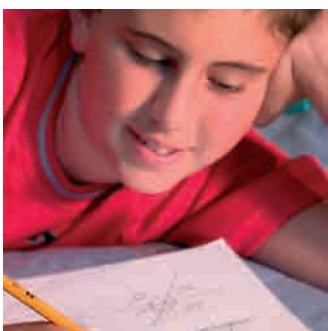




# Rochdale **CHILDCARE** **SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT** 2011

Part A: Summary and Recommendations



# THE ROCHDALE CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT 2011

## Introduction

Welcome to the second Childcare Sufficiency Assessment produced by Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council.

Much has changed in the three years since our first assessment, not least in the economic climate both locally and nationally. We are delighted that, in Rochdale, our childcare partners and providers across all sectors have been very stable and sustainable with an absolute minimum of closures due to financial pressures during this difficult time.

In Rochdale we have, during this period, been a pathfinding authority for the introduction of the flexible free entitlement for three and four year olds which has resulted in the percentage of our three and four year olds accessing early education rising from 92% to 96% of all eligible children. Where we report take up levels in individual wards within this report the figures are based on take up levels in January 2010 (January is always seen as the best time to sample as movements between settings etc have largely settled down).

We were also a pathfinding authority for the two year old pilot and to date over 140 of our less advantaged two year olds have accessed a free childcare place. Over 80% of those two year olds then went on to access the three and four year old entitlement, which may not have been the case without that early intervention.

We were one of the first authorities in the country to successfully introduce and embed the single funding formula for the free entitlement and this has without doubt resulted in a fairer funding system for all our early years childcare providers.

All early years providers in Rochdale began implementing the Early Years Foundation Stage from September 2008 and have been inspected against those principles and commitments since then.

We have introduced our own quality award, “High Five”, and by far the greater majority of our private, voluntary and independent providers, across all sectors, have undertaken this award and value its contribution to their service development.

Out of school services have continued to grow in the areas where our last assessment indicated new provision was required and many of the existing out of school clubs have extended their services to include breakfast or holiday clubs.

We have amended our funding support to ensure that it is targeted at areas of the borough where we need specific types of service and have used this funding to aid start up costs for childminders and out of school services in particular in those areas. At the same time, applications for sustainability funding have actually decreased, even in difficult economic times. This would suggest that business planning, cash projections and income forecasts have improved across all sectors.

Gratings at Ofsted inspections has increased in the three years since our last inspections with the majority of our childcare providers receiving “Good” or “Outstanding” grades.

The 2008 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment detailed a total of 55 recommendations for future action or development. We are delighted that we have achieved, either fully or in part, 50 of those recommendations (90%). Where we have partly achieved or not achieved some targets, these are carried forward in the recommendations within this assessment or, if they are/were unachievable, we have reported them in the unmet demand section.

We would like to thank our childcare partners and providers for the continuing commitment and support in developing their services and businesses which help us work towards making the childcare market in Rochdale the best that it can be for children and families but also one that provides security and sustainability for our childcare providers.



## The National Picture

The duties detailed in the 2006 Childcare Act requires local authorities to shape and support the development of childcare provision in their area in order to make it flexible, sustainable and responsive to the needs of the community. The overall aim is to enable parents to find childcare that meets their needs locally and allow them to make real choices about work and training.

Local authorities are required, from April 2008 and every three years thereafter, to produce a detailed assessment of the supply and demand of all childcare provision in the area (whilst also keeping the assessment under review in between the main assessments). An English local authority must ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that the provision of childcare (whether or not by them) is sufficient to meet the requirements of parents in their area who require childcare in order to enable them:

- to take up, or remain in, work; or
- to undertake education or training which could reasonably be expected to assist them to obtain work.

In determining whether the provision of childcare is sufficient to meet those requirements, a local authority must have regard for the needs of parents in their area for:

- the provision of childcare in respect of which the child care element of working tax credit is payable;
- the provision of childcare which is suitable for disabled children; and
- may have regard to any childcare which they expect to be available outside their area.

The assessment must provide an up-to-date picture of supply and parents' use of, and demand for, childcare in the local authority area. Through this analysis, local authorities will be able to and must, identify gaps in childcare provision where needs are not being met and work with local private, voluntary and independent sectors to fill those gaps in the market.

## The Rochdale Assessment

This report sets out the context of the assessment and the methodology used. The main body of this report contains the key findings and recommendations of our sufficiency assessment. Full copies of the sufficiency assessment are available on request.

### Methodology

A wide range of methods was used in completing the sufficiency assessment:

**Desk research** – was undertaken to provide:

- population demographics;
- assessment of employment and economic need and potential impact on childcare demand;
- new developments likely to affect childcare demand;
- assessment of the current supply of childcare provision across the borough.



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**Survey of childcare providers** – was undertaken to investigate:

- take up of places;
- factors affecting supply and demand;
- staff qualification, retention and recruitment issues;
- levels of charging and costs of delivery.

**Parental demand survey** – in this year’s assessment we have undertaken our parental survey through the following:

- individual questionnaires (approx 1600) through Children’s Centres as part of their annual survey
- small focus groups and parent forums
- specific questionnaires and interviews with parents of children with additional needs
- specific questionnaires with parents from minority ethnic communities

**Employer views** – an additional questionnaire was distributed to employers in the borough. Continuing consultation was also undertaken through the Family Information Services Partnership Manager.

**Other consultations** – were undertaken with:

- Rochdale Childminding Network
- Rochdale Day Nursery Association
- Rochdale Playgroup Association
- Rochdale Out of School Network Schools Forum
- Rochdale Economic Well Being Lead Group
- Jobcentre Plus
- Family Information Service

## **Current Childcare Supply**

There are currently 15,399 registered early years and childcare places available in the borough for children aged 0 -11 against an overall 0-11 child population of 33,492. However, because for example, a before and after school club may be registered for 24 places, these can be counted as 24 before and 24 after school places. If this method of counting is applied, there are 16,427 early years and childcare places. There are a further 23,025 children and young people in the 11-16 age range. These childcare places are available in and distributed across the following sectors;

Provider Type	Places	%	TERM		HOLS		
			Before School	After School	Full Time	P/Time	
Sessional / Crèche	341	2.2%		0		341	
Childminders	1088	7.1%	512	512	580	512	
Playgroups	944	6.1%				944	
Private Day Nursery	2319	15.1%			2319		
Nursery /Reception	4742	30.8%				4742	
Before School	2367	15.4%	2367				
After School	2174	14.1%		2174			
Holidays	1424	9.2%				1424	
<b>Total childcare places</b>	<b>15399</b>		<b>2879</b>	<b>2686</b>	<b>2899</b>	<b>6027</b>	<b>1936</b>

Comparing the population against the number of places is not a wholly appropriate measure and one that would not take into account or indicate sufficiency. Many children do not require childcare; many use informal childcare through relatives etc. (which are not reflected in the number of available childcare places). We are therefore developing more robust target indicators that do reflect the factors that influence potential demand and these are clearly identified in the full sufficiency assessment. What we do know is, there are areas of over and under supply in the borough but not hugely significant in either case and we have plans in place that seek to address these issues.

## Services for 11 -19's

Services for young people aged 11 years to 19 years are detailed within the Rochdale MBC Family Services Directory (<http://parents.info/rochdale>). The Family Service Directory is a web based service, supported by a dedicated support team (for those without internet access contact number 01706 719900), which aims to coordinate all health, social care, voluntary, educational and local services for children, young people and families in the borough

The Family Service Directory is regularly updated with information from brownies and scouts to youth clubs and riding clubs. Many of these services are not required to be registered and therefore do not offer minimum and maximum numbers of places in the same way as formal childcare for 5 to 11 year old's.

## Sustainability of existing supply

We have worked hard to develop strategies that seek to ensure that any new provision compliments rather than competes with existing supply. We have also sought the active involvement of all sectors of our childcare providers in developing strategies to support and develop childcare provision. We have all-sector representation on our Childcare Working Group which is the body that supports all policy and strategy development and in addition we consult regularly with sector-specific borough wide associations, networks and forums. We have, through these partnerships, developed strategies that target funding and development in the areas of the borough that require them and also at the type of provision that is required.

We have also developed extensive models of business advice and support. We feel that these strategies have resulted in a stable childcare market in the borough where closures through lack of economic viability are few and providers have become increasingly adaptable in the level and type of service they provide.

We have maintained stable numbers of childcare places over the past three years in all sectors. The only exception to this is a decreasing number of childminders. At August 2010 we had 210 registered childminders as opposed to 280 in 2008. This does appear to be following a national trend where numbers of childminders are decreasing. Nationally, it is felt that this may be due to changes in legislation (e.g. requiring all childminders to have a level three qualification) or the changes in inspection regimes including the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). We have no reason or evidence to suppose that this would be any different locally. Since the last assessment there does appear to have been an emerging pattern of 50 new childminders per annum and 50 resignations per annum, with newer childminders offering more flexible services as a result of the initiatives detailed above. It is also noticeable that the Ofsted grade (those gaining good or above) has increased in the same period. Overall providers and parents indicate that there is a good mix of childcare provision to meet local needs.

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## Changes in the Childcare market

The following table shows the changes in the childcare market for each of the borough's wards. As can be seen, overall there has been an increase of 525 places across the borough since 2008. (figures accurate to September 2010).

Ward	New places	Resigned places	Total	Total +/-
Balderstone and Kirkholt	23	15	38	8
Bamford		10	10	-10
Castleton	28		28	28
Central Rochdale	68	3	71	65
East Middleton	69	6	75	63
Healey	25		25	25
Hopwood Hall	37	19	56	18
Kingsway	59	78	137	-19
Littleborough Lakeside	17	9	26	8
Milkstone and Deeplish	107	73	180	34
Milnrow and Newhey	153	7	160	146
Norden	80	9	89	71
North Heywood	11	6	17	5
North Middleton	13	4	17	9
Smallbridge and Firgrove	55	10	65	45
South Middleton	36	64	100	-28
Spotland and Falinge	53	59	112	-6
Wardle and West Littleborough	19	11	30	8
West Heywood	79	21	100	58
West Middleton	5		5	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>937</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>1341</b>	<b>533</b>

In wards which show significant increases in places this can be directly attributed to efforts made to address recommendations for place development from the 2008 Sufficiency Assessment. For example, Milnrow and Newhey wards show an increase which is due to establishing a recommended after school and holiday provision in those wards.

## Changes in the market by sector

	Total New	Total Resigned	Sub Totals	Total +or -
After School Club	76	0	76	76
Before School Club	88	0	88	88
Childminder	242	140	382	102
Crèche	79	2	81	77
Full Day Nursery	160	110	270	50
Holiday Club	192	66	258	126
Pre-School Playgroup	92	86	178	6
Maintained Nursery Class	8		8	8
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>937</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>1341</b>	<b>533</b>

There is a further breakdown of changes in the childcare market by sector shown in the individual ward profiles.

## New ward boundaries

Since the original Childcare Sufficiency Assessment of April 2008, the local authority has established new ward boundaries and this Assessment reflects those new electoral wards. We have allocated lower super output areas (SOA's) to these new wards but this has presented some anomalies, for example some SOA's are split between two or more wards as the ward boundary runs through the middle of them. Where this does occur, we have reported the data in the ward that a specific postcode places the provider or children's data within. This does skew some of the data, particularly when seeking to accurately monitor take up of the universal three and four year old entitlement. Take up may seem lower than would be expected because of this and also in detailing accurate numbers of children aged nine to 15 years, where we cannot split the child population by year age (i.e. nine years) and super output area as this information is only available to ward level which may include SOA's split over two wards. Where this does occur we have detailed this within the individual ward boundary.

## Child population

Since the original Childcare Sufficiency Assessment of April 2008, we have been able to gain and use figures from live birth rate data and children's centre monitoring information to give very accurate and current child population figures for the age range 0-8 years, these figures are accurate to March 2009.

We have not been able to gain data with as greater accuracy for ages above eight as these are based on the 2001 census. We have however, taken the numbers of children who were for example one year old in 2001 and reported these figures as nine year olds in the tables below. We have additionally compared this with the 2007 Ward Population Estimate projections for England and Wales, and found very little difference in the comparable numbers.

Where we have reported numbers of children at ward level with additional need, these figures are gained from The Rochdale Aiming High for Disabled Children Project and record their target groups for that project only. The target groups are:

**Group A** = Children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (who have severe learning disabilities or behaviour which is challenging) OR those children and young people whose challenging behaviour is associated with other impairments such as severe learning disabilities.

**Group B** = Children and young people with complex health needs including those with a disability and life limiting conditions, and/or those who require palliative care and / or those with associated impairments such as cognitive or sensory impairments and / or moving and handling needs and / or require special equipments/adaptations.

## Provider childcare places

The places against age range data included in this document are as accurate as we can be. Ofsted registration data does not break down registered places by year age range preferring to indicate a maximum number of places in a given age range i.e. 0 to 2 years. Individual providers may choose to vary the numbers of children by year age within the age range specified by Ofsted. For example, a provider may be registered for two children between the ages of 0 to two but opt to have two babies. This is also true where we have shown places in the five to eleven years age range. Individual providers may choose to vary the numbers of children by year age within the age range specified by Ofsted. Therefore please assume that the figures shown are the total places for children across the age range five to 11 years.

## Unmet demand

One of our recommendations from the 2008 Sufficiency Assessment identified formalised after school and holiday provision for children aged 11 years and upwards. In the period since 2008 we have funded four individual pilot schemes, in differing forms and format. In each case, the pilot schemes could not be continued due to insufficient numbers of children/young people or parental demand. We are now of the opinion that demand for this type of service is so small that it would not be economically viable or "sufficiently practicable" to continue seeking to establish this type of service.

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The Family Information Service routinely record all contact from parents regarding any issues in attaining suitable childcare to meet that families individual need. Since 2008 there have been 33 cases referred to the Family Information Brokerage Service. 31 of these cases were resolved through the brokerage service. These cases are detailed within the individual ward summary in Part B of this assessment. We have also utilised individual Children's Centre User satisfaction surveys and detailed any information relating to, or informing, this Childcare Sufficiency Assessment. This information is detailed in the appropriate ward for the children's centre reach area and in the borough wide information at the end of the individual ward profiles.

In addition we have commissioned specific pieces of work to assess the views and childcare needs of families from minority ethnic populations, residents in areas of disadvantage (top 30 super output areas) and families with a child who may have disabilities or additional needs. This information is recorded as borough wide information.

## 2 year old pilot

The two year old pilot scheme offers a set number of free childcare places for children aged two years across the borough who can meet strict eligibility criteria (which includes additional need and low income). Entry onto the scheme is by referral from health visitors, social workers and children's centres only. In 2008 we were allocated 85 places that could access 7.5 free hours per week and from 2009 we were able to offer 134 places accessing 15 free hours across the borough. In 2010 we were able to offer 126 places across the borough.

## Families claiming their free entitlement in Rochdale from out of the borough

The free entitlement to early years education is a universal service for all children aged three and four from the term after their third birthday. Parents can choose to use this entitlement where they wish. In Rochdale, a total of 129 children from families in eight other local authorities access their free entitlement hours with Rochdale providers as follows:

Bolton	Bury	Calderdale	Cumbria	Lancashire	Manchester	Oldham	Wigan
6	13	11	1	35	29	33	1

## Quality Indicators

The tables used in the quality section should not be seen as the sole indicator of quality in early years and childcare provision. They are here to reflect the national and locally available information which may indicate a setting/sectors commitment to continuing quality improvement, these would include;

**Ofsted Grade:** All settings are inspected by Ofsted every three years. Grades which can be achieved are Outstanding (highest), Good, Satisfactory and Inadequate (the lowest and of most concern).

**High Five:** Is Rochdale's own all sector Quality Assurance Scheme. It is a substantial piece of work which requires providers to demonstrate and evidence how they meet over 200 key quality indicators and /or produce on going development and action plans that show how they will meet these indicators.

**Rochdale Early Foundation Stage Profile (REFSP)** – is another Rochdale document. REFSP is a way of assessing the progress all children make, from entering nursery provision to entering school, against the six areas of learning detailed within Early Years Foundation Stage Guidance.

**Childminding Networks** – are networks of childminders who have undertaken additional assessment, monitoring and training and meet regularly to ensure their continuing professional development. Only Childminders who are part of this network are eligible to receive the early years grant to deliver the 15 hour free entitlement, two year old pilot or sponsored day care schemes

## Workplace Based Earnings

The median figure is seen as a better reflection of 'average' earnings, as this result shows the middle range of the salary scales and it is these that are shown within this document.

## Income Levels

This information is sourced from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings: The median average earnings are lower for all years in all areas than the mean averages. This graph shows a general trend of increase in workplace based weekly pay in Rochdale borough, the North West region and England and Wales. We have produced some data (source: Paycheck), shown in each ward profile, that details average earnings, including benefits, for each super output area within that ward. This should be seen as a guide only and not assumed to be definitive.

## % of income spent on childcare

The detail given in this section is for illustration purposes only and is based on calculations using the Childcare Tax Credit Ready Reckoner at: <http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/family/childcare-costs#rr>

This tool has been developed to give a rough idea of the type of payout to expect on the childcare element of tax credits, (other tax credits are usually separate although there can be some overlap). There are too many other variables (e.g. if you or your child has a disability) for the tool to be strictly accurate so please see it as a quick indicator of likely eligibility. After that, go to the tax credit office for the firm numbers. The calculations are based on a two parent family both working at least 16 hours per week. We have taken the nearest three amounts from the ready reckoner to the average ward income to give specific ward examples. For example, the Balderstone and Kirkholt average income is £21,294 so we have used the £15,000, £20,000 and £25,000 examples from the ready reckoner.

## Tax Credits and the Childcare Element of tax credits.

Within Section two we detail, to individual ward and SOA level, tax credit take up against local and national averages. In seeking to encourage and increase the take up of appropriate tax credits our children's centres have commissioned the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) to conduct individual meetings with parents in each of our children's centres. CAB report this information to children's centres and where we have such information this is shown in the appropriate ward summary in Part B.

## Average Charges

The average childcare charge tables used show the comparison for an average of childcare costs (source Day Care Trust 2009, based on 50 hours per week in a nursery / childminder and 15 hours per week in an out of school club, 15 hours for sessional providers) at a national (England) and regional (North West) level, this is then compared to average costs in each of the boroughs electoral wards.

**Please note:** these averages assume that no free entitlement hours (the 15 free hours available to all three and four years olds in the borough) are applied.

## Sustainability

Since April 2008 we have continued to target start up funding at specific areas of the borough and specific services that are needed in those areas. We feel that this has helped with preventing the wrong type of service being established in the wrong areas. This also benefits existing providers, by lessening unnecessary competition, thereby helping long term sustainability of those services. This does not mean that there are not areas of the borough where we do need to develop new places, there are areas with development needs and these are clearly shown in the individual ward profiles.

We have introduced a quarterly survey that seeks to identify changes in demand and/or loss of places. We are currently in the third quarter and have not found any serious reduction in childcare places as a result of current credit and financial problems. There is evidence of parents reducing some hours but not to the extent that it is causing serious financial concern to providers. We shall continue to monitor this over the next twelve months.

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Since April 2008 we have had to provide short term sustainability funding to only two settings, both of which are now operating on a stable basis, which would also indicate that sustainability issues are currently manageable.

## Borough Wide Information

As explained in the introduction to this document, there is some information that we are unable to report on an individual ward basis and this information is detailed here.

## Consultation with parents through Children's Centres

We have utilised some of the key findings relating to childcare provision linked to children's centres as part of the survey of parents for this assessment. Each year, our children's centre teams conduct a "Children's Centre User Satisfaction survey". This survey, whilst predominantly concerned with children's centre targets and outcomes, does provide some useful information that informs this assessment. Where this information is at a borough wide level we have reported it in this section and where it relates to an individual children's centre we have reported in the appropriate ward profile. On a borough wide level the survey gained a response rate of 12% of the borough's 13,000 families.

The ethnicity of parents responding by "township" is as follows;

	Middleton		Heywood		Rochdale Central		Pennines (inc Rochdale South)		Borough wide	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
White British	214	92	470	83	45	22	403	81	1132	75
White Irish	2	1	3	1	1	0	5	1	11	1
White other	1	0	10	2	4	2	8	2	23	2
Mixed Caribbean	2	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	6	0
Mixed African	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
Mixed Asian	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	5	0
Mixed other	1	0	3	1	1	0	1	0	6	0
Asian or Asian										
British – Indian	0	0	3	1	3	1	1	0	7	0
Asian or Asian										
British – Pakistani	1	0	47	8	124	59	65	13	238	16
Asian or Asian										
British – Bangladeshi	0	0	4	1	16	8	11	2	31	2
Asian or Asian										
British – other	0	0	5	1	3	1	1	0	9	1
Black Caribbean	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Black African	4	2	5	1	4	2	1	0	14	1
Chinese	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Other	1	0	8	1	6	3	0	0	15	1

With reference to childcare, the % of parents surveyed used the following services within a children's centre:

	Middleton		Heywood		Rochdale Central		Pennines (inc Rochdale South)		Borough wide	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Crèche	77	33	153	28	70	36	132	29	432	30
Childcare/Nursery provision	36	16	85	16	35	18	75	17	231	16

In terms of parental satisfaction, parents in the following townships rated the childcare provision and services related to this CSA as follows (0= poor, 10 very good):

	Middleton	Heywood	Rochdale Central	Pennines (inc Rochdale South)	Borough wide
Crèche	9.7	9.7	9.5	9.5	9.6
Childcare/Nursery provision	9.6	9.3	9.8	9.4	9.5
Play and Education	9.2	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3
Employment Advice	8.7	9.1	9.2	8.9	9.0

In borough wide terms, parental comment and demand appears focussed on further development of more informal/drop in services, particularly focussing on request for crèche and stay and play sessions to be extended or increased in frequency. There is no evidence to suggest that these requests were linked to a potential return to work or training. Therefore, these suggestions will be responded to within individual children's centre development plans and not within this Sufficiency Assessment.

However, when asked in which way children's centres overall have improved their lives, many parents responded by stating that access to children's centres had given them an opportunity to undertake training which would aid their future employment. These figures (%'s of those who responded to the question) are shown as follows:

	Middleton		Heywood		Rochdale Central		Pennines (inc Rochdale South)		Borough wide	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Given a chance to train	34	15	94	17	69	35	90	19	287	20

When asked how parents thought children's centres had made a difference to their children's lives, parents made the following comment that would contribute to this assessment:

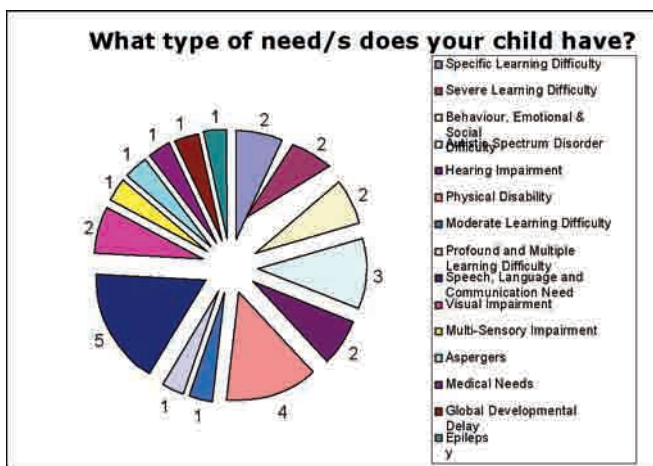
	Middleton		Heywood		Rochdale Central		Pennines (inc Rochdale South)		Borough wide	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Enabled child to make An early start on their development	106	49	256	48	104	58	210	48	676	49

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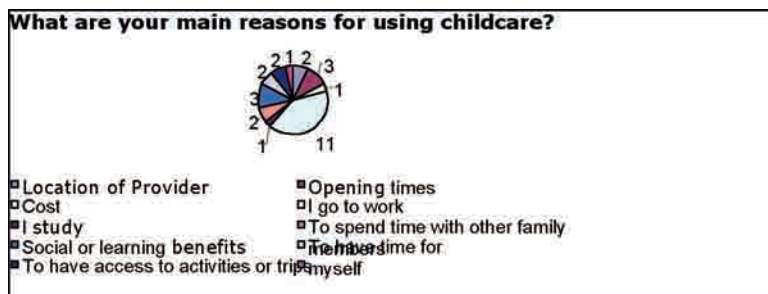
## Consultation with parents of children with additional needs

During December 2009 and January 2010 a small focussed consultation was undertaken with 11 families alongside more general consultation with a further eight families. The age range of children in the consultation was three to 12 years of age. All of the families in this small survey were/are already accessing childcare for their child/ren.

The following pie chart shows the range of needs represented through the consultation, it is important to note that the majority of the children identified have multiple needs.



Parents were asked which form of childcare they were currently using on a regular basis, for some families a combination of childcare was being used e.g. before and after school care.





## Paying for childcare

Of the 11 families asked;

- 5 were in receipt of Working Families Tax Credit
- 1 used direct payments
- 1 accessed an additional funding source to pay for childcare.
- 1 family would be eligible to claim nursery education grant for their child from January 2010.

## Meeting Needs

Parents were asked a number of questions relating to how well the childcare they used met their families needs, these are summarised below.

In a typical week how many hours of childcare do you use?

Term time (average)	Holiday (average)
10 hours	27 hours

Do your childcare arrangements meet your needs?	Yes fully	Yes partly	Yes, at the moment
	7	3	1

Do your childcare arrangements meet your child's needs?	Yes fully	Yes partly	Yes, at the moment	Yes, when supported
	7	2	1	1



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## Satisfaction

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Neither agree or disagree
I am very satisfied with my current childcare	10	1			
The quality of childcare is high	8	3			
There is a good choice of childcare within Rochdale	1	1	4	3	2
Childcare is well located	4	4		1	2
Childcare caters for my child's needs	6	3	1	1	
Childcare is good value for money	4	5			2
Childcare is too expensive	1	1	3		6
I would like my child to attend more childcare (excluding family and friends)	4	1	3	2	1
I would prefer to use family/friends to care for my child	2	2	3	3	1
I have a problem with childcare arrangements that break down often	2		3	6	
Travel or transport to childcare is a big problem	2	1	2	6	

## Gaining Children and Young Persons opinions

Rochdale seeks to gain the thoughts and opinions of children and young people in the design and delivery of its services. To aid this process a Toolkit "A guide to empowering children and young people" has been produced for all providers and practitioners in the borough.

The toolkit poses a series of questions that need to be thought about and reflected on when working with children and young people.

A training programme is being rolled out, beginning with managers, service heads and other key personnel to introduce and explain how the toolkit can, and will be used in individual settings.

A recent example of how this has been implemented would be our play pathfinder programme. The play pathfinder has been concerned with developing children's play areas around the borough. At each site children were consulted through their school and/or out of school service and were actively involved in the process of selecting individual pieces of play equipment to meet the needs of children in that area and identifying any issues that may arise. i.e. if the play area was sited too far from houses they would probably not use or not be allowed to use it.

At an individual setting level various levels of consultation and evaluation with children and young people takes place to try and incorporate children's views into the shaping, content and delivery of the services they use. We are currently collected examples of best practice that can be used to deliver further training for practitioners as part of our annual children's workforce training programme.

In addition to the above, consultation with children and young people is a key component and quality indicator within the inclusion section of our own Quality Assurance Award "High Five". Currently, all registered private, voluntary and independent providers are undertaking this award and through this all providers are challenged and consider ways to improve effective consultation with children as an everyday part of their individual service delivery.

## Summary of borough wide recommendations and actions

This is a summary of the borough wide recommendations and recurrent individual ward recommendations brought together as one set of overall recommendations and actions. Individual ward recommendations and actions are detailed in Part B.

Section / Ward	Recommendation / Action	Action by	Timescale
<b>Borough Wide Recommendations - Sufficiency Duty</b>	Continue to provide briefings for all departments and agencies regarding their obligations under the Sufficiency Duty and its impact upon them.	Childcare Sufficiency and Workforce Team	April 2011
	Continue to update information regarding new housing development and employment opportunities.	Childcare Sufficiency and Workforce Team / FIS / Planning	Annual
	Continue to monitor childcare supply including new and cancelled registrations.	Childcare Sufficiency and Workforce Team	Quarterly
	Continue to work with childcare providers to monitor childcare demand and effects on business sustainability.	Childcare Sufficiency and Workforce Team	Six monthly
	Review and evaluate progress on recommendations of this assessment through regular reporting to steering group.	Childcare Sufficiency and Workforce Team	Quarterly
	Improve the flow of regular and updated information from partner agencies to improve the accuracy and currency of the Family Services Directory, particularly around services for children/young people aged 11+.	Family Information Service	
	Continue to monitor patterns of childcare take up, in particular childcare accessed in areas outside ward of residence.	Childcare Sufficiency and Workforce Team	
	Seek to decrease the number of childcare places in areas of over supply as detailed within individual ward profiles.	Childcare Sufficiency and Workforce Team	

# Rochdale **CHILDCARE** **SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT**

Section / Ward	Recommendation / Action	Action by	Timescale
<b>Borough Wide Recommendations -</b> Workforce Development/Quality Improvement	Ensure availability of training to meet government target of every Childminder achieving a Level 3 qualification by 2015.	Childcare Sufficiency and Workforce Team	Annual programme to 2015
	Introduce job match scheme to ensure that qualified staff are aware of employment opportunities.	Childcare Sufficiency and Workforce Team	April 2011
	Introduce “Men into Childcare” programme to increase representation of men in the childcare workforce.	Childcare Sufficiency and Workforce Team	Annual programme to 2015
	Ensure availability of training to meet government target of an Early Years Professional in every setting (and two in settings in disadvantaged areas).	Childcare Sufficiency and Workforce Team	Annual programme to 2015
	Ensure that the annual training programme continually reflects local and national government targets, legislation and aspirations.	Childcare Sufficiency and Workforce Team	
	Ensure all providers undertake a recognised Quality Assurance Award within agreed timescales determined in individual setting development plans.	Childcare Sufficiency and Workforce Team / Early Years Advisory Team	
	Undertake annual (or more frequent) “Business Health Checks” to aid the viability and sustainability of childcare providers.	Childcare Sufficiency and Workforce Team	Frequency determined by outcome of individual setting annual professional development meeting
	Continual consultation on all aspects of childcare sufficiency planning and development through existing forums and agencies (e.g. Rochdale Day Nursery Association, Rochdale Playgroup Association, Rochdale and District Play Action Council, Rochdale Out of School Network, Childminding E-Forum).	Childcare Sufficiency and Workforce Team	

Section / Ward	Recommendation / Action	Action by	Timescale
<b>Borough Wide Recommendations - Additional Needs</b>	Begin work on benchmarking services using the Dcatch (Disabled Children's Access to Childcare) Toolkit and make appropriate plans for future development using this information.	Dcatch Steering Group	April 2011
	Review and simplify funding regime by which additional support (physical or financial) is provided to settings.	Disability/SEN Team	April 2011
	Complete pilot programme (part of Dcatch programme) with 20 settings, with representation from all sectors to identify and remove barriers to inclusion and identify necessary advice, guidance and training to enable this.	Childcare Sufficiency and Workforce Team	April 2011
	Liase with partner agencies to seek to ensure the widest possible spread of inclusive places.	Childcare Sufficiency and Workforce Team	April 2011 onwards
	Continue to seek to establish concise numbers of children with additional need in the borough.	Disability/SEN Team	
<b>Borough Wide Recommendations - Childminding</b>	Undertake review of Childminding Network and Area Support Childminder scheme and amend in line with new government guidelines.	Childcare Sufficiency and Workforce Team	April 2011
	Review and amend childminder start up grant to reflect Childcare Sufficiency Assessment priorities as detailed in individual ward profiles focussing on the following wards:	Balderstone and Kirkholt, Central Rochdale, Healey, Hopwood Hall, Kingsway, North Middleton, Milkstone and Deeplish, Spotland and Falinge, Smallbridge and Firgrove, West Middleton Childcare Sufficiency and Workforce Team Annually	
<b>Borough Wide Recommendations - Anti Poverty</b>	Ensure that childcare availability underpins return to work strategies  Seek to maintain childcare costs at levels that are affordable to the communities they serve	Childcare Strategy Team  Childcare Sufficiency and Workforce Team / Family Information Service	Through annual costs survey

# Rochdale **CHILDCARE** **SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT**

Section / Ward	Recommendation / Action	Action by	Timescale
	<p>Work with employers and employment agencies to implement family friendly policies that prevent childcare becoming a barrier to employment.</p> <p>Improve targeting and promotion of tax credits in areas of the borough where take up is low.</p> <p>Further commission and develop CAB to deliver benefit and debt advice sessions in children's centres to increase take up of tax credits and benefits.</p>	<p>Family Information Service / Job Centre Plus</p> <p>Family Information Service / Job</p> <p>Children's Centre Team</p>	<p>Annual reporting</p>
<p><b>Borough Wide Recommendations -</b> Tax Credits</p>	<p>Promote tax credit information in the wards and SOA areas as detailed in the individual ward profiles.</p>	<p>Family Information Service</p>	
<p><b>Borough Wide Recommendations -</b> Out of School Provision</p>	<p>Seek to develop new out of school places in the following wards as detailed in the individual ward profiles</p> <p>Bamford, Castleton, Central Rochdale, Healey, Kingsway, Smallbridge and Firgrove.</p>	<p>Childcare Sufficiency and Workforce Team</p>	
<p><b>Borough Wide Recommendations -</b> Free Early Years Entitlement</p>	<p>Investigate why take up of free entitlement appears below an average of 80% in the following wards</p> <p>Balderstone and Kirkholt, Bamford, Kingsway, Norden, North Heywood, North Middleton and Smallbridge and Firgrove.</p>	<p>Childcare Sufficiency and Workforce Team</p>	

