

# **Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Annual Report 2025**



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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.'<sup>1</sup> 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 2025 annual update further to the full Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) published in 2024. In this report, we have used data on the need for childcare and the amount of childcare available, maintaining core measures utilised in previous assessments for comparative purposes. This update will identify key findings and highlight any changes over the past year using baseline data. We use information about childcare sufficiency to plan our work supporting the local childcare economy.

This annual update also sets out strategies the London Borough of Harrow have implemented to address and mitigate potential risks to sufficiency identified in last years' full sufficiency report produced by Coram Family & Childcare. This covers challenges affecting the demand for childcare, supply of childcare and take-up of early education funding entitlements.

## Executive Summary

- There continues to be a sufficient supply of childcare provision to meet current levels of demand in most areas. The greatest risk to sufficiency is the expansion of early education and childcare funding entitlements from September 2025, which will lead to an increase in demand for more funded hours. With over half of early years providers increasing fees over the past year, parents/carers ability to afford childcare may be impacted, potentially affecting demand for non-funded childcare in some areas.
- The decline of the early years population in recent years has slowed and is projected to remain relatively stable for the rest of the decade. Using population projections in isolation would suggest little fluctuation in the overall demand for childcare is expected. However, a considerable proportion of providers indicated an increase in demand for places this year, most likely due to the phased expansion of funding entitlements to younger children of working families in April and September 2024, resulting in more funded children.
- The total number of early years childcare providers continues to decline. The number of childcare places available has also fallen, for the first time since 2022. Both childminding and PVI nursery provision have reduced over the past year. Most of the nurseries that have closed have cited an inability to fill places as being the main reason, reflecting changes in demand for provision in their areas. Provider feedback was slightly more negative than previously, with increased uncertainty around

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-education-and-childcare--2/early-education-and-childcare-effective-from-1-april-2025>

sustainability and a slight increase in PVI nurseries reporting severe financial difficulties. Conversely, fewer childminders reported severe financial difficulties than previously. Cost of living pressures remain a significant burden and difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff also continue. The expanded funding entitlements may have also resulted in fewer fee-paying children, with more than half of providers believing the current funding rate is insufficient and has decreased sustainability. The charging of additional extras such as consumables, extracurricular activities and nappies must be optional. Recent DfE guidance has affirmed this stance reducing the opportunities for providers to generate income.

- Harrow Families Information Service (FIS) shares local data on childcare sufficiency, identifying any gaps in provision with prospective providers, to help address any shortfalls and encourage new provision where it is most needed. Targeted support around business and operational modelling, financial sustainability and staff retention continues to be offered via the Local Authority. A local campaign drive to encourage childminding as a profession is also being implemented.
- The quality of provision within the early years' sector has improved over the past year. Improvements have been made in both the childminding and PVI nursery sectors, whilst the quality of school-based nursery provision remains unchanged. The quality of childminding provision matches national standards and now exceeds regional standards. The quality of PVI provision is just behind regional and national comparators and school-based nursery provision in Harrow remains at or above regional and national figures. Targeted support is provided to settings judged less than 'good' by Ofsted, whilst resources, training and provider forums continue to support all provision. The Early Years Learning Partnership (EYLP) also offer peer-to-peer support and focus resources on addressing the quality of provision.
- There continues to be a sufficient supply of childcare provision to meet demand for funded places. Provider participation in offering the funding entitlements continues to increase. There has been a significant increase in the number of funded children further to the expansion of working parent entitlements to younger children. So far, supply has kept pace with demand. Previously projected shortfalls of provision have not materialised, however further shortfalls are predicted for the increase in funded hours for these entitlements from September 2025. Childcare expansion capital grant funding has been allocated to providers to address these gaps, with a focus on wards identified as having the greatest need. Capital funding for school-based nursery expansion will also increase capacity. A school in Rayners Lane ward, where shortfalls of funded places have been identified, successfully bid for funds to create a new nursery offering funded places for children under 3.
- Take-up of the 2 year old funding entitlement for families receiving additional support remains low and has reduced further over the past year. Regional and national figures have also fallen considerably and although take-up in Harrow remains below both comparators, the gap has narrowed slightly. Actual numbers of 2 year-olds accessing this entitlement have also fallen as their population and cohort of eligible children have decreased. Since the expansion of 2 year old funding to include children of eligible working families, some parents qualify under both criteria, resulting in a small but not insignificant proportion claiming funding under the working parent entitlement instead of the additional support entitlement. This has contributed to the reduction in take-up figures reported both locally and nationally. The DfE are implementing strategies to enable local authorities to identify families eligible under both criteria in order for the correct entitlements to be applied in future. Renewed efforts to promote this entitlement to families and professionals working with eligible

children have been implemented with the addition of regular outreach sessions at Family Hubs in the borough.

- The take-up of universal funded early education for 3 and 4 year-olds has decreased over the past year and is now at the lowest level since this indicator has been reported in the borough. This mirrors regional and national trends, although take-up in Harrow remains below both and has been declining since 2020. The fall in total numbers of 3 and 4 year-olds accessing the universal entitlement reflects the recent decline in population of this cohort. Take-up for this entitlement was previously reported as being considerably higher and increasing, however revised population estimates used for the most recent DfE data release have resulted in lower past and current take-up rates with a declining trend. There is enhanced focus on promoting funding entitlements to families and professionals to improve take-up.
- A recent review of childcare provision for school aged childcare has revealed larger numbers of providers and places available than previously reported. Holiday club provision also continues to grow. Funding from the national wraparound childcare programme has been allocated to create new breakfast and/or after school club provision in primary schools where provision was previously unavailable, enhance capacity of existing provision and extend opening times. This investment should ensure sufficient provision going forward. A declining school aged population should also place less pressure on provision for this cohort, assuming current levels of supply and demand remain stable.
- Priority wards have traditionally been identified as those with low numbers of childcare places, those with large early years populations but low to average numbers of places or those with large projected growth. Canons, Wealdstone North and Rayners Lane remain the wards with the lowest number of childcare places available, however they contain low to average cohorts of early years children. Wealdstone South also has a low number of places but with an average population which is projected to grow. It only has 4 providers operating, limiting parental choice. The ward with the least choice is Kenton West, with only 2 providers operating, offering a limited number of places. Marlborough and Greenhill already contain considerable cohorts of early years children and are projected to experience significant population growth over the next 5 years. Both are at the centre of ongoing re-development in the heart of Harrow which is likely to increase demand for childcare. Although existing levels of provision are healthy in these wards, supply has been decreasing in recent years so needs to be tracked closely. These findings continue to be highlighted to enquirers interested in setting up new provision and existing providers seeking to expand, in order to encourage new provision in these priority wards. Most of these wards were also projected to have shortfalls of funded places for children under 3 years old from September 2025. Therefore, capital funds allocated to providers in these wards should help increase overall capacity and go some way to alleviating gaps in provision.
- There are several wards with a limited choice of provider types for parents/carers. Centenary, Marlborough, Rayners Lane and Kenton West have no pre-school provision and Kenton West remains the only ward with no childminders operating.
- Childcare for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) is available in Harrow. The proportion of children requiring SEND support in early years provision, school nursery and reception class has fallen slightly over the past year. The proportion with an EHCP has remained relatively stable in PVI and school nursery provision but has increased in school reception. The primary need for the

majority of children requiring SEND support remains communication and interaction. Promotional strategies have been implemented in an attempt to improve awareness of childcare provision and funding entitlements to parents/carers of children with SEND. Funding has been allocated to 10 SEND Champion settings in the PVI sector to increase provision and meet demand for children with SEND. These settings will provide support and guidance to neighboring providers around best practice. The Harrow Early Years SEND Team also continue to support early years' childcare providers in meeting the needs of children with SEND. They deliver SENIF funding which supports and enables SEND children to access learning and make progress across all early learning goals, SEND surgeries to support providers in identifying need and collate termly SEND registers to ensure children are tracked and supported accordingly. The Early Years SEND Team continues to track the progress of all children supported through this fund and aids their transition into school.

## Demand for childcare

### Population of early years children

In total, there are approximately 15,342 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) 2022 based demographic projections, produced in May 2024.

*Table 1: Early years population by age<sup>2</sup>*

Age	2022	2024	2025	2027	2029	2031
Age 0	3341	3150	3143	3153	3175	3196
Age 1	3065	3035	3101	3097	3108	3131
Age 2	3250	3204	2990	3049	3056	3075
Age 3	3072	2988	3134	3002	2996	3006
Age 4*	3199	3178	2974	2921	2975	2980
<b>Total:</b>	<b>15,927</b>	<b>15,555</b>	<b>15,342</b>	<b>15,222</b>	<b>15,310</b>	<b>15,388</b>

\* Some four-year-olds will have started reception

The GLA projections report that the early years population in Harrow continues to decline, with a projected minimum figure expected in 2027. It is then projected to remain relatively stable, with perhaps a very slow rate of growth towards the new decade.

The GLA borough preferred option (BPO) borough and ward population projections incorporate housing development forecasts, births, deaths and migration data (each projection is run with 2 migration scenarios). The most recent projections are presented in Tables 1 and 2.

In 2022 the Harrow electoral ward boundaries changed, which included an increase from 21 to 22 wards. Wards with the highest and lowest early years cohorts remain largely unchanged since 2023 when the new ward boundaries were first reported on. A brief overview of these is outlined below<sup>3</sup>:

<sup>2</sup> GLA 2022-based demographic projections (May 2024)

<sup>3</sup> GLA 2022-based demographic projections - ward population (May 2024)

- Wards with the highest early years population:
  - Edgware
  - Greenhill
  - Headstone
  - Roxeth
  - Centenary
- Wards with the lowest early years population
  - Rayners Lane
  - Belmont
  - North Harrow
  - Canons
  - Kenton West
- Wards with appreciable projected growth of the early years' population (up to 2031):
  - Marlborough (49% projected growth)
  - Greenhill (17% projected growth)

Wards with the highest and lowest early years cohorts remain largely unchanged since 2023 when the new ward boundaries were first reported on. Although there are less discernible geographic areas of high and low populations than prior to the ward boundary changes, there are small pockets of higher populations in the far east of the borough bordering Barnet and Brent, and also in central Harrow. Wards with the lowest early years populations are more scattered through the borough with localised pockets in the northeast and southwest.

Marlborough and Greenhill are the only wards expected to experience appreciable growth of the early years population (greater than 15%) by 2031 and they already have sizeable cohorts. Both fall within the central Harrow re-development zone. Canons was previously identified as a ward with significant expected growth, however the reverse is now true, with a small decline expected by 2031. There are twice as many wards with a projected decline in the early years population by 2031, compared to those with projected growth, however on the whole only minor deviations are expected.

Therefore, overall expected demand for childcare by the early years age group in Harrow looks set to remain relatively stable over the next several years. The most significant potential impacts on demand are likely in and around the growth wards of Marlborough and Greenhill. This assumption is based on population projections only.

## **Population of school age children**

In total there are approximately 22,128 children aged 5-11, and 10,157 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 age<sup>4</sup>*

Age	2022	2024	2025	2027	2029	2031
Age 5	3238	3069	3147	3080	2961	2958
Age 6	3222	3176	3042	2926	2868	2926
Age 7	3219	3211	3160	3090	3018	2919
Age 8	3223	3229	3197	3021	2903	2850
Age 9	3302	3219	3212	3126	3047	2982
Age 10	3256	3200	3193	3147	2978	2864
Age 11	3320	3284	3177	3162	3069	2994
<b>Total 5-11:</b>	<b>22,780</b>	<b>22,388</b>	<b>22,128</b>	<b>21,552</b>	<b>20,844</b>	<b>20,493</b>
Age 12	3229	3277	3290	3174	3122	2968
Age 13	3454	3401	3320	3224	3208	3114
Age 14	3424	3458	3547	3475	3360	3310
<b>Total 12-14:</b>	<b>10,107</b>	<b>10,136</b>	<b>10,157</b>	<b>9,873</b>	<b>9,690</b>	<b>9,392</b>
<b>Total 5-14:</b>	<b>32,887</b>	<b>32,524</b>	<b>32,285</b>	<b>31,425</b>	<b>30,534</b>	<b>29,885</b>

Table Summary:

- The school age population continues to decline, with the rate of decline expected to increase during the second half of the decade.
- The 5-11 year old age group is expected to fall steadily, continuing the trend of the past few years. Conversely, the 12-14 year old age group has been relatively stable over the past few years, even increasing very slightly, but is now also expected to fall steadily over the next several years.

### 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 Plan (EHCP) in our Local Authority is:

*Table 3: Number of children 0-18 with an EHC plan in Harrow<sup>5</sup>*

Age	Number of children 2024	Number of children 2025
Birth to school age	16	48
Primary school (reception to year six)	884	1179
Secondary school (year seven to thirteen)	1043	1163
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1943</b>	<b>2390</b>

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 was an increase of 32 children in the early years age group (birth to school age) with an EHC plan in 2025 compared to 2024, representing a 200% increase year on year.

<sup>4</sup> GLA 2022-based demographic projections (May 2024)

<sup>5</sup> Harrow SEN2 statutory return January 2024 and 2025



- School aged children with EHC plans have also increased in 2025 compared to 2024:
  - Primary school: +295 children (33% increase year on year)
  - Secondary school: +120 children (12% 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 up to 20 weeks from referral when possible needs being identified to an EHC plan being issued. Some children have SEND but will not require an EHC plan. These children may have lower-level needs and require SEN support.

## **SEND within Early Years**

SENIF funding (special educational needs inclusion fund) is provided for 9 months+ to 4 year old funded children within PVI settings (including childminders) and school nurseries in receipt of 15 or 30 hours funding, who are on the early years SEND register and require SEND support. Prior to 2024 it was only provided for 3 and 4 year-olds in receipt of 15 or 30 hours funding, requiring SEND support. The purpose is to support children with emerging SEND/additional needs, so they can be meaningfully included in the learning experiences, social and cultural life of their setting/school. It is a targeted resource to provide targeted services and support outside of the school/settings expected remit, for children with additional needs/emerging SEND. Children with an EHC plans are also recorded by PVI settings. SENIF funding comprises of the following model:

- **SENIF:** 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. A three-tier evidence-based system has been introduced, (Tier 1 – universal offer / Tier 2 – targeted offer / Tier 3 – enhanced offer) with each successive tier requiring additional levels of evidence to ascertain need. Once applications are received, a panel discusses and agrees the funding tier to be awarded. Claims for tiers 1 and 2 can be made on a termly basis, whereas tier 3 is a one-off payment whereby the setting is applying for an EHC plan. *(1754 claims during the 2024/25 academic year across all provider types – 149 more claims or a 9.3% increase compared to the previous academic year).*

## SEND within PVI settings

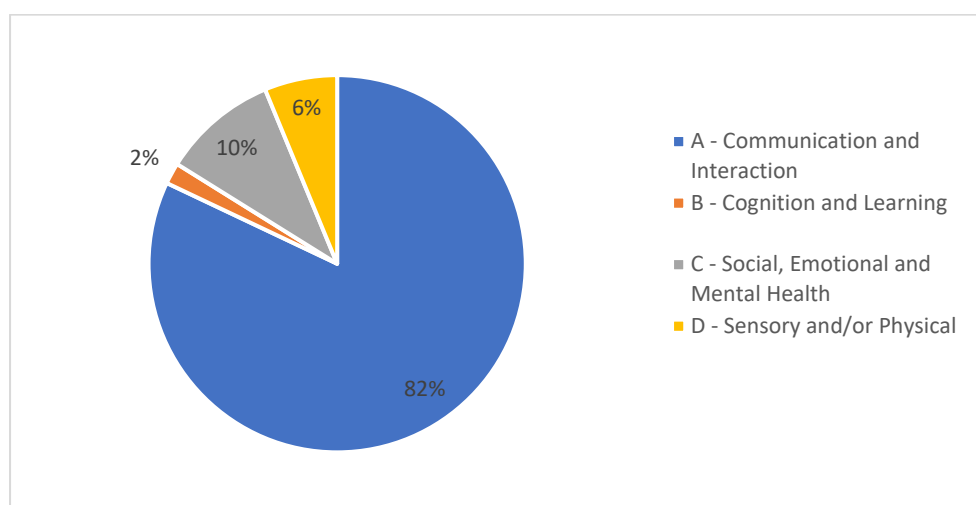
Table 4: Number and percentage of funded children in PVI settings by SEN provision<sup>6</sup>

Harrow SEN				
PVI Settings				
	2024		2025	
SEN Provision	Number of Pupils	% of Pupils	Number of Pupils	% of Pupils
SEN Support ( <i>SENIF claims</i> )	598	14.2%	657	13.7%
EHCP	68	1.6%	68	1.4%
No SEN	3556	84.2%	4067	84.9%
<b>Total no. of funded children</b>	<b>4222</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4792</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Table Summary:

- In Summer 2025, 4792 pupils (9 months+ to 4 years old) were funded in PVI settings. SENIF funding expanded to include funded 2 year-olds from April 2024 and funded 9 months to 2 year-olds from September 2024.
- 13.7% of funded pupils were on SEND support (0.5% decrease year on year).
- 1.4% of funded pupils were SEND with an EHC plan (0.2% decrease year on year).
- 84.9% of funded pupils have no SEND (0.7% increase year on year).
- The number of EHCP's presented in this table is for finalised plans in PVI settings by the end of the summer term, whereas the number of children in school nursery with an EHCP (table 5) is taken from the January school census. The SEN2 return (table 3) is also recorded in January each year. This difference in timing of data collection and processing of assessments along with the fact that EHCP's often take time to update on the SEN2 return, accounts for the disparity in numbers when comparing the figures in tables 4 and 5, with the number of children with an EHCP of birth to school age recorded in table 3.

Chart 1: Number and percentage of pupils receiving SENIF by SEN Primary Need



<sup>6</sup> PVI funding headcount data and Early Years SENIF claims Summer 2024 and 2025 (via Early Years SEND Team)

#### Chart 1 Summary:

- The most common primary need of all funded SEND pupils is Communication and Interaction at 82%. This represents a 2% decrease year on year.
- This is followed by:
  - Social, Emotional and Mental Health at 10% (1% increase year on year).
  - Sensory and/or Physical at 6% (2% increase year on year).
  - Cognition and Learning at 2% (1% decrease year on year).

Harrow continues to offer a Disability Access Fund for funded children 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 30 successful DAF claims made in the 2024/25 academic year.

### SEND within School Nursery and Reception

*Table 5: Number and percentage of pupils in School Nursery by SEN provision<sup>7</sup>*

Harrow SEN				
NCY Nursery				
	2024		2025	
SEN Provision	Number of Pupils	% of Pupils	Number of Pupils	% of Pupils
SEN Support	84	7.5%	76	6.8%
EHCP	14	1.3%	18	1.6%
No SEN	1021	91.2%	1028	91.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1119</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1122</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### Table Summary:

- In January 2025, 1,122 pupils were in School Nurseries.
- 6.8% of pupils were on SEND Support (76 pupils). This represents a 0.7% decrease year on year.
- 1.6% of pupils were SEND with an EHC plan (18 pupils). This represents a 0.3% increase year on year.
- 91.6% of pupils have no SEND (1028 pupils). This represents a 0.4% increase year on year.
- Overall, there are 94 SEND pupils in School Nurseries. This represents a 0.4% decrease in the proportion of school pupils with SEND year on year.

<sup>7</sup> Harrow School Census 2024 and 2025

*Table 6: Number and percentage of pupils in Reception by SEN provision<sup>8</sup>*

<b>Harrow SEN</b>				
<b>NCY – Reception</b>				
	<b>2024</b>		<b>2025</b>	
<b>SEN Provision</b>	<b>Number of Pupils</b>	<b>% of Pupils</b>	<b>Number of Pupils</b>	<b>% of Pupils</b>
SEN Support	302	10%	235	7.8%
Statement/ EHCP	99	3.3%	129	4.3%
No SEN	2631	86.7%	2633	87.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3032</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2997</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table Summary:**

- In January 2025, 2997 pupils were in Reception classes.
- 7.8% of pupils were on SEND Support (235 pupils). This represents a 2.2% decrease year on year.
- 4.3% of pupils were SEND with an EHC plan (129 pupils). This represents a 1% increase year on year.
- 87.9% of pupils have no SEND (2633 pupils). This represents a 1.2% increase year on year.
- Overall, there are 364 SEND pupils in Reception classes. This represents a 1.2% decrease in the proportion of reception pupils with SEND 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 an EHCP in School Nursery and Reception classes remains autism spectrum disorder.

## **Harrow Local Offer**

The Harrow Local Offer is a focused 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. The website was reviewed and updated in 2024 and has since been incorporated into the main London Borough of Harrow website in response to a survey of parents, professionals and young people.

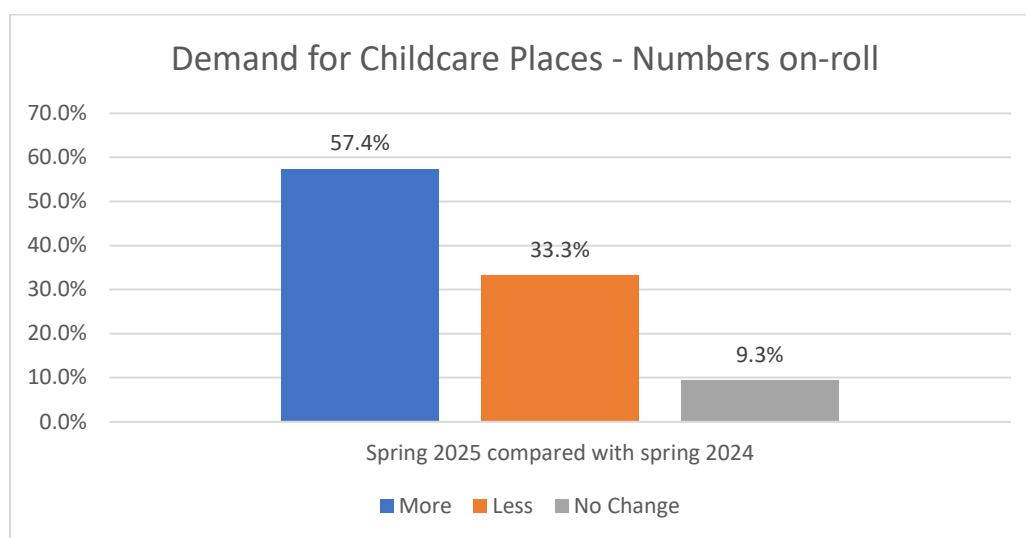
<sup>8</sup> Harrow School Census 2024 and 2025

## Provider Survey Findings

Feedback from early years childcare provider surveys offer an invaluable insight into current levels of demand for childcare places and changes over time.

PVI nursery providers and childminders in Harrow were surveyed about levels of demand for childcare places during the spring term 2025, compared to the corresponding school term in the previous year. They were asked for numbers of children on-roll, including both funded and non-funded places.

*Chart 2: Demand for childcare places as reported by Harrow childcare providers*

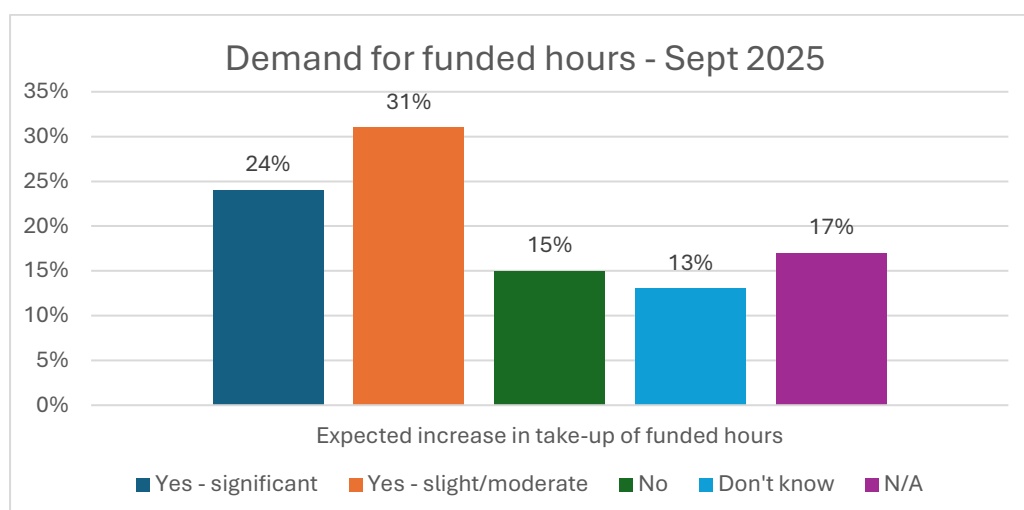


### Chart Summary:

- 57.4% of all providers that responded reported more children on-roll in the spring term 2025 compared to the spring term 2024
- 33.3% reported less children on-roll
- 9.3% reported no change in numbers of children on-roll
  - *PVI nurseries*: 52.6% had more children on-roll, 39.5% had less children on-roll and 7.9% reported no change.
  - *Childminders*: 68.8% had more children on-roll, 18.8% had less children on-roll and 12.4% reported no change.
- The total number of children on-roll in spring 2025 was 8% higher than in spring 2024. There was an increase in numbers of funded children, driven by the phased expansion of the early education funding entitlements to working families of younger children in 2024. This outweighed the fall in numbers of non-funded children:
  - Increase of 460 funded children / decrease of 324 non-funded children
  - 72% of all respondents saw an increase in funded children, whilst 17% saw a decrease.
  - 57% of all respondents saw a decrease in non-funded children, whilst 11% saw an increase.

Providers were also asked if they expect an increase in the take-up of funded hours from September 2025, accounting for the expansion of working family entitlements from 15 to 30 hours for children aged between 9 months and 3 years old:

**Chart 3: Demand for funded hours from September 2025**



**Chart Summary:**

- 55% of all providers that responded expect an increase in take-up of funded hours from September 2025, with nearly a quarter expecting a significant increase:
  - *47% of PVI nurseries and 75% of childminders expect an increase*
- 15% of providers do not expect any increase in funded hours:
  - *19% of PVI nurseries and 6% of childminders do not expect any increase*
- 30% of providers are either unsure or answered not applicable – this would include those who are not registered for the younger age groups for whom the funding is expanding:
  - *34% of PVI nurseries and 19% of childminders answered don't know or N/A*

In summary, provider feedback indicates increased demand for funded childcare places over the past year, with an increased take-up of funded hours expected from September 2025. It should be noted that under half of providers responded to the survey, but the responses received should provide a general indication of current trends in relation to demand for early years childcare provision.

Detailed supply and demand analysis for the final phased expansion of working family funding entitlements (for children between 9 months and 3 years old) due in September 2025, is included in the Early Education Funding section of this report.

### **Addressing key challenges affecting demand for childcare**

The main challenges potentially affecting demand for childcare identified in last year's full report and local authority measures implemented to address them are outlined below:

- **Access to clear and accurate information for parents**
- **Affordability of childcare and awareness of financial support**

Survey feedback suggested less than half of parents/carers used the London Borough of Harrow website as a source of information and were relying more on internet searches and word of mouth to find out about childcare. Some parents who did use the website found certain information was out of date. A lack of awareness of financial support (particularly for parents of children with SEND) was also cited in the survey with cost of childcare being the main barrier to parents/carers using more childcare.



### Measures taken:

- **Website reviewed and refreshed** - new user-friendly lay-out of the childcare pages. Content reviewed and updated where necessary.
- **Harrow Childcare & Family Services Directory** – searchable database of childcare providers - access to which has been made more visible on the childcare homepage.
- **SEND Local Offer website** – updated and incorporated into London Borough of Harrow website further to user survey feedback. Link to the Harrow Childcare & Family Services Directory added to homepage.
- **Ensuring accuracy of information** - regular contact with childcare providers to keep their setting information as up to date as possible via the childcare directory and childcare lists.
- **Promoting Families Information Service (FIS)** – driving awareness of the service, childcare website/resource directory and funded childcare entitlements to parents/carers and family facing professionals via team meetings, regular email updates, outreach and leaflet/literature distribution with:
  - Multi-agency Parenting Forum
  - Social worker teams and newly inducted workers
  - Early Help professionals and family support workers
  - Health visitors, midwives and health professionals
  - The JOY App - NHS commissioned local services directory
  - Family Hubs outreach sessions
  - Portage (supporting pre-school children with SEND)
  - Schools
  - GP surgeries and libraries
- **Social media** - messaging on expanded early education funding entitlements and help with childcare costs via Family Hubs' Facebook page, for parents/carers and service users.
- **Auditing funded childcare providers** - planning is underway for more enhanced auditing of childcare providers on the delivery of funded entitlements, ensuring adherence to DfE charging guidelines (additional charges for consumables being optional rather than mandatory).

## Supply of childcare

### Number of early years providers and places

In total, there are 236 childcare providers in Harrow, offering a maximum of 7,399 early years' childcare places.

Table 7: Number of early years providers and places

Type of provision	Number of providers	Number of registered places
Childminders*	99	691
Nursery classes in schools	28	1404
Maintained nursery schools	1	102
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	108	5202
<b>Total:</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>7399</b>

The data in this table was correct on: 01 May 2025. \*Some childminder places may also be available for older children.

For private, voluntary and independent nurseries (PVI) 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 7 Summary:

- Nursery classes in schools and maintained nursery schools offer 20.4% of all registered early years' childcare places available in Harrow, 0.3% up on last year; however, the vast majority of these places are for 3 and 4 year-olds.
- The private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector, offer the remaining 79.6% of early years' childcare places, which are available across the early years' age group (0-4 year-olds). This is 0.3% down on last year. 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 9 early years providers and 85 registered places, all of which were in the PVI sector.

Harrow had a total of 5,893 early years' childcare places for children within the PVI sector as of May 2025. These places are available through:

- 70 day nurseries making available 3,963 places for children aged 0-4 years (67.3% of all PVI places) and 33 playgroups/ pre-schools making available 1021 places for children aged 0-4 years (17.3% of all PVI places).
- 99 childminders making available 691 places for children aged 0-4 years (11.7% of all PVI places).
- 5 independent schools with under 5's nurseries making available 218 places for children aged 0-4 years (3.7% of all PVI places).

An overview of the location of early years settings in Harrow is mapped in Figure 1.

Table 8: Number of PVI providers and places by year

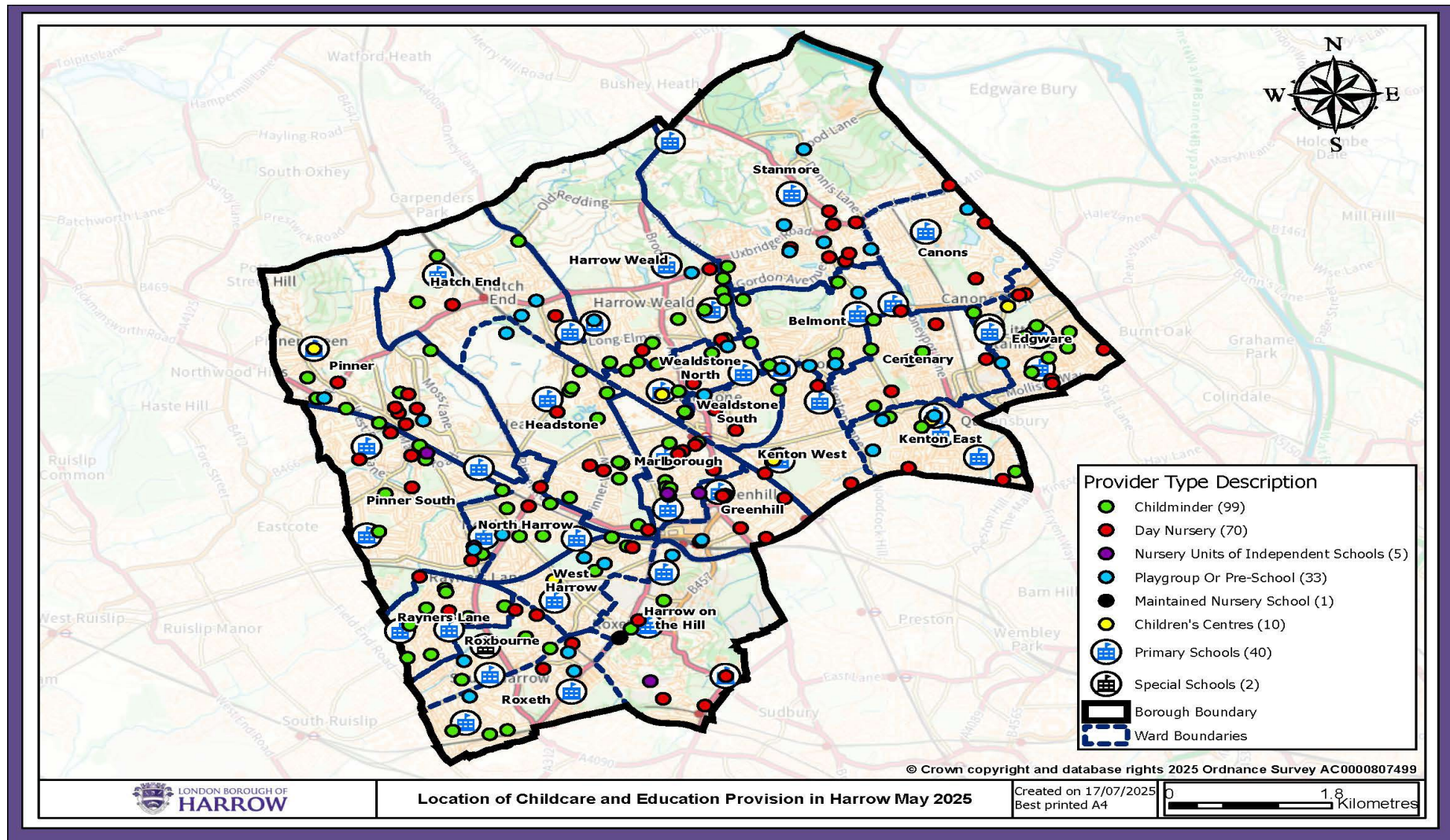
Provision type	2024		2025	
	Number	Places	Number	Places
Day Nursery	79	4197	70	3963
Pre-school / Playgroup	27	868	33	1021
Childminders	105	695	99	691
Independent School Nursery	5	218	5	218
<b>Total:</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>5978</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>5893</b>

*As recorded on 01 May each year. 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 8 Summary:

- The total number of PVI providers in Harrow has reduced by 9 in the past year. This continues the trend of declining numbers in recent years, with the exception of 2021 when numbers increased.
- It should be noted that further to a recent review of Harrow PVI nursery provision type, based on the number of hours and weeks they operate (informed by the 2025 DfE Early Years Census), there have been some considerable changes:
  - An increase of 6 pre-school/playgroups over the past year. This is due to the change of provision type of some existing providers from day nursery to pre-school (who have reduced opening hours and/or changed to term-time only), rather than new providers of this type in the market.
  - A reduction of 9 day nurseries over the past year, which as above can largely be explained by a number of existing day nurseries having been re-assigned as pre-schools further to changes in opening times.
  - A reduction of 6 childminders over the past year, continuing the declining trend of this provider type.
  - No change in the number of independent school nurseries.
- The total number of places available within PVI settings has decreased slightly year on year. There was a reduction of 85 places between 2024 and 2025, a fall of 1.4%:
  - 5.6% decrease in the number of places available within day nurseries.
  - 17.6% increase in the number of places available within preschool/playgroups.
  - 0.6% decrease in the number of places available within childminding settings.
  - No change to the number of places available within independent school nurseries.
- The market share of day nursery and pre-school places has altered since the review and re-assignment of provision type for some providers this year, so a direct comparison to previous years would not be instructive. The market share of childminding places available continues to fall but at a much slower rate than previously, with only negligible change. The market share of independent school nursery places available remains unchanged.

Figure 1: Location of early years settings in Harrow





## Ward overview

Analysis of the supply of PVI childcare are carried out each year to identify provider numbers, places and types by ward and any changes since the previous assessments. A summary of the key findings are provided below:

- Wards with the largest supply of PVI childcare places:
  - Stanmore
  - Headstone
  - Edgware
  - Pinner
  - Pinner South
  - Greenhill
  - Marlborough

The wards with the largest supply of childcare places remain the same as last year, albeit with slight changes in order. Stanmore remains the ward with the most places. 5 of these wards can be found in west-central and north-western Harrow, with the exception of Stanmore and Edgware in the east.

- Wards with the lowest supply of PVI childcare places:
  - Canons
  - Wealdstone North
  - Rayners Lane
  - Wealdstone South
  - Kenton West
  - Roxbourne
  - West Harrow

The wards with the lowest supply of childcare places also remain the same as last year, with slight changes in order. Canons replaces Wealdstone North as the ward with least places. These wards include a cluster in east-central Harrow and another in the south west. Canons however, is situated in the east and although it has the least places, it is sandwiched between Stanmore and Edgware which have some of the most places.

- Of the 22 wards in Harrow, 9 experienced growth in the supply of PVI childcare places and 10 experienced a reduction, with the remaining 3 wards unchanged.
- There is no identifiable pattern to the location of those wards which experienced growth over the past year, although those that experienced reductions are more weighted towards central and western parts of the borough.
- The greatest changes (more than 10%) were experienced in the following wards:
  - Wards with the largest annual percentage growth:
    - Wealdstone North: 21 places (31% growth)
    - Edgware: 101 places (27% growth)
    - Harrow on the Hill: 43 places (17% growth)
    - Headstone: 47 places (10% growth)
  - Wards with the largest annual percentage reduction:
    - Hatch End: 136 places (36% reduction)
    - Roxbourne: 37 places (24% reduction)

- Belmont: 49 places (18% reduction)
  - North Harrow: 30 places (18% reduction)
  - Marlborough: 79 places (17% reduction)
- The wards with the lowest number of PVI childcare providers are Kenton West with only 2 providers and Wealdstone South with 4 providers.
  - The majority of wards contain a choice of provider type for parents/carers, however there remains several with limited choice. Kenton West has no childminders or pre-schools operating. Centenary, Kenton West, Marlborough and Rayners Lane also have no pre-schools operating.

## Early years vacancies

*Table 9: Early years vacancies*

<b>Type of provision</b>	<b>Number of providers</b>	<b>Number of providers with vacancies</b>
Childminders	99	28
Nursery classes in schools	28	24*
Maintained nursery schools	1	1
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	108	39

*Data in this table was correct on 01 May 2025. \*As reported in the School Census January 2025*

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. Typically, vacancy rates are higher in the autumn, when many children move to school.

Table Summary:

- 28% of childminders reported having vacancies available.
- 86% of nursery classes in schools had vacancies available in January 2025. Several of these only had one or two places available and were close to capacity.
- Vacancies were available within the one Harrow maintained nursery school.
- 36% of private, voluntary and independent nurseries reported having vacancies available.
- 39% of all early years' providers reported having vacancies, 3% higher than last recorded in the 2023 assessment. There was a 6% increase in childminders, no change in nursery classes in schools and a 1% decrease in private, voluntary and independent nurseries reporting vacancies.

## Number of school age providers and places

In total, there are 80 providers of childcare for school age children during term time, and 25 providers of childcare for school age children during the holidays. There are also 99 childminders who may provide care for school age children.



*Table 10: Number of school age providers and places*

<b>Type of provision</b>	<b>Number of providers</b>	<b>Number of registered places</b>
Breakfast club – primary school	36	1606
After-school club – primary school	37	1816
Breakfast club – secondary school	3	140
After-school club – secondary school	1	40
Breakfast club – other	1	40
After-school club – other	2	48
Childminders	108	691
Holiday club	25	1385

Tracking supply of childcare for school age children can be difficult, because not all of this type of provision is registered with Ofsted. Many schools' out of school club provision is provided in-house under the school's own Ofsted registration. Most of these clubs are only available to children attending the schools. Further to the national wraparound childcare programme for the expansion of out of school childcare provision in primary schools, local data collection on school-based provision in primary schools has improved with more reliable counts of provider numbers and places. However, wraparound and holiday provision in secondary schools is still likely to be under-counted.

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.
- The numbers of breakfast and after school clubs in primary schools is significantly higher than when last recorded in the 2023 assessment. This is largely due to the robust review of provision over the past year providing more accurate data, rather than a large increase in providers.
- The continuing decline in childminder numbers and places available may potentially affect the availability for school aged children.
- There are 25 Ofsted registered holiday clubs in Harrow offering childcare places for school aged children. This represents a net gain of 1 provider over the past year with 12.5% growth in places available. Parents may also use provision which is not considered 'childcare', for example sports or arts clubs, after school or in the holidays.

## **Wraparound Childcare Programme**

This programme aims to allow parents of primary school aged children, access to sufficient out of school hours childcare allowing them to work or study the hours they want to. In the duty to ensure all Harrow primary schools provide wraparound childcare provision in the form of breakfast and after school clubs between the hours of 8am and 6pm, capital funding has been allocated based on 2 bidding phases during 2024/2025. Successful bids in phase one have led to:

- 2 new breakfast clubs and 1 new after school club across 2 schools with either no or limited wraparound provision previously
- Additional places at existing breakfast and after school club provision across 7 schools
- Extending hours of existing provision across 3 schools to meet requirements for childcare between 8am and 6pm.

Phase two bids were for existing provision that met the required opening times criteria but needed to increase capacity due to extensive waiting lists. This has led to:

- Additional places created across 6 schools

There is also a third allocation phase, however it has not been allocated at the time of writing this report. This phase is also intended to increase place capacity, but it is only open to schools that have not received funding previously.

It should be noted that the new clubs and additional places in phase 1 and 2 have not been included in the figures presented in Table 10, as although some have already been created, others are still in the process of doing so. New provision created across all 3 phases will be included in next year's count of school age providers/places.

### **New provider registrations & permanent closures**

Between May 2024 and May 2025:

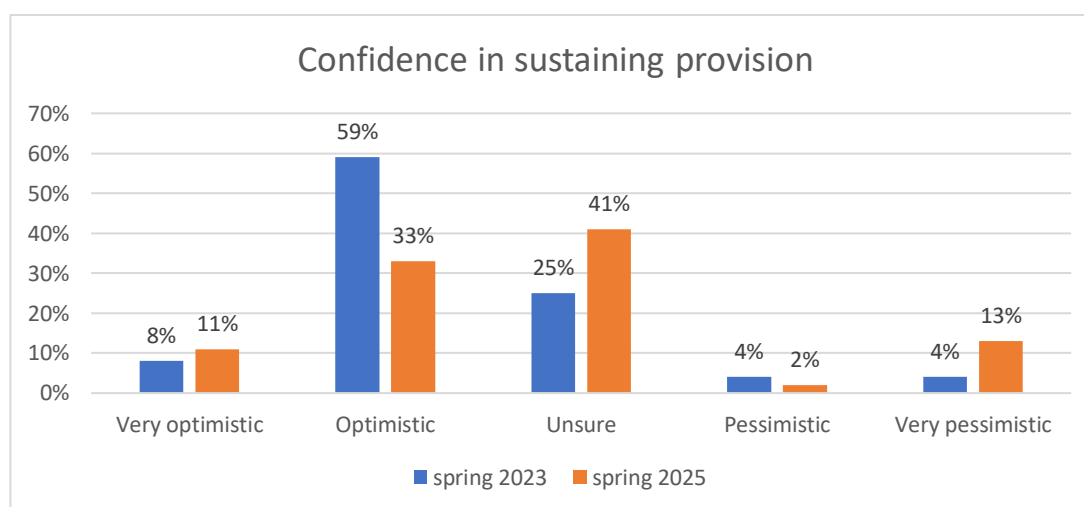
- *PVI nurseries*: 4 new PVI nurseries have opened, including 3 pre-schools and 1 day nursery. 8 PVI nurseries have closed, including 5 pre-schools and 3 day nurseries. Overall, there has been a net loss of 4 PVI nurseries, a loss of 2 pre-schools and 2 day nurseries.
- *Childminders*: 8 new childminders have opened and 14 have closed, resulting in a net loss of 6 childminders. Of those that have closed, 12 have resigned or retired and 2 have moved borough.
- *School aged childcare*: 4 out of school clubs have opened and 4 have closed resulting in no change. Both the clubs opening and closing included 2 breakfast clubs and 4 after school clubs. 3 out of the 4 clubs that closed, were replaced with new registrations/providers in the same setting or school. 7 holiday playschemes have opened and 6 have closed resulting in a net gain of 1 playscheme.

The decline of childminding provision has been apparent for a number of years, however the rate of decline has slowed over the past year. The proportion of agency registered childminders is increasing as opposed to those registered directly with Ofsted. PVI nursery provision has been relatively stable in recent years with growth of day nursery provision compensating for the loss of pre-school provision. However, over the past year there has been a slight reduction overall, with a net-loss of both provider types. Feedback from childminders and PVI nurseries continue to cite unsustainable cost pressures and lack of demand for places as the main reasons for closure, with one previously thriving day nursery forced to close as the premises landlord refused to renew their lease. Conversely, school aged childcare provision has remained robust over the past year, with further increase in provision expected further to the allocation of wraparound programme funding.

### **Provider Survey Findings**

Feedback from provider surveys highlight the main concerns and challenges facing the early years childcare market and risks to the sustainability and supply of provision. In the spring 2025 survey, PVI nurseries and childminders were asked how optimistic they feel about the sustainability of their businesses, which can be compared to responses received in 2023 when they were last asked the same question:

*Chart 4: Provider confidence in business sustainability*



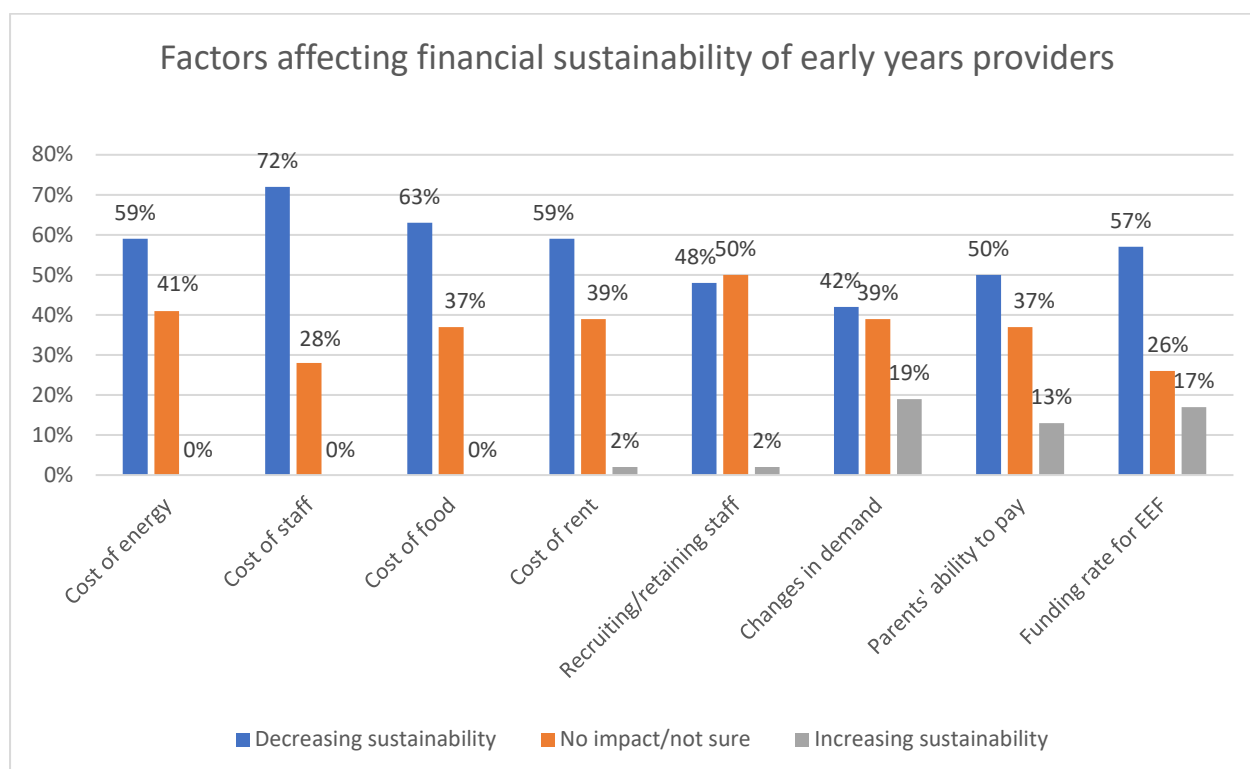
**Chart Summary:**

- 44% of respondents were either optimistic or very optimistic about sustaining their provision in the future. This is 23% lower than recorded in spring 2023:
  - 45% of PVI nurseries and 44% of childminders were either optimistic or very optimistic, down 20% for PVI nurseries and 29% for childminders since 2023.
- 41% of respondents were unsure about sustainability, an increase of 16% since spring 2023:
  - 37% of PVI nurseries and 50% of childminders were unsure, up 8% for PVI nurseries and 37% for childminders since 2023.
- 15% of respondents were pessimistic or very pessimistic about sustaining their provision in the future, up 7% from spring 2023:
  - 18% of PVI nurseries and 6% of childminders were either pessimistic or very pessimistic, up 12% for PVI nurseries but down 8% for childminders since 2023.
- Providers were also asked if they are facing severe financial difficulties (settings at substantial risk of having to cease operating or childminders at substantial risk of leaving the profession):
  - 20% of respondents answered yes (including 26% of PVI respondents and 6% of childminders), and 80% answered no. This is an increase of 4% answering yes since 2023 (14% increase in PVI nursery respondents and 21% decrease in childminder respondents).
- Difficulties in recruiting staff in early years settings has been widely publicised nationally over the past few years. Providers were asked how difficult it is to recruit staff:
  - 75% of respondents answered very difficult or somewhat difficult, up 6% since 2023.
  - 12% answered neither difficult or easy, down 6% since 2023.
  - 2% answered somewhat easy, down 1% since 2023.
  - 11% did not know, up 1% since 2023.
- Providers were also asked if they had taken any steps to help business sustainability. Some of the most common steps taken were as follows:

- 56% of respondents increased charges made to parents, down 9% since 2023. 22% also increased charges over and above regular fees for additional extras, down 5% since 2023.
- 56% increased the number of free early education entitlement places they provide, up 21% since 2023.
- 30% reduced staff hours and 28% restructured staff (these measures were not included in the 2023 survey)
- 28% recruited/increased the number of staff, down 1% since 2023.
- 28% increased their opening hours, up 6% since 2023.

The provider survey also consulted PVI nurseries and childminders on how current challenges identified by the sector and cost-of-living pressures are impacting on the financial sustainability of their settings

*Chart 5: Factors affecting the financial sustainability of provision*



**Chart Summary:**

- Between half and three-quarters of respondents identified the cost of energy, staff, food and rent were decreasing the financial sustainability of their settings:
  - 12% lower for cost of energy than reported in 2023
  - 11% higher for cost of staff than reported in 2023
  - 6% lower for cost of food than reported in 2023
  - 10% higher for cost of rent than reported in 2023
- For recruiting and retaining staff, views were split fairly evenly between decreasing sustainability and being unsure or having no impact. Those who believe it is decreasing sustainability has increased by 5% since 2023.
- Changes in demand for places attracted a varied response from providers, as it did in 2023. However, in 2023 no impact or not sure had the highest response rate,

whereas in 2025 decreasing sustainability recorded the highest response rate. However, there are still a combined 58% of respondents who believe it has either had no impact or increased sustainability.

- Half of respondents believe that parents/carers' ability to pay for places is decreasing sustainability. Responses were similar to those recorded in 2023, however those believing it has increased sustainability has increased by 9%.
- 57% of respondents believe the funding rate for early education funding entitlements is decreasing sustainability, the same as recorded in 2023. However, the proportion of respondents who believe it is increasing sustainability has increased by 11%

### **Addressing key risks to the supply of childcare:**

The main risks to the sufficiency of childcare supply identified in last year's full report and local authority measures implemented to address them are outlined below:

- **Setting sustainability & extended hours care**

The number of early years childcare providers, in particular childminders has been declining over recent years, potentially reducing choice and concentrating the number of places available over fewer providers. The reduction of childminding provision may also limit childcare available during atypical hours.

#### **Measures taken:**

- **Childminding campaign** – renewed efforts to encourage childminding as a profession:
  - Website updated with current information on pathways to registration, changes to registration options and start up grants for new childminders
  - Ongoing drive to strengthen links with Jobcentre Plus, Xcite (free training and employment service for unemployed people in Harrow) and Harrow adult colleges by information sharing and partnership work to encourage childminding as a profession.
- **Business support for providers** – identifying needs and providing information, support and resources for providers, including tailored business modelling and planning to improve sustainability:
  - Website support via the Early Years Business Advice Hub. Links to the Childcare Works early years and wraparound toolkits and provider hub, providing resources and information on growing, sustaining and starting childcare provision. Webinars provided by the Early Years Alliance.
  - Promoting business support opportunities and resources directly to providers, via email, one to one meetings, visits, and forums.
- **Recruitment & retention of childcare workforce**

This remains both a local and national issue, with providers finding it increasingly difficult to find suitable qualified staff and retain existing staff.

#### **Measures taken:**

- **National and local recruitment initiatives** – promotion of the government 'Do Something Big' campaign aiming to attract new workers to the early years and childcare sector and the Childcare Works recruitment resources via providers, partners and local careers organisations/colleges. Signposting to the DWP's 'Find a

Job' platform where providers can post vacancies in their settings. Information and resources on working in childcare updated and promoted via the Harrow website.

- **Advertising Harrow childcare job vacancies** – Harrow Families Information Service helps local early years providers advertise staff vacancies at their settings via a childcare job vacancy list which is updated weekly and advertised on the Harrow website. It is also sent to Jobcentre Plus, local adult colleges and careers and employment agencies to match to prospective workers.
- **Harrow Early Years training programme** – programme of training including tailored training opportunities provided via the Harrow SS4E website. This training platform is for the existing early years' workforce to maintain statutory training requirements, enhance learning and continued professional development.
- **Meeting needs of children with SEND**

Demand for early years childcare for children with SEND is increasing. From the parent survey in last year's assessment, one third of parents of SEND children who were not using childcare said they could not find provision to suit their child's needs. Parents of SEND children were also more likely to be using all types of childcare.

**Measures taken:**

- **SEND Champion settings** - a proportion of the capital funding to create more places for the early education funding expansion, was spent on 10 SEND Champion settings. These are PVI nurseries which offer a proportion of places specifically for SEND children, with particular expertise and knowledge around SEND provision. They are strategically placed around the borough in order to share best practice with other childcare providers within their localities.
- **SEND coordinators** - already exist within every PVI nursery to help assess and identify children with additional needs. They will now be able to draw on the specialist advice and guidance of the SEND Champion settings as well as from the local authority.
- **Early Years SEND Team** – provide SEND advisor support to early years childcare providers, regular SEND surgeries, information on inclusive practice, training, business advice and SENIF funding for children with SEND.
- **Communication & information sharing** – Early Years team and Families Information Service affirming links and sharing information with partner agencies that work with families of children with SEND, including SENARS, SENDIAS, CYAD, Portage and multi-agency Parent Forums. Regular conversations had with SEND social workers regarding childcare options and funding entitlements. Harrow Childcare & Family Services Directory promoted on the childcare and Local Offer home pages on the Harrow website to provide easier access for families of SEND children.



## Funded early education

It is the duty of local authorities to ensure sufficient access to government funded childcare places. Funded early education and childcare entitlements have expanded since April 2024 with the final phase of expansion due in September 2025. A summary of the entitlements is listed below:

- **Universal entitlement for all 3 and 4 year-olds** – 15 hours per week (from age 3 and a term) until they start reception class in school.
- **Working parent entitlement for children aged 9 months to 4 years old** – means tested funding for working families<sup>9</sup>. 30 hours per week for 3 and 4 year-olds (from age 3 and a term) until they start reception class in school. Entitlement expanded from April 2024 to include eligible 2 year-olds and expanded from September 2024 to include eligible children aged 9 to 23 months. Currently 15 hours per week for these age groups, increasing to 30 hours per week from September 2025.
- **Families receiving additional support entitlement for eligible 2 year-olds** (formerly known as 'disadvantaged families' entitlement) – families who receive certain means tested benefits, or have a 2 year old with a disability, or is looked after by the local authority, are entitled to 15 hours per week (from age 2 and a term).

These entitlements are for 38 weeks per year but can be stretched over more weeks of the year by taking fewer hours per week. Parents do not have to use all the hours of their funded entitlement. They may also choose to split them between providers.

### Proportion of 2 year old children entitled to funded early education (additional support entitlement)

In Harrow, 19% of 2 year-olds are entitled to funded early education under the additional support entitlement, 4% lower than the previous year. This equates to around 605 children per year in 2024.

### 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. This includes 2 year-olds accessing a funded place under the additional support entitlement and 3 and 4 year olds accessing the universal funding entitlement.

It should be noted, the 3 and 4-year-old take-up rates published via the DfE<sup>10</sup> need to be treated with caution. Revised population estimates/projections, based on the latest ONS data, including from the 2021 Census, were used to calculate revised percentages from 2011 to 2024 in the most recent data release. This has led to discrepancies between past and current reported take-up rates.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/30-hours-childcare-support/working-families/eligibility>

<sup>10</sup> <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/funded-early-education-and-childcare/2025>

Table 11: Proportion of eligible children taking up their funded place in Harrow<sup>11</sup>

Age	% of eligible children	
	2024	2025
Age 2	62.7%	57.4%
Age 3 and 4	85%	84.1%
3 year-olds	78.7%	77.5%
4 year-olds	91.3%	90.8%

Table Summary:

- 57.4% of eligible 2 year-olds are taking up their funded place, leaving 42.6% who are not accessing their entitlement (*The take-up figures for 2 year olds are taken from Harrow funding headcount data as it is more current and accurate than the 59% take-up rate in 2024 and 53.7% take-up rate in 2025 listed by the DfE*). There has been a 5.3% decrease in take-up since 2024. It should be noted that since the 2 year old working parent entitlement was introduced in April 2024, some parents have qualified under both this and the families receiving additional support entitlement. Local data analysis estimates around 4% could be added to the 2 year old take-up figure for 2025, if parents claiming under the working family entitlement had claimed under the families receiving additional support criteria instead.
- 84.1% of eligible 3 and 4 year-olds are taking up their funded place, 0.9% down on 2024 and the highest take-up rate for 3 and 4 year-olds recorded in Harrow. 15.9% of 3 and 4 year-olds are not accessing their entitlement
  - 22.5% of 3 year-olds are not taking up their funded place
  - 9.2% of 4 year-olds are not taking up their funded place

A proportion of those children not accessing their funded entitlements in Harrow, may well be doing so out of borough. It should also be noted that nursery attendance is not compulsory.

Table 12: Regional and national take up comparisons<sup>12</sup>

Age	Take-up: % of eligible children							
	Harrow		Outer London		London		England	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Age 2	62.7%	57.4%	67.2%	60%	66.9%	61.1%	74.8%	65.2%
Age 3 and 4	85%	84.1%	89.5%	88.5%	87.2%	85.7%	93.6%	93.1%
3 year-olds	78.7%	77.5%	85.9%	84.6%	83.4%	82.2%	91.3%	90.6%
4 year-olds	91.3%	90.8%	92.9%	92.4%	90.9%	89.5%	95.9%	95.6%

Table Summary:

- **2 year-olds:** Take up of funded places has fallen in Harrow as well as both regionally and nationally over the past year. Take up in Harrow remains behind both regional and national comparators:
  - 2.6% below the outer London borough average
  - 3.7% below the London average
  - 7.8% below the national average

<sup>11</sup> Department for Education: Funded early education and childcare January 2025 & Harrow early education funding headcount data spring term 2025

<sup>12</sup> Department for Education: Funded early education and childcare January 2025 & Harrow early education funding headcount data

- **3 and 4 year-olds:** Take up of funded places has fallen in Harrow as well as both regionally and nationally over the past year, albeit by considerably less than the decline in take-up for 2 year olds. Take-up in Harrow remains below both regional and national comparators:
  - 4.4% below the outer London borough average
  - 1.6% below the London average
  - 9% below the national average
- **3 year-olds:** Take up of funded places has fallen in Harrow as well as both regionally and nationally over the past year. Take up in Harrow remains behind both regional and national comparators:
  - 7.1% below the outer London borough average
  - 4.7% below the London average
  - 13.1% below the national average
- **4 year-olds:** Take up of funded places has fallen in Harrow as well as both regionally and nationally over the past year albeit at a slower rate than for 2 and 3 year olds. Take-up in Harrow remains above the London average but behind both outer London and national averages:
  - 1.3% above the London average
  - 1.6% below the outer London borough average
  - 4.8% below the national average

## Working parent entitlements

Local data on take-up rates for working parent entitlements (percentage of eligible families accessing a funded place) is not available, however, national estimates are published by the DfE<sup>13</sup>. As of January 2025:

- 72% of eligible 9 month to 2 year olds are estimated to have been registered for the working parent entitlement. This equates to 457,000 children nationally
- 91% of eligible 3 and 4 year olds are estimated to have been registered for the working parent entitlement. This equates to 379,000 children nationally. This figure is 5% up on 2024. These children will also be registered for the universal entitlement.

At a local level, DfE data<sup>14</sup> on the number of eligibility codes issued and validated can help identify potential demand and use of the working parent entitlements (eligible parents must apply for an eligibility code via the government childcare website in order to access the entitlement). Codes are categorised as:

- **Existing:** codes that have been used to access the entitlement previously (from previous term to present term at time of publication)
- **New:** codes used for the first time (present term at time of publication)
- **Potential:** codes generated for use in the next term

In Harrow as of 23 July 2025, there were:

- 3251 users of the DfE eligibility checking service with eligibility codes In Harrow, for children of working parents aged 9 months to 4 years old.
- 3052 active codes (existing and new users within validity period) including 469 new users

<sup>13</sup> Department for Education: Funded early education and childcare January 2025

<sup>14</sup> DfE Eligibility Checking Service – dashboard data

- 434 potential users (for first time use in the autumn term 2025)

892 existing codes are for children who will either be of statutory school age or due to start school reception in the autumn term, so most of these will no longer be used.

In view of the final phased expansion of the working parent entitlement due in September 2025, from 15 hours to 30 hours funding per week for eligible children aged 9 months to 2 years old (inclusive), it is also instructive to understand how many codes have been issued and validated specifically for these age groups. This can help to give an indication of how many children may potentially be increasing their funded hours from September. Numbers of eligibility codes issued with validation rates are available on a local, regional and national level for comparison. The data in Table 13 is for the summer term 2025 published in May 2025:

Table 13: Summer term 2025 codes issued and validated for children under 3<sup>15</sup>

Region	Age	Eligibility codes issued (existing & new)	Codes validated (number)	Codes validated (%)	Children accessing working parent entitlement (summer 2025)	Children accessing working parent entitlement as a % of codes issued
<b>Harrow</b>	9months+	92	55	60%	59	64.1%
	1-year-olds	686	558	81%	585	85.3%
	2-year-olds	1001	884	88%	785	78.4%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1779</b>	<b>1497</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>1429</b>	<b>80.3%</b>
<b>London</b>	9months+	3985	2670	67%	N/A	
	1-year-olds	28,493	23,693	83%		
	2-year-olds	34,804	30,345	87%		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>67,282</b>	<b>56,708</b>	<b>84%</b>		
<b>England</b>	9months+	38,244	29,162	76%		
	1-year-olds	234,543	208,889	89%		
	2-year-olds	284,332	261,524	92%		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>557,119</b>	<b>499,575</b>	<b>90%</b>		

Table Summary:

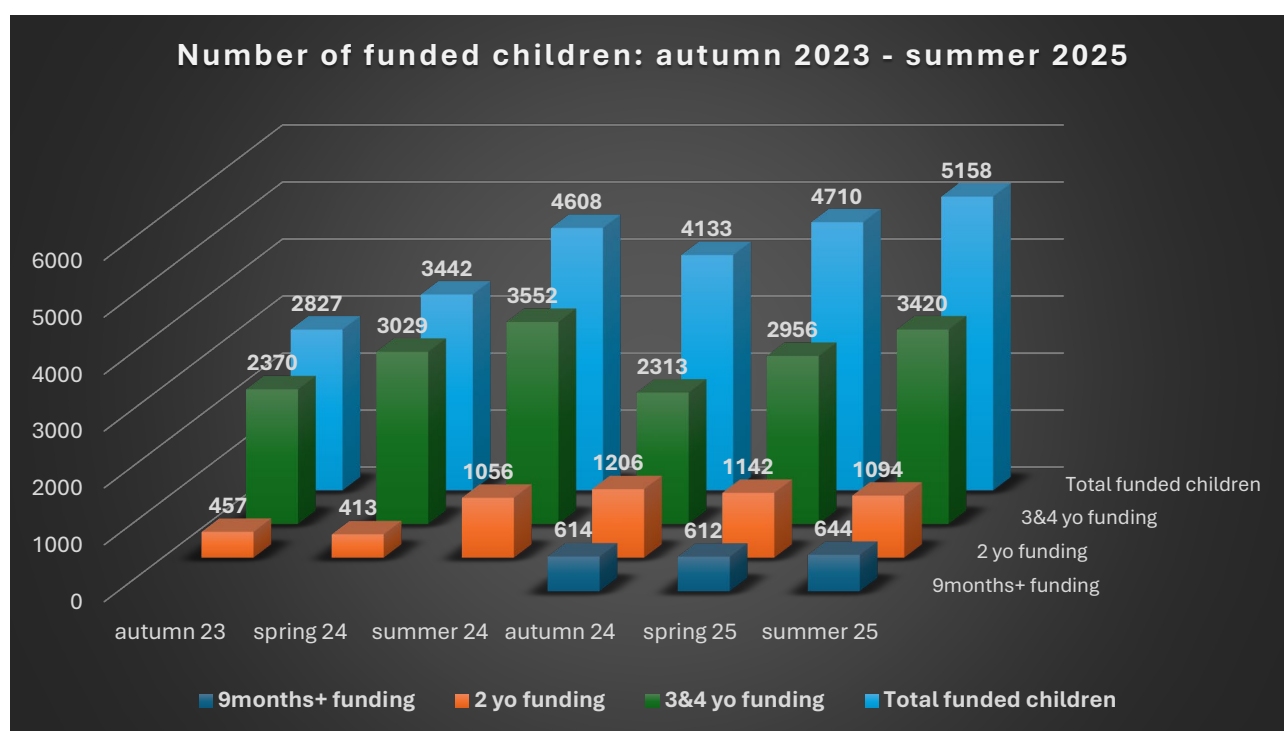
- In the summer term 2025, 1779 working parent eligibility codes for under 3's had been issued by 30 April 2025, of which:
  - 1438 were existing codes and 341 were new.
  - 1429 codes were used to access a funded place in Harrow, or 80.3% of all codes issued.
- 84% of codes issued were validated in Harrow, the same rate as for London and 6% lower than the national validation rate:
  - Code validation rates increase with age, as older children are more likely to have been accessing their entitlement over a period of time.

<sup>15</sup> <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/expansion-to-early-childcare-entitlements-eligibility-codes-issued-and-validated> & Harrow early education funding headcount data – Summer 25

- Often it will take time for parents/carers to find a suitable childcare provider who in turn validate codes in order to claim funding, hence validation rates for existing codes are higher than for new codes:
  - 30% higher in Harrow (90% for existing codes / 60% for new codes)
  - 28% higher in London (89% for existing codes / 61% for new codes)
  - 24% higher in England (93% for existing codes / 69% for new codes)
- Numbers of children accessing a place is higher than the number of codes validated for the 9 month and 1 year old age groups. This is because some issued codes will have been validated after 30 April, when the data was collated.
- Eligibility codes issued are for Harrow parents, however some may access their entitlement outside of the borough and a proportion of those children accessing a place in Harrow will be from outside the borough.
- Most of the children accessing the working parent entitlement in Harrow will likely be continuing provision in the autumn term as they are still under school age and could be increasing their weekly funded hours from 15 to a maximum of 30.

## Number of funded children

Chart 6: Number of funded children by term



*\*Includes funded places at PVI nurseries, funded childminders, academy school nurseries, one maintained nursery school and working parent entitlements within state school nurseries*

### Chart Summary:

- There has been a significant increase in total numbers of funded children since the phased expansion of working parent entitlements was introduced in summer 2024, compared with beforehand.
- The number of funded children varies considerably between different terms:
  - For total numbers of funded children and 3 and 4 year old funded children, numbers increase during the course of the academic year, with lowest

numbers in autumn and highest numbers in summer. This is mostly on account of the cohort of 4 year-olds that transition to school each autumn.

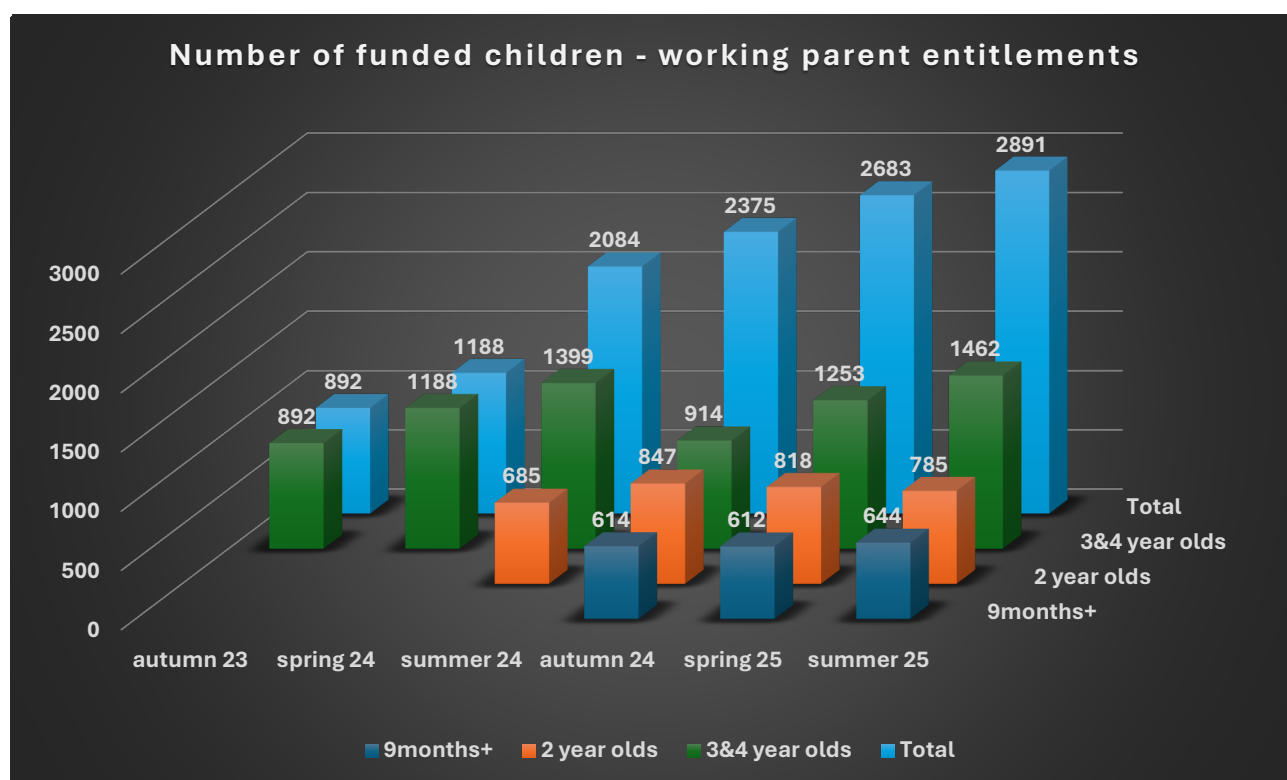
- For 2 year-olds the inverse is true. Numbers fall during the course of the academic year, with highest numbers in autumn and lowest numbers in summer. This trend remains with the introduction of the working parent entitlement (*the 2 year old working parent entitlement was rolled out in the summer term 2024 accounting for the large jump in numbers between the spring and summer terms 2024. Without the new entitlement, the number of funded 2 year-olds was 371, the lowest for the 2023/4 academic year*).
- For numbers of 9 months+ funded children, the first full academic year since roll-out of the funding shows little deviation between terms, although a small increase in numbers by the summer term 2025.
- All 3 terms in the 2024/5 academic year have seen an increase in the total number of funded children when compared with like-for-like terms in the previous academic year. However, without the newly funded 9 months+ and 2 year old children under the working family entitlements, there would have actually been a decrease:
  - Autumn 2024 compared to autumn 2023: 46% increase in funded children (+1306 children) but 5% decrease in funded children (-155 children) excluding new working parent entitlements.
  - Spring 2025 compared to spring 2024: 37% increase in funded children (+1268 children) but 5% decrease in funded children (-162 children) excluding new working parent entitlements.
  - Summer 2025 compared to summer 2024: 12% increase in funded children (+550 children) but 5% decrease in funded children (-194 children) excluding new working parent entitlements.

The overall increase in funded children due to the expansion of working parent entitlements, masks the year-on-year decline in 2 year-olds accessing the additional support entitlement and funded 3 and 4 year-olds. This corresponds with the declining population of these age groups over recent years, albeit the rate of decline is now slowing. Numbers of 2 year-olds eligible for the additional support entitlement have also fallen.

A breakdown of the number of children accessing the working parent entitlements for each age group is displayed in Chart 7.



Chart 7: Number of funded children by term for working parent entitlements



*\*Includes funded places within PVI nurseries, funded childminders, academy school nurseries, one maintained nursery school and state school nurseries*

#### Chart Summary:

- There were 2891 children accessing working parent entitlements across all age groups in the summer term 2025 (3 and 4 year-olds also access universal funding):
  - 51% were 3 and 4 year-olds
  - 27% were 2 year-olds
  - 22% were 9 months+
- The total number of funded children claiming working parent entitlements has increased significantly since autumn 2023, however there has only been one year since the entitlement has expanded to include all three age groups.
- Numbers of children accessing working parent entitlements between different terms follow a similar pattern as identified for the total number of funded children:
  - 3 and 4 year-olds: lowest in autumn and highest in summer:
    - 57% increase during the 2023/4 academic year (+507 children)
    - 60% increase during the 2024/5 academic year (+548 children)
  - 2 year-olds: highest in autumn and lowest in summer:
    - 7% decrease during the 2024/5 academic year (-62 children)
  - 9 months+ funded children: numbers were steady for the first two terms after roll-out, before a small increase by summer 2025:
    - 5% increase during the 2024/5 academic year (+30 children)
- Considering overall trends, the total number of children claiming working parent entitlements should fall in autumn 2025 compared to the summer term, although it might increase when comparing like-for-like terms (autumn 25 with autumn 24).
- Expansion of the working parent entitlements will have drawn new children to access childcare provision. Others will have previously been accessing a fee-paying place.

## 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 14: Providers offering funded early education places (as of May 2025)*

<b>Type of provision</b>	<b>Number of providers</b>	<b>9 months+ working parent</b>	<b>Age 2 working parent</b>	<b>Age 2 additional support</b>	<b>Age 3&amp;4 universal 15 hours</b>	<b>Age 3&amp;4 working parent 30 hours</b>
Childminders	99	60%	65%	64%	65%	65%
State school nurseries	28	0%	4%	4%	100%	57%
Maintained nursery schools	1	0%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	108	66%	92%	83%	100%	88%

Table Summary:

- 9 months+ working parent funding:** There are 130 childcare providers offering this entitlement across all provision types:
  - 66% of PVI nurseries (71 providers)
  - 60% of childminders (59 providers)
  - 0% of maintained nursery schools and state school nurseries (0 providers)
- 2 year old working parent funding:** There are 165 childcare providers offering this entitlement across all provision types:
  - 100% of maintained nursery schools (1 provider)
  - 92% of PVI nurseries (99 providers):
  - 65% of childminders (64 providers)
  - 4% of state school nurseries (1 provider)
- 2 year old additional support funding:** There are 155 childcare providers offering this entitlement across all provision types:
  - 100% of maintained nursery schools (1 provider)
  - 83% of PVI nurseries (90 providers):
  - 64% of childminders (63 providers):
  - 4% of state school nurseries (1 provider):
- 3 and 4 year old universal funding (15 hours):** There are 201 providers offering this entitlement across all provision types:
  - 100% of maintained nursery schools (1 provider)
  - 100% of PVI nurseries (108 providers)
  - 100% of state school nurseries (28 providers)
  - 65% of childminders (64 providers)

- **3 and 4 year old working parent funding (30 hours):** There are 176 providers offering this entitlement across all provision types:
  - 100% of maintained nursery schools (1 provider)
  - 88% of PVI nurseries (95 providers):
  - 57% of state school nurseries (16 providers)
  - 65% of childminders (64 providers):

From September 2025, the current 9 months+ and 2 year old working parent entitlements will be increasing from a maximum of 15 hours per week to 30 hours per week (over 38 weeks a year). The number of providers able to offer the additional hours depends on their opening hours, registered age groups and capacity. Current census data and provider feedback suggests that from September 2025:

- **9 months+ working parent funding:** 127 providers will be able to offer the full 30 hours entitlement:
  - 63% of PVI nurseries (68 providers)
  - 60% of childminders (59 providers)
- **2 year old working parent funding:** 159 providers will be able to offer the full 30 hours entitlement:
  - 100% of maintained nursery schools (1 provider)
  - 86% of PVI nurseries (93 providers):
  - 65% of childminders (64 providers)
  - 4% of state school nurseries (1 provider)

It is important to note, these figures are not definitive Some providers may have opened or closed by the autumn term or amended their business models, potentially affecting capacity.

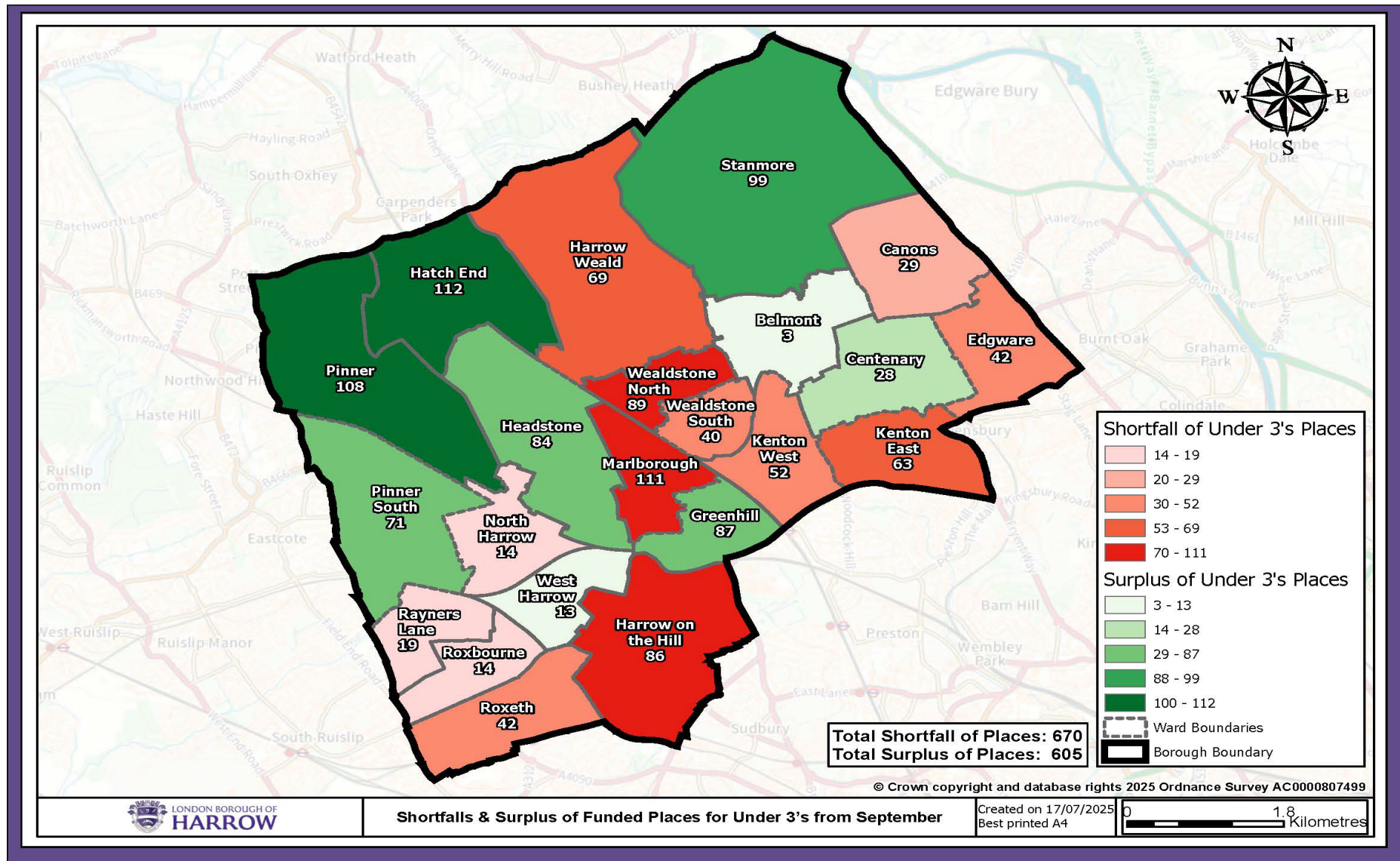
### **Expansion of under 3's working parent entitlement: supply and demand analysis**

A combination of local data intelligence and DfE supply and demand mapping has been used to assess potential shortfalls in childcare provision on a ward level for the final phased expansion of working parent entitlements to 30 hours, for the 9 months+ and 2 year old age groups from September 2025.

Expected shortfalls and surpluses of funded places by ward for under 3's are mapped in Figure 2.

The DfE data used to inform this map assumes a 'funded place' as being for 25.5 hours per week. Local data assessing the existing usage of the working parent entitlement for 3 and 4 year-olds in Harrow provides an average of 28.5 hours a week being used per place, however younger children may not end up taking up as many hours, so the DfE estimate may be reasonable.

Figure 2: Shortfalls and surplus of funded places for under 3's from September 2025





## Figure 2 Summary:

In Harrow, from September 2025:

- There is a total shortfall of 65 places for under 3's when accounting for the difference between wards with a projected surplus of places and those with a projected shortfall. Broken down by age:
  - A shortfall of 199 places have been identified for under 2's
  - A surplus of 134 places have been identified for 2 year-olds
- Wards with a projected shortfall of places include shortfalls for both under 2's and 2 year-olds, with the exception of Belmont which is projected to have a shortfall of places for under 2's, offset by a larger surplus of places for 2 year-olds:
  - 13 wards with projected shortfalls
  - 9 wards with a projected surplus
- Although there appears to be no strong geographical trend in the distribution of wards identified with shortfalls or surpluses, those with a shortfall are generally towards the south of the borough with a cluster in central and south-west Harrow, whereas those with a surplus are generally found further north in the borough with a grouping of wards in the north-west:
  - Wards with the largest projected shortfalls:
    - Marlborough: -111 places
    - Wealdstone North: -89 places
    - Harrow on the Hill: -86 places
  - Wards with the largest projected surplus:
    - Hatch End: +112 places
    - Pinner: +108 places
    - Stanmore: +99 places

## ***Using local headcount data to assess likely demand for expanded under 3's funding***

By calculating the average number of funded hours accessed by 3 and 4 year-olds using the current 30 hour entitlement (average of 28.5 funded hours used) and applying this to the numbers of under 2's and 2 year-olds currently accessing the working parent entitlements, estimates can be derived of the likely number of full-time (30 hour) places that may be required for under 3's of working parents from September 2025. Spring term funding headcount data was used for this exercise, as it usually represents the medium or average take-up figure over the course of the 3 academic terms. Analysis suggests the average number of full-time equivalent places (30 hours) that will be required are:

- 581 places for under 2's
- 939 places for 2 year-olds (*2 year-olds accessing the 15 hour additional support entitlement were included in this calculation so it may be overestimated*)

This method assumes the younger age groups will be accessing the same number of funded hours as 3 and 4 year-olds, which may not be the case. It also assumes that all children who will require childcare are already accessing it.

The supply of funded childcare provision should meet most of this demand although some families may need to access their entitlement in neighbouring wards or those nearby. The DfE Childcare Expansion Capital Grant has provided funds to the local authority to help address projected gaps in funded provision from September 2025. Details are provided below.

## **Childcare expansion capital grant funding<sup>16</sup>**

Local authority funding to support the provision of the expanded early years funding entitlements and wraparound places was fully allocated by spring 2025, in order to ensure sufficient provision for the autumn term 2025 onwards. Funds were allocated to childcare providers further to expressions of interest and local needs analysis including projected shortfall data via the DfE, which helped identify wards with potential gaps in provision. Providers in these wards with capacity to expand places were given priority for funding allocation. This grant was focussed on PVI nurseries and childminders with a separate DfE fund available via a bidding process for schools to expand or create new nursery provision.

- DfE childcare expansion capital grant allocation for Harrow: £368,824.83
- Total funds allocated: £368,824.83 / Estimated place creation: 180 – 200 places for under 3's
- School-based nursery capital funding: x1 successful bid (£150,000) for Roxbourne Primary School to establish a nursery for children aged 9 months to 3 years old

Priority wards identified for expansion of provision include:

- Canons: *projected shortfalls of under 3's places and low supply of existing places.*
- Marlborough: *projected shortfalls of under 3's places, large early years cohort and significant projected population growth.*
- Rayners Lane: *projected shortfalls of under 3's places and low supply of existing places.*
- Wealdstone North & South: *projected shortfalls of under 3's places, low supply of existing places and moderate early years cohorts.*

Other priority considerations: other wards with considerable projected shortfalls of under 3's places albeit with either comparably low early years' cohorts or at least moderate levels of existing provision, include:

- Harrow-on-the-Hill, Harrow Weald, Kenton East, Kenton West, Roxeth and Edgware

Although the intended focus of capital funding spend was on expanding capacity for under 3's funded places in these localities, this was dependent on providers in these wards being able to do so. Limitations for some providers included size of the setting, the age range they are registered for and tenancy restrictions. The spread of funding allocation was fairly wide, and all wards deemed a priority contained providers to whom funds were allocated:

- Capital funds were allocated across:
  - 38 providers in 18 wards including:
    - 22 PVI nurseries including 10 SEND Champion settings
    - 15 childminder settings
    - 1 maintained school nursery
- In addition to the childcare expansion capital grant, school-based capital funding has enabled the creation of 1 new nursery for under 3's at Roxbourne School, situated in the Rayners Lane ward (works currently in progress).

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childcare-expansion-capital-grant-funding>



## Addressing challenges to the sufficiency and take-up of funded early education

The main challenges identified in last year's full report and local authority measures to address them are outlined below:

- **Ensuring sufficiency of places for the expansion of funding entitlements**

This has been highlighted as potentially the most significant risk to supply meeting demand both locally and nationally. In spring 2024, only 35% of providers said they had capacity to provide spaces to more children than were already attending their setting.

### **Measures taken:**

- **Childcare expansion capital grant funding** – as outlined in the above section, the full grant issued to Harrow has been allocated to providers in the borough prioritised by areas of most need, in order to alleviate potential pressures on sufficiency posed by the final phased expansion of early education funding entitlements, due in September 2025.
- **Reviewing the roll-out of the April 24 and September 2024 expansions** – local reviews undertaken of the first two phased expansions of the funding entitlements to younger age groups and feedback sought from providers. So far demand for these expansions has been met and previously identified shortfalls via DfE data have not come to fruition.
- **Business support** – resources specific to the roll-out of the expanded entitlements regularly shared with providers and support information available via our website.
- **Low take-up of 2 year old funding (additional support entitlement)**

Take-up of this entitlement has traditionally been fairly low in Harrow, despite a variety of past campaigns and promotional drives to improve it. Renewed efforts have been implemented to address this issue.

### **Measures taken:**

- **Promotion of funding entitlements:**
  - Family Hubs outreach sessions - speaking to families with babies and young children who are accessing toddler groups and health services in Family Hubs across Harrow about their entitlements. Answering queries and helping families to access/find funded provision.
  - Updating website and creation of new funding leaflets and posters – improving accessibility for families with up to date and easy to follow information online and via literature
  - Regular promotion and leaflet/poster distribution with partner agencies and professionals in early support, health, social care and education.
- **Contacting families eligible under SEND and 'Children Looked After' criteria:**
  - Contacting parents of 2 year-olds in receipt of DLA (disability living allowance) who are not accessing their entitlement (these families are highlighted on lists of potentially eligible children via the Department for Work & Pensions).
  - Contacting social workers and professionals working with families of 2 year-olds eligible under SEND criteria or who are 'Looked After' to ensure awareness and to support take-up of the entitlement.

## 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'.<sup>17</sup> Some providers are still awaiting their first full inspection. These providers are excluded from our calculation

Table 15: Childcare provider inspection outcomes (May 2025)

Type of provision	Total number of providers (excluding those not yet inspected and those with 'Met' or 'Not Met' outcomes)		% achieving good or outstanding	
	2024	2025	2024	2025
Childminders	65	56	95%	98%
Nursery classes in schools *	28	28	96%	96%
Maintained nursery schools	1	1	100%	100%
Private and voluntary nurseries	93	90	96%	97%
<b>Total</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>97%</b>

\* Early years grade if available, otherwise overall school grade

#### Table Summary:

- Overall, 97% (170 out of 175 providers) of inspected early years' childcare providers in Harrow are graded 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted. This represents an increase of 1% year on year.
- This is the second consecutive year an improvement in quality has been reported and the highest figure since 2021
- Over the past year, childminders have seen an increase of 4% in the percentage of 'good' or 'outstanding' providers, while PVI nurseries have seen an increase of 1%. School based nurseries have remained unchanged.

### 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 20 childminders with a 'met' grade and 2 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.

<sup>17</sup> For more information see <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/about-our-inspection-reports>

## National and regional comparisons

Table 16: Regional comparisons of quality<sup>18</sup>

% of providers 'good' or 'outstanding'	Harrow		London		England	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Childminders	95%	98%	96%	96%	98%	98%
Nursery classes in schools	96%	96%	97%	96%	91%	92%
Maintained nursery schools	100%	100%	97%	99%	98%	98%
Private and voluntary nurseries	96%	97%	96%	98%	97%	98%

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. Data for Harrow is only based on primary schools that have nursery classes attached.

### Table Summary:

- The percentage of 'good' or 'outstanding' childminders, nursery classes in schools and maintained nursery schools in Harrow is either the same as or higher than regional figures for London and national figures for England, however Harrow is slightly behind both comparators for PVI nurseries:
  - Childminders: 2% higher than London and the same as England. There has been an increase of 3% in Harrow over the past year, whereas the figures for London and England remain unchanged.
  - Nursery classes in schools: the same as London and 4% higher than England. The figure for London has fallen by 1%, whilst for England it has increased by 1% over the past year. The figure for Harrow remains unchanged.
  - Maintained nursery schools: 1% higher than London and 2% higher than England. The figure for London has increased by 2% over the past year, whilst for England and Harrow it has remained unchanged.
  - PVI nurseries: 1% lower than both London and England. There has been an increase of 1% in Harrow and England over the past year, whilst for London it has increased by 2%.

## Quality funding supplement and Early Years Learning Partnership Group

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 (dependent on required provider feedback and Ofsted inspection gradings).

The Early Years Learning Partnership Group, managed by PVIs, Childminders and maintained schools with nurseries, supports system leadership and workforce development. It supports issues around staff retention and development, reviews best practice across settings and leadership program partnerships including subscriptions, training and peer to

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/childcare-providers-and-inspections-as-at-31-march-2025> & <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/maintained-schools-and-academies-inspections-and-outcomes-official-statistics#inspection-data>

peer reviews. The cumulative impact is intended to help improve and maintain the overall quality of early years' provision in Harrow. The partnership group continues into 2025.

## Methodology: sources of data

- Number of children: based on GLA population projections from the London Data Store.
- Children with SEND/EHC plans: based on data held by our local authority.
- Supply of childcare: based on data provided to the London Borough of Harrow via 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: funded early education and childcare*. Supply/demand mapping of under 3's funded places for September 2025, based on Department for Education – *Early years entitlement readiness data*. Internal funding headcount data and local intelligence is also used. Data on eligible families for the additional support entitlement for 2 year-olds is provided by the Department for Work and Pensions.
- Quality of childcare: data on childcare quality is provided by Ofsted.
- Provider Surveys: feedback used in supply and demand sections

## Glossary of acronyms

- **CSA:** Childcare Sufficiency Assessment
- **PVI:** Private, Voluntary and Independent
- **SEND:** Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- **EHCP:** Education, Health and Care Plan
- **SENIF:** Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund
- **DLA:** Disability Living Allowance
- **DAF:** Disability Access Fund
- **SENARS:** Special Educational Needs Assessment and Review Service
- **SENDIAS:** Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Support and Advice Service
- **CYAD:** Children and Young Adults Disabilities Service
- **GLA:** Greater London Authority
- **FIS:** Families Information Service
- **DfE:** Department for Education
- **DWP:** Department for Work and Pensions