

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2026



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What is the childcare sufficiency duty?

The Childcare Act 2006, Section 6 places a statutory duty on English local authorities to ensure that there are sufficient childcare places available for families who wish to access them.

Staffordshire County Council remains committed to working with early education and childcare providers to create a strong, sustainable, and diverse childcare market that meets the needs of families and supports children's learning and development through the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

Staffordshire County Council is required to secure sufficient childcare for children aged 0 to 14 (or up to 18 for disabled children), so far as is reasonably practicable, for:

working parents

parents who may be studying or training for employment

To meet this duty, we consider:

the current childcare market and labour market, as assessed through our twice-yearly childcare sufficiency survey of providers

the quality of provision available

the financial sustainability of the childcare market

the views and requirements of parents through our parent survey



Purpose of this report

In this report we will provide an overview of how we are meeting our statutory duties by:

.....
Describing our actions to ensure sufficient childcare over the past 12 months during the expansion of funded childcare entitlements

.....
Highlighting the creation of additional childcare places with DfE capital funding, which has supported the expansion

.....
Providing information on the current supply and demand for places, including the identification of gaps in specific areas and age groups

.....
Communicating our strategy to address any key gaps in childcare provision over the next 12 months and beyond

The report will also provide information on the progress of the Wraparound Childcare Programme in Staffordshire and our plans for school-aged childcare for 2026/27 based on the publication of new DfE guidance for local authorities.

Throughout the report, data will be provided based on the eight districts of Staffordshire. Due to the size of Staffordshire, there are a significant number of wards in the county, therefore it is often difficult to comment specifically at ward level. The underlying data tables from our sufficiency survey is available in appendix A of this report. This information provides the number of places and vacancies by district and individual wards. In addition, bespoke data at local level and further support can be requested by contacting eeac@staffordshire.gov.uk.



Best Start in Life Strategy

The Best Start in Life strategy (published July 2025) sets out the Government's ambition to ensure 75% of children nationally achieve a good level of development (GLD) by age 5 by 2028.

In Staffordshire, the target set by government is that 78.9% achieve this level and 60.5% of children entitled to free school meals will achieve this level.

There are three pillars to the strategy:

1. Better support for families, through the Family Hub model

2. More accessible early years and childcare

3. Improved quality in early years settings

Clearly, local childcare sufficiency planning must align with this strategy to support the government's ambition for children's outcomes at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Family Hubs are a key partner in childcare sufficiency planning to reduce family barriers to provision; provide early intervention for children; and strengthen links with childcare providers.

In Staffordshire, the percentage of children reaching a GLD by age 5 was 70.6% in 2024/25. This is above the national level of 68.3%. Despite this, the Best Start in Life target is an ambitious target to achieve, and a robust strategy is being developed.

During 2026/27, Staffordshire County Council will begin to deliver the strategy to meet these requirements and will be reported in future childcare sufficiency assessments.



Staffordshire County Council's Strategic Direction 2026-2028

The Strategic Direction provides a clear direction for everything we do

Our five priorities for Staffordshire

Our plan is built around five priorities that reflect what matters most to residents, communities and the local economy:

1. People

Supporting children, families, older people and vulnerable adults to live healthy, safe and independent lives.

2. Economy

Creating the conditions for local businesses to thrive and helping people develop the skills they need for good jobs.

3. Connectivity

Improving our roads, transport links and digital infrastructure so people and businesses can stay connected.

4. Communities

Building strong, safe, resilient and welcoming communities where people feel proud to live and can shape local decisions.

5. Efficiency and Value for Money

Making every pound count, delivering services responsibly, and planning for the long term.

Ensuring that there is sufficient high-quality childcare for working parents and children eligible for funded early learning for two-year-olds is key to enable us to grow our economy, support people to work and ensure that our youngest children are offered the best possible start in life



Our Early Years Vision

Our aim for early years at Staffordshire County Council is to provide a consistent, high-quality service which responds to the unique needs of early years settings, children and their families, ensuring the Best Start for all. There is an aim to achieve the following outcomes

- All children can access consistent, high-quality childcare that meets the needs of children and families
- Settings feel valued, listened to, and can access the support and information they require
- Sufficient childcare places continue to remain available following the full roll out of the expansion of funded childcare
- Our provider survey supports us to achieve these outcomes.
- Parents are fully informed and have a good understanding of their childcare options and eligibility
- In Staffordshire, this is a key strength as there is usually a 100% survey return rate from providers, allowing accurate reporting across the whole of the county.
- Partners feel confident to support families to access childcare places



Our Priorities (to ensure sufficient childcare places)

The Early Years Team has two main priorities that are currently being delivered and are supporting our requirements to ensure sufficient childcare for families. They are:

1. Produce a strategy to support and monitor the delivery and sustainability of early education funded places in areas of greatest need in the short and longer term. Maximise new opportunities to deliver a sustainable school-age childcare market in line with new funding and guidance.

Actions:

- Review the sufficiency survey processes to ensure maximum understanding of district need and manageability for providers
- Develop and embed a partnership strategy to most effectively meet the needs of families through wraparound childcare, breakfast clubs and HAF funding/programs
- Increase direct support to providers to ensure maximum impact and to more effectively meet need across our districts
- Develop a range of tools that can support the sector to expand provision and remain sustainable
- Increase the availability of childcare in line with demand / utilisation of provider space
- Promote participation for providers in the Wraparound Inclusion Pathway to equip providers with the skills and knowledge to support children with additional needs
- Develop strategies to support the workforce and help to recruit and retain skilled professionals

2. Support all families to access their entitlements and/or childcare provision, through a partnership approach

Actions:

- Identify patterns and trends across the target districts to review whether children identified as having a SEND need are accessing their full entitlements
- With partners, develop an understanding of patterns of attendance across communities and highlight strategies to raise the importance of consistent attendance/early attendance habits with settings and families
- Improve partnership and multi-agency approaches to promote and deliver Staffordshire childcare offers supporting the health and wellbeing of the child and family
- Utilise Best Start in Life parent initiatives to support and communicate pathways to access funded childcare entitlements across the partnership
- Empower all families (including targeted groups) to access their funded childcare entitlements through a stepped, supported approach, through partnership work and family support programmes.

Further supporting priorities

These two priorities and the actions that support them are currently being delivered by the Early Years team and actions will continue throughout 2026-27.

The Early Years Team will also work towards the following priorities to help us to meet our vision in Staffordshire:

- Enhance strategies to keep raising the percentage of children achieving the good level of development, making progress beyond national levels and toward the Best Start target
- Strengthen early years involvement across the partnership by linking new projects, roles and pathways within Families First Partnership and the Best Start in Life Strategy
- Support early years practitioners in enhancing their skills and confidence, enabling them to implement inclusive practices that effectively address the diverse needs of every child

Key recent achievements

In the previous two years, the childcare sector has experienced unprecedented changes for providers and families, which the local authority has supported.

The key achievements during this period are:

- A significant increase in childcare places, through capital investment targeted in specific areas, to ensure sufficient places are available for parents. Over 900 additional places have been created and this will continue in 2026/27
- A communications strategy has ensured awareness of the new childcare entitlements. This is supported by a high validation rate of codes for working parents, which is above the national level
- Our capital programme to expand places were assessed with criteria to ensure that specific places to support children with SEN were made available.
- Delivery of the wraparound childcare programme supporting a significant increase in places and launch of a Wraparound Inclusion Pathway to support children with SEND. This training and support was showcased nationally to other local authorities as effective practice
- Continued to provide support to ensure high quality childcare for children and families across the county with 98% of providers inspected in 2025 achieving a good or outstanding Ofsted judgement.



Managing the sufficiency process

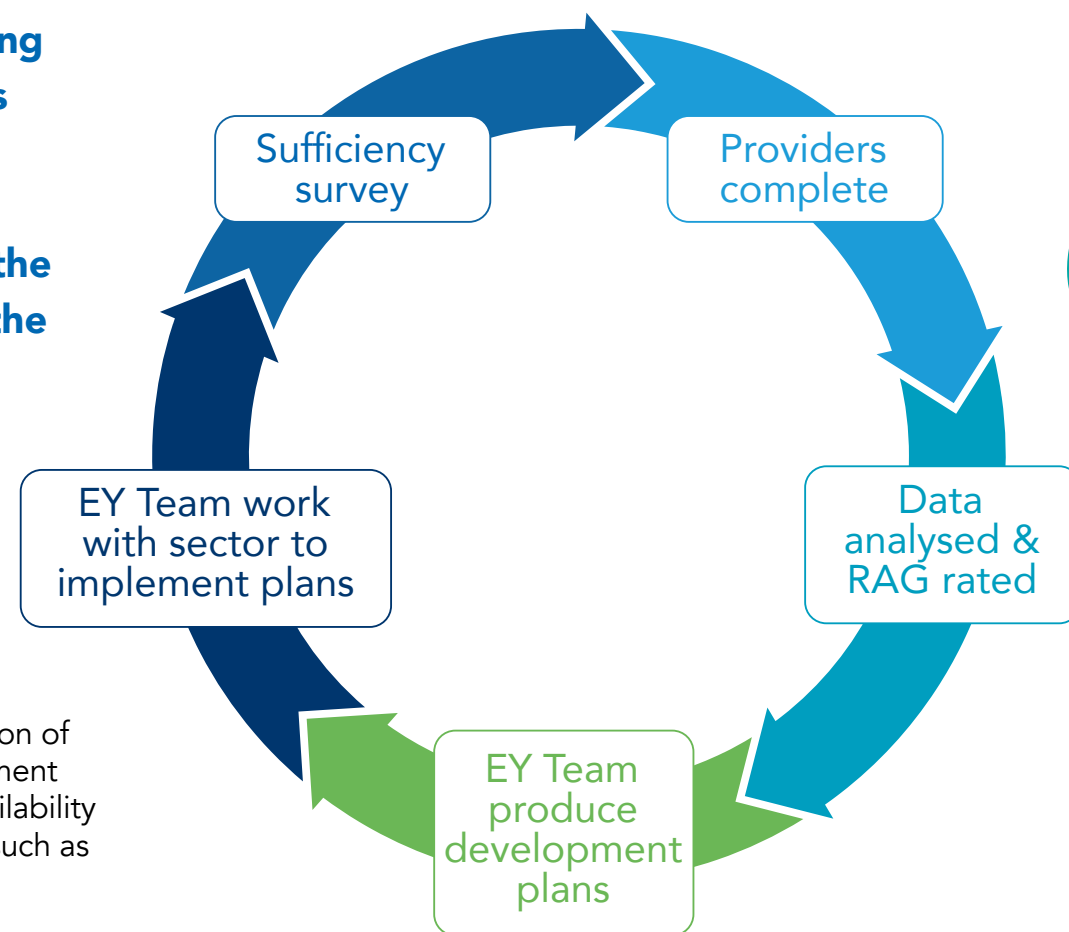
We have a successful approach to gathering data with 100% of our childcare providers returning the sufficiency survey twice per year. Sufficiency planning is a continuous cycle throughout the year, and following the data collection, this cycle continues with the following activities:

- The Early Years Team work on individual districts to analyse data at ward level
- Support is provided to develop new provision or expand existing provision in areas of need
- Business advice is provided to support the financial sustainability for all childcare providers.

Following each childcare sufficiency survey and publication of the sufficiency data at district and ward level, a development plan is established to assess all wards in terms of the availability of childcare places, as well as those for specific groups, such as children accessing Think2 places or children with SEND.

This data and the development plans enable effective monitoring of the childcare market and allows concentrated support and development in areas most in need at the time of the sufficiency survey.

It is important to note that places and vacancies change continuously and therefore whilst a ward might show as having sufficient places, this can change if for example a childcare provider closes or a new provider opens.



Our children and families

The data paints a clear picture of the scale and diversity of needs in Staffordshire.

- Over the last 10 years between 2014 and 2024 the annual births have fallen from 8,910 to 7,670. Whilst there are fewer children, the expansion of funded childcare means that high demand continues.
- 13.7% of children aged 3-4 live in the 20% most deprived postcodes and 23% live in the 20% least deprived postcodes.
- 20.2% of children under 16 live in relative poverty.

There are approximately 44,000 children aged 0-4 living in Staffordshire.

	Under 1 year	1 year old	2 years	3 years	4 years	Total
Cannock Chase	1,095	1,148	1,096	1,120	1,107	5,566
East Staffordshire	1,339	1,398	1,333	1,399	1,497	6,966
Lichfield	963	1,048	987	1,129	1,104	5,231
Newcastle-under-Lyme	1,116	1,128	1,126	1,186	1,237	5,793
South Staffordshire	931	891	1,001	1,022	1,078	4,923
Stafford	1,225	1,373	1,373	1,308	1,439	6,718
Staffordshire Moorlands	794	778	790	829	882	4,073
Tamworth	855	871	868	900	948	4,442
Staffordshire	8,318	8,635	8,574	8,893	9,292	43,712



Our provision - countywide facts and figures

The childcare market is diverse and consists of 833 early years providers across 8 districts. Consisting of private, voluntary, independent (PVI) and school-based providers, almost all offer funded early education and childcare places.

Total providers by district (Oct 2025)

This table shows the different types of early years provision in Staffordshire. Please note that PVI provision in schools and academies may be schools that have set up governor run provision, academies with subsidiary companies providing provision or private providers on school sites.

Of the 322 registered childminders, 293 (91%) now offer funded places which is a significant increase from five years ago when 74% offered funded places. This is likely to continue following the full roll out for the expansion of funded childcare with more children are becoming eligible. Day nurseries, school nurseries and pre-schools offer the biggest proportion of early education and childcare places, but childminders play an equally important role in being diverse and flexible to meet the needs of families, especially in rural areas.

	Academy		Maintained school		Maintained nursery school	Childminder	Day nursery/ pre-school	Total
	Academy	PVI	Governor run	PVI	Maintained nursery school	PVI	PVI	
Cannock Chase	17	2	10	4	1	40	20	94
East Staffordshire	22	6	6	2	0	32	33	101
Lichfield	24	1	9	3	0	40	28	105
Newcastle-under-Lyme	29	6	10	6	1	47	31	130
South Staffordshire	23	1	11	1	0	43	23	102
Stafford	26	2	15	7	0	39	30	119
Staffordshire Moorlands	21	3	8	5	0	29	27	93
Tamworth	8	8	4	2	0	52	15	89
Staffordshire	170	29	73	30	2	322	207	833

Operating models of childcare provision

As of December 2025, approximately 59% of all providers operate for more than 38 weeks a year (term time). 87% of privately run childcare providers operate all year compared to just 5% of school-based provision.

Term-time only provision can have implications for working families who often need all year provision. Most pre-schools are only open term-time which may suit non-working families

or those who use informal childcare such as other family members to help fill the gap. Our autumn 2025 sufficiency survey found that:

- 150 (64%) of schools with nursery provision on-site operate for more than 30 hours per week
- 517 (84%) of private and voluntary providers, including childminders, operate for 30 or more hours per week.

- 23% of childminders stay open until 6pm.
- 60% of nurseries and pre-schools (including provision on school sites) close at between 5 and 6pm. Just 4% stay open beyond 6pm.

Wraparound provision

In addition to early years childcare places, wraparound childcare places are available for children of primary school age to meet the needs of working parents who need additional hours before and after the school day to support parents in work and reduce barriers to employment.

As part of the Wraparound Childcare Programme, we have increased our understanding of the wraparound childcare market in Staffordshire and have distributed funding to providers and schools to increase childcare places or hours. The local authority led on the programme in Staffordshire to identify where places were needed and to develop provision with schools and providers. We have provided advice to support providers setting up provision and have set up monitoring procedures to develop relationships and provide support to schools and other providers to ensure that they remain financially sustainable in the long term.

Local authorities are required to report wraparound places created in regular "management information" submissions to the DfE. As of December 2025, the programme had created or expanded

1,907 wraparound places across the county, which include additional provision at over 100 providers and schools. This has increased the sufficiency of places and ensured that school-aged children with working parents are able to access childcare, where it may be previously not available. All schools in the county have been given an opportunity to create new places with this funding.

The Wraparound Childcare Programme ends in March 2026. In December 2025, the government published school-age childcare guidance for local authorities, meaning the focus on childcare for school children will continue.

A strategy will be developed for 2026/27 to deliver the required outcomes of this guidance.



Openings and closures

Between January 2025 and December 2025 57 new providers have opened, increasing from 48 in the previous year. In the same period 48 providers have closed, down from 74 the previous year.

In some cases, where providers have closed, another provider may have opened in the same location. Often this is a similar provider that has been required to re-register their provision as the business structure has changed, such as becoming a limited company. As a result, in these circumstances, there is limited impact on the number of childcare places available. Other closures could include private and voluntary pre-schools or nurseries based on a school site who were taken over by a school and set up as a governor run provision.

A continued reduction has been seen in the closure of term-time pre-school provision, with six providers closing and only one opening during the period. Nursery provision has increased in this period there has been an overall increase of seven nurseries across the county (20 opened, 13 closed).

2025 saw a reversal of the decline in childminders that has been witnessed over several years. More childminders opened than closed. Although the difference was relatively modest with 36 openings and 29 closures it suggests that the strategy to promote childminding as a career is working. The promotion of childminding as a career is likely to be a priority for 2026/27 to ensure sufficient places where providers are unable to expand and new premises are not available for new providers to set up provision. In addition, childminders are often the only source of childcare for families in rural areas.

The table shows that the number of nurseries opening has exceeded the number of nurseries closing over the past two years, reversing the trend seen in 2022 and 2023.

	Childminders		Pre-school		Nursery	
	Open	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Closed
2018	30	57	2	6	15	19
2019	40	70	1	5	30	22
2020	30	59	4	11	28	17
2021	17	57	6	8	22	11
2022	13	58	5	10	21	25
2023	28	49	5	15	17	19
2024	18	23	3	3	28	18
2025	36	29	1	6	20	13

The local authority’s strategy to increase places through capital funding is likely to have contributed to this reversal as new nurseries have been supported using this funding.

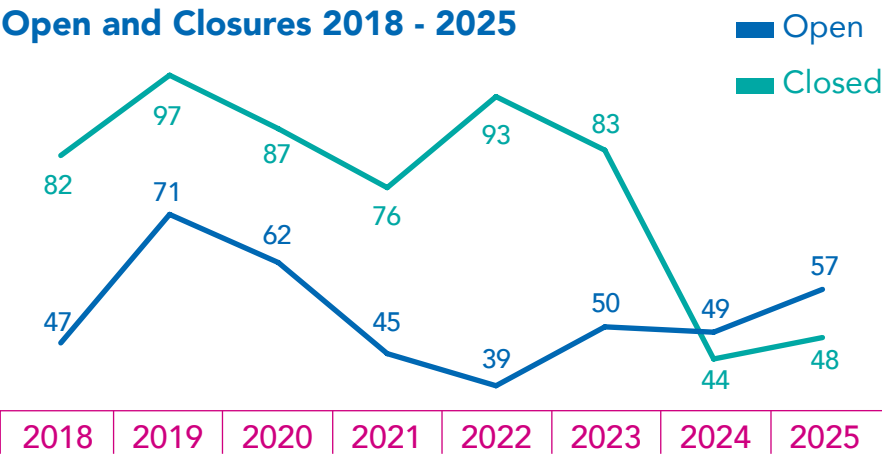
Eight schools in Staffordshire were successful in applying for funding as part of the government’s School-based Nurseries Programme in phase 1. Three of these schools are setting up new provision and five are increasing places. An additional 15 schools have applied for funding in phase 2 and are awaiting a decision. The local authority has provided advice and support to schools during this process and will continue this for phase 3 of the programme.

The number of pre-schools closing continues to exceed the number of pre-schools opening, suggesting sustainability issues in this group.

This is reflected nationally. Business advice and support is available through the local authority to support providers experiencing issues.

As previously stated, the number of childminders opening has exceeded the number closing for the first time in many years. The expansion of funded childcare may have influenced this, along with the local authority’s push to promote childminding as a career. 2025 saw the highest number of childminders setting up since 2019.

The reversal of the gap in the last 12 months, suggests that the support the Early Years Team is effective in supporting provider set up and sustainability; and confidence in the market is increasing.



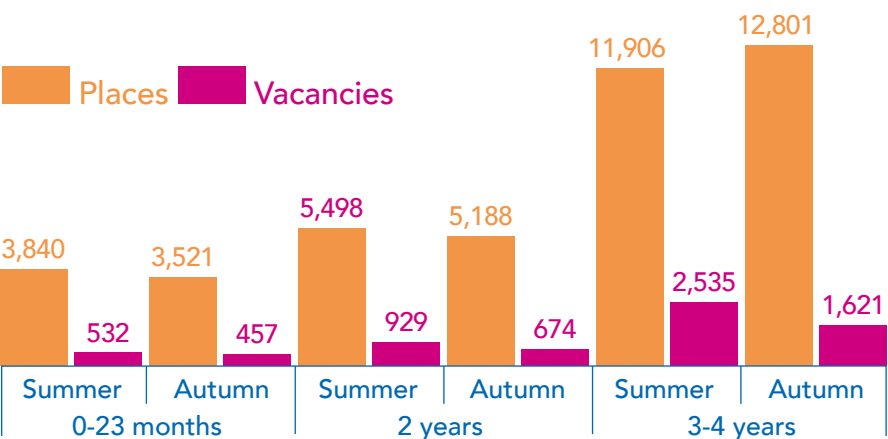
Places and vacancies

Our parent survey in 2025 (which received almost 900 responses) showed that when choosing childcare, parents look at a variety of factors including cost, location, quality, opening times and flexibility. Therefore, a variety of childcare types are needed to meet this demand.

Providers may have vacancies on specific days or times of the week but may not be able to offer a full-time place to a child (i.e. Monday – Friday, all day). Therefore, assessing the number of vacancies can be a difficult task. Vacancy data in this report is based on our autumn 2025 sufficiency survey returns from providers.

The chart shows the total number of places available for each age group and the number of vacancies out of that total for 2025.

Total number of places and vacancies 2025



The chart shows that more places were available for three and four-year-olds in summer 2025 than in autumn 2025, which is expected.

In autumn, many children move to school provision, meaning that private providers may have more of their places available to focus on the younger age groups. During the year, children will turn three years old, meaning that these places will then be counted as three-year-old places. This then allows providers to take more younger children. The chart also shows the pressure on places in summer compared to autumn, with significantly fewer places available in the summer term, particularly for two, three and four year olds.

Eligibility to access funded childcare places

All three and four-year-olds are entitled to access at least 15 hours per week of funded early education and childcare through a universal entitlement. Working parents of these children can access a further 15 hours per week (30 hours)

Two-year-olds can also access 30 hours of funded childcare per week if their parents are in work. In addition to this, some parents are eligible to access up to 15 hours per week if they are a family in receipt of additional support (FRAS), which is called Think2 in Staffordshire. Some parents can access both entitlements but no more than 30 hours per week. There is no universal offer for two-year-olds meaning that some children will not be eligible for any funded childcare.

Children age 9 months plus can also access 30 hours of funded provision if their parents are in work. There is no universal offer for children in this age range.

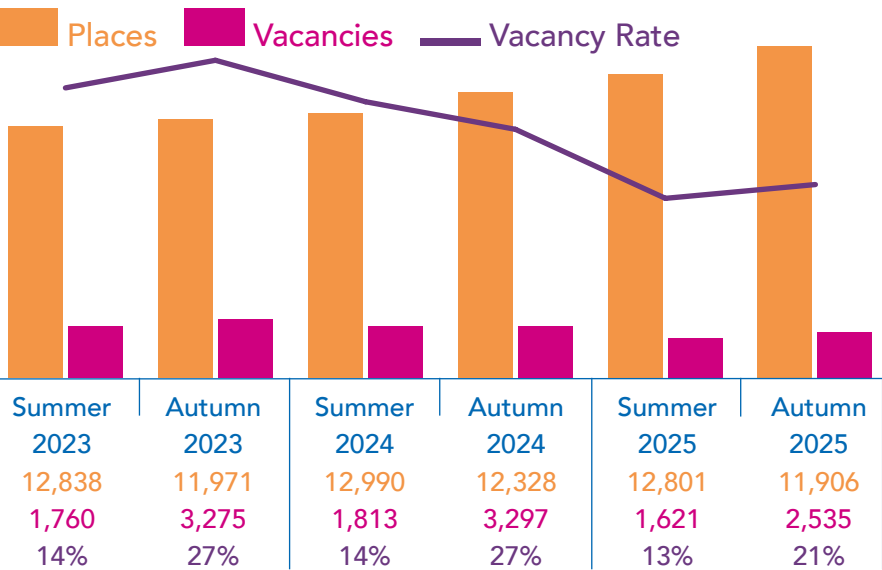
The expansion of funded childcare was introduced in recent years for children aged two and below. Three and four-year old eligibility has remained consistent over recent years. Therefore, pressure on places has been seen for childcare in the younger age groups.



Places and vacancies by age group in 2025

0-2 year olds

Places and vacancies (2023-2025)



Overall, the number of places for under 2’s has been relatively stable in recent years. Following the full rollout of the new funded childcare entitlements, where children in this age range have become eligible for a funded place for the first time, the number of places available has increased but the number and percentage of vacancies has decreased, suggesting that increased supply has not matched increased demand. The local authority is continuing to encourage expansion of provision in specific areas of Staffordshire to ensure that parents can find childcare that meets their needs. Due to fluctuations from term to term, it is useful to compare data at the same point as the previous year.

The number of vacancies for under 2’s has reduced from 681 (Autumn 2023) to 532 (Autumn 2025). This has also resulted in reduction in the percentage of vacancies from 23% to 14%. As can be seen in the table, there has been an increase in the number of places available for under 2s as providers have adapted to new demand and Staffordshire County Council has implemented a capital programme that has supported providers to expand and create new childcare provision.

Places and vacancies by district

	Summer 2025			Autumn 2025		
	0-23 months places	0-23 months vacancies	Vacancy rate	0-23 months places	0-23 months vacancies	Vacancy rate
Cannock Chase	372	52	14%	373	66	18%
East Staffordshire	443	67	15%	468	65	14%
Lichfield	541	33	6%	579	40	7%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	551	82	15%	564	101	18%
South Staffordshire	462	90	19%	440	52	12%
Stafford	522	48	9%	663	114	17%
Staffordshire Moorlands	433	62	14%	537	74	14%
Tamworth	197	22	11%	216	20	9%
Staffordshire	3,521	457	13%	3,840	532	14%

When looking at a comparison between the summer and autumn terms, we would expect more places to be available to 0-2 year olds in the autumn term, as is shown in the table. At this stage of the year, many three and four-year-old children leave the private and voluntary sector to attend school provision. Providers can then adapt their provision so that they can offer more places to children under two-years-old. Due to this and the capital expansion projects, an increase in places is seen between summer 2025 and autumn 2025.

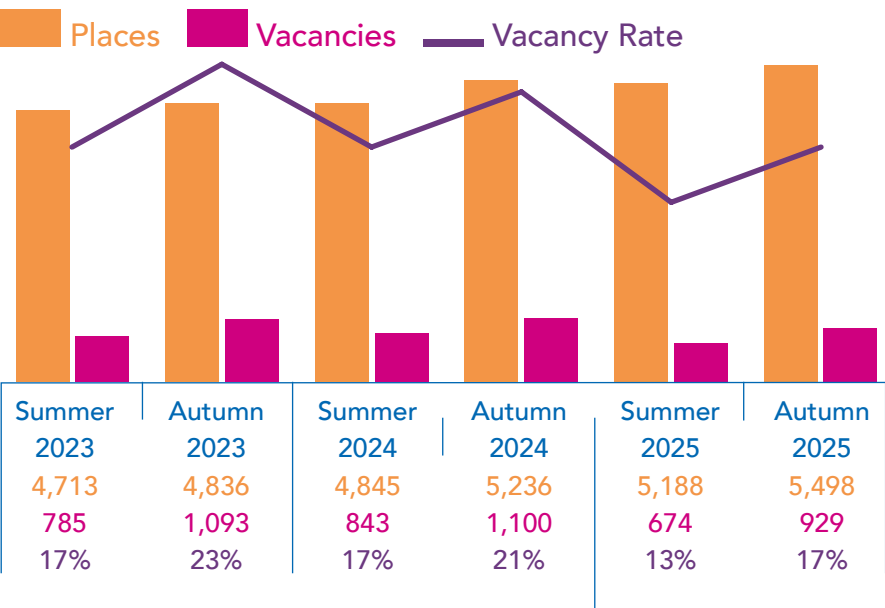
It is important that the sufficiency of places is assessed at district and ward level. The table shows the number and percentage of vacancies by district. A 14% vacancy rate with 532 vacancies for children would appear to be healthy overall, but most districts that contain wards that do not have any vacancies at all, which is likely to mean that parents are traveling further to access childcare.

The two districts identified as in most need of additional places in this age range are Tamworth and Lichfield. In these districts, we can identify several wards that do not have any vacancies meaning that there is a risk of parents not being able to find childcare in their local area. These areas are a priority for the Early Years Team to work with providers to increase places. Further ongoing analysis of data at district and ward level is a priority in 2026/27.

It is important to understand that the summer term 2025 data for the 0-2 age group does not include demand for 30 hours of funded childcare, as this was introduced in September 2025. Therefore, increased demand is expected in future summer terms and is likely to put pressure on places in some areas.

2 year olds

Places and vacancies (2023-2025)



There are no immediate overall concerns in relation to the sufficiency of places for two-year-olds but close monitoring of this is required as vacancies have reduced year-on-year.

Demand for two-year-old places is made up of families accessing the recently introduced 30 funded hours for working parents; and Think2 places, providing 15 hours of funded education for those families on a low income (many who are also working). The number of places is higher for two-year-olds than under 2s as children access Think2 places and demand is likely to be higher for childcare as children get older and parents return or move into work.

As can be seen in the table, there has been an increase in the number of places available for two-year-olds as providers have adapted to new demand and Staffordshire

County Council has implemented the capital programme to support providers to expand. As with the under 2s, we would expect more places available for two-year-olds in the autumn term due to adaptation of provision due to many three and four-year-old children leaving the private and voluntary sector to attend school provision. Due to fluctuations from term to term, it is useful compare data at the same point as the previous year. The number of vacancies for two-year-olds has reduced from 1,093 (Autumn 2023) to 929 (Autumn 2025). This has also resulted in reduction in the percentage of vacancies from 23% to 17%.

Places and vacancies by district (2025)

	Summer 2025			Autumn 2025		
	2 year places	2 year vacancies	Vacancy rate	2 year places	2 year vacancies	Vacancy rate
Cannock Chase	632	89	14%	641	113	18%
East Staffordshire	669	98	15%	637	112	18%
Lichfield	758	26	3%	901	122	14%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	720	123	17%	802	160	20%
South Staffordshire	619	114	18%	694	102	15%
Stafford	816	106	13%	805	129	16%
Staffordshire Moorlands	597	84	14%	564	117	21%
Tamworth	377	34	9%	454	74	16%
Staffordshire	5,188	674	13%	5,498	929	17%

The table shows the number and percentage of vacancies at district level.

There are more vacancies for children aged two than for 0-2s but the number of vacancies has reduced year-on-year. Whilst there are no immediate concerns in relation to the sufficiency of places for two-year-olds, there are wards in each district with low or zero vacancies. It is a priority for the Early Years Team to continue to analyse this data to review areas where parents may have to travel to find suitable childcare. The two districts identified as in most need of additional places in this age range are Tamworth and Lichfield. This is seen most clearly in the summer 2025 data with a very low number of vacancies in these districts.

Think 2 (early learning for two-year-olds)

Approximately 21% (1,629 in November 2025) of families in Staffordshire are eligible for Think2 places in 2025, which provides 15 hours of funded early education over 38 weeks a year (can be stretched up to 52 weeks). Families who are entitled are on low incomes and may not be able to afford to pay for additional hours and consumables. Some families may not have access to transport and require provision within walking distance, which is likely to be an increased issue with fewer vacancies available. It is a priority to ensure that eligible families can secure a childcare place to enable children to get the best possible start in life.

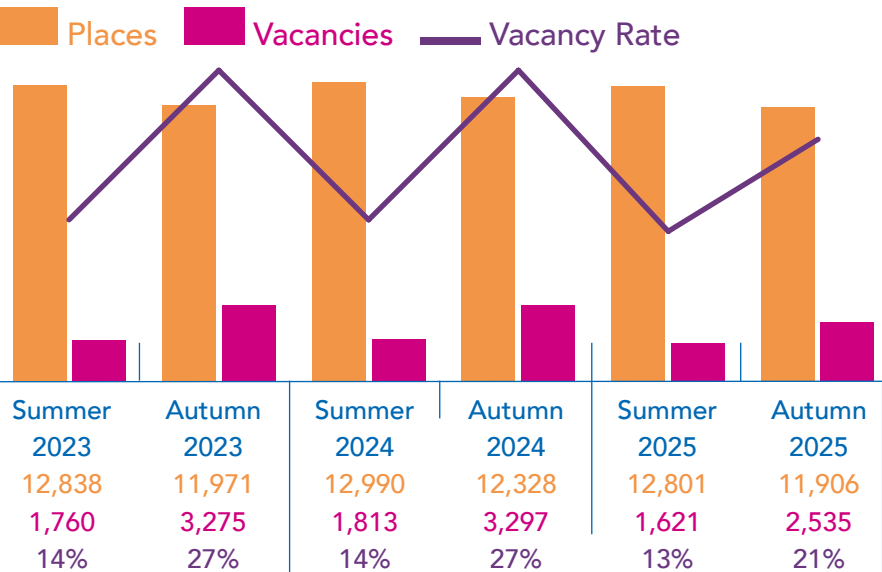
Two-year-olds - Working Families

From September 2025, working families have been able to access 30 hours of funded childcare for the first time. This has created additional demand for two-year-old provision and has placed pressure on the number of places available. Following the introduction of 30 hours for working parents, Staffordshire County Council will monitor any impacts on the availability of Think2 places for eligible parents.

These offers can also be stretched to access fewer hours over 52 weeks of the year.

3-4 year olds

Places and vacancies (2023-2025)



The number of three and four-year-olds accessing provision is relatively stable year on year. In autumn 2025, the number of places appears to have reduced, which is likely to be due to providers reorganising their provision to offer places for younger children. This has resulted in a reduction in the number and percentage of vacancies.

Most childcare places in Staffordshire are for three and four-year-olds due to the universal offer to all children in this age range. Many of the places available in this age range are within school or academy nursery provision. The number of children attending childcare provision within this age group fluctuates from term to term. Most children will start school after they turn four years at the next school intake.

This means that in September most children aged four will start at school leaving private and voluntary childcare providers with younger children. In addition, many three-year-olds may leave the private and voluntary sector at this point to access school-based nursery provision. Gradually over the spring and summer terms the numbers attending will increase as more younger children turn will start to access provision.

All three and four-year-olds are entitled to 15 hours of funded early education and childcare for 38 weeks a year (can be stretched over a longer period) from the term following their third birthday. Children are also entitled to an additional 15 hours a week for 38 weeks a year if both parents, or single parent are working.

The entitlements for three and four-year-olds have not changed in recent years, therefore we would not expect an increased demand for places. The number of places available is relatively stable from year to year but reduced from autumn 2024 to autumn 2025. There has also been a reduction in vacancies. Despite this reduction in places and vacancies, there are likely to be sufficient places for children requiring a place, meaning that the creation of places in this age range is not a priority in Staffordshire.

Places and vacancies by district (2025)

The table shows the places and vacancies for three and four-year-olds across both summer and autumn 2025. Sufficient places can be seen across all wards, but Tamworth will be closely monitored at ward level to ensure that parents can access a place.

	Summer 2025			Autumn 2025		
	3-4 year places	3-4 year vacancies	Vacancy rate	3-4 year places	3-4 year vacancies	Vacancy rate
Cannock Chase	1,450	171	12%	1,380	305	22%
East Staffordshire	1,955	162	9%	1,711	290	17%
Lichfield	1,605	178	11%	1,521	277	18%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	1,842	257	14%	1,822	427	23%
South Staffordshire	1,742	250	14%	1,507	343	23%
Stafford	1,864	319	17%	1,716	391	23%
Staffordshire Moorlands	1,409	207	15%	1,341	359	27%
Tamworth	1,034	77	7%	908	143	16%
Staffordshire	12,801	1,621	13%	11,906	2,535	21%



Recruitment and retention of staff

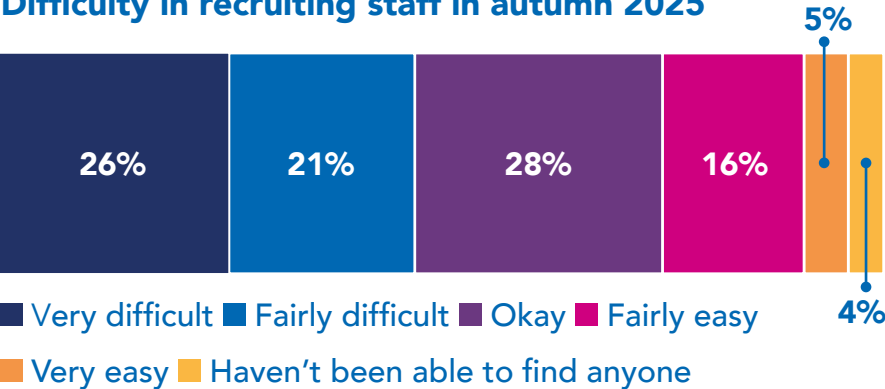
The childcare sector is experiencing significant difficulties in recruiting and retaining qualified staff. Feedback from settings through the recent sufficiency surveys has identified that many experienced staff have left the sector and many providers are struggling to replace them. Low pay levels are a significant driving factor.

Percentage of providers with staff vacancies in Autumn 2025

	No		Yes	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Cannock Chase	34	67%	17	33%
East Staffordshire	46	69%	21	31%
Lichfield	43	68%	20	32%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	56	71%	23	29%
South Staffordshire	40	70%	17	30%
Stafford	54	71%	22	29%
Staffordshire Moorlands	50	82%	11	18%
Tamworth	24	65%	13	35%
Staffordshire	347	71%	144	29%

The percentage of providers with vacancies has risen since autumn 2024 from 24% to 29%. Also, 10% of providers stated that they had reduced the number of places they offer temporarily or permanently due to a lack of staff, so this is a significant issue impacting on the sufficiency of childcare places. This was down from 15% in 2024.

Difficulty in recruiting staff in autumn 2025



Nearly half of providers said that it was difficult to find suitable candidates when recruiting with 4% unable to find anyone suitable. This has meant that even when vacancies haven arisen and posts advertised many providers are finding it difficult to fill those vacancies. It has also meant that retaining existing staff is a challenge.

In 2025/26, we have worked with schools, training providers and Jobcentre Plus to ensure that young people are attracted to the sector, apprentices are supported into the workforce and advisors have the knowledge to support future progression into permanent employment. We have also worked in partnership with the Staffordshire Jobs & Careers service, to support employers and those seeking a career in early years.



Our Performance | Quality

The Early Years Team is committed to improving outcomes for children by providing a wide range of support to the early years sector in Staffordshire.

The Improvement team offers a range of targeted practice development visits to empower early years settings through tailored advice and guidance.

The Inclusion team offer advice and guidance with an Inclusion Specialist for individual children. The Inclusion Practitioner team offer practice development visits to model and strengthen inclusive practice for all children.

For providers judged less than “good” by Ofsted, a package of support is provided including consultant visits and additional training

The quality of childcare is high in Staffordshire with Ofsted grades shown in the table below, as of December 2025.

	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Met	Inadequate	Not met (with actions)	Some aspects not as strong	Standards maintained
Cannock Chase	12%	83%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%
East Staffordshire	11%	81%	1%	5%	0%	1%	0%	1%
Lichfield	20%	78%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	15%	79%	1%	4%	1%	0%	0%	0%
South Staffordshire	11%	87%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Stafford	15%	82%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Staffordshire Moorlands	11%	82%	1%	4%	0%	0%	0%	10%
Tamworth	5%	86%	3%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Staffordshire	13%	82%	1%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%

**Due to a low number of providers in some categories, some figures have rounded to 0%*



Supporting providers to achieve high-quality provision remains a key priority for the local authority and supports providers to give children the best start in life and achieve a good level of development at age 5. This support includes pre-inspection visits, improvement and inclusion visits, funded training and the provision of other information and guidance.

Overall, 98% of providers who have been inspected and offer funded childcare were rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted between January and December 2025.

During the same period, there were 181 Ofsted inspections of early years providers registered to take funded children. 88% of these inspections resulted in a Good or Outstanding judgement, which is similar (87%) to the previous 12 months.

Of those that were inadequate but re-inspected within the 12 months from January 2025 to December 2025, all but one improved their grade.

Of the 116 settings that already had an Ofsted grade when re-inspected:

- 17% resulted in a better than previous judgement,
- 69% remained the same,
- 11% had a lower graded judgement,
- Of those who had their first inspection 94% received at least a good inspection grade.

The table shows the breakdown by district of childcare providers by deprivation. It includes all providers who have been inspected and offer funded places. Overall, 96% of providers in the most deprived 20% areas are rated good or outstanding compared to 98% for all of Staffordshire as an average during this period. Fewer providers are located in the most deprived areas and therefore, the inspection grades of a small number of providers can influence the percentage.

Percentage of Good or Outstanding grades by area of deprivation

	Lowest Quintile (most deprived)		Second Quintile		Third quintile		Fourth quintile		Highest quintile (least deprived)	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Cannock Chase	4	100%	20	100%	25	96%	16	100%	8	89%
East Staffordshire	15	94%	18	95%	21	100%	17	100%	10	100%
Lichfield	3	100%	3	100%	21	100%	27	100%	27	96%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	9	100%	33	97%	21	95%	18	100%	19	100%
South Staffordshire	0	n/a	11	100%	18	100%	33	100%	22	100%
Stafford	5	83%	13	100%	14	100%	27	96%	34	100%
Staffordshire Moorlands	1	100%	14	100%	14	93%	27	100%	18	100%
Tamworth	6	100%	17	94%	17	100%	19	95%	8	89%
Staffordshire	43	96%	126	99%	151	98%	184	99%	146	98%



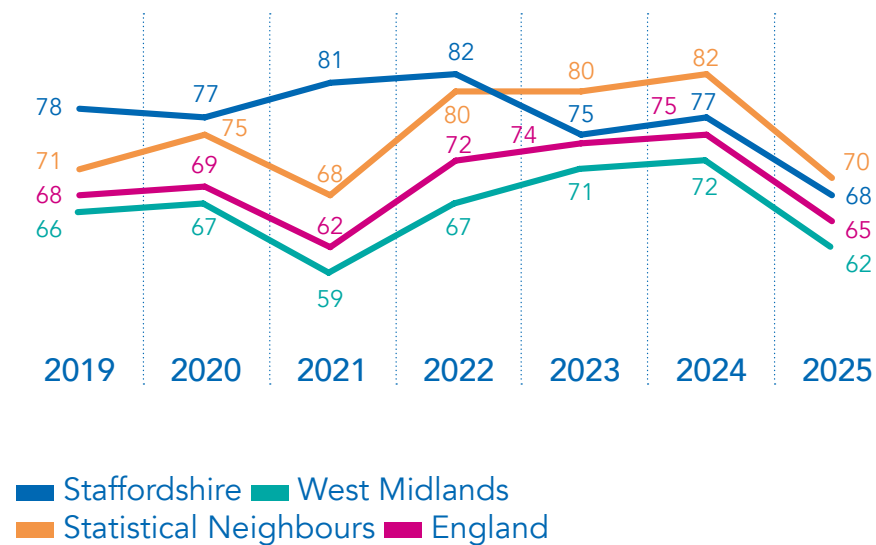
Take-up of funded places

Think 2

Think2 funding provides up to 15 hours a week of childcare over 38 weeks (or can be stretched over 52 weeks) to families receiving additional support (FRAS) or other eligible groups such as children in care or those in receipt of Disability Living Allowance.

The number of eligible families has fallen from 3,200 in 2014 to 1,630 in 2025. The main reason for this is that the low-income threshold on eligibility has not changed since the introduction of the policy. Therefore, fewer parents who are working on a low-income will be eligible as their earnings now exceed the threshold (due to minimum wage increases).

Think 2 take-up trends



In January 2025, the percentage of children accessing Think2 funded place, identified by the DfE in the Early Years Census, reduced from 77% (January 2024) to 68% (January 2025). The reason for this reduction is due to many Think2 eligible children now accessing a place as a working parent. Staffordshire County Council's analysis of data shows that take-up for eligible families has actually remained relatively stable in 2025, but some are not accessing specific Think2 funding.

Data on Think2 take-up is collected on a termly basis by the Early Years Team. This data is collected later in the term than the census, which means that more children have usually taken up a place, so take-up is higher than official published data. Our internal target for take up in Staffordshire by eligible families is at least 80%. This has been consistent in the last five years except for spring 2023 where the rate dipped to 78%.

In Summer 2025, there were 1,218 children taking up a Think2 place with a Staffordshire provider, with 1,146 of these children living in Staffordshire. For our take-up data, a previous analysis showed that a similar number of children leave the county to access childcare compared to the number entering the county. Therefore, using the number of children accessing provision within Staffordshire (of which some may not be Staffordshire children) the take-up of Think2 places is 82%. This includes those children eligible for Think 2 but accessing a place as a working parent.

As this is internal termly data, there is no regional or national data for comparison.



Take-up of funded places

Think 2 take-up by district by child’s address (summer 2025)

District	Number eligible	Number accessing	% take-up
Cannock Chase	269	218	81%
East Staffordshire	288	208	72%
Lichfield	192	126	66%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	267	210	79%
South Staffordshire	173	125	72%
Stafford	238	203	85%
Staffordshire Moorlands	114	102	89%
Tamworth	205	166	81%
Staffordshire	1746	1358	78%

The table shows the variances across the county. The districts of Lichfield, East Staffordshire and South Staffordshire have the lowest levels of take-up. Staffordshire Moorlands and Stafford have the highest levels of take-up. Increasing the take-up of Think2 places remains a priority for the Early Years Team and a clear process is in place to ensure that parents are made aware of their eligibility.

Strategies are also in place to work with partners working with families so that they can make parents aware of their eligibility. Further work is required to look at patterns of take-up for children attending outside of Staffordshire, as this may impact on take-up levels in each district.

Children age 9 months and above with working parents (up to 3 years old)

All children aged 9 months and above with working parents are entitled to up to 30 hours of childcare and early education per week. In Autumn 2025, there were 5,281 children accessing a place as aged 9 months - 23 months years old. In the same period, there were 5,336 children accessing a working parents place as a two-year-old.

Three and four-year-olds (including working parents)

All children aged 3-4 years are entitled to up to 15 hours of childcare and early education per week. In Staffordshire 100% of children take up this offer either in Staffordshire itself or in surrounding authorities. In addition, most children from working families are entitled to an additional 15 hours per week, so 30 in total. In Autumn 2025, 9,465 children accessed a place as a three or four-year-old, with, 6,652 children (70%) of these children accessing 30 hours of funding as a working parent.



Meeting the needs of children with SEND

Local authorities should promote equality and inclusion for children with special educational needs or a disability (SEND), by removing barriers to access to funded places and working with parents to give each child the opportunity to achieve and thrive.

Local authorities must ensure they meet their duties under the Equality Act 2010 and take account of the SEND Code of Practice (2015).

In Staffordshire, more than nine in ten early years children with identified SEND attend a mainstream childcare provider. As this report identifies, the number of vacancies across the county has reduced for all children age two and under. This will need to be closely monitored as this could have an impact on the availability of places for children with SEND, although places for three and four-year-olds are available in all districts, which will support availability for children with SEND.

Do you employ additional staff to support with SEND? (Sufficiency Survey Autumn 2025)

	Yes		No we cannot afford to		No we do not need to		Not sure		Total
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number
Cannock Chase	19	37%	14	27%	17	33%	1	2%	51
East Staffordshire	28	44%	16	25%	16	25%	4	6%	64
Lichfield	21	33%	16	25%	23	37%	3	5%	63
Newcastle-under-Lyme	17	22%	20	26%	33	43%	6	8%	76
South Staffordshire	14	25%	17	30%	22	39%	4	7%	57
Stafford	22	30%	18	24%	28	38%	6	8%	74
Staffordshire Moorlands	21	37%	8	14%	26	46%	2	4%	57
Tamworth	7	19%	10	28%	18	50%	1	3%	36
Staffordshire	149	31%	119	25%	183	38%	27	6%	478



There are challenges in recruiting high quality staff to the sector to support children with SEND. A quarter of providers responding to the sufficiency survey in autumn 2025 stated that they found it challenging to attract additional experienced staff to support children with SEND. Supporting the recruitment and retention is a current priority and we continue to work in partnership with our careers team, local colleges, schools and the Jobcentre (DWP) as part of our recruitment and retention strategy.

Between the academic year 2024/25, there were 145 Ofsted reports published for group providers and childminders. Of these 76% referenced SEND and Inclusion. 91% of comments were positive. Common strengths included working with other agencies, parent partnerships, assessment, planning, interactions, and timely action.

We have worked with providers and professionals to strengthen our approach to supporting inclusion, which includes increased support to the sector. We have worked in partnership with Dingley's Promise to give providers and professionals an opportunity access additional training to support them in meeting the needs of children with SEND. This programme of support has ensured that barriers to accessing provision have been removed and has ensured that childcare professionals have the skills and knowledge to provide inclusive high-quality care.

To ensure high quality practice is embedded across the early years sector and is sustained through effective leadership in settings we have offered an accredited SENCo programme to the sector, with 21 delegates on the first cohort who are already identifying how their practice has developed in relation to early identification the early identification of children and high quality support provided.

There is a range of funding available to support providers to deliver high quality provision for children with SEND:

- Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF) provides funding to providers to allow them to put in measures to support children with SEND in their provision. The number of children accessing this funding through a provider continues to increase.
- The Disability Access Fund (DAF) is available to early years providers to support children with SEND. Its purpose is to remove 'barriers' which prevent children from accessing their funded early education entitlement. Children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) are eligible to receive DAF.
- The Early Years Forum is being reviewed to develop a revised system that focusses on those children with complex needs. An accelerated pathway to an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA) for children with complex medical needs has been developed with a range of health partners to ensure timely support for those children who meet the criteria.
- Staffordshire County Council provides a further term of SENIF funding and support into reception (transition funding) to help children with SEND transition to statutory education, supporting a smooth start in reception.

Most children with SEND in Staffordshire can access provision in a mainstream setting, meaning that overall, it appears that sufficient places are available, which is strengthened by the support provided to the sector to embed inclusive practice.

Despite this, there are some children and families that find it more difficult to find suitable provision that meets their needs. Where this is the case, Staffordshire County Council can support parents to work with providers to find provision that meets their needs.



The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Provision

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme is a government-funded initiative that provides free holiday clubs for children aged 5 to 16 who are eligible for benefit-related Free School Meals. These clubs offer a nutritious meal and a variety of activities for children.

The HAF Programme provides a welcoming and friendly environment during school holidays to support families and prevent children from experiencing food insecurity or social isolation. The programme is coordinated by Staffordshire County Council and delivered by funded local organisations. The benefits of the programme are:

- **Free activities:** Access to free holiday clubs with enriching activities like sports, games, arts/crafts and cooking.
- **A free meal:** A nutritious meal is provided on each day of the programme
- **Support for families:** The programme aims to provide a secure and supervised environment during the school holidays.

- **Skill development:** Activities are designed to help children learn new skills, socialise with peers, and build confidence.
- **Eligibility:** The programme is for children aged 5 to 16 who are in receipt of benefit-related free school meals

As of December 2025, there were 25,788 eligible children across Staffordshire. Over 68,000 sessions were commissioned over 2025, with 9,469 individual children that had attended provision.

The key priorities for HAF for 2026 are:

- A commitment to SEND inclusion to ensure participation for all children, inclusive access and providing one to one funding support where possible
- Geographical coverage to ensure accessibility, especially in rural areas and areas of high deprivation.
- Ensuring suitable SEND provision is secured in each district. This includes a wraparound inclusion pathway for staff
- Working to increase Youth engagement within the HAF Programme (secondary aged children).
- Working with providers and partners to continually improve the HAF Programme.

The new school-age childcare guidance places HAF alongside wraparound childcare, breakfast clubs and other programmes as part of the local authority's responsibility to secure sufficient childcare for school-age children. HAF should be seen as a core strand of the wider childcare and support landscape. This will be a key priority for delivery in 2026/27. The latest full annual HAF report is available at

www.staffordshire.gov.uk

or can be requested by contacting

eeac@staffordshire.gov.uk



Conclusions and next steps

In Staffordshire, significant progress has been made to ensure that sufficient, high-quality childcare continues to be available for children and families.

This has included an unprecedented increase in the number of early years and wraparound childcare places that have been created. Our providers have maintained high quality standards across the county so that parents have access to inclusive, high-quality childcare where and when they require it.

Despite this, continued effort is needed to ensure that there are sufficient places to meet continued increasing demand. In some areas of the county, the availability of places is reducing, with some wards showing that childcare vacancies are not available. It is particularly important that we continue to ensure that provision remains available for specific groups following this increase demand, including children accessing Think2 places and children with SEND.

There are some common themes across all eight districts in Staffordshire. These are:

- Additional places for children under 2 are likely to be required in specific wards in all districts, but pressure on places is most apparent in Tamworth, Lichfield and South Staffordshire where there are fewer vacancies. Many wards in these districts have no childcare vacancies for under 2s.
- Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stafford have the highest number of places for children aged two and under, but despite this, more than half of the wards in these districts have five or fewer vacancies for children under two-years-old. This means that data must be analysed at ward level to develop a clear understanding of where additional places may be required.

- Although there are more places available for two-year-olds, there are specific wards in each district where there are no current vacancies. The creation of places may be required in some of these areas and needs further analysis.
- There are sufficient places for three and four-year-olds. Staffordshire County Council will not be encouraging providers to increase the number of places that they provide in this age range as there is a risk that there may be oversupply in some areas.

To ensure that this progress continues, the following actions will be carried out specifically in relation to sufficiency and the development of the childcare market:

- Use the remaining capital funding budget in the short term to target areas of the county that have been identified as requiring additional places through the autumn sufficiency survey. We will use our data and relationships with providers and partners in districts to identify specific projects.
- Identify wards with a low number of vacancies across all age ranges and confirm that children can access places in neighbouring wards. This will be supported by the production of sufficiency maps to identify any potential lack of sufficient childcare across neighbouring wards.
- Continue to work with providers to support expansion without capital funding. This will potentially focus on providers reorganising their provision to provide more places for 0-2 year olds.

- The Early Years Team is continuing to ensure a clear and detailed understanding of all districts to identify where the development of places is required and where providers are interested in expanding. The team will also provide business support to providers to support sustainability of the market.
- Continue to work in partnership with our careers team, local colleges, schools and the Jobcentre (DWP) as part of our recruitment and retention strategy. In addition, support will be offered to providers where data indicates a reduction in places due to recruitment issues.
- Monitor feedback from parents and providers to ensure that providers continue to be able to access places for children in specific groups, with particular attention for those children with SEND. This includes using initiatives to continue to embed inclusive practices with practitioners.
- A continued communications strategy will ensure that parents continue to be aware of their entitlements, including any other financial support available.
- Review the data that is collected through the sufficiency surveys from providers to ensure that it can be used to continue to target further expansion of places throughout 2026/27.

District and ward level analysis

District and ward level analysis

Throughout this report, we have highlighted specific districts with pressures relating to the sufficiency of childcare places, including areas where provision is operating at or near full capacity, such as wards with zero vacancies.

The evidence underpinning these findings is drawn from the Autumn 2025 Childcare Sufficiency Survey, with full data on each district and ward available in appendix A of this report. As described in this report, the autumn term is where we see the lowest level of demand for childcare places and therefore, the pressure on places increases as we move into spring and then summer.

The Early Years Team remains committed to supporting providers who are looking to establish new provision or expand existing services. This support includes working collaboratively with providers to analyse local sufficiency data, identify opportunities for growth, and ensure decisions are informed and aligned with community needs.

For further data requests or if you are considering opening or expanding childcare provision in Staffordshire, please contact

eeac@staffordshire.gov.uk



Staffordshire

	Number of children		0-2 years places	0-2 years vacancies	Vacancy rate
	0-23 months Summer	9 months plus Autumn			
Cannock Chase	2,108	1,318	373	66	18%
East Staffordshire	2,622	1,639	468	65	14%
Lichfield	1,882	1,176	579	40	7%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	2,110	1,319	564	101	18%
South Staffordshire	1,662	1,039	564	52	12%
Stafford	2,316	1,448	663	114	17%
Staffordshire Moorlands	1,440	900	537	74	14%
Tamworth	1,548	968	216	20	9%
Staffordshire	15,688	9,805	3,840	532	14%

	Number of children		3-4 years places	3-4 years vacancies	Vacancy rate
	3-4 years Summer	3-4 years Autumn			
Cannock Chase	2,108	1,318	373	66	18%
East Staffordshire	2,622	1,639	468	65	14%
Lichfield	1,882	1,176	579	40	7%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	2,110	1,319	564	101	18%
South Staffordshire	1,662	1,039	564	52	12%
Stafford	2,316	1,448	663	114	17%
Staffordshire Moorlands	1,440	900	537	74	14%
Tamworth	1,548	968	216	20	9%
Staffordshire	15,688	9,805	3,840	532	14%

	Number of children		2 years places	2 years vacancies	Vacancy rate
	2 years Summer	Think 2 Autumn			
Cannock Chase	2,108	1,318	373	66	18%
East Staffordshire	2,622	1,639	468	65	14%
Lichfield	1,882	1,176	579	40	7%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	2,110	1,319	564	101	18%
South Staffordshire	1,662	1,039	564	52	12%
Stafford	2,316	1,448	663	114	17%
Staffordshire Moorlands	1,440	900	537	74	14%
Tamworth	1,548	968	216	20	9%
Staffordshire	15,688	9,805	3,840	532	14%



Cannock Chase

	Number of children		0-2 years places	0-2 years vacancies	Vacancy rate
	0-23 months Summer	9 months plus Autumn			
Brereton & Ravenhill	176	110	47	0	0%
Cannock Longford & Bridgtown	218	136	110	27	25%
Cannock Park & Old Fallow	142	89	70	5	7%
Chadsmoor	218	136	2	0	0%
Etching Hill & the Heath	134	84	9	0	0%
Hawks Green with Rumer Hill	172	108	5	1	20%
Heath Hayes & Wimblebury	174	109	26	11	42%
Hednesford Green Heath	248	155	29	4	14%
Hednesford Hills & Rawnsley	138	86	8	0	0%
Hednesford Pye Green	152	95	26	0	0%
Norton Canes	234	146	23	3	13%
Western Springs	102	64	18	0	0%
Cannock Chase	2,108	1,318	373	51	14%



Cannock Chase

	Number of children		2 years places	2 years vacancies	Vacancy rate
	2 years Summer	Think 2 Autumn			
Brereton & Ravenhill	76	33	109	26	24%
Cannock Longford & Bridgtown	93	40	138	27	20%
Cannock Park & Old Fallow	61	18	51	5	10%
Chadsmoor	101	33	22	0	0%
Etching Hill & the Heath	65	19	61	16	26%
Hawks Green with Rumer Hill	85	22	5	1	20%
Heath Hayes & Wimblebury	78	12	71	19	27%
Hednesford Green Heath	105	15	35	5	14%
Hednesford Hills & Rawnsley	55	8	21	2	10%
Hednesford Pye Green	75	18	63	3	5%
Norton Canes	108	36	36	0	0%
Western Springs	44	15	44	9	20%
Cannock Chase	946	269	656	113	18%

	Number of children		3-4 years places	3-4 years vacancies	Vacancy rate
	3-4 years Summer	3-4 years Autumn			
Brereton & Ravenhill	92	146	177	48	27%
Cannock Longford & Bridgtown	106	168	243	43	18%
Cannock Park & Old Fallow	64	101	125	41	33%
Chadsmoor	110	174	57	17	30%
Etching Hill & the Heath	73	116	129	53	41%
Hawks Green with Rumer Hill	68	108	4	0	0%
Heath Hayes & Wimblebury	104	165	186	47	25%
Hednesford Green Heath	124	196	121	8	7%
Hednesford Hills & Rawnsley	62	98	111	18	16%
Hednesford Pye Green	76	120	94	15	16%
Norton Canes	109	173	79	6	8%
Western Springs	61	97	54	9	17%
Cannock Chase	1,049	1,661	1,380	305	22%

East Staffordshire

	Number of children		0-2 years places	0-2 years vacancies	Vacancy rate
	0-23 months Summer	9 months plus Autumn			
Anglesey	266	166	36	10	28%
Bagots & Needwood	100	63	72	9	13%
Blythe	58	36	0	0	no places
Branston	248	155	54	0	0%
Brizlincote	116	73	3	0	0%
Burton & Eton	334	209	22	1	5%
Crown	36	23	0	0	no places
Dove	182	114	63	13	21%
Heath	160	100	55	9	16%
Horninglow & Outwoods	250	156	13	3	23%
Shobnall	244	153	30	4	13%
Stapenhill	164	103	48	5	10%
Stramshall & Weaver	84	53	16	4	25%
Stretton	140	88	43	3	7%
Town	104	65	4	2	50%
Winshill	136	85	9	2	22%
East Staffordshire	2,622	1,639	468	65	14%



East Staffordshire

	Number of children		2 years places	2 years vacancies	Vacancy rate
	2 years Summer	Think 2 Autumn			
Anglesey	135	32	50	16	32%
Bagots & Needwood	48	4	61	13	21%
Blythe	15	3	5	2	40%
Branston	129	30	69	2	3%
Brizlincote	62	9	18	3	17%
Burton & Eton	164	42	30	1	3%
Crown	24	3	0	0	no places
Dove	103	12	83	22	27%
Heath	83	17	46	4	9%
Horninglow & Outwoods	124	33	36	6	17%
Shobnall	143	25	49	16	33%
Stapenhill	83	24	52	0	0%
Stramshall & Weaver	39	4	16	4	25%
Stretton	76	16	46	4	9%
Town	49	10	21	8	38%
Winshill	74	24	55	11	20%
East Staffordshire	1,351	288	637	112	18%

	Number of children		3-4 years places	3-4 years vacancies	Vacancy rate
	3-4 years Summer	3-4 years Autumn			
Anglesey	144	228	159	33	21%
Bagots & Needwood	70	111	139	25	18%
Blythe	14	22	10	6	60%
Branston	108	171	178	10	6%
Brizlincote	52	82	43	3	7%
Burton & Eton	168	266	116	18	16%
Crown	20	32	43	16	37%
Dove	103	163	148	15	10%
Heath	103	163	176	60	34%
Horninglow & Outwoods	94	149	134	24	18%
Shobnall	126	200	144	20	14%
Stapenhill	86	136	97	17	18%
Stramshall & Weaver	47	74	37	11	30%
Stretton	90	143	125	2	2%
Town	38	60	73	12	16%
Winshill	69	109	89	18	20%
East Staffordshire	1,332	2,109	1,711	290	17%

Lichfield

	Number of children		0-2 years places	0-2 years vacancies	Vacancy rate
	0-23 months Summer	9 months plus Autumn			
Alrewas & Fradley	194	121	37	2	5%
Armitage with Handsacre	90	56	17	7	41%
Boley Park	68	43	0	0	no places
Boney Hay & Central	86	54	4	0	0%
Bourne Vale	38	24	66	2	3%
Chadsmead	76	48	0	0	no places
Chase Terrace	70	44	1	1	100%
Chasetown	126	79	33	2	6%
Colton & the Ridwares	18	11	3	0	0%
Curborough	112	70	0	0	no places
Fazeley	92	58	39	0	0%
Hammerwich with Wall	52	33	2	1	50%
Highfield	70	44	45	0	0%
Leomansley	86	54	111	20	18%
Little Aston & Stonnall	70	44	47	0	0%
Longdon	22	14	3	0	0%
Mease Valley	22	14	0	0	no places
Shenstone	24	15	0	0	no places
St John's	128	80	36	2	6%
Stowe	76	48	54	0	0%
Summerfield & All Saints	136	85	37	3	8%
Whittington & Streethay	226	141	44	0	0%
Lichfield	1,882	1,176	579	40	7%



Lichfield

	Number of children		2 years places	2 years vacancies	Vacancy rate
	2 years Summer	Think 2 Autumn			
Alrewas & Fradley	62	12	60	4	7%
Armitage with Handsacre	84	9	51	8	16%
Boley Park	23	4	11	3	27%
Boney Hay & Central	46	9	36	26	72%
Bourne Vale	24	4	66	0	0%
Chadsmead	43	15	20	20	100%
Chase Terrace	43	4	1	0	0%
Chasetown	87	13	39	6	15%
Colton & the Ridwares	18	3	0	0	no places
Curborough	28	10	41	4	10%
Fazeley	37	18	28	2	7%
Hammerwich with Wall	21	3	0	0	no places
Highfield	19	7	71	1	1%
Leomansley	53	6	75	15	20%
Little Aston & Stonnall	32	5	70	0	0%
Longdon	10	1	34	5	15%
Mease Valley	13	2	0	0	no places
Shenstone	18	1	4	0	0%
St John's	63	24	45	5	11%
Stowe	48	7	103	0	0%
Summerfield & All Saints	69	12	74	18	24%
Whittington & Streethay	99	23	72	5	7%
Lichfield	940	192	901	122	14%

	Number of children		3-4 years places	3-4 years vacancies	Vacancy rate
	3-4 years Summer	3-4 years Autumn			
Alrewas & Fradley	71	112	98	15	15%
Armitage with Handsacre	77	122	83	31	37%
Boley Park	24	38	22	6	27%
Boney Hay & Central	36	57	65	16	25%
Bourne Vale	23	36	87	7	8%
Chadsmead	49	78	26	10	38%
Chase Terrace	47	74	40	10	25%
Chasetown	73	116	56	11	20%
Colton & the Ridwares	16	25	26	1	4%
Curborough	45	71	89	24	27%
Fazeley	45	71	90	23	26%
Hammerwich with Wall	31	49	1	0	0%
Highfield	24	38	106	20	19%
Leomansley	60	95	68	2	3%
Little Aston & Stonnall	49	78	92	12	13%
Longdon	18	29	63	17	27%
Mease Valley	14	22	0	0	No places
Shenstone	16	25	20	0	0%
St John's	43	68	116	10	9%
Stowe	43	68	103	13	13%
Summerfield & All Saints	68	108	118	44	37%
Whittington & Streethay	95	150	152	5	3%
Lichfield	967	1,531	1,521	277	18%

Newcastle-under-Lyme

	Number of children		0-2 years places	0-2 years vacancies	Vacancy rate
	0-23 months Summer	9 months plus Autumn			
Audley	96	60	18	6	33%
Bradwell	188	118	37	8	22%
Clayton	52	33	2	0	0%
Crackley & Red Street	132	83	12	5	42%
Cross Heath	146	91	0	0	no places
Holditch & Chesterton	106	66	38	14	37%
Keele	14	9	48	0	0%
Kidsgrove & Ravenscliffe	132	83	25	4	16%
Knutton	90	56	18	6	33%
Loggerheads	56	35	19	2	11%
Madeley & Betley	56	35	15	1	7%
Maer & Whitmore	32	20	0	0	no places
May Bank	140	88	49	6	12%
Newchapel & Mow Cop	110	69	4	1	25%
Silverdale	108	68	16	5	31%
Talke & Butt Lane	180	113	28	3	11%
Thistleberry	104	65	66	18	27%
Town	66	41	105	15	14%
Westbury Park & Northwood	50	31	5	2	40%
Westlands	122	76	23	2	9%
Wolstanton	130	81	36	3	8%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	2,110	1,319	564	101	18%



Newcastle-under-Lyme

	Number of children		2 years places	2 years vacancies	Vacancy rate
	2 years Summer	Think 2 Autumn			
Audley	80	17	36	11	31%
Bradwell	73	23	56	4	7%
Clayton	29	3	3	2	67%
Crackley & Red Street	64	26	18	3	17%
Cross Heath	71	18	20	0	0%
Holditch & Chesterton	70	24	64	21	33%
Keele	13	1	30	0	0%
Kidsgrove & Ravenscliffe	92	21	47	0	0%
Knutton	32	11	30	16	53%
Loggerheads	33	8	15	5	33%
Madeley & Betley	43	10	16	2	13%
Maer & Whitmore	22	0	0	0	no places
May Bank	66	11	68	10	15%
Newchapel & Mow Cop	53	8	8	1	13%
Silverdale	31	17	33	6	18%
Talke & Butt Lane	77	22	25	6	24%
Thistleberry	40	15	71	22	31%
Town	46	9	126	22	17%
Westbury Park & Northwood	37	5	5	1	20%
Westlands	46	7	64	20	31%
Wolstanton	62	11	67	8	12%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	1,080	267	802	160	20%

	Number of children		3-4 years places	3-4 years vacancies	Vacancy rate
	3-4 years Summer	3-4 years Autumn			
Audley	78	124	83	29	35%
Bradwell	61	97	106	22	21%
Clayton	29	46	1	0	0%
Crackley & Red Street	55	87	63	20	32%
Cross Heath	67	106	64	0	0%
Holditch & Chesterton	62	98	86	17	20%
Keele	11	17	64	14	22%
Kidsgrove & Ravenscliffe	78	124	132	20	15%
Knutton	29	46	56	25	45%
Loggerheads	24	38	64	27	42%
Madeley & Betley	39	62	64	15	23%
Maer & Whitmore	21	33	20	0	0%
May Bank	61	97	97	7	7%
Newchapel & Mow Cop	53	84	46	11	24%
Silverdale	65	103	65	16	25%
Talke & Butt Lane	98	155	114	26	23%
Thistleberry	43	68	80	28	35%
Town	35	55	249	67	27%
Westbury Park & Northwood	37	59	6	0	0%
Westlands	58	92	245	68	28%
Wolstanton	71	112	117	15	13%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	1,075	1,702	1,822	427	23%

South Staffordshire

	Number of children		0-2 years places	0-2 years vacancies	Vacancy rate
	0-23 months Summer	9 months plus Autumn			
Bilbrook	88	55	30	7	23%
Brewood, Coven & Blymhill	100	63	13	0	0%
Cheslyn Hay Village	104	65	6	0	0%
Codsall	104	65	28	5	18%
Essington	80	50	42	2	5%
Featherstone, Sharehill & Saredon	96	60	12	0	0%
Great Wyrley Landywood	86	54	27	1	4%
Great Wyrley Town	86	54	5	0	0%
Himley & Swindon	30	19	0	0	no places
Huntington & Hatherton	128	80	2	1	50%
Kinver & Enville	90	56	30	0	0%
Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston	52	33	26	5	19%
Pattingham, Trysull, Bobbington & Lower Penn	74	46	47	3	6%
Penkridge North & Acton Trussell	66	41	22	2	9%
Penkridge South & Gailey	88	55	30	10	33%
Perton East	30	19	1	0	0%
Perton Lakeside	86	54	4	0	0%
Perton Wrottesley	50	31	42	0	0%
Wombourne North	102	64	30	0	0%
Wombourne South	122	76	43	16	37%
South Staffordshire	1,662	1,039	440	52	12%



South Staffordshire

	Number of children		2 years places	2 years vacancies	Vacancy rate
	2 years Summer	Think 2 Autumn			
Bilbrook	59	8	32	3	9%
Brewood, Coven & Blymhill	73	10	31	6	19%
Cheslyn Hay Village	66	5	34	6	18%
Codsall	60	3	35	4	11%
Essington	52	13	55	1	2%
Featherstone, Sharehill & Saredon	60	13	34	8	24%
Great Wyrley Landywood	49	15	57	5	9%
Great Wyrley Town	44	11	22	0	0%
Himley & Swindon	17	4	0	0	no places
Huntington & Hatherton	64	14	27	4	15%
Kinver & Enville	60	2	57	13	23%
Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston	14	1	20	1	5%
Pattingham, Trysull, Bobbington & Lower Penn	42	6	42	3	7%
Penkridge North & Acton Trussell	35	7	36	11	31%
Penkridge South & Gailey	53	11	22	2	9%
Perton East	18	2	1	0	0%
Perton Lakeside	44	16	31	6	19%
Perton Wrottesley	15	2	53	2	4%
Wombourne North	46	7	63	9	14%
Wombourne South	62	23	42	18	43%
South Staffordshire	933	173	694	102	15%

	Number of children		3-4 years places	3-4 years vacancies	Vacancy rate
	3-4 years Summer	3-4 years Autumn			
Bilbrook	52	82	80	42	53%
Brewood, Coven & Blymhill	63	100	100	17	17%
Cheslyn Hay Village	54	86	98	25	26%
Codsall	66	105	127	31	24%
Essington	52	82	120	10	8%
Featherstone, Sharehill & Saredon	55	87	65	5	8%
Great Wyrley Landywood	49	78	83	5	6%
Great Wyrley Town	54	86	80	28	35%
Himley & Swindon	20	32	16	5	31%
Huntington & Hatherton	67	106	67	16	24%
Kinver & Enville	46	73	76	13	17%
Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston	9	14	10	19	190%
Pattingham, Trysull, Bobbington & Lower Penn	42	67	119	13	11%
Penkridge North & Acton Trussell	48	76	88	15	17%
Penkridge South & Gailey	58	92	71	29	41%
Perton East	21	33	0	0	no places
Perton Lakeside	66	105	57	6	11%
Perton Wrottesley	18	29	35	0	0%
Wombourne North	45	71	138	39	28%
Wombourne South	83	131	77	25	32%
South Staffordshire	968	1,533	1,507	343	23%

Stafford

	Number of children		0-2 years places	0-2 years vacancies	Vacancy rate
	0-23 months Summer	9 months plus Autumn			
Barlaston	28	18	0	0	no places
Baswich	70	44	3	0	0%
Common	76	48	12	0	0%
Coton	176	110	49	10	20%
Doxey & Castletown	82	51	1	0	0%
Eccleshall	92	58	20	0	0%
Forebridge	82	51	56	13	23%
Fulford	90	56	15	3	20%
Gnosall & Woodseaves	82	51	18	5	28%
Haywood & Hixon	74	46	14	0	0%
Highfields & Western Downs	194	121	3	0	0%
Holmcroft	88	55	11	1	9%
Littleworth	106	66	27	5	19%
Manor	112	70	53	4	8%
Milford	40	25	27	0	0%
Milwich	112	70	144	47	33%
Penkside	82	51	1	0	0%
Rowley	80	50	47	7	15%
Seighford & Church Eaton	152	95	10	3	30%
St Michael's & Stonefield	138	86	71	9	13%
Swynnerton & Oulton	90	56	24	0	0%
Walton	164	103	51	7	14%
Weeping Cross & Wildwood	106	66	6	0	0%
Stafford	2,316	1,448	663	114	17%



Stafford

	Number of children		2 years places	2 years vacancies	Vacancy rate
	2 Years Summer	Think 2 Autumn			
Barlaston	14	2	0	0	no places
Baswich	40	1	3	0	0%
Common	46	4	12	0	0%
Coton	110	19	68	6	9%
Doxey & Castletown	60	15	17	8	47%
Eccleshall	59	9	12	0	0%
Forebridge	45	7	72	17	24%
Fulford	41	9	17	4	24%
Gnosall & Woodseaves	39	4	41	2	5%
Haywood & Hixon	53	7	38	7	18%
Highfields & Western Downs	88	33	2	0	0%
Holmcroft	44	9	40	10	25%
Littleworth	51	8	15	2	13%
Manor	57	22	69	8	12%
Milford	9	1	21	0	0%
Milwich	66	9	97	36	37%
Penkside	48	12	17	0	0%
Rowley	48	7	38	8	21%
Seighford & Church Eaton	67	21	34	2	6%
St Michael's & Stonefield	81	11	92	10	11%
Swynnerton & Oulton	38	3	18	0	0%
Walton	85	21	47	8	17%
Weeping Cross & Wildwood	43	4	35	1	3%
South Staffordshire	1,232	238	805	129	16%

	Number of children		3-4 years places	3-4 years vacancies	Vacancy rate
	3-4 years Summer	3-4 years Autumn			
Barlaston	22	35	30	13	43%
Baswich	42	67	63	12	19%
Common	41	65	45	9	20%
Coton	118	187	144	10	7%
Doxey & Castletown	47	74	27	12	44%
Eccleshall	65	103	50	14	28%
Forebridge	41	65	91	18	20%
Fulford	35	55	27	6	22%
Gnosall & Woodseaves	60	95	91	21	23%
Haywood & Hixon	54	86	84	18	21%
Highfields & Western Downs	64	101	56	16	29%
Holmcroft	64	101	86	28	33%
Littleworth	47	74	100	20	20%
Manor	72	114	93	17	18%
Milford	12	19	55	0	0%
Milwich	74	117	140	49	35%
Penkside	41	65	26	2	8%
Rowley	34	54	85	26	31%
Seighford & Church Eaton	68	108	58	15	26%
St Michael's & Stonefield	79	125	166	54	33%
Swynnerton & Oulton	53	84	72	26	36%
Walton	56	89	68	4	6%
Weeping Cross & Wildwood	42	67	59	1	2%
Stafford	1,231	1,949	1,716	391	23%

Staffordshire Moorlands

	Number of children		0-2 years places	0-2 years vacancies	Vacancy rate
	0-23 months Summer	9 months plus Autumn			
Alton	36	23	0	0	no places
Bagnall and Stanley	4	3	12	6	50%
Biddulph East	104	65	51	7	14%
Biddulph Moor	16	10	0	0	no places
Biddulph North	62	39	2	1	50%
Biddulph South	14	9	16	1	6%
Biddulph West	58	36	27	5	19%
Brown Edge and Endon	88	55	38	2	5%
Caverswall	30	19	0	0	no places
Cellarhead	52	33	4	0	0%
Cheadle North East	92	58	0	0	no places
Cheadle South East	44	28	21	0	0%
Cheadle West	86	54	58	9	16%
Checkley	88	55	61	13	21%
Cheddleton	68	43	34	1	3%
Churnet	40	25	1	0	0%
Dane	12	8	0	0	no places
Forsbrook	78	49	51	5	10%
Hamps Valley	14	9	5	1	20%
Horton	28	18	3	2	67%
Ipstones	24	15	12	0	0%
Leek East	80	50	50	7	14%
Leek North	100	63	34	5	15%
Leek South	96	60	4	0	0%
Leek West	60	38	2	0	0%
Manifold	18	11	3	2	67%
Werrington	48	30	48	7	15%
Staffordshire Moorlands	1,440	900	537	74	14%



Staffordshire Moorlands

	Number of children		2 years places	2 years vacancies	Vacancy rate
	2 Years Summer	Think 2 Autumn			
Alton	6	1	0	0	no places
Bagnall and Stanley	9	0	16	10	63%
Biddulph East	75	10	60	21	35%
Biddulph Moor	7	2	0	0	no places
Biddulph North	25	1	2	1	50%
Biddulph South	3	6	19	1	5%
Biddulph West	25	0	28	0	0%
Brown Edge and Endon	33	5	54	2	4%
Caverswall	15	3	5	0	0%
Cellarhead	23	2	1	0	0%
Cheadle North East	37	13	0	0	no places
Cheadle South East	36	6	20	0	0%
Cheadle West	35	8	41	14	34%
Checkley	35	3	50	15	30%
Cheddleton	20	5	37	6	16%
Churnet	20	3	8	2	25%
Dane	4	0	0	0	no places
Forsbrook	41	8	72	16	22%
Hamps Valley	14	0	12	2	17%
Horton	7	1	2	2	100%
Ipstones	8	0	12	1	8%
Leek East	37	5	50	10	20%
Leek North	47	21	31	3	10%
Leek South	38	6	5	0	0%
Leek West	29	2	14	1	7%
Manifold	16	0	16	9	56%
Werrington	16	3	9	1	11%
Staffordshire Moorlands	661	114	564	117	21%

	Number of children		0-2 years places	0-2 years vacancies	Vacancy rate
	3-4 years Summer	3-4 years Autumn			
Alton	8	13	13	4	31%
Bagnall and Stanley	16	25	28	14	50%
Biddulph East	45	71	139	48	35%
Biddulph Moor	14	22	15	7	47%
Biddulph North	37	59	49	17	35%
Biddulph South	8	13	7	0	0%
Biddulph West	34	54	36	18	50%
Brown Edge and Endon	34	54	79	2	3%
Caverswall	14	22	34	4	12%
Cellarhead	28	44	53	4	8%
Cheadle North East	23	36	0	0	no places
Cheadle South East	31	49	35	3	9%
Cheadle West	38	60	101	12	12%
Checkley	36	57	104	38	37%
Cheddleton	45	71	121	40	33%
Churnet	21	33	40	17	43%
Dane	10	16	23	9	39%
Forsbrook	28	44	115	27	23%
Hamps Valley	15	24	40	24	60%
Horton	8	13	19	4	21%
Ipstones	12	19	12	2	17%
Leek East	53	84	88	28	32%
Leek North	54	86	58	9	16%
Leek South	52	82	35	16	46%
Leek West	33	52	43	1	2%
Manifold	12	19	19	5	26%
Werrington	28	44	35	6	17%
Staffordshire Moorlands	737	1,167	1,341	359	27%

Tamworth

	Number of children		0-2 years places	0-2 years vacancies	Vacancy rate
	0-23 months Summer	9 months plus Autumn			
Amington	180	113	18	3	17%
Belgrave	136	85	11	0	0%
Bolehall	140	88	57	5	9%
Castle	196	123	17	0	0%
Glascote	152	95	15	0	0%
Mercian	142	89	31	0	0%
Spital	182	114	0	0	no places
Stonydelph	106	66	9	4	44%
Trinity	124	78	27	3	11%
Wilnecote	190	119	31	5	16%
Tamworth	1,548	968	216	20	9%

	Number of children		2 years places	2 years vacancies	Vacancy rate
	2 Years Summer	Think 2 Autumn			
Amington	116	19	99	26	26%
Belgrave	116	17	31	5	16%
Bolehall	72	19	86	14	16%
Castle	117	32	15	0	0%
Glascote	82	31	35	2	6%
Mercian	71	13	44	3	7%
Spital	77	19	22	4	18%
Stonydelph	76	21	32	6	19%
Trinity	65	10	49	10	20%
Wilnecote	70	24	41	4	10%
Tamworth	862	205	454	74	16%

	Number of children		0-2 years places	0-2 years vacancies	Vacancy rate
	3-4 years Summer	3-4 years Autumn			
Amington	78	124	160	32	20%
Belgrave	101	160	108	25	23%
Bolehall	96	152	127	20	16%
Castle	76	120	44	6	14%
Glascote	66	105	39	0	0%
Mercian	71	112	107	17	16%
Spital	104	165	91	10	11%
Stonydelph	89	141	65	11	17%
Trinity	70	111	101	15	15%
Wilnecote	101	160	66	7	11%
Tamworth	852	1,349	908	143	16%



