

5 Childcare for School Aged Children

5.1 Introduction

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment deals with out of school childcare (breakfast, after school and holiday childcare provision) for school aged children up to the age of 14. Provision is available at out of school clubs and some childminders and daycare nurseries. It is delivered by a combination of school-run settings and the private and voluntary sectors. Information about services is categorised by extended services areas which correlate broadly with school catchment areas. Specific information about out of school childcare for disabled children, for black and minority ethnic communities and in disadvantaged areas is available in sections 7, 8 and 9 of this assessment respectively.

5.2 The 2008 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

The 2008 assessment identified a mismatch between over supply of childcare with childminders reporting excess vacancies, and unmet demand from parents who were struggling to find childcare, particularly for shift work or to cover hours outside of 8 – 6 Monday to Friday. As a consequence, Local Authority strategy for 2008 – 2011 was revised from focussing on new childcare place creation to working with existing providers to encourage services that are sufficiently flexible to meet the needs of Swindon's labour market.

At the point of the 2008 Sufficiency Assessment a range of methods were used for collecting data from parents due to varied contributions from extended services provision in schools. Some geographic gaps in availability of breakfast and after school provision were identified, with spare capacity available with childminders. Availability of holiday childcare, especially for older children aged 11 – 14, was identified as an issue for parents.

5.3 Recession Impact

The downturn in the labour market in Swindon had a varied impact on local out of school provision. Since 2008 there has been a sharp decline in demand for holiday childcare services for 5 – 11 year olds. This has had an impact on all providers who offer a range of out of school services. Growth in new provision has slowed in the same period compared with previous years. Most new out of school childcare developments have been in school based breakfast club provision supported by the extended services agenda and Local Authority funding availability. With the exception of supporting new provision to fill gaps, Local Authority strategy 2008 – 2011 has been to sustain existing provision towards long term viability.

5.4 Supply of childcare for school aged children

There has been little change in the availability of group childcare services since 2008, with services being in place at or near the majority of Swindon's schools. There has been some increase particularly in the availability of breakfast provision, and holiday provision has been sustained through the economic downturn. In the majority of cases, new provision funded between 2008 and 2011 is still operating.

Since 2008 there have been improvements in the information held about services for under fives offered by childminders. However, in 2011 in the region of only 60% of registered childminders provide information about their services. This includes the information parents need about school pick ups, opening times and flexibility of services for example to cover evenings and weekends. Further improvements are being implemented to increase the participation rate so that it will be possible to assess whether there is an issue about lack of availability of flexible services or lack of information available about services that do exist.

Improvements in management information have highlighted a correlation between availability of group childcare at a school and higher numbers of childminders reporting they offer out of school services at that school. This suggests that the childcare market functions well when there is choice of provision for parents.

The main concerns and challenges about the immediate future expressed by providers of childcare for over fives differ according to the type of provision. Childminders' biggest concern is maintaining occupancy levels, followed by the amount of paperwork required of them, the likelihood of losing existing customers due to further job losses and coping with increased demand to support part time and shift work. Group providers are concerned about maintaining occupancy, increases in overheads and keeping prices low.

For a breakdown of supply by extended services area see below.

5.5 Demand for childcare for school aged children

Feedback from outreach work indicates a lack of provision in Highworth, Drove and the Wanborough and Chiseldon area. There are group facilities at or near all of these areas, however there are few childminders reporting that they do school pick ups, meaning there is limited choice and there are limited options for flexible childcare in these areas.

In some areas information shows that there are limited or no group or childminder out of school services (for example, East Walcot and Blunsdon), however, there has been no parent or outreach feedback to indicate that there is a demand for services in these areas.

Feedback from parents about out of school childcare focusses mainly on lack of availability of out of school services, mostly availability of holiday provision. There is less feedback about affordability, flexibility and quality of available provision but these are also concerns:

- I feel restricted to finding term time only work as childcare during school holidays is hard to find
- Childcare is expensive and not always available
- I need flexible childcare and it would be easier if this was school based
- Childcare for 10 - 12 year olds needs to be better

Parents of school aged children are slightly more likely to be aware of the childcare element of tax credits than parents who have under fives only. The difference is more marked with awareness of the Family Information Service with parents of school aged children being more likely to be aware of how to find out about childcare services.

	Under fives	Both age ranges	School aged
Tax credits	74%	77%	78%
Family Information Service	52%	63%	62%

Providers also play a key role in informing parents about potential sources of government funding for their services. Childminders are most likely to have a discussion with parents about either tax credits and/or childcare vouchers, or state that parents are already aware of funding availability. Out of school groups are more likely to state that they haven't needed to provide information about funding sources and use a more limited range of options to provide information about affordability.

The information breakdowns by Extended Services area below show the key responses from parents which differ significantly from the Swindon average.

5.6 Consultation with children

Consultation with school aged children (5 to 11 years old) was carried out by distributing questionnaires to local out of school providers (both groups and childminders). The questionnaire used was identical to the 2008 consultation and asked the children about their preferred activities. The outcome was not significantly different to the 2008 consultation response, highlighting that children of this age like structured activities (such as art, sport or cooking), time to relax watching television or playing computer games, and above all, for both boys and girls, playing outside.

Top three activities (boys):

- Watching television and playing computer games
- Sport
- Playing outside

Top three activities (girls)

- Art and craft
- Playing outside
- Cooking

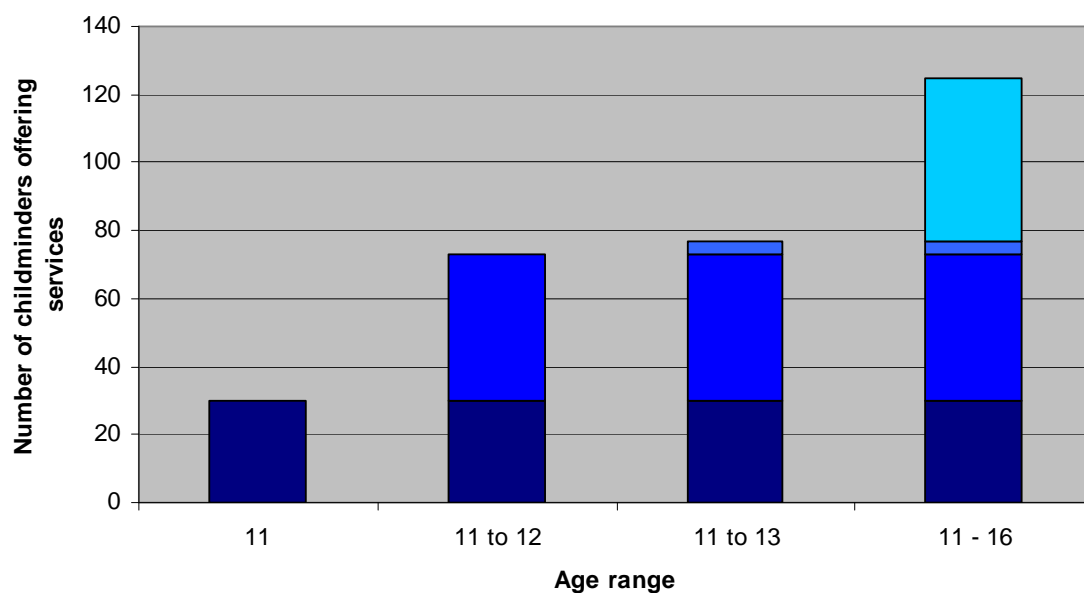
Top three activities (all children)

- Playing outside
- Art and Craft
- Watching television and playing computer games

5.7 Childcare for 11 – 14 year olds

211 (59%) of childminders returned their childcare information audit in 2010. Of those childminders, 125 in total stated they deliver services within the 11 – 14 age bracket. However, in the information available to parents only three of these childminders are recorded as offering a service attached to a secondary school.

Childcare Supply for Children at Secondary School



5.8 Recommendations

- Increase the percentage of childminders who return their information about their services in order to be able to assess whether there are sufficient flexible services for children aged 0 – 14
- Continue to work with parents to understand their needs for holiday childcare
- Support new development of out of school provision where there is shortfall in capacity

5.9 Academy

Out of school services for primary school aged children

Breakfast and/or after school services for working parents are offered on or near school sites by a variety of providers including schools, private and voluntary groups, daycare nurseries and childminders. The table below shows schools in the Academy area, whether group out of school services are available to children attending the school, and the number of childminders who have said that they provide a service to that school.

	Group Provision		Number of childminders
	Breakfast	After School	
Academy	✓		0
Gorse Hill Infant	✓	✓	4
Gorse Hill Junior	✓	✓	5
Seven Fields	✓		1

Childminders

There are 19 registered childminders in the Academy Extended Services area. Nine (47%) of them have provided information about their services. This information has been used to produce the findings about childminding services in this section.

- The average hourly charge for a childminder is £3.71
- There are childminding services in the area that provide for the age range birth to 16 years.
- Eight childminders in the area provides services between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday. Seven offer services earlier and / or later in the day. No childminders work part time. There is one childminder offering services at weekends.
- Five childminders have vacancies which are shown in the table below broken down by age range:

0 – 1 years	2 years	3 – 4 years	5 – 8 years	9 – 11 years	12+ years
1	3	4	7	7	2

Parent Comments

- I think there needs to be more accessible childcare available for school aged children during school holidays particularly the summer holidays.
- Finding places in school hols and to be able to put all children in same place.

5.10 Churchfields

Out of school services for primary school aged children

Breakfast and/or after school services for working parents are offered on or near school sites by a variety of providers including schools, private and voluntary groups, daycare nurseries and childminders. The table below shows schools in the Churchfields area, whether group out of school services are available to children attending the school, and the number of childminders who have said that they provide a service to that school.

	Group Provision		Number of childminders
	Breakfast	After School	
Drove		✓	2
Lainesmead		✓	2
Lawn	✓	✓	6
Mountford Manor	✓		1
Oaktree		✓	1

Childminders

There are 28 registered childminders in the Churchfields Extended Services area. 16 (57%) of them have provided information about their services. This information has been used to produce the findings about childminding services in this section.

- The average hourly charge for a childminder is £3.63
- There are childminding services in the area that provide for the age range birth to 16 years.
- 12 childminders in the area provides services between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday. Eleven offer services earlier and / or later in the day. Three childminders work part time. There is one childminder offering services at weekends.
- Eight childminders have vacancies which are shown in the table below broken down by age range:

0 – 1 years	2 years	3 – 4 years	5 – 8 years	9 – 11 years	12+ years
6	6	8	7	5	6

5.11 Commonweal

Out of school services for primary school aged children

Breakfast and/or after school services for working parents are offered on or near school sites by a variety of providers including schools, private and voluntary groups, daycare nurseries and childminders. The table below shows schools in the Commonweal area, whether group out of school services are available to children attending the school, and the number of childminders who have said that they provide a service to that school.

	Group Provision		Number of childminders
	Breakfast	After School	
Even Swindon		✓	3
King William Street	✓		2
Lethbridge		✓	7
Robert le Kyng	✓	✓	7

Childminders

There are 30 registered childminders in the Commonweal Extended Services area. 17 (57%) of them have provided information about their services. This information has been used to produce the findings about childminding services in this section.

- The average hourly charge for a childminder is £3.67
- There are childminding services in the area that provide for the age range birth to 16 years.
- 13 childminders in the area provides services between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday. Ten offer services earlier and / or later in the day. Two childminders work part time. There are three childminders offering services at weekends.
- Seven childminders have vacancies which are shown in the table below broken down by age range:

0 – 1 years	2 years	3 – 4 years	5 – 8 years	9 – 11 years	12+ years
7	8	9	16	4	2

Parent Comments

- Local school cannot accommodate our working hours due to shiftwork.
- I found after school club excellent as they collected her from school which was easier for me.
- Generally childcare in this country is too expensive.

5.12 Dorcan

Out of school services for primary school aged children

Breakfast and/or after school services for working parents are offered on or near school sites by a variety of providers including schools, private and voluntary groups, daycare nurseries and childminders. The table below shows schools in the Dorcan area, whether group out of school services are available to children attending the school, and the number of childminders who have said that they provide a service to that school.

	Group Provision		Number of childminders
	Breakfast	After School	
Covingham	✓	✓	4
Eldene	✓		4
Goddard Park	✓	✓	2
Liden		✓	6
Nythe			2

Childminders

There are 33 registered childminders in the Dorcan Extended Services area. 17 (51%) of them have provided information about their services. This information has been used to produce the findings about childminding services in this section.

- The average hourly charge for a childminder is £3.27
- There are childminding services in the area that provide for the age range birth to 16 years.
- Ten childminders in the area provides services between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday. Ten offer services earlier and / or later in the day. One childminder works part time. There are no childminders offering services at weekends.
- Eight childminders have vacancies which are shown in the table below broken down by age range:

0 – 1 years	2 years	3 – 4 years	5 – 8 years	9 – 11 years	12+ years
6	6	7	8	8	4

Parent Comments

- Finding reasonably priced holiday clubs is difficult. If we didn't use family for childcare it would not pay for me to go to work.
- Need before and after school clubs not at huge cost.
- I wouldn't qualify for childcare help financially which means I cannot afford to work.

5.13 Kingsdown

Out of school services for primary school aged children

Breakfast and/or after school services for working parents are offered on or near school sites by a variety of providers including schools, private and voluntary groups, daycare nurseries and childminders. The table below shows schools in the Kingsdown area, whether group out of school services are available to children attending the school, and the number of childminders who have said that they provide a service to that school.

	Group Provision		Number of childminders
	Breakfast	After School	
Beechcroft	✓		10
Colebrook Infant	✓	✓	4
Colebrook Junior	✓	✓	3
Grange Infant			7
Grange Junior			7
Ruskin	✓	✓	9
South Marston	✓	✓	0

Childminders

There are 36 registered childminders in the Kingsdown Extended Services area. 21 (58%) of them have provided information about their services. This information has been used to produce the findings about childminding services in this section.

- The average hourly charge for a childminder is £3.58
- There are childminding services in the area that provide for the age range birth to 16 years.
- 14 childminders in the area provides services between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday. 16 offer services earlier and / or later in the day. No childminders work part time. There are Three childminders offering services at weekends.
- 13 childminders have vacancies which are shown in the table below broken down by age range:

0 – 1 years	2 years	3 – 4 years	5 – 8 years	9 – 11 years	12+ years
9	9	14	22	14	7

Parent Comments

- Not much choice once a child is age 10 plus for school holidays.
- Before and after school club needed.
- We moved our child to Swindon as there were more Ofsted registered childminders than in our local area.

5.14 Nova Hreod / Isambard

Out of school services for primary school aged children

Breakfast and/or after school services for working parents are offered on or near school sites by a variety of providers including schools, private and voluntary groups, daycare nurseries and childminders. The table below shows schools in the Nova Hreod and Isambard area, whether group out of school services are available to children attending the school, and the number of childminders who have said that they provide a service to that school.

	Group Provision		Number of childminders
	Breakfast	After School	
Abbey Meads	✓	✓	7
Bridlewood	✓	✓	6
Catherine Wayte	✓	✓	7
Ferndale	✓	✓	2
Greenmeadow			7
Haydon Wick	✓	✓	6
Haydonleigh	✓	✓	9
Moredon	✓	✓	1
Oakhurst	✓	✓	9
Orchid Vale	✓	✓	3
Red Oaks	✓	✓	6
Rodbourne Cheney	✓		3
St Francis		✓	6

Childminders

There are 107 registered childminders in the Nova Hreod and Isambard Extended Services area.⁶¹ (57%) of them have provided information about their services. This information has been used to produce the findings about childminding services in this section.

- The average hourly charge for a childminder is £3.44
- There are childminding services in the area that provide for the age range birth to 16 years.
- 32 childminders in the area provides services between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday. 40 offer services earlier and / or later in the day. Four childminders work part time. There are two childminders offering services at weekends.
- 30 childminders have vacancies which are shown in the table below broken down by age range:

0 – 1 years	2 years	3 – 4 years	5 – 8 years	9 – 11 years	12+ years
19	26	20	29	18	13

Parent Comments

- The website for Swindon Borough Council needs to be revisited and redesigned to make finding information on childcare easier.
- Childcare costs are too high. Help should be provided for all parents who want to work.
- More school holiday clubs with better organised activities that are affordable!
- I find it difficult looking for childcare starting at 7am.
- Teacher training days are a real headache for me.

5.15 Ridgeway

Out of school services for primary school aged children

Breakfast and/or after school services for working parents are offered on or near school sites by a variety of providers including schools, private and voluntary groups, daycare nurseries and childminders. The table below shows schools in the Ridgeway area, whether group out of school services are available to children attending the school, and the number of childminders who have said that they provide a service to that school.

	Group Provision		Number of childminders
	Breakfast	After School	
Bishopstone		✓	0
Chiseldon	✓	✓	5
Wanborough	✓	✓	0
Wroughton Infant	✓	✓	5
Wroughton Junior	✓	✓	4

Childminders

There are 16 registered childminders in the Ridgeway Extended Services area. 13 (81%) of them have provided information about their services. This information has been used to produce the findings about childminding services in this section.

- The average hourly charge for a childminder is £3.30
- There are childminding services in the area that provide for the age range birth to 16 years.
- Nine childminders in the area provides services between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday. Nine offer services earlier and / or later in the day. One childminder works part time. There is one childminder offering services at weekends.
- Eight childminders have vacancies which are shown in the table below broken down by age range:

0 – 1 years	2 years	3 – 4 years	5 – 8 years	9 – 11 years	12+ years
2	6	7	7	8	3

Parent Comments

- Very little choice available.
- Holiday childcare is the biggest pain for working mothers and the cost is too high. On working tax credit you still have to find 15% of this yourself.
- More childcare options for 5+ and 8+

5.16 St Josephs

Out of school services for primary school aged children

Breakfast and/or after school services for working parents are offered on or near school sites by a variety of providers including schools, private and voluntary groups, daycare nurseries and childminders. The table below shows schools in the St Josephs area, whether group out of school services are available to children attending the school, and the number of childminders who have said that they provide a service to that school.

	Group Provision		Number of childminders
	Breakfast	After School	
Holy Family			2
Holy Rood Infant		✓	0
Holy Rood Junior		✓	0
St Catherines	✓		5
St Marys	✓		0

Parent Comments

- There is a serious gap in the provision of holiday childcare for the ages 12 plus.
- Limited before and after school childcare facilities.
- I have a family member to mind my children.

5.17 Warneford

Out of school services for primary school aged children

Breakfast and/or after school services for working parents are offered on or near school sites by a variety of providers including schools, private and voluntary groups, daycare nurseries and childminders. The table below shows schools in the Warneford area, whether group out of school services are available to children attending the school, and the number of childminders who have said that they provide a service to that school.

	Group Provision		Number of childminders
	Breakfast	After School	
Eastrop		✓	5
Southfield		✓	4
St Andrews			0
Westrop	✓	✓	7

Childminders

There are 20 registered childminders in the Warneford Extended Services area. 11 (55%) of them have provided us with information about their services. This information has been used to produce the findings in this section.

- The average hourly charge for a childminder is £3.75.
- There are childminding services in the area that provide for the age range birth to 16 years.
- Eleven childminder in the area provides services between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday. Eleven offer services earlier and / or later in the day. No childminders work part time. There is one childminder offering services at weekends.
- Six childminders have vacancies which are shown in the table below broken down by age range:

0 – 1 years	2 years	3 – 4 years	5 – 8 years	9 – 11 years	12+ years
3	3	5	6	3	2

Parent Comments

- Flexibility due to shift work is nigh on impossible. My work ends up working around childcare.
- There is a lack of breakfast and after school provision as well as holiday care options making full time work extremely difficult.
- When looking to find a childminder there didn't seem to be a website that had a list of childminders.

5.18 West Swindon

Out of school services for primary school aged children

Breakfast and/or after school services for working parents are offered on or near school sites by a variety of providers including schools, private and voluntary groups, daycare nurseries and childminders. The table below shows schools in the West Swindon area, whether group out of school services are available to children attending the school, and the number of childminders who have said that they provide a service to that school.

	Group Provision		Number of childminders
	Breakfast	After School	
Brookfield	✓	✓	7
Millbrook	✓	✓	4
Oliver Tomkins Inf		✓	5
Oliver Tomkins Jun		✓	4
Peatmoor		✓	3
Shaw Ridge	✓	✓	10
Toothill			2
Tregoze	✓	✓	7
Westlea	✓	✓	11

Childminders

There are 69 registered childminders in the West Swindon Extended Services area. 47 (68%) of them have provided information about their services. This information has been used to produce the findings about childminding services in this section.

- The average hourly charge for a childminder is £3.60
- There are childminding services in the area that provide for the age range birth to 16 years.
- 33 childminders in the area provides services between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday. 25 offer services earlier and / or later in the day. Two childminders work part time. There is one childminder offering services at weekends.
- 22 childminders have vacancies which are shown in the table below broken down by age range:

0 – 1 years	2 years	3 – 4 years	5 – 8 years	9 – 11 years	12+ years
15	16	15	23	20	10

Parent Comments

- Need availability of childcare outside 8am - 6pm.
- I have to rely on family and friends to help with childcare due to long hours cost and availability of childcare for over 5s
- More holiday activity clubs are needed for school age children.
- Very satisfied with quality that our children have received.