

**Council Report**

Cabinet / Commissioners Decision Making Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> May 2016

**Title**

Childcare Sufficiency Report 2015/16

**Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?**

No

**Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Strategic Director of Education and Skills

**Report author(s):**

Name and job title: Aileen Chambers, Childcare Sustainability Manager

Directorate: CYPS

Tel and email contact: x54770 [aileen.chambers@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:aileen.chambers@rotherham.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) Affected**

All

**Executive Summary**

1. The local authority has a statutory duty under the Childcare Act (2006) to secure sufficient childcare and early education to meet the needs of parents. The duty includes a requirement to report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare, and make this report available and accessible to parents. The attached 2015/16 report has been completed and approved by the Directorate Leadership Team. Approval is now requested to circulate the report to members and make available to the public.

**Recommendations**

1. To approve the publication of the 2015/16 Childcare Sufficiency Report.

**List of Appendices Included**

Childcare Sufficiency Report 2015/16

**Background Papers**

Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities September 2014

Childcare Act 2006

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

No

**Council Approval Required**

Yes

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

**Title:      Childcare Sufficiency Report 2015/16**

**1.    Recommendations**

- 1.1 To approve the publication of the attached 2015/16 Childcare Sufficiency Report

**2.    Background**

- 2.1 The local authority have a statutory duty under the Childcare Act (2006) to secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children). The duty includes a requirement to report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare, and make this report available and accessible to parents. Local authorities are responsible for determining the appropriate level of detail in their report, geographical division and date of publication.
- 2.2 The attached Childcare Sufficiency Report 2015/16 is based on the capture of data from childcare providers in June / July 2015 as well as data on the take-up of early education in schools and additional information from the Families Information Service. The data has been presented in the report by Children's Centre reach area and includes the:
- Range of childcare provision available in Rotherham
  - Availability of childcare at unsociable hours (i.e. before 8am, after 6pm, evenings and weekends)
  - Capacity of childcare – does our existing childcare provision have enough capacity to meet demand?
  - Capacity of early education provision – is there enough capacity for all children to take up their early education entitlement?
  - Unmet demand – have there been any recorded instances of unmet demand for childcare?
- 2.3 The purpose of the attached report is to identify the current childcare sufficiency position in Rotherham, and, as well as being circulated to elected members is of interest to existing and potential childcare providers to support decisions on the creation of additional childcare in the borough to meet demand.

The Key Findings (which can be found on page 4 of the Childcare Sufficiency Report) are:

- There is a wide range of Ofsted registered childcare provision in the borough with over 85% of all Ofsted Registered childcare at 'good or outstanding' Ofsted grade.
- There is some spare childcare capacity across all areas.
- There is adequate spare capacity for all 3 / 4 year olds to take up their early education entitlement.

- There is some spare capacity for 2 year olds to take up their early education entitlement, however in some areas there would not be sufficient capacity for all eligible children to take up a place.
- There have been a small number of instances of unmet demand for out of school childcare.
- The cost of childcare in Rotherham is lower than the national average.

### **3. Key Issues**

- 3.1 The purpose of the attached report is to inform elected members, parents and childcare providers on the position of the childcare market in Rotherham.
- 3.2 The Actions to be taken following the childcare analysis are: childcare market is kept under review on an ongoing basis. Take-up of early education for 2, 3 and 4 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.
- 3.3 Supply of out of school provision varies on an ongoing basis. The majority of school pick-ups are provided by Childminders and coverage of individual schools varies depending on demand at any one time.
- 3.4 Unmet demand information will be publicised alongside early education take-up on the RMBC website to inform existing and potential providers of potential growth opportunities.

### **4. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 4.1 N/A

### **5. Consultation**

- 5.1 N/A

### **6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

- 6.1 The information within the Childcare Sufficiency Report 2015/6 will be useful for existing and potential childcare providers to influence decisions on creating new childcare / early education provision therefore a prompt decision on approval to publish would be beneficial.

### **7. Financial and Procurement Implications**

- 7.1 Funding for 2, 3 and 4 year old places is provided to the Local Authority by the Department for Education as part of the Dedicated Schools Grant. The value paid is calculated on the number of eligible children on the Early Years and Schools Census on annual basis and is adjusted mid-year.

7.2 Funding is allocated by the authority to school, private, voluntary and independent providers to ensure the authority can meet its statutory duties to provide childcare in the Borough in line with the Sufficiency Plan.

7.3 The total forecast expenditure in 2015/16 (subject to final audit verification) was £12,517,152.

## **8. Legal Implications**

8.1 To meet statutory duties local authorities should report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare, and make this report available and accessible to parents.

8.2 This report complies with Section 11 of the Childcare Act 2006.

## **9. Human Resources Implications**

9.1 N/A

## **10. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

10.1 The Childcare Sufficiency Report 2015/16 demonstrates that at that time of analysis there was adequate provision to meet needs with the exception of a small unmet demand for out of school childcare which is not reasonably practicable to amend in the short term.

10.2 The availability of sufficient, high quality childcare provision impacts on all of the CYPS priorities:

- Children and young people are healthy and safe from harm
- Children and young people start school ready to learn for life
- Children, young people and their families are ready for the world of work

## **11. Equalities and Human Rights Implications**

11.1 N/A

## **12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates**

12.1 N/A

## **13. Risks and Mitigation**

13.1 N/A

## **14. Accountable Officer(s)**

14.1 Karen Borthwick – Assistant Director Education and Skills

Approvals Obtained from:

Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services: Joanne Robertson, Finance Manager

Director of Legal Services: Named officer: Linton Steele, Solicitor Adult and Social Care & Education.

Head of Procurement (if appropriate): N/A

This report is published on the Council's website or can be found at:-

The Childcare Sufficiency Report will be published on the website as soon as it is approved.