

Early Years and Childcare Parent/Carer Survey Summer 2022 Summary Report

The survey ran from 7th July 2022 to 12th August 2022. Available via an online survey monkey and in paper format, it was promoted by a wide range of colleagues who work with families including early years providers and schools, the Healthy Child Service, Portage, Family Learning, Explore libraries, York Independent Kids, Homestart, York Mumbler and via Families Information Service and CYC social media and websites.

550 responses were received, 549 via the online survey and 1 paper response.

Key Headlines

Use of early years and childcare provision

86% of the respondents currently used formal early years and childcare provision, of these respondents:

- 55% could access all the childcare and / or funded entitlement they needed.
- 4% could access the funded entitlement but not the additional 'paid for' hours they needed.
- 2% could access additional 'paid for' hours but not the funded entitlement they needed
- 9% could not access the additional 'paid for' hours or the funded entitlement they needed
- 30% did not provide a response

Unable to access childcare required

Whilst there appears to be a relatively small amount of unmet demand compared to the number of children living in the city, the following provision types indicated the highest amount of unmet need:

- Full day care or sessional care for under 2s (21 children including 1 child with SEND)
- Full day care or sessional care for 2 year olds (24 children including 2 children with SEND)
- Full day or sessional care for 3 and 4 year olds (12 children including 4 children with SEND)
- Before / after school provision for 5 – 11 year olds (21 children including 5 children with SEND)
- Flexible provision for 5 – 11 year olds (13 children including 3 children with SEND)

- Holiday provision for 5 – 11 year olds (16 children including 4 children with SEND)

Please note that in the above data, some children will be counted in more than one provision type.

17% of families (11 families) who could not access childcare for a child with special educational / additional needs indicated that this was because they were not confident that the necessary skills, training or resources were in place to support their child.

When looking at unmet need in specific areas of the city, the following wards indicated the highest amount of unmet need:

Acomb	Full day care or sessional provision – 8 children Before / after school – 6 children Holiday provision – 6 children
Bishopthorpe	Before / after school – 8 children Flexible provision – 5 children
City Centre	Full day care or sessional care – 8 children
Dringhouses & Woodthorpe & Woodthorpe	Full day care or sessional care – 8 children Before / after school – 7 children
Haxby & Wigginton	Holiday provision – 8 children
Huntington & New Earswick	Flexible provision – 5 children
Rawcliffe & Clifton W/O	Full day care or sessional – 6 children
Rural west	Full day care or sessional – 7 children

Future use of childcare

When asked if they were planning to use more or less childcare in the coming months:

- 27% plan to use same amount
- 6% plan to use less due to affordability
- 2% plan to use less as no longer need due to changes to work /training
- 1% plan to use less because the hours/days offered don't suit need
- 9% plan to use more due to increasing hours of work / training
- 5% plan to use more as child now eligible for funded hours
- 8% plan to use more as can no longer use family/friends
- 42% did not provide a response

Reasons for not using childcare

For respondents who indicated that they did not use formal childcare:

- 12 indicated that this was due to affordability
- 7 indicated that their chosen provider was full / they were on the waiting list
- 7 indicated that provision was not available at the times required
- 7 indicated that this was due their child having special education needs and needing specialist care

Awareness of the funded entitlement and Tax-Free Childcare

	Aware	Not Aware	No response
Some 2-year-olds can get 15 hrs funded childcare	57%	9%	34%
All 3- & 4-year-olds can get 15 hrs funded childcare	63%	3%	34%
Most 3- & 4-year-olds with working parents can get 30 hrs funded childcare	61%	5%	34%
You can sign up for Tax Free Childcare	60%	8%	32%

32 families indicated that they would like help with finding suitable childcare or would like more information on funded places for 2-year-old and these requests have been followed up by the Families Information Service.

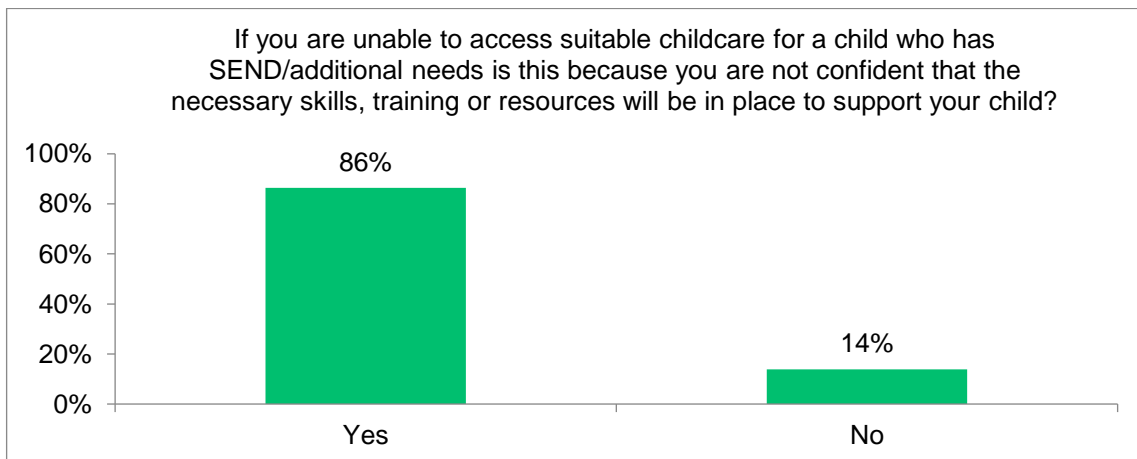
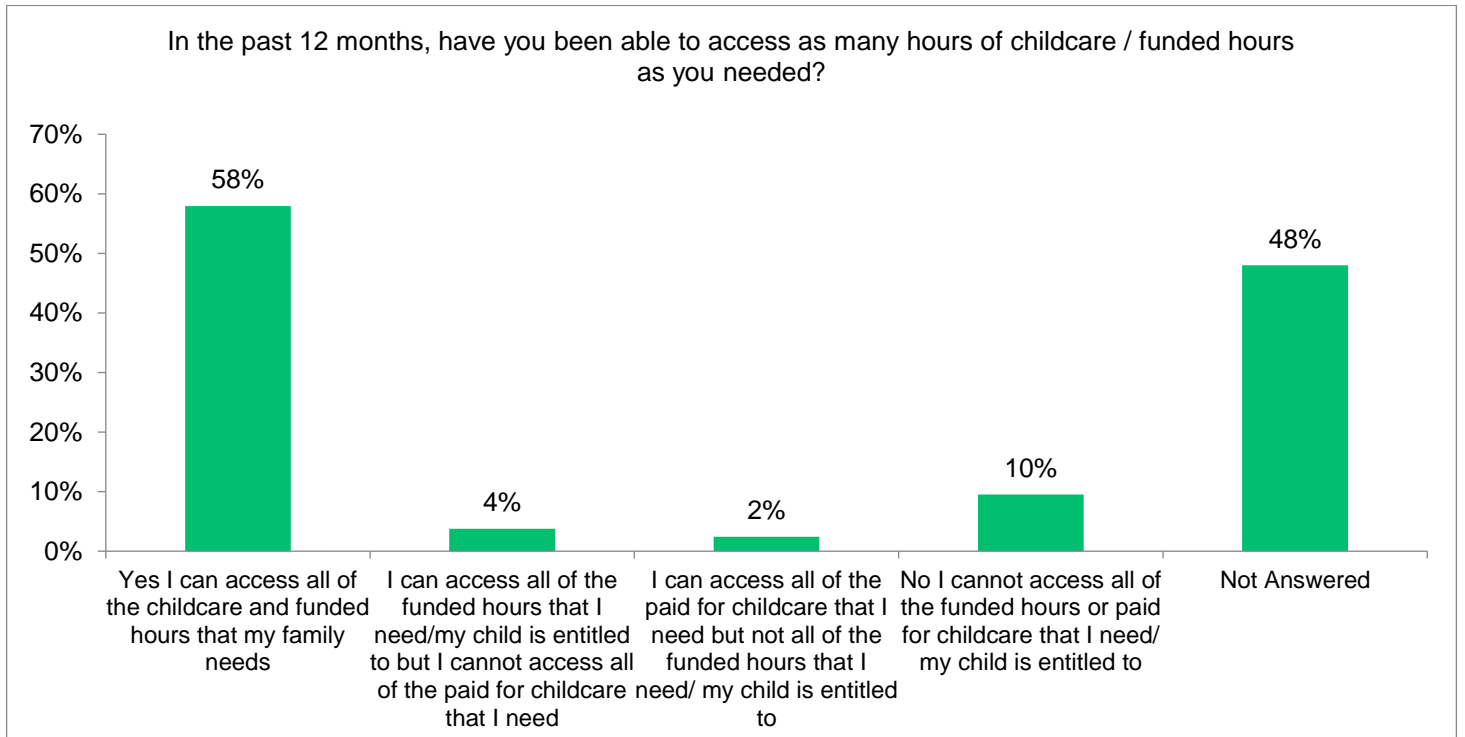
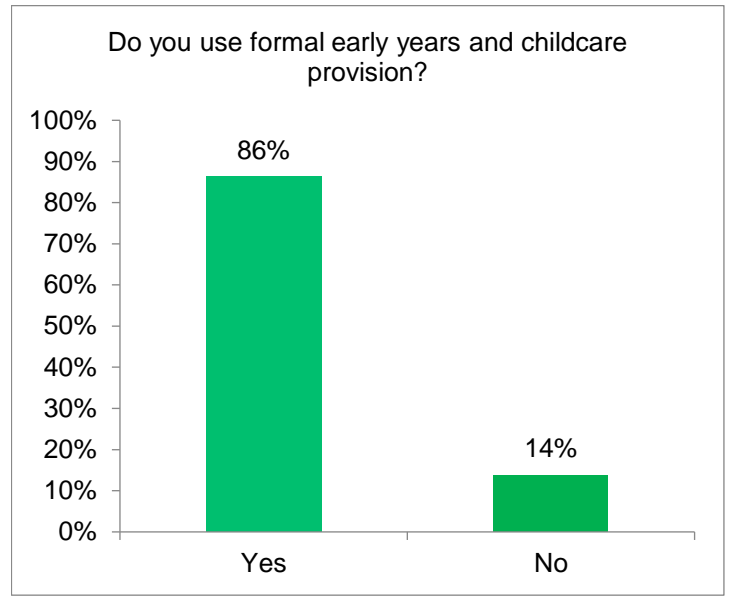
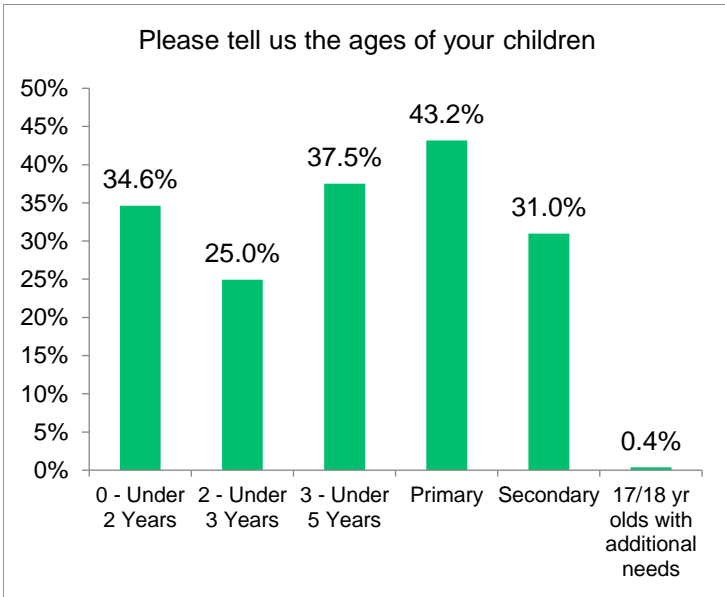
Summary

There is some unmet need across the city albeit in relatively small numbers, and this does vary regarding provision type, age etc for different wards. The main area of unmet need appears to be for full day care or sessional care for the under 5s in several ward areas (Acomb, City Centre, Dringhouses and Woodthorpe, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without and Rural West), before and after school provision in Acomb, Bishopthorpe and Dringhouses and Woodthorpe and holiday provision in Acomb and Haxby & Wigginton. Some of this is likely to be due to the current recruitment and retention issues which are being experienced by early years and childcare providers in all sectors as many providers are having to limit the number of places on offer due to lack of staffing.

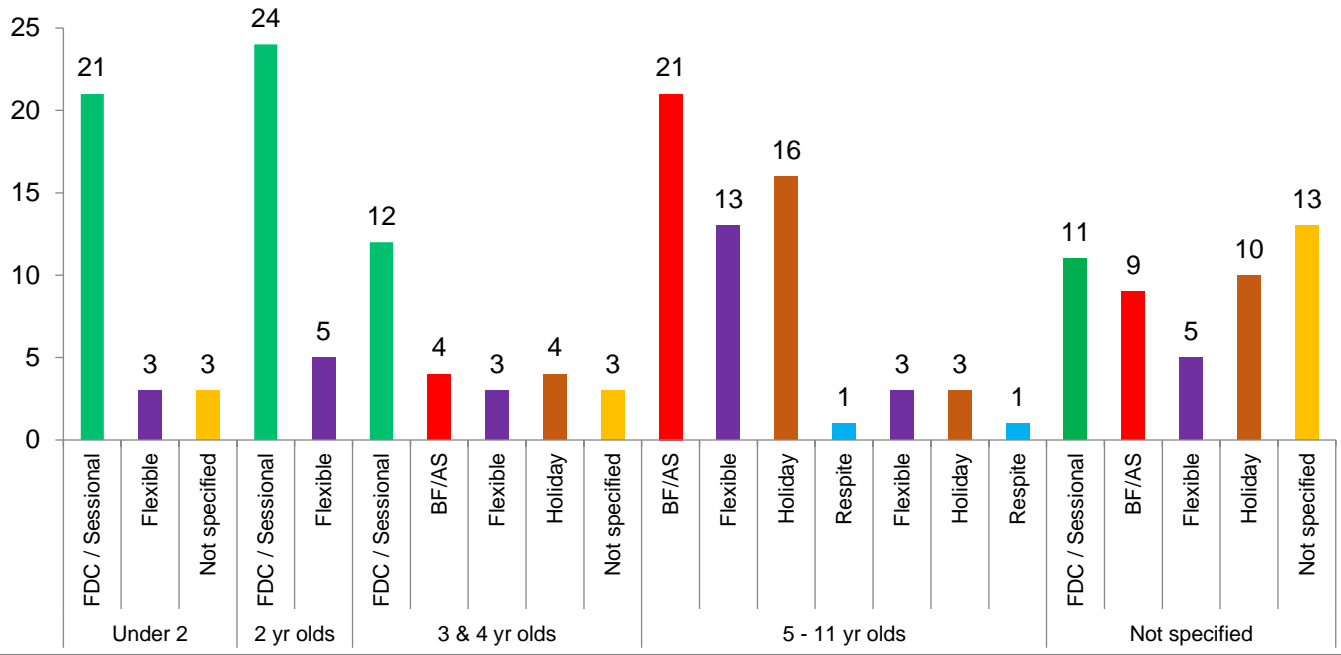
Several families of children with SEND or additional needs indicated that they could not find suitable childcare, and this could also be linked with the recruitment and retention issues as providers are not able to offer the 1:1 care required to support the child.

Many families commented that the cost of childcare is an issue and whilst the majority of families indicated that they were aware of Tax Free Childcare, nationally there is low take up so this is one area where we could support families by further raising awareness to increase take up.

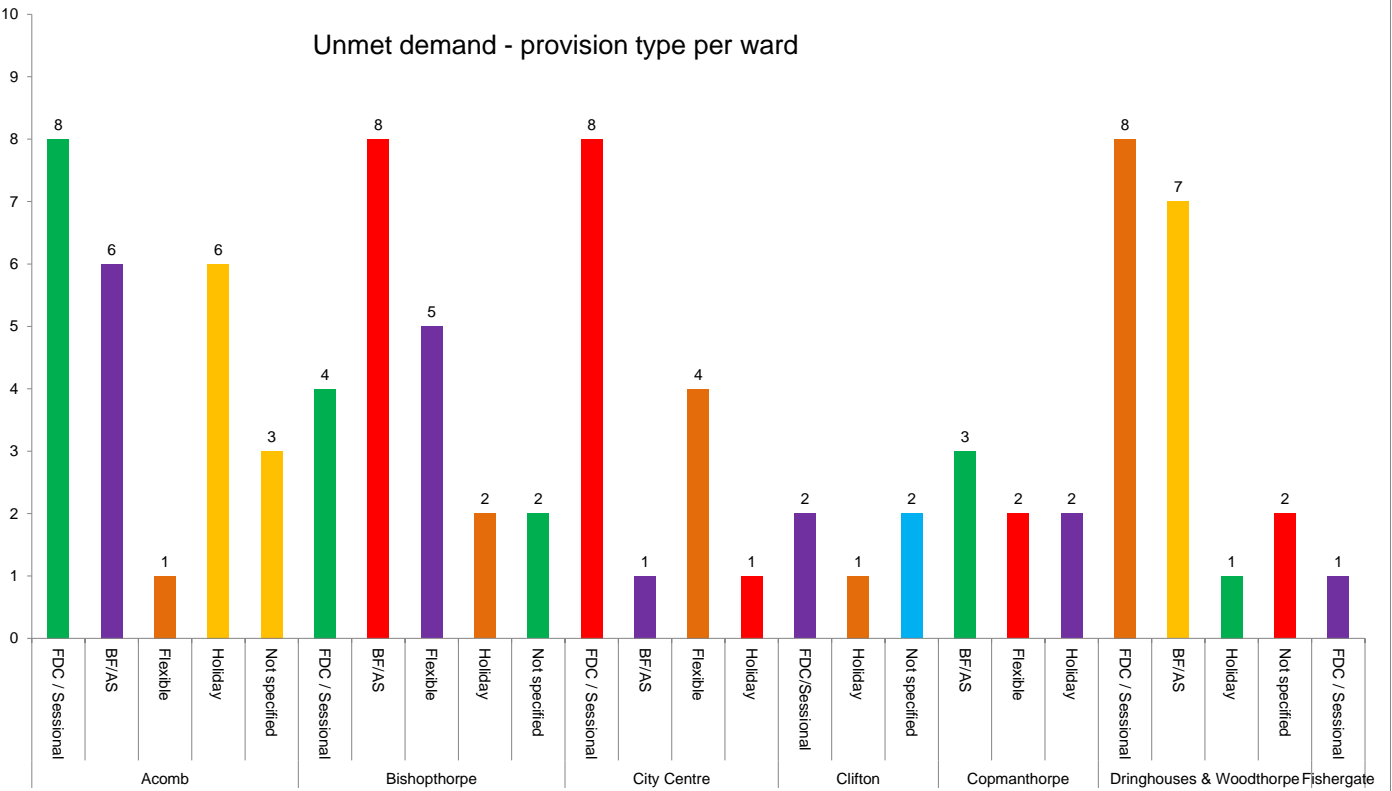
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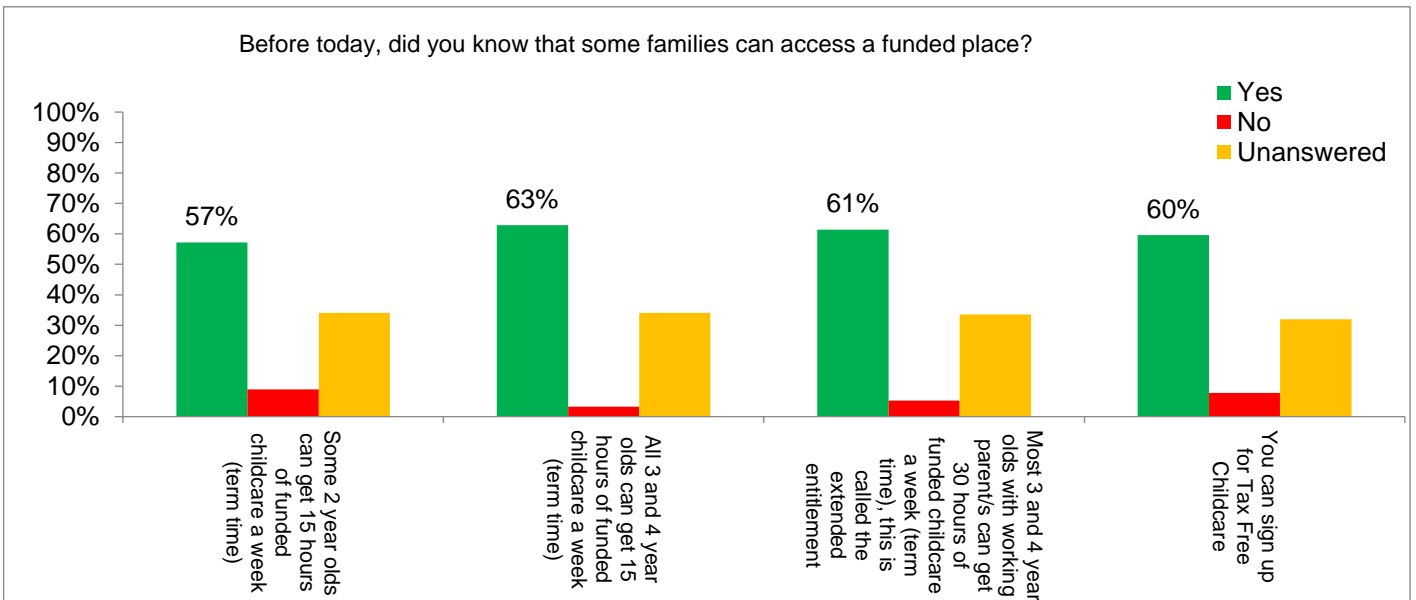
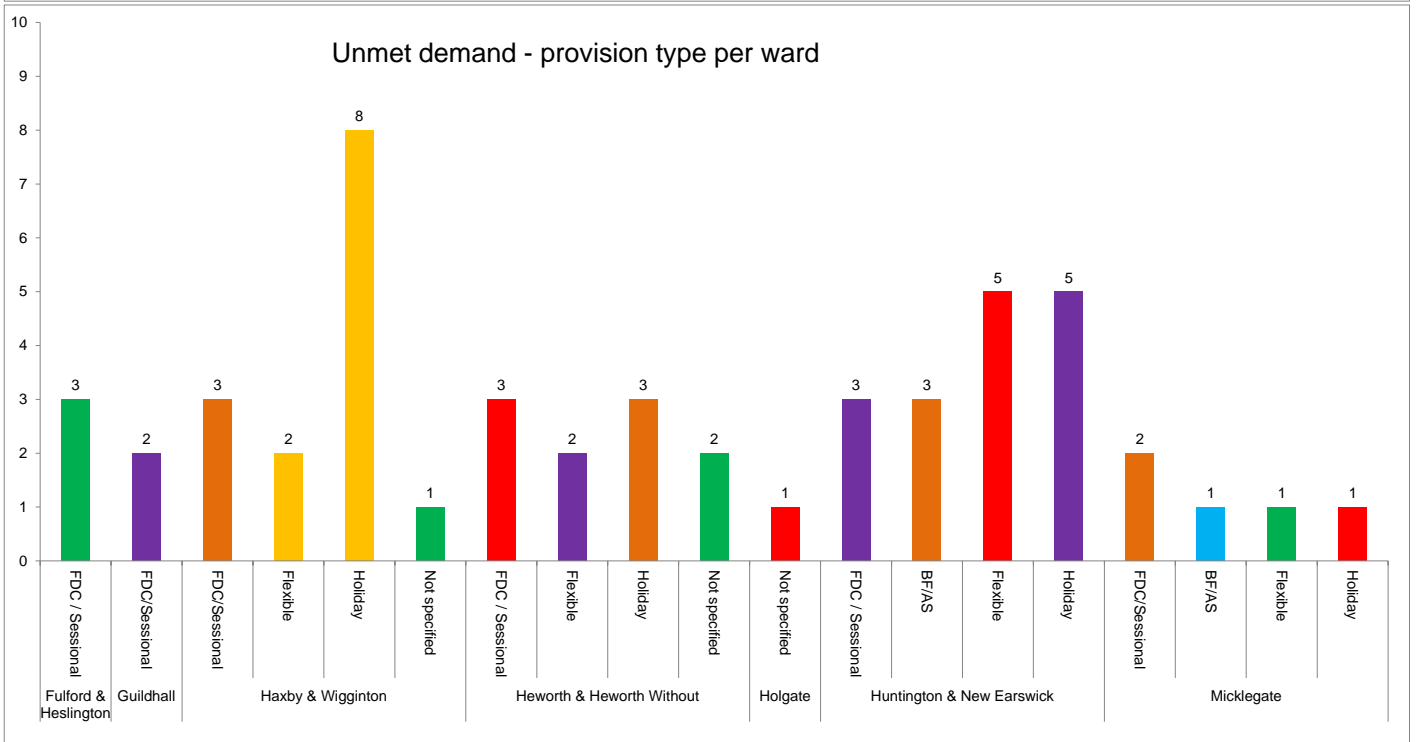
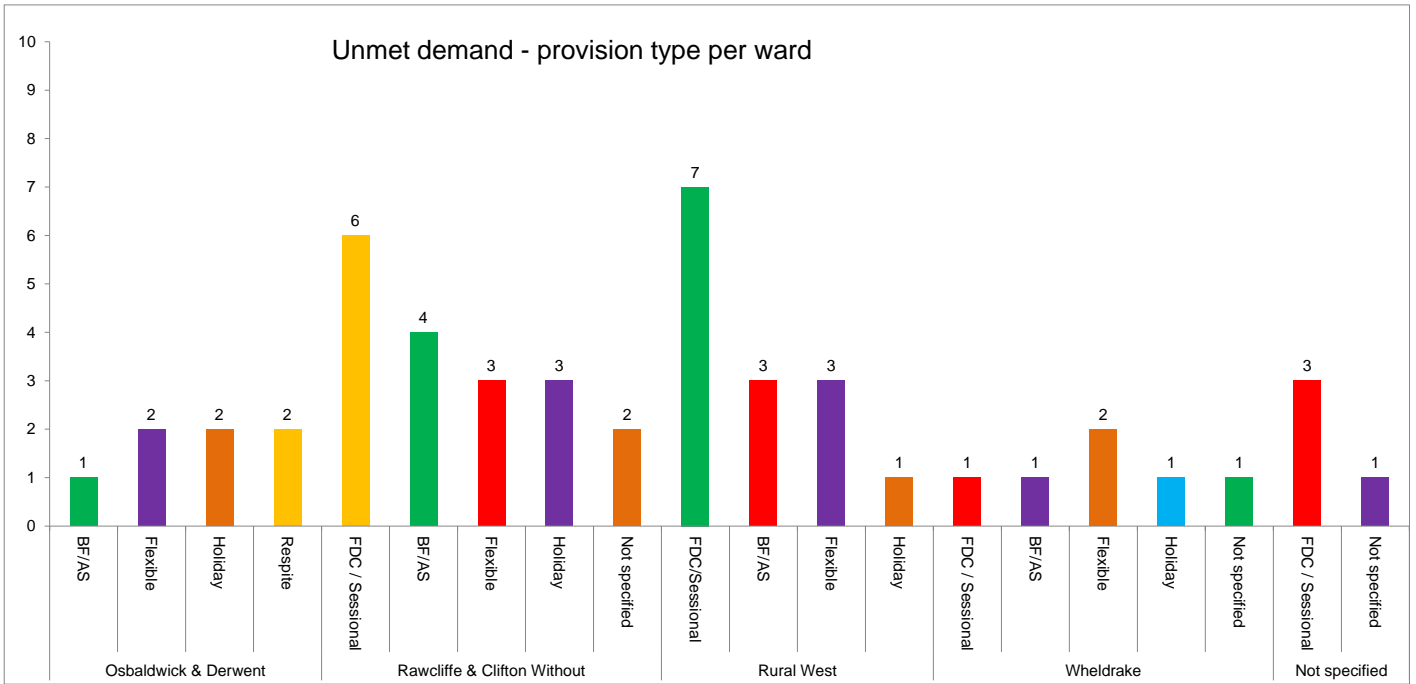


Unmet demand - provision type per age group



Unmet demand - provision type per ward





Cost / Funded places

There should be help with financing childcare for families with twins/multiples. I work two days a week, my twins are in nursery one day a week. I earn £525 a month, my childcare bill is £484. If I didn't have family help then my childcare bill would be £968 while I earn £525. It's nonsensical. This is a wider government problem, there are also things like uniform and school buses to consider. If my children were in secondary school at the moment then the cost of the school bus would be circa £1200 a school year. Goodness only knows the cost in a decades time.

Funded childcare for 15 hours at age 2 is not available to us as although we don't earn a high amount, we still earn too much and don't claim any benefits except the standard child benefit

Only one of these are available to foreign residents. Nursery prices are extortionate and causes families to be unable to get through the month

There need to be more affordable options for under 2 year olds.

I believe funded places should take part all year long not just term time and include school aged children to help with childcare costs over the holidays.

It's way to expensive meaning I can't work as much as I actually need to be under stress. Funded places should be from 1 not 2 or 3

Would be nice if the kick-in period for funded hours was the month following their birthday rather than the next term, although I appreciate the help either way

Childcare is far far too expensive. We are debating whether or not it is worth me working as we can barely afford childcare costs. It is breaking us financially.

Because I am in the UK on a Skilled Worker visa, my child is only entitled to 15 hours funded childcare at 3, even though my partner and I both work full-time. We are also ineligible for universal credit or any tax benefits related to childcare. These are as a result of immigration laws rather than local ones but will continue to make our financial situation difficult, particularly in terms of paying for necessary childcare (our families live overseas).

Given that we have the 2nd most expensive childcare in the world (only Cyprus being more expensive, I believe?), I will speak for most parents and say that childcare provision is woefully underfunded.

It is hard to not get any funded hours when your child is 2 and we have to wait until they are 3.

Childcare costs keep going up but my wage doesn't reflect this. I may my monthly salary out in childcare just to be able to work, even with 30 hours free funding and nhs discount offered by the nursery. 30 free hours is not a realistic quantity as this equates to 3 days at nursery however this equates to 4 days in a workplace

I feel that the funding is not properly monitored. I can access 15 hours for my 3 year old yet both myself and my husband are high earners. This should be provided to families in need. Also nurseries then add extra charges to childcare for snack etc. from parents to increase their fees - this mean that 15 Or 30 hours isn't really that much for families in need.

Unfortunately the government childcare schemes aren't fit for purpose. They run term time only, when the vast majority of jobs do not, and only cover part-time work. The income requirement means I won't be able to access the childcare I need once I'm made redundant next week, and because of the termly assessment this locks me out of full time work until at least January.

Even with the full funding that we are entitled to, we are unable to afford enough childcare to allow us to work the hours required for our jobs

I really struggle to find affordable childcare for my children, particularly my Sen ones, so that I can work. I'm currently stuck unable to work because we can't afford childcare and this is unlikely to change in the near future.

I am unable to get 30 hours when my child Turns 3 as he is a September baby and I have to wait until a term after so I loose out on 3 months of funding

I think this questionnaire is very difficult to fill in with the way it is worded. I'm not sure what the aims of the questionnaire are, or what information you are wanting to find out but you did not give an 'other' option as to reasons parents may not be able to access all the childcare they need. For me that is cost. I have a 3 year old who is not yet entitled to funding due to when his birthday fell (missed the cut off by a couple of days for last term) and a 1 year old. My monthly childcare bill before tax free childcare for TWO days is £950 a month. I am not entitled to any other help and we are just above the line for universal credit so end up been worse off. My elderly parents have my children the other day of the week I work as if they didn't, I would be paying to go to work and it would cost me more in childcare than I am paid. This is a serious problem in York where housing and rent costs are substantial. The funded hours are not free either most of the time, so when I do get the funded hours, we will only be a couple of hundred pounds a month 'better off'. There is a serious problem in York for young families, one well know amongst young families but sadly there is no support from the council. York could be a figure help in providing more funding to nurseries so top up fees can be reduced, or assist parents more. It's abysmal. This survey was quite leading and didn't cover the cost of childcare in York and how that is likely to be a factor in not accessing childcare. There was no where to discuss the actual price of the sessions and provisions within York. The charity Pregnant then Screwed did a great survey which compared childcare costs to rent, it would be useful to use parts of their survey to understand the childcare crisis we face in York. The cost of sending my child to nursery 2 days a week is half my mortgage, if I was to send them full time it would be more than my monthly mortgage payments. This review needs to be stronger, I am disappointed that this survey is unlikely to drive real change.

Childcare is so expensive, I've had to change work and drastically reduce my hours to fit with the number of hours of childcare we can afford to have. Even if we both worked full time we wouldn't be able to pay for all our bills and food and the cost of full time childcare.

Parents with young children with no hours of funded childcare are really struggling with spiralling childcare costs, combined with cost of living increases with no wage increase. Childcare needs to be more subsidised for early years urgently.

Think the 30 hours should apply to only one person having to work 16 hours and the other person having a job but not over 16 hours

It would be beneficial to have some free childcare for those with under 2's. Childcare is so expensive and makes it especially difficult for working families, as it is assumed that as we work, we can afford to put our child in to full time day care so that we can go back to work full time or that we can give up some or all our hours at work to look after our children full or part time. Most of us then struggle to make ends meet due to the rising cost of living, mortgage costs in York, petrol costs (to get to&from employment), utility costs...

Poor that working parents can't get help from child being 2 years yet people on benefits not working and no intention to work have access to these hours.. feels like we are punished for being working parents

Why is the 30 hours funded childcare only for 3-4 years? It doesn't help parents get back to work as it costs too much for childcare (I know this is national not just local!)

I would like 30 hours of funded childcare to become available to all ages, not only 3 -4 year olds. Most parents must go back to work after 9months of maternity leave and they need affordable childcare.

Availability

More childcare availability is required in the acomb area and also in York for children with SEN and disabilities especially in the holidays for working parents that is consistent and inclusive

There is a real capacity issue in the Bishopthorpe area for full-day (8-6pm) nursery provision. And, to a lesser extent for after school care -I understand the latter may change when the LGR after school club moves to Bishopthorpe Infant School.

We need more places for teenagers to hang out where they are welcome. We need shelters, climbing walls, seating areas. And club and youth clubs eves for under 18s

When I moved to York in March 2022 I found it virtually impossible to find a nursery because every nursery for my child who was 1 year old at the time. I had no choice but to put my child in a nursery on completely other side of town because all the nurseries in West York had no available spaces.

Wednesdays seem to be the hardest day to find care for.

High rates and lengthy wait lists make childcare in central York inaccessible, and are contributing to inequality ie I as mum need to quit my mind job as not enough space at nursery and not financially viable

There's no provision for after schools at dringhouses primary school as they are full. I'm having to reduce my working hours to look after my son. Surly there has to be a better system in place than this!

Although we have childcare for our children at the moment it feels like the options are very limited where we live and previously we've had to wait to get the childcare we needed (nursery places in particular). It definitely feels like there could / should be more locally available options.

I have a place for my child at pre-school 4 days per week from Sept. The provider is unable to offer the 5 days we're entitled to (30-hours funding) because of capacity in the setting.

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Nurseries are inflexible with hours to suit realistic working hours for example none will match school hours. Too many also refuse to accept funded places or charge for funded hours

We live in an area of very poor childcare availability. I was six months pregnant and only seeking two days a week covering 8-6; the two local options to our postcode could offer a one year wait, or 15-18 months. We will be paying about 20% more per day for the first nursery, just because their waiting list was compatible with returning to work 9-10 months after the birth of my son. I will still likely have to take unpaid leave (not by choice) to cover up until nursery starts, simply due to a lack of places in our area. I'm lucky that my salary is high enough to not be lost to childcare costs. It should not be this way and the york area really must do better!

I couldn't choose the day I needed for childcare - I had to fit in with what was offered, like it or not! My child attends nursery one and half days a week (this was the minimum offer - again, like it or not). I can just afford the one day but don't need the half day which I have to pay for to keep my place at the nursery. My child attends nursery and nearly every week she has attended she has picked up a virus of some discription, Novovirus, hand,foot and mouth disease, etc., I therefore become ill because of this and have to take sick leave from work for myself or time off to look after my child. The other parents send their child to nursery regardless of their condition with no care for others - this can't be right - does no one vet nurseries for this kind of behaviour or does the Council turn a blind eye? It costs me a lot of money to send my child to nursery in the first place, money I can ill afford and then spend the rest of the time stressed or ill because of other selfish parents and lack of rules about sick children in childcare.

There is a huge gap in childcare in the Micklegate Ward that is affordable. Large organic nurseries seem to have a monopoly and parents are having to sign up and register at conception. Can CYC do anything to address this and help working parents? More Good childminders are needed.

Funded 30 hours is not enough. We still have to pay £22 a day additional charge

SEND

I wish there was more spaces available for SEND children

Fis is great but it remains a challenge to find suitable childcare, particularly rurally for children with additional needs.

The childcare available in holidays for children with SEN is non-existent. Or not advertised. I do not think normal parents have any idea how difficult it is to find anyone willing (and able) to look after a child with SEN. Its heartbreaking when providers are happy to take two of your children but not the one with SEN

The SENDIAS service is over-subscribed, I can't get through on the phone to speak to someone to get advice. They are too busy to answer voice mails. This service needs extra staff.

My 10 year old son has SEND and we are looking for after school and holiday childcare once he goes to secondary school and is too old to go to his childminder.

General

Benefits not applicable for all, although all of us pay same taxes.

Great help

Child benefit clawback is an issue!

I didn't have children to fob them off on strangers. I'll look after them myself.

I understand that as my daughter is disabled and starts nursery when she turns 2 in September, we can apply for childcare vouchers in January

We use grandparents to help with our childcare during school hols, and a mixture of flexible working (both parents) and grandparents for during term time.

We have all the childcare that we need currently but I am nervous about finding wrap around childcare once my daughter starts school next year

disagree with the decision to allow fewer adults to children in the preschool setting. particularly galling as the savings from this will not be passed on to parents, or the people providing the care, but people running nurseries.

Survey

I think the form is fundamentally flawed in presenting the reasons for childcare. The suggestion is that there's no benefit to childcare itself, and that the only reason to go is because parents are fundamentally unable to look after the child. Also...I NEED DENTISTS TO SEE MY CHILDREN. It's impossible to arrange and I've given up the idea of them ever seeing a dentist even if their teeth get really bad.

Questions

Does the 30 hours run all the way through the age of 4 as I am confused, and if so does that pay for school (reception)?as I will have after school club to pay for too many thanks

Can I have more info on the tax free childcare. My son is 5yrs old and we struggle in holidays as we have no family on either side

I would like to enquire about a childminder that would do wrap-around care for a 3-year-old at Knavesmire pre-school.

Is there any help for single parent families on universal credit this summer

Tax Free Childcare

Was unaware about tax free childcare until a year or so ago and as informed by family. No mention of it from nursery or any other professional

Tax free childcare doesn't touch the sides. My daughter goes to nursery for two full days, before tax it costs more than my mortgage. We don't have a weekend together, my husband works full time and I work 30 hours over three days. I could do four days and full time but nursery can't give me a place, which is shocking because childcare is so unaffordable you'd think the narrative of women all bunking off work to breed is made up by the ruling class to oppress us... seriously though, it's a feminist issue and the UK is a laughing stock in Finland for this kind of thing.

A lot of providers struggle to understand tax free childcare, they are still only sure of the voucher system

Need information on tax free childcare

But I don't fully understand the tax free childcare scheme