

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment – Children’s Centre Early Years and Childcare spring 2023

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment has been updated to show the position in Slough if the preferred option for the future of the Children’s Centres is agreed.

Preferred option

- Keep Chalvey Grove, Romsey Close and Penn Road Children’s Centres open for Hub services and provision of Early Years and Childcare.
- Deliver Early Years and Childcare and Spoke services at Monksfield Way and Yew Tree Road Children’s Centres.

Spring term 2023 supply of early years and childcare provision

Type of formal childcare	Number of registered providers 2020	Number of registered providers 2023
Nursery class in a Maintained school	25	25
Nursery class in an Independent sector setting	3	3
Day nursery – full or part-time	13	14
Pre-School/Playgroup sessional childcare	14	14
Children’s Centres nursery full daycare	4	4
Children’s Centres nursery sessional daycare	4	4
Maintained Nursery School	5	5
Registered Childminder	86	85
Total	154	154

There is 1 new day Nursery and 1 childminder has resigned, so the current position is 154 providers, the same as autumn 2022. Home childcarers have been removed from this data.

Changes to the registered number of providers if preferred option is adopted.

Option Type of formal childcare	Number of registered providers 2022	Number of registered providers 2023
Nursery class in a Maintained school	25	25
Nursery class in an Independent sector setting	3	3
Day nursery – full or part-time	13	14
Pre-School/Playgroup sessional childcare	14	14
Children’s Centres nursery full daycare	4	3
Children’s Centres nursery sessional daycare	4	2
Maintained Nursery School	5	5
Registered Childminder	86	85
Total	154	151

Type of formal childcare by Children's Centre Area (CCA)

Option Children's Centre Area	NCMS	MNS	DN	PSP	CC	NCIS	CM	Total
Monksfield Way	3		1	2	1		17	24
Orchard Avenue	2		2	1			7	12
St. Andrew's Way	1	1		2			16	20
Chalvey Grove	2	1		4	1	1	4	13
Elliman Avenue	1	2	1				4	8
Penn Road	2		2	2	1		3	10
Wexham Road	4	1	2	2			9	18
Yew Tree Road	3		1	1	1	2	12	20
Romsey Close	5		4		1		11	21
Vicarage Way	2		1				2	5
Total	25	5	13	14	5	3	86	151

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

Changes to early years childcare and registered childminder places for 0 – 4 year olds if preferred option is adopted will result in a decrease of 80 PT places offered in children's centres with a net decrease of 40 places.

Option Type of formal childcare	Offered places PTP 2022	Offered places PTP 2023	Change in places
Nursery class in a Maintained school	1,735	1,735	0.00%
Nursery class in an Independent sector setting	132	132	0.00%
Day nursery – full or part-time	1032	1062	2.91%
Pre-School/Playgroup sessional childcare	382	382	0.00%
Children's Centres nursery full daycare	154	154	0.00%
Children's Centres nursery sessional daycare	56	16	-71.43%
Maintained Nursery School	745	745	0.00%
Registered Childminder	500	496	-0.80%
Total	4,736	4,722	-0.30%

Ofsted Registered Places

Early Years providers are registered to offer a maximum number of places but for various reason they may choose to cap their numbers.

Number of Ofsted registered places by provider type

Type of provider	Registered Part Time Places – autumn 2022	Registered Part Time places – option
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Preschool (PSP)	917	917
Day Nursery (DN)	1940	1940
Children's Centres (CC)	650	534
Childminder	520	520
Nursery class in maintained school	1348	1348
Maintained nursery school	575	575
Total	5950	5834

If preferred option is adopted there will be a reduction of 116 registered places in Slough.

Number of Ofsted registered places by CCA

Children's Centre Area	Registered Part Time places – autumn 2022	Registered Part Time places – preferred option
Chalvey Grove	702	702
Elliman Avenue	516	516
Monksfield Way	483	483
Orchard Avenue	626	586
Penn Road	396	396
Romsey Close	1241	1241
St Andrews Way	540	540
Vicarage Way	192	160
Wexham Road	782	738
Yew Tree Road	472	472
Total	5950	5834

Orchard Avenue, Vicarage Way and Wexham Road CCAs will see a reduction in places.

Supply of places by age group

If preferred option is adopted there will be no change in the number of places for children under 2 years old.

Under 2s - Option

Option 1 Under 2s	Provider Type			TOTAL
	CC	Day Nursery	CM	
Monksfield Way		12	17	29
Orchard Avenue		60	7	67
St. Andrew's Way			15	15
Chalvey Grove	6		4	10
Elliman Avenue		12	4	16
Penn Road	6	6	1	13
Wexham Road		18	8	26
Yew Tree Road		12	12	24
Romsey Close	6	110	12	128
Vicarage Way		9	2	11
TOTAL	18	239	82	339

2 year olds – if preferred option is adopted

There will be a decrease of 16 places, leaving a total number of 845 available

Option 2 year olds	Provider Type							
CC AREA	CC	DN	NCIS	MNS	NCMS	PSP	CM	TOTAL
Monksfield Way	8	18			7	22	38	93
Orchard Avenue		71				4	15	90
St. Andrew's Way		12		8		20	38	78
Chalvey Grove	12	6		16	30	22	9	95
Elliman Avenue		20		36			9	65
Penn Road	8	0				20	7	35
Wexham Road		40		16	4	12	20	92
Yew Tree Road	8	24	22				26	80
Romsey Close	12	137			16	12	24	201
Vicarage Way		12					4	16
TOTAL	48	340	22	76	57	112	190	845

3 & 4 year olds – if preferred option is adopted

There will be a decrease of 24 places, leaving a total of 3518 available.

Option 3 & 4 yr olds	Provider type							
CC AREA	CC	DN	NCIS	MNS	NCMS	PSP	CM	TOTAL
Monksfield Way	24	22			220	26	45	337
Orchard Avenue		65			112	16	18	211
St. Andrew's Way		18		156	90	32	45	341
Chalvey Grove	24	40	30	104	156	98	11	463
Elliman Avenue		32		279	104		11	426
Penn Road	24				164	58	8	254
Wexham Road		74		130	282	24	24	534
Yew Tree Road	8	48	80		154		32	322
Romsey Close	24	136			338	16	29	543
Vicarage Way		24			58		5	87
TOTAL	104	459	110	669	1678	270	228	3518

Sufficiency

If preferred option is chosen it will reduce the percentage of childcare places available from 40.38% of the relevant population to 40.04% and a drop of 40 places

Children's Centre Area	NCMS	MNS	DN	PSP	CC	NCIS	CM	Total Places	Birth Data 0-4 years	% of children to places	Weighting of CCA **	Conclusion- is childcare sufficient?
Monksfield Way	227	0	52	48	32		100	459	750	61.20%	50.00%	
Orchard Avenue	112	0	196	20	0		40	368	1032	35.66%	33.33%	
St. Andrew's Way	90	164	0	82	0		98	434	1012	42.89%	33.33%	
Chalvey Grove	186	120		166	42	30	24	568	1797	31.61%	33.33%	
Elliman Avenue	104	315	64	0	0		24	507	1188	42.68%	33.33%	
Penn Road	164	0	0	78	38		16	296	922	32.10%	33.33%	
Wexham Road	286	146	94	74	0		52	652	1308	49.85%	33.33%	
Yew Tree Road	154	0	52	32	16	102	70	426	1750	24.34%	50.00%	
Romsey Close	354	0	411	0	42		65	872	1436	60.72%	50.00%	
Vicarage Way	58	0	45	0	0		11	114	534	21.35%	20.00%	
Total	1735	745	914	500	170	132	500	4696	11729	40.04%		

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

In spring term 2023 there were 128 children attending children's centre provision with an identified special educational need and disability.

Children's Centre	Levels of SEND			Total
	Low	Significant	Specialist	
Penn Road	14	10	7	31
Wexham Road	1	1	3	5
Monksfield Way	8	12	5	25
Orchard Avenue	3	1	1	5
Romsey Close	11	3	4	18
Vicarage Way	3	4	1	8
Chalvey Grove	11	8	5	24
Yew Tree Road	6	6	1	13
TOTAL	57	45	26	128

If preferred option is adopted, 18 children with SEND could be impacted and required to find alternative provision.

Children's Centre	Levels of SEND			Total
	Low	Significant	Specialist	
Wexham Road	1	1	3	5
Orchard Avenue	3	1	1	5
Vicarage Way	3	4	1	8
TOTAL	7	6	5	18

Overview of childcare places

Initially there appears to be deficit of places in 5 CCA, as shown in the table below.

However when consideration is given to offered places versus Ofsted registered places there are only three areas that could need further development, Penn Road, Yew Tree Road and Vicarage Way, although Orchard Avenue is very close to full sufficiency with only 2 additional places.

Children's Centre Areas that have a deficit of 2 and/or 3&4 year old places	Surplus/Deficit of 2 year old places by area	Surplus/Deficit of 3&4 year old places by area	Total number of places by area	Actual places available	Number of registered places**	Variance-additional places not currently being offered	Surplus/Deficit overall
Monksfield Way	31	147	146	459	483	24	170
Orchard Avenue	6	-222	-216	368	586	218	2
St. Andrew's Way	17	28	45	434	540	106	151
Chalvey Grove	-33	-79	-112	568	702	134	22
Elliman Avenue	-36	58	22	507	516	9	31
Penn Road	-1	-87	-120	296	396	100	-20
Wexham Road	-2	261	259	652	738	86	345
Yew Tree Road	-38	-264	-302	426	472	46	-256
Romsey Close	103	274	377	872	1,241	369	746
Vicarage Way	-15	-71	-86	114	160	46	-40
Total	16	-3	13	4,626	5,717	1,091	1,151

Children's Centre	Risks/ mitigations
Monksfield Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is in one of the most deprived wards in Slough • There is a significant percentage of children presenting with SEND, with little to no places available outside of the children's centre • Sufficiency seems to show a healthy surplus of places, but waiting lists for 2 year olds are very high, as other settings are not offering these places in the numbers required. As 30.8% of families in this area are classed as vulnerable, the benefits of 2 year old funded places cannot be understated
Chalvey Grove	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deficit in both 2 year and 3&4 year old places • Further development required across all age ranges • There is a surplus of registered places not being offered- could be due to staff recruitment and retention issues
Penn Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified as an area with relatively high SEND • Deficit in both 2 year and 3&4 year old places • Further development required across all age ranges
Yew Tree Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highest deficit of registered places in Slough, 256 • Development of all age ranges required. • Continuing to work with Planning on S.106 applications where large housing developments being built, currently Horlicks, Thames Valley University site and High Street regeneration. There will be partnership working with the PVI sector to open more childcare settings
Romsey Close	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High numbers of places available in this area, alongside high levels of demand • There are waiting lists at all settings, showing demand outweighing places available
Elliman Avenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a shortage of 2 year old places • Providers may need to look at converting some 3 and 4 year old places into 2 year old places to enable sufficiency
St Andrew's Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This area shows a low take up of 2 year olds • Providers may need to look at converting some 3 and 4 year old places into 2 year old places to enable sufficiency
Wexham Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This area shows a small shortage of 2 year old places • Providers may need to look at converting some 3 and 4 year old places into 2 year old places to enable sufficiency

Orchard Avenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This area is showing an overall surplus based on registered places of 2, but the actual number of places for 3 and 4 year olds being delivered shows a deficit of 222 places. • Any loss of provision from this area will need a considered approach to ensure sufficiency, working with potential providers on sustainable business models
Vicarage Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This area shows a deficit in both 2 year old and 3&4 year old places, but local schools are looking to drop their PAN. • More detailed analysis is required to ascertain why families are not accessing places locally, or if they are choosing to go out of borough.

Strategic work will continue in all CCA to ensure that sufficient places can be made available. However, this will need to be looked at in conjunction with the current position of the Early Years workforce in Slough.

The key focus and actions as detailed below will form part of the strategic programme to future-proof childcare requirements in Slough

Key focus 2023/24	Key actions 2023/24
Ensure Sufficiency Information is maintained and current	To continue to carry out termly sufficiency tracking (supply and demand), identifying areas where sufficiency may be at risk and reporting to the Divisional Leadership Team.
Increasing the take up of 2 year old FEE places and the take up of 15 and 30 hour places for 3 & 4 year olds in all areas.	To continue to work with Corporate Communications to continually develop and promote 'the support with childcare costs marketing strategy' and social media posts. Broker vacant places, supporting parents to find suitable early years and childcare provision for their children.
To improve expertise in SEND by increasing the number of staff with an accredited SENCO qualification in early years settings.	To promote the Level 3 SENCO Qualification and supporting setting SENCOs to obtain this qualification which was a proposal within SEND Green Paper - SEND Review: Right support, Right place, Right time: March 2022. Develop and establish the delivery of an Early Years Inclusion and Transition tool kit to support the early years sector.
To promote the different ways all childcare providers can make their fees more affordable to parents at all income levels. This will include providing information to parents and providers about Tax Free Childcare, the Childcare Element of Universal Credit and Tax Credit.	Secure business support training and CPD opportunities for all providers, including workshops and one to one support. Market 'Help with Childcare Costs' to the sector and families.
The expansion of funded childcare for working parents with children aged between 9 months and two, announced in the spring budget 2023. This offer is currently only available to 3 and 4 year olds.	Work with providers to ensure that there are sufficient places available, especially with the lower worker to child ratios and the current staff recruitment and retention issues. Working with potential providers on sustainable business models, using current knowledge of the sector and difficulties with the recruitment and retention of staff
To continue aiming for 100% of all types of settings to have a good or better Ofsted judgment, with an increased percentage of outstanding provision.	To continue to provide information, advice and training to childcare providers.

<p>Continue to raise awareness of the HAF programme with families, stakeholders and partners.</p>	<p>To explore how the HAF programme can continue its growth within the allocated budget. This would include ensuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the amount of provision by area is determined upon demand and by areas of deprivation • the best use of funding is made when agreeing on future premises and their associated rental costs. <p>Whilst continuing to promote the Holiday, Activities and Food programme for eligible families and support providers to offer 'childcare' places where there is demand.</p>
<p>Continue to support childcare providers to deliver high quality, sustainable provision. Monitor national and local developments to support market management information, including new development opportunities.</p>	<p>Target areas in need of childminder development. Work with the out of school sector, early years sector and new providers to ensure provision meets parents' needs, offering greater choice and flexibility. Approach providers where sufficiency gaps are identified to explore expansion of existing provision, especially in central Slough. Work with the sector to explore new development opportunities particularly when vacant and appropriate spaces become available. To work with colleagues in school place planning and the council's planning department to identify Section 106 Education contributions to support the development of early years provision.</p>
<p>Increase GLD in Slough</p>	<p>To work more closely with providers to improve outcomes for children in respect of GLD.</p>
<p>Increase the workforce including qualified staffing capacity</p>	<p>Develop an Early Years workforce strategy that supports the sector, to recruit appropriately qualified staff and encouraging "home grown" staff in partnership with local FE colleges, schools and training providers, work-based learning and apprenticeships.</p>
<p>Support the increasing numbers of children with SEND accessing provision in Slough</p>	<p>Provide additional and targeted support for providers who need to change their operating models to accommodate changing parents' needs, such as the rising numbers of children with SEND, to remain viable.</p>