

# Children's Services Committee

<b>Report title:</b>	<b>School and Childcare Sufficiency in Norfolk</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>12 March 2019</b>
<b>Responsible Chief Officer:</b>	<b>Sara Tough Executive Director of Children's Services</b>
<b>Strategic impact</b> The County Council has two sufficiency duties for learners 0-16 (i) the duty to ensure sufficient childcare to meet the needs of working parents and (ii) the duty to secure sufficient pupil places to meet the demands of the school-age population, 4-16. At age 16-18 there is a duty to secure sufficient and suitable provision for Norfolk young people in the post 16 market place of education and training.  The school age population continues to grow across Norfolk, through demographic change and the impact of new housing, and the County Council needs to demonstrate how it intends to meet the need for new places in the medium to long-term and to prioritise available capital funding accordingly.  The provision of high-quality places is central to meeting the County Council's objectives in relation to a good education for every learner.	

## Executive summary

Committee receives a report annually on the proposed strategic response to the growth in pupil numbers across Norfolk. This year's report is again combined with the statutory report to Members on the published Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.

The Schools' Local Growth and Investment Plan (SLGIP) for pupil place provision 4-16 sets out the strategic direction of pupil place supply for those areas of the County where pupil numbers are expected to increase in the next 5-10 years. The Plan is a response to the District Local Plan frameworks and is presented as the basis for discussion, planning and decision-making for the County Council and its partners across the increasingly diverse educational landscape. The Plan links to the NCC schools' forward capital programme which will be reported for approval to Committee in May 2019.

This year's report concentrates its detail on the major strategic housing sites across the County where new schools will be needed, and summarises the situation for areas of lesser growth. The whole plan is provided at Annex A.

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) focusses on the ongoing need to monitor and improve the level of provision and a summary can be found in Annex B.

### **Recommendation:**

**The Committee is asked to adopt the Schools' Local Growth and Investment Plan and the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.**

## **1. Schools' Local Growth and Investment Plan – policy issues and area by area analysis**

- 1.1 The County Council has a duty to ensure sufficient school places and to secure sufficient childcare places to meet the demands of the population.
- 1.2 For the school-age population we provide an annual snapshot of demand in the form of a Schools' Local Growth and Investment Plan (SLGIP) and, for childcare, the statutory Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA). The latter has to be published each calendar year and was duly placed on the County Council's website during December 2018.
- 1.3 Both documents identify pressures for the coming period and set out the required response.
- 1.4 The SLGIP is a single, self-standing document to assist discussions with our educational partners in the now complex educational landscape, as highlighted in the November 2017 Committee meeting. Its substantive text is at annex A.
- 1.5 Capital investment in the school estate should promote high quality, sustainable provision. In line with the approach agreed in November 2017, officers will take account of current information regarding the quality and capacity of providers and sponsors to make recommendations for a significant change or investment.
- 1.6 The Department for Education recently introduced an opportunity for proposers of voluntary aided schools to apply for capital funding and work with their Local Authority to establish a new VA school. Officers are working with the local dioceses to explore if there is a business case to promote this option within Norfolk.

## **2. Childcare Sufficiency Assessment – Background and key policy developments**

- 2.1 Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006 places a duty upon the LA to ensure sufficient childcare for children aged 0-14 (18 where a child has a disability), so far as is reasonably practical, for working parents or those who are undertaking a programme of training or study towards employment.
- 2.2 An annual Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) must be reported to Councillors and published so as to be accessible to parents. Central to this assessment is a statement as to how the gaps in childcare can be addressed – this forms the core of the action points in this report.
- 2.3 The CSA has been published on the NCC website at <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/childcare-and-early-learning/childcare-advice-and-guidance/childcare-sufficiency-assessment>  
A summary of key issues and proposed actions is at Annex B of this report.
- 2.4 Norfolk County Council submitted a bid for a school nursery capital project in the Norwich area in response to the School nursery capital fund advertised by the Department for Education.

- 2.5 Opportunities to create additional capacity within planned capital build projects, such as new or extending schools will be considered, especially in areas of growth, and claims for early years places will be made under section 106 agreements where possible.

### **3. Evidence**

- 3.1 The evidence behind the SLGIP is predominantly derived from the annual school forecasts provided by NCC's Business Intelligence and Performance Services. These include the impact of housing developments and parental preference. These forecasts support a more detailed pupil place planning exercise for areas of potential growth, taking into account a wider range of factors, including current admissions patterns. In the case of self-contained areas of major growth, assumptions are made from historical evidence about the number of children likely to be generated by new housing and how many forms of entry will be required in new or expanded schools.
- 3.2 Information provided annually to the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) on future pressures is used to provide capital grant allocations for Basic Need (that is, new places required to meet the sufficiency duty). LAs are required to report annually on the expenditure of all Basic Need funding to demonstrate that a sufficient number of places has been added to, or is planned for, the system in line with the LAs anticipated requirement for places.
- 3.3 The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment includes background evidence.

### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 A capital programme associated with the forward strategy was approved by Committee in June 2017 and November 2017. Indicative Basic Need sums have been provided by the government until the end of 2019/2020 but we have not yet had confirmation of Capital Maintenance allocations for 2018/19 or Basic Need for 2020/21. We have retained some contingency in the capital budget to ensure that short term pressures on admissions can be met and for emerging priorities where the need is predicted but has not yet emerged on the ground.
- 4.2 The County Council has introduced a corporate capital prioritisation process and we have been required to develop 'bids' for schemes which are either new or which call upon the existing approved, but as yet unallocated, funding. Some of these are Basic Need bids but others are for Capital maintenance schemes. Children's Services schemes were approved by Committee in November for transmission to Policy and Resources Committee.
- 4.3 The Greater Norwich Growth Board has provided a contribution from the Community Infrastructure Levy for school places and indicated that this is likely to become an annual commitment.
- 4.4 An understanding of the affordability of the required programme to provide additional places is critical. We have again included an indication of likely required expenditure in the SLGIP, area by area. Judgement on affordability will be based on the following likely areas of possible shortfall:
- Shortfall between value of a Basic Need place allocated by EFA and cost of places in historical schemes, locally and nationally;
  - Shortfall between a funded S106 place and historical costs;

- Maintenance requirements arising as a consequence of extension projects;
- Shortfall between CIL allocations and full cost of schemes. For schools, the balance can only be found from Basic Need allocations.

4.5 A report will be made to Committee in May 2019 on the final capital programme 2019-2022, following detailed work by Capital Priorities Group in the light of the capital allocations. This will include a further detailed assessment of affordability.

## **5. Issues, risks and innovation**

- 5.1 The key issue which Members need to take into account is the statutory duty of the authority to ensure that sufficient school places are available and that these are high-quality places – e.g. sustainable, by being close to pupils’ homes, in high-performing or improving schools and offering wide educational opportunities. It must also take into account that the County Council is solely responsible for the funding of these growth places, and receives formulaic government grant and local developer contribution to support this responsibility. It may in time have to address an affordability gap, as indicated in 4.3-4.5 above.
- 5.2 Partnership is the key to success in providing new places – legislation provides for new schools to be largely commissioned as free schools/academies and we need to attract outstanding academy providers to run new schools. In developing plans to expand existing schools we work closely with governing bodies, dioceses and existing academies and as specific plans develop locally, there is consultation with local people before proposals are made and planning applications submitted.
- 5.3 There are significant property implications to the expansion of schools – new sites have to be identified and in cases where they are not provided by developers, purchased. This poses particular risks to the timely delivery of places.
- 5.4 The County Council has to ensure an impartial process when it considers its own school planning applications, but applications are supported by reference in the National Planning Policy Framework to the need for determining authorities to recognise the requirement for a supply of new school places.
- 5.5 Detailed risks are set out in the SLGIP at Annex A.

## **6. Recommendation:**

**The Committee is asked to adopt the Schools’ Local Growth and Investment Plan and the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.**

### **Background papers:**

- DfE Annual Schools Capacity Return
- District Council Local Plans
- Children’s Services Committee report June 2017 - Children’s Services Capital Programme
- Children’s Services Committee report November 2017 – **Schools’ Capital Programme 2017-2020**

- Children's Services Committee report November 2017 – **Developing Norfolk's Education Landscape**
- Policy and Resources Committee November 2017 - **Finance monitoring report P6: September 2017**
- Full Childcare Sufficiency Assessment published online at <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/childcare-and-early-learning/childcare-advice-and-guidance/childcare-sufficiency-assessment>

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**Part 2a - Major growth areas which will require multi-school solutions**

**THETFORD (Breckland District)**

**Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) of 5000 new dwellings**



Red line boundary of new school site adjacent to new housing north of Thetford

**CURRENT LOCAL PROVISION – capacity and organisation**

Primary School places within Thetford are provided by 8 schools, a mix of infant, junior and all-through primary; 6 of these are academies; 5 run by Eastern MAT and one by DNEAT plus two community schools. A total of 360 places are available in each year group across the primary phase. In September 2018 there were around 50 spare places in Reception year across the Town. This is quite a drop compared to September 2017.

**LATEST ASSESSMENT OF GROWTH**

Children's Services have been working in partnership for many years with the land promoters 'Pigeon' on this strategic urban extension to Thetford and we have secured sites free of charge for 3 new primary phase schools each of 420 places. The

challenges for land promoters, as with all large strategic growth is commencing the development and selling the first phase of land to housing developers which can involve considerable up-front infrastructure and costs. However, earlier in 2018 the first Reserved Matters application from Hopkins Homes for Phase 1a of the development obtained planning permission for 343 dwellings. This phase includes the site for the first new primary school and Children’s Services have agreed the boundaries and the location of the site (see plan above). If the developer initiates their plan to install the spine road in 2019, site access would be available in early 2020 and with a potential opening date in 2021. The design process for the school building has been commissioned.

### **CURRENT PRESSURES ON PUPIL NUMBERS**

Pupil forecasts indicate that the current provision of places is sufficient until the new housing commences. There is some spare capacity which will be useful once the housing commences and until the first new school is built.

### **IMPACT OF HOUSING GROWTH**

Providing places for the children from the first phase of housing will be managed through the admissions process and discussions with local schools/Trusts have begun.

### **SHORT TERM RESPONSE**

Secure the land for the first new school. A Local Authority presumption route to decide who will run this school will be the next step. Diversity of provision and school organisation must be considered.

### **MEDIUM/LONGER TERM RESPONSE**

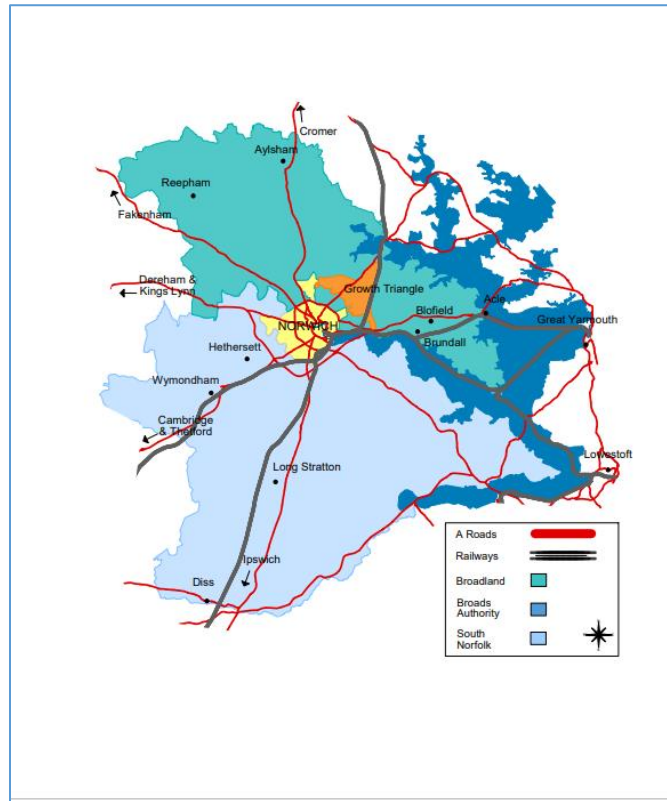
Longer term, the three new 420 place primary schools for Thetford will meet the need in the current Local Plan to 2026 and beyond. Timescales for these schools depend entirely on the progress rate of the new housing in Thetford.

Secondary school places will be monitored at Thetford Academy as additional land has already been provided at the school to allow for future expansion. S106 contributions have been secured although not yet collected as a result of the future housing allocation.

Capital response					
THETFORD	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/estimate	Date if known
Future programmes	SUE primary 1	2FE	Site layout	<i>IRO £8m</i>	<i>2021 or 2022</i>
	SUE primary 2	2FE	-	<i>£8m</i>	
	SUE primary 3	2FE	-	<i>£8m</i>	
	Secondary extension	tbc	-	<i>tbc</i>	

### **NORTH NORWICH GROWTH TRIANGLE (Broadland District)**

Sprowston/Old Catton/Rackheath **12,000+ new dwellings**



Growth triangle (coloured orange) map

### **CURRENT LOCAL PROVISION – capacity and organisation**

This housing growth area extends from Old Catton in the west to Rackheath in the east. Existing provision is extensive and affects three secondary schools: Sprowston Community Academy, Thorpe St Andrew School, Broadland High Ormiston Academy and their feeder primary phase schools. Existing primary phase provision remains a mix of infant/junior in Old Catton and Sprowston and all through primary in Rackheath and Thorpe. There is a mix of Trusts, Federations and Community Schools.

To the immediate south-east, the new 420 place primary school at White House Farm is progressing. Land has been transferred over to NCC and construction has begun. The school is expected to open in September 2019 and the DfE is the decision maker on which Academy will be chosen to run the school.

### **LATEST ASSESSMENT OF GROWTH –**

Norfolk County Council monitor the rate of housing development closely through regular meetings with both Broadland District Council and the Greater Norwich Growth team. To the north of Old Catton progress is being made on several housing sites, both Taylor Wimpey and Orbit Homes are expected to submit full planning applications for up to 560 homes shortly and are likely to be on site in 2019. Coupled with this the first phase of Beeston Park housing (733 homes) is developing and this is in a similar area. Therefore, we expect to see pressure for school places to begin in this area rather than the originally anticipated more northern site of Beeston Park/Wroxham Road. Rackheath has a large allocation of housing of up to 3000-4000 which is progressing slowly with a Housing Infrastructure bid being submitted in March 2019 which could kick-start this development. Smaller sites around Rackheath are more likely to commence earlier with four sites for up to 700 homes in total are in the planning system.

### **CURRENT PRESSURES ON PUPIL NUMBERS**



Pressure for places at reception in the Old Catton/Sprowston area appears to have peaked in 2016 and is expected to remain this way until further housing is evident. Discussions have been had with local schools to explain the impact of housing and the processes of place planning. Once housing commencement is more evident we will continue these discussions. Rackheath however could be more problematic as the local school has limited room for expansion and the new schools are within the larger housing allocation. Potentially 700 homes could be built before new schools are opened. Children’s Services will be looking at schools in the wider area to accommodate children from development on the outskirts of Rackheath if and when places are required.

**IMPACT OF HOUSING GROWTH**

Housing in this area will establish the need for many new schools and impact on existing schools. This is a long-term plan and Children’s Services have secured sites for new schools within the Local Plan of the area. First children from new houses in any new development will have school places provided by existing schools in the area. Children’s Services need to ensure there is enough demand for a new school to be financially viable before each build is put into the capital programme.

**SHORT TERM RESPONSE**

Continue to meet with Broadland District Council to ensure Children’s Services are up to date with housing progress so school places can be planned appropriately. Monitor admissions into reception each year to understand parental preference and ensure pupil forecasting models are as accurate as they can be. Aim to open new school in White House Farm development in September 2019.

**MEDIUM/LONGER TERM RESPONSE**

Two years ago, the DfE allocated the two Beeston Park new schools to Reach2 Academy Trust as part of the DfE Free School programme. The DfE have recently confirmed that funding from the DfE as part of the original Free School allocation is no longer available and have also withdrawn any expectations of a particular sponsor, which places all responsibilities for commissioning new places on Norfolk County Council. Funding will be sought from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Once housing commences the opening of these schools will be carefully planned to ensure additional pupil places in the area are provided as and when they are necessary.

As well as the two schools mentioned above, further school sites have been secured for new schools on Salhouse Road, North of Smea Lane in Thorpe (East of Broadland Business Park) and a planned expansion to double the size of Little Plumstead Primary School. The major growth in Rackheath also safeguards 2 new primary school sites.

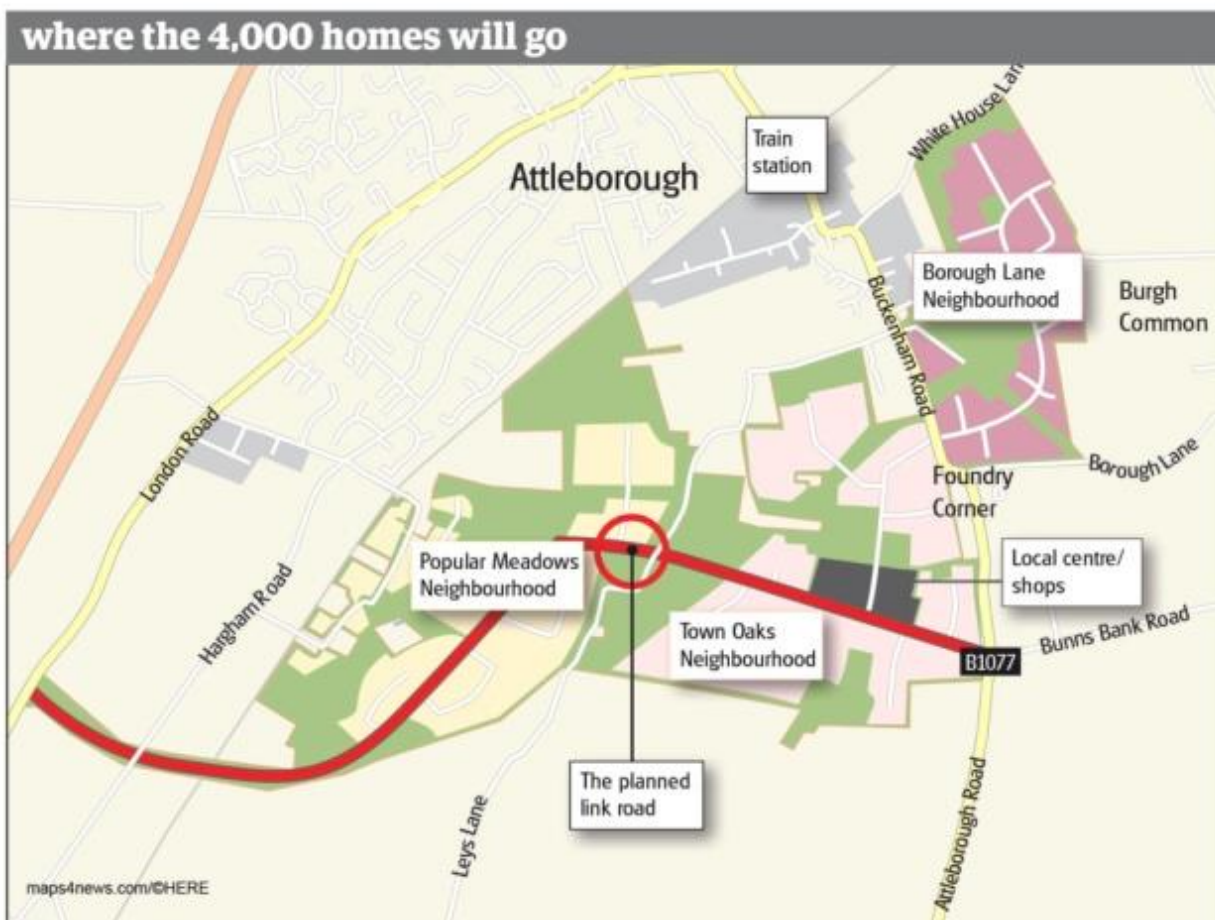
NCC has made a commitment for a new Secondary phase school in the Sprowston area and a preferred site has been identified on the current Sprowston Park and Ride site. Some work on feasibility has taken place but all options for additional secondary school places needs to be considered in the area as a new secondary school project is currently unfunded. NCC continue to work with the Greater Norwich Growth Board to understand how CIL can contribute to this major piece of work.

Capital response					
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NORTH NORWICH GROWTH	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/estimate	
	White House Farm	2FE new Free school	Construction	£7m (mainly S106)	2019
	Lt Plumstead VAP	To 2FE	Design	£3.5-£4m	2020
Future programmes					
	Beeston Park primary 1	2FE	Site identified	£8m (unfunded)	2020+
	Beeston Park primary 2	2FE	Site identified	£8m (unfunded)	2022+
	Rackheath 1	2FE	Site identified	£8m (unfunded)	2022+
	Rackheath 2	2FE	Site identified	£8m (unfunded)	2024+
	South of Salhouse Rd new primary	2FE	Site identified	£8m (unfunded)	2020+
	East of Broadland Business Park	2FE	Initial site layout options	£8m (unfunded)	2020+
	New high school/all through	tbc	Masterplanning	£26m (unfunded)	2022+
Masterplans	Broadland High				

### ATTLEBOROUGH (Breckland District)

**Sustainable Urban Extension of 4000 new homes.**



Eastern Daily Press July 2018

### **CURRENT LOCAL PROVISION – capacity and organisation**

The town of Attleborough is served by two primary phase schools, Attleborough Primary School and the new Rosecroft Primary School providing 150 places across each year group. The town is surrounded by villages with local schools. Some children in Attleborough catchment do choose a nearby village school as opposed to their local primary school in the town - e.g. in September 2018, around 22% of Attleborough catchment children expressed a preference for a reception class outside catchment. This figure has dropped slightly since last year, which suggests that more children are choosing their local school in the town. This preference pattern can be for a variety of reasons, location, preference for a smaller school etc. The largest preference is to Great Ellingham, Morley and Old Buckenham.

### **LATEST ASSESSMENT OF GROWTH**

The outline planning application for the whole 4000 homes has been submitted to Breckland District Council and is likely to be considered at January 2019 committee. Heads of Terms for a S106 agreement are still to be finalised but land for two new primary phase schools will be secured once outline permission is approved. Progress with the development is subject to a link road so timescales for commencement of the development once planning permission is granted are still uncertain.

### **KEY PRESSURES ON PUPIL NUMBERS**

With 5 Forms of Entry across the two primary schools in the Town, there are some spare places as the drift to village schools is still evident. It is anticipated with the new

Rosecroft Primary School offering 630 places there will be spare places for children from the first phase of the new housing, when it commences.

### **IMPACT OF HOUSING GROWTH**

With the uncertainty of commencement of such a large strategic housing development, numbers will be monitored as part of the annual admissions round to ensure a sufficient supply of places. Once there is an indication that housing will commence i.e. with the sale of land to a developer or a Full Planning application, a more detailed analysis of school places in the area will be completed.

### **SHORT TERM RESPONSE**

Monitor school places through the annual admissions round.

### **MEDIUM/LONGER TERM RESPONSE**

Plan for provision of two new primary schools for Attleborough understanding the parental preference to surrounding villages and whether that will continue and how that will impact on the new schools. Decide whether 2FE or 3FE schools are required by analysis of the number of children generated from the new development.

ATTLEBOROUGH	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/estimate	Date if known
	Attleborough Academy (High)	Removal of mobiles and expansion alongside DFE condition project	Design	£1.4m (partially S106)	
Future programmes	Attleborough Academy (High)	Reuse of infant school site	School-led and funded	-	
	SUE primary 1	2-3FE	-	IRO £8m	2022+
	SUE primary 2	2-3FE	-	IRO £8m	2024+

## **Part 2b - Development locations where one new school is planned**

### **WYMONDHAM (South Norfolk District)**

## **Up to 3000 new homes in various locations across the Town.**

### **CURRENT LOCAL PROVISION – capacity and organisation**

Wymondham has three primary phase schools, Browick Road, Ashleigh and Robert Kett providing 6 forms of entry between them. There was a slight drop in reception admissions in September 2018 compared to previous years but ultimately all three schools are almost at capacity in this year group. Pressure for places in Wymondham in some older year groups is causing concern, particularly with the progress of several housing developments in the Town. Solutions to manage this pressure are being discussed with the schools.

Wymondham High Academy continues to admit up to its admission number and the phased project progresses. The next phase of the masterplan is the infrastructure to improve entrance, dining/studio spaces and library areas. The planning application will be submitted early 2019 with a start on site planned for Summer 2019. A sustainable percentage of Wymondham children choose to travel to Wymondham College and this pattern of preference is expected to continue for the foreseeable future. Wymondham College influence must always be considered when planning for future growth in the Town.

### **LATEST ASSESSMENT OF GROWTH**

Wymondham continues to grow and the popularity of the schools and the location of the Town makes it a popular choice for families to live. Several housing developments are on site in the Town with a current total of around 3000 in the pipeline. It is highly likely that Wymondham will be a strong contender for more housing from the Greater Norwich Local Plan. These future numbers will be understood later in 2019, when the preferred sites are announced.

### **KEY PRESSURES ON PUPIL NUMBERS**

Two new primary phase schools are planned for Wymondham, The Wymondham College Prep School due to open in September 2020 and funded by the DfE Free School programme will reduce the pressure for places. We are working with Sapientia Education Trust to understand their proposed admissions criteria. Planning for the new primary school in Silfield situated within the large housing development of 1200 homes has had some delays due to the final phase of land not being sold. As a result, road access and services to the site have not yet been provided. With the proposed opening of the Wymondham College Prep School in September 2020 it has been decided to monitor parental preference to this school rather than moving forward with a financial solution to open Silfield at the same time. Providing too many places in an area can be detrimental to local schools so it is essential to plan carefully to provide the right number of places at the right time.

There is a joint plan between NCC and Wymondham High Academy for further expansion of the buildings to accommodate additional children from new housing. With the housing numbers above what was expected, we will continue to monitor the situation. Discussions with Wymondham College are ongoing to consider the part they can play in accommodating secondary basic need pressures.

### **IMPACT OF HOUSING GROWTH**

The impact of Wymondham housing is evident and 2018/19 and 2019/20 will be particularly challenging until the Wymondham College Prep School opens in 2020. Place planning solutions for new families arriving in the Town will be managed by Admissions and the Place Planning Teams.

Future growth in Wymondham will necessitate essential changes to secondary school provision as Wymondham High Academy will reach saturation point on its current site with housing already in the planning system. Discussions with the Secondary Trusts are already taking place to understand whether more secondary and sixth form provision can be provided for the Town's future. This will need to be reviewed if new sites are allocated within the Greater Norwich Plan.

### SHORT TERM RESPONSE

Plan and monitor the 2019 admissions round and in-year admissions of new families in an area where schools are at capacity. Identify the part smaller surrounding schools must play to support growth. Monitor the parental preference patterns once Wymondham College Prep School opens.

### MEDIUM/LONGER TERM RESPONSE

Opening of the new school in Silfield. Understanding the impact of Greater Norwich Growth once preferred sites for Wymondham are announced. Decide on options or creative solutions for increased capacity at secondary and 6<sup>th</sup> form in Wymondham.

Capital response					
WYMONDHAM	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/estimate	Date if known
Current programme					
	Wymondham High Academy	Entrance, dining and studio space and library areas	Submit to planning early 2019	IRO £4.5m	

Future programmes	Silfield new primary school	2FE	Design stage but on hold.	IRO £8m	2020
	Wymondham High Academy	Further phases	Masterplan in preparation	tbc	
	Wymondham College	Options for growth	Discussions ongoing with Sapientia Trust	-	

### CRINGLEFORD (South Norfolk District)

**1300 new homes on two adjacent sites.**

**CURRENT LOCAL PROVISION – capacity and organisation**

One 420 place Voluntary Aided primary school serves Cringleford. Ongoing housing in the area has generated far more primary age children than anticipated resulting in the school being oversubscribed in every recent admission round. Pupil forecasts indicate that even without further housing, numbers will remain up to and above the admission limit. The catchment secondary school for Cringleford children is Hethersett Academy which admitted up to its admission limit in September 2018. The Academy does have some spare capacity in other year groups.

### **LATEST ASSESSMENT OF GROWTH**

Two further housing developments are proposed for Cringleford and outline planning permission has been given for both. A further new school site has been secured within one of these developments for a new 420/630 place primary school. Land has now been sold to a developer on this site, so we will monitor progress of this and ensure discussions are ongoing with the land promoters to agree the site position for the new primary school, so it can be brought forward as quickly as possible.

### **KEY PRESSURES ON PUPIL NUMBERS**

As mentioned above, pressure for places at reception is high and is managed as part of the annual admissions round. The option of a temporary solution of modular accommodation has been discussed with the school. Pupil forecasts indicate that September 2019 and 2020 will be years of high pressure for places and all options will be considered to ensure sufficient places.

### **IMPACT OF HOUSING GROWTH**

When the first phase of housing commences there will be more pressure for primary school places in Cringleford. Discussions with the school and the Diocese of Norwich will continue to identify how pupils can be accommodated until any new school is operational.

Additional land has been secured for Hethersett Academy under the planning application for the strategic growth in Hethersett so further expansion at the school is anticipated when need for additional places is identified. A masterplan of the school site has been prepared.

### **SHORT TERM RESPONSE**

Determine interim arrangements to increase capacity at Cringleford VA Primary until new school comes on stream. Advance discussions with land promoters/developers for the new school to ensure early delivery of infrastructure is secured.

### **MEDIUM/LONGER TERM RESPONSE**

Commissioning the new school in Cringleford. Monitor the Greater Norwich Local Plan to ensure future allocations for Cringleford come forward with consideration for additional school places at both primary and secondary level.

Capital response					
CRINGLEFORD	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/estimate	Date if known

Future programmes	New primary	2 or 3 FE	Site secured under S106	£8m/11m	2020+
	Cringleford VA Primary	Possible additional interim 1FE	Discussion with school	tbc	2019

## **HETHERSETT (South Norfolk District)**

### **1200+ home strategic development**

#### **CURRENT LOCAL PROVISION – capacity and organisation**

Primary school provision is currently provided by Hethersett Woodside Infant School and Hethersett VC Junior School. Secondary provision is at Hethersett Academy. Catchment cohorts in Hethersett have fluctuated over the past few years and accommodation has been provided for the infant school to accept a larger intake in some year groups. A consultation has taken place to re-organise the Hethersett primary phase schools to both become all-through primaries from September 2019. Around the same time Woodside Infant School will move into a new built primary school building within the new housing development. Projects at both the junior school and High School Academy to increase capacity as well as the new school are all at the planning stage.

#### **LATEST ASSESSMENT OF GROWTH**

The large housing development to the north of the village is progressing quickly and we understand the developer is increasing the density of housing so an additional 300 new homes are likely. Children's Services are working with South Norfolk District Council to possibly secure additional land for the new primary school to enable a 3FE school in the future if required. More housing is included in the 'call for sites' within the Greater Norwich Local Plan and discussions have taken place to understand how more growth in Hethersett could be accommodated in the school system with schools already at capacity. More information will be known once the preferred option sites are announced late in 2019.

#### **KEY PRESSURES ON PUPIL NUMBERS**

2018 has seen yet another large reception year group and a modular building was used to accommodate these additional children. Other local schools have been contacted and a plan to increase the capacity at Little Melton Primary to a full 1FE from September 2019 is being developed. In-year admissions are being managed but some children are being offered places as far as Mulbarton. This is a short-term issue until the new school building is operational from September 2019.

#### **IMPACT OF HOUSING GROWTH**

Housing in Hethersett is already impacting on school provision in the village and with its location on the A11 corridor it is highly likely that more housing will be allocated to this area. Just how much is yet to be seen but will become clearer later in 2019. Options for further expansion of primary and secondary school places are being considered and may need some creativity to ensure sufficient places are there for the future.



## SHORT TERM RESPONSE

The next year will see a lot of change in school provision in Hethersett particularly at primary level. The opening of the new school building will enable Hethersett Woodside Infant to expand to all through primary in a new building. The Junior school becoming a primary and admitting its first reception intake in 2019 and the continued expansion of the secondary school whose popularity has increased immensely over the past few years.

## MEDIUM/LONGER TERM RESPONSE

Continue to monitor growth in both Hethersett and Cringleford as part of the review of the Local Plan to 2036.

Capital response					
HETHERSETT	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/estimate	Date if known
Future programmes	New site for infant as primary	2 FE	Planning	IRO £8m	<b>2019</b>
	Junior School to primary	2 FE	Planning	IRO £4m	2019
	Hethersett Academy	Staged expansion	Planning	<i>IRO £8m</i>	2019

## WEST WINCH/NORTH RUNCTON (King's Lynn and West Norfolk)

**Up to 3500 new homes in two phases:**

**1600 up to 2026**

**2400 post 2026**

### CURRENT LOCAL PROVISION – capacity and organisation

West Winch village is served by one primary school of 210 places. The size of this school is adequate for the current numbers of primary age children living in the area. A desktop exercise indicates that the school site could allow expansion of this school to 2 forms of entry. North Runcton does not have its own school but the nearest school for children to attend is in Middleton. Middleton Primary (academy) is on a small site and there is limited scope for expansion. The school is currently a good size for its catchment children although historically not all catchment children choose Middleton as their first-choice school which results in lower numbers at the school.

### LATEST ASSESSMENT OF GROWTH

There is no evidence of any change with this allocation since last year. Children's Services have recently been re-consulted on their required planning obligations, but this is just a re-refresh rather than any material change to the application. Outline planning permission for 1,100 homes is being sought by a developer for the first phase of this growth – at the northern end between the A10 and A47. A site for a new primary school is included in this area and S106 contributions will be sought. The expansion of West

Winch Primary will be considered simultaneously with the appraisal work on the new school.

### KEY PRESSURES ON PUPIL NUMBERS

West Winch is a popular school and does regularly fill its capacity of 30 places per year group. No pressure for places is indicated until housing commences with cohorts similar to the number of places on offer.

### IMPACT OF HOUSING GROWTH

Housing will impact on West Winch Primary at outset as they are already at capacity. Middleton does have capacity as catchment children do tend to choose other schools in surrounding villages. An analysis of parental preference and places in the wider area nearer the time of housing commencement will be required.

### SHORT TERM RESPONSE

Monitor the progress of housing commencement with the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk and prepare impact analyses as above.

### MEDIUM/LONGER TERM RESPONSE

Expansion of West Winch Primary School. One new Primary phase school in the northern phase of development and one new primary post 2026 in the southern part of the housing development.

Secondary schooling for the development area is in King's Lynn. The town's secondary numbers will be affected by three elements – the major North Runcton growth area, other growth around the periphery of the town and the primary phase increases already working their way through the system.

Capital response					
WEST WINCH/NORTH RUNCTON	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/estimate	Date if known
Future programmes	West Winch Primary	1 to 2 FE	-	<i>IRO £4m</i>	
	New primary #1	2 FE	-	<i>IRO £8m</i>	
	New primary #2	2FE		<i>IRO £8m</i>	
	King's Lynn secondary phase	Expansion	Masterplans to be commissioned	-	

## BRADWELL (Great Yarmouth Borough)

### 1000 new homes

### CURRENT LOCAL PROVISION – capacity and organisation

The catchment schools for this new development are Hillside, Homefield and Woodlands Primary Schools. These schools share a catchment to the North of the housing site. All schools are almost at capacity although there is an indication of a

small demographic decline in the area. The impact of the new housing already occupied within this development is not yet evident and catchment numbers still match capacity well. To the East, and a little closer but outside the catchment is Ormiston Herman Academy and further East, Peterhouse Primary. Parental preference patterns in this area result in considerable movement of children around several schools.

**LATEST ASSESSMENT OF GROWTH**

Housing has commenced on the site and the road infrastructure is in place.

**KEY PRESSURES ON PUPIL NUMBERS**

Pressure for places at Reception intake was evident in 2017 and all schools admitted up to their admission number. 2018 however showed a small decline with a few spare places across the reception year.

**IMPACT OF HOUSING GROWTH**

The impact of the housing has not been as great as expected which has delayed our requirement for progressing the proposed new school.

**SHORT TERM RESPONSE**

Discussions have been had with local schools and they understand the processes although understandably recognise the impact of a new school in the area. It is important that pupil numbers are monitored closely as well as progress of the housing to ensure the area is not flooded with additional school places at the wrong time.

**MEDIUM/LONGER TERM RESPONSE.**

Work with Persimmon Homes to secure the new school site and enable the new school to be built. Ensure sufficient places at secondary level for the future.

Capital response					
BRADWELL	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/estimate	Date if known
Future programmes	New primary school	2FE	Masterplan and site evaluation	IRO £8m	<b>2020+</b>
	Ormiston Venture Academy	Expansion	Pressure for places not yet imminent	-	

**FAKENHAM (North Norfolk)**

**1400+ new homes**

**CURRENT LOCAL PROVISION – capacity and organisation**

Fakenham town is served by Fakenham Infant and Fakenham Junior Schools. The town is surrounded by smaller village schools such as Stibbard, Colkirk and Sculthorpe Primary Schools. There is some parental preference movement in and out of

Fakenham to village schools, although most children who live in Fakenham attend the schools in the Town.

### **LATEST ASSESSMENT OF GROWTH**

The housing planned for Fakenham and the surrounding area is largely on one site (950 dwellings) to the north of the town. The outline planning application was submitted to North Norfolk District Council in 2017 which includes a site for a new school building. This application is still yet to be determined so there is no immediate need to consider additional places for Fakenham.

### **KEY PRESSURES ON PUPIL NUMBERS**

Pupil forecasts indicate there is capacity at local schools for children who live in the Town until new housing commences.

### **IMPACT OF HOUSING GROWTH**

Due to the delays in planning to bring forward this new housing it is difficult to tell how it will impact on local schools when it does eventually commence. We will continue to monitor progress with North Norfolk District Council.

### **SHORT TERM RESPONSE**

Although we have had discussions with the two primary phase schools in the Town there is no need for any further action until there is more certainty with the housing.

### **MEDIUM/LONGER TERM RESPONSE**

Longer term there is likely to be a new primary phase school in the Town and how that school will interact with existing provision is yet to be known.

Capital response					
FAKENHAM	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/estimate	Date if known
	Fakenham Infant	Minor capacity increase to 3FE	Construction	£0.8m	
Future programmes	New primary school	2FE	-	£8m	

## **BOWTHORPE (Norwich City)**

### **1000 new homes**

#### **CURRENT LOCAL PROVISION – capacity and organisation**

Bowthorpe is served by two infant schools (both with admission numbers of 60) which feed into a single junior school with an admission number of 120. One infant school – Clover Hill Infant- is federated with the Junior School and are both Voluntary Aided Schools. The second infant school, Chapel Break, adjacent to St Michael’s Junior, is a

community school. 2018 showed a drop in catchment cohorts which resulted in some spare reception places in Bowthorpe.

### **LATEST ASSESSMENT OF GROWTH**

Building has commenced on this site with the completion of a Care Home as Phase 1. Phase 2 started on site in 2017 with 47 completed and currently 15 occupied. Norwich City Council are planning a continuous programme of completions into the next phase.

### **KEY PRESSURES ON PUPIL NUMBERS**

Catchment cohorts do tend to fluctuate in Bowthorpe and there is currently spare capacity in the area. St Augustine’s RC School in Costessey is a popular preference for Bowthorpe children and is factored into place planning for the area.

### **IMPACT OF HOUSING GROWTH**

It is anticipated that an additional form of entry for primary phase will be needed for Bowthorpe once the housing is completed. Discussions have taken place with local schools and a provisional plan has been agreed as to how this growth can be accommodated. Discussions with Norwich City Council are ongoing regarding the purchase of land for a new primary school site. Additional secondary school accommodation has been discussed with Ormiston Academy Trust, but considering parental preference, no commitment for additional accommodation is needed in the short term.

### **SHORT TERM RESPONSE**

Continue discussions with local schools and work with Norwich City Council to secure the new school site for Bowthorpe primary phase.

### **MEDIUM/LONGER TERM RESPONSE**

As above.

Capital response					
BOWTHORPE	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/estimate	Date if known
Future programmes	New site within primary phase	2FE/3FE	Site assessment	IRO £8m/£11M	<b>2020+</b>
	High school	Expansion of City academy and/or Ormiston Victory to be considered if necessary	-	-	

### **LONG STRATTON (South Norfolk)**

**1800 new homes**

### **CURRENT LOCAL PROVISION – capacity and organisation**

Long Stratton primary school provision is provided by Manor Field Infant School and St Mary's Junior School (academy). Both schools currently have unfilled places. There is interest from both schools to move to all-through primary. Long Stratton High School provides education for 11-16 in the village.

### **LATEST ASSESSMENT OF GROWTH**

The progress of the housing for Long Stratton has moved forward considerably this year and a planning application is likely to go before Committee early in 2019. Full planning permission is being sought for 600 homes on the west of the A140 plus outline permission for the further 1200 on the east of the A140. A site for a new primary school building has been secured on the eastern side. The build out rate for the west side will be around 35 dwellings per year and subject to planning could begin construction as early as 2020. The land on the east side is likely to be sold and a number of factors will impact on progress.

### **KEY PRESSURES ON PUPIL NUMBERS**

Both primary phase schools in Long Stratton have spare places and we anticipate that up to 400 new homes could be built before pressure for places will be evident. We have factored these assumptions into the timing of the construction of the new school building.

### **IMPACT OF HOUSING GROWTH**

As mentioned above, a site for a new school building has been secured and both schools have been asked to discuss how this is likely to impact on them. Further discussions will follow once more certainty on the timing of the housing is more evident.

### **SHORT TERM RESPONSE**

Continue discussions with the two schools. Continue discussions with South Norfolk Council and land promoters on the timing of the housing.

### **MEDIUM/LONGER TERM RESPONSE**

Opening of a new primary phase school in Long Stratton with the potential to move to all-through primary provision in the village.

Capital response					
LONG STRATTON	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/estimate	Date if known
Future programmes	New primary phase school building.	2FE/3FE	Site agreed, options for land in addition to 2ha being negotiated.	IRO £8m/£11M	
	High school	Expansion of Long Stratton High to be considered longer term.	-	-	

## **COSTESSEY (South Norfolk), including Queen's Hill**

### **550 final allocation up to 2026**

#### **CURRENT LOCAL PROVISION – capacity and organisation**

A project is on site at Costessey Junior School which will eventually give accommodation for a full 630 places on this one site. The KS1 children currently at the infant school will then move over to the junior school site. The project is due to complete in the summer of 2019.

Queen's Hill Primary School is operating as a 2 ½ FE school but has the potential to rise to 3FE when demand for those places is evident. From September 2018 admissions there are still some spare places across the primary schools in Costessey.

#### **LATEST ASSESSMENT OF GROWTH**

Housing on the final allocated site in Costessey is continuing with around 300 yet to be occupied but other speculative sites outside the Local Plan allocations are being brought to planning. As school places are limited, NCC will raise concerns to such proposals where appropriate.

#### **KEY PRESSURES ON PUPIL NUMBERS**

There is considerable parental preference for children living in the Costessey catchment to attend other schools and this always results in some challenges for place planning. The influence of St Augustines RC School, Bawburgh and Bowthorpe must always be considered. Currently places are still available in Costessey, but these numbers will be carefully monitored in each admission round.

#### **IMPACT OF HOUSING GROWTH**

NCC made the decision in 2018 that the small site put aside for a potential new school was not suitable for what is was intended. The preference was to manage growth within the existing provision in Costessey with consideration as mentioned above to Bawburgh and Bowthorpe. Bowthorpe may have a new school in the future and with its location close to Costessey would be included in any place planning calculations.

#### **SHORT TERM RESPONSE**

Continue to work with Evolution Academy Trust on the project at Costessey Junior School. Continue to manage pupil numbers across the area.

#### **MEDIUM/LONGER TERM RESPONSE**

Possible expansion of Ormiston Victory Academy if required in response to Costessey growth.

Capital response					
Current programme					
	Costessey Infant and Costessey Junior	Amalgamation on one site	Construction	£3.5M	2019

	High school	Expansion of Ormiston Victory to be considered when necessary for additional pupil places			
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## **HELLESDON (Broadland)**

### **Allocation for up to 1500 new homes**

#### **CURRENT LOCAL PROVISION – capacity and organisation**

Hellesdon has infant/junior schools situated across the area and a large and popular High School. The infant schools (Arden Grove, Heather Avenue and Kinsale) have 180 places between them, which is more than adequate for their catchment. Not all the children attending these schools live in the catchment of Hellesdon, with quite a considerable number coming from Mile Cross catchment. This is actually helpful for place planning as there is pressure for places in Mile Cross and these pressures need to be factored into the place planning analysis of the area. 2018 reception intake shows some spare capacity. The High School is at capacity, but with its popularity, does gain many children from out of area, particularly the North Norwich catchment.

#### **LATEST ASSESSMENT OF GROWTH**

The first phase of this housing growth to the eastern side of the Golf club is now on site. The second site to the west of the Drayton High Road cannot be obtained until 2019 when the golf club will move to its new premises.

#### **KEY PRESSURES ON PUPIL NUMBERS**

Pressure for places in Hellesdon at primary level in reception has reduced in 2018 but now the housing is being built this will be carefully monitored particularly for the 2019 admissions round. The impact of Mile Cross catchment numbers must be considered at the same time as Hellesdon growth as Mile Cross Primary is not able to accommodate all its catchment children. This is currently managed through parental preference to other schools, but this option may not be possible longer term with growth in Hellesdon and to the north of the City.

#### **IMPACT OF HOUSING GROWTH**

This scale of housing will ultimately impact on places in local schools and a new primary school for Hellesdon will be constructed with a site secured within the new development at the existing golf club premises when they move to their new site.

#### **SHORT TERM RESPONSE**

Continue to monitor pupil numbers considering Mile Cross catchment numbers at the same time.

#### **MEDIUM/LONGER TERM RESPONSE**

A new primary school including consideration of all-through primary school provision. Consider the capacity at the secondary school to ensure adequate places for local children.



Capital response					
HELLESDON	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/estimate	Date if known
Future programmes	New primary school	2FE	-	IRO £8m	2021+
	High school	Expansion of Hellesdon High to be considered if necessary.	-	-	

## Part 2 C – Growth areas with implications for existing schools

AREA AND NUMBER OF HOUSES	CURRENT ACTIONS	SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE GROWTH REQUIREMENTS
<b>WISBECH (500+ dwellings in Norfolk)</b>	Working with Cambridgeshire and Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council regarding impact of housing.	An agreement has been made that with the majority of the housing within the Wisbech boundary, the new primary school will be a Wisbech school and all S106 contributions secured by both Cambridgeshire and Norfolk from this development should be allocated towards this school. A similar arrangement has been proposed for secondary provision.
<b>AYLSHAM (500 new homes on two sites)</b>	St Michael's VA Infant School has become an all through primary school from September 2018 with a PAN of 20. Adequate provision has been given to John of Gaunt Infant School to be able to accept an intake of 60 at this time. This gives 80 places at reception across Aylsham which is adequate for the short term.	With 80 places across the 3 primary phase schools, in the short term this appears adequate until further housing is completed. It is possible that an additional 10-15 places across all year groups may be required for the planned housing in the Town but this will be monitored closely. Any larger scale growth in Aylsham would result in the need for a new school site.
<b>DEREHAM/SCARNING/TOFTWOOD (700 homes)</b>	Both Scarning and Toftwood are taken into consideration when calculating pupil place requirements for the Dereham area. A project to increase the capacity of Scarning Primary School to a full 2 forms of entry is in progress and should be completed by February 2019. 2018 admissions saw a few spare places across the Town as the reception cohort was slightly lower than the year before.	Complete the expansion of Scarning Primary to a full 2FE. Primary phase numbers in Dereham do tend to fluctuate each year so reception intake will be carefully monitored. Discussions have been had with school Academy Trusts and considerations for future expansion of the Town's schools to allow for 5 Forms of entry at Primary phase for the future needs to be planned. Discussions will continue in 2019.
<b>DISS/ROYDON (circa 300 in current local plan. Possible larger scale growth in the future).</b>	An expansion project at Roydon Primary to increase capacity to 2 forms of entry is progressing. This will give 120 places across both Diss and Roydon for the future.	4 forms of entry across this area should be sufficient for planned growth. Any further housing proposed in Diss will result in the need for further discussions with the schools in the Town.

<b>HOLT (250-400 homes)</b>	There is an identified need for a new school building for Holt as the existing school is not suitable for future expansion. Discussions still ongoing with a land promoter to secure a new primary school site within a proposed new housing development.	A new 2 form entry primary school building to allow the existing Holt Primary school to move to new premises.
<b>HOVETON (circa 200 new homes but maybe more homes in future).</b>	Masterplan undertaken of the existing primary school to maximise potential of current site to up to 2FE with the first phase of a mobile replacement scheme currently in planning. Masterplan undertaken of the existing Broadland High School to 900 places on its current site.	Plans are in place which will see both primary and secondary accommodation suitable for at least the next 10 years of proposed housing for Wroxham and surrounding areas.
<b>KINGS LYNN CENTRAL (400+ dwellings)</b>	A site for a new school building within the Lynnsport development has been secured to allow the existing St Edmund's primary school to move to new premises. The move is expected to happen in the Spring of 2020.	Move and expand St Edmunds Primary to new school site at Lynnsport. Alternative use of existing school buildings with Fen Rivers Academy.
<b>KINGS LYNN WOOTTONS/KNIGHTS HILL (1000 dwellings)</b>	Sites allocated for large scale development in this area. No progress being made currently that Children's Services are aware of, but numbers will be monitored. Discussions have taken place with local schools in the area.	Options for expansion of existing schools. No action necessary until more certainty of housing commencement.
<b>SWAFFHAM (up to 700 new homes)</b>	Consultations by NCC and the Diocese to re-organise both primary phase schools in the Town to all-through Primary from September 2020. Masterplans undertaken for both schools to 1FE primary for the infant school and 2FE primary for the junior school.	Pressure for primary places evident and will be managed through the admissions round until an additional form of entry is made available from September 2020. Longer term, if more growth is allocated to Swaffham, a new school site would be necessary.
<b>WATTON/CARBROOKE</b>	Anticipated pressure for school places in this area is no longer evident so progress on securing a new school site is on hold.	The optimum solution for town would be a two primary school solution but this is a longer term aspiration and numbers will continue to be monitored.

<b>EASTON (900 new homes)</b>	Outline planning permission for this large scale development was secured in November 2016 but since then progress has been slow. A developer has now bought the land and is bringing a full planning application to Committee in 2019 with an expected commencement on site in 2020. Land next to the existing primary school has been earmarked to allow the school to grow to 2 forms of entry when required.	We will monitor progress of the planning application and once housing commencement is more evident work will begin on a masterplan of the existing primary school site for expansion.
<b>BLOFIELD/BRUNDALL (700+ homes)</b>	Progress on securing a new school site for Blofield continues and a preferred site has been identified. Work to obtain this site for education use continues with both Broadland DC and the Parish Council. Improvement works at Brundall Primary to ensure good provision for a full 1.5 FE is ongoing.	Longer term large scale growth in the area is evident so a new school site for both Blofield (medium term 2-3 years) and Brundall (longer term 10 years) is being proposed.
<b>TROWSE (150 homes)</b>	The design for a new 1form of entry school building within a small housing development in Trowse is currently in planning and the site is expected to be transferred to the County Council in 2019. Once built, this will allow the existing Trowse Primary school to move to new enlarged premises.	A new school building to allow the existing school to move to new expanded premises of a full 1 form of entry.
<b>PORINGLAND (700+ homes)</b>	Poringland Primary school is now operating at a full 2 forms of entry and the project is complete.	The number of new homes in Poringland and the surrounding area has increased more than anticipated due to housing obtaining permission outside of the Local Plan process. Numbers will continue to be monitored but with Poringland Primary at capacity on its existing site, we may have to consider schools in surrounding villages for expansion opportunities.

# Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

# 2018

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# 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) is a statutory document that outlines how Norfolk County Council plans to 'secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children from birth to 14 (or up to 18 for disabled children).' The compiling and publication of this Childcare Sufficiency Assessment meets Norfolk County Council's statutory duty under sections 6, and 7 of the Childcare Act 2006, and is also in line with local authority statutory guidance.
- 1.2 This report focusses on two key areas of the childcare market in Norfolk:
- measuring the demand for, and supply of, childcare within the seven districts of Norfolk
  - identifying gaps in the market and planning how to support the market to address any shortfall
- 1.3 To assess the supply and demand, current levels of provision are compared with the predicted demand based on population data, so that any shortfall can be identified. More detailed analysis on key findings, demand and supply of childcare places for two, three and four year olds can be found in the 36 Childcare Sufficiency Area Profiles, available from: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/childcare-and-early-learning/childcare-advice-and-guidance/childcare-sufficiency>.
- 1.4 The Childcare Act 2006 gives the local authority a key role in shaping the childcare market. Norfolk County Council is committed to working with providers from the Private, Voluntary and Independent sectors (PVI) and the Maintained sector, to create a strong, sustainable and diverse childcare market that meets the needs of parents/carers and supports children's learning.
- 1.5 The Local Authority is required to report annually to elected members and publish information for parents to see how the Authority is meeting its sufficiency duty. This includes specific information about:
- the supply of and demand for early education and childcare
  - affordability, accessibility and quality of early education and childcare provision
  - details of how any gaps in this provision will be addressed.
- 1.6 Whilst Local Authorities are required by law to ensure sufficient early years places, attendance by children from birth to five at any early childhood education and care setting is voluntary. There is no requirement for a child to attend early education provision until the term after a child's fifth birthday. Attendance at any setting before this point is the choice of the parent.
- 1.7 Settings delivering the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) may be private, voluntary or independent organisations or schools. All provision is funded either by

government entitlements or by parents.

1.8 The Childcare Act 2006 also requires the following actions and measures which set out the strategic role local authorities play. The local authority is required by government to support (though not directly provide) the following:

- Early education places for two, three and four year olds including eligibility, flexibility and quality
- Distributing the funding for early education places
- Securing sufficient childcare so far as is practicable in a free market
- Providing information to parents
- Providing information, support and training to early childhood education and care providers.

1.9 Local authorities are required to secure fully funded places offering 570 hours a year over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year, and up to 52 weeks of the year, for every eligible child in their area, until the child reaches compulsory school age (the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday). Eligibility will depend on the child's age and whether they meet certain criteria.

**Figure 1. Early Education and childcare eligibility**

<b>Funded early education</b>		<b>Criteria</b>
All 3 and 4 year olds	15 hours per week for 38 weeks a year, equivalent to 570 hours. The 570 hours can be stretched over 52 weeks at approx. 11 hours per week.	Universal entitlement for all 3 and 4 year olds until they enter Reception class at a state funded school. If parents choose not to take up their child's right to a place in a state-funded school reception class in the September following their child's fourth birthday, they can choose to continue to take up their child's free place at a private, voluntary or independent childcare provider until their child reaches compulsory school age
Eligible 3 and 4 year olds	Up to an additional 15 hours per week for 38 weeks a year, equivalent to 1140 hours. The 1140 hours can be stretched over 52 weeks at approx. 22 hours per week.	Extended entitlement - Working lone parent or both parents earning over £120 per week
Eligible 2 year olds	15 hours per week for 38 weeks a year. The 570 hours can be stretched over 52 weeks at approx. 11 hours per week.	For parents on either low income or a range of benefits; the child is looked after by the local authority; has left care through special guardianship or through an adoption or residence order; is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or has a current statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) or an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan



- 1.10 All 3 and 4-year-olds in England are entitled to 15 hours a week, or 570 hours a year of free early education. Since September 2017, 3 and 4-year-olds may be entitled to 30 hours free childcare, or an extra 570 hours of free childcare a year, so 1,140 hours in total. The additional 15 hours is available to families where both parents are working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family), and each parent earns a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum wage or living wage, and less than £100,000 per year. This also includes self-employed parents.

## 2. Key findings

Some of the key findings of the Norfolk Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2018 are summarised below. More detailed analysis on key findings, demand and supply of childcare places for two, three and four year olds can be found in the 36 Childcare Sufficiency Area profiles, available from: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/childcare-and-early-learning/childcare-advice-and-guidance/childcare-sufficiency>.

### **Norfolk is growing and changing**

- Over the coming ten years, according to baseline forecasting figures from Cambridge Econometrics, using the 2017 East of England Forecasting Model (EEFM), the Norfolk population will increase by 68,600, 17,600 more jobs will be required for the working population and 39,300 more homes will be required <https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/EEFM/>. The number of early years children however seems to be reducing, see section 5, figure 4

### **Across the county there is sufficient 0-5 childcare to meet demand, but this varies by area**

- From the childcare sufficiency profiles the areas requiring additional childcare include:- Norwich (Catton Grove, Eaton, Thorpe Hamlet, Heartsease, Earham, Bowthorpe and Costessey) Attleborough, Great Yarmouth and Kings Lynn (Vancouver)

### **The quality of early education and childcare in Norfolk is high**

- 97% of providers were judged Good or Outstanding at the end of August 2018, comparing favorably with the national average of 95%, see section 10
- The percentage of Norfolk children achieving a good level of development at the end of the Foundation Stage is in line with the national average, see section 10

### **The cost of childcare remains below national averages.**

- The average charge by providers for daycare childcare in Norfolk is £4.20 per hour. The national average according to The Family and Childcare Trust Childcare Survey 2018 for children aged three and four is £4.94. <https://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/childcare-survey-2018>.
- From September 2018 80% of funded providers in Norfolk offer the extended hours for the 30 hour entitlement

### **The childcare landscape in Norfolk is changing**

- There has been a higher than national decline in the numbers of childminders in Norfolk during the last 5 years, 35% compared to 24% nationally. Over the last year Norfolk has seen a 9% drop in childminder numbers

- The number of sessional and full daycare settings closing this year (16) has been offset with several schools opening new provision taking over governance of committee run settings on their sites
- The number of baby places available equates to 1 place per 10 children, the same as last year
- Out of school provision appears to meet demand, although the sustainability of more rural settings has led to closure due to the small number of children attending, see section 13
- Many families adapt their work pattern or use informal care such as grandparents or friends to manage their childcare

### 3. Childcare Sufficiency - Areas for Development

To ensure sufficient high quality early years and childcare provision, Norfolk County Council will:

#### **Data/Sufficiency**

- Undertake termly place availability audits on line through the Provider Portal, with follow up from Early Years Development Workers, so that any sufficiency issues are addressed as quickly as possible
- Encourage creative partnership working between registered providers to develop childcare places in areas of unmet need or where the current offer does not meet parental demand
- Target new place development in areas of housing development and community growth, aligned with school place planning
- Continue to monitor the number of childminders to ascertain potential reasons for decline in registration numbers and identify actions to address, including active recruitment in areas of identified need
- Develop more detailed analysis of sufficiency within market towns, i.e. Swaffham to understand differences in supply and demand across districts
- Ensure award of sustainability and start-up funding reflects both identified and emerging shortfall in provision
- Encourage take up of funded places, particularly 2 year old places, in areas where take up rates are lowest

#### **Family Information**

- Launch an outreach campaign using social media, commercials and the FI web page to widen access to information about early education and childcare and home learning
- Help parents (particularly vulnerable families) to understand the benefits of high quality childcare and early learning for their children
- Develop specific information for fathers and male carers
- Note the views of parents to inform plans e.g. explore reasons why some families choose not to use funded early education and childcare
- Ensure all professionals working with families are regularly updated about the early education and childcare entitlements
- Monitor the impact of marketing the entitlements as measured by: increased awareness, satisfaction and increase in the take up of places because of contact with the Service

#### **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEN&D)**

- Improve the quality of existing web-based information and extend the number of topics available for providers to access including Special Educational Needs, behaviour, English as an Additional Language, funding, equalities
- Ensure all information is accessible via the Norfolk County Council schools & Special Educational Needs Local Offer website.

- Using data from the Early Identification Notice (EIN) ensure all children identified with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities are accessing their early education entitlement and that support is in place
- Improve the skills & knowledge of the Early Years providers to meet the needs of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities through training or practical hands on advice

### **Quality/Workforce Development**

- Evaluate and extend the system leaders peer support network
- Allocate an Early Years Adviser and/or Development Worker to all settings, schools and childminders with an Ofsted grade of Requires Improvement or Inadequate, who will signpost to relevant training, give advice, support with action planning and monitor improvement
- “Thinking of becoming a childminder” briefings to be delivered in areas where places are needed
- Provide focused support and/or training for providers to develop their business model

## 4. Support for Parents

### 4.1 Affordability

For childcare to be sustainable providers need to ensure their operating costs are met by the income generated. At the same time, childcare needs to be affordable to parents and carers.

The local authority does not determine the business models of childcare providers as the childcare sector is influenced by market forces. Nevertheless, the local authority has a legal duty to ensure there is sufficient affordable childcare for parents who need it and stimulate the market where a gap is identified.

Legislation stipulates that local authorities should not intervene in providers' private businesses outside of a child's funded place.

### 4.2 Help with childcare costs

There are many systems available to parents and carers to help with childcare costs. Parents and carers must select the arrangement that is best suited to their personal circumstances as, for example, employee childcare vouchers may affect the amount of tax credits payable.

#### Tax credits

The childcare element of Working Tax Credit can help cover some of the cost of childcare. Up to 70% of childcare costs can be claimed (a maximum of £122.50 a week for one child or £210.00 a week for two or more children) but is dependent upon income, hours worked and childcare costs. To be eligible parents/carers must be working over 16 hours per week and use an Ofsted registered childcare provider. <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-local-offer/money/tax-credits>

#### Universal credit

Universal Credit is the new benefit system that will eventually replace tax credits and other benefit schemes and is being phased in between April 2013 and December 2018. Universal Credit will be paid as a single monthly payment that will include a standard allowance plus other 'elements' one of which will be childcare and managed by district, borough and city councils. Parents/carers may be eligible for up to 85% of their childcare costs per month, which is up to £646.35 for one child and £1,108.04 for 2 or more children. (<https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit>)

## Childcare voucher scheme (salary sacrifice schemes)

Employers can still offer financial support to employees with children in approved childcare through a childcare voucher scheme. This allows parents/carers to pay their childcare costs directly from their salary before tax and national insurance deductions are made. This saves the employee money by reducing the amount of tax payable. A maximum of £55 per week or £243 per month can be claimed in childcare vouchers depending on how much the parent/carer earns and when they joined the scheme. This scheme will eventually be replaced by the Tax-Free Childcare Scheme and was closed to new entrants in April 2018.

## Tax free childcare scheme

The Government introduced a new tax-free childcare scheme in 2017 which is replacing childcare voucher schemes. To qualify, parents will have to be in work, and each earning at least £115 a week and not more than £100,000 each per year.

Under this system 20% of annual childcare costs will be paid for by the Government. Parent/carers can open an online account through the gov.uk website and pay into it to cover childcare costs. For every 80p paid into this account the Government will pay in an additional 20p, up to a maximum contribution of £2,000 a year per child (or £4,000 per year for a child with disabilities).

The scheme is open to families with children under 12 (and children with disabilities up to the age of 17) who are not already claiming tax credits to help with childcare costs. It is estimated that two million families will benefit from this new system as, unlike the voucher system it is not reliant on employers offering the service and can be accessed by self-employed parents/carers.

## 5. Population

- 5.1 According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2017 Mid-Year Population estimates Norfolk's population is around 898,390. This is approximately 1.6% of the population of England. The population is projected to increase by 7% by 2024.

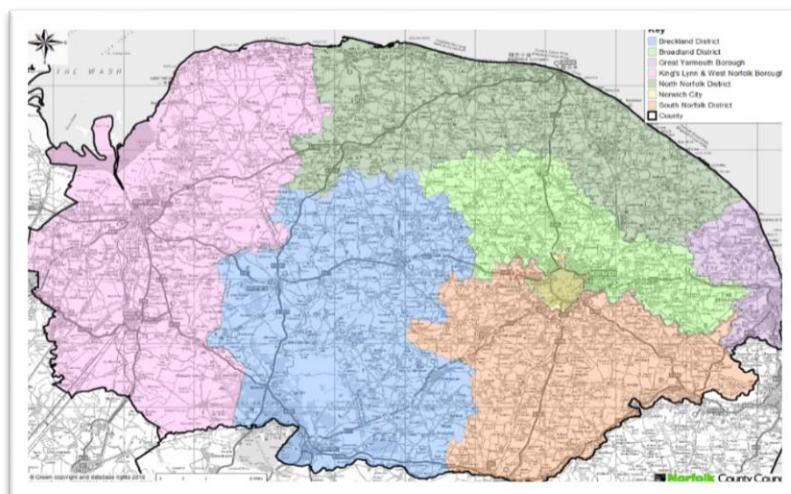
**Figure 2. Projected population increase from 2024 and 2039 from ONS 2014 sub national population projections**

District	2014	2024	2039	2014-24 increase		2014 - 39 increase	
				Number	%	Number	%
Breckland	134,000	143,600	155,800	9,600	7.2	21,800	16.3
Broadland	126,000	132,200	141,900	6,100	4.8	15,800	12.5
Great Yarmouth	98,100	102,000	108,000	3,900	4	9,900	10.1
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	149,900	154,800	168,600	8,500	5.7	18,700	12.5
North Norfolk	102,800	108,600	117,400	5,800	5.6	14,600	14.2
Norwich	137,500	148,100	148,100	10,600	10.6	23,900	17.4
South Norfolk	129,100	145,400	162,100	16,300	16.3	33,000	25.6
<b>Norfolk</b>	<b>877,500</b>	<b>938,300</b>	<b>1,015,200</b>	<b>60,800</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>137,700</b>	<b>15.7</b>

ONS sub national population projections 2014

- 5.2 Over the decade from 2007, Norfolk's population has increased by 6.9%.
- 5.3 It is estimated that there are approximately 174,000 children aged 0-17.
- 5.4 Norfolk comprises of seven district council areas; Norwich, North Norfolk, Breckland, Kings Lynn and West Norfolk, Broadland, Great Yarmouth and South Norfolk District Councils. South Norfolk, Norwich and Breckland are projected to be the fastest growing districts in the county.

**Figure 3: Norfolk Districts**



Norfolk County Council CS E-  
Publishing Team September 2018



5.5 The table in Figure 4 shows the breakdown of numbers of children aged 0 to 14 and disabled 15-18 year olds living within each of the 7 districts, shown by age.

Figure 4 - Table of population of children age 0 - 14 and disabled children age 15 – 18

Age	Breckland	Broadland	Great Yarmouth	King's Lynn and West Norfolk	North Norfolk	Norwich	South Norfolk	Norfolk
0	1,418	1,125	1,105	1,552	775	1,647	1,299	<b>8,921</b>
1	1,518	1,197	1,101	1,650	784	1,664	1,412	<b>9,326</b>
2	1,545	1,221	1,104	1,716	837	1,559	1,411	<b>9,393</b>
3	1,537	1,213	1,108	1,693	899	1,682	1,409	<b>9,541</b>
4	1,622	1,340	1,119	1,803	819	1,664	1,601	<b>9,968</b>
5	1,575	1,386	1,164	1,767	990	1,774	1,514	<b>10,170</b>
6	1,648	1,367	1,142	1,776	985	1,579	1,633	<b>10,130</b>
7	1,596	1,314	1,246	1,680	971	1,542	1,653	<b>10,002</b>
8	1,551	1,394	1,078	1,676	919	1,590	1,649	<b>9,857</b>
9	1,614	1,376	1,200	1,731	973	1,566	1,591	<b>10,051</b>
10	1,507	1,465	1,131	1,675	932	1,457	1,531	<b>9,698</b>
11	1,462	1,294	1,033	1,592	945	1,366	1,556	<b>9,248</b>
12	1,391	1,407	1,041	1,485	929	1,355	1,469	<b>9,077</b>
13	1,373	1,307	1,031	1,508	930	1,200	1,563	<b>8,912</b>
14	1,309	1,340	1,019	1,468	925	1,144	1,488	<b>8,693</b>
disabled 15-18	102	60	114	120	75	93	91	<b>655</b>
Totals	22,768	<b>19,806</b>	<b>16,736</b>	<b>24,892</b>	<b>13,688</b>	<b>22,882</b>	<b>22,870</b>	<b>143,642</b>

Estimates of the population for the UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland Mid 2017-ONS Revised 28/06/2018

5.6 There are approximately 47,150 children aged from birth up to four years

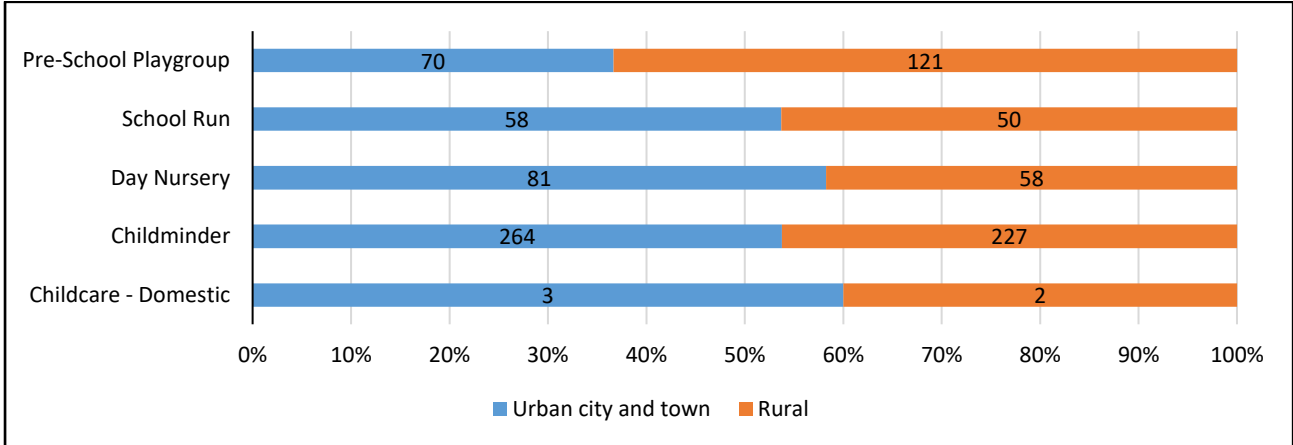
5.7 There are 35,930 children in Norfolk age 11 – 14.

5.8 According to the gov.uk website (Official Statistics, Disability facts and figures, Published 16 January 2014), around 6% of children/young people are disabled

5.9 While Norfolk's land area is around 93% rural, just over half of residents live in an environment that can be classed as urban. Over the past six years, there has been a shift in where people live in Norfolk, with an increase in numbers of people living in urban settings and a corresponding reduction of people living in rural settings. All districts except North Norfolk have at least a third of their population living in urban areas and none of Norfolk's districts is wholly rural. (Norfolk Story, 2017)

5.10 Just under half of families in Norfolk live in a rural area with these children being largely served by voluntary pre-schools and childminders

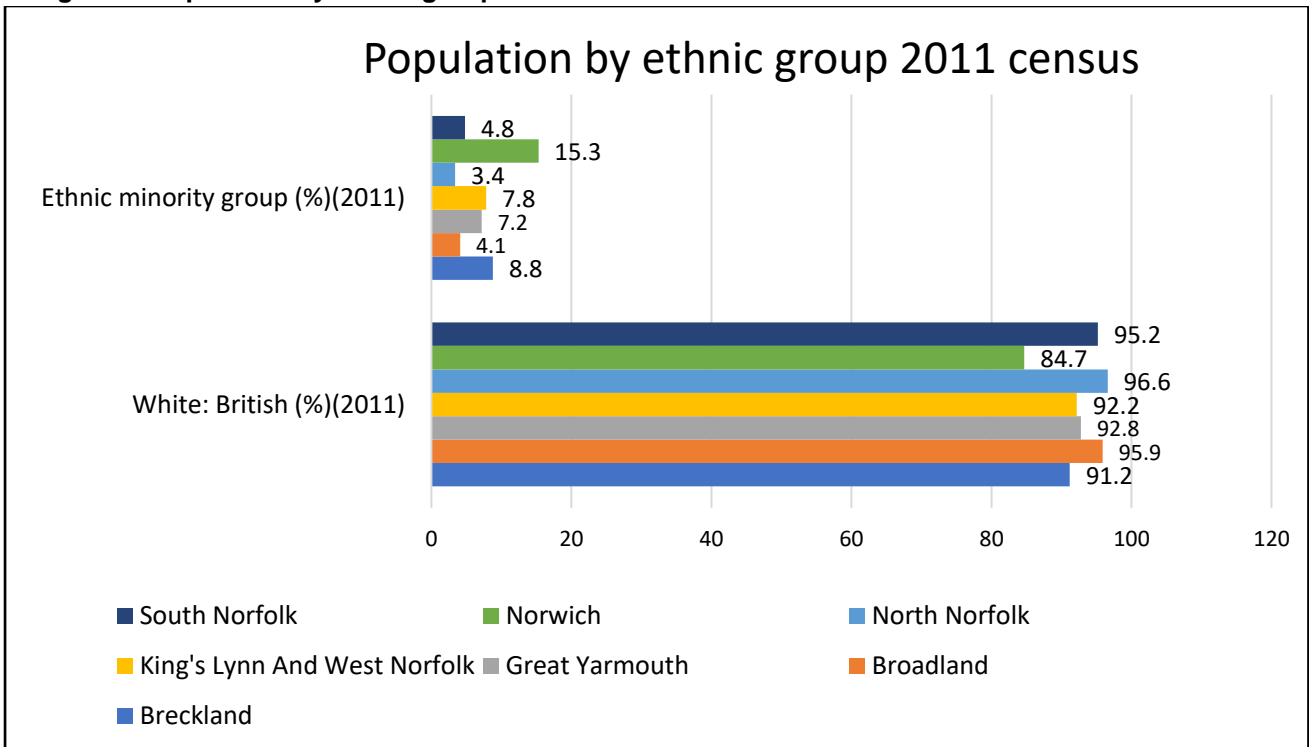
**Figure 5. Comparison of numbers of urban and rural childcare providers**



NCC Postcode Gazetteer & Synergy Education Live September 2018

5.11 Population in Norfolk is characterized as predominately White British, with Norwich having the highest levels of other ethnicities

**Figure 6. Population by ethnic group 2011**



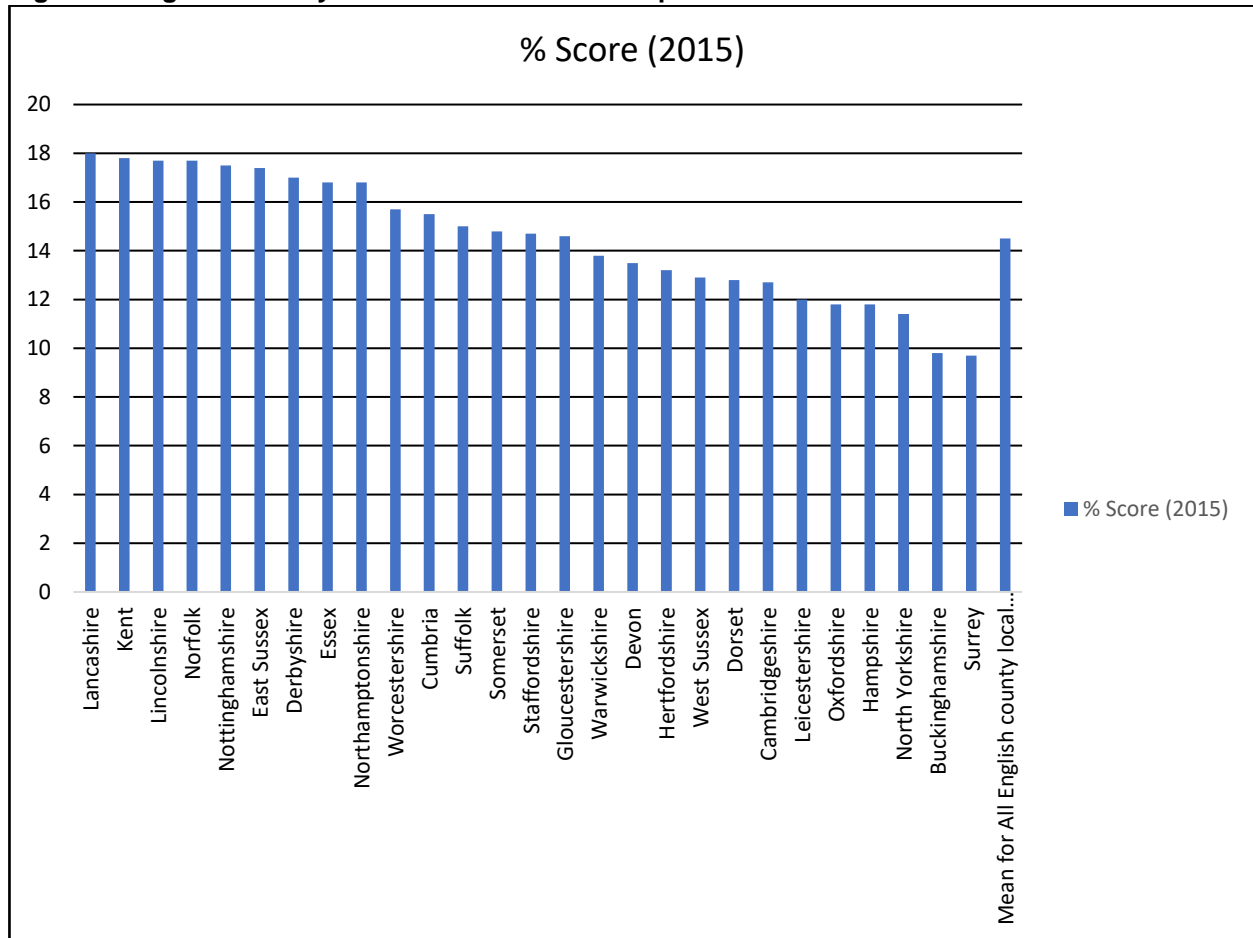
NCC Norfolk Insight, 2011 Census

5.12 There are around 130 languages spoken in Norfolk. English is not the first language of around 7,800 school children in the county and of these around a fifth are aged 0 to 5 years. Polish is the most widely spoken first language other than English across Norfolk’s school children, with Portuguese being the second and Lithuanian the third

5.13 The Indices of Deprivation 2015 show that Norfolk has experienced an increase in relative deprivation compared with 2010. The Income Deprivation Affecting

Children Index (IDACI) indicates Norfolk had the fourth highest score of the county councils in England in 2015

Figure 7. England County Council IDACI score comparisons



Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), Indices of deprivation

- 5.14 Around 68,200 Norfolk residents live in areas which have been classified as being among the 10% most deprived in England. The most deprived areas in Norfolk are still concentrated in the urban areas of Great Yarmouth, Norwich, King’s Lynn and Thetford.
- 5.15 The labour market profile comparison between Norfolk, East of England and Great Britain shows Norfolk is performing better than nationally for being economically active but falls behind the Eastern average. Norfolk has a higher percentage of unemployed people than both the regional and national average.

Figure 8. Number of 16-64’s and percentage of population

Area	Economically Active	In employment	Employees	Self-employed	Unemployed
Norfolk	78.9%	78.9%	62.7%	12%	4.7%
East	81.1%	78.2%	66.3%	11.6%	3.6%
Great Britain	78.4%	79.7%	64.2%	10.6%	4.2%

NOMIS Jul 2017-Jun 2018

## 6. Projected Housing Growth

- 6.1 There are several major growth areas in Norfolk which will see future economic expansion, new housing, new schools and other infrastructure planning and investment. These are detailed in NCC's 2018 Local Growth and Investment Plan. New housing will attract the need for childcare provision that may be above the supply level of existing local provision.

**Figure 9. Number of children aged 3 and 4 living in new housing**

District	LGIP Projected Housing	Number of additional 3-4 year olds
Breckland	10,400	1,008
Broadland	14,700	1,426
Great Yarmouth	1,000	97
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	5,400	524
North Norfolk	600	59
Norwich	1,000	97
South Norfolk	9,850	956
<b>Total</b>	<b>42,950</b>	<b>4,167</b>

NCC LGIP 2018

- 6.2 The new housing is predominantly centered around the Greater Norwich Growth Triangle to the north and east of the city and growth in the urban areas along the A11 corridor towards Suffolk and Cambridgeshire
- 6.3 The NCC Place Planning Team comment weekly on infrastructure requirements for new planning applications received by the districts and county planning officers for sites over 20 mixed-bed dwellings. The district planning targets for housing growth are reported on within the 36 Area Childcare Sufficiency Profiles, available at <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/childcare-and-early-learning/childcare-advice-and-guidance/childcare-sufficiency>

## 7. Sufficiency of childcare places

- 7.1 Norfolk currently has 905 childcare providers across the county. Several providers operate more than one type of childcare, such as a school having a nursery class alongside a pre-school or EYFS Unit, reflecting that there are 916 provider types for December 2018 shown in Figure 10

**Figure 10. Childcare provision in Norfolk**

Childcare Provider Type	Sept 17	Dec 18	Difference
Day Nursery	137	135	-2
Pre-school Playgroup	180	166	-14
Childminder and Childcare - Domestic	534	486	-48
Nursery Units of Independent Schools	12	12	0
School Run (Nursery School, Nursery Class, Day Nursery, Pre-school & EYFS Unit)	110	117	+7
<b>Total</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>-57</b>

NCC Synergy Education Live December 2018

- 7.2 The number of early years and childcare provider types in the county continues to reduce marginally each year. In the 2017 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment the numbers of pre-schools, childminders, nursery classes, nursery schools and day nurseries were 984, this dropped to 973 (99%) in September 2017. From September 2017 to December 2018 numbers dropped again to 916 (94%). Childminders dropped 9% in the latter period.
- 7.3 Not all childcare providers offer the funded early education entitlement. Figure 11 shows the number of childcare providers offering free early education entitlement in both the private, voluntary and independent (PIV) sector and those run by local authority-maintained schools and academies sector, by District Council area.

**Figure 11. Number of childcare providers offering funded places by District Council**

District	Private, voluntary and independent				School run provision	Total
	Day nursery	Pre-school playgroup	Childminder and childcare - domestic	Nursery units of independent schools		
Breckland	23	27	45	3	15	113
Broadland	14	29	55	1	8	107
Great Yarmouth	14	7	24	0	12	57
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	23	28	51	1	29	132
North Norfolk	15	15	22	2	13	67
Norwich	16	18	25	4	22	85
South Norfolk	28	37	58	1	38	162
<b>Norfolk Total</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>723</b>

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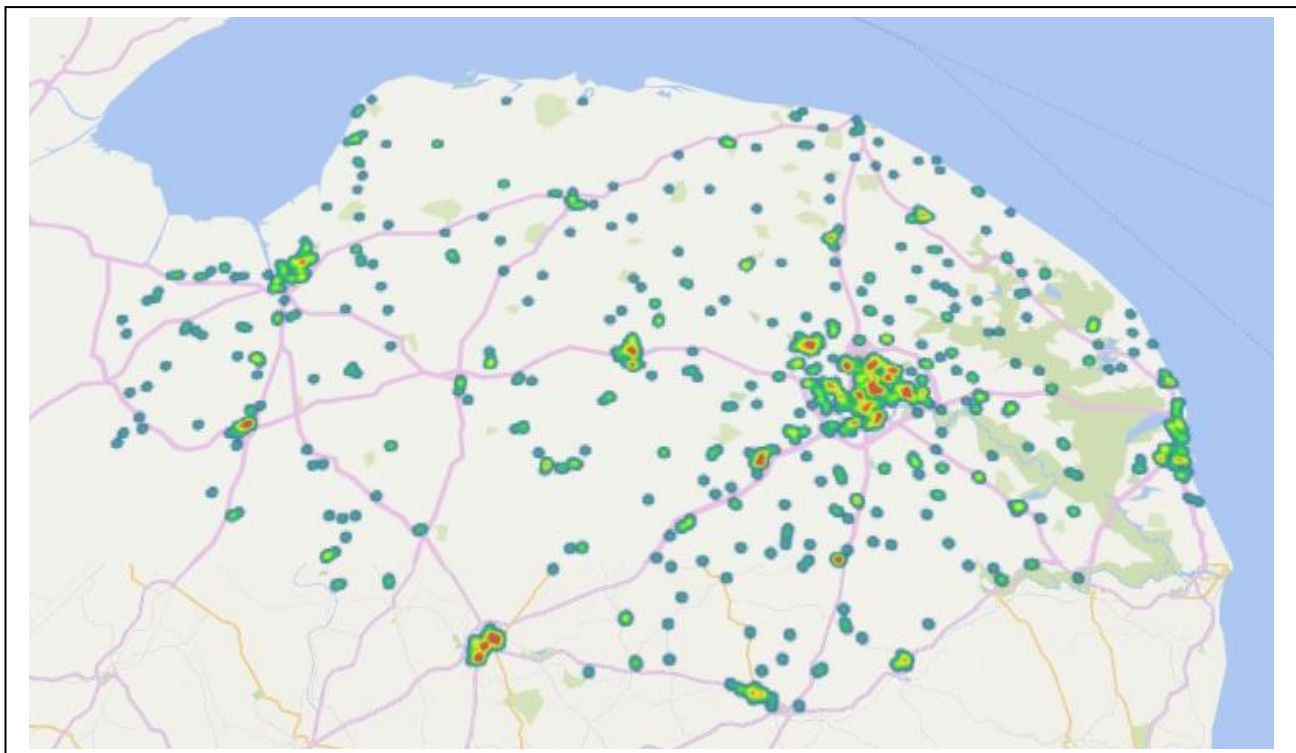
7.4 The number and distribution of funded childcare places being offered by childcare providers varies between each district, with most places located within urban areas. Whilst the overall number of places across the county meets need, for families living in rural areas the choice of type of provision is more limited.

**Figure 12. Number of funded places available for 2, 3 & 4 year olds by District**

District	Day nursery		Pre-school playgroup		Childminder and childcare - domestic		Nursery units of independent schools		School run provision		Total
	3 & 4's	2YO's	3 & 4's	2YO's	3 & 4's	2YO's	3 & 4's	2YO's	3 & 4's	2YO's	
Breckland	1,044	342	975	254	215	53	88	0	660	28	3659
Broadland	588	232	1,126	294	265	55	45	0	449	50	3,104
Great Yarmouth	1,183	497	328	116	113	29	0	0	684	92	3,042
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	1,193	412	868	386	227	48	48	12	665	68	3,927
North Norfolk	557	207	498	176	116	22	56	0	490	84	2,206
Norwich	700	229	734	255	121	32	244	0	919	170	3404
South Norfolk	952	283	1,106	384	266	60	80	0	474	8	3,613
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,217</b>	<b>2,202</b>	<b>5,635</b>	<b>1,865</b>	<b>1,323</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4,341</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>22,955</b>

NCC Synergy Education Live December 2018

**Figure 13. Location of childcare providers offering funded places**



NCC Synergy Education Live December 2018

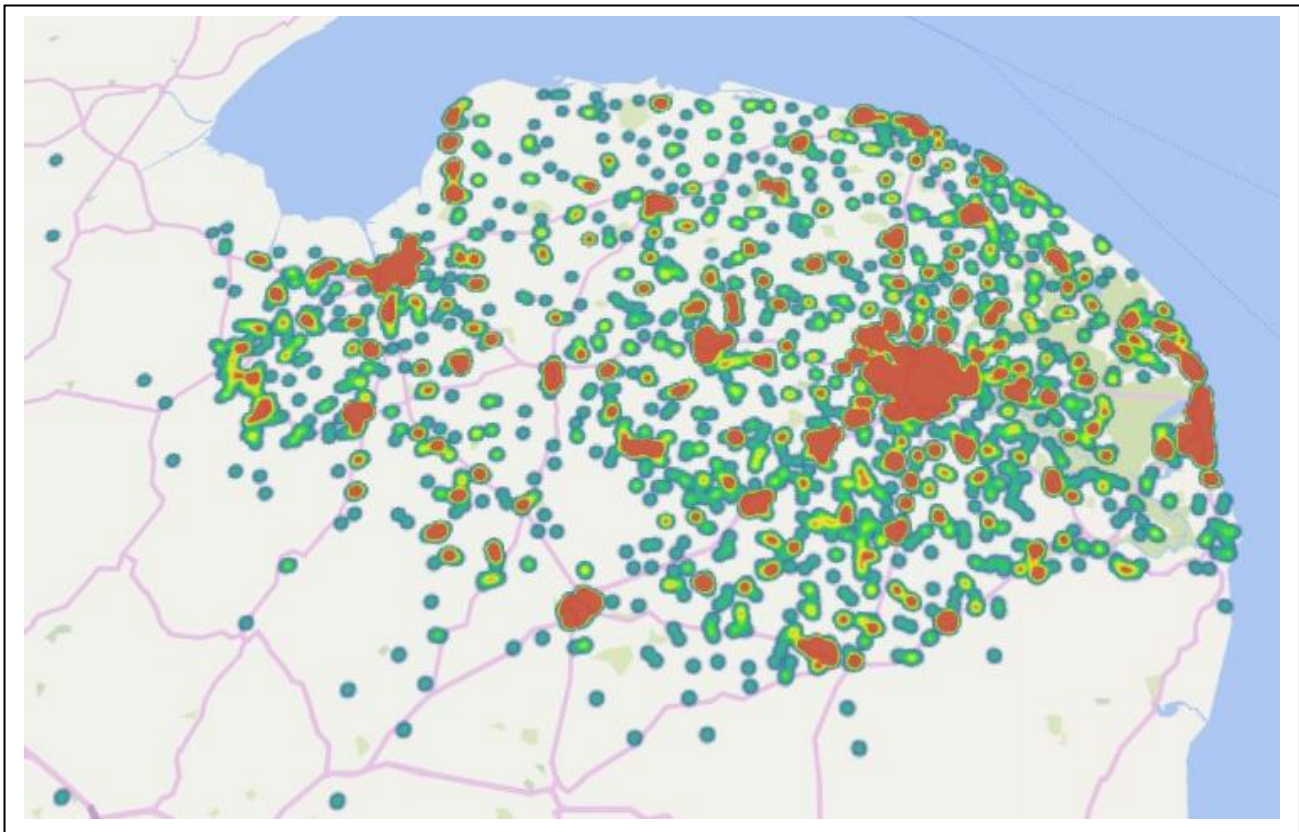
7.5 Take up of the 15 hour universal entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds is high across all areas of the county, the lowest take up being in Norwich. As part of the Norwich Opportunity Area strategy, take up is being encouraged through the provision of information provided to parents, and encouraging partnership working between different types of providers

**Figure 14. Supply and demand for 15 hour funded places for 3 & 4 year olds by district**

District	No of 3 & 4 year old children	Places available in PVI sector	Places available in schools sector	Total places available	% of children accessing a place
Breckland	3,015	2,322	660	2,982	99%
Broadland	2,559	2,024	449	2,473	97%
Great Yarmouth	2,213	1,624	684	2,308	100%
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	3,277	2,336	665	3,001	92%
North Norfolk	1,690	1,227	490	1,717	100%
Norwich	3,241	1,799	919	2,718	84%
South Norfolk	3,027	2,404	474	2,878	95%
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,022</b>	<b>13,736</b>	<b>4,341</b>	<b>18,077</b>	<b>95%</b>

NCC CHIS, eligibility and take up figures for summer claim period 2018

**Figure 15. Location of funded 3 & 4 year olds, Summer 2018**



NCC CHIS, eligibility and take up figures for summer claim period 2018

7.6 Analysis of the supply and demand of places for eligible funded 2 year olds shows that take up is lower than for the universal 3 and 4 year old entitlement. Take up rates are influenced by factors such as parental preference for keeping the child at home, which is particularly relevant for 2 year olds, not enough local childcare to meet parental preference and informal childcare being used instead.

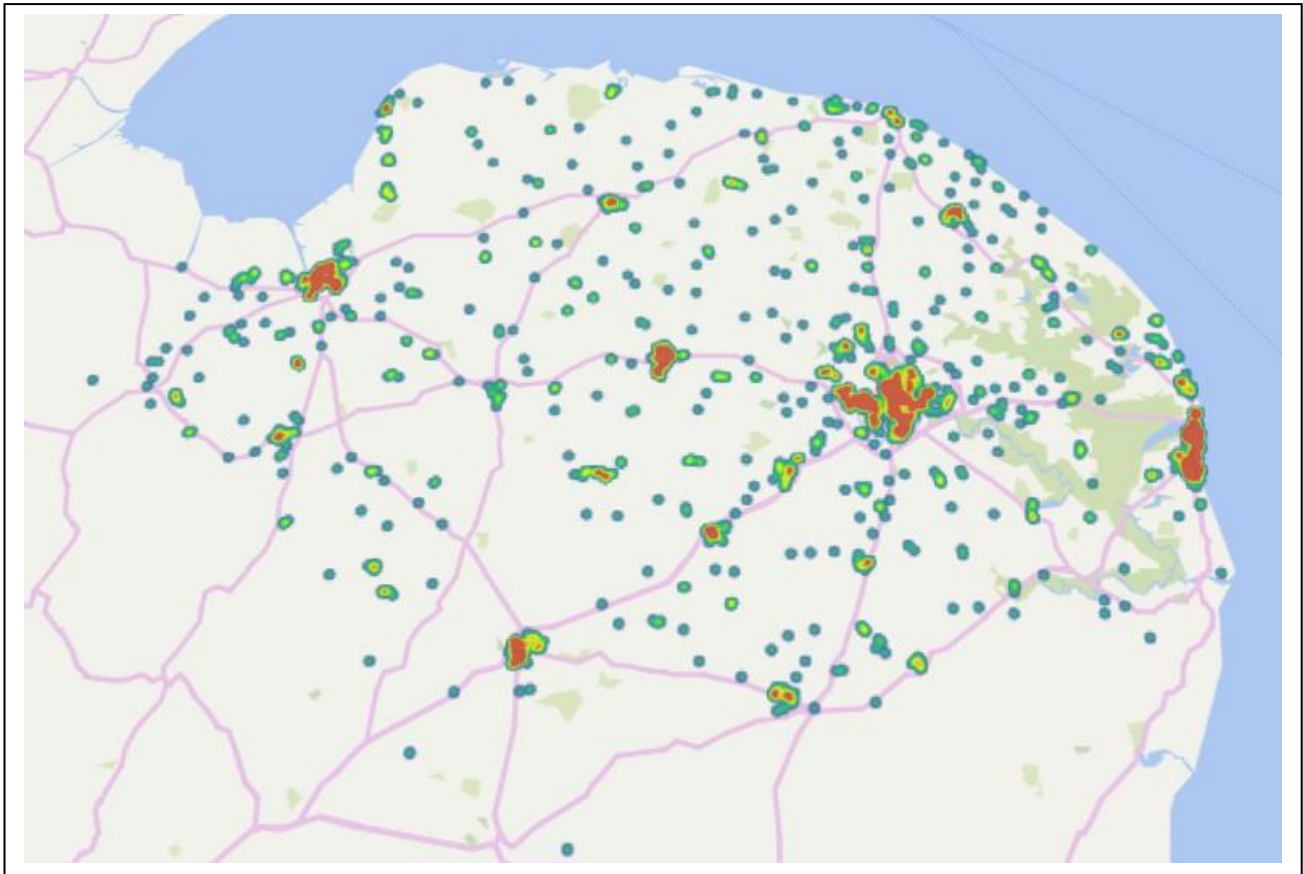
**Figure 16. Supply and demand for 15 hour funded places for 2YOs by district**

District	Total 2YOs	No of eligible children	No eligible % of 2YO Population	total 2YOs accessing	% of children accessing a place
Breckland	1,421	418	29%	323	77%
Broadland	1,168	230	20%	190	83%
Great Yarmouth	1,131	258	23%	394	100%
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	1,620	534	33%	383	72%
North Norfolk	778	256	33%	235	92%
Norwich	1,727	648	38%	472	73%
South Norfolk	1,301	297	23%	239	80%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,146</b>	<b>2,641</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>2,236</b>	<b>85%</b>

NCC CHIS, eligibility and take up figures for summer claim period 2018



Figure 17. Location of funded 2 year olds, Summer 2018



NCC CHIS, eligibility and take up figures for summer claim period 2018

7.7 Nationally, the total number of children in a 30 hours place is equal to 94% of the eligibility codes issued to parents. In Norfolk, the number of children taking up the extended entitlement (30 hours) for the summer claim period 2018 is higher and equates to 97%.

Figure 18. Number accessing extended entitlement and take up of those eligible

District	verified validation codes	claiming extended hours	not claiming	% of eligible children accessing extended hours
Breckland	727	715	12	98%
Broadland	683	652	31	95%
Great Yarmouth	337	328	9	97%
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	746	729	17	98%
North Norfolk	429	422	7	98%
Norwich	441	427	14	97%
South Norfolk	741	713	28	96%
District unknown	130	126	4	97%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4234</b>	<b>4112</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>97%</b>

NCC Early Years Finance December 2018

7.8 Data regarding cost of childcare is gathered annually by via the Early Years Census in January and via provider portal updates. The current average costs of childcare will be a combination of these figures depending on when and if the provider updated their details with any changes.

**Figure 19. Average costs per hour for early years childcare by type and district September 2018**

District	Childminders and childcare -domestic	Day nursery (full daycare)	Pre-school playgroups (sessional)
Breckland	£3.74	£4.42	£3.84
Broadland	£4.10	£5.03	£4.06
Great Yarmouth	£3.79	£4.23	£3.63
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	£3.91	£4.43	£3.75
North Norfolk	£4.11	£4.73	£3.52
Norwich	£4.56	£4.65	£4.54
South Norfolk	£4.20	£5.09	£3.97
<b>Norfolk average</b>	<b>£4.06</b>	<b>£4.65</b>	<b>£3.90</b>

NCC Synergy Education Live, September 2018

7.9 Childcare for younger children is often the most expensive due to factors such as staff/child ratios etc. Most parents find that their childcare costs reduce as their child grows and all children are entitled to some form of funded nursery education from the age of three, meaning childcare fees for parents fall.

7.10 The average prices in Figure 19 have been compared to figures for September 2016 in Figure 20 below showing the percentage increase.

**Figure 20. Percentage price increase per hour across childcare types**

	Childminders & childcare-domestic	Day nursery (full daycare)	Pre-school playgroups (sessional)
Average price September 2016	£3.93	£4.45	£3.55
Average Price September 2018	£4.06	£4.65	£3.90
<b>Average % price increase</b>	<b>3.2%</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>8.97%</b>

NCC Synergy Education Live September 2018

7.11 The average UK inflation rate for the same periods referred to above indicate prices have increased above the rate of inflation

**Figure 21. UK inflation rate**

UK Inflation Rate	
Average inflation rate September 2015-16	<b>0.27%</b>
Average inflation rate September 2017-18	<b>3%</b>

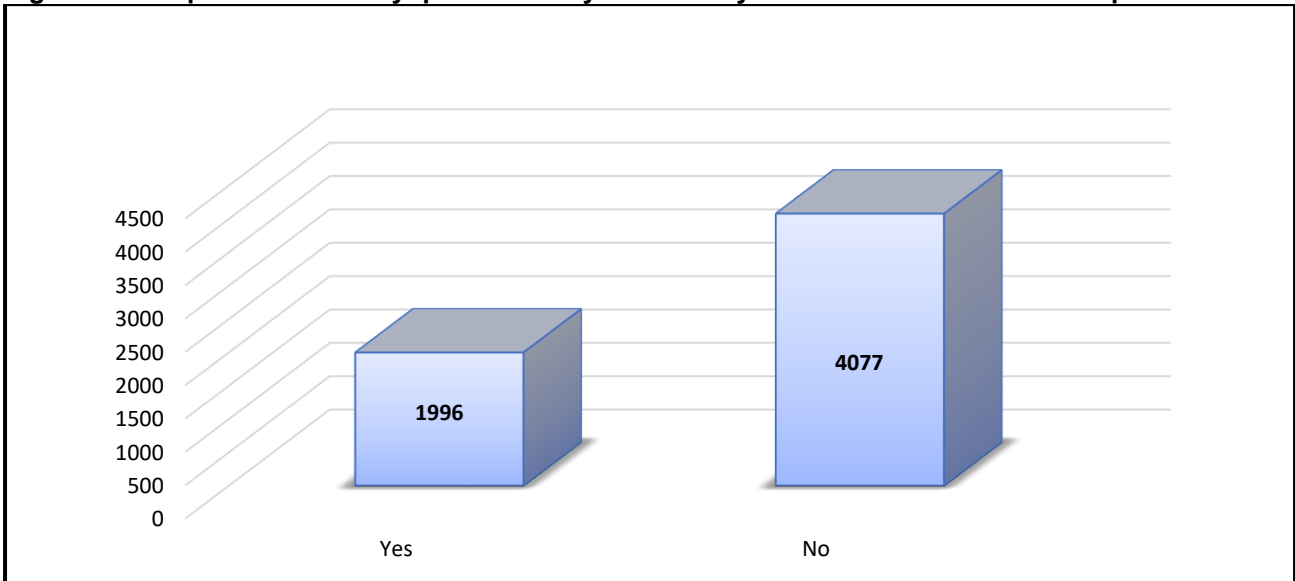
<https://www.rateinflation.com/inflation-rate/uk-historical-inflation-rate>

## 8. Consultation with parents

8.1 Consultation with parents and carers is an important part of establishing the demand for childcare. Parents were invited to complete a survey during autumn 2017 via the Children’s Centre Parental Satisfaction Survey. There was a 14% response rate (6,500 parents).

8.2 Figure 22 shows 6,073 parents replied to the question ‘Do you currently use a free/funded childcare place?’

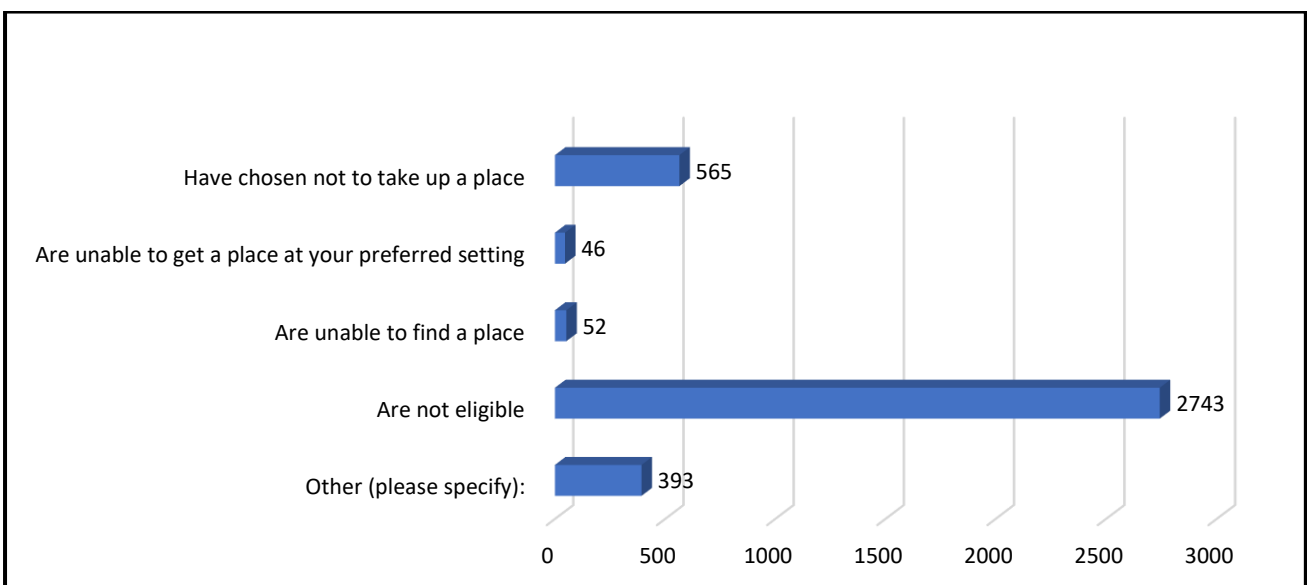
**Figure 22. Responses to survey question ‘Do you currently use a free/funded childcare place?’**



NCC Early Years Team Children’s Centre Parental Satisfaction Survey Autumn 2017

8.3 Figure 23 shows the responses of those not taking up a childcare place.

**Figure 23. Responses to survey question ‘If no, is this because you...’**



NCC Early Years Team Children’s Centre Parental Satisfaction Survey Autumn 2017

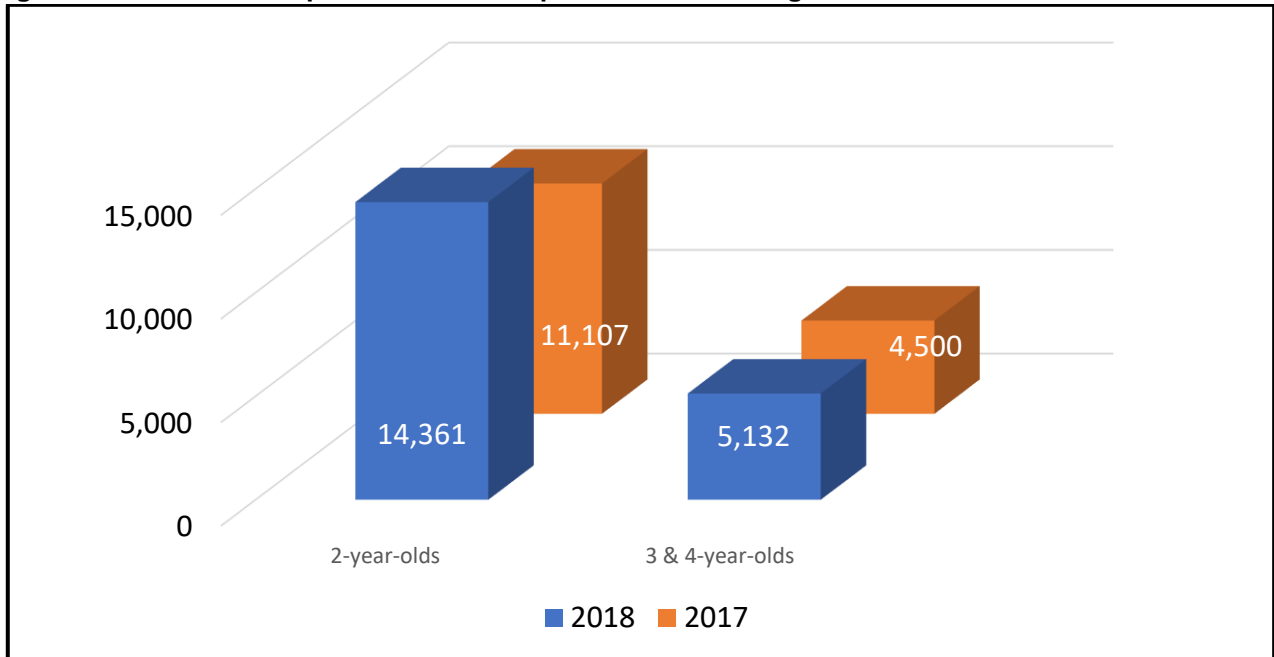
8.4 393 parents specified other reasons for not taking up a childcare place which were not captured by the survey options;

- Child too young
- The child is not born yet
- Don't know if we're eligible or not
- I don't need to work
- Don't have access to transport
- We have employed a nanny
- Grandparents support with childcare
- I am not sure if I am eligible plus I don't have enough information
- I'm a stay at home mum

## 9. Demand for childcare

- 9.1 Norfolk County Council's Customer Service Centre (CSC) takes initial enquires and provides general information to families while more complex enquiries are passed to Family Information, which is part of the Education and Early Years Achievement Service. This Service helps parents (particularly vulnerable families) to understand the benefits of high quality childcare and early learning for their children.
- 9.2 For the period 1st September 2017 – 31st August 2018, Family Information responded to 300 telephone enquiries handed over by CSC. The enquiry data showed that most of the customers were parents seeking clarification about funded early education and childcare, particularly 2-year-old funding.
- 9.3 Examples of handing-off from CSC to Family Information;
- 'Caller has made an online 2-year-old funding application which was successful for one of her twins but says she cannot input the same information twice to get a second reference number for the other twin as all the details are the same. How does she obtain a second reference number?' (CSA, October 2017)
  - 'R called today to see if she is eligible for the 2-year-old funding. R is on income support. Can someone get in touch with R to let her know about the funding code.' (CSA, April 2018)
  - 'S called today as she has lost her funding code letter - can we send a new one out please (CSC, August 2018)
- 9.4 Direct enquiries to CSC have decreased steadily over the last year, as more people are now using the Norfolk County Council childcare web pages and the Norfolk Community Directory to search for childcare and family support. In September 2017, the number of enquiries handed over by CSC to Family Information was 53 and in May 2018 the number was 16.
- 9.5 Most people are now accessing information about childcare online with most enquiries being received through email and Facebook. Family Information staff use social media to promote tax credits and to provide information relating to financial assistance for childcare. The top Facebook post in 2018 (ranked by engagement) reached 5.9k people, had 19 likes, 31 shares and 692 engagements. The second most engaging post about childcare reached 11.7k people, had 45 likes, 103 shares and 661 engagements.
- 9.6 The number of 'hits' to the NCC web pages about funded childcare have increased in the last 12 months and includes supporting information for parents and childcare professionals working with families.

**Figure 24. Number of enquiries received September 2017 to August 2018**



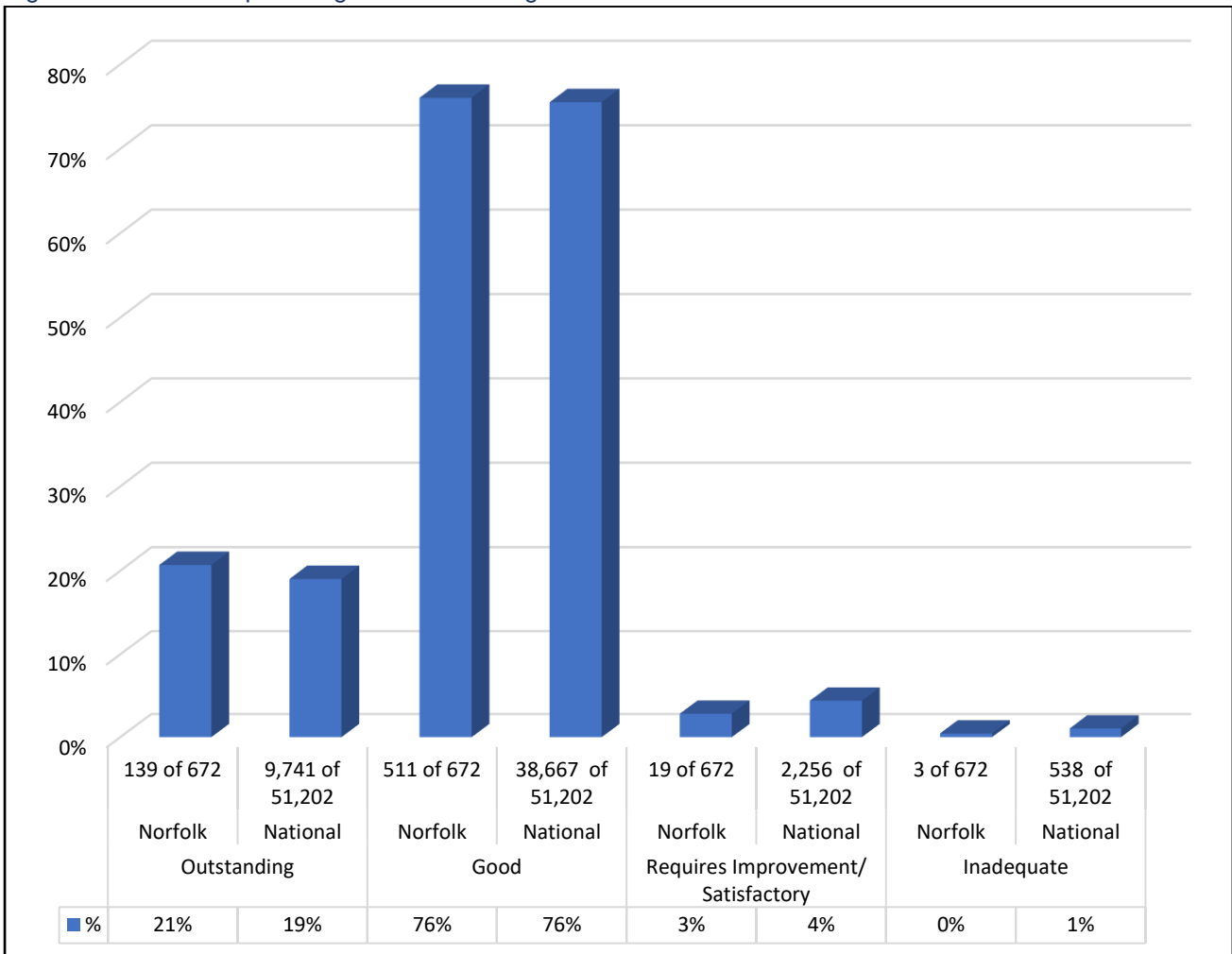
NCC Family Information December 2018

- 9.7 Family Information continue to develop innovative ways of communicating with parents to ensure up to date information is sent out to assist parents make informed choices regarding their childcare solutions.
- 9.10 Social media communication is being well responded to by parents seeking information though with the intermittent coverage of the broadband network it is recognised that web based communication doesn't suit many parents

## 10. Quality

- 10.1 Evidence shows that the quality of childcare is a significant factor affecting a child's future chances. High-quality early education improves children's school readiness and cognitive development, whilst poor-quality early education does very little to boost children's development. (2014 Joseph Roundtree Foundation, <https://www.jrf.org.uk/blog/30-hours-free-childcare-worth-fighting>).
- 10.2 The quality of early provision is measured through inspections undertaken by Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education). Ofsted is the sole arbiter of quality and through the inspection process, each setting will receive one of four grades (outstanding, good, requires improvement or inadequate) depending on the inspection findings.
- 10.3 Data on the inspection outcomes of Norfolk based registered early years and childcare providers at their most recent inspection compared to the national picture shows the quality of provision across Norfolk is higher than the national average.

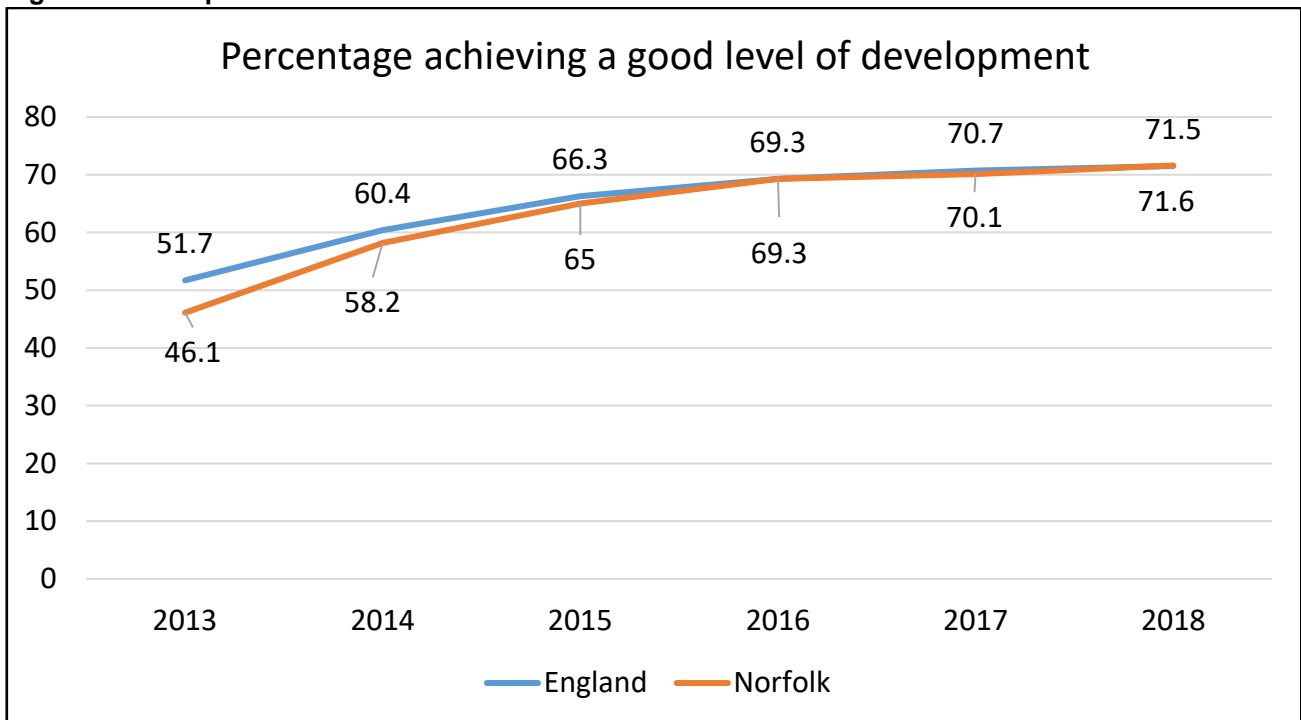
Figure 25. Ofsted inspection grades to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018



<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/childcare-providers-and-inspections-as-at-31-august-2018>

- 10.4 Support is available for providers to improve the quality of delivery and meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and Ofsted. The quality of provision plays an important part in the sufficiency of places.
- 10.5 All new childminders are offered a subsidised place on the Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years' (PACEY) Level 3 Award in Home Based Childcare, covering every aspect of being a registered childminder. With the continued support offered through the registration process by the EAEYS most childminders and out of school providers achieve good or outstanding at their first Ofsted inspection.
- 10.6 In 2018, the percentage of children achieving a good level of development at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) was 71.6%, an increase of 0.9% from the previous year continuing an improving trend.

**Figure 26. Comparison of children's results at the EYFSP**



DfE Early years foundation stage profile (EYFSP) results: 2018

- 10.7 The attainment of children eligible for FSM increased by 3 percentage points from 54% to 57%, compared to an increase for non-FSM pupils from 72% to 74%.
- 10.8 Norfolk County Council has a statutory duty in relation to provision of childcare training. The training programme delivered by the Achievement and Early Years Service aims to improve outcomes for children through the development of a highly skilled workforce. The training is available to practitioners working in any registered provision, as well as prospective childminders. Courses are subsidised for the private and voluntary sector.
- 10.9 Feedback from providers evidences that the training is needed and valued. Priority is given to providers who have received a 'Requires Improvement' or 'Inadequate' Ofsted grade to improve practice.



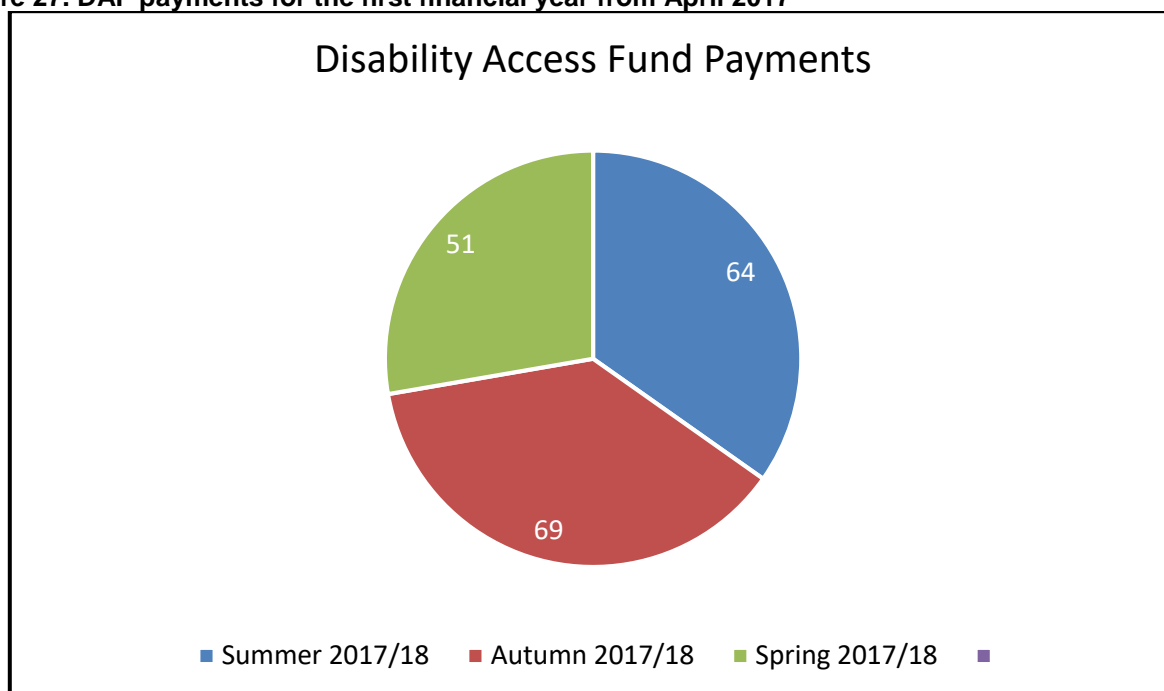
- 10.10 Recruitment of qualified and experienced practitioners remains a challenge for providers across the county, and this reflects a national issue. Norfolk County Council provides a recruitment website for use by providers to support the appointment and development of their workforce
- 10.11 The Early Years Service are developing a Peer Support Network, which is part of our approach to enable the variety of providers – private, voluntary, childminders, independent, maintained and academy, to work together to deliver sustained improvements. Currently there is a focus on support and development of leaders and this has been enabled through several leaders from outstanding provision accessing peer support/mentoring training. Further work to develop partnership working between settings and schools, and best practice sharing will commence in the coming year.

## 11. SEN&D

- 11.1 Local Authorities have a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity for children with special educational needs and disability (SEN&D). Nationally it is recognised parents often find it difficult or challenging to access childcare, this may be due to parental confidence in the provider's ability to meet their child's individual needs.
- 11.2 All childcare settings are required to comply with the SEN&D Code of Practice and with the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). A wide range of activities and clubs for young people with a disability or additional needs across Norfolk are listed on the Norfolk Local Offer pages at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-local-offer](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-local-offer).
- 11.3 Research suggests some childcare providers may not be as confident in their own ability to meet the needs of children with high level medical need, particularly if they are a lone worker, such as a childminder. Norfolk County Council offers providers subsidised training, specialist equipment and access to advice and guidance to support the inclusion of all children.
- 11.4 Information on childcare is available to all parents online. Additional information is available to parents of children with SEN&D via the Norfolk SEN Local Offer. Other services also offer support to parents to gain access to the free early years entitlement.
- 11.5 Since April 2017 there is a statutory duty for all Local Authorities to provide an SEN Inclusion Fund. This funding is for early years providers to meet the individual needs of children with low level or emerging SEN Eligibility is children who are in receipt of 3 and 4-year-old Early Education. 491 Norfolk children were in receipt of this source of funding during the summer term 2018 and attended 90 different providers. Data sources evidence a slightly higher figure for spring term 2018 with 510 children across 125 providers.
- 11.6 For children with more complex need, additional funding support is provided via the High Needs Block. In Norfolk, complex need is determined by those that have an issued or agreed Education Health Care Plan. 81 Norfolk children were in receipt of this funding during the summer term 2018.
- 11.7 Although there is not a statutory duty to provide additional funding for children who are in receipt of 2-year-old Early Education, Norfolk does make provision for them. Requests for additional funding can be made if a child has an identified need that is "additional to and different from". As a comparison during the spring term 229 awards were made as opposed to 200 awards during the summer term 2018.
- 11.8 In April 2017, the Disability Access Fund (DAF) was introduced for early years providers to support children with SEN&D. Its purpose is to remove 'barriers' which prevent children from accessing their free early education entitlement. To attract DAF, children must be receiving Disability Living Allowance and be in receipt of the 3 and 4 year early education entitlement. This funding is paid annually to the provider nominated by the parent/carer. In the first financial year Norfolk made DAF payment for 184 children. Figure 26 shows the payments on a termly basis. 56 payments

have been made during the first part of this financial year making an overall total of 240.

Figure 27. DAF payments for the first financial year from April 2017



NCC Early Years Finance Team

- 11.9 Since April 2015 childcare providers delivering the free nursery education entitlement for three and four year olds have been able to apply for additional funding of up to £300 per year, per eligible child, to support children from families on certain benefits. Children are also eligible if they are looked after by the local authority, adopted from care or have left care under a special guardianship or residence order.
- 11.10 During the summer 2018 term 14,109 three and four year olds claimed early education funding. EYPP payments were made for 2,297 children to childcare providers in both the PVI and maintained sectors across Norfolk. This represents 16.28% of the number of children claiming early years education funding. This represents a good level of take up.
- 11.11 The identification of eligible children relies upon parents making schools and settings aware so that they can apply for the funding. To ensure as many parents as possible talk with their childcare provider about possible eligibility, publicity work through the Family Information Team will continue to raise awareness and increase the take up rate. <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/childcare-and-early-learning/free-childcare-and-learning/early-years-pupil-premium>

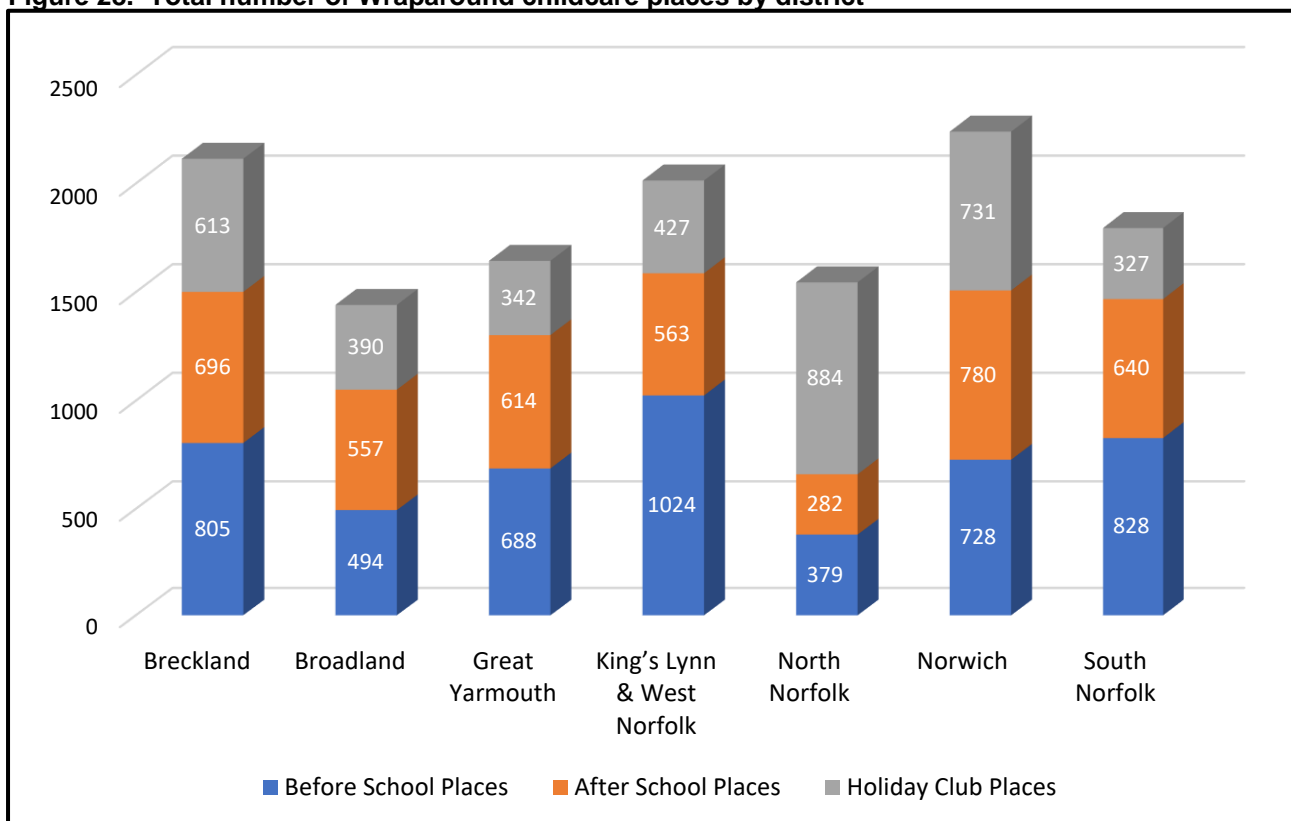
## 12. Looked after children

- 12.1 Looked after children are less likely than their peers to access early education.
- 12.2 In Norfolk 42 looked after children accessed a funded place with childcare providers during the 2018 summer term
- 12.3 Norfolk's Virtual School Looked After Children, Adoption and Special Guardianship Order Team is liaising closely with social workers and foster carers to promote the importance of accessing pre-school provision however it is acknowledged that childcare provision may not be suitable for all looked after young children.
- 12.4 From September 2018 some children in foster care have been able to be funded for the extended entitlement. In Norfolk, 2 children were funded under this criteria within the autumn term 2018.

## 13. Childcare for children over 5

- 13.1 Out of School childcare includes Breakfast clubs, After School clubs and Holiday Playschemes. This form of childcare can operate either on or off a school site and may be run by the school directly or by Private, Voluntary or Independent partners (PVI).
- 13.2 In addition, many schools provide extra-curricular after school activities such as sports clubs, gardening clubs, film clubs etc. Although these may not be formally classed as childcare they still provide a safe learning environment for children whilst parents/carers are at work or studying. However, these types of clubs may not operate consistently throughout the school year or may vary from term to term and are often only an hour in duration.
- 13.3 It is recognised that good quality Out of School childcare has a positive effect upon children's outcomes. Research has shown that this type of good quality childcare can improve a child's behavioural, social and emotional skills as well as impacting upon academic performance. Children from disadvantaged backgrounds that attended After School Clubs on average achieve a two points higher score in their Key Stage 2 assessment in English, Math's and Science than those who did not take part in After School clubs. (Wraparound and holiday childcare, Parent and childcare provider 'rights to request', Guidance for local authority maintained schools, academies and free schools, May 2016, p5, paragraphs 12 – 14)  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/525135/Rights\\_to\\_request\\_guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/525135/Rights_to_request_guidance.pdf)
- 13.4 Dependent upon specific criteria, not all Wraparound provision has to be Ofsted registered and there is no legal requirement to inform the local authority of operation. A provider who only delivers to children age eight or over, or who does not operate for more than two hours a day or provides two activities or less is not legally required to register with Ofsted. A setting may however, choose to join the voluntary part of the childcare register to allow parents to claim childcare vouchers. In addition, providers do not have to meet specified child/adult ratios if they are caring solely for children over the age of eight.
- 13.5 It is, therefore, difficult to determine the exact number of places. Many non-registered holiday activities are run by local leisure centres or sport centres which may also not be represented in the figures. Figure 28 shows the numbers of places reportedly available by all registered providers in Norfolk, by district.

**Figure 28. Total number of Wraparound childcare places by district**



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- 13.6 It should be noted that demand for childcare will be significantly lower for young people of secondary school age (11 years and over) as many parents/carers feel their children are independent enough to not require childcare outside of school hours. Therefore, when calculating the number of places, the calculation has only considered the number of children in school aged 4 – 11 and 11 years plus with a disability.
- 13.7 Figure 28 shows the number of Wraparound childcare places across Norfolk is approximately 12,816. Norfolk has 96,609 children and young people aged 4 – 11 in the primary school phase and disabled young people aged 11 – 18 years, giving an overall figure of approximately 13 childcare places for every 100 children/young people.
- 13.8 Norwich has the highest number of wraparound childcare places across all Out of School provision than all other districts whilst Broadland has the fewest. Where provision in the maintained sector (schools) is high the PVI sector is generally low.
- 13.9 45% of schools in the primary phase run their own Breakfast Club on site and 44% of private, voluntary or independent breakfast clubs are located on school sites.
- 13.10 Approximately a quarter of schools in Norfolk provide an After School Club on their site where as a third of PVI run After-School Clubs are located on school sites. This data refers only to Ofsted registered childcare provision and does not consider extra-curricular after school activities such as gardening clubs, film clubs etc. which many schools also run after the end of the school day.

13.11 A much smaller percentage of schools provide pupils with school run Holiday Playschemes on site (4.5%). PVI providers double this percentage to 9% of school site locations offering Holiday Playschemes in Norfolk. School sites account for 44% of the Holiday Playschemes offered to parents in Norfolk indicating that this area of childcare is provided in the main by PVI providers both on and off school sites.

13.12 In 2016 parents were given the ‘right to request’ that their child’s school should consider establishing wraparound childcare or allowing PVI providers to use the school facilities to deliver childcare at times when the school is not using them. Whilst it is not compulsory to offer wraparound childcare at parental request, schools should not refuse a request without reasonable justification.

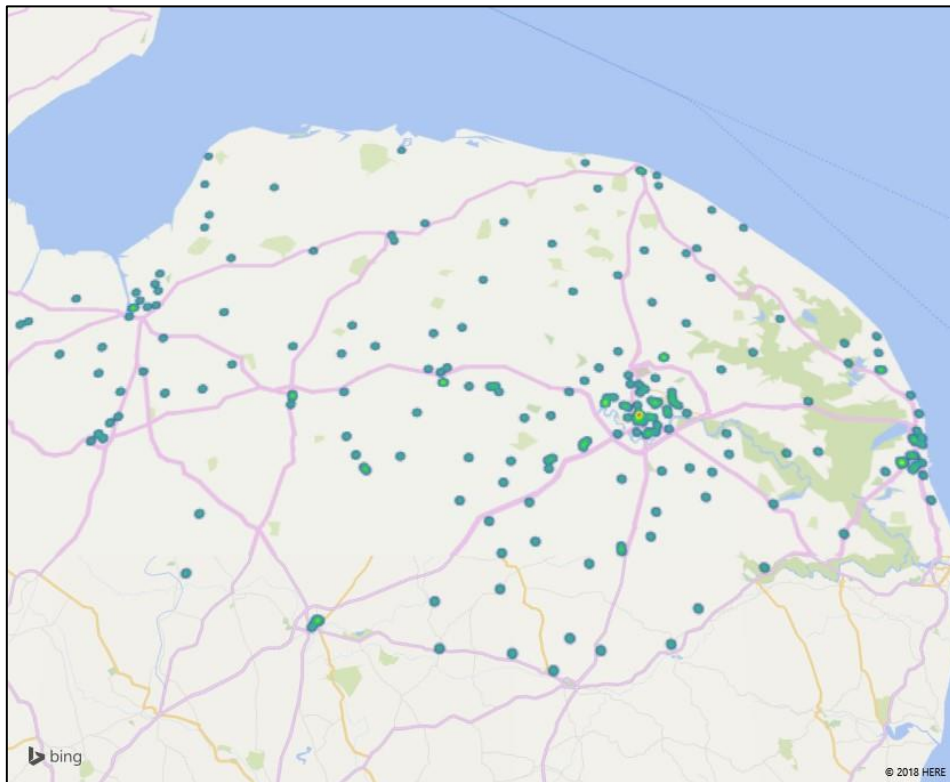
13.13 Figure 29 shows the current average costs of Out of School care for district and for the county.

Figure 29. Average costs for Out of School childcare by provider type and district

District	Breakfast Club Session (cost per hour)	After School Session (cost per hour)	Holiday Playscheme Session (cost per day)
Breckland	£3.39	£8.16	£25.82
Broadland	£3.43	£7.48	£24.31
Great Yarmouth	£2.44	£6.48	£29.90
King’s Lynn & West Norfolk	£2.53	£8.19	£32.87
North Norfolk	£2.94	£7.52	£26.16
Norwich	£2.24	£7.69	£26.65
South Norfolk	£3.68	£9.80	£25.61
<b>Norfolk average</b>	<b>£2.95</b>	<b>£7.90</b>	<b>£27.33</b>

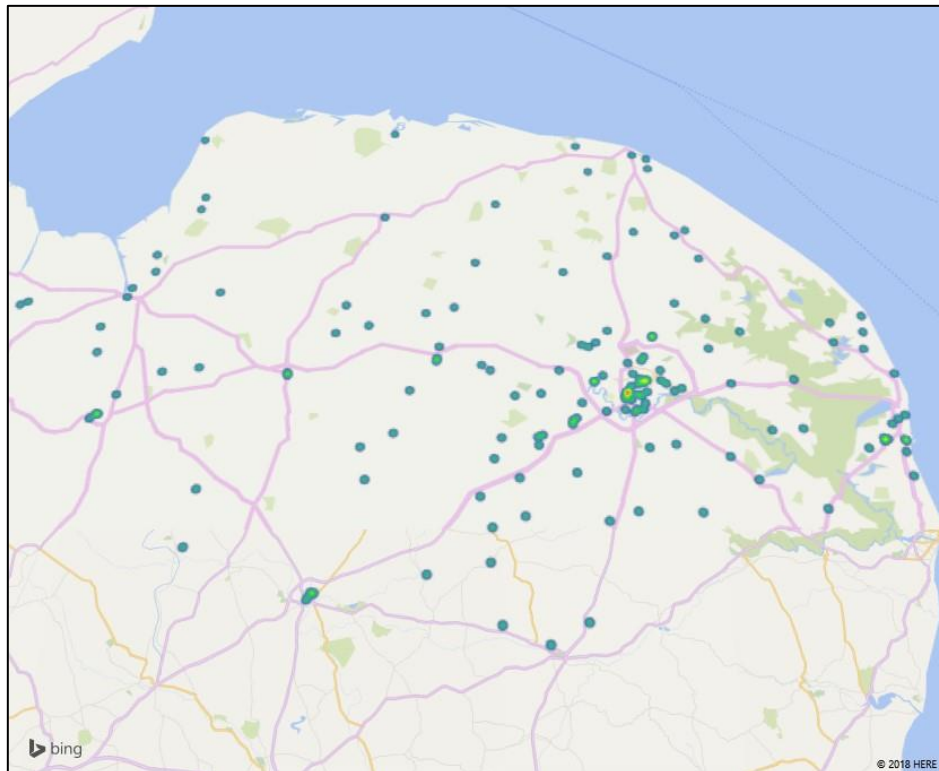
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**Figure 30. Location of Breakfast Clubs**



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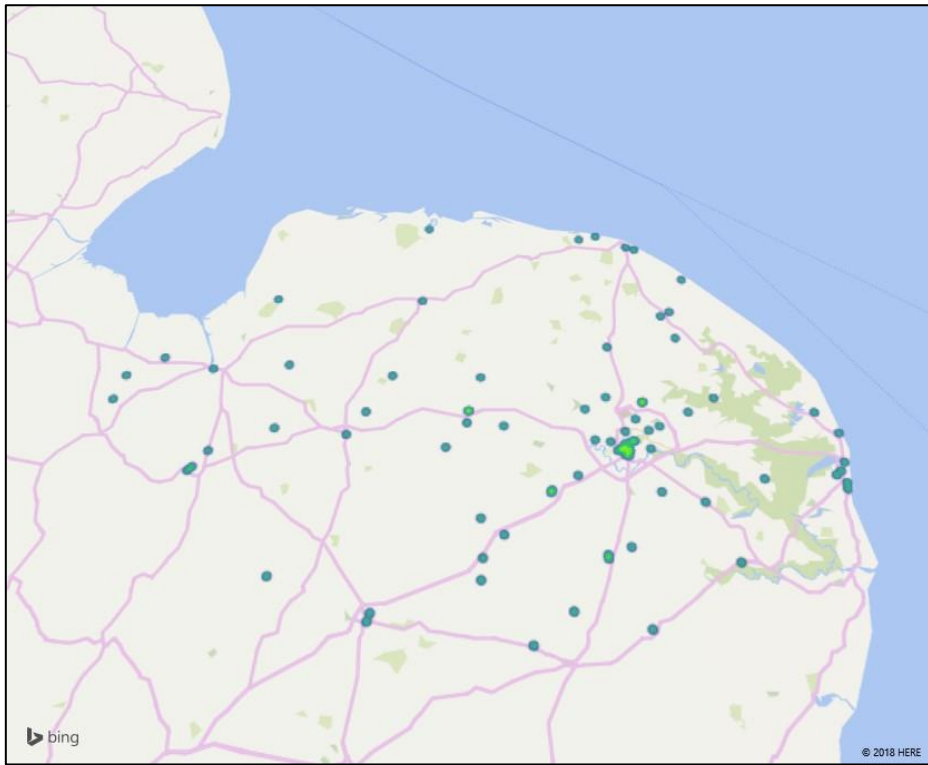
**Figure 31. Location of After School Clubs**



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**Figure 32. Location of Holiday Playschemes**



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