Brighton & Hove Children and Young People's Trust

Draft Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

March 2008

Brighton & Hove City Council
Children and Young People's Trust

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INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the assessment

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) is a measurement of the nature and extent of the need for and supply of childcare within Brighton & Hove. The local authority has a new statutory duty under the Childcare Act 2006 to ensure that there is sufficient childcare, as far as is reasonably practicable, to meet the needs of parents in their area in order to enable them to work or undertake education or training leading to work.

The assessment is "a measure of the nature and extent of the need for, and supply of, childcare within each local area"[1]. It is concerned with formal childcare which is available to meet the needs of working parents. It is also concerned with the free early years provision for three and four year olds.

The local authority duty is not to provide childcare itself, but to be active in managing the market and commissioning services where there are gaps.

The CSA report

Childcare demand was assessed by a survey to parents and three focus groups, as well as some more detailed work on childcare demand from parents of disabled children. A questionnaire was also sent to local employers. Childcare supply was assessed through data from the Family Information Service database and a questionnaire sent to all childcare providers.

Section One of the CSA assesses the demand for childcare, **Section Two** assesses the supply of childcare, **Section Three** is a demographic overview and local context, and **Section Four** considers gaps between supply and demand.

Appendix One sets out details of the CSA statutory requirements and the Childcare Act 2006. **Appendix Two** details the CSA methodology.

The CSA was carried out between October 2007 and January 2008.

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[1] *Childcare Sufficiency Assessments: Guidance for Local Authorities* DFES 2007

SECTION ONE: CHILDCARE DEMAND

Childcare demand was assessed through a parent questionnaire sent to almost 4,000 parents of children in Brighton & Hove between October and December 2007. Three focus groups were carried out in January 2008, two with parents of disabled children and one in the form of interviews with parents at a children's centre, most of whom were not using childcare.

The quantitative data is taken from the parent questionnaire. Qualitative information is from the focus groups and from comments made by respondents to the parent questionnaire. It was made clear to those completing the questionnaire that "childcare" includes the free early years provision for three and four year olds, as well as that provided by family and friends. This means that some parents childcare is free and for a limited number of hours per week.

Parents may have a varying understanding of what childcare is and will not necessarily see it as formal registered childcare, especially for older children.

Parents were asked whether any of their children had a special need. These parents are described in the report as parents of disabled children and/or parents of children or a child with special needs, but these children will have needs across a wide spectrum of degree.

1.1 Questionnaire respondents

Ninety four per cent of respondents to the questionnaire were women. Fifty two per cent were aged 35 to 44, with 30% aged between 25 and 34. Eighty seven per cent of respondents were white British or Irish, 6% were white other and 7% black and minority ethnic.

Twenty nine per cent were employed part time, and 17% were employed full time. Twenty five per cent were single parents (some of whom shared responsibility for a child with a person they did not live with).

Forty three per cent had two children, and 33% had one child.

Eighty three respondents (7%) stated that they had one or more children with special needs. The needs of these parents are outlined in a separate section **(Sections 1.28 to 1.37 below).**

1.2 Use of childcare

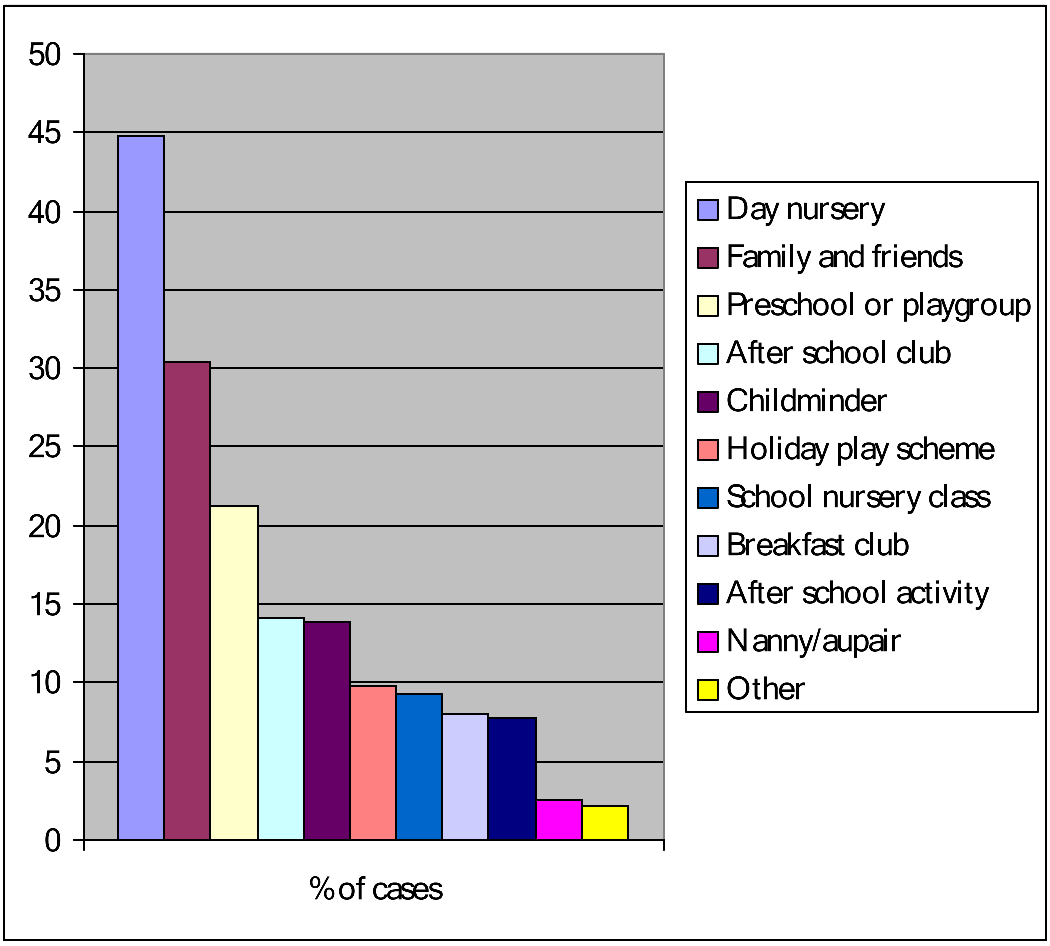
Sixty per cent of parents currently used childcare or early education. This was more common amongst two parent households of whom 63% used childcare or early education, compared with 55% of single parent households.

Parents with children aged 0 to 4 were more likely to use childcare than those with older children. Seventy two per cent of parents who *only* had a child (or children) aged 0 to 4 used childcare, compared with 13% of parents who *only* had a child (or children) aged 11 to 14.

1.3 Type of childcare used

The most common form of childcare used was a day nursery or private nursery school (49% of those using childcare), followed by family and friends (30% of those using childcare). Twenty one per cent of those using childcare used a pre-school or playgroup, with 14% using an after school club. Fourteen per cent used a childminder.

Figure 1 – Type of childcare used



Of those using family and friends, 82% also used other types of childcare. Most commonly this was a day nursery (49%) with 26% also using an after school club and 21% also using an after school activity. However, for school nursery class the figure was 7%. This implies that many parents who use childcare for work frequently use friends and family too.

Single parents were less likely to use a day nursery than two parent households (22% compared with 32%).

1.4 Reason for using childcare

Parents were able to give more than one reason for using childcare.
By far the most common reason was work (66% of those using childcare) followed by "to be with other children" for 40% of those using childcare.

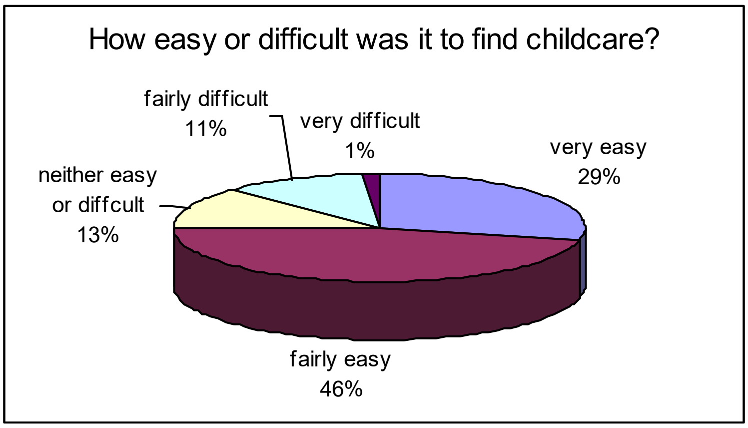
Parents who *only* had a child (or children) aged 0 to 4 were less likely to use childcare for work than parents who only had a primary school age child (or children) (67% compared with 83%). Parents who *only* had a child (or children) aged 0 to 4 were also significantly more likely to use childcare so that their child (or children) could be with other children than parents who *only* had primary school age child (or children) (45% compared with 13%).

Single parent households were less likely to use childcare for work than two parent households (55% compared with 70%) and more likely to use childcare because they were studying/training (12% compared with 4%). Single parents were also more likely to use childcare so that their child (or children) could be with other children (45% of single parents, compared with 38% of two parent households).

1.5 Ease of finding childcare

Seventy five percent of parents using childcare said that it was either very or fairly easy to find childcare**.** Twelve per cent of parents using childcare said it was very or fairly difficult to find. There were no differences in ease of finding childcare between single and two parent households.

Figure 2 – Ease of finding childcare



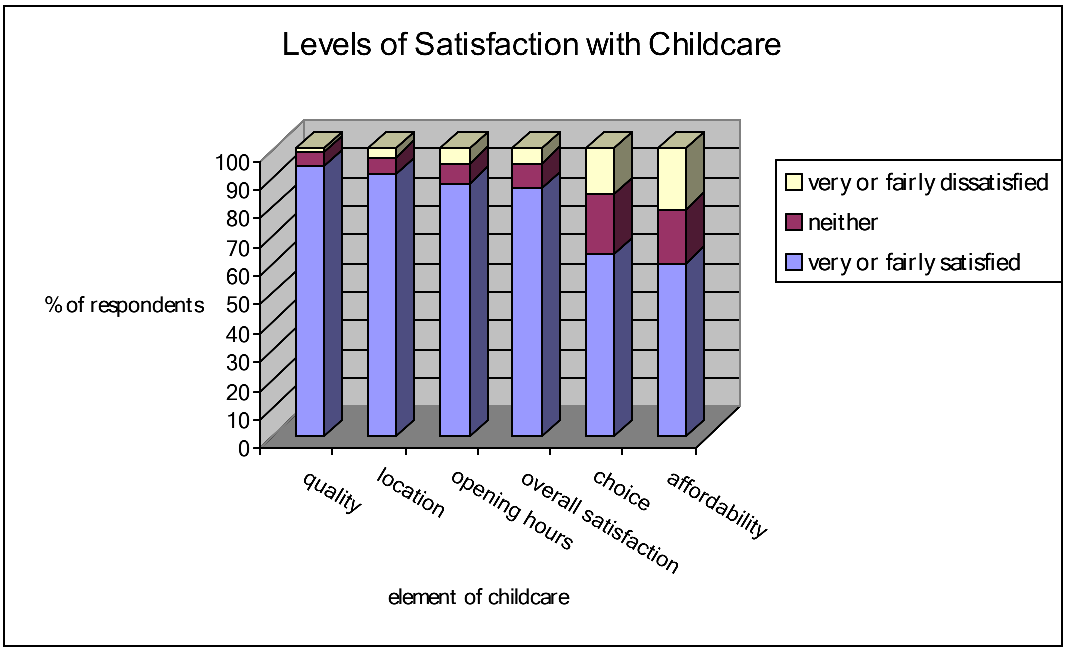
In terms of childcare type, slightly more parents looking for a childminder or holiday play scheme said that it was very or fairly difficult compared with other types of childcare. In general parents found childcare for school aged children more difficult to find than that for children aged 0 to 4.

1.6 Satisfaction with childcare

Parents who were using childcare were asked about their satisfaction with it overall, and with particular aspects of their childcare.

Of parents using childcare there was a high level of satisfaction, with the vast majority of parents either very or fairly satisfied. Eighty six per cent of parents were very or fairly satisfied with their childcare arrangements over all. Five per cent of parents were very or fairly dissatisfied with their childcare arrangements overall. The highest levels of satisfaction were with childcare quality (94% very or fairly satisfied), and the lowest levels of satisfaction were with childcare affordability (60% very or fairly satisfied). However, even with childcare affordability, only 5% of parents were very dissatisfied.

Figure 3 – Levels of satisfaction with childcare



There were some very positive comments in relation to parents' experience of using childcare

> *"Fabulous childminder who has made leaving my children easier than it otherwise would have been"*

> *"The nursery exceeds all expectations we had of all aspects of childcare"*

> *"Our four year old daughter can't wait to go to nursery"*

Most parents' childcare arrangements were as expected (69%), with 23% stating that they were better than expected and 8% stating that they were worse than expected. Of parents who thought their childcare was better than expected mostly this was because they felt that the quality of nursery provision and childminding was of a high standard, and that their child was happy and enjoyed their childcare. Of those parents thought that their childcare was worse than expected in the vast majority of cases this was because of the cost.

1.7 Childcare quality

Parents reported very high levels of satisfaction with childcare quality. Ninety four per cent of parents were very or fairly satisfied with the quality of their childcare. Two per cent of parents were very or fairly dissatisfied with childcare quality.

> *"I couldn't ask for more caring staff for my children"*

"The quality of care at the nursery is very good. My daughter is thriving there and really enjoys it"

"Lots of different activities, great key worker, parent feedback and help with problems"

although there were a few parents concerned about quality

"Poor food, premises badly maintained"

"The place I chose was unstructured and my children turned into children possessed!"

"Hard to find a nursery which has a garden/adequate outside space"

The highest levels of satisfaction were from parents using childcare which included a pre-school or playgroup (97% very or fairly satisfied) and the lowest came from parents using childcare which included a holiday play scheme (82% very or fairly satisfied).

1.8 Childcare location

There were also very high levels of satisfaction with childcare location. Ninety one per cent of parents were very or fairly satisfied with the location of their childcare, with only 3% very or fairly dissatisfied. Some parents indicated that they wanted local childcare which was not available

"We only have choice of one nursery in the area"

"Our local pre-school closed down recently meaning I have to drive to a new one"

"Allocation of second choice secondary school made after school care much more difficult to organise due to distance from home and younger child's school"

Others had found a very convenient arrangement

"The nursery is at my work place with easy parking"

"Found excellent childminder on our street"

"I am very lucky to have a wide choice of childcare settings within easy reach of my home"

1.9 Opening hours

Eighty eight per cent of parents were very or fairly satisfied with childcare opening hours. Five per cent of parents were very or fairly dissatisfied with opening hours. Single parents were slightly more dissatisfied with opening hours, with 10% very or fairly dissatisfied, compared with 4% of two parent households.

The highest level of satisfaction with opening hours was amongst parents whose childcare included an after school club with 91% very or fairly satisfied, and the lowest was amongst parents whose childcare included a school nursery class with 82% very or fairly satisfied.

There was no great difference in satisfaction with opening hours in relation to parents' working patterns, but the highest level of satisfaction was reported by parents working office hours (with and without flexitime) with 92% very or fairly satisfied, and the lowest level of satisfaction from parents whose working pattern included working before 8 am and after 6 pm with 84% very or fairly satisfied.

There were some comments from parents wanting more flexibility in the opening hours of provision for school aged children

> *"All activities end at 4.30 pm"*

> *"I need to start work at 8 am and my nursery and school cannot accommodate this"*

> *"Just a small amount of extended provision at primary school would be really helpful e.g. 8.30 to 4.30 – maybe just supervised playground"*

and on opening and finishing times

> *"Finding childcare up to 7 pm is very difficult, that's why I have a nanny which is expensive"*

> *"The breakfast club fits in very well with my job, but it would be better if it could start ten minutes earlier"*

There were a large number of comments on opening hours in relation to spring and summer born children starting reception at school part time for the autumn term

> *"It's really disruptive when my four year olds start half days at school. Please change the start so that parent/child can choose to do a full day"*

> *"All children should have the option of starting full time education in September"*

> *"As younger children are only allowed to attend school part time until January this is very difficult to arrange childcare for. Why can't this be changed as in other authorities? Some children are already used to long days at nursery"*

> *"Difficult for working parents to manage half days when child starts reception if spring/summer born"*

1.10 The amount of choice

Sixty three per cent of parents were very or fairly satisfied with the amount of choice of childcare. Sixteen per cent of parents were very or fairly dissatisfied with the amount of choice of childcare. Slightly more single parents were dissatisfied with the amount of choice with 23% very or fairly dissatisfied, compared with 15% of two parent households.

There was more satisfaction regarding choice reported by parents whose childcare included care for a child aged 0 to 4 (day nursery, school nursery class and pre-school or playgroup), compared with parents whose childcare included that for a school aged child (holiday play scheme, breakfast club, after school club and after school activity). Some parents commented that there was a wide choice of childcare

> *"I looked at six nurseries and was able to judge for myself which one suited us. We are fortunate that we have so many to compare and choose from"*

> *"There is a lot of choice – I looked at about 15 nurseries before deciding on one"*

However, others experienced a lack of choice

> *"I would like to have more choice. I am in the process of changing my children's after school club because it does not provide a nurturing environment but the other club in the area has no space and a huge waiting list"*

1.11 Childcare affordability

Sixty per cent of parents using childcare were either very or fairly satisfied with the affordability of their childcare. Twenty one per cent of parents were either very or fairly dissatisfied with the affordability of their childcare.

Affordability for parents both using and not using childcare was frequently commented upon

> *"Childcare is expensive … we can only afford two days"*

> *"When I return from maternity leave I will take home £20 per month once nursery is paid"*

> *"I share childcare with my partner so we see very little of each other and have very little family time – I am unable to afford two children in childcare"*

There were no significant differences in relation to views on affordability between parents receiving working tax credit, childcare element of working tax credit, income support or disability allowance compared with those in receipt of none of these benefits. Single parents also did not report any difference in satisfaction regarding affordability compared with two parent households.

There were more comments in relation to childcare affordability for children aged 0 to 4, compared with childcare affordability for school aged children.

1.12 Childcare flexibility

Parents were not specifically asked about childcare flexibility but it was commented upon – mainly the need to pay for a full session when only part of a session was needed and having to pay for childcare in the holidays

> *"We have to pay fees even when we are on holiday"*
>
> *"Although many childminders state that they are flexible with shift workers, on requesting this they are not"*
>
> *"I would like childcare aimed at term-time only"*
>
> *"I need ad hoc childcare for one-off meetings and so on, which is hard to find and expensive if I go through an agency"*
>
> *"Impossible to find flexible childcare"*

1.13 Reasons for not using childcare

The most common reason for not using childcare was that the parent or the parent's partner was at home to look after the children (54% of parents not using childcare), as well as those who thought it best that they were at home with their children (26% of parents). In addition 31% of parents had children at school and work fitted around school hours.

Single parent households were less likely to not use childcare because they were at home with their children (43% compared with 59% of two parent households). Two parent households were more likely to think that it was best that they were at home with their children (29% compared with 19% of single parent households).

Affordability again came up with 23% of parents stating that the cost was too expensive, and in 19% of cases where parents were not using childcare they stated that they could not earn enough to make working worthwhile financially. Single parents were slightly more likely not to be using childcare because of cost (27%, compared with 22% of two parent households).

> *"I am a single mum to two children, and live in a rented flat. I would love to go to work and get childcare but how would I live after paying the rent and bills? It's very hard"*
>
> *"As a single parent, appropriate childcare is very hard to find if I wished to work full-time. I have been interviewed for about four jobs, only to have to turn them down because I cannot find childcare to cover all the working hours"*

Of parents who said they could not earn enough to make it worthwhile using childcare, 14% were employed full or part time and 10% were unemployed. Thirty one per cent were in receipt of income support, compared with 22% of all parents responding. These parents also said that lack of childcare prevented them from returning to work (60%, compared with 30% of all parents responding).

Of those parents who said that they or their partner were at home to look after the children, 70% gave other reasons for not using childcare. Mostly it was that they thought that it was best that they were at home with their children (57%), with 31% stating that the cost was too expensive or that they could not earn enough to make it worthwhile financially.

Many more single parents stated that they could not find childcare before 8 am and after 6 pm (15% of single parents compared with 5% of two parent households).

Some parents commented on a lack of childcare for older children

> *"My issue is lack of suitable provision for kids of secondary school age"*

> *"More needs to be given to over 13s so kids are not walking the streets"*

1.14 Consequence of lack of available childcare
In the main lack of available childcare was preventing parents from working longer hours, with 33% of those not using childcare stating this reason

> *"We need after school clubs – I am currently restricted to part time working as my son's school day finishes at 3.20 pm. This is both difficult financially and limits my career opportunities"*

Single parents were more likely than two parent households to say that lack of available childcare was preventing them from entering training or education (34% of single parents compared with 27% of two parent households).

1.15 Childcare parents could not find
Most parents were either not looking or could find the childcare that they wanted. However 17% of parents with *at least* one child aged 0 to 4 said they could not find the childcare they wanted, and 20% of parents with *at least* one school aged child said they could not find the childcare they wanted. Some parents could be in both these groups, however, and the reason they could not find childcare (for example it may be available but the parent did not feel it to be affordable, or it was available but there was no space at the time the parent wanted, or the parent wanted family and friends to provide childcare but they were not available) cannot be determined.

Of parents with *at least* one child aged 0 to 4, 4% wanted but could not find an after school club, and 4% could not find a pre-school or playgroup. Of parents with *at least* one school aged child, again the majority (80%) could find the childcare that they wanted but 9% per cent could not find an after school club, 7% could not find an after school activity, 6% a holiday play scheme and 5% a breakfast club.

The highest number of respondents (with children of all ages) said that they could not find an after school club (63 of the 210 parents who said that they wanted but could not find childcare) followed by family and friends (62 of 210 parents), and holiday play scheme (53 of 210 parents).

In terms of childcare services[2] that parents said they needed but could not find, 10% stated affordable childcare and 5% wanted childcare closer to home. There was some unmet demand for out of hours childcare, with 3% stating they wanted but could not find childcare before 8 am and 3% wanting but unable to find childcare after 6 pm. Two per cent wanted weekend and 2% wanted overnight childcare.

There was no indication that parents could not find childcare that met their cultural or religions needs. Of black and minority ethnic parents who responded to the survey, only 3% stated that this was an issue.

1.16 Childcare needed in the future

Parents were asked about their future need for childcare. This question *did not* assume that parents thought they would not be able to find this childcare but was asked in order to get a general picture of future need. Fourteen per cent said that they would want an after school club (slightly more popular than an after school activity at 11%) and 13% a pre-school or playgroup (slightly more popular than a day nursery at 12%).

1.17 Free early years provision entitlement

There was almost universal awareness amongst parents of three and four year olds of the entitlement to free early years provision from the term after their child's third birthday. Fifty seven per cent of parents using providers in the private, voluntary and independent sector[3] use their full entitlement of 12.5 hours per week[4].

Of those not using all of the 12.5 hours, in 8% of cases this was because the sessions were not available, and in 6% of cases they did not fit in with work hours. The most common explanation given was that the nursery required the child to attend for a whole morning or afternoon and that the parent would have to pay for additional hours in order to use the whole of the 12.5 hour free entitlement.

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[2] Childcare services are defined as childcare closer to home, evening childcare, weekend childcare etc, as opposed to childcare type i.e. day care, after school club, etc

[3] Two thirds of children receive their free early years provision in the PVI sector, with one third attending settings in the maintained sector. Those who attend maintained settings will receive their full entitlement of 12.5 hours.

[4] Headcount data from Autumn 2007.

"My daughter is in nursery two days a week which uses up four of the funded sessions. I'm not going to put her in for an extra session as I will have to find the cost."

In terms of using the free early years provision more flexibly, most parents wanted this spread over five days (45%) with 41% interested in having it spread over three days. Only 11% wanted it spread over four days.

Most parents said that it was very or fairly unlikely that they would use their free early years provision with two different childcare providers (74%) with only 16% saying that it was very likely that they would do this. Single parents were more likely to say that they were very likely use two different providers (24% compared with 13% of two parent households).

1.18 Area figures

The data from the parent survey has been analysed based on the Children and Young People's Trust (CYPT) three city areas (Central, East and West). Whilst parents do not necessarily use childcare in the area in which they live, grouping the data in this way helps look at geographical spread in terms of demand. Ward data has also been analysed but because the figures are small in terms of responses from each ward, data is only reported where there are significant differences. In some cases ward data has been grouped together comparing the experience of parents living in more disadvantaged areas with those living in other areas of the city.

Whilst it is useful to look at the data in the three CYPT areas there are significant socio-economic differences within them – for example in the East there is one Super Output Area (SOA)[5] with 4% of children living in poverty, but another SOA with 74% of children living in poverty[6] which makes it difficult to draw general conclusions particularly in terms of affordability. There are also children living in deprived SOAs within less deprived wards – one SOA in Preston Park has 31% of children living in income deprived households.

1.19 Use of childcare and childcare type by CYPT area

There is no significant difference in use of childcare by CYPT area, but few parents in the East are using a childminder (6% of those using childcare) compared with 17% in Central and 15% in the West. More parents in the East are using a school nursery class (18%) compared with 9% cent in Central and 5% in the West.

1.20 Reasons for using childcare by CYPT area

More parents in Central and the West are using childcare for work (71% and 68%) compared with the East (57%) where more parents are using childcare so that their child (or children) can be with other children (50% in the East, 38% in the West and 35% in Central).

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[5] There are 164 lower level Super Output Areas in Brighton & Hove with an average of 1,500 households in each.
[6] Income Deprivation Affecting Children, 2007

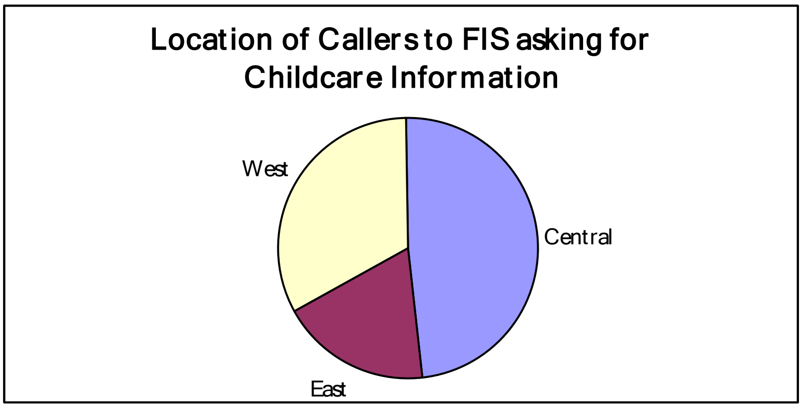
1.21 Ease of finding childcare by CYPT area

Parents in Central and the West found it harder to find childcare than parents in the East – 16% of parents in Central and 12% of parents in the West found it very or fairly difficult to find childcare compared with 8% of parents in the East.

1.22 Location of callers looking for childcare

The Family Information Service (FIS) monitors the home location of callers requesting information about childcare provision. From January to December 2007 1,724 calls were made. The pie chart below illustrates which area of the city they were from

Figure 4 – Location of callers to Family Information Service



1.23 Satisfaction with childcare by CYPT area

In general, satisfaction with all elements of childcare is similar across all CYPT areas, with slightly higher levels of satisfaction with location in the East.

1.24 Reasons for not using childcare by CYPT area

There are no significant differences in reasons for not using childcare between the CYPT areas.

However in those wards which include SOAs with the highest levels of deprivation[7], more parents not using childcare report that a reason for this was that childcare is too expensive (28% of those not using childcare living in disadvantaged areas reported that expense was a reason, compared with 22% in other areas).

This was the feeling of the parents who were interviewed at the children's centre who were not using childcare, all of whom stated that it was too expensive. Some parents had heard of the childcare element of working tax credit but did not feel that they were eligible. Many felt that it was not worth working as they would be worse off once they had paid for childcare. They also said that they wanted to be at home with their children whilst they were young and would consider returning to work once their children had started school.

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[7] The wards with the highest percentage of Super Output Areas with the highest percentage of children living in poverty are Moulsecoomb and Bevendean, East Brighton, Queen's Park, Hollingbury and Stanmer, Woodingdean, and Hangleton and Knoll

1.25 Consequence of lack of available childcare by CYPT area
More parents unable to find childcare in the East stated that lack of available childcare was preventing them from returning to work (41% compared with 32% in Central and 31% in the West).

1.26 Childcare parents could not find by CYPT area
There are no significant differences between CYPT areas. However on a ward level, 11 parents in Moulsecoomb and Bevendean stated that they could not find an after school club, nine parents in this ward stated that they could not find a holiday play scheme, and eight parents said they could not find an after school activity. Six parents in Patcham stated that they could not find an after school club and six parents in this ward stated that they could not find an after school activity. Six parents in Stanford also could not find an after school activity. Six parents in Preston Park could not find a pre-school or playgroup.

In areas with higher levels of disadvantage, there are more parents looking for and unable to find holiday play schemes (31% of those looking but unable to find) compared with other areas (22% of those looking but unable to find). The figures for after school activity are 30% in more disadvantaged areas, compared with 19% in other areas. Figures for other types of childcare show no significant differences between disadvantaged and other areas.

There were no significant differences between CYPT areas in terms of childcare services that parents needed but could not find.

Parents interviewed at the children's centre were aware of local provision and believed it to be good quality. However, some thought that there was a lack of choice, with no pre-school provision.

1.27 Childcare needed in the future by CYPT area
There were no significant differences in the type of childcare needed in the future between CYPT areas. However from the ward data, 30 parents in Portslade South said that they would want a pre-school or playgroup in the future, and 25 parents in this ward said they would want a holiday play scheme. Twenty seven parents in Preston Park said that they would want an after school club in the future. For breakfast clubs there was most future demand indicated by parents in Hanover and Elm Grove and Portslade South.

In the more disadvantaged areas, fewer parents stated that they would be looking for childcare in the next three years (48% of parents) compared with 38% of parents in other areas. Slightly more parents in other areas would be looking for an after school activity in the next three years (21% of parents) compared with parents in more disadvantaged areas (13% of parents).

In terms of childcare services, fewer parents in the East indicated a future need for affordable childcare (18% compared with 28% in the West and 27% in Central), with more parents in the East indicating that they would not need childcare in the future (69% in the East compared with 59% in the West and 56% in Central).

Parents interviewed at the children's centre said that when their children started school they would try to find work which fitted around school hours and so had no need for childcare in the future.

1.28 Disabled children and children with special needs

These sections cover childcare for disabled children. This is a separate section because of the greater degree of unmet need and the challenge of meeting these needs. As noted previously, parents responding to the survey were asked whether any of their children had a special need. This was in order to be able to assess the needs of all parents with a child who might need some additional help, or face some additional challenges in accessing childcare. These parents are described as both parents of disabled children and parents of children with a special need. All these children will have special needs across a wide spectrum of degree. The statutory duty is specific in stating that local authorities should ensure that there is sufficient childcare for "disabled children".

1.29 Parents responding to the questionnaire

Eighty seven respondents said that they had one or more children with special needs. This represents 7% of all parents responding to the questionnaire. It should be noted that the questionnaire did not ask any further questions about the child's special needs so there could be a range of needs represented. In addition the number of parents of children with special needs answering some questions was very low and so the following analysis needs to be read and interpreted with caution.

A greater number of respondents had older children, which reflects the fact that for many, identification and diagnosis of a special need occurs at school. Twenty four had children aged between 0 and 4 and 63 had children aged between 5 and 14. Thirty five per cent were single parents.

Fifty parents (69%) were using childcare, which is proportionally a greater number than parents of children without special needs. Overall, the most common form of childcare was family and friends (40%), which indicates a slightly higher use of informal care than parents of children with no special needs (30% of whom were using family and friends).

Twenty eight per cent of parents of children with special needs were using an after school club, and 24% were using a holiday play scheme, which again is proportionally higher than children without special needs (14% after school club and 10% holiday play scheme).

Although the number of parents responding with a child aged 0 to 4 was low, the majority using childcare were using a day nursery.

As with parents of children without special needs, most parents said that their reason for using childcare was work (53% of those using childcare), which is less than parents of children without special needs (66%).

Parents of children aged 5 to 14 with special needs were more likely to indicate that childcare was used for a break for them (34%) and for something for their child to do in the holidays (18%) than other parents (23% and 5% respectively).

There is little to suggest that parents of children with special needs found it easier or harder to find childcare than other parents.
Parents who were using childcare who had children with special needs had very similar rates of satisfaction with the affordability, quality, location, opening hours of childcare. However there is some indication that there is less satisfaction with the choice of childcare.

Figure 5 – Satisfaction with choice of childcare

	Very satisfied %	Fairly satisfied %	Neither %	Fairly dissatisfied %	Very dissatisfied %
Parents of children with special needs using childcare	20	33	24	20	3
Parents children without special needs using childcare	27	34	21	12	3

> *"Mainstream play schemes make a real effort to include children with special needs. YMCA Hove are doing a great job with adolescents. I know I'm really lucky there are facilities for my son but I do not have to organise every aspect of my life and work around him and what is available which can be difficult. I am extremely unfortunate in having a sympathetic employer"*
>
> "*Oldest child is autistic spectrum condition and needs specialist childcare with awareness of condition. It is difficult to ensure this. He is older than after school care is designed for"*

There also seems to be slightly less satisfaction with overall childcare arrangements (76%) compared with other parents (85%). However there is nothing to indicate that their childcare arrangements were any better or worse than expected compared with parents of children with no special needs.

1.30 Parents not using childcare

Thirty six parents of children with special needs gave reasons as to why they did not use childcare. For five parents it was because they could not find provision that met their child's special needs.

As with other parents, the majority of those not using childcare were at home to look after their children (58%). The numbers are low, but proportionately more parents of school aged children with special needs were at home compared with parents of children without special needs. The data from the parent questionnaire indicates that this is the case for more parents of school aged children than it is for parents of children aged 0 to 4. This is a different picture from parents of children without special needs. However, this could be a result of the low numbers of parents of young children with special needs responding to the questionnaire and thereby an under representation of the actual numbers of parents of very young children at home. On the other hand it could also be an indicator of less choice of childcare for children with special needs. This requires further investigation.

Fewer parents indicated that they did not need childcare because they worked around school hours (31% of parents of children without special needs and 22% of parents of children with special needs).

Parents of children with special needs were slightly more likely to state that they were not using childcare because of the cost (27% compared to 22% other parents). Twenty five per cent stated that it because they could not earn enough to make it worth while financially, which is again slightly more than those without children with special needs (19%).

1.31 Childcare parents could not find

Sixty six (75%) of parents of children with special needs were not looking or were already using childcare. Twenty one parents (24%) indicated the types of childcare they wanted but could not find. Characteristically more wanted childcare for school aged children – with 10% of those with school aged children wanting an after school club and 11% a holiday play scheme.

In terms of services that parents need but could not find, 14% of parents stated that they needed but could not find childcare for a child with special needs.

1.32 Childcare needed in the future

Parents of children with special needs identified very similar future childcare needs as other parents, with higher demand for older children's provision. However more were likely to say that would not be looking for childcare (59%).

Twenty four parents (24%) stated that they would need a service for their child with special needs in the next three years, with the majority indicating that they would want after school club and holiday play scheme.

1.33 Data from the Compass[8]

To investigate further disabled children's current use of and future demand for childcare, Amaze[9] was commissioned to produce a report from the Compass database. On registration to the Compass, the parent/carer completes a form which asks about their child's needs, family circumstances and what services they get and need, including childcare. The following analysis is based on responses to those questions.

1.34 Use of early years childcare

Registration on the Compass tends to take place once the child has received a diagnosis and with that often a statement of special needs. Therefore the

[8] The Compass is Brighton & Hove's database of children with special needs
[9] Amaze in Brighton & Hove provides information, advice and support to parents of children with special needs.

number of children aged between 0 and 5 on the database is considered to be low and does not reflect the estimated disabled child population for this age group.

However, from the 70 children aged 0 to 5 registered on the database, 57 (81%) of the children aged were using some type of early years provision. Twenty nine (50%) of these children are 3 and 4 year olds attending a pre-school or nursery.

1.35 Use of childminders

The Compass indicates that 13 children use a childminder, which is just 1.6% of all children registered.

Fifty seven parents stated that they needed a childminder, with the greatest need for children aged between 5 and 11. However, parents of children aged 14 or older account for just over a quarter of those are parents with an unmet need for a childminder.

1.36 Use of out of school childcare

Nine per cent of children on the database currently access after school provision and 11% attend a holiday playscheme. Further research is needed to find out where these children access provision, as there is some indication that some use specialist services outside of Brighton & Hove.

The table below gives the numbers of children on the Compass receiving after school and holiday childcare by age.

Figure 6 – Children on the Compass in childcare

Age of child	Number of children using after school provision	% of children using after school provision	Number of children using a holiday play scheme	% of children using a holiday play scheme
0 – 4	1	1.4	0	0
5 – 11	47	11.75	53	13.25
12 – 15	24	6.7	40	11.2
16 – 20	13	7.2	19	10.5
Total	85	8.4	112	11.1

Therefore, according to these figures,11% of children attend a holiday play scheme and 8.5% use an after school club. It should be noted that these figures could include those using other types of activities as parents do not always recognise the distinction between registered childcare and activity based provision.

The use of provision is greater for children attending special schools than for those attending mainstream schools.

The Compass indicates that 139 children need or need more after school provision and 198 need or need more holiday provision. Parents of over half the children on the Compass do not mention receiving or needing any after school or holiday provision. These figures are particularly high in East Brighton and Moulsecoomb and Bevendean.

Some of the most, and some of the least, disadvantaged wards (Moulsecoomb and Bevendean and East Brighton; Withdean and Preston Park) have high proportions of children whose parents do not mention needing or receiving out of school childcare. The reasons for not mentioning these services may be quite different for families living in disadvantaged areas compared with families living in other areas.

The data also illustrates that that children with two or more siblings on the Compass are more likely to miss out on this provision and more likely to need these activities, compared with children who do not have disabled siblings.

Figure 7 – Number of siblings and childcare

Number of siblings on the Compass	Percentage of children receiving after school club provision	Percentage of children receiving holiday play scheme provision	Percentage of children receiving after school club or holiday play scheme provision
0	9	11	16
1	9	12	16
2 or more	3	5	8

1.37 Comments about childcare needs

Many parents give specific reasons for not using childcare with additional explanatory comments. Some common themes running through the comments are that many families cannot afford activities

> *"Desperately need it but cannot afford it"*

Others mentioned the need for more specific information

> *"Families need more information about what's available and what's appropriate for their child"*

> *''Want to know what's available and what's suitable'*

Other families stated that they needed transport in order to get to provision. Some families feel that some children need schemes that take into account their particular needs

> *"Inappropriate as he is autistic and can't cope with noise"*

> *"Couldn't try it as he is likely to be sent home because of his behaviour"*

1.38 Employers and childcare

As part of the CSA an on-line questionnaire was sent to 116 employers in Brighton & Hove.

The questionnaire asked about their employees' need for childcare, whether childcare provision, or lack of it, had impacted their business, and whether they thought that provision of childcare had improved in the past three years.

Whilst on-line questionnaires do not generally receive a very high response rate, in this case it was negligible with three responses. This may indicate that employers do not consider that childcare, or lack of it, impacts on their business. It also suggests that childcare is seen as a matter for employees rather than employers to deal with.

1.39 Children's views of childcare

Brighton & Hove CYPT has recently undertaken two significant consultations with children in childcare settings that have been used to inform the CSA.

The *Children's Voice* project was carried out in 2007 in early years settings. The aim was to find out young children's thoughts and ideas about different aspects of their nursery or pre school. Practitioners attended "Listening to Children" training with Penny Lancaster and were then encouraged to use a creative approaches develop a case study in their own setting.

The collection of studies has been published in a booklet and disseminated to all early years practitioners in the city. The project was also used to develop a training course which is open to all early years practitioners. Consultation with children is also now an integral part of progression towards the local quality assurance award.

Children's Views of Childcare was completed with older children to find out what children thought about their after school club. More than 500 children took part, completing a short questionnaire about their favourite activities, likes and dislikes and what they would change about their club. Playworkers were also provided with resources to undertake participatory activities with children. The findings were analysed and a short booklet about children's views was published

SECTION TWO: CHILDCARE SUPPLY

Childcare supply data is taken from the IcHIS database held by Brighton & Hove's Family Information Service (FIS) and was collected in the autumn of 2007 and from a questionnaire sent to all childcare providers also in the autumn of 2007.

2.1 Childcare providers and childcare places

There are 502 childcare settings in Brighton & Hove, providing 9,574 Ofsted registered childcare places.

Figure 8 – Number of childcare places and providers

CYPT area	Total number of childcare providers	Total number of childcare places
Central	201	4,029
East	117	2,342
West	184	3,203
City wide	502	9,574

2.2 Early years childcare provision

The definitions used are as follows

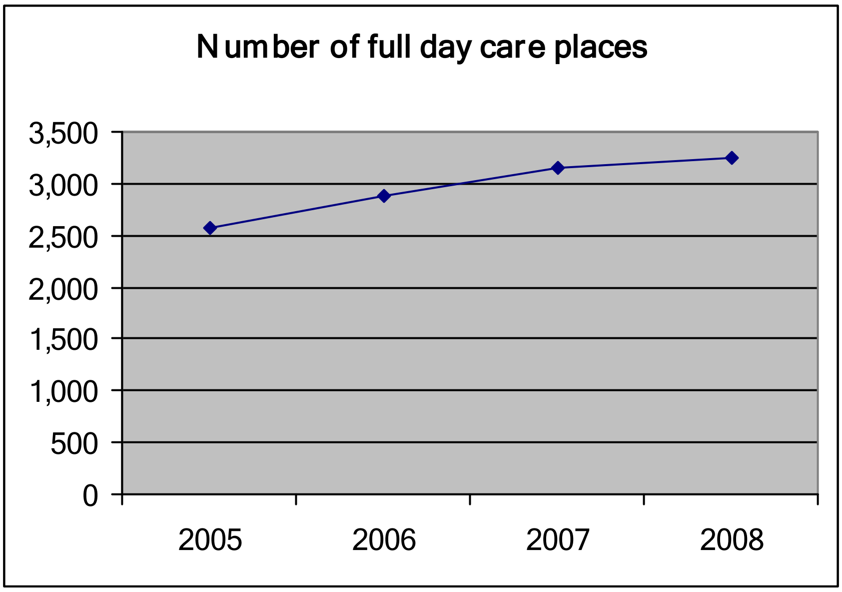
- **Full day care** – settings registered with Ofsted for sessions of four hours or more; includes all day nurseries and some extended playgroups
- **Sessional care** – settings registered with Ofsted for sessions lasting under four hours; includes playgroups offering sessions of 2.5 to 3.5 hours
- **Maintained nurseries** – provided by some primary and infant schools, plus the two nursery schools in the city, offering free early education sessions only
- **Nursery units of independent schools** – offering a mix of full day and sessional care, usually during term time only
- **Places for early education** – the number of places available for three and four year olds in settings that are approved to provide early education. In some cases these are based on a proportional calculation of the maximum number of places. In addition there are 21 early education places with registered network childminders

Figure 9 – Total early years provision

Early years provision	Total number of providers	Providers offering early education	Total registered places	Maximum registered places for under 2s	Maximum registered places for 3 & 4 year olds	Maximum early education places
Full day care	81	73	3,243	1,043	2,468	1,925
Sessional care	20	19	481		488	488
Maintained nursery schools and classes	21	21	1,150	0	1,150	1,150
Nursery units of independent schools	12	12	580	28	457	457

There has been a steady increase in the supply of full day care places over the past four years.

Figure 10 – Increase in number of full day care places



2.3 Early years provision in CYPT areas

Early years provision is not evenly supplied evenly across the city with the highest number of places and providers located in the Central area.

Figure 11 – Early years provision in Central

Central area	Number of providers	Number of places
Full day care	33	1,495
Pre-schools or playgroups	6	111
Maintained nursery schools and classes	11	615
Nursery units of independent schools	4	187
Total early years	**54**	**2,408**

Figure 12 – Early years provision in the East

East area	Number of providers	Number of places
Full day care	22	727
Pre-schools or playgroups	4	86
Maintained nursery schools and classes	7	385
Nursery units of independent schools	3	136
Total early years	**36**	**1,334**

Figure 13 – Early years provision in the West

West area	Number of providers	Number of places
Full day care	26	1,021
Pre-schools or playgroups	10	284
Maintained nursery schools and classes	3	150
Nursery units of independent schools	5	242
Total early years	**44**	**1,697**

2.4 Childminding provision

Childminders are self-employed and look after children in the childminder's home. Most work from 8 am to 6 pm but they are usually flexible and their hours vary. They are registered to look after children under eight, but some look after older children too and provide holiday care. Some network childminders offer free early education.

Figure 14 – Childminding provision

Childminding provision	Number of providers	Number of places
City wide	290	1,423

Whilst the number of childminders has fallen between 2007 and 2008 by 34, the number of places has increased by 174.

2.5 Childminding provision in CYPT areas

There are significantly fewer childminders in the East compared with Central and the West areas.

Figure 15 – Childminding provision by CYPT area

CYPT area	Number of providers	Number of places
Central	117	531
East	59	294
West	114	598

2.6 Out of school childcare provision

Out of school childcare provision includes after school clubs based in or near schools and run by private or voluntary organisations or the schools themselves. They are usually open between 3.30 pm and 6 pm term time only. Some providers also run holiday clubs providing all day provision from 8 am to 6 pm or for a shorter day – for example from 10 am to 3 pm.

Figure 16 – Out of school providers and places

Out of school places city wide	Number of providers	Number of places
After school club	39	1,227
Holiday play schemes	35	1,408

There has been an increase of 86 after school club places between 2007 and 2008, but a decrease of 400 holiday play scheme places in the same period.

2.7 Out of school childcare provision in CYPT area

There are more after club places in Central compared with the East and West, and more holiday play scheme places in Central and the West compared with the East.

Figure 17 – Out of school provision by CYPT area

CYPT area	Number of after school clubs	Total after school places	Number of holiday play schemes	Number of holiday scheme places
Central	17	575	12	515
East	11	315	10	349
West	11	337	13	544

2.8 Number of children per childcare place by CYPT area

These charts show the number of childcare places per 100 children in the CYPT areas.

Whilst they are a useful indication of childcare supply, it should be noted that parents do not necessarily use childcare in the area in which they live, particularly if they live close to the boundary with a different CYPT area, and that childcare demand will also vary depending on the number of working parents in an area.

2.9 Early years childcare provision

Figure 18 – Early years places per 100 children

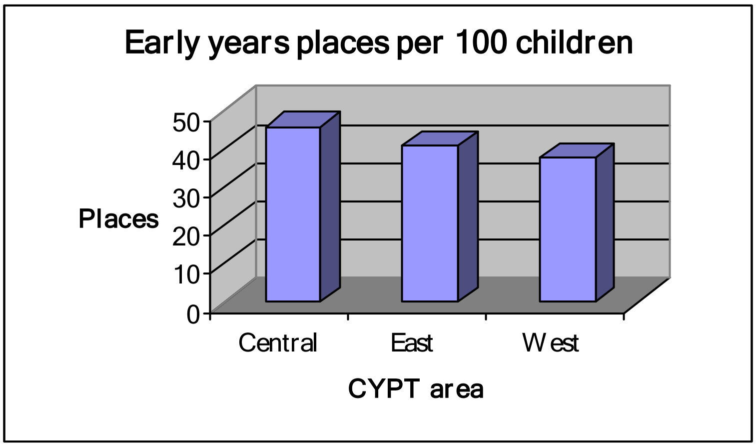
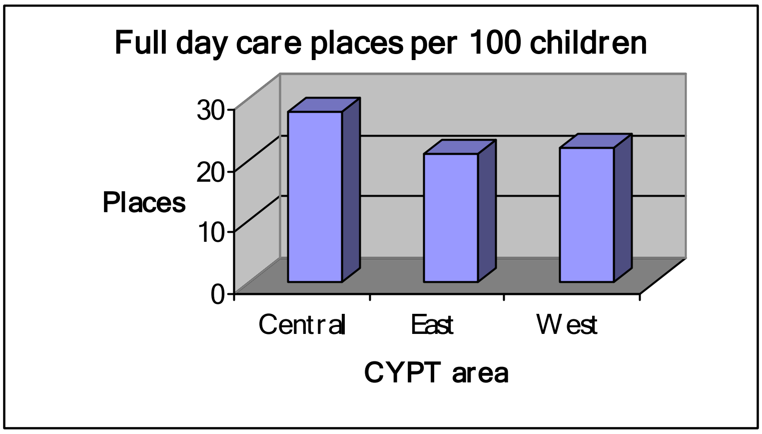


Figure 19 – Full day care places per 100 children



2.10 Out of school childcare provision

Figure 20 – After school places per 100 children

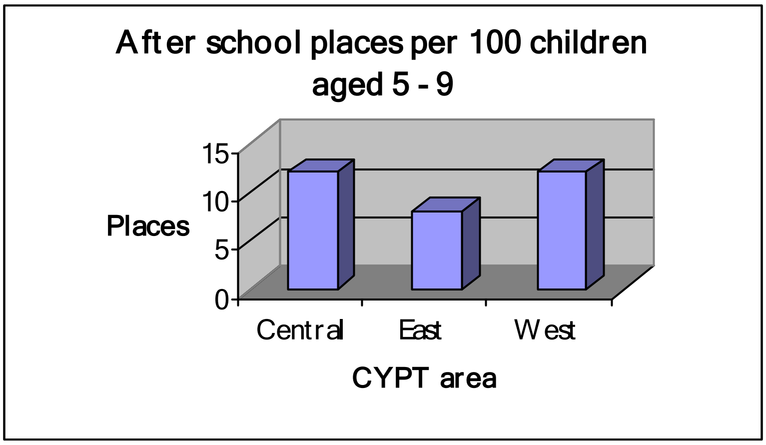
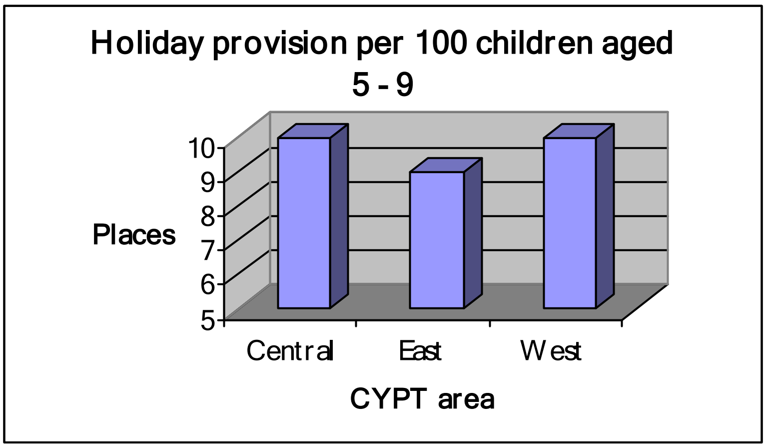
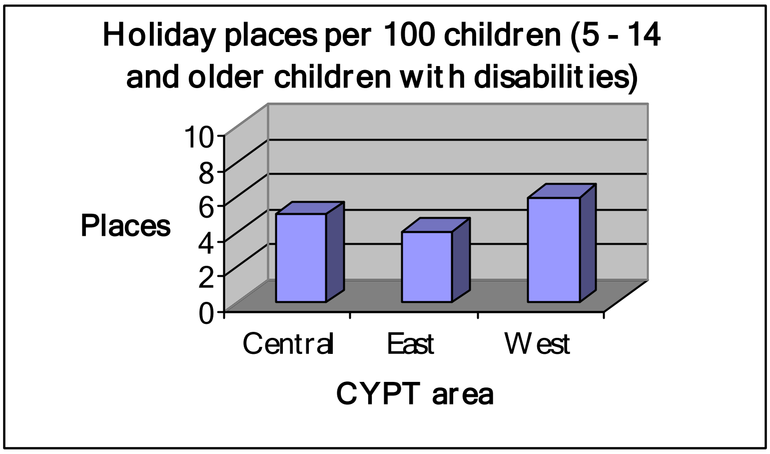


Figure 21 – Holiday places per 100 children



2.11 Childcare for disabled children

Figure 22 – Holiday places per 100 children with disabilities



2.12 Extended schools – the full childcare offer

By 2010 all primary schools are required to provide the full childcare offer which is provision from 8 am to 6 pm five days a week, 48 weeks a year. This is either on the school site or within easy reach. This includes childcare provision by local childminders that wraps around the school day.

Figure 23 – Primary/infant/junior schools meeting full childcare offer

CYPT area	Number of primary schools	Number meeting full core childcare offer	Per cent of schools
Central	23	16	70
East	14	9	64
West	19	8	42
City wide	56	32	57

2.13 Childcare vacancies

How a childcare vacancy is calculated is complex and capturing an overall city wide picture is very difficult. Only a minority of children attend childcare full time and most children accessing a place will be part time. With so many variations on what "part time" can mean, the CSA focuses only on full time vacancies to provide a marker of vacancy rates in the city.

Therefore the following should be read with an understanding that many providers have part-time vacancies available. For the purposes of this report, "full time" means:

- Full day care – a place that is available for 31 hours or more per week
- Sessional care – a place that is available for five sessions spread over five days a week

In recognition of the flexibility of childminding provision and the varied hours offered, the vacancy count for this market includes full and part time places.

Figure 24 – Childcare for children aged 0 to 4

Early years totals	Total registered places	Vacant places	% of total places
Full day care	3,207	253	8%
Sessional care	536	51	9.5%
Maintained nursery classes and schools	1,227	84	6.8%
Nursery unit of Independent school	565	57	10%

Figure 25 – Childcare for school aged children

Total vacancies	Total places	Vacancies	% of total places
After school clubs	1,227	109	9%

Figure 26 – Childminders

Total vacancies	Total places	Vacancies	% of total places
Childminders	1,423	263	18%

These figures demonstrate that there are similar vacancy levels across all setting types, the exception being childminders who have double the vacancy level.

Childcare costs

2.14 Day nurseries

The Brighton & Hove average day rate for day nurseries for any age is £36.54. This is based upon figures from day nurseries which provided a cost for a full day's childcare (i.e. 8 am to 6 pm) and as a weekly charge (without any discount for a full week) would be £182.70. The range of charges is from £27 to £50 per day. For children under two the average is £195. For three to five year olds it is around £175 per week.

Figure 27 – Day nursery costs

CYPT area	Cost per day Any age £		Cost per day 0 – 2 years £		Cost per day 2 years £		Cost per day 3 – 5 years £	
	Avg	Median	Avg	Median	Avg	Median	Avg	Median
Central	36.60	39.00	38.23	40.00	36.73	38.00	35.02	35.00
East	31.85	32.00	38.50	37.00	37.50	37.00	36.25	35.00
West	41.17	42.00	40.30	39.80	36.43	38.00	35.24	36.00

Many nurseries will offer a small reduction in cost if the child is attending a full week. Only 17 nurseries offer a weekly rate which suggests that using a daily and/or sessional rate is required to accommodate the demand for part time care.

2.15 Extended playgroups including private nursery schools

The cost of these depends on the length of the session

Figure 28 – Extended playgroup costs

CYPT area	Cost per session 2 – 3 hours £		Cost per session 3.5 – 4 hours £		Cost per session 5 plus hours £	
	Avg	Median	Avg	Median	Avg	Median
Central	8.83	7.00	12.34	10.50	16.05	15.00
East	7.86	8.25	11.65	12.50	17.85	17.00
West	7.12	6.88	8.93	9.00	15.73	14.52

Extended playgroups generally offer sessions of 3.5 hours or longer which makes them a possible option for some working families. Increasingly providers are becoming more flexible and adding lunch and extended hours.

2.16 Sessional groups

A session at a playgroup (typically 2.5 to 3 hours) in the city costs on average £6.39.

Figure 29 – Sessional group costs

CYPT area	Session cost £	
	Avg	Median
Central	5.58	6.00
East	6.68	6.75
West	6.92	6.75

2.17 Childminders

Most childminders set an hourly rate, with the majority of childminders charging between £3.50 and £4.50 per hour, though the lowest charge is £2.50 and the highest £6.00. The average rate in the city is £4.11 per hour.

Some childminders offer reductions. This is often for siblings but can also be for full weeks, students or low income families. Charges in the city do not tend to be age related. Requirements for retainers and deposits vary greatly.

2.18 After school clubs

The average charge for an after school club session is £7.89. Charges range from £6.00 to £10.60, with some providers offering concessionary rates for siblings and low income families.

Figure 30 – After school club costs

CYPT area	Session cost £	
	Avg	Median
Central	7.76	8.00
East	7.63	8.00
West	8.30	8.50

2.19 Holiday play schemes

The costs for holiday play schemes vary greatly across the city. The lowest daily charge is £4.00 and the most expensive is £31.00. The majority of schemes offer a day rate for opening hours similar a school day, with additional hourly charges for care provided after 3.30pm. As there is also variation in opening hours, an hourly rate has been calculated to work out the averages. It is important to note that many schemes are subsided to help families on low incomes to access provision, which impacts on the figures given.

Figure 31 – Holiday play scheme costs

CYPT area	Hourly cost £	
	Avg	Median
Central	2.85	2.67
East	2.47	2.32
West	2.32	2.22

2.20 Childcare providers

A questionnaire was sent to all childcare providers in the city and was returned by 56% of those surveyed.[10]

Figure 32 – Response by type of provider

Type of provider	Response rate to questionnaire %
Extended play group	85
Day nursery	81
Pre-school playgroup	80
Nursery unit of independent school	69
Crèche	65
After school club	64
Holiday play scheme	54
Childminder	45

2.21 Vacancies

Providers were asked how quickly vacancies were filled at their setting, straight away, up to a month, one to three months and more than 3 months.

Out of school providers were generally more likely to fill a vacancy sooner than early years providers. Seventy nine per cent of holiday play schemes and 57% of after school clubs stated that their vacancies were filled straight away.

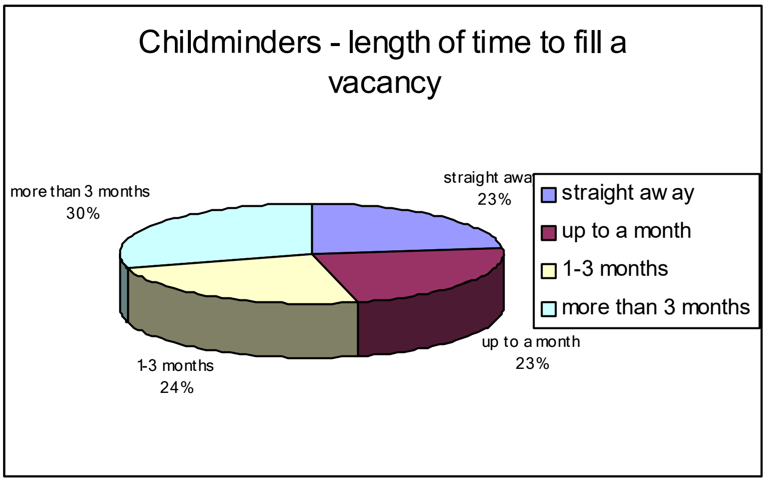
Although 23% of day nurseries indicated that they too were able to fill vacancies straight away, 36% of day nurseries took between one and three months to fill a vacancy, and 27% took over three months. Extended and sessional playgroups

[10] Returns from private nursery schools has been excluded from the reports of differing views between setting types as there were only two responses to these questions

were slightly more likely to fill their vacancies in less time than a day nursery. However as there are fewer places available in these groups demand may be greater.

Childminders were more likely to have a vacancy for longer than other types of provision. Although the nature of a vacancy might mean that it is more difficult to fill, 30% stated that it took more than three months.

Figure 33 – Childminders and length of time to fill vacancy



Comments from childminders present different experiences of how successful they have been in attracting business, suggesting that the market can depend on their location

> *"I am constantly getting calls from parents in the Hanover area who I have to turn down as I am full but they have trouble finding childminders with vacancies in that area*"

> *"There is not much demand in my area. It has been hard to find work at times*"

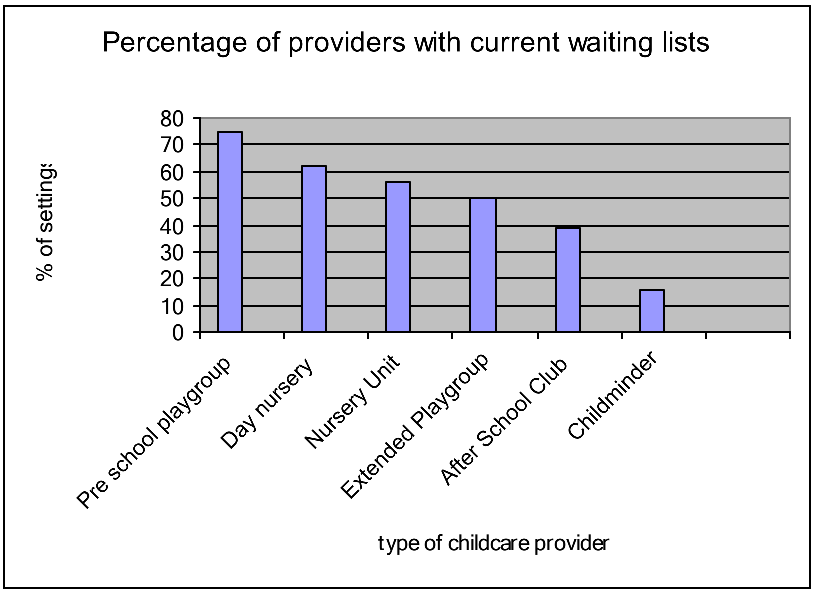
Analysis by ward suggests that childminders in Hangleton and Knoll and Moulsecoomb and Bevendean were slightly more likely to have vacancies for longer than childminders in other areas.

2.22 Waiting lists

Waiting lists are an indicator of demand, although many other factors have to be taken into account to explain the reasons why some providers have a waiting list and others do not. Providers were asked if they currently had a waiting list and how many children were on it.

Overall, 32% of all providers stated that they had a waiting list. The chart below shows the percentage of providers by childcare type who have waiting lists.

Figure 34 – Providers with current waiting lists



The figures indicate that 75% of pre-schools had a waiting list. This could be a reflection of the relatively low numbers of pre-school providers and places; however the parent survey findings suggest that pre-schools are popular with parents and there is some indication of demand for more places.

Twenty nine day nurseries out of 47 (61%) had a waiting list. Only nine of the 23 after school clubs had a waiting list (39%).

Only 21 (16%) of childminders had a waiting list. As they work to a strict ratios and individually provide a small number of places fewer are likely to occur compared with other types of childcare setting.

2.23 Business planning

Twenty three per cent of all childcare providers have some form of business plan. Proportionally, childminders were the least likely to have a business plan.

Figure 35 – Providers with business plans

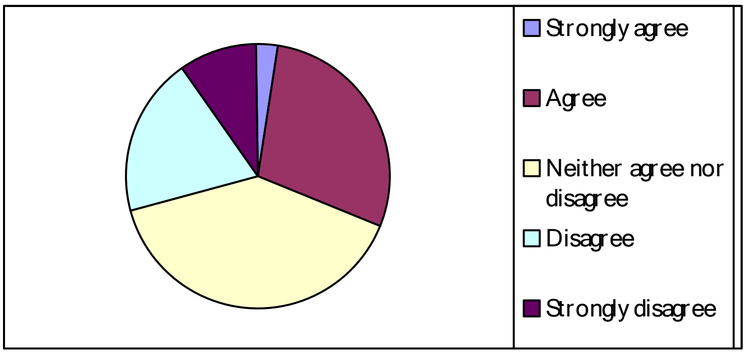
Type of provider	% of respondents with current business plan in place
After school club	63
Holiday playscheme	47
Day nurseries	40
Nursery units	44
Extended play groups	12
Childminders	10
Pre-schools	1

Sixty per cent of providers without a business plan stated that it was because they did not need one. Time to produce a plan is an issue for about 10% of providers. Twenty per cent identified that they did not have expertise to write a plan and would welcome support to do so.

2.24 The development of new childcare places

Providers were asked whether they agreed that the development of new childcare places takes into account existing provision. The highest number of respondents neither agreed nor disagreed with this statement (39%)

Figure 36 - Do you agree that the development of new childcare places takes into account existing provision?



However, significantly more day nursery providers were more likely to strongly disagree with this statement (33%) than other types of providers.

2.25 Providers' view of local childcare sufficiency

Providers were asked whether they thought that there was sufficient childcare available locally to meet the need of parents/carers.

The majority of providers (64%) of all types strongly agreed or agreed that there was sufficient childcare. This was highest amongst day nursery providers (81%) followed extended day playgroups (69%) and childminders (65%). However, the lowest level of agreement was amongst providers of holiday play schemes with 22% strongly disagreeing that there is sufficient childcare.

Providers were asked whether they thought that childcare provision meets the needs of families from different communities in the city. Most providers either strongly agreed or agreed with this statement, (62%) with 30% neither agreeing nor disagreeing.

2.26 Demand for childcare

Providers were asked whether they agreed with the statement that there had been an increase in demand for places at their setting in the last 12 months. Forty three per cent of providers either strongly agreed or agreed with this statement, with 31% either disagreeing or strongly disagreeing. The highest level of agreement with this statement came from providers of extended day playgroups (59% either strongly agreed or agreed) followed by out of school club providers (58%). The highest level of disagreement with this statement was from childminders with 40% either disagreeing or strongly disagreeing followed by 38% of day nursery providers. No holiday play scheme providers disagreed with this statement, and only 4% of out of school club providers.

Providers were also asked whether there they agreed with the statement that there is suffcient childcare locally to meet parents' needs. Sixty four per cent of all providers either strongly agreed or agreed with this statement. Day nursery providers were most likely to agree with this statement with 81% either strongly agreeing or agreeing. Out of school providers were least likely to agree with this statement, with 42% either disagreeing or strongly disagreeing, followed by crèche providers (40%) and holiday play scheme providers (33%).

2.27 Business sustainability

Childcare providers were asked whether they agreed with the statement that their business was sustainable over the next three years. The majority of providers (69%) either strongly agreed or agreed with this statement, with 13% either disagreeing or strongly disagreeing. Most agreement with this statement came from holiday play scheme providers and nursery units of independent schools (88% of both either strongly agreed or agreed). Most disagreement with this statement came from crèche providers (44% either disagreed or strongly disagreed) followed by childminders (16%). A number of childminders commented on the impact of other provision on their sustainability

> *"Childminders are being undercut by nurseries [who provide] a completely different kind of care. We simply cannot compete with their low fees. I have lost children to nurseries"* (childminder)

2.28 Plans for expansion – increasing places

Providers were asked if they planned to expand the number of places offered in the next 12 months.

The majority of providers (88%), across all types said they were not. Only 15% or 22 of all the group-based providers stated that they were planning to expand, eight of which were day nurseries. Only three after school clubs responding were looking to increase their places.

For 66% providers this was because their building was not suitable. However 24% identified a lack of demand for places and 14% indicated that it was because sustainability issues were affecting their setting.

2.29 Plans for expansion – expanding opening hours

Just under 10% of all providers said that they were considering expanding their opening hours in the next 12 months.

The majority of providers (61%) indicated that there is not the demand from parents to warrant longer opening hours. Just over half of the day nurseries stated that it would be difficult to find staff to do so, perhaps because many are already open 10 hours a day. Fourteen pre-school and extended day playgroups indicated that the building they use prevented them from increasing their places.

> *"We feel the hours offered are long enough and there is no demand for an increase"* (holiday play scheme provider)

“I feel that since three of my days are already 7am to 5.30pm with children which means 6.30am for 6.00pm for prep and tidy up so that house returns to a home, this is a long enough day!” (childminder)

2.30 Deposits and fees

Providers were asked if they required a deposit from the parents/carer to secure a childcare place.

Fifty nine per cent of all providers stated that required a deposit and 41% did not. Almost all day nurseries (91%) indicated that they did whereas other types of providers had a more even split between those who did and those who did not. For instance, out of the 128 childminders who answered the question, 64 required a deposit and 64 did not; 13 school clubs required one, 12 did not.

2.31 Affordability

Providers were asked if they had taken any steps to make their childcare fees more affordable to families.

Forty four per cent of all providers stated that they let parents pay in weekly instalments, and 33% offered discounts for siblings. Childminders were more likely than other types of provider to waive the deposit; they were also much more likely to charge by the hour.

Others considered their pricing strategies to be important

“We set the fees at the lowest possible amount, whilst ensuring we cover our costs” (after school club provider)

“We are committee run and so the committee sets the fees. They look at other childcare providers in the area and stay in line with them” (pre-school provider)

Childcare providers were asked whether they agreed with the statement that their income had been affected by late payment or non-payment of fees. The majority of providers (53%) either disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement, with 35% strongly agreeing or agreeing.

Most agreement with this statement came from providers of day nurseries and crèches, with 50% strongly agreeing or agreeing. The lowest level of agreement with this statement came from nursery units of independent schools with 75% either disagreeing or strongly disagreeing, followed by childminders (67%).

Providers were also asked whether they thought that parents/carers were aware of the childcare element of working tax credit. The highest response to this was from childminders with 79% either strongly agreeing or agreeing that parents were aware of the childcare element of working tax credit, followed day nurseries (68%). The lowest level of agreement was from crèches with 50% either disagreeing or strongly disagreeing, but there was no significant difference between other childcare types.

Providers were asked whether they thought that parents needed more help in making claims for working tax credit. There was most agreement with this statement from providers of out of school clubs and holiday play schemes (78% and 77% respectively agreeing or strongly agreeing) and least agreement from childminders with 19% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing.

2.32 Places for disabled children

Providers completed a table to indicate their experience of working with disabled children. The table below gives the type of condition or need and the number of providers, including childminders, indicating that they had experience of providing childcare for children with those conditions.

Figure 37 – Childcare providers experience with children with special needs

Type of condition or special need	Number childcare providers with experience
Challenging behaviour	192
Communication difficulties	187
Chronic conditions	168
Learning difficulties	155
Medical needs	141
Hearing impairment	122
Motor impairment	91
Continence difficulties	84
Multiple and profound needs	67
Significant visual impairment	63
Physical difficulties	54

All providers tended to have less experience of working with children who had physical difficulties and multiple and profound needs.

Just under 50% of childminders stated that they had experience of providing for children with challenging behaviour, chronic conditions, communication difficulties and learning difficulties.

Many day nurseries indicated that they had worked with children with a range of additional needs, particularly communication difficulties, challenging behaviour, medical needs and chronic conditions. Almost all of the extended and pre-school playgroups indicated that they had experience of challenging behaviour and communication difficulties, but were less likely to have worked with physically disabled children.

Figure 38 – Childcare providers experience of disabilities by type

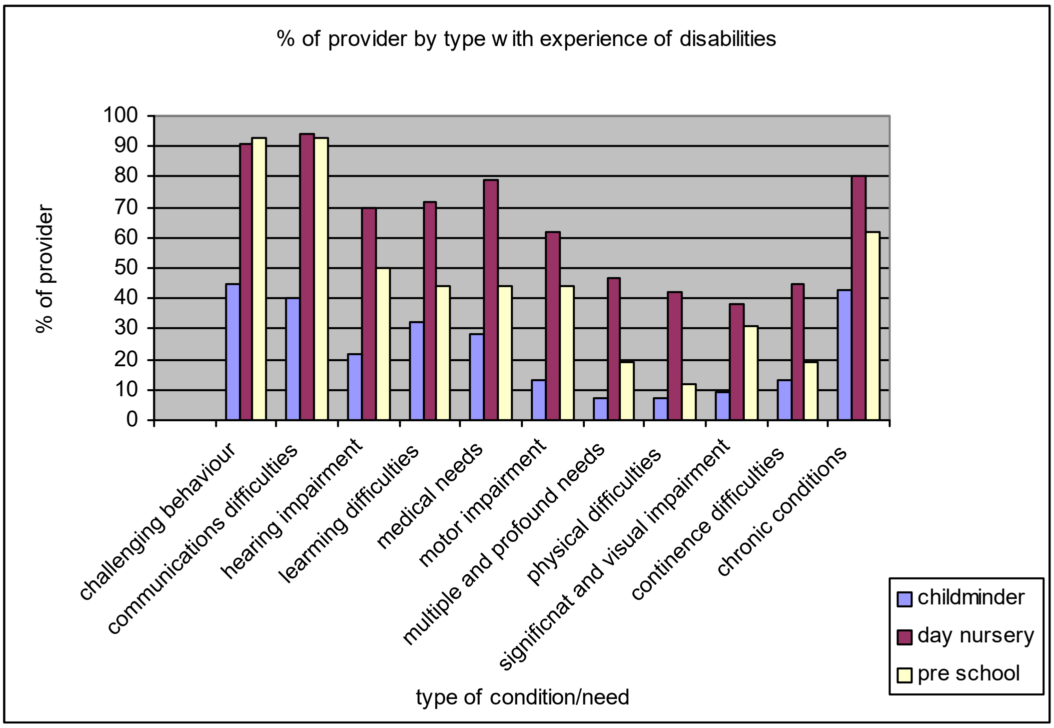
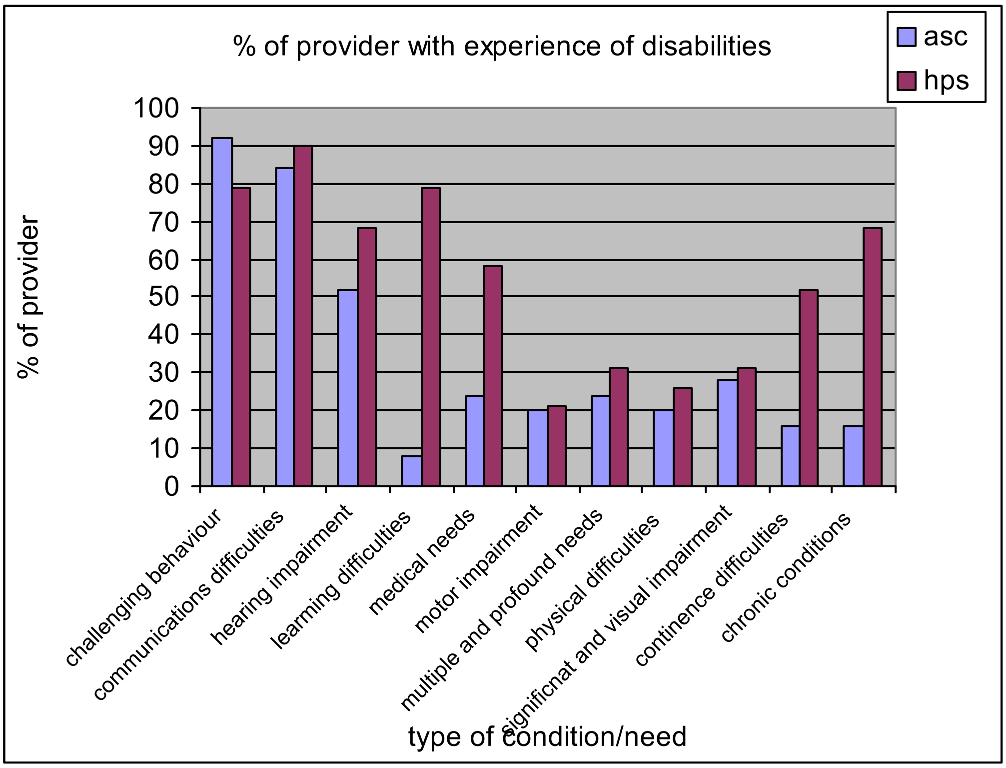


Figure 38 – Childcare providers experience of disabilities by condition/need

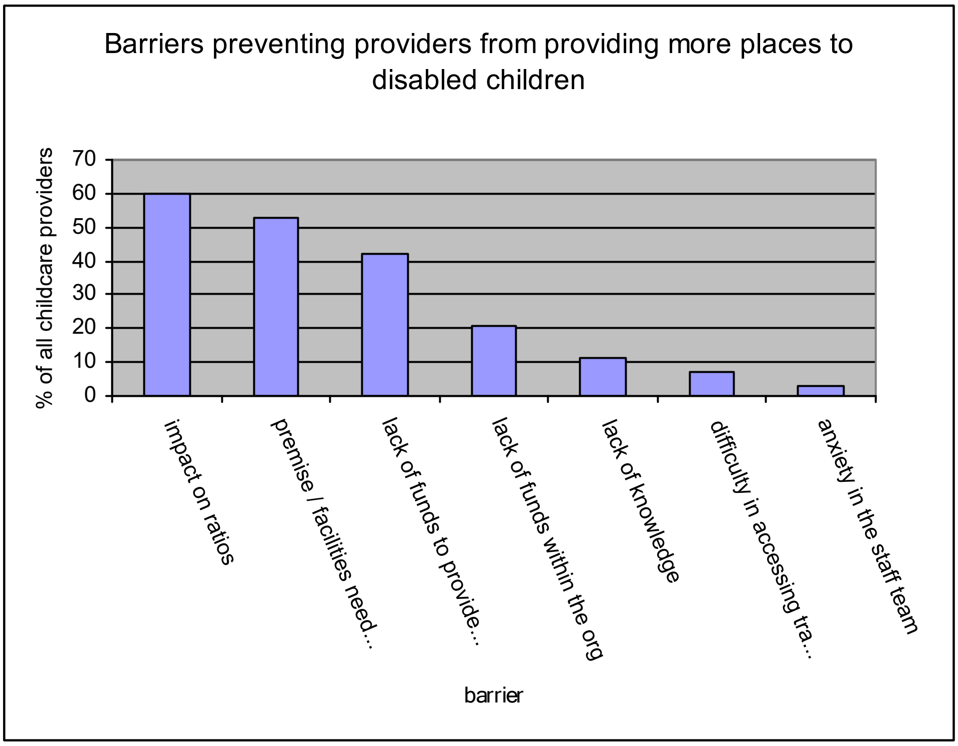


Almost all the after school and holiday providers stated that they had worked with children with challenging behaviour, and most had experience of children with communication and learning difficulties.

2.33 Barriers to providing more places for disabled children

Providers were asked to identify the barriers that prevented them from providing more places for disabled children. The chart below shows that the majority had concerns about the impact it might have on ratios, but also about the suitability of their premises to be fully accessible and inclusive.

Figure 39 – Barriers preventing providers from providing more places



Just under 70% of childminders were particularly concerned about the impact on their ratios. However the need to adapt and improve premises was also a barrier for more than 50%.

For day nurseries just over 50% stated that lack of funding to provide one to one care was the issue. However, 50% were also concerned about the accessibility of the premises.

For out of school providers, premises were much less of an issue. Seventy seven per cent of holiday and 68% after school providers stated that it was lack of funding to provide one to one that was a key barrier. Many also indicated that the impact on ratios was an issue.

Some of the comments made by providers suggested that there is a willingness to be inclusive and work with more disabled children.

> "*We have never had an enquiry from a parent that we felt unable to meet*" (day nursery)

However, some stated that they had not been approached by any families with a disabled child

"*I am very near to Downs View School but I have never had any enquiries from staff or parents at that school*" (childminder)

"*We would always be open to caring for children with disabilities – providing we were able to provide sufficient care. However we have not yet been approached by a family requiring this. We would definitely be interested in relevant training to do this*" (childminder)

Other providers emphasised the challenge of being inclusive without adequate funding to provide one to one care

"*This is a very emotive subject. We cannot be as inclusive as we want to be due to lack of funding – usually all our children with SEN that need extra support are subsidised by us. Their care has cost the organisation thousands of pounds over the years and we fell frustrated because we want to do more but there is only so much we can accomplish without more funding*" (day nursery)

SECTION THREE: DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW AND LOCAL CONTEXT

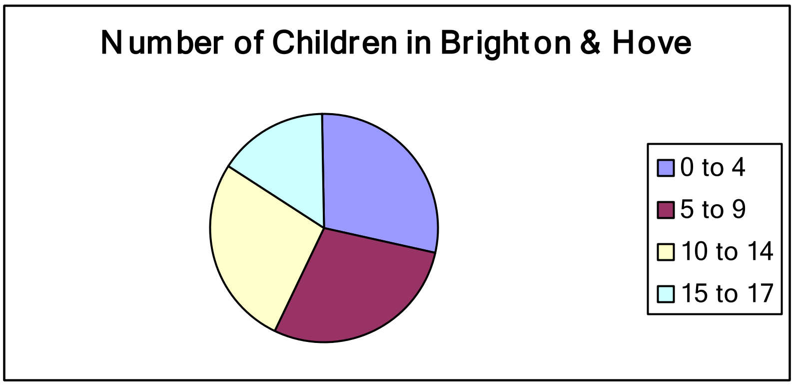
Information for the demographic overview is taken from the OCSI Ltd report *Developing Appropriate Strategies for Reducing Inequality In Brighton and Hove*[11] and *Brighton & Hove City Employment and Skills Plan*[12].

3.1 Population

There are 255,000 people living in Brighton & Hove with a relatively large working age population and slightly lower numbers of children. Fifteen per cent of the population in the city are aged under 15, compared with the South East region and England as a whole (both 18%).

There are 46,104 children aged 0 to 17 in Brighton & Hove. Of these 13,158 are aged 0 to 4, 12,923 are aged 5 to 9, 12,753 aged 10 to 14 and 7,270 aged 15 to 17.

Figure 40 – Number of Children in Brighton & Hove



There are most children aged 0 to 17 living in the CYPT Central area and the lowest number in the East.

Figure 41 – Distribution of children by CYPT area

CYPT area	Number of children aged 0 to 17	Per cent
Central	17,027	37
East	13,197	29
West	15,880	34

The 2001 census estimated that 5.7% of the city's population comes from non-white ethnic groups, well below the England average of 9.1%.

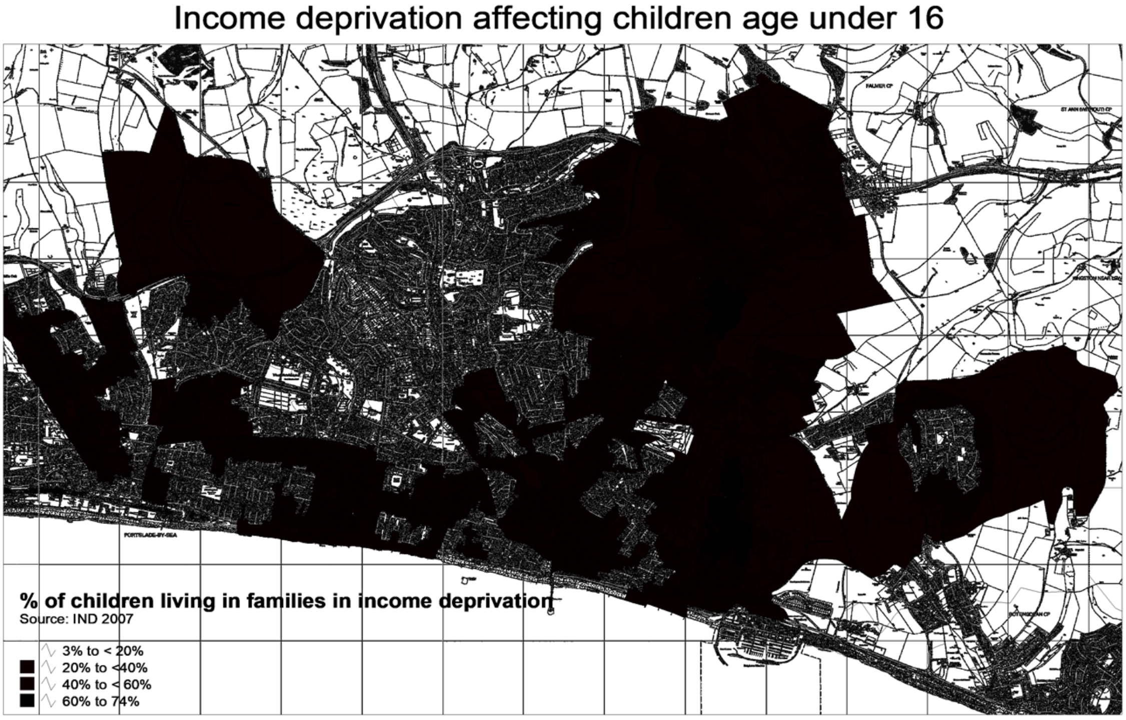
Twenty three per cent of these children live in out of work households which is well above the South East average of 15%. More than half of children living in out of work households are located in seven SOAs, all of which are located in the

[11] *Developing Appropriate Strategies for Reducing Inequality in Brighton and Hove, Phase 1 Identifying the Challenge: Inequality in Brighton and Hove Draft Report* Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion Ltd (OCSI) EDuce Ltd September 2007
[12] *Brighton & Hove City Employment and Skills Plan 2007/08 – 2010/11*, Brighton & Hove City Council 2007

East of the city – three in East Brighton, two in Moulsecoomb and Bevendean and one each in Hollingbury and Stanmer and Queen's Park.

Children living in income deprived households are mainly concentrated in the East of the city.

Figure 42 – Income deprivation affecting children under 16



Children with multiple needs are heavily concentrated in the most deprived areas of the city. Nearly 50% of children across the city experiencing both low income and Special Educational Needs live in the most deprived 20% of areas.

Children in Brighton & Hove are more likely to live in single parent households than across England a whole. Twenty eight per cent of the child population lives in single parent households compared with 21% in the South East and 26% in England as a whole. Single parents are more likely to be excluded from the labour market – 57% of single parents in Brighton & Hove are out of work compared with 50% in the South East region.

Brighton & Hove has a fast growing population which is primarily driven by an increase in the 35 to 44 year old age group. This trend has continued since 2001 with the population aged 35 to 45 growing by more than one third between 2001 and 2005. This working age population growth is contrary to trends in the South East and England as a whole where the population is becoming older. This presents significant job creation challenge for the city.

Current trend based population projections suggest that the city's population could increase by a further 12,000 (4.8%) over the next ten years, including a 2.4% increase in the number of children aged 0 to 15.

3.2 Demographic information about disabled children

3.3 Children on the Compass

There are currently 1006 children on the Compass.

- Over half the children are identified as having challenging behaviour. About a quarter are on the autistic spectrum and about an eighth have ADHD.
- 11% of the child population (5,745) have special educational needs but do not have a Statement of Educational Need. Of these approximately 61% are at the School Action level, and 38% at the School Action Plus level[13]
- 2% of the child population (1,190) have a Statement of Educational Need and, of those 265 have a mild learning disability, 133 have severe learning disability, and 159 have an Autistic Spectrum Disorder
- PreSENS[14] currently have 500 children on their caseload (3 and 4 year olds)

3.4 Estimating the disabled child population

There has not been any recent national census to capture the number of disabled children. However, the Family Resources Survey and the General Household Survey[15] along with information from the Family Fund database all provide recent estimates of the prevalence and profile of childhood disability. These report that 5% and 7% respectively of children are disabled.

Underscoring the above, *Disability 2020*[16], noted that the fastest growth in the numbers of people reporting disability has been amongst children aged under 16.

Family Fund data[17] captures something of the changing profile of childhood disability. Most notably, 'autism, behavioural disorders' was the most predominant severely disabling condition for children of 25% of applicants in 2000 compared with only 4% in 1990.

There are 1006 children on the Compass. In May 2007, 1,320 under 16s in the city received Disability Living Allowance. Amaze estimate that if there has been no change in the child population since the 2001 Census, the number of children getting DLA corresponds to 3.2% of under 16s in the city.

Although a crude calculation, the general consensus is that about half of eligible children get DLA. If this is true, about 6% of children in Brighton & Hove are disabled.

The Compass evidence about the population of disabled children living in Brighton & Hove reflects much of the national research indicating that disabled children are more likely to experience disadvantage.

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[13] DfES returns

[14] Brighton & Hove's Pre-school Special Educational Needs Service

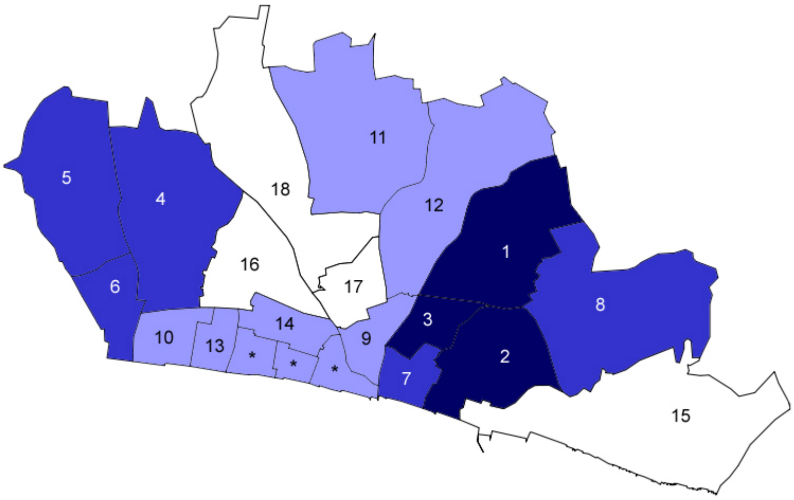
[15] The Family Resources Survey G.B. (2002-03) and the ONS (2004) *Living in Britain: Results from the 2002 General Household Survey*

[16] IPPR (2007) for the Disability Rights Commission

[17] *The Health of Children and Young People* reported in Chapter 10 (Disability) of the ONS publication (2004)

The map below shows that, according to the Compass, there is a significantly higher proportion of disabled children living in disadvantaged areas in the city, and is particularly acute in East Brighton, Moulsecoomb and Bevendean, Hanover and Elm Grove.

Figure 43 – Distribution of disabled children in Brighton & Hove



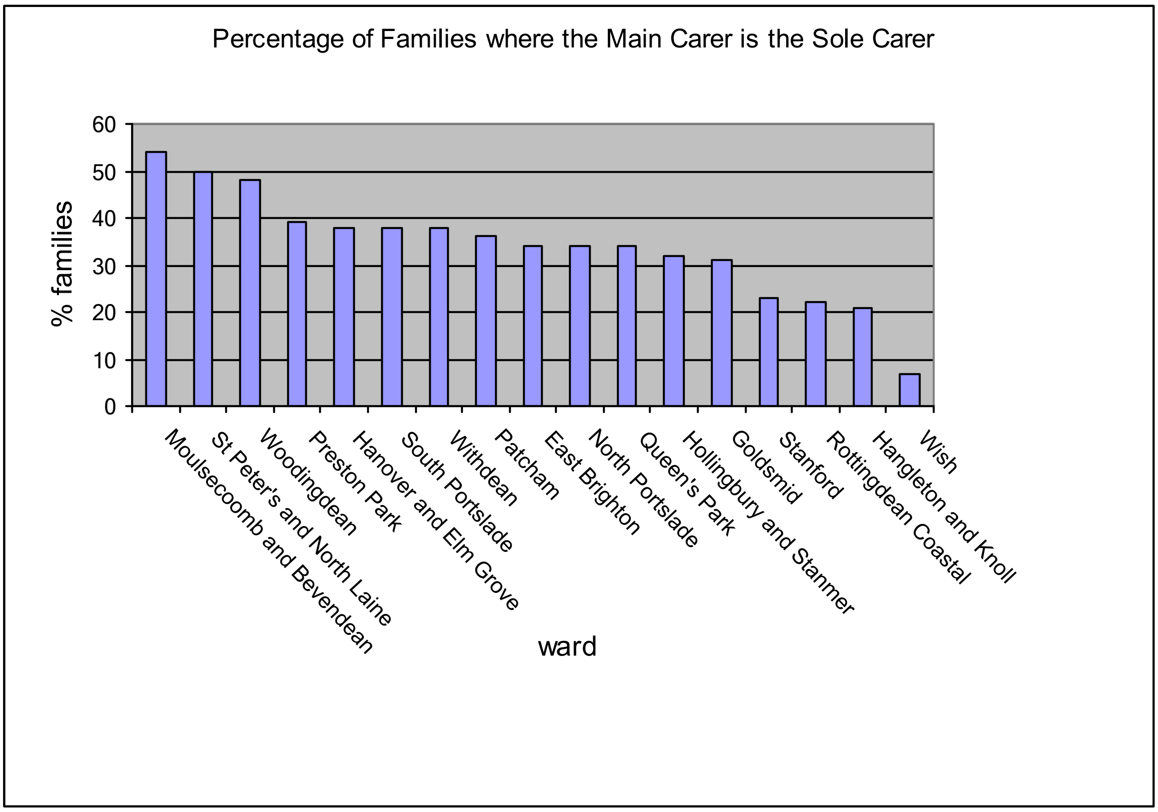
Dark blue – more than 25 children on the Compass per 1,000 children
Royal blue – 20 to 25 children on the Compass per 1,000 children
Light blue – 15 to 19 children on the Compass per 1,000 children
White – 14 or fewer children on the Compass per 1,000 children

Figure 44 – Disabled children by ward

Ward	Number of children on the Compass
Moulsecoomb & Bevendean	157
East Brighton	106
Hollingbury & Stanmer	73
Hangleton & Knoll	71
Hanover & Elm Grove	67
North Portslade	67
Patcham	56
South Portslade	46
Woodingdean	45
Queens Park	39
Goldsmid	34
Rottingdean Coastal	32
Wish	30
Withdean	30
Preston Park	29
St Peters & North Laine	27
Stanford	26
Westbourne	16
Central Hove	11
Brunswick & Adelaide	8
Regency	5

Compass figures also indicate that 36% of registered families are single parent households. In some wards this is particularly high at around 50% of families in Moulsecoomb and Bevendean, St. Peter's and North Laine, and Woodingdean.

Figure 45 – Single parents of disabled children by ward



A high number of disabled children have a parent/carer who is disabled or has long term ill health. The wards with particularly high proportions are East Brighton, Moulsecoomb and Bevendean and Hangleton and Knoll.

3.5 Economy

The Brighton & Hove economy has performed strongly since the mid 1990s with falls in unemployment and rises in average earnings. Most significant growth has been in financial and creative sectors. Around 30,000 jobs were created between 1995 and 2005. However, although there was a growth in the number of jobs, there was no change in the employment rate because of the increase in the number of working age residents in the city.

Growth is also attributed to the ability of the city to attract and retain highly skilled individuals. Many students from the city's two universities remain on completion of their studies. The proportion of residents with a degree is 37% compared with 30% in England as a whole. However, the low value added nature of the city's economy suggest that skills in the city may not be being utilised effectively, resulting in higher skilled residents performing intermediate and lower level jobs.

There are also high levels of inequality with labour market polarisation and unequal levels of income across the city. In Brighton & Hove 20% of the population is economically inactive, whilst the figure for Moulsecoomb and Bevendean is 34%. There are very low income levels in some areas – in Queen's Park some SOAs have 23% of households with an income below £10,000 a year compared with Stanford where only 2% of households have an annual income at this figure.

The type of labour market which is developing creates an increasing demand for high skilled individuals which is met by a highly educated workforce. But there is a large group of people with no qualifications and poor basic skills in the city. There are 15,700 people of working age in the city who have no qualifications. However, at 9% of the population this is not significantly different compared with the regional and national figures (10% and 14% respectively). There is a risk of those with low skills being excluded from employment opportunities within the city. This particularly intensified by the fact that a large number of students compete with low skilled adults in the areas of the economy that require lower skills.

There are 19,700 residents not in work but who would like a job, and the rate in Brighton & Hove is significantly higher than the regional and national rates, indicating that barriers to work are greater in the local area. Illness and disability rates now dwarf unemployment as the primary reason for worklessness.

For women the growth in part time work has made a major contribution to the increase in female labour market participation. In 2001 women accounted for 46% of total employment in Brighton & Hove, yet they accounted for 75% of part time employment.

Full time gross weekly pay in Brighton & Hove is £412.60. This is lower than both the South East and England medians (£470.10 and £448.60 respectively)[18].

In terms of commuting patterns, 33,500 people commute out of Brighton & Hove each day, and 28,000 people commute into Brighton & Hove each day.[19] However, Brighton & Hove funds 123 three and four year olds living in West Sussex to receive their early education in the city, whilst West Sussex funds 41 children from Brighton & Hove to receive their early education in that county.[20]

3.6 Economic development[21]

The future development of the city's economy is largely based upon the successful delivery of a large number of regeneration schemes, including

- Brighton Centre redevelopment
- International arena at Black Rock
- King Alfred development including residential towers
- Falmer football stadium
- Preston Barracks employment-led mixed use scheme
- New England quarter mixed use scheme including two new hotels, offices, residential and retail

[18] Office for National Statistics, 2006
[19] 2001 Census
[20] Figures from autumn 2007. Awaiting figures from East Sussex.
[21] From *Brighton & Hove City Employment and Skills Plan 2007/08 to 2010/11*

- Circus Street municipal market development for mixed use

As part of and in addition to these there are six new hotels currently under construction or proposed which will increase the capacity of tourism in the city.

3.7 Implications for childcare

The demand for childcare will be affected by local social and economic conditions. In particular it will be affected by the anticipated increase in the city's working age population along with the increase in the number of children aged 0 to 15. It is also impacted by the geographical distribution of income throughout the city.

In addition, the City and Employment and Skills Plan's target to increase the employment rate in the city will bring those into the labour market who have not, to date, been involved. Many of these will be single parents for whom childcare and childcare affordability will be a significant issue.

There may also be an impact on demand for childcare by forthcoming changes in benefits legislation which may result in an increase in the number of single parents who have not previously worked joining the labour force.

SECTION FOUR: MAPPING CHILDCARE DEMAND TO CHILDCARE SUPPLY

4.1 Gaps

The aim of the mapping demand for and supply of childcare is to discover where gaps exist. Gaps in the market are considered in the following categories:

- **Geographical gaps** – where an area has a general shortage of supply
- **Income gaps** – where there is a shortage of affordable childcare for the income groups populating an area
- **Specific need gaps** – where there is a shortage of suitable places for disabled children, or children with other specific needs or requirements, including those from particular faiths or community groups
- **Time gaps** – where there is a shortage of childcare at a time that parents would wish to use childcare
- **Age gaps** – where there is a shortage of childcare suitable to the needs and requirements of a certain age groups
- **Type gaps** – where there is a shortage in the type of childcare for which parents may be expressing a preference

4.2 Geographical gaps

In general terms there is sufficient childcare across Brighton & Hove. Ninety one per cent of parents using childcare are very or fairly satisfied with childcare location. However, childcare is not spread equally across the city. There is more full day care provision in the CYPT Central area compared with the child population, than in the rest of the city. There are fewer after school and holiday playscheme places in the East area compared with the child population than in the rest of the city.

The number of schools meeting the full childcare offer in the CYPT East area is higher than in the West but not as high as in the Central area.

Data from the parent survey does not show a significant unmet demand for childcare in the East area – that is parents in the East did not say that it is hard to find childcare. However, parents in the East were more likely to say that that lack of childcare was preventing them from returning to work. There were also more parents in Moulsecoomb and Bevendean than in any other ward indicating that it was hard to find childcare for older children.

Although parents in the West area did not indicate a higher unmet need for childcare, more schools in the West than in the other areas are not currently meeting the full childcare offer.

There are some areas of the city in which parents state that they cannot find a particular type of childcare whereas supply data indicates that it is available. This may be that parents do not like what is on offer or consider it too expensive.

It may also be that the sessions a parent wants are not available at the time required.

4.3 Income gaps

The cost of childcare is one of the most significant messages from the parent questionnaire and the focus groups. The greatest number of comments on the survey related to affordability, particularly in relation to childcare for children aged 0 to 4 and notably for parents of young children who were not yet eligible for the free early years provision. Parents not using childcare and living in more disadvantaged areas particularly cited cost as a reason.

The Brighton & Hove average rate for day nurseries of £182.70 per week is now higher than the maximum amount for the childcare element of working tax credit which is £175 per week for one child, or £300 per week for two or more children. However many parents do not use childcare full time and so would still come within this limit, and there are also many settings whose fees come within this limit. There needs to be further analysis of the number of settings whose fees fall within the limits for the childcare element of working tax credit

The Brighton & Hove average rate for day nurseries for any age is higher than the South East average of £172 week and the England average of £154[22]. On the other hand, full time gross weekly pay in Brighton & Hove is lower than both the South East and England medians.

The cost of childminding and out of school provision in Brighton & Hove is more akin to the South East regional cost.

Parents in disadvantaged areas are more likely to say that childcare cost is an issue for them, compared with parents in other areas.

Whilst the take up of the childcare element of working tax credit is higher in Brighton & Hove than it is in the South East and in England as a whole, it still amounts to only 19% of eligible households[23].

Affordability is not such a significant issue for parents of older children. However, many of them use and want to use after school and holiday activities as part of their childcare provision. Until the Voluntary Childcare Register[24] is widely used by providers, most of these activities will not be eligible for the childcare element of the working tax credit.

Some childcare providers stated that their businesses had been affected by late payment of fees and felt that parents needed more help with claiming the

[22] *Childcare Costs Survey 2008* Daycare Trust average day nursery costs for children under 2 and over 2 for 50 hours per week in a nursery

[23] According to DWP the 2005/6 figures are South East 15% and England 16%. Brighton & Hove's figure was 17% in 2004/5. The highest figure for any local authority is 27% (three London boroughs) and the highest in the South East is 20%

[24] The Voluntary Childcare Register is for people looking after children over the age of 8, including those providing activities such as arts clubs and sports which are not required to register as childcare

childcare element of working tax credit. They also had strategies to improve childcare affordability.

4.4 Specific need gaps

There is no indication from the parent questionnaire that there is a shortage of supply of childcare for parents from particular faiths or community groups, although this needs further exploration through focus group activity.

The most significant gap is in childcare for disabled children. This was evident from the parent questionnaire and from the focus groups, particularly childcare for older disabled children. Data from the Compass indicates that there is unmet need for childminders, after school and holiday provision, though it is not clear whether this is for respite – short breaks, for example – or to allow parents to work or train.

Many families expressed a need for more specialised services designed for children with specific conditions, whereas others would prefer their child to use mainstream provision. Many parents of disabled children value childcare primarily as an opportunity for their child to be with other children, particularly during the holidays; for families with non-disabled siblings this can be very important.

Providers indicated considerable experience in providing for children with disabilities and willingness to expand their experience and knowledge further. Many, however, stated that lack of funding for one to one care prevented them from taking more disabled children.

4.5 Time gaps

Overall there are no significant time gaps as mostly parents indicate they are able to find what they need and early years providers offer sufficiently long hours. However, there is indication of some unmet need for childcare outside 8 am and 6 pm. There is also a demand for more flexible childcare, for example after school activities that extend beyond 4.30 pm and after school clubs that allow children to attend for part of the session.

This issue may need further exploration in particular areas. There is anecdotal information from telephone calls to the Family Information Service (FIS) that women in certain types of employment – for example those working for airlines or for the police or health service where there are irregular shift patterns, or teachers who require childcare in term time only – have more difficulty finding childcare that meets their needs.

Many parents completing the questionnaire indicated that they worked school hours to avoid the need for childcare. In many cases this will be out of choice – 94% of those completing the questionnaire were women and the data indicates that they want to spend time with their children and feel that home is the best place for them after school – but they also want flexible employment which allows them to do this.

There were some comments from parents that although childminders said that they were flexible, the reality was that this was limited.

Many comments relating to time gaps were about the difficulty presented to working parents by part time reception provision for spring and summer born children.

Most providers did not indicate that they were planning to expand their opening hours – in some cases this was because the location would prevent this.

4.6 Age gaps

There is less provision for school aged children than for children aged 0 to 4, particularly for secondary aged children. This was commented on by a number of parents. Providers for older children were less likely to think that there is sufficient childcare.

There is no indication of a lack of care for very young children, although it may be that with many women now being able to take a longer maternity leave demand is limited.

Some parents not using childcare indicated that they were not interested in returning to work until their children were at school, and when they did so they would limit their work to school hours.

There is also a lack of choice for school aged children with often only one option of after school provision. There are significantly fewer places per 100 children for after school and holiday provision, compared with provision for children aged 0 to 4.

There is negligible provision for children aged 15 to 17 with disabilities.

4.7 Type gaps

There were no significant type gaps in terms of formal childcare provision. However there was some indication that parents would like to use family and friends for childcare who are not available. This may be because of a somewhat mobile population within the city.

There is not a uniform spread of childcare types across the city – for example there are significantly fewer childminders in the CYPT East area compared with the Central and West areas.

In some cases there may be a childcare type available in an area but the parent does not want the child to use that particular setting, or the parent finds it too expensive, or there are no vacancies available at the times the parent needs.

For children aged 0 to 4 there was a small preference for pre-schools or playgroups. However, not all of these will be open long enough to provide childcare for parents to work or train.

Parents using childcare are in general very satisfied with quality in all childcare types[25].

[25] Childcare quality, as judged by Ofsted, is generally of higher quality in Brighton & Hove compared with England as a whole. Four per cent of childcare providers are judged to be outstanding compared with 3% in England as a whole, with the providers graded good at 63% in Brighton & Hove and 57% in England as a whole. Nursery education inspections also score highly with 13% in Brighton & Hove outstanding compared with 6% per cent in England and 68% good compared with 58% in England *(figures from Ofsted Early Years Profile for Brighton & Hove December 2007).*

Appendix One
The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and the Childcare Act 2006

The Childcare Act 2006 (“the 2006 Act”) expands and clarifies in legislation the role that local authorities should play as strategic leaders in facilitating the childcare market. Section 6 of the 2006 Act gives local authorities a new duty to secure, as far as is reasonably practicable, the provision of sufficient childcare to enable parents to work or train. This duty comes into force in April 2008. Section 11 of the 2006 Act places a duty on local authorities to have undertaken a CSA by April 2008. This is a first step towards securing sufficient childcare provision and enabling us to meet our Section 6 duty.

The guidance states “the assessment is a measurement of the nature and extent of the need for, and supply of, childcare within each local area”. It is concerned with formal childcare (whether registered or unregistered) which is available to meet the needs of working parents. It is also concerned with the provision of the free early education entitlement for three and four year olds.

In the 2006 Act, “childcare” is defined as “any form of care for a child, and … includes

a) education for a child, and
b) any other supervised activity for a child”

However, childcare “does not include

a) education provided by a school during school hours … or
b) any form of health care for a child”

and also does not include
“care provided for a child by

a) a parent or step-parent of the child
b) a person with parental responsibility for the child
c) a relative of the child”

as well as a number of other people including foster parents with whom the local authority has placed the child.

“Sufficient childcare” is defined in Section 6 of the 2006 Act as “sufficient to meet the requirements of parents in [the local authority’s] area who require childcare in order to enable them

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

In determining whether provision of childcare is sufficient a local authority

a) must have regard to the needs of parents in their area for
   i) the provision of childcare in respect of which the childcare element of the working tax credit is payable, and
   ii) the provision of childcare which is suitable for disabled children

b) may have regard to any childcare which they expect to be available outside their area.

Appendix Two

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Methodology

1. Parent questionnaire

A parent questionnaire was developed and piloted with around 30 parents attending Ents in the Park in the summer of 2007.

This was developed into a questionnaire entitled "Your Views About Childcare in Brighton & Hove" which was sent to 3,753 parents and carers of children aged 0 to 14, (including some parents of disabled children up to the age of 17). There were 1,154 questionnaires returned, i.e. 31%. This is a good rate of return and the sample is representative of the parent population. In addition, 57 people completed the survey on the Brighton & Hove website and 54 pregnant women completed the survey distributed by Brighton & Hove midwives. The questionnaire was sent out between October and December 2007 and was sent a second time to parents who did not return it the first time

The questionnaire was sent to an equal number of parents of children in each age cohort. Although it was boosted in certain areas of the city the data takes account of this. It was also weighted in favour of parents of school aged children with SEN. Addresses were taken from the health visiting database and the schools' census.

The response from women was 94%, single parents 24%, from black and minority ethnic parents 6.8%, and from bisexual and lesbian parents 1.4%.

As with all voluntary questionnaires, it should be taken into account that those who responded might be more interested because they use childcare, whilst those who did not respond might be those who do not use childcare.

2. Focus groups

Three focus groups with parents were been conducted to explore some of the particular issues affecting families' access and use of childcare. A decision was made to focus on parents of disabled children to help build a picture of some of the difficulties families experienced in using or not being able to find suitable childcare provision.

Two groups of parents of disabled children were brought together. One was of co-ordinated via a contact in a local parent and toddler group specifically for parents of children with physical disabilities aged between 0 and 5; the other was organised by Amaze and involved a group of parents of school aged disabled children with a range of additional needs. On both occasions the groups held informal discussion led by questions from the Childcare Policy Officer. Notes were taken, made anonymous and subsequently agreed by all of the participants.

The third focus group took place at an informal drop-in at a children's centre. The aim of approaching parents at the children's centre was to try and hear from those living in one of the more disadvantaged parts of the city with less childcare available.

Due to the nature of the drop-in a series of short interviews were completed with just one or two parents at a time. Again, this was led by questions from the Childcare Policy officer. Notes were taken and agreed by participants.

3. Provider data

A questionnaire about the supply of childcare places was written using the DCSF CSA guidance and examples of questionnaires tried and tested by other local authorities. It was piloted with 10 local childcare providers and subsequently sent to all 502 in the city. There were 279 questionnaires returned which is 55% response rate.

Data about childcare places has been taken from the IcHIS database, which is a system managed by the Family Information Service to maintain local childcare and early years information.

4. Production of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

City Early Years and Childcare, a team within the Brighton & Hove Children and Young People's Trust which works to implement the government's ten year strategy for childcare, produced the CSA.

The report's authors are Vicky Jenkins, Early Years and Childcare Strategy Manager, (Sufficiency) and Penny Morrison, Childcare Policy Officer. The researcher officer for the report was David Golding from the Chief Executive's Policy team and Karen Gearing, FIS Officer, produced the provider data from the Family Information Service database.

This report is available to download from www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/childcaresufficiency.

Comments on the draft report must be received by 20th March 2008.

The final report will be published on the Brighton & Hove website by 31st March 2008.

Brighton & Hove City Council
Children and Young People's Trust

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

City Early Years and Childcare

COMMENTS FORM

I am a (or represent a)
(please tick appropriate box)

Parent	☐	Childcare provider	☐	School/education	☐
Business/employer	☐	Professional	☐	Other	☐

Does this analysis of childcare in Brighton & Hove describe your experience?

Yes ☐
No ☐

If no please comment

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