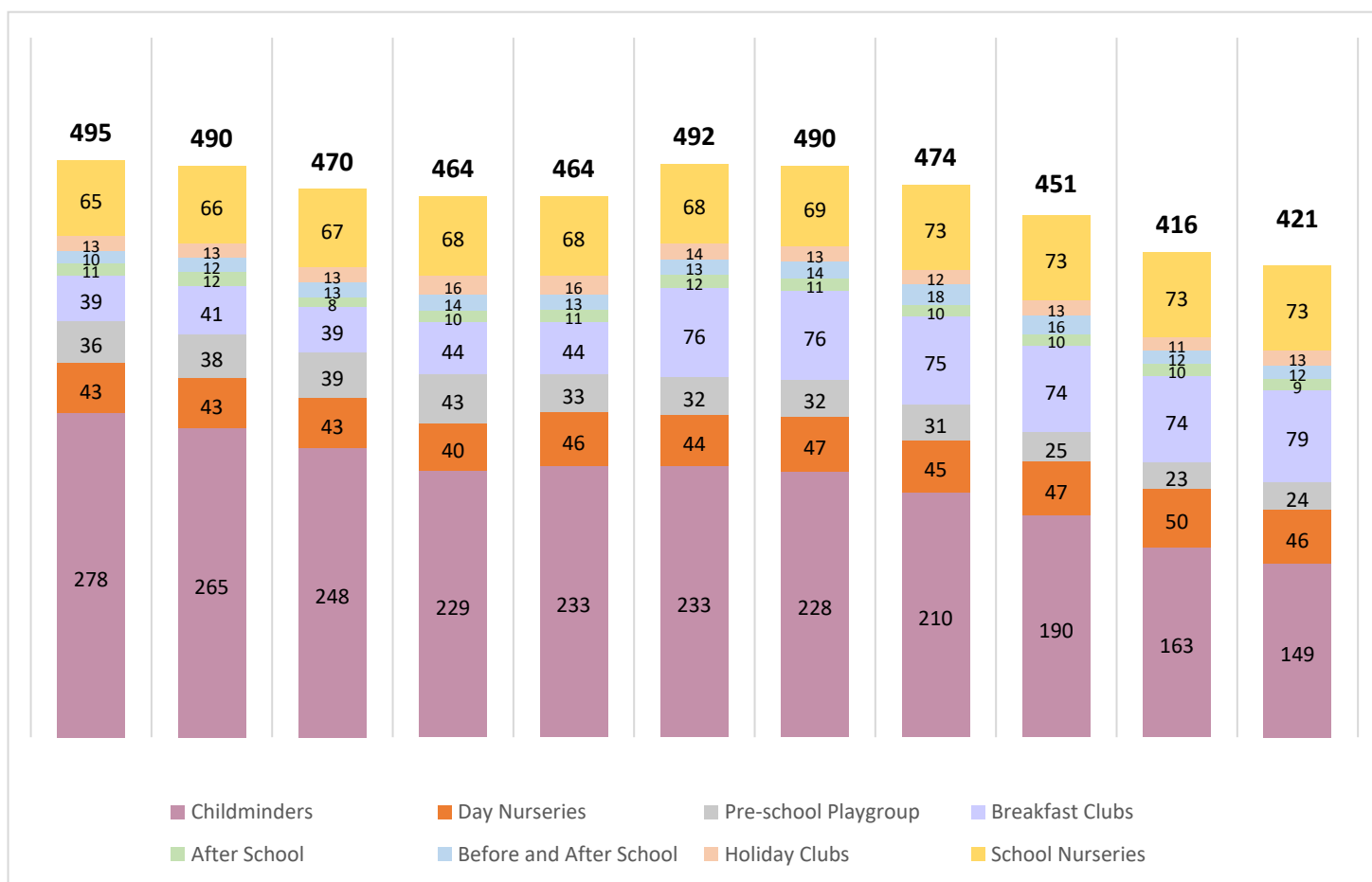
**Section 4 - Childcare Sufficiency Analysis**

**4.1 Childcare Availability**

Childcare in Rotherham is provided by a range of Ofsted registered providers including Day Nurseries, Pre-Schools, Childminders and Out of School Care (before / after / holiday). See Appendix 8 for definitions of each type. The information provided in this report relates to Ofsted registered childcare provision (with the exception of school breakfast clubs and daycare and Foundation 1 provision delivered by schools which do not require separate Ofsted registration). See Appendix 8 for details of the different types of Ofsted registration.

Chart 2 details the changes in numbers of childcare / early education providers between September 2013 and September 2023. These figures are snapshots at fixed periods of time and show the data that the Local Authority held at that time.

**Chart 2. Number of Childcare / Early Education Providers in Rotherham**



\*\* This chart includes 11 Pre-Schools and 6 Full Daycare provided by schools in addition to their Foundation Stage provision

There has been a further decrease in the number of registered Childminders in Rotherham since the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, with a further eight reporting they have plans to finish childminding in the next 12 months. This is also mirrored nationally, Ofsted reported in March 2023<sup>2</sup> that there were 27,900 Childminders, down by 3,500 (11%) since 31 March 2022. This continues a downward trend in number of Childminders, with 20,000 fewer than on 31 August 2015.

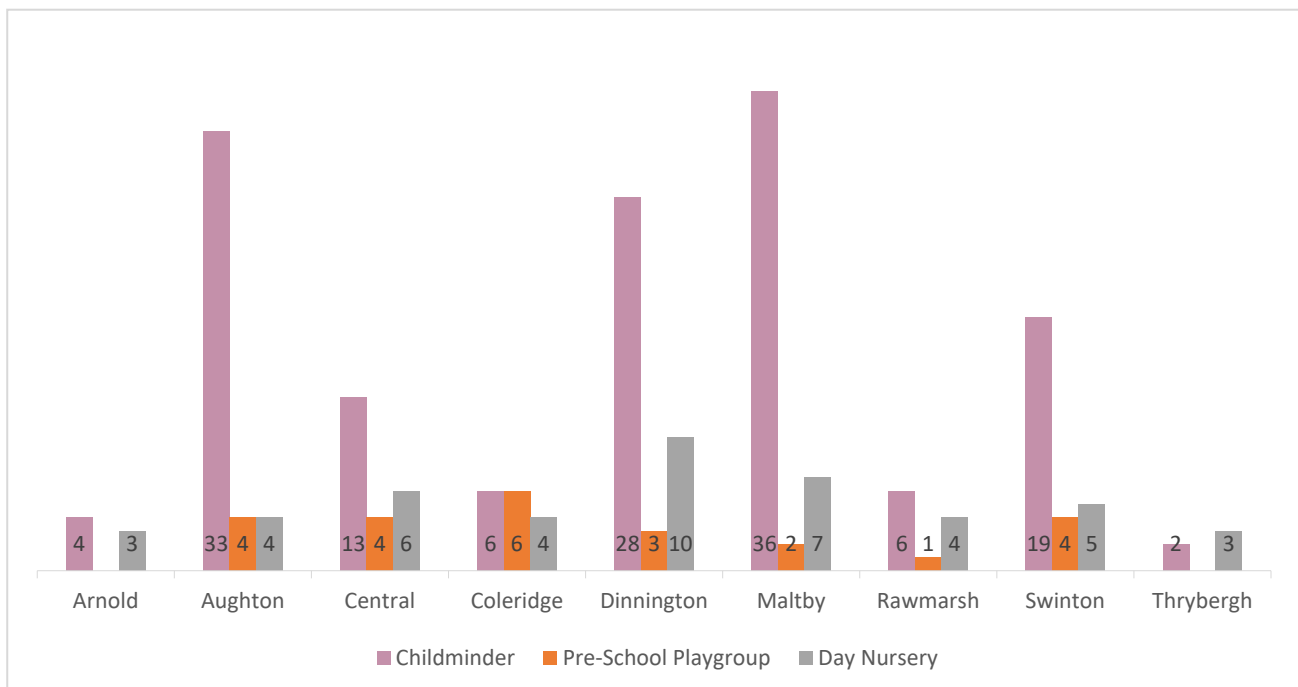
The decrease in the number of Childminders has not affected the availability of early education and childcare places for children aged under 5 years old taking into consideration the current demand. However, out of school availability has decreased and unmet demand for out of school childcare has increased. See section 4.3 and 4.9 for more information.

Day Nursery and Pre-School provision has remained more static which again reflects the national picture.

There is the full range of early years childcare providers in each Children's Centre area, with the exception of Arnold and Thrybergh where there is no Pre-School Playgroup provision, however, there are three Day Nurseries in both of these areas who offer sessional as well as full daycare delivery. Chart 3 details the number of each early years childcare provider type by Children's Centre area.

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<sup>2</sup> [Main findings: Childcare providers and inspections as at 31 March 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/main-findings-childcare-providers-and-inspections-as-at-31-march-2023)

**Chart 3. Breakdown of Childcare / Early Education Providers by Children's Centre Area**

#### 4.2 Changes to Early Years Childcare Availability Since 2022

Since 2022, two group providers have been re-categorised as a Pre-School from a Day Nursery and one has been re-categorised as Day Nursery from a Pre-school due to their delivery changing. One new Day Nursery has registered and two have resigned. There has also been two Day Nurseries that have changed ownership.

Over the year 33 Childminders have de-registered and 19 new Childminders have registered, therefore, the overall number of Childminders has reduced by 14. This is a much smaller overall decrease than last year where there was a total reduction on 27 Childminders. Although the number that have de-registered has actually increased by two, there has been a substantial increase in new Childminders registering.



### 4.3 Out of School Childcare Availability

There are a range of childcare providers delivering out of school childcare in Rotherham including Out of School Clubs, Childminders and Day Nurseries. See Appendix 5 for a breakdown out of school childcare availability by school

The majority of primary schools (81%) have before and after school childcare services available. However, eighteen schools do not currently have after school childcare available; Badsley Primary, Blackburn Primary, Canklow Woods Primary, Coleridge Primary, Craggs Community, Eastwood Village Primary, Ferham Primary, Foljambe Campus Primary, High Greave Infants, High Greave Juniors, Highfield Farm Primary, St Ann's Junior and Infants, St Gerard's Catholic Primary, St Mary's Catholic Primary (Maltby), Swinton Fitzwilliam Primary, Thornhill Primary, Thrybergh Primary, Wentworth CE Junior and Infant. Blackburn Primary, Ferham Primary, St Mary's Catholic Primary (Maltby), Thrybergh Primary and Wentworth CE Junior and Infants have no before or after school childcare available. Of these schools unmet demand has been recorded for Canklow Woods Primary and Badsley Primary over the last year. See section 4.9 for unmet demand information.

This year, Childminders were also asked about which schools they were currently offering out of school services to. This was to give an indication of where further gaps in out of school provision are, as in the majority of cases, they can only drop off/collect from one or two schools but they may list more schools in their information as possibilities if children on roll change.

The information provided suggests there could be a further 17 schools that have limited out of school childcare available; Brinsworth Howarth Junior & Infants, Brookfield Junior Academy, Dinnington Community Primary, Kiveton Park Infants, Kiveton Park Meadows Juniors, Laughton All Saints Primary, Maltby Manor Academy, Meadow View Primary, Ravenfield Primary Academy, Roughwood Primary, Sitwell Juniors and Infants, Herringthorpe St Mary's Primary, Thrybergh Fullerton Primary, Thurcroft Junior Academy and Trinity Croft Primary.

The government has plans to invest £289 million nationally over the two academic years, from September 2024, to enable schools and local areas to set up wraparound childcare provision.

This is the first step in the government's ambition for all parents of primary school children who need it to access childcare in their local area from 8am to 6pm. This funding will be for schools and local authorities to introduce or expand childcare provision on either side of the school day and enable them to develop flexible ways of providing childcare and gather evidence of what works.

#### 4.4 Holiday Childcare Availability

There are 13 group holiday clubs in the borough. Seven of these holiday clubs are provided by Day Nurseries as part of their wider delivery and the remaining four are 'standalone' Out of School Clubs.

**Table 1. Number of Places Available at Holiday Childcare Providers**

	Age Range		
	3 – 4yrs.	5 – 8yrs.	8+
Total Places	96	188	176
Demand	36	112	89
Current Spare Places	60	76	97
Average Cost per Day	£58.40	£38.70	£41.40

Minimum Cost	Maximum Cost
£20.00	£61.00

The difference between the costs of holiday care across the age ranges is affected by the number and type of provider serving each age range. Five providers offer holiday care for the three to four years age range and are mainly Day Nurseries and therefore have an associated higher cost. The five to eight years and over eight years age ranges are serviced by a mix of ten standalone Holiday Clubs and Day Nurseries.

93% of Rotherham's Childminders also provide childcare for school age children (i.e. 3 years +) in the school holidays. In addition to the holiday clubs summarised above, there are also a number of activity providers which provide all day activities throughout the school holidays such as sports, music, arts and crafts and performance that could also be used as holiday childcare.

#### 4.5 Childcare for Children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities

Early years and childcare providers are supported by the Local Authority to be inclusive; enabling them to offer places and meet the needs of children aged 0-5 years with emerging and complex special educational needs and disabilities. The Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework expects group providers to identify a Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO). Childminders are encouraged to identify a person to act as a SENCO and Childminders who are registered with a Childminder Agency or who are part of a network may wish to share the role between them.

The Ofsted registered Out of School / Holiday clubs in the borough are supported by the Local Authority to be inclusive; enabling older children with SEND to access.

All childcare providers can apply for Inclusion Support Grant funding to provide enhanced staffing above the Ofsted statutory requirements to support their delivery to meet the needs of children with SEND. This funding is available for children of all ages (subject to meeting the requirements of the grant).

There are six special schools in Rotherham, three of which offer early years provision for children aged from two years old. All of these schools have after school and school holiday activities available some provided by the school and some provided through Nexus Multi Academy Trust who offer Extended Services for children with special educational needs and disabilities aged 2-19 years old in Rotherham (<https://www.nexusmat.org/extended-services>).

See **Support for Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND): in Appendix 9 for more details.**

**4.6 Costs of Childcare****Table 2. Comparison of Childcare Costs: Regional / National / Local – 25 Hours Per Week**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Nursery 25 hours</b>	<b>Childminder 25 hours</b>
Yorkshire and Humberside	£129.32	£117.46
National Average Costs	£144.01	£125.91
Rotherham	£129.38	£106.68

**Table 3. Comparison of Childcare Costs: Regional / National / Local – 50 Hours Per Week**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Nursery 50 hours</b>	<b>Childminder 50 hours</b>
Yorkshire and Humberside	£255.98	£230.83
National Average Costs	£279.60	£246.95
Rotherham	£258.75	£213.35

Average costs in Rotherham for childcare have increased (+8.24% with a Day Nursery and +4.9% with a Childminder)\* since 2022. Childcare providers continue to face rising running costs due to levels of inflation and increases of the National Living Wage in addition to the cost of living increases.

\*Based on the costs of children in nursery for 50 hours per week

The funding distributed to schools and childcare providers by the Local Authority for the delivery of two, three and four year old early education is based on a national funding formula and in line with guidance provided from the DfE. The rate provided by the DfE was revised in April 2023 leading to a rise in the early education hourly rate with a further rise in September 2023.

A number of providers offer meals and additional optional extras at a cost over and above the childcare rates.

There are government schemes available, in addition to the two, three and four year free early education places, to make childcare more affordable to parents including:

- Childcare element of Universal Credits
- Childcare element of Tax Credits
- Tax Free Childcare

- Care to Learn
- Discretionary support fund for further education
- Student Finance for full time higher education

The table below provides a breakdown of the average cost of childcare in Rotherham for different types of childcare by each area.

**Table 4. Comparison costs in Rotherham by Type of Setting/ Geographical Area**

CC Reach Area	Full Day Care	Sessional	Childminders	
	Average cost for a 10 hour day*	Average cost for a 3 hour session**	Average cost for a 10 hour day*	Average cost for after school care***
Arnold	£53.00		£36.76	£11.29
Aughton	£52.50	£12.70	£41.56	£13.57
Central	£43.49	£14.33	£42.50	£12.75
Coleridge	£56.48	£12.00	£45.47	£14.73
Dinnington	£44.99	£14.00	£41.49	£13.35
Maltby	£55.84	£15.25	£41.77	£13.14
Rawmarsh	£54.75	£24.50	£44.63	£13.39
Swinton	£51.70	£14.96	£44.81	£13.57
Thrybergh	£53.00		£45.00	£13.50
<b>2023/24</b>	<b>£51.75</b>	<b>£15.39</b>	<b>£42.67</b>	<b>£13.25</b>

**Table 5. Minimum and Maximum Costs for Childcare**

	Minimum Cost	Maximum Cost
Full Day Care*	£39.00	£68.50
Sessional**	£7.00	£24.50
Childminder*	£31.82	£60.00

The average costs for childcare have been calculated in order to be comparable to each other as follows:

\*Daily charge divided by number of hours open multiplied by 10 (hours)

\*\*Sessional charge divided by number of hours in a session multiplied by 3 (hours)

\*\*\* Hourly charge multiplied by 3 hours

#### 4.7 Quality of Childcare Provision

Although registration and inspection of childcare provision is carried out by Ofsted, Local Authorities have a responsibility to ensure that childcare provision is of the highest quality. There is a wealth of evidence from reports such as Effective Provision of Pre-School Education (EPPE) which show that attending quality provision can positively impact on a child's development and attainment.

The key indicator of quality is the Ofsted grade which childcare providers receive when inspected by Ofsted, the regulatory body for childcare providers. Providers are inspected on a four point scale and receive one of the following grades; Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement or Inadequate. The table below shows the percentage of providers who have achieved a 'Good' or 'Outstanding' Ofsted grades by provider type between March 2012 and March 2023. The Local Authority has prioritised support and challenge to providers who do not have or are at risk of not achieving a 'Good' outcome, and there has been a very positive increase in quality of provision with the overall quality of provision above the National and Yorkshire and Humber quality levels.

**Table 6. Percentage of Childcare Providers who have achieved a 'Good' or 'Outstanding' Ofsted Judgement**

	Mar-12	Mar-13	Mar-14	Mar-15	Mar-16	Mar-17	Mar-18	Mar-19	Mar-20	Mar-21	Mar-22	Mar-23
<b>Childminders - Rotherham</b>	61.0%	67.7%	72.4%	85.5%	83.0%	97.5%	95.7%	98.2%	98.1%	98.0%	100.0%	97.4%
<b>Childminders - National</b>	70.7%	73.5%	76.1%	84.4%	83.2%	92.2%	93.8%	94.7%	95.6%	95.7%	96.6%	96.5%
<b>Childminders - Yorkshire &amp; Humber</b>	67.2%	69.4%	73.9%	84.8%	83.3%	93.2%	93.8%	95.0%	96.6%	96.7%	97.3%	96.8%

	Mar-12	Mar-13	Mar-14	Mar-15	Mar-16	Mar-17	Mar-18	Mar-19	Mar-20	Mar-21	Mar-22	Mar-23
<b>Group Childcare Providers - Rotherham</b>	82.9%	80.0%	85.3%	89.6%	96.9%	90.5%	93.4%	95.2%	96.5%	97.9%	97.9%	98.0%
<b>Group Childcare Providers - National</b>	77.8%	81.6%	82.0%	86.7%	90.5%	95.4%	94.8%	96.5%	97.4%	97.6%	96.4%	95.8%
<b>Group Childcare Providers - Yorkshire &amp; Humber</b>	75.7%	79.3%	81.8%	88.0%	92.0%	96.1%	95.7%	97.2%	98.3%	98.4%	96.4%	96.2%

	Mar-12	Mar-13	Mar-14	Mar-15	Mar-16	Mar-17	Mar-18	Mar-19	Mar-20	Mar-21	Mar-22	Mar-23
<b>ALL CHILDCARE - Rotherham</b>	66.0%	70.8%	75.4%	86.3%	86.7%	95.6%	95.0%	97.4%	97.7%	98.0%	99.4%	97.6%

#### 4.8 Availability of childcare at unsociable hours

The table below details the availability of childcare provision covering atypical working hours in each Children's Centre area. 'Evenings' relates to care provided after 6pm and 'Early' relates to care provided before 8am.

**Table 7. Childcare availability at unsociable hours by Children's Centre area**

	Early Mornings (before 8am)		Evening (after 6pm)		Weekend		Overnight	
	Childminders	Full Daycare	Childminders	Full Daycare	Childminders	Full Daycare	Childminders	Full Daycare
Arnold	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aughton	18	4	1	1	0	0	1	0
Central	6	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Coleridge	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dinnington	18	4	1	0	2	0	1	0
Maltby	18	5	2	0	1	0	1	0
Rawmarsh	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Swinton	8	4	2	0	1	0	0	0
Thrybergh	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>

Childcare provided prior to 8am in the morning is available across the borough and is provided by a mix of Childminders and full day care providers. In addition, for school age children, there are 79 Breakfast Clubs delivered by schools and 12 Out of School Clubs that offer early morning care.

The demand for evening, weekend and overnight care is much lower than for early mornings and this is reflected in the numbers of providers offering these types of care. Although not available in every Children's Centre area, there is adequate provision across the borough in relation to the demand.

#### 4.9 Unmet Demand

Rotherham Families Information Service records instances of unmet demand when childcare that meets the family's requirements cannot be met. In most cases, where childcare cannot be found from the information supplied, further support provided by the team results in



securing childcare. On the occasions where childcare cannot be secured for the family the unmet demand is recorded.

There have been six instances of unmet demand in the period 01/09/22 and 31/08/23, all needing out of school care for different schools:

- Sitwell Infants
- Canklow Woods Primary
- Badsley Moor Lane Primary
- Kilnhurst Primary
- Rawmarsh Sandhill Primary
- Aston Fence Junior and Infants

In cases of unmet demand for out of school childcare, the Early Years and Childcare Service will share details of their 'right to request'<sup>3</sup> wraparound and holiday childcare with the parent and also with the school to remind them of their responsibilities under this guidance, as well as explore:

- Liaising with local out of school providers to discuss possibility of them collecting from these schools.
- Contacting local Childminders to discuss demand and their availability for school pick ups.
- Possible school provision or expansion of current after school activity offer and room and staff availability.

If, following a needs analysis, demand for out of school care is high at a particular school, the Early Years and Childcare Service can offer support to the school to:

- Raise awareness of the gap in provision, promote childminding as a career and support potential Childminders to register

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3

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/778997/Rights\\_to\\_request\\_guidance-2019.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/778997/Rights_to_request_guidance-2019.pdf)

- Develop their own out of school provision and to liaise with other local schools who they could work in partnership with
- Find private provision that could open on the school site

In addition, see Section 4.3 for Government plans to invest in primary school wraparound care.

#### **4.10 Childcare Sufficiency Findings**

**There is some spare childcare capacity for children aged under five across all areas, see Appendix 1b for full breakdown, however, there is limited availability for out of school provision at specific schools.**

Most areas of the borough have a range of childcare provision available (Day Nurseries, Pre-Schools, Childminders and Out of School provision).

There is a wide range of Ofsted registered childcare in Rotherham with provision available before 8am in all areas and after 6pm in all except two areas (Arnold and Thrybergh). Availability of childcare at weekends varies from area to area (See Appendix 1a).

The majority of primary schools in Rotherham have some level of after school childcare (delivered either by an Out of School Club or Childminders) with the exception of Badsley Primary, Blackburn Primary, Canklow Woods Primary, Coleridge Primary, Craggs Community, Eastwood Village Primary, Ferham Primary, Foljambe Campus Primary, High Greave Infants, High Greave Juniors, Highfield Farm Primary, St Ann's Junior and Infants, St Gerard's Catholic Primary, St Mary's Catholic Primary (Maltby), Swinton Fitzwilliam Primary, Thornhill Primary, Thrybergh Primary, Wentworth CE Junior and Infant. Blackburn Primary, Ferham Primary, St Mary's Catholic Primary (Maltby), Thrybergh Primary and Wentworth CE Junior and Infants have no before or after school childcare available.

Availability of out of school provision will be monitored on a termly basis to identify any potential areas of concern that need action.

## Section 5 – Early Education Sufficiency Analysis

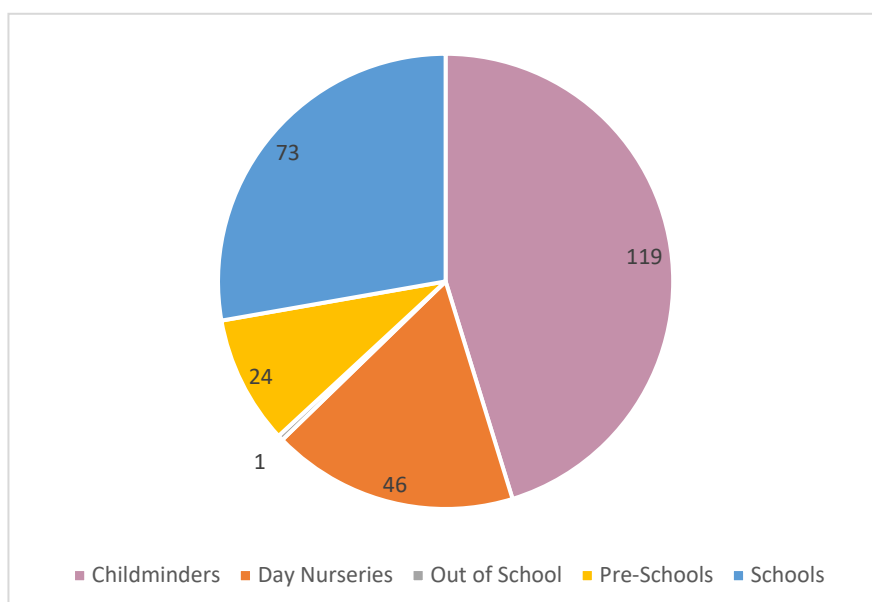
### 5.1 Early Education Availability

Early education in Rotherham is provided by schools (Local Authority Maintained and Academies) and providers in the Private / Voluntary / Independent (PVI) sector e.g. Day Nurseries, Pre-School / Playgroups and some Childminders. There are currently 248 providers contracted to deliver early education places.

The early education vacancy and occupancy data was calculated using 2 datasets:

- School data: Take-up of places had been deducted from maximum number of places available (pupil admission number) to give a number of vacant early education places.
- Childcare data: Vacancy information for the early education age groups had been gathered as the number of ‘morning’ or ‘afternoon’ sessions vacant on a daily basis for each provider. The total number of sessions vacant for each provider has been divided by 3 (for providers delivering 5 hour sessions) or by 5 (for providers delivering 3 hour sessions) to give the maximum number of 15 hour early education places the provider has available.

**Chart 4. Numbers of Childcare Providers Contracted to Deliver Early Education**



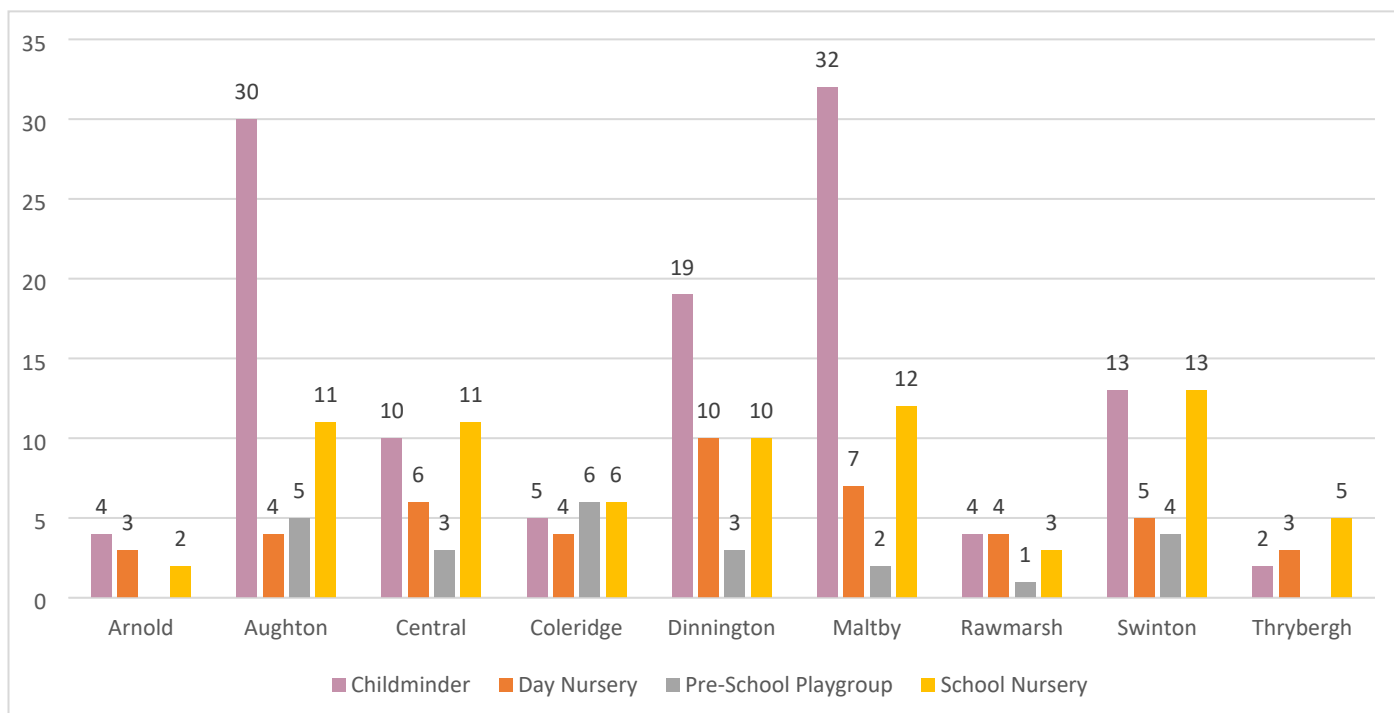
The percentage of Childminders contracted to deliver early education has risen very slightly in 2023 to 80% from 79% in 2022, although the overall number has decreased (-6 from 2022).

**Chart 5. Number of Childminders Contracted to Deliver Early Education**



All Children's Centre areas have the full range of childcare providers available for early education places as detailed in Chart 6, with the exception of pre-school delivery in the Arnold and Thrybergh Children's Centre areas, however, there are Day Nurseries available offering group provision in both of these areas.

**Chart 6. Early Education Providers by Children’s Centre Area**



**5.2 Early Education for Three and Four Year Olds**

Children are entitled to an early education place (15 hours a week, term time) from the term after their third birthday until they start full time school (a maximum of five terms depending on birth date). Schools generally provide three terms of early education provision in Foundation 1 classes starting in September each year. A number of schools offer places in their Foundation 1 class to start in January and April as children become eligible. Parents can choose whether they want their child to take up their entitlement with a PVI provider or a school.

The majority of three and four year old children in Rotherham take up early education for at least three terms prior to starting full time school – although not all children take up their entitlement as soon as they are eligible, (i.e. the term after their third birthday).

The eligible cohort in Rotherham increases throughout the year as detailed in the table below:

**Table 8. Cohort sizes of children eligible for three and four year early education in Rotherham**

Term	Cohort size
Autumn	3044
Spring	4061
Summer	4779

Take-up of Foundation 1 (F1) early education in Rotherham is high. During the Summer term 2023, 4370 three and four year old children were accessing their early education place which is 92% of all eligible children.

The overall take up percentage in Autumn 2022 was 97% of children eligible to start in September 2022 took up a place. The overall take up percentage drops in the Spring and Summer terms as more children become eligible to take up their entitlement: 96% of children eligible to start in January 2023 took up a place at that time and 93% of those eligible to start in April 2023 took up their place then. Those who do not take up their place as soon as they become eligible usually do so from the following September.

The above figures detail all children taking up their early education entitlement in Rotherham. It includes 254 children in Summer 2023 from outside of the borough accessing their free place with a Rotherham provider, with the largest number accessing in Aughton (116 children) and considerable numbers also using providers in Central, Coleridge and Dinnington. The vast majority of these children live close to the Rotherham border.

In addition, in Summer 2023 a total of 193 (up from 175 in 2022) Rotherham children accessed their entitlement outside of Rotherham, of these children (86%) are in the Aughton area which is near to Sheffield childcare providers.

**There is some early education capacity across all areas for three and four year olds to take up their universal 15 hour entitlement, including projected increase in capacity needed through new house building; however, there would not be sufficient capacity in the Coleridge (Canklow, East Dene / Clifton and Eastwood / Town Centre) area if all three year old children wished to take up their entitlement**

See Appendix 3 for Early Education Capacity.

**5.3 Early Education Provision for Two Year Olds**

The eligibility criteria for a two year early education place is:

<b>Parent/Carer is in receipt of:</b>
Income Support
Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
Universal Credit, and your household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax, not including benefit payments
Tax Credits, and your household income is £16,190 a year or less before tax
The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
The Working Tax Credit 4 week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
In receipt of support under the Immigration and Asylum Act (section 4 or part 6)
<b>Or if the child is:</b>
Looked after by a local authority
Has a statement of special educational needs (SEN) or an education, health and care (EHC) plan
In receipt of Disability Living Allowance
Has left care under an adoption order, special guardianship order or child arrangement order
<b>If you're a non-EEA citizen with no recourse to public funds, with a household income of no more than:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £26,500 for families outside of London with one child.</li> <li>• £34,500 for families within London with one child.</li> <li>• £30,600 for families outside of London with two or more children.</li> <li>• £38,600 for families within London with two or more children.</li> <li>• A maximum capital threshold of £16,000 in all areas.</li> </ul>

Children who meet the above criteria are eligible for a free early education place (15 hours a week, term time) from the term following 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday. The eligible cohort in Rotherham is approximately 311 children each term (see page 7 for more information on the decreasing cohort of children eligible for two year old early education).

Parents make contact with the Families Information Service for assessment of eligibility and are given an eligibility code to pass on to their preferred childcare provider to enable their child to access a place.

In the Summer term 2023, 835 two year olds were taking up a free early education place in Rotherham – 86% of all eligible children. 170 children were not accessing their free place at that time. The take-up of early education by two year olds follows a pattern with the Summer term historically having the lowest level of take-up with the childcare places being at their fullest and new children becoming eligible having less choice of provision. Take-up levels in Autumn 2022 and Spring 2023 were 96% and 90% respectively. For the context of these two year old take up percentages, please see take up over recent years in Rotherham in Table 9 below. Also, in August 2023 the DfE reported the following take up percentages:

Rotherham	England	Yorkshire and Humber	Statistical Neighbours
89%	74%	77%	80%

**Table 9. Take up percentages of two year old early education since 2019/20**

Financial Year	Term		
	Summer	Autumn	Spring
2023/2024	86%		
2022/2023	88%	96%	90%
2021/2022	77%	90%	86%
2020/2021	74%	78%	75%
2019/2020	83%	86%	81%



**There is some early education capacity for two year olds in all areas of the borough including projected increase in capacity needed through new house building; however, there would not be sufficient capacity in the Coleridge (Canklow) areas if all eligible two old children wished to take up their full entitlement.**

See Appendix 3 for Early Education Capacity.

Each term, the Families Information Service contact families that have been eligibility checked for the two year early education funding but have not accessed a place, to ascertain the reason for not taking up a place and to give support if needed. The findings from the 144 families contacted in Summer 2023 were:

- 26 families were accessing a place out of area.
- 7 families did not want to take up their place because they felt their child was too young.
- 35 were awaiting a place at their chosen provider.
- 32 were supported with information and advice to help them access their place
- 5 were not accessing a place due to family circumstances.
- 5 families had moved out of the area.
- Unable to contact 34 families by phone and therefore an email reminding them of their entitlement was sent.

See Appendix 3 for Early Education Capacity.

#### **5.4 30 Hours Free Childcare**

The 30 hours free childcare entitlement for working parents of three and four year olds was introduced in September 2017. Clause 2 of the Childcare Act 2016 ('the duty to secure 30 hours of free childcare for working parents') gives local authorities a responsibility to secure childcare provision free of charge to qualifying children.

The eligibility criteria for the 30 hours free childcare entitlement is:

- Both parents are working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family), and each parent earns, on average:
- A weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at National Minimum Wage (NMW) or National Living Wage (NLW); and
- Less than £100,000 per year.

From September 2018, Foster Carers in some paid work outside of fostering can also access the 30 hour entitlement for children in their care.

In Rotherham a range of childcare providers are delivering the 30 hours entitlement including Schools, Pre-Schools, Day Nurseries, Childminders and Out of School Clubs. In total, 250 settings and schools offer the 30 hour entitlement (97% of all settings offering early education places). There are a range of delivery models available to parents including providers who offer complete flexibility for the entitlement, sessional, full days and wraparound/out of school.

A range of national datasets were used to identify potentially eligible families in Rotherham. This analysis indicated that approximately 64% of three year olds may be eligible.

See Appendix 4 for details of projected demand and childcare place capacity in each Children's Centre area.

When factoring in the 30 hours free childcare entitlement and based on anticipated take-up levels of 80%, it is projected that there may be a shortfall of childcare / early education places in Coleridge, Arnold and in Aughton (Aughton / Aston, Catcliffe / Treeton and Whiston).

## Section 6 – Expansion of Early Years Entitlements

### 6.1 Overview of the Expansion to Early Years Entitlements

In the Spring Budget 2023 the Chancellor announced an expansion to the current early years entitlements – 30 hours childcare for every child over the age of nine months with working parents by September 2025. The government are focused on giving children the best start in life and supporting parents to access affordable, high quality childcare and this expansion of funded childcare is the largest ever and will remove barriers to work for nearly half a million parents with a child under 3 in England. To enable childcare providers to prepare to deliver such a major expansion, it will be rolled out in phases to ensure there are enough places and staff ready to meet increased demand, and the funding paid to childcare providers to deliver these offers will be increased. The expansion delivery phases are:

Age of child	Number of funded hours per week	Date of implementation
Term after 2 <sup>nd</sup> birthday	15 hours per week	April 2024
Term after child is 9 months old	15 hours per week	September 2024
From term after child is 9 months old	30 hours per week	September 2025

In addition, the government also announced:

- This childcare transformation will expand 30 hours childcare support for working parents with children over the age of nine months, saving up to £6,500 a year for parents for just a single child. This is on top of the upfront childcare support for parents receiving Universal Credit and the support that is available through Tax-Free Childcare.
- It is working to deliver an ambition for all parents of primary school aged children to access childcare in their local area between 8am and 6pm, tackling the barriers to working caused by limited availability of wraparound childcare.

- Childcare costs of parents moving into work or increasing their hours on Universal Credit paid upfront rather than in arrears, with maximum claim boosted to £951 for one child and £1,630 for two children – an increase of around 50%.
- In recognition of the importance of Childminders, a start-up grant of £600 for Childminders registered with Ofsted and £1,200 for those registered with a childminder agency will be launched to help with the costs incurred when registering.

This revolution in childcare will undoubtedly change both the supply of, and demand for, early years provision in the borough, making the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment even more critical as we plan and monitor for these changes to ensure no family misses out on the provision they are entitled to.

In order to project the readiness of the Rotherham childcare market for these changes, data was collected on current numbers of fee paying two year olds and 0-1 year olds as these children are likely to convert to funded children as the majority of these children are likely to have working parents with a need to pay for childcare. This data was then analysed against the projected number of eligible children to assess the under/over supply of vacancies based on current availability.

The places/vacancies data is analysed as an equivalent to a 15 hour place (see section 1.2 for methodology), so all under/over supply data is presented in a surplus or deficit of 15 hour places.

## **6.2 Two Year Olds – Funded 15 Hours from April 2024**

The first stage of the roll out of the expanded entitlements is 15 funded hours per week (term time only) for working parents from the term after their child's second birthday. This is in addition to the current offer for two year olds (see section 5.3 for more information).

Projections made on current supply of childcare vacancies and take up levels of the 30 hours offer for three and four year olds (which has the same criteria – see Section 5.4) shows that the majority of areas will be able to meet the potential demand for this stage (See Appendix 10 for full details). However, the following areas are projected to have a small shortfall in

places if a projected 80% of eligible children access their place; Whiston, Thorpe Hesley, Broom / Moorgate, Canklow and Thurcroft.

### **6.3 Nine month olds - Funded 15 Hours from September 2024**

The second stage of the roll out will see children of working parents from the term after they turn nine months qualify for 15 funded hours per week (term time only). The Department for Education's predictions for take up of this age group are around 60% for one year olds and 35% for nine to twelve month olds. The current data held does not allow for a breakdown between these age groups and therefore the analysis is for the full 0-2 years age range with projections for both 60% and 35% take up rates (see Appendix 11 for full details).

Current supply of 0-2 year old places is lower than the 2, 3 and 4 year old places, mainly due to higher staff ratios for the 0-2 age range and some full daycare and all sessional daycare providers not offering places for the under 2's.

However, the analysis projects only small under supply in some areas for the roll out in September 2025.

With a projected take up of 60% the following areas show signs of pressure to meet demand Aughton/Aston, Catcliffe/Treeton, Whiston, Kimberworth/Kimberworth Park, Canklow, Thurcroft and Brampton/West Melton South/West.

For the lower take up prediction of 35% only four of these areas are projected to have a small under supply; Whiston, Canklow, Thurcroft and Brampton/West Melton South/West.

### **6.4 30 hours funded childcare for children from nine months from September 2025**

The final stage of the expanded early years entitlements is in September 2025 when age groups in the first two stages will see their entitlement double from 15 hours per week to 30 hours per week (term time only).

Full details of the projections for September 2025 are in Appendix 10 and 12.

The positions for two year olds in September 2025 shows that half of areas have sufficient availability for the increased entitlements. Seven areas are projected to have an under supply of less than 30 places, these are Brinsworth, Whiston, Masbrough, Canklow, Dinnington/Laughton, Thurcroft and Brampton/West Melton.

The areas with larger projected deficit of places are Aughton/Aston, Broom/Moorgate, Catcliffe/Treeton, Thorpe Hesley and Bramley/Wickersley.

Full details for the younger cohort of nine month olds and one year olds are in Appendix 12, the demand for these places is harder to predict and, therefore, the analysis is based on both 60% and 35% take up levels.

At 35% take up levels the projections are good, with a small under supply in six areas; Aughton/Aston, Catcliffe/Treeton, Whiston, Kimberworth/Kimberworth Park, Thurcroft and Brampton/West Melton.

However, the 60% take up analysis projects under supply in 17 of the 25 areas with five of these having projected deficits of more than 30 places.

## 6.5 Summary

The roll out for the expanded early years entitlements is happening in 3 stages and the projections for each stage show some areas of under supply:

**April 2024** – Most areas have sufficient capacity to meet the projected demand with small under supply in Whiston, Thorpe Hesley, Broom / Moorgate, Canklow and Thurcroft.

**September 2024** – Most areas have sufficient capacity to meet the projected demand for 35% take up with small under supply in Whiston, Canklow, Thurcroft and Brampton/West Melton South/West. However, if take up is higher, the analysis based on 60% take up shows a further shortfall in places in Aughton/Aston, Catcliffe/Treeton and Kimberworth/Kimberworth Park.

**September 2025** – Most areas have sufficient or a small deficit of availability for two year olds, but a larger under supply is predicted in Aughton/Aston, Broom/Moorgate, Catcliffe/Treeton, Thorpe Hesley and Bramley/Wickersley.

For nine month olds and one year olds the demand is more uncertain, predictions for a 35% take up show a small shortfalls in Aughton/Aston, Catcliffe/Treeton, Whiston, Kimberworth/Kimberworth Park, Thurcroft and Brampton/West Melton. However, the 60% take up analysis projects under supply in 17 of the 25 areas with five of these having projected deficits of more than 30 places.

### **6.6 Government Plans to Impact Sufficiency of Childcare**

With these projections in mind, consideration must also be given to the Government plans to address the issue of sufficiency of places for the extended entitlements. As aforementioned, a childminder start up grant has been put in place to encourage more Childminders into the market following a national and local decrease in the number of registered Childminders since the Covid-19 pandemic.

There are also plans to support local authorities to increase the physical space and increased staffing needed to meet the demands of the new entitlements.

# Appendices



**APPENDIX 1a – Childcare Sufficiency Summary Table**

Area	There is a Range of Registered Provision	Exceptions?	Childcare is available				Childcare Capacity		Early Education Capacity		Unmet Demand	
			Before 8am	After 6pm	Week ends	Over night	Some across all age ranges	Limited Capacity for?	Adequate spare capacity	Limited Capacity for?	No instances recorded	Instances recorded for Out of School care
Arnold		No sessional care	✓	X	X	X	✓	Out of school care	✓			Out of school at Badsley Moor
Aughton	✓		✓	✓	X	✓	✓	Out of school care		30 hours for 3 year olds in Aughton / Aston and Whiston in Summer 2024		Out of school at Aston Fence
Central	✓		✓	✓	X	X	✓	Out of school care	✓		✓	
Coleridge	✓		✓	✓	X	X	✓			Canklow 2/3/4's and 30 hours for 3 year olds across the area in Summer 2024		Out of School at Canklow Woods & Sitwell
Dinnington	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Out of school care	✓		✓	
Maltby	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	
Rawmarsh	✓		✓	✓	✓	X	✓	Out of school care	✓		✓	
Swinton	✓		✓	✓	✓	X	✓		✓			Out of School at Rawmarsh Sandhill & Kilnhurst
Thrybergh		No sessional care	✓	X	X	X	✓	Out of School Care	✓		✓	

## APPENDIX 1b – Childcare Sufficiency 2023

CC Area	Details	Full Day Care Providers including Childminders offering early education places				Sessional Daycare Providers			Childminders (not delivering early education places)				Out of School		
		Under 2	2 yrs	3-4 yrs	0-4yrs	2 yrs	3-4 yrs	2-4 yrs	Under 2	2 yrs	3-4 yrs	0-4 yrs	3-4 yrs	5-7 yrs	8-13 yrs
Arnold	Population	239	115	254	608								254	462	928
	Total Places	27	42	45	114								5	9	12
	Demand (number of places taken up)	22	25	35	82								4	8	10
	Current Spare Capacity	5	17	10	32								1	1	2
	Demand as % of Places (how full is the	81%	60%	78%	72%								80%	89%	83%
	Demand as % of Population ( % of child	9%	22%	14%	13%								2%	2%	1%
Aughton	Population	904	446	994	2344	433	982	1415	864	433	982	2279	982	1319	2472
	Total Places	50	85	124	259	23	71	94	3	3	3	9	28	96	106
	Demand (number of places taken up)	40	67	99	206	18	64	82	3	3	2	8	22	77	84
	Current Spare Capacity	10	18	25	53	5	7	12	0	0	1	1	6	19	22
	Demand as % of Places (how full is the	80%	79%	80%	80%	78%	90%	87%	100%	100%	67%	89%	79%	80%	79%
	Demand as % of Population ( % of child	4%	15%	10%	9%	4%	7%	6%	0%	1%	0%	0%	2%	6%	3%
Central	Population	828	385	816	2029	386	796	1182	828	385	816	2029	796	1185	2370
	Total Places	45	81	120	246	47	95	142	1	1	1	3	7	40	28
	Demand (number of places taken up)	42	55	96	193	37	84	121	1	0	0	1	5	28	24
	Current Spare Capacity	3	26	24	53	10	11	21	0	1	1	2	2	12	4
	Demand as % of Places (how full is the	93%	68%	80%	78%	79%	88%	85%	100%	0%	0%	33%	71%	70%	86%
	Demand as % of Population ( % of child	5%	14%	12%	10%	10%	11%	10%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	1%
Coleridge	Population	839	445	855	2139	401	835	1236	854	401	835	2090	835	1235	2325
	Total Places	42	71	129	242	47	99	146	1	1	1	3	8	13	7
	Demand (number of places taken up)	19	51	103	173	28	78	106	1	1	1	3	6	11	6
	Current Spare Capacity	23	20	26	69	19	21	40	0	0	0	0	2	2	1
	Demand as % of Places (how full is the	45%	72%	80%	71%	60%	79%	73%	100%	100%	100%	100%	75%	85%	86%
	Demand as % of Population ( % of child	2%	11%	12%	8%	7%	9%	9%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%
Dinnington	Population	786	404	848	2038	406	906	1312	799	406	906	2111	848	1332	2665
	Total Places	78	178	316	572	5	37	42	2	2	3	7	22	140	99
	Demand (number of places taken up)	59	139	256	454	1	25	26	2	1	2	5	19	111	80
	Current Spare Capacity	19	39	60	118	4	12	16	0	1	1	2	3	29	19
	Demand as % of Places (how full is the	76%	78%	81%	79%	20%	68%	62%	100%	50%	67%	71%	86%	79%	81%
	Demand as % of Population ( % of child	8%	34%	30%	22%	0%	3%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	8%	3%
Maltby	Population	806	438	879	2123	401	891	1292					879	1390	2851
	Total Places	79	145	173	397	29	31	60					37	102	69
	Demand (number of places taken up)	52	63	94	209	28	28	56					37	81	52
	Current Spare Capacity	27	82	79	188	1	3	4					0	21	17
	Demand as % of Places (how full is the	66%	43%	54%	53%	97%	90%	93%					100%	79%	75%
	Demand as % of Population ( % of child	6%	14%	11%	10%	7%	3%	4%					4%	6%	2%
Rawmarsh	Population	365	187	392	944	203	402	605	365	187	392	944	392	693	1262
	Total Places	33	66	85	184	20	24	44	1	1	1	3	4	27	22
	Demand (number of places taken up)	28	58	63	149	16	18	34	0	1	1	2	4	25	18
	Current Spare Capacity	5	8	22	35	4	6	10	1	0	0	1	0	2	4
	Demand as % of Places (how full is the	85%	88%	74%	81%	80%	75%	77%	0%	100%	100%	67%	100%	93%	82%
	Demand as % of Population ( % of child	8%	31%	16%	16%	8%	4%	6%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	4%	1%
Swinton	Population	734	383	809	1926	394	863	1257	739	394	863	1996	809	1306	2690
	Total Places	80	132	183	395	44	49	93	2	2	7	29	18	82	67
	Demand (number of places taken up)	63	115	146	324	32	40	72	2	2	7	6	13	75	50
	Current Spare Capacity	17	17	37	71	12	9	21	0	0	0	23	5	7	17
	Demand as % of Places (how full is the	79%	87%	80%	82%	73%	82%	77%	100%	100%	100%	21%	72%	91%	75%
	Demand as % of Population ( % of child	9%	30%	18%	17%	8%	5%	6%	0%	1%	1%	0%	2%	6%	2%
Thrybergh	Population	255	107	227	589								227	349	701
	Total Places	23	75	90	188								1	3	3
	Demand (number of places taken up)	15	60	70	145								1	2	2
	Current Spare Capacity	8	15	20	43								0	1	1
	Demand as % of Places (how full is the	65%	80%	78%	77%								100%	67%	67%
	Demand as % of Population ( % of child	6%	56%	31%	25%								0%	1%	0%

**APPENDIX 2 – Potential Housing Developments in Rotherham**

Children's Centre Area	Number of new dwellings (Planned or Under Construction)	Potential Additional Children by Age			
		0-1	2	3	Total
Aughton	982	58.9	29.5	29.5	<b>117.8</b>
Central	152	9.1	4.6	4.6	<b>18.2</b>
Coleridge	436	26.2	13.1	13.1	<b>52.3</b>
Dinnington	775	46.5	23.3	23.3	<b>93.0</b>
Maltby	836	50.2	25.1	25.1	<b>100.3</b>
Rawmarsh	20	1.2	0.6	0.6	<b>2.4</b>
Swinton	115	6.9	3.5	3.5	<b>13.8</b>
Thrybergh	297	17.8	8.9	8.9	<b>35.6</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3613</b>	<b>216.8</b>	<b>108.4</b>	<b>108.4</b>	<b>433.6</b>

**APPENDIX 3 – Early Education Capacity: Summer 2023**

Sufficiency Sub Areas	Early Education for 3 & 4 year olds: under/over supply	Early Education for 2 year olds: under/over supply
Herringthorpe / East Dene / Clifton	-1	48
Aughton / Aston	78	41
Brinsworth	83	39
Catcliffe / Treeton	26	20
Whiston	5	-2
Masbrough / Bradgate / Blackburn / Dropping Well / Meadowbank / Richmond Park	99	30
Greasbrough / Rockingham / Wingfield	117	33
Kimberworth / Kimberworth Park	78	36
Thorpe Hesley	42	1
East Dene / Clifton	-26	0
Eastwood / Town Centre	-61	45
Broom / Moorgate	-10	18
Canklow	-30	-14
Anston	82	44
Dinnington / Laughton	176	50
Woodsetts	33	1
Harthill / Kiveton / Wales / Todwick	56	16
Thurcroft	70	20
Bramley / Wickersley	67	22
Maltby	70	120
Rawmarsh	28	41
Swinton / Kilnhurst	126	50
Wath	149	52
Brampton / West Melton South/West	13	19
Thrybergh / Dalton	316	191

**APPENDIX 4 – Projected Demand and Capacity for 30 Hour Childcare Places**

Children's Centre Reach Area	Sufficiency Sub Area	Potential Number of eligible children (based on 80% take up rate)	Number of 3 & 4 Year Old Children already taking up extended hours	Remaining Number of Eligible Children	Potential spare/lack of capacity for 80% take-up (3/4 year old vacancies only)	Potential spare/lack of capacity for 80% take-up (taking into account 2,3 & 4 year vacancies)
Arnold	Herringthorpe/East Dene/Clifton	103	55	48	-49	-1
Aughton	Aughton / Aston	291	160	131	-53	-12
	Brinsworth	109	73	36	47	86
	Catcliffe / Treeton	109	65	44	-18	2
	Whiston	51	28	23	-18	-20
Central	Masbrough / Bradgate / Blackburn / Dropping Well / Meadowbank / Richmond Park	139	79	60	39	69
	Greasbrough / Rockingham / Wingfield	64	49	15	102	135
	Kimberworth / Kimberworth Park	110	71	39	39	75
	Thorpe Hesley	63	38	25	17	18
Coleridge	East Dene/Clifton	74	25	49	-75	-75
	Eastwood / Town Centre	67	18	49	-110	-65
	Broom / Moorgate	127	89	38	-48	-30
	Canklow	36	7	29	-59	-73
Dinnington	Anston	83	68	15	67	111
	Dinnington / Laughton	154	137	17	159	209
	Woodsetts	10	14	-4	37	38
	Harthill / Kiveton / Wales / Todwick	116	106	10	46	62
	Thurcroft	77	76	1	69	89
Maltby	Bramley / Wickersley	299	239	60	7	29
	Maltby	167	122	45	25	145
Rawmarsh	Rawmarsh	185	139	46	-18	23
Swinton	Swinton / Kilnhurst	173	155	18	108	158
	Wath	153	157	-4	153	205
	Brampton/West Melton South / West	84	58	26	-13	6
Thrybergh	Thrybergh / Dalton	93	63	30	286	477

**APPENDIX 5 – Out of School Childcare Availability by School**

School Name	Out of School Club	Breakfast Club	Childminder
Anston Brook Primary School		✓	✓
Anston Greenlands Primary	✓		✓
Anston Hillcrest Primary School		✓	✓
Anston Park Infant School	✓	✓	✓
Anston Park Junior School	✓	✓	✓
Aston All Saints CE Junior & Infant School	✓	✓	✓
Aston Fence Junior & Infant School	✓		✓
Aston Hall Junior & Infant School	✓	✓	✓
Aston Lodge Primary School	✓	✓	✓
Aughton Junior Academy	✓	✓	
Badsley Primary School		✓	✓
Blackburn Primary School			✓
Bramley Grange Primary School	✓		✓
Bramley Sunnyside Infant School	✓	✓	✓
Bramley Sunnyside Junior School	✓		✓
Brampton Cortonwood Infants	✓		✓
Brampton The Ellis Ce Primary School	✓		✓
Brinsworth Howarth Junior & Infant School		✓	✓
Brinsworth Manor Infant School		✓	✓
Brinsworth Manor Junior School			✓
Brinsworth Whitehill Primary School		✓	✓
Brookfield Junior Academy			✓
Broom Valley Community School		✓	✓
Canklow Woods Primary School		✓	
Catcliffe Primary School	✓		✓
Coleridge Primary School		✓	
Crags Community School		✓	✓
Dinnington Community Primary School		✓	✓
East Dene Primary School		✓	✓
Eastwood Village Primary School		✓	
Ferham Primary School			
Flanderwell Primary School	✓		✓
Foljambe Campus Primary		✓	
Greasbrough Primary School		✓	✓
Harthill Primary School		✓	✓
Herringthorpe Infant School		✓	✓
Herringthorpe Junior School		✓	✓
High Greave Infant School		✓	
High Greave Junior School		✓	
Kilnhurst Primary School	✓	✓	
Kilnhurst St Thomas Ce Primary Academy	✓	✓	✓
Kimberworth Community Primary School	✓		
Kiveton Park Infants School		✓	✓
Kiveton Park Meadows Junior School		✓	✓
Laughton All saints CE Primary School		✓	
Laughton Junior & Infant School		✓	✓
Listerdale Junior Academy	✓	✓	✓

School Name	Out of School Club	Breakfast Club	Childminder
Maltby Lilly Hall Academy		✓	✓
Maltby Manor Academy		✓	✓
Maltby Redwood Academy			✓
Meadow View Primary School		✓	✓
Monkwood Primary School	✓	✓	✓
Our Lady and St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	✓	✓	✓
Ravenfield Primary Academy		✓	✓
Rawmarsh Ashwood Primary School	✓	✓	✓
Rawmarsh Ryecroft Infant School	✓	✓	✓
Rawmarsh Sandhill Primary School	✓	✓	✓
Rawmarsh Thorogate School	✓	✓	
Redscope Primary School	✓	✓	
Rockingham Junior & Infant School	✓		✓
Rosehill Junior School	✓	✓	✓
Roughwood Primary School		✓	✓
Sitwell Infant School		✓	✓
Sitwell Junior School		✓	✓
Springwood Junior Academy	✓	✓	
St Anns Junior & Infant School		✓	
St Bede's Catholic Primary School		✓	✓
St Gerard's Catholic Primary		✓	
St Joseph Catholic Primary School (Dinnington)		✓	✓
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School - Rawmarsh		✓	
St Mary's Catholic Primary School (Herringthorpe)		✓	✓
St Mary's Catholic Primary School (Maltby)			
Swallownest Primary School	✓	✓	✓
Swinton Fitzwilliam Primary School		✓	
Swinton Queen Primary School		✓	✓
Thornhill Primary School		✓	
Thorpe Hesley Primary School		✓	✓
Thrybergh Fullerton C.E.Primary Academy		✓	✓
Thrybergh Primary			
Thurcroft Infant School		✓	
Thurcroft Junior Academy		✓	
Todwick Primary School	✓	✓	
Treeton CE Primary School	✓		✓
Trinity Croft Ce Primary Academy		✓	✓
Wales Primary School	✓	✓	✓
Wath CE Primary School	✓	✓	✓
Wath Central Primary School	✓	✓	✓
Wath Victoria Primary School	✓	✓	✓
Waverley Junior Academy	✓	✓	✓
Wentworth CE Junior & Infant School			✓
West Melton Primary School		✓	✓
Whiston Junior & Infant School		✓	✓
Whiston Worry Goose Primary School		✓	✓
Wickersley Northfield Primary School	✓	✓	✓
Wickersley St Alban's Ce Primary School			✓
Woodsetts Primary School			✓

**APPENDIX 6 – Demographic Information**

**Worklessness and benefits claimants**

The annual population survey shows the unemployment rate of Rotherham for adults aged 16-64 was 3.5% in the year to June 2023, 0.4% lower than national average and 0.8% lower than Sheffield city region (SCR) average. The boroughs recovery rate (since the Covid-19 pandemic) is better than our combined authority neighbours. The employment rate in Rotherham is doing better than pre-covid levels in 2019 of 4.9%, showing significant growth in moving people back into employment.

In the year to June 2023, 15,900 had a long-term illness (38.9% of all residents unemployed compared to 26.6% national average) and 7,700 people were looking after family/home. Benefits claimed by working aged people who are unable to work or are seeking work include:

- Job Seeker’s Allowance (unemployment)
- Universal Credit
- Carer’s Allowance (caring for a long term sick or disabled person)
- Disability Living Allowance

**Figure 1 - Claimant count as a proportion of residents aged 16-64**

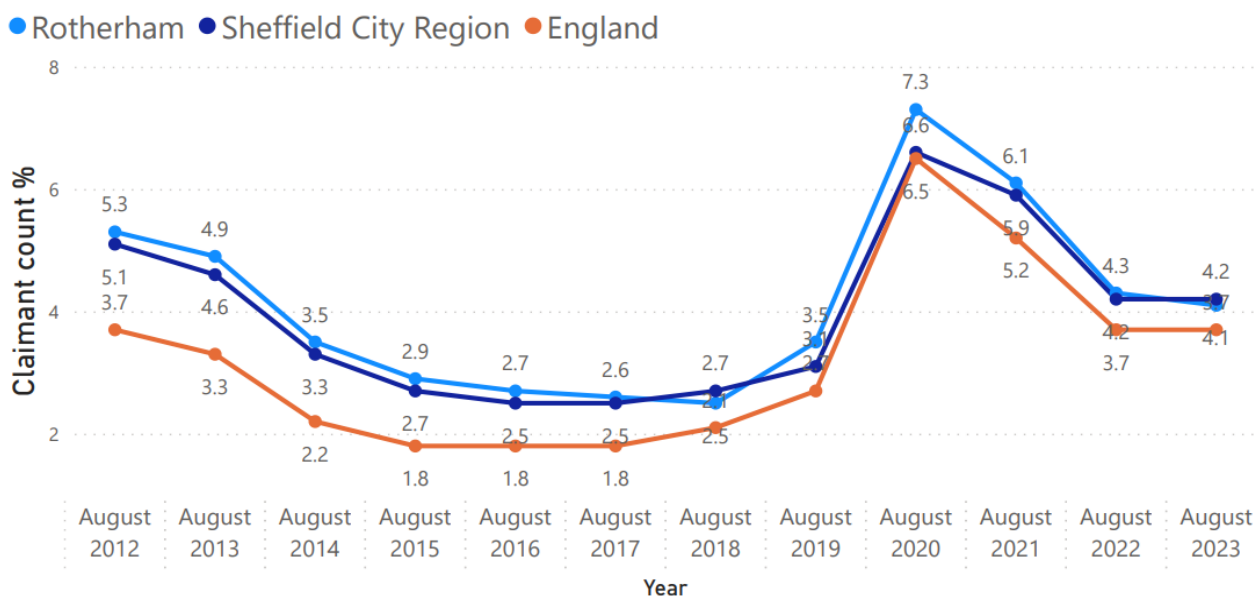


Figure 1 shows the claimant count as proportion of residents aged 16-64. Claimant count is a composite of the number of people claiming jobseekers’ allowance (JSA) and Universal credit (UC) who are required to seek work to qualify for their benefits. Rotherham had 9,920 claimants in August 2021, however by August 2023 this figure had reduced 6,780 (32% reduction). As a percentage 4.1% all adults in Rotherham were registered in the claimant count, which is similar to (although slightly lower) than higher than SCR (4.2%) and higher than the national average (3.7%) in August 2023.



Claimant count numbers in Rotherham are below COVID 19 levels, however, are still higher than pre COVID 19 numbers as 5,595 were claiming unemployment benefits in August 2019 compared to 6,780 in August 2023.

Table 1 - Alternative claimant count by Reach Area

Reach Area	August 2022	August 2023	Difference
Arnold	335	355	6%
Aughton	645	575	-11%
Central	1,560	1,570	1%
Coleridge	1,230	1,275	4%
Dinnington	730	675	-8%
Maltby	770	645	-16%
Rawmarsh	530	535	1%
Swinton	830	775	-7%
Thrybergh	370	330	-11%
Rotherham	7,030	6,780	-4%

Looking at Table 1 the majority of reach areas saw the number of people on the claimant count reduce between August 2022 and August 2023, with Maltby seeing the largest fall at 16%. However four areas saw an increase in the number of people on the claimant count by between 1% and 6%.

Table 2 - % of workless households with dependent children

Date (Jan-Dec)	Rotherham		Sheffield City Region		England	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
2020	8,100	13.5	53,100	16.0	1,139,400	9.2
2021	8,300	13.8	28,200	9.2	1,214,100	9.7
2022	12,500	19.3	40,300	13.3	1,230,200	9.9

Table 2 shows 19.3% of all workless households in Rotherham had dependent children in 2022. The figures show there are 4,200 more children (an increase of 50.6%) in workless households in 2022 compared to 2021. These figures are worse

than both SCR and national levels where the numbers of dependent children living in workless households increased by 42.9% and 1.3% respectively.

Other out of work benefits include the carers allowance where people caring for someone on a regular basis with a disability are given a weekly allowance. Carers allowance claimants count in Rotherham was 6,736 in February 2023 compared to 6,431 in February 2022 (an increase of 4.7%). Disability living allowance (DLA) is additional funding given to those living with a long-term health illness or disability to cover extra costs. 8,148 people in Rotherham claimed DLA in February 2023 compared to 8,037 in February 2022 (an increase of 1.4%).

## Ethnicity & Migration

Table 3 – Ethnicity of Rotherham residents aged 0-19 years old, Census 2021

Ethnicity	Percentage aged 0-19 years
Black African/Caribbean	1.2%
Black Other	0.2%
Roma	0.2%
Mixed Heritage	3.2%
Other Asian Background	1.5%
Other ethnic group	1.4%
Pakistani	6.3%
White British	83.6%

White Other	2.3%
Grand Total	100.0%

According to the Census the ethnic minority population of Rotherham increased from 8.1% in 2011 to 11.7% in 2021. Table 3 shows ethnic minority school aged children (aged 0-19) accounted for 16.4% of the school aged population (according to the 2021 Census). Children of Pakistani Heritage are the largest ethnic minority group amongst school aged children at 6.3% followed by those of mixed heritage at 3.2%.

Coleridge (41.9% ethnic minority population) was the most ethnically diverse reach area in 2021, covering Eastwood, the Town Centre, Wellgate, Broom Valley and part of East Dene. The only other reach areas with ethnic minority populations above the borough average were Central (16.9%) which covers Ferham and Masbrough, and Arnold (17.2%) which covers part of East Dene.

Table 4 – Ethnic Groups by Reach Area 2011 census (2021 Census update not yet available)

Reach Area	Children 0 to 4	White British	Other White	Multiple Heritage	Pakistani	Other Asian	Black	Other	BME
Arnold	697	558	6	33	68	10	13	9	19.9%
Aughton	2,110	1,933	23	57	32	29	27	9	8.4%
Central	2,257	1,688	76	109	240	44	75	25	25.2%
Coleridge	1,975	965	126	129	445	163	82	65	51.1%
Dinnington	2,261	2,157	26	51	3	12	6	6	4.6%
Maltby	2,573	2,448	25	46	20	17	8	9	4.9%
Rawmarsh	1,115	1,027	16	36	2	20	12	2	7.9%
Swinton	2,150	2,067	22	40	0	10	7	4	3.9%
Thrybergh	529	555	7	14	7	4	12	1	8.5%
<b>Rotherham Borough</b>	<b>15,738</b> (100%)	<b>13,398</b> (85%)	<b>327</b> (2%)	<b>515</b> (3%)	<b>817</b> (5%)	<b>309</b> (2%)	<b>242</b> (2%)	<b>130</b> (1%)	<b>14.9%</b>

Table 4 shows a high level of variation in ethnicity between the reach areas. Across the three central area reach areas of Coleridge, Central and Arnold, 35% of children aged 0-4 were BME in 2011, with 15.3% of Pakistani heritage. By the 2021 census BME proportion in the wider central areas is likely to reach almost 50%. All other reach areas had lower proportion of children aged 0-4 from BME communities than the Borough average of 15%. The proportion of BME children under five in 2011 was less than 9% in all nine reach areas, the lowest being Swinton at 3.9%.

Since 2004, there has been a large migration of East European Roma people from Slovakia and Czech Republic to Rotherham and since 2014 from Romania also. The great majority settling in the Coleridge (Eastwood/Wellgate) and Central

(Ferham/Masbrough) reach areas but overall, Roma remain a relatively small percentage of the child population (about 3% of those aged 0-4). Table 4 shows that children aged 0-4 are more ethnically diverse than the overall population with 15% being from BME groups in 2011, almost twice the average for all ages of 8%.

Table 5 - Internal migration by local authorities in England and Wales, year ending June 2020

LA name	Inflow	Outflow	Net
Barnsley	7,482	6,639	843
Doncaster	9,144	8,656	488
Rotherham	7,866	8,187	-321
Sheffield	27,444	29,199	-1,755

Table 5 shows internal migration by South Yorkshire local authorities in the year ending June 2020. Within South Yorkshire, Barnsley and Doncaster all have a positive net flow of migration coming in, with Sheffield and Rotherham having negative migration net flow, with more people leaving than settling. Only 4.1% of all internal migration nationally included children between 0-4 years old, a relatively low figure in comparison to people aged 20-29 who accounted for 42.3%. It is likely internal migration across the UK is linked with young adults moving across the country seeking work and training opportunities as households with young children are less likely to relocate.

### Employment and average earnings

Full time median weekly income in Rotherham between 2020-2022 showed a mixed picture for men and women (see table 6). In 2022 male full time workers median weekly pay increased by 6.1% to £644.40 and full time female workers median weekly pay increased by 11.1% to £506.10. Though women's weekly pay rose in 2022 a gender pay gap still exists. Female earnings as a percentage of their male counterparts accounted to 77.5% in 2022, meaning for every £1 earned by full time male workers in Rotherham women only made £0.775. This is below national figure where the figure stands at 84.7%. More needs to be done locally ensuring equality of pay and opportunities for women across borough.

Table 6 - Full time median weekly earnings Rotherham

	Date	Rotherham Male Full Time Workers	Rotherham Female Full Time Workers	Rotherham average Full Time Workers	Rotherham Female Earnings as % of Male
	2020	580.40	442.60	518.70	76.3%
	2021	607.50	445.50	536.60	73.3%
	2022	644.40	506.10	587.70	78.5%
<b>England</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>690.00</b>	<b>584.50</b>	<b>645.80</b>	<b>84.7%</b>

Table 7 – Net annual household income, financial year ending 2020

Reach area	Net annual household income (£)
Arnold	30,500
Aughton	30,800
Central	27,200
Coleridge	27,800
Dinnington	31,933
Maltby	30,660
Rawmarsh	27,033
Swinton	29,450
Thrybergh	24,600

N.B. These figures are aggregated from MSOA level data.

Table 7 shows average net annual household incomes in for the financial year ending 2020 around different reach areas. Areas surrounding the Thrybergh children's centre had the lowest net income in Rotherham at £24,600. A net income gap is visible in Rotherham as southern wards tended to have higher net incomes than those in northern wards of Rotherham.

Table 8 – Business count by Reach Area

Reach area	Total Business count 2022	Total Business count 2023	% Change
Arnold	225	210	-6.7%
Aughton	1180	1170	-0.8%
Central/Coleridge	1940	1975	1.8%
Dinnington	1305	1265	-3.1%
Maltby	1130	1125	-0.4%
Rawmarsh	465	460	-1.1%
Swinton	1195	1150	-3.8%
Thrybergh	230	240	4.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7680</b>	<b>7600</b>	<b>-1.0%</b>

N.B – MSOA data combines Coleridge and central reach areas together and is a 'best fit' in relation to reach area

Table 8 highlights the business count by reach area in 2022 and 2023. As expected, wards in Central and Coleridge contained the highest number of businesses at 1,975 in 2023 growing by 1.8% from the previous year due to their coverage of town centre business. Rotherham's overall business counts fell by 1.0% in 2023, with 80 fewer businesses than in 2022. A reduction in business counts within a reach area can lead to unemployment rising as local businesses foreclosures correlate with job redundancies and potential rises in poverty levels locally.

## Deprivation

According to the Indices of Deprivation 2019 where 1 is the most deprived district, Rotherham is 44th in England by average IMD score, a significant rise from 52<sup>nd</sup> in 2015. According to The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index measuring the proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families, 42 (27.5%) LSOAs are ranked in the most deprived 10% nationally.

There is a great range of inequality of income and other life chances within Rotherham. The main drivers of deprivation in Rotherham are high worklessness, low qualification levels, poor health and high rates of disability. Whilst education deprivation in Rotherham has reduced slightly overall, there have been increases in the most deprived areas where attainment and participation in further and high education are low. Within Rotherham, the highest deprivation rankings are in the

Education and Skills domain, with 10 ward areas falling in the top 1% most deprived areas in England.

Table 9 – Number of children living in low income families (Absolute low income)

Reach Area	2020/21	2021/22	% Difference
Arnold	848	660	-22%
Aughton	1,343	1197	-11%
Central	2,348	1961	-17%
Coleridge	2,925	2507	-14%
Dinnington	1,525	1108	-27%
Maltby	1,520	1196	-21%
Rawmarsh	878	662	-25%
Swinton	1,676	1350	-20%
Thrybergh	699	473	-32%
Rotherham Total	13,762	11,118	-19%

The Number of children living in absolute low income families between 2020/21 and 2021/22 fell many parts of Rotherham. Absolute poverty is characterised by severe

deprivation of basic human needs, including food, health, shelter, education, and information. Table 9 shows children living in low income families by reach area.

Please note that due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the statistics and data regarding absolute low income and poverty is less reliable than seen in previous years. Due to this, it will not be possible to make year on year comparisons, or to draw conclusions about recent poverty trends. It is therefore recommended that poverty data for 2021/22 is instead viewed as a point in time estimate of poverty levels only.

With cost of living rising and economic uncertainty looming there is a real concern poverty amongst children will get worse in Rotherham.

Studies show child poverty is associated with a wide range of health-damaging impacts, negative educational outcomes and adverse long-term social and psychological outcomes. The poor health associated with child poverty limits children's potential and development, leading to poor health and life chances in adulthood.

Table 10 - Children and young people living in absolute poverty in Rotherham, 2022

Age Group	2020/21	2021/22	% Difference
0-4	3,475	2,723	-22%
5-10	4,094	3,182	-23%
11-15	3,689	3,076	-17%
16-19	2,563	2,129	-17%
Total	13,817	11,118	-20%

Table 11 – Average IMD Ranks based by Reach Area

Reach Area	Average IMD Rank	Average IMD Score 2015	Average IMD Score 2019	% Change
Arnold	9,073	40.2	42.0	4.4%
Aughton	15,860	19.1	20.9	9.4%



Central	9,073	34.5	34.7	0.7%
Coleridge	9,413	37.2	36.6	-1.5%
Dinnington	15,287	21.6	23.5	8.5%
Maltby	14,907	21.5	23.4	9.2%
Rawmarsh	8,002	32.9	33.6	2.1%
Swinton	10,045	26.3	28.7	9.2%
Thrybergh	2,148	52.4	54.1	3.2%

## APPENDIX 7 – Definitions of Childcare

### What is Childcare?

Childcare is defined in Section 18 of the Childcare Act 2006 as “any form of care for a child” including “education ... and any other supervised activity.”

The childcare analysis in this report looks specifically at Ofsted registered childcare plus the early years and out of school provision delivered on a school site.

The early education analysis in this report includes early education delivered by registered childcare providers and Nursery schools and Nursery / Foundation 1 classes.

### Childminder

Registered Childminders look after children, usually in their own home. They are self-employed and they decide on working hours and as such can be flexible in offering early mornings, evenings and weekends, as well as part-time. All registered Childminders must meet the requirements within the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)<sup>4</sup>

### Day Nursery (Full Daycare)

A Day Nursery provides care and education for children between the ages of six weeks and five years. (Some may also offer out of school care for 5 to 11 year olds.). They must meet the requirements within the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)<sup>4</sup>. Opening times are from around 8am to 6pm (hours vary but some nurseries may start before 8am), some are open all year round while others offer term time only provision. There are usually a range of sessions available which enable parents to send their child full or part time.

### Pre-School / Playgroup (Sessional)

Pre-Schools or Playgroups provide care and most offer early education for children between two and five years old. They offer sessions from 2<sup>1/2</sup> hours to 5 hours, during term time. Some are developing their services to offer longer sessions or full-time day care in line with the

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<sup>4</sup> Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage,  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1170108/EYFS\\_framework\\_from\\_September\\_2023.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1170108/EYFS_framework_from_September_2023.pdf)

extended entitlement to Early Education Funding. They must meet the requirements within the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)<sup>4</sup>.

### **Breakfast Clubs and After School Clubs**

Breakfast clubs are normally open from 8am and After School clubs are typically open from 3.30pm up to 6pm. These services can be based in a range of venues including on school sites, youth clubs, community centres or nurseries. Some schools organise the childcare themselves, but others will work with local voluntary groups or private providers who will provide staff and sometimes facilities.

### **Holiday Play Schemes**

Holiday Play Schemes tend to be open from 8am to 6pm and run outside of term time. These services can be based in a range of venues including on school sites, youth clubs, community centres or nurseries.

### **Maintained Nursery School / Maintained/Academy Nursery Classes**

Nursery schools and Nursery classes provide early education (Foundation 1) for children between three and four years old. Nursery schools / classes are open during school hours in term time. Many offer full or half-day sessions. Many have extended their provision to cater for the needs of working parents. Some may also offer out of school care before or after school during term time and in the school holidays. They must meet the requirements within the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)<sup>4</sup>.

### **Maintained/Academy Foundation Stage Units**

Foundation units provide early education (Foundation 1) for children between three and four years old in provision which also includes Foundation 2/Reception age children. Foundation units are open during school hours in term time. Many offer full or half-day sessions. Many have extended their provision to cater for the needs of working parents. Some may also offer out of school care before or after school during term time and in the school holidays. They must meet the requirements within the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)<sup>4</sup>.

**Maintained/Academy Two Year Old Provision**

Some schools have lowered their age range to provide early education for children from the age of two years. Two year old provision in schools is open during term time. Many offer full or half day sessions. They must meet the requirements within the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)<sup>4</sup> including the relevant staffing requirements for two year olds. The two year old provision is inspected as part of the main school inspection.

## APPENDIX 8 – Ofsted Registration

The Childcare Act 2006 says that childcare is ‘any form of care for a child, including education or any other supervised activity’.

Most childcare providers caring for children under eight years old **for more than two hours a day** in England must register with Ofsted (or a childminder agency). However, there are a number of registration exemptions, as detailed here - [Registration exemptions - Childminders and childcare providers: register with Ofsted - Guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

To register, you need to be 18 or over and have the right to work in the United Kingdom.

It is a criminal offence to provide unregistered childcare, or on unapproved premises, if you are legally required to register. Ofsted is responsible for making sure that only people who are suitable and ready to provide childcare are registered.

It is an offence to knowingly make a false or misleading statement in an application to register.

There are two Ofsted registers:

**Early Years Register** – for providers caring for children aged from birth to 31 August after their fifth birthday. Providers on this register must meet all the safeguarding and welfare and the learning and development requirements of the [Statutory requirements for the early years foundation stage](#).

**Childcare Register**, which has two parts:

- Compulsory – for providers caring for children from 1 September after the child's fifth birthday up until their eighth birthday.
- Voluntary – for providers caring for children aged eight and over, or if providers are choosing to register voluntarily (for example, if you're a nanny).

Providers on the Childcare Register must [meet the register requirements](#).

The registration requirements and the processes will differ depending on the type of childcare provided and the ages of the children looked after.

<b>Type of Childcare</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Childminder	<p>You are a childminder if you are caring for children in your or someone else's home for payment or reward. It does not count as childminding if it is the home of one of the children being cared for, unless the care is for more than 2 different families at the same time. You can work alone or with up to 2 Childminders or assistants at any one time. Each Childminder (often known as co-childminders) must apply to register separately.</p> <p>Under your Childminder registration, you can apply to spend up to 50% of your time running childcare from non-domestic premises. Non-domestic premises include places like nurseries, church halls, parts of a school or classrooms. You need to follow the same requirements as your original registration.</p>
Childcare on domestic premises	<p>If you want to work with 3 or more other adults in someone's home, this counts as childcare on domestic premises. "Domestic premises" means somewhere that's used entirely or mainly as a private home. You can have 4 or more Childminders or any mix of Childminders and Childminding Assistants. Under your childcare on domestic premises registration, you can apply to spend up to 50% of your time running childcare from non-domestic premises.</p>
Childcare on non-domestic premises	<p>This is where childcare is provided on premises which are not somebody's home, for example, in purpose-built premises, village halls, and school premises. Such childcare normally includes nurseries, playgroup, before- and after-school clubs and other daycare.</p>
Home Childcarer (also known as nannies or au pair)	<p>Nannies and au pairs, also known as 'home childcarers', look after children of any age in the child's own home.</p> <p>As a nanny, you can look after children from two different families at the home of one of the families. However, if more than two families use the care at the same time, it is classed as childminding and you will need to register as a Childminder.</p>

<b>Ages of children being cared for</b>	<b>Type of Register</b>
Birth to 31 August after their fifth birthday	Early Years Register
From 1 September after their fifth birthday up to their eighth birthday	Compulsory part of the Childcare Register
Eight years and over	Voluntary part of the Childcare Register
Looking after children as a nanny	Voluntary part of the Childcare Register
Any other childcare when you don't have to register with Ofsted	Voluntary part of the Childcare Register

### **Ofsted Inspections**

How and when you'll be inspected by Ofsted depends on whether you're on the Childcare Register or the Early Years Register.

Ofsted will make sure you're meeting the requirements for:

- Safeguarding and Welfare
- Learning and Development

If you do not meet the requirements, you'll be told what you need to do to improve and when you need to improve by.

### **Childcare Register**

You could be inspected at any time if you're only on the Childcare Register.

You'll get a letter to tell you whether you've met the requirements.

The inspection letter will be [published online by Ofsted](#) for one year.

[Read more about how inspections are done](#)

### **Early Years Register**

You'll usually be inspected within the first 30 months of registering as a Childminder or Childcare provider, and at least once every 6 years after that.

You may also be inspected if someone reports concerns about the childcare you're providing.

You'll be sent a report with your grade. You'll be told how to do better, if there's anything that can be improved.

You'll be graded as one of the following:

- Grade 1 - outstanding
- Grade 2 - good

- Grade 3 - requires improvement
- Grade 4 - inadequate

[Read the early years inspection handbook](#) to find out what these grades mean.

Your inspection report will be [published online by Ofsted](#) within 10 working days of you being sent it.

You must give a copy of the report to the parents of the children you look after and to anyone else who asks for one.



**APPENDIX 9 – Local Authority Support for Parents / Providers****Families Information Service:**

The Families Information Service (FIS) provides free and impartial advice on childcare, early education and activities for children and young people as well as support services and benefits. They hold details of all registered and unregistered childcare across Rotherham to support parents in finding childcare provision to meet their needs. The FIS also offers extra support to families experiencing difficulty finding suitable childcare, for example, if short term/emergency, overnight or out of hours childcare is needed, children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), parents/carers for whom English is a second language or if no suitable childcare was found from their initial request. The FIS help by offering support such as providing one-to-one support, advice and guidance, contacting providers to find out whether they are able to offer the service the family requires and where appropriate, arranging for parents/carers to be accompanied on their initial visits.

The service is available via a Freephone helpline, email, or website [www.rotherham.gov.uk/fis](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/fis) providing parents and professionals with access to information on a wide range of subjects.

The FIS also carry out the eligibility checks for all two year old early education places. Parents can apply for the funding via the Freephone helpline, postal application or online portal. The FIS notify parents of the eligibility check outcome and give support to access their free place (for example, by providing details on local early education providers, explaining the process to access the place and referring to the Inclusion Officer for support for children with SEND).

They can also advise on other government schemes to help with the costs of childcare including:

- Childcare element of Universal Credits
- Childcare element of Tax Credits
- Tax Free Childcare
- Childcare Vouchers
- Care to Learn
- Discretionary support fund for further education
- Student Finance for full time higher education

**Support for Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND):**

The Families Information Service (FIS) offers 'brokerage' assistance to families with children with additional needs by offering the support needed to find the right childcare for the child and family. The support offered varies depending on individual circumstances; for example, the FIS may contact childcare providers on a parent's behalf to check if the provision is suitable or search for childcare with particular experience and/or training of children with additional needs. The FIS also work closely with the Early Years Inclusion team who then support the family and the childcare provider to ensure the child's individual needs are met. The Early Years Inclusion team support settings to be inclusive to all children and families. Specialist transitions are put in place for children with SEND into childcare or an early education place.

Individualised support is offered to childcare settings and parents of children with complex SEND to identify specialist needs and ensure that settings are equipped with the resources and specialised training needed to meet the child's individual needs. This may include medical care plans, specialist equipment needed, individualised risk assessments and individual fire evacuation plans.

Settings and schools are also supported to ensure some children with SEND are in a setting with specialist enhanced support through an Inclusion Support Grant. Disability Access funding is available for settings who have children aged three and four years whose parents are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance for a child with SEND this can then be used to purchase resources or support from specialist services.

**Support for Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Families:**

Additional support to access childcare and early education can be offered to BME families. The Families Information Service offers a telephone translation service to ensure that the family's needs are clearly understood and the information and advice given is clear and that the family's needs have been met. If further support is required a referral to an Early Help Outreach and Engagement Worker is made to offer supported visits to local childcare providers. Early Help staff work closely with local communities and organisations to increase the awareness of childcare and early education, working with families to remove barriers by visiting families at

home, engaging them in Family and Children's Centre services, building trust and relationships between families and local childcare and early education providers.

**Support for Childcare and Early Education Providers:**

A range of support is provided to early years childcare providers to ensure quality standards are maintained and increased on an ongoing basis. We target support to new providers and those with a 'Requires Improvement' or 'Inadequate' Ofsted grade, or where the setting is identified as at risk of not getting at least a Good Ofsted outcome at their next inspection. This risk is identified through the Early Years Quality Improvement (EQuIP) visits between setting leader(s) and the setting's allocated Early Years Specialist.

Childcare Officers provide a range of support to registered Childminders and Out of School Clubs. Support is available throughout the Ofsted registration process and also in preparation for Ofsted inspections. Childcare Officers offer support visits to providers, in particular those providers who are due an Ofsted inspection, to offer advice and guidance on Ofsted requirements and the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Follow up visits are carried out as necessary to ensure all actions have been implemented and provide further support as required prior to Ofsted inspections. Childminders are supported to complete the EQuIP during visits.

In order to support ongoing Childminder recruitment, the training offer now includes one to one support or group training to be more responsive to needs.

Each early years group setting is allocated an Early Years Specialist to complete the EQuIP which identifies their likelihood of achieving a good or better Ofsted outcome at their next inspection, support with meeting the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework and the development of high quality provision and practice. Where a setting has 0-3 year provision that is identified as needing support by an Early Years Specialist this support is then provided by the Early Years Lead Practitioner (Birth to 3 years).

In addition, a range of networking and training events are offered to group settings to keep them up to date with early years developments and expectations and support the development of effective practice. For good and outstanding settings this is the main source of support offered to them.

All registered providers with an Outstanding, Good or Requires Improvement Ofsted grade can now offer early education places to three and four year olds and those with a 'Good or Outstanding' Ofsted grade can offer place to eligible two year olds. All new providers awaiting their first inspection can also offer early education places for eligible two year olds and three and four year olds. Support for all new providers is given to ensure that they fully understand the contractual requirements.

**APPENDIX 10 – Projections for Expanded Entitlements for two year olds (April 2024 and September 2025)**

Children's Centre Reach Area	Sufficiency Sub Area	Potential Number of Eligible Children (Based on 80% take up rate)	Number of Fee Paying 2 Year Old Children in a Place	Remaining Number of Eligible Children	Potential spare/lack of capacity for 80% take-up April 2024	Potential spare/lack of capacity for 80% take-up September 2025 (30 Hours)
Arnold	Herringthorpe/East Dene/Clifton	27	15	12	36	12
Aughton	Aughton / Aston	84	49	35	6	-64
	Brinsworth	32	9	23	16	-20
	Catcliffe / Treeton	33	20	13	7	-33
	Whiston	15	6	9	-11	-29
Central	Masbrough / Bradgate / Blackburn / Dropping Well / Meadowbank / Richmond Park	43	18	25	5	-26
	Greasbrough / Rockingham / Wingfield	25	19	6	27	-8
	Kimberworth / Kimberworth Park	37	25	12	24	7
	Thorpe Hesley	29	3	26	-25	-51
Coleridge	East Dene/Clifton	13	32	-19	19	10
	Eastwood / Town Centre	6	5	1	44	41
	Broom / Moorgate	48	11	37	-19	-59
	Canklow	4	0	5	-19	-22
Dinnington	Anston	28	41	-13	57	31
	Dinnington / Laughton	70	62	8	42	-11
	Woodsetts	6	2	4	-3	-3
	Harthill / Kiveton / Wales / Todwick	48	90	-42	58	6
	Thurcroft	38	6	32	-12	-24
Maltby	Bramley / Wickersley	114	106	8	14	-43
	Maltby	54	31	23	97	55
Rawmarsh	Rawmarsh	67	71	-4	45	-6
Swinton	Swinton / Kilnhurst	54	155	-26	76	5
	Wath	66	96	-30	82	27
	Brampton/West Melton South / West	24	4	20	-1	-29
Thrybergh	Thrybergh / Dalton	33	11	22	169	132

**APPENDIX 11 – Projections for Expanded Entitlements for nine month olds  
(September 2024)**

Children's Centre Reach Area	Sufficiency Sub Area	Number of Fee Paying Children in a Place	Potential Number of Eligible Children (Based on 60% take up rate)	Remaining Number of Eligible Children (Based on 60% take up rate)	Potential Number of Eligible Children (Based on 35% take up rate)	Remaining Number of Eligible Children (Based on 35% take up rate)	Potential spare/lack of capacity for 60% take-up September 2024	Potential spare/lack of capacity for 35% take-up September 2024
Arnold	Herringthorpe/East Dene/Clifton	28	22	-6	20	-8	41	50
Aughton	Aughton / Aston	27	75	48	44	17	-23	8
	Brinsworth	26	33	7	19	-7	21	35
	Catcliffe / Treeton	20	39	19	23	3	-4	12
	Whiston	4	17	13	10	6	-13	-6
Central	Masbrough / Bradgate / Blackburn / Dropping Well / Meadowbank / Richmond Park	17	39	22	23	6	41	57
	Greasbrough / Rockingham / Wingfield	28	27	-1	16	-12	4	15
	Kimberworth / Kimberworth Park	22	31	9	18	-4	-6	7
	Thorpe Hesley	31	28	-3	16	-15	3	15
Coleridge	East Dene/Clifton	16	11	-5	6	-10	8	13
	Eastwood / Town Centre	4	4	0	3	-1	2	3
	Broom / Moorgate	64	46	-18	27	-37	35	54
	Canklow	0	4	4	3	3	-4	-3
Dinnington	Anston	49	28	-21	16	-33	45	57
	Dinnington / Laughton	67	61	-6	36	-31	23	48
	Woodsetts	3	3	0	2	-1	0	1
	Harthill / Kiveton / Wales / Todwick	49	43	-6	25	-24	10	28
	Thurcroft	0	26	26	15	15	-26	-15
Maltby	Bramley / Wickersley	135	92	-43	54	-81	58	96
	Maltby	60	51	-9	30	-30	30	51
Rawmarsh	Rawmarsh	86	62	-24	36	-50	47	73
Swinton	Swinton / Kilnhurst	57	58	1	34	-23	2	26
	Wath	92	63	-29	37	-55	41	67
	Brampton/West Melton South / West	4	22	18	13	9	-18	-9
Thrybergh	Thrybergh / Dalton	22	33	11	19	-3	40	54

**APPENDIX 12 – Projections for Expanded Entitlements for nine month olds  
(September 2025)**

Children's Centre Reach Area	Sufficiency Sub Area	Number of Fee Paying Children in a Place	Potential Number of Eligible Children (Based on 60% take up rate)	Remaining Number of Eligible Children (Based on 60% take up rate)	Potential Number of Eligible Children (Based on 35% take up rate)	Remaining Number of Eligible Children (Based on 35% take up rate)	Potential spare/lack of capacity for 60% take-up September 2025	Potential spare/lack of capacity for 35% take-up September 2025
Arnold	Herringthorpe/East Dene/Clifton	28	44	24	26	6	11	29
Aughton	Aughton / Aston	27	150	123	88	61	-98	-36
	Brinsworth	26	66	40	38	12	-12	16
	Catcliffe / Treeton	20	77	57	45	25	-42	-10
	Whiston	4	35	31	20	16	-31	-16
Central	Masbrough / Bradgate / Blackburn / Dropping Well / Meadowbank / Richmond Park	17	78	61	46	29	2	34
	Greasbrough / Rockingham / Wingfield	28	55	27	32	4	-24	-1
	Kimberworth / Kimberworth Park	22	62	40	36	14	-37	-11
	Thorpe Hesley	31	56	25	32	1	-25	-1
Coleridge	East Dene/Clifton	16	22	6	13	-3	-3	6
	Eastwood / Town Centre	4	9	5	5	1	-3	1
	Broom / Moorgate	64	92	28	54	-10	-11	27
	Canklow	0	9	9	6	5	-9	-5
Dinnington	Anston	49	56	7	32	-17	17	41
	Dinnington / Loughton	67	123	56	72	5	-39	12
	Woodsetts	3	7	4	4	1	-4	-1
	Harthill / Kiveton / Wales / Todwick	49	86	37	50	1	-33	3
	Thurcroft	0	53	53	31	31	-53	-31
Maltby	Bramley / Wickersley	135	185	50	108	-27	-35	42
	Maltby	60	103	43	60	0	-22	21
Rawmarsh	Rawmarsh	86	123	37	72	-14	-14	37
Swinton	Swinton / Kilnhurst	57	115	58	67	10	-55	-7
	Wath	92	125	33	73	-19	-21	31
	Brampton/West Melton South / West	4	45	41	26	22	-41	-22
Thrybergh	Thrybergh / Dalton	22	65	43	38	16	8	35

**APPENDIX 13 – Childcare Sufficiency Action Plan**

Objective	Action	Who	When	Progress
Childcare sufficiency issues identified in the 2023/24 Childcare Sufficiency report are addressed	Review instances of unmet demand for Childcare notified to the Families Information Service (FIS) on a quarterly basis and identify any opportunities for action.	Kerry Hurst, Early Years Sufficiency and Information Co-ordinator	December 2023  March 2024  June 2024  August 2024	
	Share Childcare Sufficiency Report 2023/24 with existing childcare providers, highlighting areas with limited capacity / potential unmet demand.	Kerry Hurst, Early Years Sufficiency and Information Co-ordinator	January 2024	
	Monitor changes to local childcare provision to identify where any potential sufficiency issues may occur  Include assessing potential changes in the childcare market to identify potential impact on sufficiency of childcare	Kerry Hurst, Early Years Sufficiency and Information Co-ordinator	Termly	
	Monitor turnover of Childminder registrations and potential impact of childcare sufficiency to assess impact of	Kerry Hurst, Early Years Sufficiency and Information Co-ordinator	December 2023  March 2024  June 2024	



	Childminder start up grants		September 2024	
	Planning for data collection of under 2's attendance to better understand where development of places is required.	Kerry Hurst, Early Years Sufficiency and Information Co-ordinator	April 2024	
	Planning for out of school demands and needs analysis to support wraparound childcare project	Kerry Hurst, Early Years Sufficiency and Information Co-ordinator	April 2024	

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<h1 style="margin: 0;">BRIEFING</h1>	<b>TO:</b>	Schools Forum
	<b>DATE:</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
	<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	Mark Cummins Transformation Lead Commissioning, Performance and Quality CYPS
	<b>TITLE:</b>	SEND Sufficiency Update
<b>1. Background</b>		
<b>1.1</b>	<p>In Rotherham 20.4% of pupils have either a statutory plan for Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND), known as an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP), or are receiving SEND support (previously known as school action and school action plus). This compares to an average of 17.1% across all England Authorities. In order that the educational needs of children and young people in the borough with SEND can continue to be met, the Council has a responsibility to create a sufficiency of education provision to meet the needs of all pupils.</p>	
<b>1.2</b>	<p>As part of Rotherham's involvement with the Government's Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs Deficit Safety Valve programme, the Council has worked closely with the Department for Education (DfE) to share and develop its strategic planning to ensure that the sufficiency of SEND places in the Borough is aligned to a sustainable financial plan to support the DSG High Needs budget moving to a balanced position across the lifespan of the Safety Valve Agreement.</p>	
<b>1.3</b>	<p>In March 2022, following Cabinet approval, Rotherham entered into a formal Safety Valve Agreement with the DfE. As part of this agreement, additional SEND capital of £4.32m was provided to Rotherham to support the development of SEND provision in the Borough and enact its strategic plans as set out in the Safety Valve Agreement. This funding is in addition to the £3.16m High Needs Provision 2022-2023 and £3.04m 2023/24 capital allocations that are proportionally awarded to all local authorities.</p>	
<b>1.4</b>	<p>The key strategic aim set out within the Safety Valve Agreement is to enhance mainstream SEND capacity to meet a wider level of need across all schools and mitigate the need for children, young people, and young adults to be educated in settings outside the Borough and promote inclusive practice. Specialist SEND education provision placement for children and young people in Independent Special Schools outside Rotherham has a higher cost base and consistently does not provide stronger educational outcomes.</p>	
<b>1.5</b>	<p>From 2018 onwards, Cabinet has approved four previous Phases of SEND Sufficiency, each targeted at addressing incremental rises in SEND cohorts and creating or improving specialist education provision. The first three Phases of the SEND Sufficiency programme have created 401 additional school places in Rotherham.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2018, Phase one of the Sufficiency Programme focused on increasing special school places in the Borough as indicated by the rapid growth in demand for all specialist provision. These plans led to increases in places at The Willows School (including post-16 provision), Kelford School and Abbey School. Initial development of resource provision places at Wales and Waverley were also</li> </ul>	

included within Phase 1. This created an additional 125 new places within special schools and inclusion units.

- The second Phase of SEND Sufficiency focused on the need for more targeted provision for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and children with profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD). 111 places across 10 schools were created including the development of new units at Wath Victoria Primary School and Brinsworth Academy, and increased places at Milton School. There was also investment identified for post-16 provision at Thomas Rotherham College. As a consequence of this investment, Rotherham has been better able to meet the needs of local children with autism and to place them in local schools.
- Phase three created specialist provision for children and young people with Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) needs who were previously placed in Pupil Referral Units. Through the DfE Free School Presumption Process, Elements Academy opened in September 2022. This Phase also looked at redeveloping an existing special school in the Borough through significant investment in rebuilding the upper part of Newman Special School which is no longer fit for the purpose of education delivery. 165 additional school places were created in this Phase.
- Phase 4 of the programme was approved for implementation in June 2023 with the main aim of SEND Sufficiency Phase 4 to support mainstream schools to meet a wider level of need and improve accessibility within both mainstream and special schools. Phase 4 includes the development of a minimum of 10 resource provisions across mainstream settings creating 100 new SEND places. A second main aim of SEND Sufficiency Phase 4 was the implementation of the Schools' Accessibility Funding Framework across both mainstream and special schools. An update on the implementation of both main areas of SEND Sufficiency Phase 4 is included in the main body of this report.

## 2. Key Issues

### 2.1 Resource Provision Update:

**2.2** A resource provision is attached to a mainstream school providing specialist therapeutic input and support for pupils with a specific SEND need type. Pupils access support from the resource provision based on their individual need whilst also accessing mainstream classes and curriculum.

**2.3** Following the expression of interest process and due diligence, the first Phase of resource provision implementation took place in Spring Term 2023. This included the approval of new resource provision at Thrybergh Academy and Dalton Foljambe and additional places at Wales High School resource provision. It is anticipated the building works will be completed so that the first places for children are available in September 2024.

**2.4** There are currently 5 schools working through approvals to support the opening of their resource provision. The schools, breakdown of accommodation and projected places for academic year 24/25 are given below:

School/Academy	Phase	Primary Need	Places from September 24
Maltby Manor Academy	Primary	Social Emotional Mental Health	5
Thurcroft Junior Academy	Primary	Communication and Interaction	5

Brinsworth Whitehill	Primary	Communication and Interaction	5
Winterhill School	Secondary	Social Emotional Mental Health	5
Brinsworth Academy	Secondary	Moderate Learning Difficulty	5

**2.5** Subject to completion of building works and necessary DfE approvals, 8 provisions for Phase 4 are scheduled to be completed by September 2024 with the additional 100 places being delivered in a staged way over the remaining two academic years.

**2.6** The additional resource provisions and places will be developed during academic year 24/25 with a review of current capacity, provision mapping and analysis informing the remaining provision roll-out.

**Accessibility Funding Framework:**

**2.7** In June 2023 Cabinet approved the School's Accessibility Strategy and Accessibility Capital Funding Framework. The intention of Schools' Accessibility Funding is to support schools to meet a wider level of SEND need through adaptations to existing buildings. This supports the Council's sufficiency strategy by moving the SEND continuum towards the mainstream.

**2.8** The Accessibility Funding Strategy proposes three distinct areas including:

- Targeted work across mainstream and special schools linked to accessibility requirements for individual pupils and cohorts.
- Individual requests and contributions for individual pupils linked to established equipment panel.
- A small capital grant programme for schools open through application and assessment in line with schools' own accessibility planning.

**2.9** In Spring 2023 capacity assessment work was completed by an external consultant across all special schools in Rotherham. This identified any current capacity gaps across the SEND estate which could be mitigated through Accessibility Funding. Where sufficient capacity does not exist, it is Accessibility Funding that has been utilised to develop additional provision for specific pupil cohorts who are struggling to access the existing curriculum offer within our special schools.

**Since launch, Accessibility Funding has been awarded to the following special schools:**

- Nexus (Forest View) £370k – the development of Forest View as a purpose built 14-19 provision for young people with SEND focusing on preparation for adulthood. The provision was developed in Summer 2023 after the decision to close Rowan School following the transfer of pupils to Elements Academy in September 2022. Forest View has created 50 additional SEND places.
- Newman School £15k – Newman was supported to develop a therapeutic space so young people can receive therapy on site as part of the core offer of the school.
- Elements Academy £67k – Through adaptations to unused (blank) capacity within the school, Elements Academy have adapted space to improve access to the

curriculum for young people with SEMH. This has supported the school to provide an additional 45 places to help meet demand for places.

- 2.10** June saw the launch of the accessibility capital funding small grants' programme for mainstream schools. Grants were capped at a maximum of £50k in an initial funding round. Interest from schools was strong with 16 applications received initially. A multi-agency short-listing panel was formulated including colleagues in Education, Inclusion, Health, CYPS Commissioning, Asset Management and Rotherham Parent Carer Forum. Of the bids received, the following were approved in the initial funding round:
- **Brinsworth Academy** – £9.3k. The project will develop blank teaching capacity in the school to create a breakout area and Sensory space. This will support students who require additional support including those who access the Moderate Learning Difficulty resource provision within the school.
  - **Wath Church of England School** – £1.2k. Funding will be used to develop a changing area for Foundation Stage pupils.
  - **Wingfield Academy** - £50k. The development of a vocational teaching space to support an identified cohort of pupils with SEMH needs. The project will support the school to widen their curriculum offer with a planned reduction in use of alternative provision and school suspensions/exclusions.
  - **Oakwood High School** - £50k. The project will support the school to broaden its support offer for young people with SEMH needs through adapting an existing building on site to create a break-out area and bespoke learning environment. The project is being jointly funded with the school.
  - **Brinsworth Manor Infants** – £31k. The project will develop a nurture area and Sensory space for pupils who require additional support within the Foundation Stage.
  - **Rockingham Junior and Infants** – £20k. The project will support the development of a Forest School and outdoor sensory area for young people with SEMH needs. The provision will also be accessed by young people who attend the LEAF SEMH alternative provision.
  - **Waverly Junior Academy** – £50k. The project will improve accessibility to outdoor spaces at the school including the development of an outdoor learning area. This will support pupils across the school including those attending the established communication and interaction resource provision.
- 2.11** The small grants' programme has now been fully implemented with grant agreements agreed with each of the schools. Work is currently underway with all projects due for completion this academic year, subject to building works.
- 2.12** In addition to the small grants and special school applications, accessibility funding has been utilised to support individual pupils who require specific adaptations to support physical access to buildings and the curriculum. This has supported young people to remain within current education settings with support from the EHCP Team to identify pupils, working alongside both mainstream and special schools.
- 2.13** The Safety Valve Agreement recognises a Phase 5 of SEND Sufficiency. The main focus of Phase 5 is to provide increased sufficiency of places and condition improvements within our specialist provision. Phase 5 will cover three core elements which are detailed below:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEMH growth - the current trajectory of growth for SEMH provision identifies a need to increase specialist provision to create a minimum of 40 additional places during the period of the Safety Valve Agreement</li> <li>• Newman School - continued investment on the Newman Special school site to update and enhance provision against current SEND sufficiency planning. Continued investment will enhance capacity and support placement of higher threshold SEND need in the school, avoiding placement in high-cost Independent Specialist or Out of Authority provision.</li> <li>• Pupil Referral Unit Development - continuing to develop high quality mainstream focused Pupil Referral Unit/Alternative Provision is an essential triage for our SEND system. It supports the implementation of our Inclusion Review (carried out by independent experts ISOS) through ongoing capital investment and we can guide our provisions to focus on intervention-based approaches helping students to return to mainstream education and be successful.</li> </ul> <p><b>2.14</b> SEND Sufficiency Phase 5 projects are currently forming part of a feasibility study which will be completed during Spring Term 2024. The study will identify appropriate options for development including identifying appropriate school assets which could be developed, capital investment required and timescales for delivery. On completion of the feasibility study a further Cabinet report will seek appropriate approval to implement Phase 5.</p>
<b>3. Key Actions and Timelines</b>	
<b>3.1</b>	<p><b>Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEND Sufficiency Phase 4 Cabinet Report – October 2022</li> <li>• SEND Sufficiency Phase 4 EOI process – November – December 2022</li> <li>• Due Diligence and Selection Process – January – June 2023</li> <li>• First new resource provision places – September 2023</li> <li>• 5 additional resource provisions – September 2024</li> <li>• Remaining resource provision places – September 2025</li> </ul>
<b>4. Recommendations</b>	
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Options considered and recommended proposal</b>
<b>4.2</b>	Schools Forum is asked to note the progress and next steps identified for the SEND Sufficiency Programme
<b>4.3</b>	<p><b>Consultation on proposal</b></p> <p>As part of work that the Council undertakes as part of the wider SEND place-based partnership, a series of listening events are held with Parent and Carers across key areas of development across SEND. Previous listening events have included development of the Social Emotional Mental Health Free School, SEND Local Area Inspection, and Newman School development. Plans are in place for a listening event for SEND Sufficiency Phase 5, in order that parents and carers are fully involved in appropriate consultation and are able to support co-producing this Phase of SEND Sufficiency in the Borough.</p>

<b>4.4</b>	All appropriate updates have been provided by RMBC ahead of this Phase of SEND Sufficiency via key discussions with the DfE. Key updates have also been provided to Schools' Forum, School Leaders' forums and associated partners, including the SEND Partnership Board.
<b>4.5</b>	Further formal consultation would be undertaken with key stakeholders for all new resource bases that open at individual schools as part of DfE significant change applications and would lead to adaptations to academy funding agreements. This would be overseen by individual schools as part of their application to the DfE to host a SEND resource base provision.
<b>4.6</b>	Ongoing updates linked to SEND Sufficiency and performance data are provided to Improving Lives Select Committee. This Phase of SEND Sufficiency will also have oversight from improving Lives Select Committee.



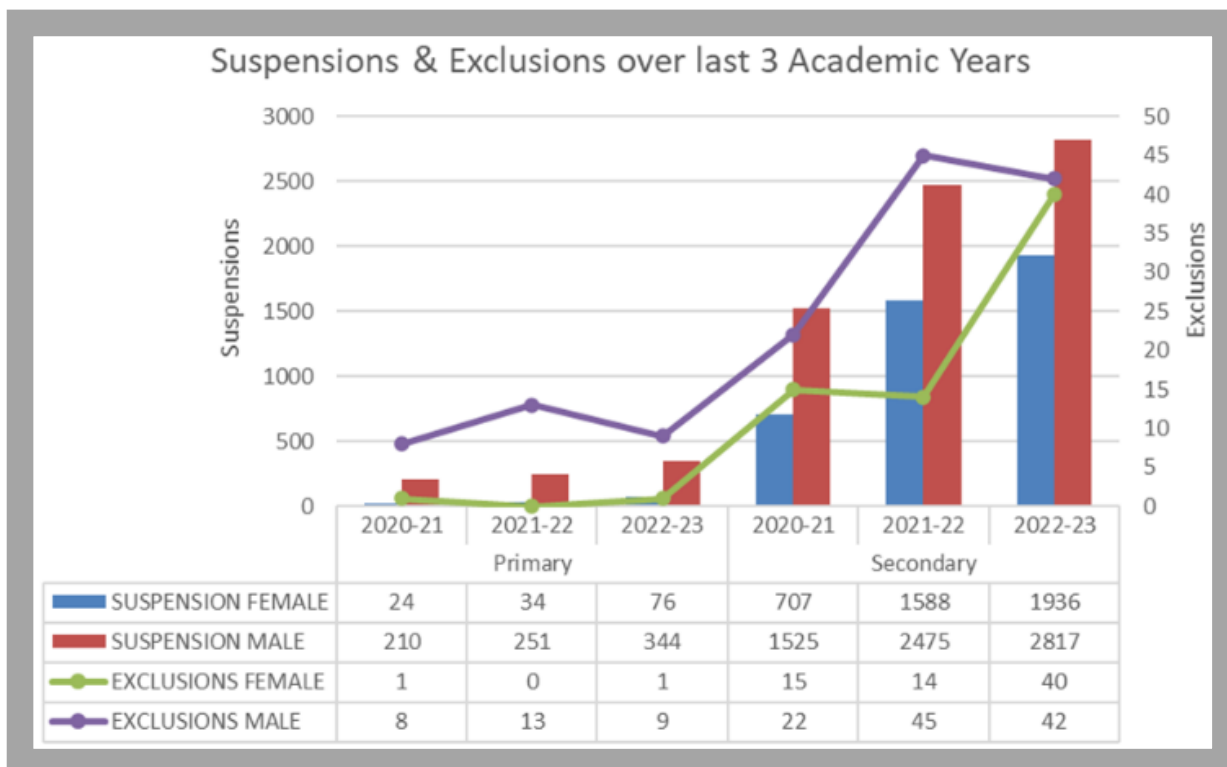
<h1>BRIEFING</h1>	<b>TO:</b>	Schools' Forum
	<b>DATE:</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
	<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	Kelly Crompton CYPS
	<b>TITLE:</b>	Exclusions, Suspensions and PRU data

**1. Background**

- 1.1** This paper has been prepared following a request from Schools' Forum to provide;
- Data for permanent exclusions and suspensions in area for secondary and primary;
  - PRU Numbers, including children transitioning in and out.
- 1.2** This data is key to understanding the context and needs of our most vulnerable pupils in borough and the current support available for them as well as ensuring capacity to meet future needs.

**2. Key Issues**

**2.1** 3-year data shows a rise in permanent exclusions and suspensions across Rotherham's secondary phase and a rise in suspensions in the primary phase.



**2.2** The rise in permanent exclusions and suspensions has continued into 2023-24, with data for the Autumn and Spring terms indicating an increase for both. Permanent exclusions at KS3 in particular have led to a swift rise in class sizes within the PRU and

consequently eradicated capacity to support proactive and preventative placements. (data taken on 8/4/24 and subject to increase in the event of late notifications from schools)

Term	School Phase	2023/24							2022/23						
		All Exclusions		Fixed Exclusions			Permanent Exclusions		All Exclusions		Fixed Exclusions			Permanent Exclusions	
		No. of Exclusions	No. of Pupils	No. of Exclusions	No. of Days	No. of Pupils	No. of Exclusions	No. of Pupils	No. of Exclusions	No. of Pupils	No. of Exclusions	No. of Days	No. of Pupils	No. of Exclusions	No. of Pupils
AUT	Primary	159	89	153	350.0	87	6	6	143	82	142	293.5	82	1	1
	Secondary	2236	1082	2191	4602.0	1066	45	45	1650	815	1618	3761.5	805	32	32
	Term Total	2395	1171	2344	4952.0	1153	51	51	1793	897	1760	4055.0	887	33	33
SPR	Primary	107	77	102	215.5	74	5	5	132	84	127	230.0	83	5	5
	Secondary	1571	869	1542	3101.0	854	29	29	1677	844	1649	3737.5	838	28	28
	Term Total	1678	946	1644	3316.5	928	34	34	1809	928	1776	3967.5	921	33	33
SUM	Primary	0	0			0		0	156	94	152	282.5	92	4	4
	Secondary	0	0			0		0	1536	836	1514	3152.5	825	22	22
	Term Total	0	0			0		0	1692	930	1666	3435.0	917	26	26
Totals		4073	1588	3988	8268.5	1566	85	85	5294	1755	5202	11457.5	1738	92	91

**2.3** Vulnerable children are disproportionately affected by exclusion and suspension in Rotherham.

- Free School Meals- 61% of suspensions and 66% of permanent exclusions are for FSM eligible children (29.1% across whole Borough)
- 57% of suspensions and 56% of permanent exclusions issued are for children with SEND- EHCP or SEN K (21.6% SEND population in Borough schools)

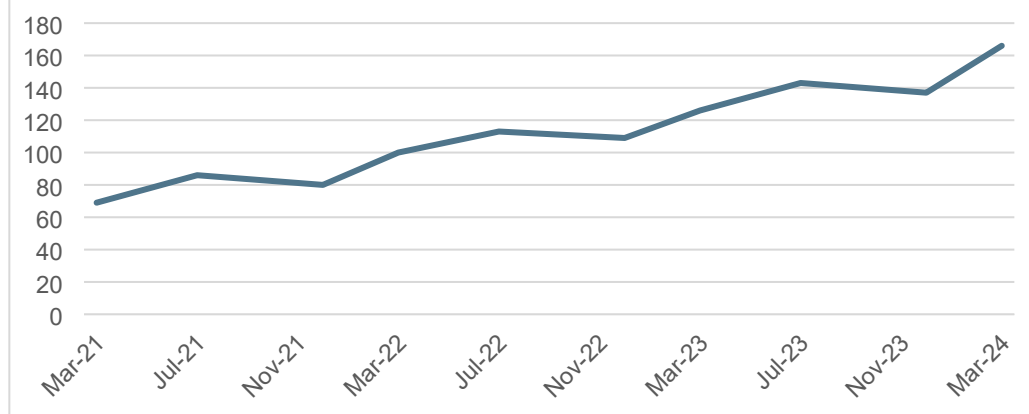
**2.4** The majority of pupils placed at Aspire are following a permanent exclusion. A smaller number are placed through Fair Access when they move into the Borough having had a previous permanent exclusion in another area, or with a profile of need indicating risks that are not manageable within a mainstream setting.

**Pupil routes into Aspire PRU January 2024**

	Route into Aspire			Total
	Catcliffe	Hutton Park	Rawmarsh	
PX Partnership	27	57	31	115
Partnership	1	0	5	6
FAP	1	2	4	7
PX Primary	0	1	14	15
Primary	0	0	0	0
Commission Sec	0	0	0	0
OOA	1	1	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>145</b>

**2.5** Placements in Aspire are always anticipated to increase over the course of an academic year in line with exclusions, however there is a year on year increase in the number of children placed within the PRU.

Aspire pupil numbers



2.6

There is not a strong pattern of children returning to school following a permanent exclusion and the presumption for children remaining in Aspire means that they are not appropriately placed long term. Realignment of the work of the exclusions workers, defining the process for return to mainstream and the review underway of the Fair Access Protocol will address this systems issue. 15 placements have been allocated through Fair Access thus far (data taken on 8/4/24) in the academic year 2023-24.

#### **Pupils transitioning from Aspire 2022 - 2023**

21 pupils

38% to mainstream

#### **Pupils transitioning from Aspire 2023 – 2024**

30 pupils

23% to mainstream

### **3. Key Actions and Timelines**

- 3.1** LEAF Centre, Primary and Secondary Outreach have strong accountability to ensure the service meets the needs of the pupils and schools they are supporting, through a termly collective review including leaders from each setting, commissioning, procurement and education inclusion. Termly review led by Kelly Crompton, Strategic Lead Inclusion and Alternative Provision.
- 3.2** Inclusion panels established to review and make recommendation for children at risk of Permanent Exclusion.
- 3.3** ASD outreach from Wales established September 2023, continuing to share awareness of support available and measure the impact of this.
- 3.4** Ongoing SEND Sufficiency programme to ensure sufficiency of specialist provision for children who require this.
- 3.5** Inclusion Events are held on a termly basis with keynote speakers from Ofsted, DfE and nationally recognised bodies of excellence, to share annual data, effective practice, national, regional and local updates and collaboration. Termly events facilitated by Kelly Crompton.
- 3.6** Realignment of work of the Exclusions workers, located in Access to Education, to promote schools seeking alternatives to exclusion. Implemented September 2023.

<p><b>3.7</b></p> <p><b>3.8</b></p> <p><b>3.9</b></p> <p><b>3.10</b></p> <p><b>3.11</b></p> <p><b>3.12</b></p> <p><b>3.13</b></p>	<p>Review of Inclusion Panels to ensure that all children permanently excluded from school have a collective onward placement agreed to support a timely return to mainstream education. Implemented September 2023.</p> <p>Establishment of monthly review with PRU to identify children requiring return to mainstream or specialist provision and agreed the appropriate route for this to happen through determined pathways.</p> <p>Pilot programme with Youth Justice Service to mentor KS3 females with identified online risk factors 2024 roll out, Kelly Crompton and Zulfiqar Shaffi to lead.</p> <p>Pilot programme with CAMHS Virtual Reality counselling for pupils aged 13 onwards 2023 – 2024. Kelly Crompton and Leana Gater to lead</p> <p>Inclusion of Emotional Readiness for Learning programme from Specialist Inclusion Team (12 week support) following successful learning taken from Team Around School project 2022. Kelly Parkin to lead</p> <p>Review of the Fair Access Protocol to ensure vulnerable children, including those permanently excluded and requiring reintegration from the PRU, are effectively served through this route. February- June 2024.</p> <p>Further refinement of Schools Inclusion Scorecard in order to share key metrics with schools, alongside establishment of Education Assurance Board via Education SMT. April 2024.</p>
<p><b>4. Recommendations</b></p>	
<p><b>4.1</b></p>	<p>Schools' Forum to note the content of this briefing.</p>

<b>REPORT FOR SCHOOLS FORUM</b>
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<b>1.</b>	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> April 2024</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Dedicated Schools Grant – 2023/24 Outturn &amp; 2024/25 Funding</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Finance and Customer Services</b>

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform members of the Schools' Forum as to the draft 2023/24 outturn position of the delegated budget for maintained schools and centrally retained budgets – both of which are funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).
- 1.2 In addition, to provide summary details to maintained members of Schools Forum as to the surplus/deficit balances of the maintained schools within Rotherham.

**2. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 That Schools Forum members note the information contained within this report.
- 2.2 That Schools Forum members note that the centrally retained early years balance is subject to change as this will be dependent on the early years' adjustment for the Spring 2024 census count.

**3. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 3.1 To ensure that Schools Forum members are kept informed of the DSG position within Rotherham.
- 3.2 Furthermore, that maintained members of the Forum are kept abreast of the surplus/deficit balances across both maintained schools and academy trusts within Rotherham.

**4. OVERALL DSG BUDGETS 2023/24**

- 4.1 In 2023/24 the final allocation of DSG for Rotherham was £108.321m. (Confirmed by the DfE in March 2024). This amount is net of academy recoupment for the 92 academies within Rotherham at a total of £198.164m.

Total Schools Block Allocation	£230.617m
Less Academy Recoupment	(£198.164m)
Central Schools Services Block	£1.510m
High Needs Block	£55.187m
Early Years Block	£19.171m
<b>Total DSG allocation for Rotherham</b>	<b>£108.321m</b>

4.2 The above DSG budget excludes the following schools related funding:

- Carry Forward school's balances – a total net surplus of £2.981m was carried forward by maintained schools from the previous financial year.
- Pupil Premium Grant – a total of £3.6m has been allocated to maintained schools for the 2023/24 financial year.
- Other specific grant funding for schools – certain grant funding has been provided by the ESFA in the current financial year and allocated directly to schools in accordance with the grant conditions e.g. Universal Infant Free School Meals, Primary PE & Sports grant, Recovery Premium, Teachers Pay Additional Grant and School Led Tutoring Grant.

## 5. ROTHERHAM SCHOOLS DELEGATED DSG BUDGET

5.1 DSG funding has been allocated to individual schools through the local schools funding formula. A funding adjustment of £3.459m was made to the school block funding to reflect the DfE confirmed funding transfer of 1.5% to the High Needs Block.

The latest 2023/24 draft outturn position for all maintained schools based is as follows:

Surplus Balance	22/23 Outturn £'000	2023/24 Original Budget £'000	Latest Forecast Outturn £'000
Nurseries	386	185	440
Primary	1,706	952	1,466
Secondary	501	145	556
Special	398	54	-70
PRU	-11	0	-131
	<b>2,981</b>	<b>1,613</b>	<b>2,260</b>

5.2 The table below shows the value of school balances for 2023/24.

Value of Balance	Number of Schools	% of Total Number of Schools	Combined Value of Balance (£)
Deficit Balance	3	12%	-267,619
Surplus £1,001 - £50,000	6	24%	133,842
Surplus £50,001 - £100,000	7	28%	464,432
Surplus £101,001 - £250,000	7	28%	1,111,518
Surplus £250,001 +	2	8%	817,923
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,260,095</b>

- 5.3 As set out within the Rotherham Scheme for Financing Schools, individual schools are permitted to carry forward balances to be spent or replenished in subsequent financial years. In total, the carry forward on individual school budgets (listed below) is an overall combined surplus of £2.260m compared to £2.981m in the previous financial year.
- 5.4 There has been a noticeable reduction in overall school surplus balances when compared to the previous year and could be attributable to the increased cost pressures that schools are facing.

As of 31st March 2024, the movement on surplus balances when compared with 2022/23 reflected a decrease in year of £721k as follows:

2023-2024		2022-2023		Change in Year	
No of Schools	Value in £'000	No of Schools	Value in £'000	No of Schools	Value in £'000
25	2,260	27	2,981	-2	721

- 5.5 Of the total 2023/24 surplus balances, 7 schools hold balances above the thresholds set out in the Scheme for Financing Schools. The Scheme for Financing Schools sets out the financial arrangement between the local authority and the maintained schools. The scheme states that if a school's balance has exceeded the allowable surplus (8% of school budget share for nursery, primary and special, 5% for secondary) and allowing for commitments and any amounts assigned for a specific purpose then the local authority may deduct an amount equal to the excess balance.
- 5.6 Schools reporting excess surplus balances will be expected to submit a plan to the local authority outlining intended use of the balance.
- 5.7 As of 31st March 2024, the movement on deficit balances in comparison with 2023/24 shows an increase in deficit balances with the inclusion of Special Schools and the PRU.

2023-24		2022-2023		Change in Year	
No of Schools	Value in £'000	No of Schools	Value in £'000	No of Schools	Value in £'000
3	267.6	1	-11	2	256.6

For the school that remains in a deficit position from 2022/23, a budget recovery plan is in place to bring the budget back into a surplus position by 2025/26. The other 2 schools with deficit balances will be rolled forward and will need to be managed as part of the budget planning process for 2024/25. Meetings will be scheduled with those schools unable to submit a balanced budget to

understand the underlying issues and support schools to formulate further plans to address the deficit.

## **6. DSG SAFETY VALVE**

- 6.1 During 2021/22 Rotherham was approved to enter the DfE's Safety Valve programme and received funding of £8.53m, reducing the DSG Centre Reserve deficit to £12.84m at the end of 2021/22. Rotherham's planned safety valve funding was increased from £3m to £6m at the end of 2022/23. The reprofiling of the safety valve funding, alongside an underspend on the High Needs Block of £724k and underspends on falling rolls and growth funding had reduced the DSG Central Reserve deficit to £5.9m at the end of 2022/23. The draft position on the DSG at the end of 2024 is £1.708m and Rotherham will continue to receive safety valve funding at £2m for the next 2 years.

The latest DSG management plan is forecasting an overall net deficit in the DSG reserve account of £535k in 2025/26 compared to the balanced position that was assumed in the signed Safety Valve Agreement. The latest position includes the DfE approved schools block transfer of 0.5% in 2024/25.

The deficit has arisen due to the increasing pressures that the high needs block is facing e.g. increasing EHCP numbers, inflationary pressures, continuing placements in ISPs and reduction in funding transfers from schools.

## **7. HIGH NEEDS BLOCK ELEMENT**

The planned underspend of £2.068m in 2023/24 as budgeted in the management plan has been achieved and transferred to DSG central reserves alongside an additional £131k in underspend from within the High Needs Block. Pressures still remain in the High Needs Block as a result of a number of factors; an overall increase in Education Health and Care Plans, an increase in the number of young people aged 16 to 25 with an EHCP who are now the responsibility of the LA to fund, an increase in the number of children accessing higher cost provision and an increase in the number of pupils in Alternative Provisions (Pupil Referral Units).

These pressures reflect system wide issues in how the funding is determined. Whilst the allocation moved to a formulaic basis in 2018/19 and now includes proxy indicators of SEND within the population, a large element of the grant remains fixed based on historic spend.

In 2023/24 Rotherham was successful in submitting a disapplication request to the Secretary of State to transfer 1.5% of the DSG Schools Block allocation (£3.459m) to the High Needs Block.

Inclusive of the £3.459m transfer of funding into the High Needs Block there was an underspend of £131k (financial pressure would be £1.260m without the transfer) in the 2023/24 financial year.

## **8. EARLY YEARS BLOCK ELEMENT**

The brought forward balance of £503k at the start of 2023/24 has been utilised to fund Inclusion support Grant leaving a shortfall of £11k bringing the draft year end position to £492k. As in 2023/24 the carry forward amount on the Early Years Block will be used to fund the Inclusion Support Grant.



As in previous years the local authority has yet to be notified of the final early years' adjustment for 2023/24 (based on the January 2024 census). The government usually advises local authorities of this adjustment in July. The local authority has modelled the census data provided to the government and are anticipating an increase of £38.4k and this has been included within the draft 2023/24 accounts.

## 9. 2024/25 & FUTURE YEARS

For 2024-2025 the Mainstream Additional Grant (MSAG) has been rolled into the Dedicated Schools Grant DSG providing an increase in DSG National Funding Formula (NFF). This has been reflected in the new NFF values for basic entitlement, FSM5 and the lump sum.

In addition to schools' allocations through the schools national funding formula, schools will be allocated additional funding through the Teachers Pay Additional Grant (**TPAG**). The ESFA has indicated that the funding will be incorporated into core budget allocations for 2025 to 2026.

## 7. Names and Contact Details

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<b>REPORT FOR SCHOOLS FORUM</b>
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<b>1.</b>	<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> April 2024</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>High Needs Budget and Funding Arrangements 2024/25</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Finance and Customer Services</b>

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- The purpose of this report is to inform the Forum of the funding arrangements of the high needs funding block and the approach to determining the 2024/25 budget.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- It is recommended that the Schools' Forum:

For Information only

- Note the high needs funding settlement (including the outcome of the disapplication request – see para 7) for 2024/25:**
- Note the proposed funding requirements for 2024/25, particularly in relation to the number of commissioned specialist places and the payment of top up funding to mainstream, special schools /academies, and other providers and settings.**

**BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

2024/25 High Needs Funding Allocations

- The high needs funding system supports provision for pupils and students with special education needs and disabilities (SEND), from early years to age 25. The high needs funding block provides local authorities with resources for place and top-up funding for institutions, and for high needs services delivered directly by the local authority or under a separate agreement with providers.
- The table below outline the level of high needs funding available for 2024/25 compared to the current year:

<b>RESOURCES</b>	<b>2023/24 £'000</b>	<b>2024/25 £'000</b>	<b>Change £'000</b>
Baseline HN DSG funding	55,187	57,863	2,676
Adjust for ESFA funded places	-10,312	-11,495	-1,183
Funding transfer from schools	3,459	1,211	-2,248
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>	<b>48,334</b>	<b>47,579</b>	<b>-755</b>

5. The confirmed high needs block funding for 2024/25 is **£57.863M** (before adjustment for ESFA funded places in academies). This represents an increase of £2.676M compared to the final 2023/24 position. The increase reflects the additional SEND funding allocated through the high needs NFF.
6. The high needs funding allocation for Rotherham is adjusted for high needs places funded directly by the ESFA in academies, non-maintained special schools, and post 16 places. The provisional adjustment amount is **£11.495M** (actual recouped funding will be confirmed in summer 2024).
7. The Government has approved the Council's disapplication request for the transfer of 0.5% funding (**£1.211M**) from schools to the high needs block. This represents a decrease of funding of £2.248M when compared to the 2023/24 transfer (which was based on a 1.5% funding transfer).

#### High Needs DSG funding framework

8. The government published the revised 2024/25 high needs operational guidance in Feb 2024. The following sets out the key highlights of the funding system for 2024/25. It should be noted that the underpinning operational processes and principles remain largely unchanged from the previous year:
  - Local authorities' high needs funding continues to be determined using the high needs National Funding Formula (NFF).
  - Local authorities will receive at least 3% increased funding per head of 2 - 18 population (the limit on gains in the NFF is set at 5%, again calculated based on per head of population). Which means every local authority will receive through the NFF 3% per head more than 2023/24.
  - Several technical changes were made to the historic spend factor and the low attainment data used within the high needs NFF.
  - Special Schools minimum funding guarantee (MFG) for 2024/25 must be at least 0% with local authorities encouraged to consider a minimum increase within a range of 0% to 0.5% compared to 2023/24 funding levels, ensuring that the additional funding (3.4%) allocated in 2023/24 is continued to be included in 2024/25 baseline calculations.
  - Local authorities can transfer up to 0.5% of their schools' block funding to the high needs block, with the approval of their Schools Forum. A disapplication request will be required for any transfer greater than 0.5%.

Context for setting the 2024-25 high needs budget.

9. The context for budget planning for 2024/25 is one of increasing demand and financial pressures. An outturn of £113k (over and above the planned contribution to DSG reserve from the HNB of £2.068M) is currently anticipated for 2023/24.
10. The increasing number of pupils with EHCPs requiring specialist support and placements in independent specialist placements (ISPs) continue to exert pressures on the high needs budget. This is in addition to a challenging economic landscape with cost-of-living pressures, rising inflation and energy cost crisis.
11. The DSG grant conditions require any local authority with an overall deficit on its DSG reserve account to present a management plan to the DfE for managing their future DSG spend. These plans have increasingly been used by the DfE in discussions with local authorities regarding their high needs budgets and have informed the Safety Valve Agreements put in place with several local authorities to address significant budget deficits.

Safety Valve Programme / DSG management Plan

12. During March 2022 the Rotherham Council entered into a Safety Valve agreement with the Secretary of State for Education. The safety valve intervention programme targets those local authorities with significant DSG deficits. The Safety Valve Programme requires the Council to set out (via the Dedicated Schools Grant Management Plan) how it will manage the deficit in the High Needs Block and reach an in-year balance over a specified timescale.
13. Under the signed agreement, the DfE has committed to paying the council **£20.53M** over five years to remove the anticipated DSG deficit by 2025/26. This funding will be provided in instalments and is subject to certain conditions and continued satisfactory progress, in delivering the actions / measures set out in the DSG Management Plan as follows.
  1. Reduce use of independent specialist provision outside of the LA by creating appropriate capacity within Rotherham's high needs system, with a focus on ensuring provision is high quality and value for money.
  2. Improve Rotherham's early intervention strategy, including through investment in outreach work.
  3. Ensure appropriate use of provision and avoid escalation of children and young people's needs by, among other things, improving the governance around placement decisions.
  4. Review support services in Rotherham to ensure value for money is achieved.

5. Increase the outreach offer for Social Emotional and Mental Health needs at Primary and Secondary.
  6. Increase the outreach for specialist SEND.
  7. Develop local sufficiency arrangements, including for Rotherham's Looked After Children
  8. Drive mainstream schools to adopt inclusive practice to enable more children and young people to remain in mainstream settings where appropriate.
  9. Maintain engagement with stakeholders through strong and collaborative governance arrangements, such as ISOS partnership work, Sholls Forum High Needs sub-group and secondary head teachers.
14. The table below shows the updated projected DSG reserve position (as per the latest DSG Management Plan) compared to the original Safety Valve Agreement position.

	<u>2021/22</u> £000	<u>2022/23</u> £000	<u>2023/24</u> £000	<u>2024/25</u> £000	<u>2025/26</u> £000
<b>Original Safety Valve Plan:</b>					
Planned unmitigated deficit	22,013	21,480	19,413	20,435	20,528
Annual Safety Valve Funding	-8,533	-3,000	-3,000	-3,000	-3,000
Cumulative Safety Valve Funding	-8,533	-11,533	-14,533	-17,533	-20,533
<b>Planned DSG Position</b>	<b>13,480</b>	<b>9,947</b>	<b>4,880</b>	<b>2,902</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Latest DSG Management Plan:</b>					
Opening DSG reserve position		12,840	5,926	1,708	1,458
In year HNB surplus (-)/deficit (+)		-724	-2,199	1,259	1,077
Actual Safety Valve Funding		-6,000	-2,000	-2,000	-2,000
Use of Other DSG balances		-190	-19	491	0
<b>Latest DSG position</b>	<b>12,840</b>	<b>5,926</b>	<b>1,708</b>	<b>1,458</b>	<b>535</b>
<b>Variance from Plan</b>	<b>-640</b>	<b>-4,021</b>	<b>-3,172</b>	<b>-1,444</b>	<b>535</b>

15. The updated DSG management plan shows an overall net deficit in the DSG reserve account (£535k) in 2025/26 compared to a balanced position assumed in the signed Safety Valve Agreement. This deficit has arisen due to increasing pressures currently forecast in the HNB e.g. increasing EHCP numbers; inflationary pressures; continuing placements in ISPs; and reduction in the funding transfers from schools.
16. It should be noted that DSG deficits would need to be managed within allocated DSG funds, as LAs are not allowed to cover DSG deficits using their General Fund resources.

### High Needs Budget Requirements 2024/25

17. The following table shows the proposed 2024/25 high needs budget and the number of planned EHCP numbers and SEND places for the year. The total funding requirement is £60.340M – this is more than the available resources of £59.082M resulting in a planned projected deficit of **£1.259M**.

	<b>Planned Numbers 2023/24</b>	<b>Planned Numbers 2024/25</b>	<b>Budget 2024/25 £</b>
Special Schools*	1,173	1,228	26,645,611
Primary Resource Units*	42	59	750,271
Secondary Resource Units*	70	79	1,095,764
Top Up Funding	1,196	1,252	7,700,739
Alternative Provision	166	173	4,563,232
External Residentials	11	11	1,114,553
Independent Service Providers	290	294	13,504,425
Inclusion Services	10	10	2,996,984
Other Education Services	0	0	544,284
CCP & FE Places	217	235	1,425,000
<b>Total Planned spend</b>	<b>3,175</b>	<b>3,340</b>	<b>60,340,863</b>
HNB funding allocation*			-57,862,901
Transfer from Schools Block			-1,218,618
<b>Total Funding</b>			<b>- 59,081,519</b>
<b>Planned Deficit 24/25</b>			<b>1,259,344</b>

\* Includes place funding for ESFA funded places

18. The 0.5% transfer from Schools block dampens the in-year financial pressures by £1.219M and supports the requirement to meet the Safety Valve assumptions and avoid a significant increase in the DSG deficit over this period. The other factors and risks to the management plan are the inflationary pressures, delivery of the capital programme to continue to support growth in resource centres and accessibility schemes to avoid high-cost independent sector placements and the continued growth in EHC plans. The following sections explain the key commitments and the underlying assumptions.

### Top Up funding – pre 16 mainstream schools

19. High needs top up funding represents additional funding over and above schools' core funding, to meet the additional education needs of pupils with EHCPs. The funding requirement for 2024/25 has been forecast based on the number of pupils with EHCPs on roll in schools and the existing top up funding amount assigned to each pupil. The forecast has been established from the current monthly payment schedules made to individual schools.
20. The table below shows the 24/25 top up funding requirement (for pre 16 mainstream schools) based on forecast EHCP numbers compared to 23/24. The funding variance reflects the following: one-off / non-recurrent payments made in 23/24; changing profile of pupils / complexity of needs; etc.

	2023/24	2024/25	Change
No. of EHCP pupils	1,026	1,073	+47
<b>Proposed budget</b>	<b>£6.484m</b>	<b>£6.297m</b>	<b>-£0.187m</b>

## Resource Provision

21. The approach to funding resource provision in 2024/25 will remain mainly unchanged from the preceding year i.e. 2023/24. Pre-16 places at specialist resource provision are funded at £6,000 per place plus top up funding to cover additional education support. All top up rates have been increased by 2% in 2024/25. NB schools/ academies will continue to receive £4,000 per pupil through their core resources towards meeting the needs of EHCP pupils.
22. There are 9 resource provisions in mainstream schools / academies with 138 planned places from September 2024 funded from the high needs budget. The table below details the number of planned specialist places for 2024/25 and forecast funding requirement (net of place funding provided directly by the ESFA):

<b>Resource Provision planned places:</b>	2023/24	2024/25	Change
Planned places	112	138	+26
Place funding	£0.716m	£1.270m	£0.554m
Top up funding*	£0.381m	£0.576m	£0.195m
<b>Proposed budget</b>	<b>£1.097m</b>	<b>£1.846m</b>	<b>£0.749m</b>

\* Excludes place funding provided directly by the ESFA to academies

23. There is a net increase of 26 places for the year compared to the funded position in 2023/24 mainly due to the new resource centres that will be established in four mainstream academies during the 2024/25 academic year. Additional places at current mainstream resource provision are also planned.
24. The following developments are being progressed by commissioners aimed at establishing additional resource provision from Sept 2024:
- 5 places at Winterhill School
  - 5 places at Brinsworth Whitehill
  - 5 places at Maltby Manor
  - 5 places at Thurcroft Junior



25. It is envisaged that the above would provide 20 new places from Sept 2024 and provide the flexibility to help stem placements in high cost independent and non-maintained special schools. A funding requirement of **£0.169M** (comprised of place and top up funding) has been incorporated in the proposed 2024/25 high needs budget to fund the above commitments.

### Local Special Schools

26. The funding arrangement for local special schools/academies in Rotherham for 2024/25 remains unchanged from 2023/24. Special academies receive their place funding allocations (£10,000) directly from the ESFA, with top up funding provided by the Council for each RMBC pupil on roll and adjusted based on numbers during the year.
27. The total planned places for 2024/25 is 1,228 (increase of 55 places compared to 2023/24) with an average top up funding uplift of 3.62% provided for 2024/25. The funding uplift has been determined based on the DfE Operational Guidance that requires Councils to ensure the following:
- A minimum funding guarantee (MFG) between 0% to 0.5% or higher to be considered for 2024 to 2025 compared to 2023 to 2024 funding levels.
  - Ensure the base rate includes 3.4% of their total place and top-up funding compared to 2022/23 funding.
28. The table below details the number of planned specialist places for 2024/25 and forecast funding requirement:

<b>Special school places</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>Change</b>
Planned places	1,173	1,228	55
	£M	£M	£M
Place funding**	2.971	2.395	-0.576
Top up funding	13.069	13.891	0.822
Other funding *	0.713	0.776	0.063
<b>Proposed budget</b>	<b>16.753</b>	<b>17.062</b>	<b>0.309</b>

\* teachers' pay and pension cost funding

\*\* excludes place funding provided directly by the ESFA to academies

### Alternative Provision

29. Alternative Provision refers to educational settings for pupils or the provision of education to pupils who cannot be placed in a mainstream school. It relates to educational arrangements outside mainstream schools / settings that cater to the education needs of students with SEND and includes the following:

Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)

30. The Council's provision is delivered by the Aspire Pupil Referral Unit (PRU). The following table details the number of planned PRU places for 2024/25 and forecast funding requirement:

<b>AP PRU places</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>Change</b>
Annual planned places	134	141	7
	£M	£M	£M
Place funding	1.370	1.381	0.011
Top up funding	1.219	1.283	0.064
Other funding	0.077	0.078	0.001
<b>Proposed budget</b>	<b>2.666</b>	<b>2.742</b>	<b>0.076</b>

31. The funding for the PRU includes a 4.0% inflationary uplift which covers the 2024/25 MFG and ensures the 3.4% additional funding requirement in 2022/23 is maintained (same as special schools / academies).

Outreach Services

32. In addition to the PRU, a Primary and Secondary Outreach service is currently delivered by Aspire and funded from the high needs budget. The Outreach service supports young people excluded or at the risk of exclusion from mainstream schools with a tailored package of outreach provision. The funding requirement for 2024/25 is **£0.749M**.

**Other Local Authority special schools**

33. These comprise high needs pupils and learners placed in special schools and academies in other local authorities' areas, for which the council is responsible for paying the top up funding. The funding requirement for 2024/25 (**£0.365M**) is based on the full year cost of current number of Rotherham pupils / learners (37) for the academic year.

**Independent Service Providers (ISPs)**

34. SEND pupils with challenging and complex needs that cannot be met locally are placed in independent & non maintained special schools. These consist of independent schools that are funded entirely (place and top up funding) by local authorities for all learners placed, whilst non-maintained special schools receive place funding from the ESFA (£10,000 per place), with local authorities expected to provide top up funding from its high needs block.

35. The financial challenges posed by ISPs are mainly due to the increasing number of young people placed in such specialist settings at significant cost to the LA. It is envisaged that placements in independent settings would continue in 2024/25, although it is assumed that anticipated leavers and the commissioning of new places locally would stem anticipated growth during the year.

<b>INMSS</b>	<b>2023/24 Outturn</b>	<b>2024/25 budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
Forecast learner nos.	132	132	0
<b>Proposed budget (£M)</b>	<b>8.459</b>	<b>9.909</b>	<b>1.450</b>

36. The 24/25 budget has been determined based on the full year cost of the current number of ISP placements in March 2024.

### **Post 16 provision**

37. This covers a range of providers including FE / sixth form colleges, specialist independent training providers, charity & commercial training companies, etc. Post 16 providers receive place funding directly from the Government (via an adjustment to local authorities DSG funding), whilst top up funding is provided by local authorities for each learner.
38. The funding requirement for 2024/25 (see table below) has been determined based on planned learner numbers on study programmes (including agreed growth of 4x places at Rotherham Opportunities College) and full year cost:

<b>Post 16</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>Change</b>
Annual learner nos.	158	162	4
<b>Proposed budget (£M)</b>	<b>3.115</b>	<b>3.596</b>	<b>0.481</b>

### **SEN support services & other funding**

39. This mainly relates to the SEN support services provided by the Council and funded through contributions from the high needs budget. These services mainly provide support and guidance to schools / academies in relation to pupils with SEND and includes the following:

- Hearing and visually impaired teams
- Virtual head of schools – LAC and vulnerable pupils
- SEN High- cost equipment
- Management of exclusions / EHE advisor
- Portage

- EOTAS service and Tuition
- Specialist Inclusion Team

40. The proposed budgets / funding contributions from the HNB for 2024/25 for the above services are **£3.149M**.

### **Managing the financial risks / accumulated DSG deficit**

41. An accumulated DSG deficit of **£1.470M** is currently forecast at the end of the 2024/25 financial year and is ahead of target compared to the assumption made in the Safety Valve Agreement. It is comprised of the following:
- **-£1.720M** deficit brought forward from 2023/24;
  - -£1.259M planned in-year deficit forecast for 2024/25;
  - -£0.491M planned use of Other DSG block reserve; and
  - Offset by +£2.000M safety valve payment from DfE.
42. The DSG management plan / Safety Valve Programme (inclusive of the SEND Sufficiency Strategy) is the framework for managing the demand challenges and cost pressures in the high needs block. It details the actions / measures to be implemented in 2024/25 and beyond to achieve the planned deficit as agreed in the Safety Valve Agreement.
43. The table below summarises the measures incorporated and assumed within the planned high needs budget for 2024/25:

	<b>Action Plan – High Level summary of proposed Actions</b>
<b>1</b>	Reducing reliance and placements in independent non maintained schools by increasing (and commissioning new) local specialist places
<b>2</b>	Review effectiveness of notional SEND Budget in schools
<b>3</b>	Embedding of the Graduated Response with support and challenge to schools with a developing offer at both strategic and operational level
<b>4</b>	Alignment of SEND and LAC Sufficiency programmes – cross cutting transformation projects i.e. in house residential development, DfE Short Breaks Innovation
<b>5</b>	Efficiencies arising from the improvement in outcomes and SEN support to enable more effective inclusion in schools / across the system

44. The following risks continue to exert pressure on the delivery of the DSG management plan and agreed Safety Valve Agreement. These will continue to be closely monitored throughout the year.

- Increasing inflation and provider fee rates.
- Increase in EHCP numbers and pupils in mainstream and special schools (requiring specialist support).
- Increased number of EHCP placements directed following tribunal appeals.
- Increasing numbers of requests for additional / bespoke funding from special schools

### **NAMES & CONTACT DETAILS**

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## Rotherham Schools' Forum

## Forward Plan of Agenda Items

Provisional Date of Meeting	Agenda & Reports Publication Date	Item	Lead Officer
<b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024</b>	Thursday 18th April 2024	<p>Early Education Funding Update</p> <p>Attendance, Exclusions and Suspensions Data</p> <p>PRU Numbers</p> <p>SEND Sufficiency (standing item)</p> <p>High Needs Block Operational Guidance Update</p> <p>Latest Schools/DSG outturn position 2023-24</p>	<p>Aileen Chambers</p> <p>Kelly Crompton</p> <p>Kelly Crompton</p> <p>Julien Kramer/Mark Cummins</p> <p>Joshua Amahwe/Louise Keith</p> <p>Joshua Amahwe/Louise Keith</p>
<b>Friday 21st June 2024</b>	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	<p>SEND Sufficiency (standing item)</p> <p>Reduced Timetables – Understanding and Impact</p> <p>DSG Outturn 2023/24</p> <p>Scheme for Financing Schools (Updated)</p>	<p>Kelly Crompton</p> <p>Josh Amahwe/Louise Keith</p> <p>Josh Amahwe/Louise Keith</p>

<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024</b>	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	SEND Sufficiency (standing item)	
<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024</b>	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	SEND Sufficiency (standing item)  School Funding Formula Consultation  High Needs Block Update	Joshua Amahwe/ Louise Keith  Joshua Amahwe/ Louise Keith
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025</b>	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	SEND Sufficiency (standing item)  2024/2025 Early Years Funding Formula  2024/2025 Dedicated Schools Grant School Block Funding Formula	Joshua Amahwe/ Louise Keith  Joshua Amahwe/ Louise Keith
<b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025</b>	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2025	SEND Sufficiency (standing item)	

**Items of Business to be Scheduled for Rotherham Schools' Forum:-**

High Needs Sub-Group Updates – *Reporting arrangements to be agreed following the Forum's Refresh*

Education Safeguarding – Annual Progress Report