

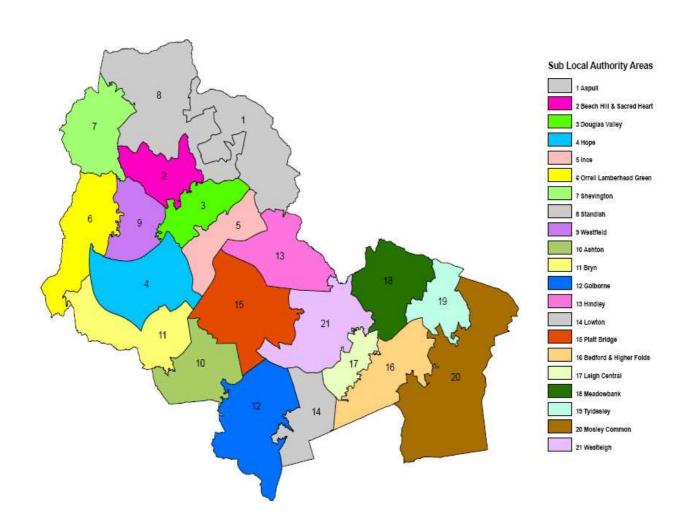
Wigan Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

ANNUAL REVIEW 2008-9

Acknowledgements

Wigan Council would like to thank the childcare providers who gave their time to contribute to this review by completing surveys and telephone interviews.

Thanks are also due to colleagues in partner organisations and agencies.



Compiled by Children and Young People's Services, Wigan Council

Extended Learning; Childcare with Planning and Performance Team, in association with Children's Information Service; Wigan Leisure & Culture Trust.

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Executive Summary

In March 2008, Wigan Council published the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) in order to meet the legislative requirements of Section 11 of the Childcare Act 2006. The following report is the 2008-9 Annual Review of the CSA.

REVIEW OF THE CHILDCARE MARKET

Childcare supply was revisited, and questionnaires were distributed to all registered (0-8yrs) childcare providers operating in the borough from the private, voluntary and maintained sectors.

Key Findings/Summary - at February 2009

- 462 questionnaires distributed in total. Of these, 391 were returned, giving a return rate of 85%.
- 33% of childminders and 14% of settings do not offer all of the places they are registered for.
- 62% of childminders and 70% of settings currently have vacant childcare places.
- 93% of childminders and 86% of settings have kept their opening times the same.
- 94% of childminders and 99% of settings have kept their operating days the same.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHILDCARE STRATEGY

The Annual Review revisits the gaps in childcare provision identified in the CSA and the progress made in addressing them. The main areas of development were:

• Out Of School Clubs (OOSC): 8-11 Years

Additional services were needed in the west and centre of the borough. Suitable premises are currently being researched. In the east of the borough it was identified that no development was needed (see Appendix 1 for Wigan Borough Mapping).

OOSC/ Safe Place To Be: 11 -14 Years

The demand for these services needs further investigation. However, the findings suggested that there was not a high level of need for formal childcare for this age group.

Crèche

A consultancy has been commissioned in partnership with Economic Regeneration to conduct a feasibility study on the development of crèche provision in each Children's Centre locality. The study is well underway, although the results are not yet published.

OOSC Childcare For Children With Disabilities

A pilot project has begun providing Out of School and Holiday Care services for a small number of children with the most complex needs, who attend special school during the day. In addition, a pilot project to support more inclusive practice among mainstream providers is in its initial stage. Further specialised training to support a range of needs is also in the early stages of development.

Increase Knowledge and Skills of Children's Workforce.

Data collected from settings which deliver early years provision has demonstrated that the level of staff qualifications in the Wigan borough is increasing.

Brokerage Strategy

This has been developed to assist parents to secure childcare services that meet their needs, particularly where none currently exist. The strategy has been used on one or two occasions to date and remains under review.

Infrastructure

An additional resource was required to assist the council in meeting the statutory duties of the Childcare Act 2006. A Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Officer was appointed in August 2008.

DEVELOPMENTS IN CHILDCARE PROVISION

The final sections of the review highlight the national developments affecting the provision of childcare.

Early Years Provision

Currently, all three and four year olds in England are entitled to a minimum 12.5 hours of free learning each week for 38 weeks of the year. From 2010, the free entitlement will rise to 15 hours per week, to be delivered on a more flexible basis. In addition, the free entitlement will be extended to the most disadvantaged two year olds, as a step towards a universal offer for all two year olds. Within the Wigan borough, pilots have been taking place to support providers through these transitions.

• Early Years Capital Grant

Wigan has been allocated funding to support the development of high quality, accessible, inclusive and flexible early years provision. Audits have been developed which invite providers to assess and describe their current provision. Phase 1 Audits were sent out in summer 2008 to all providers who offer early years provision. A Phase 2 Audit is planned for summer 2009.

NEXT STEPS

The next steps are to progress the areas of work still underway as discussed above. In addition, the Annual Review 2009-10 is planned for completion by the end of 2009. This should provide a sufficient lead-in time for starting the full Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2010-11, to be published by March 2011.

Contents

1. Introduction	6
2. Review of the Local Childcare Market	7
2.1 Demand	7
2.2 Supply	17
2.3 Gaps/Recommendations	19
3. Implementation of the Childcare Strategy during 2008-9	20
3.1 Childcare Strategy 2008	20
3.2 Progress Update on Childcare Strategy	21
3.3 Quality	24
3.4 Early Years Provision	27
3.5 Early Years Capital Grant	28
4. Next Steps	30
4.1 Annual Review 2009-10	30
4.2 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2010-11	30
4.3 Children and Young People's Plan	30
5. Appendices	31
Appendix 1 – Wigan Borough Mapping	32
Appendix 2 – Supply Update 2009	34
Appendix 3 – Foster Carers	41
Appendix 4 – Brokerage Strategy Implementation Process	42
Appendix 5 – Useful Web Links / References	43

1. Introduction

The comprehensive Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) was completed in March 2008. The report was undertaken to meet the legislative requirements of Section 11 of the Childcare Act 2006. The Act stipulates that all local authorities must undertake a CSA in order to develop a strategy towards securing sufficient childcare.

Sufficient childcare can be defined as ensuring the provision of adequate childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, in order to enable parents to work, or to undertake education and training leading to work.

The CSA recorded the supply of, and demands for, childcare and identified any gaps in provision.

The Childcare Act 2006 requires local authorities to carry out and publish a CSA every three years and to review data annually.

This Annual Review 2008-9 revisits the Childcare Strategy 2008, and the progress made in addressing the gaps in provision identified in the CSA 2008. It re-evaluates key statistics and data, with particular reference to the supply and demand for childcare and considers if the childcare market has significantly altered over the last 12 months, thus impacting upon the sufficiency of childcare in the borough of Wigan. Furthermore, it assesses new information which may affect the provision of local childcare.

2. Review of the Local Childcare Market

Introduction

As part of the 2008-9 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Annual Review, key statistics were identified, updated and reviewed in light of their potential impact on childcare sufficiency within the borough. Based on the findings, points for consideration have been highlighted after each section.

2.1 DEMAND

Birth Data

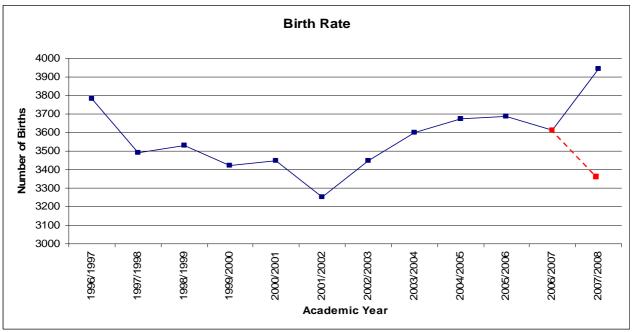
The following tables and graphs illustrate the changing trend in live birth data within Wigan over the last 12 months.

Table 1: Population Statistics per Age Group (0-17yrs)

Actual Live Birth Data and Projections (ALWPCT Data Academic Years)						
Age	2001 Census (01.04.01)	2007-8	2008-9	2009-10	2010-11	
Aged under 1 year	3329	3942	*			
Aged 1 year	3451	3613	3942			
Aged 2 years	3485	3688	3613	3942		
Aged 3 years	3496	3674	3688	3613	3942	
Aged 4 years	3800	3601	3674	3688	3613	
Aged 5 years	3718	3448	3601	3674	3688	
Aged 6 years	3797	3253	3448	3601	3674	
Aged 7 years	3987	3446	3253	3448	3601	
Aged 8 years	4136	3420	3446	3253	3448	
Aged 9 years	4298	3529	3420	3446	3253	
Aged 10 years	4078	3493	3529	3420	3446	
Aged 11years	4017	3781	3493	3529	3420	
Aged 12 years	4106	3586	3781	3493	3529	
Aged 13 years	4035	3738	3586	3781	3493	
Aged 14 years	4128	3802	3738	3586	3781	
Aged 15 years	3940		3802	3738	3586	
Aged 16 years	4024			3802	3738	
Aged 17 years	3802				3802	
Totals (0-14yrs)	57861	54014				

Source: PCT Child Health, System Academic Years: 1st September to the 31st August and Census 2001 statistics *Data available Sept/Oct 2009

Graph 1: Birth Rate Trends Based on Academic Years



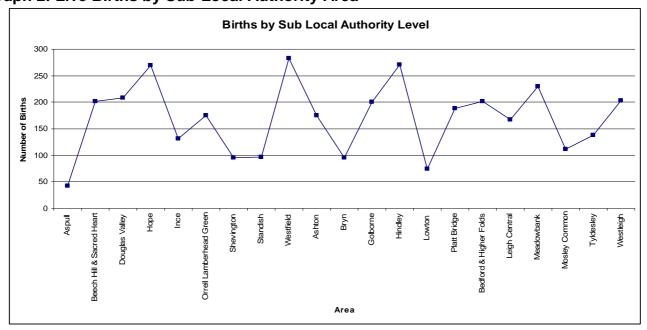
Source: PCT Child Health, System Academic Year: 1st September to the 31st August and Census 2001 statistics

- Relates to the last reported figure included within the CSA 2008.
- Represents the previous projected birth rate for 2007-8

As can be seen from the data above, the birth rate for 2007-8 is significantly higher than previous years. This trend opposes the projections presented in the 2008 CSA which predicted a constant birth rate that falls slightly over time.

Graph 2 illustrates the number of live births within the sub-local authority areas during the financial year 2007-8.

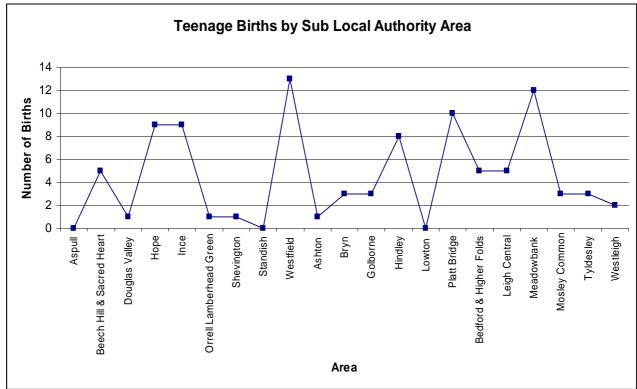
Graph 2: Live Births by Sub-Local Authority Area



Source: PCT Child Health, System Financial Year: 1st April 2007 to the 31st March 2008

Sub-local authority areas: Hope, Westfield and Hindley had the highest number of live births in 2007-8.

Of this sample data, Graph 3 illustrates how many teenagers have had live births during 2007-8 and the sub-local authority area in which these have occurred.



Graph 3: Live Births for Teenage Parents by Sub-Local Authority Area

Source: PCT Child Health, System Financial Year: 1st April 2007 to the 31st March 2008

Sub-local authorities: Westfield, Platt Bridge and Meadowbank have the highest number of live births to teenage parents.

Table 2 below presents the projections of live births for the Ashton, Leigh and Wigan Primary Care Trust (ALWPCT) area for the next four calendar years, based on updated projections available from the CHiMat (Child and Maternal Health Observatory) website; (http://www.apho.org.uk/default.aspx?QN=CHIMAT_HOME).

Table 2: Projections of Live Births for Ashton Leigh and Wigan PCT

Year	Projected Births
2007	3700
2008	3700
2009	3700
2010	3700
2011	3800

Again, these statistics differ from the projections presented in the 2008 CSA. These updated figures suggest that there will be approximately 400 more births than previously anticipated and this elevated figure is expected to remain as a constant for the next few years. However, these projections are lower than the actual number of live births for 2007-8, which was 3942 (ALWPCT Child Health System for an Academic year). It should be noted that this difference could be a consequence of the different time periods used by the two data sets.

Future considerations:

- Investigate the significant increase in live births from 3613 in 2006-7 to 3942 in 2007-8
 academic years, and any impact this may have on the demand for childcare. Examine
 whether this trend positively correlates with the increase in the number of minority groups
 living in Wigan.
- Assess the 0-5 population within Inclusion Areas (Appendix 1 Table A) to compare this with the number of 0-5 childcare places in each Inclusion Area, to determine sufficiency by Area. Transfer this data comparison method to the 5 Area Model (Appendix 1 Table B) for the next Annual Review.
- A known hot spot area in Wigan for Black Minority Ethnic (BME) groups is Worsley Mesnes (Hope sub-local authority area). Hope was one of the three areas with the highest births in 2007-8. Assess whether there will be enough childcare provision available within the Hope catchment area. Focus on whether provision is required by BME families. If so, ascertain whether existing provision in the area can cater for BME requirements.

Ethnicities

The following table and graph present population statistics by ethnicity data taken from the 2001 Census. The 2001 figures were further processed to provide mid-year population estimates for 2006, and more recently 2007, taking into account further estimates in births, deaths and migration etc.

Table 3: Ethnicity Breakdown for Wigan

	2001	2006 (Mid-Year	2007 (Mid-Year
Ethnicities	(Census)	Estimate)	Estimate)
White: British	294149	294149	292300
White: Irish	1744	1874	1700
White: Other White	1613	4477	2600
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	416	418	600
Mixed: White and Black African	199	194	400
Mixed: White and Asian	387	380	700
Mixed: Other Mixed	296	304	500
Asian or Asian British: Indian	681	1212	1600
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	400	203	1100
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	72	46	200
Asian or Asian British: Other Asian	173	89	500
Black or Black British: Black Caribbean	194	1655	400
Black or Black British: Black African	302	537	1300
Black or Black British: Other Black	43	679	100
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group: Chinese	488	564	900
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group: Other	258	1160	700
Totals	7266	13792	13300

Source: WISDOM – (New local information sharing web site)

Ethnicity Comparison based on Mid Year Population Estimates 2006 2007 5000 4500 4000 3500 3000 2500 2000 1500 1000 500 0 Mixed: White and Black Caribbean Mixed: Other Mixed Black Caribbean Black or Black British: Other Black Chinese or Other Ethnic Group: Chinese Other Black or Black British: Black African White: Other White Mixed: White and Black African Mixed: White and Asian Asian or Asian British: Pakistani Asian or Asian British: Other Asian Asian or Asian British: Indian Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi White: Irish Chinese or Other Ethnic Group: Black or Black British: **Ethnicity**

Graph 4: Mid-Year Population Statistics by Ethnicity

Source: WISDOM – (New local information sharing web-site)

Since the completion CSA 2008, the overall ethnicity population figure in Wigan fell by 492 between 2006 and 2007. 'Other White' and 'Black Caribbean' ethnicity groups have decreased the most. However, population increases can be seen in 'Indian', 'Pakistani', 'Bangladeshi'; 'Other Asian'; 'Black African'; and 'Chinese' ethnicity groups.

Data held by Children and Young People's Services (CYPS) on the number of pupils attending schools in Wigan from non-white minority backgrounds shows an increase over the period 2007-9, as illustrated below in Table 4. The table also illustrates the Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) that have been in the top 10 LSOA over the same period (2007-9).

Table 4: Number Pupils Attending Schools in Wigan by LSOA

LSOA	Sub LA Area / Children's Centre	Jan- 07 %	Jan- 07 No.	Jan- 08 %	Jan- 08 No.	Jan- 09 %	Jan -09 No.
Darlington Street East	Douglas Valley	8	<10	7	<10	16	16
Swinley East	Douglas Valley	8	<10	6	<10	21	29
Railway Road / Twist Lane	Leigh Central	6	<10	7	10	26	47
Leigh Centre	Leigh Central	6	<10	8	10	27	48
Hilton Park	Leigh Central	6	<10	8	11	23	38
Etherstone / Diamond Street	Leigh Central	5	10	6	11	13	23

Source: WISDOM - CYPS - Ethnicity of Pupils

Future considerations:

- An increase in the number of non-white minority ethnic groups may explain the increase in live birth rate and the increase in the number of non-white pupils attending schools in Wigan.
- Further investigation into the migration of 'Other Whites'
- Local Authority to review 0-5 places in light of the increase in the number live births, and the related impact on childcare sufficiency.

Lone Parents

The table below illustrates an increase in the number of lone parents within the borough, both those in and those out of work. There has been an overall increase of 1010 lone parents since the data reported in the CSA 2008. The increase is greatest for those who are out of work.

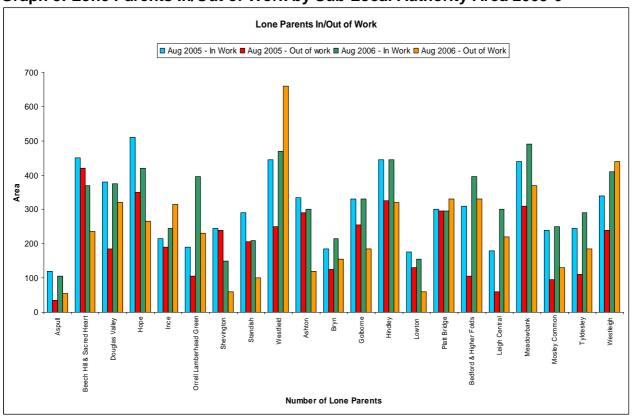
Table 5: Number of Lone Parents In and Out Of Work

Lone Parents	August 2005	August 2006
In work	6370	6615
Out of work	4320	5085
Totals	10690	11700

Source: HMRC -Tax Credit Statistics 2005 and 2006

The graph below illustrates the number of lone parents in and out of work by sub-local authority area, and compares these figures for 2005 and 2006.

Graph 5: Lone Parents In/Out of Work by Sub-Local Authority Area 2005-6



Source: HMRC -Tax Credit Statistics 2005 and 2006

The top three areas with the highest number of parents out of work in 2005 were Beech Hill and Sacred Heart, Hope and Hindley. The top three in August 2006 were Westfield; Meadowbank and Westleigh. More recent data is not available at this time.

Lone Parents and the Benefit System

In the CSA 2008, reference was made to the imminent changes that were to be introduced to the benefit system. These were the 'Lone Parent Measures Supporting Lone Parent Obligations' that were introduced from November 2008. The changes meant that lone parents with older children (aged 12 at November 2008) and who were able to work, would no longer be entitled to claim Income Support. They would have to find immediate employment or apply for Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) while either seeking work or developing their skills in order to work. As a consequence of these changes, (to be phased in over three years for children aged 12, 10 and 7 yrs), there would be an increase in the number of lone parents either seeking work or training who may require childcare.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) propose to make key statistics available in order to monitor the impact of these changes.

The table below presents the total number of lone parents claiming Income Support as at May 2007, May 2008 and November 2008.

Table 6: Lone Parents Claiming Income Support (DWP)

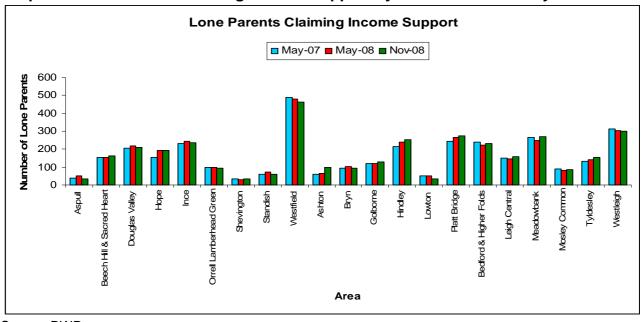
Date	Total
May 2007	3450
May 2008	3540
Nov 2008	3585

Source: Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

The figures imply that the number of lone parents is slowly increasing. These data sets present a baseline from which the impact of the new measures can be assessed for future CSA and Annual Reviews.

The following graph illustrates the number of lone parents claiming Income Support by sub-local authority area for the same periods: May 2007, May 2008 and November 2008. This data was used to factor lone parent populations into the gap analysis for the CSA 2008 (see Chapter 7).

Graph 6: Lone Parents Claiming Income Support by Sub-Local Authority Area



Source: DWP

Wigan Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Annual Review 2008-9

The table below illustrates the four highest sub-local authority areas for each of the aforementioned time periods. These are summarised in Table 7 below.

Table 7: Lone Parents Claiming Income Support

Sub-Local Authority Area	May-07	May-08	Nov-08
Westfield	490	480	465
Platt Bridge	245	265	275
Meadowbank	265	250	270
Westleigh	315	305	300

Source: DWP

These areas have consistently remained in the top four from May 2007 to November 2008.

Future considerations:

- These figures act as a baseline for monitoring the change in Lone Parent Measures Supporting Lone Parent Obligations. Research whether figures will be available for the number of lone parents who may find work or go on to training.
- Examine whether the increase in lone parents seeking work or training is significant enough to have an impact on the demand for childcare.
- Reflect on sufficiency of childcare within the sub-local authority areas of Westfield, Platt Bridge, Meadowbank and Westleigh.

Labour Market

The Census 2001 gave a mid-year population estimate for the Wigan borough of 305,600 for 2007.

Table 8: Working Age Population 2007

People	2007
All people - working age	190,100
Males - working age	100,300
Females - working age	89,800

Source: ONS mid-year population estimates

Table 9: Earnings by Resident 2007

People	2007
Gross Weekly Pay:	
Full-time workers	441.0
Male full-time workers	490.1
Female full-time workers	371.0

Note: Median earnings in pounds for employees living in the area. Source: ONS annual survey of hours and earnings - resident analysis Table 10: Population Numbers for Employed and Unemployed 2007

People	2007
Economically active [†]	155,400
In employment [†]	146,900
Employees [†]	134,000
Self employed [†]	12,300
Unemployed (model-based) †	9,400

[†] Numbers are for those aged 16 and over Source: ONS annual population survey

It is important to note that the recent poor economic climate has seen an increase in unemployment figures and the number of people in receipt of benefits.

Table 11 presents the increase in the number of Job Seeker Allowance claimants between January 09 and April 09.

Table 11: Number Of Job Seeker Allowance Claimants January - April 09.

Claimants	JSA, Wigan, Jan-09	JSA, Wigan, Apr-09
All people	8020	9789
Males	6203	7460
Females	s1817	2329

Note: % is a proportion of resident working age people Source: ONS claimant count with rates and proportions

The following table shows the number of Job Seeker Allowance claimants by duration.

Table 12: Number Of Job Seeker Allowance Claimants By Duration.

Duration	JSA Wigan Jan-09	JSA Wigan Apr-09
Up to 6 months	6,170	7275
Over 6 up to 12 months	1,120	1675
Over 12 months	680	775

Source: ONS claimant count - age and duration

Tables 11 and 12 above and Graph 7 clearly illustrate the increase in the number of JSA claimants in Wigan over a four month period as more individuals became unemployed. This rise in unemployment would reduce the demand for childcare.

Graph 7: Job Seeker Allowance Claimants by Duration January - April 2009

Childcare Barriers to Work

Jobcentre Plus (JCP) refers parents to Children's Information Service (CIS) if childcare has been identified as a barrier to work during a customer interview. CIS then explore what childcare is available in order to remove the barrier.

Between 1st September 2008 and 23rd February 2009, CIS received 90 referrals from JCP, but childcare remained a barrier in only one of these calls. However, this was not taken forward as the parent was not looking for work as they were in receipt of a Carer's Allowance.

Housing

The table below presents sites under construction with 5 or more houses between April 2003 and March 2008.

Table 13: Sites Under Construction with 5 Or More Houses 2003 - 2008.

	Completed	Under Construction	Not Started	Total capacity	Expected no pupils per year group
TOTALS	4893	550	1335	6774	56.55

Source: Wigan Council Borough Planning Department.

Approximately 1000 new houses are built in Wigan over a year. At March 2008, 550 sites were under construction. This would provide a minimum of 2750 new houses if the sites were fully completed.

The CSA 2008 data is still relevant in respect of the estimate that 1000 new houses would generate 30 children per school year group across the borough (or 3 pupils per school group per 100 new houses).

In conjunction with the recent downturn in the economic climate, there has been a significant slow down in the construction industry. This will reduce the number of new houses built (on sites of 5 or more houses) and, therefore, may reduce future demand for childcare.

2.2 SUPPLY

Childcare Places

There have been a number of recent articles highlighting inaccuracies in Ofsted's reporting of childcare places. Ofsted state that the number of nurseries, childminders and out of school providers has dropped, whilst the number of childcare places has risen dramatically. Ofsted suggest the childcare places figure may be higher as there may be some duplication of place numbers due to providers being on both the Early Years Register and the Childcare Register.

Nursery World online news bulletin (May 2009) reported that an Ofsted spokesperson said, ".... comparisons of place numbers over time need to be treated with caution".

As a result, Wigan Council has chosen not to compare the numbers of childcare places in 2008 and 2009 for this Annual Review.

Childcare Registrations and Resignations

Since October 2008, Wigan has tracked the registrations and resignations of childminders and settings per month within each sub-local authority area. Records show that the total numbers of childminders and settings have remained fairly constant throughout this time.

In October 2008, Wigan had 302 childminders and 149 settings. In March 2009, there were 301 childminders and 144 settings. Appendix 2 Graph 1 illustrates the number of settings and childminders per sub-local authority as at March 2009.

The CSA 2008 found Wigan to be sufficient in 0-8 year old places. Since then, five settings have resigned that served children aged 0-8 years. The five settings consisted of 3 out of school clubs (OOSC), 1 holiday club and 1 crèche. The main area affected by the resignations was Douglas Valley, which lost a crèche providing 20 places, and an OOSC providing 24 places. However, the Childcare Supply Review 2008-9 results (see Appendix 2 Graph 4) illustrate that there are still a high number of childcare places available for 0-8 year olds in Douglas Valley.

Therefore, it is not expected that the resignations will affect the sufficiency of under 8s childcare in Wigan.

Childcare Supply Review Survey 2009

In March 2009, Wigan Council carried out a survey of childcare places through a postal questionnaire to all registered providers.

The survey was undertaken to investigate:

- Number of childcare places not offered
- Number of vacant childcare places
- Changes in opening days or times (flexibility)

Wigan Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Annual Review 2008-9

The main findings of the survey are outlined in the table below. The table also compares current data to the main findings of the CSA 2008.

Table 14: Comparison of Findings

	e 14. Companison of I maint	2008-9	2008
		Annual Review	CSA
not offered	Percentage of childcare places not offered	33% of childminders and 14% of settings do not offer all the places they are registered for	25% of childminders and 11% of settings did not offer all the places they were registered for
laces not	Main reasons why childcare places not offered by settings	To maintain staff to child ratios.Room size restrictions	To maintain staff to child ratios.Room size restrictions
Childcare places	Main reasons why childcare places not offered by childminders	 Personal choice not to offer full number of places Temporarily not offering childminding service 	Places reserved for families.Numbers limited for practical reasons
places	Percentage of childcare places vacant	62% of childminders and 70% of settings have vacant childcare places	51% of childminders and 78% of settings had vacant childcare places.
Vacant childcare places	Main reasons for vacant childcare places in settings	No demand for serviceJust are vacant	No demand for servicePlaces are reserved
Vacant	Main reasons for vacant childcare places with childminders	No demand for service Parents removed child	No demand for service Just are vacant

The final section of the Childcare Supply Review Survey asked providers about whether they had made any changes to their opening times or operating days since the CSA in March 2008. The main findings are:

- 93% of childminders and 86% of settings have kept their opening times the same.
- 94% of childminders and 99% of settings have kept their operating days the same.

This data suggests that in general, childcare providers are not offering flexibility to meet the needs of parents who require childcare to cover variable shift patterns, nights or weekend working arrangements.

2.3 GAPS / RECOMMENDATIONS

The Annual Review 2008-9 highlights the following areas to examine within the next review or full CSA:

- Investigate the significant increase in live births from 3613 in 2006-7 to 3942 in 2007-8
 academic years, and any impact this may have on the demand for childcare. Examine
 whether this trend positively correlates with the increase in the number of minority groups
 living in Wigan.
- Assess the 0-5 population within Inclusion Areas to compare this with the number of 0-5 childcare places in each Inclusion Area, to determine sufficiency by Area. Transfer this data comparison method to the 5 Area Model in time for the next Annual Review.
- A known hot spot area in Wigan for Black Minority Ethnic (BME) groups is Worsley Mesnes (Hope sub-local authority area). Hope was one of the three areas with the highest births in 2007-8. Assess whether there will be enough childcare provision available within the Hope catchment area. Focus on whether provision is required by BME families. If so, ascertain whether existing provision in the area can cater for BME requirements
- The Lone Parents Claiming Income Support figures act as baseline for monitoring the change in Lone Parent Measures Supporting Lone Parent Obligations. Local Authority will need to research whether figures will be available for the number of lone parents who many find work or attend training.
- Examine whether the increase in lone parents seeking work or training is significant enough to have an impact on the demand for childcare.
- Reflect on sufficiency of childcare within the sub-local authority areas of Westfield, Platt Bridge, Meadowbank and Westleigh.
- Encourage greater flexibility, and incentivise childcare providers to offer childcare for variable / unsociable working hours.

3. Implementation of the Childcare Strategy

3.1 CHILDCARE STRATEGY 2008

Key Messages

The CSA identified a number of areas for development and gaps in provision, which needed to be addressed in order to ensure that there is sufficient childcare. These were:

- A. To ensure the sustainability of existing childcare provision and ensure that services are fully inclusive and flexible.
- B. To develop or expand Out of School services to meet the childcare demand for 8-11 year olds.
- C. To develop services to ensure that children aged 11-14 years have a safe place to be, before and after school and also during school holidays.
- D. To address the demand for crèche provision to meet the needs of Children's Centre project delivery and the needs of parents for weekend provision.
- E. To meet the childcare needs of parents/carers with children and young people with disabilities.
- F. To increase the knowledge and skills of the children's workforce (paid/ unpaid) in order to meet the key principle of the Children's Workforce Strategy to have a competent and confident workforce to ensure that childcare services are of a quality standard.
- G. Linked to another Local Authority statutory duty (Section 12 of the Childcare Act 2006) to give advice, support and guidance to parents, children and families, the development of a Brokerage scheme to ensure that parents are supported in finding the childcare that meets their needs was also included as an Appendix to the Strategy.
- H. The development of an infrastructure to support Annual Reviews and Childcare Sufficiency Assessments every three years to comply with the Sections 6 & 11 of the 2006 Childcare Act is key, not only to the monitoring and updating of information about the childcare market within Wigan, but also to facilitate the planning and commissioning of services in order to meet local childcare demand with a wide range of partners. e.g. Health, Jobcentre Plus, parents etc. This supports the strategic co-ordination and delivery of the strategy.

3.2 PROGRESS UPDATE ON CHILDCARE STRATEGY

The 2008 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment highlighted that there were a number of gaps in childcare provision that would need to be addressed before Wigan could be deemed sufficient in childcare.

A. To ensure the sustainability of existing childcare provision and ensure services are fully inclusive and flexible.

SUSTAINABILITY

During the financial year 2008-9, there were 15 applications for sustainability funding. Five applications from settings were endorsed, at a total amount of £137,156.52. The average amount of funding endorsed for settings was £27,431.

Three applications from childminders were endorsed, at a total amount of £1,650. The average amount of funding endorsed for a childminder was £550.

In financial year 2007-8, there were 31 applications for sustainability funding.

Three applications from settings were endorsed, at a total amount of £56,480.99. The average amount of funding endorsed for settings was £18,826.

Nine applications for childminders were endorsed, at a total amount of £4,050. The average amount of funding endorsed for a childminder was £450.

	Settings		Childminders	
	2008-9	2007-8	2008-9	2007-8
Number of applications endorsed	5	3	3	9
Total amount of funding	£137,156.52	£56,480.99	£1650	£4050
Average amount of funding	£27,431	£18,826	£550	£450

When comparing Area (see Appendix 1 Table A) differences in the volume of sustainability applications from settings, the East of the borough consistently submitted the most applications in 2008-9 and 2007-8 with 10 and 11 applications each year respectively. West and Central settings submitted one application for each Area during 2008-9, and 5 and 6 applications were submitted for each Area respectively during 2007-8.

Overall, although fewer applications were received in 2008-9, the level of financial assistance required is increasing across all childcare providers. This trend is a cause for concern, as sustainability funding is limited and therefore earlier intervention will be key to reducing the level of funding needed, or ideally, eliminating the need for it altogether. Additional financial training and supporting providers to adopt sound business practices will be crucial in ensuring that Wigan retains the places necessary for sufficiency. Ultimately, settings with too many vacancies will not survive and the market will thereby adjust to a level which meets demand.

INCLUSION & FLEXIBILITY

Inclusion and flexibility are both strong themes which are inextricably linked with the delivery of all childcare services, existing and new. As such they sit within other areas of development including:

- · Out of School Childcare
- Early Years Provision
- Early Years Capital Grant

These areas of work will be discussed in more detail in the following sections.

B. To develop / expand Out of School services for 8-11 year olds.

The CSA highlighted a gap in services for 8-11 year olds. This Out of School Club (OOSC) demand was further investigated through a mapping exercise. Questionnaires were sent out from primary schools that had:

- 1) an on-site OOSC with no vacancies
- 2) an OOSC nearby with no vacancies
- 3) no OOSC at all, either on-site or nearby.

The results were analysed and the potential for developing additional OOSC was further examined.

In the West of the borough (see Appendix 1 Table A) it was identified that new services are needed and suitable premises are currently being researched. Transport links have been examined for out of school services. Consultations have been completed at several sites. Where a demand for an out of school service has been identified, further work and investigation is underway to determine the possibility of tendering for the development of new services.

In the Centre of the borough (see Appendix 1 Table A) two schools demonstrated a potential demand for childcare. Accommodation for the new service is under review and the needs of parents will have to be confirmed prior to setting up the service. This will be undertaken in partnership with the two Headteachers involved, with a view to commissioning a new service, via tender arrangement, once the needs are finalised. In addition, a Children's Centre is also being supported to explore the possibility of offering Out of School Childcare to a cluster of schools.

In the East (see Appendix 1 Table A) of the borough it was identified that no development was needed, as the community was already well served by the existing OOSC in place. Indeed, the development of any new childcare services would only serve to further threaten the survival of existing ones. This is substantiated by the fact that a much higher number of sustainability applications were submitted from providers in the East of the borough over the last two years, as previously discussed.

C. To develop 'Safe Place To Be' / Out of School services for children 11-14 years.

The CSA highlighted a gap in services for 11- 14 year olds. The demand for services was further investigated through consultation with parents. Questionnaires were distributed to parents via high schools. The data was analysed and the results showed that there was not a high demand for formal childcare for children of this age.

However, high schools were given the option of applying for funding to develop a safe place to be. This would structure their existing extended services to reassure parents that children could be supervised in a safe place, either before or after accessing alternative activities, or when those activities were not in operation. To date, one high school has been endorsed for the funding and will therefore be developed as a pilot to inform a wider project as a second phase.

D. To address the demand for Crèche provision close to Children's Centres.

A consultancy has been commissioned in partnership with Economic Regeneration to conduct a feasibility study on the development of crèche provision in each Children's Centre locality. The study is well underway and has involved interviewing providers and Children's Centre service users to determine demand and establish options for siting crèche services. However, the final report is not yet available.

E. To develop/ expand Out of School services for children and young people with disabilities.

A pilot project has begun providing Out of School and Holiday Care services for a small number of children with the most complex needs who attend special school during the day. The childcare services have been delivered for the children of working parents who experienced a loss of service due to the closure of Wigan's only fully-inclusive OOSC. It is hoped that this pilot will be expanded to allow eligible families to benefit. However, this is subject to sufficient funds being made available, due to the high level of subsidy required for maintaining appropriate staff to child ratios.

In addition, a pilot project to support more inclusive practice among mainstream providers is in its initial stage. Inclusion assistants will be appointed to support individual children with additional needs in OOSC across the borough in the short-term, during which time on-site training will be offered to build staff confidence in caring for the child, once the inclusion assistant has moved on to support the next child and / or setting. Further specialised training to support a range of needs is also in development.

F. To increase the knowledge and skills of the children's workforce (paid/unpaid).

This is addressed in Chapter 3.3 Quality, under the section titled Sector Qualifications.

G. To develop a Brokerage Strategy to ensure that parents are supported in finding the childcare that meets their needs.

This has been developed to assist parents to secure childcare services that meet their needs, particularly where none currently exist. The strategy (see Appendix 4) has been used on one or two occasions to date, particularly to source out of school care for children with disabilities. To date, the strategy remains under review.

H. To develop an infrastructure to support Annual Reviews and CSAs.

In August 2008, a Childcare Sufficiency Officer was recruited into the childcare team to support Annual Reviews and the undertaking of Childcare Sufficiency Assessments on a three yearly basis.

This additional staffing resource has allowed an in-house database to be further developed and maintained which collates Ofsted inspection outcomes, in order that the council can maintain an overview of the quality of provision in Wigan. In addition, the database is used to record common themes arising from inspections which are used to inform the commissioning of training and to enable targeted support.

To this end, summary profiles are produced for the childcare team on a monthly basis which also highlights current inspection outcomes and childcare providers that are due for inspection.

3.3 QUALITY

The statutory guidance states that for childcare to be 'sufficient' it must be of high quality.

Sector Qualifications

The CSA highlighted increasing the knowledge and skills of the children's workforce (paid/unpaid) as an area of development. This can be described as 'sector qualifications', and includes data for both childminders and settings.

In Wigan, the qualifications of staff in settings which deliver early years provision are monitored annually. The data from 2009 is not available at the time of writing; however we are able to compare 2007 staff qualifications with 2008 data.

During both 2007 and 2008, over 1000 early years qualifications were gained by staff in settings delivering early years provision. In 2007, 8% of the qualifications gained were at Level 4 or higher. In 2008, 10% of the qualifications gained were at Level 4 or higher.

The following table illustrates the total number of staff achieving level 2, 3 and 4+ qualifications in early years provision settings in both 2007 and 2008:

Table 15: Qualifications of Staff in Early Years Provision Settings 2007-8

Qualification	2007	2008
Level 2	289	248
Level 3	707	680
Level 4+	90	106
Totals	1086	1034

Furthermore in 2007, there were 97 people from settings which deliver early years provision working towards a level 4 or higher qualification. Of these, 11 were working towards a Level 6 or higher.

In 2008, there were 138 people from early years provision settings working towards a level 4 or higher qualification. Of these, 30 were working towards Level 6 or higher. This shows that the level of staff qualifications in the Wigan borough is increasing.

Ofsted Inspections

In September 2008, the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework became statutory for all early years providers in Ofsted registered settings attended by children from birth to five years of age.

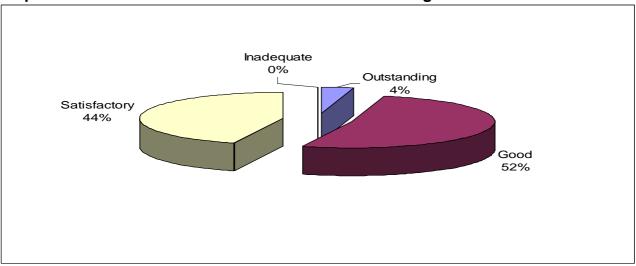
At the time of writing, 29 childminders and 23 settings have been inspected in the borough of Wigan, since the introduction of the EYFS in September 2008.

CHILDMINDERS

Of the 29 childminders inspected under EYFS, 1 received a grading of Outstanding, 14 received a grading of Good, and 12 received a grading of Satisfactory. Two childminders were not awarded a grade as there were no children on roll at the time of the inspection.

Graph 8 overleaf illustrates the EYFS Ofsted Inspection outcomes for childminders in Wigan as a percentage.

Graph 8: EYFS Ofsted Outcomes for Childminders in Wigan

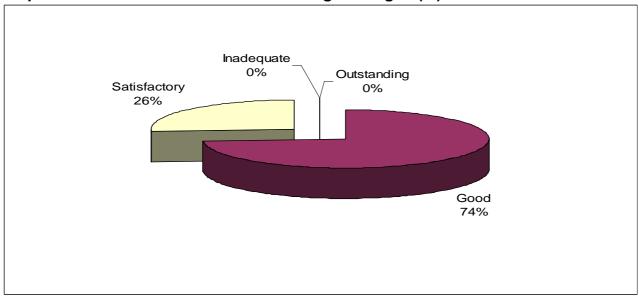


SETTINGS

Of the 23 settings inspected since the introduction of EYFS, 17 received a grading of Good, and 6 received a grading of Satisfactory.

The following chart illustrates the EYFS Ofsted Inspection outcomes for settings in Wigan as a percentage.

Graph 9: EYFS Ofsted Outcomes for settings in Wigan (%)



3.4 EARLY YEARS PROVISION

(Formerly the Free Early Education Entitlement)

High quality Early Years Provision gives children an excellent start in life. Children who have experienced some early years provision will be better equipped to develop their intellectual, social and emotional skills, and be prepared for new learning opportunities at school.

Currently, all three and four year olds in England are entitled to a minimum 12.5 hours of free learning each week for 38 weeks of the year. This can take place at a variety of settings including nurseries, playgroups, preschools and also with childminders who belong to an accredited network. Generally, childcare providers have offered the 12.5 hours to parents as either 5 morning or 5 afternoon sessions or a mixture of both.

From 2010, this entitlement will rise to **15 hours** a week, and be delivered on a more **flexible** basis. Parents will then be able to choose to take their 15 hours in a variety of ways to suit their needs, for example; at sessions spanning lunchtimes over a minimum of 3 days, which may better accommodate working patterns.

In addition, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has pledged to make free early learning and childcare places available to the **most disadvantaged two year olds** in every local authority, as a first step toward a universal offer for all two year olds (*Abridged from: Next Steps for Early Learning and Childcare, 2009*). This is significant because it highlights the importance of early, targeted intervention in having a positive impact on the Every Child Matters Outcomes, particularly educational attainment.

Within the Wigan borough, pilots have been taking place to support providers through these transitions.

Pilots 1 and 2 involved supporting a sample of maintained and PVI (private, voluntary and independent) settings, so that they can deliver the existing 12.5 hours in a **flexible** way.

Pilots 3 and 4 are supporting maintained and PVI settings who provide childcare for the most disadvantaged three and four year olds and therefore will be eligible to deliver the **15 hours** free entitlement from September 2009.

Further pilots are planned to assist transition and delivery.

In terms of **Two Year Old Funding**, Wigan has been given an allocation to fund 106 ten hour places from September 2009 for the 25% most disadvantaged two year olds in the borough. A strategy is in place to support this short delivery timescale and eligibility criteria are currently being drawn up for provider registration.

3.5 EARLY YEARS CAPITAL GRANT

Wigan has been allocated £3.6 million over three years (2008-11) from the Early Years Capital Grant.

The aims of the grant are:

- To improve the quality of the learning environment in early years settings to support delivery of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), with a particular emphasis on improving play and physical activities; and Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) resources.
- 2. To ensure **all** children, including disabled children, are able to access provision.
- 3. To enable private, voluntary and independent (PVI) providers to deliver the extension to the free offer for three and four year olds and to do so **flexibly**; rather than as AM/PM sessions.

The majority of this capital grant is to be used to improve the quality of the environment in private, voluntary and independent (PVI) early years and childcare settings, although maintained providers may also apply, both to support higher quality experiences for young children and to ensure that all children can access services and benefit fully from them.

A programme board has been set up to administer the grant funding on behalf of the Local Authority and a strategic plan has been developed, employing a phased approach, to effectively commission the grant for maximum impact and value for money.

Phase 1 Audits were sent out to all providers who offer early years provision. These comprised two parts; Audit A was to support applications for grant funding to develop buildings, access and outdoor provision, whilst Audit B was to provide information about resources needed to develop quality, accessible and flexible provision. Overall, a total of 485 Phase 1 Audits were sent out in summer 2008, of which 217 were returned, giving an overall return rate of 45%.

The following table outlines the return rate of the audit for each sector:

Table 16: Grant Audits Returned by Sector

Sector	Number of audits sent out	Number of audits returned	Return rate (%)
Maintained	30	30	100%
PVI Settings	150	85	57%
Childminders	305	102	33%

Based on the findings of the audits returned in Phase 1, the key categories for the allocation of funding are:

RESOURCES AND TRAINING:

- ICT (Information Communication Technology)
- CLLD (Communication, Language and Literacy Development)
- Outdoor provision
- Multi-cultural resources.

Wigan Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Annual Review 2008-9

OUTDOOR PLAY:

- Landscaping
- Storage

FLEXIBLE DELIVERY:

• Refurbishment work to meet criteria for flexible delivery

A second Audit (Phase 2 Audit) is planned for summer 2009.

4. Next Steps

4.1 ANNUAL REVIEW 2009-10

The Action Plan for the next Annual Review 2009-10 includes:

- 1. Re-examining key data sets; birth statistics, ethnicities, lone parents, labour market, housing etc
- 2. Piloting the Supply questionnaire to reduce the volume of respondent queries
- 3. Examine the affordability of childcare and the promotion childcare financial assistance.

4.2 CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT 2010-11

Wigan Council has devised a comprehensive action plan for the next CSA. The action plan outlines the next steps Wigan has to undertake in order to plan and prepare for the next CSA to be completed during 2010-11. This involves:

- 1. Review Demand and Supply questionnaires; redesign structure and fully pilot
- 2. Identify target groups for focus consultation addressing the gaps from the first CSA report:
 - Foster carers; this was revisited for the Annual Review 2008-9 where additional research has been carried out (Appendix 3). However, this is still an area for development and will be re-examined for the next CSA.
 - Review focus groups; lone parents, unemployed, teenage parents, employers.
 - Include childcare activities and extended schools activities
 - Specific and more qualitative research into the demand for and specific requirements around specialist childcare for disabled children.
- 3) Finalise the timeline, be more realistic about time needed for focus groups and consultations.

4.3 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN

The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) (see Appendix 5) has been prepared by Wigan Borough Partnership for Children, Young People and Families (CYPF). The updated plan builds on the firm foundations of the Wigan CYPP published in 2006 and sets out improvement priorities for the next three years, in the context of the Children's Plan published in 2007 by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). The priorities identified are those which the CYPF considers will have the most significant impact on the wellbeing of children, young people, families and the wider community in Wigan if successfully delivered. The CYPP priorities have been incorporated into the Wigan Local Area Agreement 2008-11. The CYPP is re-appraised each year in June.

The Childcare Sufficiency Strategy was developed in response to the findings of the CSA 2008. The strategy directly links to the CYPP under priority area 5; *Narrow The Attainment Gap Between Our Most Disadvantaged Communities And The Population As A Whole.* Performance monitoring is conducted on a quarterly basis with progress against actions reported to the Early Learning and Childcare Strategy Group.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX ONE: Wigan Borough Mapping

The supply of childcare was mapped according to sub-local authority area. These areas, sometimes described as Sure Start Areas, are based on Children's Centre and Extended Schools' clusters, using Super Output Area (SOA) boundaries.

Wigan is currently divided into three inclusion areas; West, Central and East. The table below illustrates the split of the borough:

Table A: Inclusion Area Model

Inclusion Area	ID	Sub-Local Authority Area
	1	Aspull
	2	Beech Hill & Sacred Heart
	3	Douglas Valley
	4	Норе
West	5	Ince
	6	Orrell Lamberhead Green
	7	Shevington
	8	Standish
	9	Westfield
	10	Ashton
	11	Bryn
Central	12	Golborne
Central	13	Hindley
	14	Lowton
	15	Platt Bridge
	16	Bedford & Higher Folds
East	17	Leigh Central
	18	Meadowbank
Lasi	19	Tyldesley
	20	Mosley Common
	21	Westleigh

Wigan Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Annual Review 2008-9

In the future Wigan will be divided in five localities. The following table illustrates this change:

Table B: 5 Area Model of Wigan

Locality	ID	Sub-Local Authority Area
	1	Aspull
	2	Beech Hill & Sacred Heart
Wigan North & Standish,	3	Douglas Valley
Aspull, Shevington	5	Ince
	7	Shevington
	8	Standish
Wigan South & Orrell,	4	Норе
Billinge, Winstanley	6	Orrell Lamberhead Green
	9	Westfield
	10	Ashton
Ashton, Bryn & Hindley,	11	Bryn
Abram	13	Hindley
	15	Platt Bridge
	12	Golborne
	14	Lowton
Golborne, Lowton & Leigh	16	Bedford & Higher Folds
Atherton C Tuddedov	17	Leigh Central
	21	Westleigh
	18	Meadowbank
Atherton & Tyldesley, Astley	19	Tyldesley
Holloy	20	Mosley Common

APPENDIX TWO: Supply Update 2009

Introduction

A survey of childcare places was undertaken through a postal questionnaire to all registered (0-8yrs) childcare providers operating in the borough from the private and voluntary sectors. Wigan has no independent providers at this time. The survey was undertaken to investigate:

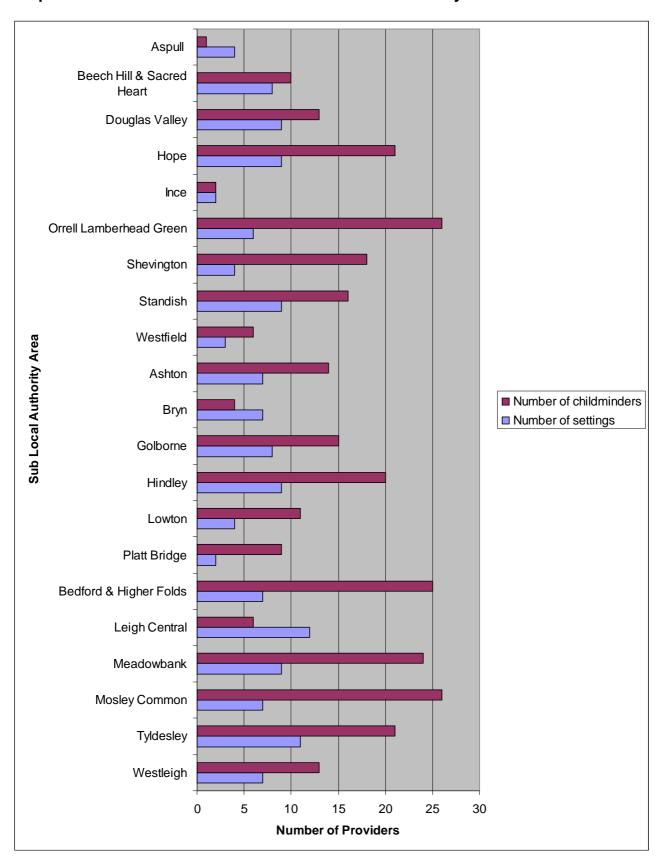
- Number of childcare places not offered
- Number of vacant childcare places
- Changes in opening days or times (flexibility)

Methodology

The supply questionnaire was developed in-house and the information received was processed and analysed using an in-house Excel database, making a distinction between childminders and settings. It is important to note that the data received for supply was collected in February 2009, therefore the figures are correct as at that time.

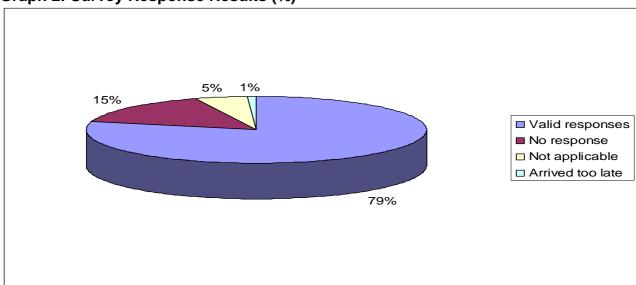
Graph 1 overleaf illustrates the number of providers within each sub-local authority area at March 2009.

Graph 1: Number of Providers in Each Sub-Local Authority Area at March 2009



Survey Findings

462 questionnaires were distributed to providers in total, 317 to childminders and 145 to settings. Of these, 391 responded, giving an overall return rate of 85%. However, 23 questionnaires were not applicable e.g. providers who were no longer operating, or had moved out of the borough. In addition, 4 questionnaires arrived after the cut off date and so were not included in the final dataset of 364. These figures are illustrated as percentages in the chart below:



Graph 2: Survey Response Results (%)

Of the final 364 questionnaires in the dataset, 242 were from childminders, 122 were from settings.

CHILDCARE PLACES

This section presents information on the number of childcare places currently not being offered and the number of vacant childcare places.

Childminders

33% of childminders stated that they did **not** offer all the places they were registered for. The childminders who were **not** currently offering all the places they were registered for gave following explanations in order of rank:

- Personal choice not to offer the full registration of places e.g. happy with number of children already in care, or family commitments meant a reduction in places was needed
- Temporarily not offering the childminding service for personal reasons e.g. on maternity leave
- Due to close the service
- Numbers limited for practical reasons e.g. unable to fit all the children in the car

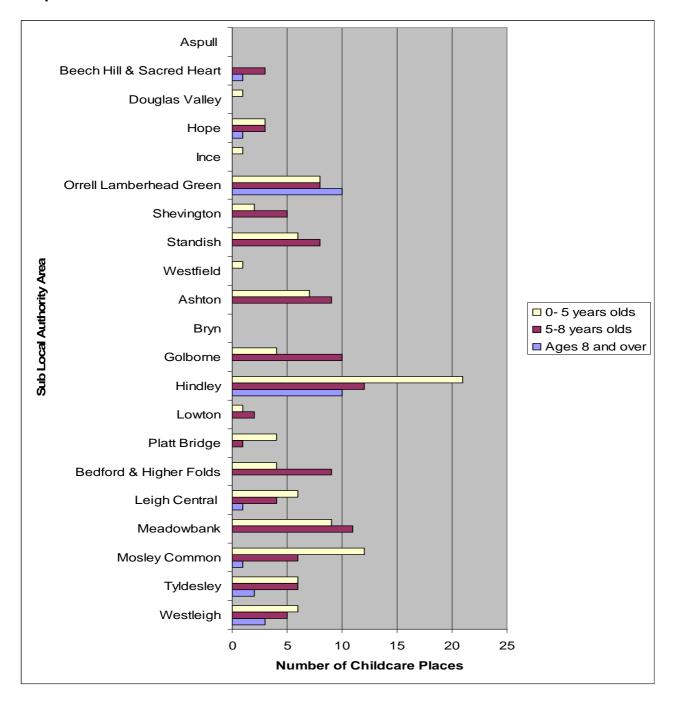
62% of childminders stated that they currently had **vacant** childcare places. Childminders who currently had **vacant** places gave the following reasons for these vacancies:

Wigan Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Annual Review 2008-9

- No demand for childminding service
- Parents removed child e.g. parents made redundant
- Just are vacant
- Places available more difficult to fill e.g. part time vacancies

The following chart illustrates the total number of vacant childminding places by age category within each sub-local authority area as at February 2009:

Graph 3: Number of Vacant Childminder Places



Settings

14% of settings stated that they did **not** offer all the places they were registered for. The settings who were **not** currently offering all the places they were registered for gave the following reasons:

Wigan Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Annual Review 2008-9

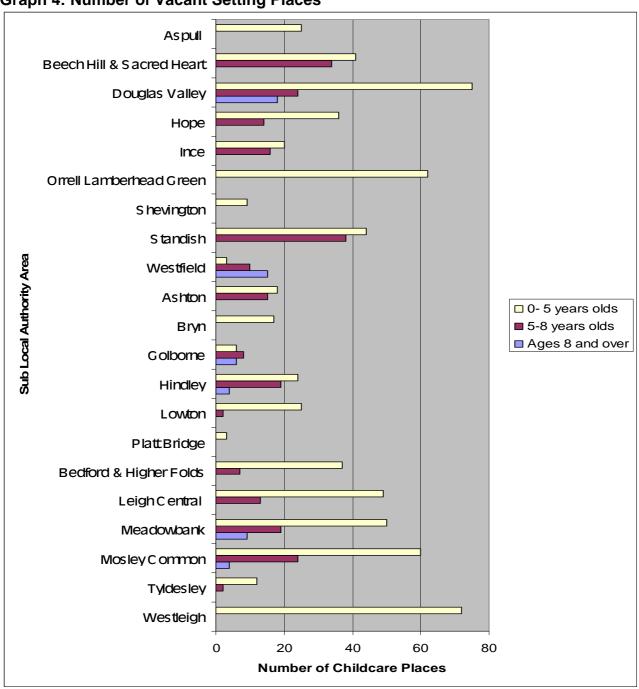
- To maintain staff to child ratios
- Room size restrictions
- Places reserved for children

70% of settings stated that they currently had vacant childcare places. Settings who currently had vacant places gave the following reasons:

- No demand for the places
- Just are vacant

The following chart illustrates the total number of vacant places in settings by age category within each sub-local authority area as at February 2009:

Graph 4: Number of Vacant Setting Places



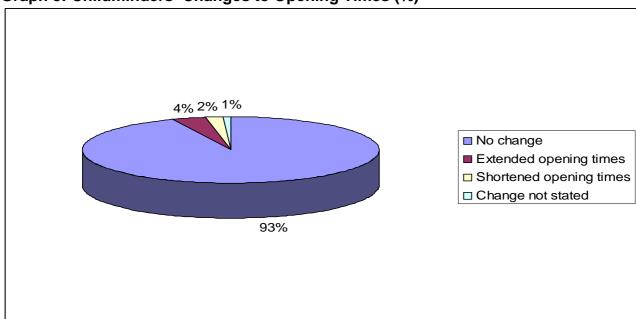
FLEXIBILITY

This section presents information about a provider's ability to meet the needs of parents who want flexible childcare. Flexible childcare includes childcare at irregular times/ days during the week and also childcare in the evenings and at weekends.

Childminders' Opening Times

17 childminders said they had changed their opening times since the CSA in March 2008. Of these, 10 childminders had extended their opening times, 5 had shortened their opening times, and 2 did not state how their times had changed. 225 childminders had not changed their opening times.

The following chart illustrates the responses from childminders regarding changes in opening times as a percentage:



Graph 5: Childminders' Changes to Opening Times (%)

The childminders who had extended their opening times said this was to allow them to be more flexible for parents. The childminders who had shortened their opening times said this was due to family commitments or wanting to work part time.

Childminders' Operating Days

7 childminders said they had changed their operating days since the CSA in March 2008. Of these, 3 had extended their number of operating days, and 4 had shortened their number of operating days. 235 childminders had not changed their operating days.

The following graph illustrates responses from childminders regarding changes in operating days as a percentage:

1%^{2%}
□ No change
■ Extended operating days
□ Shortened operating days

Graph 6: Childminders' Changes to Operating Days (%)

The childminders who had extended their operating days had decided to open on Saturdays or bank holidays. This was either to attract more parents to the service or to become more flexible for parents.

The childminders who had shortened their number of operating days said they only wanted to work part time and or they were due to retire.

Settings' Opening Times

Of the 122 settings that responded to the survey, 17 (14%) settings said they had changed their opening times since the CSA in March 2008. Of these 100% had extended their opening times or were now offering a wider variety of sessions.

Settings said they had extended or amended sessions to allow for flexible delivery and to accommodate parental demand.

Settings' Operating Days

Only one setting said they had changed their operating days since the CSA in March 2008. This was due to them no longer offering a holiday club.

APPENDIX THREE: Childcare by Foster Carers

Care provided by a foster carer approved under Fostering Services Regulations in relation to children, other than those for whom he/she acts as foster parent, is currently included within the definition of qualifying childcare for both Employer Supported Childcare (ie. vouchers) and Working Tax Credit.

Foster carers who are registered under the Fostering Services Regulations, but who are also caring for children who are not their foster children may wrongly assume that is not necessary for them to also register with Ofsted. Anyone providing childcare for children aged 0-8 years, which meets the definition of childcare according to the Childcare Act 2006, and who is not exempted from requirement to register, is legally obliged to register with Ofsted.

It is the responsibility of local authorities to inform foster carers who may be in this position that they must apply for Ofsted registration.

Further information is available via the following Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) links:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/localauthorities/_documents/content/LA%20email%20foster%20carers%20fin al.pdf

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/localauthorities/index.cfm?action=content&contentID=17622&categoryID=17&subcategoryID=77

In Wigan, the Annual Review found that there are no foster carers currently providing childcare for children who are not their foster children.

However, the review also found that foster carers do sometimes care for other foster carer's children while they attend training. Ofsted were contacted to ascertain whether this type of care would need to be registered as childcare provision and Ofsted confirmed that registration was not mandatory in these circumstances.

Therefore there are no foster carers in Wigan who are, or are required to become, registered childcare providers.

APPENDIX FOUR: Brokerage Strategy Implementation Process

Parent requests childcare that has already been identified as a gap in provision or needs help in securing childcare because of personal circumstances. Parent has had childcare information from CIS but contacts CIS/returns evaluation form revealing that they have been unsuccessful in securing appropriate childcare.

A broker or agency rings CIS and explains who they are, stating the parents contact details and the childcare requirements.





CIS to search the database for childcare providers which could relate to the parent's requirements.

Where necessary CIS to identify and inform broker about possible providers and the parental requirements.



Broker to try and negotiate with the existing childcare providers identified to find adequate childcare.

Broker to support the parents to make an informed choice about which childcare provision to use.

This could either be verbally or by undertaking a supportive visit.



Using the appropriate M & E form. Broker to inform CIS of the support given plus the outcome.



CIS to send out evaluation form to parent.



CIS to log outcome and inform Childcare Team on a quarterly basis.



Childcare team to identify if there is a gap in childcare provision. Inform CSA.

APPENDIX FIVE: Useful Web Links / References

- The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment can be viewed via the following link: http://www.wigan.gov.uk/csa
- The Childcare Sufficiency Strategy 2008 can be viewed via the following link: http://www.wigan.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/EC9E1A00-FCD5-4DE8-9CE0-2972907E59D1/0/ChildcareSufficencyConsultation.pdf
- The Children And Young People's Plan 2008 11 can be viewed via the following link: http://www.wigan.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/DF612073-B8D5-43A9-BA45-C823E1CA4162/0/CYPPFULLtest.pdf