
Sefton Council
Childcare Sufficiency Report
April 2019



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Contents

	Page
1. Background	3
2. Demographics	4
3. Childcare in Sefton	6
4. Childcare Fees	14
5. Childcare Quality	15
6. Free Early Years Education and Childcare	20
7. Childcare for Disabled Children – Aiming High	23
8. Sport & Recreation Service – Active Sefton	25
9. Maintained Nursery Places	28
10. Conclusion	32
11. Statistical Data - Acknowledgements	33
12. Appendix 1 - Useful Links	34

1. Background

Local Authorities in England are required under Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006, to ensure that there is sufficient, quality, flexible, sustainable childcare for parents and carers of children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children). The Childcare Act 2006 defines childcare sufficiency as sufficient to meet the requirement of parents in Sefton who require childcare in order to enable them:

a) to take up or remain in work;

b) to undertake education or training which could reasonably be expected to assist them to obtain work.

Local Authorities have a further duty to secure sufficient free two, three and four year old places for all eligible families.

There are many beneficial reasons why parents may require childcare and Local Authorities must ensure that their activities in relation to the statutory sufficiency duty complement and reinforce other roles they have in relation to childcare. Supporting working/training parents by ensuring sufficient childcare also complements numerous other priorities, such as reducing child poverty, improving economic well-being and narrowing the child attainment gap between disadvantaged children and their more affluent peers.

Since the 1998 National Childcare Strategy successive governments have placed real emphasis and significant funding toward increasing the supply of quality and affordable childcare. The 2016 Childcare Act introduced the latest example of this priority area, with one major outcome in particular being an extension of the free early years entitlement for three and four year olds to 30 hours per week for working families from September 2017. The government now spends £6 billion per year to support childcare and childcare costs.

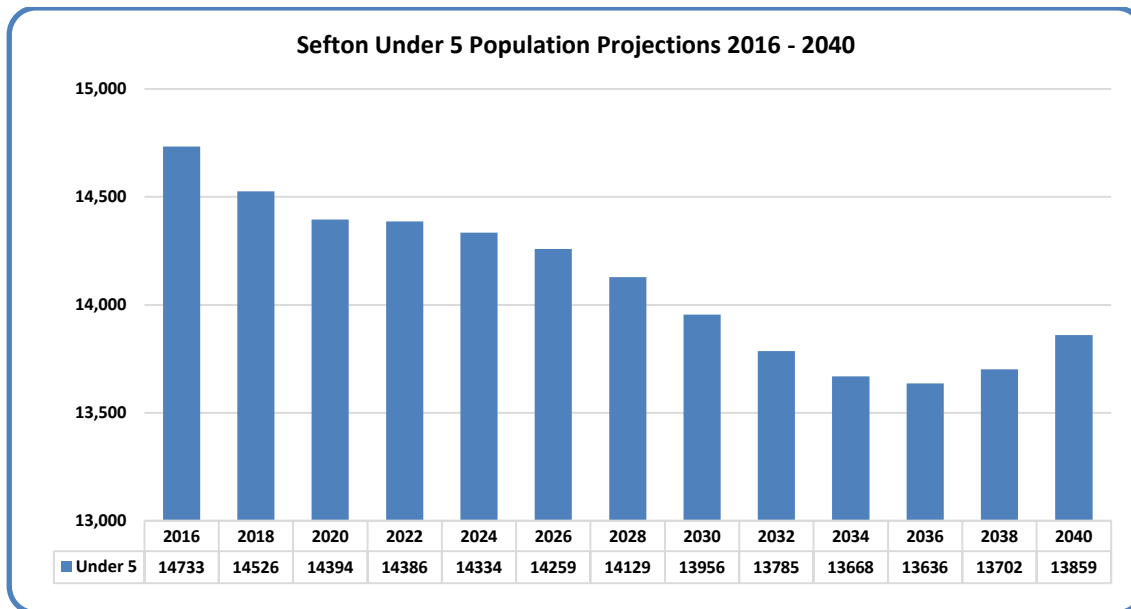
Local Authorities are required to report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare, and make this report available and accessible to parents (*Early Education and Childcare: Statutory guidance for local authorities; Part B, B.2. June 2018*).

This document constitutes Sefton Council's childcare sufficiency report for 2019.

2. Demographics

Fig 1. Sefton Under-5s population estimates

ONS Population Projections 2016



As shown in Fig.1 population projections for 0-4-year olds in Sefton suggest no significant change, therefore no increase in demand for childcare is anticipated due to population alone. There has been a 5.9% decrease in 0-4 olds across the data range 2016 - 2040.

Another key indicator which could affect the need for childcare would be a significant change in employment levels. More working families would in turn require more childcare places.

Sefton continues to do well in terms of overall prosperity, with a growing business population (an increase of 7% in the number of local enterprises in Sefton in the period 2016 to 2018 (as per Nomis - Inter Departmental Business Register - Office of National Statistics).

Employment in the year 2017/18 has increased by 2.7% to 73.3% which is lower than the national figure of 75.1% but is higher than the LCR figure of 71.7%. Unemployment has fell by 0.9% in the same period of 2017/18, this figure is considerably better than the national average of 4.3% and 1% better than the LCR figure of 3.9%. Self-Employment has fallen by 0.2% within the borough but is still at its 3rd highest rate in the last 10 years standing at 8.8%. The annual survey of hours and earnings for Sefton residents has shown a 5% pay increase on the weekly pay from £523.70 in 2017 to £550.30 in 2018 (Nomis - ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings - Resident Analysis)

Data from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) indicates:

- In the past year (October to September), Sefton's employment rate has risen by 2.7% to 73.3%. Sefton's employment rate remains higher than of the Liverpool City Region (LCR) and is now only 1.8% lower than that seen across Great Britain. (Nomis - ONS Annual Population Survey – 2017/18)
- The Gross Disposable Household Income per head (the amount of money left after payment of tax, NI, pension and mortgage costs) has decreased by 0.5% in 2016. This decrease is could reflect the employment rate of 2016/17 of 68.9%, the lowest figure since 2009/10, increases in the cost of living associated with depreciation of the pound and utility costs. Sefton has the highest per capita disposable income of the six LCR authorities.
- Due to the changeover to Universal Credit in Sefton the figures will continue to rise as more people move across from other benefits, JSA, ESA etc. The total caseload as of December 2018 stood at 12,817, this figure has increased by 29% from the July 2018 figure of 9916. The 24-49 age group make up 61% of the total Universal Credit claimants.

All of this would suggest it is very unlikely that we see an increase in childcare demand based upon employment levels and residents' income, if they continue at the current rate.

3. Childcare in Sefton

3.1 Early Years Register

Using childcare supply and vacancy data it has been possible to demonstrate current capacity in every area for each of the main setting types. The results of this are displayed in Tables 1 to 4.

For the purposes of sufficiency, the following indicative criteria is applied, in line with national good practice guidance:

Vacant places (as a % of total places)	Sufficiency Rating
1 – 10 %	Deficit
11 – <=20 %	Sufficient
>20%	Surplus

Table 1

Sefton Ofsted Registered Childcare Places and Vacancies by setting type - March 2019

	Total childcare places	Vacancies	% unfilled
Childminder	546	37	7% (2%)
Day Nursery	2888	531	18% (19%)
Pre-school / Playgroup	637	100	16% (15%)
Total	4071	668	16% (17%)

**For comparison purposes, 2018 figures are shown in brackets.*

When taking Sefton as a whole, as with the 2018 sufficiency assessment, there is still overall sufficient childcare capacity at 16%.

The national 2018 Childcare Survey produced by Family and Childcare Trust suggests that just over half (57%) of councils in England have enough childcare for parents who work fulltime, which again demonstrates the healthy position Sefton is in with regard to sufficient high quality childcare. This is particularly striking given the continued demand associated with the rollout of the free 30 hours childcare offer back in September 2017, plus the high take-up of free places under both the Two Year Old Offer and the universal offer for three and four year olds. This healthy position is further reinforced by Sefton Families Information Service, which through 2018/19 received no concerns from parents with regards to lack of childcare.

Overall, total registered places have fallen since the last annual report. When looking at the childcare types separately it can be seen that registered places within both day nurseries and childminding has remained stable, but places within the registered pre-school/playgroup sector have fallen significantly. The latter can largely be explained as a number of school-based settings

which were previously registered separately with Ofsted have since moved within the school's wider registration – these will be encompassed later in this report when looking at funded and maintained places. Capacity within the registered childminding sector has remained at below sufficient level, but at 7% is now in a stronger position that it was last year when it was at just 2%. This will be discussed further in Section 3.3.1 (Addressing gaps in the childcare market).

Whilst Ofsted registered places have fallen the sufficiency level has remained relatively constant and indeed some providers have reported that they are struggling to fill their settings. In the reporting of places available it also needs to be viewed with an understanding that settings may not always be in a position to offer places to their full capacity due to, for example, an inability to recruit suitably qualified staffing from the local market. It also needs to be noted that whilst there is sufficient capacity in the childcare sector, this does not necessarily mean that parents will be able to access their preferred choice of setting - at an individual level all settings have limited capacity and some will inevitably be full whilst others have plenty of availability.

In terms of parents finding suitable childcare in the areas they need it, a clearer picture of sufficiency can be obtained by looking at the North, Mid and South of Sefton. These three areas are displayed in Fig 2 below.

Fig 2. Sefton map of electoral wards

Sefton North (Southport) wards are shown in green.

Sefton Central wards are shown in orange.

Sefton South (Bootle) wards are shown in blue.

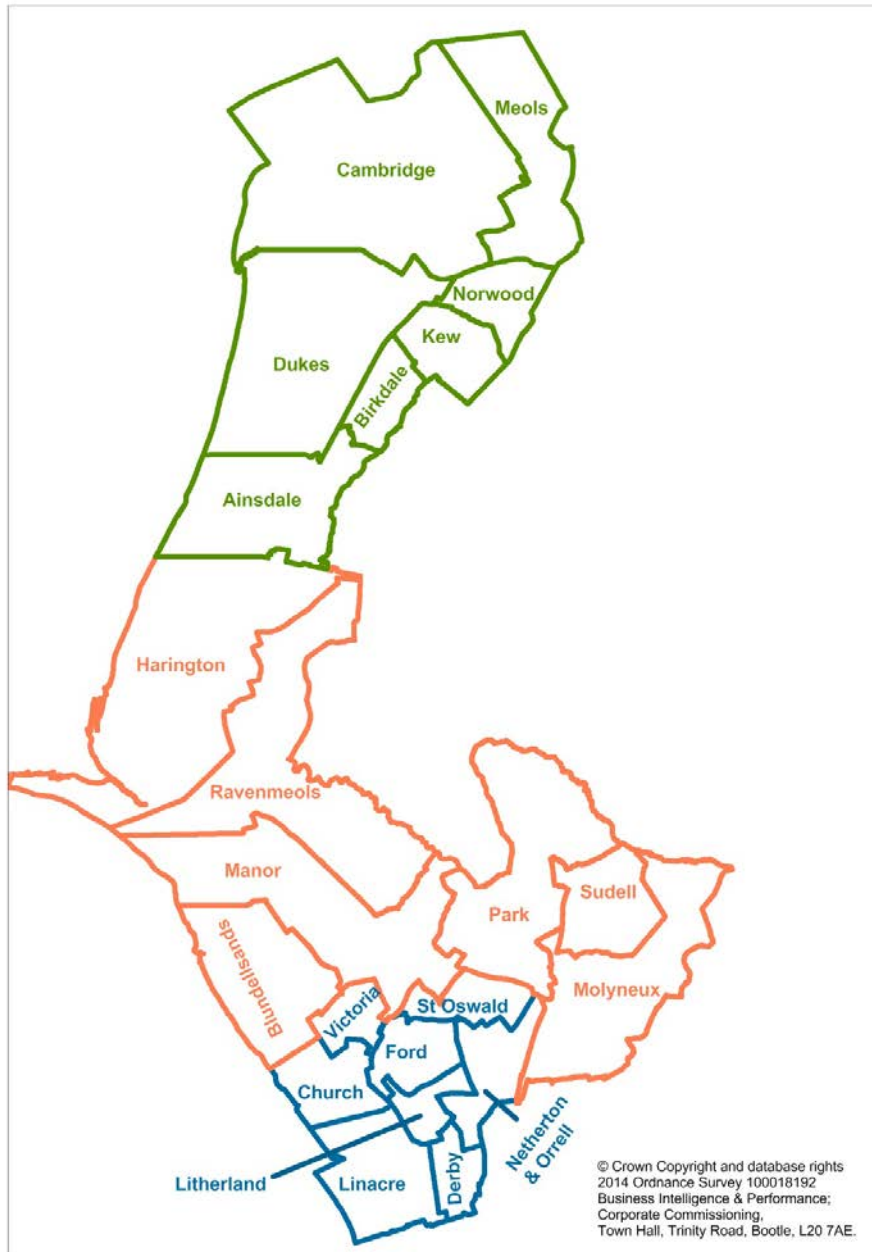


Table 2**North Sefton - Daycare (Day Nurseries / Pre-School Playgroups / Childminders)**

Ward	Settings	Registered places	Vacancies	% unfilled
Ainsdale	6	123	8	7% (20%)
Birkdale	5	74	9	12% (11%)
Cambridge	4	102	30	29% (29%)
Duke's	12	517	114	22% (10%)
Kew	6	138	36	26% (30%)
Meols	4	49	1	2% (0%)
Norwood	9	326	56	17% (16%)
Total	46	1329	254	19% (15%)

**For comparison purposes, 2018 figures are shown in brackets.*

North Sefton continues to have sufficient childcare capacity to enable families to make an informed choice. Whilst overall places in the area have fallen since 2018, the number of vacancies has actually increased, meaning that unfilled places have risen to 19%.

Some wards have a surplus of places (i.e. over 20% capacity) and one ward has just 2% capacity. This is a good example as to why it is not particularly meaningful to view capacity at individual ward level. Families do not choose the most suitable childcare, or even the nearest, based upon electoral ward, but there would be an expectation that the childcare was a reasonable travelling or walking distance from their home or place of work.

Table 3**Central Sefton - Daycare (Day Nurseries / Pre-School Playgroups / Childminders)**

Ward	Settings	Registered places	Vacancies	% unfilled
Blundellsands	9	286	32	11% (7%)
Harington	9	213	53	25% (21%)
Manor	7	68	6	9% (1%)
Molyneux	11	275	51	19% (1%)
Park	11	179	21	12% (10%)
Ravenmeols	6	68	19	28% (30%)
Sudell	8	127	14	11% (27%)
Total	61	1216	196	16% (11%)

**For comparison purposes, 2018 figures are shown in brackets.*

Central Sefton continues to have sufficient childcare capacity to enable families to make an informed choice. Central Sefton has seen an increase in available places since 2018, up to a healthy 16%. One ward is slightly below sufficient level at 9%, but all other wards have sufficient or even surplus capacity. In the past twelve months this area has seen a slight fall in the number of settings and registered places but at the same time total vacant places have increased significantly.

Table 4**South Sefton - Daycare (Day Nurseries / Pre-School Playgroups / Childminders)**

Ward	Settings	Registered places	Vacancies	% unfilled
Church	10	374	44	12% (13%)
Derby	4	248	58	23% (33%)
Ford	7	120	18	15% (8%)
Linacre	3	168	12	7% (31%)
Litherland	7	92	19	21% (4%)
Netherton and Orrell	7	114	20	18% (2%)
St Oswald	8	218	52	24% (36%)
Victoria	9	226	2	1% (%)
Total	55	1560	225	14% (20%)

**For comparison purposes, 2018 figures are shown in brackets.*

South Sefton continues to have sufficient childcare capacity to enable families to make an informed choice. This area has seen a significant reduction in vacant places in the past twelve months, whilst the number of settings and registered places have remained the same as last year. This has resulted in a reduction of overall spare capacity but it remains well within the sufficient range, at 14%. Market intelligence also suggests that the area will see additional registered places in 2019.

3.2 Childcare for Older Children

Out of School services are very difficult to provide an accurate figure for in terms of take up. In 2018/19 Sefton Family Information Service received no feedback from parents of older children stating that they were unable to find childcare, which suggests there are sufficient places. Most schools now offer an extended day and will offer this service to as many pupils as require it. There are also a number of very well established breakfast and after-school providers in Sefton, including some childminders. In addition, parents are able to take advantage of a whole range of leisure activities which are delivered through the holiday periods – further details of these activities can be found in Section 8. Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities are also able to access a range of services through Sefton’s Aiming High Service – see Section 7.

3.3 Addressing gaps in the childcare market

Across Sefton, for general childcare availability the approach is to encourage the childcare market to satisfactorily meet demand. This is done by identifying (through feedback from parents and working with settings) potential areas where a shortage of childcare has been identified. This could be either geographical or age based. Sefton Council’s Childcare Sufficiency Manager works with all potential childcare providers to provide support and information relating to the childcare market across the borough. By adopting this blanket approach the aim is to ensure sufficient childcare in Sefton for all those who require it, rather than targeting specific groups or areas. To date this approach has been a very successful one. For those unable to find childcare then Sefton Family Information Service (see Appendix 1 for details) offers a brokerage service to try and help families find the childcare they require.

Sefton Communities Team works with settings to improve quality which, it would be hoped, in turn improves the sustainability of existing childcare provision. Government regulations state that only childcare providers which attain specific Ofsted inspection outcomes are permitted to deliver funded places to two, three and four year olds. Again, this places great emphasis on the need for quality childcare in order to remain sustainable, particularly in areas where there are a lot of settings or available places for families to choose from. Overall the quality of childcare provision in Sefton is good – a more detailed account can be found in Section 5.

3.3.1 Childminding

There has been a national trend in falling childminder numbers over a number of years. This year in Sefton, sufficiency of childminding places has risen to 7% capacity (up from 2% in 2018), which is still below the 10% required to be deemed sufficient. The number of registered childminding places has remained pretty much the same as last year, but vacant places have increased. Childminding remains a popular choice with parents as most childminders reported that they had no vacancies and many childminders are now offering early years funded places. Sefton will continue to actively promote the need for more childminders in the area.

Sefton has seen a continued fall in numbers enquiring to become childminders, as a result since April 18 we decided to no longer offer the option of a face to face course for the Introduction to Childminding. Prospective childminders are now signposted to either PACEY (Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years) or Childminding Matters to complete an online qualification.

Marketing campaigns through social media have been carried out throughout the year (April 18 – March 19)

Table 5
Childminder recruitment

Total number of prospective childminder enquiries	Unqualified training required	Qualified	Registered by 31.3.19	How many places created
41	32	9	5	24 places

To date we have had 5 people successfully complete the registration process since April 2018, creating 24 places. This equates to around one in nine of those expressing an interest going on to become a registered childminder. The lack of people registering as a childminder is still a national problem, this is mainly due to people being unaware of how much work is involved in childminding, along with high start-up costs. The government has scrapped their Business Grants Scheme and have said they currently have no intention of re-opening the scheme in the future.

As a result of the marketing campaign, quality training and support offered to prospective childminders, to date 13 people have successfully completed the registration process since April 2017. This equates to around one in four of those expressing an interest going on to actually become a registered childminder. Such a drop off or lack of follow through is a national problem, with feedback from those not pursuing registration typically including things such as initially being unaware how much work was actually involved in childminding. Costs of setting up has historically often been cited as an obstacle to commencing childminding, but the Government’s Childcare Business Grants Scheme is still open to applications and offers a start-up grant to new childcare providers – see 12.2 for further information on this grant.

3.3.2 Full Daycare and Pre-School Playgroups/Nurseries

Sefton Council has worked very closely with childcare settings and schools to address the original shortfall in places available to deliver the Two Year Old Offer. This collaborative working has been very successful and will continue through 2018/19. One major factor which providers have identified as potentially having an impact on 2 year old capacity is the demand associated with the extended 30 hours free childcare.

Sefton has an established working group led by Sefton Council and consisting of key stakeholders which works together in ensuring successful delivery of the extended 30 hours childcare offer. Latest sufficiency data presented in this report suggests that there is enough capacity in the market to cope with the current demand. This in itself is very positive, but it does need to be acknowledged that the extended offer is still relatively new and it may be too early to be certain as to the full impact on the childcare market. Moreover, the issues childcare providers have identified in finding enough suitably qualified and experienced staff means that they may not necessarily be able to offer as many places as their registered places suggests. Section 9, later in this document, shows the capacity within school nurseries and classes, which would also be impacted by and impact upon, the delivery of free entitlement places. Work will continue to monitor capacity and work with providers throughout 2019/20.

4. Childcare Fees

Table 6

Average childcare fees by childcare type and area

	North Sefton	Central Sefton	South Sefton
Childminders	£4.20 (per hour)	£4.40 (per hour)	£4.20 (per hour)
Day Nurseries	£45.25 (per day)	£46.80 (per day)	£41.70 (per day)
Pre-School Playgroups	£15.30 (per session) <small>*Typically a session is 3 hours</small>	£17.30 (per session) <small>*Typically a session is 3 hours</small>	£15.75 (per session) <small>*Typically a session is 3 hours</small>

When compared to 2018 there has been an overall increase in the cost of daycare, with an increase in all types of care across all three areas in Sefton. This is largely to be expected as resource, staffing and premises costs increase for childcare providers. It is also in line with national data from Family & Childcare Trust which shows an overall increase in childcare costs.

Table 6 shows average fees for the three areas of Sefton. As would be expected, the fees for daycare in the South are, on average, lower than for the Mid and North of the borough.

All the fees presented here are an average based on the fees for 0-4 year olds in Sefton and should only be viewed in that light. In reality, there are significant differences in fees amongst individual settings. For example, some sessional places in Sefton are available from £12 per session, whilst others are over £20 per session. Similarly, day nursery fees can vary by as much as £15 per day or more. Also, many settings will offer discounted rates if a child is full-time, discounts for siblings, babies are often a higher rate than toddlers, and some settings charge a different rate for two year olds than for three year olds.

Childminders will typically offer more flexible care and rates, with many offering daily or weekly rates and also rates for before and after school pickups and care. Childminder fees are usually a little cheaper than day nursery fees. This does not reflect quality of care, but is more to do with the additional business costs incurred by nurseries such as premises, staff, etc.

A range of potential resources are available to help working parents to pay for childcare – see Appendix 1 for useful links.

5. Childcare Quality

5.1 Quality Improvement

The School Readiness Service, share with providers of early year's provision a commitment to improving life chances for all children. To facilitate and support this, the School Readiness Service works in partnership with providers in all parts of the sector in order to provide flexible, high quality provision meeting the needs of children and promoting parental choice, balancing this with supporting provider sustainability within a thriving market.

Guidance to Local Authorities in meeting the childcare sufficiency duty states that for childcare to be sufficient it must be of high quality. There is very strong evidence that high quality early learning increases children's development by age 5 and improves their outcomes in the longer term.

Generally, childcare in Sefton is of high quality; with the majority of childcare being rated as at least good by Ofsted, and some outstanding. We work closely to support and guide childcare providers to improve quality, via a system of monitoring, support and training. This is largely linked to need according to their Ofsted grade or via the proportion of vulnerable children attending the provision. For providers where quality or aspects of practice are deemed to be less than good, a thorough tiered approach or protocol is triggered offering intensive support. During 2018, 15 settings were supported in this way, with this being reduced to 8 by April 2019 due to improvements in quality.

Within Sefton several indicators illustrate the evidence of and a commitment to high quality provision, including:

- a) Ofsted inspection data
- b) Proportion of children attaining a good level of development at the end of reception
- c) Engagement in training
- d) Commitment to Safeguarding

The School Readiness Framework continues to support quality across the sector; alongside a continued emphasis on communication and language and embedding the Five to Thrive principles which is informed by the gaps in Early Years Foundation Stage Profile data.

Since April 2018 Sefton's Language Pathway has seen an additional:

- 21 Sefton practitioners were trained as a Language Champion (a member of staff trained in language development and techniques on how to support children);
- 30 Sefton practitioners attended Elklan (10 week Level 3 Language programme);
- 15 Sefton practitioners have attended Raising Early Achievements in Literacy (REAL) programme;
- 20 Sefton Practitioners attended SSTEWE (Sustained Shared Thinking in Emotional Wellbeing).

Sefton's successful participation in DfE communication and language funded project 'Talking Matters' continues to have an impact on the 11 early years settings and schools, one additional setting achieved the Elklan accredited 'Communication Friendly Setting Status Award'. Further targeted training and network events have provided ongoing support, advice and resources to ensure the project continues to be embedded.

In the autumn of 2018, a council restructure informed the merger of services and teams to create Family Well Being centres, replacing the old children centre model. The new models vision was to ensure a vast skill set across each locality supporting families with Early Help.

Family Well Being Centres remain a crucial element to quality improvement as all childcare providers across the sector and schools are grouped into School Readiness Hubs around Family

Well Being Centres. This ensures training, discussion and intervention is based upon the needs of the children and families in that locality and that services can be responsive.

Partnerships have been further strengthened through the on-going delivery of the Parent Champion project. This project directly supports a named practitioner in a setting with up to date and relevant information which can support parents and families. This has been very successful since 2017 and the continued delivery from April 2018-19 resulted in:

8 courses to support parents being delivered, with 158 practitioners attending.

Course	Attendees
Supporting families who may be experiencing domestic abuse	18
Supporting early identification	35
Supporting bereaved children	13
EAL	16
Bamboozled by benefits	18
Sensory Processing	18
Early Talk with Parents	22
Supporting parents with positive behaviour	18

5.2 Ofsted

In January 2019 Ofsted launched a consultation on its new Early Years Inspection Framework. The consultation concluded on 19th May 2019 ready for implementation in September 2019. A briefing session 'An evolution not revolution' delivered by both the School Readiness and Ofsted saw 55 practitioners attend to inform them of the changes.

The main changes include changes to the judgements and grade descriptors, to include:

- Overall effectiveness
- Quality of education
- Behaviour and attitude
- Personal development
- Leadership and management

The purpose of the changes was to:

- put the curriculum to the heart of the framework
- have an emphasis on the quality of education and care
- consider children's' experiences, and
- have a lesser focus on data and more on how the children are being developed.

The consultation identified that any before, afterschool or holiday provision will only have an 'overall effectiveness' judgement of 'Met' or 'Not Met' as providers through consultation deemed that the 'Quality of Education' was not necessary.

The inspection will also look at leaders work to provide a broad and balanced curriculum and will continue to place the effectiveness of safeguarding at the heart of every inspection. When considering children's outcomes, inspectors will want to see that the children currently at the setting are making good progress.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets the standards that all early years' providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children's 'school readiness' and gives children the broad range of

knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life.

5.3 Ofsted Inspection Data

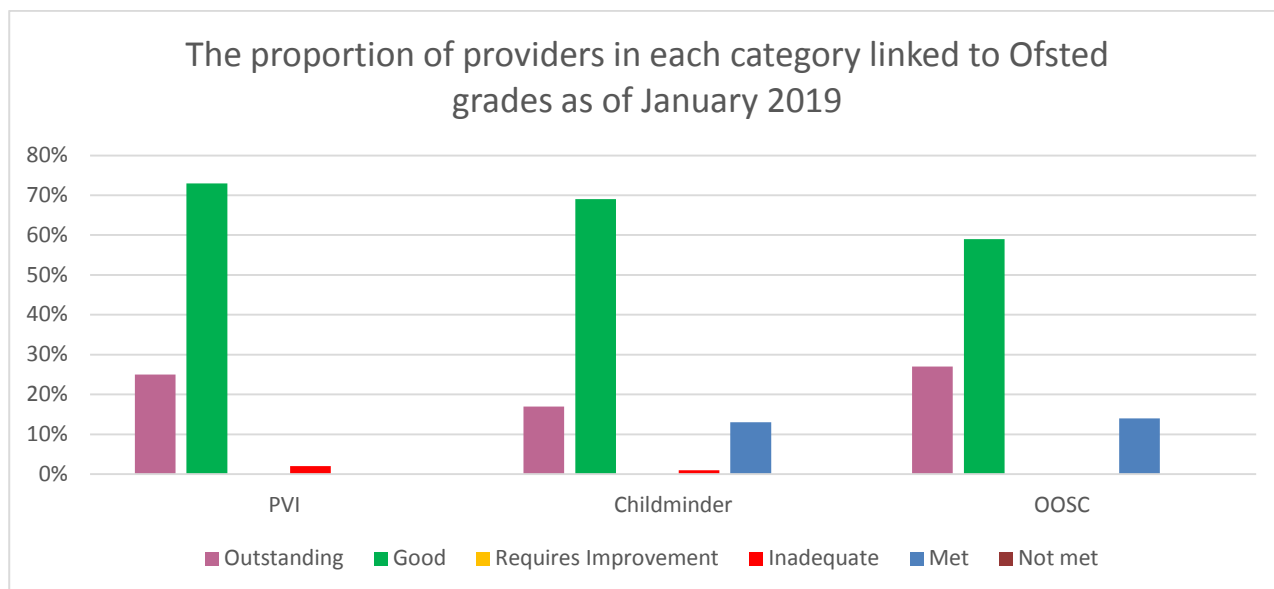
Table 7

The percentage of providers in each category linked to Ofsted Grades

	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate	Met	Not Met
PVI (private, day nurseries & playgroups)	25%	73%	0%	2%	N/A	N/A
Childminders	17%	69%	0%	1%	13%	0%
Out of School (breakfast club, after school club & holiday clubs)	27%	59%	0%	0%	14%	0%

Total number of inspections 163 - Data taken from September 2012 to January 2019.

Fig. 3 The proportion of providers in each category linked to Ofsted Grade as of January 2019



**For quality and funding purposes, “Met” is considered to be the equivalent of “Good”*

5.4 Good Level of Development

Within Sefton the number of children achieving a good level of development continues to increase and is in line with the national average. This is in part a testimony to the high quality pre-school

and school provision available across the authority. The inequality gap in Sefton (between the median score for all pupils and that for the lowest 20% of pupils) is 2.2 percentage points narrower than the national figure.

Table 8

The proportion of children attaining a good level of development at the end of reception

Outcomes duty	2015 Sefton	2015 National	2016 Sefton	2016 National	2017 Sefton	2017 National	2018 Sefton	2018 National
The percentage of children attaining a 'good level of development'	66.2	66.3	69.8	69.3	70.3	70.7	70.8	71.5
Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the early years foundation stage profile and the rest	29.4	32.1	29.7	31.4	29.5	31.7	31.9	31.8

5.5 Engagement in Training

A partly subsidised termly training programme is developed and provided to help settings meet the requirement of the Early Years Foundation Stage and their statutory duties. Courses are designed to support the development of all staff within early years including childminders and out of school provision. Settings can access the training programme by visiting Sefton Education:

<http://www.seftoneducation.uk/TrainingAndEvents>

In the twelve month period from April 2018, 529 staff have attended a total of 42 courses from the Continuous Professional Development Programme (CPD), compared to 1423 staff in 2017. The lower take up of staff training than previous years is likely heavily influenced by the current recruitment difficulties faced by the early years sector, which results in capacity issues for providers to release staff. However, the ongoing commitment to CPD is reflected through Sefton's Ofsted grades and the improvements to outcomes for young children.

Project based training has continued to be offered due to the positive impact they are having within Sefton settings.

Therefore, additional opportunities to engage in project type courses have been extended within the training plan. Since April 2018 School Readiness has delivered:

- The Baby Room Project - 1 with 10 attendees
- Language Champion - 1 with 21 attendees
- Elklan- 2 with 30 attendees
- REAL – 1 with 15 attendees
- SSTEW 1 with 20 attendees

Badge of Excellence

A number of courses run by the School Readiness Team have been approved for delivery by Open Awards 'Badge of Excellence' scheme.

'Badge of Excellence' is a quality assurance mark that recognises excellent training, development and learning provision for meaningful outcomes. The Badge of Excellence scheme allows us to identify and develop training programmes that are not easily aligned to a qualification but still deserve to be nationally recognised as an achievement and outcome for the learner. Badge of Excellence provides us with the flexibility to design and develop our own quality bespoke in-house training to meet learner outcomes.

Courses which have badge of excellence are:

- Baby Room
- REAL
- Language Champion
- Playing to learn

6. Free Early Years Education and Childcare

6.1 The 2 Year Old Offer

The Two Year Offer entitlement consists of 570 hours of free early learning and childcare per year. This is usually made up of 15 hours per week, term time only or 11 hours per week throughout the whole year. Children become eligible the term after their second birthday, i.e. January, April and September.

Currently we have a requirement to provide an expected 938 free nursery places for eligible Two Year Olds. However, we do provide an additional number of Discretionary Places.

As of March 2019:

- 811 children are currently being supported across 92 different childcare providers within Sefton, including: Private, Voluntary and Independent Settings, Childminders and Primary Schools.
- Of those 589 are placed within nurseries, children's centres and childminders and 222 are placed within schools.
- This consists of 65 Private, Voluntary and Independent settings, 9 childminders and 15 Schools.

In 2018-2019 DWP data highlighted that Sefton had significantly reduced in those eligible 2 year olds accessing early years entitlement. Previously Sefton had been congratulated for maintaining high numbers of eligible 2YO accessing, however, this has reduced to 74%. This coincides with Sefton's restructure and the 50% reduction of the School Readiness team who had previously promoted this area of work. However, this has been recognised and staff have been seconded to support this area. Therefore, to address this, three locality events have been delivered to raise the profile of the 2YO. In addition, staff have attended the team meetings of Health, Social Care, Family Well Being Centre and DWP to raise awareness in the attempt to increase the numbers of children accessing.

Parents and professionals can apply for a Two Year Offer place via an online application process. They can also apply by submitting an application form to the 2YO Team. These application forms are sent out on a regular basis to parents of children, identified as possibly being eligible by the Department of Works and Pensions, and have not applied previously.

The online eligibility checker is available to parents via:

<https://www.seftondirectory.com/kb5/sefton/directory/fel.page>

Parents are able to choose a setting of their choice. We therefore continue to work closely with providers from all sectors to ensure that Two Year Old places are available in areas of Sefton where there is high demand.

Eligibility Criteria:

Two year olds who meet any of the following criteria will be eligible for the offer.

- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit (if you and your partner have a combined income from work of £15,400 or less a year, after tax, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Tax Credit provided your annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) does not exceed £16,190
- Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you receive when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

Children are also eligible if they:

- are a Local Authority 'Looked After' Child
- are a child of a care leaver (Under the age of 25 years)
- have a current Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) or an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- attract Disability Living Allowance.

6.2. Universal Free Early Years Entitlement for Three and Four Years Olds

Government figures suggest that there is 97% take up of eligible three and four year old children in Sefton accessing their free entitlement in Sefton -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-benchmarking-tool>

This is in line with the national average and exceeds the 95% funding pass through rate which Department for Education sets as a minimum target. There are no indications that families do not take up a free place through lack of availability, as spare capacity is sufficient for this age range and Sefton continues to promote the entitlement. Whilst the offer is universal, take up is not statutory so parents can choose not to take up the free place for any number of reasons.

Early Years Pupil Premium has resulted in providers accessing additional funding to support eligible children in Sefton. This funding has enabled providers to provide further resources, support packages and access professional development to help narrow the gap for our most vulnerable children within Sefton.

Sefton Council continues to strongly encourage take up of the free entitlement and promote the developmental benefits for a child in accessing formal childcare.

6.3 30 Hours Extended Free Entitlement (EYE) for three and four year olds

September 2017 saw the introduction of an additional 15 hours funded entitlement for Three and Four years olds, to support working parents. The new entitlement offers 1,140 hours of Early Education for children whose parents are working i.e. 30 hours over 38 weeks (term-time only) or about 23 hours per week if extended over the year.

The additional hours are available to children in families where:

- Both parents are working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family)
- and
- Each parent earns, on average, a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum wage (NMW) or national living wage (NLW), and less than £100,000 per year.
 - It is a one parent household and the working parent meets the income rules.

Working includes employed and self-employed persons.

Parents **will not necessarily need to actually work 16 hours a week**, but rather their earnings must reflect **at least 16 hours of work** at NMW or NLW. This means that, when the new entitlement goes live, a working parent who is over 25 will need to earn a weekly minimum equivalent of £115.20 whereas a working parent who is 21 will need to earn weekly minimum equivalent of around £107 (at this year's rates). Parents on zero contract hours who meet the criteria are included in the entitlement criteria.

There are some **exceptions** from two parent rules and children will also be entitled if:

- both parents are employed but one or both parents is temporarily away from the workplace on parental, maternity or paternity leave
- both parents are employed but one or both parents is temporarily away from the workplace on adoption leave
- both parents are employed but one or both parents is temporarily away from the workplace on statutory sick pay

- one parent is employed and one parent has substantial caring responsibilities based on specific benefits received for caring; or
- one parent is employed and one parent is disabled or incapacitated based on receipt of specific benefits.

The three and four year olds whose parents do not meet the criteria will continue to be entitled to the universal offer of 570 hours per annum or 15 hours over 38 weeks term time only.

As of March 2019:

- 1911 children are currently being supported across 153 different childcare providers within Sefton, including: Private, Voluntary and Independent Settings, local Children's Centres, Childminders and Primary Schools.
- Of those 1351 are placed within nurseries, children's centres and childminders and 649 are placed within schools.
- This consists of 67 Private, Voluntary and Independent settings, 38 childminders and 48 schools.

7. Childcare for Disabled Children - Aiming High

Sefton Council's Aiming High for Disabled Children Service is a team that delivers a range of functions and services for disabled children and their families in Sefton. The service comprises:

- Aiming High Short Breaks Delivery Team Transitions Co-ordinators
- Disabled Children's Social Work Team & Family Support (encompassing the Disabled Children's Register and newsletter).

Each week there are 25 regular evening and weekend group based activities targeted specifically at disabled children and young people in Sefton. The Aiming High Team also commissions services from other providers in order to maximise the volume and range of short break experiences for disabled children. These include after school clubs in three of our special schools, specialist holiday schemes within two special schools, residential experiences, a buddying scheme co-ordinated by CVS and stay and play and respite activities within our Children Centres.

Services are delivered as part of a 3-tiered approach:

Universal Level Services:

Opportunities that can be accessed by ALL children and young people in their local communities.

All children and young people should be able to access opportunities which are happening within their local communities. These opportunities can be found at Family Well-Being, centres libraries, swimming pools and leisure centres, youth groups and parks, playgrounds community centres etc. Wherever possible these are the opportunities which should be used as a first point of call. These services have a duty under the Equalities Duty, (2010) to make reasonable adjustments and not treat a disabled person less favourably.

Some children will require additional support in order to get fully involved in community based activities. The service helps to support this by the provision of leisure cards, for subsidised use of leisure centres for disabled young people and a carer.

Targeted Services:

Opportunities for children and young people who are identified as requiring additional support.

Currently, the Aiming High Team deliver 25 weekly evening and weekend groups and extensive holiday provision targeted at disabled children and young people with additional needs in Sefton.

Specialist Services

Opportunities for children, young people and families who are assessed as requiring a high level of support.

In addition to the first two tiers of service delivery, there are a range of services providing ongoing, bespoke and regular support.

For families requiring this level of support, an assessment will be carried out by a social worker and used as the basis for service allocation.

Under the Children Act, (1989), all disabled children are children 'in need' and are entitled to an initial assessment from Children's Social Care.

A personalised package of support, could take a number of forms, including:

- Daytime care in the home or elsewhere.
- Leisure activities or a personal assistant so your child or young person can take part in activities outside of the home.
- Services available to assist carers in the evenings, at weekends and during the school holidays.
- Overnight Short Breaks – For a small number of children and young people, an assessment will demonstrate the need for an overnight short break.

As family circumstances change, the short break is regularly reviewed to make sure it is still reflective of the needs of the child/family.

8. Sport & Recreation Service – Active Sefton

Sefton’s Sport & Recreation Service comprises six leisure centres and in excess of 30 sports, physical activity, health and community outreach interventions, all of which operate under the banner of ‘Active Sefton’.

Sefton’s six leisure facilities are Dunes Splash World, Meadows Leisure Centre, Netherton Activity Centre, Litherland Sports Park, Crosby Lakeside Adventure Centre, and Bootle Leisure Centre, all of which offer the opportunity for children and young people to access non–organised activities e.g. swimming and fitness and access to numerous coach led sessions and clubs.

In addition, the service is responsible for the delivery of the Active Aquatics, Active Sports and Active Lifestyles programmes, which deliver a vast range of community outreach interventions to those in need of additional support.

The main function of the ‘Active’ programmes is to improve health and wellbeing, promote social inclusion and reduce crime and antisocial behaviour through the medium of sport and physical activity. Projects are delivered within community settings (e.g. schools, parks and open spaces, Family Wellbeing centres, voluntary sector sports clubs, leisure centres and community venues). A number of projects are funded by grant aid received from external sources.

In addition, Active Sefton work closely with voluntary sector sports clubs to ensure all programmes are linked to sustainable exit routes, enabling participants to progress, and continue long term in their chosen sport/activity.

Table 9

The range of activities specifically available to children, young people and their families

Age range	Active Sefton Programme	Description
0–21 years	LAC Memberships	This scheme enables young people and children who are in Local Authority care to have free access to local Leisure Centre facilities. In addition to accessing swimming and gym facilities for free participants receive highly discounted places on coach led sessions. During 18/19 there were 448 leisure passes issued to looked after children and young people.
Age 9 weeks +	Active Aquatics – Swimming Lessons	Active Aquatics provides public swimming lessons at 3 locations across Sefton for all ages, abilities and needs. Focused on improving swimming performance and water safety based on the national governing body Swim England Learn to Swim pathway. From total beginners, right through to Rookie Lifeguard, Flip n’ Fun and competitive swimming. Active Aquatics also delivers a high-quality programme for schools across 5 locations in Sefton. We are responsible for the implementation of the National Curriculum and encouraging further progression through Active Aquatics Awards Scheme from 5 metres upwards

		<p>to survival and water safety.</p> <p>During 2018/19 there were 309 public swimming lessons per week across all 3 sites equating to 15,450 per year (50 weeks) across all 3 sites.</p> <p>68 schools are signed up to the Aquatics service SLA for school swimming lessons across 5 sites. This has resulted in a total 90 lessons per week equating to 3420 per year (38 weeks) across all 5 sites delivered.</p>
18 months +	Active Totz	<p>Participants develop a healthy and active lifestyle through play and interaction. Play sessions are structured around free play, nursery rhymes games and musical instruments. Totz Splash sessions at Splashworld offer the opportunity for carers and tots to have a splash in the pool with floats and toys. Dance and gymnastic classes are also available.</p>
3-16 years	Be Active	<p>Every school holiday period except Christmas, Be Active provides a great range of activities ranging from subsidised swimming to come and try it sessions, to 5-day sport camps. Football camps have been delivered in partnership with Liverpool FC Foundation. Discounted rates are available for multiple day bookings or if in receipt of an Active Choices card.</p>
5-12 years	Active Schools	<p>Active Sefton's new 'Active Schools' pathway has been designed to support schools across the borough in adopting and sustaining a wide variety of healthy lifestyle programmes and interventions. The programme provides opportunity to bridge the wide range of health and wellbeing expertise within Active Sefton to offer a holistic and sustainable offer to schools. From sports coaching and healthy eating workshops, to developing student 'Health Champions' and long-term healthy lunch incentives. During the course of 2018/19 there were 158 school sessions delivered over 860 hours at 72 school venues as part of the programme.</p>
8+ years	Park Nights	<p>Park Nights is a diversionary sport and physical activity programme, delivered in parks during early evening, which are experiencing difficulties with youth related anti-social behaviour. Sessions take place during the summer months with a floodlit programme taking place during the Halloween and Bonfire period. All activities are free and partnerships are in place with other organisations including Liverpool FC Foundation to offer a wide range of activities.</p> <p>During 2018/19 there were 60 separate sessions delivered to 560 participants. Special one-off events</p>

		such as an Ibiza themed wave rave pool party took place at Bootle leisure centre with over 140 in attendance.
8+ years	H2O Watersports Programmes	<p><u>Kidz H2O</u></p> <p>This programme occurs mainly during half terms and school holidays at Crosby lakeside Adventure Centre. On these days the programme runs from 9:30 – 4:30 Monday to Friday during which the participants will engage in taster sessions of a wide range of sports. This programme has the addition of being able to offer wrap around care allowing parents to drop their children off at 8:30 and run through until 17:30.</p> <p><u>GCSE'S & BTEC</u></p> <p>Crosby Lakeside currently offers GCSE'S & BTECS with the most popular sports being Kayaking & Climbing, these normally take place during the winter months.</p>
12+ years	121 Programme	121 is a one to one 'mentoring' programme designed to use sport & recreational activities to create positive opportunities and provide young people (previously considered as vulnerable or at risk) with exit routes back into mainstream activity and society.
11-16 years	MOVE IT in the Community	MOVE IT is a FREE 6 week 1to1 fitness and nutrition programme aimed at helping teenagers to keep a healthy weight. It is delivered within Active Sefton leisure centres and all instructors are fully qualified. It is for children aged 5-16 years old and self-referrals can be made.

For more information on the range of activities available please call us on 0151 288 6286 or visit Sefton Council's website:

www.sefton.gov.uk/sport-leisure

9. Maintained Nursery Places

The tables in this section illustrate the number of places within each nursery class and the take up of places, as of January 2019.

This data should be used with some caution as nursery classes may continue to admit nursery aged children throughout the school year. Although there are variations at school level, district levels show a relatively consistent range from 70%-89%, with an overall average take up of 76%. The Bootle, Litherland and Crosby areas have the highest proportion of unfilled places, whilst Formby and Maghull have the fewest. The overall spare capacity of 24% is slightly higher than the 22% reported in 2018.

Ages are calculated as at 31st August 2018
(includes pupils with 30 hour entitlement)

Nursery Class or School	Places FTE	Ages as at 31st August 2018									No on Roll		
		1 Year		2 Years		3 Years		4 Years		Total	FT		Equiv.
		FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT		FT	PT	
BOOTLE DISTRICT													
Christ Church Class	46	0	0	0	18	0	37	0	0	55	0	55	27.5
Grange Class	30	0	0	0	7	0	29	0	0	36	0	36	18
Holy Spirit Class	30	0	0	0	7	4	22	0	0	33	4	29	18.5
Linacre Class	30	0	0	0	6	0	12	0	0	18	0	18	9
Netherton Moss Class	40	0	0	0	3	0	17	0	0	20	0	20	10
Our Lady of Wals.Class	30	0	0	4	4	9	16	0	0	33	13	20	23
Springwell Park	26	0	6	4	19	8	28	0	0	65	12	53	38.5
St Benedict's Class	30	0	0	4	4	12	9	0	0	29	16	13	22.5
All Saint's Class	30	0	0	0	4	0	23	0	0	27	0	27	13.5
St Monica's Class	30	0	0	0	7	0	43	1	0	51	1	50	26
St Oswald's Class	30	0	0	1	2	10	21	0	0	34	11	23	22.5
St Robert Bellarmine Class	30	0	0	0	0	24	7	0	0	31	24	7	27.5
Thomas Gray Class	54	0	4	2	39	9	26	0	0	80	11	69	45.5
Cambridge School*	60	0	7	2	46	5	46	0	0	106	7	99	56.5
Greenacre School*	61	0	10	5	29	13	22	0	7	86	18	68	52
TOTAL	557	0	27	22	195	94	358	1	7	704	117	587	410.5

% Places filled 74%

Within the Bootle District:

13% of settings are rated as Outstanding

67% of settings are rated as Good

20% of settings are rated as Requires Improvement

Nursery Class or School	Places FTE	Ages as at 31st August 2018									No on Roll		
		1 Year		2 Years		3 Years		4 Years		Total	F T	PT	FT Equiv .
		F T	PT	FT	PT	F T	PT	F T	P T				
LITHERLAND DISTRICT													
English Martyrs Class	30	0	0	0	0	15	24	0	0	39	15	24	27
Hatton Hill Class*	30	0	0	0	0	14	24	0	0	38	14	24	26
Lander Road Class	46	0	4	2	21	7	21	0	1	56	9	47	32.5
Litherland Moss Class	30	0	0	0	3	0	25	0	0	28	0	28	14
O.L. Queen of Peace Class	30	0	0	1	3	2	13	0	0	19	3	16	11
O.L. Star of the Sea Class	15	0	0	0	2	4	20	0	0	26	4	22	15
St Elizabeth's Class	38	0	3	2	12	12	23	0	0	52	14	38	33
TOTAL	219	0	7	5	41	54	150	0	1	258	59	199	158.5

% Places filled 73%

Within the Litherland District:

100% of settings are rated as Good

Nursery class or School	Places FTE	Ages as at 31st August 2018									No on Roll		
		1 Year		2 Years		3 Years		4 Years		Total	F T	PT	FT Equiv .
		F T	PT	FT	PT	F T	PT	F T	P T				
CROSBY DISTRICT													
Forefield Class*	36	0	0	0	3	12	45	0	0	60	12	48	36
Great Crosby Class	30	0	0	0	0	9	40	0	0	49	9	40	29
St Luke's Halsall Class	30	0	0	0	0	13	13	0	0	26	13	13	19.5
St Edmund's and St Thomas'	26	0	0	6	4	9	10	0	0	29	15	14	22
St William of York Class	38	0	0	0	27	11	18	0	0	56	11	45	33.5
Rimrose Hope Class	30	0	0	0	6	4	14	0	0	24	4	20	14
Sand Dunes School*	78	0	4	1	27	6	21	0	0	59	7	52	33
TOTAL	268	0	4	7	67	64	161	0	0	303	71	232	187

% Places filled 70%

Within the Crosby District:

14% of settings are rated as Outstanding

86% of settings are rated as Good

Nursery class or School	Places FTE	Ages as at 31st August 2018									No on Roll		
		1 Year		2 Years		3 Years		4 Years		Total	FT	PT	FT Equiv
		F T	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT				
FORMBY DISTRICT													
Freshfield Class*	45	0	0	3	3	25	10	2	1	44	30	14	37
Redgate Class	30	1	3	0	7	8	9	0	1	29	9	20	19
Woodlands	26	0	0	1	5	5	35	0	0	46	6	40	26
O.L.O Compassion Class	30	0	0	2	6	14	9	0	0	31	16	15	23.5
Trinity St Peter's Class	26	0	0	3	7	9	12	0	0	31	12	19	21.5
TOTAL	157	1	3	9	28	61	75	2	2	181	73	108	127

% Places filled 81%

Within the Formby District:

40% of settings are rated as Outstanding

60% of settings are rated as Good

Nursery class or School	Places FTE	Ages as at 31st August 2018									No on Roll		
		1 Year		2 Years		3 Years		4 Years		Total	FT	PT	FT Equiv.
		F T	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT				
MAGHULL DISTRICT													
Aintree Davenhill Class	30	0	0	0	4	0	56	0	0	60	0	60	30
Green Park	30	0	0	0	6	15	16	0	0	37	15	22	26
Hudson Class	46	0	3	4	27	13	19	0	0	66	17	49	41.5
Lydiat Class	30	0	0	0	4	2	23	0	0	29	2	27	15.5
Northway Class	30	0	0	0	8	0	40	0	0	48	0	48	24
Holy Rosary Class	26	0	0	0	5	0	42	0	0	47	0	47	23.5
St George's Class	30	0	0	4	2	17	8	0	0	31	21	10	26
St Gregory's Class*	15	0	0	0	3	20	7	0	0	30	20	10	25
TOTAL	237	0	3	8	59	67	211	0	0	348	75	273	211.5

% Places filled 89%

Within the Maghull District:

12% of settings are rated as Outstanding

88% of settings are rated as Good

Nursery class or School	Places FTE	Ages as at 31st August 2018									No on Roll		
		1 Year		2 Years		3 Years		4 Years		Total	FT	PT	FT Equiv
		F T	PT	F T	PT	FT	PT	F T	P T				
SOUTHPORT DISTRICT													
Birkdale Class	30	0	0	1	5	13	21	0	0	40	14	26	27
Bishop D Sheppard Class*	72	0	7	0	16	7	17	0	0	47	7	40	27
Churchtown Class	36	0	0	4	9	14	24	0	0	51	18	33	34.5
Farnborough Rd Class*	84	0	6	0	27	30	44	0	0	107	30	77	68.5
Kew Woods	30	0	0	2	2	12	21	0	0	37	14	23	25.5
Kings Meadow Class	30	0	1	1	7	11	16	0	0	36	12	24	24
Linaker Class	30	0	0	3	5	9	25	0	0	42	12	30	27
Our Lady of Lourdes	30	0	0	4	8	13	13	0	1	39	17	22	28
St Teresa's Class	30	0	0	1	3	3	9	0	0	16	4	12	10
Shoreside	24	0	0	2	0	7	0	0	0	9	9	0	9
Crossens School	53	0	6	1	35	11	36	0	0	89	12	77	50.5
TOTAL	449	0	20	19	117	130	226	0	1	513	149	364	331

% Places filled 74%

Within the Southport District:

9% of settings are rated as Outstanding

82% of settings are rated as Good

9% of settings are rated as Requires Improvement

	Places FTE	Ages as at 31st August 2018									No on Roll			
		1 Year		2 Years		3 Years		4 Years		Total	FT	PT	FT Equiv	
		F T	PT	F T	PT	FT	PT	F T	P T					
GRAND TOTALS	1887	1	64	70	507	470	118	1	3	11	2307	544	1763	1426

% Places filled 76%

Across Sefton overall:

13% of settings are rated as Outstanding

79% of settings are rated as Good

8% of settings are rated as Requires Improvement

10. Conclusion

In overall terms, Sefton continues to have sufficient childcare and free entitlement places across all age ranges. Daycare capacity in general is sufficient, with 16% spare capacity in the early years range.

This formal childcare is also well complemented by a range of other activities available to families in Sefton, such as those provided by schools, by Recreation & Culture Services and by Aiming High.

Population projections and employment trends suggest no significant increase in childcare demand over the next few years.

Quality of childcare in Sefton is a good standard and the School Readiness Service continues to work closely with settings to raise those standards even further.

Sefton Council is continuing to work very closely with Schools and Private, Voluntary and Independent providers to meet the targeted demand associated with the free entitlements for Two, Three and Four Year Olds.

Capacity within school nursery classes is sufficient and typically of a high standard.

Childminding capacity has increased to 7% (from just 2% in 2018) but this is still an area which Sefton Council will continue to actively promote through 2019-20.

11. Statistical Data - Acknowledgements

This Childcare Sufficiency Report relies on key statistical data provided by:

Ofsted

Sefton Aiming High

Sefton Business Intelligence & Performance Team

Sefton Families Information Service

Sefton Localities Teams

Sefton Schools Regulatory Service

Sefton Sport and Recreation Service

12. Appendix 1 - Useful Links

12.1 Setting up childcare or starting up as a childminder?

If you are considering setting up a childcare business in Sefton then please visit us online for more information and support:

<https://www.seftondirectory.com/settingupchildcare>

For an informal chat and local advice about the childcare market you can contact Sefton Council's Childcare Sufficiency Manager (James Smith) on 0151 934 4678 or by email: fis@sefton.gov.uk

General information and support for setting up a new business in Sefton can also be found via InvestSefton. For more information please visit their website:

<http://www.investsefton.com/business-support/starting-a-business/>

There is no financial support available from Sefton Council for the creation of new childcare places and the Department for Education has taken the decision to end the Childcare Business Grant Scheme.

12.2 Looking for childcare?

For comprehensive details of all childcare in Sefton, including those eligible for the Free Early Years Entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds, you can contact Sefton Families Information Service (FIS) on 0345 140 1845 or by email: fis@sefton.gov.uk

You should also contact FIS if you are unable to find suitable childcare in your area. This will enable us to identify gaps in provision and work with local settings to meet the demand.

You can find details of all registered childcare in Sefton, including links to their latest Ofsted inspection reports, on the Sefton Directory: www.seftondirectory.com/childcare

You can find a range of information on help with childcare costs at:

www.gov.uk/childcaresupport

12.3 2 Year Old Offer

To find out if your child is eligible to 15 hours per week free childcare please contact your Health Visitor or local Family Wellbeing Centre. Alternatively, you can contact the 2YO Team on 0151 933 6021 or email: 2yearolds@sefton.gov.uk

You can also check your eligibility using our online checker, which you can access at

www.seftondirectory.com/childcare

12.4 30 hours free childcare for working parents

All 3 and 4 year olds in England already get 15 hours a week, or 570 hours a year of free early education. If their parents are living and working in England, some 3 and 4-year-olds may be entitled to 30 hours free childcare.

The eligibility criteria are the same as the ones for Tax-Free Childcare, except you can continue to get these types of support at the same time as 30 hours free childcare:

- tax credits
- Universal Credit
- childcare vouchers or salary sacrifice schemes
- childcare grants and bursaries

When you apply, you'll be confirming that you need childcare so that you and your partner, if you have one, can work. If your child is already in a full-time reception class in a state funded school, you won't be eligible for 30 hours free childcare.

For further details and to check your eligibility please visit:

<https://childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk/par/app/extendedentitlement>

12.5 Local Offer

The Local Offer provides clear and accessible information about the provision Sefton Council expects to be available locally for our children and young people from 0 to 25 who have special educational needs and/or disability (SEND). To find out more please visit our website:

www.seftondirectory.com/localoffer