

Tuesday 28th November 2023 6.30pm-

- Provider Forum- you represent Solihull providers
- Terms of Reference
- Purpose: To seek views so less about the information sharing and more about the discussion [future meetings]



Sharing knowledge- in action 'have you thought about', 'I'm concerned about.....'



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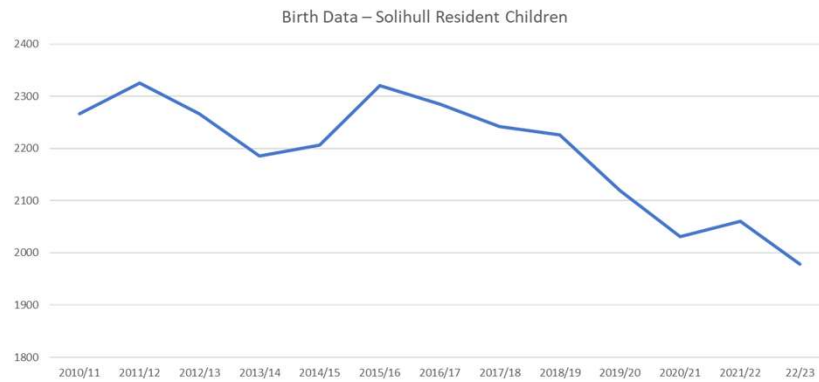
Focus areas for today

- Introductions (All)
- Supply and demand for places – what we know so far (Ann)
- Early Years and Childcare Provider Survey Results (Lisa)
- Solihull Council Financial Position (Steve)
- New Government Entitlements – latest information for parents and providers (Rosie & Tom)
- Wraparound Childcare (Lisa)
- Contacts within Solihull Council (Lisa)



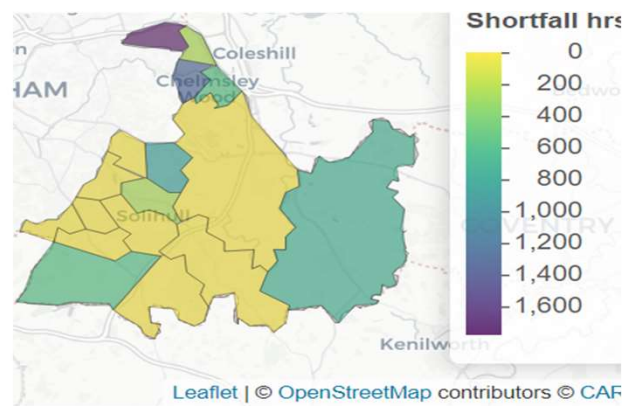
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What we know so far- supply and demand



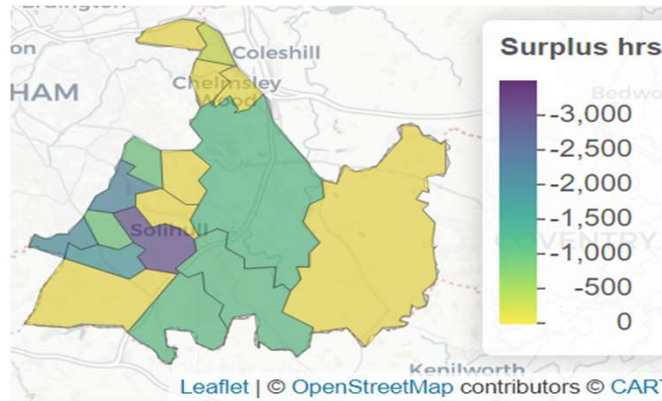
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DfE Forecast Shortfall for Sept 2025



4

DfE Forecast Surplus at Sept 2025



DfE Outcomes

April 2024

0 places needed
+0%

**September
2024**

0 places needed
+0%

**September
2025**

0 places needed
+0%

Next Steps

- DfE data has some limitations so more detailed work around key areas and wards
- Understand the impact of out of borough children on available places.
- Understand local data better around paid for places for 9 to 36 month children and where providers feel there is limited capacity in an area.

Provider Survey Results Autumn 2023

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our recent survey. We wanted to find out what capacity you have and if you have any plans to increase your provision

The survey was sent out to 235 childcare providers and Schools

We have received 64 responses

20 providers have children under 2 years old on a waiting list

13 providers have children aged 2 years on a waiting list

15 providers have spaces for under 2's

23 providers have spaces for 2 year olds

5 providers would consider expanding their provision next year

The most common reasons for not expanding are to do with lack of space and the cost of employing more staff

16 providers have space to expand if demand increased

We may send out further surveys to establish local supply and demand. Your feedback is valuable and appreciated

Finance matters...

- “29th November 00:01), we (the DfE) will announce the local authority hourly funding rates for 2024-25 and publish the government’s response to the recent consultation on early years entitlement funding...
- **What we have to do:**
- construct a local funding formula – agreed we will do this based on the same principles and proportions as the 3 – 4-year-old formula – a basic unit rate and a supplement for deprivation.
- Establishes inclusion funding for 2 year-olds and under 2s (funded from the local authority received rates for 2 and under 2 early years grant funding)
- construct plan for additional staffing to deliver the proposals, based on retaining up to 5% of the additional grant to be received, as permitted by the government (agreed by School Forum).
- BUT – at the moment don’t have necessary info to do any of this

Finance matters...

- Providers have told us they must have indication of rates for their Business planning in January
- May need to model estimated rates, then, if necessary, re-adjust in-year
- All we know at the moment:
- **Provisional 2 YO rate £7.87** (paid to LA, but also needs to pay for a deprivation supplement and 2 YO Inclusion fund, and additional central services, so basic rate to providers will be less than this) Currently £7.75
- **Provisional U2 Rate £10.70** (again this will reduce as a base per hour rate as have to have a deprivation supplement and an inclusion fund element, and central services)
- Early years pupil premium – hourly funding rate £0.68 (£0.66 currently)
- Disability access fund – yearly funding rate £902 (£881 currently)

Government Entitlements

- **From April 2024**, working parents of two-year-olds will be able to access up to 15 hours of early education funding per week from the term after their child's 2nd birthday;
- **From September 2024**, this will be extended to working parents of children aged 9 months and above;
- **From September 2025**, working parents will be able to access up to 30 free hours per week for children from age 9 months up until 1 September following his or her fifth birthday.

A child will be entitled to the additional funded hours from the term after both of the following conditions are satisfied:

- 1) the child has attained the relevant age;
- 2) the child's parent has a valid eligibility code from HMRC.

- For **2 year old funding** there will be **2 schemes** – the existing benefits related criteria (including LAC children and children in receipt of DLA) and working families. Where families meet both criteria we will be asking parents to apply via the existing criteria (to Solihull Council) as parents won't need to re-confirm codes every 3 months.
- **Working parents will apply to HMRC** as they do for 3&4 year old extended hours.
- **Parents on benefits will continue to apply via to FIS via the Parent Portal.**
- Please **direct parents to the correct application procedure**. We will be directing parents who don't meet the benefits check to HMRC but it would be helpful if you can explain the correct process to parents to speed things up.
- **Working parents** of children who are age eligible for 2 year old funding from April 2024 can start applying for their 2 year old funding eligibility code from **2nd January 2024**.
- Childcare providers should follow the existing 30 hours process of **checking the eligibility code** before offering a place using the eligibility checker on the provider portal and gathering the information via the Parental Declaration Form.

- Parents will be expected to **re-confirm their code every 3 months** (reminder will be sent from HMRC).
- FIS will **audit codes 5 times per year** and ask you to let the parents know if they haven't completed their reconfirmation.
- It is proposed that **EYPP, DAF and Inclusion Fund** will be extended to the younger age groups. The result of this consultation will be in early 2024.
- **New Statutory Guidance on Early Years and Childcare** will be issued in **January 2024**. We will distribute when it arrives and highlight any changes made by the DfE.

Monthly Payments

- **Pilot scheme in Summer 2024 term.**
- Full rollout from Autumn 2024 term. You will be asked if you want to sign up to this option in Summer 2024 and if you sign up this will be your funding method for the academic year.
- The **default payment method will be the 75% advance payment, 25% headcount payment**. You will need to sign up to monthly payments during Summer 2024 term when prompted. We are unable to switch payment method during the academic year due to the impact on other Council teams who assist with processing the payments.

FIS Provider Helpline

- We are proposing that there will be **1 helpline telephone number and email address** for you to contact regarding funding queries rather than you contacting different colleagues in the FIS team.
- All staff who answer the helpline will be trained to deal with your enquiry. This will help streamline customer service and ensure you get an answer as quickly as possible.
- Further details in due course.

15



The principal aim of the programme is to ensure childcare provision is regular, has longer hours and is more dependable for working parents

Lisa Morris- shared at HT breakfast meeting

16

- The government's ambition is that by 2026, all parents and carers of primary school-aged children who need it will be able to access term time childcare in their local area. This should be available from 8am-6pm, so that parents can access employment and improve labour market participation.
- The expectation is that all wraparound provision is 8am-6pm, enabling parents to work a full day with travel time, unless data shows that local demand is for different hours, for example reflecting local labour market patterns.
- Whilst schools are integral to this programme, not all schools will provide wraparound childcare directly

Definition WA – wrap around

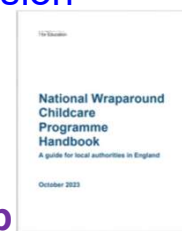
- Primary schools – YR to Y6
- REGULAR before and after school care [not one-off clubs] Monday to Friday
- 8am to 6pm at least
- This provision can be offered by schools and private, voluntary and independent (PVI) providers (including childminders and early years settings) and can be run on a school site or at another setting in the area.

- It should not require parents to pick their children up from school and drop them off at another location.
- The programme should deliver provision that is child-centred, easily accessible, and responds to the needs of the families, including those of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).
- LAs will get some capacity and capital funding
- Develop and expand provision for every school-building on strong partnerships already in place *[such as Beechwood Childcare on 5 Solihull school sites]*

- DfE plans to publish guidance for schools + in early 2024, which will include practical guidance to support those who wish to deliver or expand wraparound childcare provision

LA -Wrap around lead in each LA

- **What is already available?**
- **SEND- specialist schools**
- **Where are the Solihull gaps to set-up expand wraparound for self-sustaining provision?**
- **Do you have lots of contacts you can't supply?**



How should we work to fill the gaps?

Timescale

Date	Activity
November 2023	LA start planning and recruitment of a designated wraparound lead Childminder grant scheme opens
December 2023	LAs receive first capacity funding payment to employ staff – map provision and prepare for delivery
January 2024	Guidance published- for schools and their partners DfE appoint a delivery partner
2023-2024	DfE and partner support and monitoring of delivery plans and roll out
September 2024	Programme launch

21

Estimates.....

Table 7: Supply of on-site wraparound childcare in Solihull (definitions below)

Schools with primary-aged pupils	Schools offering before-school childcare	Total number of before-school places	Schools offering after-school childcare	Total number of after-school places	Schools providing before and after school	Schools providing neither	Schools providing full wraparound	Schools not providing full wraparound
59	58	3,238	57	2,873	57	1	49	10

This summary is based on returns from schools in the January 2022 School Census, the most timely available data, which have not been directly verified. It does not report on wraparound provision that may be supplied off-school sites. It also does not report whether capacity is exceeded by demand at schools or not.

Ann Pearson

[...annpearson@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:annpearson@solihull.gov.uk)

Parents survey and liaising with the community around a school to identify what our Solihull need is

22

Solihull Contacts

<i>Name</i>	<i>Aspect</i>	<i>Contact</i>
<i>Lisa Morris</i>	EY Team- EY and childcare 'quality' Early Years Inclusion Fund -coordinator	eyenquiries@solihull.gov.uk lmorris@solihull.gov.uk
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