

# Torbay Childcare Sufficiency Report

## Executive Summary 2018



### Overview

The Childcare Act 2006 places duties on all local authorities to secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children). As part of these duties Torbay Council is required to report annually to elected Council Members on how this duty is being met and to make this report available and accessible for parents.

The full report demonstrates that there are sufficient childcare places to meet the requirements for funded children in Torbay. There is not a great deal of capacity, especially in school nursery classes, so there is a need for growth to accommodate the growing numbers of young children in Torbay, through increased birth rates and migration into Torbay from other areas. There is also a need to accommodate children aged under 2 who are not yet funded. Taking this into account alongside the fact that Torbay has just enough places to accommodate funded children, sufficiency of places will continue to be an issue which could be particularly prevalent in some wards. 5% of the Torbay population are aged under 5 years old and may require a childcare place. Torbay does not have sufficient capacity to accommodate all children however, Torbay is able to meet its statutory duty to ensure sufficiency of places for children entitled to a funded place across the local area as a whole.

### Key Changes in 2018

The entitlement to 30 hours funded childcare for children from working families is entering the second year of implementation. The last sufficiency report in 2017 was published before the new entitlement was implemented and used forecast data on a 'worst case scenario' basis. Now that we are entering the second year of implementation we have more accurate data which has allowed us to be more precise in our calculations for the coming year. Last year we were anticipating a significant issue with sufficiency of places; this did not happen and we are now forecasting that we will break-even for spaces for funded children.

From the parent consultation in 2018 it became clear that there is an issue relating to holiday childcare for early years and school age children. 75% of respondents to the consultation indicated that they use childcare to enable them to work. Using the sufficiency data collated it is evident that term time, school-based provision is popular in the area, with school nurseries being full to capacity. Therefore it is important that the issues related to a lack of appropriate and affordable holiday childcare are addressed to accommodate working families who struggle for 12 weeks of the year.

### Achievements in 2018

Torbay Council has a duty to ensure that children have access to high quality provision for their early year's entitlements. Torbay is proud that all private nurseries and pre-schools in Torbay are graded either good or outstanding by Ofsted (or they are newly registered and awaiting their first inspection). Torbay is also pleased that 99% of the childminders are also Ofsted graded good, outstanding or are awaiting their first inspection. Only 1% of the childminders are graded requires improvement.

2018 saw the 2 EFA funded capital bid projects come into fruition, with 2 primary schools opening brand new nursery provision. These 2 projects created a total of over 100 new nursery places in new, purpose built accommodation.

Torbay Council provided capital funding to a private provider in the area which supported them financially to extend their premises and triple their available places for 2-5 year olds. This provider has also achieved an outstanding grade in their Ofsted inspection following the development.

Provider engagement has been excellent with 100% of the Torbay providers offering funded places for up to 30 hours per week for their children, depending on their entitlement. This is compared with a national average provider engagement figure of around 80%.

Take up of the early years funding entitlements remain stable with take up of 2 year funding entitlement at 70%, universal 15 hours for 3 and 4 year olds at 99% and the take up of the extended entitlement of 30 hours at around 92%.

## Future

To ensure that Torbay Council continues to meet its sufficiency duty it will:

- Continue to assess sufficiency data and carry out agreed actions to ensure a comprehensive approach to planning sufficient early years and childcare provision in the local area
- Continue to monitor the quality of childcare in Torbay and respond accordingly if providers achieve a requires improvement or inadequate grade
- Continue to market and promote the free early education for two, three and four year olds to increase take-up of places and hours
- Embed the actions listed in the 2018 Sufficiency Action Plan into the Education and Early Years Strategic Plans