

**Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2011- 2014**

**Action Plan update April 2013**

**1 ) The Local Authority continues to support provisions in offering more flexible places**

The Local Authority can demonstrate this recommendation continues to be met.

- 95% of all provision within the Borough provide a flexible offer in accordance with parental needs. (7am-7pm over 2 days);
- 11,249 3 and 4 year old children accessed 1,482,990 hours of Early Education Entitlement in 2012/13, compared to 11,054 children accessing 1,419,825 hours in 2011/12. This represents an increase of 195 children (1.8%) and an increase of 63,165 hours accessed (4.4%). This take-up is shown in a graph format in Appendix 2;
- No complaints have been received from parents unable to access a flexible offer;
- The Family Information Service continues to offer a brokerage service to parents that includes identifying settings that can meet particular needs;

**2) The Local Authority continues to pro-actively support the development of holiday provision and promote its availability to parents in the borough.**

The Local Authority can demonstrate this recommendation continues to be met.

- The Local Authority continues to support holiday provisions and out of school clubs in meeting the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage;
- The Family Information Service continues to provide information on the provision available and sustainability consideration is given to holiday provisions where there is a threat of closure;
- The Local Authority has received no complaints with regard to the lack of holiday provision available;

**3) The Local Authority continues to promote Early Education Entitlement (EEE) for 3 and 4 year olds, the pilot scheme providing funded places for 2 year olds and other help available to support childcare costs to eligible families.**

The Local Authority can demonstrate this recommendation continues to be met.

- The DfE report that the Local Authority is providing funded places to 90% of children for whom parents require one (universal);
- Preparation for the statutory offer in Havering has continued successfully;
- During 2012/13 279 two year olds have accessed a free early education place. A graph showing the growth of children accessing this Offer is included in Appendix 2.

Whilst there are has sufficient childcare places across the Borough as a whole, there are some areas, particularly Hylands, Cranham and Mawney Wards that have insufficient places in the immediate area.

Action is being taken a to meet increasing demand for Primary School places whilst ensuring that Early Years place planning is integrated within the strategy. Support will be given to new businesses, particularly seeking to start-up in these areas. The latest projections of children aged under 5s are given in Appendix 2. Officers are working with Planning to ensure that the Authority's statutory duty to provide sufficient childcare places continues to be met, wherever possible, when making or recommending decisions.

**4) The Local Authority continues supporting childcare providers to access training, including training on caring for children with disabilities and special educational needs, in line with the Local Authority's budget**

The Local Authority can demonstrate this recommendation continues to be met.

- The Training Programme for PVI Providers is a fully targeted one, where settings receive free training where there is an agreed identified need.
- Additional training options include Business Support, Sustainability and Employment Law.
- Targeted training continues to be provided for specific priorities such as Disability and Eiklan. The continuation of the WELLCOMM programme will continue as extensive evaluation shows the programme to be adding value.

**5) - The Local Authority continues to support new and existing childcare providers with achieving and maintaining the delivery of quality childcare**

The Local Authority can demonstrate this recommendation continues to be met.

- The corporate target of 73% of settings having a “Good” or above Ofsted outcome has been met;
- 86.7% of PVI Providers and 71.5% of Childminders are Rated by Ofsted as “Good” or above. This represents 76.4% of all these Providers. Pie charts giving further details are included in Appendix 2;
- 69% of Providers are judged by the Local Authority as needing the least support (green). 27% receive a moderate (amber) input from the Local Authority where it is deemed that without some support outcomes would reduce. 4% require a much larger professional input from the Local Authority in order to ensure positive outcomes at Inspection (red).