

Kent Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

August 2016



Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

1 Executive Summary

1.1 Introduction

The Childcare Act 2006 places a duty for local authorities to work in partnership with providers to influence childcare provision as far as reasonably practicable to ensure that there is sufficient childcare for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 or up to 18 for disabled children.

Further to this the Children and Families Act 2014 repealed the local authority's duty to assess sufficiency of childcare provision. However, as the authority is still required to understand and influence the provision of childcare in the county a review of current provision and the relationship to demand has been assessed and is presented in this report.

Sufficient, high quality childcare is a vital component of the local economy and can support regeneration and employment. In addition, a market that can offer high quality, accessible and affordable childcare has the potential to contribute to the reduction of child poverty. There is a large body of research that supports the impact on children's outcomes when they attend high quality childcare, especially those from vulnerable backgrounds. The development of good quality childcare that meets the needs of the families in Kent supports the local authority's role to comply with the duty under sections 1 to 5 of the Childcare Act 2006 to improve the wellbeing of young children and reduce the inequalities between them.

This report brings together a variety of sources to understand the demand and supply of child care across Kent for ages 0-4, and for breakfast club places for primary school aged children aged 5-11, as well as to identify gaps in the provision at a local level.

1.2 Gap Analysis

Gravesham does not have sufficient childcare places for 0-4 year olds based upon the criteria used in this report. There are 88 fewer places than are required using this analytical framework. Swale has slight more places than the number of places required, whilst Thanet has a surfeit of 161 places. All other districts have a significantly greater number of places for 0-4 year olds than is estimated to be required. However, this does not necessarily indicate that the vacant places are accessible to all children who need a place.

The analysis of childcare places for 0-4 year olds by school planning area shows a large disparity in the deficit/surfeit of places. School planning areas

which are particularly notable deficiency of places include Eastchurch and Warden Bay on the Isle of Sheppey, Shepway and Park Wood in Maidstone and Gravesend South West. Whilst it must be noted that such planning areas often neighbour planning areas with a surfeit of places, the local context of the planning area (e.g. level of deprivation) should be taken into account in order to assess the feasibility of 0-4 year old children travelling to access childcare. In order to assist sufficiency officers in KCC, the accompanying model to this report details the proportion of funded children accessing childcare who attend settings within the planning area in which they live, where they attend childcare settings outside their planning area of residence and where children who access funded childcare within the individual planning area originate from.

Breakfast Club Gap

The analysis of breakfast club places available in KCC indicates there is an under provision of places across Kent when compared to the DfE's analysis of demand for primary children. Across the county this deficit is calculated at 275 places. Shepway, Tonbridge & Malling and Dartford are assessed to have a significant surfeit of breakfast club places, whilst Sevenoaks, Maidstone and Dover have slightly more places than is assessed to be required. Thanet, Swale and Gravesham have a significant shortfall of breakfast club places.

Demographic Profile

2.1 Population Change

At the time of the 2011 Census the population of Kent was 1,329,719, an increase of 10% since the previous census in 2001. Kent (KCC area) saw the highest population growth rate of any of the south east counties. The largest growth in population was in the district of Ashford where the growth was 14% over the previous 10 years, followed by Dartford with 13% growth in population over the period. The districts with the lowest rates of growth were Gravesham, Sevenoaks, Thanet and Dover (all these districts saw rates of growth under 7%).

Table 2.1 Total population change

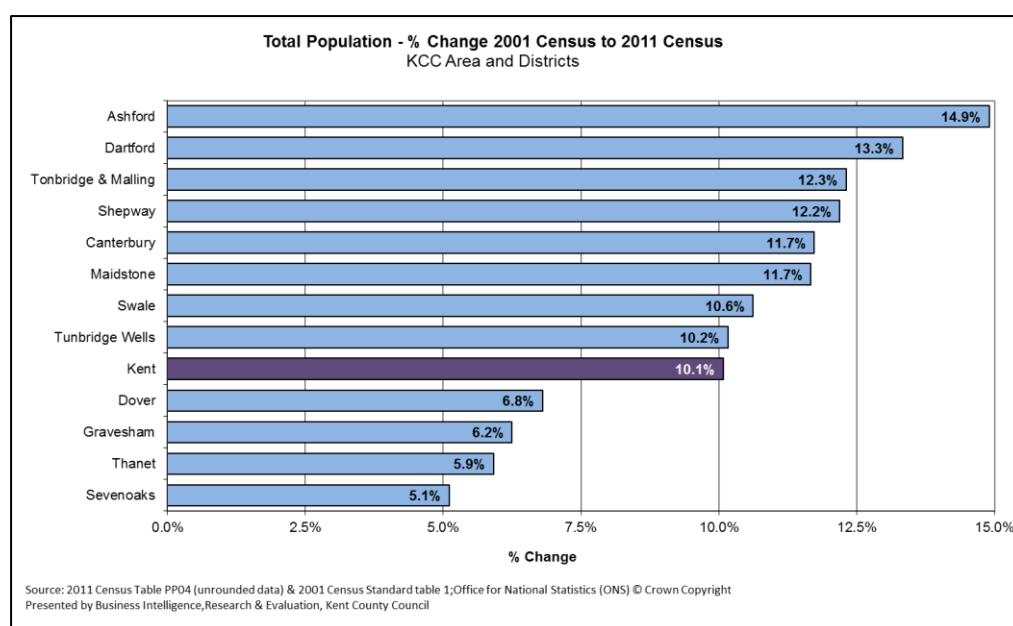
Total population change: KCC Area and districts				
	2001	2011	2001/2011 Change	
			Number	%
Kent	1,329,719	1,463,740	134,021	10.1%
Ashford	102,658	117,956	15,298	14.9%
Canterbury	135,277	151,145	15,868	11.7%
Dartford	85,915	97,365	11,450	13.3%
Dover	104,565	111,674	7,109	6.8%
Gravesham	95,739	101,720	5,981	6.2%
Maidstone	138,936	155,143	16,207	11.7%
Sevenoaks	109,309	114,893	5,584	5.1%
Shepway	96,238	107,969	11,731	12.2%
Swale	122,796	135,835	13,039	10.6%
Thanet	126,697	134,186	7,489	5.9%
Tonbridge & Malling	107,566	120,805	13,239	12.3%
Tunbridge Wells	104,435	115,049	10,614	10.2%

Source: 2011 Census Table PP04 (unrounded data) released 24 September 2012: 2001 Census Standard Table 1

Office for National statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright

Presented by Business Intelligence: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council, October 2012

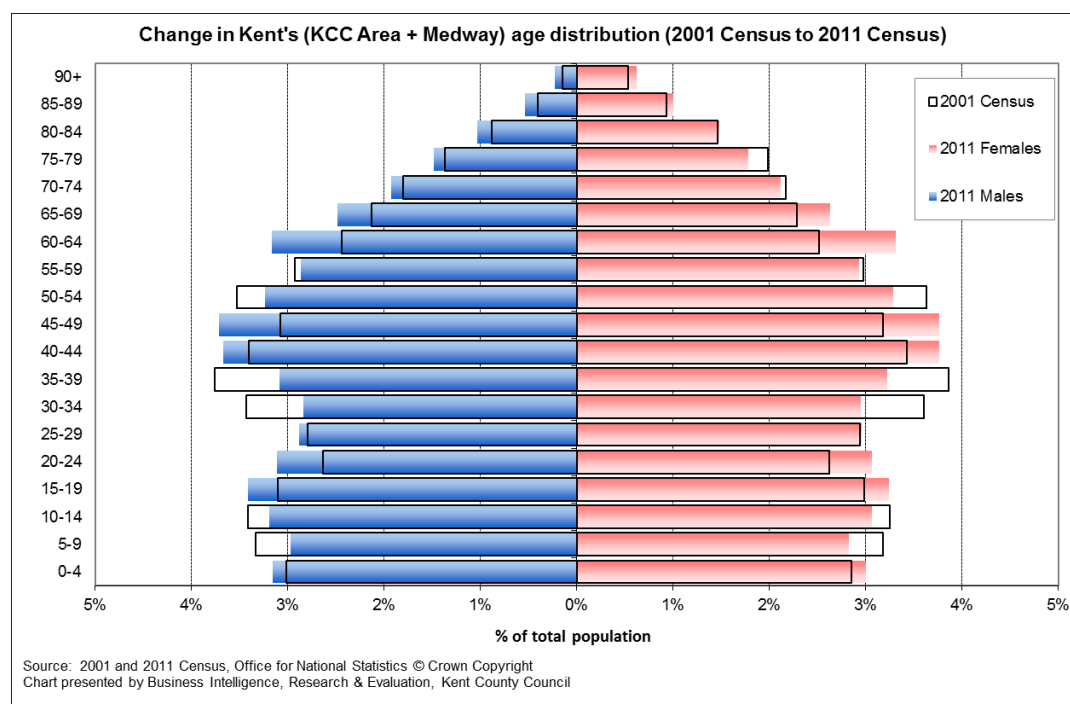
Chart 2.1: Total Population Change



Kent has an increasingly mature population structure, with rises in the size of the population in the age groups 40 to 49 and 60 to 69 over the ten years 2001 to 2011. It should also be noticed that this period also saw an increase in the number of young people aged 15 to 25, and this cohort will now be having a significant impact on the birth rates in the county.

The number of 5-14 year olds in the county declined between 2001 and 2011, however, the numbers of 0-4 year olds was seen to increase.

Chart 2.2: Change in Kent's age distribution



2.2 Live births

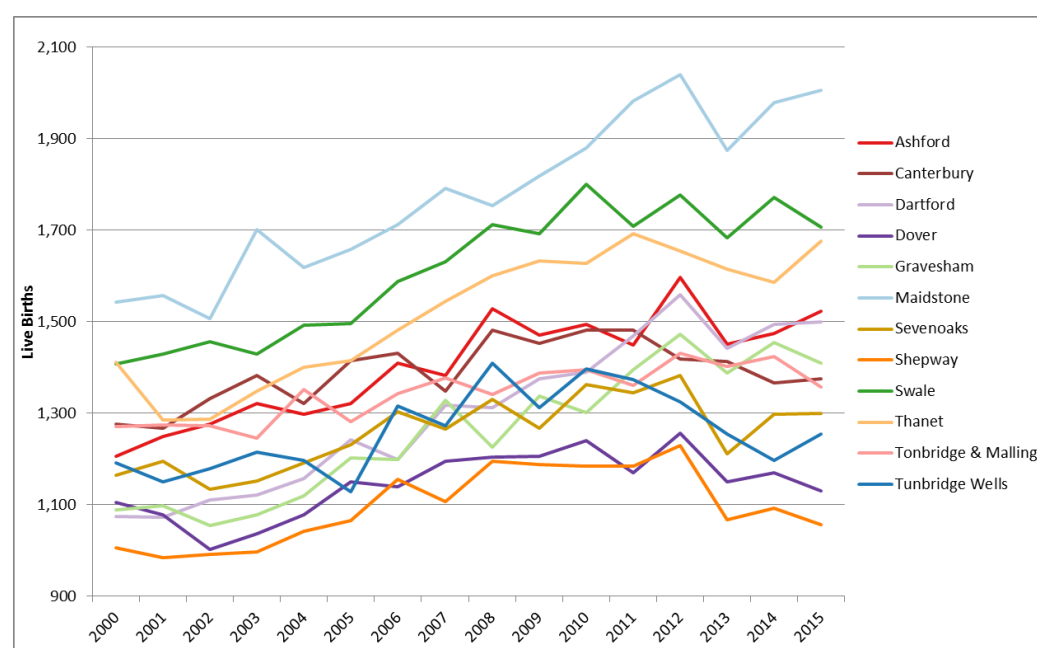
The average annual number of live births in Kent over the past five years has been 17,463, which is higher than the long term trend of 16,067 per year. The recent peak in live births in 2012 of 18,147 was followed by a dip to only 16,955 in the following year. The live births in 2014 saw a return to the 5 year trend at 17,305 births.

Chart 2.3 shows that most districts have seen a significant growth in the number of live births since 2001, but that recent trends have been more stable. Some districts (e.g. Shepway, Canterbury and Tunbridge Wells) have seen significant declines in recent years.

Table 2.2 Live births 2010 to 2015

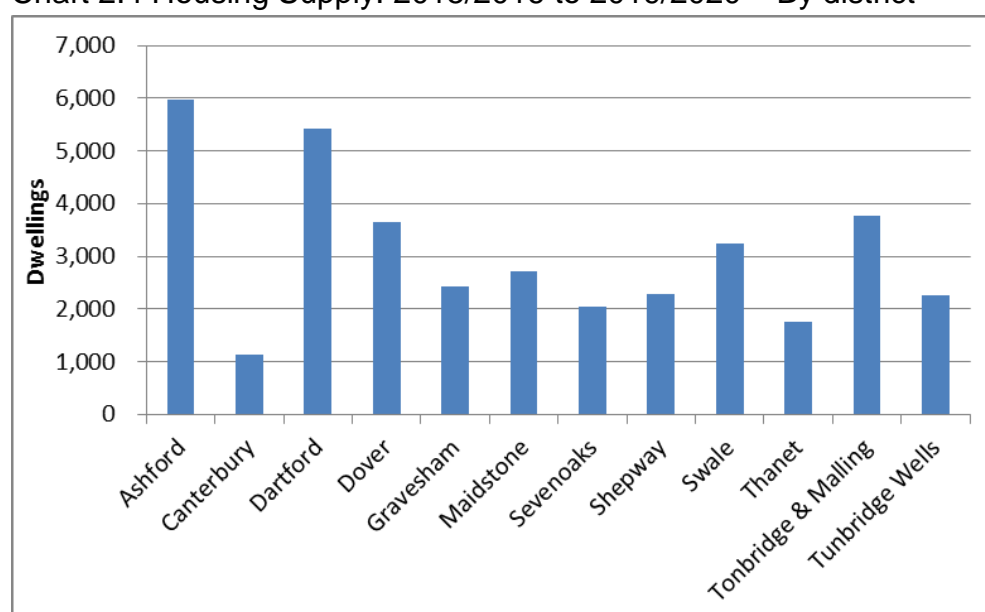
Year							Average	
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	5 year	35 year
Kent	17,558	17,612	18,147	16,955	17,305	17,297	17,463	16,067
Ashford	1,495	1,449	1,597	1,452	1,474	1,523	1,499	1,299
Canterbury	1,481	1,482	1,419	1,413	1,366	1,375	1,411	1,394
Dartford	1,390	1,469	1,560	1,442	1,494	1,500	1,493	1,199
Dover	1,241	1,170	1,257	1,150	1,170	1,130	1,175	1,208
Gravesham	1,302	1,396	1,472	1,389	1,454	1,410	1,424	1,267
Maidstone	1,880	1,982	2,040	1,875	1,979	2,006	1,976	1,720
Sevenoaks	1,363	1,345	1,383	1,212	1,298	1,300	1,308	1,272
Shepway	1,185	1,185	1,230	1,067	1,092	1,056	1,126	1,079
Swale	1,800	1,708	1,777	1,683	1,771	1,707	1,729	1,590
Thanet	1,627	1,692	1,654	1,615	1,586	1,677	1,645	1,478
Tonbridge & Malling	1,396	1,361	1,432	1,403	1,424	1,358	1,396	1,331
Tunbridge Wells	1,398	1,373	1,326	1,254	1,197	1,255	1,281	1,230

Source: Vital Statistics: Office for National Statistics (ONS), © Crown Copyright
Data presented by Strategic Business Development & Intelligence, Kent County Council



Population forecasts produced by KCC based on future housing provision show that whilst some districts can expect a decline in the number of children to 2025, other districts are expected to experience a significant increase (Charts 2.5 and 2.6). Districts that can expect growth, particularly for young children aged 0-5 are Dartford and Dover, driven in part by anticipated major housing developments. Over the next five years, housing development permissions indicate that there will be approximately 37,000 new dwellings built in the KCC area. However, the level of development varies considerably by district with significant change expected in Ashford, Dartford and Tonbridge and Malling and lower rates of development in Canterbury and Thanet (chart 2.4).

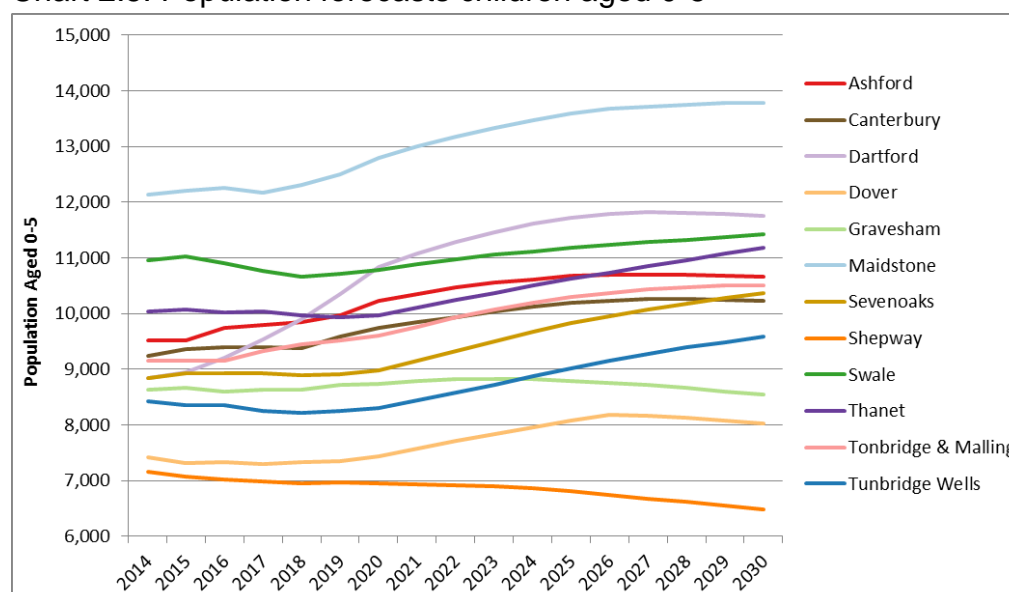
Chart 2.4 Housing Supply: 2015/2016 to 2019/2020 – By district



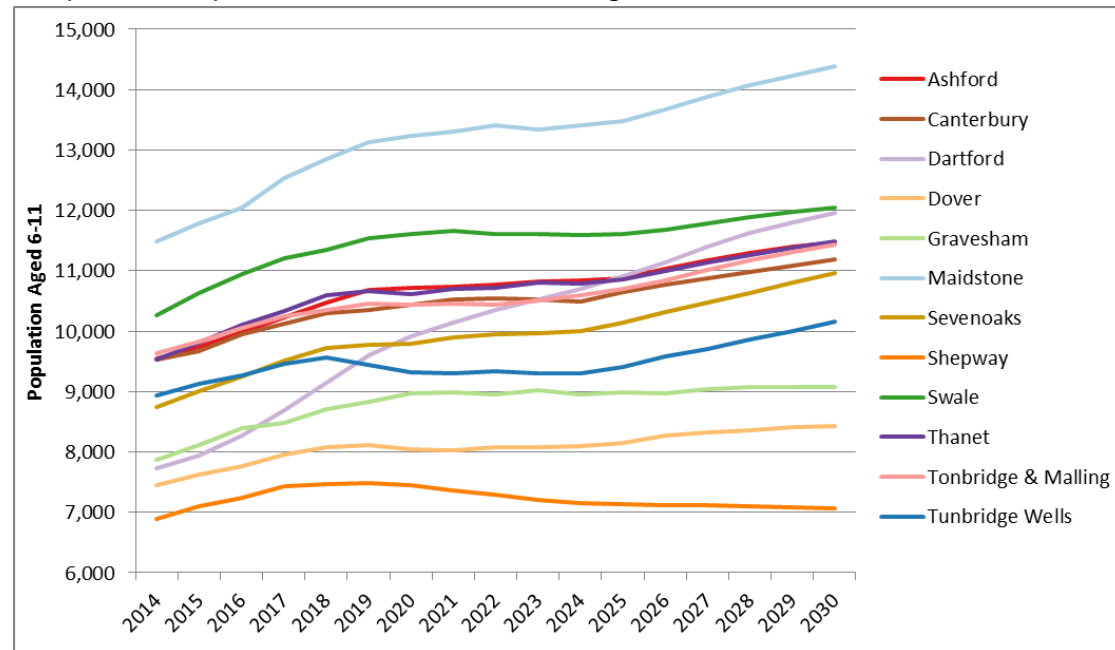
Source: Research and Evaluation

Subject to change in local plans

Chart 2.5: Population forecasts children aged 0-5



Graph 2.6: Population Forecast children aged 6-11



Source: KCC Strategy forecast (Oct 2015), Strategic Business Development & Intelligence, Kent County Council
This forecast uses 2014 Mid Year Population Estimates as the base and from then onwards the forecast is 'driven' by a future housing provision

2.3 Ethnicity

Kent as a whole has a lower proportion of the population from non-white ethnic groups compared with England and the South East (93.7% compared with 85.4% in England and 90.7% in the South East). The most ethnically diverse districts are Gravesham and Dartford where the proportions of the population from Asian and Black communities respectively exceed the average for England.

Table 2.3: Change in proportion of BME residents in Kent districts

	1991		2001		2011		1991 to 2011 percentage point change
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
England	4,459,470	9.1%	4,459,470	9.1%	7,731,314	14.6%	8.4
South East	391,656	4.9%	391,656	4.9%	806,930	9.3%	6.3
Kent	41,534	3.1%	41,534	3.1%	92,638	6.3%	4.4
Ashford	2,507	2.4%	2,507	2.4%	7,436	6.3%	4.9
Canterbury	4,578	3.4%	4,578	3.4%	10,525	7.0%	5.3
Dartford	4,728	5.5%	4,728	5.5%	12,295	12.6%	8.6
Dover	1,543	1.5%	1,543	1.5%	3,708	3.3%	2.5
Gravesham	10,020	10.5%	10,020	10.5%	17,494	17.2%	8.8
Maidstone	3,686	2.7%	3,686	2.7%	9,147	5.9%	4.2
Sevenoaks	2,233	2.0%	2,233	2.0%	4,864	4.2%	3.1
Shepway	2,605	2.7%	2,605	2.7%	5,754	5.3%	4.2
Swale	2,285	1.9%	2,285	1.9%	4,680	3.4%	2.4
Thanet	2,932	2.3%	2,932	2.3%	5,992	4.5%	3.3
Tonbridge & Malling	1,847	1.7%	1,847	1.7%	4,933	4.1%	3
Tunbridge Wells	2,570	2.5%	2,570	2.5%	5,810	5.1%	3.8
Medway Unitary Authority	13,423	5.4%	13,423	5.4%	27,346	10.4%	6.2
Kent & Medway	54,957	3.5%	54,957	3.5%	119,984	6.9%	6.9

Source: 2011 Census: Key Statistics Table 201, 2001 Census table KS06 and 1991 Census Table SAS 06. Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright

Presented by Business Intelligence, Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

A percentage point is the difference between two percentage points not the proportional difference.

The population of Kent is becoming more ethnically diverse in line with the rest of the country. Comparing the findings of the 2001 Census and the 2011 Census shows that all districts in Kent have become more ethnically diverse over the period, and that the rate of change has been much greater in the last ten years than was observed in the preceding decade (1991 to 2001).

Table: 2.4 Population by broad ethnic group in Kent districts

	All usual residents	White		Mixed/ multiple ethnic groups:		Asian/ Asian British:		Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British		Other ethnic group:	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
England	53,012,456	45,281,142	85.4%	1,192,879	2.3%	4,143,403	7.8%	1,846,614	3.5%	548,418	1.0%
South East	8,634,750	7,827,820	90.7%	167,764	1.9%	452,042	5.2%	136,013	1.6%	51,111	0.6%
Kent	1,463,740	1,371,102	93.7%	22,107	1.5%	47,614	3.3%	16,216	1.1%	6,701	0.5%
Ashford	117,956	110,520	93.7%	1,682	1.4%	3,991	3.4%	1,375	1.2%	388	0.3%
Canterbury	151,145	140,620	93.0%	2,551	1.7%	5,135	3.4%	1,937	1.3%	902	0.6%
Dartford	97,365	85,070	87.4%	2,161	2.2%	5,799	6.0%	3,578	3.7%	757	0.8%
Dover	111,674	107,966	96.7%	1,029	0.9%	2,031	1.8%	386	0.3%	262	0.2%
Gravesham	101,720	84,226	82.8%	2,066	2.0%	10,604	10.4%	2,885	2.8%	1,939	1.9%
Maidstone	155,143	145,996	94.1%	2,345	1.5%	4,943	3.2%	1,380	0.9%	479	0.3%
Sevenoaks	114,893	110,029	95.8%	1,675	1.5%	2,085	1.8%	853	0.7%	251	0.2%
Shepway	107,969	102,215	94.7%	1,267	1.2%	3,699	3.4%	458	0.4%	330	0.3%
Swale	135,835	131,155	96.6%	1,575	1.2%	1,489	1.1%	1,395	1.0%	221	0.2%
Thanet	134,186	128,194	95.5%	2,186	1.6%	2,504	1.9%	910	0.7%	392	0.3%
Tonbridge & Malling	120,805	115,872	95.9%	1,677	1.4%	2,431	2.0%	421	0.3%	404	0.3%
Tunbridge Wells	115,049	109,239	94.9%	1,893	1.6%	2,903	2.5%	638	0.6%	376	0.3%
Medway Unitary Authority	263,925	236,579	89.6%	5,176	2.0%	13,615	5.2%	6,663	2.5%	1,892	0.7%
Kent & Medway	1,727,665	1,607,681	93.1%	27,283	1.6%	61,229	3.5%	22,879	1.3%	8,593	0.5%

Source: 2011 Census: Key Statistics Table 201, Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright
Presented by Business Intelligence, Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

2.4 Lone parents

The 2011 Census indicated that there were just over 40 thousand lone parent households with dependent children in Kent, which is an increase of 9,500 since 2001. Districts with large numbers of lone parent families are Thanet, Swale and Maidstone. The highest rates of change in the number of lone parent families have been in Ashford (60%) and Maidstone (50%). The percentage of lone parent families in full time employment in Kent has decreased slightly over the period from 26% to 25%, whilst the percentage of lone parents in part-time employment has increased from 25% to 35%.

Table 2.5 All lone parent households with dependent children where the lone parents aged 16 to 74

	All lone parent*** households with dependent children *		Lone parent in full time employment		Lone parent in part-time** employment	
	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011
Kent	31370	40850	8145	10505	7747	14341
Ashford	2119	3397	656	907	496	1252
Canterbury	3296	3893	870	988	809	1363
Dartford	2140	3109	495	890	595	1020
Dover	3082	3049	776	747	700	1177
Gravesham	2133	2991	508	745	475	987
Maidstone	2765	4224	743	1216	776	1404
Sevenoaks	1952	2277	560	630	572	888
Shepway	2641	3033	688	693	618	1102
Swale	3036	4452	672	1030	699	1416
Thanet	4194	4945	1055	1067	859	1730
Tonbridge and Malling	2120	3031	598	926	614	1106
Tunbridge Wells	1892	2449	524	666	534	896

Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data.

* A dependent child is a person in a household aged 0 - 15 (whether or not in a family) or a person aged 16-18 who is a full-time student in a family with parent(s).

** For the Census; part-time is defined as working 30 hours or less a week. Full time is defined as 31 or more hours a week.

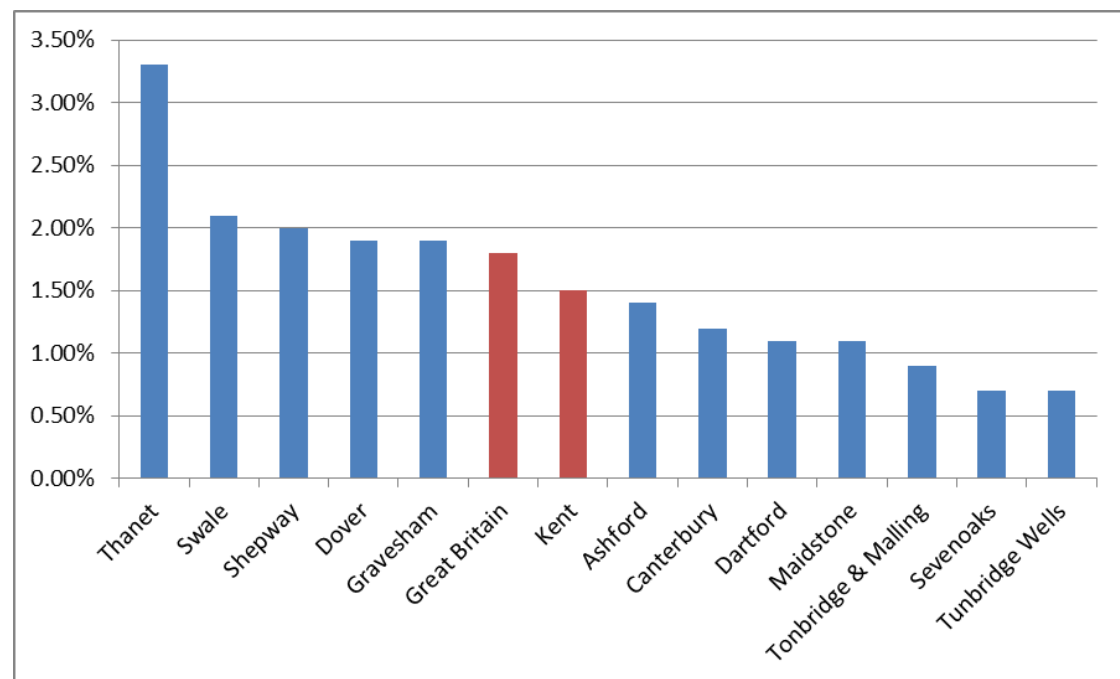
*** For the purposes of this table; a lone parent is defined as a parent with a dependent child living in a household with no other persons (whether related to that dependent child or not).

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2.5 Unemployment

Chart 2.6 shows that the percentage of people who were unemployed in June 2016 and claiming benefit in Kent was slightly below the rate for England as a whole – 1.6% compared to 1.8%. However, the districts of Dover, Thanet, Swale, Gravesham and Shepway saw rates around or above this level. In Thanet the unemployment rate was over 3% and in Swale just over 2% of people aged 16-64 were unemployed and claiming benefit. By contrast, Sevenoaks and Tonbridge and Malling had the lowest rates of unemployment in the County.

Chart 2.6: Percentage people aged 16-64 who were unemployed and claiming benefit in June 2016

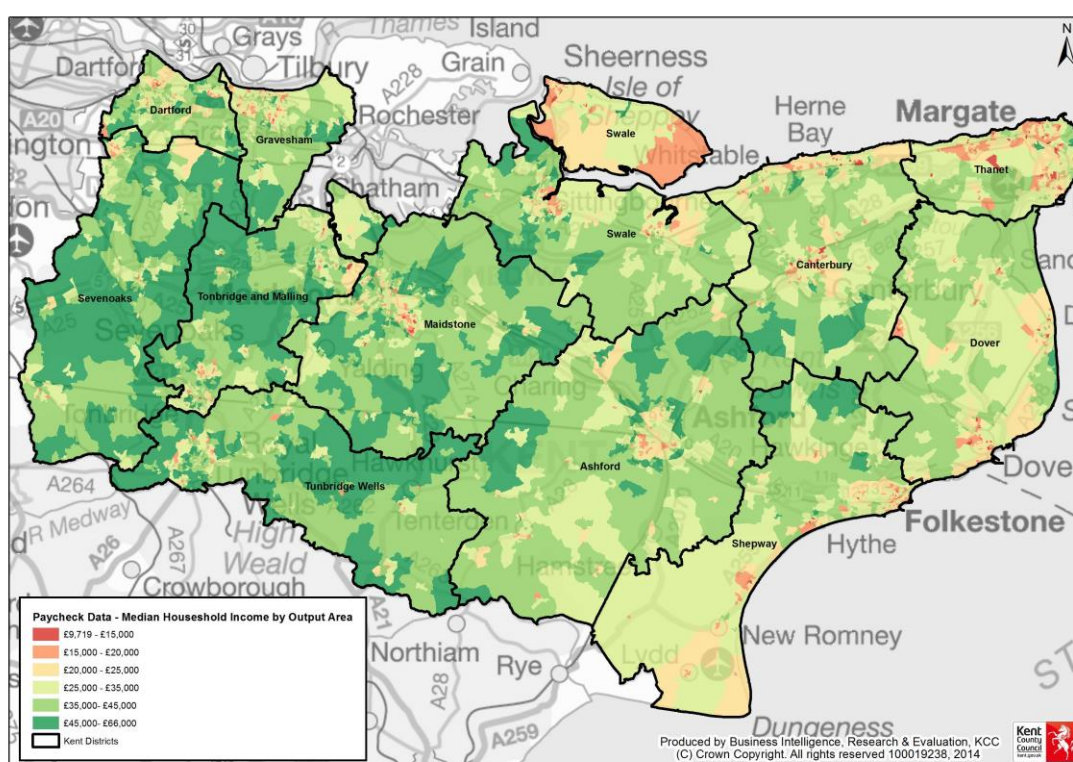


Source: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council Source: Office for National Statistics

2.6 Income

Map 2.1 shows that there are significant disparities and variations in the household income of families across Kent. The districts in west Kent are characterised by large areas with high numbers of affluent families, where median household incomes are between £35,000 and £66,000 per annum, but with small pockets where incomes are much lower. By contrast East Kent is dominated by households where the median incomes are below £35,000. The areas with the lowest median incomes are found in the coastal areas, notably in the urban areas of Thanet and Swale in east Kent and in the towns of Ashford, Canterbury, Dartford and Gravesend.

Map 2.1: Median household income



2.6 Commuting patterns

Analysis of the 2011 Census indicated that over 80% of people in employment in Kent (KCC area) accessed workplaces within the county. The majority of people access workplaces that are also within the district in which they live. This varies by district from Thanet where 75% of people access jobs within the district to Dartford, where only 45% of people access workplaces in the district. Given the location of Kent it is unsurprising that a significant proportion of people in the county commute to London, particularly from west Kent and specifically the districts of Dartford (38%), Sevenoaks, (32.6%) and Gravesend (21.6%).

Table 2.6: Travel to work patterns 2011 – all persons aged 16 and over in employment

District	% Commute within district	% Commute to Greater London
Ashford	69.0	6.7
Canterbury	72.2	4.8
Dartford	45.3	38.4
Dover	66.3	2.3
Gravesham	46.1	21.6
Maidstone	60.2	9.3
Sevenoaks	45.9	32.6
Shepway	69.0	3.7
Swale	63.6	7.9
Thanet	75.6	3.1
Tonbridge & Malling	49.2	16.2
Tunbridge Wells	61.2	14.7
KCC Area	80.4	13.0

Source: WU03UK - Location of usual residence and place of work by method of travel to work: 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics (Crown Copyright)

3 Assessing Supply

3.1 Providers

Childcare can take a range of forms and the terms used in this report are defined as follows:

An average **day nursery or crèche** provides full day care or part-time (sessional) care for children aged between six weeks and five years and is open for 10 hours a day for 50 weeks of the year.

Preschools provide part-time care for children in sessions from two and a half hours to four hours long, either mornings or afternoons, for children aged between 2 and 4 years old. Preschools can also be called playgroups, kindergartens or Montessori's. They are usually only open during school term-time.

Childminders provide care for children in the childminder's own home.

Breakfast clubs provide care for school-aged children before the school day starts and usually run for about an hour.

After-school clubs provide care for school-aged children after the school day has ended and usually run for about three hours. These clubs usually offer childcare for children aged from 5 to 11, though may also accommodate 3 and 4 year -olds.

Holiday clubs provide care for school-aged children during the school holidays.

Some day nurseries and childminders offer pick-up and drop-off services at school and care before or after time spent in school nursery class.

Maintained primary school nursery classes are managed by the local authority. They provide free early education for 3 and 4 year olds in their nursery classes, with children taking up their free entitlement as five mornings a week or five afternoons a week

Some **independent schools** also offer free places for 3 and 4 year olds in their nursery and reception classes.

Home childcarers, for example nannies, care for children in the child's own home. Although they are not inspected under the Ofsted framework, they can join the Ofsted voluntary registration which allows families to be able to claim for certain types of support with childcare costs

3.2 Assessment Criteria

In Kent when assessing supply the following criteria are used as given in guidance by the DfE in 2010:

Sufficient places overall – enough places to meet the needs of working parents or those who are training to work for children aged 0-14 years old and children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) up to the age of 18 years and enough places to allow eligible children aged 2,3 and 4 to take up their offer of free childcare, even where parents are not working or training.

Childcare places should be of **high quality**, reflecting judgements made by Ofsted that indicate that a setting's quality rating and improvement path.

There should be sufficient **flexibility** with places being available at the right times and the right sessions to fit in with standard and atypical working patterns.

Places should be sufficiently **accessible**, so that parents do not have to travel too far out of their way to access childcare

There should be a sufficient **range** of provision, with the balance between the various types of early years and childcare provision appropriate to meet the needs of parents identified through the sufficiency assessment

There should be sufficient **knowledge and information** about the supply and quality of places and how to access them.

Childcare places should be **affordable**

Childcare settings should be **inclusive** and meet particular needs

Childcare should be sufficiently **sustainable**

3.3 Range of providers

In Kent there are a range of different providers and these are found in different proportions across the districts. Note that there are high numbers of home child carers in the more affluent districts of Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells. Providers of full day care and sessional day care are well distributed across districts. Note that this data relies on the providers reporting their offer through the Children and Families Information Service (CFIS) system and therefore may not be complete or up to date.

Table 3.1: Range of providers

District	After/ Before/ Out of School Clubs	Childminders	Creches	Day Nurseries	Home Childcarers	Maintained Nurseries	Misc/Other	Nurseries in Independent Schools	Pre Schools	Private Nurseries
Ashford	10	108	2	36	7	3	7	0	16	5
Canterbury	8	85	0	28	1	6	6	3	25	3
Dartford	7	120	1	20	2	4	4	0	24	1
Dover	1	38	0	26	1	2	4	0	19	4
Gravesham	3	93	1	12	2	10	6	0	16	0
Maidstone	7	142	1	24	4	6	5	0	50	9
Sevenoaks	6	105	0	35	28	2	3	2	37	5
Shepway	2	32	0	33	4	4	1	0	11	6
Swale	2	111	0	29	5	6	5	0	25	5
Thanet	2	74	2	27	0	9	6	1	11	6
Tonbridge & Malling	8	133	0	28	21	3	5	0	33	3
Tunbridge Wells	6	130	0	27	21	2	5	9	23	12
Total	62	1,171	7	325	96	57	57	15	290	59

Source: CFIS/Audit by Early Years

3.4 Supply

Data on supply (providers) has been drawn from a number of sources and it has proved a complex process to ensure that that these complement each other. Total numbers of places given are as reported by the setting where known, and this is often a maximum capacity figure across a range of age groups. However, the actual number of children that can be accommodated by a single provider will depend on the age profile of the attendees as the statutory ratios of children to staff varies across ages and therefore capacity can only be seen as indicative.

Not all children will require full time child care and therefore a setting that has the capacity to accommodate 20 children may in fact be meeting the needs of many more children who only required part-time care. In assessing sufficiency ratios are applied to allow for the take up of places of more than one child who requires a place. However, the fact that these are assumptions should be taken into account when interpreting the findings of the assessment which should be seen as an indication of approximate sufficiency. The method used is discussed later in the report.

The key data sources that have been used to identify and quantify supply are discussed below.

3.4 CFIS

The CFIS team at KCC maintain information on childcare providers in the county which is available as a searchable database on the Kent website. This is used by parents to identify and source appropriate childcare. This includes:

- Childminder
- Home Childcarer

- Crèche
- Day Nursery
- Holiday Club
- After/Before/Out of School Clubs
- Maintained Nursery
- Nursery in independent school
- Pre Schools
- Private Nurseries
- Parent and Toddler Group
- Holiday Club

Data from this source provides address data and capacity figures for each setting for the age ranges 0-4; as well as the nature of the child care provision. The categories that have been used to inform the analysis are as follows:

- Childminder
- Home Childcarer
- Crèche
- Day Nursery
- Holiday Club
- After/Before/Out of School Clubs
- Maintained Nursery
- Nursery in independent school
- Pre Schools
- Private Nurseries

Details for providers that offer places for children over the age of eight are also available from this source, but there are no capacity figures associated with these settings. For the purposes of including these in the sufficiency assessment it has been assumed that each setting has a capacity of 20 children.

The CFIS data includes comprehensive address data and this has been used to summarise capacity at school planning area and district level.

Thus the data from the CFIS system provides the core data set that is used to identify the capacity of childcare suppliers across the county. Data from an audit carried out by the childcare sufficiency team in the summer of 2016 within KCC has been used to cross reference and supplement the data provided by CFIS.

3.5 Audit

An audit of childcare settings is carried out by the childcare sufficiency team on an annual basis. The details of providers and places have been cross referenced in order to ensure that all settings are included within the sufficiency model and report.

3.6 Settings details

Details of all the settings that have been included in this analysis have been summarised, by district and planning area, in annexes 4-5 of this report.

4 Demand

4.1 Free Early Education Entitlement places

All three and four year olds are entitled to 570 hours of free early education over no fewer than 38 weeks a year. In addition, certain two year olds are also entitled to 570 hours of free early education over no fewer than 38 weeks a year.

Free for two is a national scheme which allocates 570 hours of free childcare to 2 year olds if the parent or child meets particular eligibility requirements. Parents must be in receipt of particular benefits e.g. Job Seekers Allowance or Income Support in order for their child to be eligible. In addition, children that are looked after by the council or have particular health and educational needs may also be eligible for assistance. The vast majority of children eligible for the scheme within Kent qualify due to their parents' circumstances. KCC has a relatively low level of take up for the scheme when compared to other councils across the country.

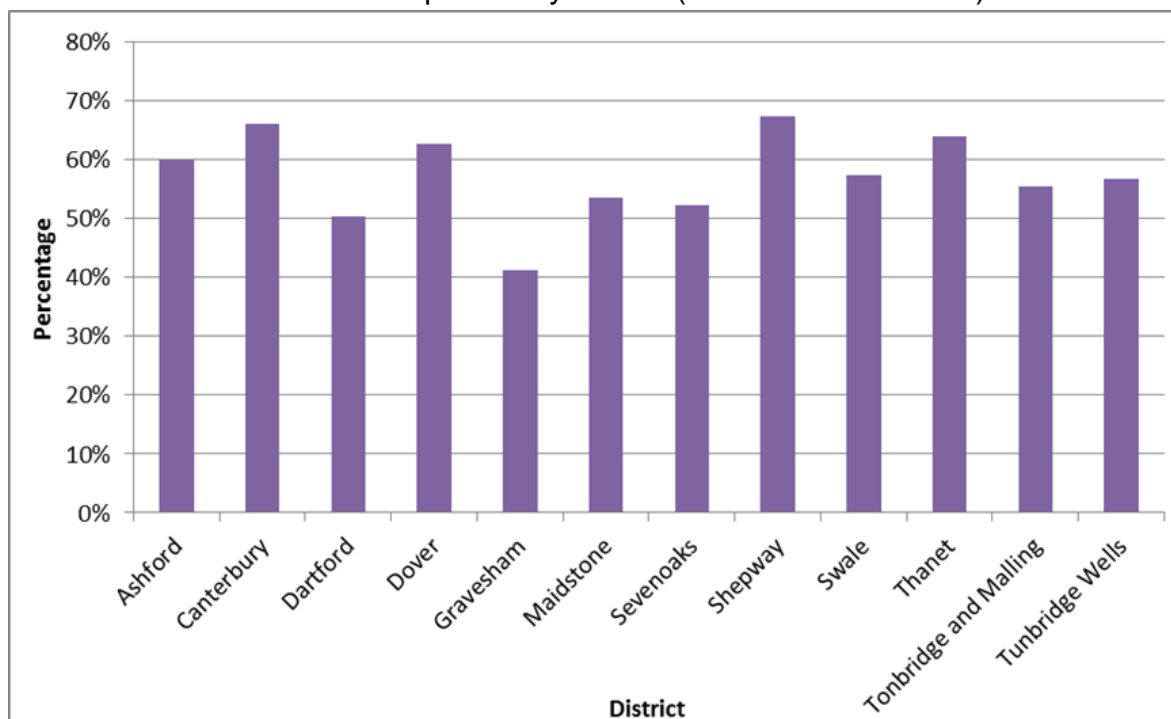
Graph 4.1 illustrates the take up of the free for two places by those children that are eligible. Take up rates refer to the proportion of families identified by the DWP that took up a free for 2 place and does not include self-referrals.

Take up rates vary considerably by district with notably lower take up in Gravesham district. High take up rates are observed in the east of the County, particularly in Shepway, Canterbury and Thanet

At ward level, take up rates are very variable, as can be seen in map 4.1. Wards with poor take up rates are particularly numerous in west Kent; however there are pockets of poor take up across the county.

Please note that the level of take up documented in this report may be slightly lower than actual take up rates due to the matching process between DWP and KCC data

Chart 4.1: Free for two take up rates by district (Autumn Terms 2015)



Map 4.1 Free for two take up rates by ward – Autumn Terms 2015 (numbers equate to eligible families)

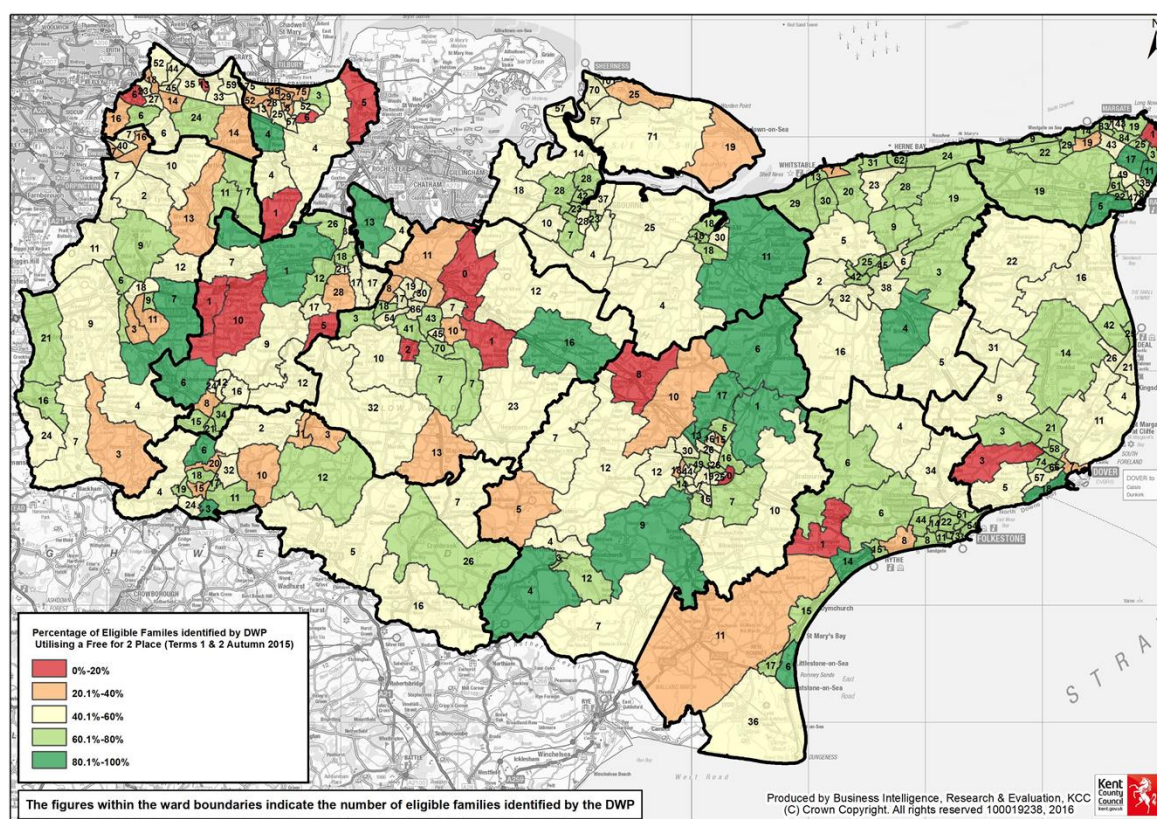


Table 4.2: Availability of free for two places (July 2016)

District	Maximum Number of Free for 2 Places Settings Can Offer	15-Hour Free for 2 Sessions to Become Available in September 2016
Ashford	653	285
Canterbury	919	372
Dartford	525	199
Dover	824	401
Gravesham	409	147
Maidstone	797	369
Sevenoaks	574	184
Shepway	942	500
Swale	836	387
Thanet	1,139	618
Tonbridge and Malling	337	145
Tunbridge Wells	456	228
Total	8,411	3,835

Source: FF2 Audit (July 2016)

Table 4.3: Free for two settings with available places

District	Providers	Providers with a Waiting List for Funded Places	% Settings with a waiting list for funded places	FF2 Children on Waiting List	3 & 4 Year Olds on Waiting List
Ashford	67	10	14.9%	16	43
Canterbury	63	8	12.7%	39	34
Dartford	52	7	13.5%	8	86
Dover	53	8	15.1%	26	41
Gravesham	45	8	17.8%	0	118
Maidstone	88	8	9.1%	22	105
Sevenoaks	77	9	11.7%	12	24
Shepway	55	6	10.9%	9	4
Swale	68	15	22.1%	57	92
Thanet	59	11	18.6%	32	54
Tonbridge and Malling	65	12	18.5%	21	51
Tunbridge Wells	75	19	25.3%	6	113
Total	767	121	15.8%	248	765

Source: FF2 Audit (July 2016)

An audit of free for two settings is undertaken every year by the service. The latest survey achieved responses from 767 settings giving a reasonable spread of responses across the county. The findings show that 3,835 Free for 2 places are expected to become available in September 2016, with some variability being identified by district. In Thanet and Shepway, 618 and 500 free for 2 places are expected to become available respectively in September 2016, compared to a much lower number of places in Sevenoaks, Gravesham and Dartford.

Of settings responding to the survey, 15.8% reported that they had funded children on their waiting lists. Districts with a high proportion of settings with waiting lists are Tunbridge Wells (25.3%) and Swale (22.1%).

5 Assessing Sufficiency

5.1 Method

Childcare sufficiency is assessed by comparing the known provision of places for childcare (supply) with the number of children resident in a given area (demand). Comparing these two figures gives an indication of the level of child care available to cater for children in a given area. In this report, sufficiency is assessed at district and school planning area level.

It should, however, be noted that the ratio of demand to supply as assessed using the method outline above is only indicative of the current situation with regard to the take up of child care in a given area, and reflects the local market and patterns of access. This is not in itself an indication of any gaps in the local provision.

The sufficiency has been analysed for two discrete age groups:

0 to 4 (pre-school)

5 to 11 (primary school age breakfast clubs)

The selection of the age groups reflects the available data that can inform the supply figures, as well as reflecting the different needs of these two age groups. Due to the prevalence of free after school activities available to children within schools which are not recorded, this report will only focus on the sufficiency of breakfast club places in KCC as opposed to the total childcare mix available to children aged between 5 and 11.

Planning Areas

Sufficiency rates have been determined at two geographical levels; School Planning areas and districts. Previously, the assessments were carried out at ward level; however a spatial analysis of funded 3 & 4 year olds attending childcare in 2015 indicated that less than 50% of these accessed childcare within the ward in which they lived.

A spatial analysis of funded places for 3 & 4 year old children in 2015 indicated that 68% of funded 3 & 4 year olds attended a setting in the same school planning area in which they lived. This varied from 0% of children in Watlingbury to 92.9% in Tunbury. Three planning areas (Faversham Rural South, Watlingbury and Stansted & Trottiscliffe) recorded less than 5% of children living in their area attending a childcare provider in the same zone. These three planning areas were merged with neighbouring zones where children access providers: Faversham, Kings Hill & Mereworth and Malling respectively.

As a result there are 114 school planning areas that have been used to assess sufficiency in this report. An analysis of funded 3 & 4 year olds attending childcare settings indicates that 72.5% of children access a setting within their planning area. A map showing the extent of these planning areas can be found in Annexe 1.

School planning areas have been identified as an appropriate level of geography to assess sufficiency as these areas are large enough to respect the observed patterns of demand for childcare, whilst giving enough local detail to be useful to sufficiency officers planning future supply. There is also the advantage that these areas are consistent with the commissioning process for school places and can support and inform these plans.

The supply and demand for child care is calculated for each school planning area and then aggregated to give district figures.

5.2 Age groups

As outlined above, the sufficiency assessment focuses on two key childcare markets. The first focusses on the pre-school market, and is represented by settings identified on the CFIS data as providing childcare places for children aged 0-4. This includes child minders, home child carers, day nurseries, maintained nurseries, crèches, private nurseries, pre-schools, holiday clubs, nurseries in independent schools, holiday clubs and after/before and out of school clubs where these settings indicate that they cater for this age group.

The second key market is for primary school aged children (breakfast clubs), as identified in the KCC audits of out of school provision.

5.3 Demand

The demand for child care is based on the total number of children of the appropriate age that are known to live in the area being considered (this being district or planning area). Population figures for 0-4 year olds are sourced from NHS counts and are provided by the School Provision Planning team. For 5-11 year olds the data is sourced from the 2015/2016 school census. Not all children will require childcare and some children who do attend childcare only attend part time. These rates of take up will vary by age of child, income of the family, attitudes of the parents to childcare as well as the cost, quality and availability of the childcare in the local area. To assess sufficiency it is important to try and understand the underlying need irrespective of the influence of supply – rather than just considering the current patterns of take up. To achieve this, and in the absence of a local survey of parents, data has been drawn from the DfE Annual Childcare and Early Years Survey of parents 2014-2015. This survey was funded by the DfE and carried out by Ipsos Mori.

The key figures that have been drawn from the survey and applied to the assessment for Kent are take up of formal child care by child by age and hours spent in child care by age. These two figures are used to determine the ratio of children attending childcare to each place in the supply.

Whilst the DfE survey provides useful data on take up and hours in childcare, this information is national and therefore some manipulation of the data is necessary to adapt this for use in Kent. Studying the available data breaks available from the DfE Survey showed that the key variant in determining rates of take up of formal child care is affluence and as this varies considerably across different communities in Kent it was considered important to reflect this when establishing demand in each planning area.

The DfE survey showed that the demand for formal childcare is on average 55%, but that this ranges from 49% for the most deprived communities to 65% in the least deprived communities.

The DfE survey also showed that demand for formal child also varies by age

Table 5.1 Demand for formal childcare (DfE survey 2015)

Age of child	Use of childcare -Formal providers
0-2	40%
3-4	90%

The aim was to develop an estimate of demand for childcare within each age band that reflected the level of demand indicated by the DfE survey as well as taking into account local deprivation. This was achieved by apportioning the rates of demand in accordance with the distribution of deprivation figures for each planning area by age as provided by ONS. These local area demand rates are then applied to the population figures for each age band for each planning area to determine the demand locally.

As mentioned above, the number of hours attended by each child requiring a place determines how many places are required in total.

The variation in the number of hours required by children is factored in to adjust the required number of places. The number of hours required by age group is also taken from the DfE survey for ages 0-2. For ages 3 and 4 the numbers of hours used is taken from the reported hours for claimants of free child care as averaged across each district.

Table 5.2 Hours of child care used per week (DfE Childcare Survey 2015)

Age of child	Hours of childcare used per week
0-2	18.5
3-4	22.5
5-7	10.4
8-11	4.7

Table 5.3 Hours of childcare taken by claimants of 15 hours (includes wrap around)

District	3 Year Olds	4 Year Olds
Ashford	17.9	19.0
Canterbury	18.5	19.1
Dartford	18.0	18.6
Dover	16.6	17.4
Gravesham	16.8	16.7
Maidstone	17.8	18.4
Sevenoaks	17.4	19.0
Shepway	17.1	18.0
Swale	16.7	17.8
Thanet	17.3	18.1
Tonbridge & Malling	17.6	19.4
Tunbridge Wells	18.0	21.5

A further adjustment is made to the demand figures to allow for an element of flexibility within the individual settings as the assumption is that places cannot be filled to capacity at any given time. This adjustment has been set at 15%.

5.4 Breakfast and after school clubs

The assessment for sufficiency for breakfast clubs is calculated in a similar way for the nursery and childcare provision. It has not been possible to provide figures for after school provision as the supply data is not comprehensive and does not include school based after school clubs. Provision data tends to focus on private providers operating within schools, school based clubs or nursery and childminder provision, but does not include special interest clubs run by schools (football, netball, music, craft etc.).

These clubs appear to be included in the demand figures and this gives a significant mismatch in assessing supply against demand.

The DfE survey is the source of demand for breakfast clubs. This suggests that 12% of children aged 5-7 require breakfast clubs and 9% of children aged 8-11 require breakfast clubs. On average, children spend 3.3 hours in breakfast clubs per week. The demand for breakfast clubs has been modified as for other childcare, to vary by planning area to reflect variations in demand related to levels of deprivation.

5.5 Sufficiency Estimates

The assessment of sufficiency is calculated by comparing the total available childcare supply of places in each planning areas by the total number of children living in the district as indicated by the NHS data for children for 0-4 year olds and the 2015/2016 school census for 5-11 year olds.

The figures for supply and demand and the sufficiency calculation at district level are given in table 5.1. Note that whilst the calculations are based on the exact figures, population estimates are rounded for presentation purposes.

Whilst the majority of families are likely to access childcare within the same district in which they live, there may be some families who travel to neighbouring districts for this purpose. Therefore the percentages that are given for sufficiency within each area should be treated as indicative only

Table 5.1 indicates that sufficiency rates for children aged 0-4 varies between districts. All districts with the exception of Gravesham and Swale have a sufficient supply of childcare places for 0-4 year olds. Sevenoaks, Dartford and Canterbury have the highest surfeit of places, whilst Gravesham has 110 fewer places than are required to meet the estimated level of demand. Whilst these figures suggest that most Kent districts have enough places for 0-4 year olds available, there may be gaps in supply at a more local level that will be evident in the sufficiency estimates by school planning areas.

5.6 Sufficiency estimates by School Planning Areas

Sufficiency rates have also been calculated using school planning areas and these tables are presented in annex 2 and 3. These rates are also presented in map 5.1. This analysis shows that at school planning area sufficiency rates vary considerably across KCC. However, it must be taken into account that planning areas with a deficit of places often neighbour planning areas with a significant surfeit of places. So for example, in school planning areas where there is a low level of provision or a deficit of provision, children will be travelling to access settings in adjacent areas. At the other end of the scale, where school planning areas have more provision than children, children will be drawn into these planning areas from other places to access settings.

However, within these extremes, the rates can be used to indicate where child care provision may be lacking locally. School planning areas with low levels of provision are:

Shepway and Park Wood

Eastchurch and Warden Bay

Dartford North

Sittingbourne East

Gravesend South West

School Planning Areas that have high rates of provision are:

Canterbury

Dartford West

Dartford Rural South














Maidstone West

Sevenoaks

5.7 Sufficiency estimates for breakfast clubs

The lowest provision of breakfast club places for children aged 5-11 relative to the population is in Gravesham, with a deficit of 203 places followed by Swale and Thanet. Dartford, Tonbridge & Malling and Shepway have a surfeit of places, whilst Sevenoaks, Maidstone and Dover have almost exactly the number of breakfast club places available that are deemed to be required by the model.

Table 5.1 Childcare places by district ages 0-4

District	0-4 Year Olds (GP Data)	0-4 Year Olds Requiring Childcare (Modelled)	0-4 Year Old Childcare Places Required (Modelled)	0-4 Year Old Childcare Places Available	Surfeit/ Deficit of Places
Ashford	7,998	5,019	2,663	3,161	 498
Canterbury	7,573	4,791	2,578	3,198	 620
Dartford	7,511	4,635	2,450	3,097	 647
Dover	6,196	3,749	1,894	2,017	 123
Gravesham	7,337	4,397	2,206	2,118	 -88
Maidstone	10,330	6,596	3,460	4,137	 677
Sevenoaks	7,379	4,961	2,615	3,343	 728
Shepway	5,903	3,583	1,844	2,220	 376
Swale	9,117	5,463	2,782	2,808	 26
Thanet	8,527	4,950	2,560	2,721	 161
Tonbridge & Malling	7,870	5,186	2,757	3,031	 274
Tunbridge Wells	6,875	4,697	2,610	3,093	 483
Total	92,616	58,025	30,419	34,944	 4,525

The number of 0-4 year olds requiring childcare has been calculated using the DfE survey data to assign the proportion of children for each year of age that will require childcare. This has been weighted to reflect variations in deprivation across KCC. The DfE Survey indicated the more affluent parents are more likely to access childcare

The places are modelled on the typical number of hours a child access childcare for 0-2 year olds as assessed by the DfE, which is 18.5 hours. The data for 3-4 year olds is based on service data which shows variation in average hours of use by district. A capacity adjustment of 15% is also applied to reflect the difficulty in settings totally filling capacity

Green = 10 or more surfeit of places

Amber = Deficit or surfeit of less than 10 places

Red = Deficit of 10 or more places

Map 5.1 Imputed childcare provisions age 0-4

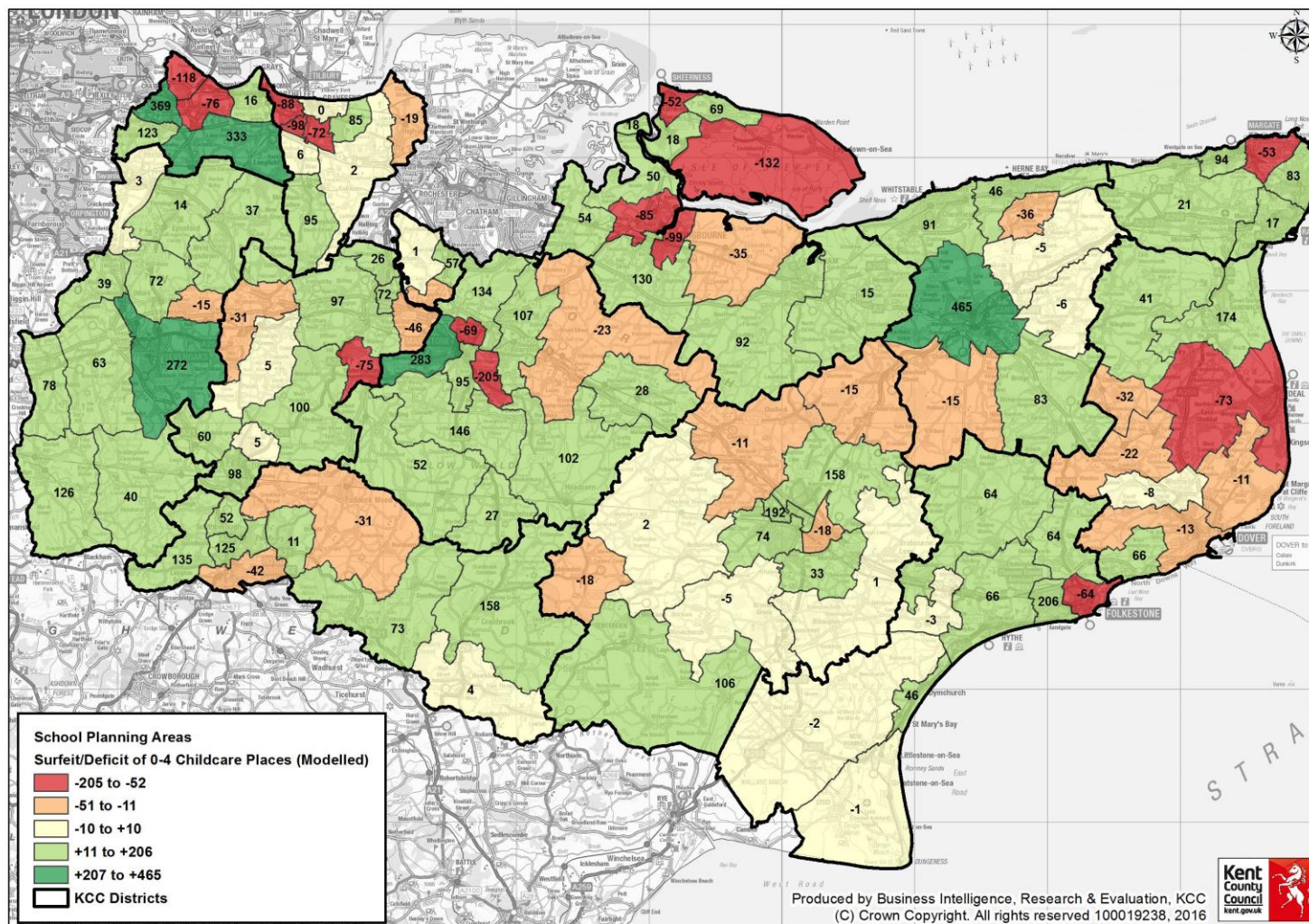


Table 5.2 Breakfast Club Places by District aged 5-11

District	5-11 Year Olds (2015/2016 School Census)	5-11 Year Olds Requiring Breakfast Club (Modelled)	5-11 Year Old Breakfast Club Places Required (Modelled)	5-11 Year Old Childcare Places Available	Surfeit/ Deficit of Places
Ashford	10,530	1,124	742	725	 -17
Canterbury	10,205	1,082	714	673	 -41
Dartford	8,736	923	609	737	 128
Dover	8,371	857	566	574	 8
Gravesham	9,121	934	616	413	 -203
Maidstone	12,187	1,326	875	900	 25
Sevenoaks	8,616	977	645	666	 21
Shepway	8,081	827	546	597	 51
Swale	11,600	1,178	777	634	 -143
Thanet	11,037	1,086	717	574	 -143
Tonbridge & Malling	9,632	1,088	718	804	 86
Tunbridge Wells	8,110	927	612	565	 -47
Total	116,226	12,328	8,137	7,862	 -275

The number of 5-11 year olds requiring childcare has been calculated using the DfE survey data to assign the proportion of children for each year of age that will require breakfast club places. This has been weighted to reflect variations in deprivation across KCC. The DfE Survey indicated the more affluent parents are more likely to access childcare

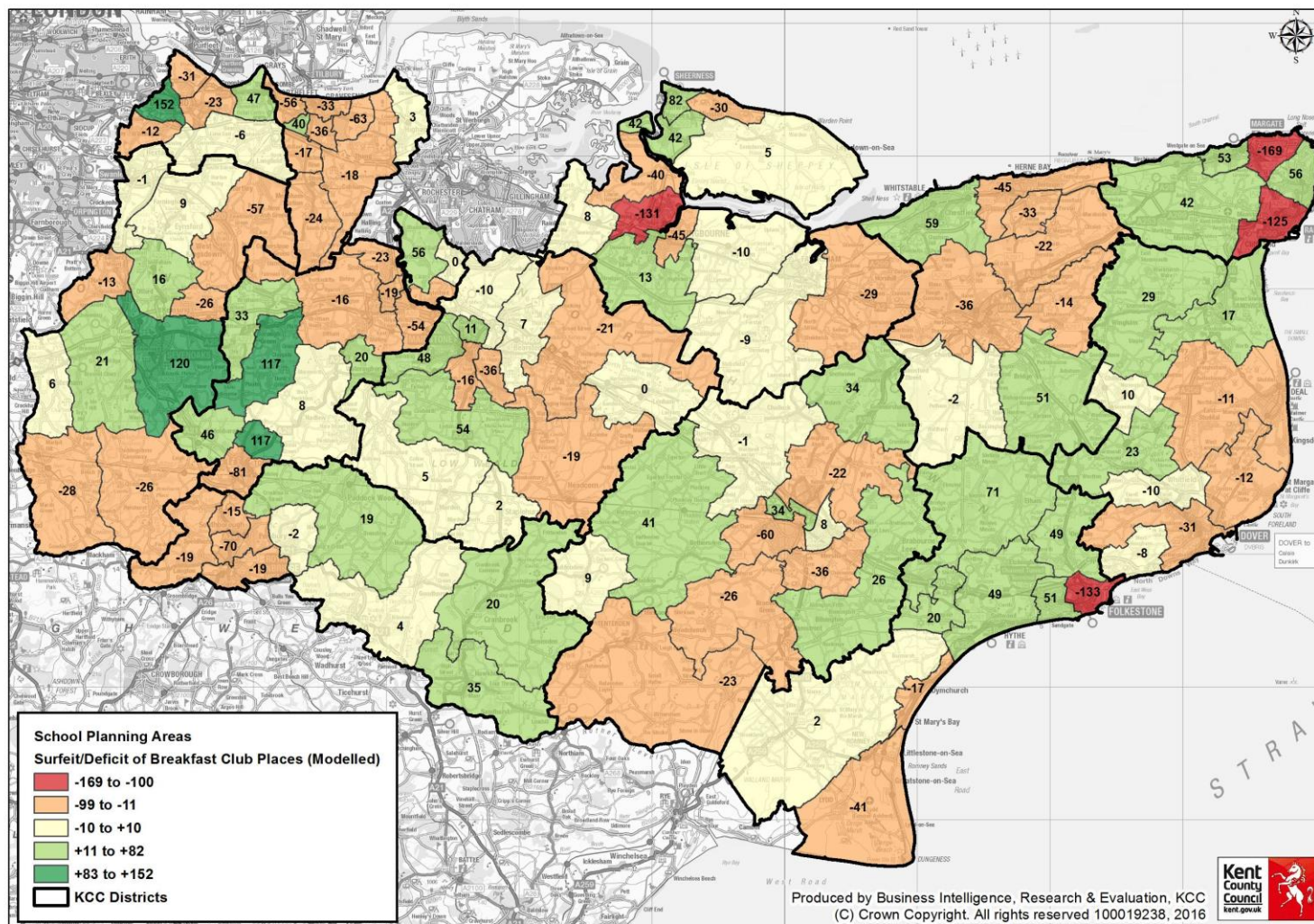
The places are modelled on the typical number of hours a child access breakfast clubs in a week. This is assessed by the DfE to be 3.3 hours.

Green = 10 or more surfeit of places

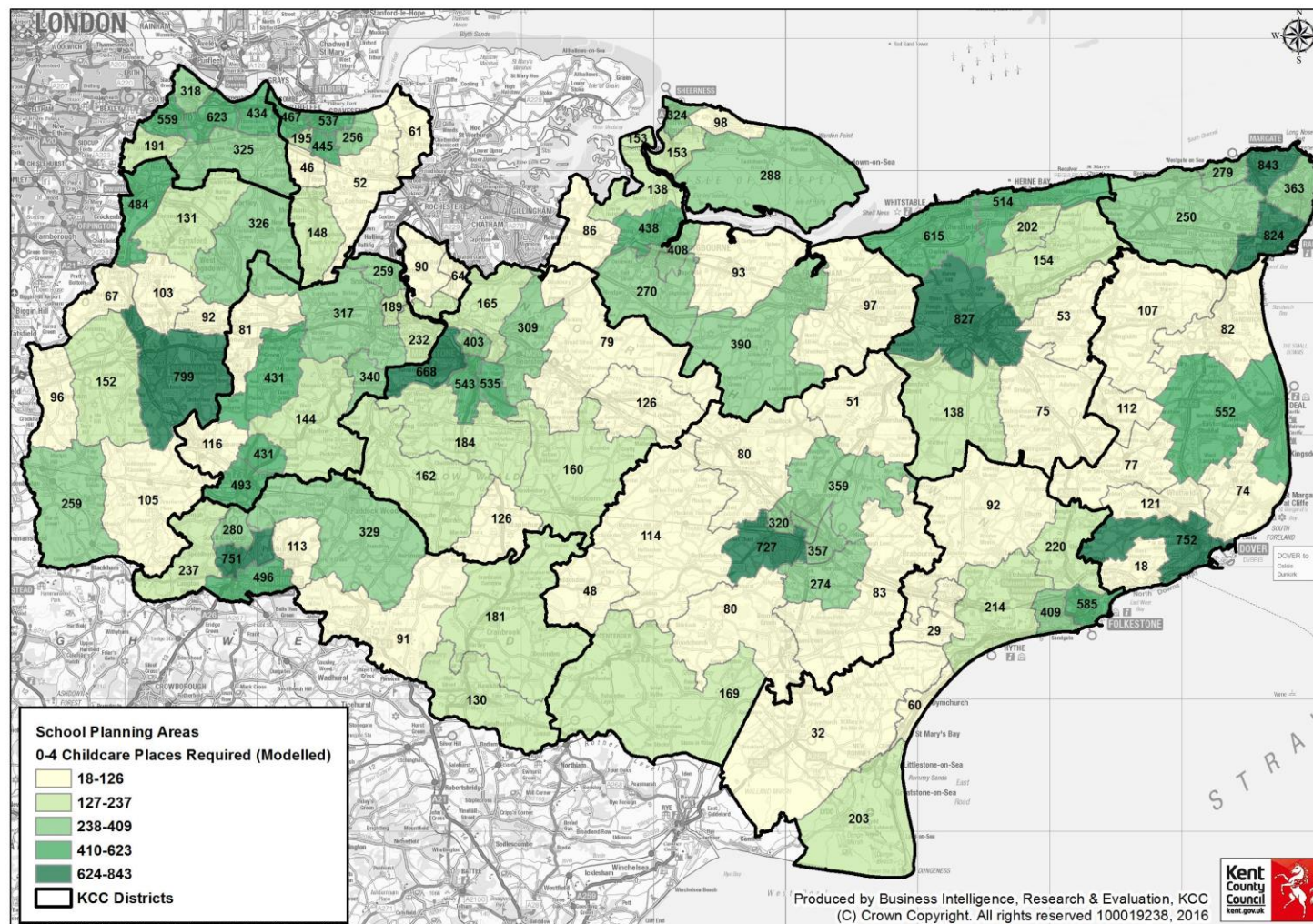
Amber = Deficit or surfeit of less than 10 places

Red = Deficit of 10 or more places

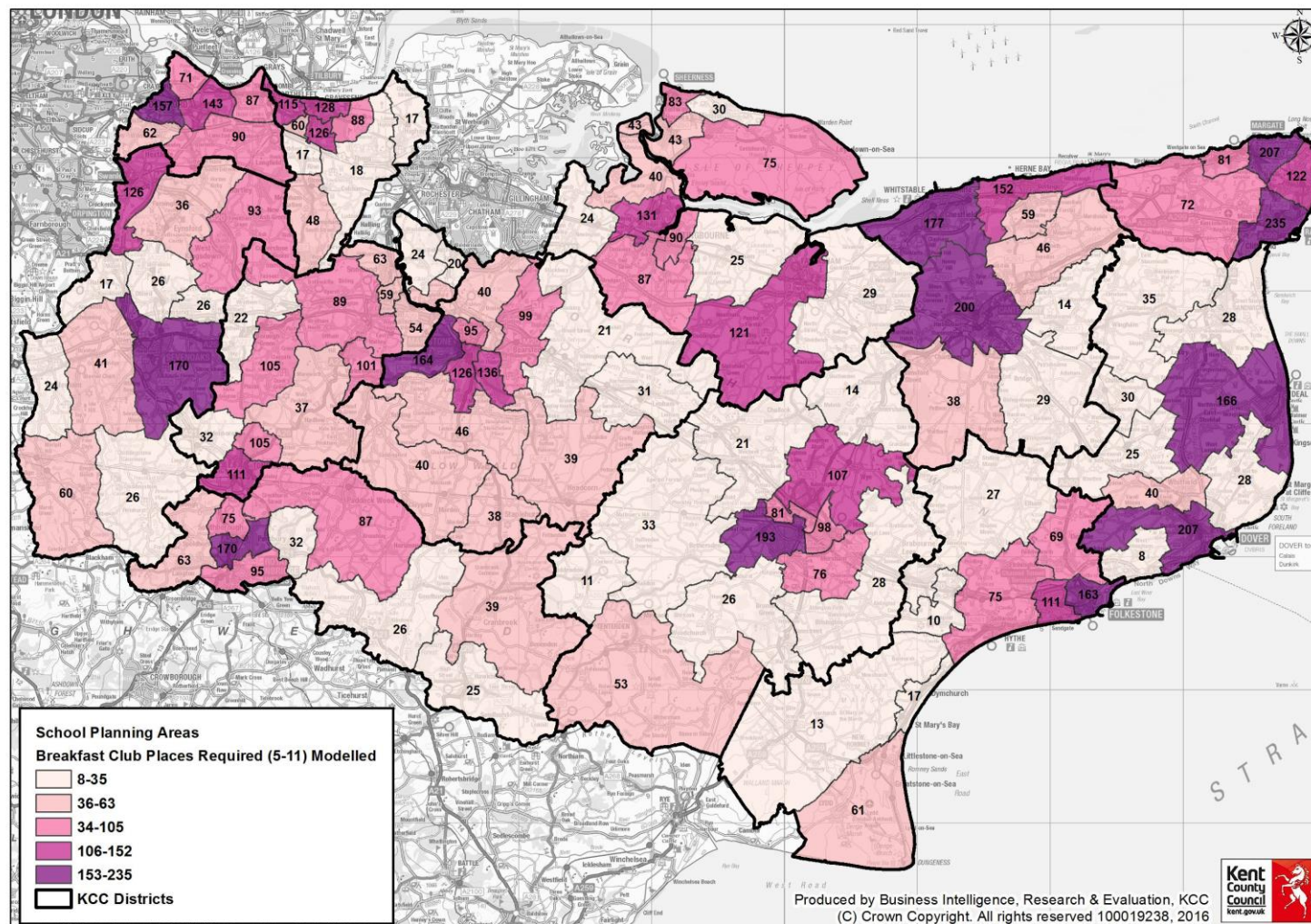
Map 5.2 Imputed Breakfast Club Provision (Aged 5-11)



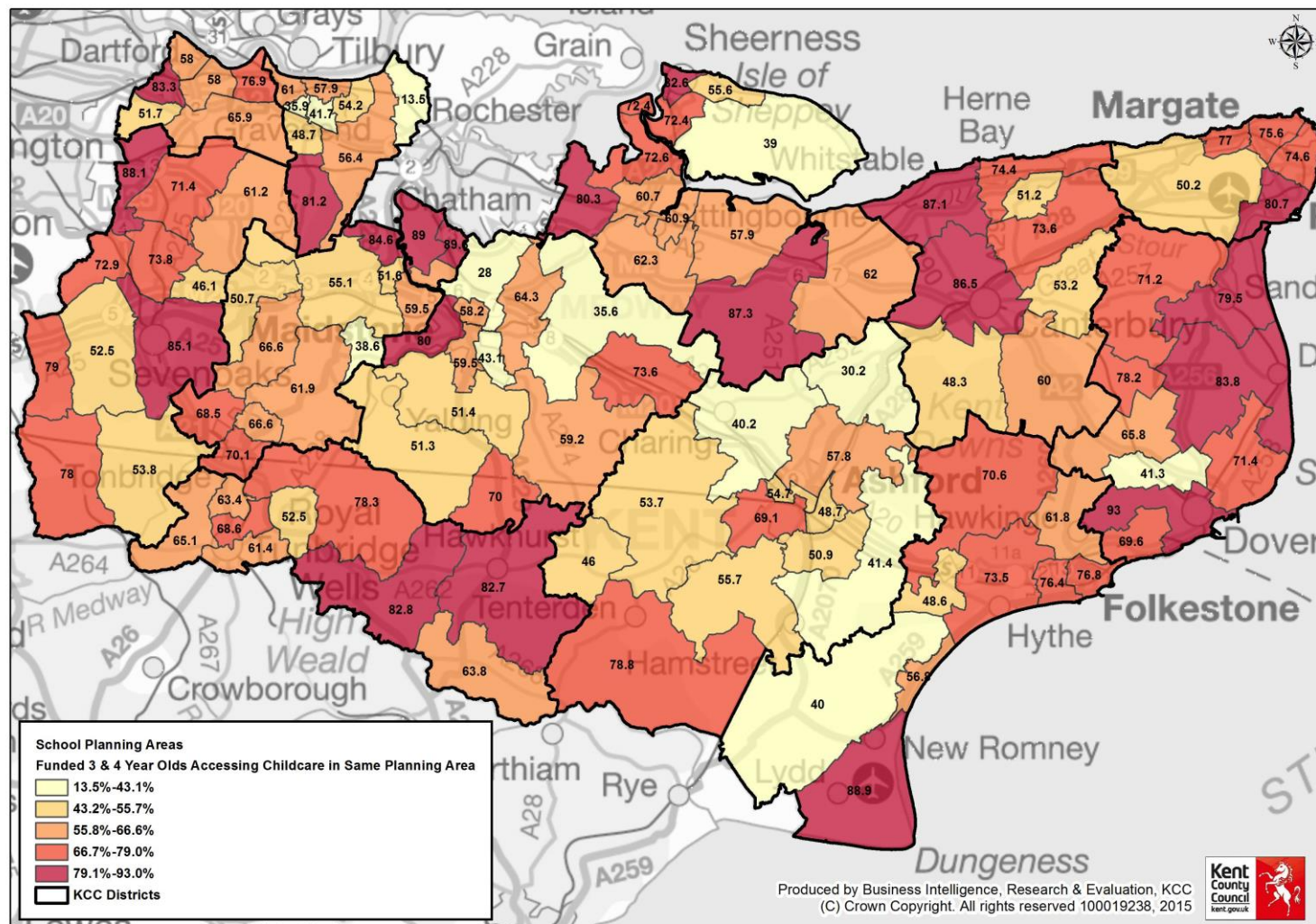
Map 5.3 0-4 Year Old Childcare Places Required by Planning Area (Modelled)



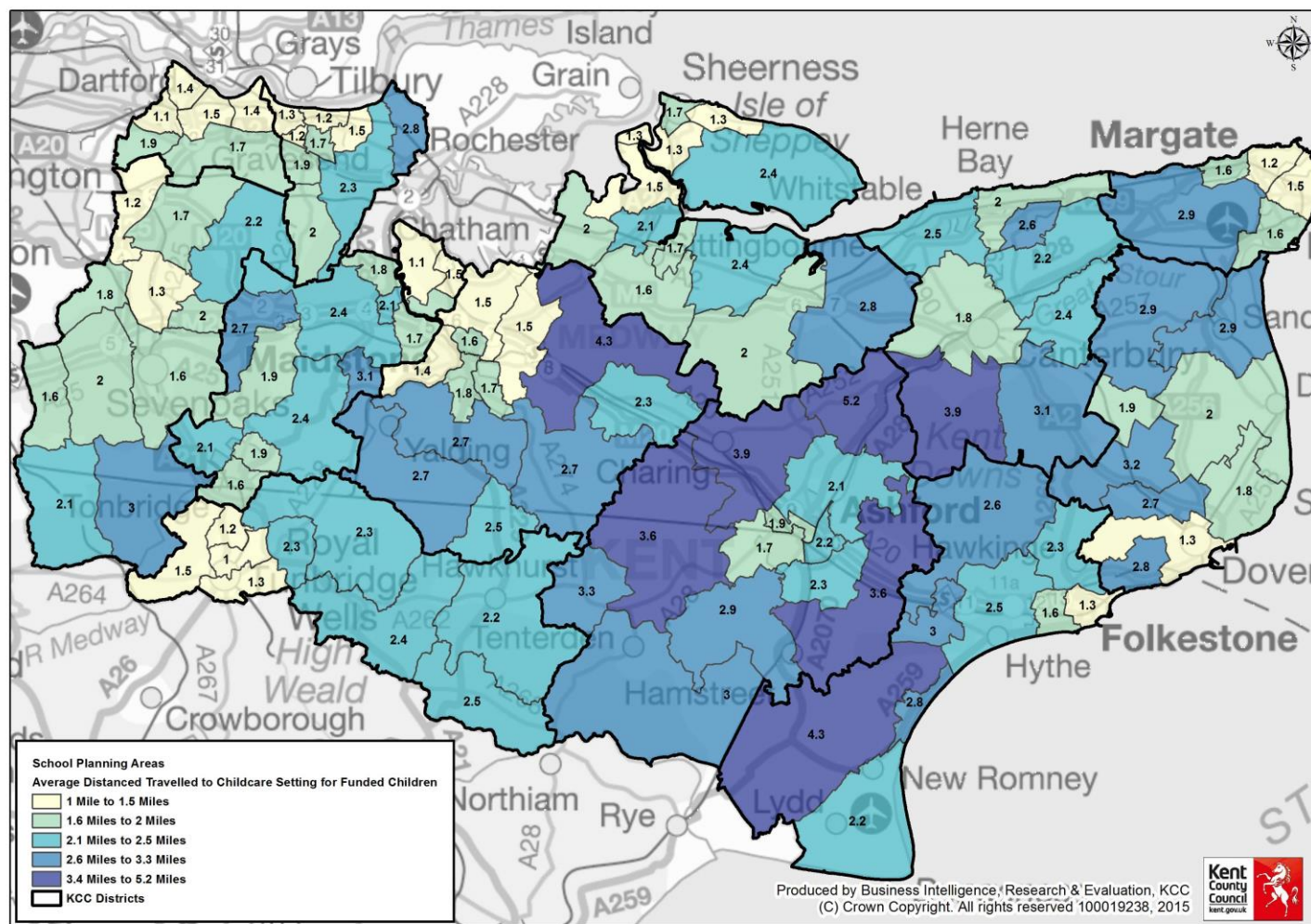
Map 5.4 Breakfast Club Places Required (5-11 Year Old) by Planning Area (Modelled)



Map 5.5 Children accessing childcare in the same planning area as their home address (funded children)



Map 5.6 Average distance travelled to childcare by school planning area (funded children)



5.6 Costs

The Family and Childcare trust survey of childcare costs 2015 indicated that the cost of sending a child under two to nursery part-time (25 hours) is now £115.45 per week in Britain, or £6,003 per year, which is a 5.1 per cent rise since 2014. The cost of part-time care from a child minder has also risen – by 4.3 per cent – and now costs £104.06 per week or £5,411 per year.

There is information from CFIS on the cost of childcare for settings across KCC. 923 providers supplied information on costs. Unfortunately, the data does not include information on whether the costs relate to an hourly or sessional cost. In order to carry out some analysis and following some sampling of provider's costs, any provider with a cost of £8 or over was classified as a sessional price.

Table 5.3 shows the average cost of childcare settings by district. This shows the variation in the hourly cost of childcare by district. This indicates that more affluent districts such as Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells have the highest hourly cost for childcare whilst more deprived districts such as Swale and Thanet record lower hourly childcare costs.

Table 5.3: Average cost of childcare per hour (all types) CFIS 2016

District	Average Hourly Cost of Childcare	Settings Providing Hourly Cost Information
Ashford	£4.40	79
Canterbury	£4.09	60
Dartford	£4.48	56
Dover	£4.05	37
Gravesham	£4.37	44
Maidstone	£4.63	88
Sevenoaks	£4.89	59
Shepway	£4.39	32
Swale	£3.77	80
Thanet	£3.74	47
Tonbridge & Malling	£4.55	81
Tunbridge Wells	£4.91	66
Kent	£4.38	729

5.7 Inclusivity

There is some limited information on the CFIS database regarding whether settings are accessible by wheelchair. This source reveals that 64% of settings provided this information about wheelchair access and that of those that did provide this information 43% reported providing wheel chair access. The proportion of settings providing wheelchair access varied from under 20% in Gravesham to 58% in Dover

Table 5.4: Does the setting have wheelchair access? (CFIS 2016)

District	% Settings Provided Information	Of those settings providing information - % with wheelchair access	Total Settings
Ashford	66.8%	46.4%	187
Canterbury	70.9%	53.3%	151
Dartford	62.0%	37.8%	179
Dover	71.3%	58.1%	87
Gravesham	60.3%	19.7%	126
Maidstone	68.6%	43.3%	239
Sevenoaks	55.5%	41.0%	220
Shepway	68.1%	53.1%	94
Swale	68.2%	39.8%	173
Thanet	65.6%	55.0%	122
Tonbridge & Malling	63.3%	42.7%	226
Tunbridge Wells	57.1%	33.9%	217
Kent	64.1%	43.0%	2,021

5.8 Flexibility

Settings should be sufficient flexible to offer places at the right times (for example, in the early morning, late evening, at the weekend, or during school holidays), and to offer the right sessions to fit in with standard and atypical working patterns.

There is some limited information available from the CIFIS database that can give an indication of the extent to which settings are available outside the hours 8am to 6pm. 1384 settings provided information with regards to opening hours and of these 683 (49.3%) settings are open before 8am and 367 (27%) are open after 6pm. 339 settings (24%) are open both before 8am and after 6pm.

Table 5.6: Summary of opening times for settings (CFIS 2016)

Criteria	Open Before 8am	Open After 6pm	Open Before 8am and After 6pm
No	701 (51%)	1017 (73%)	1045 (76%)
Yes	683 (49%)	367 (27%)	339 (24%)
Total	1,384 (100%)	1,384 (100%)	1,384 (100%)

5.9 Quality

Ofsted inspection data shows that Kent early years settings are proving a good standard of care. Overall in July 2016, 94.7% of settings were judged to be good or outstanding.

Table 5.9: Ofsted inspection results July 2016

District	Ofsted Inspection Results - Overall Effectiveness - July 2016						
	Total Inspected	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate	Total Good or Outstanding	% Good or Outstanding
Ashford	62	7	55	0	0	62	100.0%
Canterbury	60	17	39	4	0	56	93.3%
Dartford	45	9	31	4	1	40	88.9%
Dover	44	14	27	3	0	41	93.2%
Gravesham	28	5	20	3	0	25	89.3%
Maidstone	82	11	64	5	2	75	91.5%
Sevenoaks	69	14	52	2	1	66	95.7%
Shepway	47	13	32	2	0	45	95.7%
Swale	54	8	45	1	0	53	98.1%
Thanet	42	7	34	1	0	41	97.6%
Tonbridge & Malling	63	10	51	2	0	61	96.8%
Tunbridge Wells	60	19	37	4	0	56	93.3%
Kent	656	134	487	31	4	621	94.7%

5.10 Staff Qualifications

Data relating to the numbers of staff in early years settings that have qualifications has been taken from the Early Years Census. This provides returns for 1,292 settings and indicates that 85.6% of settings had no staff that had Qualified Teacher status, whilst 78% of providers had no staff that had Early Years Professional status.

This shows that childminders have the lowest proportion of providers with a professional qualification and that private nurseries are more likely to contain staff members with a relevant professional qualification than local authority data nurseries.

The data indicates that out of school clubs are unlikely to be staffed by teachers but that in registered independent schools the proportion of staff with QTS status providing childcare is considerably higher.

Table 5.8: Settings with teaching staff/practitioners that have Qualified Teacher status (2016)

Provider Type	% of providers with no staff members with Qualified Teacher status
Private	81.6%
Voluntary	79.5%
Registered independent school	21.9%
Local Authority day nursery	92.3%
Childminder	94.3%
Out of school club	92.9%
Other	78.3%
Total	85.6%

Source: Early Years Census

Table 5.9: Setting with teaching staff/practitioners that have Early Years Professional status (2016)

Provider Type	% of providers with no staff members with Early Years Professional status
Private	70.1%
Voluntary	76.2%
Registered independent school	62.5%
Local Authority day nursery	84.6%
Childminder	86.4%
Out of school club	85.7%
Other	78.3%
Total	78.0%

Source: Early Years Census