

Nottinghamshire County Council

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment April 2011

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Nottinghamshire County Council - Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2011

Introduction

The Childcare Act 2006 places duties upon local authorities to secure sufficient childcare to meet the needs of working parents (Section 6) and to carry out a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA), (Section 12). Nottinghamshire's first CSA was published in March 2008. This document is the 2011 CSA and gives information about the sufficiency of childcare across the county and by district, against a number of measurements. We have called these 22 measurements sufficiency indicators and have grouped them into 9 categories, called baskets of indicators. These baskets of indicators are titled;

- Sustainability
- Flexibility
- High Quality
- Inclusivity
- Affordability
- Information & Knowledge
- Accessibility
- Number of Places
- Range & Type of Places

Nottinghamshire County Council used the CSA toolkit developed by the East Midlands Regional Sufficiency Network to measure childcare sufficiency for 2011. The toolkit also uses a RAG (Red Amber Green) rating system, to clearly show where sufficiency has been achieved (coloured green), where some additional attention may be required (coloured amber) and where there are some problem areas requiring immediate action (coloured red). The CSA duty requires local authorities to publish their CSA, and their Childcare Sufficiency Action Plan. We have combined both the assessment and action plan in this document and hope you will find it informative and useful.

The CSA used a number of data sources and methods of gathering data to complete the CSA. This included the completion of 1600 postal questionnaires, 20 focus groups and surveys completed at many events attended by parents and children. Information was collected from several employers, through Job Centre Plus. Data was also gathered from all registered childcare providers, via the Families Information Service (FIS) database and through a series of district sufficiency meetings, held each term and co-ordinated by the district FIS officers.

1. Nottinghamshire County Overall Sufficiency

OVERALL - Sufficiency Score = 62.7 (72.3)																					
8.6			11.0			13.6						4.0	4.4		4.3		4.0	6.0		6.8	
5.0	1.5	2.5	5.0	5.0	3.8	3.0	3.0	1.0	1.0	3.0	5.0	5.0	2.5	3.0	5.0	3.5	5.0	3.0	3.0	5.0	3.5
Su1	Su2	Su3	FI1	FI2	FI3	HQ1	HQ2	HQ3	HQ4	HQ5	HQ6	In1	Af1	Af2	IK1	IK2	Ac1	NP1	NP2	RT1	RT2
Sustainability			Flexibility			High Quality						Inclusivity	Affordability		Information /Knowledge		Accessibility	Number Of Places		Range/Type	

Table 1

1.2 Sustainability

Scoring 8.6 out of a total of 9.5 available, this basket of indicators is green overall. There has been a net increase in the number of registered providers from 1446 to 1493 or +3.2% in the whole county. Bassetlaw and Rushcliffe districts had a net decrease in the number of registered providers. However, the percentage increase in the number of places is just 1.2% and graded as amber. This would imply that we have had an increase in the number of childminders, following a decrease at the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage in September 2008. This accounts for the smaller percentage increase in the number of places available as one childminder usually cares for no more than six children, whereas group care, such as a day nursery, still counts as one registered provider, but could care for as many as 150 children. Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood and Rushcliffe districts all had a net decrease in the total number of registered places. Indicator SL3 shows the percentage of Early Years providers (those providers who offer the flexible free entitlement of 15 hours of care to three and four year olds) where the cost to deliver the free entitlement per hour is less than the hourly rate paid by the local authority to fund these places. In the county this was 89% of providers against a target of 85%, so is rated green. However, in Rushcliffe district the figure is 66% and rated as red.

1.3 Flexibility

The countywide score for flexibility was the maximum 11 points available and all indicators in the basket for the whole county are green. Firstly, 92% of parents were satisfied or better with the opening hours and times of the childcare they used, with 44% very satisfied, withal districts achieving the sufficiency indicator of $\geq 90\%$. FL2 shows that 57% of childcare settings offer childcare from 8am to 6pm for 48 weeks per year. Our research shows that many providers are very flexible with the hours they provide care, especially the county's childminders, where atypical hours of care can be arranged, including very early mornings and late evenings. We have a number of childminders offering care at weekends, on bank holidays and some registered to provide care overnight. We have also significantly increased the number of Home-based Childcarers, who provide care in the child's own home, often to meet the demands of challenging work patterns of parents needing childcare while they work. The third indicator shows the percentage of providers able to offer the free entitlement mentioned above flexibly. The only district where this was an issue was Bassetlaw, graded as amber. On investigation we found there are distinct problems in this district over the very rural location of some providers, the lack of premises from which to operate which hampers flexibility and that some providers have to pack away the provision at the end of each session as the premises they occupy are multi-use, and their delivery patterns cannot be changed to be more flexible.

"There are not enough places open in the early hours to drop my child off at 6am if needed"

"I choose to work nights at the weekend when my husband is off in order to keep childcare costs down and be able to look after my children myself"

1.4 High Quality

This basket of indicators is amber overall, with 2 indicators scored at red, and therefore features prominently in the action plan. HQ1 shows as of January 2011 we have 64% of all registered childcare providers rated good or better by Ofsted, therefore the indicator is graded as amber. This compares with 68% rated good or better in England. Only Newark & Sherwood district achieved green against this measure, achieving 74%. The second indicator looked at providers rated good or better through local authority quality assessments. Here we found a number of inconsistencies across setting types and measurement schemes used by different support teams in the local authority; therefore, an action is to revisit this across the whole childcare sector. Performance is amber across the county, achieving 78%, with Mansfield and Rushcliffe green, and Gedling red. HQ3 measures the percentage of settings with over 50% staff qualified to at least NVQ3 and is red for the county. This data has not been routinely collected across the county, and will be an action in 2011/12. Current data held by FIS shows 68% staff qualified to NVQ3 or above, against a target of 90%. The fourth indicator is also red, as we have only 26% of all early years settings that are graduate-led. However, more staff are working towards achieving graduate status, and with a proactive workforce development programme in early years, we would

hope to see significant improvement by the next CSA. HQ5 aims for over 35% of early years settings to be EYP led. And is amber overall at 25%, with four districts also at amber. Again many childcare staff are working towards Early Years Professional (EYP) Status and we would expect an increase when measured again. Finally HQ6 is rated green with 75% of children achieving 78 points or more on the foundation stage profile. The target is 65% and is exceeded in each district. This achievement would imply that the quality in settings is generally satisfactory, as children are making better progress each year.

"I only use a Childminder and she provides an excellent service"

1.5 Inclusivity

Nottinghamshire has an excellent record of providing inclusive childcare provision across the county, and has developed further good practice through the year on year increase in the level of support given to settings by the authority to ensure the needs of individual children can be met, through further staff training, access to specialist equipment etc. Nottinghamshire was a pilot authority for the government's Disabled Children Access to Childcare (DCATCH) project and has developed a model for the delivery of individual childcare packages for those children who, because of their severe and complex needs are unable to access group based care. The model of delivery, with enhanced information to parents and brokerage of the childcare packages has been very successful and the authority has agreed to continue to develop and support this childcare. Feedback gathered from families supported by settings accessing inclusion funding or DCATCH activities across the county has been very positive. This indicator is green across the county.

"It would be nice to find some sort of holiday club that is suitable for my child who has Cerebral Palsy. Normal holiday clubs are too difficult for her to deal with"

1.6 Affordability

AF1 measures the take up of the childcare element of working tax credit. Access to tax credits is actively promoted through the Families Information Service. Nottinghamshire has had a year on year increase in the take up of the childcare element over the last five years, rising from 14% in 2006 to 20% in 2010. Data gathered from families shows that 22% of families claiming working tax credit also claim the childcare element. The lowest take up rate is Newark & Sherwood at 18%, with Ashfield highest at 26%. The indicator is green across all districts. The average hourly rate for childcare in the county (£3.48) is 30% of the average hourly wage in the county (£11.72). AF2 is amber across the county, as the target rate was for childcare to cost no more than 25% of earnings. In Mansfield this figure is 33%, where hourly earnings are the second lowest but childcare costs are at £3.46 per hour. In Rushcliffe, childcare costs are at 27% of hourly earnings.

"I have three children and childcare is very expensive when everything is multiplied by three"

1.7 Information/Knowledge

IK1 showed that 75% of families aware of the Families Information Service (FIS), equalling the target sufficiency rate. There are on average over ten thousand calls to the FIS freephone helpline over the year, along with 59 thousand hits to the FIS website. The website (www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/fis) also feeds information about services for families in Nottinghamshire to www.direct.gov.uk. Information is also delivered face to face via the FIS team, at community venues, such as Children's Centres. IK2 looks at how many working families with dependent children contacted FIS for information on childcare. The target of 20% was achieved in each district and exceeded for the county as a whole (22%). These performance rates are particularly welcomed as FIS has not been advertising the helpline externally during the last year. Call numbers have fallen, however the calls are longer, with more complex queries to be answered, such as brokerage of childcare for families of disabled children, access to 100 hours short breaks, safeguarding issues etc. This coincides with the launch of the Family Services Directory, the on-line resource to support Pathways to Provision, leading to an increase in the number of people using the County Council's website to find information.

“When enquiring about childcare, the Families Information Service team was very helpful and sent info out straight away”

“I found the council Childminder list very helpful as I didn't know where to start to look for a childminder in my area – although I found out about this service through a friend as it isn't very well advertised”

1.8 Accessibility

AC1 shows that 95% of families are content with the distance they travel to access childcare. There are challenges faced in some rural areas, where families will have to travel further to access provision. However, it seems that those using childcare who live in more rural parts of the county accept that they will have to travel further to access services, as Bassetlaw achieved a 91% satisfaction rate.

“Living in a rural area finding childcare can be difficult especially if it's just before and after school care”

“I would like to see more childcare clubs in rural village locations”

1.9 Number of Places

The target for NP1 is that there is one childcare place available for every 4 children, across the age ranges 0-5, 5-8, 8-11 and over 11. Countywide, we achieve this target for the 0-5 age range. Performance is rated at amber for 5-8's and rated red for all older children. Across all ages we achieve 1 place for every 6 children, so are rated as amber. However, NP2 shows the number of vacant childcare places across the county. Currently 45% of childcare places for over 8's are vacant across the county. This may be due to the current economic climate and parents seem to be cutting back on using childcare for social reasons to save costs. For children under 8, vacancy rates are 29% across the county. The high number of vacant places will have an impact on the sustainability of childcare provision in the county, and will provide a real challenge to the local authority in its role as a market manager for the childcare sector.

“Lots more spaces needed as waiting lists are too long at the moment for after School and holiday clubs”

“I am delighted with the private day care that my 3 year old son has attended since he was 11 months old – I felt there was a lot of good choice”

1.10 Range and Type

RT1 looked at the ratio of childcare places available by age and type for those parents who indicated they would need childcare in the near future. Nottinghamshire is rated as green across the county for all age ranges, though some districts may not have sufficient places available for school-aged children, should all those who said they wanted a place in the future take them up. This will be monitored through the termly Childcare Sufficiency meetings held in each district, where all partners come together to address issues around under or over supply of places. Finally RT2 looked at where there was an unmet demand for childcare in the county. The target was met in all districts apart from Ashfield, which shows 16% of parents had an unmet demand for childcare.

“I think childcare for children of different ages is quite good because when you are a working parent you know they are in safe hands and know that the people who are looking after them are qualified and know what they are doing”

1.11 Countywide Childcare Sufficiency Action Plan

Introduction

The Childcare Act gives local authorities a key role in facilitating the childcare market in order to achieve the sufficiency duties. This amounts to a strategic role, working in partnership with other organisations, to promote a model of childcare delivery across the County. This model responds to the expressed needs of parents and carers and contributes to the local and national priorities around supporting parents in work and training, reducing child poverty and improving attainment. However, the local authority has limited powers to influence the development of new childcare provision. Childcare provision is registered by Ofsted independently of the local authority, and having sufficient places to meet demand in an area is not grounds for refusing registration. Therefore, it is crucial that new childcare providers are supported from the outset and current advice and data is available to support the business planning and final decision making process new childcare providers will need to consider.

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment is designed to give Nottinghamshire County Council a clear picture of the task required in filling the gaps between childcare supply and demand in the area. There needs to be a strong and coherent strategy in place to fill these gaps effectively in order to meet the statutory duty placed on local authorities to secure sufficient childcare.

The CSA Action Plan is required to identify the areas of development identified from the CSA process, and should be an enabling document which supports the current systems and processes in place. One of the primary processes currently in place is routine district based meetings led by the relevant Family Information Service Officer. These meetings are held 3 times a year and have proved to be crucial in ensuring the local childcare intelligence is as up to date as possible at that point and refreshed on a termly basis. The membership of these groups currently includes partners from a wide range of organisations including;

- Extended Services
- Pre School Learning Alliance
- National Childminding Association
- National Day Nursery Association
- Children's Centres
- Play Service

The current reorganisation of service groups within Children, Families and Cultural Services may place future challenges on the membership of this group, never the less it is a crucial forum at which the required refreshing of the CSA takes place in a routine and timely way.

What is Sufficiency Action Planning?

The Action Plan needs to detail what Nottinghamshire County Council and its partners plan to do to fill the gaps between supply and demand identified by the sufficiency assessment, to address any barriers that prevent specific groups from accessing childcare, to encourage the take up of childcare and to support quality improvements, sustainability and (where appropriate) growth in the childcare market across the County.

The action plan is not just about numbers, clearly it is important there are sufficient childcare places across the County but the childcare action plan needs to address other wider issues, such as;

- Quality Improvement – including levels of support and challenge from local authority quality teams and partners.
- Workforce Development – including levels of qualifications and training.
- Business Support – including financial planning and sustainability advice.
- Accountability - showing clear lines of accountability and who is responsible for implementation.
- Accessibility of childcare supporting the needs of families in challenging circumstances, such as;
 - Unemployed and low income families
 - Children with a disability
 - Families living in rural areas
 - Armed forces families

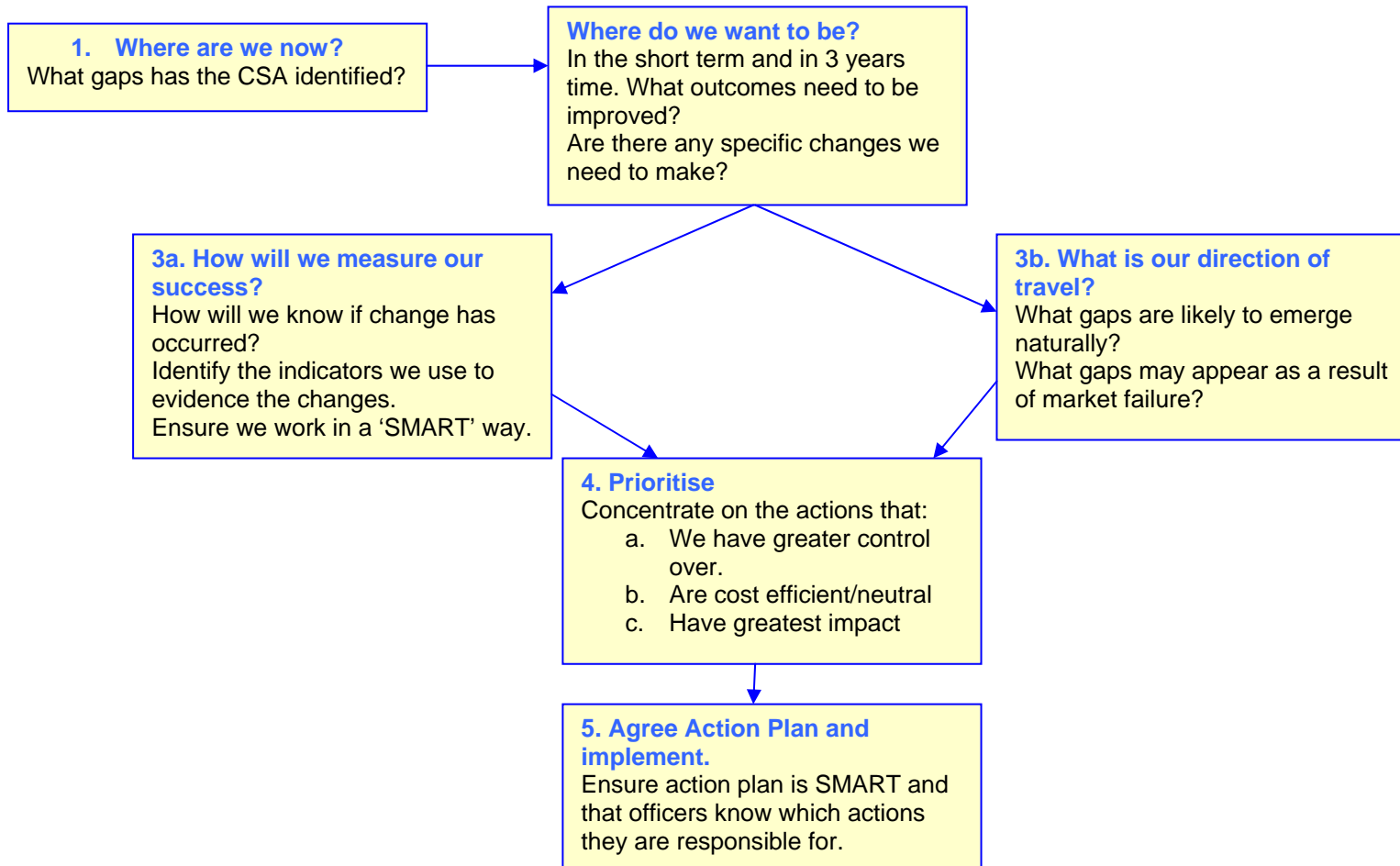
Links to other plans and strategies

To ensure the CSA action plan has maximum impact within Nottinghamshire it is crucial it links to other strategic plans and priorities. For the purposes of this CSA action plan this includes;

1. Child Poverty needs assessment
2. Further developments of the 2 year old pilot
3. Review of the EYFS Framework
4. Early Intervention and Family Support Strategies

1. The Child Poverty needs assessment has outlined its 'Top 10' recommendations to tackle Child Poverty; two of these priorities clearly link with the Childcare sufficiency duty;
 - i. **Use early intervention approaches** to break the cycle of disadvantage; early years settings have a substantial role to play in improving outcomes for children and families.
 - ii. Engage the **private sector and Local Enterprise partnership** in plans to tackle child poverty.
2. The Two year old pilot funding is now being made available over a longer period than originally indicated. There is also the likelihood that the funding will be increased to support a higher number of children, this increase requires the childcare places to support these children to be in the areas of greatest need. This presents a challenge for providers and the County as these areas are likely to have more sustainability challenges, therefore creative solutions will need to be considered in partnership with local providers. The current Two year old pilot steering group will be mapping the geographical areas where the increase in 2 year old places is most likely to be needed. This mapping will be two fold, firstly to ensure the vacant places are available and secondly to ensure the place will be of the highest quality to fully support the child and their family.
3. The introduction of the EYFS in 2008 has seen a general improvement in the quality of provision across the Early Years and Childcare sector, the review undertaken by Dame Claire Tickell is due to be published in the very near future. The findings from this review may contribute to the ongoing quality improvements required across the sector. Any recommendations which will contribute to the quality indicators contained within this audit and action plan will of course be considered and included where necessary.
4. National and local Early Intervention strategies cite the importance of children's early experience being of high quality in order to give children aged 0-3 the 'social and emotional bedrock they need to reach their full potential'.

The Action Plan Cycle



1. Where are we now?

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment has identified a number of indicators where we need to focus our efforts over the next three years. By using the RAG rating system we can see at a glance the indicators which require attention. It is sensible to assume the indicators showing a RED rating will be our highest priority areas both at a County and district level. However, we need to take in to account the potential for AMBER indicators to have a greater impact at a more local level. For e.g. the Bassetlaw district has highlighted that overall the district is at AMBER and therefore may be in danger of not complying with the duty placed on local authorities to secure sufficient childcare. The rural nature of this district makes the sustainability of childcare more problematic and while parents have generally indicated they are happy with the distance they travel to access childcare, the loss of one provider in such an area can have a major impact upon local families, thus potentially affecting the wider local economy.

Where do we want to be?

Overall Nottinghamshire County Action points:

Specific Indicator	RAG Rating	ACTION	Specific Issues	Monitoring Progress	Timescales	Lead
Sustainability SU 2 % net change in available places over the year	AMBER	District CSA meetings held every 4 months. Information shared with attending officers. Data shared at County level where appropriate	Some districts will see a decrease in places due to closure of providers affected by the local economic conditions. Anecdotal information suggests that childcare for school aged children is more vulnerable, while places for children aged under 3 are in greater demand.	District CSA meetings 3x a year	Ongoing	FIS SPP&SA

<p>High Quality HQ1 - % of settings with good or better Ofsted Inspection results HQ2 - % of EY settings with good or better LA quality assessment</p> <p>HQ3 - % of settings with at least 50% of staff qualified to at least NVQ level 3 HQ4 - % of EY settings (for age 0-5) that are graduate led (exc. Childminders) HQ5 - % of EY settings (for age 0-5) that are EYP led (exc.childminders)</p>	<p>AMBER</p> <p>RED</p>	<p>Greater synergies between Ofsted gradings and LA assessment. Improve the LA RAG rating system to ensure a consistent approach across the teams assessing the overall quality of the setting.</p> <p>To implement a local system whereby the relevant data held by local providers can be uploaded on to the FIS data base routinely to give more accurate information.</p>	<p>Currently Early Years settings could have assessments which oppose each other, the quality of the setting could be rated green yet the sustainability or organisational structure of the setting could be rated red. This function is carried out by different quality assurance teams. The rating system needs to reflect the need for all aspects of the quality of the setting to be assessed using one tool.</p>	<p>Provider Support meetings 3 x a year</p> <p>Scheduled data refresh process</p> <p>Workforce Development Forums e.g. Owner Manager briefings</p>	<p>2011/12</p> <p>2011/12</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>NCC & Partners</p> <p>FIS</p> <p>NCC and partners (Business</p>
<p>Affordability AF2 %of average hourly rate for</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>To offer financial sustainability advice to providers, taking in to</p>	<p>Many providers charge fees based on historical information and rhetoric</p>	<p>District CSA meetings 3x a year</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>NCC and partners (Business</p>

childcare to average hourly earnings		account the possible income shortfall for providers who routinely charge fees that are 25% or lower than the average hourly earnings/wages for that locality.	that has no bearing on the current local financial circumstances of a particular area. However, it is important for Childcare providers to build in to their financial planning the impact local circumstances may have on their community, such as loss of a large local employer, new childcare business developing locally.			development specialists)
Number of places NP1 Ratio of available places to number of children by age category	AMBER	To continue to support the development of suitable childcare for older children aged 8+. To ensure parents/carers are informed of childcare options in their chosen locality taking in to account the vacancy levels across the County	The success of the Safe Place to be projects (SP2B) established in Secondary schools has helped to bridge the gap for suitable provision for older children. The reorganisation of the Play Service will impact upon the team's future capacity to continue to support these local initiatives.	District CSA meetings 3x a year	Ongoing with annual update on NCC website	NCC and partners

2.1 Childcare Sufficiency – Ashfield

District: Ashfield- Sufficiency Score = 57.8 (72.3)																					
9.5			11.0			11.9						4.0	4.4		3.3		4.0	4.0		5.7	
5.0	2.5	2.5	5.0	5.0	3.8	3.0	3.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	5.0	5.0	2.5	3.0	3.0	3.5	5.0	1.0	3.0	5.0	2.1
Su1	Su2	Su3	FI1	FI2	FI3	HQ1	HQ2	HQ3	HQ4	HQ5	HQ6	In1	Af1	Af2	IK1	IK2	Ac1	NP1	NP2	RT1	RT2
Sustainability			Flexibility			High Quality						Inclusivity	Affordability		Information/ Knowledge		Accessibility	Number Of Places		Range/Type	

Table 2

2.2

Ashfield Consultation Quotations

“School holidays are the biggest problem for children of school age. I also work weekends and there seems to be nothing available”

“I have difficulty with holiday care as my daughter is just 12 and there is no where to take her at this age. The holiday centre I used to take her to stops at age 11”

“In the Ashfield area childcare is very limited. Both my children go to “x” which is fantastic and good value. However both myself and my husband work 50+ miles away from our home and breakfast clubs would certainly make our lives easier as “x” school does not offer wrap around care. I know many of my friends are in the same position”

“The school childcare offered at my sons’ school is excellent. The only problem is that it is often full”

“I am worried at the cost and lack of spaces available for children”

2.3 Ashfield Childcare Sufficiency Action Plan

Ashfield District is situated in north-west Nottinghamshire, the district of Ashfield lies just north of Nottingham City with excellent communications corridors through the A38 and junctions 27 and 28 of the M1, also boasting close proximity to East Midlands Airport. The Robin Hood Line runs north south with four stations in Ashfield connecting Nottingham City to Worksop. Ashfield comprises three large settlements Kirkby-in-Ashfield, (population 25,030), Sutton-in-Ashfield, (population 41,265), and Hucknall, (population 29,210) alongside the rural parishes of Annesley, Felley and Selston. The 10,994ha district as a whole is home to 108,700 residents.

As an assisted area offering British Government regional selective assistance and enterprise grants Ashfield in the 21st century provides new opportunities for business investment in the form of extensive and well-developed industrial sites. Sherwood Park near junction 27 of the M1 is the district's flagship development. The park employs nearly 4000 people and boasts Enterprise Zone status as home to such companies as Kodak, Tsubakimoto, UK-owned Pendragon, Boots, Italian-owned OMB (UK) Speciality Valves, Autofil Worldwide and a joint venture company between Rolls Royce and the USA-owned Chromalloy Gas Turbine Corporation. These are just a few of Ashfield's 3500 registered businesses. (Source: Business Lists UK)

Ashfield District is currently rated as green with the County wide actions featuring as the pressing priorities for the district. In addition to this Ashfield has identified the need to improve indicator NP 1 - number of places.

Specific Indicator	RAG Rating	ACTION	Specific Issues	Monitoring Progress	Timescales	Lead
NP 1 – Ratio of available places to number of children by age category	RED	Pursue opportunities for increasing childcare places for school aged children in partnership with schools in identified areas.	Consultation with parents in Ashfield has identified that places for school aged children both before and after school and holiday childcare is limited in certain areas.	District CSA meetings x 3 a year	2011/12 CSA audit refresh	NCC and partners

3.1 Childcare Sufficiency – Bassetlaw

District: Bassetlaw - Sufficiency Score = 52.0 (72.3)																					
3.8			9.8			11.9						4.0	4.4		3.3		4.0	4.0		6.8	
1.0	0.5	2.5	5.0	5.0	2.3	3.0	3.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	5.0	5.0	2.5	3.0	3.0	3.5	5.0	1.0	3.0	5.0	3.5
Su1	Su2	Su3	FI1	FI2	FI3	HQ1	HQ2	HQ3	HQ4	HQ5	HQ6	In1	Af1	Af2	IK1	IK2	Ac1	NP1	NP2	RT1	RT2
Sustainability			Flexibility			High Quality						Inclusivity	Affordability		Information /Knowledge		Accessibility	Number Of Places		Range/Type	

Table 3

3.2 Bassetlaw Consultation Quotations

“One of my children attends x school (Worksop) and they no longer have an after school club”

“I use family for childcare in the school holidays as holiday clubs in and around Worksop are few and far between and very costly”

“I currently use a day nursery at x Sure Start Centre, which is excellent”

“My eldest daughter is 11 years old and I am unable to find childcare for her during school holidays (9-5.30) once she is 12 years old. This may mean that I am unable to work during school holidays until she is older”

“I work 9-3 on the days my children are at school. In the holidays they stay with their Nan”

“I currently use a Childminder who my children are very happy with”

“Shortage of Childminders in rural areas – I find it difficult to find one with a space for my two children”

3.3 Bassetlaw Childcare Sufficiency Action Plan

The District of Bassetlaw is situated in North Nottinghamshire and boasts thousands of acres of countryside, parkland and ancient woodlands. Lincolnshire's Fens and Wolds border the District to the east with the Peak District to the West. The East Coast holiday resorts are within easy reach and the cities of Nottingham (South) and Sheffield (North) are less than an hour away. Bassetlaw has two main population centres, the market towns of Worksop and Retford, which are home to the majority of its 107,713 residents. Bassetlaw enjoys a reputation as a pleasant place to live, work and enjoy leisure time with a lower cost of living than in nearby cities. Clumber Park, the most popular visitor attraction in North Nottinghamshire is just one of our country parks. Woodlands, villages and the Dukeries estates are among Bassetlaw's other attractions. The area is served by two councils; Bassetlaw District Council and [Nottinghamshire County Council](#). Bassetlaw provides good business opportunities with industrial units of all sizes available across the District. The location means the area ideally situated for businesses with nationwide distribution requirements. B&Q's new distribution centre at the former Manton Colliery and the new Robin Hood Airport just outside the District provide a wide range of employment opportunities. Bassetlaw Hospital NHS Foundation Trusts are located within the District offering acute and Primary health care.

Bassetlaw District is currently rated as amber with the County wide actions featuring as the pressing priorities for the district. In addition to this Bassetlaw has identified the need to improve indicators Su 1, Su2 and NP 1.

Specific Indicator	RAG Rating	ACTION	Specific Issues	Monitoring Progress	Timescales	Lead
SU1 - % net change in provider numbers over the year	RED	Development of new places in the Worksop area following the closure of a work place nursery.*	The rural make up of Bassetlaw district presents a number of challenges for providers setting up group care	District CSA meetings x 3 a year	2011 - 2013	NCC and partners

			outside the Worksop and Retford areas.			
SU2 - % net change in available places over the year	RED	As above Continued development and increase in the number of childminder places to support the more rural areas in the district	Focused Childminder briefing sessions in targeted areas.	District CSA meetings x 3 a year	2011/12	NCMA NCC and partners
NP 1 – Ratio of available places to number of children by age category	RED	Pursue opportunities for increasing childcare places for school aged children in partnership with schools in identified areas.	Consultation with parents in Bassetlaw has identified that places for school aged children both before and after school and holiday childcare is limited in certain areas.	District CSA meetings x 3 a year	2011/12 CSA audit refresh	NCC and partners

* The imminent closure of the Hospital Day nursery will impact upon this indicator but the development of new childcare provision on the Ryton Park school site later in the year should improve the deficit of places.

4.1 Childcare Sufficiency – Broxtowe

District: Broxtowe- Sufficiency Score = 61.0 (72.3)																					
8.6			11.0			11.9						4.0	4.4		4.3		4.0	6.0		6.8	
5.0	1.5	2.5	5.0	5.0	3.8	3.0	3.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	5.0	5.0	2.5	3.0	5.0	3.5	5.0	3.0	3.0	5.0	3.5
Su1	Su2	Su3	FI1	FI2	FI3	HQ1	HQ2	HQ3	HQ4	HQ5	HQ6	In1	Af1	Af2	IK1	IK2	Ac1	NP1	NP2	RT1	RT2
Sustainability			Flexibility			High Quality						Inclusivity	Affordability		Information/ Knowledge		Accessibility	Number Of Places		Range/Type	

Table4

4.2 Broxtowe Consultation Quotations

“Because of the area that we live the majority of parents don’t work. Our school no longer runs a breakfast club which is a shame”

“I have gone to work part time instead of full time because of the cost of childcare” “We use a very good Childminder”

“I feel my childcare is expensive, but I am pleased with my chosen Nursery”

“I would like to see more on offer for school age children during school holidays. There is little in this area – The Leisure centre in x does some sessions but not many, and they don’t last all day”

“The childcare costs are very expensive. We do use a very good Childminder, but we find this hard to pay”

“Fantastic child/day care in x for 0-5 years but poor service for 5-11 year olds for before and after school care”

“We really need childcare from 7am”

4.3 Broxtowe Childcare Sufficiency Action Plan

The Borough of Broxtowe lies to the west of the City of Nottingham and is bounded by the River Trent on the south and the River Erewash on the west. There are four main towns Beeston, Stapleford, Kimberley and Eastwood - each with its own character and individuality. The population of Broxtowe is approximately 101,656. There is a wide choice of employment, housing amenities and countryside which makes Broxtowe a very pleasant place to live and work. Nearly two thirds of the land in Broxtowe is open countryside with a number of areas noted for their particular charm, and preserved as conservation areas. Housing varies from 19th century terrace cottages to modern housing schemes and purpose-built accommodation for the young and elderly. Industry offers employment ranging from large national companies such as Boots and the Royal Mail to a substantial number of industrial and commercial businesses across a wide range of services.

Broxtowe District is currently rated as green with the County wide actions featuring as the pressing priorities for the district. While there are no specific red actions for the Broxtowe district, it is recommended that the CSA termly meetings take in to account the comments from the parent consultation above and also closely monitor the indicators SU2, AF2 and NP1 which are currently at Amber.

5.1 Childcare Sufficiency – Gedling

District: Gedling - Sufficiency Score = 60.9 (72.3)																					
9.5			11.0			11.9						4.0	4.4		3.3		4.0	6.0		6.8	
5.0	2.5	2.5	5.0	5.0	3.8	3.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	3.0	5.0	5.0	2.5	3.0	3.0	3.5	5.0	3.0	3.0	5.0	3.5
Su1	Su2	Su3	FI1	FI2	FI3	HQ1	HQ2	HQ3	HQ4	HQ5	HQ6	In1	Af1	Af2	IK1	IK2	Ac1	NP1	NP2	RT1	RT2
Sustainability			Flexibility			High Quality						Inclusivity	Affordability		Information /Knowledge		Accessibility	Number Of Places		Range/Type	

Table 5

5.2 Gedling Consultation Quotations

“The primary school my son attends does not offer a breakfast club and the after school club ends at 5.45 (unfortunately the earliest I can get there to pick him up is 5.50). He currently attends a local nursery for before and after school care which he is quickly outgrowing and dislikes as he’s with children of pre-school age. The care provided by the Nursery is fabulous though!”

“There is excellent quality childcare at x Pre-School (2-4 years) but it is not open all afternoon or in school holidays. The local primary school does not have a breakfast club or nursery”

“Childcare for year 7 pupils in secondary school is sadly lacking in this area, at this age they are too young to be left alone especially in October – February when its darker nights”

“I am a FT police officer and a single parent with no real family help – it is getting increasingly difficult for shift work hours out of M-F 9-5” “I am pleased with my current day nursery although I do wish they opened earlier”

“I find it far too expensive, so have to rely on family” “Breakfast club is excellent, affordable and good quality”

5.3 Gedling Childcare Sufficiency Action Plan

The borough of Gedling is home to almost 112,000 people and covers an area of 46.3 sq. miles. The borough comprises the towns of Arnold and Carlton and the surrounding parishes. It borders Sherwood Forest to the north, the River Trent to the southeast and the City of Nottingham to the southwest.

Gedling Borough has a lot to offer both residents and visitors, from heritage to modern community facilities as well as excellent shopping and leisure facilities, tranquil villages and picturesque countryside. The city of Nottingham is within easy reach for shopping and employment opportunities.

Gedling's unemployment rate has increased significantly over the last two years; the Killisick ward had the second highest rate within Nottinghamshire at 7.8%. Gedling Borough is below the national average for the percentage of working age residents who are qualified to NVQ level 4 and above.

Gedling District is currently rated as green with the County wide actions featuring as the pressing priorities for the district.

While there are no specific red actions for the Gedling district, it is recommended that the CSA termly meetings take in to account the comments from the parent consultation above and also closely monitor the indicators AF2 and NP1 which are currently at Amber.

6.1 Childcare Sufficiency – Mansfield

District: Mansfield- Sufficiency Score = 63.3 (72.3)																					
9.5			11.0			15.3						4.0	4.4		4.3		4.0	4.0		6.8	
5.0	2.5	2.5	5.0	5.0	3.8	3.0	5.0	1.0	1.0	3.0	5.0	5.0	2.5	3.0	5.0	3.5	5.0	1.0	3.0	5.0	3.5
Su1	Su2	Su3	FI1	FI2	FI3	HQ1	HQ2	HQ3	HQ4	HQ5	HQ6	In1	Af1	Af2	IK1	IK2	Ac1	NP1	NP2	RT1	RT2
Sustainability			Flexibility			High Quality						Inclusivity	Affordability		Information/ Knowledge		Accessibility	Number Of Places		Range/Type	

Table 6

6.2 Mansfield Consultation Quotations

“My daughter is about to start full time education, I have found it very difficult to find childcare in my area for after school pick up and care”

“I have always relied on family to help with our childcare” “Family have always looked after our children”

“I currently use family for my childcare arrangements however have previously used a day nursery. I find it easier to use family as present as I work shifts and childcare providers cannot offer the flexibility I need”

“I think Mansfield has an excellent choice of childcare that all offer lots of activities” “The nursery we use for our son is excellent”

“I am a single parent working in the care environment. I could never find a childcare provider that opened before 7.30am”

“I am really happy with my childminder but feel they do not get advertised or highlighted well enough, or as well enough as they should”

6. 3 Mansfield Childcare Sufficiency Action Plan

Mansfield District is a largely urban area in the North West of Nottinghamshire; Mansfield is home to a large, skilled workforce. The workforce is employed in a variety of sectors, providing a balanced economy. Mansfield town centre has grown to become the main retail and service centre for the North Midlands with over 350,000 people within half an hours drive. Mansfield town centre is home to many big names located in the Four Seasons shopping centre and distinctive local retailers on the high street. Mansfield is also home to a regular market selling a variety of products and specialist markets are held throughout the week. Mansfield has grown to be the largest town in Nottinghamshire with a population of 100,100 divided into 19 electoral wards. Mansfield is now considered to be the main retail and service centre for the North of Nottinghamshire and there are around 470,000 people within 10 miles of Mansfield Town Centre. This figure is set to increase with estimates of 500,000 by 2015 and 515,000 by 2025, reinforcing Mansfield's position as the main retail area for the North of Nottinghamshire.

Mansfield District is currently rated as green with the County wide actions featuring as the pressing priorities for the district. In addition to this Mansfield has identified the need to improve indicator NP 1 - number of places.

Specific Indicator	RAG Rating	ACTION	Specific Issues	Monitoring Progress	Timescales	Lead
NP 1 – Ratio of available places to number of children by age category	RED	Pursue opportunities for increasing childcare places for school aged children in partnership with schools in identified areas.	The parent consultation suggests that the main issues for childcare places in Mansfield are around flexibility	District CSA meetings x 3 a year	2011/12 CSA audit refresh	NCC and partners

7.1 Childcare Sufficiency – Newark & Sherwood

District: Newark & Sherwood - Sufficiency Score = 61.4 (72.3)																					
7.6			11.0			15.3						4.0	4.4		4.3		4.0	4.0		6.8	
5.0	0.5	2.5	5.0	5.0	3.8	5.0	3.0	1.0	1.0	3.0	5.0	5.0	2.5	3.0	5.0	3.5	5.0	1.0	3.0	5.0	3.5
Su1	Su2	Su3	FI1	FI2	FI3	HQ1	HQ2	HQ3	HQ4	HQ5	HQ6	In1	Af1	Af2	IK1	IK2	Ac1	NP1	NP2	RT1	RT2
Sustainability			Flexibility			High Quality						Inclusivity	Affordability		Information/ Knowledge		Accessibility	Number Of Places		Range/Type	

Table 7

7.2 Newark Consultation Quotations

“The consistency of higher quality childcare we’ve accessed locally over the last five years has been fantastic”

“I work shifts from 7am to midnight. I am unable to find childcare for evening times so have to rely on family/friends”

“For x to have holiday clubs so that we don’t have to travel to take children to clubs”

“My childcare provision provided by my child’s pre-school is excellent” “Holiday club is fantastic at x School”

“Encouragement for there to be more Childminders – I have consistently found this form of childcare far superior to other types of care. Children are brought up in a homely, emotionally secure environment and mine have never been happier”

“Now that my children are at school I am looking to go back to work. This means wrap around care is most important to me”

“Thank you for the free play days in parks during the school holidays”

7.3 Newark & Sherwood Childcare Sufficiency Action Plan

Newark and Sherwood is the largest district in Nottinghamshire and has a resident population of approximately 112,000 people. There is a growing elderly population, with people of retirement age making up nearly a fifth of the population and the elderly population is expected to increase over the next 10 – 20 years.

The district is made up of several distinct areas: the affluent market towns of Newark-on-Trent to the southeast and Southwell to the southwest which serve as the main shopping and service centres for the surrounding rural areas; the sparsely populated areas in the central and northern parts of the district, and the old mining areas to the north-western part of the district with relatively high levels of deprivation.

Business and enterprise has flourished in the district with a substantial increase in the number of VAT registered businesses. Further prospects for further economic development are excellent with a successful Growth Point bid that is estimated to generate over £1 billion of new investment forming the centre piece of a range of major developments across the district. The housing development planned as part of the Growth Point bid is significant across the South of Newark.

Newark and Sherwood District is currently rated as green with the County wide actions featuring as the pressing priorities for the district. In addition to this Newark and Sherwood has identified the need to improve indicator NP 1 and SU 2.

Specific Indicator	RAG Rating	ACTION	Specific Issues	Monitoring Progress	Timescales	Lead
NP 1 – Ratio of available places to number of children by age category	RED	Pursue opportunities for increasing childcare places for school aged children in partnership with schools in identified areas.	Consultation with parents in Newark and Sherwood has identified that places for school aged children both before and after school and holiday childcare is limited in certain areas.	District CSA meetings x 3 a year	2011/12 CSA audit refresh	NCC and partners
SU 2 - % net change in available places over the	RED	Continued development and increase in the number of childminder	Focused Childminder briefing sessions in targeted areas.	District CSA meetings x 3 a year	2011/12 CSA audit refresh	NCMA NCC and partners

year		places to support the more rural areas in the district				
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8.1 Childcare Sufficiency – Rushcliffe

District: Rushcliffe - Sufficiency Score = 57.7 (72.3)																					
1.9			11.0			15.3						4.0	4.4		4.3		4.0	6.0		6.8	
1.0	0.5	0.5	5.0	5.0	3.8	3.0	5.0	1.0	1.0	3.0	5.0	5.0	2.5	3.0	5.0	3.5	5.0	3.0	3.0	5.0	3.5
Su1	Su2	Su3	F1	F2	F3	HQ1	HQ2	HQ3	HQ4	HQ5	HQ6	In1	Af1	Af2	IK1	IK2	Ac1	NP1	NP2	RT1	RT2
Sustainability			Flexibility			High Quality						Inclusivity	Affordability		Information/ Knowledge		Accessibility	Number Of Places		Range/Type	

Table 8

8.2 Rushcliffe Consultation Quotations

“Childcare costs are too expensive. I am lucky as I have family close by” “I am cutting down on childcare as I can’t afford it”

“Both of my children went to Nursery x which is excellent, but very expensive”

“What about childcare for children in their first years at secondary school – E.g. age 11? There is very little provision locally and it is a massive step for children to take to suddenly be responsible for themselves whilst parents/carers are at work”

“There are very few suitable affordable holiday clubs with the right hours for young people aged 12-17 years”

“My main requirement is for care from 7am” “Nothing is available before 8am. My starting hours are 7am”

“For me the most serious need for childcare is in the school holidays. Little is available and it’s very expensive”

“Before and After School care is very expensive especially for 2 children”

8.3 Rushcliffe Childcare Sufficiency Action Plan

Rushcliffe lies immediately south of the City of Nottingham and the River Trent and extends across towards Newark in the North East and Loughborough in the South West. Although parts of the Borough lie close to Nottingham, Rushcliffe has a strong identity of its own. The main centre of population is West Bridgford, where around 36,000 of the Borough's 100,000 plus population live. The remainder of the district is largely rural, with the centres of population split between small towns and villages. Rushcliffe's geographic location adds to its attraction as a place to live. Access to the M1 motorway and the A1 is easy. Main line rail services are available at both Nottingham and nearby Grantham, with journey times to London of less than two hours. The East Midlands International Airport lies just outside the Borough boundary. Access to Birmingham and the National Exhibition Centre is easy thanks to the M1/A42/M42 link.

While Rushcliffe District is rated as green there is a need to consider the indicators below which are currently rated as red. The issues for Rushcliffe are the spread of rural areas making it more challenging for providers to set up sustainable childcare provision even in some of the most affluent areas in the County. There is also a high concentration of providers across the more densely populated areas of West Bridgford, Radcliffe-on-Trent and Bingham. One of the issues for providers in Rushcliffe is that the level of nursery education costs are higher than the nursery fees, it is assumed this is mainly due to the local market pushing up the fee rate to take account of higher running costs. There is also stronger 'market forces' in the Rushcliffe district due to a higher number of volume providers, this in turn can dictate the local market. It is also recommended that indicator NP 1 is monitored as while currently at amber the above parental comments suggest there is a need for more flexible affordable childcare places for school aged children.

Specific Indicator	RAG Rating	ACTION	Specific Issues	Monitoring Progress	Timescales	Lead
SU1 % net change in provider numbers over the year.	RED	Monitor the development of new childcare places across the district. Due to the extensive provision in certain	Rushcliffe does see a regular turn over of childcare business due to the affluence of the area. In general the area is well served for	District CSA meetings x 3 a year	2011/12 CSA audit refresh	NCC and partners

		parts of the district this is often a very fluid process.	childcare with the exception of childcare for school aged children where greater flexibility is often required by parents.			
SU2 %net change in available places over the year	RED	As above, these two indicators are closely linked		District CSA meetings x 3 a year	2011/12 CSA audit refresh	NCC and partners
SU3 % of providers where EYE costs are less than EYE income per child per hour.	RED	Closely monitor the take up of Nursery Education places and the vacancy rates carried by providers.	Consider the impact the proposed housing developments in the Sharp Hill area may have on the number of Nursery Education places required	District CSA meetings x 3 a year	2011 - 13 CSA audit refresh	NCC, partners and local schools

In Conclusion

The 2010/11 Childcare Sufficiency Audit has confirmed that the health of the Childcare sector across the County is good and the overall green rating endorses this position. The Action Plan has identified some pressing priorities which are achievable with improved data sharing between the sector and NCC and also some localised priorities for certain districts. The routine termly CSA district meetings will continue to be well placed to action and subsequently monitor these priorities. It is crucial that the current stock of childcare places is maintained and that greater flexibility of childcare provision is considered by the sector in these current economically challenging times. As the economy strengthens there will be the need for childcare providers to be able to support families in a flexible and responsive way.

This document was published in April 2011 by Nicola Hughes and Tracie Dodd, Early Years and Childcare Services Managers, Nottinghamshire County Council.

For more information about the CSA, contact the Nottinghamshire Families Information Service on 0800 781 2168 or 01623 520 694. Email fis@nottscc.gov.uk

Appendix 1

Sufficiency indicators, scores and weightings

Nottinghamshire County Council used the Sufficiency toolkit developed by the East Midlands Regional Sufficiency Network to measure Childcare Sufficiency in 2011. This toolkit was developed as a regional approach to measuring sufficiency, following the first round of CSA's undertaken in 2008.

Each individual indicator has a weighting applied, according to its importance towards sufficiency overall. If the sufficiency indicator is achieved, 5 points are awarded and the indicator shows performance as green on the RAG rating system. For indicators achieving an amber level of performance, 3 points are awarded. If sufficiency indicators are not achieved, then 1 point is awarded and that indicator is RAG rated as red. This gives a maximum available score for each individual indicator. This score is awarded for sufficiency in the county as a whole, and against performance in each of the 2nd tier Local Authority areas. The results show us how performance varies across districts and where we need to focus our attentions in our Sufficiency Action Plan

Also, each basket of indicators is given a weighting, again linked to overall importance as an indicator of sufficiency, ranging from 50% (information and knowledge) to 100% (number of places). This weighting is applied to the maximum score achieved for the individual indicators in the basket to give a maximum weighted score for that basket. This then enables us to award an overall RAG rating to each basket. Again, each basket of performance is shown for the whole county and for each district, with actions set accordingly.

We took the maximum weighted scores for the individual indicators and baskets of indicators to find the overall sufficiency score for the county and each district. The overall county score was then RAG rated, as was each district's overall sufficiency score. Using RAG ratings gives a quick and easily identifiable performance measure, and shows the variation in performance across the districts.

Sustainability

SU1 % net change in provider numbers over the year. Target $\geq 1\%$. Indicator weighting 100%. Maximum score 5.

SU2 % net change in available places over the year. Target $\geq 1.5\%$. Indicator weighting 50%

SU3 % providers where EYE costs are less than EYE income per child per hour. Target $\geq 85\%$. Indicator weighting 50%

Basket weighting 95%

Flexibility

FL1 % of parents at least satisfied with opening hours of childcare settings used. Target $\geq 90\%$ Indicator weighting 100%

FL2 % of settings offering 8am to 6pm childcare throughout the year. Target $\geq 50\%$. Indicator weighting 100%

FL3 % of all EYE validated providers able to offer 15 hours EYE flexibly. Target $\geq 95\%$. Indicator weighting 75%

Basket weighting 80%

High Quality

HQ1 % of settings with good or better Ofsted inspection result. Target $\geq 70\%$. Indicator weighting 100%

HQ2 % of EY settings with good or better LA quality assessment. Target $\geq 85\%$. Indicator weighting 100%

HQ3 % of settings with at least 50% of staff qualified to at least NVQ Level 3. Target $\geq 90\%$. Indicator weighting 100%

HQ4 % of EY settings (for age 0-5) that are graduate led (exc. childminders). Target $\geq 50\%$. Indicator weighting 100%

HQ5 % EY settings (for age 0-5) that are EYP led (exc. Childminders). Target $\geq 35\%$. Indicator weighting 100%

HQ6 % of children that are achieving 78 points or more on FSP target. Target $\geq 65\%$. Indicator weighting 100%

Basket weighting 85%

Inclusivity

IN1 % of settings offering places for disabled children. Target 100% Indicator weighting 100%

Basket weighting 80%

Affordability

AF1 % take-up of Childcare Tax credit by those taking up Working Tax Credit. Target $\geq 10\%$. Indicator weighting 50%

AF2 % of average hourly cost of childcare to average hourly earnings. Target $\leq 25\%$. Indicator weighting 100%

Basket weighting 80%

Information/Knowledge

IK1 % of families with children aged under 16/19 that are aware of FIS/other sources of information. Target $\geq 75\%$ Indicator weighting 100%

IK2 % of working families with children aged under 16/19 that have contacted regarding childcare. Target $\geq 20\%$. Indicator weighting 70%

Basket Weighting 50%

Accessibility

AC1 % of families that feel there is a good choice of childcare available locally. Target $\geq 90\%$ Indicator weighting 80%

Basket Weighting 80%

Number of Places

NP1 Ratio of available places to number of children by age category. Target 1:4 Indicator weighting 100%

NP2 % of vacant places by age category. Target $\geq 20\%$ Indicator weighting 60%

Basket weighting 100%

Range & Type of Places

RT1 Ratio of available childcare places by type sought/wanted per the CSA. Target 1:4. Indicator weighting 100%

RA2 % childcare-related enquiries with an identified unmet need. Target $\leq 15\%$ Indicator weighting 70%

Basket weighting 80%