



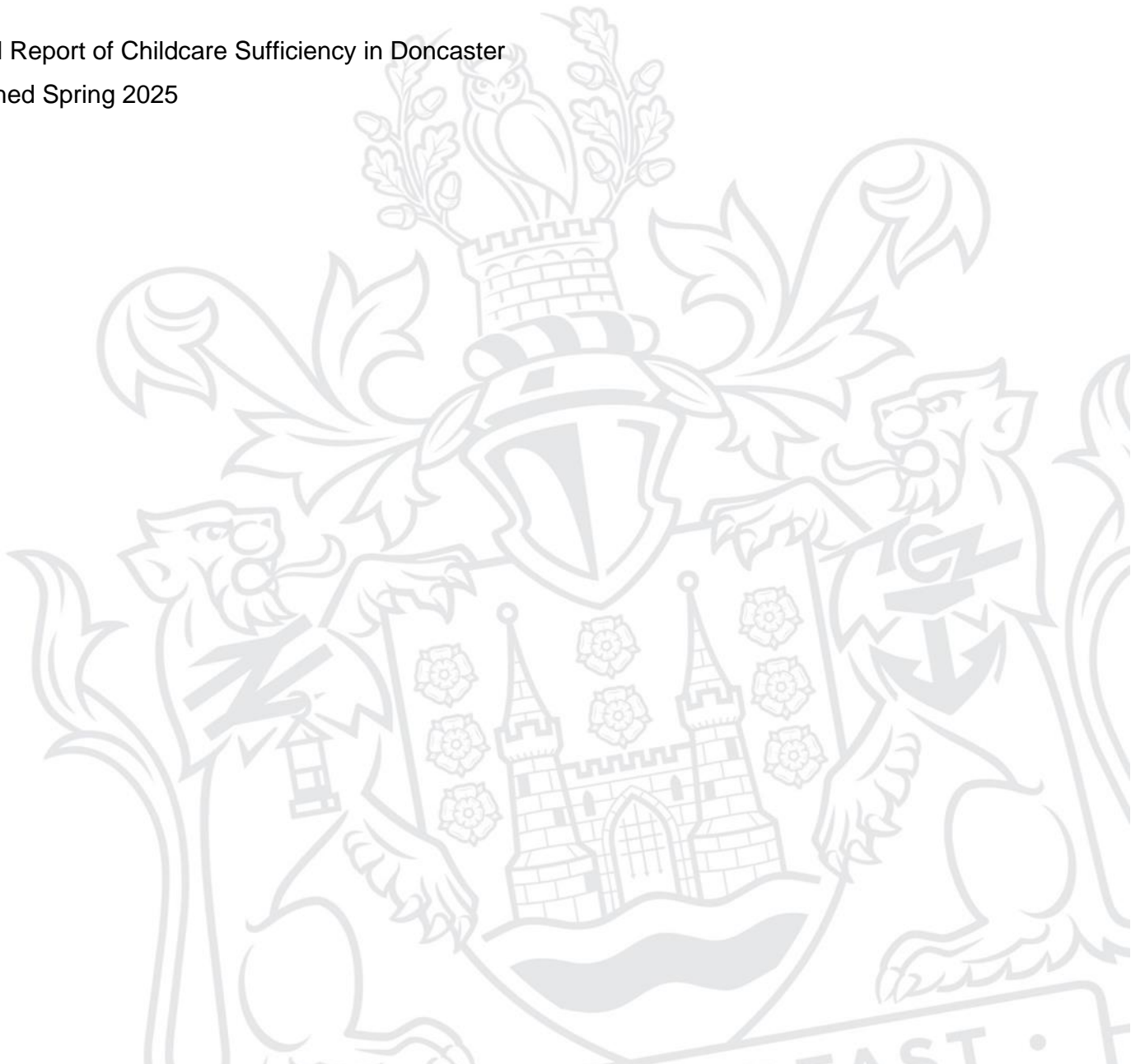
Doncaster  
Council

Report

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# Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2024

Annual Report of Childcare Sufficiency in Doncaster  
Published Spring 2025



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## 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 14,111 childcare places available for children aged 0 - 14 years (up to 18 years for children with SEND).

Our Childcare Occupancy Data Collection for Summer 2024 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 2023.

There were 3260 births in Doncaster from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024, this is a decrease of approximately 1% since 2022/2023.

The wraparound programme is now fully underway in Doncaster, 542 new breakfast and afterschool club places are currently being created by providers in 13 different areas of Doncaster.

Providers registered to deliver early education places remains stable across the Borough with a slight increase in providers since 2023 (241 providers in 2023 & 256 providers at Autumn term 2024).

We are currently supporting 8 new childcare providers to set up a provision locally and numerous providers to extend the places offered through the capital programme.

The main focus for settings over the coming year will be ensuring sustainability and adapting to the new childcare offers.

The 2024 parent survey suggests that families may be using more childcare in the next 6 to 12 months.

Prior to the roll out of the new entitlements there was sufficient childcare to meet the need in Doncaster. However, to meet the demands of the new entitlements it was identified that 633 additional places would be needed to meet demand in the run up to September 2025. Progress has been made towards this target and we continue to re-evaluate the data whilst working alongside the sector to continue developing places in our areas of need.

## 2. Introduction

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 to meet the needs of working parents and vulnerable families. The government has set several factors, which can be regarded as the benchmark of sufficiency that state that local authorities must ensure that:

- 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.

**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).*

To secure sufficient childcare places, local authorities should consider:

- What is 'reasonably practicable' when assessing what sufficient childcare means for their area
- 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.

- Encouraging schools in their area to offer out of hours childcare from 8am to 6pm and in school holidays.
- Encouraging existing providers to expand their provision and new providers to enter the local childcare market.
- Encouraging 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>

**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.
- Settings support to improve the outcomes for children by narrowing the gap in attainment and preparing children for school.
- Provision is inclusive and flexible to meet families' needs.
- Provisions 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 report has been collated and produced by The Place Planning and Sufficiency Service who have 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. If you have any comments or wish to discuss the content, please contact: [lp.org@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:lp.org@doncaster.gov.uk)

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

### 3. Demographics

Every quarter the 53 Chambers of Commerce in the UK participate in the Quarterly Economic Survey. This survey is the UK's largest and most representative business survey of its kind in the UK. Each quarter more than 6,000 businesses participate in the Quarterly Economic Survey and the results are used to influence local, regional, and national government 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.

There were 285 respondents to the survey. Fieldwork was conducted between 6 November and 5 December 2023.

#### 3a. Quarterly Economic Review - Quarter 4 (2023)

Key Messages for Business conditions in South Yorkshire:

**Weak growth continues in South Yorkshire** - The results from respondents suggest an overall improvement in sales figures and order books, for both domestic and overseas markets. Workforces are expanding and investment in capital and training is being revised. However, results do not suggest a local economy firing on all cylinders, rather one that is moving forward despite headwinds.

**Several factors are putting upwards pressure on the cost of doing business** - High levels of inflation, rising interest rates and corporate taxation are the top three concerns for South Yorkshire firms. The cost of labour and utilities are contributing to inflationary concerns, with the majority of respondents expecting goods and services prices to increase in the coming months.

**Recruitment problems are showing no sign of receding** - Acute difficulties in hiring have now been reported by firms for over two years. This is particularly true for professional and managerial jobs and for skilled manual/technical jobs. This could be feeding into the reduced capacity that firms are reporting.

## Key Quotes for The Local Economy

“Inflationary costs, especially energy costs, are deeply impactful for the business.”

“Lack of staff is restricting growth and driving wage inflation”.

“Feeling positive, but still feeling the pinch.”

“Costs seem to be rising faster than headline inflation, which is causing some delay in closing deals due to uncertainty around the economy.”

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



### 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 is 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.

The table below shows each pyramid's individual IMD score and the ranking within Doncaster. The shaded areas indicate the 30% most deprived pyramids with the most deprived area being Mexborough with an average percentage IMD of 14.42%, which has slightly decreased from 17.10% in 2015. The least deprived pyramid is Hayfield, which has an IMD of 70.42%, rising from 69% since 2015. 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%.

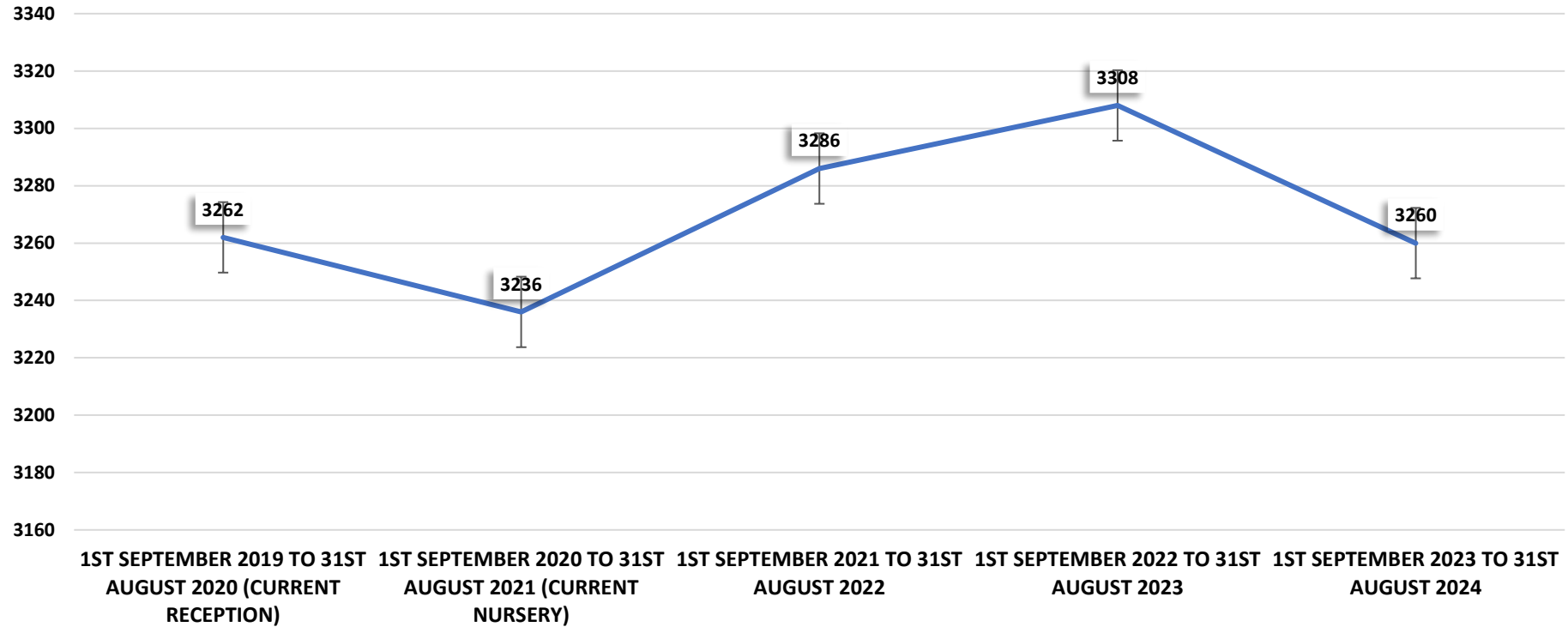
2019 IMD		
School Pyramid	Year: 2019	Comparison Scale (1 is the most deprived, 16 the least deprived)
Adwick Pyramid	22.52%	5
Armthorpe Pyramid	39.34%	12
Balby Pyramid	20.14%	3
Campsmount Pyramid	30.96%	9
Conisbrough Pyramid	20.48%	4
Danum Pyramid	20.12%	2
Don Valley Pyramid	23.68%	7
Edlington Pyramid	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>	

The IMD is usually produced every 3-4 years, however there is not yet a release to update the English Indices of Deprivation 2019.

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

### 3c. Doncaster Birth Data

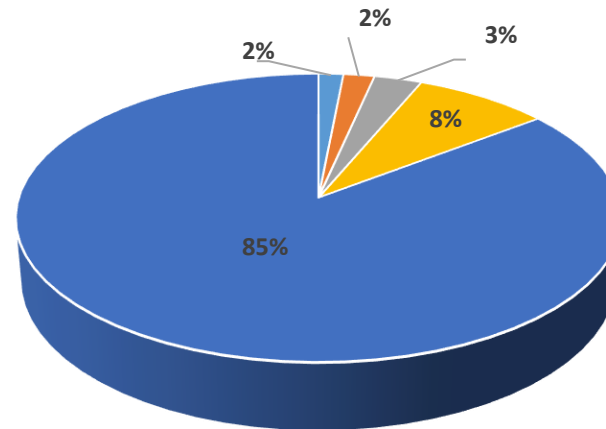


The above highlights Doncaster births for the past five years, these are broken into school year groups from 1<sup>st</sup> September until 31<sup>st</sup> August. From the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2021 onwards, births had begun to increase steadily, however, the last year has seen a 1.45% decrease in the number of babies being born.

### 3d. Children's Ethnicity Data

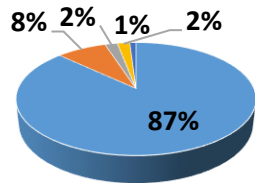
The data below shows the breakdown of significant ethnicities of the children within Doncaster between 2020 and 2024 (5-year trend). There has been little change in the data from 2024 to 2023. In 2023 and 2022 88% of the children in Doncaster were White British, this has reduced by 2% since 2020. The main nationality of any other white background remains as Polish.

**Spring 2024 Significant Ethnicities Within Doncaster**



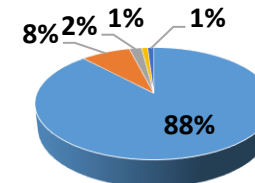
- Any Other Mixed Background
- Any Other Asian Background
- African
- Any Other White Background
- White British

**Spring 2023 Significant Ethnicities Within Doncaster**



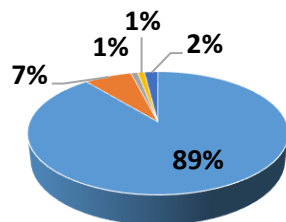
- White British
- Any other White Background
- Any other Asian Background
- African
- Any other Ethnic Group

**Spring 2022 Significant Ethnicities Within Doncaster**



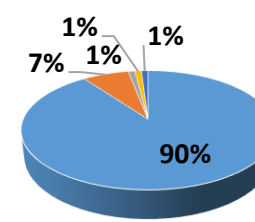
- White British
- Any other White Background
- Any other Asian Background
- African
- Pakistani

**Spring 2021 Significant Ethnicities Within Doncaster**



- White British
- Any other White Background
- Any other Asian Background
- Any Other Ethnic Group
- Pakistani

**Spring 2020 Significant Ethnicities Within Doncaster**



- White British
- Any other White Background
- Any other Asian Background
- Any Other Ethnic Group
- Pakistani

Source; school census 2020,2021,2022,2023,2024

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

The tables below show the number of children accessing Free School Meals (FSM) within each pyramid over the previous 4 years. Mexborough pyramid has the highest percentage of children accessing FSM at 41%, this has increased from 39% in 2023. Hayfield pyramid has the lowest uptake of FSM at 12%, however this has increased by 2% since 2021. The overall number of children accessing FSM in Doncaster is 29% which is 1% higher than 2023. There has been a 4% rise since the 2021 statistics.

Pyramid	Spring Census 2024 FSM			Spring Census 2023 FSM			Spring Census 2022 FSM			Spring Census 2021 FSM		
	Pupils	FSM	%FSM	Pupils	FSM	%FSM	Pupils	FSM	%FSM	Pupils	FSM	%FSM
Adwick	2933	1039	35%	2972	1044	35%	3021	1022	34%	3284	1093	33%
Armthorpe	1960	426	22%	1939	426	22%	1927	419	22%	1926	381	20%
Balby	3300	1292	39%	3216	1223	38%	3241	1223	38%	3137	1076	34%
Campsmount	1743	538	31%	1717	490	29%	1729	480	28%	1513	358	24%
Conisbrough	2277	905	40%	2267	847	37%	2256	800	35%	2229	706	32%
Danum	3832	1225	32%	3755	1217	32%	3696	1145	31%	3665	1048	29%
Don Valley	3173	1066	34%	3175	1071	34%	3232	1037	32%	3198	962	30%
Edlington	3008	739	25%	2905	672	23%	2907	678	23%	2897	661	23%
Hall Cross	4564	1118	24%	4402	1036	24%	4287	923	22%	4277	880	21%
Hatfield	2608	998	38%	2608	980	38%	2573	944	37%	2521	861	34%
Hayfield	2368	282	12%	2400	263	11%	2392	249	10%	2357	232	10%
Hungerhill	2753	473	17%	2769	447	16%	2854	419	15%	2854	368	13%
Mexborough	2089	850	41%	2029	801	39%	1998	761	38%	2029	705	35%
Ridgewood	3392	511	15%	3362	486	14%	3376	479	14%	3362	425	13%
Rossington	2252	667	30%	2150	611	28%	2106	588	28%	1989	541	27%
Thorne	2915	959	33%	2964	960	32%	3002	909	30%	3001	847	28%
Non-geographic	3500	976	28%	3417	887	26%	3251	754	23%	2704	609	23%
<b>Doncaster Totals</b>	<b>48667</b>	<b>14064</b>	<b>29%</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 PRU'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 12,814 new dwellings planned, this is a decrease from September 2023 when there were 14,667 planned dwellings.

Predictions show these developments will create a need for places for 2,515 primary school aged children and 1,873 places required for secondary school aged children in the near future. Although both figures have decreased from the previous year, which were 2,849 and 2,188 respectively, with the recent change of Government and policy there is a shift in focus to creating more residential properties across the country.

It is anticipated that the number of planned developments, and school places will increase over the course of the year and future years.

*Source: SCAP 2024 (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 as of the Summer Term 2024.

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	584	475	109	964	784	180	1372	1144	228	0	0	0	0	0	0	2920	2403	517
Ofsted Registered Sessional Care	0	0	0	163	132	31	263	239	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	426	371	55
Ofsted Registered Childminder	236	179	57	277	218	59	318	274	44	595	492	103	137	59	78	1563	1222	341
Ofsted Registered Breakfast Club	0	0	0	0	0	0	104	82	22	210	154	56	0	0	0	314	236	78
Ofsted Registered After School Club	0	0	0	0	0	0	113	91	22	244	188	56	8	1	7	365	280	85
Ofsted Registered Holiday Childcare	0	0	0	0	0	0	89	65	24	262	170	92	0	0	0	351	235	116
School Nursery	0	0	0	59	52	7	2003	1472	580	0	0	0	0	0	0	2062	1524	587
School Run Breakfast Club	0	0	0	0	0	0	1182	612	570	2598	1941	657	0	0	0	3780	2553	1227
School Run After School Club	0	0	0	0	0	0	513	336	117	1549	1190	359	978	688	290	233	1714	616
School Run Holiday Childcare	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Grand Total 2024</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>1463</b>	<b>1186</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>5999</b>	<b>4350</b>	<b>1698</b>	<b>5678</b>	<b>4283</b>	<b>1395</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>14111</b>	<b>10538</b>	<b>3622</b>

#### 4b. Availability of Childcare by type in Summer 2024

Type of Provision	AVAILABILITY				
	Before 8am	Core hours (8am to 6pm)	After 6pm	Weekend	Shifts
Ofsted Registered Full Day Care	39	52	1	0	8
Ofsted Registered Sessional Care	1	12	0	0	3
Ofsted Registered Childminder	134	186	21	6	48
Ofsted Registered Breakfast Club	10	13	0	0	0
Ofsted Registered After School Club	0	14	0	0	0
Ofsted Registered Holiday Club	5	11	0	0	0
School Nursery	0	79	0	0	0
School Run Breakfast Club	37	66	0	0	0
School Run After School Club	0	45	0	0	0
School Run Holiday Club	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>59</b>

#### 4c. New Settings & Settings Closed in 2024

Over the course of 2024 we have welcomed many new childminders and nurseries/sessional settings in Doncaster. We have had 20 new childminders register and 29 childminders resign.

We have had 4 new nurseries/sessional settings open and no closures.

We are currently supporting 8 new childcare providers to set up a provision locally and numerous providers to extend the places offered through the capital programme.



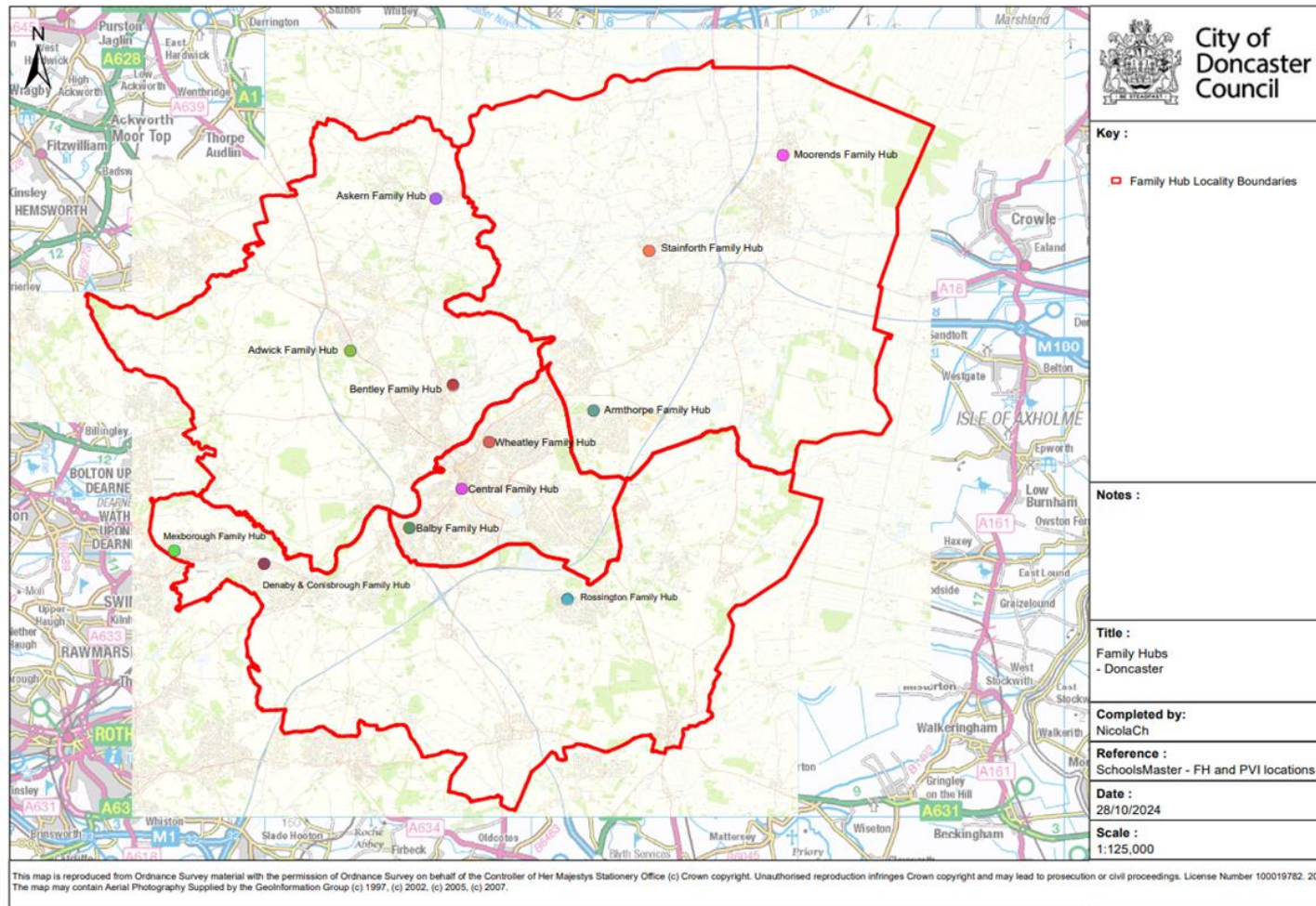
#### **4d. School Based Nurseries**

Applications for School-Based Nurseries Capital Grant Funding were accepted by the Department for Education up to December 2024. The primary aim of this expansion scheme is to build more capacity into the early education sector by using surplus space in school buildings made available by falling primary school rolls, where this space may not be needed for primary provision, or where existing spare space is already available to be re-purposed.

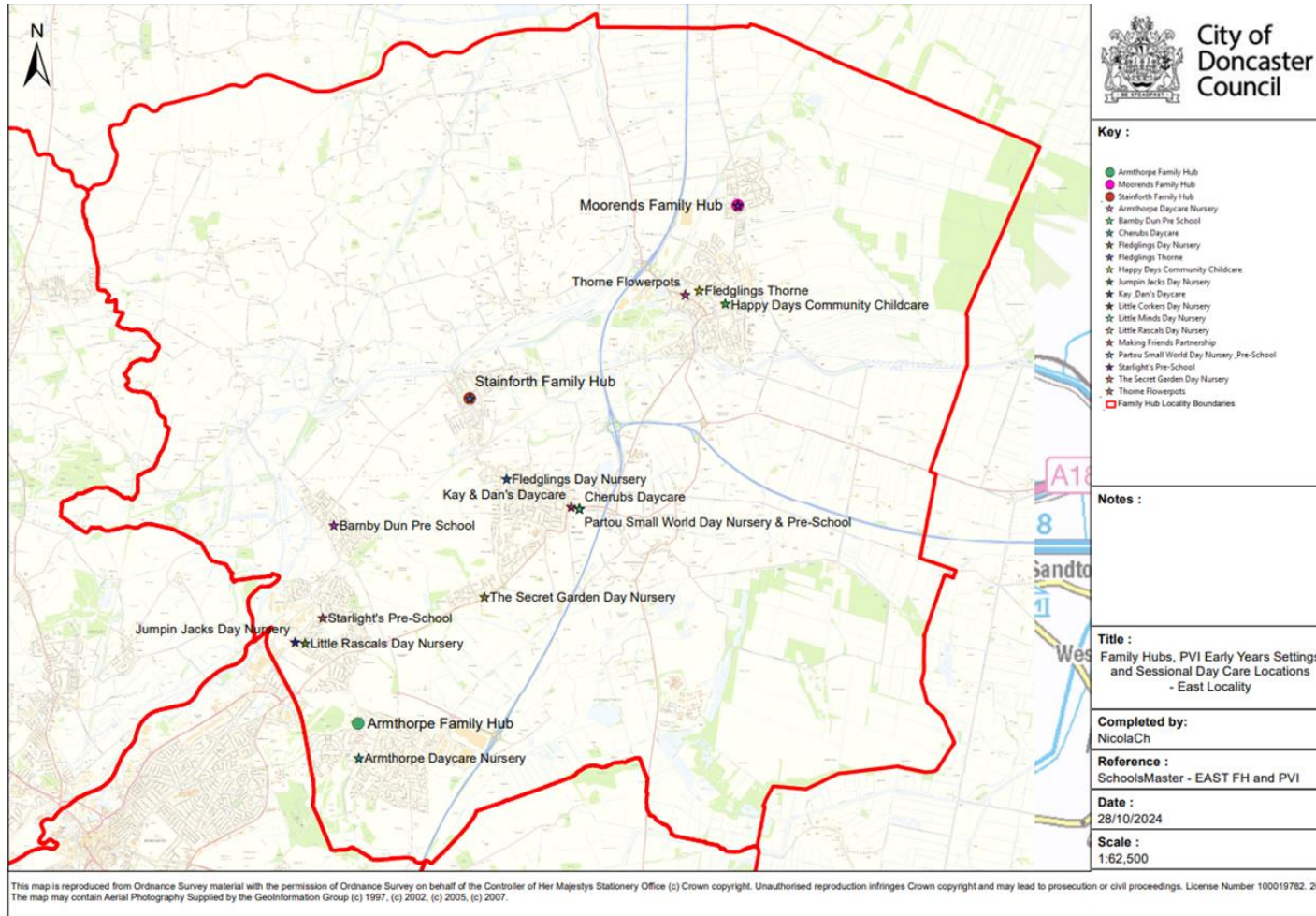
City of Doncaster Council fully supported all schools through the School-Based Nursery programme application process, with 12 schools expressing an interest in applying for funding. A full process of support was devised and implemented, including school site visits, PAN data analysis and input from representatives from the Early Years, Safeguarding and Schools Place Planning teams. Across Doncaster, this programme resulted in six applications for Schools-based Nursery Capital Grant funding being submitted to the Department for Education, with the potential to create an additional 235 new early years places, if all applications

## 4e. Family Hub Area Maps with PVI's by Locality

The below map shows all the Family Hubs across Doncaster by locality. The additional maps are the hub localities with all the PVI's within the catchment area pinpointed to show how many settings we have in each Doncaster area currently.

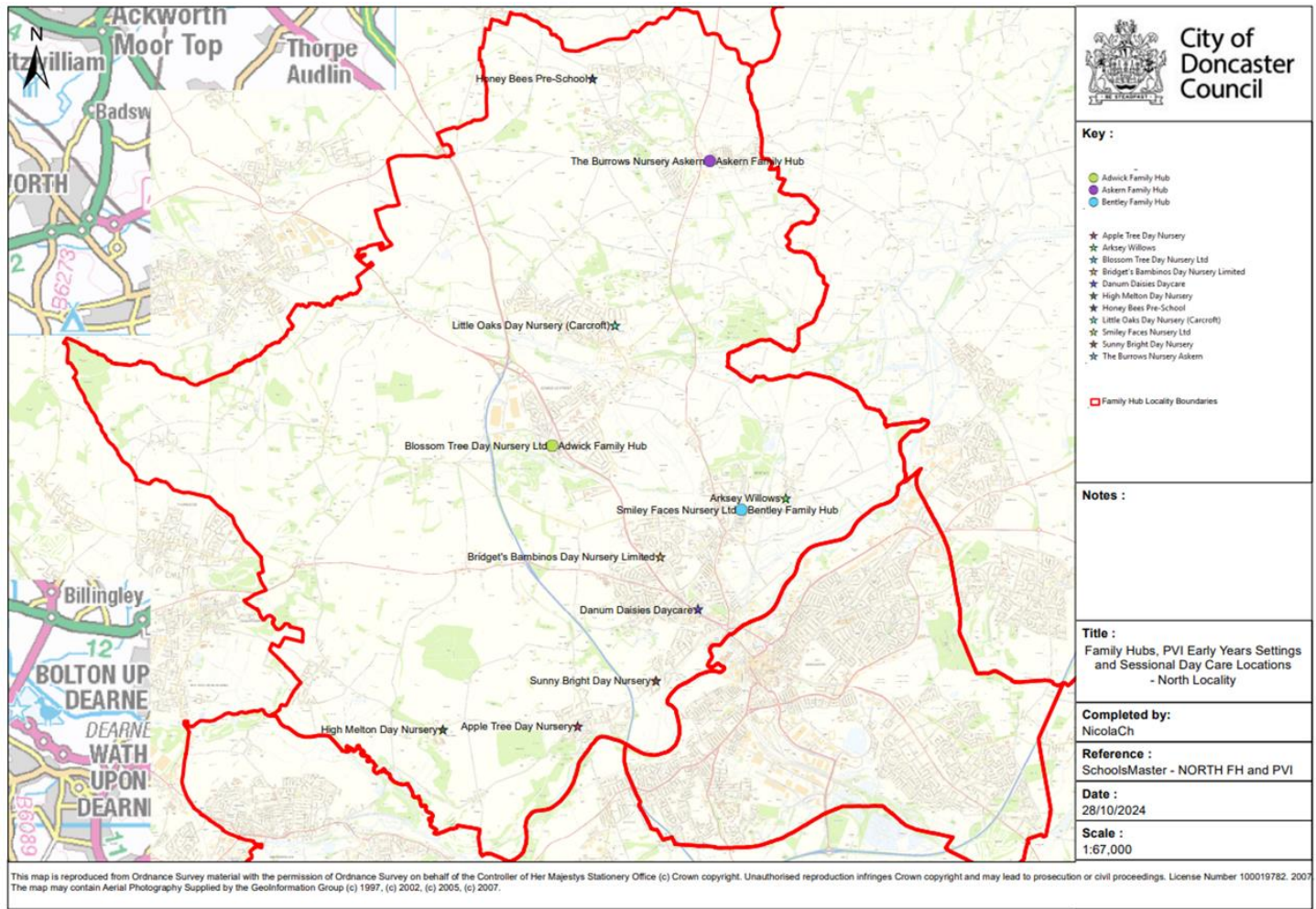


# East Locality Area with PVI's

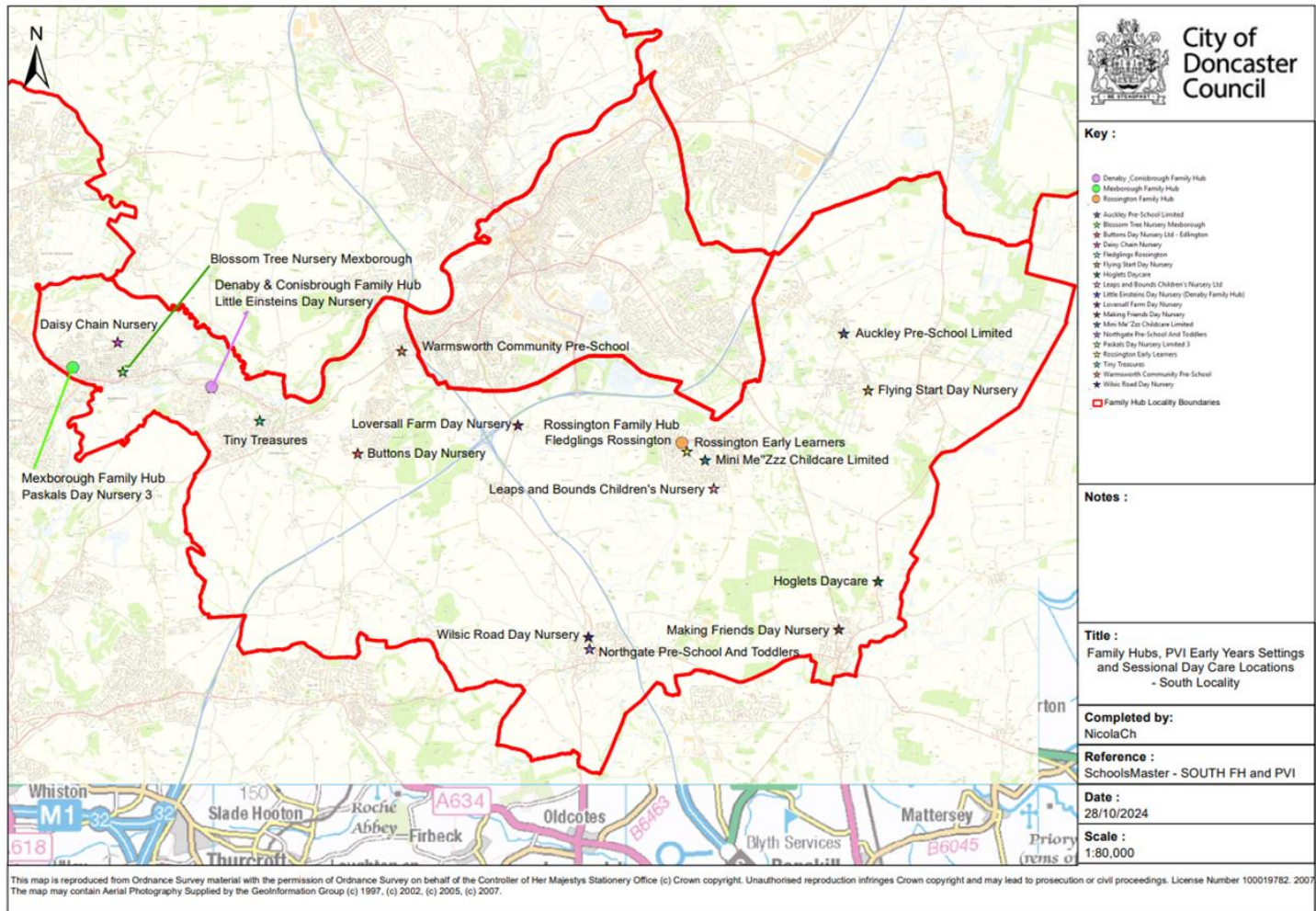




# North Locality Area with PVI's

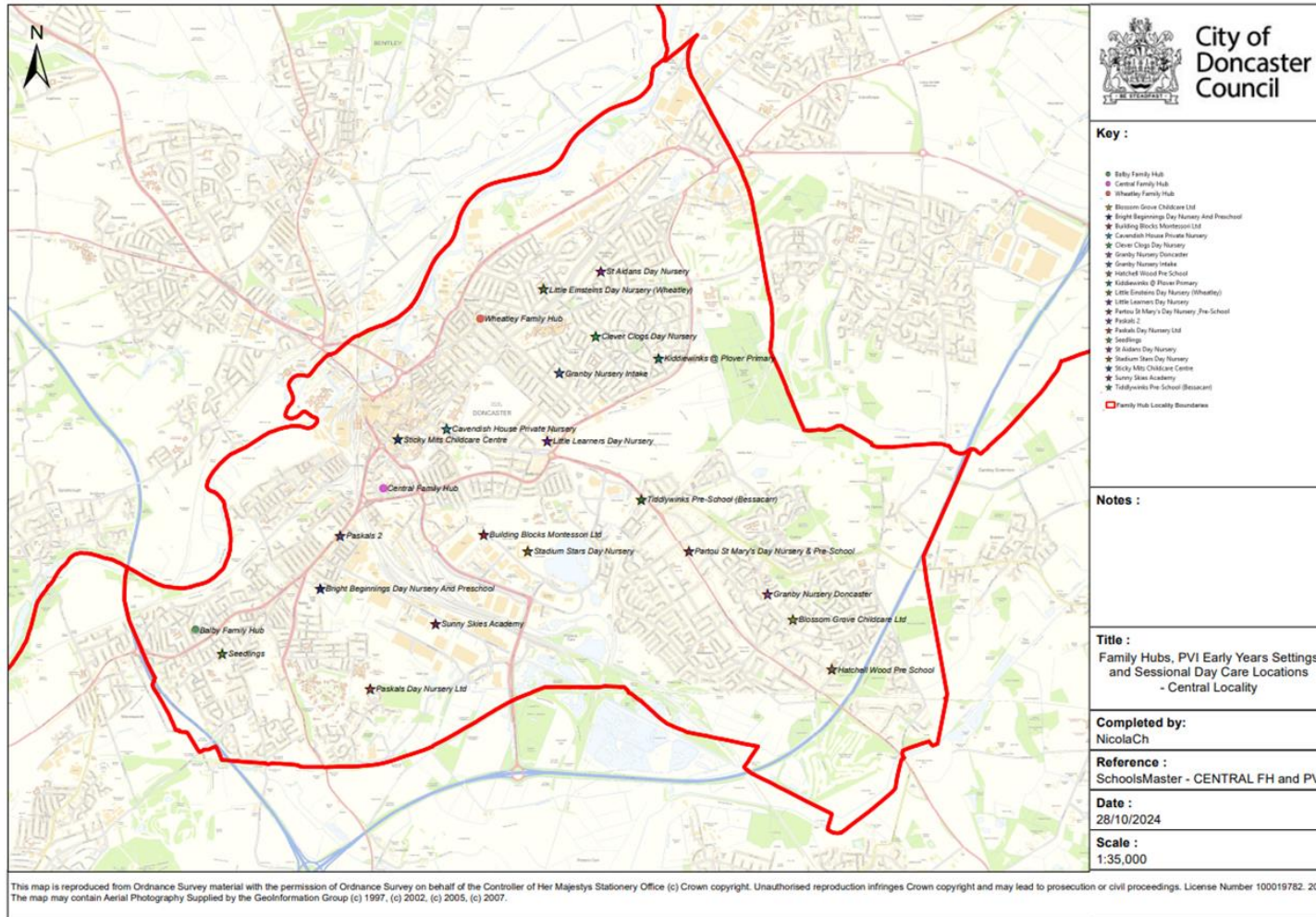


# South Locality Area with PVI's





# Central Locality Area with PVI's



## 4f. Wraparound Programme

### **The Wraparound Programme is now fully underway in Doncaster!**

Funding of just over £2 million has been agreed and allocated to Doncaster for the project, to help providers create or expand the number of breakfast and afterschool club places they offer. The Wraparound Expansion Programme is designed to ensure working families can access high quality care for their children between the hours of 8am-6pm. Providers wishing to access the funding are required to be Ofsted registered and promote healthy lifestyle choices for the children attending.

This is a programme available to all - Childminders, PVI and schools, and can be delivered in different ways. For example, PVI delivery on school site or from an existing early years provision, partnership working with a group of childminders or childminders working in partnership with a school.

The programme is being rolled out through online briefings and 1:1 support to providers, with over 120 providers engaged so far and 27% of the total funding agreed to date. Using the funding available, 542 new breakfast and afterschool club places are currently being created by providers in 13 different areas of Doncaster. Offering a wraparound service to working parents can increase revenue streams, allow providers to access new potential customers, increase business by engaging siblings and provide a more comprehensive and flexible service to working families.

Further information on the programme can also be found via the following link.

[Wraparound childcare: guidance for schools and trusts in England](#)

## 4g. Capital Funding

Capital Funding for expansion was allocated to LA at £600,417. To date, applications have been considered from 25 providers. Five applications were passed at first and second panel stage with a total of £300,708 creating an additional 103 new places. There are a further three projects which have been passed at third panel waiting for final sign off, which would equate to £279,750 additional budget allocation, which would ensure 94.81% of overall Capital budget has been allocated. If all additional projects are passed, this would create a further 109 new places from January 2025.

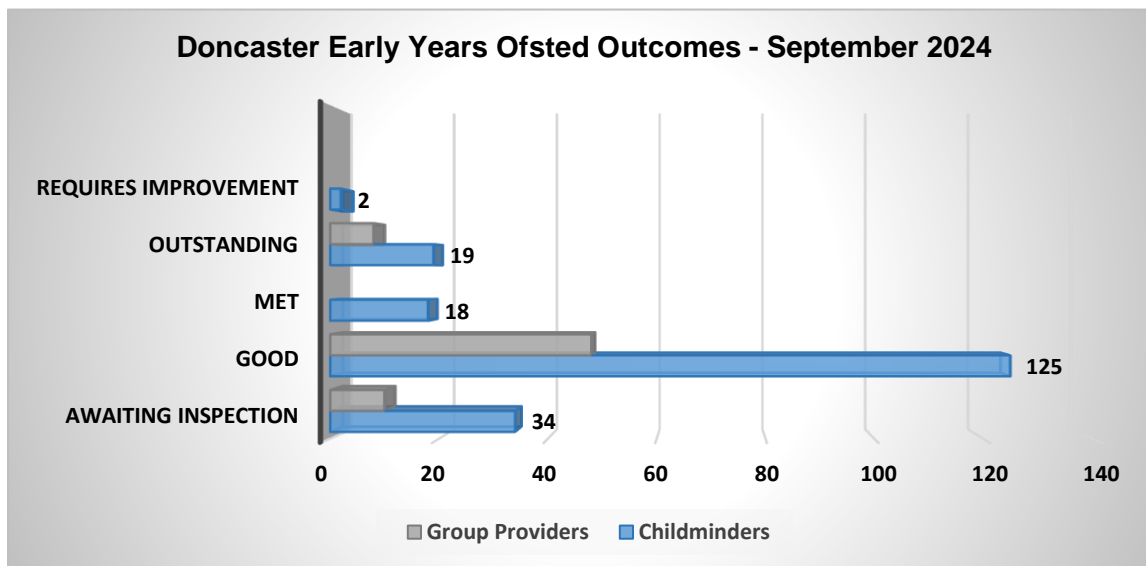
## 4h. Quality of Childcare

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. Ofsted have introduced several changes to inspections as of September 2024. However, currently these changes only apply to the inspection of state-funded schools, the Early Years sector is not yet affected.

Doncaster’s Ofsted outcomes for:

### Childminders:

- Outcomes for childminders show there are 144 childminders with Good or Outstanding judgements, 2 that are requires improvement and 34 that are awaiting inspection.
- Outcomes for group providers show there are 56 providers with Good or Outstanding judgments, no settings are judged as requires improvements and 10 are awaiting inspection.



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



## 4i. 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	£35.87	£270.00	£18.00	-	-	-
Armthorpe Pyramid	£39.00	£225.00	-	-	£7.00	£36.00
Balby Pyramid	£42.46	£205.63	-	-	-	£44.00
Campsmount Pyramid	£45.25	-	£15.00	£5.00	£7.50	-
Conisbrough Pyramid	£51.00	£285.00	-	£6.00	£6.00	-
Danum Pyramid	£43.89	£244.95	-	£5.25	£6.75	£33.50
Don Valley Pyramid	£38.75	223.75	£21.00	£5.00	£7.50	-
Edlington Pyramid	£39.00	£293.67	£17.50	£4.00	£4.00	£22.50
Hall Cross Pyramid	£40.67	£277.75	£15.00	-	-	-
Hatfield Pyramid	£38.00	£201.67	£36.00	-	-	-
Hayfield Pyramid	£41.95	£257.50	£17.00	-	-	£25.00
Hungerhill Pyramid	£39.29	£243.33	£14.28	£4.00	£8.50	£40.00
Mexborough Pyramid	£37.50	£190.00	£19.50	-	-	-
Ridgewood Pyramid	£38.69	£241.35	-	£6.17	£8.75	£34.50
Rossington Pyramid	£28.00	£200.00	£14.00	-	-	£23.00
Thorne Pyramid	£60.00	£218.75	£15.00	-	-	£34.00
<b>Doncaster Average</b>	<b>£41.20</b>	<b>£238.55</b>	<b>£18.39</b>	<b>£5.06</b>	<b>£7.00</b>	<b>£32.50</b>
<b>Yorkshire and Humber* Average</b>	<b>£44.11</b>	<b>£264.42</b>	<b>Not known</b>	<b>Not known</b>	<b>£11.88</b>	<b>£34.67</b>

Source: Doncaster Families Information Service June 2024 \* Yorks & Humber Average, Coram Family and Childcare 2024 data and Coram Family and Childcare Holiday Childcare Survey 2024

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

## 4j. 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, Summer Term 2024 and the Yorkshire and Humber Average 2024.

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
Doncaster Average Summer 2024	£41.20	£238.55	£18.39	£5.06	£7.00	£34.00
Yorkshire and Humber Average - 2024 Data	£44.11	£264.42	Not Known	Not Known	£11.87	£34.67

Source: Doncaster Families Information Service September 2024. Also, Yorkshire & Humber Average, Coram Family and Childcare 2024 data and Coram Family and Childcare Holiday Childcare Survey 2024

The Coram Family and Childcare Survey 2024 found that the cost of childcare has yet again increased significantly across the board. It highlights a 7.4% increase in costs across Great Britain, at a time of sustained cost of living pressures for many families.

Childminder, Full Daycare, Sessional and Before School average costs have all been increasing over the last 3 years. After School had remained relatively static until this term when the average cost has dropped quite significantly. Holiday Club costs continue to fluctuate over the years. Childcare providers have been faced with significant financial pressures over the past few years 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 hourly rates:

- 9 month olds = £10.76
- 2 year olds = £7.89
- 3 & 4 year olds non-flexible provision = £5.01
- 3 & 4 year olds flexible provision = £5.25

*\*\*Funding rates accurate at time of writing. Rates are subject to Government change, the next expected increase will be in April 2025*

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

##### Early Years Inclusion Team

Between September 2023 and July 2024, the Early Years Inclusion Team supported 521 children (up from 420 children in 2022 and 285 children in 2021 but down from 545 in 2023).

Out of the 521 children 216 (41.5%) were supported within a Private, Voluntary, or Independent (PVI) setting.

Year	Total children supported	Portage/ Stepping Stones	Seedlings	PVI	Schools	Academies	Childminders	Enhanced
2024	521	73 (14.01%)	9 (1.72%)	216 (41.5%)	60 (11.51%)	97 (18.6%)	17 (3.26%)	49 (9.40%)
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 September 2024 there were 68 Ofsted registered group childcare providers and 181 childminders on the Local Authority Directory registered to provide the free early years entitlement (9 months, 2, 3 & 4 year old funding). All must meet the requirements of the SEN Code of Practice and Disability Discrimination Act requirements.

## Special Schools in Doncaster

In Summer Term 2024 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 the census number on roll. The data shows that all special schools are at or over capacity.

School Name	Age Range (Years)	Specialism	Mobility	Capacity	Capacity Increased by % from 2023	On Roll (to take from census)
Bader Academy	5-19	ASD / SLCN	Ambulant	100	21%	105
Coppice School	3-19	ASD / SEMH / SLD	Ambulant	136	7%	154
North Ridge Community School	3-19	SLD	Ambulant	139	9%	149
Pennine View School	7-16	MLD	Ambulant	126	4%	137
Heatherwood School	3-19	SLD / PMLD	Non-Ambulant	84	265%	84
Stone Hill School	5-19	MLD	Ambulant	135	8%	146
Total				<b>720</b>		<b>775</b>

\*Information taken from SEND Sufficiency Assessment & Summer 2024 School Census

## **Doncaster SEND Sufficiency Strategy**

In addition to the information above Doncaster is in the final stages of producing 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 is an overarching report considering 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.

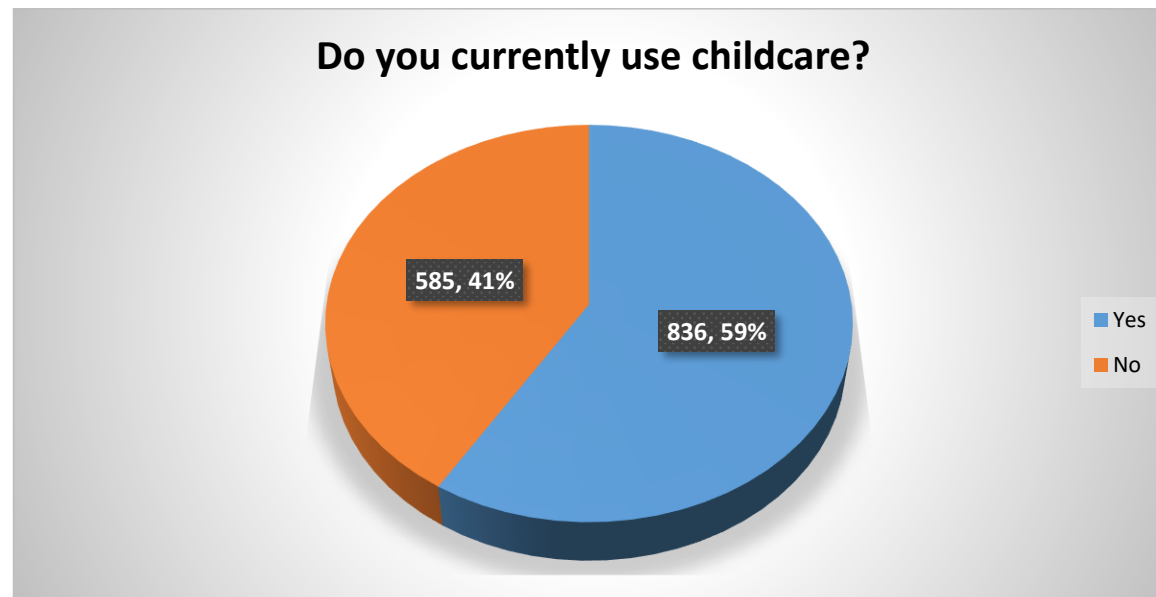
In addition to this we are undertaking a full review of all SEND and Alternative provision to ensure that it meets the growing needs of Doncaster pupils.

## 5. Parent Survey on Childcare Needs and Families Information 2024

### 5a. Parent Survey 2024 Responses

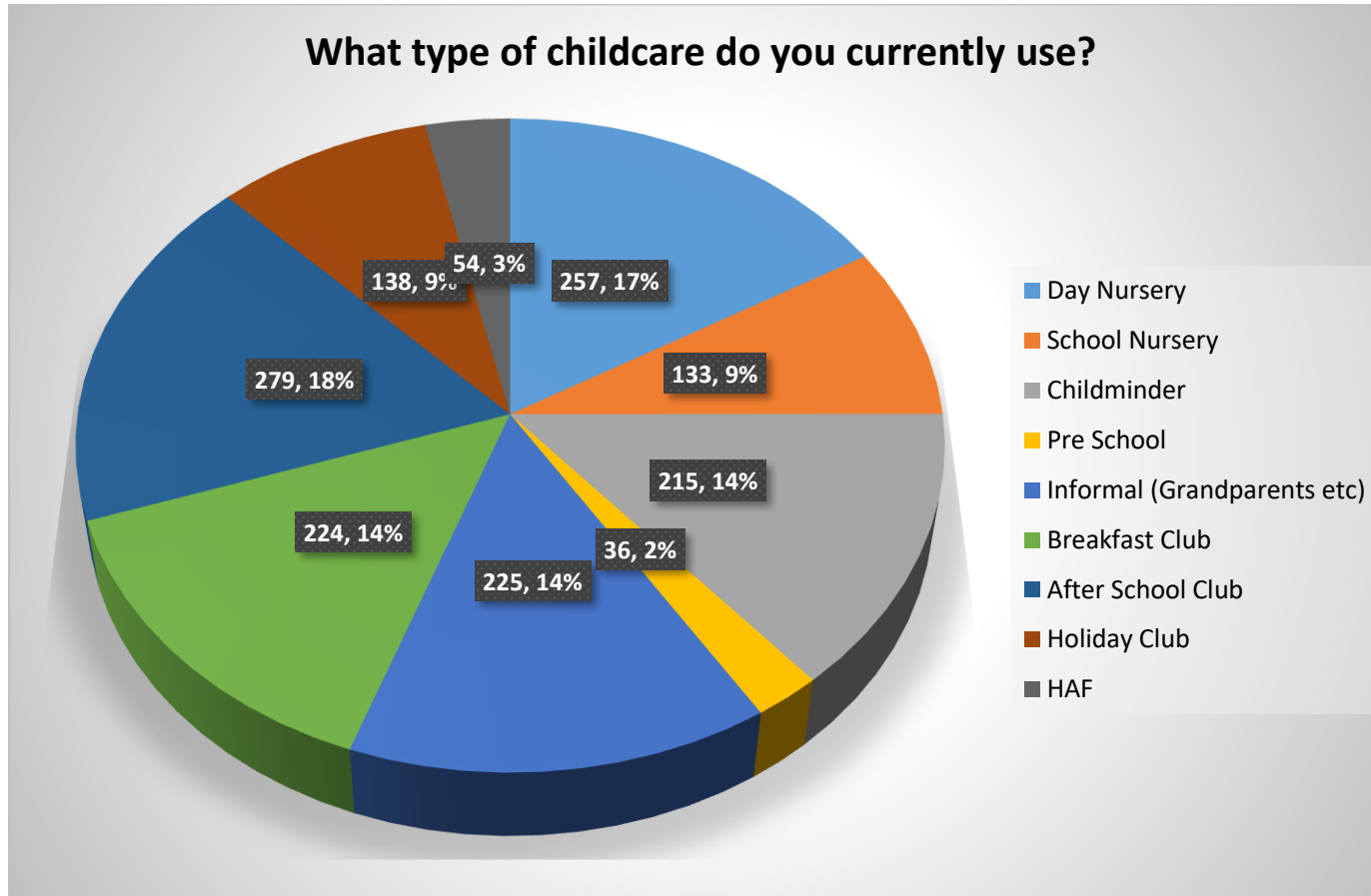
A parent survey was carried out during Summer 2024. The survey was promoted through Doncaster Families Information Service, Doncaster Council, Family Hubs, schools, childcare providers, and community partners. In total, 1421 of Doncaster families completed the survey. Below is the Borough level analysis.

#### Q1. Do you currently use childcare?



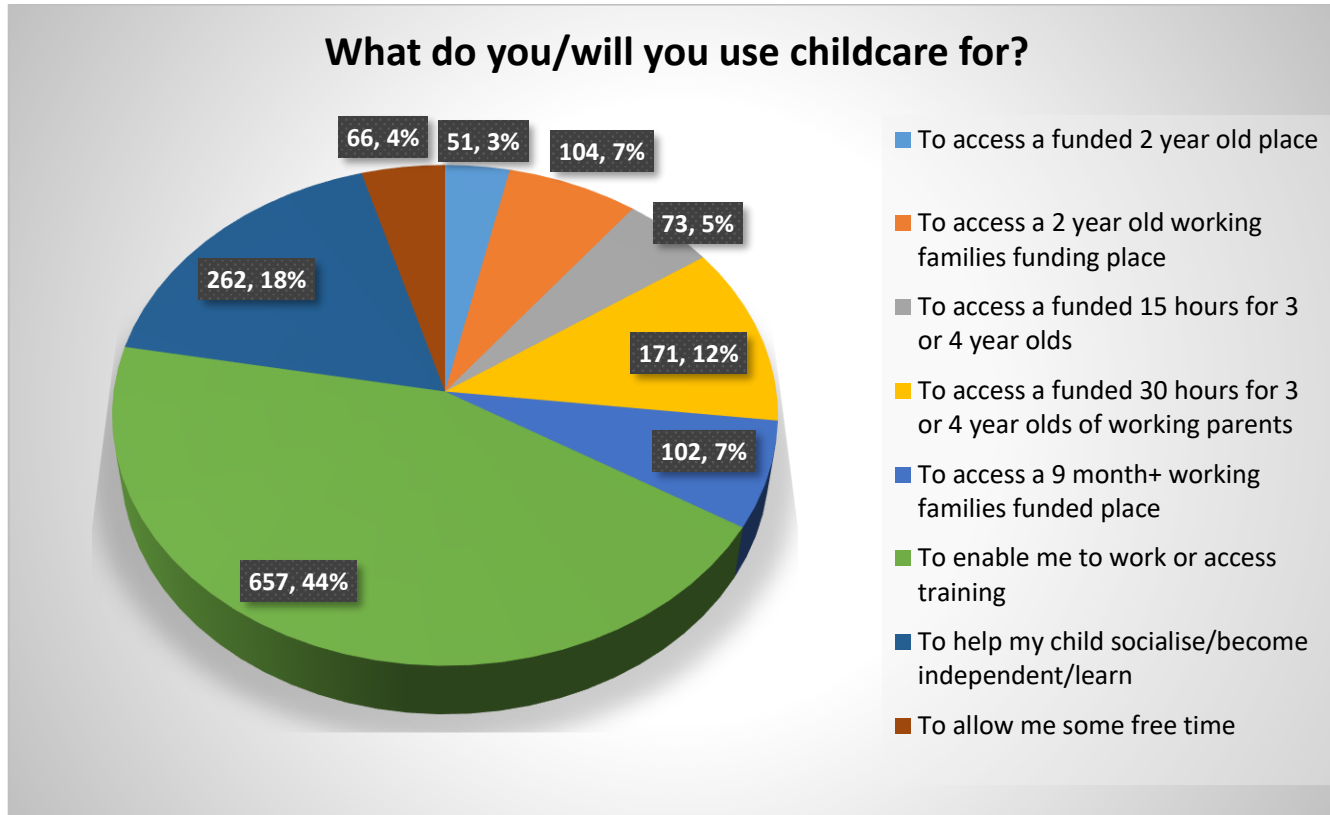
The chart above shows that 836 (59%) of respondents currently use childcare and 585 (41%) don't currently use childcare. This is an increase on both parts compared to 715 families using childcare in 2023 and 535 families not using childcare in 2023.

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



The chart above shows that the main category of childcare currently used is after school clubs (18%), closely followed by day nurseries (17%), informal (14%) and breakfast clubs (14%).

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

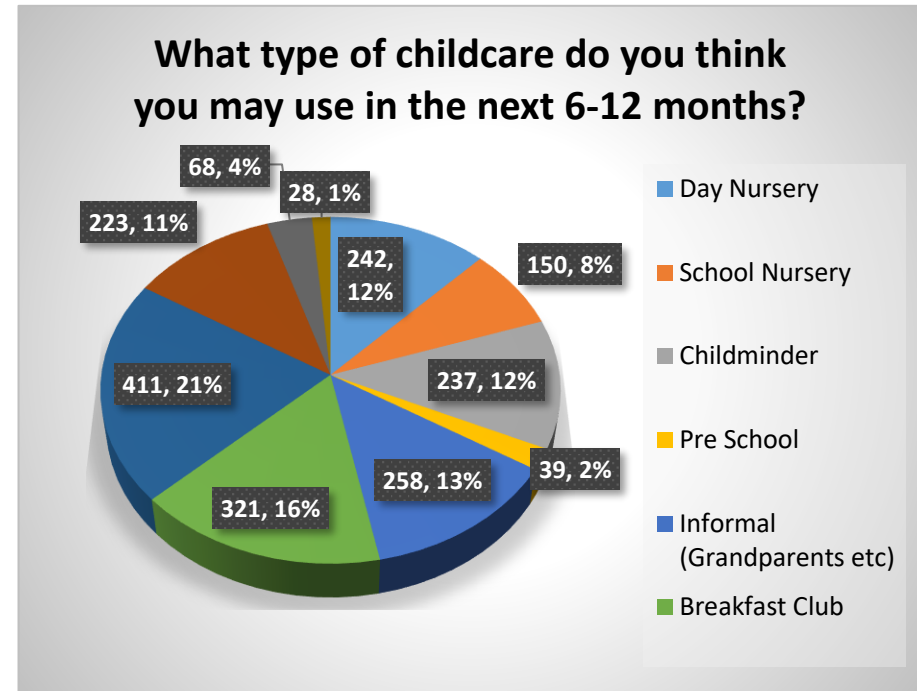


657 respondents stated they use childcare to enable them to work or access training, this is equivalent to 44% which is the same percentage as in 2023 and 2022. 18% of respondents use childcare to help their child socialise, become independent and learn and 12% of families use childcare to access 30 hours funding for a 3- or 4-year-old.



**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?**

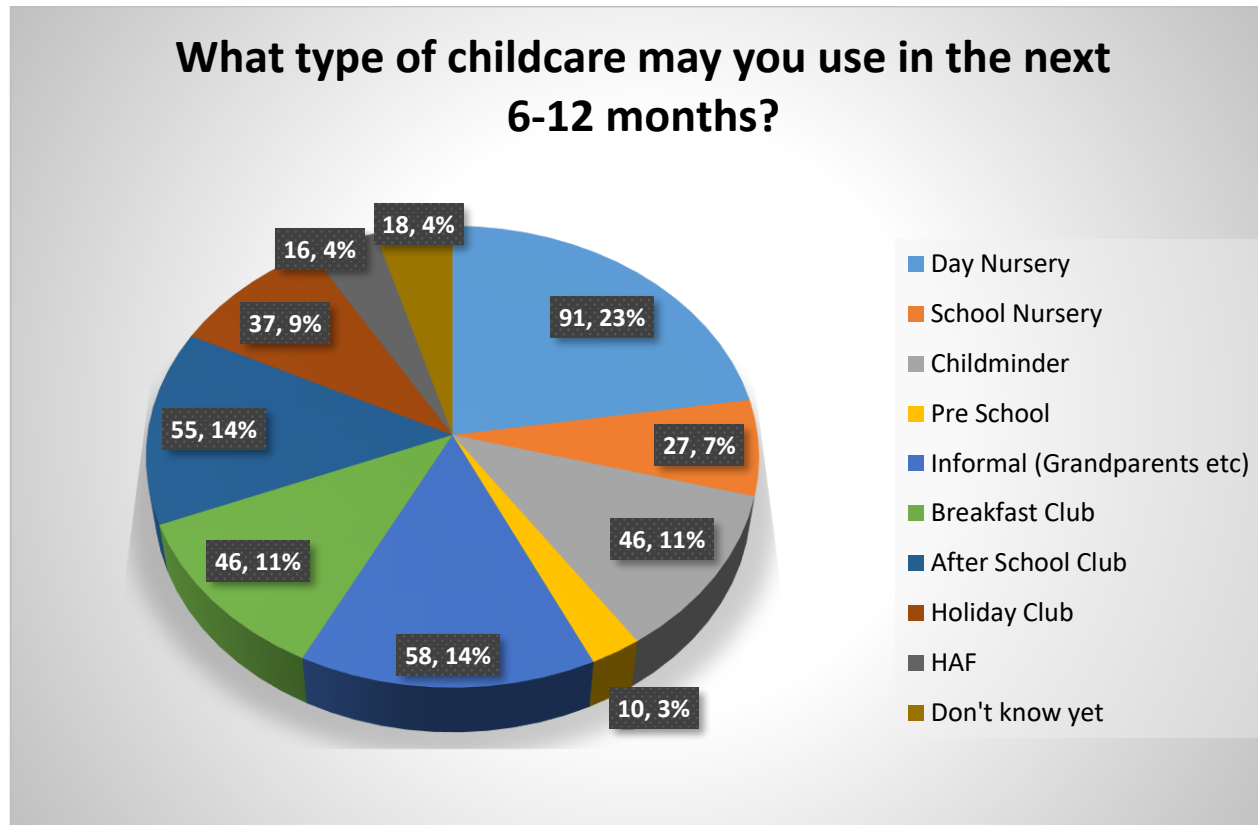


The majority of respondents who were currently using childcare either chose that they would need more childcare in the next 6-12 months (48%) or that their needs would stay the same (47%). Only 3% expected that they would need less and 2% expected to stop using it. The main type of childcare families expect to use over the next 6-12 months is after school clubs (21%), followed by breakfast clubs (16%) and informal childcare (13%).

**Families who were not currently using childcare but will in the next 6-12 months were asked:**

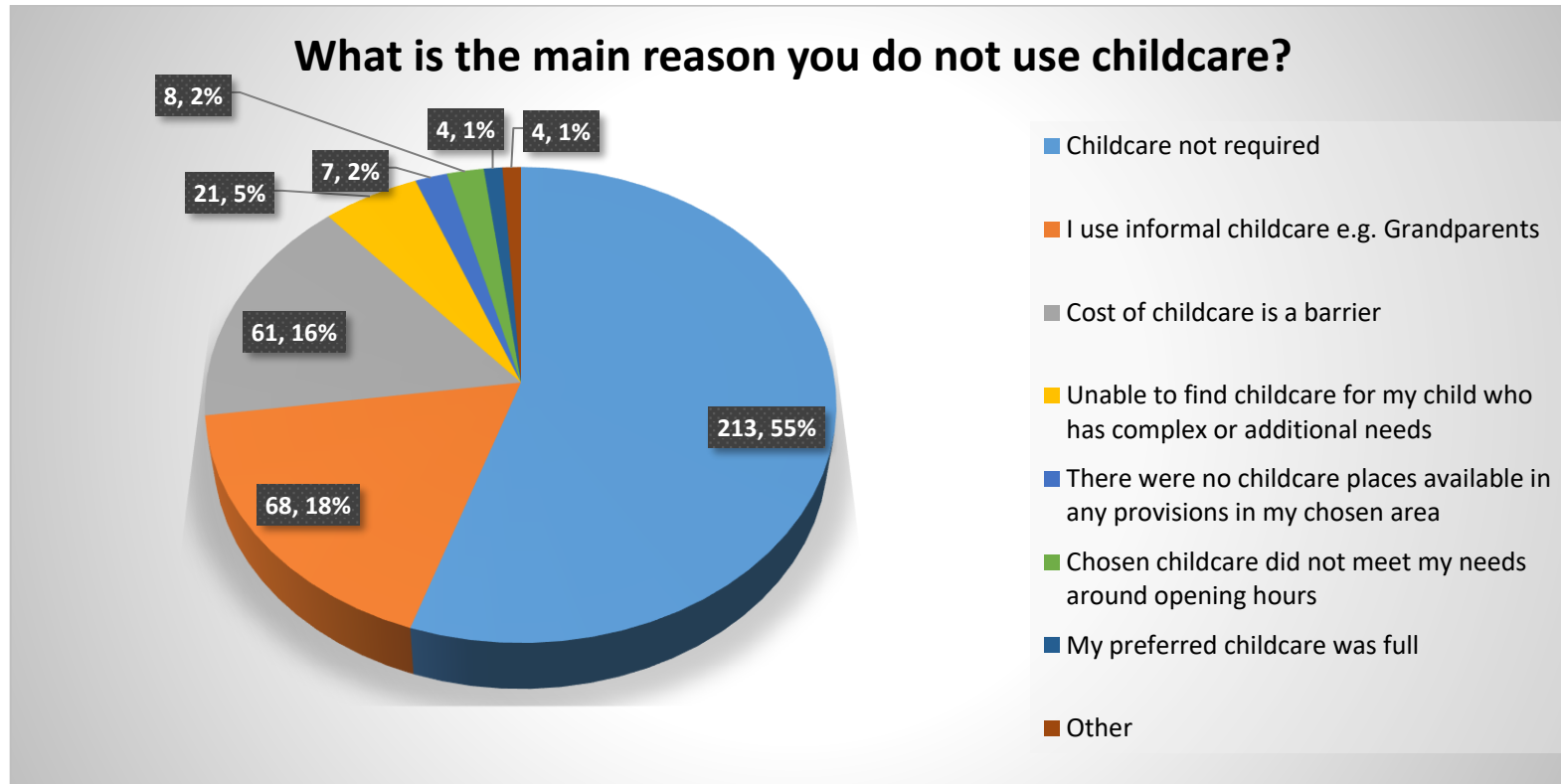
**Q5. What type of childcare would you expect to use in the next 6 to 12 months?**

The majority of those not yet using childcare stated that in the next 6-12 months they may use a day nursery (91 respondents), informal childcare (58 respondents) and/or after school clubs (55 respondents).



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

**Q5. What is the main reason you do not use childcare?**



The majority of respondents who did not use childcare stated that it was not required (213, 55%), informal childcare was used (68, 18%) or the cost of childcare is a barrier (61, 16%).

## 5b. 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: Adwick, Bentley, Askern, Scawsby Community Centre, Armthorpe, Edenthorpe, Moorends, Stainforth, Central, Wheatley, Balby, Hexthorpe, Denaby Main, Mexborough and Rossington. Sessions attended included play & stay sessions, Summer Fayres, First Friends sessions, family fests and family fun in the park events. 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 and the team spoke to 192 families in total.

## 5c. Families Information Service

The 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. They are the main point of contact for families who are searching for a childcare provider in Doncaster and in addition to the parent survey the Families Information Service record any childcare enquiries received.

From September 2023 to August 2024 the following searches were made using the online search function on the website. The table also includes comparisons to the previous two years:

<b>Provision Type</b>	<b>Number of Searches 2024</b>	<b>Number of Searches 2023</b>	<b>Number of searches 2022</b>
After School Clubs	606	613	539
Breakfast Clubs	346	269	253
Childminders	6831	5984	5444
Day Nurseries/Sessional Care	4754	3560	4183
Holiday Schemes	541	551	494
<b>Total</b>	<b>13078</b>	<b>10977</b>	<b>10913</b>

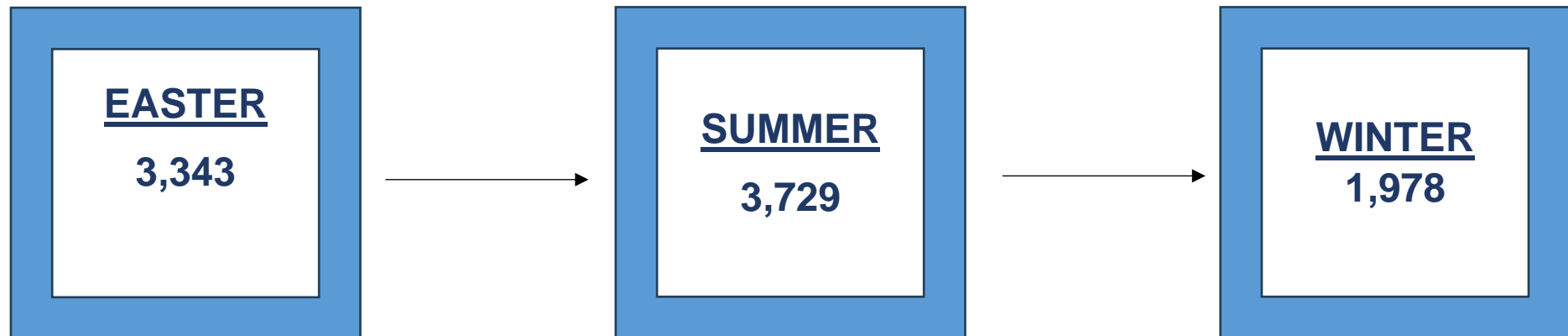
There was a total of 38 bespoke enquiries, of which 15 required additional support to be provided to the parent/carer. Of the 15 brokerage cases requiring additional support, 12 were unsuccessfully resolved. These were mostly a result of childcare being

needed for specific schools (AM/PM) where there wasn't sufficient childcare in the area, or where children had SEND and we were unable to find a suitable placement. The FIS also recorded where families told us about any childcare concerns they had relating to sufficiency. 10 of these were logged – 3 were supported with brokerage and have been recorded above, the other 7 did not take up the offer of brokerage support.

### 5d. Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)

Doncaster's Holiday, Activities and Food (HAF) Programme has been running since 2021. The programme is designed to provide healthy food and enriching activities for primary and secondary school aged children during the Easter, Summer and Winter school holidays. The programme is fully funded by the DfE and eligibility criteria applies (pupils in receipt of benefits related free school meals). To ensure accessibility, the activities are offered across the four locality areas of Doncaster and children are welcome to access all activities even if they are out of their local area. Families are offered the chance to try out new experiences, with 1,086 activity sessions being delivered by various providers across the city. 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.

#### Children/Young People Attending Figures:



The funding received from DfE to deliver the HAF is calculated based on the number of children eligible for and in receipt of benefits-related free school meals in Doncaster. The total annual funding amount received for 2023/2024 programme was £1,390,110. 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 & Help with Childcare Costs

As of September 2024, there were 68 Ofsted registered group childcare providers and 181 childminders registered on the Local Authority Directory to provide early years entitlements (also known as the 9 months, 2, 3 & 4 year-old funding). There are several different entitlements available for parents in England, which have different eligibility criteria. The early years entitlements are:

- 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of children from 9 months to 2 years old (new entitlement from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024)
- 15 hours entitlement for disadvantaged 2-year-olds
- 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of 2-year-old children (new entitlement from April 2024)
- The universal 15 hours entitlement for all 3- and 4-year-olds
- The additional 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of 3- and 4-year-olds (30 hours)

Details on how many hours childcare families can get per week, including the eligibility criteria for claiming and age ranges covered are detailed below.

**6a. How many hours childcare can you get per week and when?**

Age 9 months - 2 years	
Working families	
15 Hours	Now
30 Hours	Sept 2025

Age 2-3 years	
Families receiving government support	
15 Hours	Now
Working families	
15 Hours	Now
30 Hours	Sept 2025

Age 3-4 years	
All parents	
15 Hours	Now
Working families	
30 Hours	Now

Source: [childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://childcarechoices.gov.uk)

## 6b. Early Years Entitlements by Age Groups

### Early Years Entitlements from 9-Months (Working Families)

As of September 2024, 15 hours of childcare support has been extended to eligible working parents of children from the age of 9 months up to and including 2-year-olds. Working parents in England who each earn the equivalent of at least 16 hours per week at the National Minimum Wage are eligible.

Entitlement	Child's Age	What you can receive	How to apply
Working parents entitlements for 9 month olds	From the term after they turn 9 months	15 hours per week over 38 weeks of the year 30 hours per week from September 2025	Speak to your chosen childcare provider about if they can offer a place.  Apply online on gov.uk.

#### Eligibility:

From September 2024, you're eligible if you earn at least:

Your age	Yearly	3 Months	Monthly	Weekly
21 and over	£9,518	£2,379	£793	£183
18 to 20	£7,155	£1,788	£596	£137
Under 18 or an apprentice	£5,324	£1,331	£443	£102



## Early Years Entitlement 2 Year Olds (Working Families)

As of April 2024, 15 hours childcare support has been extended to eligible working parents of children from the term after they turn 2 years.

Entitlement	Child's Age	What you can receive	How to apply																				
Working parents entitlements for 2 year olds	From the term after they turn 2 years	15 hours per week over 38 weeks of the year 30 hours per week from September 2025	Speak to your chosen childcare provider about if they can offer a place.  Apply online on gov.uk.																				
<p><b>Eligibility:</b> From April 2024, you're eligible if you earn at least:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Your age</th> <th>Yearly</th> <th>3 Months</th> <th>Monthly</th> <th>Weekly</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>21 and over</td> <td>£9,518</td> <td>£2,379</td> <td>£793</td> <td>£183</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18 to 20</td> <td>£7,155</td> <td>£1,788</td> <td>£596</td> <td>£137</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Under 18 or an apprentice</td> <td>£5,324</td> <td>£1,331</td> <td>£443</td> <td>£102</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Your age	Yearly	3 Months	Monthly	Weekly	21 and over	£9,518	£2,379	£793	£183	18 to 20	£7,155	£1,788	£596	£137	Under 18 or an apprentice	£5,324	£1,331	£443	£102
Your age	Yearly	3 Months	Monthly	Weekly																			
21 and over	£9,518	£2,379	£793	£183																			
18 to 20	£7,155	£1,788	£596	£137																			
Under 18 or an apprentice	£5,324	£1,331	£443	£102																			

## Early Years Entitlement 2 Year Olds (Government Supported)

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.

Entitlement	Child's Age	What you can receive	How to apply
For parents of 2-year-olds receiving some additional forms of government support	From the term after they turn 2-years-old	15 hours per week over 38 weeks of the year	<p>Speak to your chosen childcare provider about if they can offer a place.</p> <p>Speak to your local authority about free childcare places for eligible two year olds.</p>
<p><b>Eligibility Criteria:</b></p> <p><b>Your 2-year-old can get free childcare if you live in England and get any of the following benefits:</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>• Universal credit, and your household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax, not including benefit payments.</li> <li>• Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit</li> <li>• Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit (or both), and your household income is £16,190 a year or less before tax.</li> <li>• The Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)</li> </ul> <p><b>2-year-olds can also get free childcare if they:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are looked after by a local authority.</li> <li>• Have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan.</li> <li>• Get Disability Living Allowance (DLA).</li> <li>• Have left care under an adoption order, special guardianship order or a child arrangements order.</li> <li>• Part of a family receiving Home Office asylum support provided under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999</li> </ul>			

### Early Years Entitlement for Universal 15 hours for 3- & 4-Year Olds

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

Entitlement	Child's Age	Eligibility	What you can receive	How to apply
Universal entitlement for 3- and 4-year-olds	From the term after they turn 3 through to starting school	All 3 and 4 year olds are eligible irrespective of income levels, benefit status or family circumstances	15 hours per week over 38 weeks of the year  Can be combined with the working parents entitlement to make up 30 hours.	Speak to your chosen childcare provider about if they can offer a place.

## Early Years Entitlement for 30 Hours Childcare (Extended Hours)

This is an entitlement for eligible working families starting the term following the child's third birthday for up to 30 hours per week.

Entitlement	Child's Age	What you can receive	How to apply
Working parents entitlements for 3 & 4 year olds	From the term after they turn 3 years old through to starting school	30 hours per week over 38 weeks of the year	<p>Speak to your chosen childcare provider about if they can offer a place.</p> <p>Apply online on gov.uk.</p>
<p><b>Eligibility Criteria:</b>            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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each parent earns less than £100,000 per year.</li> <li>• Both parents are working and in a lone parent family the sole parent must work</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul> <p><b>Exceptions:</b>            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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• one parent is employed and one parent:</li> <li>• has substantial caring responsibilities based on specific benefits received for caring.</li> <li>• is disabled or incapacitated based on receipt of specific benefits.</li> </ul>			

Source: [childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://childcarechoices.gov.uk)

## 6c. Take up of funding for 9 months, 2- 3- and 4-year-old children

### 9 Month Take-up

This table shows the number of children accessing the 9-month funding across Doncaster since it was officially rolled out in September 2024.

	<b>Number of families accessing the working families 9 month old funding</b>
<b>Autumn Term</b>	1267

### 2-Year-Old Funding - Government Supported Families

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

	<b>Sept 2023 to Aug 2024 Take-up rates</b>	<b>Sept 2022 to Aug 2023 Take-up rates</b>	<b>Sept 2021 to Aug 2022 Take-up rates</b>
<b>Autumn Term</b>	84.4%	86.1%	87%
<b>Spring Term</b>	71.5%	82.6%	86.2%
<b>Summer Term</b>	71.1%	77.7%	83.4%

### 2-Year-Old Funding - Working Families

This table shows the number of 2 year olds accessing the working families (2year old) funding since it was officially rolled out in April 2024. (Summer Term 2024)

<b>Term</b>	<b>Number of families accessing the working families 2 year old funding</b>
<b>Summer Term 2024</b>	1018
<b>Autumn Term 2024</b>	1259

### 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.

	<b>Sept 2023 to Aug 2024 Take-up rates</b>	<b>Sept 2022 to Aug 2023 Take-up rates</b>	<b>Sept 2021 to Aug 2022 Take-up rates</b>
<b>Autumn Term</b>	100%	97.7%	97.1%
<b>Spring Term</b>	100%	96.6%	97.1%
<b>Summer Term</b>	99.3%	99.6%	95.5%

### 3- & 4- Year-old Extended Hours Take-up rates

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

	<b>Sept 2023 to Aug 2024 Take-up rates</b>	<b>Sept 2022 to Aug 2023 Take-up rates</b>	<b>Sept 2021 to Aug 2022 Take-up rates</b>
<b>Autumn Term</b>	47.80%	47.10%	40.94%
<b>Spring Term</b>	61.88%	63.41%	56.98%
<b>Summer Term</b>	72.16%	74.80%	66.89%

### 6d. Foster Carers (30 Hours)

Children in foster care who are aged 9 months to 4-years-old could also be eligible for the working parent entitlements, provided the foster parent is in paid work outside their fostering role and does not expect their adjusted net income to exceed £100,000, giving foster families the same support as other families where it is right for the child. If you are a foster carer, there is a separate application process. Speak to your social worker to find out more. Foster carer applications have been low in Doncaster since 2017 and remain low to date. In total there have been 24 applications (8 in the past year) from Foster Carers since 2017, the first application was in 2018.

## **6e. Early Years Funding Incentive (EYFI)**

Doncaster has been selected to join an exciting national pilot to encourage people to return to or start a career in early years. It means that these professionals could be entitled to a 'Golden Hello' payment through the Early Years Financial Incentive (EYFI).

The Department for Education (DfE) has launched the pilot to test whether financial incentives in the early years sector will boost recruitment. New research highlights just how influential early years professionals are in a child's development, with 97% of parents agreeing that an early years' professional had an impact on their child's development, and two thirds (66%) agreeing that they are one of the most important people in their child's life.

The aim of the pilot is to help childcare providers in Doncaster to attract staff and fill vacancies, by paying an incentive payment of £1,000 to eligible individuals who take up a job with them. Doncaster was allocated a budget of £120,215.50 for this project. Doncaster is one of twenty local authorities across the country that has been selected to take part in the pilot scheme. The pilot will include applicants from 1st April 2024 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

What have we done so far?

All targeted settings were asked to complete a questionnaire based on their need and capacity to be involved within the EYFI scheme, this was then expanded to all group providers.

Recruitment guides were produced and distributed to all providers in June 24, through Families Information Service, highlighting the EYFI project. These included example job adverts, how to include the financial incentive within recruitment and safer recruitment practices guides. Support was provided through a dedicated email facility and telephone support where required.

To date, we have identified 44 successful applicants through this project and allocated £57376.22 of project funding.



## 6f. National Data Education Provision

### Headline facts and figures for children under 5 (as of January 2024):

#### 15 hours: 2-year-olds registered

**115,900**

**Down 7% since 2023 and lowest in series**

What's this? Certain disadvantaged 2 year olds are eligible for the 15 hour entitlement.

#### 15 hours: 3 and 4-year-olds registered

**1.2 million**

**Down 2% since 2023 and lowest in series**

What's this? All 3 & 4 year olds are eligible for the 15-hour entitlement.

#### 30 hours: 3 and 4-year-olds registered.

**361,800**

**Down 0.3% from 2023 but second highest in series**

What's this? 3- & 4-year-olds with eligible working parents are entitled to the 30 hour entitlement.

#### 15 hours: estimated take-up rate for eligible 2 year olds

**75%**

**Up from 74% in 2023 and highest in series**

What's this? The number of 2-year-olds eligible is estimated using the number of households with 2 year olds in receipt of income related benefits but excludes children eligible for other reasons.

#### 15 hours: estimated take-up rate for 3-and-4-year-olds

**95%**

**Up from 94% in 2023 and highest since 2014**

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 2024, the number of disadvantaged 2-year-olds eligible and registered for the 15-hour entitlement continued to decrease, however the take-up rate increased. This is because the number of children eligible decreased more than the number of children eligible and registered. This is due to three factors i) falling birth rate in recent years, ii) the transition to universal credit from legacy benefits, and iii) income thresholds for the eligibility criteria remaining unchanged whilst average incomes have risen in recent years.
- The number of 3 and 4-year olds registered for the 15-hour entitlement continued to decrease, however the take-up rate increased. All 3 and 4-year olds are eligible, therefore the increase in the take up rate was due to falling birth rates causing the 3 and 4-year old population to decrease more than the number of children registered.
- Whilst the number of children registered for the 30-hour entitlement fell slightly, it still represented the second highest figure in the series (which started in 2018). Take up rate is estimated to be over 4 in 5 eligible children.
- Please note that a full and consistent timeseries based on Census 2021 population data was not available at the time of publication, therefore the take-up rates of 3 and 4-year-olds registered for the 15-hour entitlement, which are calculated based on historic population data, need to be treated with caution. The scale is consistent with 2023, therefore year-on-year comparisons with last year are appropriate.

Excluding children (mainly 4-year-olds) attending reception in state-funded schools, across all types of entitlement, most children (66%) were registered at private, voluntary, and independent providers (excluding childminders). Of the 3 and 4-year-olds registered for the 30-hour entitlement, the percentage accessing it in a state-funded school (including nurseries) has increased each year from 18% at its introduction in 2018 to 25% in 2024.

<b>Number of children registered for entitlements by provider type, 2024</b>			
	<b>Private, voluntary, and independent providers (excluding childminders)</b>	<b>State-funded schools</b>	<b>Childminders</b>
2-year-olds, 15-hour entitlement	92,075	18,063	5,714
3 and 4 year olds, 15-hour entitlement	481,734	275,514	21,079
3 and 4 year olds, 30-hour entitlement	253,119	88,744	19,927
3 and 4 year olds, reception		391,177	

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](#).

## **6g. Tax Free Childcare**

Tax-free childcare can be used to help pay for any additional hours above the hours claimed through entitlements. Tax-free childcare is for working families in the UK with children aged 0-11 years (0-16 years if disabled), including the self-employed, who earn under £100,000 and at least £152 per week (equal to 16 hours at the National Minimum or Living Wage) each. Families can get up to £500 every 3 months (up to £2,000 a year) for each child to help with costs of childcare. For every £8 paid into the online account, the government will add an extra £2. Tax Free Childcare can be used alongside the 15 and 30 funded hours schemes.

If either you, or your partner, expect to earn £100,000 or more, or you use childcare vouchers, claim Universal Credit or tax credits, you can't use Tax-Free Childcare. 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 is taking 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 sustained a high number of wraparound places for many years. The wraparound programme has enabled a full analysis of sufficiency gaps, and funding to be provided to schools, PVI and childminders to expand or create new wraparound provision where required to meet the needs of working parents.</p>	<p>A programme of high-level analysis, consultation and reporting has taken place to assess supply and demand at a city wide and locality level. This reporting details any required actions at locality level (pyramids).</p> <p>Action plans reflect ongoing data / intelligence including up-to-date termly occupancy information, parent analysis</p>

		<p>data and provider / school readiness findings.</p> <p>DFE Wraparound programme funding has been distributed to providers where required.</p> <p>It will also take into account the latest government guidance.</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> <li>• Funding Consultation is out at present. Re – New increased rates</li> <li>• Ongoing lobbying, awareness raising around the issues facing providers.</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 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>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 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting Sheffield Mayoral strategy board</li> <li>• Working alongside DWP to promote childcare as a career.</li> <li>• Links with Doncaster College / Sheffield Hallam University and other local training facilitators</li> <li>• A full recruitment strategy to continue to be implemented to support the sector with recruitment / promoting working within the childcare sector.</li> <li>• Working cohesively across CDC internal teams to find innovative ways to address recruitment sufficiency issues.</li> <li>• Extension of the EYFI pilot to March 2025 due to successful implementation in Doncaster.</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 Spring 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>



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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