Cumbria County Council Childcare sufficiency report – 2021

1.0 Introduction

Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on all English local authorities to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, that the provision of childcare is sufficient to meet the requirements of parents in their area who require childcare in order to enable them to take up, or remain in work or to undertake education or training which could reasonably be expected to assist them to obtain work.

Cumbria County Council, along with all other local authorities, is required to report annually to its elected members on how it is meeting this duty, whilst also making this report available and accessible to parents.

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2.0 Recommendations

- Promote take-up of 2 year old places
- Continue to encourage partnership working to meet parental demand and provide sufficient childcare places in areas of identified need where reasonably practicable
- Work with providers to promote the business support available, to encourage long term sustainability
- Work with providers to develop and secure a suitably qualified and experienced childcare workforce
- Offer advice and support to new providers considering entering the market with business planning and quality of childcare
- Where reasonably practical ensure sufficient childcare is available in areas of new housing developments
- Continue to work in partnership to raise quality of childcare provision in Cumbria to enable children to reach their full potential
- Promote awareness with parents and providers about the financial support that is available to support families with childcare costs
- Promote the take-up of Early Years Pupil Premium with childcare providers

3.0 Methodology

This report provides an overview of childcare sufficiency in Cumbria by identifying the supply, the demand and any gaps in provision, by using data from a number of sources:

- Analysis of existing childcare provision – through Ofsted data, in house data systems/knowledge and a provider self-update to Cumbria County Council.
- Two, three and four year old funding claims
- Statistical data from the Office of National Statistics and DWP
- Childcare Provider Survey June 2021

4.0 Childcare demand

4.1 Population

Cumbria is England's second largest county geographically. Its population density varies across its six districts with greater proportions living in Carlisle and South Lakeland and smaller numbers living in Eden and Barrow. The highest numbers of 0-5 year olds live in Carlisle, Allerdale and South Lakeland.

Table 1: Estimated number of children living in Cumbria Mid 2019

	Year of age					
	0	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
Cumbria	**4,409**	**4,459**	**4,824**	**4,987**	**4,959**	**5,146**
Allerdale	807	897	944	905	974	982
Barrow-in-Furness	709	689	748	767	759	729
Carlisle	1,080	1,067	1,152	1,269	1,217	1,286
Copeland	602	627	687	735	700	728
Eden	386	414	426	442	463	478
South Lakeland	825	765	867	869	846	943

(Source: Office of National Statistics, Mid 2019

www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesforukenglandandwalesscotlandandnorthernireland

4.2 Birth rates

Information collected by the Office of National Statistics, inserted below, shows Cumbrian birth rates have been on a downward trend since at least 2012. Nationally there was 640,370 live births in 2019, a decrease of 2.5% since 2018, and a 12.2% decrease since the recent peak in 2012. In Cumbria there were 4233 live births in 2019. This is a decrease of 2.6% since 2018. As a comparison with National figures there has been a 15.3% decrease in birth rates in Cumbria since 2012.

Nationally, for the third year running the still birth rate reached an all-time low since 1927, falling to 3.9 still births per 1000 total births.

Table 2: Birth rates in Cumbria

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Cumbria	**4996**	**4814**	**4760**	**4,789**	**4,758**	**4,563**	**4,347**	**4,233**
Allerdale	940	879	902	893	902	903	860	756
Barrow-in-Furness	762	759	727	770	780	712	727	701
Carlisle	1222	1180	1261	1,206	1,170	1,116	1,009	1,062
Copeland	804	752	677	718	703	655	603	575
Eden	442	447	399	395	409	401	392	407
South Lakeland	826	797	794	807	794	776	756	732

Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 26 November 2020]

Table 3: Predicted birth rates in Cumbria

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Cumbria	**4,337**	**4,354**	**4,318**	**4,271**	**4,229**	**4,233**
Allerdale	837	848	845	847	842	838
Barrow-in-Furness	690	698	694	683	675	677
Carlisle	1,077	1,066	1,052	1,027	1,014	1,013
Copeland	630	630	620	608	599	599
Eden	374	372	370	366	363	362
South Lakeland	727	740	737	739	736	744

(Source ONS Population predictions, by age of mother)

The Office of National Statistics predicted there would be a decrease in birth rates from 2019; birth rates are expected to continue on a downward trend until 2035, at which point there is due to be a slow increase again.

4.3 Household Incomes

Household incomes can sometimes indicate demand for childcare. The table below shows the average (annual) household income across Cumbria in 2020. Amongst Cumbria's districts the median household income varies from £26,691 per year in Copeland to £35,206 in South Lakeland. 10.8% of Cumbrian household's annual income was between £0-£10k in 2020, this is a 1.1% positive decrease from 2018 where 11.9% of household income in Cumbria was between £0-£10k.

Table 4: Annual Household Income 2020

Area name	Median household income	Number Households: Annual Household Income £0-10k	% Households: Annual Household Income £0-10k
Cumbria	£29,434	24,404	10.8
Allerdale	£27,533	5,612	12.8
Barrow-in-Furness	£27,474	3,725	12.0
Carlisle	£27,941	5,827	11.8
Copeland	£26,691	3,927	13.3
Eden	£31,673	2,091	8.7
South Lakeland	£35,206	3,222	6.7

(Source: Paycheck, CACI Ltd, 2020)

4.4 Childcare Element of Working Tax Credit

The childcare element of Child Tax Credit/Working Tax Credit can be used as an indicator to measure how many families are in receipt of financial support relating to the cost of formal childcare.

The table below shows that there are greater proportions of families in receipt of the childcare element of Child Tax Credit in the districts of Carlisle and South Lakeland; the lowest proportions are in Eden and Copeland. As a result of welfare reforms, families will see Child Tax Credits replaced by Universal Credit (UC). Universal Credit is being rolled out in Cumbria at present. Currently any new claimants will be receiving UC instead of Working or Child Tax Credits, however as it has not yet been fully rolled out some existing families are still in receipt of CWTC. Therefore, it is worth noting the figures below will under-report the number of claimants for Cumbria. A true representation will not be reportable until UC has been fully rolled out across Cumbria.

Table 5: Number of families* claiming the childcare element of Child Tax Credits and/or Working Tax Credit

	Childcare element 2018 (thousands)	Childcare element 2020 (thousands)
Cumbria	**2.2**	**1.4**
Allerdale	0.3	0.2
Barrow-in-Furness	0.4	0.3
Carlisle	0.7	0.4
Copeland	0.1	0.1
Eden	0.1	0.1
South Lakeland	0.5	0.4

(Source HMRC, *number of families claiming may not equal the number of children due to the policy to provide support for a max of 2 children per family)

Table 6: Universal Credit – Any household with child dependents

	Mar-20	Aug-20	Change from March 2020	
			No	%
Great Britain	1,211,227	1,720,141	508,914	42.0%
Cumbria	7,960	10,867	2,907	36.5%
Allerdale	2,058	2,593	535	26.0%
Barrow	1,183	1,574	391	33.1%
Carlisle	1,900	2,653	753	39.6%
Copeland	1,402	1,687	285	20.3%
Eden	532	836	304	57.1%
South Lakeland	880	1,529	649	73.8%

Source: DWP

5.0 Cost of Childcare

Providers across the county vary what they charge parents for childcare. Parents can find out what their local providers are charging by contacting them directly or by contacting the Children's and Families Information Service on 03457 125 737.

Families can expect to pay for childcare by the hour, session, day or week, depending on how many hours the childcare provision is open for and what services they offer.

The government offers financial support to help families with childcare costs through various instruments (depending on qualifying criteria), meaning not all families will pay the hourly rate in full. Current support mechanisms include:

- Tax Free Childcare
- 15 hours per week free childcare for some 2 year olds and all 3 and 4 year olds in nursery provision
- 30 Free Childcare for 3 and 4 year olds for working families or who are unable to work because of a disability or have caring responsibilities
- Tax Credits for Childcare
- Universal Credit for Childcare
- Support while you Study

For more information and to check eligibility criteria please visit the Department for Education website Childcare Choices: **www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/**

6.0 Childcare for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

From September 2014 the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) regulations 2014 were introduced to ensure early years settings, along with partners in health and social care, identify children's additional needs early by building on good practice, following the graduated approach which focuses on the outcomes and aspirations of the child.

The Children and Families Act 2014 provides, from September 2014, for:

- A clear and transparent 'Local Offer' of services across education, health and social care with children, young people and parents involved in preparing and reviewing it
- Services across education, health and care to be jointly commissioned
- Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans to replace statements and Learning Difficulty Assessments (LDAs) with the option of a Personal Budget for families and young people who want one

6.1 Principles underlying the Code of Practice

The SEND Code of Practice describes the principles that should be observed by all professionals working with children and young people who have SEN or disabilities.

These include:

- Taking into account the views of children, young people and their families
- Enabling children, young people and their parents to participate in decision-making
- Collaborating with partners in education, health and social care to provide support
- Identifying the needs of children and young people
- Making high quality provision to meet the needs of children and young people
- Focusing on inclusive practices and removing barriers to learning
- Helping children and young people to prepare for adulthood

For more information please see: **www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/350685/Early_Years_Guide_to_SEND_Code_of_Practice_-_02Sept14.pdf**

6.2 What is happening in Cumbria?

The Early Years team and the Inclusion Service work with a number of providers across the County where children have been identified as requiring additional support. Early Years Specialist Advisory Teachers and Area SENCO's (Special Educational Needs Coordinators) work with childcare providers and families to enable the children to access childcare and education in Private, Voluntary, Independent and school settings.

Through our partnership work with the National Association for Special Educational Needs (NASEN), Cumbria has been able to offer an accredited Level 3 Early Years SENCO award. During 2020, 24 provider SENCOs in the PVI sector achieved the award, with a further 54 participating during 2021-22. The award has provided PVI practitioners with increased knowledge, skills and understanding; and they have gained a wealth of experience and tools to support them in their role as Early Year's SENCo's.

The delegates have developed an in-depth understanding of the SEND legislation and the statutory duties underpinning their practice and provision; this has supported them to lead and manage their teams more effectively and to have a positive impact on children's outcomes. The Early Years SENCOs have become more familiar with the agencies that can support families of children with SEND and they have benefitted from meeting these professionals and gaining an insight from them about their roles and services; this has increased their confidence in working in partnership with these professionals.

Through our work with the National Children's Bureau, Cumbria developed 'A Year of Transition' toolkit for settings and schools to support all children's transition into early years, into year 1 and for children with SEND.

6.3 Cumbria`s Local Offer

The Local Offer is the central source for information, support and guidance for parents, carers, and their children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). This service holds information about provision that parent/carers can access across education, health and social care for children and young people with SEND. It also sets out information for those who do not have Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP).

The Offer is being reviewed and updated to ensure it is accessible to children and young people, parents and carers and professionals.

It has two key purposes:

- To provide clear, comprehensive, accessible and up-to date information about provision and how to access it
- To make provision more responsive to local needs and aspirations by directly involving disabled children, those with SEND, and service providers in its development and review

This link will take you to the Local Offer:
http://localoffer.cumbria.gov.uk/kb5/cumbria/fsd/family.page?familychannel=5-1&loboolean=1

7.0 Free early years education for 2, 3 and 4 year olds

7.1 Free childcare for 2 year olds

For some low income families, their 2 year old may be entitled to 15 hour of free childcare per week over a minimum of 38 weeks (570 hours). Please see Appendix 1 for eligibility criteria.

In the January 2021 statistical release, national take up of 2 year old's accessing their free funded places was 62% and take up in Cumbria was 73%. Compared with January 2020, nationally take-up has decreased from 69%. A similar pattern is evident in Cumbria as take up was 79%.

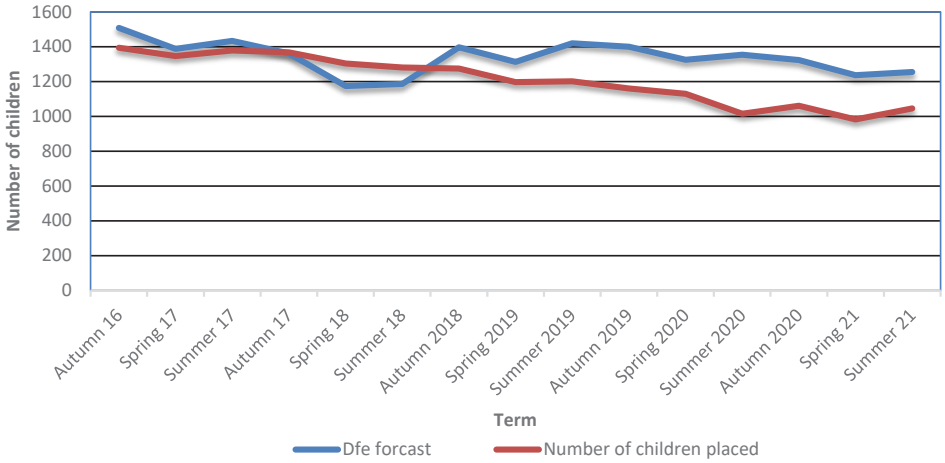
On the 5th January 2021, a third lockdown was announced, with all Early Years providers were encouraged to remain open, whilst Primary and Secondary schools were to offer places to Key Workers and Vulnerable children only, with their Early Years provision open to all.

Attendance in the early part of Spring 21 was low - providers reported this was due to parental confidence and choosing not to use childcare at that time, also, parents may have already been at home with older children. The number of children accessing a funded 2 year old place in Cumbria is a concern, although take-up is higher than National; work is ongoing to promote take up of 2 year old places.

Summer 2020 saw most childcare providers close during the (first) Covid-19 lockdown. This had an impact on new 2 year old's accessing a free place and the take-up rate reduced to 75%. In Summer 21 the take-up rate had increased to 83%.

When considering this information, please note that once a child is allocated a free funded 2 year old place they have access to that place until they move onto the universal 3 and 4 year old entitlement, even if the families do not continue to be eligible because of a change in circumstances.

Graph 1: Take-up of free 2 year old childcare places – Cumbria



(Source: Cumbria County Council)

7.2 Take up of universal 3 and 4 year old free entitlement

All three and four year old's are entitled to 15 hours per week of free education (universal entitlement), over a minimum of 38 weeks (570 hours). Since September 2017 some families, mainly from working households, have become entitled to 30 hours of free education per week over a minimum of 38 weeks (1140 hours) due to the introduction of the 30 hour offer.

Take up detailed in the January 2021 statistical release of the universal entitlement in Cumbria was 97% (2020 – 99%) which was higher than national take up of 90%.

The table below outlines the number of childcare places accessed by three and four year olds in Summer 2021. Overall, the take-up of Free Entitlement places is 99%. Variances in Children Centre footprint areas may be due to families moving to a new house during the period between birth and accessing their free entitlements. Of all children accessing their free entitlement, 57% are also accessing the extended offer of 30 hours.

The section of the table that is titled 'Children who live out of county' refers to those children who live in other counties but who are accessing some or all of their entitlement in Cumbria. This is included, as funding is allocated by the Department for Education based on Local authority claims for the number of children accessing provision, not on the county they live in.

In Cumbria, during the Summer Term 2021 children accessed their three and four year old provision in the following way: 47.5% in PVI, 44.5% in school nursery classes and 8% from academy nursery classes.

Table 7: Analysis of market share of 3 and 4 year old funding claims, Summer 2021.

Sector	Number of children	No. of children Market share	Funded Hours Market share
Schools	3447	47.5%	44%
PVI	3229	44.5%	48%
Academy	588	8%	8%
Total	7264		

Some parents choose to access their free entitlement from more than one provider. During Summer Term 2021 6% of children claimed from more than one provider, the majority of these cases were in South Lakeland followed by Allerdale and Carlisle.

To assist you in comparing take up in areas, please see Appendix 3 which shows Childrens Centre footprints and Lower-Layer Super Output Areas (LSOA) deprivation areas. LSOA is an overall measure of multiple deprivation experienced by people living in an area and is calculated for every Lower-layer Super Output Area.

Table 8: Take up of 3 and 4 Free Entitlement places Summer 2021

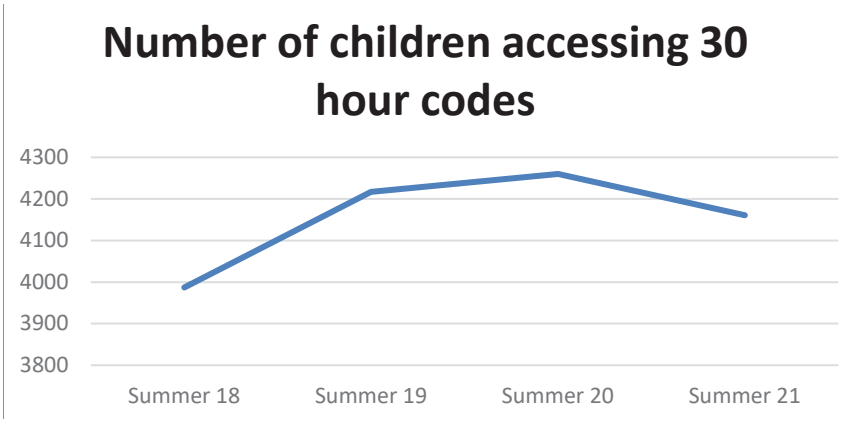
District	Childrens Centre Footprint	3 and 4 year old GP birth rates	No of 3 and 4 year olds who took up their universal 15 hour place	% Take-up of 3 and 4 year old places - Universal (15 hours)	No of 3 and 4 year olds who took up their Extended 30 hour place	% Take-up of 3 and 4 year old places - Extended (30 hours)
Allerdale	Derwent Valley	244	248	102%	158	64%
Allerdale	Distington	191	193	101%	138	72%
Allerdale	North Allerdale	355	376	106%	188	50%
Allerdale	West Allerdale	276	263	95%	139	53%
Allerdale	Workington	379	361	95%	169	47%
Copeland	Distington	44	38	86%	17	45%
Copeland	Egremont	192	209	109%	111	53%
Copeland	Millom	164	171	104%	92	54%
Copeland	North East Copeland	188	167	89%	98	59%
Copeland	North Whitehaven	260	240	92%	154	64%
Copeland	South Whitehaven	224	229	102%	113	49%
Barrow in Furness	Bram Longstaffe	217	196	90%	127	65%
Barrow in Furness	Dalton	168	166	99%	106	64%
Barrow in Furness	Greengate	211	202	96%	75	37%
Barrow in Furness	Hindpool	242	210	87%	89	42%
Barrow in Furness	Newbarns	308	348	113%	227	65%
South Lakeland	East South Lakeland	292	301	103%	203	67%
South Lakeland	Kendal West	256	248	97%	159	64%
South Lakeland	Lakes	193	189	98%	114	60%

7.3 30 hours free childcare for 3 and 4 year olds

Since September 2017 some families are eligible to access up to 30 hours free childcare; qualifying criteria can be found in Appendix 2.

In Summer 21, there were 4161 children accessing extended hours; this represented 57% of (the total number of) children claiming free entitlement hours for 3 and 4 year olds.

Graph 2: Take-up of 30 hour places in Cumbria



(Source: Cumbria County Council)

7.4 Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

Providers can claim additional funding to support families - Early Years Pupil Premium. Eligible families include families who are not in employment and also children who have been/are in the care of the local authority. Providers can claim up to £300 per year for eligible children accessing their 3 and 4 year old free entitlement. This funding is to further support children's needs whilst in their care. In Summer 2021, settings claimed EYPP for 949 children; this represents 13% of all children accessing a 3 and 4 year old funded place during this term.

Table 9 – Early Years Pupil Premium take up in Cumbria 2018 – 2021

District	2018		2019		2020		2021	
	Number claiming EYPP Summer 2018	Take-up % of all children Summer 2018	Number claiming EYPP Summer 2019	Take-up % of all children Summer 2019	Number claiming EYPP Spring 2020	Take-up % of all children Spring 2020	Number claiming EYPP Summer 2021	Take-up % of all children
Allerdale	177	11%	200	16%	142	12%	212	15%
Copeland	135	12%	197	15%	139	15%	182	18%
Barrow	200	19%	193	19%	162	16%	214	19%
South Lakes	66	4%	85	7%	73	6%	95	7%
Carlisle	170	9%	190	9%	120	7%	182	11%
Eden	51	7%	59	8%	49	8%	64	10%
Total	799	10%	924	12%	685	11%	949	13%

(Source: Cumbria County Council)

8.0 Childcare supply

8.1 Childcare provision in Cumbria

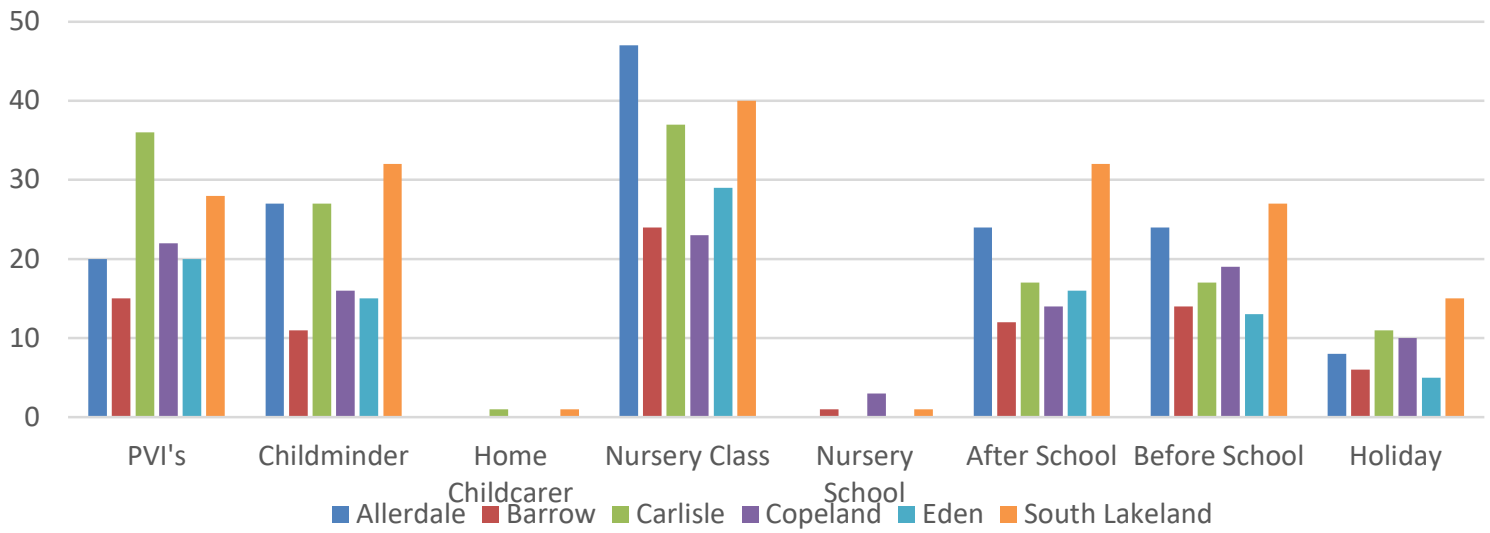
Cumbria has a mixture of childcare providers, which over time has changed and evolved to meet demand from parents.

Table 10: Summary of the number of childcare providers August 2021

	Allerdale	Barrow	Carlisle	Copeland	Eden	South Lakeland	Total Aug 2021	Total Oct 2020
PVI's	20	15	36	22	20	28	141	145
Childminders	27	11	27	16	15	32	128	146
Home Childcarer	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	2
Nursery Class	47	24	37	23	29	40	200	195
Nursery School	0	1	0	3	0	1	5	5
After School	24	12	17	14	16	32	115	118
Before School	24	14	17	19	13	27	114	115
Holiday	8	6	11	10	5	15	55	58
Total	150	83	146	107	98	176	760	784

(Source: Cumbria County Council)

Graph 3: Provider type by locality



(Source: Cumbria County Council)

Between 2020 and 2021 Cumbria has seen a decline in the number of childminders by 18 and this is in line with the National picture. However, we are still seeing new childminders joining the market, as others leave. We have also seen a decline in the number of small pre-schools This has often been due to an experienced drop in occupancy resulting in them taking the decision to close, as they face becoming unsustainable. In most cases alternative provision has been secured for the children who attended.

8.2 Childcare places

The information below summarises the number of Ofsted registered places offered by providers for 0 to 5 years old. Individual providers can change the number of places that they offer in each age group, according to demand and the physical layout of their provision. An example of this is during the day a provider may offer childcare, but before and after school they may offer out of school provision for older children.

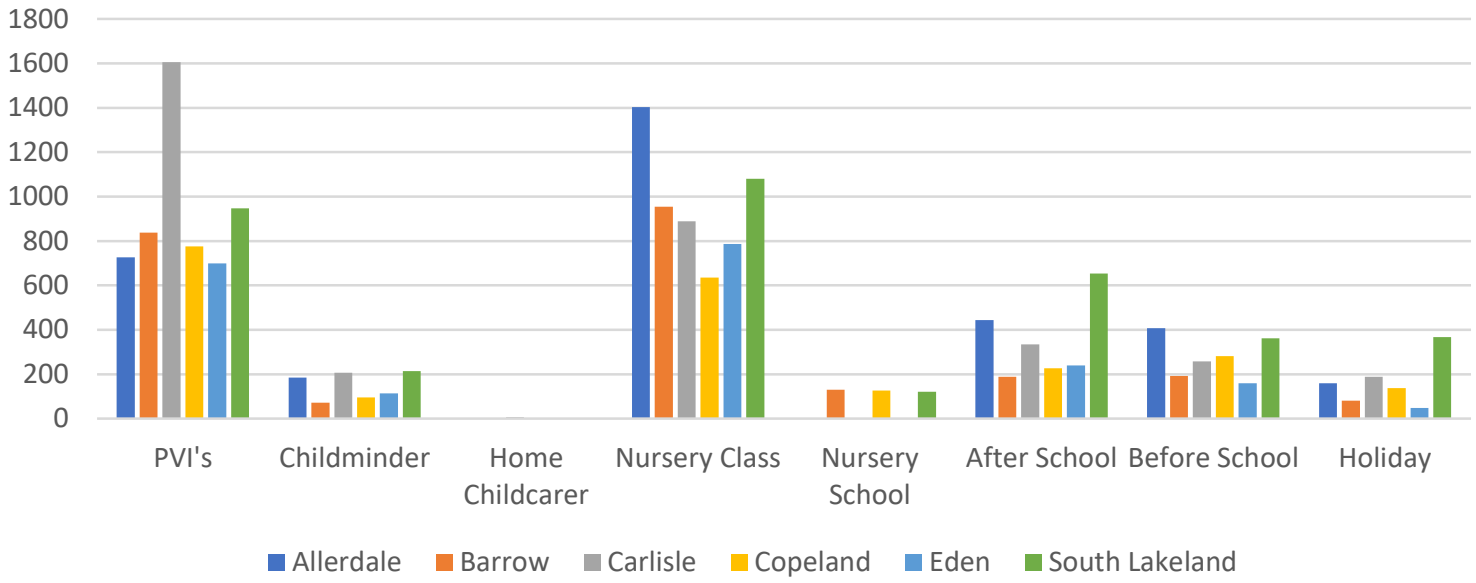
For the purpose of this report, childcare places are based on the physical environment, not the take-up of places as they change throughout the day and year, and from year to year. Families looking for childcare should approach the provider of their choice directly to check availability.

Table 11: Summary of childcare places August 2021 (this includes both full time and part time places)

	Allerdale	Barrow	Carlisle	Copeland	Eden	South Lakeland	Total Aug 2021	Total Oct 2020
PVI's	726	838	1605	776	699	947	5591	5919
Childminders	184	72	207	96	114	213	886	1123
Home Childcarer	0	0	6	0	0	0	6	12
Nursery Class	1403	955	888	635	786	1080	5747	5671
Nursery School	0	130	0	126	0	120	376	396
After School	443	189	334	226	240	653	2085	2191
Before School	407	192	258	282	160	362	1661	1869
Holiday	159	80	188	138	48	367	980	1301

(Source: Cumbria County Council)

Graph 4: Number of childcare places



(Source: Cumbria County Council – please note these include both full and part time places)

9.0 Gap Analysis

Supply and demand of funded childcare places in Cumbria

We surveyed providers in June 21 to ask if they had any vacancies. The summer term is usually the busiest term for providers if they offer places for 3 and 4 year olds as many children transfer to school in September.

Outlined below are the responses and conclusions from the survey, which demonstrated a mixed response from individual providers. The responses did not indicate any specific localities that have a gap in provision.

Baby places

A number of providers indicated they were full or had a waiting list, whilst others did have some availability, particularly from September.

Two year old funded places

There are no obvious gaps in provision identified. The number of eligible families has been declining, and we have seen a significant drop in demand for 2 year old places.

Three and four year old funded places

There were no identified gaps in provision for three and four year old funded places although some providers reported they did not have any vacancies until September.

The market is closely monitored particularly where providers close, open or are having sustainability concerns. Business support is avalable for providers either with sustainability issues or those looking to set up new provision.

Some providers are reporting that they are reducing the services they can offer due to not being able to recruit staff.

Following lockdown some providers have experienced a higher demand for childcare places, whilst others have seen a reduction in the number of fee paying children returning.

Details of childcare providers can be obtained by contacting the Childrens and Families Information Service here or Telephone 03457 125737

10.0 Early Years Workforce

In June 2021 childcare providers were asked to share their experiences of staff recruitment and retention. Providers told us:

- They were experiencing insufficient supply of suitable qualified and experienced staff
- Cost of staffing was dependent on free entitlement funding rate
- Terms and conditions in the PVI sector – low wages, long hours, high level of responsibility
- Wage rates for Level 3 suitable qualified and experienced practitioners are not attractive enough
- Practitioners with Level 3 in Maths and English have more career options and are not choosing childcare
- School comments indicated that some Teaching Assistant's (TA) don't have relevant Early Years qualification or SEND experience
- Practitioners progress from PVI to TA roles
- Agency cost is expensive
- Impact of how many children can assess provision due to Adult:Child ratios

These concerns and experiences are reflected nationally, and in the Government, Autumn 21 Spending Review the following announcements were made by the Department for Education:

- Additional funding for the Early Years entitlements for local authorities is to increase the hourly rates paid to childcare providers to reflect the costs of inflation and national living wage increases.

Early Years Education Recovery Programme delivery:

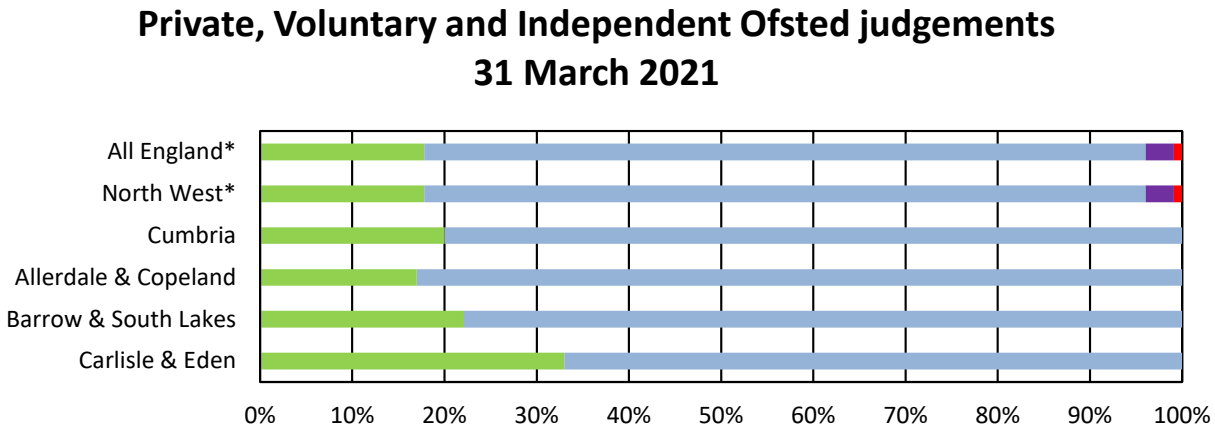
1. A **Stronger Practice programme**, comprising three elements –
   a) New, **universally accessible online training** to upskill practitioners and improve their knowledge of child development, so they are better able to support the development of children in their care.
   b) For those settings in need of most support, access to **mentoring** support for early years practitioners to help strengthen children's learning and development, along with bespoke whole-setting and leadership support, again targeted at settings most in need.
   c) Early Years **innovation** programme to provide opportunities for settings to explore innovative practice, help grow the evidence base and facilitate cross-sector sharing.
2. An expansion of the **Professional Development Programme** for frontline practitioners, to provide national coverage.
3. A **review of Level 3 qualifications**, leading towards a reformed, evidence-based L3 qualification.
4. An expansion of training to increase the number of staff in group-based providers, and childminders, with an **accredited Level 3 SENCO** qualification. This will lead to better identification of SEND, and better support for children with SEND.
5. Substantially expanded numbers of places for **initial teacher training in EY**, to increase the supply of qualified graduates to the sector.
6. Programmes to train early years practitioners to support parents with **home learning**, giving priority to families that would benefit the most. These include intensive home visiting programmes and group-based interventions, proven by trials to improve children's early language and social and emotional development.

11.0 Quality of childcare

When comparing Cumbria Ofsted judgements against the National and North West regions, Cumbria's percentage of outstanding and good providers is above average.

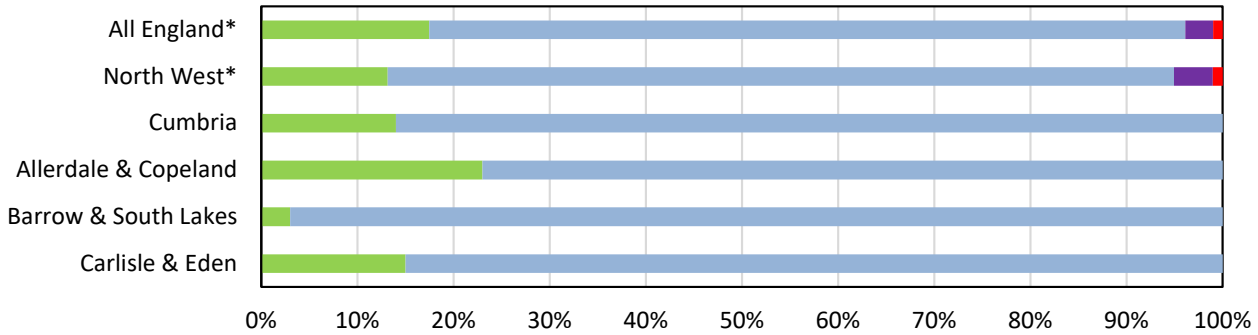
During the Covid pandemic, Ofsted routine inspections were suspended and recommenced on the 4th May 2021. The Early Years Foundation Stage statutory guidance was revised and came into effect on 1 September 2021.

Table 12: Ofsted judgements 31 March 2021



	Carlisle & Eden	Barrow & South Lakes	Allerdale & Copeland	Cumbria	North West*	All England*
Outstanding	33%	22%	17%	20%	18%	18%
Good	67%	78%	83%	80%	79%	79%
Requires Improvement					3%	3%
Inadequate					1%	1%

* Ofsted Statistical data release for March 2021



	Carlisle & Eden	Barrow & South Lakes	Allerdale & Copeland	Cumbria	North West*	All England*
Outstanding	15%	3%	23%	14%	13%	18%
Good	85%	97%	77%	86%	81%	81%
Requires Improvement					4%	3%
Inadequate					1%	1%

* Ofsted Statistical data release for March 2021

12.0 What is available in Cumbria for Early Years Providers

Cumbria have an Early Years team who work with partners to provide advice and support to early years providers in Cumbria. Each Early Years provider has an allocated Adviser whom they can contact.

In addition, the following resources and activities are available:

- An **Early Years Training programme**, offered online and/or virtually depending on the area of learning
- An offer of an annual visit to complete the "Learning Improvement Service Early Years document" (LISEY3) which enable the early years providers to self-evaluate their provision and compliance with the Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage (EYFS) safeguarding and welfare requirements
- Providers are offered an Annual Setting Review (ASR) which focuses on learning and development in their provision which can include a support visit if requested.
- There is a regularly updated website with a wide **range of resources** to support EYFS and **operating a childcare provision**
- Area SENCO support to develop inclusive practice and support children with additional needs
- Designated Safeguarding Lead meetings
- Facilitated local Early Years Manager meetings where peer to peer discussions can take place
- Early Years Reference Group, where sector representatives meet with the Early Years Team to consider and discuss requirements for the sector
- The development of a peer to peer support programme, starting in Autumn 2021
- Providers can request individual and cluster groups support depending on needs identified
- There is an offer of an Early Years Adviser to attend Ofsted feedback meeting following an inspection
- An Early Years Business Adviser who can work intensively with providers to look at business models and financial management.

Appendix 1 - Free childcare for 2 year olds - eligibility criteria

MUST be in receipt of one of:

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- An income-related employment and support allowance
- The Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit and/or Working Tax Credit, provided the annual gross income is no more than £16,190 as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC)

If you meet the following criteria, please provide supporting evidence:

- Universal credit - with an annual net earnings threshold of £15,400 (based on calculating earnings on a monthly basis)
- If the child is looked after by the Local Authority
- If the child has a current statement of special educational needs (SEN) or an education, health and care plan
- If the child is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- If the child has left care through special guardianship or through an adoption or residence order
- If you are excluded from claiming public funds as a consequence of your immigration status, or your lack of immigration status; and are in receipt of support under section 17 of the Children Act 1989

or:

- You are a Zambrano Carer
- You have the right to remain in the UK under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and are subject to no recourse to public funds
- You are supported under s4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

Appendix 2 - 30 hours funded childcare for 3 & 4 year olds - eligibility criteria

Parents will usually qualify for 30 hours free childcare if they (and their partner, if they have one) are:

- In work – or getting paternal leave, sick leave or annual leave.
- Each earning at least the National Minimum Wage or Living Wage for 16 hours per week, or the equivalent of. (This earning limit does not apply if you're self-employed and started your business less than 12 months ago)

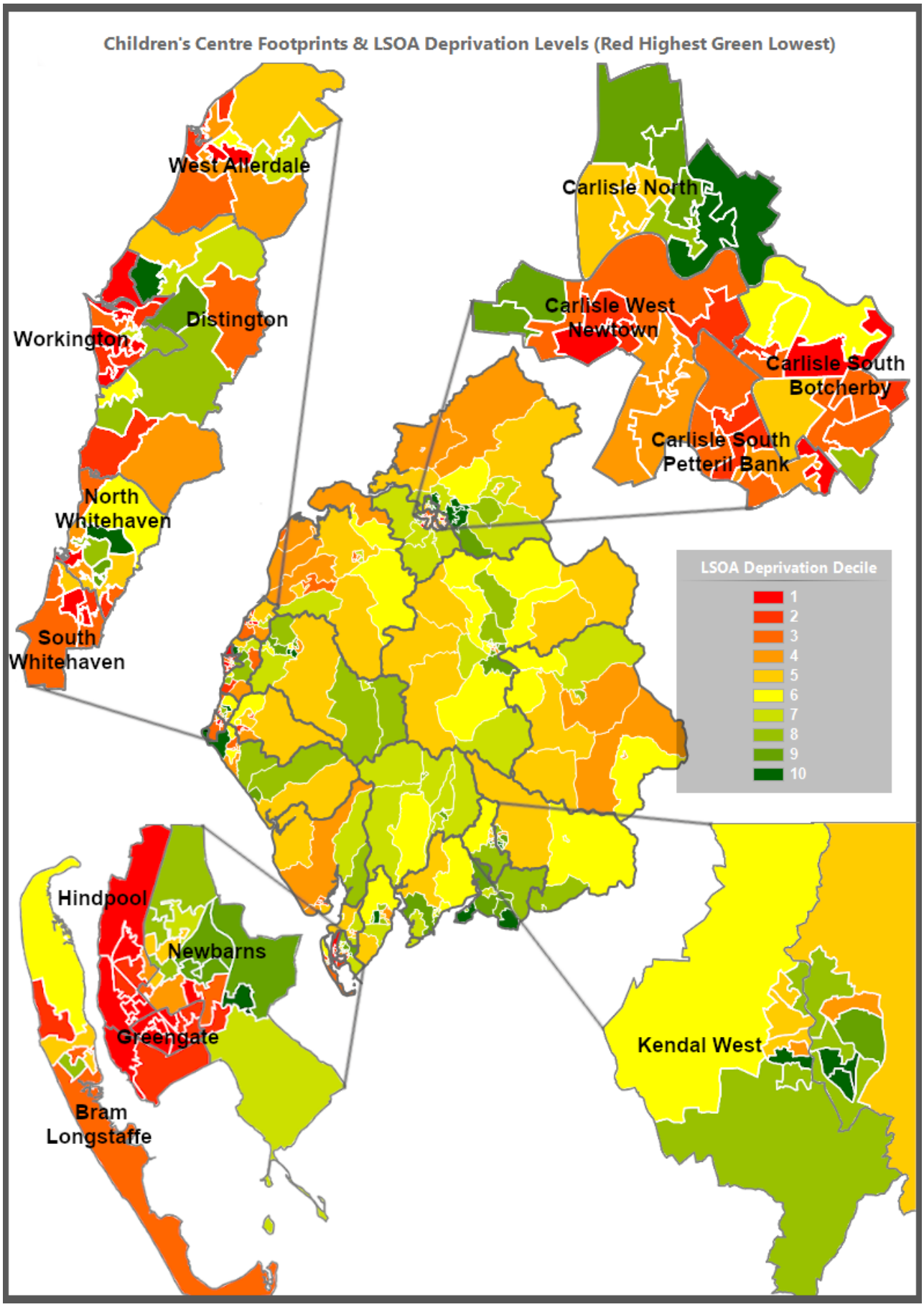
If they cannot work - they may still be eligible if their partner is working, and they get Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, Carer's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance Families will not qualify for this entitlement if:

- Either parent has an income of more than £ 100,000
- Either parent is a non-EEA national and subject to immigration control (and has no recourse to public funds)
- Your child does not usually live with you

Application process:

Applying for 30 hours is slightly different parents/carers will need to create a 'Government gateway account'. To do this they will need their details (and if their partner's details, if they have one), including National Insurance number or Unique Taxpayer Reference (UTR), if self-employed. Applications can be made here **https://childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk/par/app/trialmessage** or by going to the childcare choices web site https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/

Once eligibility has been confirmed the parent/carer will be given an eligibility code, they will then need to take this code along with their National Insurance number and child's date of birth to their chosen childcare provider. The chosen provider will then complete an electronic check through Cumbria County Council to verify eligibility.

All eligible parents will be expected to reconfirm their continued eligibility every three months with HMRC, if they do not continue to be eligible or do not reconfirm, the additional hours will cease at the end of the grace period, for more information **https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/childrenandfamilies/cfis/freeearlyyears.asp**

Appendix 3 - Children's Centre Footprints and Centres