

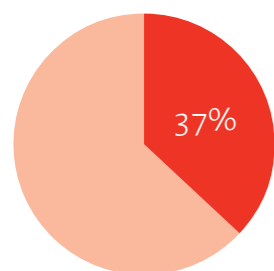
your childcare: what you told us



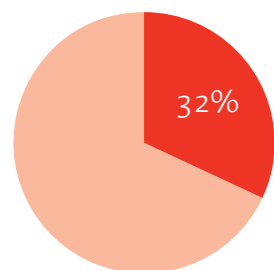
your childcare: what you told us

In 2007 you helped Surrey County Council's Early Years and Childcare Service (EYCS) carry out research to see if there is enough childcare in Surrey. Together we identified the gaps in provision for our 77 children's centre areas (see map page 9). The results will also help us to understand the childcare market and to make sure that childcare in Surrey is meeting parents' needs.

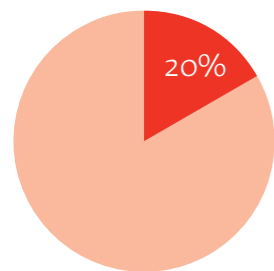
Identified gaps in childcare provision



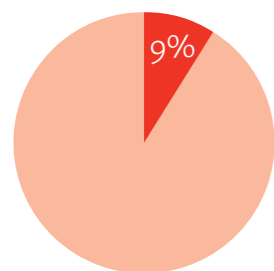
37% of parents in Surrey are not using as much childcare as they would like. Generally there is a need for additional after school care and affordable holiday play schemes across the county.



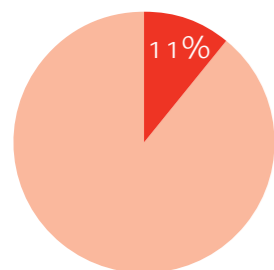
32% of households where at least one parent is not in full-time paid work or training are unable to do so because of the cost of childcare and the unavailability of out of school provision.



One in five parents would use holiday play schemes more if they were more affordable. They would also use after school care if it were available at their child's school, if it were more affordable or if it met the needs of disabled children or children with special needs.



There are a lot of pre-school services in Surrey and these are well used by parents. Almost 1 in 10 parents say that they would use pre-school playgroups more if they were more affordable or open for longer hours.



11% of parents in Surrey would use childminders more if they were more affordable or if they were available for evenings, weekends or overnight care.

Geographical gaps

Demand for childcare services is significantly higher for some children's centre areas. These areas are listed here for each childcare type.

Childminders

Parents are asking for affordable childminding services in area 46 Woldingham and Tatsfield, and area 44 Knaphill.

There is less of a demand for more childminders in areas 49 Burpham and Merrow, 59 Cuddington and Stoneleigh, and 73 Long Ditton.

Day nurseries

Parents are asking for more affordable day nursery services in areas 4 Goldsworth Park, 19 Maybury and Sheerwater, 44 Knaphill, and 54 Warlingham and Whyteleafe.

There is less of a demand for additional affordable day nursery services in areas 43 Worplesdon, 49 Cranleigh, 60 Bookham and Fetcham, 72 Pilgrims and Tongham, and 75 Ashtead.

Pre-school playgroups

Parents are asking for more affordable pre-school playgroups that offer longer hours in areas 4 Goldsworth Park, 9 Ashford and 19 Maybury and Sheerwater.

After school clubs

One in five Surrey parents would use an after school club if it were available at their child's school. Parents are asking for after school clubs in areas where there is little or no provision, particularly in areas:

- | | |
|----|---------------------------------|
| 37 | Epsom |
| 55 | Frensham and Elstead |
| 65 | Banstead |
| 77 | Brockham, Betchworth and Walton |



The following 29 schools are mentioned by parents as preferred locations for more after school services (listed in alphabetical order):

- Boxgrove Primary School, Guildford
- Brockham Primary School, Brockham
- Claygate Primary School, Esher
- Hinchley Wood Primary School, Hinchley Wood
- Holmesdale School, Reigate
- Holy Trinity Church of England School, West End
- Manorcroft Primary School, Egham
- Park Mead Primary School, Cranleigh
- Ravenscote Community Junior School, Frimley
- Stamford Green Primary School, Epsom
- St Charles Borromeo Catholic Primary School, Weybridge
- St Edmund's Catholic Primary School, Godalming
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Dorking
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Redhill
- St Martin's Infants School, Epsom
- St Martin's Junior School, Epsom
- St Mary's Church of England Junior School, Oxted
- St Mary's Primary School, Frensham
- Tadworth Primary School, Tadworth
- The Chandler Church of England Junior School, Witley
- The Greville Primary School, Ashtead
- The Raleigh School, West Horsley
- The Royal Kent Primary School, Oxshott
- Walton on the Hill Primary School, Walton
- Warren Mead Infants School, Banstead
- Warren Mead Junior School, Banstead
- West Ashtead Primary School, Ashtead
- Worplesdon Primary School, Guildford
- Yattendon Junior School, Horley

As there is already a good level of after school care in the following areas, there is less demand from parents:

- 8 Walton North
- 11 Redhill
- 40 Caterham
- 47 Burpham and Merrow

Breakfast clubs

One in ten Surrey parents would use a breakfast club if it were available at their child's school. Demand is significantly higher in the following areas:

- 59 Chiddingfold and Dunsfold
- 65 Banstead
- 77 Brockham, Betchworth and Walton

Most of the schools mentioned by parents for after school clubs are popular choices for breakfast clubs as well.

There is less demand for more breakfast clubs in the following areas:

- 20 Horley West
- 47 Burpham and Merrow
- 56 Staines North

Holiday play schemes

The cost of holiday play schemes limits parents from using them as much as they would like, particularly in the following areas:

- 9 Ashford
- 13 Sunbury North
- 18 Walton Ambleside
- 19 Maybury and Sheerwater
- 28 Staines South
- 50 Horsell and Ottershaw

There is less demand for more holiday play schemes in the following areas:

- 26 Virginia Water and Englefield Green
- 40 Caterham
- 69 Reigate

Extended services in schools

More lone parents and parents of disabled children say that they want to use after school provision and affordable holiday play schemes.

Parents with school aged children are generally aware of the proposals for extended services in schools and view the changes favourably, believing it will be extremely helpful to working parents.

Some parents are concerned that children will be left in school every day from 8am to 6pm.

Some parents are unsure about what would be considered "affordable" and how affordability could and should be calculated.



Gaps for parents with lower take up of childcare services

Parents of disabled children or children with special needs

These parents are less likely to use as much childcare as they would like and say that this limits their options for working or training full-time. They are less likely to use day nurseries or playgroups and more likely to use family and friends for their childcare needs. However, they do make greater use of holiday play schemes and there are a number of specialist schemes for disabled children available in Surrey.

Parents would like more local holiday and after school provision as they often have to travel to access care. Some parents say that they would like to access mainstream childcare as this would help their child to integrate with non-disabled children. These parents like the idea of the Surrey 'Including Me' project, which helps disabled children to attend their local after school club, by initially providing one-to-one support to help them fully integrate with the group over time.

Parents report a need for occasional, short-term childcare for their disabled child's siblings to cover hospital appointments, hospital stays, or for respite. Some parents say that they would like to use children's centres, where they can access a range of services, in a safe environment for their children, including drop-in sessions, or a community café, providing opportunities to meet other parents.

Lone Parents

Fewer lone parents than two parent families use as much childcare as they would like and they are less likely to use day nurseries, pre-schools and maintained nurseries. They say that they would like to use more out of school care and childminders.

Affordability is the main worry for lone parents as household incomes are significantly lower than for families with two parents, especially finding affordable school holiday care.

Some issues for lone parents are different to those of two parent families and these are more likely to limit their options to work or train full-time. They want childcare that is available for longer hours, including evenings, overnight or weekends, and they want childcare that is reliable and close to home.

Parents with lower incomes

Many of the issues for families with lower incomes overlap with those of lone parents. We chose to look at families with an income level of under £25,000 as this is the point at which child tax credits decrease and this figure is also below the average salary for Surrey.

Families with lower incomes are less likely to use day nurseries and more likely to use family and friends for childcare. They are also less likely to use as much childcare as they would like compared to households with higher incomes. They would like childcare to be more affordable and available in the evenings, overnight, at weekends, or to be closer to home.

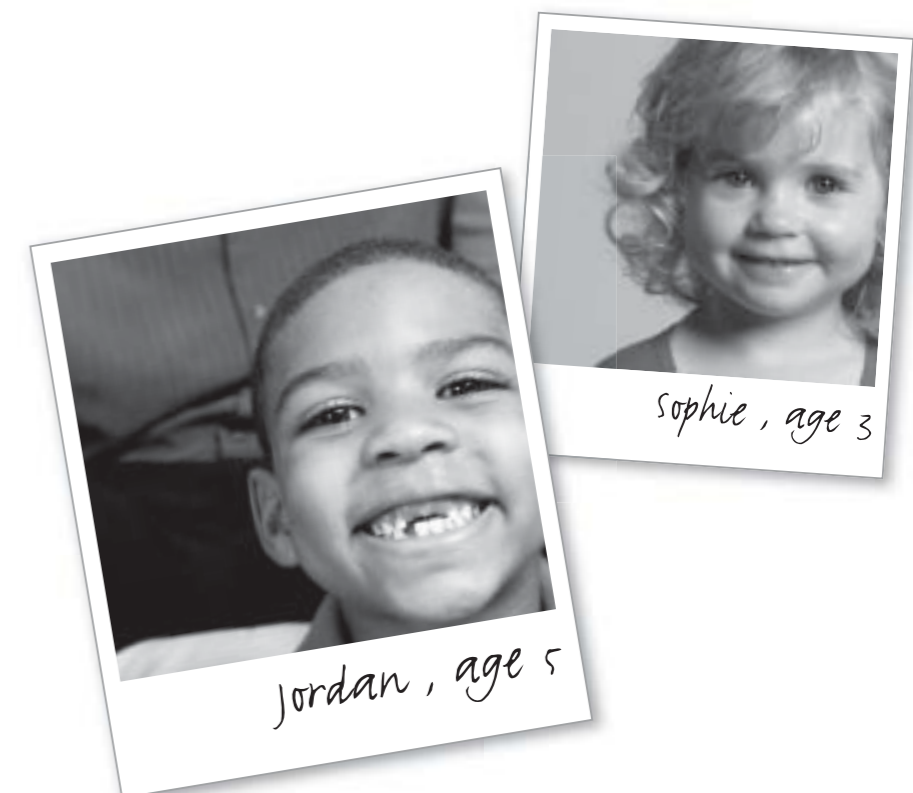
Families on lower incomes are more worried about affordability, particularly for out of school care. They are reasonably well aware of the working tax credit (WTC) but less aware of the childcare element.

Younger Parents

Younger parents are less likely to use as much childcare as they would like. Those with younger aged children would use more day nurseries and pre-school playgroups if they were affordable.

Those who would like to work or train full-time say that childcare costs limit their options.

Where they do consider childcare, they use family and friends and formal sessional pre-school childcare once their children turn two and a half years or three years old. This is partly due to cost and partly due to a lack of confidence in formal childcare. Younger parents are not always aware of the benefits of different types of childcare and are more likely to rely on personal recommendation. They have less awareness of services such as Surrey Family Information Service (FIS).



Ethnic Minority Groups

Parents from ethnic minority communities are less likely to use as much childcare as they would like. A significantly higher percentage, with the exception of Chinese parents, indicate that issues with childcare limit their options to work or train full-time.

The following children's centre areas have a significantly higher proportion of families from ethnic minority backgrounds than the Surrey average of 5%:

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Ewell Court & Ruxley (6.3%) |
| 2 | Guildford, Westborough (7.1%) |
| 4 | Goldsworth Park (7.4%) |
| 7 | Ewell (7.5%) |
| 10 | Stanwell (7.6%) |
| 11 | Redhill (7.2%) |
| 15 | Frimley (6.1%) |
| 19 | Maybury & Sheerwater (28.6%) |
| 26 | Virginia Water & Englefield Green (7.5%) |
| 37 | Epsom (6.5%) |
| 73 | Long Ditton (7.1%) |
| 76 | College, Woodcote & Nonsuch (7.0%) |

The majority of these areas are also identified as neighbourhoods where lower family incomes affect children.

The Pakistani and Bangladeshi parents in Woking report a lack of local pre-school childcare. They would like more childcare that is local and welcoming and supports children with English as an additional language. These parents are less aware of the free entitlement to early education. Many of the parents take up the free entitlement in local schools. Parents say that childcare, especially full day care, is expensive and that the cost of childcare prevents them from returning to paid work.

Parents ask that information leaflets are made available in their first language.



Information about childcare and early education provision and other relevant services

Family Information Service (FIS)

Parents who have used the FIS say that it is an excellent service. Although many parents are still not aware of Surrey's FIS, awareness has increased since 2006. Parents of older children, on lower incomes, younger parents and those from Asian backgrounds are less aware of the service than parents overall. Some parents are accessing information provided by the FIS on the Internet or by phone without recognising the organisation name, referring to it as Surrey County Council.

Free entitlement for early education

Parents with lower take up of childcare are less likely to know about the free entitlement for early education.

There are 617 settings registered to provide the free entitlement for early education of 12.5 hours per week. There are 87 places for every 100 children aged 3 and 4 years old available in Surrey (not including reception classes). Take up of the free entitlement in the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector in Surrey is very high, 78% of 3 year olds take up their entitlement in these sectors (autumn 2007). Overall, 102% of 3 year olds and 111% of 4 year olds take up their early education entitlement in Surrey in all sectors, including

state schools. The percentages are higher than 100% because some children living outside the county are using Surrey provision.

Just over half of parents of children under 5 years would like to take their free entitlement over longer hours and fewer days per week, such as over 3 days at 5 hours per day, or over 4 days at 3 and 4 hours per day. This would help parents to train or work.

The free entitlement is due to increase to 15 hours per week by September 2010. Most parents view this positively. However, some do not appear to view this increase as education and see it as free childcare cover. They also have concerns about provision outside of term time.

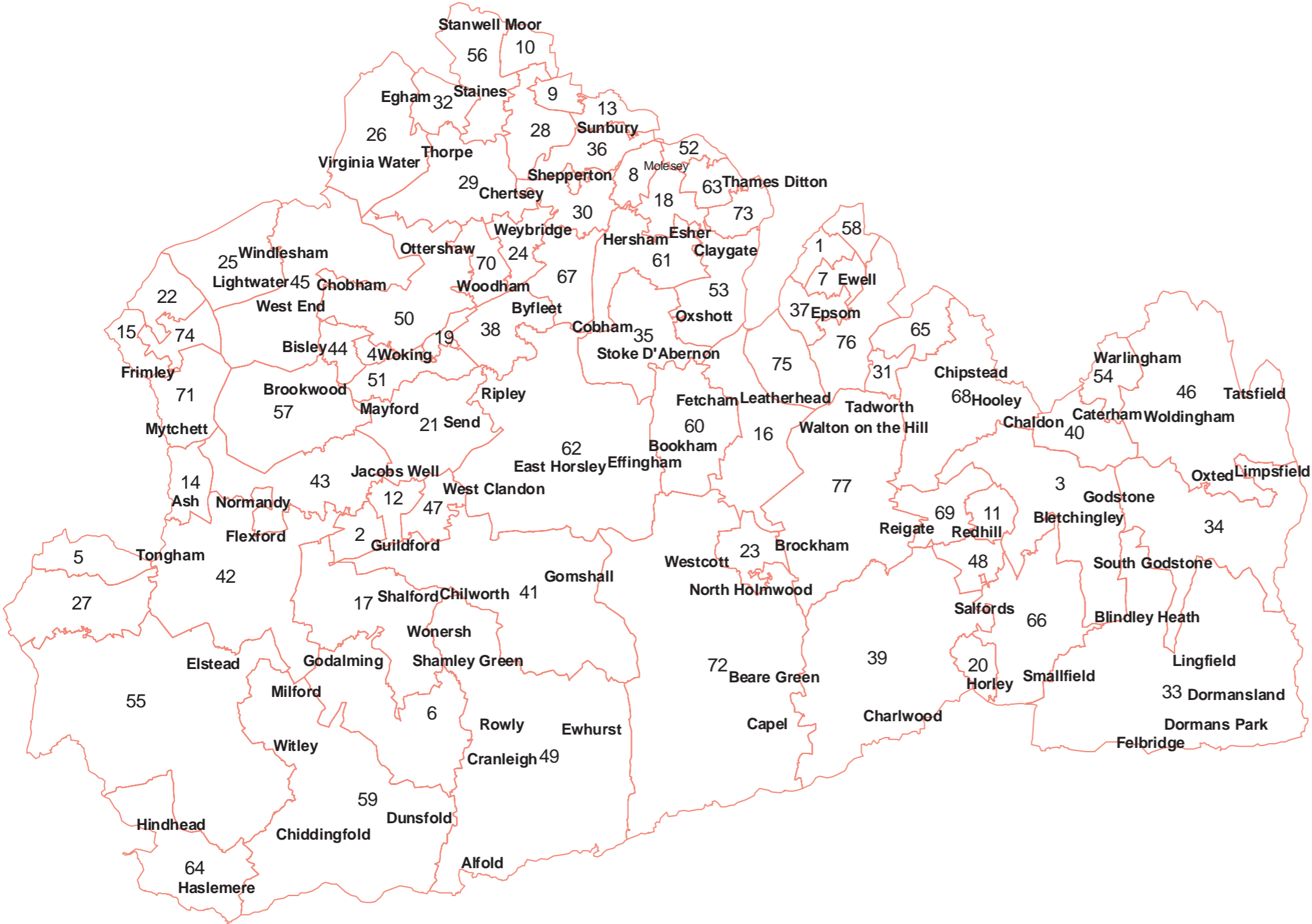
In the future, we will look at how the increased entitlement is used, to make sure it meets parents' and carers' needs.

Tax credits and childcare vouchers

Parents are generally not well informed about tax credits and childcare vouchers. Where parents do know about them, they find the process confusing and feel unable to calculate what they might be entitled to.

Map of children's centre areas

List of children's centre areas



- Children's centre areas**
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Ewell Court & Ruxley | 44 Knaphill |
| 2 Guildford, Westborough | 45 West End & Chobham |
| 3 Merstham, Bletchingly & Nutfield | 46 Woldingham & Tatsfield |
| 4 Goldsworth Park | 47 Burpham & Merrow |
| 5 Farnham Hale | 48 Meadvale & Earlswood |
| 6 Godalming Central & Busbridge | 49 Cranleigh |
| 7 Ewell | 50 Horsell & Ottershaw |
| 8 Walton North | 51 Woking South |
| 9 Ashford | 52 Molesey |
| 10 Stanwell | 53 Oxshott & Claygate |
| 11 Redhill | 54 Warlingham & Whyteleafe |
| 12 Guildford, Stoke | 55 Frensham & Elstead |
| 13 Sunbury North | 56 Staines North |
| 14 Ash | 57 Pirbright & Brookwood |
| 15 Frimley | 58 Cuddington & Stoneleigh |
| 16 Leatherhead | 59 Chiddingfold & Dunsfold |
| 17 Godalming Binscombe and Shalford | 60 Bookham & Fetcham |
| 18 Walton Ambleside | 61 Hersham |
| 19 Maybury & Sheerwater | 62 Clandon & Horsley |
| 20 Horley West | 63 Thames Ditton |
| 21 Mayford & Send | 64 Haslemere & Hindhead |
| 22 Camberley North | 65 Banstead |
| 23 Dorking | 66 Horley East & Outwood |
| 24 Addlestone & New Haw | 67 St Georges Hill |
| 25 Lightwater & Bagshot | 68 Chipstead & Hooley |
| 26 Virginia Water & Englefield Green | 69 Reigate |
| 27 Farnham Central | 70 Chertsey South & Woodham |
| 28 Staines South | 71 Mytchett & Deepcut |
| 29 Chertsey & Thorpe | 72 Leith Hill, Westcott & Okewood |
| 30 Weybridge | 73 Long Ditton |
| 31 Preston | 74 Camberley South |
| 32 Egham | 75 Ashted |
| 33 Burstow, Lingfield & Dormansland | 76 College, Woodcote & Nonsuch |
| 34 Hurst Green and Godstone | 77 Brockham, Betchworth & Walton |
| 35 Cobham | |
| 36 Sunbury South | |
| 37 Epsom | |
| 38 Pyrford & Byfleet | |
| 39 Leigh & Charlwood | |
| 40 Caterham | |
| 41 Guildford, Tillingbourne | |
| 42 Pilgrims & Tongham | |
| 43 Worpleston | |

0 5 10 Miles

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Next steps

Parents, childcare professionals, employers, and other partners are welcome to respond to this document. We will use your comments to review our findings in September 2008. In the meantime, the Early Years and Childcare Service (EYCS) will use the information gathered to target activities to where gaps have been identified. A copy of the full report is available from the EYCS research team and on the website: www.surreycc.gov.uk/earlyyears

Contact us

We would like to hear what you have to say.

Please contact the Early Years and Childcare Service research team:

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Please contact us before 30 June 2008. We will use your comments to review our findings in September 2008. Your views are important to us.

If you need a translation of the document please contact WITS on: 01483 750548

**This document is available in large print
tel: 01372 833820.**