

Early Years & Childcare Business Newsletter

June 2022
Issue No. 16

Welcome and thank you for taking the time to read our latest Business Newsletter, we hope you find it useful to support you with the ongoing sustainability of your business. If you have anything that you would like to see included in future editions do let us know and please contact us for any further support or advice.

Email: earlyyears@warwickshire.gov.uk

Websites: [Early years and childcare settings during COVID-19](#)
[Early Years & Childcare Providers](#)

Going forward, we will be covering a topic that we get regularly asked about and for this edition, our focus is around Childcare Sufficiency.

Childcare Sufficiency

Every year during the Summer Term, we ask you to complete the Childcare Sufficiency return. Recently, we have had a few providers ask us why this needs to be completed and what is it used for, so hopefully this will answer some of these questions.

What is Childcare Sufficiency?

The Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on local authorities to ensure, that provision of childcare is sufficient to meet the needs of parents in their area, in order for them to work or undertake education or training. Childcare Sufficiency considers all the factors that influence the demand and supply of childcare throughout the county. It analyses any current and future gaps in provision, making recommendations to meet demand.

Childcare sufficiency is also about:

- making sure that the childcare is available, accessible and affordable so that parents have the opportunity to use childcare in their area
- making sure it is of good quality so that it benefits the child
- providing parents with a choice of childcare so they can choose the childcare that meets their needs.

Why do we need to complete a childcare sufficiency assessment (CSA)

A childcare sufficiency assessment compares the demand for childcare in an area with the supply of places. Demand for childcare is based on the number of children in the area and the use of the various types of childcare. By comparing demand with supply, it can be seen whether there is a need for more childcare in an area.

How does it work in Warwickshire

Every year during the summer term, the Early Years & Childcare Entitlements Team ask you to complete your sufficiency data via the Synergy Online Portal Sufficiency tab which enables us to get a good insight into sufficiency in your local area. Being able to follow the trends in sufficiency helps us to locate areas of high demand and investigate the need to create more early years places to ensure parents can access their funding entitlement.

The way we ask settings to complete this via Synergy Online Portal Sufficiency tab:

Places—If setting caters for 40 children (2-5yrs); setting will need to identify how many children they would offer places too per age range (e.g., 15 x 2 yr places & 25 x 3/4 yr places). Do NOT put 40 in each age range as this will distort the actual number of places on offer.

Vacancies—Setting needs to complete the number of vacancies they have for each age range, for each day of the week and time (AM and / or PM).
Example: 2 yrs: Setting offers 15 x 2 yrs places and the actual occupancy is 15 for Monday AM session, the vacancy number to enter is 0 under Monday AM. If the actual occupancy is 10 for a Monday PM session, the vacancy number to enter is 5 under Monday PM ($15 - 10 = 5$).

Example: 3/4 yrs: Setting offers 25 x 3/4 yrs places and the actual occupancy is 25 for a Monday AM session, the vacancy number to enter is 0 under Monday AM. If the actual occupancy is 15 for a Monday PM session, the vacancy number to enter is 10 under Monday PM ($25 - 15 = 10$).

From the information submitted, this enables the team to identify gaps in the childcare market, so that we can plan how to support the market to ensure sufficient childcare provision. In this context, 'sufficient' means having the right type and volume of childcare to meet the needs of parents/carers in the local community. We want to ensure there are sufficient places for 2, 3 and 4 year old children to access their free early education entitlement and to support parents who are in work or who are seeking work.

Other elements we use childcare sufficiency for:

Section 106

A section 106 agreement is an agreement between a developer and a local planning authority about measures that the developer must take to reduce their impact on the community. There are occasions where we will receive Section 106 requests to advise on the likely sufficiency of early years places, to accommodate new housing developments within the County Council as more places for childcare may be required. Therefore, a need for early years places must be demonstrated or highlighted as a local priority and sufficiency data submitted is used to identify this.

Helping parents identify childcare places

Sometimes, there may be providers that close unexpectedly and we will need to support parents to find alternative childcare provision, sometimes at very short notice. Working alongside FIS Brokerage Service, we will use sufficiency information to identify where alternative providers around the area may have places available, so that parents can be signposted across to them. Setting data is anonymised where place sufficiency work is needed.

Localised sustainability support for providers

From the childcare sufficiency report, an action plan is developed highlighting key areas to ensure providers remain sustainable going forward and highlighting any gaps that have been identified from the report that could cause place sufficiency issues.

Warwickshire County Council Childcare Sufficiency Assessment report

A childcare sufficiency report needs to be produced annually by the County Council to support its statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable. Local authorities are required to report annually to council elected members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient early years and childcare places, and to make this report available to parents. Therefore, it is vital that all providers complete their sufficiency when requested in order to meet this legal duty. Once a report is completed, this will be shared with you.

The latest Childcare Sufficiency Assessment can be accessed via the below link:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childcaretypes>

Business & Financial Support News

Clear and transparent fee information

A reminder as part of the WCC Provider Agreement and the Guidance & Requirements of Early Education Funding for 2, 3 & 4 year olds, providers are expected to have clear and transparent fees information available for parents showing the funded hours at £0 charge and any additional charges for extra hours or services including any voluntary charges, shown separately.

Fundraising and finding funds

Here are some useful websites to check for any funding grants that may be available:

- Warwickshire CAVA—<https://www.wcava.org.uk/>
- Warwickshire CAVA Covid-19 Funding / Grants—[COVID-19 - Funding/ Grants | www.wcava.org.uk](https://www.wcava.org.uk/covid-19-funding-grants)
- Heart of England Community Foundation—<https://www.heartofenglandcf.co.uk/>
- Warwickshire County Council Grants and Local funding—<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/grants>
- The National Lottery—<https://www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/funding>

Warwickshire Means Business

Warwickshire County Council produces a monthly Warwickshire Means Business newsletter with all the latest updates for Warwickshire businesses including information on funding grants, events and different business focuses each month. Please [click here](#) to read May's edition and subscribe to future newsletters.

Notifying the Local Authority of an Ofsted Inspection

Can we please remind all providers to inform us of the outcome of an Ofsted inspection. All early education funded providers must inform us within 3 working days as per the Guidance and Requirements of Early Education Funding for 2, 3 & 4 year olds. Where the grading is below “Good” this will have implications to the funding entitlements the setting is able to deliver.

Useful Business Support Websites & Contacts

Starting up a childcare business

Information and tips on setting up and running your own business

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/business>

Charity Commission

Useful information on setting up and running a charity

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission>

Companies House

Information on starting up and running a company

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/companies-house>

Staff Employment – ACAS

Advice and information on staff employment matters

<https://www.acas.org.uk/>

PACEY - Business Smart

<https://www.pacey.org.uk/working-in-childcare/business-smart/about-business-smart/>

Find useful briefings, DfE guidance and slides from events and training

<https://app-t1pr-seycp.azurewebsites.net/resources.htm>

Government help with childcare costs for parents

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

Group setting cost calculator co-produced with Merton and PACEY through DSF funding

<https://www.pacey.org.uk/working-in-childcare/nurseries/group-setting-cost-calculator/>

<https://www.pacey.org.uk/working-in-childcare/nurseries/group-setting-occupancy-tool/>

Warwickshire County Council Warwickshire Insights

Warwickshire Insights provides statistical information about local areas in Warwickshire

<https://data.warwickshire.gov.uk/>

Out of School Alliance

Information and support to individuals and organisations setting up and running out of school clubs, holiday clubs and playschemes.

<https://www.outofschoolalliance.co.uk/>

The Pensions Regulator

Information and guidance on staff pensions and the responsibility of the employer

<https://www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/>

Coram Family and Childcare's resources are designed to help professionals working in childcare and early years

<https://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/resources-professionals>

NDNA – Business Zone NDNA Business Zone

http://www.ndna.org.uk/NDNA/News/Early_Years_Business_Zone.aspx

Early Years Alliance – Business and Management

<https://www.eyalliance.org.uk/business-and-management>

<https://www.eyalliance.org.uk/cost-delivery-calculator>

Foundation Years – Business Planning

<https://foundationyears.org.uk/2019/08/business-planning/>

Warwickshire County Council Family Information Service

Free advertising for your childcare business on the childcare directory.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fis>

Support and advice for your early years business

<https://www.earlyyearsbusinesszone.org.uk/>

Early years business sustainability

Advice, examples and resources to help early years providers run a sustainable business

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/early-years-business-sustainability>

Warwickshire County Council Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childcaretypes>

Warwickshire County Council Support for businesses & suppliers

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/coronavirusbusinesssupport>