

**Childcare
Sufficiency
Assessment
Annual Update
2019**

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Introduction

The Local Authority is required by law to 'report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare, and make this report available and accessible to parents'.¹ We have prepared this report in order to meet this duty.

Having sufficient childcare means that families are able to find childcare that meets their child's care and learning needs, and enables parents to make a real choice about work and training. This applies to all children from birth to age 14, including children with disabilities. Sufficiency is assessed for different groups, rather than for all children in the Local Authority.

This is the 2019 annual update further to the full Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) published in 2018. In this report, we have used data on the need for childcare and the amount of childcare available, maintaining core measures utilised in the 2018 CSA for comparative purposes. We use information about childcare sufficiency to plan our work supporting the local childcare economy. This update will identify key findings and highlight any changes over the past year. The executive summary will also report on local authority strategies implemented to address key concerns identified in the 2018 CSA.

Executive Summary

- There continues to be a sufficient supply of childcare provision to meet the needs of children requiring funded childcare places. Participation by providers offering 2, 3 and 4 year old funded places has increased further, improving access to these entitlements for children and families. To encourage and maintain participation, the Local Authority offers provider workshops and training on the funding entitlements and online claims process.
- Harrow has maintained its position as a high performing borough in relation to national benchmarks for educational outcomes and inspection outcomes. The quality of early years provision has continued to improve over the past year across provider types.
- The take-up of funded early education for 2 year olds in Harrow remains a concern. There has been a slight reduction in take-up during 2019, but this should be viewed in the context of even greater reductions both regionally and nationally. Therefore, although take-up in Harrow remains below the national average it is now slightly above the London average. In 2019 Harrow embarked on the DfE grant funded 'Together for Two's' project along with several other local authorities, who have identified low take-up rates. The project is facilitated by PACEY (professional association for childcare and early years) providing local and direct interventions to grow the number of disadvantaged families taking up the offer, particularly with childminders, and to increase the number of childminders offering the entitlement as

¹ Statutory guidance on Early Education and Childcare, effective from 1 September 2017. The wording of the 2014 statutory guidance, effective until this date, is identical.

well as developing more delivery partnerships between schools, nurseries and childminders in target areas. A childminding development worker has been undertaking targeted outreach. This includes participation at cross borough events as well as engaging with Job Centre Plus in efforts to promote 2 year old funding with parents, to promote childminding as a profession and taking up funded places with childminders. The project runs until March 2020 and it is too soon to gauge impact at this stage.

- The take-up of universal funded early education for 3 and 4 year olds remains consistent with previous years and is slightly higher than regional comparators. Take-up of the extended hours entitlement continues to increase when comparing like-for-like terms.
- The supply of places for the extended entitlement (30 hours) is sufficient and continues to increase, exceeding local demand. There is no indication as yet that this increase has had any impact on provision and take-up of universal funded places or 2 year old funded places in Harrow.
- Whilst the total number of early years childcare providers continues to fall, the number of places available continues to increase. The growth in day nursery provision and places makes up for the shortfall in childminding and pre-school provision which continues to decline. The drop in childminder numbers mirrors the national trend.
- The early years' population projections remain unchanged. If current levels of childcare provision are maintained, overall demand for early years childcare should continue to be met. The school age population is expected to increase and therefore more school age childcare provision may be required to meet potential growth in demand. Growth in the market has occurred over the past year with a significant increase in out of school club provision, particularly within primary schools.
- Wealdstone, Queensbury and Canons were identified as priority wards in the 2018 CSA, containing some of the lowest numbers of PVI childcare places whilst having considerable cohorts of early years children. All three wards have experienced further reductions in places over the past year, in particular Canons ward, however all share borders with wards which have a high level of provision, ensuring that childcare options are available not too far away. Choice is restricted in Queensbury and Kenton West with only 5 childcare providers operating in each ward. Harrow Families Information Service and the Early Years Team highlight these findings to enquirers interested in setting up childcare provision, or existing providers looking to expand in Harrow, to encourage new provision in these priority wards.
- Greenhill and Marlborough remain as the wards with the highest early years cohorts and projected growth. They continue to have some of the largest supply of childcare places in the borough. However there has been a small decrease in places available in Greenhill over the past year. As Greenhill is a growth ward, the supply of childcare places will need to be tracked closely to ensure local demand for childcare continues

to be met. Marlborough retains the largest supply of childcare places with further growth in the past year, however it no longer contains any pre-school provision along with Headstone South, potentially limiting choice for parents/carers in these wards.

- Childcare for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) is available in Harrow. The number of early years children with SEND continues to increase in PVI settings and school nurseries, reflecting the growing demand for SEND services, support and appropriate childcare. The primary need for the majority of children requiring SEND support remains speech and language and communication and interaction. Support strategies are in place for early years childcare providers and SEND children within them, via the Harrow Early Years Team, in the form of an inclusion fund, SEND drop-in surgeries for providers and targeted support visits tracking individual children's needs. Provider SEND registers are collated on a termly basis to ensure children can be tracked. Awareness and understanding of the inclusion fund by providers has improved, reflected by the increasing numbers of inclusion claims and improved engagement with the Local Authority in supporting children with additional needs. The aim of the inclusion funding is to ameliorate need and enable children to access learning and the social life of the setting and to make progress across all the early learning goals. In all cases, progress and greater access has been reported. Initial impact analysis by childcare providers, from baseline assessments before funded interventions, to progress and attainment after a term of intervention, have been significantly positive. The Early Years Area SENCO (special educational needs co-ordinator) is continuing to track the progress of all children supported through this funding.

Demand for childcare

Population of early years children

In total, there are 17,900 children under the age of five living in Harrow. These children may require early years childcare. The latest population estimates are based on the Greater London Authority (GLA) 2016 based trend projections, last updated in March 2018.

Table 1: Early years population by age²

Age	2014	2016	2018	2019	2021	2023
Age 0	3600	3600	3600	3600	3600	3500
Age 1	3600	3400	3600	3600	3600	3600
Age 2	3700	3500	3600	3600	3600	3600
Age 3	3500	3600	3500	3600	3600	3600
Age 4*	3500	3700	3600	3500	3600	3600
Total:	17,900	17,800	17,900	17,900	18,000	17,900

* Some four-year-olds will have started reception

The GLA projections report that the early years population in Harrow has remained stable over the last few years and since the previous full sufficiency assessment released in 2018. It is expected to remain consistent for at least the next four years.

The data projections of the early years population on a ward level going out to 2023, also remain unchanged since the previous assessment. In summary most wards with the highest cohort of early years aged children are located in central Harrow (with one or two exceptions) and the wards with lowest cohort of early years aged children can generally be located in the north and west of Harrow. This correlates well to the overall populations of each ward.

- Wards with the highest early years population:
 - Greenhill
 - Marlborough
 - Wealdstone
 - Edgware
 - Roxbourne
- Wards with the lowest early years population
 - Hatch End
 - Pinner
 - Pinner South
 - Headstone North
- Wards with the greatest projected growth of the early years population (up to 2023):
 - Greenhill
 - Marlborough

² GLA population projections: The population projections have been rounded to the nearest 100

Therefore, overall expected demand for childcare by the early years age group in Harrow remains unchanged on a borough and ward level, with the most significant potential impacts on demand likely in and around the growth wards highlighted.

Population of school age children

In total there are 24,400 children aged 5-11, and 9,200 children aged 12-14 living in Harrow. These children may require childcare before and after school, and/or during the school holidays.

Table 2: Population by age³

Age	2014	2016	2018	2019	2021	2023
Age 5	3400	3500	3600	3600	3600	3600
Age 6	3400	3400	3700	3600	3500	3600
Age 7	3100	3300	3500	3700	3500	3600
Age 8	3000	3300	3400	3500	3600	3500
Age 9	3000	3000	3300	3400	3600	3500
Age 10	2900	3000	3300	3300	3500	3500
Age 11	2800	2900	3000	3300	3400	3600
Total 5-11:	21,600	22,400	23,800	24,400	24,700	24,900
Age 12	2700	2900	3000	3000	3300	3500
Age 13	2700	2800	3000	3000	3300	3400
Age 14	3000	2900	3100	3100	3200	3500
Total 12-14:	8,400	8,600	9,100	9,200	9800	10,400
Total 5-14:	30,000	31,000	32,900	33,600	34,500	35,300

Table Summary:

- The only change to the projected population of 5-14 year olds in Harrow since the updated GLA projections is an increase of 300 children in 2019.
- The school age population continues to increase at a steady rate as opposed to the early years population which remains fairly static.
- GLA population projections suggest a 4.8% increase in the 5-14 year old age group between 2019 and 2023.

³ GLA population projections: The population projections have been rounded to the nearest 100

Number of children with special educational needs and disabilities

Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are entitled to support with childcare up to the age of 18 (age 14 for children who do not have a special need or disability). The number of children with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan in our local authority is:

Table 3: Number of children with an EHC plan in Harrow⁴

Age	Number of children 2018	Number of children 2019
Birth to school age	104	95
Primary school (reception to year six)	562	604
Secondary school (year seven to thirteen)	742	864
Total:	1408	1563

The number of children with an EHC plan includes children and young people whose resident address is within the London Borough of Harrow. These numbers include children who attend provision outside the Harrow Local Authority area. These are children and young people for whom the London Borough of Harrow has a direct responsibility.

Table Summary:

- There were 9 fewer children in the early years age group (birth to school age) with an EHC plan in 2019 compared to 2018, representing an 8.7% reduction year on year
- School aged children with EHC plans increased in 2019 compared to 2018, most notably in secondary schools:
 - Primary school: +42 children (7% increase year on year)
 - Secondary school: +122 children (14% increase year on year)

Children's needs change over time and are identified at different ages. Among the youngest children, SEND may only be identified when they start in childcare or school, and it can take some time from needs being identified to an EHC plan being issued. Some children have SEND but do not have an EHC plan (or a 'Statement' which has been phased out and replaced by EHC plans). These children may have lower level needs than children on EHC plans; however they still require SEN support.

SEND within Early Years

In April 2017 an inclusion fund was introduced for funded 3 and 4 year old children within PVI settings (including childminders) and school nurseries who require SEND support. The number of claims received helps identify those children with SEND within funded PVI provision (as displayed in Table 4). The number of claims has increased since the fund was introduced and as marketing and awareness of the fund has broadened. Children with an EHC plan are also recorded by PVI settings. Inclusion funding has evolved since it's inception to encompass various strands including:

⁴ Harrow SEN2 statutory return January 2018 and 2019

- **Block Funding:** partnership bids between PVI settings, childminders and/or school nurseries to fund shared SEND projects/resources (*42 project bids during the 18/19 academic year - this was a temporary fund to utilise the previous year's underspend*).
- **Pathways to EHCP:** Targeted funding for children whose needs are such that parents and special educational needs co-ordinators believe they will need support until they are 25 years old. This fund allowed support for inclusion before applications for EHC plans, and ensured that robust assessments and support programmes were in place (*40 claims during the 18/19 academic year*).
- **Specific Child Fund:** for individual children with emerging needs identified across the 4 categories of SEND. The fund supports children with therapies and access to learning and development, for example via 1:1 support or supporting staff through training and mentoring (*1034 claims during the 18/19 academic year across all provider types – claims could be made on a termly basis*).

As of the Summer term 2019, these strands were streamlined into one Specific Child Fund, to simplify and refine the process.

SEND within PVI Settings

Table 4: Number and percentage of pupils in PVI settings by SEN provision⁵

Harrow SEN				
PVI Settings				
	2018		2019	
SEN Provision	Number of Pupils	% of Pupils	Number of Pupils	% of Pupils
SEN Support (Inclusion claims)	291	7.5%	359	8.6%
Statement/ EHCP	27	0.7%	22	0.5%
No SEN	3539	91.8%	3786	90.9%
Total	3857	100%	4167	100%

Table Summary:

- In Summer 2019, 4167 funded pupils were in PVI settings.
- 8.6% of funded pupils were on SEND support (1.1% increase year on year).
- 0.5% of funded pupils were SEND with an EHC plan (0.2% decrease year on year).
- 90.9% of funded pupils have no SEND (0.9% decrease year on year).

⁵ PVI funding headcount data and Early Years inclusion funding claims Summer 2018 and 2019

Chart 1: Number and percentage of pupils in PVI settings by SEN Primary Need

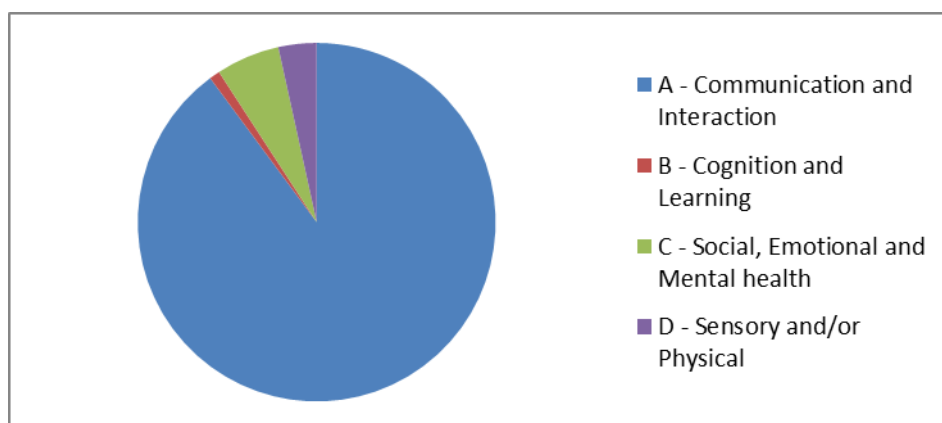


Chart Summary:

- The most common primary need of all funded SEND pupils in PVI settings is Communication and Interaction at 90%. This represents a 3% decrease year on year
- This is followed by:
 - Social, Emotional and Mental Health at 6% (2% increase year on year).
 - Sensory and/or Physical at 3% (1% increase year on year).
 - Cognition and Learning at 1% (no change year on year).

Harrow continues to offer a Disability Access Fund for funded 3 and 4 year olds in PVI childcare settings and school nurseries who are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance. This is a one off lump sum payment to support their learning and additional needs. There were 43 successful DAF claims made in the 18/19 academic year.

SEND within School Nursery and Reception

Table 5: Number and percentage of pupils in School Nursery by SEN provision⁶

Harrow SEN				
NCY Nursery (N1 & N2)				
SEN Provision	2018		2019	
	Number of Pupils	% of Pupils	Number of Pupils	% of Pupils
SEN Support	69	5.5%	88	6.9%
Statement/ EHCP	18	1.4%	18	1.4%
No SEN	1176	93.1%	1173	91.7%
Total	1263	100.0%	1279	100%

Table Summary:

- In January 2019, 1279 pupils were in School Nurseries.
- 6.9% of pupils were on SEND Support (88 pupils). This represents a 1.4% increase year on year

⁶ School Census 2018 and 2019

- 1.4% of pupils were SEND with a Statement/EHC plan (18 pupils), which is the same as in 2018.
- 91.7% of pupils have no SEND (1173 pupils). This represents a 1.4% decrease year on year.
- Overall, there are 106 SEND pupils in School Nurseries. This represents a 1.4% increase year on year.

Table 6: Number and percentage of pupils in Reception by SEN provision⁷

Harrow SEN				
NCY – Reception				
	2018		2019	
SEN Provision	Number of Pupils	% of Pupils	Number of Pupils	% of Pupils
SEN Support	262	8.2%	232	7.6%
Statement/ EHCP	63	2.0%	70	2.3%
No SEN	2882	89.9%	2760	90.1%
Total	3207	100.0%	3062	100%

Table Summary:

- In January 2019, 3062 pupils were in Reception classes.
- 7.6% of pupils were on SEND Support (232 pupils). This represents a 0.6% decrease year on year
- 2.3% of pupils were SEND with Statement/EHC plan (70 pupils). This represents a 0.3% increase year on year.
- 90.1% of pupils have no SEND (2760 pupils). This represents a 0.2% increase year on year.
- Overall, there are 302 SEND pupils in Reception classes. This represents a 0.2% decrease year on year.

The most common primary need of SEND Support pupils in School Nursery and Reception classes remains Speech, Language and Communication Needs. The most common primary need of SEND pupils with a Statement/EHCP in School Nursery and Reception classes remains Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Harrow Local Offer

The Harrow Local Offer is a focussed online resource providing a central point of information, advice and support in the local area about services for children and young people aged 0-25 with special educational needs and disabilities. It was created jointly by parents and professionals fulfilling the local authority's statutory requirements. Services and support are available across early years, education, employment and training, health, leisure and social care.

Promotion and awareness of the resource has steadily increased, with 32,617 visits to the website recorded between January 2018 and April 2019.⁸ It should be noted that counting

⁷ School Census 2018 and 2019

⁸ Harrow website team

may not have been as precise in earlier months, but analysis of the number of web hits found that there has been a considerable increase in visits from 966 a month in January 2018 to 3065 a month in April 2019. This indicates that efforts to spread awareness across services, has begun to have an impact.

Supply of childcare

Number of early years providers and places

In total, there are 289 childcare providers in Harrow, offering a maximum of 7,301 early years childcare places.

Table 7: Number of early years providers and places

Type of provision	Number of providers	Number of registered places
Childminders*	149	895
Nursery classes in schools	28	1430
Maintained nursery schools	1	81
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	111	4895
Total:	289	7301

The data in this table was correct on: 01 May 2019. * Some childminder places may also be available for older children.

For private, voluntary and independent nurseries and childminders, the number of registered places represents the maximum number of children who can be on the premises at any given time. In practice, many providers choose to operate below their number of registered places.

Children may attend childcare full time or part time. The table above records places for children who are attending full time, or for as many hours as the setting is open. In some cases, two or more children attending part time may use one full time equivalent place. For example, one child may attend in the morning and one child may attend in the afternoon.

Table Summary:

- Nursery classes in schools and maintained nursery schools offer 20.7% of all registered early years childcare places available in Harrow; however these places are for 3 and 4 year olds only.
- The private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector, offer the remaining 79.3% of early years childcare places, which are available across the early years age group (0-4 year olds). The PVI sector includes day nurseries (open through the day), pre-school/playgroups (open part-time), independent school nurseries and Ofsted registered childminders.
- Year on year, there has been a reduction of 13 early years providers all of which were from the PVI sector (mainly childminders), as displayed in table 8.

- Whilst the total number of early years providers has reduced slightly, the number of registered places available has increased by 97 year on year. Again most of the changes occurred within the PVI sector, as well as 10 additional places available within the one maintained nursery school.

Harrow had a total of 5,790 early year's childcare places for children within the PVI sector as of May 2019. These places are available through:

- 69 day nurseries making available 3,531 places for children aged 0-4 years (61% of all PVI places) and 35 playgroups/ pre-schools making available 1050 places for children aged 0-4 years (18.1% of all PVI places).
- 149 childminders making available 895 places for children aged 0-4 years (15.5% of all PVI places).
- 7 independent schools with under 5's nurseries making available 314 places for children aged 0-4 years (5.4% of all PVI places).

An overview of the location of early year's settings in Harrow is mapped in Figure 1.

Table 8: Number of PVI providers and places by year

Provision type	2018		2019	
	Number	Places	Number	Places
Day Nursery	67	3310	69	3531
Pre-school/Playgroup	38	1138	35	1050
Childminders	161	941	149	895
Independent School Nursery	7	314	7	314
Total:	273	5703	260	5790

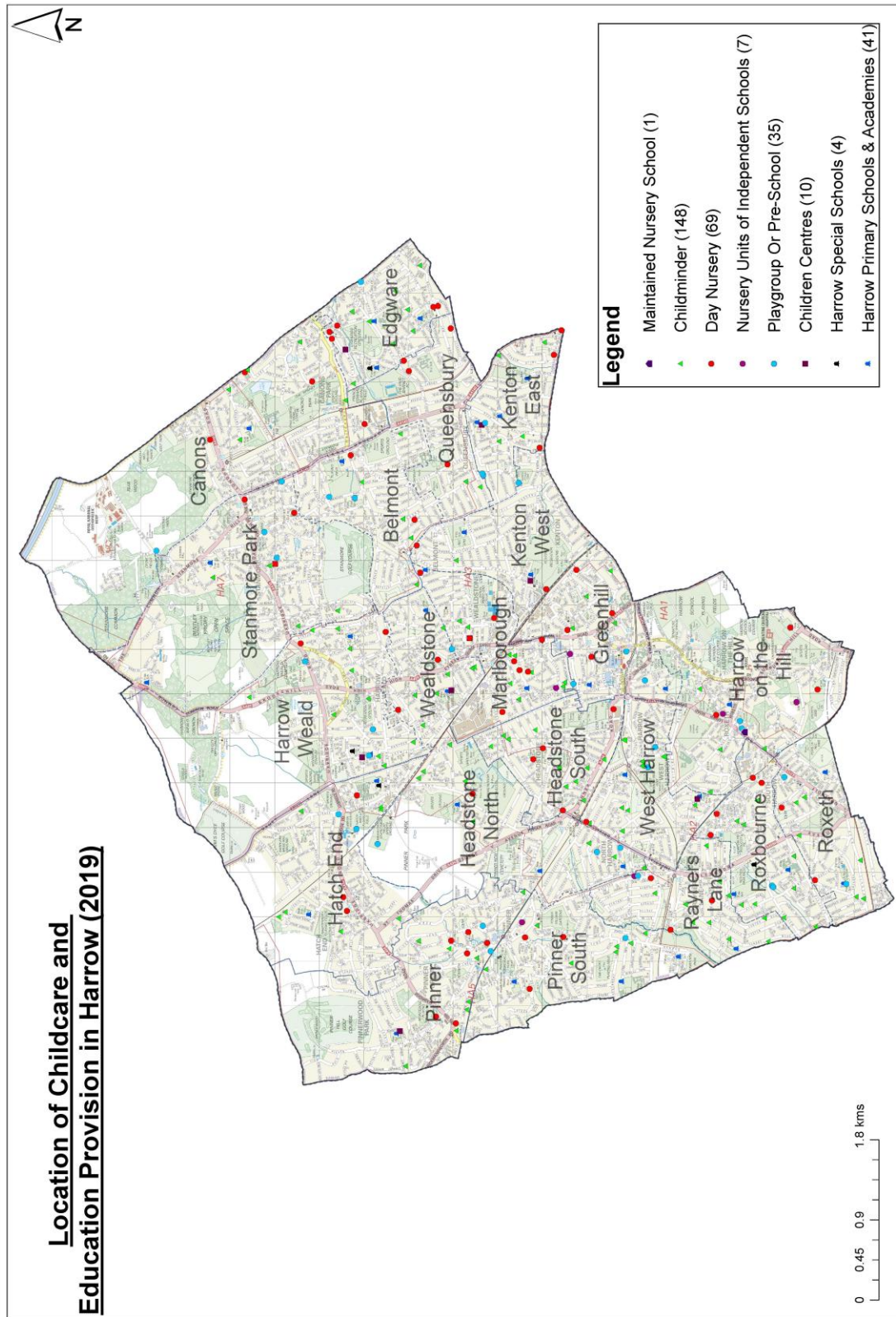
It is important to note, that the number of places are based on full-time equivalent places. Some places are sessional so 1 full-time place could in theory serve 2 children.

Table Summary:

- The total number of PVI providers in Harrow has reduced by 13 in the past year. This continues the trend of declining numbers since 2015.
 - There has been a reduction of 3 pre-school/playgroups and 12 childminders in the past year.
 - Growth in the number of day nurseries has continued with an increase of 2 providers within the past year.
 - There has been no change to the numbers of independent school nurseries.
- Whilst the total number of PVI providers continues to decrease, the overall number of places available within them continues to increase, although at a slower rate than previously. There has been an increase of 87 childcare places between 2018 and 2019, representing 1.5% overall growth in the past year, further to 11.3% growth in the previous 3 years:
 - 6.3% increase in the number of places available within day nurseries.
 - 7.7% decrease in the number of places available within preschool/playgroups.

- 4.9% decrease in the number of places available within childminding settings.
- No change to the number of places available within independent school nurseries.
- Over the past year, day nurseries have seen a 3% increase in their overall share of places available within the PVI market. Conversely the market share of pre-school/playgroup and childminding places available continues to fall.

Figure 1: Location of early years settings in Harrow



Ward Overview

In the full Childcare Sufficiency Assessment produced in 2018, a ward analysis of the supply of PVI childcare was carried out, identifying provider numbers, places and types by ward. A brief overview, summarising the key findings and any changes identified since the previous assessment is provided below:

- The 5 wards with the largest supply of PVI childcare places remain unchanged:
 - Marlborough, Pinner, Edgware, Pinner South and Greenhill.
 - Marlborough remains the ward with the highest number of places.
 - These wards can generally be found in central and west Harrow with the exception of Edgware.
- The 5 wards with the lowest supply of PVI childcare places remain unchanged:
 - Wealdstone, Canons, Queensbury, West Harrow and Roxeth.
 - Wealdstone remains the ward with the lowest number of places.
 - These wards are scattered throughout the borough with no regional trend.
- Of the 21 Harrow wards, 9 experienced growth in the supply of PVI childcare places and 10 experienced losses, with the remaining 2 wards remaining unchanged.
- There is no identifiable pattern to the location of those wards which experienced growth or losses.
- The changes in the supply of places were generally insignificant, however 4 wards experienced increases of 30 places or more and 3 wards experienced losses of 30 places or more:
 - Increases greater than 30 places and annual percentage growth:
 - Marlborough: 75 places (14.5% growth)
 - Roxbourne: 44 places (12.8% growth)
 - Harrow on the Hill: 30 places (9% growth)
 - Stanmore Park: 30 places (8.2% growth)
 - Losses greater than 30 places and annual percentage reduction:
 - Canons: 44 places (24% reduction)
 - Belmont: 36 places (16.7% reduction)
 - Greenhill: 32 places (7.6% reduction)
- The wards with the lowest number of PVI childcare providers remain as Kenton West and Queensbury, with a total of 5 providers each.
- All wards contain childminders, day nurseries and pre-school/playgroups with the exception of Headstone South and Marlborough, which have no pre-schools operating.

Early years vacancies

Table 9: Early years vacancies

Type of provision	Number of providers	Number of providers with vacancies
Childminders	149	30
Nursery classes in schools	28	21*
Maintained nursery schools	1	0
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	111	42

Data in this table was correct on 01 May 2019. *As reported in the School Census January 2019

A vacancy is a place that could realistically be used by a child and can be full or part-time. Vacancy rates are a snapshot, and often change rapidly. In some cases, providers may have a vacancy which is only available for a specific age group, or for a particular part time arrangement. (We ask providers to report vacancies to us so we can help promote them. Not all choose to do this, so vacancy rates may be higher than recorded). In general, vacancy rates are higher in the autumn, when many children move to school.

Table Summary:

- 20% of childminders reported having vacancies available.
- 75% of nursery classes in schools had vacancies available in January 2019. Several of these only had one or two places available and were close to capacity
- No vacancies were available within the one Harrow maintained nursery school.
- 38% of private, voluntary and independent nurseries reported having vacancies available.
- The vacancy rates remain the same as those recorded in the 2018 sufficiency assessment apart from a 4% reduction in childminders reporting vacancies.

Number of school age providers and places

In total, there are 53 providers of childcare for school age children during term time, and 12 providers of childcare for school age children during the holidays. There are also 149 childminders who may provide care for school age children.

Table 10: Number of school age providers and places

Type of provision	Number of providers	Number of registered places
Breakfast club – primary school	15	508
After-school club – primary school	27	856
Breakfast club – secondary school	3	140
After-school club – secondary school	2	150
Breakfast club – other	1	40
After-school club – other	5	181
Childminders	149	895
Holiday club	12	420

Tracking supply of childcare for school age children is difficult because not all of this type of provision is registered with Ofsted. Some schools may also have out of school club provision under the school's own Ofsted registration. Most of these clubs are only available to children attending the schools and therefore they do not wish to promote or advertise these places outside of the school. Therefore, it is possible that we have under-counted the provision of breakfast and after school clubs and holiday clubs.

Table 10 Summary:

- The majority of breakfast and after school clubs operate within primary schools, catering for primary school aged children, with significantly lower availability within secondary schools. However there have been notable changes to school age childcare provision over the past year, summarised below:
 - The number of childcare providers for school age children has increased from 39 to 53. The 14 new providers represent 26% annual growth in the market.
 - Most new providers have opened within primary schools:
 - 8 new after school clubs (20.8% growth in places available)
 - 2 breakfast clubs (17.7% growth in places available)
 - There are now 2 after school clubs operating from secondary schools, with 1 new provider opening in the past year. The number of breakfast clubs in secondary schools remains unchanged at 3.
- There are 5 after school clubs registered with Ofsted that also cater for school aged children but do not run from school premises. 2 new providers have opened in the past year. 1 new Ofsted registered breakfast club that does not run from school premises has also opened in the past year.
- The number of childminders and places available has reduced over the past year, potentially affecting the availability for school aged children.
- There are 12 Ofsted registered holiday clubs in Harrow offering childcare places for school aged children. This is the same number as last year, however the number of places available within them has reduced by 28 (6% loss). Parents may also use provision which is not considered 'childcare', for example sports or arts clubs, after school or in the holidays.

Funded early education

Proportion of 2 year old children entitled to funded early education

In Harrow, 27% of 2 year olds are entitled to funded early education, the same as recorded the previous year. This equates to around 960 children per year in 2018.

Take up of funded early education

The proportion of eligible children taking up their funded place (for at least some of the available hours) in Harrow is displayed in Table 11.

Table 11: Proportion of eligible children taking up their funded place in Harrow⁹

Age	% of eligible children	
	2018*	2019
Age 2	58%	57%
Age 3 and 4	87%	87%
3 year olds	83%	83%
4 year olds	91%	92%

*The DfE 2018 figures have been revised up by 1% for 3 and 4 year old funding since the figures presented in the 2018 full CSA.

Table Summary:

- 57% of eligible 2 year olds are taking up their funded place, leaving 43% who are not accessing their entitlement (*The 57% take-up figure is taken from Harrow funding headcount data as it is more current and accurate than the 52% take-up rate listed by the DfE*). There has been a 1% decrease in take-up since 2018.
- 87% of eligible 3 and 4 year olds are taking up their funded place, consistent with 2018. 13% of 3 and 4 year olds are not accessing their entitlement
 - 17% of 3 year olds are not taking up their funded place
 - 8% of 4 year olds are not taking up their funded place

It should be noted that a proportion of those children not accessing their funded entitlements in Harrow, may well be doing so out of borough. Previous analysis of 3 and 4 year old funded take-up indicated that more Harrow children were taking up their entitlement out of borough than out of borough 3 and 4 year olds accessing their funded places in Harrow. It should also be noted that nursery attendance is not compulsory.

Table 12: Regional and national take up comparisons¹⁰

Age	Take-up: % of eligible children							
	Harrow		Outer London		London		England	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
Age 2	58%	57%	63%	56%	61%	56%	72%	68%
Age 3 and 4	87%	87%	88%	86%	85%	84%	94%	94%
3 year olds	83%	83%	85%	84%	83%	82%	92%	92%
4 year olds	91%	92%	90%	89%	87%	86%	95%	95%

*all Outer London and London 2018 figures have been revised up by 1% for 3 and 4 year old funding from the figures presented in the 2018 full CSA.

Table Summary:

- **2 year olds:** Take up of funded places in Harrow has fallen by 1% over the past year but is now above regional comparators rather than below them as recorded in 2018. However it remains below the national average:
 - 1% above the outer London borough average (which has dropped by 7%)

⁹ Department for Education: Provision for children under 5 years of age January 2019 & Harrow headcount data

¹⁰ Department for Education: Provision for children under 5 years of age January 2019 & Harrow headcount data

- 1% above the London average (which has dropped by 5%)
- 11% below the national average
- **3 and 4 year olds:** Take up of funded places in Harrow remains above the London average and is now also above the outer London average, as opposed to below it as recorded in 2018. However it remains below the national average:
 - 1% above the outer London borough average
 - 3% above the London average
 - 7% below the national average
- **3 year olds:** Take-up of funded places in Harrow is above the London average but remains below the outer London and national averages:
 - 1% below the outer London borough average
 - 1% above the London average
 - 9% below the national average
- **4 year olds:** Take-up of funded places in Harrow remains above the outer London and London averages, but below the national average:
 - 3% above the outer London borough average
 - 6% above the London average
 - 3% below the national average

Providers offering funded early education places

Providers are paid directly by government for delivering funded early education. They are not required to offer it to parents, but of course parents may choose to use a different provider if they do not. Some providers offer a restricted number of funded places.

Table 13: Providers offering funded early education places

Type of provision	Number of providers	Age 2 targeted	Age 3 and 4 universal 15 hours	Age 3 and 4 extended 30 hours
Childminders	149	34%	46%	38%
State school nurseries	28	0%	100%	39%
Maintained nursery schools	1	100%	100%	100%
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	111	80%	100%	69%

Table Summary:

- **2 year old funding:** There are 140 childcare providers offering 2 year old funded places across all provision types, an increase of 4 providers year on year:
 - 100% of maintained nursery schools (1 provider)
 - 80% of PVI nurseries (89 providers): 1% increase in the PVI provider base year on year
 - 34% of childminders (50 providers): 5% increase in the childminder provider base year on year

- 0% of state school nurseries (0 providers)
- **3 and 4 year old universal 15 hours:** There are 209 providers offering 3 and 4 year old funded places for the universal 15 hours across all provision types, an increase of 7 providers year on year:
 - 100% of maintained nursery schools (1 provider)
 - 100% of PVI nurseries (111 providers)
 - 100% of state school nurseries (28 providers)
 - 46% of childminders (69 providers): 8% increase in the childminder provider base year on year
- **3 and 4 year old extended 30 hours:** There are 146 providers offering 3 and 4 year old funded places for the extended 30 hours across all provision types, an increase of 21 providers year on year:
 - 100% of maintained nursery schools (1 provider)
 - 69% of PVI nurseries (77 providers): 6% increase in the PVI provider base year on year
 - 39% of state school nurseries (11 providers): 10% increase in the state school nursery provider base year on year
 - 38% of childminders (57 providers): 10% increase in the childminder provider base year on year

Extended entitlement – 30 hours funding

There have been two academic years or 6 school terms since the national roll-out of the extended hours or 30 hours entitlement in September 2017. The entitlement targeted working parents, enabling those that qualify to claim an additional 15 extended hours in addition to the universal 15 hours entitlement.

When applying online via the Government's Childcare Support website, eligible parents are issued with eligibility codes, which they give to childcare providers in order for them to validate and claim the extended hours funding. Data is available on the number of eligibility codes issued and validated, and the number of 3 and 4 year olds accessing an extended hours place. The 2018 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment provided an analysis of the first year's take-up after roll-out. The update in table 14 provides an indication of demand and take-up and changes over the two years since roll-out:

Table 14: Extended hours take-up in Harrow¹¹

School term	Eligibility codes issued	Codes validated (number)	Codes validated (%)	Children accessing an extended hours place	Children accessing an extended hours place as a percentage of codes issued
Autumn 2017	695	525	76%	542	78%
Spring 2018	1102	921	84%	830	75%
Summer 2018	1278	1116	87%	1040	81%
Autumn 2018	856	768	90%	718	84%
Spring 2019	1170	1011	86%	993	85%
Summer 2019*	1398	1205	86%	1167	83%

This table excludes codes issued and validated for reception aged children as it is expected they will be in reception and therefore ineligible for 30 hours free childcare. Codes issued relate to the Local Authority where the parent is resident. Codes validated relate to the Local Authority where the code was checked. These are not always the same, therefore it is possible for the number of codes validated to exceed the number issued. Additionally, the number of children accessing a place will include 4 year olds of reception age (who have deferred their reception place) who are excluded from the codes issued figures.

Table Summary:

- It is clear that the number of eligibility codes issued and validated and the number of children accessing an extended hours place, is lowest in autumn terms and highest in summer terms. This mirrors take-up of universal funding for 3 and 4 year olds.
- Children accessing an extended hours place as a percentage of codes issued has increased and has been more consistent this academic year (2018/19) when compared to the first year of roll-out (2017/18).
- When comparing like for like terms, for example autumn 2018 with autumn 2017, there are consistent increases in the number of eligibility codes issued and validated and in the number of children accessing an extended hours place.
- Children accessing an extended hours place:
 - autumn 17 to autumn 18 – 25% increase
 - spring 18 to spring 19 – 16% increase
 - summer 18 to summer 19 – 11% increase

The difference between the number of eligibility codes issued and the number of children taking up an extended hours place can partly be explained by those taking it up outside of the borough. Also, parents' circumstances may change whereby they no longer wish to use the extended hours.

¹¹ Department for Education: 30 hours free childcare codes issued and validated and Harrow early education funding headcount data

Table 15: Extended hours take-up: regional and national comparisons¹²

	Codes validated (%)			Children accessing an extended hours place as a percentage of codes issued		
	Autumn 18	Spring 19	Summer 19	Autumn 18	Spring 19	Summer 19
Harrow	90%	86%	86%	84%	85%	83%
Outer London	91%	90%	88%	93%	87%	86%
London	91%	90%	89%	95%	89%	88%
England	95%	95%	94%	94%	92%	90%

Table Summary:

- **Codes Validated:** Harrow recorded a lower percentage of codes validated across all three terms when compared to the outer London borough average, London average and national average. This continues the trend from the previous academic year, however the gap between Harrow and regional comparators remains small:
 - Between 1-4% lower than outer London and London over the academic year
 - Between 5-9% lower than England over the academic year
- **Children accessing an extended hours place as a percentage of codes issued:** Harrow continues to record a lower percentage when compared to the outer London average, London average and national average:
 - Between 2-11% lower than outer London and London over the academic year, with the largest gap in the autumn term, but a much smaller gap in spring and summer.
 - Between 7-10% lower than England over the academic year.
 - The percentages for Harrow are relatively consistent with only a 2% deviation across the three terms, whereas outer London and London experience greater fluctuations when comparing the autumn term against spring and summer.

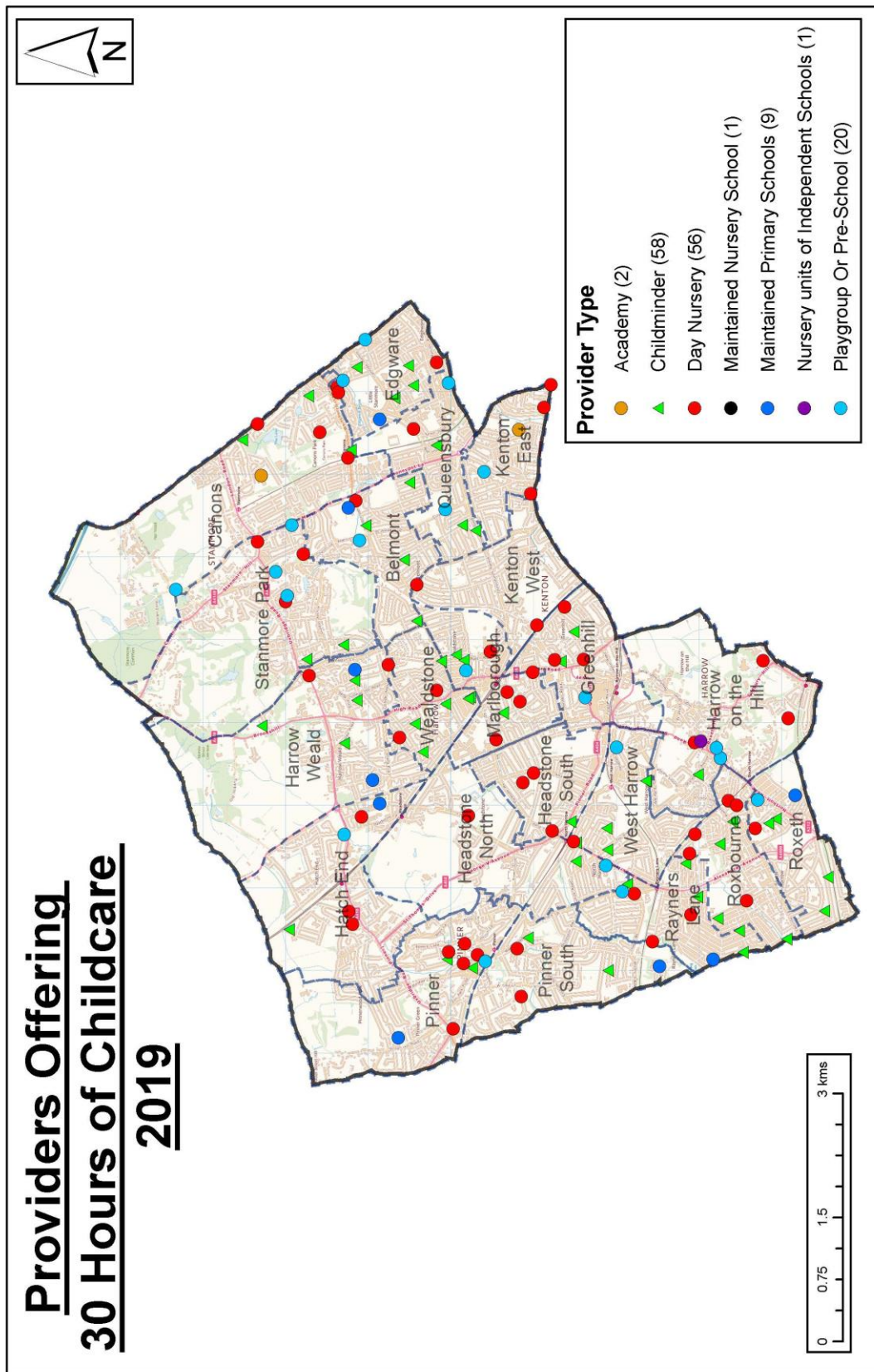
A cross-borough funding analysis in the 2018 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment identified that a greater number of Harrow 3 and 4 year olds access their extended hours entitlement in neighbouring boroughs when compared to the number of out of borough 3 and 4 year olds accessing it in Harrow. Codes issued in Harrow are validated out of borough when the entitlement is accessed outside of Harrow. These factors may partly account for the gap between Harrow and regional comparators in the percentage of codes validated and children accessing an extended hours place as a percentage of codes issued.

Providers offering extended hours

There are 147 providers offering approximately 1302, 30 hour or extended hour places as at May 2019, an increase of 22 providers and 223 places in the past year. The providers are mapped on Figure 2.

¹² Department for Education: 30 hours free childcare codes issued and validated and Harrow early education funding headcount data

Figure 2: Map of Providers offering extended hours places (30 hours)



Quality of childcare

Ofsted inspection grades

All childcare providers must register with and be inspected by Ofsted, who give them an overall grade for the quality of their provision. Childminders and private and voluntary providers are on the Early Years Register, and schools and standalone maintained nursery schools are on the Schools register. The grades for both registers are equivalent. Schools with nurseries have an overall inspection grade for the whole school and most also have a separate early years grade. Some settings are registered with the Independent Schools Inspectorate, which inspects under a different framework.

Both schools and early years providers have four possible Ofsted grades: 'outstanding', 'good', 'requires improvement', and 'inadequate'.¹³ Some providers are still awaiting their first full inspection. These providers are excluded from our calculation.

Table 16: Childcare provider inspection outcomes (May 2019)

Type of provision	Total number of providers (excluding those not yet inspected and those with 'Met' or 'Not Met' outcomes)		% achieving good or outstanding	
	2018	2019	2018	2019
Childminders	98	90	89%	94%
Nursery classes in schools *	26	23	96%	100%
Maintained nursery schools	1	1	100%	100%
Private and voluntary nurseries	95	98	98%	99%
Total	220	212	94%	97%

* early years grade if available, otherwise overall school grade

Table Summary:

- Overall, 97% (206 out of 212 providers) of inspected early years childcare providers in Harrow are graded 'good' or outstanding' by Ofsted. This represents an improvement of 3% year on year.
- Quality remains highest in maintained and school nurseries and PVI settings all of which have at least 99% of providers achieving 'good' or 'outstanding' Ofsted grades. Quality of childminding provision remains slightly lower.
- Over the past year, all early years provider types have experienced further improvements in quality or retained their quality (in the case of the one maintained nursery school):
 - 5% increase in 'good' or 'outstanding' childminders
 - 4% increase in 'good' or 'outstanding' nursery classes in schools
 - 1% increase in 'good' or 'outstanding' PVI settings

¹³ For more information see <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/about-our-inspection-reports>

Providers with met/not met grade

- When providers do not have any children on site at the time of their inspection, they are given an Ofsted grade of ‘met’ or ‘not met’. This shows whether they are meeting the requirements for Ofsted registration.
- In Harrow ‘met’ or ‘not met’ grades have only been issued to childminders. At present, we have 29 childminders with a ‘met’ grade and 7 childminders with a ‘not met’ grade. Those with ‘not met’ grades are issued with actions to put in place in order to meet Ofsted requirements and improve their practice.

National and regional comparisons

Table 17: Regional comparisons of quality¹⁴

% of providers ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’	Harrow		London		England	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
Childminders	89%	94%	90%	92%	94%	95%
Nursery classes in schools	96%	100%	95%	93%	90%	87%
Maintained nursery schools	100%	100%	99%	97%	98%	98%
Private and voluntary nurseries	98%	99%	92%	95%	95%	97%

It should be noted that regional data on inspection outcomes specifically for nursery classes within schools is not available. Data for primary school outcomes has been used instead, as their grading will most likely be the same as for the nursery classes within them, although not all primary schools have nursery classes attached.

Table Summary:

- Harrow continues to have a higher percentage of ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’ nursery classes in schools, maintained nursery schools and PVI nurseries than both the regional figures for London and national figures for England:
 - Nursery classes in schools: 7% higher than London and 13% higher than England. The gap between Harrow and regional/national figures has widened, with Harrow experiencing an increase in quality whilst London and England have experienced a decrease in quality over the past year.
 - Maintained nursery schools: 3% higher than London and 2% higher than England.
 - PVI nurseries: 4% higher than London and 2% higher than England.
- The percentage of ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’ childminders in Harrow is now 2% higher than in London, as opposed to 1% lower a year ago. However, it remains slightly lower than the national figure by 1%.

¹⁴ Ofsted childcare providers and inspections as at 31 March 2019: London & England

Quality Funding Supplement

As part of Harrow's Early Years Single Funded Formula, a 'quality' funding supplement is awarded to early years childcare settings, including school nursery/reception classes and funded PVI providers and childminders. A more in depth summary in regards to how this supplement is defined and applied is covered in the full Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2018.

In the past year, Harrow has considered the significant feedback received around workforce development and has incorporated an option to reduce the quality supplement, in order to pool a fund. This has enabled the establishment of an Early Years Learning Partnership Group, managed by PVI's, Childminders and maintained schools with nurseries to support system leadership and workforce development. This provided an opportunity to launch a program to support staff retention and development, review best practice across settings with peer to peer and leadership program partnerships and allow providers to have funding to manage and maintain their own workforce development, including subscriptions, training and peer to peer reviews. The cumulative impact is intended to help maintain the overall quality of early years provision in Harrow.

Methodology: sources of data

- Number of children: based on GLA population projections from the London Data Store.
- Children with EHC plans: based on data held by our local authority. SEND data from Harrow Early Years Team and internal funding headcount data.
- Supply of childcare: based on data provided to us by Ofsted, who regulate early years provision in schools and childcare provision.
- Vacancy rates: obtained through feedback from providers via email and phone further to regular local authority requests for vacancy information.
- Funded early education: data on take up of funded early education entitlements is based on the Early Years and Schools Censuses, which are taken every January and published by the Department for Education in the statistical collection *Education provision: children under five years of age*. Internal funding headcount data is also used. Data on entitlement to a funded early education place for 2 year olds is provided by the Department for Work and Pensions.
- Quality of childcare: data on childcare quality is provided by Ofsted.