

CALCULATING THE DEMAND FOR CHILDCARE: FULL TIME EQUIVALENT PLACES

The estimated use of childcare for under-five-year-olds is currently calculated using data captured by the [Department for Education’s Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents 2017](#)¹, published in December 2017.

The estimated use of childcare is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Estimated Use of childcare (in 30 hour FTE places)} = \left(\text{Population} \times \frac{\text{average number of hours used per week by age of child}^2}{30 \text{ hours}} \right) \div 30 \text{ hours}$$

The estimated use of childcare is calculated in Full Time Equivalent (FTE) places to provide comparison with the supply of provision in order to estimate sufficiency needs. It is important to note that this is only an estimation of the use of childcare.

Population

- The number of under-two-year-olds is calculated assuming that no under one-year-olds will require care as parents can take up to one year maternity leave.
- The number of two-year-olds eligible for funding is taken from an eligibility list supplied to Devon County Council by the Department for Education using Department for Work and Pensions benefit data.
- The number of three- and four- year olds used to calculate the requirement of FTEs assumes that all four-year-olds will be attending school full time in Autumn Term.
- The number of potentially eligible children for the additional entitlement for eligible three- and four-year-olds to 30 hours of free early years education is calculated as follows:

Population of three- and four-year-olds for Spring Term 2018	X	58.6% ³
(This is taken from 2018 Health Data as above)		(Estimate of Percentage of working parents)

Average number of hours used per week

- The average hours per week are taken from the Department for Education (2017), Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents 2017, Table 1.5 Hours of childcare used per week, by age of child, Median use of formal childcare.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/childcare-and-early-years-survey-of-parents-2017> [Accessed July 2018]

² **Average number of hours used per week** - DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION (2017), Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents 2017, Table 1.5 Hours of childcare used per week, by age of child

³ **Percentage of working parents** – OFFICE FOR NATIONAL STATISTICS(2016) - Annual Population Survey Household Data Sets - Table C1 LA: Children by combined economic activity status of household members: January-December 2015 – Percentage of children living in working households in Devon.

- For two-year-olds this is 16 hours per week and for three-and four-year-olds the average hours used per week is 17.5 hours.
- For those children eligible for the extended entitlement an additional 12.5 hours per week is used to add to the 17.5 hours to total the hours to 30 hours per week.
- FTEs are calculated by total hours ÷ 30 hours. This is so that it can become comparable to the capacity.

SUFFICIENCY

The sufficiency of provision is then calculated by looking at the [current supply of provision](#) in an area, minus the estimated use.

$$\text{Sufficiency} = \text{Provision} - \text{Estimated Use}$$

The Early Years and Childcare Service analyse this data to establish areas where there may be a lack of provision – these are called hot spots.