

2023/24

Early Years Place Planning: Forward View



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Contents

Page

Introduction	2
The Growth of Milton Keynes	3
Legal Context	4
Strategic Context	6
SEND	8
Methodology	9
Mitigating Factors	10
Childcare Sufficiency Summary	11
Sufficiency Projections & Gap Analysis	
Milton Keynes	12
Conniburrow children's centre catchment area	14
Daisychain family centre catchment area	16
Hedgerows family centre catchment area	18
Hummingbird children centre catchment area	20
Little Owls children centre catchment area	22
Moorlands family centre catchment area	24
Pebbles children centre catchment area	26
Rainbow children centre catchment area	28
Seedlings children centre catchment area	30
Squirrels children centre catchment area	32
Sunshine children centre catchment area	34
The Robins children centre catchment area	36
The Rowans family centre catchment area	38
The Saplings children centre catchment area	40
The Windmill children centre catchment area	42
Tickford Meadow children centre catchment area	44
Woodlands children centre catchment area	46

Additional Information

- Annex A:** Childcare Act 2006 & Childcare Act 2016
- Annex B:** How parents can access their free entitlement
- Annex C:** Funding for Providers

Introduction

This document reviews the sufficiency of early education and childcare provision throughout Milton Keynes. It also sets out the local authority's main legal duties and powers in relation to the market. It is designed to enable the local authority to assess the volume and location of available places and identify areas with a shortfall in childcare provision. This document is freely available to stakeholders upon request and is intended to aid providers in mapping demand in Milton Keynes; subsequently stimulating the market growth required to ensure sufficient places are available.

The Growth of Milton Keynes

Planned growth

Plan:MK, which was adopted in 2019, replaced the remaining planning policies kept from the Milton Keynes Local Plan (adopted December 2005) and the Milton Keynes Core Strategy, and became part of the Development Plan to be used in the determination of planning applications within the borough. Plan:MK is the new Local Plan for Milton Keynes up to 2031 and sets out the vision and development strategy for the future of the Borough. Plan:MK will deliver a minimum of 26,500 net dwellings across the Borough of Milton Keynes over the period 2016-2031.

For all Strategic Urban Extensions listed within Plan:MK, the indicative education needs have been detailed. The Education Sufficiency and Access service will continue to be involved in the plan making process to ensure that the needs of future residents of Milton Keynes are met. It is also beneficial for all parties to establish an education planning strategy during the master planning stage of these sites so that the service requirements do not impact on viability at a later stage.

There is significant planned total development across Milton Keynes with over 15,500 homes scheduled to be delivered over the next eight years, with a significant proportion of this being delivered in our new development areas of Milton Keynes. It is important that new early years places are delivered within these areas in line with the additional demand they bring as the developments build out across the years,

Legal Context

Childcare Act 2006

- The Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on local authorities to secure sufficient (section 6), so far as reasonably practicable, to enable parents/carers to access employment or training which could lead to employment.
- This act places a statutory duty on local authorities to improve outcomes for all young children, reduce inequalities and ensure high quality Early Years Education and childcare is available to meet projected demand.
- Section 7 places a duty on the local authorities to secure early years provision free of charge. Section 12 places a duty on local authorities to publish certain information at prescribed intervals. Whilst Section 13 places a duty on local authorities to provide information, advice and training to childcare providers
- Local authorities are not expected to operate childcare provisions themselves, but they are expected to work with local private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector providers to meet local need.

Childcare Act 2016

- On the 16th March 2016 the Childcare Act 2016 became law with the legislation introducing 30 hours free childcare for eligible 3 and 4 year olds. The act entitles eligible children to 30 hours of free childcare over a 38 week period, or the equivalent.
- The extended entitlement was made available nationwide from 1st September 2017. Eligible children can access the entitlement at the beginning of the term following their 3rd birthday up until the September that the child begins school. The eligibility rules required to access 30 hour free childcare are:
 - ❖ The child must be aged 3 or 4

- ❖ Both parents must be working - or the sole parent is working in the lone parent family
- ❖ Each parent must earn, on average, a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage
- ❖ Each parent must have an annual income of less than £100,000
- ❖ The parents must live in England

Full statutory guidance can be found at:-

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-education-and-childcare--2>

The role of the Council

As the administrator of early education funding, and in accordance with statutory guidance, the local authority will seek to maximise parental choice by funding a child's free entitlement place at any provider who satisfies the required quality standards and local conditions of funding, as set out in the Milton Keynes City Council Provider Guidance for two-year-olds, and for three and four-year-olds. The Milton Keynes City Council website will continue to provide information of childcare providers that parents can access their entitlement.

Strategic Context

In Milton Keynes private, voluntary and independent (PVI) organisations account for 87% of the early education and childcare market. These providers operate from a variety of different premises (including purpose-built facilities, shared community buildings, schools, churches, converted offices and domestic premises). The remainder of the sector consists of childminders, nursery schools and nursery classes within maintained schools. These providers offer a mixture of full day care or sessional care dependent upon the type of setting to provide parents with a mixture of choice to meet needs of families across the city.

Childcare sufficiency is essential in supporting working parents/carers and those studying or training for employment. Another focus of childcare is to reduce inequalities and child poverty throughout the country. Currently all 3 and 4 year old children are entitled to 15 hours free childcare a week over a 38 week period or the equivalent. This entitlement is also extended to 2 year olds that are from income deprived or disadvantaged families based upon eligibility criteria.

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019 is the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas (or neighbourhoods) in England. In the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019 Milton Keynes was ranked 107 compared to 181 in 2015 and compared to 211 in 2010. Milton Keynes has 8 districts that rank in the 10% most deprived and 18 in the 20% most deprived areas in Britain.

Sufficient quality childcare is vital in supporting the growth of Milton Keynes as the borough has grown by 15% from 2011 to 2021, which is higher than the overall increase for England (6.6%). The population of Milton Keynes was 287,000 in the 2021 June census and has a population growth rate of 6.66%, which is 6.33% higher than England's growth rate. It is critical that supply of childcare provision in Milton Keynes continues to meet demand as the city grows.

There is no obligation on parents to access early education provision; however, in order to improve the well-being of young children and reduce social inequalities, there is a duty for LAs to identify parents who may be unlikely to access 'early childhood services'. LAs and relevant partners should encourage all parents to take advantage of these services as they may be of benefit to them and their young children.

Early years provision is specifically defined in the Childcare Act 2006 as an 'early childhood service', as evidence shows that access to high quality early education provision improves the life chances of children, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Our local ambition is to maintain participation rates at a minimum of 90% for all 3 and 4 year olds accessing their universal entitlement.

SEND

All Milton Keynes providers are accessible to children with special educational needs and provide an inclusive childcare market for parents. Most early year's children will be able to have their special educational needs met at their local pre-school, nursery or childminder setting. However, for some children, specialist provision may be more appropriate.

The Children and Families Act 2014 has seen the introduction of Education, Health and Care Plans and a 'Local Offer' for families with a child or young person with SEND. More information about how the Milton Keynes Local Offer supports early years can be found at: [How Early Years settings can support young children with SEND](#)

All childcare group settings are required to have a member of staff who is the Special Education Needs Coordinator (SENCO), and has responsibility for identifying children with SEN, whilst all childminders must act as their own SENCO.

In the event that an early year's child requires a specific support for their needs, the local authority will assess the child's needs using the 'graduated approach'.

In addition to the SEND Local Offer, the Milton Keynes City Council maintains a 'SEN Inclusion Grant' which is available upon request to providers with children with SEN. This funding is to be used to enable the setting to better meet the needs of the SEN children that attend.

Methodology

Due to the mitigating factors that impact projections, analysis of data sources are undertaken to produce forecasts that reflect the behaviour of the Milton Keynes childcare market. ONS birth data is used as a fundamental data source for the projections, the birth data of previous years is analysed to project future rates and therefore future potential demand in Milton Keynes.

The Early Years census is analysed to identify the behaviour of the childcare market in Milton Keynes. The Early Years census is reviewed to detect trends in participation rates and area demand mapping. Subsequently these characteristics are applied to potential demand to produce projections with a greater degree of accuracy.

Milton Keynes City Council's childcare database and Ofsted were used to identify and map the supply of available places in Milton Keynes. Only providers that are registered for Early Education Funding (EEF) are included in our supply analysis as these providers are universally accessible to eligible children. This therefore means that there is also a private market that is available for families in Milton Keynes that require childcare provision.

Mitigating Factors

The nature of the early year's childcare market creates several difficulties when mapping supply and demand for childcare in Milton Keynes. A prominent forecasting issue is the role parental preference plays when accessing childcare provision. Parental preference directly impacts participation rates in the childcare market; as there is no mandatory requirement for pre-school age children to attend an early year's provision hence projecting the level of take-up can be problematic. Parental preference also impacts demand mapping as parents regularly access provisions outside of the family centre catchment area in which they live for a variety of different reasons.

It is therefore important to note that whilst some geographical areas in Milton Keynes within this document are projecting a shortfall of places this shortfall may not actually come to fruition given parental preference does not necessarily mean accessing early years provision from within local children centre areas.

The flexibility and adaptability of the early year's market and providers also adds a further degree of difficulty when allocating supply to projected demand. As childcare providers independently manage their resources to accommodate the child demand they receive, providers will amend their ratio of spaces at varying age ranges to reflect their intake and therefore their vacancies are interchangeable. Private, voluntary and independent providers possess the autonomy to freely expand or reduce the capacity of their settings in accordance with the Ofsted prescribed requirements. Furthermore, providers can decide to enter or exit the childcare market without honouring a notice period.

Therefore, the childcare market is an ever-changing fluid landscape that is hugely market driven and supply and demand can fluctuate frequently.

Childcare Sufficiency Summary

2 year old Free Childcare Entitlement

Milton Keynes has sufficient supply of funded 2 year old places to meet the projected demand for the entitlement. Sufficient places for 2 year olds to access the entitlement is projected in 17 out of the 17 children/family centre areas. As the childcare market is driven by consumer participation the allocation of places between the age groups is adaptable to the demand which minimises the risk of insufficient places to access entitlements.

Since the introduction of the 2 year old free childcare entitlement in 2014 the percentage of eligible families in Milton Keynes accessing this entitlement had increased year on year. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic in 2020 take up rates dropped and stayed low for the following years. More recently, take-up rate is increasing matching that of 2018/19. The 2022 early years census reported 74% take-up in Milton Keynes, compared to the national average of 72%.

The continued growth of Milton Keynes through new housing suggests the number of eligible 2 year will continue to increase. In addition, the government proposals to extend the qualifying criteria to include families eligible for universal credits is expected to cause the number to increase further

Universal Entitlement: 3 & 4 year olds

Overall Milton Keynes has sufficient places for 3 & 4 year olds accessing the universal entitlement. 13 out of the 17 children/family centre areas are projected to have sufficient places to meet the demand from their area. However, a large surplus of childcare places exists throughout Milton Keynes.

Projections suggest that there will be sufficient places for children accessing the universal entitlement for the foreseeable future, however, this will need to be monitored. The flexibility of the childcare market should ensure providers can adapt their ratios to meet demand.

The Extended Entitlement (30 Hours): 3 & 4 year olds

Milton Keynes is projected to have sufficient places for parents wishing to access the 30 hour entitlement in September 2023. All 17 children/family centre catchment areas are projected to have sufficient supply to meet the demand from their area. In 2022, it was estimated that 38% of children accessing universal entitlement, access extended hours.

The introduction of the 30 hour entitlement to the childcare market created the need for many providers to redesign their delivery model to accommodate the various offers. The majority of providers have allocated a specific quota of extended entitlement places. Some parents may be required to split their extended entitlement allowance across several providers if they are unable to secure a full place at one provider

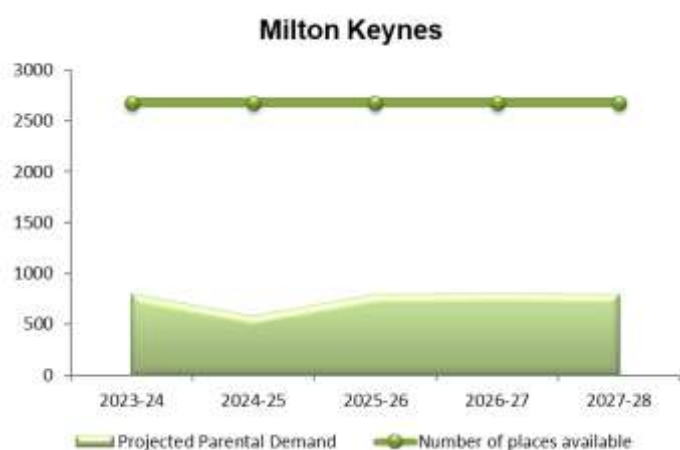
The most significant aspect of the extended entitlement will be the parent and how they choose to use the annual allowance of 570 hours of free childcare. The individual patterns and needs of each parent will differ, therefore the adaptability of the childcare market is essential to meeting the demand that arises.

Milton Keynes

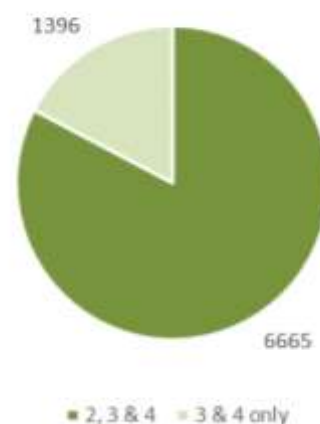


Provider Type	No. Providers	Registered Places	Type of care
Childminder	130	745	FULL
Day Nursery	60	3428	
Nursery Unit at Independent Schools	5	444	
Pre-School Playgroup	56	1966	SESSIONAL
Maintained Nursery Class	39	1478	

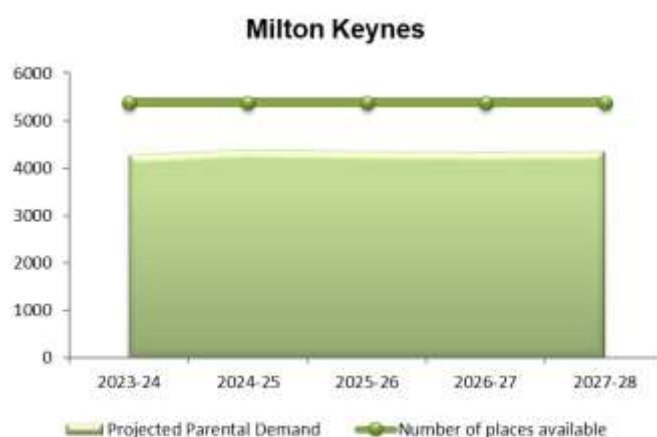
Milton Keynes: 2 year old provision					
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	2677	2677	2677	2677	2677
Projected demand for places	798	579	788	793	791
Balance of places	1878	2098	1889	1884	1886



Composition of area provision

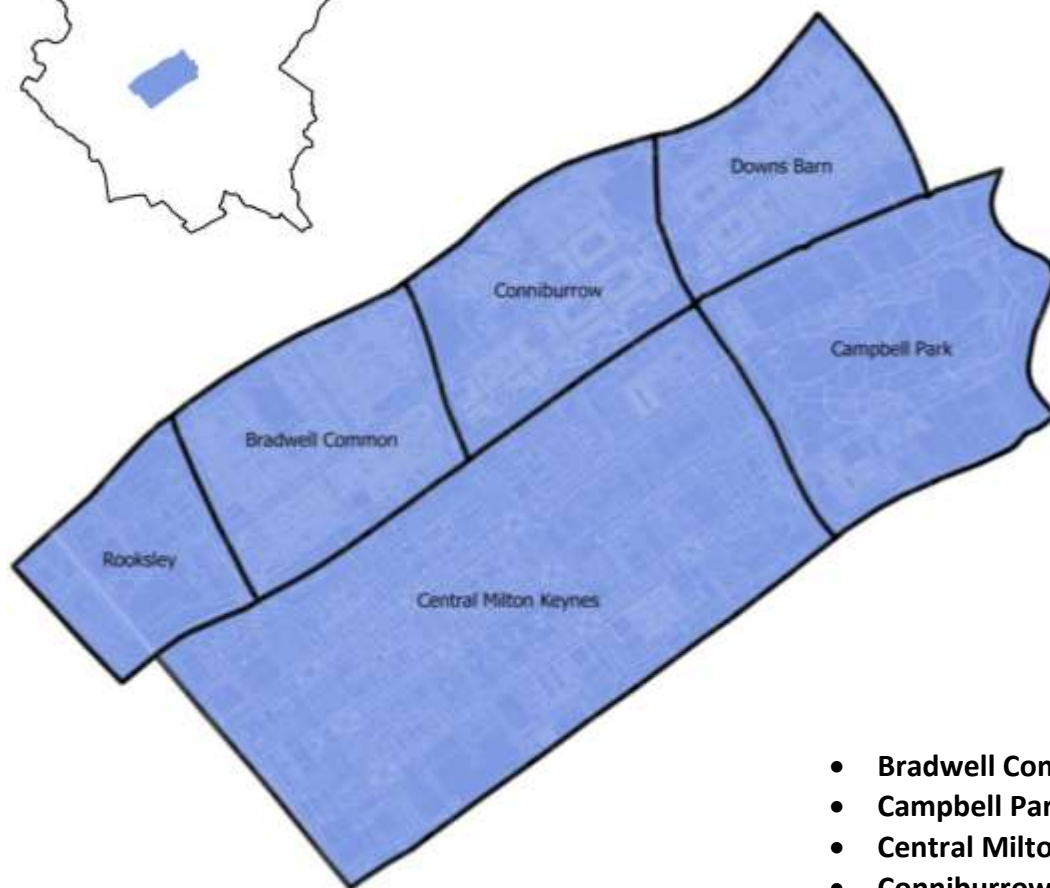


Milton Keynes: 3&4 year old provision					
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	5384	5384	5384	5384	5384
Projected 3&4 YO demand	4288	4389	4357	4344	4363
Balance of places	1097	996	1027	1040	1021
Extended entitlement demand	2115	2085	2079	2063	2066



Gap Analysis

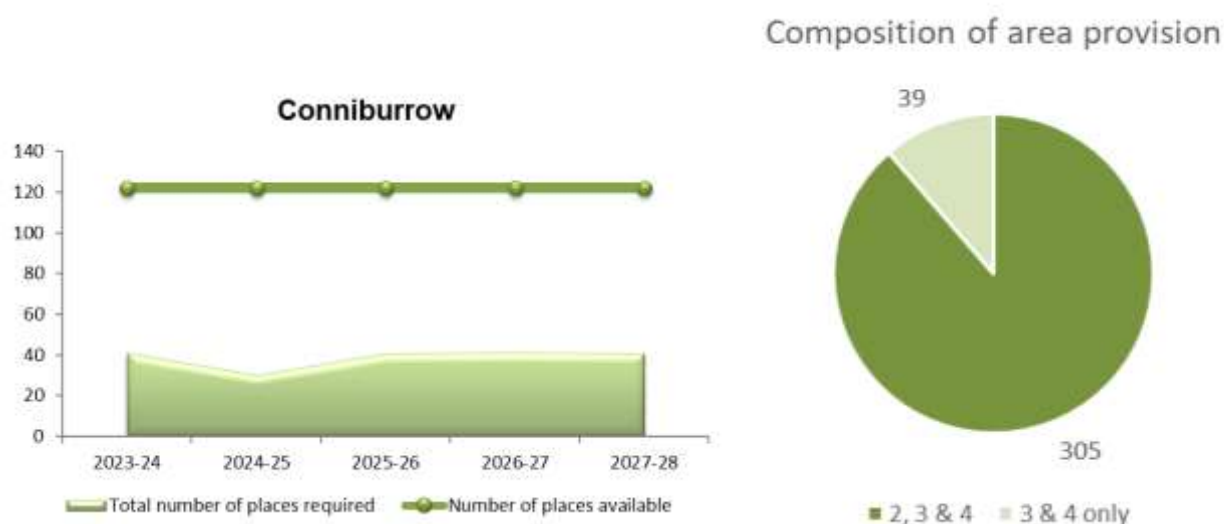
- Large surplus 2 year old places to meet the demand in Milton Keynes
- Large surplus 3 and 4 year old places to meet the demand in Milton Keynes



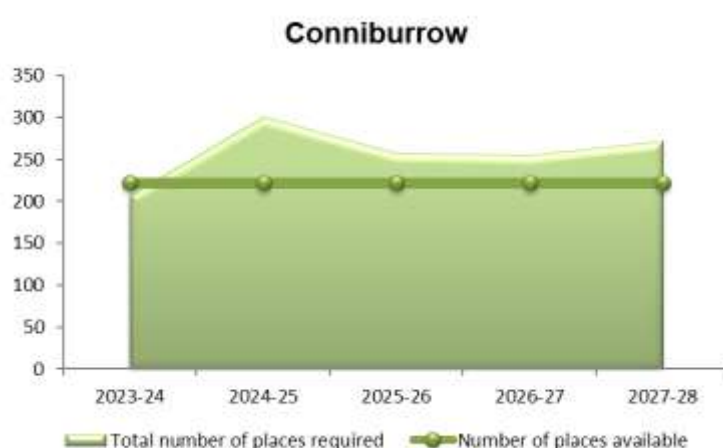
- Bradwell Common
- Campbell Park
- Central Milton Keynes
- Conniburrow
- Downs Barn
- Rooksley

Provider Type	No. Providers	Registered Places	Type of care
Childminder	8	50	FULL
Day Nursery	4	190	
Nursery Unit at Independent Schools	0	0	
Pre-School Playgroup	2	65	SESSIONAL
Maintained Nursery Class	1	39	

Conniburrow: 2 year old provision					
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	122	122	122	122	122
Projected demand for places	41	30	40	41	40
Balance of places	81	92	82	81	82

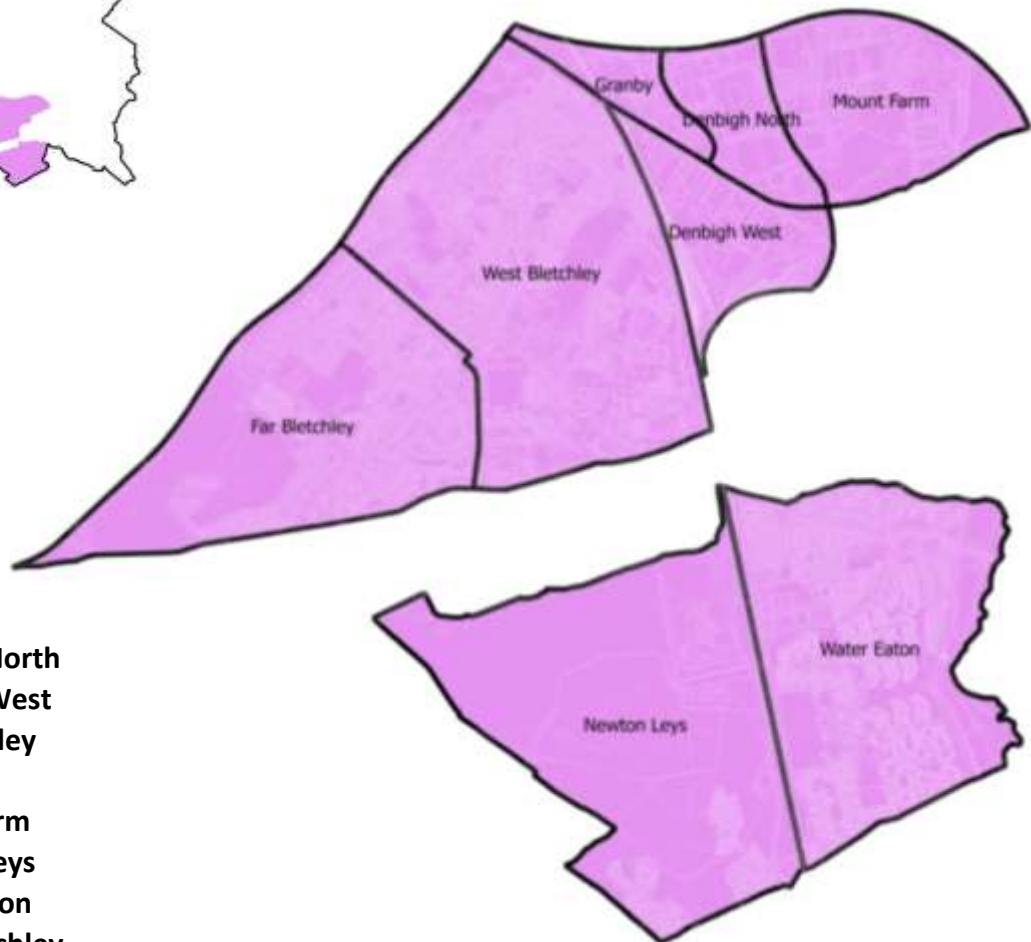
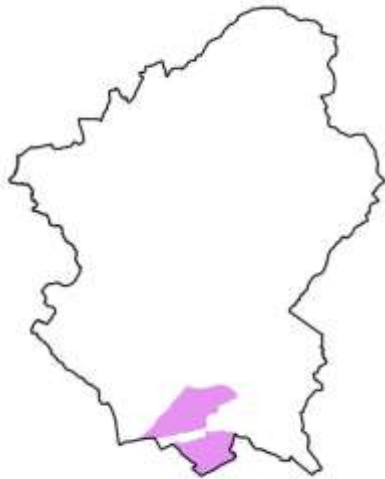


Conniburrow: 3&4 year old provision					
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	222	222	222	222	222
Projected 3&4 YO demand	206	301	257	254	271
Balance of places	16	-79	-35	-32	-49
Extended entitlement demand	76	75	75	74	74



Gap Analysis

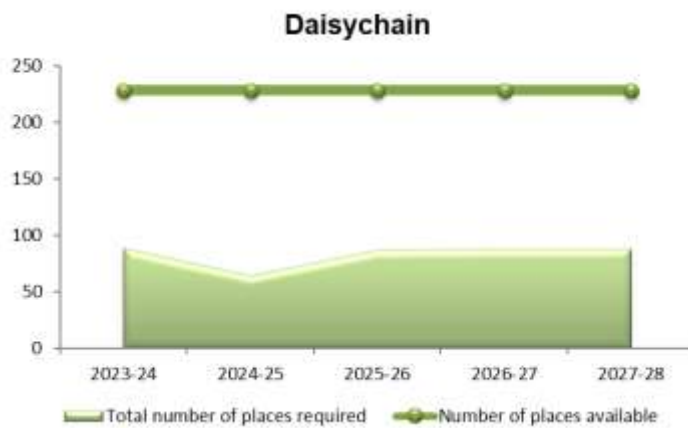
- Sufficient 2 year old places to meet the demand in the area
- The 3&4 year old shortfall has been predicted in previous years, however, there has been no access issue for parents.



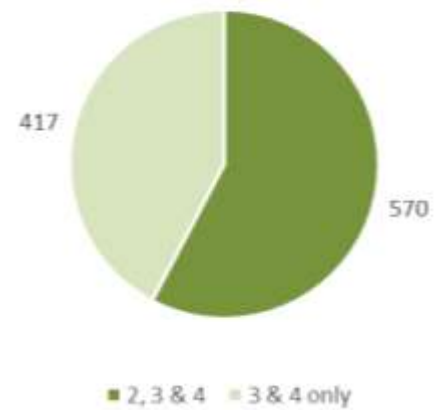
- Denbigh North
- Denbigh West
- Far Bletchley
- Granby
- Mount Farm
- Newton Leys
- Water Eaton
- West Bletchley

Provider Type	No. Providers	Registered Places	Type of care
Childminder	3	14	FULL
Day Nursery	4	139	
Nursery Unit at Independent Schools	1	148	
Pre-School Playgroup	6	269	SESSIONAL
Maintained Nursery Class	6	256	

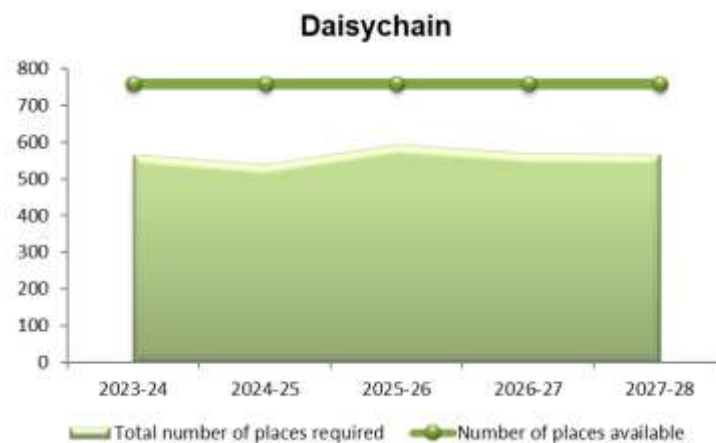
Daisychain: 2 year old provision					
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	228	228	228	228	228
Projected demand for places	89	64	88	88	88
Balance of places	139	164	140	140	140



Composition of area provision



Daisychain: 3&4 year old provision					
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	759	759	759	759	759
Projected 3&4 YO demand	564	537	591	566	565
Balance of places	195	222	168	193	194
Extended entitlement demand	254	250	250	248	248

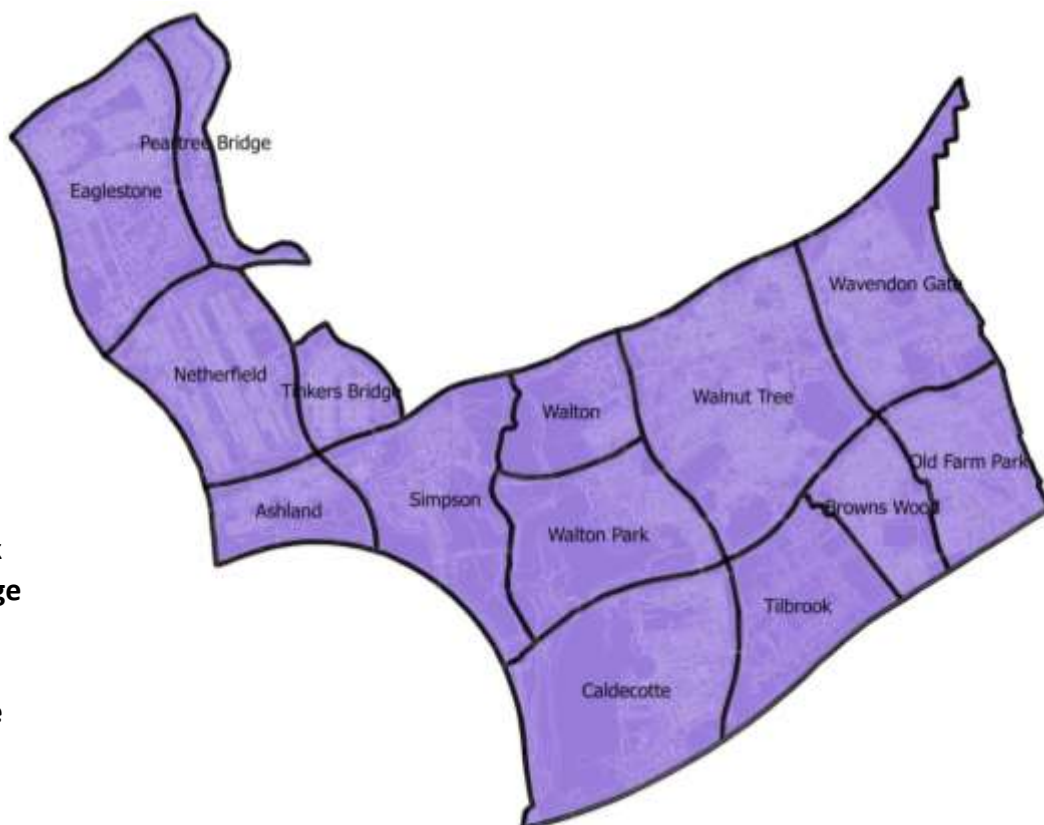


Gap Analysis

- Large surplus of 2 year old places to meet the demand in the area
- Large surplus of 3 and 4 year old places to meet the demand in the area



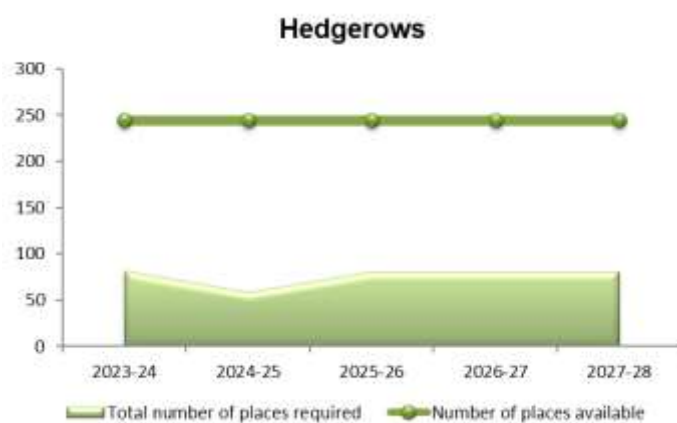
Hedgerows



- Ashland
- Browns Wood
- Caldecotte
- Eaglestone
- Netherfield
- Old Farm Park
- Peartree Bridge
- Simpson
- Tilbrook
- Tinkers Bridge
- Walnut Tree
- Walton
- Walton Park
- Wavendon Gate

Provider Type	No. Providers	Registered Places	Type of care
Childminder	4	42	FULL
Day Nursery	6	433	
Nursery Unit at Independent Schools	0	0	
Pre-School Playgroup	4	126	SESSIONAL
Maintained Nursery Class	2	70	

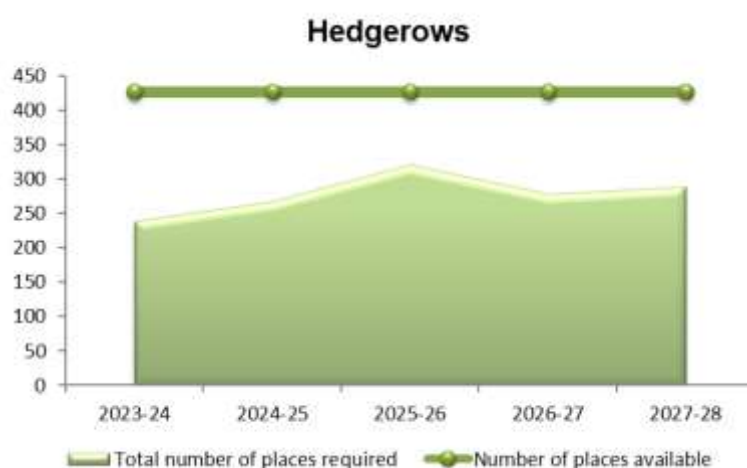
Hedgerows: 2 year old provision					
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	244	244	244	244	244
Projected demand for places	82	59	81	81	81
Balance of places	162	185	163	163	163



Composition of area provision



Hedgerows: 3&4 year old provision					
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	427	427	427	427	427
Projected 3&4 YO demand	238	267	320	277	288
Balance of places	189	160	107	150	139
Extended entitlement demand	154	151	151	150	150

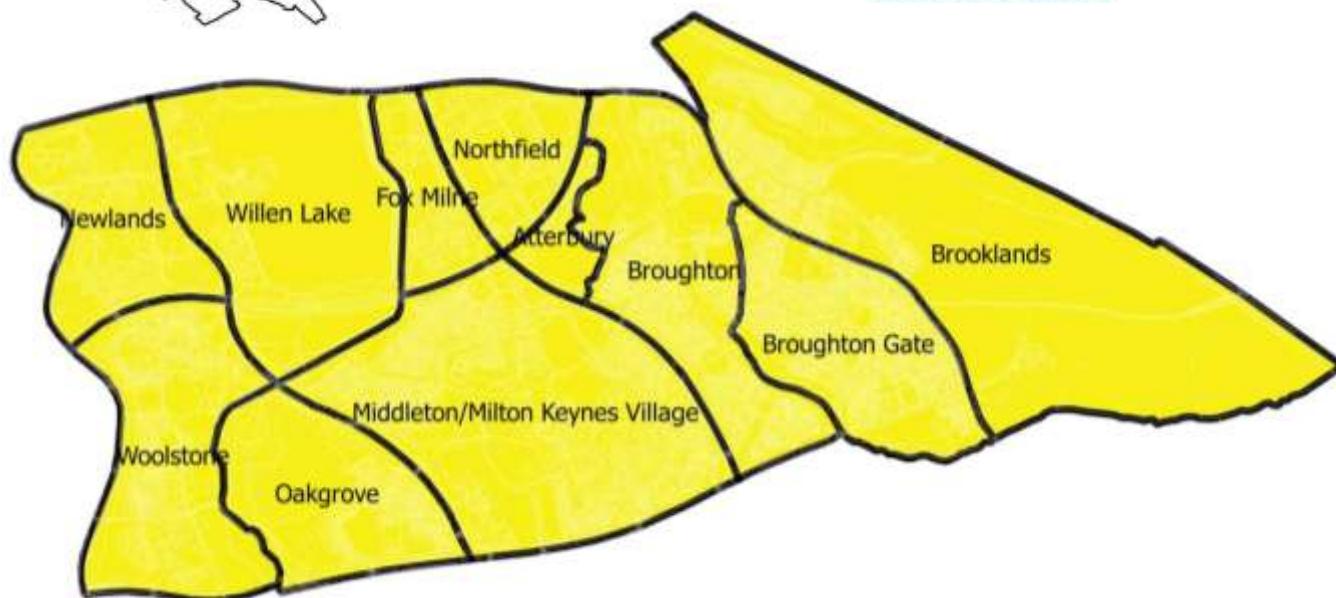


Gap Analysis

- Large surplus of 2 year old places to meet the demand from the area
- Large surplus of 3 & 4 year old places to meet the demand from the area



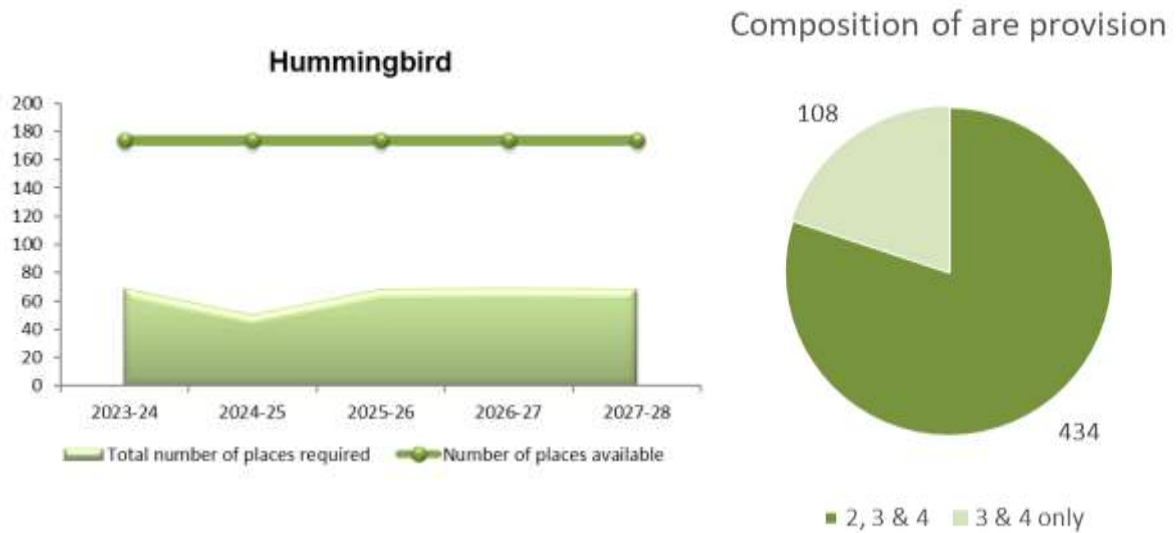
**Hummingbird
Children's Centre**



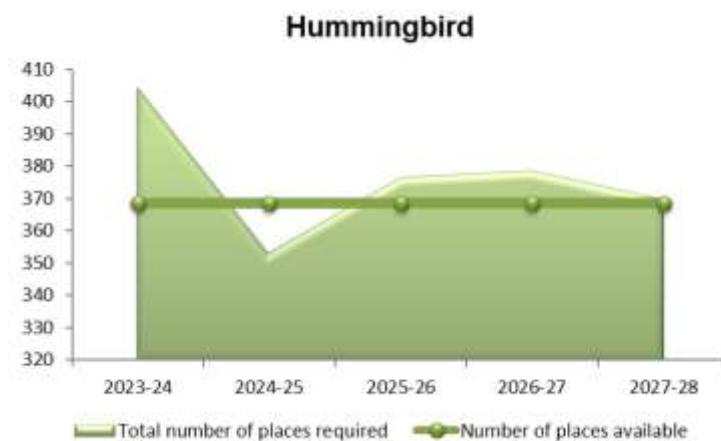
- Atterbury
- Broughton
- Broughton Gate
- Brooklands
- Fox Milne
- Middleton & Milton Keynes Village
- Newlands
- Northfield
- Oakgrove
- Willen Lake
- Woolstone
- Glebe Farm

Provider Type	No. Providers	Registered Places	Type of care
Childminder	15	75	FULL
Day Nursery	2	161	
Nursery Unit at Independent Schools	1	86	
Pre-School Playgroup	3	112	SESSIONAL
Maintained Nursery Class	3	108	

Hummingbird: 2 year old provision					
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	174	174	174	174	174
Projected demand for places	69	50	68	68	68
Balance of places	105	124	106	105	105

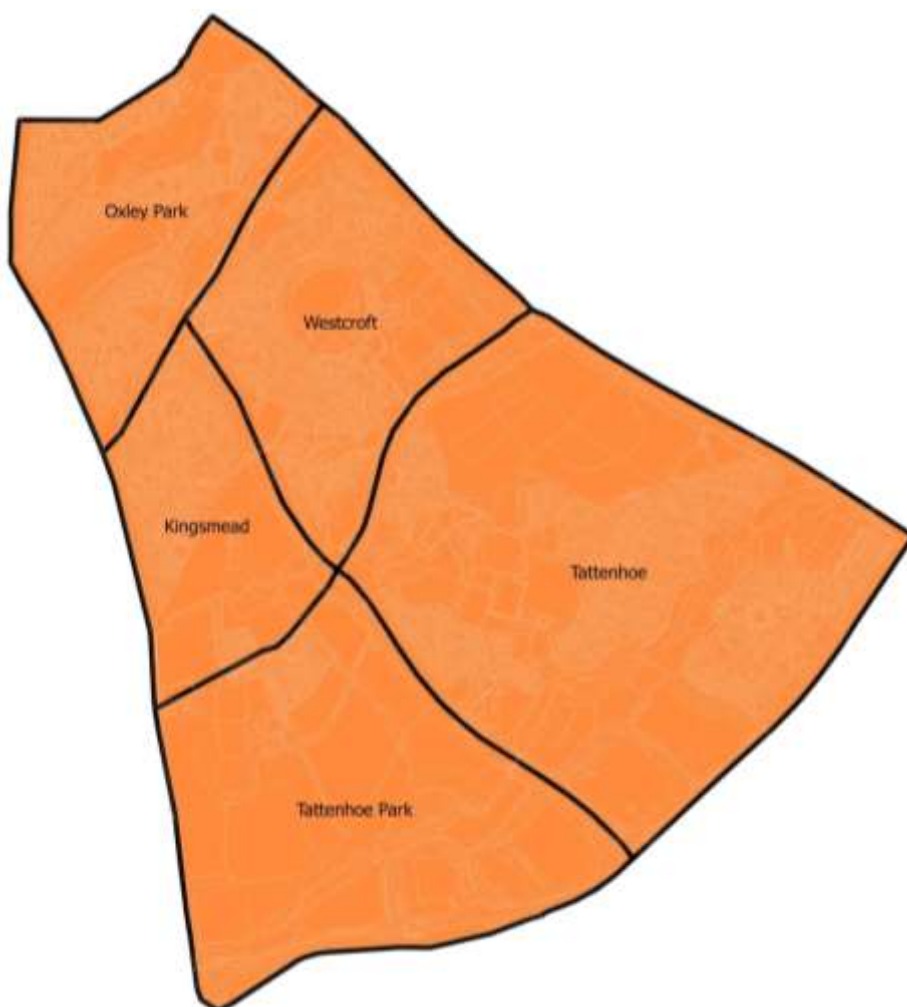


Hummingbird: 3&4 year old provision					
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	368	368	368	368	368
Projected 3&4 YO demand	405	353	377	379	370
Balance of places	-36	15	-8	-10	-1
Extended entitlement demand	182	179	178	177	177



Gap Analysis

- Large surplus of 2 year old places to meet the demand from the area
- The 3&4 year old shortfall has been predicted in previous years, however, there has been no access issue for parents.

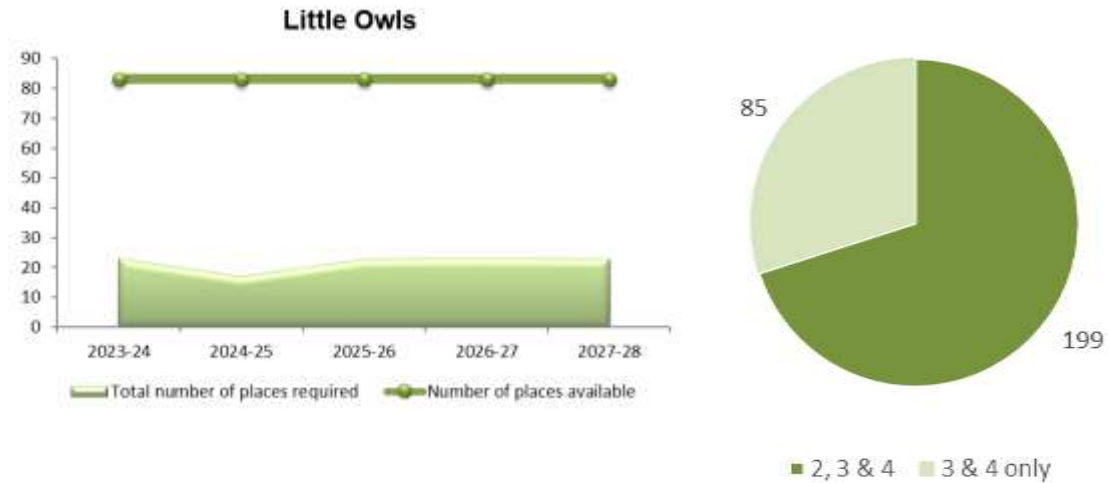


- Kingsmead
- Oxley Park
- Tattenhoe
- Tattenhoe Park
- Westcroft

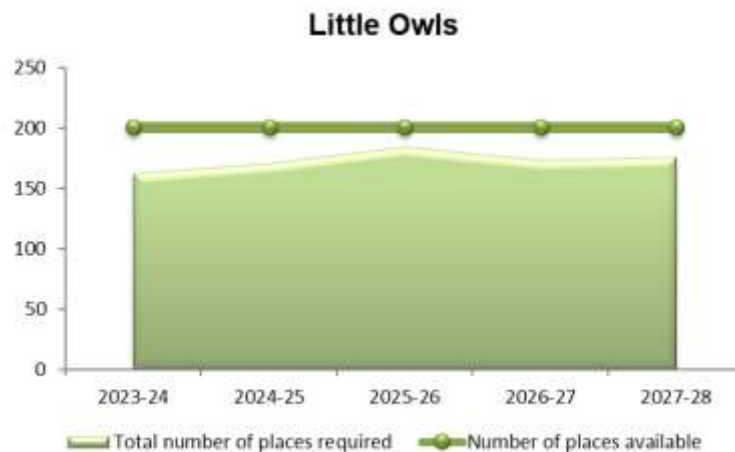
Provider Type	No. Providers	Registered Places	Type of care
Childminder	7	41	FULL
Day Nursery	1	64	
Nursery Unit at Independent Schools	0	0	
Pre-School Playgroup	3	100	SESSIONAL
Maintained Nursery Class	3	79	

Little Owls: 2 year old provision					
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	83	83	83	83	83
Projected demand for places	23	17	23	23	23
Balance of places	60	67	61	60	60

Composition of area provision



Little Owls: 3&4 year old provision					
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	201	201	201	201	201
Projected 3&4 YO demand	162	170	184	173	176
Balance of places	39	31	17	28	25
Extended entitlement demand	85	83	83	83	83

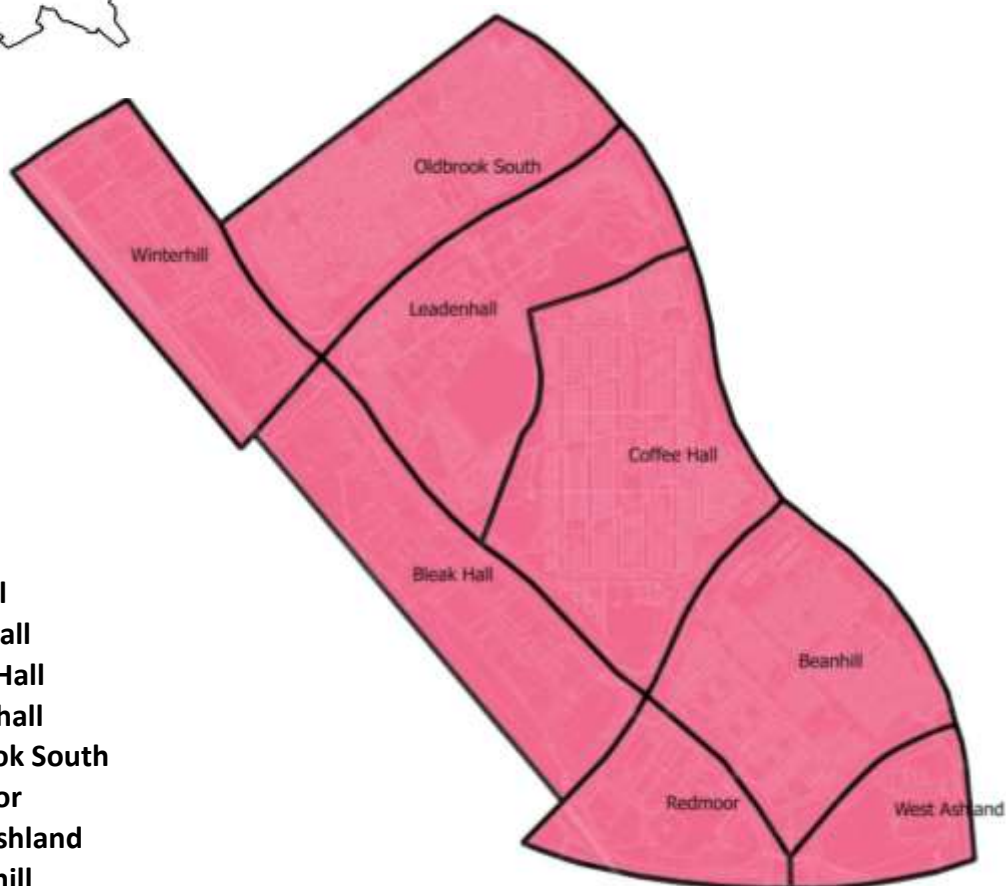


Gap Analysis

- Sufficient 2 year old places to meet the demand from the area
- Sufficient 3 & 4 year old places to meet demand from the area

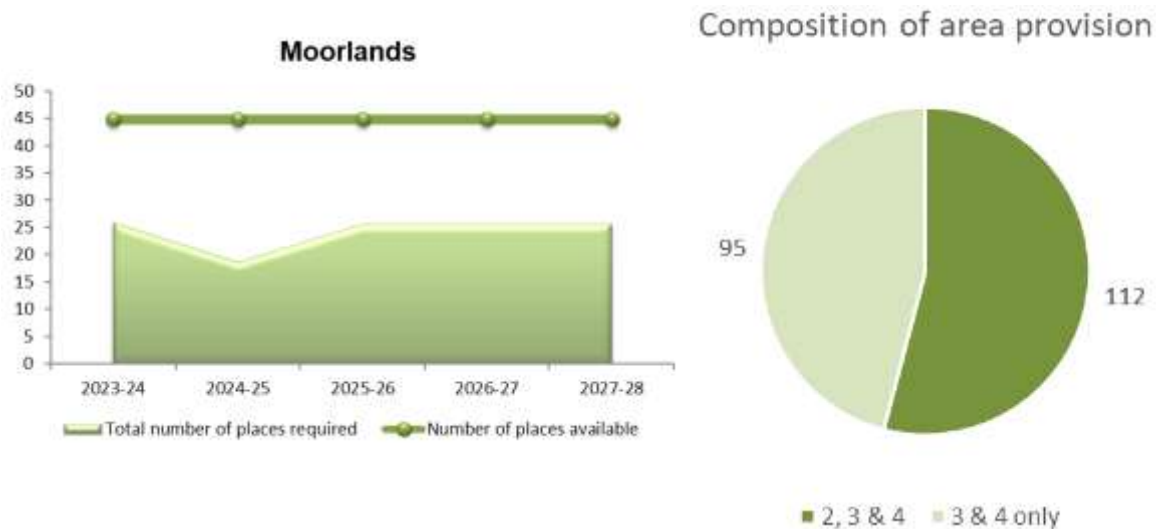


- Beanhill
- Bleak Hall
- Coffee Hall
- Leadenhall
- Oldbrook South
- Redmoor
- West Ashland
- Winterhill

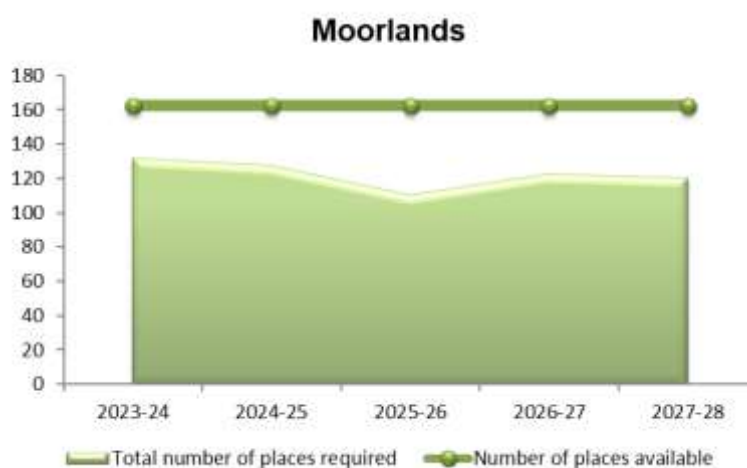


Provider Type	No. Providers	Registered Places	Type of care
Childminder	2	12	FULL
Day Nursery	1	70	
Nursery Unit at Independent Schools	0	0	
Pre-School Playgroup	1	30	SESSIONAL
Maintained Nursery Class	3	95	

Moorlands: 2 year old provision					
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	45	45	45	45	45
Projected demand for places	26	19	26	26	26
Balance of places	19	26	19	19	19



Moorlands: 3&4 year old provision					
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	162	162	162	162	162
Projected 3&4 YO demand	132	127	110	122	120
Balance of places	31	35	52	40	42
Extended entitlement demand	70	69	69	68	69



Gap Analysis

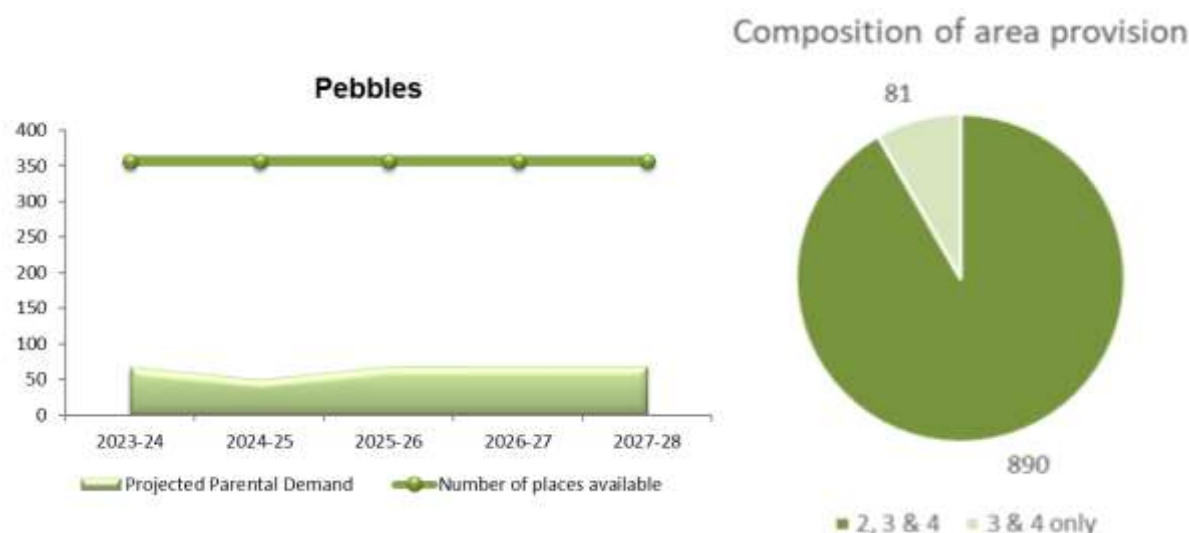
- Sufficient 2 year old places to meet the demand from the area
- Sufficient 3 & 4 year old places to meet the demand from the area



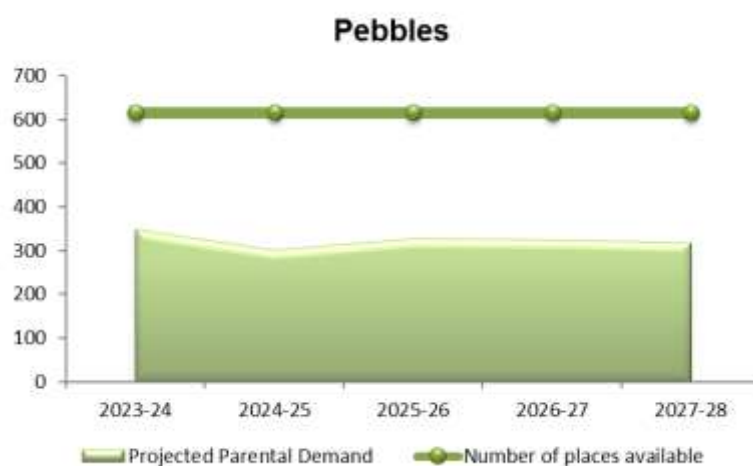
- Brinklow
- Fishermead
- Kents Hill
- Kingston
- Monkston
- Monkston Park
- Oldbrook North
- Springfield
- Walton Hall
- Woughton-on-the-Green
- Woughton Park

Provider Type	No. Providers	Registered Places	Type of care
Childminder	13	69	FULL
Day Nursery	6	434	
Nursery Unit at Independent Schools	1	160	
Pre-School Playgroup	4	163	SESSIONAL
Maintained Nursery Class	4	145	

Pebbles: 2 year old provision					
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	356	356	356	356	356
Projected demand for places	67	48	66	66	66
Balance of places	289	308	290	290	290

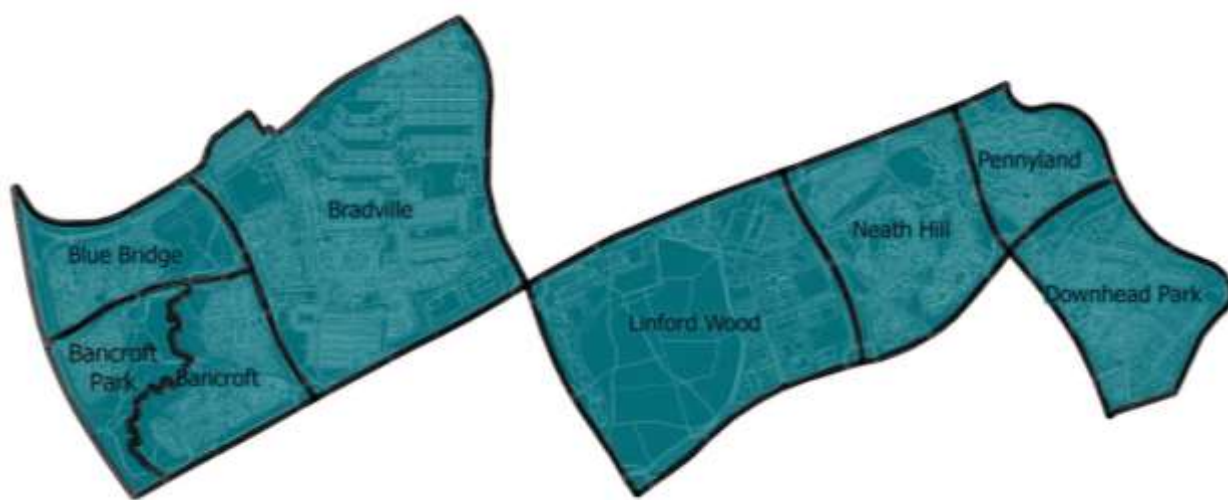


Pebbles: 3&4 year old provision					
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	615	615	615	615	615
Projected 3&4 YO demand	349	302	327	326	318
Balance of places	266	313	288	289	297
Extended entitlement demand	171	168	168	166	167



Gap Analysis

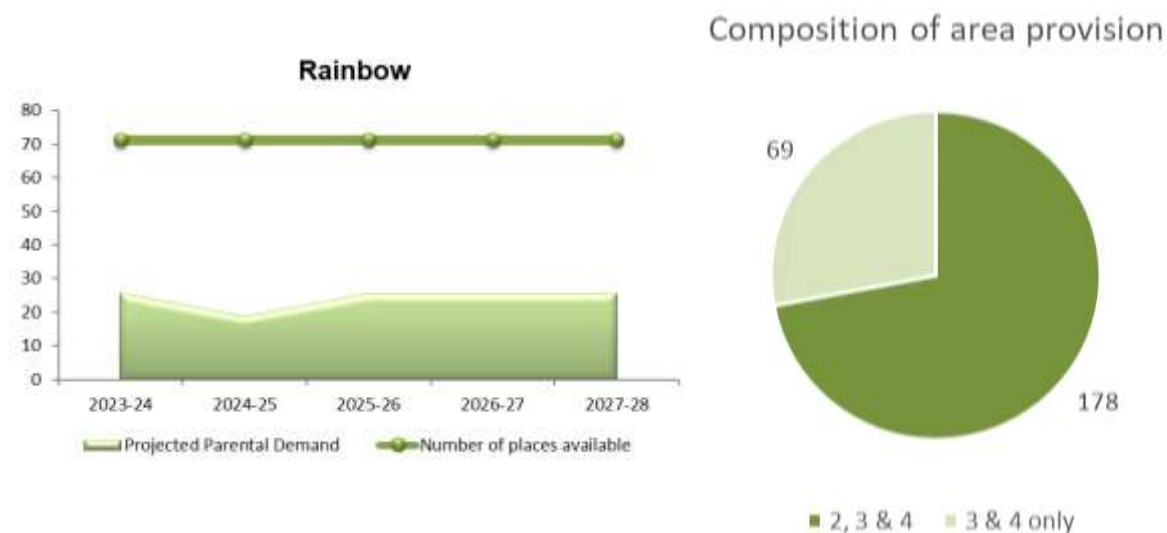
- Large surplus of 2 year old places compared to demand in the area
- Large surplus of 3 & 4 year old places compared to demand in the area



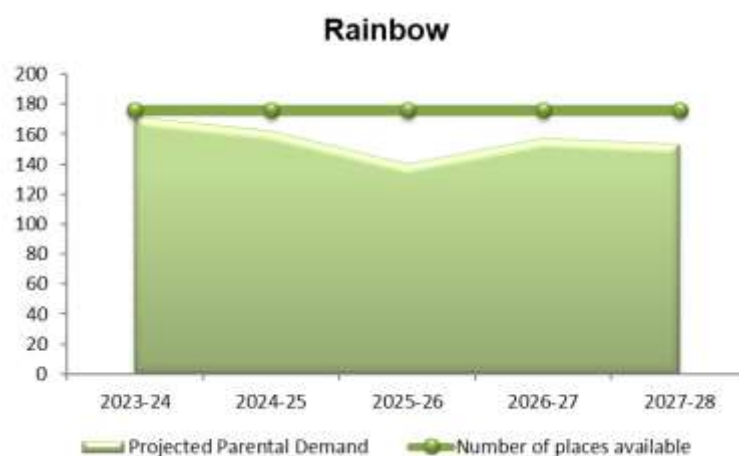
- Bancroft
- Bancroft Park
- Blue Bridge
- Bradville
- Downhead Park
- Linford Wood
- Neath Hill
- Pennyland

Provider Type	No. Providers	Registered Places	Type of care
Childminder	5	30	FULL
Day Nursery	1	88	
Nursery Unit at Independent Schools	0	0	
Pre-School Playgroup	1	60	SESSIONAL
Maintained Nursery Class	2	69	

Rainbow: 2 year old provision					
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	71	71	71	71	71
Projected demand for places	26	19	26	26	26
Balance of places	45	52	46	45	46



Rainbow: 3&4 year old provision					
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	176	176	176	176	176
Projected 3&4 YO demand	171	162	140	157	153
Balance of places	5	14	36	19	23
Extended entitlement demand	62	61	61	60	60



Gap Analysis

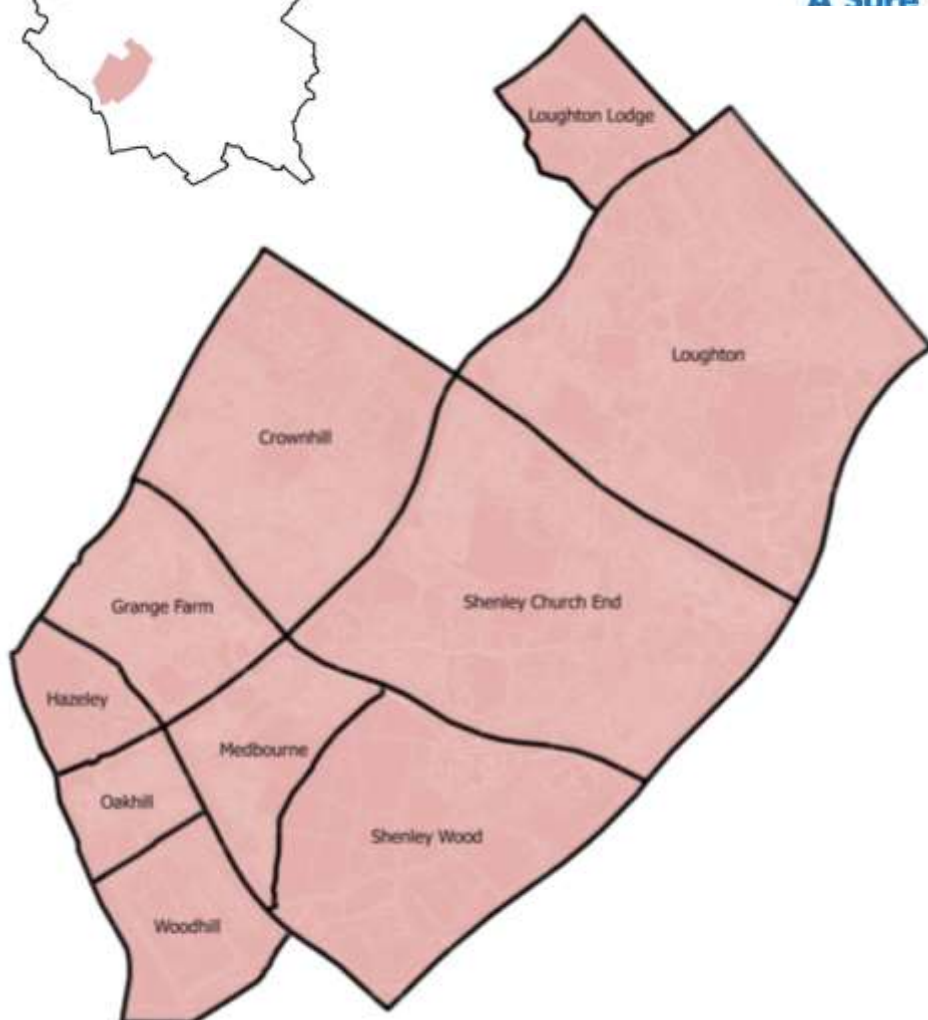
- Sufficient 2 year old places to meet the demand from the area
- Sufficient 3 & 4 year old places to meet the demand from the area



Seedlings



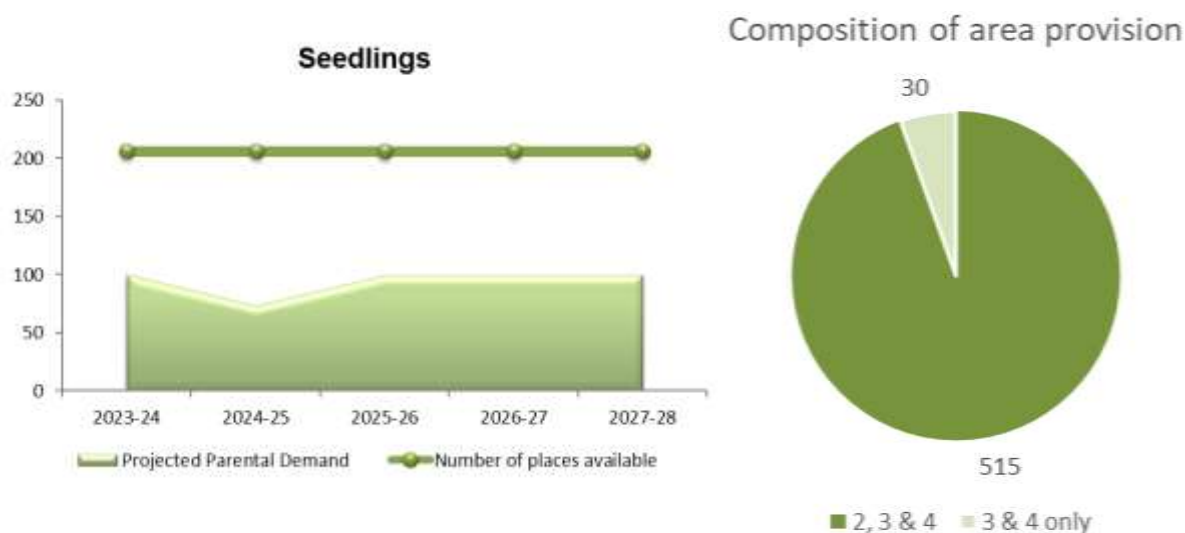
A Sure Start Children's Centre



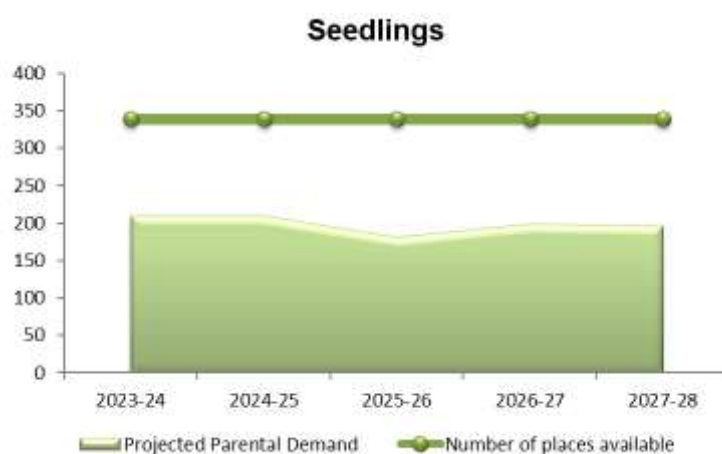
- Crownhill
- Grange Farm
- Hazelley
- Loughton
- Loughton Lodge
- Medbourne
- Oakhill
- Shenley Church End
- Shenley Wood
- Woodhill

Provider Type	No. Providers	Registered Places	Type of care
Childminder	10	64	FULL
Day Nursery	4	273	
Nursery Unit at Independent Schools	1	24	
Pre-School Playgroup	3	102	SESSIONAL
Maintained Nursery Class	2	82	

Seedlings: 2 year old provision					
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	206	206	206	206	206
Projected demand for places	100	72	98	99	99
Balance of places	106	134	108	107	107



Seedlings: 3&4 year old provision					
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	339	339	339	339	339
Projected 3&4 YO demand	210	209	181	198	196
Balance of places	129	130	158	141	143
Extended entitlement demand	90	88	88	87	87

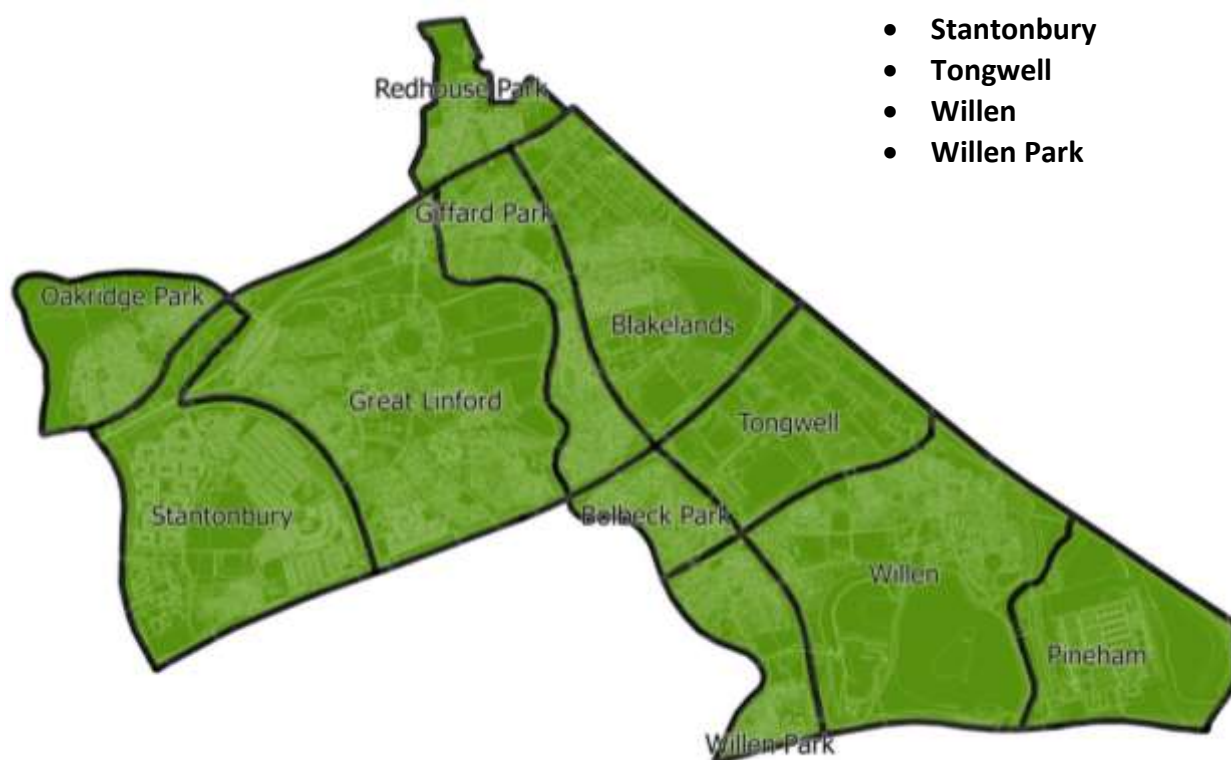


Gap Analysis

- Large surplus of 2 year old places compared to demand in the area
- Large surplus of 3 & 4 year old places compared to demand in the area

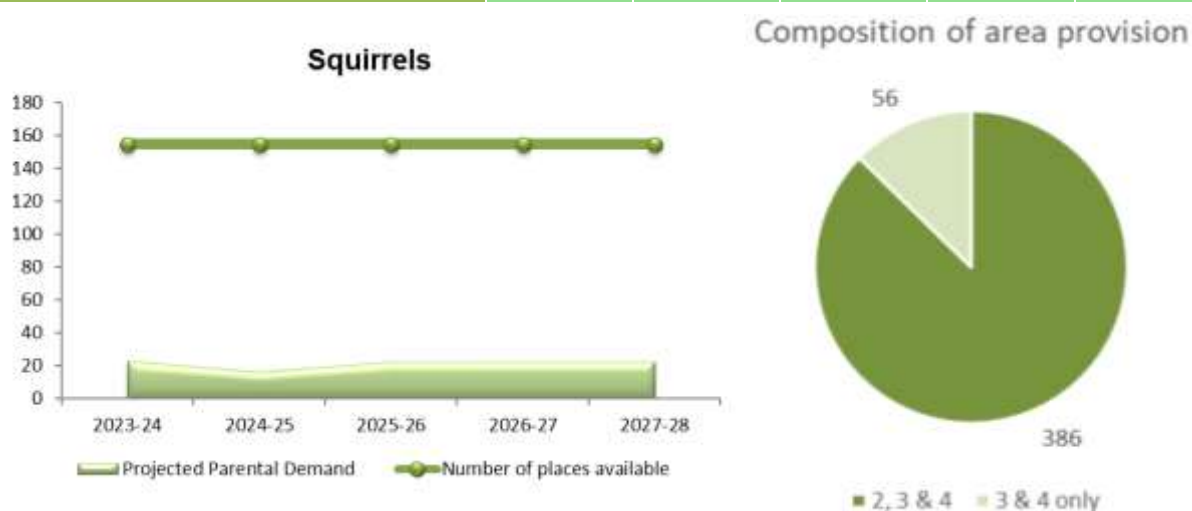


- Blakelands
- Bolbeck Park
- Giffard Park
- Great Linford
- Oakridge Park
- Pineham
- Redhouse Park
- Stantonbury
- Tongwell
- Willen
- Willen Park

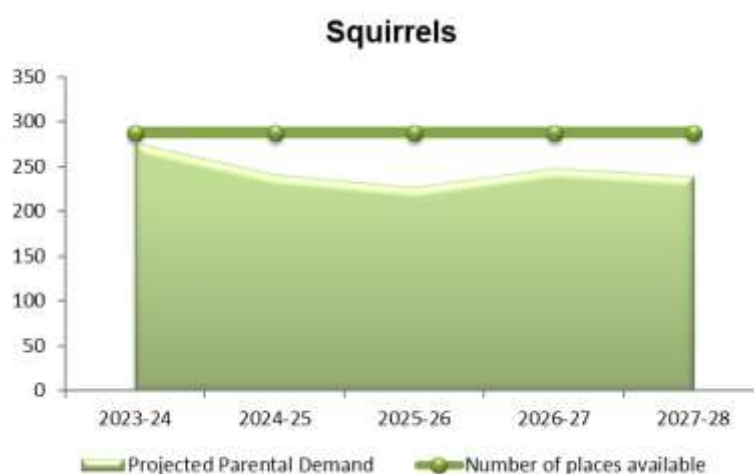


Provider Type	No. Providers	Registered Places	Type of care
Childminder	9	54	FULL
Day Nursery	4	222	
Nursery Unit at Independent Schools	1	26	
Pre-School Playgroup	4	110	SESSIONAL
Maintained Nursery Class	1	30	

Squirrels: 2 year old provision					
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	154	154	154	154	154
Projected demand for places	23	17	23	23	23
Balance of places	131	138	132	132	132



Squirrels: 3&4 year old provision					
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	288	288	288	288	288
Projected 3&4 YO demand	276	240	226	248	238
Balance of places	12	47	61	40	49
Extended entitlement demand	119	117	117	116	116

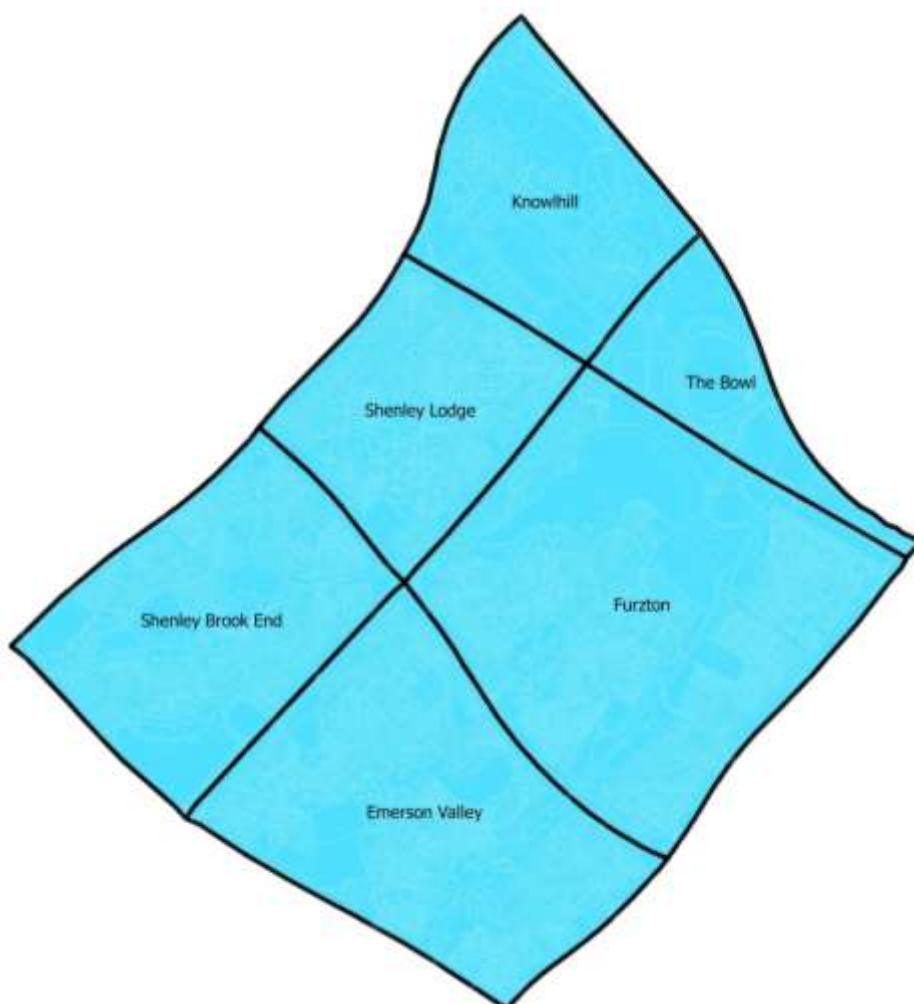


Gap Analysis

- Large surplus of 2 year old places to meet the demand from the area
- Sufficient 3 & 4 year olds places to meet demand from the area



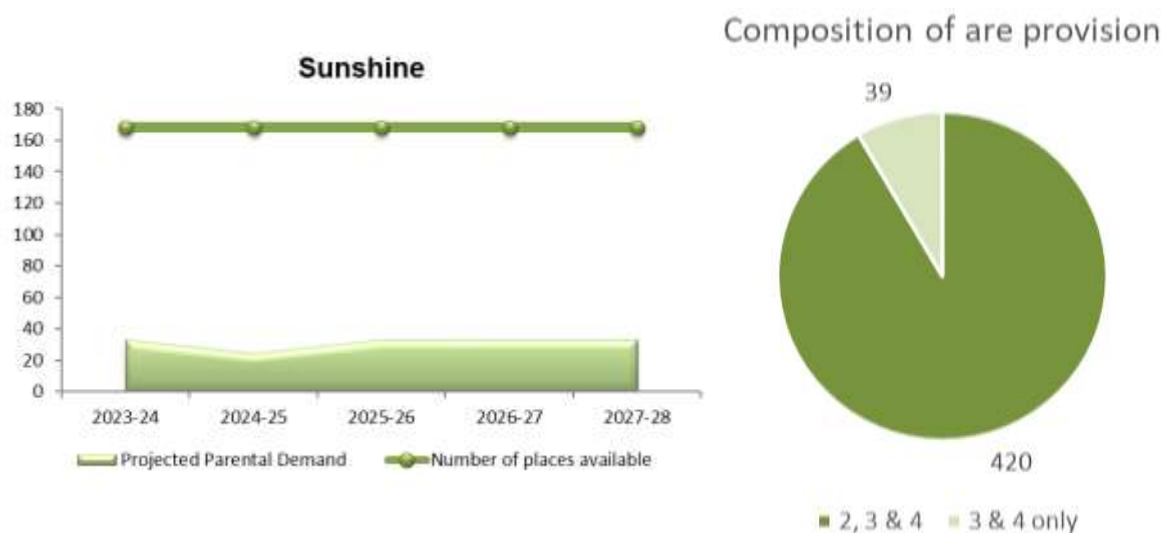
A Sure Start Children's Centre



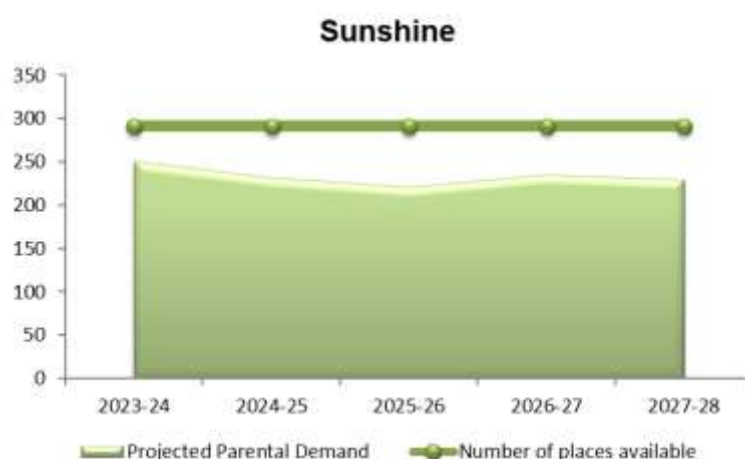
- Emerson Valley
- Furzton
- Knowlhill
- Shenley Brook End
- Shenley Lodge
- The Bowl

Provider Type	No. Providers	Registered Places	Type of care
Childminder	9	50	FULL
Day Nursery	1	181	
Nursery Unit at Independent Schools	0	0	
Pre-School Playgroup	5	189	SESSIONAL
Maintained Nursery Class	1	39	

Sunshine: 2 year old provision					
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	168	168	168	168	168
Projected demand for places	33	24	32	33	33
Balance of places	135	144	136	135	135

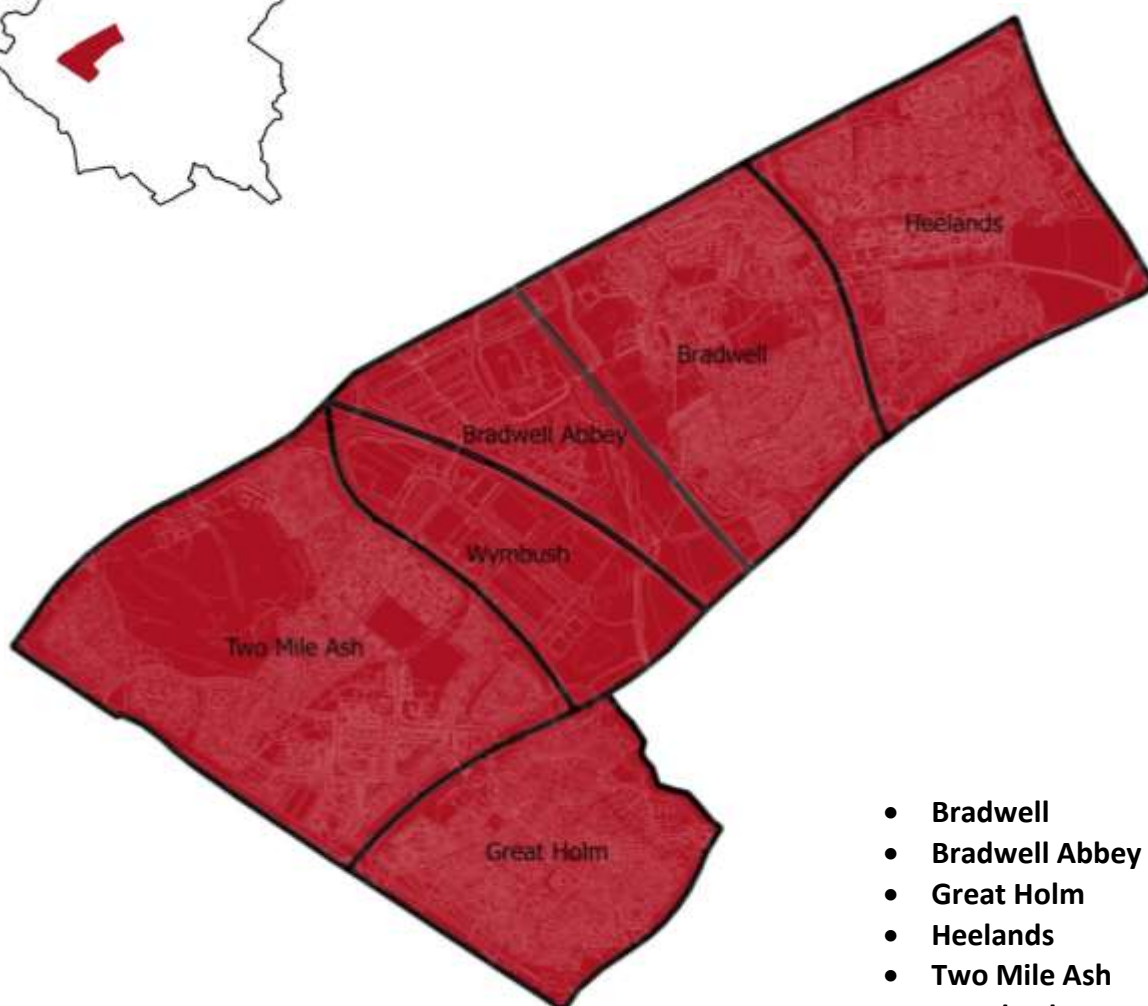


Sunshine: 3&4 year old provision					
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	291	291	291	291	291
Projected 3&4 YO demand	250	231	221	234	229
Balance of places	41	60	70	57	62
Extended entitlement demand	127	125	125	124	124



Gap Analysis

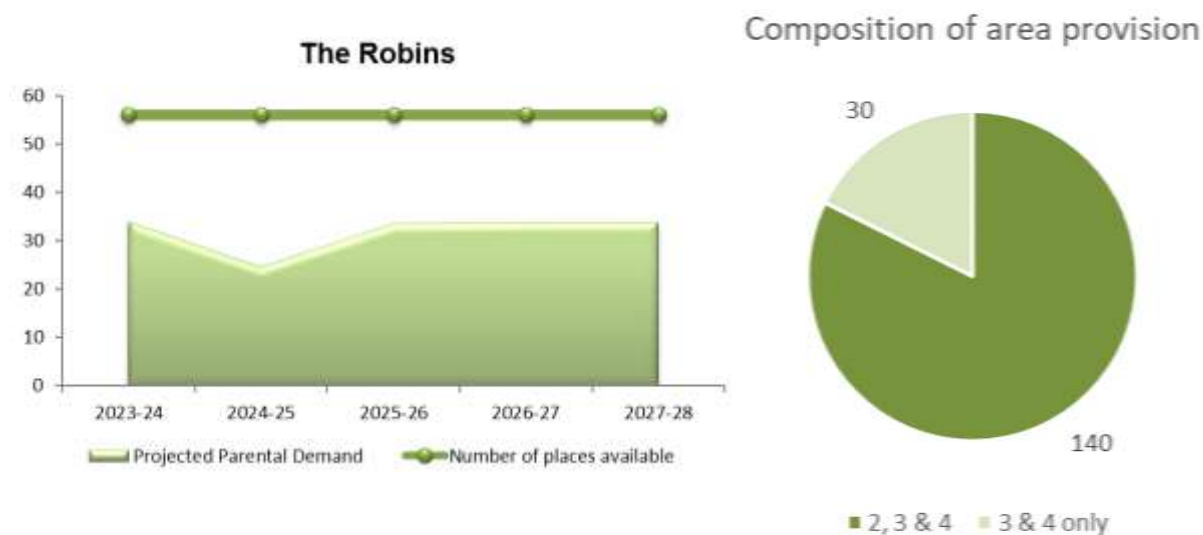
- Large surplus of 2 year old places to meet the demand from the area
- Sufficient 3 & 4 year old places to meet the demand from the area



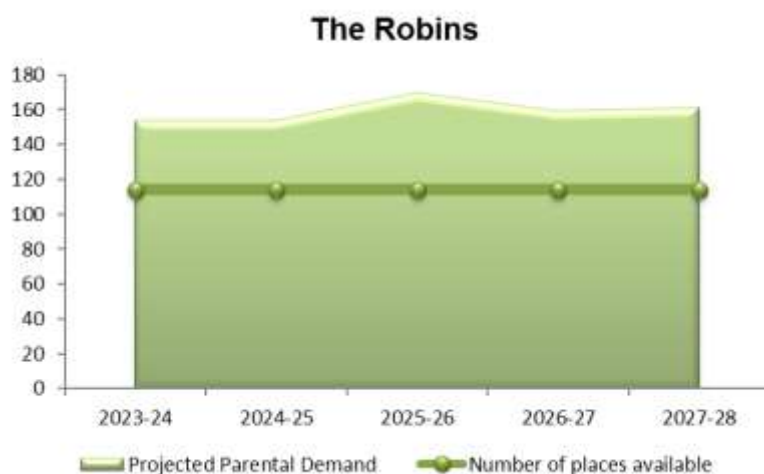
- Bradwell
- Bradwell Abbey
- Great Holm
- Heelands
- Two Mile Ash
- Wymbush

Provider Type	No. Providers	Registered Places	Type of care
Childminder	3	16	FULL
Day Nursery	1	10	
Nursery Unit at Independent Schools	0	0	
Pre-School Playgroup	4	114	SESSIONAL
Maintained Nursery Class	1	30	

The Robins: 2 year old provision					
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	56	56	56	56	56
Projected demand for places	34	25	33	34	34
Balance of places	22	31	23	22	22



The Robins: 3&4 year old provision					
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	114	114	114	114	114
Projected 3&4 YO demand	154	153	170	159	161
Balance of places	-40	-39	-56	-45	-47
Extended entitlement demand	97	95	95	94	95



Gap Analysis

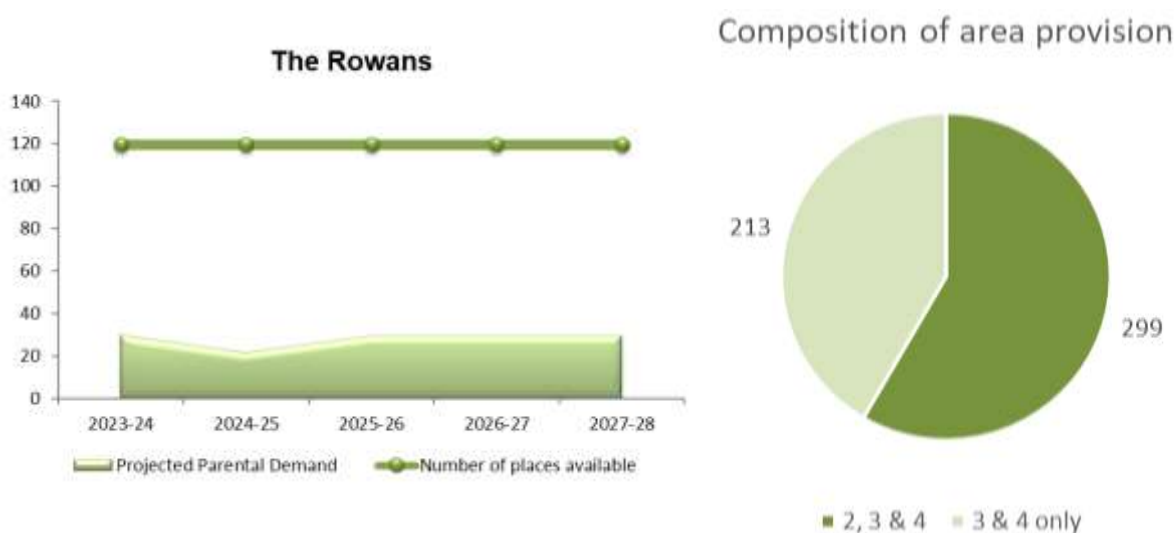
- Sufficient 2 year old places to meet the demand from the area
- The 3&4 year old shortfall has been predicted in previous years, however, there has been no access issue for parents.



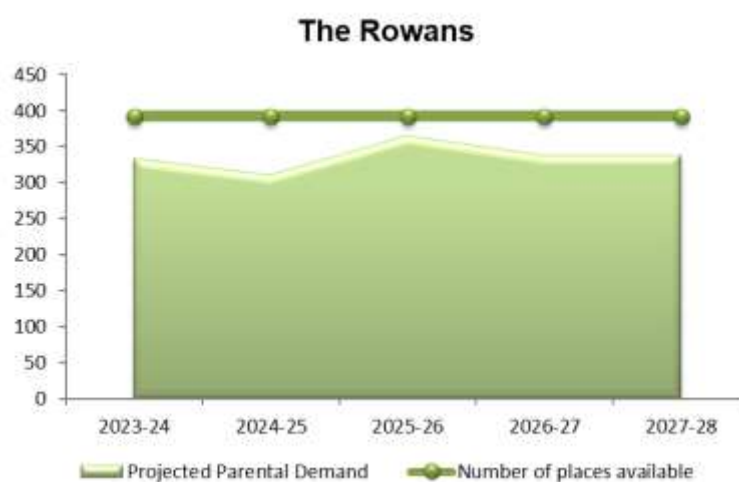
- Calverton
- Fairfield
- Fullers Slade
- Galley Hill
- Greenleys
- Hodge Lea
- Kiln Farm
- Stony Stratford
- Whitehouse

Provider Type	No. Providers	Registered Places	Type of care
Childminder	5	25	FULL
Day Nursery	3	128	
Nursery Unit at Independent Schools	0	0	
Pre-School Playgroup	4	146	SESSIONAL
Maintained Nursery Class	5	213	

The Rowans: 2 year old provision					
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	120	120	120	120	120
Projected demand for places	30	22	30	30	30
Balance of places	90	98	90	90	90



The Rowans: 3&4 year old provision					
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	392	392	392	392	392
Projected 3&4 YO demand	333	310	365	337	337
Balance of places	60	82	28	55	55
Extended entitlement demand	152	150	150	149	149

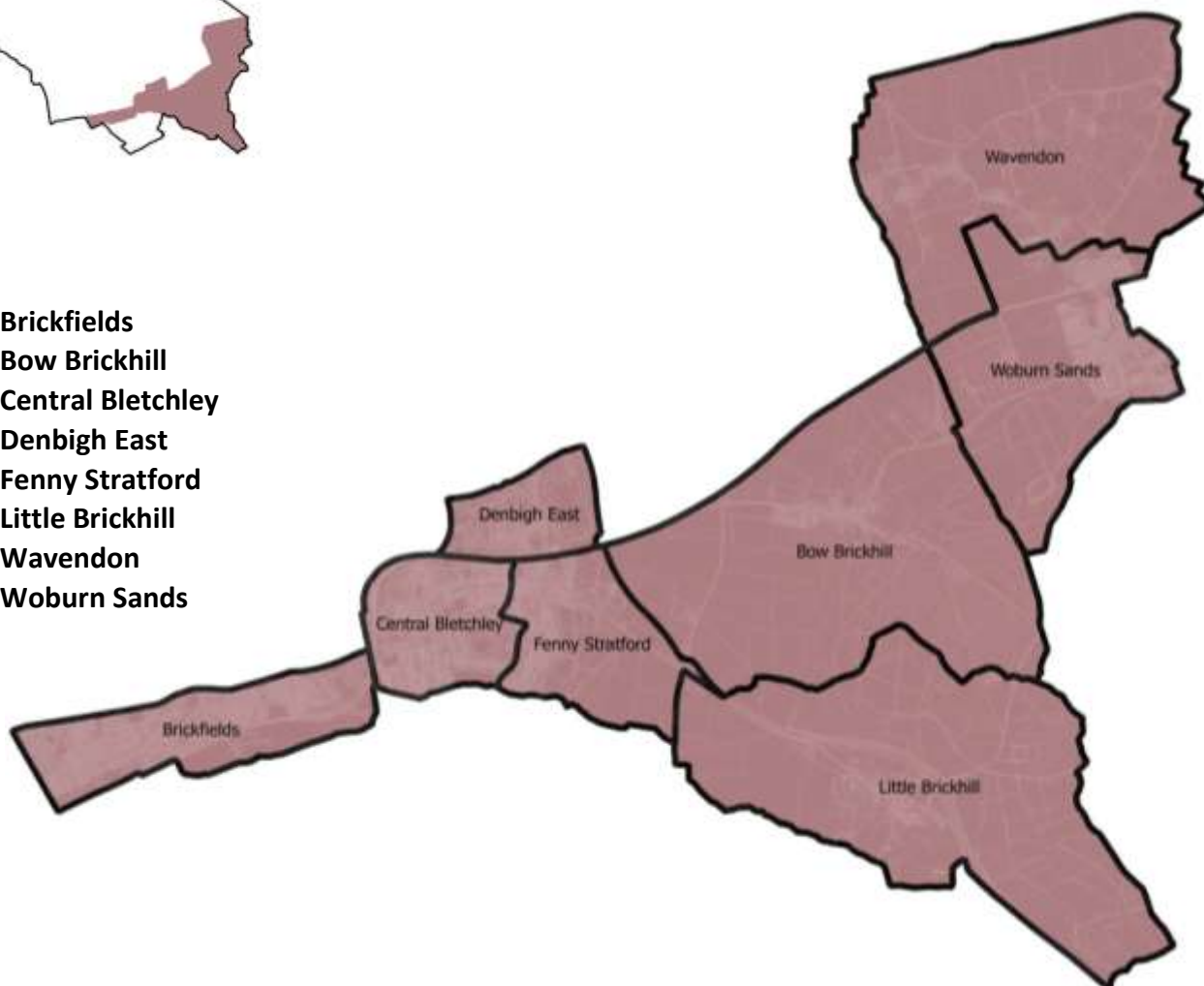


Gap Analysis

- Large surplus of 2 year old places compared to demand from the area
- Large surplus of 3 & 4 year old places compared to demand in the area



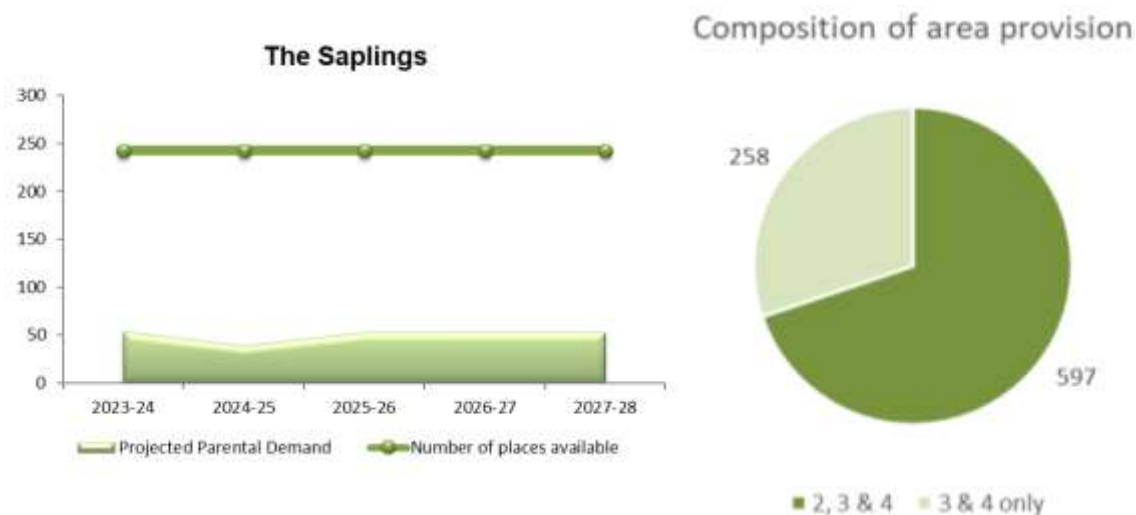
- Brickfields
- Bow Brickhill
- Central Bletchley
- Denbigh East
- Fenny Stratford
- Little Brickhill
- Wavendon
- Woburn Sands



Provider Type	No. Providers	Registered Places	Type of care
Childminder	7	37	FULL
Day Nursery	10	447	
Nursery Unit at Independent Schools	0	0	
Pre-School Playgroup	4	146	SESSIONAL
Maintained Nursery Class	3	158	

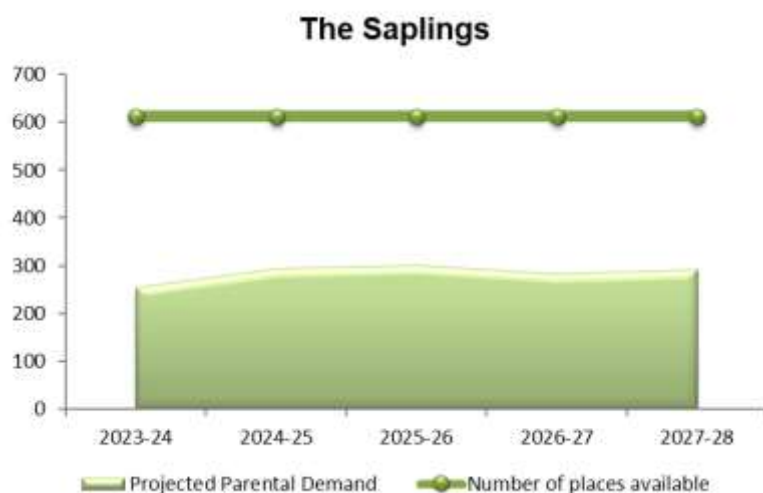
The Saplings: 2 year old provision

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	242	242	242	242	242
Projected demand for places	54	39	53	53	53
Balance of places	189	203	189	189	189



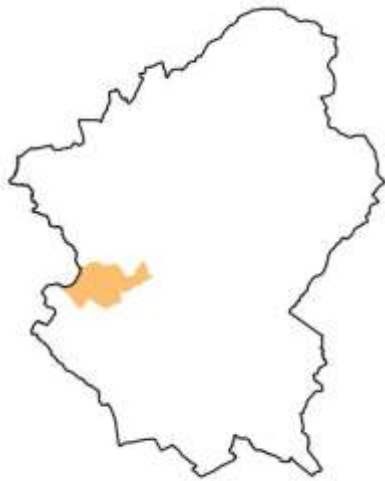
The Saplings: 3&4 year old provision

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	613	613	613	613	613
Projected 3&4 YO demand	254	295	301	284	293
Balance of places	359	318	312	328	319
Extended entitlement demand	152	150	150	149	149

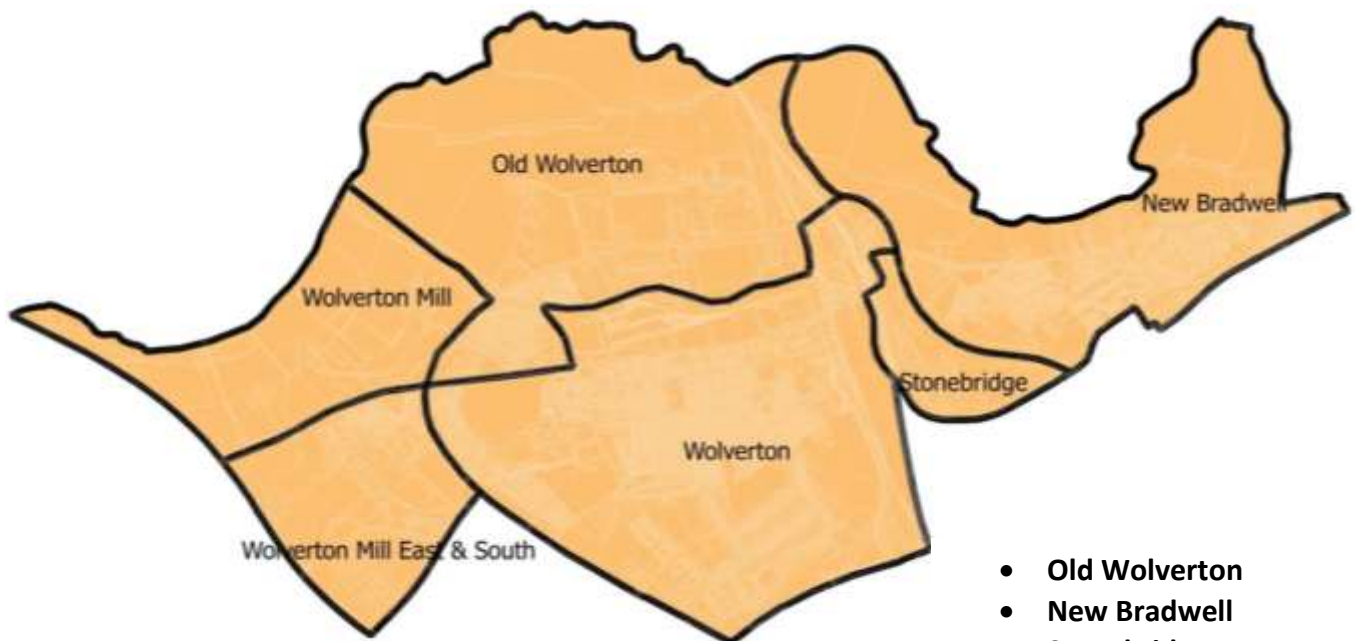


Gap Analysis

- Large surplus of 2 year old places to meet the demand in the area
- Large surplus of 3 & 4 year old places compared to demand in the area



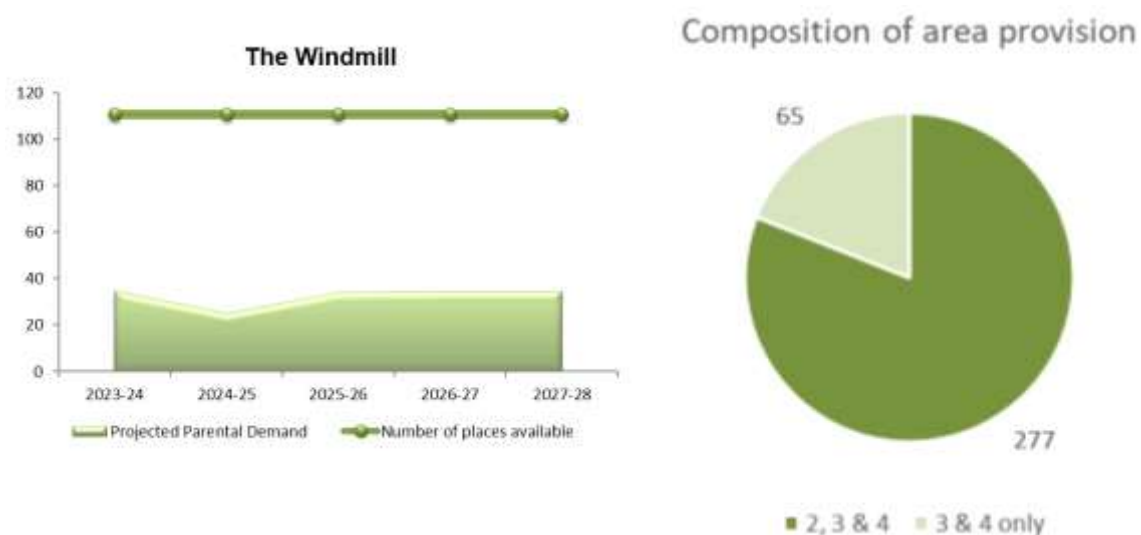
The Windmill



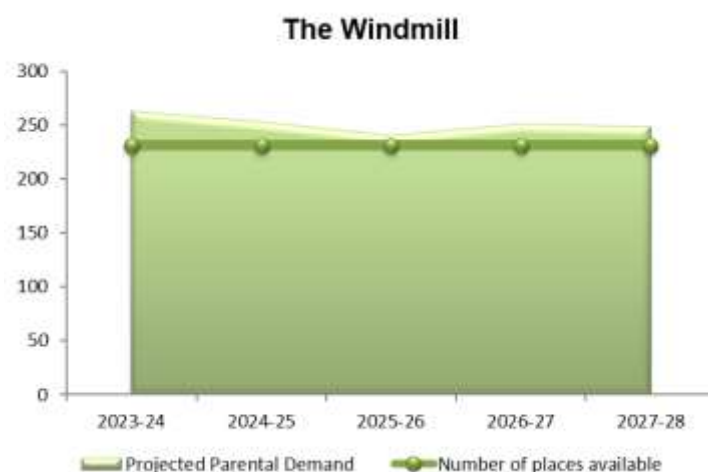
- Old Wolverton
- New Bradwell
- Stonebridge
- Wolverton
- Wolverton Mill

Provider Type	No. Providers	Registered Places	Type of care
Childminder	9	47	FULL
Day Nursery	5	249	
Nursery Unit at Independent Schools	0	0	
Pre-School Playgroup	1	20	SESSIONAL
Maintained Nursery Class	2	26	

The Windmill: 2 year old provision					
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	111	111	111	111	111
Projected demand for places	35	25	34	35	35
Balance of places	76	86	76	76	76

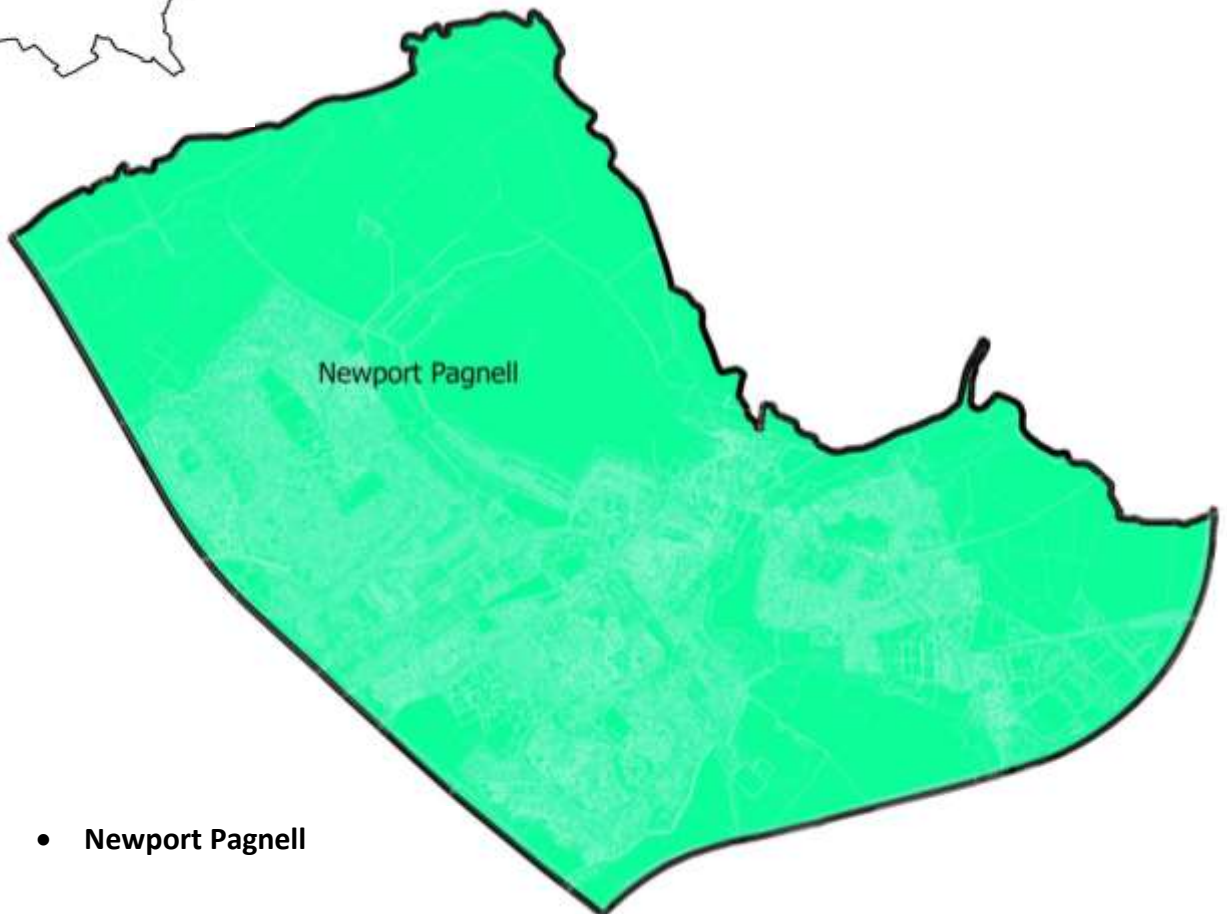


The Windmill: 3&4 year old provision					
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	231	231	231	231	231
Projected 3&4 YO demand	263	252	240	251	248
Balance of places	-32	-21	-9	-20	-17
Extended entitlement demand	117	116	115	114	115



Gap Analysis

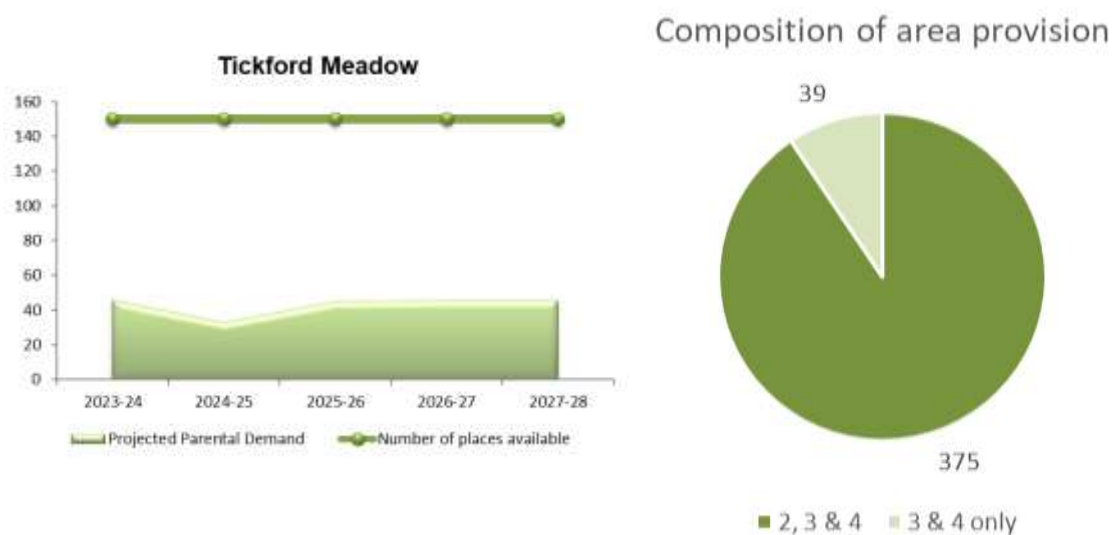
- Sufficient 2 year old places to meet the demand from the area
- The 3&4 year old shortfall has been predicted in previous years, however, there has been no access issue for parents.



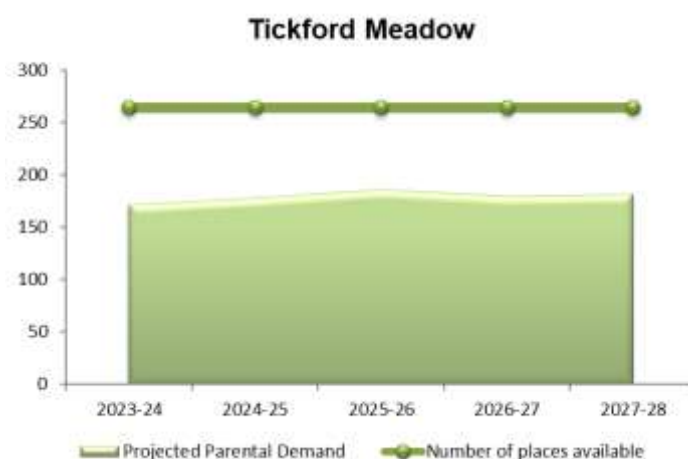
- **Newport Pagnell**

Provider Type	No. Providers	Registered Places	Type of care
Childminder	15	87	FULL
Day Nursery	2	156	
Nursery Unit at Independent Schools	0	0	
Pre-School Playgroup	4	132	SESSIONAL
Maintained Nursery Class	1	39	

Tickford Meadows: 2 year old provision					
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	150	150	150	150	150
Projected demand for places	46	33	45	46	45
Balance of places	104	117	105	104	105



Tickford Meadows: 3&4 year old provision					
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	264	264	264	264	264
Projected 3&4 YO demand	171	177	186	179	181
Balance of places	93	87	78	85	83
Extended entitlement demand	121	119	119	118	118



Gap Analysis

- Large surplus of 2 year old places to meet the demand from the area
- Large surplus of 3 & 4 year old places to meet the demand from the area



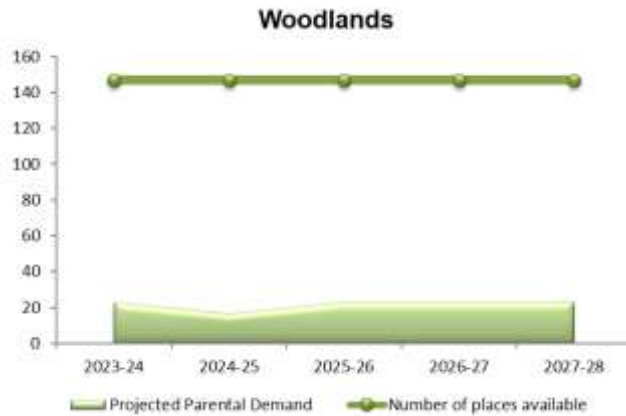
Woodlands Children's Centre



- Astwood
- Castlethorpe
- Chicheley
- Clifton Reynes
- Cold Brayfield
- Emberton
- Gayhurst
- Hanslope
- Hardmead
- Haversham
- Lathbury
- Lavendon
- Little Linford
- Moulsoe
- Newton Blossomville
- North Crawley
- Olney
- Ravenstone
- Sherington
- Stoke Goldington
- Tytringham & Filgrave
- Warrington
- Weston Underwood

Provider Type	No. Providers	Registered Places	Type of care
Childminder	6	32	FULL
Day Nursery	5	183	
Nursery Unit at Independent Schools	0	0	
Pre-School Playgroup	6	204	SESSIONAL
Maintained Nursery Class	0	0	

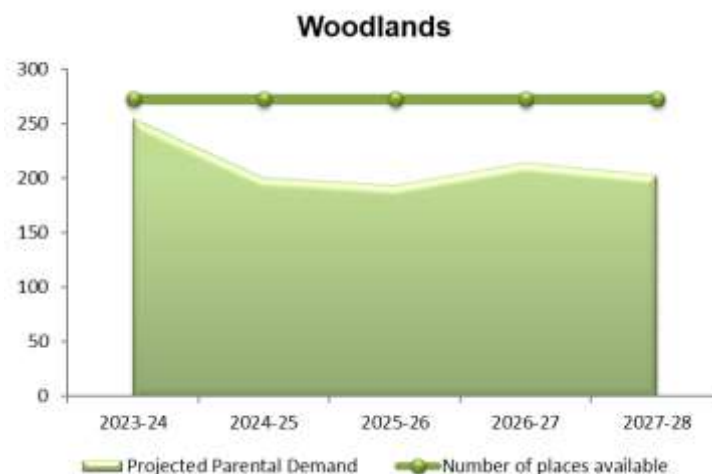
Woodlands: 2 year old provision					
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	147	147	147	147	147
Projected demand for places	23	17	23	23	23
Balance of places	124	130	124	124	124



Composition of area provision



Woodlands: 3&4 year old provision					
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Number of places available	272	272	272	272	272
Projected 3&4 YO demand	255	201	193	214	203
Balance of places	17	71	79	58	69
Extended entitlement demand	87	86	86	85	85



Gap Analysis

- Large surplus of 2 year old places compared to demand in the area
- Sufficient 3 & 4 year old places compared to demand in the area

Annex A

Childcare Act 2006 (including Education Act 2011 amendments)

The sufficiency of high quality childcare provision forms an integral part of the national strategy to alleviate child poverty and assist economic regeneration. The Childcare Act 2006 is a significant piece of legislation in terms of the professional nature of childcare provision and sets out the role of the Local Authority (LA) as a strategic market manager in working in with maintained/private, voluntary, and independent organisations.

Key duties of the Acts for LAs are:

1. To secure sufficient childcare for working parents of children aged 0-14 (section 6)
2. To secure early years provision free of charge in accordance with regulations (section 7 – as substituted by section 1 of the Education Act 2011):
 - Equivalent of 570 hours per year for children from the beginning of the term following their 3rd birthday until statutory school age (typically taken as 30 hours a week over 38 weeks in the year). This is known as the 30 hour entitlement.
 - The equivalent of 570 hours per year for every child eligible in Milton Keynes. Children are eligible if:
 - They meet the criteria for Free School Meals
 - The family receives Working Tax Credits with an annual income of no more than £16,190 per year
 - They have a current statement of Special Educational Need or Education, Health and Care plan
 - They are entitled to Disability Living Allowance
 - They are looked after by a local authority
 - They are no longer looked after by the local authority as a result of adoption order, a special guardianship order or residence order, or child arrangement order which specifies where the child lives.
 - The family are living in England with no recourse to public funds
3. To work together to improve outcomes for children.
 - LAs and relevant partners must work together to improve outcomes for all children up to the age of five, reducing inequalities by ensuring

integration, access and take up of early childhood services (sections 1-4).

4. To assess the sufficiency of provision.
 - LAs must secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable.
5. To report annually to elected members and parents.
 - LAs should report annually to elected members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare (Draft statutory guidance – Sept 2014). This should include:
 - Analysis of provision for specific groups.
 - Information about the supply and demand of childcare for particular age ranges of children, and the affordability, accessibility and quality of provision.
 - Details of how any gaps in childcare provision will be addressed.
6. To exercise its power to assist providers.
 - LAs may assist any person providing, or proposing to provide, childcare and may make arrangements for the provision of childcare. (Section 8.1).
 - The assistance local authorities may give includes financial assistance (section 8.2).
 - If providing financial assistance LAs may impose requirements upon providers (section 9).
7. To exercise its power to become the 'provider of last resort'.
 - LA's may provide childcare (section 8.1), but only if it is satisfied that no other person is willing to provide it or, if another person is willing to do so, that in the circumstances it is appropriate for the local authority to provide the childcare (section 8.3).
 - Local authorities may charge for any childcare they provide, except when that provision is made under section 7, or where the childcare is daycare for children in need, provided under section 18(1) and (5) of the Children Act 1989 (section 10).
8. To fund early education places (statutory guidance – June 2018).
 - LA's are required to deliver the free entitlement through early years providers who are:
 - registered with Ofsted as early years providers; or

- a childminder registered with Ofsted; or
 - a childminder registered with a childminder agency which is registered with Ofsted; or
 - schools taking children age three and over and therefore exempt from registration with Ofsted as early years providers.
 - LAs are required to fund early education places in all sectors using a locally-determined transparent funding formula.
 - LAs will be required to submit details of funding rates they pay to the Department for Education for publication.
 - LAs should fund places for two-, three- and four-year-old children attending any provider judged 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted or at any childminder registered with a childminder agency judged good or outstanding.
 - LAs should fund places for three- and four-year-old children attending any provider judged 'satisfactory' (prior to 2014) or 'requires improvement' or at any childminder registered with a childminder agency judged 'requires improvement'.
 - Providers who become 'Inadequate' will be considered on a case by case basis by the LA, regarding whether funding will be withdrawn for children who are already receiving their funded entitlement. The Education Performance Board will make the decision to remove funding after consideration of how removal impacts on children and their families. After consideration the LA may secure alternative provision and withdraw funding, as soon as is practicable.
 - LAs should fund places for two-, three- and four-year-old children at new providers registered with Ofsted until the providers first full Ofsted inspection is published or at a childminder registered with an agency until the agency's first full Ofsted judgement is published.
 - LAs should fund providers with exceptions from the Early Years Foundation Stage if a parent wants their child to take up early education at an exempt provider.
 - LAs should ensure providers do not charge parents for any hours for which the provider already receives any funding from the local authority.
9. To provide information advice and training to childcare providers (section 13)
- LAs must, secure information, advice and training for childcare providers in their area on the following:

- Meeting the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage
 - Meeting the needs of children with special education needs and disabilities, vulnerable and disadvantaged children; and
 - Safeguarding and child protection.
 - in accordance with regulation, secure the provision of information, advice, and training to childcare / prospective childcare providers.
 - LAs should secure this information for those providers
 - Who are judged less than 'good' by Ofsted
 - Newly registered providers who have not yet had an inspection report
 - Those on Part A of the Ofsted General Childcare Register who are assessed by Ofsted as not having met the requirements of the registration may charge for this provision.
10. To provide information to parents.
- LAs have a duty to provide parents and prospective parents with information advice and assistance in relation to the provision of childcare in the area (section 12).
 - LAs are required to act in accordance with the School Admissions Code in enabling children to take up a place in a maintained school reception class from the September following their fourth birthday.

Childcare Act 2016

The extended entitlement outlined in the Childcare Act 2016 is a defining piece of legislation in enabling eligible parents' greater flexibility and more opportunities in the employment market. The local authority retains the role as a strategic market manager working with private, voluntary and independent providers

Key duties of the Acts for LAs are:

1. To secure eligible parents 30 hours of free childcare in their area (section 2.2)
2. Requires local authorities to publish information of a prescribed description, interval and manner (section 5)

Full statutory guidance can be found at:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-education-and-childcare--2>

Annex B

How parents can access their free entitlement

Parents can access their free entitlement by using one or more of a range of different providers. All Ofsted registered early years childcare providers must comply with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and therefore provide integrated childcare and education. However, the services offered by these providers differ widely according to a number of factors such as premises restrictions, the needs and demands of the local community, and the individual organisations aims and values. A brief explanation of the broad categories of childcare provision is set out below:

Childminder

Operate on domestic premises, a sole practitioner or with a maximum of two assistants at any one time. A provision for children of all ages, which can offer a versatile range of full daycare, sessional care, school wrap around and holiday care in a home based setting.

Childcare on domestic premises

Operate on domestic premises, with 3 or more assistants at any one time. Although this type of provision appears similar to a childminder, it more closely resembles a day nursery.

Day nursery

Group based provision for children aged 0-4. Primarily full daycare (8am – 6pm year round) for working parents, including access to their free entitlement. Operate on non-domestic premises.

Pre-school/private nursery

Group based provision for children aged 2-4. Primarily sessional care (up to two three hour sessions per day, term time only, enabling access to the free entitlement). Operate on non-domestic premises (often community sites). Providers are typically voluntary run or privately owned.

School nursery class

Group based provision for children aged 2-4, directly run and managed by the school, as part of the school. Registered and inspected as part of the school's Ofsted registration. Primarily sessional care (three hour sessions per day term time only, enabling access to the free entitlement)

Nursery school

Group based provision for children aged 3-4. Registered and inspected as a school provision by Ofsted. Primarily sessional care (three hour sessions per day term time only, enabling access to the free entitlement).

Nursery unit of independent school

Group based provision for children aged under five. Directly run and managed as part of an independent school. Registered and inspected as part of the school's independent registration, but registered separately with Ofsted if catering for children aged three-and-under. Primarily full daycare (8am – 6pm year round), including access to their free entitlement

Breakfast/out of school care

Childcare provision operating before school, or at least 2.5 hours after school to enable parents of school aged children to work.

Sessional care

The January 2014 headcount data shows that approximately two thirds (64%) of eligible children aged three and four (who do not attend a full-time school place) accessed their free entitlement at a local sessional care provision (e.g. pre-school/playgroup). Figure B4 shows that children attending sessional care providers generally access their free entitlement hours only.

As each child becomes eligible for their free entitlement the term after their qualifying birthday, but all children become eligible for school in the September following their fourth birthday, demand for sessional care provision rises throughout the school year, before experiencing a significant decline in September. Where there is demand, and to assist sustainability, many sessional care providers will therefore accept children

prior to the age at which they would become eligible for free early education. Whilst meeting parental demand, these privately funded arrangements make projecting the requirement for future provision more complicated.

Working parents

Most children accessing their free entitlement at a day nursery provision, a nursery unit of independent school, or a childminder generally doing so as part of a larger day care package for working parents. Some day nurseries and childminders offer a limited number of sessional care only places but this is not always financially viable and is therefore subject to market fluctuations.

As a result of the local geography and transport systems, working parents are generally able to access a wide variety of care options across the borough depending on their preferences and circumstances. Parents do not necessarily choose to access their most local full day care provision.

Patterns of access to full day care provision are usually dependent on the parents' working patterns and are therefore non-standard.

School wrap around care comprised of breakfast, after school and holiday care clubs for school aged children, are often located on school sites and either run by the school, or an external private or voluntary provider, who will link with a school or a number of schools. Providers which are not located on school sites will often transport children from a number of schools to a central location. Since provision run directly by schools does not necessarily need to register separately, local authorities are not always able to capture the full array of childcare provision which is available in this age group. Schools operating such provision are encouraged to notify the local authority to ensure parents are appropriately informed.

In addition to the options discussed above, parents may choose to use other childcare options such as nannies and relatives; however, they are only able to claim the childcare element of Working Tax Credit or Universal Credit for provision registered with Ofsted, or (in the case of a school facility) run under the direction of the school's governing body or academy trust.

Supplementing the free entitlement

Many parents will supplement the free entitlement by purchasing additional hours. This is much more likely to happen across day nurseries, nursery units and

childminders as opposed to pre-school and playgroups, which tend to be accessed by parents walking to their local provision, broadly for their free entitlement only.

Annex C

Funding for Providers

Providers who wish to offer register as government funded childcare hours must be Ofsted registered.

Government funded childcare hours will be paid directly to a provider by Milton Keynes City Council. To register to offer funded hours providers should email the request to nursery.education@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Further information about available funding for providers can be found at <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/children-young-people-families/early-years-and-childcare/free-childcare>