

CALDERDALE COUNCIL CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY DUTY REPORT

December 2024

Introduction

Calderdale Council is required by law to report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare and make this report available and accessible to parents.

Extension to the early education and childcare entitlements.

The Conservative Party's Spring 2023 Budget announced an increase in early education support for eligible working parents through free childcare hours. This is being rolled out in stages:

- From April 2024, eligible working parents of 2-year-olds have been able to access 15 hours per week
- From Sept 2024, eligible working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3-year-olds have been able to access 15 hours per week
- From Sept 2025, eligible working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3 years old will be able to access 30 hours childcare per week.

National Wraparound Childcare Programme and School Breakfast Clubs

The National Wraparound Childcare Programme was part of the childcare reforms announced at the 2023 Spring Budget. The previous government's ambition was that by 2026, 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.

Calderdale received an allocation of the national start-up funding in August 2024 following submission of a costed delivery plan that aims to create 230 new wraparound places and 20 expanded places. All places are expected to be open by the February half term point in 2025.

The Labour Party manifesto had a commitment to developing a free breakfast club for every primary school aged child and a pilot programme was announced in late September with schools invited to sign up as early adopters from April 2025.

There was also a commitment to creating 3,000 school-based nurseries (100,000 places) in the manifesto. The programme is expected to focus on spare capacity within primary schools, growing across the country due to falling birth rates, to provide more on-site nurseries as part of a plan to drive high and rising standards in early years. A pilot phase was announced in October. Schools interested in bidding for this first funding round were urged to start discussions with their local authorities, governing organisations and wider stakeholders to consider pupil place planning, local childcare sufficiency and next steps for setting up and running new or expanded nurseries.

Number of Ofsted Registered Places in Calderdale (December 2024)

Ward	Childminders/ Childcare On Domestic Premises (0-8)	Full Daycare ¹	Sessional/ Part Time Daycare ² (includes school and academy nursery places)	Out Of School/ Holiday Clubs/ Childcare on Non-Domestic Premises	Total
Brighouse	32	311	113	184	640
Calder	30	105	94	220	449
Elland	56	213	186	366	821
Greetland & Stainland	40	73	129	173	415
Hipperholme & Lightcliffe	67	115	50	194	426
Illingworth & Mixenden	50	87	274	205	616
Luddendenfoot	18	276	114	314	722
Northowram & Shelf	81	181	139	124	525
Ovenden	37	156	128	106	427
Park	0	49	208	160	417
Rastrick	45	309	104	310	768
Ryburn	30	160	92	425	707
Skircoat	18	301	75	272	666
Sowerby Bridge	16	163	68	99	346
Todmorden	9	192	153	129	483
Town	48	497	72	308	925
Warley	0	33	97	106	236
Total	577	3221	2096	3695	9589

¹Full daycare: a place which is available for at least 6 hours/day for five days/week without using additional wraparound provision.

²Sessional daycare: a place which is available for between 2.5 and 6 hours/day.

185 places opened across all Wards in 2024 and 93 closed leaving a net increase in places of 92.

RAG Rating of Wards for sufficiency	Wards(s)
Red	Elland, Hipperholme & Lightcliffe, Illingworth & Mixenden.
Amber	Brighouse, Calder, Northowram & Shelf, Ovenden, Park, Ryburn, Skircoat, Sowerby Bridge, Warley.
Green	Greetland & Stainland, Luddendenfoot, Rastrick, Todmorden, Town

Summary of all children taking up a funded entitlement by Ward (Autumn Term 2024)

Ward	0 - 1s	Under 2s	2 YO Disadvantaged	2 YO WPE	3YO 15 hours	3YO WPE 30 hours	Total
Brighouse	9	40	17	37	41	46	190
Calder	3	36	18	54	34	55	200
Elland	11	39	35	66	53	61	265
Greetland and Stainland	8	59	7	65	42	67	248
Hipperholme and Lightcliffe	10	58	13	54	26	72	233
Illingworth and Mixenden	10	53	56	61	102	54	336
Luddendenfoot	9	46	12	33	32	50	182
Northowram and Shelf	13	51	13	60	27	70	234
Ovenden	9	44	58	48	124	53	336
Park	1	23	85	36	213	41	399
Rastrick	5	41	21	48	28	58	201
Ryburn	10	43	15	61	39	57	225
Skircoat	14	49	16	59	66	72	276
Sowerby Bridge	17	60	27	69	55	87	315
Todmorden	5	59	31	41	50	70	256
Town	10	40	34	56	55	68	263
Warley	11	45	51	56	115	54	332
Children non-resident in Calderdale	34	124	24	141	92	146	561
TOTALS	189	910	533	1045	1194	1181	5052

NB: Children do not necessarily take up their entitlement in the Ward in which they are resident.

11% of the children taking up an entitlement do not live in Calderdale.

WPE – Working Parents' Entitlement.

Anticipated demand for the extended entitlements – September 2025

Notes on demand calculations:

- The estimated national population of children taking the new entitlement is divided into those assumed to be new to childcare and those who were pre-existing users.
- The children who are new to childcare represent new demand on the childcare sector. DfE assume that these children will take on average 26 hours of entitlement funded childcare per week.
- The children who are pre-existing users of childcare represent new demand on the childcare sector if they use more hours through the new entitlement than they used previously.
- DfE assume that these children will use an average of 4 additional hours due to the presence of the new entitlement.
- Not all children take up their entitlement in their ward of residence.

Notes on supply calculations:

- 1 place is converted into 35 supply hours, in a typical term time week.
- Calculations assume all registered places are available to be converted into funded places (hours)
- Supply calculations do not exclude currently occupied places (hours)

Ward Name	Total supply hours for children aged 0-2 (Oct 2024)	Total estimated demand hours for children aged 0-2 (Sep 2025)	Total surplus or shortfall in places for children aged 0-2 (Sep 25)
Brighouse	4784	3333	41
Calder	1192	1839	-18
Elland	3244	4355	-32
Greetland and Stainland	3178	2259	26
Hipperholme and Lightcliffe	2354	4058	-49
Illingworth and Mixenden	2110	3827	-49
Luddendenfoot	4146	3095	30
Northowram and Shelf	4247	3415	24
Ovenden	2321	3401	-31
Park	1640	5079	-98
Rastrick	4802	3408	40
Ryburn	3309	3692	-11
Skircoat	4537	5512	-28
Sowerby Bridge	1935	2518	-17
Todmorden	2520	2656	-4
Town	7745	7773	-1
Warley	881	2234	-39
Totals	54944	62452	-215

Summary of Childcare Supply and Demand

Type of childcare	Summary of LA position
Funded early education (15 hours) for working parents of children aged from nine months +	Supply currently meets demand but there is evidence that the LA will experience sufficiency pressures from September 2025.
Funded early education (15 hours) for working parents of children aged two years old	Supply currently meets demand but there is evidence that the LA will experience sufficiency pressures from September 2025.
Funded early education (15 hours) for eligible disadvantaged two-year-olds	Supply currently meets demand with pressure on places in the Illingworth & Mixenden, Ovenden and Park Wards. A concern is the displacement of disadvantaged two-year-olds now the entitlement for working parents of two-year-olds is in force.
Universal (15 hour) funded early education for 3- and 4-year-olds	Supply currently meets demand but any loss of provision this year will threaten the LA's sufficiency position.
Funded early education entitlement (30 hour) for working parents of children aged 3- and 4-year-olds	Supply currently meets demand but any loss of provision this year will threaten the LA's sufficiency position.
Early years childcare outside the funded entitlements for working parents	Supply currently meets demand. By September 2025 there will be very few children aged under 5 who will not be entitled to at least 15 hours of early education.
Childcare before and after school (wraparound)	Supply currently meets demand; there is in fact an oversupply situation in Calderdale.
Childcare during the school holidays	There is a shortage of places for 5–14-year-olds in some parts of the Borough. The DfE funded Healthy Holidays programme provides free holiday childcare and activities for children aged over 5 who are eligible for a Free School Meal. https://www.calderdale.gov.uk/v2/residents/community-and-living/healthy-holidays-calderdale
Childcare for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)	Some reported unmet demand for out of school and Summer Holiday care across the Borough.
Childcare during atypical hours (outside 8am to 6pm on weekdays)	No reported unmet demand despite the LA reporting low numbers of providers offering this type of care. It is thought that informal childcare provided by family members and friends typically meets many parents' needs for this care.
Childcare in the rural areas of Calderdale	No reported unmet demand. Childminders provide out of school care where there is insufficient demand to sustain an out of school club.

Childcare Sufficiency Duty Action Plan

Borough wide Actions	Action By Team	Action By Date
Run a childminder recruitment campaign in early 2025 and again in Summer 2025 to ensure the LA continues to meet its sufficiency duty with specific regard to the extension to the entitlements.	Early Years & Childcare Sufficiency Team Early Years Improvement Officers Team	31 st August 2025.
Implement the Government's Wraparound Programme to develop sustainable out of school provision in areas of high need. Support providers with management information reporting, occupancy and income prediction and distribution of any further revenue funding.	Early Years Improvement Officers Team	31st August 2026
Run marketing campaigns to advise parents of the eligibility for the extension to the entitlements.	Early Years & Childcare Sufficiency Team	31st March 2026
Work with Dingley's Promise to better understand and assess demand for childcare for our population of children with SEND.	Early Years & Childcare Sufficiency Team	31 st August 2025
Embed the delivery of the early language and home learning environment element of the Calderdale Family Hubs programme, including the rollout of 'Making It Real.'	Early Years Improvement Officers	31 st March 2026
Support the rollout of the Government's Free Breakfast Clubs in Primary School programme (if applicable)	Early Years Improvement Officers Team	31 st March 2026
Support the rollout of the Government's School Based Nursery programme (if applicable)	Early Years Improvement Officers Team	31st March 2026
Distribute remaining Capital Grant funding to priority areas to close the sufficiency gap for September 2025.	Early Years & Childcare Sufficiency Team Early Years Improvement Officers Team	31 st August 2025.

This Childcare Sufficiency Duty Review was carried out between November and December 2024.

The full report including individual Ward profiles or further information can be obtained from Nikki Wood; Service Manager for Early Years & Childcare Strategy on 07912 891050 or by emailing fis@calderdale.gov.uk.