

# Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2025 A report on the Early Years and Childcare Sector in Nottinghamshire

Early Years Service
Children and Families Department
September 2025

...giving children the best start

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# 1. Introduction

The Childcare Act (2006) ("The Act") states that the Local Authority must make arrangements to secure that early childhood services in their area are provided in such a way that facilitates access to those services, and maximises the benefit of those services to parents, prospective parents, and young children. Under section 11 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.

The Act currently states that Local Authorities must secure free places offering 570 hours of Early Education and Childcare a year over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year and up to 52 weeks of the year for every eligible 2-year-old child in their area, and for all three and four-year olds until the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday.

The Act (2016 amendment) states that the Local Authority must also secure an additional 570 free hours of early education and childcare a year over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year and up to 52 weeks of the year, for qualifying children of working parents (1140 hours in total). **These children are referred to as having a Funded Place.** 

In March 2023, the Government announced reforms to childcare which increased the duty to provide funded childcare places for working families. By September 2025, most working parents of all children over the age of nine months are entitled to 30 hours of funded childcare.

At the same time, the Government outlined the expectation that Local Authorities should develop an offer of what's known as 'wraparound care' outside of normal school hours, so that parents of school age children can access childcare in their local area from 8am to 6pm. This could include breakfast clubs and after school clubs, on site or off-site provision or a childminding community. It is expected that by September 2026, all primary school areas have an offer in their community of before and after school care.

The 2025 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) report focuses on the availability of funded childcare places for children across the County, and the estimated availability in future years.

# 1.1 Methodology

# **Definitions:**

Included in the description of Childcare / Early Years Providers are Day Nurseries, Preschools, Childminders and Schools offering Early Years provision for children under Statutory School age.

Included in the description of Wraparound Childcare are schools and private providers who offer before school and after school provision wrapped around the school day including breakfast clubs and out of school childcare and holiday care. This is childcare between the hours of 8am and 6pm during the school term.

# Information and data was collected from:

- Summer 2025 Term Self Update from Providers delivering Early Years funded places. This year we had a 91% return rate on our request for data compared to 84% last year.
- Early Years Consultation group meetings.
- Contact with provision through the Early Years and Family Hub Service teams.
- Information on tracking all vulnerable children.
- Information and support for parents and carers.
- Families Information Survey.
- Data on numbers of children attending a setting and those vulnerable children in receipt of supplementary funding to support them.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Children previously referred to as "Disadvantaged" and now referred to as Children in Families receiving additional Government Support – now referred to as "Supported".

# 2. National and local Context

### 2.1 National Context

Local Authorities must secure sufficient places to deliver **funded childcare**. Supported Two-year-olds, and all 3- and 4-year-olds are eligible for 15 hours of funded childcare. As of September 2025, most children of working parents over the age of nine months will be entitled to 30 hours of funded childcare at the start of the term following their nine month "birthday".

Revised **Statutory Guidance** issued to Local Authorities in April 2025, set out the requirements on Local Authorities and Early Years Providers whilst discharging the duties laid out in the Childcare Act when delivering funded childcare places.

By September 2026, all schools should have an offer of **Wraparound Childcare** in their community, offering care from 8am to 6pm (or as demand dictates) during the school term.

The Government has also committed to creating further childcare on Schools sites through the **Schools Based Nurseries** Capital programme. The first round of provision is expected to open 6,000 places across the country by September 2025.

The first roll out of the **Breakfast Club Scheme** opened in April 2025. All primary aged children in early adopter schools will be able to access a free breakfast and at least 30 minutes of free childcare, every day, helping to support parents getting into work by dropping their children off half an hour earlier.

In July 2025, the Government published "Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life" which outlined the priorities in Chapter 2 for making high quality childcare more accessible, affordable and simpler for parents to navigate.

### 2.2 Local Context

The Nottinghamshire Early Years team, in partnership with Education, Learning and Inclusion colleagues are working with Early Years Providers, schools and parents and carers to assess the supply and demand for early education, childcare and wraparound places. This takes in to account the current position and estimates any demand for additional places going forward.

In alignment with previous years' CSAs, Nottinghamshire appears (as of June 2025) to have sufficient Early Years places overall.

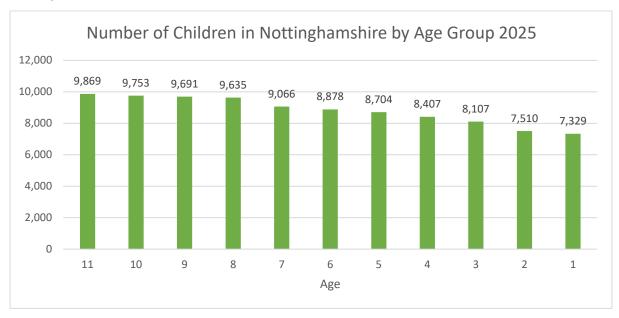
The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment also includes an assessment of the current availability of wraparound provision for primary school aged children as well as for children accessing Early Years childcare and early education. Wraparound care is defined as before school childcare (for example breakfast clubs), and after school childcare (for example regular provision that runs until 6pm or later).

Nottinghamshire has 7 Schools who have been successful in securing funding from Government to develop Schools Based Nurseries. These places are not yet available; the Government target is by September 2025.

There are 13 Schools engaged in the Early Adopter Scheme for Breakfast Clubs. These have been running for just one term at the time of writing (Summer 2025).

# 3. Population of children in Nottinghamshire

According to the Office of National Statistics (ONS), the population aged 1 - 11 years in Nottinghamshire is as follows.



Age 1 source:

Births In England and Wales: Birth Registrations Published July 2025

Ages 2-11 source:

ONS Mid-year population estimates 2023 Published July 2024

As reported in previous year's assessments, the population of children living in Nottinghamshire continues to drop year on year.

# 4. Childcare Provision

# 4.1 The Number of Providers in Nottinghamshire.

In July 2025, there were 1043 Ofsted Registered Early Years providers, including Private, Voluntary, and Independent (PVI) settings and schools delivering childcare, early education and wraparound care across Nottinghamshire. Of those, 885 are registered to deliver funded places for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds.

- 270 **schools** (Maintained and Academies) are registered to provide childcare and early education for 3- and 4-year-olds in a nursery or reception class. 19 schools currently offer places for funded 2-year-olds.
- Providing care mainly in their own home, there are 380 Ofsted registered Childminders in Nottinghamshire most of which are registered to care for children from six weeks to eight years, and 335 (88%) are registered to deliver funded places for 2,3- and 4-year-olds. Childminders can also operate in Non-Domestic Premises (non-domestic premises means providing childcare from somewhere that is not their home or someone else's home)
- There are 101 Childminding Assistants employed by Childminders.

- In addition to Ofsted registered childminders, there are now also 48 childminders registered with **Childminding Agencies**, 38 of these childminders (79%) are registered to deliver funded places in Nottinghamshire.
- **Day Nursery** settings provide care for children from six weeks to school age. There are 165 day nurseries operating in Nottinghamshire, all of whom deliver funded places for 2,3- and 4-year-olds.
- Generally, **Pre-schools** are used on a half-day or full-day basis and tend to operate only during term time. There are 66 preschools who all provide funded childcare places for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds.
- Wraparound provision is currently defined as breakfast club, after school, holiday care and out of school care, some of which offer Early Years provision. There are 114 Ofsted registered, PVI wraparound providers in Nottinghamshire.

Data relating to Early Years providers and places in this CSA include provision for children under 5 years. Wraparound settings who solely provide childcare for school age children are reported separately.

# 4.2 Number of Providers in Nottinghamshire by Provider Type

# **Private, Voluntary and Independent Providers:**

Private, Voluntary and Independent Sector	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2024- 25	% change 2019 to 2025
Childminders	604	581	554	483	447	426	428		-29%
Day Nurseries	177	176	174	173	171	162	165		-7%
Independent Schools	10	10	9	9	8	7	7		-30%
Pre-schools	89	82	80	76	77	67	66		-26%
Wraparound <sup>2</sup>						76	114		+50%
NOTTS TOTAL	880	849	817	741	703	767	780		-11%

Although there has been an 11% decrease in the overall number of providers in the last 6 years, in the year to date (June 2025), Nottinghamshire has actually increased the number of providers offering funded Childcare, and in addition, we know that there has also been an increase in the numbers of Childminders who are taking on Assistants.

### Schools:

There has been an increase over the last seven years in the number of school based Early Years provision offering the extended entitlements for 3- and 4-year-olds. There are 215 Schools registered to deliver Early Years places (75% of all primary schools). In June 2025, 81% (of those 215 schools) are delivering up to 30 hours of funded early education and childcare.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Data for Wraparound childcare provision has only been collected from 2024.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	+/-	% change 2019 to 2025)
Schools funded to deliver Extended (30 hours) offer	117	130	146	155	163	173	174	57	49%

# 4.2 Changes in the Number of Providers

Overall, the number of settings in Nottinghamshire had been largely static for a number of years at approximately 1,000. However, in the last seven years there has been an overall net decrease in PVI providers of 24% (excluding wraparound only provision), although there has been a small increase in the last year. This overall 7-year decrease has largely been driven by a decrease in childminder numbers. There has been a national decrease in the numbers of providers delivering Early Years places, according to the latest Ofsted data (June 2025).<sup>3</sup>

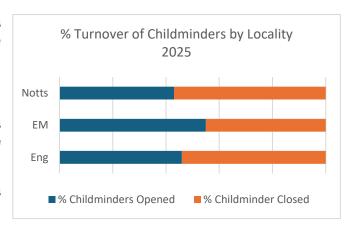
However, in Nottinghamshire the number of providers has increased in the last year.

# Childminders

In England, there were 424 Early Years registered childminders who left the profession and 361 who newly registered between March and June 2025.

In the same period, Ofsted report that In the East Midlands, 27 childminders resigned, and 33 new childminders were registered.

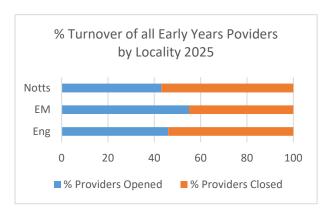
In Nottinghamshire, 6 childminders resigned and 8 joined the profession, during the same period.



61 Childminders within Nottinghamshire now employ assistants, so that they can care for a greater number of children. However, these numbers do not show above, as they are not separately registered with Ofsted or an Agency.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Management information - childcare providers and inspections data as at 30 June 2025

# **All Early Years Providers (including Childminders)**

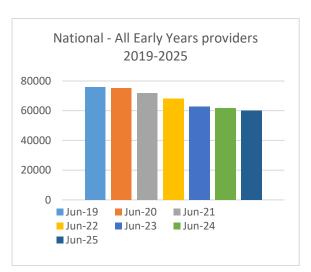


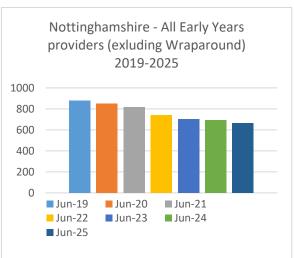
In England, there were 849 providers on the Early Years Register who closed and 817 new providers opened between <u>March and June 2025.</u>

In the same period, Ofsted report that in the East Midlands, 56 providers closed, and 61 new providers opened.

In Nottinghamshire there were 11 closures and 11 newly opened provisions.

Nottinghamshire therefore generally reflects national and regional trends for the number of providers who are joining and leaving the Early Years profession including childminding.





# 4.3 Early Years Providers offering places for (all) 2-year-olds

The table below shows the numbers of children claiming funding for Working and Supported 2-year-olds by provider and funding type in summer 2025, with comparison to the same period in 2024.

Overall, 5% of 2-year-olds claim their funding in a school setting (up from 4.3% in 2024).

There were 30 school settings who deliver funded hours for 2 year olds (which includes "rising threes") in summer 2025 (14 Academies, 10 Maintained Schools, and 6 Independent Schools), up from 25 in 2024.

	Supp	orted 2YO Fu	ınding	Working Families 2YO Funding			
	2024	2025	% +/-	2024	2025	% +/-	
Academy	105	100	-4.80%	49	68	39%	
Childminder	145	95	-34%	520	540	4%	
Day Nursery	1066	659	-38%	2920	3024	4%	
Independent School	8	5	-37%	24	29	15%	
Maintained School	22	16	-27%	29	32	10%	
Pre-school	261	231	-11%	396	369	-7%	
TOTAL	1607	1106	-31%	3938	4062	3%	
	11% in School settings, up from 3.2% in School settings 7.9% in 2024				gs, up from		

With the expansion of the new entitlements, we are seeing an increase in schools lowering their age range and offering funded places to 2-year-olds. In addition, we have seen the number of schools claiming for "rising threes" has increased (Jan-March birthdays only).

Rising 3s spring	Children admitted in term of 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Children admitted in term of 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Total for
term schools	birthday - <u>not funded</u>	birthday – <u>funded as eligible 2-</u>	term
census		<u>year-olds</u> (Supported or	
		Working)	
2024	44	23	67
2025	19	62	81

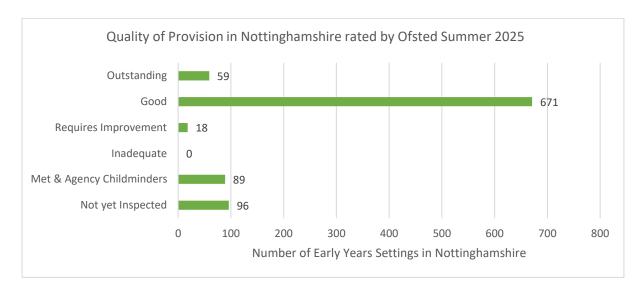
# 4.4 Quality of provision

# **Early Years Provision**

Below is a table showing the number of Early Years settings rated by Ofsted as Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement or Inadequate.

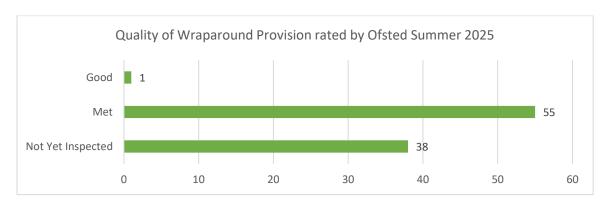
Ofsted Grading	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate	Met & Agency Childminders	Not Yet Inspected	ТОТАГ
Academy School	18	97	4	0	0	19	138
Childminder	14	265	4	0	86	59	428
Day Nursery	13	133	2	0	0	17	165
Independent School	2	5	0	0	0	0	7
Maintained School	8	115	7	0	0	0	130
Pre-school	4	56	1	0	3	1	65
TOTAL	59	671	18	0	89	96	933

87% of the inspected Early Years provision in Nottinghamshire is classed as Good or Outstanding, with a further 10% judged as having Met <sup>4</sup> all requirements for registration. 2% of providers are judged as Requiring improvement, with none judged as Inadequate, 10% of provision is yet to be inspected.



# Wraparound provision

Since September 2019, wraparound providers have only been able to receive a judgement of Met or Not Met from Ofsted. Those rated as Good are historical judgements and are yet to be reinspected.



It is worth noting that at the time of writing (Summer 2025), Ofsted are revising their Inspection Framework and from Autumn 2025 onwards will not be offering a "one Word" Judgement to Schools and Early Years Providers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Some Early Years childcare providers and childminders may have no children on roll at the time the inspection is carried out, or may not have any children present, even though they have children on roll. As a result, no grades can be given against the 4 key judgements. The inspector will make a judgement only on the 'overall quality and standards of the Early Years provision', and offer a judgement as to whether this is Met or Not Met

# 5. Sufficiency Assessments

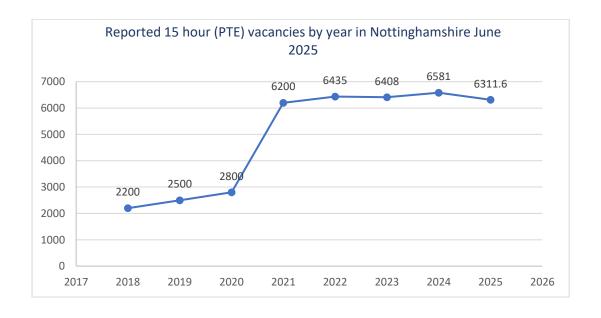
# 5.1 Vacancies for 2- 3- and 4-year-olds (Children currently funded by Early Education Entitlements)

The table below shows the number of reported vacancies for funded children across Nottinghamshire, reporting a year-on-year increase. However, this year we have seen 269 less vacancies than in 2024. A wider group of children are accessing funded places this year may account for the decrease in vacancies, however, alongside this Nottinghamshire has funded 615 new Early Years places using DFE capital expansion funding grant – see section 5.4.

Historically, and in this year's CSA a "place" has been reported as a 15-hour (part time) place, as this was the previous entitlement.

In the future, a "place" may be reported as either a 30-hour Full Time Equivalent (FTE) place or a 15 hours Part Time Equivalent (PTE) place as more working parents are entitled to 30 hours funded Early Years childcare from September 2025.

Number of vacant 15 hour (PTE) places 2,3,4-year-olds as reported in Nottinghamshire Childcare Sufficiency Assessments 2018-2025								
2018	2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025							
2,200	2,500	2,800	6,200	6,435	6,408	6,581	6,312	



# 5.2 Vacancies for under 2-year-olds (Children funded by extended Early Education Entitlements for working families)

Parents currently apply for an eligibility code for their Working Parents entitlements on the Childcare Choices website (<u>Homepage | Childcare Choices</u>). Once a code has been issued for any child it must be validated by the Childcare provider at the time of signing up for a place before the funding can be claimed.

The DFE Eligibility Checking Service dashboard is showing real time data regarding parent eligibility codes issued and validated for under twos. From April 2024, parents/carers were able to obtain codes to allow them to access 15 hours of funded childcare from September 2024 if their child was aged 9 months and over. From September 2025, the same applies for 30 hours funding.

For under 2s, the following table shows our reported capacity compared to how many codes have been <u>issued</u> and are currently active vs numbers of children <u>actually attending</u> a place in summer 2025.

	Active codes (Existing & new– validated) (b)	resident claiming in	County resident claiming in city	codes taking up place in settings	Out of county resident claiming in Notts (not included in b)	Places capacity (a)	<u>Indicative</u> vacancies/ surplus of places <u>(a-b)</u>	Number of 15 hour vacancies <u>reported</u> by providers in June 25
Under 2s	4477	3915	94	90%	528	6160	1743	*1372*

\*Equates to 686 '30 hour' vacancies\*

90% of codes issued for under twos in the summer term were validated at a setting in either Nottinghamshire or Nottingham city. It must be noted that some of these codes could have been validated at providers outside Nottinghamshire and that a significant number of children residing in other out of county areas are taking up a place in Nottinghamshire.

The assumption is that children under the age of 2 currently accessing paid for places will be from working families and therefore eligible for 30 rather than 15 hours of under 2s working parents funding from September 2025 onwards. They will simply "convert" to more funded hours.

The graphs below show the numbers of places and vacancies in 2024 vs 2025 (see section 5.3 regarding places created using DFE capital funding)



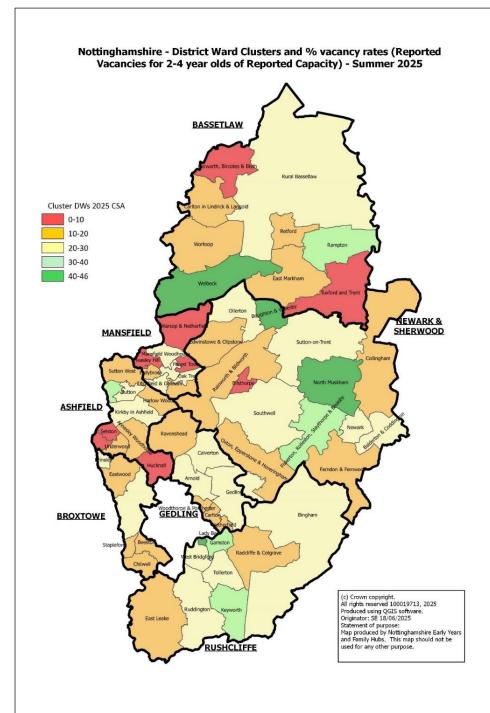
# 5.2 Sufficiency Maps

The maps on the following page show us that there are differences in the number of places available by age group across the County, and further analysis of this has been carried out and is ongoing. For example, there are far more places available for children over three in some areas, whereas there is a shortage of places for babies. We will continue to monitor the vacancy levels for all age groups within all ward cluster areas.

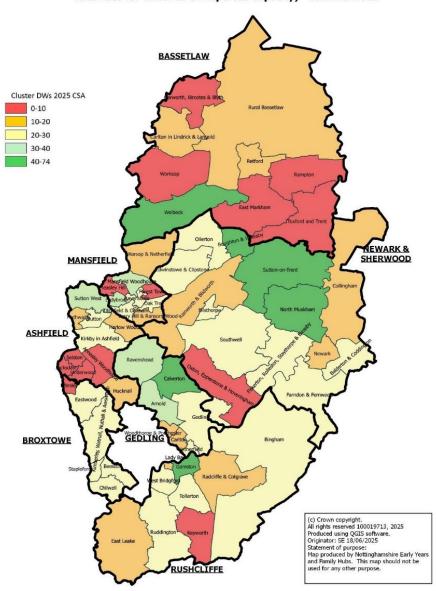
The maps show at a glance the supply of FUNDED childcare for a) 2- 3- and 4-year-olds and b) Under 2-year-old age group, by ward cluster, and details vacancies reported as a percentage of places available.

| There are        |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| reported to be   |
over 40% of PTE	between 30%	between 20%	between 10%	less than 10% of
available places	and 40% of PTE	and 30% of PTE	and 20% of PTE	PTE available
that remain	available places	available places	available places	places that
vacant	that remain	that remain	that remain	remain vacant
	vacant	vacant	vacant	

Further detailed analysis, area by area is available at Appendix 1.







# **5.4 Expansion of Early Years Places**

Nottinghamshire County Council was allocated Government Capital Funding to support the extension of childcare across the county to meet the Government's vision that by September 2025, all children over the age of nine months from working families can access 30 hours of funded childcare. Successful applications have been driven by a clear evidence analysis and local intelligence. We carefully review sufficiency and vacancy data reported by Early Years providers, which highlights gaps in current provision and allows us to ensure we do not have an oversupply of childcare places in a particular area.

District	Places created
Ashfield	261
Bassetlaw	100
Broxtowe	21
Gedling	41
Mansfield	25
Newark and Sherwood	137
Rushcliffe	30
Grand Total	615

This data led approach ensured that funding was targeted where it is needed most, helping to improve access for families and support sustainability of local childcare providers.

The Childcare Expansion Fund is still accepting applications from Early Years providers for the creation of new places until Spring 2026.

The table shows how many Early Years places, in each District, Nottinghamshire County Council have supported to create, using the Early Years capital grant.

Nottinghamshire Early Years capital funded places created to date 31/7/2025

In Appendix 2 there are some examples of successful projects that we have supported to increase the number of Early Years places.

# 6. Demand for funded childcare and take up rates

# 6.1 Supported 2-year-olds

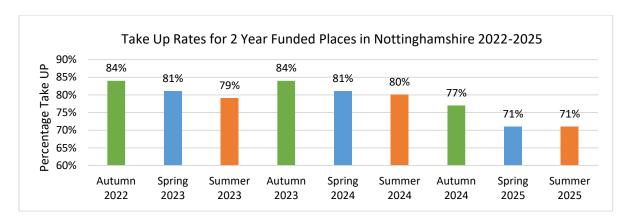
Two-year-olds qualify for a funded (15 hours) place if their home address is in Nottinghamshire, and

- if they are classed as a "looked after child"
- if they have left care through special guardianship or an adoption or residence order
- if they have an Education Health and Care Plan
- if their parents or carers are in receipt of certain benefits: FRAS (families receiving additional support.)

Numbers of eligible children are identified through a list received from the DWP that details children who are in families in receipt of qualifying benefits. Parents apply through the Nottinghamshire County Council website<sup>5</sup> where they are provided with their eligibility code.

The proportion of supported 2-year-old children taking up their funded entitlements has decreased since the last CSA, with an average of 73% for the academic year 2024/25. Take up rates vary by time of year and area of residence as evidenced in the graphs below.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> <u>Help with childcare costs</u> | <u>Nottinghamshire County Council</u>



The table shows the numbers and take up rates for eligible 2-year-olds— in the previous academic terms (spring 2025 and summer 2025) by location of provider

District (nos. of children attending at providers in these districts)	Nov 2024 DWP list	Numbers taking up Spring 2025	% take up by district	March 2025 DWP list	Numbers taking up Summer 2025	% take up by district	% increase/ decrease - summer from spring 2025
Ashfield	422	301	71%	396	274	69%	-2%
Bassetlaw	295	175	59%	311	163	52%	-7%
Broxtowe	208	137	65%	199	123	61%	-4%
Gedling	216	148	68%	208	156	75%	7%
Mansfield	330	241	73%	326	235	72%	-1%
Newark & Sherwood	280	208	74%	238	206	86%	12%
Rushcliffe	151	136	90%	140	130	92%	2%
Totals	1902	1346		1818	1287		
% take up		71%			71%		
		31/03/25			16/07/25		

To ensure all children who are eligible can access their place, our Family Hubs teams follow up any family where they have applied for a place but haven't taken it up. In the summer term, 143 parents were contacted. 45 said they were already attending a funded place, 80 said they knew they were eligible for a place, but not attending. Of that 80,18 confirmed they were waiting to start their place in the future and 20 had plans to take up their place at their preferred provider. A further 20 were looking for childcare in their area.

For the parents where direct contact was made, and families chose not to take up their child's place the Family Hubs teams were able to help the families access support that was right for them and their child. This involves using their menu of interventions and encouraging families to access local groups and/or take up a childcare place in future terms.

Early Years Project Officers also continue to focus on any districts and specific ward areas that are identified as having limited childcare sufficiency for supported 2-year places.

They also continue to provide advice and guidance to schools and PVI providers, as well as supporting recruitment campaigns and activities.

# **Nottinghamshire and National and Statistical Neighbours**

The most <u>recent data (2025)</u> shows that for the first time, Nottinghamshire take up rates for supported 2 year olds have dipped below the national rate of 65%. Nottinghamshire compares favourably with Local Authorities in the East Midlands and across statistical neighbours as detailed in the graphs below.

However, these nationally published numbers do not include children eligible under working entitlements criteria and who also appear on the DWP list. National Guidance states that Local Authorities should count these children in supported take up numbers, inclusion of these children takes Nottinghamshire's rate to 71% for the spring and summer 2025 academic terms.



Take up of supported 2-year-old childcare places remains a priority in the Council Plan because it helps children to thrive and develop and be ready for school; it also supports parents/carers to access work or training.

In order to research into what may have been the contributory factors following the decline in take up rates, a focused report<sup>6</sup> has been published in addition to the Nottinghamshire CSA 2025 report. The report aims to provide a deeper analysis of data and identify key issues and recommendations.

# 6.2 3-and 4-year-olds

All 3- and 4-year-olds are entitled to 570 hours of funded Early Years Education per year. The tables below show take up rates for 3- and 4-year-olds by district. The data source is the ONS Mid-Year 2023 population estimates and therefore is a snapshot and does not consider a fluctuation in population. Take up is over 100% for age 3s as a significant proportion of children residing out of county are taking up places with Nottinghamshire providers and schools. Conversely, county resident children may be accessing their nursery place in a city school or adjoining County area.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> <u>Supported 2 year olds in Nottinghamshire Report 2025.docx</u> (Link will need updating at final version to public web page where this report will be published

District Name	Population of 3 year olds (1)	Population of 4 year olds (1)	3s taking place (2)	4s taking place (2)	% take up 3s	% take up 4s
Ashfield	1,362	1346	1214	1258	89.13%	93.46%
Bassetlaw	1,169	1236	1064	1113	91.02%	90.05%
Broxtowe	1027	995	905	897	88.12%	90.15%
Gedling	1,054	1174	995	1070	94.40%	91.14%
Mansfield	1,169	1154	1114	1114	95.30%	96.53%
Newark and Sherwood	1,202	1283	1149	1231	95.59%	95.95%
Rushcliffe	1,124	1219	1108	1101	98.58%	90.32%
			7549	7784		
Out of county resident/ address not known			666	465		
Grand Total	8,107	8,407	8215	8249		
Sources:			0			
ONS Mid year population estimate	s 2023 publishe	d July 2024	Overall % t	resident	93%	93%
	children					
Summer Term 2025 Headcount Data – attending either universal or expanded hrs.			Overall % including county children	take up out of resident	101%	98%

# 6.3 Expanded entitlements for working parents (3- and 4-year-olds).

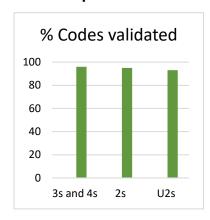
3- and 4-year-olds of working parents and carers are entitled to an additional 570 hours paid at the same hourly rate.

Take up of the extended childcare offer<sup>7</sup> is at 96.62% of 3- and 4-year-old children with an eligible 30 hours code accessing their extended hours in Nottinghamshire this summer term, a very slight increase on the percentage of 96.4% for the same period last year. In total 7706 children accessed funding for some (or all) of their extended hours this summer term (7552 last year).

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 $<sup>^{7}</sup>$  Source for all age groups DFE data dashboard 20/06/2025

# 6.4 Expanded entitlements for working parents (2-year-olds and under)



Take up of the extended entitlement for **2-year-olds** of working parents and carers (for 15 hours currently, increasing to 30 from September 2025) also continues to be very good. 4198 children received this funding in the summer term 2025 (up from 3853 last year) which equates to 94.5% of codes issued for two-year-olds being validated (up from 92% last year)

This funding has now been extended to **under 2s** of working parents and carers (for 15 hours currently, increasing to 30 from September 2025). 4410 children received this funding in the summer term 2025 which equates to 93.21% of codes issued for under twos being validated.

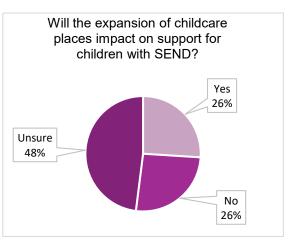
# 7. Vulnerable Children

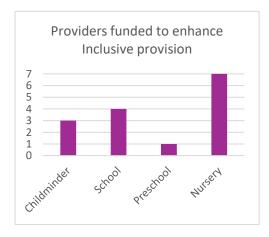
# 7.1 Provider Feedback

We can see that providers continue to support children with SEND. Providers applying for inclusion funding has risen by 53% since Summer 24.

In a survey sent to providers in March 2025 regarding the expansion to 30 hours funding, 167 providers responded. It should be noted this is only a 20% response from 874 providers who offer Early Years funding.

When asked if the childcare expansions will have an impact on SEND places in their setting, 26% said yes, 26% said no and 48% said they were unsure. A number of, settings told us they would have to limit the number of spaces offered to be able to meet the ratios for SEND children.





We know that children are presenting with more complex needs which require providers to lower their staff ratio to enable them to meet the needs of these children. Providers still tell us it is difficult to recruit staff into the sector, which impacts on them not always being able to operate at full capacity.

To support settings to enhance their inclusive practice allowing greater accessibility to children with SEND, providers could apply for Unique capital funding from the expansion funding. We have funded 11 Early Years providers and 4 wraparound providers with Unique capital projects to date.

These included projects such as widening of the path for wheelchair use, a ramp to the door, erect a stud wall to create a sensory space and expanding or creation of sensory spaces.

# 7.2 Early Help Notifications

Under Section 23 of the Children and Families Act 2014, health services have a duty to notify the appropriate local authority, where they anticipate that a child under school age has or is likely to have a special educational need and/or disability (SEND) when they start school. This is called an Early Help notification.

From August 2024 to July 2025, the Early Years team received 492 Early Help notifications for under 5-year-olds, an increase of 129 from last year. In July 2025 we know, 304 (over 60%) currently attend an Early Years setting. This data is from birth, and we know some parents choose to be at home as the child's primary carer.

Additional supplementary funding is made available to support Early Years Providers who are meeting the needs of the most vulnerable children. Details of the funding rates can be found in Section 8.

# 7.3 All Early Years Supplementary Funding take up

All providers are offered additional funding to support the most vulnerable children in their provision. Details about these funding streams is further explained below. The table below shows the proportion of providers who accessed supplementary funding for children in the previous three years.

	Summer 2023	Summer 2024	Summer 2025		
	% of Providers				
Inclusion Funding	13%	12.58%	13.45%		
Disability Access Fund for Children on Disability	4%	13.08%	14.30%		
Living Allowance					
Deprivation Fund for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds	25%	13.46%	18.70%		
known to Social Care					
Early Years Pupil Premium	44%	54.46%	56.23%		
Do not receive any supplementary funding	49%	34.46%	38.26%		

# 7.4 Early Years Inclusion Funding

This fund is available for children identified as having emerging, targeted and higher-level needs. An application can be submitted for a child who is accessing a funded place and is living in Nottinghamshire. Funding is available to all providers including Early Years provision in schools.

The numbers of children accessing the Early Years Inclusion Funding has risen by 53% since summer 2024. Since September 2024, Schools have been able to apply for Inclusion Funding to support children with no previous early years experience. In addition, as more, younger children take up places at a setting, due to the expansion of funding, more children are presenting earlier with complex and emerging needs.

Age	Number of Children 2024- 2025	2023- 24	2022- 23
1 yr	4	1	2
2yrs	26	24	28
3yrs	143	116	122
4yrs	263	146	97
5yrs	6	2	0
Total	442	289	249

	AUTUMN 2024	SPRING 2025	SUMMER 2025
Nottinghamshire Total (all ages) 2024-2025	236	333	442
	Autumn	Spring	Summer
2023-2024 (for comparison)	143	172	269
2022-2023 (for comparison)	152	195	249

# 7.5 Early Years Deprivation Fund

Children eligible for the Early Years Deprivation Fund are those 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds accessing their funded entitlement and who are known to Children's Social Care i.e. Child in Need (CIN), Child on a Protection Plan (CPP) or Looked After (LAC).

Since Summer 2023, Communication and Language (C&L) payments have been made to providers who have 3- and 4-year-olds (who were previously identified as eligible for Supported 2yr old funding) if the child is not meeting the national Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) expected levels of development in C&L, as evidenced by termly provider data returns to Early Years. This allows providers to consider targeted interventions for these children. This is shown on the last three columns of the table below.

District / Academic Year	Child in Need		Child Protection Plan		C&L Payments				
District	Aut 24	Spr 25	Sum 25	Aut 24	Spr 25	Sum 25	Aut 24	Spr 25	Sum 25
Ashfield	9	15	12	8	11	10	81	123	142
Bassetlaw	4	14	14	6	10	13	64	88	130
Broxtowe	5	9	8	5	8	8	39	48	58
Gedling	9	7	7	2	4	3	44	84	86
Mansfield	8	16	22	6	7	8	77	124	126
Newark	10	14	9	6	11	14	37	54	60
Rushcliffe	4	13	11	1	2	3	32	39	45
Notts County Total 2025	49	88	83	34	53	59	374	560	647
	Aut 23	Spr 24	Sum 24	Aut 23	Spr 24	Sum 24	Aut 23	Spr 24	Sum 24
Notts County Total 2024 for comparison	61	74	82	44	56	49	245	380	540

# 7.6 Early Years Pupil Premium

All funded children are eligible who meet the economic criteria for free school meals, and/or are Looked After by the Local Authority are eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP).

The numbers of children receiving Early Years Pupil Premium (largely Economic Factor) in Summer Term 2025 by district by term are shown below. The total number of children funded was 2931 across the academic year.

District	3s and 4s Summer 2025	2yr olds (supported and working) Summer 2025	Under 2s working Summer 2025
Ashfield	430	172	5
Bassetlaw	324	89	5
Broxtowe	221	61	1
Gedling	206	83	10
Mansfield	360	130	8
Newark	11	132	9
Rushcliffe	142	72	8
Out of county	101	45	6
Notts total summer 2025	1795	784	52
Notts total summer 2024 for comparison	1895	n/a	n/a
Notts total summer 2023 for comparison	2325	n/a	n/a

There has been a further drop in numbers of 3 and 4 year old children eligible for EYPP from 2023/4 to 2024/5 which may be partly attributed to NCC Early Years changing data collection systems during 2023. Providers entering parental data may not have manually ticked the consent to check box, and therefore a check has not been performed. Also, as more people continue to move onto the working entitlements, their income may now exceed the EYPP check threshold.

45 Children received Early Years Pupil Premium **(Children Looked After)** in Academic Year 2024-5. This figure includes Children Looked After, previously Looked After and Adopted. 2024-5 data includes Under 2s and 2 year old funded age groups.

	Autumn 24	Spring 25	Summer 25
Notts Total 2024-5	28	37	39
	Autumn 23	Spring 24	Summer 24
Notts Total 2023-4 for comparison	14	27	42
	Autumn 22	Spring 23	Summer 23
Notts Total 2022-23 for comparison	21	35	26

<sup>\*</sup> NB. Figures vary across the terms as children may be funded for one, two or three terms.

# 7.7 Early Years Disability Access Fund

Early Years Providers in Nottinghamshire are eligible to receive Disability Access Fund (DAF), (£938 annually, per child) where a child is taking up a place and is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA). DAF is allocated to Local Authorities based on the numbers of children claiming DLA, although not all of those children are accessing a childcare place.

The table shows the number of children accessing Disability Access Fund (DAF) Academic Year 2024-2025 by district.

District	Autumn 24	Spring 25	Summer 25	Total
Ashfield	10	15	14	39
Bassetlaw	2	12	13	27
Broxtowe	13	3	15	31
Gedling	6	9	29	44
Mansfield	17	9	10	36
Newark	20	8	25	53
Rushcliffe	13	12	11	36
Notts Total 2024-25	81	68	117	266
Notts Total academic year 2023-	Autumn 2023	Spring 2024	Summer 2024	Total
2024 for comparison	44	54	93	191

The numbers of children accessing DAF has increased by 39% in the last year, with summer 2025 seeing the highest ever take-up of this funding.

# 8. Funding

# 8.1 Early Years Funding rates for 2025-26 in Nottinghamshire

Funding for childcare places is provided from the Early Years block of the Dedicated Schools Grant which uses a national Early Years Funding Formula to allocate funds to top tier Local Authorities. All Councils can retain up to 5% 8 of the Early Years Block to pay for administration, quality assurance, create an Inclusion Fund and Deprivation Fund. Nottinghamshire has historically retained less than 5% and in 2025-2026 the retention is 1.57%.

The hourly rates are based on the National Early Years Funding Formula and local consultation. The following hourly rates are in place:

-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> From 2026-2027 this will be reduced to 3%

	2024/25	2025/26
Early Years Base Rate:		
Eligible Under Twos in PVI settings	£10.20	£10.38
Eligible 2 year olds School & PVI settings	£7.58	£7.78
Eligible 3 and 4 year olds in School & PVI settings	£5.34	£5.58
Funding supplements:		
Early Years Pupil Premium (all ages)	£0.68	£1.00
LAC Early Years Pupil Premium (all ages)	£0.68	£1.00
Deprivation all children eligible for EYPP	£0.05	£0.05
Deprivation for all eligible children	£406 per annum for monthly CIN/CPP & LAC Meetings (current children only)	£406 per annum for monthly CIN/CPP & LAC Meetings (current children only)
Deprivation for 'Emerging' EYFS Communication & Language for previously eligible 2 year olds		£50 per term per 3 or 4 years old when evidence supplied
Disability Access Fund (DAF)	£910 per annum	£938 per annum

# 8.2 Tax Free Childcare

Tax Free Childcare is for families with children under 12, a Tax-Free Childcare account can be worth up to £2,000 per year per child towards registered childcare, such as before and after school clubs, holiday clubs, childminders, nurseries, and pre-schools. This increases to £4,000 per year for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and goes up to the age of 17.

If parents are eligible, they set up an online childcare account for their child at <u>Tax-Free Childcare - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</u>. For every £8 they pay into this account, the Government will pay in £2 to use to pay the childcare provider.

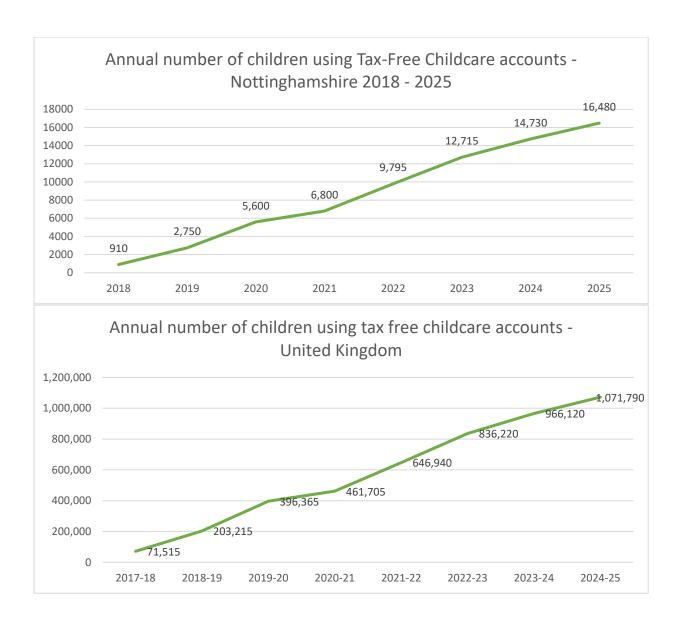
To be eligible both parents must be in employment, or one parent in a single-parent household, and be earning at least the National Minimum Wage for 16 hours per week on average and under £100,000 per year. This includes being self-employed, on maternity or parental leave, on sick leave or annual leave.

National Information - https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-tax-free-childcare

Local Information – Tax-free childcare | Nottinghamshire County Council

Tax-free leaflet A5 (nottinghamshire.gov.uk)

Take up of this offer is low nationally, this is also reflected in Nottinghamshire. However, since its introduction in 2017, there has been a steady increase following increased National and local promotion. This is in line with national take-up trends.



# 9. Sustainability

Despite indications of overall sufficient childcare in Nottinghamshire as a county, emerging feedback from the Nottinghamshire Early Years Consultation Group, as well as direct engagement with providers, highlights increasing apprehension regarding the long-term viability of childcare provision.

As outlined in Section 5, local data indicates that there are thirteen district ward clusters for children under the age of two, and eight clusters for children aged two, three, and four, where the availability of childcare places may be limited. Of additional concern, however, are ten areas in which over 40% of available places remain unfilled. This significant level of vacancies raises concerns regarding the long-term sustainability of providers operating in these areas, due to persistently low uptake of places.

The Early Years and Childcare sector in Nottinghamshire remains under considerable pressure, facing a range of ongoing challenges:

- The challenges associated with maintaining a viable and sustainable Early Years setting have intensified in recent years. Although Government funding rates for 2025/26 have risen, as outlined in Section 8, providers have expressed that the increases remain insufficient to meet the actual costs of delivering funded places. This shortfall is particularly evident when factoring in recent updates to statutory guidance, increases in the National Minimum Wage, and rising pension contribution obligations. Combined with escalating operational costs, these pressures are placing a significant strain on the day-to-day management and financial stability of Early Years providers. The Government have recognised the need to simplify funding arrangements in their recently published strategy "Giving every child the best start in life"
- Providers across the Early Years sector are facing workforce challenges, with recruitment becoming increasingly difficult in recent years. Maintained nursery schools, school-based settings, and private, voluntary, and independent (PVI) providers report difficulties in filling vacant posts and retaining existing staff. A number of practitioners have exited the sector, and there is a recognised national decline in new entrants. These workforce shortages have serious implications: providers may be forced to limit the number of children they can accommodate in order to comply with statutory staff-to-child ratios. The recruitment of qualified staff has become particularly challenging, and high staff turnover, coupled with a lack of appropriately trained personnel, is placing additional strain on providers. As a result, many are struggling not only to remain financially viable but also to dedicate sufficient time and resources to addressing the underlying business and workforce issues they face. Nottinghamshire have recently been selected to allow newly employed staff entering or returning to the Early Years Workforce to sign up for a Government incentives payment scheme.
- Many Early Years providers are facing challenges in expanding their provision due to a lack of available physical space. As demand for childcare increases, especially in growing communities, providers are finding themselves constrained by the limitations of their current premises. Even when there is a clear need to accommodate more children, the absence of additional rooms or outdoor areas makes expansion unfeasible. Compounding this issue is the difficulty in obtaining planning permission for new structures or site modifications. Lengthy approval processes, strict regulations, and local opposition can delay or entirely block development plans, leaving providers unable to meet community needs or improve access to childcare.

# There are several indicators that demonstrate to us how settings are being impacted by the challenges outlined above:

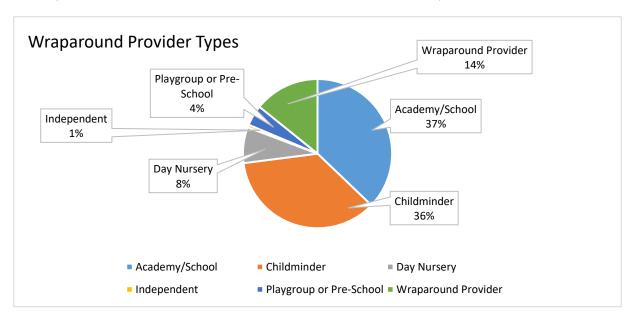
- Feedback gathered through sector-wide surveys provides valuable insight into the pressures providers are experiencing.
- Ongoing communication with providers—via the Early Years Consultation Group, regular briefings, and network meetings— highlighting these concerns.
- Additionally, some settings have reported that they are having to restrict the number
  of children they can accommodate, and consequently their income, due to staff
  shortages and the need to maintain safe staff-to-child ratios.

# 10. Wraparound Childcare

Following Governments' announcement of new Wraparound duties for Local Authorities in 2024, we now include an assessment of current provision for children of statutory school age to access Wraparound care.

"The Government's ambition is that by 2026, all parents and carers of primary school-aged children who need it will be able to access term time childcare in their local area from 8am-6pm, so that parents can access employment and improve labour market participation."

Nottinghamshire County Council have mapped out the supply and demand across the County and have supported successful different models of providing Wraparound Care for our children. It should be noted that some providers use other terms to describe their Wraparound offer (Breakfast Club, After School Club, Out of School Provision)



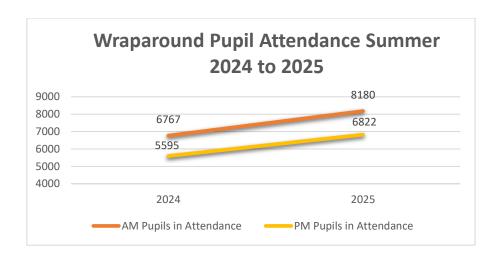
The table above shows the percentage of different Provider Types we have currently operating Wraparound Care in Nottinghamshire.

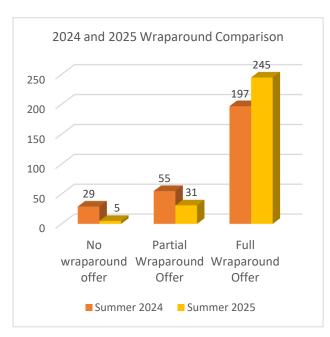
# 10.1 Wraparound Provision in Nottinghamshire

Through our own collection of indicative data, termly, via Synergy Sufficiency Assessment returns, Provider questionnaires and direct contact with settings we found that in Nottinghamshire there were a variety of settings offering Wraparound childcare, other than schools directly.

As the understanding of what the term wraparound means, and with the support of Nottinghamshire County Council's work with providers, the sufficiency returns from providers on wraparound are growing and each term we are gradually getting more data to be able to map out sufficiency, supply, and demand for this area of childcare.

Our most recent sufficiency data shows there are 8,180 children taking up a breakfast club place and 6,822 in an afterschool Club place in Nottinghamshire. Over the last year there has been a 21% increase of children attending Breakfast Club provisions and 22% increase in children attending After School Club provisions.





Since the Wraparound Initiative was announced in 2024 an additional 2,015 before school places and 1,955 after school places have been created. Out of these places, 1,071 full wraparound (combined AM and PM) places have been funded through the DfE Wraparound Programme Fund.

A Full Wraparound offer is where a provision offers 8 AM to 6PM Wraparound care to the school day (or hours equivalent to 10 hours covered per school day).

Over the last year, there has been an increase of 24% in schools offering a full wraparound offer.

Using the DfE Wraparound Programme Funding, to date, The Nottinghamshire Childcare Expansion Fund has funded Nottinghamshire Providers to create a further 1071 full wraparound places, since the programme started. This Expansion Fund is still accepting applications from Providers for Wraparound expansions until Spring 2026. This table shows how many wraparound places, in each District, Nottinghamshire County Council have supported so far, using the Programme Funding.

District	Places created
Ashfield	171
Bassetlaw	144
Broxtowe	90
Gedling	293
Mansfield	85
Newark and	
Sherwood	50
Rushcliffe	238
Grand Total	1071

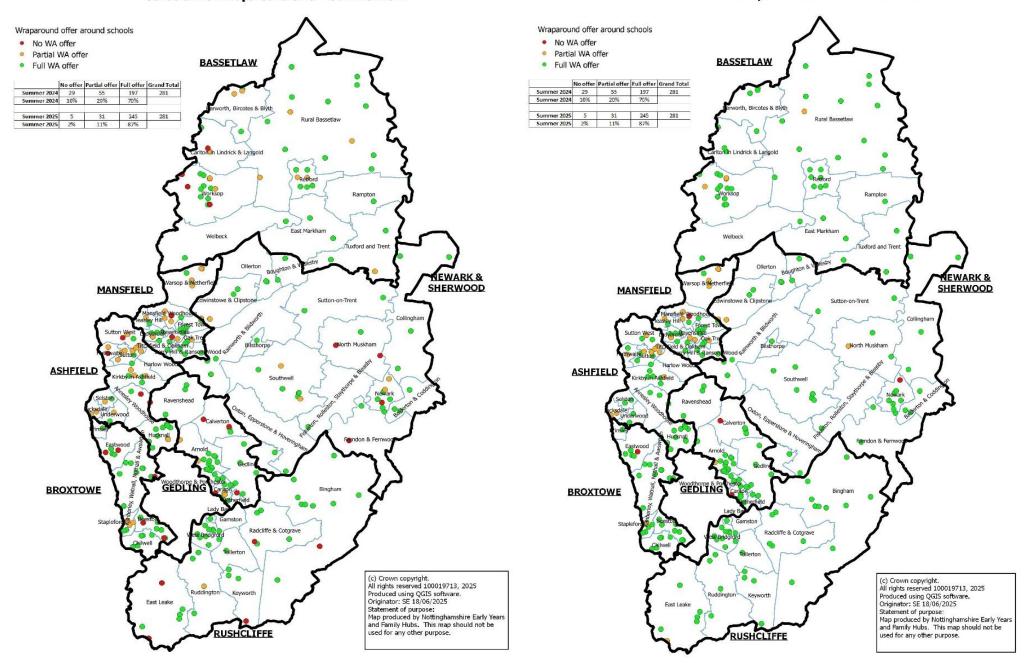
# 10.2 Maps of Wraparound Provision

The following maps show where full, partial and no offer of Wraparound Care is offered in relation each Nottinghamshire school, have changed since the start of the Wraparound Programme to date Any schools still marked Amber or Red are in liaison with our Wraparound Advisors about creating places for their children.

Further analysis of each district and the provision is at Appendix 3

# Nottinghamshire - District Ward Clusters and schools with wraparound offer - summer 2024

# Nottinghamshire - District Ward Clusters and schools with wraparound offer - summer 2025



# 10.3 \*NEW\* Finding Wraparound Childcare on Notts Help Yourself

The Families Information Service (FIS) has a specific search page on the directory of childcare providers to make it easier for parents to find before and after school care.

On the Nottshelpyourself | Wraparound page, parents can choose their child's school from a list to quickly return a search result of all the providers (including the school) that have indicated on their listing that they offer wraparound services at that school. Optionally a postcode can also be included in the search to allow the results to be ordered by nearest to a specific location, e.g. their home. This system continues to develop to include those providers who, as mentioned above may not yet have formal links to schools, such as childminders who offer drop off and pick up.

Since August 2024, childcare listings on the directory have been updated to reflect their wraparound offer. To July 2025, 485 childcare listings on the public childcare directory indicate they provide full wraparound childcare, 534 indicate they provide before school care and 524 indicate they provide after school care.



The wraparound search page was initially active but not widely promoted whilst the work to update the listings was ongoing. Since March 2025, the page has been made more visible on the website and actively promoted. Overall, there have been 742 visits to the page, but 54% of those visits have been since March.

# Social media promotion of wraparound childcare

Throughout 2024-25 social media posts by the Families Information Service promoting wraparound childcare have had a reach of over 36,000 with an engagement rate of 4%. A social media campaign to regularly promote the wraparound search page will run over the next year and include boosted posts to reach a wider audience.





# 11. Information and support for Parents and Families

As well as Early Years and Family Hub Service own communications, we have worked closely with Notts Help Yourself, Families Information Service and Nottinghamshire County Council Corporate Communications teams to ensure parents and families are kept up to date with childcare information in Nottinghamshire.



The <u>Families Information Service</u> (FIS) fulfils the statutory duty laid out in Section 12 of the Childcare Act 2006 to offer a service providing information, advice and assistance about childcare and other activities to benefit parents, children and young people up to the age of 20, including activities to do at home and in the community, guidance on parenting challenges, child development, healthy lifestyles, volunteering, returning to work.

Childcare providers are asked as part of the provider agreement to keep their offer for children with special educational needs or disabilities updated on their childcare listing. Parents and carers can filter the list of childcare providers to show those that have indicated they have experience or specific training to care for children with SEND.

The Families Information Service (FIS) <u>Facebook page</u> promotes messages about finding childcare, different childcare funding options, and how to apply. During the past year we have been keeping families informed through social media channels of the expansion of childcare funding support, key dates for when the funding expansions take place and when working parents can apply for the new entitlements. Messages have gone out on the FIS Facebook and Instagram pages, Nottinghamshire Family Hubs Facebooks pages and corporate social media channels. Boosted social media posts from FIS have been used to reach a wider Nottinghamshire audience with these childcare messages so that families who don't follow our social media accounts are still able to find out about these changes.

In 2024-25 social media posts about childcare funding reached over 114,000 people with an average engagement rate of 4.8%, which is above the industry average engagement rate for Government posts of 2% for Facebook posts <sup>9</sup>.

# nottshelpyourself.org.uk

Notts Help Yourself is a countywide directory and information website providing a range of information for parents including childcare provision, wraparound care and holiday clubs.

The information from the Families Information Service database populates the website <a href="https://www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk">www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk</a> enabling parents to search for childcare in their local area. Childcare providers can self-update their information on the website to ensure parents are getting the most up to date information about their service. Regular reminders are sent to providers to sign into their account to check and update their information. Listings that haven't received an update from a provider within 12 months are reduced to basic details taken from the Ofsted and Synergy records to ensure the directory remains a comprehensive source for parents and carers whilst ensuring the information displayed is accurate and up to date.

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<sup>9</sup> https://blog.hootsuite.com/calculate-engagement-rate/

# Promotion of wraparound, tax-free childcare, and childcare funding support expansion

Nottinghamshire Families information Service created a social media toolkit to ensure that a variety of posts go out every month on Facebook and Instagram to share key messages, benefits and information to parents, carers and professionals who follow our pages.

The social media toolkit holds all assets and resources for our posts and ensures that all the key facts and important information is passed on through the posts. Part of this toolkit is our promotions of Tax-Free Childcare and Wraparound Childcare. We currently have posts created for Tax Free childcare and for wraparound, including a video and stories to capture the attention of our audience. We boost our posts periodically throughout the year and see some great figures on our engagements and reach to our audience.

Alongside the social media posts, the FIS team also promote Childcare funding options, tax-free childcare and wraparound to our families and professionals through events and our displays of leaflets and banners to help promote. All Family Hub sites have a selection of our leaflets, and we have also created an internal leaflet stand for teams such as the Children and Families department in social care, who may find the leaflets and information helpful to families they are working with. Recently we updated our Tax free and wraparound, and childcare funding leaflets to reflect the childcare funding support expansion.



# 11.1 What parents are looking for - visits to relevant pages on Notts Help Yourself

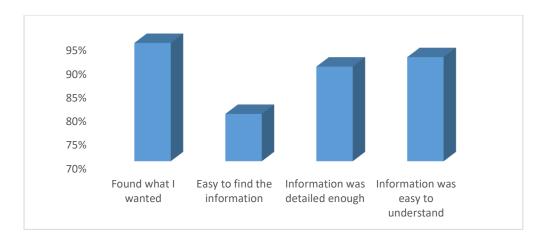
The number of visits to sections of information on Notts Help Yourself for information related to childcare and families during 2024-2025



# 11.2 Families Information Service Customer Survey 2025 Findings

Since 2019 there has been an annual user satisfaction survey conducted by the Families Information Service to find out from families, providers, and professionals whether they are aware of our services, the top reasons for using our services, and areas for future development. Findings from the 2025 survey highlighted the following:

- 49% of respondents to the survey had heard about the Notts Help Yourself website prior
  to the survey. 44% had heard previously heard about the Families Information Service,
  an increase of 8% on last year, and continues the general trend for people being aware of
  these services year on year.
- The top ways parents look for childcare and parenting information is 1. Internet Search
  e.g., Google, 2. Word of Mouth, 3. Facebook, 4. NHS website, 5. Nottinghamshire County
  Council Website, 6. Notts Help Yourself, 7. Family Hub Network, 8. From my child's school,
  9. From the Healthy Family Team, 10. From my Early Years and childcare provider
- Most respondents (79%) were parent/carers. 36% of parents/carers who responded had children with SEN or a disability, a 6% increase on last year.
- When people have used Notts Help Yourself to find information, 95% have found the information they want, 80% said it was easy to find the information, 90% said the information was detailed enough, and 92% said it was easy to understand.



# The top 10 things people say they use Notts Help Yourself to find information about?

Topic	% of respondents
To find information about childcare funding	34%
Information about Family Hub networks	28%
Drop-in services to access information, advice and guidance on a range of topics	25%
Information about being a parent of children aged 0 to 4 years	22%
Find childcare	22%
Crafts, play and learning activities to do at home	18%
Advice on managing children's behaviour	15%
Guidance on how to support my child with special educational needs or disabilities	13%
Information about being a parent of children aged 5 to 11 years	11%
Information on children's talking and communication	11%

# 12. Conclusions, Actions and Recommendations

In order to fulfil the duties placed on us as a Local Authority there are a number of considerations for the forthcoming year. The following actions and recommendations for Nottinghamshire County Council Early Years Service are summarised below:

# 12.1 Childcare Supply

There is, again, no immediate concern about the supply of Early Years childcare across the county with similar numbers of vacancies being reported as in the last few years in the Early Years sector.

However, we will continue to monitor sufficiency on a termly basis and

- Pay attention to those areas where there are less than 10% reported vacancies.
- Pay particular attention to the availability of places for supported 2-year-olds
- Pay particular attention to the availability of places for children with SEND
- Pay particular attention to the number of places and under twos from working families.

Actions in areas of concern in the 2025 CSA: (See also Appendix 1)

- Ashfield Monitoring of places across Selston will continue while the school extends
  their nursery. We will work with the day nursery to support expansion and look at a
  childminder recruitment campaign if this is needed. As we are aware of two nurseries
  opening in Hucknall, we will continue to monitor the supply and demand and work with
  those nurseries to encourage take up of places.
- Bassetlaw To support growth of childcare places in 5 red ward areas for under 2year-olds and 2–4-year-olds there is an ongoing childminder recruitment campaign in progress across the identified red areas.
- Broxtowe Brinsley- Given that neighbouring wards are also reporting limited availability
  for children under the age of two, to support the growth of childcare places in red ward
  areas for under 2-year-olds we will work collaboratively with providers in these areas
  to explore opportunities for increasing capacity through the childcare expansion
  funding.
- Newark and Sherwood To support the growth of childcare for 2 -4-year-olds in the Bilsthorpe ward an expansion project will be initiated to further survey local need and look to create more places in areas of demand. This will include a childminder recruitment campaign.

Although we have achieved a significant increase in the number of schools delivering a full wraparound offer, we will continue to work closely with the remaining schools who

- Have no offer in place (5 schools)
- Have a partial offer on place (35)

In 2025, the Government revised the guidance suggesting that Local Authorities could use remaining funding to ensure those partial places could be "grown" to meet the needs of the parents in that community.

# 12.2 Demand for Childcare

As we approach the final point of the roll out of the Childcare Entitlements for working families, we will assess and measure on a termly basis, the take up of all entitlements for children aged 9 months upwards.

- Monitor the sufficiency of baby places.
- Monitor the take up of places for supported 2-year-olds.
- Monitor the take up of places for children with SEND.
- Monitor the impact of the termly census points (introduced April 2026) on take up and funding.

# 12.3 Quality of Childcare

To ensure that all childcare offered across Nottinghamshire remains of the highest quality we will continue to work closely with the sector to assess and plan for support in the coming year.

- Consult with the sector about their workforce development needs.
- Continue to develop the opportunities to support the Wraparound Sector as the Development Programme reaches its conclusion.
- Ensure all providers access relevant funding for ongoing support and development of places.

# 12.4 Sustainability of Provision

We know that, for the Early Years Sector, their biggest concern is sustainability in the years ahead in an uncertain climate of change, Early Years representatives will therefore:

- Continue to develop the offer of Provider Engagement Networks, Committee Workshops and ongoing support and guidance for settings who are struggling with sustainability, offering advice on marketing, recruitment, and local consultation.
- Promote working in childcare, attend careers hub meetings and connect with organisations and colleagues who work collaboratively with schools and colleges.
- Promote the DfE Incentives Fund to support Providers to encourage new or returning recruits into the Childcare Workforce.
- Working closely with providers, ensure that we understand demand and supply in a local area.
- Review our Supplementary Funding streams to ensure all providers maximise their income.
- Ensure any actions implemented arising from the Government's recently published strategy "Giving every child the best start in life" are implemented locally.

# 12.5 Information for Parents

A new community directory website to replace Notts Help Yourself and Ask Lion, the equivalent website in Nottingham City, is currently being procured and will be in place for when the contract for the current website expires in March 2026. This will provide a comprehensive county- and city-wide directory of childcare and parenting information.

• Continue to monitor the number of providers with up to date information on the website and ensure that this continues to rise.

- Continue to monitor the number of parents using the new platform for information and use the results of the Customer Survey findings to guide the information held on the website.
- Ensure that all Schools have linked providers delivering Wraparound Childcare by January 2026 published on the website.

# 13. Useful Reading and Resources

# The Coram Family and Childcare Survey 2025

"This year's survey shows just how different a parent's childcare bill can be with funded entitlements. Working parents of children aged under three in England paid less than half of last year's cost for a part-time nursery place, and more than 20% less for a full-time place.

Parents felt that attending childcare had made their children more excited about starting school, and that they as parents felt more confident about that next step, too."

Read more here: Childcare Survey 2025 - Coram Family and Childcare

### **Childcare Choices**

"Support from Childcare Choices can give a child a great start while giving parents work choices, helping them make the juggle of family life a little easier."

Find out more information about the schemes here: <u>Homepage | Childcare Choices</u>

# **Ofsted management Information**

Management information aggregating registered childcare providers and inspections and their outcomes.

Childcare providers and inspections: management information - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

# Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life

"We want all children, regardless of background, to have access to high-quality early education and childcare. This allows parents to work and supports children's development as they grow, getting them ready for school and beyond."

Read more about the Government's strategy here: Giving every child the best start in life

# **Appendix One: Childcare Sufficiency Assessments (Section 5)**

District Ward Cluster Areas identified as 'Red' (low vacancy rates) on Vacancy Maps - A further insight

# **Ashfield**

- **Selston** currently is a concern for both under 2s and 2-4s. There is only 1 day nursery in these wards, however, they are looking to expand. A school in Selston was also successful in the School Based Nurseries initiative, so will be able to expand for the 2-4s.
- **Jacksdale-** is a rural community with a small number of eligible twos from September. As one of the schools takes 2 year olds, childminders in Jacksdale and Selston are able to take the under 2s as well as the day nursery.
- Hucknall- currently shows red for the 2-4s. We are aware of a setting that recently opened in April and is building up clients. Another nursery is due to open over the summer, which is a large 216 place nursery that will be able to accommodate taking more of the 2 4 year olds.
- Annesley Woodhouse- Annesley is a rural location that has main roads surrounding
  the area. Parents who are able to drive use provision in neighbouring wards, as data
  shows take up in a mixture of wards of children who reside in Annesley. There is one
  day nursery that has no vacancies and 4 childminders with no vacancies. From the
  number of codes issued, this is greater than the vacancies. It is likely that additional
  provision is needed in Annesley.

# **Bassetlaw**

Bassetlaw is a large district with a total of 9 ward areas as shown on the map as of concern, many of those are areas of rurality, making local access to childcare for families at times challenging. This district is also experiencing growth from industry and housing developments.

- **Under 2 year olds** For the 5 ward areas identified as "red" there are currently 21 providers who are registered to deliver childcare provision for children under 2 years offering 139.4 places.
  - Across these ward areas there are 8 day nurseries and 13 childminders all reporting to be full with waiting lists. Existing providers in these ward areas report the inability to expand their business predominantly due to inability to expand existing building structure / footprint.
- **2 4 year olds** The 2 ward areas identified as "red" for under 2 year olds are also "red" for 2 -4 year olds.
- Harworth, Bircotes & Blyth there are 2 academies in this ward who take from 3 years, 2 day nurseries and 1 preschool offering 57 places for 2 year olds and 115 places for 3-4 year olds.
  - Existing PVI providers in these ward areas report the inability to expand their business predominantly due to inability to expand existing building structure/footprint. To support growth in demand, Extended Entitlement Funding has already supported the expansion of 15 childcare places in Carlton in Lindrick (neighbouring ward).
- Tuxford and Trent there are 2 schools and 1 academy in this ward who take from 3 years, 1 day nursery, 1 playgroup and 3 childminders offering 37 places for 2 year olds and 81 places for 3-4 year olds. Existing PVI providers in these ward areas report the

inability to expand their business predominantly due to inability to expand existing building structure/footprint

# **Broxtowe**

• **Brinsley-** Within the Brinsley ward cluster, there is only one Early Years provider offering a total of nine places for children under the age of two, with minimal or no current vacancies. Data indicates that 55% of children under 2 residing in the Brinsley area are taking up their place with this provider. A further five families who reside in the area access Early Years provision outside of Brinsley. Additionally, 14 children who do not reside within the Brinsley area attend this setting, including six who live outside the Nottinghamshire County boundary.

# **Mansfield**

- Pleasley Hill- We know that a provider recently closed in Pleasley therefore we only
  have childminders operating in the area. We know that children are taking up a place
  in neighbouring wards and also cross the border to Derbyshire if parents work here.
  Neighbouring wards have capacity for under 2s, therefore places for 2-4 year olds
  needs consideration.
- Forest Town- Although Forest Town is showing red on the CSA, there are 2 schools and 4 childminders in this cluster ward. There is a day nursery in a neighbouring ward that has baby spaces and 2 yr old spaces. Parents are likely to use this day nursery as it is near Forest Town ward. From codes issued and validated, there are still 24 vacancies showing for under 2s. Forest Town shows as Red, but due to nearby provision, Parents are able to access childcare.
- Warsop and Netherfield- Warsop and Netherfield shows low vacancies for 2-4s.
  There is only 1 day nursery in the ward. Parents who don't drive would struggle with
  transport to go out of the ward. There are two childminders who may be able to expand.
  Warsop could benefit from some more childminders or expansion of the existing day
  nursery.

# **Newark and Sherwood**

- Under 2 year olds Across Oxton, Epperstone and Hoveringham ward cluster there is 1 school who take from 3 years and 1 day nursery. Extended Entitlement Funding will generate an additional 22 childcare places to support the increase of places for children under 2 years at the day nursery located in Oxton village.
- 2 4 year olds The Bilsthorpe ward is quite isolated from neighbouring wards requiring transport to reach alternative provision. There is 1 academy who take a small number of 2 year olds and then a larger cohort of 3-4 year olds, there are 2 childminders who offer collectively 2.8 places for 2 year olds and 1.8 places for 3-4 year olds.

# Rushcliffe

• **Keyworth**- Although the Keyworth ward cluster has been identified as an area of concern due to limited vacancies for children <u>under two</u>, it is important to note that four providers located in the Tollerton ward cluster also serve families in the Keyworth area. Current data indicates these providers offer 63 places for funded under two's, with 17 of those places currently vacant. Therefore, we do not have any immediate concerns for this area.

# **Appendix 2 Case Studies (Section 5)**

Successful projects that have been supported to increase the number of Early Years places.

### **Provider 1 Childminder**

A childminder created 6 new Early Years places by utilising and repurposing the space within their home to create additional space for children. The new places are available for children between the hours of 6am and 8pm and weekends and cater to meet the needs of parents who work shifts and weekends.

# **Provider 2 School**

A school was funded to make slight modifications to a classroom to make it suitable for a 2-year-old environment. This enabled the creation of fifteen new 2-year-old places in a ward area where two charity led preschools had recently closed. The closure of the preschools had left an insufficient number of places to meet demand, particularly for the supported 2-year-olds in the area, in addition to the expansion of funded places for working parents it was identified that this is an area where the funding would support access to places for all families.

# **Provider 3 Forest School**

A Forest School that operates fully outdoors was funded to offer an additional 16 places to their under threes group. The funding supported the forest school to purchase a yurt, a stove and suitable sleep pods. This enabled a warm environment for the youngest of children to sleep in during the colder weather due to the insulated walls and the stove inside.

# **Provider 4 Full Day Care Nursery**

The Hucknall area has recently experienced the closure of two all-year-round day nurseries and one term-time nursery over the past year. Other nurseries in Hucknall are also currently full, with waiting lists extending until at least January 2026. We collaborated with a local school to lower their age range to include 2-year-olds, a change that is set to take effect from September 25. Furthermore, a day nursery successfully secured a childcare tender for the Broomhill Family Hub and has been operational since April 25. A third nursery is due to open in August 2025. All three of these facilities have applied for and received Early Years Expansion Funding enabling new places to be created and supporting families to access childcare in the locality.

# **Appendix 3 Wraparound Childcare (Section 10)**

# A District by District Report on the Wraparound Childcare Market in Nottinghamshire

### Ashfield District:

In summer 2024 in the Ashfield district, there were 3 schools who had no wraparound childcare offer and 17 who only had a partial offer of just a before school childcare.

This is out of 38 schools in the district.

In Summer 2025, there are now no schools without some form of wraparound offer.

From the previous 3 schools with no provision; one of those schools now uses an OFSTED registered to offer a full wraparound childcare offer off school site. One uses an external provider off school site to offer before school care to the children and the other now runs its own before school childcare and plans to set up an after-school offer in Autumn 2025.

Out of the 17 who only offered a partial offer of childcare provision there are now only 10 who only offer before school provision. The other 7 now offer full provision to their children and families.

We will continue to support all the schools with their wraparound offer and work with those who don't have full provision to extend their offer, link to external providers or to look at a community model.

As it currently stands in Ashfield, we have 73% of schools offering a full wraparound offer. This is up from 47% last summer with others still awaiting approval.

### **Bassetlaw District:**

There are just 4 amber schools in the Bassetlaw District. All 4 schools have a breakfast club offer but no afterschool provision and there are no other local providers delivering an afterschool offer. Expansion funding opportunities have been shared with all 4 schools, and we will continue to promote and encourage the expansion of provision.

We have discussed with the schools their reasons for not expanding to offer a Full Wraparound Offer and they have said it is not viable, and the school do not have a desire to work with an external provider.

# **Broxtowe District:**

Within the specific ward areas of the Broxtowe district, to our current knowledge, there is only one school who is currently classed as a red, however this will become a green by September 2025. The school initially had issues with external providers offering their wraparound provision and have now taken the decision to offer this service to families themselves as a school. The decision was made due to the high demand from the families within their school community.

# Gedling district:

Within the ward areas of the Gedling district, to our current knowledge, there are only 2 red schools and 1 amber school. The amber school did have an external provider in place to offer wraparound care, however this was halted by the headteacher, and is to be revisited at a later date by the school. Similarly, one of the red schools was looking to provide their own wraparound provision, however due to a sudden change in headteacher, this was temporarily paused until the new acting head settled into their new position. The other red school has simply not engaged with the wraparound team yet, the wraparound advisor for the district is continuing to attempt contact to discuss possible future options. Each school mentioned

above, apart from one who has not engaged, has external providers off school site and childminders who offer wraparound care provision to their pupils. The wraparound advisor for the district will continue to engage and support these schools with possible, viable options.

### **Mansfield District:**

In summer 2024 in the Mansfield district, we had 3 schools who offered no wraparound childcare and 10 who only offered a partial offer of just before school childcare.

This is out of 34 schools in the district.

For summer 2025 we now have only 1 Junior school who do offer no wraparound childcare, and we continue our efforts to engage with this school. Their feeder Infant and Nursery School have recently been offered Programme funding to develop a full offer, and we will investigate how this can support the Junior School.

There are still 10 schools offering partial provision.

One of these schools who had no offer previously who now have before school childcare. Another of the schools who currently offer just before school is awaiting approval for an external provider to move onto school site. One school has tried to run their own after school childcare but has had no demand from parents. However, there is promising data on Early Years Children coming to the school in September 2025, who are using Working Parents entitlement, so we will continue to work together to develop their offer.

As it currently stands in Mansfield, we have 68% of schools offering a full wraparound offer. This is up from 61% last summer with others still awaiting approval.

### **Newark and Sherwood District:**

There are 4 amber schools in the Newark and Sherwood District. Of these schools 3 have a breakfast club offer but no afterschool provision and there are no local providers delivering an afterschool offer.

Expansion funding opportunities have been shared with all 4 schools, and we will continue to promote and encourage the expansion of provision.

The 4th school has a limited operating model until 16:30pm. We have promoted funding for the expansion of hours to support with an extended offer, which the school are considering.

# **Rushcliffe District:**

There are currently no red or amber schools within the Rushcliffe district and specific ward areas. Each school has a full Wraparound Offer.

# Successful projects that have been supported to increase the number of Wraparound places.

### School 1

The school now runs its own breakfast and afterschool club with its own employed staff members. There are also several local childminders who offer wraparound care in their own home for children linked to this school too.

### School 2

The school runs its own breakfast club, with school employed staff running it. The afterschool club is run by an external provider on the school's site. They have the use of the school hall, kitchen, one classroom and the playground. The staff running this afterschool club are employed by the external provider, who works closely with the school.

### School 3

The school runs its own breakfast and afterschool club with its own employed staff members. There was a need in the area for earlier start and end times of care to suit parents/carers working hours, as well as weekend care, therefore a local childminder offers these extended hours in partnership with the school.

### School 4

A rural small school has three local childminders who offer wraparound care, in their own home, for children who attend that school. The childminders offer a pick up and drop off for these children.

### School 5

A junior school who previously used spaces at their feeder infant and nursery Wraparound, however demand was high, and we have since funded more spaces at the infant and nursery school as well as funding to create further provision in the junior school.

### School 6

The school was supported through the NCC procurement process to bring an external provider onto the school site and offer both before and after school provision to the school. Programme funding has ensured the provider will create sustainable provision.

To find out what more about Wraparound Childcare in each district, visit Notts Help Yourself Website

Nottshelpyourself | Wraparound