

# Birmingham Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

Birmingham Early Years and Childcare Team





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# 1. Introduction

Childcare plays a crucial role in the lives of most families. It enables parents to go out to work to contribute to a decent family income when they have very young children. A growing body of evidence shows that good pre-school childcare gives children a flying start and leads to better outcomes as they move through school. It also allows older children to take part in a wide range of interesting activities that fosters their personal development in a safe environment.

Securing Sufficient Childcare: statutory guidance for local authorities on carrying out their childcare sufficiency duties. DCSF<sup>1</sup>, March 2010

## 1.1 Context

Under the Childcare Act 2006 local authorities have a statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare for:

- Parents/carers to be able to take-up, or remain in, work.
- Parents/carers to undertake education or training that is likely to lead to work.
- All eligible children aged three and four to be able to take-up free early learning provision.
- Parents/carers with a disabled child to access the childcare they require.

The duty applies to parents/carers with children up to the 1st September after they turn 14 years old, or until they reach the age of 18 years in the case of children with a disability.

A core element of this duty is to complete a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment every three years which assesses the supply of, and demand for, childcare in the local authority and identifies any gaps in provision. Birmingham City Council published its first Childcare Sufficiency Assessment in March 2008. This new report (published May 2011) forms part of Birmingham City Council's second Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and focuses on identifying any gaps in childcare provision.

Definitions of 'childcare' and 'sufficiency' are included in the Appendix (page 65).

## 1.2 Objectives

This report uses a range of data collected as part of the Assessment process to identify gaps in the childcare market in Birmingham. The report seeks to quantify the scale and extent of gaps with the aim of helping the local authority and its partners decide which gaps to address as part of their action plan (the action plan is produced as a separate document).

This report focuses on the following 'types of gaps' which are highlighted by the statutory guidance:

- **Income gaps:** where there is a shortage of affordable childcare for the income groups in the local area.
- **Time gaps:** where there is a shortage of childcare at a time that parents/carers wish to use childcare. These could be at certain times of the day or days of the week, or might be seasonal, for example, during school holidays.
- **Age gaps:** where there is a shortage of childcare suitable to the needs and requirements of a certain age group.
- **Type gaps:** where there is a shortage in the type of childcare for which parents/carers may be expressing a preference.
- **Specific need gaps:** where there is a shortage of suitable places for children with a disability, or children with other specific needs or requirements, including those from particular faiths or community groups.
- **Geographical gaps:** where a geographical area has a general shortage of supply. Within Birmingham, gaps were examined at a ward level, with additional data at a locality level. See Figure 1, where localities are shaded blue, yellow, orange and green.

<sup>1</sup> Department of Children, Schools and Families, now the Department for Education

Figure 1: Wards and localities



### 1.3 Data used as part of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

A wide range of data has been used to inform Birmingham's Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, including:

- **Socio-economic and demographic data:** a range of data was collected to profile the Birmingham population, especially those factors that might impact on the demand for or ability to pay for childcare, e.g. numbers of children, birth rates, family composition, numbers of children in need, unemployment and deprivation.
- **Profile of the supply of childcare:** information held by Birmingham City Council was used to profile the childcare available in the City overall and in each ward. The analysis looked at number of providers, number of places, density of places compared to the child population, opening times, fees and quality. It looked at differences in the childcare market by ward, age of child and time of year.
- **Parent/carer demand survey:** a face-to-face questionnaire was administered to 4,006 families in Birmingham. The research was undertaken by BMG Research using doorstep interviews. The sample ensured at least 100 responses per ward. The questionnaire explored parents'/carers' views and experiences of childcare and included questions about (amongst others) childcare that they use, reasons for not using childcare, improvements required, and financial support.
- **Focus groups and in-depth interviews with parents/carers:** the large scale quantitative survey was complemented by focus groups and in-depth interviews with parents/carers from specific groups. These were organised and facilitated by BMG Research and included:
  - Traveller community (two in-depth interviews and a family visit).
  - Foster carers (focus group with five parents/carers).
  - Lone parents/carers (six parents/carers consulted via two mini groups).
  - Parents/carers from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds (five in-depth interviews and three mini groups including respondents from Somali, Polish, Chinese, Pakistani, Indian, Black African and Latvian backgrounds).
  - Parents/carers with a child with a disability or special need (two focus groups and one in-depth interview).
- **Questionnaire with asylum seeker families:** a specific questionnaire was administered by BMG Research to 52 asylum seeker families in Birmingham. The questionnaire followed similar themes to the wider survey with parents/carers.
- **Survey of childcare providers:** telephone interviews were conducted by BMG Research with 208 childcare providers in Birmingham. The consultation covered views on waiting lists, vacancies, opening hours, catering for children with additional needs, future plans and support required.
- **Consultation with employers:** telephone interviews were conducted by BMG Research with 101 employers based in Birmingham. The consultation examined the extent of recruitment and retention problems and the relative contribution of childcare issues to any problems experienced.
- **Consultation with children and young people:** children and young people were consulted about their views and experiences of childcare:
  - 13 children were consulted in a pre-school covering two to four year olds.
  - 17 children were consulted in an after school club covering five to 11 year olds.
  - Six children aged two to four years old were consulted in a day nursery.
  - 28 children and young people aged six -18 years old were consulted in a youth club.
  - 15 children aged five to 11 years old were consulted via an after school club.
  - Nine children aged five to 11 years old were consulted via an after school club.

## 1.4 Structure of this report

The remainder of this report is structured as follows:

- **Section 2** examines the scale of childcare gaps in Birmingham.
- **Section 3** highlights income gaps.
- **Section 4** looks at type gaps.
- **Section 5** discusses time gaps, including opening times and flexibility.
- **Section 6** highlights age gaps.
- **Section 7** focuses on the needs of specific groups of parents/carers.
- **Section 8** examines geographical gaps.
- **Section 9** is the conclusion.
- **Section 10** is the Appendix.

## 2. Scale of childcare barriers in Birmingham

**Summary:** Parents/carers who do not use childcare appear to be more likely to experience gaps in the childcare market than parents/carers who do use childcare. The overall scale of gaps, however, appears to be relatively small. For instance, 94% of parents/carers not using childcare appear to do so out of choice. Satisfaction rates amongst parents/carers who do use childcare are extremely high. Childcare providers rate provision highly and few employers are directly impacted by issues with childcare.

### 2.1 Scale of problems experienced by parents/carers

Research conducted as part of Birmingham City Council's Childcare Sufficiency Assessment shows the scale of childcare gaps in the City. Key points from direct consultation with parents/carers are summarised in Figure 2 to Figure 7. These present the findings from the questionnaire completed by 4,006 parents/carers (please see section 1.4 for further details).

It shows that parents/carers who do not use childcare are more likely to experience barriers in the childcare market than those who are currently using childcare. Even then, the proportion of all families prevented from taking-up childcare due to a gap in the market is relatively low. Evidence for this conclusion includes:

- Respondents of 71% of children that the questionnaire asked information about do not use childcare during term time. This increases to 82% during school holidays. Of those parents/carers who do not use childcare, 6% have actively enquired about childcare which they have not been able to find or take-up (see Figure 2). This suggests that 94% of parents/carers who do not use childcare do so out of choice.

- The most popular types of childcare that parents/carers who would like to use childcare are enquiring about are after school clubs, nursery schools, day nurseries and childminders (see Figure 3).
- The main reasons that parents/carers who have actively looked for childcare give for not taking-up childcare is affordability and location<sup>2</sup>, not trusting the provider<sup>3</sup> and lack of places<sup>4</sup>. Looking at the sample as a whole, this is the equivalent of 0.3% to 1.6% of all families in Birmingham. See Figure 4.

For those who currently use childcare, the evidence suggests that issues with childcare are causing some problems in relation to work or study but overall these are manageable. Satisfaction rates with childcare are very high and very few parents/carers highlight specific improvement suggestions for the childcare that they use. This suggests that there are few structural gaps in the childcare market. For instance:

- Only 3% of respondents who use childcare report that it does not meet their needs at all. An additional 24% report that the childcare they use meets their needs 'in part'. See Figure 5.
- Of these, 16% report that issues with childcare have caused problems at work (this is the equivalent of 4.3% of all those who use childcare). 5% have been prevented from starting to train or study (the equivalent of 1.1% of all those who use childcare) and less than 1% have been prevented from caring responsibilities for their child with a disability or special need (less than 0.3% of all those who use childcare). See Figure 6.
- When asked about how satisfied they are with the childcare that they use, rates are extremely high. Figure 7 shows that for most types of childcare, at least 97% of those who use it are 'very satisfied' or 'fairly satisfied'. 100% of respondents who use family members and Saturday/Sunday schemes/clubs are very or fairly satisfied.

<sup>2</sup> 32% of parents/carers who do not use childcare but have actively looked for it report that affordability was a barrier to take-up.

<sup>3</sup> 15% of parents/carers who do not use childcare but have actively looked for it report that lack of trust was a barrier to take-up.

<sup>4</sup> 6% of parents/carers who do not use childcare but have actively looked for it report that lack of places was a barrier to take-up.

- Very few respondents highlighted improvement suggestions for the childcare that they currently use. For instance, Figure 7 shows that eight respondents highlighted improvements for nursery schools. However, three respondents each reported that they 'didn't know' how the provision could be improved and three respondents highlighted 'other' improvements not connected to a barrier in the market. Six respondents highlighted improvements for day nurseries. Of these, four highlighted affordability and three highlighted value for money. Five respondents highlighted improvements in school holiday clubs/schemes. Of these three respondents each reported that quality and activities needed to improve.

Figure 2: Parents/carers who do not use childcare. The extent to which parents/carers in Birmingham are not using childcare due to a barrier in the childcare market. Source: Parent demand questionnaire, 2011



Figure 3: Parents/carers who do not use childcare. The types of childcare that people who are prevented from using childcare wish to access. Source: Parent demand questionnaire, 2011

Type of childcare that people who do not use childcare have looked for	Percentage who have looked for but not taken-up childcare	Percentage of the sample as a whole	
		Term time <sup>5</sup>	School holidays <sup>6</sup>
After school club	23%	1.0%	1.1%
Nursery school	20%	0.9%	1.0%
Day nursery	20%	0.9%	1.0%
Childminder	16%	0.7%	0.8%
School holiday schemes/clubs	13%	0.6%	0.6%
Playgroup or pre-school	11%	0.5%	0.5%
Youth club/youth work	9%	0.4%	0.4%
Nursery class in primary/infant school	6%	0.3%	0.3%
Breakfast club	5%	0.2%	0.2%
Other	3%	0.1%	0.1%
Friends/neighbours	2%	0.1%	0.1%
Children's centre	2%	0.1%	0.1%
Family member	1%	<0.1%	<0.1%
Saturday or Sunday scheme/clubs	1%	<0.1%	<0.1%
Nanny or au pair	<1%	<0.1%	<0.1%

<sup>5</sup> Example calculation: 71% do not use childcare during term time x 6% have enquired about childcare that they haven't been able to find or take-up x 23% who were interested in after school clubs.

<sup>6</sup> Example calculation: 82% do not use childcare during school holidays x 6% have enquired about childcare that they haven't been able to find or take-up x 23% who were interested in after school clubs.

Figure 4: Parents/carers who do not use childcare. The main barriers experienced by people who want to use childcare but do not. Source: Parent demand questionnaire, 2011

Type of barrier experienced by people who want to use childcare but do not	Percentage who have looked for but not taken-up childcare	Percentage of the sample as a whole	
		Term time <sup>7</sup>	School holidays <sup>8</sup>
Affordability/fees	32%	1.4%	1.6%
Nothing suitable close to home	32%	1.4%	1.6%
No provider I could trust	15%	0.6%	0.7%
Value for money was not good enough	7%	0.3%	0.3%
Preferred childcare was fully booked	6%	0.3%	0.3%
Nothing suitable close to work	5%	0.2%	0.2%
Days available were not suitable	3%	0.1%	0.1%
Not enough hours of childcare	3%	0.1%	0.1%
Days/times not flexible enough	3%	0.1%	0.1%
Child requires special care which was not available	3%	0.1%	0.1%
Quality was not good enough	1%	<0.1%	<0.1%
Quality of staff was not suitable	1%	<0.1%	<0.1%
Did not meet language or cultural needs	1%	<0.1%	<0.1%
The premises/environment/equipment was unsuitable	1%	<0.1%	<0.1%
Could not receive help with tax credits with this provider	1%	<0.1%	<0.1%
Was not registered for nursery education fund	<1%	<0.1%	<0.1%

<sup>7</sup> Example calculation: 71% do not use childcare during term time x 6% have enquired about childcare that they haven't been able to find or take-up x 32% who report that this was because of affordability.

<sup>8</sup> Example calculation: 82% do not use childcare during school holidays x 6% have enquired about childcare that they haven't been able to find or take-up x 32% who report that this was because of affordability.

Figure 5: Parents/carers who use childcare. Percentage of parents/carers who use childcare who report that it meets their needs entirely, in part and not at all. Source: Parent demand questionnaire, 2011

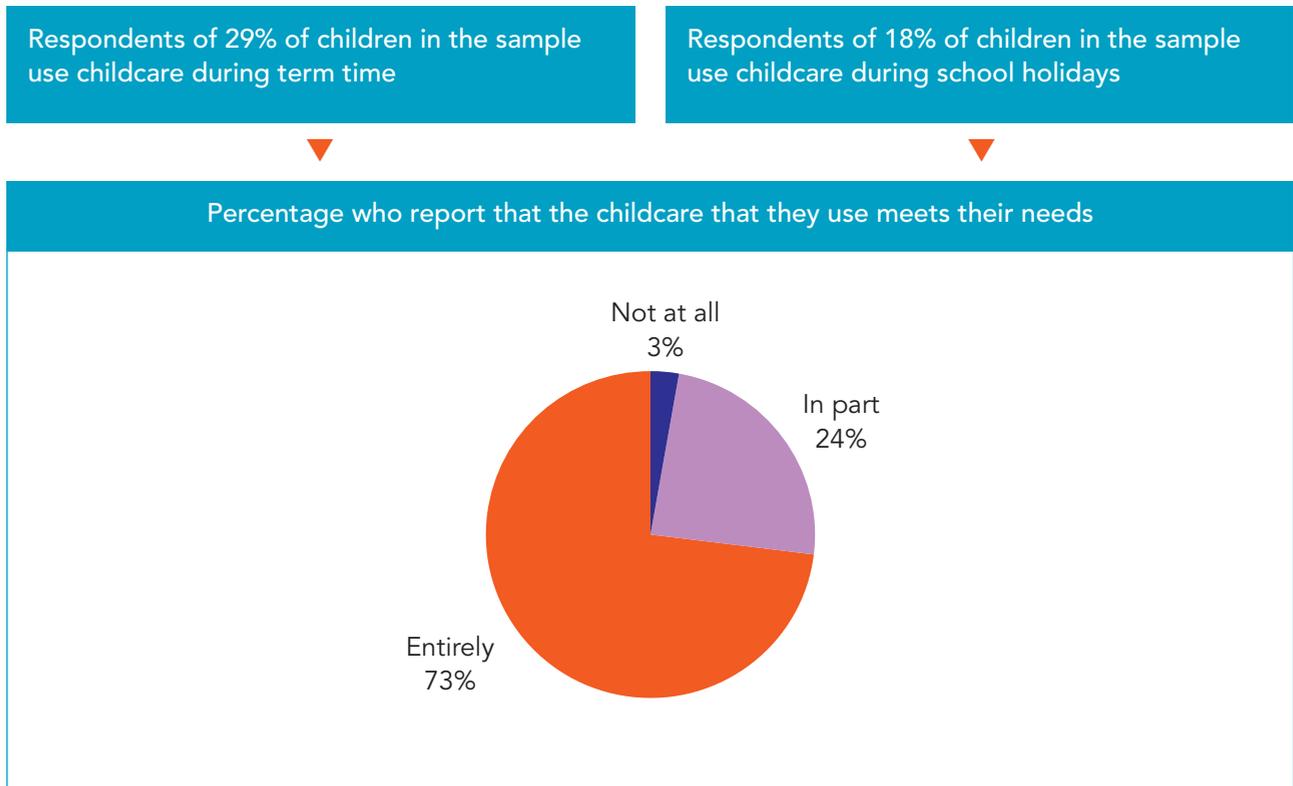


Figure 6: Parents/carers who use childcare. Impact on employment, training and caring responsibilities for those parents/carers who use childcare and report that it does not meet their needs at all or only in part. Source: Parent demand questionnaire, 2011

Impact on employment, training and caring	Percentage of respondents who reported that need is not met at all or only in part	Percentage of the sample as a whole	
		Term time <sup>9</sup>	School holidays <sup>10</sup>
Caused problems at work	16%	1.3%	0.8%
Prevented you from remaining in work	9%	0.7%	0.4%
Prevented you from seeking or accessing work or getting a job	8%	0.6%	0.4%
Prevented you from starting to train or study	5%	0.4%	0.2%
Prevented you completing any training or studying	3%	0.2%	0.1%
Caused you any other issues	3%	0.2%	0.1%
Prevented you from caring for your children with a disability or special needs	< 1%	<0.1%	<0.1%

<sup>9</sup> Example calculation: 29% of respondents use childcare during term time x 27% report that it does not meet their needs at all or in part x 16% who report that this has caused problems at work.

<sup>10</sup> Example calculation: 18% of respondents use childcare during school holidays x 27% report that it does not meet their needs at all or in part x 16% who report that this has caused problems at work.

Figure 7: **Parents/carers who use childcare.** Percentage of respondents who use childcare during term time and school holidays. Satisfaction rates with the childcare that they use. A low number of respondents highlighted improvement suggestions. The table shows those where three or more respondents highlighted an area for improvement. Source: Parent demand questionnaire, 2011

Respondents of 29% of children in the sample use childcare during term time

Respondents of 18% of children in the sample use childcare during school holidays

Type of childcare used	% very or fairly satisfied	Number of respondents requesting specific improvements	Improvements raised by three respondents or more
Family members	100%	1 respondent	
Saturday or Sunday schemes/clubs	100%	0 respondents	
Friends/neighbours	99%	0 respondents	
Children's Centres	99%	1 respondent	
Nursery class in primary/infant school	98%	2 respondents	
Childminder	98%	2 respondents	
After school club	98%	6 respondents	
Nursery school	97%	8 respondents	Other (3 respondents) Don't know (3 respondents)
Day nursery	97%	6 respondents	Affordability (4 respondents) Value for money (3 respondents)
Playgroup or pre-school	97%	1 respondent	
Breakfast club	97%	4 respondents	
School holiday schemes/clubs	96%	5 respondents	Quality (3 respondents) Activities (3 respondents)
Youth clubs/youth work	93%	4 respondents	
Nanny or au pair	90%	0 respondents	

## 2.2 Scale of problems experienced by childcare providers

Consultation with childcare providers shows that they rate all aspects of provision very positively. For instance, Figure 8 shows that providers are very happy with their provision in relation to value for money, activities, location, flexibility and opening hours. They are least happy with premises, provision for children with disabilities or special needs, and provision for children with different cultural or language needs. However, these aspects are still rated very positively.

Figure 9 shows that 60% of providers have vacancies. There is general agreement that the main reason for this is due to parents/carers not being able to afford provision.

Figure 8: Views of childcare providers. Average rating given by providers about the childcare they provide. Ratings were on a scale of 1 to 10. Source: Childcare provider questionnaire, 2011

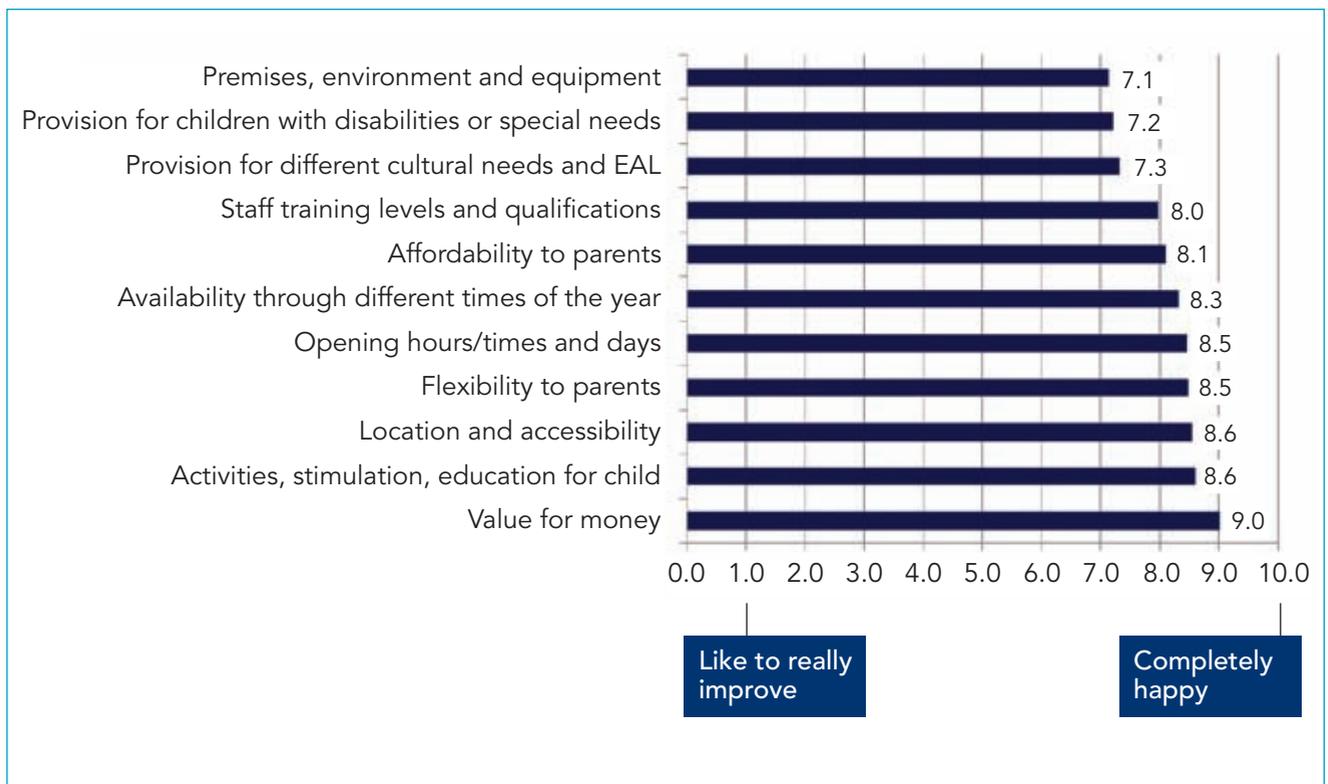
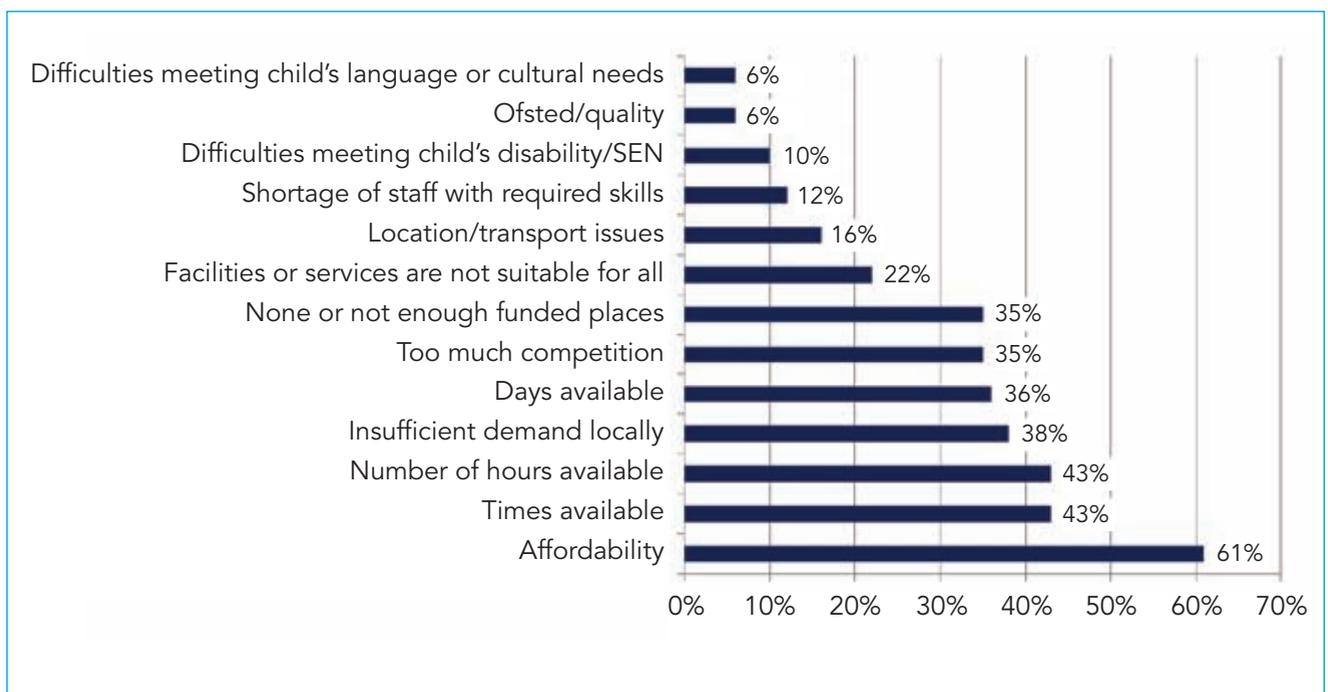


Figure 9: Views of childcare providers. Main reasons why providers have vacancies (based on the 60% of providers who reported they had vacancies). Source: Childcare provider questionnaire, 2011



## 2.3 Scale of problems experienced by employers

Consultation with employers confirms that there are relatively few childcare gaps in Birmingham. For instance, Figure 10 shows that only 2% of employers consulted felt that problems with childcare were affecting them 'a lot'. A further 18% felt that problems with childcare were affecting

them 'a little'. Figure 11 shows that this was mainly resulting in staff being unable to work the hours required, and taking unpaid leave, sick leave or paid leave in order to care for their child.

The main barriers that employers felt were being experienced by employees in the childcare market were affordability (highlighted by 29% of employers), hours available (16%) and location (14%). See Figure 12.

Figure 10: **Views of employers.** The extent to which issues with childcare affect employers. Source: Employer questionnaire, 2011

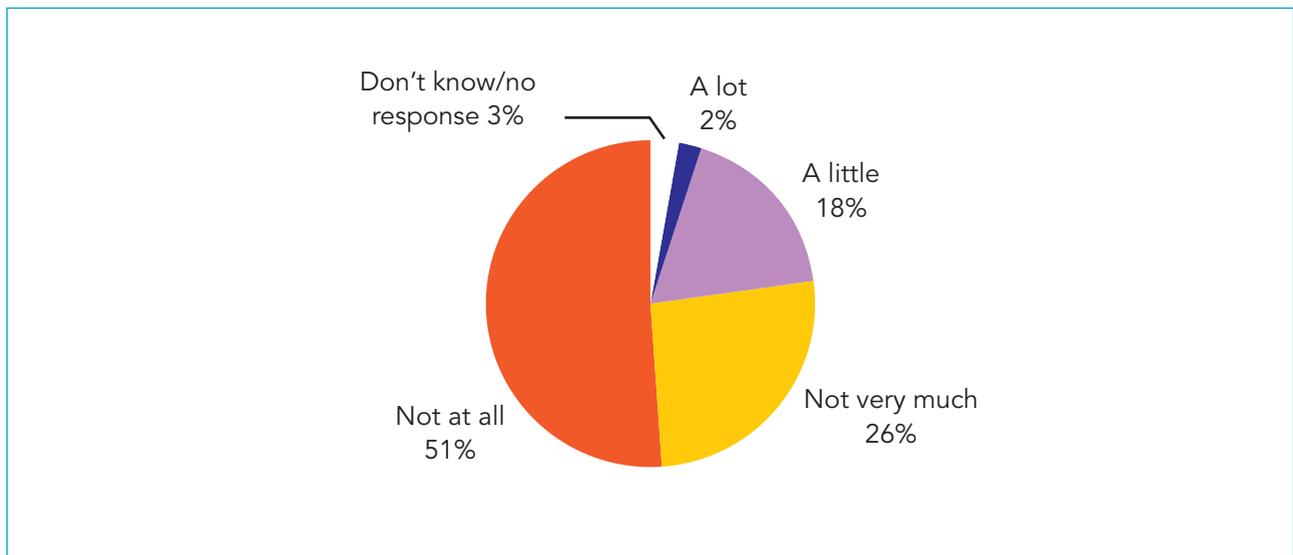


Figure 11: **Views of employers.** The impact that childcare issues have on those employers who report that they experience problems 'a lot' or 'a little'. Source: Employer questionnaire, 2011

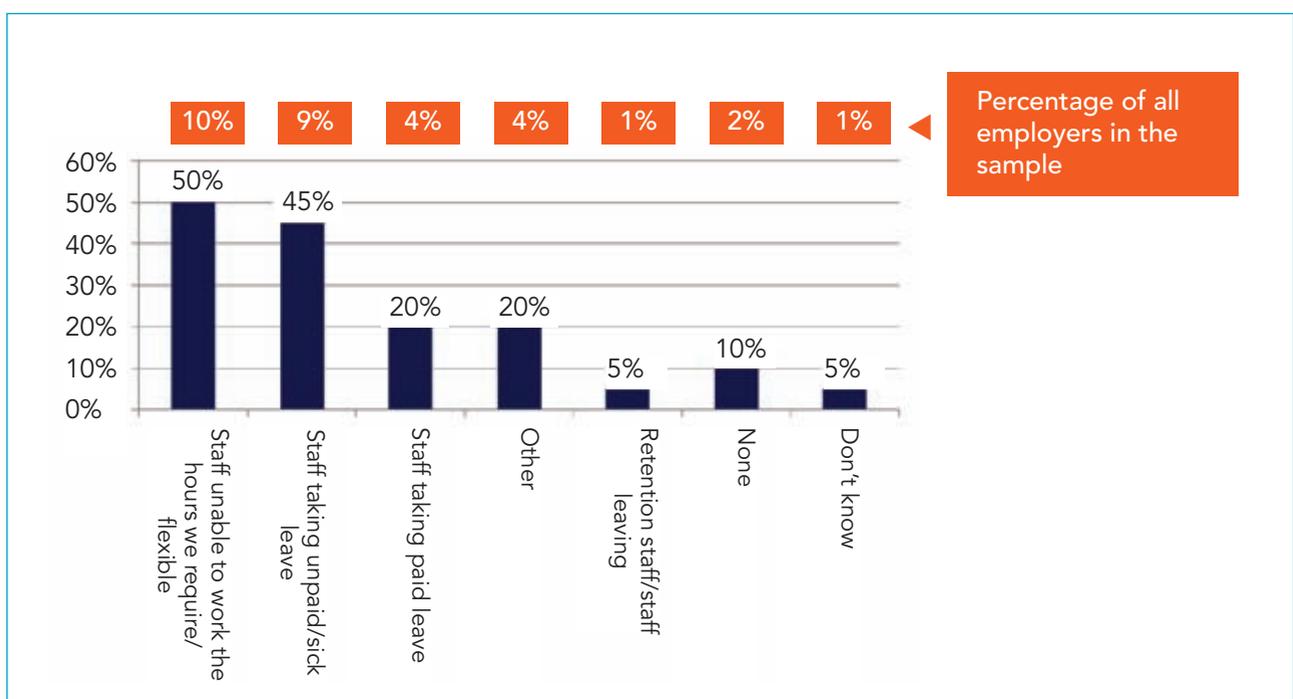
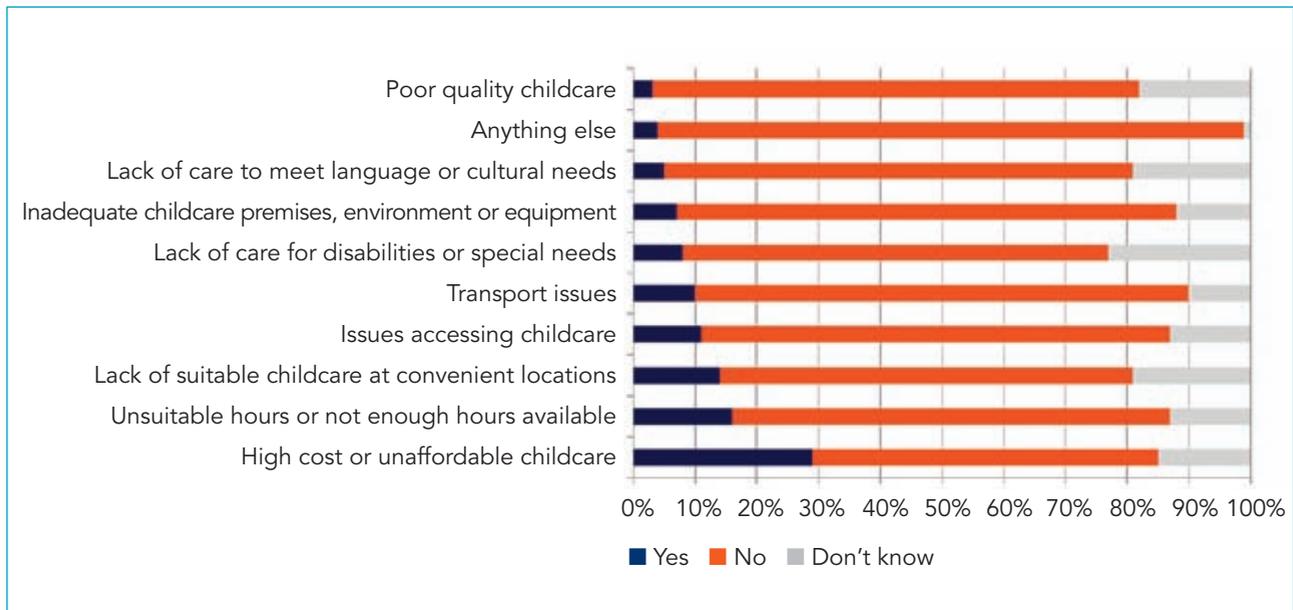


Figure 12: Views of employers. Problems with childcare that employers believe employees experience.  
Source: Employer questionnaire, 2011



Childcare problems experienced	Yes	No	Don't know
High cost or unaffordable childcare	29%	56%	15%
Unsuitable hours or not enough hours available	16%	71%	13%
Lack of suitable childcare at convenient locations	14%	67%	19%
Issues accessing childcare	11%	76%	13%
Transport issues	10%	80%	10%
Lack of care for disabilities or special needs	8%	69%	23%
Inadequate childcare premises, environment or equipment	7%	81%	12%
Lack of care to meet language or cultural needs	5%	76%	19%
Anything else	4%	95%	1%
Poor quality childcare	3%	79%	18%

## 2.4 Types of gaps experienced across Birmingham

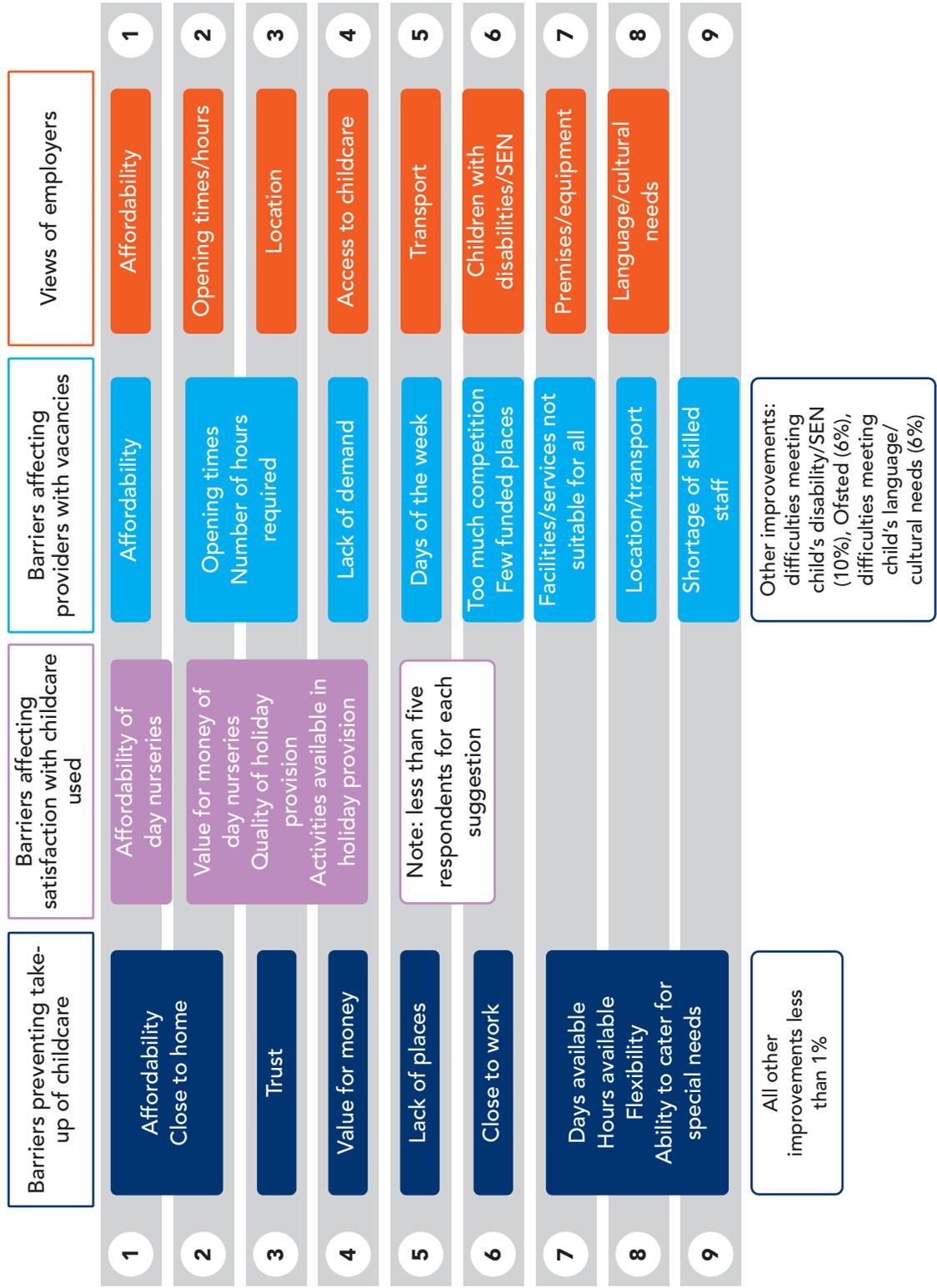
Figure 13 summarises the improvement suggestions put forward by:

- Parents/carers who would like to use childcare but cannot.
- Parents/carers who use childcare with which they are dissatisfied.
- Providers with vacancies.
- Employers.

It shows that there is general agreement that affordability is a key barrier in the market – although please note the relatively small numbers overall that are affected by gaps (see above). After affordability there is greater divergence of opinion between stakeholders. Location is a ‘top 3’ issue for parents/carers and employers who would like to use childcare. Opening times and hours required are ‘top 3’ issues for providers and employers.

Further information about the types of gaps experienced in Birmingham and groups affected by them are provided in the sections below.

Figure 13: Improvement suggestions put forward by different stakeholders consulted as part of Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, ranked by popularity



## 3. Income gaps

**Summary:** Overall, Birmingham's childcare market is a healthy one with few substantial gaps. The main improvement that could be made relates to affordability, where stakeholders highlight this as the principal gap. The evidence suggests, however, that any improvements should be highly targeted rather than broad-brush. For instance, any support on affordability should be targeted at parents/carers who do not use, but are actively looking for, childcare. With 51% of providers thinking about increasing their fees over the next two to three years there is a possibility that any income gaps that currently exist may increase over time. Finally, the tax credit system appears to be effectively supporting families with the cost of childcare. However, the knowledge and use of other benefits, e.g. childcare vouchers, could be improved.

### 3.1 Scale of the affordability gap

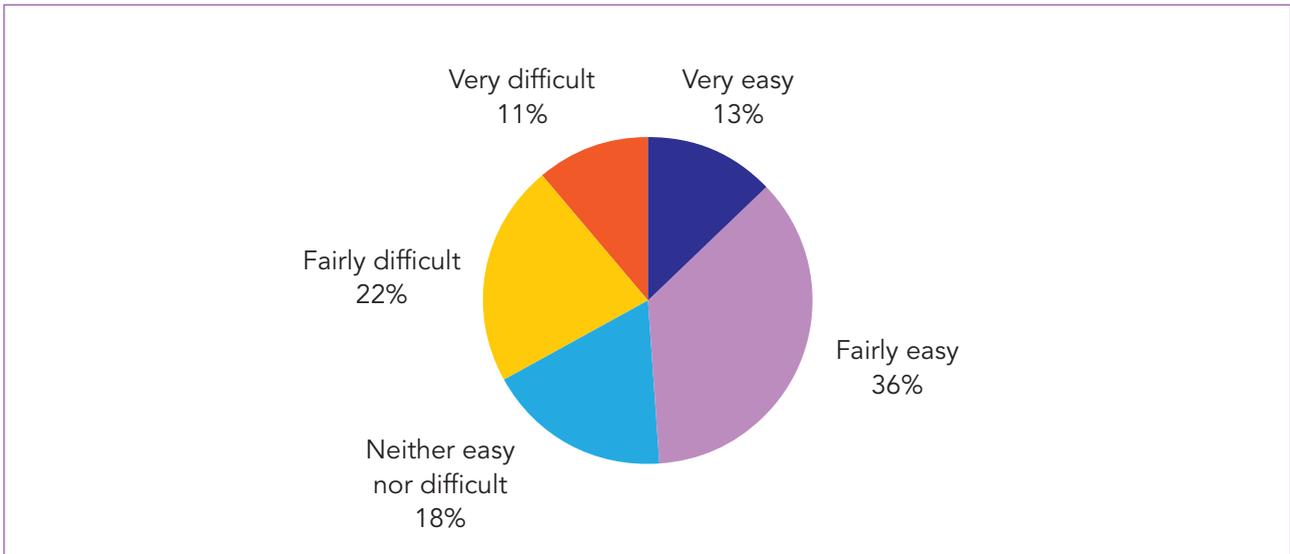
Figure 13 shows that affordability is the principal gap in the market highlighted by stakeholders consulted as part of the childcare sufficiency assessment. However, please note that Section 2 shows that overall gaps in the childcare market are relatively low in Birmingham. This suggests that any improvements to the market should be highly targeted, rather than broad-brush.

The evidence shows that:

- Parents/carers who are not using childcare but have actively looked for a place highlight that one of the main reasons why they have not taken up a place is because of affordability. 32% of this group highlight affordability as a barrier. This is the equivalent of 1.4% to 1.6% of all respondents consulted. See Figure 4. This is further supported by consultations with parents/carers via focus groups where cost was highlighted as a barrier to take-up, particularly for private nurseries, childminders and out of school clubs.

- Nearly one third of parents/carers who use childcare say that they find it 'fairly difficult' or 'very difficult' to pay for it (see Figure 14). This suggests that affordability is a key concern for this group too. However, a different perspective is shown by Figure 5 which suggests that parents/carers who use childcare are extremely satisfied with the childcare that they use, with very few parents/carers highlighting affordability as an improvement suggestion. For instance, affordability and value for money is highlighted as a possible area for improvement for day nurseries, but only by four respondents and three respondents respectively (out of a total sample of 4,006 respondents).
- 60% of childcare providers currently have vacant places. Of these, 61% report that they think that this is due to affordability. See Figure 9. At the same time, however, providers rate value for money the highest, with an average rating of 9 out of 10. See Figure 8. This suggests that fees are well matched to quality.
- 29% of employers report that they think that the cost or affordability of childcare affects their employees. If this is applied to the 20% of employers who report that issues with childcare affect them 'a lot' or 'a little', this is the equivalent of 5.8% of all employers. See Figure 11 and Figure 12.

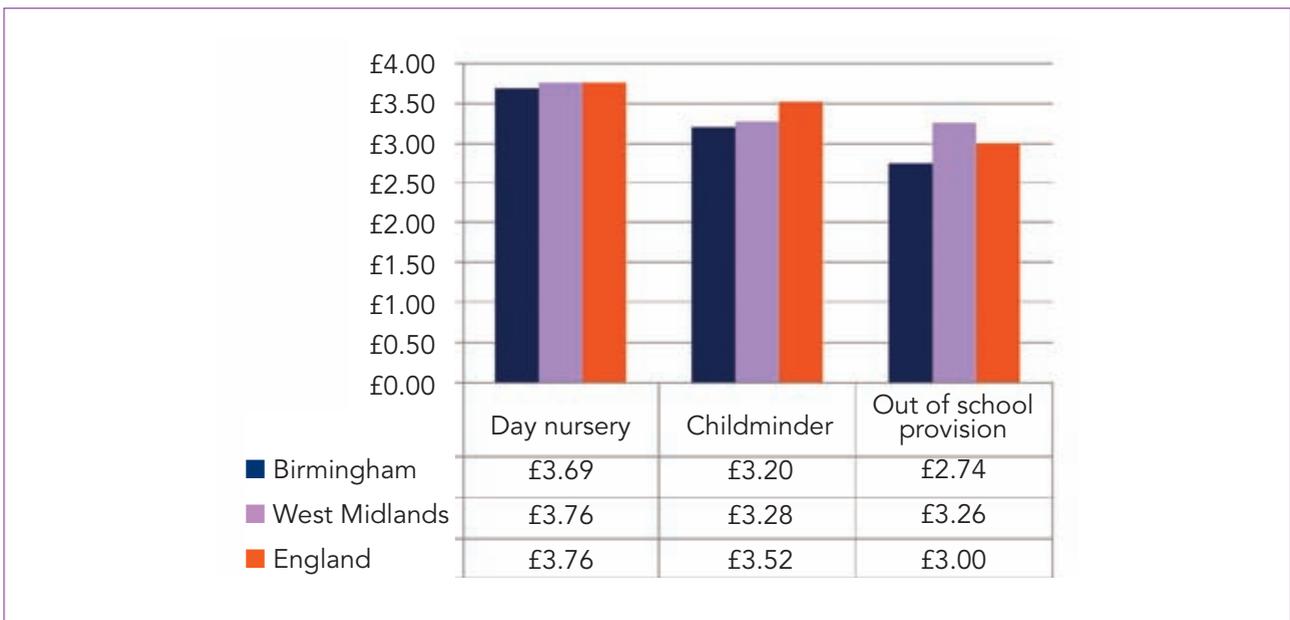
Figure 14: How easy or difficult parents/carers who use childcare find paying for it. Source: Parent/carer demand questionnaire



The conclusion that affordability is a gap only in specific instances is supported by data on supply which shows that the average hourly fee rate in Birmingham for day nurseries, childminders and out of school provision is lower than the West

Midlands and England averages. See Figure 15. There are, however, geographical differences (see Section 8 below). For instance, overall average fee rates range from £2.65 in Erdington ward to £3.95 in Ladywood ward.

Figure 15: Average hourly fees for types of childcare. Sources: Birmingham data is provided by Birmingham City Council. Regional and national data is from the Childcare Costs Survey 2011 from the Daycare Trust. Day nursery and childminder fees given below are for children aged two and over.



### 3.2 Future trends in relation to affordability

Figure 16 shows that any affordability gaps that may currently exist may increase over time. For instance, 31% of providers reported that over the past 12 months they have increased their fees. 51% think they will increase their fees over the next two

to three years. In addition, only 1% of providers reported that they would like to improve their affordability and none want to improve their value for money. Figure 17 shows how much fees would need to increase by per week for parents/carers to consider changing the type of childcare that they used.

Figure 16: Percentage of providers who changed their fee rates over past 12 months, plus future intentions over next two to three years. Source: Provider questionnaire, 2011

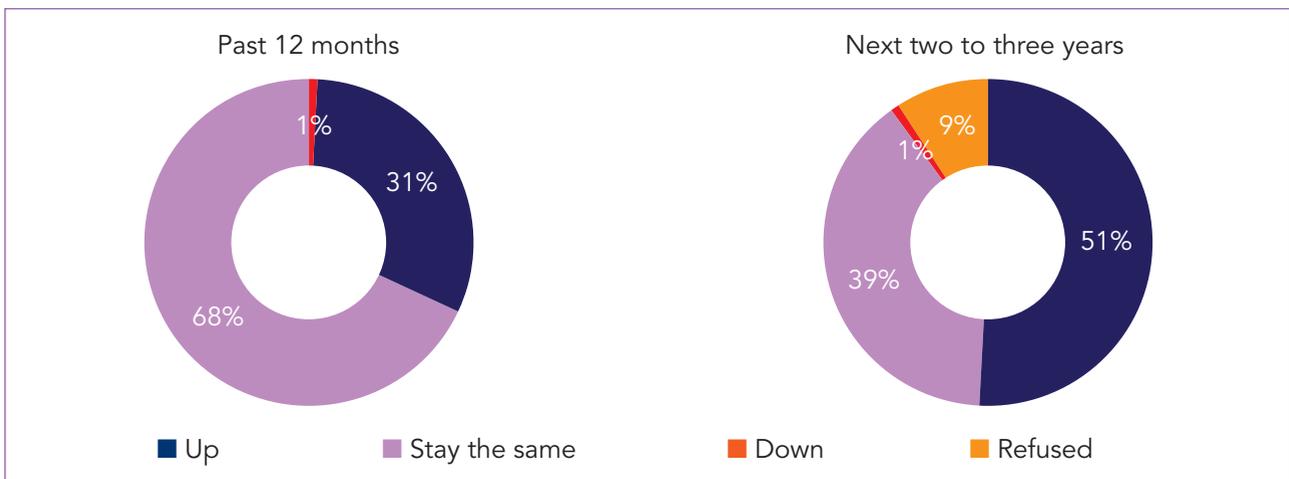


Figure 17: How much fees would need to increase by before parent/carer would consider using a different type of childcare. Source: Parent demand questionnaire, 2011

Increase	Percentage
Up to £5 per week	15%
£5 to £10 per week	11%
£10 to £15 per week	11%
£15 to £20 per week	6%
£20 to £25 per week	4%
£25 to £30 per week	3%
£30 to £35 per week	12%
I wouldn't change regardless of increase	17%
Don't know	20%

### 3.3 Knowledge and take-up of tax credits and other benefits

The results from the parent/carer demand questionnaire shows that awareness of the child tax credit and working tax credit is high: only 6% are not aware of the child tax credit and 20% are not aware of the working tax credit (see Figure 18). Those who were aware of each tax credit but did

not use them were asked for the reasons for this. Figure 19 shows that the main reasons relate to eligibility. The data suggests that few families are not applying for tax credits because of a lack of information or support. Overall, this implies that the vast majority of families are receiving the financial support for childcare that they are entitled to via the tax credit system.

Figure 18: Awareness and use of child tax credit and working tax credit

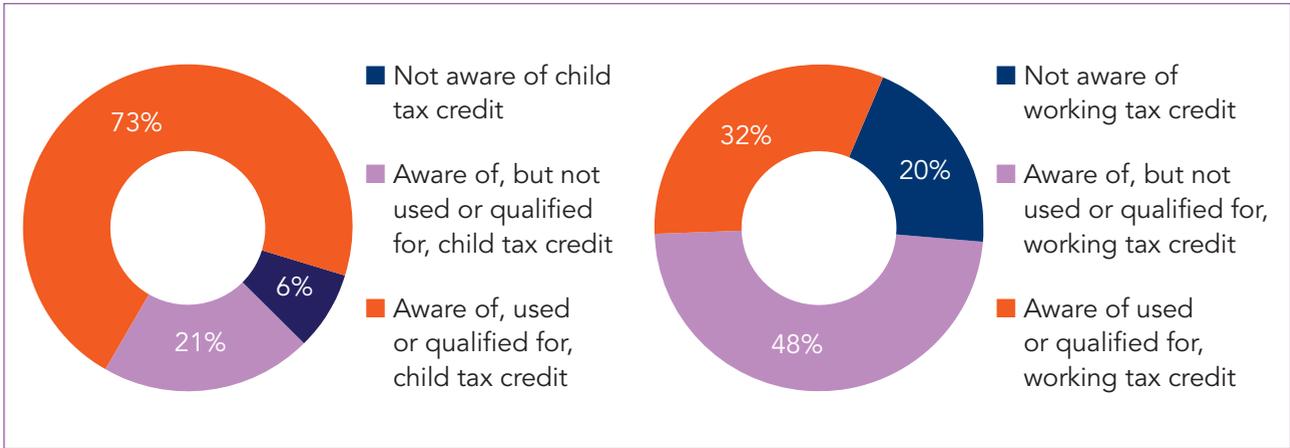
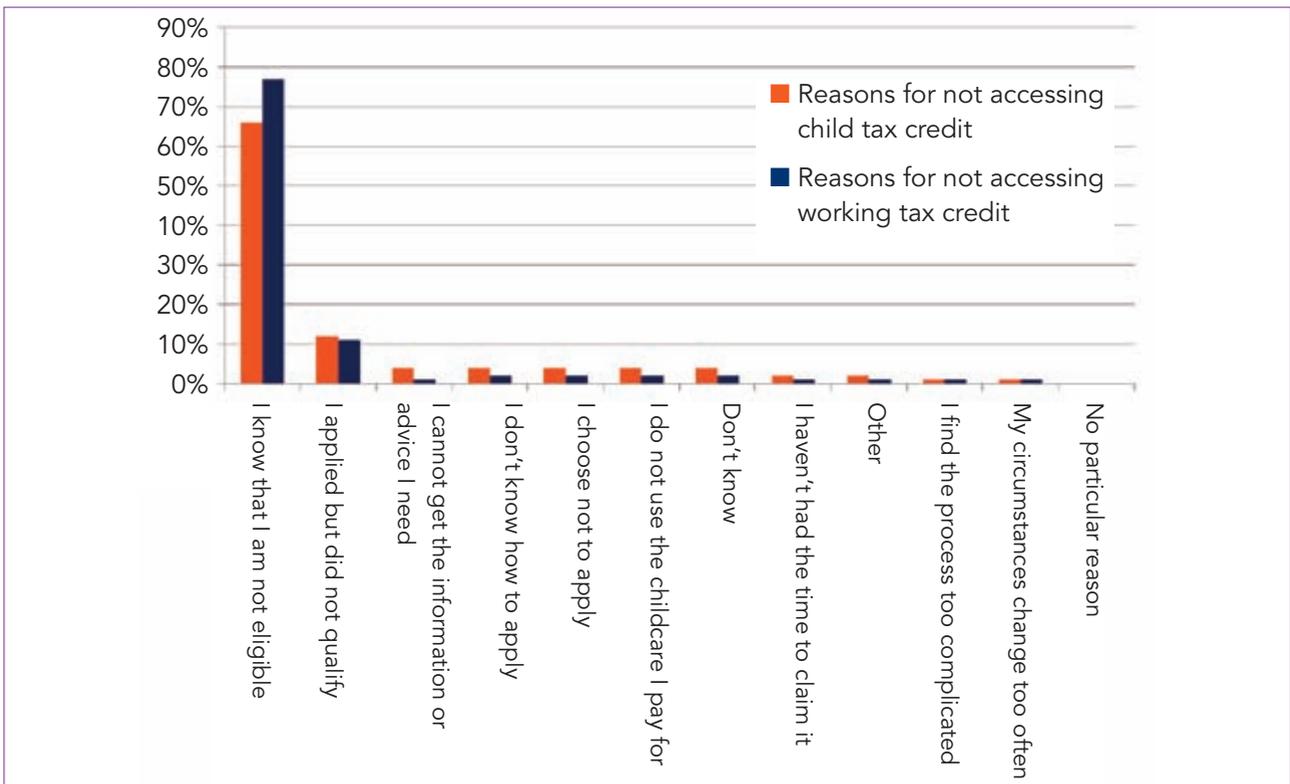


Figure 19: Reasons for not accessing child tax credit and working tax credit

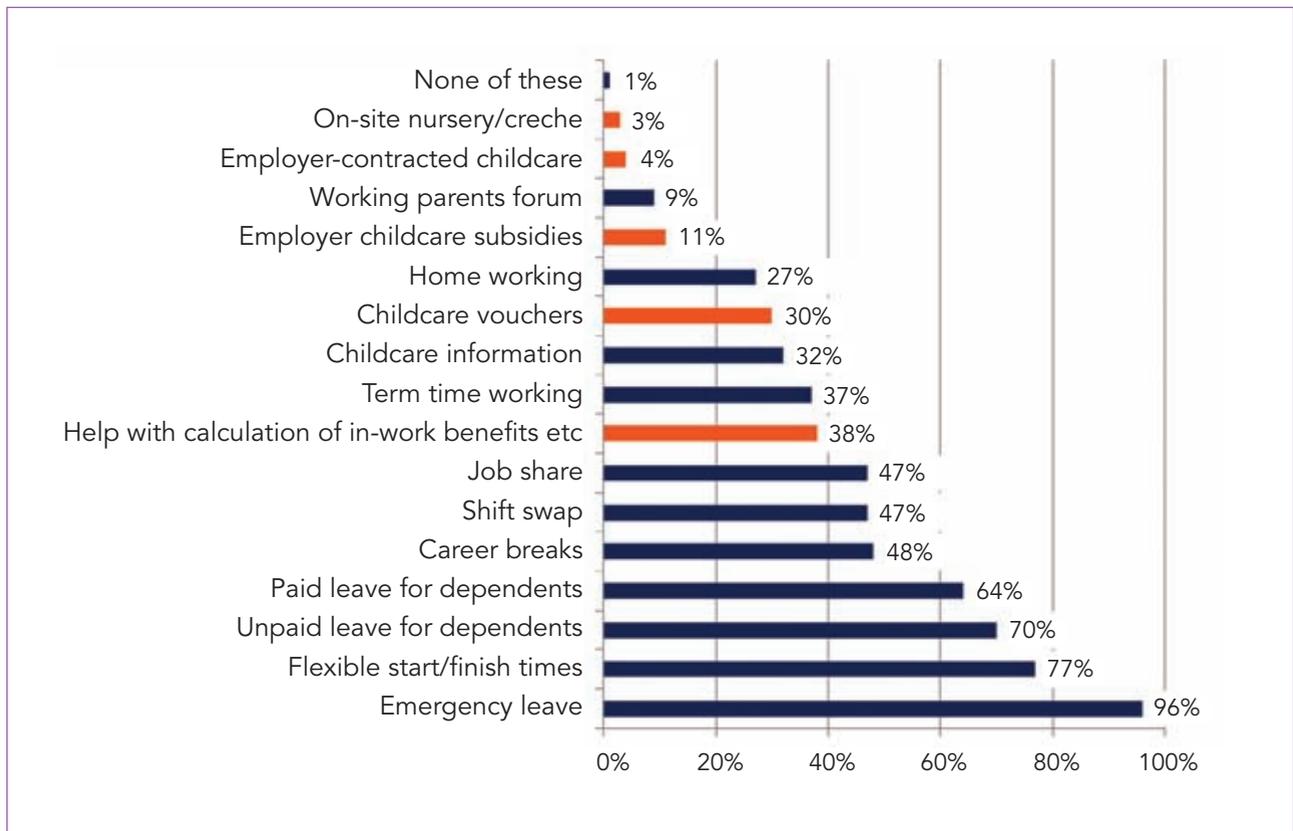


Reason for not accessing tax credit	Child tax credit	Working tax credit
I know that I am not eligible	66%	77%
I applied but did not qualify	12%	11%
I cannot get the information or advice I need	4%	1%
I don't know how to apply	4%	2%
I choose not to apply	4%	2%
I do not use the childcare I pay for	4%	2%
Don't know	4%	2%
I haven't had the time to claim it	2%	1%
Other	2%	1%
I find the process too complicated	1%	1%
My circumstances change too often	1%	1%
No particular reason		

Data collected from the parent demand questionnaire and consultation with employers suggests that access to other types of financial support for working families could be a gap in the market. For instance, only 7% of families where at least one parent/carer is in work access childcare vouchers or other type of employer-related

financial support. A potential lack of financial support is confirmed by consultation with employers, where only 30% offer childcare vouchers and 11% offer childcare subsidies (see Figure 20). In addition, 82% of employers reported that they were not aware of how to get involved in the childcare voucher scheme.

Figure 20: Percentage of employers offering each type of support for childcare. Source: Employer questionnaire, 2011



## 4. Time gaps

**Summary:** Opening times are seen as a gap in the market by childcare providers more than parents/carers. The evidence collected suggests that where opening time gaps do exist, the market may fill these automatically over the next two to three years. The flexibility of provision appears to be well-matched to demand. Finally, there are few differences in gaps between term time and school holidays, although employers tend to highlight more issues during school holidays than other stakeholders.

### 4.1 Scale of time gaps

Overall, parents/carers do not appear to see opening times as a major gap in the childcare market. For instance:

- Few parents/carers who do not use childcare despite actively looking for it highlight that this is because of issues connected with opening days/times. For instance, 3% of this group highlight that days available were not suitable and a further 3% highlighted that insufficient hours were offered. This is the equivalent of about 0.1% of all parents/carers in the sample. See Figure 4.
- Parents/carers who use childcare report very high satisfaction rates. Very few respondents highlight that improvements to opening times are required. See Figure 7.

This is supported by the analysis of supply. For instance, Figure 21 shows the pattern of places available by day of the week, time of day and age-group. It shows little variation in the number of places available during weekdays. However, for all age-groups the number of places available during the weekend falls dramatically.

Despite this, Figure 22 shows that across Birmingham there are vacancies available in almost all time slots and days of the week. Despite a significant drop in places during weekends, these days tend to have the highest vacancy rates. Overall, this suggests that supply is well-matched to demand. A possible exception to this is childcare for children aged eight to ten years and 11 years and over after 6pm during weekdays and at all time during weekends. This shows that there are no vacancies available for this age group (and during weekends no places available). Please note, however, that a shortfall in places is not explicitly highlighted by parents/carers in consultations.

Figure 21: Number of places available by time bracket, day of the week and age-group. Source: Analysis of supply, 2011

	0 to four years					five to seven years				
	Before 8am	8am to 9am	9am to 3pm	3pm to 6pm	After 6pm	Before 8am	8am to 9am	9am to 3pm	3pm to 6pm	After 6pm
Monday	8,190	13,697	22,838	14,720	1,170	3,087	5,072	4,557	5,658	508
Tuesday	8,193	13,708	22,866	14,753	1,162	3,093	5,084	4,569	5,667	504
Wednesday	8,190	13,707	22,861	15,919	1,165	3,091	5,085	4,557	5,753	506
Thursday	8,185	13,687	22,851	14,734	1,164	3,081	5,062	4,534	5,647	503
Friday	8,170	13,642	22,756	14,687	1,164	3,065	5,030	4,515	5,613	502
Saturday	81	92	103	139	25	63	74	84	119	22
Sunday	17	25	31	34	17	14	22	28	29	13

	eight to ten years					11+ years				
	Before 8am	8am to 9am	9am to 3pm	3pm to 6pm	After 6pm	Before 8am	8am to 9am	9am to 3pm	3pm to 6pm	After 6pm
Monday	101	147	35	228	12	27	34	7	93	12
Tuesday	101	147	35	228	12	27	34	7	93	12
Wednesday	101	147	35	228	12	27	34	7	93	12
Thursday	101	147	35	228	12	27	34	7	93	12
Friday	101	147	35	228	12	27	34	7	93	12
Saturday	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sunday	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Figure 22: Vacancy rate by time bracket, day of the week and age-group. Source: Analysis of supply, 2011

	0 to four years					five to seven years				
	Before 8am	8am to 9am	9am to 3pm	3pm to 6pm	After 6pm	Before 8am	8am to 9am	9am to 3pm	3pm to 6pm	After 6pm
Monday	15%	12%	8%	12%	24%	18%	15%	15%	14%	34%
Tuesday	16%	12%	8%	12%	24%	18%	15%	15%	12%	35%
Wednesday	16%	12%	8%	12%	24%	18%	15%	15%	14%	35%
Thursday	15%	12%	8%	12%	24%	18%	15%	15%	14%	35%
Friday	15%	12%	8%	12%	24%	19%	15%	15%	14%	34%
Saturday	37%	41%	43%	34%	64%	38%	43%	45%	33%	59%
Sunday	76%	84%	87%	88%	82%	71%	82%	86%	86%	77%

	eight to ten years					11+ years				
	Before 8am	8am to 9am	9am to 3pm	3pm to 6pm	After 6pm	Before 8am	8am to 9am	9am to 3pm	3pm to 6pm	After 6pm
Monday	12%	9%	17%	8%	0%	23%	18%	92%	10%	0%
Tuesday	12%	9%	17%	8%	0%	23%	18%	92%	10%	0%
Wednesday	12%	9%	17%	8%	0%	23%	18%	92%	10%	0%
Thursday	12%	9%	17%	8%	0%	23%	18%	92%	10%	0%
Friday	12%	9%	17%	8%	0%	23%	18%	92%	10%	0%
Saturday	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sunday	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

In some ways, consultations with childcare providers support this overall positive view. For instance, they rate opening hours, times and days positively, with an average rating of 8.5 out of 10. See Figure 8. However, a slightly different picture is presented when the 60% of providers with vacancies were asked the main reasons for this. Figure 9 shows that 43% highlighted times available, 43% highlighted number of hours available, and 36% highlighted days available. In addition, 16% of employers think that employees with children experience problems in relation to unsuitable hours or not enough hours available. See Figure 12.

All providers who completed the survey were asked whether they had plans to extend their opening hours. Figure 23 shows that 12% said they had plans in place to do this, and a further 16% said they may be interested in doing so. With the equivalent of 26% of all providers reporting that they have vacancies because of issues with opening times<sup>11</sup> and 28% reporting that they will or may extend their opening times, the evidence suggests that the market may automatically address any gaps that may exist. Figure 24 and Figure 25 provide some information on where providers may wish to consider extending their opening hours.

Figure 23: Percentage of providers who are considering extending their opening hours. Source: Childcare provider questionnaire, 2011

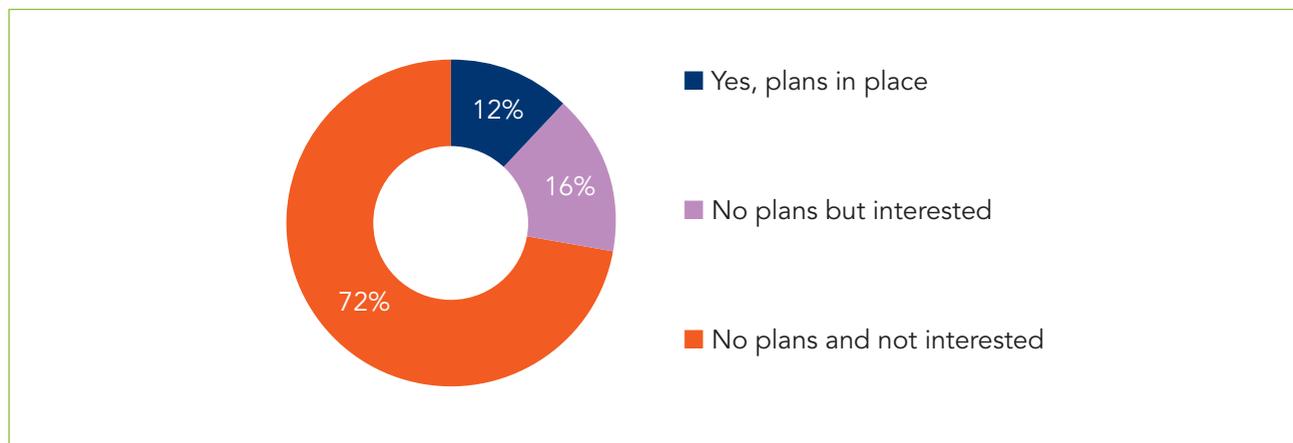


Figure 24: Times that providers with vacancies believe they cannot meet demand for. Source: Childcare provider questionnaire, 2011

Times	Term time	School holidays
6am to 7am	28%	26%
7am to 8am	23%	11%
8am to 9am	8%	6%
9am to 3pm	15%	8%
3pm to 6pm	21%	9%
6pm to 9pm	21%	15%
Overnight – 9pm to 6am	6%	6%
No issues with hours	23%	53%
Don't know	4%	6%

<sup>11</sup> 60% of providers with vacancies multiplied by 43% who highlight that this is because of opening times.

Figure 25: Days that providers with vacancies believe they cannot meet demand for. Source: Childcare provider questionnaire, 2011

Times	Term time	School holidays
Monday	11%	7%
Tuesday	24%	16%
Wednesday	38%	18%
Thursday	29%	18%
Friday	16%	11%
Weekdays in general	16%	16%
Saturday	4%	13%
Sunday	2%	47%
Weekends in general	13%	7%
No issues with days	16%	7%

## 4.2 Flexibility and school holiday gaps

Most of the evidence suggests that lack of flexibility of provision is not a major gap in provision in Birmingham. Only 3% of those who do not use childcare but have actively looked for it report that lack of flexibility was a barrier (see Figure 4). Very few parents/carers who use childcare highlight flexibility as an area for improvement. In addition, childcare providers rate the flexibility that they provide highly (8.5 out of 10 see Figure 8). However, in focus groups parents/carers reported that lack of flexibility of provision was one of the top three reasons for not using childcare. Specifically, this group found it difficult to secure childcare on an ad hoc basis especially if they were not regular users. Nurseries

were highlighted as particularly problematic as they often had waiting lists or required a minimum of two full days per week.

The evidence collected as part of the childcare sufficiency assessment finds little evidence of differences in gaps between term time and school holiday. For instance, Figure 3 shows that holiday provision is only the fifth most popular type of provision that people who do not use childcare have looked for. Holiday provision is also rated positively by those who use childcare (see Figure 7). Employers perceive school holiday provision as more of a gap. For instance, 16% report that opening times/hours/days is the second biggest barrier affecting parents/carers (see Figure 12). Of these, eight of the 11 employers who highlighted this reported that childcare during school holidays is a problem for staff.

## 5. Age gaps

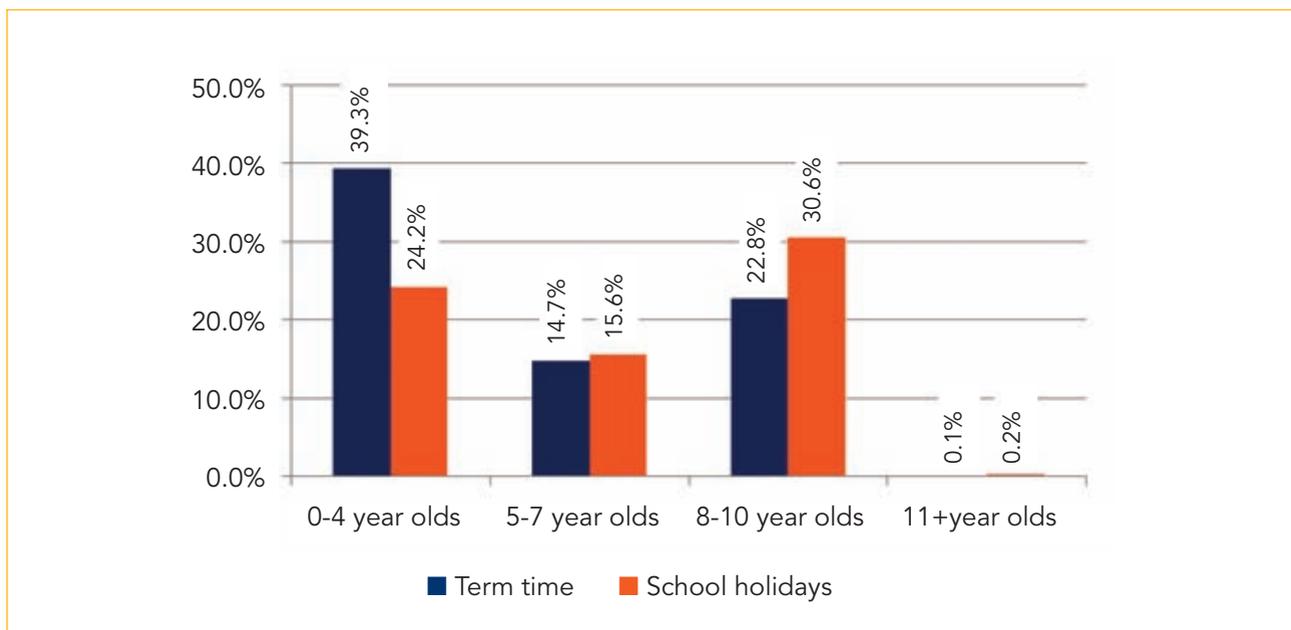
**Summary:** Evidence collected as part of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment does not present a conclusive picture in relation to age gaps. For instance, supply data suggests that childcare for children aged 11 and over is likely to be the biggest pinch-point. However, consultation with parents/carers suggests that parents/carers with five to seven year olds experience pressures. Research on the free entitlement to early learning and childcare shows high levels of awareness and a relatively healthy take-up rate, but with room for improvement. The data suggests that 12.5% of all families with a three to four year old have not taken-up a place but have actively looked for one.

### 5.1 Overall age gaps

Figure 26 shows that there are sufficient places during term time for 39.3% of all 0 to four year olds in Birmingham. This falls to 24.2% during school holidays. This compares to 14.7% and 15.6% for five to seven year olds, and 22.8% and 30.6% for

eight to ten year olds. The lowest number of places compared to the total population is for children aged 11 and over where there are enough places to cater for 0.1% of children during term time and 0.2% during school holidays. This suggests that there may be a gap in the number of places for children aged 11 and over. Data on places and vacancies, summarised in Figure 21 and Figure 22 above, provides further insight into where the gaps may exist. For instance, despite the low percentage of children aged 11 years and over for which there is a place, there are vacancies reported by childcare providers from Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm. This suggests that the number of places is appropriate. However, no vacancies are reported for this age group after 6pm and there are no places available during weekends. This could be an area for improvement but could mean that supply matches demand.

Figure 26: Number of places available for different age groups, expressed as a percentage of the total population within that age group. Source: Analysis of supply, 2011



Direct consultation with parents/carers suggests that any age gaps that may exist are not especially big. For instance, there are no statistically significant differences by age of child in satisfaction rates with childcare that is used. Parents/carers with children aged 11 and over do not consistently highlight encountering problems more than other age groups, although those who do not use childcare are more likely to report that they look for, but cannot access, school holiday provision<sup>12</sup>.

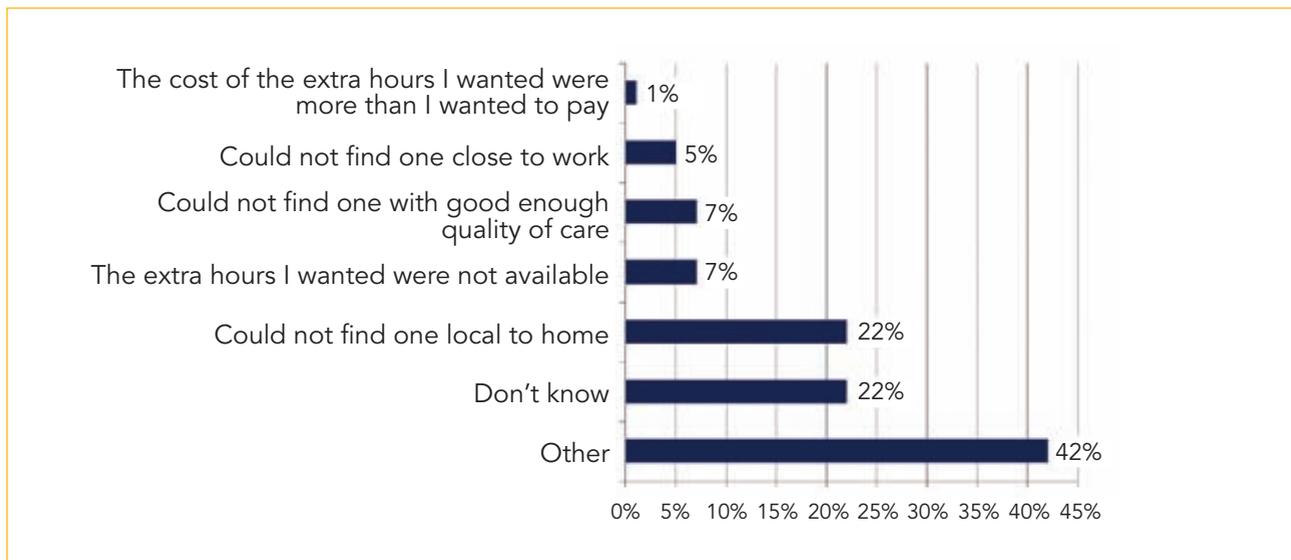
This is also the case for parents/carers with five to seven year olds<sup>13</sup>. The data also suggests that parents/carers with five to seven year olds are more likely to experience other barriers, e.g. they are more likely to report that affordability is a barrier preventing them from using childcare<sup>14</sup>. Also, those who use childcare are more likely to report that issues with it have prevented them from remaining in work<sup>15</sup>.

## 5.2 Free entitlement to early learning and childcare for three to four year olds

The survey undertaken with parents/carers shows that 86% of those with a three to four year old were aware of their free entitlement to early learning and childcare for three and four year olds. Of these 61% were currently taking-up a place, and the vast majority (91%) were using all 15 hours of their entitlement.

Of the 39% of parents/carers who are not taking-up a place, 32% have looked for a free entitlement place. This is the equivalent of 12.5% of all families with a three to four year old. These respondents were asked why they were not able to take-up a place, Figure 27 shows that the largest barrier highlighted by this group was that they could not find anything close to home. 7% reported that they wanted additional hours and a further 7% reported that they could not find a provider of sufficient quality.

Figure 27: Reasons why parents/carers have not taken-up a free entitlement place despite looking for one. Note: respondents could choose more than one reason. Source: Parent demand questionnaire, 2011



<sup>12</sup> 25% of those with an 11-14 year old who do not use childcare but have actively looked for it reported that they were looking for school holiday provision. This compares to an overall average of 13%.

<sup>13</sup> 16% of those with a five to seven year old who do not use childcare but have actively looked for it reported that they were looking for school holiday provision. This compares to an overall average of 13%.

<sup>14</sup> 47% of those with a five to seven year old who do not use childcare but have actively looked for it report that affordability is a barrier. This compares to an overall average of 32%.

<sup>15</sup> 11% compared to an overall average of 9%.

## 6. Type gaps

**Summary:** Type of childcare is not a major gap in the childcare market in Birmingham. The overall number of places appears well-matched to demand. Where type gaps do exist this is likely to be connected with affordability and opening times. One in four childcare providers report that they may expand over the next two to three years which may help to address any gaps that exist and cater for any increases in population over time. Quality does not appear to be a major barrier in the childcare market.

### 6.1 Scale of type gaps

The evidence suggests that type of childcare is not a major gap in the childcare market in Birmingham. For instance, Figure 4 shows that parents/carers who are not using childcare but have actively looked for a place highlight that lack of places is only the fifth highest reason for not taking up a place. 6% of this group highlight this as a barrier, which is the equivalent of 0.3% of all families in the sample. Figure 3 gives some insight into the types of childcare that these families are seeking.

Parents/carers who use childcare also report very high satisfaction rates with the types of childcare that they use. The majority of types of childcare have satisfaction rates of 96% or above (with family members and Saturday/Sunday clubs rated at 100%). Youth clubs and nannies/au pairs are rated slightly lower at 93% and 90% respectively. See Figure 7.

Consultation with providers shows a slightly more complex picture. Figure 28 shows that 40% of providers reported that they are full and are turning people away or adding them to a waiting list. 35% of providers reported that they have vacancies and are not turning people away or adding them to a waiting list. 25% of providers reported that they have vacancies and are turning people away or adding them to a waiting list. Figure 29 presents supply data and shows that overall vacancy rates (based on number of places available rather than number of providers with vacant places) range from 4.2% (for eight to ten year olds) to 9.7% (for five to seven year olds). Overall, this suggests that where gaps in the type of childcare do exist, this may not be about the overall volume of places but connected to affordability or opening times. Further information is provided in Figure 9 which shows the main reasons for providers to have vacancies.

Finally, focus groups with children and young people show that they enjoy attending childcare and had positive views. Some potential improvements were put forward in focus groups. For instance, 24 out of 89 children and young people reported that they would like to 'do more' in childcare; and 25 out of 89 reported that they would like to do different activities. Where specific improvements were provided, suggestions included dressing up, more and different sports, and access to Xbox and PlayStation. Focus groups with parents/carers highlighted an improvement suggestion connected with this which was a wish to see a greater diversity of provision during school holidays that was not sport-based.

Figure 28: Percentage of providers holding waiting lists and vacancies. Source: Childcare provider questionnaire, 2011

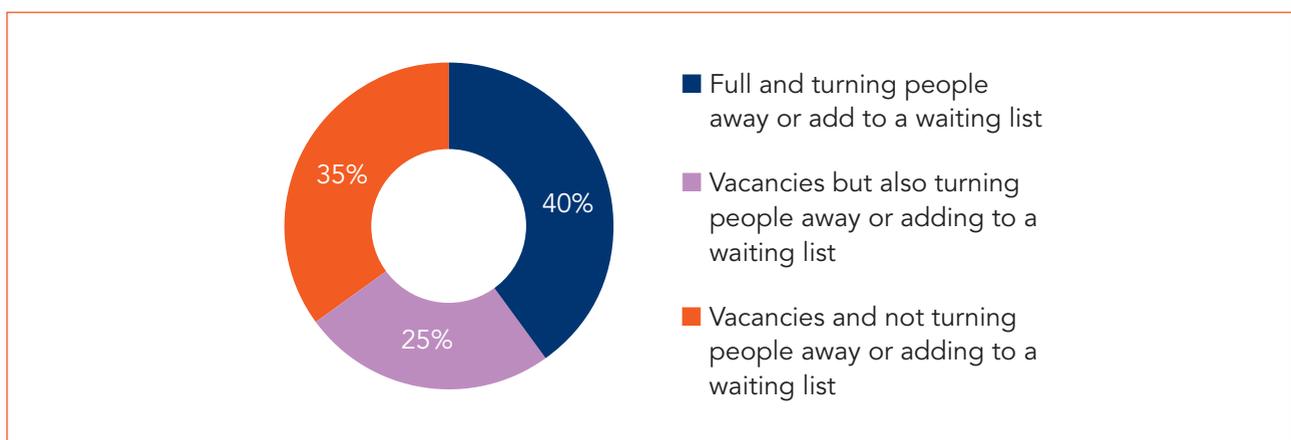


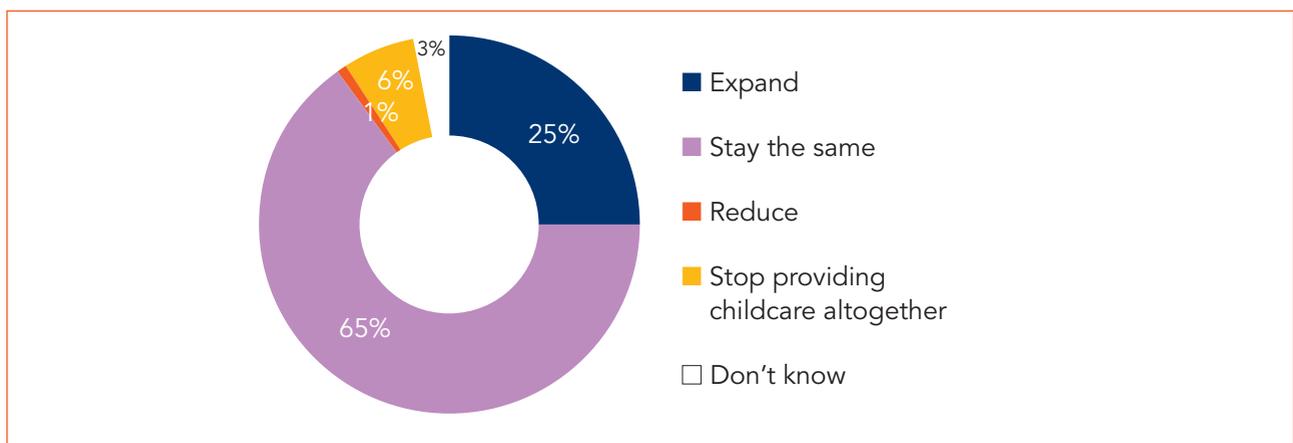
Figure 29: Number of vacant places expressed as a percentage of all places available. Source: Supply data, 2011

Type of childcare	0-four years	five to seven years	eight to ten years	11+ years
Childminder	38.5%	30.3%		
Day nursery	8.3%	6.2%		
Out of school club	4.2%	5.3%	6.5%	9.0%
Pre-school playgroup	12.3%			
Overall	7.3%	9.7%	4.2%	4.4%

Figure 30 shows that the overall number of childcare places is likely to grow over the next two to three years. For instance, 25% of providers reported that they might expand over this period. Of these, Figure 31 shows that 23% are considering expanding by two to four places, whilst 21% are considering 20-34 places. Only 1% reported that they would reduce the number of places. An additional 6% reported that they would stop providing places. These were principally childminders (12% reported they planned to stop offering childcare).

Between 2010 and 2020, the population of 0-19 year olds is projected to grow by between 1.0% and 1.5%<sup>16</sup>. Consultation with providers suggests that places may grow by 581 to 911 places (although this does not take into account those providers who are reducing places or stopping altogether). This is the equivalent of between an 8% and 13% increase in places<sup>17</sup>. This suggests that there are sufficient places to cater for increases in population and any changes in demand.

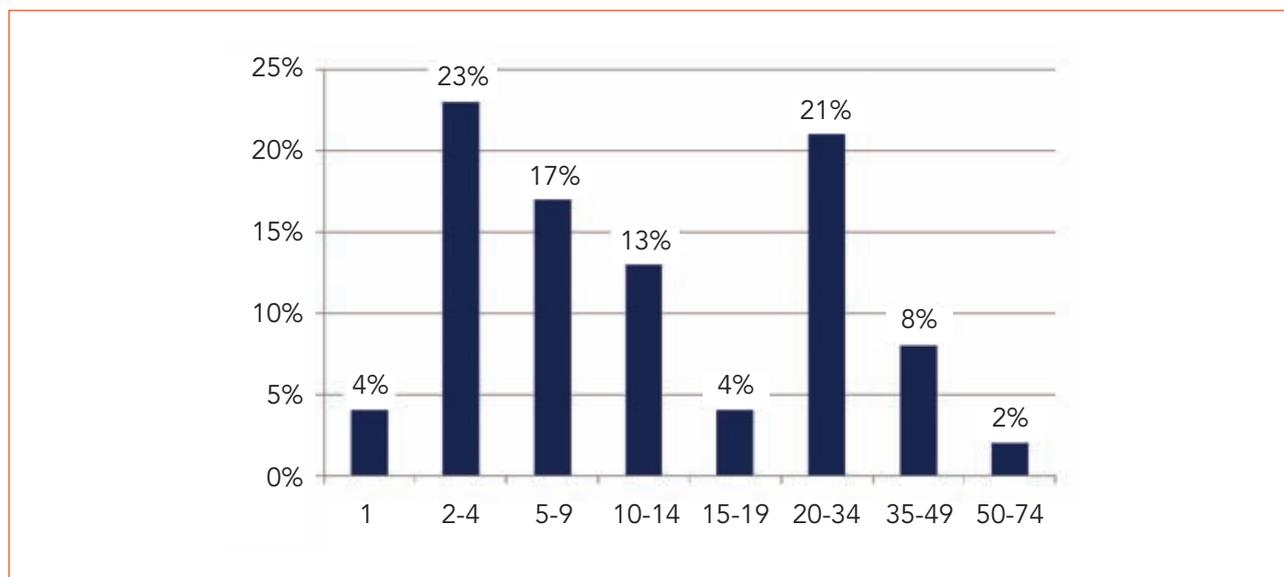
Figure 30: Plans to change the number of places offered over the next two to three years. Source: Childcare provider questionnaire, 2011



<sup>16</sup> Joint Strategic Needs Assessment: demographic section, available at <http://www.bhwp.nhs.uk/Files/Content/L/191/JSNA%20Demographic%20Profile%20V1.3.pdf>.

<sup>17</sup> Based on the 6,221 children on roll plus 721 vacant places that the 208 providers in the survey offer.

Figure 31: Number of places that providers may grow by, based on all those considering expansion.  
 Source: Childcare provider questionnaire, 2011



## 6.2 Scale of quality gaps

There are few gaps in quality in the Birmingham childcare market. For instance:

- Only 1% of parents/carers who do not use childcare but have actively looked for it have reported that this is due to: 'quality of the childcare was not good enough', 'quality of the staff was not suitable' and 'the premises, environment or equipment were unsuitable'. This is the equivalent of less than 0.1% of all parents/carers in the sample. A larger percentage (15%) reported that they could not find a provider that they trusted (see Figure 4). The focus groups with parents/carers highlighted that trust was an important factor in deciding to choose childcare and that this was one of the top three reasons why some parents/carers decided not to use childcare.
- Parents/carers who use childcare report very high satisfaction rates, with most types of provider being rated at 96% or over. Five respondents (out of 4,006) reported that improvements to holiday provision were needed and, of these, three respondents said that this was connected to quality and to activities (see Figure 7).
- Providers rate highly different aspects connected with quality. For instance, Figure 8 shows that they rate positively activities, stimulation and education for the child (8.6 out of 10), staff training levels and qualification (8.0 out of 10) and premises, environment and equipment (7.1 out of 10). Also, providers who have vacancies do not highlight issues connected with quality as a significant reason for this (see Figure 9).
- 7% of employers consulted highlight that they think employees experience problems with inadequate childcare premises, environment and equipment, and only 3% highlight poor quality provision (see Figure 12).
- Information on the supply of childcare shows that overall 68% of providers who have had an Ofsted inspection are rated as 'good' or 'outstanding'. This ranges from 64% for childminders and out of school clubs to 77% for day nurseries. There is also some geographical variation with the percentage of providers rated as 'good' or 'outstanding' ranging from 20.8% to 71.1% (please see section 8) for further details.

## 7. Specific need gaps

**Summary:** The analysis of the specific needs of different groups of parents/carers suggests that there are particular gaps experienced by families on low income (including lone parents/carers), families with a child with a disability or special need and families from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds.

Statutory guidance on conducting a childcare sufficiency assessment notes that:

“It is vital that local authorities engage with, and support, providers in ensuring that childcare is inclusive and accessible to all. They should have particular regard to the childcare needs of families in challenging circumstances, including:

- Low income families (including lone parents) and where parents are seeking work
- Families who include children or parents with a disability
- Families in Black and Minority Ethnic communities
- Families in Gypsy, Roma and traveller communities
- Families living in remote or rural areas
- Armed Forces families”.

(Securing Sufficient Childcare: Statutory guidance for local authorities in carrying out their childcare sufficiency duties<sup>18</sup>, DCSF, March 2010, page 46)

This section focuses on the needs of these groups and, in particular, where research suggests that their needs differ from the overall Birmingham average.

### 7.1 Low income<sup>19</sup> families

Figure 32 summarises those gaps in the childcare market that are more likely to impact on low income families.

Figure 32: Summary of findings for low income families

Issue	More likely to impact group
Overall, childcare does not meet needs	
Income gaps	✓
Time gaps	
Type gaps	
Age gaps	✓
Specific needs gaps	
Geographical gaps	
Childcare issues impact employment or study/training	✓

Consultation with parents/carers shows that low income families are more likely to find it difficult to meet weekly childcare costs<sup>20</sup>, suggesting this group may be more commonly affected by income gaps. However, low income families are less likely to be aware of both child tax credit<sup>21</sup> and working tax credit<sup>22</sup>. They are also more likely to report that

they do not claim child tax credit because they do not know how to apply<sup>23</sup>. These findings suggest that income gaps more commonly experienced by low income families could be reduced by increasing awareness and take-up of available financial support.

<sup>18</sup> Available at <http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationdetail/page1/DCSF-00274-2010> (accessed 4th April 2011).

<sup>19</sup> This refers to families with a combined household income of less than £12,000 per year.

<sup>20</sup> Among families who pay for childcare, 41% of low income families report difficulties in meeting childcare costs compared to 32% of all families.

Among families with a three or four year old, low income families are less likely to be aware that they can get a free childcare place for this child<sup>24</sup> and less likely to report taking up a free place<sup>25</sup>. This suggests these families may more acutely experience age gaps concerning awareness and take up of free childcare for three and four year olds.

The evidence suggests that low income families who use childcare may be more likely to

experience problems with childcare that impacts on work and study<sup>26</sup>. Specifically, low income families are more likely to report that childcare issues have:

- Prevented them from remaining in work<sup>27</sup>.
- Prevented them from seeking or accessing work or getting a job<sup>28</sup>.
- Prevented them from completing any study or training<sup>29</sup>.

## 7.2 Lone parent/carers families

Figure 33 summarises those gaps in the childcare market that are more likely to impact on lone parent/carers.

Figure 33: Summary of findings for lone parent/carers families

Issue	More likely to impact group
Overall, childcare does not meet needs	✓
Income gaps	✓
Time gaps	✓*
Type gaps	
Age gaps	
Specific needs gaps	✓
Geographical gaps	✓*
Childcare issues impact employment or study/training	✓

\* Based on focus group findings only so caution should be taken in applying this to the population.

Consultations suggest that lone parents/carers are more likely to experience barriers to take-up of childcare and more likely to find that childcare that they do use does not meet their needs. For instance:

- Lone parents/carers who do not use childcare are more likely to report that they have not been able to find the childcare that they need<sup>30</sup>. These lone parent/carers families are more likely to report they were looking for or enquiring about youth clubs/youth work provision<sup>31</sup>, school holiday schemes<sup>32</sup> and breakfast clubs<sup>33</sup>.

<sup>21</sup> 91% of low income families are aware compared to 94% of all families.

<sup>22</sup> 73% of low income families are aware compared with 80% of all families.

<sup>23</sup> Among families are aware of child tax credit but who do not use or qualify for it, 9% of low income families report not using this because they do not know how to apply compared to 4% of all families.

<sup>24</sup> 79% of low income families are aware compared to 86% of all families with a three or four year old.

<sup>25</sup> Among those who are aware of the free childcare place, 55% of low income families are taking up the free place compared to 60% among all families.

<sup>26</sup> Among families who report that childcare does not entirely meet their needs or who do not use childcare but are seeking to do so.

<sup>27</sup> 13% of low income families report this in comparison of 9% of families overall.

<sup>28</sup> 13% of low income families report this compared to 8% of all families overall.

<sup>29</sup> 4% of low income families report this compared with 3% among all other families.

- Lone parents/carers who use childcare are less likely to report that it entirely meets their needs<sup>34</sup>. They are also more likely to report that childcare issues have: prevented them from seeking or accessing work or getting a job<sup>35</sup> and prevented them from starting to train or study<sup>36</sup>.

The evidence collected as part of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment suggests that this group is more likely to experience gaps in the childcare market. Further detail is provided below.

Lone parent/carer families are more likely to report finding it difficult to meet their weekly childcare costs<sup>37</sup>. This suggests **income gaps** may be more acutely experienced by these families. This was reinforced by focus group findings suggesting further cost increases would leave many working lone parents/carers having to assess whether it remains cost effective to remain in employment. Findings from focus groups with lone parents/carers also found issues around:

- Late collection fees being unaffordable for working lone parent/carer families on a single wage.
- Childminders being too expensive relative to other provision<sup>38</sup>.
- Issues with the processing of tax allowances leaving families missing out on entitlements.

However, lone parent/carer families are less likely to have claimed working tax credit<sup>39</sup>. This suggests any income gaps more commonly experienced by lone parent/carer families may be reduced by increasing take up of tax credits. Further to this,

focus groups with lone parents/carers found this group would like the following improvements in relation to affordability:

- Cost reductions.
- Increased financial support towards childcare.
- Reductions in late collection fees.
- Not having to pay for childcare that is not used (e.g. school holidays or block sessions).

Lone parent/carer families with a child with a disability or special need are more likely to report that travel to childcare is 'very difficult'<sup>40</sup>. This suggests that lone parents/carers may be particularly impacted by the **specific needs gaps** around travel and transport gaps faced by families with a child with a disability or special need.

Focus group findings suggest that lone parent/carer families may be more impacted by:

- **Time gaps:** This is a particular issue for working lone parents/carers who are often precluded from working evenings and weekends due to a lack of available childcare. Lone parents/carers feel having extended opening hours (including nursery provision open on Saturdays) and more information around 'emergency' childcare would help improve this situation.
- **Geographical gaps:** These families suggested that they are less likely to drive so it is important to have childcare within a 30 minute walk or bus journey (with no changes). Working lone parents/carers also feel they would consider childcare based within their workplace.

<sup>30</sup>Among families who do not use childcare, 8% of lone parent/carer families report they have enquired or looked for childcare they have been unable to find or take up in comparison to 6% of all families.

<sup>31</sup>Among families who have looked for or enquired about childcare they have been unable to find or take up, 15% of lone parent/carer families report this was a youth club/youth work provision compared to 9% among all families.

<sup>32</sup>Among families who have looked for or enquired about childcare they have been unable to find or take up, 20% of lone parent/carer families report this was a school holiday scheme compared to 13% among all families.

<sup>33</sup>Among families who have looked for or enquired about childcare they have been unable to find or take up, 33% of lone parent/carer families report this was a breakfast club compared to 5% among all families.

<sup>34</sup>Among those who use childcare, 67% of lone parents/carers report childcare entirely meets needs compared to 72% among all families.

<sup>35</sup>13% of lone parent/carer families compared to 8% of all families.

<sup>36</sup>8% of lone parent/carer families compared to 5% of all families.

<sup>37</sup>Among families who pay for childcare, 44% of lone parent/carer families report difficulty in meeting childcare costs compared to 32% among all families.

<sup>38</sup>Although it should be noted that this is not backed up by data from Birmingham City Council which shows hourly fees at childminders are less than those of out of school provision.

<sup>39</sup>Among families who are aware of the working tax credit, 35% of lone parent/carers have used or qualified for it compared to 40% among all families.

## 7.3 Families where at least one parent/carer is seeking work

Figure 34 summarises those gaps in the childcare market that are more likely to impact on parents/carers seeking work.

Figure 34: Summary of findings for families with at least one parent/carer seeking work

Issue	More likely to impact group
Overall, childcare does not meet needs	✓
Income gaps	✓
Time gaps	
Type gaps	
Age gaps	
Specific needs gaps	
Geographical gaps	
Childcare issues impact employment or study/training	

Consultation with parents/carers suggests:

- Families with at least one parent/carer seeking work who use childcare report that it is less likely to meet their needs<sup>41</sup>.
- Among those who do not use childcare, these families are more likely to report that they have looked for childcare they have been unable to take-up<sup>42</sup>.

Reasons for this may include income gaps since these families are more likely to report they find it difficult to meet their childcare costs<sup>43</sup> among those families who are using childcare.

<sup>40</sup>Among families with a child with a disability or special need who use childcare, 14% of lone parent/carer families report that travel is 'very difficult' compared to 6% among all families.

<sup>41</sup>Among families who use childcare, 66% of families with at least one parent/carer looking for work report childcare entirely meet needs compared to 72% among all families. The figure for families with at least one parent/carer looking for work is significantly different to that for families where all parents/carers work full time. While, 7% of families with at least one parent/carer looking for work report childcare does not meet needs at all compared to 3% among all families. The figure for families with at least one parent/carer looking for work is significantly different to that for families where all parents/carers work full time and families with at least one full time parent/carer.

<sup>42</sup>Among families using childcare, 7% of families with at least one parent/carer looking for work report having looked for or enquired about childcare they were unable to find or take up compared to 6% among all families.

## 7.4 Families where at least one parent/carer is studying or training

Figure 35 summarises those gaps in the childcare market that are more likely to impact on families where at least one parent/carer is studying or training.

Figure 35: Summary of findings for families where at least one parent/carer is studying or training

Issue	More likely to impact group
Overall, childcare does not meet needs	
Income gaps	✓
Time gaps	
Type gaps	
Age gaps	
Specific needs gaps	
Geographical gaps	
Childcare issues impact employment or study/training	

Consultation with parents/carers suggests that in the main families where at least one parent/carer is studying or training are not experiencing gaps differently from the overall Birmingham average. One piece of evidence (i.e. that they are more likely to report finding it difficult to meet their childcare costs<sup>44</sup>) suggests this group may be more adversely affected by income gaps.

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This figure for families with at least one parent/carer looking for work is significantly different to families with at least one full-time parent/carer.

<sup>43</sup>Among families who pay for childcare, 44% of families with at least one parent/carer looking for work compared to 32% of all families. This figure for families with at least one parent/carer who is looking for work is significantly different to that for families where all parents/carers work full time and for families with at least one full time parent/carer.

<sup>44</sup>Among families who pay for childcare, 52% of families with at least one parent/carer in study or training report this compared to 32% among all families. This finding for families with at least one parent/carer in study or training is significant to families where all parents/carers work full time and families with at least one full time parent/carer.

## 7.5 Families which include a child with a disability or special need

Figure 36 summarises those gaps in the childcare market that are more likely to impact on families which include a child with a disability or special need.

Figure 36: Summary of findings for families which include a child with a disability or special need

Issue	More likely to impact group
Overall, childcare does not meet needs	✓
Income gaps	✓*
Time gaps	
Type gaps	✓
Age gaps	✓
Specific needs gaps	
Geographical gaps	
Childcare issues impact employment or study/training	✓

\* Based on focus group findings only so caution should be taken in applying this to the population.

### 7.5.1 Scale of the gaps experienced by this group

Consultation with parents/carers with a child with a disability or special need presents a mixed picture about their experience of gaps in the childcare market.

On the positive side, the evidence suggests that these parents/carers are not significantly less likely to access childcare or to have difficulty finding the childcare that they want. On the negative side, parents/carers with a child with a disability or special need who use childcare are:

- Less likely to report their childcare arrangements entirely meet their needs<sup>45</sup>.
- More likely to report their childcare arrangements do not meet needs at all<sup>46</sup>.
- More likely to report that childcare issues have prevented them from seeking or accessing work or getting a job<sup>47</sup>.

However, when asked about their specific experiences of the childcare that they use, these families are not more likely to be dissatisfied or to put forward improvement suggestions. For instance, Figure 37 shows that only two parents/carers with a child with a disability or special need are dissatisfied with the childcare that they use and put forward specific improvement suggestions. One parent/carer put forward improvement suggestions for nursery class. No respondent put forward improvements for any other type of childcare.

<sup>45</sup>Among families who use childcare, 64% of families with a child with a disability or special need report that their childcare does not entirely meet needs compared to 72% among all families.

<sup>46</sup>Among families who use childcare, 7% of families with a child with a disability or special need report that their childcare does not meet needs at all compared to 3% among all families.

<sup>47</sup>Among families whose childcare does not entirely meet their needs or who don't use childcare but would like to, 15% of families with a child with disabilities or special needs report this compared to 8% among all families.

Figure 37: Number of parents/carers with a child with a disability or special need putting forward improvement suggestions when they are dissatisfied with the childcare that they use. Source: Parent/carer demand questionnaire, 2011

Type of childcare used	Number
School Holiday schemes/clubs	2
Nursery class in primary/infant school	1
After school club	0
Breakfast club	0
Childminder	0
Children's centres	0
Day nursery	0
Family members	0
Friends/neighbours	0
Nanny or au pair	0
Nursery school	0
Playgroup or pre-school	0
Saturday or Sunday schemes/clubs	0
Youth clubs/youth work	0

### 7.5.2 Provision of support and information

There is general agreement amongst parents/carers with a child with a disability or special need that provision of support and information could be improved. For instance:

- 52% feel that there is insufficient support for them or their child's disability or special need.
- 57% feel they do not know where to go for information or support.
- 53% feel that there is insufficient information available regarding their child's disability or special need.

Focus group participants confirmed this by reporting that they were unaware of what childcare and support is available. Many in the focus groups considered that Social Services were the only available route for help and support. These people, however, found it very difficult to access the support from Social Services that they needed.

Figure 38 profiles the primary need of children with a disability across Birmingham broken down by age group. It gives an indication of the types of disability that parents/carers may need information on and the range of need that providers may need to cater for.

Figure 38: Number of children and young people in Birmingham with a disability. Table shows primary need and age group. Source: Birmingham City Council, 2011

Primary need	0 to four	five to seven	eight to ten	11+	Total
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	54	222	357	1,102	1,735
Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulty	59	380	760	4,396	5,595
Health Care	53	16	8	16	93
Hearing Impairment	62	91	82	346	581
Medical Condition	55	11	18	51	135
Moderate Learning Difficulty	108	3,511	5,228	13,038	21,885
Multi-Sensory Impairment	2	7	8	16	33
Other	283	442	449	2,323	3,497
Physical Disability	76	168	178	475	897
Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty	17	16	28	44	105
Severe Learning Difficulty	19	78	82	308	487
Specific Learning Difficulty	24	280	540	1,461	2,305
Speech, Language and Communication Needs	239	1,097	1,278	1,471	4,085
Visual Impairment	33	58	71	213	375

### 7.5.3 Lack of appropriate places

Focus groups with parents/carers with a child with a disability or special need suggest that they experience particular issues around finding appropriate provision for their child. These parents/carers explained numerous problems with current provision, e.g.:

- High staff turnover and consequent impact on children's routines.
- The ability of staff to understand children's disability or special needs and cope with their behaviour.
- Problems meeting medical needs.

Consultation with providers suggests that some of this difficulty experienced by parents/carers may be connected with information provision, rather than volume of places. This is because 75% of providers report that they are able to cater for children with a disability or special need (see Figure 39) and, of these, 60% report having vacant places (see Figure

40). 24% of these providers report having up to one vacancy per week for a child with a disability or special need, but 22% report having 10 or more vacancies per week for this group (see Figure 40). Furthermore, of those holding a waiting list, less than one of the children who are turned away have a disability or special need for over three quarters of providers. Overall, this suggests that there are places available.

Although places may exist, providers agree that they could be better at catering for the needs of this group. For instance, Figure 8 shows that providers give an average rating of 7.2 out of 10 for provision for children with a disability or special need. Figure 41 shows the main areas of improvement that providers think are needed to better meet the needs of parents/carers with a child with a disability or special need. The top two improvements were: staff better trained/qualified to deal with needs<sup>48</sup> and better equipment or technology to deal with needs<sup>49</sup>.

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<sup>48</sup>32% of providers feel staff better trained/qualified to deal with needs is required as an improvement.

<sup>49</sup>23% of providers feel better equipment or technology to deal with needs is required as an improvement.

Figure 39: Profile of childcare offered by providers to children with disabilities or special needs

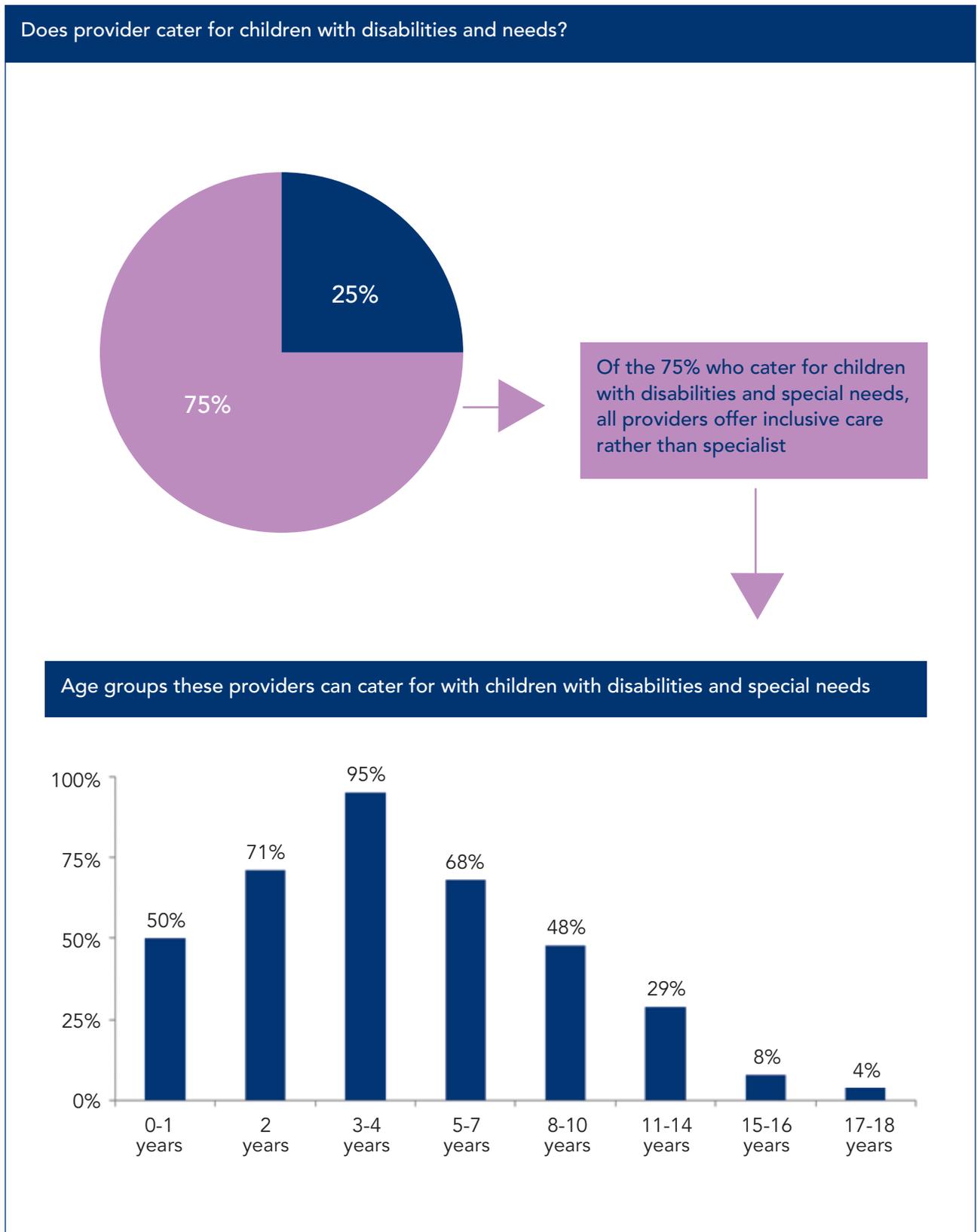


Figure 40: Number of children with disabilities and special needs on waiting lists and number of vacant places which can cater for children with disabilities and special needs

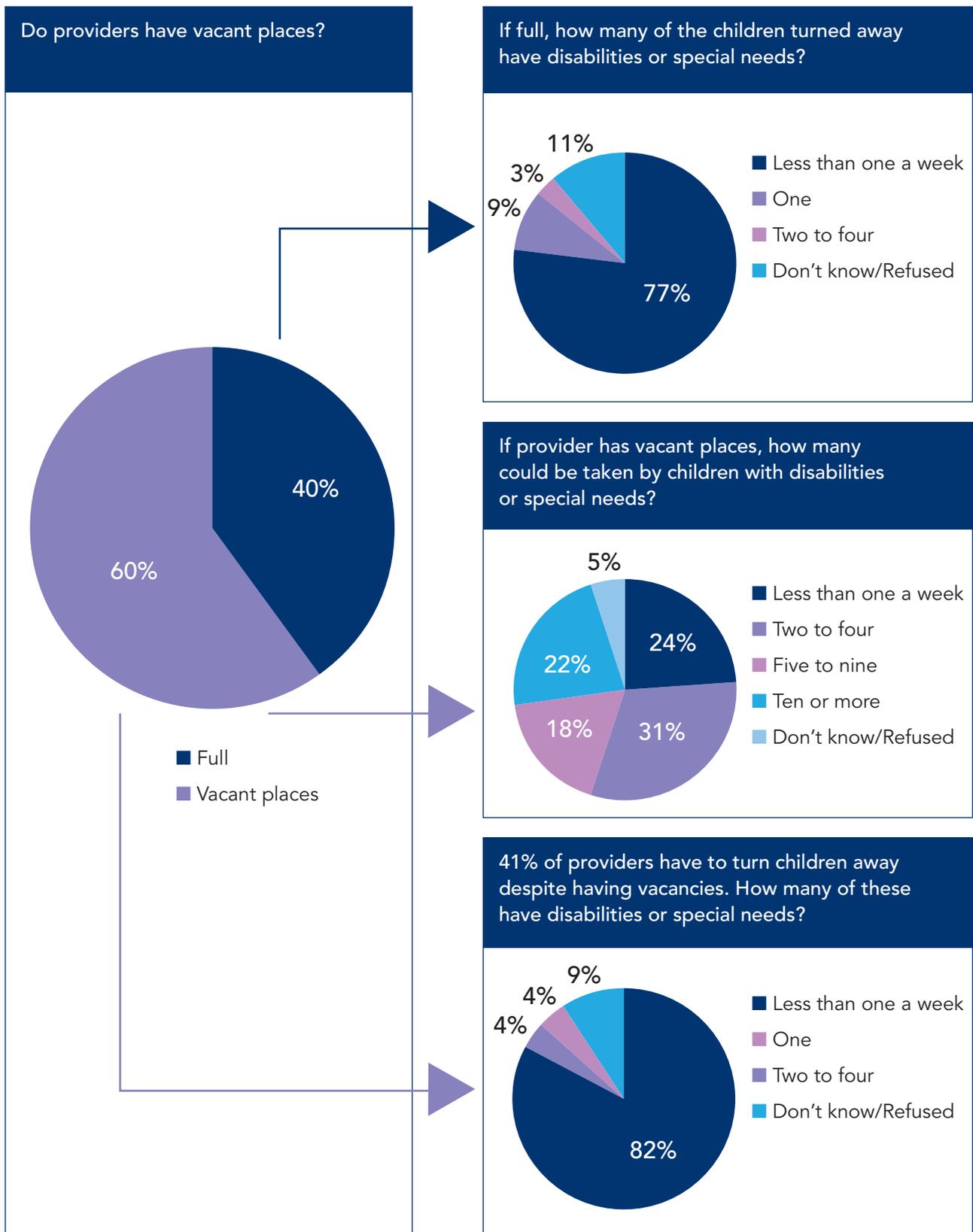
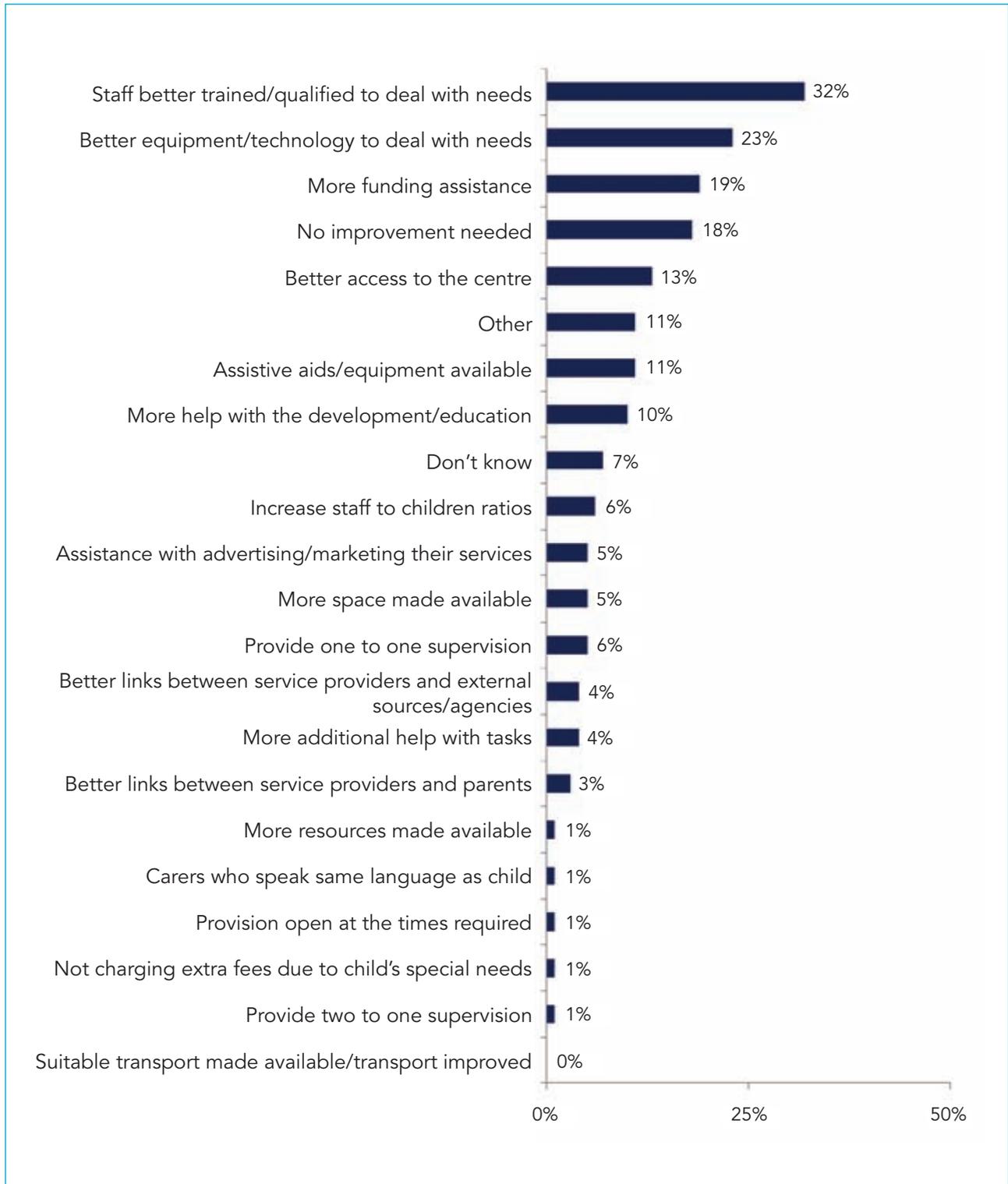


Figure 41: Improvement suggestions by providers for families with children with disabilities or special needs.  
 Source: Childcare provider questionnaire, 2011



### 7.5.4 Access to the free entitlement to early learning and childcare for three and four year olds

The parent/carer demand questionnaire finds that among families with a child with a disability or special need aged three or four years, these families are less likely to take up a free childcare place<sup>50</sup>. This is despite 95% of those providers who cater for children with a disability or special need reporting that they offer places to this age group (see above)<sup>51</sup>.

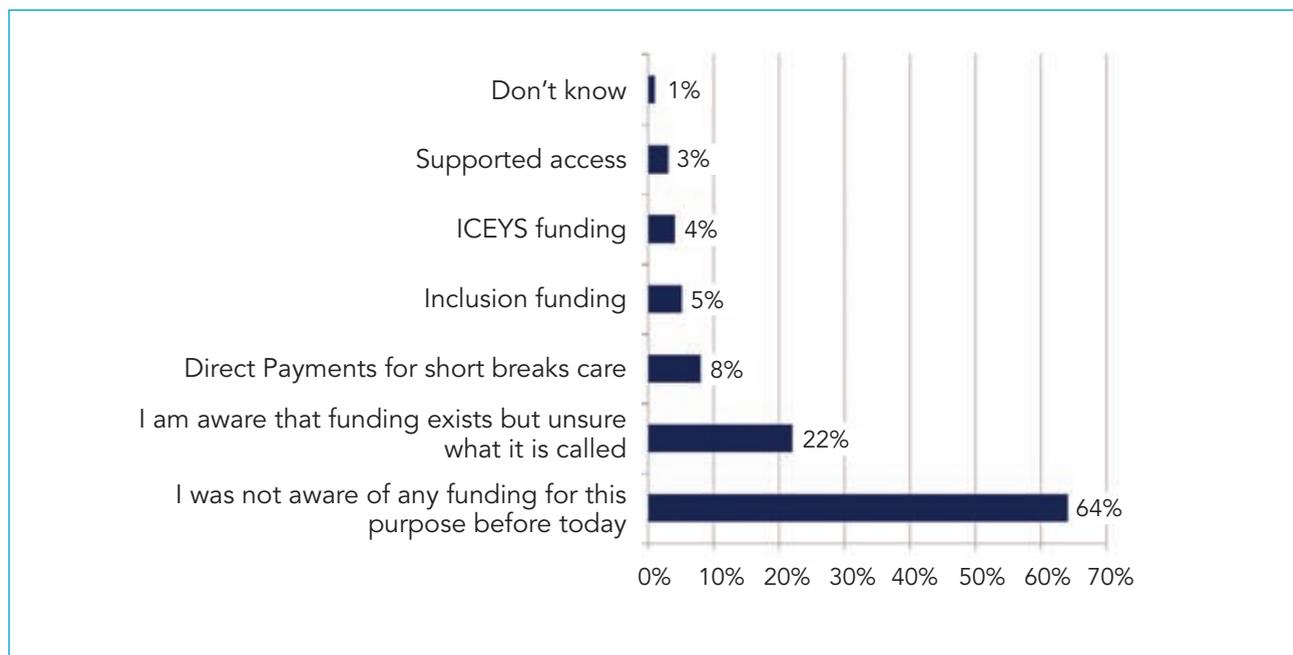
### 7.5.5 Affordability of provision

Focus groups with parents/carers with children with disabilities or special needs suggest that income gaps may also be experienced. They reported a lack of funding and that difficulty accessing

financial support was a barrier preventing take-up of childcare. These families feel that the lack of funding is connected to an overall lack of support from Social Services. Focus group participants suggested that these experiences often put-off families from self-referring to Social Services or accessing childcare.

This is backed-up by data from the parent/carer demand questionnaire. Figure 42 shows that 64% of parents/carers with a child with a disability or special need were not aware of funding to assist with the costs of childcare. A further 22% were aware of support but did not know what it was called. These findings link with the findings above regarding provision of information. Interestingly, other data from the parent/carer demand questionnaire shows that parents/carers with a child with a disability or special need are not more likely than the overall average to highlight issues with affordability.

Figure 42: Awareness of financial support or grants that assist with the provision of childcare for children with special needs or disabilities. Source: Parent/carer demand questionnaire, 2011



<sup>50</sup>Among families with a three or four year old and who are aware of the free childcare place, 47% are taking up this free childcare place compared to 60% among all families.

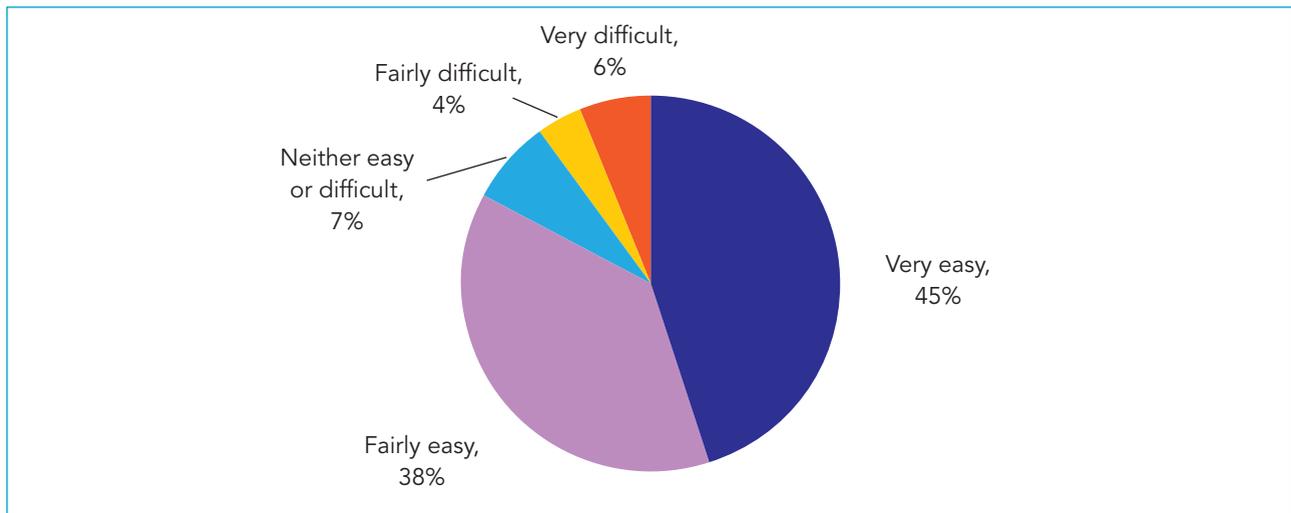
<sup>51</sup>64% of providers who cater for children with disabilities or special needs are registered to offer free childcare for three to four year olds compared to 55% among all providers. The 64% figure increases to 72% if you combine the data for those who just cater for disabilities and those who currently have filled places of this kind.

### 7.5.6 Transport

Figure 43 shows that there are few transport gaps in the childcare market experienced by parents/carers with a child with a disability or special need. Only 10% find transport 'fairly difficult' or 'very difficult'. Of the nine respondents

who went on to provide detail about how transport could be improved, one reported that changes to transport would enable them to attend the same provision as their sibling attends. Seven highlighted 'other' improvements (none of which were connected) and one person did not put forward an improvement suggestion.

Figure 43: How easy or difficult do parents/carers with a child with a disability or special need find transport to childcare. Source: Parent/carer demand questionnaire, 2011



### 7.5.7 Changes in demand for childcare in the future

Consultation with providers suggests that demand for childcare for children with disabilities and special needs has been increasing over the last few years<sup>52</sup>. If this trend were to continue, gaps among this group may become more of an issue for more families.

Consultation with providers provides a mixed picture on whether the childcare market can address these gaps on its own. On the one hand,

30% of providers report they have plans to improve provision for children with disabilities and special needs over the next two to three years with a further 37% interested in doing so. However, providers that cater for disabled children are more likely to report they need access to funding in order to improve<sup>53</sup>. More evidence of the tighter financial position of childcare providers who cater for children with disabilities or special needs come from the finding that they are more likely to have put up their prices in the last 12 months<sup>54</sup> and less likely to have left them unchanged<sup>55</sup>.

<sup>52</sup>10% of providers report that demand for childcare for children with disabilities and special needs has been 'growing a lot', 21% report it has been 'growing a little' and 48% report it has been 'stable'.

<sup>53</sup>15% of providers who cater for children with disabilities or special needs report they need access to more funding in order to improve or is a type of support they require but is currently unavailable compared to 11% of all providers.

<sup>54</sup>40% of providers who cater for children with disabilities or special needs have put up their prices compared to 31% of all providers.

<sup>55</sup>59% of providers who cater for children with disabilities or special needs have left their prices unchanged compared to 68% of all providers.

## 7.6 Parents/carers with a disability or long-term limiting illness

The evidence collected as part of this Childcare Sufficiency Assessment shows that parents/carers with a disability or long-term limiting illness do not experience gaps in the childcare market more acutely than the Birmingham average.

## 7.7 Parents/carers from Black and Minority Ethnic groups

Figure 44 summarises those gaps in the childcare market that are more likely to impact on different Black and Minority Ethnic groups.

Figure 44 summarises those gaps in the childcare market that are more likely to impact on different Black and Minority Ethnic groups.

Issue	More likely to impact group						
	Black	Asian	Mixed	White Other	Chinese and Other	English is not first language	Asylum seekers
Overall, childcare does not meet needs	✓			✓			
Income gaps	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Time gaps							
Type gaps		✓		✓*		✓	
Age gaps	✓*						
Specific needs gaps	✓*			✓*	✓*	✓	
Geographical gaps							
Childcare issues impact employment or study/training							

\* Based on focus group findings only so caution should be taken in applying this to the population.

The evidence collected does not suggest childcare gaps among families from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) families are affecting widespread numbers of families in Birmingham overall. Findings supporting this include:

- Childcare not meeting language or cultural needs is the joint 11th most common barrier preventing families from using childcare and affects less than 0.1% of all families.
- A lack of care to meet language or childcare needs is the eighth biggest childcare barrier affecting family's usage of childcare according to employers. 5% of employers highlighted this.
- Despite having the ninth highest rating by providers, provision for different cultural needs and English as an additional language has an average rating of 7.3 out of 10<sup>56</sup>.

The remainder of this section explores findings specific to the following groups:

- Families from Black backgrounds.
- Families from Asian backgrounds.
- Families from Mixed backgrounds.
- Families from White other backgrounds.
- Families from Chinese and Other backgrounds.
- Families whose first language is not English.
- Asylum seeker families.

<sup>56</sup>Ratings were on a 0 to 10 scale. 0 was the provider would like to improve this area while 10 was that the provider was completely happy with this area.

### 7.7.1 Families from Black backgrounds

Consultation with parents/carers suggests that families from Black backgrounds are less likely to report that current childcare arrangements entirely meet their needs<sup>57</sup>. The evidence suggests that this may principally be a result of **income gaps**. For instance, these families are more likely to report difficulties in meeting childcare costs<sup>58</sup>. However, families from Black backgrounds are less likely to report that they are aware of the child tax credit<sup>59</sup> and the working tax credit<sup>60</sup>. This suggests that income gaps more acutely experienced by these families could be reduced by increasing awareness of the financial support available. Further insight about income gaps are provided through the focus group with parents/carers from Somali backgrounds. This group suggested that these families place great emphasis on education and are prioritising paying for additional tuition for their children over paying for childcare.

During focus groups, Somali parents/carers also highlighted potential **age gaps** in relation the free entitlement for three and four year olds. The parents/carers are aware of the free entitlement for three and four year olds but would like free full-time places (or more than 15 hours) so that parents/carers can take up study/training or paid employment.

Finally, this focus group highlighted a preference for nursery provision that catered explicitly for

Somali families. This is because they felt that they can communicate with staff in their own language and the staff are aware about Somali culture. These families feel that provision needs to be aware of Somali culture (including teaching children on this and providing Halal food). This suggests that **specific needs gaps** may be an issue for this group.

### 7.7.2 Families from Asian backgrounds

Consultation with parents/carers suggests that families from Asian backgrounds are less likely to report that they are aware of the child tax credit<sup>61</sup> and the working tax credit<sup>62</sup>. Furthermore, families from Asian backgrounds are more likely to report that they have not claimed the working tax credit because they cannot get the information and advice they need to complete their claim<sup>63</sup> and because they do not know how to apply<sup>64</sup>. This suggests that any income gaps experienced by this group could be tackled by increasing awareness about, and providing support for, tax credits.

The parent demand questionnaire does not suggest that families from Asian backgrounds are more likely to have problems finding childcare. However, where families do experience problems, Asian families are more likely to report they were looking for nursery schools<sup>65</sup>. This suggests there may be some type gaps around this provision for this group.

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<sup>57</sup>Among families who use childcare, 64% of families from Black backgrounds compared to 72% among all families. This figure for families from Black backgrounds is significantly different to that for families from Asian and White British backgrounds.

<sup>58</sup>Among families who pay for childcare, 55% of families from Black backgrounds report it is difficult to meet childcare costs compared to 32% among all families. This figure for families from Black backgrounds is significantly different to that for families from Asian and White British backgrounds.

<sup>59</sup>93% of families from Black backgrounds are aware of the Child Tax Credit compared to 94% among all families. The figure for families from Black backgrounds is significantly different to that for families from White British backgrounds.

<sup>60</sup>77% of families from Black backgrounds are aware of the Working Tax Credit compared to 80% among all families. This figure for families from Black backgrounds is significantly different to that for families from White British backgrounds.

<sup>61</sup>92% of Asian families are aware compared to 94% among all families. This figure for families from Asian backgrounds is significantly different to those from White British backgrounds.

<sup>62</sup>73% of Asian families are aware compared to 80% among all families. This figure for families from Asian backgrounds is significantly different to those from White British backgrounds.

<sup>63</sup>Among families who are aware of the working tax credit and have not used or qualified for it, 2% of families from Asian backgrounds report this is because they cannot get the information or advice to complete their claim compared to 1% among all families. This figure for families from Asian backgrounds is significantly different to that for families from White British backgrounds.

<sup>64</sup>Among families who are aware of the working tax credit and have not used or qualified for it, 4% of families from Asian backgrounds report this is because they do not know how to apply compared to 2% among all families. This figure for families from Asian backgrounds is significantly different to that for families from White British backgrounds.

<sup>65</sup>Among families who have enquired or looked for childcare that they were unable to find, 31% of Asian families reported looking for a nursery school compared to 20% among all families. This figure for families from Asian backgrounds is significantly different to that for families from White British backgrounds.

### 7.7.3 Families from Mixed backgrounds

Consultation with parents/carers suggests that families from Mixed backgrounds do not experience any gaps more acutely than the overall Birmingham average. There is a potential improvement around awareness and take-up of tax credits. For instance, they are less likely to report that they are aware of the child tax credit<sup>66</sup> and these families are more likely to report they have not claimed the working tax credit because they haven't had time to claim<sup>67</sup>. Therefore raising awareness and take-up of financial assistance may help reduce income gaps for this group.

### 7.7.4 Families from White Other backgrounds

Consultation with parents/carers suggest that families from White Other backgrounds are more likely to experience barriers to take-up of childcare and more likely to find that childcare that they use does not meet their needs. For example, these families are:

- Less likely to report that their childcare arrangements entirely meet their needs<sup>68</sup>.
- More likely to have looked for childcare they have been unable to take-up<sup>69</sup>.

Families from White Other backgrounds are less likely to report that they are aware of the child tax credit<sup>70</sup>. Additionally, these families are more likely to report they do not claim the working tax credit because they cannot get the information or advice they need to complete their claim<sup>71</sup>. This suggests

that income gaps experienced by all families could be reduced proportionately more for families from White Other backgrounds by addressing the lack of awareness and accessing of available financial support among this group.

Findings from focus groups with Polish parents/carers suggest these families may have encountered some problems around the availability of playgroup places at children's centres. This suggests that these families may more acutely experience type gaps. These families also wanted more Polish-orientated childcare suggesting specific needs gaps may be experienced by these groups.

### 7.7.5 Families from Chinese and Other backgrounds

Consultation with parents/carers suggests families from Chinese and Other backgrounds face few additional barriers to childcare above those experienced among all families in Birmingham. One finding that did emerge is that these families are less likely to be aware of Child Tax Credit<sup>72</sup>. This could potentially exacerbate any income gaps experienced among these families.

Focus group findings with Chinese parents/carers suggests that these families rarely use formal childcare because they consider it to be the parent's/carer's responsibility and find it difficult to find childcare that they trust. However, the biggest barrier these families highlight in the focus group is a lack of knowledge and awareness of what childcare is available due to a lack of English language skills.

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<sup>66</sup>92% of families from Mixed backgrounds are aware of the child tax credit compared to 94% among all families. This figure for families from Mixed backgrounds is significantly different to that for families from White British backgrounds.

<sup>67</sup>Among families who are aware of the working tax credit but have not used or qualified for it, 5% of families from Mixed backgrounds report that this is because they have not had time to claim compared to 1% among all families. This figure for families from Asian backgrounds is significantly different to that for families from Asian and White British backgrounds.

<sup>68</sup>Among families who use childcare, 45% of families from White other backgrounds report that childcare does not entirely meet their needs compared to 72% among all families. This figure for families from White other backgrounds is significantly different to that for families from Black, Asian and White British backgrounds.

<sup>69</sup>Among families who do not use childcare, 15% of families from White other backgrounds report this compared to 6% among all families. This figure for families from White other backgrounds is significantly different to that for families from Black, Asian, White British and other backgrounds.

<sup>70</sup>91% of families from White other backgrounds are aware compared to 94% among all families. This figure for White other families is significantly different to that for families from White British backgrounds.

<sup>71</sup>Among families who are aware of the working tax credit but have not used or qualified for it, 2% of families from White other backgrounds report this is because they cannot get the information or advice they need to complete the claim compared to 1% among all families. This figure for families from White other backgrounds is significantly different to that for families from White British and Black backgrounds.

<sup>72</sup>86% of families from Chinese and Other backgrounds are aware of Child Tax Credit compared to 94% among all families. This finding for families from Chinese and Other backgrounds is significantly different to that for families from Black, Asian and White British families.

### 7.7.6 Respondents whose first language is not English

Families whose first language is not English have a similar experience to the overall Birmingham average in relation to barriers to the take-up of childcare, satisfaction rates with childcare used and whether childcare meets needs. In addition, most childcare providers report that they are able to meet the needs of families whose first language is not English<sup>73</sup>.

Some evidence suggests that they may experience some gaps more acutely – but this is not extensive. For instance:

- Families whose first language is not English are less likely to be aware of child tax credit<sup>74</sup> and working tax credit<sup>75</sup>. This suggests that **income gaps** may be a particular problem for this group. But this could be addressed through actions on tax credits.
- These families are more likely to have looked for a nursery school and been unable to find one<sup>76</sup>. They are also more likely to be prevented from using childcare because their child requires special care and this is not available<sup>77</sup>. This suggests these families may experience **type** and **specific needs gaps**.

### 7.7.7 Asylum seeker families

Consultation with asylum seeker families suggests that, like the overall Birmingham findings, these families do not commonly experience childcare gaps. Evidence supporting this includes:

- Only 10% reported that they 'would like to be offered another type of childcare'.
- These families reported they have faced no issues with employment or training/study as a result of issues with childcare availability (see Figure 45).
- Only 12% report that the childcare that they use could be improved (see Figure 45).
- The majority of those who do not use childcare report that this is due to factors connected to choice rather than barriers in the childcare market. (see Figure 45).
- High awareness of tax credits (see Figure 45).

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<sup>73</sup>Only 17% report that they think there is a demand for childcare in other languages, or which meet specific cultural needs, that they are unable to provide.

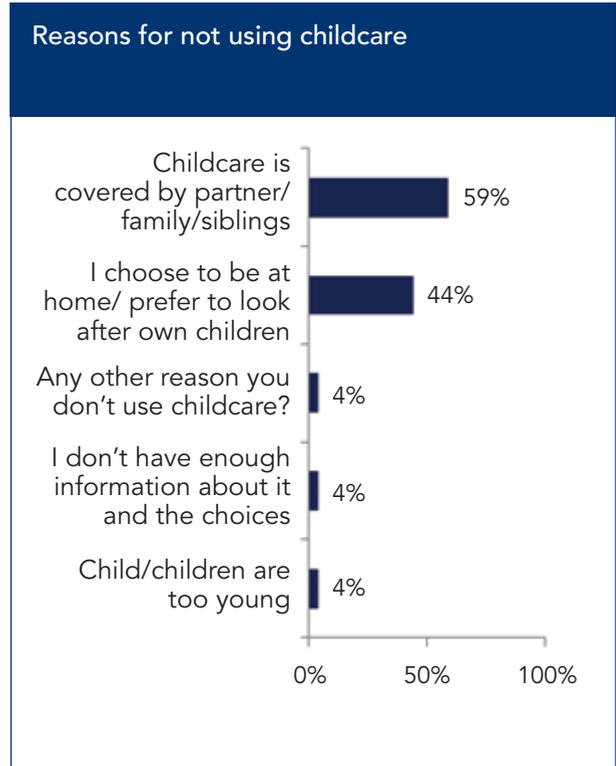
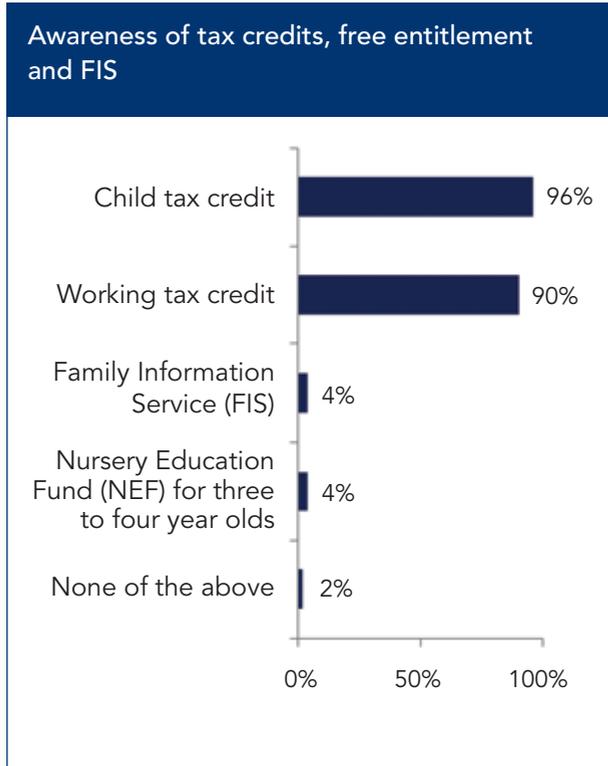
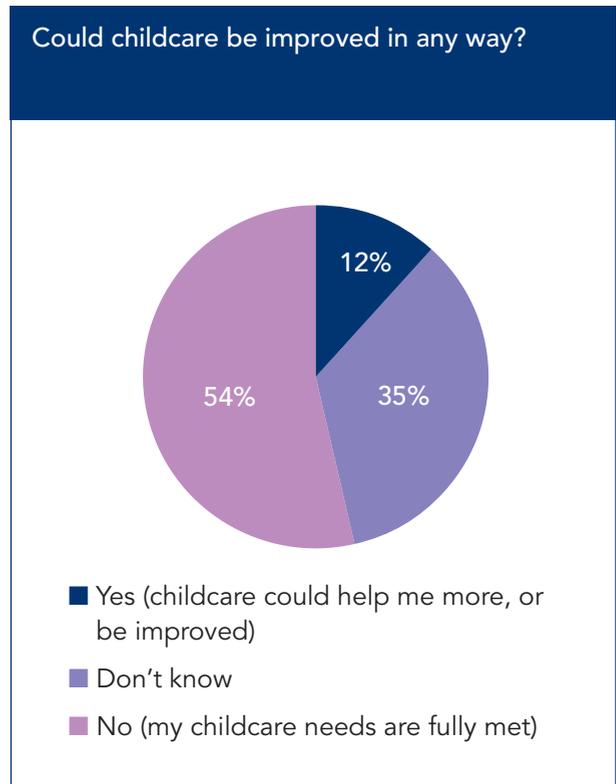
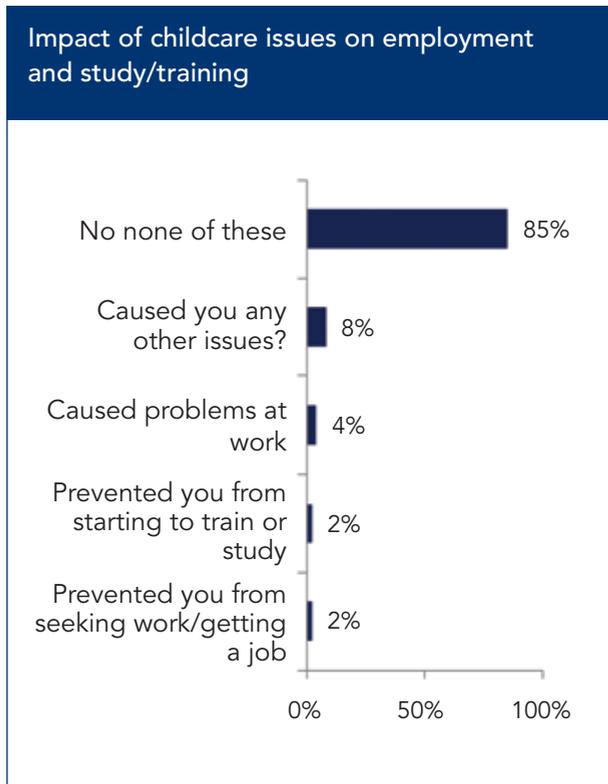
<sup>74</sup>89% of families whose language is not English are aware compared to 94% among all families.

<sup>75</sup>72% of families whose language is not English are aware compared to 80% among all families.

<sup>76</sup>Among families who have looked for or enquired about a type of childcare they have been unable to find or take-up, 34% of families whose first language is not English report this provision was a nursery school compared to 20% among all families.

<sup>77</sup>Among families who have looked or enquired about a type of childcare they have been unable to find or take-up, 11% of families whose first language is not English report this is because their child requires special care which is not available compared to 3% among all families.

Figure 45: Key findings from consultation with Asylum seeker families



## 7.8 Gypsy, Roma and Traveller families

Figure 46 summarises those gaps in the childcare market that are more likely to impact on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller families.

Figure 46: Summary of findings for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller families

Issue	More likely to impact group		
	Roma	Irish traveller	English traveller and Show people
Overall, childcare does not meet needs			
Income gaps			
Time gaps			
Type gaps			
Age gaps			
Specific needs gaps	✓*		
Geographical gaps	✓*		
Childcare issues impact employment or study/training			

\* Based on focus group findings only so caution should be taken in applying this to the population.

### 7.8.1 Roma families

Consultation with two professionals working with Roma families and one Roma family suggests that there are around 500 children aged 0 to 16 years from Roma families in Birmingham, with estimates suggesting this will increase to 800 in 2011.

This consultation also found that despite a deep rooted reluctance among Roma families to access services that this is slowly beginning to change. In particular, there is a desire among Roma families to send their children to school.

However, consultations suggested that there appear to be some **geographical gaps** around their ability to get their children into a local school given Roma families frequently live in densely populated areas with a shortage of school places.

There also appear to be **specific needs gaps** involving language barriers preventing families from accessing services. This is because stakeholders reported that many cannot speak English and translators are often required. In particular, there may be issues around securing translators who are sensitive to the cultural needs of these families and can facilitate communication with them.

However, given that engagement with and understanding of this community is still at an early stage it was suggested that things need to take place 'one step at a time' in an 'honest and sensitive' way. Specific factors that were suggested

as encouraging to Roma families to take up childcare include provision that:

- Is easily accessible (e.g. walking distance).
- Has someone who speaks their language.
- Is populated with other Roma.

### 7.8.2 Irish Traveller families

Consultation with professionals working with Irish Traveller families suggests there are few children from these families in Birmingham, with estimates there may be 150 in total. Furthermore, professionals have little contact with these families because they are settled. Additionally, stakeholders reported that these families are unlikely to access childcare due to a cultural reluctance to do so.

### 7.8.3 English Traveller and Show People families

The evidence suggests there are may be a couple of English Traveller families living on the Birmingham/Sandwell border. They are considered to be very integrated and accessing schools and a range of childcare including nurseries and after school clubs.

Stakeholders reported that Show People who visit Birmingham between April and November tend to have children above school age and in 2010 there was only one child of school age. While in Birmingham they do not access childcare.

## 8. Geographical gaps

**Summary:** Location is highlighted as a gap by parents/carers who do not use childcare but have actively looked for it. It is also highlighted by employers. However, parents/carers who use childcare and childcare providers do not perceive a significant gap in location. In addition, supply data shows that there are vacancies across Birmingham. Together, this may imply that there is not a gap in relation to raw number of places but that up-to-date information on what places are available where and when could be improved. Finally, a potential geographical gap may exist in relation to the provision of the free entitlement to early learning and childcare for three and four year olds which may be preventing take-up.

### 8.1 Location as a childcare gap

For parents/carers who do not use childcare but have actively looked for it, the lack of suitable provision close to home is a gap experienced on a par with affordability<sup>78</sup>. Figure 4 shows that it affects the equivalent of 1.4% to 1.6% of all families in the sample. A smaller proportion<sup>79</sup> highlight lack of suitable provision close to work (the equivalent of 0.2% of all parents/carers). In addition, 14% of employers consulted reported that they thought employees were affected by a lack of suitable childcare at convenient locations, 11% highlighted issues accessing childcare and 10% highlighted transport issues.

In contrast, parents/carers who use childcare very rarely highlight location or accessibility as a barrier. Childcare providers appear to agree as they rate location and accessibility highly, giving an average rating of 8.6 out of 10 (joint second highest rating). In addition, only 16% of the 60% of providers with vacancies say that this is due to location or transport issues.

A possible implication of this evidence is that the provision of information – especially to those seeking childcare – could be improved.

Finally, section 5.2 shows that there may be a geographical gap experienced by those who want to access the free entitlement to early learning and childcare for their three to four year old but can't. Further information is provided on page 26.

### 8.2 Differences between wards and localities

Childcare markets tend to be very localised in nature. As a result, looking at gaps at a local authority level may not pick up the different experiences of the market that parents/carers living in different parts of Birmingham may have. The data collected as part of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment was examined for statistical significant differences between wards. Where the sample size was not big enough we examined differences at a locality level and applied these findings to wards within each locality. In addition the analysis of supply was broken down by ward. The commentary below presents some of the gaps that may exist within each ward. Detailed information about the data used to inform these conclusions is included in the Appendix.

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<sup>78</sup> 32% of parents/carers who have looked for but not taken-up childcare report that this is because they could not find anything suitable close to home.

<sup>79</sup> 5% of this group.

## 8.3 Wards in North Birmingham

### 8.3.1 Overview of data for North Birmingham

The evidence from the parent/carer demand survey suggests that the childcare market is relatively healthy in wards within the North locality. For instance, parents/carers who use childcare are more likely to report that it meets their needs entirely<sup>80</sup>. 85% report this compared to an overall average of 75%. In addition, those who do not use childcare are more likely to say that this is because they want to look after their child themselves (77%)<sup>81</sup>.

Overall the childcare market within wards in the North locality looks relatively stable. For instance, childcare providers are more likely to state that:

- The childcare market will remain stable in the next two to three years (56%)<sup>82</sup>.
- They are neither expanding nor reducing the number of places (86%)<sup>83</sup>.
- Demand for childcare for children with a disability or a special need will remain stable (56%)<sup>84</sup>.

A potential gap in the childcare market for wards in the North locality relates to provision of information for parents/carers with children with a disability or special need. For instance, 71% of these parents/carers stated that they felt there was insufficient information available regarding their child's special need or disability<sup>85</sup>.

### 8.3.2 Erdington

In line with the North locality, the childcare market in Erdington appears healthy. Supply data does highlight potential pinch points around a lack of provision in holiday playschemes (especially for children aged 11 and over) and a lack of places (for

0 to four year olds) and low vacancies amongst childminders. However, this profile of the market is more likely to reflect the demand for childcare in the area than gaps in provision. Finally, parents/carers in this ward are less likely to be claiming Working Tax Credit. However, locality data suggests that this is because families are not eligible. A specific affordability gap, therefore, is not likely to exist.

### 8.3.3 Kingstanding

In line with the North locality, the childcare market in Kingstanding appears healthy. However, there are no reported vacancies for children aged eight to ten and 11 and over in out of school clubs. This may suggest a pinch point in supply or may reflect the fact that supply and demand are well-matched.

### 8.3.4 Stockland Green

In line with the North locality, the childcare market in Stockland Green appears healthy. The supply data shows that there are no registered places for children aged eight to ten and 11 and over but this may reflect demand in this ward. Parents/carers in this ward are less likely to be claiming Working Tax Credit. However, locality data suggests that this is because families are not eligible. A specific affordability gap, therefore, is not likely to exist.

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<sup>80</sup> Compared to all other areas ( 75% overall).

<sup>81</sup> Compared to all other areas (55% overall).

<sup>82</sup> Compared to East and West and Central areas (37% overall).

<sup>83</sup> Compared to all other areas (65% overall).

<sup>84</sup> Compared to providers in the East (48% overall).

<sup>85</sup> Compared to parents/cares in the South and East of the City (53% overall).

### 8.3.5 Sutton Four Oaks

In line with the North locality, the childcare market in Sutton Four Oaks appears healthy. This is backed up by demographic and socio-economic data which shows that this ward has no super output areas that are in the most deprived 30% in England and also has low unemployment rates. This ward has a low percentage of families that may experience specific issues, e.g. low proportion of lone parent households, low percentage of people from Black and Minority Ethnic groups and relatively low numbers of disabled children aged 0 to four, five to seven and eight to ten.

This data also shows that in Sutton Four Oaks live births as a percentage of the total population is relatively low. This supports the finding within the North locality that demand for childcare may remain relatively stable over time.

Parents/carers in this ward are less likely to be claiming Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit. However, locality data suggests that this may be because families are not eligible. A specific affordability gap, therefore, is not likely to exist.

Finally, like other wards in this locality, Sutton Four Oaks has no registered places for children aged eight to ten and 11 and over. This could show a gap in the market or may reflect a lack of demand for this age group.

### 8.3.6 Sutton New Hall

In line with the North locality, the childcare market in Sutton New Hall appears healthy. This is backed up by demographic and socio-economic data which shows that this ward has a relatively low number of super output areas that are in the most deprived 30% in England and has low unemployment rates. It also has a relatively low proportion of lone parent households and a relatively low number of disabled children aged 0 to four, five to seven and eight to ten.

This data also shows that in Sutton New Hall live births as a percentage of the total population is relatively low. This supports the finding within the North locality that demand for childcare may remain relatively stable over time.

Parents/carers in this ward are less likely to be claiming Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit. However, locality data suggests that this may be

because families are not eligible. A specific affordability gap, therefore, is not likely to exist.

Finally, like other wards in this locality, Sutton New Hall has no registered places for children aged eight to ten and 11 and over. This could show a gap in the market or may reflect a lack of demand for this age group.

### 8.3.7 Sutton Trinity

In line with the North locality, the childcare market in Sutton Trinity appears healthy. This is backed up by demographic and socio-economic data which shows that this ward has a relatively low number of super output areas that are in the most deprived 30% in England and low unemployment rates. This data also shows that in Sutton Trinity live births as a percentage of the total population is relatively low. This supports the finding within the North locality that demand for childcare may remain relatively stable over time.

Parents/carers in this ward are less likely to be claiming Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit. However, locality data suggests that this may be because families are not eligible. A specific affordability gap, therefore, is not likely to exist.

Finally, there may be a potential gap in relation to choice of provision as this ward has no pre-schools or playgroups and no registered places for children aged eight to ten year olds and 11 and over. This, however, may reflect a lack of demand for these types of childcare.

### 8.3.8 Sutton Vesey

In line with the North locality, the childcare market in Sutton Vesey appears healthy. Supply data shows that Sutton Vesey has one of the highest average hourly fees rates in Birmingham but this is well matched to socio-economic data, i.e. it has a relatively low number of super output areas that are in the most deprived 30% in England and low unemployment rates. In addition, although take-up of tax credits are relatively low, locality data suggests that this may be because families are not eligible.

Supply data also suggests a potential gap with low vacancies held by day nurseries and no vacancies in out of school clubs plus no term time provision for children aged 11 years and over. However, this may be because supply is well-matched to demand.

### 8.3.9 Tyburn

In line with the North locality, the childcare market in Tyburn appears healthy. Two potential areas for improvement are highlighted by the data: awareness of the child tax credit and lack of registered places for children aged eight and over.

## 8.4 Wards in South Birmingham

### 8.4.1 Overview of data for South Birmingham

Evidence from the parent/carer demand survey for South Birmingham shows that there are some potential childcare gaps within this locality, which are reinforced by evidence from the childcare provider survey. For instance:

- Parents/carers who do not use childcare are more likely to have looked for childcare and not been able to take it up for some reason<sup>86</sup>: 8% report this compared to an overall average of 6%. These parents/carers are more likely to have looked for Youth clubs/Youth provision (20%)<sup>87</sup>. A possible lack of places in South Birmingham is reinforced by data from the provider survey which shows that providers in the South of the City are less likely to report having vacant places (51%)<sup>88</sup>. They are also less likely to have plans to change the number of places they have on offer (68%)<sup>89</sup>.
- Parents/carers who use childcare are less likely to state that their childcare entirely meets their needs: 14% report this compared to an overall average of 72%. There is some evidence to suggest that this may be connected to affordability as parents/carers in South Birmingham are more likely to state that they

find it difficult to pay for childcare (37%)<sup>90</sup>.

However, other data shows that these parents/carers tend to be relatively affluent as they are less likely to qualify for Working Tax Credit or Child Tax Credit<sup>91</sup>.

- There is a potential gap (identified mainly by providers) in provision for children with a disability or special need. For instance, childcare providers in South Birmingham are more likely to state that they do not cater for children with a disability or special need (35%)<sup>92</sup>. Providers are more likely to predict that the demand for this type of childcare will remain stable (58%)<sup>93</sup> but also that they are not interested in improving provision for children with disabilities or a special need in the next two to three years (46%)<sup>94</sup>.

### 8.4.2 Bartley Green

Bartley Green has a relatively healthy childcare market for younger children. The evidence from the supply data shows that there is a relatively high percentage of children aged five to seven years for which there is a childcare place (38.8%). In addition, there are no vacancies in out of school clubs or pre-school/playgroups for 0 to four year olds and five to seven year olds. Overall, this suggests that supply may be well matched to demand.

However, locality level findings that parents/carers are not entirely satisfied with their childcare may relate to older children and time gaps. The evidence from the supply data supports the view that there is a potential gap in the availability of places for older children, as well as a time gap in the morning and early evening. It shows that:

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<sup>86</sup> Compared to those in North and East Birmingham.

<sup>87</sup> Compared to all other areas (9% overall).

<sup>88</sup> Compared to West and Central areas (60% overall).

<sup>89</sup> Compared to those in West and Central area (65% overall).

<sup>90</sup> Compared to the North of Birmingham (32% overall).

<sup>91</sup> For instance, parents/carers have relatively high levels of awareness of the Working Tax Credit (compared to the East and West) – 84% compared to an overall average of 80%. In addition, those who are aware are more likely to state that they have not used or qualified for it (compared to East and West Birmingham) – 63% compared to an overall average of 60%. They are also more likely to state that they applied but did not qualify (compared to all other areas) – 21% compared to an overall average of 11%. Parents/carers are more likely to state that they have not used or qualified for the Child Tax Credit (compared to the East or West) – 25% compared to an overall average of 22%.

<sup>92</sup> Compared to North of the City (25% overall).

<sup>93</sup> Compared to the East of the City (48% overall).

<sup>94</sup> Compared to East and West and Central (33% overall).

- There may be an age gap for older children as there is no registered provision for children aged eight years and over.
- There may be a time gap as there is a low proportion of places available in settings in school holidays namely between 8am and 9am (79.2% compared to 92.7%) as well as from 3pm to 6pm (87.5% compared to 95.6%).

### 8.4.3 Billesley

In line with the South locality, Billesley ward may experience a gap in the availability of childcare places for some children. This gap particularly relates to the provision of childcare for three and four year olds and children aged 11 and over. For instance, parents/carers in Billesley are less likely to be taking up their free entitlement to early learning and childcare for three to four year olds (39% compared to an overall average of 60%). This may be connected to a relative shortfall in places because this ward has a relatively low number of providers, places and vacancies in day nurseries during term time. There are also no reported vacancies in pre-schools/playgroups.

Finally, the supply data shows that, like many wards in Birmingham, there are no registered places for children aged 11 years and over, which may make it hard to meet demand for this age group.

### 8.4.4 Bournville

In line with the South locality, Bournville appears to be more likely to experience gaps in affordability and the availability of places. The supply data suggests that the availability gaps mostly relate to after school clubs and holiday provision for older children. For instance, there are low numbers of places in out of school clubs, no vacancies for five to seven year olds in out of school clubs and no providers that are rated good and excellent by Ofsted. In addition, there are a relatively low number of providers that offer provision from 3pm to 6pm in term time (84.8%). There is no registered holiday provision for children aged eight years and over.

Ward level demand data reinforces the affordability gap identified at the locality level. It shows that parents/carers in Bournville are less likely to claim the working tax credit (34% compared to 40% overall)<sup>95</sup>, which could have an impact on their ability to afford childcare.

<sup>95</sup> This is different to eight other wards.

### 8.4.5 Brandwood

Supply data for Brandwood confirms the locality finding that there may be a pinch point experienced by parents/carers in relation to places. For instance, there are no recorded vacancies in pre-schools and playgroups and there are no registered places for children aged eight to ten during school holidays and for children aged 11 and over during term time and school holidays.

### 8.4.6 Edgbaston

Supply data presents a different picture on the childcare market from the overall locality findings. For instance, Edgbaston has a relatively high percentage of children for which there are places for 0 to four year olds (175.1%), five to seven year olds (82.9%), eight to ten year olds (12.2%) and 11 years and over (7.9%). This suggests that any shortfall in places suggested by the locality findings may not exist in Edgbaston.

### 8.4.7 Harborne

The ward level data for Harborne reinforces the findings at a locality level that there may be gaps in affordability. For instance, parents/carers in Harborne are less likely to be aware of the child tax credit (30% compared to 80% overall) and are also less likely to be claiming it (63% compared to 78% overall). In addition, average hourly fee rates are one of the highest in Birmingham overall and specifically for childminders, day nurseries and pre-school/playgroups.

Parents/carers in Harborne may also experience gaps in provision for older children during school holidays as there are no reported places in holiday playschemes for older children. However, this may reflect the relatively low number of children aged eight to ten and 11 and over resident in Harborne.

### 8.4.8 Kings Norton

Ward level data for Kings Norton confirms that affordability may be a barrier for some parents/carers. For instance, this ward has relatively high average hourly fees for out of school settings (£5.00 compared to £2.74) and pre-school playgroups (£3.60 compared to £1.85). There may also be a gap in provision for children aged eight and over as there are no registered places available for these children in term time and school holidays.

### 8.4.9 Longbridge

Supply data shows that any affordability gaps that may exist in Longbridge may be connected to day nurseries as it has one of the highest average hourly fee rates for (£4.22 compared to £3.69). Provision during school holidays may also be a gap for children aged eight and over as there are no registered places for this age group at this time of year.

### 8.4.10 Northfield

The parent/carer demand questionnaire suggests that any affordability gaps that may exist in Northfield (see locality findings above) may be mitigated through support for tax credits. This is because parents/carers are less likely to be claiming child tax credit (70% compared to an overall average of 78%) and working tax credit (33% compared to an overall average of 40%).

There is also evidence of a potential gap in Northfield around the free entitlement to early learning and childcare for three and four year olds. Parents/carers in Northfield are less likely to be taking up their free entitlement, with 39% reporting that they do, compared to an overall average of 60%. This is despite a relatively high vacancy rate for 0 to four year olds in term time (and school holidays).

Finally, like most wards in Birmingham, Northfield may experience a pinch point in the supply of childcare for eight to ten year olds and 11 year olds and over. For instance, there is no registered term time provision for either age group and no holiday provision for children aged 11 years and over.

### 8.4.11 Quinton

Data suggests that any gaps that may exist in Quinton may be connected to affordability. For instance:

- Parents/carers in Quinton are less likely to be claiming child tax credit (72% compared to an overall average of 78%)<sup>96</sup>.

- Quinton has a relatively high average hourly fee rate for day nurseries (£4.35 compared to an overall average of £3.69) and out of school setting (£4.08 compared to £2.74).

The supply data also suggests that there may be a potential gap – like most wards in Birmingham – in provision for children aged eight to ten and 11 and over. For instance, there is no registered holiday provision for either age group and no term time provision for children aged 11 years and over.

### 8.4.12 Selly Oak

Parents/carers in Selly Oak are less likely to be claiming child tax credit<sup>97</sup> and working tax credit<sup>98</sup>. Supply data also shows that there are high average hourly fee rates for out of school settings<sup>99</sup>. However, socio-economic data suggests that this may be well-matched to the profile of this ward. For instance, it has one of the lowest number of super output areas in the most 30% deprived nationally.

### 8.4.13 Weoley

In line with the South locality the data shows that Weoley ward is likely to be experiencing some gaps in relation to affordability. For instance, Weoley is in the top five wards for the average hourly fees overall (£3.73 compared to £3.17), and specifically for day nurseries (£4.85 compared to £3.69), pre-school /playgroups (£3.00 compared to £1.85) and holiday playschemes (£3.73 compared to £3.17).

This ward may also experience a relative shortfall in supply of places for 0 to four year olds. This is because Weoley has one of the lowest proportions of children for which there are places (10.3%). In particular, it has one of the lowest number of places in day nurseries. Finally, as in many wards in the South locality, the data shows that there are no registered places for children aged over eight years old in the term time or school holidays.

<sup>96</sup> Compared to three wards.

<sup>97</sup> Compared to four wards. 69% compared to an overall average of 78%.

<sup>98</sup> Compared to 12 wards. 26% compared to an overall average of 40%.

<sup>99</sup> £4.75 compared to £2.74.

## 8.5 Wards in West and Central Birmingham

### 8.5.1 Overview of data for West and Central Birmingham

The evidence from the parent/carer demand survey suggests that families in West and Central Birmingham are:

- More likely to experience issues around affordability<sup>100</sup>. For instance, 39% of families report that paying their weekly childcare payment is 'difficult' this is significantly higher than the Birmingham average of 32%. In addition, parents/carers in West and Central locality are more likely to cite a lack of information and advice and circumstances changing too often<sup>101</sup> as reasons for not accessing the working tax credit<sup>102</sup>.
- More likely to report having problems at work due to childcare issues; with 21% of families this is significantly higher than all other areas<sup>103</sup>.
- More likely, if they have a child with a disability or special need, to report that there is insufficient information available regarding their child's disability or special need<sup>104</sup>. Additionally, providers in West and Central Birmingham are more likely to report that the demand for childcare for children with a disability is 'growing a lot' (15%)<sup>105</sup> suggesting this issue could increase over time.

Parents/carers in the West and Central Birmingham locality who are not using their three and four year old free entitlement are more likely to have looked for a free nursery place. This suggests that there may be a lack of three and four year old places that reflect preferences of families in the area<sup>106</sup>.

Settings located in West and Central Birmingham are more likely to report having 20 or more children with English as an additional language attending the setting (16%). They are also more likely to report that they think there is a demand for childcare in other languages, or which meet specific cultural needs, that they are unable to provide (26%)<sup>107</sup>. This suggests that there may be pressure on places – either now or into the future – that can cater for the needs of these families.

In terms of the childcare market, settings in West and Central Birmingham are most likely to report planning to expand (49%) on the number of places they offer over the next two to three years, which could help ease any childcare issues currently faced by parents in the region.

### 8.5.2 Aston

In line with West and Central locality findings, there appear to be some gaps around affordability; particularly given the high levels of deprivation in this ward. The high proportion of vulnerable groups such as BME families (76.5%) and lone parent households (14.5%) as well as a high unemployment rate (27.7%), suggests there may be a number of groups who may be more impacted by affordability issues and could benefit from support with childcare.

Data on supply suggests that there may be a connection between unmet demand for nursery places in relation to free childcare for three to four year olds highlighted at the locality level, and relatively low quality of day nurseries in Aston. For instance, only 25.0% of day nurseries received 'good' or 'outstanding' judgements from their Ofsted inspection.

Aston has one of the highest percentages of people from Black and Minority Ethnic background

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<sup>100</sup> This is based on those who are paying for childcare.

<sup>101</sup> This is based on a sample of 47 parents. Relative to families in North Birmingham.

<sup>102</sup> This is based on a sample of 47 parents. Relative to families in the South and West Birmingham. Based on parents who are not using or have not qualified for child tax credit.

<sup>103</sup> This is based on all parents who reported that childcare doesn't entirely meet their needs or that they don't use childcare but want to.

<sup>104</sup> Relative to parents in South and East Birmingham.

<sup>105</sup> Relative to providers in South Birmingham.

<sup>106</sup> With 41% of families reporting they have searched for a free nursery place this is significantly higher than North (24%) and East (25%) Birmingham.

<sup>107</sup> Relative to providers in South Birmingham.

(76.5%). As a result, this ward could be the focus of any improvements related to provision for families with English as an additional language.

Finally, like most wards in Birmingham, Aston has no registered places for children aged eight to ten and 11 and over. This may result in a gap or may mean that provision matches a lack of demand for this age group.

### 8.5.3 Handsworth Wood

The evidence suggests that this ward could be a priority for any improvements in the childcare market in relation to:

- Places and quality of provision for 0 to four year olds: this ward has one of the lowest proportions of 0 to four children for which there is a childcare place during term time (19.1%) and school holidays (10.1%). In addition, this ward has no pre-schools or holiday playschemes rated as 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted.
- Places for five to seven year olds: there is a significantly lower proportion of children for which there is a childcare place during term time (5.6%) as well as school holidays (4.7%) suggesting there may be a shortage of provision. In particular there are no holiday playscheme places.
- Places for eight to ten year olds and 11 years old and over: similar to other wards Handsworth Wood has no reported places for these age groups.

However, providers are more likely to report planning to expand on the number of places they offer which may help to address any shortfall in supply.

Handsworth Wood has one of the highest percentages of people from Black and Minority Ethnic background (67.4%); this coupled with providers reporting a demand for childcare in other languages, or which meets specific cultural needs,

this ward could be the focus of any improvements related to provision for families with English as an additional language.

### 8.5.4 Ladywood

Consultation with parents/carers suggests that the childcare market could be improved in Ladywood; as parents in Ladywood are less likely to report that childcare meets their needs<sup>108</sup>. The evidence suggests that this may be connected to:

- Affordability: For instance, parents/carers in Ladywood are much less likely to be aware of the working tax credit<sup>109</sup> or the child tax credit<sup>110</sup>. This ward also has one of the highest average hourly fee rates (particularly with childminder, pre-school and holiday playscheme) and one of the highest unemployment rates.
- Quality/choice as a barrier to accessing the free entitlement: The shortage of high quality care, with no pre-school playgroups rated 'good' or 'outstanding' as well as the low number of providers coupled with locality levels findings; issues around quality and choice may be key barriers for parents in Ladywood in accessing the free entitlement.
- Places for eight to ten year olds and 11 years old and over: there are no registered places for children aged eight to ten years and 11 years and over.
- There are no reported vacancies in out of school clubs and a low number of providers and places with childminders.

However, consultation with childcare providers suggests that any pressure on places in Ladywood may reduce over time. This is because childcare providers in West and Central locality are more likely to report that they are planning on expanding (see above). In addition, demographic data shows that this ward has one of the lowest overall child populations and number of births.

<sup>108</sup> 43% compared to an average of 72%.

<sup>109</sup> 72% compared to an average of 94%.

<sup>110</sup> 53% compared to an average 80%.

### 8.5.5 Lozells and East Handsworth

Overall Lozells and East Handsworth mirrors the locality findings. However, there are some specific pieces of data related to this ward which suggests that it may be a priority for improvement. For instance:

- Parents/carers in Lozells and East Handsworth are also much less likely to be aware of the child tax credit<sup>111</sup>. This ward also has a relatively high unemployment rate, which also suggests that issues with affordability may be experienced more acutely.
- Parents/carers in this ward are much less likely to be taking up the free entitlement to childcare for three to four year olds<sup>112</sup>. This may be connected to the relatively low vacancy rates for 0 to four year olds (a particularly low term time vacancy rate and no vacancies with pre-school playgroups).
- Similar to other wards, data on supply suggests that there may be gaps in the number of places for eight to ten year olds and children aged 11 and over.

This ward has a relatively high population from Black and Minority groups and high proportion of lone parents. This suggests that these families may experience the above gaps more acutely.

Lozells and East Handsworth has one of the highest percentages of people from Black and Minority Ethnic background (82.6%). As a result, this ward could be the focus of any improvements related to provision for families with English as an additional language.

Finally, this ward has a high number of disabled children aged 0 to ten. This suggests:

- That the gaps experienced by parents/carers with a child with a disability or special need may be experienced more acutely here (see earlier section).
- That the locality finding about demand for childcare for disabled children may be felt particularly acutely in this ward.

### 8.5.6 Nechells

In keeping with locality level findings, the evidence suggests there are some gaps in Nechells around affordability, take up of the free entitlement and times of provision. In addition, data on supply suggests that there may be gaps in the number of places.

This ward has high levels of deprivation, a high level of unemployment and a high proportion of lone parents which may mean that any gaps in affordability are experienced more acutely.

In line with locality findings, parents in Nechells are much less likely to be taking up the Free Entitlement Funding (FEF) (46% compared to 60%). This may be connected to the low term time vacancy rate for 0 to four year olds and no vacancies with pre-school playgroups.

Additionally, supply evidence indicates the following gaps may exist:

- Five to seven: there is a significantly lower proportion of children for which there is a childcare place during term time (9.9%) as well as school holidays (10.9%) suggesting there may be a shortage of provision.
- Similar to other wards, there may be a gap in childcare provision for older age groups (eight to ten and 11 and over) as there are no reported places or vacancies.

However, providers are more likely to report that they are planning to expand on the number of places they offer, which may help to address any shortfall in supply.

Gaps experienced by parents/carers with a child with a disability or special need may be experienced more acutely in this ward; this is because:

- There is a high number of children with disabilities across all age brackets in this ward.
- Parents in the west locality are more likely to report there is insufficient information available.
- And providers in this locality are more likely to report a growing increase in demand.

<sup>111</sup> 70% compared to an average 80%.

<sup>112</sup> 44% compared to 60%.

### 8.5.7 Oscott

There appears to be few gaps in childcare provision in Oscott. The childcare market appears healthy, with a high numbers of providers open at varied times and socio-economic data shows relatively low deprivation and low worklessness. However, there is a high number of children aged 0 to four with a disability or special need which indicates that the locality finding about increasing demand for childcare for disabled children and for the need for information may be felt particularly acutely in this ward.

The supply evidence highlights potential pinch points in Oscott:

- There is a relatively low proportion of settings and no pre-school playgroups rated as 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted.
- There are no reported places for children aged 11 and over.

With providers in West and Central Birmingham being most likely to expand on the number of places they offer, gaps around availability for children 11 years old and over may be addressed automatically by the local market.

### 8.5.8 Perry Barr

Perry Barr may have potential barriers to take up of the free entitlement and holiday provision. Parents may face difficulties finding childcare during school holidays as there is generally a low number of holiday scheme providers and places. Given that families in this locality are more likely to report having problems at work due to childcare issues and the low unemployment rate in Perry Barr; working parents may be experiencing gaps in school holiday provision more acutely.

In addition, data on supply suggests that there may be gaps in the number of places. This is because:

- For five to seven year olds, there is a low proportion of children for which there is a childcare place (11.3%) during school holidays.
- Like other wards in this locality, there are no registered places for children aged eight to ten years and 11 years and over.

### 8.5.9 Soho

Childcare gaps in Soho are reflective of locality wide findings; with gaps around affordability, quality and specific cultural/language needs. With high numbers of 'vulnerable' communities there may be issues around affordability that are felt more acutely by families in this ward.

Parents in Soho are also less likely to be claiming child tax credit (71% compared to 78%). Given there is a high percentage of BME families, lone parent households, and a relatively high level of unemployment there may be some groups of eligible parents who could potentially benefit from this support.

In addition, data on supply suggests that there may be gaps:

- For five to seven year olds, as there is a low proportion of children for which there is a childcare place during term time (11.4%).
- Similar to other wards, there are no registered places for children aged eight to ten years and 11 years and over.
- There is a low proportion of pre-schools and out of school clubs rated as 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted and a low school holiday vacancy rate (5.4%) for 0 to four year olds.

Also, this ward has a high number of disabled children aged 0 to four as well as a high percentage of BME families (73.2%). This suggests:

- There may be families in need of specific support around English as an Additional Language (EAL).
- That the locality finding about the increasing demand for childcare for disabled children and insufficient information for parents may be felt particularly acutely in this ward.
- That the gaps experienced by parents/carers with a child with a disability or child with specific language/ cultural needs may be experienced more acutely here.

Finally, this ward has a high number of children with a child protection plan (58 children). This coupled with locality level findings that providers are less likely to be aware of support in child protection<sup>113</sup>

<sup>113</sup> As well as South Birmingham (91%) relative to settings in East Birmingham.

from the Early Years and Childcare team; suggests that Soho could be the focus of any improvements around child protection. There may be a greater need for training and support for providers in accessing guidance, conducting referrals and multi-agency working around children at risk of harm.

## 8.6 Wards in East Birmingham

### 8.6.1 Overview of data for East Birmingham

Parents/carers in the East locality do not tend to have a different experience of the childcare market to the overall average. However, they are more likely to:

- Report that they do not use their full 15 hour entitlement to free early learning and childcare for their three to four year old (13% of families report they do not use 15 hours<sup>114</sup>).
- Report that they have not used or qualified for working tax credits because they do not know how to apply (4% of families who do not take up the working tax credit) and find the process to complicated (2% of families who do not take-up the working tax credit)<sup>115</sup>. Interestingly, childcare providers in the East are more likely to report that parents/carers ask them for help, advice, or information regarding childcare or funding for childcare<sup>116</sup>.

Consultation with childcare providers in the East shows that they are more likely to report that they expect the childcare market to 'grow a little' (30%). In particular, they expect an increase in the demand for childcare for children with a disability or a special need (they are significantly more likely to report that the demand for childcare for children with a disability is 'growing a lot'<sup>117</sup>). Connected to this, childcare providers are more likely to suggest the following improvements to provision for families with children with a disability or special need:

- 'Provide one to one supervision' (11%) relative to those in South.

- 'Better access to the centre' (21%) relative to those in North.
- 'More space made available' (15%) relative to North and South.

### 8.6.2 Acocks Green

The childcare market in Acocks Green appears to mirror that of the East locality generally. With pockets of deprivation, this ward could be the focus of any improvements around tax credits. In addition, data on supply suggests that there may be gaps in the number of places. This is because:

- For five to seven year olds, there is a low proportion of children for which there is a childcare place (11.4%) during both term time and school holidays.
- There are no registered places for children aged eight to ten years and 11 years and over.
- There are no reported vacancies in out of school clubs.

However, providers are more likely to report that they expect the market to grow a little which may help to address any shortfall in supply.

### 8.6.3 Bordesley Green

The childcare market in Bordesley Green appears to mirror that of the East locality generally. This ward has high levels of deprivation and a high child population which may mean that any gaps in affordability are experienced more acutely. The number of places may also be experienced as a gap as this ward has:

- One of the lowest proportions of children for which there is a childcare place during both term time and school holidays for 0 to four year olds (12.6%).
- One of the lowest proportions of children for which there is a childcare place during both term time and school holidays for five to seven year olds (2.1%).

<sup>114</sup> Significantly higher than South Birmingham (6%).

<sup>115</sup> Relative to parents in the South and West Birmingham.

<sup>116</sup> Relative to providers in South Birmingham.

<sup>117</sup> Relative to providers in South Birmingham.

- No registered term time places for eight to ten year olds.
- No registered term time places for children aged 11 and over.
- Low or no vacancies in day nurseries, pre-schools and playgroups.

Quality of provision may be an area for improvement in Bordesley Green as it has a relatively low overall proportion of providers rated as 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted.

Finally, this ward has a high number of disabled children in all age brackets. This suggests:

- That the gaps experienced by parents/carers with a child with a disability or special need may be experienced more acutely here.
- That the locality finding about demand for childcare for disabled children and for the need for support may be felt particularly acutely in this ward.

#### 8.6.4 Hall Green

The evidence suggests that the childcare market mirrors that of the East locality generally and is relatively healthy, particularly for younger age groups. Supply data shows that there are no places for children aged eight to ten and 11 years and over, which may be an area for improvement.

Parents/carers are more likely to report that they are less likely to be aware of the child tax credit and, in turn, are less likely to be claiming it. This suggests that targeted activities on this issue may be of benefit in Hall Green.

#### 8.6.5 Hodge Hill

Data on supply suggests that number of places may be a particular area for improvement in Hodge Hill. For instance:

- There is a relatively low proportion of children for which there is a childcare place (20.3%) both term time (16.6%) and school holiday (13.1%) for 0 to four year olds.

- There are no registered places for children aged eight to ten years.
- There are no registered places for children aged 11 years and over.

Hodge Hill may experience some specific issues around affordability of childcare. For instance:

- It has one of the highest average hourly fee rates for holiday playschemes.
- Parents/carers are also less likely to be aware of the child tax credit (62% compared to an average of 80%)<sup>118</sup>.

#### 8.6.6 Moseley and Kings Heath

Consultation with parents/carers suggests that the childcare market could be improved in Moseley and Kings Heath, although socio-economic data suggests that this ward is not a priority area.

Specifically, parents/carers are less likely to report that the childcare that they use entirely meets their needs (51% compared to an average of 72%)<sup>119</sup>. Supply data suggests that this may be connected to:

- High average hourly fee rates for holiday playschemes.
- Relatively low number of places for 0 to four year olds in school holidays, for five to seven year olds in term time and school holidays and for eight to ten year olds and 11 years and over in term time and school holidays.

Data from the parent/carer demand questionnaire suggests that this ward could be the focus of actions to increase the take-up of the free entitlement for three to four year olds. 48% report that they take-up their entitlement, compared to an overall average of 60%.

#### 8.6.7 Shard End

Parents/carers in Shard End who use childcare are less likely to report that it entirely meets their needs (50% compared to an overall average of 72%). This suggests that this ward could be a

<sup>118</sup> Compared to 19 wards. Q68: Whether aware of Working Tax and/or Child Tax Credit (Base: all respondents).

<sup>119</sup> Compared to four wards. Q56: Extent to which childcare meets needs (Base: where uses any formal or informal childcare).

priority for any market management activities. This ward has a relatively high proportion of lone parents and a relatively high number of looked after children which may mean that these groups are affected by gaps disproportionately. The ward-level data does not highlight many specific gaps within Shard End that are different from the locality or Birmingham findings. However, there may be particular gaps around number of places in school holidays for children aged eight to ten and 11 years and over. In addition, affordability may be a gap, as parents/carers are less likely to be claiming the Working Tax Credit (27% compared to an overall average of 40%)<sup>120</sup>.

### 8.6.8 Sheldon

The evidence suggests that the childcare market mirrors that of the East locality generally and is relatively healthy, particularly for younger age groups. Supply data shows that there are no places during school holidays for children aged eight to ten and 11 and over, which may be an area for improvement. Parents/carers in this ward are less likely to be claiming Working Tax Credit (32% compared to an overall average of 40%)<sup>121</sup> but this may reflect the overall socio-economic profile of this ward.

### 8.6.9 South Yardley

The evidence suggests that this ward could be a priority for any improvements in the childcare market in relation to:

- Affordability: 20 super output areas are in the most 30% deprived nationally.
- Places for 0 to four year olds in term time: this ward has one of the lowest proportions (20.7%) of children for which there is a childcare place in term time.
- Places for eight to ten year olds and 11 year olds and over: similar to other wards South Yardley has no reported places for these age groups.

### 8.6.10 Sparkbrook

The evidence suggests that this ward could be a priority for any improvements in the childcare market. For instance, it has:

- Relatively high numbers of children at all age bands.
- Relatively high levels of deprivation and high unemployment.
- High proportion of lone parent families.
- High proportion of households from BME groups.
- Lower awareness of the Working Tax Credit (72% compared to an overall average of 94%)<sup>122</sup> and Child Tax Credit (37% compared to an overall average of 80%)<sup>123</sup>.
- Relatively high average hourly fee rate for childminders.
- Similar to other wards, no reported places for children aged eight to ten and 11 years and over.
- Relatively low proportion of providers rated as 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted.

In addition, this ward has a relatively high number of disabled children aged eight to ten and 11 years and over. This suggests that Sparkbrook could be a focus of any improvements for this group.

### 8.6.11 Springfield

The evidence suggests that this ward could be a priority for any improvements in the childcare market, especially in relation to affordability. For instance, it has:

- Relatively high numbers of children at all age bands.
- Relatively high levels of deprivation and high unemployment.

<sup>120</sup>This is compared to seven other wards. Q69b: Whether used or qualified for Working Tax Credit (Base: where aware of Working Tax Credit).

<sup>121</sup>This is compared to seven other wards. Q69b: Whether used or qualified for Working Tax Credit (Base: where aware of Working Tax Credit).

<sup>122</sup>Compared to 19 wards. Q68: Whether aware of Working Tax and/or Child Tax Credit (Base: all respondents).

<sup>123</sup>Compared to 39 wards. Q69a: Whether used or qualified for Child Tax Credit (Base: where aware of Child Tax Credit).

- High proportion of households from BME groups.
- Relatively high overall average hourly fee rate, particularly for out of school clubs.

The data suggests that this may be impacting on parents/carers ability to pay for childcare and, in turn, results in relatively low numbers of places. For instance:

- For 0 to four year olds: there is a relatively low proportion of children for which there is a childcare place during term time (12.7%) and school holidays (11.0%).
- For five to seven year olds: there is a relatively low proportion of children for which there is a childcare place during term time (5.6%) and school holidays (4.7%). Vacancies are also reported for this age group which suggests lack of affordable provision.
- For eight to ten year olds and 11 year olds and over: no reported places during term time and school holidays.

Also, this ward has a relatively low proportion of providers rated as 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted, suggesting a further possible shortfall in supply of quality childcare.

Finally, Springfield has a relatively high number of disabled children aged five to seven and 11 years and over which suggests that it could be a focus for any improvements for this group.

### 8.6.12 Stechford and Yardley North

The evidence suggests that the childcare market mirrors that of the East locality and Birmingham generally and is relatively healthy. Like most wards, there are no reported places for eight to ten year and 11 years and over but this may reflect a lack of demand.

### 8.6.13 Washwood Heath

The evidence suggests that this ward could be a priority for any improvements in the childcare market, especially in relation to affordability. For instance, it has:

- Relatively high numbers of children at all age bands.
- Relatively high levels of deprivation and high unemployment.
- High proportion of lone parent families.
- High proportion of households from BME groups.
- Lower awareness of the Child Tax Credit (71% compared to an overall average of 80%).
- Relatively high average hourly fee rate for childminders.

In addition, this ward may experience pinch points in the number of places over time. This is because:

- It has a relatively high birth rate.
- Providers report that they expect the market to grow 'a little' (see above).
- There are low or no vacancies reported within day nurseries and out of school clubs.
- For five to seven year olds, there is a significantly lower proportion of children for which there is a childcare place during term time (6.7%) and school holidays (8.9%).
- Similar to other wards, there are no reported places for children aged eight to ten and 11 years and over.

Finally, this ward has a relatively high number of disabled children in all age groups. This suggests that Washwood Heath could be the focus of any improvements for this group. It may also be the focus of any improvements aimed at addressing the finding in the East locality that providers think that demand for childcare will increase but that they may need support.

## 9. Conclusions

- Parents/carers who do not use childcare appear to be more likely to experience gaps in the childcare market than parents/carers who do use childcare.
- The overall scale of gaps, however, appears to be relatively small. For instance, 94% of parents/carers not using childcare appear to do so out of choice. Satisfaction rates amongst parents/carers who do use childcare are extremely high. Childcare providers rate provision highly and few employers are directly impacted by issues with childcare.
- Overall, therefore, Birmingham's childcare market is a healthy one with few substantial gaps.
- The main improvement that could be made relates to affordability, where stakeholders highlight this as the principal gap. The evidence suggests, however, that any improvements should be highly targeted rather than broad-brush. For instance, any support on affordability should be targeted at parents/carers who do not use, but are actively looking for, childcare. With 51% of providers thinking about increasing their fees over the next two to three years there is a possibility that any income gaps that currently exist may increase over time.
- The tax credit system appears to be effectively supporting families with the cost of childcare. However, the knowledge and use of other benefits, e.g. childcare vouchers, could be improved.
- Opening times are seen as a gap in the market by childcare providers more than parents/carers. The evidence collected suggests that where opening time gaps do exist, they are relatively small and the market may fill these automatically over the next two to three years.
- The flexibility of provision appears to be well-matched to demand.
- There are few differences in gaps between term time and school holidays, although employers tend to highlight more issues during school holidays than other stakeholders.
- There are potential gaps in provision in relation to children aged five to seven years (highlighted particularly by parents/carers) and for children aged 11 years and over (highlighted particularly through supply data).
- There are high levels of awareness and a relatively healthy take-up of the free entitlement to early learning and childcare for three and four year olds. Take-up could be improved as there are about 12.5% of all families with a three to four year old who have not taken-up a place but have actively looked for one. There may be a geographical element to gaps experienced.
- Type of childcare is not a major gap in the childcare market in Birmingham. The overall number of places appears well-matched to demand. Where type gaps do exist this is likely to be connected with affordability and opening times.
- One in four childcare providers report that they may expand over the next two to three years which may help to address any gaps that exist and cater for any increases in population over time.
- Quality does not appear to be a major barrier in the childcare market.
- The analysis of the specific needs of different groups of parents/carers suggests that there are particular gaps experienced by families on low income (including lone parents/carers), families with a child with a disability or special need and families from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds.
- Location is highlighted as a gap by parents/carers who do not use childcare but have actively looked for it. It is also highlighted by employers. However, parents/carers who use childcare and childcare providers do not perceive a significant gap in location. In addition, supply data shows that there are vacancies across Birmingham. Together, this may imply that there is not a gap in relation to raw number of places but that up-to-date information on what places are available where and when could be improved.

# 10. Appendix

## 10.1 Definition of 'childcare'

The statutory guidance on securing sufficient childcare states that:

Childcare is defined in Section 18 of the Childcare Act 2006 as "any form of care for a child" including "education ... and any other supervised activity".

It goes on to specifically exclude from this definition: education or activities provided by a

school for a pupil during school hours (except nursery and reception classes which are childcare), care provided by a parent or someone with parental responsibility, and care provided by a children's home, hospital or secure environment (amongst other institutions).

This report uses this definition and pays particular attention to childcare where a parent can claim the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit.

## 10.2 Definition of 'sufficient'

The statutory guidance states that local authorities are under a duty to ensure that there is sufficient childcare in order for parents to take up, or remain in, work; or undertake education or training that is likely to lead to work. In addition, local authorities have a responsibility to secure free early learning provision for all eligible children in their area.

This duty must be exercised "as far as reasonably practicable". This means that the local authority must take into account:

The state of the local childcare market, including the level of demand in a particular locality and the amount and type of supply that currently exists;

The state of the labour market and the potential for increasing the number of people working in childcare;

The resources available to, and capabilities of, childcare providers (resources means not just the available funding, but also staff and premises, and capabilities will include experience and expertise);

The need to develop an effective, phased programme to meet the sufficiency duty; and

The local authority's resources, capabilities, and overall budget priorities.

Importantly, the guidance goes on to stress:

...it will be for the authority to decide what is sufficient given the needs of parents in its area. A local authority may not be failing to fulfil the duty simply because an individual parent's particular need is not being met at a particular time, as it may be judged to be not reasonably practicable to do so. However, a local authority should not assume that it is not reasonably practicable to secure childcare that meets particular needs, such as childcare for a child with a disability or at particular times, just because it is difficult to do so.

### 10.3 Evidence for gaps in North Birmingham

Findings for North Birmingham as a whole from the parent/carer demand questionnaire	Childcare provider questionnaire
<p>Parents/carers that live in wards in the North of Birmingham are more likely (85%) than all other areas to report that childcare entirely meets their needs (Parents/carers across Birmingham 72% ).</p> <p>Parents/carers in wards in the North of Birmingham are more likely not to have used or qualified for the Child Tax credit (25%) than the East or West of the City. They are more likely to state that this is because: I know that I am not eligible (83%) than all other areas.</p> <p>Parents/carers in wards in the North of Birmingham are more likely not to have used or qualified for the Working Tax credit (68%) than all other areas (60% overall). They are more likely than all other areas to state that this is because I know that I am not eligible (87%).</p> <p>Parents/carers in wards in the North of Birmingham who have at least one child with a disability or additional need are more likely to feel that there is insufficient information available regarding their child's disability or special need (71%) compared to the South and East of the City. (53% overall).</p> <p>Parents/carers in wards in the North of Birmingham with at least one child who isn't in childcare and who have not looked for childcare state that this is because they want to look after their child themselves (77%) compared to all other areas. (55% overall).</p>	<p>Providers in North of Birmingham are more likely to report that the childcare market is 'shrinking a lot' over the last two to three years (14%) relative to those in the East. 7% of providers stated this overall.</p> <p>Providers in North are more likely to report 'that the childcare market will be stable' in the next two to three years (56%) relative to those in the East or West and Central areas. Overall 37% of providers thought it would be stable.</p> <p>Parents/carers in the North of Birmingham are more likely to ask providers for help, advice, or information regarding childcare or funding for childcare (84%) compared to those in the South. Overall 78% of providers reported this finding.</p> <p>Providers in the North are most likely to report neither expanding nor reducing (86%) the number of places relative to all areas. Overall 65% of providers intend to keep the number of places the same.</p> <p>Providers in the North are more likely to report that demand for childcare for children with a disability or special need will remain stable (56%) compared to those in the East. 48% of providers overall felt that it would remain stable.</p>

Ward	Supply	Ward specific findings from the parent/carer demand questionnaire	Demographic and socio-economic factors
Kingstanding	<p><b>Overall:</b> Low number of vacancies with childminder (seven). There are no providers and no places in holiday playschemes.</p> <p>In school holidays, there is a relatively low proportion of settings open 9am to 3pm (85% compared to 96.8%).</p> <p><b>For 0 to four year olds:</b> Low number of childminder places in term time (29).</p> <p><b>For five to seven year olds:</b> Low percentage of vacancies for five to seven year olds in term time (9.5% compared to 13.3%).</p> <p><b>For children aged 11 years and over:</b> No school holiday provision.</p>	<p>Less likely to be claiming the Working Tax Credit (31% compared to 40%). This is compared to seven other wards.</p>	<p>Is in the bottom five wards for the number of children aged 11 years and over (946).</p>
Erdington	<p><b>Overall:</b> Low number of providers (four) with day nursery in term time and school holidays (three). There are no pre-school/ playgroup during school holidays.</p> <p><b>For 0 to four year olds and five to seven year olds:</b> Low number of places with day nurseries in term time.</p> <p><b>For eight to ten year olds and 11 years and over:</b> No vacancies in out of school clubs and no vacancy information for holiday clubs.</p>	<p>There are no parent/carer demand findings specific to this ward.</p>	<p>Is in the top five wards for children on a child protection plan (57) and the number of looked after children (53).</p>

Ward	Supply	Ward specific findings from the parent/carer demand questionnaire	Demographic and socio-economic factors
Stockland Green	<p><b>Overall:</b> Only one pre-school with no vacancies available.</p> <p>Low number of providers (two) open after 6pm in term time.</p> <p>Low proportion of providers (8.0%) open after 6pm in school holidays.</p> <p><b>For eight to ten year olds and 11 years and over:</b> No registered places or vacancies.</p>	<p>Less likely to be claiming the Working Tax Credit (29% compared to 40%). This is compared to nine other wards.</p>	<p>Is in the top five wards for the number of looked after children (48).</p>
Sutton Four Oaks	<p><b>Overall:</b> Low number of LA provider (one) and places (52). Low number of places with day nursery (183).</p> <p>No vacancies with out of school or pre-school settings.</p> <p><b>For 0 to four year olds:</b> Low number of places in school holidays for 0 to four year olds.</p> <p>Low number of places in Local Authority provision</p> <p><b>For eight to ten year olds and 11 years and over:</b> No registered places or vacancies.</p>	<p>Less likely to be claiming child tax credit (43% compared to 78%). Compared to 34 wards.</p> <p>Less likely to be claiming the Working Tax Credit (24% compared to 40%). This is compared to 18 other wards.</p>	<p>Is in the bottom five wards for the following indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of live births 2001-2009 and as the percentage of live births as percentage of the child population (50.9%).</li> <li>• The percentage of households that are lone parents (3.7%).</li> <li>• The percentage of BME groups in the total population (4.9%).</li> <li>• Super Output Areas that are in the top 30% most deprived (0).</li> <li>• Unemployment rate (3.0%).</li> <li>• Children with a child protection plan (four).</li> <li>• Children who are looked after (11).</li> <li>• Number of disabled children aged 0 to four, five to seven and eight to ten.</li> </ul>

Ward	Supply	Ward specific findings from the parent/carer demand questionnaire	Demographic and socio-economic factors
Sutton New Hall	<p><b>Overall:</b> Low numbers of and places with Local Authority providers (one). There are no pre-school vacancies. No Holiday play-schemes are rated as good or excellent. Low number and proportion open after 6pm in term time (6.5% compared to 11.83%) and school holidays (4.3% compared to 15.3%).</p> <p><b>For five to seven year olds:</b> Low proportion of vacancies for five to seven year olds in term time. No holiday playschemes providers.</p> <p><b>For eight to ten year olds and 11 years and over:</b> No registered places or vacancies.</p>	<p>Less likely to be claiming Child Tax Credit (51% compared to 78%). Compared to 28 wards.</p> <p>Less likely to be claiming the Working Tax Credit (24% compared to 40%). This is compared to 18 other wards.</p>	<p>It is in the bottom five wards for the following indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of children aged 0 to four and aged eight to ten.</li> <li>• Total number of live births and percentage of live births in the total population (54.9%).</li> <li>• Total percentage of households that are lone parents (4.1%).</li> <li>• Number of Super Output Areas that fall in the top 30% most deprived (two).</li> <li>• Unemployment rate (3.1%).</li> <li>• Number of children on a child protection plan (two).</li> <li>• Number of disabled children aged 0 to four, five to seven and eight to ten.</li> </ul>
Sutton Trinity	<p><b>Overall:</b> There are no pre-schools/playgroup in this ward. Low percentage of vacancies for five to seven year olds in term time and school holidays.</p> <p><b>For eight to ten year olds and 11 years and over:</b> No registered places.</p>	<p>Less likely to be claiming Child Tax Credit (68% compared to 78%). Compared to eight wards.</p> <p>Less likely to be claiming the Working Tax Credit (29% compared to 40%). This is compared to ten other wards.</p>	<p>It is in the bottom five wards for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Live births as a percentage of the total population (52.6%).</li> <li>• It is in the bottom five wards for BME groups as a percentage of the total population (5.0%).</li> <li>• It has a relatively low number of Super Output Areas that are in the 30% most deprived of the population (three).</li> <li>• It is in the bottom five wards for the unemployment rate (4.3%).</li> <li>• Number of disabled children aged 0 to four.</li> </ul>

Ward	Supply	Ward specific findings from the parent/carer demand questionnaire	Demographic and socio-economic factors
Sutton Vesey	<p><b>Overall:</b> High hourly rate with pre-schools (£3.29 compared to £1.85 average) and overall as a ward (£3.61 compared to £3.17 average).</p> <p>Low vacancies with day nursery and no vacancies with out of school clubs.</p> <p><b>For 0 to four year olds:</b> High number of places but no vacancies in out of school clubs.</p> <p>Low vacancies in day nurseries.</p> <p>Low percentage of vacancies (3.9% compared to 7.3% average).</p> <p><b>For five to seven year olds:</b> Low percentage of vacancies for five to seven year olds (2.9% compared to 9.7% average).</p> <p><b>11 years and over:</b> No term time provision for this age group.</p>	<p>Less likely to be claiming Child Tax Credit (45% compared to 78%). Compared to 34 wards.</p> <p>Less likely to be claiming the Working Tax Credit (18% compared to 40%). This is compared to 29 other wards.</p>	<p>Is in the bottom five wards for the following indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 to four population.</li> <li>• Five to seven population.</li> <li>• Total live births 2001-2009.</li> <li>• Live births as a percentage of the total population (54.4%).</li> <li>• Percentage of households that are lone parents (3.6%).</li> <li>• BME groups as a percentage of the population (6.4%).</li> <li>• Number of Super Output Areas that are in the 30% most deprived (one).</li> <li>• Unemployment rate (3.3%).</li> <li>• Number of disabled children of 0 to 11 years and over.</li> </ul>

Ward	Supply	Ward specific findings from the parent/carer demand questionnaire	Demographic and socio-economic factors
Tyburn	<p><b>Overall:</b> High out of school setting hourly rate (£4.31 compared to £2.74 average).</p> <p>Low number of providers (12) and places (56) with childminders. Low number of vacancies.</p> <p>No pre-schools good or excellent.</p> <p><b>For 0 to four year olds:</b> No pre-schools.</p> <p>Low places with childminders in school holidays (25).</p> <p><b>For five to seven year olds:</b> Low percentage of vacancies for five to seven year olds in term time (2.3% compared to 13.3%) and school holidays (2.8% compared to 10.8%).</p> <p><b>For eight to ten year olds and 11 years and over:</b> No registered places.</p>	<p>Less likely to be aware of the Child Tax Credit (67% compared to 80%). Compared to 16 wards.</p>	<p>Is in the top five wards for the number of children who are looked after (40).</p>

## 10.4 Evidence for gaps in South Birmingham

Findings for South Birmingham as a whole from the parent/carer demand questionnaire	Childcare provider questionnaire
<p>Parents/ carers in wards in the South of Birmingham are less likely to agree that childcare entirely meets their needs (14%) than all other areas (72% overall).</p> <p>Parents/carers in wards in the South of Birmingham who pay for childcare are more likely than parents/carers in wards in the North of Birmingham to find it difficult to pay for childcare given their family income (37%). This is 32% overall.</p> <p>Parents/carers in wards in the South of Birmingham are more likely to pay for additional hours of childcare above their Free Entitlement Funding entitlement than parents/carers in wards in the West (28%).</p> <p>Parents/carers in wards in the South of Birmingham are more likely not to have used or qualified for the Child Tax Credit (25%) than the East or West of the City (22% overall). They are less likely to state that this is because of 'I know that I'm not eligible' (53%) than the East and West, but are more likely than the North or East to state that they 'I do not use the childcare I pay for' (7%).</p> <p>Parents/carers in wards in the South of Birmingham are more likely to be aware of the Working Tax Credit (84%) than those in the East or West (80% overall), but are also more likely not to have used or qualified for it (63%) than the East or West of the City (60% overall). They are more likely than all other areas to state that they applied but did not qualify (21% compared to 11% overall).</p> <p>Parents/carers who do not use childcare in wards in the South of Birmingham are more likely (than those in the North and East) to have looked for childcare and not been able to take it up for some reason 8% compared to 6% overall. Of parents/ carers in this group are more likely to enquire about Youth clubs/Youth work provision (20%) compared to all other areas (9% overall).</p> <p>Parents/carers in wards in the South of Birmingham with at least one child who isn't in childcare and who have not looked for childcare did so because they would prefer to look after the child themselves (57%) compared to the East of the City (55% overall).</p>	<p>Providers in the South of Birmingham are more likely to report 'that the childcare market in Birmingham has been stable' in the last two to three years (39%) relative to those in the North. 28% of providers overall felt that the market would be stable. In terms of future provision providers in the South are more likely to neither expand or reduce the number of places (68%) relative to those in West and Central.</p> <p>Providers in the South of Birmingham are less likely to report having vacant places (51%) compared to the West and Central areas. 60% of providers overall report having vacant places.</p> <p>During weekday nights in term time the providers in the South of Birmingham are less likely to offer provision (0%) relative to those in West and Central. Overall 3% of providers offer weekday nights.</p> <p>Providers in South of Birmingham are more likely to state that they do not cater for children with disabilities or special needs (35%) relative to those in the North (25% of providers overall). They are also more likely to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report that demand for this type of childcare will remain stable (58%) compared to those in the East (48% overall felt that it would remain stable).</li> <li>• To state that they are not interested in improving provision for children with disabilities or special needs in the next two to three years (46%) compared to East and West and Central. (Overall 33% were not interested in improving provision).</li> </ul>

Ward	Supply	Ward specific findings from the parent/carer demand questionnaire	Demographic and socio-economic factors
Bartley Green	<p><b>Overall:</b> No vacancies in out of school clubs or pre-school playgroups.</p> <p>Low proportion of childcare in school holidays open 8am to 9am (79.2% compared to 92.7%) and 3pm to 6pm (87.5% compared to 95.5%).</p> <p><b>Five to seven year olds:</b> There is a relatively high percentage of children aged five to seven years (38.8%).</p> <p><b>For eight to ten year olds and 11 years and over:</b> No registered places available.</p>	<p>There are no parent/carer demand findings specific to this ward.</p>	<p>Is in the top five wards for the number of children with a child protection plan (68).</p>
Billesley	<p><b>Overall:</b> Low number of places (189) and providers (four) in day nurseries, both term time and school holidays.</p> <p>No vacancies in pre-school playgroup.</p> <p><b>For 11 years and over:</b> No registered places.</p>	<p>Parents/carers in Billesley are less likely to be taking up the Free Entitlement Funding (39% compared to 60% overall). This is different to one ward.</p>	<p>Is not in the top or bottom five wards for any indicators.</p>

Ward	Supply	Ward specific findings from the parent/carer demand questionnaire	Demographic and socio-economic factors
Bournville	<p><b>Overall:</b>  Low number of day nurseries (four).  Low number of places in out of school clubs (60).  No vacancies in out of school clubs.  No out of school clubs or holiday play-schemes 'good' or 'excellent' with Ofsted.  Low proportion of providers open 3pm to 6pm in term time (84.8% compared to 93.2%).</p> <p><b>For 0 to four year olds:</b>  No places in holiday playschemes.</p> <p><b>Five to seven year olds:</b>  Low number of places in out of school clubs (20) and 0 vacancies.</p> <p><b>For eight to ten year olds:</b>  High number of places with out of school club in term time.  No holiday provision.</p> <p><b>For 11 years and over:</b>  No registered places or vacancies.</p>	<p>Parents/carers in Bournville are less likely to be claiming the Working Tax Credit (34% compared to 40% overall). This is different to eight other wards.</p>	<p>Is not in the top or bottom five wards for any indicators.</p>

Ward	Supply	Ward specific findings from the parent/carer demand questionnaire	Demographic and socio-economic factors
Brandwood	<p><b>Overall:</b> No vacancies with out of school clubs or pre-school playgroups.</p> <p><b>For 0 to four year olds:</b> Low number of pre-school/playgroup places term time (ten) and no vacancies.</p> <p><b>For five to seven year olds:</b> Low percentage of vacancies for five to seven year olds in term time (7.0% compared to 13.3%).</p> <p><b>For eight to ten year olds:</b> One out of school club offering places in term time only. No registered provision in school holidays for this age group.</p> <p><b>For 11 years and over:</b> No registered places or vacancies.</p>	There are no parent/carer demand findings specific to this ward.	Is not in the top or bottom five wards for any indicators.

Ward	Supply	Ward specific findings from the parent/carer demand questionnaire	Demographic and socio-economic factors
Edgbaston	<p><b>Overall:</b> High childminder average hourly rate (£4.20 compared to £3.20). Low number of childminders (seven) and places (36) and vacancies (six) with childminders. No pre-school playgroups. No vacancies with out of school club. Low number of local authority providers (one) and places (78). In school holidays, low proportion of providers open before 8am (29.6% compared to 56.8%) and 8am to 9am (77.8% compared to 92.7%)<sup>124</sup>.</p> <p><b>For 0 to four year olds:</b> High number of places in term time (1,312) and school holidays (1,520), in particular day nursery (1.021) and out of school clubs (289), high % of children for which there are places term time (147.3%) and school holidays (170.6%). High school holiday vacancy rate.</p> <p><b>For five to seven year olds:</b> Low percentage of vacancies for five to seven year olds in term time and school holidays. High % of children for which there are places term time (70.8%) and school holidays (82.2%).</p> <p><b>For eight to ten year olds and 11 years and over:</b> High proportion of childcare places for school holidays 12.2% eight to ten year olds and 7.9% 11 years and over. No vacancies and no provision in term time.</p>	<p>Parents/carers in Edgbaston are less likely to be claiming Child Tax Credit (59% compared to 78% overall), compared to 12 other wards.</p> <p>They are also less likely to be claiming the Working Tax Credit (25% compared to 40% overall). This is compared to 16 other wards.</p>	<p>Is in the bottom five wards for the following indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of children in all age groups.</li> <li>• Percentage of households that are lone parents (4.5%).</li> <li>• The number of children who are Looked after (12).</li> <li>• Number of disabled children aged eight to ten (80).</li> <li>• Number of disabled children aged 11 years and over (245).</li> </ul>

<sup>124</sup> Edgbaston has a percentage of children for which there are childcare places for that exceeds 100% this maybe because it provides childcare places for children that reside outside of this ward.

Ward	Supply	Ward specific findings from the parent/carer demand questionnaire	Demographic and socio-economic factors
Harborne	<p><b>Overall:</b> High average hourly rates for childminders (£4.09) and day nurseries (£5.57), pre-school playgroups (£2.94) and generally as ward (£3.82).</p> <p>Low number of local authority providers (one) and places (26).</p> <p>No vacancies with out of school clubs.</p> <p>Low percentage of provider open during term time 9am-3pm (88.0%).</p> <p><b>For 0 to four year olds:</b> Low number of day nurseries (three) and places (94). High percentage of vacancies in term time (17.6%). In particular, high percentage of vacancies with day nurseries in both term time and school holidays (20.9%).</p> <p><b>For five to seven year olds:</b> High vacancies with day nurseries in both term time and school holidays (26.9%).</p> <p><b>For eight to ten year olds:</b> Only out of school club providers but high percentage of places for children (4.2%). No holiday playschemes.</p> <p><b>For 11 years and over:</b> Only out school club providers but high number of places in both term time and school holidays. No holiday playschemes.</p>	<p>Parents/carers in Edgbaston are less likely to be claiming Child Tax Credit (59% compared to 78% overall), compared to 12 other wards.</p> <p>They are also less likely to be claiming the Working Tax Credit (25% compared to 40% overall). This is compared to 16 other wards.</p>	<p>Is in the bottom five wards for the following indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of children in all age groups.</li> <li>• Percentage of households that are lone parents (4.5%).</li> <li>• The number of children who are Looked after (12).</li> <li>• Number of disabled children aged eight to ten (80).</li> <li>• Number of disabled children aged 11 years and over (245).</li> </ul>

Ward	Supply	Ward specific findings from the parent/carer demand questionnaire	Demographic and socio-economic factors
Kings Norton	<p><b>Overall:</b> High hourly rate for out of school settings (£5.00 compared to £2.74) and pre-school playgroups (£3.60 compared to £1.85).</p> <p>Low number of out of school clubs (two) and pre-school playgroups (one).</p> <p>High vacancies with day nursery and pre-school playgroup but none with out of school clubs.</p> <p>No pre-school playgroups or holiday schemes rated Ofsted good or excellent.</p> <p>Low number (one) and proportion of providers open after 6pm (4.0% term time and 5.6% school holidays).</p> <p><b>For 0 to four year olds:</b> High term time vacancy rate (12.9% compared to 7.3%). High vacancies in day nurseries in both term time and school holidays (44).</p> <p>No holiday playschemes and only one pre-school.</p> <p><b>For five to seven year olds:</b> High percentage of vacancies for five to seven year olds in term time (16.5% compared to 13.3%).</p> <p>No out of school clubs.</p> <p><b>For eight to ten year olds and 11 years and over:</b> Only one out of school club. No reported places in term time or school holidays though.</p>	There are no parent/carer demand findings specific to this ward.	Is in the top five wards for the number of children on a child protection plan (57).

Ward	Supply	Ward specific findings from the parent/carer demand questionnaire	Demographic and socio-economic factors
Longbridge	<p><b>Overall:</b> High hourly day nursery rate (£4.22 compared to £3.69).</p> <p>Low number of out of school clubs (two).</p> <p>Low proportion of childminder vacancies in school holidays (19.3% compared to 36.1%).</p> <p><b>For 0 to four year olds:</b> Low percentage of childminder places in term time (50.0% compared to 52.1%) and number of vacancies.</p> <p><b>For eight to ten year olds and 11 years and over:</b> One out of school club.</p> <p>No vacancies.</p>	There are no parent/carer demand findings specific to this ward.	Is not in the top or bottom five wards for any indicators.

Ward	Supply	Ward specific findings from the parent/carer demand questionnaire	Demographic and socio-economic factors
Northfield	<p><b>Overall:</b> High hourly rate for day nurseries (£4.20 compared to £3.69). Low number of local authority providers (two). High vacancies in school holidays particularly with out of school club (64.3%).</p> <p><b>For 0 to four year olds:</b> High number of places in school holidays for 0 to four year (739). Particularly with childminders and day nurseries all year round. High term time (17.8%) and school holidays vacancy rate (17.3%) – in particular high proportion of vacancies in out of school clubs (59.1%)</p> <p><b>For five to seven year olds:</b> Low number in after school clubs (12) but high percentage of vacancies (83.3%).</p> <p><b>For eight to ten year olds:</b> One holiday playscheme. No provision in term time. No vacancies.</p> <p><b>For 11 years and over:</b> No registered places.</p>	<p>Parents/carers in Northfield are less likely to be taking up the Free Entitlement Funding (39% compared to 60% overall). This is different to one ward.</p> <p>They are also less likely to be claiming both Child Tax Credit (70% compared to 78% overall in comparison to six wards) and the Working Tax Credit (33% compared to 40% overall in comparison to seven other wards).</p>	<p>Is in the bottom five wards for BME as a percentage of the population (5.5%).</p>

Ward	Supply	Ward specific findings from the parent/carer demand questionnaire	Demographic and socio-economic factors
Quinton	<p><b>Overall:</b> High hourly rate for day nursery (£4.35 compared to £3.69) and out of school setting (£4.08 compared to £2.74). High number of and places with pre-school/ play groups, but no pre-school vacancies. Only 25% of play groups are rated good or excellent by Ofsted. High number of and percentage of vacancies with out of school club. Low number (two) and percentage of providers open after 6pm (5.6%).</p> <p><b>For 0 to four year olds:</b> High percentage of vacancies in out of school clubs in term time (33.5%) but none with pre-schools.</p> <p><b>For five to seven year olds:</b> High percentage of vacancies for five to seven year olds in term time (23.0% compared to 13.3%) particularly with out of school clubs (43.5%).</p> <p><b>For eight to ten year olds:</b> One out of school club, high percentage of vacancies (10.9%). No holiday provision.</p> <p><b>For 11 years and over:</b> No registered places.</p>	<p>Parents/carers in Quinton are less likely to be claiming Child Tax Credit (72% compared to 78%). Compared to three wards.</p>	<p>Is not in the top or bottom five wards for any indicators.</p>

Ward	Supply	Ward specific findings from the parent/carer demand questionnaire	Demographic and socio-economic factors
Selly Oak	<p><b>Overall:</b> High hourly fees for out of school settings (£4.75 compared to £2.74). Low vacancies overall, with all providers. Low numbers of providers except for out of school and local authority providers. Childminder, day nursery, and overall low quality. No providers open after 6pm in term time or school holidays.</p> <p><b>For 0 to four year olds:</b> Low number of providers. Low number of places in term time (308). Low number of places with childminders (29) and out of school clubs (12) in term time. Low term time (4.2%) and school holiday vacancy rate (3.3%).</p> <p><b>For five to seven year olds:</b> High proportion of places that there are children for in term time (32.8%) and school holidays (31.6%) (but a low number in term time, 131). Low percentage of vacancies in term time.</p> <p><b>For eight to ten year olds and 11 years and over:</b> No provision in term time. High proportion of places (11.4%) in holiday playschemes.</p>	<p>Parents/carers in Selly Oak are less likely to be claiming Child Tax Credit (69% compared to 78% overall). This is in comparison to four wards) and Working Tax Credit (26% compared to 40%). This is compared to 12 other wards.</p>	<p>It is in the bottom five wards for the following indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child population aged 0 to 11 years and over.</li> <li>• Total live births 2001-2009.</li> <li>• Number of Super Output Areas in the 30% most deprived (two).</li> <li>• Number of Children on a Child protection plan (five).</li> <li>• Number of children who are looked after (13).</li> <li>• Number of disabled children aged 0 to 11 years and over.</li> </ul>

Ward	Supply	Ward specific findings from the parent/carer demand questionnaire	Demographic and socio-economic factors
Weoley	<p><b>Overall:</b> High hourly fees overall (£3.73 compared to £3.17) and with day nurseries (£4.85 compared to £3.69), pre-school/playgroups (£3.00 compared to £1.85) and holiday playschemes (£3.73 compared to £3.17).</p> <p>Low number of providers (four) and places (110) with day nursery.</p> <p>One pre-school, and no pre-school vacancies.</p> <p>For 0 to four year olds: Low number of places in school holidays (195).</p> <p>Low number of places in day nurseries in both term time (77) and school holidays (67).</p> <p>Low percentage of children that there are places for in school holidays (10.3% compared to 24.2%).</p> <p><b>For five to seven year olds:</b> No pre-schools.</p> <p>High proportion of vacancies in term time with childminders (52.0% compared to 36.4%) and with day nurseries in school holidays (22.8% compared to 6.7%).</p> <p><b>For eight to ten year olds and 11 years and over:</b> No registered places.</p>	There are no parent/carer demand findings specific to this ward.	Is in the top five wards for the number of children on a child protection plan (74).

## 10.5 Evidence for gaps in West and Central Birmingham

Findings for West and Central Birmingham as a whole from the parent/carer demand questionnaire	Childcare provider questionnaire
<p>Parents/carers that live in wards within West and Central Birmingham who not using childcare but want to and those who feel their childcare could be improved are much more likely to report having problems at work due to childcare issues (21%) than all other areas.</p> <p>Parents/carers that live in wards within West and Central Birmingham who are paying for childcare are more likely to experience issues around affordability; with 39% of families reporting their weekly childcare payment as 'difficult' to pay.</p> <p>Parents/carers that live in wards within West and Central Birmingham with three to four year olds who are not using their free entitlement are more likely to have looked for a free nursery place.</p> <p>Parents/carers that live in wards within West and Central Birmingham who are not using or have not qualified for Child Tax Credit are more likely to cite not understanding the process of applying as a contributing factor.</p> <p>Parents/carers that live in wards within West and Central Birmingham who have at least one child with a disability are more likely to report that there is insufficient information available regarding their child's disability/special need.</p>	<p>Providers across West and Central Birmingham are most likely to report planning to expand (49%).</p> <p>Providers across West and Central Birmingham are more likely to report that the demand for childcare for children with a disability is 'growing a lot' relative to those in South (15%).</p> <p>Providers across West and Central Birmingham are more likely to report having 20+ EAL children (16%).</p> <p>Specific to forms of support provided by the Early Years and Childcare team, providers across West and Central Birmingham are less likely to be aware of advice (87%) than those in the East.</p> <p>Specific to forms of support provided by the Early Years and Childcare team providers across West and Central Birmingham are less likely to be aware of support in child protection (94%) than those in the East.</p> <p>Specific to forms of support provided by the Early Years and Childcare team providers across West and Central Birmingham are less likely to report development support (94%) relative to those in the East.</p> <p>Providers located in West and Central (26%) are more likely to report that they think there is a demand for childcare in other languages, or which meet specific cultural needs, that they are unable to provide relative to those in the South.</p>

Ward	Supply	Ward specific findings from the parent/carer demand questionnaire	Demographic and socio-economic factors
Aston	<p><b>Overall:</b>            Low number of childminders (12).            No vacancies in pre-school playgroups.            Low vacancies in school holidays in day nurseries (eight).            Low percentage of day nurseries received good or excellent in Ofsted inspection (25.0%).            Low number and proportion of settings open before 8am in both term time (six) and school holidays (five).</p> <p><b>For 0 to four year olds:</b>            Low percentage of vacancies for 0 to four year olds in both term time (1.6%) and school holidays (2.9%).</p> <p><b>For five to seven year olds:</b>            Low percentage of vacancies for five to seven year olds in term time (6.4%) and school holidays (6.0%).</p> <p><b>For eight to ten year olds and 11 and over:</b>            No vacancies in term time or school holidays, including out of school clubs.</p>	<p>There are no parent/carer demand findings specific to this ward.</p>	<p>It is in the top five wards for the number of children across all age bands. Figures are:</p> <p>0 to four: 3,280            Five to seven: 1,684            Eight to ten: 1,463            11 years and over: 1,927</p>

Ward	Supply	Ward specific findings from the parent/carer demand questionnaire	Demographic and socio-economic factors
Handsworth Wood	<p><b>Overall:</b>  Low number of (four) and places with day nursery (168).  Only one pre-school playgroup with no vacancies.  No holiday playscheme places.  No pre-schools rated as 'good' or 'excellent' with Ofsted.  Low numbers open at all times in term time and school holidays.  In term time, low proportion open 9am to 3pm (14) and after 6pm (one).  In school holidays, low proportion open 9am to 3pm (11) and after 6pm (one).</p> <p><b>For 0 to four year olds:</b>  Low proportion of children for which there is a childcare place, both term time (19.1%) and school holidays (10.1%). Also low number of places term time (349) and school holiday (184).</p> <p><b>For five to seven year olds:</b>  Low number of places in school holidays (52) and proportion of children for whom there is a childcare place (5.2%).</p> <p><b>For eight to ten year olds:</b> No school holiday provision.</p> <p><b>For 11 years and over:</b> No places or vacancies.</p>	<p>Less likely to be aware of the Child Tax Credit (70% compared to 80%). This is compared to 12 wards.</p>	<p>Not in the top five or bottom five for any socio-economic indicators.  Relatively higher BME population (67.4%).</p> <p>Some pockets of deprivation (11 areas in the 30% most deprived nationally).</p>
Ladywood	<p><b>Overall:</b>  High hourly rate with childminder (£3.93), pre-school (£3.50) and holiday playscheme (4.32) and for the ward as a whole (£3.95).  Low number of providers (five) and places (27) with childminders.  No out of school vacancies.  High proportion of pre-school playgroup vacancies (32.0%).  No pre-school playgroups or holiday playschemes rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted.  Low proportion of places open all day except 3pm to 6pm and after 6pm in term time.</p> <p><b>For 0 to four year olds:</b>  Low number of providers (28).</p> <p><b>For five to seven year olds:</b> Low number of providers (12), places available for in term time (76) and school holidays (76). Low proportion of vacancies for five to seven year olds in term time (9.2%).</p> <p><b>For eight to ten year olds and 11 years and over:</b>  No places or vacancies.</p>	<p>Less likely to report childcare entirely meets needs (43% compared to 72%). This is compared to nine wards.</p>	<p>It is in the bottom five wards for the number of children across all age bands. Figures are:  0 to four: 1,249  Five to seven: 509  Eight to ten: 415  11 and over: 515  It is in the top five wards for proportion of live births (90.0%).</p> <p>It is in the top five wards for rate of unemployment (23.2%).</p> <p>It is in the bottom five wards for number of looked after children (13 children).</p>

Ward	Supply	Ward specific findings from the parent/carer demand questionnaire	Demographic and socio-economic factors
Lozells and East Handsworth	<p><b>Overall:</b> No vacancies with out of school clubs or pre-school playgroups.</p> <p><b>For 0 to four year olds:</b> Low term time vacancy rate (5.0%).</p> <p><b>For eight to ten year olds and 11 years and over:</b> No places or vacancies.</p>	<p>There are no parent/carer demand findings specific to this ward.</p>	<p>It is in the top five wards for level of deprivation (23 areas are in Britain's 30% most deprived).</p> <p>It is in the top five wards for percentage of BME groups (82.6%) and lone parent households (14.2%).</p> <p>It is in the top five wards for rate of unemployment (25.3%).</p> <p>It is in the top five wards for proportion of live births (82.0%).</p> <p>It is in the top five wards for number of children with a disability for all age bands aside from 11 and over. Figures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 to four: 47</li> <li>• Five to seven: 290</li> <li>• Eight to ten: 419</li> </ul>
Nechells	<p><b>Overall:</b> No vacancies with pre-school playgroups. Low proportion of providers open before 8am in term time (22.2%) and school holidays (35.7%). Also in school holidays low proportion 8am to 9am (85.7%).</p> <p><b>For 0 to four year olds:</b> Low term time vacancy rate (4.2%).</p> <p><b>For five to seven year olds:</b> Low proportion of children for which there is a childcare place in term time (9.9%) and school holidays (10.9%).</p> <p><b>For eight to ten year olds and 11 years and over:</b> Two out of school clubs but no reported places in either term time or school holidays. No vacancies.</p>	<p>Less likely to be aware of the Working Tax Credit (72% compared to 94%). This is compared to 14 wards.</p>	<p>It is in the top five wards for level of deprivation (20 areas are in Britain's 30% most deprived).</p> <p>It is in the top five wards for rate of unemployment (25.1%).</p> <p>It is in the top five wards for proportion of live births (80.3%).</p> <p>It is in the top five wards for percentage of lone parent households (15.8%).</p> <p>It is in the top five wards for number of children with a disability for all age bands. Figures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 to four: 74</li> <li>• Five to seven: 454</li> <li>• Eight to ten: 539</li> <li>• 11 and over: 1,269</li> </ul>

## 10.6 Evidence for gaps in East Birmingham

Findings for East Birmingham as a whole from the parent/carer demand questionnaire	Childcare provider questionnaire
<p>Parents/carers that live in wards within East Birmingham, who reported that childcare doesn't entirely meet their needs or are not using childcare and want to, are significantly more likely to report not having experienced any issues or problems as a result of childcare.</p> <p>Parents/carers that live in wards within East Birmingham and are using a free place for their three or four year old, are less likely to be using their full 15 hours of entitlement (13% of families).</p> <p>Parents/carers that live in wards within East Birmingham, who have not used or qualified for Working Tax Credit are significantly more likely to attribute this to not knowing how to apply (4%) and finding the process too complicated (2%) than parents in the South and West Birmingham.</p>	<p>Providers across East Birmingham are more likely to report they expect the childcare market to 'grow a little' (30%) compared to those in the North or South.</p> <p>Providers across East Birmingham are more likely to report that parents/carers ask them for help, advice, or information regarding childcare or funding for childcare relative to those in the South (85%).</p> <p>Providers across East Birmingham are less likely to cater for 11 to 14 year olds relative to those in the West and Central (21%).</p> <p>Providers across East Birmingham are more likely to report that the demand for childcare for children with a disability is 'growing a lot' relative to those in the South (15%).</p> <p>Providers across East Birmingham are more likely to report 20+ EAL children (children attending the setting where English is not their first language) (13%).</p> <p>Providers across East Birmingham are more likely to cite priorities for improvements to childcare provision for families with disabled/special needs children e.g. 'more space made available' (15%) relative to the North and South.</p>

Ward	Supply	Ward specific findings from the parent/carer demand questionnaire	Demographic and socio-economic factors
Acocks Green	<p><b>Overall:</b>  Only one holiday playscheme setting.  Low percentage of day nurseries received 'good' or 'outstanding' in Ofsted inspection (20.0%).  Relatively low proportion of providers open 3pm to 6pm, during term time (87.1%).</p> <p><b>For five to seven year olds:</b>  Low proportion of children for which there is a place in both term time (7.3%) and school holidays (9.3%) and low number of places in term time. No day nurseries offering places for five to seven year olds.</p> <p><b>For eight to ten year olds:</b>  No out of school club offering places for eight to ten year olds. No places or vacancies for this age group.</p> <p><b>For 11 years and over:</b>  No places or vacancies for this age group.</p>	There are no parent/carer demand findings specific to this ward.	Some pockets of deprivation (18 areas in the 30% most deprived nationally).

Ward	Supply	Ward specific findings from the parent/carer demand questionnaire	Demographic and socio-economic factors
Bordesley Green	<p><b>Overall:</b> Low numbers and places with out of school clubs, childminders and pre-school playgroups. Low number of vacancies in day nursery (ten) and none in pre-school playgroup. Low percentage of childminders Ofsted 'good' or 'outstanding' (20%). Low numbers of places available at all times except after 6pm both term time and school holidays. Low proportion of places 8am to 9am in term time and 9am to 3pm school holidays.</p> <p><b>For 0 to four year olds:</b> There is a low proportion of children for which there is a childcare place both term time (12.6%) and school holiday (6.6%). Low number of places school holiday (264) and with childminders term time (19) and school holiday (16).</p> <p><b>For five to seven year olds:</b> There is a low proportion of places for children aged five to seven (2.1%) and low numbers of places in both term time (31) and school holidays (38). Low places offered by childminder (19) and out of school club (ten).</p> <p><b>For eight to ten year olds and 11 years and over:</b> No term time places. Only one holiday playscheme offering places.</p>	<p>There are no parent/carer demand findings specific to this ward.</p>	<p>In the top five wards for population numbers across all age groups. Figures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 to four: 4,028</li> <li>• Five to seven: 2,201</li> <li>• Eight to ten: 1,995</li> <li>• 11 and over: 2,567</li> </ul> <p>In the top five wards for total live births 2001-2009 (7,352).</p> <p>In the top five wards for level of deprivation (20 areas in the 30% most deprived nationally).</p> <p>It is in the top five wards for number of children with a disability for all age bands. Figures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 to four: 70</li> <li>• Five to seven: 454</li> <li>• Eight to ten: 601</li> <li>• 11 and over: 1,585</li> </ul>
Hall Green	<p><b>Overall:</b> No vacancies with out of school club of pre-schools playgroups. Low proportion of vacancies with day nurseries (3.3%). Only one holiday playscheme.</p> <p><b>For five to seven year olds:</b> Low percentage of vacancies term time (6.2%).</p> <p><b>For eight to ten year olds and 11 years and over:</b> No places or vacancies.</p>	<p>Less likely to be aware of the Child Tax Credit (69% compared to 80%). Less likely to be claiming Child Tax Credit (59% compared to 78%).</p>	<p>In the bottom five wards for worklessness (unemployment rate of 5.5%).</p>

Ward	Supply	Ward specific findings from the parent/carer demand questionnaire	Demographic and socio-economic factors
Hodge Hill	<p><b>Overall:</b> High hourly rate for holiday play-schemes (£2.92). No pre-school playgroups. No vacancies with out of school settings. In term time low number and proportion of providers open before 8am (22.7%) or between 8am and 9am (59.1%). Also the case in school holidays but also 3pm to 6pm.</p> <p><b>For 0 to four year olds:</b> Low proportion of children for which there is a childcare place, term time (1.4%) and school holiday (13.1%). Low places in term time with childminders (28) and no pre-schools playgroup places.</p> <p><b>For five to seven year olds:</b> Low percentage of vacancies for five to seven year olds in term time (9.5%). Low places and vacancies with childminders.</p> <p><b>For eight to ten year olds and 11 years and over:</b> No places or vacancies.</p>	<p>Less likely to be aware of the Child Tax Credit (62% compared to 80%).</p>	<p>Not in the top five or bottom five for any socio-economic indicators. Some worklessness (12.8% rate of unemployment) and pockets of deprivation (15 areas).</p>
Moseley and Kings Heath	<p><b>Overall:</b> High hourly average rate for holiday play-schemes (£4.32). Low childminder vacancies term time (13) and school holiday (11). Low number of childminders in term time (nine). Low number of providers open before 8am in both term time (seven) and school holidays (five). Low proportion in term time also 8am to 9am (57.7%) and 3pm to 6pm (84.6%).</p> <p><b>For 0 to four year olds:</b> Low number of places in school holidays (303).</p> <p><b>For five to seven year olds:</b> Low number of places available for five to seven year olds in term time (130) and school holidays (80). Also low proportion of children for which there is a childcare place in school holidays (9.7%).</p> <p><b>For eight to ten year olds and 11 years and over:</b> No places or vacancies.</p>	<p>Less likely to report childcare entirely meets needs (51% compared to 72%). Less likely to be taking up the Free Entitlement Funding (48% compared to 60%). This is different to one ward. Less likely to be claiming Child Tax Credit (69% compared to 78%). This is compared to four wards.</p>	<p>Not in the top five or bottom five for any socio-economic indicators. Data shows relatively low deprivation (ten areas in the 30% most deprived in Britain) and low worklessness (9.2% unemployment rate).</p>

Ward	Supply	Ward specific findings from the parent/carer demand questionnaire	Demographic and socio-economic factors
Shard End	<p><b>Overall:</b> Low places (64) and no vacancies with out of school club. No out of school clubs rated good or excellent Ofsted.</p> <p><b>For 0 to four year olds:</b> Low proportion of day nursery places (69.4%).</p> <p><b>For eight to ten year olds:</b> One out of school club offering high number of places. No holiday provision. No vacancies.</p> <p><b>For 11 years and over:</b> No places or vacancies.</p>	<p>Less likely to be aware of the Child Tax Credit (62% compared to 80%).</p>	<p>Some pockets of deprivation (16 areas in the 30% most deprived in Britain), and higher lone parent households (13.6%).</p> <p>In the top five wards for number of looked after children (39).</p>
Sheldon	<p><b>Overall:</b> Low numbers of providers (four) and places (128) with day nurseries. No out of school club and holiday playschemes rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted.</p> <p><b>For 0 to four year olds:</b> Low number of places in both term time (404) and school holidays (277), particularly with day nurseries (113).</p> <p><b>For five to seven year olds:</b> Low number of places in term time (95).</p> <p><b>For eight to ten year olds and 11 years and over:</b> No school holiday provision.</p>	<p>Less likely to be claiming the Working Tax Credit (32% compared to 40%). This is compared to seven other wards.</p>	<p>In the bottom five wards for proportion of BME groups (6.0%).</p> <p>Relatively lower lone parent households (7.3%).</p>
South Yardley	<p><b>Overall:</b> Low number of pre-school playgroup providers (one). No vacancies for out of school club. No holiday playschemes rated good or excellent by Ofsted.</p> <p><b>For 0 to four year olds:</b> Low proportion of children for which there is a childcare place during term time (20.7%). No vacancies with out of school clubs.</p> <p><b>For eight to ten year olds and 11 years and over:</b> No places or vacancies.</p>	<p>There are no parent/carer demand findings specific to this ward.</p>	<p>In the top five wards for level of deprivation (20 areas in the 30% most deprived nationally).</p>

Ward	Supply	Ward specific findings from the parent/carer demand questionnaire	Demographic and socio-economic factors
Sparkbrook	<p><b>Overall:</b> High hourly rate with childminders (£4.29). Low number of childminder places in term time (52) but high proportion of vacancies. Generally low quality (40% rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted) – particularly childminders (29%) and day nurseries (36%). Low proportion of providers open 8am-9am term time (54.1%). Low proportion of providers open prior to 8am in school holidays (35.7%), 8am-9am (78.6%) and 3pm-6pm (85.7%).</p> <p><b>For five to seven year olds:</b> Low proportion of children for whom there is a childcare place in term time (7.4%). Low percentage of vacancies in term time (8.3%) and school holidays (3.9%).</p> <p><b>For eight to ten year olds and 11 years and over:</b> No places or vacancies.</p>	<p>Less likely to be aware of the Working Tax Credit (72% compared to 94%). This is compared to 19 wards. Less likely to be aware of the Child Tax Credit (37% compared to 80%). This is compared to 37 wards.</p>	<p>In the top five wards for population numbers across all age groups. Figures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 to four: 4,028</li> <li>• Five to seven: 2,201</li> <li>• Eight to ten: 1,995</li> <li>• 11 and over: 2,567</li> </ul> <p>In the top five wards for total live births 2001-2009 (7,267).</p> <p>In the top five wards for level of deprivation (26 areas in the 30% most deprived nationally) and relatively higher levels of unemployment (22.9%).</p> <p>In the top five wards for proportion of BME groups (79.9%) and lone parent households (13.6%).</p> <p>In the top five wards for number of children with a disability, ages eight to ten (443) and 11 and over (1,137).</p>
Springfield	<p><b>Overall:</b> High hourly rate overall (3.68). High hourly rate particularly for out of school settings (4.73). Low numbers of providers (one) and places (22) with out of school club. Low number of holiday play schemes (three).</p> <p><b>For 0 to four year olds:</b> Low proportion of children for which there is a childcare place in both term time (12.7%) and school holidays (11.0%).</p> <p><b>For five to seven year olds:</b> Low proportion of children for which there is a childcare place in both term time (5.6%) and school holidays (4.7%). High vacancy rate overall (20.7%). No day nursery or out of school club vacancies.</p> <p><b>For eight to ten year olds and 11 years and over:</b> No places or vacancies.</p>	<p>There are no parent/carer demand findings specific to this ward.</p>	<p>In the top five wards for population numbers across all age groups. Figures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 to four: 3,242</li> <li>• Five to seven: 1,768</li> <li>• Eight to ten: 1,492</li> <li>• 11 and over: 1,920</li> </ul> <p>In the top five wards for level of deprivation (21 areas in the 30% most deprived nationally) and for proportion of BME groups (66.4%).</p> <p>In the top five wards for number of children with a disability, ages five to seven (323) and 11 and over (1,193).</p>

Ward	Supply	Ward specific findings from the parent/carer demand questionnaire	Demographic and socio-economic factors
Stechford and Yardley North	<p><b>Overall:</b>            Low numbers of pre-schools play groups (one), out of school clubs (two) and holiday playschemes (one).            No vacancies in out of school settings.            Low percentage of day nursery rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted (43%).</p> <p><b>For eight to ten year olds and 11 years and over:</b>            No places or vacancies.</p>	<p>There are no parent/carer demand findings specific to this ward.</p>	<p>Some pockets of deprivation (15 areas in the 30% most deprived nationally).             In the top five wards for children who are looked after (53).</p>
Washwood Heath	<p><b>Overall:</b>            High hourly rate with childminders (£3.83).            High vacancy rate with day nurseries term time (65.4%).            No out of school club vacancies.            Low percentage of childminders rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted (18%).</p> <p><b>For 0 to four year olds:</b>            Low term time (3.3%) and school holidays (4.4%) vacancy rate.</p> <p><b>For five to seven year olds:</b>            Low proportion of children for which there is a childcare place in both term time (6.7%) and school holidays (8.9%).</p> <p><b>For eight to ten year olds and 11 years and over:</b>            No places or vacancies.</p>	<p>Less likely to be aware of the Child Tax Credit (71% compared to 80%). This is compared to nine wards.</p>	<p>High population levels across all age bands as well as live births.             High percentage of BME families (73.2%) and lone parent households (11.1%).             High levels of deprivation (20 Super Output Areas in the 30% most deprived nationally) and worklessness (unemployment rate of 28.2%).</p>



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