

BRIEFING	TO:	Schools Forum
	DATE:	5 th December 2025
	LEAD OFFICER:	Aileen Chambers Head of Service Early Years and Childcare
	TITLE:	Early Years and Wraparound Expansion Update
1. Background		
1.1	This purpose of this briefing is to provide an update on the range of developments that have taken place over the last 12 months in relation to: The DfE Early Years Expansion; The DfE Wraparound Childcare Programme and the Schools Based Nurseries Programme.	
1.2	<p>Early Years Expansion: In the Spring Budget 2023 the Chancellor announced an expansion to the early years entitlements – 30 hours childcare for every child over the age of 9 months with working parents by September 2025.</p> <p>The DfE provided a small amount of capital funding to support expansion (£538k).</p> <p>It was projected that an additional 1031 places would need to be created in Rotherham to meet the projected demand.</p> <p>To date 963 new early years places have been created through expansion of existing day nurseries as well as creation of new provision.</p> <p>The Supply and Demand Projections at Appendix 1 detail the position at September 2025. There are a number of areas where it is projected that additional places will be needed for 2-year-olds and under 2's. An update of the sufficiency position in the Autumn Term is currently in progress to establish areas in need of further places for the Spring and Summer Term 2026.</p> <p>Childcare Recruitment:</p> <p>Nationally as well as locally, recruiting qualified early years staff to support the expansion has been a challenge. An early years' recruitment campaign and promotion of childminding as a career was undertaken to support with the challenge of finding qualified staff to support expansion.</p> <p>The Early Years Job Shop is a dedicated employment support initiative aimed at connecting individuals with opportunities in the childcare sector across Rotherham. Through targeted outreach, personalised guidance, and strategic partnerships, the service plays a pivotal role in addressing workforce needs while empowering individuals to pursue meaningful careers in early years education.</p> <p>The Job Shop links closely with a range of partners to maximise impact and reach. These include Family Help (formerly Early Help), the Job Centre (via drop-in sessions), Employment Solutions, South Yorkshire Careers, school careers services, the Virtual School, colleges, training providers, and apprenticeship providers. This collaborative approach ensures a comprehensive support network for job seekers and students alike.</p>	

	<p>The Early Years Job Shop also works collaboratively with students, job seekers, training providers, and childcare settings to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote employment and training opportunities within the early years sector.• Support individuals in navigating pathways into work or further education.• Strengthen the local childcare workforce through sustained recruitment efforts.															
1.3	<p>School Based Nurseries Programme</p> <p>In September 2024 the Government announced plans to deliver 3,000 nurseries by upgrading spare classrooms in primary schools.</p> <p>Four schools in Rotherham submitted successful funding bids</p> <table><tr><th>School Name</th><th>No. of Places (15 hour)</th><th>Age Range</th></tr><tr><td>Todwick Primary</td><td>80</td><td>3 year olds</td></tr><tr><td>Greasbrough Primary</td><td>32</td><td>2 year olds</td></tr><tr><td>Rockingham Primary</td><td>60</td><td>2 year olds</td></tr><tr><td>Thorpe Hesley Primary</td><td>54</td><td>2 year olds</td></tr></table> <p>In addition, the following schools have created new Foundation 1 classes:</p> <p>Aston All Saints Primary (50) Commence Sept 25 Sitwell Infant School (52) Commence Sept 25</p> <p>Phase 2 of the School Based Nurseries Programme was announced in September 2025. The deadline for applications is 11th December 2025. There is no demand for additional 3 / 4-year-olds places in the borough but applications for 2 year old and under 2's places are encouraged in a number of areas.</p>	School Name	No. of Places (15 hour)	Age Range	Todwick Primary	80	3 year olds	Greasbrough Primary	32	2 year olds	Rockingham Primary	60	2 year olds	Thorpe Hesley Primary	54	2 year olds
School Name	No. of Places (15 hour)	Age Range														
Todwick Primary	80	3 year olds														
Greasbrough Primary	32	2 year olds														
Rockingham Primary	60	2 year olds														
Thorpe Hesley Primary	54	2 year olds														
1.4	<p>Wraparound Childcare Programme: The ambition is for all parents of primary school children who need it, to be able to access childcare in their local area from 8am-6pm by September 2026. A budget of £2.3m was allocated to Rotherham in April 2024 to create over 1000 wraparound childcare places.</p> <p>Engagement of schools in this opportunity in Rotherham has been excellent. The Wraparound and Early Years Expansion Co-ordinator has liaised with strategic leaders in Academy Trusts to help raise awareness and support with implementation as well as individual Head Teachers.</p> <p>A total of 76 schools now have a full 10-hour delivery offer. 59 out of 96 mainstream schools have been supported with Wraparound funding with 1575 new places created. In summary, the offer available in Rotherham is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 76 schools out of 96 schools have a 10-hour wraparound delivery offer• All schools have a Breakfast Club – the latest start time being 8.05 am• 2 Early Adopters Breakfast Clubs• 18 schools have an after-school activity offer, ranging from finish times of 4.10 pm – 5.00 pm <p>The majority of the funding has now been allocated, however we are still actively supporting schools with applications to create wraparound places and for funding to expand their current offer further.</p>															

	Activity is underway to monitor take-up of the new places and work will continue to support schools to ensure ongoing sustainability of places.
1.5	<p>Breakfast Clubs Early Adopter Programme</p> <p>On the 27th November 2024 the DFE announced the roll out of the application process for the breakfast clubs early adopter programme in up to 750 early adopter schools from April 2025 as part of a test and learn phase in advance of national roll out.</p> <p>Early adopters will offer all primary-aged children on roll at their school, no matter their circumstances, access to a free, universal breakfast club lasting at least 30 minutes that involves food, providing children with a supportive start to the day and helping families to have more choice about work. Parents and carers can choose to take up the offer although we encourage schools to promote the offer and drive take up, particularly within disadvantaged groups.</p> <p>Two schools in Rotherham are taking part in this programme – Coleridge Primary and East Dene Primary.</p> <p>Rotherham is one of 20 local authorities to be selected for the Early Adopter’s Test and Learn group. The purpose of this group is to gather views in more detail to support the national rollout, including the role of the local authority moving forwards.</p> <p>Additional funding has been confirmed by the government with a further £80 million being invested into the free breakfast clubs programme. This will fund an additional 2,000 schools (on top of existing early adopter schools) between April 2026 and March 2027 and will benefit around 500,000 more children.</p>
4. Recommendations	
4.1	Note and approve the content of the report

Appendix 1

This is a dynamic document and will be updated regularly. For the most current version, please contact the Early Years and Childcare Service

Supply and Demand Projections 2025/26 (PTE*)

Table shows current and projected under or over supply in PTE by sufficiency area

* PTE is Part Time Equivalent (15 hour per week, term time only)

** Future demand over estimated at 80% to assess maximum demand potential

Funding age/type	% of eligible cohort used for demand projections
3 & 4 Year Olds (Funded/Universal)	100%
3 & 4 Year Olds (Extended/Working)	80%
2 Year Olds (Funded/Additional Support)	100%
2 Year Olds (Expanded/Working)	80%
Under 2 Year olds (Expanded/Working) Current	25% (Under 1's) and 60% (1 year olds)
Under 2 Year olds (Expanded/Working) Future	80%

		Current Projections				Future Projections		
		3 & 4 Year Olds 100% take up universal and 80% take up extended	2 Year Olds (Additional Support and Working 15h) 100% take up	2 Year Olds (Additional Support 15h and Working 20h) 80% take up	Under 2's (Working 80h) 80% and 60% take up	Under 2's (Working 80h) 80% take up**		
Early Help Area	Sufficiency Sub Area	Under/Over Supply Summer 2025** (PTE*)	Under/Over Supply Summer 2025 (PTE)	Under/Over Supply Autumn 2025 Projections (PTE*)	Under/Over Supply Autumn 2025 Projections (PTE*)	Under/Over Supply Future Projections (PTE*)	Schools in area	Providers in area
Arnold	Herringthorpe/East Dene/Clifton	17	18	-2	-6	-37	Arnold Nursery School and Children's Centre, Baddeley Primary School, Herringthorpe Infant School, St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Herringthorpe Junior School	Dream Catchers Nursery, Lime Tree Nursery (Herringthorpe), 2 Childrensiders
	Aughton / Aston	85	14	-8	-4	-61	Aughton Early Years Centre, Aston Fenice Junior and Infant School, Aston All Saints CofE (A) Primary School, Springwood Junior Academy, Aston Hall Junior and Infant School, Aston Lodge Primary School, Aughton Junior Academy, Swallownest Primary School	The Nursery, Swallownest Pre-School, 10 Childrensiders
	Brinsworth	15	15	-8	-22	-57	Brinsworth Whitehill Primary School, Brinsworth Manor Junior Infant School, Brinsworth Howarth Primary School, Brinsworth Manor Infant School	Just for Kids, 8 Childrensiders
	Catcliffe / Treeton	28	87	28	-1	-92	Catcliffe Primary School, Treeton Church of England Primary School, Waverley Junior Academy	Dream Catchers Day Nursery (Treeton), Railway Children Day Care Nursery, The Meadows Community Pre-School, Little Olives Day Nursery, Dream Catchers (Treeton), 4 Childrensiders
	Whiston	5	-11	-21	-10	-31	Whiston Junior and Infant School, Whiston Worrygoose Junior and Infant School	Whiston Pre-School, 5 Childrensiders
Central	Meadbrough / Bradgate / Blackburn / Dropping Well / Meadowbank / Richmond Park	92	79	40	1	-52	Blackburn Primary School, Kimberworth Community Primary School, Thornhill Primary School, Meadow View Primary School, Fenham Primary School	Little Plants Nursery Rotherham, Fenwood Day Nursery (Blackburn), 3 Childrensiders
	Greasbrough / Rockingham / Wingfield	28	78	51	-35	-67	Greasbrough Primary School, Rockingham Junior and Infant School	Tiny Tots Greasbrough, 2 Childrensiders
	Kimberworth / Kimberworth Park	10	-17	-43	-27	-60	St Bede's Catholic Primary School, Roughwood Primary School, Redscope Primary School	Kids World Kimberworth, 1 Childrensiders
	Thorp Hesley	7	17	-5	-34	-54	Wentworth CofE Junior and Infant School, Thorpe Hesley Primary School	7 Childrensiders
	East Dene/Clifton	22	15	-8	-10	-37	East Dene Primary	The Fun Hub Nursery, Clifton Playgroup, Happy Kids East Dene, 2 Childrensiders
Coleridge	Eastwood / Town Centre	-76	29	5	-30	-55	Coleridge Primary, Eastwood Village Primary School, St Ann's Primary School	Lime Tree Nursery (Eastwood), Our Ull Madinah Nursery, 3 Childrensiders
	Broom / Moorgate	81	48	17	10	-42	Broom Valley Community School, Shewell Infant School, Shewell Junior School	Bury Bees Day Nursery at Rotherham, Moorgate Daycare Nursery, Grange Kindergarten/Rising 5's, 3 Childrensiders
	Canlow	-96	-12	-22	-14	-25	Canlow Woods Primary School	
	Aston	83	48	50	34	10	Aston Greenlands Primary School, Aston Brook Primary School, Aston Hillcrest Primary School	Lime Tree Day Nursery (The Hall), 12 Childrensiders
	Dinnington / Loughton	117	10	-14	12	-44	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Dinnington Community Primary School, Aston Park Infant School, Loughton All Saints' CofE Primary School, Loughton Junior and Infant School, Aston Park Junior School	Bright Skies Day Nursery, Kiddiwinks Day Nursery, Rainbow Friends Childcare Ltd - City Limits Zone, Aston Stones Early Years, Dinnington Pre-School, 7 Childrensiders
Dinnington	Woodwards	23	-6	-7	-3	-7	Woodwards Primary School	1 Childrensiders
	Harthill / Kiveton / Wales / Todwick	25	19	-3	15	-30	Wales Primary School, Todwick Primary School, Kiveton Park Infant School, Harthill Primary School, Kiveton Park Meadows Junior School	Kiveton & Wales Nursery, Little Explorers Nursery, Todwick Early Years Ltd, Wales Woodland Nursery, Harthill Pre-School, 4 Childrensiders
	Thurcroft	25	1	-12	-8	-35	Thurcroft Junior Academy, Thurcroft Infant School	Happy Kids Thurcroft
	Bramley / Wickersley	81	34	12	10	-85	Bramley Sunnyside Infant School, Wickersley Northfield Primary School, St Alban's CofE (Aided) Primary School, Bramley Grange Primary School, Listerdale Junior Academy, Ransdenwell Primary School, Ravenfield Primary Academy, Bramley Sunnyside Junior School	Granby Nurseries LTD (Wickersley), Hopscotch, Nurtured @ Northfield, Wickersley Nursery Ltd, Wonder Years Inspirational Day Care Centre, 22 Childrensiders
	Maltby	63	53	15	24	-30	St Mary's Catholic Primary School (Maltby), Maltby Redwood Academy, Maltby Manor Academy, Maltby Lily Hall Academy, Crags Community School	All Children Great and Small Maltby, Lime Tree Early Years Centre, Once Upon A Time Nursery, Lina Preschool, 9 Childrensiders
Rawmarsh	Rawmarsh	76	18	-12	-45	-117	Rawmarsh Nursery School and Childrens Centre, Rawmarsh Rosehill Junior School, Rawmarsh Ryecroft Infant School, Rawmarsh Thorngate Junior and Infant School, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Rawmarsh Ashwood Primary School, Marlowood Primary School	Dream Catchers Nursery (Parkgate), Fenwood House Day Nursery Rawmarsh, Granby Nurseries Ltd (Parkgate), Victoria Park Hall Day Nursery, 5 Childrensiders
Swinton	Swinton / Kilmhurst	124	-45	-69	36	-31	Swinton Queen Primary School, Swinton Fitzwilliam Primary School, Kilmhurst Primary School, Rawmarsh Sandhill Primary School, Kilmhurst St Thomas' CofE Primary Academy, Brookfield Junior Academy	All Children Great And Small, Fenwood House Day Nursery Swinton, Piccadilly Pre-school, 4 Childrensiders
	Wath	111	92	88	61	17	Our Lady and St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Wath Victoria Primary School, Wath Church of England Primary School, Wath Central Primary School	Deanne Valley Day Nursery, Fenwood House Day Nursery Wath Upon Dearne, Tiny Tots Day Nursery, 6 Childrensiders
	Brampton/West Merton South / West	14	-7	-29	12	-17	Brampton Hills CofE Primary School, Brampton Cortonwood Infant School, Highfield Farm Primary School	West Merton Early Years, The Lime Trees @ Cortonwood, 2 Childrensiders
Thybergh	Thybergh / Dalton	116	31	3	6	-30	St Gerard's Catholic Primary School, Thybergh Primary School, Trinity Croft CofE Primary Academy, Thybergh Fullerton Church of England Primary Academy, High Greave Junior School, High Greave Infant School, Foljambe Primary School	Happy Kids Dalton, Lime Tree Day Nursery (Thybergh), Happy Kids Thybergh, 2 Childrensiders
Borough Total		1177	609	49	-28	-1070	Provides 2 year old places. Schools without P1	