



East Sussex
Childcare Sufficiency Assessment
2019

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1. Introduction

- 1.1.** The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) is a statutory document that outlines how East Sussex County Council (the local authority) plans to 'secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children from birth to 14 (or up to 18 for disabled children).' The compiling and publication of this CSA meets the local authority's statutory duty under sections 6 and 7 of the Childcare Act 2006, and is also in line with local authority statutory guidance.
- 1.2.** This report focuses on two key areas of the childcare market in East Sussex:
 - measuring the demand for, and supply of childcare within the five districts of East Sussex identifying gaps in the market
 - planning how to support the childcare market within East Sussex to address any shortfall.
- 1.3.** The report will assess the supply and demand of current levels of provision and compare with known capacity to predict future demand based on population data, so that any shortfall can be identified.
- 1.4.** The Childcare Act 2006 gives local authorities a role in shaping the childcare market. The local authority is committed to working with providers from the private, voluntary and independent sectors (PVI) and the maintained sector to create a sustainable and diverse childcare market that meets the needs of families and supports children's learning.
- 1.5.** Local authorities are required to report annually to elected members and publish information for parents to show how each authority is meeting its sufficiency duty. This includes providing specific information about:
 - the current and projected supply and demand for early education and childcare places
 - affordability, accessibility and quality of early education and childcare places and details of how any gaps in provision will be addressed
- 1.6** Settings delivering the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) may be PVI organisations or schools. All provision is funded either by government entitlements or by parents.
- 1.7** The Childcare Act 2006 also requires the following actions and measures which identify the strategic role local authorities' play. Local authorities are required by government to support (though not necessarily provide) the following:
 - early education places for two, three and four year olds supporting eligibility, flexibility and quality
 - distributing the funding streams that support early education places
 - securing sufficient childcare so far as is practicable in a free market

- providing information to parents/carers
- providing information, support and training to early education and childcare providers

1.8 Local authorities are required to secure fully funded places for every eligible child in their area, offering 570 hours a year over no fewer than 38 weeks per year and up to 52 weeks of the year, until the child reaches compulsory school age (the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday).

Eligibility depends on a child's age and whether they meet certain funding criteria.

Fig.1 Funded early education criteria by age group

Funded early education		Criteria
All 3 and 4 year olds	15 hours per week for 38 weeks a year, equivalent to 570 hours. The 570 hours can be stretched up to 52 weeks a year (approximately 11 hours per week).	This is the universal entitlement for all 3 and 4 year olds until they enter Reception class as a rising 5 at a state funded school. If parents choose not to take up a school place in the September following the child's fourth birthday, they can choose to continue to take up their child's funded place at a PVI childcare provider until their child reaches compulsory school age.
Eligible 3 and 4 year olds	Up to an additional 15 hours per week for 38 weeks a year, equivalent to 1,140 hours. The 1,140 hours can be stretched up to 52 weeks a year (approximately 22 hours per week).	Extended entitlement for working parents. The extended entitlement is for either lone working parents or families where both parents are working, and each parent earns a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum wage or living wage, and less than £100,000 per year. Eligibility is determined by HMRC.
Eligible 2 year olds	15 hours per week for 38 weeks a year. The 570 hours can be stretched up to 52 weeks a year (approx. 11 hours per week).	For parents on either low income or a range of benefits (including Universal Credit; the child is looked after by the local authority; has left care through special guardianship or through an adoption or residence order; is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or has a statement of Educational need (SEN) or an Education, Health and Care (EHC plan).

Source: Statutory Guidance for local authorities published by the Department for Education (DfE) June 2018

1.9 All 3 and 4-year-olds in England are entitled to 15 hours a week, or 570 hours a year of funded early education. Since September 2017 some 3 and 4-year-olds may be entitled to 30 hours a week, or 1,140 hours a year of funded childcare. The additional 15 hours is available to families where both parents are working (or the sole parent in a lone parent family is working), and each parent earns a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum wage or living wage, and less than £100,000 per year. This also includes self-employed parents.

2. Key findings

The key findings are summarised below, more information on each of the key areas is provided in other sections of this document.

2.1 East Sussex is growing and changing

The population of East Sussex is projected to increase by nearly 55,300 to 607,473 between 2017 and 2032 (East Sussex in Figures (ESIF) published in May 2019). Forecasts project that there will be a decline in the working age population (18-64) of over 4% to 295,000 people in 2031 and a further 35,100 more homes will be required. For further details see section 5.

2.2 Across the county there are sufficient 0-5 childcare places to meet demand

Data taken from the local authority's early years forecasting model (September 2019) indicates that across the county there is sufficient capacity within the sector to meet demand. The forecasts show that there are no imminent shortfalls in the major towns – although places could be tight in Hailsham and Bexhill by the middle of the next decade. Wivelsfield Parish, with relatively high volumes of new housing, is also showing a potential shortfall, although some of the new housing is on the fringes of Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill and some parents may look to provision in these West Sussex towns instead. For further details see section 7.

2.3 The quality of early education and childcare in East Sussex is high

- 98.9% of early years providers were judged to be Good or Outstanding at the end of December 2018, comparing favourably with the national average of 95.2%, for further details see section 10
- The percentage of children achieving a good level of development at the end of the Foundation Stage is above the national average, for further details see section 10.

2.4 The cost of childcare remains below national averages

- The average charge by providers for day-care childcare in East Sussex is £4.50 per hour. The national average according to The Family and Childcare Trust Childcare Survey 2019 for children aged three and four is £4.92.

[family and childcare trust.org/childcare-survey-2019](https://familyandchildcaretrust.org/childcare-survey-2019)

- In April 2019 92% of funded providers in East Sussex offered the extended hours for the 30 hour entitlement to families in their care.

For further details see section 7

2.5 The childcare picture in East Sussex

- There has been a higher than national decline in the numbers of childminders in East Sussex since 2015, 20% compared to 17% nationally. In the year August 2017 to August 2018 East Sussex saw a drop of 6% in the number of childminders.
- The number of full day care/sessional settings and childminders' that closed in 2018 was sixty-six, of those fifty-five (83%) were childminders. In the same period twenty-five new providers, settings and childminders, opened.
- Historically many families have adapted their work pattern or used informal childcare options such as grandparents or friends to manage their childcare needs. This data was supported by findings from phone calls made to families as part of the expansion to funded 2 year places from June 2014 to July 2016, where eligible families reported the reasons they did not take-up a funded place.

3. Childcare sufficiency – areas for development

To ensure a sufficient supply of high quality early years and childcare provision, the local authority will:

3.1 Data/Sufficiency

- Propose to undertake termly availability audits electronically through the online provider portal as well as an annual data refresh. This will ensure any sufficiency issues are addressed as quickly as possible.
- Encourage the Early Years Hubs to work together in partnership to better understand local availability to meet parental demand.
- Monitor areas of new housing development and community growth to target new early year's places. Development to be aligned with school place planning priorities where applicable.
- Continue to monitor all sectors of the market to identify potential reasons for any decline in provider numbers.
- Use the early years forecasting model to analyse sufficiency across all five districts looking particularly at supply and demand.
- Encourage take-up of funded places, particularly 2 year old funded places, in areas where take-up rates are lower.

3.2 Family Information

- Use social media and the East Sussex Children and Families web pages to widen access to information about early education and home learning.
- Help parents (particularly vulnerable families) to understand the benefits of high quality childcare and early learning for their children.

3.3 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

- Improve the quality of existing web-based information and extend the number of topics available for providers to access including Special Educational Needs, behaviour, funding, universal childcare support and increase usage of social media.
- Ensure all information is up to date and accessible via the Local Offer.
- Use data from across the local authority to ensure all children identified with SEND are accessing their early education entitlement and that support is in place.
- Improve the skills and knowledge of the early years providers to meet the needs of children with SEND through reviewing inclusion groups and implementing on-line SENco training that can be accessed by all early years' providers and not just the setting SENco.
- Continually review and update current training offers to providers with a specific SEND focus, most of which is offered at no cost to childcare settings.

4. Support for Parents

4.1 Affordability

To be sustainable childcare providers need to ensure their operating costs are met by the income generated. At the same time, childcare needs to be affordable to parent and carers.

The local authority cannot determine the business models of childcare providers as the sector is influenced by market forces. However the local authority does have a legal duty to ensure there is sufficient affordable childcare for families who need it and manage the market where a gap is identified.

Current legislation states that local authorities cannot intervene in how a provider operates its private business. This includes charges for provision over and above a child's funded place.

4.2 Help with childcare costs

There are options available to parents and carers to help with childcare costs. Parents and carers must select the option that best suits their personal circumstances. Further information for parents and carers in East Sussex can be found by following:

[east sussex-help with childcare costs](#)

5. Population

- 5.1 According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2018 mid-year estimates, the population in East Sussex is around 554,590. This is approximately 1% of the population of England. The population is projected to increase by nearly 10% by 2032.

Fig. 2 Population projections (all ages) from 2018 to 2032

Year	Population 2018	Population 2032	Actual Change 2018-2032	% Change 2017-2032
East Sussex	554,590	607,473	52,883	10

Source: East Sussex County Council projections, May 2019

- 5.2 It is estimated that there are a 106,000 children aged 0-17 in East Sussex.
- 5.3 Over the last decade the population in East Sussex has increased by 6.81%

Fig.3 Population Increase (all ages) in the last decade 2008 to 2018

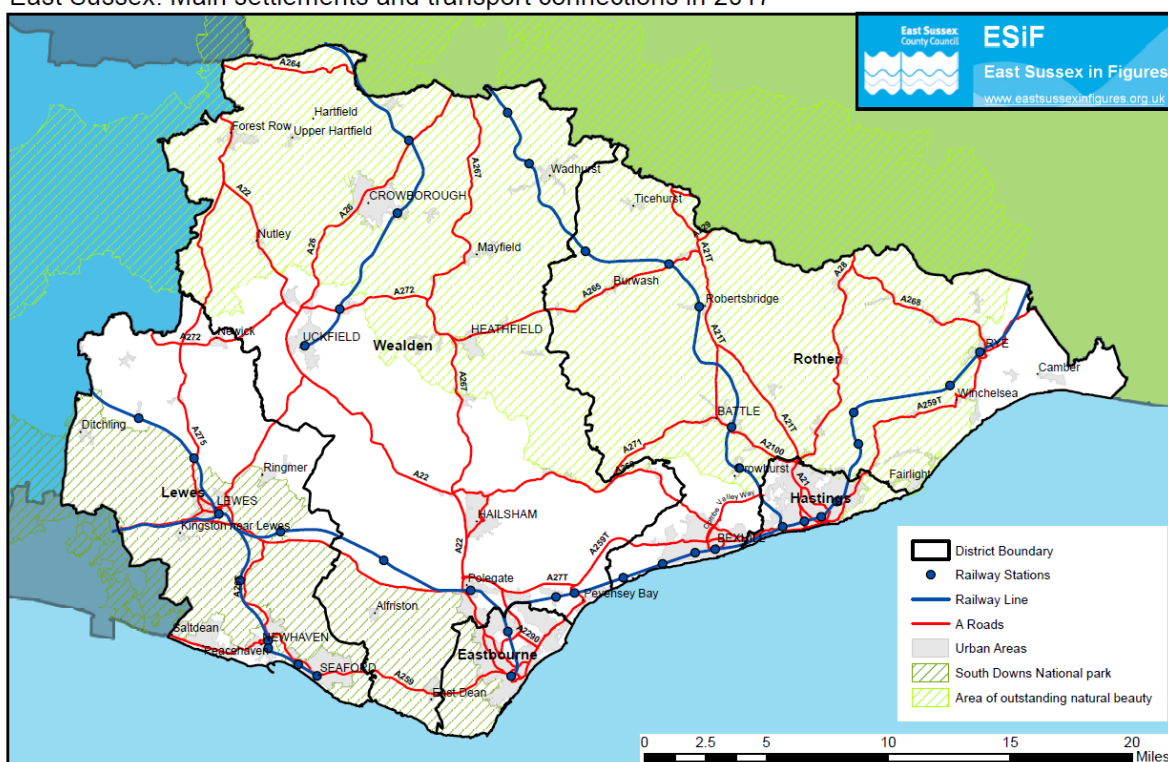
Source: ONS Mid-year estimates, published June 2019

	2008	2018	Percentage change 2008-2018
England	51,815,853	55,977,178,	8.0%
East Sussex	519,197	554,590	6.8%
Eastbourne	98,361	103,160	4.9%
Hastings	88,722	92,855	4.7%
Lewes	95,455	102,744	7.6%
Rother	90,120	95,656	6.1%
Wealden	146,539	160,175	9.3%

- 5.4 East Sussex comprises five borough and district council areas: Eastbourne, Hastings, Lewes, Rother and Wealden (Fig.4).

Fig.4 Map of the five borough and district council areas in East Sussex

East Sussex: Main settlements and transport connections in 2017



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5.5 The table in figure 5 below shows the breakdown of numbers of children aged 0-17 and disabled children aged 10-17 using the ONS mid-year estimates 2018 and disability projections

Fig.5 Projected number of children with overall disability in 2018

	Total population aged 0-17	Total population aged 10-17	Projected number of children with overall disability Aged 10 to 17
East Sussex	106,378	48,105	1,874
Eastbourne	19,975	8,592	387
Hastings	19,243	8,137	382
Lewes	20,079	9,313	323
Rother	16,140	7,533	312
Wealden	30,941	14,530	471

Source ESiF: East Sussex County Council Projections May 2019

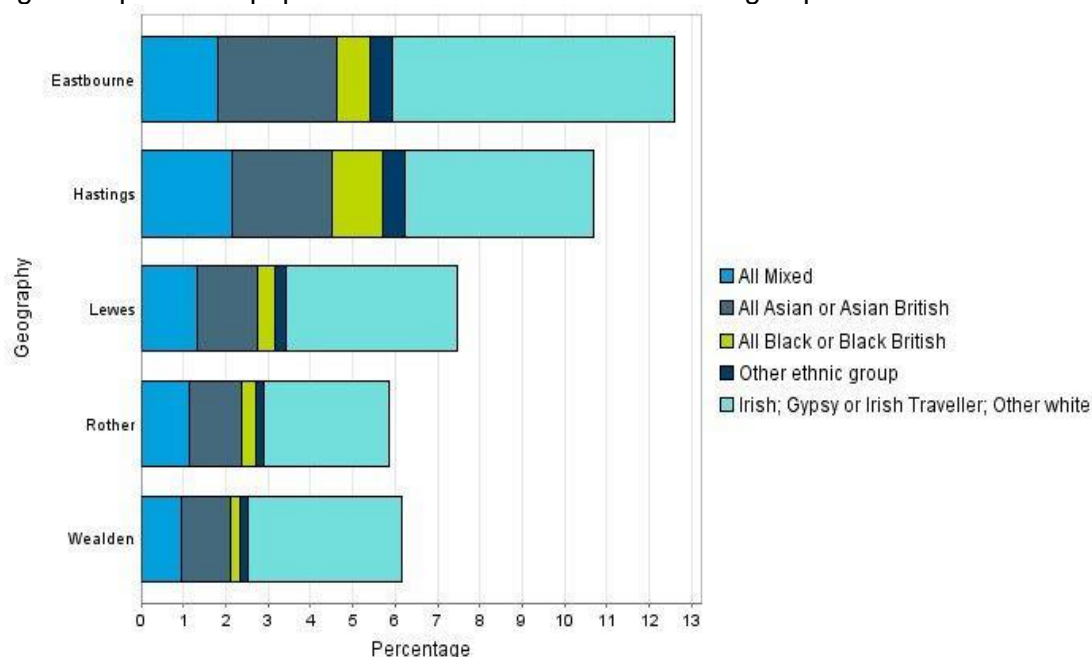
5.6 In the latest published Department of Works and Pensions Family Resources Survey 2017/18, (published 29 March, 2019), around 8% of children and young people are disabled.

5.7 East Sussex is a county of extremes and is predominately rural in character. Of its five boroughs and districts, three are larger and rural: Lewes, Wealden and Rother, with Eastbourne and Hastings being mainly urban. Nearly three

quarters of the population live in urban areas (58% live in the coastal urban areas and a further 18% live in market towns).

- 5.8** Just over 25% of families in East Sussex live in a rural area with these children being largely served by pre-schools and childminders.
- 5.9** The population in East Sussex is characterised by a predominately White British population, with Eastbourne and Hastings having the largest levels of other ethnicities.

Fig. 6 Proportion of population of non-White British ethnic groups in 2011

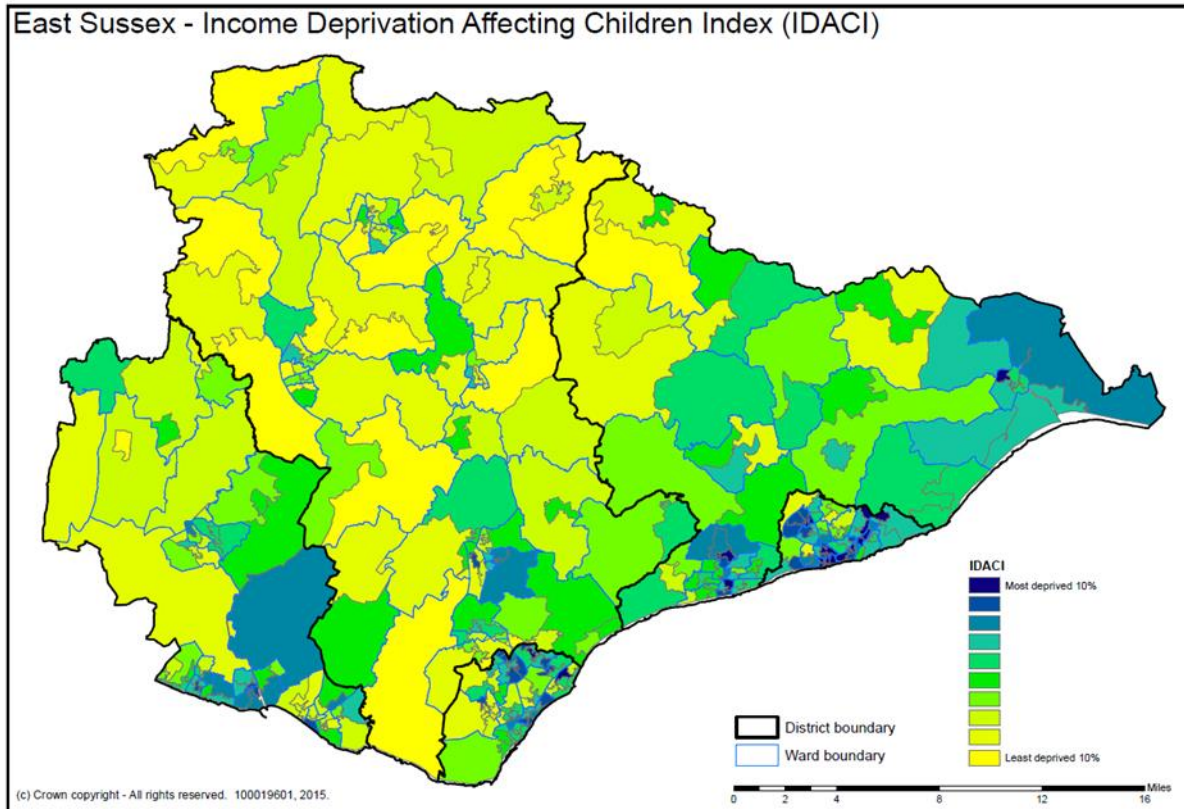


Source: ESiF-: Ethnic group in 2011 - super output areas

- 5.10** There are around 50 languages spoken in East Sussex. For 3,945 school children English is not their first language. 18.3% of these children are aged 0-5. Polish is the most widely spoken first language other than English across schools in East Sussex, with Portuguese being the second and Arabic the third. (Source: January 2019 School Census - Pupil Count Final-EAL)
- 5.11** The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 (IMD) is the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas (or neighbourhoods) in England. The map below (Fig.7) shows the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI), which measures the proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families. It is a subset of the Income Deprivation Domain of the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 (IMD) which measures the proportion of the population in an area experiencing deprivation relating to low income. The small areas used are called Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs), and there are 32,844 in England. The measures rank every LSOA in England from 1 (most deprived area) to 32,844 (least deprived area). The 10% of LSOAs with the lowest rank in the country are in the most deprived decile (coloured

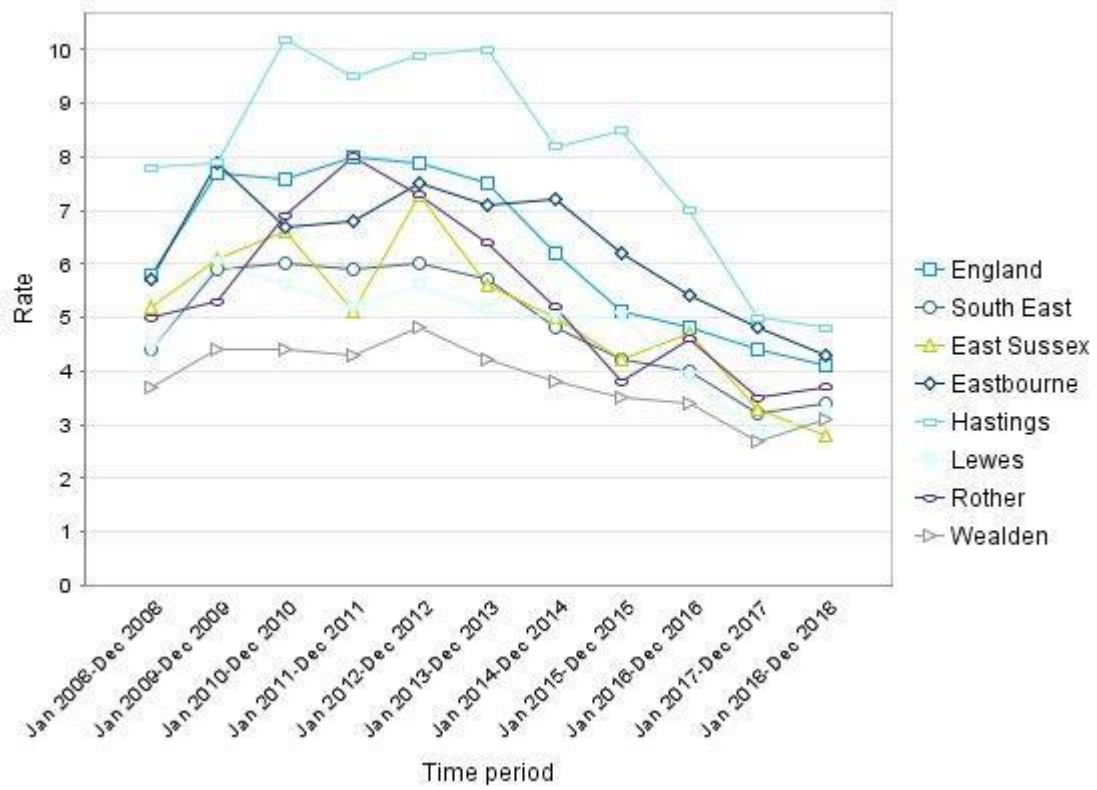
dark blue on the map below), and the 10% highest rank are in the least deprived decile (yellow).

Fig. 7 National deprivation rank in neighbourhoods LSOAs in East Sussex



- 5.12** Two Hastings neighbourhoods are amongst the most deprived 1% in the country, situated in Baird and Tressell wards. Seven Hastings neighbourhoods are among the most deprived 5% nationally, along with one neighbourhood in Bexhill.
- 5.13** East Sussex has a higher number of neighbourhoods in the most deprived decile (6%) compared to the rest of the South East (3%).
- 5.14** The labour market profile comparison between East Sussex, South East of England and England shows East Sussex is performing better than average for being economically active but falls behind the South East average.
- 5.15** Figure 8 below shows unemployment rates for the ten years from 2008. Unemployment rates in East Sussex reflect the downward England and regional trend since 2013. At the end of 2018, the rate in East Sussex (2.8%) was lower than the England average (4.0%). The rate was above national average in Hastings (4.8%) and Eastbourne (4.03%).

Fig. 8 Unemployment estimates, 2008-2018 - districts



Source: ESIF Model-based estimates from Annual Population Survey data combined with Claimant Count Data.

6. Projected Housing Growth

- 6.1** There are several major growth areas in East Sussex which will see future economic growth, new housing, new schools and other infrastructure planning and investment. New housing will attract the need for childcare provision that may be above the supply level of existing provision, see Fig.9.

Fig.9 Number of new dwellings to be built by area

Adopted Local Plans (adoption date)	Number of dwellings over plan period
Lewes: Joint Core Strategy (June 2016)	6,900 (2010-2030) 345 p.a.
Hastings: The Hastings Planning Strategy (February 2014)	3,400 (2011-2028) 200 p.a.
Eastbourne: Core Strategy Local Plan (February 2013)	5,022 (2006-2027) 239 p.a.
Rother: Core Strategy (September 2014)	5,700 (2011-2028) 335 p.a.
Wealden: Core Strategy (January 2019)	14,228 (2013-2028) 949 p.a.

Source: East Sussex State of the County Report - 2019

- 6.2** Substantial new housing developments are planned in Hailsham and Bexhill and this is where we are likely to see the biggest increase in demand for early years and childcare provision. The Wivelsfield area also has relatively high volumes of new housing so there are indications that there will be an increased demand for childcare in the area. Some of the new housing is on the fringes of Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill so some parents may look to find provision in these towns.

7. Sufficiency of childcare places

- 7.1** East Sussex has 517 childcare providers across the county. Several providers operate more than one type of childcare, such as a school having a breakfast and after school club as well as a nursery or a pre-school offering a holiday club.

Fig.10 Number of providers by type in East Sussex

Childcare Provider Type	April 2019
Childminder and Childcare - Domestic	233
Maintained/Academy Nursery	41
Independent School Nursery	13
Nursery	182
Crèche	4
Nanny	19
Standalone Holiday Play Scheme	25

Source: East Sussex Synergy FIS Portal- April 2019

- 7.2** Not all childcare providers offer the funded early education places. The table below shows the number of childcare providers offering funded early education places in both the PVI sector and those run by local authority-maintained schools and academies, by borough and district council area.

Fig.11 Number of providers by sector in Each District

District	Nursery Provision & Childminders			School Provision		
	Nursery Private	Nursery Voluntary	Childminder	Academy	Maintained (Inc. Children Centres)	Independent
Eastbourne	25	6	29	5	2	3
Hastings	19	13	18	8	1	0
Lewes	24	10	26	2	9	0
Rother	13	19	12	3	3	5
Wealden	22	28	30	2	6	5

- 7.3** The number and distribution of funded childcare places being offered by childcare providers varies between districts, with most places located within urban areas. For families living in rural areas the choice of type of provision is more limited.

Fig.12 Number of full time equivalent (FTE) places available by borough / district v FTE demand for all children

Districts	Provider capacity (FTE Places)	FTE demand all children				
	2019/20 Onwards	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Eastbourne	2,409	1,794	1,813	1,862	1,863	1,762
Hastings	1,781	1,452	1,518	1,600	1,626	1,501
Lewes	1,886	1,524	1,585	1,647	1,680	1,625

Rother	1,647	1,333	1,359	1,390	1,400	1,356
Wealden	2,780	2,092	2,118	2,191	2,226	2,319
East Sussex Total	10,503	8,176	8,224	8,424	8,501	8,564

Source: Early years forecasting model results (Apr 19) – August 2019

- 7.4** Take up of the 15 hour universal entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds is high across all areas of the county. Figure 13 shows the number of 3 and 4 year olds accessing their universal 15 hour offer by borough / district. The population estimate contains children already accessing a Reception class place in school.

Fig.13 Number of 3 & 4 year olds accessing a funded place in April 2019

District	Number of children accessing a Universal 15 hour offer place in April 2019	Population estimate of 3 and 4 year olds - 2018
East Sussex	8,319	11,433
Eastbourne	1765	2,340
Hastings	1683	2,214
Lewes	1411	2,061
Rother	1078	1,597
Wealden	2382	3,221

Source: East Sussex Headcount data – April 2019

- 7.5** Analysis of the supply and demand of places for eligible funded 2 year olds shows that take-up is slower than for the universal 3 and 4 year old entitlement. Only 40% of the 2 year old population meet the Department for Education's (DfE) eligibility criteria to access a funded place and the economic and social vulnerability of these families can impact on take-up rates. One key factor is parental preference for wanting to keep very young children at home; this is particularly relevant for 2 year olds. Local childcare offers which do not meet parental preferences and informal childcare being used instead of a more formal option such as a nursery all contribute to the impact on the pattern of take-up. Figure 14 shows the number of eligible 2 year olds accessing a funded early education place by district.

Fig.14 Number of eligible funded 2 year olds accessing a funded place in April 2019

District	Number of funded 2 year olds accessing the 15 hour offer	Population estimate of all 2 year olds - 2018
East Sussex	1,357	5,452
Eastbourne	290	1,087
Hastings	442	1,084
Lewes	182	942
Rother	186	751
Wealden	257	1,588

Source: East Sussex Headcount data – April 2019

- 7.6** In East Sussex, the number of children taking up the extended entitlement (30 hours) for the summer claim period 2019 equates to 35.4% of the total number of 3 and 4 years accessing a funded early education place. This is an increase of 4.2% on the same period in 2018.

- 7.7** Data regarding the cost of childcare is not currently gathered via the Early Years Census in January each year but this will commence in East Sussex from January 2020. Figures 15, 16 and 17 show the current average cost of 25 hours of childcare a week (part-time place) and 50 hours of childcare a week (full-time place), nationally and in the South East.

Fig. 15 Average cost of 25 hours of childcare for children 0-5

Cost of 25 hours a week childcare	Nursery under two	Two and over	Childminder under two	Two and over
England	£124.73	£120.99	£110.61	£109.95
South East	£141.70	£131.16	£121.82	£120.12

Source: Family Childcare Trust: Childcare Survey 2018

Fig. 16 Average cost of 50 hours of childcare for children 0-5

Cost of 50 hours a week childcare	Nursery under two	Two and over	Childminder under two	Two and over
England	£236.19	£231.75	£218.22	£217.06
South East	£267.36	£260.86	£243.64	£240.24

Source: Family Childcare Trust: Childcare Survey 2018

Fig. 17 Average cost of 25 or 50 hours of childcare for children 0-5 accessing funded hours

	Cost of 25 hours a week childcare, including universal entitlement for three and four year olds (paying for 10 hours)	50 hours a week, including extended entitlement (paying for 20 hours)
England	£49.36	£94.42
South East	£52.23	£103.46

Source: Family Childcare Trust: Childcare Survey 2018

- 7.8** Childcare for younger children is often more expensive due to factors such as staff/child ratios etc. Most parents find that their childcare costs reduce as their child grows and all children are entitled to some form of funded nursery education from the funding period following their third birthday, meaning childcare fees for parents fall.

8. Consultation with Parents

8.1 Consultation with parents and carers is an important part of establishing the demand for childcare. The last childcare survey was undertaken in February 2017 prior to the roll out of the 30 hours extended childcare offer. At that time:

- There were 502 parental responses
- 92% of those that responded had a child 3 years old or under
- 70% of parents wanted childcare all year round
- 83% of respondents wanted childcare on Monday to Fridays only
- 5.4% wanted childcare on Saturdays and 4.2% wanted Sundays
- 79% of parents wanted between 20-30 hours of childcare a week
- 37% respondents were willing to use more than one provider

Parents will be invited to complete a survey during the spring of 2020 via the East Sussex Consultation Hub to establish on-going demand for childcare within East Sussex.

9. Demand for childcare

- 9.1** The local authority's Customer Relations Team (which incorporates the Family Information Service) takes enquiries by email, social media and by phone between 10am and 3pm during week days. This service helps parents (particularly vulnerable families) to understand and access the benefits of high quality childcare and early learning for their children.
- 9.2** For the period 1 September 2018 – 31 July 2019, the Customer Relations Team responded to 1,787 enquiries. The enquiry data shows that childcare and early learning enquiries were the 6th most common enquiry. The most common enquiry was about applying for our i-go leisure card for children with disabilities.
- 9.3** Direct enquiries to the Customer Relations Team have decreased steadily over the past years as the web content offer has developed. In May 2018 the number of calls to the team was 112. This reduced to 83 in May 2019.
- 9.4** More people are now using the local authority's website to answer their questions on help with the cost of childcare and the linked directory East Sussex Community Information Service website to find childcare. When customers do contact the Customer Relations Team, these contacts are now more often via digital means (email, web form or social media). The helpline now receives the more complex enquiries regarding eligibility to additional available funding streams from professionals working with vulnerable families.
- 9.5** The Customer Relations team uses social media to promote the Early Years Education Entitlement, 30 hours funded childcare and tax-free childcare. The top Facebook post in 2018 (ranked by engagement) reached 32,004 people had 3,460 likes, 3,684 followers, shares and 25,620 engagements.
- 9.6** In the period from 1 September 2018 – 31 July 2019 the number of 'entrances' where visitors entered our website through our Help with childcare costs page about funded childcare was up 26.4% and the bounce rate* was down 7.1% compared with the same period in the previous year. The page has information about funded early education, tax credits and childcare vouchers for parents and professionals working with families, such as social workers and health visitors.

(*when a user enters the site and leaves instantly without spending any time in the site)

Source: East Sussex customer management system – Fresh Desk and East Sussex social media management platform - Hootsuite

10. Quality of provision & workforce development in East Sussex

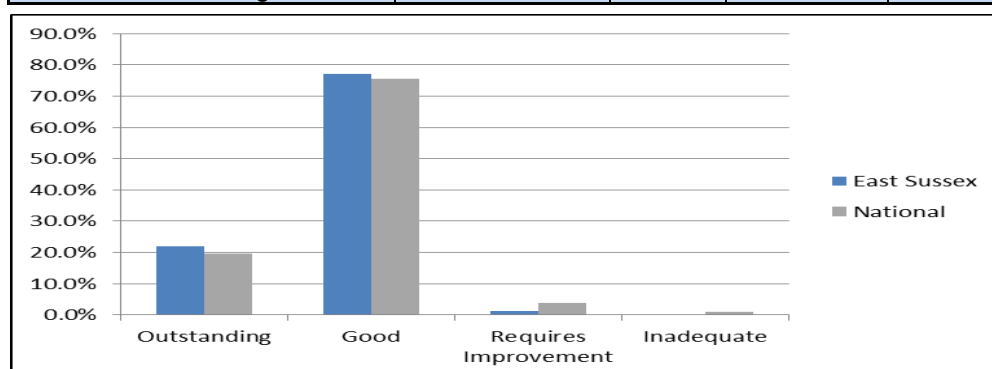
- 10.1** Evidence shows that the quality of childcare is a significant factor affecting a child's future chances. High-quality early education improves children's school readiness and cognitive development, whilst poor-quality early education does very little to boost children's development.

[joseph rowntree blog-30 hours](#)

- 10.2** The quality of early provision is measured through inspections undertaken by Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education). Ofsted is the sole arbiter of quality and through the inspection process each setting will receive one of four grades (outstanding, good, requires improvement or inadequate) depending on the inspection findings.
- 10.3** Data on the inspection outcomes of registered early years and childcare providers in East Sussex at their most recent inspection compared to the national picture shows the quality of provision across East Sussex is higher than the national average. By the end of December 2018 98.9% of registered early years providers were judged good or outstanding by Ofsted.

Fig. 18 EY providers: Ofsted inspection grades at 31st December 2018

Ofsted outcome	East Sussex	%	National	%
Outstanding	77	21.9%	9,988	19.6%
Good	271	77.0%	38,562	75.6%
Requires Improvement	4	1.1%	1,942	3.8%
Inadequate	0	0.0%	504	1.0%
Total	352		50,996	
Good or Outstanding		98.9%		95.2%



Source: Ofsted Outcomes December 2018

- 10.4** Support is available for providers to improve the quality of delivery and meet the requirements of the EYFS and Ofsted. The quality of provision plays an important part in the sufficiency of places.

- 10.5** All newly registered early years providers and childminders in East Sussex are offered a package of support by our team of Early Years Support and Intervention Officers. The support entails a management and safeguarding audit and observations of practice to ensure providers are confident in delivering the Statutory Framework for the EYFS. With this continued support offered through until inspection all our new early years providers have achieved good or outstanding at their first Ofsted inspection.
- 10.6** In 2019, the percentage of children achieving a good level of development at the end of the EYFS was 76%, remaining above the national average for the fifth consecutive year by 4%.

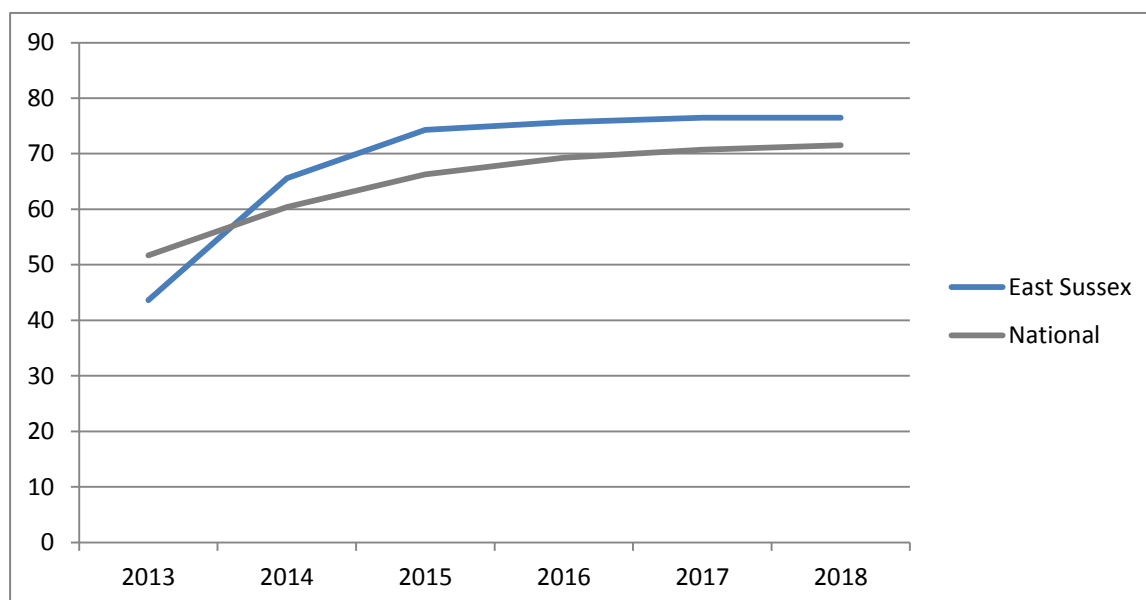
Fig. 19 Comparison of East Sussex EYFSP results against national

EYFSP results: Percentage achieving a good level of development

	East Sussex	National
2013	43.6	51.7
2014	65.6	60.4
2015	74.3	66.3
2016	75.7	69.3
2017	76.5	70.7
2018	76.5	71.5
2019	76.0	71.8

Source: DfE Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) results: 2018

Fig. 20 Comparison of East Sussex EYFSP results against National



Source: DfE Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) results: 2018

- 10.7** In 2018, the attainment of children eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) achieving a good level of development at the end of the EYFS was 61.3%, remaining 5.1% above the national average. The percentage difference

between FSM pupils and national non-FSM pupils in 2018 was 12.5%, 4.8% below the national average.

- 10.8** The local authority has a statutory duty in relation to provision of childcare training. The training programme delivered by the Early Years Team aims to improve outcomes for children through the development of a highly skilled workforce. The training is available to practitioners working in any registered provision, as well as prospective childminders. Courses are subsidised for the private and voluntary sector.
- 10.9** Bespoke training is also provided for free to whole teams in settings on a package of support or as a traded service. Feedback from providers evidences that the training is needed and valued. Priority is given to providers who have received a 'Requires Improvement' or 'Inadequate' Ofsted grade to improve practice.
- 10.10** Recruitment of qualified and experienced practitioners remains a challenge for providers across the county, and this reflects a national issue. East Sussex Council provides a recruitment website for use by providers to support the appointment and development of their workforce.
- 10.11** The Early Years Team are developing Early Years Hubs for Excellence, which is part of our approach to enable the variety of providers – private, voluntary, childminders, independent, maintained and academy, to work together to deliver sustained improvements. Currently there are 16 Hubs which are linked to the Education Improvement Partnerships (EIP's). Each Early Years Hub has its own action plan where the focus is agreed by accessing data outcomes which informs the training and support to the early years sector.
- 10.12** East Sussex has also been funded by the DfE from the Early Years Social Mobility Programme to develop two Continuous Professional Development (CPD) partnerships in areas with high levels of children in receipt of 2 year funding and early years pupil premium (EYPP). The funding will support the training of four practitioners in each partnership which will be delivered by the DfE's national partner Educational Development Trust (EDT), in partnership with Elklan Ltd. This programme is to support the DfE's target to halve by 2028 the percentage of children leaving Reception year without the communication, language and literacy skills they need to thrive and it is anticipated that this will reach beyond our two partnerships via the Early Years Hubs for Excellence.
- 10.13** East Sussex is involved in a Baby Room Project which supports practitioners in baby rooms to reflect on their day-to-day interactions with the children in their care and researching how to improve their practice in early communication to support quality childcare.

- 10.14** The Integrated Progress Review (IPR) is now embedded amongst our health visitors and early years practitioners; this will allow swifter intervention and support to children identified through the review process.
- 10.15** The REAL Creative project (Raising Early Achievement in Literacy), encourages families to take advantage of the wonderful resources available in our libraries and to share the joy of reading together. The project builds around the four strands of early literacy – oral language, early mark making, a love of books and environmental print.
- 10.16** '50 Things to do before you're 5', is a list of fun and educational activities for families, carers and childcare practitioners to do across East Sussex – all at low-cost or no cost. The objective being to help solve the problem of children reaching their first school experience with low literacy levels, language skills, or just a lack of life experiences.

11. SEND

11.1 Local Authorities have a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity for children with special educational needs and disability (SEND). Nationally it is recognised parents often find it challenging to access childcare, this may be due to parental confidence in the provider's ability to attend to their child's individual needs.

11.2 All childcare settings are required to comply with the SEND Code of Practice and with the requirements of EYFS. A wide range of activities and clubs for young people with a disability or additional needs across East Sussex are listed on the East Sussex Local Offer pages at

[east sussex special needs and disability-local offer](#)

11.3 Research suggests some childcare providers may not be as confident in their own ability to meet the needs of children with a high level medical need. The local authority offers providers training and specialist equipment if appropriate. The Children's Services works and Health teams within the local authority work in partnership to ensure providers have access to advice and guidance to support the inclusion of all children.

11.4 Information on childcare is available to all parents online. Additional information is available to parents of children with SEND via the East Sussex Local Offer. Other services also offer support to parents to gain access to the funded early years entitlement offer.

11.5 There is a statutory duty for all local authorities to provide an SEN Inclusion Fund. This stream of funding has been operating in East Sussex since 2010. This funding is a contribution for early years providers to meet the individual needs of children with SEN and who are in receipt of 3 and 4 year old early education funding. If appropriate funding can be allocated to children prior to their being age eligible to access early education funding. In the spring 2019 funding period 121 children were in receipt of this funding stream and attended 91 different early years' providers. In the summer 2019 funding period the number of funded children rose to 137, attending 84 early years' providers.

11.6 For children with more complex needs additional funding support is provided via a combination of funding streams including Early Years and High Needs Block. For some children joint funding will be allocated from both the Children's Services and Health teams within the local authority.

11.7 Although there is no statutory duty to provide additional funding for children who are in receipt of 2 year old Early Education funding, support within East Sussex is not age dependent so provision is made for this age group. Requests for additional funding can be made if a child has an identified need

that requires additional support The number of awards made in the spring 2019 funding period was 34.

- 11.8** In April 2017, the Disability Access Fund (DAF) was introduced for early years providers to support children with SEND. Its purpose is to remove 'barriers' which prevent children from accessing their free early education entitlement. To attract DAF, children must be receiving Disability Living Allowance and be in receipt of the 3 and 4 year early education entitlement. This funding is paid annually to the provider nominated by the parent/carer. In the financial year 2018/19 East Sussex made a DAF payment to 78 children.
- 11.9** In April 2015 Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP), was introduced to enable childcare providers delivering the funded nursery education entitlement for three and four year olds to apply for additional funding of up to £300 per year, per eligible child, to support children from families on certain benefits. Children are also eligible if they are Looked After by the local authority, adopted from care or have left care under a special guardianship or residence order.
- 11.10** During the summer 2019 funding period 8,319 three and four year olds claimed early education funding. EYPP payments were made for 1,020 children to childcare providers in both the PVI and maintained sectors across East Sussex. This represents 12.26% of the number of 3 and 4 year old children claiming early years education funding.
- 11.12** The identification of eligible children relies upon parents making schools and settings aware so that they can apply for the funding. To ensure as many parents as possible talk with their childcare provider about possible eligibility, publicity work through leaflets and the local authority's website continue to raise awareness and increase the take-up rate.

[east sussex information on early years pupil premium](#)

12. Looked After Children

- 12.1** Looked after children are less likely than their peers to access early education.
- 12.2** In East Sussex 66 looked after children accessed a funded place with childcare providers during the 2019 summer funding period.
- 12.3** The local authority's Early Years Funding Team works closely with colleagues in the Virtual School team, Adoption and Special Guardianship teams and Fostering teams to track looked after children to identify access to early years provision. However it is acknowledged that childcare provision may not be suitable for all looked after young children.
- 12.4** From September 2018 children in foster care have been able to be funded for the extended entitlement (30 hours). In East Sussex, three children were funded under these criteria within the summer 2019 funding period.

13. Childcare for children over 5

- 13.1** Out of school childcare includes breakfast clubs, after school clubs and holiday play schemes. This form of childcare can operate either on or off a school site and may be run by the school directly or by the PVI sector.
- 13.2** In addition, many schools provide extra-curricular after school activities such as sports clubs, gardening clubs, film clubs etc. Although these may not be formally classed as childcare they still provide a safe learning environment for children whilst parents/carers are at work or studying. However, these types of clubs may not operate consistently throughout the school year and may vary from term to term and are often only an hour in duration.
- 13.3** It is recognised that good quality out of school childcare has a positive effect upon children's outcomes. Research has shown that this type of good quality childcare can improve children's behaviour, social and emotional skills as well as impacting upon academic performance. Children from disadvantaged backgrounds that attend after school clubs on average achieve a two points higher score in their Key Stage 2 assessment in English, Maths and Science than those that did not take part in after school clubs. For more information on schools providing wraparound and holiday childcare places see link below.

[dfe guidance for schools on wraparound and holiday childcare](#)

- 13.4** Dependent upon specific criteria, not all wraparound provision has to be Ofsted registered and there is no legal requirement to inform local authorities of operation. A provider who only offers two hours a day or provides two activities or less is not legally required to register with Ofsted. A setting however, may choose to join the voluntary part of the childcare register to allow parents to claim childcare vouchers. In addition, providers do not have to meet specified child/adult ratios if they are caring solely for children over the age of eight.
- 13.5** It is, therefore, difficult to determine the exact number of places available for children outside of school hours and in holiday periods. Many non-registered holiday activities are run by local leisure or sport centres which may not be represented in local authority figures that show the number of places reportedly available by all registered providers in East Sussex. Fig. 21 shows the number of providers offering wrap around care during term time and holiday care across the county.

Fig. 21 Number of Ofsted registered providers offering care during term time and holidays

District/Borough	Number of breakfast clubs	Number of after school clubs
Eastbourne	7	12
Hastings	13	8
Lewes	6	17

Rother	9	10
Wealden	10	18

Source: Extract from Synergy FIS Provider Portal – May 2019

- 13.6** 25% of schools in the primary phase run their own breakfast club on site
- 13.7** 21% of schools in the primary phase provide an after school club on site. This data only refers to known childcare provision and does not include extra-curricular after school activities such as gardening clubs, film clubs etc.
- 13.8** Fig. 22 shows the number of holiday clubs/play schemes run across the county.

Fig. 22 Number of holiday clubs and play schemes across East Sussex

	Number of holiday clubs / play schemes
Total in PVI Sector	34
Total in Maintained Sector	9

Source: Extract from Coram (Family & Childcare) 2019 Holiday Survey for local authorities in England

- 13.9** Provision run by schools in the maintained sector in East Sussex has decreased by 50% since April 2018 (see Fig. 23).

Fig. 23 Changes to the total number of providers offering holiday clubs/play schemes in East Sussex

	Changes in Number of Providers Increase/Decrease
PVI Sector	-1
Maintained Sector	-9

Source: Extract from Coram (Family & Childcare) 2019 Holiday Survey for local authorities in England

- 13.10** For the majority of families there is sufficient holiday childcare for 4-7 year olds and 8-11 years old in all areas of the county. But for those families with disabled children or parents working full-time (9am-5pm on weekdays) or atypical hours there are still some gaps in provision.
- 13.11** In 2016 parents were given the 'right to request' that their child's school should consider establishing wraparound childcare or allowing PVI providers to use the school facilities to deliver childcare at times when the school is not using them. Whilst it is not compulsory to offer wraparound childcare at parental request, schools should not refuse a request without reasonable justification.
- 13.12** The demand for childcare significantly lowers for young people of secondary school age (11 years and over) as many parents/carers feel their children are independent enough not to require childcare outside of school hours. This age group of children are more likely to access activities run by leisure centres or other private organisations. or other type of provider.
- 13.13** Figure 24 shows the current average cost of out of school care in East Sussex.

Fig.24 Current average cost of out of school care in East Sussex

	Breakfast club session (avg. cost)	After school club session (avg. cost)	Holiday play scheme session (avg. cost)
Maintained Sector	£3.70	£7.71	£22 per day £125 per week
PVI Sector	£4.57	£8.82	£36 per day £180 per week

Source: Synergy Report: FIS Out of School Club Report (July 2019)

13.14 Figures 25 and 26 below show the locations of breakfast clubs and after school clubs in East Sussex.

Fig.25 Location of breakfast clubs (including providers also offering after school clubs) July 2019

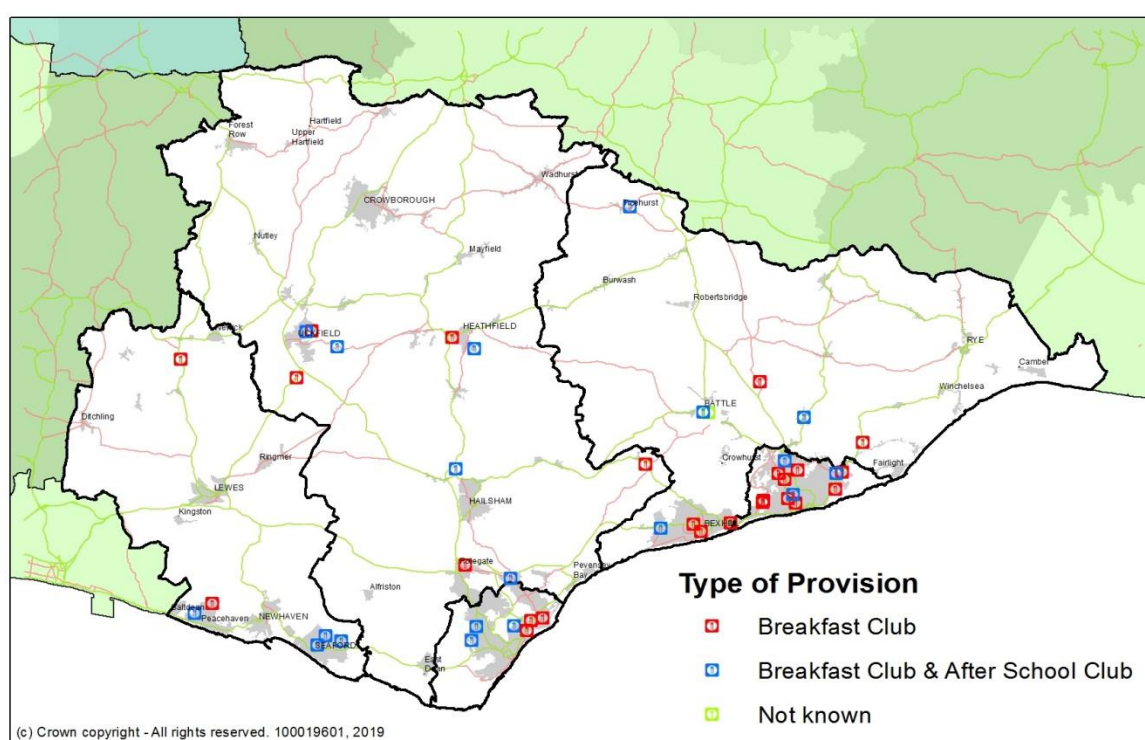
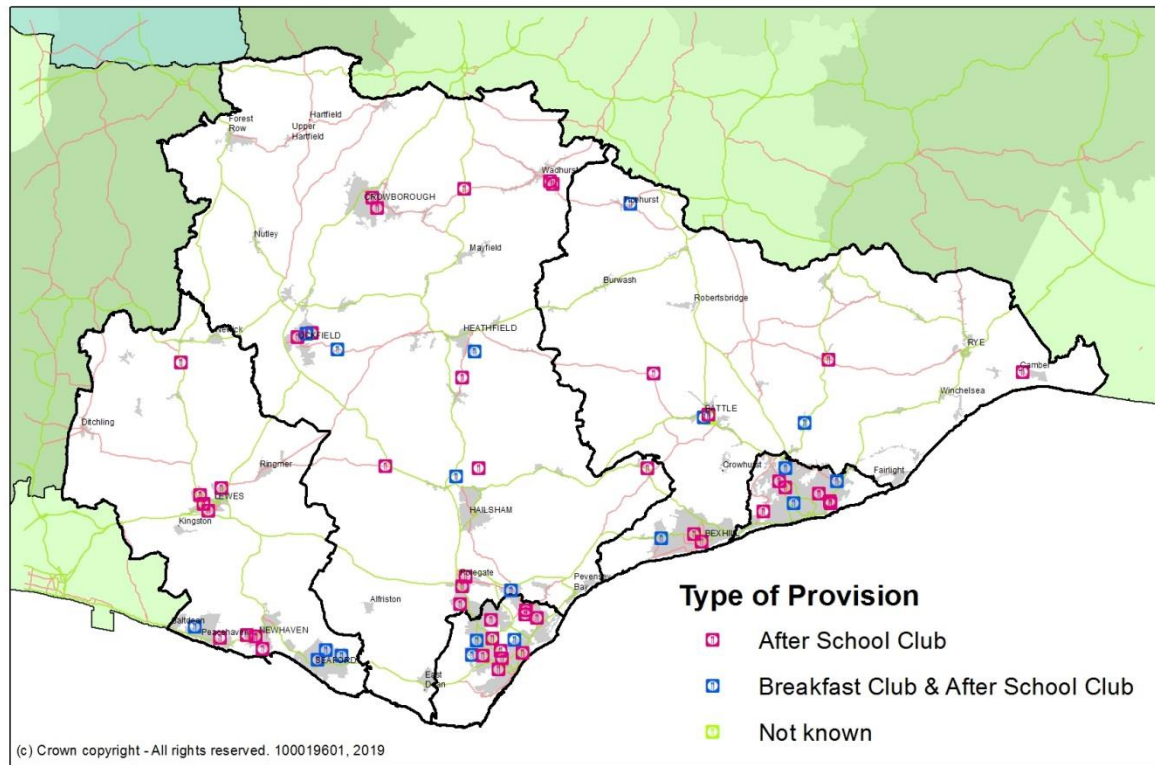


Fig.26 Location of after school clubs (including providers also offering breakfast clubs) July 2019



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