

# **Thurrock Childcare Sufficiency Annual Assessment 2015**

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## **Executive summary**

Previous Childcare Sufficiency Assessments were completed every three years. Statutory guidance has been revised so assessments are now annual which enables us to monitor trends more closely.

The results in the National Census 2011 show the population of children aged 0 – 4 years in Thurrock had risen by 20.0%, almost 7% higher than England and 8% higher than the East of England and compared to our statistical neighbours we had the second highest increase in 0-4 year old population. This represents an ongoing and significant challenge for Thurrock.

There are currently 180 providers in Thurrock offering 8995 early education and childcare places. Since 2014 there has been an increase of 1173 early education and childcare places, a significant part of this increase in places can be attributed to the increase in childminders delivering an additional 328 early education places.

Analysis of early education place data as of Spring 2015 shows there was an adequate supply across the Borough (1723 places available) with individual ward pressures impacting on the relatively low percentage of 10% of parents citing place availability as a concern.

This assessment predicts that in September 2016, we will have a surplus of 3175 places across the borough for *early education* and for 2017 see a decreasing surplus of 2987 places *for early education alone* – recognition has to be given to challenging ward pressures as detailed towards the end of the report.

However, these figures do not take into account how providers use these surplus 3175 places in their private business for fee paying places, which fluctuates daily according to demand. Fee paying places are difficult to predict as they are business decisions made by providers but they have an impact on the analysis of the sufficiency of early education places and so fee paying returns are monitored on a termly basis.

Thurrock's take up of three and four year old early education entitlement is 96% compared to a 96 % national take up. Increasing demand for places will follow from Thurrock's continued promotion of, the benefits of early education to parents.

Whilst, therefore, early education place availability is currently sufficient across the borough albeit with individual ward pressures, projections based on data supplied by the Department for Education show there are future pressures on meeting demand for early education when the impact of an increasing birth rate and anticipated housing development materialises.

In addition, the increased provision for two year olds who are eligible through strictly applied criteria, (see appendix one) has added to the requirement to meet the demand for early education places. The target for places as at end of March 2015 was 1003 which was satisfied by the development of 1150 places this is above target, with a total of 727 children placed in the Spring Term 2015. The target places

currently moves just above or just below 1000 places and is mainly dependent on 2 year olds from the bottom 40% low income households, notified to the council by the Department for Work and Pensions on a quarterly basis.

Analysis of this data contained within this report has formed key priorities for the development of early education & childcare places to meet demand and these are detailed at the end of the report.

Whilst Childcare costs in Thurrock are reported to be lower than England (Source: Family & Childcare Trust) 17% of parents in Thurrock stated they struggled to afford their childcare costs.

Significantly, the take up of the childcare element of Working Tax Credit has increased within Thurrock by +0.5%, set against England's decrease of 2.9%. This is positive for Thurrock. The continued promotion of Working Tax Credits is the key to supporting working families to facilitate their children's access to early education and childcare.

The provisional Early Years Foundation Stage data for Thurrock shows a further rise in pupils achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD) from the previous two years. Performance was already 6% higher than the national average in 2014 and it looks like this has increased to 7% in 2015 based on data collected from 150 Local Authorities. 30 out of the 39 primary schools in Thurrock are at or above the national estimate for 2015.

There was a significant improvement in GLD performance for boys in 2014 which has been maintained in 2015 with a further 5% rise. Performance for girls has also improved, by 8% in 2015, with GLD results for both genders likely to remain significantly higher than the national average.

The small gap between Thurrock and national for the Average Total Point Score (ATPS) looks to have been closed in 2015 with provisional data indicating a score of 34.3 which is a 0.6 point increase for Thurrock.

The Inequality Gap, which measures the percentage gap in achievement between the lowest 20% of achieving children (mean score) and the median score for all children, continues to reduce. In Thurrock the gap has decreased by 0.9% from 28.8% in 2014 to 27.9% in 2015. The gap to national was -5.1% in 2014 so it is likely that Thurrock will remain lower than national this year.

The national measure at the end of EYFS for Good Level of development (GLD) in 2013 was 52%, compared to Thurrock GLD 53%. Since then Thurrock has continued to outperform national statistics by 6% in 2014 and 7% in 2015. Current national; GLD is 66% and Thurrock is 73%.

Whilst there are challenges in terms of delivering a sustainable market combining early education and fee paying places that meet the needs of working parents so Thurrock parents can take advantage of the regeneration opportunities in Thurrock,

there is much to celebrate in terms of Thurrock's achievements on the quality and affordability of childcare.

## Introduction

The production of a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment -by all local authorities\_ is a statutory duty set out in the Childcare Act 2006. The assessment compares the demand for types of local childcare with its availability. It looks at the supply of childcare and aims to secure early education places offering 570 hours a year over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year for every three and four year old child in their area until the child reaches compulsory school age (the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday). Local authorities now have a further duty to provide 2 year old early education places for those children who are eligible.

The provision of early education and childcare guidance from the Department for Education September 2014 lays out the statutory duty to English local authorities, their duties under sections 6, 7, 7a, 9a, 12 and 13 of the Childcare Act 2006. This guidance refers to 'early years provision free of charge' as 'early education, and includes the extension of the early education entitlement for 2-year-olds.

The guidance states 'Local authorities **must** have regard to this guidance when seeking to discharge their duties under sections 6, 7, 7a, 9a, 12 and 13 of the Childcare Act 2006. They **should not** depart from it unless they have good reason to do so'.

This guidance refers to the Childcare Act 2006, specifically:

Section 6: places a duty on English local authorities to secure sufficient childcare for working parents.

Section 7 (as substituted by section 1 of the Education Act 2011, fully in force from 1 September 2013), which places a duty on English local authorities to secure early years provision free of charge. Regulations made under section 7 set out the type and amount of free provision and the children who benefit from the free provision.

Section 7a (as inserted by the Children and Families Act 2014) Regulation made under section 7a makes provision about how local authorities should discharge their duty under section 7

Section 9a (as inserted by the Children and Families Act 2014) Regulations made under section 9a limit the requirements local authorities can impose when they make arrangements to deliver early education places for two, three and four year olds.

Section 12: places a duty on English local authorities to provide information, advice and assistance to parents and prospective parents.

Section 13: places a duty on English local authorities to provide information, advice and training to childcare providers.

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2015 takes into account amendments to the 2013 statutory guidance. New elements are included relating to early education for

two-year-olds from lower income families and the provision of information and changes to the welfare benefits system.

The Assessment supports the Vision for Thurrock Council and its 5 priorities:

- create a great place for learning and opportunity
- encourage and promote job creation and economic prosperity
- build pride, responsibility and respect to create safer communities
- improve health and well-being
- protect and promote our clean and green environment

## **Methodology**

This assessment takes into account previous years' surveys, the introduction of Early Years Pupil Premium, Thurrock Code of Practice revision, Guaranteed Places for 2 year old work, and the introduction of future electronic data collection systems which will streamline data collection particularly from childcare providers and parents/carers and support this work going forward.

### **Parental Demand Survey**

200 parents were consulted in September and October 2013 on the subject of childcare within Thurrock via a face-to-face interview at a childcare provision in Thurrock. A minimum of ten surveys were undertaken in each of Thurrock's 20 electoral wards. On analysing these responses it has become evident that not all parents lived or accessed their children's childcare in the ward that they completed the survey in; resulting in a variation of responses in each ward.

### **Childcare Provider Survey**

An electronic questionnaire was distributed in September and October 2013 to all Ofsted registered private, voluntary and independent Day Nurseries, Preschool's (PVI) and Out of school childcare providers located within Thurrock. The questionnaire focused on the changes in trends they have observed in the past year, the impact of early education provision for two-year-olds from lower income families, future priorities, sustainability and the changes introduced in the early education and childcare statutory guidance for local authorities published September 2013. 42 providers completed the surveys, along with an additional 13 childminders who supported with the delivery of early education at that time. We continue to work with childminders through mechanisms such as childminder forums, and regular termly network meetings held, that include support, training, development and education, recognising that the recruitment of childminders also provides opportunities for parents to 'get back' into work.

## **Underpinning rationale used with this report**

The early education and childcare market is a combination of early education places and fee paying places and of varying hours. Unlike school places, there is not a “one place, one child” rationale, early education and childcare providers manage their places within their overall registration number daily, so, to monitor this effectively, certain principles are applied:

Childcare places in this report are based on a maximum of 15 hour early education entitlement places. It should be noted that whilst this analysis shows the maximum number of 15 hour early education places that *could* possibly be available for the purposes of early education, it will not always be the case that this number *is* available. This is because providers may choose to use these places for additional fee paying hours/places outside of the early education offer, for example for working parents where 15 hours free early education is not sufficient and full day care is required, or when demand for early education places is low, for example at the start of the autumn term when many 3 & 4 year old children will have taken up places in nursery and reception classes. We have illustrated the impact of fee paying places in the report where possible as a snapshot in time (Spring 2015) but highlighted early education separately towards the end of the report (pages 33 and 34) to give a full analysis on early education entitlement.

It is also the case that the demand for early education for eligible 2 year old children has affected how providers allocate their places.

Reception class early education places have been calculated treating each child as one 15 hour place, allowing for progression into taking a full time place.

It is important to recognise that early education & childcare is not mandatory for children to attend; parents have a choice whether to use early education before their child reaches statutory school age. Statutory guidance places a duty on English local authorities to secure early education provision free of charge for every three and four year old child and eligible two year olds, so to monitor this on a termly basis, we analyse a providers funded early education returns *and* their non-funded returns (i.e. fee paying places) and apply an 85% take up rate as an indicator that demand for places could be a concern and there may be sufficiency issues to address.

The data sources used for future projections of early education places for 2015 are based on the ONS (Office for National Statistics) mid -2014 statistics -population by age and data supplied by DWP for February 2015 for eligible 2 year olds. The same DWP data has been used for the 2 year old projection for September 2016.

## **Supply of early education & childcare in Thurrock:**

The summary of early education & childcare in Thurrock displayed in Table 1 shows the different types of provision including a breakdown of places available and those providers who can deliver early education and childcare places

Table 1: Summary of early education & childcare in Thurrock.

	August 2013			Spring Term 2015			
Type of Provision	Total Number of Providers	**Total Ofsted Registered places per session	Early Education 15 Hour Places	Total Number of Providers	**Total Ofsted Registered places per session	Early Education 15 Hour Places	Loss/Gain places since last Assessment
*Entitlement Childminders (delivering 2yr old places in ( )	13	66	24	62	352	581	+557
Childminders, Other	187	863	0	126	627	0	0
Preschool	25	720	1185	26	816	1277	+92
Day Nursery	25	1264	2985	27	1531	3392	+407
School Nursery	22	1334	1334	25	722	1475	+141
School Reception Class	37	2294	2294	40	2270	2270	-24
Breakfast Prov	23	697	0	33 (179)	971**	-	+274
Afterschool Provision	21	635**	0	26 (179)	1262**	-	+627
Holiday Prov	15	541	0	17 (179)	968**	-	+427
	368	8414	7822	383 (188))	9519	8995	

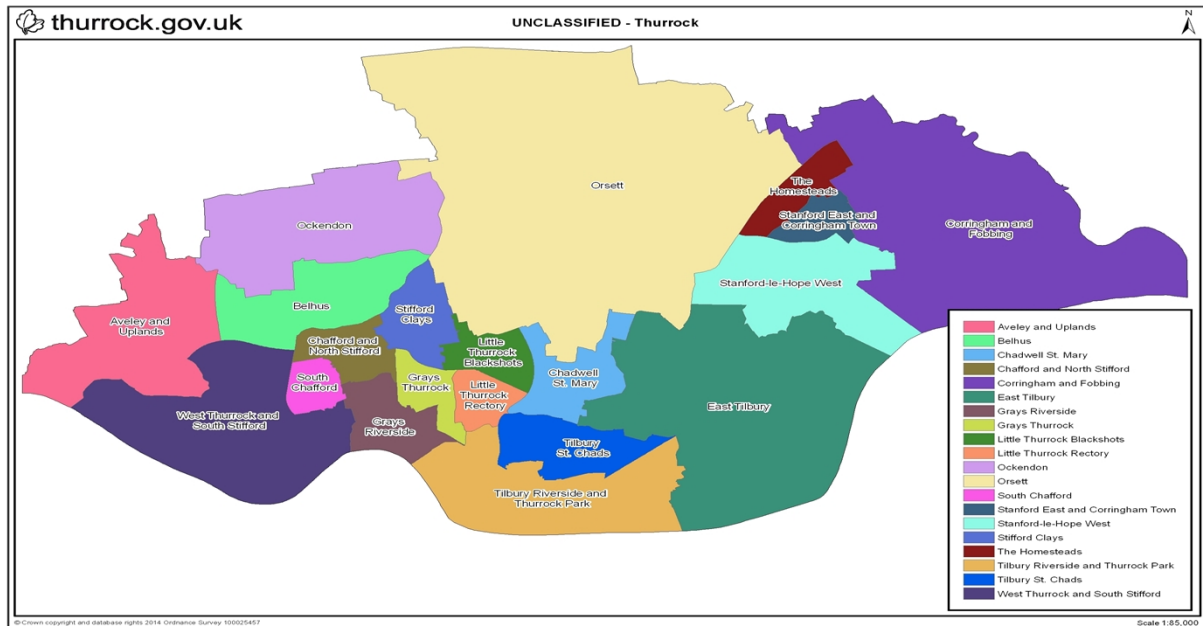
\*All Childminders can delivery early education for 3 & 4 year olds subject to signing the current Thurrock Code of Practice for the delivery of early education places.

A number of childminders have yet to sign the agreement. Ofsted rated "Good" or "Outstanding" Childminders are able to deliver eligible 2 year old entitlement places in addition, or in areas of deficit of places for eligible 2 year olds, childminders who are judged "Requires Improvement" may be permitted by the Local Authority to deliver places, who have a Focused Improvement Plan in place.

\*\* Childcare places for children aged 8 years and over, do not have to be registered with Ofsted.

To place into context where existing childcare is located in Thurrock the map on page 9 and Table 2, shows the breakdown of childcare opportunities by ward.





**Table 2: Types of early education & childcare provision by Ward (see map for wards)**  
 Childminder places (shown in brackets) for Breakfast, After School and Holiday Provision, School breakfast provision have also been included.

Wards	Breakfast Provision	After School Provision	Holiday Provision	Child-minders	Day Nursery	Pre-school	School Nursery	School Reception
Aveley & Uplands	3 (8)	1 (7)	1 (7)	8	1	2	1	2
Belhus	1 (10)	- (10)	- (10)	10	2	-	4	4
Chadwell St Mary	2 (7)	- (7)	1 (7)	7	3	1	-	2
Chafford North Stifford	1 (19)	1 (19)	1 (19)	19	1	1	1	1
Corringham & Fobbing	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	1	-	2	-	1
East Tilbury	1 (3)	1 (3)	1 (3)	3	1	1	1 <sup>^^</sup>	1
Grays Riverside	- (19)	1 (16)	0 (16)	19	3	1	2	2
Grays Thurrock	4 (13)	4 (13)	2 (13)	13	1	5	1	2
Little Thurrock Blackshots	2 (8)	2 (8)	1 (8)	8	-	1+	2 (inc1*)	3
Little Thurrock Rectory	2 (11)	2 (11)	2 (11)	11	1	1	1	1
Ockendon	2 (16)	1 (15)	1 (15)	16	2	2	2 (inc1*)	3
Orsett	1 (4)	1 (4)	0 (4)	5	0	2 <sup>***</sup>	-	3
South Chafford	3 (22)	3 (20)	2 (20)	22	2	0	2	2
Stanford East Corringham Town	2 (7)	1 (6)	0 (6)	7	-	4	1 <sup>**</sup>	4
Stanford le Hope West	2 (7)	2 (7)	2 (7)	7	4	1	1	2
Stifford Clays	1 (7)	1 (7)	0 (7)	7	-	1	1 <sup>**</sup>	1
The Homesteads	- (7)	- (7)	0 (7)	7	-	1	-	-
Tilbury Riverside Thurrock Park	1 (2)	1 (2)	1 (2)	2	1	-	2	2
Tilbury St Chads	2 (1)	2 (1)	1 (1)	1	2	-	1	2
West Thurrock & South Stifford	2 (15)	1 (15)	0 (15)	15	3	1	2	2
	33 (179)	26 (179)	17 (179)	188	27	26	25	40

\*Specific to disabled children

\*\*From May 2015 Schools with separate registered 1-3year old provision will be able to absorb the provision within the school nursery provision, without the need for separate registration. This has already been reflected in the above data.

\*\*\* Bulphan pre-school closed at the end of the Summer Term 2015 and has not been included in data

+ In addition an Out of school provider relocating from school site to premises where they can offer pre-school sessions combined with wrap around care before and after school

^^ East Tilbury Nursery Class closing Sept 2015

## Early Education Entitlement

Early education is available for all 3 and 4 year olds and for eligible 2 year olds for 15 hours a week or 570 hours “stretched” across the year (where offered by a provider). This can only be provided by Ofsted registered providers, including maintained and independent schools, all of whom deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage.

There are 112 early education & childcare providers in Thurrock, made up of 62 childminders who are able to deliver early education places, 53 private, voluntary (or charitable) independent organisations, 25 school nursery, 3 local authority run settings, with a total capacity of 6725 places. This is in addition to 40 reception classes providing an additional 2270 places as at Spring Term 2015.

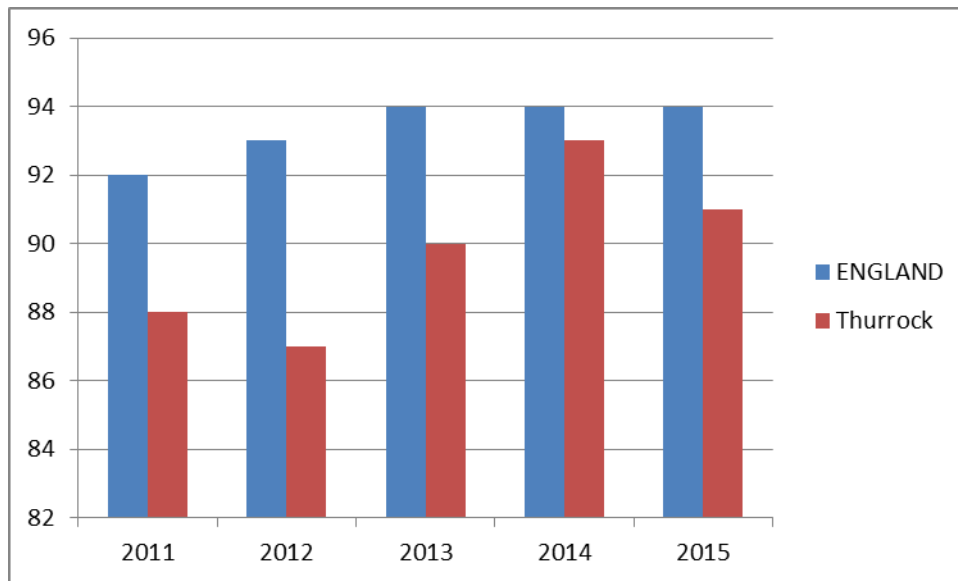
As previously noted, take up of early education & childcare fluctuates throughout the year but taking Spring 2015 data as a snapshot in time, it can be seen from table 1 on page 8, the total number of 15 hour early education and childcare places that were available for Spring 2015 was 8995 places.

There were 5964 eligible 2, 3 and 4 year olds in Thurrock, leaving a surplus supply of 3031 places. This surplus is reduced when you factor in the take up of 15 hour fee paying places.

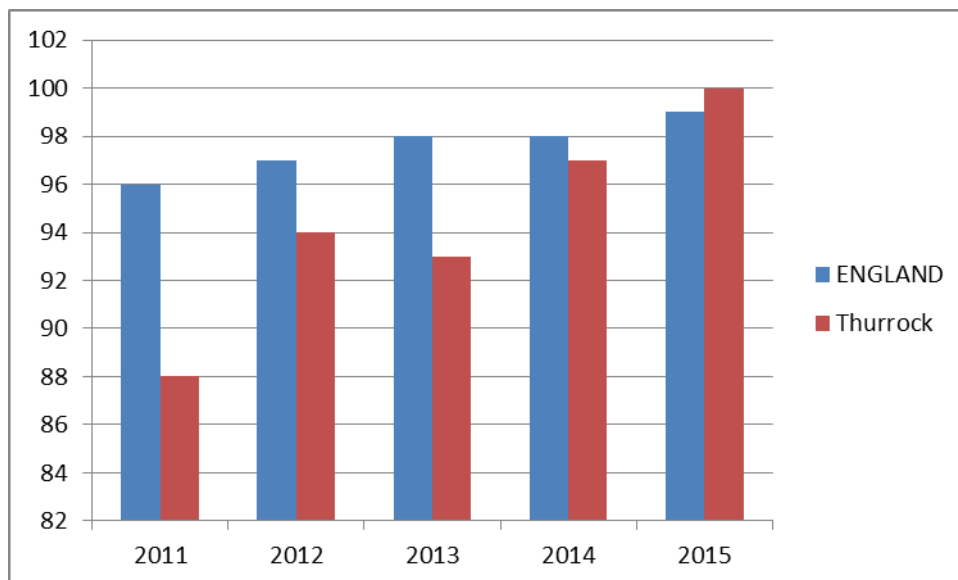
In Spring 2015 there was a total of 1308 fee paying places, therefore leaving an adequate supply of 1723 places for early education places *across* Thurrock *if* all eligible children accessed their early education entitlement.

Tables 3 and 4, shown on pages 12 and 13 details, this by ward.

However, we know from June 2015 Department for Education annual statistical release on the take up of provision of early education for children under five’s that not all eligible children in Thurrock take up their entitlement. This data is based on the Spring Early Years Census return released in January 2015 and shows 96% of three and four year olds are accessing funded early education in Thurrock, compared to 96% in England. The graphs below break this down by ages 3 and 4.



Percentage of three year olds accessing early education 2011– 2015



Percentage of four year olds accessing early education 2011 – 2014

There are a number of the reasons for the variation in the take up of three year olds as opposed to four year olds – in the survey a low percentage of parents (10%) cited lack of places as a concern. What this does indicate is individual ward pressures rather than across Borough pressures and we have detailed this later in the report and set recommendations accordingly. This includes working with parents and highlighting the benefits of early education to encourage take up.

Later in the report we provide projections for early education places. The projection of 1982 early education surplus places shown in table 35 available for September 2014 *does not* include any take up of fee paying places. This is because as previously stated, fee paying places fluctuate daily so projections show the maximum number of 15 hour early education places that *could* possibly be available for the purposes of early education, and it will not always be the case that this number *is* available. This is because providers in the PVI sector may choose to use these places for working parents requiring full day care or other additional fee paying

places. This may particularly be the case when demand for early education places is low, for example at the start of the autumn term when many 4 year old children will have taken up places in reception classes. It is also the case that the demand for early education for 2 year old children will also now affect how providers allocate surplus places.

The table below compares births (as based on data source ONS mid -2014 statistics - population by age and data supplied by DWP for eligible 2 year olds), with the numbers of 2, 3 and 4 year old children accessing early education as at Spring census 2015.

Some wards show higher take up than births in that ward and these additional children are attributed to migration into Thurrock, which of course will not be shown in birth data received from ONS as migration is fluid.

Table 3: 2, 3 and 4 year olds accessing early education against total eligible children

Ward	Eligible children				2, 3 and 4 year olds accessing				Number of eligible children NOT accessing early education
	2 year olds (DWP March 2015)	3 year olds (ONS Mid Term 2014)	4 year olds (ONS Mid Term 2014)	Total	2 year olds (at March 2015)	3 year olds (Spring Census 2015)	4 year olds (Spring census 2015)	Total	
Aveley & Uplands	42	140	124	306	31	102	107	240	66
Belhus	81	157	170	408	36	150	163	349	59
Chadwell St Mary	83	139	137	359	56	141	153	350	9
Chafford North Stifford	39	175	146	360	24	109	134	267	93
Corringham & Fobbing	11	43	50	104	13	48	57	118	-14*
East Tilbury	42	92	93	227	42	87	95	224	3
Grays Riverside	110	306	261	677	92	222	253	567	110
Grays Thurrock	51	132	111	294	39	110	116	265	29
Little Thurrock Blackshots	23	63	69	155	19	53	85	157	-2*
Little Thurrock Rectory	24	89	80	193	15	72	64	151	42
Ockendon	63	141	135	339	47	135	136	318	21
Orsett	7	78	70	155	7	55	53	115	40
South Chafford	31	160	163	354	33	116	143	292	62
Stanford East Corringham Town	32	99	94	225	26	91	98	215	10
Stanford le Hope West	22	76	76	174	21	84	66	171	3
Stifford Clays	22	61	64	147	18	79	89	186	-39*
The Homesteads	17	111	81	209	17	99	88	204	5
Tilbury Riverside Thurrock Park	105	148	158	411	54	157	153	364	47

Tilbury St Chads	75	93	84	252	39	99	98	236	16
West Thurrock South Stifford	129	231	255	615	91	204	252	547	68
	1009	2534	2421	5964	720	2213	2403	5336	628

\*in this instance a negative figure denotes that more children than the ward population data shows are accessing an early education place

The table below reflects the *impact* on early education places when factoring in fee paying places e.g. working parents requiring full day care.

Table 4: Impact on early education places when including fee paying places.

Ward	Number of 15 hour places (Spring Term 2015)	Total Estimated Children (ONS Mid Term 2014 & DWP (1003) Mar 2015)	*Total Fee paying 15 hour places (Spring 2015 Early Years records)	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places if ALL children accessed early education
Aveley & Uplands	363	306	59	-2
Belhus	630	408	26	+196
Chadwell St Mary	484	359	116	+9
Chafford North Stifford	570	360	137	+73
Corringham & Fobbing	160	104	17	+39
East Tilbury	356*	227	60	+69*
Grays Riverside	792	677	84	+31
Grays Thurrock	597	294	19	+284
Little Thurrock Blackshots	294	155	15	+124
Little Thurrock Rectory	451	193	101	+157
Ockendon	535	339	78	+118
Orsett	159**	155	21	-17**
South Chafford	606	354	231	+21
Stanford East Corringham Town	538	225	29	+284
Stanford le Hope West	555	174	80	+301
Stifford Clays	221	147	8	+66
The Homesteads	68	209	6	-147
Tilbury Riverside Thurrock Park	393	411	31	-49
Tilbury St Chads	450	252	38	+160
West Thurrock South Stifford	773	615	152	+6
	8995	5964	1308	+1723

\* East Tilbury Primary Nursery class will close Sept 2015 this has been taken into account in the data above

\*\* Bulphan Pre-school closed July 2015 places this has been taken into account in the data above

## 2 year old Entitlement

Table 5: Supply of 2 year old early education Places Spring 2015

Wards	Total places offered Spring 2015	Spring 2015 Target based on Feb DWP	Surplus/Deficit in priority	Outstanding developments not yet realised
Tilbury Riverside	26	103	-77	50
Belhus	22	79	-57	0
W Thurrock, South Stifford	77	125	-48	0
Tilbury St Chads	53	76	-23	0
Little Thurrock Blackshots	14	23	-9	0
Grays Riverside	104	110	-6	32
Chafford & North Stifford	42	40	2	0
Aveley & Uplands	46	42	4	0
Corringham & Fobbing	18	11	7	0
Stifford Clays	30	23	7	0
Orsett	15	7	8	0
South Chafford	45	28	17	0
Stanford East & Corr Town	51	33	18	0
Little Thurrock Rectory	47	24	23	0
The Homesteads	43	17	26	0
Grays Thurrock	78	50	28	0
Stanford le Hope West	55	21	34	0
East Tilbury	82	42	40	0
Ockendon	108	63	45	0
Chadwell St Mary	194	86	108	0
<b>Total</b>	1150	1003		82

<b>Place surplus for Spring 2015</b>	<b>147</b>
<b>Total Developments specifically for 2 year old early education places to be realised</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>Place surplus for Spring/Summer 2015 including developments to be realised</b>	<b>229</b>

### Addressing the shortfall of 2 year old early education places

The wards of, Tilbury Riverside and Tilbury St Chads, there is scope to encourage schools with capacity within their nursery provision to extend their age range to accommodate eligible 2 year olds. School now longer are required to register their 2 year old provision separately with Ofsted as of 26<sup>th</sup> May 2015. A new childcare provision is still in process of development for Tilbury Riverside & Thurrock Park ward.

Belhus ward-discussions have previously taken place with the schools in this ward with mixed response; however, this could now be re-visited as the requirement to register separately with Ofsted for 2 year old early education provision has been removed.

West Thurrock and South Stifford-a new school within the South Chafford ward will provide additional nursery provision which will provide additional capacity for 104 15hr places x 3 and 4 year olds. This development has the potential to free capacity at childcare provision in the West Thurrock and South Stifford ward where some

children resident within the South Chafford ward access childcare. The reorganisation of space to accommodate additional 2 year olds might be an option for childcare provision within the West Thurrock and South Stifford ward as a result. A childcare provision in this ward, which has expanded by a further 24 full daycare places, again will impact on the overall capacity of the ward. A pre-school in Purfleet has the capacity to expand and is considering doing so.

The development of a new nursery class within the Little Thurrock Rectory ward providing 52 x 15hr early education places for 3 & 4 year olds, will impact on the childcare provision in both Little Thurrock Blackshots and Little Thurrock Rectory to enable both providers to offer additional 2 year old entitlement places as a result.

The development of a new provision within the Grays Riverside ward opening in Autumn 2015, will address the shortfall of 2 year old early education places in this ward.

The encouragement of childminders to deliver early education places by signing the “Thurrock Code of Practice for the delivery of early education and childcare April 2015” will also contribute to satisfying the deficit wards and extend parental choice as to where their children access their early education place.

### Take up for 2 year old early education places Spring 2015



**Early learning  
for two-year-olds**  
**Thurrock**

In February 2015 Thurrock reported take-up of the entitlement to early learning for two-year-olds as 66% or 676 children.

This is a change of -1.9ppts from October 2014.

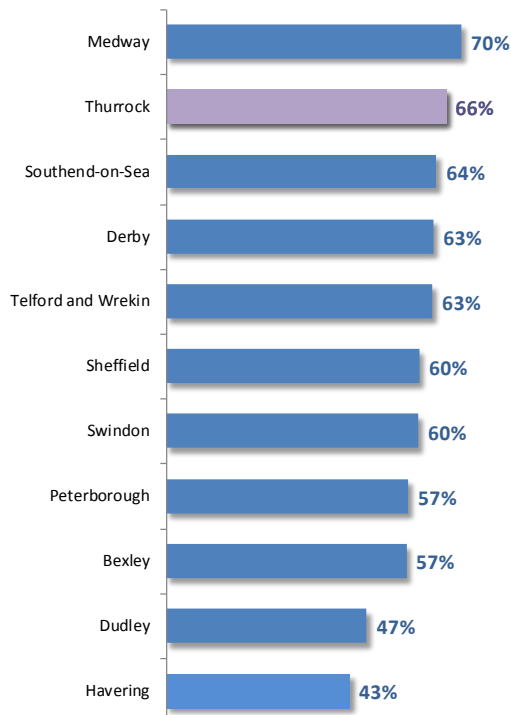
Within the East of England region the average take-up was 65%, placing Thurrock 3 out of 11.

Within statistical neighbours the average take-up was 60%, placing Thurrock 2 out of 11.

Nationally the average take-up was 62%, placing Thurrock 57 out of 152.

Take-up rate based on DWP eligibility list - November 2014

**Statistical Neighbour Take-up - February 2015**



## **Out of school & holiday care (school aged children)**

After school clubs for children aged 5 to 14 years:

There are 26 after school clubs (including school run provision\*) and 179 childminders delivering with a total of 1262 places\*\*. Schools also offer extra-curricular clubs/activities, however we do not count this type of club as childcare within this assessment as they do not necessarily offer all age ranges to suit family need and can be liable for short notice cancellation.

Breakfast clubs for children aged 5 to 14 years:

There are 33 breakfast clubs, including school run provision and 179 childminders offering care before school, with a total of 971 places\*\*.

Holiday clubs for children aged 5 to 14 years:

There are 17 holiday clubs and 179 childminders offering a total of 968\*\* places.

Few providers are open for every holiday period and/or for a full working day, although the proportions of such schemes are open before 8.00am and/or after 6.00pm. Our 2010 - 2013 assessment showed demand for extended opening beyond 6.00pm, 2 provisions have opened since last year with 1 new provider offering operational times of opening at 6.30am and closing at 7.30pm if parents require this.

\*\* for the calculation of school run Breakfast, After School and Holiday clubs that do not indicate numbers in their information the places are calculated as one class size of 30 children..

## **Quality of early education and childcare provision**

Various processes have been developed to include categorising the early education and childcare providers as a result of their RAG (Red, Amber, and Green) with 'The Support to Setting Based on categorisation' document laying out clear guidelines for local authority support to settings. This resulted in a much more targeted and focussed approach to providing support where most needed. The settings causing concern procedure is also linked to the process for specific support to the settings in an inadequate category. Visit notes by local authority officers chart the progress of the EYFS provision, with actions from Ofsted inspection and local authority officers being monitored to ensure progress. Since this time, all processes/documents are reviewed termly to ensure that they are effective and up to date with internal/external changes, with an extensive review since the revised EYFS came in to being in September 2013.

The EYFS Moderation process to support the end of EYFS assessments has also developed substantially since the beginning of 2010, with the School Improvement Team Manager and an EEIO being an Accredited EYFS Moderator. The moderation process, evaluated and progressed every year, has been judged by the Standards and Testing Agency for the second year running to be a robust model. Support to schools has been extensive since 2012 with the changes to the EYFS Profile, with additional support visits provided where need has been identified. 100% of schools attended training on the revised EYFS Profile this year, with informal moderation activities throughout the year being well supported (EYFS Moderation information from EEIO)

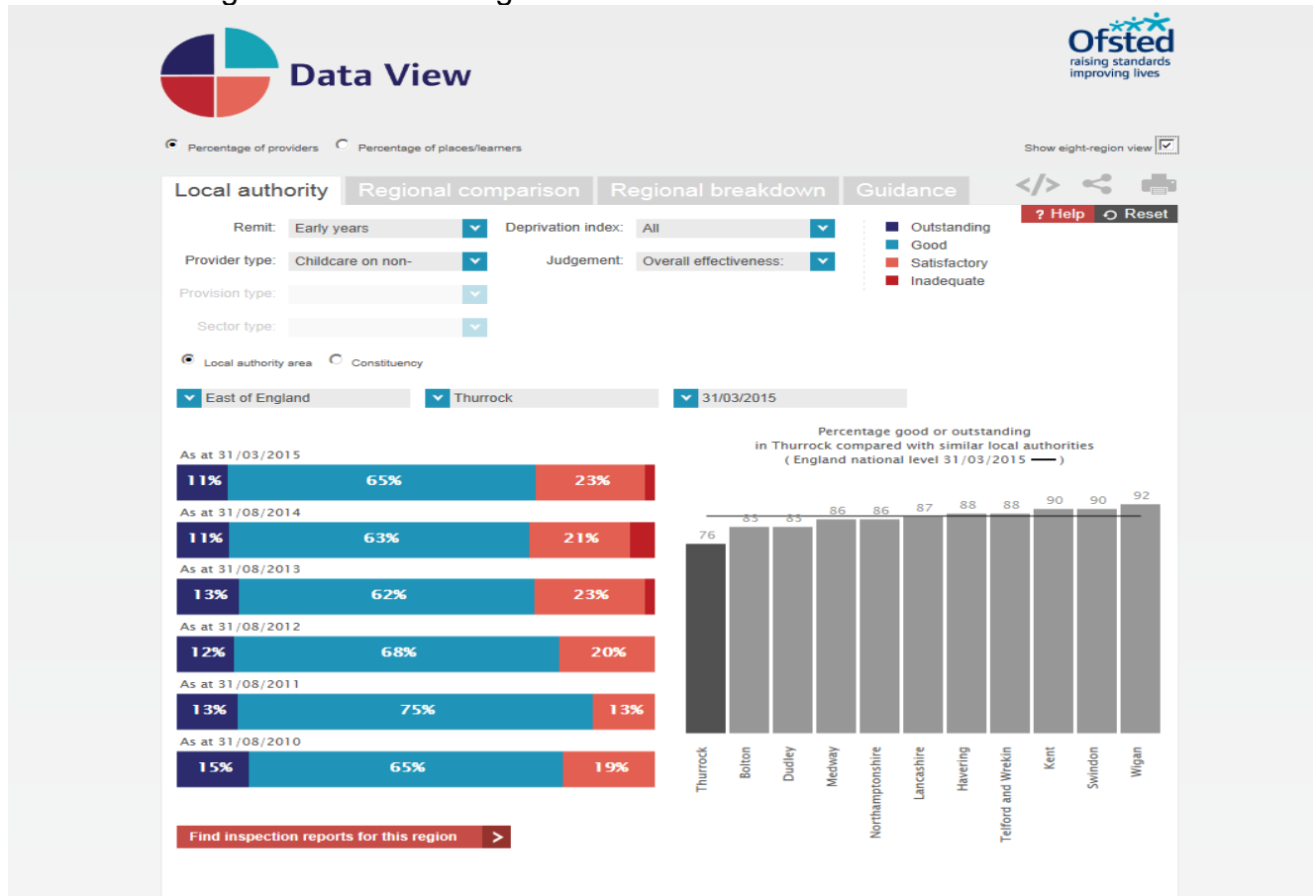


In addition, links have also been developed widely with other teams who provide services to EYFS provisions, such as the Child Care Sufficiency Team, data team, LAC, SEN services, NQT support, Children Centre Team, Diversity team, resulting in a more joined up approach and knowledge of effective EYFS practice being shared to improve consistent messages. (Example- 3 step approach to SEN support)

Since 2014, data has shown an improvement in EYFS outcomes as follows:

- The provisional Early Years Foundation Stage data for Thurrock shows a further rise in pupils achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD) from the previous two years. Performance was already 6% higher than the national average in 2014 and it looks like this has increased to 7% in 2015 based on data collected from 150 Local Authorities. 30 out of the 39 primary schools in Thurrock are at or above the national estimate for 2015.
- There was a significant improvement in GLD performance for boys in 2014 which has been maintained in 2015 with a further 5% rise. Performance for girls has also improved, by 8% in 2015, with GLD results for both genders likely to remain significantly higher than the national average.
- The small gap between Thurrock and national for the Average Total Point Score (ATPS) looks to have been closed in 2015 with provisional data indicating a score of 34.3 which is a 0.6 point increase for Thurrock.
- The Inequality Gap, which measures the percentage gap in achievement between the lowest 20% of achieving children (mean score) and the median score for all children, continues to reduce. In Thurrock the gap has decreased by 0.9% from 28.8% in 2014 to 27.9% in 2015. The gap to national was -5.1% in 2014 so it is likely that Thurrock will remain lower than national this year.
- The percent of settings receiving a Good or better Ofsted Inspection outcome has risen from 60.3% at the beginning of 2010 to 75.5 % in July 2015. For pre-schools and nurseries 84% have achieved a good or better Ofsted July 2015

Table 6: Ofsted inspection judgements for early education & childcare providers for Thurrock and against statistical neighbours



\*Ofsted .gov.uk

**Affordability & Costs:**

While costs represent a significant outlay to parents by its very nature childcare is labour intensive, with considerations to staffing ratios; to maintain safe supervision levels, high quality; including well qualified and trained staff. Childcare therefore cannot be provided “on the cheap”.

Some families rely on informal-unregulated childcare, with over a quarter of families (27 per cent) using grandparents to provide childcare during term time, 4 per cent older siblings, 6 per cent using relatives and 6 per cent using friends and neighbours.

While not a form of childcare, shift-parenting, is another family caring strategy, where parents work different times, although this is not an option for some single parents. Informal childcare and shift-parenting are frequently used where parents have “atypical” work patterns, such as shift work or irregular work patterns, as formal childcare may be difficult to find. (Rutter & Evans 2011)

The Family & Childcare Trust Childcare Costs Survey 2014

**Tax Free Childcare**

The Tax Free Childcare scheme has been proposed for launch in 2017.

Parents are eligible for the scheme if they earn £50-£150,000. The scheme also gives support to the self-employed and has been adjusted to ensure those working part-time, earning £50 per week and above, those on maternity, paternity or adoption leave, and those

starting their own business who may meet the minimum earning requirement, will be included, giving them government help with childcare costs for the first time. This will mean 20 per cent of up to £10,000 per year which means up to £2000 paid by the government towards childcare costs per child.

www.gov.uk

Table 7: Costs for Early Education & Childcare

Cost of Childcare for 25 hours	Day Nursery	Day Nursery	Childminder	Out of school (15hrs)
	Under 2's	2's and over		
*England regional average	£108.51	£106.52	£ 97.27	£ 49.71
*East of England	£106.55	£104.60	£105.90	£ 50.74
Thurrock	£ 126.10	£ 122.50	£ 100.00	£ 55.00

\*Data from The Family & Childcare Trust (formerly Daycare Trust) Childcare Costs Survey 2014

Table 8: Parents views on the affordability of Childcare by ward

	Number of parents completed surveys	How Parents described their childcare costs				
		Affordable	Just about affordable	Struggle to afford it	Have to cut other family expenses	Considering reducing hours of use
Aveley & Uplands	5	0	0	1	0	0
Belhus	12	1	3	3	2	0
Chadwell St Mary	8	1	2	0	1	1
Chafford North Stifford	8	4	2	0	1	1
Corringham & Fobbing	9	1	2	2	0	0
East Tilbury	15	0	6	3	1	1
Grays Riverside	15	4	3	2	0	0
Grays Thurrock	10	1	1	3	1	1
Little Thurrock Blackshots	6	1	1	1	0	0
Little Thurrock Rectory	9	2	3	2	1	0
Ockendon	11	0	1	3	3	0
Orsett	8	0	1	1	0	0
South Chafford	4	0	1	2	1	0
Stanford East Corringham Town	7	0	2	0	0	0
Stanford le Hope West	12	5	1	1	0	0
Stifford Clays	9	2	2	3	1	1
The Homesteads	18	3	3	1	1	0
Tilbury Riverside Thurrock Park	12	1	4	1	2	0
Tilbury St Chads	8	0	3	1	2	0
West Thurrock & South Stifford	11	2	2	4	0	0
Accessing provision who live outside Thurrock	3	0	2	0	0	0
	200	28	45	34	17	5
Responses shown in Percentages		14%	22.5%	17%	8.5%	2.5%

## Working Tax Credits

Working Tax Credit statistics published annually from HMRC report Thurrock's take up at 15.2% which shows we are 2.4% above the percentage for England. We have seen an increase of 0.5% over the last two reporting years, a positive achievement set against England's take up, which has decreased by 2.9% and again, the positive outcome, compared to our statistical neighbour average decrease also of 2.9%.

(2013/14 is the latest data set, Working Tax Credit statistics are always issued for the previous financial year).

A factor that may be still be influencing this net downward trend is how the basic element of Working Tax Credit was frozen from 2011/12. The percentage of childcare costs that parents can claim through the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit was reduced from 80% to its previous level of 70%.

Thurrock was included in the first tranche of Local Authorities with a Job Centre Plus Office for the roll out of Universal Credit as of 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015. Universal Credit will incorporate many previous stand-alone benefits into one assessment. It is not clear at present whether it will be possible to measure this one element of the Universal Credit as before, for the next Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.

In relation to affordability nationally, changes to working tax credits meant parents with one child have lost £17.50 in childcare support and those with two children are £30 a week worse off as a result of the change, leaving low-income families paying more in childcare costs.

Couples with one or more children usually have to work for at least 24 hours a week between them, rather than the previous 16 hours, to be eligible for Working Tax Credit. This may have impacted on parents views cited above on the affordability of childcare in Thurrock.

Table 9: Final award tables for NI 118 Take up of Working Tax Credits

England, Thurrock & Statistical Local Authorities Neighbours	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2013-14	Change comparing 2013/14 to 2011/12
<b>England</b>	<b>17.8%</b>	<b>17.9%</b>	<b>17.6%</b>	<b>16.8%</b>	<b>15.6%</b>	<b>12.7%</b>	<b>-2.9%</b>
Bolton	21.6%	21.7%	21.7%	20.2%	19.0%	11.1%	-7.9%
Wigan	20.2%	21.2%	21.4%	20.4%	19.3%	10.7%	-8.6%
Lancashire	22.0%	22.6%	22.5%	21.9%	20.3%	9.6%	-10.7%
Northamptonshire	20.1%	20.2%	19.5%	18.9%	17.7%	11.2%	-6.5%
Telford & Wrekin	19.5%	20.2%	19.7%	18.1%	16.9%	11.0%	-5.9%
Dudley	13.3%	13.4%	12.9%	12.4%	11.8%	16.6%	+4.8%
<b>Thurrock</b>	<b>16.7%</b>	<b>16.7%</b>	<b>16.7%</b>	<b>14.5%</b>	<b>14.7%</b>	<b>15.2%</b>	<b>+0.5%</b>
Havering	14.7%	16.2%	16.0%	14.1%	13.9%	14.3%	+0.4%
Medway	15.7%	16.3%	15.9%	15.6%	13.0%	15.1%	+2.1%
Kent	14.7%	15.1%	15.1%	14.4%	13.2%	14.3%	+1.1%
Swindon	18.2%	17.8%	16.1%	16.3%	14.1%	13.0%	-1.1%

\*Data source from HMRC annual final awards latest 2013-14 released June 2015

### Informal Childcare:

Parents have the choice whether to use early education & childcare before their child reaches statutory school age. Parents may choose to use 'informal childcare' or a mix of informal and/or early education and childcare. Informal childcare is when family members or relatives care for a child, usually for working parents. Ofsted does not require registration if care is for less than 2 hours a day, or when relatives, step parents or those who have parental responsibility care for the child.

Results from the parental surveys showed 40% of parents use informal childcare. With 19% stating it is due to childcare costs, 18.5% have chosen to use informal childcare as a right of parental choice.

Table 10: Parents choice on informal childcare by ward

	Number of parents completed surveys	Use Informal Childcare	Reason for using Informal Childcare		
			Parental Choice	Can not afford costs of Registered Childcare	Lack of Childcare Places in your area
Aveley & Uplands	5	0	0	0	0
Belhus	12	4	1	3	0
Chadwell St Mary	8	1	0	1	0
Chafford North Stifford	8	4	2	2	0
Corringham & Fobbing	9	7	5	2	0
East Tilbury	15	4	0	4	0
Grays Riverside	15	4	2	2	0
Grays Thurrock	10	4	0	3	1
Little Thurrock Blackshots	6	5	3	2	0
Little Thurrock Rectory	9	5	3	2	0
Ockendon	11	2	0	2	0
Orsett	8	5	5	0	0
South Chafford	4	1	1	0	0
Stanford East Corringham Town	7	6	4	1	1
Stanford le Hope West	12	6	5	1	0
Stifford Clays	9	7	2	3	2
The Homesteads	18	8	3	4	1
Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park	12	4	1	3	0
Tilbury St Chads	8	1	0	1	0
West Thurrock & South Stifford	11	2	0	2	0
Accessing provision who live outside Thurrock	3	0	0	0	0
	200	80	37	38	5
Responses shown in Percentages		40%	18.5%	19%	2.5%

## **Demand for Early Education & Childcare in Thurrock:**

### **Population statistics:**

The results in the National Census 2011 show the population of children age 0 – 4 years in Thurrock has risen by 20.0%, almost 7% higher than England and 8% higher than East of England. With significant housing developments planned for the future in Thurrock this increase indicates a growing demand for childcare. Compared to our statistical neighbours we have the second highest population increase since the 2001 National Census.

Table 11: National Census Population for children aged 0 – 4

	National Census 2001	National Census 2011	% increase
England	2926238	3318449	13.4%
East of England	321612	361269	12.3%
Thurrock	10008	12005	20.0%
Bolton	16779	18765	11.8%
Dudley	17476	18867	8.0%
Havering	12429	13661	9.9%
Lancashire	6127	5998	-2.1%
Medway	16204	17224	6.3%
Northamptonshire	9522	10004	5.1%
Swindon	11392	14083	23.6%
Telford & Wrekin	10507	11344	8.0%
Wigan	17561	19681	12.1%

Data source ONS neighbourhood statistics

Thurrock's birth rate is considerably higher than both the regional and national average. Taking into consideration the number of housing units with building consent or proposed within the next 5 years (see separate table 33) that will draw families into the Borough, demand for early education and childcare in Thurrock will continue to rise. Migration will naturally impact on demand for early education and childcare places.

The 2011 census data shows 12,000 children are 4 years old or younger, and 20,000 are in the age range 5-14yrs.

### **Population Projections:**

The table below shows the projections for early education places for September 2016 in relation to 2, 3 and 4 year olds.

Please note, where the end column shows a deficit for 2 year old places, this is because we know from local intelligence that a provider cannot use any surplus places indicated for 2 year old provision specifically, as some of the providers in those wards are not able to accommodate these additional 2 year old children due to Ofsted regulatory or operational issues specific to that provision. It is important we factor this in to give an accurate projection on 2 year old places.

Table 12: Projections by ward for early education & childcare places Sept 2016

Ward	Eligible 2 years 2016 (DWP March 2015)	Estimated 3 years (ONS Jan 2015)	Estimated 4 years (ONS Jan 2015)	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016 (included in the overall Surplus/ Deficit)
Aveley and Uplands*	43	115	144	302	363	+ 61	+4
Belhus	83	170	156	409	630	+221	-57
Chadwell St Mary *	85	127	149	361	484	+123	+108
Chafford and North Stifford*	40	161	159	360	570	+210	+2
Corringham and Fobbing *	11	43	44	98	160	+ 62	+7
East Tilbury *	43	94	113	250	356	+106	+40
Grays Riverside *	112	315	285	712	824	+ 112	-6
Grays Thurrock *	52	123	137	312	597	+ 285	+28
Little Thurrock Blackshots *	23	56	54	133	294	+161	-9
Little Thurrock Rectory *	24	78	82	184	451	+267	+23
Ockendon *	64	152	155	371	535	+164	+45
Orsett	7	55	80	142	159	+ 17	+8
South Chafford *	32	155	160	347	710	+363	+17
Stanford East and Corringham Town *	33	86	87	206	538	+332	+18
Stanford-le-Hope West	22	75	76	173	555	+382	+34
Stifford Clays	22	59	57	138	221	+ 83	+7
The Homesteads	17	76	81	174	68	-106	+26
Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park*	107	122	154	383	513	+130	-77
Tilbury St Chads *	77	99	107	283	450	+167	-23
West Thurrock and South Stifford *	132	322	319	773	808	+35	-48
Totals	1029	2483	2599	6111	9286	+3175	

\* indicates wards within the 0 – 5 year SHLAA potential net dwelling completions.

### Projections for supply and demand

The tables and narrative below indicate the projected surplus and deficit of *early education* 15 hour places by ward for eligible 2, 3 and 4 year old children for the next two years (2016 & 2017).

The data sources used for future projections of early education places for 2016 and 2017 is the ONS mid -2014 statistics - population by age, and data supplied by Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) for 2015 indicating the lowest income households which is applied to identifying the lowest 40% as eligible 2 year olds. The

same DWP data has been used for the 2 year old projection for September 2016; however this data is likely to be updated by DWP for 2016, so projections may change in the next annual report. Please note, it does not include any additional fee paying hours as this fluctuates considerably and cannot be used for forecasting purposes.

In wards where the Childcare Sufficiency Officer is aware of any potential new early education development or there are relevant influencing factors, this is included in the ward to explain how any deficits of places are being addressed.

### Aveley & Uplands Ward

Table 13: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward.

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	43	115	144	302	363	+61	+4
2017	44	117	147	308	363	+55	+4

### Belhus Ward

Table 14: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward.

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	83	170	156	409	630	221	-57
2017	84	173	159	416	630	214	-57

### Chadwell St Mary Ward

The provider who was proposing to offer an additional 8 x 2 year old entitlement places has now successfully developed these places since the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2014. Another provider has increased capacity by offering the stretched offer, which spreads the early education 570 hours over the total weeks the day nursery is open, by reducing the hours of take up in term time, this frees school term hours for use by additional children.



Table 15: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	85	127	149	361	484	+123	+108
2017	86	130	152	368	484	+116	+108

### Chafford Hundred & North Stifford Ward

Table 16: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	40	161	159	360	570	+210	+2
2017	41	164	162	367	570	+203	+2

### Corringham & Fobbing Ward

Table 17: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	11	43	44	98	160	+62	+7
2017	11	44	45	100	160	+60	+7

### East Tilbury Ward

East Tilbury Primary Nursery class is due to close at the end of the Summer Term 2015; this closure has been reflected in the data. Since 2014 another childcare provider has been registered by Ofsted in the East Tilbury ward, and is sited in Linford.

Table 18: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	43	94	113	250	356	+106	+40
2017	44	96	115	255	356	+101	+40

### Grays Riverside Ward

One provider has been successful in developing a 40 place day nursery which offers early education places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds since the last 2014 assessment and one existing provider is proposing to offer an additional 32 x 15 hour places for eligible 2 year olds. A third childcare provider has expanded with a registration of 30 places and offering 13 2 year old early education places for 2 year olds. A pre-school provider registered with 26 places of which 4 x 2 year old early education places have been allocated.

Table 19: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	112	315	285	712	824	+112	-6
2017	114	321	291	726	824	+98	-6

### Grays Thurrock Ward

One pre-school registered for 30 places for 2, 3 and 4 year old early education places in the Summer Term 2015

Table 20: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	52	123	137	312	597	+285	+28
2017	53	125	140	318	597	+279	+28

### Little Thurrock Blackshots Ward

The impact of a new nursery class development in the adjacent ward of Little Thurrock Rectory has potential to provide further access to places within the Little Thurrock Blackshots ward childcare provision, as 3 & 4 year olds migrate to school provision locally. Alternatively, an out of school provider who has potential to expand their provision for early education sessions, should the need arise.

Table 21: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	23	56	54	133	294	+161	-9
2017	24	57	55	136	294	+158	-9

### Little Thurrock Rectory Ward

The planned development for a 52 place provision for 3 and 4 year old early education for this ward in Summer 2015 has now been completed and has been included in the data for this assessment.

Also a childcare provider in this ward expanded their provision to offer an additional 32 registered places of which 30 x 15hr places have been allocated to 2 year old early education places.

Table 22: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	24	78	82	184	451	+267	+23
2017	25	80	84	189	451	+262	+23

### Ockendon Ward

Table 23: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	64	152	155	371	535	+164	+45
2017	66	155	158	379	469	+90	+45

## Orsett Ward

There is a small surplus in this ward however it would be prudent to bear in mind that this ward covers a comparatively large rural area consisting of three distinct villages. The pre-school in the village of Bulphan, which is outside walking distance of the other two villages, closed in the Summer Term 2015 due to sustainability concerns and this closure been reflected in the data. The pre-school in Orsett village has limited places and is unable to offer 2 year old entitlement places due to demand for 3 & 4 year old entitlement places. A new preschool in this ward developed 52 early education places since 2014, however due to premises difficulties the provider closed the provision.

Table 24: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	7	55	80	142	159	+17	+8
2017	7	56	82	145	159	+14	+8

## South Chafford Ward

A future development of 104 x 15 hour places is proposed for this ward for 2016/17.

A new provider has now developed the equivalent of 80 x 15 hour places since 2014

Table 25: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	32	155	160	347	710	+363	+17
2017	32	158	163	353	710	+357	+17

## Stanford East & Corringham Town Ward

A new provider has developed an additional 30 early education places of which 8 x 15hr places for eligible 2 year olds.

A full daycare provider registered for 26 places offers 12 x 15hr 2 year old early education places.

Table 26: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	33	86	87	206	538	+332	+18
2017	33	88	89	210	538	+328	+18

### Stanford le Hope West Ward

Table 27: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	22	75	76	173	555	+382	+34
2017	23	77	78	178	555	+377	+34

### Stifford Clays Ward

A new provider for 2 year old early education places has developed additional 12 x 2 year old places.

Table 28: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	22	59	57	138	221	+83	+7
2017	23	60	58	141	221	+80	+7

### The Homesteads Ward

There is no school site in this ward. There is 1 pre-school as sole early education and childcare provider in this ward.

Table 29: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	17	76	81	174	68	-106	+26
2017	18	78	83	179	68	-111	+26

### Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park Ward

A new development proposes to offer 120 x 15 hour which includes 50x 2 year old entitlement places if their planned development and Ofsted registration is successful.

Table 30: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	107	122	154	383	513	+130	-77
2017	109	124	157	390	513	+123	-77

### Tilbury St Chads Ward

Table 31: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	77	99	107	283	450	+167	-23
2017	78	101	109	288	450	+162	-23

### West Thurrock & South Stifford Ward

In Summer Term 2015, a day nursery expansion of 35 x full daycare places incorporating early education 15hr entitlement where applicable to individual children in West Thurrock has taken place.

A further childcare provider expanded their provision to accommodate a further 16 x 2 year old early education places in this ward.

There is a proposed development of 104 place early education provision in the South Chafford ward 2016/2017 to serve both South Chafford ward and South Stifford area delay has been experienced in delivering this provision as the nursery provision was expected to provide places September 2015.

Table 32: below shows projected supply, demand and surplus/deficit of early education and childcare places in ward

Year	Based on DWP eligible 2 years for March 2015	Estimated 3 years	Estimated 4 years	Total Estimated Children	Early Education 15 hour places	Overall Surplus / Deficit 15 hour places	Deficit/Surplus of 2 year old 15 hour places for Spring 2016
2016	132	322	319	773	808	35	-48
2017	134	328	325	787	808	21	-48

### Anticipated Housing Developments/regeneration hubs:

Demand for childcare provision will increase with the 4199 potential new housing units to be completed in the next 0 - 5 years from 2015 to 2020 as shown in table 33. This information is from the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) July 2014.

The 4219 potential new housing dwellings to be completed in the next 0 - 5 years from 2015 to 2020 in table 33 is displayed in geographical areas, therefore the table below shows all wards collated together within those geographical areas to show the impact of planned dwellings against the surplus or deficit places when families move into the new dwellings.

Table 33: Early education places surplus or deficit shown against potential net dwelling completions 2015 – 2020 years.

Wards	Childcare surplus / deficit places 2015	Childcare place developments yet to be realised	Total surplus / deficit places	Planned 0 - 5 year residential dwellings
Aveley and Uplands	<b>+61</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>+61</b>	<b>325</b>
Belhus	+221	0	+221	262
Ockendon	+164	0	+164	251
<b>Total for South Ockendon area</b>	<b>+446</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>+446</b>	<b>513</b>
Chadwell St Mary	+123	0	+123	<b>61</b>
Chafford and North Stifford	+210	0	+210	24
South Chafford	+259	+104	+363	140
<b>Total Chafford Hundred area</b>	<b>+469</b>	<b>+104</b>	<b>+573</b>	<b>164</b>
Corringham and Fobbing	+62	0	+62	2
Stanford East and Corringham Town	+332	0	+332	45
Stanford-le-Hope West	+382	0	+382	480
The Homesteads	-106	0	-106	21
<b>Total for Corringham &amp; Stanford Area</b>	<b>+670</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>+670</b>	<b>548</b>
East Tilbury	<b>+106</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>+106</b>	<b>301</b>

Grays Riverside	+80	32	+112	309
Grays Thurrock	+285	0	+285	123
Little Thurrock Blackshots	+161	0	+161	196
Little Thurrock Rectory	+267	+52	+319	40
Stifford Clays	+83	0	+83	1
<b>Total for Grays Area</b>	<b>+876</b>	<b>+84</b>	<b>+960</b>	<b>669</b>
Orsett	+17	0	+17	37
Tilbury Riverside & Thurrock Park	+10	+120	+130	82
Tilbury St Chads	+167	0	+167	151
<b>Total for Tilbury area</b>	<b>+177</b>	<b>+120</b>	<b>+297</b>	<b>233</b>
West Thurrock & South Stifford	0	+35	+35	1368*
				<b>4219</b>

\*Includes Phase 1 Purfleet Centre 2017-2020 800 dwellings

### **Future influencing factors: Expansion of the 2 year old early education entitlement and universal credit:**

Expansion of the 2 year old entitlement will further increase demand for early education and childcare places and we need to ensure these additional places do not have an adverse effect on the take up on the existing 3 & 4 year old early education places.

Universal credit was launched in October 2013 for people who are looking for work or on a low income. Universal Credit brings together a range of working-age benefits into a single payment and aims to make sure claimants are better off in work than on benefits. It will replace six main benefits with a single monthly payment for people in work or out of work, smoothing the transition from welfare to work.

Universal Credit was launched as a Pathfinder in areas of the North West commencing in April 2013. The four initial Pathfinder offices were Ashton-under-Lyne, Oldham, Warrington, and Wigan. Six further sites are rolling out between October and spring 2014, which started with Hammersmith on 28 October, followed by Rugby and Inverness on 25 November and will expand to Harrogate, Bath and Shotton by Spring 2014 with a national role out aimed to be completed for November 2015.

We anticipate this could have a future impact on early education take up and will be monitoring this closely.

### **Parental feedback on demand:**

Parents reported their experiences in finding early education and childcare in the area of their choice. The table below shows 10% of parents who completed our parental surveys reported they experienced a lack of places in the area they are taking up early education and childcare. With 2.5% of parents stating their childcare is not in their area of choice.



Table 34: Parents feedback on demand for early education and childcare by ward

	Number of parents completed surveys	Childcare is not in the area of my choice?	Experienced a Lack of places	Experienced a Lack of Hours at my preferred provider
Aveley & Uplands	5		1	
Belhus	12		1	
Chadwell St Mary	8			
Chafford North Stifford	8			
Corringham & Fobbing	9		1	
East Tilbury	15			1
Grays Riverside	15	1		2
Grays Thurrock	10	1	1	
Little Thurrock Blackshots	6	1	1	2
Little Thurrock Rectory	9			
Ockendon	11		3	
Orsett	8			
South Chafford	4		1	
Stanford East Corringham Town	7			
Stanford le Hope West	12		1	2
Stifford Clays	9	1	3	
The Homesteads	18		3	
Tilbury Riverside Thurrock Park	12			
Tilbury St Chads	8		2	2
West Thurrock & South Stifford	11	1	2	
Accessing provision who live outside Thurrock	3			
	200	5	20	9
Responses shown in Percentages		2.5%	10.0%	4.5%

## Gap Assessment

### **2, 3 and 4 year old early education places.**

Table 35 shows the projected surplus or deficit of early education places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds for Spring 2016. The demand of early education places illustrated here does not include fee paying childcare places as this fluctuates too much for forecasting purposes.

Table 35: Projected early education places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds

Wards	Eligible 2 year olds by DWP Spring 2016	Estimated number of 3 year olds in ward*	Estimated number of 4 year olds in ward*	Early Education places as at Spring 2015	Surplus/ Deficit of Early Education places as at Spring 2016
Aveley and Uplands	43	115	144	363	+61
Belhus	83	170	156	630	+221
Chadwell St Mary	85	127	149	484	+123

Chafford and North Stifford	40	161	159	570	+210
Corringham and Fobbing	11	43	44	160	+62
East Tilbury	43	94	113	356	+106
Grays Riverside	112	315	285	824	+112
Grays Thurrock	52	123	137	597	+285
Little Thurrock Blackshots	23	56	54	294	+161
Little Thurrock Rectory	24	78	82	451	+267
Ockendon	64	152	155	535	+164
Orsett	7	55	80	159	+17
South Chafford	32	155	160	710	+363
Stanford East and Corringham Town	33	86	87	538	+332
Stanford-le-Hope West	22	75	76	555	+382
Stifford Clays	22	59	57	221	+83
The Homesteads	17	76	81	68	-106
Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park	107	122	154	513	+130
Tilbury St Chads	77	99	107	450	+167
West Thurrock and South Stifford	132	322	319	808	+35
	1029	2483	2599	9286	+3175
* Based on ONS mid-term 2014 estimates.					

## Provision for Special Education Needs/Disabled (SEND) children

### Local offer

A change in the law means there are major changes to the way support is provided in Thurrock for children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) from September 2014.

### Education, health and care plans

New education, health and care plans have been introduced for children and young people aged 0 to 25. These replace statements of special educational need, and the learning difficulties assessments for young people entering college.

A new way of working looks at children and young people's needs, bringing together education, health and social care support into a single plan.

It is more family-focused, with emphasis on:

- individual goals for children
- improving their opportunities for education and employment
- introducing the opportunity for personal budgets to support these plans

All PVI providers in Thurrock offer inclusive practice with inclusion policies and 95% of PVI providers have an individual accessibility audit of their premises and are used in conjunction with disabled children's individual care plans.

Support is offered to all childcare providers from the Early Education Improvement Team & an Outreach Support Officer from Treetops Special School. Various Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) training sessions are offered each term with high attendance at Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENco) forums for early education and childcare providers.

Thurrock have two special schools Treetops and Beacon Hill, and The Sunshine Centre is for children aged up to 19 years with a whole range of needs both behavioral and physical. The Centre includes a fully equipped sensory room and is for parents and siblings, as well as the child with a disability or special educational need. Several different groups are run by experienced staff throughout the week, including a Saturday Club and Young Carers group. The family centre workers are provided by Thurrock's team for disabled children.

Many childminders have specified they have various Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) knowledge and experience which helps give parents additional confidence when looking for childcare for their disabled child. The Thurrock Family Information Service is able to provide lists of childminders with specific specialism to parents and carers.

Our 2010 - 2013 assessment showed demand from 26% of parents with disabled children for an after school provision for disabled children. A private Out of school club for disabled children opened February 2013 offering 8 places, unfortunately due to the high ratio of staff required to support disabled children attending, the provision closed in October 2013 citing financial unsustainability.

The provision is now offering limited places for disabled children of working parents to attend the original premises now run by the Sunshine Centre staff, but children must have a referral from a social worker and Common Assessment Framework documentation to support the child and family need to access the provision.

### **Key findings, challenges and solutions**

Our key priority areas for development of early education places to address the projected deficit of the planned 0-5 year residential developments are shown by wards within each geographical area.

Table 36 visually represents the priority of areas for developing early education places according to a Red, Amber, Green grading. The following narrative of key findings complements this RAG below.

Table 36: Priority areas for development of early education places

Wards	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority
Aveley & Uplands			
Belhus			
Chadwell St Mary			
Chafford & North Stifford			
Corringham & Fobbing			
East Tilbury			
Grays Riverside			
Grays Thurrock			
Little Thurrock Blackshots			
Little Thurrock Rectory			
Ockendon			
Orsett			
South Chafford			
Stanford East & Corringham Town			
Stanford le Hope West			
Stifford Clays			
The Homesteads			
Tilbury Riverside & Thurrock Park			
Tilbury St Chads			
West Thurrock South Stifford			

In this summary all references to planned housing units are those shown in Table 33 'Potential net dwelling completions' on page 31 and 32. Where a surplus or deficit of early education places are shown, these *do not* include any predicted take up of fee paying places. This is because providers in the PVI sector may choose to use these places for working parents requiring full day care or other additional fee paying places and this varies daily as previously noted in methodology.

### **Aveley and Uplands Ward**

A current surplus of 61 early education places overall in this ward indicates that the ward is sufficient in regard to places for 2 3 and 4 year olds, however, some of the planned 325 housing units for this ward are under already construction.

Solution-School development of places needs to be revisited in this ward, as premises potential is limited for private, voluntary or independent childcare development in the ward currently.

This ward is a high priority ward

### **South Ockendon Area**

### Belhus Ward

There are 221 surplus places in this ward, with a deficit of 57 x 2 year old early education places. There are 262 housing units proposed for this ward.

Solution: Development of 2 year old early education places is a high priority for this ward. A childcare provision will be progressing to registration Autumn 2015/Spring 2016, and is likely to allocate 2 year old early education places subject to successful Ofsted registration. The Childcare Sufficiency Officer will also revisit the approach to schools subject to their Ofsted judgement, in relation to allocation of 2 year old early education places by spare capacity use (with agreement of governing body), given they will now longer be required to register separately with Ofsted.

### Ockendon Ward

There are 164 surplus places in this ward with a surplus of 45 x 2 year old early education places. Places are available at two preschools in this ward however their location is a barrier for walking parents to access them, however the 251 housing units planned in the next 0-5 years are generally located near the two pre-schools

Solution: Family Information Service gives information to parents/carers in identifying early education provision, they will continue to include the two pre-schools within any list requested by these contacts to inform of local providers, information in regard to available early education and childcare provision, is also included on the website [askthurrock.org](http://askthurrock.org)

This ward is a low priority ward

### Chadwell St Mary Ward

There is an overall surplus of 123 places in this ward, of which of 108 are surplus 2 year old early education places. There is a proposed housing development of 61 housing units up to 2020.

This ward is a low priority ward

## **Chafford Hundred Area**

### Chafford & North Stifford Ward

There are 210 surplus places in this ward, and a slight surplus of 2 x 2 year old early education places. The 24 housing units proposed up to 2020 will be adequately accommodated by the providers of early education in this ward.

This ward is a low priority ward.

### South Chafford Ward

There is a surplus of 363 places in this ward, and a surplus of 17 x 2 year old early education places within the overall surplus. The surplus of 2 year old places can be attributed to the increase in childminders who now offer early education places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds in this ward. One provider does not offer “early education only places” and this may distort the overall surplus and the accessibility of 2, 3 and 4 year old early education places. The recent development of a day nursery offering 2, 3, and 4 year old early education places in this ward has provided parents with further parental choice and access to “early education places only”. Detailed within the Pupil Place Plan 2014 -2018 future provision was identified for a 104 place provision within this ward which is expected to provide 3 & 4 year early education places from 2015/16.

The 140 housing units proposed for the ward will be satisfied by the existing provision.

This ward is a low priority.

### **Corringham and Stanford Area**

The impact of housing development within the Corringham and Stanford area may appear to satisfy the demand for early education places; however those responsible for childcare sufficiency would be advised to monitor the childcare for working families that is available overall, for subsequent assessments and as housing development progresses.

#### Corringham & Fobbing Ward

There is a surplus of 62 places in this ward, and a 7 place surplus for 2 year old early education within the overall surplus.

This ward is a low priority ward.

#### Stanford East & Corringham Town Ward

There is a surplus of 332 places in this ward and a surplus of 18 x 2 year old early education places. A development is now complete to offer 60 x 15 hour places in this ward for 2, 3 & 4 year olds. There is a planned 45 housing units within this ward up to 2020.

This ward is a low priority ward

#### Stanford le Hope West Ward

There is a surplus of 382 places in this ward and a 34 place surplus of 2 year Early Education places. There are 480 proposed housing units for this ward up to 2020. It is also well to note that the Homesteads ward is adjacent to this ward and the only early education and childcare provision in the Homesteads ward is sessional/short day 8.00am-3.00pm. Therefore full time working parents are more likely to access the Stanford le Hope West ward (Railway Station is located in this ward) for full daycare, alternatively the Stanford East and Corringham Town ward if places are not available in this ward.

This ward is a low priority ward

#### The Homesteads Ward

There is an overall deficit of 106 places in this ward; however a surplus of 26 x 2 year old early education places within the deficit figure. A provider in this ward satisfies the demand for 2 year old early education places. Historically parents have sought early education and childcare places in neighbouring wards. The surplus places available in the wards of Stanford East and Corringham Town, and Stanford le Hope West have satisfied the shortfall of places in the Homesteads ward along with childminders located within the ward. The proposed 21 housing units will impact on future demand for early education places, but any increase in demand for early years education and childcare could be accommodated in the adjacent wards. Lack of suitable, available premises prevents further development of places, particularly due to the absence of any school site.

This ward is a low priority ward

### **East Tilbury Ward**

There are 106 surplus places in this ward and a surplus of 8 x 2 year old early education places. The day nursery adjacent to East Tilbury Primary school offers 3 x 3hour sessions for delivery of the early education places, however, not all parents have taken advantage of the 3pm to 6pm sessions. Although there appears to be an excess of places based on local need, there were a noticeable number of children accessing the provision from outside the ward, which follows the pattern, as in the other wards in Thurrock, of parents exercising their parental choice. Due to the relative isolated location of the ward, parents find it difficult to access childcare provision outside the ward, in numbers which would be compensatory as in other areas of the borough. Consideration needs to be given around a successful planning application for 299 housing units was granted in June 2015 which would potentially give a Nursery class pupil yield of 23 children on current calculating methods. The pupil yield does not take into account 2 year olds, only 3 and 4 year old children, so the number overall could be potentially higher.

This is a medium priority ward

Solution: - Childcare Sufficiency Officer to work with the current childcare providers in the ward to offer early education and childcare places that meet the need of local families.

## **Grays Area**

### Grays Riverside Ward

There is an overall surplus of 112 places in this ward and within this figure, a 6 places deficit of 2 year old early education places.

There is a surplus of places in the neighbouring ward Grays Thurrock that should satisfy the current demand of places if parents are able to access nearby provision. An additional development yet to be registered is a nursery proposing to offer 32 x 15 hour places 2 year old places, including 2 year old early education only places. The nursery is due to open Autumn 2015.

There are planned 309 housing units for the ward. Taking into account current pupil yields for 3 and 4 year old only there would be sufficient places in the ward.

This ward is a low priority ward

### Grays Thurrock Ward

There is a surplus of 285 places in this ward and a 28 place surplus of 2 year old early education places. 123 housing units proposed will impact on future demand for early education places.

This ward is a low priority ward

### Little Thurrock Blackshots Ward

There is a surplus of 161 places in this ward and a 9 place deficit of 2 year old early education places. There are 196 housing units proposed leading up to 2020

Solution the existing preschool provider has the potential to expand their 2 year old early education places offer in response to the opening of the school nursery class development in the adjacent ward of Little Thurrock Rectory ward. Alternatively an out of school provider who is willing to respond to the demand for 2 year old early education places has shown interest in delivering sessional care incorporated within the existing wrap around care offered.

This ward is a low priority ward

### Little Thurrock Rectory Ward

There is a surplus of 267 places in this ward including a 23 place surplus of 2 year old early education places within this figure. The development for a 52 place provision for 3 and 4 year old early education is planned for this ward in Summer/Autumn 2015 and has been included in the data, (development was delayed from that stated in the previous Childcare Sufficiency Assessment). A private full daycare provider at the farthest extreme of the ward to this development of places, has expanded their provision despite being informed of the proposed development of the above 52 places. 40 housing units are proposed for this ward leading up to 2020.

This ward is a low priority ward

### Stifford Clays Ward

There is a surplus of 83 places in this ward and a 7 place surplus within this figure, of 2 year old early education places. There no development of significance in regard to housing units proposed in this ward (1housing unit)

This ward is a low priority ward

### Orsett Ward

There is a surplus of 17 places in this ward and a surplus of 8 x 2 year old early education places. It would be prudent to bear in mind that this ward covers a comparatively large rural area consisting of three distinct villages.

There are 37 housing units proposed for this ward up to 2020

This ward is a low priority ward

### Tilbury Area

#### Tilbury Riverside & Thurrock Park Ward

There is an overall surplus of 130 places in this ward and a 77 place deficit 2 year old early education places within this figure. There is a proposed day nursery development aiming to deliver 120 early education and childcare places subject to planning approval, which required re-submission in Spring 2015 and subsequent Ofsted registration subject to planning approval. If development proceeds this has potential to address the majority of the deficit of places for 2 year old early education (50 places), and demand for further full daycare for working parents, in both Tilbury wards. The 233 housing units proposed for the geographical area of Tilbury will impact on future demand for early education and childcare places.

Solution: - The successful approval of the new provider, though planning application and Ofsted registration and nursery class capacity that already exists in school, would be sufficient to accommodate the additional demand for 3 & 4 year old places. The deficit of 2 year old places within both wards will need to be addressed by working with the local schools (with governor approval), to extend the age range of admissions to 2 year olds.

This ward is a medium priority ward

#### Tilbury St Chads Ward

There is a surplus 167 places in this ward and a 23 place deficit of 2 year early education places. It is anticipated an existing provider in this ward will be able to facilitate and satisfy the need for the 2 year old early education places. The 233 housing units proposed for the geographical area of Tilbury should not impact on



early education places for 3 & 4 year olds due to the existing surplus of places in this ward.

This ward is a medium priority ward.

### **West Thurrock and South Stifford Ward**

A day nursery provision in Purfleet proposing an expansion to offer 40 x 2 year old entitlement places was declined planning permission since the last Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2014.

There is an overall surplus of 35 places in this ward and a deficit of 48 x 2 year old early education places.

A proposed development of 104 place early education provision in the South Chafford ward 2015/2016 will serve both South Chafford ward and South Stifford area. The expansion of the existing full day care provider in West Thurrock by an additional 35 registered places will alleviate demand pressure early education and childcare places.

The 1368 housing units (including Phase 1 Purfleet Centre 2017-2020 800 units) proposed for the geographical areas of West Thurrock, South Stifford and Purfleet will significantly impact on the existing deficit of early education places provision and will impact on future demand for 2, 3 and 4 year old early education places.

Solution:- To highlight the need for further school nursery class or pre-school/full daycare provision for working parents, within the Purfleet Centre, particularly, within this, the need for 2 year old early education places. This requires the Pupil Place Planning and Childcare Sufficiency Officers to work in partnership to ensure early education and childcare places are available for families in the ward.

Development of 2, 3 and 4 year old early education places for is a high priority for this ward.

### **Across Thurrock**

To meet the full take up of 1003 2 year old early education places, promotion of the benefits of early education is the key to ensure all eligible 2 year olds, (and all 3 and 4 year old children) in Thurrock access their full entitlement. There has been a significant increase in the number of childminders from 13 to 62 who are able to deliver the early education places (24 to 581 places). The promotion of childminders as a recognised alternative provider of early education places is taking place in the Summer 2015, with the Childminding Support Officer and Family Information Service attending outreach events. The 2 year old early education page on the Thurrock Council website page, gives parents/carers the opportunity to view video footage of childminders who deliver early education places and feedback from parents who have used childminders to access early education places for their children.

Thurrock residents who are considering childminding as a career have access to the Thurrock Council website to access information that will assist them to register with Ofsted.

## **Challenges**

Proposed housing developments in addition to those already proposed in the Local Authority Monitoring Report March 2014 for deliverable housing 2015-2020 will potentially create demand for additional early education & childcare places with families moving into Thurrock.

There is a lack of suitable premises available in Thurrock for potential early education & childcare providers to rent or lease that meet Ofsted requirements. .

The promotion of childminders as a good alternative for parents to access early education and childcare places for their children is one solution to the lack of early education places. Childminders operate from their own homes and have opportunity to link with other childminders which is invaluable for childminder holiday/sickness cover. Some parents for various reasons are reluctant to use this form of early education and childcare, and good promotion is key by the childminders themselves, and the Family Information Service, by discussing the parent/carers needs when they are unable to locate early years provision.

Schools and academies can be an obvious choice for development of early education due to lack of premises available for Private, Voluntary or Independent (PVI) provision development, however, with the two year old early education there is a need for the most disadvantaged children to access Good or Outstanding provision (as with all early years providers). Some schools will need to improve the quality of their delivery before expansion to the delivery of 2 year old provision. The council's School Improvement Team facilitates this by working in partnership with maintained schools.

Future potential provider growth based within Flood Zones in Thurrock is currently presenting challenges to the development of childcare provision particularly in areas such as Tilbury where the whole area is flood plain.

The increase, to 30hrs of early education and childcare for working parents, proposed by the government for 2017 (pilot local authorities 2016), will undoubtedly have an impact on place availability to what extent at this point is unclear, should this go ahead. This will need to be considered in future assessments. The challenge will include identifying how many children of working parents we have in the Local Authority and whether this initiative will assist parents to work full time rather than part time, take work for the first time since their child's birth part time or full time, or just be a supplement to the household income by not having to pay for the additional childcare over the current 15 hours, or a move from informal childcare to formal childcare?

### **Additional solutions**

Consideration for property developers to allow for community buildings/land, should be part of any future proposed housing planning applications to facilitate a provision suitable for early education & childcare. Additional early education and childcare deficit relating to an area of housing development is now conveyed to the Pupil Place planning Team for inclusion in their feedback on behalf of Education to planning in regard to planning application consultation.

By working with the pupil place planning team, schools places and early education places can be analysed and discussed at regular intervals. Whilst demand from parents and fee paying places impacts on early education place assessments detailed in this report, there will be synergies where by assessments of schools places and early education places can lead to a joined up approach and deliver a sustainable market according to demand for places.

With the regeneration plan taking place in Thurrock, any property that may be suitable for early education & childcare should be highlighted to the Childcare Sufficiency Officer.

Meetings with the Asset Management Team/Lands, in house brings opportunity to highlight any available Local Authority owned premises, that present for rent by childcare providers.

Since 2014 the Thurrock Family Information Service has included information for landlords of potentially suitable premises, on the Thurrock Council website, who may wish to consider offering its use for childcare. The Sufficiency Officer would only take an advisory role in such instances.

The Childcare Sufficiency Officer continues to work closely with Thurrock Council planning department to enable supporting potential providers with planning applications.

To identify all eligible 2 year old children across Thurrock to ensure maximum take up rate is achieved. This challenge has now been largely overcome

The 2 year old entitlement Officer continues to work towards the increase in the take up of the two year old entitlement, through promotion and publicity of the entitlement, through outreach events and working in partnership with health professionals, social care workers, the voluntary community hubs, children centres, and, early education and childcare providers, and local media via the in house communications team. Parents/carers are now advised of their child's potential eligibility through direct communication to them individually. The parent is then able to confirm their child's eligibility with their chosen childcare provider, and this has improved the take up of the 2 year old early education places. However, there is a small amount of reluctance for parents/carers to take the 2 year old place or take the full hours as they consider their child too young.

To continue the work to identify further existing childminders who wish to deliver the early education places by encouraging them to sign the Thurrock Code of Practice for the delivery of early education and childcare places April 2015.