

**Report for:** Children's Scrutiny Panel – 15 January 2026

**Title:** **Childcare Sufficiency Annual Report**  
**November 2023-December 2024**

**Report  
authorised by :** Ann Graham

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**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Report for Key/  
Non Key Decision:** Non key decision

## 1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1. Following the introduction of the Childcare Act (2006), all local authorities are under a statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare, so far as reasonably practicable, for parents of children aged 0-14 years (up to 18 for disabled children) who are working, studying or in training in their local area.
- 1.2. Statutory guidance recommends that there is an annual report to elected council members on how the Council is meeting its duty to secure sufficient childcare, and to make this report available and accessible to parents. This is the annual report for 2024 and presents key messages from the analysis of current childcare provision in the borough.
- 1.3. This report outlines childcare supply and demand progress since 2023 and identifies key findings relating to childcare sufficiency during 2024.
- 1.4. Ensuring that there is the right, good quality Early Education in Haringey is a key mechanism through which Haringey will deliver the Early Years Strategy commitments, 'Best Start in Life'.
- 1.5. Good quality early education provision improves outcomes for children, provides a safeguard, and lifts families out of disadvantage by supporting parents economic and employment choices and opportunities.

## 2. Cabinet Member Introduction

N/A

## 3. Recommendations

3.1. Members are asked to review the analysis of the Childcare Sufficiency Annual Report 2023-24 and if satisfied agree to its publication on the Council's website (Appendix 1).

#### **4. Reasons for decision**

4.1. The reason for the recommendation is that a decision to approve the proposed Childcare Sufficiency Annual Report November 2023 to November 2024 (Appendix 1), will ensure that the Council is fulfilling its statutory duty, under the Childcare Act 2006

4.2. In addition, the Childcare Sufficiency Annual Report will provide an updated representation of Haringey's childcare market, enabling the Council to develop childcare plans to support the market and maximise childcare participation in the future.

#### **5. Alternative options considered**

5.1. The requirement to complete a Childcare Sufficiency Annual Report is part of the statutory requirement placed on the Council by the Childcare Act 2006. No alternative options have been considered for this report.

#### **6. Background information**

6.1. Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities published by the Department for Education, "Early education and childcare: Statutory guidance for local authorities – April 2024", recommends that there is an annual report to elected council members on how the Council is meeting its duty to secure sufficient childcare, and to make this report available and accessible to parents.

6.2. Local authorities are responsible for determining the appropriate level of detail in their report, geographical division and date of publication. The report should include:

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

6.3. The full Childcare Sufficiency Annual Assessment for November 2023 to November 2024 is attached to this report as Appendix A. A summary of the key themes are presented below. The assessment will be updated on an

annual basis, although the provision, quality and take up of childcare places will be continually monitored throughout the year.

- 6.4. In Haringey families have access to high quality early years provision, 96% of childcare providers are rated as good or outstanding by Ofsted.
- 6.5. There are 447 childcare settings, providing education and learning for children 9 months to 11 years.
- 6.6. The take up of funded early education places remains a priority to improve outcomes for all children – making sure gaps in attainment, access, and outcomes for the most disadvantaged groups of children are minimised.
- 6.7. Since the last Annual Childcare Sufficiency Report government funding for early education has been introduced to support working parents of children from 9 months to school age. Appendix 2 provides analysis of September 2025 participation of the 30 hour funded entitlements. Wraparound funding has been introduced to create more after/school and breakfast clubs for 5-11 year old children.
- 6.8. Providers have created 133 new places to support the expansion of childcare and 290 places to deliver wraparound.
- 6.9. There has been a slight decrease in the take up of the 2 year old entitlement for children receiving additional support due to some parents being eligible for both schemes and applying for a working family code. 3 and 4 year universal and extended entitlement take up has increased by 0.7% compared to the previous January census data.
- 6.10. Our Early Years sector aims to narrow the gap in attainment for different groups of children, ensuring there is equitable access to early education and childcare across the borough.
- 6.11. The Childcare Sufficiency Annual Report notes changes in the childcare market and the various factors influencing the childcare market are explored throughout the report.

## **7. Contribution to the Corporate Delivery Plan 2024-2026 High level Strategic outcomes**

- 7.1. The Childcare Sufficiency Annual Report contributes to the delivery of the Early Years Strategy 2023/26 and notably strategic aims 1 and 3.

### **Strategic aim 1:**

To work in partnership with our parents and carers to build resilience and enjoy family life.

### **Strategic aim 3:**

To narrow the gap in attainment for difference groups of children, ensuring there is equitable access to early education and childcare for all children across the borough.

## **8. Carbon and Climate Change**

N/A

## **9. Statutory Officers comments (Director of Finance ( procurement), Head of Legal and Governance, Equalities)**

N/A

## **10. Use of Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Childcare Sufficiency Annual Report  
November 2023 to December 2024.

Appendix 2 - Analysis of the take up of 30 hours – September 2025.

## **11. Background papers**

Statutory guidance for local authorities on the provision of early education and childcare.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-education-and-childcare--2/early-education-and-childcare-applies-from-1-april-2024>