



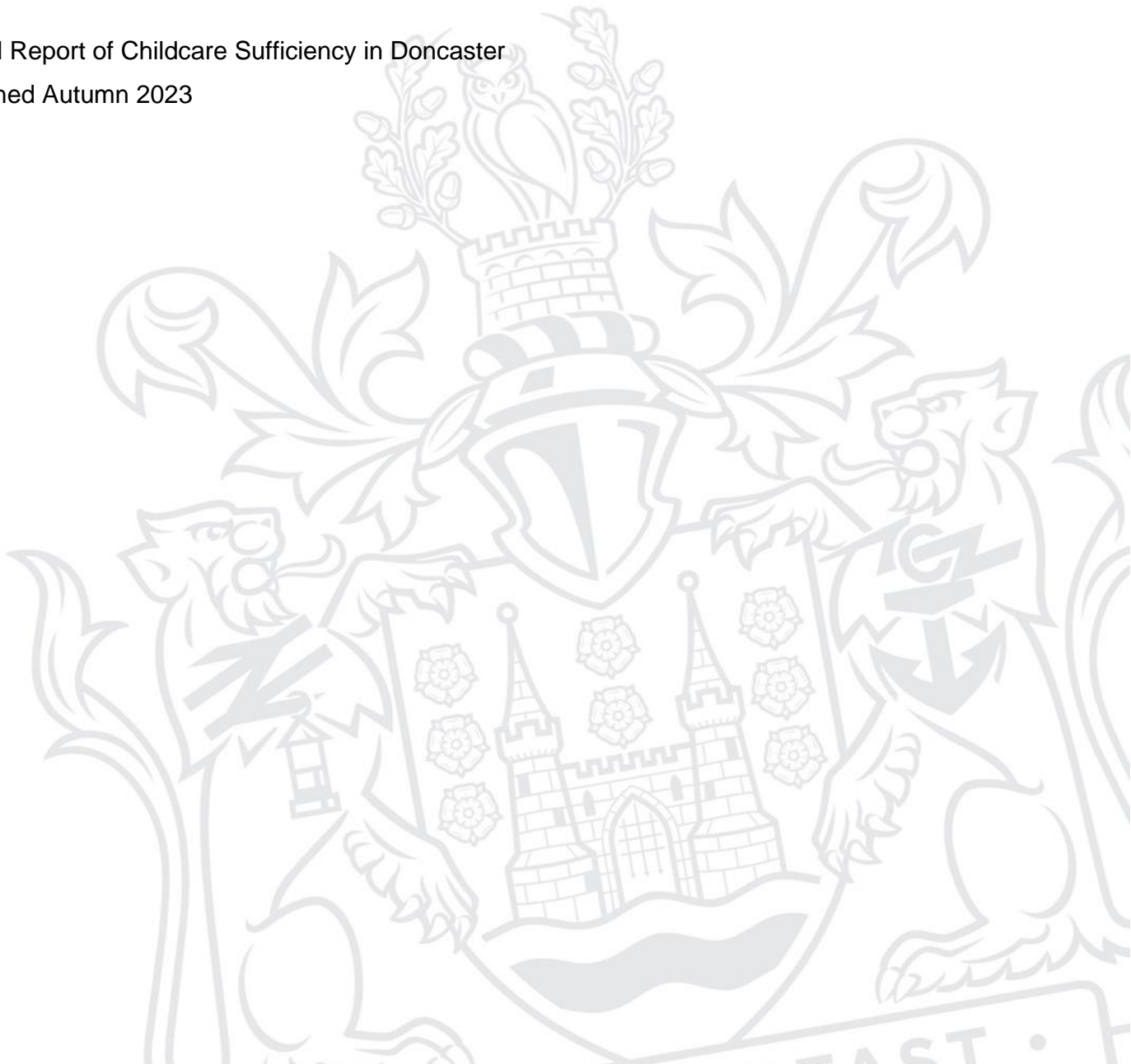
Doncaster  
Council

Report

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# Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2023

Annual Report of Childcare Sufficiency in Doncaster  
Published Autumn 2023



## Contents Page

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<b>1. Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Introduction .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3. Demographics .....</b>	<b>6</b>
3a. Quarterly Economic Review .....	6
3b. Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) in Doncaster .....	9
3c. Doncaster Birth Data .....	10
3d. Children’s Ethnicity Data .....	11
3e. Free School Meals (FSM) .....	12
3f. Planned Developments .....	13
<b>4. Childcare Data &amp; Information .....</b>	<b>14</b>
4a. Supply of Childcare .....	14
4b. Availability of Childcare by type in summer 2023 .....	15
4c. Wraparound Programme .....	16
4d. Quality of Childcare .....	17
4e. Cost of Childcare .....	18
4f. Childcare Costs Comparisons .....	19
4g. Children with Special Educational Needs / Disabilities (SEND) .....	20
<b>5. Parent Survey on Childcare Needs 2023 .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>6. Early Years Entitlements for 2, 3 and 4 Year Olds &amp; Help with Childcare Costs .....</b>	<b>30</b>
6a. Early Years Entitlement for 2 Year Olds .....	30
6b. Early Years Entitlement for 3 & 4 Year Olds (Universal Hours) .....	31
6c. 30 Hours Childcare (Extended Hours) .....	31
6d. New Entitlements 2024 onwards .....	33
6e. National Data Education Provision: Children under 5 years of age .....	33
6f. Tax Free Childcare .....	35
<b>7. Ongoing support given to providers .....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>8. Identified Risks and Action Plan .....</b>	<b>37</b>

## 1. Executive Summary

A key focus of this childcare sufficiency assessment is identifying potential risks to the childcare market and identifying any actions that can mitigate risks to ensure Doncaster continues to ensure childcare sufficiency.

Doncaster has in the region of 18,382 childcare places available for children aged 0 - 14 years (and up to 18 years for children with SEND), this has increased since 2022 where there were 16,145 places available and in 2021 where there were 13,557 places available.

An audit of childcare settings in June 2023 showed vacancies for all age ranges in all types of settings. Take up of the early years entitlements has remained high across Doncaster. Provision is available in a variety of childcare types, including childminding, full day care, sessional care and out of school provision including before and after school and during school holidays. Provision is available from early in the morning and in the evening, with childcare available at weekends and to support shift work. This provides parents with choice across all age ranges.

Free school meal data shows an increase of 1% in families accessing free school meals since 2022.

Birth's in Doncaster reduced between 2018 and 2021, however in the past 2 years they have begun to increase.

Providers registered to deliver early education places remains stable across the Borough with very minimal change since 2022 (244 providers in 2022 & 241 providers as at September 2023).

Doncaster Council supported early years and childcare settings throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and continues to support now into the recovery period, this support has been warmly received. Childcare settings have adapted their provision and continue to adapt to the change in the market place. A focus for settings over the coming year will be ensuring sustainability and adapting to the new childcare offers in 2024.

The demand for childcare has recovered since the pandemic and occupancy has returned to pre-pandemic levels, the 2023 parent survey suggests that families may be using more childcare in the next 6 to 12 months.

The conclusion is, there currently is sufficient childcare to meet need and that Doncaster is delivering against its childcare duty.

## 2. Introduction

Part B of the Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance prescribes that local authorities are required by legislation to secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children).

A Childcare Sufficiency Assessment measures the nature and extent of the demand and supply of childcare within a local authority area. It identifies where there are gaps in the childcare market and informs a market management action plan to ensure there are sufficient childcare and early education places. The government has set a number of factors, which can be regarded as the benchmark of sufficiency:

- There are sufficient childcare places overall in each pyramid
- Provision is flexible and accessible to fit in with working patterns
- There is a range of childcare provision that is affordable and of a high quality

Childcare sufficiency is not just about having the right number of childcare places to meet the needs of working and training parents, it is about ensuring: the provision is of a high quality; it improves the outcomes for children; narrows the gap in attainment; prepares children for school; and is inclusive and flexible to meet families' needs. The provision needs to ensure continuity of care and service by being a sustainable business with affordable fees. A sufficient, sustainable, quality childcare market underpins the poverty agenda, supports local economic development and the Councils Starting Well Service early intervention and preventative strategies.

There are 16 locality based pyramids across Doncaster, this report summarises the overall total for the Borough. The Learning Provision Organisation Service has worked in partnership with a range of public, voluntary and private sector partners, early help, schools / academies, service providers and families to collate the information within this report.

This report has been collated and produced by the Learning Provision Organisation Service. If you have any comments or wish to discuss the content please contact: [lp.org@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:lp.org@doncaster.gov.uk)

Local Authorities are required by legislation to:

*Secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0 - 14 (or up to 18 for disabled children).*

To secure sufficient childcare places, local authorities should take into account:

- what is 'reasonably practicable' when assessing what sufficient childcare means for their area; and
- the state of the local childcare market, including the demand for specific types of providers in a particular locality and the amount and type of supply that currently exists;
- the state of the labour market including the sufficiency of the local childcare workforce;
- the quality and capacity of childcare providers and childminders registered with a childminder agency, including their funding, staff, premises, experience and expertise;
- should encourage schools in their area to offer out of hours childcare from 8am to 6pm and in school holidays;
- should encourage existing providers to expand their provision and new providers to enter the local childcare market.
- should encourage providers to take a sustainable business approach to planning and signpost providers to resources to support them, for example the business sustainability tool kit published by the department, and can be found at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/early-years-business-sustainability>

All local authorities are responsible for determining the content of their report, geographical division and date of publication.

**This report reflects a period of recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.**

### 3. Demographics

Every quarter the 53 Chambers of Commerce in the UK participates in the Quarterly Economic Survey (review). This survey is the UK's largest and most representative business survey of its kind in the UK. Each quarter more than 6.000 business participate in the Quarterly Economic Survey.

The results are used to influence local, regional and national governments and decision makers to help shape the support structures available to the local business community. At the national level, it's a leading indicator – often picking up big changes in the economy long before other surveys or official statistics.

On a local level, the Chambers use the results as a barometer of the local economy and to influence Local Authorities and the local Enterprise Partnership.

The Sheffield City Region Mayoral Authority (SCR) is a formal membership of Councils. It includes: Doncaster, Sheffield, Rotherham and Barnsley Councils. The Councils of Bassetlaw, Chesterfield, North East Derbyshire, Derbyshire Dales and Bolsover are 'non-constituent' members.

#### 3a. Quarterly Economic Review

##### Quarterly Economic Review Quarter 2 2023

##### Key Messages:

##### **Subdued economic activity continues in South Yorkshire.**

Low or weak growth has been recorded in South Yorkshire since Quarter 2 2022 with respondents suggesting that sales and orders (both domestic and overseas) are not growing strongly but are not deteriorating rapidly either.

##### **Hiring conditions remain challenging.**

Workforces continue to grow, but widespread recruitment difficulties continue to be reported particularly for skilled workers.

### **Tentative Signs that financial pressures are easing (but are still a problem)**

Cashflow positions are worsening for a lower proportion of firms than in recent quarters. Expectations of future price increases are at their lowest levels since mid-2021 and concerns about inflation were reported by the lowest proportion of firms since 2021. Nevertheless, indicators of financial pressures remain high, and are only easing from a weak base.

### **Some Positive Signs for The Future**

Firms have spare capacity that they can use if activity picks up and on the whole investment plans are not being revised down, while turnover and profitability are both expected to increase in the coming months.

### **The Cost of energy is the largest contributor to price pressures**

Half of firms (50%) responded that Energy Prices were a pressure, followed by transport logistics (23%), Market Pressures (18%) and Property-Related Costs (13%).

### **The large majority of employers have discussed the cost of utilities, food and petrol with their employees in the last 6 months**

85% of employers have said that the cost of utilities had been discussed, 76% have said that the cost of food and other essentials had been discussed, 61% have said that the cost of petrol had been discussed.

### **Employers are offering wage increases and mental health support to assist with the rising cost of living.**

In response to the cost of living, 70% of employers have increased wages and 47% have offering mental health support. No other form of support such as financial advice and non-wage benefits polled more than 18%.

### **South Yorkshire is a good place to do business**

Only 7% of firms disagreed that South Yorkshire is a good place to do business. However, only around a 5<sup>th</sup> of respondents (22%) strongly agreed, with the rest (71%) agreeing.

### **Firms were asked the “one thing” that Councils, the Mayor, the Chambers and the Government could do to support business.**

Firms wanted financial support from their council, with a common request to reduce the burden of business rates.

Firms wanted South Yorkshire Mayor to improve the business environment, including representing South Yorkshire to attract investment and making a difference in provision of skills.

Firms wanted the local Chamber of Commerce to undertake advocacy and campaigning activities, and offering networking opportunities

Firms wanted the Government to alleviate financial pressures with tax cuts and improve the business environment by tackling inflation and ensuring interest results reduce.

*Source: Sheffield Chamber of Commerce, Quarterly Economic Survey findings for Sheffield Area & Doncaster Chamber-south Yorkshire-quarterly-economic-surveys*



### 3b. Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) in Doncaster

The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is the national measure of deprivation. Consideration needs to be given to issues of deprivation when planning childcare, as deprivation can be a barrier to families accessing, particularly in relation to cost, location and type of childcare. There are a total of 193 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA's) in Doncaster, 100 of which are within the 30% most deprived across England, demonstrating the high levels of deprivation across the borough.

In Doncaster in 2015 the average IMD score was 35.40%. In 2019 Doncaster had an average IMD score of 33.60%, therefore showing a slight overall decrease of 1.80%. The shaded areas in the box below indicate the eight 30% most deprived pyramids within Doncaster.

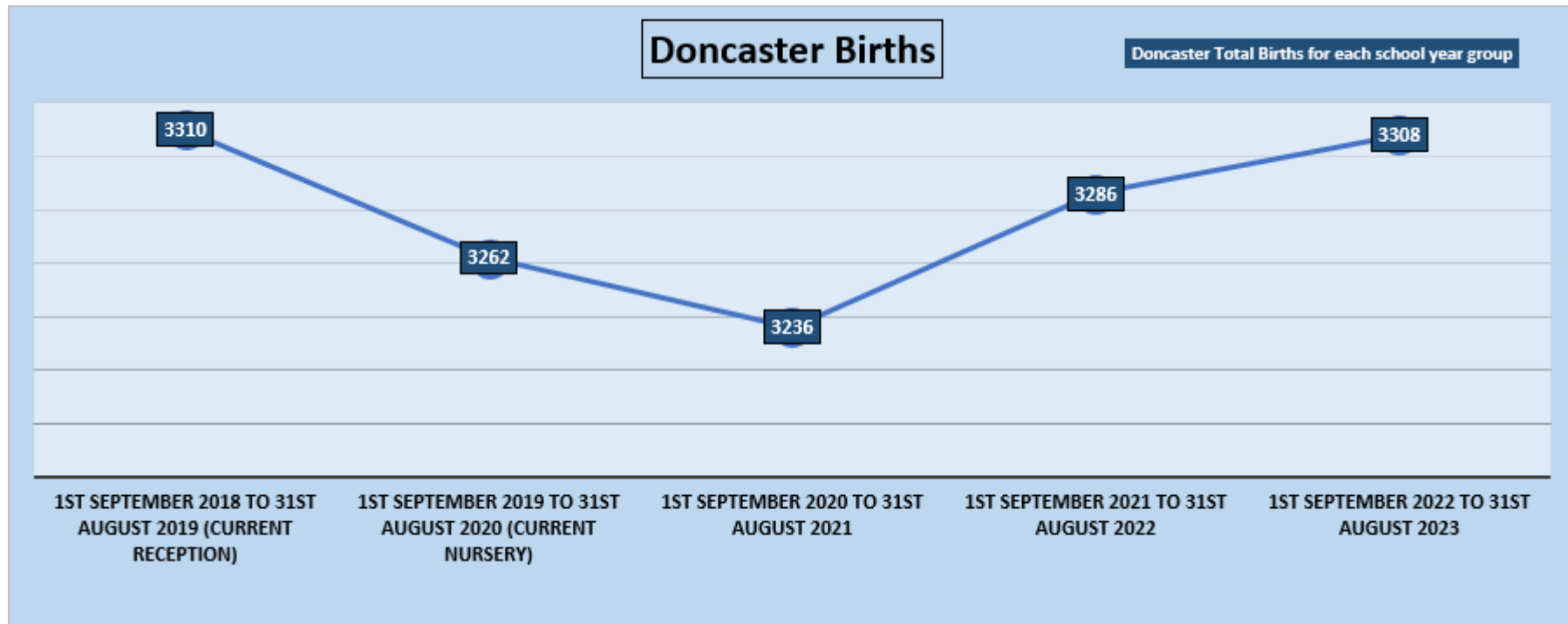
The most deprived pyramid area of Doncaster is Mexborough with an average percentage IMD of 14.42%, which has slightly decreased since 2015 when it was 17.10%. The least deprived pyramid is Hayfield, which has an IMD of 70.42%, rising from 69% since 2015. The table below shows each pyramids individual IMD score and the ranking within Doncaster.

2019 IMD		
School Pyramid	Year: 2019	Comparison Scale ( 1 is the most deprived, 16 the least deprived)
Adwick Pyramid	22.52%	5
Armthorpe Pyramid	39.34%	12
Balby Pyramid	20.14%	3
Campsmount Pyramid	30.96%	9
Conisbrough Pyramid	20.48%	4
Danum Pyramid	20.12%	2
Don Valley Pyramid	23.68%	7
Edlington Pyramid	43.10%	13
Hall Cross Pyramid	35.68%	11
Hatfield Pyramid	25.35%	8
Hayfield Pyramid	70.42%	16
Hungerhill Pyramid	57.85%	14
Mexborough Pyramid	14.42%	1
Ridgewood Pyramid	59.15%	15
Rossington Pyramid	32.07%	10
Thorne Pyramid	22.31%	6
<b>Doncaster Average</b>	<b>33.60%</b>	

2015 IMD		
School Pyramid	Year: 2015	Comparison Scale ( 1 is the most deprived, 16 the least deprived)
Adwick Pyramid	26.70%	7
Armthorpe Pyramid	42.70%	12
Balby Pyramid	21.90%	4
Campsmount Pyramid	32.90%	9
Conisbrough Pyramid	21.60%	3
Danum Pyramid	20.40%	2
Don Valley Pyramid	24.50%	5
Edlington Pyramid	47.50%	13
Hall Cross Pyramid	34.80%	11
Hatfield Pyramid	27.40%	8
Hayfield Pyramid	69.00%	16
Hungerhill Pyramid	60.00%	14
Mexborough Pyramid	17.10%	1
Ridgewood Pyramid	60.40%	15
Rossington Pyramid	33.40%	10
Thorne Pyramid	26.10%	6
<b>Doncaster Average</b>	<b>35.40%</b>	

Source: 2019 indices of multiple deprivation <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/english-indices-of-deprivation>

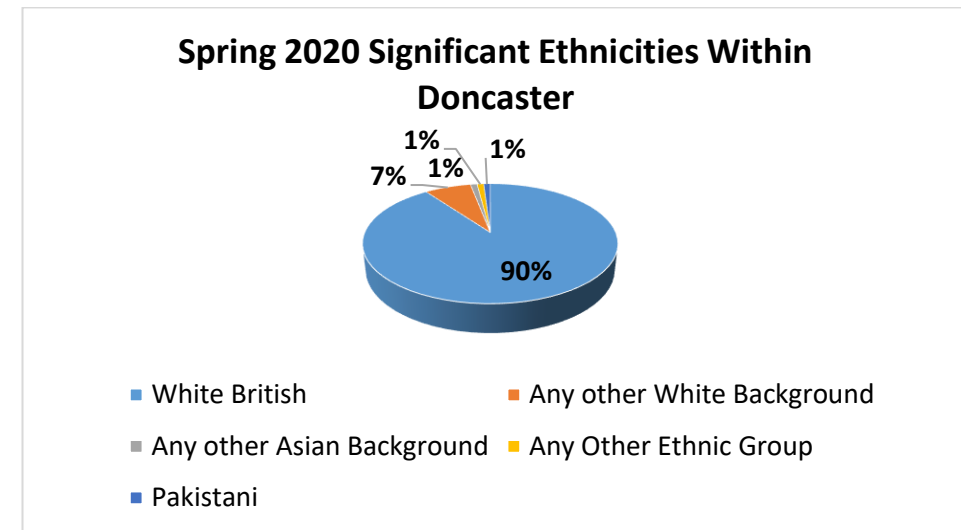
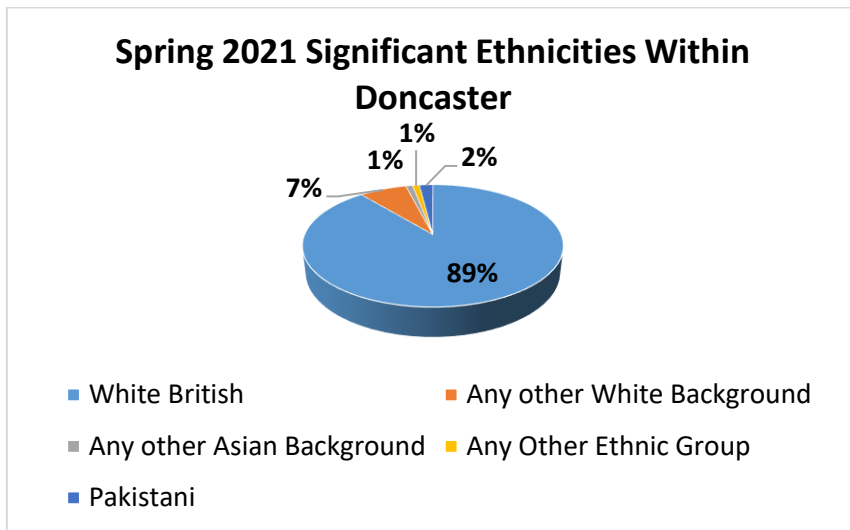
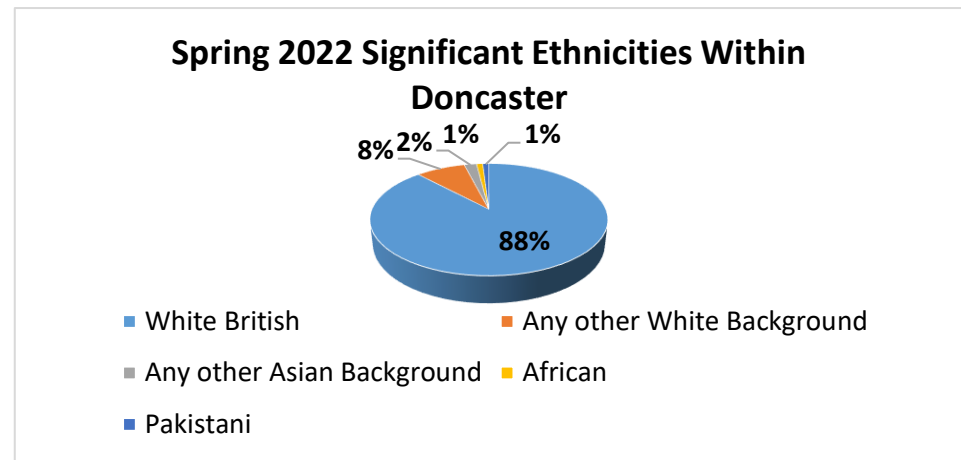
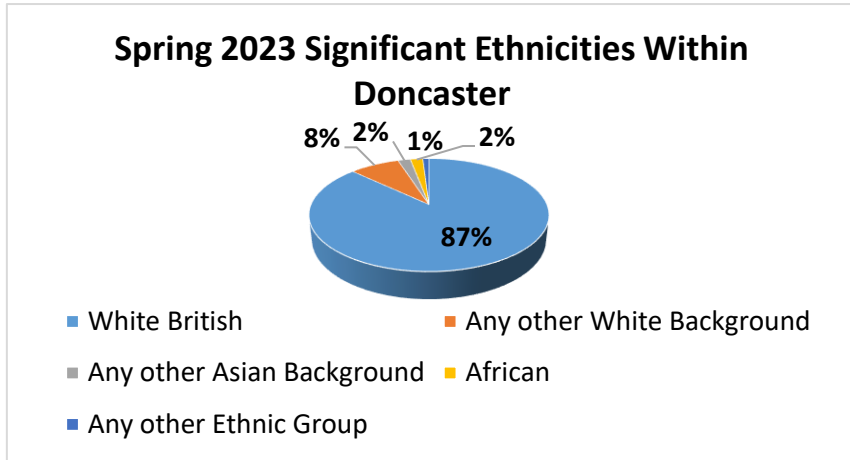
### 3c. Doncaster Birth Data



Please see above Doncaster births over the past five years, these are broken into school year groups from 1<sup>st</sup> September until 31<sup>st</sup> August. From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 the numbers of births were steadily declining, however in the past 2 years births have begun to increase steadily.

### 3d. Children's Ethnicity Data

The data below shows the breakdown of significant ethnicities of the children within Doncaster in 2023, 2022, 2021 and 2020 (4 year trend). There has been very little change in the data from 2022 to 2023. In 2023 and 2022 88% of the children in Doncaster were White British, this has reduced by 2% since 2020. The main nationality of any other white background remains as Polish.



Source; school census 2020,2021,2022,2023

### 3e. Free School Meals (FSM)

The tables below show the number of children accessing Free School Meals (FSM) within each pyramid over the previous 3 years.

Mexborough pyramid has the highest percentage of children accessing FSM at 39%, this has increased from 38% in 2022 and 35% in 2021.

Hayfield pyramid has the lowest uptake of FSM at 11%, however this has increased by 1% since 2022.

The overall number of children accessing FSM in Doncaster is 28%, a 1% increase since 2022 and a 3% increase since 2021.

Pyramid	Spring Census 2023 FSM			Spring Census 2022 FSM			Spring Census 2021 FSM		
	Pupils	FSM	%FSM	Pupils	FSM	%FSM	Pupils	FSM	%FSM
Adwick	2972	1044	35%	3021	1022	34%	3284	1093	33%
Armthorpe	1939	426	22%	1927	419	22%	1926	381	20%
Balby	3216	1223	38%	3241	1223	38%	3137	1076	34%
Campsmount	1717	490	29%	1729	480	28%	1513	358	24%
Conisbrough	2267	847	37%	2256	800	35%	2229	706	32%
Danum	3755	1217	32%	3696	1145	31%	3665	1048	29%
Don Valley	3175	1071	34%	3232	1037	32%	3198	962	30%
Edlington	2905	672	23%	2907	678	23%	2897	661	23%
Hall Cross	4402	1036	24%	4287	923	22%	4277	880	21%
Hatfield	2608	980	38%	2573	944	37%	2521	861	34%
Hayfield	2400	263	11%	2392	249	10%	2357	232	10%
Hungerhill	2769	447	16%	2854	419	15%	2854	368	13%
Mexborough	2029	801	39%	1998	761	38%	2029	705	35%
Ridgewood	3362	486	14%	3376	479	14%	3362	425	13%
Rossington	2150	611	28%	2106	588	28%	1989	541	27%
Thorne	2964	960	32%	3002	909	30%	3001	847	28%
Non-geographic	3417	887	26%	3251	754	23%	2704	609	23%
<b>Doncaster Totals</b>	<b>48047</b>	<b>13461</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>47848</b>	<b>12830</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>46943</b>	<b>11753</b>	<b>25%</b>

*\*Non-geographical includes all special schools and PRY's plus McAuley, XP and UTC Secondary Schools*

### **3f. Planned Developments**

Doncaster is in the process of significant transformation through investment to the area, which is impacting on the social and economic opportunities of local people.

Within Doncaster, there are 14,667 new dwellings planned, this is a decrease from September 2022 when there were 16917 planned dwellings.

Predictions show there are 2,849 primary school aged children and 2,188 places required for secondary school aged children in the near future. Both figures have decreased from the previous year.

Taking into consideration the number of planned developments this will impact on Doncaster's regeneration and increase the number of job opportunities and people moving into the area.

*Source: SCAP 2023 (full data can be obtained from the school place planning team)*

## 4. Childcare Data & Information

### 4a. Supply of Childcare

The table below shows the picture of the childcare places available in Doncaster in the summer term 2023 with a comparison to totals in 2022. Overall there has been an increase in places from 16,145 in 2022 to 18,382 in 2023 (an increase of 2,237 places).

Type of Provision	0 to 1 Years			2 Years			3 to 4 Years			5 to 10 Years			11 plus years			Totals		
	Actual	Occupied	Vacant	Actual	Occupied	Vacant	Actual	Occupied	Vacant	Actual	Occupied	Vacant	Actual	Occupied	Vacant	Actual	Occupied	Vacant
Ofsted Registered Full Day Care	515	406	109	822	666	156	1356	1124	232	0	0	0	0	0	0	2693	2196	497
Ofsted Registered Sessional Care	0	0	0	144	117	27	234	208	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	378	325	53
Ofsted Registered Childminder	250	190	60	266	189	77	310	253	57	1037	782	255	156	52	104	2019	1466	553
Ofsted Registered Breakfast Club	0	0	0	0	0	0	115	95	20	179	144	35	8	1	7	302	240	62
Ofsted Registered After School Club	0	0	0	0	0	0	135	114	21	231	173	58	8	2	6	374	289	85
Ofsted Registered Holiday Childcare	0	0	0	0	0	0	116	75	41	265	174	91	0	0	0	381	249	132
School Nursery	0	0	0	87	80	7	2018	1438	580	0	0	0	0	0	0	2105	1518	587
School Run Breakfast Club	0	0	0	0	0	0	1017	466	551	3149	1903	1246	1000	80	920	5166	2449	2717
School Run After School Club	0	0	0	0	0	0	953	340	613	2665	1688	977	1246	338	908	4864	2366	2498
School Run Holiday Childcare	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	50	50	0	50	0	0	0	100	0	100
<b>Grand Total 2023</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>1319</b>	<b>1052</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>6304</b>	<b>4113</b>	<b>2191</b>	<b>7576</b>	<b>4864</b>	<b>2712</b>	<b>2418</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>1945</b>	<b>18382</b>	<b>11098</b>	<b>7284</b>
<b>Grand Total 2022</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>586</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>1376</b>	<b>1069</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>6190</b>	<b>4141</b>	<b>2049</b>	<b>7040</b>	<b>4534</b>	<b>2506</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>16145</b>	<b>10707</b>	<b>5438</b>

#### 4b. Availability of Childcare by type in summer 2023

Type of Provision	AVAILABILITY				
	Before 8am	Core hours (8am to 6pm)	After 6pm	Weekend	Shifts
Ofsted Registered Full Day Care	36	50	2	0	10
Ofsted Registered Sessional Care	0	13	0	0	2
Ofsted Registered Childminder	145	196	22	7	51
Ofsted Registered Breakfast Club	9	12	0	0	0
Ofsted Registered After School Club	0	13	0	0	0
Ofsted Registered Holiday Club	7	12	0	0	0
School Run Breakfast Club	36	68	0	0	0
School Run After School Club	0	52	0	0	0
School Run Holiday Club	0	1	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>63</b>

#### **4c. Wraparound Programme**

The government will invest £289m over two academic years, from September 2024, to enable schools and local areas to set up wraparound childcare provision. This is the first step in the government's ambition for all parents of primary school children who need it to access childcare in their local area from 8am – 6pm. This funding will be for schools and local authorities to introduce or expand childcare provision on either side of the school day and enable them to develop flexible ways of providing childcare and gather evidence of what works. Parents will be able to use Universal Credit childcare support for up to 85% subsidy of their costs, and eligible parents can use Tax Free Childcare to subsidise costs, covering 20% of costs up to £2k a year.

*\*\* At the time of completing this report full policy details were not available for this programme, however a Local Authority Lead has been identified \*\**



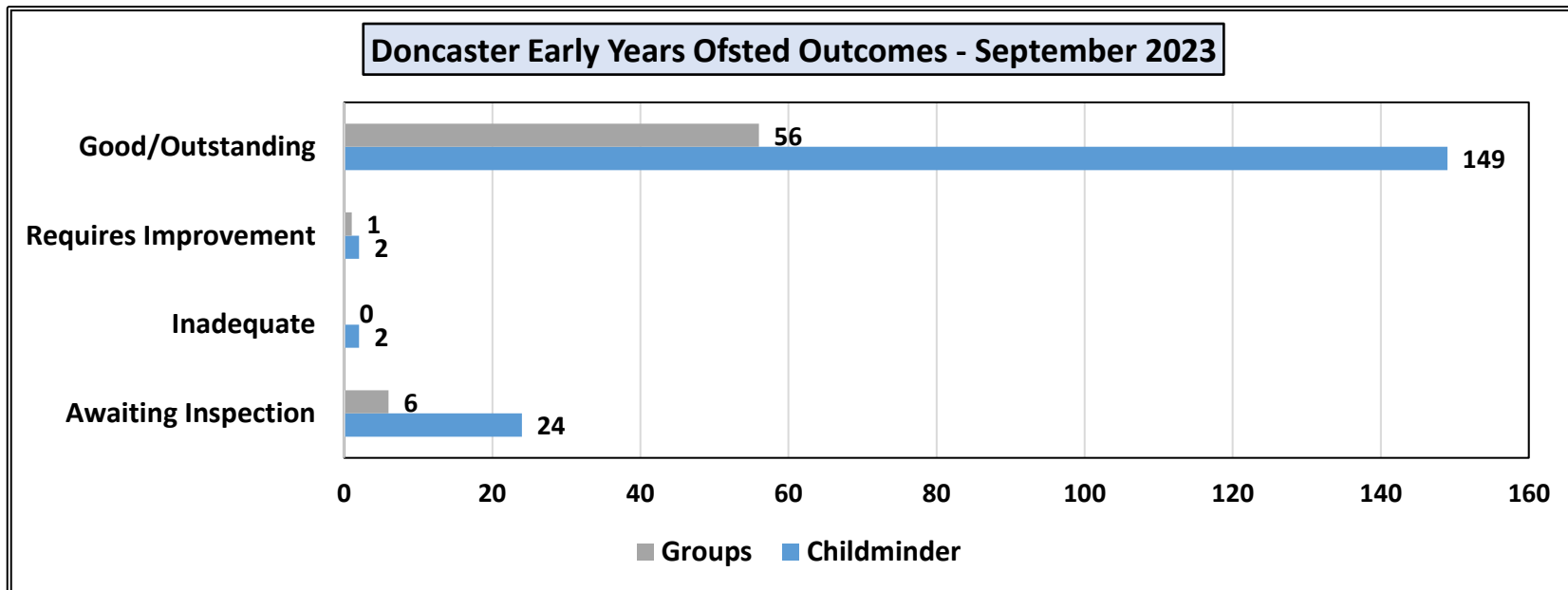
#### 4d. Quality of Childcare

Ofsted is the Office for Standards in Education, Children’s Services and Skills. They inspect services providing education and skills for learners of all ages. They also inspect and regulate services that care for children and young people.

Ofsted’s role is to make sure that organisations providing education, training and care services in England do so to a high standard for children and students

Doncaster’s Ofsted outcomes:

- Ofsted outcomes for childminders show there are 149 childminders with Good / Outstanding judgements, and only 4 with either Requires Improvement / Inadequate
- Ofsted outcomes for group providers show there 56 providers with Good and Outstanding judgements and only 1 with a Requires Improvement



Doncaster continues to support childcare providers with Ofsted requirements including a package of ‘Getting to Good’ support.

#### 4e. Cost of Childcare

Providing affordable childcare needs to be balanced with ensuring a sustainable childcare market. The average cost of a childcare place in Doncaster is indicated in the table below compared against the Yorkshire and Humber average, where available.

##### Average Childcare Costs - Private, Voluntary and Independent Childcare Providers

Pyramid	Childminder	Full Daycare	Sessional Care	Out of School Childcare		Holiday Club
	Average Per Day	Average Per Week	Average Per Session	Average Per Session		Average Per Day
				Before School	After School	
Adwick Pyramid	£36.46	£260.00	£18.00	-	-	-
Armthorpe Pyramid	£36.36	£225.00	-	£6.00	£9.50	£36.00
Balby Pyramid	£41.69	£206.67	-	£6.00	£12.00	£44.00
Campsmount Pyramid	£42.29	-	£15.00	£5.00	£7.50	£24.00
Conisbrough Pyramid	£48.86	£254.50	-	-	-	-
Danum Pyramid	£38.40	£220.00	-	£6.00	£7.50	£38.00
Don Valley Pyramid	£37.36	£232.50	£18.00	£5.50	£9.25	£24.00
Edlington Pyramid	£35.90	£249.17	£16.75	£6.00	£11.00	£35.00
Hall Cross Pyramid	£39.50	£253.50	£15.00	£5.50	£9.00	£32.50
Hatfield Pyramid	£34.25	£186.67	£28.00	-	-	-
Hayfield Pyramid	£43.46	£232.10	£17.00	£10.00	£12.00	£25.00
Hungerhill Pyramid	£38.13	£208.33	£13.98	£5.00	£9.00	-
Mexborough Pyramid	£44.36	£190.00	£19.50	-	-	-
Ridgewood Pyramid	£36.54	£237.50	£13.00	£6.17	£9.08	£34.50
Rossington Pyramid	£28.00	£195.00	£13.00	£10.00	£11.00	£23.00
Thorne Pyramid	£60.00	£217.50	£12.00	-	-	£34.00
<b>Doncaster Average</b>	<b>£40.10</b>	<b>£224.56</b>	<b>£16.60</b>	<b>£6.47</b>	<b>£9.71</b>	<b>£31.82</b>
<b>Yorkshire and Humber* Average</b>	<b>£46.26</b>	<b>£256.41</b>	<b>Not known</b>	<b>Not known</b>	<b>£11.76</b>	<b>£31.83</b>

Source: Doncaster Families Information Service July 2023 \* Yorks & Humber Average, Coram Family and Childcare 2023 data and Coram Family and Childcare Holiday Childcare Survey 2023

The average costs of a childcare in Doncaster is less than the Yorkshire and Humber average for a childminder, full day care and after school childcare. However, the cost for a holiday club is almost equal to the Yorkshire and Humber average.

## 4f. Childcare Costs Comparisons

The table below shows a comparison of childcare costs in Doncaster between pre Covid-19 (spring 2020), summer term 2021, summer term 2022, summer term 2023 and the Yorkshire and Humber Average 2023.

Averages	Childminder	Full Day Care	Sessional Care	Out of School Childcare		Holiday Club
	Average Per Day	Average Per Week	Average Per Session	Average Per Session		Average Cost Per Day
				<i>Before School</i>	<i>After School</i>	
Doncaster Average Spring 2020 (pre Covid-19)	£35.31	£194.82	£13.65	£6.80	£9.28	£31.32
Doncaster Average Summer 2021	£36.25	£206.13	£14.84	£6.90	£9.25	£30.75
Doncaster Average Summer 2022	£37.04	£213.49	£14.86	£6.90	£9.33	£32.20
Doncaster Average Summer 2023	£40.10	£224.56	£16.60	£6.47	£9.71	£31.82
Yorkshire and Humber Average - 2023 Data	£46.26	£256.41	Not known	Not known	£11.76	£31.83

Source: Doncaster Families Information Service July 2023. Also Yorkshire & Humber Average, Coram Family and Childcare 2023 data and Coram Family and Childcare Holiday Childcare Survey 2023

Childminder, Full Daycare, Sessional and Before School average costs have all been increasing over the last 3 years. After School has remained relatively static and Holiday Club costs have fluctuated over the years.

Childcare providers have been faced with significant financial pressures throughout the pandemic and a review of childcare fees would be expected as well as an annual increase.

Early Education funding supports parents with the cost of childcare and provides 15 / 30 funded hours each week to eligible families (38 weeks per year).

Early Education Funding in Doncaster is paid at the following rates:

- 2 year olds = £5.63 / hour (April to August 2023), September 2023 onwards £7.40
- 3 & 4 year olds non-flexible provision = £4.50 (April to August 2023, September onwards £4.74
- 3 & 4 year olds flexible provision = £4.74 (April to August 2023), September onwards £4.98

*\*\*Funding rates are subject to Government change, the next expected increase will be in April 2024*

## 4g. Children with Special Educational Needs / Disabilities (SEND)

### Early Years Inclusion Team

Between September 2022 and July 2023, the Early Years Inclusion Team supported 545 children (up from 420 children in 2022 and 285 children in 2021).

Out of the 545 children 240 (44.04%) were supported within a Private, Voluntary or Independent (PVI) setting.

Year	Total children supported	Portage	Seedlings	PVI	Schools	Academies	Childminders	Enhanced
2023	545	60 (11.01%)	9 (1.65%)	240 (44.04%)	61 (11.19%)	84 (15.41%)	26 (4.77%)	58 (10.64%)
2022	420	47 (14.90%)	9 (2.85%)	148 (46.92%)	29 (9.19%)	23 (7.29%)	17 (5.39%)	43 (13.63%)
2021	285	16 (6%)	11 (4%)	128	32 (16%)	48	–	–

In addition to the figure above (545) the Early Years Inclusion Team are supporting 114 children in FS2 (continuation of Early Intervention Allowance) for the Autumn term 2023.

At September 2023 there were 64 Ofsted registered group childcare providers and 177 childminders on the Local Authority Directory registered to provide the free early years entitlement (2, 3 & 4 year old funding). All have to meet the requirements of the SEN Code of Practice and Disability Discrimination Act requirements.

A specialist provision for pre-school children with SEND is delivered by the Local Authority (Seedlings), the setting is rated Outstanding with Ofsted and offers sessions for funded 2, 3 & 4 year old children.

## Special Schools in Doncaster

As at Summer Term 2023 there are six special schools within Doncaster.

There is currently no specialist school provision for 2 year olds with SEND.

The table below shows the specialism and capacity of the special schools in Doncaster and number on roll at the Spring 2023 census.

School Name	Age Range	Specialism	Capacity*	Number on Roll (Summer 2023)
Coppice School	3 to 19 years	ASD / SEMH / SLD	127	133
Heatherwood School	3 to 19 years	SLD / PMLD	73	82
Pennine View School	7 to 16 years	MLD	121	123
North Ridge Community School	3 to 19 years	SLD	127	137
Stone Hill School	5 to 16 years	MLD	125	140
Bader Academy	5 to 19 years	ASD / SLCN	82	100
<b>Total</b>			<b>655</b>	<b>715</b>

*\*Agreed numbers with the ESFA for funding purposes for the places*

## Doncaster SEND Sufficiency Strategy

In addition to the information above Doncaster has commissioned a SEND Sufficiency Assessment. This assessment forms part of the overarching SEND Strategy due to be published this year. The SEND strategy is being developed with a multi-agency approach working in partnership with health and local education providers of all types ranging from early years through to post 16 and post 19 further education providers.

This SEND Sufficiency Assessment an overarching report taking into account the current position with the specialist estate and evaluates this against the needs of Doncaster pupils with contributing factors such as changes in needs, preferences and demographic factors such as housing growth across Doncaster. Ultimately this forms a gap analysis and action plan for opportunities for development to resolve the identified pressures for SEND pupils of all ages.

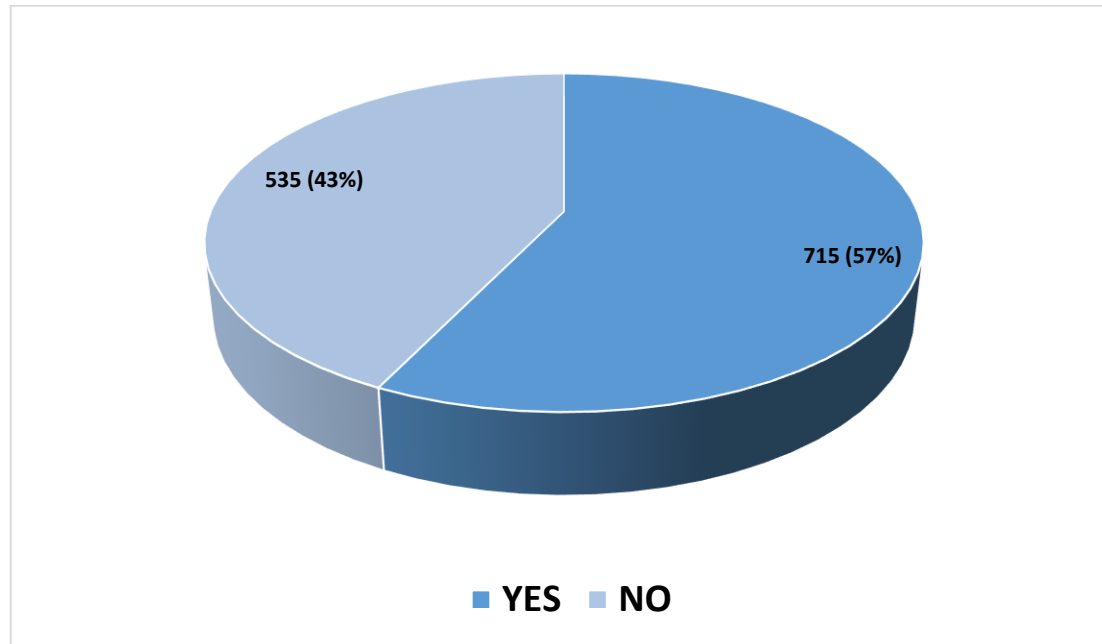
This report will be published in the coming months and will outline how we will commission provision in order to meet need over a period of 7 years, with a focus on developing sufficient places for our high demand need types and phase. It will also set out how we can work with the sector to deliver these places.

## 5. Parent Survey on Childcare Needs 2023

A parent survey was undertaken in Summer 2023. The survey was promoted through Doncaster Families Information Service, Doncaster Council, family hubs, schools, childcare providers and community partners. Below is the Borough level analysis.

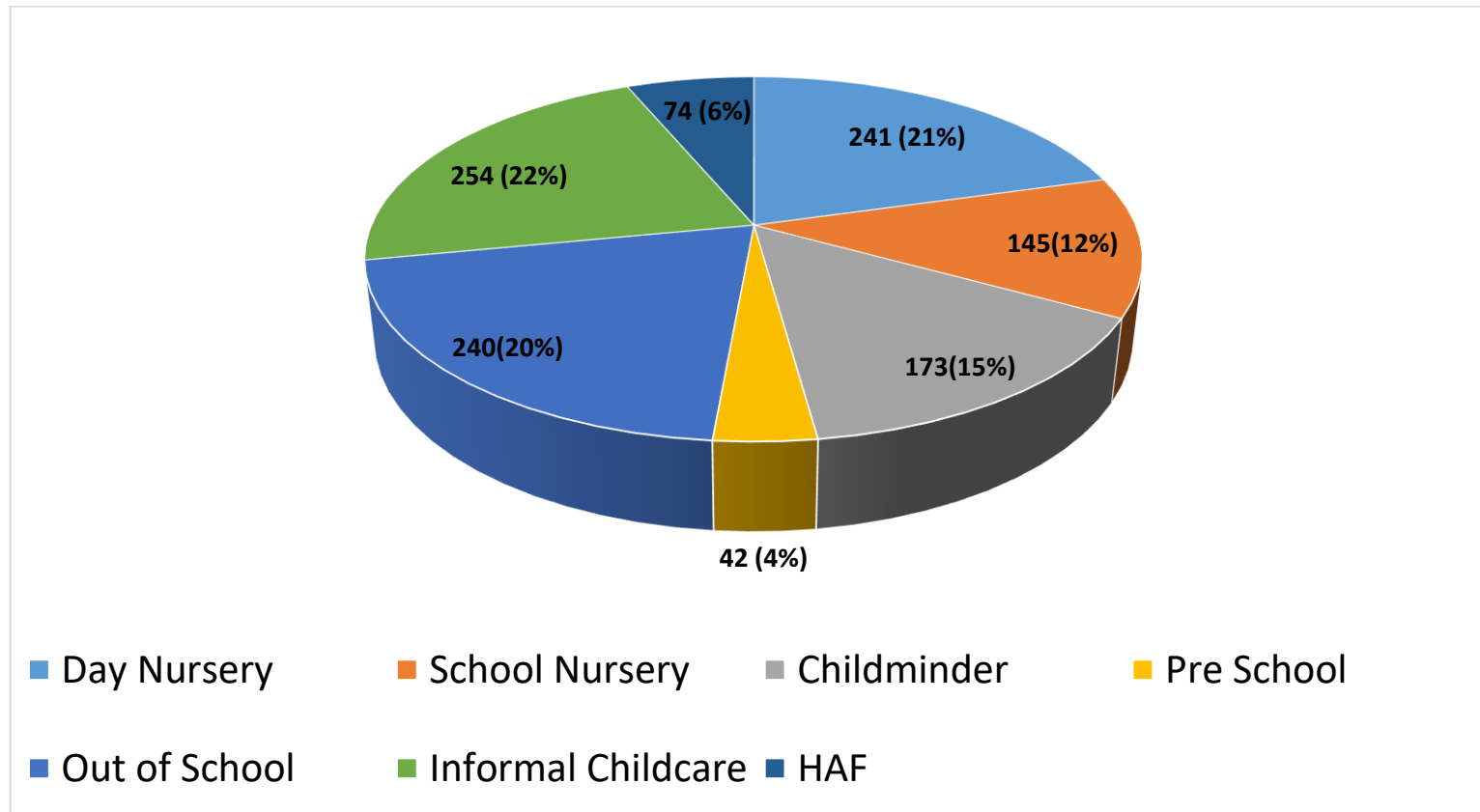
In total 1250 Doncaster families completed the survey.

### Q1. Do you currently use childcare?



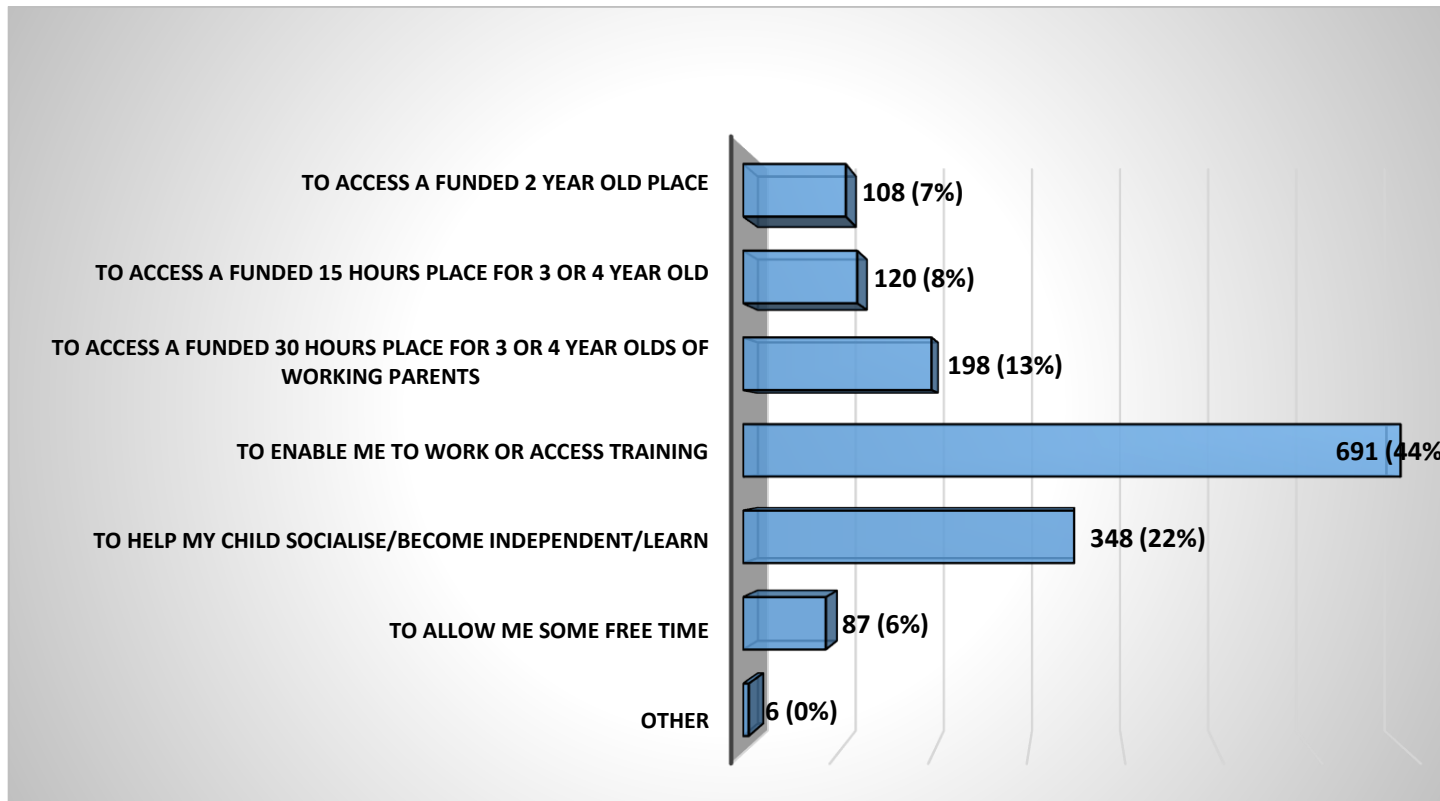
The chart above shows that 715 (57%) respondents currently use childcare and 535 (43%) don't currently use childcare.

## Q2. What type of childcare do you currently use?



The chart above shows that the main category of childcare that respondents currently used was informal (22%), followed by day nursery (21%) and out of school (20%).

### Q3. What do you use childcare for?

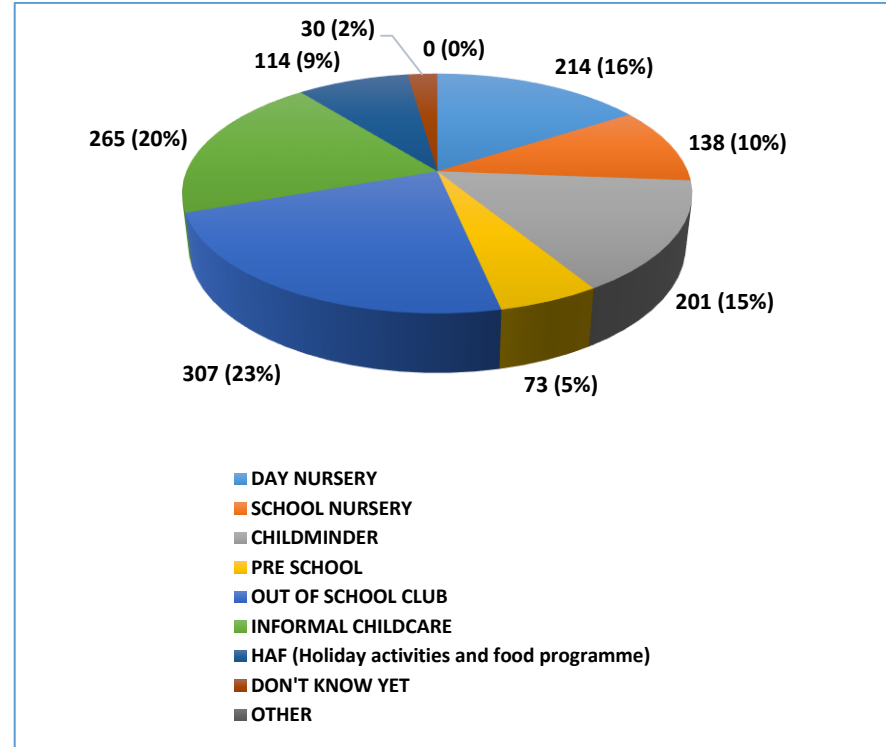
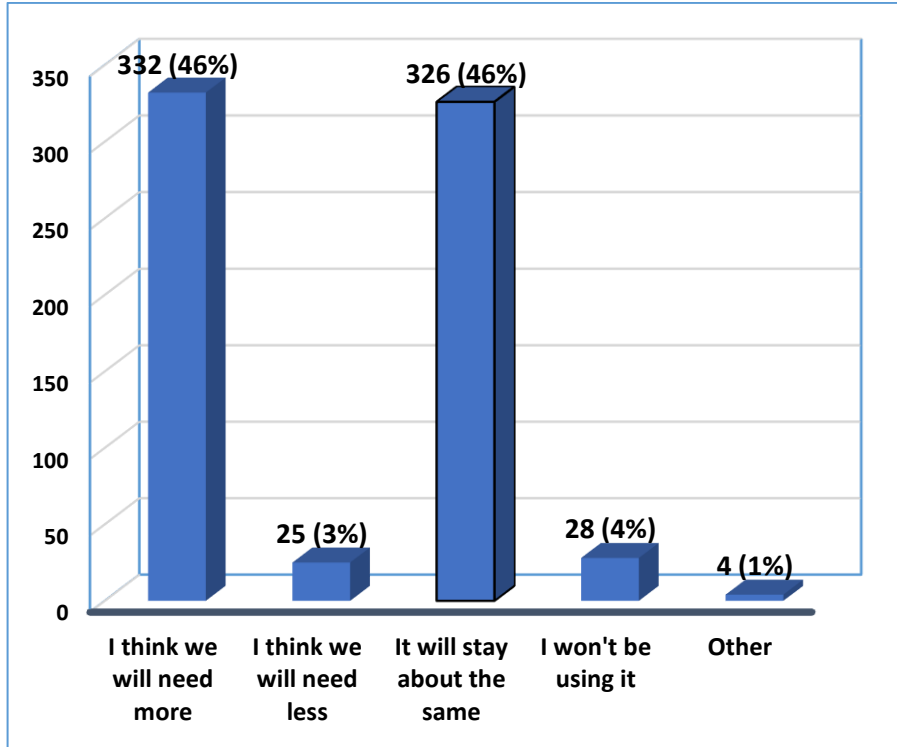


44% of respondents stated they use childcare to enable them to work or access training (this is the same % as previous year), 22% stated that they use childcare to help their child socialise / become independent / learn (again this is the same % as in the 2022 survey).



**Families who were currently using childcare were asked:**

**Q4. Will you be using more or less childcare in next 6 to 12 months and what type of childcare do you expect to use?**

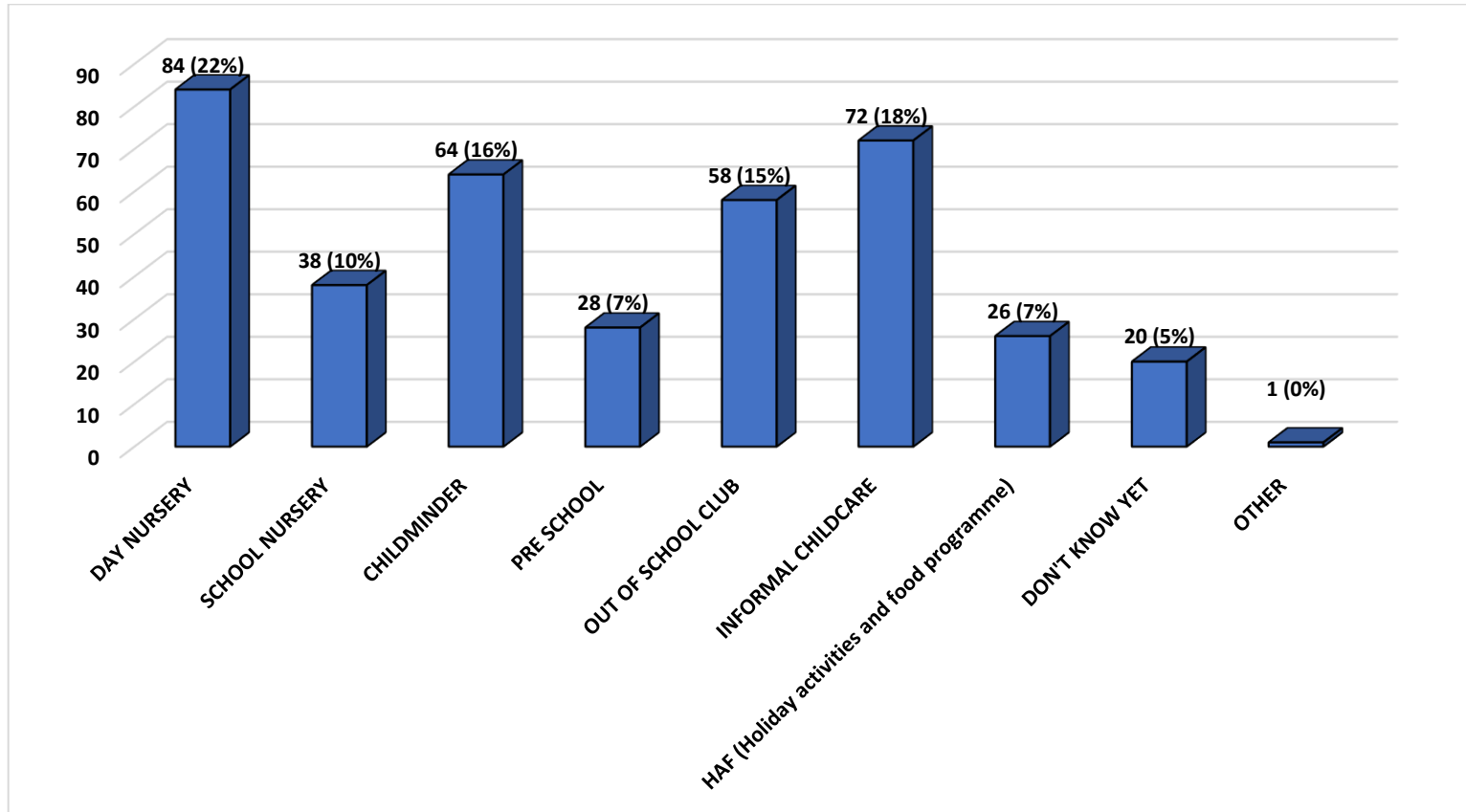


The majority of respondents who were currently using childcare stated that they think they will need more in the next 6 to 12 months, stating the type of childcare they will use will be out of school club or informal childcare.

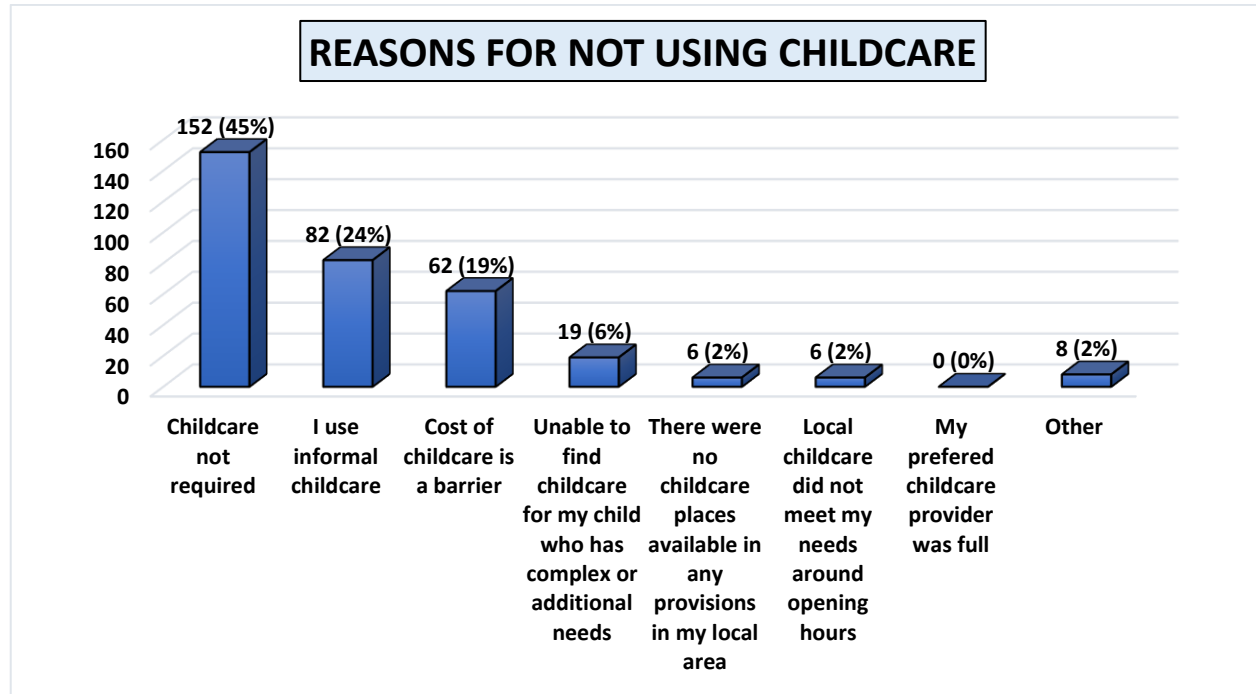
**Families who were not currently using childcare were asked:**

**Q5. What type of childcare would you expect to use in the next 6 to 12 months?**

The chart below shows the type of childcare they may be using. The majority stated they may use a day nursery (84 respondents) and informal childcare (72 respondents).



## Q5. Reason families do not use childcare



The majority of respondents who did not use childcare stated that it was not required or informal childcare was used.

### Parent Survey Outreach

As part of the parent survey strategy outreach was undertaken to identify local need. Community events were attended at the following Family Hub sites: Bentley, Adwick and Askern. Sessions attended included play & stay sessions and Summer Fayres.

Visits were in partnership with DWP to provide support with any barriers to accessing employment.

This gave an opportunity for completing the survey on an individual 1:1 basis with parents / carers and to discuss any local childcare sufficiency needs.

## Families Information Service

Families Information Service (FIS) provides information, advice and guidance for parents, carers, practitioners, children and young people on a wide range of services and activities/ events available in Doncaster and beyond.

FIS is the main point of contact for families who are searching for a childcare provider in Doncaster.

In addition to the parent survey the Families Information Service record any childcare enquiries.

From September 2022 to August 2023 the following searches were made using the online search function on the website, also a comparison to the previous year:

<b>Provision Type</b>	<b>Number of Searches 2023</b>	<b>Number of searches 2022</b>
After School Clubs	613	539
Breakfast Clubs	269	253
Childminders	5984	5444
Day Nurseries/Sessional Care	3560	4183
Holiday Schemes	551	494
<b>Total</b>	<b>10977</b>	<b>10913</b>

There was a total of 41 bespoke enquiries, of which 20 required additional support to be provided to the parent / carer.

Of the 20 brokerage cases requiring additional support, 8 were unsuccessfully resolved. In all instances, this was due to families requiring before and/or afterschool care (drop off and / or pick-up) for specific schools.

## Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)

Since 2021, Doncaster has successfully delivered the Holiday, Activities and Food (HAF) Programme providing enriching activities over the Easter, Summer, and Christmas school holiday periods. The funding received from the Department for Education enables Doncaster Council to co-ordinate and facilitate a high quality holiday activity and food programme, which provides healthy, nutritious meals and enriching activities for children and young people from Reception to Year 11, who are in receipt of benefits-related free school meals. The delivery of the programme is very much based on a locality approach ensuring there is activity available locally wherever possible, across the Doncaster Borough.

The HAF programme has had a significant impact on children, young people and families, and as a result making a Happy, Healthy Doncaster! Children, young people and families who took part in the provision enjoyed fun and enriching activities in a safe and sociable environment and the opportunity to develop new skills, knowledge and the chance to try out new experiences, including physical activities such as football, horse riding, water sports, cricket or creative activities such as printing workshops, dress making and other experiences like days out or walking an alpaca! The programme also helps families by providing information, signposting or referring to other services for support that would benefit the children and young people who attend the provision.

### Annual attendance:



Total annual funding amount received for 2022 / 2023 programme: £1,431,470

For further information on the Doncaster HAF Programme please visit: [www.doncaster.gov.uk/hafprogramme](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/hafprogramme) or email [HAF@Doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:HAF@Doncaster.gov.uk)

## 6. Early Years Entitlements for 2, 3 & 4 Year Olds & Help with Childcare Costs

At September 2023 there were 64 Ofsted registered group childcare providers (66 in 2022 and 69 in 2021) and 177 childminders (178 in 2022 and 216 in 2021) on the Local Authority Directory registered to provide early years entitlement (also known as 2, 3 & 4 year old funding).

### 6a. Early Years Entitlement for 2 Year Olds

The provision of early education for up to 15 hours per week for eligible 2 year olds starting the term after their 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Families must be in receipt of one or more of the following:

<p><b>Eligibility Criteria</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income Support</li> <li>• Income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA)</li> <li>• Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)</li> <li>• Support through Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act</li> <li>• Have an annual household income under £16,190 and claim Child Tax Credit and / or Working Tax Credit</li> <li>• Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit</li> <li>• The Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)</li> <li>• Universal Credit</li> </ul>	<p>Children are also entitled to a place if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your child is looked after by the local council</li> <li>• Your child has a current statement of special educational needs (SEN) or an education, health and care plan</li> <li>• Your family is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance for the child</li> <li>• A child who has left care through special guardianship order, child arrangement order or adoption order</li> </ul>
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### 2 Year old take up rates

This table shows the take up rate of 2 year old funding across Doncaster for the previous 3 year period:

	Sept 2022 to Aug 2023 Take-up rates	Sept 2021 to Aug 2022 Take-up rates	Sept 2020 to Aug 2021 Take-up rates
<b>Autumn Term</b>	86.1%	87%	80.6%
<b>Spring Term</b>	82.6%	86.2%	78.5%
<b>Summer Term</b>	77.7%	83.4%	81.7%

## 6b. Early Years Entitlement for 3 & 4 Year Olds (Universal Hours)

### Eligibility Criteria

This is an entitlement for all children starting the term following their third birthday for up to 15 hours per week.

### 3 & 4 Year old universal take up rates

This table shows the take up rates for 3 & 4 year old universal funding across Doncaster for the previous 3 year period

	Sept 2022 to Aug 2023 Take-up rates	Sept 2021 to Aug 2022 Take-up rates	Sept 2020 to Aug 2021 Take-up rates
Autumn Term	97.7%	97.1%	92.8%
Spring Term	96.6%	97.1%	94%
Summer Term	99.6%	95.5%	94.7%

## 6c. 30 Hours Childcare (Extended Hours)

### Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility for working parents includes: employed, self-employed and workers on a zero hour's contract. To take up the 30 hours of free childcare families need to meet all the following criteria:

- Each parent earns less than £100,000 per year
- Both parents are working and in a lone parent family the sole parent must work
- Each parent works a minimum of 16 hours a week or earns on average a weekly minimum amount that is equivalent to 16 hours a week at either the National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage

There are exceptions to both parents having to work. Families where one parent does not work (or neither parent works) will not usually be entitled to the 15 hours extended entitlement; however, they will be eligible where:

- both parents are employed but one (or both parents) is temporarily away from the workplace on: parental, maternity or paternity leave; adoption leave; or on statutory sick pay

- one parent is employed and one parent:
- has substantial caring responsibilities based on specific benefits received for caring
- is disabled or incapacitated based on receipt of specific benefits

### 3 & 4 Year old extended hours take-up

This table shows the take up rates for 3 & 4 year old extended funding across Doncaster for the previous 12 month period

	<b>Sept 2022 to Aug 2023 Take-up rates</b>	<b>Sept 2021 to Aug 2022 Take-up rates</b>	<b>Sept 2020 to Aug 2021 Take-up rates</b>
<b>Autumn Term</b>	99%	85%	84%
<b>Spring Term</b>	99%	89%	79%
<b>Summer Term</b>	100%	89%	84%

### Foster Carers (extended hours)

In December 2017 government extended eligibility for 30 hours childcare to children in foster care where the foster parents meet certain eligibility criteria, giving foster families the same support as other families where it is right for the child.

Foster carer applications have been low in Doncaster since 2017 and remain low to date.

In total there have been 19 applications (3 in the past year) from Foster Carers since 2017, the first application was in 2018.



## 6d. New Entitlements 2024 onwards

In the government's spring budget, the Chancellor announced transformative reforms to childcare for parents, children, the economy and women. By 2027 to 2028, this government will expect to be spending in excess of £8bn every year on free hours and early education, helping working families with their childcare costs. This represents the single biggest investment in childcare in England ever.

This new offer will empower parents, allowing them to progress their careers and support their families. The new entitlements will be introduced in phases:

- from April 2024, all working parents of 2-year-olds can access 15 hours per week
- from September 2024, all working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3-years-old can access 15 hours per week
- from September 2025, all working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3-years-old can access 30 hours free childcare per week

## 6e. National Data Education Provision: Children under 5 years of age

### Headline facts and figures – 2023

**Eligible 2 year olds registered for 15 hours**

**124,200**

**Down 8% since 2022 and lowest in series**

What's this?

Certain disadvantaged 2 yr olds are eligible for the 15 hour entitlement

**3 and 4 year-olds registered for 15 hours**

**1.2 million**

**Down 1 % since 2022 and now lowest in series**

What's this?

All 3 & 4 year olds are eligible for the 15-hour entitlement

**Eligible 3 and 4 year olds registered for 30 hours**

**363,000**

**Up 4% since 2022 and now highest in series**

What's this?

3 & 4 year olds with eligible working parents are entitled to the 30 hour entitlement

**All PVI providers delivering 15 hours**

**31,500**

**Down 3% from 2022**

What's this?

Private, voluntary, and independent providers (including childminders) with children registered for government-funded early years provision.

**Estimated take-up of 15 hours from 3 and 4 year olds**

**94%**

**Up from 92% in 2022 and highest since 2018**

What's this?

The take-up rates for 3 & 4 year olds are calculated based on population estimates derived from mid-year estimates and projections produced by the Office for National Statistics.

- In 2023, the number of children registered for the 15 hour entitlements was at the lowest point in each series, whilst conversely the number registered for the 30 hour entitlement was at the highest point in the series.

- The **take-up rate of 3 & 4 year olds registered for the 15 hour entitlement needs to be treated with caution** and likely underestimates the true rate by up to 5 percentage points.
- Taking this into account, despite the falls in children registered for the 15 hour entitlements, the associated take-up rates in 2023 have increased because of larger decreases in the relevant populations (particularly for eligible 2 year olds).
- The fall in the number of private, voluntary and independent (PVI) providers delivering the 15 hour entitlements was driven by a fall in the number of private or voluntary providers and childminders.

*Source: Gov.uk – Statistics and Data - Education Provision: children under 5 years of age*

\*\*You can explore further early years data on the [Explore Education Statistics government website](#).

## **6f. Tax Free Childcare**

Tax-free childcare is for working families with children aged 0 to 11 years (or 0 to 16 years if disabled), including the self-employed, in the UK, who earn under £100,000 and at least £152 per week (equal to 16 hours at the National Minimum or Living Wage) each: who aren't receiving Tax Credits, Universal Credit, or childcare vouchers.

If either you, or your partner, expect to earn £100,000 or more, you can't get Tax Free Childcare. You can't use Tax-Free Childcare at the same time as childcare vouchers, Universal Credit or tax credits. You can use it with the 15 hours and 30 hours schemes.

For every £8 you pay into your online account, the government will add an extra £2, up to £2,000 per child per year.

For further information on all help with childcare costs visit including Tax Free Childcare Visit: [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

## 7. Ongoing support given to providers

### PROVIDER SUPPORT

Dedicated Facebook pages  
Support with Ofsted registration / inspections  
Termly Early Years Education Newsletter  
1:1 Business support  
Telephone support  
Weekly email updates  
Families Information Service helpline  
Marketing via Families Information Service  
Support with early years entitlements funding queries / claims

## 8. Identified Risks and Action Plan

Identified risk	Impact	Actions
<p>The launch and implementation of the new Early Years Entitlements starting from April 2024</p>	<p>Doncaster has managed to sustain a position of 'no unmet demand' for many years, based on supply and demand for provision in line with the existing entitlements. The expansion of the offer brings a high level of risk with the potential of insufficient places at city wide and locality level (pyramids). This would put the authority at risk of not meeting our statutory duties.</p>	<p>A programme of high-level analysis, consultation and reporting will take place to assess supply and demand at a city wide and locality level. This reporting will detail any required actions at locality level (pyramids).</p> <p>Action plans will reflect ongoing data / intelligence including up-to-date termly occupancy information, parent analysis data and provider / school readiness findings.</p> <p>It will also take into account the latest government guidance.</p> <p><i>**at the time of compiling this report Government Guidance was limited on the funding to support the new entitlements**</i></p>
<p>The launch and implementation of the Wraparound Programme</p>	<p>Doncaster has managed to sustain a position of 'no unmet demand' for many years, based on supply and demand for provision in line with the existing entitlements. The expansion of the offer brings a high level of risk with the potential of insufficient places at city wide and locality level (pyramids). This would put the authority at risk of not meeting our statutory duties.</p>	<p>A programme of high-level analysis, consultation and reporting will take place to assess supply and demand at a city wide and locality level. This reporting will detail any required actions at locality level (pyramids).</p> <p>Action plans will reflect ongoing data / intelligence including up-to-date termly occupancy information, parent analysis</p>

		<p>data and provider / school readiness findings.</p> <p>It will also take into account the latest government guidance.</p> <p><i>**at the time of compiling this report Government Guidance was limited on the funding to support the new entitlements**</i></p>
<p>In line with national and regional data, there is a risk to the sustainability of early years providers post pandemic.</p> <p>Providers report consistently low funding rates alongside increasing running costs with the cost of living crisis.</p> <p>Providers are beginning to consider the way they operate, the numbers they can facilitate and in some cases the short / long term viability of their business.</p>	<p>If providers change their business model this can impact the number of places available in a locality. If they go beyond this and opt to close their business we are at risk of not meeting our statutory duty.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1:1 Business Support</li> <li>• Regular occupancy collections</li> <li>• Access to regular updates locally / regionally / nationally</li> <li>• Support for providers wishing to leave the childcare sector and sell their provision within the local market</li> <li>• Signposting to any grants that are available</li> <li>• Local Authority passes through maximum amounts of funding entitlements</li> <li>• Childminder pre-registration delivered 3 x per year for new childminders entering the market. Also 1:1 support for new childminders (with a focus on preparing for Ofsted)</li> </ul>
<p>Doncaster is facing the same issues with recruitment and retention in the early years sector as is being reported nationally. During the pandemic many people left the sector to work in other careers and haven't returned. This paired</p>	<p>Lack of staff provides risk in a variety of ways:</p> <p>A lack of consistency for children and families. Staffing appears very fluid at</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting Sheffield Mayoral strategy board</li> <li>• Working alongside DWP to promote childcare as a career</li> </ul>

<p>with a reduction in newly qualified candidates coming through the colleges and universities we are facing a position whereby staff are moving between settings and there are no new recruits to backfill their posts.</p>	<p>present and there are risks where consistent staffing cannot be secured.</p> <p>Where settings are unable to staff sufficiently, they are left with no choice but to reduce numbers. This impacts sufficiency of places.</p> <p>Where staffing impacts DfE grant funded places, this places a risk on sustainability and the potential future risk that clawback could be invoked.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Links with Doncaster College / Sheffield Hallam University and other local training facilitators</li> <li>• A full recruitment strategy to be completed to support the sector with recruitment / promoting working within the childcare sector</li> </ul>
<p>Provision for SEND Pupils</p>	<p>Parents are unable to find suitable provision to meet the needs of their children</p>	<p>City of Doncaster Council is producing a SEND Strategy which will be launched in the Autumn Term. This strategy covers SEND places from early years through to Post 16 and Post 19. Underpinning this strategy is a SEND Sufficiency Assessment. This assessment will set out the plans to facilitate the development of places across Doncaster in the coming years.</p>
<p>Future Lockdowns due to identified variants of Covid-19</p>	<p>Short term closures impacting parents / families</p>	<p>A robust system is in place to provide support to providers at short notice e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeted Facebook pages for different provider types</li> <li>• Local Authority Officers support targeted to meet need and the Council have an emergency strategy in place</li> </ul>

Possible Future Localised Flooding (not referenced in this year's CSA, however Doncaster has had significant flooding in 2009 & 2021)	Short term closures impacting parents / families	A robust system is in place to provide support to providers at short notice e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeted Facebook pages for different provider types</li> <li>• Business continuity plans in place in the Local Authority</li> </ul>
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### Contact Details

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