

Early Years requirements in major new developments

This document provides guidance for Hampshire County Council and other agencies in determining a requirement for early years and childcare places to support new housing developments.

1. Demand for places:

The starting point is to calculate the number of children in each age group expected from the new housing. The Hampshire Home Movers survey has indicated a factor of 0.3 children per new dwelling and this is adopted for consideration of early years demand. There are five age groups for early years and childcare (< 1 years; <2 years; <3 years; <4 years; <5 years), therefore the average number for each individual age group is $0.3/5 = 0.06$. This can be considered the “cohort size”.

Estimator for number of Early Education places in new housing developments.						
Number of New Homes	no houses x 0.3*	2 year olds (10% of cohort)	3 year olds (93% of cohort)	4 year olds (32% of cohort)	All EYE Age Groups	Estimated EYE Hours required
100	30	1	6	2	8	4617
500	150	3	28	10	41	23085
800	240	5	45	15	65	36936
100	30	1	6	2	8	4617
3000	900	18	167	58	243	138510
5000	1500	30	279	96	405	230850

* based on Hampshire Home Movers Survey and 5 cohort ages <1 years; <2 years;<3 years; <4 years; <5 years

Early Years Education (EYE) is a statutory offer which is available universally to all 3 and 4 year olds. For two year olds, the offer is limited to children of families who meet low income criteria. In Hampshire, children can start their free entitlement in the term after their second/third and fourth birthday and can receive a maximum of 570 hours per child’s eligibility year.

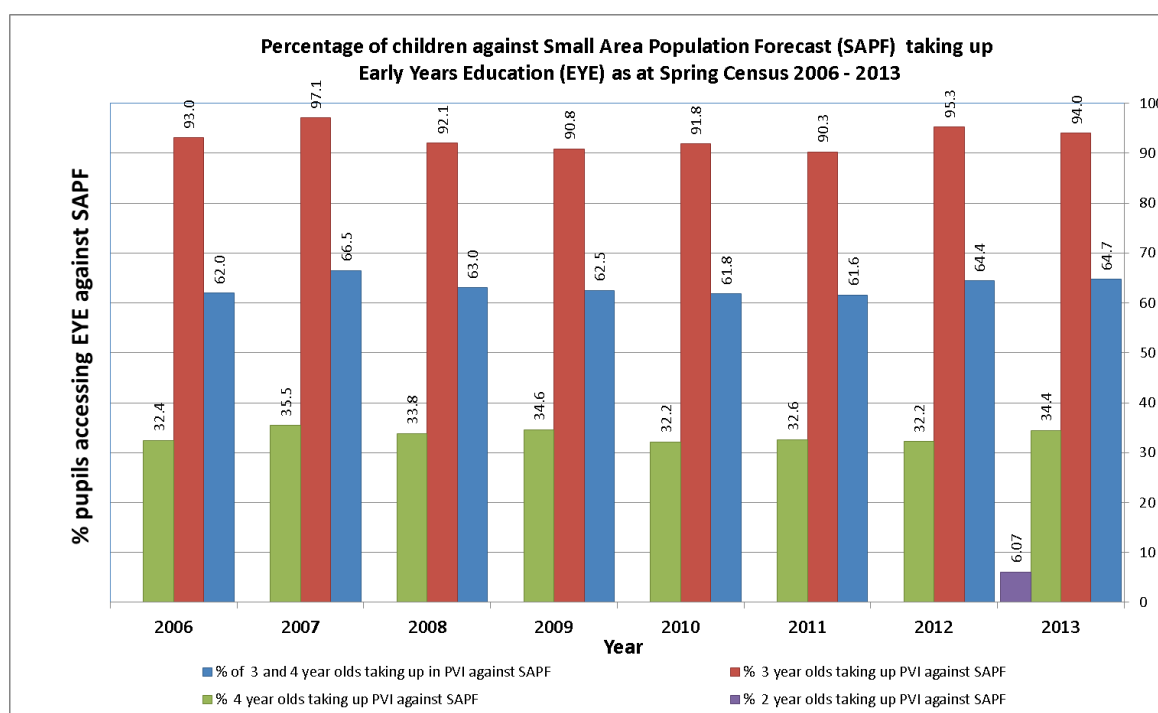
From September 2013, there is no requirement for the EYE hours to be limited to the school academic year offering parents the flexibility to take up their hours across the number of weeks that the provision is open.

The demand for three year old places is high and trend data in Hampshire indicates that in the region of 90-95% of the three year old population take up this entitlement. It is, therefore, expected that there will be continued high demand from this age group within any new housing development.

The demand for four year old places, prior to their starting school, is also high. However, due to four year olds taking up their school place, often in the September after their fourth birthday, the demand within the pre-school and nursery sector is in the region of 32-36% of the four year old population.

The demand for two year olds is expected to grow with approximately 4100 children likely to access EYE funded places from September 2014 when the offer becomes statutory for families who meet certain low income level criteria.

The graph below indicates the actual take-up from 2006 based against Small Area Population Forecasts for the same years and outlines the trend that children have consistently accessed their early years education within Hampshire. It is expected this will continue.



2. Low income families

Where housing developments include a significant level of social housing, shared ownership schemes and/or dwellings that would attract low income families, developers and planners should consider accessibility to affordable early years education and childcare.

Developers and planners should be aware that, from September 2014, the provision of free early years education to eligible 2 year olds becomes a statutory offer. The offer will provide the same choices for parents as the free early years education entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds. The exception is that the eligibility will primarily be based on income assessment. The eligibility as at September 2013 is:

- *Income Support*
- *Income-Based Jobseeker's Allowance*
- *Employment and Support Allowance (Income Related)*

- *Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999*
- *Families in receipt of Child Tax Credit will also qualify provided that (a) they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit, and (b) their annual household income, as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, does not exceed £16,190 as at 6 April 2010 (subject to annual review).*
- *Guarantee element of State Pension Credit*

NB: The criteria from September 2014 are anticipated to include low income working families such as those in receipt of working tax credits, or universal credits with an income of less than £16,190 or equivalent. Children with special educational needs or a disability and children in care are also likely to be included

3. Space requirements and regulations

The space required to fulfil these requirements is stipulated within the Statutory Early Years Foundation Stage:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130401151715/https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DFE-00023-2012>

Section 3 outlines the Welfare Standards and sets out premises expectations. The minimum space requirement stated in the September 2012 current guidance indicates;

“Providers must meet the following indoor space requirements (net useable space, this does not include storage areas, thoroughfares, staff areas, cloakrooms, utility rooms, kitchens and toilets)

- *Children under two years: 3.5m² per child*
- *Two year olds: 2.5m² per child*
- *Children aged three to five years: 2.3m² per child”*

Ofsted is the regulatory body that all early years and childcare operators must register with. Ofsted will inspect an organisation's ability to meet expected standards that are covered within the Early Years Foundation Stage. The Early Years Foundation Stage also contains expected minimum requirements for suitability of premises which can be found at

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130401151715/https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DFE-00023-2012>

It is expected that all early years and childcare providers are able to meet requirements to deliver the free early years entitlement at the highest quality and Hampshire providers are expected to achieve and maintain “good” and “outstanding” inspection results.

4. What developers should provide

It is suggested that developers should consider 80 early years places for each 1000 houses and that this is offered through a mix of facilities where possible. The childcare planning should allow for flexible hours of opening and covering at least 7am to 7pm for full day care.

For 1000 houses, it is anticipated that one full day provision of 50+ places, together with an additional 30 places from shared community premises, would meet the needs of this size of development.

Where there are developments to provide a high number of social housing residences, it is considered there will be the potential for greater demand for affordable childcare and access for two year old funded provision. It is likely that this childcare will be required to support employment activities and, therefore, any provision to support lower income families should have regard to the flexibility of opening and closing times of childcare to meet the employment or return to learning requirements of parents and carers.

It is known through childcare sufficiency assessments (2008, 2011), that parents prefer their early years and childcare within a 1-2 mile radius of their homes,

It is also known through the Early Years Census 2013 that there were approximately 50% of small area population of two year olds taking up some childcare which is not part of early years free entitlement, and consideration.

The childcare market has also seen parents preferring provision that is close to, or on the site of, Infant or Primary schools.

5. Timing of the early years and childcare development

There should be early consideration of the allocation of the sites and/or premises for early years and childcare. It is recommended that such provision is considered at the same time as that for primary schools. This is especially important within developments that have little or no early years and childcare provision adjacent to the new housing development.

The impact of a new housing development alongside current capacity in the early years and childcare market should also be considered in terms of early occupation of families and their ability to access provision and whether any interim measures are put in place prior to thresholds of dwellings occupied being reached.

6. How this should be provided

Our recent practice has been to suggest that the planners / developers should make provision for early years and childcare facilities for children 0- 5 years within their plans for the housing developments. Childcare facilities should either be associated within/alongside community facilities or in dedicated space identified and available for development. In either case, we suggest that there are advantages with locating adjacent to, or combined with, primary school sites.

For dedicated nursery/childcare facilities, we suggest an area of 0.25 hectares. For combined school / pre-school sites this can be reduced to 0.2 hectares as there can be economies with a more flexible site layout when both are planned together. These site areas are estimates that the Council has used in other recently provided facilities, but will need to be tested against the draft accommodation briefs.

It is assumed that the sites would be made available through an open and transparent process to interested early years and childcare providers, or through the

district councils and community associations where it is expected that childcare will be operated within community facilities.

The location of any provision must enable good access for walking as well as having good public transport and motor-vehicle transport links and be within a 1-2 mile radius of the main housing development.

It should be noted that early years and childcare provisions of 50+ places are considered more economically viable and may attract the best investment opportunity from the sector.

It is also a requirement that a childcare operator that is seeking to accommodate children for free early years education makes an application to the Council prior to opening their provision. Any developer who has engaged a childcare establishment to deliver or take up opportunity on their site should ensure the childcare provider contacts the Council at: 01962 847070 or email childcare@hants.gov.uk

7. Contact

Hampshire County Council's Children's Services can be contacted to discuss any support requirement in selection of appropriate high quality early years and childcare providers or any aspects of the regulation and legislation requirements.