



Sefton Borough Council

**EARLY YEARS SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT
2022**

Sefton Council

Executive Summary

This annual Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) has been produced to aid the local authority in its statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare for working parents or for them to take up training opportunities that lead to work. The assessment looks at the childcare market in Sefton in 2022, estimating demand using a variety of indicators and assumptions and comparing this to supply. It takes into account the effects and impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the future sustainability of the sector. This assessment is an update to the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2020-2021.

This Childcare Sufficiency Assessment will be of interest to parents, providing them with an overview of the childcare which is offered across the city and in their locality. Existing and potential childcare providers will also find the information provided in the assessment useful when considering a change to their delivery models or expanding their provision or looking to develop in new areas of the county, and should be used alongside their own market research to assess demand in particular areas and points in time. The childcare market is particularly dynamic, with many factors affecting demand and supply, particularly parental choice. Therefore, the findings of this report are indicative only and further detailed analysis of local areas should be undertaken by childcare providers to fully understand the local market. This report will also be shared with Elected Members.

The main findings of this report are:

- Childcare providers are expanding and new provision is being created despite the impact of the Covid -19 pandemic on the sector.
- Childcare provision has also closed during the last year although this has not been solely attributed to the impact of Covid-19 pandemic.
- Birth rates are showing a continuing decline and some providers are starting to see the impact of reducing cohort numbers on the take up of places at their settings.
- Parents have a varied choice of childcare providers in most areas of Sefton.
- Availability of childcare at times to suit parents is generally sufficient in all areas.
- There are currently sufficient childcare places for 0-4 year olds in Sefton, including free early education entitlement (FEEE) places for two, three and four year olds, albeit some may not be at the setting parents or carers would prefer.
- There are no sufficiency issues related to quality of childcare provision, as 96% of providers in Sefton were judged Good or Outstanding by Ofsted at their most recent inspection.
- Anecdotally providers are raising concerns about the ongoing challenges with staff recruitment in the sector.
- The full long-term impact that the Covid -19 pandemic has had on the childcare market remains unknown. The financial difficulties that the sector has faced during this ongoing period of uncertainty, coupled with a continuing decline in the under 5s population, will bring more challenges in the future. The local authority will continue to provide support to parents and providers, to ensure parents are able to secure childcare appropriate to their needs and the childcare sector remains sustainable.

Overall childcare sufficiency assessment and summary

Sefton Council is required by law to "report annually to elected members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare and make this report available and accessible to parents." We have published this latest assessment dated Oct 2022, to meet this duty.

In this report, we have assessed sufficiency using data about the need for childcare and the amount of childcare available. We have also included feedback from local parents about how easy or difficult it has been for them to find suitable childcare.

We use this information about childcare sufficiency to plan our work supporting the local childcare economy.

Introduction

The Childcare Act, 2006 placed a statutory duty upon local authorities to play a strategic role in facilitating the childcare market. Local authorities are required to work in partnership with the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector to shape children's services, particular focus is on ensuring sufficient, sustainable and flexible childcare that is responsive to parents/ carers' needs. The 2006 Act gave local authorities a duty to secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that the provision of childcare is sufficient to meet the requirements of parents/ carers in their area in order to enable them to work or undertake education or training leading to work.

Reliable and affordable childcare is essential to families with children who need care whilst their parents are working. This is often a mixture of formal and informal care with parents juggling between work and ensuring the care their child receives is affordable and appropriate for their individual needs. It is recognised that for many families living in areas of deprivation that work is a route out of poverty and raises self-esteem which in turn reduces the occurrence of mental health and other social problems. Research shows evidence that good quality pre-school childcare gives children a flying start and leads to better progress as they move through school. It also enables older children to participate in a range of activities that promotes their personal development in a safe, stimulating environment.

Section 11 of the act places the responsibility on authorities to undertake a childcare sufficiency assessment every three years. This assessment is then annually updated to show any changes that occur during the intervening years and any progress that is being made. Childcare sufficiency assessments give local authorities the chance to work with local partners, filling gaps in the market and shaping childcare and services in their area. The ultimate aim is to provide the best possible childcare market for local families.

What is a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment?

The Childcare Act 2006 placed a duty on all local authorities in England to carry out an assessment of the sufficiency of childcare within their area.

A Childcare Sufficiency Assessment is a comprehensive measure of the nature and extent of the need for, and the supply of childcare within a local area, paying particular attention to the following areas:

- **Choice and flexibility:** parents have choice about balancing work and family life
- **Availability:** affordable, flexible, high quality childcare available to all families who need it to enable them to work.
- **Quality:** a highly skilled workforce
- **Affordability:** Families able to afford childcare that is appropriate to their needs.

By analysing the supply of childcare available, and comparing it with information about demand from parents, potential gaps in childcare provision can be identified.

The information will give Sefton Council the evidence and information it needs to facilitate and shape a market that contains sufficient, flexible, affordable, sustainable childcare and is responsive to parents' needs.

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment is therefore a key document in evaluating current formal childcare provision in the borough and anticipating future needs.

This assessment provides a summary of childcare provision in Sefton with the aim to support:

- Parents to gain a further understanding of the types of childcare on offer in Sefton and help to inform decisions about childcare options for their family.
- Childcare providers to understand the local childcare market and to help them make informed choices to better meet the childcare needs of families in Sefton.
- Councillors and Executive Members, providing clarity on childcare services available for their local families and the priority focus for the coming year.
- Sefton Borough Council officers providing a structured picture of the current childcare offer in Sefton that informs potential actions for market management.

What is childcare?

Childcare is defined under Section 18 of the Childcare Act 2006, as any form of care for a child. This includes education and any other supervised activity for a young child, apart from a school during school hours for a registered pupil who is not a young child.

Section 19 states that the definition of a young child is "from birth to immediately before 1st September following the date the child is five". Childcare does not include care provided by a parent or step-parent of the child (or a person with parental responsibility), a foster carer or a relative of the child.

Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE)

All three and four year olds and eligible two year olds are entitled to 570 hours free early education a year, delivered as a minimum as 15 hours a week over 38 weeks (school term time) but can be taken as a stretched offer with fewer hours a week over more weeks in a year. Since September 2017 eligible three and four year olds have been entitled to an additional 570 hours free childcare,

taking the entitlement for some children to 1,140 hours a year. Parents of children accessing a FEEE place are able to pay for additional hours to meet their childcare needs. This offer is widely available within the sector.

Two year old free early education entitlement

Some two year old children are eligible for FEEE; eligibility for funding is based on the national criteria. In Sefton all eligible two year olds are able to access a free early education place from the term after their second birthday. Each eligible child is entitled to up to 570 hours per year of free early education from the term after their second birthday for a maximum of three terms.

Three and four year old free early education entitlement (FEEE)

15 hours free childcare

All three and four year old children in England are eligible for 570 hours of free childcare per year from the term after their third birthday. This is usually taken as 15 hours a week for 38 weeks of the year and is known as the "universal entitlement". This entitlement continues until the child starts reception in a maintained school.

30 hours free childcare

Since September 2017, the Government extended the free childcare entitlement for working parents of three and four year olds to 30 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year (1,140 hours per year). This is known as the "additional entitlement".

What is sufficient childcare?

The government's definition of sufficient childcare is "sufficient to meet the requirements of parents who require childcare in order to enable them:

- a) To take up, or remain in work
- b) To undertake education or training which could reasonably be expected to assist them to obtain work."

Local authorities should regard childcare as any provision that is regular and reliable and provides children a safe place to be. It would not include, for example, before or after-school activity that was unsupervised or that was provided as a one-off activity.

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

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

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

The Sefton local context

Children and Young People's Plan 2020/25

The Children and Young People's Plan is our strategic plan which intends to maximize the health and wellbeing of all our children and young people living in Sefton. The childcare sector in Sefton is instrumental in supporting the delivery of the ambitions, outcomes and priorities for the council as set out in the Children and Young People's Plan.

Sufficient and affordable childcare is fundamental to ensuring that parents are able to work, with the sector also providing employment opportunities directly within the city's registered childcare settings.

Early learning opportunities provided in childcare settings support all children to be ready for learning, with developed language and communication skills – the key to ensuring they attend, attain and achieve and go on to engage in employment and make a positive contribution to the economy in Sefton. Actions identified in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment are intended to support the priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan and the ambition - My Sefton: happy, healthy, achieving, heard.

Overall Childcare sufficiency in Sefton:

Places

- Our data shows that Sefton has sufficient places for funded two, three and four year olds. Data was collected during February to June 2022

Quality

- Two providers were rated by Ofsted as inadequate or requiring improvement as at June 2022. All other providers in the borough were rated good or outstanding, or had not been inspected.

Views of Parents and Carers

- A survey of parents was undertaken during March to June 2022, and the overall findings were favourable.

Financial sustainability

- Some providers have indicated challenges with their financial sustainability because of the COVID pandemic. For example 42.9% have suggested they may need to reduce staffing and 33% of providers have indicated that they may need to reduce pupil numbers in the future to remain sustainable.
- Anecdotally providers have expressed concerns that the funded hourly rate is insufficient. Funding is decided by the Department for Education. The Department for Education has implemented increases in funding from the financial year 2020/21. Sefton Council retains a minimal amount of the Early Years Block of the DSG to ensure that maximum funds are passed to providers.

The overall childcare market

- Overall, the provider market has remained reasonably static over the previous year, however some providers have reported a reduction in demand. This is particularly the case for wrap around and Out of School Provision and it will be necessary to explore whether there is sufficient supply of this type of provision to meet demand as we emerge from the pandemic.

Identified gaps

- There are limited choices available for atypical hours of childcare (outside 8am to 6pm on weekdays). The Early Years funding team provide brokerage support to parents who might encounter difficulty in finding a suitable place.

Our Plans and Actions for 2022 - 2023

To ensure that there are Sufficient Childcare Places

We want...	Why...	How...
To ensure that there are sufficient easily accessible childcare places available across Sefton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To help children develop social and everyday skills and benefit from early education To enable parents to take up employment opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain termly vacancy data from providers and monitor fluctuations and any problem areas Assist parents having difficulty finding suitable provision through telephone support and the FIS directory website
To maintain and develop our relationships with our Early Years and other Childcare Providers	So that we can support and maintain a professional and well-trained Early Years and Childcare workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By providing support visits to providers to ensure that funding is being used and allocated appropriately By providing provider information events Provider email information bulletins
To facilitate providers' access to marketing and business planning advice and training.	To promote expansion in identified areas and secure sufficient childcare across the borough.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By identifying providers in need of support in this area and linking them with available advice and training. Through partnership with Sefton and LCR Economic Regeneration development

To ensure that Childcare provided is good quality

We want...	Why...	How...
To ensure that the views of parents and carers are considered and that there is a mechanism in place to provided ongoing feedback	So that childcare provides positive outcomes and impacts on the lives of children and their families	Undertaking an annual parental survey and sharing the results with the local provider market so that potential problem areas can be identified and areas of good practice shared
To ensure that there is access for children with additional needs in all settings	So that parents have local access to fully inclusive childcare where practical to do so	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that providers are aware of the support available through the SEND Inclusion Fund and the Disability Access Fund The Inclusion Team will continue to provide support and guidance to providers

To ensure that Childcare funding is accurate and timely

We want...	Why...	How...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that funding is accurate and timely To ensure as reasonably possible that the local childcare market is financially secure and viable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> So that there is a sufficient range of Early Years providers offering a range of choices to parents So that we have accurate business data and intelligence to inform our future plans To meet our statutory obligations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewing our internal processes and systems to ensure we make the best use of technology To continue to monitor our central expenditure and achieve savings where possible To continue to work with the Early Years Provider Strategic Group to ensure that there is a collaborative and partnership approach
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that there is adequate information to providers about the range of grant funding, supplements and support available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> So that providers can make the best and most appropriate use of funding to ensure sustainability and provide a quality service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of advice and information available to providers online Providing easily accessible policies and documentation

To ensure that parents are accessing childcare

We want...	Why...	How...
<p>To ensure that parents take up their entitlement to free childcare</p>	<p>So that childcare provides positive outcomes and impact on the lives of children and their families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notifying parents of two year old children of their potential eligibility to free childcare Provide support to help parents find a suitable childcare place Provide publicity and marketing of childcare to parents by attending events and providing printed information at key locations, libraries, GP surgeries etc Continuing to promote the FYS directory website and the Sefton Local Offer online directories

Demand for childcare

Population of children

In total there are approximately 13,789 children under the age of five living in Sefton. These children may require early years childcare. Assuming approximately 50% of two year olds require childcare and all three and four year olds require childcare this would mean approximately 7,267 early years children need childcare.

Age 0	Age 1	Age 2	Age 3	Age 4	Total
2,485	2,667	2,741	2,889	3,007	13,789

It is estimated that there 31,539 are children aged 5-14 living in Sefton. These children may require childcare before and after school, and/or during the school holidays.

Age 5	Age 6	Age 7	Age 8	Age 9	Age 10	Age 11	Age 12	Age 13	Age 14	Total
3,004	3,233	3,083	3,221	3,292	3,244	3,131	3,206	3,109	3,016	31,359

Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are entitled to support with childcare up to the age of 18 (age 14 for children who do not have a special need or disability).

The Early Years Service within Education Excellence are available to support settings that require advice with supporting children with SEND.

The number of children with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan in Sefton is:

Age 0 – 4	Age 5 - 10	Age 11 - 15	Age 16 - 19	Total
28	524	848	588	1,988

As part of our review we asked providers to rate their confidence at providing support for children with SEND

Very confident	Fairly confident	Slightly confident	Not confident	No response
36	43	14	3	0

Summary of Early Years provision to support children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)

In addition to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory requirements and the Equality Act 2010, all publicly funded Early Years providers in the maintained, private, voluntary and independent sectors, are required to have regard to the SEND Code of Practice: 0-25. The Code of Practice states that Early Years settings should adopt a graduated approach to identifying and meeting the needs of all children and young people. At each stage of assessment and planning, settings should engage with parents and carers, making reasonable adjustments, wherever is practicable, to support the needs of the child.

Sefton Borough Council is committed to ensuring that disabled children and those with special educational needs have access to a wide range of high quality childcare. To support providers to meet the needs of children and young people, Sefton Borough Council provides:

- Access to Special Education Needs Coordinator (SENCo) training opportunities.
- SEN inclusion funding to enable children to access Early Years settings.
- The Sefton Local Offer which provides information on services and provision available to families, young people and children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

The local authority will continue to work with Early Years providers and families with children with additional needs/disabilities to improve their accessibility to childcare and early education. This includes:

- Highlighting the targeted early interventions for children that do not have an EHC Plan.
- Ensuring Early Years staff can confidently manage children's behaviour and other needs by making available advice, guidance and resources.
- Ensuring Early Years information and advice for parents of children with additional needs/disabilities is readily available.

Disability Access Fund

The Equality Act 2010 requires local authorities and settings not to discriminate, harass or victimise disabled children, which may include an expectation to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate children's needs. Local authorities must comply with the provisions of the Act in finding suitable provision for eligible disabled children

Providers who offer **3 & 4** year old children free early years education can apply to claim Disability Access Funding (**DAF**) to support disabled children to access the free entitlement. A lump sum payment of £615 per year is available to providers who have eligible children in receipt of child Disability Living Allowance who are claiming free early years education.

Early Years Pupil Premium

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) is additional funding for Early Years settings to improve the education they provide for disadvantaged three and four year olds. Children are eligible for EYPP if they meet certain (largely) economic criteria including children from workless and low income families.

Changes to the population

Estimates imply that the Early Years (0-4 years) population is reducing in Sefton, with an overall reduction of 6% over the past decade (2011 to 2020), possibly due to reductions in birth rates. This trend is predicted to continue for at least the next 10 years. Sefton's crude birth rate (the number of live births per 1,000 mid-year total population estimate) in 2020 was 8.7 (the lowest seen in the last eight years) and is considerably below the national average (10.3).

Supply of childcare

In total there are 208 childcare providers in Sefton, offering a maximum of 6230 early years childcare places:

Type of provision	Number of Providers	Number of Registered places
Childminders	70	435
Maintained and school nursery	47	1,343.36 FTE
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	69	3,654
Out of School Clubs	22	798
Overall	208	6230

Vacancy Rate

	Number of Registered places	Known Vacancies	Percentage Vacancy Rate
Childminders	435	16	3.7%

Based on the information provided in our sufficiency survey the following vacancies are available:

	Number of Registered places	Known Vacancies	Percentage Vacancy Rate
Private and Voluntary Provision	3,654	403	11%
0-1 Year Olds	1-2 Year Olds	2-3 Year Olds	3-4 Year Olds
62	66	130	96
1.7%	1.8%	3.6%	2.6%

	Number of Registered places	Known Vacancies	Percentage Vacancy Rate
Out of School	798	183	23%
Breakfast	Afterschool	Holiday club	
40	92	51	
5%	12%	6.4%	

- The data provided was correct to the best of our knowledge at June 2022
- Some childminder places may also be available for older children.
- Total number of full-time places available, a place may sometimes be shared by more than one child
- The vacancy ratio is the percentage of available places available throughout the week on a full day basis compared to the number of registered places
- For private, voluntary and independent nurseries and childminders the number of registered places represents the maximum number of children who can be on the premises at any given time. In practice many providers choose to operate below their number of registered places.

Children may attend childcare full time or part time. This table records children that are attending full time or as many hours as the setting is open. In some cases two or more children attending part time may use one full time equivalent place. For example one child may attend in the morning and another child may attend in the afternoon. Vacancy rates are a snapshot and often change. In some cases providers may have a place that is only available for a particular age group or for a particular part time arrangement. We ask providers to report vacancies to us so that we can help promote them and help parents find a suitable place. We also ask for this information to help inform our sufficiency assessment. Most providers give us this information.

In general vacancy rates are higher in the autumn when children move into school.

The number of providers offering school age support:

Breakfast clubs	After school clubs	Holiday clubs
43	52	38

Some childminders also offer support to school age children. Tracking of childcare for school age children is difficult because not all of this type of provision is registered with Ofsted. It is possible to have under counted this provision. Parents may also use provision that is not considered childcare, for example sports or arts clubs after school or in the holidays.

Funded Early Education

Some children are entitled to free childcare funded by the Government. These entitlements are for 38 weeks per year.

- All children aged 3 and 4 are entitled to 15 hours per week (570 hours) until they start reception class in school
- Children aged 3 and 4 where both parents are working, or from lone parent families where that parent is working, are entitled to 30 hours per week for 38 weeks (1140 hours) until they start reception class in school
- Children aged 2 whose families receive certain benefits (including low income families in receipt of in-work benefits), or those who will meet additional non-economic criteria are entitled to 15 hours per week for 38 weeks.

Parents do not have to use all the hours of their funded entitlement. They may choose to split their hours between two providers. With the agreement of the provider parents may also spread hours across the year, for example rather than taking 15 hours for 38 weeks a year they could take 11 hours for 52 weeks a year instead (570 hours maximum).

Take up of funded early education

The take up of children attending Early Education in Sefton is slightly higher than the to overall England figures. The proportion of children benefiting from Early Education compared to the population taking up their funded place (for at least some of the available hours) in Sefton is:

Age	Age 2 years	Age 3 & 4 years
Sefton 2019	73%	97%
England 2019	68%	93%
Sefton 2020	79%	99%
England 2020	69%	93%
Sefton 2021	77%	96%
England2021	62%	90%

Prices for childcare

For Early Years childcare outside of funded entitlements we report on the average childcare prices per hour advised to us by settings. There may be variations on price based on the number of hours a family uses, with reductions for longer hours or reductions for family groups. There may also be additional charges for extra services such as lunch which are not included in the prices. Providers decide their own charges.

Prices charged in Sefton are general in line with national averages. PVI's and schools have increased their prices since the last assessment. Some childminders have reduced their prices. Some providers charge extra for meals.

Type of provision	All ages
Childminders	£4.80
Maintained and school nurseries	£5.32
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	£5.60
Overall	£5.24

In future costs per hour should be calculated, taking into account the differing costs for different age groups: under 2s, 2YO, 3 and 4YO, wrap around, OOSC and weekend provision.

Quality of Childcare

All childcare providers must register with and be inspected by Ofsted, who will give them an overall grade for the quality of their provision. Childminders and private and voluntary providers are included on the Early Years register and schools and stand alone maintained nursery schools are included on the Schools register. The grades for both registers are equivalent. Schools with nurseries have an overall inspection grade for the whole school.

Schools and Early Years providers have four possible Ofsted grades:

- Outstanding
- Good
- Requires improvement
- Inadequate

Some providers are awaiting their first full inspection. These have been excluded from the percentage calculation. The ratings have remained reasonably constant since our last assessment.

Type of provision	Total number of Providers	Percentage Good or Outstanding
Childminders	70	84%
Maintained and school nursery	47	90%
Private, voluntary, and independent nurseries	69	86% Excluding the PVI's which have not yet been inspected- 96%
Out of School Clubs	22	33%

Parents views

A parent/carer survey was undertaken during March to June 2022

Parents were asked to how happy they were with the quality of the childcare they received:

Age group	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total responses
Below school age	24	21	2	2	15	64
School age	10	20	5	9	12	56
Overall	34	41	7	11	27	120

For below school age children, 34 respondents (39%) told us they did not purchase additional hours.

Parents were asked how easy it was to afford the childcare that they want:

Age group	Very easy	Fairly easy	Fairly difficult	Very difficult	Total responses
Below school age	0	5	20	28	53
School age – before school	5	12	7	12	36
School age – after school	5	8	16	14	43
Overall	10	25	43	54	132

Parents were asked how easy it had been to find suitable childcare:

Age group	Very easy	Fairly easy	Fairly difficult	Very difficult	Not applicable	Total responses
Below school age	11	26	10	5	13	65
School age – before school	10	17	4	10	16	57
School age – after school	10	16	6	16	14	62
School age – holiday childcare	0	11	11	15	19	56
Overall	31	70	31	46	62	240

Parents were asked since the COVID pandemic, is it easier or harder to access childcare?

	It is easier to find childcare	It is harder to find childcare	It is the same as before	Not Answered
Number	4	22	56	5
Percentage	4%	26%	65%	5%
Total responses	86			

Parents were asked how they choose their childcare:

Type	Total responses
Recommendation	52
Family Information Service	5
Family Well-being Centre	8
School	28
Internet Search	42
Local Advertising	10
Other	6

Market sustainability

In accordance with Government guidelines those providers that suffered a shortfall in their grant income when comparing Autumn term 2020 with Autumn term 2019 were provided with top up payments. Private nurseries have also been able to apply for financial support in accordance with criteria for the schemes available. Providers have also continued to receive their normal Grant payments during any lock down periods.

As part of our assessment we asked Providers for their views on their financial sustainability. Individual discussions have taken place with providers where appropriate.

How do you regard your current financial sustainability	Total responses
Good	38
Satisfactory	39
Concerning	15
Critical	3
Prefer not to say	0

Area Level Breakdown

Area	Childminders	Maintained	Private nurseries
Sefton North	26	17	27
Sefton South	6	10	15
Sefton Central	38	20	27
Sefton total	70	47	69

Methodology

We have used the following data to compile this assessment:

- Number of children based on Nomis Labour Market datasets
- Children with EHC plans based on SEND Local Authority Tables
- Supply of childcare: based on data provided by Ofsted, who regulate early years provision in schools and childcare provision. This has been supplemented with local knowledge.
- Vacancy rates: Based on provider surveys undertaken during February and June 2022
- Funded early education: data on take up of funded early education entitlements is based on the Early Years and Schools Censuses, which are taken every January and published by the Department of Education in the statistical collection. Data on entitlement to a funded early education place for 2 year olds is provided by the Department for Work and Pensions.
- Price of Childcare: Based on information collected from provider surveys undertaken during February and March 2022
- Quality of childcare: data on childcare quality is provided by Ofsted Data

This assessment was published November 2022

Further information

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