

Lancashire County Council

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

April 2023 - March 2024

Preston



Contents

Introduction	Page 2
Lancashire Overview	Page 3-4
Local Demographics	Page 5
Parent Survey	Page 6-8
Childcare Provision	Page 9-10
Movement in the Market	Page 11
Childcare Places	Page 12-13
Early Education Funding	Page 14-15
Accessibility of Childcare	Page 16-17
Childcare Fees	Page 18
Quality of Provision	Page 19
Provision for Children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)	Page 20
Business and Finance	Page 21
Key Findings Actions & Conclusion	Page 22



Introduction

The Childcare Act 2006 places a statutory duty upon local authorities to secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 or up to 18 for disabled children.

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) is a county wide review of the supply and demand of childcare, take up of funded provision, the availability of places, the quality and cost of provision. The information has been broken down into area reports for ease of reading, this provides the reader with an overview at a localised level.

Methodology

In order to gather up to date, accurate childcare supply data, we carried out an online survey with childcare providers. We also surveyed a sample of parents throughout Lancashire to ascertain demand including childcare needs, opinions and trends. As it is not possible to include data for all parents and providers in Lancashire, the information in this report should be seen as a guide to local provision, rather than being conclusive. It is also important to note that any figures represent a snapshot in time. Some tables will have blank cells as we may not have all provider types in each area, or the data has not been supplied by the providers. Caution should be given where there is only one provider type in that group. Data from the termly census and headcount claims is used to map the take up of funded childcare places and Ofsted data is used to identify the quality of childcare in Lancashire.

Types of Childcare

Childcare includes Childminders, Day Nurseries, Pre-Schools, Nursery Units of Independent Schools, Breakfast Clubs, After School Clubs, Holiday Schemes, Maintained Nursery Classes, Maintained Nursery Schools, and School Governor Led Provision (section 27).

Registered Childcare: Ofsted is the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills. It regulates childcare for children from birth to 18 years of age. Ofsted operates two registers:

The Early Years Register: If a provider is caring for children from the age of birth to 5 years for more than two hours a day, on more than fourteen days per year they must register with Ofsted on the Early Years Register and meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The Childcare Register: A childcare provider must register on the compulsory part of the Childcare Register if they provide care for children aged 5 to 8 years for more than two hours a day on more than fourteen days per year. A childcare provider will be on both the Early Years Register and the Childcare Register if they care for children under and over the age of 5 years. Some childcare providers who care for children over the age of 8 years, who provide care in the child's home, are activity based i.e. sports coaching or for very short periods of time can join the voluntary part of the childcare register.

Schools

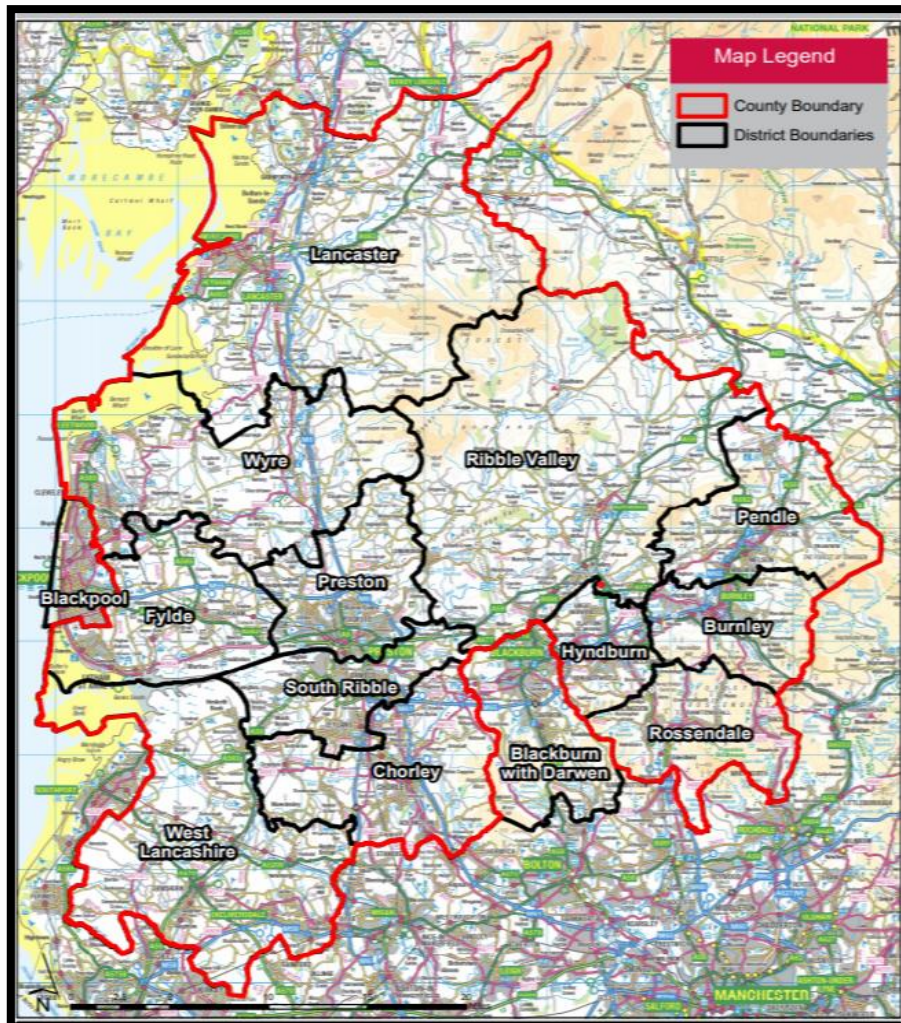
Maintained Nursery Classes and Governor Led Provision (section 27) are included within an overall school inspection and are not required to have a separate Early Years Ofsted registration; however, they must follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework.



Lancashire Overview

Lancashire County Council is the fourth largest County Council in the country. The population is 1,227,076. The population for 0-19 year olds within this figure is 281,290. Lancashire is made up of 12 districts. Below you can see a map of Lancashire showing the county and district boundaries.

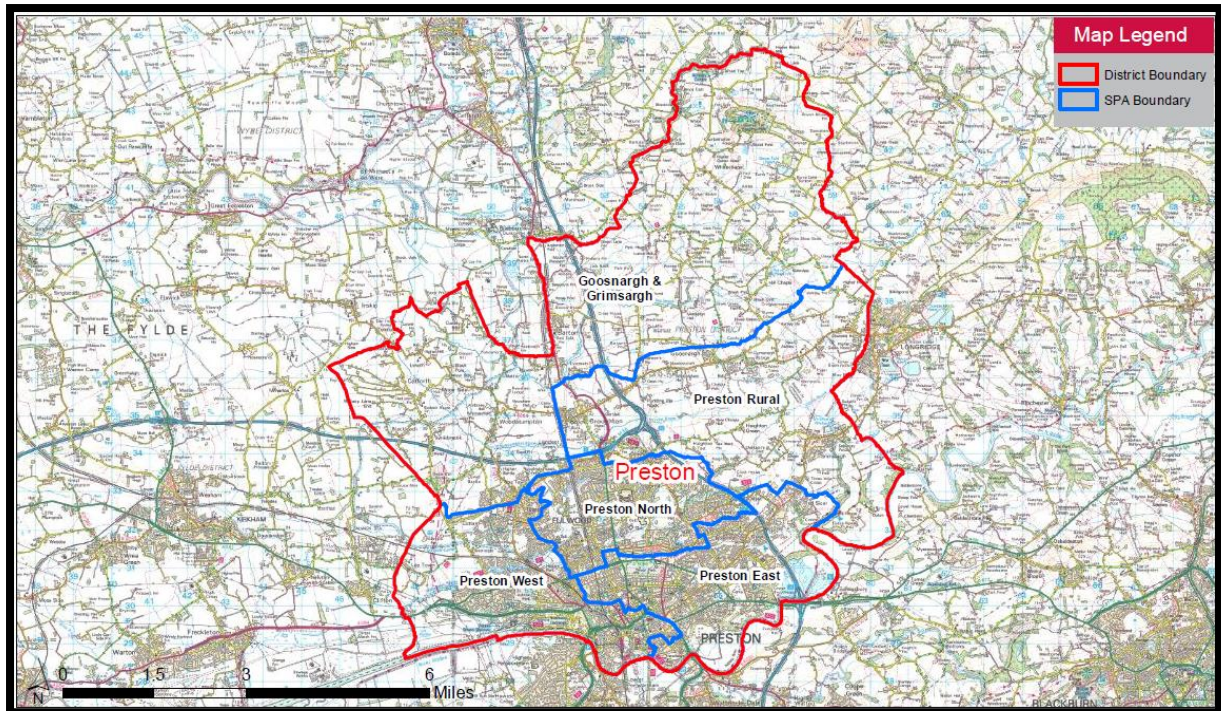
Lancashire's defining characteristics are its size and diversity. Each district has its own unique demography and geography. It is an area of vast contrasts with busy urban centres, coastal regions and large agricultural areas. For the purposes of this report these districts have been broken down further into localised geographical areas.



Preston

The map below shows the local geographical areas for the Preston district, these include.

- Goosnargh and Grimsargh
- Preston Rural
- Preston West
- Preston North
- Preston East



Local Demographics

Preston is a district in Central Lancashire, it covers 142 square kilometres. It is estimated that between 2018 and 2043 the population of Preston will increase by 5.1%. It is also predicted the number of households will increase by 8% between 2018 and 2043.

The table below you can see the population figures for the district

Area	Total Population	0-1 year olds	1 year olds	2 year olds	3&4 year olds	5-11 year olds
Goosnargh & Grimsargh	5865	98	82	75	154	516
Preston East	60293	793	867	854	1794	6388
Preston North	32233	329	319	344	777	2794
Preston Rural	7508	93	86	99	197	743
Preston West	38248	400	467	423	924	2918
Preston	144147	1713	1821	1795	3846	13359

The 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) shows that Preston was ranked the 50th most deprived area out of 317 districts and unitary authorities in England.

District	No. of wards	No. of LSOA's	IMD average rank *	IMD in 20% most deprived
Preston	16	86	50	Yes

A large number of people commute to Preston for their work, particularly from South Ribble. Employment numbers are high in the public sector and service sector.

Preston has good transport networks linking the M61 and M65 providing access to the major motorways. The new Preston Western Distributor road allows people to travel more easily around parts of Preston, Wyre and Fylde districts.

Public transport can be easily accessed with railway stations and bus routes providing families with options for commuting throughout the district and beyond.



Parent Survey

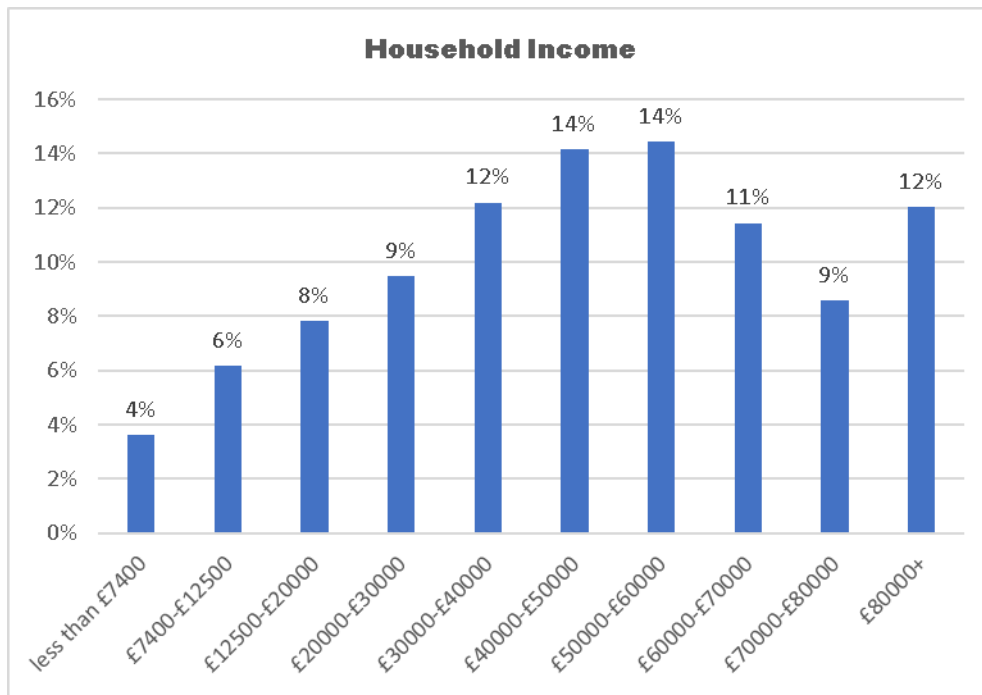
As part of our statutory duty, we gathered the views of parents and families that use formal childcare. Using the help of our early year's providers, parents were asked to complete a short online survey. Questions in the survey covered topics such as current childcare usage patterns, opening times, paying for childcare, satisfaction levels and Early Education Funding (EEF).

There were 664 completions in total. Whilst the majority of responses were from Preston, Chorley, Lancaster and South Ribble we did receive submissions from all 12 districts. The summary below is provided at a Lancashire level.

Your Household

Nearly all respondents to our survey are married or living with a partner, in most cases both partners are working full time. The majority of those surveyed have children aged 0-4 years. The most used childcare provider types are After School Club and Day Nursery.

We asked parents about their household income, this is displayed in the graph below.



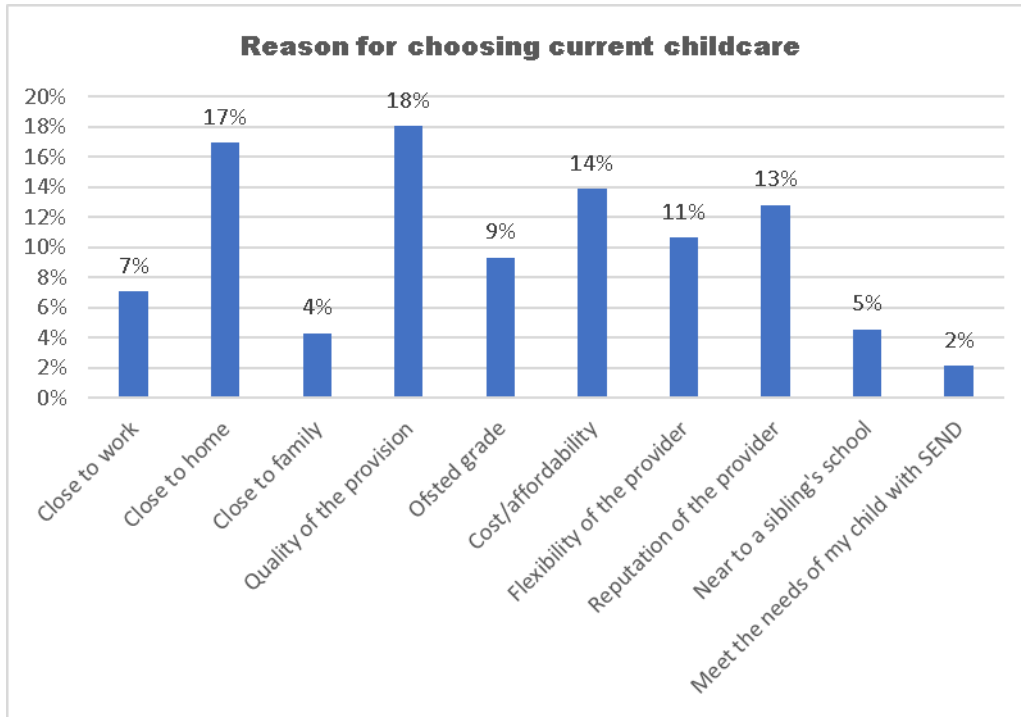
Childcare Needs

On average most parents/carers need between 10 and 30 hours of childcare per week. Nearly half of respondents said they use childcare because they work, 23% told us it is also for their child's learning and development and a small percentage state they use childcare for respite and to look for work. 5% of parents/carers access childcare solely to use their child's Early Education Funding. A small number of parents need childcare after 6pm or other patterns not specified.

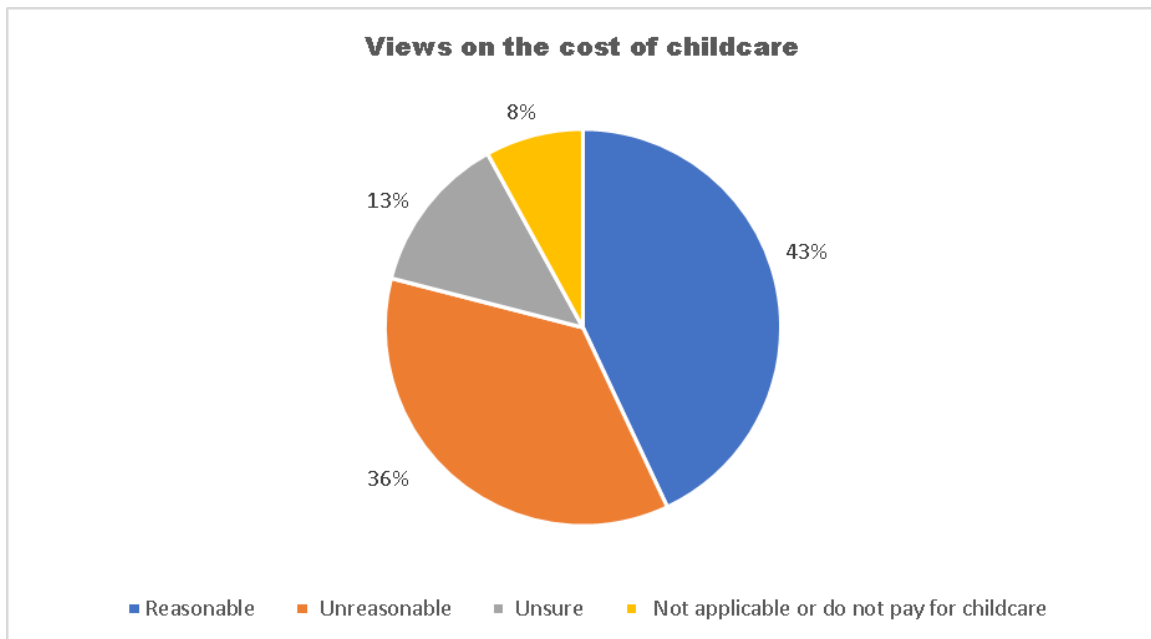
Nearly three quarters of the respondents said that finding information about suitable childcare was easy.



We asked parents/carers what their most important factors were when choosing childcare, the responses are summarised below.

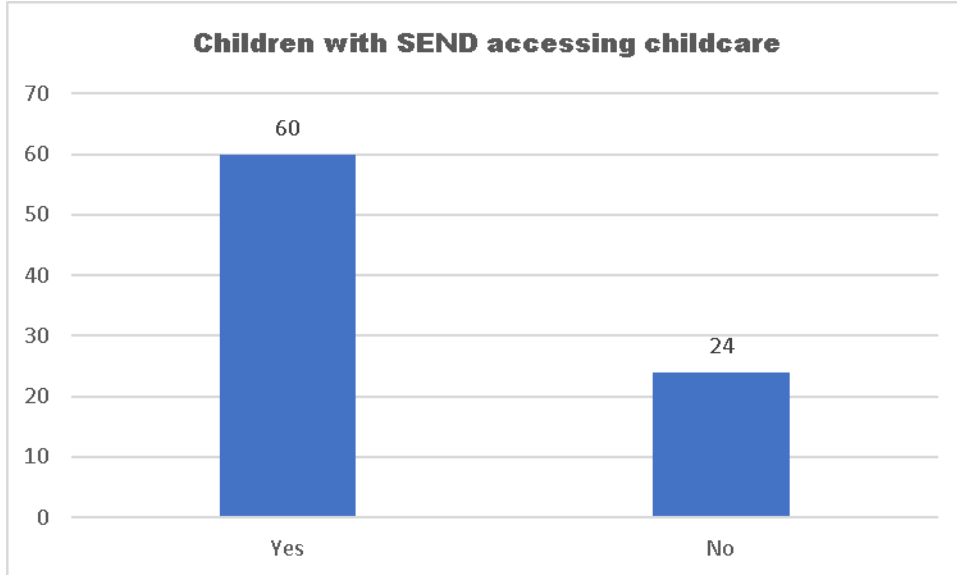
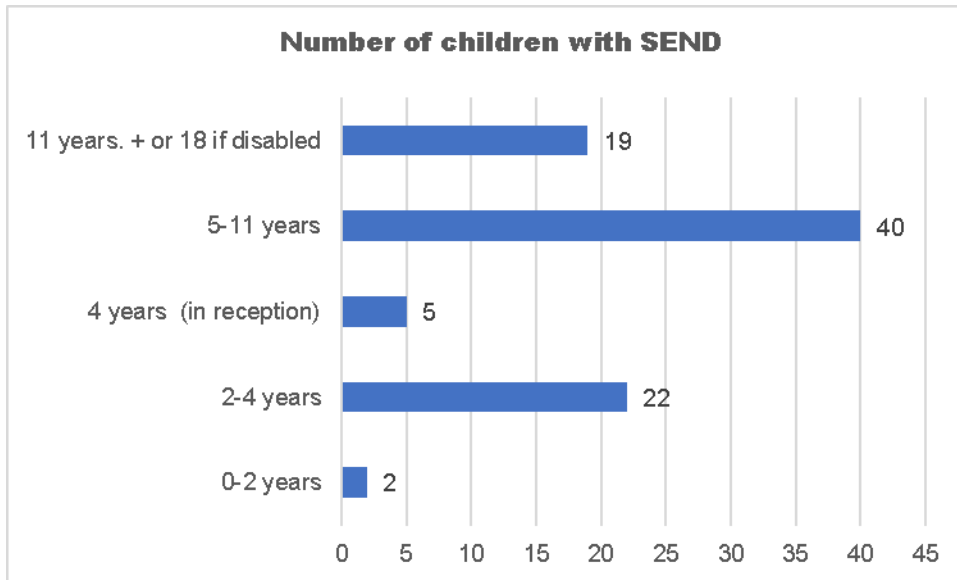


The chart below shows parent/carer views on the cost of childcare. Over half of parents/carers that completed our survey pay for their childcare through using wages, followed by the Tax-Free Childcare scheme and finally using Early Education Funding.



Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)

We asked parents/carers if they have a child or children with SEND. The graphs below show the number of children with SEND and the following graph shows those who access formal childcare.



Early Education Funding

Nearly all our respondents were aware of the Early Education Funding for 2,3&4 year olds. 56% access a funded place however, 44% do not, this is due to the child's age either being too young or too old for funded places. Most parents access funded places at a Day Nursery or Pre-School Playgroup. 5% access funded places with a registered Childminder.



Childcare Provision

In Lancashire we have a large number of childcare providers offering a variety of childcare options and flexibility to enable families to access work and training.

The information provided in the tables below was captured in Autumn term 2023 and shows an overview of childcare providers in the area.

When counting the number of different providers, we include those who may offer more than one type of provision. In our provider type count this would be shown as three types of provision e.g., Pre-School Playgroup, Breakfast Club and After School Club however, those different types of provision may all come under one Ofsted registration. In the Movement in the Market and Quality of Provision sections of this report the numbers shown represent the number of Ofsted registrations rather than the number of provider types.

Provider Type Breakdown

The table below shows the district provider types available; on the following page the tables show provider types at a more localised level.

Provider Type	Preston		
	Number	Responses	% Responses
Childminder	61	53	87%
Day Nursery	47	43	91%
Pre-School Playgroup	5	5	100%
Maintained Nursery School	1	1	100%
Maintained Nursery Class	19	17	89%
Governor Led Provision (s27)	4	3	75%
Nursery Unit of Independent Schools	3	2	67%
Breakfast Club	33	28	85%
After School Club	35	31	89%
Holiday Scheme	8	5	63%
Total	216	188	87%



Provider Type	Goosnargh & Grimsargh			Preston East			Preston North		
	Number	Responses	% Responses	Number	Responses	% Responses	Number	Responses	% Responses
Childminder	4	2	50%	13	10	77%	16	15	94%
Day Nursery	3	3	100%	15	13	87%	12	11	92%
Pre-School Playgroup	2	2	100%	1	1	100%	2	2	100%
Maintained Nursery School	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
Maintained Nursery Class	1	0	0%	12	12	100%	2	1	50%
Governor Led Provision (s27)	2	2	100%	0	0	0%	1	1	100%
Nursery Unit of Independent Schools	0	0	0%	1	0	0%	1	1	100%
Breakfast Club	7	6	86%	12	8	67%	9	9	100%
After School Club	7	6	86%	10	7	70%	9	9	100%
Holiday Scheme	0	0	0%	1	0	0%	5	3	60%
Total	26	21	81%	65	51	78%	57	52	91%

Provider Type	Preston Rural			Preston West		
	Number	Responses	% Responses	Number	Responses	% Responses
Childminder	10	10	100%	18	16	89%
Day Nursery	2	2	100%	15	14	93%
Pre-School Playgroup	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
Maintained Nursery School	0	0	0%	1	1	100%
Maintained Nursery Class	1	1	100%	3	3	100%
Governor Led Provision (s27)	0	0	0%	1	0	0%
Nursery Unit of Independent Schools	0	0	0%	1	1	100%
Breakfast Club	1	1	100%	4	4	100%
After School Club	2	2	100%	7	7	100%
Holiday Scheme	0	0	0%	2	2	100%
Total	16	16	100%	52	48	92%



Movement in the Market

The table below shows the number of new Ofsted childcare registrations across Preston alongside the number of providers who have closed.

In Preston whilst there have been some closures during the past 12 months, overall, we have seen 3 providers join the childcare market and 5 leave. These numbers reflect the changes in the market and in some cases, provision may have been taken over by another provider or organisation. This shows in our data as a closed provider and a new provider, however, the provision and places available have remained in the area.

Area	Total Number of Providers	New Provider Registrations	Closed Providers	Net Change	% Change
Goosnargh & Grimsargh	15	0	0	0	0%
Preston East	48	2	4	-2	-4%
Preston North	44	0	0	0	0%
Preston Rural	14	1	1	0	0%
Preston West	43	0	0	0	0%
Preston	164	3	5	-2	-1%

Summary of Movement in the Market

Over the last year in Preston 5 providers have closed, this includes 1 Childminder, 3 Day Nurseries and 1 Maintained Nursery Class. However, 3 providers have opened over the last year, and this includes, 3 Childminders.

Whilst we have seen these changes in the area, we do still have capacity and some providers are willing to increase their capacity if demand requires it.

Area	Settings with Potential of Increasing Capacity if Required
Goosnargh & Grimsargh	3
Preston East	12
Preston North	16
Preston Rural	5
Preston West	14
Preston	50



Childcare Places

In this section we look at childcare places available in the area. The data is gathered over four weeks in Autumn term and should be seen as a snapshot of places at that time. Assessing childcare places is a complex process which depends on a large number of variables including but not limited to, the effects of changes in child population, demographics, housing developments, movement of families within an area, local geography and parental choice. The expansion of the Early Years Funding Entitlements and the Wraparound Programme is currently being delivered and rolled out, this is being reported on separately and is not included in this report.

The number of childcare places should be seen as an estimate as a provider will be limited by the requirements of the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). This includes having suitable floor space and staff to child ratio. Insurance policies may stipulate a maximum number of children they can care for at any one time. The tables below show information for both the maximum number of places available, and the number of places a setting is currently 'working to' at any one time. For example, whilst we have floor space for 24 children, we are staffed for 16 children, therefore in the example given a provider would be working to 16 places.

0-4 Year Olds

Area	Population Requiring Childcare	Maximum Number of Places	Surplus Places (Maximum Places)	Childcare Places Working to	Surplus Places (Working to)
Goosnargh & Grimsargh	246	859	613	859	613
Preston East	2903	3052	149	2936	33
Preston North	1151	2034	883	1856	705
Preston Rural	298	404	106	346	48
Preston West	1459	2040	581	1892	433
Preston	6057	8389	2332	7889	1832

Summary of Childcare Places 0-4 Year Olds

When removing the population requiring childcare from the maximum places and the working to places, the table above shows we have sufficient places for 0-4 year olds at district level.

50 providers still have the capacity to increase to their maximum number of places if demand requires it. Families may also choose to travel across Preston and neighbouring districts to access a childcare place. We will continue to monitor childcare places in the area, and in particular at any closures and any changes in demand for childcare.



5-14 Year Olds

Area	Population Requiring Childcare	Maximum Number of Places	Surplus Places (Maximum Places)	Childcare Places Working to	Surplus Places (Working to)
Goosnargh & Grimsargh	66	316	250	309	243
Preston East	865	900	35	900	35
Preston North	374	795	421	780	406
Preston Rural	100	132	32	132	32
Preston West	391	498	107	475	84
Preston	1796	2641	845	2596	800

Summary of Childcare Places 5-14 Year Olds

Childcare for children of school age is complex to report on due to the different requirements for Ofsted registration. Some schools in Lancashire operate their childcare under Section 27 of the (Education Act 2002), which allows schools to operate community services, including childcare, directly under the management of the school and its Governors. This type of provision is exempt from Ofsted registration, as it is inspected as part of the school inspection. Therefore, these childcare places may not all be counted in our data.

This is also true of childcare solely for over 8 year olds as Ofsted registration for these providers is voluntary. As a result, there are likely to be more places available than we can predict, particularly in this age group.

Also, in some communities the demand for after school childcare is lower due to children attending mosque. We will continue to monitor places in the area in case of any change in demand.



Early Education Funding

Please note the new extended entitlements are not being reported on in this report due to them not starting until 1st April 2024.

3&4 Year Olds (Universal Entitlement)

Every 3&4 year old is eligible for 15 hours funded childcare the term after their third birthday until they start school. Parents can choose to access this provision flexibly and use more than one provider to meet their childcare needs. The funding is available for 15 hours per week for 38 weeks per year. Some parents may choose more flexibility and use the funding throughout the year, a total of 570 hours is available.

3&4 Year Olds (30 Hours Extended Entitlement)

In addition, some families are eligible for the extended entitlement of 30 hours childcare for 3&4 year olds. This funding is targeted at working families who can access a total of 1,140 hours per year or 30 hours a week for 38 weeks of the year. It can also be used more flexibly over the year and with one or more childcare providers.

2 Year Olds

Some 2 year old children are eligible to access up to 15 hours of Early Education Funding. A child is eligible to access a place the term after their 2nd birthday, 570 hours are available 15 hours for 38 weeks per year, or parents may choose more flexibility and use the funding throughout the year.

Eligibility for a 2 year old funded place requires one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income based Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit
- Child Tax Credit and an annual income under (£16,190)
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Support through part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act
- The Working Tax Credit 4 week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

Children can also be eligible for 2 year old funding if they:

Are looked after by the council, have left care under a Special Guardianship Order, Child Arrangement Order or Adoption Order, if they get Disability Living Allowance, if they have a statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN), a current Education Health Care Plan (EHC), they are identified as a Child In Need, have a Child Protection Plan, are children of Gypsy Roma Heritage living in Lancashire, are children of Serving Armed Forces Personnel residing in Lancashire or are children who meet the criteria for Portage.

For more information about the criteria for 30 hours and 2 year olds funding please visit:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/early-years-childcare-and-family-support/paying-for-childcare/>



Early Education Funding for 2 Year Olds

Eligible population data is provided by the Department for Education based on a snapshot in time. Where the percentage take up is over 100% families may have become eligible after the data was provided therefore are not included in the eligible population.

Area	Spring Term 2023			Summer Term 2023			Autumn Term 2023		
	Eligible Population	No of Children	% take up	Eligible Population	No of Children	% take up	Eligible Population	No of Children	% take up
Goosnargh & Grimsargh	7	13	186%	8	12	150%	10	10	100%
Preston East	377	265	70%	358	253	71%	322	243	75%
Preston North	57	55	96%	60	49	82%	44	37	84%
Preston Rural	20	16	80%	18	22	122%	27	25	93%
Preston West	143	124	87%	135	114	84%	141	121	86%
Preston	604	473	78%	579	450	78%	544	436	80%

Summary of Take Up for 2 Year Olds

Increasing the take up of Early Education Funded places is key to helping ensure that all children have the best start in life and achieve their full potential. Accessing a funded place helps promote positive outcomes in children’s health and wellbeing, learning and behaviour as well as preparing them for starting school. The take up of 2 year old places in Preston is consistent over the year. Following actions from our last published CSA report a campaign to increase take-up of funded provision has been implemented. This has included working with partner agencies to encourage families to access provision and work with local childcare providers to promote marketing and advertising of the funded provision. This campaign is going to continue, and we will monitor the take up of places in the area.

Early Education Funding for 3&4 Year Olds

The eligible population data is taken from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) which may not reflect the actual number of 3&4 year olds living in an area.

Area	Spring Term 2023			Summer Term 2023			Autumn Term 2023		
	Eligible Population	No of Children	% take up	Eligible Population	No of Children	% take up	Eligible Population	No of Children	% take up
Goosnargh & Grimsargh	144	230	160%	144	239	166%	144	256	178%
Preston East	1676	1520	91%	1676	1502	90%	1676	1523	91%
Preston North	726	671	92%	726	672	93%	726	696	96%
Preston Rural	184	233	127%	184	239	130%	184	247	134%
Preston West	863	849	98%	863	871	101%	863	848	98%
Preston	3593	3503	97%	3593	3523	98%	3593	3570	99%

Summary of Take Up for 3&4 Year Olds

On average the take up for 3&4 year olds has been consistent throughout the year. wellbeing, learning and behaviour as well as preparing them for starting school. Therefore, the take up of 3&4 year old Early Education Funded places will continue to be monitored.



Accessibility of Childcare

Some of the main factors which influence parent's decisions when considering childcare include opening hours, the cost of childcare, and the quality of provision, including provision for children with Special Educational Needs and or Disabilities (SEND). Flexibility of childcare enables parents to have a greater choice of provision and to balance work and family life. A summary of opening hours is contained in the table below. Please note if a provider selected multiple provider types in our survey and for example has selected a Day Nursery and Holiday Club and the Day Nursery is open 50 weeks of the year this will skew the opening hours for the Holiday Club. It may exaggerate the number of weeks the Holiday Club is open.

Opening Hours

Provider Type	Average Opening Days	Average Opening Weeks	Average Opening Hours	Open Weekends (%)
Childminder	4	48	9	0%
Day Nursery	5	48	10	0%
Pre-School Playgroup	5	38	8	0%
Maintained Nursery School	5	38	7	0%
Maintained Nursery Class	5	38	6	0%
Governor Led Provision (s27)	5	38	8	0%
Nursery Unit of Independent Schools	5	38	8	0%
Breakfast Club	5	40	1	0%
After School Club	5	40	3	0%
Holiday Scheme	4	41	9	0%
Preston	5	44	7	0%



Help Paying for Childcare

There are many different kinds of financial support available to help families pay for childcare. The support available will depend on individual circumstances.

Support available for families

- Child Benefit
- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax/Universal Credit
- Childcare Element of Working Tax Credit
- Childcare Vouchers
- Tax Free Childcare
- Early Education Funding for 2, 3&4 year olds

Support available for parents who are studying

- Care to Learn
- Childcare Grant
- Discretionary Learner Support Fund, Hardship Fund/Bursaries
- Parents Learning Allowance
- Access to Learning Fund
- NHS Student Grants and Bursaries
- Professional and Career Development Fund
- Educational or Charitable Trust Funding

Families living with disabilities or special educational needs

- Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- Personal Independence Payment (PIP) (for children aged over 16)
- Direct Payments
- Disabled Childcare element of Child Tax Credit

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/early-years-childcare-and-family-support/paying-for-childcare/help-paying-for-childcare/>



Childcare Fees

Cost remains a deciding factor when parents are looking for childcare, we asked our providers about their fees, the responses are summarised below.

Provider Type	Under 2's				2 year olds				3-4 year olds				5-14 year olds (18 yrs SEND)			
	Hour	Session	Day	Week	Hour	Session	Day	Week	Hour	Session	Day	Week	Hour	Session	Day	Week
Childminder	£5.07		£41.83	£176.83	£5.07		£41.53	£179.83	£5.03		£41.53	£179.83	£7.44	£8.67	£37.27	£156.00
Day Nursery	£7.50		£56.79	£259.04	£6.72		£51.40	£230.41	£6.60		£49.24	£221.87				
Pre-School Playgroup					£5.00	£16.33	£40.00	£175.00	£4.33	£14.50	£34.50	£247.50				
Maintained Nursery School					£5.00	£15.00	£35.00	£175.00	£5.00	£15.00	£35.00	£175.00				
Maintained Nursery Class					£6.00	£15.00	£34.00	£169.00	£5.00	£13.86	£31.67	£143.60				
Governor Led Provision (s27)					£5.50	£16.00	£32.00		£5.00	£15.00	£31.00	£163.00				
Nursery Unit of Independent Schools					£5.00		£50.00	£250.00	£5.00		£50.00	£250.00				
Breakfast Club						£5.40				£5.08				£4.91		
After School Club						£10.75				£10.25				£8.90		
Holiday Scheme							£58.00	£290.00			£50.00	£247.50			£24.20	£121.67

Summary of the Cost of Childcare

Childcare providers have supplied us with their hourly, sessional, daily and weekly fees. Some may have different charging patterns, and this can depend on age, opening times and additional services offered. Therefore, it is more difficult to compare childcare charges across the sector. In Preston a parent can expect to pay between £4.33 and £7.50 per hour.

Day Nursery is the provider type that has the most expensive hourly rate at £7.50 per hour. Pre School Playgroup is the provider type that has the lowest hourly rate at £4.33. However childcare fees in Preston appear consistent without many extreme variables in hourly, sessional, daily and weekly charges. This should be seen as a guide to childcare fees in Preston.



Quality of Childcare Provision

Quality of care and education is one of the most important aspects when a parent is choosing childcare for their children. Access to high quality childcare has long term benefits for children, particularly those from disadvantaged families. The tables below show an overview of Ofsted inspection outcomes for Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement and Inadequate providers. The tables also include providers who have yet to be inspected and those providers on the childcare register who receive a met or not met outcome.

Childminders who are part of a Childminding Agency receive an overall judgement, in the table below this shows as effective or compliant. The majority of children in Lancashire will have access to good high-quality childcare.

Childcare on Domestic Premises - Childminders

Area	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate	Met	Not Met	Not Yet Inspected	Effective	Compliant
Goosnargh & Grimsargh	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Preston East	0	10	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Preston North	2	12	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Preston Rural	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Preston West	3	14	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Preston	5	49	0	0	6	0	1	0	0

Childcare on Non-Domestic Premises – including, Day Nurseries, Pre-School Playgroups, Nursery Unit of Independent Schools, Maintained Nursery Classes, Maintained Nursery Schools, Governor Led Provision (S27), Breakfast Clubs, After School Clubs and Holiday Clubs

Area	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate	Met	Not Met	Not Yet Inspected	Excellent	Compliant
Goosnargh & Grimsargh	0	6	0	0	1	0	4	0	0
Preston East	5	23	3	0	1	0	3	0	0
Preston North	4	13	0	0	5	0	6	0	0
Preston Rural	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Preston West	2	16	1	0	2	0	4	0	0
Preston	13	59	4	0	9	0	18	0	0

Summary of the Quality of Provision

From the information shown we can see that 126 childcare providers in have been inspected and are Good and Outstanding. 19 providers are still awaiting inspection. Some providers may not have had early years children present at the time of inspection and some providers may only be registered on the Childcare Register, therefore will have received a Met or Not Met judgement. Preston North has the highest number of Outstanding providers. We can summarise that families accessing childcare in these areas are using high-quality childcare provision.



Provision for Children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)

It is vital for children with SEND to be supported within high quality provision with practitioners who have an excellent understanding and are able to carry out effective observation, assessment and planning. Inclusion should be embedded as part of everyday practice, where staff are flexible and ensure individual needs are met.

The tables below show providers responses about their provision for children with SEND.

Area	Do You Offer Places for Children with SEND		Number of Children Accessing with SEND
	YES (%)	No (%)	
Goosnargh & Grimsargh	100%	0%	20
Preston East	95%	5%	348
Preston North	95%	5%	99
Preston Rural	100%	0%	44
Preston West	95%	5%	171
Preston	96%	4%	682

Area	Changes in Demand		
	Remained the Same	Decreased	Increased
Goosnargh & Grimsargh	58%	8%	33%
Preston East	39%	3%	58%
Preston North	67%	14%	19%
Preston Rural	79%	7%	14%
Preston West	65%	11%	24%
Preston	59%	9%	32%

Summary of SEND provision

96% of providers in Preston offer places for children with SEND. The numbers of children accessing a SEND place were highest in Preston East.

59% of providers in Preston who responded to our survey said that demand for SEND places remained the same. Demand for SEND places has increased the most in Preston East.



Business and Finance

Sustainability has been one of the main challenges for childcare providers. Changes in demand for childcare and the rising cost of living has placed financial pressure on the sector.

Providers are struggling to recruit knowledgeable, qualified practitioners. This has led, in some areas to settings reducing childcare places available or even closure.

Moving forwards, we will continue to monitor the take up of childcare places to understand the impact of the rising cost of living and the recruitment and retention of staff.

Childcare providers were asked about the sustainability of their business and the impact of any changes over the last year. The tables that follow summarise the responses.

Area	Are you Sustainable	
	YES (%)	No (%)
Goosnargh & Grimsargh	100%	0%
Preston East	84%	16%
Preston North	96%	4%
Preston Rural	81%	19%
Preston West	98%	2%
Preston	92%	8%

Area	Timescale of Providers Being Concerned About Longer Term Viability				
	3 months	6 months	12 months	24 months	No concerns
Goosnargh & Grimsargh	0%	14%	19%	0%	67%
Preston East	0%	4%	13%	21%	63%
Preston North	6%	2%	16%	19%	57%
Preston Rural	5%	15%	15%	0%	65%
Preston West	1%	4%	10%	6%	78%
Preston	3%	5%	14%	14%	63%

Summary of Business and Finance

92% of providers in Preston were sustainable at the time of responding to our survey. 14% of providers in Preston had some concerns about their longer term viability within the next 12 months.



Key Findings and Action Plan

Area	Key Findings
Preston	<p>Preston has 164 Ofsted registered childcare providers. Over the last 12 months the net change in the number of providers is - 2. 50 providers said they would increase their numbers if demand required it. Preston district shows a surplus in places for 0-14 year olds. The average EEF2 take up for the district is 79% and the average take up for EEF 3&4 year olds is 98%. This is an increase in take up of EEF 2,3&4 since our last published CSA. 97% of providers have received an Ofsted judgement that was Good or Outstanding. 96% of providers offer places for children with SEND, 59% have said demand for these places has remained the same. 92% of providers in Preston are currently sustainable. 14% of providers in Preston have some concerns about their longer term viability within the next 12 months.</p>
	<p>Actions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We will continue to monitor childcare places in the area, in particular any closures and changes in demand. 2. We will monitor providers who are concerned about the longer term viability and finance. 3. We will continue to monitor the take up for Early Education Funding for 2,3&4 year olds. 4. We will continue to support providers with staff recruitment by advertising vacancies on our website.

Conclusion

To summarise, Preston has sufficient childcare places to meet the needs of working parents. Our latest assessment shows we have childcare places available across all age ranges and all provider types at district level. We will work with local providers to understand parental needs and capacity within existing settings.

The rising cost of living has placed financial pressure on the sector and providers are struggling to recruit qualified practitioners and is leading some settings to reduce the number of childcare places available. We will continue to respond to providers who may require further support.

Monitoring the take up of Early Education Funding across all areas of Preston is going to remain. We will continue to respond to areas where take up of Early Education Funding is low or if any childcare providers close.

