

# Childcare sufficiency update 2012

Early years and childcare service

## Contents

1. Introduction .....	3
1.1 Previous findings from CSA 2011 .....	3
1.2 Methodology .....	4
2. Supply and demand of childcare and early education services.....	6
2.1 Quality of childcare settings and occupancy rates.....	6
2.2 Provision of sessional settings .....	8
2.3 Provision of maintained nursery schools and classes .....	12
2.4 Provision of day nurseries .....	13
2.5 Provision of out of school settings .....	16
2.5.1 Before and/or after school care.....	16
2.5.2 Holiday playschemes .....	18
2.6 Provision of childminders.....	18
2.7 Provision of early education .....	19
2.7.1 The provision and use of the Early Years Free Entitlement in Surrey 2011 .....	19
3. Next steps.....	20

## 1. Introduction

In 2011, Surrey County Council's Early Years and Childcare Service (EYCS) carried out a second full childcare sufficiency assessment (CSA). The 2006 Childcare Act places a duty on Local Authorities (LAs) to make sure there are enough childcare places of high quality for parents that need them to allow them to work or to train. There also needs to be enough services for parents of eligible children to take up their offer of free early education, even for parents who are not working or training. Childcare is defined as any form of care for a child including education and any other supervised activity (section 18 of the 2006 Childcare Act). This includes care registered with Office for Standards in Education (OfSTED) or care offered on a school site.

Surrey County Council is required to work closely with parents and carers to identify their childcare needs and, as far as reasonably practical, secure services to allow them to work, or to undertake training (section 6 of the 2006 Childcare Act). We must also secure the free entitlement to early education for pre-school children aged three to four years (section 7 of the 2006 Childcare Act). Close attention has to be made to the needs of parents of disabled children, and families on low income.

EYCS uses findings from the CSA to identify gaps in childcare provision in the county and help us manage the childcare market, making sure that:

- There are enough childcare places,
- Childcare places are of high quality,
- A range of childcare services are offered to meet parents' needs,
- Childcare places are accessible, and
- Enough information is available to parents and carers to allow them to make informed decisions about childcare services.

### 1.1 Previous findings from CSA 2011

As a result of the second full CSA, we found that:

- Over a third (35%) of parents in Surrey are not using as much childcare as they would like to allow them to work or train,
- Affordability of childcare is the most common issue for parents regardless of their household income,
- There is a need for greater provision of services catering for disabled children and children with special needs,
- Providers of sessional pre-school childcare report that additional places are needed to meet current demand for children aged two to four years, and
- Working parents need childcare that is open long enough to cover their working hours and to cover commuting times.

The full report is available on our website, [www.surreycc.gov.uk/fis](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/fis).

## 1.2 Methodology

The EYCS updates the childcare sufficiency assessment annually (CSA), bringing together data from various sources to effectively analyse the supply and demand for childcare services, and to identify gaps in provision.

Gaps in provision are identified through:

- Analysing childcare supply data held by the EYCS,
- Analysing self-completion postal questionnaires completed by childcare providers to collect information about take-up of places, and details of provision, and
- Analysing Office for Standards in Education (OfSTED) inspection outcomes for childcare and early education settings.

In this report, comparisons are made to findings reported in the second full CSA (2011). Where differences are reported as significant, this means statistically significant at the 5% level. That is, we can be 95% confident that the difference is real and not just due to chance.

Where sessional settings are referred to, these include extended day playgroups, nursery units of independent schools and pre-school playgroups. Where out of school settings are referred to, these include all before and/or after school clubs.

Where county areas are reported, north-east includes Epsom & Ewell, Elmbridge and Spelthorne, north-west includes Runnymede, Surrey Heath and Woking, south-east includes Mole Valley, Reigate & Banstead and Tandridge, and south-west includes Guildford and Waverley.

Data held by EYCS are downloaded intermittently. For the CSA in 2011, information was correct at 01 August 2010. For the CSA update 2012, information is correct at 31 December 2011.

Boundaries for children's centre reach areas have recently changed. The boundaries used are as at 31 December 2011. Where children's centre reach areas are reported, figures from 2011 have been recalculated where appropriate. The areas used are listed below:

**Figure 1.1 List of children's centre reach area**

<b>Children's centre area number</b>	<b>Children's centre area name</b>	<b>Children's centre area number</b>	<b>Children's centre area name</b>
1	Ewell Court & Ruxley	37	Epsom & Langley Vale
2	Guildford, Westborough	38	Pyrford & Byfleet
3	Merstham, Bletchingly & Nutfield	39	Woodhatch, Leigh & Charlwood
4	Goldsworth Park	40	Caterham
5	Farnham Hale	41	Guildford, Tillingbourne
6	Godalming Central, Milford & Witley	42	Tongham, Pilgrims & Worplesdon
7	Epsom, Ewell & College	44	Knaphill
8	Walton North	45	West End & Chobham
9	Ashford	46	Woldingham, Tatsfield & Valley
10	Stanwell & Stanwell Moor	47	Burpham, Merrow, Horsley & Ripley
11	Redhill	48	Meadvale & Earlswood
12	Guildford, Stoke	49	Cranleigh, Dunsfold & Chiddingfold
13	Sunbury North	50	Horsell & Ottershaw
14	Ash	51	Woking South
15	Frimley and Camberley South	52	Molesey & Field Common
16	Leatherhead	53	Oxshott & Claygate
17	Godalming Binscombe & Shalford	54	Warlingham & Whyteleafe
18	Hersham & Walton Ambleside	55	Frensham & Elstead
19	Maybury & Sheerwater	57	Pirbright & Brookwood
20	Horley West	58	Cuddington, Stoneleigh & East Ewell
21	Mayford & Send	60	Bookham, Fetcham & Effingham
22	Camberley North	63	Thames Ditton & Lower Green
23	Dorking and Dorking rural	64	Haslemere & Hindhead
24	Addlestone & New Haw		Banstead, Chipstead, Netherne & Woodmansterne
25	Lightwater & Bagshot	65	Burstow, Horley East & Outwood
26	Egham, Virginia Water & Englefield Green	66	Burstow, Horley East & Outwood
27	Farnham Central	69	Reigate
28	Staines	70	Chertsey South & Woodham
29	Chertsey & Thorpe	71	Mytchett & Deepcut
30	Weybridge	73	Long Ditton
31	Preston, Tadworth & Kingswood	75	Ashtead
33	Lingfield & Dormansland		Betchworth, Boxhill, Brockham & Walton
34	Oxted, Hurst Green & Holland	77	
35	Cobham		
36	Sunbury South		

## **2. Supply and demand of childcare and early education services**

The EYCS collects and provides information on the provision of childcare and early education services on a regular basis.

Numbers of childcare settings and places fluctuate throughout the year. The audit of childcare and early education is a snapshot of childcare provision carried out on an annual basis in Surrey, based on information provided by OfSTED and collected from providers. Previous audit reports can be found on the Surrey County Council website: [www.surreycc.gov.uk/eycpractitioners](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/eycpractitioners). As part of the audit, childcare penetration rates are calculated by dividing the total number of childcare places by the number of children in the appropriate age group, and multiplying by 100. This indicates whether the supply of childcare places is enough to meet potential demand. Population figures are based on live birth data for children aged 0-4 years and 2001 Census data for children aged 5-14 years. The childcare supply and density figures are correct at 31 December 2011.

Occupancy rates are collected from group providers in the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector on an annual basis as part of the Surrey childcare and early education practitioner census. Occupancy rate is calculated by dividing the total number of hours attended by all children per week by the total number of available hours for the week, and multiplying by 100. When discussing occupancy rates, settings are defined as busy or full if they have an occupancy rate at 85% and over. Occupancy rates between 70% and 84% are classed as healthy. Occupancy rates are correct at January 2011.

Occupancy rates for maintained nursery schools and classes are calculated differently. These are calculated by dividing the number of children who attended the setting in the spring 2012 term by the setting's pupil admissions number (PAN). This assumes that each child takes up the full entitlement, which is the case for the majority of children but not for all.

Information about childcare providers unable to meet demand for childcare services is also collected from providers on an annual basis. This information is collected for group providers as part of the Surrey childcare and early education practitioner census. For childminders, this information is collected as part of the annual survey to find out their views on the childcare market.

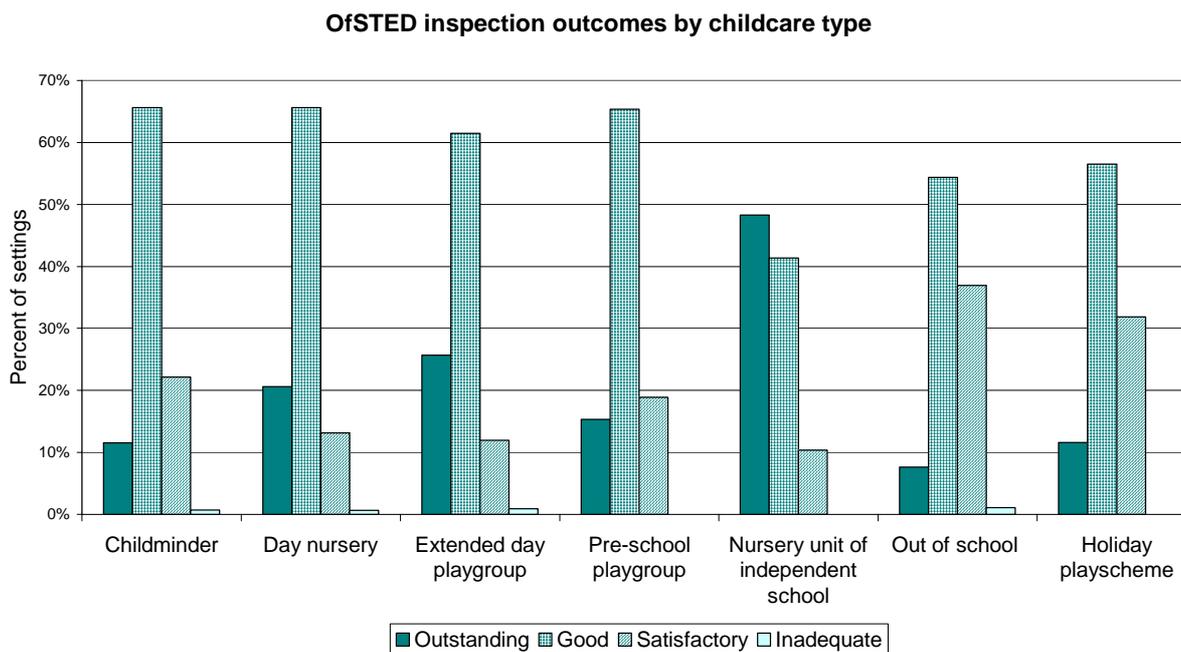
Penetration rates, occupancy rates and providers unable to meet demand are mapped together to identify areas where childcare provision may not be able to meet increases in demands.

### **2.1 Quality of childcare settings and occupancy rates**

In Surrey, most childcare settings are OfSTED rated "good" or "outstanding". Over three quarters of childminders (77%) are OfSTED rated "good" or "outstanding", with the percentage of group pre-school settings ranging from 81% to 90% (in ascending order, 81% of pre-school playgroups, 86% of day nurseries, 87% of extended day playgroups and 90% of nursery units of independent schools). Over two thirds (68%) of holiday schemes are OfSTED rated "good" or "outstanding", as are 62% of out of school settings (all before and/or after school clubs).

In 2011, occupancy rates for day nurseries and sessional settings were found to be related to OfSTED outcomes, with settings that receive “good” or “outstanding” outcomes more likely to have occupancy rates of 85% or higher than settings that receive a “satisfactory” or “inadequate” outcome. However, this year more settings that are OfSTED rated “satisfactory” or “inadequate” have high occupancy rates and the gap between “satisfactory” or “inadequate” settings and “good” or “outstanding” settings has narrowed. Occupancy rates have increased overall in day nurseries and sessional settings. Occupancy rates have also remained stable or increased for day nurseries and sessional settings in nearly two thirds of children’s centre areas. In 2010, 15% of children’s centre areas had day nursery occupancy rates at 85% or over, rising to 18% in 2011. In 2010, 62% of children’s centre areas had sessional setting occupancy rates at 85% or over, rising to 63% in 2011.

**Figure 2.1.1 OfSTED outcomes by childcare type**



**Figure 2.1.2 Occupancy rates by OfSTED outcomes**

	Settings OfSTED rated good or outstanding			Settings OfSTED rated satisfactory or inadequate		
	Count of settings	Settings with an occupancy rate of 85% and above	Settings with an occupancy rate below 85%	Count of settings	Settings with an occupancy rate of 85% and above	Settings with an occupancy rate below 85%
<b>Day nurseries</b>	131	29%	71%	18	28%	72%
<b>Sessional settings (morning sessions)</b>	278	74%	26%	57	65%	35%

## 2.2 Provision of sessional settings

In the PVI sector (as at 31 December 2011) there are 410 sessional settings offering 14,174 places, increasing from 407 sessional settings offering 13,860 places. The overall penetration rate is 35%, similar to 2010. The penetration rates in disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged areas are significantly different at 26% and 44%, respectively.

The overall occupancy rate is high at 85% for sessional settings, increasing from 83% in 2010. Differences between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged areas are not as evident with occupancy rates of 86% and 85%, respectively.

Penetration rates for sessional settings vary greatly across children's centre reach areas. Most children's centre areas are significantly higher or significantly lower than the overall penetration rate.

Penetration rates for sessional places for children aged two to four years are significantly lower in the following children's centre reach areas:

- 1 Ewell Court and Ruxley
- 2 Guildford Westborough
- 3 Merstham, Bletchingley and Nutfield
- 4 Goldsworth Park
- 5 Farnham Hale
- 7 Epsom, Ewell and College
- 8 Walton North
- 10 Stanwell and Stanwell Moor
- 11 Redhill
- 12 Guildford Stoke

- 13 Sunbury North
- 15 Frimley and Camberley South
- 17 Godalming Binscombe and Shalford
- 19 Maybury and Sheerwater
- 20 Horley West
- 22 Camberley North
- 24 Addlestone and New Haw
- 26 Egham, Virginia Water and Englefield Green
- 31 Preston, Tadworth and Kingswood
- 44 Knaphill
- 48 Meadvale and Earlswood
- 52 Molesey and Field Common
- 54 Warlingham and Whyteleafe
- 58 Cuddington, Stoneleigh and East Ewell
- 70 Chertsey South and Woodham

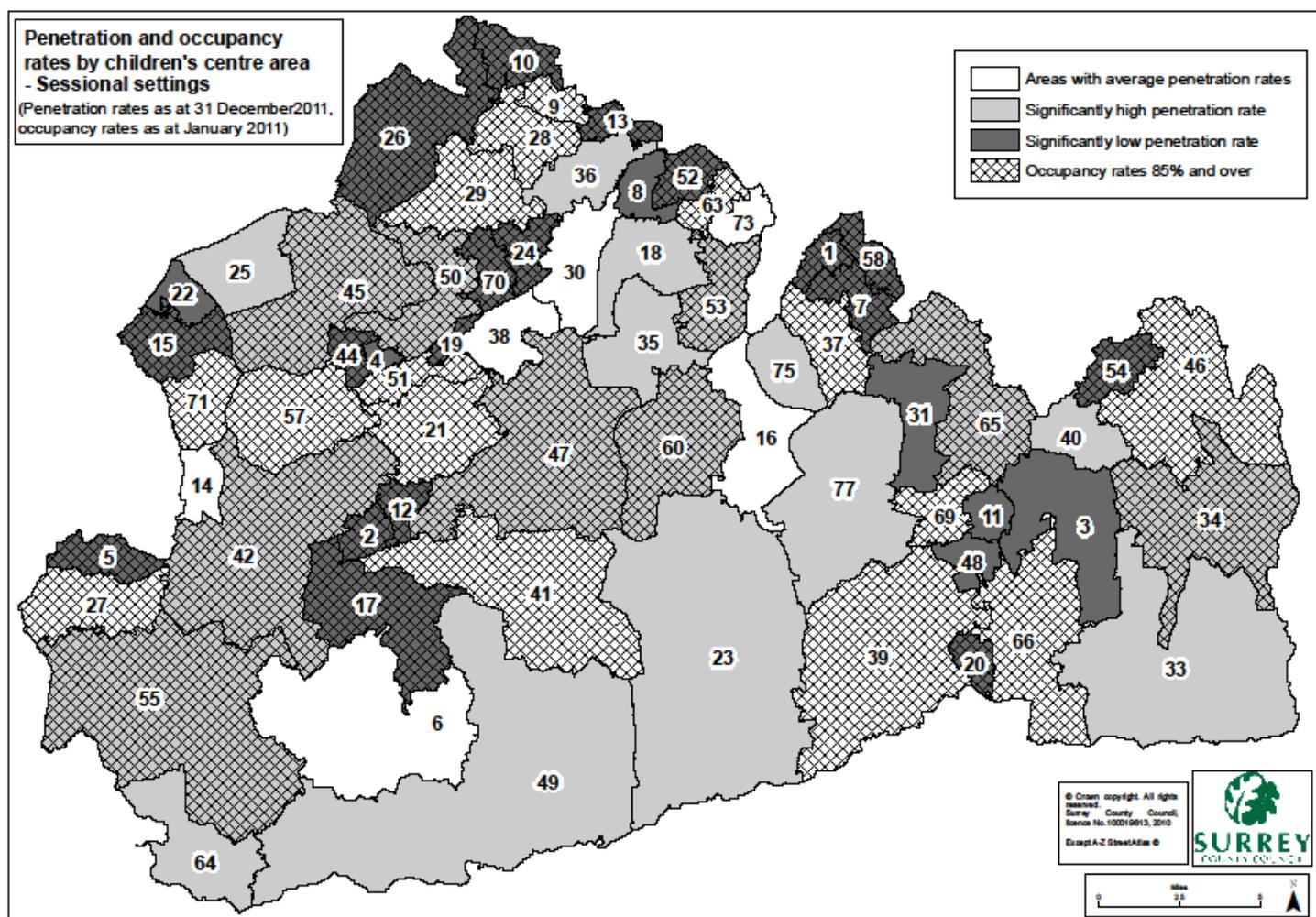
In areas 4 and 31, the average occupancy rates are low at 60% and 64%, respectively. In areas 3, 8, 11, 22 and 48 average occupancy rates range from 76% to 84%. For the remaining areas listed above, occupancy rates are 85% and above.

Penetration rates for sessional places for children aged two to four years are significantly higher in the following children's centre reach areas:

- 18 Hersham and Walton Ambleside
- 23 Dorking and Dorking Rural
- 25 Lightwater and Bagshot
- 33 Lingfield and Dormansland
- 34 Oxted, Hurst Green and Holland
- 35 Cobham
- 36 Sunbury South
- 40 Caterham
- 42 Tongham, Pilgrims and Worplesdon
- 45 West End and Chobham
- 47 Burpham, Merrow, Horsley and Ripley
- 49 Cranleigh, Dunsfold and Chiddingfold
- 50 Horsell and Ottershaw
- 53 Oxshott and Claygate
- 55 Frensham and Elstead
- 60 Bookham, Fetcham and Effingham
- 64 Haslemere and Hindhead
- 65 Banstead, Chipstead, Netherne and Woodmansterne
- 75 Ashted
- 77 Betchworth, Box Hill, Brockham and Walton

In area 33, the average occupancy rate is low at 66%. In areas 18, 23, 25, 35, 36, 40, 49, 64, 75 and 77 occupancy rates range between 73% and 83%. For the remaining areas listed above, occupancy rates are 85% and above.

**Figure 2.2.1 Map showing penetration and occupancy rates in sessional settings by children’s centre areas**



In 2011, findings from the CSA suggested a need for additional sessional provision. Parents report that preferred provision is usually oversubscribed and that there is a need for more high quality provision to allow them to have a true choice.

Nearly two thirds of children’s centre areas have an average occupancy rate of 85% or over for sessional settings. Children’s centre areas that may struggle to meet a potential increase in demand are:

- 1 Ewell Court and Ruxley
- 2 Guildford Westborough
- 5 Farnham Hale
- 7 Epsom, Ewell and College
- 9 Ashford
- 10 Stanwell and Stanwell Moor
- 12 Guildford Stoke
- 13 Sunbury North
- 15 Frimley and Camberley South
- 17 Godalming Binscombe and Shalford
- 19 Maybury and Sheerwater
- 20 Horley West
- 21 Mayford and Send
- 24 Addlestone and New Haw
- 26 Egham, Virginia Water and Englefield Green
- 27 Farnham Central
- 28 Staines
- 29 Chertsey Thorpe
- 34 Oxted, Hurst Green and Holland
- 37 Epsom and Langley Vale
- 39 Woodhatch, Leigh and Charlwood
- 41 Guildford Tillingbourne
- 42 Tongham, Pilgrims and Worplesdon
- 44 Knaphill
- 45 West End and Chobham
- 46 Woldingham, Tatsfield and Valley
- 47 Burpham, Meroon, Horsley and Ripley
- 50 Horsell and Ottershaw
- 51 Woking South
- 52 Molesey and Field Common
- 53 Oxshott and Claygate
- 54 Warlingham and Whyteleafe
- 55 Frensham and Elstead
- 57 Pirbright and Brookwood
- 58 Cuddington, Stoneleigh and East Ewell
- 60 Bookham, Fetcham and Effingham
- 63 Thames Ditton and Lower Green
- 65 Banstead, Chipstead, Netherne and Woodmansterne
- 66 Burstow, Horley East and Outwood
- 69 Reigate
- 70 Chertsey South and Woodham
- 71 Mytchett and Deepcut

## 2.3 Provision of maintained nursery schools and classes

A local authority maintained nursery class or school offers funded early education places to children aged between three and five years. These are generally available on a sessional basis, either in the morning or the afternoon, during term time only.

In spring 2012, 71 maintained nursery settings offered 3656 places (excluding places offered by special schools as these can vary depending on the needs of the children). These places were offered through six classes in special schools, four nursery schools and 61 classes in primary, infant and first schools. As these were initially developed in areas of disadvantage, there are a number of children's centre areas where there is no maintained nursery provision:

9	Ashford
14	Ash
25	Lightwater and Bagshot
35	Cobham
37	Epsom and Langley Vale
41	Guildford Tillingbourne
45	West End and Chobham
47	Burpham, Merrow, Horsley and Ripley
49	Cranleigh, Dunsfold and Chiddingfold
51	Woking South
53	Oxshott and Claygate
54	Warlingham and Whyteleafe
55	Frensham and Elstead
60	Bookham, Fetcham and Effingham
63	Thames Ditton and Lower Green
64	Haslemere and Hindhead
70	Chertsey South and Woodham
75	Ashted
77	Betchworth, Box Hill, Brockham and Walton

Maintained nursery schools or classes in the following children's centre areas may have capacity as occupancy rates are not classed as full or very busy (occupancy rates of 85% or over):

3	Merstham, Bletchingley and Nutfield
16	Leatherhead
38	Pyrford and Byfleet
40	Caterham
42	Tongham, Pilgrims and Worplesdon
46	Woldingham, Tatsfield and Valley
50	Horsell and Ottershaw
66	Burstow, Horley East and Outwood

Provision offered in the above settings should be taken into account for areas 42, 46, 50 and 66 as identified in section 2.2. Although PVI settings may struggle to meet an increase in demand for sessional pre-school provision, maintained settings are not full.

## **2.4 Provision of day nurseries**

There are 172 day nurseries offering 10,336 places (as at 31 December 2011), increasing from 166 day nurseries offering 9,521 places in 2010. The overall penetration rate is 15%, similar to 2010. The penetration rates for day nurseries in disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged areas are significantly different also at 13% and 18%, respectively.

The overall occupancy rate is 72% for day nurseries, increasing from 69% in 2010. Again, differences between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged areas are not as evident with occupancy rates of 71% and 73%, respectively.

Penetration rates for day nurseries vary across children's centre reach areas. Most children's centre areas are similar to the overall penetration rate, while some are significantly higher or significantly lower than this rate.

Penetration rates for day nursery places for children aged naught to four years is significantly lower in the following children's centre reach areas:

- 8 Walton North
- 9 Ashford
- 13 Sunbury North
- 17 Godalming Binscombe and Shalford
- 20 Horley West
- 21 Mayford and Send
- 26 Egham, Virginia Water and Englefield Green
- 30 Weybridge
- 38 Pyrford and Byfleet
- 51 Woking South
- 52 Molesey and Field Common
- 54 Warlingham and Whyteleafe
- 55 Frensham and Elstead
- 60 Bookham, Fetcham and Effingham
- 65 Banstead, Chipstead, Netherne and Woodmansterne

Occupancy rates in areas 9, 13, 20, 54 and 65 are high (82% and over). The occupancy rate in area 55 is low at 40%. For the remaining areas listed above, occupancy rates fall between 60% and 77%.

Penetration rates for day nursery places for children aged up to four years is significantly higher in the following children's centre reach areas:

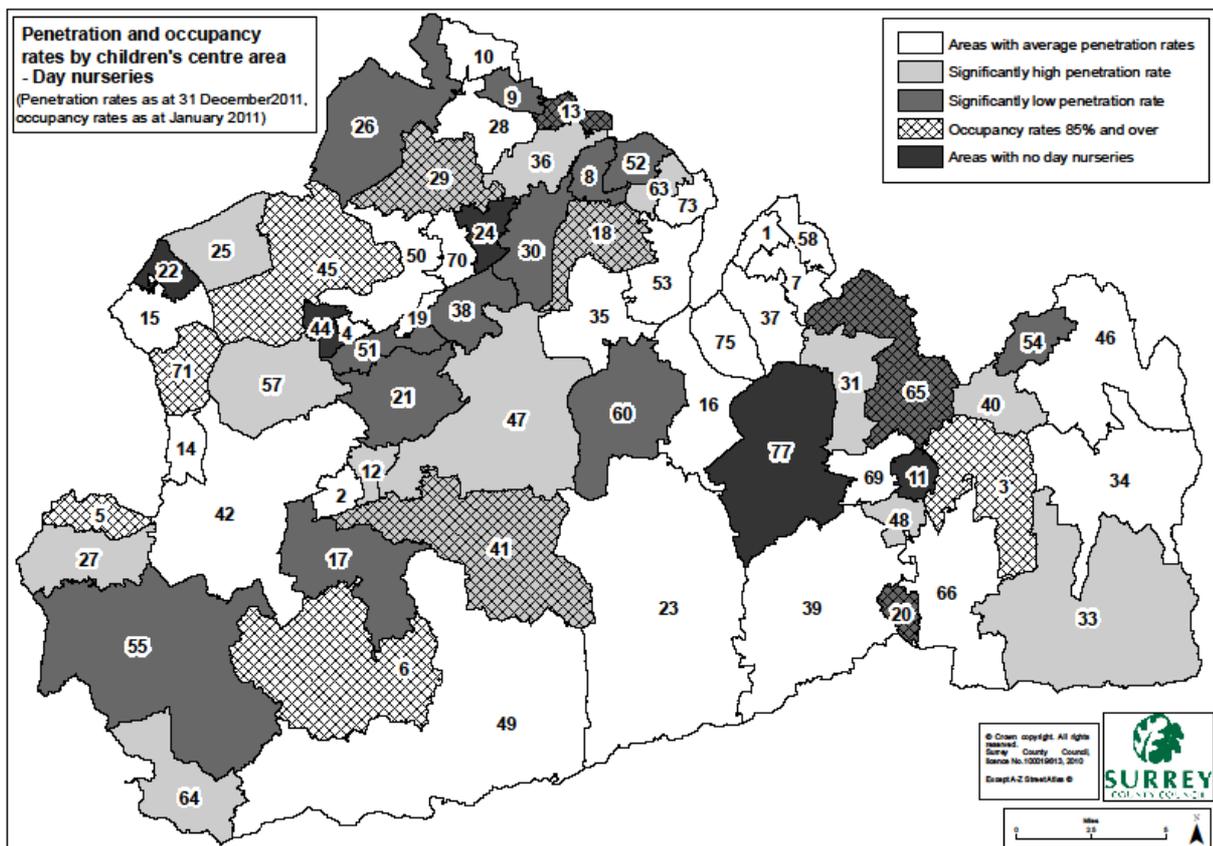
- 12 Guildford Stoke
- 18 Hersham and Walton Ambleside
- 25 Lightwater and Bagshot
- 27 Farnham Central
- 29 Chertsey and Thorpe
- 31 Preston, Tadworth and Kingswood
- 33 Lingfield and Dormansland
- 36 Sunbury South
- 40 Caterham
- 41 Guildford Tillingbourne
- 47 Burpham, Merrow, Horsley and Ripley
- 48 Meadvale and Earlswood
- 57 Pirbright and Brookwood
- 63 Thames Ditton and Lower Green
- 64 Haslemere and Hindhead

Occupancy rates in areas 18, 29 and 41 are high (88% and over). For the remaining areas listed above, occupancy rates fall between 54% and 79%.

There are no day nurseries in the following children's centre reach areas:

- 11 Redhill
- 22 Camberley North
- 24 Addlestone and New Haw
- 44 Knaphill
- 77 Betchworth, Box Hill, Brockham and Walton

**Figure 2.4.1 Map showing day nursery penetration and occupancy rates in children's centre areas**



Children's centre areas that may struggle to meet a potential increase in demand are:

- 3 Merstham, Bletchingley and Nutfield
- 5 Farnham Hale
- 6 Godalming Central, Milford and Witley
- 13 Sunbury North
- 18 Hersham and Walton Ambleside
- 20 Horley West
- 29 Chertsey and Thorpe
- 41 Guildford Tillingbourne
- 45 West End and Chobham
- 65 Banstead, Chipstead, Netherne and Woodmansterne
- 71 Mytchett and Deepcut

Areas 6, 13, 29 and 71 were identified as gaps in the recent CSA.

## 2.5 Provision of out of school settings

### 2.5.1 Before and/or after school care

There are 266 before and/or after school settings offering 8,015 places (as at 31 December 2011), increasing from 238 before and/or after school settings offering 7,347 places in 2010. The overall penetration rate is 7%, similar to 2010. The penetration rates for before and/or after school settings in disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged areas are also 7%.

Less than a third of maintained infant, junior and primary schools do not have access to before and/or after school group childcare settings (access includes on site settings and settings that offer pick up services from named schools). There are four children's centre reach areas where no infant, junior or primary schools have access to before and/or after school group childcare settings. These areas are 16 Leatherhead, 45 West End and Chobham, 55 Frensham and Elstead and 77 Betchworth, Box Hill, Brockham and Walton. Areas 45, 55 and 77 were noted in the same position in the 2010 CSA. However, all of the infant, junior and primary schools in these areas have childminders that can collect children from schools.

In 2010, there were no before and/or after school group childcare settings in area 12 Guildford Stoke. Now, two out of the four infant, junior and primary schools in area 12 have access to a pick-up service for an after school club.

No children's centre reach areas have a significantly lower penetration rate for before and/or after school settings than the Surrey average. The following children's centres have penetration rates for before and/or after school settings that are significantly higher than the Surrey average:

- 3 Merstham, Bletchingley and Nutfield
- 27 Farnham Central
- 36 Sunbury South
- 47 Burpham, Merrow, Horsley and Ripley
- 48 Meadvale and Earlswood

The following areas have low levels of out of school provision (over two thirds of schools in the area do not have an on-site or pick up service for any before and/or after school setting):

Area 24 Addlestone and New Haw:

There is one infant school and two primary schools in this area. The infant school and one primary school do not have any access to a before and/or after school setting. The other school has a before and after school setting on site, offering 24 places. All schools have childminders that are registered for pick up services.

#### Area 29 Chertsey and Thorpe:

There are three infant schools and three primary schools in this area. None of the infant schools and one of the primary schools do not have any access to a before and/or after school setting. The two other primary schools both have before and after school settings on site, offering 29 places each. All schools have childminders that are registered for pick up services.

#### Area 34 Oxted, Hurst Green and Holland:

There are three infant school, two junior schools and two primary schools in this area. None of the infant schools and neither of the junior schools have access to a before and/or after school setting. One of the primary schools has an after school setting on site, offering 34 places, and the other primary school has a before and after school setting on site offering 34 places. All schools have childminders that are registered for pick up services.

#### Area 46 Woldingham, Tatsfield and Valley:

There is one infant school and three primary schools in this area. The infant school and two of the primary schools do not have access to a before and/or after school setting. The other primary school has a before and after school setting on site, offering 46 places. All schools have childminders that are registered for pick up services.

#### Area 65 Banstead, Chipstead, Netherne and Woodmansterne:

There are two infant schools, two junior schools and three primary schools in this area. None of the infant and junior schools, and one of the primary schools do not have access to a before and/or after school setting. One of the primary schools has a before school setting on site, offering 65 places, and the other primary school has a before and after school setting on site, offering 65 places also. All schools have childminders that are registered for pick up services.

In 2010, the CSA found that parents expect out of school provision to be offered on school sites. Children's centre areas that may struggle to meet a potential increase in demand are:

4	Goldsworth Park
5	Farnham Hale
8	Walton North
10	Stanwell and Stanwell Moor
18	Hersham and Walton Ambleside
26	Egham, Virginia Water and Englefield Green
30	Weybridge
35	Cobham
38	Pyrford and Byfleet
44	Knaphill
45	West End and Chobham
48	Meadvale and Earlswood
70	Chertsey South and Woodham

- 73 Long Ditton
- 75 Ashtead

### **2.5.2 Holiday playschemes**

There are 142 holiday playschemes in Surrey offering a total of 8,050 places. The overall penetration rate is 7% which is, again, similar to last year. The penetration rates for holiday playschemes in disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged areas are also 7%.

The following areas have no holiday playschemes:

- 11 Redhill
- 14 Ash
- 22 Camberley North
- 57 Pirbright and Brookwood
- 60 Bookham, Fetcham and Effingham
- 77 Betchworth, Box Hill, Brockham and Walton

Only areas 9, Ashford, and 33, Lingfield and Dormansland, have a significantly lower penetration rate when compared to the Surrey average. The following areas have a significantly higher penetration rate:

- 2 Guildford Westborough
- 3 Merstham, Bletchingley and Nutfield
- 18 Hersham and Walton Ambleside
- 29 Chertsey and Thorpe
- 35 Cobham
- 47 Burpham, Merrow, Horsley and Ripley
- 48 Meadvale and Earlswood
- 64 Haslemere and Hindhead

### **2.6 Provision of childminders**

There are 1,846 childminders offering 8,520 childcare places. Penetration rates for childminder places are 7% for pre-school places and 3% for out of school places, similar to last year.

In June 2011, just over a quarter of childminders were having problems filling childcare places; childminders report that this is mainly because there are too many other childminders and childcare settings in the area, as well as parents not knowing of their vacancies and using unregistered childcare. Similar to previous findings, nearly three quarters of childminders had requests from parents for childcare places that they were unable to accept in the last 12 months, mainly because they didn't have any available childcare places.

## 2.7 Provision of early education

The penetration rate for provision registered for the free entitlement for early education is 94%. There are 94 places for every 100 children aged 3 and 4 years in Surrey in the PVI and maintained sectors.

### 2.7.1 The provision and use of the Early Years Free Entitlement in Surrey 2011

The 2010/11 childcare sufficiency assessment (CSA) identified gaps in sessional pre-school provision in some parts of the county. Because of this, a project has been carried out to identify whether this was due to a lack of EYFE places for all eligible children in those areas. It investigates:

- the current supply and demand for EYFE places to determine if there are sufficient places being offered within the county,
- whether parents encounter any barriers to accessing the EYFE, and
- whether parents access a flexible EYFE offer to maximise take-up.

Information about the level of take-up of the EYFE is available from the council's information management system, ONE, and spring 2011 data is used here. 33% of four year olds accessed the EYFE in the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sectors and 7% accessed it in maintained nursery schools and classes. 60% percent of four year olds accessed the free early education in reception classes for a total of 100% of four year olds in early education. In the same term, 79% of three-year old children accessed the EYFE in the PVI sectors and 18% in the maintained sector for a total of 97%.

We surveyed parents of children currently accessing EYFE in the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector in Surrey. A main aim of the survey is to find out how parents use the EYFE, why some use more than one setting to do so, why some access less than the maximum entitlement, and associated satisfaction rates.

The project concludes that Surrey parents value the EYFE. They appreciate the opportunity it gives them to access pre-school provision. The take-up of EYFE in Surrey is very high and we estimate that less than 1% of children do not access any early education prior to entering reception. For the majority of parents that do not access the EYFE, this is through choice. However, a small percentage of these parents report that a lack of flexible EYFE places prevents them from using the entitlement.

Busy settings are often unable to offer flexibility in how the EYFE can be accessed. In order to access the EYFE at their preferred settings parents may need to compromise on the choice of sessions their child attends and may not be able to access the full EYFE of 15 hours a week. Just over a fifth of parents of eligible three year olds and nearly a quarter of parents of eligible four year olds that are not accessing the maximum entitlement, are not doing so because either the setting they use is open for less than 15 hours or because the setting is too busy to accommodate their preferred hours, days or sessions.

While rates of satisfaction with the EYFE are high among parents, often, parents do not understand what they are entitled to. As awareness of the EYFE increases, so may demand for access to flexible EYFE places, and to the maximum entitlement.

### **3. Next steps**

Surrey County Council calculates population projections to derive the future need for school places. These projections are based on probabilities and, while based on sound calculations, they come without guarantees. The projections are re-figured annually to allow for new factors and refine estimates. We are currently working on applying similar calculations to allow for a projection of the future need of EYFE places. These projections will be at borough and district level. Although we realise not every three and four year old will take up an EYFE place, information is included to allow for this (information on past EYFE take-up). This is currently being worked on and will be used within EYCS to inform service delivery. More specific information regarding these calculations can be found in the Surrey Schools Organisation Plan.

As part of the information considered, data are collected on planned housing developments from each borough and district council. Full information can be found in the audit of childcare and early education. Information collected in 2011 shows that Reigate & Banstead has the highest projected completions over the next five years (2,650 units).