

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA)

2019 to 2020

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1. Overall assessment and headlines summary

This document outlines the local authority's work in meeting its childcare sufficiency duty.¹

It outlines the work that is being undertaken to promote high quality early years provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities, two- three- and four year olds eligible for free childcare places, school age children and children needing holiday care.

Local authorities are required by legislation to secure sufficient childcare, so far as reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0 to 14 (or up to 18 for disabled children). This means that parents are able to work because childcare places are available, accessible and affordable and are delivered flexibly at a range of high quality settings.

An Early Years Education is critical to children becoming ready for school and to support their early social interactions and to form relationships with their peers.

This document will provide information about the current and projected supply and demand of childcare for particular age ranges of children. Including the affordability, accessibility and quality of provision and details of how gaps in childcare provision will be addressed.

Assessment of sufficiency

The 2018 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment identified areas for development which have now been addressed whilst increasing the number of children accessing free/funded places and implementing new support such as the 30 hours places.

Medway has been providing free/funded childcare spaces for disadvantaged two year olds since 2013. This offer was extended to over 40% of two-year-olds and in the current data provided by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) the number of potentially eligible two year olds is 44%.

Medway is committed to supporting as many families as possible to take up the offer of free or funded places for an eligible two year old. There are enough registered places to accept all of the potentially eligible two year olds in Medway.

In the summer term 2019, there were vacancies in all of the childcare sectors for three and four year olds and this includes 30 new providers.

¹ Sufficiency is defined as meeting the needs of local parents who require childcare in order to enable them to take up or remain in work or undertake training or education that will lead to work.

From September 2017 Medway has provided funding for eligible families to access the 30 Hour entitlement. The Department for Education (DfE) estimated that there would be **2100** eligible families in Medway.

With an average take up of **80%**, this would equate to approximately **1680** children taking up a place across the year. The number of children accessing a 30 hour place in summer 2019 was **1820** and therefore exceeding the expected take-up figure.

The number of children accessing the funding in summer 2019 is **279** more children than in summer 2018. Take up for autumn 2019 shows an increase of **150** more children compared to autumn 2018.

The developments in 30 hours provision has not had a detrimental impact on the number of 15 hour places offered across Medway. The number of 30 hours places has increased significantly with the addition of 30 new providers.

Headlines summary

The total number of full-time registered childcare places across Medway is 6,444
There are approximately 11,177 children aged 2, 3 and 4 years of age in Medway.

This is broken down as 3,617 children aged 2 years and 7,560 children aged 3 and 4 years.

The government informs Medway Council that approximately 44% of 2 year olds will be eligible for a part- time funded childcare place and this equates to 1,591 children. Due to the childcare place being part-time, this figure is calculated as 795 full-time equivalent places required.

The government informs Medway Council that of the 7,560 children aged 3 and 4 years, approximately 2,100 of these children will potentially be eligible for a funded 30 hours childcare place.

The remaining 5,460 children aged 3 and 4 years of age are all eligible for a funded 15 hours part-time childcare place. This is calculated as 2,730 as a full-time equivalent figure.

The number of 2, 3 and 4 year old required childcare places are added together in the chart below.

Potential requirement of full-time equivalent places for children aged 2 years	Potential requirement of 30 Hour places for children aged 3 and 4 years	Potential requirement of full-time equivalent universal offer places for children aged 3 and 4 years	Total
795	2100	2730	5625

Vacant full-time equivalent childcare places in Medway = **819**

Medway Council Early Years Sufficiency team have received no communications from parents/carers stating they are unable to find a universal or extended Funded Early Education place for their child. This supports the data that there is sufficiency of places across Medway.

Medway CSA Action Plan 2019 to 2020

Key	Action required	Timeline
<p>To have a sufficient, sustainable and high quality childcare market.</p>	<p>Annual review of CSA</p> <p>Childcare occupancy and cost reports coming directly from providers using the sufficiency report on the provider portal.</p> <p>Ofsted information on registered provision from download directly linked to the Synergy System.</p> <p>To support providers on a traded basis to have robust business models that support childcare places in remaining sustainable.</p> <p>Appropriate training opportunities and briefings offered to all Medway Childcare Providers</p> <p>Quality of Childcare Provision supported and monitored.</p>	<p>Summer 2019/2020</p> <p>September 2020</p> <p>Daily</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Throughout the year</p> <p>Throughout the year</p>
<p>To identify wards and age ranges for childcare sufficiency requirements through mapping and place planning.</p>	<p>Work with existing providers to manage the market.</p> <p>Stimulate the market by signposting new potential developers/providers to ward areas that would benefit from additional childcare providers.</p> <p>Publish business support for potential new providers on the Family Information Service Directory.</p> <p>Develop dynamic information sharing routes with local partners through the development of the provider portal and the FIS Community Outreach Worker.</p> <p>Sufficiency team actions to link with deliverability of the 'Medway Council Children and Young People Plan 2019-2024' - Priorities: 1, 3, 7, 8, 9 and 10.</p>	

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2 year olds	<p>Monitor the wards of Strood South, Luton and Wayfield, Gillingham North, Central Chatham and Gillingham South for increases in two-year-old funding take up.</p> <p>Develop information sharing protocols with Early Help workers, to allow targeting of information to eligible families of the Government two-year old funding in line with GDPR.</p> <p>Provide training for partners to support the engagement with the Government 2 year funded childcare offer.</p>	December 2019 to December 2020
3 to 4 year olds	Monitor the fluctuation of child demographic in wards to ensure that changes to demographics are being supported by changes to provision.	September 2019 to December 2020
To ensure Out of School Care is available to families	Monitor wards without provision to enable sufficient places to be accessible.	
Breakfast Club	To implement a consistent information audit to provide a dynamic picture of extended provision across Medway on the Family Information Service Directory.	Ongoing 2019/20
After school Club	To implement a consistent information audit to provide a dynamic picture of extended provision across Medway on the Family Information Service Directory.	Ongoing 2019/20

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<p>To ensure that SEN children and those with additional needs are able to access their entitlement.</p>	<p>Continue to monitor the quality of provision for children with EHCPs and SEN support to ensure that children are being provided with the best support. Ensure that providers are aware of funding they can potentially access to support and adapt to meet children's needs.</p>	<p>Meetings with the SEN Team following the Headcount data.</p>
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2. Demand for childcare

Population of Early Years' children

Numbers by age (**birth data and school services forecast**)

In total, there are **18,002** children under the age of five living in our local authority.

Age	Number of children
Age 0	3366
Age 1	3459
Age 2	3617
Age 3	3829
Age 4*	3731

Population of school age children (May School Census 2019)

In total there are **25,960** children aged 5 to 11, and 10,184 children aged 12 to 14 living in our local authority.

These children may require childcare before and after school and/or during the school holiday.

Age	Number of children
Age 5	3728
Age 6	3946
Age 7	3809
Age 8	3731
Age 9	3650
Age 10	3593
Age 11	3503
Age 12	3516
Age 13	3326
Age 14	3342

Number of children with special educational needs and disabilities

Children with special education needs and 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 in our local authority is:

- 37 for children birth to school age
- 733 for primary school aged children (reception to year 6)
- 766 for secondary school aged children (year 7 to 13)

Children of birth to school age identified with an EHCP in the headcount for summer 2019, take up their places in 24 settings. The Ofsted outcomes for these settings show that 22 of the children take their place in a Good or Outstanding setting which equates to 92%.

Children's needs change over time and are identified at different ages.

Among the youngest children, SEND may only be identified when they start in childcare or school and it can take some time from problems being identified to an EHCP being issued.

It is therefore possible that the number of children with SEND aged 3 and 4 years is an underestimate. Some children have SEN but do not have an EHC plan.

There are 84 children aged 3 and 4 years identified with SEN support in Medway who are accessing 41 childcare settings.

88% of these settings are rated by Ofsted as Outstanding or Good.

Disability Access Funding

In 2018 - 2019, there have been 109 children qualifying for Disability Access Funding (DAF) and these children have accessed the funding at 58 different providers. The Ofsted outcomes for these settings show that 106 children accessing DAF funding attend a setting with an overall Outstanding or Good judgement, this equates to (97.25%).

Changes to population of children in our area

The Schools Services Team use the birth data to forecast need in different areas of Medway. The analysis provided by the service shows the changes to population over time in different areas of Medway.

Area	Number of Births Sep 16 - Aug 17	Number of Births Sep 17 - Aug 18	Number of Births Sep 18 - Aug 19
Chatham	515	524	502
Cuxton Halling	103	96	96
Gillingham	692	677	667
Peninsula	277	275	278
Rainham North	268	252	239
Rainham South	342	356	366
Rochester	284	274	287
Strood	489	474	452
Walderslade	491	483	477

The overall trend in Medway has seen a gradual decrease in the number of births. Births in individual areas tend to fluctuate, but there are some areas which have shown some small increases (Rainham South and Rochester).

Cuxton and Halling has shown a larger increase and this is likely to be due to the large development at St Andrews Park. The remaining areas follow the overall trend of decreasing births.

Year (September – August)	Number of Children 0-4 Years Old
2008-2009	16745
2009-2010	17143
2010-2011	17632
2011-2012	18038
2012-2013	18375
2013-2014	18442
2014-2015	18371
2015-2016	18296
2016-2017	18150
2017-2018	18044
2018-2019	18002

The increase in the birth rate in Hoo, Strood, Rochester and Rainham is supported by the current proposed housing developments in Hoo, Strood, Rochester and Rainham.

The take up of provision for 4 year olds as a percentage of birth rates identifies areas of greatest mobility/migration.

Area	4 year old take-up Sep 15 - Aug 16	4 year old take-up Sep 16 - Aug 17	4 year old take-up Sep 17 - Aug 18
Chatham	92.7%	95.2%	91.2%
Cuxton	129.7%	106.4%	109.8%
Halling			
Gillingham	87.2%	90.7%	93.5%
Peninsula	85.1%	96.3%	99.7%
Rainham	94.8%	88.2%	91.2%
North			
Rainham	110.1%	113.4%	112.7%
South			
Rochester	89.4%	83.7%	84.1%
Strood	88.7%	90.2%	96.1%
Walderslade	90.5%	91.4%	89.3%

The figures above show that there are three areas of high migration/mobility in Medway. Particularly when comparing birth rates to the number of 4 year olds accessing a Reception place.

These areas are Rainham South, Cuxton and Halling. There are also two areas of rising mobility and migration in Strood and the Peninsula.

School places in Medway have been developed to take account of these figures, but no further expansions are currently planned.

3. Supply of childcare

Number of Early Years' providers and places

In total, there are **253** Early Years' childcare providers in our local authority, offering a maximum of **6444** full-time Early Years' childcare places:

Type of provision	Number of providers	Number of registered places
Childminders²	118	724
Nursery classes in schools	43	1457
Maintained nursery schools	0	0
Private, voluntary and independent Day Nurseries and Preschools	92	4263
Total	253	6444

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

Children may attend childcare full time or part time. This table 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.

This results in more children accessing places than is noted as the setting's maximum registered number.

Access to providers

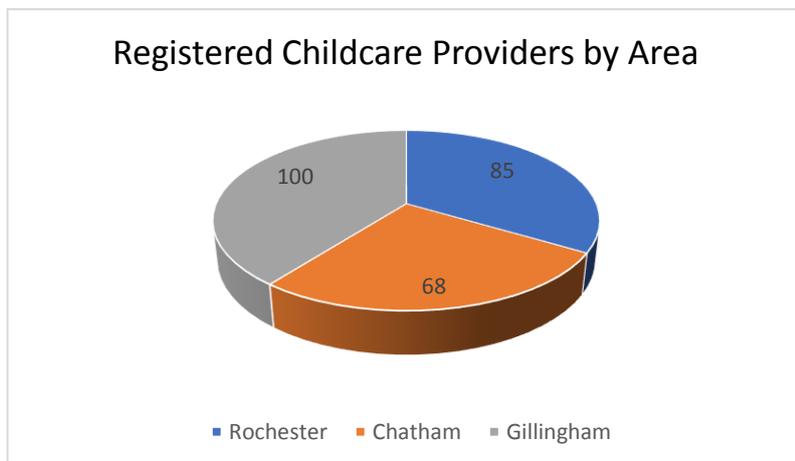
Parents in Medway employ a variety of models for accessing childcare including provision close to home, provision on key work routes, public transport routes and provision in relation to school locations.

An analysis of provider locations by Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) shows that provision is spread across Medway with populated rural areas such as Hoo, Grain and Halling being well served by local Early Years provision.³

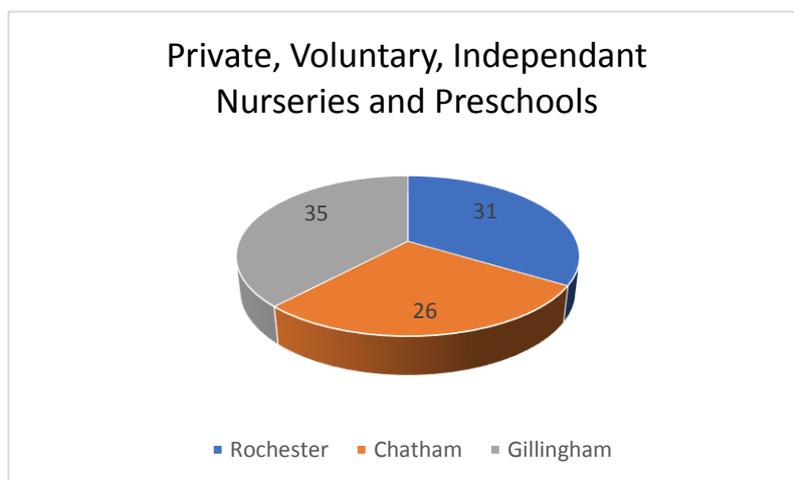
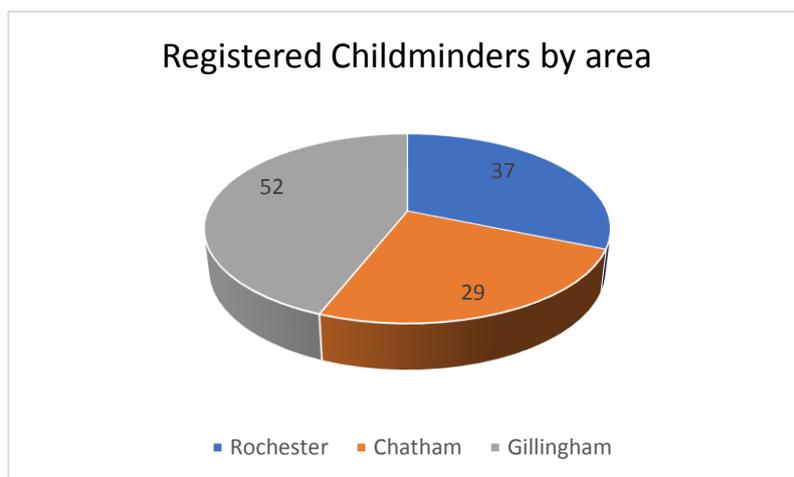
² Some childminder places will also be available for older children and this includes all childminders identified as active in the Family Information Service Directory, not just childminders providing services for children under 5 years old.

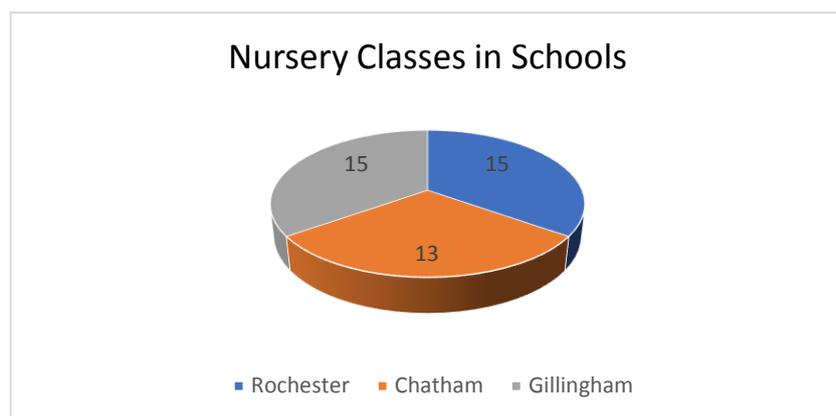
³ LSOAs are smaller geographical areas than wards showing that local provision is sufficient.

Location of childcare across Medway



Registered childcare provider types by area





Early Years' Vacancies

Currently there are **819 full-time** childcare vacancies across Medway. 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. In general, vacancy rates are higher in the autumn, when children move to school.

As we anticipated in the 2018-2019 CSA, there has been an increase in the take-up of 30 Hours places and this will be monitored throughout 2019 to 2020

Number of Early Years' breakfast and after school clubs

Type of provision	Number of providers
Breakfast club – primary school	44
After-school club – primary school	23
Childminders	167
Holiday club	3

Tracking supply of childcare for school age children is difficult because not all of this type of provision is registered with Ofsted.

It is possible that we have under-counted the provision of breakfast and afterschool clubs and holiday clubs.

Parents may also use provision which is not considered 'childcare', for example sports or arts clubs after school or in the holidays.

4. Funded early education

Introduction to funded early education

Some children are entitled to free childcare, funded by the government. These entitlements are for 38 weeks per year.

- Children aged 2 whose families receive certain benefits (including low income families in receipt of in-work benefits), or those who meet additional non-economic criteria, are entitled to 15 hours per week. Nationally, about 40% of 2 year olds are entitled to this offer, but the proportion varies by area
- All children aged 3 and 4 are entitled to 15 hours per week until they start reception class in school
- Children aged 3 and 4 where both parents are working, or from lone parent families where that parent is working, are entitled to 30 hours per week until they start reception class in school⁴

Parents do not have to use all the hours of their funded entitlement. They may choose to split them between providers.

With the agreement of their provider, parents may also spread them across the year. For example, rather than taking 15 hours for 38 weeks a year they could take just under 12 hours for 48 weeks a year.

Proportion of 2 year old children entitled to funded early education

In our local authority, 44% of 2 year olds are potentially entitled to funded early education.

This equates to around 1591 part time places or 795 full-time equivalent places.

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 our local authority is:

Age	Medway	England
Age 2	59%	68%
Age 3 and 4	91%	92%

The data in the table above is based on Department for Education data in January 2019.

⁴ Available to families where each parent (or one parent in a single adult household) are earning the equivalent of working sixteen hours per week on the minimum wage

Providers offering two-year-old funded early education places

Type of provision	Number of providers in Medway	Number of Providers offering two-year-old places	Percentage of Providers offering two-year-old places
Childminders	118	111	94%
Nursery classes in schools	43	8	19%
Maintained nursery schools	0	0	0%
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	92	92	100%

Geographical monitoring of Wards for Funded early education

Two-year-old monitoring

The wards below have a low take up of 2 year olds into funded childcare and require constant targeted monitoring.

Wards with low take up:

- Strood South
- Luton and Wayfield
- Gillingham North
- Chatham Central
- Gillingham South

Three-year-old monitoring

There are 5 areas in Medway where the take up of three-year-old standard places needs constant monitoring.

Wards needing constant monitoring:

- Rochester South and Horsted
- Rochester West
- Princes Park
- Gillingham North
- Rochester East

3 and 4 year old funded entitlement applications

Parents who think they are entitled to a 30 hour extended hours place apply for this online through the Government's Childcare Support website.

The same website is used to apply for tax free childcare and parents can apply for either or both.

If a parent is eligible, the system creates a code which they can use with their chosen childcare provider. If they are ineligible, they will still be entitled to the universal 15 hours of early education and childcare.

Autumn 2018	Number of codes	% of codes issued
Issued with a code	1175	NA
Codes validated	1106	94%
Accessing a place	1079	92%

Spring 2019	Number of codes	% of codes issued
Issued with a code	1675	NA
Codes validated	1581	94%
Accessing a place	1498	89%

Summer 2019	Number of codes	% of codes issued
Issued with a code	1986	NA
Codes validated	1893	95%
Accessing a place	1683	85%

The data above shows that not all parents use the code they receive.

Providers offering funded early education places

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

The percentages show the total percentage of providers offering funded places for the specified ages.

Type of provision	Number of providers	Offering Age 2 targeted	Offering Age 3 and 4 universal 15 hours	Offering Age 3 and 4 – extended 30 hours
Childminders	118	94%	100%	97%
Nursery classes in schools	43	19%	100%	76%
Maintained nursery schools	0	0%	0%	0%
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	92	100%	100%	100%

5. Costs

Costs of early years childcare

For early years childcare outside the funded entitlements, we report on average prices per hour, reported to us by settings.⁵

There may be variations to prices based on the number of hours a family uses, with reductions for longer hours, or discounts for sibling groups.

There may be additional payments for additional services such as lunch and other meals which are not included in these prices.

Price per hour	Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	Childminders
0 and 1 year olds	£5.83	£4.25
2 year olds	£5.68	£4.38
3 and 4 year olds	£5.09	£4.49

Costs of school age childcare

For school age children during term time, we report on average prices before school per day, after school per day and for childminding per hour.

For holiday childcare, we report on holiday club prices per day and per week.

Setting and price unit	Price
After-school club per hour	£3.60
School age childminder per hour	£4.25
Holiday club per day	£ 30.00
Holiday club per week	£140.00

⁵ This data is collected on an annual basis and the current data was collated in January 2019.

6. Quality of childcare in our area

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 year's grade.

Both schools and early years providers have four possible Ofsted grades: 'outstanding', 'good', 'requires improvement', and 'inadequate'.⁶

Some providers are still awaiting their first full inspection. These providers are excluded from our calculation.

Type of provision	Total number of providers inspected	% achieving good or outstanding
Childminders	95	97%
Nursery classes in schools	43	86%
Maintained nursery schools	0	0%
Private and voluntary nurseries	86	94%

Comparing inspection grades over time

% of providers 'good' or 'outstanding'	Year 3 2019-2020	Year 2 2017-2018	Year 1 2016-2017
Childminders	97%	97%	97%
Nursery classes in schools	86%	64%	82%
Maintained nursery schools	0%	0%	0%
Private and voluntary nurseries	94%	94%	92%

The Ofsted outcomes for nursery classes in schools have shown a significant increase in Good and Outstanding grades.

PVI's have maintained a 94% rate of Good and Outstanding grades and childminders have also maintained their Good and Outstanding grades of 97%.

⁶ For more information see <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/about-our-inspection-reports>

7. Methodology

- Unless otherwise stated the data comes from the Summer Term 2019. This is generated from the data provided in the May 2019 Headcount and data held in the Medway Family Information Service Directory.
- Number of children: based on Medway population projections and the ONS.
- Children with EHC plans: based on data held by the Medway SEN Team.
- Supply of childcare: based on data provided to us by Ofsted, who regulate Early Years' provision in schools and childcare provision. In some cases, we have supplemented this with local intelligence where providers are not registered with Ofsted.
- Vacancy rates: based on the number of registered places against actual places filled by children across Medway in the different childcare sectors.
- Funded early education: data on take up of funded early education entitlements is based on the Early Years and Schools Census, which are taken every January and published by the Department for Education in the statistical collection *Education provision: children under five years of age*. Data on entitlement to a funded early education place for 2 year olds is provided by the Department for Work and Pensions.
- Price of childcare: based on the data held in the Medway Family Information Service Directory
- Quality of childcare: data on childcare quality is provided by Ofsted and collated in the Synergy data base.

Other formats and languages

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