

**Childcare
Sufficiency
Assessment
Annual Update
2017**

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Introduction

Local authorities have a duty to secure sufficient childcare to enable parents/carers to work, or to undertake education and training leading to work.

The Childcare Act requires local authorities to carry out an assessment of the sufficiency of childcare within their area. The assessment measures the nature and the extent of the need for, and supply of, childcare within each local area. Under this duty, local authorities are required to prepare assessments of sufficiency of the provision of childcare in their area at least every three years. The most recent sufficiency assessment for Harrow was published in May 2016.

This is the 2017 annual update to the sufficiency assessment, which also reviews sufficiency in relation to the implementation of the extended free entitlement from September 2017. Further information and data used for this update can be found in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Background Information document.

Executive Summary

- The expected increase of the 0 to 4 year old age group over the next decade, due to natural change, migration and planned regeneration projects in Harrow, will have direct impacts on the demand for childcare. Although the rate of increase in the population of this age group has recently slowed, overall increases are still expected and therefore sufficient childcare places will be required.
- The central Harrow wards of Greenhill, Marlborough and Wealdstone, already have some of the highest numbers of 0 to 4 year olds, with further significant increases expected, due to planned re-generation projects attracting more families to these wards. Further childcare places will be required to meet the expected demand in these wards, particularly so in Wealdstone which has the second lowest number of childcare places in the borough, so already has insufficient places to meet existing demand. In contrast, Greenhill and Marlborough are amongst the wards with the greatest existing supply of childcare places, placing them in a better position to meet future demand.
- Queensbury remains the ward with the lowest supply of childcare places and least choice in the type of provision available. Queensbury has a relatively high number of 0 to 4 year olds, and current childcare provision is insufficient. A significant increase in the supply of childcare places is required to meet the demand of local children/families in this ward. However the ward lies on the border of two neighbouring boroughs, and some families may access their childcare provision outside of the borough.
- Edgware remains the ward with the greatest supply of childcare places and offers good choice in the type of provision available. Edgware is also offering

the highest number of 30 hour funded places, with over a quarter of all places being offered to date in Harrow.

- As of May 2017, the confirmed participation from providers offering 30 hour places, would be insufficient in meeting the estimated potential demand, with a third of eligible children un-catered for. It is expected that this gap will be narrowed by the time of implementation in September 2017. The following five wards still have no confirmed 30 hour places – Harrow on the Hill, Headstone North, Pinner South, Queensbury and Rayners Lane.
- As part of the Early Years Single Funded Formula, the government has stipulated that each local authority should have an inclusion fund for lower-level or emerging special educational needs. Changes to inclusion funding were implemented in April 2017. In addition, early years childcare providers can access a fund for SEND children with high-level needs, and also a disability access fund (DAF) is available for children in receipt of disability living allowance (DLA). Funding data collected in the Spring Term 2017, revealed that 5.7% of all 2, 3 and 4 year olds accessing early education entitlements had SEND, with Roxeth ward containing the highest proportion of funded SEND children.

1. Growth of the early years age group in Harrow

Harrow's 0 to 4 year old age group rose from 12,058 as at mid-2001, to 17,476 in mid-2014, which represents a 45% increase; in comparison London only experienced a 31% increase¹. However there was only an increase of twenty 0 to 4 year old children from 17,476 in mid-2014 to 17,496 as at mid-2015, suggesting a relative slow down in the growth of this age group.

The Office for National Statistics, project the number of 0 to 4 year olds to increase from 17,476 in mid-2014 to 18,042 over the next ten years. Whilst the number of 2 year olds is projected to remain steady over the ten year period the number of 3 and 4 year olds are projected to increase by 10% and 9% respectively².

The wards with the greatest number of 0 to 4 year olds are Greenhill, Marlborough Roxbourne, Edgware and Wealdstone³. The greatest increases in this cohort of children are expected in Greenhill, Marlborough and Wealdstone, which can all be located in central Harrow, and all of which have large scale economic re-generation projects planned over the next few years.

¹ See CSA Annual Update 2017 Background Information – Table 2

² See CSA Annual Update 2017 Background Information – Table 3

³ See CSA Annual Update 2017 Background Information – Table 4

2. Supply of Childcare Places

Number of places and type of provision

Within private, voluntary, independent and childminding settings, Harrow had a total of 5306 childcare places for children aged 0-4 as of May 2017. These places are available through:

- 61 day nurseries making available 2,916 places for children aged 0-4 years (55% of all places) and 42 playgroups/ pre-schools making available 1262 places for children aged 0-4 years (24% of all places).
- 164 childminders making available 910 places for children aged 0-4 years (17% of all places).
- 6 independent schools with under 5s nurseries making available 218 places for children aged 0-4 years (4% of all places).

Maintained Nursery Provision – there are currently 29 maintained school nurseries in the borough of Harrow. Each nursery class offers 26 places and the majority of school nurseries provide two classes, with am and pm sessions. The current occupancy as of May 2017 is 1318 places filled⁴.

A visual representation of Harrow's childcare provision in Figure 1, gives an overview of the location of early years settings.

Summary of the existing supply of childcare provision

The overall supply of childcare places offered by childminders and PVI settings varies geographically by the number of places available and type of provision offered, with the key findings as follows⁵:

The wards with the largest supply of childcare places across the greatest number of provision types can be found in central and western Harrow, with the notable exception of Edgware which has the highest number of childcare places available.

Wards with the largest supply of childcare places: Edgware, Pinner South, Greenhill, Marlborough, Headstone South, Hatch End, Pinner, Roxbourne

Wards with the fewest number of childcare places and least choice of provision types can be found in northern and north eastern Harrow, with the exception of West Harrow and Headstone North, with the greatest number of childcare places here offered within childminding settings.

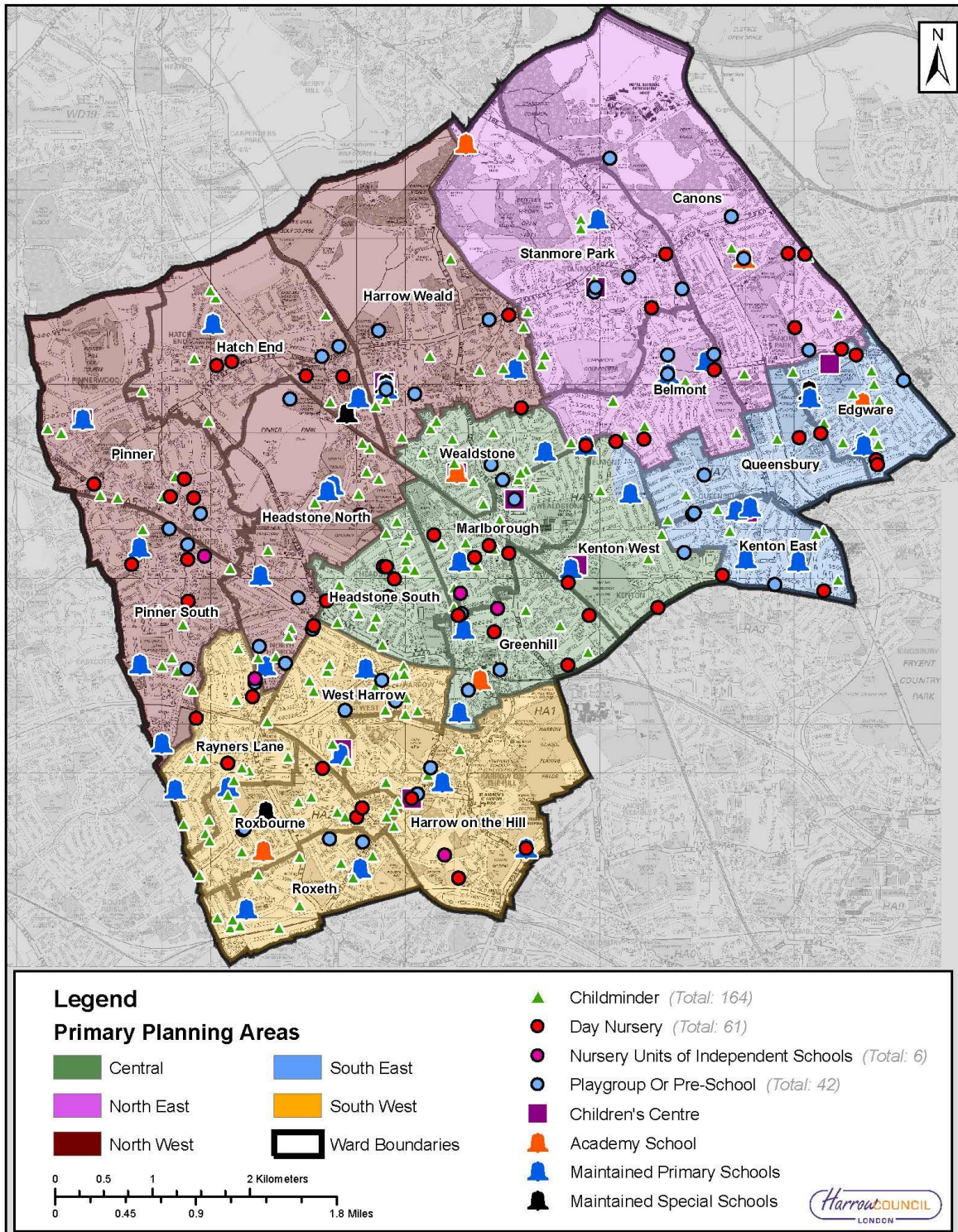
Wards with the lowest supply of childcare places: Queensbury, Canons, Harrow Weald, Headstone North, Kenton West, Wealdstone and West Harrow.

⁴ As reported by Harrow Business Intelligence Unit

⁵ See CSA Annual Update 2017 Background Information – Table 9

Figure 1: A visual representation of Harrow's childcare provision

Location of Childcare and Education Provision in Harrow (2016)



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 Produced by the GIS Team - gisteam@harrow.gov.uk

Quality of childcare

The quality of childcare provision is good overall with 80% of inspected settings judged as good or above by Ofsted. Broken down further 94.5% of PVI settings are judged as good or above and 70.7% of childminders are judged as good or above⁶

In January 2017, 98% of 2, 3, and 4 year olds in receipt of early education entitlements, received their funded early education in settings rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted, in comparison with 85% in January 2015. This represents a 12% increase in the proportion of 2, 3 and 4 year olds accessing their free entitlement in high quality provision over two years.

Availability of childcare

Most childcare provision is available Monday to Friday between the hours of 8am and 6pm, with more than half of PVI group settings operating term-time only. However, childminders generally offer greater flexibility of care, with the ability to cater for care needs outside of the standard working week. Holidays, weekends and evenings/overnight, remain particularly challenging times to access childcare provision.

A significant proportion of PVI group settings are constrained in their ability to change or extend their opening hours due to restrictions on building use, such as leases with church groups and community buildings that use space for other services. However it is encouraging that several settings have been able to increase their opening hours over the past 12 months, with one PVI setting now open at weekends. Expectations are that more settings will look to extend opening hours, when factoring in the implementation of the extended free entitlement for some working parents from September 2017, with 3 successful providers who have been awarded capital funding, already undertaking work to expand.

31% of PVI settings and 23% of childminders are currently advertising childcare vacancies (a similar percentage of providers advertising available places, exists through the year). This would suggest that there is scope for a greater take-up of childcare places within the existing supply.

3. Demand for childcare

Current use of and demand for childcare

60.6% of the total number of childcare places available within PVI settings and childminders in Harrow were occupied by funded children (2, 3 and 4 year olds accessing their early education entitlements) as of the Spring Term 2017⁷. The most commonly used types of registered childcare are day nurseries, with 61% of all funded children in the Spring Term accessing their entitlements within them. No data

⁶ See CSA Annual Update 2017 Background Information – Tables 10 and 11

⁷ See CSA Annual Update 2017 Background Information – Table 17

is currently available on the numbers of non-funded children taking up places, limiting the overall assessment of occupancy levels.

There are no wards whereby the total number of funded children exceeds the total number of childcare places available within them. However there are five wards which have in excess of 70% occupancy of childcare places filled by funded children. These are Belmont (87%), Marlborough (87%), Greenhill (76%), Kenton West (74%) and Kenton East (71%). These wards can all be found in central and eastern areas of Harrow. This suggests limited availability for non-funded children in these wards.

Generally, the wards with highest populations of early years aged children, also contain some of the highest numbers of childcare places⁸. Therefore, wards that can be assumed to have some of the highest potential demand for childcare also have some of the greatest supply suggesting a relative sufficiency of places. These include, Edgware, Greenhill, Marlborough and Roxbourne. However, Queensbury and Wealdstone wards have relatively high numbers of early years aged children, but the lowest numbers of childcare places of all 21 wards, suggesting a potential need for childcare that is not being met by the existing supply in these areas. However both of these wards are neighboured by others that have a much higher supply of childcare.

There is less of a strong correlation between wards with the lowest populations of early years aged children containing some of the lowest numbers of childcare places, however Headstone North and Kenton West do fit this trend, suggesting a potential gap in childcare provision here. Conversely, wards in the north west of Harrow which also have relatively low numbers of early years aged children such as Hatch End, Pinner and Pinner South, contain some of the greatest numbers of childcare places. This suggests a miss-match between lower potential demand and greater supply of childcare provision in this area. However, as all three of these wards share borders with neighbouring boroughs, there may be a larger proportion of children taking up places from outside of the borough.

It should also be noted that one of Harrow's neighbouring boroughs has been listed as having the highest projected population growth over the next decade – Hillingdon (16.1%)⁹, and they along with Harrow's other neighbouring boroughs could potentially contribute to demand for childcare, with an over-spill of children accessing childcare provision in Harrow.

Harrow's Regeneration Strategy includes planned projects in the Greenhill, Marlborough and Wealdstone wards, all of which already have some of the highest populations of 0 to 4 year olds in the borough. Therefore, with further increases likely as a result of more housing and new families moving into these areas, demand is likely to be particularly high, which may affect the sufficiency of childcare places.

⁸ See CSA Annual Update 2017 Background Information – Table 17

⁹ See Demographic Information – Harrow School Roll Projections 2017 - 2025 Report

Implementation of the extended free entitlement in Harrow

Feedback from a Local Authority survey in regards to the extended free entitlement, indicated that 61.5% of parents/carers would be interested in increasing the amount of childcare they use, should they be eligible for the additional hours as of September 2017.

As of May 2017, there are 35 childcare providers that have confirmed that they will be offering 30 hour places from September 2017, with a total of 670 places between them¹⁰. Based on the DfE estimate of 1031 eligible families and current confirmed participation, 65% of the potential demand could be met. This would mean that 35% of potential demand for 30 hour places could remain un-met. However more childcare providers are being encouraged to participate in delivering these places and this potential gap in supply will continue to be addressed. Day nurseries are offering the greatest proportion of the total number of available 30 hour places, with 76.7% of all confirmed places to date.

There are 5 wards with no provision for the additional funded hours, which include Harrow on the Hill, Headstone North, Pinner South, Queensbury and Rayners Lane, all of which are in the west of Harrow except Queensbury. This implies that there will be an insufficient supply of 30 hour funded places in this area and eligible parents/carers who live here may have to look elsewhere in the borough in order to access the entitlement.

Edgware ward is offering the highest number of confirmed 30 hour funded places with 27.9% of the total number of places being offered in the borough, followed by Roxbourne (14.6%), Marlborough (9.3%) and Headstone South (9%).

Figure 2, maps those providers that have confirmed participation in offering 30 hour childcare places, to date.

SEND Children

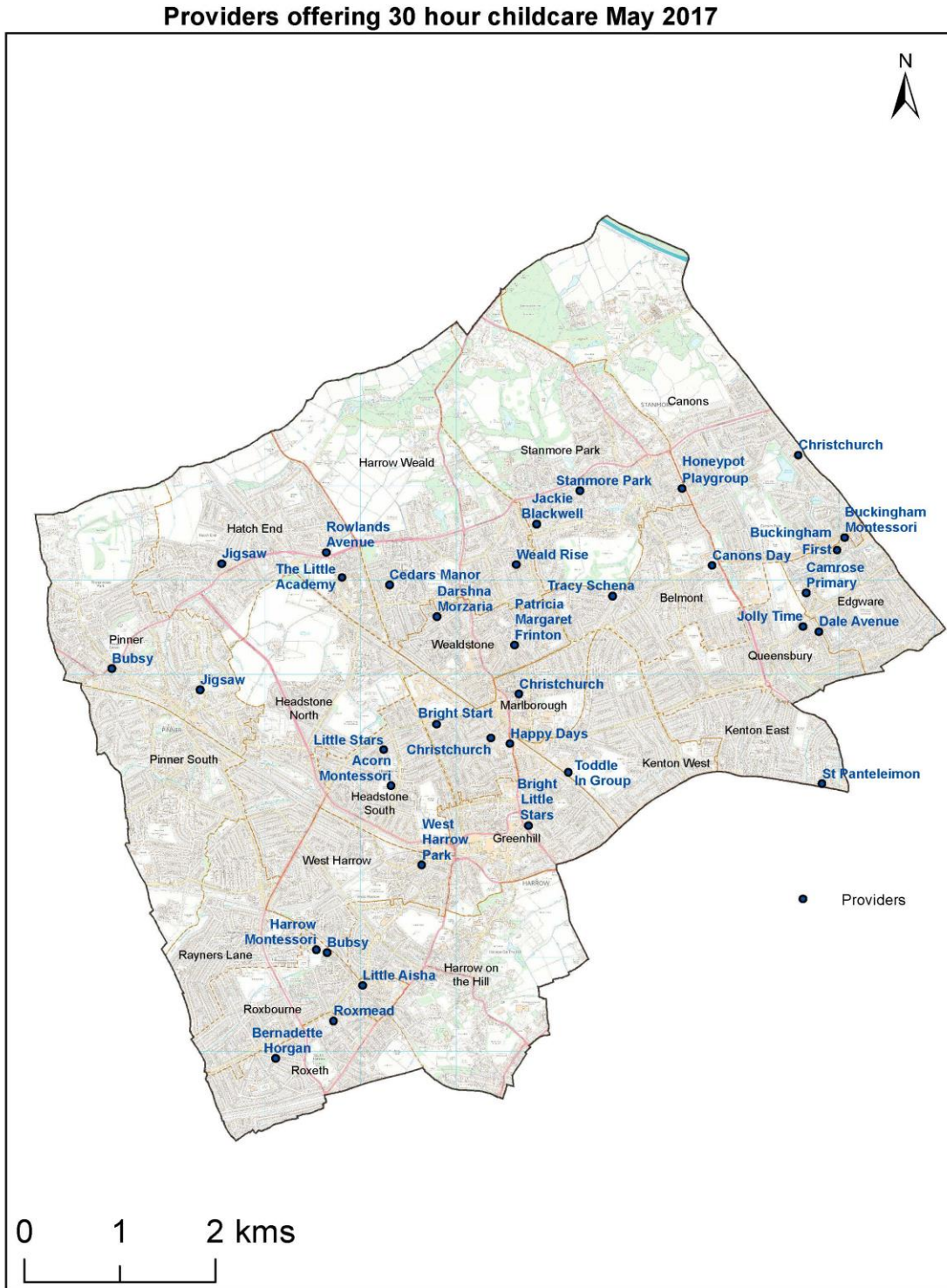
Additional SEND funding supplements were implemented in April 2017 to meet the needs of children with additional needs and disabilities. This includes an inclusion fund for lower-level or emerging special educational needs and a disability access fund for children with a disability or higher-level needs. All settings are encouraged to be inclusive, and PVI settings must have key SEND workers. In addition, the Local Authority SEND coordinator works with early years settings to equip them in meeting the needs of children with requirements related to their disability/additional needs.

5.7% of the total number of funded children have SEND (Spring 2017). The wards with the highest proportion of funded children with SEND are Roxeth (15.6%), Belmont (12.6%) and Harrow on the Hill (11%), of which Roxeth has one specialist SEND nursery and Harrow on the Hill has two. This may explain the high proportions of funded SEND children in these two wards. There are a total of four specialist

¹⁰ See CSA Annual Update 2017 Background Information – Tables 18 and 19

SEND settings with designated quotas for SEND children in Harrow, three of which are in the wards mentioned above, with the fourth setting located in Stanmore Park.

Figure 2: Providers offering 30 hour childcare places



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