

East Riding of Yorkshire Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Interim Report- Summer 2025

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Local Authorities as set out in Section 6 (1) of the Childcare Act 2006 have a statutory duty to secure sufficient, accessible, affordable, high quality early years and childcare places so far as is reasonably practicable. Childcare and early years education should be available to support children's learning and development and enable parents to seek work, or remain in work, or undertake education or training to assist them into work.
- 1.2 The guidance issued to Local authorities states that an annual report is made to elected Members on how the authority is meeting its duty. The guidance sets out that the Annual Childcare Sufficiency report should include:
 - a specific reference to how local authorities ensure there is sufficient childcare available to meet the needs of:
 - children with special educational needs and disabilities
 - children from families in receipt of the childcare element of Working Tax Credit or Universal Credit,
 - children with parents who work irregular hours,
 - children taking up free early education and childcare places,
 - school age children, and
 - children needing holiday care
 - information on the current and projected supply and demand of childcare for particular age ranges of children, and the affordability, accessibility and quality of provision.
 - details of how any gaps in childcare provision will be addressed.
- 1.3 The childcare sufficiency duty covers children aged 0-14-year-olds (or up to 18 years old for disabled children). This provision is paid for by parents if it is outside of the funded entitlements for children under five that are mentioned below.

Early years places for under-five-year-olds

- 1.4 Since April 2024, working parents of two-year-olds have been able to access up to 570 hours of funded childcare a year and all three and four-year-olds are funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant to access 570 hours of education and care a year (equivalent of 15 hours a week term time [38 weeks]). Eligible working parents of three and four-year-olds can already get up to 1140 hours (30 hours over 38 weeks) a year of funded childcare.
- 1.5 New funding will increase the number of two-year-olds and babies requiring places. From September 2025, eligible working parents, with children from 9 months to starting school will be able to access up to 1140 hours of funded childcare a year.
- 1.6 Childcare Expansion Capital Grant funding is available to increase the number of places for babies and two-year-olds. The grant is specifically to support the delivery and sufficiency of places to meet the expected increased demand brought about as a result of the new funding for working parents. A small proportion of this grant can be used to create before and after school childcare places for primary school aged children.
- 1.7 Department for Education launched the School Based Nursery Capital Grants in October 2024. This is a one-time grant available for eligible state-funded primary-phase schools. Schools can bid for up to £150,000 of funding to use for capital expenditure to:
 - convert spare space within school buildings into a new nursery
 - expand an existing nursery

In the East Riding we have been allocated two School Based Nurseries.

Wraparound places for primary school aged children.

- 1.8 The Department for Education (DfE) expects that by September 2026, all parents with 5 – 11-year-old children will be able to access wraparound care before and after school. Wraparound childcare extends the school day, to enable parents to return to work or training. It must start from 8.00 am and continue until at least 6.00pm, five days a week, during term time (unless local evidence can prove a need for alternative hours).
- 1.9 The Council has been awarded funding by the DfE to support the development of new places for children in reception to year six. The funding is provided as a grant to support providers with the costs of setting up and creating a “surplus” of places to provide for the growing need for childcare. It is expected that parents will pay for this childcare.
- 1.10 The government plans to have free 30-minute breakfast clubs in every primary school in England. This plan is part of a broader vision to support families and improve educational outcomes. From November 2024, schools could apply to the Department of Education to become one of 750 early adopters in the government’s free breakfast club roll out, with clubs to launch from April 2025. In the East Riding we had four successful applicants.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 This interim Childcare Sufficiency Annual Report covers the period April 2024 to March 2025.
- 2.2 Sufficiency across the East Riding of Yorkshire is met through a variety of providers that include all types of schools (68), pre-schools, day nurseries (76), after school clubs (41), childminders (130) as well as other breakfast and holiday club provision. These provisions are within the private, voluntary, independent, maintained and academy sector and the number of providers (in brackets) was correct as of the 31st March were
- 2.3 The Family Information Service Hub determines there to be sufficient early years and childcare provision in almost all areas of the county for two-, three- and four-year-olds to access their entitlement to early education during term times. However, there are very few parents who require childcare during term times only and therefore there is a need for more all-year-round provision.
- 2.4 Due to the roll out of the new entitlements for working parents to access early years and childcare from the term following their child turning nine months, there is a need for more all-year-round places for under-three-year-olds for September 2025 across the East Riding. There is also a need for more holiday provision for primary school aged children.
- 2.5 The Childcare Expansion Capital Grant Scheme has created 616 new places across the East Riding. We have identified other areas where we are concerned about sufficiency and these areas will be made a priority through the second phase of funding in the Summer Term 2025.
- 2.6 The service is proactively responding to developing more childcare provision in these areas, including by:
 - Childminder recruitment campaigns across the county.
 - Targeting the Childcare Expansion Capital Grant Funding.
 - Encouraging and supporting providers to open earlier, close later, open for more weeks, increase the number of places offered, and extend the age range of the children they work with.
 - Targeting Early Years and Wraparound Expansion revenue funding.
 - Support with recruitment of staff.
 - Work with local councillors to identify opportunities and solutions.
 - Progress is monitored through termly reports to Early Years Leadership team and Annual Sufficiency Return to Department for Education.
- 2.7 A summary of the other key findings is provided below:

- The population of under-five-year-olds within the East Riding of Yorkshire was estimated by the ONS in 2023 to 14,656
- The voluntary sector continues to be in decline whilst the private sector and school run providers continue to increase.
- Ofsted report the percentage of registered providers in the East Riding graded as good or outstanding at their most recent inspection has shown a slight decrease from 99% in April 2024 to 98% in March 2025.
- The percentage of two-year olds taking up a funded place remains high with 92% accessing the entitlement
- The percentage of three- and four-year-olds taking up a funded place is 107% which remains high. This is due to the migration of children from other areas in an East Riding setting, particularly those from Hull.
- Children accessing their full universal entitlement (570 hours) and those taking up the working parent's entitlement (1140 hours) has also increased.
- Funded two-year-olds were eligible to receive Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) for the first time this summer. The number of children who are looked after and in receipt of EYPP was 46
- From April 2024 to March 2025, there were 255 requests for Additional Inclusion Support for two, three and four-year-olds from settings to meet their needs.
- Seven settings have currently been awarded the Portage Stamp of Approval
- 75 children have been funded through the Disability Access Fund for early years providers to support children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance.
- The Area SENCO Team are working with the following settings to support them with children with SEN

Area SENCO	Number of Setting per Area SENCO	Number Setting with children open to EYST	Number of child minders supporting children open to EYST
1	14	13	1
2	17	16	3
3	30	29	9
4	20	18	0
5	22	20	4
Total	103	96	17

*Data as of the 29th July 2025.

AIS Figures (April 2024 – March 2025)

Summer 2024

233 Children in receipt

Amount Allocated -£184,805.25

Amount Claimed- £112,962.15

Autumn 2024

142 Children in receipt

Amount Allocated - £102,231.85

Amount Claimed-£81,984.35

Spring 2025

192 Children in receipt

Amount Allocated - £110,287.45

Amount Claimed- £88,147.00

- 2.8 Nationally and in the East Riding, it is a challenge to recruit suitably qualified and experienced early years and childcare staff. This is particularly the case for staff with full and relevant NVQ3 qualifications that can be counted within ratios. Some settings have reported increased running costs due to reliance on agency or bank staff.
- 2.9 To support the recruitment and retention of staff within the sector the following activities have been undertaken:

- Worked with Job Centre Plus to promote childcare as a career has continued.
- Liaison with secondary schools and colleges and attending careers fairs.
- Promoted childminder start up grants.
- Offered a bespoke childminder registration programme. In the period April 2025 to March 2025, our Early Years Development Advisor with responsibility for developing Childminders has received 28 enquiries from individuals expressing an interest in becoming a Childminder. Of these, 22 received at one support visit with 5 of these becoming registered with Ofsted and a further 4 awaiting their pre-registration Ofsted visit. A further 4 of the initial enquiries have gone on to work in some other childcare setting.
- Working with other providers of childcare to support them to market and promote their offer.
- Promoted and advertised early years vacancies via social media and [Family Services Directory - East Riding](#)
- Subsidised the cost of training and professional development opportunities for

3. In addition to recruitment pressure, the rising costs of the National Living Wage and National Insurance has also been cited as an ongoing issue

4. Next Steps

4.1 The Service is taking a number of steps to improve and secure sufficient, accessible, affordable, high quality early years and childcare places. The key actions are provided below.

4.2 **Sufficiency of places:**

- Promote DfE funding streams: School Based Nurseries, Breakfast clubs, Childminder Start up Grants, Childcare Expansion Capital Grant, particularly in areas where provision is most needed.
- Identify schools where there is surplus capacity that could be used for nursery provision.
- Identify suitable premises from where childcare could operate.

4.3 **Take up of the funded entitlements:**

- Monitor the take up of funded places and hours by children with SEND and follow up where children are not accessing a place and where children are not accessing the full entitlement hours. This will be used to inform a review of Individual Inclusion Funding as well as ensuring accessibility, inclusion, and sufficiency.
- Work with colleagues across Children's Services to support the take up of targeted two-year-old places and hours and ensure that Children in Care, Children who were previously in Care and Children in Need are supported to access places and funding to improve their life chances.
- Monitor the take up of the current entitlements and the new entitlements and ensure that there is sufficient childcare and early education to meet the demand of parents for children from 9 months to the start of reception from September 2025.

4.4 Engaging with parents:

- Provide information to parents on the support that is available to help them with childcare costs and explain what charges made by providers, are acceptable.
- Work with providers to build greater flexibility and affordability into their provision for parents, especially where provision is open all-year-round but does not enable parents to stretch the funded entitlements.
- Continue to survey parents regularly to gain a greater insight into the demand for childcare and strive for a greater response from families with children under five.

4.5 Quality of provision:

- Monitor the quality of provision
- Support settings to sustain their quality or improve where Ofsted have judged them as requiring improvement or inadequate through support from our team of Early Years Development Advisors
- Provide a range of professional development opportunities to ensure settings meet the statutory duties including those related to safeguarding and develop their skills and knowledge in providing high quality inclusive practice for all children.

4.6 Recruitment and retention of staff within the sector:

- Promote recruitment and retention campaigns, nationally and locally.
- Encourage childminding as a career, especially in rural areas, by promoting the new DfE flexibilities to support childminders in joining and remaining in the profession.

4.7 Performance and Management Information:

- Increase the completion of our provider information and improve accuracy of data.
- Continue to monitor the Provider Self Update submissions to support our understanding of where provision is offered, identify where there are gaps and provide support to develop provision in these areas.
- Further develop the Families Information Service corporate and Family Services Directory websites to support parents to find childcare.
- Provide quarterly performance and progress updates as part of the Directorate's performance and improvement targets.

- 4.8 The proposals supports the Council's Sufficiency Strategy 2025-2028 and the priority to be ambitious for children and young people by support children and families through securing sufficient, accessible, affordable, high quality early years and childcare places across the county.
- 4.9 It also supports sustainable economic recovery by providing parents with opportunities to work, train or learn to secure a job, and for businesses to secure a workforce.
- 4.10 This work contributes to tackling poverty and inequality and improving health and wellbeing, by seeking sufficient quality childcare and early years provision for all communities, and supports addressing health, poverty and inequalities by supporting parents be able to secure work, education or training. In the same way, this work contributes to supporting safe, connected and resilient communities.