

# Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee



Tuesday, 9 February 2021 at 5.30 p.m.

Online 'Virtual' Meeting - <https://towerhamlets.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

## Supplemental Agenda

This meeting is open to the public to attend.

### Further Information

For further information including Membership of this body and public information see the main agenda.

#### Contact for further enquiries:

Democratic Services,  
1st Floor, Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, E14 2BG  
Tel: 020 7364 0842  
E-mail: [farhana.zia@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:farhana.zia@towerhamlets.gov.uk)  
Web:<http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk>

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# London Borough of Tower Hamlets

## Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Tuesday, 9 February 2021

5.30 p.m.

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### Next Meeting of the Committee:

Tuesday, 6 April 2021 at 5.30 p.m. to be held in the Online 'Virtual' Meeting -  
<https://towerhamlets.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

**Item 4.2**

# **Background Reading Papers**

## **REASONS FOR URGENCY**

The background reading papers were not published five clear days in advance of the meeting.

These papers required sign-off by the relevant Division and Corporate Director. Due to workload pressures associated with the pandemic response, this took longer than anticipated.

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# **Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2021**

## **Snapshot 1 academic year 2021-2022**

### **Autumn Term 2020**

**January 2021**

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# Introduction

The Covid-19 pandemic has seriously affected the provision of early childhood education and care (ECEC) provision in Tower Hamlets and all other councils nationally.

After careful reflection the Council has decided to use its Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) duty to support post-Covid recovery for under five education and childcare services. The CSA format will be as a termly snapshot comparing the current term with the equivalent term in the preceding year. There will be three snapshots annually. These will comprise the relevant CSA.

This document is the first snapshot for academic year 2021-2022. It is a comparison of the Autumn term 2019 with the Autumn term 2020. It covers most settings delivering the free early education entitlements (FEEE). Figures for the universal provision for three and four year olds in school nursery provision in primary schools and maintained nursery schools are not available for 2020-2021 and so are not included.

## Comparison of Autumn Term 2019 with Autumn Term 2020

As predicted by the IEYS at the start of the pandemic, Covid-19 has had a considerable negative impact on the take up of all FEEE places locally. The most significant impact has been on early learning for two year olds (EL2). Full details can be found in Appendix 1: Occupied Places.

### Early Learning for two year olds

There has been a decrease in the take up of EL2 places Autumn 2020 compared to Autumn 2019. The overall EL2 eligibility figure is 1,792 (January 2021). 801 children are in an early education placement (January 2021). Current take up is 44.7%. In the Autumn term 2019 take up was 64%.

There are 1,134 “active cases” on the IEYS database. This database uses the DWP information (usually termly) to log children who are eligible for an EL2 placement and whose parents want to access a place. Of these children, 801 are in placement and 333 are in the placement process. This means details have been sent to providers and the IEYS are awaiting confirmation of an offer.

The remainder of those parents whose child is eligible for an EL2 place report that they prefer not to use their entitlement to access group care as their child is “too young” or that they are concerned over the risks of Covid-19. These parents are currently encouraged to attend EL2 stay and play sessions at children’s centres. This means that since the 2017 IEYS restructure and the transfer of the EL2 placement process to children’s centres, all families eligible for a place are now in touch with council services. Most attend children’s centre EL2 virtual stay and play sessions. Face to face sessions are provided for families entering vulnerability continue (suitably socially distanced) during the pandemic. These children and their families are likely to be newly vulnerable as they are part of the most disadvantaged groups locally. The annual birth cohort is around 4,000 babies. During the pandemic these babies and their families have been deprived of the usual informal support networks and socialisation necessary for the successful development of the young child. This and associated issues are under serious consideration by the council.

All the potential eligible families on the December 2020 DWP list have been contacted by children’s centre staff via telephone and letter and given information about their eligibility status and advice

about childcare and other services. Families are offered appointments to discuss early learning options: education and care settings, childminders and access to targeted EL2 play sessions. Settings have been contacted by the children's centre staff to establish available placements; vulnerable families have been prioritised.

During this process staff report that some parents are reluctant to access group care and many are reluctant to take up the EL2 places due to Covid-19. Children's centre staff continue to maintain contact with these families and offer one to one support on the importance of early education as well as access to sessions.

Only two wards, Poplar and Island Gardens, show an increase in EL2 take up: 6% and 25% respectively. However, this increase describes only three additional children.

The main factors that have caused the dip in take-up are:

- The Covid-19 effect – lockdowns, shielding, BAME, parental concerns about the safety of their children and the safety of elders in the family, family and childcare providers' bubbles (reduced numbers to ensure social distancing);
- Delayed recruitment of IEYS outreach workers due to council recruitment freeze – reduced promotion of EL2 in the community;
- Full information is available on the council website. Many families have limited IT in LBTH and parents will have reduced access to IT if they are also working from home, home schooling or providing unregistered childcare.

#### Proposed Actions

- Continue to energetically market EL2 early education through children's centres;
- Continue to encourage attendance at EL2 face to face small group sessions in children's centres for those families unwilling to access group childcare. This is a priority targeted area for all children's centres;
- Work with Hempsall's (DFE appointed consultant group) to identify process and practices that have increased take up and where it has reduced or slowed down the take up;
- Utilise data to improve direct marketing and encourage providers in high eligibility but low take up areas to review or reconsider their policy on EL2;
- Resume recruitment as soon as possible of new outreach workers to improve take up of EL2. Whilst outreach to eligible families is incorporated into the overall children's centre outreach strategy, these workers provided a valuable extra resource when in post.

## Universal Entitlement for three and four year olds

There has been marked drop in the number of children accessing the universal three and four year old offer Autumn term 2020. In Autumn 2019 there were 7,373 children accessing this offer. This figures includes all FEEE provision: childcare, child minders, primary school nurseries and maintained nursery schools.

In Autumn 2020 the attendance for all ECEC settings was 3,765: a massive decrease of 49%. This decrease was driven by parental concern over Covid. As mentioned earlier, this section does not include the detail of school nursery provision by school nursery. These site level figures are not held by the IEYS.

The financial impact of this drop in take up was masked by the DFE decision to "block buy" childcare nationally March to December 2020. From January 2021, the system returns to funding "following

the child". Children attending childcare and child minders will be recorded on the Early Years Census (IEYS). Children attending primary school nurseries and maintained nursery schools will be recorded on the School Census (Data and Intelligence). The universal entitlement is the one that is significant for DSG and for the majority of all ECEC settings' funding. It is likely that income for PVI settings will decrease significantly. This will reduce staffing and therefore reduce places. The issues have been raised through lobbying of the DFE and the Treasury by senior officers, the Lead Member and the Executive Mayor.

The main factors that have caused the dip in take-up are:

- The Covid-19 effect – this is the most common reason for the drop in the take up of FEEE funded places. In LBTH most parents accessing the universal offer are not both working. They have followed government advice and chosen not to take up the offer of a childcare place due to the present pandemic situation.
- Previously some families who were offered nursery places in schools would take up the offer because they were concerned that failure to do so would affect their child having a place when they turned five. The closure or limitation of school nursery provision has discouraged parents from taking up school nursery places.
- Some providers have reduced their places offered in order to meet the social distancing requirements. This may have resulted in them maximising their offer to those who are fee paying parents. For example, parents needing extra childcare hours on top of their 15 hours entitlement or who wish access a childcare place for a younger non-funded child. Settings will prioritise these parents as they generally pay a higher rate for their childcare.
- We suspect that there has been a reduction in the number of vulnerable children attending early childhood education and care (ECEC) provision since the first lockdown. Children's centres have ensured that all these groups are contacted as they may be entering vulnerability.

Whilst the numbers have increased in the Autumn term 2020, we do not believe that take up has returned to pre-pandemic levels. Other London LAs report a similar picture. It is not clear exactly where DFE assertions about overall take up "returning to normal" come from.

#### Proposed Actions

- The key area of work for this aspect of funding will be to ensure that, wherever possible, families of vulnerable children are encouraged to take up the entitlement offers. This will be done through the children's centres and the providers.
- Contacts need to be co-ordinated through partner agencies: children's centres, health professionals and providers. Partners should reassure families that childcare is safe and also describe the educational benefits to the child. To enable this to happen there needs to be further information provided concerning transmission routes, twice weekly testing of ECEC staff and preferably the vaccination of these staff as soon as possible. Discussions in this area are underway.

## Extended Entitlements for Working Parents (30 hours childcare)

As with all the FEEE there has been a drop in the take up when 2020 is compared to 2021. In Autumn 2019 there were 869 children accessing this offer. In Autumn 2020 this reduced to 742 a decrease of 15%. This is the smallest decrease in FEEE take up and can be attributed to several wards that increased their take up:

Ward	Number increase	% increase
Weavers	12	35%
Bromley South	7	54%
Lansbury	7	18%
Canary Wharf	2	4%
Blackwell and Cubitt town	1	2%
Island Gardens	2	8%

The main factors that have caused the dip in take-up are:

- The increase has mainly been in the south east around the Canary Wharf area. There have been new providers opening up in these areas and existing providers have increased their capacity;
- The Covid effect for this entitlement relates to parents moving from a closed provider to a new one. For example, out of borough providers are often less well supported than those in LBTH and are closing. Parents are seeking cross-border childcare from open providers within LBTH.
- The increased eligibility threshold from below £100,000 to £150,000 has enabled more families to access this entitlement. This is a reflection of income in Canary Wharf;
- Another factor is families of critical workers returning to the work force and entering eligibility for this entitlement.

#### Proposed Actions

- Track the changing pattern of this entitlement should be implemented as there has been a change in working practices for major firms in Canary Wharf. This could result in access to this entitlement decreasing if the eligibility criteria changes back and fewer families can access this entitlement;
- Also with more employers looking to encourage their workforce to continue working from home the areas that in the past have had a high level of commuting parents take up the places may see a drop in take up. Providers will have to develop their offer to remain sustainable as parents may choose childcare nearer to home;
- If there is an increase in job losses fewer families will be eligible for this entitlement. This could also contribute to lower take up.

## Conclusions

**Close monitoring of the childcare market is needed.**

#### Risks

##### 1. Closure of early education and childcare settings

At present and as predicted we have had a reduction of take up of FEEE across the board in the Autumn term 2020. Until January 2021, the sustainability of ECEC has been enabled by the DFE block funding of FEEE March to December 2020. This has offset losses of income from fee paying parents during lockdown and enabled restricted opening. If this approach does not continue and payment is made as before the pandemic based on number of children in the setting, then due to the present situation many of the businesses and school nurseries may no longer be sustainable. The DFE appears to be reflecting on their policies in this area.

##### 2. Challenging financial constraints for early education and childcare settings

Childcare providers have, in the past, charged parents whenever their child is absent, holiday periods, retaining fees, notice periods. This practice occurred even when the setting was not offering

a service e.g. bank holidays and lockdown. The Competition and Marketing Authority (CMA) following an investigation in March 2020 identified that some of these practices were deemed unfair or unjust. If challenged this would result in providers being fined and having to refund service users (parents). Some practices could continue but at lower rates, for example, notice periods and retaining fees. For providers who have not been able to furlough staff due to complexities of the schemes in relation to FEEE and fee-paying parents, this has added another level of financial constraints, adding to questions around financial sustainability.

#### Mitigations

1. A Snapshot Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (SCSA,) to be produced termly, will enable the council to identify trends and changes in the market and advise providers on how to address them. It will give a fuller picture across the year as opposed the annual census that only shows the situation on one specific day.
2. Schools to log their universal three and four year old data on the IEYS IT system. Two additional staff would be needed to monitor the accuracy of the data and enable funding agreements for schools.
3. Continued weekly data from all ECEC settings (including school nursery provision). The current DFE requirement for this is enabling IEYS to gather a more detailed overview of the full early education and childcare situation, not just in relation to the FEEE. This monthly data update will operate alongside the Snapshot Childcare Sufficiency Assessments to help identify market trends and monitor vacancies and capacity as close to real time as possible.

## Appendices

### Statutory duty for sufficiency

All local authorities are required to monitor the level of early education and childcare places and ensure that there is sufficient high quality childcare available for working parents and all eligible families. This is challenging as providers are either private businesses, sole traders or organisations independent of the council (e.g. school nursery provision).

Eligible families are those who are entitled to a Free Early Education Entitlement place. It is not a requirement for the LA to supply or provide the early education and childcare as such, but to take action where needed to promote and encourage new providers and to meet government FEEE targets.

Several enablers form part of the sufficiency duty:

- All providers must attain the defined level of quality of provision to receive FEEE eligible children and this is based on Ofsted Inspection judgements;
- Early education should be graded “Good” or “Outstanding”. This requires support from the council;
- The LA is required to support existing providers in improving their practice where the level of quality has been identified as insufficient for funding to be continued;
- The council also has statutory duties for safeguarding all children and investigating any allegations against staff.

At the present time in Tower Hamlets there are 98% of private, voluntary and independent childcare settings that have a “Good” or “Outstanding” Ofsted judgement.

### Summary of the Free Early Education Entitlements (FEEE)

This is the term used to describe all free early education and childcare entitlements that parents can receive either universally or by meeting the defined eligibility criteria. There are at present 3 early education and childcare entitlements available to families of children aged 2- 4 years.

#### *Early Learning for 2 year olds (EL2)*

To access this entitlement families must be eligible and meet the low income and disadvantage criteria set by the Government. Most parents receiving this benefit are not working and rely on universal credit. Eligibility refers to the household income (not parental income alone.) The DFE and DWP do not provide ethnicity information. Parents are asked to record their ethnic group during the council process. Most parents choose not to do so.

Where a child is eligible, a place can be accessed from the term after the child turns two years of age. The entitlement equates to 570 hours a year of free early education and can be taken either as 15 hours a week during term time or spread over a longer period up to the full year (stretched offer) depending on the family’s needs and the early education and childcare provider’s service offer.

Locally the council ensures that providers receive one of the highest possible rates nationally. Even so, this is insufficient to cover the salaries of the staff needed. A setting must maintain a ratio of one adult to four children. Older age groups have a ratio of one adult to eight children. If a setting fails to keep in ratio Ofsted is likely to remove its registration (i.e. close it.)

#### *Universal Entitlement for three and four year olds*

All children are eligible for this entitlement from the term after their third birthday. It is again 570 hours a year or 15 hours when taken on a term-time only basis.

### *Extended Entitlement for Working Parents (30 hours childcare or the additional hours)*

This entitlement, often referred to as the 30 hours childcare, is for working parents who meet the eligibility criteria and again applies from the term after the child has turned three years of age. It is an additional 570 hours added to the universal entitlement for three and four year olds. If both are taken on a term-time only basis this equates to 30 hours per week, which is where the vernacular title originated. Both parents must be working and earning less than £100,000 a year each. During the pandemic this figure has been increased to £150,000 a year for critical workers up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 in recognition of increased hours many critical workers have to undertake. Where working parents access this benefit as well as the universal offer they receive 1,140 hours of early education and care: this covers 48% of the costs of the childcare needed, assuming both are in full time employment.

### *Note on functions*

The council is responsible for ensuring that all the entitlements are legally valid for each child and that the child is attending at the setting claiming the entitlement. The IEYS fulfils this duty for all the entitlements claimed by childcare provision. Other parts of the LA are responsible for these requirements in relation to school nursery provision. The IEYS supplies correct data on school access to EL2 and the additional hours to other parts of the council.

### *How the IEYS processes FEEE*

Prior to COVID-19 the IEYS paid all PVIs an estimated 50% payment at the beginning of term based on their previous term's payments. The second payment was then adjusted accordingly, following their entries on the headcount and also any additional EL2 places that started with the provider post headcount. The numbers are influenced by Early Years Census taken each January by the DFE and processed by the IEYS. For most of the year, payments are based on actual attendance which is checked by the IEYS in line with the funding agreement signed by all childcare settings.

If an eligible 3/4 year old moves ECEC settings/providers mid-term, the funding remains with the provider who entered them on the headcount and does not transfer to the new provider.

The IEYS checks and pays all FEEE payments for PVI providers and child minders. IEYS checks entitlements for school nursery provision for the additional hours and for EL2 and passes this school information to Schools Finance. Schools Finance pays schools for all the FEEE entitlements.

The local system is complex. Schools Finance and IEYS are discussing ways that systems can be streamlined and improved.

### *Take up of the free entitlements*

#### *Early Learning for two year olds (EL2)*

The take up of EL2 places has historically been low within Tower Hamlets, even though it has a high percentage of eligible children. There are several reasons for this, the most common being children's cultural and linguistic barriers, the low hourly rate and insufficient early education places. Capital funding is required to create these places, land or properties must be available. The IEYS has fully accessed all DFE support in this area and visited more successful LAs in order to use their practices where appropriate. The IEYS works closely with the Education & Partnerships Capital Projects Board and with Assets Management in relation to properties and building work. There are various council level funding streams that can be accessed. However, the issues for potential private providers are the cost of salaries and rent locally. There is also a shortage of suitably qualified staff.

Work has been undertaken in previous years to highlight to parents the benefits for their child in attending good quality early education, through the use of outreach workers, support through children's centres, promotional and media campaigns, reaching out to community groups and working with other partner agencies e.g. health and private providers. The most successful method locally has been word of mouth: through the children's centres' support and through the outreach workers. The IEYS will resume recruitment of outreach workers as soon as possible.

The temporary outreach workers quickly resulted in an increase of take up to 64% of eligible children over the three months of their employment. Their success removed LBTH from the bottom of the EL2 take-up table temporarily.

There has also been an increase in the number of available EL2 places through the council's provision of capital funding projects that support new and existing PVI's to increase their capacity and encouraging schools with spaces to address their falling rolls by creating 2 year old places.

The main reason why many childcare providers choose not to offer EL2 places can be explained by the significant difference in the funding rates. EL2 places are funded at a rate of £6.50 per hour as opposed to the higher rate for three and four year olds which is £7.16 per hour. Also, the ratio of staff to children is 1:4 for two year olds and 1:8 for three and four year olds or 1:13 where there is a teacher. The higher staffing costs and lower hourly rate makes this an unattractive business option for some PVI providers especially those whose core business is more focused on childcare for working parents. However, for schools with falling roll numbers it can be a useful source of some income and it is likely that families will then stay on through the school. A school offer is often taken up by families whose older children are already attending that school. Local hourly rates (even for EL2) are higher than in most other local authorities. This is a deliberate policy on the part of the IEYS supported by decisions at Schools Forum.

As a result of the low take up of places LBTH has been invited (2021) to be part of a DfE funded support project led by Hempsall's (previously Childcare Works).

#### *Universal Entitlement for three and four year olds*

All three and four year olds are entitled to the 15 free early education and care hours a week from the term after their third birthday. There is no eligibility criteria other than age. It is very much up to parents whether they choose to access this entitlement or not. This has not been an area of low take up so no specific targeting has been utilised in the past few years. Successful EL2 placement leads naturally to increased three and four year old take up.

It is an offer that applies to all ECEC providers, although it may come in different forms depending on the provider and the parents' needs. For example, a full day-care provider may stretch the offer over 48 weeks a year instead of the 15 hours termly as this better meets the needs of working parents. Schools and term-time only playgroups offer the entitlement as 15 hours a week for 38 weeks a year.

#### *Extended Entitlements for Working Parents (30 hours childcare)*

LBTH was part of the pilot of the extended entitlements or 30 hours as it was called at that time. Work was undertaken with providers to encourage them to take up the option of offering parents this additional entitlement as, unlike the universal three and four year old offer, providers can opt out of this entitlement. One main nursery chain in the pilot were clear that this was **not** an offer they would consider as they did not believe many of their parents would either meet the eligibility

criteria or wish to access it. However, when it was rolled out nationally, they changed their mind. There are issues for providers as the funding level is low.

The 30 hours tag has been problematic as it left many providers setting up systems that do not meet the budgeting needs of families: for example only offering the 30 hours during the term and then requiring the parent to pay full fees outside of the 38 weeks e.g. holiday periods. Others breaking down the six hours a day to split offers, three hours in the morning 9.00 to 12.00 and three in the afternoon 1.00 to 3.00. They charge for any extra hours and for meals at a higher rate. Initially it was impossible for LAs to challenge this. However, with the updated information from the DfE on what requirements providers must meet this has led to clearer more detailed funding agreements setting out what the LA can and must do. The local funding agreement with childcare providers fully reflects this updated DFE guidance. There is no funding agreement between Schools Finance and schools.

This entitlement was designed to meet the needs of working parents and to encourage parents to join the workforce by addressing the cost of childcare on a family's budget. It is at odds with EL2 which supports the most disadvantaged.

The recent work of the IEYS has been to encourage providers to offer a stretched offer to parents that better meets their working needs over the year and to promote this entitlement to parents.

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## Snapshot Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Autumn Term 2020

### Universal Entitlement for 3 & 4 Year Olds

Ward	Occupied Places Autumn 2019	Occupied Places Autumn 2020	Variance	%age Increase/Decrease
<b>North West</b>				
Weavers	267	134	-133	-50%
St Peter's	470	267	-203	-43%
Bethnal Green	653	301	-352	-54%
Spitalfields & Banglatown	397	171	-226	-57%
<b>North West Mini-Cluster Total</b>	<b>1,787</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>-914</b>	<b>-51%</b>
<b>South West</b>				
Whitechapel	388	176	-212	-55%
St Katharine's & Wapping	166	94	-72	-43%
Shadwell	418	171	-247	-59%
Stepney Green	456	253	-203	-45%
St Dunstan's	416	220	-196	-47%
<b>South West Mini-Cluster Sub-Total</b>	<b>1,844</b>	<b>914</b>	<b>-930</b>	<b>-50%</b>
<b>North East</b>				
Bow East	193	94	-99	-51%
Bow West	385	157	-228	-59%
Mile End	483	329	-154	-32%
Bromley North	301	167	-134	-45%
Bromley South	274	155	-119	-43%
<b>North East Mini-Cluster Sub-Total</b>	<b>1,636</b>	<b>902</b>	<b>-734</b>	<b>-45%</b>
<b>South East</b>				
Lansbury	697	341	-356	-51%
Poplar	264	108	-156	-59%
Limehouse	140	65	-75	-54%
Canary Wharf	426	272	-154	-36%
Blackwall & Cubitt Town	279	172	-107	-38%
Island Gardens	300	118	-182	-61%
<b>South East Mini-Cluster Sub-Total</b>	<b>2,106</b>	<b>1,076</b>	<b>-1,030</b>	<b>-49%</b>
<b>BOROUGH TOTAL</b>	<b>7,373</b>	<b>3,765</b>	<b>-3,608</b>	<b>-49%</b>

### Extended Entitlement for Working Parents (30 Hours Childcare)

Ward	Occupied Places Autumn 2019	Occupied Places Autumn 2020	Variance	%age Increase/Decrease
<b>North West</b>				
Weavers	34	46	12	35%
St Peter's	46	40	-6	-13%
Bethnal Green	69	48	-21	-30%
Spitalfields & Banglatown	42	30	-12	-29%
<b>North West Mini-Cluster Total</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>-27</b>	<b>-14%</b>
<b>South West</b>				
Whitechapel	51	21	-30	-59%
St Katharine's & Wapping	25	25	0	0%
Shadwell	46	31	-15	-33%
Stepney Green	65	76	11	17%
St Dunstan's	43	40	-3	-7%
<b>South West Mini-Cluster Sub-Total</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>-37</b>	<b>-16%</b>
<b>North East</b>				
Bow East	29	27	-2	-7%
Bow West	64	57	-7	-11%
Mile End	64	19	-45	-70%
Bromley North	56	41	-15	-27%
Bromley South	13	20	7	54%
<b>North East Mini-Cluster Sub-Total</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>-62</b>	<b>-27%</b>
<b>South East</b>				
Lansbury	39	46	7	18%
Poplar	34	22	-12	-35%
Limehouse	18	17	-1	-6%
Canary Wharf	51	53	2	4%
Blackwall & Cubitt Town	56	57	1	2%
Island Gardens	24	26	2	8%
<b>South East Mini-Cluster Sub-Total</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>BOROUGH TOTAL</b>	<b>869</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>-127</b>	<b>-15%</b>

### Early Learning for 2 Year Olds

Ward	Occupied Places Autumn 2019	Occupied Places Autumn 2020	Variance	%age Increase/Decrease
<b>North West</b>				
Weavers	27	16	-11	-41%
St Peter's	90	60	-30	-33%
Bethnal Green	36	15	-21	-58%
Spitalfields & Banglatown	86	74	-12	-14%
<b>North West Mini-Cluster Total</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>-74</b>	<b>-31%</b>
<b>South West</b>				
Whitechapel	34	14	-20	-59%
St Katharine's & Wapping	13	8	-5	-38%
Shadwell	111	68	-43	-39%
Stepney Green	68	44	-24	-35%
St Dunstan's	54	39	-15	-28%
<b>South West Mini-Cluster Sub-Total</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>-107</b>	<b>-38%</b>
<b>North East</b>				
Bow East	50	31	-19	-38%
Bow West	1	0	-1	-100%
Mile End	166	94	-72	-43%
Bromley North	50	40	-10	-20%
Bromley South	64	34	-30	-47%
<b>North East Mini-Cluster Sub-Total</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>-132</b>	<b>-40%</b>
<b>South East</b>				
Lansbury	76	67	-9	-12%
Poplar	31	33	2	6%
Limehouse	29	28	-1	-3%
Canary Wharf	11	11	0	0%
Blackwall & Cubitt Town	44	23	-21	-48%
Island Gardens	4	5	1	25%
<b>South East Mini-Cluster Sub-Total</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>-28</b>	<b>-14%</b>
<b>BOROUGH TOTAL</b>	<b>1,045</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>-341</b>	<b>-33%</b>

### Full Daycare for 0-2 Year Olds

Ward	Occupied Places Autumn 2019	Occupied Places Autumn 2020	Variance	%age Increase/Decrease
<b>North West</b>				
Weavers	24	49	25	104%
St Peter's	42	42	0	0%
Bethnal Green	0	0	0	0%
Spitalfields & Banglatown	47	43	-4	-9%
<b>North West Mini-Cluster Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>South West</b>				
Whitechapel	60	40	-20	-33%
St Katharine's & Wapping	72	51	-21	-29%
Shadwell	1	44	43	4300%
Stepney Green	15	15	0	0%
St Dunstan's	16	5	-11	-69%
<b>South West Mini-Cluster Sub-Total</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>-9</b>	<b>-5%</b>
<b>North East</b>				
Bow East	35	38	3	9%
Bow West	0	0	0	0%
Mile End	35	26	-9	-26%
Bromley North	18	9	-9	-50%
Bromley South	0	0	0	0%
<b>North East Mini-Cluster Sub-Total</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>-15</b>	<b>-17%</b>
<b>South East</b>				
Lansbury	0	0	0	0%
Poplar	10	12	2	20%
Limehouse	45	0	-45	-100%
Canary Wharf	105	171	66	63%
Blackwall & Cubitt Town	117	105	-12	-10%
Island Gardens	28	28	0	0%
<b>South East Mini-Cluster Sub-Total</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>BOROUGH TOTAL</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1%</b>

**PVI Childcare Providers by Cluster Area/ Children's Centre and Ward**

Cluster Area	Mini-Cluster	Children's Centre	Ward	#NAME?		
West	North West	Mowlem Children's Centre Wadeson Street London E2 9DL	Weavers	Avebury Playroup		
				Bethnal Green Montessori School		
				Noah's Ark Nursery		
			St Peter's	St Peter's (Bethnal Green Montessori School)		
				Excellence Day Nursery		
				Harmony @ Account 3		
		Meath Gardens Children's Centre 1 Smart Street London E2 0SN	Bethnal Green	Shining Futures		
				Scallywags Parent Run Nursery		
				Weaversfield Community Nursery		
				Gatehouse Montessori School		
				Tate House & Tate House @ Meath Gardens		
				Westfield @ Queen Mary University		
	South West	Collingwood Children's Centre Buckhurst Street London E1 5QT	Spitalfields & Banglatown	Rangers Kindergarten Natural Play & Learning		
				Allen Gardens Playgroup		
				Chicksand Friendly Preschool		
				Rainbow House - Whitechapel		
				Precious Kids Day Nursery Ltd		
				Iqra Preschool - Frostic Walk		
	South East	John Smith Children's Centre 90 Stepney Way London E1 2EN	Whitechapel	Bright Horizons - Spitalfields Children's Centre		
				Rainbow Angels Nurseries & Learning Centres		
				Buttercup Primary School		
				Incy Wincy Stars		
				Rainbow House - LMC		
		Wapping Children's Centre Bigland Street London E1 2ND	St Katharine's & Wapping	The Nursery @ St Paul's		
				Kids Kingdom Nursery		
				Green Gables Primary		
				Matilda Community Day Nursery		
				Step-By-Step Nursery		
		Ocean Children's Centre <b>(Shadwell Site)</b> 418-420 Cable Street London E1 0AF <b>(Whitehorse Site)</b> Whitehorse Road London E1 0ND	Stepney Green	The Pierhead Prep Montessori		
				Tiddley Tots		
				Green Gables Nursery		
				Winterton House		
				Brayford Square Playgroup		
	North East	Overland Children's Centre <b>(Overland Site)</b> 60 Parnell Road London E3 2RU <b>(Olga Site)</b> Olga Centre 25 Medway Road	Bow East	Date Palm Nursery		
				Date Palm Primary School		
				New Birth Day Nursery		
				Old Church Nursery School		
				New City College London Nursery		
			Bow West	Global Kids - Limehouse		
				Montessori on the Park		
		Mile End Children's Centre 9 Bede Square Joseph Street London E3 4GY	Mile End	Ranwell Playgroup		
				Vernon Preschool Playgroup		
				Pillar box Montessori Gardens		
				Pilliar Box Montessori Nursery		
				Burdett Estate Playgroup		
		Marner Children's Centre Devas Street London E3 3LL	Bromley North	Little Miricals		
				Global Kids - Mile End		
				Iqra Pre-School - Gough Walk		
				Little Limehouse		
				Matchbox Day Nursery		
		Chriss Street Children's Centre 22-27 Market Way	Bromley South	Bow Nursery		
				Lincoln Hall Playgroup		
				Abertots Play		
				Calvary Pre-School		

<b>East</b>	23-27 Market Way London E14 8AP	Poplar	Jingle Jungle	
			Manorfield School	
			St Francis Family Centre	
	Around Poplar Children's Centre 115 Three Colt Street London E14 8AP		Spring Nursery	
			Little Me Nursery	
	South East	Limehouse	Little St Matthias	
			Poplar Play Centre Ltd	
			Puddle Jumpers	
			Tower Hamlets Opportunity Group	
		Canary Wharf  Blackwall & Cubitt Town	Barkantine Community Nursery	
			Bright Horizons - Bank Street	
			Bright Horizons - Canada Square	
			Bright Horizons - Columbus Courtyard	
			Bright Horizons - Heron Quays	
			Bright Horizons - WestFerry Circus	
			Lanterns Nursery	
			Riverhouse Montessori School	
			Rainbow Splash nursery	
			Rise N Shine	
			Kids Lab	
			Bright Horizons East India Pre-school	
			Crossharbour Montessori	
			Bright Horizons - East India Dock Day Nursery	
			Headstart	
			Island House Playgroup	
			Acola Kids	
			Docklands Village Nursery	
			Magic Roundabout	
			Island Gardens	
			Mudchute Farm Day Nursery	

This document summarises the overall picture for the free early education entitlements (FEEE) in Tower Hamlets.

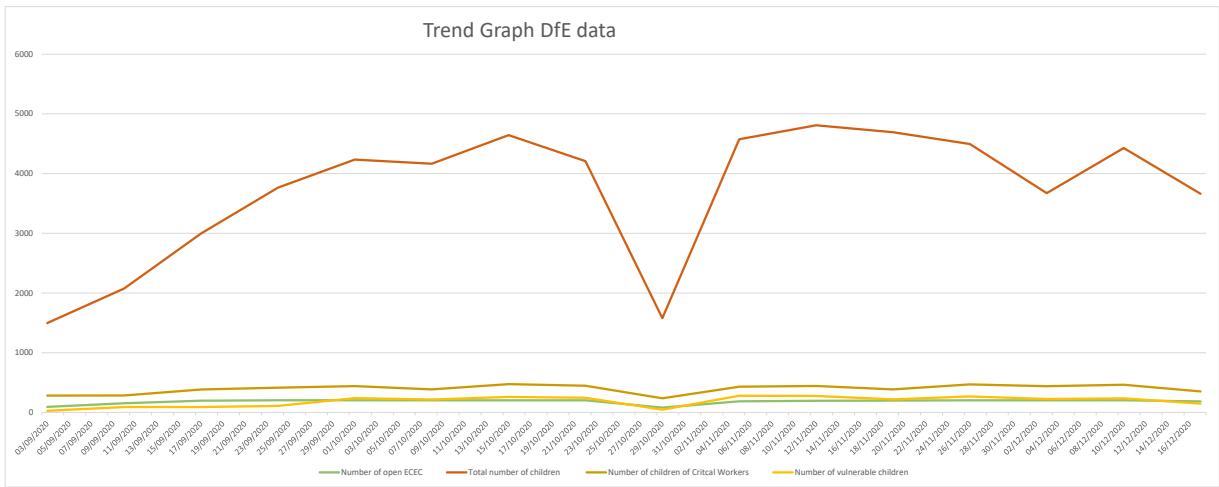
It includes all early childhood education and care(ECEC) settings in receipt of FEEE: private, voluntary and independent childcare; child minders; school nursery classes.

Three children's centres host private childcare providers. The council does not itself provide early education and care places.

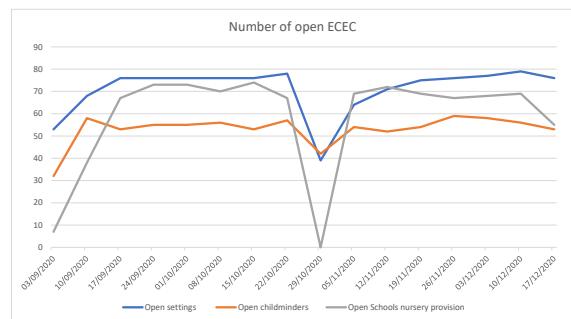
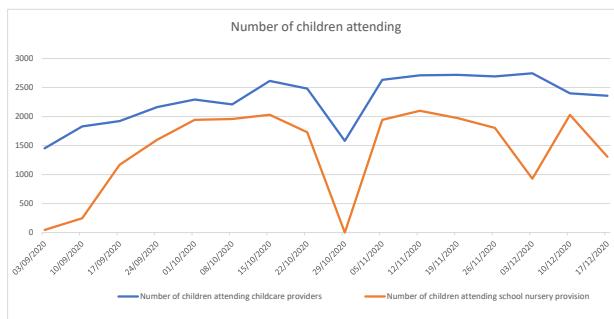
To ensure business viability, many childcare providers offer extra hours paid for by parents.

There are three FEEE: early learning for two year olds; the universal offer for three and four year olds; the additional hours for working parents of three and four year olds. Each entitlement is for 570 hours annually. Some parents of three and four year olds may receive two entitlements (1,140 hours annually.) 570 hours equates to 24% of the childcare hours needed by a working parent. All other hours needed must be paid for by the parent.

Support and advice for parents wishing to access childcare provision is provided by children's centre staff. The Quality and Sufficiency Team ensures: 98% of providers are graded "Good" or ""Outstanding" by Ofsted; and that businesses are supported to provide sufficient places for parents who want them. Childcare is a business area independent of the council and so both quality and sufficiency must be achieved by persuasion and information.



Date of collection	# 17/09/2020 # 26/11/2020 # 03/12/2020 # 17/12/2020 #											
Number of open ECEC	92	154	196	204	204	202	203	202	81	187	195	198
Total number of children	1497	2075	2995	3763	4234	4166	4645	4209	1579	4575	4809	4692
Number of children of Critical Workers	282	284	385	414	442	386	474	448	237	431	444	4495
Number of vulnerable children	28	90	90	109	239	218	260	246	46	280	277	220



Date of collection	# 17/09/2020 # 26/11/2020 # 03/12/2020 # 17/12/2020 #											
Number of children attending	1452	1829	1921	2163	2292	2209	2614	2481	1579	2632	2710	2718
Number of children attending childcare providers	45	246	1168	1600	1942	1957	2031	1728	0	1943	2099	1974
Number of children attending school nursery provision	1452	1829	1921	2163	2292	2209	2614	2481	1579	2632	2710	2718

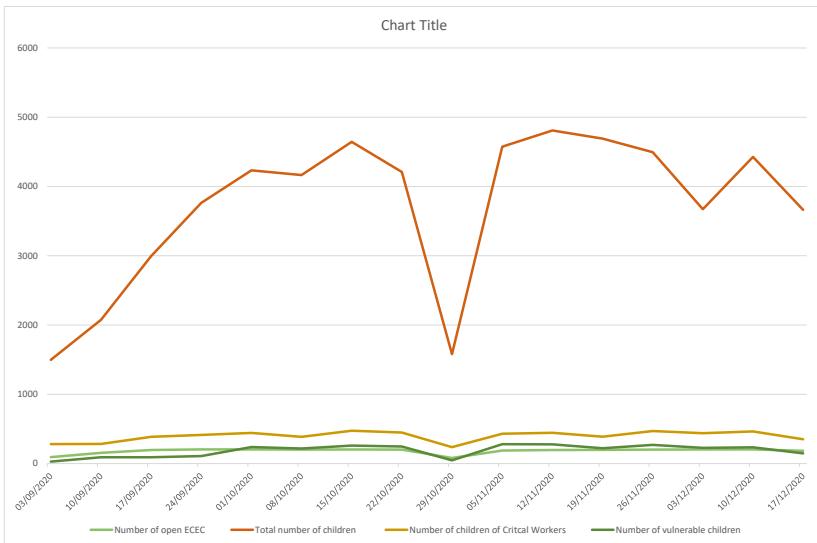
Date of collection	# 17/09/2020 # 26/11/2020 # 03/12/2020 # 17/12/2020 #											
Number of open ECEC	53	68	76	76	76	76	76	78	39	64	71	75
Open settings	32	58	53	55	55	56	53	57	42	54	52	54
Open childminders	7	38	67	73	73	70	74	67	0	69	72	69
Open Schools nursery provision	53	58	53	55	55	56	53	57	42	54	52	54

\*drop in School attendance numbers on 03/12/2020 result of 6 no responses and 6 closed schools/classes

Date of collection	# 17/09/2020 # 26/11/2020 # 03/12/2020 # 17/12/2020 #											
Number of open ECEC	53	68	76	76	76	76	76	78	39	64	71	75
Open settings	32	58	53	55	55	56	53	57	42	54	52	54
Open childminders	7	38	67	73	73	70	74	67	0	69	72	69
Open Schools nursery provision	53	58	53	55	55	56	53	57	42	54	52	54

## Weekly DfE data collection

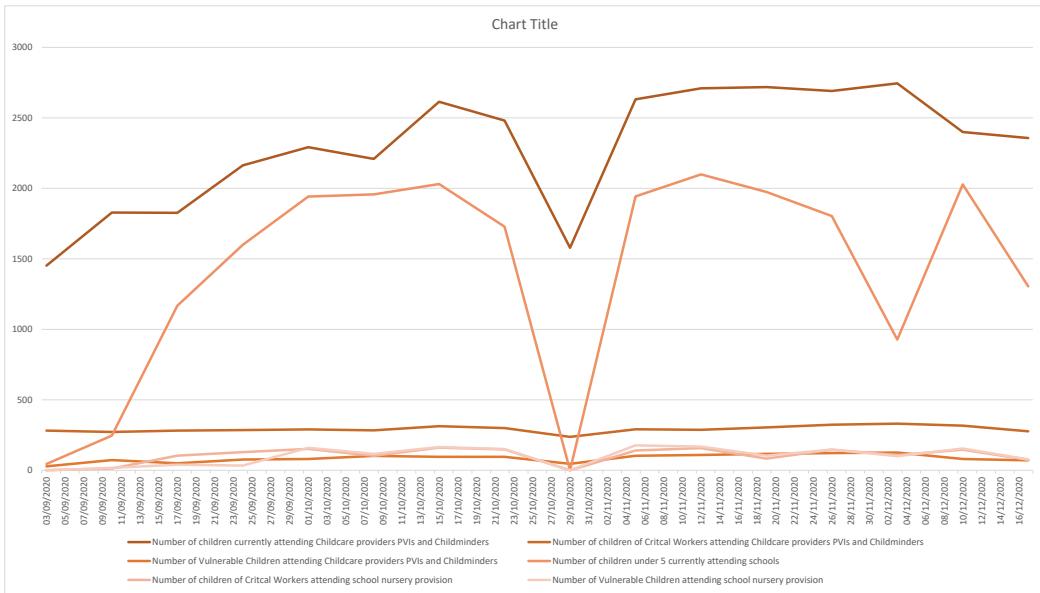
Trend Graph DfE data re PVI's and Childminders



Date of collection	03/09/2020	10/09/2020	17/09/2020	24/09/2020	01/10/2020	08/10/2020	15/10/2020	22/10/2020	29/10/2020	05/11/2020	12/11/2020	19/11/2020	26/11/2020	03/12/2020	10/12/2020	17/12/2020
Number of open Childcare providers PVI's and Childminders	85	116	132	131	131	132	129	129	81	118	123	129	135	135	135	129
Number of children currently attending Childcare providers PVI's and Childminders	1452	1829	1827	2163	2292	2209	2614	2481	1579	2632	2710	2718	2691	2745	2400	2357
Number of children of Critical Workers attending Childcare providers PVI's and Childminders	281	272	281	285	290	283	313	300	237	291	287	304	323	331	317	277
Number of Vulnerable Children attending Childcare providers PVI's and Childminders	28	73	50	76	80	102	95	95	46	103	109	116	122	126	80	71
Number of open school nursery provision	7	38	67	73	73	70	74	67	0	69	72	69	67	68	69	55
Number of children under 5 currently attending school nursery provision	45	246	1168	1600	1942	1957	2031	1728	0	1943	2099	1974	1804	927	2028	1305
Number of children of Critical Workers attending school nursery provision	1	12	104	129	152	103	161	148	0	140	157	83	146	108	146	74
Number of Vulnerable Children attending school nursery provision	0	17	40	33	159	116	165	151	0	177	168	104	147	100	155	77
Total number of open settings	92	154	196	204	204	202	203	202	81	187	195	198	202	204	184	
Total number of children	1497	2075	2995	3763	4234	4166	4645	4209	1579	4575	4809	4692	4495	3672	4428	3662
Total number of children of Critical Workers	282	284	385	414	442	386	474	448	237	431	444	387	469	439	463	351
Total number of Vulnerable Children	28	90	90	109	239	218	260	246	46	280	277	220	269	226	235	148

## Weekly DfE data collection

Trend Graph DfE data re PVIs and Childminders



Date of collection	03/09/2020	10/09/2020	17/09/2020	24/09/2020	01/10/2020	08/10/2020	15/10/2020	22/10/2020	29/10/2020	05/11/2020	12/11/2020	19/11/2020	26/11/2020	03/12/2020	10/12/2020	17/12/2020
<b>Number of children currently attending Childcare providers PVIs and Childminders</b>	1452	1829	1827	2163	2292	2209	2614	2481	1579	2632	2710	2718	2691	2745	2400	2357
<b>Number of children of Critical Workers attending Childcare providers PVIs and Childminders</b>	281	272	281	285	290	283	313	300	237	291	287	304	323	331	317	277
<b>Number of Vulnerable Children attending Childcare providers PVIs and Childminders</b>	28	73	50	76	80	102	95	95	46	103	109	116	122	126	80	71
<b>Number of children under 5 currently attending schools</b>	45	246	1168	1600	1942	1957	2031	1728	0	1943	2099	1974	1804	927	2028	1305
<b>Number of children of Critical Workers attending school nursery provision</b>	1	12	104	129	152	103	161	148	0	140	157	83	146	108	146	74
<b>Number of Vulnerable Children attending school nursery provision</b>	0	17	40	33	159	116	165	151	0	177	168	104	147	100	155	77