

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment for 3 and 4 - year-old places in the Summer Term 2025

Produced by:

Childcare Sufficiency Team

November 2024

Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Conclusion	2
Data sources	3
Caveats.....	3
Disclaimer	3
Appendices.....	4
Map A: Estimated surplus places and potential gaps in childcare provision for 3 and 4-year-olds – North Kirklees	4
Map B: Estimated surplus places and potential gaps in childcare provision for 3 and 4-year-olds – South Kirklees	5
Map C: Estimated surplus places and potential gaps in childcare provision for 3 and 4-year-olds – All Kirklees	6
Table A: Current supply and estimated demand for childcare places for 3 and 4-year-olds – Summer term 2025	7
Table B: Estimated surplus and potential gaps in childcare places for 3 and 4 year olds in the Summer term 2025, and other indicators from the Summer term 2024	8
Table C: Number of funded 3 and 4-year-olds in the Summer term 2024 analysed by the ward of residence and the ward that their chosen early years and childcare provider is located.....	9
Table D: Data, methodology and indicators used to estimate demand and potential gaps in early years and childcare provision for 3- and 4-year-olds in September 2025	11

Introduction

The new early education and childcare entitlements mean that eligible working parents in England will be able to access 30 hours of funded childcare per week for 38 weeks each year from the term after their child turns 9 months to when they start school. This new entitlement is being rolled out as follows:

- From April 2024 - 15 hours for eligible 2-year-olds
- From September 2024 - 15 hours for eligible children aged 9-months to 2 years old
- From September 2025 – 30 hours for eligible children aged 9-months to 2 years old

Sufficiency assessments for the first two phases of the rollout were published in October 2023 and July 2024. Take-up of the expanded entitlement for working parents is still evolving and initially came from parents already using childcare services. Now the second phase has begun, parent's habits may start to change, hence creating new and increased demand.

This assessment considers the demand for and supply of places for 3- and 4-year-olds. The government have recently announced (on the 17 October 2024) capital funding for [School Based Nurseries](#). This may provide opportunities for schools to deliver new or extended services directly or to work with a provider in the private, voluntary or independent sector. Additional details beyond can be found here [Establishing school-based nursery provision](#).

The Local Authorities Childcare Sufficiency and School Place Planning Departments must be consulted before applications are submitted to the Department for Education. Applications can only be endorsed by the local authority where there is evidence of insufficient places.

Conclusion

The ward data used in this model (Table A) is based on the estimated population of 3- and 4-year-olds in the summer term 2025 and the supply of childcare places in the ward however, the demand for childcare is more transient than this model can represent as some parents access childcare provision across ward boundaries. This is illustrated in Table C. This table shows the number of 3 and 4-year-olds that accessed a 15-hour place in the summer term 2024, analysed by the ward that they reside and the ward that their chosen childcare provider is located.

Across Kirklees it is estimated that there are sufficient places overall however it is predicted there could be some pressures at ward level in the summer term 2025.

Table B includes two indicators which show the estimated surplus places or gap in provision at ward level for 3 and 4-year-olds. The first indicator is the estimated surplus or gap in provision calculated by subtracting the estimated demand in the summer term 2025 from the number of operational full-time equivalent (FTE) places currently available for 3 and 4-year-olds, i.e. the number of places currently offered by settings. The second indicator uses these data plus considers the spare capacity in childcare settings. Spare places are the difference between OFSTED registered places and places offered by settings. A full explanation of the data and methodology used to assess demand for and supply of childcare places for 3- and 4-year-olds can be found in Table D.

The Lindley Ward has the highest estimated gap of 51 full-time equivalent places, which reduces to 43 when taking into account the spare places in settings.

Pressures are also indicated in the following wards: Crosland Moor and Netherton, Denby Dale, Dewsbury West, Golcar, Holme Valley North, Kirkburton and Mirfield. However, in some of the surrounding wards estimates show there maybe surplus places, refer to the maps on pages 4-6.

Estimates show a gap in places for Ashbrow and Batley West Wards however there are surplus spare places in these areas hence solutions could be found by recruitment of staff to utilise spare space. Where possible, it is generally considered a more sustainable solution to use existing capacity ahead of encouraging new provision.

346 children access their place in provision outside Kirklees and 187 children who reside outside Kirklees access their place in a Kirklees setting meaning that the net movement of children accessing provision over the Kirklees border is 159. 45 of these children reside in Birstall and Birkenshaw and 39 in Dewsbury East. This could be due to parental choice for example parents using childcare closer to their workplace.

3- and 4-year-old place expansion and creation cannot be considered entirely separately from the younger age groups hence a summarised sufficiency assessment for 0- to 4-year-old places will be published in due course.

Data sources

- OFSTED - Number of childcare places registered with Ofsted at September 2024.
- Early Years and Childcare Providers:
 - Number of childcare places offered (i.e. operational places) in the summer term 2024.
 - Vacant childcare places collected in the summer term 2024.
 - Early Education and Care Funding Claims – 3- and 4-year-olds summer term 2024.
- GP Registrations dated October 2024

Caveats

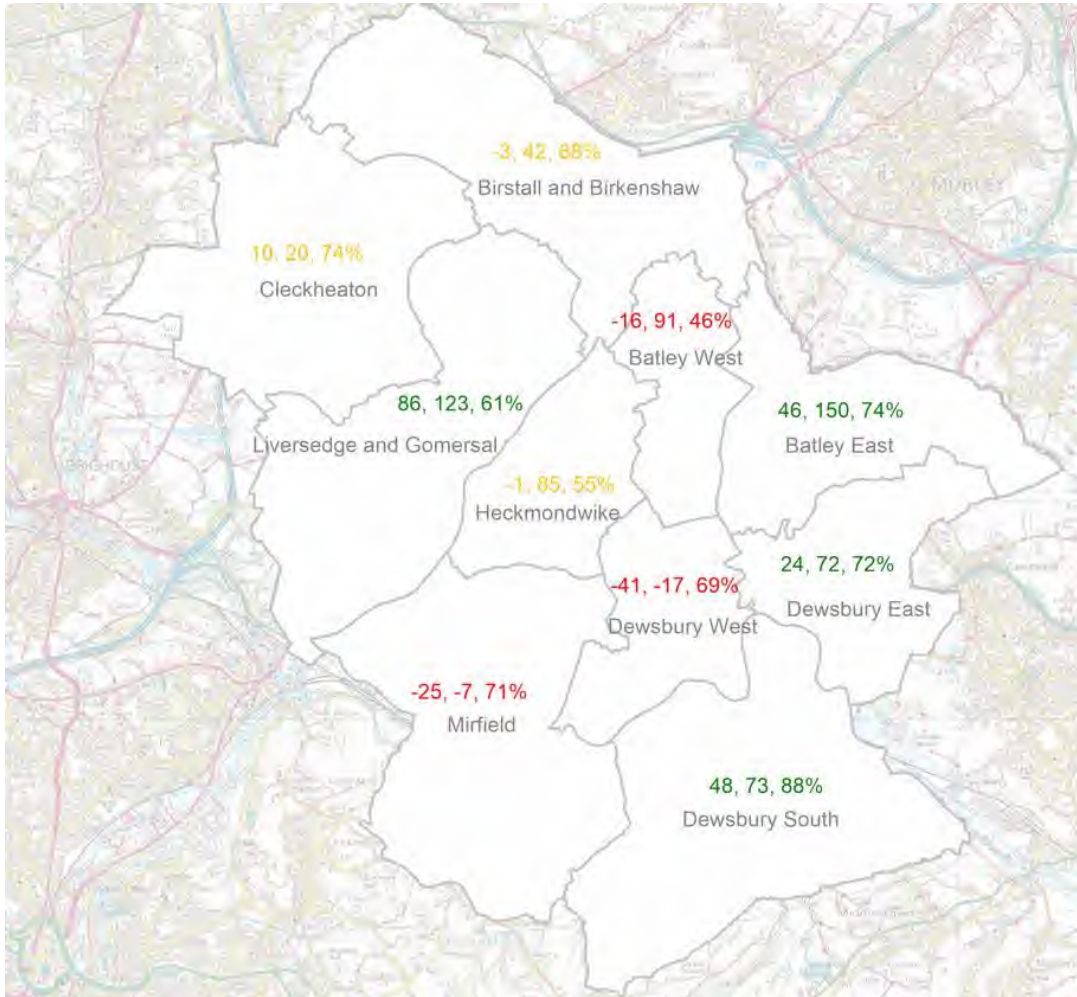
- The estimated demand and potential gaps are based mainly on information collected from early years and childcare providers, for example operational places (i.e. places currently offered), vacant places and funding claims. These can change frequently although updates are only collected on a termly basis.
- Children currently attending settings, and their hours of attendance could vary between the date of publication and the summer term 2025.
- The estimated surplus and potential gaps in provision assume that 100% of 3- and 4-year-olds will access a place in the ward they reside. Demand for childcare is more transient as explained above.
- Supply data excludes childminders not currently registered to deliver funded early years places; these childminders provide 125 full time equivalent OFSTED registered places.

Disclaimer

The data used to assess the supply of and demand for early learning and childcare comes from a variety of sources, including many childcare providers, before being aggregated. Whilst care is taken to ensure accuracy, Kirklees Council will not be held liable for any inaccuracies. Data is collected at a fixed point in time therefore will change between collection and the date of publication. Data is used to indicate where there may be gaps in provision, however Kirklees Council would always recommend that, prior to establishing a new childcare business or expanding an existing business, thorough market research is carried out.

Appendices

Map A: Estimated surplus places and potential gaps in childcare provision for 3 and 4-year-olds – North Kirklees



Figures shown on the map

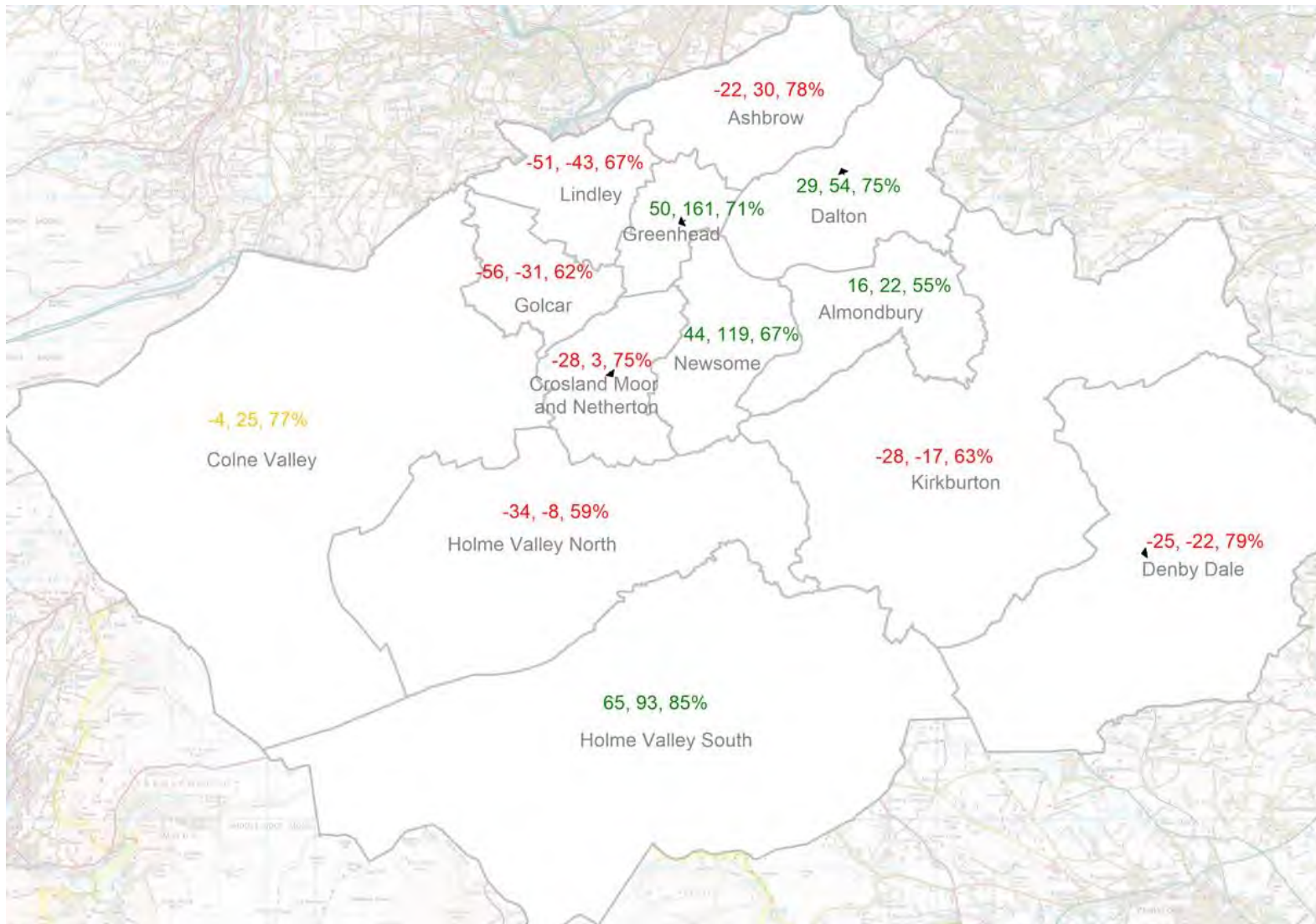
The first figure is the estimated surplus places or gap based on estimated demand in the Summer term 2025 and the number of operational full-time equivalent (FTE) places for 3 and 4-year-olds, i.e. the number of places currently offered.

The second figure is the estimated surplus places or gap plus the estimated spare places (spare places are the difference between OFSTED registered places and places offered by settings).

The third figure is the percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds that accessed their place in the Summer term 2024 in the same ward that they reside.

A minus figure denotes an estimated gap in provision, a positive figure denotes an estimated surplus in provision.

Map B: Estimated surplus places and potential gaps in childcare provision for 3 and 4-year-olds – South Kirklees



Figures shown on the map

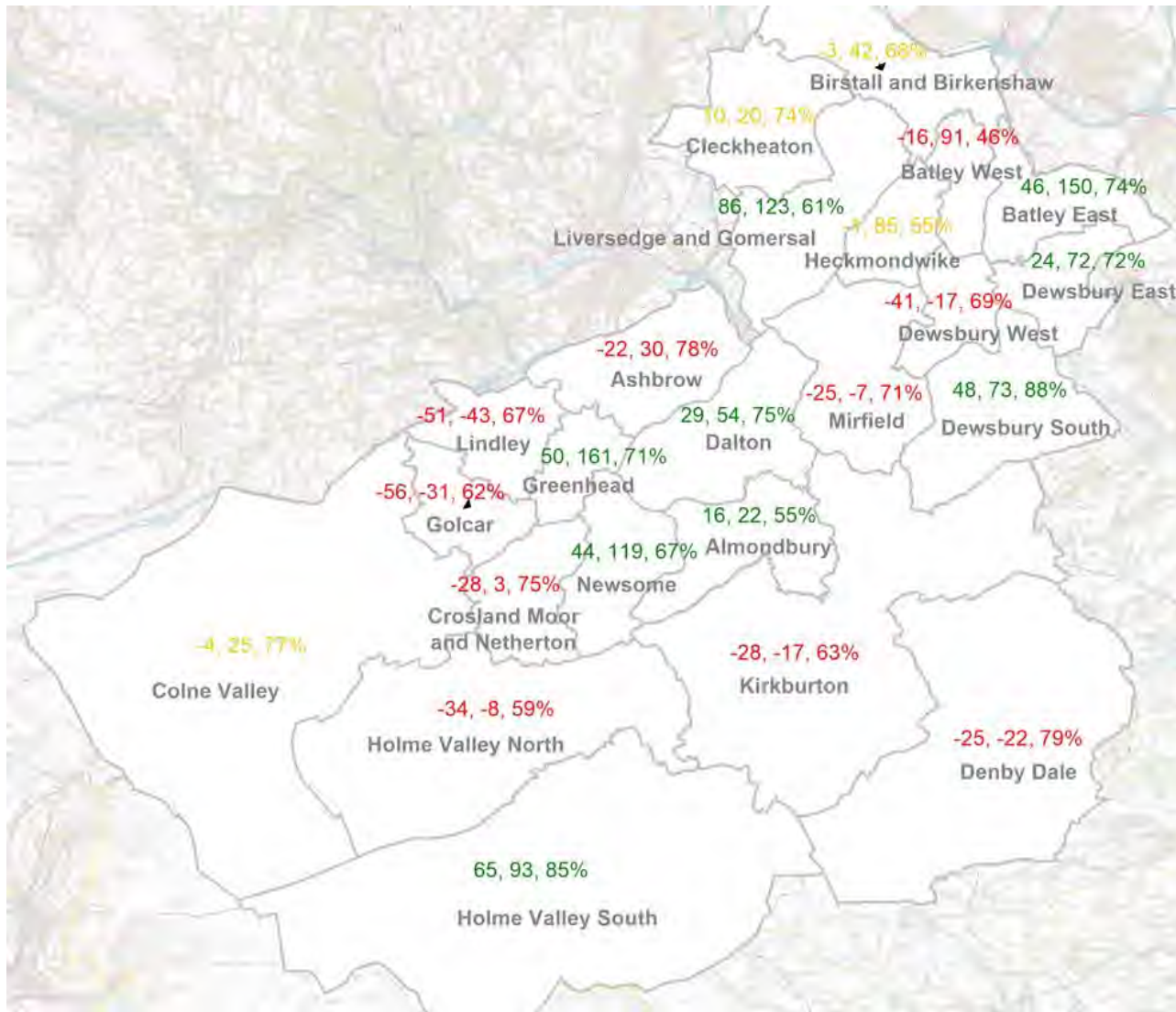
The first figure is the estimated surplus places or gap based on estimated demand in the Summer term 2025 and the number of operational full-time equivalent (FTE) places for 3 and 4-year-olds, i.e. the number of places currently offered.

The second figure is the estimated surplus places or gap plus the estimated spare places (spare places are the difference between OFSTED registered places and places offered by settings).

The third figure is the percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds that accessed their place in the Summer term 2024 in the same ward that they reside.

A minus figure denotes an estimated gap in provision, a positive figure denotes an estimated surplus in provision.

Map C: Estimated surplus places and potential gaps in childcare provision for 3 and 4-year-olds – All Kirklees



Figures shown on the map

The first figure is the estimated surplus places or gap based on estimated demand in the Summer term 2025 and the number of operational full-time equivalent (FTE) places for 3 and 4-year-olds, i.e. the number of places currently offered.

The second figure is the estimated surplus places or gap plus the estimated spare places (spare places are the difference between OFSTED registered places and places offered by settings).

The third figure is the percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds that accessed their place in the Summer term 2024 in the same ward that they reside.

A minus figure denotes an estimated gap in provision, a positive figure denotes an estimated surplus in provision.

Table A: Current supply and estimated demand for childcare places for 3 and 4-year-olds – Summer term 2025

Ward	OFSTED Registered FTE Places 0 - 4 yr olds September 2024	Operational FTE Places 0 - 4 yr olds Summer term 2024	Spare FTE Places 0 - 4 year olds Summer term 2024	Spare FTE Places 3 & 4 year olds Summer term 2024	Operational FTE Places 3 & 4 year olds Summer term 2024	Estimated population of 3 & 4 year olds Summer term 2025	Percentage take-up of the extended entitlement Summer term 2024	Estimated number of 3- and 4-year-olds eligible to the extended entitlement Summer term 2025	Estimated demand for funded 3- and 4-year-old places Summer term 2025
Reference	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Almondbury	367	356	11	6	243	284	59%	168	226
Ashbrow	497	421	76	52	241	424	24%	103	263
Batley East	554	389	164	104	288	401	21%	83	242
Batley West	543	384	159	106	265	432	30%	129	281
Birstall and Birkenshaw	428	367	60	45	232	309	52%	160	235
Cleckheaton	449	428	20	10	250	294	63%	187	240
Colne Valley	475	422	53	29	232	289	64%	184	236
Crosland Moor and Netherton	424	390	34	31	258	444	29%	128	286
Dalton	385	348	37	25	239	302	38%	116	209
Denby Dale	298	294	4	3	165	215	77%	165	190
Dewsbury East	492	424	68	48	289	404	32%	127	266
Dewsbury South	493	466	28	25	284	374	26%	98	236
Dewsbury West	486	447	38	24	321	582	24%	142	362
Golcar	429	392	37	25	220	345	60%	206	276
Greenhead	779	562	217	111	356	492	25%	121	306
Heckmondwike	607	448	159	86	242	340	43%	146	243
Holme Valley North	346	301	45	26	177	251	68%	171	211
Holme Valley South	526	482	44	29	271	252	63%	160	206
Kirkburton	289	267	22	11	172	235	71%	166	201
Lindley	498	482	16	8	288	411	65%	266	339
Liversedge and Gomersal	595	531	64	37	301	283	52%	146	214
Mirfield	425	389	37	18	224	300	66%	198	249
Newsome	578	450	128	74	248	311	31%	96	203
Total	10,958	9,437	1,521	931	5,805	7,974		3,465	5,720

Table B: Estimated surplus and potential gaps in childcare places for 3 and 4 year olds in the Summer term 2025, and other indicators from the Summer term 2024

Ward	Estimated surplus places or gap Summer Term 2025	Estimated surplus places or gap including spare places Summer term 2025	OFSTED registered places for non-funded Child-minders September 2024	Percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds accessing their place in the ward they reside Summer term 2024	3 and 4-year-olds accessing their place in childcare provision outside of Kirklees Summer term 2024	Out of area 3 and 4-year-olds accessing their place in Kirklees childcare provision Summer term 2024	Net movement of 3 and 4-year-olds accessing their place across the Kirklees border Summer term 2024
Reference	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
Almondbury	16	22	3	55%	2	1	1
Ashbrow	-22	30	6	78%	42	14	28
Batley East	46	150	0	74%	28	2	26
Batley West	-16	91	3	46%	14	9	5
Birstall and Birkenshaw	-3	42	9	68%	64	19	45
Cleckheaton	10	20	6	74%	33	31	2
Colne Valley	-4	25	12	77%	19	6	13
Crosland Moor and Netherton	-28	3	9	75%	0	1	-1
Dalton	29	54	3	75%	3	3	0
Denby Dale	-25	-22	0	79%	5	18	-13
Dewsbury East	24	72	12	72%	56	17	39
Dewsbury South	48	73	2	88%	18	8	10
Dewsbury West	-41	-17	0	69%	2	4	-2
Golcar	-56	-31	6	62%	4	2	2
Greenhead	50	161	3	71%	5	7	-2
Heckmondwike	-1	85	6	55%	7	7	0
Holme Valley North	-34	-8	6	59%	3	1	2
Holme Valley South	65	93	6	85%	2	6	-4
Kirkburton	-28	-17	18	63%	6	6	0
Lindley	-51	-43	9	67%	13	10	3
Liversedge and Gomersal	86	123	0	61%	9	12	-3
Mirfield	-25	-7	0	71%	10	2	8
Newsome	44	119	6	67%	1	1	0
Total	86	1,017	125		346	187	159

Table C: Number of funded 3 and 4-year-olds in the Summer term 2024 analysed by the ward of residence and the ward that their chosen early years and childcare provider is located

Ward where childcare provider is located

Ward of Residence	Percentage of children that accessed their place in their ward of residence	Almondbury	Ashbrow	Batley East	Batley West	Birstall and Birkenshaw	Cleckheaton	Colne Valley	Crosland Moor and Netherton	Dalton	Denby Dale	Dewsbury East	Dewsbury South	Dewsbury West	Golcar Ward	Greenhead	Heckmondwike	Holme Valley North	Holme Valley South	Kirkburton	Lindley	Liversedge and Gomersal	Mirfield	Newsome	Total
Almondbury	55%	155	2						3	76	3				1	5		2	3	7	5	1	2	17	282
Ashbrow	78%		276						2	5				2		57					4	1	3	4	354
Batley East	74%			271	40	6						27	4	12			6					1	1		368
Batley West	46%			95	176	26	1			1		28	6	17		1	18					17			386
Birstall and Birkenshaw	68%			8	15	194	18			1			1	1		1	3					41	1		284
Cleckheaton	74%		1	2	6	10	195							3			7					41			265
Colne Valley	77%							217	4						28	10		5	3		8			7	282
Crosland Moor and Netherton	75%	3	2	1		1		10	312	4	1				19	10		11	6	1	9			25	415
Dalton	75%	24	13						4	227			1		1	11			1	6	1	2	1	11	303
Denby Dale	79%	7								2	178								16	21			1	1	226
Dewsbury East	72%		1	27	6	1	1					223	20	28			1						1		309
Dewsbury South	88%			5	1							14	319	14			2					2	4		361
Dewsbury West	69%			14	19	1						83	16	403			18					6	20		580
Golcar	62%		1					39	4	2					194	31			1		38			4	314
Greenhead	71%	4	22					1	10	2		1	1	10	307	1					50			24	433

Ward of Residence	Percentage of children that accessed their place in their ward of residence	Almondbury	Ashbrow	Batley East	Batley West	Birstall and Birkenshaw	Cleckheaton	Coine Valley	Crosland Moor and Netherton	Dalton	Denby Dale	Dewsbury East	Dewsbury South	Dewsbury West	Golcar Ward	Greenhead	Heckmondwike	Holme Valley North	Holme Valley South	Kirkburton	Lindley	Liversedge and Gomersal	Mirfield	Newsome	Total
Heckmondwike	55%			12	47	7	7					6	3	11			180					46	6	1	326
Holme Valley North	59%	1						19	29						2	8		156	45	2	1			2	265
Holme Valley South	85%	3							3	1				1	1	1		19	224	8	1			1	262
Kirkburton	63%	21	1							2	20		3	1	1	1		4	28	145				2	229
Lindley	67%	2	4					1	3	1					26	82					257			8	384
Liversedge and Gomersal	61%			3	10	9	28					1	2	5		1	46					170	1	2	278
Mirfield	71%	2	3		3	1	5			2		4	3	7		2	13		1	1		31	193		271
Newsome	67%	16	1					2	31	16					4	11		7	6	2	1		1	201	299
Outside Kirklees		1	17	2	9	19	31	6	1	3	18	18	8	5	2	7	7	1	6	6	10	12	2	1	192
Total		239	344	440	332	275	286	295	406	345	220	404	387	511	288	546	302	205	340	199	385	371	237	311	7,668

Table D: Data, methodology and indicators used to estimate demand and potential gaps in early years and childcare provision for 3- and 4-year-olds in September 2025

Reference	Data used	Description
A	OFSTED Registered Places 0 - 4-year-olds September 2024 10,958	The total number of places for 0 to 4-year-olds registered with Ofsted. This is the maximum number of places available within private, voluntary and independent (PVI) settings, schools and academies.
B	Operational FTE Places 0 - 4-year-olds Summer term 2024 9,437	The total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) places for 0 to 4-year-olds that schools and PVI settings are operating to (i.e. the number of places currently offered). For some settings this is less than the number of places registered with Ofsted.
C	Spare FTE Places 0 - 4-year-olds Summer term 2024 A minus B 1,521	The difference between the number of places registered with Ofsted and the number of places that schools and PVI settings are offering for 0 to 4-year-olds (i.e. operational places).
D	Spare FTE Places 3 & 4-year-olds Summer term 2024 931	The difference between the number of places registered with Ofsted and the number of places that schools and PVI settings are offering for 3- and 4-year-olds (i.e. operational places). Assumptions made: PVI settings would utilise their spare places across each age group as follows: 3 and 4-year-olds 50% 2-year-olds 25% 1-year olds 25% Schools utilise 100% of their spare places for 3- and 4-year-olds

Reference	Data used	Description
E	Operational FTE Places 3 & 4-year-olds Summer term 2024 5,805	The total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) places for 3 and 4-year-olds that schools and PVI settings are operating to (i.e. the number of places currently offered). For some settings this is less than the number of places registered with Ofsted. Assumption made: one third of Childminder places are used for 3- and 4-year-olds.
F	Estimated population of 3- & 4-year-olds in the Summer term 2025 7,974	Estimated population of 3- and 4-year-olds in the Summer term 2025. Based on GP Registrations at October 2024, children born between 1st September 2020 and 31st March 2022. Assumption made: All 3- and 4-year-olds will access their universal entitlement to 15 hours.
G	Percentage take-up of the extended entitlement in the Summer term 2024	The number of 3- and 4-year-olds accessing the extended entitlement compared with the total population of 3- and 4-year-olds shown as a percentage.
H	Estimated number of 3- and 4-year-olds eligible to the extended entitlement in the Summer term 2025 F multiplied by G 3,465	The number of 3- and 4-year-olds estimated to be eligible to the extended entitlement in the Summer term 2025 compared with the total population of 3- and 4-year-olds shown as a percentage. Calculated by multiplying the estimated population of 3- and 4-year-olds in the Summer term 2025 by the percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds accessing the extended entitlement in the Summer term 2024.
I	Estimated demand for funded 3- and 4-year-old places in the Summer term 2025 F plus H divided by 2 5,720	Estimated demand for funded 3- and 4-year-old places in the Summer term 2025 shown as full-time equivalent (FTE) places. Calculated by adding the estimated number of 3- and 4-year-olds in the Summer term 2025 and the estimated number of 3- and 4-year-olds eligible to the extended entitlement in the Summer term 2025, divided by 2 to convert to a FTE place. A FTE place is counted as 30 hours.

Reference	Data used	Description
J	Estimated surplus places or gap in the Summer Term 2025 E minus I 86	The estimated surplus or gap in provision has been calculated by subtracting the estimated demand from the number of operational full-time equivalent (FTE) places for 3 and 4-year-olds, i.e. the number of places currently offered.
K	Estimated surplus places or gap including spare places D plus J 1,017	Spare places (D) (i.e. the difference between OFSTED registered places and places offered by settings) have been added to the estimated surplus or gap in provision (J)
L	OFSTED registered places non-funded childminders 0 - 4-year-olds September 2024 125	The total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) Ofsted registered places for non-funded childminders (0 to 4-year-olds). Non-funded childminders are not currently registered to offer the free entitlement places but may do so in the future.
M	Percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds accessing their place in the same ward that they reside Summer term 2024	Percentage of 3 and 4-year-olds who accessed their free entitlement place in the summer term 2024 in the same ward that they reside.
N	3 and 4-year-olds accessing their place in childcare provision outside of Kirklees Summer term 2024 346	3 and 4-year-olds who accessed their free entitlement place in the summer term 2024 in childcare settings located in other local authorities.

Reference	Data used	Description
O	Out of area 3 and 4-year-olds accessing their place in Kirklees childcare provision Summer term 2024 187	3 and 4-year-olds who reside in other local authorities and accessed their free entitlement place in the summer term 2024 in childcare settings located in Kirklees.
P	Net movement of 3 and 4-year-olds accessing their place across the Kirklees border Summer term 2024 159 N minus O	The net movement of 3 and 4-year-olds across the Kirklees border who accessed their free entitlement place in the summer term 2024 in a different local authority to which they reside.