

NURSERY DEFICIENCY/NEED IN ELMBRIDGE BOROUGH

September 2019

Introduction

This note sets out the level of need for early years/pre-school childcare (aged 0-4) places in Elmbridge Borough, based on the current provision and a demand based on population projections.

At present, there is no data published by Elmbridge Borough Council or Surrey County Council on a need for early years/pre-school childcare places. As such, this note has calculated approximate figures using data and methodologies used by GLA Economics in *Working Paper 94 - Demand for childcare in London - drivers and projections* (published March 2018).

Demand

The *Childcare and early years survey of parents* (CEYSP, most recently published in December 2018) provides - at a national level - the estimated use of childcare in percentage terms for different ages. For pre-school children (aged between 0 and 4), 62% of children receive care from formal providers. The percentage is lower for ages 0-2 years (40%) and higher for ages 3-4 (88%).

The Office of National Statistics publishes population projections biennially. The most recent population projections were published in 09 April 2018 (the 2016-based projections). These were used to establish the 2016-based sub-national household projections (published 20 August 2018) which the Government have advised are not to be used when establishing household need. The Government have stated that the 2014-based projections are to be used.

As the rate of house building (and, consequently, changes in population) will be driven by the 2014-based projections, these have been taken into account in this note.

The population projections for children aged 0-4 in Elmbridge Borough and the projected number of children requiring formal care have been reviewed. As of 2019, the number of children aged between 0 and 4 requiring early years/pre-school care is estimated to be 5,827. This is set out below, alongside the projected requirement up to 2022.

PROJECTED NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN ELMBRIDGE REQUIRING FORMAL EARLY YEARS/PRE-SCHOOL CARE

Age	% of total	2014-based			
		2019	2020	2021	2022
0	40%	729	727	729	730
1	40%	762	764	763	765
2	40%	783	787	790	790
3	88%	1,764	1,775	1,784	1,791
4	88%	1,789	1,804	1,815	1,825
Total		5,827	5,857	5,882	5,902

(source: Sub-National Population Projections 2014 based CEYSP 2018 Table 1.3)

Supply

Ofsted publish *Childcare providers and inspections* reports three times a year. The most recent figures were published 18 June 2019, and are accurate as at 31 March 2019.

The document includes a list of all facilities offering pre-school childcare across the country, alongside the number of places each institution provides. In instances where figures are not provided, Ofsted provide an estimation of

spaces. The estimated number of formal early years/pre-school childcare places in Elmbridge Borough is 3,991. Existing early-years childcare providers and their estimated capacities are set out in **Appendix 1**.

Conclusion

The estimated number of children requiring formal early years/pre-school child care in Elmbridge Borough exceeds the number of spaces offered by existing providers in the borough by circa 1,800, which represents a significant undersupply/shortfall in the Borough.

Even allowing for variations in the national data as applied at local level, the findings suggest that there is a clear need for a significant number of pre-school/nurse care places for children aged between 0 and 4 years in the Borough.