

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

Brighton & Hove City Council

May 2023

This Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) was undertaken in accordance with the Department for Education's [Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities, April 2023](#). Local authorities are required to report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare in accordance with Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006 (as amended), and make this report available and accessible to parents.

A city-wide parental childcare demand survey was carried out between December 2022 and January 2023 and supply data was collected from childcare providers between November 2022 and April 2023.

The previous CSA was published in 2018.

This CSA supports Brighton & Hove City Council's [Early Years Strategic Action Plan](#).

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1. Main Findings

There is a good supply of and demand for early years and childcare provision in Brighton & Hove and the childcare market is relatively buoyant. A number of early years settings have closed since the last CSA published in 2018, although others have opened, and there has been an overall increase in early years places.

Early years provision is high quality and and take-up of early years free entitlements (EYFE) by two year olds is higher than the national average.¹ However, while the percentage of two year olds taking up their EYFE has risen since 2018² (nationally it has remained the same), the percentage of three and four year olds taking up EYFE has fallen from 97% to 94%.³

Parents who responded to the survey were generally satisfied with childcare, but had concerns about its cost, would like more choice and would like it to be more flexible. Parents of a child or children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) were less satisfied with childcare than those with a child or children without SEND.

1.1 Childcare demand

In general parents who responded to the survey were satisfied with childcare particularly its quality, and levels of satisfaction had improved in all areas since 2018, apart from affordability, where satisfaction had dropped by five percentage points, and ease of finding childcare which had dropped by 1.8 percentage points.

The parental survey found that⁴

- Those using childcare had a reasonably high level of satisfaction with their childcare arrangements overall with 74.4% (73.6%) very/fairly satisfied
- There were higher levels of satisfaction⁵ with
 - childcare quality 90.5% (86.6%)
 - location 87.2% (81.9%)
 - opening hours 86.4% (75.6%)
 - the way children's individual needs were met 85.0% (77.3%)
 - childcare opening hours 84.6% (75.6%)
 - transparency in fees, charges and invoicing 76.9%⁶
- Where there were lower levels of satisfaction, these had improved since 2018, apart from childcare affordability
 - childcare choice 57.7% (51.0%)
 - flexibility 55.9% (46.8%)
 - affordability 39.5% (49.4%)
- The majority of those using childcare found it easy to find 62.1% (63.2%)
- Most of those using childcare did so because they went to work 89.2% (86.3%)

¹ 90% in Brighton & Hove compared with 72% in England (DfE Early Years Census 2022)

² 84% in 2018 (DfE Early Years Census 2018)

³ The fall in England has been from 94% in 2018 to 92% in 2022 (DfE Early Years Census 2022)

⁴ Figures in brackets are from the 2018 CSA

⁵ The figures are per cent of respondents very/fairly satisfied

⁶ This question was not asked in 2018

- The most commonly used type of childcare was a day nursery 64% (67.1%) followed by family and friends (other than partner) 37.9% (39.5%)
- Certain groups of respondents were less satisfied with childcare than others, including single parents, parents who had a child with SEND and parents who had a school-aged child
- There was a higher overall level of satisfaction with childcare for pre-school children 80.9% (82.7%),⁷ compared with childcare for school-age children 66.1% (62.7%)⁸
- Most of those not using childcare stated that their work fitted around school hours 36.6% or that they were at home to look after their children 35.4%. However 15.9% of respondents stated that it was because the cost was too expensive (down from half of respondents in 2018)
- Of respondents making comments about childcare, 56% (38%) noted the high cost of childcare and the impact on work and family life

1.2 Childcare quality

- Childcare quality, based on Ofsted inspection judgements,⁹ is lower than England as a whole and the South East. This is a change from 2018 when quality was higher.
- Currently¹⁰ 95% of early years providers are judged by Ofsted to be outstanding/good, compared with 96% in England and 97% in the South East. However, in Brighton & Hove 23% of early years settings are outstanding, compared with 15% in England and 16% in the South East.
- Quality remains high in the council's family hub nurseries which are all judged good or outstanding by Ofsted and are mainly located in the city's more disadvantaged areas, and take a large proportion of two year olds for EYFE

1.3 Childcare supply

- Since 2018 there has been an increase of 7.6% in the number of places for children under the age of five compared with a 0.9% reduction nationally. However, over the same time period there has been a 16.8% reduction in the number of early years providers (20.6% nationally) which indicates a move from smaller to larger providers.¹¹
- A fall in the number of young children in the city means that there are now fewer children per full day care place compared with 2018 with 3.1 children per place, compared with 3.4 in 2018
- The number of places in full day care settings has increased by 4.8% since 2018,¹² and there has also been an 7.6% increase in the number of places on the early years register.¹³
- There has been a significant reduction in the number of childminders, from 116 childminders in 2018 to 65 in 2023, a 44% decrease.

⁷ Per cent of respondents with a child up to the age of four very/fairly satisfied with childcare arrangements overall

⁸ Per cent of respondents with a child aged five to 11 very/fairly satisfied with childcare arrangements overall

⁹ Ofsted data to 31st August 2022

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ Ibid

¹² Based on providers reporting their number of places

¹³ Ofsted data between March 2018 and August 2022

- There is high take-up of all EYFE by eligible two year olds at 90%, compared with 72% in England and 69% in the South East. Take up of EYFE by three and four year olds is 94% compared with 92% in England and 95% in the South East.¹⁴
- There has been an increase in the take-up of the extended entitlement to 30 hours free childcare, from 42.7% of three and four year olds in autumn 2018 to 50.1% in spring 2023.
- Compared with 2018 more full day care settings offer early morning opening with 47.5% open before 8 am (41.9% in 2018), but fewer opening after 6 pm (22.5% in 2022, compared with 25.7% in 2018).
- There are no full day care providers open after 7 pm in the evening or at weekends. However, of the childminders responding to the survey six stated that that they provided care on a Saturday, and five on a Sunday.
- The cost of all types of childcare continues to increase with the average price for full day care £65.51 per day, a 21.3% increase on 2018.
- The cost of childcare is higher in Brighton & Hove than in the South East and England as a whole.
- Full day care providers reported a large number of vacancies for children; however it is not clear whether they have sufficient staff in place to offer these to families.

1.4 Childcare sufficiency overall

There is city-wide provision of most childcare types. However, provision outside the hours of 8 am to 6 pm is limited, as is specialist provision for children with SEND. Childcare costs are high compared with England and South East averages and 48% of parents reported dissatisfaction with childcare affordability.

Information from the (former) Family Information Service (FIS) and the childcare brokerage officer is that parents contact them when they are having difficulty finding the childcare that they want in the place they prefer, particularly EYFE for children starting nursery/pre-school in the summer term. There are also cases where the Brighton & Hove Inclusion Services (BHISS) has had to support parents with a child with SEND to consider a number of different providers before a suitable place can be found. Similarly the Ethnic Minority Achievement Services (EMAS) has had difficulty supporting families from particular ethnic groups to find provision which meets their needs.

EYFE for two year olds

Based upon the high take up of EYFE there appears to be sufficient provision for eligible two year olds. However, as noted above this does not mean that parents can always find nursery/preschool at the time they require in the location they want. Further analysis including surveying childcare providers will need to be carried out to determine whether there will be sufficient provision when EYFE is extended to children from nine months old.

EYFE for three and four year olds

Based upon the high take up of EYFE by three and four year olds there appears to be sufficient provision. However 22% of parents reported difficulty in finding EYFE, and 31% stated that they had to pay for additional hours in order to take up the free ones.¹⁵ There is

¹⁴ DfE 2022 early years census

¹⁵ However a reduction from 44% per cent in 2018

also a lower take-up of the full entitlement to EYFE by three year olds compared with England as a whole.

Early years childcare outside EYFE

There is a wide-range of early years childcare of differing types across all areas of the city, with an increase in the number of full day care places since 2018, with both full day care and sessional providers reporting vacancies.¹⁶ There has also been a reduction in the number of children per childcare place because of an increase in the number of places overall and a fall in the number of young children. However, there has been a 44% fall in the number of childminders since 2018.

Childcare before and after school

Most primary schools offer breakfast clubs¹⁷ and after-school provision both on-site and through a pick-up service. 55% of after-school clubs reported that they had vacancies. However, if an after-school club serving a child's school is full there may not be an alternative for parents because of the low number of childminders.

Childcare during the school holidays

There has been an increase in the number of summer holiday play schemes operating in the city since 2018.¹⁸ However, there was lower satisfaction by parents whose childcare included a holiday playscheme compared with those using other childcare types.

Childcare for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

Additional support and inclusion funding supports pre-school and school-age children to access mainstream childcare provision. There are cases where BHISS has had to support families to approach a number of early years settings before a place can be found which meets the child's needs. In addition there is only one specialist provider of inclusive childcare offering places for older children with SEND.

Childcare during a-typical hours (outside 8 am to 6 pm on weekdays)

Compared with 2018 more full day care providers and primary school breakfast clubs are open before 8 am, but there has been a reduction in the percentage of full day care providers open after 6 pm, and all after school clubs close by 6 pm, meaning that there is very limited provision (other than that offered by childminders and at home childcarers) during a-typical hours.

Flexible childcare

There is limited early years flexible childcare for parents working different hours each week, with 14% of early years providers reporting that they offered this.

1.5 Plans for childcare

- Publicise CSA findings parents and childcare providers, so that parents have an understanding of local provision and childcare providers can develop their provision to meet local needs.

¹⁶ 81% of full day care and 69% sessional care providers reported vacancies

¹⁷ 92% of primary schools offer breakfast clubs

¹⁸ From 25 in 2018 to 30 in 2023

- Support early years providers to review their business and operating models, as resources allow, to ensure that with the anticipated increase in funding,¹⁹ standalone Early Years Free Entitlement (EYFE) provision is available as widely as possible, including for the extended childcare support offer.
- Survey early years providers to understand their capacity to increase provision from April 2024 to deliver the extended childcare support offer, including support for childcare in schools.
- Investigate further the reasons for the lower take up of the full EYFE in Brighton & Hove compared with South East and England.
- Put in place further support for providers with staff recruitment and retention once DfE plans are known.
- Continue to support the recruitment and retention of high quality childminders, and encourage them to offer EYFE, and childcare at a-typical hours.
- Family Hubs to develop support through their direct service and the digital family hub to ensure that parents are able to take up their full EYFE, including the extended childcare support offer, and find childcare which meets their needs, as well as access government support with childcare costs.
- The increased funding rates for providers for additional support and inclusion²⁰ for children with SEND are monitored to see whether these result in improved parental satisfaction.

¹⁹ For example for two year olds from an average of £6.00 per hour in April 2023 to an average of £8.00 per hour from September 2023

²⁰ See Section 10.13

2. National Context

The most recent development in childcare policy is the proposed change to the early years free entitlement (EYFE) offer, announced in the spring 2023 budget on 15th March 2023. The focus is on enabling parents to start work or increase their hours of work through support with childcare costs. The proposals will significantly increase the offer to parents as follows:

Date	New Offer
April 2024	15 hours of EYFE for working parents of two year olds
September 2024	15 hours of EYFE for working parents of nine months plus
September 2025	30 hours of EYFE for all working parents of children from nine months to primary school
September 2026	All schools to offer 8 am to 6 pm wraparound care on their own or in partnership

In addition Universal Credit reforms will pay childcare support up front when parents move into work or increase their hours and increase the monthly re-imbusement cap.

Investment in the existing entitlements will increase national funding rates.²¹

Childminder grants will be introduced to attract people to childminding, with £1,200 for those who register with a childminder agency and £600 for those who register with Ofsted.

The government will invest £289m over two academic years from September 2023 to enable schools and local areas to set up wraparound childcare provision.

At the time of writing local authorities were awaiting further details on these proposals.

Since the last CSA the [Holiday Activities and Food programme](#) has been rolled out nationally. This provides free enriching activities in the Easter, summer and Christmas holidays to children aged four to 16 in receipt of benefits-related free school meals. As a four hours a day, four days a week offer HAF is not intended as childcare, and so is not included in this assessment.

The DfE has introduced an [Early Years Education Recovery Programme](#) in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. In Brighton & Hove there has been very good early years provider engagement with the Early Years Professional Development Programme Phase 3, Experts and Mentors and the Level 3 Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) accredited training.

²¹ For example for two year olds from an average of £6.00 per hour in April 2023 to an average of £8.00 per hour from September 2023

3. Local Context

Early Years and Childcare, which is part of Family Hubs in the Families, Children and Learning directorate, has an Early Years Strategic Action Plan 2022 which details how the city is meeting its duty to improve outcomes for all young children, reduce inequalities, and ensure that there is sufficient high-quality early years provision and childcare. The strategy sets priorities for the future, focussing on the most disadvantaged children and families.

3.1 Support for childcare providers

This includes

- Business support for new childcare providers and those requesting guidance regarding sustainability
- A workforce development training programme including online and face to face courses and elearning²²
- Support and challenge regarding childcare quality for new childcare providers and those with an Ofsted inspection judgement of less than good
- Wide-ranging information, advice and guidance on current developments in early years, including termly network meetings, email bulletins, dedicated web pages and social media accounts
- Advice on safeguarding policy and practice
- Support for out of school childcare providers and schools to set up and run breakfast and after-school clubs and holiday playschemes
- An early years jobs advertising and recruitment guidance service, currently free to providers
- Information and support for those wanting to become a childminder
- Support and information for early years providers wishing to offer EYFE to parents, as well as guidance on claiming funding from the local authority
- Funding for additional support to enable providers to include pre-school and school-age children with SEND
- Support from the Brighton & Hove Inclusion Support Service (BHISS) with an allocated specialist teacher enabling early years settings to fulfil the requirements of the Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 and the Equality Act 2010
- Support from the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service (EMAS) team of specialist teachers, bilingual assistants and home school liaison officers for children who have English as an additional language including the city's most vulnerable and disadvantaged black and minority ethnic children. This includes training early years providers to support children with EAL and to achieve and demonstrate good equalities and inclusive practice

3.2 Childcare support for parents

This includes

- Support from Family Hubs providing information about childcare, early education and services for families (and those supporting them) on its website, through social media and by phone. Plans are in place to incorporate this into the digital family hub
- Information and support to parents regarding EYFE, ensuring that they are receiving it in accordance with the council's terms and conditions

²² A charge is made for most training courses

- Five council-run full day care nurseries and one SEND specialist nursery as part of the city's Family Hubs offer

4. Childcare Definitions

After-school activity

Provision for school-age children at a specific activity for example sport, art or drama. Parents were asked about use of after-school activities in the parent survey but this is not counted as childcare in this report.

After school club

Provision for school-age children operating outside the school day, run by maintained primary schools and private and voluntary sector providers. Some full day care providers offer after-school places, often for younger school-age children, through a pick-up service from local schools.

Breakfast club

Provision for children before school starts, usually on a school site and run by the school.

Childminder

Those taking care of children in a home that is not the child's own (usually their own) with up to two other people. Most childminders care for children under the age of five, frequently providing care for children under two, but many also care for school-age children.

Early years free entitlement (EYFE)

Two year olds from families in receipt of certain benefits/low income and all three and four year olds can get 15 hours free early education a year for 30 weeks a year (570 hours all year round) from the term after their second/third birthday, the early years free entitlement (EYFE). This offer is also for two year old children who are looked after by the local authority, in receipt of Disability Living Allowance or have an education, health and care (EHC) plan, or have left care under an adoption order, special guardianship order or a child arrangements order. Three and four year olds of working parents are entitled to 1,140 hours a year. Providers offer EYFE in Brighton & Hove in accordance with a [provider agreement](#) and are audited annually to ensure compliance.

Full day care

Care for children aged from birth to five open for at least eight hours a day, mostly all year round.

Holiday playscheme

Provision for school-age children in all or some of the school holidays. Most playschemes are run by private, voluntary and independent providers, though some are run by schools.

Holiday Activities and Food Programme

Run in the Easter, summer and Christmas holidays the [Holiday Activities and Food Programme](#) provides enriching and fun activities free of charge for children from reception to year 11 (inclusive) who receive benefits-related free school meals (FSM). HAF is not included in the CSA as it is not primarily intended as childcare, though it was included in the parent survey.

Maintained nursery school/class

Standalone nursery schools maintained by the local authority, and nursery classes which are part of maintained infant or primary schools.

Sessional care

Care for children aged two to five open fewer than eight hours a day, most open term-time only. Sessional care includes provision of early education by maintained schools and nurseries, as well as independent schools.

5. Local Demography and Employment

There are 276,334 people living in Brighton & Hove of which 38,808 are aged under 15. This is 14% per cent of the population, lower than the England average of 17.4%.²³

5.1 Child population by age band

The percentage of young people in the city is slightly lower than the England average.

Area	Under 1 year	1 to 4 years	5 to 9 years	10 to 14 years	15 to 19 years	0 to 19 years total
Brighton & Hove	0.8	3.4	4.7	5.1	6.0	20.1
England	1.0	4.4	5.9	6.0	5.7	23.1

The number of live births per year in the city in 2021 was 2,351, lower than 2,800 reported in the 2018 CSA.

5.2 Population change children aged under five since 2018 by ward²⁴

There has been a reduction in the number of children under five in the city since 2018.

Ward	2020	2018	Per cent change
Brunswick & Adelaide	316	377	-16.2
Central Hove	349	388	-10.1
East Brighton	726	736	-1.4
Goldsmid	753	842	-10.6
Hangleton & Knoll	886	894	-0.9
Hanover & Elm Grove	777	808	-3.8
Hollingdean & Stanmer	694	778	-10.8
Hove Park	568	627	-9.4
Moulsecoomb & Bevendean	717	736	-2.6
North Portslade	621	668	-7.0
Patcham	806	851	-5.3
Preston Park	662	731	-9.4
Queen's Park	613	626	-2.1
Regency	305	329	-7.3
Rottingdean Coastal	542	574	-5.6
St. Peter's & North Laine	688	675	1.9
South Portslade	635	610	4.1
Westbourne	509	609	-16.4
Wish	587	619	-5.2
Withdean	693	734	-5.6
Woodingdean	540	556	-2.9
City-wide	12,987	13,768	-5.7

²³ ONS mid-2021 population estimate

²⁴ ONS population estimates

78.1% per cent of the city's residents are economically active, which is higher than the economic activity rate in England (75.7%) and the South East (78%).²⁵

There is a smaller percentage of children living in workless households in Brighton & Hove (6%) compared with England as a whole (9.9%).²⁶

In 2021, 3.1% of residents identified their ethnic group within the Other category (Arab or Any other ethnic group), up from 1.5% in 2011. The 1.7 percentage-point change was the largest increase among high-level ethnic groups in this area.

Across the South East, the percentage of people from the Other ethnic groups (Arab or Any other ethnic group) increased from 0.6% to 1.5%, while across England the percentage increased from 1.0% to 2.2%.

In 2021, 85.4% of people identified their ethnic group within the White category (compared with 89.1% in 2011), while 4.8% identified their ethnic group within the Mixed or Multiple category (compared with 3.8% the previous decade).

The percentage of people who identified their ethnic group within the Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh category increased from 4.1% in 2011 to 4.8% in 2021.²⁷

²⁵ ONS regional labour market January 2023

²⁶ ONS labour supply 2021

²⁷ ONS 2021 census

6. Childcare Demand

6.1 Parent survey main findings

In general parents are satisfied with childcare particularly its quality, and overall satisfaction has increased since 2018.

- 74.4% of respondents to the survey were very/fairly satisfied with their childcare arrangements overall
- 62.1% of respondents reported childcare very/fairly easy to find
- 90.5% of respondents were very/fairly satisfied with childcare quality

Main concerns were

- The high cost of childcare and the impact of this on work and family life
- The lack of flexibility in childcare provision
- A lack of choice of childcare

6.2 Parent survey method

Parent survey data was collected online through the council's consultation portal open between 14th December 2022 and 29th January 2023.

The survey was shared with all childcare providers (early years and out of school), schools, and a wide range of community groups and projects.

Amaze²⁸ also shared the survey through its Compass database.²⁹ The survey was frequently shared through social media (Facebook and Twitter) including being regularly re-tweeted by the council.

6.3 Responses to the survey

482 people completed the survey (450 in 2018).

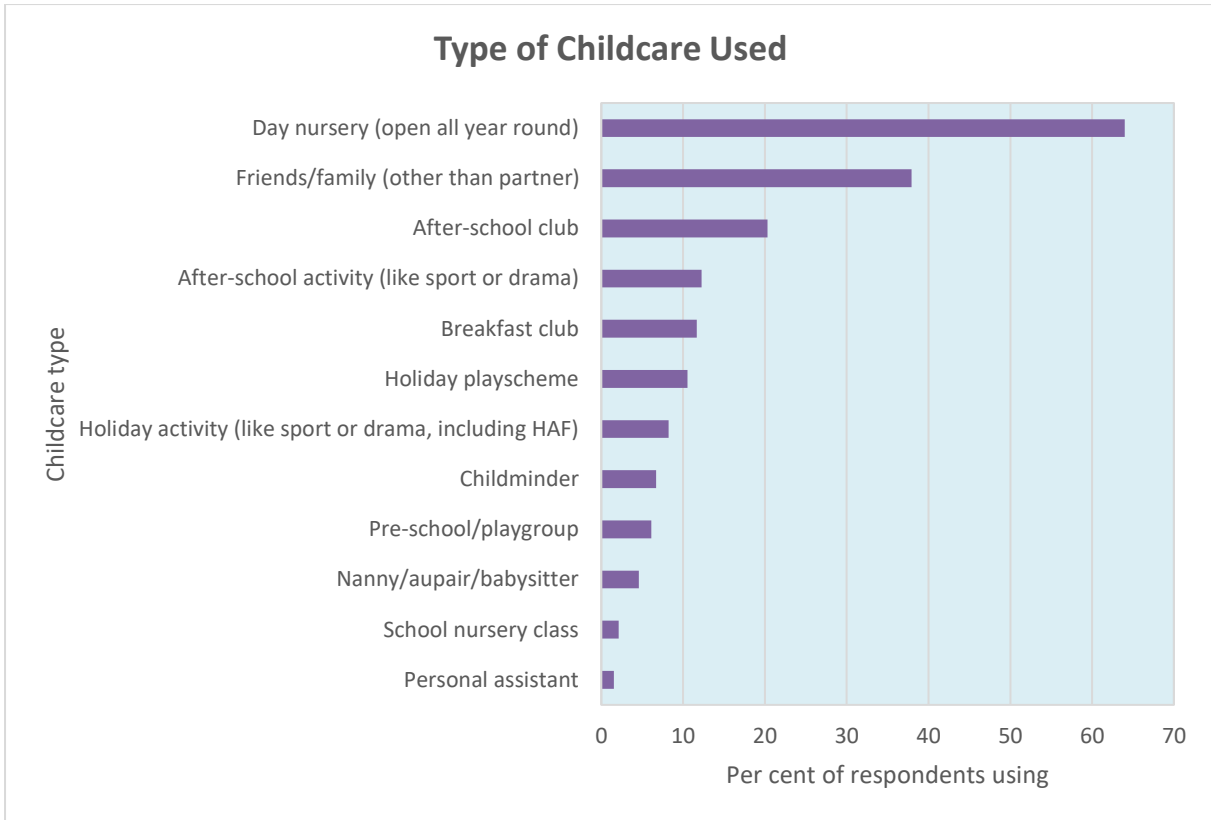
6.4 Type of childcare used

83.2% of respondents (401 people) used childcare. Respondents were asked about their experience of childcare for their two youngest children. Of these, 71.5% were under the age of five, and 24.1% aged five to 11.

The most commonly used type of childcare was a day nursery (64%) followed by friends and family (37.9%) which is consistent with the age of children in the survey.

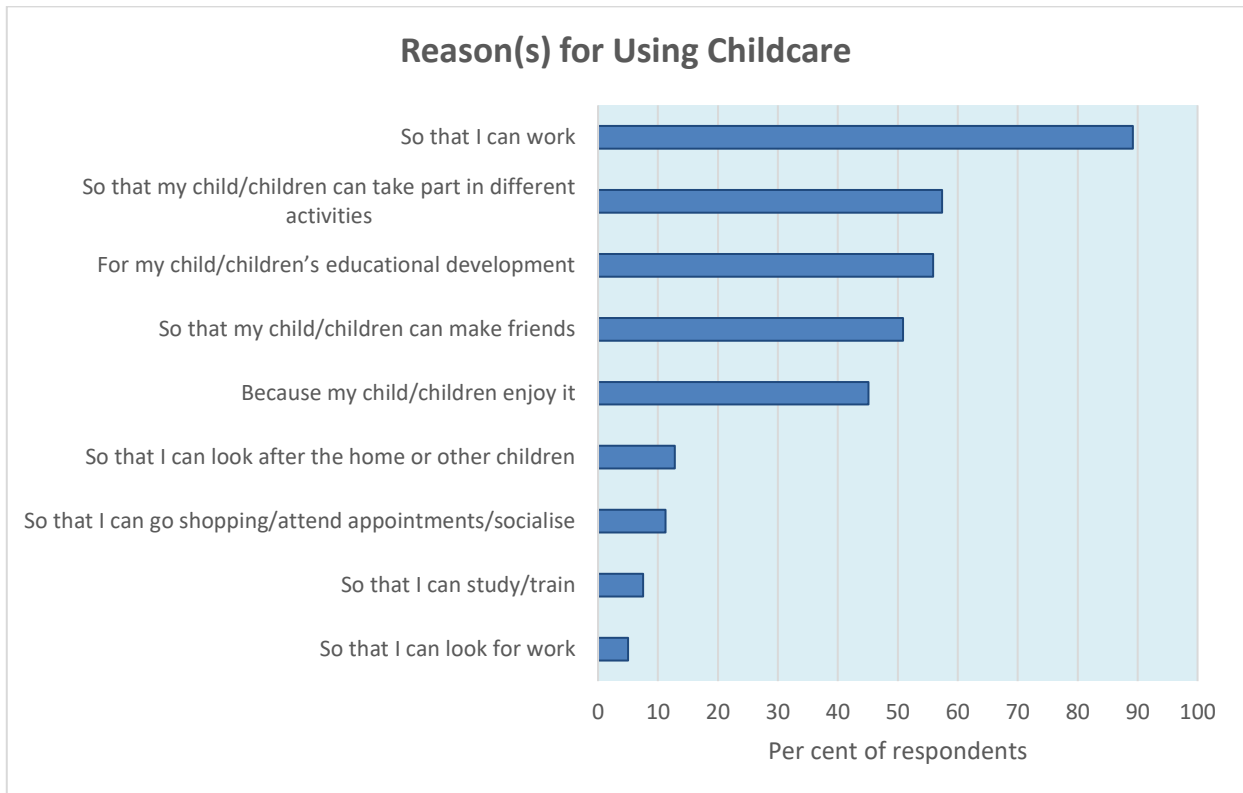
²⁸ Amaze is a charity that gives information, advice and support to families of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Brighton & Hove and Sussex

²⁹ The statutory disability register for Brighton & Hove City Council



6.5 Reasons for using childcare

89.2% of those responding said that they used childcare because they worked.



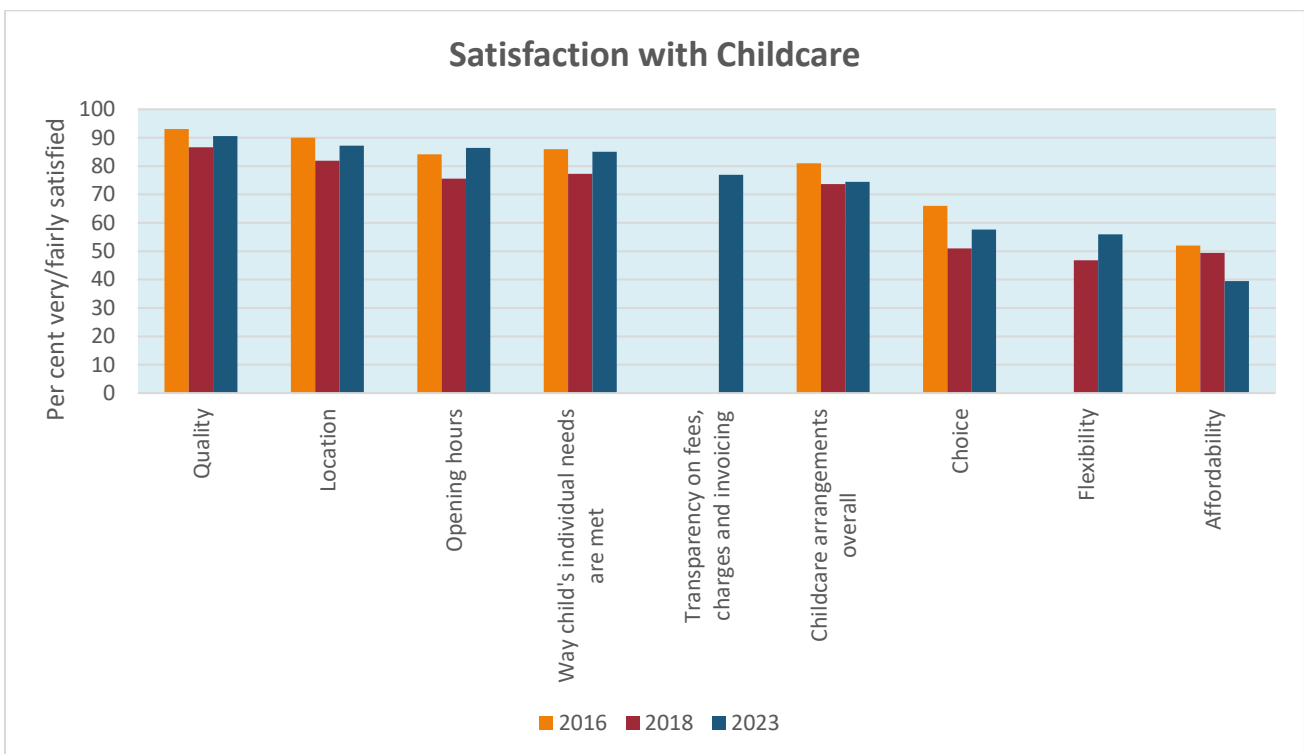
6.6 Ease of finding childcare

62.1% of respondents stated that it was very/fairly easy to find childcare, down from 63.2% in 2018.

6.7 Overall satisfaction with childcare

In general respondents were satisfied with childcare, with 74.4% very/fairly satisfied with their childcare arrangements overall (up from 73.6% in 2018). The highest level of satisfaction was with childcare quality (90.5% very/fairly satisfied), and the lowest with childcare affordability (39.5% very/fairly satisfied).

Satisfaction with childcare has mostly improved since 2018, with the exception of childcare affordability which has gone down by 9.9 percentage points.



6.8 Satisfaction with childcare by specific groups

Some groups found it easier to find childcare and were more satisfied than others. In particular parents of a child or children with SEND reported it harder to find childcare and were less satisfied than those with a child or children without SEND.

6.8.1 Respondents with a child or children with SEND

Respondents with a child or children with SEND were less likely to report it very/fairly easy to find childcare compared with those with a child or children without SEND (33.9% compared with 65.8%). However for children with SEND this is a two percentage points increase on 2018, and the gap has reduced by 5.6 percentage points compared with 2018.

In terms of satisfaction overall respondents with a child or children with SEND were less satisfied than those without (50.9% very/fairly satisfied compared with 77.6%).

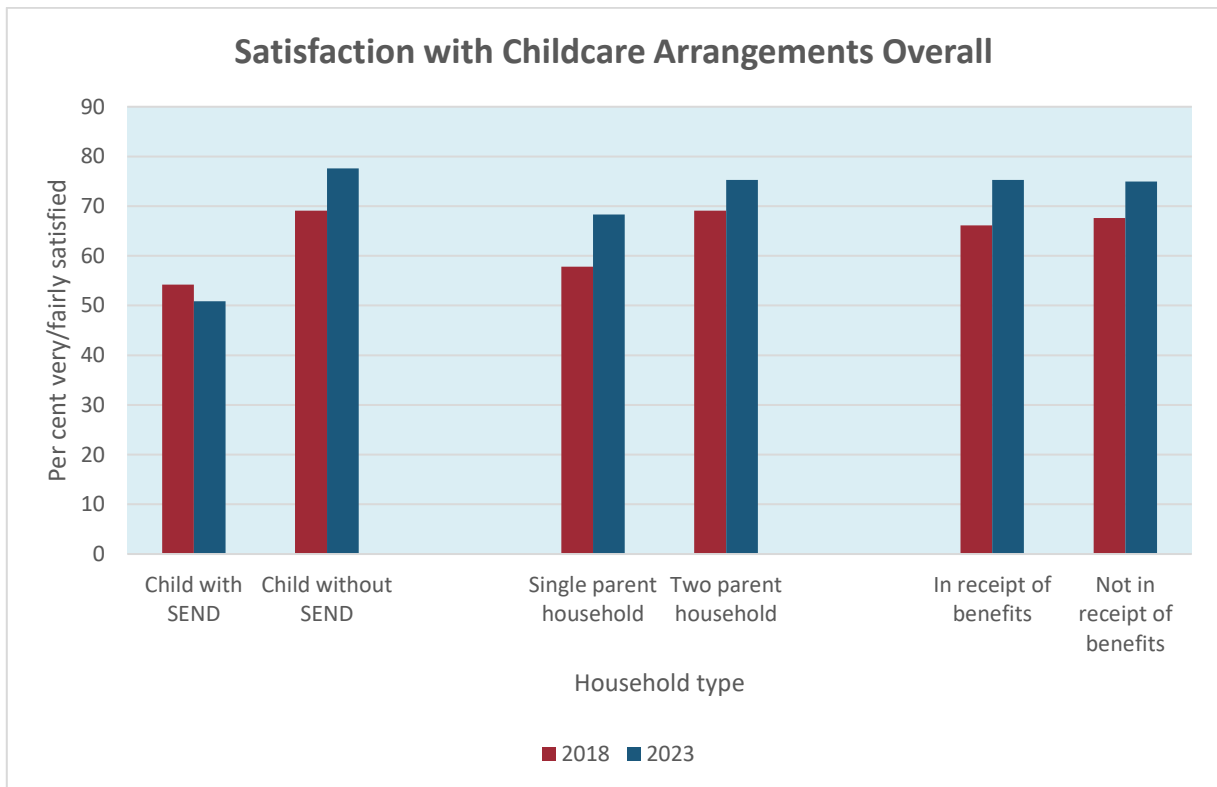
6.8.2 Respondents who were single parents

Single parents were less satisfied than two parent households (68.3% very/fairly satisfied compared with 75.3%) but the gap in satisfaction has decreased by 4.3 percentage points since 2018. However, there was not a significant difference in ease of finding childcare (60% of single parents stated that it was very/fairly easy to find childcare, compared with 62.4% of two parent households). This is a difference from 2018 when there was a gap of 25.4 percentage points.

6.8.3 Respondents in receipt of benefits³⁰

58.3% of those on benefits reported it very/fairly easy to find childcare, compared with 62.9% of respondents not on benefits, a difference of 4.6 percentage points.

However, those in receipt of benefits were slightly more satisfied with childcare overall (75.2% very/fairly satisfied) compared with those not in receipt of benefits (74.9% very/fairly satisfied).



6.8.4 Satisfaction with childcare by age of child

Respondents reported it harder to find childcare for older children, with 66.7% cent of respondents finding it very/fairly easy to find childcare for a child under five (down from 70.2% in 2018), compared with 52.9% of respondents with a child aged five to 11 (down from 58% in 2018). 53.8% of parents of children aged 12 to 14³¹ found it very/fairly easy to find childcare.

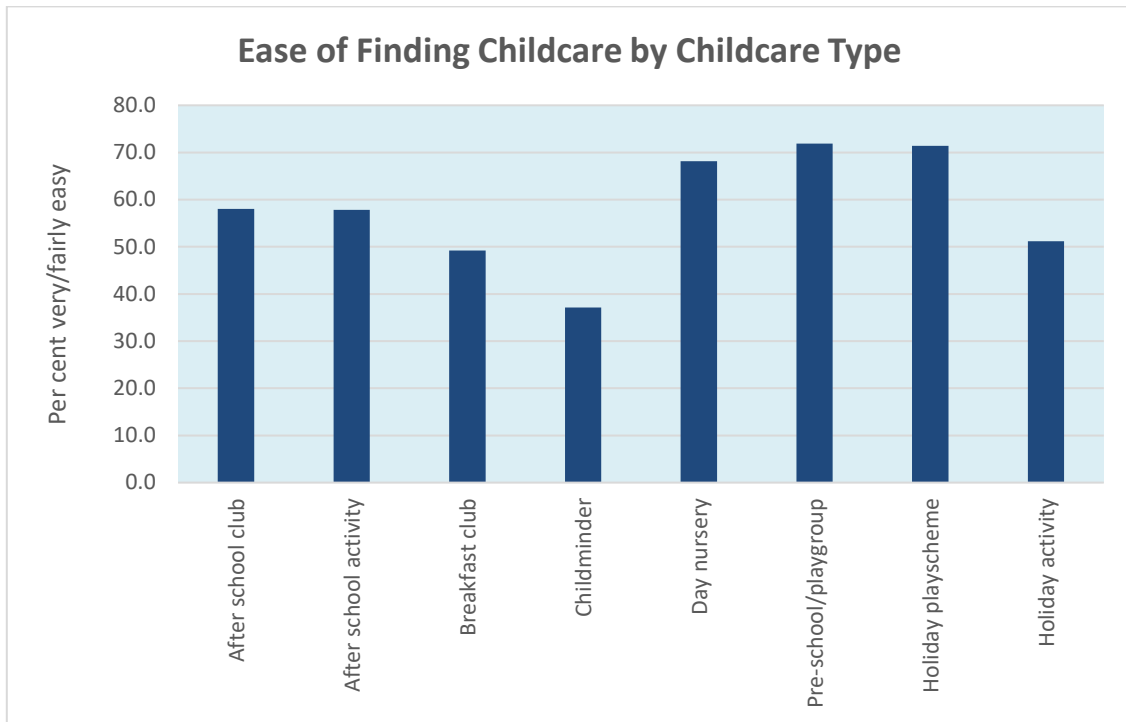
³⁰ Benefits include universal credit, income support, job seekers’ allowance, working tax credit, employment and support allowance

³¹ There were 49 responses from parents with a child in this age range

Those with younger children in childcare³² were more satisfied with childcare overall with 80.9% very/fairly satisfied, compared with 66.1% very/fairly satisfied where the child was aged five to 11, and 72.2% for children aged 12 to 14.

6.8.5 Ease of finding childcare by childcare type³³

Those using day nurseries and pre-school/playgroups and holiday playschemes reported it easier to find childcare than those using other childcare types.



6.8.6 Satisfaction by childcare type³⁴

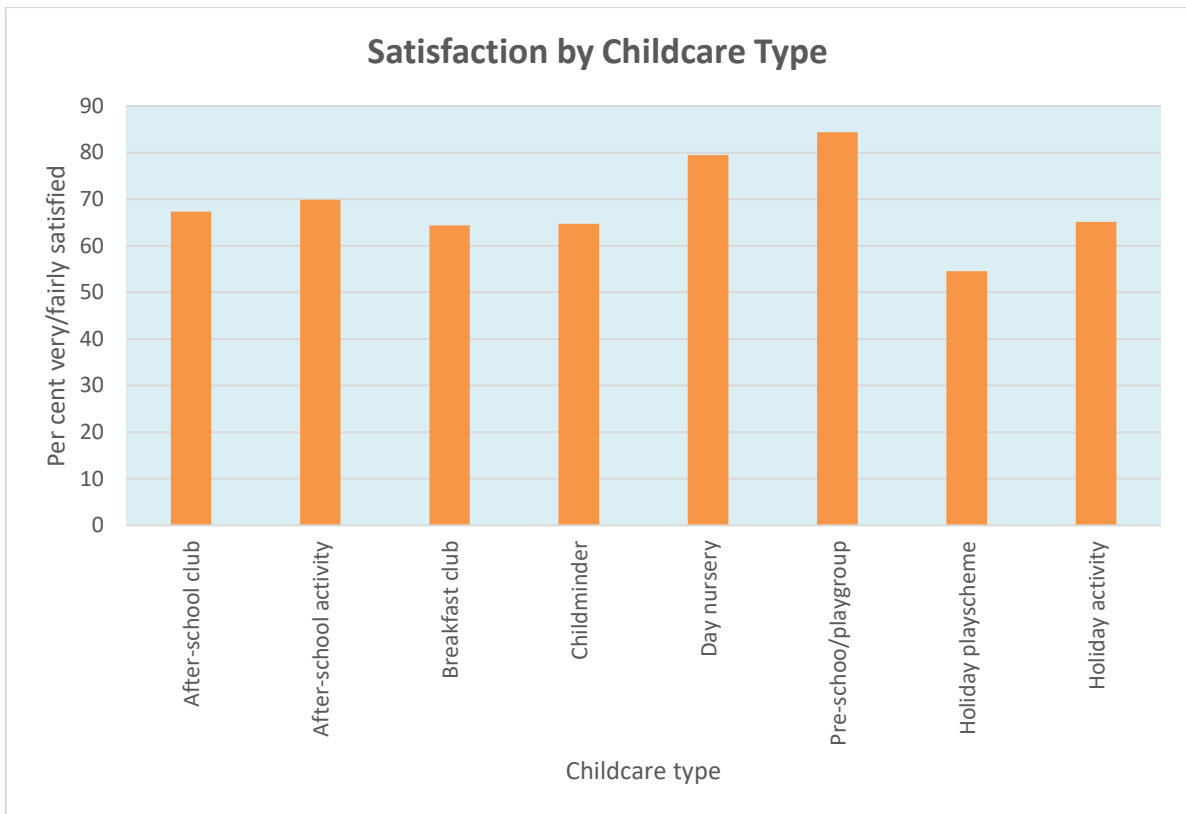
There was higher satisfaction with childcare for younger children compared with that for older children.³⁵ 84.4% of those whose childcare included a pre-school/playgroup were very/fairly satisfied with their childcare arrangements overall, as were 79.5% of those whose childcare included a day nursery, compared with 54.5% of those whose childcare included a holiday playscheme.

³² Children under the age of five

³³ Respondents may have been using more than one childcare type and so responses may not indicate that an individual type was hard to find

³⁴ Most respondents, particularly those with school-aged children, used more than one childcare type, but were asked for their overall satisfaction with childcare, and so differing satisfaction by each separate childcare type was not measured

³⁵ Note that a childminder can be for a child of any age



6.9 Childcare at a different time

42% of respondents using childcare wanted to be able to use it at a different time

- 44.7% wanted childcare during the school holidays
- 39.3% wanted childcare between 7 am and 8 am

Respondents with younger children in childcare (up to the age of four) wanted childcare early in the morning (39.5% wanting it between 7 am and 8 am), and 22.7% wanted it after 6 pm. In addition 39.5% wanted childcare on Saturdays and 22.7% wanted it on Sundays. Of those with a child aged five to 11 and using childcare 59.7% per cent of respondents wanted childcare during the school holidays and 43.3% wanted it between 7 am and 8 am.

6.10 Childcare information

- 56.9% of respondents found childcare information from friends and family
- 53.7% used the internet

6.11 Help with childcare costs

76.3% of respondents using childcare received some help with childcare costs (an increase from 60% in 2018).

- 58.8% received tax free childcare
- 31.7% received the early years free entitlement (EYFE)
- 15.7% received help with childcare costs through Universal Credit

6.12 Early Years Free Entitlement (EYFE) for two, three and four year olds

Respondents were asked about EYFE for two, three and four year olds. 31 respondents received EYFE for their two year old, 59 respondents received 15 hours EYFE for their three/four year old and 98 respondents received 30 hours EYFE for their three/four year old.

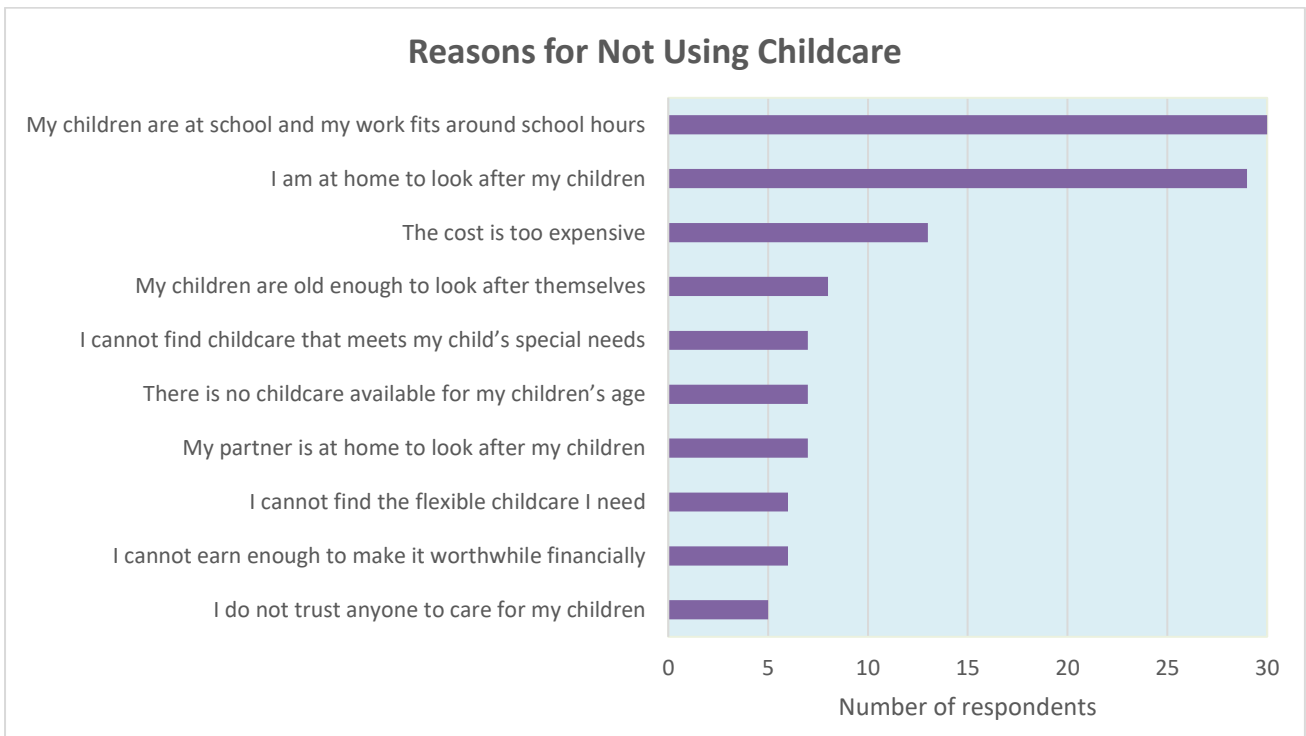
6.12.1 Satisfaction with EYFE

There was generally satisfaction with EYFE, though most levels had reduced since 2018.

- 62.5% of respondents were happy³⁶ with the EYFE session times they had been offered (down from 73.6% in 2018)
- 60.2% said it was easy for them to find free childcare (down from 70.2% in 2018)
- 65.3% were happy³⁷ with the choice of providers of free childcare (up from 64.6% in 2018)
- 75.8% paid for hours in addition to the free ones (up from 69.9% in 2018), and 74.4% said that this was because they needed more hours in order to work or train (66.2% in 2018)
- 31.4% per cent stated that this was because the way that their childcare provider, offered the sessions meant that they needed to purchase additional hours in order to get the free ones (down from 43.7% in 2018)

6.13 Respondents not using childcare

81 respondents did not use childcare, in most cases this was because their child was at school and work fitted around school hours.

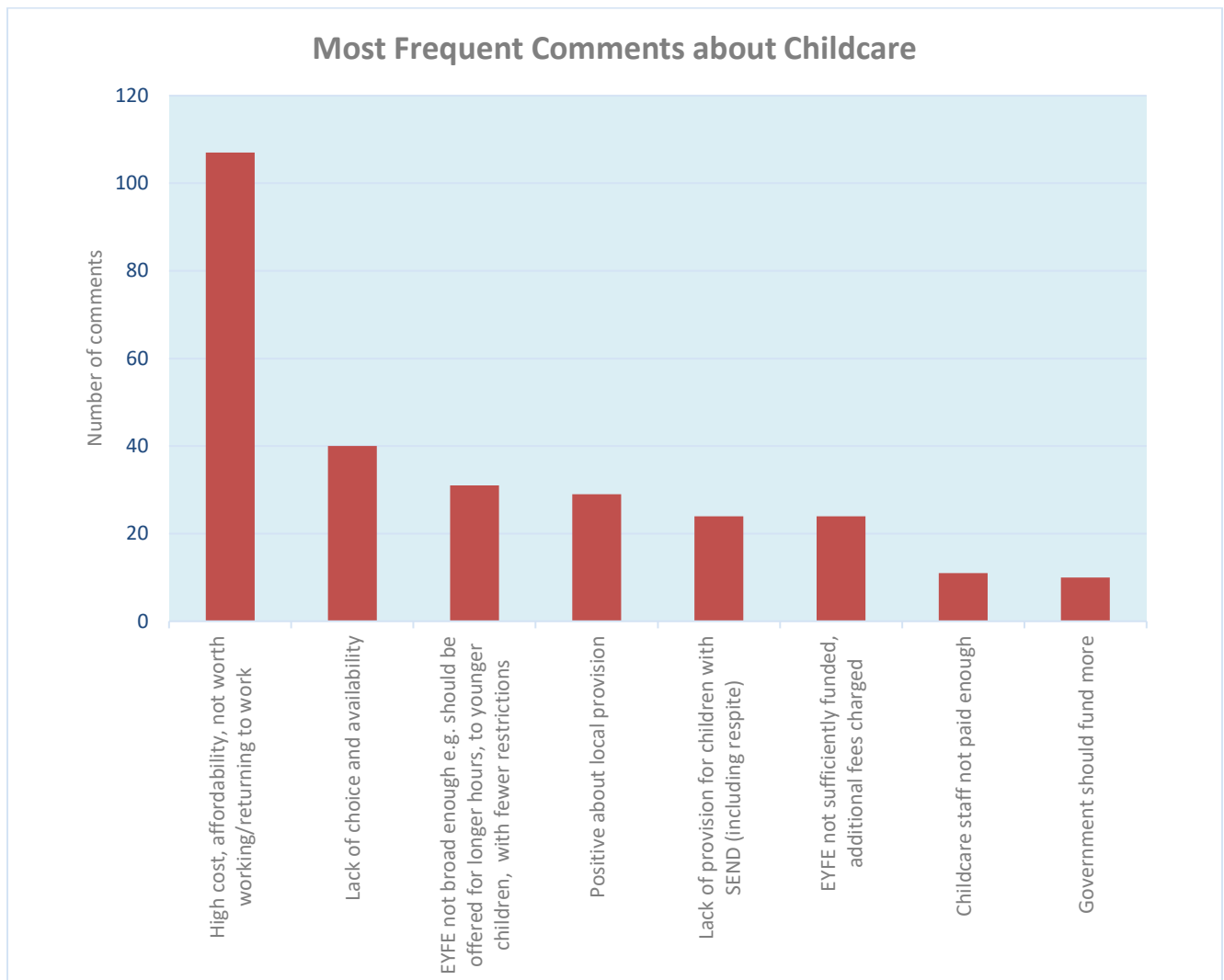


³⁶ Respondents stating that they strongly agreed or tended to agree

³⁷ Ibid

6.14 Comments about childcare

191 respondents made comments about childcare.



7. Childcare Supply

7.1 Childcare supply main findings

In general there is a buoyant childcare market in Brighton & Hove with a good choice of provision for children up to the end of primary school, and a high take-up of free entitlements. Early years providers of full day care reported a large number of vacancies. Childcare quality is also high. However

- The number of childminders continues to fall
- Childcare costs remain high and are higher than South East and England averages
- There is more early years provision in some areas of the city than others
- There is limited specialist provision for older children with SEND³⁸

7.2 Childcare supply method

Childcare supply data was collected from childcare providers through online surveys and follow up telephone calls between November 2022 and April 2023. Supply data relates to Ofsted-registered childcare, as well as childcare provided by schools. It does not include after-school activities, extended days offered by independent schools for activities such as sports, the Holiday Activities and Food Programme, or informal childcare such as that provided by family and friends. At home childcarers on the voluntary Ofsted register were not surveyed.

A small number of group-based providers did not supply information and in these cases an assessment was made based on information from Ofsted and from providers' websites. There was a lower response from childminders.

Data for breakfast and after-school club provision relates to that for primary school age children only.

The provider surveys were carried out prior to the government announcement of the extended childcare support offer and so questions regarding capacity to expand were not included.

7.3 Early years free entitlements – take up

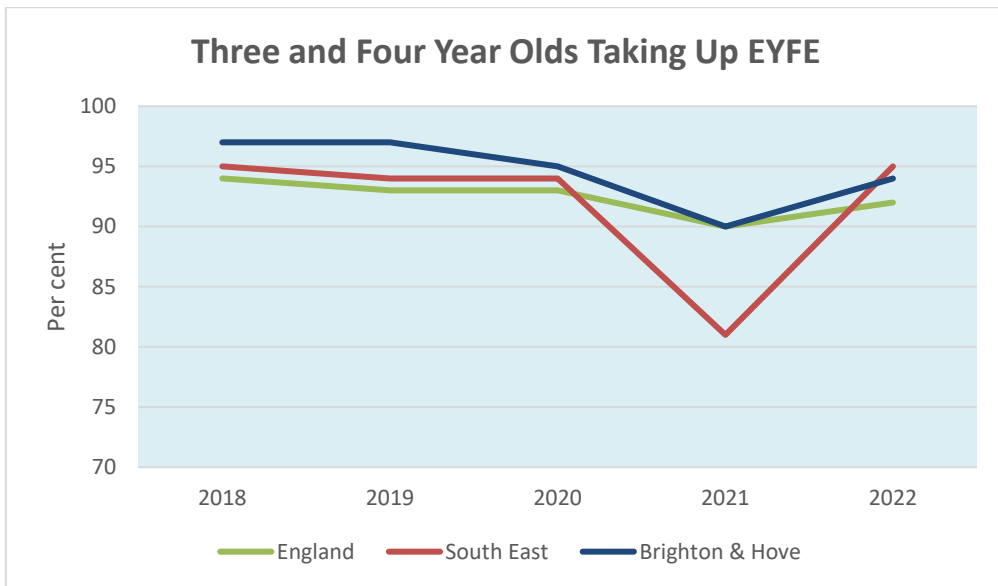
All three and four year olds are entitled to 15 hours a week of free early learning (the early years free entitlement, EYFE) for 38 weeks a year (or 570 hours if the entitlement is taken all year round). This universal entitlement starts from the term after the child's third birthday. Since September 2017 three and four year olds of working parents can have an extended entitlement of an additional 15 hours a week provided they satisfy eligibility criteria. This is also known as "30 hours free childcare". In addition two year olds from low income households, who are disabled, in the care of the local authority or adopted from care are also eligible for 15 hours a week of EYFE from the term after their second birthday.³⁹

³⁸ Only one specialist provider for older children with SEND, operating after-school clubs from two sites. Support for children with SEND to attend mainstream provision is through the childcare inclusion grant

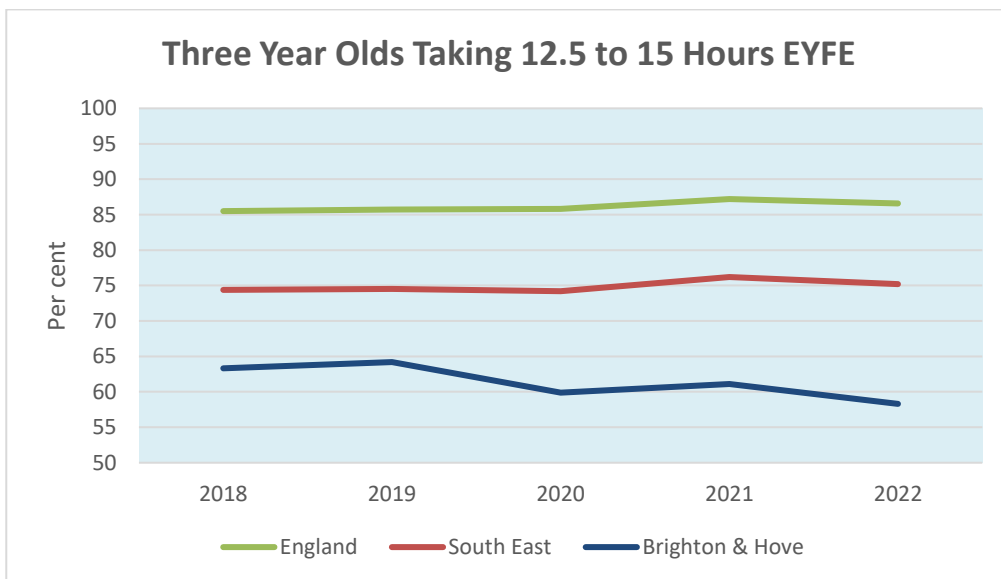
³⁹ Full criteria in [Early education and childcare statutory guidance for local authorities, April 2023](#)

7.4 Three and four year olds taking up universal EYFE

Take-up of EYFE by three and four year olds in Brighton & Hove is higher than England but one percentage point lower than in the South East.⁴⁰



There is a lower percentage of three year olds taking up 12.5 to 15 hours of EYFE⁴¹ compared with the South East and England.

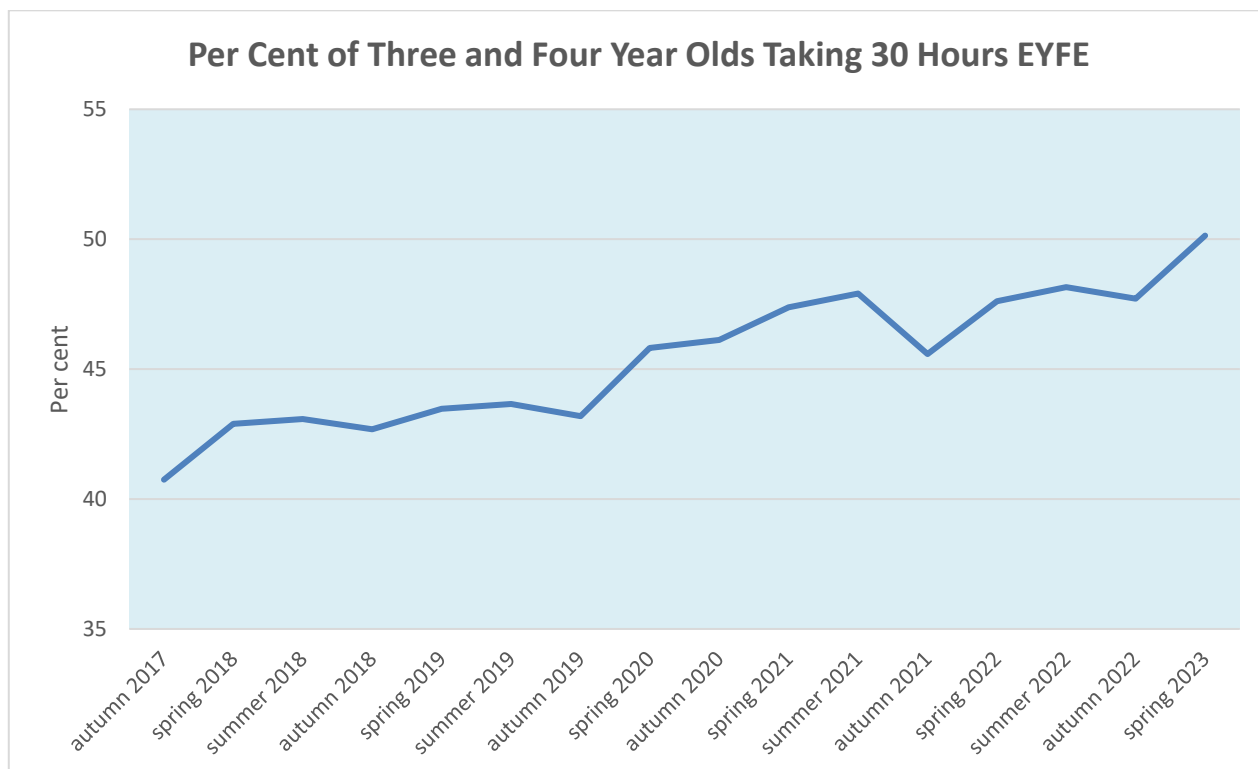


⁴⁰ DfE early years census January 2022

⁴¹ The full entitlement is 15 hours. DfE census data bands take up by hours and the highest band is 12.5 to 15 hours which is a proxy for the full entitlement

7.5 Three and four year olds taking extended EYFE

The percentage of three and four year olds accessing their universal entitlement who also access their extended entitlement has increased since the scheme was introduced in autumn 2017.⁴²



Take-up of the extended entitlement⁴³ differs by ward because of varying employment rates and data for spring 2023 shows Hanover & Elm Grove having the highest percentage of three and four year olds taking up this offer (66.1%), with the lowest in East Brighton (24.4%).

Ward	Per cent taking extended entitlement
Hanover & Elm Grove	66.1
Westbourne	65.4
South Portslade	59.2
North Portslade	57.3
Withdean	57.2
Woodingdean	57.0
Preston Park	55.2
Out of area	55.1
Wish	54.2

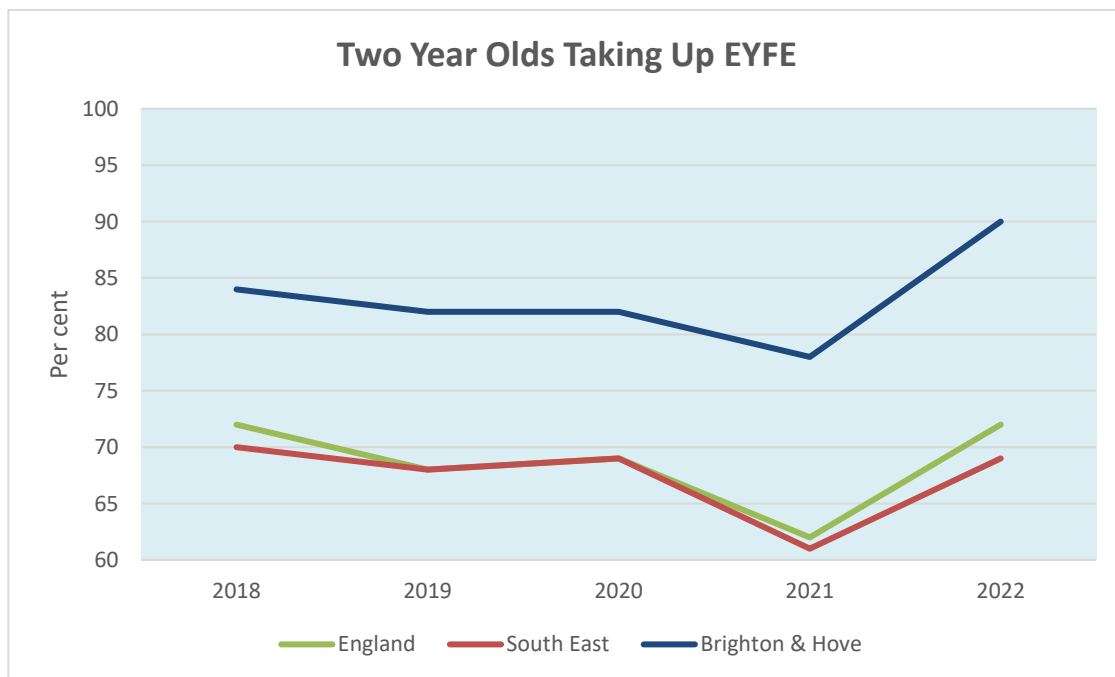
⁴² No data for summer 2020 because of the pandemic

⁴³ Working parents are eligible for the [extended entitlement to 30 hours free childcare](#)

St. Peter's & North Laine	54.0
Patcham	51.7
Hollingdean & Stanmer	50.9
Central Hove	49.3
Hangleton & Knoll	48.1
Rottingdean Coastal	46.5
Goldsmid	42.9
Regency	40.6
Queen's Park	38.8
Hove Park	38.8
Brunswick & Adelaide	38.1
Moulsecoomb & Bevendean	37.7
East Brighton	24.4
Total Brighton & Hove	50.1

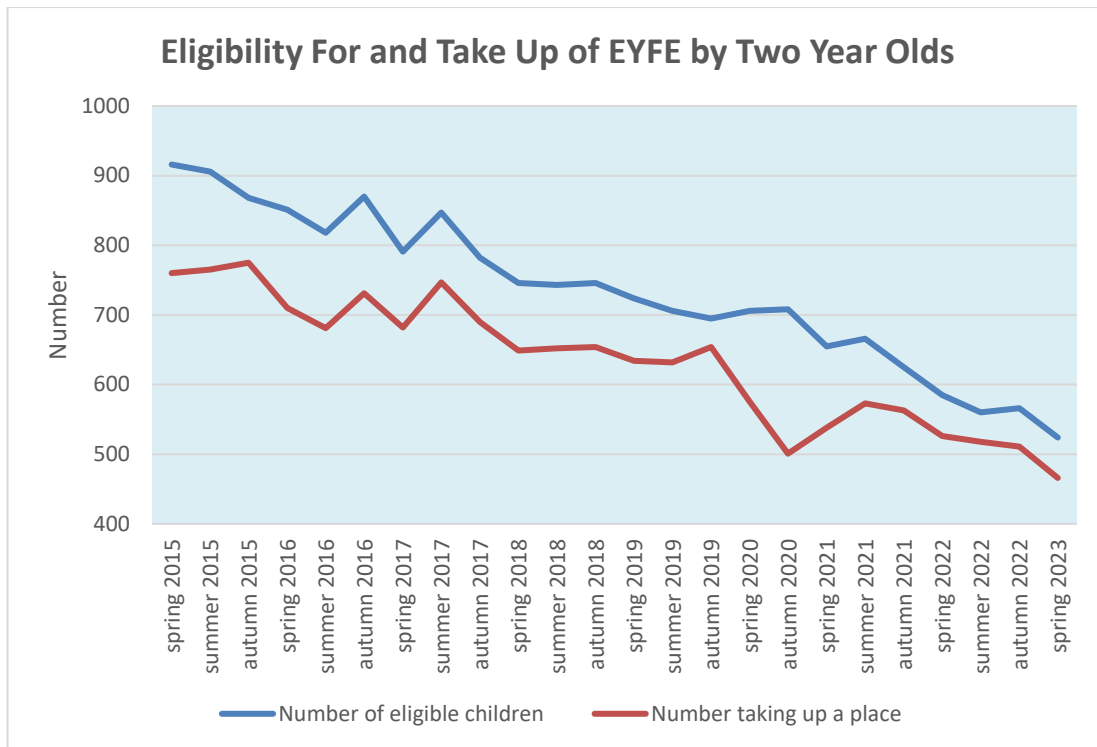
7.6 Two year olds taking up EYFE

The percentage of two year olds taking up EYFE in Brighton & Hove is higher than in the South East and England as a whole.⁴⁴



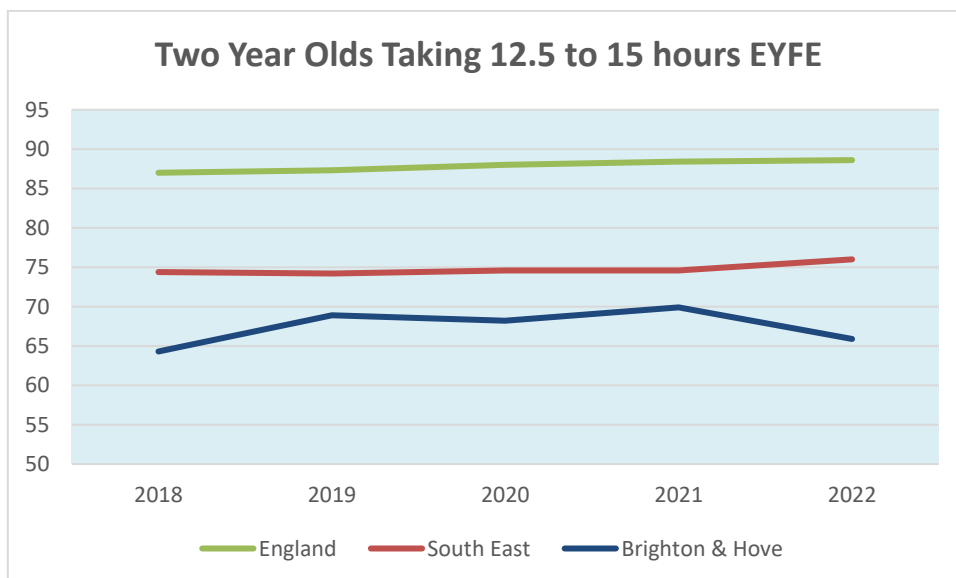
Between autumn 2014 (when entitlement to EYFE became statutory for two year olds from low-income households) and spring 2023, there has been a 55% drop in the number of eligible children. This is because the income threshold for eligibility has not increased from £16,190.

⁴⁴ DfE early years census January 2022



Children’s centre nurseries provided EYFE for 63 two year olds,⁴⁵ 13.5% of the total, while being only 6.3% of providers. Similarly maintained providers⁴⁶ provided for 7.9% of two year olds, but were only 3.1% of providers.⁴⁷

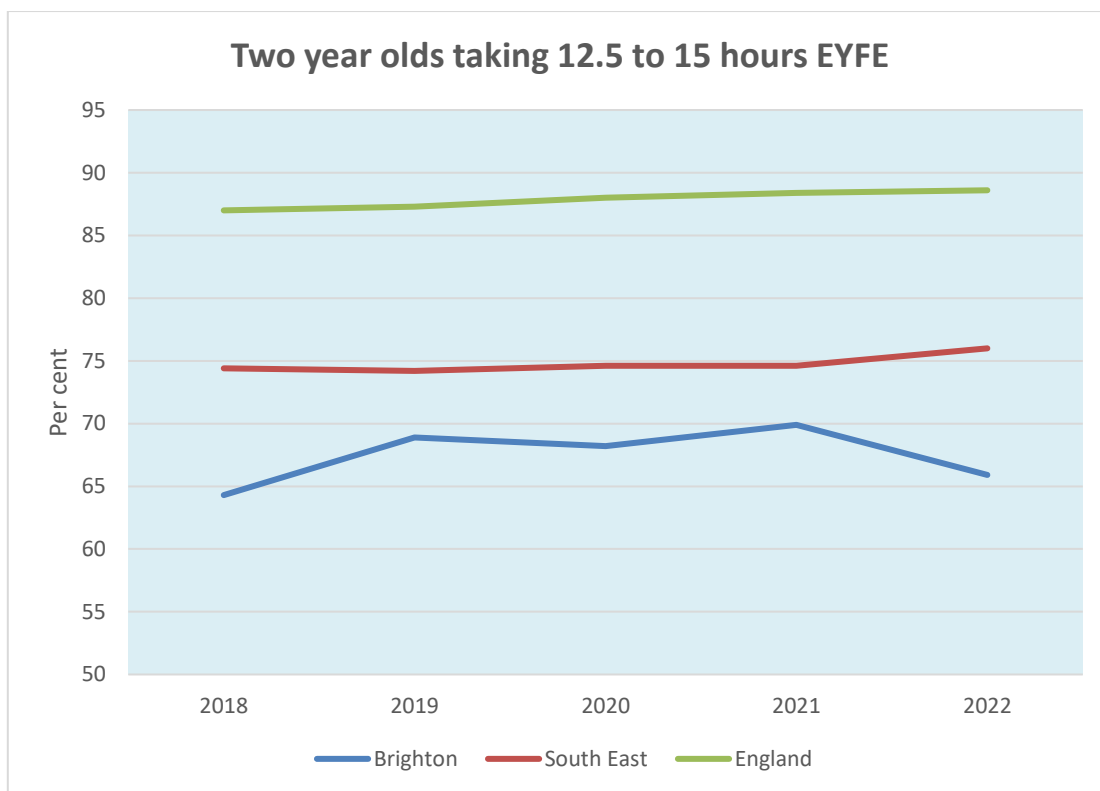
However, compared with the South East and England, a lower percentage of two year olds took up 12.5 to 15⁴⁸ hours of EYFE.



⁴⁵ Spring 2023

⁴⁶ Two nursery schools and one nursery class

⁴⁷ Spring 2023



7.7 Extension of Early Years Free Entitlements Starting in April 2024

As set out in Section 2 the government will extend the early years free entitlements as follows

Date	New Offer
April 2024	15 hours of EYFE for working parents of two year olds
September 2024	15 hours of EYFE for working parents of nine months plus
September 2025	30 hours of EYFE for all working parents of children from nine months to primary school

At the time of writing guidance on projected demand has not been provided by the DfE. However, many parents of younger children are already working and using childcare, and therefore the change to the EYFE offer will replace parental fees with government funding, without a large increase in demand. The DfE have indicated that they anticipate a significant increase in demand from September 2025 with the extension from 15 to 30 hours. Further modelling of childcare sufficiency, including surveying childcare providers on their capacity to expand, will be done when information has been provided on projected demand.

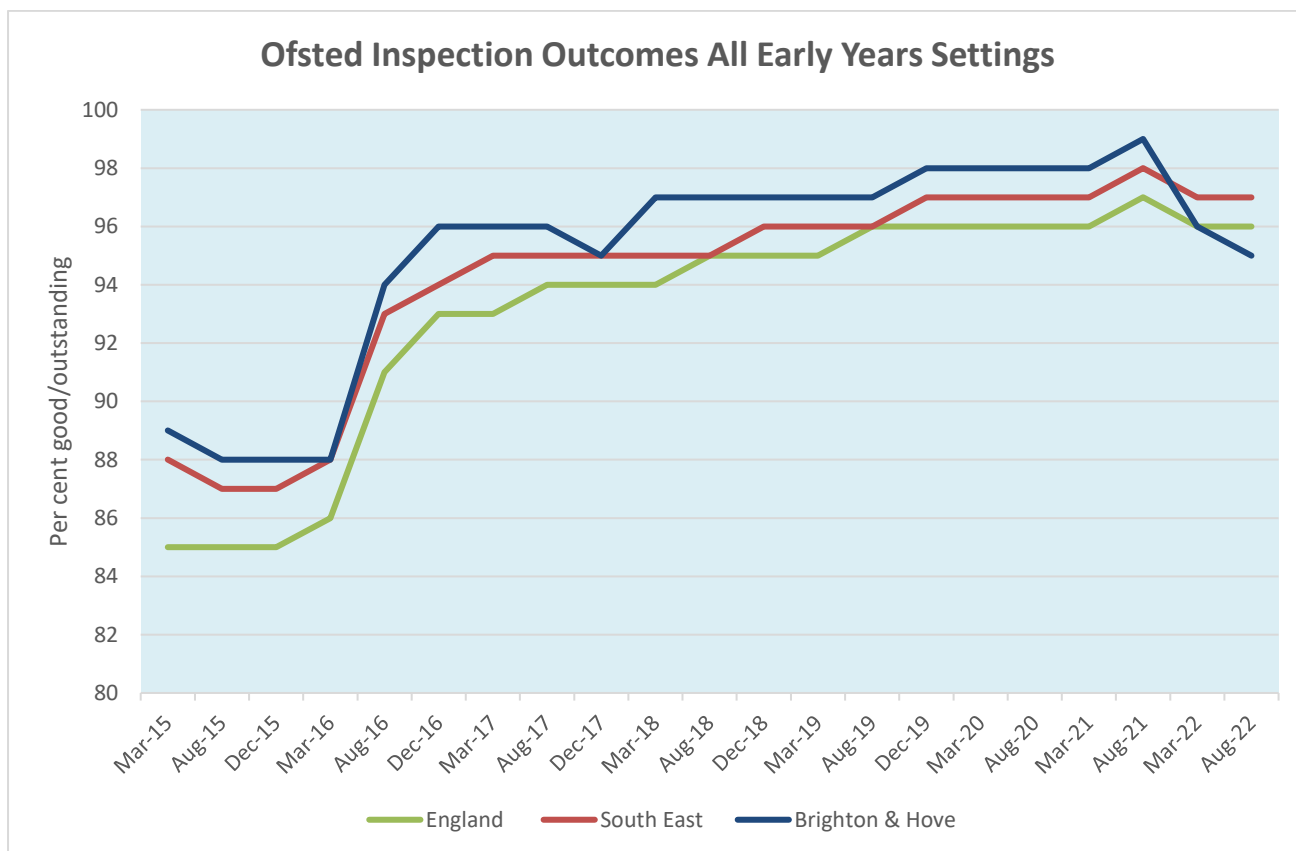
At present most childcare providers wrap paid for hours around EYFE hours and many limit their standalone offer, which means that supply and demand calculations based on take up of EYFE hours only are very approximate. Funding rates from the DfE to Brighton & Hove for EYFE have been historically low. For two year olds from April 2023 the funding rate is now above the England average, but remains below average for the South East. For three and four year olds it remains below the England and South East average. It may be that,

with the increase in funding rates for younger children, providers feel less need to limit standalone sessions.

It is anticipated that an increase places for babies (from nine months) may be needed, as well as support for providers to adapt their spaces to make them suitable; many sessional providers take children from two years because they do not have suitable spaces for babies. Support with developing suitable environments for babies, as well as staff training, will be a priority once funding for local authorities to carry out this work has been announced.

8. Early Years and Childcare Quality

Childcare quality, based upon Ofsted inspection judgements of outstanding/good, is now one percentage point below England.⁴⁹



8.1 Early years Ofsted inspection judgements

23% of early years providers in Brighton & Hove are currently judged outstanding, compared with 16% in the South East and 15% per cent in England as a whole.⁵⁰ However, 6% are judged requires improvement/inadequate, compared with 5% in the South East and 4% in England as a whole.

⁴⁹ At August 2022

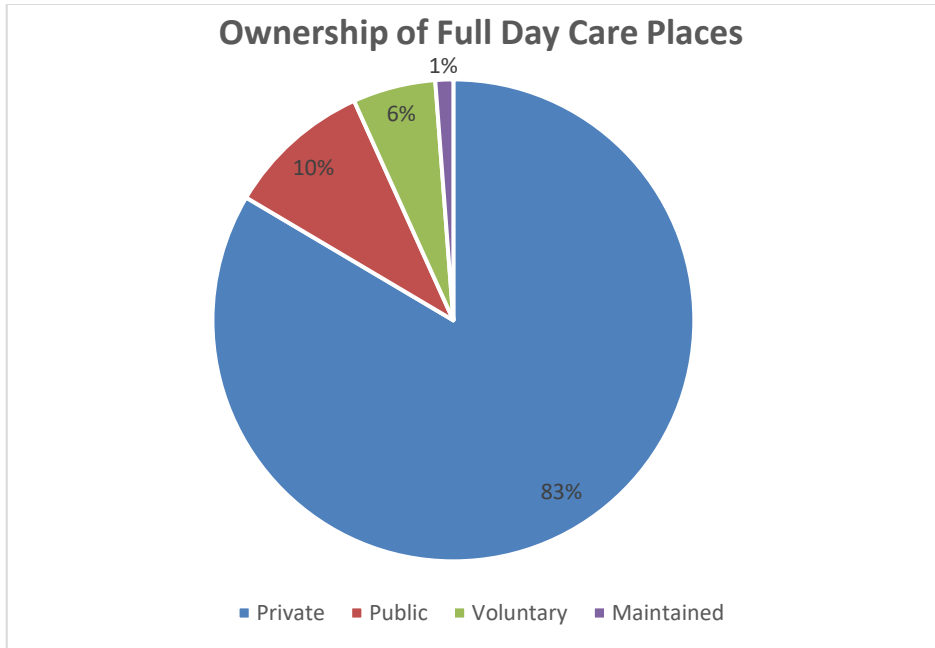
⁵⁰ Based on "overall effectiveness" of active early years registered providers at their last Ofsted inspection

9. Childcare Ownership

Data below is based on providers reporting their number of places, which may differ from that reported by Ofsted.

9.1 Ownership of Full Day Care Places

Most full day care places are in the private sector and this has not changed significantly since 2018 (81% in 2018).



Change in full day care places between 2018 and 2022

Full day care Type	2018		2022		Per cent change in number of places
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	
Private	2,979	81	3,470	84	15.2
Public ⁵¹	470	13	404	10	-15.1
Voluntary	212	6	231	6	8.6
Maintained ⁵²	34	1	50	1	38.1
Total	3,695	100	4,155	100	11.7

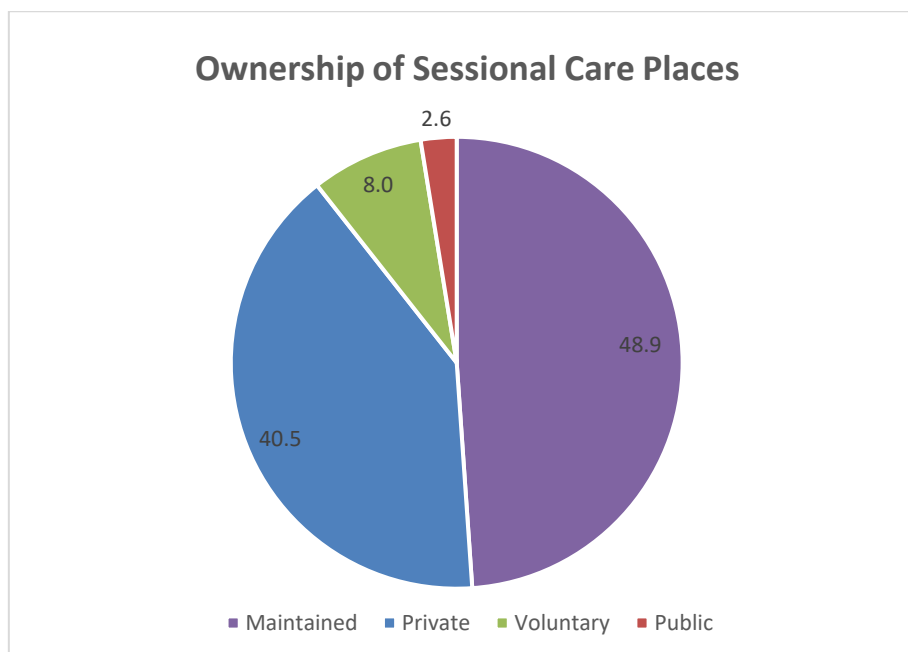
There has been an increase in the number of national chains operating in the city. In 2018 there was one national chain; there are now five.

⁵¹ Public provision is that run by health trusts and universities. Change in public provision is a result of the closure of One World, Brighton University's nursery (the last remaining university nursery in the city)

⁵² The increase in the number of full day care places in the maintained sector is a result of provision at Tarnerland nursery school being counted differently

9.2 Ownership of Sessional Care Places

There has been a reduction in the number of sessional care places in the voluntary sector since 2018, as a result of voluntary sector sessional groups closing.

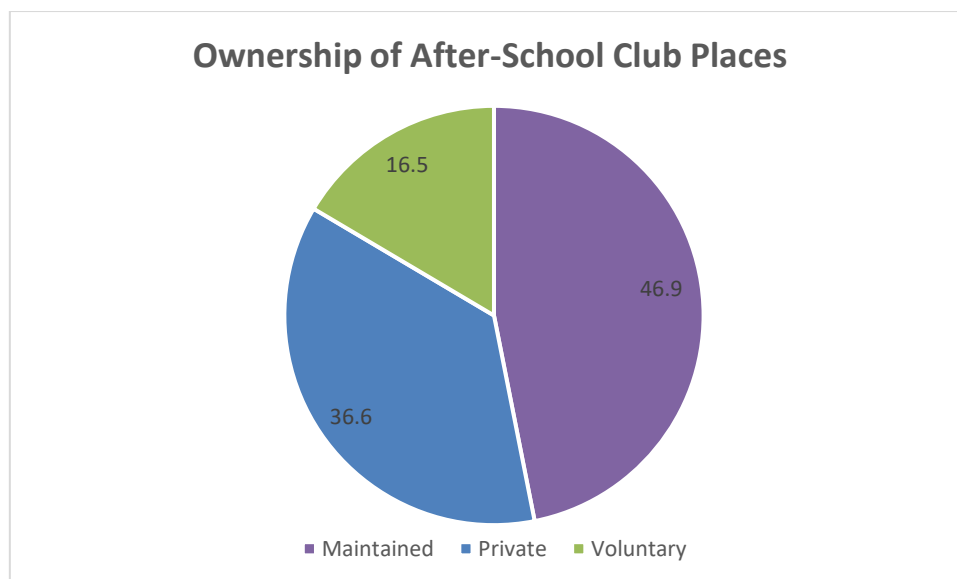


Change in sessional care places between 2018 and 2022

Sessional care Type	2018		2022		Per cent change
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	
Maintained	941	43.5	802	48.9	-14.8
Private	665	30.7	664	40.5	0.2
Voluntary	473	21.9	132	8.0	-72.1
Public	85	3.9	42	2.6	-50.6
Total	2,164	100	1,640	100	-24.2

9.3 Ownership of After-School Club Places

There has been movement in after-school club places with a reduction in those in the private sector and increase in school-run (maintained) provision.

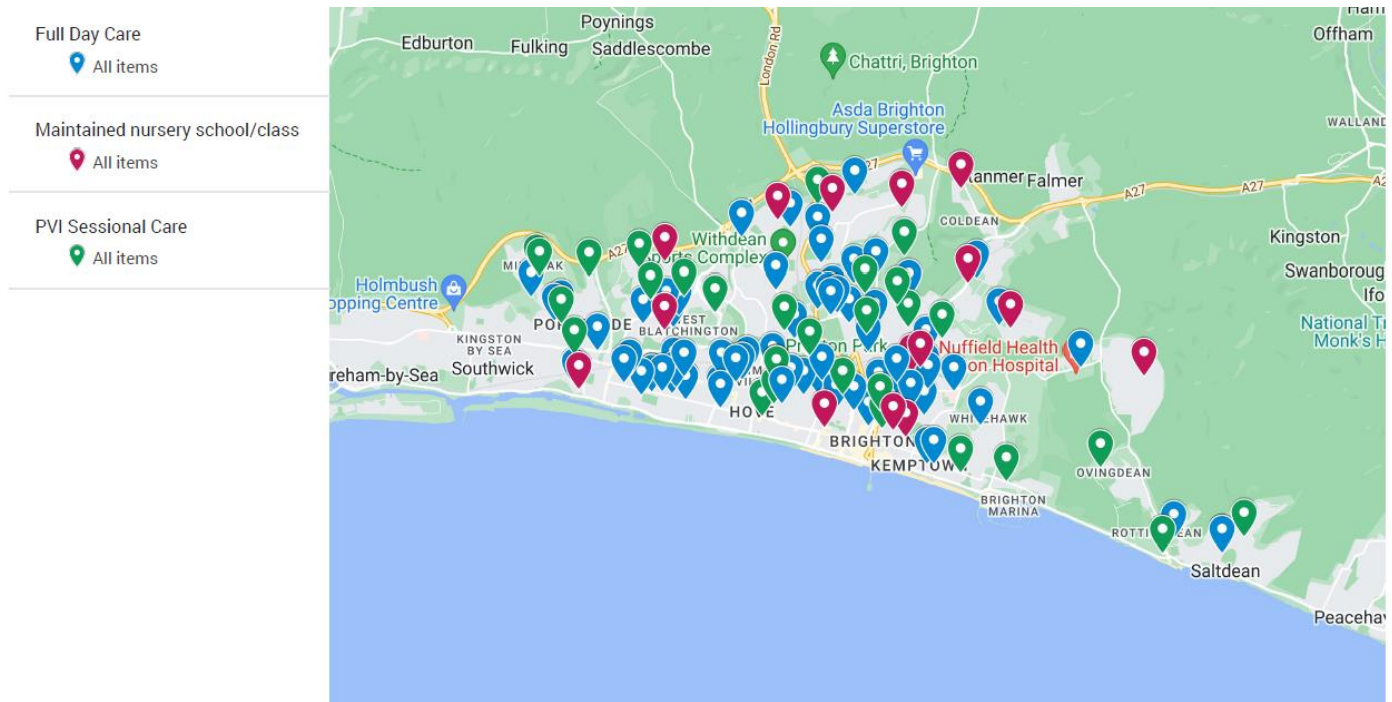


Change in after-school club places between 2018 and 2022

After-school clubs Type	2018		2022		Per cent change
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	
Maintained	456	27.0	995	46.9	118.2
Private	974	57.6	777	36.6	-20.2
Voluntary	262	15.5	350	16.5	33.6
Total	1,692	100	2,122	100	25.4

10. City-Wide Childcare Supply

The map below shows the city's early years childcare settings.⁵³



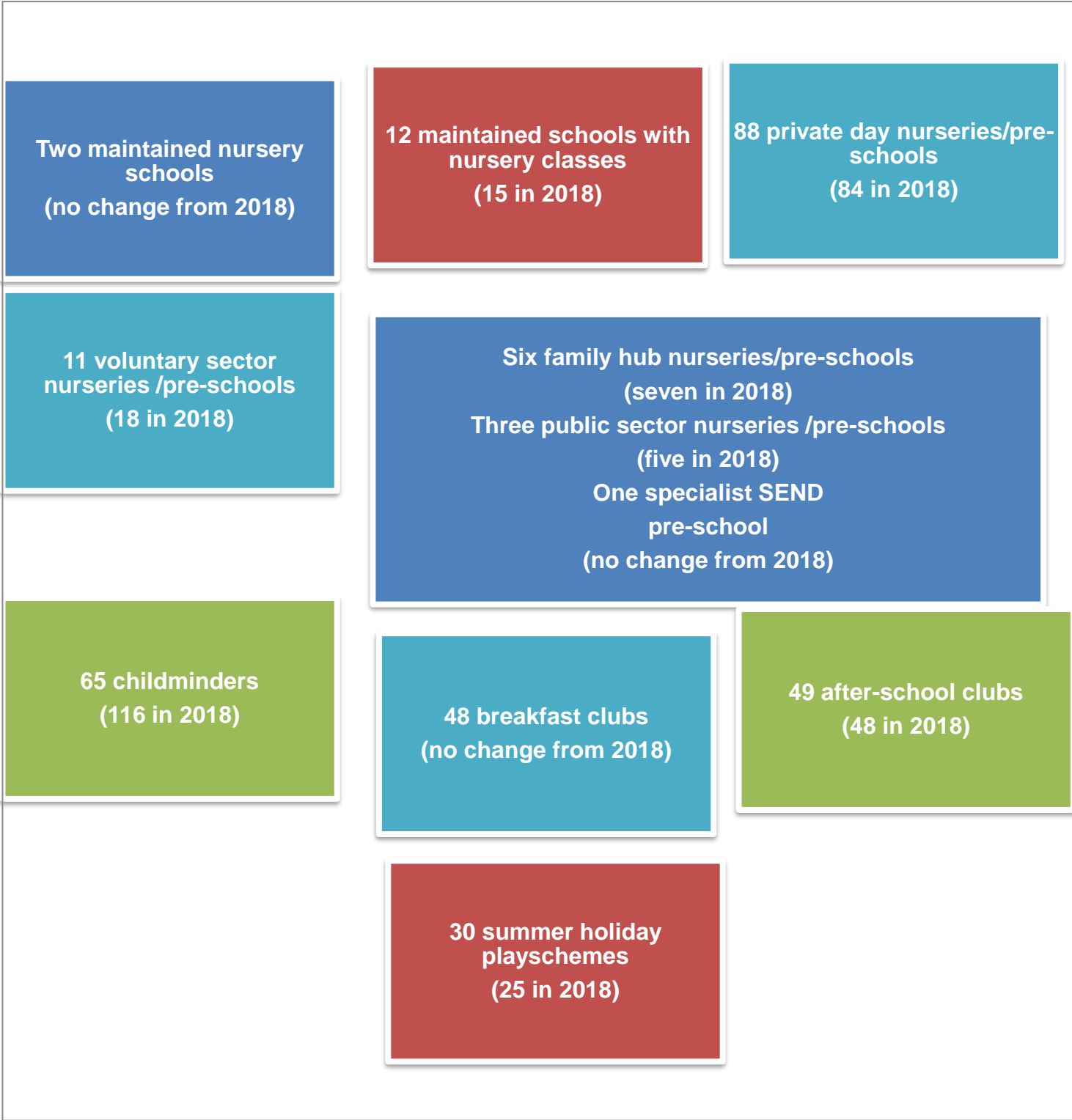
Data can also be found [here](#) and childcare supply ward profiles can be found [here](#)

10.1 Childcare providers

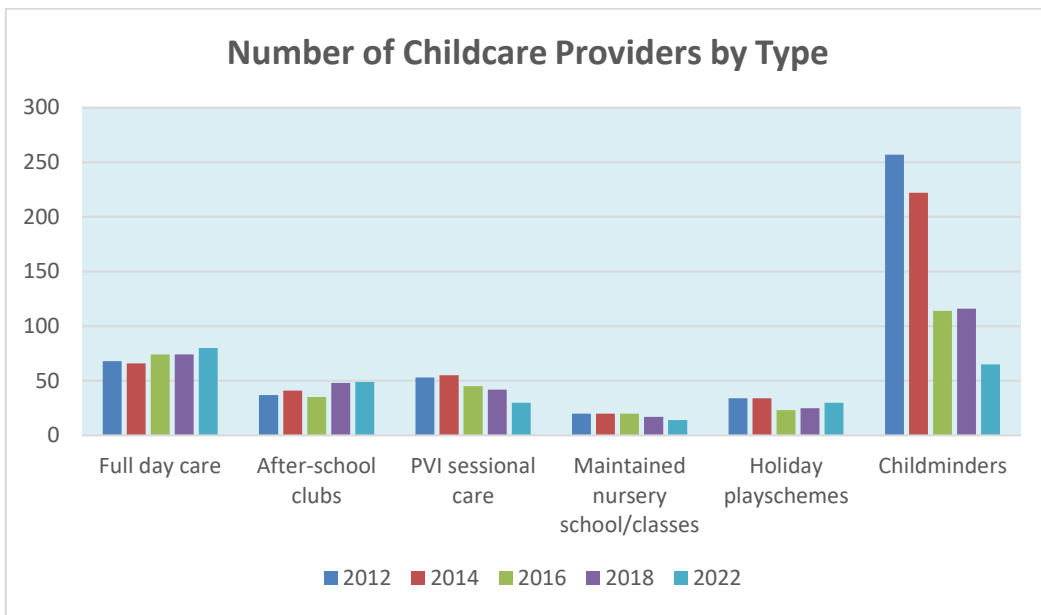
Changes since 2018 are a reduction in the number of childminders, voluntary sector pre-schools, nursery classes in maintained schools, and an increase in the number of private day nurseries and holiday playschemes.⁵⁴

⁵³ At May 2023

⁵⁴ Data for children's centre nurseries collected before Pavilion Pre-school moved to Mile Oak Primary School to become governor-run provision

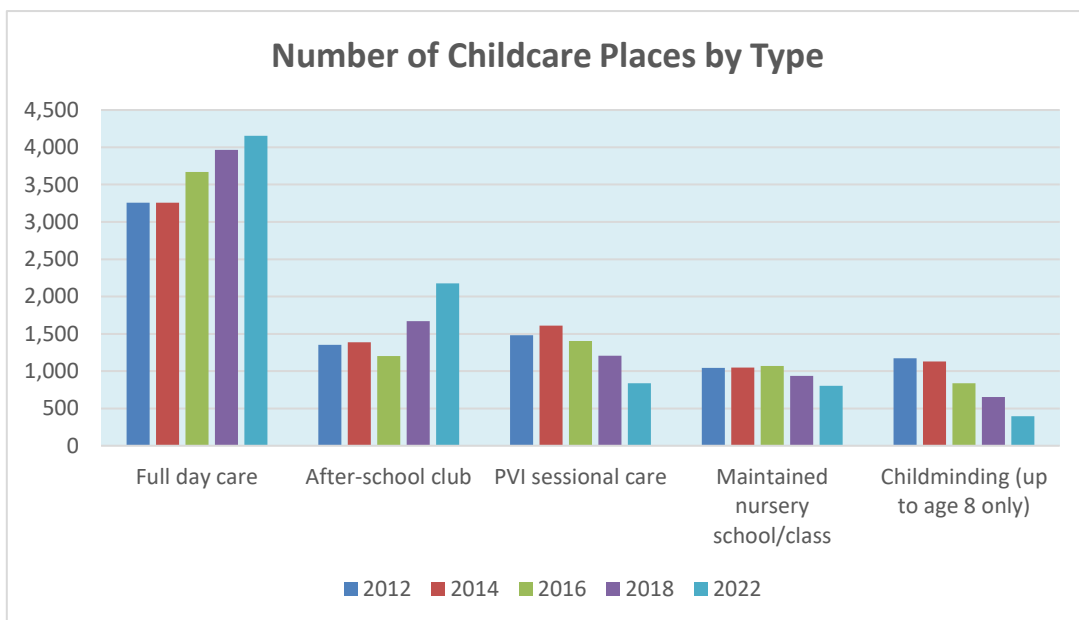


The change in the number of childcare providers by type of provision is shown below.



10.2 Childcare places for children of all ages

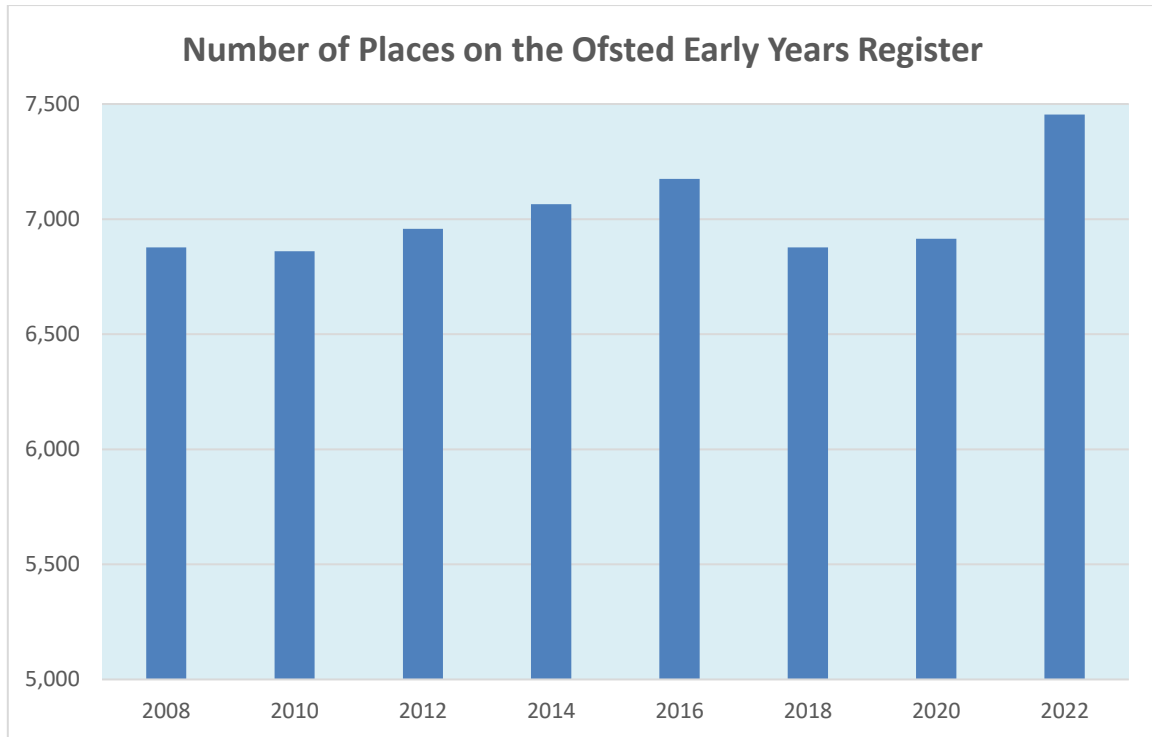
Since 2018 there has been an increase in the number of full day care and after-school club places, but a reduction in sessional care and maintained nursery class places.⁵⁵ The most significant reduction has been in the number of childminding places (a 44% reduction). There has also been a fall in childminding places nationally, but the reduction is not as large as that in Brighton & Hove.



⁵⁵ Place data taken from the childcare sufficiency assessment provider survey, with missing data taken from Ofsted reports

10.3 Ofsted data places for children from birth to five⁵⁶

There has been an 8.4% increase in the number of Ofsted early years register childcare places for children from birth to five since 2018.⁵⁷ This compares with a reduction of 0.9% in England over the same period.



Ofsted data separately for childminders shows a 31.5% reduction in places on the early years register between August 2018 and August 2022, compared with a 27.3% reduction in England over the same period.

10.4 Settings opening and closing between November 2018 and March 2023⁵⁸

Since the last CSA 14 early years settings have closed and not been replaced. Eighteen settings have closed and re-opened under new management, with six moving from the voluntary to the private sector, and two from the maintained to the private sector. Six new settings have opened in premises which were not previously early years provision. Of thirteen sessional care settings which closed, seven have re-opened as full day care.

10.5 Childcare for school-age children

There has been an increase in the number of school-run after-school clubs since 2018. Of 54 primary schools 20 run their own after-school clubs, with three of these also collecting children from linked infant/junior schools. This compares with 15 schools in 2018.

In total 39 primary schools have on-site after school clubs run by the school or a private provider, (35 in 2018) and 12 more have a pick-up service to a club at a local site.

⁵⁶ Ofsted data differs from the data providers report on their childcare sufficiency questionnaire as in the latter they may adapt their place reporting depending on staff availability

⁵⁷ Data from Ofsted from 2018 to August 2022, including childminders

⁵⁸ Excluding change of ownership, for example Bright Horizons purchasing the Saurus nursery group

50 primary schools (48 in 2018) have on-site breakfast clubs, with an additional two having a pick up service from a linked infant/junior school. 58.3% of breakfast clubs open before 8 am

The two special schools have a voluntary sector provider of out of school childcare.

27 after-school clubs responding to the survey reported that they had vacancies, ranging from one to thirty spaces.

10.6 Holiday playschemes

In summer 2023 30 (25 in 2018) Ofsted registered or school-run holiday playschemes will operate. Most of these are also run during the Easter holidays and many at half terms also.

The majority of playschemes take children from age four, provided they have started school reception.

10.7 Early years childcare provision penetration rates⁵⁹

The early years childcare penetration rate refers to the number of early years children per childcare place.⁶⁰ A low figure means that there are fewer children per childcare place and so more choice for parents. Conversely a higher number of children per childcare place means that there is less choice for parents.

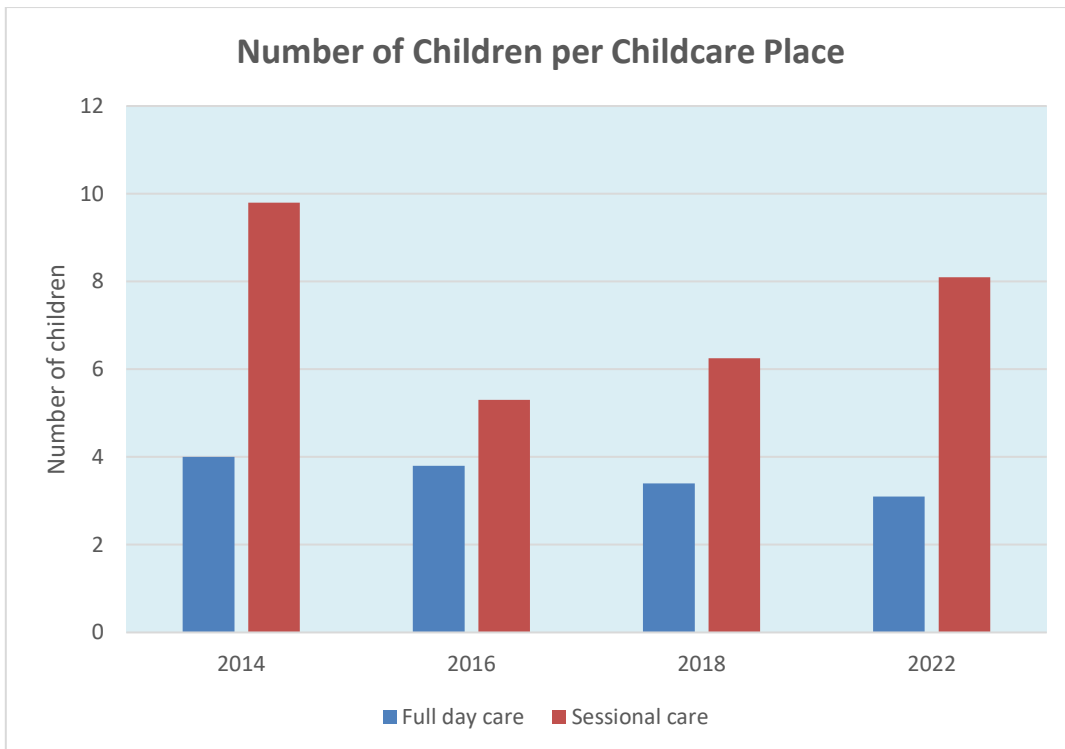
A childcare place for full day care is normally available for 10 hours a day, five days a week. Given that most parents use childcare for less than this, one childcare place may be shared by a number of children.

Parents do not necessarily access childcare in the ward in which they live; in addition although there may be a high number of children per childcare place in one ward, the situation may be reversed in a neighbouring ward; for example the number of children per full day care place in Hanover & Elm Grove (3.1 children per full day care place) compared with Hollingdean & Stanmer (14.2 children per full day care place). In addition demand is not the same across the city as EYFE for two year olds is currently for only the most disadvantaged children, and the extended EYFE for three and four year olds is only for working parents.

Compared with 2018 there are now fewer children per full day care place city wide (3.1 children in 2022 compared with 3.4 in 2018) but more children per sessional care place (7.9 in 2023, 6.3 in 2018).

⁵⁹ Ward data is prior to changes in May 2023

⁶⁰ Places data is that reported by providers, not the data from Ofsted, which differs



Ward	Number of children aged 0 to 4	Full day care	Sessional care
Brunswick & Adelaide	316	none	8.3
Central Hove	349	3.5	none
East Brighton	726	3.6	5.9
Goldsmid	753	1.0	26.0
Hangleton & Knoll	886	4.2	5.0
Hanover & Elm Grove	777	3.1	7.5
Hollingdean & Stanmer	694	14.2	5.9
Hove Park	568	5.2	7.6
Moulsecoomb & Bevendean	717	11.2	6.5
North Portslade	621	11.9	7.6
Patcham	806	4.5	8.2
Preston Park	662	3.5	10.9
Queen's Park	613	4.4	2.8
Regency	305	none	11.8
Rottingdean Coastal	542	4.1	4.4
South Portslade	688	4.4	4.8
St. Peter's & North Laine	635	3.6	28.7
Westbourne	509	3.4	none
Wish	587	0.9	none
Withdean	693	1.1	11.3
Woodingdean	540	8.6	9.1
Brighton & Hove	12,987	3.1	7.9

Combining full day care and sessional care, city-wide there are 2.2 children per childcare place (no change from 2018).

Ward	Full day care and sessional care
Brunswick & Adelaide	8.3
Central Hove	3.5
East Brighton	2.2
Goldsmid	1.0
Hangleton & Knoll	2.3
Hanover & Elm Grove	2.2
Hollingdean & Stanmer	4.2
Hove Park	3.1
Moulsecoomb & Bevendean	4.1
North Portslade	4.6
Patcham	2.9
Preston Park	2.7
Queen's Park	1.6
Regency	5.9
Rottingdean Coastal	2.7
South Portslade	2.6
St. Peter's & North Laine	3.0
Westbourne	2.8
Wish	1.0
Withdean	1.2
Woodingdean	3.4
Brighton & Hove	2.2

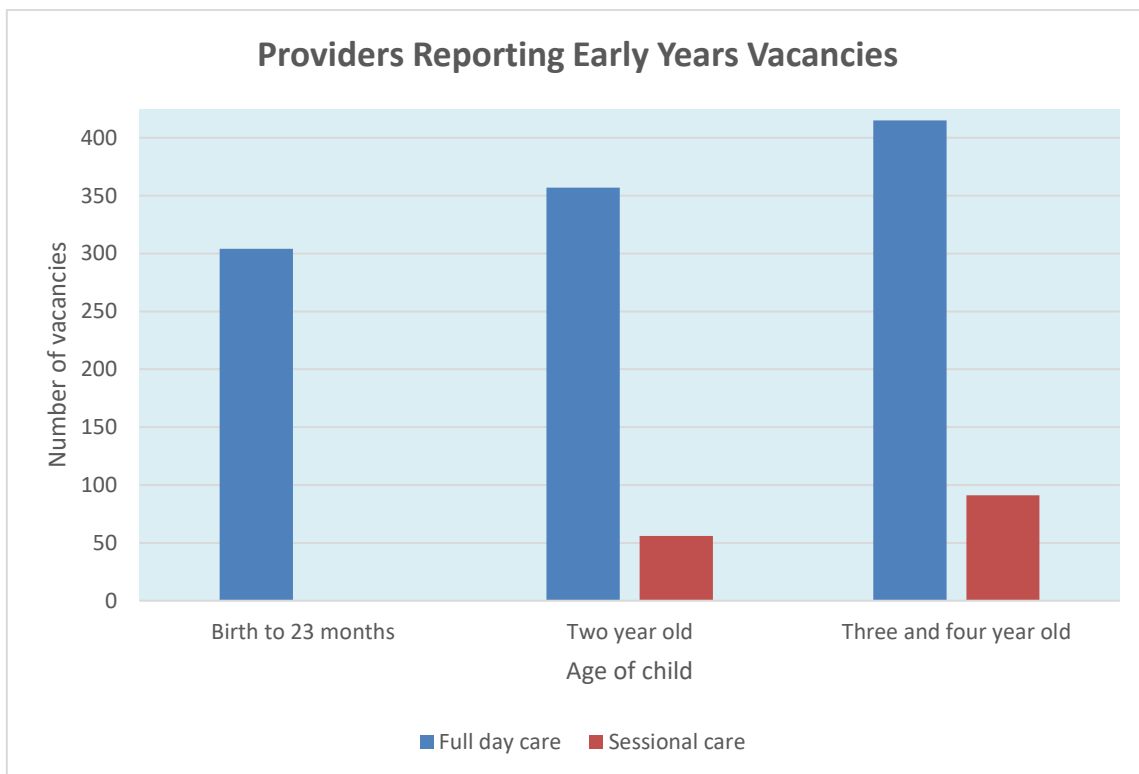
The distribution of childminders by ward is shown below.

Ward	Number of childminders
Brunswick & Adelaide	2
Central Hove	1
East Brighton	3
Goldsmid	2
Hangleton & Knoll	6
Hanover & Elm Grove	10
Hollingdean & Stanmer	1
Hove Park	6
Moulsecoomb & Bevendean	2
North Portslade	4
Patcham	7
Preston Park	4
Queen's Park	0

Regency	0
Rottingdean Coastal	3
South Portslade	2
St Peter's & North Laine	1
Westbourne	0
Wish	3
Withdean	4
Woodingdean	4
Total	65

10.8 Childcare providers reporting vacancies⁶¹

Of early years PVI childcare providers reporting, most had vacancies throughout the age groups.⁶²



In total 81% of full day care and 69% of PVI⁶³ sessional care providers reported that they had vacancies. Some providers commented that they would take more children if they could recruit sufficient staff, but it was not clear whether this was the case for all providers.

⁶¹ A vacancy is defined as a place that could realistically be used by a child. It does not necessarily have to be full time, but should be possible for a family to use it. A place that is available fifteen hours per week in total **is** counted as a vacancy. A place that is only available for one short session (e.g. one afternoon per week), **is not** counted as a vacancy. Providers may have used different interpretation of this guidance in reporting their vacancies

⁶² Providers stated that their vacancies changed regularly

⁶³ Vacancies amongst maintained nursery classes were not reported

10.9 Early years providers offering EYFE

Early years providers offer the early years free entitlements in accordance with a [provider agreement](#). The agreement is in accordance with statutory guidance which requires providers to offer “standalone” free places without the requirement to purchase additional hours of childcare. Providers are able to limit the number of standalone places they offer, in some cases offering only one.⁶⁴ Parents have then to purchase additional hours of childcare in order to get their free ones and this has an impact on the cost of childcare for parents.

10.10 Early years providers offering EYFE for three and four year olds

149 providers⁶⁵ offer universal EYFE for three and four year olds, which is all Ofsted registered group-based early years providers in the city, with the addition of 37% per cent of registered childminders. All but six⁶⁶ of these offer the extended entitlement to 30 hours free childcare.

Analysis of EYFE places across the city suggests that there is currently sufficient provision overall for three and four year olds taking up EYFE for 15/30 hours. However, as noted in the ward data above provision is not evenly spread across the city and so parents may have to travel to find childcare.

10.11 Early years providers offering EYFE for two year olds

130 providers⁶⁷ offer EYFE for two year olds, including three maintained providers (no change from 2016).

Analysis of EYFE places across the city suggests that there is currently sufficient provision overall for two year olds currently eligible for 15 hours EYFE. However, as noted in the ward data above provision is not evenly spread across the city and so parents may have to travel to find childcare.

10.12 Childcare available in non-traditional hours

Since 2018 there has been an increase in the number of full day care providers open in the early morning, with 47.5% open before 8 am (41.9% in 2018), but a reduction in the number open after 6 pm (22.5% in 2022, compared with 25.7% in 2018).

There are no full day care providers open late in the evening or at weekends. However, of the childminders responding to the survey six stated that that they provided care on a Saturday, and five on a Sunday.

10.13 Childcare for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

Local authorities are required to have regard to the needs of parents in their area for childcare which is suitable for disabled children.⁶⁸

⁶⁴ Stating that they do this because of low EYFE funding rates in Brighton & Hove

⁶⁵ Three providers are currently suspended because they have an “inadequate” Ofsted judgement

⁶⁶ Two maintained nursery classes and four nursery classes in independent schools

⁶⁷ Seven providers are currently suspended as because they have a “requires improvement” or “inadequate” Ofsted judgement

⁶⁸ Childcare Act 2006, s6.2.(ii)

All registered childcare providers are supported to welcome children with SEND and to make reasonable adjustments, complying with the Equality Act 2010 and the [SEND code of practice](#) in order to offer EYFE.

Additional support funding (ASF) is offered to early years providers to meet any extra costs (such as additional staff or specialist equipment) for a child with SEND. ASF matches EYFE hours⁶⁹ for two, three and four year olds. In 2022/23 ASF was paid for 34 two year olds and 202 three and four year olds.

ASF rates have been increased for 2023/24 to £11.42 per hour for PVI providers and £15.03 per hour for maintained providers in order to cover staff salaries and on costs.

Settings which take a three or four year old in receipt of Disability Living Allowance receive an annual Disability Access Fund payment of £828. In 2022/23 DAF was paid for 88 children.

Inclusion funding may be available to support school-age children with SEND to attend after-school clubs and holiday playschemes, up to maximum amounts. In 2022/23 this funded 81 children⁷⁰ to attend a mainstream after-school club or holiday playscheme. Childcare inclusion funding for providers has been increased to £11.42 in 2023/24 in order to cover staff salaries and on costs.

A one-off annual grant has been paid to a voluntary sector organisation providing inclusive after-school and holiday provision for children with SEND.

⁶⁹ As needed to enable the child to access the full curriculum

⁷⁰ An increase from 71 children in 2021/22

11. Childcare Prices

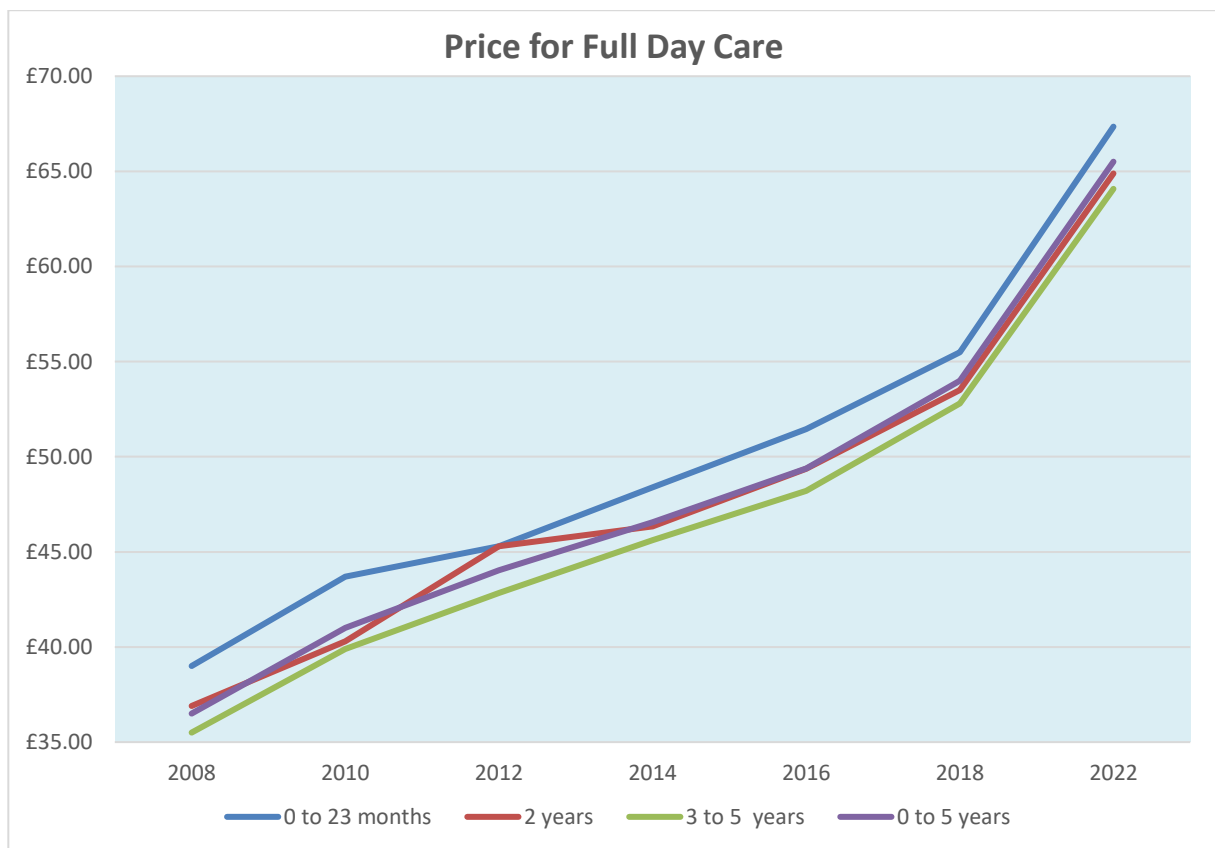
Childcare prices have been calculated using information supplied by providers, and where necessary have been extrapolated using the standard daily rate for a full day or a full session of care. Prices do not include any discounts, for example for siblings or where a parent purchases care over more days a week.

Some providers include a range of services in their fees such as food, wipes and nappies, for which others make an additional charge.

The prices shown are the fee charged to parents for a full day or a full session of care; prices are often higher as an hourly rate where parents have to purchase additional hours to wrap around the EYFE. In some cases these additional charges result in a very high hourly rate, which is not represented in the data below.

11.1 Full day care

The average price for full day care is £65.51 per day,⁷¹ a 21.3% increase on 2018 (£54.00).

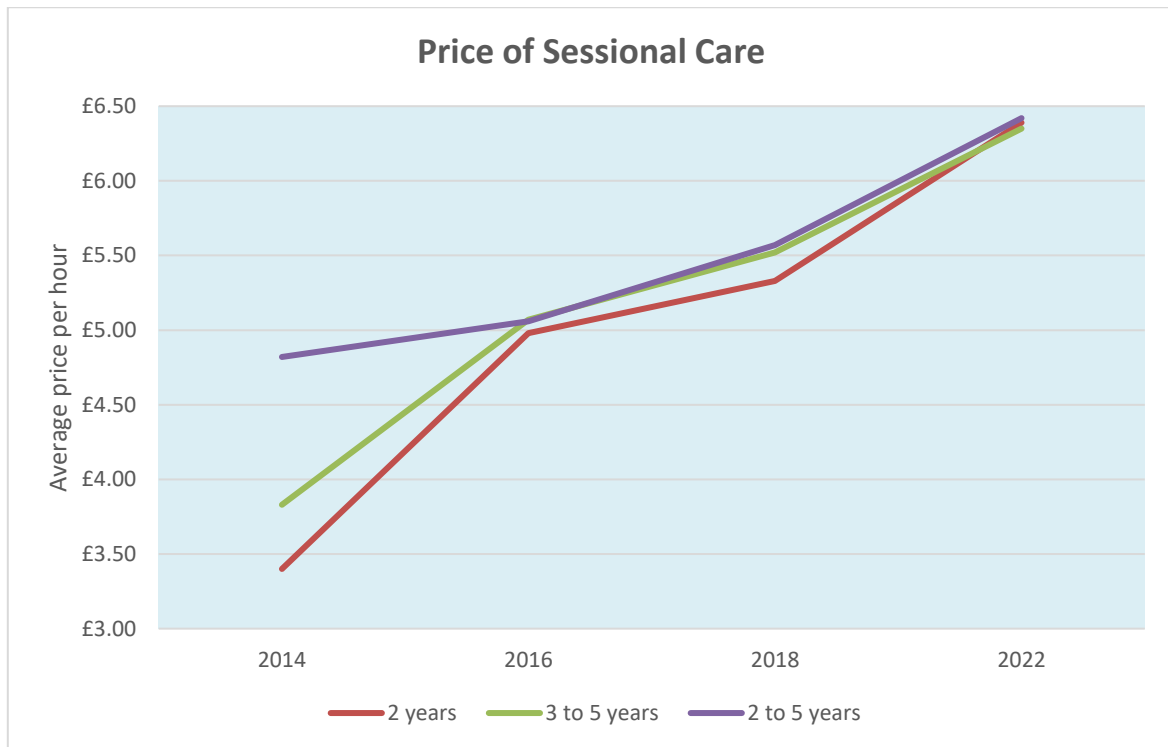


Additional charges for hours which parents can purchase at the beginning and end of the day range from £6.65 to £18.00 per hour, and average £11.23 per hour.

⁷¹ Average price for a 10 hour day

11.2 Sessional care

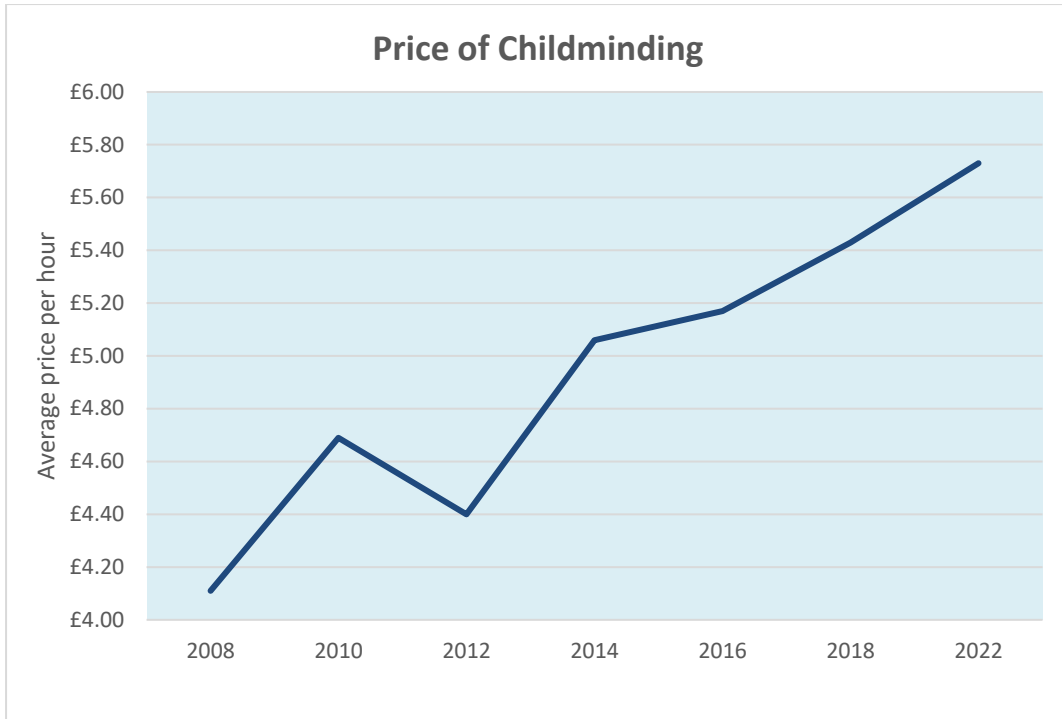
The average price for sessional care⁷² is £6.42 per hour (£5.57 per hour in 2018), a 15.3% increase.



11.3 Childminding

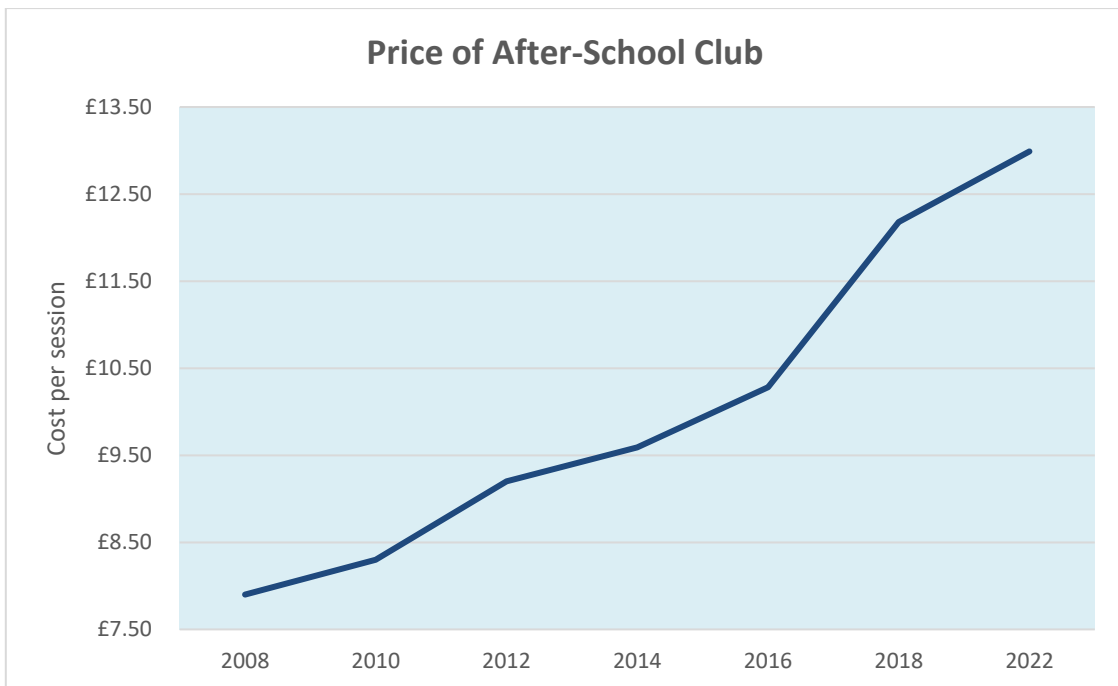
The average of price of childminding is £5.73 per hour (£5.43 per hour in 2018) a 5.5% increase.

⁷² Sessional care prices include independent school fees which are frequently higher than those of sessional private and voluntary sector settings



11.4 After-school clubs

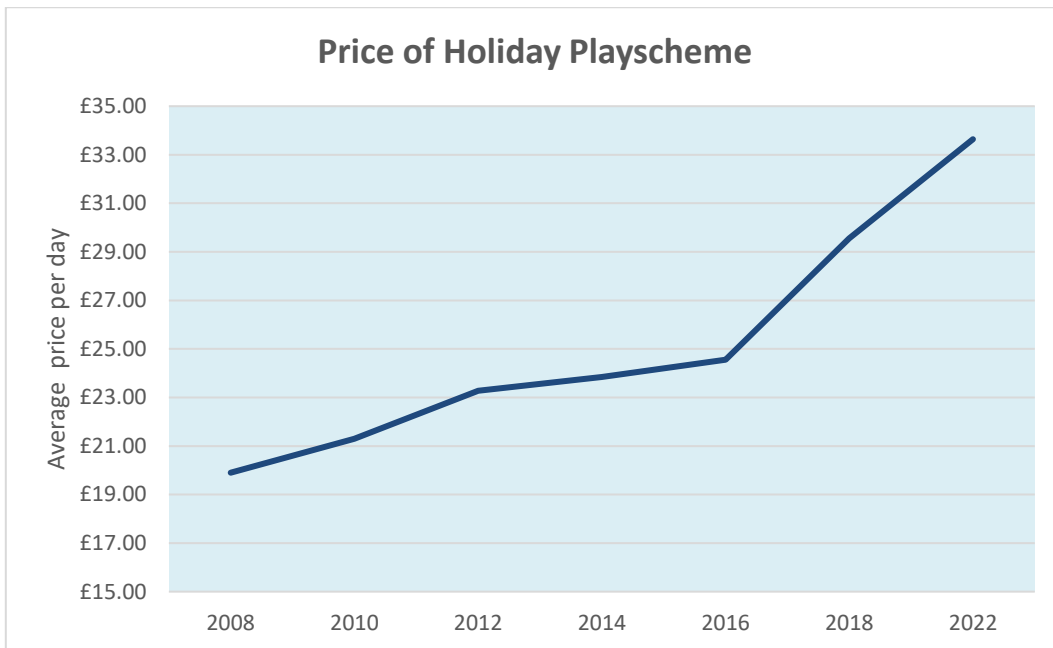
The average price of an after-school club session⁷³ is £12.99, (£12.18 in 2018) a 6.7% increase.



⁷³ The average length of an after-school club session is two hours 45 minutes

11.5 Holiday playschemes

The average price of a holiday playscheme is £33.64 per day, ⁷⁴ (£29.56 in 2018) a 13.8% increase.

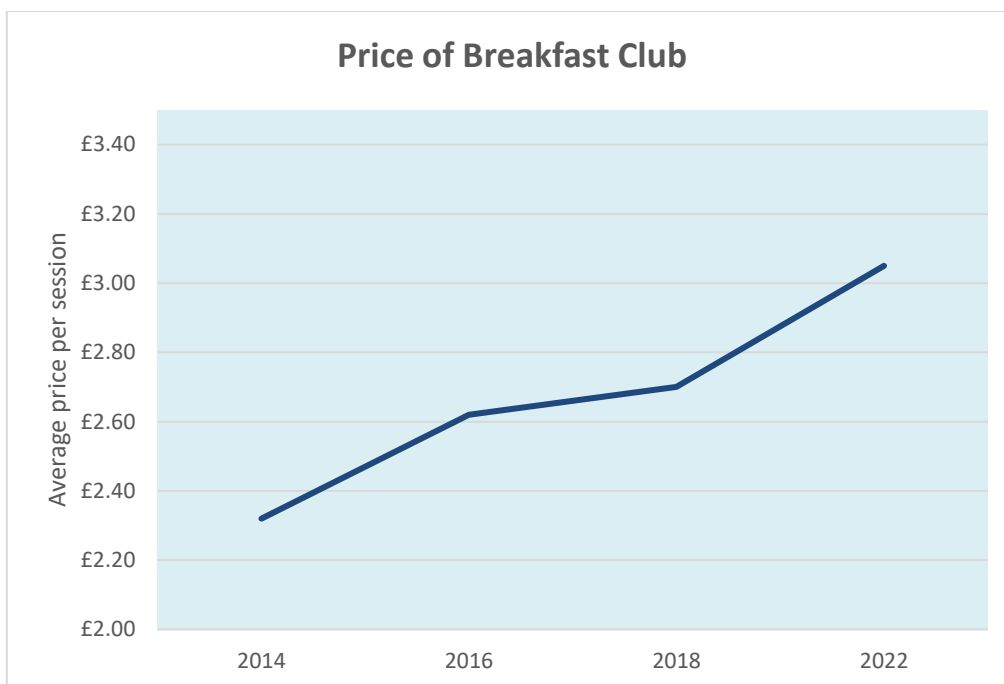


Nine playschemes offer parents the option to purchase additional hours to extend the day. The cost per additional hour ranges from £1.75 to £15.

11.6 Breakfast clubs

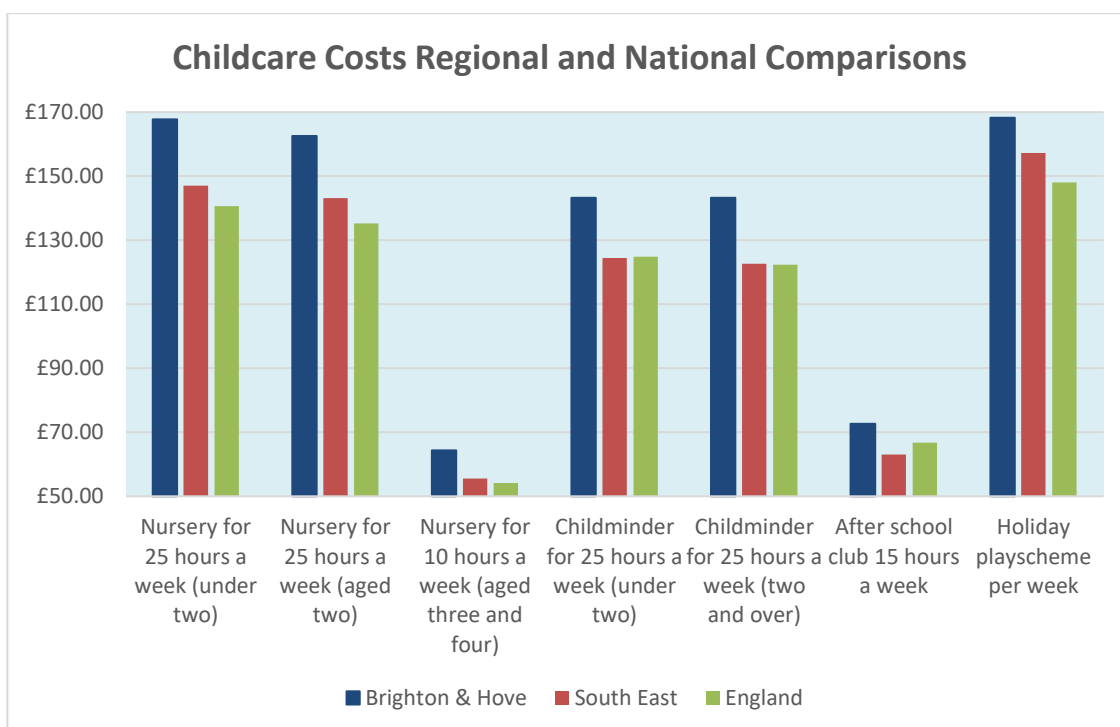
The average cost of a breakfast club is £3.05, (£2.70 in 2018), an increase of 12.9%.

⁷⁴ The price is for a standard day, excluding any earlier or later hours that can be purchased; day lengths range from six to 10 hours



11.7 Regional and national price comparisons⁷⁵

All average childcare costs in Brighton & Hove are higher than those in England as a whole, and the South East.



11.8 Help with childcare costs

In addition to EYFE parents can access support with their childcare costs, where the childcare is registered with Ofsted (including on the voluntary childcare register) through

⁷⁵ Data from [Coram Family and Childcare Survey 2022](#) and [Holiday Childcare Survey 2022](#)

- Tax free childcare – for children under the age of 12⁷⁶ parents can received up to £2,000 per child per year government support with childcare costs (or up to £4,000 if the child is disabled)
- Childcare support through Universal Credit – up to 85% of childcare costs, with a maximum of up to £646 per month for one child, and up to £1,108 for two or more children
- Care to Learn – for parents under the age of 20 at the start of their course in school or college
- Childcare grant – for students in higher education who are eligible for student finance

The family hubs offer help and advice to families on support with the cost of childcare.

⁷⁶ Until 1 September after their 16th birthday if the child is disabled

12. Early Years Providers' Views of Childcare

Providers were asked for their views on childcare. Their main concern was difficulty with staff recruitment and retention. This is likely to have an impact on expansion of provision to meet the new EYFE offer.

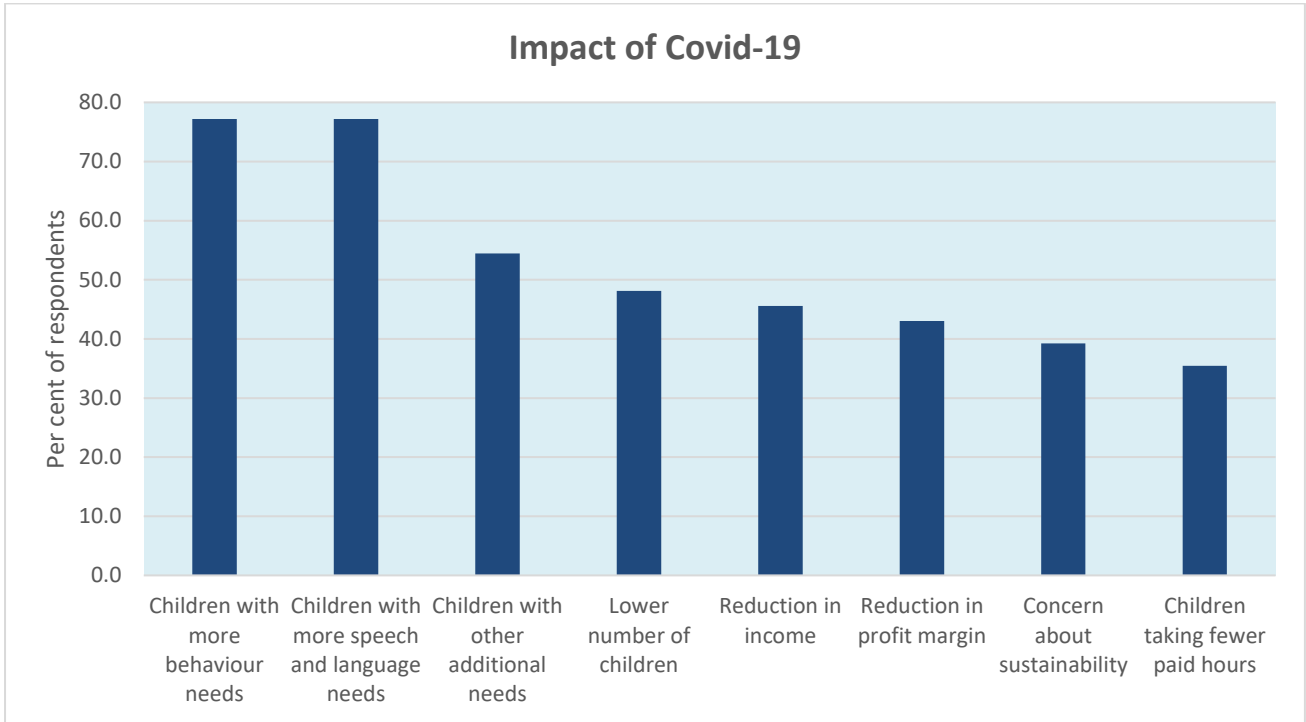
12.1 Recruiting and retaining staff

77% had had difficulty recruiting or retaining staff in the past 12 months, and 39% had had higher staff turnover in the past 12 months compared with previous years.



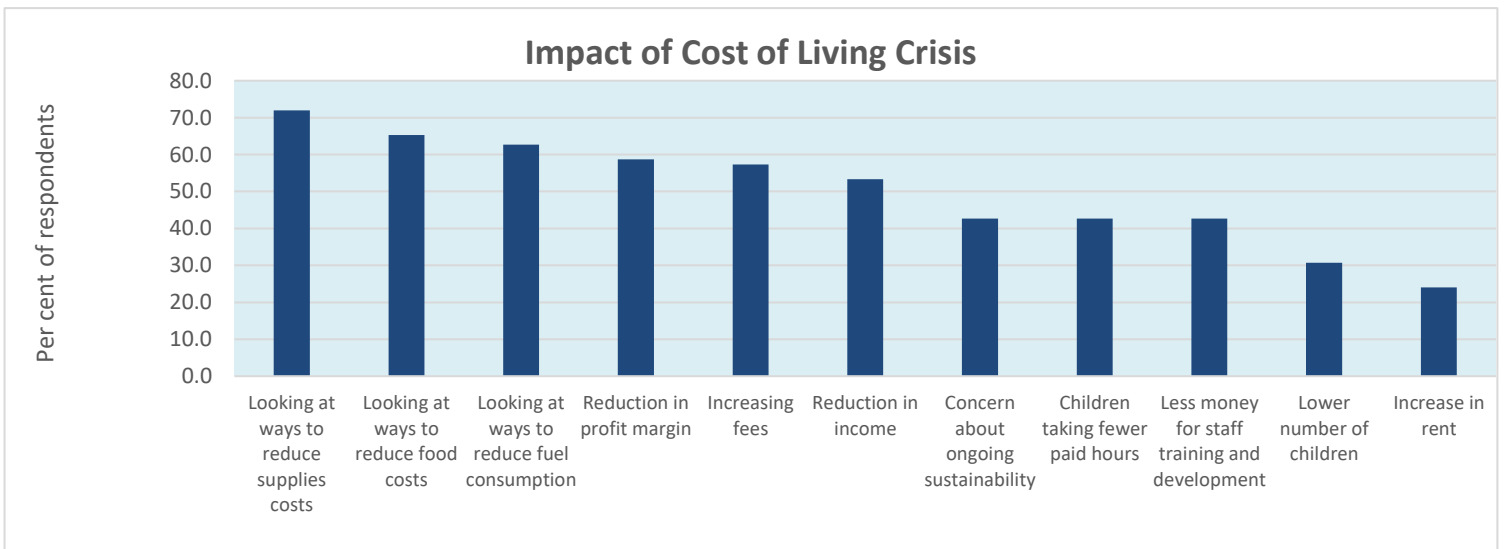
12.2 Impact of Covid-19

86% of early years providers reported that Covid-19 had had an impact on their business.



12.3 Impact of cost of living crisis

84% of early years providers reported that the cost of living crisis had had an impact on their business.

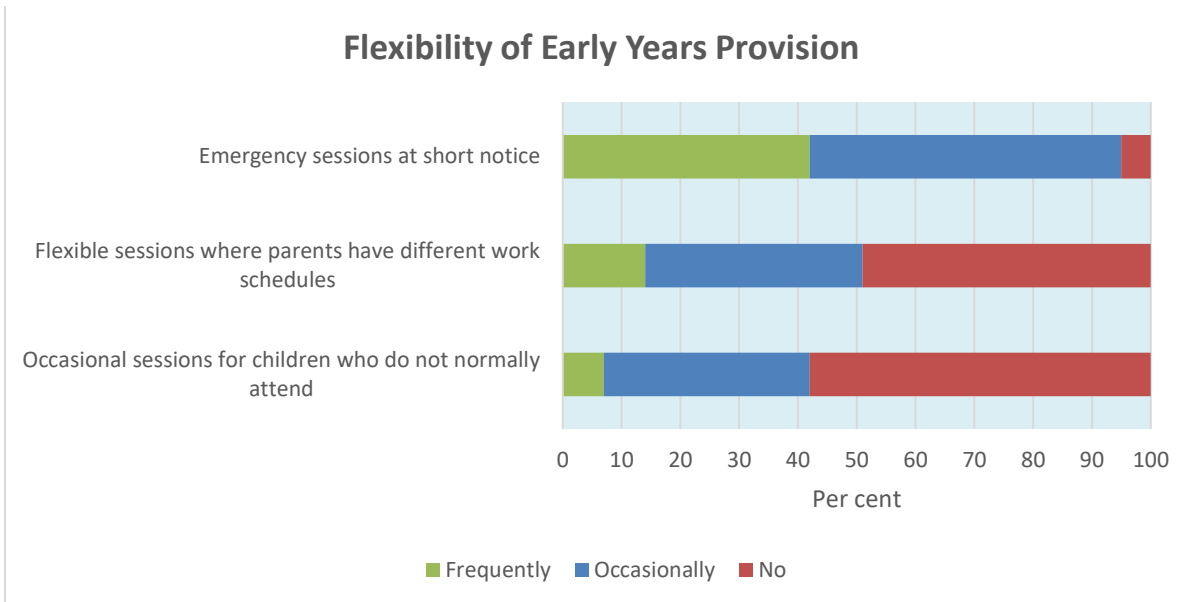


12.4 Business Planning

79% of early years providers stated that they had a business plan, and 67% had a marketing strategy.

12.5 Flexibility of Early Years Provision

Some early years providers offered flexible provision, mainly emergency sessions for children already on roll.

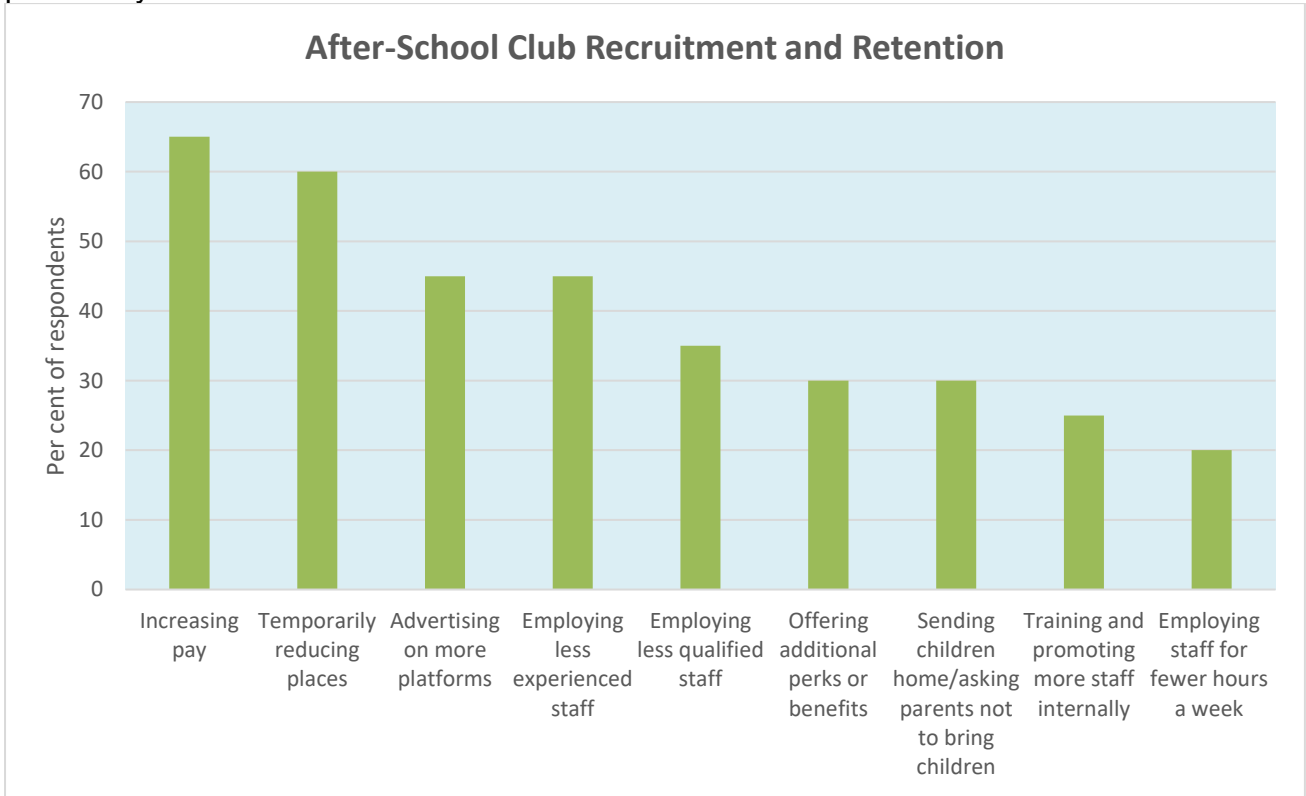


13. After-school providers views of childcare

After-school club providers were also asked for their views on childcare.

13.1 Recruiting and retaining staff

58% of after-school club providers had had difficulty recruiting or retaining staff in the past 12 months, and 30% had had higher staff turnover in the past 12 months compared with previous years.



13.2 Impact of Cost of Living Crisis

76% of after-school club providers stated that the cost of living crisis had impacted their business.

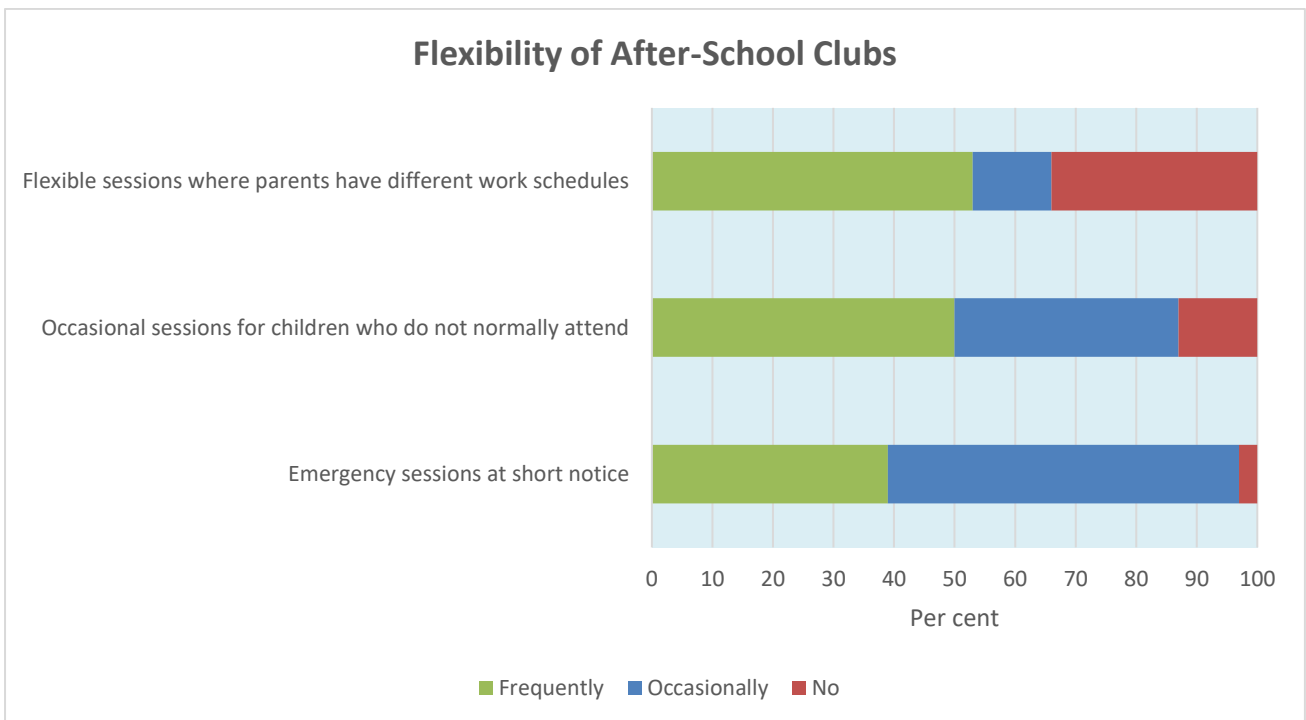


13.3 Business Planning

76% of after-school club providers stated that they had a business plan, and 55% had a marketing strategy.

13.4 Flexibility of After-School Club Provision

Most after-school clubs offered flexible provision.



Appendix 1 Parental Childcare Survey

Appendix 2 Ward Map

