

RESEARCH Briefing paper



Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2023

November 2023

Summary Headline Data

- The content of the assessment concludes that the Council is meeting its statutory duties.
- At the time of writing, the quality of our providers stands at 98.5% good or outstanding (compared to 96.5% in England).
- Mid-Year Estimates (2021) show the number of 0-4-year-olds have fallen in the last 12 months from 19,750 to 18,799. The number of 5-14-year-olds has also fallen, from 44,613 in 2020 to 42,587 in 2021.
- Census 2021 figures show the number of 0-4-year-olds have fallen since the 2011 Census, from 20,868 in 2011 to 18,881 in 2021. The number of 5-14-year-olds, however, has increased in the last 10 years. (36,543 in 2011 to 42,552 in 2021).
- The latest population projections (2018-based) show that the number of births in BCP Council is projected to fall by between 1%- 2% per year until 2028. In the 10 years to 2028 the number of 3&4-year-olds is predicted to fall by 1,500 children (17%). However, the 10-14-year-old population is expected to increase by around 7% in the same period (1,420). (This can be explained by a peak in birth rate for local children in 2012).
- The latest primary school forecast projections(2022/23-2027/28), show Reception year pupils is forecast to fall by around 475 (13%), from around 3,647 to 3,142.
- There is a total of 307 childcare providers in the BCP Council area, offering a maximum of 7,792 places. This is a fall of 13 providers overall since summer 2022, 12 of which were childminders. Overall, the sector has lost 34 childminders in the last two years.
- Overall, the number of childcare places has fallen by 222 in the last 12 months.
- The latest occupancy figures show occupancy rates at childminders was 90%, PVI settings was 89% and school nursery settings was 86%
- BCP funded 770 2-year-old children in summer term 2023. It is estimated this captures approximately 93% of eligible children, and officially ranks BCP Council number one in the south west region of Councils.
- In the spring budget of 2023, the Chancellor announced that funded childcare hours would be expanded for 1 and 2-year-olds. BCP Council are confident that from April 2024 new demand for 2-year-olds can be met, however we currently forecast a lack of places for 300-500 1-year-old children when that entitlement is launched in September 2024.
- 75% of providers surveyed said they were 'likely' to offer the 15 hours funded childcare for 2-year-olds, however, only 49% said they would be 'likely' to offer this for 1-year-olds.
- In Summer 2023, 441 children were recorded as receiving additional SEND Support. This is an increase of 15.7% in the last 12 months. A total of 7,097 primary and secondary school children received SEN support, 419 extra children than in January 2022 (6.3%).
- Overall, the number of registered out-of-school provision has increased by 7 in the last 12 months (after falling by 10 2021-2022).

Notable Areas of Concern for Childcare Sufficiency

Bearwood and Merley: This is an area with major housing developments and a critical concern for sufficiency of childcare places during the development phase. Specifically, Merley will not be able to support working parents with all year-round care, as things stand, and developer contributions should be sought, as part of an infrastructure package, to mitigate the additional early years children that the current proposed developments will bring.

Boscombe West: We find that few families stay within their ward for 2,3- and 4-year-old funded childcare, which is likely due to an ongoing lack of provision in the area. It is considered an area of concern, with an estimated 549 resident 0–4-year-old children, and only one childminder and no preschool provision. The Council is undergoing a childminder recruitment campaign early in 2024, and we'll proactively approach schools in the area make them aware of this gap in the market and invite current providers to consider expansion.

Childminders: Nationally childminder numbers have halved in the past 10 years, from 55,300 in 2013 to 27,000 in 2023, with a similar proportionate change locally. An ageing cohort of childminders and a falling number of providers registering with Ofsted mean that the childminding profession is not being replenished at a sufficient rate to sustain itself. Childminders are only one part of the sector, but they give parents choice and flexibility. Their current contribution and that towards the governments expanded childcare and wraparound offer will prove invaluable. There are wards that have very few registered childminders, and one with none. The council is undergoing a recruitment campaign promoting the childminding profession in collaboration with professional partners including the DWP/Jobcentre Plus, importantly highlighting areas that are showing low registrations including Kinson, Boscombe West, Boscombe East & Pokesdown, Parkstone, Bournemouth Central and Canford Cliffs.

Wraparound Provision: Wraparound and holiday club provision in BCP remains broadly stable, but there are some gaps. The government has an ambition that the parents of all primary aged children have access to a wraparound place by 2026. Over the next two years, with the use of the DfE's Wraparound Care Programme Delivery Fund, the council will be working with all schools and private providers to ensure that a term-time 8am to 6pm offer is in place at every primary school. Capital Funding from the DfE will also be available to enable this and BCP will be engaging with schools and providers from December 2023 to understand barriers to expansion.

Day Nurseries and Preschools: Retention of our existing providers carries even greater weight with the new expanded entitlements from 2024. The council has worked with several providers during 2023 to ensure that those who are wishing to close are signposted to providers seeking new or further premises, protecting the childcare places and staff and will continue to do so to ensure statutory duties are met. Nationally and locally childcare providers are suffering from a lack of qualified staff, and many are caring for fewer children than their premises could actually accommodate. DfE will launch a recruitment campaign in spring 2024 and locally we will work with professional partners including the DWP/Jobcentre Plus. If providers cannot staff their businesses, this impacts on the number of childcare places available for working families.

Expanded Entitlements from 2024: Children's Services is confident that there are sufficient places for the 15 hours expanded entitlement for 2-year-olds, however, there is concern that there may be a gap for up to 500 children for the 1-year-old offer (which launches September 2024). In addition, without expansion, funding and recruitment drives, there is likely to be a sufficiency gap for both age groups when the entitlement is further expanded to 30hrs from September 2025. The Council will receive capital funding from the DfE to successfully roll out their ambition and to mitigate some of these concerns. It's vital that the leadership and planning officers support the need for new and expanding provision and that capital funding is distributed fairly and with the best outcomes possible in mind.

Demographic and Economic Summary

- BCP has a large resident population of around 400,100¹. This represents an increase of 5.4% (around 20,700 more residents) since mid-2011, and an increase of around 3,000 since last year's data.
- Mid-Year Estimates 2021 show the number of 0-4-year-olds have fallen in the last 12 months from 19,750 to 18,799. The number of 5-14-year-olds has also fallen, from 44,613 in 2020 to 42,587 in 2021.
- Latest population figures show the live birth rate in BCP Council increased 2020-2021 (3,621 in 2020 to 3,668 in 2021), following a fall in the rate over the last couple of years. The number of residents over 65 years continues to increase.
- The 2021 Census results for BCP give a resident population of 400,300 in March 2021. This is an increase of 5.7% compared with the 2011 Census. The age groups showing the biggest increase in BCP include 70–79-year-olds, 50–59-year-olds and 5–14-year-olds. Age groups experiencing the biggest fall in numbers since 2011 include 0–4-year-olds (-9.4%), 25–29-year-olds and 45–49-year-olds.
- According to the 2021 Census, wards with the highest population of 0–4-year-olds are Newtown & Heatherlands (1,078), Alderney & Bourne Valley (973), and Kinson (963).²
- Wards with the fewest number of 0–4-year-olds are Highcliffe & Walkford (250), Canford Cliffs (269) and Broadstone (289).³
- Over the next decade BCP's population is projected to increase by 7,800 (2%), from 395,800 in 2018 to 403,600 in 2028⁴. Population growth will be concentrated among those aged 65+ with migration driving population growth. More people are arriving than leaving the area.
- BCP's national IMD ranking is 160th out of 317 English authorities (where 1 is the most deprived)⁵

Population 0-14

Table 1: Mid-Year Estimates 2016-2021 and Census 2011 & 2021 (0–14-year-olds)

Mid-Year Estimates	0-4	5-14	Census	0-4	5-14
2016	22,029	40,662	2011	20,868	36,543
2017	21,334	42,112	2021	18,881	42,552
2018	20,863	43,121			
2019	20,275	43,860			
2020	19,750	44,613			
2021	18,799	42,587			

¹ Mid-Year Estimates 2021

² Census 2021

³ Census 2021

⁴ 2018 based sub-national population projections for BCP, published on 25 March 2020

⁵ Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019

Figure 1: Population 0-14 (Mid-Year-Estimates)

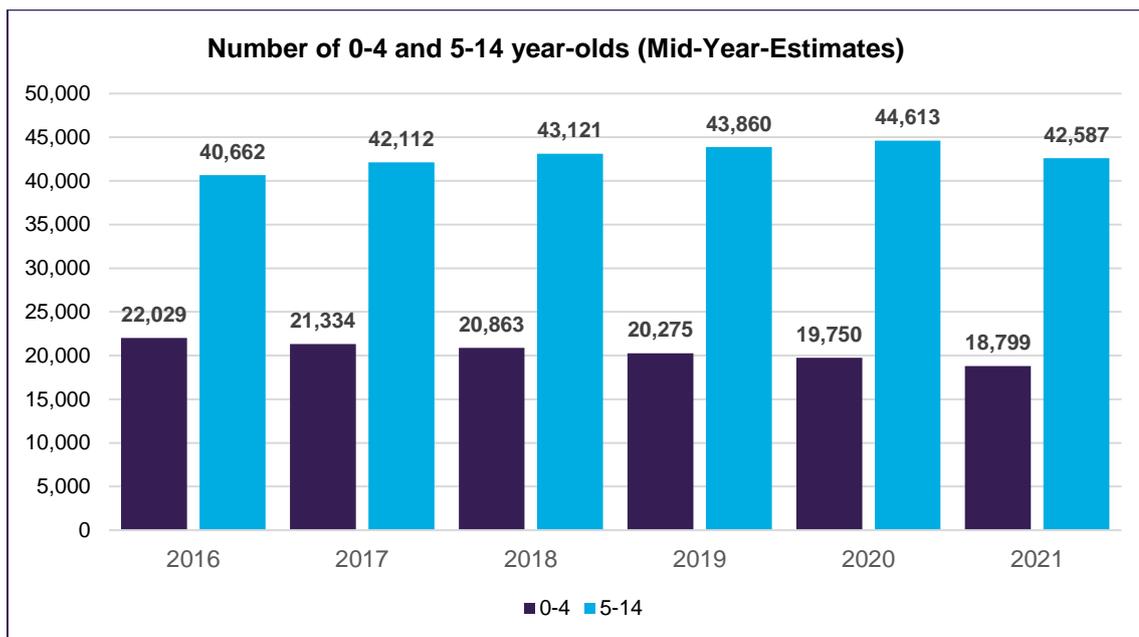
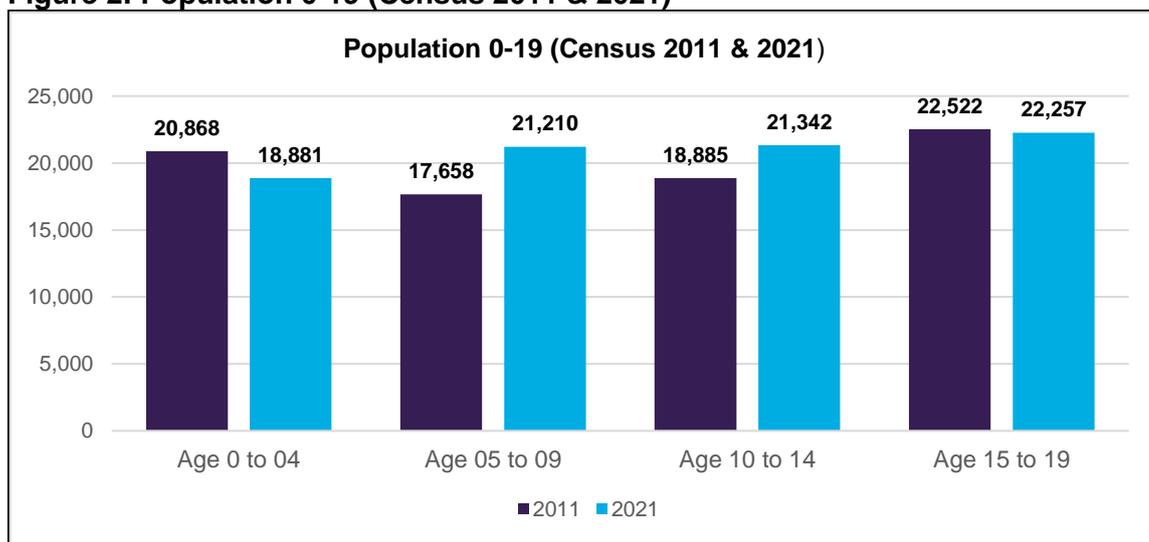


Figure 2: Population 0-19 (Census 2011 & 2021)

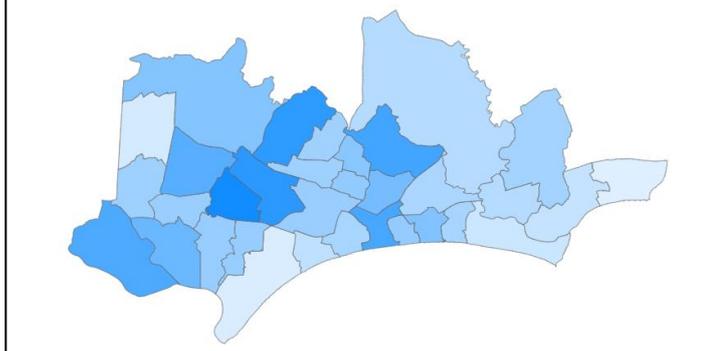


The BCP area has seen an increase in the total population (0.8%) in the last 12 months (Mid-year estimates). The census has shown an **increase of 5.6% in the total population of BCP** over the last 10 years (2011-2021). The South West total population has seen a growth of 7.8% 2011-2021 and the England figure shows an increase of 6.5% for the same time period. The latest 2021 mid-year estimate population figure show there are **18,799 0–4-year-olds** in the BCP area, and **42,587 5–14-year-olds**. Note figures for 2022 mid-year estimates will be available late 2023.

The following maps shows the distribution of 0–4-year-olds and 5–14-year-olds by ward. The darker colour the ward, the higher number of 0–4/5-14-year-olds.

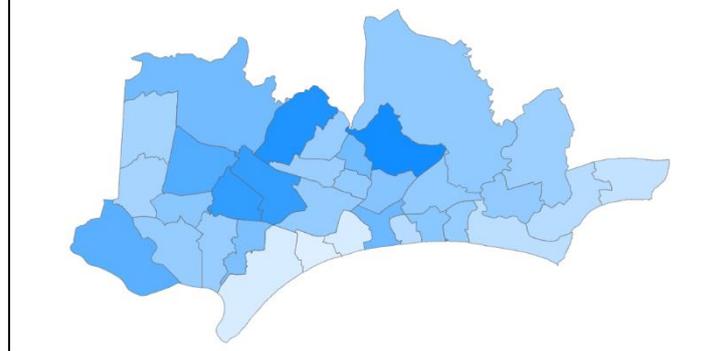
Map 1: 0-4 Population by ward

0-4 Population by Ward (2021 Census)



Map 2: 5-14 Population by ward

5-14 Population by Ward (2021 Census)



There is a **fall of 951 0-4-year-olds since the 2020 figure** (2020-2021 mid-year estimates). In the last 10 years (Census 2011-2021) this age group has seen a **fall by 10.5% 2011-2021**. **0-2-year-olds have fallen by 200 children and 3-4-year-olds fallen by 750 children** comparing the 2020 and 2021 mid-year estimates. The 2021 Census data show wards with the highest population of 0-4-year-olds are Newtown & Heatherlands (1,078), Alderney & Bourne Valley (973) and Kinson (963) Wards with the fewest number of 0-4-year-olds are Highcliffe & Walkford (250), Canford Cliffs (269) and Broadstone (289).

Table 2: Population 0-14 (Census 2021)

	0-4-year-olds	5-14-year-olds		0-4-year-olds	5-14-year-olds
Alderney & Bourne Valley	973	2,084	Littledown & Iford	462	1,223
Bearwood & Merley	614	1,513	Moordown	591	1,520
Boscombe East & Pokesdown	623	1,299	Mudford, Stanpit & West Highcliffe	352	886
Boscombe West	549	882	Muscliff & Strouden Park	879	2,409
Bournemouth Central	465	578	Newtown & Heatherlands	1,078	2,110
Broadstone	289	1,041	Oakdale	529	1,284
Burton & Grange	485	1,113	Parkstone	532	1,172
Canford Cliffs	269	584	Penn Hill	532	1,420
Canford Heath	789	1,809	Poole Town	717	1,185
Christchurch Town	416	1,205	Queen's Park	671	1,344
Commons	414	1,228	Redhill & Northbourne	495	1,174
Creekmoor	503	1,035	Talbot & Branksome Woods	528	1,193
East Cliff & Springbourne	857	1,559	Wallisdown & Winton West	505	1,159
East Southbourne & Tuckton	326	822	West Southbourne	470	1,184
Hamworthy	833	1,738	Westbourne & West Cliff	374	520
Highcliffe & Walkford	250	766	Winton East	556	1,219
Kinson	963	2,280	Total	18,889	42,538

The number of **5-14-year-olds has fallen by over 2,000** 2020-2021 (mid-year estimates), however according to the 2021 Census the number of **5-14-year-olds has increased by 16.5% (6,009) 2011-2021**. Wards showing the greatest number of 5-14-year-olds⁶ can be found in Muscliff & Strouden Park (2,409), Kinson (2,280) and Newtown & Heatherlands (2,110).

⁶ 2021 Census

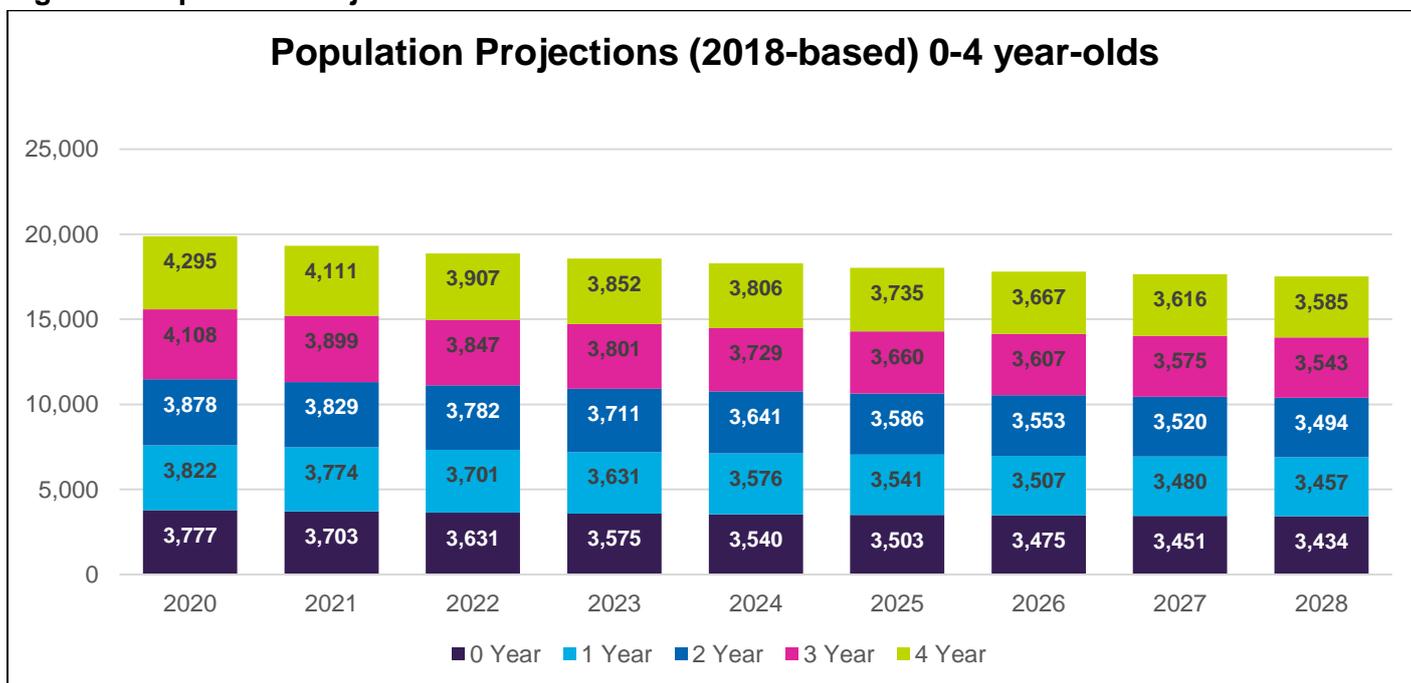
Population Projections

The latest population projections (2018-based) were published in March 2020. The next sub-national set of population projections from ONS will be 2021-based using the Census results however it is anticipated that these will not be released until early 2024, therefore the 2018-based projections are the latest available locally.

<p>Projected birth rate Fall 1-2% per year</p>	<p>Projected 3–4-year-olds Year on Year Fall (1,500 by 2028)</p>	<p>Projected 5–9-year-olds Fall by 3,500 in next 10 years</p>	<p>Projected 10–14-year-olds to INCREASE By 7% (1,420) by 2028</p>
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- The total population across BCP is predicted to **increase by 7,827 (2%) in the 10 years to 2028**. Population growth in BCP is driven by the increase in those aged 65+; the number of **children aged 0-15 and the working age residents (16-64) are both projected to decrease**.
- The latest population projections show that the number of births in BCP Council is projected to fall by between 1% - 2% per year until 2028. This equates to an average fall of about 40 births per year.
- The population projections for 3 & 4-year-olds (all of which are eligible for at least 15 hours per week of council funded early years funded childcare) indicates a year-on-year fall.
- In the **10 years to 2028 the number of 3&4-year-olds is predicted to fall by 1,500 children (17%)**.
- The **number of 5-9-year-olds is set to decrease by around 3,500 children in the next 10 years** (2018-2028); however, the 10-14-year-old population is expected to increase by around 7% in the same period (1,420). This can be explained by a peak in birth rate for local children in 2012, gradually feeding through to secondary school age.

Figure 3: Population Projections



- According to the latest primary school forecast projections, between 2022/23 and 2027/28 the number of **Reception year pupils is forecast to fall by around 475 (13%)**, from around 3,647 to 3,172.

Figure 4: Reception year forecasts

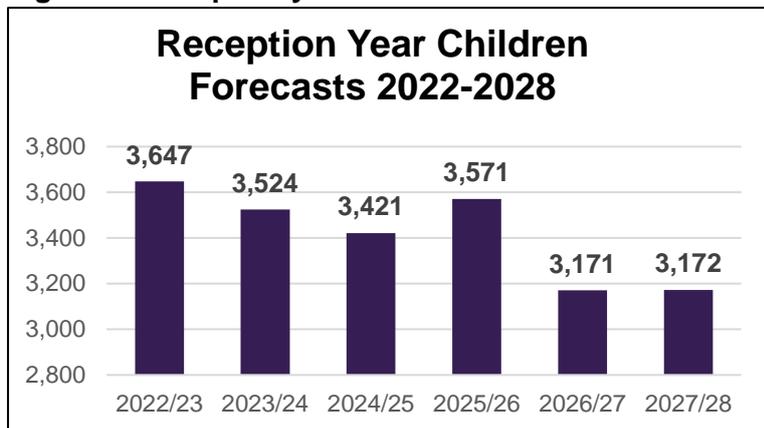


Table 3: Reception-year 6 forecasts

Forecast Year	Reception-Year 6
2022/23	27,842
2023/24	27,316
2024/25	26,770
2025/26	26,455
2026/27	25,725
2027/28	24,941

- Between 2022/23 and 2027/28 the overall number of primary school children (reception to year 6) is **forecast to fall by about 2,900 children (10.5%)** This follows an 18% increase between 2012/13 to 2019/20.
- Overall, the **0-4-year age group in BCP is projected to fall**. This may have an impact on the number of preschool, day nursery and childminder places which are sustainable.
- The number of **5-9-year-olds is set to fall by 3,500 children** in the next 10 years to 2028. The **10-14-year-old population is expected to increase** by around 7% in the same period (1,420).

Childcare Provision

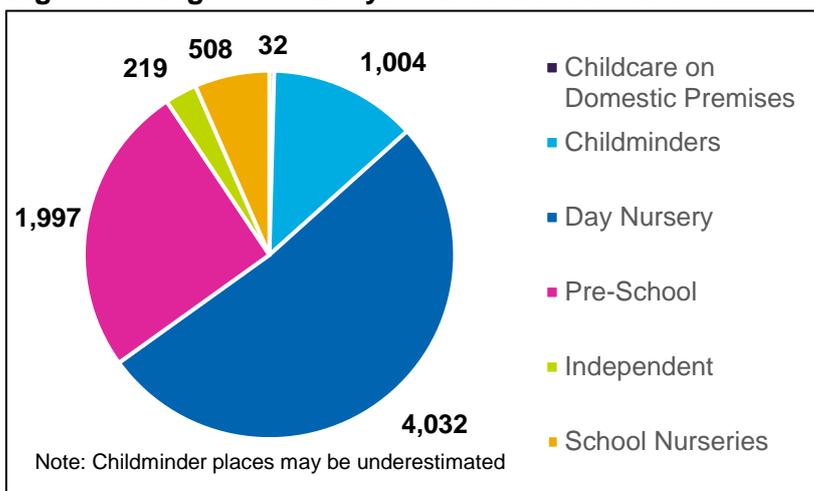
307 registered childcare providers offering maximum **7,792** places

Active registered **childminders** have **fallen by 34** in the last 2 years

Day Nursery and Pre School places have **fallen** since the 2022 analysis

There is a total of **307** childcare providers in the BCP Council area, offering a maximum of **7,792** places⁷. This is a fall of 13 providers overall since summer 2022, 12 of which were childminders. Overall, there are 34 fewer childminders than 2 years ago. 52% (4,032) of places are in Day Nursery settings, 26% (1,997) of places are in Pre School settings and 13% (1,004) of places are at Childminders. There are 219 Independent Nursery setting places and 508 places at School Nurseries.

Figure 5: Registered Early Years Childcare Places



⁷ Note that data is at 31 August 2023, this can fluctuate throughout the year with provision closing and new providers opening. Some settings may also change their status type thus affecting the individual provider type figures. Comparisons are made with September 2022 figures to show consistency.

Changes 2022-2023

- Overall, the number of places has **fallen by 222** in the last 12 months.
- **Pre-school places** have **fallen by 16** overall. There have been 40 new places, however 56 places have closed.
- **Day nursery places** have seen the largest fall, with a total of **84 fewer places** than last year. 196 new places opened, however 280 places closed.
- There were **22 fewer childminders 2021-2022** and a further **12 fewer childminders 2022-2023** (a total of 34 fewer childminders since 2021). This has resulted in **58 fewer childminder places in the last 12 months.**
- **School Nurseries** have seen a **fall of 64 places.**
- **Alderney & Bourne Valley** ward has seen the greatest fall in places (**net -119**).
- **Canford Heath** has seen the greatest increase in places (**net +58**).
- **There are now childminders places in Boscombe West, but none in Canford Cliffs**

- There are registered childcare places in all wards in BCP Council; however, there is **no childminder** provision in **Canford Cliffs** and **no day nurseries** operating in **Mudford, Stanpit & West Highcliffe**. There are **no pre school** settings in **Boscombe West, Parkstone, Penn Hill or Poole Town**.
- Wards which have the **highest number** of group and childminder registered places are **Canford Heath** ward (489), **Talbot & Branksome Woods** ward (412) and **Poole Town** ward (400).
- **Fewest registered places** are in the wards of **Highcliffe & Walkford** (83) and **Mudford, Stanpit & West Highcliffe** (94).
- 5% of early years' settings and childminders open before 7am. A further 27 (10%) open before 7.30am. **Only 6% of settings and childminders (15) open after 6pm.**

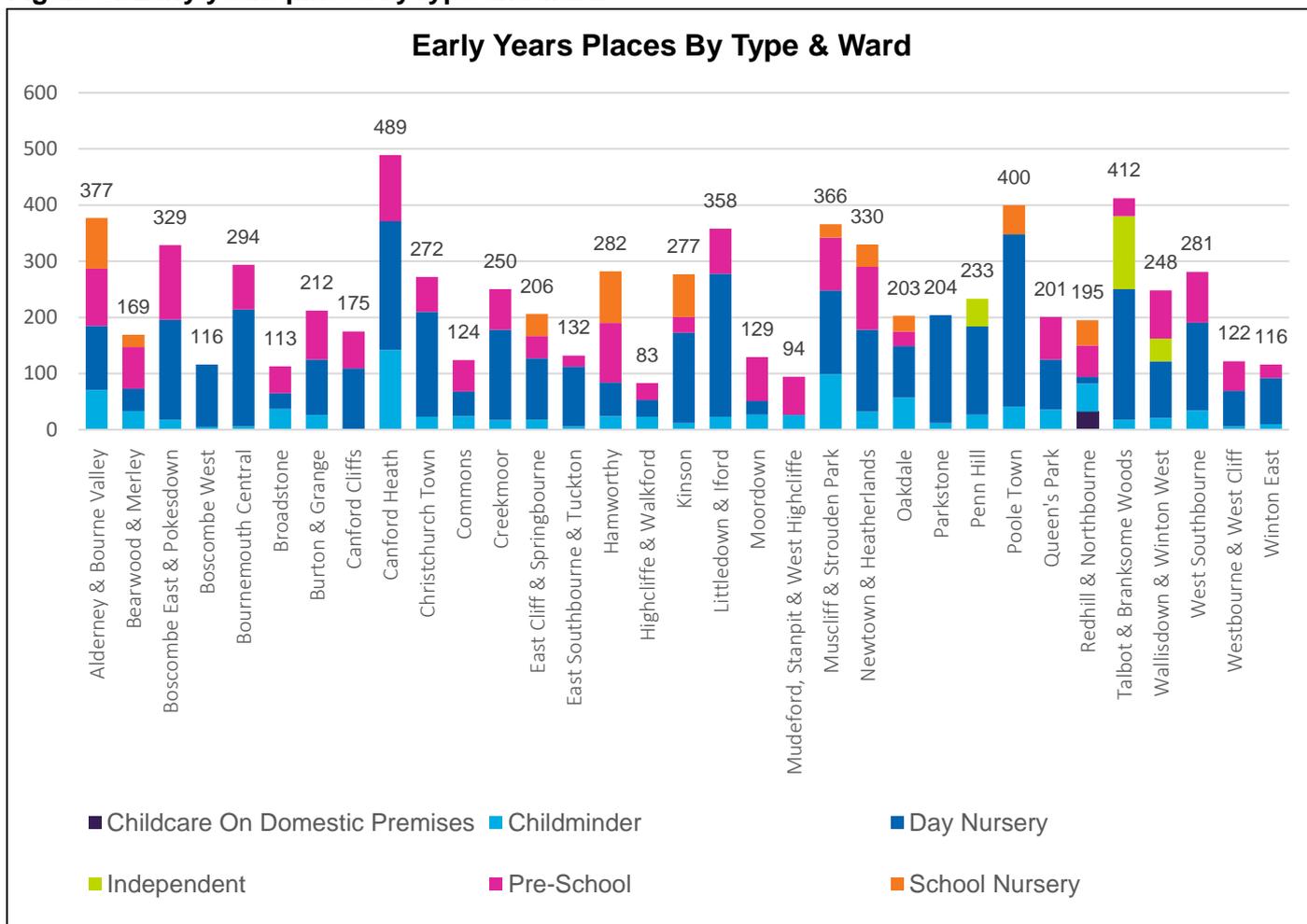
The latest **occupancy figures** available are for July 2023 (response rate 73%). In summary...

Occupancy rates at **childminders was 90%**

Occupancy rates at **PVI settings was 89%**

Occupancy rates at **school nursery settings was 86%**

Figure 6: Early years places by type and ward



Population 0-4-Year-Olds and Registered Early Years Places 2019-2023

The number of registered early years places has fallen over the last 4 years. In 2019 there were a total of 8,704 childminder and group setting registered places. This has fallen to 7,792 in 2023. However, the population of 0-4-year-olds have also fallen in this time period. Mid-year estimates 2019 figure reports 20,275 0–4-year-olds, the 2020 figures report 19,750 children aged 0-4 and the latest 2021 mid-year estimates report 18,799 0–4-year-olds. 0-4 population data shows a year-on-year fall (2020-2021) of 5% and early years places an overall decrease of 2022-2023.

97% of childminders, preschools and day nursery settings have signed up for **tax-free childcare**. This is the same as the summer 2022 figure.

In the last 12 months, Day Nursery sign up has fallen slightly to 99%, Childminders has stayed at 96% and Pre School settings have increased by 2% to 98% This will increase their attractiveness to parents possible seeking provision for the first time.

The number of families who have used tax free accounts between 2022-23 has **increased** by **26%** in England, **27%** in the South West and **26% in BCP** (4,280).

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

97% of SEND children are attending a 'good or outstanding' early years setting

Early Years children that receive additional SEND support has **increased to 441** in summer 2023

Secondary school children who have received additional SEN support **increased by 10.1%** to 3,521

In Summer 2023, **441** children were recorded as receiving additional SEND Support. This is an increase of **15.7%** (381 in Summer 2022) in the last 12 months. **60** Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) were issued in the Early Years sector, 15 fewer than in summer 2022. SEND support for 2-year-olds and 3&4-year-olds has continually increased. A survey of providers in June 2023 indicates over **100 vacancies** at that time for SEND children with higher needs.

In January 2023 the schools census recorded **968 EHCPs for primary schools** and **1,015 for secondary schools**. A total of **7,097** primary and secondary school children received SEN support, **419 extra children** than in January 2022.

Table 4: SEN(D) support in early years settings and schools

Term	EHCP	SEND support 2-year-olds	SEND support 3&4-year-olds	Year	EHCP Primary school	EHCP Secondary school	SEN support Primary school	SEN support Secondary school
Summer 2023	60	75	366	Jan 2023	968	1,015	3,576	3,521
Summer 2022	75	55	326	Jan 2022	942	937	3,480	3,198
Summer 2021	76	35	266	Jan 2021	834	798	3,502	2,956

Quality of Provision

The percentage of P&V* settings who have a quality rating of "good" or "outstanding" has **fallen**

99% childminders have a quality rating of "good" or "outstanding"

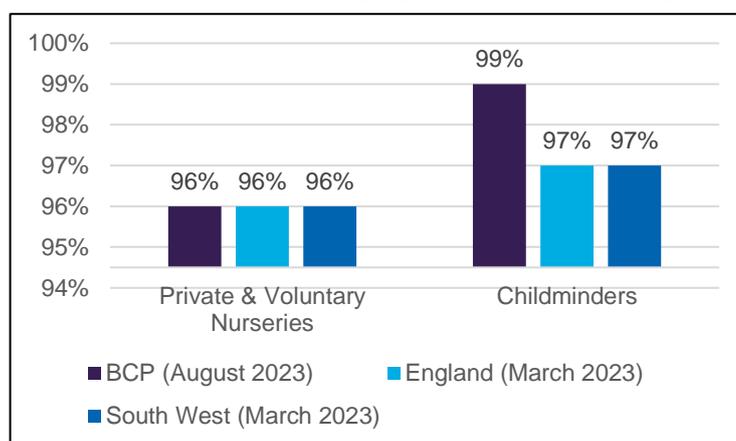
The % of P&V* settings and childminders with a rating of 'good' or 'outstanding' in BCP is **the same** as the National average

* P&V – Private and Voluntary

96% of private and voluntary settings have a quality rating of 'good' or 'outstanding' (those with an Ofsted rating), compared to 100% in 2022.

- **99% of childminders** in the Local Authority have a quality rating of 'good' or 'outstanding'
- **BCP figures are the same as the national and regional averages** for P&V settings but **above for childminders**.
- BCP has around 16 group providers and childminders operating 'awaiting their first inspection', compared to 39 in 2022.
- Providers of care for school age children do not need to be inspected by Ofsted, although provision at some schools is considered within the full school inspection. The latest quality data at schools (where we have data) show **89% school-based**

Figure 7: Ofsted rating 'good or outstanding'



89% school-based

breakfast clubs and ALL school-based after school clubs have an Ofsted rating of 'good 'or outstanding'.

Fees Charged

The average price per hour is

£6.36 at a day nursery

£5.58 at a pre-school

£5.26 at a childminder

- Average prices per hour across all setting types have increased from £5.22 to £5.46 per hour (summer 2022-summer 2023). This is an **increase of 4.6% in the last 12 months** and 7.5% in the last 2 years.
- **Prices have increased by over 10% across all setting types 2019-2023.**
- The most significant increase has been amongst day nursery settings with an average increase of 82 pence (15%) per hour since 2019.
- The average price per hour at a day nursery is £6.36. **The most expensive settings are in Parkstone ward and East Southbourne & Tuckton ward.**
- Charges at pre-schools average at £5.58 per hour. This is 27 pence more per hour than reported in 2022. **The most expensive pre-school is in Newtown & Heatherlands ward Muscliff & Strouden Park ward.**
- The average price per hour at a childminder is £5.26, again a 15% increase since 2019.

The average price of 25 hours per week childcare for 3&4 year-olds (paying for 10 additional hours above the Universal Entitlement)

£59.83 ENGLAND

£52.91 SOUTH WEST

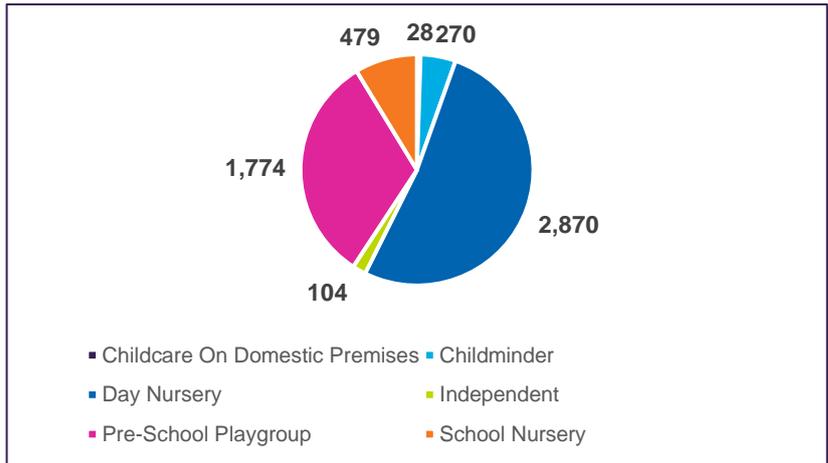
£56.32 BCP

Funded Early Education for Two-,Three-and Four-Year-Olds

BCP funded **770 2-year-old children** accessing FEE in summer 2023. This was 93% of eligible 2-year-olds. **5,525 3&4-year-olds** took some FEE in PVI settings, childminders and school nursery classes in summer 2021. **2,988** 3&4-year-olds also accessed some **Extended Entitlement**.

Every ward in BCP Council has at least one type of childcare provider offering 2, 3&4- year-old funded childcare.

Figure 8: Take Up of 3 & 4-year-olds FEE by setting type



- **BCP funded 770 2-year-old children** in summer term 2023. It is estimated this captures approximately 93% of eligible children, and officially **ranks BCP Council number one in the south west region of Councils.** (Summer 2002 recorded 89% of eligible children accessing FEE.)
- Nationally 74% of 2- year-olds are benefiting from funded early years provision, and the South West figure shows 78%.
- 41% of 2-year-old children are accessing funded early education in the ward in which they live.
- **BCP funded 5,525 3&4-year-olds** in the summer term 2023. This has fallen compared to 5,737 in 2022, likely due to a fall in the age co-hort.
- 41% of 3&4-year-old children are accessing funded early education in the ward in which they live (BCP children).
- According to the nationally produced data 'Education Provision Children under 5 years of age 2023 (DfE)' **Nationally 94% of 3&4-year-olds are benefiting from funded early years provision.** The South West figure shows a 96% take up, compared to 91% in BCP.
- **In summer 2023 there were 2,988 children accessing extended entitlement in BCP settings (54%).** This is an increase on the 49% reported in Summer 2022.
- 52 % of Funded Early Education for 3&4-year-olds was taken at Day Nursery Settings.
- 96% of children are accessing their Funded Early Education at a setting rated as 'good or outstanding'.

Forthcoming changes to the early education and childcare funding entitlements (2024-2025)

The DfE are projecting an overall estimated total of 1,600 2-year-olds of working families for the new 15hrs per week expanded entitlements from April 2024 and Children's Services is **confident this demand can be met.**

More challenging, with a projected estimation of 1,400 9-month-old's of working families, is a current forecast **shortfall of places for 300-500** eligible 9-month-old children from September 2024.

There is a **50% increase** anticipated in parental claims for government funded early education from September 2024.

In the spring budget of 2023, the Chancellor announced that funded childcare hours would be extended to children of eligible working parents in England from nine months old to support increased parental engagement in the labour market.

The current system...

provides 15 hours of funded early education to three and four-year-olds per week for 38 weeks of the year, and a further 15 hours to those of the same age whose parents meet income eligibility criteria (known as 30 hours). 15 hours a week over 38 weeks of the year are also available to disadvantaged children aged two.

The measures announced will...

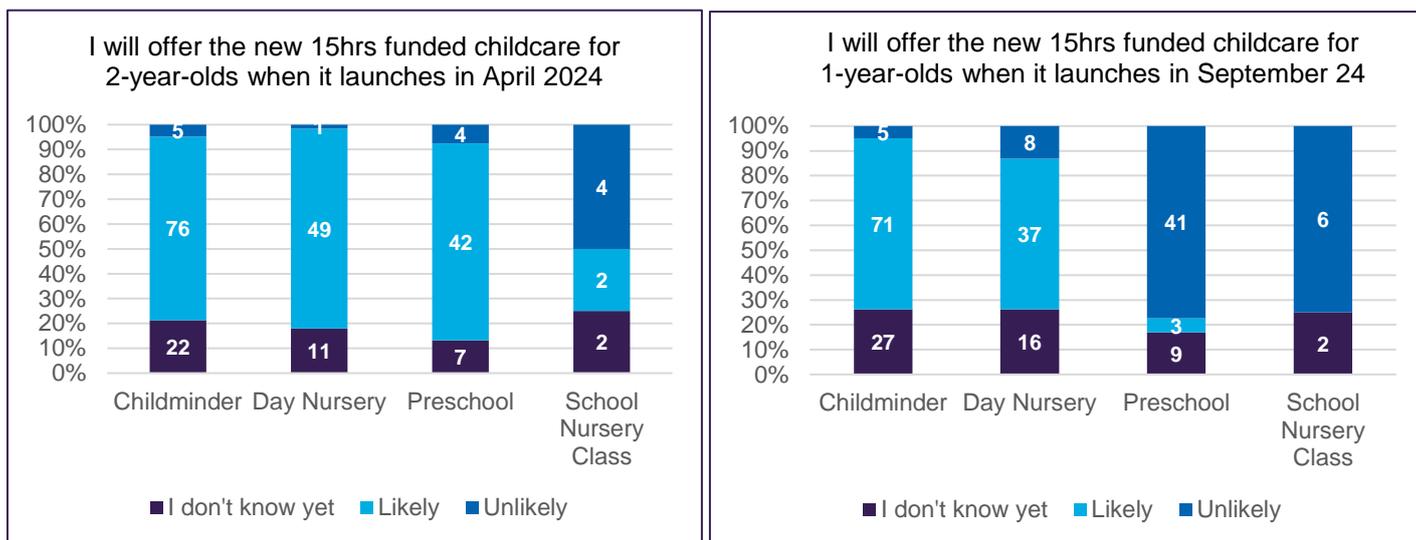
expand the existing system by offering up to 30 funded hours of childcare per week over 38 weeks of the year to children aged nine months and over whose parents meet the same income eligibility criteria as applied to the existing 30 hours entitlement for three and four-year-olds.

The new Free Early Education Entitlements are to be introduced in phases:

- from April 2024, all working parents of two-year-olds will be able to access 15 hours per week (38 weeks a year);
- from September 2024, all working parents of children aged 9 months up to three-years-old will be able to access 15 hours per week;
- from September 2025, all *eligible working parents of children aged nine months up to three-years-old will be able to access 30 hours free childcare per week.

In response to these forthcoming changes, BCP Council sent out a survey to all early education and childcare providers to share their current position and views on the changes to the early education and childcare funding entitlements from 2024. The responses to this survey along with comments have been analysed separately to this report, but available [here](#).

Figure 10: Providers who said they would offer funded childcare for 1-year-olds/2-year-olds



To ensure the DfE’s ambitions are met there will be government funds made available for local capital projects to ensure the council can meet its statutory duty to provide enough childcare places for working families. The capital funding amount and the terms of receipt have not been released to the council at the time of writing.

When this information is made available, the council will survey all early year’s providers and childminders to acquire an update to the June 2023 survey and willingness to engage with the new entitlements, but also to ask about any ability to expand physical spaces. Children’s Services have liaised with the council’s planning department to brief the team on these changes and the likelihood of planning applications from the sector, which may require to be expedited in order to fulfil statutory duties.

In summer 2023 the DfE supplied all councils with rudimentary data regarding a forecast number of children expected to utilise the expanded entitlements. In January 2024 the DfE intend to share with Local Authorities refined childcare sufficiency data at a ward level. This information should be shared with all providers to enable a proportion of self-serving, in conjunction with this briefing and the data set underlying it, when considering expansion, new build or acquiring other businesses in certain areas of the conurbation.

Significant work will be required over the next two years to ensure the conurbation has sufficient childcare places for children of working families aged 9 months to 36 months from September 2025, as at this stage the entitlement doubles to 30 hours per week.

Out of School Provision

In the PVI Sector there are

22 Breakfast Clubs &
40 After School Clubs

There are additional school-run clubs

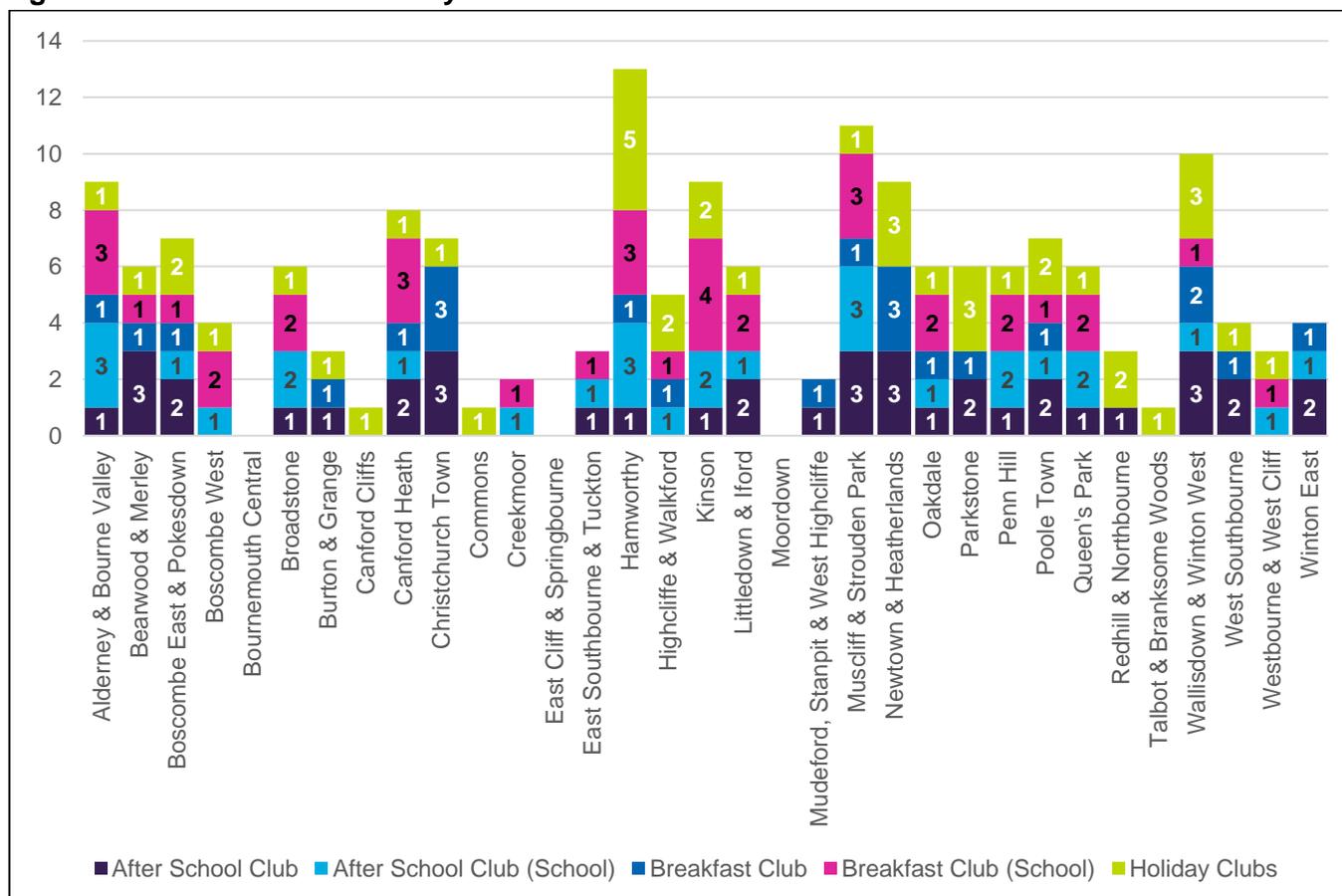
36 Breakfast Clubs &
29 After School Clubs

There are **41** Registered
Holiday Schemes

Throughout the Local Authority several providers, including schools, offer a variety of childcare services and activities outside of normal school hours which support working families. The Local Authority continues to encourage schools to offer wrap around childcare services 8am-6pm where possible to support working families. This is of increasing importance as working families take advantage of 30 hours of funded early education requiring out of school care for other children in the household between 8am and 6pm

- Overall, there are 58 breakfast clubs and 69 after school clubs. There are also 41 registered holiday schemes.
- Childminders will continue to play an important role for older children in the area.
- 2022 reported no out of school provision in **Commons ward**, however a holiday playscheme has opened in May 2023 here. There is also now after school provision (PVI) in **East Southbourne & Tuckton ward**.
- Overall, the number of registered out-of-school provision has **increased by 7 in the last 12 months (after falling by 10 2021-2022)**. Registered holiday provision has **increased by 5**. Registered after school clubs in schools has **increased by 4**.
- **The greatest fall** in out-of-school provision is in Burton & Grange ward and Kinson ward. **Muscliff & Strouden Park ward** have seen 2 additional after school clubs open and **Redhill ward** have seen 2 new holiday clubs open.

Figure 9: Out of School Clubs by Ward



Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)

School holidays can be pressure points for families due to increased costs (such as food and childcare) and reduced incomes. For some children this can lead to a holiday experience gap - with children from disadvantaged families less likely to access organised out-of-school activities; and more likely to experience social isolation and 'unhealthy holidays' in terms of nutrition and physical health. BCP Council is in its **third year of running the HAF programme** for children eligible for free school meals.

In the Summer of 2023, **2,471 children** benefited from up to **150,000 hours of free activities** and nearly **40,000 nutritious meals**.

400 children identified with SEND were engaged with the programme.

Expansion of Wraparound Care Places

In March 2023 the government set out its ambition that, by September 2026, all councils must ensure parents of primary school aged children have access to an affordable term-time wraparound place between 8am and 6pm, if needed.

Wraparound childcare is funded solely through private fees and parents are able to meet some of the cost of a breakfast or afterschool club through benefits, such as Tax-free childcare and Universal Credit.

The DfE will supply schools and providers with guidance on their ambition **in January 2024**.

To support the expansion of places the council will receive capital funding and a Wraparound Care Programme Delivery Fund. The purpose of this grant may include dispersal of funding to schools and childcare providers (including childminders) to contribute to start up/expansion and running costs, or used to cover costs including staffing, training, and transport costs such as minibus hire, as well as resources. It can also be used to contribute to running costs whilst demand builds, to remove any financial risk to providers of offering additional places before demand is guaranteed. Funding can also be used to pay for training for wraparound staff, including specialist training for staff to ensure they feel equipped to support children with additional needs.

The current wraparound childcare sufficiency position in the Council is positive, however work is needed to ensure the clubs are operational between 8am and 6pm and that childcare is provided as opposed to access to activities which generally end around 4.30pm. Work with schools and PVI's is required to ensure that any expanded offer will remain sustainable beyond the life of the funding.

Work is also required with regard to understanding wraparound offers in place in special schools and ensuring appropriate arrangements are in place to support working families of children with SEND, which has always been a local and national challenge.

As with Early Years, the private, voluntary and independent sector delivers a large part of the existing wraparound childcare offer. Similar to the early years sector, a survey is required for all schools and private providers to more thoroughly understand their take-up and understand any barriers they are facing to expand their offer (staffing, transport etc). This is intended to be issued in December. The information received will help to inform the council of areas that may have insufficient places. If building expansion is required, we can consider this under the capital grant funding, due to be announced.

All schools and private wraparound providers will be kept informed of any developments in this area.

Glossary of Terms

BCP	Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (Council)
DfE	Department for Education
EHCP	Education Health Care Plan
FEE	Funded Early Education
HAF	Holiday Activities and Food Programme
IMD	Index of Multiple Deprivation
LSOA	Lower Super Output Area
OfSTED	Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills
PVI	Private, Voluntary and Independent Early Years Settings
P&V	Private and Voluntary Early Years Settings

Further information

For further information regarding this report please contact the [Research & Consultation Team, BCP Council](#)