

Key Outcomes

2025 Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Childcare Sufficiency Assessment



Place 

Managing the delivery of your education strategy

2025 CSA Methodology

- Structured virtual and telephone interviews with 130 early years childcare providers and registered childminders
- Online survey responses from over 200 parents and carers resident in the Royal Borough
- Analysis of demographic and socio-economic indicators.



Key Outcome 1

The **Maidenhead town** locality continues to account for a relatively high incidence of ongoing new housing developments and occupations - a factor that from a sufficiency perspective requires a continued awareness that **waiting lists in spring 2025, are evidently at their highest levels at early years childcare providers/settings that are situated in the southern area of the town.**

Key Outcome 2

The total number of EHCPs for all 0-19 year olds resident in the Royal Borough is expected to continue to rise, to nearly 1,600 by 2028, and nearly 1,800 by 2030.

This means that the Royal Borough's early years and childcare settings *will* continue to experience increasing demand to support children aged 2-4 years with SEND - and not only to provide childcare and an early education, however, also to have a key role in terms of early identification of needs.

Key Outcome 3

The Eton and Castle ward, plus the bordering Datchet, Horton and Wraysbury locality, continues to account for the highest incidence of resident 0-4 year olds and resident 5-11 year olds.

Therefore, it can be considered opportune that the locality which accounted for the highest incidence of the response from providers: ***/we may consider expanding our early years childcare provision/places***, was also the **Eton and Castle ward and its bordering Datchet, Horton and Wraysbury locality.**

Key Outcome 4

56% of parents/carers stated that they would like to increase their hours of formal childcare over the forthcoming years - this was most frequently stated by parents who had a 2 or 3 year old.

The three wards which accounted for the **highest incidence of a responding parent intending to access Royal Borough-located day nursery at some point in the future** were (the bordering wards of):

- 1. Eton and Castle**
- 2. Clewer and Dedworth East**
- 3. Clewer and Dedworth West**

Key Outcome 5

Both responding early years childcare providers/settings and registered childminders have outlined that the **most notable trend that they have experienced in the past year is an increasing demand for places for babies/children aged 0-12 months.**

For example, 30% of registered childminders stated that they had a waiting list in early 2025 - and the age cohort that was evidently experiencing the most frequent incidence on a waiting list was (by a significant margin) 0-12 months.

Key Outcome 6

Another notable trend experienced by providers in the past 12 months is a **pronounced *parental awareness*** (although which is frequently inconsistent in terms of accuracy about dynamics), **about the extended entitlements and the forthcoming introduction (in September 2025) of the 30 hours funded programme for children aged 9 months - 3 years.**

(It can be noted that a response: *I am currently waiting until I can use my free entitlements*, was most frequently stated by responding parents resident in the Eton and Castle ward).

Key Outcome 7

Responding early years childcare providers/settings repeatedly highlighted an **increasing incidence of parents requesting greater flexibility** trend, which was an and an **increased demand for (only) 2-3 days of childcare/week - particularly focused on the Tuesday → Thursday weekday/midweek period.**

Key Outcome 8

Recruitment continues to be an evident challenge for the majority of responding early years childcare providers/settings with a typical type of feedback being:

“We haven't been able to fill the spaces we have for Level 3 practitioners - as not many candidates are applying”.

Early years childcare providers/settings who stated: recruitment is a big concern, were most frequently situated in the Oldfield ward - a location which continues to experience a relative high degree of new housing developments.

Key Outcome 9

50% of responding early years childcare providers/settings stated that they were experiencing significant contacts and enquiries from parents about the September 2025 extended 30 hours entitlement for working parents with children aged 9 months - 3 years.

Such respondents were most frequently located in the east of the Royal Borough - a locality which also accounted for the highest incidence of parents stating that they would ideally like to increase the number of childcare hours they were using in the next three years.

Key Outcome 10

20% of responding nurseries and pre-schools stated that they provided: both before and after school wraparound provision.

31% of responding registered childminders stated that they provided: both before and after school wraparound provision.

In contrast:

13.5% of responding parents/carers stated that in early 2025 they were accessing wraparound childcare *all of the time* – and:

30% of responding parents/carers stated that in early 2025 they were accessing wraparound childcare *some of the time*.

Sufficiency RAG Rating for 5 key planning localities

Each locality has been given a 'sufficiency' RAG rating - **as of April 2025** - as follows:

Red	Supply and/or demand themed analysis indicates that this is a priority locality/wards of focus - for funded and/or wraparound childcare sufficiency planners within the Royal Borough.
Amber	Supply and/or demand themed analysis indicates that this is a locality/wards of some focus/review - for funded and/or wraparound childcare sufficiency planners within the Royal Borough.
Green	Supply and/or demand themed analysis indicates that this is a lower priority locality/wards of focus - for funded and/or wraparound childcare sufficiency planners within the Royal Borough.

Maidenhead

Windsor

Ascot

Datchet, Horton and Wraysbury

Bray

