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Introduction

The assessment duty is concerned with the supply of, and demands for, formal childcare which may be registered, unregistered, or approved and which meets the needs of working parents. This will include all types of childcare provision within the Private, Voluntary & Independent (PVI) Sector and the Maintained Sector.

Sufficient childcare is defined in section 6 of the 2006 Childcare Act as “sufficient to meet the requirements of parents in (the local authority’s) area who require childcare in order to enable them:

- To take up, or remain in, work or
- 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:

1. Must have regard to the needs of parents in their area for
 - The provision of childcare in respect of which the childcare element of the working tax credit is payable
 - The provision of childcare which is suited for disabled children
2. May have regard to any childcare which they expect to be available outside their area

It also applies to the early years provision which local authorities must secure, free of charge, for eligible children aged three and four.

Aims

This Childcare Sufficiency Assessment has been structured to provide the reader with an understanding of:

- The different types of childcare places available
- The range of data collected to complete the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment
- The consultation processes undertaken
- How parents and carers are supported in accessing childcare provision

Objectives

- To identify any gaps that may exist and consider how they may be addressed in the future
- To prepare an Action Plan
- To review the Action Plan on an annual basis

Executive Summary

This report is the second Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA), and provides an assessment of sufficiency, and parental demand for, childcare provision within Bournemouth.

The previous CSA was published in 2008 and we can report that notwithstanding the economic climate within the intervening three years, the overall number of Childcare Providers and places has slightly increased, despite one of the provision types slightly decreasing in number.

This is significant, as Bournemouth has a very high ratio of Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) Sector Childcare Provision.

We will be monitoring the provision for under 5's closely as statistics show an increased birth rate of children born in Bournemouth over the last few years.

As the population within Bournemouth is not static, new parents/carers will require information about a range of childcare options, so our work to connect with those parents/carers will be ongoing.

Childcare provision for under 5's is particularly good and Bournemouth is well placed, in partnership with our highly valued PVI Sector, to meet the demands not only of Bournemouth parents seeking childcare, but also as a net importer of Early Education Funded (EEF) places, for those parents from adjacent Local Authorities.

Consultation feedback showed that the majority of parents/carers were happy with their childcare arrangements and were very positive about the childcare and the choices available to them in Bournemouth.

Bournemouth Early Years Service will continue to deliver a range of initiatives and service support to Parents/Carers, PVI Providers, Maintained Sector Providers and Employers to ensure we continue to meet the statutory duties as per the Childcare Act.

Kay Errington
Strategic Lead
Early Years, Childcare & Play
Children & Families Services

Bournemouth Profile (Appendix A)

Within the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, factors that are “unique” to Bournemouth need to be considered when determining sufficiency of the need for, and supply of, childcare.

Such factors will include:

- Location
- Population
- General population trends
- Population of children 0-19 yrs old
 1. 0 - 4
 2. 5 - 9
 3. 10 -19
- Economic activity and earnings
- Housing
- Ethnicity
- Deprivation
- Household composition

A short report prepared by the Research and Information, Planning & Transport Services of Bournemouth Borough Council, entitled: “A picture of Bournemouth - Overview and Ward Profiles 2010” contains information re the points listed above and is attached as an appendix.

Bournemouth Children's Centres (Appendix B)

There are nine Children's Centres situated throughout Bournemouth (a map is attached as an appendix)

Children's Centres are for all families with children under five years old.

They provide a range of services, depending on local need and parental choice. The services offered will not be the same everywhere, as needs and communities vary greatly.

By working together with a variety of organisations, Children's Centres provide:

- Information, advice and support to parents and carers
- Access to integrated early years education and childcare
- Health services
- Family support
- Employment advice
- Family learning opportunities
- Parent forums

Population of children aged 0-19 yrs old

Mid year estimates for Bournemouth by age, 2006

| | Males | Females | Total | % |
|----------|--------|---------|---------|-----|
| All ages | 78,400 | 82,800 | 161,200 | |
| 0-4 | 3,800 | 3,700 | 7,600 | 4.7 |
| 5-9 | 4,000 | 3,600 | 7,700 | 4.8 |
| 10-14 | 4,200 | 4,100 | 8,300 | 5.1 |
| 15-19 | 4,900 | 5,000 | 9,900 | 6.1 |

* Figures may not sum due to rounding

Source: Mid year estimates, ONS, Crown Copyright

Mid year estimates for Bournemouth by age, 2010

| | Males | Females | Total | % |
|----------|--------|---------|---------|-----|
| All ages | 82,700 | 85,400 | 168,100 | |
| 0-4 | 4,800 | 4,600 | 9,500 | 5.7 |
| 5-9 | 3,700 | 3,700 | 7,300 | 4.3 |
| 10-14 | 3,900 | 3,700 | 7,600 | 4.5 |
| 15-19 | 5,400 | 5,400 | 10,800 | 6.4 |

* Figures may not sum due to rounding

Source: Mid year estimates, ONS, Crown Copyright

The tables indicate the following:

- An increase in the size of the population since 2006 (data used in the 2008 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment)
- 0 - 4 age group has increased by 1,900 children

Over the four-year period re the comparison tables, one would expect to see "movement" between the various age groups, as they move into the next. However, due to an increase in the birth rate, there has been a marked increase in the number of under school age children.

Childcare Places within Bournemouth (Appendix C)

As of March 2011, across the 18 Bournemouth Ward Areas, there are 341 childcare settings registered with Ofsted:

Under 5's

- 47 Day Nurseries providing 1855 places
- 29 Pre-School Playgroups providing 781 places
- 170 Childminders, of which 43 are Accredited Childminders, providing 827 places
- 5 Maintained Nursery Classes providing 169 places (338 per day as 2 sessions are offered)
- 9 Crèches providing 183 places
- 24 Home based Childcarers providing 24 places

Over 5's

- 24 Breakfast Clubs providing 1417 places
- 18 After School Clubs providing 578 places
- 14 Holiday Playschemes providing 626 places
- 1 Out of School Activity providing 38 places

Providing **6496** childcare places of which **6327** are eligible for parents to access through use of their Working Tax Credits (WTC) entitlement (after excluding the **169** Maintained Nursery Class places).

The number of childcare places available within the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) sector is **4824** and for those managed by the Local Authority it is **1672**.

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment also requires Local Authorities, when determining sufficiency, to have regard to the provision of childcare, which is suited for disabled children.

Within Bournemouth, there are 85 children (aged 0-4); receiving 1:1 support within their Early Years Childcare provision and the Local Authority currently maintains statements of SEN for 585 pupils (aged 5-19).

Every Day Nursery and Pre-School has a named member of staff who is the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) and an Equality Needs Co-ordinator (ENCO). Every Accredited Childminder is a SENCO and an ENCO. In practice this means that they have an understanding and knowledge of the SEN Code of Practice and regularly access training and professional support through the Early Year SEN Team.

Registered Childminders not mentioned above are also able to offer support to children with special needs and receive professional advice and guidance from Early Years Service Officers.

This enables parents requiring specialised care for their children to have access to a range of provision types when deciding upon the best option for their child/children.

Bournemouth Early Years Service was able to access a small element of the Disabled Children's Access to Childcare (DCATCH) funding to fund a small project (DCATCH is funding which aims to improve childcare services for disabled children and their families).

The project was to develop a multi-sensory approach to an outdoor environment at one of our Children's Centres. The Centre can then further support Bournemouth Settings to improve the quality and understanding of their provision and offer for disabled children.

DCATCH funding was also used to support children (rising 3 yr olds) to access childcare through the offer of 1:1 support for the child.

In the following Section, there are details of the number and type of childcare places available within Bournemouth. Details listed include:

- Provision within the eighteen Bournemouth Wards
- Opening times
- Fee structures
- Availability and flexibility in catering for irregular patterns of usage
- Vacancy management arrangement
- Pattern of development since March 2005 (when the current Management Information System (MIS) was implemented)

Day Nursery Provision within Bournemouth (Appendix D)

There are 47 Day Nurseries; 45 in the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) Sector and 2 managed by the Local Authority, providing 1,855 places.

- Parents/Carers are able to access Day Nursery (DN) provision within 17 of the 18 Bournemouth Wards
- The number of places available within each DN varies depending upon their individual Ofsted registration. This can range from a small DN of 16 places, to a larger DN registered for 124 places and enables a parent/carer to select the DN that they feel best suits their child's requirements
- 1 Ward has 200+ places: **239** places in total
- 3 Wards have between 150-199 places: **502** places in total
- 6 Wards have between 100-149 places: **735** places in total
- 3 Wards have between 50-99 places: **245** places in total
- 4 Wards have between 0-49 places available: **134** places in total
- Opening times range from 6.45 am to 7.45pm, Monday to Friday
- Fees, per day range from: Under 2 yrs old - £32.50 to £46.50; Over 2 yrs old* - £26 to £46
- The number of vacancies across the Sector is available through regular updates each Term, by completion of a Provider Profile sent to the Bournemouth Children's Information Service (CIS) Staff. This enables CIS staff to provide up to date information when a parent/carer requests information about a specific Provider or by Ward location
- Since the 2008 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, there has been:
 1. An increase in the number of Providers, from 44 to 47
 2. An increase of 341 in the number of places, from 1,514 to 1,855

Please refer to the chart "Day Nurseries Ofsted Registered Places" that shows the number and location of places available as of March 2011.

* Providers of Early Education Funding have signed up to their Local Directory of Providers, ensuring that all fees and billing procedures are clearly distinguished between the free entitlement of 15 hours per week (maximum) and any additional services, for which charges are made

Pre-School Provision within Bournemouth (Appendix D)

There are 29 Pre-School Playgroups, all in the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) Sector, providing 781 places.

- Parents/Carers are able to access Pre-School Playgroup (PSP), provision within 16 of the 18 Bournemouth Wards
- The number of places available within each PSP varies depending upon their individual Ofsted registration. This can range from a small PSP of 18 places, to a larger PSP registered for 55 places and enables a parent/carer to select the PSP that they feel best suits their child's requirements
- 9 Wards have between 50-99 places: 578 places in total
- 7 Wards have between 0-49 places available: 203 places in total
- Opening times range from 8.00 am to 4.00 pm, Monday to Friday
- Fees, per session* range from £7 to £21
- The number of vacancies across the Sector is available through regular updates each Term, by completion of a Provider Profile sent to the Bournemouth Children's Information Service (CIS) Staff. This enables CIS staff to provide up to date information when a parent/carer requests information about a specific Provider or by Ward location
- Since the 2008 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, there has been:
 1. An increase in the number of Providers, from 28 to 29
 2. A small increase of 10 in the number of places, from 771 to 781

Please refer to the chart "Pre-School Playgroups Ofsted Registered Places" that shows the number and location of places available as of March 2011.

* Providers of Early Education Funding have signed up to their Local Directory of Providers, ensuring that all fees and billing procedures are clearly distinguished between the free entitlement of 15 hours per week (maximum) and any additional services, for which charges are made

Childminder Provision within Bournemouth (Appendix D)

There are 170 Childminders, all within the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) Sector, providing 827 places.

- Parents/Carers are able to access Childminder provision within each of the 18 Bournemouth Wards
- The number of places available with each Childminder varies depending upon their individual Ofsted registration and the ages of the children in their care
- Of the 170 Childminders, 46 are Accredited Childminders and they are located in 16 of the 18 Bournemouth Wards. Eligible 3 & 4 yr old children are able to apply for Early Education Funding (EEF), when accessing a place with an Accredited Childminder
- The 46 Accredited Childminders are registered for a maximum of 243 children aged 0 to 8, with a maximum of 123 places for eligible EEF children
- 8 Wards have between 50-99 places: **538** places in total
- 10 Wards have between 0-49 places available: **289** places in total
- Opening times range from 6.00 am to 10.00 pm, Monday to Friday
- 37 are registered to offer overnight childcare provision
- 45 are registered to offer childcare provision at the weekends
- Fees, per hour*, range from: £3 to £5.80
- The number of vacancies across the Sector is available through regular updates every January & June, by completion of a Provider Profile sent to the Bournemouth Children's Information Service (CIS) Staff. This enables CIS staff to provide up to date information when a parent/carer requests information about a specific Provider or by Ward location
- Since the 2008 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, there has been:
 1. An increase in the number of Providers, from 149 to 170
 2. An increase of 341 in the number of places, from 663 to 827

Please refer to the chart "Childminder Ofsted Registered Places" that shows the number and location of places available as of March 2011.

* Providers of Early Education Funding have signed up to their Local Directory of Providers, ensuring that all fees and billing procedures are clearly distinguished between the free entitlement of 15 hours per week (maximum) and any additional services, for which charges are made

Maintained Nursery Class Provision within Bournemouth (Appendix D)

There are 5 Maintained Nursery Class Provisions, all within the Maintained (or School based) Sector, providing 169 places.

- Parents/Carers are able to access Maintained Nursery Class (MNC) provision within 5 of the 18 Bournemouth Wards
- The number of places available with each Maintained Nursery Class varies depending upon their individual Ofsted registration. This can range from a small MNC of 16 places, up to a larger MNC registered for 65 places
- 1 Ward have between 50-99 places: 65 places in total
- 4 Wards have between 0-49 places available: 104 places in total
- Opening times range from 9.00 am to 11.30 am and 12.45 to 3.15 pm, Monday to Friday
- No fees are payable. However some MNC's are beginning to offer care before and after the EEF on offer. Please refer to the note at the bottom of this page*
- The number of vacancies across the Sector is available through regular updates each Term, by completion of a Provider Profile sent to the Bournemouth Children's Information Service (CIS) Staff. This enables CIS staff to provide up to date information when a parent/carer requests information about a specific Provider or by Ward location
- Since the 2008 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, there has been:
 1. A decrease in the number of Providers, from 6 to 5 (when a School closed)
 2. A decrease of 16 in the number of places, from 185 to 169

Please refer to the chart "Maintained Nursery Classes Ofsted Registered Places" that shows the number and location of places available as of March 2011.

* Providers of Early Education Funding have signed up to their Local Directory of Providers, ensuring that all fees and billing procedures are clearly distinguished between the free entitlement of 15 hours per week (maximum) and any additional services, for which charges are made

Crèche Provision within Bournemouth (Appendix D)

There are 9 Crèches, 6 in the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) Sector, and 3 managed by the Local Authority, providing 183 places.

- Parents/Carers are able to access Crèche provision within 5 of the 18 Bournemouth Wards
- The number of places available within each Crèche varies depending upon their individual Ofsted registration. This can range from a small Crèche of 16 places, to a larger Crèche registered for 60 places and enables a parent/carer to select the Crèche that they feel best suits their child's requirements
- 1 Ward have between 50-99 places: **60** places in total
- 4 Wards have between 0-49 places available: **123** places in total
- Opening times range from 9.00 am to 5.30 pm, Monday to Friday
- Fees, per hour, range from £2.50 to £5.90
- The number of vacancies across the Sector is available through regular updates each Term, by completion of a Provider Profile sent to the Bournemouth Children's Information Service (CIS) Staff. This enables CIS staff to provide up to date information when a parent/carer requests information about a specific Provider or by Ward location
- Since the 2008 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, there has been:
 1. A decrease in the number of Providers, from 9 to 8
 2. A decrease of 24 in the number of places, from 207 to 183

Please refer to the chart "Crèche Ofsted Registered Places" that shows the number and location of places available as of March 2011.

Home Child carers Provision within Bournemouth (Appendix D)

There are 24 Home Child carers, all within the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) Sector, providing 24 places.

- Parents/Carers are able to access Home Child care places (HC) provision within 12 of the 18 Bournemouth Wards
- The number of places available within each HC varies depending upon their individual Ofsted registration.
- Since the 2008 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, there has been:
 1. An increase in the number of Providers, from 2 to 24

Please refer to the chart "Home Child carers (Nannies) Ofsted Registered Places" that shows the number and location of places available as of March 2011.

Breakfast Club Provision within Bournemouth (Appendix E)

There are 24 Breakfast Clubs, 17 within the Maintained Sector (as they are School managed) and 7 in the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) Sector, providing 1,417 places.

- Parents/Carers are able to access Breakfast Club (BC) provision within 14 of the 18 Bournemouth Wards
- The number of places available within each BC varies depending upon their individual Ofsted registration. This can range from a small BC of 10 places, to a larger BC registered for 400 places
- 1 Ward has 400+ places: **480** places in total
- 2 Wards have between 200-250 places: **407** places in total
- 5 Wards have between 50-99 places: **348** places in total
- 6 Wards have between 0-49 places available: **182** places in total
- Opening times range from 7.30 am to the beginning of the school day, Monday to Friday - Term time only
- Fees, per day range from £1 to £4 per session
- 20 Breakfast Clubs in Primary Schools: 3 In Secondary Schools and 1 in a Pre-School
- Since the 2008 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, there has been:
 1. An increase in the number of Providers, from 21 to 24
 2. An increase of 153 in the number of places, from 1,264 to 1,417

After School and Out of School Tuition Provision within Bournemouth (Appendix E)

There are 18 After School & 1 Out of School Provisions, 4 within the Maintained Sector (as they are School managed) and 15 in the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) Sector, providing 616 places.

- Parents/Carers are able to access After School & Out of School Provisions (ASC & OS) provision within 12 of the 18 Bournemouth Wards
- The number of places available within each (ASC & OS) varies depending upon their individual Ofsted registration. This can range from a small (ASC & OS) of 16 places, to a larger (ASC & OS) registered for 70 places
- 4 Wards have between 50-99 places: 340 places in total
- 8 Wards have between 0-49 places available: 276 places in total
- Opening times range from end of the school day until 6.00pm for ASC @ a cost of £6 to £8 per session. For OS activity, weekdays: 3.00pm to 8.00pm and at weekends 10.00am to 6.00pm @ a monthly fee of £98
- 16 ASC in Primary Schools: 1 ASC in a Day Nursery; 1 ASC in a non-school setting; 1 OS in a non-school setting
- Since the 2008 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, there has been:
 1. No change in the number of Providers, remaining at 19
 2. An increase of 76 in the number of places, from 540 to 616

Holiday Play scheme Provision within Bournemouth (Appendix E)

There are 14 Holiday Play schemes, 13 within the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) Sector, and 1 in the Maintained Sector (as it is School managed), providing 626 places.

- Parents/Carers are able to access Holiday Play schemes (HPS) provision within 10 of the 18 Bournemouth Wards
- The number of places available within each HPS varies depending upon their individual Ofsted registration. This can range from a small HPS of 16 places, to a larger HPS registered for 124 places
- 2 Ward has 100+ places: **336** places in total
- 2 Wards have between 50-99 places: **154** places in total
- 5 Wards have between 0-49 places available: **136** places in total
- Opening times range from 6.45 am to 7.45 pm, Monday to Friday
- 1 Setting is open at weekends from 10.00 am to 5.30 pm
- Fees, per day range from £18 to £25 per session
- Age range of children registered for: 4 yrs to 14 yrs old
- Since the 2008 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, there has been:
 1. A decrease in the number of Providers, from 28 to 14
 2. A decrease of 490 in the number of places, from 1,116 to 626

Early Education Funded (EEF) places for eligible 3 and 4-year-old children

One of the key priorities of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment is to ensure that a Local Authority is able to map supply, to demand of the free entitlement for all eligible 3 and 4 yr old children so that any gaps can be identified.

In Bournemouth, there are 128 Ofsted Registered Settings, providing 3,097 places.

- 2,664 places in the Private, Voluntary & Independent (PVI) Sector
- 433 places in the Maintained Sector (School based)

The figure of 3,097 should be taken as a minimum, as some Providers operate morning and afternoon sessions e.g. if all the places in the Pre-Schools, 781, were occupied by children both morning and afternoon; then theoretically, up to 1,562 children could access those places.

If the capacity within the Day Nurseries was factored in, even by a quarter, then an additional 440 places would be available, making a total of 4,318 EEF places for eligible 3 and 4 yr old children.

Accredited Childminders

Only Childminders who are Accredited by Bournemouth Borough Council Early Years Staff are eligible to offer EEF places to eligible 3 and 4 yr old children.

This accounts for the reduced number available across the Bournemouth Wards when comparing the total number of childcare places available through Registered Childminders in other parts of this document and accompanying tables.

Every Ward in Bournemouth has EEF places available, enabling parents/carers to have a choice of Provider based on their home, work or training location.

The table below shows the distribution of these places, by type and Ward

| Ward | Day Nurseries | Pre-School Playgroups | Accredited Childminders | Maintained Sector & School based |
|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Boscombe East | 193 | 66 | 11 | |
| Boscombe West | 39 | 26 | 2 | |
| Central | 239 | 45 | | |
| East Cliff and Springbourne | 125 | | 7 | |
| East Southbourne and Tuckton | 122 | 40 | 1 | |
| Kinson North | 53 | 52 | 11 | 95 |
| Kinson South | 103 | | 3 | 182 |
| Littledown and Iford | 154 | 86 | 9 | |
| Moordown | 16 | 52 | 14 | |
| Queen's Park | 119 | 18 | 2 | 78 |
| Redhill and Northbourne | | 53 | 9 | 78 |
| Strouden Park | 114 | 93 | 17 | |
| Talbot & Branksome Woods | 97 | 26 | | |
| Throop and Muscliff | 30 | 24 | 8 | |
| Wallisdown and Winton West | 130 | 58 | 17 | |
| West Southbourne | 125 | 68 | 3 | |
| Westbourne and West Cliff | 52 | 24 | 6 | |
| Winton East | 49 | 50 | 3 | |
| Total | 1,760 | 781 | 123 | 433 |
| Overall Total | 3,097 | | | |

Number of 3 & 4 yr old children in Bournemouth

The most up to date Bournemouth child population data indicates the following:

- 2,058 3yr old children
- 1,882 4 yr old children

Early Education Funding (EEF) is only available to eligible 3 & 4 yr old children (based on their date of birth in relation to the funding Terms). In practice, this means that a percentage of 3 & 4 yr old children will not be eligible for EEF. Working on the assumption that 30% of 3 yr olds and 20% of 4 yr olds fall into these categories, the number of eligible children could be:

- 1,441 3yr old children
- 1,506 4 yr old children

This indicates that the total number of places that may be required would be 2,947, which is within the total number of EEF places available of 3,097 (this figure is probably higher, as mentioned previously, as a number of the Pre-Schools can accommodate children morning and afternoon within the one place, so 781 could easily be half again).

Survey feedback and anecdotal evidence indicates that not all parents of eligible 3 & 4 yr old children choose to place their child in formal childcare, preferring to use friends or relatives.

Bournemouth Local Authority has been able to provide sufficient places for Bournemouth based children since the introduction of the EEF. We also have been a net importer of children from adjacent Local Authorities for many years.

The number of "out of Borough" children averages approximately 240 per year, as children from Wiltshire, Dorset, Poole, Southampton and Hampshire access places in Bournemouth.

Statistics suggest that approximately 160 Bournemouth children access places out of Borough in adjacent Local Authorities.

Bournemouth was one of the Single Funding Formula (SFF) Pathfinder Local Authorities, introducing our SFF in April 2010, following extensive consultation work with our Providers. With an increased base line and two supplement payments, for deprivation and quality, we have been able to provide parents/carers with a very competitive level of funding, which assists those parent/carers seeking childcare provision.

Bournemouth has also worked with Providers to introduce the "stretched offer" where possible, enabling parents to "stretch" their child's EEF entitlement of 570 hours per year outside of the traditional, 38 week, Term time only model of previous years.

This assists parents/carers who have to have year round childcare for their children as it means that the funding gaps that previously occurred outside of Term time have been equalised, for the benefit of parent/carer and provider (in terms of sustainability).

Bournemouth will also fund a child accessing an EEF place at any point within the funding year, irrespective of when the child started in the Term/year. Whilst this creates additional work, to verify previous entitlement (in or out of the Borough), balance of EEF, etc, it does enable the parent/carer to access their child's full entitlement.

Quality data - OFSTED outcomes and Quality process within Bournemouth - data re Staff

Quality of Childcare

Ofsted Inspections of Bournemouth Childcare Providers provides an overview of the quality within those Settings.

The Inspection reports are available on the Ofsted website and detail whether a Setting has received a rating of:

- Outstanding
- Good
- Satisfactory
- Inadequate

Ofsted inspects a Setting once every three years.

Listed below is a table that details the Ofsted Inspection outcomes for the period 1st September 2008 to 31st March 2011.

| % of Childminders judged for Overall Effectiveness | Outstanding % | Good % | Satisfactory % | Inadequate % | Total Inspections |
|--|---------------|--------|----------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 1 st Sept 2008 to 31 st Mar 2009 | 12 | 60 | 28 | 0 | 32 |
| 1 st Sept 2008 to 31 st Mar 2010 | 16 | 48 | 30 | 6 | 86 |
| 1 st Sept 2008 to 31 st Mar 2011 | 12 | 57 | 29 | 2 | 127 |

| % of Pre-Schools & Day Nurseries judged for Overall Effectiveness | Outstanding % | Good % | Satisfactory % | Inadequate % | Total Inspections |
|---|---------------|--------|----------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 1 st Sept 2008 to 31 st Mar 2009 | 4.1 | 50 | 29.1 | 16.6 | 24 |
| 1 st Sept 2008 to 31 st Mar 2010 | 15 | 54 | 31 | 0 | 61 |
| 1 st Sept 2008 to 31 st Mar 2011 | 14 | 56 | 29 | 1 | 79 |

For Childminders, the tables indicate a year on year improvement, and as of March 2011, that 69% were rated as Outstanding or Good, 29%: Satisfactory and only 2% as inadequate.

For Day Nurseries and Pre-Schools, the tables indicate a year in year improvement, and as of March 2011, that 70% were rated as Outstanding or Good, 29% as Satisfactory and only 1% as Inadequate.

Consultation with Parents/Carers (Appendix F and Appendix G)

A series of focus groups were held, 14 in total, with parents/carers representative from all of the Bournemouth postcodes:

- 9 for parents/carers of children aged under 5
- 3 for parents/carers of children aged between 6-16
- 2 for parents/carers who had children with special educational needs

In addition, parents/carers attending the Bournemouth Family Festival took part in a short, 1:1 survey. The Family Festival attracts a large number (over 15,000) from Bournemouth and surrounding areas and measures were taken to ensure that only parents/carers either living within Bournemouth or using childcare within Bournemouth were interviewed.

All of the parents/carers taking part reflected a broad range: age; in employment; in training; non-employment; ethnicity; occupation; family composition & size; family income.

Consultation with parents/carers will continue, on a rolling basis in the future and in a range of formats.

The reports from the surveys undertaken for the CSA 2011 are attached as an appendix, with the key findings listed below.

Satisfaction with Childcare

The vast majority of parents/carers taking part in these focus groups were happy with their childcare arrangements and were very positive about the childcare and the choices available to them locally.

There was much praise for local nurseries, pre-schools, childminders and term time breakfast and after school clubs, stating that it was easy to find, of good quality, flexible enough for their needs and value for money.

Most parents/carers juggled their childcare between formal care and help from family and friends to plug the gaps. Routines became more complicated for those with children of different ages, in co-ordinating the arrangements for getting to nursery/pre-school and school.

For some, although they were very pleased with the formal childcare their children received, they also wanted their children to be looked after by family members. For others, they needed to use informal childcare, as they could not afford the cost of full time childcare.

Main Concerns

Most of the concerns raised were broad issues that affect working parents/carers or those in training, not only in Bournemouth, but also across the UK.

These included:

- Inflexible childcare hours and sessions
- Inflexible use of free childcare entitlements
- Holiday clubs - lack of choice and high costs
- Employers attitude and lack of flexibility
- Lack of information about entitlements and services
- Cost of childcare

Main Gaps

- Out of hours available childcare
- Emergency childcare/Short term options/Locum childcare
- Availability of good nannies and childminders
- Formal after school clubs to cover the first term at secondary school
- Childcare to cover staff training days
- School drop off and pick up services
- Choice of holiday clubs

SEN Groups

Key issues for these parents/carers included the need for more staff training, expertise and understanding and more information to be available about support and services for families.

Consultation with, and by Childcare Providers

With the introduction of the extended flexible offer and since the implementation of the new Code of Practice in February 2010, Bournemouth Early Years Staff have been working with a number of Bournemouth Providers to support them in moving to a more flexible EEF delivery.

This has involved working on a 1:1 basis in confirming business costs to ensure that Providers were able to be sustainable with the new delivery models.

Bournemouth was one of the Single Funding Formula (SFF) Pathfinder Local Authorities, introducing our SFF in April 2010, following extensive consultation work with our Providers. With an increased base line and two supplement payments, for deprivation and quality, we have been able to provide parents/carers with a very competitive level of funding, which in turn, has resulted in Bournemouth Providers comparing well to some adjacent local authorities when parent/carers are seeking childcare provision.

Bournemouth has also worked with Providers to introduce the "stretched offer" where possible, enabling parents to "stretch" their child's EEF entitlement of 570 hours per year outside of the traditional, 38 week, Term time only model of previous years.

This assists parents/carers who have to have year round childcare for their children as it means that the funding gaps that previously occurred outside of Term time have been equalised, for the benefit of parent/carer and provider (in terms of sustainability).

An increasing number of Day Nurseries and Accredited Childminders are now able to offer parents/carers the stretched offer.

Bournemouth will also fund a child accessing an EEF place at any point within the funding year, irrespective of when the child started in the Term/year. Whilst this creates additional work, to verify previous entitlement (in or out of the Borough), balance of EEF, etc, it does enable the parent/carer to access their child's full entitlement, which in turn means that a Provider is able to accept new children any time in the financial year.

Bournemouth Providers are also very proactive in consulting with parents/carers, through formal and informal means as a way of supporting their client group. Examples of subsequent outcomes include:

- Moving from sessional to full day care
- Providing a lunch club to "bridge" the gap from morning to afternoon
- Opening a little earlier
- Opening a little later
- Starting parent/carer support groups
- Discussing with parents/carers if they want to move to the stretched offer (e.g. 570 across 50 weeks)

Consultation with Employers (Appendix H)

The Market Research Group based at Bournemouth University was commissioned by Bournemouth Borough Council, Dorset County Council & Poole Borough Council to consult with employers in a Pan-Dorset study.

A total of 50 organisations (mainly Private Sector): 10 large businesses, 20 medium sized businesses and 20 small businesses were included in the sample. To create a sample and to segment the organisations by location, size and industrial sector, the Experian B2B Prospector Business Directory 2010 was used.

The key findings included:

- A large proportion of organisations offer flexible working arrangements for their staff
- The most common types of flexible working arrangements on offer are “other”, which include informal arrangements and temporary, reduced hours
- The majority of organisations have not experienced problems with employees taking up employment with them or continuing to work for their organisation
- Over a third of the organisations provide childcare vouchers to employees
- More affordable childcare is cited as being the change most required to help improve recruitment and retention of staff

The study showed that choice, location and provision of childcare are not perceived to be major issues. The key problem areas identified are a lack of affordability, availability and flexibility. This is mentioned in a number of contexts, such as a restricted choice of types of provision, opening hours, holiday and after school provision.

*Extract from Childcare Sufficiency Assessment - Employer Survey 2009-10
Prepared by Bournemouth University Market Research Group*

Key Findings & Action Plan

The majority of parents/carers taking part in the focus groups were happy with their childcare arrangements and were very positive about the childcare and the choices available to them in Bournemouth.

There was much praise for Bournemouth Day Nurseries, Pre-Schools, Childminders and term time Breakfast and After School Clubs, stating that they were easy to find, of good quality, flexible enough for their needs and value for money.

However, through the Consultation process, we were able to identify areas where some parents/carers were expressing difficulty in matching their childcare needs.

By using the Department of Education's guidance for completing a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, it states that in determining if there are any gaps in the market; Local Authorities should consider the following:

- Geographical Gaps
- Income Gaps
- Specific Need Gaps
- Time Gaps
- Age Gaps
- Type Gaps

To summarise the key findings and to decide upon areas for development in the action plan, the data we currently hold will be compared to the six points listed above.

Geographical Gaps: where a geographical area has a general shortage of supply

- All 18 of the Bournemouth Ward Areas have childcare settings registered with Ofsted

- Across Bournemouth, there is 1 childcare place for every 3 children aged under 4yrs old
- For eligible Early Education Funding children, the ratio is approximately 1:1
- Two thirds of the Ofsted registered places are predominantly for the under 5's
- There is a good supply of Breakfast Club and After School Clubs
- Consultation with Parents/Carers suggest that there is a shortage of Holiday Clubs and After School Clubs to cover the first term at secondary school

Income Gaps: where there is a shortage of affordable childcare for the income groups populating an area

- Whilst consultation with Parents/Carers indicated that they feel the childcare their children access is good value for money, the comments "more affordable" or "cheaper" occurred time and again
- Working Tax Credits - Figures would suggest that for the period 2007-2009, there has been a small, but steady increase in the number of working families claiming the childcare element of the working tax credits. This relates to those families claiming more than the family element and is based on the information published in the HM Revenue & Customs - Finalised annual awards
- The costs of childcare in March 2011, compared to March 2008, in some types of provision, remained static. Where there has been an increase, it has not been too significant over the three year period when operating & running costs are taken into consideration (refer to the table below):

| Type of Provision | 2008 | 2011 | Diff |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Childminders | £3 to £5 per hour | £3 to £5.80 per hour | 80p |
| Day Nursery | £25 to £40 per day | £26 to £46 per day | £1 to £6* |
| Pre-School | £6 to £13 per session | £7 to £21 per session | £1 to £8* |
| Crèche | £2 to £5 per hour | £2 to £5.90 per hour | 90p |
| After School | £6 to £8 per session | £6 to £8 per session | - |
| Breakfast Club | £1 to £3 per session | £1 to £4 per session | £1 |
| Holiday Club | £14 to £16 per day | £18 to £25 per day | £4 to £9 |

*some of the charge increases relate to extended session lengths compared to 3 yrs ago

- The Consultations also confirmed that a large number of parents/carers use informal childcare due to costs. Others used informal childcare as they wanted a mixture of both for their children and were not in all cases, cost driven

- Affordability of childcare and other services has to be seen in the context of the economic data currently available (extracted from Bournemouth Profile):
 1. The Annual Survey of Hours Earnings for 2009 reveals that Bournemouth has gross weekly pay levels that are marginally below the average. The UK average is £488.70 per week and for Bournemouth residents is £460.10
 2. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) publish Indices of Deprivation. In the 2007 Indices, overall, Bournemouth was ranked 108th out of 354 Local Authorities across England, where 1 is the most deprived
 3. The extent of deprivation varies across Bournemouth and the Indices are mapped by small areas called Super Output Area at Lower Layer (LSOA). Of the 32,482 LSOAs in England, there are 107 in Bournemouth. Of those 107, 17 LSOAs rank in the top quintile of most deprived LSOAs in England
 4. The most deprives LSOAs include areas of Boscombe, Central Bournemouth, Kinson, West Howe and Townsend. Central Boscombe is the most deprived area in Bournemouth, ranked 303rd, and therefore in the 1% most deprived LSOAs in England

- Childcare provision in Bournemouth for under 5's is 96% within the Private, Voluntary & Independent (PVI) Sector; and for the over 5's is 61% in the PVI Sector. As such, the costs are market driven and out of the control of the Local Authority

Specific Need Gaps: where there is as shortage of suitable places for disabled children, or children with specific needs or requirements, including those from particular faiths of community groups

- Whilst Consultation with parents/carers did not indicate there was a shortage of suitable places; it did indicate that key issues for these parents/carers included the need for more staff training, expertise and understanding and more information to be available about support and services for families.

Time Gaps: where there is a shortage of childcare at a time that parents would wish to use childcare

- Consultation with Parents/Carers suggest that there is a shortage:
 1. Flexible childcare hours and sessions
 2. Out of hours childcare

Some parents/carers felt that some of the childcare hours and sessions on offer were inflexible to their needs. However, this would have to be balanced by the sustainability of the hours that were being requested.

There have been a few instances where Bournemouth Early Years Service has been able, through negotiation with PVI Providers, to vary the hours that the EEF is on offer. In such instances, this has been where there have been sufficient parents requesting the change, the PVI Provider has been able to accommodate the request, and it is cost effective.

A number of Ofsted registered Childminders are able to offer childcare outside of the "usual hours, Mon-Fri" and their details are listed below:

- 37 are registered to offer overnight childcare provision
- 45 are registered to offer childcare provision at the weekends

For some of the suggested shortage of provision, it may be possible to "connect" parents/carers with suitable childcare provision through providing more information to them.

A number of enquiries to Bournemouth Children's Information Service (CIS) have resulted in parents/carers finding Childminders to care for their children.

Increased promotion of the range of childcare and services available may assist parents/carers finding suitable childcare arrangements.

Age Gaps: where there is a shortage of childcare suitable to the needs and requirements of a certain age group

- Consultation with Parents/Carers suggest that there is a shortage:
 1. Holiday Clubs
 2. Formal after school clubs to cover the first term at secondary school
 3. Flexible childcare hours and sessions

Re the last point, the comments listed in the section above (Time Gaps) would also apply.

With regard to the Holiday Clubs, as the provision lies 93% within the PVI Sector, unless a new PVI Provider created new provision, it is unlikely that there will be any increase.

Re an increased number of After School Clubs in Secondary Schools, this point will be passed on to the relevant Sector.

Type Gaps: where there is a shortage in the type of childcare for which parents may be expressing a preference

- Consultation with Parents/Carers suggest that there is a shortage:
 1. Holiday Clubs
 2. After School Clubs to cover the first term at secondary school
 3. Emergency childcare/Short term options/Locum childcare
 4. Availability of good nannies and childminders
 5. Childcare to cover staff training days
 6. School drop off and pick up services

For some of the above, it may be possible to “connect” parents/carers with suitable childcare provision thorough providing more information to them.

A number of enquiries to Bournemouth Children’s Information Service (CIS) have resulted in parents/carers finding Childminders to not only care for their children, but also to arrange “pickup/drop off” at School (with pre-& post school care).

Increased promotion of the range of childcare and services available may assist parents/carers finding suitable childcare arrangements.

Action Plan

| Area/Issue Identified | Action/s | How/Who | Timescales |
|---|--|--|--|
| Affordability of Childcare | <p>Continue to provide up to date information to parents re:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EEF availability & funding • Working Tax Credits • Childcare voucher purchase through Employer/Salary sacrifice (where applicable) <p>Continue to provide Business Support & sustainability advice to Childcare Providers</p> | <p>Early Years Service Staff through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children’s Information Service (CIS) • Outreach Work • Information events with Employers • Family Festival Event • Children’s Centres • Business Support & Sustainability <p>Childcare Providers</p> <p>Employers</p> <p>JobCentre Plus</p> | <p>Ongoing and through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scheduled events • meetings • Employer briefings • Provider briefings • CIS • Schools |
| Holiday childcare and childcare outside of “normal” working day | <p>Continue to support any Providers considering setting up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holiday Clubs • Extended opening times - outside of “normal” working day <p>Continue to monitor existing PVI provision and to monitor areas of demand through Parent surveys; focus group work; CIS information/feedback</p> | <p>Early Years Service Staff</p> <p>PVI Providers</p> <p>Parents</p> <p>CIS Staff</p> | <p>Ongoing - as and when any new provision is proposed</p> |

| | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <p>SEN Provision -Key issues included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for more staff training, expertise and understanding • More information to be available about support and services for families. | <p>Continue to support Providers with SENCO & ENCO training as staff leave and new staff start</p> <p>Continue to provide information to Parents/Carers about support and services available; ensure that they are aware of CAFs</p> | <p>Early Years Service Staff</p> <p>PVI Providers</p> <p>Parents</p> <p>Children's Centre Staff (CCS)</p> <p>CIS Staff</p> | <p>Ongoing and through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scheduled events • training/meetings • CCS briefings • Provider briefings • CIS |
|---|--|--|---|

Next Steps

Notwithstanding the areas highlighted in the Action Plan, significant ranges of activity have been working very well.

Early Years Service Staff, through scheduled events and training, will continue with this activity and develop further where appropriate. EY Staff will work with a range of Partners to ensure that the best possible level of service is delivered within the operating constraints of the Service.

Listed below are some examples, where we will continue:

- Consult with Parents/Carers through; Information Events; Parental Surveys Children's Centres Survey Points; Outreach Events: Family Festival questionnaires
- Support Employers at Employer "Parent Open Days" - providing information to employer and employees
- Early Years SEN Staff to support Childcare Providers re 1:1 support for children and to provide information to the child's parents/carers about progress, etc
- Early Years Quality Improvement Staff to continue to support Childcare Providers with Quality Development & CPD
- Early Years Business Support Staff to assist Providers with any sustainability issues and to provide financial modelling re stretched offer; extended hours, etc
- Early Years Early Education Funding (EEF) Staff to continue to support Providers with EEF delivery; prompt initial payments; balance payments; Stretched offer and extended offer queries; supporting parents with EEF queries
- Early Years CPD Staff to work with Providers and EY Quality Team to plan training and delivery
- Early Years Home Child Carer Team to support prospective Childminders through the registration process; progress new Childminders through to Accreditation; support existing Accredited Childminders through continuous CPPD;
- As Childcare provision within Bournemouth is predominantly Private, Voluntary & Independent Sector (PVI), Early Years Staff will advise any PVI Provider who is considering opening and operating any new provision
- Schools interested in opening or developing an existing Breakfast/ASC or Holiday Club will receive support and advise
- Children's Centre Staff will continue to support existing, and any new parents, families and their children to the Children's Centre Area - helping to make the families aware of the range of support services on offer
- Early Years Service Staff and Children's Centre Staff to continue working with a range of Partners: Health Service; Social Care; Housing; JobCentre+; other internal and external Partners for the benefit of children and families within Bournemouth

This list is not exhaustive, but gives an indication of some of the work that is ongoing