



Childcare Sufficiency Report

March 2024

Contents

Introduction	Page 2
Executive Summary	Page 2
Free Early Education Entitlement	Page 3
Supply and take up of childcare provision	Page 5
Number of early years providers and places	
Number of children accessing Free Early Education Entitlement	
Number of children attending reception classes	
Early Years Pupil Premium	
Extended Entitlement (30 hours)	
Number of children with SEND	
Number of Providers with Graduates	
Quality of childcare	Page 12
Ofsted inspection grades	
National and regional comparisons	
Cost of Childcare	Page 13
Occupancy rates and Vacancies	Page 14
Future Demand	Page 18
Sources of data	Page 22

Introduction

This Childcare Sufficiency Report is an assessment of existing childcare provision in the borough, mapping supply of, demand for and gaps in the childcare market. Hackney Council has a duty to 'report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare, and make this report available and accessible to parents'. This report meets this duty.

Having sufficient childcare means there are sufficient places for eligible 2, 3 and 4 year olds to take up their free 15 and 30 hours early years education entitlement and that families can find childcare that meets their child's learning needs and enables parents to make a real choice about work and training. Sufficiency is assessed for different age groups, rather than for all children in the local authority.

The Council is also required to ensure that there is sufficient childcare to enable parents to take up or remain in work, or to undertake training to assist them in obtaining work.

In this report, we have made an assessment of sufficiency using data about the demand for childcare and the amount of childcare available. We use information about childcare sufficiency to plan our work supporting the local childcare economy.

This report assesses the sufficiency of childcare in Hackney through a focus on the main themes of: demand for childcare, the supply of childcare places, the quality of care and the cost. Each of these themes will be discussed to determine the overall sufficiency of childcare, ensuring families are able to find appropriate childcare to enable them to continue with work and training.

Summary

- The early years' population projections show a gradual reduction in the number of children aged 0-4 over the coming three years before numbers plateau. If current levels of childcare provision are maintained, overall demand for early years childcare should continue to be met.
- There continues to be a sufficient supply of childcare provision to meet the needs of children requiring funded childcare places.
- Hackney has maintained its position as a high performing borough in relation to inspection outcomes in maintained school provision and in pre-school provision.
- The take-up of funded early education for 2 year olds has increased and in 2023 was at the highest level since the scheme was introduced in 2013.
- The take-up of universal funded early education for 3 and 4 year olds remains consistent with previous years and is slightly higher than local regional comparators.
- The total number of early years childcare providers remains stable, as does the number of places available.
- Childcare for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) continues to be available throughout Hackney. The number of early years children with SEND continues to increase in all settings and school nurseries, reflecting the growing demand for SEND services, support and appropriate childcare.

- The average cost of childcare has increased in group settings in the Private and Voluntary sector and amongst Childminders. Costs in the Private and voluntary sector remain lower than the average in London
- Hackney is well placed to be able to accommodate the increase in places required to meet the expansion of the free entitlement offer.

Free Early Education Entitlement

Some children are entitled to free childcare, funded by the government. Prior to April 2024, there were three broad offers. These were;

1. Fifteen hours free education entitlement for 2 year olds

Children aged 2 whose families receive certain benefits (including Income support, Income based Job Seekers Allowance, Income related Employment and Support Allowance, Tax Credits and have an annual family income of under £16,190 before tax, Universal Credit and have an annual family income of under £15,400 after tax or support through part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act) are entitled to 15 hours per week for 38 weeks per year. Nationally, about 40% of 2 year olds are entitled to this offer, but the proportion varies by local area.

2. Fifteen hours free education entitlement for all 3-4 year olds

All three and four year olds are entitled to a free part-time nursery education place regardless of how much their families earn. The free places are for 570 hours per year which is usually taken as 15 hours a week over 38 weeks but parents can choose to take fewer hours over more weeks.

3. Thirty hours free education entitlement for some 3 and 4 year olds (Extended entitlement)

Some working parents are eligible for an additional 15 hours of free childcare for their 3 and 4 year olds. These families will be able to access up to 30 hours of free childcare a week, 38 weeks a year. Both parents are required to be working, or for lone parent families where that parent is working, and earn the equivalent of at least 16 hours per week at the National Living Wage or National Minimum Wage.

An expansion to the free entitlements for working parents for children aged between nine months and three is due to be introduced incrementally beginning in April 2024. Details and implications are discussed further in this report.

Supply and take up of childcare provision

The different types of childcare available include;

Childminders: Ofsted registered professionals who look after children in their own homes. They offer a flexible service, caring for children aged from birth to sixteen years. They are only allowed to

look after up to six children between the ages birth to eight (including their own). They can have more children if they work in partnership with other childminders or assistants.

Private or Voluntary Nurseries: these settings care for children aged from birth to five years and usually offer day care from 8am to 6pm, for most of the year. All day nurseries are registered with Ofsted and inspected regularly. They can be run by private individuals, community groups, Montessori organisations, commercial businesses or by employers. Private or Voluntary Nurseries include Children Centres and Playgroups. **Playgroups** provide care for children either as a morning or afternoon session or as extended sessions including lunch. They are often run by voluntary groups but can also be run by private individuals. They care for children aged from two to five years and are usually only open during term time. They differ from day nurseries in that they only admit children from the age of two years old and usually open between 9am to 3.30pm. They are also registered and inspected by Ofsted.

Independent Schools: these are owned privately and cater for children aged from three to Sixteen. Some independent schools choose to take children from two years old. The schools are registered with Ofsted or the Department for Education but make their own arrangements concerning staff numbers, qualifications and curriculum. If the school participates in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum, it must comply with the Statutory Framework and will be inspected by Ofsted. The vast majority of Independent school provision serves the Orthodox Jewish (Charedi) community in the North of the borough in the wards of Cazenove, Springfield, Woodberry Down and Stamford Hill West.

Nursery Classes in Maintained Schools: these are schools that offer full and part-time early years education places, typically between school hours and during term time only. They are attached to primary schools. There are also two standalone Maintained Nursery Schools (MNS). In addition to offering places in nursery classes for children from the age of three, a quarter of Hackney maintained schools also offer places for two year olds.

In total, there are 279 Early Years childcare providers in Hackney in the Private, Voluntary and Independent sector. Since the previous assessment, there has been a decrease in the number of registered Childminders (from 163 to 148) and an increase in two of the total number of Private, Voluntary and Independent settings (PVIs).

Table 1: Total number of Private, Independent and Voluntary providers in Hackney

Private, Voluntary, Independent Providers	2022	2024
All providers	293	279
Childminders	163	148
Private and Voluntary Providers	108	110
Independent schools	21	21

The number of nursery classes in school remains the same although the planned closure of four schools will reduce the number of nursery classes by the beginning of the academic year 2024-25.

Table 2: Total number of state funded schools

State funded schools	2022	2024
All providers	58	58
Maintained Nursery Schools	2	2
Primary Schools with nursery classes	54	54
Special schools	2	2

Providers offering funded early education places

Providers are not required to offer the free entitlements; some choose to charge parents the full cost of providing a childcare service. In Hackney, both maintained nursery schools and all nursery classes in schools offer both the 15 hours and extended 30 hours entitlement to parents.

The number of private, voluntary and independent sector providers offering free entitlement hours varies each year.

Table 3: Number of providers delivering Free Entitlement places for Three and Four year olds

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
All providers	180	181	198	188	186	183
Childminders	5	6	17	11	10	12
Independent schools	22	22	22	21	21	21
Maintained Nursery schools	2	2	2	2	2	2
Nurseries in Maintained schools	53	53	53	52	52	52
Private and voluntary providers	96	96	102	99	99	94
Special Schools	2	2	2	2	2	2

The number of providers delivering free education entitlement places for 2 year olds also fluctuates year by year, often related to the geographical location of the demand for places as well as provider choice. Between 2020 and 2023 there was a reduction in the number of Private and Voluntary providers delivering places which in part, is related to a fall in the number of children accessing the entitlement. Over the same period, the number of maintained schools offering places for two year old children increased from 8 to 20 schools.

Table 4: Number of providers delivering Free Entitlement places for Two year olds

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
All providers	134	127	135	120	138	140
Childminders	24	20	23	18	27	29
Independent schools	12	10	13	12	10	13
Maintained Nursery schools	2	2	2	2	2	2
Nurseries in Maintained schools	8	10	8	11	17	20
Private and voluntary providers	88	85	88	77	82	76
Special Schools	0	0	1	0	0	0

Currently, there are 70 nursery providers offering places for children under two and 66 childminders (from a total of 83 childminders who replied to the survey).

Provision for children under two

There is currently no free entitlement funding for any children under two, nevertheless some providers offer places for which fees are paid by the parents. There are several reasons why some settings choose not to offer places for this age group including the requirement to have an additional room which is separate from provision for older children, the need to provide sleeping areas including cots and bedding and higher adult / child ratios.

Number of children accessing Free Early Education Entitlement

The number of children attending Hackney schools, settings and childminders has fallen over the previous three years. In 2020 there were 7040 three and four year olds attending provision; this figure has reduced to 6314 taking up the free entitlements in 2023. This has been a reduction of 726 children.

The take up of the two year old free entitlement shows a similar picture. The total number of children attending reduced significantly between 2020 and 2023 from 1311 to 1111. This mirrors the reduction seen in all other local authorities and nationally, and could be accounted for by a reticence on the part of parents to take up their entitlements during the pandemic when visits to schools and settings, meetings with leaders and managers, and settling-in practices were so disrupted.

Table 5: Number of two, three and four year olds taking up Free Education Entitlement in a Hackney schools or settings

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of Two years olds	1363	1239	1311	1089	1160	1111
Number of Three and four year olds years olds	6889	7051	7040	6677	6599	6314

Table 6: Percentage of two and three and four year olds taking up the Free Education Entitlement

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Percentage of Two year olds	59%	60%	64%	57%	66%	69%
Percentage of Three and four year olds	86%	88%	88%	84%	86%	85%

As previously stated, the two year old entitlement is not a universal offer. Eligibility is for those parents in receipt of various benefits including Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance. The total number of children and families who are eligible varies from year to year. Between 2018 and 2023, the number of families who were eligible for the free two year entitlement reduced by almost 700.

Table 7: Total number of two year olds eligible for Free Education Entitlement

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of Eligible two year olds	2304	2072	2056	1908	1766	1606

The percentage take up of the free entitlement for three and four year olds in Hackney in 2023 was 85%. This has been a reduction of 3% on the two highest years in 2019 and 2020, nevertheless, Hackney continues to compare favourably against statistical neighbours also exceeding the average of inner London local authorities.

Table 8: Percentage take up of three and four year olds in Hackney, Statistical Neighbours, Inner London and England

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Hammersmith and Fulham	82	80	78	73	71	69
Southwark	81	81	81	76	74	72
Waltham Forest	84	82	81	76	80	82
Haringey	78	79	81	77	78	82
Lewisham	83	83	79	79	80	79
Islington	83	83	83	80	79	77
Croydon	85	86	85	80	84	87
Greenwich	86	87	86	81	82	84
Enfield	86	83	85	81	82	83
Lambeth	87	87	86	82	82	76

Hackney	86	88	88	84	86	85
Statistical Neighbours	83.5	83.1	82.5	78.4	79.1	79.1
Inner London	80.0	80.0	79.0	76.0	76.4	75.8
England	94.0	93.0	93.0	88.0	92.3	93.7

The take up of places for children eligible for the two year old funding increased by 12% from 2021 to 2023. This follows a similar pattern both across London and nationally. The take-up compares favourably alongside Hackney’s statistical neighbours.

Table 9: Percentage take up of two year olds in Hackney, with Statistical Neighbours, Inner London and England

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Croydon	82	47	49	42	51	57
Waltham Forest	48	47	50	44	60	61
Hammersmith and Fulham	85	50	52	45	55	54
Lewisham	54	56	57	47	61	62
Southwark	93	61	57	48	70	66
Haringey	54	47	54	48	58	65
Enfield	54	50	53	49	59	61
Greenwich	56	58	60	50	62	62
Hackney	59	60	64	57	66	69
Islington	64	61	67	61	70	75
Lambeth	64	63	63	60	71	81
Statistical Neighbours	65	54	56	49	62	64
Inner London	60	56	57	50	62	65
England	72	68	69	62	72	74

Number of children attending reception classes

The number of children attending reception classes in maintained schools is not an accurate reflection of the number of children living in the borough. It does not include any children who attend Independent schools or those children that are on roll at schools outside the borough, nevertheless it gives a clear indication of the demographic trends and the challenges being faced by Hackney

schools. Between 2018 and 2023, there has been a reduction in the number of children attending reception classes of 350.

Table 10: Number of children on roll in reception classes in Hackney 2018-2023

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Children on roll (January census)	2635	2565	2599	2530	2398	2285

Projections by the Greater London Authority suggest reception numbers will continue to fall until 2028 before gradually increasing.

Table 11: Projected number of reception children on roll 2024-2029

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Reception projections	2256	2185	2146	2168	2207	2225

Early years pupil premium (EYPP)

Early Years education providers are able to receive up to £387 per year to help with a child's education provided parents meet certain eligibility criteria. EYPP is for children aged 3 or 4 and accessing 15 hours free childcare. As with the two year olds eligibility, parents need to be in receipt of benefits (which include Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance - full details can be found at; <https://www.gov.uk/get-extra-early-years-funding>).

The total number of children in schools and settings who were in receipt of the EYPP funding has reduced from 625 in 2018 to 520 in 2023, a decrease of 105 children and families.

Table 12: Total number of three and four year olds in receipt of Early Years Pupil Premium

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of three and four year olds in receipt of EYPP	625	604	545	520	658	520

Currently, 8.2% of families accessing universal free entitlements are making a claim for the EYPP. This figure has reduced slightly since 2018 when schools and settings received additional funding for 9% of children.

Table 13: Percentage of three and four year olds eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
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Percentage of three and four year olds eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium	9%	8.5%	7.7%	7.8%	9.9%	8.2%
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Extended Entitlement (30 hours)

The Extended Entitlement, offering working parents an additional 15 hours of free childcare, was introduced in September 2017. The number of families accessing this entitlement has increased in both the number of children and the percentage of children accessing 15 hours of free childcare. Currently, 33% of all children accessing the universal 15 hours of childcare are claiming the extended entitlement.

Table 14: Number of three and four year olds accessing 'Extended Entitlements' (30 hours)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of three and four year olds accessing 'Extended Entitlements'	1583	1918	2091	1900	2044	2101

Table 15: Percentage of three and four year olds accessing 'Extended Entitlement' (30 Hours)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Percentage of three and four year olds accessing 'Extended Entitlements'	23%	27%	29%	29%	31%	33%

Number of children with SEND

The number of children accessing Early Year provision with an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP) varies each year. In 2021 there was a sharp increase from the previous year in the number of EHCPs. This figure reduced in 2022 and 2023 but remains much higher than the average in England and London.

Table 16: number and percentage of children (2, 3 and 4 year olds) with an EHC plan in Hackney 2018- 2023

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of registered Children	39	37	47	140	110	107
Percentage of registered Children	0.6%	0.6%	0.7%	2.3%	1.8%	1.8%

Table 17: Percentage of registered children (2, 3 and 4 year olds) with EHC plan 2018 - 2023 in Hackney, England, London and inner London

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
England	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%	0.6%	0.7%
London	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%	0.6%	0.7%
Inner London	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%
Hackney	0.6%	0.6%	0.7%	2.3%	1.8%	1.8%

The number of two year old children with an EHC plan increased dramatically in 2001 and has fallen back in 2023 to earlier levels. The number of children aged three and four has steadily increased from 2019 to 2023.

Table 18: Number of children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (aged 2, 3 and 4) between 2018 and 2023

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number two year olds with EHCPs	1	0	8	52	12	7
Number of three and four year olds with EHCP	38	37	39	88	98	100

The Early Years Inclusion Fund is a budget to support children aged 3 or 4 years of age who have emerging needs related to a Special Educational Need and/ or Disability (SEND) and because of this require additional support. Any registered Early Years setting, school or childminder can submit an application to access the additional funding provided. The Inclusion Fund is for those children with emerging SEND but who do not yet have an Education, Health and Care plan.

In the financial year 2021-22 the Inclusion Fund made 340 awards to children to support access to their 3 and 4 year old entitlements. In the year 2022-23 this increased to 429 and by the end of year 2023-24, there were 548 awards.

The primary need for the majority of children requiring SEND support is for speech, language, communication and interaction difficulties.

Information about services and support are available across early years, education, employment and training, health, leisure and social care can be found on Hackney’s Local Offer website here: www.hackneylocaloffer.co.uk

Number of Providers with Graduates

There is clear evidence that settings with graduate professionals supporting the learning and development of young people has a positive impact on children’s outcomes. It is with this in mind that the hourly rate for providers includes an element within the funding formula that includes a

supplement for those settings with a graduate. The percentage of children registered with providers with at least one graduate staff member is lower in Hackney than in England or in London

Table 19: Percentage of children registered with providers with at least one graduate staff member

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
England	52%	52%	53%	51%	51%	51%
London	54%	55%	56%	54%	54%	52%
Inner London	60%	5%	61%	62%	60%	58%
Hackney	49%	44%	43%	42%	41%	48%

Quality of Childcare

All childcare providers must register with and be inspected by Ofsted, who give them an overall grade for the quality of their provision. Childminders as well as private and voluntary providers are on the Early Years Register, and schools and standalone maintained nursery schools are on the Schools register. The grades for both registers are equivalent. Schools with nursery classes have an overall inspection grade for the whole school and most also have a separate early years grade. Some settings are registered with the Independent Schools Inspectorate; these schools are also inspected by Ofsted.

Both schools and early years providers have four possible Ofsted grades: ‘Outstanding’, ‘Good’, ‘Requires Improvement’, and ‘Inadequate’. Some providers are still awaiting their first full inspection or have re-registered under new owners. These providers are excluded from the tables as they do not have an Ofsted grade.

Table 20: Percentage of Hackney providers judged as Good or Outstanding according to Ofsted

Type of provision	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Childminders	97%	95%	96%	96%	96%	95%
Nursery classes in schools*	95%	94%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Maintained nursery schools	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Private and voluntary nurseries inc children’s centres	91%	96%	97%	98%	98%	98%
Independent schools*	38%	35%	30%	30%	35%	38%

* For Maintained Nursery Classes in schools and in Independent schools, early years grade is recorded if available, otherwise overall school grade is used.

There have been only slight changes between 2018 and 2023. The percentage of ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’ provision across the Private and Voluntary sector has increased to 98% in line with

London and England outcomes. Ofsted outcomes of ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’ in the Independent sector now stands at 38%.

Table 21: Percentage of providers judged Good or Outstanding by Ofsted in Hackney, London and England (2023)

Type of provision	Hackney	London	England
Childminders	96%	94%	96%
Nursery classes in schools	100%	Not known	88%
Maintained nursery schools	100%	Not known	98%
Private and voluntary nurseries	98%	97%	98%

Cost of Childcare

Information about the cost of childcare, outside the funded entitlements, is reported to Hackney Education by providers. Information is collected on average prices per hour, per day and per week. Some providers often offer reductions for longer hours, or discounts for siblings; however, parents may be expected to pay for additional items including meals, nappies and activities which are not included in these prices.

Since the previous Childcare Sufficiency Assessment in March 2022 the cost of childcare has increased both among Childminders and in Private and Voluntary sector nurseries. For example, in March 2022 the average weekly cost for a three and four year old with a Childminder was £326 per week; this rate has increased by £55 per week and is currently £381. At the same time, the average cost for a private or voluntary nursery increased by £12 from £292 to £304 per week.

The cost of a full-time place for children under two follows a similar pattern. The cost of a nursery place has increased from £323 to £354 (an increase of 9%) while the cost of a Childminder place has increased by 17% from £335 to £393.

Table 22: Average price per week for Childminders and Private and Voluntary settings for different age groups

Private and voluntary nurseries	2020	2022	2024
Children aged under two years old	£297	£323	£354 (+9%)
Children aged 2 years old	£283	£302	£318 (+5%)
Children aged 3 and 4 years old	£267	£292	£304

Childminders	2020	2022	2024
Children aged under two years old	£352	£335	£393 (+17%)

Children aged 2 years old	£344	£326.	£384 (+17%)
Children aged 3 and 4 years old	£337	£326	£381

Comparisons with the national cost of childcare published by the Family and Childcare Trust (2023) indicate that prices in Hackney private and voluntary settings remain, on average, lower than other Inner London areas, but higher than averages nationally. The average cost per week for Childminder in Hackney has increased over the previous two years and in 2023 exceeds the average cost in both England and Inner London.

Table 23: Average price of 50 hours a week childcare for children aged under three at nurseries and childminders

	Private & Voluntary Nursery		Childminder	
	Under two	Two	Under two	Two
England	£289	£283	£247	£248
Inner London	£394	£373	£355	£352
Hackney	£354	£318	£393	£384

Occupancy rates and Vacancies

In Autumn 2024 all Early Years providers were surveyed to establish occupancy and vacancy rates in three broad age groups. These were for children under two years old, children who are two year olds and those 3 - 5 years old. Providers were asked to report on the number of children attending and the maximum number of children that could be accommodated.

Childminders were asked to report on the total number of children attending and the number of places available.

This table below records the total number of providers, the number of survey returns and the number of vacancies in the three age groups for whom information was collected. The final column records, as a percentage, the full time occupancy rate.

It should be noted that the tables show the occupancy rate only from the providers that responded to the survey and it should not be inferred that this rate is common across all providers. It could well be the case that settings with low occupancy rates were more eager to report than those with higher rates.

It should also be noted that not all childminders registered with Ofsted are operating all the time. Some childminders retain their registration with Ofsted even while not minding because to re-register can be a time consuming and complex process.

Table 24: Number of vacancies and occupancy rates (%)

Type of provision	Total Number of providers	Total number of returns	Total number of vacancies	Percentage of total places occupied
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Childminders	146	100	0-3 years	100	67%
Nursery classes in schools (inc, Nursery schools)	56	56	0-2 years	N/A	N/A
			2 years	86	69%
			3-5 years	614	65%
Private, Voluntary and Independent nurseries	121	83	0-2 years	270	76%
			2 years	450	72%
			3-5 years	459	76%

The number of vacancies reported in each of the three age groups are full-time places. Available places could be accessed by children who attend full time, part time or for as many hours as the setting is open. In some cases, two or more children attending part time may use one full time equivalent place.

When vacancies across nursery classes in schools and within the PVI sector are collated, there were 1073 full time vacancies for children aged three and four years old and 536 full time vacancies for children aged two years old.

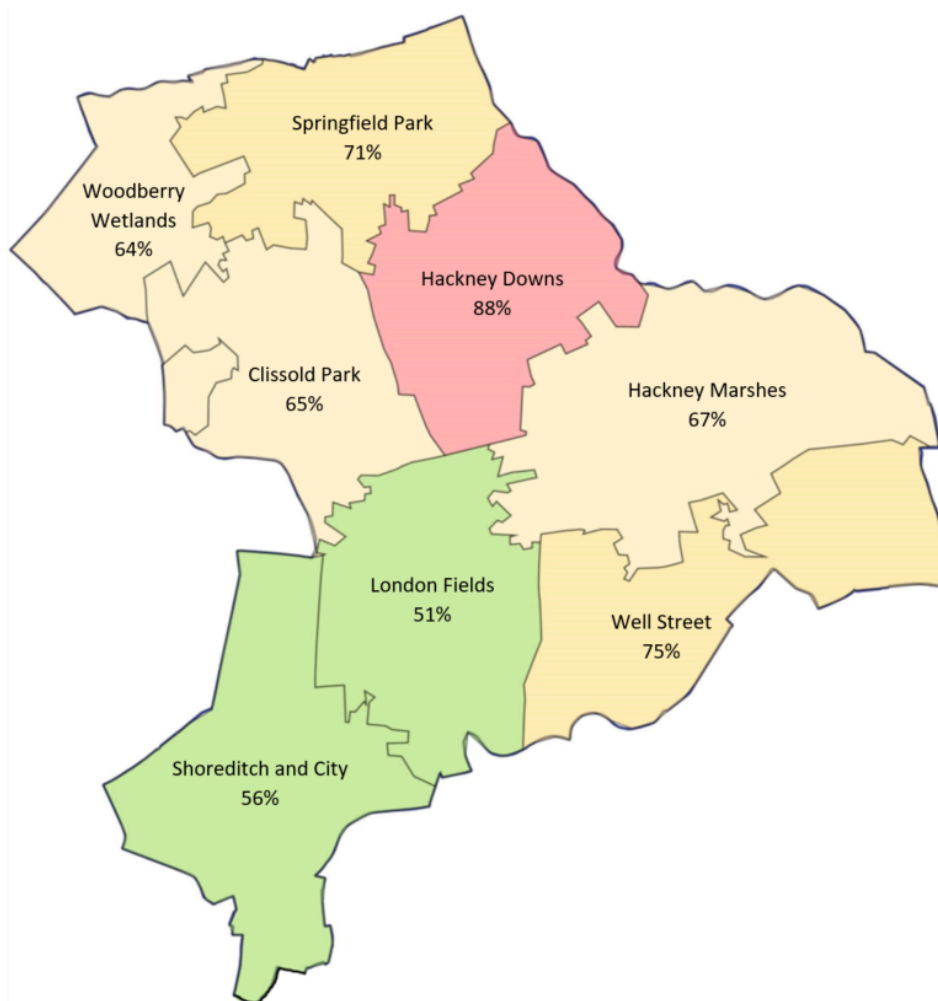
It is possible to review the occupancy and vacancy information at a ward level or according to the Children and Family Hub Neighbourhoods to give a sense of whether there are any specific areas where there may be a shortage of places.

Childminders

The tables below show the number of children with childminders, the number of places available and the percentage occupancy.

Table 25: Number of children attending, occupancy and vacancy rates according to Neighbourhoods with **Childminders**

Neighbourhood	Attending	Places available	%Occupancy	Vacancies
Clissold Park neighbourhood	26	40	65%	14
Hackney Downs neighbourhood	29	33	88%	4
Hackney Marshes neighbourhood	32	48	67%	16
London Fields neighbourhood	23	45	51%	22
Shoreditch and City neighbourhood	15	27	56%	12
Springfield Park neighbourhood	39	55	71%	16
Well Street neighbourhood	18	24	75%	6
Woodberry Wetlands neighbourhood	18	28	64%	10
Total	200	300	67%	100



Private, Voluntary and Independent Providers

Data regarding vacancies and occupancy rates in the Private and Voluntary Sector have been broken down into three age groups; under twos, two year olds and three and four year olds, and as with the Childminders can be analysed at a local neighbourhood level.

Table 26: Number of children attending, occupancy and vacancy rates according to Neighbourhoods for **under two year olds** in PVI's

Neighbourhood	Attending	Places available	%Occupancy	Vacancies
Clissold Park neighbourhood	203	252	81%	49
Hackney Downs neighbourhood	105	143	73%	38
Hackney Marshes neighbourhood	45	82	55%	37
London Fields neighbourhood	108	144	75%	36
Shoreditch and City neighbourhood	132	147	90%	15
Springfield Park neighbourhood	107	142	75%	35
Well Street neighbourhood	132	189	70%	57
Woodberry Wetlands neighbourhood	30	33	91%	3

Total	862	1132	76%	270
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Table 27: Number of children attending, occupancy and vacancy rates according to Neighbourhoods for **two year olds** in PVI's

Neighbourhood	Attending	Places available	%Occupancy	Vacancies
Clissold Park neighbourhood	159	292	54%	133
Hackney Downs neighbourhood	183	258	71%	75
Hackney Marshes neighbourhood	143	190	75%	47
London Fields neighbourhood	166	228	73%	62
Shoreditch and City neighbourhood	126	155	81%	29
Springfield Park neighbourhood	220	283	78%	63
Well Street neighbourhood	130	166	78%	36
Woodberry Wetlands neighbourhood	51	56	91%	5
Total	1178	1628	72%	450

Table 28: Number of children attending, occupancy and vacancy rates according to Neighbourhoods for **three to five year olds** in PVI's

Neighbourhood	Attending	Places available	%Occupancy	Vacancies
Clissold Park neighbourhood	167	223	75%	56
Hackney Downs neighbourhood	288	350	82%	62
Hackney Marshes neighbourhood	154	223	69%	69
London Fields neighbourhood	146	207	71%	61
Shoreditch and City neighbourhood	176	254	69%	78
Springfield Park neighbourhood	370	425	87%	55
Well Street neighbourhood	100	170	59%	70
Woodberry Wetlands neighbourhood	46	54	85%	8
Total	1447	1906	76%	459

Schools

As with Childminders and PVI's, the vacancy rates in schools vary across each of the neighbourhoods. There is a similar picture to the PVI vacancy data in that Woodberry Wetlands Neighbourhood has the highest level of occupancy and the fewest number of places available. There are a total of 614 places reported as vacant.

Table 29: Number of children attending, occupancy and vacancy rates according to Neighbourhoods for **three to five year olds** in schools

Neighbourhood	Attending	Places available	%Occupancy	Vacancies
Clissold Park neighbourhood	120	221	54%	101
Hackney Downs neighbourhood	114	204	56%	90
Hackney Marshes neighbourhood	184	291	63%	107
London Fields neighbourhood	178	223	80%	45
Shoreditch and City neighbourhood	168	224	75%	56
Springfield Park neighbourhood	83	178	47%	95
Well Street neighbourhood	222	331	67%	109
Woodberry Wetlands neighbourhood	91	102	89%	11
Total	1160	1774	65%	614

In summary, although the survey of providers and schools only shows a snapshot of occupancy and vacancy rates, it clearly illustrates that there are sufficient places for each of the three age groups (under twos, two year olds and three and four year olds) in each of the neighbourhoods. The data does not account for specific challenges schools and settings face in delivering any increase in demand given, for example, the increased number of staff required. (Although it should be noted that the adult to child ratio for under twos, as laid out in the Statutory Guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage, changed from a ratio of one adult to every four children, to one adult for every five children in September 2023).

Future Demand

From April 2024, the following step by step changes to the free entitlement have been announced:

1. From April 2024: fifteen hours of free education entitlement for two-year-olds of working parents. The eligibility criteria is the same as for the extended entitlement for three and four year olds.
2. From September 2024: fifteen hours of free education entitlement for children aged nine months to three years for children with working parents,
3. From September 2025: the free entitlement above will be increased to 30 hours per week for all children of working parents aged nine months to school age

The changes will increase the number of eligible children entitled to funded places but the precise details with regards to how this will result in an increase in demand for places is hard to predict as many of the parents who will become newly eligible will already be accessing childcare places. The main change will be that those placements will become government funded.

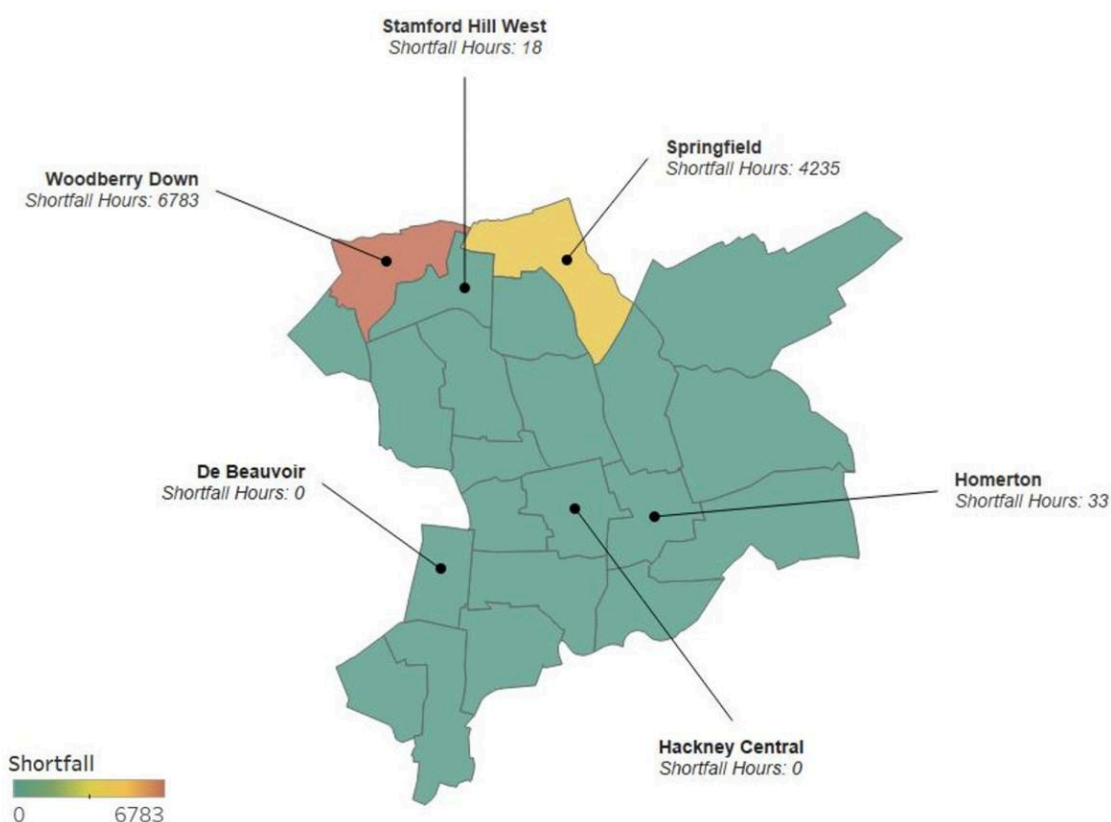
Further information can be found [here](#).

In February 2024, the Department for Education (DfE) provided some analysis for Local Authorities to gauge the likely additional need for places that may arise from these changes, which we present below. It is important to note that the estimated demand consists of those parents who are new to childcare alongside those who are already accessing childcare places and may want to increase the hours they attend. The DfE have calculated the total quantity of hours in each ward according to each area’s relative “weighting” in terms of population of children living in that area of qualifying age for the entitlement (at each given milestone) and the level of usage of the existing 30 hours entitlement for 3-4-year-olds. The DfE have also factored in the pre-existing level of demand for childcare by using information from the [Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents](#) (This survey reports the national average proportions of children in each age group that use childcare and the average number of hours each group uses).

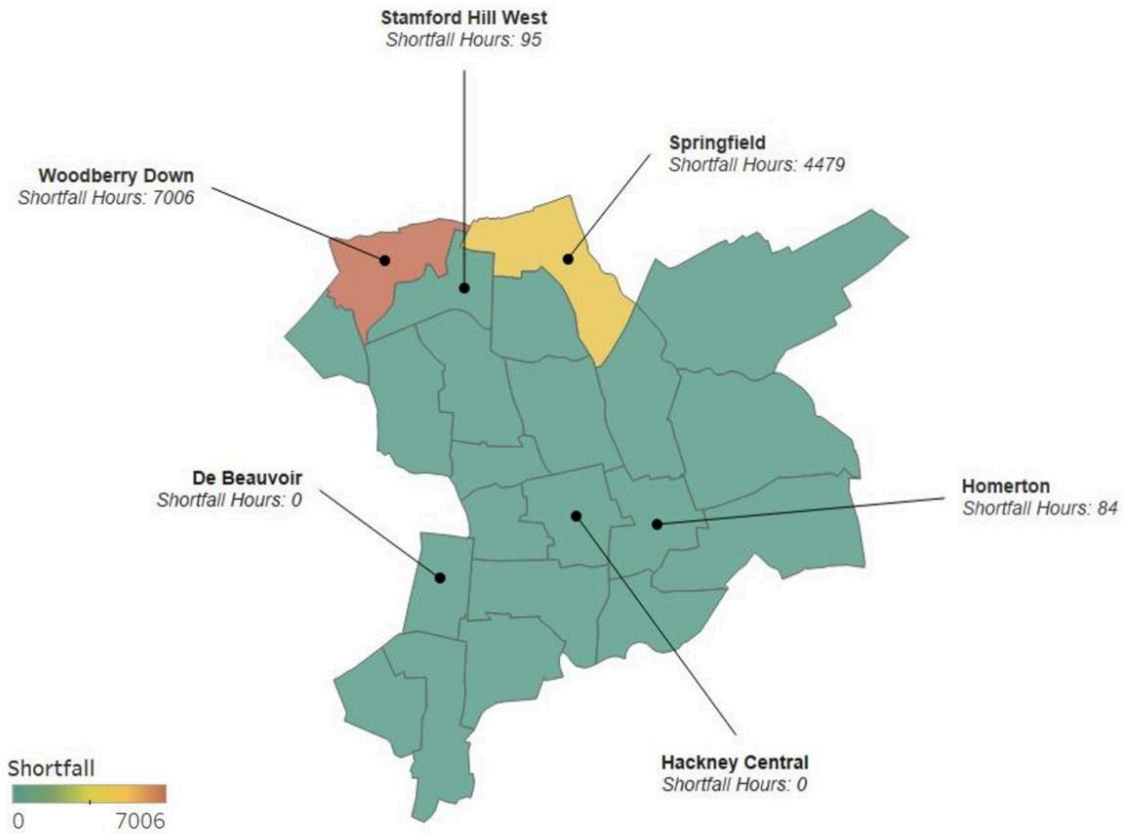
Data on the supply of childcare places in Hackney has been gathered by the DfE from [Ofsted management information](#) (which holds the registration details including the maximum number of children that can be in attendance in Early Years settings and childminders) and the annual school census.

The DfE analysis provides a snapshot of the either the shortfall in places or the surplus places at the three points of the expansion programme; April 2024 (when working parents of two year olds become eligible for 15 hours), September 2024 (when nine month olds of working parents become eligible) and September 2025 (when the entitlement of nine month and over increases to 30 hours).

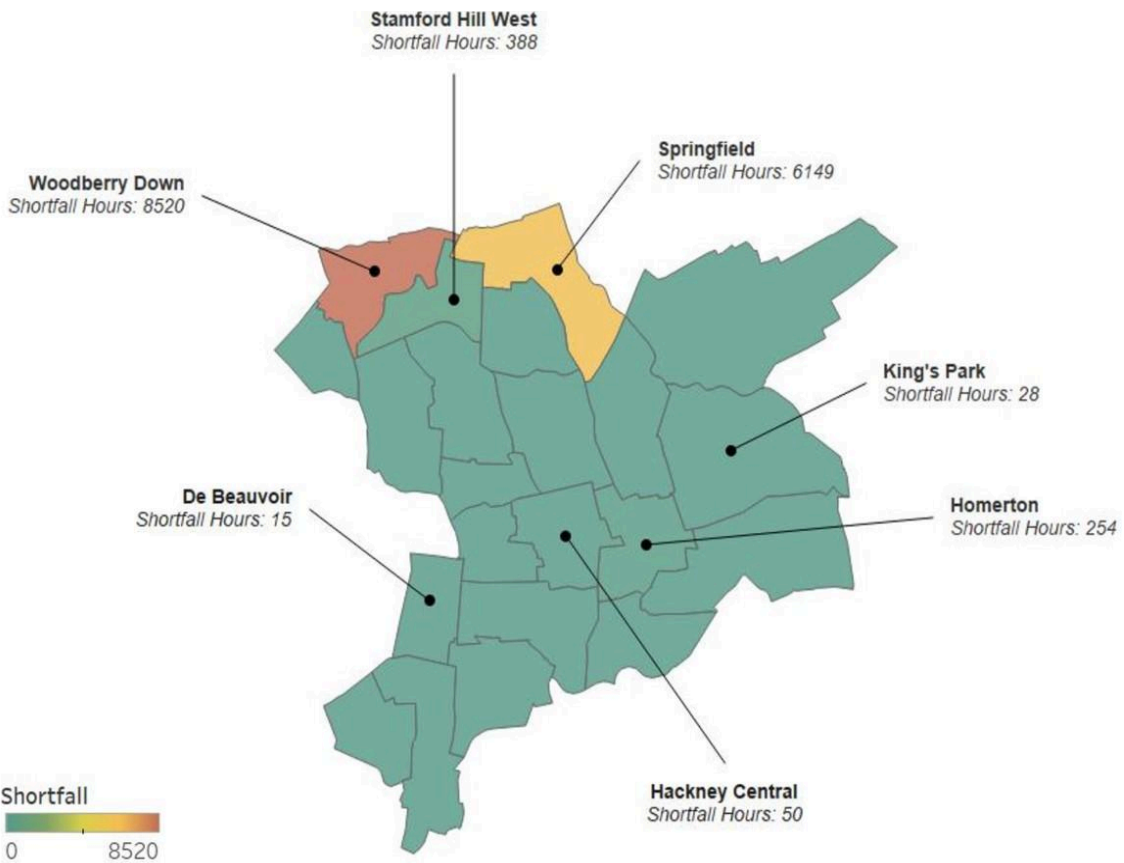
April 2024



September 2024



September 2025



In each of the three time stages of expansion, (April and September 2024 and September 2025) there are three wards in the North of the borough in which there may be a shortfall (Woodberry Down, Springfield and Stamford Hill West) and a small shortage of supply in Kings Park, De Beauvoir, Hackney Central and Homerton.

The final step in the DfE analysis is to calculate the shortfall or surplus across the borough as a whole. The DfE summary factors in cross border movement between wards - in other words, the extent to which parents may take up childcare in neighbouring wards to the one in which they live. The DfE estimates that 64 places will need to be created by September 2025. This relates to a 1% increase in supply of childcare hours.

The DfE analysis does not capture cross border movement between Local Authorities.

As stated earlier, the DfE analysis is based on assumptions about an increased demand from existing parents (who are already using childcare) alongside parents, who because of the new entitlements, are expected to seek childcare places for the first time. However there remains substantial uncertainty in gauging increased demand because good statistics on the proportion of families that are eligible (fully employed and below the earnings cap) are not available at local authority level, nor do we yet know how many families of young children will be interested in taking up childcare, or how many who would otherwise pay privately for childcare may now look for a funded place instead or opt to increase their total hours taken. Despite this, Hackney Education is confident that in each ward there is likely to be sufficient childcare places available to meet the expected increase in demand for at least April 2024 and September 2024.

Full details about the criteria and checking processes can be found here;
<https://education.hackney.gov.uk/free>

Sources of data

Cost of childcare: Information is obtained from providers through an annual survey and comparisons made with data collated by the Family and Childcare Trust.

https://www.coram.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Childcare-Survey-2023_Coram-Family-and-Childcare.pdf

Funded early education: data on take up of funded early education entitlements is based on the Early Years and Schools Censuses, which are taken every January and published by the Department for Education in the statistical collection Education provision: children under five years of age.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/provision-for-children-under-5-in-england-january-2023>

Supply of childcare: based on data provided by Ofsted, headcount returns from providers and EY census information

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/childcare-providers-and-inspections-management-information>

Quality of childcare: data on childcare quality is provided by Ofsted.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/early-years-and-childcare-statistics>

Vacancy rates: obtained through provider survey, phone calls, internet searches and through regular local authority requests for vacancy information.

Children with EHC plans: based on data from DfE Statistics: special educational needs (SEN)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-special-educational-needs-sen>