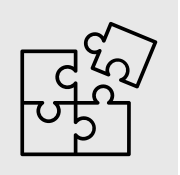
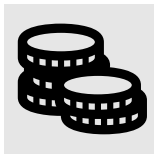




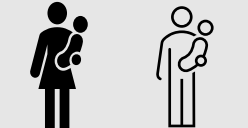





Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA)

2024-2025

The assessment and prediction of childcare places

<p>In Suffolk there are 572 providers offering 21,281 full time equivalent (FTE) places.</p> 	<p>755 new wrap around places have been created in 2024 from a total grant to date of £414,507.</p> 	 <p>A government target of 5,167 homes are to be built in Suffolk annually. This would mean 586 FTE places need to be developed to meet this.</p>	<p>20 new childminders registered in 2024 10 with Ofsted and 10 with a childminder agency.</p> 	 <p>15 new preschool and nursery settings opened in 2024.</p>
 <p>There is a deficit of - 2184 places across the whole of Suffolk.</p>	 <p>86.5% of eligible babies took up their funded place in the first term that they could claim.</p>	<p>75.6% of two year olds funded under additional forms of support took up their funded places.</p> 	 <p>91.5% of three and four year olds took up their funded universal place.</p>	<p>97.9% of inspected providers in Suffolk are judged by Ofsted as Good or Outstanding.</p> 

Suffolk County Council

Early Years and Childcare Service



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1 Overall assessment and summary

1a Introduction

This document reports on data and information about Suffolk in 2024. This information is used to give predictions of the numbers of childcare places likely to be available in 2025 and this document details these place predictions. The predictions take into account the fact that in September 2025, all eligible working families will be entitled to 30 hours of childcare for 38 weeks of the year (total 1,140 per year) for babies and children aged from nine months to starting school in their reception year. Sufficiency information changes frequently and is regularly updated and monitored. The data used for this assessment was correct when sourced on the dates shown throughout the document.

As stated in [Early education and childcare - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) sections B1 and B2 we:

Secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0 to 14 or up to 18 for disabled children.

We do this by taking into account:

- the local childcare market, including wraparound provision and demand for specific types of providers in a particular locality and the amount and type of supply that currently exists.
- the local labour market including the sufficiency of the local childcare workforce.
- the quality and capacity of childcare providers, childminders and childcare providers registered with a childminder agency, including their funding, staff, premises, experience and expertise.

We also:

- encourage schools, and other childcare providers in their area, to offer childcare from 8.00am until 6.00pm and in school holidays.
- aim to identify and remove barriers that prevent existing providers from expanding their provision as well as new providers entering the local childcare market if needed.
- encourage providers to take a sustainable business approach to planning and signpost providers to resources to support them.
- advise providers to consider the suitability of existing wraparound provision and the needs of parents.
- ensure that provision is inclusive and has considered the needs of all children, including those with SEND and additional needs.

Suffolk County Council (SCC) is also required by law to 'report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare, and make this report available and accessible to parents'.

SCC also uses this data to respond to housing development enquiries in order to secure provider contributions for the development of early years and childcare places.

The government promotes an offer of free childcare to parents. After listening to the views of the providers in Suffolk, a decision was taken for SCC to refer to this as 'funded early years childcare or education'. This is reflected throughout this document.

1b Overall assessment and prediction of childcare places

Currently overall in Suffolk the predictions of childcare places by age for September 2025 are shown in the grid below

Places available and Shortfall or Surplus Suffolk							
Places for Under 2s	Shortfall or Surplus for Under 2s	Places for 2yr olds	Shortfall or Surplus for 2yr olds	Shortfall or Surplus with migration considered 2yr olds	Places for 3&4yr olds	Shortfall or Surplus for 3&4yr olds	Shortfall or Surplus with migration considered 3&4yr olds
2147	-1576	4002	48	-45	8020	-240	-563

Suffolk overall is not currently predicted to have enough places, especially for babies and three and four year-olds in 2025. The government's expansion of funded childcare means working families with babies and two year-olds will be eligible for 30 hours of childcare per week for 38 weeks of the year in 2025. This expansion has contributed to the increased demand for places in all age groups.

The biggest predicted shortfall of places is for babies with a deficit of -1,576 across the county as a whole and this affects every cluster area as shown in the table below. However, the new policy on expanding funded childcare may take a while to embed with parents, particularly those with babies, so take-up maybe more gradual giving time to develop places. In addition, the birthrate in Suffolk shows to be reducing over recent years (see page 17). If the birth rate continues to drop, this will be reflected in the demand data, potentially reducing the need for places. The areas with the greatest predicted deficit for under twos are Ipswich West, Ipswich North, Stowmarket, Forest Heath, Thurston and Sudbury.

Overall, there is a small predicted deficit of places for two year-olds of -45. This is due to some cluster areas showing a predicted surplus of places and others a deficit. The greatest predicted deficit is in the Ipswich West cluster, though Ipswich North and Thurston also show a large predicted deficit of places in this age group. In addition, many two year olds of working families were already paying for a place in childcare as the expanded entitlement of two years-olds began. The places were already available and were converted to funded places with less expansion of places being necessary. Fewer baby places existed in Suffolk prior to the expansion of funded childcare.

Across the county, some cluster areas have a surplus and some a deficit for both the two and three and four year old age groups and migration is factored into these calculations. This is mixed across the county, though Bury St Edmunds, South Suffolk and Woodbridge Kesgrave clusters show a predicted surplus in places for both two and three and four year-olds. It may therefore be at a local level that some

providers consider adjusting how they configure the different ages of children to offset a shortfall in one age group from a surplus of places in another. Some settings may also consider lowering the age range if space and staffing allow, to provide more places for younger children.

We have a predicted deficit of -563 countywide for three and four year-olds. As the government is currently providing funding for all types of provider to open provision in schools, this is likely to help offset this deficit. As provision from this scheme will be in schools, it is more likely to focus on these older nursery children and be comparatively quick to begin operating as both the buildings and providers already exist. The clusters showing the biggest predicted shortfall in places for three and four year-olds are Stowmarket, Ipswich West, Ipswich North and Thurston.

Insufficiencies in some wards are offset by surplus places in neighbouring wards as families often migrate to childcare out of the home ward. This could be due to choice or to meet families' needs. In the Summer term 2024, 606 children migrated into the Suffolk provision from neighbouring counties. 230 children came from Norfolk, 175 children from Cambridgeshire and 201 from Essex. The majority of these children claimed funding in Forest Heath, Haverhill, Sudbury, High Suffolk, Waveney Blyth, North Lowestoft and South Suffolk clusters. A similar number migrated to neighbouring counties.

We are also currently predicting a large deficit of wraparound places for both before- and after-school care for children aged five to eleven. For care for this age group, there are different requirements around qualified staff and ratios. Schools who provide the majority of wraparound care can develop wraparound places comparatively quickly under their existing Ofsted registration. We therefore envisage this deficit will decrease significantly by September 2025.

We divide the county into 17 cluster areas. Please see Appendix A at the end of this report for which wards fall within each cluster. This sufficiency assessment will give information throughout the grids in the document of both Suffolk as a whole and for each of the 17 clusters.

A further breakdown showing the predictions of childcare places for September 2025 by age and cluster area are shown below

Places available and Shortfall or Surplus by Cluster								
Cluster	Places for Under 2s	Shortfall or Surplus for Under 2s	Places for 2yr olds	Shortfall or Surplus for 2yr olds	Shortfall or Surplus with migration considered 2yr olds	Places for 3&4yr olds	Shortfall or Surplus for 3&4yr olds	Shortfall or Surplus with migration considered 3&4yr olds
Bury St Edmunds	234	-38	361	106	66	679	114	18
Felixstowe	47	-96	143	-6	-1	254	-85	-71
Forest Heath	174	-158	376	49	29	685	-16	-96
Framlingham/Leiston	87	-61	174	8	-5	396	66	37
Haverhill	179	-73	304	37	21	506	18	-41
High Suffolk	70	-59	116	-17	-17	292	17	43
Ipswich East	238	-6	290	10	-41	649	75	-12
Ipswich North	126	-117	250	-12	-16	541	-39	-117
Ipswich West	173	-234	286	-163	-120	655	-269	-104
Lowestoft North	69	-98	175	-33	-52	438	8	-58
Lowestoft South	41	-66	92	-44	-27	211	-93	-42
South Suffolk	141	-27	237	60	53	443	77	22
Stowmarket	109	-153	291	26	35	421	-123	-143
Sudbury	122	-112	323	59	59	532	-22	-28
Thurston	114	-139	172	-75	-52	340	-122	-64
Waveney & Blyth	40	-87	132	-7	-11	353	27	11
Woodbridge/Kesgrave	182	-51	280	50	35	625	128	82
Total	2147	-1576	4002	48	-45	8020	-240	-563

A brief summary of further information pertinent to the sufficiency of childcare places is shown for each cluster area below

Bury St. Edmunds

The Bury St Edmunds cluster comprises both urban and rural wards. It has high numbers of a range of providers, including a fully outdoor provision and many childminders. A comparatively high number of baby places are offered, though not across all wards, leading to migration, often into the town centre. Both local knowledge and prediction data shows further baby places are required to meet demand. West Suffolk Hospital is a large employer resulting in demand for full daycare in the town centre. United States Airforce families often migrate to the town centre for baby provision, despite provision on base, as airbase parental leave is for 6 weeks.

Currently data shows a predicted surplus in the cluster for two year-old places. However, with high demand for baby places, this could impact on the surplus when babies turn two.

There is also a predicted surplus of three and four year-old places. Take up is particularly high in this area for this age group.

With direct train links for commuting parents as well as new housing, families from Cambridge and London are relocating to the area. This is impacting on the sufficiency of childcare places.

Felixstowe

Felixstowe is a small cluster with the fewest providers in the county. It is a port town and the Docks are a large employer so parents may migrate or live in this area due to the employment opportunities it offers. It is also a tourist town and so provides seasonal employment which may result in variable demand for childcare.

There are several large housing developments at different stages in the cluster and so demand is likely to grow, albeit gradually.

There is a predicted deficit of places for all age groups, particularly babies and three and four year-olds. One sessional provider has recently closed due to being financially unviable, although a new full daycare provider has opened. This would indicate parental preference is for all year-round provision for all age groups.

Forest Heath

Forest Heath has the most providers, including the most childminders, in the county. Despite this, some areas such as Brandon need more full daycare, especially for babies and wraparound provision to support working families. Some Newmarket providers offer early starts to support the horse racing community in the town.

There is also much migration, both across Suffolk wards and county borders, usually for parents to access their funded hours, which not all providers offer from nine months.

There is a large predicted deficit of places for babies and also for three and four year-olds and a surplus of two year-olds places predicted.

A new full daycare provider opened in 2023 and childminders continue to register and begin taking funding in the cluster, increasing places. In addition, the two American airbases have increased their childcare places for military personnel, thus freeing up spaces in community settings. These airbase settings are currently under-subscribed.

However, planned housing expansion both in the cluster and in nearby Cambridgeshire is likely to impact on the predicted deficit of places.

Framlingham Leiston

The cluster comprises a large rural area with two small towns. Providers report that families without transport find it challenging to access the provision due to the many rural roads and lack of public transport in the area.

Currently, demand for childcare places is generally met with the existing childcare providers. Data predicts a surplus of places for three and four year-olds, although a small deficit of places for two year-olds shows a need for more baby places.

As the workforce increases in the development of Sizewell C power station, it is likely to increase the demand for funded childcare across much of the cluster and in neighbouring clusters.

Haverhill

Providers in Haverhill town are both close together and reasonably accessible. Parents employed at Addenbrooke's Hospital and Highpoint Prison often require childcare for longer hours to cover shift patterns. Full daycare is therefore particularly busy.

All providers outside of the town, including a fully outdoor setting, are located in same rural ward; Clare, Hundon & Kedington.

Baby places are particularly limited with the deficit predicted to continue. Several childminders across the cluster have recently begun taking funded children and a new setting recently opened with another opening soon and whose offer includes babies. There are comparatively few school nurseries although another is planning to open soon. Despite a predicted deficit of three and four year-olds places, some schools report low numbers. Only one school nursery offers provision for under threes and wraparound care is limited. Take up of 30 hours is lower than average and this could be due to parents being unable to find the hours they need. Continuing housing development will further impact on Haverhill sufficiency.

High Suffolk

High Suffolk cluster is predominantly rural with small settings and childminders available in most wards with some larger full daycare.

Despite this, the cluster has the fewest private/voluntary settings and childminders, though several schools operate nurseries. Child populations are comparatively small and the rural roads and limited public transport makes accessing provision more difficult.

Consequently, rural providers tend towards lower occupancy. There is a deficit of baby and two year-old places. Families requiring provision for under twos migrate out of cluster. Children also migrate in from Norfolk. Usually, demand for three and four year-olds is met in the cluster.

There is ongoing housing development in several wards which may increase future demand. New places were developed in 2024 by one new full daycare provider opening and a school nursery expanding.

Ipswich East

East Ipswich is an urban cluster with good travel links and networks, and a range of provider types. There is limited space for housing expansion so demand is unlikely to grow as much as in other areas. However, there is a deficit of baby places predicted. One setting in this cluster will increase its baby places in 2025. Many nationalities and cultures have settled in Ipswich East and use childcare and many settings have multi ethnicities. As different cultures tend to have different preferences as to when to start formal childcare, this may impact on take up of baby places in the area.

There is a surplus of three and four year-old places until migration is factored in, whereupon a deficit is predicted. This migration is from neighbouring Ipswich clusters where settings are full. Local knowledge also indicates that staff travel in to work at Ipswich Hospital using childcare close to work and impacting further on migration. There is limited wraparound provision for older children.

Ipswich North

This is a mostly urban cluster, but which also covers some villages north of Ipswich. There are a number of wards which fall within the 10% most deprived nationally, including Whitton, one of the most deprived wards in Suffolk.

Take up of places for working families is good in the cluster and there is a deficit of baby places and places for three and four year-olds predicted. Families migrate into Ipswich North for childcare from other areas in Ipswich and this contributes to the deficit of places.

Many settings have multi ethnicities and as different cultures tend to have different preferences as to when to start formal childcare this may impact on take up of baby places in the area.

There is limited wraparound provision for older children.

Ipswich West

This cluster contains a few villages but is mostly urban. It has four wards which fall within the 10% most deprived nationally. Families use reliable public transport to access the good range of provision.

Ipswich West has a low take up of children eligible for places under working families' criteria and this is factored into predictions. Many settings have multi ethnicities attending, particularly in central Ipswich, many of whom have English as an additional language. Different cultures tend to have different preferences as to when to start formal childcare for the youngest children and this is likely to be a factor in the low take up in the area. Despite this, the cluster also has the largest predicted deficit of baby places and of two year-old places in the county. There is also a deficit predicted for older children. However, some settings report spaces and some families migrate to other areas of Ipswich for their childcare. This may be to access the hours they need.

Lowestoft North

This cluster comprises several providers in the town of Lowestoft and others in villages and the Broads area to the west and north of the town. Lowestoft town has several wards which are in the 10% most deprived nationally. Lowestoft North has a greater range of providers than Lowestoft South with several sessional and several full daycare providers plus a good number of childminders and school nurseries. One of the full daycare settings opened last year.

There is a predicted deficit of places across all ages and a shortage of wrap around care. Across the cluster a few providers are looking at the possibility of offering or extending their current out-of-school provision. Despite proximity to Lowestoft South, local knowledge suggests families do not tend to cross the town bridges for childcare.

Lowestoft South

Lowestoft town has several wards which are in the 10% most deprived nationally. There are several session pre-schools, school nurseries and childminders in Lowestoft South, though only one full daycare provider. Families needing full-time care and care for babies therefore have limited options of using childminders, using the full day setting or migrating out of ward or out of county to Norfolk. Families also often access childcare in the Waveney Blyth cluster.

Take up of funded places for working families is comparatively low within the cluster. However, there is a predicted deficit of places across all ages. A sessional provider is due to open in 2025. There is a shortage of wrap around care. Several providers are considering offering or extending their current out-of-school provision. Despite proximity to Lowestoft North, local knowledge suggests families do not tend to cross the town bridges for childcare.

South Suffolk

A predominantly rural cluster, covering from the Shotley peninsula to just beyond Hadleigh, with a mix of childcare provider types. Public transport can be limited, affecting access to provision for some families. However, take up is good for three and four year-olds of working families though lower for two year-olds of working families. Some settings in this area are increasing their two year-olds places. There is a predicted deficit of places for babies and a predicted surplus of places for two, three and four year-olds in the cluster.

In the town of Hadleigh, there is housing for 170 military houses families. Military families tend to be more transient therefore demand for provision can be variable in this area.

Stowmarket

The Stowmarket cluster comprises the town of Stowmarket and several villages. Provision is predominantly sessional and full daycare with a few childminders and school nurseries.

Full daycare settings are situated mostly in the urban areas and report very high occupancy, whereas occupancy varies in sessional provision. Local knowledge suggests that families requiring baby provision travel into Stowmarket town to access providers. There is a predicted deficit of both baby and three and four year-old places. There is currently a surplus of two year-old places and take up of two year funding is comparatively low. Restricted transport links give parents less choice of provider in rural areas.

In the cluster is a UK military airbase with 250 military houses and childcare provision. Military families are often transient and therefore demand for provision in this area changes.

Multiple housing developments are ongoing throughout the cluster in both urban and rural areas, which is likely to result in an increased demand for funded childcare in the cluster. The new Gateway 14 logistics park has not currently impacted on demand for childcare spaces. However, as the park expands it may do so.

Sudbury

The range of provision in this cluster comprises group provision including a fully outdoor setting plus a few childminders who operate in urban areas. Approximately 45% of providers within the cluster are in rural locations.

Only 2 of these rural settings offer baby places with one being open all year round. Working parents seeking childcare for younger children within many villages therefore travel elsewhere, creating pressure on the full daycare places available in Sudbury town centre, especially for babies where there is also a predicted deficit of places for 2025. There is also migration into Essex to access full daycare provision.

Significant housing development in Sudbury and Long Melford could impact further on demand.

However, childminders currently report a lack of demand and several school nurseries report low numbers of three and four year-olds. This indicates a current preference for all-year-round care in a group setting in the cluster

Thurston

The Thurston cluster covers a large rural area, resulting in a spread of smaller early years settings available in most wards. Provision is predominantly sessional and full day care with a few childminders and school nurseries. Occupancy levels vary in sessional provision. All-year-round settings report high occupancy, especially for under twos. There is a predicted deficit for babies and three and four year-olds. Take up is comparatively low for working families of three and four year-olds and this could be due to families not finding the hours they need.

A UK military airbase provides 364 houses for military families who are often transient and therefore demand for provision in this area changes.

Over the last year, places have been developed with a new full daycare and a school nursery opening. In addition, another school nursery is expanding and new childminders are registering. Another setting plans to expand by 30 places in 2026.

Waveney Blyth

The cluster comprises a large rural area with two small towns. The area has many rural roads and limited public transport links impacting on access to childcare for some families.

There is a range of provider types with similar numbers of childminders to private/ voluntary group settings. However, several wards would benefit from more childminders as these providers are often full. There are two independent schools which also provide funded places and many school nurseries. There is a predicted deficit for babies and two year-olds.

Take up for two year-olds receiving additional forms of support is comparatively low. However, there is an increased demand for places for two year-olds and increasingly for babies, where there is very limited provision and a predicted deficit of places. Take up for children of working families is comparatively high, which could explain the increased demand for younger children as the eligibility age has lowered. There is also a need for wraparound places and across the cluster several providers are considering offering or extending their current out-of-school provision.

A new provision is scheduled to open in 2025.

Woodbridge Kesgrave

Woodbridge Kesgrave have a good range of providers in the cluster. The main arterial A12 runs throughout the cluster making access to several providers in this location easier, especially for parents migrating in for childcare in this area. There is a large industrial estate and some large employers in the area (BT, police headquarters and Sutton Heath military base). However, other providers in the cluster are in rural areas and there are barriers to transportation here, which affect families' ability to take up childcare. This can cause these providers to have many places unused. Since September 2024, two pre-schools have closed due to financial pressures from low numbers.

There are plentiful childminders, seven of whom have recently begun taking Early Education funding enabling more funded places for families in the cluster. Despite the migration into the cluster, there are enough places predicted for two, three and four year-olds though a deficit of baby places is predicted.

There is a large housing development which will impact childcare as housing becomes available.

1c What we have done to support childcare sufficiency since the last assessment?

- We have reviewed the methodology and data sources we use as part of our sufficiency monitoring and predictions in order to be as accurate as possible and to incorporate the government expansion of funded childcare, which now includes babies from nine months and two year-olds of eligible working parents & carers. We now use GP data instead of ONS data in line with other counties and to provide a more frequent population update. We have also moved to using actual take up data per ward of our three and four year olds as opposed to the previously used Suffolk average. As yet, we do not use actual take up data of babies and two year-olds as we feel the expansion to include this is not yet established. Instead, we use the three and four year-old actual take up data to model for these age groups.
- We have set up a working group to research and support the development of wraparound provision for primary school children aged from five to eleven. To date, we have spent £414,507.55 to expand and develop wraparound provision.
- Parent and provider surveys have told us that parents want care to be provided on or close to school site and to be affordable and inclusive. Providers have told us that recruitment is an ongoing issue along with the long-term sustainability of wraparound care particularly in smaller more rural schools.
- To date we have approved 20 new breakfast and/or after-school clubs. This has provided 320 new breakfast and 435 after-school places, providing a total of 755 new places across Suffolk. This number is likely to increase in 2025 as we continue to work with schools to develop new, and expand existing, wraparound care.
- Bespoke training has been developed and delivered to support providers with the practicalities of setting up wraparound care.
- Support materials have been developed and published on Suffolk Learning to support with developing baby provision.
- We are aware that the national and local recruitment challenges for the sector have affected providers ability to supply childcare places. Some settings have had to cap places due to insufficient staff. We have developed a range of promotional materials including leaflets, posters, videos and radio adverts to raise awareness of the benefits and range of early years roles.
- We have continued to work with relevant stakeholders to support early years recruitment including FE and HE colleges and training providers, Anglia Careers Hub, ICANBEA, The Source and Apprenticeship Suffolk.
- As part of our work to support the recruitment challenges within the early years sector, we have worked with YMCA to introduce a new Early Years Professional Skills Bootcamp. The aim is to help grow the early years workforce by providing a free training opportunity of 12 weeks and a guaranteed interview for those over 19 who wish to join the sector. This can lead to an accelerated Level 3 apprenticeship.
- We have continued to work with Suffolk Job Centre Plus to support recruitment. We have delivered briefings to all 12 Job Centre Plus offices in Suffolk and attended job fairs across the county to raise awareness of the benefits and range of early years roles and the qualification options.
- Information has been added to Suffolk Infolink on benefits of, and how to volunteer at a Suffolk early years setting. This helps those interested in joining the workforce gain experience of the early years. This includes new fields for providers to show if they will consider providing volunteer, work experience or apprenticeship opportunities and also case studies and information on the practicalities of volunteering.

- We have worked with Suffolk County Council School Infrastructure and Planning departments to provide an appropriate yield prediction for each age group who may need a funded early education place. This is used to inform planning applications to secure developer contributions to build, extend or improve early years provision to help provide enough childcare places arising from new developments.
- We have maximised developer contributions available to us across Suffolk to build, extend or improve early years provision. For details of how we have used this, see chart below.

Developer contributions have been spent on settings to provide more childcare or to enhance provision

Cluster Area	Amount of developer contributions assigned and spent	What developer contribution was used for
Waveney Blyth	£29,165.63 (Jan 24) £3,476.81 (Oct 24)	The Early Years and Childcare Service (EYCS) secured developer contributions for a new setting which opened in Beccles providing places for zero to four year olds.
Thurston	£12,792.60 (March 24)	EYCS secured developer contributions to develop nursery places within a school for three and four year olds
Haverhill	£40,000.00 (Nov 24)	EYCS secured developer contributions for a new setting which opened in Haverhill providing places for zero to three year olds.
Sudbury	£13,465.54 (Dec 24)	Developer contributions secured by EYCS were used to support a Sudbury provider in enhancing the provision which operates for zero to four year olds.

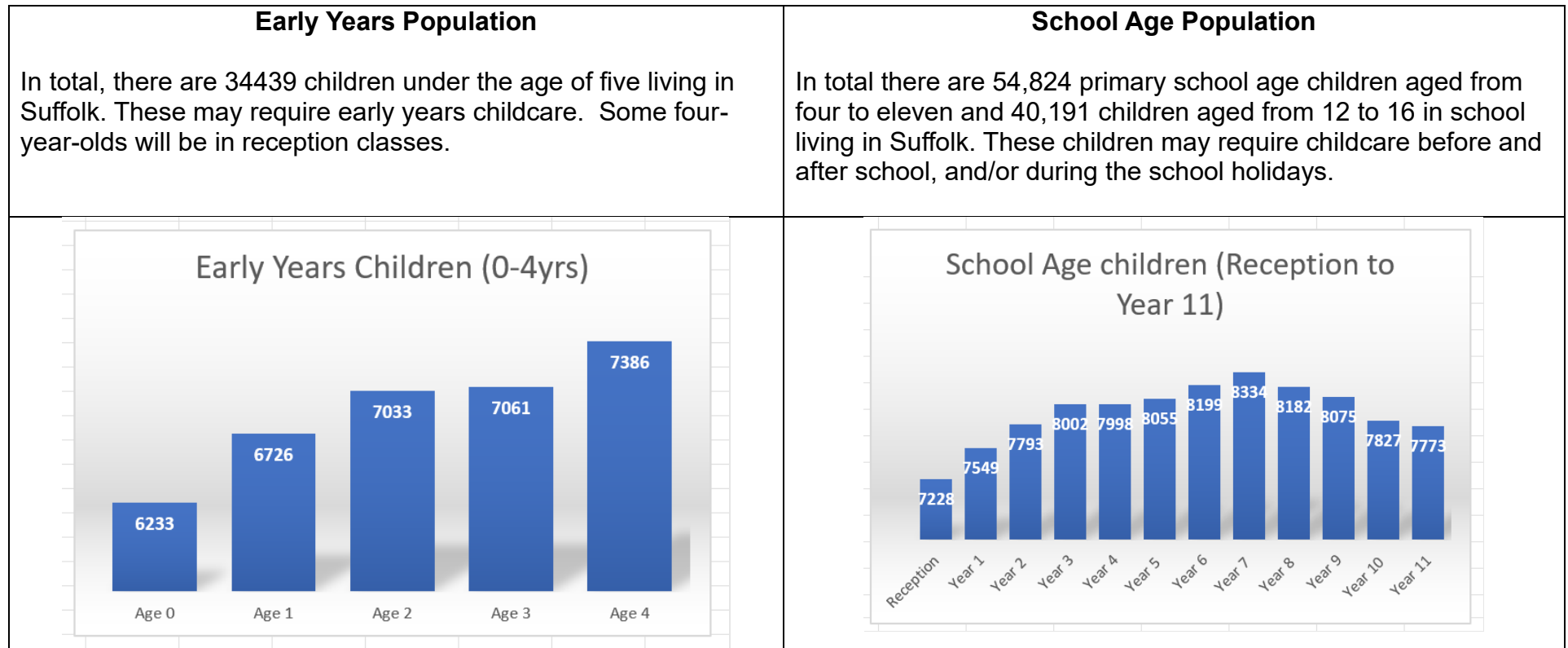
1d Our plans to support childcare sufficiency in 2025

- To support providers in applying for the capital grant for early years expansion for children aged two and under, prioritising areas of greatest need: Ipswich West, Forest Heath, Stowmarket, Thurston, Subury and Ipswich North.
- To support providers, where possible, to develop places for three and four year olds prioritising the areas of Stowmarket, Ipswich West and North, Framlingham Leiston and Felixstowe where the predicted deficit is highest.
- To continue to support the development of wrap around provision, prioritising the areas of greatest need in the clusters of: Ipswich North, East and West, Woodbridge Kesgrave, Framlingham Leiston, Stowmarket, Haverhill, Thurston, Lowestoft North, Forest Heath and Bury St Edmunds.
- To promote the wrap around grant which is continuing in 2025/2026 via regular communications and through further virtual Headteacher drop-in sessions. Contact all schools who do not have a full wraparound offer in place to offer support to meet the government's aim.
- To continue to work with Job Centre Plus to raise awareness of the need for staff in early years and the skills and attributes needed.
- To continue to promote the Early Years Professional Skills Bootcamp and to liaise with and support YMCA who deliver this.
- To develop resources for potential childminders and existing childminders wishing to register under an existing or new type of registration or to expand.
- To redevelop a suite of business tools for settings to support sustainability.
- To continue to work with colleagues in Schools Infrastructure and Strategic Planning to ensure best use of developer contributions which will meet the needs of families from the development.
- To share our sufficiency knowledge with existing and potential providers so that new provision is developed where there is a demand.
- To initiate discussions with providers where we identify a deficit of provision in an area, and to encourage them to review their offer and explore ways to create more places.
- To support providers when necessary to address their sustainability issues by reviewing their current offer and suggesting changes which would better meet the needs of families.
- To closely monitor take up of places, particularly in light of the expansion of funded places, and how this impacts on supply and demand.
- To make best use of SCC properties and other public sector assets.
- To maximise developer contributions to extend existing provision or to create new provision.
- To review lease agreements with providers in SCC buildings in order to encourage providers, where appropriate, to extend their opening hours to become 'full daycare' i.e. 8am to 6pm all year round and to move away from sessional term time practices.
- To take advantage of projects made available by the DfE to create additional places
- To liaise with relevant parties around the development and construction of Sizewell C to monitor the likely impact on the demand for childcare as the workforce develops in this area.

2 Demand for Childcare

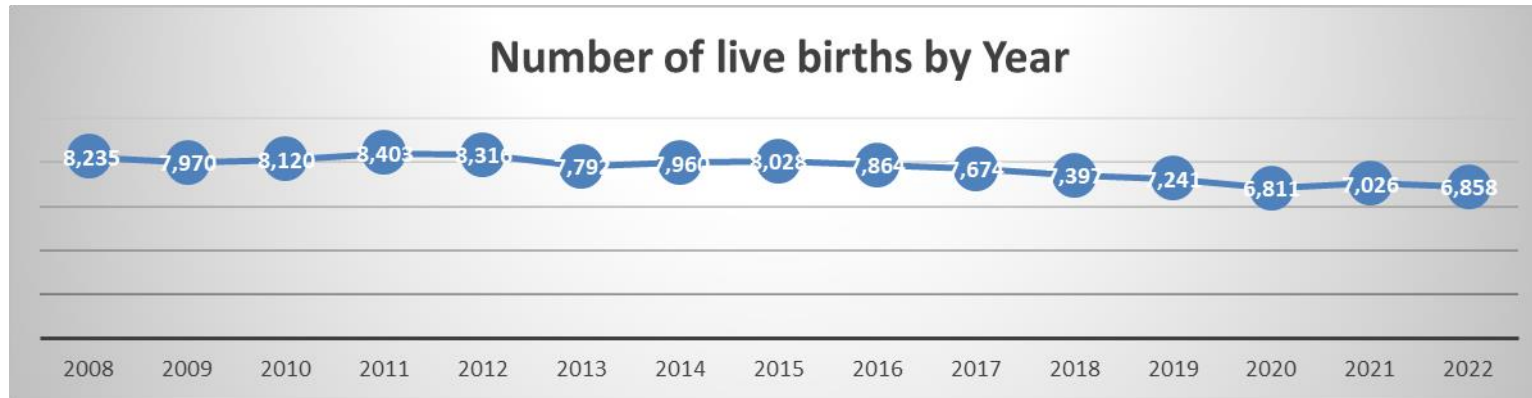
2a Child population in Suffolk

We use GP Registration data throughout our Early Years Sufficiency model. This is the same baseline data used by the DfE and an accurate data source for predicting the number of children aged 0-5 to which we apply various eligibility criteria based on age and the take up of additional hours for 3 and 4yr olds. For school age children we use data from the school census. This is all children in Suffolk schools and forms the basis for predicting the need for wraparound care.



Population change published data for Suffolk

The office for National Statistics publishes live births by County each year. In Suffolk the number of live births per year has declined. In 2008 there were 8235 live births and in 2022 there were 6858.



2b Future demand

A significant impact on demand for places in Suffolk is likely over the next few years. The development of Leiston based Sizewell C will bring many people to the area during the construction phase. The construction workforce is predicted to be 7,900 workers at its peak with an expected 2,600 worked from East Anglia and 500 jobs for people from the Lowestoft and Ipswich areas. The permanent workforce will also grow as Sizewell C is built and relocation to the area of the workforce and their families is likely to increase the demand for childcare substantially.

Source: Sizewell [New Sizewell C charter aims to leave a legacy of skills for the East of England - Sizewell C](#)

2c Number of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

Children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) are entitled to support with childcare up to the age of 18.

Children's needs change over time and are identified at different ages. Among the youngest children, SEND may only be identified when they start in childcare or school, and it can take some time from concerns being identified to an Education, Health and Care plan being issued. If using only the number of children with an EHCP to ascertain numbers of children with SEND for those aged 0-4 it is inevitable this will produce an underestimate. The majority of children receiving support for SEND do not have an EHC plan as their needs are met without the need for one. The second chart below shows the number of children accessing each of the SEND funding strands to give a more accurate estimate of the number of children with SEND in early years settings. Please note, some children could access the Disability Access Fund at the same time as High Needs Funding.

Children with an EHC plan - Suffolk Summer term 2024	
Early years children 0-4	317
Primary school (reception to year six)	2583

Children accessing SEND funding – Summer Term 2024			
Age	Disability Access Fund (DAF)	Inclusion Fund (IF)	High Needs Funding (HNF)
Children aged 0-4	76	310	788

Members of the LoP can apply for SEND funding strands for any eligible children accessing any part of their early education funding with them. This can be prior to a child receiving an EHCP. This funding is a contribution to the provider's total resource to support them to meet the needs of the child and to enable the child to be effectively included:

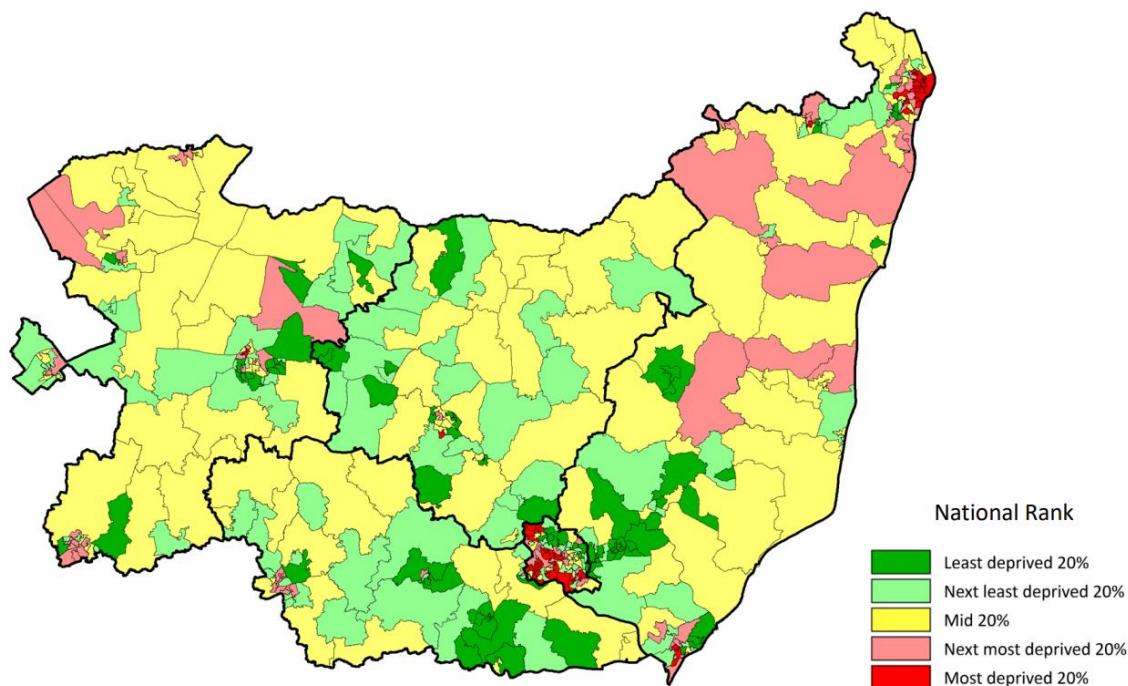
- Inclusion funding (IF): this fund is to support the provider to meet the emerging needs of children aged from nine months to four years. This payment is paid for two terms.
- Early Years High Needs (HN) funding: this funding is for eligible children aged from nine months to four years, whose special educational needs are significant and complex. HN funding payments are made directly to the provider and equate to the number of hours the child attends the provision.
- Disability Access Fund (DAF): this funding is for eligible children aged from nine months to four years (not in reception) in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA).

SCC strategically plans support for children with SEND in order to meet the needs of all children as required by SEND Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years (January 2015). We do this by:

- Ensuring providers offer an inclusive environment and enable all children with SEND to access their provision and the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- SCC challenges providers not meeting their duties under the Equality Act 2010. Childcare providers in receipt of early education funding agree to the following terms and conditions under the LoP. As set out in Section G – Equality and Inclusion. SCC will promote equality and inclusion, particularly for disadvantaged families, children in care, children in need, children with disabilities and children with special educational. As set out in Section F – Removal from the LoP. SCC will remove the provider from the LoP if they fail to comply with its legal duties under the Equality Act 2010.
- SCC invites all members of the LoP to apply for the following SEND funding strands for any eligible children accessing any part of their early education funding with them: IF, HNF, DAF. This funding is a contribution to the provider's total resource to support them to meet the needs of the child and to enable the child to be effectively included.
- SCC delivers a range of training to support providers to deliver inclusive practice.
- Supporting parents to find childcare provision to meet their child's needs. To assist with this the Suffolk InfoLink website has a Local Offer section for every provider. This provides clear, accessible, and accurate information about the services available for children and young people with SEND.
- Working with parents/carers and providers to remove barriers of access to early education and to support all children to fulfil their potential. Under the Equality Act 2010, admission to a provision cannot be denied or a child excluded due to a child's health or developmental needs. They must provide an inclusive environment which reflects their duty to promote equality and their obligations as outlined in the Act.

2d Deprivation

2019



Key Messages for Suffolk

- The dramatic decline in relative deprivation seen in Suffolk between 2010 and 2015 has not been repeated, but neither has there been much of a recovery in Suffolk's relative position
- At the County level, Suffolk was in the least deprived third of LAs nationally in 2015; now Suffolk ranks just outside the least deprived third (53rd out of 151 Authorities)
- 90% of the LSOAs in Suffolk who were in the most deprived 20% nationally in 2015 were still in the most deprived 20% nationally in 2019
- Ipswich is now the most deprived area in Suffolk, as changes to council configuration have led to a loss of granular detail particularly affecting Waveney; Mid Suffolk remains the least deprived area. West Suffolk and Babergh have seen small improvements in relative deprivation between 2015 and 2019; all other areas have declined, albeit by small amounts.
- Education, skills and training in Ipswich have improved slightly but remain at a low level

Disadvantaged Children National Data - Suffolk 2024

Basis for funding	Economic reasons	High level SEND	Looked after /adopted from care	Multiple reasons	Total
Number of children	2965	32	104	6	3102
Percentage of children	95.6%	1%	3.4%	0.2%	100%

The grid above includes children in receipt of two year old funding under additional forms of support, Early years pupil premium (EYPP) funding and children under five in Reception who qualify for free school meals.

3 Supply of Childcare

3a Overall information

The majority of childcare providers in Suffolk operate Monday to Friday with 43% operating for at least 49 weeks of the year. These providers typically operate between the hours of 8am to 6pm with 32% of providers being open for at least 50 hours a week.

53% of the childcare providers in Suffolk operate for 38 weeks of the year or less. 26% are only open for between 10 to 30 hours per week.

33% of providers are situated on school sites. Of these providers, 50% are run directly by the school with the other 50% being run by private, voluntary or independent providers.

Some providers may open for more atypical hours with 19% of Suffolk providers being open for more than 50 hours per week. Some childminders will offer overnight care or significantly atypical hours to fit in with local industry. For example, this occurs in Newmarket to accommodate the racing industry families and near the county hospitals to accommodate medical shift work patterns.

Further childcare provision is provided for American military families near the bases at Mildenhall in Forest Heath but this provision is not included in the data in this assessment. This is because the general population of children do not attend. American military personnel and their families do not register with Suffolk GPs so are not included in the population data. However, some of the children of American base personnel do chose to access the Suffolk settings in the area not on the base and this increases the demand and is hard to predict as they are not in our population data.

Currently, local knowledge indicates many providers have high demand for babies and two year olds following the roll out of the expansion of childcare with many operating waiting lists. Some providers are working with us to consider how they can expand to increase supply to meet the demand. We will work with providers to distribute the capital grant for early years expansion for children aged two and under, especially in the areas of greatest need: Ipswich West, Forest Heath, Stowmarket, Thurston, Subury and Ipswich North to improve supply for babies and younger children.

There is a significant need for a greater supply of wraparound care across the county, especially in the areas of: Ipswich North, East and West, Woodbridge/Kesgrave, Framlingham Leiston, Stowmarket, Haverhill, Thurston, Lowestoft North, Forest Heath and Bury St Edmunds. The wraparound grant will continue for the 2025/2026 financial year and we will work with schools to maximise this opportunity to better meet working families' needs.

3b The numbers and types of provider and the number of places offered

Early Education - the number of providers by type and the places they offer by age in Suffolk overall

Provider Type	Number of providers	Number of 0-2s places (FTE)	Number of 2-3s places (FTE)	Number of 3-4s places (FTE)
Childminder	212	262	262	258
Full Day Care	121	1705	2306	3271
School Nursery	105	10	214	2214
Sessional Pre-school	134	169	1214	2255
Total	572	2145	3996	7997

* Childminder numbers include agency childminders
 * School nursery numbers include both LA & academy schools

In addition to the providers in the chart above, Suffolk also has 50 non LoP childminders who do not offer funded places but may provide care for a charge for early years children and for wraparound and holiday care for children of school age.

Early Education The number of providers by type and the places they offer by age in each Cluster Area

Bury St Edmunds				
Provider Type	Number of providers	Number of 0-2s places (FTE)	Number of 2-3s places (FTE)	Number of 3-4s places (FTE)
Childminder	18	21	21	21
Full Day Care	11	159	198	290
School Nursery	8	10	51	192
Sessional Pre-school	7	44	92	177
Total	44	234	361	679

Felixstowe				
Provider Type	Number of providers	Number of 0-2s places (FTE)	Number of 2-3s places (FTE)	Number of 3-4s places (FTE)
Childminder	10	11	11	10
Full Day Care	2	26	31	50
School Nursery	1	0	0	26
Sessional Pre-school	10	10	101	169
Total	23	47	143	254

Forest Heath				
Provider Type	Number of providers	Number of 0-2s places (FTE)	Number of 2-3s places (FTE)	Number of 3-4s places (FTE)
Childminder	24	29	29	28
Full Day Care	12	136	196	244
School Nursery	5	0	20	143
Sessional Pre-school	12	9	131	271
Total	53	174	376	685

Framlingham/Leiston

Provider Type	Number of providers	Number of 0-2s places (FTE)	Number of 2-3s places (FTE)	Number of 3-4s places (FTE)
Childminder	12	16	16	16
Full Day Care	6	63	116	171
School Nursery	6	0	5	117
Sessional Pre-school	6	8	37	92
Total	30	87	174	396

Haverhill

Provider Type	Number of providers	Number of 0-2s places (FTE)	Number of 2-3s places (FTE)	Number of 3-4s places (FTE)
Childminder	11	14	14	14
Full Day Care	8	165	207	220
School Nursery	5	0	10	131
Sessional Pre-school	9	0	72	141
Total	33	179	304	506

High Suffolk

Provider Type	Number of providers	Number of 0-2s places (FTE)	Number of 2-3s places (FTE)	Number of 3-4s places (FTE)
Childminder	5	6	6	6
Full Day Care	5	56	75	112
School Nursery	9	0	0	99
Sessional Pre-school	5	10	37	76
Total	24	71	118	293

Ipswich East

Provider Type	Number of providers	Number of 0-2s places (FTE)	Number of 2-3s places (FTE)	Number of 3-4s places (FTE)
Childminder	11	13	13	13
Full Day Care	10	215	217	330
School Nursery	7	0	0	147
Sessional Pre-school	6	8	53	135
Total	34	235	282	625

Ipswich North

Provider Type	Number of providers	Number of 0-2s places (FTE)	Number of 2-3s places (FTE)	Number of 3-4s places (FTE)
Childminder	15	18	18	18
Full Day Care	9	103	163	218
School Nursery	7	0	26	187
Sessional Pre-school	6	6	43	119
Total	37	126	250	541

Ipswich West

Provider Type	Number of providers	Number of 0-2s places (FTE)	Number of 2-3s places (FTE)	Number of 3-4s places (FTE)
Childminder	12	15	15	15
Full Day Care	10	158	213	357
School Nursery	8	0	5	156
Sessional Pre-school	7	0	54	128
Total	37	173	286	655

Lowestoft North

Provider Type	Number of providers	Number of 0-2s places (FTE)	Number of 2-3s places (FTE)	Number of 3-4s places (FTE)
Childminder	16	20	20	20
Full Day Care	5	49	91	133
School Nursery	10	0	12	237
Sessional Pre-school	4	0	52	48
Total	35	69	175	438

Lowestoft South

Provider Type	Number of providers	Number of 0-2s places (FTE)	Number of 2-3s places (FTE)	Number of 3-4s places (FTE)
Childminder	15	23	23	23
Full Day Care	1	15	19	29
School Nursery	5	0	12	78
Sessional Pre-school	6	3	37	81
Total	27	41	92	211

South Suffolk

Provider Type	Number of providers	Number of 0-2s places (FTE)	Number of 2-3s places (FTE)	Number of 3-4s places (FTE)
Childminder	11	13	13	13
Full Day Care	8	102	156	192
School Nursery	5	0	0	88
Sessional Pre-school	7	26	67	149
Total	31	141	237	443

Stowmarket

Provider Type	Number of providers	Number of 0-2s places (FTE)	Number of 2-3s places (FTE)	Number of 3-4s places (FTE)
Childminder	8	9	9	9
Full Day Care	8	88	165	210
School Nursery	1	0	15	24
Sessional Pre-school	13	12	102	179
Total	30	109	291	421

Sudbury

Provider Type	Number of providers	Number of 0-2s places (FTE)	Number of 2-3s places (FTE)	Number of 3-4s places (FTE)
Childminder	7	8	8	8
Full Day Care	6	108	155	201
School Nursery	7	0	35	161
Sessional Pre-school	12	6	124	162
Total	32	122	323	532

Thurston

Provider Type	Number of providers	Number of 0-2s places (FTE)	Number of 2-3s places (FTE)	Number of 3-4s places (FTE)
Childminder	12	15	15	13
Full Day Care	9	99	103	198
School Nursery	4	0	0	50
Sessional Pre-school	5	0	55	79
Total	30	114	172	340

Waveney & Blyth

Provider Type	Number of providers	Number of 0-2s places (FTE)	Number of 2-3s places (FTE)	Number of 3-4s places (FTE)
Childminder	11	16	16	16
Full Day Care	2	19	30	63
School Nursery	8	0	17	161
Sessional Pre-school	10	6	69	114
Total	31	40	132	353

Woodbridge/Kesgrave

Provider Type	Number of providers	Number of 0-2s places (FTE)	Number of 2-3s places (FTE)	Number of 3-4s places (FTE)
Childminder	14	16	16	16
Full Day Care	9	145	170	255
School Nursery	9	0	6	218
Sessional Pre-school	9	21	89	136
Total	41	182	280	625

Wraparound Care The number of providers and the places they offer for school age children in Suffolk Overall

Before School - Number of providers	Before School - Number of Places available	After School - Number of providers	After School - Number of Places available
1070	16174	535	15140

Wraparound Care The number of providers and the places they offer for school age children in each Cluster

Cluster	Before School - Number of providers	Before School - Number of Places available	After School - Number of providers	After School - Number of Places available
Bury St Edmunds	41	557	41	536
Felixstowe	24	380	24	324
Forest Heath	50	762	50	716
Framlingham/Leiston	26	304	26	329
Haverhill	28	369	28	328
High Suffolk	29	499	29	480
Ipswich East	24	404	24	418
Ipswich North	28	466	28	450
Ipswich West	33	533	33	374
Lowestoft North	29	561	29	437
Lowestoft South	24	292	24	316
South Suffolk	32	328	32	309
Stowmarket	29	502	29	490
Sudbury	31	528	31	496
Thurston	38	417	38	458
Waveney & Blyth	32	506	32	425
Woodbridge/Kesgrave	37	679	37	684

4 Funded Early Education

4a Eligibility

Some children are entitled to childcare, funded by the government. These entitlements are for 38 weeks per year. It is the local authority's duty to administer this funding and make the payments to the providers each term.

Eligible children, from the term after they become 9 months old, are entitled to up to 15 hours of funded education per week for 38 weeks of the year (570 hours per year). This expands to 30 hours per week (1,140 hours per year) from September 2025.

Eligible two year olds with additional government support are entitled to up to 15 hours of funded education per week for 38 weeks of the year (570 hours per year). Eligibility begins the term after the child's second birthday. In Suffolk approximately 25% of 2yr olds are eligible for this funded childcare under the economic criteria. However, this does not include any children eligible under non-economic criteria for example 'children in need (CiN)' which means the actual percentage is likely to be higher.

Eligible two year olds from working families are entitled to up to 15 hours of funded education per week for 38 weeks of the year (570 hours per year). Eligibility begins the term after the child's second birthday. This expands to 30 hours per week (1,140 hours per year) from September 2025.

All children from the term after their third birthday are entitled to up to 15 hours of funded education per week for 38 weeks of the year (570 hours per year).

Some children from the term after their third birthday are entitled to up to 30 hours of funded education per week for 38 weeks of the year (1,140 hours per year).

To see if the child is eligible visit [Homepage | Childcare Choices](#)

Parents do not have to use all the hours of their funded entitlement. They may choose to split them between providers. With the agreement of their provider, parents may also spread them across the year – for example, rather than taking 15 hours for 38 weeks a year they could take just under 12 hours for 48 weeks a year. This is known as a stretched offer.

Parents may choose to pay for additional hours on top of the funded entitlement.

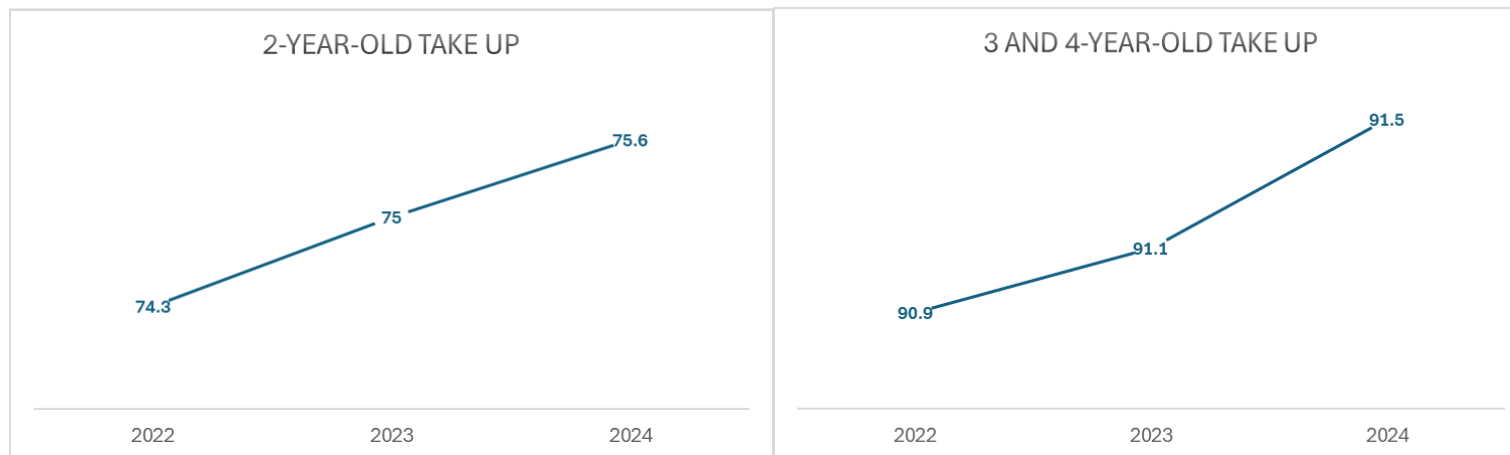
4b Suffolk Overall take up of funded early education

Take up Data National Data for Suffolk

Annual statistics from the DfE for Suffolk shows:

75.6% of two years olds funded under additional forms of support are claiming their funded entitlement for 15 hours.

91.5% of three and four year olds are claiming their universal entitlement for 15 hours. This shows a rise since 2022 for both age groups and is likely due to a return to more typical take up patterns since Covid.



As the DfE data above does not include information for two, three and four year olds eligible under the working families criteria, the information from SCC data below shows the take up data for two year olds eligible under additional criteria and working families criteria, three and four year olds eligible under universal and working families criteria.

A further breakdown showing the take up of early education funding in the Summer term 2024 by age and cluster area is shown below

Take up data by Cluster				
Cluster	% of Disadvantaged 2yr olds	% of Working family 2yr olds	% Universal entitlement for 3&4yr olds	% Extended hours working family 3&4yr olds
Bury St Edmunds	72%	77%	97%	99%
East Ipswich	74%	75%	90%	103%
Felixstowe	96%	94%	92%	97%
Forest Heath	70%	82%	95%	100%
Framlingham/Leiston	96%	78%	98%	105%
Haverhill	74%	66%	89%	92%
High Suffolk	90%	85%	90%	98%
North Ipswich	74%	92%	91%	97%
North Lowestoft	85%	62%	93%	92%
South Lowestoft	68%	95%	97%	106%
South Suffolk	88%	83%	94%	99%
Stowmarket	65%	85%	89%	93%
Sudbury	80%	91%	88%	93%
Thurston	78%	74%	94%	90%
Waveney & Blyth	69%	74%	94%	108%
West Ipswich	75%	72%	86%	90%
Woodbridge/Kesgrave	109%	103%	95%	96%

Data Sources: SCC Claims data

DWP Baseline for two year olds funded under additional forms of support (disadvantaged two year olds)

GP Registrations for the number of two, three and four year olds

% of three and four year olds claiming over 15 hours (three year average) used as a proxy for working parents.

In the Summer 24 for there was no data available for children under two as the entitlement started in September 2024

5 Costs

Suffolk receives funding from the government. The amount is determined by the National Funding Formula. This is distributed to providers based on their termly claims. The funding comprises of an hourly rate plus deprivation funding and inclusion funding for eligible children. Providers also receive Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP), Inclusion Funding (IF), High Needs Funding (HNF) and Disability Access Fund (DAF) funding for eligible babies and children aged from nine months starting school.

Suffolk County Council early education funding rates		
age	From April 2024	From April 2025
	For childminders, group settings and school nurseries	For childminders, group settings and school nurseries
eligible babies from 9 month olds	£10.08	£10.32
eligible two year olds	£7.38	£7.57
three and four year olds	£5.21	£5.40

Age	Average fees per hour outside of the funded hours		
	Childminders	Group setting	School nursery
eligible babies from 9 month olds	£5.47	£6.75	n/a
eligible two year olds	£5.57	£6.32	n/a
three and four year olds	£5.36	£5.88	n/a

Data Source: SCC data from providers

*please note not all providers supply this information so this is only accurate for the providers who have.

*There may be variations to rates eg discounts for sibling groups. There may be additional rates for additional services, for example, lunch and other meals.

6 Quality

Early years group providers must register with Ofsted on the Early Years Register. These providers are inspected by Ofsted, who give them an overall grade for the quality of their provision.

Childminders can register with Ofsted or with a Childminder Agency.

Schools and standalone maintained nursery schools are on the Schools' register. The grades for both registers are equivalent.

Schools with nurseries have an overall inspection for the whole school and these providers are excluded from our calculation.

Early years providers currently have four possible Ofsted grades: 'outstanding', 'good', 'requires improvement' and 'inadequate'.

Providers still awaiting their first full inspection will not yet have a grade. It can take 30 months before the first full inspection.

Providers on the Early Years Register who are inspected when no early years children are present can only be graded as Met or Not Met.

There are two childminder agencies who currently have childminders based in Suffolk registered with their agency. Both agencies have been graded as effective by Ofsted. The agencies are responsible for inspecting their childminders to ensure suitable quality of their provision, care and education.

Ofsted Statistics for Suffolk

Childcare providers and inspections as of 31 August 2024 showing the inspection grades of those who have been inspected.

	Number of providers			Percentage of inspected providers							
	EYR providers	Total number inspected	Outstanding	Good	Requires improvement	Inadequate	Outstanding	Good	Requires improvement	Inadequate	
Suffolk	521	424	67	348	7	2	15.8	82.1	1.7	0.5	

A further breakdown showing the amount of Ofsted judged good and outstanding providers in Suffolk by cluster as of January 2025

Group settings

CLUSTER	Provider count	Number Inspected	Number Graded Good	Number Graded Outstanding	Good and Outstanding %
Bury St Edmunds	20	16	12	4	100.0%
East Ipswich	16	14	11	2	92.9%
Felixstowe	10	9	9		100.0%
Forest Heath	23	22	17	4	95.5%
Framlingham/Leiston	11	8	7	1	100.0%
Haverhill	16	14	8	5	92.9%
High Suffolk	10	9	9		100.0%
North Ipswich	15	14	10	4	100.0%
North Lowestoft	10	9	9		100.0%
South Lowestoft	7	6	4	1	83.3%
South Suffolk	15	14	9	4	92.9%
Stowmarket	19	17	17		100.0%
Sudbury	19	16	13	3	100.0%
Thurston	15	12	10	2	100.0%
Waveney & Blyth	12	10	8	2	100.0%
West Ipswich	18	15	9	6	100.0%
Woodbridge/Kesgrave	18	17	15	2	100.0%

In the grid above where a provider is judged as Met, we have included them in the Good calculation. At the time of writing, no providers had a judgement of Not Met in Suffolk.

Independent schools with children over two are not inspected by Ofsted so are not included in the grid above.

Group settings in the grid above comprise day nurseries and preschools.

Ofsted registered childminders

CLUSTER	Provider count	Number Inspected	Number Graded Good	Number Graded Outstanding	Good and Outstanding %
Bury St Edmunds	22	19	16	2	94.7%
East Ipswich	12	12	11	1	100.0%
Felixstowe	11	11	9	2	100.0%
Forest Heath	27	23	21	1	95.7%
Framlingham/Leiston	12	12	9	3	100.0%
Haverhill	15	9	6	3	100.0%
High Suffolk	5	4	3		75.0%
North Ipswich	14	13	12	1	100.0%
North Lowestoft	17	13	11	2	100.0%
South Lowestoft	14	12	11	1	100.0%
South Suffolk	10	7	4	3	100.0%
Stowmarket	8	8	7	1	100.0%
Sudbury	10	7	7		100.0%
Thurston	15	14	13	1	100.0%
Waveney & Blyth	14	13	12	1	100.0%
West Ipswich	13	11	10	1	100.0%
Woodbridge/Kesgrave	15	13	10	2	92.3%

In the grid above where a provider is judged as Met, we have included them in the Good calculation. At the time of writing, no providers had a judgement of Not Met in Suffolk.

Childminders registered with agencies not inspected by Ofsted so are not included in the grid above.

7 Methodology

Data sources

- Number of children: The data for children under five comes from the GP Registration data for children 0-5 and the school age children data comes from the school census within the local authority.
- Children with EHC plans and other SEND funding: based on data held by Suffolk local authority.
- Supply of childcare: based on data provided to SCC by Ofsted, who regulate early years provision in schools and childcare provision. In some cases, we have supplemented this with local intelligence where providers are not registered with Ofsted.
- Data on take up, deprivation children and SEN children: is based on the Early Years and Schools Censuses, which are taken every January and published by the Department for Education in the statistical collection *Education provision: children under five years of age*.
- Ofsted data Childcare providers and inspections as of 31 August 2024.
- SCC information held on Ofsted inspections as of January 2025.
- Price of childcare: This is an average based on the prices that responding childcare providers have told us they charge.
- IMD data 2019 has been used for Deprivation.

Cluster level data

All data used for sufficiency within the local authority is based on the summer term. This is because SCC is aware that this will be the busiest term for childcare providers when most four year olds will be in a setting as many move to school in the Autumn term.

Sufficiency Methodology

The Sufficiency model in Suffolk is based on: DEMAND (how many spaces we may need) vs SUPPLY (how many spaces are provided by settings). Here is a methodology for how this is calculated:

Demand

1. Numbers of children requiring provision

In Suffolk we have decided to use 30hr take up for 3 and 4yr olds (3yr average) as a determinant for the demand from working parents.

Age	Population	Eligible Children	Entitlement
0-2yrs	25% of children aged 0-1yrs* 100% of children 1-2 yrs	Take up % of 3 and 4yr olds claiming additional hours*	30 hrs
2yr olds (under the economic criteria)	n/a	Children eligible from summer term list	15 hrs
2yr olds (working parents)	100% of 2yr olds	Take up % of 3 and 4yr olds claiming additional hours (30 hrs)	30hrs
3yr olds	100% of population	All Take up % of 3 and 4yr olds claiming additional hours	15hrs 30 hrs
4yr olds	58% of population (to account for 4yr olds in school)	All Take up % of 3 and 4yr olds claiming additional hours	15 hrs 30 hrs

*Eligible for childcare from 9 months

Data Sources: GP Registration data provided by DfE (number of children), Vulnerable 2yr olds provided by DWP (number of vulnerable 2yr olds), SCC funding data for 30hr take up (number of children in working households)

Number of full-time places needed (FTE) - Using the table above a Total FTE required is calculated.

2. Supply

Number of FTE places provided by settings

Maximum number of children at one time	Maximum number of FTE places	Max number of FTE places provided with stretch
This is the maximum number of children aged 0-4 that the setting can have	This is how many FTE places the setting can provide for the children (based on how many weeks and hours they are open)	This is then stretched for those settings open for longer than term time only This is the total Supply figure

Data source: Early Years team

Surplus or Deficit

FTE demand – FTE supply = Surplus or Deficit

Migration adjustment - Movement of children

As children do not always take up their place where they live, we account for migration

We look at children moving IN and OUT of each ward.

IN:	OUT:	Children IN- Children OUT
Number of children coming into settings in the ward that live outside of it	Number of children attending settings outside of the ward	More children coming in will add children More children going out will reduce children

Data Source: SCC funding claims

Take up data at cluster level

- SCC uses all funding claims received and removes duplicates.
- Out of county children are included in this report. This decision is based on the likelihood that for every child funded in Suffolk who lives out of county, there will be a Suffolk child who attends a setting in a neighbouring county and is therefore funded by them.
- SCC calculates a child's date of birth based on the first date in the term. For summer 2021 data 01/04/2021 was used.

8 References

Education provision: children under 5 years of Age January 2024 *Department for Education*

[Education provision: children under 5 years of age, Reporting year 2024 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)

Childcare providers and inspections as at 31 August 2024

[Childcare providers and inspections as at 31 August 2024 - GOV.UK](#)

Indices of Deprivation 2019 Summary Public Health Suffolk

[Indices of Deprivation 2019 Shortpdf](#)

9 Appendices

Appendix 1 – wards within clusters

<p>Bury St Edmunds Abbeygate Barrow Chedburgh & Chevington Eastgate Horringer Minden Moreton Hall Risby Southgate St Olaves Tollgate Westgate</p>	<p>Felixstowe Eastern Felixstowe Orwell & Villages Western Felixstowe</p>	<p>Forest Heath Brandon Central Brandon East Brandon West Exning Icen Kentford and Moulton Lakenheath Manor Mildenhall Great Heath Mildenhall Kingsway and Market Mildenhall Queensway Newmarket East Newmarket North Newmarket West The Rows</p>	<p>Framlingham/ Leiston Aldeburgh & Leiston Framlingham Kelsale & Yoxford Saxmundham Wickham Market</p>
<p>Haverhill Clare, Hundon and Kedington Haverhill Central Haverhill East Haverhill North Haverhill South Haverhill South East Haverhill West Whepstead & Wickhambrook Withersfield</p>	<p>High Suffolk Debenham Eye Fressingfield Gislingham Hoxne & Worlingworth Mendlesham Needham Market Palgrave Stonham Stradbroke & Laxfield</p>	<p>Ipswich East Bixley Gainsborough Holywells Priory Heath Rushmere St Andrew St Johns</p>	<p>Ipswich North</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alexandra • Castle Hill • Claydon & Barham • Rushmere • St Margarets (Ipswich) • Whitton (Ipswich)

<p>Ipswich West Blakenham Bramford Bridge Gipping Sprites Sproughton & Pinewood Stoke Park Westgate (Ipswich) Whitehouse</p>	<p>Lowestoft North Gunton & St Margarets Harbour & Normanston Lothingland Oulton Broad</p>	<p>South Suffolk Brantham Brett Vale Capel St. Mary Copdock & Washbrook East Bergholt Ganges Hadleigh North Hadleigh South Orwell South East Cosford Stour</p>	<p>Stowmarket Bacton Battisford & Ringshall Chilton Combs Ford Haughley, Stowupland & Wetherden North West Cosford Onehouse Rattlesden St Peter's Stow Thorney</p>
<p>Sudbury Assington Box Vale Bures St Mary & Nayland Chadacre Great Cornard Lavenham Long Melford Sudbury North East Sudbury North West Sudbury South East Sudbury South West</p>	<p>Thurston Bardwell Emswell and Woolpit Ixworth The Forhams and Great Barton Pakenham and Troston Rickingham Rougham Stanton Thurston Walshall-le-Willows</p>	<p>Waveney Blyth Beccles & Worlingham Bungay & Wainford Halesworth & Blything Southwold Wrentham, Wangford & Westleton</p>	<p>Woodbridge/ Kesgrave Carlford & Fynn Valley Deben Kesgrave Martlesham & Purdis Farm Melton Rendlesham & Orford Woodbridge</p>