

Slough Childcare Sufficiency Assessment



2022 – 2023

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Background

The Childcare Act 2006 and 2016 and the associated statutory guidance for local authorities on [Early Education and Childcare, March 2017](#) requires Slough Borough Council (the Local Authority) to secure sufficient childcare, as 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 is detailed in the following sections of the Acts:

Childcare Act 2006

Section 6 secures sufficient childcare for parents;

Section 7 secures early years provision free of charge;

Section 7A discharges its duty;

Section 9 gives local authorities the power to attach requirements to the arrangements they make with providers (other than the governing body of a maintained school) to deliver childcare including free early years provision;

Section 9a allows regulations to be made which prescribe the requirements local authorities may or may not impose when they make arrangements;

Section 12 provides information, advice and assistance to parents about childcare in the area;

Section 13 secures the provision of information, advice and training to childcare providers and childcare workers

Childcare Act 2016

Section 1 places a duty on the secretary of state to secure the equivalent of 30 hours free childcare over 38 weeks of the year for qualifying children;

Section 2 allows the secretary of state to discharge her duty under section 1 of the Act by placing a duty on English local authorities to secure free childcare for qualifying children;

To secure sufficient childcare places, local authorities should take into account:

- what is 'reasonably practicable' when assessing what sufficient childcare means for their area.
- the state of the local childcare market, including the demand for specific types of providers in a particular locality and the amount and type of supply that currently exists.
- the state of the labour market including the sufficiency of the local childcare workforce.
- the quality and capacity of childcare providers and childminders registered with a childminder agency, including their funding, staff, premises, experience and expertise.
- what schools in their area are offering or able to offer for out-of-hours childcare from 8.00am until 6.00pm and in school holidays.
- if existing providers are able to expand their provision and what new providers are going to enter the local childcare market; and
- if providers take a sustainable business approach to planning and signpost providers to resources to support them.

The Local Authority is responsible for determining the appropriate level of detail in the report, geographical division and date of publication. However, the report should include:

- a specific reference to how we are ensuring there is sufficient childcare available to meet the needs of: children with special educational needs and disabilities; children from families in receipt of the childcare element of Working Tax Credit or Universal Credit; children with parents who work irregular hours; children aged two, three and four taking up free places; school age children; and children needing holiday care.
- Information about the current and projected supply and demand of childcare for particular age ranges of children, and the affordability, accessibility and quality of provision; and
- Details of how any gaps in childcare provision will be addressed.

In addition, the Local Authority is required by legislation to maintain a service that provides information, to parents and prospective parents on the provision of childcare in their area, as listed in Schedule 1 of the Childcare Act 2006 and from 1st September publish this information electronically on the local authority website and update it, at a minimum termly on 1st January, 1st April and 1st September, ensuring parents are aware of:

- Early education places for two, three and four year olds;
- The option to continue to take up their child's 15 hour early education place until their child reaches compulsory school age;
- How to identify high quality provision in their area.

Introduction

The Slough Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) refresh provides an overview of the childcare market in Slough and covers the period from autumn 2021 to autumn 2022.

The context within which an early years and childcare sufficiency assessment is compiled can fluctuate considerably from year to year. The early years sector is demonstrably volatile within relatively short timescales, making place planning more complex and necessitating on-going processes.

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient places for every child eligible for Free Early Education. These places are developed and offered by providers who respond to localised changes in demand, recruitment and retention issues, rent increases, competition and new national initiatives by altering their offer.

It is impossible to predict how the local early years and childcare market will look in the next year. There are still many uncertainties following the global pandemic which continue to impact on the local economy such as:

- Rising business rates or rent costs
- increased costs of food and supplies,
- fuel costs,

- inflation rates which stood at 10.1% in August 2022

Demand for childcare and in particular 2, 3 and 4 year old and 30 hours places are highly dynamic and is likely to fluctuate as we continue go through this recovery phase.

The trends in take up of Early Years and Childcare are still unstable and the scale of this impact continues to develop, especially in conjunction with Brexit, the war in Ukraine, and rising inflation.

Flexible working- working from home and hybrid working has reduced the number of places being taken up.

The number of claimants of Universal Credit is falling and therefore the number of claimants eligible for 2 year old funding is on the decline. (source: DWP Universal Credit official statistics)

Childcare providers are continuing to rebuild their businesses in what is still seen to be the recovery phase of the pandemic, making decisions on their viability and sustainability which will impact the local market.

The objectives are to produce a baseline of childcare sufficiency in Slough during 2022, mapping the supply, demand and any gaps in provision. The report will include an overview of participation of 2,3 and 4 year old and 30 hours funded places.

- Number of providers and places by type of provision.
- Costs of provision.
- Rising numbers of children with SEND accessing places.
- Workforce, including recruitment and retention and training needs.
- Overview of general demand.

Supply information has been gathered using the provider annual audit which was completed at the end of the Autumn Term. All providers were contacted electronically in to update their participation and vacancy information specifically regarding funded early education places.

We have drawn on other data to inform this refresh including:

- Early Years and School census January 2022
- ONS Census 2021
- Slough Borough Council Housing Strategy
- Family Information Service statistics
- [Statistics: Early Years and Childcare](#)

Policy direction

There are a number of policy initiatives that continue to be influential through 2021 – 2022 that impact on the childcare market and provision of places. These include:

- National Living Wage
- Tax Free Childcare
- Free 30hrs Childcare Extended Entitlement
- Free 2 year old funding entitlement
- Early Years National Funding Formula

- Increase in national minimum wage / national living wage
- Increase in rent/ mortgage amount
- Increase in energy costs
- Increase in the cost of food and consumables
- Increase in staffing costs due to an increase in the number of children needing additional support
- Increase in staffing costs due to the need for agency staff
- Increase in salaries due to inflation
- Decrease in number of children attending

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment will focus on the impact of these policy changes and external issues specifically on the increase in demand for new early years and childcare places across the borough.

Executive Summary

When concluding childcare sufficiency in Slough we need to consider the multi-faceted layers of supply, demand and local and national influences. Place planning for early years is based on the number of places, by age, in the right location, with the right mix of flexible offers, meeting the needs of children and their families. The market can fluctuate considerably from year to year which makes place planning more complex. There continues to be many uncertainties that impact on the sectors viability, and it is through ongoing working relationships with providers that we must aim to mitigate impact on children and their families.

In Slough there is a mixed economy of providers who each offer a range of services, and this can be somewhat directed by the different demographics with in the town. The trends in participation can vary from one Children's Centre Area to another, for instance the Romsey Close Children's Centre Area have a much higher proportion of families accessing fee paying childcare provision compared to neighbouring Children's Centre Areas such as Vicarage Way and Yew Tree Road. This area therefore requires a higher degree of 'childcare providers' offering full day care all year round. Chalvey Grove Children's Centre Area has the highest number of under 5 year olds living in the area, yet the take up of funded early education for 2 year olds is low and there is little demand for childcare. It can therefore be concluded that the best way to ensure sufficient early years and childcare across the town is to provide analysis by the 10 Children Centre Areas.

It is increasingly difficult for the early years sector to provide a large number of places for children under 2 years old due to the high staff to child ratio (1 to 3) and affordability. Predicting the take up of childcare for this age group is also difficult to assess as some families opt to access informal childcare with family and friends and this can vary from year to year. Ongoing consultation with parents will help to inform this area for future Childcare Sufficiency Assessments. Since 2019/20 Slough has seen a slight decrease of 25 places for under 2 year olds and although settings have

reported a waiting list of 31 babies wanting a place in the Autumn term 2022 the Family Information Service did not experience a high number of enquiries from families stating that they were unable to find a placement. It is known that parents will put their child's name down at a number of settings to ensure that they get a place with at least one provider. Therefore, it can be concluded that there is not a need to develop more places for children under 2 years old. The monitoring of places for children under 2 will continue, particularly in line with national changes such as government policy relating to maternity/paternity, funded early education and help with childcare costs. Where new large housing development is planned in Slough, under 2 year old places will be considered within a new nursery build.

Looking at the data analysis of 2 year old places available in the borough, take up of fee paying places and funded early education for 2 year olds, it appears that there is a shortfall of 60 places. However, there were some vacant spaces for 2 year olds across the whole of Slough in Autumn 2022. When considering these vacancies, we can assume that the actual surplus is 49 places. The deficit of places are in **Chalvey Grove, Elliman Avenue, Penn Road, Yew Tree Road and Vicarage Way**.

Slough's participation rates for funded 2 year olds (55% Autumn 2022) is below the national average of 72%. In real terms, an increase of 100 children receiving 2 year old funding (from 305 to 405 children) is required to hit the national average percentage. In order to increase take up further work needs to be done with the sector to increase the numbers of places they are offering for 2 year olds. This work will focus on business sustainability of existing providers to ensure that it is financially viable to offer more spaces for 2 year olds and increase the workforce. A targeted approach will be needed in the 5 areas currently showing a deficit of places for this age group.

There will also need to be another marketing campaign to support an increase in the percentage of families taking up the offer. This will include raising awareness of the benefits of early education and supporting families to find the right provision for their child.

Take up of 3 & 4 year old funding starts low in the Autumn term (62%) and increases in the summer term (91%). Providers are required to make adjustments throughout the year to accommodate more children as the year progresses. This could mean employing more staff or having to pay staff who are not actually part of the ratios at the beginning of the year, making financial planning important. Looking at the data for 3 & 4 year olds there appears to be a shortfall of places, but when vacancies are added there is a surplus of places of 69 across the whole of Slough. When split into areas the deficit of 3 & 4 year old places are in **Orchard Avenue, Chalvey Grove, Penn Road, Yew Tree Road and Vicarage Way Children's Centre Areas**.

When considering new development of early years provision, we should look at the difference between registered places and actual places being offered. There is a difference of 1,214 places across the borough, providers are offering less spaces than they are registered to. Settings are reporting the closure of rooms and the capping of numbers due to staff shortages (recruitment and retention) and/or financial stability. PVI settings are also reported a total of 273 children on their waiting lists in Autumn 2022, but they also reported that they have additional capacity to provide more spaces across all age groups but current issues with recruitment and retention is impacting their ability to expand and work to registered capacity.

Children's Centre Areas that have a deficit of 2 and/or 3&4 year old places	Surplus/Deficit of 2 year old places by area	Surplus/Deficit of 3&4 year old places by area	Total number of places by area	Actual places available	Number of registered places**	Variance-additional places not currently being offered	Surplus/Deficit overall
Monksfield Way	31	147	146	459	483	24	170
Orchard Avenue	14	-214	-216	384	626	242	26
St. Andrew's Way	17	28	45	434	540	106	151
Chalvey Grove	-33	-79	-112	568	702	134	22
Elliman Avenue	-36	58	22	507	516	9	31
Penn Road	-1	-87	-120	296	396	100	-20
Wexham Road	2	269	259	664	782	118	377
Yew Tree Road	-38	-264	-302	428	472	44	-258
Romsey Close	103	274	377	872	1,241	369	746
Vicarage Way	-10	-63	-86	124	192	68	-18
Total	49	69	13	4,736	5,950	1,214	1,227

Initially there appears to be deficit of places in 5 CCA however when consideration is given to actual registered places there is 3 areas that could need further development, Penn Road, Yew Tree Road and Vicarage Way CCA. The shortfall of places is most significant in Yew Tree Road CCA.

Between 2021 – 2022 PVI settings reported that staff leaving the sector were leaving to work in other industries, 16% of staff were finding better salary/ benefits in other roles, 14% citing a change of career and 14% staff moving on to work in schools. There were 54 job vacancies in the PVI sector in Autumn 2022, 20 were for Level 3 qualified staff and 28% of PVI nurseries had vacancies for apprentices. Nationally it is reported that there are challenges in the early years sector with recruitment and retention. Further work needs to be done to coordinate a sector wide workforce strategy, with a focus on recruiting / attracting qualified staff and encouraging partnership with local FE colleges, schools and training providers, providing work-based learning and apprenticeships. In order to maximise the number of registered places the sector needs to recruit more qualified practitioners.

In Autumn 2022 there were 86 registered childminders in Slough, of which 72 are actively working. The highest drop in registered providers is childminders, going from 109 in 2020 to 86 in 2022, a loss of 23. Nationally there is an ongoing decrease in the number of registered childminders. Future recruitment and retention work is required to raise and retain the number of childminders in certain areas of Slough, particularly in the centre of town.

The number of children presenting with SEND has risen from 866 in 2020-21 to 2,380 in 2021-22, an increase of 175%. The number of children presenting with SEND in Autumn 2022 only currently stands at 1,924. Should this level continue into the spring and summer terms we could be expecting the annual number to be well over 5,000. Overall 39% of children attending an early years setting in the period September 2021- August 2022 were identified by settings as having a range of special educational needs or disability.

Chalvey Grove CCA identified 10% of children attending in the period September 2021- August 2022 as having Specialist Educational Support this was the highest percentage across all CCAs.

Monksfield Way CCA reported having 23% of children attending in the period September 2021- August 2022 classed as vulnerable requiring universal support and Vicarage Way CCA reported the highest percentage of children attending (49%) who were classed as vulnerable requiring specialist support.

In order to support the early years sector with the increasing number of children with SEND, further targeted work is needed to upskill the workforce and increase specialist skill sets. In total 67 early years workforce members across the sector have been trained in Makaton levels 1 & 2 during 2022. The annual provider audit showed a willingness across the sector to engage with further training of staff and access to qualifications, including SEND specific development. An increase in a

skilled workforce will impact on increased capacity particularly for children with SEND. This will in time support retention of staff and inclusive practice (providing more skilled staff to work with children with SEND) and upskilling staff to adapt whole provision to be truly inclusive.

The average cost of an early years/childcare place for under 2 year olds in PVI settings is £7.22, this is £1.38 more than the south-east average for a part-time place. The average cost of an early years/childcare place for under 2 year olds with a childminder is between £5.50- £6.50p per hour. The south-east average for a part time place £5.84, full time £5.68. Therefore a place for children under 2 years old in Slough is likely to cost less with a childminder.

The average cost of an early years/childcare place for 2 year olds in PVI settings is £7.02, this is £1.42 more than the south-east average for a part time place and £1.08 more than the early years funding in Slough.

The average cost of an early years/childcare place for 3 & 4 year olds in PVI settings is £6.05, this is £0.77 more than the south-east average for a part time place and £0.40 more than the early years funding in Slough.

The private fees in Slough are more comparable to London borough's rather than the south-east averages, as are the business costs such as rental fees, rates, consumables and rates of pay for staff. It is anticipated that rental costs and business rates will increase in April 2023 at the same time as an increase in national minimum and living wage and rising energy costs. Although 78% of PVI providers and 79% of school nursery classes felt that their business was sustainable in the short term, a higher percentage are uncertain about their medium to long term sustainability. Business and financial forecasting will be key to ensuring sufficient early years and childcare places in the future in Slough.

Slough has seen a drop in the number of provides offering out of school provision since the last CSA report. This was mainly due to the changes in parental work patterns since the pandemic, with providers stating that demand for afterschool and holiday provision had decreased considerably. The Holiday, Activities and Food Programme began in 2021 offering holiday provision for children in receipt of free school meals. During the Easter and Summer holidays 2022 1,654 children, accessed the HAF programme, with many providers also offered places for fee paying children. The availability of holiday provision has therefore grown as a result of the HAF programme offering a variety of activities and childcare for families.

Where there is still demand for afterschool provision childminders continue to offer a wrap around service and in some areas of the borough further development is required to meet the needs of working families. A targeted approach working with schools is required and close monitoring of increases in demand needs reviewing to ensure a balanced approach.

Key findings

Population figures for 0 - 4 year olds living in Slough

- The number of births in Slough have been declining and are forecasted to continue with this trend.
- The most significant factor affecting demand for places is the number of births in Slough.
- Overall, the Elliman Avenue Children's Centre area saw the biggest decrease (42), however every area saw a decrease in birth rates apart from the Orchard Avenue Children's Centre Area.

Early Years Foundation Stage Data 2022 and quality

- 65.2 % of children in England achieved a GLD in 2022 and 65.1 % of children in Slough achieved a GLD. In previous years (excluding 2019/20 and 2020/21 as data collections were cancelled due to the pandemic) Slough was on a consistent upward increase and GLD was 2.5% above national average in 2018/19.
- Slough girls exceeded the national average by 1.6% and Slough boys were below the national average by 1.8%
- The quality of childcare in Slough is high. The percentage of settings in receipt of a full inspection judged to be good or outstanding was 99.2% against a national average of 96.3%.

Under 2 year olds

- Since 2019/20 there has been a slight decrease in the number of places for under 2 year olds across Slough of 25 places.
- Providers are not reporting specific demand for places for children under 2 years old and they are not reporting children on their waiting lists requiring a space which they cannot offer.

2 year old funding

- Based on data from the Annual Provider Audit, we expect there to be fee paying 2 year olds taking up 33% of the 2 year old places available.
- Based on the November 2022 DWP list it is expected that 31% of the 2 year old population is eligible to take up a funded 2 year old place (637)
- In 2019 Orchard Avenue and Penn Road Children's Centres saw the highest percentage of eligible 2 year olds but in 2022 Chalvey Grove and Yew Tree Road Children's Centres saw the highest percentage.
- Chalvey Grove Children's Centre area continues to have the highest number of 2 year olds living in the borough.
- The number of 2 year old places being offered across Slough is 861

- Headcount data for Autumn 2022 shows that 55% of funded 2 year olds were accessing a place.
- Vicarage Way children's centre area has the lowest number of places for 2 year olds.

3 & 4 year old universal funding (15 hours, 38 weeks per year)

- Indicative figures show that participation rates are approximately 62% for the autumn term 2022, historically, the autumn term has the lowest take up.
- The take up in the summer term 2022 was 91%. Based on this, the take up in 3 areas is higher than the number of eligible children in the CCA, Monksfield Way, Romsey Close and Wexham Road.
- Current number of places available across Slough is 3,486
- We can see that some areas of Slough there are more places than are actually required according to birth data, such as Monksfield Way, Elliman Avenue, Wexham Road and Romsey Close however in some of these areas there are more children than expected accessing their universal entitlement. This illustrates that parents are willing to travel into the different areas in order to access a funded place.

Extended Entitlement – 30 hours childcare

- It is forecast that 1,594 places would be required in Slough in 2022 for the extended entitlement – 30 hours childcare.
- In autumn 2022, 610 children were accessing the extended entitlement in Slough.

Gaps in provision

- 7 settings have opened, and 27 settings have closed, taking the number of settings from 210 to 190. The main loss was in the childminder sector, where numbers have dropped from 109 to 86, a loss of 23.
- Slough has seen a decrease in early years and childcare places of 1,612 from the previous assessment, a drop of 25.39%.
- Based on population size and local knowledge we are identifying insufficient places in one area of the town. However, as previously stated Slough has lost net 20 settings since the last CSA so this needs to be carefully observed and monitored.
- There appears to be a shortfall of 2 year old places across the whole of the borough of 60, however there reported to be vacant spaces in some areas. Therefore it could actually been viewed that there is an actual surplus of places of 49.
- There is a deficit of 2 year old places in Chalvey Grove, Elliman Avenue, Penn Road, Yew Tree Road and Vicarage Way.

- Looking at the data for 3 & 4 year olds there appears to be a shortfall of places, but when vacancies are added there is a surplus of places of 14 across the whole of Slough.
- The deficit of 3 & 4 year old places is in Orchard Avenue, Chalvey Grove, Penn Road Children's Centre Areas
- The difference between registered places and places currently being offered is 849. A number of providers have reported closing rooms / capping numbers due to staff shortages (recruitment and retention) and/or financial stability.
- PVI settings reported a total of 273 children on their waiting lists in Autumn 2022, but they also reported that they have additional capacity to provide more spaces across all areas. It could therefore be concluded that there are other considerations such as the additional staff required.

Childminders

- There are currently 86 registered childminders in Slough, of which 72 are actively working.
- The highest drop in registered providers is childminders, going from 109 in 2020 to 86 in 2022, a loss of 23.
- Nationally there is an ongoing decrease in the number of registered childminders.
- Future recruitment and retention work is required to raise and retain the number of childminders in certain areas of Slough.
- Since 2020 Slough has seen a 21.16% decrease in the number of places offered by childminders.

Holiday, Activities and Food Programme

- HAF ran in the Easter 2022 and Summer 2022 school holidays, offering activities and food to 1,654 children.
- In total 1,114 primary aged and 540 secondary aged children engaged in the programme.

Cost

- The average cost of an early years / childcare place for under 2 year olds in PVI settings is £7.22 and childminders is £5.50- £6.50p per hour. The south-east average for a part time place £5.84, full time £5.68
- The average cost of an early years/childcare place for 2 year olds in PVI settings is £7.02. The south-east average for a part time place £5.60, full time £5.37
- The average cost of an early years/childcare place for 3 & 4 year olds in PVI settings is £6.05. The south-east average for a part time place £5.28, full time £5.24

- Settings reported in the annual audit that they were concerned about the national minimum and living wage rises, along with the rising energy costs and the cost of food and consumables and the impact on their business.
- PVI settings were asked about their business rates. The average cost for PVI settings in business rates was £13,410.00, with the highest being £20,000 per annum. Looking at this data only, it appears that a large proportion of settings would not be affected. However, it should be expected that rent costs will increase in line with rising business rates.

Workforce Development

- PVI settings reported that 16% of staff were finding better salary/ benefits in other roles, 14% citing a change of career and 14% staff moving on to work in schools.
- There were 54 job vacancies in the PVI sector in Autumn 2022, 20 were for Level 3 qualified staff.
- 14% of PVI settings stated they had apprentices and 28% had vacancies for apprentices.
- The percentage of male staff in the sector is 2.1% of the total workforce. This was previously 2.8%
- There is a total of 521 practitioners working in the early years sector in Slough (Autumn 2022).
- In total 67 early years workforce members across the sector have been trained in Makaton levels 1 & 2 during 2022
- 76% of PVI providers have a training and CPD budget for the year and 21% said that this was an increased budget compared to the previous year.
- 75% of school based nurseries reported having a training and CPD budget and 84% said that this has stayed the same compared to the previous year.
- The annual provider audit showed a willingness across the sector to engage with further training of staff and access to qualifications. An increase in a skilled workforce will impact on increased capacity particularly for children with SEND. This will in time support retention of staff and inclusive practice (providing more skilled staff to work with children with SEND) and upskilling staff to adapt whole provision to be truly inclusive.
- Two settings reported that they felt they have not met the needs of parents and carers well. The reason for this was that they were unable to offer a place due to staffing levels. Settings reported that there were insufficient staff numbers to keep up with demand.

Special Educational Needs and Disability

- The number of children presenting with SEND has risen from 866 in 2020-21 to 2,380 in 2021-22, an increase of 175%

- The number of children presenting with SEND in Autumn 2022 only currently stands at 1,924. Should this level continue into the spring and summer terms we could be expecting the annual number of children to be well over 5,000.
- 39% of children attending an early years setting in the Autumn 2022 were identified by settings as having a range of special educational needs or disability.
- 1430 of children attending an early years setting required universal or additional support when accessing certain activities. The highest percentage is seen Elliman Avenue with 48%
- This shows that 646 of children attending an early years setting required Targeted support, and the highest percentage was in Chalvey Grove and Elliman Avenue 16%
- 410 of children attending an early years setting could be identified as having complex needs, the highest percentage in Monksfield Way and Elliman Avenue, 13%
- 182 children attending an early years setting is identified as having Specialist Educational Support, the highest percentage in Chalvey Grove, 10%
- 660 children attending an early years setting were classed as vulnerable requiring universal support. The highest percentage against number on roll was Monksfield Way, 23%
- 334 children attending an early years setting were classed as vulnerable requiring specialist support. The highest percentage based on number on roll was Vicarage Way with 49%

Key focus 2023/24	Key actions 2023/24
Ensure Sufficiency Information is maintained and current	To continue to carry out termly sufficiency tracking (supply and demand), identifying areas where sufficiency may be at risk and reporting to the Divisional Leadership Team.
Increasing the take up of 2 year old FEE places and the take up of 15 and 30 hour places for 3 & 4 year olds in all areas.	To continue to work with Corporate Communications to continually develop and promote 'the support with childcare costs marketing strategy' and social media posts. Broker vacant places, supporting parents to find suitable early years and childcare provision for their children.
To improve expertise in SEND by increasing the number of staff with an accredited SENCO qualification in early years settings.	To promote the Level 3 SENCO Qualification and supporting setting SENCOs to obtain this qualification which was a proposal within SEND Green Paper - SEND Review: Right support, Right place, Right time: March 2022. Develop and establish the delivery of an Early Years Inclusion and Transition tool kit to support the early years sector.
To promote the different ways all childcare providers can make their fees more affordable to parents at all income levels. This will include providing information to parents and providers about Tax Free Childcare, the Childcare Element of Universal Credit and Tax Credit.	Secure business support training and CPD opportunities for all providers, including workshops and one to one support. Market 'Help with Childcare Costs' to the sector and families.
To continue aiming for 100% of all types of settings to have a good or better Ofsted judgment, with an increased percentage of outstanding provision.	To continue to provide information, advice and training to childcare providers.
Continue to raise awareness of the HAF programme with families, stakeholders and partners.	To explore how the HAF programme can continue its growth within the allocated budget. This would include ensuring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the amount of provision by area is determined upon demand and by areas of deprivation • the best use of funding is made when agreeing on future premises and their associated rental costs. Whilst continuing to promote the Holiday, Activities and Food programme for eligible families and support providers to offer 'childcare' places where there is demand.

<p>Continue to support childcare providers to deliver high quality, sustainable provision. Monitor national and local developments to support market management information, including new development opportunities.</p>	<p>Target areas in need of childminder development. Work with the out of school sector, early years sector and new providers to ensure provision meets parents’ needs, offering greater choice and flexibility. Approach providers where sufficiency gaps are identified to explore expansion of existing provision, especially in central Slough. Work with the sector to explore new development opportunities particularly when vacant and appropriate spaces become available. To work with colleagues in school place planning and the council’s planning department to identify Section 106 Education contributions to support the development of early years provision.</p>
<p>Increase GLD in Slough</p>	<p>To work more closely with providers to improve outcomes for children in respect of GLD.</p>
<p>Increase the workforce including qualified staffing capacity</p>	<p>Develop an Early Years workforce strategy that supports the sector, to recruit appropriately qualified staff and encouraging “home grown” staff in partnership with local FE colleges, schools and training providers, work-based learning and apprenticeships.</p>
<p>Support the increasing numbers of children with SEND accessing provision in Slough</p>	<p>Provide additional and targeted support for providers who need to change their operating models to accommodate changing parents’ needs, such as the rising numbers of children with SEND, to remain viable.</p>

Demographics

Slough is an urban town in the east of Berkshire, approximately 20 miles west of central London. It is home to 47,200 children and young people, 11,800 of which are aged 0-4. Out of a total population of approximately 158,500, this equates to 29.8% being below the age of 19, making the population of Slough significantly younger than the average for south east local authorities which stands at 23.1%. The average for our Berkshire neighbours stands at 24.2%, still significantly lower than Slough. Our 0-4 year olds are 7.4% of the population, higher than our Berkshire neighbours at 5.5% and south east local authorities at 5.1%

The borough also includes a higher proportion of young adults aged 25-44 of 6.7% against the south east average of 5.5%, suggesting a large number of young families are resident.

In previous years, Slough had traditionally high employment and a fast growing economy, but its unemployed claimant rate is higher now than it was pre-Covid. The

claimant rate is 5% and is gradually improving, but still higher than the pre-pandemic level of 3.0% and the national average of 3.7%

Slough is one of the most ethnically diverse towns in the UK, with 32% of Slough residents born outside the UK and the EU, and 15.8% having been resident in the UK for less than 10 years.

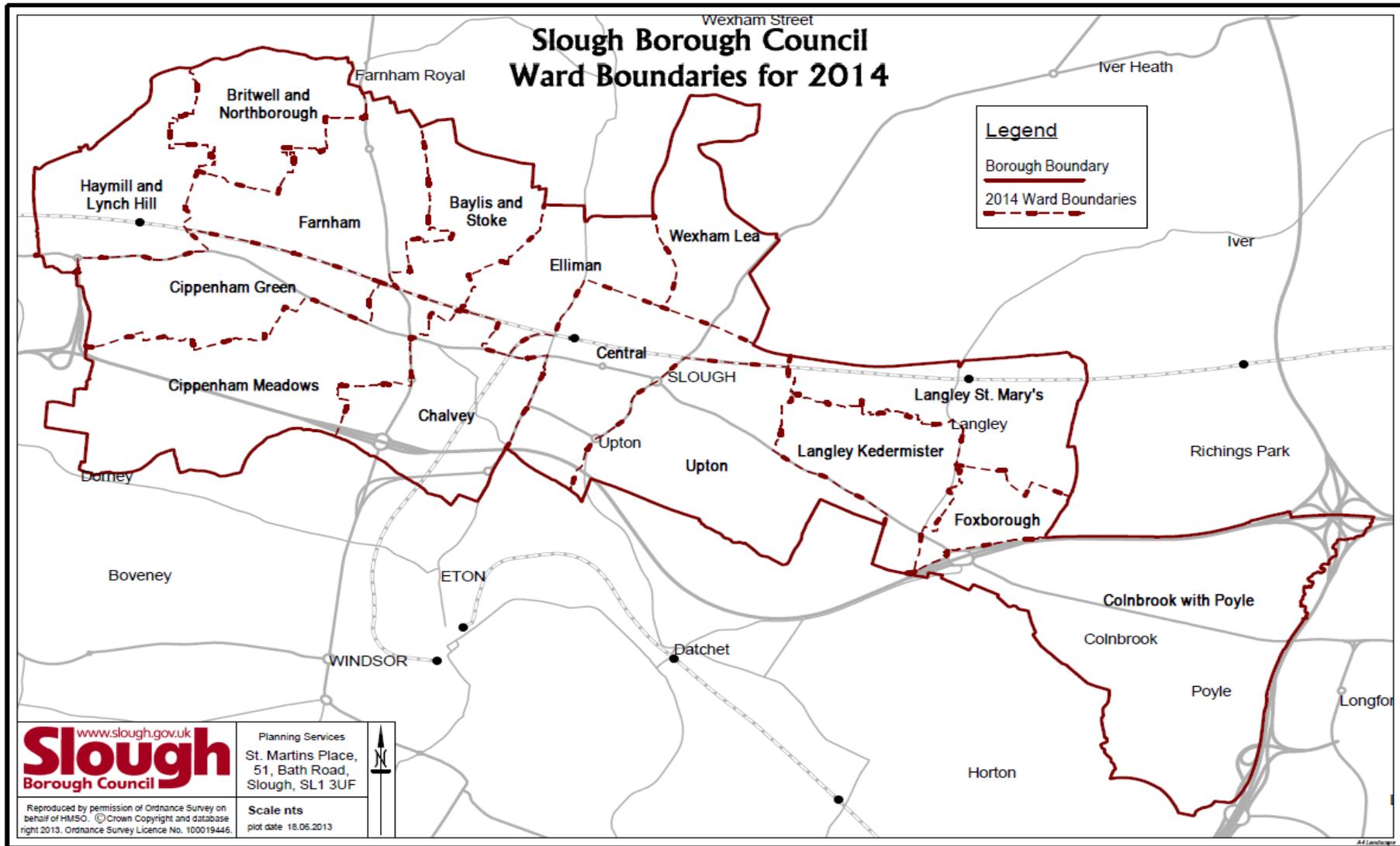
(Source: ONS Census 2021)

Slough unitary authority area was ranked 74th out of the 317 English local authorities for deprivation in the 2019 Indices of Deprivation, significantly more deprived than other Berkshire areas: Reading (140th), Bracknell Forest (282nd), West Berkshire (288th), Windsor and Maidenhead (302nd) and Wokingham (316th).

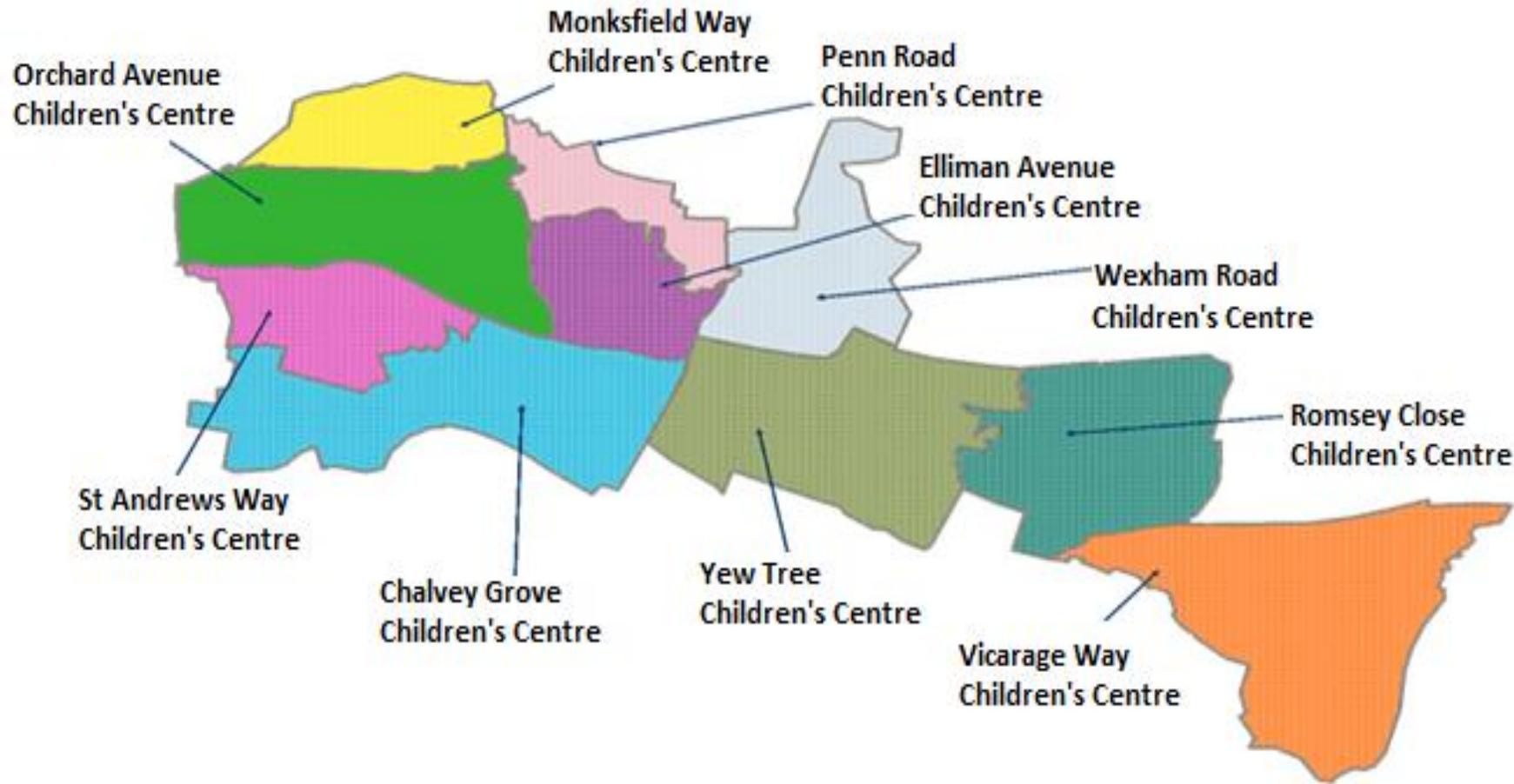
(Source: MHCLG English Indices of Deprivation 2019)

Overview

- Slough is made up of 14 wards
- It is bisected by the A4 (connecting Bath to London) and the Great Western Main line.
- It covers an area of 32.54 km² and is approx. 20 miles west of central London.



The Slough Early Years Service works across 10 Children’s Centre areas (CCA) which do not align with the ward boundaries of the borough. The map below shows how Slough is split into the 10 Children’s Centre areas which, when originally defined, were based on each area having equal numbers of under 5 year olds and aligned to Super Output Areas.

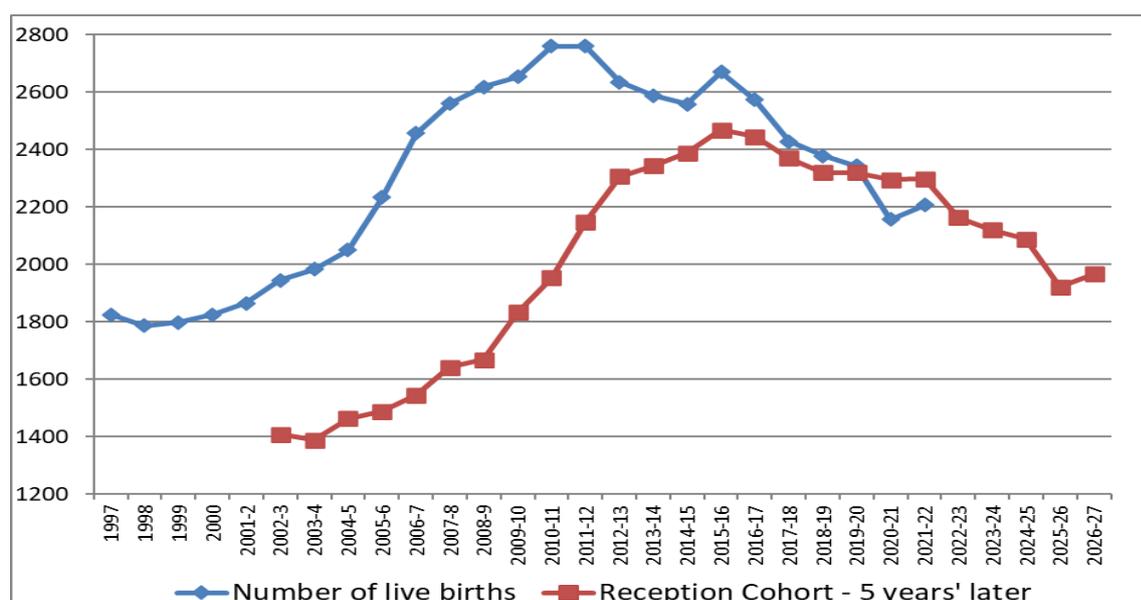


Population

The ONS birth data shows that the decreasing trend reported in the number of births during 2019 – 2020 across Slough has continued, with a further net drop of 251 in birth rates in 2020-21. Overall, the Elliman Avenue Children’s Centre area saw the biggest decrease (42), however every area saw a decrease in birth rates apart from the Orchard Avenue Children’s Centre Area.

CCA	5 years 2017-18	4 years 2018-19	3 years 2019-20	2 years 2020-21	Variance 2019-20 to 2020-21
Chalvey Grove	499	366	338	320	-18
Elliman Avenue	336	229	245	203	-42
Monksfield Way	157	146	156	125	-31
Orchard Avenue	138	209	189	190	1
Penn Road	180	197	181	147	-34
Romsey Close	335	297	265	256	-9
St. Andrews Way	134	189	203	185	-18
Vicarage Way	97	114	113	77	-36
Wexham Road	158	256	264	225	-39
Yew Tree Road	394	376	323	298	-25
	2428	2379	2277	2026	-251

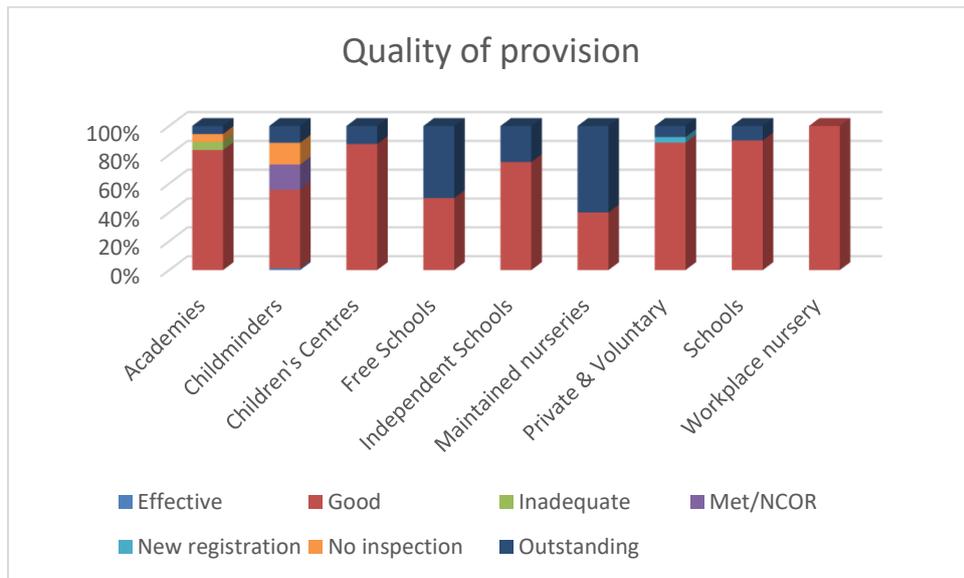
The most significant factor affecting demand for places is the number of births in Slough. The graph below shows the number of births each year since 1997. Numbers rose steadily from 1999 until 2010-11 and 2011-12 when numbers were at their peak. Since then, the trend for birth numbers has been reducing and are forecasted to continue to decline.



Sources: ONS live birth data and School Census

Quality of childcare

The quality of childcare in Slough is high.

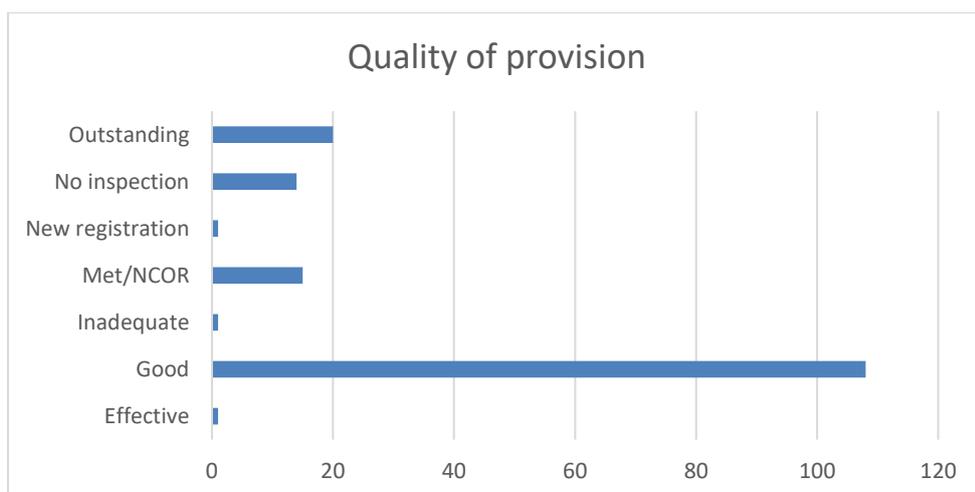


Of the 160 settings, 1 setting was effective, 1 was a new registration, 14 had yet to be inspected and 15 were met with no children on roll. There were 20 outstanding settings, 108 good settings and 1 inadequate setting.

In 2022 there were 2 childminders deemed to be Inadequate. Both have since been re-inspected and now rated Good.

1 childminder was rated Requires Improvement but has now been re-inspected and rated Outstanding.

The percentage of early years providers with a full inspection in Slough judged to be good or outstanding in Autumn 2022 was 99.2%. The national average was 96.3%.



EYFS Profile data

The 2019/20 and 2020/21 data collections were cancelled due to the pandemic.

This table shows the attainment of Slough boys and girls in 2022. It shows us that for GLD (Good level development)

- as a whole Slough was 0.1% below the national average of 65.2%
- Slough girls exceeded the national average by 1.6%
- Slough boys were below the national average by 1.8%

For the % at expected level across all Early Learning Goals (ELGs)

- Slough was 0.5% above the national average of 63.4%
- Slough girls exceeded the national average by 1.8%
- Slough boys were below the national average by 1.2%

	National	National girls	National boys	Slough	Slough Girls	Slough boys
Number of children	622583	304334	318249	2332	1161	1171
Good level development (GLD) %	65.2	71.9	58.7	65.1	73.5	56.9
% at expected level across all Early Learning Goals (ELGs)	63.4	70.6	56.5	63.9	72.4	55.4

It is not possible to directly compare 2021/22 assessments with earlier years due to the 2021/22 EYFS reforms introduced in September 2021
(Source GOV.uk Early Years Foundation Stage Profile Results)

Autumn term 2022 supply of early years and childcare provision

Type of formal childcare	Number of registered providers 2020	Number of registered providers 2022
Nursery class in a Maintained school	25	25
Nursery class in an Independent sector setting	3	3
Day nursery – full or part-time	13	13
Pre-School/Playgroup sessional childcare	13	14
Children’s Centres nursery full daycare	4	4
Children’s Centres nursery sessional daycare	6	4
Maintained Nursery School	5	5
Registered Childminder	109	86
Home Childcare (own home)	32	36
Total	210	190

The numbers of providers have fallen by 20 to 190, a 9.52% drop from 2020. The highest drop in registered providers is childminders, going from 109 in 2020 to 86 in 2022, a loss of 23.

Number of settings in Slough by Children’s Centre Area (CCA)

Children’s Centre Area	NCMS	MNS	DN	PSP	CC	NCIS	CM	Total
Monksfield Way	3		1	2	1		17	24
Orchard Avenue	2		2	1	1		7	13
St. Andrew’s Way	1	1		2			17	21
Chalvey Grove	2	1		4	1	1	4	13
Elliman Avenue	1	2	1				4	8
Penn Road	2		1	2	1		3	9
Wexham Road	4	1	2	2	1		9	19
Yew Tree Road	3		1	1	1	2	12	20
Romsey Close	5		4		1		11	21
Vicarage Way	2		1		1		2	6
Total	25	5	13	14	8	3	86	154

KEY	PSP- Pre-school/Playgroup sessional care
NCMS- Nursery class in maintained school	CC- Children's centre
MNS- Maintained nursery school	NCIS- Nursery class independent setting
DN- Day nursery, full or part time	CM- Registered childminder

*The table above excludes Home Childcare

Early years childcare and registered childminder places for 0 – 4 year olds

Type of formal childcare	Number of registered places PTP 2020	Number of places being offered PTP 2022	Change in places
Nursery class in a Maintained school	1,754	1,735	-1.08%
Nursery class in an independent sector setting	210	132	-37.14%
Day nursery – full or part-time	1,826	1032	-43.48%
Pre-School/Playgroup sessional childcare	642	382	-40.50%
Children’s Centres nursery full daycare	312	154	-50.64%
Children’s Centres nursery sessional daycare	176	56	-68.18%
Maintained Nursery School	744	745	0.13%
Registered Childminder	638	500	-21.63%
Total	6,302	4,736	-24.85%

The number of places being offered has dropped by 1,566 to 4,736, a drop of 24.85%

There are drops in numbers of places being offered across the sector, except for maintained nursery schools with an increase of 1 place.

Numbers of places for home childcarers are not included in these tables.

There are currently 86 registered childminders in Slough.

Ofsted Registered Places

The tables below show the number of Ofsted registered places by provider type.

Type of provider	Registered Part Time Places
Preschool (PSP)	917
Day Nursery (DN)	1940
Children's Centres (CC)	650
Childminder	520
Nursery class in maintained school	1348
Maintained nursery school	575
Total	5950

The annual provider audit recorded a total of 4736 available places across Slough in the Autumn 2022. This is a difference of 1214 registered places. This could therefore mean that there is existing capacity in the market should demand for places increase.

Children's Centre Area	Registered Part Time places
Chalvey Grove	702
Elliman Avenue	516
Monksfield Way	483
Orchard Avenue	626
Penn Road	396
Romsey Close	1241
St Andrews Way	540
Vicarage Way	192
Wexham Road	782
Yew Tree Road	472
Total	5950

Supply of places by age group

The tables below shows the breakdown of children and types and numbers of childcare places in each of the Children's Centre Areas.

Under 2s	Provider Type	
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CC AREA	CC	Day Nursery	CM	TOTAL
Monksfield Way		12	17	29
Orchard Avenue		60	7	67
St. Andrew's Way			15	15
Chalvey Grove	6		4	10
Elliman Avenue		12	4	16
Penn Road	6		1	7
Wexham Road		18	8	26
Yew Tree Road		12	12	24
Romsey Close	6	110	12	128
Vicarage Way		9	2	11
TOTAL	18	233	82	333

In the St Andrews Way children’s centre area, there are no childcare places for under 2s except with childminders. The lowest number of places are in Penn Road CCA, the highest in Romsey Close CCA

2 year olds CC AREA	Provider Type						CM	TOTAL
	CC	DN	NCIS	MNS	NCMS	PSP		
Monksfield Way	8	18			7	22	38	93
Orchard Avenue	8	71				4	15	98
St. Andrew's Way		12		8		20	38	78
Chalvey Grove	12	6		16	30	22	9	95
Elliman Avenue		20		36			9	65
Penn Road	8	0				20	7	35
Wexham Road	4	40		16	4	12	20	96
Yew Tree Road	8	24	22				26	80
Romsey Close	12	137			16	12	24	201
Vicarage Way	4	12					4	20
TOTAL	64	340	22	76	57	112	190	861

Vicarage Way children’s centre area has the lowest number of 2 year old places with 20, Romsey Close the highest with 201.

3 & 4 yr olds CC AREA	Provider type							TOTAL
	CC	DN	NCIS	MNS	NCMS	PSP	CM	
Monksfield Way	24	22			220	26	45	337
Orchard Avenue	8	65			112	16	18	219
St. Andrew's Way		18		156	90	32	45	341
Chalvey Grove	24	40	30	104	156	98	11	463

Elliman Avenue		32		279	104		11	426
Penn Road	24				164	58	8	254
Wexham Road	8	74		130	282	24	24	542
Yew Tree Road	8	48	80		154		32	322
Romsey Close	24	136			338	16	29	543
Vicarage Way	8	24			58		5	95
TOTAL	128	459	110	669	1678	270	228	3542

The total of places by age breakdown does not include the number of places for home childcare

The highest number of places is in Romsey Close and the lowest in Vicarage Way

Sufficiency

Children's Centre Area	NCMS	MNS	DN	PSP	CC	NCIS	CM	Total Places	Birth Data 0-4 years	% of children to places	Weighting of CCA **	Conclusion- is childcare sufficient?
Monksfield Way	227	0	52	48	32		100	459	750	61.20%	50.00%	Yes
Orchard Avenue	112	0	196	20	16		40	384	1032	37.21%	33.33%	Yes
St. Andrew's Way	90	164	0	82	0		98	434	1012	42.89%	33.33%	Yes
Chalvey Grove	186	120		166	42	30	24	568	1797	31.61%	33.33%	No
Elliman Avenue	104	315	64	0	0		24	507	1188	42.68%	33.33%	Yes
Penn Road	164	0	0	78	38		16	296	922	32.10%	33.33%	No
Wexham Road	286	146	94	74	12		52	664	1308	50.76%	33.33%	Yes
Yew Tree Road	154	0	52	32	16	102	70	428	1750	24.34%	50.00%	No
Romsey Close	354	0	411	0	42		65	872	1436	60.72%	50.00%	Yes
Vicarage Way	58	0	45	0	12		11	126	534	23.6%	20.00%	Yes
Total	1735	745	914	500	210	132	500	4736	11729	40.38%		

*Home childcarers have been excluded from this dataset

**The weighting has been arrived at using historical data, local knowledge, birth rates and informal childcare within the local communities as shown in the detailed table below.

The above table is based purely on numbers and does not consider SEND, flexibility of offer, affordability trends in take up and future demand and should not be looked at in isolation. Further sufficiency analysis is detailed further in this report.

Children's Centre Area	Weighting	reasons for weighting
Monksfield Way	1 childcare place per 2 children	Vacant places not being taken up as much as in other areas, including the schools. Drop in birth rates
Orchard Avenue	1 childcare place per 3 children	Covers a large area including the trading estate, 2 large day nurseries servicing parents who work there.
St. Andrew's Way	1 childcare place per 3 children	Children's Centre closed due to lack of demand. Shortage of full day care- currently provided by childminders. The MNS is preferred by parents
Chalvey Grove	1 childcare place per 3 children	This CCA is at the minimum limit of sufficiency. Locally there are communities that include extended family providing informal childcare. Work is required to promote formal early learning as a basis before children start school
Elliman Avenue	1 childcare place per 3 children	The children's centre in this area was closed due to lack of demand. This area borders central Slough where new builds will potentially require more formal childcare
Penn Road	1 childcare place per 3 children	This CCA is at the minimum limit of sufficiency. Locally there are communities that include extended family providing informal childcare. A new setting will be opening in Spring 2023 that will help with the sufficiency in this area
Wexham Road	1 childcare place per 3 children	There are no sufficiency requirements in this area. There are several settings in the area including schools, MNS, day nurseries and pre-schools. There is potential new housing at the Akzo Nobel site so there could be further nursery provision under S106
Yew Tree Road	1 childcare place per 2 children	Childcare is insufficient in this area. There are several small house developments (houses converted into a number of flats) that fall outside S106. There will be a need for further wraparound care, day nurseries etc as there are only 2 day nurseries and 1 children's centre in this area
Romsey Close	1 childcare place per 2 children	There are no sufficiency issues, but historically and currently there is a higher than expected demand for all types of childcare places in this area
Vicarage Way	1 childcare place per 5 children	Colnbrook CofE reduced PAN due to lack of children, Bright World Day Nursery is not at capacity. Families local to the area travel into neighbouring authorities and cross the M4 into Langley

Sufficiency 2 year olds

Looking at the sufficiency of places for 2 year olds we need to consider the expected take up of a 2 year old place, as parents will need to pay if they are not eligible for a funded space.

Based on data from the Annual Provider Audit, we expect there to be fee paying 2 year olds taking up 33% of the 2 year old places available.

Based on the November 2022 DWP list it is expected that 31% of the 2 year old population is eligible to take up a funded 2 year old place (637)

Children's Centre Area	Total 2 year old places Schools and PVI	Notional CM numbers	Total 2 year old places	Number of two year olds expected to access a place (total 64%)	Number of funded two year olds attending autumn'22	Number of fee paying two year olds attending autumn'22	Total 2 year olds accessing a place	Subtotal remaining places	Funded 2 year olds not yet accessing a place	Surplus/ Deficit of places
Monksfield Way	55	38	93	80	23	31	54	39	22	17
Orchard Avenue	83	15	98	122	28	32	60	38	34	4
St. Andrew's Way	40	38	78	118	15	26	41	37	29	8
Chalvey Grove	86	9	95	205	54	31	85	10	46	-36
Elliman Avenue	56	9	65	130	40	21	61	4	41	-37
Penn Road	28	7	35	94	20	12	32	3	26	-23
Wexham Road	76	20	96	144	32	32	64	32	39	-7
Yew Tree Road	54	26	80	191	46	26	72	8	46	-38
Romsey Close	177	24	201	164	33	66	99	102	34	68
Vicarage Way	16	4	20	49	14	7	21	-1	15	-16
Total	671	190	861	1297	305	284	589	272	332	-60

Looking at the data there appears to be a shortfall of places of 60, but there are still some vacant spaces, showing an actual surplus of places of 48. The deficit of places is in Chalvey Grove, Elliman Avenue, Penn Road, Yew Tree Road and Vicarage Way.

	No of vacancies	Surplus/ Deficit of 2 yr old places from table above	Actual Surplus/ Deficit of 2 yr old places
Monksfield Way	14	17	31
Orchard Avenue	10	4	14
St. Andrew's Way	9	8	17
Chalvey Grove	3	-36	-33
Elliman Avenue	1	-37	-36
Penn Road	22	-23	-1
Wexham Road	9	-7	2
Yew Tree Road	0	-38	-38
Romsey Close	35	68	103
Vicarage Way	6	-16	-10
	108	-60	49

We have used an average take up across all CCAs of 33% for all Fee paying 2 year olds, but Romsey Close is significantly higher at 44%. Therefore, it can be expected that the number of surplus places in the table above (103) are likely to be utilised by fee payers.

Sufficiency 3 and 4 year old

Unlike 2 year olds, all 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to a minimum of 15 hours of free childcare per week over 38 weeks of the year, so we would expect take up of places to be much higher. 4 year old children in Reception classes have been removed from this calculation to show the true sufficiency of Early Years places.

Children's Centre Area	Total 3&4 year old places Schools and PVI	Notional CM numbers	Total places	3&4 year olds	Less no of 4 yr olds in reception classes	Total no of 3&4 yr olds in EY	Total places	Surplus/ Deficit
Monksfield Way	292	45	337	390	181	209	337	128
Orchard Avenue	201	18	219	548	100	448	219	-229
St. Andrew's Way	296	45	341	518	196	322	341	19
Chalvey Grove	452	11	463	807	259	548	463	-85
Elliman Avenue	415	11	426	522	143	379	426	47

Penn Road	246	8	254	519	130	389	254	-135
Wexham Road	518	24	542	617	301	316	542	226
Yew Tree Road	290	32	322	798	199	599	322	-277
Romsey Close	514	29	543	707	385	322	543	221
Vicarage Way	90	5	95	219	53	166	95	-71
Total	3314	228	3542	5645	1947	3698	3542	-156

Looking at the data there appears to be a shortfall of places, but when vacancies are added in it shows a surplus of places of 69. The deficit is in Orchard Avenue, Chalvey Grove, Penn Road, Yew Tree Road and Vicarage Way.

	No of vacancies	Surplus/ Deficit of 3 & 4 yr old places from table above	Actual Surplus/ Deficit of 3 & 4 yr old places
Monksfield Way	19	128	147
Orchard Avenue	15	-229	-214
St. Andrew's Way	9	19	28
Chalvey Grove	6	-85	-79
Elliman Avenue	11	47	58
Penn Road	48	-135	-87
Wexham Road	43	226	269
Yew Tree Road	13	-277	-264
Romsey Close	53	221	274
Vicarage Way	8	-71	-63
	225	-156	69

2 year old Funded Early Education criteria

2 year old children can get a free childcare place if families receive any of the following benefits:

- [Income Support](#)
- [Income based Jobseeker's Allowance \(JSA\)](#)
- [Income related Employment and Support Allowance \(ESA\)](#)
- [Universal Credit](#) and the household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax, not including benefit payments, assessed on up to three of the parent's most recent Universal Credit assessment periods.
- [The Guaranteed element of Pension Credit](#)
- [Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit](#) (or both) and have a household income of £16,190 a year or less before tax
- The Working Tax Credit 4-week run (the payment parents can receive when they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

A child can also get free early education at the age of two, if:

- they are looked after by a local authority
- they have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- they receive Disability Living Allowance
- they have left care under a special guardianship order, child arrangements order or adoption order.

Non- UK citizens who cannot claim benefits

Parents whose immigration status states they have 'no recourse to public funds' may be able to receive 2 year old funding if their household income is no more than:

- household income of £26,500 a year with one child (outside London)
- household income of £30,600 a year with two or more children (outside London)
- They have no more than £16,000 in savings or investments

Eligible children will be able to start their free place from the beginning of the term after their second birthday. Parents/carers can apply in the term of their child's second birthday by completing an application online on the [Citizen Portal](#).

2 year old funding 2022/23

- The DWP list September 2022 showed 630 families potentially eligible for 2 year old funding, this is a decrease of 155 compared to 2021
- According to the DWP list September 2022, Chalvey Grove Children's Centre area continues to have the highest number of eligible 2 year olds living in the borough, followed by Yew Tree Road.

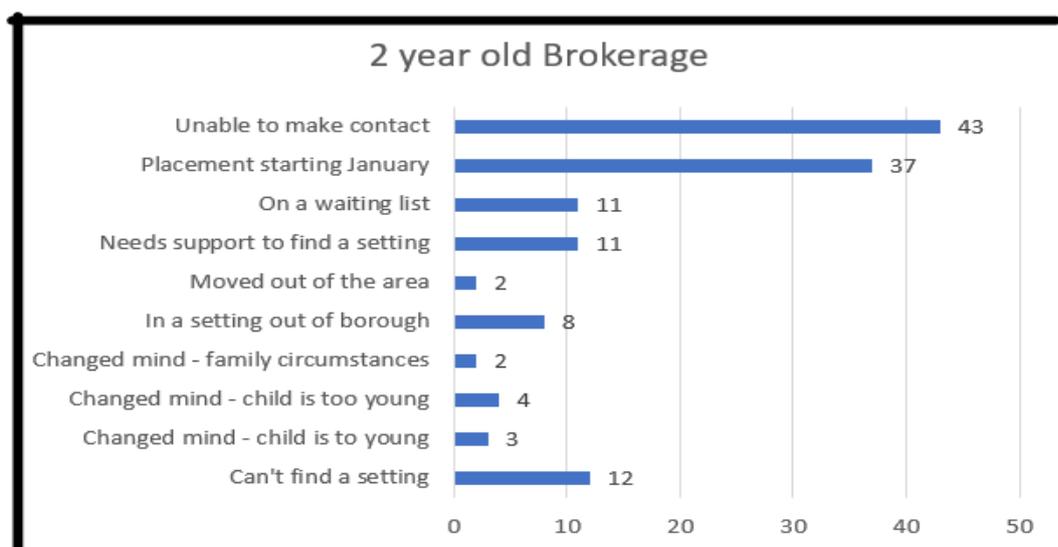
CCA	Eligible – DWP Sep 2022 list	Applications as of Sep 22	Reach
Chalvey Grove	105	37 (35%)	68 (65%)
Elliman Avenue	80	31 (39%)	49 (61%)
Monksfield Way	44	20 (45%)	24 (55%)
Orchard Ave	63	15 (24%)	48 (76%)
Penn Road	44	14 (32%)	30 (68%)
Romsey Close	65	23 (35%)	42 (65%)
St Andrews Way	42	15 (36%)	27 (64%)
Vicarage Way	25	9 (36%)	16 (64%)
Wexham Road	76	31 (41%)	45 (59%)
Yew Tree Road	86	32 (37%)	54 (63%)
	630	227	403

Following receipt of the September 2022 DWP the local authority received a new updated list in November 2022. Comparison of the data tells us that the overall number of potential eligible families increased by 7, with the highest number of eligible 2 year olds again in Chalvey Grove CCA.

However, the number of families applying for 2 year old funding during the period of September – November 2022 increased by 78, a 12% increase from September.

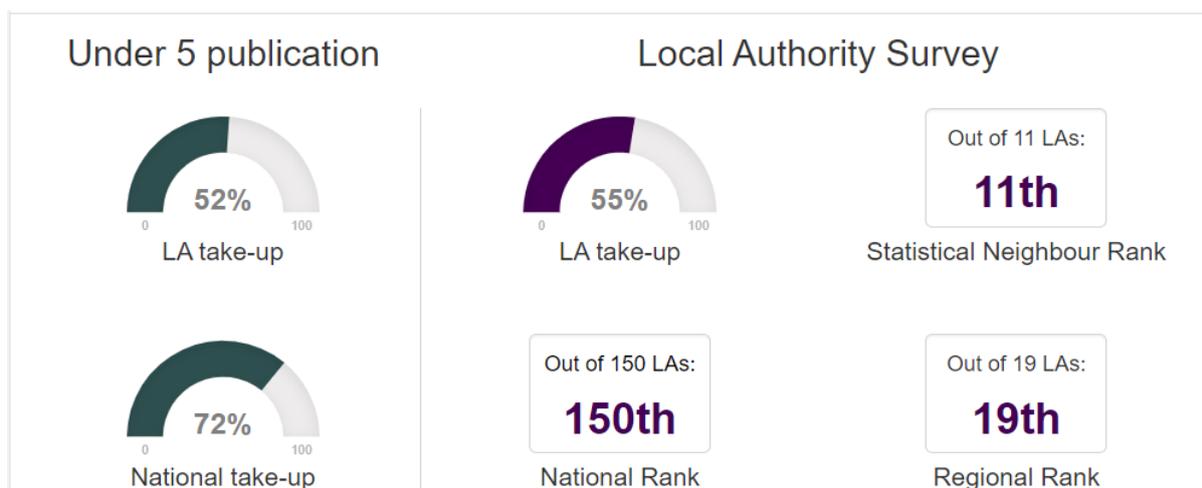
CCA	Eligible – DWP Nov 2022 list	Applications as of Nov 22	Reach
Chalvey Grove	100	54 (54%)	46 (46%)
Elliman Avenue	81	40 (49%)	41 (49%)
Monksfield Way	45	23 (51%)	22 (49%)
Orchard Ave	62	28 (45%)	34 (55%)
Penn Road	46	20 (43%)	26 (57%)
Romsey Close	67	33 (49%)	34 (51%)
St Andrews Way	44	15 (34%)	29 (66%)
Vicarage Way	29	14 (48%)	15 (52%)
Wexham Road	71	32 (45%)	39 (55%)
Yew Tree Road	92	46 (50%)	46 (50%)
	637	305	332

A brokerage exercise was undertaken to try to find the reasons for the lack of take up of a 2 year old place. 43 families were uncontactable and the majority stated that the child was due to start the following term. Only 12 families stated that they could find a setting.



The numbers of eligible 2 year olds have dropped considerably since its height in 2017. There has been a drop in birth rates, with 2 year olds being 251 less than in 2019-20.

Term	Participation- 2 year olds taking up a space	% take up	Numbers on DWP list	% drop in eligible families since autumn 2017
Autumn 2017	443	51%	869	
Summer 2019	464	55%	847	-2.53%
Autumn 2019	433	54%	795	-8.52%
Spring 2020	418	57%	731	-15.88%
Summer 2020	336	45%	754	-13.23%
Autumn 2020	317	38%	824	-5.18%
Spring 2021	380	48%	785	-9.67%
Summer 2021	361	47%	761	-12.43%
Autumn 2021	402	55%	725	-16.57%
Spring 2022	396	57%	690	-20.60%
Summer 2022	397	59%	668	-23.13%
Autumn 2022	350	55%	632	-27.27%



Slough’s participation rates for funded 2 year olds (55% Autumn 2022) is below the national average of 72%. In real terms, an increase of 100 children receiving 2 year old funding (from 305 to 405 children) is required to hit the national average percentage.

3 & 4 year old universal entitlement

When considering the number of universal places required for 3 & 4 year old provision we need to consider the number of 4 year olds attending a reception place. The table below shows the current numbers on roll as per headcount data autumn 2022 and the total number of places against the number of children who may require a universal 3 & 4 year old place.

CCA	3 & 4 year olds	4 year olds in reception classes	Target number 3 & 4 year olds	Autumn 2022 participation	Difference
Chalvey Grove	807	259	549	336	212
Elliman Avenue	522	143	379	265	114
Monksfield Way	390	181	209	170	39
Orchard Avenue	548	100	448	143	305
Penn Road	519	130	389	166	223
Romsey Close	707	385	322	352	-30
St. Andrews Way	518	196	322	179	143
Vicarage Way	219	53	166	90	76
Wexham Road	617	316	301	308	-7
Yew Tree Road	798	199	599	276	323
	5645	1962	3683	2285	1398

The table above does appear to show that the take up of places is significantly lower than the population. However, historically, the autumn term has the lowest take up,

so we need to ensure that there are sufficient spaces in the summer term which has the highest take up.

CCA	3 & 4 year olds	4 year olds in reception classes	Target number 3 & 4 year olds	Summer 2022 participation	Difference
Chalvey Grove	807	259	548	465	83
Elliman Avenue	522	143	379	376	3
Monksfield Way	390	181	209	287	-78
Orchard Avenue	548	100	448	217	231
Penn Road	519	130	389	250	139
Romsey Close	707	385	322	617	-295
St. Andrews Way	518	196	322	248	74
Vicarage Way	219	53	166	87	79
Wexham Road	617	316	301	505	-204
Yew Tree Road	798	199	599	301	298
	5645	1962	3683	3353	330

The take up in the summer term 2022 was 91%. Based on this, the take up in 3 areas is higher than the number of eligible children in the CCA, Monksfield Way, Romsey Close and Wexham Road.

30 hours Childcare - Extended entitlement

The extended entitlement criteria:

A child will be entitled to the additional free hours from the term after both of the following conditions are satisfied:

- (1) the child has attained the age of three;
- (2) the child's parent has a current positive determination of eligibility from HMRC.

Parents must be working (both parents in a two parent household or one parent in a one parent household) and earning the equivalent of 16 hours per week at the national minimum or living wage and not more than £100,000 per year. If they are self employed, or on a zero hour contract they are asked to confirm that they meet the income threshold outlined above.

In order to forecast the number of places required in Slough for the extended entitlement we used the DFE's process infographic for estimating our local authority's eligibility for 30 hours. This enabled us to work out projected number of children's who could be eligible between 2018 -2023.

Each area uses the projected population of 3 & 4 year olds living in that children's centre area and therefore as expected Chalvey Grove and Yew Tree Road CCAs have the highest number of eligible children in 2022 and 2023.

	Projections at April 2018					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Monksfield Way	108	106	110	107	106	104
Orchard Avenue	148	156	146	142	140	138
St. Andrew's Way	175	162	144	141	138	136
Chalvey Grove	257	254	254	248	244	240
Elliman Avenue	167	174	175	171	168	165
Penn Road	141	151	152	148	146	143
Wexham Road	172	178	181	176	173	170
Yew Tree Road	224	236	222	218	213	209
Romsey Close	213	201	209	203	200	197
Vicarage Way	72	71	69	67	66	65
Total	1677	1689	1662	1621	1594	1567

Funded Early Education 2, 3 and 4 year olds

The table below tracks the actual number of children who received funding between the spring term 2019 through to the autumn term 2022. In previous years the numbers of children in receipt of the universal 3 & 4 year old offer and the extended entitlement gradually build from autumn through to the summer term as more children become eligible for the funding entitlements. Two year old numbers were more stable, showing a more static number across the whole year. However, our numbers following lockdown have shown a different picture.

Funding claims 2019 – 2022 Universal 3 & 4 year olds

Term	Universal 3 & 4	Number previous year	Variance	% change
Spring 2019	3,073	3,131	-58	-1.85%
Summer 2019	3,517	3,500	17	0.49%
Autumn 2019	2,461	2,318	143	6.17%
Spring 2020	3,163	3,073	90	2.93%
Summer 2020	3,424	3,517	-93	-2.64%
Autumn 2020	2,436	2,461	-25	-1.02%
Spring 2021	2,840	3,163	-323	-10.21%
Summer 2021	3,368	3,424	-56	-1.64%
Autumn 2021	2,392	2,436	-44	-1.81%
Spring 2022	2975	2,840	135	4.75%
Summer 2022	3353	3,368	-15	-0.45%
Autumn 2022	2285	2,392	-107	-4.47%

Funding claims 2019 – 2022 Extended Entitlement 3 & 4 year olds

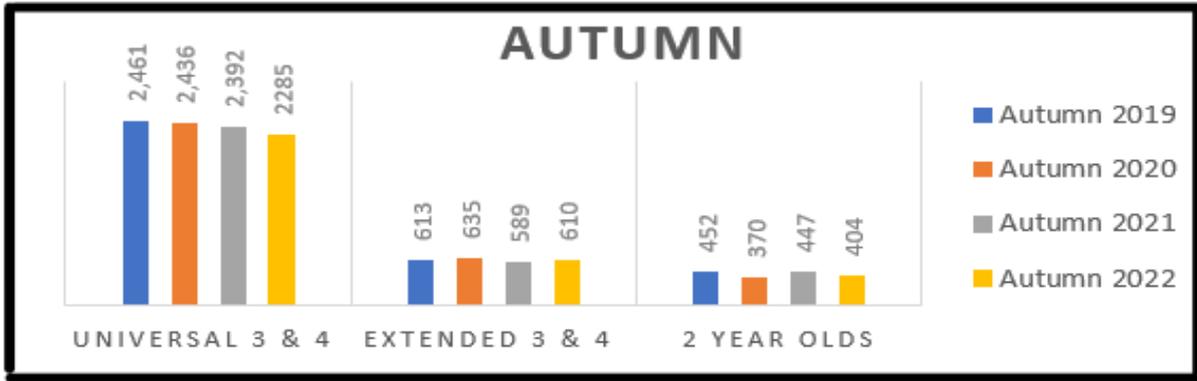
Term	Extended 3 & 4	Number previous year	Variance	% change
Spring 2019	804	662	142	21.45%
Summer 2019	935	825	110	13.33%
Autumn 2019	613	620	-7	-1.13%
Spring 2020	843	804	39	4.85%
Summer 2020	919	935	-16	-1.71%
Autumn 2020	635	613	22	3.59%
Spring 2021	780	843	-63	-7.47%
Summer 2021	895	919	-24	-2.61%
Autumn 2021	589	635	-46	-7.24%
Spring 2022	806	780	26	3.33%
Summer 2022	901	895	6	0.67%
Autumn 2022	610	589	21	3.57%

Funding claims 2019 – 2022 2 year olds

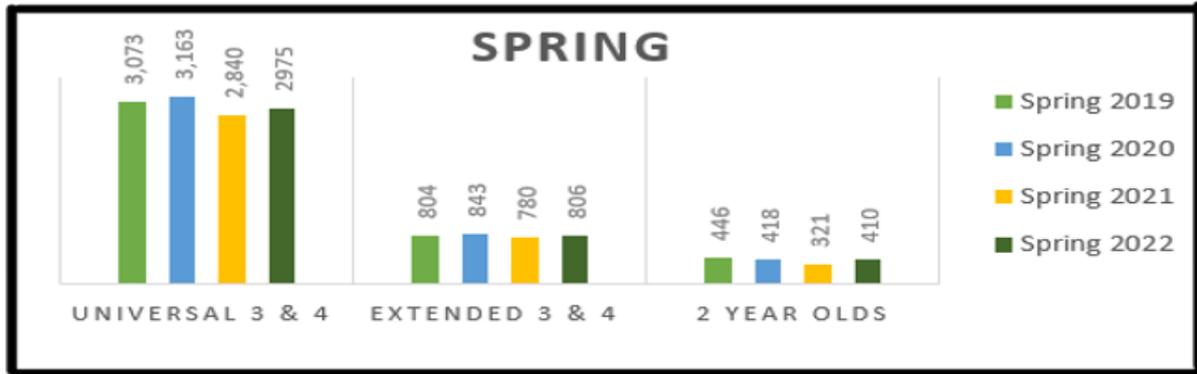
Term	2 year olds	Number previous year	Variance	% change
Spring 2019	446	443	3	0.68%
Summer 2019	464	424	40	9.43%
Autumn 2019	452	458	-6	-1.31%
Spring 2020	418	446	-28	-6.28%
Summer 2020	336	464	-128	-27.59%
Autumn 2020	317	452	-135	-29.87%
Spring 2021	380	418	-38	-9.09%
Summer 2021	361	336	25	7.44%
Autumn 2021	402	317	85	26.81%
Spring 2022	396	380	16	4.21%
Summer 2022	397	361	36	9.97%
Autumn 2022	350	402	-52	-12.94%

Comparison of funding claims 2019 – 2022

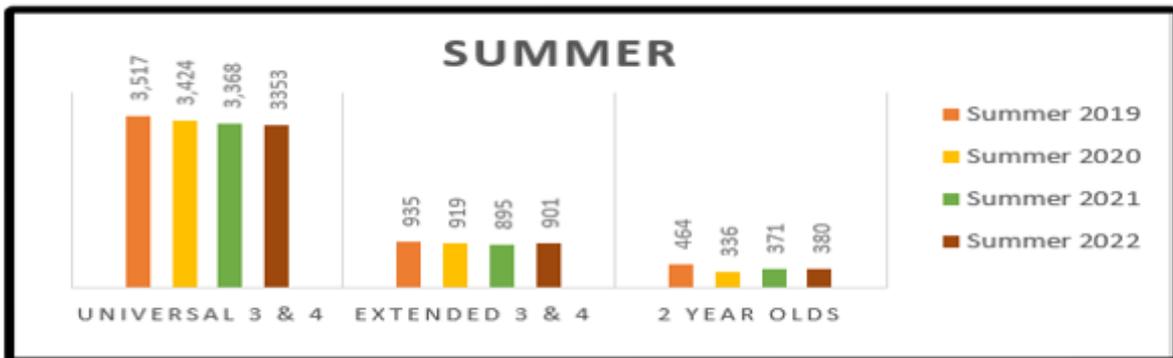
Autumn: When reviewing the funding claims for the autumn term we can see that numbers for universal funding have yet to reach pre-COVID levels and are 7% down from 2019 and 4.5% down from autumn 2021. Numbers for extended entitlement dropped in 2021 but have risen by 3.5% in 2022. Two year old funded children rose significantly by 21% in 2021 but have dropped by 10% in 2022.



Spring: As in the autumn term, we have yet to reach pre-COVID levels for universal funding. There was a marked drop of 10% in 2021, due to the January 2021 lockdown and fear of the virus, however spring 2022 shows a 5% increase in take up. There is a 3.5% increase in take up in spring 2022 for the extended entitlement.



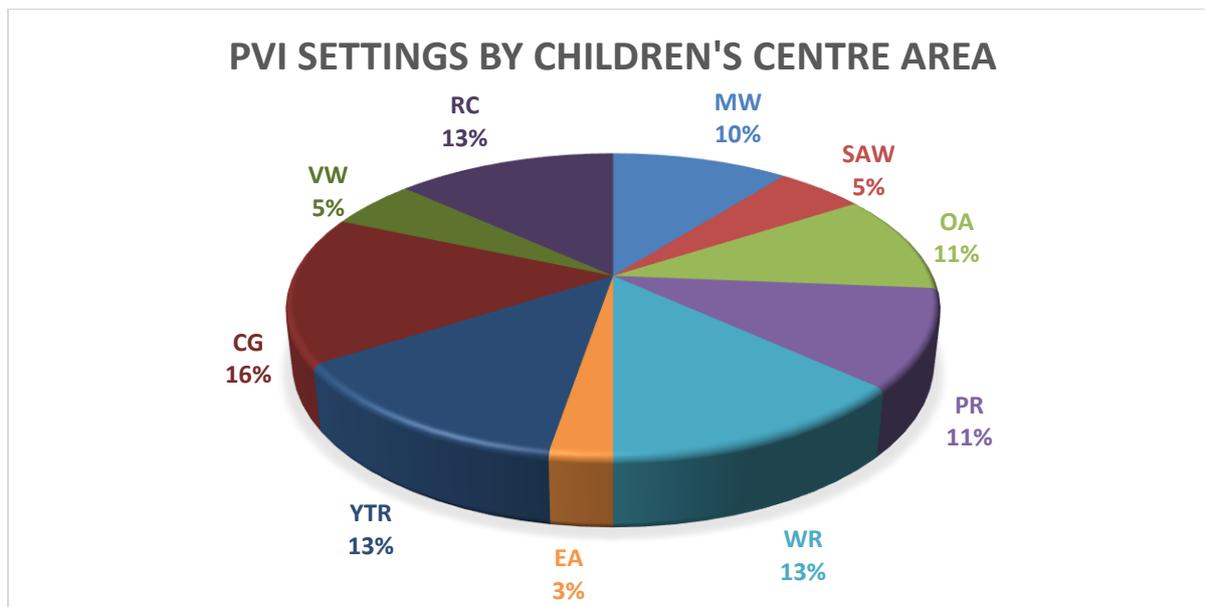
Summer: As in Autumn and Spring, we have not reached the numbers of children in receipt of all types of funded childcare as pre-COVID. From 2021, universal funding is down slightly, but extended and 2 year old funded childcare is up.



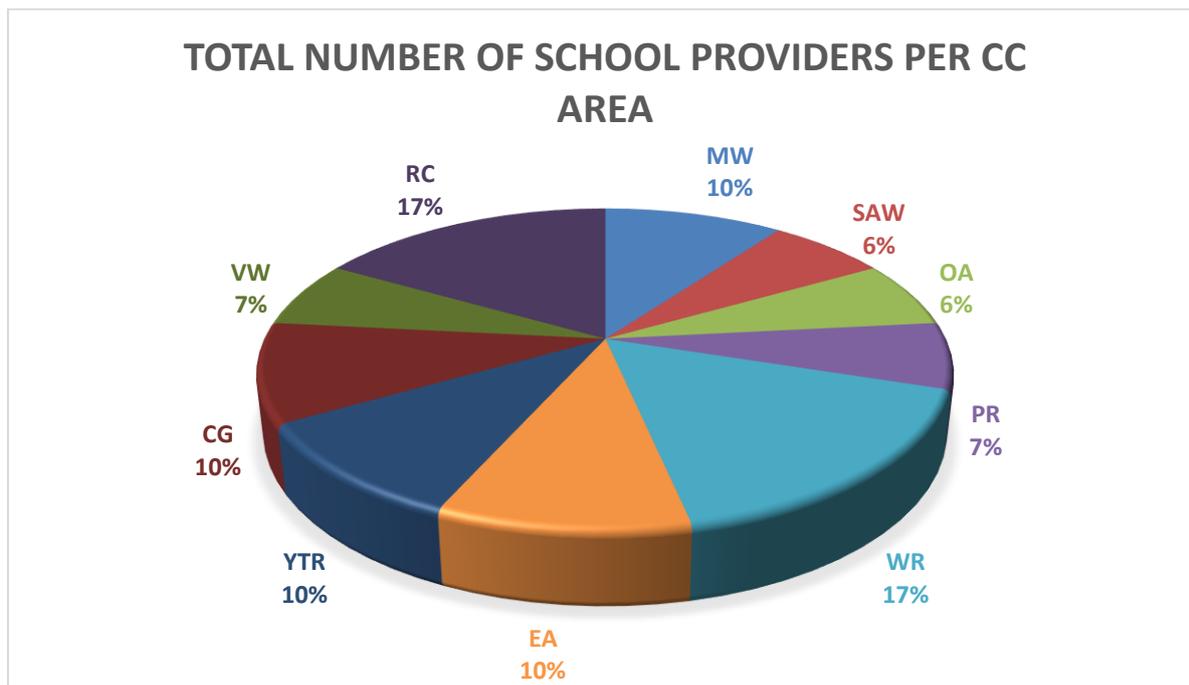
Early Years Annual Provider Audit Analysis

Setting by CCA by type of provider

There were 39 PVI settings in Slough during Autumn 2022, with the highest number of providers 16% in the Chalvey Grove Children’s Centre area, followed by Yew Tree Road, Romsey Close and Wexham Road Children’s Centre Areas. This is reflective of the number of under 5 year olds in these areas.



There were 25 schools with nursery classes and 5 maintained nursery schools across Slough in the autumn term 2022. The highest number of school based providers can be found in the Wexham Road, Yew Tree Road and Romsey Close Children’s Centre areas 17%.



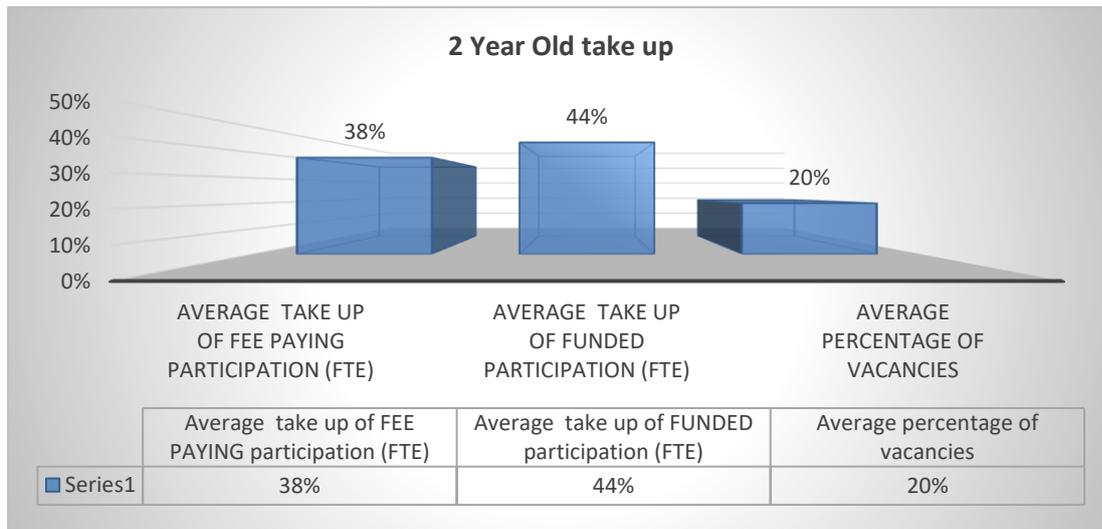
The highest number of childminders are in the Monksfield Way and St Andrews Way CCA, 19.77%. The lowest numbers are in Vicarage Way CCA, 2.33%.

The highest number of childminders are in the Monksfield Way area (21.13%), with the lowest number in Vicarage Way area (2.82%), closely followed by Elliman Avenue and Penn Road areas (4.23%)

Take up of provision

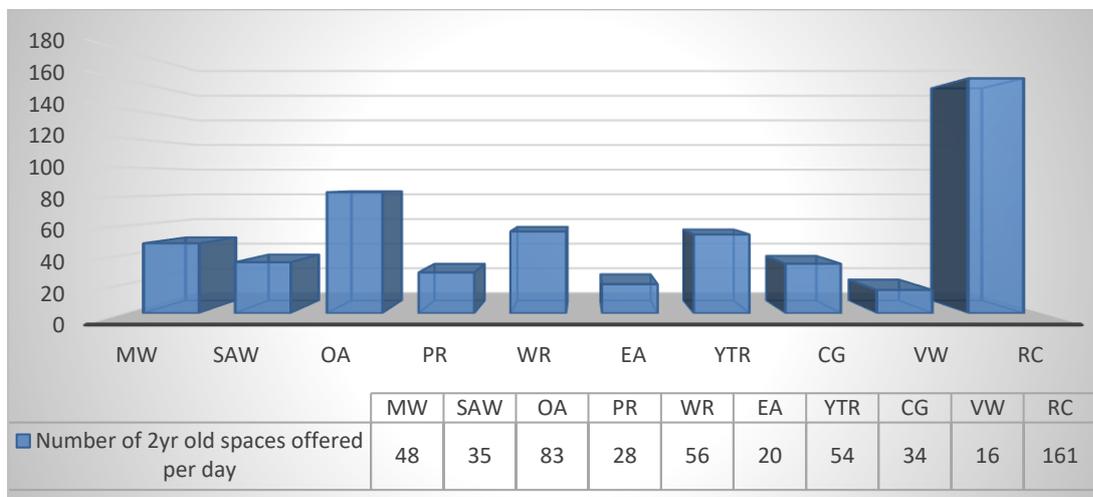
Providers were asked questions around the take up of provision.

PVI Settings

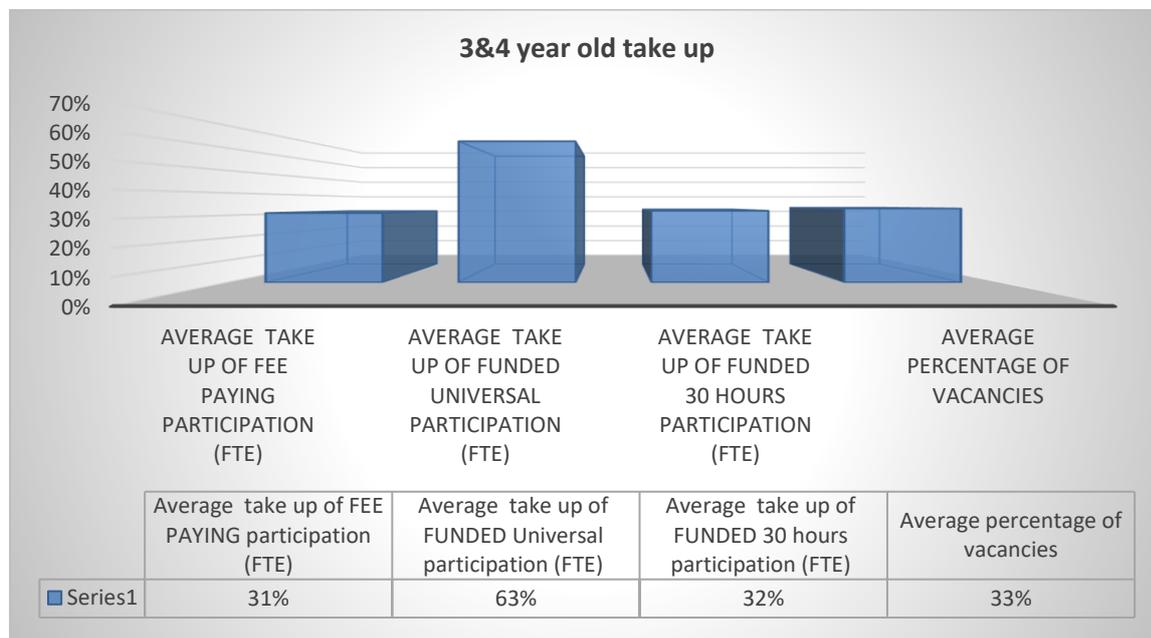


There are more places available in PVIs for funded children than fee paying, although there is a high percentage of vacant places 20%. Further work needs to be carried out by the Early Education team to ensure that families with eligible 2 year olds can access these places through brokerage.

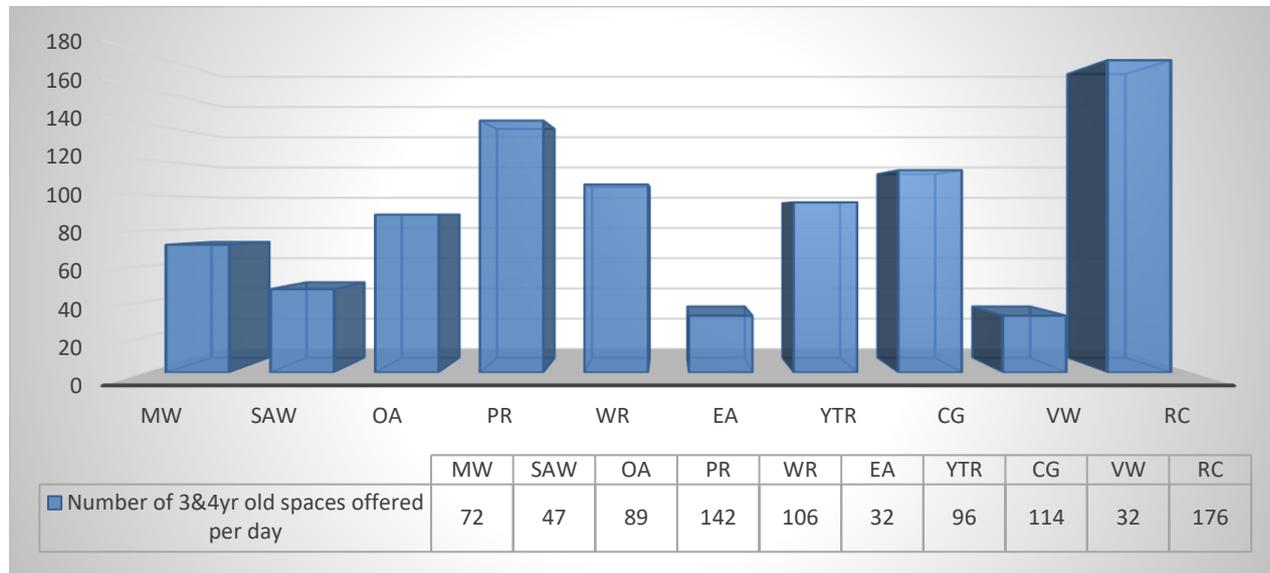
Broken down by CC Area



The highest number of 2 year old places is in Romsey Close CCA, the lowest in Vicarage Way

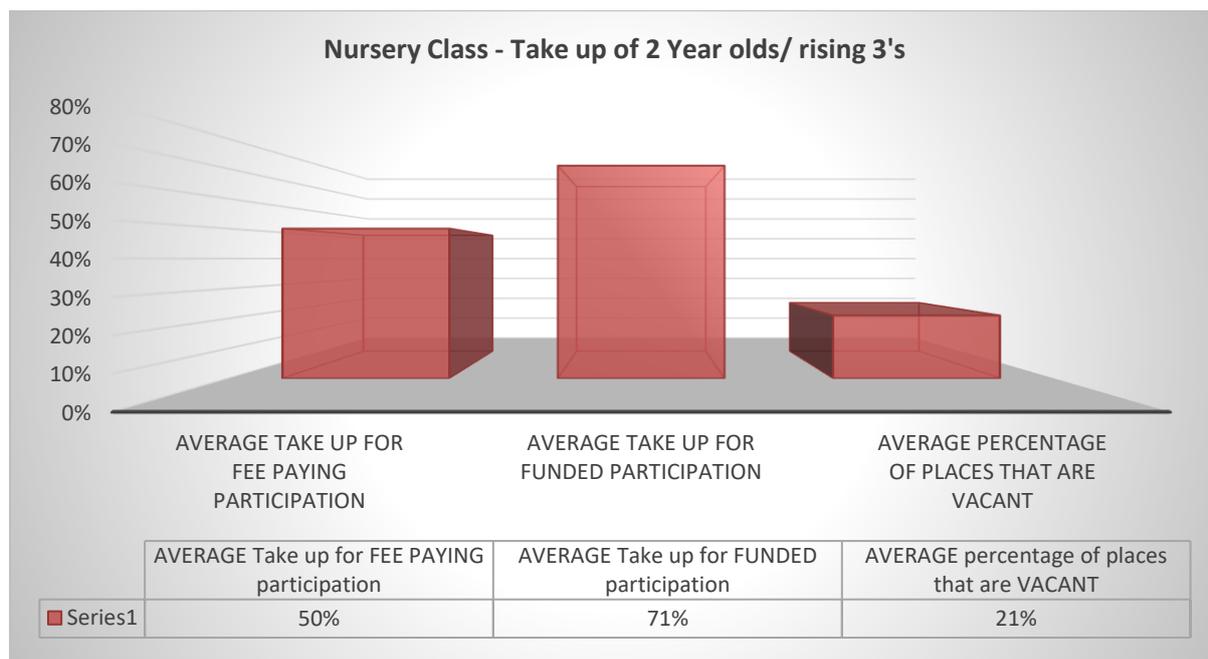


All children are eligible for 15 hours of Free Early Education per week, for 38 weeks of the year (570 hours per year). Fee paying participation is likely to be wraparound and/or holiday care. The total take up of universal and extended entitlement is 95%

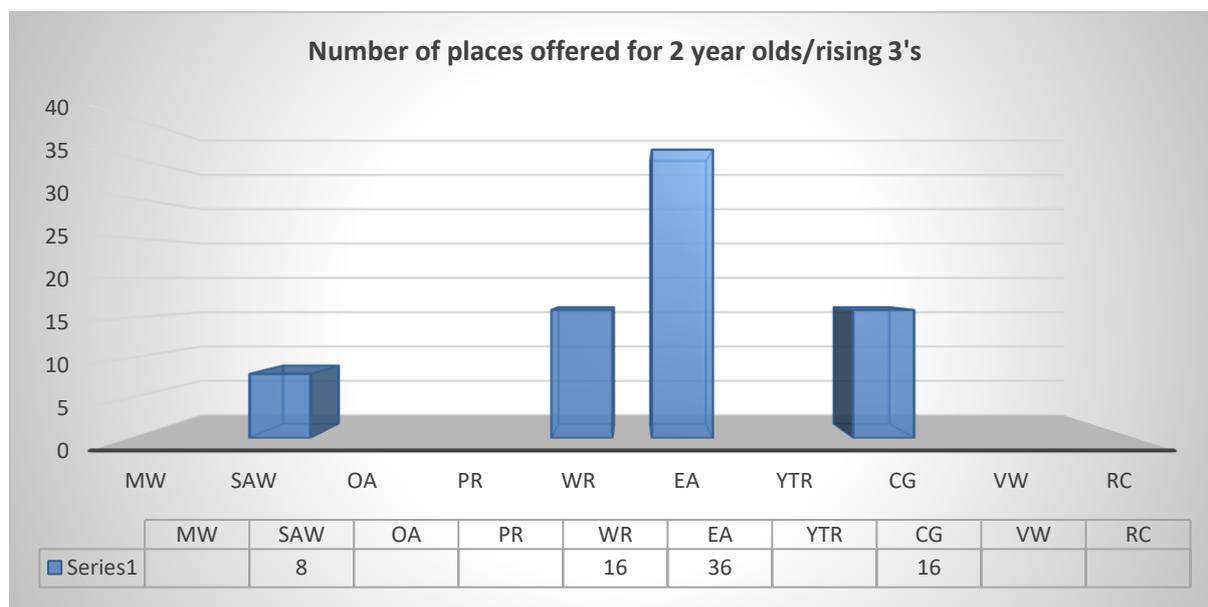


The highest number of 3 and 4 year old places is in Romsey Close CCA, the lowest in Vicarage Way and Elliman Avenue

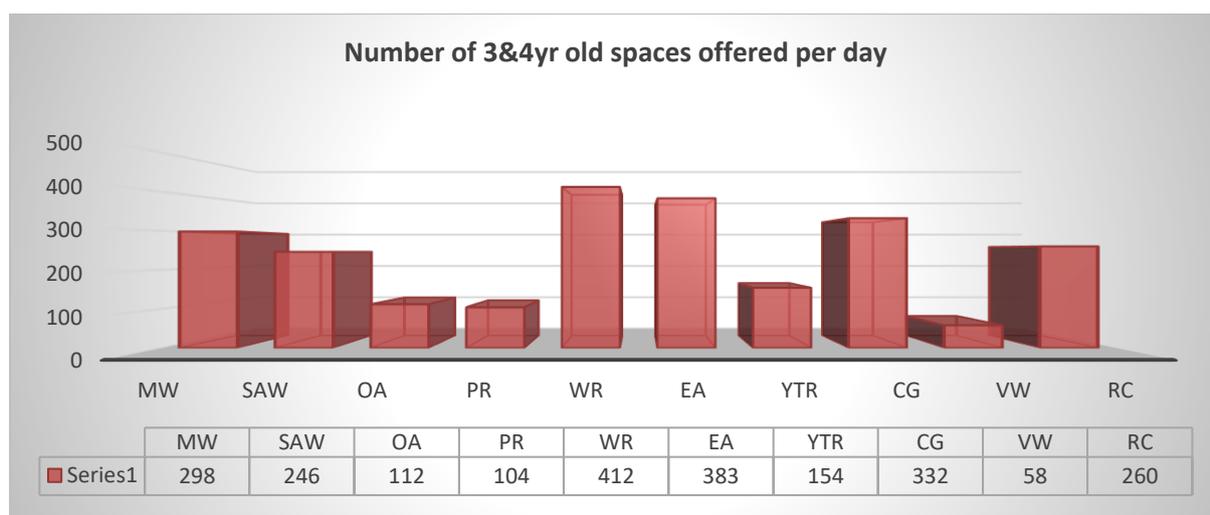
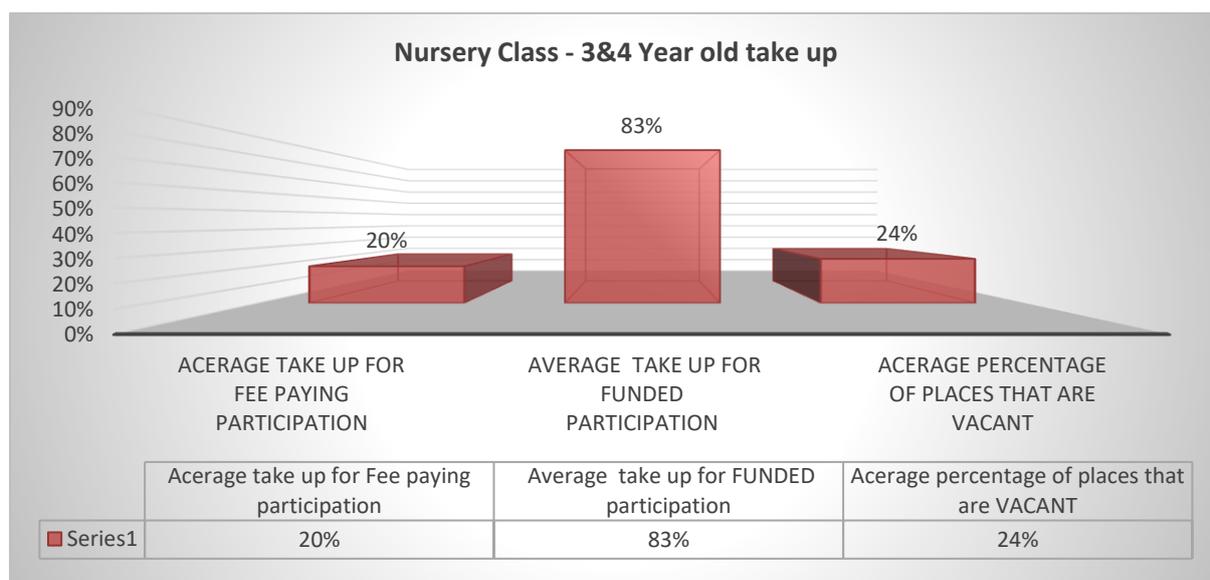
Nursery Class



Nursery classes are offering more places for rising 3s (2 year olds) than in previous years

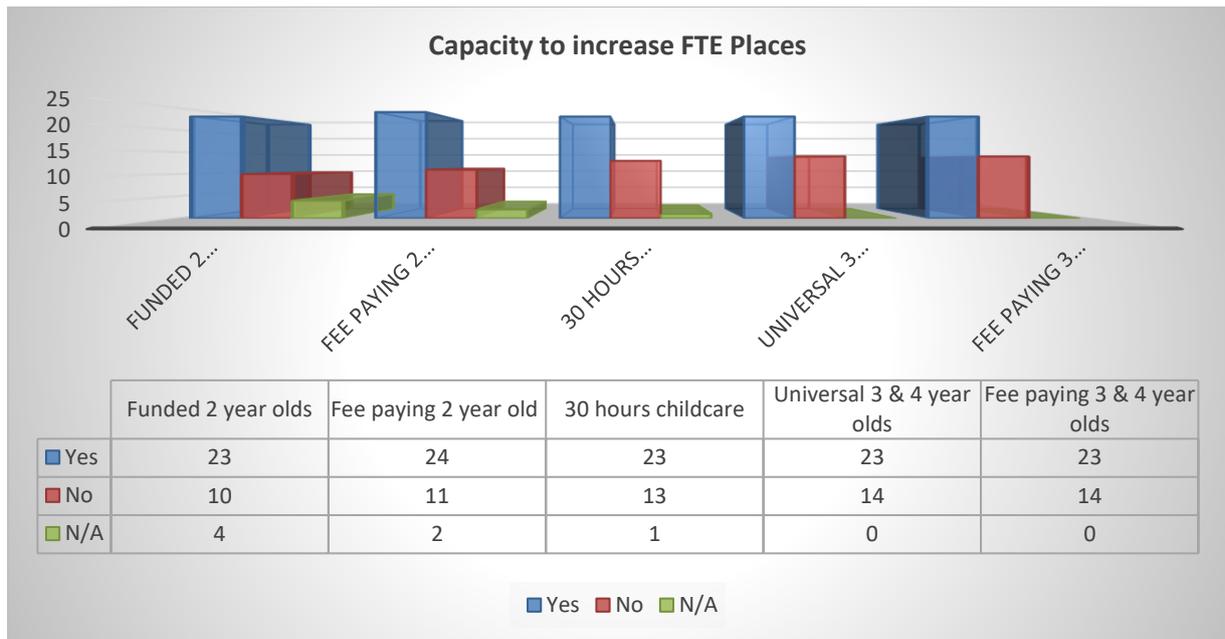


There is a total of 76 2 year old places available in maintained nursery schools across Slough.



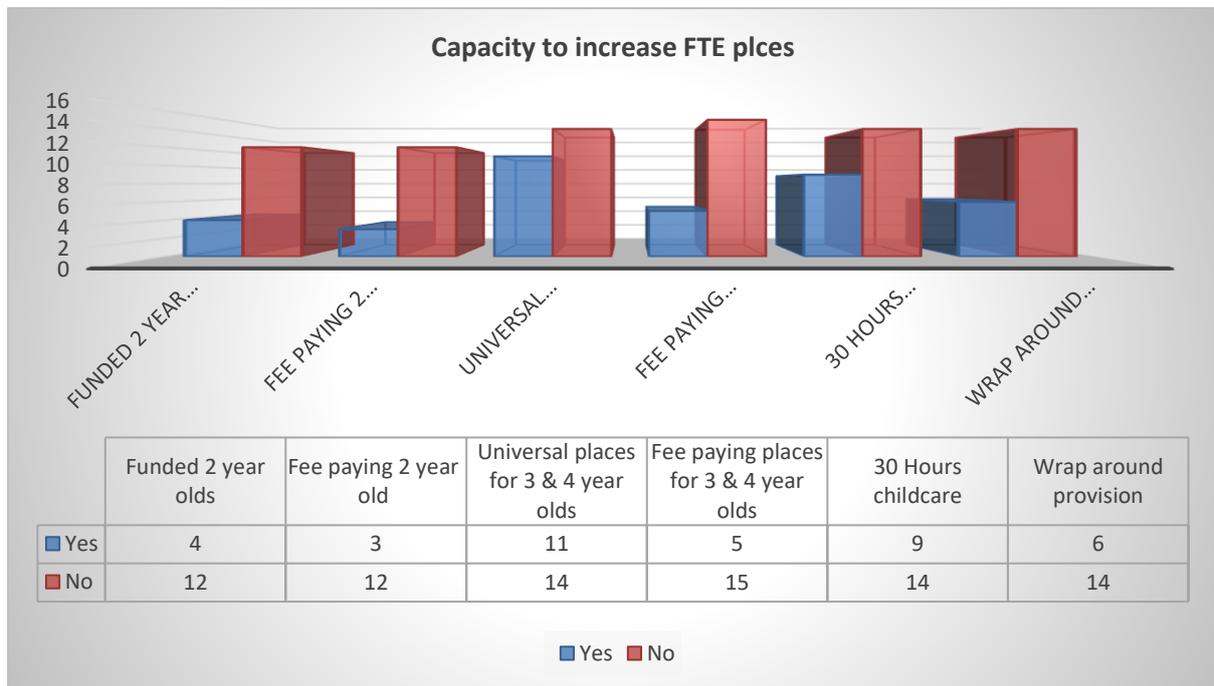
Capacity

Providers were asked if they could increase capacity if there was a need for doing so.



This clearly shows that PVI's have additional capacity to provide more spaces across all areas, but there are other considerations such as the additional staff required.

Nursery Classes



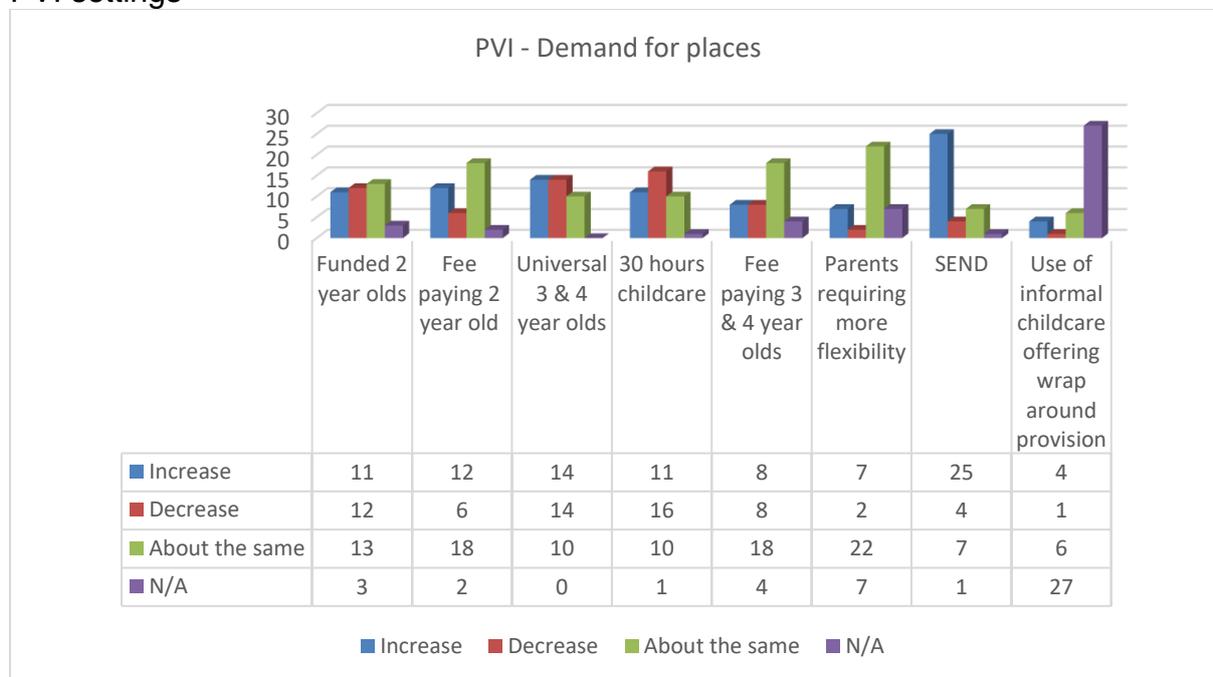
Nursery classes are not in a position to increase FTE places, based on the graph above.

Demand for places autumn term 2022

Providers were asked if they felt there had been an increase or decrease in demand for places during the autumn term.

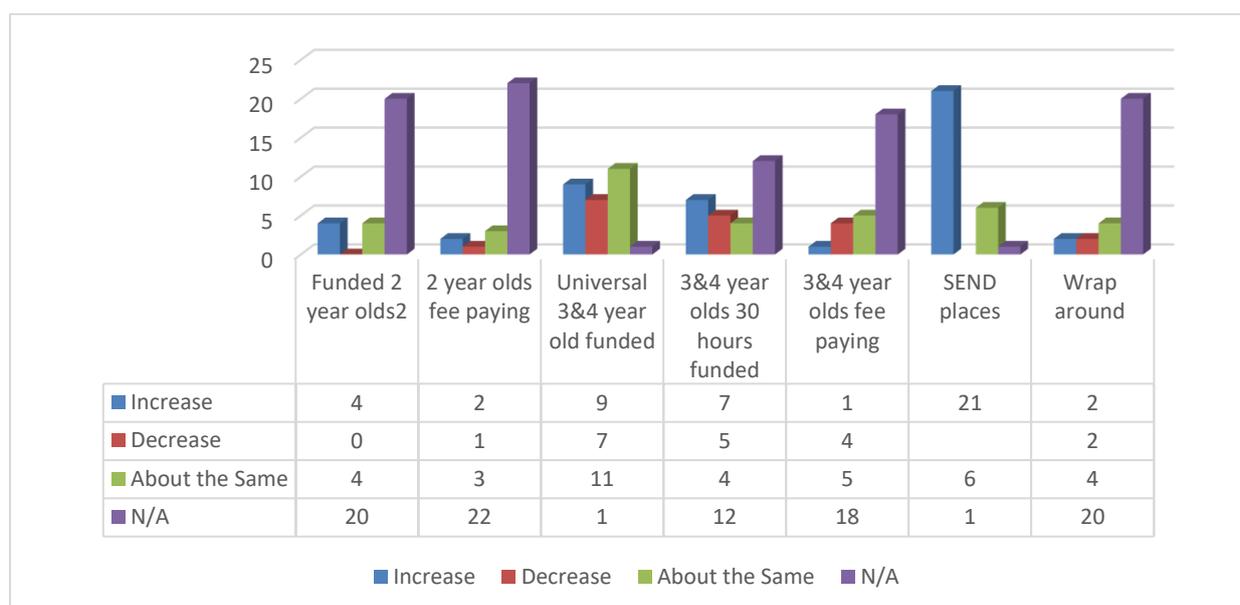
PVI settings identified that there had been an overall decrease in demand for both 30 hour extended entitlement places, and private fee paying places for 2, 3 & 4 year olds. 26% of PVI providers also identified an increase in demand for places for children with SEND.

PVI settings

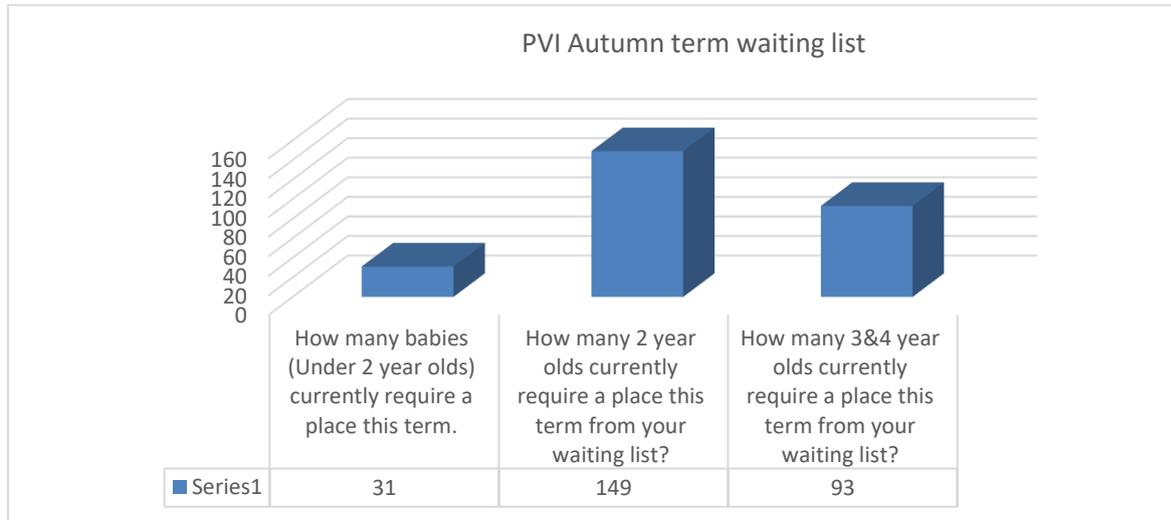


Schools with nursery classes

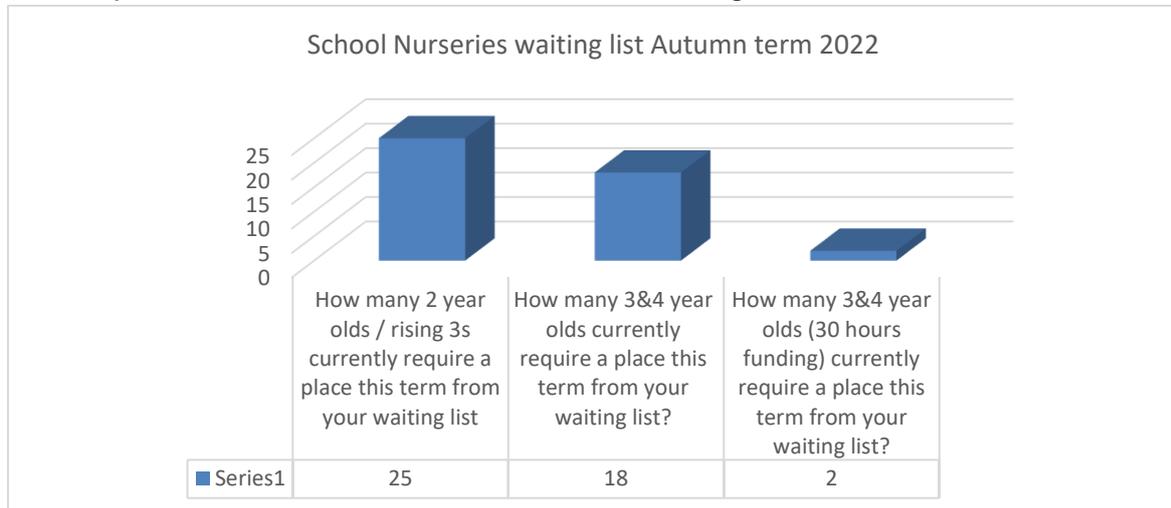
21 school nurseries reported an increase of children with SEND, but there was no decrease in SEND numbers at any school.



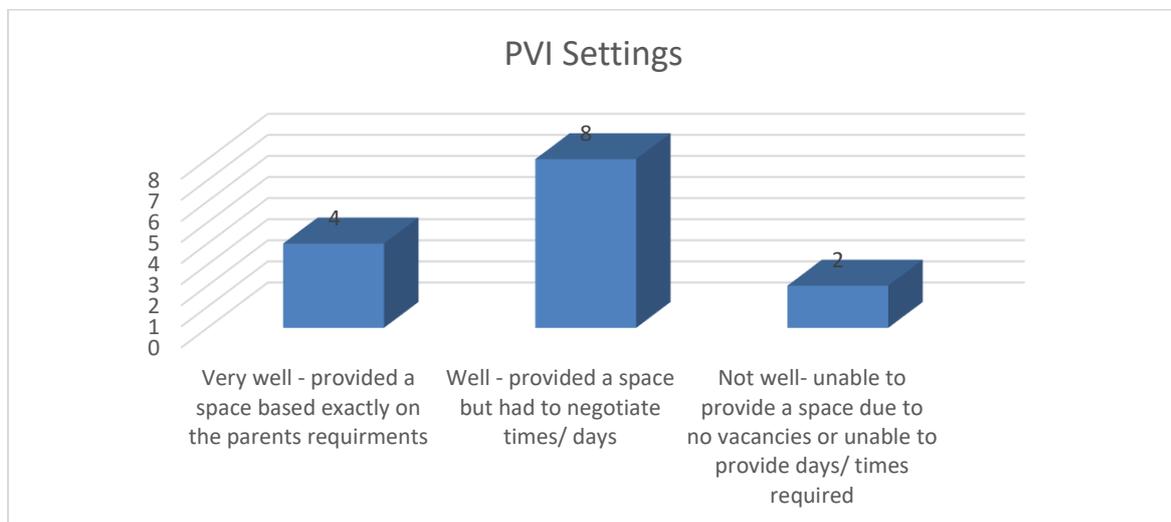
Waiting Lists



PVIs reported a total of 273 children on their waiting lists.



School nurseries have a total of 45 children currently on their waiting lists across rising 3s, universal and extended entitlement places

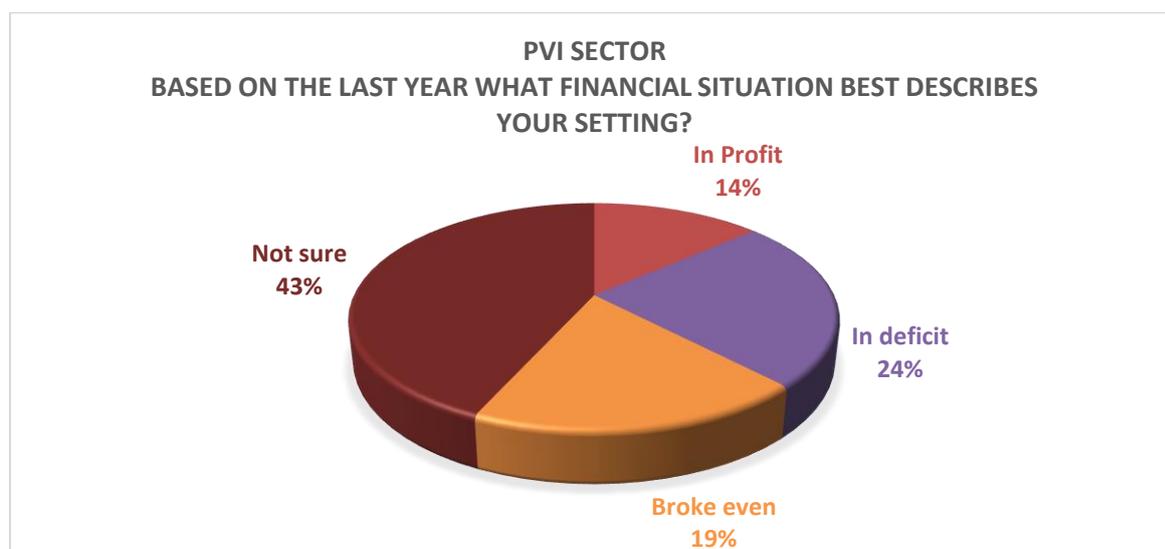


PVI settings were asked how well they felt they met the needs of parents and carers based on enquiries they had over the last year

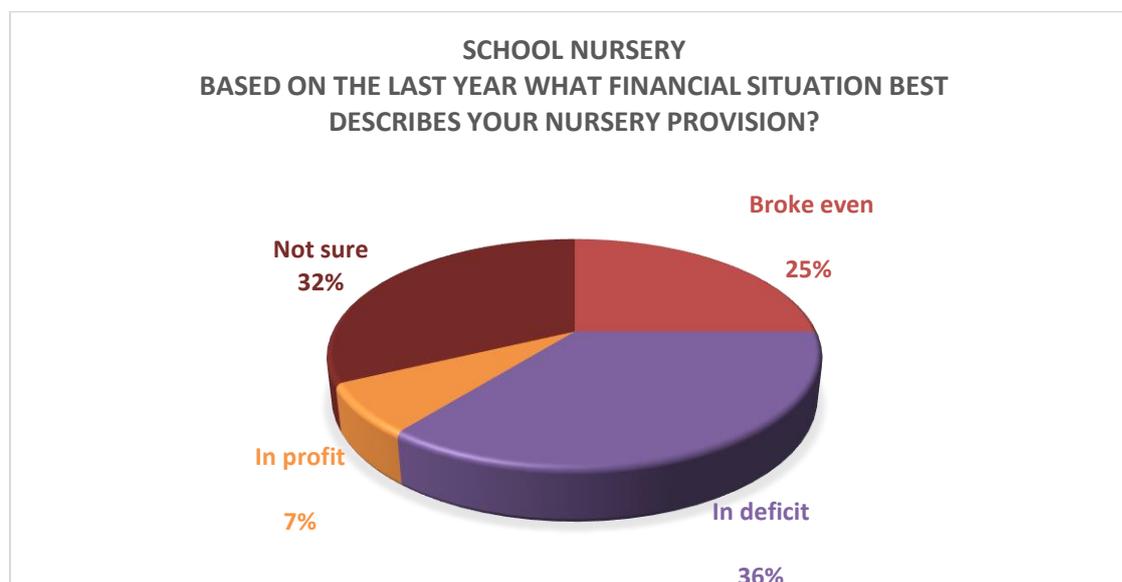
Two settings reported that they felt they have not met the needs of parents and carers well. The reason for this was that they were unable to offer a place due to staffing levels. Settings reported that there were insufficient staff numbers to keep up with demand.

Finances / business sustainability

Settings were asked to assess their financial position in the last year.

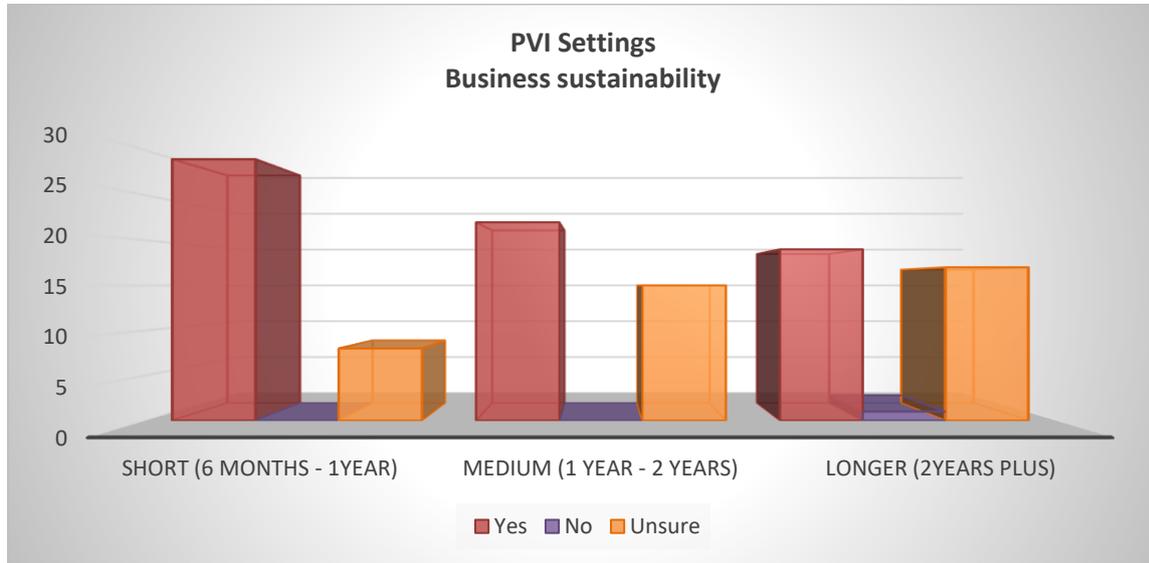


In the PVI sector, 14% stated they were in profit and 19% broke even. However, 24% stated they were in a deficit position and 43% were not sure of their financial position. Workshops are being organised to address this, with business support being a focus for the coming year.



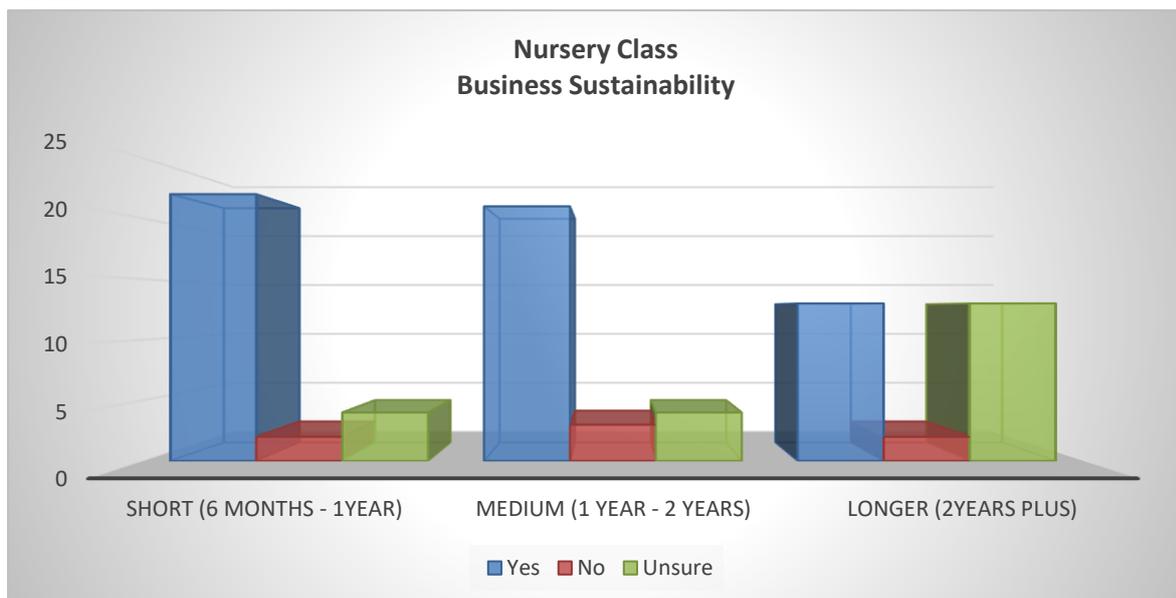
School nurseries reported a similar picture, but those in profit were even lower, at just 7%, although the break-even was higher than that in the PVI sector at 25%

PVI providers were less certain about the longer term sustainability of their business, but this is expected due to the current situation concerning recovery from the pandemic, rising fuel charges and inflation for consumables. However, 78% of providers felt that their business was sustainable in the short term.



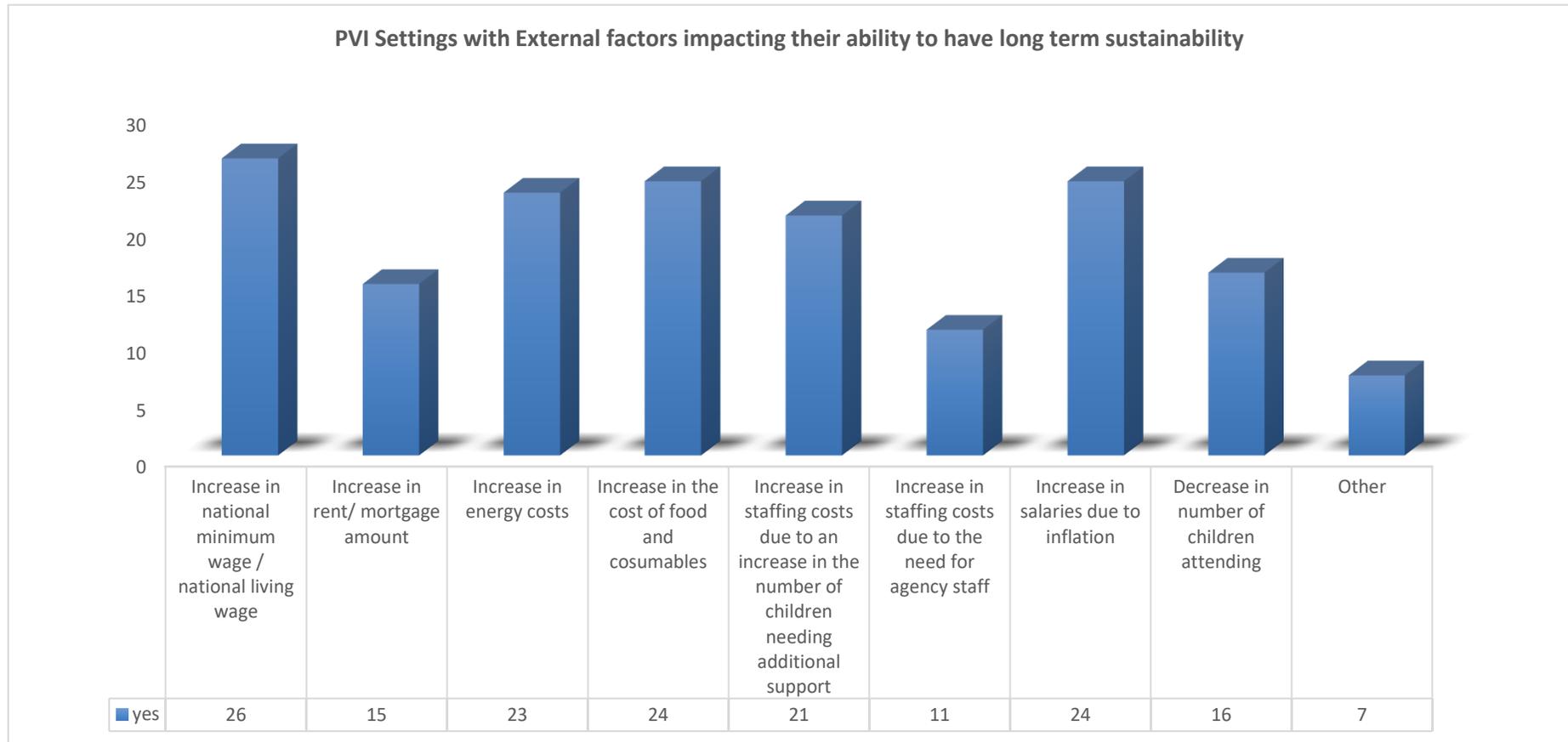
Nursery Class

Nursery classes were less certain about the longer term sustainability of their business, but this is expected due to the current situation concerning recovery from the pandemic, rising fuel charges and inflation for food and consumables. However, 79% of school nursery classes felt that their business was sustainable in the short term.

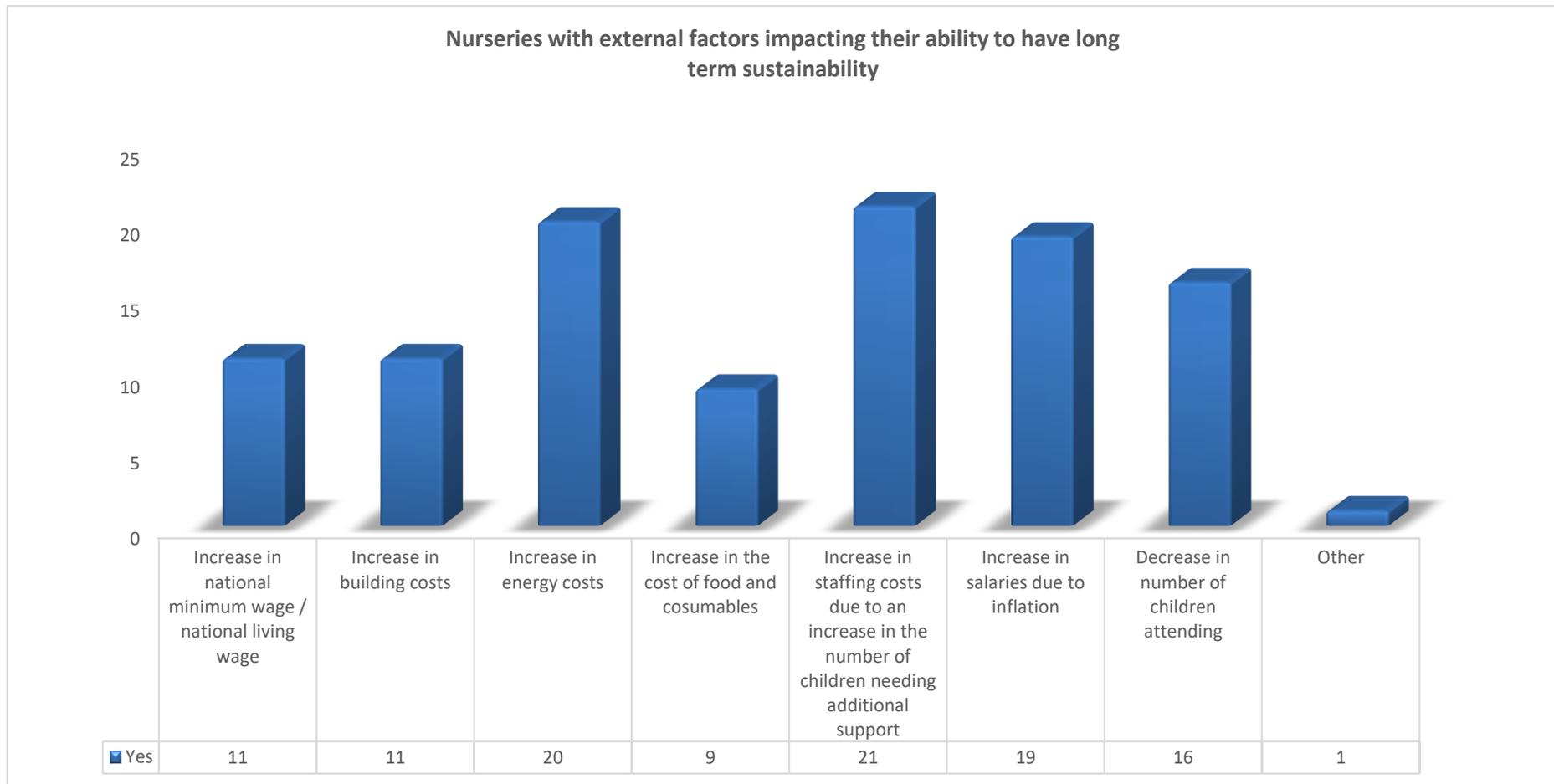


External Factors impacting long term sustainability - PVI

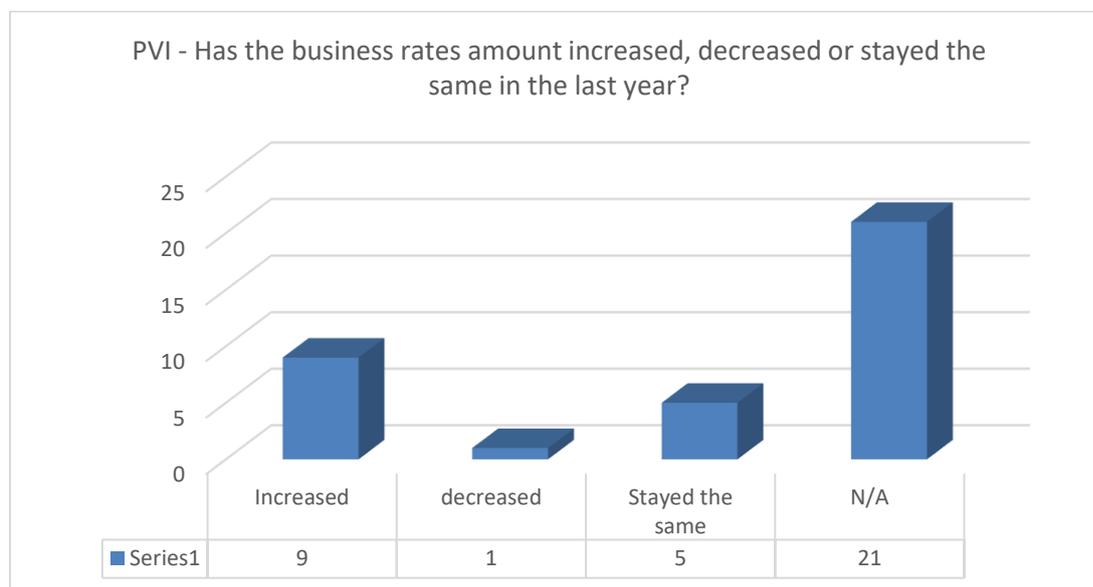
Providers were asked if there were any external factors impacting their settings ability to have long term sustainability.



Settings were concerned about the national minimum and living wage rises, along with the rising energy costs and the cost of food and consumables.



PVI settings were asked about their business rates. The average cost for PVI settings in business rates was £13,410.00, with the highest being £20,000 per annum. Looking at this data only, it appears that a large proportion of settings would not be affected. However, it should be expected that rent costs will increase in line with rising business rates.



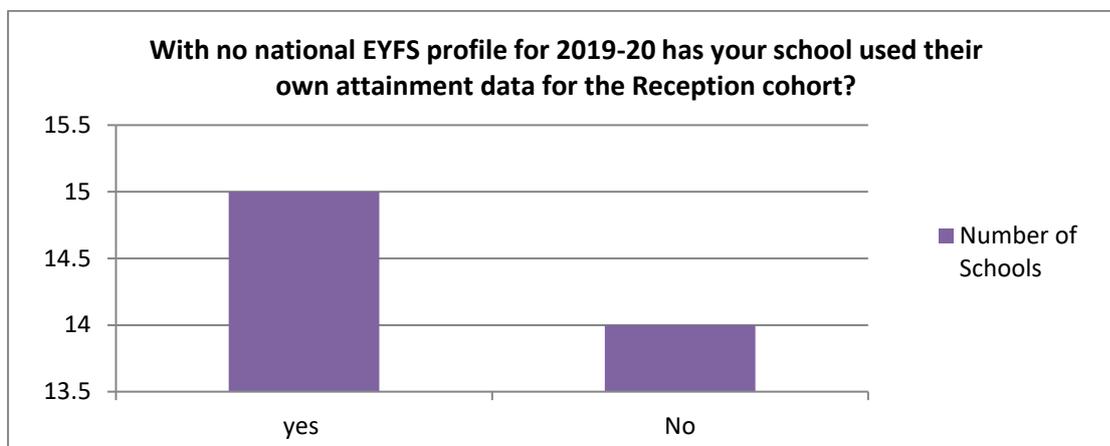
Attainment and data

100% of the PVI sector and 90% of schools reported having a system that provided them with individual child and/or cohort attainment data.

37% of the PVI sector share children’s attainment levels with parents and carers every term. Others reported that they share the information:

- as required by parents.
- twice yearly currently.
- daily feedback and on-entry assessment meetings and on-going sharing of progress trackers.
- every 3 months
- as and when assessments and observations are published.
- only baseline data shared.
- key persons and records always available for parents.
- 2 year old progress checks.
- twice a year January and July.

School based nurseries were also asked about attainment data for reception aged children as the 2019/20 and 2020/21 data collections were cancelled due to the pandemic.



Costs

Providers were asked to share their average hourly rates based on age groups and hours less than 25 hour per week and more than 25 hours per week.

Comparisons to national averages are sourced from Coram’s Childcare Survey 2021

Costs: Under 2 years: PVI settings



The average hourly cost of an under 2 year old place in a PVI setting in Slough for less than 25 hours per week is **£7.33** and the average cost of an under 2 year old place in a PVI setting in Slough for more than 25 hours per week is **£7.10**.

The national average for a part time place £5.61, full time £5.36

The south-east average for a part time place £5.84, full time £5.68

Average cost for childminders is £5.50- £6.50p per hour.

59% of childminders charge between £5.00 - £5.50 per hour for a place for a child under 2 years old taking up less than 25 hours per week. 75% charge £5.00 - £5.50 per hour for an under 2 year old place for more than 25 hours per week. Most childminders (86%) felt that this rate had not changed due to the COVID pandemic.

Childminders- the national average for a part time place £4.76, full time £4.58

Childminders- the south-east average for a part time place £4.78, full time £4.64

Costs: 2 years old

The average cost of a 2 year old place in a PVI setting in Slough for less than 25 hours per week is approximately **£7.15** and the average cost of a 2 year old place in Slough for more than 25 hours per week is also approximately **£6.89**.

The national average for a part time place £5.39, full time £5.16

The south-east average for a part time place £5.60, full time £5.37

Childminders- the national average for a part time place £4.71, full time £4.57

Childminders- the south-east average for a part time place £4.75, full time £4.74



Costs: 3 & 4 years old

The average cost of a 3 & 4 year old place in a PVI setting in Slough for less than 25 hours per week is approximately **£6.06** and the average cost of a 3 & 4 year old place in Slough for more than 25 hours per week is approximately **£6.03**.

The national average for a part time place £5.24, full time £5.08

The south-east average for a part time place £5.28, full time £5.24

Childminders- the national average for a part time place £4.83, full time £4.58

Childminders- the south-east average for a part time place £5.02, full time £4.70

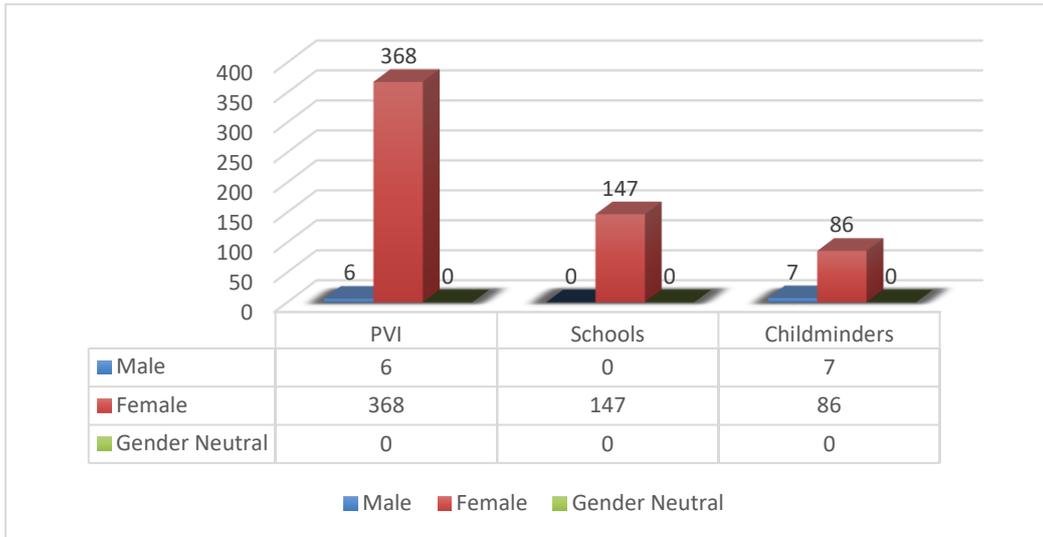
The hourly rates for 3 and 4 year olds are based on 10 hours per week for part time and 20 hours per week full time, as universal and extended entitlement have been removed from the calculation.



Workforce Development: Recruitment and Retention

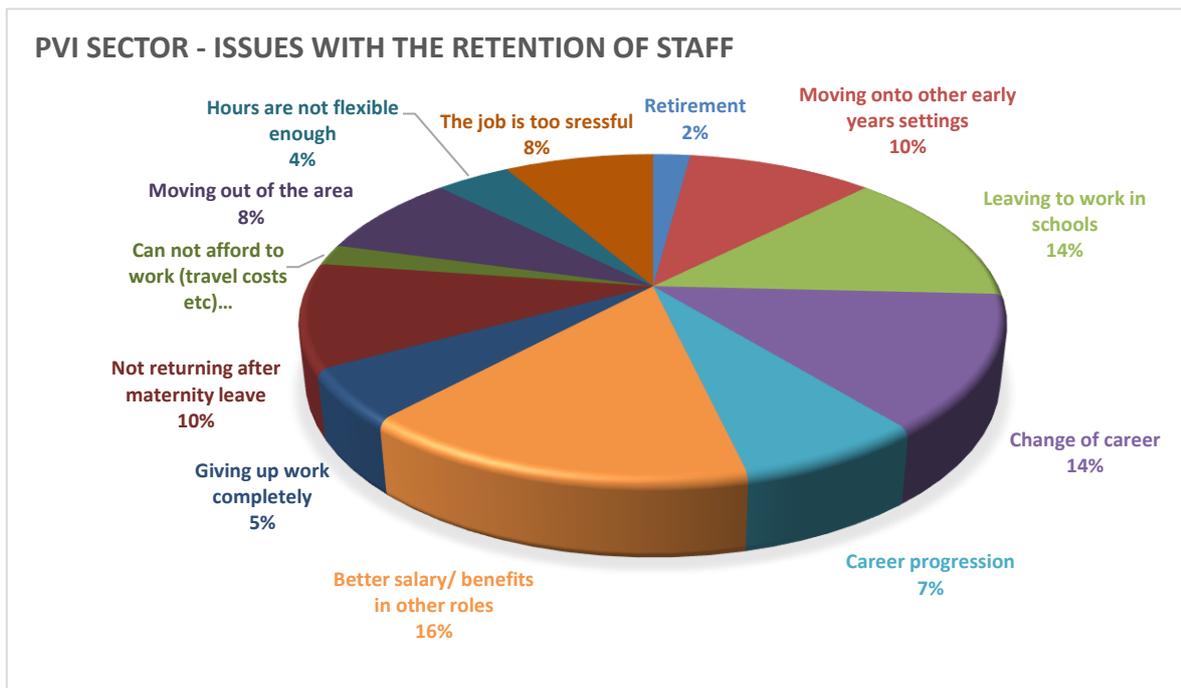
In Slough there is currently

- 374 practitioners in PVI settings,
- 147 practitioners in school based settings and
- 93 practitioners working as childminders or assistants in a childminder setting.
- The percentage of male staff in the sector is 2.1% of the total workforce. This was previously 2.8%
- There are currently no staff identifying as gender neutral.

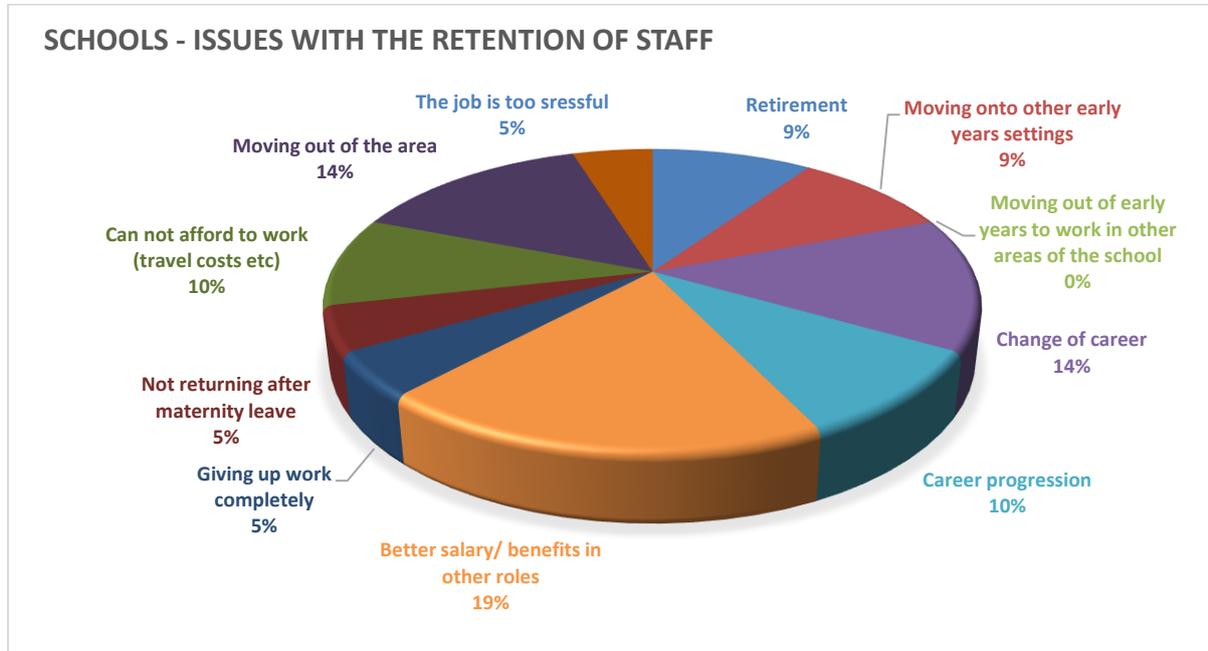


There have been problems across the sector for several years with the recruitment and retention of staff. This issue was further exacerbated by the pandemic when childcare staff chose to leave the sector altogether. With vacant posts rising, settings are forced to close childcare rooms to stay within Ofsted ratios, thereby reducing numbers of children and associated income.

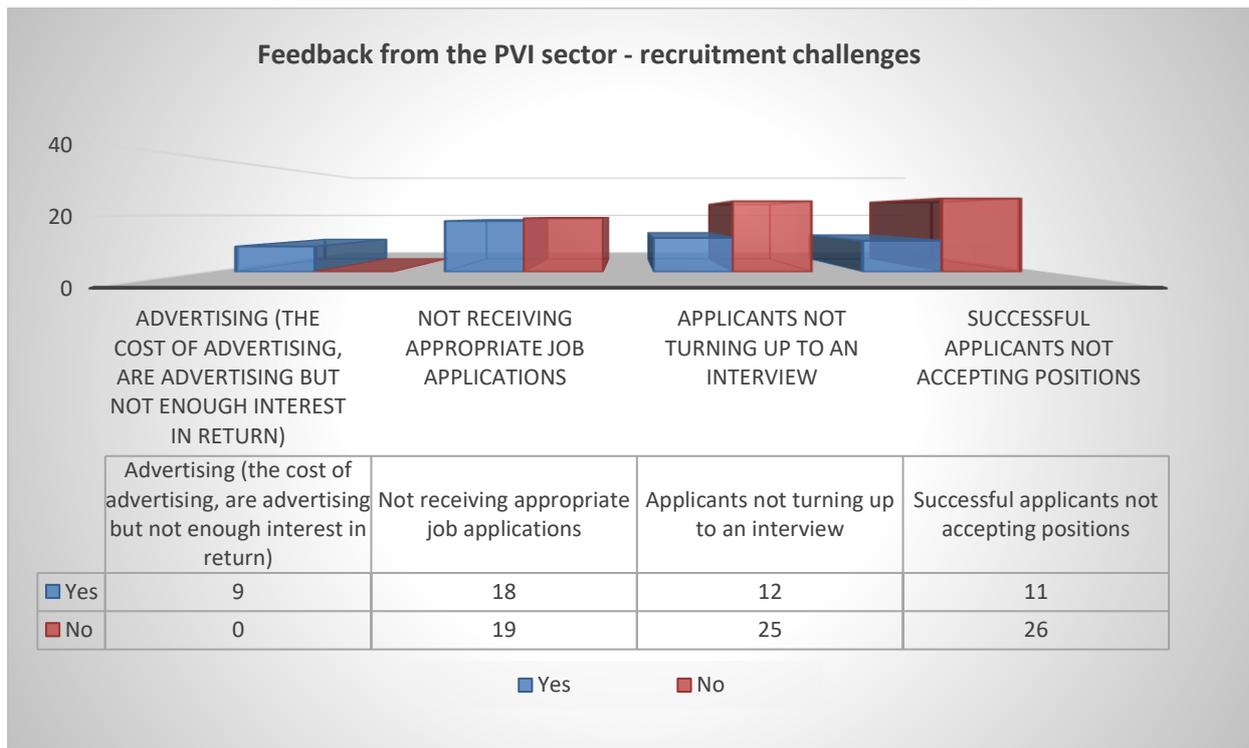
Providers were asked to identify what the issues with staff retention were. PVI settings reported that 16% of staff were finding better salary/ benefits in other roles, 14% citing a change of career and 14% staff moving on to work in schools. A further 10% of staff across the sector were choosing not to return to work after maternity leave.



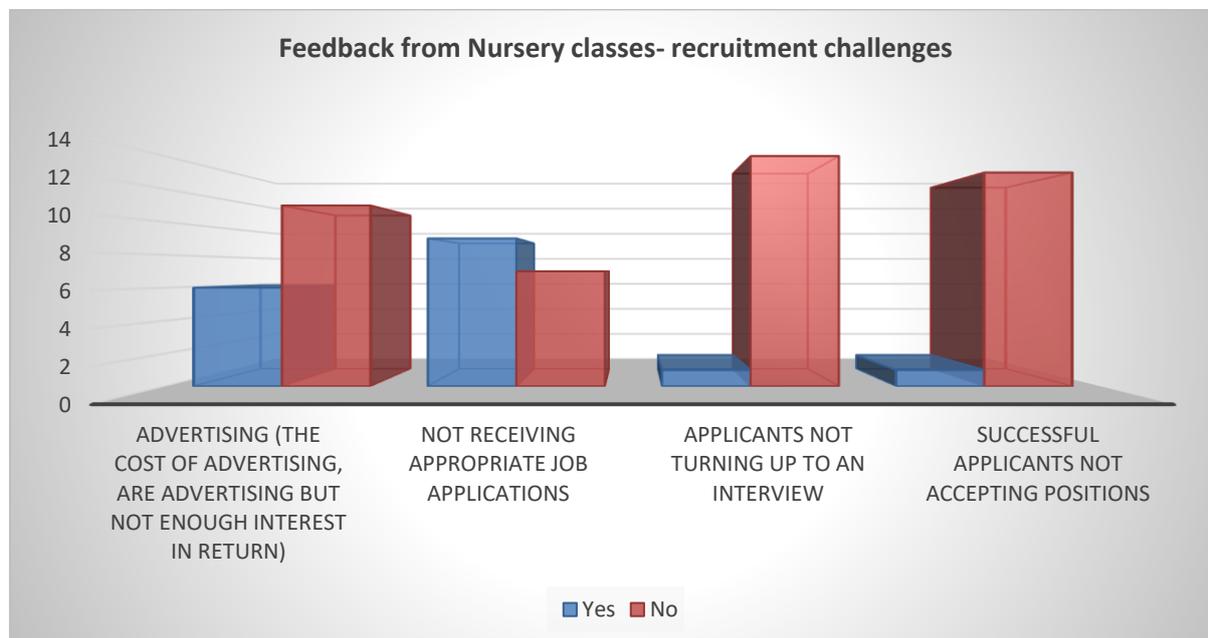
19% of staff were finding better salary/ benefits in other roles, 14% citing a change of career and 14% staff moving out of the area. A further 10% of staff said they could not afford to work, citing travel costs etc. Schools also reported challenges with retention and recruitment of staff.



49% of settings felt they were not receiving appropriate job applications, 44% reported that candidates failed to turn up for interview and 30% stated that successful candidates did not accept the position.



Nursery classes stated that the main reason for recruitment challenges was a lack of applications from the labour market.



The Autumn term provider audit looked at vacant posts where the sector was experiencing recruitment challenges. The numbers in the tables below show the number of staff vacancies, with the PVI sector having a deficit of staff five times greater than school nursery classes.

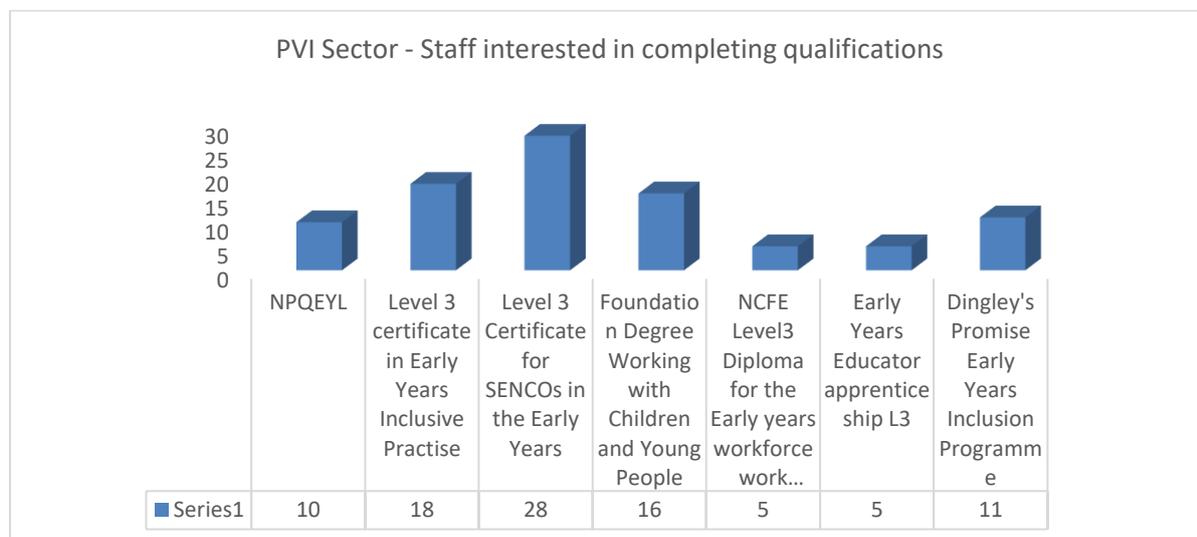
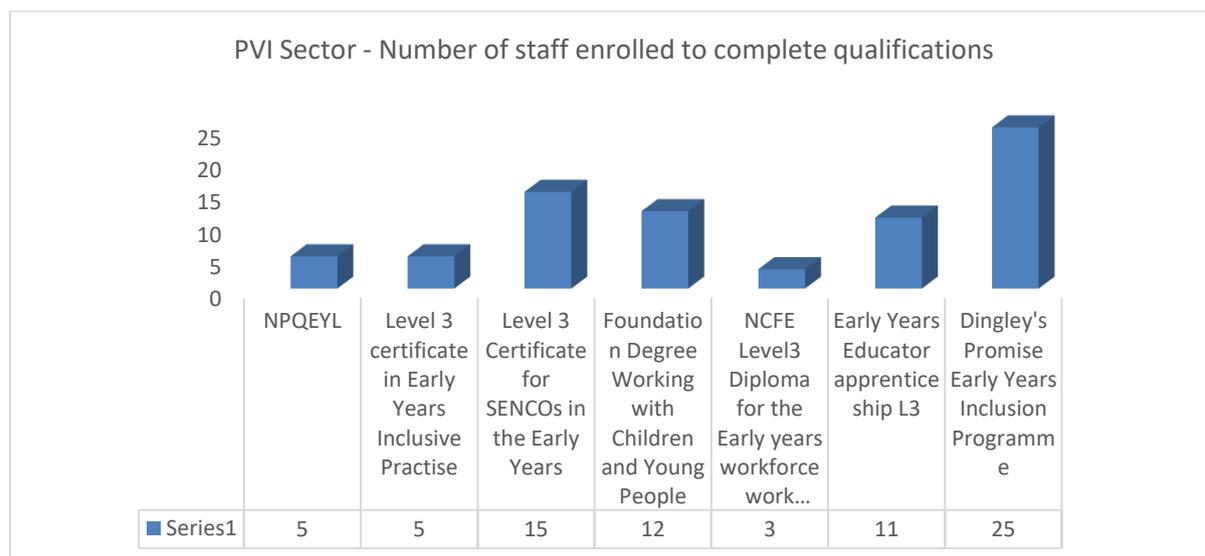
PVI Settings staffing vacancies.

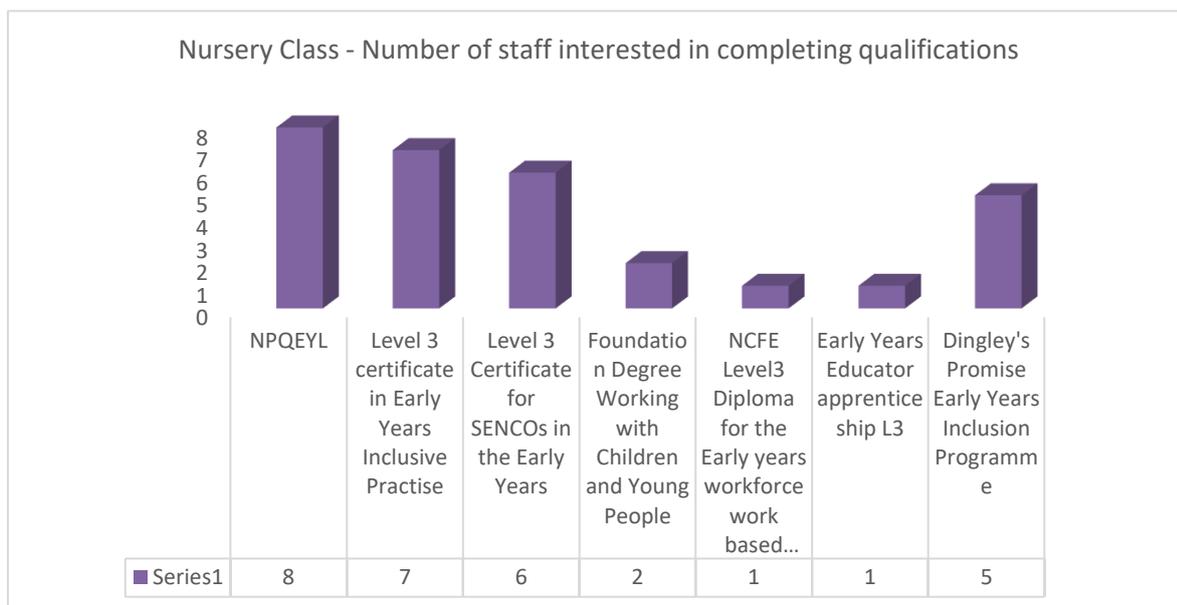
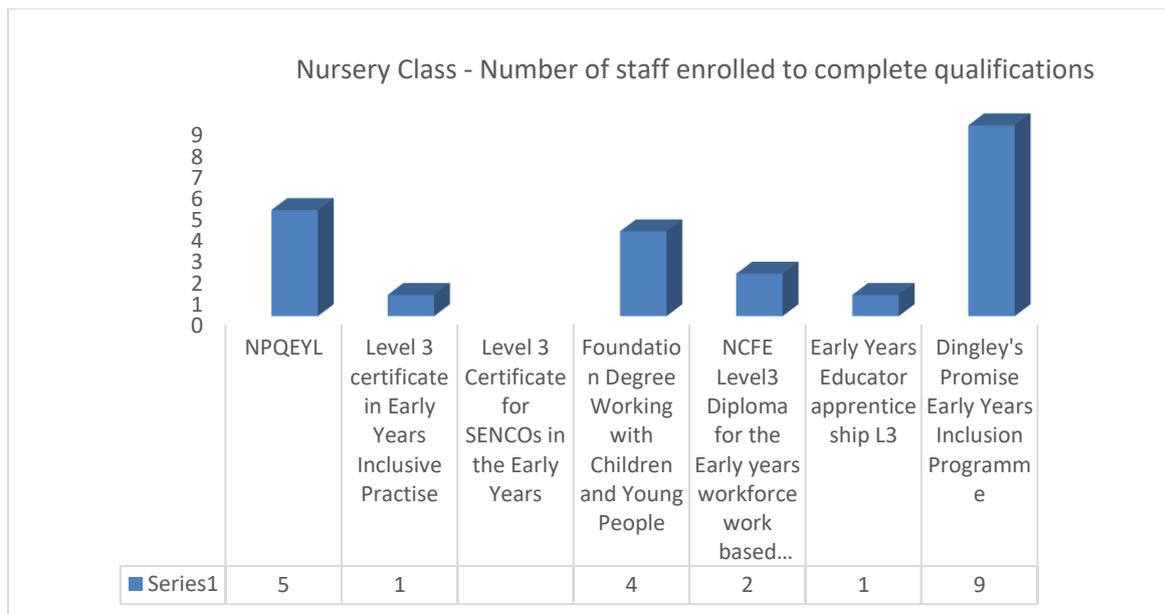
Role	Number of vacancies
Unqualified part time	4
Unqualified full time	3
Level 2 part time	3
Level 2 full time	7
Level 3 part time	7
Level 3 full time	13
Lunch time cover	3
SENDCo part time	3
SENDCo full time	4
Administrator	1
Catering	1
Manager	2
Deputy	3
Other	0
Total	54

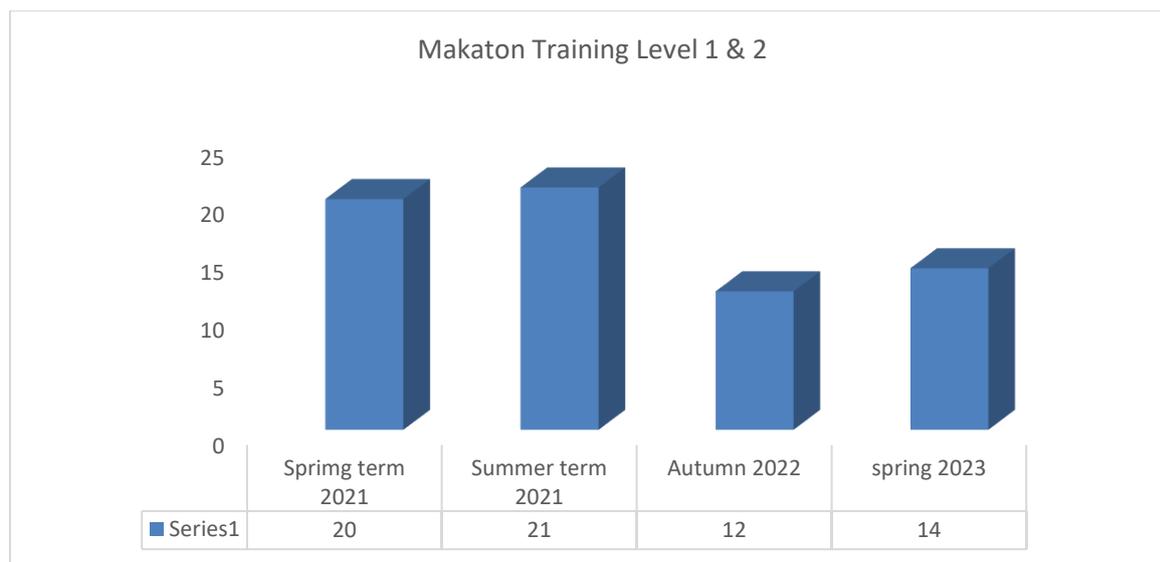
Nursery Classes staffing vacancies.

Role	Number of vacancies
Unqualified part time	0
Unqualified full time	0
Level 2 part time	1
Level 2 full time	0
Level 3 part time	0
Level 3 full time	0
Lunch time cover	0
SENDCo part time	2
SENDCo full time	2
Teacher	2
LSA/TA	2
Other	2
Total	11

Qualifications and training







Slough is committed to its training & CPD offer and has provided Makaton training since the Spring term 2021.

In total 67 early years workforce members across the sector have been trained in Makaton levels 1 & 2.

Makaton level 3 training will be rolled out to the sector in the spring term 2023.

Apprentices, Volunteers and work placements

PVI Providers

- 14% stated they had apprentices.
- 28% had vacancies for apprentices.
- 14% offer volunteering positions.
- 17% had or were planning to have students on work placements.

Schools

- One member of staff is completing an apprenticeship.
- 6 schools working with volunteers.
- 3 schools working with student placements.

Continuing Professional Development and Training

- 76% of PVI providers have a training and CPD budget for the year and
- 21% said that this was an increased budget compared to the previous year.
- 75% of school based nurseries reported having a training and CPD budget and
- 84% said that this has stayed the same compared to the previous year.
- 24% of PVI providers report that they don't have a training and CDP budget.

- 11% said their budget had reduced in comparison to the previous year.
- 25% of school based nurseries reported that they don't have a training/CPD budget and 5% report a decrease

There is a willingness across the sector to engage with further training of staff, accessing qualifications for staff which will then increase capacity in the market particularly for children with SEND. This will in time support retention of staff and inclusive practice (providing more skilled staff to work with children with SEND) and upskilling staff to adapt whole provision to be truly inclusive.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Level of need	% of children with SEND supported by the early years sector 2018 - 2019	% of children with SEND supported by the early years sector 2020 - 2021	% of children with SEND supported by the early years sector 2021 - 2022	% of children with SEND supported by the early years sector Autumn term 2022
1-Based on the academic year September 2021 - August 2022, how many children attending your provision required UNIVERSAL SUPPORT / additional support e.g. ITALK small language group...	37%	59%	53%	56%
2-Based on the academic year September 2021 - August 2022, how many children attending your provision required TARGETED support such as IEP's and other agencies involved e.g. SALT	29%	26%	25%	25%
3-Based on the academic year September 2021 - August 2022, how many children attending your provision could be identified as having COMPLEX NEEDS	23%	11%	16%	15%
4-Based on the academic year September 2021 - August 2022, how many children did you have attending your provision who could be identified as having SPECIALIST EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT	12%	4%	6%	4%
Total	585	866	2380	1924

The number of children presenting with SEND has risen from 866 in 2020-21 to 2,380 in the whole of 2021-22, an increase of 175%

This table relates to September 2021-August 2022

Level of need	% of children with SEND supported by the early years sector
1	1430
2	646
3	410
4	182
TOTAL	2380

The number of children presenting with SEND in Autumn 2022 only currently stands at 1,924. Should this level continue into the spring and summer terms we could be expecting the annual number to be well over 5,000.

Schools were asked in the annual provider audit for the number of children identifying with SEND or vulnerabilities.

Number of children on roll Autumn 2022

Monksfield Way	Orchard Avenue	St. Andrews Way	Chalvey Grove	Elliman Avenue	Penn Road	Wexham Road	Yew Tree Road	Romsey Close	Vicarage Way	TOTAL
396	318	472	525	436	329	556	585	937	327	4881

SEND September 2021- August 2022

Based on the academic year *September 2021 - August 2022*, how many children did you have attending your provision who required **UNIVERSAL SUPPORT / additional support** e.g. ITALK small language groups, small group work / adaptations to support accessing certain activities?

Monksfield Way	Orchard Avenue	St. Andrews Way	Chalvey Grove	Elliman Avenue	Penn Road	Wexham Road	Yew Tree Road	Romsey Close	Vicarage Way	TOTAL
179	67	82	160	208	80	161	156	268	69	1430
45%	21%	17%	30%	48%	24%	29%	27%	29%	21%	29%

This shows that 1430 of children attending an early years setting required universal or additional support when accessing certain activities, this is 29% of the total number of children attending in the period September 2021- August 2022. The highest percentage is seen Elliman Avenue with 48%

Based on the academic year *September 2021 - August 2022*, how many children did you have attending your provision who required **TARGETED support** such as IEP's and other agencies involved e.g. SALT?

Monksfield Way	Orchard Avenue	St. Andrews Way	Chalvey Grove	Elliman Avenue	Penn Road	Wexham Road	Yew Tree Road	Romsey Close	Vicarage Way	TOTAL
53	29	44	84	68	47	72	69	125	55	646
13%	9%	9%	16%	16%	14%	13%	12%	13%	17%	13%

This shows that 646 of children attending an early years setting required Targeted support, this is 13% of the total number of children attending in the September 2021- August 2022. The highest percentage was in Chalvey Grove and Elliman Avenue 16%

Based on the academic year *September 2021 - August 2022*, how many children did you have attending your provision who could be identified as having **COMPLEX NEEDS** which could have meant they had: Early Years Inclusion Funding, IEP's, other agencies e.g. SALT, Paediatrician, Ed Psych, ASD Service?

Monksfield Way	Orchard Avenue	St. Andrews Way	Chalvey Grove	Elliman Avenue	Penn Road	Wexham Road	Yew Tree Road	Romsey Close	Vicarage Way	TOTAL
53	27	25	50	57	27	42	38	63	28	410
13%	8%	5%	10%	13%	8%	8%	6%	7%	9%	8%

410 of children attending an early years setting in September 2021- August 2022 could be identified as having complex needs (8%), the highest percentage in Monksfield Way and Elliman Avenue, 13%

Based on the academic year *September 2021 - August 2022*, how many children did you have attending your provision who could be identified as having **SPECIALIST EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT** and were in receipt of an Education Health and Care Plan?

Monksfield Way	Orchard Avenue	St. Andrews Way	Chalvey Grove	Elliman Avenue	Penn Road	Wexham Road	Yew Tree Road	Romsey Close	Vicarage Way	TOTAL
13	6	11	52	8	5	22	9	37	19	182
3%	2%	2%	10%	2%	2%	4%	2%	4%	6%	4%

182 children attending an early years setting could be identified as having Specialist Educational Support (4%), the highest percentage in Chalvey Grove, 10%

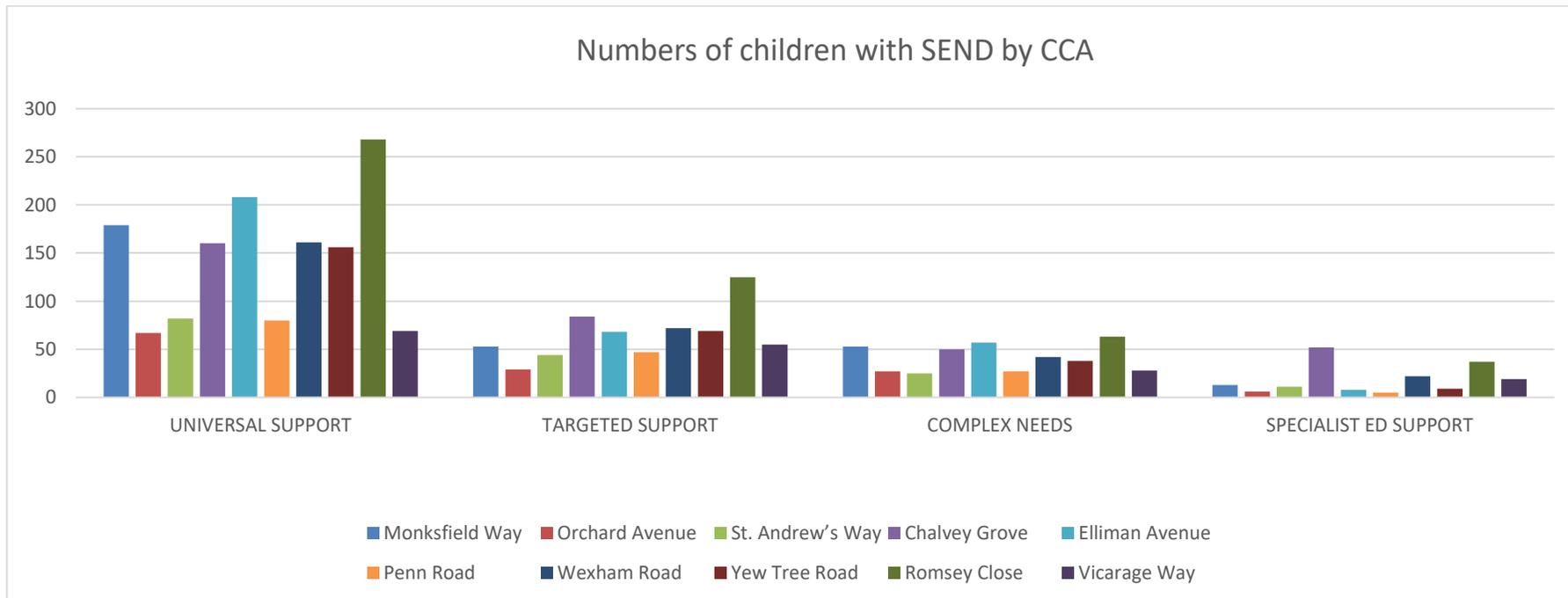
39% of children attending an early years setting in the Autumn 2022 were identified by settings as having a range of special educational needs or disability.

	Monksfield Way	Orchard Avenue	St. Andrew's Way	Chalvey Grove	Elliman Avenue	Penn Road	Wexham Road	Yew Tree Road	Romsey Close	Vicarage Way
Total on roll	396	318	472	525	436	329	556	585	937	327

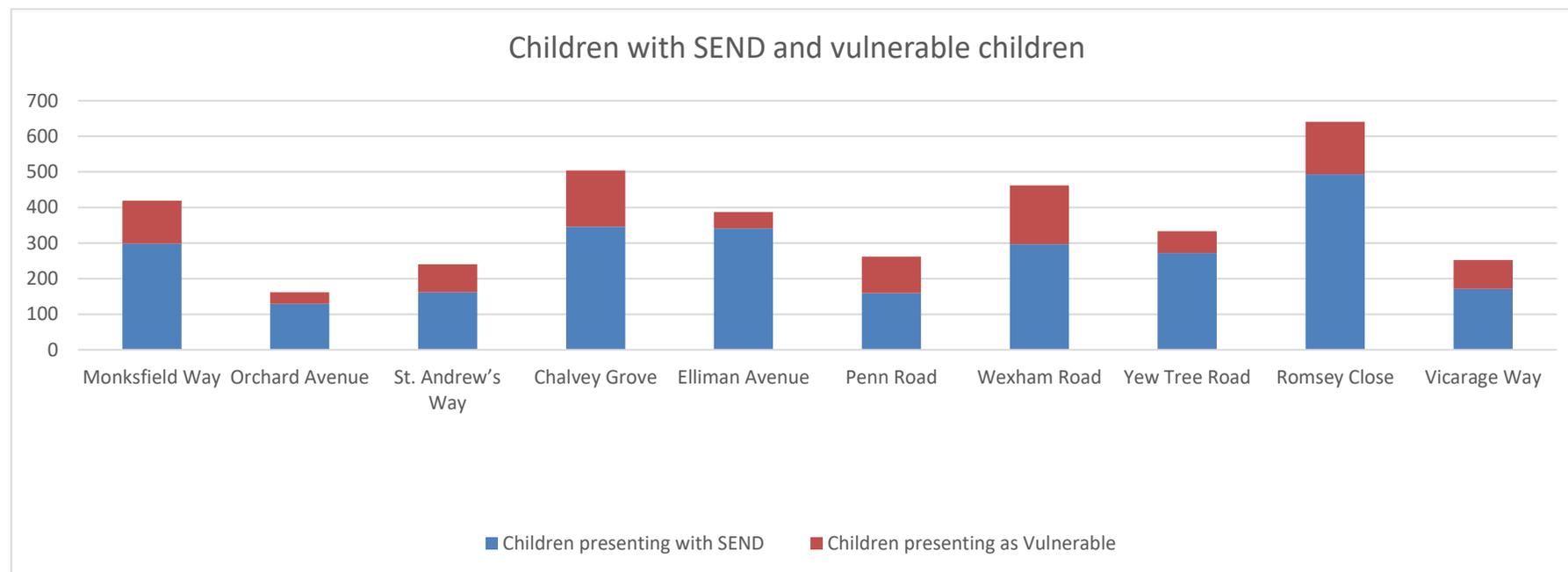
Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022 – 2023

UNIVERSAL SUPPORT	179	67	82	160	208	80	161	156	268	69
TARGETED SUPPORT	53	29	44	84	68	47	72	69	125	55
COMPLEX NEEDS	53	27	25	50	57	27	42	38	63	28
SPECIALIST ED SUPPORT	13	6	11	52	8	5	22	9	37	19
Vulnerable- universal support	91	24	60	111	26	86	111	35	69	47
Vulnerable- targeted	30	9	18	47	20	17	54	26	79	34

The Romsey Close Children’s Centre Area has the largest number of children on roll (937) and is dealing with the highest number of children with varying degrees of SEND, 493.



Vulnerabilities September 2021 - August 2022



The highest number of vulnerable children overall are in Wexham Road CCA, 165

Based on the academic year (September 2021 - August 2022) how many families were you supporting who were classed as vulnerable and required **universal support** such as EYPP, Family Information Services, Health Visitor support, CYPIT, access Early Help? The numbers of children forming part of this question include children in reception classes.

Monksfield Way	Orchard Avenue	St. Andrews Way	Chalvey Grove	Elliman Avenue	Penn Road	Wexham Road	Yew Tree Road	Romsey Close	Vicarage Way	TOTAL
91	24	60	111	26	86	111	35	69	47	660
23%	8%	13%	21%	6%	26%	20%	6%	7%	14%	14%

660 children attending an early years setting in September 2021- August 2022 were classed as vulnerable requiring universal support (14%). The highest percentage against number on roll was Monksfield Way, 23%

Based on the academic year (September 2021 - August 2022) how many families were you supporting who were classed as vulnerable and required **targeted support** such as families with Child Protection Plans, Children in Need, targeted family support from Early Help?

Monksfield Way	Orchard Avenue	St. Andrews Way	Chalvey Grove	Elliman Avenue	Penn Road	Wexham Road	Yew Tree Road	Romsey Close	Vicarage Way	TOTAL
30	9	18	47	20	17	54	26	79	34	334
17%	13%	22%	29%	10%	21%	34%	17%	29%	49%	23%

334 children attending an early years setting in September 2021- August 2022 were classed as vulnerable requiring specialist support (23%). The highest percentage based on number on roll was Vicarage Way with 49%

37% of the total number of children attending an early years setting in September 2021- August 2022 were classed as having a vulnerability.

Out of School Survey Overview

Most of the Out of School care was supplied through the Holiday Activities and Food programme, a government initiative to coordinate and provide free holiday provision including healthy food and enriching activities. Research has shown that school holidays can be pressure points for some families which may lead to a holiday experience gap, with children from low-income households being:

- less likely to access organised out-of-school activities.
- more likely to experience 'unhealthy holidays' in terms of nutrition and physical health.
- more likely to experience social isolation.

(source DfE Guidance Holiday Activities and Food programme 2022)

HAF ran in the Easter 2022 and Summer 2022 school holidays, offering activities and food to 1,654 children, 1,114 primary aged and 540 secondary aged.

HAF 2022	Primary	Secondary
Easter 2022	448	271
Summer 2022	666	269

Since the pandemic a high number of out of school providers have closed, stating that the demand for afterschool and holiday care had decrease that it was no longer viable to operate.

Many schools continue to offer afterschool activities and breakfast club provision.

The Family Information Service has not reported significant enquires for out of school provision, therefore assuming demand is currently met.

Housing Development

New Housing: place planning

Slough is a growing community with an increasing demand for additional housing. It is estimated that Slough will require an additional 17,000 homes over the next 19 years, creating a pressure on land and local services including early years provision. The tables below show the additional homes completed in recent years and expected to be completed by 2023/24. The increase in the proportion of flats completed in recent years is a combined result of many 'Office to Residential' conversions and a minimal number of new homes being built on greenfield sites. Flats are expected to dominate completions in the future.

	Net Additional Homes	Houses	Flats
2015/16	778	34%	66%
2016/17	521	23%	77%
2017/18	846	35%	65%
2018/19	534	19%	81%
2019/20	503	10%	90%
2020/21	501	10%	90%
2021-22	532	6%	94%

	Expected completions
2022/23to 2023/24	500 per year

The level of new housing is closely monitored due to its potential impact on demand for early years places. Where new housing completions are forecast to exceed recent trends then adjustment factors will be applied to place forecasts.

In order to measure the impact on demand for early years and school places the LA carries out a survey every 5 years or so to assess the number of pupils that live in newly built housing in Slough. The output from this survey is a series of tables showing the number and age of children produced by each dwelling type and size. The numbers in the output tables are called the Pupil Product Ratios.

It is often the case that families moving into new housing developments already reside in the borough and new families to Slough move into the vacated properties. This can mean that planning early years provision as a result of new housing is not straightforward as growth can be across the town as well as in the area of the development. This can also mean that there is a lag before local early years provider see the full impact of new housing developments, as some children can remain at their previous provider.

Details of Slough’s current Local Plan and progress to date on an update of the plan can be found here: <https://www.slough.gov.uk/planning-policy/emerging-local-plan-slough-2016-2036>

Developer Contributions – When planning applications are received for new housing developments the Local Authority considers whether there is a shortage of early years provision for children moving into the new homes. Calculations of the numbers of children forecast to be produced are based on the Pupil Product Ratios mentioned above. For any shortfalls the developer is asked to contribute the capital cost of building the new places via Section 106 planning obligations, to address the impact new development will have on public infrastructure.

Due to the existing pressure on early years provision across the town accommodation for a nursery may be requested as part of the development for both medium and large sites.

Centre of Slough – Over the next 15-20 years SBC expects that up to 9000 new homes will be built in the central area of Slough, around the High Street and beyond the current edge of the town centre. A detailed piece of work will be required to assess the impact on school places of such a large number of new homes in a relatively small area.

Using the assumption that 9000 new flats are built with a split as follows: 3000x 1-bed, 5000x 2-bed and 1000x 3-bed, this would generate:

- 2170 early years children or a high number of large new nurseries

This doesn't mean this many places need to be built as:

- SBC's forecasts already include an assumption that 600+ homes will be built across Slough each year based on recent experience (totalling 9000+ over 15 years)
- The reduced birth rate will continue to increase the number of surplus places in existing provision.

The main issue for Slough is the lack of providers and suitable premises within or close to the Centre. Without new nurseries being built there will be a large increase in movement from the town centre each day, this will add to congestion and a lack of convenient places could possibly affect the sale of new homes.