

Nottinghamshire County Council
Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2016
Final report March 2016



Working to promote equal chances, challenge disadvantage and
achieve best practice in services for children and families since 1999

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1 Introduction

Nottinghamshire County Council commissioned Hemsall's to undertake a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) in February and March 2016. The overall aim is to ensure that Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) can deliver its Childcare Sufficiency Duty within the context of changing Government policy. Within this overall objective for the CSA, the key aims are:

- to identify current and future potential needs and demands
- to identify and verify current supply to meet identified needs
- to identify potential supply
- to highlight challenges in meeting either sufficiency or quality of such provision
- to propose alternative delivery models to meet flexible needs of eligible parents/families

1.1 Methodology

The CSA has drawn on data provided by NCC with additional desk research to inform an assessment of current supply and future need:

- NCC conducted a provider survey which closed in January 2016. Data from this survey, with information held by the Family Information Service (FIS) has been used to inform an assessment of supply, with comparisons made to the 2015 CSA to review any changes to supply over the past 12 months
- An on-line parent/carers survey was undertaken by NCC and data shared with Hemsall's to provide an assessment of current use and unmet demand for childcare
- Qualitative research (interviews/focus group discussions with parents and carers) has provided additional information to inform an assessment of sufficiency and to identify any gaps that might exist
- Desk research has been undertaken to:
 - Provide a context for the CSA
 - Identify possible demand for 30 hours for 3 and 4 year olds
 - Provide an assessment of quality based on Ofsted inspection outcomes

1.2 The strategic context for childcare sufficiency

The Childcare Act (2006) requires local authorities in England to ensure a sufficiency of childcare for working parents, parents studying or training, and for disabled children.

Childcare sufficiency relates to the provision of registered childcare for children aged 0-14 years old, and up to an including 17 years old for disabled children and children with additional needs.

The duties in the act (section 6) require local authorities to shape and support the development of childcare in their area in order to make it flexible, sustainable and responsive to the needs of the community. This role is described as a 'market management' function, supporting the sector to meet the needs of parents, children and young people, parents and stakeholders.

Under section 6 of the act there is a requirement on local authorities to produce an annual sufficiency report on the availability and sufficiency of childcare in their area. This information should be made available to parents and elected members.

To meet section 6 duties, local authorities need to collect and publish information on the supply of provision and demand for childcare in their area. Statutory guidance provides clear indication of what must be included in the annual review, and what should be included.

Section 7 requires local authorities to secure prescribed early years provision free of charge. This provision is for children aged 2, 3 and 4 years of age. In the region of 40% of two year olds nationally¹ are legally entitled to free early years provision, and all three and four year olds. From September 2017, eligible families will have access to 30 hours free childcare for three-and-four- year-olds, extending the current provision of up to 15 hours a week (570 hours a year) universal early learning for this age range. Nottinghamshire County Council

¹ Help paying for childcare: <https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-and-education-for-2-to-4-year-olds> Accessed March 2016

has been selected by the Department for Education as an early innovator for the expanded entitlement and will be testing methods of delivery from April 2016.

Section 12 places a duty on local authorities to provide information, advice and assistance to parents and prospective parents relating to the provision of childcare, services or facilities that may be of benefit to parents and prospective parents, children and young people, something that aims to be strengthened in the upcoming Childcare Bill (2016).

The focus of childcare sufficiency is on supporting working parents/carers and those studying or training to do so, and supports a number of other policy priorities, including:

Child poverty

The Government's Child Poverty Strategy 2014-2017 takes forward the work of the Child Poverty Strategy 2011-2014. The strategy reasserts a commitment to tackle poverty at its source – be it family breakdown, education failure, addiction, debt or worklessness².

Childcare sufficiency has a role to play in achieving this aim:

- Affordable childcare supports families to work, or to train for maximise work opportunities which helps to raise household income and improve outcomes for children – children in workless families are three times as likely to be in relative poverty than families where at least one parent works
- Good quality pre-school experience supports children's cognitive and emotional development, aiding transition between home and school and improving school readiness³. A key platform of the Child Poverty Strategy is to break the cycle of poor children going on to be poor adults by raising educational attainment.

² Child Poverty Strategy 2014-17:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/324103/Child_poverty_strategy.pdf Accessed March 2016

³ Effective Pre-school Education, Institute of Education (2004)

Supporting economic well-being

There are clear links between the Child Poverty Strategy and supporting parents into work through the Work Programme, Help to Work scheme and flexible support through Jobcentre Plus. These schemes rely upon the availability of good quality, affordable childcare. For some families this need is at least partially satisfied by informal childcare arrangements (e.g. family and friends) but for no means all. Single parent households and families without established social structures may not have access to informal care. For those that do, informal care may not support the social and cognitive outcomes associated with good quality formal pre-school learning.

Links to the Troubled Families programme

Troubled families are defined as those that have problems and cause problems to the community around them, putting high costs on the public sector⁴. For some children living in a troubled family, access to childcare and out of school activities can provide structure and routine, supporting socialisation and school attendance. Childcare can support a parent to attend counselling, training, or to take up employment.

Supporting the children's centre remit

The core purpose of children's centres⁵ is to improve outcomes for young children and their families and reduce inequalities between families in greatest need and their peers in:

- Child development and school readiness
- Parenting aspirations and parenting skills
- Child and family health and life chances

Part of the children's centre role is to work with childcare providers offering funded early learning places to ensure families who need it can access integrated support. A healthy and engaged childcare market supports children's centres by signposting families to services and identifying where early intervention may be required.

⁴ Support for Families: <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/helping-troubled-families-turn-their-lives-around> Accessed March 2016

⁵ Sure Start children's centres statutory guidance: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/273768/childrens_centre_stat_guidance_april_2013.pdf Accessed March 2016

Supporting children to achieve their potential

There is a large body of evidence demonstrating the lasting impact of good quality early years childcare and the savings in future expenditure that can be made by investing in children aged under five years old (e.g. Field 2010)⁶. In 2008 a Joseph Rowntree Trust report concluded that appropriate childcare could move between a sixth and a half of children out of poverty today. A 2012 DfE research report⁷ evidenced that early education starting at an early age had a direct impact on the attainment of children.

The body of evidence is large and growing; studies find a quality pre-school experience can boost children's all-round development, and is particularly beneficial for least advantaged children.

⁶ Field (2010) 'The Foundation Years – preventing poor children becoming poor adults': <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110120090128/http://povertyreview.independent.gov.uk/media/20254/poverty-report.pdf> Accessed March 2016

⁷ DfE (2012) 'Achievement of Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile': <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/achievement-of-children-in-the-early-years-foundation-stage-profile> Accessed March 2016

2 Key findings

2.1 The profile of Nottinghamshire

The County has three distinct areas:

- Relatively affluent suburbs surrounding the City of Nottingham
- Towns and villages in the north west which grew out of the textile and coal industries
- Rural areas to the east and south characterised by prosperous market towns and villages in the Trent Valley

These distinct areas require different solutions to ensure sufficiency of childcare to meet the needs of parents working or training for work. Urban areas, for example, may result in demand for childcare in highly localised areas, or on main transport routes. In rural areas, demand may be more dispersed and transport issues may impact on accessibility. The nature of work – standard office hours (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm) may be more prevalent in areas with a high number of office-based jobs, but less evident in other areas where there may be a greater reliance on shift work and different working hours. Flexible childcare provision, childcare available before 9am and after 5pm, and at weekends, is required to meet these different working patterns and parental needs.

2.1.1 Child population

The child population in Nottinghamshire is forecast to increase over the next 20 years with the greatest increases in Broxtowe (14.4% increase) and Gedling (9.9% increase). As at 2014 there were in the region of 134,631 children aged 0-14 years old living in the county, 13% of whom were aged 0-1 years old and 21% aged 2-4 years of age. School aged children accounted for two-thirds (66%) of the child population.

There has been a significant increase in the number of young claimants of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) across the county (aged 0-16 years old). In 2002 there were 3,010 children aged 0-16 years old claiming DLA and in 2014 this had risen by 77% to 5,320.

This has a specific impact on childcare sufficiency. The Childcare Act (2006) requires local authorities in England to ensure a sufficiency of childcare for working parents, parents studying or training, and for disabled children.

The forecasted increase in the child population will require an increase in childcare capacity for all age ranges over the coming years. The significant increase in the number of young claimants of DLA will require a focus on this population to review access and take-up to inform plans to ensure sufficiency of appropriate provision.

2.1.2 Economy

Economic activity in Nottinghamshire is in line with East Midlands and the country as a whole. Unemployment has fallen over the past year, in line with the national picture, and was at 5.1% of the working age population between October 2014 and September 2015.

Nottinghamshire has a higher proportion of employee jobs in traditional industries including manufacturing (just under 14% in Nottinghamshire compared to 13% in East Midlands and 9% in GB) and construction (6% in Nottinghamshire compared to 4% in East Midlands and 5% GB). Public administration, education and health account for the highest proportion of employee jobs, representing 27% of service industries. Just over a third of all employee jobs are part-time (34.2%) and employees may hold more than one part-time job.

Gross weekly pay and hourly pay (excluding overtime) in Nottinghamshire is lower than across the region and in GB. Average earnings show wide variation between districts with relatively high gross weekly pay in Rushcliffe (31% above the county average) and Broxtowe (14% above the county average) and relatively low gross weekly pay in Ashfield and Mansfield (both 13% below the county average).

2.1.3 Deprivation

Based on the Indices of Deprivation (2015) Mansfield district has the highest level of multiple deprivation, ranking 56th out of 326 English local authorities. Rushcliffe district has the lowest level of multiple deprivation, ranked 319 out of 326 English local authorities.

2.2 Fees charged for childcare

The cost of childcare in Nottinghamshire has decreased since 2015, based on data collated by the Families Information Service. Decreases in average fees are relatively low in childminding (-2%) and after school provision (-5%) and relatively high in day nurseries -17% for children aged under two years old and -18% for children aged two years and older.

Nationally, average charges for a part-time (25 hour) place in nursery for a child aged under two years has increased by 1.1% since 2015 and childminding charges for the same age range have remained virtually static (£104.06 in 2015 and £104.27 in 2016).

Parents identify the fees for childcare as a barrier to use. Over a fifth (22%) of survey respondents using childcare and reporting their current arrangements did not meet all of their needs cited cost as an issue. For respondents not using childcare, a third (33%) identified fees as a barrier. The majority of survey respondents (around 50%) did not feel childcare fees are affordable, or represent good value for money.

2.3 Current provision

Since the 2015 CSA there has been a decrease in the number of registered early years and childcare providers in Nottinghamshire. Overall, numbers have decreased by 4% from 1,253 in 2015 to 1,202 in 2016.

The 2015 CSA identified a decrease in childminding provision of 6% - this has continued with a further decrease in registered childminders from 782 in 2015 to 737 in 2016 (a decrease of 45).

There has been a marked decline in out of school provision with 25% fewer places registered in 2016 compared to 2015 (77 compared to 103).

In addition to the 77 Ofsted registered out of school providers, NCC information shows an additional 54 settings that are not Ofsted registered.

Taking this additional provision into account, numbers of out of school providers have increased by 28 since the 2015 CSA (if it is assumed non-registered settings were accounted for in the data presented last year).

Out of school provision may be available after school (in the form of clubs, activities and groups) run by the school, for pupils attending the school, and for less than 2 hours. It is not required to be registered as childcare and is not always advertised with the FIS. The question is the extent to which such provision can be classed as 'childcare' to meet the sufficiency duty. After school activities provided by schools may be available for limited hours (e.g. 45 minutes to an hour and therefore be too short for formal registration) and may be more subject to short term cancellation (for example, if a teacher is off sick or is required elsewhere) and therefore is not typically considered reliable enough to support parent/carers to work.

There are 8 maintained nursery and infant classes through which early learning for two-year-olds is being delivered, and 254 maintained nursery and infant classes delivering the early years entitlement for three- and four-year-olds.

2.4 Quality of provision

As at 31st August 2015, 11% of early years provision in Nottinghamshire was rated outstanding by Ofsted and 75% was rated as good⁸. Across the country, 85% of registered early years provision is rated as good or outstanding⁹ Quality in early years provision has been increasing. As at 31st August 2012, 70% of early years provision was rated as good or outstanding and this increased to 86% in 2015.

There are differences in the quality of provision as rated by Ofsted across districts. 90% of early years settings in the districts of Ashfield and Mansfield were rated as good or outstanding compared to 81% in Sherwood and 82% in Newark.

⁸ Ofsted Data View:

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/ofsted#!/vizhome/Dataview/Viewregionalperformancevertime> Accessed February 2016

⁹ Ofsted 'Early years report 2015':

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/445730/Early_years_report_2015.pdf Accessed March 2016

The majority of parental survey respondents (84%) reported feeling the quality of childcare was high.

2.5 Indicators of unmet demand

Findings from the parent/carer survey identify unmet need for childcare in Nottinghamshire. Over a third of respondents (36%) stated current childcare use did not meet all of their needs with higher levels of dissatisfaction found in Gedling, Newark and Sherwood and Rushcliffe. This finding holds across all age ranges.

Costs, opening hours and flexibility of provision were the most commonly identified barriers cited by 22% of respondents in each case.

A high percentage of survey respondents were satisfied with their current childcare (79%). However, respondents also identify a lack of availability and choice and there are high levels of informal childcare use (family and friends). Nearly half of all childcare users (46%) used family for some or all of their childcare and 15% reported using friends and neighbours. Qualitative feedback and comments made by survey respondents indicate that for at least some of these parents use of family and friends is a necessity, not a choice, as a result of the cost of childcare or a lack of provision either generally or at times when it is needed.

A lack of provision in school holidays is identified as a particular gap with only 40% of survey respondents reporting enough places in school holidays. Nearly a third of respondents (30%) indicated childcare was not available at times when it is needed.

Survey respondents indicate a lack of provision for people working shifts or having irregular working patterns. 30% of survey respondents reported being unable to find childcare that fits in with their work patterns and 43% were unable to find flexible childcare to suit their irregular working patterns. Based on comments made by parents completing the survey, and echoed in qualitative feedback, concern about the availability and flexibility of current childcare provision to meet needs is a primary issue.

Looking ahead, the greatest demand for pre-school children over the next 12 months is for all year round provision. Extended childcare (defined in the survey as childcare to fit in with shifts i.e. before 8am and after 6pm) was needed by 22% of parents with a pre-school aged child. For school-aged children, responses indicated high demand for after school provision and strong demand for before school provision. Responses also indicate a need for flexible and stretched provision (e.g. outside a 'normal' working day of 9/9.30am and 5/5.30pm) and for all year round provision.

2.6 Early years entitlements

Currently all three- and four-year-olds and around 40% of two-year-olds nationally are entitled to up to 15 hours a week, or 570 hours a year, free early learning. In Nottinghamshire there are around 3,143 eligible two-year-olds and 18,894 three- and four-year-olds that have a statutory eligibility for the early years entitlement.

Take-up, based on data supplied by NCC, is around 66% for two-year-olds and 100% for three-and-four- year-olds. Nationally 94% of three-year-olds and 99% of four-year-olds were accessing their entitlement as at January 2015. For two-year-olds it was around 58% nationally and Nottinghamshire were funding around 60% (source: Statistical First Release, January 2015).

Delivery of the two-year-old entitlement fluctuates nationally and locally from term to term. This is a reflection of a newly introduced entitlement (the entitlement for 40% of two-year-olds to a free early education place came into force September 2014) and new cohorts of two-year-olds becoming eligible each term, as others transition to a three-year-old funded place.

As at the end of 2015, Nottinghamshire were funding around 70% of eligible two-year-olds against a national average of around 72% (source: A2YO December 2015). As at March 2016 the authority were funding 2,074 children, 66% of eligible numbers. National data is not currently available (March 2016) for the spring term 2016.

2.7 Policy direction

There are a number of policy initiatives that will impact on childcare sufficiency. These include:

- National Living Wage
- Automatic enrolment for employees pensions from April 2016
- Tax-free Childcare
- 30 hours childcare
- National Early Years Funding Formula

2.7.1 National Living Wage and automatic enrolment for employee pensions

These two policy initiatives will impact on providers by potentially increasing staffing costs. Staff costs constitute the largest component of the cost base of childcare providers¹⁰ and the introduction of the National Living Wage will increase earnings for a full-time worker aged over 25 years old by £910 a year relative to the National Minimum Wage. The actual impact on individual settings will be governed by the staffing structure, age of employees, current pay and hours worked.

From April 2016 every employer must automatically enrol workers into a workplace pension scheme if they are aged between 22 and State Pension age and earn more than £10,000 a year. The introduction of automatic enrolment may also impact on provider's costs.

2.7.2 Tax-Free Childcare

Tax-Free Childcare is to be introduced in 2017 and will provide 20% support on childcare costs up to £10,000 per year for each child. Childcare vouchers will be withdrawn. Tax-Free Childcare is aimed at supporting working families by reducing childcare costs.

¹⁰ DfE (2015) 'Review of childcare costs: the analytical report'
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/479659/151124_Analytical_review_FINAL_VERSION.pdf March 2016

2.7.3 30 hours childcare for eligible three- and four-year-olds

Eligible families will be entitled to 30 hours free childcare from September 2017. The 30 hours includes the 15 hours early years entitlement and an additional 15 hours (per week up to a maximum of 38 weeks, or 570 hours stretched across more weeks of the year).

Nottinghamshire has been selected as an Early Innovator – one of 25 local authorities that will be developing innovative flexible childcare for working parents, and making sure the needs of children with SEND, homeless working families and in rural communities. Nottinghamshire will not be delivering places for 30 hours during the early implementation phase.

Numbers of eligible children in each local authority areas are not yet known (March 2016). Taking account of working patterns, the population of three- and four-year-olds and the number of four-year-olds in school reception classes, there will be an estimated 9,264 three- and four-year-olds eligible for the new entitlement in 2017.

2.7.4 National Early Years Funding Formula

The Government has committed to an uplift to the national average rate paid for the two-three- and four-year-old entitlements¹¹. The national average rates for both two-year-olds and three- and four-year olds will increase by at least 30p an hour. A national funding formula for early years will be introduced in 2017-2018. Consultations on the national funding formula will take place in 2016.

2.8 Recommendations

Childcare sufficiency is a strategic consideration underpinning and informing different priority areas. The sufficiency duty remains a strategic duty in the Childcare Act (2006) and local authorities are required to publish and present an annual sufficiency report to members outlining the sufficiency of local childcare, as stated in the Children and Families

¹¹ DfE (2015) 'Childcare Bill: policy statement': https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/482517/Childcare_Bill_Policy_Statement_12.03.2015.pdf Accessed March 2016

Act (2014). It is therefore recommended sufficiency is aligned as a key driver of commissioned services, funded early learning, and wider duties.

Recommendation 1

Childcare sufficiency duties (under the Childcare Act 2006) require local authorities to ensure a sufficiency of childcare for working parents, parents studying or training, and for disabled children. To fulfil this requirement, local authorities need to have robust data about both supply and demand for childcare, for children aged 0-14 years and for children with additional needs up to 18 years of age.

The local authority has the opportunity to embed contractual levers into monitoring requirements within the Service Level Agreements of commissioned services; these should be linked to Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

It is recommended Nottinghamshire County Council review data collection and monitoring procedures to ensure it supports their market management role and sufficiency duties:

- Work with registered childcare providers to collate data around capacity, by age range (0-1; 2; 3-4; 5-7; 8-10 and; 11-14 years). Include data collection around vacancies and waiting lists, fees/charges and delivery models
- Update data at least annually via a census of registered provision. This will require a partnership approach with providers to support their engagement
- Develop childcare maps at district and sub-district level to support planning
- Record and monitor indicators of unmet demand through the Families Information Service (requests for childcare; unmet need)
- Work with key stakeholders (e.g. Jobcentre Plus; local employers; FE colleges and training establishments) to review any unmet demand impacting on parents' ability to train for work, work, or remain in work
- Review population data to indicate where changes in demand may occur – this should include new housing developments, regeneration strategies and changes to the demography of the population

Recommendation 2

Fees charged for childcare are identified as a main barrier to use. Work with key stakeholders (including Jobcentre Plus, local employers, further education providers, children's centres etc.) to ensure partners and staff are aware of what support for the costs of childcare is available, and disseminate that information to their client groups.

The introduction of Tax-Free Childcare and 30 hours free childcare for eligible three- and four-year-olds is targeted at supporting working families reduce the cost of childcare. Information about these initiatives should be provided to stakeholders and updated as required, ahead of implementation of these policies.

Recommendation 3

There is a need to support the availability of childcare to meet changing working patterns (such as demand for childcare outside of traditional office hours 9-5 Monday – Friday) and with employers to support flexible working and awareness of support for childcare.

Nottinghamshire's status as an early innovator for the new 30 hours entitlement for eligible three- and four-year-olds provides an opportunity to explore flexible delivery models. There is a need to consider how these models of working can be applied across different types of provision for all age ranges of children.

Recommendation 4

The CSA identifies demand for provision in school holidays and a requirement for after school and before school provision. Work should be undertaken with key stakeholders to identify options for provision, which may include the right to request provision on schools sites, provider partnerships and ensuring all available provision is recognised and promoted through the Families Information Service.

Recommendation 5

The introduction of the National Living Wage and automatic enrolment for employee pensions will impact on providers and potentially have a negative impact on sustainability. This is at a time when the sector is being required to change and remodel services. It is

recommended that specific work is delivered to support the sustainability of provision with such interventions as small business modelling, business and finance planning, and training and guidance.

3 Nottinghamshire in context

Background

According to the Nottinghamshire Sustainable Communities Strategy (2010-2020)¹², the County has three distinct areas:

- Relatively affluent suburbs surrounding the City of Nottingham
- Towns and villages in the north west which grew out of the textile and coal industries
- Rural areas to the east and south characterised by prosperous market towns and villages in the Trent Valley

These distinct areas require different solutions to ensure sufficiency of childcare to meet the needs of parents working or training for work. Urban areas, for example, may result in demand for childcare in highly localised areas, or on main transport routes. In rural areas, demand may be more dispersed and transport issues may impact on accessibility. The nature of work – standard office hours (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm) may be more prevalent in areas with a high number of office-based jobs, but less evident in other areas where there may be a greater reliance on shift work and different working hours. Flexible childcare provision, childcare available before 9am and after 5pm, and at weekends, is required to meet these different working patterns and parental needs.

There are sufficiency challenges now to ensure there are enough affordable places in areas and at times parents' need and want them, and policy changes (for example, the new entitlement to 30 hours for eligible three- and four-year-olds from September 2017) and the introduction of a new early years funding formula will impact on market management.

3.1 Population

The population of Nottinghamshire is increasing, albeit at a slower rate than found across East Midlands and England as a whole. The population in Nottinghamshire increased by 5%

¹² <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/media/108603/nottinghamshire-sustainable-community-strategy-2010-2020.pdf> Accessed 080216

between 2001 and 2011 (Census) from 748,510 to 785,802¹³. The population increase in East Midlands in the same time period was 8.7% and in England, 7.9%.

Nottinghamshire had a population of around 801,400 in 2014 which was an increase of around 2% since the 2011 Census and is expected to increase to around 840,000 by 2021. Increases are largely as a result of net migration of people from other areas of the UK and overseas, and an increase in life expectancy.

3.1.2 Ethnicity

According to the 2011 Census, the majority of Nottinghamshire's population is White/White British accounting for 95.5% of the population. Broxtowe has the greatest ethnic diversity with 7.3% of the population from a different broad ethnic group. Within the White/White British population there will be different ethnicities represented, including European, and as such, this should not be considered an homogenous group:

Percentage of population by broad ethnic group 2011

	White	Mixed/multiple ethnic groups	Asian/Asian British	Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	Other ethnic group
District	%	%	%	%	%
Ashfield	97.7%	0.89%	0.92%	0.40%	0.11%
Bassetlaw	97.4%	0.88%	1.11%	0.47%	0.18%
Broxtowe	92.7%	1.67%	4.11%	0.92%	0.63%
Gedling	93.1%	2.31%	2.94%	1.56%	0.24%
Mansfield	97.2%	1.06%	1.23%	0.39%	0.14%
Newark and Sherwood	97.5%	1.01%	0.90%	0.45%	0.14%
Rushcliffe	93.1%	1.75%	4.15%	0.61%	0.39%
Nottinghamshire	95.5%	1.4%	2.18%	0.75%	0.16%
East Midlands	89.3%	1.90%	6.47%	2.01%	0.57%
England	85.4%	2.25%	7.82%	4.08%	1.03%

Source: 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics

¹³ Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) <http://jsna.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/insight/Strategic-Framework/Nottinghamshire-JSNA/Summaries-and-overviews/The-people-of-Nottinghamshire.aspx> Accessed February 2016

The number of Gypsy, Roma, Traveller pupils on roll at Nottinghamshire schools in 2013 was 188, down from 220 in 2010. The majority of pupils (75%) were resident in Newark and Sherwood.

3.1.2 Child population

Mid-year population estimates (2013) show around 5.8% of the population of Nottinghamshire in the early years life stage and 16.9% in the school and training years, slightly lower than East Midlands and England.

	% of total population:		
Life stage	Nottinghamshire	East Midlands	England
Early Years (0-4 years)	5.8%	6.0%	6.0%
School and Training Years (5-19 years)	16.9%	17.5%	17.5%

Source: Mid-year population estimates 2013 Resident Population by Life stage Office for National Statistics 2014

The child population is estimated to increase over the next 20 years with the greatest increases being seen in Broxtowe (14.4%) and Gedling (9.9%). As at 2014 Ashfield had the highest number of children (16% of total) and Broxtowe and Mansfield the lowest number (13% in each district).

Child population estimates mid 2014

District	Child population (% of total by age range) by district						
	0 to 1 year	2 years	3 to 4 years	5 to 7 years	8 to 10 years	11 to 14 years	Total (% all children)
Ashfield	3,024 (17%)	1,566 (16%)	3,085 (16%)	4,427 (16%)	4,158 (16%)	5,379 (16%)	21,639 (16%)
Bassetlaw	2,442 (14%)	1,339 (14%)	2,572 (13%)	3,755 (13%)	3,607 (14%)	4,840 (14%)	18,555 (14%)
Broxtowe	2,474 (14%)	1,379 (14%)	2,602 (14%)	3,798 (14%)	3,344 (13%)	4,285 (13%)	17,882 (13%)
Gedling	2,448 (14%)	1,334 (14%)	2,735 (14%)	4,021 (14%)	3,746 (14%)	4,955 (15%)	19,239 (14%)
Mansfield	2,616 (15%)	1,373 (14%)	2,709 (14%)	3,775 (13%)	3,456 (13%)	4,188 (12%)	18,117 (13%)
Newark and Sherwood	2,540 (14%)	1,390 (14%)	2,762 (14%)	4,048 (14%)	3,920 (15%)	5,117 (15%)	19,777 (15%)
Rushcliffe	2,182 (12%)	1,223 (13%)	2,628 (14%)	4,303 (15%)	3,988 (15%)	5,098 (15%)	19,422 (14%)
County	17,726	9,604	19,093	28,127	26,219	33,862	134,631

Source: Mid-year population estimates by single year of age for local authorities in the UK, Mid 2014. Office for National Statistics.

3.1.3 Disabled children and young people

There has been a significant increase in the number of young claimants of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) across the county (aged 0-16 years old)¹⁴. In 2002 there were 3,010 children aged 0-16 years claiming DLA and in 2014 this had risen 77% to 5,320.

¹⁴ Source: JSNA 'The People of Nottinghamshire' 2015

Disability Living Allowance Claimants - children and young people 2014 compared to 2002

	0-4		5-11		11-16		16-17		Total	
	2002	2014	2002	2014	2002	2014	2002	2014	2002	2014
Ashfield	90	150	250	430	180	430	60	170	580	1,180
Bassetlaw	60	110	200	370	150	320	40	100	450	900
Broxtowe	60	80	190	230	160	250	40	110	450	670
Gedling	50	100	200	360	140	350	40	120	430	930
Mansfield	90	100	220	350	190	350	70	130	570	930
Newark & Sherwood	70	100	230	430	170	400	50	140	520	980
Rushcliffe	50	70	140	230	120	200	40	70	350	570
Nottinghamshire	470	710	1,430	2,310	1,110	2,300	340	840	3,350	6,160

Source: Department for Work and Pensions (2014) reported in Nottinghamshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 'The People of Nottinghamshire' 2015.

As at the Schools Census 2012 in the region of 15% of pupils had some kind of Special Educational Need (SEN). Districts with the highest percentage of children on roll with SEN were Ashfield (18.5%), Mansfield (15.9%) and Gedling (15.5%).

The total number of children with a statement of SEN/Education and Healthcare Plan in Nottinghamshire in 2012 was 1.1%, which had remained stable for the previous eight years.

3.1.4 Looked After Children

As at March 2015 there were 840 Looked After Children in Nottinghamshire (including adoption and care leavers¹⁵). Of those, 40 were aged under one year old and 110 aged between one and four years of age.

3.2 Economic overview

Nottinghamshire has similar levels of economic activity and unemployment as found in East Midlands and the country as a whole.

¹⁵ Statistical First Release Local Authority Tables (2015) <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoption-2014-to-2015> Accessed February 2016

3.2.1 Economic activity

Economic activity refers to the number or percentage of people of working age who are either in employment or who are unemployed. Economic activity rates in Nottinghamshire are in line with the East Midlands region and GB as a whole. There are proportionately fewer people that are self-employed in Nottinghamshire and the East Midlands compared to the country as a whole.

Unemployment levels are in line with region and national averages at 5.1% (compared to 5.0% in East Midlands and 5.4% in GB). Unemployment levels are slightly lower for women than for men (4.9% of economically active women were unemployed in the period October 2014 to September 2015 compared to 5.2% of men):

Economic activity rates October 2014 – September 2015

	Nottinghamshire	East Midlands	Great Britain
All people:			
Economically active	77.7%	77.5%	77.7%
In employment	73.6%	73.5%	73.4%
Employees	64.5%	64.2%	62.8%
Self employed	8.7%	8.8%	10.2%
Unemployed	5.1%	5.0%	5.4%

Source: Office for National Statistics annual population survey (NOMIS). Percentage is a proportion of economically active

Rushcliffe district has the highest economic activity levels (81%) and the highest proportion of economically active in employment (77.7%).

3.2.2 Economic inactivity

Economic inactivity refers to people who are neither in work nor employed. This group includes, for example, those looking after a home or retired. Economic inactivity rates in Nottinghamshire are in line with East Midlands and GB as a whole:

Economic inactivity rates October 2014 – September 2015

	Nottinghamshire	East Midlands	Great Britain
All people: economically inactive	22.3%	22.5%	22.3%
Wanting a job	21.5%	23.0%	24.2%
Not wanting a job	78.5%	77.0%	75.8%

Source: Office for National Statistics annual population survey (NOMIS)

3.2.3 Out of work benefits

Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) is payable to people under pensionable age who are available for, and actively seeking, work of at least 40 hours a week. Across the county 1.3% of the resident population aged 16 – 64 years old were claiming JSA in December 2015. This compares to 1.4% in East Midlands and 1.5% nationally.

JSA claimant levels are low across the county, ranging from 0.8% in Rushcliffe to 1.8% in Mansfield.

3.2.4 Industry

Nottinghamshire has a higher proportion of employee jobs in traditional industries, including manufacturing (just under 14% in Nottinghamshire compared to 13% in East Midlands and 9% in GB) and construction (6% in Nottinghamshire compared to 4% in East Midlands and 5% GB).

Public administration, education and health account for the highest proportion of employee jobs, representing 27% of service industries:

Employee jobs (2014)

Employee jobs by industry	% of employee jobs		
	Nottinghamshire	East Midlands	GB
Primary services (A-B: agriculture and mining)	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%
Energy and water	1.5%	1.3%	1.1%
Manufacturing	13.7%	12.9%	8.5%
Construction	6.2%	4.4%	4.5%
Services	78.2%	81.1%	85.6%
Of which			
Wholesale and retail, including motor trades	17.8%	17.1%	15.9%
Transport storage	3.8%	5.1%	4.5%
Accommodation and food services	6.5%	5.8%	7.1%
Information and communication	2.5%	2.4%	4.1%
Financial and other business services	15.9%	19.7%	22.2%
Public administration, education and health	27.2%	26.8%	27.4%
Other services	4.5%	4.2%	4.4%

Source: Office for National Statistics business register and employment survey (NOMIS)

Just over a third of all employee jobs are part-time (34.2%). Employees may hold more than one part-time job.

3.2.5 Earnings by workplace

Across Nottinghamshire gross weekly pay and hourly pay (excluding overtime) are lower than across the West Midlands and compared to GB as a whole.

Earnings by residence (2015)

	Nottinghamshire £	East Midlands £	GB £
Gross weekly pay	498.2	492.0	529.6
Hourly pay – excluding overtime	12.69	12.26	13.33

Source: Office for National Statistics annual survey of hours and earnings – workplace analysis (NOMIS)

Average earnings show wide variation between districts with relatively high gross weekly pay in Rushcliffe (31% above the county average) and Broxtowe (14% above the county average) and relatively low gross weekly pay in Ashfield and Mansfield (both 13% below the county average).

3.3 Indices of Deprivation 2015

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas in England¹⁶. The IMD combines information from seven domains (income deprivation; employment deprivation; education, health and skills deprivation; crime; barriers to housing and services and; living environment deprivation) to produce an overall relative measure of deprivation.

At a local authority level Mansfield district has the highest level of multiple deprivation (IMD 2015) ranking 56th out of 326 English local authorities. Rushcliffe district has the lowest level of multiple deprivation, ranked 319 out of 326 English local authorities:

¹⁶ Department for Communities and Local Government (2015) 'The English Indices of Deprivation 2015 – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)':
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/467901/English_Indices_of_Deprivation_2015_-_Frequently_Asked_Questions.pdf Accessed February 2016

Indices of Multiple Deprivation (2015)¹⁷

IMD Rank of Average Score (out of 326 local authority areas in England)						
Mansfield	Ashfield	Bassetlaw	Newark and Sherwood	Gedling	Broxtowe	Rushcliffe
56	79	114	153	203	218	319

Across the county (excluding Nottingham City) 25 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are in the 10% most deprived LSOAs in England, a decrease from 30 in 2010. The most deprived LSOAs are concentrated in the districts of Ashfield (9 LSOAs), Mansfield (6), Bassetlaw (6) and Newark and Sherwood (3). 71 LSOAs are in the 20% most deprived LSOAs in England, a decrease from 104 in 2010 (source: Nottinghamshire Insight, Indices of Deprivation 2015).

¹⁷Nottinghamshire Insight 'Indices of Deprivation 2015': <http://www.nottinghamshireinsight.org.uk/insight/key-datasets/indices-of-multiple-deprivation-2015.aspx> Accessed February 2016

4 Supply of childcare

Since the 2015 childcare sufficiency assessment there has been a decrease in the number of registered childcare and early years providers in Nottinghamshire. Overall, numbers have decreased by 4% from 1,253 to 1,202.

There has been a marked decline in out of school provision (in the table below this includes holiday playscheme) – there are 25% fewer out of school providers registered in 2016 compared to 2015 (77 compared to 103).

The 2015 CSA identified a decrease in childminding of 6% - this has continued with a further decrease in registered childminders from 782 in 2015 to 737 in 2016.

Ofsted registered childcare (data supplied by NCC)

Childcare Type	Ashfield	Bassetlaw	Broxtowe	Gedling	Mansfield	Newark and Sherwood	Rushcliffe	Total
Childminder	103 (-16)	89 (+ 5)	97 (-7)	171 (-3)	90 (-8)	92 (-18)	95 (-2)	737 (-45)
Out of School Care Inc. holiday playscheme	7 (-)	3 (-6)	11 (-6)	12 (-7)	7 (-7)	13 (-2)	17 (-5)	77* (- 26)
Day nursery/private nursery school	20 (+2)	20 (-1)	27 (-)	26 (+4)	22 (+3)	29 (+2)	37 (+2)	181 (+12)
Pre-School Playgroup	10 (-)	17 (+1)	14 (-2)	21 (+3)	2 (+1)	20 (+3)	28 (-)	112 (+2)
Crèche	0	7 (-)	2 (-1)	0	0	0	0	9 (-1)
Independent Schools (not listed 2015)			1	1	1			3
Home childcarer	8 (-4)	5 (+4)	6 (-5)	14 (+4)	6 (+2)	17 (+3)	27 (-)	83 (+4)
Total	142 (-24)	135 (-3)	154 (-24)	228 (-15)	123 (-15)	154	180	1,202 (-51)

Source: Nottinghamshire Families Information Service database, February 2016

*In addition to the provision summarised by district above, there were an additional 7 settings (2 holiday scheme and 5 out of school care providers) where the district was not identified.

Schools delivering early learning

In addition to Ofsted registered childcare, maintained nursery and infant schools are delivering early learning for two, three and four year olds.

The majority of early learning provision for two-year-olds is delivered in pre-schools, private nurseries and childminding. As at January 2015 there were a total of 307 PVI providers (including childminders) delivering two-year-old places and 8 schools.

A higher number of schools are delivering early learning for three-and-four-year olds. As at January 2015 there were 254 nurseries and infant classes through which the early years entitlement for three- and four-year-olds was being delivered.

Non-registered out of school provision

In addition to the 77 Ofsted registered out of school providers summarised above, NCC information shows an additional 54 settings that are not Ofsted registered. These are shown in the following table:

Non-Registered Settings	Breakfast Club	Holiday Scheme	Out of School Care	Total
Ashfield	15			15
Bassetlaw	2		2	4
Broxtowe	1		1	2
Gedling	3		2	5
Mansfield	11		1	12
Newark and Sherwood	8			8
Rushcliffe	4	1	2	7
Not Provided			1	1
Grand Total	44	1	9	54

Source: Nottinghamshire Families Information Service database, February 2016

Taking this additional provision into account, numbers of out of school providers have increased by 28 since the 2015 CSA, if it is assumed non-registered settings were accounted for in the data presented.

Out of school provision may also be available after school (in the form of clubs, activities and groups) run by the school, for pupils attending the school, and for less than 2 hours. It is not required to be registered as childcare and is not always advertised with the FIS. The question is the extent to which such provision can be classed as 'childcare' to meet the sufficiency duty. After school activities provided by schools may be available for limited hours (e.g. 45 minutes to an hour and therefore be too short for formal registration) and may be more subject to short term cancellation (for example, if a teacher is off sick or is required elsewhere) and therefore not typically considered reliable enough to support parent/carers to work.

4.1 Fees charged for childcare

Average childcare fees are collated by the Families Information Service. Fees for nursery and childminding provision are lower in 2016 than reported in the 2015 CSA:

Average childcare fees – 2016 compared to 2016

	Average cost for 25 hours a week in:				Average cost for 15 hours a week
	Day nursery (PVI) Child aged under 2 years	Day nursery (PVI) child aged 2 years and older	Childminder child aged under 2 years	Childminder child aged 2 years and older	After school club
Nottinghamshire 2015	£127	£127	£90	£90	£37.00
Nottinghamshire 2016	£105.81	£104.77	£88.53	£88.53	£35.02

Source: Nottinghamshire Families Information Service, February 2016

Nationally, average charges for a part-time (25 hour) place in nursery for a child under two years old has increased by 1.1% since 2015 and childminding charges for the same age range have remained virtually static (£104.06 in 2015 and £104.27 in 2016).

Average weekly childcare charges 2016 – region and national averages

	Average charge for 25 hours a week in:				Average charge for 15 hours a week
	Day nursery (PVI) Child aged under 2 years	Day nursery (PVI) child aged 2 years and older	Childminder child aged under 2 years	Childminder child aged 2 years and older	After school club
England regional average	£118.13	£113.06	£105.33	£104.42	£48.90
East Midlands	£113.51	£110.88	£104.13	£104.08	£51.89
Nottinghamshire	£105.81	£104.77	£88.53	£88.53	£35.02

4.2 Quality in Early Years

As at 31st August 2015, 11% of early years provision in Nottinghamshire was rated outstanding by Ofsted and 75% was rated as good¹⁸. Quality in early years provision has been increasing. As at 31st August 2012, 70% of early years provision was rated as good or outstanding and this increased to 86% in 2015:

	% of settings achieving rating as at 31 st August in the relevant year			
	2012	2013	2014	2015
Outstanding	8%	8%	8%	11%
Good	62%	63%	68%	75%
Requires Improvement	29%	27%	22%	13%
Inadequate	1%	2%	2%	1%

Source: Ofsted Data View

¹⁸ Ofsted Data View:

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/ofsted#!/vizhome/Dataview/Viewregionalperformancevertime> Accessed February 2016

There are differences in the quality of provision as rated by Ofsted across districts. 90% of early years settings in the districts of Ashfield and Mansfield were rated as good or outstanding compared to 81% in Sherwood and 82% in Newark:

	% of settings achieving rating as at 31 st August 2015							
	Ashfield	Bassetlaw	Broxtowe	Gedling	Mansfield	Newark	Sherwood	Rushcliffe
Outstanding	9%	11%	14%	4%	7%	11%	15%	15%
Good	81%	76%	69%	83%	83%	71%	66%	72%
Requires Improvement	8%	13%	17%	12%	9%	17%	17%	13%
Inadequate	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	2%	2%	0%

Source: Ofsted Data View

5 Early years entitlements

Currently all three- and four-year-olds and around 40% of two-year-olds nationally are entitled to up to 15 hours a week, or 570 hours a year, free early learning. In Nottinghamshire there are around 3,143 eligible two-year-olds and 18,894 three- and four-year-olds that have a statutory eligibility for the early years entitlement.

Take-up, based on data supplied by NCC, is around 66% for two-year-olds and 100% for three-and-four- year-olds:

Take-up of the early years entitlements (as at March 2016, not finalised for the year)

	2yr old % take up	3yr old % take up	4yr old % take up
Ashfield	54.53%	92.71%	98.89%
Bassetlaw	58.82%	96.68%	111.59%
Broxtowe	73.41%	96.89%	100.41%
Gedling	73.40%	103.83%	101.26%
Mansfield	66.36%	106.76%	102.69%
Newark and Sherwood	61.91%	95.45%	96.77%
Rushcliffe	100%	112.14%	110.75%
County	65.99%	100.24%	102.91%

Data supplied by Nottinghamshire County Council February and March 2016

Nationally 94% of three-year-olds and 99% of four-year-olds were accessing their entitlement as at January 2015. For two-year-olds it was around 58% nationally and Nottinghamshire were funding around 60% (source: Statistical First Release, January 2015).

Delivery of the two-year-old entitlement fluctuates nationally and locally from term to term. This is a reflection of a newly introduced entitlement (the entitlement for 40% of two-year-olds to a free early education place came into force September 2014) and new cohorts of two-year-olds becoming eligible each term, as others transition to a three-year-old funded place.

As at the end of 2015, Nottinghamshire were funding around 70% of eligible two-year-olds against a national average of around 72%. As at March 2016 the authority were funding 2,074 children, 66% of eligible numbers. National data is not currently available (March 2016) for the spring term 2016.

5.1 30 hours childcare for eligible three- and four-year-olds

Eligible families will be entitled to 30 hours free childcare from September 2017. The 30 hours includes the 15 hours early years entitlement and an additional 15 hours (per week up to a maximum of 38 weeks, or 570 hours stretched across more weeks of the year).

Nottinghamshire has been selected as an Early Innovator – one of 25 local authorities nationally that will be developing innovative flexible childcare for working parents, and making sure the needs of children with Special Educational Needs, homeless working families and in rural communities. Nottinghamshire will not be delivering places for 30 hours during the early implementation phase.

Eligibility for the new entitlement is:

Households where:

Both parents are working and/or:

- One parent working in lone parent family (earning equivalent of 16 hours a week on National Minimum Wage including those receiving Tax Credits or Universal Credit)

- One/both parents away on leave (parental, maternal etc.)
- One/both parents on Statutory Sick

One parent is employed and:

- The other parent has either: substantial caring responsibilities and/or disability

Any parent earning over £100,000 per year will not be eligible.

Estimates for the number of children eligible for 30 hours

Data for the number of families (and children) that will be eligible for the extended free entitlement of 30 hours free childcare has not been released. It is estimated that 390,000 families will be eligible nationally.

The new entitlement does not come into force until September 2017 and more accurate data will be available to support planning and implementation. To inform planning in the short-term an estimate has been calculated for the potential number of eligible children in Nottinghamshire. This is based on analysis of Office for National Statistics (ONS) data. It should be noted, some families may have life choices which could change on the basis of the new 30 hour entitlement. For example, where in a two parent family one parent currently chooses not to work (and would therefore be ineligible for the new entitlement), they may take-up work as a result of the additional 15 hours a week/570 hours a year new entitlement.

Figures presented on the table overleaf show an estimated 13,623 children eligible for the extended free childcare when it becomes available from September 2017. However, a number of these children at age four will already be in school and funded from the school funding block.

Note: based on latest available data (Statistical First Release, January 2015), of 18,990 children benefitting from funded early education, 6,196 were in infant classes in primary schools. This equates to 32%. The best estimate for numbers of children eligible for the extended entitlement (and not in infant classes) is 9,264 county-wide.

Estimated number of children eligible for the extended free childcare entitlement

District	Total Number of families*	Number of couple families where both parents are working*	Number of lone parent families where the parent is working*	Number of couple families where one parent working and one parent sick/disabled*	Total Number of eligible families	Percentage of families eligible for 30 hours	Number of 3 and 4-year-olds (population)**	Estimated number of 3 and 4-year-olds eligible for 30 hrs***
Ashfield	25,572	14,170	2,528	326	17,024	67%	3,085	2,054
Bassetlaw	23,167	13,944	2,206	269	16,419	71%	2,572	1,823
Broxtowe	22,222	13,896	1,933	191	16,020	72%	2,602	1,876
Gedling	23,570	14,704	2,515	195	17,414	74%	2,735	2,021
Mansfield	22,119	12,184	2,226	267	14,677	66%	2,709	1,798
Newark and Sherwood	23,698	14,404	2,205	196	16,805	71%	2,762	1,959
Rushcliffe	24,336	17,026	1,994	123	19,143	79%	2,628	2,067
Nottinghamshire	164,684	100,328	15,607	1,567	117,502	71%	19,093	13,623+

*Data Source: LC1601EW - Family status by number of parents working by economic activity

**Data Source: NCC - Mid 2014 populations estimates by district and age (Initial Source: ONS Mid Year Est's 14 Nott's)

***Estimated by multiplying the proportion of families eligible by the 3/4-year-old population (i.e. in Ashfield 67% of families will be eligible for the extended offer, therefore 67% of 3 and 4 year olds will be eligible)

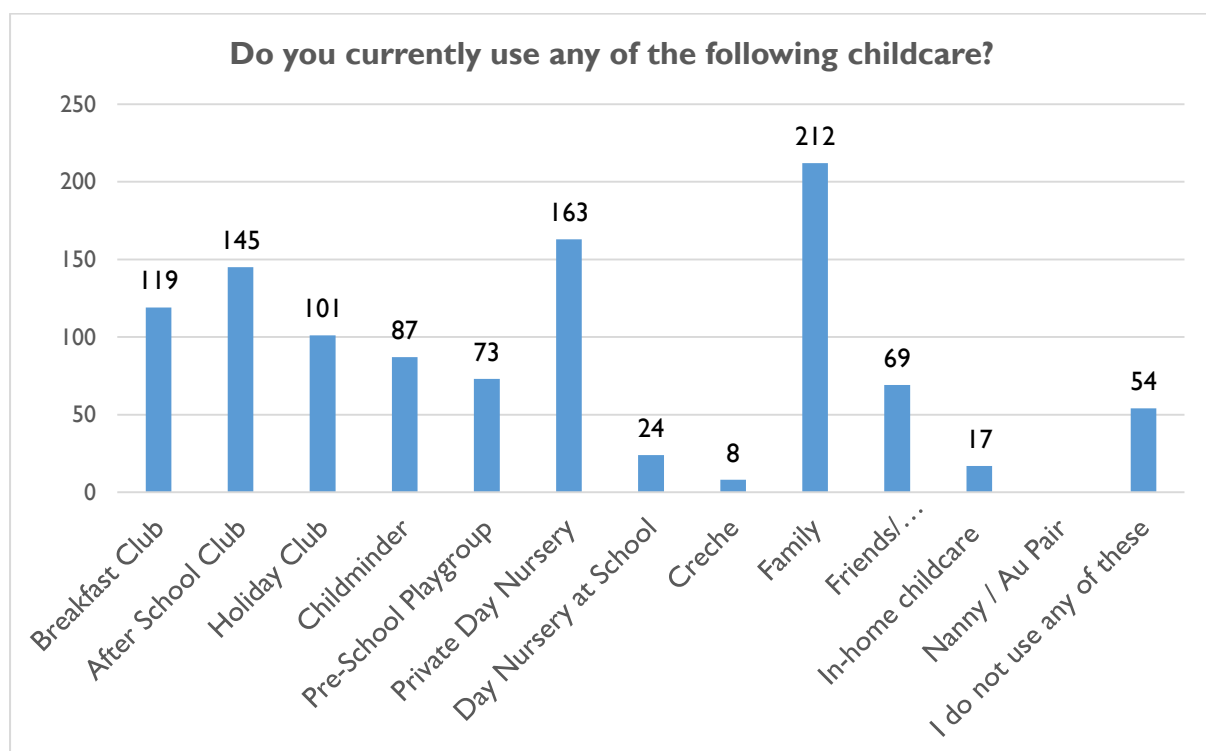
+ see note – adjust for 4 year olds in infant classes

6 Findings from the parent and carer survey

The profile of respondents is included as an appendix. There were relatively low levels of response in some districts and it is not viable to analyse all data at district level as findings may be misleading. Some district level analysis has been included to provide comparisons; however, these findings should be treated with caution.

Use of childcare

90% of respondents were currently using childcare at the time of the questionnaire survey:



Base: 516, multiple responses

A slightly higher proportion of non-working households were not using childcare (11% of respondents in workless households reported not using childcare current compared to 9% in working households). Where childcare was being used, patterns of use showed some difference with higher proportion of respondents in workless families using formal childcare and higher proportions of respondents from working households using a mix of formal and informal care:

Use of childcare – working and workless households

Household	% of respondents (number)			
	Use formal childcare only	Use informal childcare only (family and friends)	Use a mix of formal and informal childcare	Do not use childcare currently
Working	41% (174)	11% (46)	39% (166)	9% (39)
Workless	50% (41)	10% (8)	29% (24)	11% (9)
Overall	42% (215)	11% (54)	38% (190)	10% (48)

Base: all respondents 507. Percentages rounded

Note: low base for workless households. Findings should be treated with caution

Type of childcare used

Use of informal childcare was high, with nearly half of all respondents using childcare using family for at least some of that (46%, 212 respondents):

Use of childcare by type of provision – childcare users only

Type of childcare used	Family	Private day nursery	After school club	Breakfast club	Holiday club	Childminder	Pre-school playgroup	Friends and neighbour	Day nursery at school	In-home childcare	Crèche
% of childcare users using	46%	35%	31%	26%	22%	19%	16%	15%	5%	4%	2%

Base: 462, multiple responses. Percentages rounded.

Use of childcare by age of child

Responses to the parent/carer survey show some patterns of use that are not consistent with the age ranges of children, for example, use of breakfast clubs for 0-1 year olds or pre-school playgroup provision for school-aged children. This may be as a result of parents with children in different age ranges identifying childcare used generally (or even previously). As such, use of childcare by age range of child findings should be treated with caution.

A consistent finding is family and friends being widely used for childcare across all age ranges.

% children accessing as a proportion of children in age range, based on parental survey	Type of childcare used										
	Family	Private day nursery	After school club	Breakfast club	Holiday club	Childminder	Pre-school playgroup	Friends and neighbour	Day nursery at school	In-home childcare	Crèche
0-1 years	37%	49%	13%	14%	11%	14%	11%	12%	4%	3%	2%
2-3 years	38%	50%	17%	14%	16%	17%	26%	11%	8%	3%	3%
4-5 years	39%	32%	33%	27%	20%	17%	18%	12%	3%	4%	2%
6-7 years	40%	25%	38%	29%	25%	16%	16%	12%	6%	3%	3%
8-9 years	41%	13%	41%	29%	22%	14%	7%	16%	3%	5%	0%
10+ years	31%	7%	24%	22%	17%	10%	5%	12%	2%	4%	0%

Multiple responses. Percentages rounded

The extent to which current childcare meets needs

Respondents were asked if current childcare met their needs. Over a third providing a response (36%, 169 respondents) stated their current childcare did not meet their needs. Whilst district level comparisons should be treated with caution (low base), findings suggest higher levels of dissatisfaction with current childcare arrangements in Gedling, Newark and Sherwood and Rushcliffe:

Do current childcare arrangements meet all childcare needs?

	Ashfield	Bassetlaw	Broxtowe	Gedling	Mansfield	Newark and Sherwood	Rushcliffe	County overall
No	31%	31%	27%	48%	28%	47%	43%	34%
Yes	69%	69%	73%	52%	72%	53%	57%	66%

Base: 414. Excludes unknown district and out of County. Percentages rounded

The proportion of survey respondents indicating current childcare arrangements do not meet need is relatively high across all age ranges:

Do current childcare arrangements meet all childcare needs?

	0-1 years old	2-3 years old	4-5 years old	6-7 years old	8-9 years old	10+ years old	Overall
No	31%	34%	32%	35%	40%	36%	34%
Yes	69%	66%	68%	65%	60%	64%	66%

Multiple responses. Percentages rounded.

Respondents indicating current childcare arrangements did not meet all their needs were asked why. Cost, opening hours and flexibility were the most commonly identified barriers, cited by 22% of respondents in each case:

Reasons why current childcare arrangements do not meet all childcare needs

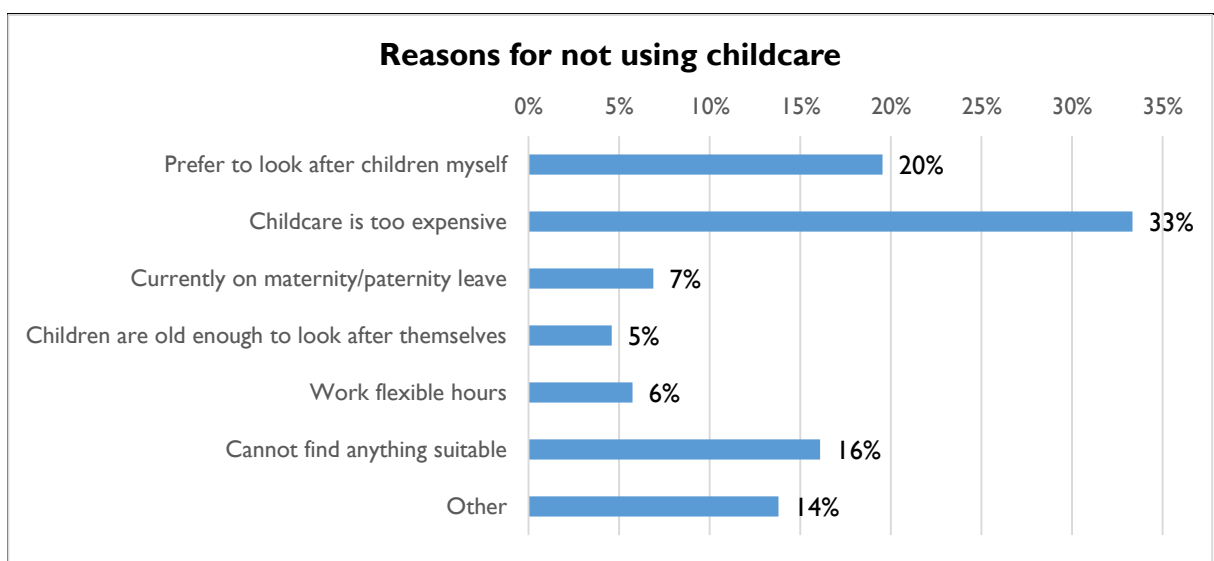
Reason	%	Number citing
Cost	22%	86
Opening Hours	22%	86
Flexibility	22%	85
Choice	11%	43
Location	7%	28
Quality	6%	23
Other	11%	43

Base: 169, multiple responses. Percentages rounded.

Other reasons stated include a lack of provision for children with additional needs, the hours at which childcare is available and a lack of provision. Other responses are shown verbatim in the appendices.

Non-use of childcare

One in ten survey respondents (10%) were not currently using childcare. Cost and availability of provision were the most common reasons respondents selected for those not using childcare:



Base: 58, multiple responses. Percentages rounded.

Opinions about childcare

Respondents were asked to rate a small number of statements relating to the provision of childcare in their local area. Ratings ranged from 'strongly agree' to 'strongly disagree'.

Satisfaction with current childcare

79% of respondents providing an opinion agreed or strongly agreed with the statement 'I am very satisfied with my current childcare':

Statement:	Agree/strongly agree	N/A	Disagree/strongly disagree
I am very satisfied with my current childcare	79%	9%	12%

Base: 488, percentages rounded

Satisfaction with current childcare was highest in Mansfield district (89% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing with the statement). Dissatisfaction with current childcare was lowest in Gedling district (15% disagreeing with the statement).

Availability and choice

Responses suggest a lack of availability and choice of childcare with 42% of respondents expressing an opinion disagreeing with the statement 'there is a good choice of childcare locally' and only 50% agreeing.

Asked to consider school holiday provision specifically, a higher proportion of respondents did not provide an opinion (32%) and a lower proportion agreed there were enough childcare places in the school holidays (40%).

Responses suggest a higher proportion of parents feel there is sufficient childcare during term-time, however, taken collectively over half of all respondents (51%) did not agree there are enough childcare places available during term-time.

Statement:	Agree/strongly agree	N/A	Disagree/strongly disagree
There is a good choice of childcare locally	50%	8%	42%
There are enough childcare places in the school holidays	40%	32%	28%
There are enough childcare places available during term time	49%	23%	28%

Base: choice: 486; school holidays 475; term-time 428. Percentages rounded

A lower proportion of respondents with school aged children (aged 6 years old and over) felt there was a good choice of childcare locally or that there were enough places in the school holidays:

Proportion of respondents agreeing with choice and availability statements by age range of child

Statement:	0-1 years	2-3 years	4-5 years	6-7 years	8-9 years	10+ years	Overall
There is a good choice of childcare locally	59%	59%	54%	39%	33%	39%	50%
There are enough childcare places in the school holidays	33%	38%	41%	45%	34%	35%	40%
There are enough childcare places available during term time	41%	55%	46%	52%	37%	38%	49%

At a district level, lower proportions of respondents agreed there is a good choice of childcare locally in Bassetlaw (38%) and Gedling (45%).

The times at which childcare is available

For the majority of respondents (61%) childcare is available at the times it is needed, albeit 3 in 10 indicated this was not the case. Responses indicate a lack of provision for people working shifts or having irregular work patterns.

A relatively high proportion of respondents did not have an opinion about childcare to meet the needs of shift or flexible work patterns, which may reflect a lack of need for this type of childcare for a number of respondents. However, based on all respondents answering questions about flexibility 30% were not able to find childcare that fits in with their work patterns and 43% were unable to find flexible childcare to suit their irregular work patterns. If the n/a responses are disregarded, 47% of respondents overall were unable to find childcare to cover shift work and 71% unable to find flexible childcare to suit irregular work patterns.

Statement:	Agree/strongly agree	N/A	Disagree/strongly disagree
Childcare is available at the times I need it	61%	10%	29%
I can find childcare that fits in with my shift work	34%	36%	30%
I can find flexible childcare to suit my irregular work patterns	17%	40%	43%

Base: times needed 479, Shift work 467, irregular work patterns 451. Percentages rounded

Quality of childcare

A high proportion of respondents agreed the quality of care is high (84%):

Statement:	Agree/strongly agree	N/A	Disagree/strongly disagree
The quality of care is high	84%	8%	8%

Base: 482, percentages rounded

Responses suggest lower levels of satisfaction with quality of care for older children – 69% of respondents with a child aged 10 years old or over agreed quality was high compared to 84% overall.

Provision for children with additional needs

56 respondents (11% of total) were caring for a child or children with additional needs and a question specifically relating to provision for children with additional needs was not relevant for the majority of respondents. As a result, a high proportion of respondents (79%) did not express an opinion.

In the following table, all respondents are shown (including n/a) and only those expressing an opinion (excluding n/a). Findings suggest that where a respondent has an opinion, a high proportion (43%) reported being unable to find childcare which is suitable for their child with additional needs:

Statement:	Agree/strongly agree	N/A	Disagree/strongly disagree
I can find childcare which is suitable for my child with additional needs - ALL	12%	79%	9%
I can find childcare which is suitable for my child with additional needs – EXCLUDING n/a	57%	Removed	43%

Base: all respondents, those expressing an opinion 91. Percentages rounded

Affordability

Responses indicate the majority of respondents do not feel costs are affordable, or represent good value for money:

Statement:	Agree/strongly agree	N/A	Disagree/strongly disagree
Childcare in Nottinghamshire is good value for money	39%	12%	50%
My childcare costs are affordable	41%	11%	48%

Base: value for money 478, affordable 480. Percentages rounded

Affordability may be a greater issue in the districts of Mansfield (where 53% of respondents indicated costs were not affordable) and Rushcliffe (57% reporting costs were not affordable).

Age-appropriate childcare

Respondents were asked if they felt childcare was appropriate for their child's age. The majority (79%) felt this to be the case:

Statement:	Agree/strongly agree	N/A	Disagree/strongly disagree
The childcare is appropriate for my child's age	79%	10%	11%

Base: 481, percentages rounded

Preferences for childcare

Respondents were asked the extent they agreed with three statements about their preference for the location of childcare. A relatively high proportion did not express an opinion. Where respondents did agree or disagree with the statement, responses indicate a preference for school-based provision (albeit nearly a third – 29% - disagreed).

Given the high use of friends and family in current childcare arrangements, 40% of respondents disagreeing with a preference for this type of childcare suggest high use is not a choice, but a necessity.

Findings also indicate, for the majority of respondents, childcare outside of the home is a preferred option:

Statement:	Agree/strongly agree	N/A	Disagree/strongly disagree
I prefer childcare to be on school site	50%	21%	29%
I prefer childcare to be in my own home	17%	25%	58%
I prefer friends and family to care for my children	37%	23%	40%

Base: school site 467, own home 466, friends and family 472. Percentages rounded

Childcare needs over the next 12 months

Thinking ahead to the next 12 months, respondents were asked what childcare they will require.

For pre-school children the greatest demand was for all year round childcare – 72% of respondents providing information indicated childcare would be needed all year with just over a third (37%) needing childcare for pre-school children term-time only and 22%, school holidays only.

‘Extended childcare’ – defined as childcare to fit in with shifts, i.e. before 8am and after 6pm was needed by 22% of parent/carers with a child or children in this age category.

Childcare required for pre-school aged children over the next 12 months

When childcare will be required	% of respondents indicating	Number citing
All year round	72%	188
Term time only	37%	95
After school	25%	64
Extended childcare to fit in with shifts i.e. before 8am and after 6pm	22%	58
School holidays only	22%	56
Before school	22%	58
Weekends	3%	9
Overnight	3%	7

Base: 260, multiple responses. Percentages rounded

For school-aged children responses indicate very high demand for after school provision and strong demand for before school provision. Responses also indicate a need for flexible and stretched provision (e.g. outside of the 'normal' working day of 9/9.30 to 5/5.30 and for year round provision).

Childcare required for school aged children over the next 12 months

When childcare will be required	% of respondents indicating	Number citing
After school	93%	205
Before school	65%	144
School holidays only	58%	129
All year round	51%	113
Term time only	44%	98
Extended childcare to fit in with shifts i.e. before 8am and after 6pm	37%	81
Weekends	7%	16
Overnight	4%	9

Base: 221, multiple responses. Percentages rounded

Financial support for the cost of childcare

Respondents were asked to indicate from a list of possible options any financial support received to help pay for childcare.

The most commonly identified financial support was for childcare vouchers (through the employer) – 43% of respondents indicated they received this support. This is a high proportion of respondents and suggests a possible bias in the sample.

The second most commonly identified financial support was Child Tax Credit (24% of respondents citing) and free nursery places for three- and four-year-olds (24%).

Financial support for the cost of childcare

	Working Tax Credit – childcare element	Child Tax Credit	Free nursery place for two-year-olds	Free nursery place for three- and four-year-olds	New deal for lone parents	Childcare vouchers (through employer)	Free/subsidised workplace childcare/crèche
% of respondents	11%	24%	3%	24%	0.02%	43%	0.05%
Number citing	48	106	15	105	1	190	2

Base: 438, multiple responses. Percentages rounded.

Comments

Respondents were invited to make any additional comment at the end of the questionnaire; 169 parent/carers (33% of total) chose to do so. Comments have been collated into broad categories (all comments are shown verbatim in the appendices). A number of comments could be regarded as falling into more than one category and have been assigned according to what can be regarded as the main issue raised.

- Based on the number and nature of comments, concern over the availability and flexibility of current childcare provision to meet needs is a primary issue for parents

and carers. 40% of comments related to a lack of provision, choice or hours of availability (67 comments)

- Affordability of provision was also commonly discussed (raised as a primary issue by 27% of those commenting (46 respondents)
- 8% of respondents commenting (14 parent/carers) provided information about their use or non-use of childcare
- 6% of comments (10 respondents) related to funding eligibility
- 5% of respondents (9 parent/carers) commenting identified issues around childcare for children with additional needs and a similar percentage (5%, 8 respondents) provided their opinion and/or feedback to the county council
- 4% of comments (6 respondents) were about the survey itself and 2% (3 comments) about quality of provision
- A lack of information was commented on by 2% of respondents (4 parent/carers) and 1% of comments (2) related to another issue

Appendix 1 Nottinghamshire district labour market overview

Ashfield

Ashfield mirrors county economic activity levels with a slightly higher percentage of people in employment working as employees and correspondingly a slightly lower percentage being self-employed.

Employment and unemployment (October 2014 – September 2015)

	Ashfield	Nottinghamshire	East Midlands
Economically active	77.7%	77.7%	77.5%
In employment	74.9%	73.6%	73.5%
Of whom:			
Employees	66.7%	64.5%	64.2%
Self-employed	8.1%	8.7%	8.8%
Unemployed	#	5.1%	5.0%

Office for National Statistics annual population survey (NOMIS)

sample size too small for reliable estimate

Out of work benefits – Total JSA claimants (December 2015)

	Ashfield	Nottinghamshire	East Midlands	GB
All people	1.5%	1.3%	1.4%	1.5%
Males	1.8%	1.7%	1.7%	1.9%
Females	1.2%	1.0%	1.0%	1.1%

Office for National Statistics claimant count (% is of resident population of area aged 16-64 and gender) (NOMIS)

Earnings by residence in Ashfield are lower than Staffordshire as a whole (gross weekly pay is circa 13% below the county average):

Earnings by residence (2015)

	Ashfield	Nottinghamshire	East Midlands	GB
Gross weekly pay				
Full time workers	£431.2	£498.2	£492.0	£529.6
Male full time	£470.9	£559.9	£540.6	£570.4
Female full time	£369.7	£423.6	£423.3	£471.6
Hourly pay (excluding overtime)				
Full time workers	£10.43	£12.69	£12.26	£13.33
Male full time	£11.02	£13.37	£12.81	£13.93
Female full time	£9.07	£11.42	£11.19	£12.57

Office for National Statistics annual survey of hours and earnings – resident analysis (NOMIS)

Bassetlaw

A slightly lower percentage of the working-age population in Bassetlaw are economically active (76.2% compared to 77.7% across the county). Self-employment is higher (10.2% of those in employment are self-employed compared to 64.5% in Nottinghamshire as a whole):

Employment and unemployment (October 2014 – September 2015)

	Bassetlaw	Nottinghamshire	East Midlands
Economically active	76.2%	77.7%	77.5%
In employment	70.8%	73.6%	73.5%
Of whom:			
Employees	58.8%	64.5%	64.2%
Self-employed	10.2%	8.7%	8.8%
Unemployed	#	5.1%	5.0%

Office for National Statistics annual population survey (NOMIS)

sample size too small for reliable estimate

Out of work benefits – Total JSA claimants (December 2015)

	Bassetlaw	Nottinghamshire	East Midlands	GB
All people	1.3%	1.3%	1.4%	1.5%
Males	1.6%	1.7%	1.7%	1.9%
Females	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.1%

Office for National Statistics claimant count (% is of resident population of area aged 16-64 and gender) (NOMIS)

Earnings by residence in Bassetlaw are higher than Nottinghamshire as a whole measured against gross weekly pay (gross weekly pay is 1% above the county average). Hourly pay (excluding overtime) is lower (£11.79 compared to £12.69 across Nottinghamshire as a whole):

Earnings by residence (2015)

	Bassetlaw	Nottinghamshire	East Midlands	GB
Gross weekly pay				
Full time workers	£506.6	£498.2	£492.0	£529.6
Male full time	£554.2	£559.9	£540.6	£570.4
Female full time	£339.9	£423.6	£423.3	£471.6
Hourly pay (excluding overtime)				
Full time workers	£11.79	£12.69	£12.26	£13.33
Male full time	£12.57	£13.37	£12.81	£13.93
Female full time	£11.01	£11.42	£11.19	£12.57

Office for National Statistics annual survey of hours and earnings – resident analysis (NOMIS)

Broxtowe

A higher percentage of the working age population in Broxtowe are economically active and there is a higher percentage of employees compared to Nottinghamshire and the East Midlands:

Employment and unemployment (October 2014 – September 2015)

	Broxtowe	Nottinghamshire	East Midlands
Economically active	79.7%	77.7%	77.5%
In employment	74.2%	73.6%	73.5%
Of whom:			
Employees	67.9%	64.5%	64.2%
Self-employed	#	8.7%	8.8%
Unemployed	#	5.1%	5.0%

Office for National Statistics annual population survey (NOMIS)

sample size too small for reliable estimate

Out of work benefits – Total JSA claimants (December 2015)

	Broxtowe	Nottinghamshire	East Midlands	GB
All people	1.1%	1.3%	1.4%	1.5%
Males	1.4%	1.7%	1.7%	1.9%
Females	0.8%	1.0%	1.0%	1.1%

Office for National Statistics claimant count (% is of resident population of area aged 16-64 and gender) (NOMIS)

Earnings by residence are comparatively high in Broxtowe – for all full time workers gross weekly pay is 14% above the average for Nottinghamshire as a whole and 8% above GB:

Earnings by residence (2015)

	Broxtowe	Nottinghamshire	East Midlands	GB
Gross weekly pay				
Full time workers	£569.5	£498.2	£492.0	£529.6
Male full time	£617.9	£559.9	£540.6	£570.4
Female full time	£477.6	£423.6	£423.3	£471.6
Hourly pay (excluding overtime)				
Full time workers	£14.96	£12.69	£12.26	£13.33
Male full time	£16.58	£13.37	£12.81	£13.93
Female full time	£12.78	£11.42	£11.19	£12.57

Office for National Statistics annual survey of hours and earnings – resident analysis (NOMIS)

Gedling

Economic activity levels in Gedling are slightly lower than those found across the county, as is the percentage of economically active people in employment.

There is a slightly higher incidence of self-employment in the district – 10% of people in employment in Gedling are self-employed compared to 9% in Nottinghamshire:

Employment and unemployment (October 2014 – September 2015)

	Gedling	Nottinghamshire	East Midlands
Economically active	76.6%	77.7%	77.5%
In employment	70.1%	73.6%	73.5%
Of whom:			
Employees	59.9%	64.5%	64.2%
Self-employed	10.1%	8.7%	8.8%
Unemployed	#	5.1%	5.0%

Office for National Statistics annual population survey (NOMIS)

sample size too small for reliable estimate

Out of work benefits – Total JSA claimants (December 2015)

	Gedling	Nottinghamshire	East Midlands	GB
All people	1.4%	1.3%	1.4%	1.5%
Males	1.9%	1.7%	1.7%	1.9%
Females	0.9%	1.0%	1.0%	1.1%

Office for National Statistics claimant count (% is of resident population of area aged 16-64 and gender) (NOMIS)

Earnings by residence in Gedling are higher than the average across Nottinghamshire as a whole when measured against gross weekly pay (gross weekly pay is 4% higher than the county average). Hourly pay (excluding overtime) is 2% higher (£12.98 compared to £12.69 across Nottinghamshire as a whole):

Earnings by residence (2015)

	Gedling	Nottinghamshire	East Midlands	GB
Gross weekly pay				
Full time workers	£517.6	£498.2	£492.0	£529.6
Male full time	£564.4	£559.9	£540.6	£570.4
Female full time	£454.4	£423.6	£423.3	£471.6
Hourly pay (excluding overtime)				
Full time workers	£12.98	£12.69	£12.26	£13.33
Male full time	£13.37	£13.37	£12.81	£13.93
Female full time	£12.16	£11.42	£11.19	£12.57

Office for National Statistics annual survey of hours and earnings – resident analysis (NOMIS)

Mansfield

Economic activity levels in Mansfield are in line with county and regional averages. There are higher percentages of Job Seeker Allowance claimants:

Employment and unemployment (October 2014 – September 2015)

	Mansfield	Nottinghamshire	East Midlands
Economically active	77.6%	77.7%	77.5%
In employment	75.6%	73.6%	73.5%
Of whom:			
Employees	69.5%	64.5%	64.2%
Self-employed	#	8.7%	8.8%
Unemployed	#	5.1%	5.0%

Office for National Statistics annual population survey (NOMIS)

sample size too small for reliable estimate

Out of work benefits – Total JSA claimants (December 2015)

	Mansfield	Nottinghamshire	East Midlands	GB
All people	1.8%	1.3%	1.4%	1.5%
Males	2.4%	1.7%	1.7%	1.9%
Females	1.3%	1.0%	1.0%	1.1%

Office for National Statistics claimant count (% is of resident population of area aged 16-64 and gender) (NOMIS)

Earnings by residence in Mansfield are relatively low compared to Nottinghamshire as a whole (gross weekly pay is 13% lower than the county average):

Earnings by residence (2015)

	Mansfield	Nottinghamshire	East Midlands	GB
Gross weekly pay				
Full time workers	£435.9	£498.2	£492.0	£529.6
Male full time	£475.5	£559.9	£540.6	£570.4
Female full time	£404.1	£423.6	£423.3	£471.6
Hourly pay (excluding overtime)				
Full time workers	£10.28	£12.69	£12.26	£13.33
Male full time	£10.56	£13.37	£12.81	£13.93
Female full time	£10.17	£11.42	£11.19	£12.57

Office for National Statistics annual survey of hours and earnings – resident analysis (NOMIS)

Newark and Sherwood

Note: data was available for the Parliamentary Constituencies of Newark and Sherwood, not combined)

Employment and unemployment (October 2014 – September 2015)

	Newark	Sherwood	Nottinghamshire	East Midlands
Economically active	73.1%	80.1%	77.7%	77.5%
In employment	69.8%	76.1%	73.6%	73.5%
Of whom:				
Employees	60.4%	66.9%	64.5%	64.2%
Self-employed	9.4%	8.2%	8.7%	8.8%
Unemployed	#	#	5.1%	5.0%

Office for National Statistics annual population survey (NOMIS)

sample size too small for reliable estimate

Out of work benefits – Total JSA claimants (December 2015)

	Newark	Sherwood	Nottinghamshire	East Midlands	GB
All people	0.9%	1.5%	1.3%	1.4%	1.5%
Males	1.1%	1.8%	1.7%	1.7%	1.9%
Females	0.8%	1.1%	1.0%	1.0%	1.1%

Office for National Statistics claimant count (% is of resident population of area aged 16-64 and gender) (NOMIS)

Earnings by residence (2015)

	Newark	Sherwood	Nottinghamshire	East Midlands	GB
Gross weekly pay					
Full time workers	£478.7	£479.2	£498.2	£492.0	£529.6
Male full time	£599.6	£498.7	£559.9	£540.6	£570.4
Female full time	£380.2	£442.9	£423.6	£423.3	£471.6
Hourly pay (excluding overtime)					
Full time workers	£12.56	£12.28	£12.69	£12.26	£13.33
Male full time	£13.98	£12.29	£13.37	£12.81	£13.93
Female full time	£10.43	£12.02	£11.42	£11.19	£12.57

Office for National Statistics annual survey of hours and earnings – resident analysis (NOMIS)

Rushcliffe

Economic activity levels in Rushcliffe are relatively high (81% compared to 77.7% across the county) as is the level of self-employment (11.6% of the employed population are self-employed compared to 8.7% across Nottinghamshire):

Employment and unemployment (October 2014 – September 2015)

	Rushcliffe	Nottinghamshire	East Midlands
Economically active	81.0%	77.7%	77.5%
In employment	77.7%	73.6%	73.5%
Of whom:			
Employees	66.1%	64.5%	64.2%
Self-employed	11.6%	8.7%	8.8%
Unemployed	#	5.1%	5.0%

Office for National Statistics annual population survey (NOMIS)

sample size too small for reliable estimate

Out of work benefits – Total JSA claimants (December 2015)

	Rushcliffe	Nottinghamshire	East Midlands	GB
All people	0.8%	1.3%	1.4%	1.5%
Males	1.2%	1.7%	1.7%	1.9%
Females	0.5%	1.0%	1.0%	1.1%

Office for National Statistics claimant count (% is of resident population of area aged 16-64 and gender) (NOMIS)

Earnings by residence are relatively high in Rushcliffe – gross weekly pay is 31% above the county average:

Earnings by residence (2015)

	Rushcliffe	Nottinghamshire	East Midlands	GB
Gross weekly pay				
Full time workers	£652.2	£498.2	£492.0	£529.6
Male full time	£687.9	£559.9	£540.6	£570.4
Female full time	£536.9	£423.6	£423.3	£471.6
Hourly pay (excluding overtime)				
Full time workers	£16.79	£12.69	£12.26	£13.33
Male full time	£18.27	£13.37	£12.81	£13.93
Female full time	£14.42	£11.42	£11.19	£12.57

Office for National Statistics annual survey of hours and earnings – resident analysis (NOMIS)

Appendix 2 Parent/carers questionnaire survey – profile of respondents

Data for the parent/carers survey was collected via Survey Monkey by Nottinghamshire County Council. The deadline for completion of the on-line survey was January 2016.

Response profile

The sample for the parent/carers survey is based on 516 respondents. Respondents were drawn from across the county with representation in each district. Numbers of respondents in each district are low in a number of cases and it is therefore recommended any district analysis is treated with caution. Any differences in response profiles may not reflect real difference in the population. For this reason few survey questions have been analysed at district level.

Response levels by district

District	Number of responses	% of total
Ashfield	43	8%
Bassetlaw	58	11%
Broxtowe	131	25%
Gedling	34	7%
Mansfield	47	9%
Newark	39	8%
Rushcliffe	85	16%
Out of Borough	15	3%
Postcode not Provided	64	12%
Total	516	100%

Household composition

12% of respondents (56 parent/carers) headed a lone parent family.

Collectively, respondents were caring for 970 children (upper age not specified in survey). A quarter of respondents (25%, 128 respondents) were caring for a child aged 0-1 years old with 40% (204 respondents) caring for a child aged 2 and 3 years old. Just over a third (34%, 173 respondents) were caring for a child aged 4 or 5 years old.

Age range of children cared for

	0-1 years	Aged 2 -3 years	Aged 4-5 years	Aged 6-7 years	Aged 8-9 years	Aged 10+ years
% of respondents caring for a child or children in the age range (number)	25% (128)	40% (204)	34% (173)	26% (132)	25% (128)	24% (126)
Number of children cared for in the age range	131	212	187	141	137	162

Base: respondents caring for children in each age range – 516. Multiple responses

Number of children cared for – 970

Percentages rounded

Household income and work

Based on those reporting their work status, and that of their partners where applicable, 84% of households had at least one adult in some form of employment (albeit this may be part-time work less than 16 hours a week, or part-time self-employment). 16% of respondents (82 parent/carers) were living in a workless household.

Employment status

Where respondents and/or respondents' partners were working (or looking for work) respondents were asked to describe their employment status and that of their partner if appropriate.

A higher percentage of partners were working full-time (80% compared to 61%). A very low percentage of respondents (1%) were unemployed:

Employment status – respondents and respondents’ partner

Employment status	Respondent	Partner of respondent (where appropriate)
Employed full-time	61%	80%
Employed part-time (working less than 16 hours a week)	11%	3%
Self-employed full-time	7%	13%
Self- employed part-time (less than 16 hours a week)	4%	1%
Looking for work	2%	1%
Unemployed	1%	0.5%
Studying/training	4%	1%
Full-time parent/carers	8%	2%
Other	8%	0.5%

Base: 450 respondents; 367 partners. Percentages rounded. Multiple responses

Household income

Over a third of respondents (38%, 165 respondents) reported a household income of over £50,000 a year:

% of respondents with a household income of:	Below £10,00	£10,001-£20,000	£20,001-£30,000	£30,001-£40,000	£40,001-£50,000	£50,001 and over
	4%	12%	11%	15%	19%	38%

Base: 434, percentages rounded

Appendix 3 Parent/carer questionnaire comments (verbatim)

Comments about affordability and cost
I do think better choices at affordable prices are necessary although we no longer need to use them
Working parents need to pay expensive private childcare until kids are 3, there should be more funding from the date kid starts nursery.
I now foster full time do I do not need any childcare but when I did work full time employed my child care costs at one point were £200 per week which meant I was financially no better off for working. Thankfully this is no longer my situation.
Childcare is so expensive! My childcare bill is over £1100 per month and this includes the 15 hours free entitlement taken off too! I worry when my daughter starts school in September as to what care can be arranged for her before and after school as there does not seem to be many clubs operating. The school holidays - to my knowledge there are no clubs about and I don't want her to go to a Childminder. Please, please, please create before, after school, and holiday clubs! Thanks
I think it is ridiculous I have to pay £8.75 for an hour in the evening.
Childcare is incredibly expensive and I find the private daycare centres are not flexible. We really wanted our son to attend the school nursery 5 mornings a week in readiness for school, however the daycare he currently attends wanted to charge £43 per day for the 2 days I work to take care of him for the remaining 6 hours of the day which we simply cannot afford.
It's so expensive. If we had two children, one of us would be better off quitting work.
Whilst at the moment our childcare costs are manageable thanks to grandparents help we have another baby on the way & that is going to making things much more tricky.
We earn very little. And get very little help towards childcare. We go to work to pay the bills and end up struggling to live as we are paying nearly £400 a month just for my son to go to nursery 2 days per week (8days a month) its not worth me working as we cant provide as much for our son as we could when I wasn't working. Disgusting.
Current nursery is brilliant - my only complaint is cost as without the help of my mother in law I would not be able to return to work as having to pay for more than one day a week at nursery would make it pointless as I would literally just be working just to pay for nursery fees.
Childcare is a huge part of our income, as with most working families. Once you add in costs getting to and from work it makes it feel almost not worth going (it is still worth it for me but not for many others). I looked into going back to shift work but there is absolutely no affordable childcare in the area which fits in with shifts.
I think more free childcare should be provided for full time working families, it seems to benefit those who don't earn, yet be a penalty to full time working parents. We need more free hours.
I constantly ask myself the question 'Is it worth working?' Childcare costs are ridiculous and it is so upsetting that mothers (and fathers) want to work but feel that the monthly wage is affected considerably due to childcare costs. The lower income families get childcare free and the families in the middle income bracket have to pay for it with (with some voucher scheme discount) and hardly any wage is left over after the monthly childcare payment is deducted from our wages! How is this fair? Trying to promote the 'return to work' ethos, but we pay extortionate

childcare costs as a result. Something should be done to support us. Working families suffer for the first few years, until their child is at school and childcare costs then reduce!
I think the government should help lower childcare costs for 'normal' families, i.e. parents who work hard, and do not claim benefits
Childcare is very expensive, I only work to get out of the house. I pay half my wages to childcare so I can see why some parents don't work.
I use the pre-school learning alliance on the Brinsley school site - I don't actually know what I would do if they weren't there. being on site allows my daughter to go to things like after school clubs and other after school events, as they will pick her up and take her back to school if needs be. I am due to have my second child next year and intend on using the same provider probably 4 days a week from about 5 or 6 months old. How much this will cost is worrying me, as I'm expecting to have to find an additional £800 or so a month from nowhere at the moment!
I am very happy with the childcare that my pre school child receives. I feel that breakfast and afterschool clubs are extremely costly for what is actually provided and there is very limited availability of these services.
Extremely expensive for working parents. I really don't see why parents on benefits who are at home all day qualify for free childcare - very unfair to those of us who do work hard.
Very expensive
Childcare is just so damn expensive. I appreciate broken down to an hourly rate it doesn't equate to much given the job they're doing..... They're looking after our most prized possessions. The cost still cripples us though.
Our joint income is under £35,000, and there is no support for working families for childcare, it is not worth me coming back to work 24 hours a week due to childcare cost but I come for the future of my children!
Because of the way my nursery structures its packages I pay for an extra 1.5 hours each day that I don't need. I don't have a choice about this and it's unfair.
Childcare becomes very expensive and limited when your child reaches 11 years of age
The White House in West Bridgford is fantastic! However, childcare is very, very expensive. We are lucky now our daughter is in school that we can mostly work out hours to drop her and pick up on most days.
It takes up over £900 a month it's ridiculous.
There should be more help for parents that work as currently there is not much to gain.
The cost of our childcare is the entire take home salary of my partner. Neither of us are in entry level roles, we don't get any financial help which could enable part time work so I can bring my own children up and not pay someone else to do it. Flexible working which can be agreed at short notice would be beneficial as would being able to temporarily have a career break from part of my hours.
It's really hard to meet the childcare costs of having 2 children if you want a career and to work full time on an average salary of 21,000 each
Cost is not affordable and local schools do not run before or after school clubs, it really doesn't pay to work, both myself and my husband work full time and get decent salaries but 50% of mine goes on childcare leaving us short every month!
Child care cost us £11000.00 per annum while I have one under 3 and one in school. The 30 free hours would be

helpful if we could access it sooner.
I would love to put my child in the nursery full days but can only afford half days at the moment.
The rates are very prohibitive for mothers wanting to go back to work, something has to be done about this. Thanks.
We're happy with the childcare we have, and it's reasonably priced compared to other areas, but it is taking up an entire salary, so I am a mother more or less working for nothing. As a result we can't afford to move to a bigger house or even think about having a second child. I can't take a 'career break' to care for my own baby otherwise I'll never find another job. It's just, in the greater scheme of things, a real sorry state. This is a wider social issue, but very annoying!
With having all children under 5 for sometime childcare was very expensive and often wondered if worth going to work. Even with my two smallest children the costs are the same as my mortgage. Luckily my husband comes home to work to allow him to be here for my child of school age. Otherwise it would be financial not worth working. I think there should be a tax break for parents during the early school, nursery years to help with costs. Also due to the one year intake I have had a child go to school, in my view, before he was emotional ready and another child starting later and bored in the pre school settings as more than ready for school. Two intakes would work better to account for each child's development better
I earn less than 10k a year. My husband earns the rest. If I went to work during the day then I'd lose most of my income to childcare especially during the holidays when I'd be in negative earnings against childcare cost. Therefore I work nights. This is by far from ideal as I sleep during the time they are at school and is difficult when my husband works away.
The reason I am currently unemployed is because I have been unable to find any child care for my son in this area.
too expensive
I am living with my partner, but he works too often to do any childcare, and our finances are separate as my child is from a previous relationship. As such, I do not qualify for any tax credits (our "combined salary" is too high) but am still responsible for all childcare costs, so I rely on my mother to offer free childcare to supplement my paid-for childcare through after school club, and a nursery in the school holidays.
After school clubs are very expensive particularly when you have multiple children using them. Some discounts should be offered for more than one child.
I cannot afford childcare. I use family as many hours as are offered every week then I work my evenings / any time the baby sleeps.
My childcare costs are £224 per week term time and £300+ in the Holidays. I would like an option to take unpaid leave during the holidays to care for the children myself. As holiday time is more expensive per week than my actual wage.
The school my children attend (Lady Bay Primary School) doesn't offer any out of school childcare provision. Anything locally is available from private providers. The cost of childcare during the school holidays is very restrictive and can easily be over a £100 a day for all 3 children. This is only manageable as they don't attend holiday clubs every day - otherwise would just be unaffordable.

not flexible enough and too expensive
Childcare provision is at best expensive and at worst inadequate. There is little on offer in our area and whilst I am extremely happy with our current provider I have had to accept something falling far short of what was needed.
As a student nurse I am required to work unsocial, irregular shift patterns of 12 hours. I am a lone parent with little family support. I have been unable to find childcare that includes overnight care, early mornings and late nights that also accommodates my son starting school in September. There are only 3 childminders serving his school. One has no spaces and the other two only work 7.30am-5.30/6.30pm (day dependant). One of these can't take him now as they have received an inadequate score by Ofsted. To cover the shortfall in childcare I am having to use a nanny which charges £50 for overnight care and £10.50 an hour for all other times. Not only is this a massive expense for me, I do not receive bursary childcare allowance for in-home childcare. The breakfast club and after school club at his school also covers these same hours. The other frustration I have found in looking for childcare is that the Notts County Council childcare database is not up to date. In my area, childminders are listing themselves as available to do overnights, early mornings and late nights, as well as specific school runs but when contact is made with them it transpires that they don't actually offer these services at all. I raised this point with a NCC employee on the helpline and was told that it is the childcare provider's responsibility to keep their details up to date. While I agree with this point, I also think that NCC have a responsibility to maintain accuracy for the details they hold as well as monitoring the accuracy of the information passed onto them by childminders. Unless NCC are unable to take some responsibility for accuracy they should not offer a database facility for parents looking for childcare. For me, a solution would be that there were more childminders in my area (who serve his school) which, between them, cover longer hours rather than duplicating services. Additionally, I was shocked to discover my local sure start children's centre does not hold a list of locally based childminders: I was given the NCC 0300 number to call. Better liaison with children's services in the area may be an area for improvement.
Ideally my local Primary School would offer nursery placements for 3 and 4 year olds enabling both children to be at the same location. Early years funded places would be financially beneficial from 2 years olds. My childcare costs are very high.
Childcare for children with additional needs
Provision of holiday for my child with severe SEND and who is wheelchair bound is not good. The only special school holiday clubs run from 1am to 3pm which does not fit with our normal working hours, and I only work 22.5 hours a week. It means I have to arrive at work late and leave early.
Me and my husband do struggle my 15year old is disabled and I think the free two-year placement should be for everyone
I have been unable to find any out of school childcare for my disabled daughter and NCC where amazingly unhelpful in assisting me with this matter. I was offered short breaks which I declined as I don't want a break from my daughter just help to find suitable childcare so I can work without relying on my 70year old mother. NCC insisted that I was only facing the same hurdles other parents face when looking for childcare. My daughter is unable to walk or stand alone and has a serious metabolic disease and a very specific diet and illness regime. I did not face any issues when finding childcare for my younger daughter and I find NCC's comments insulting. I did send in a

letter of complaint but not surprisingly I did not receive any kind of response
Finding childcare for a growing child is very difficult, Basically there is no choice on holiday club or after school clubs, as some childcare providers do not seem to understand or are willing to give your child a chance to attend their establishment. If a holiday club is available for a child with additional needs it is on limited times e.g. 10-3pm. No use to a working parent. And finally you have to be in the know as there are limited places and are not always advertised widely. If
Never have a child with additional needs as school, child care and leisure activities is a nightmare and people's attitude in these settings and in the workplace is shocking. Discrimination against the disabled is alive and well and I'm ashamed to be British in this regard.
My son requires specialist 1 to 1 child care.
Childcare with personal care element is very hard to find for child with additional needs. Not enough personal assistants or overnight care - need database. Although short breaks team are very good resource.
I have 50:50 shared care with the kids' dad so childcare has to be flexible as his work pattern is different from mine. Luckily our current provider can accommodate that but they have indicated that they would find it difficult if their numbers increase. When both children were pre-school, the cost of full-time childcare was eye wateringly high, more than my mortgage. On a single income I had to, and wanted to, work full-time. My son, who may be autistic, suffered terribly during his first year at school because he was not ready to be there. But I could not afford to keep him in nursery for another year, which he was eligible to do as he was only 4.
It would be great to find more affordable summer holiday childcare for autistic children in my area
Comment on funding eligibility
I think it is downright disgusting that as a full time working parent and my partner is a full time cater for a relative that we do not get help with child care costs. I'm sorry but what do people on the dole need 15 hours a week free for a 2 year old for? It doesn't take 15 hours a week to sign on now does it!!??
Full time working families would prefer to not work full time however, cost of living won't allow this so as we work full time we are then seen as earning too much so receive no additional help with childcare costs. Those families that choose not to work seem to receive all additional income/help for their children to attend nursery which doesn't seem fair as I think most who work would agree that if they had help with more free hours in nursery that they maybe able to afford to reduce working days which would mean they could be home more, collect children etc. to enable quality family time.
The local provisions are poor, we have our youngest in an excellent nursery but it costs us a fortune for 3 days! We do not qualify for help as we earn too much however we have to sacrifice seeing our children to do that whilst people sit on their bottoms at home, chose not have the quality time with their children but have funded places available to them from the age of 2! It's so backwards, in a lot of cases they don't need help as they don't want to work and leave their children. We have our eldest in a good school as we planned for him to go there and the provision is pretty good, they are mostly excellent staff and try to be flexible for working parents but it is still hard to attend things at short notice. Being a Good parent is filled with a lot of guilt about having to sacrifice time with them to give them a good quality life.

Free childcare places and extra support for childcare always go to those who are on benefits already and don't want to work!
Child care costs are virtually unaffordable and will unfortunately prevent us from having more than 1 child, despite having higher than average earnings. We feel penalized for having good jobs that put us beyond the criteria for receiving support in paying for childcare costs. How can anybody realistically afford ~£1,500 per month (based on 2 children) in child care fees? It is utterly ridiculous. In contrast, those who contribute the least to society have the most to gain. Unfortunately I don't have any choice but contribute through my taxes towards their free or subsidized childcare. I could go on but clearly it would be a waste of time. Obviously if I was a politician, I would be unelectable!
I think that it is totally wrong that working parents don't get any help with childcare. Why only children over 2yrs get 15hrs free childcare, why not younger.
The funding 2 year/3 year olds is totally wrong. Why is it that people who don't work get free childcare? In my eyes they are able to look after their children because of that yet I work but a large chunk of my monthly wage goes towards paying for childcare.
I feel it is very unfair who gets free childcare and who doesn't, I work and so does my partner so would benefit from just a few hours free childcare a week. Also I know parents in the same position but their 3 year olds are offered more than 15 hours because they are in a Nottingham City School Nursery.
People on benefits at home are eligible for 15 hours for children at 2 years, I am disabled and trying to better myself for my children and have no eligibility for childcare so have to try and work full time whilst caring for a 2 year old and doing school runs etc.
We earn well £40,000 per year salary before tax for each of us, but taxed high. Because we earn well - We do not qualify for financial help. Our income only JUST covers full time Childcare, mortgage and bills (our house mortgage is £238,000 - so not huge!). We cannot afford trips/holidays or any extras.
Comments on flexibility and availability of provision
I currently work as a nurse. I do 12 hour shifts during the day and night. My partner works full time 6 days a week. When we are both at work we have to rely on family to have our daughter overnight and take her and pick her up from school as we cannot do the school journey. The school does provide after school clubs but only for 45 minutes after school. Without family support I would not be able to work. The school doesn't provide morning breakfast clubs. Childminders would not have my daughter overnight so family are the only ones able to provide childcare at the moment.
No availability of breakfast or after school care at school
I have to change my hours at work in the holidays to fit into slots of available childcare. I also work weekends so have to also find family to help when partners at work. Maternity leave is ending soon and dreading half terms/holidays again. Finishing work at 5:45pm and childcare shuts at 6:00pm creates quite a rush.
Talking to a great childminder the other day about a father whose wife is sadly very ill - he has 2 very young girls who will have to be split with different childminders just when they should be together because the childminder told me there are all fully booked & there aren't enough good childminders

Little choice in private say nurseries. V happy with my school nursery, but shame they do not offer early morning/afternoon care (at extra cost)
All schools should provide breakfast and after school clubs which would resolve a lot of the issues families experience
I'm concerned about the potential lack of pre-school childcare available in Radcliffe on Trent if the relocation of the pre-school playgroup isn't more proactively facilitated by NCC - please help!
Need more wraparound care for pre-school and school at Crossdale Drive Primary School
Pre-school provision is very good but the after school care is lacking considerably and I struggle to find cover after school for my children
As a teacher early childcare before 7:30am is impossible, this makes it very difficult to get to my job on time.
Child care in the Gunthorpe area is few and far between. I have to use a childminder that's not local to my home and afterschool club that is only open until 6pm. This affects my working hours and flexibility. it also means I have to children in 2 different places every day
Not enough flexibility. My days of working vary but I have to put my child into childcare every day as the childminder can't provide the flexibility to allow me to just use childcare when I need it due to her quotas/ratios. I end up paying for half a week's childcare that I don't really need.
Family help me in the mornings as not open early enough and I struggle to fulfil my job requirements as I can only stay until a certain time before out of school club closes. They also don't always open when I need to work. I.e. over Christmas.
My childcare needs may appear random on this survey but the situation is that I am very, very lucky to be able to work flexibly (22.5hrs per week), at the moment. However this could change at any time and I would really struggle for childcare if I worked a job with 'normal' shifts, nor would I be able to afford it I don't think. I have no family living locally to help.
It is very difficult as a lone parent to find an employer who will take someone on like me when I cannot be flexible because of childcare and with having twins it becomes very expensive and I would be going to work to pay for someone else to look after my children. There is nothing out there that truly benefits parents of multiples.
Work three full days per week. Need local village school to offer breakfast/after school/holiday club
We would use a flexible, reasonably priced school based system if provided at our local primary school. The private nursery whilst providing the service, is inflexible and not good value for money.
Disappointed that at my child's school (Greasley Beauvale) they do not offer flexible Breakfast and After school club, (its full time or nothing). Hence I have to go to an alternative provider and my child catches a bus.
I would use on school site childcare in the morning but it is not open early enough. I found a childminder from 7am however this is not going to continue after 1 year so I will be stuck for childcare in the morning.
We felt it was important when accepting work contracts to factor in the ability of our family to manage school runs, etc. I.e. family commitments came first and work was fitted in around it.
I may have difficulty with childcare once my child starts nursery at a local school based nursery. The times of the sessions available may not fit around mine and family members working hours

I Moved last year and struggled to find childcare near to my new home. Currently my child goes to the child-minder near where we used to live, which is 30 mins. drive from home, but closer to work. Grandparents also look after my child 1 day a week (not an option to mention on this survey)
Not enough wraparound childcare for our local primary school (Kirkby Woodhouse)
More childcare arrangements before 0730 am and after 1830 pm needed
The issue isn't cost it's availability of age appropriate care
There is no before or after school care available. We are going to struggle when son starts school in September. I don't want to even begin to think about school holidays as there's nothing available then either.
I have used and paid for childcare all my working life (from kids been 1 year old until now) up to 11 there are plenty of options and clubs. I would like to see secondary schools offering activities and childcare clubs in the holidays because 11 year olds are too young to be left at home from 8 to 6 pm whilst parents work but there are limited clubs for that age that suit the normal working day
Only available by applying early as told there are limited places at school clubs.
There is no flexibility on times of childcare without it costing a fortune. Little provision for 4 year olds during school holidays. Would love the ability to plan a month ahead what requirement is needed as I would be able to have plan my diary better without the reliant support of family which isn't always available.
Very little day care available in school holidays for children over the age of 12 years
Had to wait 2.5 years before I could get my son into the afterschool club near his school in West Bridgford. Not enough local, quality childcare places available in West Bridgford!
Our school does not offer an after school club, and I don't want my children having to shift sites to a different location.
Breakfast clubs should start at least by 7:30 am and After School Clubs should open up to 6:00 pm. Such an approach gives full-time working family the flexibility to work while their children's needs are met by professionals.
Generally not long enough hours. School before and after school clubs not available enough, and need to improve quality.
Really struggle for holiday cover for my 12 year old. Nothing at all locally. Mansfield town football club have a holiday scheme but it finishes and starts out of my working hours. Very poor in school holidays one a child has left primary yet not safe to leave him alone yet.
I would be very concerned to see the primary school enter the market in direct competition to the village playgroup. The village playgroup is constrained in what it can offer by other adult hall users as arranged by the Parish Council. I have no confidence in our elected Cllr to represent these issues accurately and without prejudice. My childcare needs for pre-school will increase in 12 months.
I find it extremely difficult to find childcare for the 3 days a week during the school holidays, especially in Newark. I am having to take my child to Nottingham to go to holiday clubs that will provide care 5 days a week and the hours that suit.
In my area there is no child care available for my child when they start in year 7 as I believe secondary schools do not provide childcare but may offer activities and clubs

Longer working days and national work makes our childcare arrangements (breakfast and after school clubs) inadequate so we need to find alternative flexible childcare support many times a week
I would prefer it if our school had breakfast club and afterschool facilities.
My husband is a postman so early starts - 6.30am. When I work nights I don't finish until 7 or 8 am so the children have to sleep over at grandparents which can disrupt routines and can be at least 3 times a week if I am on 8am starts and nights which is hard for them as they are not in the best of health themselves.
need later opening hours
A breakfast and after school club attached to Standhill/Porchester school would be a great help with not only childcare but development of children. Some extra stimulation could really help to improve children's progress. A holiday club would also be great!
Because private nurseries are over subscribed there is often no flexibility for getting an extra day when you need it, and because the traffic can be so bad, even when I leave work at 4:30, I need childcare that stays open beyond 6pm in case I get caught in traffic, and it seems impossible to find childminders who can pick up from two different locations
The primary school with pre-school that I would like my daughter to go to is inflexible. You can only attend every morning or every afternoon. There are no full days offered so it does not suit working patterns for parents. My child has had to stay at private day nursery which has additional costs which I accept but it would have been nice for her to go to the school she will be going to.
Our preferred choice of childcare would be a childminder as we like the 'home from home' environment. We have really struggled to find a childminder who serves our child's school (Arnold View)
I am looking for new jobs, I feel I am restricted in what I can apply for because of the inflexibility and set hours of a lot of childcare.
Before my child started in year 7 I used holiday clubs, after school and breakfast clubs. I found it hard when she reached 12 as she was not old enough to be left alone but was too old for holiday club (run by the local nursery and based at school). There was no provision for 12-14 year olds that fitted in with my working hours so I relied heavily on my mum.
I am a childminder and I am finding that there is not enough childcare for under 1 year olds, I have turned almost 10 away in less than 3 months as I am full in that category.
Both me and husband work as doctors I do work part time but more than 24 hours a week but also we often have long commutes and are desperate for private care at home before 7.30 am and after 6 for child to be picked up - this is a big struggle but often nursery nurses help us inconsistently.
Local junior school does not provide a breakfast club which will cause problems when both of my children go to the junior school
As working parents we have our children in nursery 4 days a week, with the 4 year old funding our nursery bill is £1100 a month and therefore our largest single outlay each month. My eldest goes to school Sept 16 and I know that we're going to struggle with before and after school given the demand on these provisions and we do not have family local to support. It does not feel right that my biggest concern is childcare availability and not the school

selection.
There is a lack of child minders in Stapleford for my area (Brookhill Street). The care at Cared4 Nursery is not suitable.
Very little for 10-13 year olds term time and holidays. Very difficult for working parents to supervise them.
My husband was unable to take an extra months work as childcare place was not available, we were forced to decide on taking the place or not before the end of his then-current working contract. Waiting lists at good nurseries are excessively long.
Because I work weekends I have to rely on family members to look after my child.
Because I have family that can provide childcare, during term time the free 15 hrs per week are sufficient to meet my childcare needs but during holidays I struggle to find the money to keep my child in a childcare setting.
Need breakfast club to start earlier and a more flexible after school club
Due to lack of childcare in the area, my mum retired early, moved towns and bought a new house close to me so I could return to work.
More childcare places required - these need to be based at the school and accommodate children up to age 14 and through to 6pm.
Don't start early enough in the morning
As I have older children my answers are probably not applicable but I really struggled with flexible hours when they were younger and I was a lone parent. Options for term time, reduced hours were not consistent across the organisation.
The survey emailed to me seems to reflect only the views of parents/ carers of children living with them. I am grandma to three grandchildren. As well as working part time I am called upon to care for my grandchildren frequently as their parents have to work. No there are not enough inexpensive but quality nursery places from birth (not everyone gets a years maternity leave) government funded places for 2 to 5 year olds Great but only in term time, fine if you teach for a living, hopeless if not. Nursery places do not cater for people outside office hours, no good if you work for the NHS.... 12 hour days! Enough said. Regards a tired mamma.
Lack of provision and still cost prohibitive for what we can access
I am looking to go back into fulltime employed work (as my part-time income is insufficient), however the lack of flexible childcare is a concern, especially if I have to start work before 8am or finish after 6pm, when after school clubs typically close. This is really impeding my search for suitable employment. Also, the cost for two children in breakfast/after school club will take a huge chunk out of earnings.
We have to travel 30-40 minutes each way to find suitable childcare, this has placed extra pressure on our family life and also increased our costs. We had a place in the local school nursery but were unable to find a childminder to pick up our son and also care for him in the holidays, this resulted in us not being able to take the pace in school which is the school we wanted our son to attend next year, we were very disappointed.
We are desperate for breakfast and afterschool clubs at Rampton Primary School. Other primary schools offer this and although I don't want to move my children I need the flexibility to dip in/dip out wraparound at school so I can work full-time. I have just been put on a term time only contract which has resulted in my hours being reduced as

well. I have taken a 25% pay cut. From 8:00am in the morning and until 4:30/5:00pm at night would make all the difference. I can't afford a childminder on top of the £30.00 I pay a private nursery to collect my 3 year old at lunch time and take him to nursery until I finish at tea time. Rampton offer after school clubs to 4:15pm each night ½ nights a week but you have to apply each half-term so it is not secure enough for my arrangements. If an affordable breakfast and afterschool club launched it would make such a difference.
Information on use and/or non-use of childcare provision
Although I live in Derbyshire, my child attends school in Nottinghamshire.
Though we live in Eastwood our children attend nursery in Stapleford as when we moved we did not want to change nursery and chose to keep them there.
I have recently moved my child's school to ensure I have better and longer child care from our home post code of NG23 6JL to NG23 6HD
I have recently moved my two year old to the Early Years setting in Farndon having spent a substantial amount at a private day nursery. The cost has gone from £320 per month to £100. This is due to one of us being a home at present who can get our son to Early Years and our other son to school and also be able to pick up. This however will change in the near future and we will need more assistance with childcare in terms of hours before and after school.
My baby is too young to be using childcare, but will be at a childminders full time from the middle of 2016.
Currently on maternity leave, when I go back to work I'll require 3 days childcare for my little ones, aged 4 months and 23 months.
We have an excellent childminder who is flexible and meets all of our child's care needs.
Me and my husband work opposite days to cater for childcare needs and family member looks after my children 1 day per week.
My husband and I work part time and share the child care
Fortunate to have grandparents that can assist in school holidays and after school. Only need assistance sometimes after school as my husband works shifts. (So don't always need any).
I struggle. I'm a nurse married to a soldier who works away. Had great child minder until girls went to school. Now use family.
I am very lucky that my parents can now provide the childcare I need. In the past I have had to use formal childcare.
My husband works nights so that we can manage childcare between us as we have no family living locally.
I feel more comfortable leaving my daughter with grandparents, I know she gets undivided attention and lots of care and love
Comments on a lack of information
I made an enquiry about @homechildcare. They were useless. We found someone ourselves despite having just moved to the area. I do not recommend them; They were rude and unhelpful.

Really difficult to find information on available childminders - info contained on NCC website is often out of date, you have to pay to join other well known sites. Difficulties due to youngest child attending a school nursery and needing to be dropped off and picked up (disappointed with local private day nursery when my son attended, no transition into school environment so wanted my daughter to attend school setting). School breakfast club does not provide care for nursery aged children. Although married my husbands job does not allow flexibility so childcare is solely my responsibility
The whole pre-school / nursery / childcare is completely clouded. Websites are out of date, those that have places are nurseries and want to charge?? I want a play school place, quite simple, x-amount of hours per week in walking distance of my home or my Daughters school. Before my Son starts school next September
I am a newly registered childminder and Ofsted advised Nottingham FIS. Filled in all relevant forms but still can't find my advertisement on their website?
Providing feedback or opinion to Nottinghamshire County Council
I'm very concerned about the security of the pre-school playgroup in Radcliffe on Trent. They will be evicted from their current site at SNA due to demolition works as the new school is built. It appears that whilst the playgroup and local community (and even SNA) are doing everything they can to relocate there has been no reassurances from NCC regards the security of what is a large excellent childcare provider for the village and a large employer. The lack of work that NCC appear to be putting in to this important community run institution (PG has just celebrated 50 years) is disgusting and as a parent, it is probably time we started to take this lack of action into the public domain to show the people of Nottinghamshire what can of council we actually have, where childcare, jobs and community is not a priority.
I'm very concerned about the future of Radcliffe on Trent pre school playgroup. My elder child went there and I shall want my younger to follow suit! What is happening to ensure its future??
The groups as sure start are a great support both with meeting other parents at similar stages as me and breastfeeding support.
There is a lack of transparency about how the value of the 3-4 free nursery places as we have been told our nursery can no longer display an amount on our monthly invoices. This means I have no way of checking whether we are paying the right amount each month. Apparently this has been at Notts CC request?
Convenient being located in school. Feel happy knowing that my son is safe and looked after straight from school without having to travel to another location
We believe the best people to raise children are at home, where one parent cares for them, in an ideal situation.
In relation to cost the anticipated changes to the universal provision of extended free child care places for 3+ year old children will be very welcome. In determining the quality of care when choosing a nursery in my experience the Ofsted report / rating does not match with the experiences of parents. I am currently in the process of moving my son from an Outstanding rated provision in Lowdham that is in practice dirty, has inadequate facilities and that frequently send my child home in wet clothing that he has been playing outside regardless of the weather. In relation to provision for school age children the only option available for my six year old daughter is the after school club provided in the school grounds where demand for places exceeds supply. Working parents don't have the

'luxury' of taking in consideration quality when choosing afterschool provision.
Currently Farndon St Peters After School club does not have an Ofsted number resulting in not being able to use already occurred childcare vouchers. This needs sorting out ASAP. Hours have changed because of this but no reduction in the amount we have to pay. School holidays - Only 2 holiday clubs in Newark. I have tried them both, they seem unable to provide age appropriate activities and fully engage the children. I have been using the local sports centre but the hours are not really suitable - 9-3, but the activities provided keep the children active and fit, if the hours were extended to 8:30am - 5:00pm I would prefer my son to go to the sports centre during the holidays.
I work 23 hours per week.
Would love to understand how childcare will for around going back to work after being a full time mum for my young children.
Quality of care
Whilst there is a good choice of childcare available near by, the quality of child care is poor. I have had to move my children out of our village due to being unimpressed with the level of care / attention that the staff provided
The main problem is finding long day care that is good quality in our area, the only private day nursery is awful. Because of this I use a combination of playgroup, nursery attached to school, childminder and parental help. It would be so much better to have a good quality care provider that has early starts and late finishes in our area.
We struggled when looking for a day nursery that we found of a good standard but since son started school and goes to childminder after school we couldn't be happier
Comments on the survey
I am part time but work more than 16 hours a week. There was not a box for this.
Does what gender I am matter?
No other comments about childcare, but this survey is poorly written and some of the questions will be difficult/impossible to analyse
Your survey is a bit unhelpful as there needs to be a column for neutral as for some of the answers I am ambivalent.
This questionnaire doesn't cover children aged between bands i.e. 1-2 years? There is no where to input part time over 16 hours of work...!
Receive free early years education (15hrs per week) via childminder. It seems unfair to expect childminder to complete the paperwork, seeing as she does not benefit. Process could be improved to make it more straight forward for her to apply, or put the onus on the parent as it is the parent who benefits. Also, your questions on the form did not have a 'neither agree nor disagree' option, so in some cases I entered n/a instead