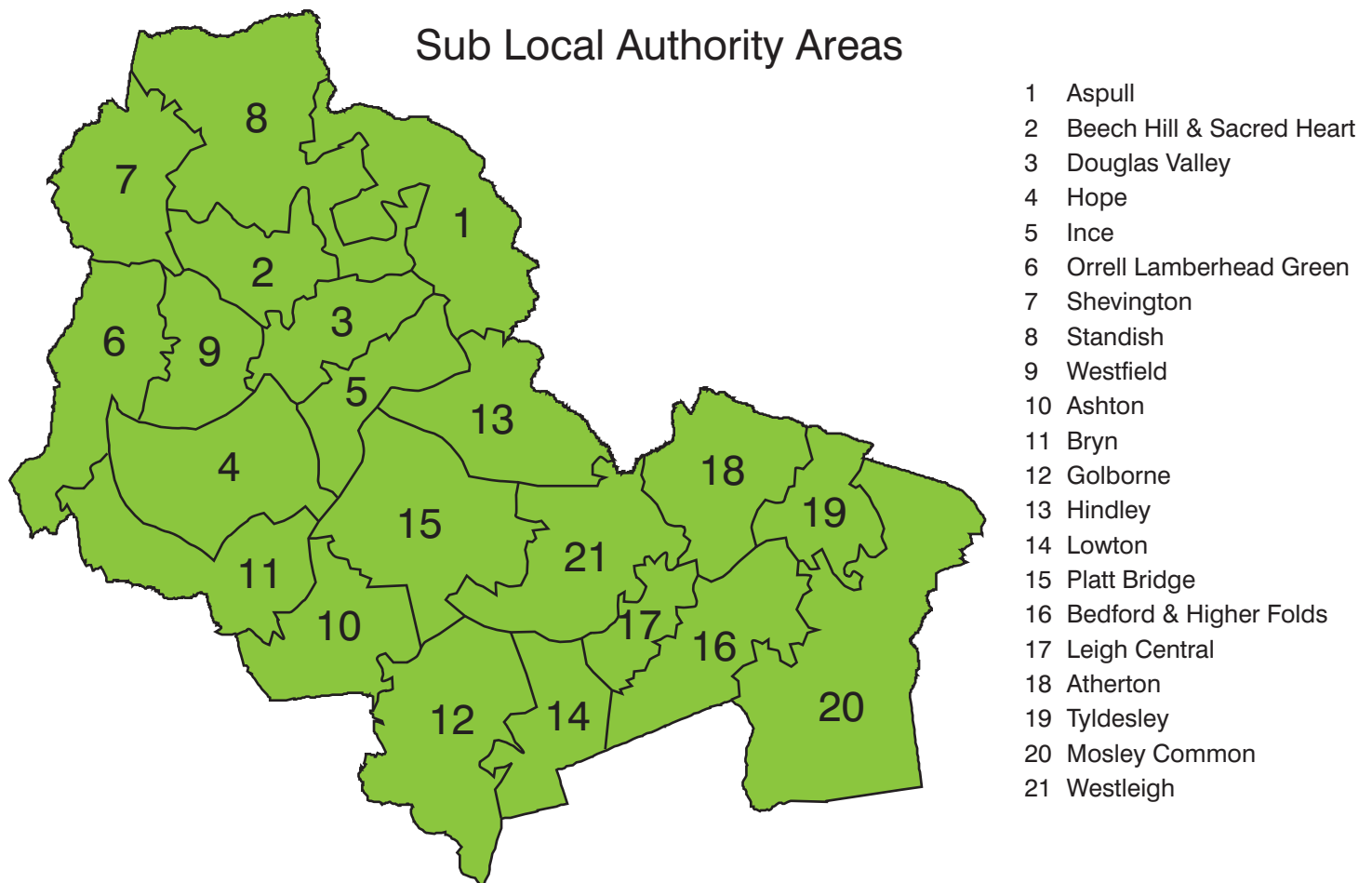


Wigan Childcare
Sufficiency Assessment
Annual Review 2012



Acknowledgements

Wigan Council would like to thank colleagues in partner organisations and agencies for their contributions to the Annual Review 2012.



Compiled by Wigan Council, People Directorate: Children, Adults and Families, Childcare Sufficiency Team.

If you have any comments concerning this report please contact Valerie.Williams@wigan.gov.uk

Executive summary

In March 2011, Wigan Council published their second Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) in order to meet the legislative requirements of Section 11 of the Childcare Act 2006. The following report is the 2012 Annual Review of the CSA.

In relation to the demand for childcare, the CSA 2011 predicted a constant birth rate falling slightly over time. However, the actual birth data provided a slight increase in birth rates for 2010-11. Latest data (2010-11) demonstrates that rates are continuing to increase slightly from the figures quoted in the Annual Review 2010 and as a consequence the number of live births in Wigan during this time was above the 4000 mark for the first time since 1994.

In terms of live births by sub local authority area, Westfield with 342 births is by far the area that has the highest number, followed by Hindley with 298 and Atherton with 277. As Westfield is currently the area that has the highest number of lone parents claiming Income Support in Wigan, it has been highlighted as an area where large numbers of 2 year old children will be eligible to receive free funded places. This will become significant once the roll out for the increase in 2 year old funded places commences from April 2012.

The total number of lone parents claiming Income Support over a 3 year period, at February 2009, February 2010 and February 2011 are supplied. These imply that the numbers are decreasing due to the effects of the Lone Parent Obligations (LPO) that were implemented by the Government in November 2008. However, this decrease has been off set by the increase of Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) claimants over the same period.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has given a mid-year population estimate for the Wigan borough of 307,600. There is a significant increase since the Annual Review 2010 of people in working age, from 189,900 in 2008 to 198,700 in 2010. However, the number of economically active people has dropped from 157,700 in 2008 to 153,100 in September 2011. The current economic climate will have no doubt been a factor in the decrease of these figures.

In terms of supply, the Annual Review 2010 reported that in March 2009, Wigan had 301 childminders and 144 providers who offer childcare on non-domestic premises. The figure has decreased again for this Annual Review in that Wigan currently has 253 childminders and 124 providers who offer childcare on non-domestic premises currently registered by Ofsted. There are another 10 childcare providers on non-domestic premises, who we know of, that are exempt from Ofsted registration, bringing the overall total to 134.

It is likely that the current economic climate has reduced demand for childcare, which has in turn adversely affected the businesses of some providers and resulted in them no longer offering childcare. The number of providers resigning their registration has outnumbered new providers setting up in 2011. 12 childcare providers on non-domestic premises have resigned this year with 4 new providers setting up. 45 childminders have also resigned with a further 29 registering. In terms of the spread of childcare across the borough, Bedford & Higher Folds and Hope currently have more than 30 childcare providers in their areas. Opposed to this; Ince and Platt Bridge currently have only 5 and 6 childcare providers in their areas respectively.

Within the CSA 2011 it concluded that apart from a very small geographical/type gap in provision; overall, Wigan is sufficient in childcare to meet the needs of most families. Since the CSA 2011, plans are in place to address these gaps. Recent information from the Department of Education (DfE) has proposed changes to the free Early Years Education for disadvantaged two year olds and this has highlighted another area for development.

These areas for development are addressed and highlighted throughout this Annual Review.

Contents

1. Introduction	5
2. Review of the Local Childcare Market	6
2.1 Demand	6
2.2 Supply	14
2.3 Gaps/Recommendations	15
3. Implementation of the Childcare Strategy	16
3.1 Childcare Strategy	16
3.2 Progress Update on Childcare Strategy	17
3.3 Quality	20
3.4 Two Year Old Funding	25
3.5 Disabled Children's Access to Childcare (DCATCH)	30
4. Next Steps	32
4.1 Annual Review 2012-13 and CSA 2014	32
5. Appendices	33
Appendix 1 - Number of Settings by Sub-Local Authority Area	34

Introduction

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

The second Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) was completed in March 2011. 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 2011 recorded the supply of, and demands for, childcare and identified any gaps in provision.

This Annual Review 2012 is the first annual review of the CSA 2011. Like the Annual Review 2010, it revisits the Childcare Strategy to further evaluate progress made in addressing the gaps identified in the CSA 2011.



2. Review of the Local Childcare Market

As part of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Annual Review 2012, key statistics have been identified, updated and reviewed in light of their potential impact on childcare sufficiency within the borough.

2.1 DEMAND

Birth Data

The following tables and graph 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	3,329	3,942	3,896	3,913	4,044
Aged 1 year	3,451	3,613	3,942	3,896	3,913
Aged 2 years	3,485	3,688	3,613	3,942	3,896
Aged 3 years	3,496	3,674	3,688	3,613	3,942
Aged 4 years	3,800	3,601	3,674	3,688	3,613
Aged 5 years	3,718	3,448	3,601	3,674	3,688
Aged 6 years	3,797	3,253	3,448	3,601	3,674
Aged 7 years	3,987	3,446	3,253	3,448	3,601
Aged 8 years	4,136	3,420	3,446	3,253	3,448
Aged 9 years	4,298	3,529	3,420	3,446	3,253
Aged 10 years	4,078	3,493	3,529	3,420	3,446
Aged 11 years	4,017	3,781	3,493	3,529	3,420
Aged 12 years	4,106	3,586	3,781	3,493	3,529
Aged 13 years	4,035	3,738	3,586	3,781	3,493
Aged 14 years	4,128	3,802	3,738	3,586	3,781
Aged 15 years	3,940		3,802	3,738	3,586
Aged 16 years	4,024			3,802	3,738
Aged 17 years	3,802				3,802
Totals (0-14yrs)	57,861	54,014	57,910	54,125	54,431

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

Graph 1: Birth Rate Trends Based on Academic Years

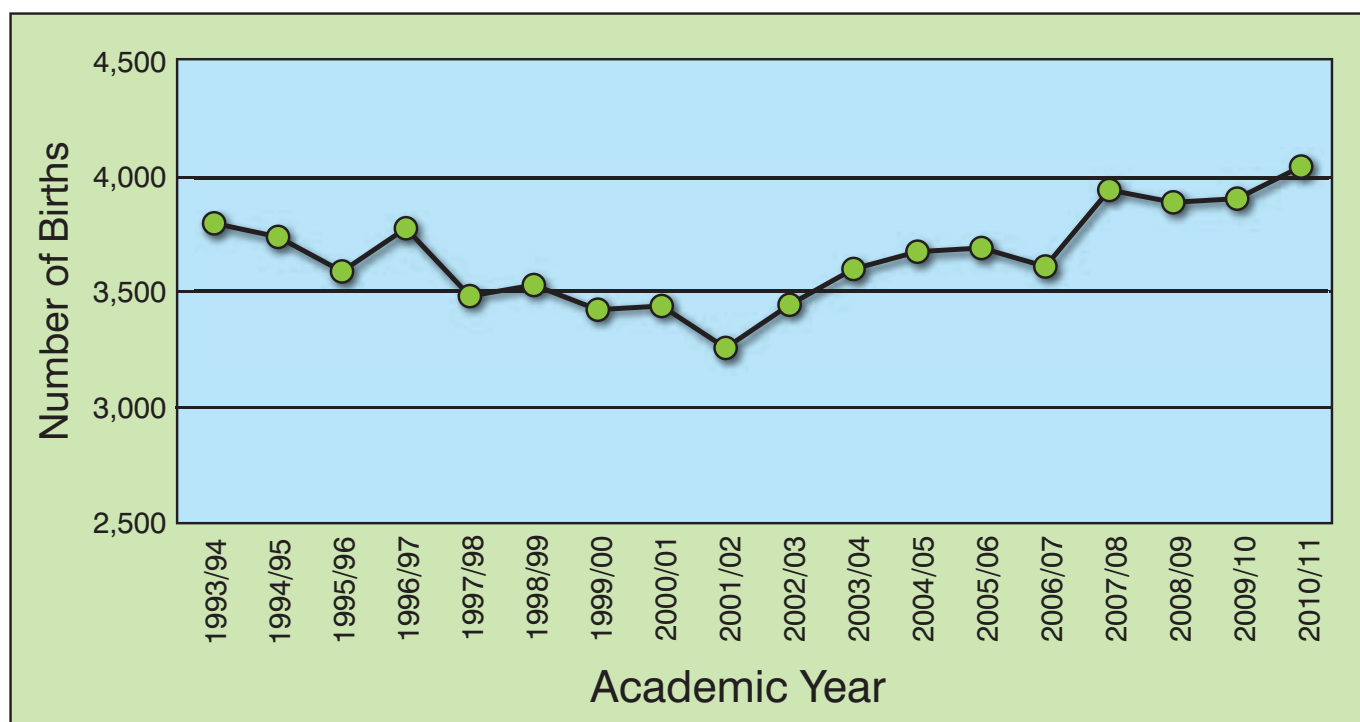


Table 2: Birth Information – Ashton, Leigh and Wigan Resident Population 2009/10

Children's Centre	2009	2010
Ashton	181	181
Atherton	289	277
Bedford & Higher Folds	216	238
Beech Hill & Sacred Heart	208	204
Bryn	104	107
Douglas Valley	212	220
Golborne	193	190
Hindley	300	298
Hope	269	264
Ince	150	153
Leigh Central	184	226
Lowton	85	77
Mosley Common	118	115
Orrell Lamberhead Green	205	188
Platt Bridge	244	259
Shevington	87	116
Standish Aspall	168	164
Tyldesley	162	193
Westfield	309	342
Westleigh	229	232
Grand Total	3,913	4,044

Source: ONS Births Data (resident based)

The CSA 2011 predicted a constant birth rate falling slightly over time. However, the birth data used was from the CSA 2008 due to the source being unavailable when compiling the CSA 2011. The actual birth data for 2010, as shown in the graph overleaf, has shown a significant increase from the 3800 figure previously predicted for that year. The actual birth data for 2009 was also higher than predicted and demonstrates that rates are continuing to rise year on year. In terms of live births by sub local authority area, the above table shows that the area of Westfield has by far the highest rate of births in Wigan, with Lowton being the lowest.

Ethnicities

The CSA 2011 did report on ethnicity populations from 2007-8 using Census 2001 and ONS (Office for National Statistics) data. However, due to a lack of new and more in depth level of data being available, it was decided not to report on the breakdown of ethnicity populations for this Annual Review.

Data held by the Management Information Support Team within Wigan Council on the number of pupils attending schools in Wigan from non-white minority backgrounds shows an increase in some areas but a decrease in others over the period 2010-11, as illustrated in Table 3. The table highlights the Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) that have been in the top 5 LSOA over the same period (2010-11). It is worth noting that since 2011, Platt Bridge North, Worsley Hall North, Marsh Green West, Pickley Green/Abbey Lane and Westleigh East have had reductions in numbers. However, the highest Sub LA Areas remain constant, i.e. Douglas Valley, Leigh Central and Westfield.

Table 3: Number of Non-White Minority Background Pupils Attending Schools in Wigan by LSOA

LSOA	Sub LA Area / Children's Centre	Jan 2010 %	Jan 2010 Count	Jan 2011 %	Jan 2011 Count
Swinley East	Douglas Valley	19%	27	22%	30
Worsley Mesnes North	Hope	12%	26	N/A	N/A
Railway Road / Twist Lane	Leigh Central	28%	48	25%	43
Leigh Centre	Leigh Central	23%	45	30%	67
Hilton Park	Leigh Central	19%	39	21%	42
Platt Bridge North	Platt Bridge	10%	35	N/A	N/A
Worsley Hall North	Westfield	8%	26	N/A	N/A
Worsley Hall	Westfield	11%	34	13%	40
Marsh Green West	Westfield	11%	35	N/A	N/A
Pickley Green / Abbey Lane	Westleigh	10%	27	N/A	N/A
Westleigh East	Westleigh	9%	28	N/A	N/A
Chapel Fields Estate South	Hindley	N/A	N/A	14%	35
Belle Green / Higher Ince	Ince	N/A	N/A	13%	38
Springfield / Wigan Town Centre	Douglas Valley	N/A	N/A	13%	26
Scholes	Douglas Valley	N/A	N/A	13%	14
Scholes / Birkett Bank	Douglas Valley	N/A	N/A	13%	38

Source: PLASC Data and WISDOM - CYPS - Ethnicity of Pupils

Lone Parents

Table 4: Number of Lone Parents who are employed in Wigan

Lone Parent Households in Wigan	
Total	9,659
Currently in Employment	4,415
Not in Employment	5,244

Source: ONS

The above figures (current as of September 2011) demonstrate that there are more lone parents who are currently not in employment. This could have a negative impact on the demand for childcare in Wigan, as lone parents who are in employment would more than likely require childcare given their circumstances.



Lone Parents and the Benefit System

Since November 2008, the Government has introduced 'Lone Parent Obligations' (LPO), which changed the Income Support (IS) entitlement conditions for lone parents. From October 2010 those lone parents who previously claimed IS solely on the grounds of being a lone parent with a youngest child aged seven or over would have to claim a more appropriate benefit when their IS ceased. For example, if they are capable of work they would claim Jobseeker's Allowance or if they have a health problem or disability they would claim Employment and Support Allowance. Some lone parents may be exempt from LPO, and continue to be eligible to claim IS, such as those who have a disabled child and receive middle or higher rate care component of Disability Living Allowance.

In 2010 The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) conducted an investigation as to how the above changes affected lone parents claiming IS. The summary of the findings were;

As of Feb 2010, of the 83% of lone parents on IS affected by phase one of the roll out;

- 6 % moved straight into work (16 hours or more)
- 56 % moved onto Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)
- 18 % moved onto Employment Support Allowance (ESA)
- 10% either re-partnered or moved onto some other form of benefit

The table below presents the total number of lone parents in Wigan claiming Income Support over a 3 year period, at February 2009, February 2010, and February 2011.

Table 5: Lone Parents Claiming Income Support (DWP)

Date	Total
February 2009	3,625
February 2010	3,495
February 2011	3,145

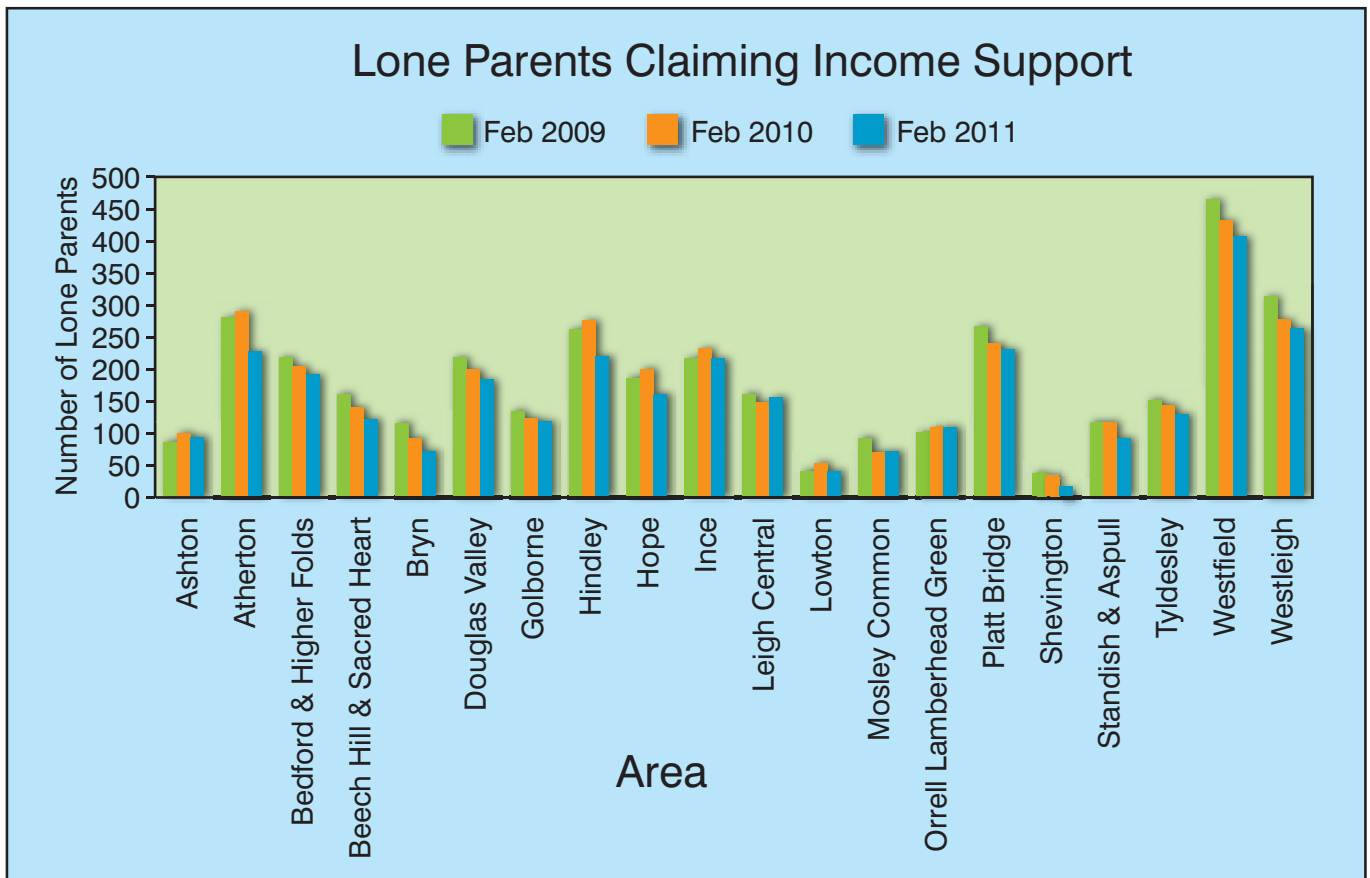
Source: Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

The figures imply that the number of lone parents claiming Income Support is decreasing. This would indicate that the impact of the LPO obligations is beginning to take effect, which in turn may have been a factor for the increase of Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) claimants during this period.



The following graph illustrates the number of lone parents claiming Income Support by sub-local authority area for the same periods: February 2009, February 2010, and February 2011.

Graph 2: Lone Parents Claiming Income Support by Sub-Local Authority Area



Source: DWP

The table below illustrates the five highest sub-local authority areas for each of the aforementioned time periods. These are summarised in Table 6 below.

Table 6: Lone Parents Claiming Income Support

Sub-Local Authority Area	February 2009	February 2010	February 2011
Westfield	465	435	410
Westleigh	310	275	260
Atherton	280	285	225
Platt Bridge	270	245	230
Hindley	260	275	220
Ince		230	220

Source: DWP

These areas have consistently remained in the top five from February 2009 to February 2011, with Westfield clearly being the highest throughout this period.

Please note that Ince has been added to the table as they were joint fifth highest with Hindley in 2011 in addition to Westleigh and Hindley being joint third highest in 2010.

Labour Market

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) website gave a mid-year population estimate for Wigan borough of 307,600 for 2010. Wigan has the second largest population of all local authorities in the North West, with Manchester having the largest. Wigan has an overall employment rate of 70.8%, with 4.3% of the working age population claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA). Recent statistics reveal that the current unemployment rate for Wigan is 8.4%, with a jobs density ratio of 0.57 jobs for every person of working age in Wigan, one of the lowest in the North West. Evidence would suggest that as there are an estimated 113,000 jobs in Wigan, over 40,000 people are employed outside of the borough. It is difficult to say whether or not these figures would have an impact on the level of demand for childcare in Wigan. From the overall population in Wigan, 198,700 have been estimated as being within working age (16 – 64). There has been a slight decrease in the working age population since the 2010 Annual Review, this decrease was amongst females.

Table 7: Working Age Population 2010

People	2009	2010
All people - working age	198,800	198,700
Males - working age	99,300	99,300
Females - working age	99,500	99,400

Source: ONS mid-year population estimates

There has been a significant change in average earnings since the last Annual Review in 2010, as shown in Table 8. The amount for full-time workers has increased with female earnings being a major factor in this, as the gap between male and female earnings is beginning to decrease. The figure for male earnings has dropped slightly.

Table 8: Earnings by Resident 2010

People	2009	2010
Gross Weekly Pay:		
Full-time workers	445.1	470.3
Male full-time workers	489.1	488.1
Female full-time workers	383.0	404.4

Note: Median earnings in pounds for employees living in the area.

Source: ONS annual survey of hours and earnings - resident analysis

It is important to note that whilst Table 9 shows a reduction in the number of unemployed adults in the borough, the number of economically active adults has also fallen to its lowest figure since 2007. It is also worth noting that Wigan has been identified in a recent report by the Work Foundation and Private Equity Foundation as having one of the highest numbers of 16 – 24 year olds (25%) in the country who are not in education, employment or training (NEET).

Table 9: Population Numbers for Employed and Unemployed 2011

People	2010	2011
Economically active†	157,200	153,100
In employment†	142,900	142,600
Employee†	125,300	125,600
Self employed†	16,900	16,200
Unemployed (model-based) †	14,200	12,300

† Numbers are for those aged 16 and over

Source: ONS annual population survey

Table 10 presents an overall decrease in April 2011, with an increase in September 2011, for the number of Job Seeker Allowance claimants between January and September 2011. The figures reported are lower than the 2009 figures in the Annual Review 2010, but are now higher than 2010 figures from the CSA 2011.

Table 10: Number of Job Seeker Allowance Claimants January - September 2011

Claimants	JSA, Wigan, January 2011	JSA, Wigan, April 2011	JSA, Wigan, September 2011
All people	8,790	8,749	8,968
Males	6,317	6,038	6,083
Females	2,473	2,711	2,885

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 11: Number of Job Seeker Allowance Claimants by Duration

Duration	JSA, Wigan, January 2011	JSA, Wigan, April 2011	JSA, Wigan, September 2011
Up to 6 months	5,950	5,740	5,385
Over 6 up to 12 months	1,260	1,535	2,010
Over 12 months	1,510	1,380	1,495

Source: ONS claimant count - age and duration

Over a nine month period Table 11, and Graph 3 below, illustrates a slight decrease in the number of JSA claimants up to 6 months in Wigan, as more individuals became unemployed. However, this is offset by a significant increase in the number of JSA claimants who are over 6 up to 12 months. Whilst the number of JSA claimants over 12 months has decreased from the 2011 CSA figure up to April 2011, this has now increased again. It is also worth noting that the numbers of JSA claimants for over 12 months has doubled from January 2009. This rise in unemployment will ultimately impact on the demand for childcare.

Graph 3: Job Seeker Allowance Claimants by Duration January - September 2011

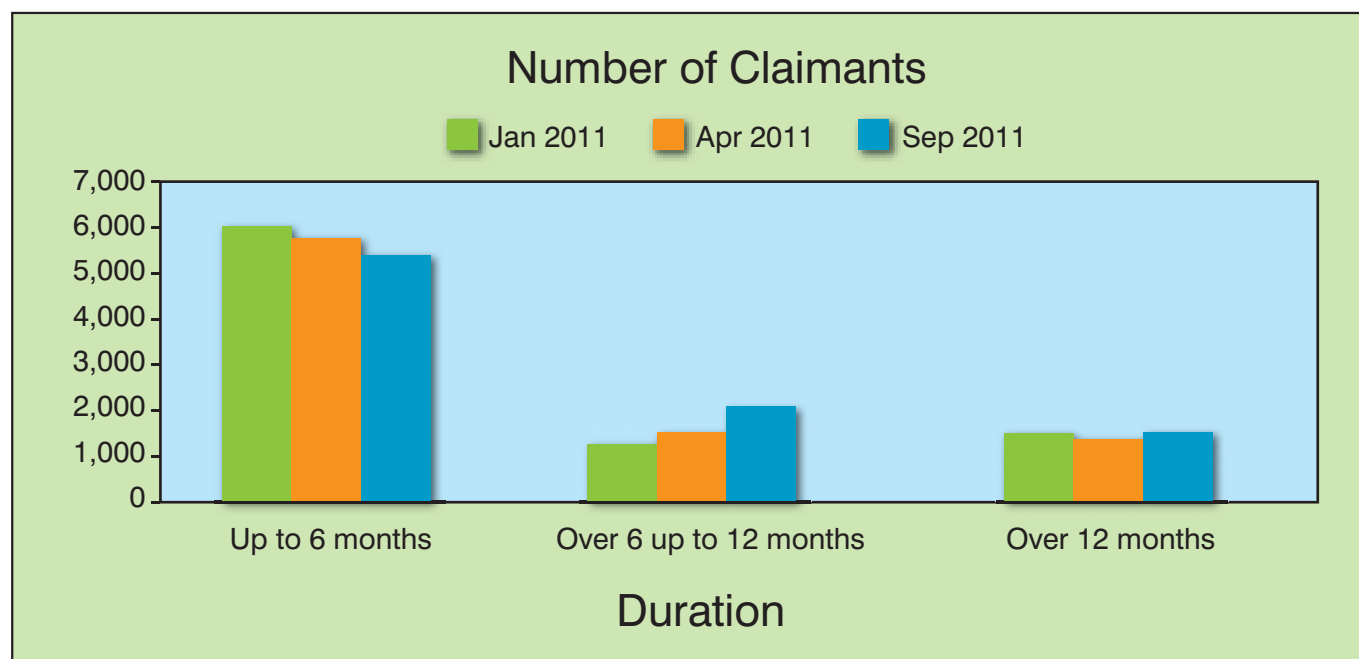


Table 12: Number of Children living in all Out-of-work Benefit Claimant Households

	Age 0-4	Age 5-10	Age 11-15	Age 16-18	Age 0-15	Age 0-18	Number of Households
Wigan	4,760	4,650	3,710	1,760	13,120	14,880	8,410

Source: DWP WPLS 100% data and HMRC Child Benefit administrative data

The above table is data representing a snapshot as at May 2011 of the number of children living in out of work benefit claimant households in Wigan. The data table also illustrated figures for other local authorities, namely; Bolton, Bury, Oldham, Rochdale, Stockport and Tameside. Wigan had the highest number of households out of all the other local authorities, Bolton being second highest with 7,780 households. However, it also important to note that out of all them, Wigan has by far the highest population.

Childcare Barriers to Work

Jobcentre Plus (JCP) advised that childcare has currently not been identified as a barrier for those people returning to work during any of their customer interviews.

Housing

The table below presents sites under construction with 5 or more houses between April 2003 and March 2011.

Table 13: Five Year Housing Land Supply (Sites with 5 or more dwellings)

	Completed	Under Construction	Not Started	Total Capacity	Expected no pupils per year group
Apr 03 - Mar 08	4,893	550	1,335	6,774	56.55
Apr 04 - Mar 09	4,832	600	1,410	6,842	60.30
Apr 05 - Mar 10	5,298	338	1,064	6,700	42.06
Apr 06 - Mar 11	4,852	397	970	6,219	41.01

Source: Wigan Council – Planning Department

The latest data provided in relation to housing land supply illustrates a reduction in the number of completed sites with 5 or more dwellings but an increase in those under construction. The relevant data in terms of potential demand for childcare is highlighted in the ‘total capacity’ and ‘expected number of pupils per year group’ column from the above table. This shows a drop in predicted numbers compared to other time periods.

The CSA 2011 estimated that around 988 new houses are built in Wigan each year; this is based on an average over 5 years. Wigan Council estimates that there are no more than 3 children per school year group generated by 100 new houses built and occupied. The current figures show 397 sites under construction; this would provide a minimum of 1985 houses if the sites were fully completed. 2000 new houses would generate 60 children per school year group across the borough.

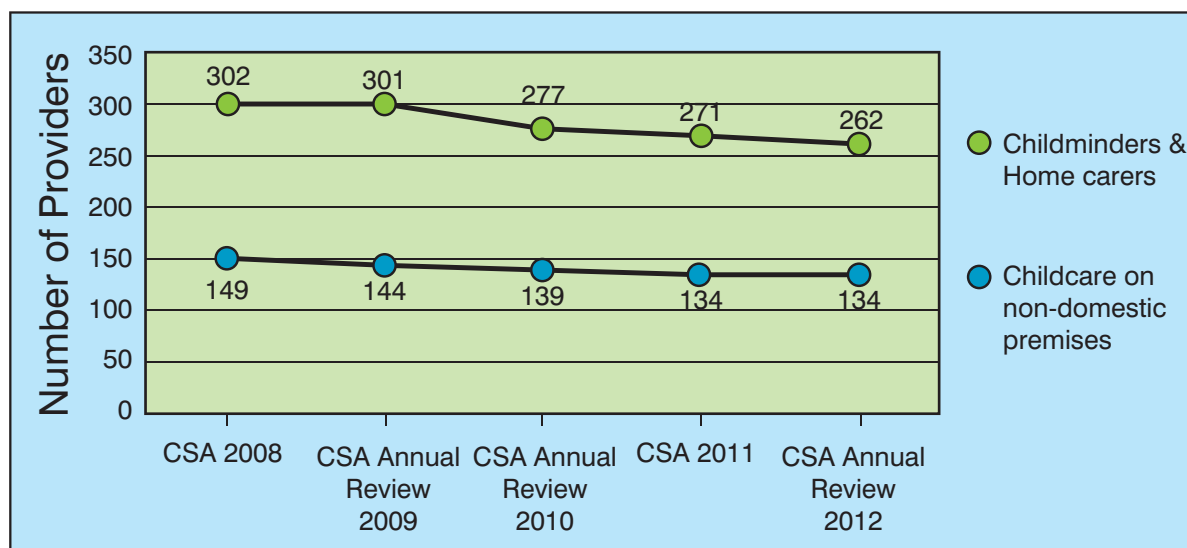
Whilst there is a slight increase in the activity of house building the overall capacity is still lower than in previous years. This will reduce the number of new houses built (on sites of 5 or more houses) and, therefore, may reduce future demand for childcare.

2.2 SUPPLY

Childcare 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. The following graph illustrates the decline in childcare providers year on year.

Graph 4: Decline in number of childcare providers



The CSA 2011 reported that there had been a decrease in childcare provision since the Annual Review 2010 and at the time of publishing there were 277 Childminders and 139 childcare settings on non-domestic premises in Wigan. The figures for this Annual Review have dropped again, with Childminders representing the bulk of this decrease. In 2011, 45 Childminders have resigned and 29 have registered. In terms of settings, there have been 9 resignations and 9 new registrations in 2011.

Due to some of the resignations being as a consequence to the setting becoming managed and governed by the school (therefore becoming exempt from Ofsted registration requirements) in which they are based; those settings have been counted in the above graph for the purposes of this Annual Review.

Considering the location of registrations and resignations across the borough, the areas of Atherton and Hope show to have had the highest number of Childminders resign in 2011, with 6 and 5 respectively. The areas of Atherton and Douglas Valley have had the highest number of registrations for Childminders with 3 in each. Appendix 1 illustrates the current spread of childcare providers across the borough in comparison to figures quoted in the Annual Review 2010. The graph for settings shows that the current distribution of them is fairly similar to that reported in December 2009 for the Annual Review 2010. The graph for childminders is also similar in that the areas of Hope, Bedford & Higher Folds and Mosley Common still have high numbers. The area of Hindley has however had a significant increase and Golborne a decrease in the number of childminders. Whilst it is demonstrated that there is a low number of childminders in the areas of Ince, Leigh Central, Platt Bridge and Westfield, plus the area of Aspull which currently has only one childminder (this is despite the figure on the graph for Standish & Aspull showing quite a high number); continuous assessment of the level of demand for this type of service in these areas is required to ensure there remains sufficient childcare according to the demand.

The figure quoted for childminders (including Home Childcarers) in the above graph is 262, however within this figure there are 8 known Childminders who are currently not actively childminding for various reasons but are still registered with Ofsted. There are also a number of Childminders who are currently not actively minding children in the Early Years (0-5 yrs) age range.

Childcare Supply Review Survey

The CSA guidance states that local authorities are not required to repeat surveys at intervals of less than three years. In light of this Wigan Council has chosen not to send out questionnaires to providers for this Annual Review, as providers will be asked for occupancy data on a more regular basis in order to monitor the childcare market and ensure sufficiency throughout the year.

2.3 GAPS / RECOMMENDATIONS

Although no major gaps were identified within the CSA 2011 a breakdown of Early Years Provision places within Children's Centre Catchment Areas (CCCA) demonstrated that the borough had a surplus in some areas but a deficit in others (See Appendix 9 of the CSA 2011 for sufficiency of 3 & 4 year old places data).

The areas highlighted to have a shortfall of free early years provision is highlighted within the Childcare Strategy of which a progress update is given in Chapter 3.

Since the completion of the CSA 2011, the Childcare Sufficiency Team is aware of a number of settings and childminders who currently have vacancies for all age ranges, whilst others are full and have waiting lists. Due to this, the level of demand is varied depending on the sub local authority area. For example 3 & 4 year old provision in the Golborne area, most settings and maintained nurseries are currently full or have very few available vacancies. On the contrary in Atherton and Bedford & Higher Folds, there are high numbers of vacancies available for some providers.

Overall, the reduction in supply; both in the number of providers and in places, may have had a limited impact due to the corresponding rise in unemployment. Generally, it is implied that there is sufficient childcare available to meet current demand.



3. Implementation of the Childcare Strategy

3.1 CHILDCARE STRATEGY 2011-14

Key Messages

The CSA 2011 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 in Wigan. These were:

- A. To prepare for the roll out of the 15 hours free entitlement to all disadvantaged two year olds, ensuring sufficient provision at Children's Centre locality level.
- B. Further expansion of holiday provision for children aged over 8 years.
- C. Following the pilot scheme, further develop service provision to ensure that children aged between 11-14 years have a Safe Place To Be, before and after school and during the school holidays.
- D. To address the childcare needs of parents/carers with children and young people with disabilities, using the DCATCH funding initially but developing plans for sustaining services beyond the current funding period.
- E. To support the sustainability of existing childcare provision and to ensure that they are fully inclusive and flexible in meeting parental needs.
- F. To review the commissioned crèche service to ensure that any future crèche provision continues to match needs of Children Centre project delivery and the needs of parents accessing a range of worklessness events.
- G. To market the 2, 3 and 4 years old free childcare offers to parents.
- H. Encourage providers to supply more information for parents; particularly those with disabled children, those on low incomes, lone parents and the unemployed about the benefits they may be entitled to; including childcare voucher schemes.
- I. Improve data collection systems among internal and external partners to reduce bureaucracy, particularly in relation to live births and disability.
- J. Develop Evince and FIS databases to include provision for over 8 years, and also to collect all childcare occupancy data regularly; reducing the need to / cost of conducting childcare provider supply surveys every 3 years.
- K. Review the Brokerage Strategy to ensure that it is coherent with the newly formed FIS.



3.2 PROGRESS UPDATE ON CHILDCARE STRATEGY

As a result of the Childcare Strategy 2011-14 being developed, an action plan for Wigan has been implemented to demonstrate how the below developments and gaps are being addressed. Below are the actions and progress update against the set targets.

A. To prepare for the roll out of the 15 hours free entitlement to all disadvantaged two year olds, ensuring sufficient provision at Children's Centre locality level.

This is addressed in Chapter 3.4 Two Year Old Funding.

B. Further expansion of holiday provision for children aged over 8 years.

Due to other priorities and capacity issues within the Childcare Sufficiency Team, this area of development has not yet been implemented.

C. Following the pilot scheme, further develop service provision to ensure that children aged between 11-14 years have a Safe Place To Be, before and after school and during the school holidays.

Due to other priorities and capacity issues within the Childcare Sufficiency Team, this area of development has not yet been implemented.

D. To address the childcare needs of parents/carers with children and young people with disabilities, using the DCATCH (Disabled Children's Access to Childcare) funding initially but developing plans for sustaining services beyond the current funding period.

This is addressed in Chapter 3.5 DCATCH.

E. To support the sustainability of existing childcare provision and to ensure that they are fully inclusive and flexible in meeting parental needs.

SUSTAINABILITY

During the financial year 2011-12 (to date), there have been 11 applications for sustainability and place creation funding. Eight applications from settings were endorsed, at a total amount of £146,915. The average amount of funding endorsed for sustainability was £21,358. The average for place creation was £15,370. One application from a childminder was endorsed, at a total amount of £500.

The three remaining applications that were not endorsed were all settings who were rejected on sufficiency grounds. To date, all three of these settings remain open with no places lost.

The following table illustrates the endorsed sustainability and place creation applications in financial year 2011-12 for both settings and childminders. Please note that this data is up to date as of January 2012 and that further applications may be endorsed up until the end of March 2012.

Table 14: Number of Applications for Funding from the LA

	Settings		Childminders	Totals
	Sustainability 2011-12	Place Creation 2011-12	Sustainability 2011-12	
Number of applications endorsed	4	4	1	9
Total amount of funding	£85,434	£61,481	£500	£147,415
Average amount of funding	£21,358	£15,370	£500	£37,228

The number of applications for sustainability funding compared to the figure quoted in the Annual Review 2010 is slightly less for this financial year. However, as previously stated, further applications could be endorsed up until the end of March 2012 and the data in the above table now includes applications for place creation funding. The amount of funding applied for in this financial year was also higher for sustainability than reported in the last annual review. It is difficult to offer a reason for this as each application is different and circumstances/reasons for requesting funding are unique to each individual setting.

The applications for place creation funding were endorsed to address identified gaps in provision within their particular areas.

F. To review the commissioned creche service to ensure that any future crèche provision continues to match needs of Children Centre project delivery and the needs of parents accessing a range of worklessness events.

As from April 2011, the crèche provider delivering the crèche services to support children centre project delivery was recommissioned for 6 months. This was to fall in line with the LA's budget allocation timelines. In September 2011, this contract was extended until the end of March 2012.

To coincide with these timescales the crèche steering group implemented a more defined method of monitoring the allocation and take up of free crèche provision plus the decision as to how the free sessions were to be used was also transferred to that of the Children's Centre Coordinator.

In April 2011 each Children Centre was issued with the same amount of crèche sessions which could be used up until September. In September 2011 another 6 months worth of crèche sessions plus all previous unspent crèche sessions were reallocated to Children's Centres. This allocation was based on previous usage and the level of demand.

In January 2012 a second reallocation exercise was conducted to ensure that all crèche sessions are used according to need.

To date it is estimated that all 936 creche sessions will be utilised for the financial year 2011-2012.

G. To market the 2, 3 and 4 years old free childcare offers to parents.

Within the Family Information Service (FIS) steering group the key stakeholders are not exclusive to the Council's People Directorate as representatives from the Resource Directorate, Job Centre Plus and health are also involved to ensure that a partnership approach is taken to promoting the FIS strategy.

As part of the FIS strategy, a marketing strategy has been agreed to advertise all aspects of the FIS functions. Within this, fact sheets have been developed to promote the early years free entitlement for 2, 3, and 4 year olds and plans are in place to have them added to the Wigan Council website.

H. Encourage providers to supply more information for parents; particularly those with disabled children, those on low incomes, lone parents and the unemployed about the benefits they may be entitled to; including childcare voucher schemes.

To promote the FIS functions, encourage all providers to sign up to promote their services on the family information directory and to give more information to parents with disabled children, those on low incomes, lone parents and benefits they may be entitled to, a member of the Childcare Sufficiency Team will attend all Childcare on non domestic premises Managers Meetings in 2012.

I. Improve data collection systems among internal and external partners to reduce bureaucracy, particularly in relation to live births and disability.

Management information reports have recently been created, which has allowed the tracking of resignations and registrations of childcare providers in Wigan. Live birth data has been supplied and a source for disability data has been identified within Wigan LA.

J. Develop Evince and FIS databases to include provision for over 8 years, and also to collect all childcare occupancy data regularly; reducing the need to / cost of conducting childcare provider supply surveys every 3 years.

The vacant Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Officer Post has now been recruited to the Childcare Sufficiency Team with the task of supporting the overall sufficiency agenda and developing the Evince/FIS databases to improve the accuracy of data for childcare providers. The software provider for the Evince system is currently developing a 'Provider Updates module' that will allow all childcare providers on the FIS to regularly update their own occupancy data online.

It is envisaged that initially a pilot area will be developed with a view to a full roll out by the end of 2012.

K. Review the Brokerage Strategy to ensure that it is coherent with the newly formed FIS.

A new Brokerage Strategy has been developed and will be implemented within the Contact Centre function of the FIS. Further training around the Brokerage Strategy to assist Contact Centre staff will be introduced from January 2012 and will also form part of their induction.

3.3 QUALITY

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

Sector Qualifications

The 2008 Childcare Strategy 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 following table illustrates the total number of staff achieving level 2, 3 and 4+ qualifications in early year's provision in 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Table 15: Qualifications achieved by Staff in Early Years Provision Settings 2009-11

Qualification	2009	2010	2011
Level 2	201	129	172
Level 3	708	723	662
Level 4+	137	163	219
Totals	1046	1015	1053

The table shows that since 2009, over 1000 early years qualifications were gained by staff in settings delivering early years provision. The table also illustrates that the number of staff achieving a level 4+ qualification is still increasing year on year. The current number of staff who have achieved a level 4+ qualification has more than doubled since 2007, of which the figure at the time was around 90.

At present there are 75 staff in settings delivering early years provision who have gained a level 6 or above qualification, compared to 50 staff in 2009, and 11 staff in 2007.

Out of the 252 registered Childminders in Wigan, 112 are currently qualified to level 3 or higher with a further 13 working towards a level 3 childcare qualification.

Currently there are 25 people that have gained the Early Years Professional Status within the childcare workforce within Wigan.

This data clearly shows that the level of staff qualifications in the Wigan borough is continuing to increase each year.

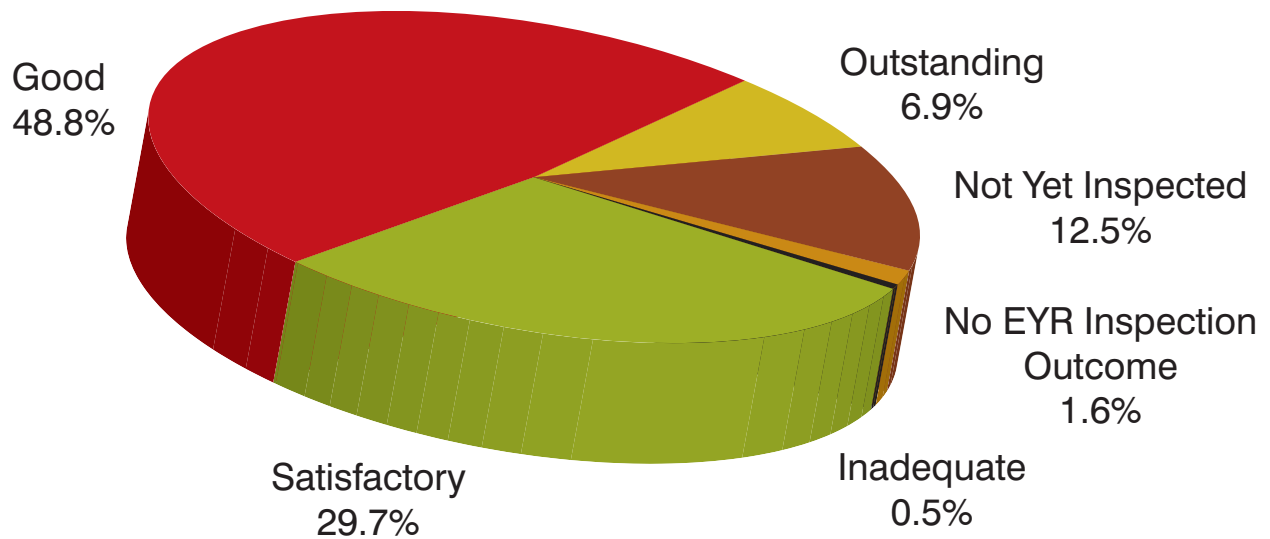
Ofsted Inspections

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.

In the CSA Annual Review 2010, Ofsted judgements were reported based on cumulative data from September 2008 (the introduction of EYFS) to December 2009. For this Annual Review we are going to look at current data from providers last Ofsted Inspection together with Ofsted outcomes from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011.

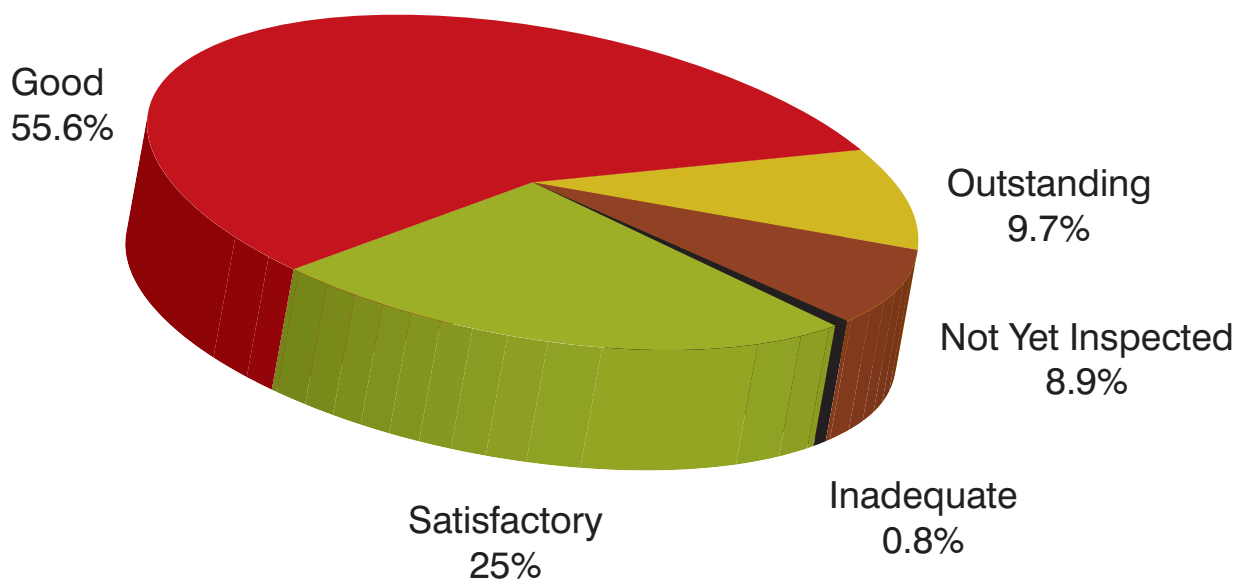
There are currently 377 childcare providers in Wigan. Of this number, 26 providers are judged to be Outstanding, 184 are judged to be good, 112 are judged to be Satisfactory, 2 are judged to be Inadequate and 6 childminders were not given an Ofsted inspection outcome due to them not having a child within the early years age range on roll at the time of the inspection. The remaining 47 have yet to be inspected.

Graph 5: Ofsted % Judgements for all provision types



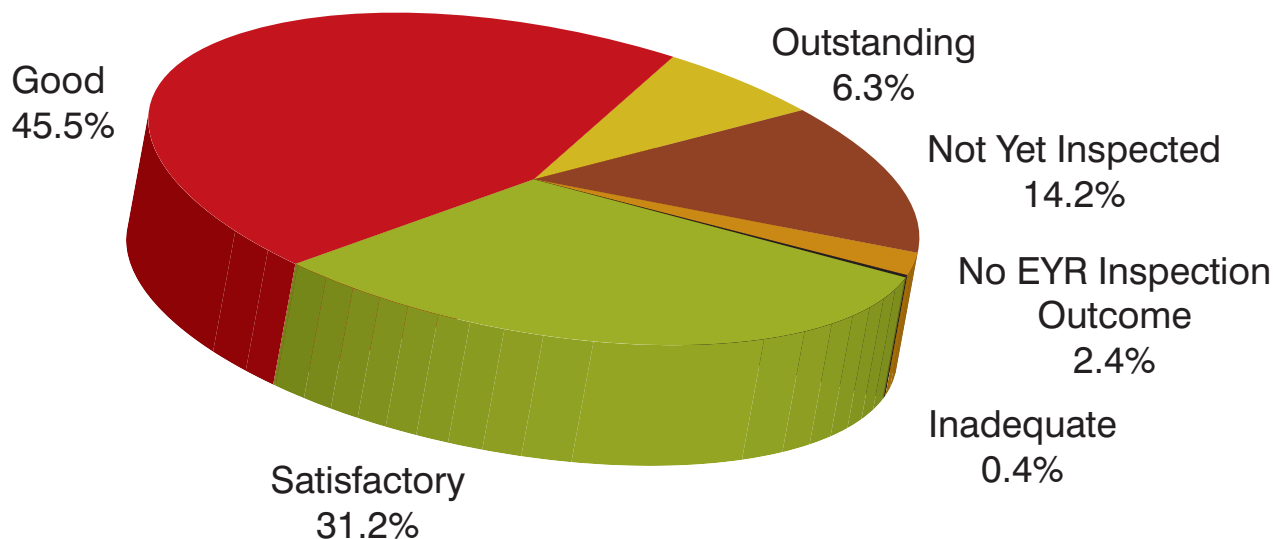
Of the 124 childcare providers on non-domestic premises in Wigan, from their last inspection 11 are judged to be Outstanding, 69 are judged to be Good, 31 are judged to be Satisfactory, 1 is judged to be Inadequate and 11 have yet to be inspected. The graph below illustrates the inspection outcomes as a percentage. Please also note that some of the inspection outcomes are pre September 2008 when the EYFS was introduced.

Graph 6: Ofsted % Judgements for Childcare Providers on Non-Domestic Premises



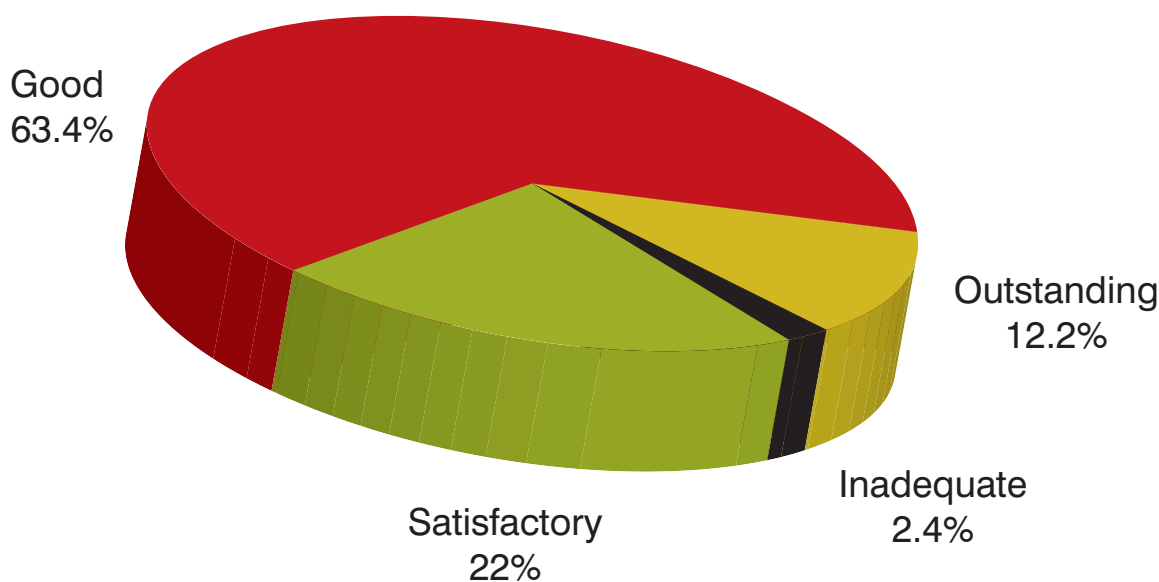
Of the 253 Childminders in Wigan, 16 were judged to Outstanding, from their last inspection 115 are judged to be Good, 79 are judged to be Satisfactory, 1 is judged to be Inadequate, 6 were not given an outcome and 36 have yet to be inspected. **Please also note that some of the inspection outcomes are pre September 2008 when the EYFS was introduced.**

Graph 7: Ofsted % Judgements for Childminders



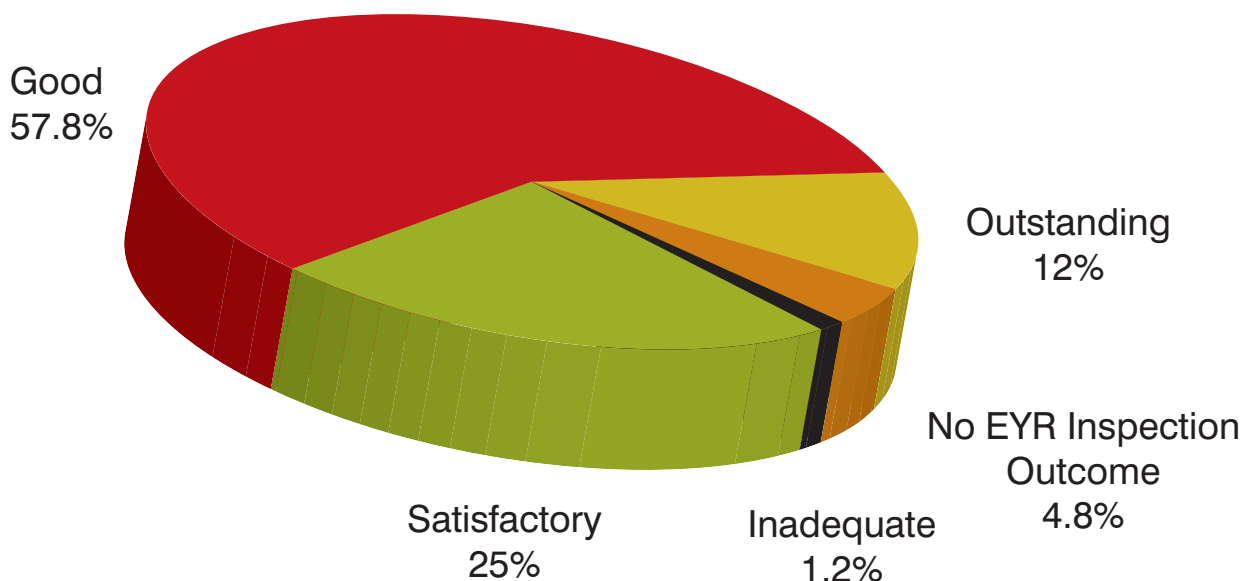
Between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2011, 42 childcare on non-domestic settings were inspected. Of these, 5 settings were judged to be Outstanding, 26 settings were judged to be Good, 9 settings were judged to be Satisfactory, and 1 settings was judged to be inadequate. The graph below illustrates the inspection outcomes for childcare on non-domestic settings as a percentage. **Please note that some of the settings who were inspected during this period have since resigned.**

Graph 8: Ofsted % Judgements Between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2011 for all childcare on non-domestic settings



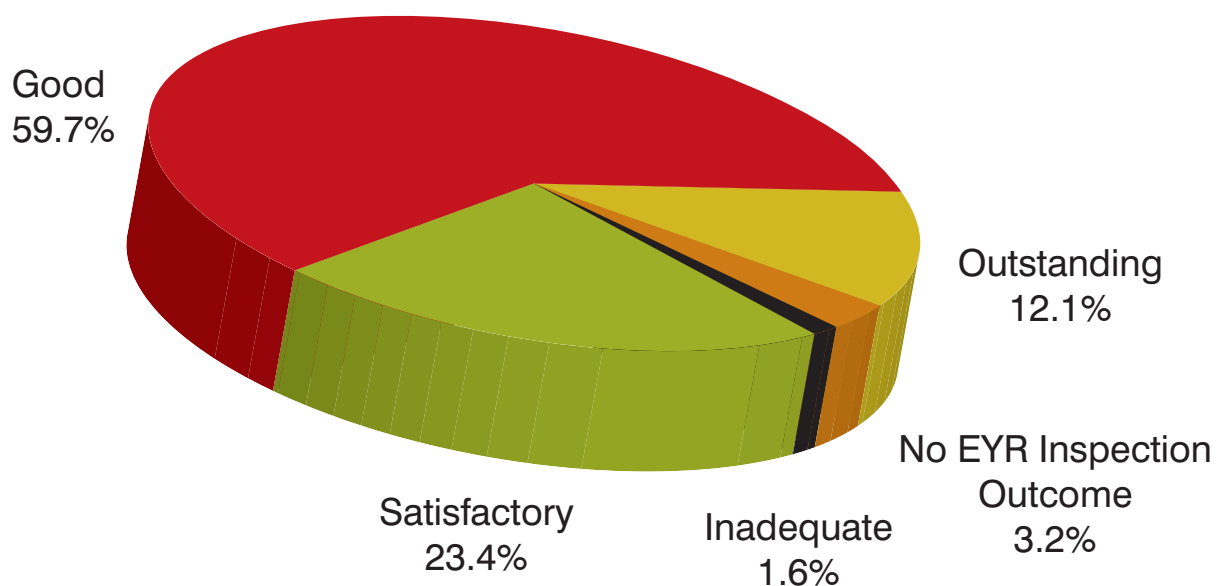
Between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2011, 83 Childminders were inspected in Wigan. Of these, 10 were judged to be Outstanding, 48 were judged to be Good, 20 were judged to be Satisfactory, 5 were judged to be Inadequate and 4 were not awarded an outcome. The graph below illustrates the inspection outcomes for Childminders as a percentage. **Please note that some of the Childminders who were inspected during this period have since resigned.**

Graph 9: Ofsted % Judgements Between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2011 for childminders



Between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2011, a total of 124 providers were inspected. Of these, 15 were judged to be Outstanding, 74 were judged to be Good, 29 were judged to be Satisfactory, 2 were judged to be inadequate and 4 were not awarded an outcome. The graph below illustrates the inspection outcomes for **all providers** as a percentage.

Graph 10: Ofsted % Judgements Between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2011 for all providers.



Overall, the Ofsted judgment data illustrates that quality in Wigan childcare is improving. In comparison to data from the last Annual Review in 2010, the latest percentage of all provision with an Inadequate or Satisfactory outcome was 47%; this has now reduced to 28% in the inspection outcomes data for Jan 2011 to Dec 2011. However, it is important to note that 6 Childminders were not awarded an outcome and this will have had an impact on the accuracy of this data. The data that highlights all providers outcomes from their last inspection is a new addition to this Annual Review, however it demonstrates the fact that over 70% of all provision in Wigan has either been awarded a Good or Outstanding grading by Ofsted. However, it is important to note that 30 Childminders and 15 non-domestic settings have Ofsted outcomes prior to the implementation of the EYFS in September 2008.

Table 16: Comparison of Ofsted Judgments by percentage

Type	Overall outcomes from last inspection (All)			Inspection outcomes (Jan 2011 to Dec 2011)	
	NYI, No outcome	Inadequate, Satisfactory	Good, Outstanding	Inadequate, Satisfactory, No outcome	Good, Outstanding
All Provision	14%	30%	56%	28%	72%
Non-Domestic	10%	26%	64%	24%	76%
Childminders	17%	32%	51%	30%	70%



3.4 TWO YEAR OLD EARLY YEARS PROVISION

Background Information

National Perspective

In 2008 the Prime Minister committed to rolling out, stage by stage, an offer of free early learning to all two-year-olds across the country. The next step towards this aim was that all 152 local authorities across the country delivered a targeted offer from September 2009. This builds on the success of the original pilot that had been running since 2006.

£137m over the following two years provided funding for 15% of the most disadvantaged two-year-olds and their families in every LA across the country. The extended offer provided:

- 10 or 15 hours of free, high-quality childcare a week
- Family support offering the parent access to a range of activities, such as structured play with their child, parenting classes and wider support such as signposting to other services and training
- Effective partnership-working and outreach activity to engage families into childcare through a network of local delivery agents and direct outreach.
- Currently, the initial 63 pilots continue to deliver a model of 15 hours a week of provision, over 38 weeks of the year, while the remaining 89 deliver a ten-hour model. This allows the new coalition government to continue to test and evaluate differing models of delivery to inform the wider roll-out.

Latest indications from the Coalition Government have pledged a commitment to continue this as a **15 hour offer for all disadvantaged 2 year olds from 2013**. The table below shows the increased national financial commitment to the future roll out over five years.

What	When	National Funding
10 hour offer	April 10-Mar 11	£66m
	April 11- Mar 12	£64m
	April 12- Mar 13	£223m
2013: Rise to 15 hours	April 13- Mar 14	£331m
	April 14- Mar 15	£380m

Local Perspective

From September 2009 in Wigan, 15% of the most disadvantaged 2 year olds have received 10 hours free Early Learning and Care, for 3 terms beginning from the term **after** their second birthday. There were 106 places offered at any one time between September 2009 and March 2010. If parents choose not to take up their full allocation, the allocation could be broken down to 1060 hours so that more children than 106 could benefit.

In the first instance, although it is envisaged that the greatest benefits will be received by those children who do not currently access any early learning and care, this does not prevent any 2 year olds who are already receiving services from accessing the funding, provided that they meet the eligibility criteria.

Between April 2010 and March 2011, although the target number of places was 106, Wigan was able to provide a total of 124 places due to underspend on other funding strands within the overall ring-fenced Two Year Old Grant allocation.

Within the funding period April 2011 – March 2012 funding was secured from the Early Intervention Grant to accommodate a further growth in the market sector and as a consequence the total number of the 15% most disadvantaged 2 year old places currently funded in Wigan is 200 at a cost of **£370,385**.

Expansion Plans

Recent information from the Department of Education (DfE), as part of the Supporting Families in the Foundation Years consultation launched on the 11th November 2011, proposed changes to the free Early Years Education and Childcare Sufficiency obligations for LA's. Within this information it indicated that within Wigan there are **800** 2 year olds who meet the proposed eligibility criteria.

A further announcement from the DfE regarding this consultation was then made by the Chancellor within his Autumn Statement on the 29th November 2011. The information suggested that the Governments reviewed proposals for the 2 year old offer was that 20% disadvantaged 2 year olds (**800 Wigan**) will be available **from September 2013** but this number will rise to **40% available from September 2014**.

Although this could effectively mean doubling the number of 2 year old funded places for which local authorities will need to make provision for, the announcement does however state that there will be further consultation on the eligibility criteria for the additional 2 year olds that will rise from 20% to 40%.

As a consequence Wigan LA will only know the final projected number of places needed when this criterion has been formalised.



Current Supply of places

To ascertain the areas where demand for the funded two year old places are likely to be in relation to eligible children, the Childcare Sufficiency Team have recently undertaken a mapping exercise in order to ensure that any gaps in provision can be identified and met as the expansion process rolls out.

The data analysed was:

- Population of 2 year olds by Children's Centre Sub Local Area (ONS data) and number of eligible 2 year olds (informed by benefits data)
- Number of settings within the Children Centre Sub Local Area and places offered for 2 year olds
- Number of places available to offer for 2 year olds assuming 60% occupancy as per the CSA full assessment 2011.
- Number of settings signed up to deliver the 2 year old offer by Children's Centre Service Level Agreement

As a result of the analysis, the Children's Centre sub local authority areas identified where demand will outstrip supply as per the data analysis were identified as:

Beech Hill	Ince
Bedford & Higher Folds	Platt Bridge
Douglas Valley	Westfield
Hindley	Westleigh
Hope	

Childcare Sufficiency Strategy to increase supply in line with phased approach to meet demand.

In line with the Governments phased approach to increasing the 2 year old offer to all disadvantaged 2 year olds, Wigan will address supply and demand issues within the childcare market for 2012/13 by implementing the following proposals focusing on the Children's Centre sub local authority areas identified from the data analysis where demand is likely to outstrip supply.

- Settings within the areas identified who are not currently delivering the offer but may have capacity to deliver will be targeted as a means to securing market growth.
- Settings who are delivering the offer will be targeted to identify if they have capacity to expand as a means of establishing market growth within the areas.
- Identify Childminders who meet local eligibility criteria (to be approved by the External Early Years group) to deliver the 2 year old offer and to further secure growth in the sector. **(Childminders do not currently deliver the offer)**

Predicted overview of supply verses demand by March 2013

It is predicted that by the **end of March 2013** the Children's Centre sub local authority areas identified where demand will continue to outstrip supply as per the data analysis will be:-

Bedford & Higher Folds	Ince
Douglas Valley	Westfield
Hindley	Westleigh
Hope	

As a further means to address this shortfall the LA will explore options for the delivery of the 2 year old offer within maintained early years providers or tender for new Early Years providers to meet demand. It is recognised however that both of these options do not come without complications due to these providers having to abide by childcare regulations, accommodation and cost.

Additional Local Criteria to manage the market

In order to manage the roll out of places in accordance with the two year old demand against supply, the LA has implemented additional criteria to that of the benefits criteria. This additional criterion is set out below. This criterion is set to be reviewed on an annual basis until 2013 or until further DfE consultation takes places.

Current Two year old criteria (as of December 2011)

The Child and Family

The child **must** meet the age criteria **and** the family must be in receipt of **one or more** income related benefits or be an asylum seeker or be a looked after child. In detail, these criteria are:

A child is only eligible for funding from the beginning of the school term after their second birthday. A Date of Birth Checker (located on the SharePoint portal) has been developed to allow Children's Centre Link Workers to confirm when a child is eligible for the Two Year Old funding.

Parents must self-certify their eligibility with regard to their status on the Two Year Old Application Form, which will be completed with the support of their Link Worker.

Benefit or Status
Income Support and/or
Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance and/or
Child Tax Credit at a higher rate than the family element and/or
Extra Working Tax Credit relating to Disability and/or
Pension Credit and/or
Have asylum seeker status and be receiving support from their LA under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 and/or
Be a looked after child/ in foster care

Wigan LA has set further criteria **in addition to** the minimum eligibility criteria identified above;

Parents / carers must agree to take up the full 10 hours per week for 38 weeks (or fewer hours over a longer period of time in agreement with the provider).

The 10 hours can be taken over a minimum of 2 days and sessions must be a minimum of 2 hours in length.

Due to a lack of availability; a parent may not always be able to access a place at their preferred childcare provider. Where possible, a place with an alternative provider will be offered. Parents will then have a 2 week window in which to take up that alternative place. If parents have chosen not taken up the place within that time, their child will be removed from the waiting list.

As part of the 2 year old offer the LA requires Link Workers to signpost parents to local Children's Centre services / activities; especially those designed to promote parental engagement in children's learning.

Children must meet **at least one** of the following **additional** criteria:

- Have a parent who is a teenager and/or
- Be identified at Safeguarding Threshold Level 3 or 4. This will include children living in households where parenting is compromised as a consequence of; parental disability, mental health, substance misuse or domestic violence, even though the child's needs are not at a high level and/or
- Have a disability and/or
- Be known to the Speech and Language Therapy Service and/or
- Have evidence of developmental delay.

Conclusions

Until funding from within the Early Intervention Grant for the 2 year old offer for 2012/13 is made available by Government, all expansion plans are viewed as indicative until confirmation of the level of funding is available.

If the new proposals made by the DfE are made statutory, a further review and in-depth analysis of the local childcare market will continue to be undertaken on a yearly basis in order to effectively plan for the growth required.



3.5 Disabled Children's Access to Childcare (DCATCH)

Background

DCATCH funding was, in 2010, a dedicated source of funding provided by the government under the transformational agenda of Aiming High to enable the testing out of the relative contribution of various factors to the access and affordability of childcare for disabled children.

The aim of the funding was:

- To develop programs to increase access to childcare for families with a disabled child
- To address attitudinal barriers
- To strengthen families ability to access/sustain training or work
- To develop a quality workforce, qualified and experienced to meet the needs of disabled children and their families

Definition of disability

A disabled child is a child who has a disability for the purposes of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (c. 50) (DDA). The DDA defines a disabled person as someone who has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Within Wigan a steering group made up of Local Authority Officers from various departments was established to develop the strategy and as a consequence the two areas identified to focus on were

- Affordability and Cost
- Meeting particular childcare needs

Methodology

Affordability and Cost

In order to provide the additional resource required to support a school aged child/children with a disability to attend an out of school childcare service, the introduction of a bursary payment was established.

This bursary payment was open to either an Ofsted registered out of school club or a childminder and was made subject to an agreed set of criteria.

Meeting particular childcare needs

Initially when creating the DCATCH strategy it was recognized that the development or expansion of specialist out of school childcare services to meet the needs of children with more complex needs in special schools was needed. This had initially been identified in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2008

To address this, consultation was undertaken with all special schools to determine the demand for formal childcare which would allow parents to work.

The results of this consultation lead to the increase in places available at Hope Special School.

A further project established to ensure that children's needs were met was by the provision of specialist sensory resource packs these were distributed to all out of school clubs.

In total 65 packs were purchased and distributed.

Impact in the financial year 2010 - 2011

Bursary Scheme

The bursary scheme application and criteria were developed by the DCATCH steering group and was available from January 2011.

During January 2011-March 2011 15 childcare providers benefited from the funding and as a consequence 14 families were able to access childcare provision that could fully meet the child's needs.

The total bursary cost accessed within this timescale was **£23,302.50**

Specialist Provision

An existing after school provision delivered by Hope Special School was already operating Monday – Friday from the end of the school day until 5:30pm

An average of 4 children accessed the after school provision each day and as a result 6 families benefited from the service.

Whilst parents paid for the use of this service the DCATCH funding was used to support increased staffing costs to ensure that the children's individual needs were met. The amount of DCATCH funding used to support this service was **£16787.50**

Specialist sensory resource packs

65 packs were purchased and distributed at a cost of **£57,000.00**

Impact in the financial year 2011-2012

Whilst DCATCH funding was not received as a separate funding stream in April 2011; funding from the Early Intervention Grant was committed for 2011/12 to continue the strategy.

Bursary Scheme

To date the total number of childcare providers that have accessed the funding is 16 resulting in 17 children benefitting.

The total bursary cost accessed within this financial year to date is **£42,614.33**

Specialist Provision

At Hope Special School due to the success and demand for the after school provision, the number of places available each day was increased.

This has meant that to date 8 families have benefited from the service.

The subsidised cost of this service using the DCATCH funding to date is **£8921.08**

Future of DCATCH strategy

Continuation of the DCATCH strategy will form part of the Childcare Sufficiency Strategy for 2012/13 subject to budget confirmation via the Early Intervention Grant.

4. Next Steps

4.1 2013 ANNUAL REVIEW AND CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT 2014

Annual Review 2013

Some considerations for the next Annual Review 2013 include:

1. Re-examining key data sets; birth statistics, lone parents, labour market, housing etc
2. Re-introducing occupancy and vacancy data for all childcare providers
3. Analysis of affordability for childcare and current level of demand
4. The expansion of the 2 Year Old offer for children from disadvantaged backgrounds
5. The impact of the revised EYFS that will be implemented from September 2012

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2014

The government are currently consulting with local authorities to change the frequency of Childcare Sufficiency Assessments from every 3 years to an annual report that would be similar to the Annual Review, but with a more in-depth analysis of their childcare markets. The consultation document on the Department for Education website states that the government are proposing that local authorities should report annually on their Section 6 (Childcare Act 2006) sufficiency duty to elected council members and parents.

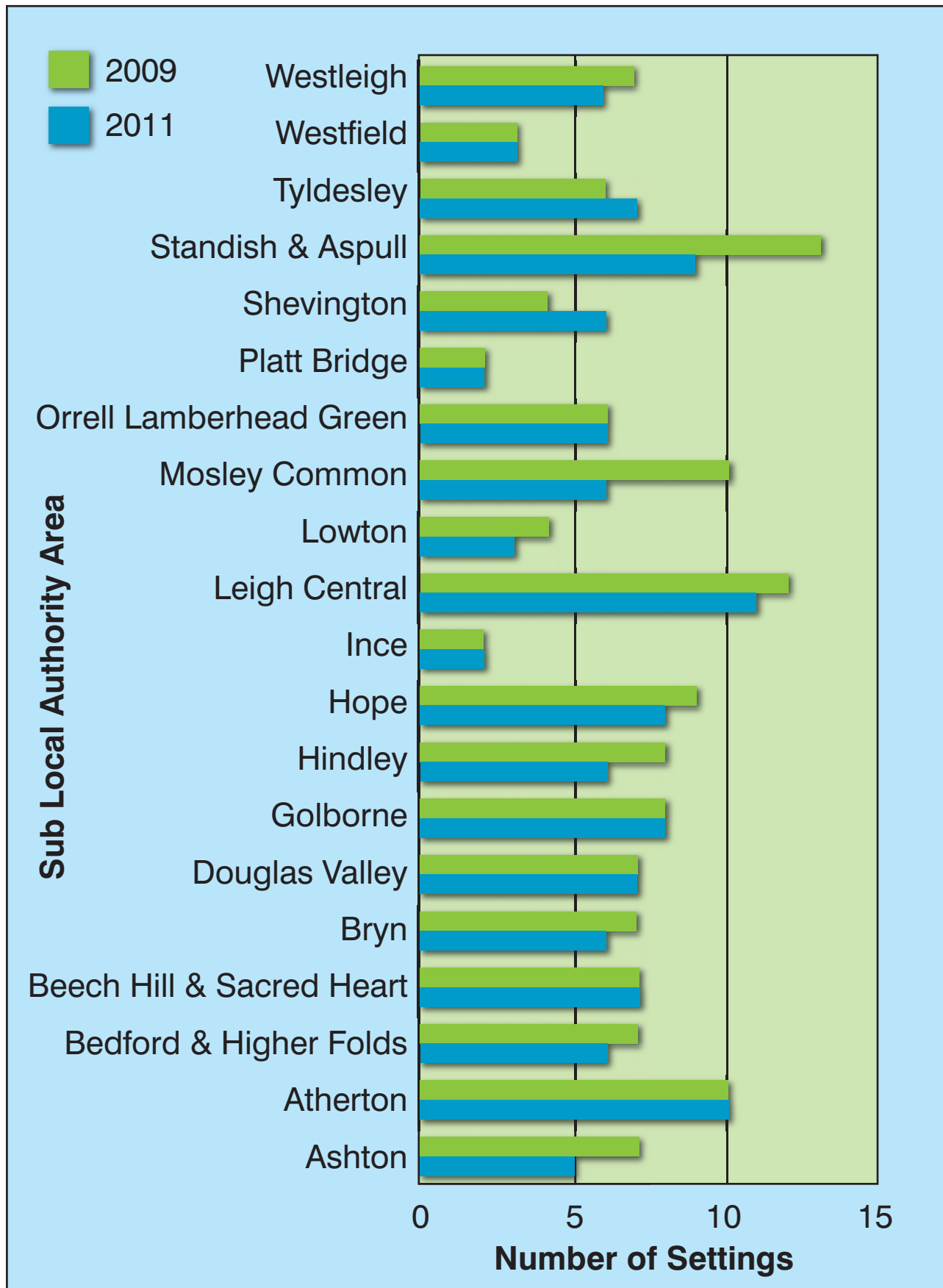
They also wish to consult on whether it should bring forward legislation to repeal the Section 11 duty of the Childcare Act 2006. The closing date for the consultation is 3rd February 2012 and it is unknown when the results will be published. In light of the above it will be difficult to set or identify any actions until the outcome of the consultation is known.



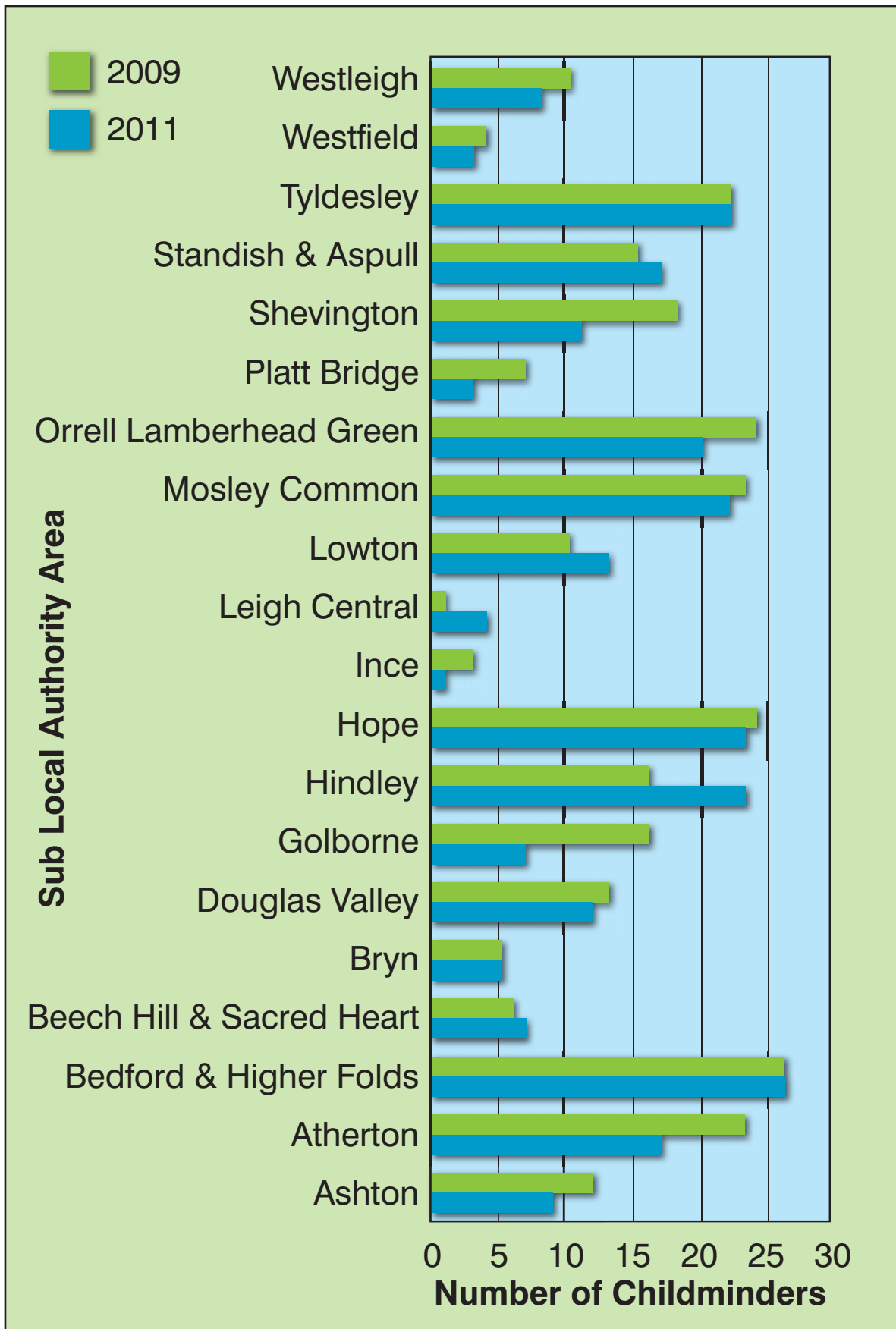
5. Appendices

Appendix 1: Number of Providers by Sub-Local Authority Area

Graph A: Number of Ofsted Registered Childcare Providers on Non-Domestic Premises in each Sub Local Authority compared to December 2009 as at December 2011



Graph B: Number of Ofsted Registered Childminders in each Sub Local Authority compared to December 2009 as at December 2011



Compiled by Wigan Council, People Directorate:
Children, Adults and Families, Childcare Sufficiency Team.

Printed February 2012

MCT-12-086 / F06-12