

# Early Years and Childcare Sufficiency Plan

2018/19

## Contact us



School Place Planning, Solihull Council, Manor Square, Solihull B91 3QB



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



0121 704 6702

## 1. Introduction

The statutory guidance for Early Education and Childcare places a duty with Local Authorities to secure sufficient childcare places in its area. In order to do this Local Authorities **are required** by legislation to:

***Secure sufficient childcare places, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children).***

To secure sufficient childcare places, local authorities **should** take into account what is reasonably practicable when assessing what sufficient childcare means in their area and:

- the state of the local childcare market, including the demand for specific types of providers in a particular locality and the amount and type of supply that currently exists;
- the state of the labour market;
- the quality and capacity of childcare providers and childminders registered with a childminder agency, including their funding, staff, premises, experience and expertise;
- encourage schools in their area to offer out of hours childcare from 8.00 am and 6.00 pm;
- encourage existing providers to expand their provision and new providers to enter the local childcare market.

Local authorities are **required** to report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare, and make this report available and accessible to parents.

Local Authorities are responsible for determining the appropriate level of detail in their report, geographical division and date of publication. The report should include:

- a specific reference to how they are ensuring there is sufficient childcare available to meet the needs of: disabled children; children from families in receipt of the childcare element of Working Tax Credit or Universal Credit; children with parents who work irregular hours; children aged two, three and four taking up funded places; school age children and children needing holiday care;
- information about the supply and demand of childcare for particular age ranges of children, and the affordability, accessibility and quality of provision; and
- details of how any gaps in childcare provision will be addressed.

## 2. Purpose of the Report

This report provides baseline data to assist Solihull Council in its duty to understand the childcare market and to assist in planning to provide support and facilitate changes in the childcare market place and to assist current/prospective providers to plan.

The data is modelled by Ward, which will help inform future decisions on the Early Learning and Childcare places requirements for each Ward.

Wards in Solihull



The demographic data used to compile this report has been collated from a number of sources including the Solihull Observatory, Solihull Family Information Service, Ofsted and the Health Authority.

### 3. Borough Wide Demography

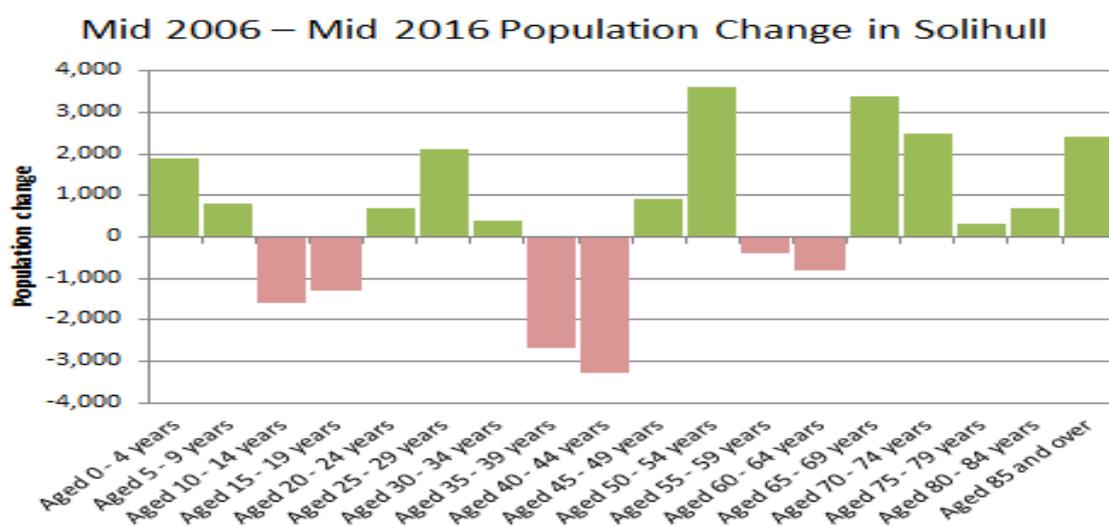
The Solihull mid-year population estimates 2016 show that Solihull's resident population was 211,763. This is an increase of 9,400 (4.7%) since 2006.

As the table below shows compared with both England and the West Midlands region Solihull has a relatively high proportion of older people aged 65+ (20.6%). The proportion of children is in line with the average, but the working age population is relatively low.

	Solihull		England		West Midlands	
	Count	% Total	Count	% Total	Count	% Total
Aged 0-15	40,621	19.2%	10,529,100	19.1%	1,133,959	19.5%
Aged 16-64	126,676	59.8%	34,856,126	63.1%	3,605,574	62.2%
Aged 65+	44,466	21%	9,822,841	17.9%	1,061,201	18.3%
All people	211,763		55,268,067		5,800,734	

The chart below shows the population change by age band for the period 2006-2016

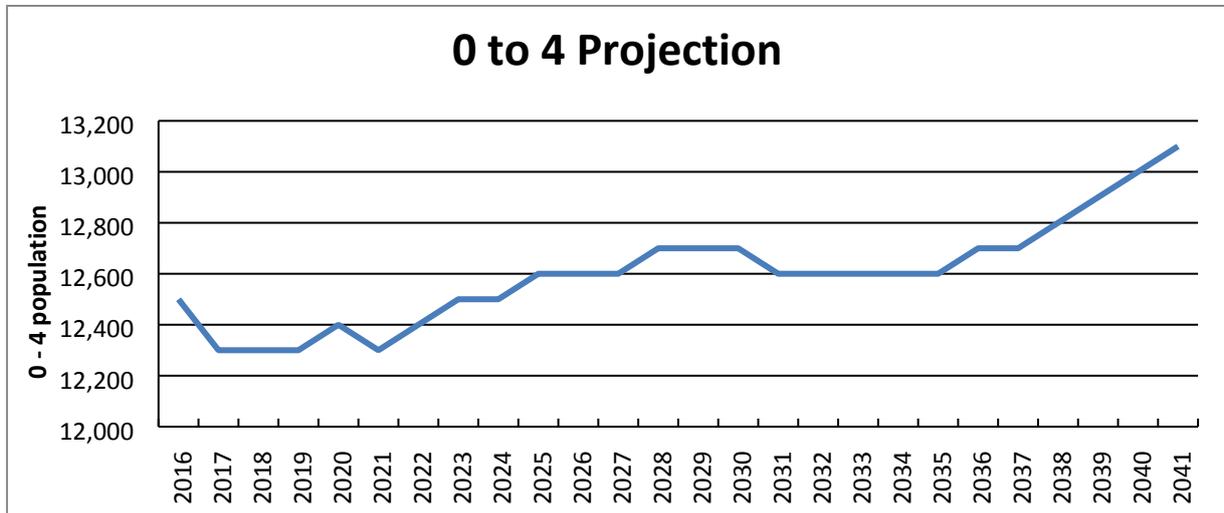
- The chart indicates that there was a substantial fall in the number of 30-44 year olds over this period, most notably among those aged 35-44 years (-3,300, -20%);
- The effect of this includes falling numbers of children aged 10-19 years;
- Notable population increases are evident among those aged 65-74 (+33%) years and those aged 85+ (+57%).
- There has been a slight decrease in Solihull's working age population during the period 2006-2016 of -0.1% compared to +5.3% for England and + 4.8% for the West Midlands.
- Solihull's 0-4 population is growing and this is also reflected in the local Health Authority data.
- Growth in the 5-9 population reflects the larger numbers moving through primary schools.



Source: ONS, mid-year population estimates

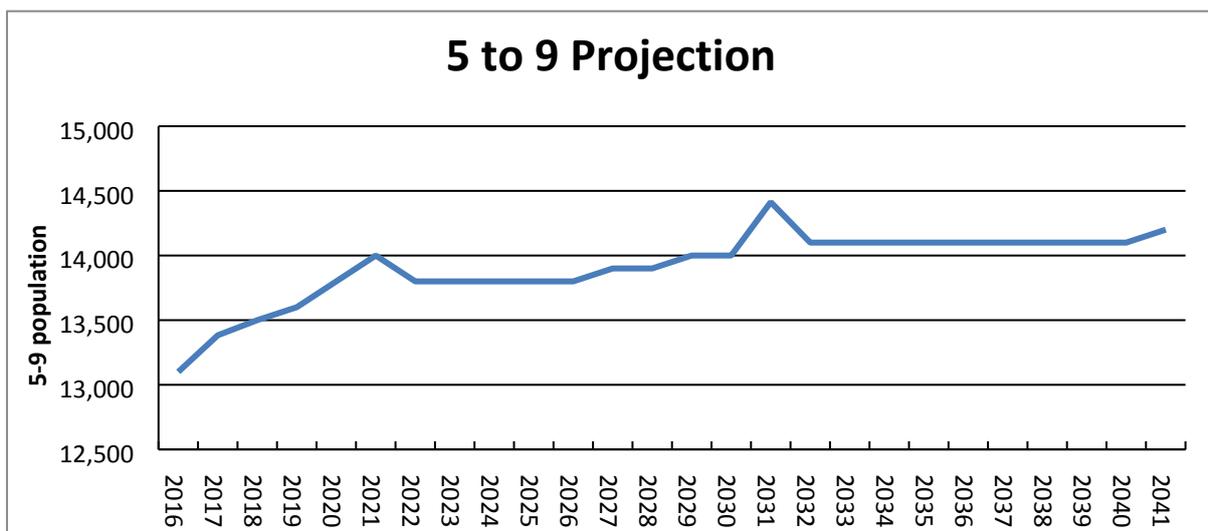
## Population Growth

Based on existing trends, the ONS produce projections for each 5 year age range up to the year 2041. The projections for the 0 to 14 age range in Solihull is shown in the charts below.



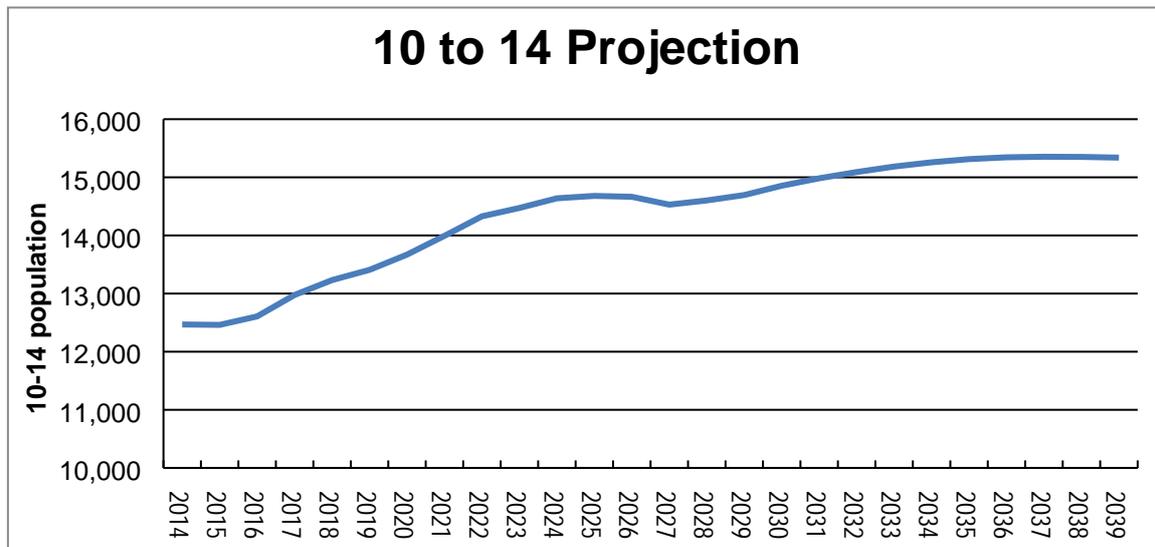
(Source ONS 2016 based subnational population projection)

The projections show that there will be an on going rise in the 0 to 4 population in the Borough. The 0 to 4 population is forecast to rise by a further 5% during this period, lower than previously forecast. This rise in births and migration has also been reflected in the Local Health data for the Borough and the increasing number of children entering Reception classes at age 4.



(Source ONS 2016 based subnational population projection)

The forecast for the 5 to 9 and 10 to 14 population also shows significant growth over the data period.



(Source ONS 2016 based subnational population projection)

Solihull Council is currently undertaking a review of its Local Plan. It is expected that as a minimum the review of the local plan should seek to accommodate a housing target of around new 13,500 dwellings (over a period 2011 to 2033). The review of the Local Plan will take account of the UK Central Masterplan and Prospectus for a 'Garden City' approach to the High Speed 2 Interchange and adjoining area.

The level of housing development expected in the reviewed plan will significantly impact on the demographic profile of the area, in particular in Knowle, Meriden, Blythe and Bickenhill Wards where strategic housing sites are proposed. Where new schools are being planned to meet the needs of the new housing developments, the demand for early years provision will also need to be considered.

### **Ethnicity**

Solihull is in the midst of dynamic and rapid socio-demographic change. The Black and Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) population has more than doubled since the 2001 Census and now represents nearly 11% of the total population. On this basis the Borough is less diverse than England as a whole, but with BAME groups representing a relatively higher proportion of young people in Solihull (over 17% of those aged 15 and under) this representation is set to increase.

## 4. Children and Families in Solihull

### Households with dependant children

Ward	Number or Households	Number with Dependant Children	Lone Parents
Bickenhill	5125	1516 (29.6%)	405 (7.9%)
Blythe	5353	1670 (31.2%)	271 (5.1%)
Castle Bromwich	4780	1153 (24.5%)	271 (5.1%)
Chelmsley Wood	6121	1831 (32.8%)	875 (15.7%)
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	4387	1495 (34.1%)	190 (4.3%)
Elmdon	5169	1461 (28.3%)	323 (6.2%)
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	5457	1878 (34.4%)	822 (15.1%)
Knowle	4475	1203 (26.9%)	166 (3.7%)
Lyndon	5622	1673 (29.8%)	348 (6.2%)
Meriden	4791	1413 (29.5%)	190 (4%)
Olton	5078	1418 (27.9%)	263 (5.2%)
St Alphege	5355	1682 (31.4%)	175 (3.3%)
Shirley East	4694	1517 (32.3%)	258 (5.5%)
Shirley South	5038	1363 (27.1%)	257 (5.1%)
Shirley West	5038	1477 (29.3%)	319 (6.3%)
Silhill	2981	1355 (27.2%)	215 (4.3%)
Smith's Wood	5204	1854 (35.6%)	828 (15.9%)

(Based on 2011 Census figures)

As the table shows the wards with the highest number of households with dependent children are mainly located in North Solihull, apart from Dorridge and Hockley Heath which has the highest number of household with dependent children in South Solihull. All three wards with the highest number of lone parent families are located in North Solihull.

### Children in Out of Work Benefit Households 2016

There were 5,780 Solihull children aged 0-18 years living in an out of work benefit household, equating to 11.9% of all children in the Borough. This is below both the England (13.4%) and West Midlands (16.1%) averages. Around 58% of Solihull children in an out of work benefit household live in Wards in North Solihull.

68% of children living in an out of work benefit household in Solihull in 2016, were aged 0-10 years of age with children 0-4 years the largest single group (35% of total). Children in this youngest age group are by far the most likely to live in an out of work benefit household (16.1% of all children aged 0-4 of years, same as England). Solihull has fewer children living in out of work benefit households than the England average in all age groups 5 years and over.

Children in Out of Work Benefit Households in 2016 by Age of Child					
Age of Child	Solihull Children	% of All Children in Poverty		Child Poverty Rate	
		Solihull	England	Solihull	England
0-4	2,010	35%	33%	16.1%	16.1%
5-10	1,920	33%	33%	12.3%	13.3%
11-15	1,220	21%	23%	9.7%	12.7%
16-18	620	11%	11%	7.8%	9.7%

(Source DWP)

The number of children living in an out of work benefit household fell by 21% between May 2010 and May 2016, compared to falls of 27% nationally and 24% across the West Midlands. This fall has been significantly greater among older children than younger children.

	Solihull Children in Out of Work Benefit Households			
	Age 0-4	Age 5-10	Age 11-15	Age 16-18
2010	2410	2360	1780	800
2011	2450	2280	1650	780
2012	2460	2290	1660	780
2013	2390	2170	1530	710
2014	2280	2010	1440	630
2015	2,100	1,960	1,350	610
2016	2,010	1,920	1,220	620
<b>Change 2010-2016</b>				
Number	-400	-440	-560	-180
%	-17%	-19%	-31%	-22.5%

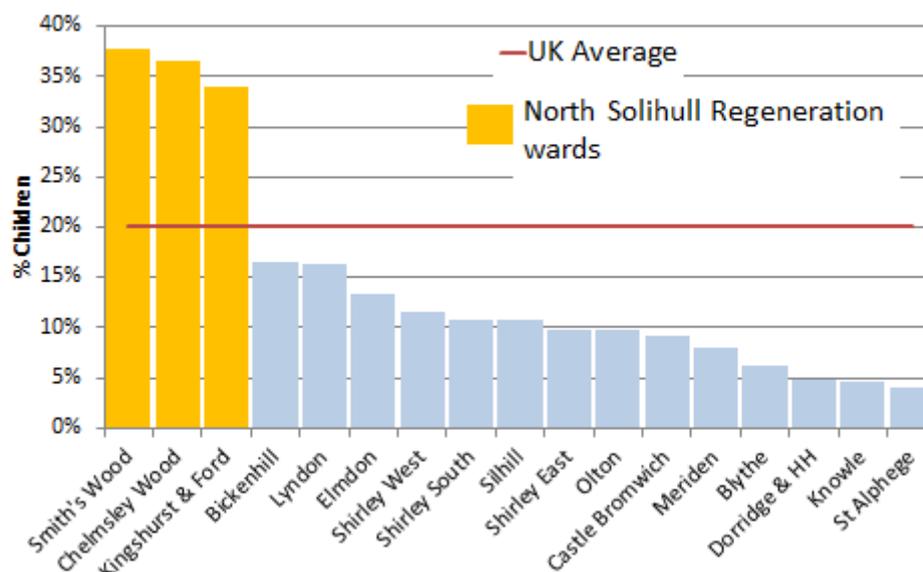
(Source DWP)

## Child Poverty

The HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) Children in Low-Income Families Local Measure is a measure of relative poverty and aims to capture the proportion of children falling below the national poverty line. This is defined as the proportion of children living in families in receipt of out of work benefits or those in receipt of tax credits where their reported income is less than 60% of UK median income (the poverty line).

The HMRC data for August 2014 records 7,290 children living in Solihull in poverty representing 16.2% of all children in the Borough. This is below both the England (20%) and West Midlands (23.2%) averages. The number of Solihull children in low income families increased in 2014 for the first time since 2009. This is consistent with the trend nationally and regionally. The table below shows this broken down by Ward.

## Children in Low Income Families 2014



Source: HMRC

53% of Solihull children living in poverty live in the three North Solihull regeneration wards (3,885 children) where the child poverty rate is 35% compared to 9% in the rest of the borough (3,405 children).

### Child Poverty by Family Type and Age of Child

72% of Solihull children living in poverty in 2014 were in a lone parent family (5,275 children) and 28% (2,015 children) were living in a two parent household.

The table below shows the 2014 Child Poverty statistics by age of child, highlighting the fact that rates are much higher among younger children. For instance in Solihull 19% of 0-4 year olds were recorded as living in poverty in 2014, compared to 13% of 11-15 year olds and 9% of 16-19 year olds.

Child Poverty in 2014 by Age of Child					
Age of Child	Solihull Children	% All Children in Poverty		Child Poverty Rate	
		Solihull	England	Solihull	England
0-4	2,395	33%	31%	19%	21%
5-10	2,340	32%	32%	16%	19%
11-15	1,660	23%	24%	13%	19%
16-19	895	12%	14%	9%	12%

## Deprivation

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) combines a number of indicators, chosen to cover a range of economic, social and housing issues, into a single deprivation score for individual neighbourhoods called Super Output areas (LSOAs) in England.

At Borough level the population weighted Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) shows that Solihull is ranked 216<sup>th</sup> out of 326 Councils in England. Solihull is therefore among the least deprived 35% Council's in the country on this measure.

However, compared with other Council's in England Solihull has a relatively high proportion of Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in the most deprived 10% in the country (ranked 77<sup>th</sup> out of 326).

All of the LSOAs in the bottom 10% nationally for overall deprivation in 2015 are in Wards in North Solihull (Chelmsley Wood, Kingshurst & Fordbridge and north Bickenhill). In total 20 out of 29 LSOAs in the North Solihull area are in the most deprived 20% in the country.

Neighbourhoods in Shirley East and Lyndon Wards are the only LSOAs outside of North Solihull in the bottom 20% nationally.

## Children with a Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)

Data gathered from the January 2018 SEN 2 pupil census gives a picture of the number of children living in Solihull with a Statement or Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP).

The table below shows that 1,444 children and young people living in Solihull require a Statement or Educational Health Childcare Plan to help support them through education.

<b>Age Range</b>	<b>Number of children and Young People</b>
Under age 5	25
Aged 5 to 10	446
Aged 11 to 15	618
Aged 16 to 19	131
Aged 20 to 25	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,444</b>

(Source Jan 2018 SEN2)

The table below breaks this data down by ward area.

Ward	Under 5	Aged 5 to 10	Aged 11 to 15	Aged 16 to 19	Aged 20 to 25	Total	%
Bickenhill	2	25	27	17	0	71	5%
Blythe	0	24	36	23	0	83	6%
Castle Bromwich	1	19	27	10	2	59	4%
Chelmsley Wood	4	43	60	26	1	134	9%
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	2	13	29	15	2	61	4%
Elmdon	0	18	29	14	0	61	4%
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	1	54	56	28	1	140	10%
Knowle	1	9	23	15	0	48	3%
Lyndon	2	38	42	20	1	103	7%
Meriden	1	19	38	35	1	94	7%
Olton	2	22	36	13	3	76	5%
Other	0	2	2	2	0	6	0%
Shirley East	0	25	32	18	1	76	5%
Shirley South	2	35	30	14	2	83	6%
Shirley West	4	23	37	15	2	81	6%
Silhill	1	22	22	14	1	60	4%
Smith's Wood	1	37	64	43	1	146	10%
St Alphege	0	18	28	14	2	62	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1,444</b>	
	<b>2%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>1%</b>		

(Source Jan 2017 SEN2)

The data shows that Chelmsley Wood, Kingshurst & Fordbridge and Smith's Wood Wards have the highest number of pupils with statements and EHC Plans, all three wards located in North Solihull. Lyndon and Meriden Wards have the highest number in South Solihull.

### Average Earnings

At £31,800 per year, average annual wage (measured by the borough median) for individuals in full time employment in Solihull is 11% higher than the national average and 18% higher than the West Midlands average. In the five years to 2017 average annual pay rose by 8% in Solihull compared to just 9% for both England and the West Midlands.

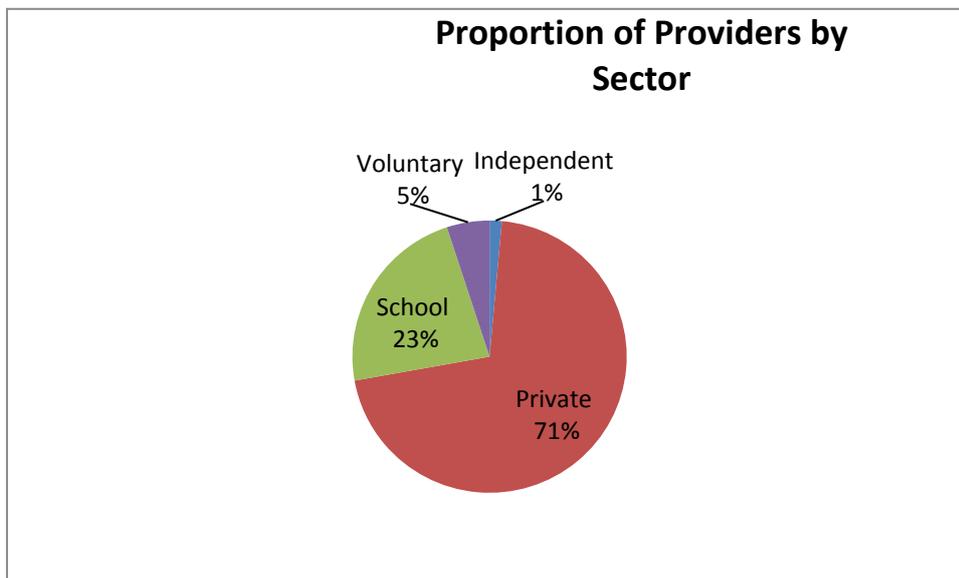
Earnings are a limited way of assessing prosperity, as this data does not take into account the employment rates, family structure or other factors such as housing costs. In 2008 the ONS did a one off exercise modelling average household incomes at a local level. This modelled data highlighted significant variations in household incomes across Solihull, with average weekly incomes ranging from £470 per week to £1,070 per week. This modelled household income data shows the

same sub borough variations as other measures such as deprivations and children living in poverty.

## 5. Childcare Provision in Solihull

In January 2018, there were 421 providers in Solihull providing a total of 8,946 registered childcare places. The number of providers in the area has grown by just 7 since January 2017, with an increase of 560 places (just under 7%).

Childcare providers in the school based, private, voluntary/community and independent sectors deliver a wide range of places to meet the varied needs of parents.



(Source: Family information Service database Aug 2018)

As the chart shows the largest number of providers are within the private sector, this is because childminders make up significant proportion of all childcare providers in Solihull and they have been counted in the private sector.

## Childcare provision by Ward

The table below shows a breakdown of registered places by provider by ward at January 2018.

Ward	Childminder	Day Nursery	Holiday Scheme	Out of School	Pre-School	Wrap around	Total
Bickenhill	52	290	134	174	24	84	758
Blythe	59	243	88	162	42	72	666
Castle Bromwich	101	24	48	72	0	48	293
Chelmsley Wood	32	191	24	64	0	24	335
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	54	152	68	100	46	40	460
Elmdon	58	163	24	40	25	24	334
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	48	295	32	138	0	130	643
Knowle	79	51	71	50	30	50	331
Lyndon	59	268	32	64	30	48	501
Meriden	36	242	116	169	24	69	656
Olton	23	312	80	182	26	94	717
Shirley East	68	84	48	48	0	32	280
Shirley South	78	337	60	166	103	65	809
Shirley West	78	241	24	82	46	8	479
Silhill	23	97	182	126	37	96	561
Smith's Wood	89	165	0	40	24	16	334
St Alphege	15	73	575	65	46	15	789
<b>Total</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>3,228</b>	<b>1,606</b>	<b>1,742</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>8,946</b>
% of places	11%	36%	18%	19%	6%	10%	

(Source Family Information Service Sufficiency Survey Jan 2018)

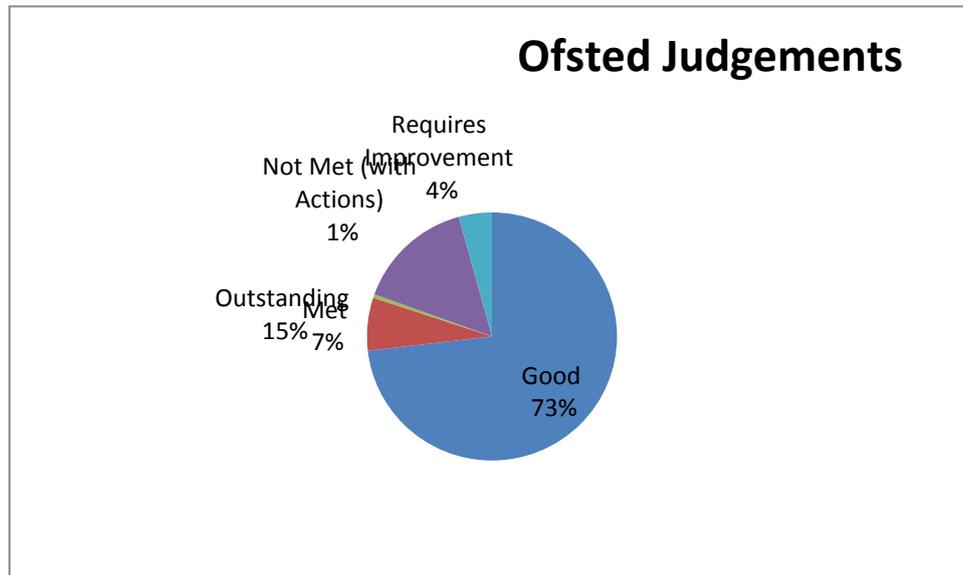
Although Childminders make up the largest proportion of providers in the Borough, the table shows that they only provide 11% of the registered places. Day nurseries make up for 36% of all registered childcare places provided.

Shirley South, St Alphege and Blythe Wards have the most childcare places available for parents, whilst Shirley East and Castle Bromwich Wards have the least number of registered places in the Borough.

Smith's Wood Ward is the only ward that does not offer a holiday scheme. Further analysis is required to understand whether demand from this ward is being catered for by another area or there is insufficient demand to sustain a scheme.

## Standards

Ofsted are responsible for rating the quality of early education but the Council offers support to providers in the area.



(Source Family Information Service August 2018)

88% of all childcare providers in Solihull are considered to be Outstanding or Good by Ofsted, an increase of 10% since 2017.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework is mandatory for all schools that provide early years provision [0-5 years] and Ofsted-registered early years providers in England. The EYFS sets the standards that all early years providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe.

Ofsted are the sole arbiter of quality for all free entitlements and Ofsted and inspectorates of independent schools have regard to the EYFS in carrying out inspections and report on the quality and standards of provision.

Local authorities have a legal duty to provide information, advice and training on meeting the requirements of the EYFS, meeting the needs of children with SEND and on effective safeguarding and child protection for providers who are rated less than 'Good' by Ofsted or newly registered providers.

The Local Authority will support setting improvement and promote high standards by:

- Supporting settings' self-evaluation and improvement
- Monitoring and evaluating the performance of settings
- Providing information, advice and training to childcare providers proportionate to need. Prioritizing settings where the need is greatest; for example when they are in an Ofsted category where they are graded less than 'good'.

- Facilitating the sharing of best practice between settings

When considering any expansion of childcare places the Council will seek to provide these additional places in good or outstanding providers.

### **Childcare for Children with Special Educational Need or Disability**

It is important that children with a special educational need or disability are able to participate in the same kind of childcare as their peers. In Solihull, the Council supports providers across the Borough to meet the needs of children with Special Educational Needs through enhanced funding. This should mean that all providers can meet the additional needs of specific children identified through the Council's Specialist Inclusion Support Team.

In addition, the Council has specialist early years provision linked to Merstone Special School that can meet the needs 2 & 3 year olds with more complex needs in North Solihull. From September 2018 the running of Green Lane Nursery in Shirley will transfer to Reynolds Cross Special School and provide an equivalent provision in South Solihull. Each of these provisions can offer 12 part time places.

Further information on childcare providers is available on the Family Information Service Directory at [www.solihull.gov.uk/localoffer](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/localoffer).

### **Childcare places outside of normal full day care hours**

Ward	Before 7.30 am	After 6 pm	Overnight care
Bickenhill	123	12	6
Blythe	29	17	0
Castle Bromwich	36	6	4
Chelmsley Wood	71	69	2
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	12	6	0
Elmdon	119	6	0
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	27	4	4
Knowle	6	0	0
Lyndon	170	112	0
Meriden	0	0	0
Olton	0	167	0
Shirley East	22	0	0
Shirley South	59	251	0
Shirley West	10	12	0
Silhill	0	45	0
Smith's Wood	19	3	0
St Alphege	0	6	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>16</b>

(Source Family Information Service Sufficiency Survey Jan 2018)

The data shows that the availability of places outside of normal childcare hours is patchy across individual wards and overnight care is not offered in the majority of wards.

Further assessment of demand for out of hours care is required for the wards with little or no provision, to ascertain if the lack of provision is a gap in the childcare market or due to lack of demand from parents. In addition an analysis of the need for overnight and weekend childcare should also be undertaken.

## Vacancies

As part of the January 2018 survey the Family Information Service has collected a snapshot of information from providers identifying vacancies by ward.

### Vacancies by Ward at Jan 2018

Ward	Childminder	Day Nursery	Holiday Scheme	Out of School	Pre-School	Wrap around	Total	% total ward places
Bickenhill	14	49	0	0	0	2	65	9%
Blythe	21	17	0	13	5	0	56	8%
Castle Bromwich	12	0	18	4	0	0	34	12%
Chelmsley Wood	25	88	0	0	0	0	113	34%
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	1%
Elmdon	20	67	0	0	15	0	102	31%
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	33	67	0	0	0	0	100	16%
Knowle	26	0	0	0	0	5	31	9%
Lyndon	20	44	32	0	0	16	112	22%
Meriden	16	55	23	9	0	5	88	13%
Olton	8	0	0	0	0	0	8	1%
Shirley East	25	21	0	0	0	0	46	16%
Shirley South	28	43	16	20	10	20	137	17%
Shirley West	27	66	24	48	12	24	185	39%
Silhill	6	48	70	8	0	2	134	24%
Smith's Wood	25	112	0	0	0	4	141	42%
St Alphege	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>1359</b>	
% of total places	3%	7%	2%	1%	0%	0%	15%	

(Source Family Information Service Sufficiency Survey Jan 2018)

The overall data suggests that there is over supply of childcare places in the Borough. However vacancies are limited in Dorridge & Hockley Heath, Olton and St Alphege Wards.

## Affordability

The main source of financial support for parents in work needing childcare comes through the Childcare Tax Credit.

## Number of children in families benefiting from childcare element of tax credits by Ward at August 2014

The table below shows a breakdown of families benefiting from the childcare element of tax credits at August 2014. This data is produced by HMRC in Local Super Output areas. For the purpose of this document we have collated the data into Wards. As LSOA do not exactly match Ward areas the data can only be used as a guide, but does give a broad outline of the number of families in each ward that are benefiting from the childcare element of tax credits and therefore in need of appropriate childcare.

Ward	In Work Families				Out of Work Families
	All Families		Lone Parents		All Families
	Total	Benefiting from Childcare Element	Total	Benefiting from Childcare Element	Total
Bickenhill	590	105	275	75	270
Castle Bromwich	415	60	165	40	110
Chelmsley Wood	1030	190	485	145	730
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	250	55	130	30	65
Elmdon	610	105	255	65	180
Kingshurst	1045	170	515	135	675
Knowle	260	40	120	40	75
Lyndon	615	105	220	60	215
Meriden	295	50	140	40	95
Olton	385	60	145	50	125
Shirley East	440	85	170	50	155
Shirley South	600	100	245	60	215
Shirley West	570	85	230	55	165
Silhill	520	90	230	65	180
Smith's Wood	935	145	445	95	670
St Alphege	260	35	115	20	80

(HMRC personal tax credits finalised award statistics small area data 2013/14)

The data shows that three North Solihull wards have the highest number of families benefiting from the childcare element of tax credits and the highest number of out of work families.

### Tax Free Childcare

During 2017, Tax Free Childcare, a new UK wide scheme will become available to around 2 million households. Designed to help working parents with their childcare costs, the scheme allows parents to open an online bank account to pay registered

childcare providers directly. For every £8 parents pay into these accounts, the government will add £2. The money can be then be spent on childcare. Parents can receive up to £2,000 in government support per child, per year or £4,000 for disabled children.

Tax Free Childcare can be used to pay for:

- Pre Schools
- Registered Childminders
- Day Nurseries
- School based care (that is paid for, such as after school clubs)

However parents can't claim Tax Free Childcare at the same time as claiming tax credits, Universal Credit or childcare vouchers.

### **Childcare Vouchers**

The Childcare Voucher Scheme is a benefit, offered by some employers, to help parents with childcare costs.

The Early Years Childcare Vouchers Scheme provides Parents with vouchers that can be used to pay for all forms of registered and approved childcare such as:

- Childminders
- Day nurseries
- Nannies and Au-pairs
- Breakfast clubs & after school clubs
- Holiday clubs
- Boarding fees

Childcare Vouchers can be used from the moment your child is born right up to the age of 15 (or 16 if your child has a disability).

The Childcare Voucher scheme will close to new applicants in October 2018, from this point onwards parents will have to use the Tax Free Childcare scheme.

### **Cost of Childcare in Solihull**

The cost of childcare differs depending on the structure of the childcare provider and the session length provided.

What is evident from the data collected by the Family Information Service is that childcare costs vary considerably from Ward to Ward with a difference of up to £1.02 per hour for childminders and £2.90 per hour for under 2's provision in day nurseries. However, this information does not specify what is included in the hourly rate and therefore the cost difference may be due to a difference in the offer e.g., meals and supplies including nappies.

## 6. Free Early Learning for 2 Year Olds

Early Learning for 2 year olds is free from the term after their second birthday, where their parents are eligible for certain benefits. It is for 15 hours per week for 38 weeks.

From September 2013, 20% of all 2 year olds were eligible for funded early learning places. This is intended to improve the attainment and life chances of some of the most disadvantaged children and provide support for working parents. From September 2014, the eligibility criteria for 2 year old places widened and increased the number of 2 year olds eligible for a place to 40%. Actual data for Solihull funded 2 year olds shows that the on average, across the Borough, only 31% of 2 year olds are eligible for a funded place, significantly lower than the national average. However this will differ significantly from Ward to Ward due to the eligibility criteria for the funded places.

At August 2018, some 836 children have been approved for funded 2 year old places of which 708 (85%) live in Solihull and 128 (15%) live out of the Borough. 621 children (75%) have booked a place with registered providers, up by 29 on this time last year. Of the 215 children still to have places booked only 49 (23%) are actively seeking a place. Of these 32 (65%) are on waiting lists for a particular setting and 17 (35%) are newly approved and are still in process. The remaining 166 have decided not to seek a funded 2 year old place or have chosen a setting outside of Solihull. Further work is required to understand why parents who have had funding approved then decide not to take up a place.

Across the Borough there were 284 vacancies at February 2018 available for the children actively seeking a place, or those that move into the Borough.

On a Borough level it would appear that overall there are sufficient funded 2 year old places, however to really identify any gaps in sufficiency of places the data needs to be analysed by ward.

The table below shows the breakdown by Ward of the actual supply and demand for funded 2 year old places in the Borough in August 2018.

Ward	Approved Children	Number booked	Still to book	Actively seeking a place	Vacancies
Bickenhill	46	34	12	1	
Blythe	18	12	6	0	
Castle Bromwich	26	10	16	4	
Chelmsley Wood	154	125	29	8	
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	12	7	5	3	
Elmdon	36	31	5	0	
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	135	102	33	4	
Knowle	7	4	3	3	
Lyndon	30	21	9	3	
Meriden	15	12	3	1	
Olton	21	16	5	1	
Shirley East	18	11	7	2	
Shirley South	24	19	5	1	
Shirley West	3	22	10	1	
Silhill	27	19	8	1	
Smith's Wood	99	77	22	5	
St Alphege	8	4	4	2	
<b>Total Solihull</b>					

Out of Borough pupils	128	95	33	5	
-----------------------	-----	----	----	---	--

The data show that the largest numbers of eligible 2 year olds live in three north wards Chelmsley Wood, Kingshurst & Fordbridge and Smith's Wood.

A number of families that are actively seeking a place have chosen to wait for a place at a particular setting rather than take up a vacant place, this will need further consideration when considering the sufficiency of places in these two wards.

## 7. Free Early Learning for 3 & 4 Year Olds

All 3 & 4 year olds are entitled to 15 hours per week for 38 weeks, free early learning, from the term following their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday until they start in Reception Class which is normally the September following their 4<sup>th</sup> birthday. A small number of parents choose to defer their child's start in Reception until they become statutory school age (the term following their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday). Some children will access up to 5 terms of free early education.

The table below shows the breakdown by Ward of the demand for funded 3 & 4 year old places in the Borough at the Summer Term 2018. The data includes all PVI and school nursery settings within the Borough.

Ward	School Nursery	PVI setting	Total	School nursery Vacancies
Bickenhill	150	103	253	18
Blythe	185	156	341	35
Castle Bromwich	114	52	166	6
Chelmsley Wood	95	68	163	5
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	163	105	268	29
Elmdon	85	103	188	18
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	239	238	477	31
Knowle	58	45	103	2
Lyndon	146	153	299	8
Meriden	143	107	250	17
Olton	157	78	235	38
Shirley East	95	89	184	25
Shirley South	143	183	326	18
Shirley West	115	157	272	35
Silhill	81	196	277	9
Smith's Wood	69	132	201	21
St Alphege	109	113	222	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,147 (51%)</b>	<b>2,078 (49%)</b>	<b>4,225</b>	<b>326</b>

The data shows that the supply of 3 & 4 year old places across the maintained sector and PVI sector is split, as parents seek to find places that best meet their working needs.

Health data shows that there were 3,932 eligible 3 & 4 year olds in the Borough at Summer 2018. Therefore the take up of places across all settings exceeds the demand from within Solihull and incorporates pupils living outside of Solihull. 60 % of all PVI settings are registered to offer funded 3& 4 year old places, as are all schools in Solihull that have a school nursery class attached.

Vacancy data is currently held for school nursery settings but not for PVI settings. As can be seen by the data there are vacancies in school nurseries in every ward should a parent be seeking a funded 3 & 4 year old place.

Current admissions policy for school nursery enables parents to apply for a place for the September following a child's third birthday. For children born in the Autumn and Spring Terms this means they can not access their first two terms of funded places within a school nursery.

Further analysis of the 3 & 4 year old data is required to ascertain the level of vacancies in each ward across PVI settings.

### **Supply and demand of places required for 2018/19 Academic year**

Using Heath data of births in the Borough the number of children needing free 3 & 4 year old places at Summer 2019 has been calculated and compared to the level of places available in Summer 2018. Summer data has been used as this is the term in which the largest number of children are eligible for 3 & 4 year old funded places. The table below identifies the supply and demand for places by each ward.

Ward	Working Capacity at Summer 2018	Number of Solihull 3 & 4 year olds Summer 2018	Sufficiency of Places
Bickenhill	271	258	13
Blythe	376	223	153
Castle Bromwich	172	162	10
Chelmsley Wood	168	343	-175
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	297	191	106
Elmdon	206	245	-39
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	508	304	204
Knowle	105	149	-44
Lyndon	307	265	42
Meriden	267	182	85
Olton	273	212	61
Shirley East	209	174	35
Shirley South	344	214	130
Shirley West	307	266	41
Silhill	286	218	68
Smith's Wood	222	320	-98
St Alphege	233	157	76
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,562</b>	<b>3,883</b>	<b>679</b>

The table shows that Borough wide there is a significant surplus of 3 & 4 year old funded places. A proportion of these empty places will be taken up by children from outside of the Borough. School nursery vacancies are continuing to grow as parents seek a more flexible offer of childcare to meet their working requirements. A review

of School nursery provision and nursery admissions is underway with a view to enabling those schools that wish to do so to provide a more flexible offer.

The breakdown of data by ward shows that four wards appear to have insufficient 3 & 4 year old places for the number of children living in the ward. All four of these Wards have vacancies in Summer 2018. Further analysis is required on the supply and demand of places in these wards, parents may be accessing places in neighbouring wards where there are vacancies or the take up rate of places may be lower in some wards than others.

## **8. Extended offer of funded 30 hours for Eligible 3 & 4 Year Olds**

From September 2017, local authorities were required by legislation to secure an additional 570 funded hours a year over no fewer than 38 weeks (30 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year) of the year for qualifying children in their area for the term following a child's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

Eligibility for the additional funded hours has been determined by HMRC. A child qualifies for free childcare if they are resident in England and under compulsory school age:

- Both parents are working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family), and each parent earns on average:
- A weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum wage or national living wage; and
- Less than £100,000 per year.

Local Authorities should work with providers to ensure that children are able to take up their full entitlement to a funded place at times that best support their learning, and at times which fit with the needs of parents to enable them to work or increase their hours of work if they wish to do so. Enabling parents to “stretch” their child's entitlement by taking fewer hours a week over more weeks per year, where there is provider capacity and parental demand.

### **Extended offer 2017/18 Academic Year**

The table below shows a breakdown by the Ward of the number of 30 hour places offered at the Summer Term 2018. The Summer Term has been used as this is the term in which the largest number of children are eligible for funded 30 hour places. The data shows the ward in which places are located.

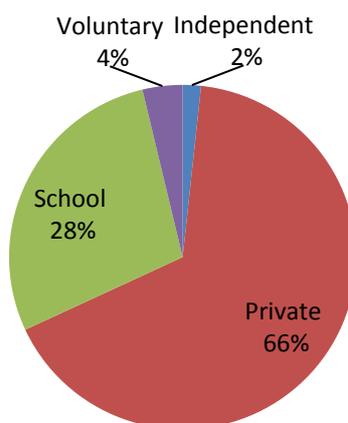
<b>Ward</b>	<b>Forecast uptake of 30 hour funded places 2017/18</b>	<b>Actual 30 hour funded places offered Solihull pupils 2017/18</b>
Bickenhill	84	92
Blythe	84	149
Castle Bromwich	54	47
Chelmsley Wood	113	30
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	62	144
Elmdon	74	68
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	100	108
Knowle	55	48
Lyndon	83	108
Meriden	63	90
Olton	65	93
Shirley East	56	83
Shirley South	73	140
Shirley West	79	96
Silhill	71	42
Smith's Wood	114	48
St Alphege	47	64
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,277</b>	<b>1450</b>

The forecast number of eligible Solihull children 2017/18 was 1,277, based on DfE assumptions of 42% eligibility and 80% take up. Take up by Solihull families has exceeded this target by 13.5%.

However it is important to note this forecast is at a Borough wide level and when broken down by ward takes no account of the proportion of working parents within a ward which will influence the percentage of children that are eligible. This may explain why the take up of places in the Chelmsley Wood and Smith's Wood Wards is significantly lower than the DfE forecast indicated. Further work is required to develop a forecasting mode that gives a more accurate picture of potential demand by ward.

In addition to the 1,450 Solihull children offered places 373 (20%) were offered to families resident outside of Solihull, bringing the total 30 hour funded places offered to 1,823.

### 30 Hour Offers by provider type



Further analysis of the offers of 30 hour funded places shows that the largest provider of places is the Private sector offering over two thirds of all funded extended offer places.

### Supply and demand of funded extended offer places required for 2018/19 Academic year

The table below shows a forecast breakdown by Ward of the possible demand for funded 3 & 4 year old extended offer places in the Borough for Summer Term 2019 again based on the Government estimate that 42% of all 3 & 4 years olds will be eligible for the extended offer and that of those eligible 80% will take up a 30 hour funded place.

Ward	Number of 3 & 4 Year olds 18/19 academic year Summer Term	Number of eligible Solihull children based on DfE estimate of 42% eligibility and 80% take up	Working capacity based on Summer 2018 actual offers	Potential sufficiency of places Summer 2019
Bickenhill	258	87	115	28
Blythe	223	75	185	110
Castle Bromwich	162	54	58	4
Chelmsley Wood	343	115	31	-84
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	191	64	152	88
Elmdon	245	82	102	20
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	304	102	137	35

Knowle	149	50	49	-1
Lyndon	265	89	146	57
Meriden	182	61	120	59
Olton	212	71	129	58
Shirley East	174	58	94	36
Shirley South	214	72	185	113
Shirley West	266	89	144	55
Silhill	218	73	53	-20
Smith's Wood	320	107	51	-56
St Alphege	157	53	72	-19
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,883</b>	<b>1,302</b>	<b>1,823</b>	<b>483</b>

The data shows that the Chelmsley Wood and Smith's Wood Wards are forecast to have insufficient places available however the actual data for 2017 has shown this not to be the case. For the Silhill and St Alphege Wards, which also show a lack of potential places, it would appear that the independent provision located in these wards is having an impact on the uptake of funded places.

The data has shown that the take up of places has been higher than expected and this will need to be mapped alongside the % of working parents by ward to provide a more accurate forecasting model.

## 9. Recommendations and Action Plan for 2018/2019

In order to ensure that sufficient childcare places and Early Education Funded Places are available for parents the following recommendations for action have been identified.

- Continue to support childcare providers to deliver high quality, sustainable provision.
- Aim to improve the quality of providers which are judged by Ofsted as Requires improvement/Inadequate.
- Carry out a parent childcare survey to assess the extent to which the existing childcare provision is meeting the needs of parents within the Borough.
- Analysis further whether a holiday playscheme is required in the Smith's Wood Ward.
- Review the out of hours, over night and weekend care that is currently on offer in the Borough and identify whether there is an unmet demand through parental childcare survey and Family Information Service.
- Assess the need for further funded 2 year old places in the Chelmsley Wood and Kingshurst & Fordbridge Wards where parents are waiting for places at particular settings.
- Identify why parents that have been approved for funded 2 year old provision then choose not to take up a place.

- Review the provision of the universal offer for 3 & 4 year olds in Knowle and Smith's Wood Wards to identify whether parents are choosing to access places in a neighbouring wards or are doing so due to lack of supply in their own Ward.
- Develop a forecasting model for the 30 hour extended offer to more accurately assess demand for places in the future.
- Complete the review of school nursery provision and the nursery admission process in light of the 30 hour extended offer.