

KCC Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (2024/2025)

December 2024

James Smith, Analyst Manager

Introduction

The Childcare Act 2006 places a duty for local authorities to work in partnership with providers to influence childcare provision as far as reasonably practicable to ensure that there is sufficient childcare for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 or up to 18 for disabled children.

Further to this the Children and Families Act 2014 repealed the local authority's duty to assess sufficiency of childcare provision. However, as the authority is still required to understand and influence the provision of childcare in the county, a review of current provision and the relationship to demand has been assessed and is presented in this report.

Sufficient, high-quality childcare is a vital component of the local economy and can support regeneration and employment. In addition, a market that can offer high quality, accessible and affordable childcare has the potential to contribute to the reduction of child poverty. There is a large body of research that supports the positive impact on children's outcomes when they attend high quality childcare, especially those from vulnerable backgrounds. The development of good quality childcare that meets the needs of the families in Kent supports the local authority's role to comply with the duty under sections 1 to 5 of the Childcare Act 2006 to improve the wellbeing of young children and reduce the inequalities between them.

This report brings together a variety of sources to understand the demand and supply of childcare across Kent for ages 0-4, and for breakfast club and after school places for primary school aged children aged 5-11, as well as to identify gaps in the provision at a local level.

In a change to how the information in the annual Childcare Sufficiency Assessment is presented, the demand for places are shown by where children access childcare.

Glossary

Childcare Provision

Free Early Education (FEE): This refers to the universal provision of 15 hour childcare places for 3 & 4 year olds. A total of 570 hours per year. From April 2024 this was extended to offer 15 hour childcare places for working parents of children aged 2. From September 2024 this will be extended to eligible working parents of children aged from 9 months and from September 2025 this will be increased to 30 hours childcare entitlement for eligible working parents of children from 9 months.

Extended Free Entitlement (EFE): This refers to 3 & 4 year olds who are children of eligible working parents who are entitled to a further 15 hours of free childcare in addition to the universal Free Early Education hours. This equates to a total of 1,140 hours per year. From September 2025 this offer will be extended to eligible working parents of children from 9 months.

Free for 2: This refers to KCC's branding of the national Free Early Education scheme for eligible 2 year olds in low income households. They are entitled to 15 hours of free childcare a week. A total of 570 hours per year.

These schemes are referred to in the report as funded childcare places.

Planning Areas

Sufficiency rates have been determined at two geographical levels: Primary Planning Areas and KCC districts. A map showing the extent of Primary Planning Areas can be found in Annexe 1.

Primary Planning Areas have been identified as an appropriate level of geography to assess sufficiency as these areas are large enough to respect the observed patterns of demand for childcare, whilst giving enough local detail to be useful to sufficiency officers planning future supply. There is also the advantage that these areas are consistent with the commissioning process for school places and can support and inform these plans.

Assessing Demand for Childcare

Using DfE Readiness Data for 0-2 year olds

The DfE has provided each local authority with information related to the expansion of funded early education and childcare entitlements announced in the Spring Budget of 2023. Within this information are the DfE analysis of the demand and supply of childcare places in Kent. The results of this analysis give an indicative view of the level of demand in Kent and can be used to determine the sufficiency of childcare places for the new entitlement for working parents of 9 month to 36 month olds.

Due to the availability of the research the DfE has done and because that analysis informs the Government funding to KCC for the expansion of childcare places needed to meet the new entitlement, this sufficiency assessment will make use of the demand, supply and resulting need data from the DfE analysis.

The DfE analysis calculates the level of pre-existing use of childcare (including FF2) prior to the introduction of the entitlement expansion for 9 month to 36 month olds. This is done by taking the population (from GP registrations) of pre-school children in Kent, by age of child, and applying age specific formal childcare usage estimates from DfE's parent survey. Data from Government surveys of families and workers' incomes were used to estimate the proportion of parents who would fall within the eligibility criteria of the new entitlement. Take up rates of the existing entitlements and use of formal and informal childcare by parents were used to estimate the number of children taking the new entitlement. The DfE analysis compares demand for places and the supply of places in hours. The number of hours of demand for places was calculated by multiplying the numbers of children using the new entitlement by the number of hours they are expected to take on average.

Pre-school Population

In order to calculate the number of 3 and 4 year olds requiring childcare places in the 2024/2025 academic year, population estimates for each single year of age produced by Edge Analytics have been used as the population base.

Edge Analytics use birth rates, GP registration data and estimates on migration rates to forecast the 0-4 population as of the 31st August 2023. The vast majority of 4 year olds as of the 31st August will be starting school in September. As the academic year progresses more children turn 3 and become eligible for funded childcare. The number of 3 & 4 year olds that accessed a funded childcare place in the 2023/2024 academic year in Kent was as follows:

- Autumn 2023/2024 Academic Year – 17,282 (16,853 reside in Kent)

- Spring 2023/2024 Academic Year – 22,284 (21,733 reside in Kent)
- Summer 2023/2024 Academic Year – 25,707 (25,117 reside in Kent)

In order to assess the sufficiency of childcare places when demand is greatest, all data presented regarding 3 and 4 year old childcare places in this report will be for the summer term in the 2024/2025 academic year.

3 and 4 Year Olds

KCC holds information on all 3 and 4 year olds who access a funded childcare place. As a result, variations in the take up of formal childcare across Kent for this age group can be assessed at Primary Planning Area level by comparing the number of children taking up a place with the population forecasts. Take up of funded childcare in the Summer term of the 2023/2024 academic year varied from 60% in Gravesham Rural East to 100% in 15 planning areas. Take up at district level also varied considerably from 79.2% in Sevenoaks to 94.0% in Ashford.

Table 1: % of Free Early Education 3 & 4 year olds accessing EFE or FEE hour places, by district

District	Overall Free Early Education Take Up by 3 & 4 Year Olds (Summer Term 2024)	Free Early Education Take Up By Type	
		FEE	EFE
Ashford	94.0%	56.5%	43.5%
Canterbury	86.6%	52.1%	47.9%
Dartford	81.9%	54.0%	46.0%
Dover	88.4%	51.5%	48.5%
Folkestone & Hythe	90.6%	49.6%	50.4%
Gravesham	84.3%	67.7%	32.3%
Maidstone	89.2%	53.4%	46.6%
Sevenoaks	79.2%	62.1%	37.9%
Swale	85.8%	51.6%	48.4%
Thanet	89.0%	51.0%	49.0%
Tonbridge & Malling	87.4%	54.0%	46.0%
Tunbridge Wells	88.1%	62.0%	38.0%
Total	87.0%	55.3%	44.7%

The Extended Free Entitlement of childcare was introduced for eligible 3 and 4 year olds in September 2017. Table 1 shows the proportion of the 3 and 4 year olds that took up an EFE place compared to those that took up a FEE place, by district. This shows that the proportion of 3 and 4

year olds accessing an EFE place in summer 2024 varied from 32.3% in Gravesham to 50.4% in Folkestone & Hythe.

The overall level of take up of 3 and 4 year olds for funded formal childcare has been applied to the Edge Analytics population estimates for the 2024/2025 academic year to determine the number of 3 and 4 year olds requiring a childcare place in each Primary Planning Area in Summer 2025. The take up rates for EFE and FEE places have then been applied to determine the number of EFE and FEE places required.

To be consistent with the approach the DfE analysis of childcare places needed for 0-2 year olds, an extra step has been carried out to re-distribute demand for places to where childcare is used. This has been done by distributing the number of EFE and FEE places required to planning areas based on the existing travel patterns from where families live to where their children are taking up a place.

5–11-Year-Old Breakfast Club and After School Club Places and New Wraparound Provision

In Spring 2023 the Government announced its ambition that all parents and carers of primary school-aged children who need it will be able to access term-time childcare in their local area from 8am - 6pm, so that parents can access employment and improve labour market participation. The £289m investment into the programme aims to remove the financial barriers so that schools and providers can improve the availability of provision for parents, addressing immediate demand and driving future demand by ensuring there is sufficient supply of places.

The Education People's Early Years & Childcare Service conducted an extensive audit with schools, providers and childminders around the supply of wraparound places. A Kent wide parental demand survey was also circulated at the start of the year asking parents to tell us which school their child/ren attended and what their wraparound childcare needs were. Kent Analytics then assessed the data in order to identify where there are gaps in provision.

In order to meet the Government's expectations for the programme The Early Years & Childcare Service plans to:

- create new provision and places where these do not currently exist
- expand the number of places where provision exists but is not meeting demand
- extend the opening hours where provision exists but is not operating 8am - 6pm.

Due to the specific challenges and ongoing development of wraparound childcare provision, the analysis of sufficiency of wraparound places has not been included in this report.

Assessing the Supply of Childcare

Data on supply (providers) has been drawn from a number of sources and it has proved a complex process to ensure that these complement each other.

Using DfE Readiness Data for 0-2 year olds

To maintain consistency when analysing the sufficiency of childcare places for 2 year olds and under, the data for the supply of childcare places from the DfE's Local Authority Readiness analysis will be used. Data on the supply of childcare places in Kent has been gathered by the DfE from Ofsted management information and the annual school census. These data allow the supply of childcare places by type (places in childminders, group based providers and school based providers) to be associated to each ward in Kent. Using the 2022 Survey of Early Years and Childcare Providers, the DfE analysis combines the number places with assumed number of hours each place is per week (depending on the type of childcare and mix of age groups offered by providers). The estimated supply hours is compared to the demand hours to assess the need for new places.

3&4 Year Olds

Total numbers of places available are reported by the setting where known, and this is often a maximum capacity figure across a range of age groups. However, the actual number of children that can be accommodated by a single provider will depend on the age profile of the children as the statutory ratios of children to staff varies across ages and therefore capacity can only be seen as indicative.

Not all children will require full-time childcare and, therefore, a setting that has the capacity to accommodate 20 children may in fact be meeting the needs of many more children who only require part-time care. In assessing sufficiency, ratios are applied to allow for the take up of places of more than one child who requires a place. However, these assumptions should be taken into account when interpreting the findings of the assessment, which should be seen only as an indication of approximate sufficiency.

Other Data Sources

Pre-School Childcare Audit

An audit of childcare settings is carried out by the childcare sufficiency team on an annual basis. This dataset forms the basis of the sufficiency analysis. It provides details on the age ranges that each setting accepts, the total hours open per week, the number of Free Early Education 15 hour

blocks that are offered each week and the maximum number of Extended Further Entitlement blocks that are offered each.

To assess the capacity for children aged 3 and 4 years old, the maximum number of Extended Further Entitlement blocks is used and the remaining Free Early Education 15 hour blocks are split between the age groups.

Childminders

The Education People supplied Kent Analytics with the details of all childminders. An audit of childminders was undertaken to assess the capacity of childminders. The postcode of each childminder was used to identify the Primary Planning Area and District in which the childminder is located to aggregate supply at these geographies.

Sufficiency Assessment

Childcare sufficiency for 0-2 year olds is taken from the DfE Readiness Data and presented as the number of places DfE believe need to be created. This is determined by comparing the number of hours of childcare demanded by parents with the supply of hours and whether there is a shortfall in supply in each ward in Kent. A shortfall in supply in one ward does not necessarily mean, however, that these children will be without childcare. The DfE assume, that faced with low availability of childcare in some parts of Kent, parents travel further to access childcare. It is assumed that shortfalls in one ward can be offset by surpluses in another within the same district, based on the level of rurality of the district. In the most urbanised districts all surpluses in the district can offset shortfalls; in the most rural districts none of the surpluses are used to offset shortfalls. After offsetting shortfalls and dividing by the average weekly hours, the residual shortfall is determined for each district. These are then totalled for an overall number of places needed in Kent and also broken down into primary school planning areas.

Childcare sufficiency for 3 and 4 year olds is assessed by comparing the known provision of places for childcare (supply) with the number of children resident in a given area (demand). Comparing these two figures gives an indication of the level of childcare available to cater for children in a given area. In this report, sufficiency is assessed at district and primary school planning area level.

Sufficiency of places where childcare is *accessed* means travel patterns of children travelling from home to the provision are 'baked in' to the analysis. For example, the model estimates there are 20 3 and 4 year olds living in Chilham who require a FEE childcare place but with there being no providers in Chilham who offered FEE childcare places in Summer 2024, the demand for those 20 places is distributed to neighbouring planning areas where existing travel patterns show families

living in Chilham actually accessed childcare. Without further work, it is not clear whether families are travelling out of Chilham due to personal choice or lack of provision in Chilham.

It should, however, be noted that the ratio of demand to supply as assessed using the method outlined above is only indicative of the current situation with regard to the take up of childcare in a given area and reflects the local market and patterns of access. This is not in itself an indication of any gaps in the local provision.

The sufficiency has been analysed for two discreet age groups:

- 0 to 2 year olds – includes the new entitlement for working parents of 9 month to 36 month olds
- 3 and 4 year olds – includes demand from EFE

Sufficiency Estimates

The supply and demand for childcare is calculated for each Primary Planning Area and at district level. For 0-2 year old childcare sufficiency, the residual shortfalls for each district are distributed amongst Primary Planning Areas according to the proportion of households there are in each planning area.

The assessment of 3 and 4 year old childcare sufficiency is calculated by comparing the total supply of childcare places in each primary planning area with the total number of childcare places required according to the demand methodology described above.

The figures for supply and demand and the sufficiency calculation at district level are provided in tables 2 to 5.

Table 2 indicates that across the whole county, 2,091 childcare places for 0-2 year olds are needed in readiness for the increase to 30 hours childcare for eligible working parents of children from 9 months to 3 years old. The three districts with the highest number of places needed are: Maidstone, Swale and Gravesham.

Note that directly comparing the supply of 0-2 places and the demand for 0-2 places will not give the resulting number of places required as the DfE calculation uses a measure of rurality to determine whether or not families might travel to parts of a district with a surplus of places.

Table 2: 0-2 Year Old Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (September 2025)

District	Under 2s places needed	2 year olds places needed	0-2 year olds total places needed
Ashford	125	68	193
Canterbury	127	39	166
Dartford	190	0	190
Dover	112	54	166
Folkestone & Hythe	86	39	125
Gravesham	131	79	210
Maidstone	193	92	285
Sevenoaks	58	27	85
Swale	165	71	236
Thanet	138	68	206
Tonbridge & Malling	115	18	133
Tunbridge Wells	77	19	96
Grand Total	1517	574	2091

*Please note that totals may not sum correctly due to rounding.

Table 3 shows that across KCC there are sufficient FEE places for three and four year olds across the county if demand levels remain consistent with the summer term in the 2023/2024 academic year. There is a slight indicative deficit in Dover, Gravesham and Tonbridge and Malling and a larger deficit in Ashford. All other districts have an indicative surplus of FEE places.

Local intelligence should be used alongside the data in this report to assess if the indicative surpluses and deficiencies of places in this report are experienced 'on the ground'. For example, the large surplus of places in Dartford must be viewed in the context of the significant ongoing growth in the housing market and that children outside of Kent's geographical borders access childcare in this district.

Table 3: Universal Free Entitlement Places Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (2024/2025 Academic Year)

District	3 & 4 Year Old Population	Children Requiring a 15 Hour Place	15 Hour Childcare Places Available	Surplus/ Deficit of 15 Hour Places
Ashford	2,530	1,345	1,255	-90
Canterbury	2,243	1,045	1,426	381
Dartford	2,708	1,241	1,656	415
Dover	1,825	821	809	-12
Folkestone & Hythe	1,634	736	1,162	426
Gravesham	2,268	1,295	1,241	-54
Maidstone	3,502	1,612	1,840	228
Sevenoaks	2,128	1,037	1,351	314
Swale	2,802	1,262	1,548	286
Thanet	2,369	1,053	1,433	380
Tonbridge & Malling	2,437	1,094	1,090	-4
Tunbridge Wells	2,036	1,216	1,252	36
Total	28,482	13,757	16,063	2,306

Table 4, below, shows that the majority of families access childcare within the same district in which they live (93.1% of funded 3 & 4 year olds in summer 2024), however, there are families who travel to neighbouring districts for this purpose.

Table 4: Percentage of funded 3&4 year olds accessing a childcare place in the same district as their home address

District	% of funded 3&4 year olds accessing a childcare place in the same district as their home address (Summer 2024)
Ashford	95.2%
Canterbury	95.5%
Dartford	91.2%
Dover	91.8%
Folkestone & Hythe	93.7%
Gravesham	93.1%
Maidstone	91.7%
Sevenoaks	87.8%
Swale	98.4%
Thanet	96.9%
Tonbridge & Malling	86.3%
Tunbridge Wells	95.0%
Total	93.1%

Table 5: Extended Free Entitlement Places Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (2024/2025 Academic Year)

District	3 & 4 Year Old Population	Children Requiring a 30 Hour Place	30 Hour Childcare Places Available	Surplus/ Deficit of 30 Hour Places
Ashford	2,530	1,055	1,058	3
Canterbury	2,243	960	1,094	134
Dartford	2,708	1,028	1,137	109
Dover	1,825	763	918	155
Folkestone & Hythe	1,634	742	733	-9
Gravesham	2,268	654	546	-108
Maidstone	3,502	1,412	1,668	256
Sevenoaks	2,128	644	938	294
Swale	2,802	1,175	1,480	305
Thanet	2,369	1,017	1,151	134
Tonbridge & Malling	2,437	925	1,181	256
Tunbridge Wells	2,036	757	986	229
Total	28,482	11,132	12,890	1,758

Table 5 indicates that there are sufficient EFE places across the county, with an indicative surplus of 1,758 places. Compared to last year, more children require a 30 hour place, up from 10,546 places to 11,132 places but there are also more 30 hour childcare places available. This results in a surplus of 1,758 places in total compared to a surplus of 965 last year.

There is a slight indicative deficit in Folkestone & Hythe, as there was last year. There is also an indicative deficit in Gravesham, though this has increased from a deficit of only 1 place last year to 108 places this year.

Sufficiency Estimates by Planning Area

Sufficiency rates have been calculated at Primary Planning Areas and these tables are presented in annexes 2, 3 and 4. These rates are also presented on maps below.

Primary Planning Areas with the highest indicative residual shortfall (need) of 0-2 childcare places are:

- **Gravesend East**
- **Ramsgate**
- **Maidstone North**

Annexe 3 and 4 and Map 2 show that sufficiency rates for 3-4 year olds vary considerably across Kent.

Primary Planning Areas with the highest indicative deficit of 3-4 Universal Free Entitlement Places are:

- **Ashford East**
- **Paddock Wood**
- **Gravesend West**

Primary Planning Areas with the largest indicative surplus of 3-4 Universal Free Entitlement Places are:

- **Sevenoaks**
- **Maidstone Central and South**

- Canterbury City

Annexe 4 and map 2 show that sufficiency rates for EFE places vary considerably across the county. The Primary Planning Areas with the largest indicative deficit of EFE places are:

- Folkestone East
- Gravesend East
- Deal

The Primary Planning Areas with a particularly high indicative surplus of EFE places are:

- Sevenoaks
- Tunbridge Wells East
- Maidstone North

Additional Information

Pupils with Special Educational Needs

All childcare provision should be inclusive for all children including those with individual needs.

The Childcare Sufficiency Audit has recognised that the number of children identified as having SEND has risen in every area of the county in 2022 to 2023 and in 2023 to 2024. All but Swale and Tunbridge Wells districts have seen rises in numbers of children with SEND and as a county, there has been an overall increase of 5.2%. From 2022 to 2023 there was a countywide increase of 12.6%. Since 2022 there has been an increase of 743 children being identified as having SEND. Please see the table below for details.

Districts	2022 Numbers of children with SEND	Direction of travel from previous year	2023 Numbers of children with SEND	Direction of travel from previous year	2024 Numbers of children with SEND	Direction of travel from previous year
Ashford	464	49	502	38	507	5
Canterbury	424	82	435	11	473	38
Dartford	310	75	411	101	435	24
Dover	356	65	323	-33	382	59
Folkestone & Hythe	282	89	279	-3	294	15
Gravesham	202	-19	267	65	301	34
Maidstone	296	-84	461	165	488	27
Sevenoaks	294	82	249	-45	268	19
Swale	416	59	520	104	519	-1
Thanet	498	9	552	54	557	5
Tonbridge & Malling	262	39	266	4	290	24
Tunbridge Wells	213	15	260	47	246	-14
County	4,017	461 (12.9%)	4,525	508 (12.6%)	4,760	235 (5.2%)

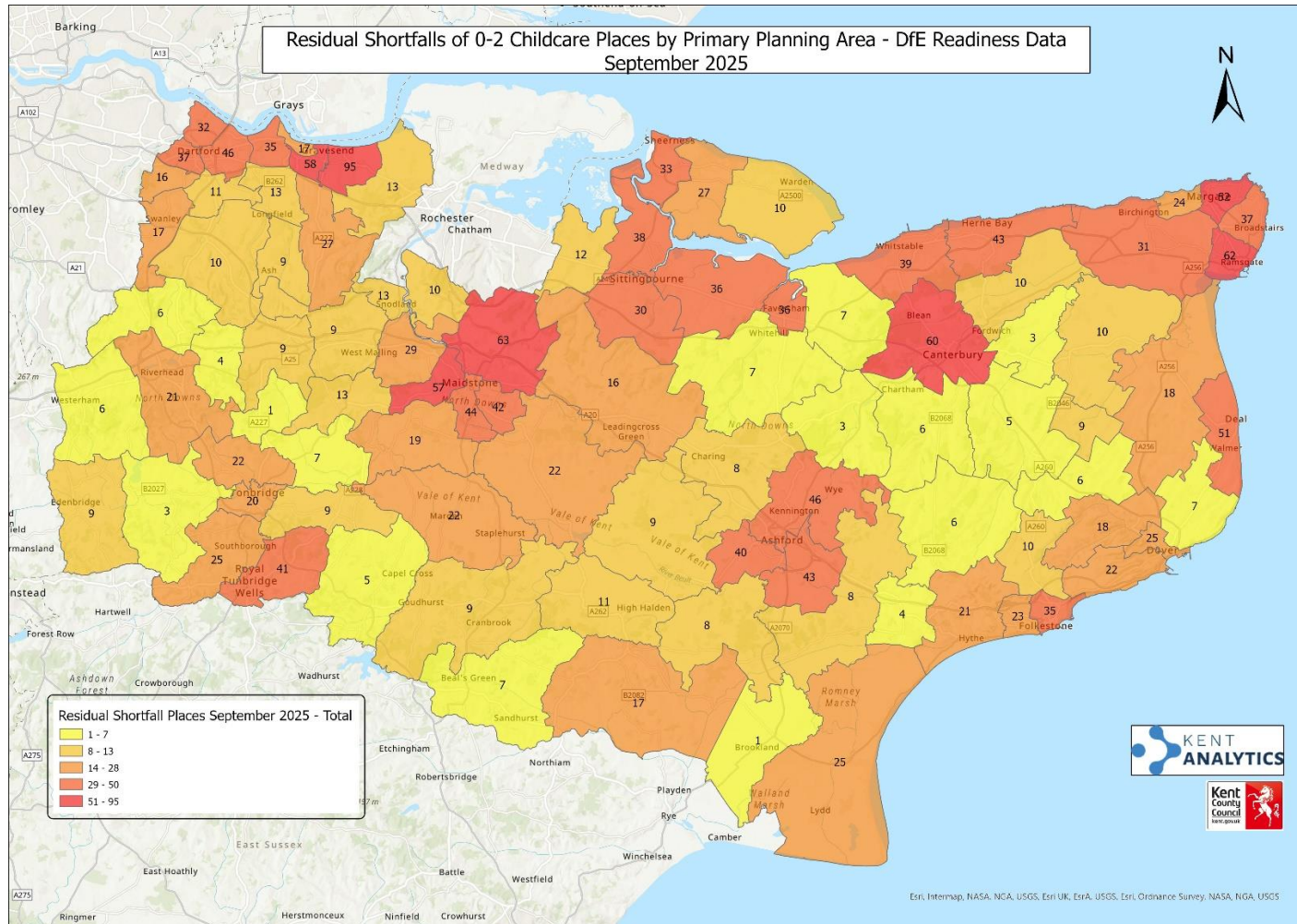
Areas	2022 Numbers of children with SEND	Direction of travel from previous year	2023 Numbers of children with SEND	Direction of travel from previous year	2024 Numbers of children with SEND	Direction of travel from previous year
North	806	138	927	121	1,004	77
South	1,102	203	1,104	2	1,183	79
East	1,338	150	1,507	169	1,549	42
West	771	-30	987	216	1,024	37
County	4,017	461 (12.9%)	4,525	508 (12.6%)	4,760	235 (5.2%)

Quality of Provision

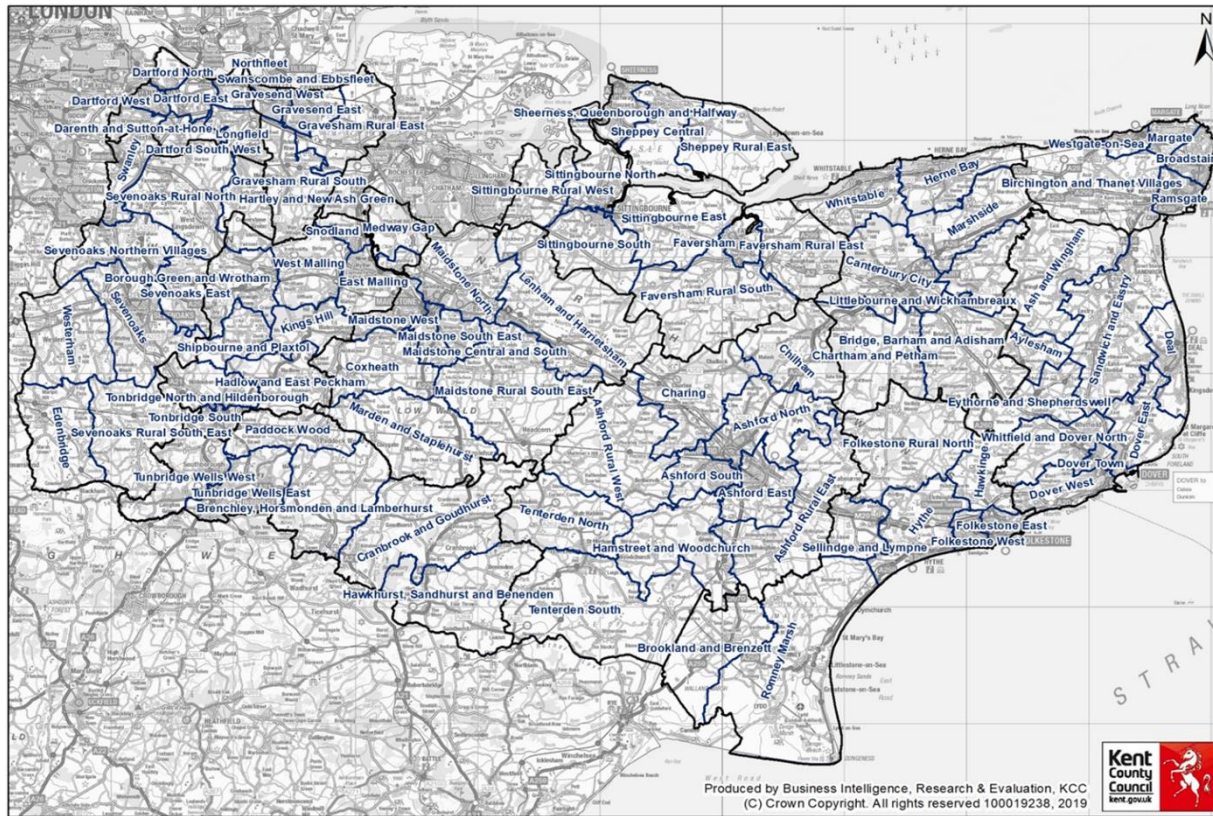
In Kent, the percentage of early years group settings with an Ofsted good or outstanding judgement is 98.70%. Ofsted percentage figures compare favourably with both national and statistical neighbour data. The percentage of early years settings judged to be outstanding in Kent is 17 % compared to 14% nationally. The percentage of early years settings judged to be good or above nationally is 97% compared to Kent at 98.70%. In relation to out of school settings 100% are met. We have a comprehensive delivery plan for our work with early years and out of school settings that includes a blended approach of virtual and face to face visits including monitoring, reviewing and evaluating the safeguarding and welfare requirements and the learning and development requirements.

Ofsted judgements for childminders on the Early Years Register are also positive. At the end of September 2024, 99.46% were judged by Ofsted to be good or outstanding. This also compares favourably with the national figure of 97% and those of our statistical neighbours. The percentage judged to be outstanding in Kent is at 15.20% which still compares favourably with the national average of 14% and with many of our statistical neighbours.

Map 1: Indicative Residual Shortfalls of 0-2 Year Old Childcare Places by Primary Planning Area – September 2025



Annexe 1 : Primary Planning Areas



Annexe 2: Indicative Residual Shortfalls of 0-2 Year Old Childcare Places by Primary Planning Area – September 2025

Planning Area	District	Residual Shortfall Places Under 2s	Residual Shortfall Places 2 year olds	Residual Shortfall Places Total
Ashford East	Ashford	28	15	43
Ashford North	Ashford	30	16	46
Ashford Rural East	Ashford	5	3	8
Ashford Rural West	Ashford	6	3	9
Ashford South	Ashford	26	14	40
Charing	Ashford	5	3	8
Chilham	Ashford	2	1	4
Hamstreet and Woodchurch	Ashford	5	3	8
Tenterden North	Ashford	7	4	11
Tenterden South	Ashford	11	6	17
Bridge, Barham and Adisham	Canterbury	4	1	6
Canterbury City	Canterbury	45	15	60
Chartham and Petham	Canterbury	5	1	6
Herne Bay	Canterbury	33	10	43
Littlebourne and Wickhambreaux	Canterbury	2	1	3
Marshside	Canterbury	8	2	10
Whitstable	Canterbury	30	9	39
Darenth and Sutton-at-Hone	Dartford	11	0	11
Dartford East	Dartford	46	0	46
Dartford North	Dartford	32	0	32
Dartford South West	Dartford	16	0	16
Dartford West	Dartford	37	0	37
Longfield	Dartford	13	0	13
Swanscombe and Ebbsfleet	Dartford	35	0	35
Ash and Wingham	Dover	7	3	10
Aylesham	Dover	6	3	9
Deal	Dover	34	16	50
Dover East	Dover	5	2	7
Dover Town	Dover	17	8	26
Dover West	Dover	15	7	22
Eythorne and Shepherdswell	Dover	4	2	6
Sandwich and Eastry	Dover	12	6	18
Whitfield and Dover North	Dover	12	6	17
Brookland and Brenzett	Folkestone & Hythe	1	0	1
Folkestone East	Folkestone & Hythe	24	11	35

Planning Area	District	Residual Shortfall Places Under 2s	Residual Shortfall Places 2 year olds	Residual Shortfall Places Total
Folkestone Rural North	Folkestone & Hythe	4	2	5
Folkestone West	Folkestone & Hythe	16	7	23
Hawkinge	Folkestone & Hythe	7	3	10
Hythe	Folkestone & Hythe	14	7	21
Romney Marsh	Folkestone & Hythe	17	8	24
Sellindge and Lympe	Folkestone & Hythe	3	1	4
Gravesend East	Gravesham	59	36	95
Gravesend West	Gravesham	36	22	58
Gravesham Rural East	Gravesham	8	5	13
Gravesham Rural South	Gravesham	17	10	27
Northfleet	Gravesham	11	6	17
Coxheath	Maidstone	13	6	19
Lenham and Harrietsham	Maidstone	11	5	16
Maidstone Central and South	Maidstone	30	14	44
Maidstone North	Maidstone	42	21	63
Maidstone Rural South East	Maidstone	15	7	22
Maidstone South East	Maidstone	28	14	42
Maidstone West	Maidstone	39	18	57
Marden and Staplehurst	Maidstone	14	7	21
Edenbridge	Sevenoaks	6	3	9
Hartley and New Ash Green	Sevenoaks	6	3	8
Sevenoaks	Sevenoaks	15	7	22
Sevenoaks East	Sevenoaks	3	1	5
Sevenoaks Northern Villages	Sevenoaks	4	2	6
Sevenoaks Rural North	Sevenoaks	7	3	9
Sevenoaks Rural South East	Sevenoaks	2	1	3
Swanley	Sevenoaks	12	5	17
Westerham	Sevenoaks	4	2	6
Faversham	Swale	25	11	36
Faversham Rural East	Swale	5	2	7
Faversham Rural South	Swale	5	2	7
Sheerness, Queenborough and Halfway	Swale	23	10	33
Sheppey Central	Swale	19	8	27
Sheppey Rural East	Swale	7	3	10
Sittingbourne East	Swale	25	11	35
Sittingbourne North	Swale	27	11	38
Sittingbourne Rural West	Swale	8	4	12

Planning Area	District	Residual Shortfall Places Under 2s	Residual Shortfall Places 2 year olds	Residual Shortfall Places Total
Sittingbourne South	Swale	21	9	30
Birchington and Thanet Villages	Thanet	21	10	31
Broadstairs	Thanet	25	12	38
Margate	Thanet	35	17	52
Ramsgate	Thanet	41	21	62
Westgate-on-Sea	Thanet	16	8	24
Borough Green and Wrotham	Tonbridge & Malling	8	1	10
East Malling	Tonbridge & Malling	25	4	29
Hadlow and East Peckham	Tonbridge & Malling	6	1	7
Kings Hill	Tonbridge & Malling	11	2	12
Medway Gap	Tonbridge & Malling	9	1	10
Shipbourne and Plaxtol	Tonbridge & Malling	1	0	2
Snodland	Tonbridge & Malling	11	2	12
Tonbridge North and Hildenborough	Tonbridge & Malling	19	3	22
Tonbridge South	Tonbridge & Malling	17	3	20
West Malling	Tonbridge & Malling	8	1	9
Brenchley, Horsmonden and Lamberhurst	Tunbridge Wells	4	1	6
Cranbrook and Goudhurst	Tunbridge Wells	7	2	8
Hawkhurst, Sandhurst and Benenden	Tunbridge Wells	6	1	7
Paddock Wood	Tunbridge Wells	7	2	9
Tunbridge Wells East	Tunbridge Wells	33	8	41
Tunbridge Wells West	Tunbridge Wells	20	5	25

Annexe 3: Surplus/Deficit of 3-4 Universal Free Entitlement Places by Primary Planning Area – Summer Term 2025 (Modelled)

Primary Planning Area Name	District	Children Requiring a 15 Hour Place	15 Hour Childcare Places	Surplus/ Deficit of 15 Hour Places
Ashford East	Ashford	323	182	-141
Ashford North	Ashford	407	475	68
Ashford Rural East	Ashford	34	23	-11
Ashford Rural West	Ashford	49	43	-6
Ashford South	Ashford	338	318	-20
Charing	Ashford	38	48	10
Chilham	Ashford	0	0	0
Hamstreet and Woodchurch	Ashford	34	28	-6
Tenterden North	Ashford	67	61	-6
Tenterden South	Ashford	54	77	23
Bridge, Barham and Adisham	Canterbury	30	48	18
Canterbury City	Canterbury	495	647	152
Chartham and Petham	Canterbury	23	26	3
Herne Bay	Canterbury	246	362	116
Littlebourne and Wickhambreaux	Canterbury	22	18	-4
Marshside	Canterbury	69	109	40
Whitstable	Canterbury	160	216	56
Darenth and Sutton-at-Hone	Dartford	124	174	50
Dartford East	Dartford	246	382	136
Dartford North	Dartford	131	171	40
Dartford South West	Dartford	102	172	70
Dartford West	Dartford	288	430	142
Longfield	Dartford	86	90	4
Swanscombe and Ebbsfleet	Dartford	265	237	-28
Ash and Wingham	Dover	43	41	-2
Aylesham	Dover	39	41	2
Deal	Dover	180	193	13
Dover East	Dover	43	26	-17
Dover Town	Dover	199	146	-53
Dover West	Dover	108	70	-38
Eythorne and Shepherdswell	Dover	22	20	-2
Sandwich and Eastry	Dover	91	126	35
Whitfield and Dover North	Dover	95	146	51
Brookland and Brenzett	Folkestone & Hythe	16	11	-5
Folkestone East	Folkestone & Hythe	214	318	104
Folkestone Rural North	Folkestone & Hythe	30	71	41
Folkestone West	Folkestone & Hythe	197	267	70
Hawkinge	Folkestone & Hythe	76	137	61
Hythe	Folkestone & Hythe	84	165	81

Primary Planning Area Name	District	Children Requiring a 15 Hour Place	15 Hour Childcare Places	Surplus/ Deficit of 15 Hour Places
Romney Marsh	Folkestone & Hythe	102	146	44
Sellindge and Lympe	Folkestone & Hythe	18	47	29
Gravesend East	Gravesham	608	656	48
Gravesend West	Gravesham	335	281	-54
Gravesham Rural East	Gravesham	35	51	16
Gravesham Rural South	Gravesham	167	156	-11
Northfleet	Gravesham	150	97	-53
Coxheath	Maidstone	113	88	-25
Lenham and Harrietsham	Maidstone	72	62	-10
Maidstone Central and South	Maidstone	329	488	159
Maidstone North	Maidstone	318	377	59
Maidstone Rural South East	Maidstone	92	74	-18
Maidstone South East	Maidstone	235	221	-14
Maidstone West	Maidstone	329	436	107
Marden and Staplehurst	Maidstone	124	94	-30
Edenbridge	Sevenoaks	66	60	-6
Hartley and New Ash Green	Sevenoaks	78	58	-20
Sevenoaks	Sevenoaks	334	621	287
Sevenoaks East	Sevenoaks	65	51	-14
Sevenoaks Northern Villages	Sevenoaks	59	49	-10
Sevenoaks Rural North	Sevenoaks	109	112	3
Sevenoaks Rural South East	Sevenoaks	63	61	-2
Swanley	Sevenoaks	180	236	56
Westerham	Sevenoaks	83	103	20
Faversham	Swale	155	202	47
Faversham Rural East	Swale	42	78	36
Faversham Rural South	Swale	31	26	-5
Sheerness, Queenborough and Halfway	Swale	260	277	17
Sheppey Central	Swale	91	117	26
Sheppey Rural East	Swale	37	42	5
Sittingbourne East	Swale	163	237	74
Sittingbourne North	Swale	244	263	19
Sittingbourne Rural West	Swale	63	76	13
Sittingbourne South	Swale	177	230	53
Birchington and Thanet Villages	Thanet	73	115	42
Broadstairs	Thanet	202	292	90
Margate	Thanet	290	369	79
Ramsgate	Thanet	325	471	146
Westgate-on-Sea	Thanet	163	186	23
Borough Green and Wrotham	Tonbridge & Malling	73	90	17
East Malling	Tonbridge & Malling	226	177	-49
Hadlow and East Peckham	Tonbridge & Malling	69	56	-13

Primary Planning Area Name	District	Children Requiring a 15 Hour Place	15 Hour Childcare Places	Surplus/ Deficit of 15 Hour Places
Kings Hill	Tonbridge & Malling	91	107	16
Medway Gap	Tonbridge & Malling	62	53	-9
Shipbourne and Plaxtol	Tonbridge & Malling	21	28	7
Snodland	Tonbridge & Malling	145	112	-33
Tonbridge North and Hildenborough	Tonbridge & Malling	166	203	37
Tonbridge South	Tonbridge & Malling	163	198	35
West Malling	Tonbridge & Malling	79	66	-13
Brenchley, Horsmonden and Lamberhurst	Tunbridge Wells	62	69	7
Cranbrook and Goudhurst	Tunbridge Wells	123	86	-37
Hawkhurst, Sandhurst and Benenden	Tunbridge Wells	106	88	-18
Paddock Wood	Tunbridge Wells	158	89	-69
Tunbridge Wells East	Tunbridge Wells	450	584	134
Tunbridge Wells West	Tunbridge Wells	317	336	19

Annexe 4: Surplus/Deficit of Extended Free Entitlement (30 Hour) Places – Summer Term 2025 (Modelled)

Primary Planning Area	District	Children Requiring a 30 Hour Place	30 Hour Childcare Places	Surplus/ Deficit of 30 Hour Places
Ashford East	Ashford	278	301	23
Ashford North	Ashford	333	341	8
Ashford Rural East	Ashford	30	25	-5
Ashford Rural West	Ashford	26	20	-6
Ashford South	Ashford	243	208	-35
Charing	Ashford	32	34	2
Chilham	Ashford	0	0	0
Hamstreet and Woodchurch	Ashford	27	20	-7
Tenterden North	Ashford	48	54	6
Tenterden South	Ashford	38	55	17
Bridge, Barham and Adisham	Canterbury	40	26	-14
Canterbury City	Canterbury	353	444	91
Chartham and Petham	Canterbury	23	21	-2
Herne Bay	Canterbury	265	299	34
Littlebourne and Wickhambreaux	Canterbury	24	19	-5
Marshside	Canterbury	69	78	9
Whitstable	Canterbury	187	207	20
Darenth and Sutton-at-Hone	Dartford	103	95	-8
Dartford East	Dartford	224	280	56
Dartford North	Dartford	104	104	0
Dartford South West	Dartford	80	102	22
Dartford West	Dartford	228	229	1
Longfield	Dartford	75	87	12
Swanscombe and Ebbsfleet	Dartford	214	240	26
Ash and Wingham	Dover	46	18	-28
Aylesham	Dover	65	58	-7
Deal	Dover	169	133	-36
Dover East	Dover	34	49	15
Dover Town	Dover	144	235	91
Dover West	Dover	85	136	51
Eythorne and Shepherdswell	Dover	22	40	18
Sandwich and Eastry	Dover	100	141	41
Whitfield and Dover North	Dover	97	108	11
Brookland and Brenzett	Folkestone & Hythe	13	18	5
Folkestone East	Folkestone & Hythe	175	109	-66
Folkestone Rural North	Folkestone & Hythe	40	43	3
Folkestone West	Folkestone & Hythe	196	202	6
Hawkinge	Folkestone & Hythe	96	100	4
Hythe	Folkestone & Hythe	100	115	15
Romney Marsh	Folkestone & Hythe	98	121	23

Primary Planning Area	District	Children Requiring a 30 Hour Place	30 Hour Childcare Places	Surplus/ Deficit of 30 Hour Places
Sellindge and Lympe	Folkestone & Hythe	24	25	1
Gravesend East	Gravesham	290	252	-38
Gravesend West	Gravesham	174	139	-35
Gravesham Rural East	Gravesham	16	1	-15
Gravesham Rural South	Gravesham	102	88	-14
Northfleet	Gravesham	72	66	-6
Coxheath	Maidstone	97	96	-1
Lenham and Harrietsham	Maidstone	70	69	-1
Maidstone Central and South	Maidstone	281	369	88
Maidstone North	Maidstone	301	398	97
Maidstone Rural South East	Maidstone	75	74	-1
Maidstone South East	Maidstone	184	182	-2
Maidstone West	Maidstone	319	388	69
Marden and Staplehurst	Maidstone	85	92	7
Edenbridge	Sevenoaks	51	62	11
Hartley and New Ash Green	Sevenoaks	77	67	-10
Sevenoaks	Sevenoaks	166	376	210
Sevenoaks East	Sevenoaks	33	48	15
Sevenoaks Northern Villages	Sevenoaks	31	57	26
Sevenoaks Rural North	Sevenoaks	71	38	-33
Sevenoaks Rural South East	Sevenoaks	38	51	13
Swanley	Sevenoaks	130	162	32
Westerham	Sevenoaks	49	77	28
Faversham	Swale	169	161	-8
Faversham Rural East	Swale	54	80	26
Faversham Rural South	Swale	28	24	-4
Sheerness, Queenborough and Halfway	Swale	174	255	81
Sheppey Central	Swale	84	94	10
Sheppey Rural East	Swale	23	19	-4
Sittingbourne East	Swale	160	241	81
Sittingbourne North	Swale	243	297	54
Sittingbourne Rural West	Swale	56	66	10
Sittingbourne South	Swale	185	243	58
Birchington and Thanet Villages	Thanet	94	125	31
Broadstairs	Thanet	225	227	2
Margate	Thanet	232	249	17
Ramsgate	Thanet	282	332	50
Westgate-on-Sea	Thanet	184	218	34
Borough Green and Wrotham	Tonbridge & Malling	60	78	18
East Malling	Tonbridge & Malling	238	292	54
Hadlow and East Peckham	Tonbridge & Malling	48	77	29
Kings Hill	Tonbridge & Malling	95	80	-15

Primary Planning Area	District	Children Requiring a 30 Hour Place	30 Hour Childcare Places	Surplus/ Deficit of 30 Hour Places
Medway Gap	Tonbridge & Malling	48	56	8
Shipbourne and Plaxtol	Tonbridge & Malling	14	25	11
Snodland	Tonbridge & Malling	125	196	71
Tonbridge North and Hildenborough	Tonbridge & Malling	105	140	35
Tonbridge South	Tonbridge & Malling	119	176	57
West Malling	Tonbridge & Malling	72	61	-11
Brenchley, Horsmonden and Lamberhurst	Tunbridge Wells	41	78	37
Cranbrook and Goudhurst	Tunbridge Wells	68	73	5
Hawkhurst, Sandhurst and Benenden	Tunbridge Wells	55	52	-3
Paddock Wood	Tunbridge Wells	108	113	5
Tunbridge Wells East	Tunbridge Wells	273	446	173
Tunbridge Wells West	Tunbridge Wells	212	224	12

Further Information

Kent Analytics
Kent County Council
Invicta House
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Email:
SCAnalytics@kent.gov.uk

Tel: 03000 417193

Report writers

James Smith, Analyst Manager