

**Stockton-on-Tees**

# **Childcare Sufficiency Assessment**

**August 2024**



**Stockton-on-Tees**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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# Introduction

The Childcare Act 2006 and 2016 and the associated statutory guidance for local authorities on Early Education and Childcare - June 2018, requires Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (the Local Authority) to secure sufficient childcare, as far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0 - 14 (or up to 18 for disabled children).

The duty is detailed in the following sections of the Acts:

## Childcare Act 2006

- Section 6 secures sufficient childcare for parents;
- Section 7 secures free early years provision free of charge;
- Section 7A discharges its duty;
- Section 9 gives LA's the power to attach requirements to the arrangements they make with providers (other than the governing body of a maintained school) to deliver childcare including free early years provision;
- Section 9a allows regulations to be made which prescribe the requirements local authorities may or may not impose when they make arrangements;
- Section 12 provides information, advice, and assistance to parents about childcare in the area;
- Section 13 to secure the provision of information, advice and training to childcare providers and childcare workers

## Childcare Act 2016

- Section 1 places a duty on the secretary of state to secure the equivalent of 30 hours free childcare over 38 weeks of the year for qualifying children;
- Section 2 allows the Secretary of state to discharge her duty under section 1 of the Act by placing a duty on English local authorities to secure free childcare for qualifying children;

To secure sufficient childcare places, local authorities should consider:

- what is 'reasonably practicable' when assessing what sufficient childcare means for their area;
- the state of the local childcare market, including the demand for specific types of providers, in a particular locality and the amount and type of supply that currently exists;
- the state of the labour market including the sufficiency of the local childcare workforce;
- the quality and capacity of childcare providers and childminders registered with a childminder agency, including their funding, staff, premises, experience, and expertise;
- should encourage schools in their area to offer out-of-hours childcare from 8.00am until 6.00pm and in school holidays;
- should encourage existing providers to expand their provision and new providers to enter the local childcare market; and
- should encourage providers to take sustainable business approach to planning and signpost providers to resources to support them

The Local Authority is responsible for determining the appropriate level of detail in the report, geographical division, and date of publication. However, the report should include:

- a specific reference to how we are ensuring there is sufficient childcare available to meet the needs of: children with special educational needs and disabilities disabled children; children from families in receipt of the childcare element of Working Tax Credit or Universal Credit; children with parents who work irregular hours; children aged two, three and four taking up free places; school age children; and children needing holiday care.
- Information about the current and projected supply and demand of childcare for particular age ranges of children, and the affordability, accessibility, and quality of provision; and
- Details of how any gaps in childcare provision will be addressed.

In addition, the Local Authority is required by legislation to maintain a service that provides information, to parents and prospective parents on the provision of childcare in their area, as listed in Schedule 1 of the Childcare Act 2006 and from 1 September publish this information electronically on the local authority website and update it at a minimum termly on 1 January, 1 April and 1 September, ensuring parents are aware of:

- Early education places for two, three and four year olds;
- The option to continue to take up their child's 15 hour early education place until their child reaches compulsory school age;
- How to identify high quality provision in their area.

## The Stockton-on-Tees childcare market

Stockton-on-Tees has a robust childcare market with a combination of 47 privately owned and voluntary sector nursery/pre-school childcare providers, 102 childminders and 5 out of school clubs. Primary schools (60) play a key role in offering the majority of universal 15 hour places for 3 & 4 year olds and 83% are now offering 30 hour free childcare places, 10 also deliver 2yr funded places, and many offer before and after school places for school aged children. Three Independent Schools also provide early years places for 3 & 4 year olds.

The Local Authority has an excellent relationship with childcare providers and good partnership working has ensured that the quality of settings in Stockton-on-Tees is exceeding the national average, ensuring the closing of the gap for the most vulnerable children.

The Local Authority works closely with the childcare sector to explore sufficiency issues and identify workable solutions to meet any gaps in provision.

### The report

This report considers what the Local Authority means as 'sufficient childcare' in the borough and includes the following:

- Background and contextual information regarding population, Labour Market Information (LMI), early years and childcare numbers across the borough.
- Information about the supply of childcare for particular age ranges of children, and the affordability, accessibility, and quality of provision.
- The state of the local childcare market, including the demand for specific types of providers, in particular ward areas and the amount and type of supply that currently exists.
- The quality and capacity of childcare providers.
- Details of how gaps in childcare provision will be addressed.

This Assessment Report will be updated and reported to the Council's Cabinet for endorsement annually. The Assessment Report will also be made available and accessible to parents on the

[www.stocktoninformationdirectory.org/childcare-listings](http://www.stocktoninformationdirectory.org/childcare-listings)

# Stockton-on-Tees in context

## Economic Geography

### Location and Economic Profile

Stockton-on-Tees is a Borough of wide contrasts, a mixture of busy town centres, urban residential areas, and picturesque villages. The Borough covers approximately 20,000 hectares.

The principal settlements are Stockton, Billingham, Thornaby, Ingleby Barwick, Norton and Yarm; whilst Wynyard is expected to grow into a substantial residential location.

The River Tees courses through the Borough and sustains a variety of uses; from a working river upstream; a leisure destination; and forming part of the tranquil green corridors.

The Borough is bounded by County Durham to the north; Darlington to the west; Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland, and Hartlepool to the east; and Hambleton to the south.

Stockton-on-Tees benefits from good access to the strategic road network - A1M, A19, A66 and A67 - and a network of bus routes that provide frequent services to connect residents to work and leisure destinations predominantly across Tees Valley, and for the movement of goods and services.

There are six train stations in total providing frequent access to destinations in Tees Valley and across the North, and a direct link to London via the East Coast Mainline.

The Borough is home to Teesside International Airport.

The Borough forms part of the Tees Valley Combined Authority wider functioning area, which is home to some 678,200 people.



## Demographic profile

In 2020 the population was 198,253 living in around 88,785 dwellings. In the last ten years, it is estimated that the population has risen by 6,429 people between 2010 and 2020. The population in the Borough is projected to grow to 199,862 by 2031 which is an increase of 0.82% over the ten-year period 2021-2031. 17.23% of the population within Stockton-on-Tees are children and young people aged (0-14), which is higher than across the North East (16.55%) and slightly lower than England (17.37%).

### Estimated resident population in '000s (% of total population)

Projected Year	2020	2024	2028	2032
Age 0-4	11,099	10,343	10,023	9,905
	5.60%	5.18%	5.00%	4.94%
Age 5-9	13,027	12,087	11,106	10,755
	6.57%	6.05%	5.54%	5.37%
Age 10-14	12,973	13,472	12,719	11,647
	6.54%	6.74%	6.35%	5.81%
All Ages	198,253	199,757	200,364	200,459

Source: ONS Population projections for Local Authorities - Table 2

The percentage of the Borough's population from a black minority ethnic background decreased from 5.4% in 2011 to 1.1% in 2021. The largest minority ethnic group is Asian or Asian British, this group accounts for 4.6% of the population, within this group, the largest BME group is Pakistani or British Pakistani.

Using indices of multiple deprivation, the Borough is ranked 113 most deprived out of the 317 local authorities in England. However, whilst 19.99% of the population live within the top 20% of most deprived areas of England, 19.38% live in the 20% least deprived areas

<sup>1</sup> Council Tax

<sup>2</sup> Census

<sup>3</sup> IMD 2015

## Labour Market Information (LMI)

In 2022 there were estimated to be around 82,000 jobs in Stockton-on-Tees. 13,000 jobs (15.9% of jobs) were in the “Wholesale and Retail Trade” sector and 10,000 (12.2% of jobs) in manufacturing, whilst it only makes up 7.6% of the workforce in Great Britain, and 11,000 (13.4% of jobs) were in “Human Health and Social Work Activities”. These sectors make up similar proportions of the labour market to figures for England.

Employee jobs by industry 2022	Stockton-on-Tees	Stockton-on-Tees %	North East %	Great Britain %
Mining And Quarrying	300	0.4	0.1	0.2
Manufacturing	10,000	12.2	9.7	7.6
Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning	300	0.4	0.4	0.4
Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management	700	0.9	0.7	0.7
Construction	6,000	7.3	4.4	4.9
Wholesale And Retail Trade; Repair of Vehicles	13,000	15.9	13.7	14.0
Transportation And Storage	4,500	5.5	5.2	5.0
Accommodation And Food Service Activities	6,000	7.3	8.0	8.0
Information And Communication	2,250	2.7	3.1	4.6
Financial And Insurance Activities	1,250	1.5	2.2	3.3
Real Estate Activities	900	1.1	1.5	1.9
Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	7,000	8.5	5.6	9.1
Administrative And Support Service Activities	6,000	7.3	8.0	9.0
Public Administration and Defence	3,500	4.3	7.1	4.7
Education	7,000	8.5	9.9	8.6
Human Health and Social Work Activities	11,000	13.4	16.0	13.5
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	1,250	1.5	2.1	2.4
Other Service Activities	1,250	1.5	2.0	2.0

Source: [Nomis](#)

<sup>2</sup> Census

<sup>3</sup> IMD 2015

## Economic activity (Jan 2023 - Dec 2023)

Economic activity refers to the number or percentage of people of working age who are in employment plus those that are unemployed (actively seeking and available for work). Economic activity rates in Stockton-on-Tees (77.7%) are higher than the Tees Valley (76.0%) and North East (75.7%) and lower than Great Britain (78.8%).

Of the people aged 16 to 64 years living in Stockton-on-Tees, 74.1% were employed in the year ending December 2023. This is a slight increase compared with the year ending December 2022 when the local rate was 73.7%.

Across the North East in the year ending December 2023, 72.8% of people aged 16 to 64 were employed. This was higher than the previous year when 70.5% of people were employed.

Unemployment estimates are modelled to improve their precision compared to those based only on responses provided via the Annual Population Survey. Around 3,900 people aged 16 and over in Stockton-on-Tees were unemployed in the year ending December 2023. This is a rate of 4.0%. This was a decrease compared with the year ending December 2022 when the unemployment rate was 4.2%.

Across the North East, from the year ending December 2022 to the year ending December 2023, there was a decrease in the unemployment rate from 4.6% to 3.9%.

Unemployment across Great Britain rose slightly between the year ending December 2022 and the year ending December 2023, going from around 1,180,000 people (3.6%) to around 1,240,000 (3.7%).

Indicator Numbers in Bold (Figures and percentages relate to the population aged 16-64 unless stated)	Stockton-on-Tees	Tees Valley	North East	Great Britain
<b>Economic activity</b>	<b>96,800</b> (77.7%)	<b>318,800</b> (76.0%)	<b>952,800</b> (75.7 %)	<b>31,908,900</b> (78.8%)
<b>Employment rate</b>	<b>92,400</b> (74.1%)	<b>303,500</b> (72.3%)	<b>918,700</b> (72.8%)	<b>30,696,300</b> (75.8%)
<b>Employees</b>	<b>82,500</b> (66.6%)	<b>270,600</b> (65.0 %)	<b>814,800</b> (65.1%)	<b>26,837,400</b> (66.3%)
<b>Self-Employment</b>	<b>9,400</b> (7.0%)	<b>31,800</b> (7.0%)	<b>99,600</b> (7.4%)	<b>3,774,000</b> (9.3%)
<b>Unemployment (Model-based)</b> Percentage is proportion of economically active population	<b>3,900</b> (4.0%)	<b>15,300</b> (4.8%)	<b>34,100</b> (3.9%)	<b>1,240,000</b> (3.7%)



## Patterns of work

A slightly lower percentage of employee jobs are full-time (more than 30 hours a week) in Stockton-on-Tees compared to the wider North East Region and the rate for Great Britain.

Employee jobs (2021)	Stockton-on-Tees	North East	Great Britain
Full-Time	69.5	67.9	68.8
Part-Time	30.5	32.1	31.2

## Working age benefits

The claimant count includes those seeking Jobseekers Allowance (JSA), which is an employment benefit payable to people under pensionable age who are available for and actively seeking work. It also includes those on Universal Credit who are the equivalent of JSA claimants due to being out of work and having requirements to look for work.

Stockton-on-Tees has now rolled out the “full service” of Universal credit so all new claimants will claim the benefit. Under Universal Credit a broader span of claimants are required to look for work than under Jobseeker’s Allowance so the number of people recorded as being on the claimant count is likely higher than before the rollout and comparisons to other areas and previous years are difficult.

As of May 2024, a total of 4,875 people made up the ‘claimant count’, which is 4.0% of the working age population. The highest number of claimants is in the 25-49 age group, making up almost 60% of the claimant count in Stockton-on-Tees.

The Claimant Count in Stockton-on-Tees was lower than in the previous year. The Claimant Count in Stockton-on-Tees was 4,885 in March 2024, down from March 2023, when there were 5,140 claimants.

The proportion of people aged 16 to 64 years in Stockton-on-Tees who were claiming unemployment-related benefits was 4.0% in March 2024, a decrease compared with March 2023 when it was 4.2%

### Claimant Count by Gender (May 2024)

	Stockton-on-Tees		North East	Great Britain
	(Numbers)	(%)	(%)	(%)
All People	4,875	4.0	4.1	3.9
Males	2,950	4.9	5.0	4.5
Females	1,925	3.1	3.2	3.3

Source: ONS claimant count (NOMIS).

Note: % is the number of claimants as a proportion of resident population of area aged 16-64 and gender

### Claimant Count by Age (May 2024)

	Stockton-on-Tees		North East	Great Britain
	(Numbers)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Aged 18 to 24	1,030	7.7	5.9	5.1
Aged 25 to 49	2,780	4.5	4.8	4.5
Aged 50+	1,055	2.6	2.7	2.8

Source: ONS claimant count (NOMIS)

Note: % is number of claimants as a proportion of resident population of the same age

## Income

Based on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2023 the average gross weekly pay of Stockton-on-Tees residents is £619.5; more than the average for the North East region (£613.7), but lower than Great Britain as a whole (£682.6).

### Average (Median) gross weekly pay 2023

Gross Weekly Pay	Stockton-on-Tees	North East	Great Britain
Full-Time Workers	£619.5	£613.7	£682.6
Male Full-Time Workers	£687.9	£648.9	£728.3
Female Full-Time Workers	£531.8	£568.9	£628.8

Source: ONS annual survey of hours and earnings - resident analysis (Nomis)

Notes: Median earnings in pounds for employees living in the area.

## Potential impact from approved and strategic housing developments

The Local Authority considers any potential future children yield numbers in terms of planning sufficient childcare places from approved housing developments across the borough. All housing developments must include a percentage of affordable housing within its development that is considered when planning any future childcare arrangements. The Local Authority also considers the impact on the 'childcare offer' of the other strategic sites (1,000 or more homes) and their likely pupil yield numbers.



# The demand for childcare

## Population of children

Estimated population aged 0-15 as a percentage of total by Ward area and 5 year change					
Ward	2022 Population (0-15 year olds)	2022 Population (All Ages)	2027 Projected Population (0-15 year olds)	2027 Projected population (All Ages)	% of ward population 2027 (0-15 year olds)
Billingham Central	1502	7,393	1389	7355	18.89%
Billingham East	1640	7,528	1517	7489	20.26%
Billingham North	1016	6,471	940	6437	14.60%
Billingham South	1484	8,001	1373	7959	17.25%
Billingham West & Wolviston	759	5,818	702	5788	12.13%
Bishopsgarth and Elm Tree	950	6,327	879	6294	13.96%
Eaglescliffe East	1150	6,155	1064	6123	17.37%
Eaglescliffe East	1150	6,155	1064	6123	17.37%
Eaglescliffe West	1155	6,373	1068	6340	16.85%
Grangefield	599	3,174	554	3157	17.55%
Hardwick and Salters Lane	2042	8,216	1889	8173	23.11%
Hartburn	1409	8,626	1303	8581	15.19%
Ingleby Barwick North	3233	12,615	2991	12549	23.83%
Ingleby Barwick South	1996	10,746	1846	10690	17.27%
Mandale and Victoria	1908	8,650	1765	8605	20.51%
Newtown	1028	4,493	951	4470	21.27%
Northern Parishes	1344	6,636	1243	6601	18.83%
Norton Central	1176	6,458	1088	6424	16.93%
Norton North	940	6,190	870	6158	14.12%
Norton South	1191	7,782	1102	7742	14.23%
Ropner	2051	8,768	1897	8722	21.75%
Roseworth	1911	8,487	1768	8443	20.94%
Southern Villages	409	2,639	378	2625	14.41%
Stainsby Hill	1365	7,282	1263	7244	17.43%
Stockton Town Centre	2003	8,741	1853	8696	21.31%
Village	1560	7,781	1443	7741	18.64%
Yarm	1669	9,635	1544	9585	16.11%

Sources: Population Estimates for Electoral Wards in England and Wales by Single Year of Age and Sex, mid-2021 and mid-2022 Mid-Year Population Estimates, UK, June 2022 [www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/datasets/tablej24zeronetmigrationnaturalchangeonlyvariantenglandpopulationinagegroups](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/datasets/tablej24zeronetmigrationnaturalchangeonlyvariantenglandpopulationinagegroups)

Estimated child population by 5-year age band as a percentage of total by Ward area

Ward	Age 0-4		Aged 5-9		Aged 10-14	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total
Billingham Central	382	5.17%	468	6.33%	850	11.50%
Billingham East	475	6.31%	538	7.15%	1,013	13.46%
Billingham North	281	4.34%	304	4.70%	585	9.04%
Billingham South	423	5.29%	475	5.94%	898	11.22%
Billingham West & Wolviston	179	3.08%	265	4.55%	444	7.63%
Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree	271	4.28%	282	4.46%	553	8.74%
Eaglescliffe East	251	4.08%	379	6.16%	630	10.24%
Eaglescliffe West	268	4.21%	346	5.43%	614	9.64%
Fairfield	351	3.91%	469	5.22%	820	9.13%
Grangefield	146	4.60%	166	5.23%	312	9.83%
Hardwick & Salters Lane	554	6.74%	688	8.37%	1,242	15.12%
Hartburn	358	4.15%	446	5.17%	804	9.32%
Ingleby Barwick North	796	6.31%	1101	8.73%	1,897	15.04%
Ingleby Barwick South	440	4.09%	626	5.83%	1,066	9.92%
Mandale & Victoria	567	6.55%	643	7.43%	1,210	13.99%
Newtown	306	6.81%	305	6.79%	611	13.60%
Northern Parishes	363	5.47%	399	6.01%	762	11.48%
Norton Central	349	5.40%	356	5.51%	705	10.92%
Norton North	271	4.38%	300	4.85%	571	9.23%
Norton South	349	4.48%	361	4.64%	710	9.12%
Ropner	661	7.54%	644	7.34%	1,305	14.89%
Roseworth	490	5.77%	619	7.29%	1,109	13.07%
Southern Villages	110	4.17%	126	4.77%	236	8.95%
Stainsby Hill	370	5.08%	437	6.00%	807	11.08%
Stockton Town Centre	690	7.89%	667	7.63%	1,357	15.53%
Village	372	4.78%	506	6.50%	878	11.29%
Yarm	451	4.68%	549	5.70%	1,000	10.38%

Source: [www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/estimatesofthepopulationforenglandandwales](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/estimatesofthepopulationforenglandandwales)

## Children with Special Educational Needs (SEN and those registered with a disability)

The Department for Education (DfE) 'Children with SEN' published 20/06/2024 based on where the pupil attends schools using the January 2024 school census indicated that there was a total of 1,725 pupils with Education, Health and care Plan, an increase of 117 pupils on the previous year. Pupils receiving SEN support has increased by 131 pupils compared to the previous year.

Pupils in all school with EHC (Education Health and Care) Plans/Statements including independent schools and general hospital											
20/21			21/22			22/23			23/24		
Total pupils	Pupils with statements	%	Total pupils	Pupils with statements	%	Total pupils	Pupils with EHC plans	%	Total pupils	Pupils with EHC plans	%
34,029	1355	4.0	34,228	1485	4.3	34,397	1608	4.7	34,679	1725	5.0

Pupils in all schools receiving SEN support including independent schools											
20/21			21/22			22/23			23/24		
Total pupils	Pupils receiving SEN Support	%	Total pupils	Pupils receiving SEN Support	%	Total pupils	Pupils receiving SEN Support	%	Total pupils	Pupils receiving SEN Support	%
34,029	4,034	11.9	34,228	2,221	12.3	34,397	4,360	12.7	34,679	4,491	13.0

## Children 0-5 with SEN or a Disability accessing early years in either a PVI (Private, Voluntary, or Independent) setting or school

For the academic year 2023/24 there were 94 children aged 0-5 assessed through the Early Years One Point Panel for additional support/funding who were accessing early years and childcare provision in Stockton-on-Tees, this is an increase of 34% compared to 2022/23.



# The supply of childcare

## Registered childcare

Data has been supplied by the Local Authority's Families Information Service (FIS).

Since September 2008 childcare for children aged less than 8 years old has had to be registered on one of two Ofsted childcare registers.

- The Early Years Register (EYR) - all childcare providers caring for children aged up to five are required to join the Early Years Register (unless exempt).
- The Ofsted Childcare Register (OCR) - this has two parts:
  - The compulsory part - providers of childcare to children aged 5 to 7 years must register on the compulsory part of the OCR (unless exempt);
  - The voluntary part - providers of childcare to children aged 8 and over, and care for children of any age that is activity based or provided in the child's own home, can choose to be registered on the voluntary part of the OCR if they meet the requirements.

The following section provides an overview of registered provision, including places in school nurseries.

A map providing the spread of childcare across Stockton can be found here [Childcare\\_Map\\_July\\_2024.pdf](#) ([stocktoninformationdirectory.org](http://stocktoninformationdirectory.org)).

Type of provision	Number of registered childcare places							
	0-1 years	2 years	3-4 years	5-7 years	8+ years	Total places	% all places	Number of providers
Childminding	109	118	112	309	158	<b>806</b>	10.17%	102
Day Nursery	542	829	870	252	82	<b>2575</b>	32.48%	41
Out of School Care	0	0	119	331	202	<b>652</b>	8.22%	22
Pre-school / Playgroup	6	87	89	0	0	<b>182</b>	2.30%	6
Maintained Nursery	0	147	3566	0	0	<b>3713</b>	46.83%	60
Totals by age range	657	1181	4756	892	442	<b>7928</b>		
% of all registered places	8.29%	14.9%	59.99%	11.25%	5.57%			
<b>Total registered places 0-5 years = 5172 (79.54% of total places)</b>								

Source: Source: Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council FIS July 2024

Comparing number of childcare places to 2023, there has been a reduction of 84 childminding places, an increase of 133 day nursery places, pre-school places have decreased by 40 places, and out of school places have stayed the same. The number of childminders has reduced by 10, number of day nurseries has increased by 1, number of playgroups has decreased by 1, and out of school providers has decreased by 1.

Primary schools offer childcare which wraps around the school day. 93% of primary schools offer breakfast clubs and 62% offer some form of after school childcare. From September 2024 fifteen schools are either creating new wraparound places or expanding their current provision, so that parents can access wraparound care between the hours of 8am and 6pm to enable them to take up work or increase their working hours.

## Geographical distribution of childcare places and vacancies

The following table details the number of early years childcare places and vacancies based on Local Authority ward areas.

Ward	Number of childcare places and vacancies by age					
	0-1 years		2 years		3-4 years	
	Places	Vacancies	Places	Vacancies	Places	Vacancies
Billingham Central	7	3	18	10	10	4
Billingham East	31	7	61	11	60	14
Billingham North	3	2	3	1	3	1
Billingham South	30	11	50	18	47	24
Billingham West & Wolviston	5	1	15	5	14	5
Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree	8	6	35	14	35	21
Eaglescliffe East	108	3	80	11	108	17
Eaglescliffe West	1	1	10	0	30	0
Fairfield	17	5	22	9	31	10
Grangefield	12	8	25	6	20	4
Hardwick	2	0	30	0	30	0
Hartburn	30	16	83	15	84	19
Ingleby North	19	8	25	7	45	27
Ingleby South	62	12	79	16	143	10
Mandale & Victoria	36	12	58	26	49	15
Newtown	18	13	34	20	33	19
Northern Parishes	49	6	31	13	31	17
Norton Central	15	0	27	1	27	0
Norton North	15	13	30	25	25	21
Norton South	15	3	39	9	47	10
Ropner	22	16	45	13	37	11
Roseworth	16	10	25	12	25	5
Southern Villages	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stainsby Hill	46	33	59	39	107	46
Stockton Town Centre	0	0	24	2	0	0
Village	41	31	65	37	71	46
Yarm	49	13	61	24	78	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>1034</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>1190</b>	<b>378</b>

Source: Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council FIS July 2024

## Vacancies

Vacancies are calculated against registered places. Many settings are likely to operate fewer places than they are registered for. For example, a childminder may be registered for 6 children but could choose to care for no more than 4. The FIS had records of 955 (33.14%) vacancies in registered provision as of July 2024 for children aged 0-4 years old.

## Charges

The FIS hold detailed information on charges for individual settings, across a number of different charging patterns. Below are the average charges by setting type. For further information on an individual providers charges please visit [www.stocktoninformationdirectory.org](http://www.stocktoninformationdirectory.org).

Charging period	Type of provision / Charges					
	Day Nursery	Childminder	Pre-School playgroup	Out of School Club	School Breakfast Club	School After School Club
Per hour	£8.69	£4.56	£5.54	£5.70		
Per session / half day	£36.34	£17.28	£17.12	£13.89	£2.84	£3.95
Per day	£55.28	£36.17	£39.32	£31.99		
Per week	£257.15	£160.97	£220.00	£93.33		

Source: Stockton-on-Tees BC FIS July 2023

Compared to 2023 charges the cost of a full-time place in a day nursery has increased by 9%, a full-time place with a childminder has remained relatively the same, the weekly cost with a playgroup has increased by 45%. The weekly cost for a place in an out of school club has remained the same along with a breakfast club or after school delivered by a school.

Comparing childcare costs to the national childcare survey 2024, produced by Coram Family and Childcare the cost per week in a day nursery for a child under 2 in England is £305.11 and for the North East is £268.22, for childminders the cost is £254.12 and £236.06, respectively. For a child age 2 years old the cost per week in a day nursery in England is £290.77 and for the North East is £249.28 and for a childminder is £253.83 in England and £236.42 in the North East.

Working parents can claim support with childcare costs through the Tax Free Childcare scheme which provides a contribution of up to 20% towards the cost of childcare, this also includes registered after school activities.



## Opening times

As with charges there is considerable variation in opening times, both within and between different types of provision. For further information on an individual provider's opening and closing times please visit [www.stocktoninformationdirectory.org/childcare-listings](http://www.stocktoninformationdirectory.org/childcare-listings).

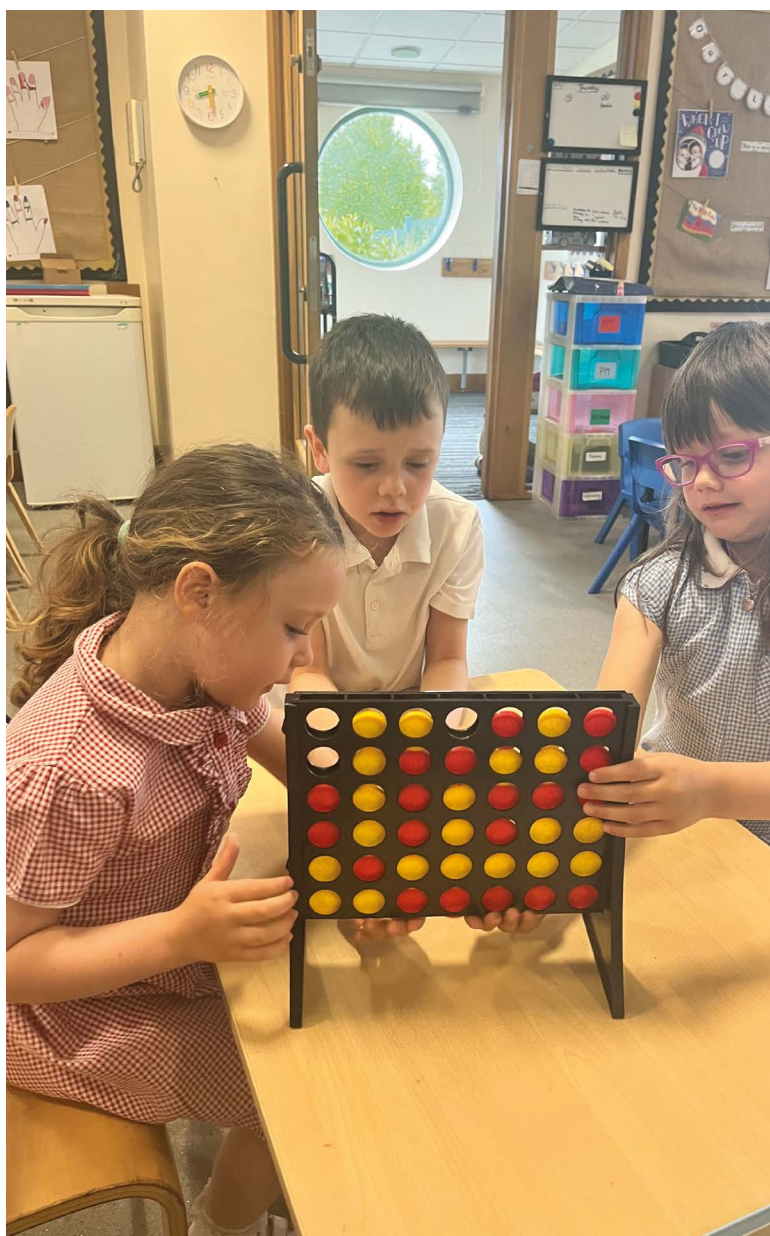
Most nurseries open from 7.30am until 6.00pm, playgroups tend to open from 9.00am until 3.30pm. Breakfast clubs are delivered by private providers and schools opening from 7.30am until the start of the school day. After school clubs again are delivered by private nurseries and schools opening after the end of the school day and closing between 4.30pm and 6.00pm. Childminders offer childcare from early in the morning (from 6.00am) until late in the evening (up to around 10pm), occasional overnight care and at weekends, including Sundays, they also offer care wrapped around the school the day. Currently 2 childminders open on Saturdays and 2 childminders open on a Sunday.

## Holiday Provision

Stockton-on-Tees has a range of holiday provision across the borough available to parents/carers with school age children, delivered by private nurseries and childminders (97). A total of 36 providers and 97 childminders offer holiday provision. Some providers/childminders only offer places to children up to the age of 8 years old; the rest offer places to children up to age 11 years; one provider offers places up to the age of 12 and one provider offers places up to the age of 14.

Most of the provision (18) is open from 7.30am closing at 6pm, with some (11) open from 7am.

Costs for holiday provision range from £25 per day to £69 per day in nursery/out of school clubs. Childminders charge costs range from £25 to £46 per day. Compared to national data the average weekly costs for holiday provision in England is £173.14 and for the North East is £166.28



# Early Years funded places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds

All children who meet the prescribed criteria can take up high quality early education, regardless of their parents' ability to pay - benefiting their social, physical, and mental development and helping to prepare them for school. Evidence shows that regular good quality early education has lasting benefits for all children.

## Universal entitlement

The Local Authority is required by legislation to secure early education places by offering 570 hours a year over no fewer than 38 weeks for every child in the borough from the relevant date; until the child reaches compulsory school age (the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday). Take-up of the universal entitlement for 3 & 4 year olds as of January 2024 is 104.2%, which is higher than the regional average of 100.4% and the national average of 94.9%. The take up by age is 105.5% for 4 year olds and 102.9% for 3 year olds.

Compared to 2023 the percentage accessing universal provision has increased by 3.2%.

**104.2%**

3 & 4yr olds accessing  
15hrs of childcare

**102.9%**

3yr olds accessing  
15hrs of childcare

**105.5%**

4yr olds accessing  
15hrs of childcare



## Extended entitlement 30 hours funded childcare for working parents

Working parents (employed persons, self-employed persons, and parent on zero hours contracts) of three- and four-year-olds can access a total of 30 hours of funded childcare per week, over 38 weeks or the equivalent number of hours across more weeks per year.

As of April 2024, working parents of two year old children can access a total of 15 hours funded childcare per week over 38 weeks or the equivalent number of hours across more weeks per year. From September 2024 this will also be available for children aged from nine months old.

From September 2025, working parents of children aged from nine months to 4 years old can access a total of 30 hours funded childcare per week.

No. of 2, 3 & 4 year olds taking up a 15/30 hour funded childcare place, by type of provider and ward						
Ward	No. of 2 year olds accessing a place (15 Hours)			No of 3&4 years olds accessing a place (30 Hours)		
	PVI	Childminder	Maintained nursery	PVI	Childminder	Maintained nursery
Billingham Central	13	0	6	10	0	49
Billingham East	62	3	0	61	2	52
Billingham North	43	1	0	0	3	0
Billingham South	0	5	0	37	3	14
Billingham West & Wolviston	19	12	0	9	13	82
Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree	8	8	0	3	9	69
Eaglescliffe East	120	3	1	92	1	56
Eaglescliffe West	15	2	0	10	0	45
Fairfield	13	4	0	7	8	71
Grangefield	5	0	0	3	0	3
Hardwick	8	2	3	4	4	25
Hartburn	66	9	0	86	7	14
Ingleby North	10	16	0	14	19	24
Ingleby South	52	26	0	82	28	67
Mandale & Victoria	24	0	1	28	0	40
Newtown	16	0	0	22	0	7
Northern Parishes	69	0	0	54	0	40
Norton Central	25	0	0	17	0	20
Norton North	0	1	0	0	3	24
Norton South	15	5	0	32	3	0
Ropner	5	7	0	8	3	5
Roseworth	7	0	5	5	0	22
Southern Villages	0	0	0	0	0	10
Stainsby Hill	17	6	0	51	2	17
Stockton Town Centre	0	3	1	0	0	19
Village	52	2	3	15	0	34
Yarm	40	11	1	27	7	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>844</b>

Source Stockton-on Tees Borough Council FIS July 2024

Compared to 2023 30 hour place take-up for 3&4 year olds has decreased by 3.59% (61 places). Stockton-on-Tees has a conversion rate of 91.59% for parents applying for a 30 hour code with HMRC and then going on to access a 30 hour place with a childcare provider/school.

From data provided by DfE as at 31/7/24 there have been 1137 applications for 15 hours funded childcare from parents with children aged from 9 months to 2 years old who will be eligible for a place from September 2024.

**Under year 1 old**  
125 applications

**1 year old**  
689 applications

**2 year old**  
323 applications

#### Take-up of 2 year places for parents on certain government benefits by ward

Ward	No. accessing a place	No. eligible as per DWP data	Percentage take-up
Billingham Central	23	25	92%
Billingham East	37	39	94.87%
Billingham North	0	7	0%
Billingham South	35	37	94.59%
Billingham West & Wolviston	7	5	140%
Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree	8	9	88.89%
Eaglescliffe East	23	11	209.09%
Eaglescliffe West	6	5	120%
Fairfield	7	7	100%
Grangefield	20	7	285.71%
Hardwick	35	53	66.04%
Hartburn	12	9	133.33%
Ingleby North	3	17	17.65%
Ingleby South	18	11	163.63%
Mandale & Victoria	49	52	94.23%
Newtown	32	42	76.19%
Northern Parishes	5	10	50%
Norton Central	22	36	61.11%
Norton North	7	10	70%
Norton South	31	31	100%
Ropner	43	47	91.49%
Roseworth	40	53	75.47%
Southern Villages	0	2	0%
Stainsby Hill	41	35	117.14%
Stockton Town Centre	28	60	46.67%
Village	32	36	88.89%
Yarm	15	10	150%
<b>Total</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>86.94%</b>

Source Stockton-on Tees Borough Council FIS July 2024

## Two year old entitlement for parents on certain government benefits

At the end of July 2024, there were 579 two year olds accessing a free childcare place, this equates to 86.94% of eligible children accessing a place. Compared to summer 2023 data this is a decrease of 8.4%. Percentage take-up is calculated from information received from DWP on the number of potentially eligible 2yr olds.

## Disability access fund

The disability access fund is available for childcare providers to claim an additional £910 per child per year for a child attending their setting who is attracting disability living allowance. It was introduced in April 2017 and is for children who are claiming early years entitlement for children from aged nine months to four years old. The provider can spend the funding on resources, equipment, minor adaptations, or staff training to benefit the child. In 23/24 48 children benefitted from this funding, this is a decrease of 0.04% compared to 22/23 data.

## Early years pupil premium

Early years pupil premium is an extra amount of funding providers receive to help them support their most disadvantaged children. Children qualify if they aged from nine months to four years old and are receiving government-funded early education, and their parents receive benefits used to access free school meals.

As at summer 2024 892 children benefitted from this funding, this is an increase of 29% compared to summer 2023 data, this is due to the funding now being available to children from aged 2 years old, previously this was only available to children aged 3 or 4 years old claiming early years funding.

# Quality of provision

Stockton-on-Tees has a good range of quality childcare across the borough with the majority (96.8%) of provision rated good or outstanding as of July 2024, which is lower than the national percentage (98%) and regional percentage (98%) as of 31 March 2024. Support and challenge are given to settings and childminders that are less than good to improve provision and Ofsted ratings.

100% of settings are graded good or outstanding, which is higher than the national percentage 97% and the regional percentage 89%. 95% of childminders are graded good or outstanding which is lower than the national percentage 97% and the regional percentage 98%.

**100%**  
group settings  
Good or Outstanding

**95%**  
childminders  
Good or Outstanding

**96.8%**  
all childcare providers  
Good or Outstanding

If you would like to read the latest Ofsted report for an individual setting or childminder these can be found on the Stockton Information Directory on each childcare provider record at [www.stocktoninformationdirectory.org/childcare-listings](http://www.stocktoninformationdirectory.org/childcare-listings).

# Analysis of provider and parent surveys

## Provider Survey

A provider survey took place in February to assess the preparedness of the sector for the new entitlements. There was a total of 75 responses to the survey from group settings and childminders, which is a response rate of 49%.

## Group settings

31 (65%) nurseries and playgroups out of a total of 48 nurseries responded to the survey.

When asked how many new funded 2 year olds would be accessing a place from the summer term, 299 two year olds already attending their provision would be converting to a funded place and 117 would be new starters. 216 would be accessing additional paid for hours.

When asked about demand for 2yr places, 7 providers would not be able to meet demand and 1 was unsure. 10 were already holding a waiting list for 2yr olds.

When asked about demand for children aged 9 months to 23 months, 7 do not offer places to this age group and 1 could not meet demand for this age group. 14 providers could meet demand for this age group and 9 were unsure whether they could meet demand.

86 places would be available for the younger age group, of those providers who can meet demand.

5 providers need to reconfigure rooms to meet demand for the younger age group. 4 were unsure whether they needed to reconfigure rooms. 5 were not delivering to this age group and 17 did not need to make any physical changes.

80 additional places can be created for this age group.

10 providers require capital funding to offer places for 2yr olds and 7 providers would require funding to offer places to 9mth-23mth old children.

When asked if they would limit places for 2yr olds - 5 responded yes and 10 were unsure.

When asked if they would limit places for 9mth-23mth olds - 8 responded yes and 9 were unsure.

Of those providers who responded 20 needed to recruit staff. The qualification levels of those need to be recruited are:

Level 3 - 23

Level 2 - 10

Unqualified - 3

3 providers need to recruit unqualified, level 2 and level 3, 7 providers need to recruit level 2 and 3, 14 need to recruit level 3 only and 2 need to recruit level 2 only.

7 providers would like specific training for babies, blossoming babies, sleep and hazard awareness for babies.

## Childminders

44 (42%) out of 105 childminders responded to the survey

When asked how many new funded 2 year olds would be accessing a place from the summer term, 68 two year olds already attending their provision would be converting to a funded place and 6 would be new starters. 40 would be accessing additional paid for hours.

When asked about demand for 2yr places, 7 childminders would not be able to meet demand and 1 was unsure. 9 already hold a waiting list for 2yr olds.

When asked about demand for children aged 9 months to 23 months, 1 does not offer places to children aged 9mths up to 23mths. 9 cannot meet demand for this age group. 25 childminders can meet demand for this age group and 9 were unsure whether they could meet demand.

34 places would be available for the younger age group, of those childminders who can meet demand.

3 childminders would need to reconfigure rooms to meet demand for the younger age group. 4 were unsure whether they needed to reconfigure rooms. 2 were not delivering to this age group and 35 did not need to make any physical changes.

13 additional places can be created for this age group.

5 childminders require capital funding to offer places for 2yr olds and 5 childminders would require funding to offer places to 9mth-23mth old children.

When asked if they would limit places for 2yr olds - 8 responded yes and 8 were unsure. 18 would limit the number of places.

When asked if they would limit places for 9mth-23mth old - 6 responded yes and 8 were unsure. 12 would limit the number of places.

Of those childminders who responded 2 needed to recruit staff. The qualification levels of those need to be recruited are:

Level 3 - 2

Level 2 - 1

Unqualified - 0

1 childminder would like training for baby sign, baby yoga, baby massage and 1 would like in depth SEND.

## Parent/Carer Wraparound Childcare Survey

A survey was undertaken in April to assess the demand for wraparound childcare for primary school aged children of working parents. The results of the survey can be found at appendix 1.

