

Newham's childcare sufficiency assessment 2008/9



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INDEX	PAGE
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
INTRODUCTION	4
METHODOLOGY	5
PART 1 ANALYSING AND ASSESSING DEMAND	7
1.1 Geography of Newham	7
1.2 Socio and economic characteristics of the borough	8
1.2.1 Population	8
1.2.2 Child population	8
1.3 Ethnic diversity	9
1.3.1 Ethnic diversity geographically	9
1.4 Languages spoken in the borough	10
1.5 Deprivation	11
1.6 Work trends and income	12
1.6.1 Economic activity	12
1.6.2 Economic activity amongst ethnic groups in the borough	13
1.6.3 Income	13
1.7 Family composition	14
1.7.1 Households with dependant children	14
PART 2 MAPPING SUPPLY	16
2.1 Childcare for children under 5	16
2.2 Childcare for children over the age of 5	20
2.3 Vacancy rates	26
2.4 Other services available out of school to children and parents	29
2.5 Prices of childcare in Newham	30
2.5.1 The Childcare Affordability Programme	33
2.6 Quality of childcare services in Newham	33
2.7 Childcare supply in neighbouring London boroughs	34
2.8 Supply of free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds	34
PART 3 MAPPING SUPPLY TO DEMAND	35
3.1 Childcare penetration rates	35
3.1.1 Potential demand for childcare places in Newham, current penetration rates based on child population figures for children under 5.	35
3.1.2 Potential demand for childcare places in Newham, current penetration rates based on child population figures for children over 5.	38
3.2 Geographical mapping of childcare users for children under five years old	41
3.2.1 Introduction	41
3.2.2 Sample of children	41
3.2.3 Summary of childcare use for the borough as a whole	42

3.3 Analysis of childcare use and where children live at ward level	43
3.4 Where are children using childcare who live in wards with no childcare	60
3.5 Possible lack of childcare as a barrier to employment	62
3.6 Regeneration and Olympics in Newham and possible influences on childcare supply and demand	62
3.7 Childcare providers consultation survey results	63
3.7.1 Introduction	63
3.7.2 Survey results	63
3.7.3 Level of sufficiency	64
3.7.4 Plans for expansion	65
3.7.5 Sustainability	65
3.7.6 Conclusion	66
3.8 Consultation with children	66
3.8.1 Introduction	66
3.8.2 Pilot, consultation with children using after school clubs	67
3.8.3 Research findings	67
3.8.4 Conclusions	68
3.9 A consultation with parents of children with additional needs, pilot	68
3.9.1 Introduction	68
3.9.2 Research findings	69
3.9.3 Profile of parents and their children	71
3.9.4 Conclusions	71
3.10 Parents'/carers' survey	72
3.10.1 Introduction	72
3.10.2 Methodology	72
3.10.3 Profile of parents who completed the survey	73
3.10.4 Current use of childcare	77
3.10.5 Reasons for using childcare	81
3.10.6 Factors of importance when using childcare	82
3.10.7 Cost of childcare and affordability	82
3.10.8 Child tax credit/ Working Tax Credit	83
3.10.9 Are childcare needs being met?	84
3.10.10 Future intentions for using childcare, amongst those parents currently not using formal childcare	85
3.10.11 Method of travel to childcare setting	85
3.10.12 Information about childcare	85
3.10.13 Opinions about childcare in Newham	86
3.10.14 Is there sufficient childcare in Newham?	87
3.10.15 Conclusions	88
 PART 4 CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND FURTHER WORK	 90
 APPENDIX 1 – BASIC TABLES BY WARD	
APPENDIX 2 – SURVEYS USED	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Newham's childcare sufficiency is divided in to four parts.

The first part looks at analysing and assessing potential demand for childcare by examining Newham's socio economic factors, the child population of the borough, the ethnic diversity including languages spoken, deprivation, economic activity including income levels and family composition including the number of lone parents in the borough.

The second part of the assessment maps current childcare supply. Childcare for children under the age of 5 and childcare for children over the age of 5 are mapped together with vacancy rates in the two sectors. The report then explores other services available in the borough for children over 5; it examines prices for the different services, quality of services and identifies childcare in Newham's neighbouring local authorities.

The third part maps the supply to current and potential demand by mapping childcare availability per 100 children and mapping childcare users across the borough. This section also includes survey results from childcare providers, children, parents with children with additional needs, and the main parent/carer survey.

The fourth part of the assessment concludes on the gaps identified when mapping supply to demand. The most prevalent gaps in the childcare market were identified as:

1. *Affordability gap*. Although childcare in Newham is cheaper than the outer London average, cost is still referred to as a barrier to using formal childcare by parents.
2. *Suitability/accessibility gap*. Further work with parents with children with additional needs would need to be carried out. Currently, this group has low awareness of childcare services available in the borough.
3. *Age range gap*. Low levels of formal childcare for children over the age of 8 were identified. Further consultation with children of this age would need to be carried out to establish and meet their needs.
4. *Level of provision gap*. The findings were that for parents with children over the age of 5, only 50% felt that their childcare needs were being met. Further investigate into the needs of parents with older children would have to be carried out.
5. *Quality gap*. Using Ofsted information, quality of childcare services is lower than the national average. Continuous monitoring of quality to tackle parents' concerns and promote choice is needed.
6. *Awareness gap*. Throughout all of the consultations carried out, the findings were that awareness of services available to parents/carers in the borough was low. Further promotion of the Children's Information Service to parents/carers would be needed to ensure

INTRODUCTION

Policy context and local authority statutory duty

The Children Act 2004 launched a framework for local authorities, the Every Child Matters (ECM) framework, within which services to children and young people should be delivered. Local authorities must work with key statutory and PVI sector partners to ensure that all children get the best possible support to achieve the 5 outcomes of the framework:

1. be healthy
2. stay safe
3. enjoy and achieve

4. make a positive contribution
5. achieve economic wellbeing

The Childcare Act 2006 is a key component of the ECM framework and it outlines the legal responsibility of local authorities to firstly assess and secondly secure sufficient childcare within their local area and be the strategic leader in facilitating the childcare market.

The act particularly focuses on facilitating sufficient, sustainable, accessible and flexible childcare that is responsive to parental needs. This is to be achieved in partnership with the PVI sector.

Section 11 of the act details the childcare sufficiency assessment duty. Local authorities must complete their first assessment within one of the act coming into force i.e. before the end of March 08. The assessment must be updated annually.

This will enable local authorities to fulfil their duty under section 6 of the act – to secure sufficient childcare.

This assessment has been published within the framework of the local children and young people's plan and will underpin local authority planning.

Purpose of assessment

The aim of this assessment is to identify gaps in the childcare market and plan how to address these in consultation with parents, childcare providers and the wider community. Needs of working parents will be considered and so will the need for free places for 3 and 4 year olds.

Local partners that have been consulted include the local safeguarding children board and Jobcentre plus. The report has also taking into account consultation with children, parents, childcare providers, representatives of children, neighbouring local authorities, schools, further education colleges and other organisations with interest in childcare – including disability and BME groups.

The areas that the assessment covers include the whole local authority area but also wards and community forum areas.

For the purpose of this assessment, sufficiency is defined as meeting the needs of local parents who require childcare in order to enable them to take up or remain in work or undertake training or education that will lead to work. There is a particular emphasis on providing sufficient childcare for tax credits claimants and families with children with additional needs.

The Childcare Act 2006 stipulates that local authorities are not expected to deliver childcare, but would need to act as a market facilitator in providing support across childcare sectors to achieve sufficiency.

The assessment is divided into 3 parts:

1. analysing and assessing demand
2. mapping supply
3. mapping supply to demand

METHODOLOGY

Parents' survey

A self-completion survey aimed at and carers was distributed across the borough via nurseries, nursery schools, Primary and Secondary schools, as well as Children's Centres and Early Start Programmes, in order to reach parents of children of all ages and geographical locations in the borough. Parents were asked to return the survey in a self addressed pre-paid envelope with completions entered into a prize draw.

The survey covered the subject areas of:

- Types of children care currently used for children of all ages
- The type of childcare parents would like to use in the future
- Times and days of week that childcare is currently used
- When parents would like to ideally make use of childcare
- Childcare costs, affordability and tax credits
- Priorities in their choice of childcare
- Their views about current childcare provision in Newham

Parents survey, pilot

A pilot survey was conducted in early February in the wards of Manor Park and Little Ilford 200 self completion Childcare surveys were sent to parents with children aged under five years old and 5 – 11 years old. Surveys were distributed via schools and nurseries and returned by post. 19 surveys were returned in total, giving a response rate of 10 %.

Parents survey, main

In late February the survey was rolled out across the borough, with 5,000 surveys distributed, via schools, childcare settings and Early Start programmes. The results of which will be available 26th March 2008.

Childcare providers survey

A self-completion questionnaire was distributed via email in January 2008, to the PVI Childcare sector (Private, Voluntary and Independent). The survey was sent to 60 settings and 30 replied, giving a response rate of 50%.

A second survey was sent to childminders in the borough in February, via representatives for the Newham Childminding Association, however we did not obtain any returns from this sector using this self-completion method, therefore the methodology used for further consultation with this sector this year, will be reviewed.

The aim of the survey was to find out whether childcare providers thought the current level of childcare available in their area was sufficient and whether childcare.

provision was sustainable in terms of fees and occupancy levels. The survey also aimed to gauge the level of proposed future expansion.

A consultation with parents of children with additional needs, pilot

A pilot research project was conducted in early March 2008, with parents of young children aged 1 - 3 years old who have additional needs. These particular families were accessed by attending parent and child groups provided by The Learning Support Services, based at the Tunmarsh Centre in Newham, who offer a range of services to children with special needs or disabilities and their families.

A researcher attended two groups provided by the Learning Support Service and conducted six in-depth interviews with participating parents.

Discussion covered their current childcare use, future childcare needs and their experiences and awareness of childcare provision in the borough.

Consultation with children, after school club pilot

In March 2008, a researcher visited an after school club aimed at children aged 5 – 10 years old, to obtain the views of children about the after school club they attended. The interview took the form of an informal about their views on the After School Club they attended, what children wanted to do after school and in the school holidays and what children wanted to do after school.

On the day the researcher attended only three children aged 5- 7 years old had attended, all three children were interviewed. The discussions were recorded and transcribed, then analysed for key themes.

Geographical analysis and mapping of the location of childcare providers and where service users live

The postcodes of childcare providers and those families using private and maintained nurseries were obtained from childcare settings in the borough. These postcodes were analysed at ward level to understand where families used childcare. Forty-nine childcare providers across the borough participated in this exercise and total 1981 children were recorded as using a childcare setting in Newham.

The postcodes obtained were also used to conduct a geographical mapping exercise using the Neighbourhood Information Management Team (NIMS), where childcare providers and their service users were plotted onto a map of the borough.

Desk research

Demographic, socio-economic and deprivation data were obtained via NIMS and ONS to provide a profile of the borough.

Current level of childcare provision

Current childcare provision figures including childcare numbers, vacancy rates, prices and Ofsted ratings have been obtained from Ofsted and provisions directly. Comparison figures have been obtained from the Daycare Trust, Ofsted and the National Day Nurseries Association.

PART 1 ANALYSING AND ASSESSING DEMAND

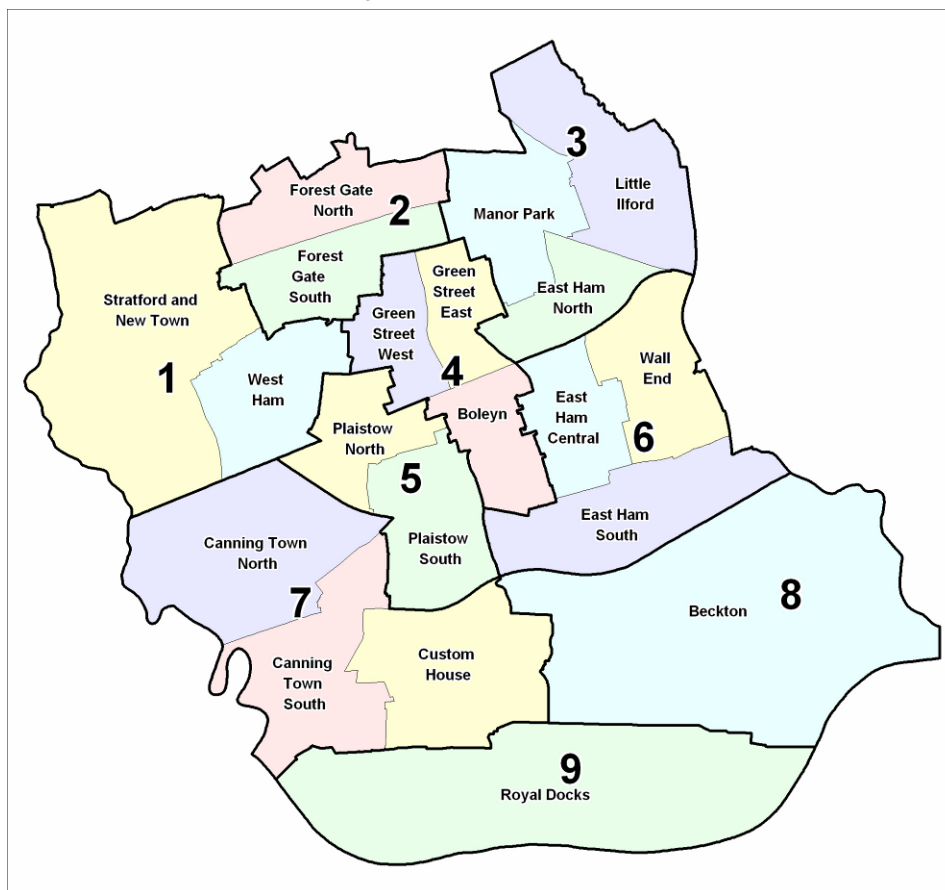
In analysing and assessing current and future demand of childcare in Newham the profile residents in Newham has been analysed and an overview of the borough provided.

1.1 Geography of Newham

When looking at Newham geographically, the borough is broken down into nine Community Forum Areas; these can be further broken down into 20 wards. On a much smaller scale the borough consists of 159 super out put areas, which have been used for reporting on factors such as deprivation.

For purposes of this report, characteristics across the borough will generally be reported on at ward level or Community Forum level.

Figure 1: Newham Community Forum Areas and Wards



Community Forums

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Stratford and West Ham | 6. East Ham |
| 2. Forest Gate | 7. Custom House and Canning Town |
| 3. Manor Park | 8. Beckton |
| 4. Green Street | 9. Royal Docks |
| 5. Plaistow | |

1.2. Socio and economic characteristics of the borough

This section of the report aims to provide an overview of demographic characteristics of Newham and highlights socio-economic factors which may impact on childcare usage and demand in the borough. For specific ward level data, that support this section about indicators of childcare demand please refer to Appendix 1.

1.2.1 Population

It was estimated that in 2007, 260,711 people were living in Newham (GLA HLP projections) or 260,242 people based on GLA Low RLP projections. For the purposes of this report the GLA Low RLP projections will be used, which are the most recent population figures for this borough and take into account more influencing factors such as housing, whilst the overall population is lower based on the low RLP projections, the child population is actually higher.

Newham has an exceptionally young and rising population, with 40% of its population under the age of 25 years old. The borough has the highest birth and fertility rate in the country averaging 2.56 children per woman, compared to 1.87, which in its self has an impact on childcare demand.

Compared to other London boroughs Newham has a high level of mobility, based on 2001 Census information. Royal Docks and Beckton had the highest level of migration in the borough, migration rates are known to be on the increase.

1.2.2 Child population

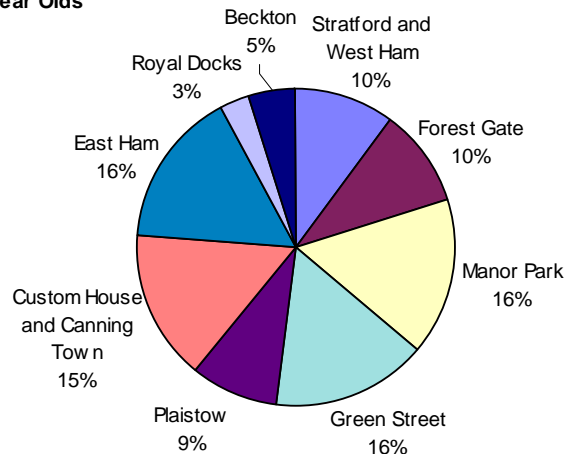
25 % of Newham's population are aged 0 – 16 years, the projected child population for Newham for 2007, were as follows:

Table 1: Child population of Newham (GLA low RLP projections 2007)

Age group	Count	Percentage of child population %
Aged 0-4 years	22,074	34
Aged 5 –10 years	23,530	36
Aged 11- 16 years	19,514	30

A large proportion of the child population is located in the North of the borough, distributed almost equally between the Community Forum Areas of Manor Park Green Street and East Ham. In the South of the borough a high percentage of children live in the Community Forum area of Custom House and Canning Town.

Chart 1: 0-16 year old population spread across the borough per Community Forum Area



1.3 Ethnic diversity

Due to the Census information for ethnicity being out of date, population by ethnic groups has been based on PLASC school data for 4-16 year olds (2006), which provides a more accurate reflection of the ethnic diversity of the borough.

Chart 2. Ethnicity breakdowns of 4-16 year olds in Newham (PLASC 2006, Research and Statistics Team, Education)



Newham is a particularly diverse, 80% of children living in the borough are from a non white ethnic group. The majority of 4-16 year olds living in Newham are from an Asian background (43%). This percentage is much larger than for England and Inner London (7% and 19% respectively). The Asian population in Newham is predominantly Bangladeshi (16%), Pakistani (12%) and Indian (11%).

27% of the Newham's 4-16 year old population are Black / Black British, this group is predominantly from a Black African (18%) and Caribbean (6%) origin. Overall the Black / Black British population is higher than England (4%), but slightly lower than Inner London percentages (31%).

The White population (15%) is considerably lower compared to England (84%) and Inner London (34%), this group is made up of predominantly of White British and Irish (15%) and 3% of Eastern Europeans.

1.3.1 Ethnic diversity geographically

When comparing ethnicity geographically in the borough, there exists some variation, the North East of the borough have a high proportions of Asian / Asian British these include the Community Forum Areas of Manor Park (68%), Green Street (51%), East Ham (50%) and Plaistow (50%). In contrast there are lower proportions of Asian / Asian British in the South and South West of the Borough, located in Custom House and Canning Town (13%) and Royal Docks (12%).

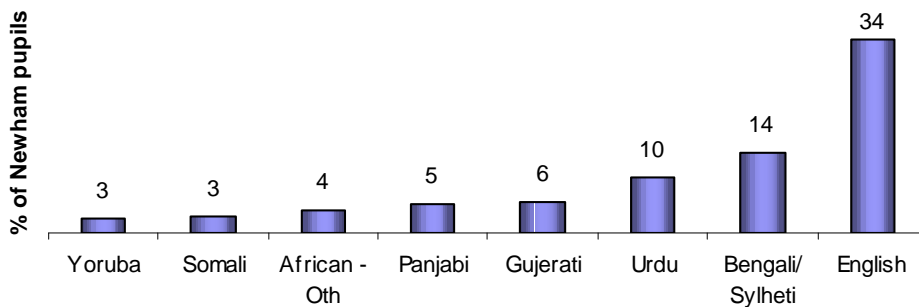
- Black / Black British populations are fairly evenly distributed across the borough, however there are slightly higher proportions in the West of the borough in the Community Forum areas of Custom House and Canning Town (37%), Stratford and West Ham (34%) and in the Royal Docks (34%) Community Forum Areas. In

contrast the Black / Black British population is slightly smaller in the North East of the borough in Manor Park (16%) and East Ham (20%).

- The White / White British population is largely concentrated in the South of the borough in Custom House and Canning Town (38%), Royal Docks (37%) and Beckton (35%). Lower numbers of White / White British are based in the North the Borough, numbers are particularly low in Manor Park (9%) and Green Street (10%). Mixed populations are similar to the White / White British breakdowns, with higher numbers located in the South West, around the Royal Docks (13%) and Beckton (8%) Community Forum areas. The Mixed population is much lower in numbers in the North of the borough around Manor Park (3%), Green Street (5%) and Plaistow (5%).
- For a break down of ethnicity per Community Forum area please see appendix 1.

1.4 Languages spoken in the borough

There are over 140 languages spoken in Newham, (DfES). English is spoken as a first language by 34% of Newham school pupils, compared to 63% in London and 89% in England. Other predominant languages spoken in the borough include Bengali / Sylheti (14%), Urdu (10%) and Gujerati (6%).



Top ten languages spoken in Newham, PLASC 2004

When comparing languages spoken across the borough, Manor Park is the only Community Forum Area where English is not the most common first language (13%), with larger proportions of Bengali / Sylheti (25%) and Urdu (18%).

The remaining Community Forum Areas in the North of the borough have around a third of children who speak English as a first Language, this includes Stratford (35%); Forest Gate (31%); Green Street (32%), Plaistow (33%) and; East Ham (33%). In line with ethnicity trends, children in these areas frequently speak Bengali / Sylheti, Urdu, Gujerati and Panjabi.

English is predominantly spoken in the Southern Community Forum Areas of Royal Docks (59%), Custom House and Canning Town (54%) and Beckton (43%), corresponding to the larger White British population. The Royal Docks and Custom House and Canning Town areas have the lowest proportions of children speaking

languages of Asian decent (9% and 10% respectively speaking Urdu, Punjabi, Bengali and Gujerati). These areas also have larger proportions of children speaking Yoruba or African Other (6% in Custom House and Canning Town) or Portuguese (6% in Royal Docks).

1.5 Deprivation

Newham is a particularly deprived area, with an overall score of 40.53 Newham was ranked the 4th most deprived borough in London and 11th most deprived in England and Wales in 2004. Recent 2007 Indices of deprivation scoring (42.95), now ranks Newham as the 3rd most deprived London borough and 6th most deprived in London England and Wales.

One-third of Newham’s Super Output (SOAs) areas are in the top 10% most deprived SOAs in England and Wales and 99% of Newham’s Super Output areas fall into the 10 – 30% most deprived. This means that issues surrounding deprivation and service provision affect the borough as a whole. However, if focus is given to those areas in the borough that are the most deprived, the South West of borough has a particular high concentration of SOAs which fall into the 0- 10% most deprived SOAs in England and Wales. (Maps 2 and 3).

Income deprivation affecting children is a deprivation sub domain of particular interest, in regards to childcare and issues around affordability. 60% of Newham's Super Output areas are in the top 10% most deprived SOAs in England and Wales, again showing this generally an issue for the whole borough. However, the intensification of deprivation affecting children was found to be concentrated in the North East of the borough in 2007 and continued to remain high in the South of the borough.

Chart 3: Deprivation affecting children, ID 2007

Indices of Deprivation 2007: Income Deprivation Affecting Children (IDACI) for Newham

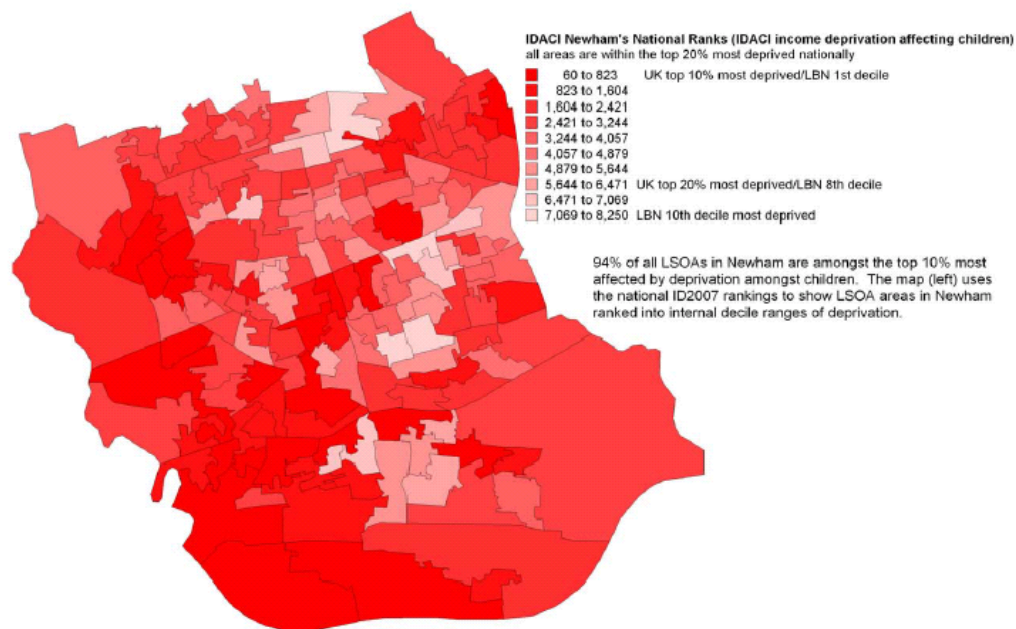
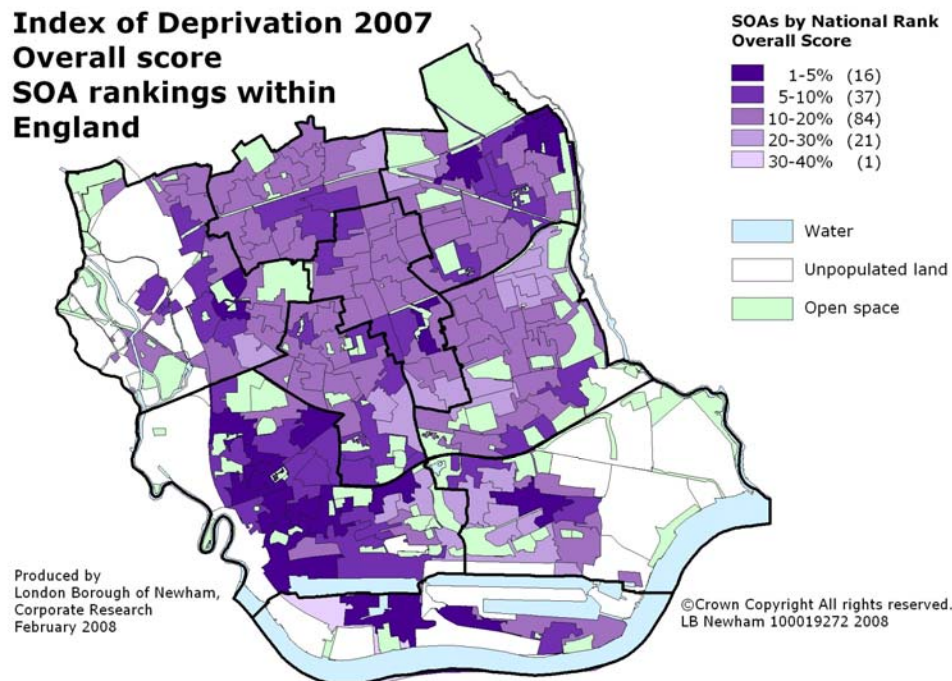


Chart 4: Overall Index of Deprivation for Newham 2007



1.6 Work trends and income

1.6.1 Economic activity

Newham has a high level of economic inactivity, 33.7% of Newham's working age population are economically inactive compared to 25.2% in London and 21.4 % in England. (ONS 2006).

When considering households only with dependent children, the overall percentage of 'economically active' people is similar, however there is a large difference between gender, with a higher proportion of men in either Part Time or Full Time employment (70%), but a much lower proportion of women (38%) (Census 2001).

When comparing households with dependant children, by gender and ward, men have the highest percentage of employment (FT and PT) in the wards of:

- East Ham South, 79%,
- Custom House, 77%
- Plaistow North, Wall End , 74%

Men have the highest percentage of economic inactivity in the wards of:

- East Ham North, 27%
- Manor Park, 25%
- Green Street West, Forest Gate South and Little Ilford, 24%

Whilst at lower levels compared to the male population, women also have the highest levels of employment (FT, PT) in the same wards of as men, with the exception of Forest Gate South

- East Ham South, 49%
- Forest Gate South, 48%
- Plaistow South, 47%
- Custom House 46%

Economic inactivity, is at its highest in similar wards to those of men, but at a significantly higher level

- Green Street West, 69%
- Green Street East, 67%
- East Ham North, 65%

1.6.2 Economic activity amongst ethnic groups in the borough

The Asian / Asian British population in Newham have the lowest proportion of people overall in economic activity (45%). When comparing economic activity by gender, this difference is particularly prominent, with the percentage of females in economic activity particularly low amongst Bangladeshi (20%) and Pakistani (23%) women, this may be a factor which could have impact on the on demand for regular formal childcare amongst this community. Pakistani and Bangladeshi males also have comparatively low levels of economic activity (55% and 53% compared to 60% to all ethnic groups), along with White and Black Caribbean males (46%).

There are high levels of economic activity amongst Black / Black British women (52%), but particularly amongst those of Caribbean origin (58%). These employment trends also reflect the ethnic composition of the wards discussed previously in terms of employment and economic inactivity levels. For more detailed information at ward level regarding, economic activity, unemployment levels and claimant rates, please refer to appendix 1.

1.6.3 Income

Average income levels are low in the borough, 28% of people in Newham fall into the 10K to 20K income bracket, and 16% fall into the 0-10k bracket, with a mean income of £29, 832, this is lower than the UK average.

When comparing average household income levels, by ward. Those located in the North East of the borough have the lowest levels of mean and median household income, which support the findings from ID 2007, regarding the intensification of income deprivation affecting children in this area. The highest average household income levels are located in the south of the borough, in the wards of Royal Docks and Beckton, again this is a factor to consider regarding the affordability of childcare in these particular wards. Please see table below for a full breakdown per ward.

Table 2: Average gross household income per ward, mean and median (Paycheck data – CACI November 2006)

Ward	Mean	Median
Royal Docks	39554	30130
Beckton	33816	26028
Stratford and New Town	31826	24935
Forest Gate South	31715	24981
Forest North	30907	24725
West Ham	30324	24152
Custom House	30088	23913
East Ham South	28369	22722
Plaistow South	28258	22438
Manor Park	27888	22343
Canning Town North	27746	22133
Plaistow North	27644	22202
Boleyn	27521	22153
East Ham Central	25932	20734
Canning Town South	25887	20853
Wall End	25092	20316
Little Ilford	24222	19631
Green Street East	24056	19326
Green Street West	23913	19232
East Ham North	23624	19264

Above the national average

Below £25,000 per year

1.7 Family Composition

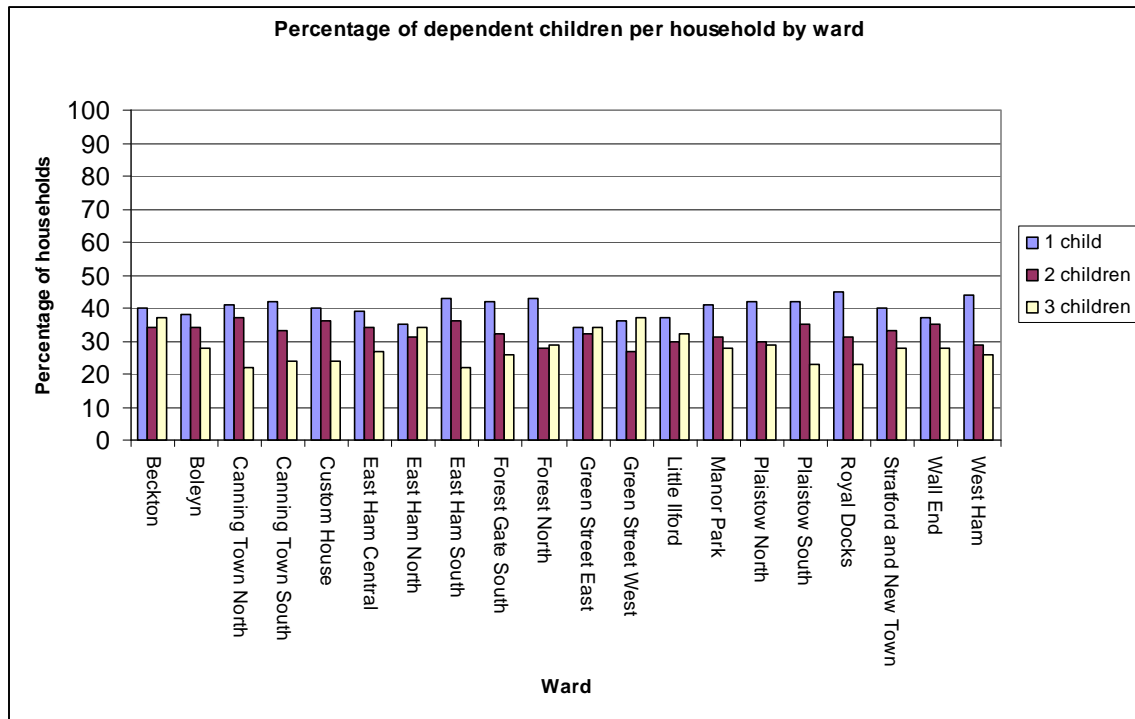
1.7.1 Households with dependant children

The type of childcare used by a family may be determined by the number of children a household contains. Based on the last Census information (2001) Newham has the highest proportion of households with dependent children in England and Wales (38%).

However, the number of children per household varies across the borough. The proportion of families with three children are highest in wards located the North of the borough, in Green Street West (37%), Green Street East (34%), and Little Ilford (32%) (Census 2001).

Households with only one dependant child per family are found in higher proportions in the wards of: Royal Docks (45%), West Ham (44%), Forest gate South (43%) and East Ham North (43%).

Table 3: Percentage of dependent children per household (1 -3) by ward (Census 2001)



Lone Parents

Just under a third of all households with dependent children living in Newham are lone parent households (n=10922 = 32%) (Census 2001). Lone parent households also have the highest proportion of unemployed households with 66% of lone parents in the borough unemployed. This is compared to 24% of two parent households with both parents unemployed.

The number of lone parent households vary between wards, with the highest percentage of lone parents in the borough located in Canning Town North, Canning Town South Royal Docks and Stratford and New Town (40 % - 46%), whilst the lowest proportions of lone parents families live in the wards of East Ham North, Green Street East and Green Street West (17%- 21%) (Census 2001).

The largest percentage of lone parents in the borough are from a Black / Black British origin (40%), over half of which are of Black African descent. White/ White British parents make up the second largest proportion lone parents in the borough. This is reflective of ethnic compositions of the wards mentioned above. Just eight percent of lone parents living in Newham were male compared to ninety two percent of females (Census 2001).

PART 2 MAPPING SUPPLY

This section of the report is based on Ofsted registered childcare figures and in the case of childcare provision for children over the age of 8, good practise guidance figures have been used to determine the current supply of childcare in Newham.

As supply and possible demand for childcare places for children under the age of 5 and children over the age of 5 are quite separate, the supply section has been divided into two sections – one outlining supply of childcare for children under 5 and one outlining supply of childcare for children over the age of 5.

After outlining the full supply of childcare, vacancy rates for each type of provision will be examined to determine the current capacity in each sector of the market. Prices of current provision will then be looked at as will alternatives for childcare in Newham and in neighbouring boroughs.

Newham is an inclusive borough and all provision outlined below operates on fully inclusive principles and to this end provide services for children with additional needs.

The childcare listed below is all Ofsted registered and parents/carers should be eligible to claim the childcare element of the working tax credit to help with pay for their childcare fees in they are on low incomes.

2.1 Childcare for children under 5

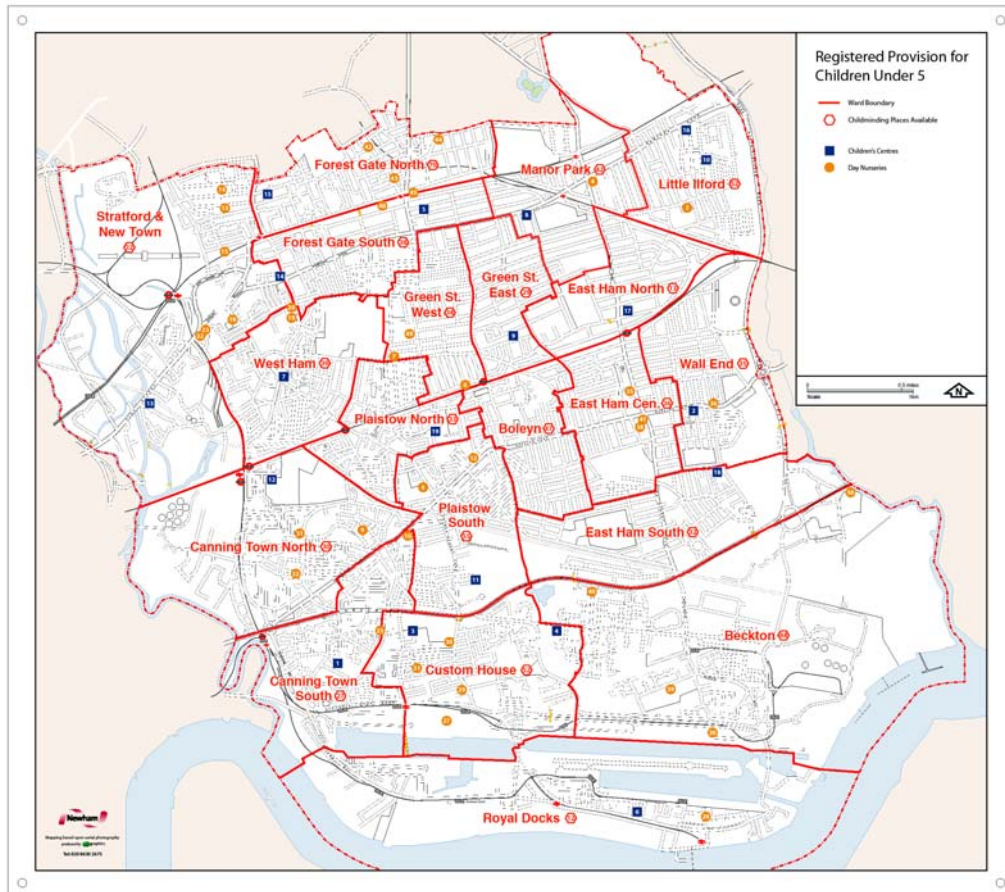
The main suppliers of childcare for children under the age of 5 are full daycare settings and childminders. These all provide care for more than 4 hours per day. Sessional care (early education places) for 3 and 4 year olds will be included separately.

Provision for children under 5 will typically be provided in day nurseries between 8am and 6.30pm. Some nurseries open at 7.30am.

Childminder services are typically available between 7am and 7pm.

The following map shows the location of all full daycare settings in Newham.

Map 1: Childcare provision for children under 5

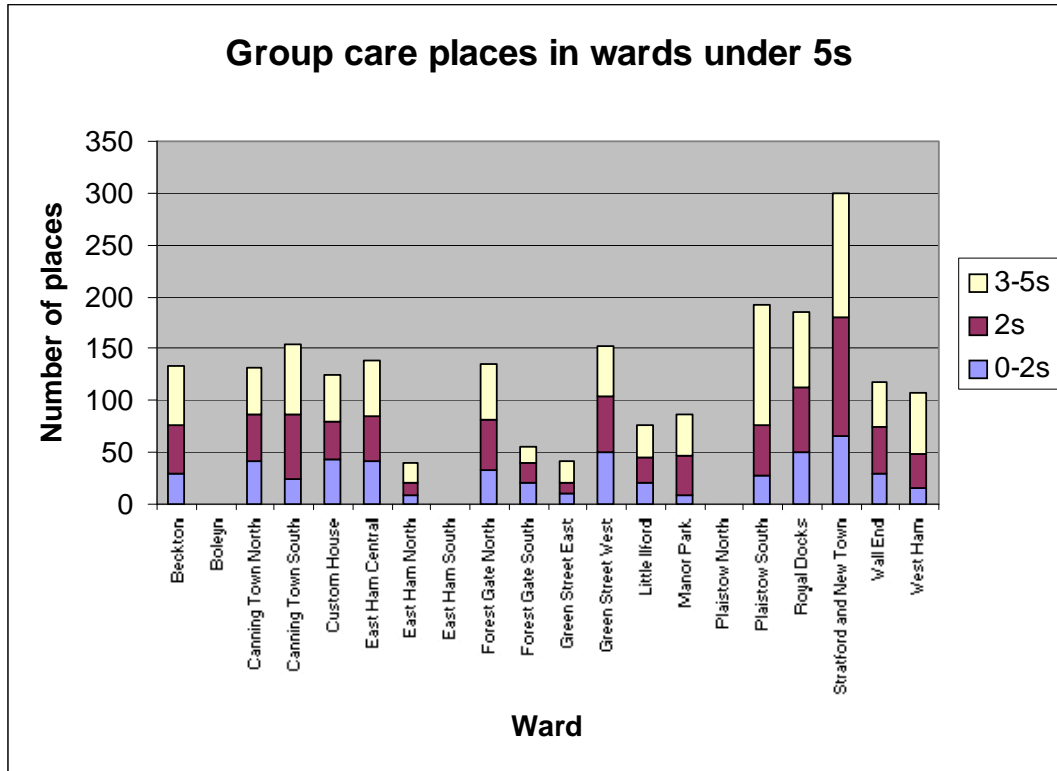


This map shows a fairly even spread of childcare provision across the borough, however, there seems to be a slightly higher concentration of places in the North West of the borough.

It is evident that children's centres are placed in some areas with little other childcare provision and will as part of their core offer deliver childcare in these areas. This is particularly true for the South East and North East of the borough (Beckton, Royal Docks).

The following figures outline numbers of childcare places available for children under 5 in any one ward in Newham:

Figure 2: Group daycare places for children under 5.



The above figure shows that there are no pre-school group daycare place in the wards of Boleyn, East Ham South and Plaistow North. However, some childcare places for children under 5 are available through childminders in the aforementioned areas. The figure below outlines the number of childminder places in each of Newham’s wards.

Figure 3. Childminder daycare places for children under 5.

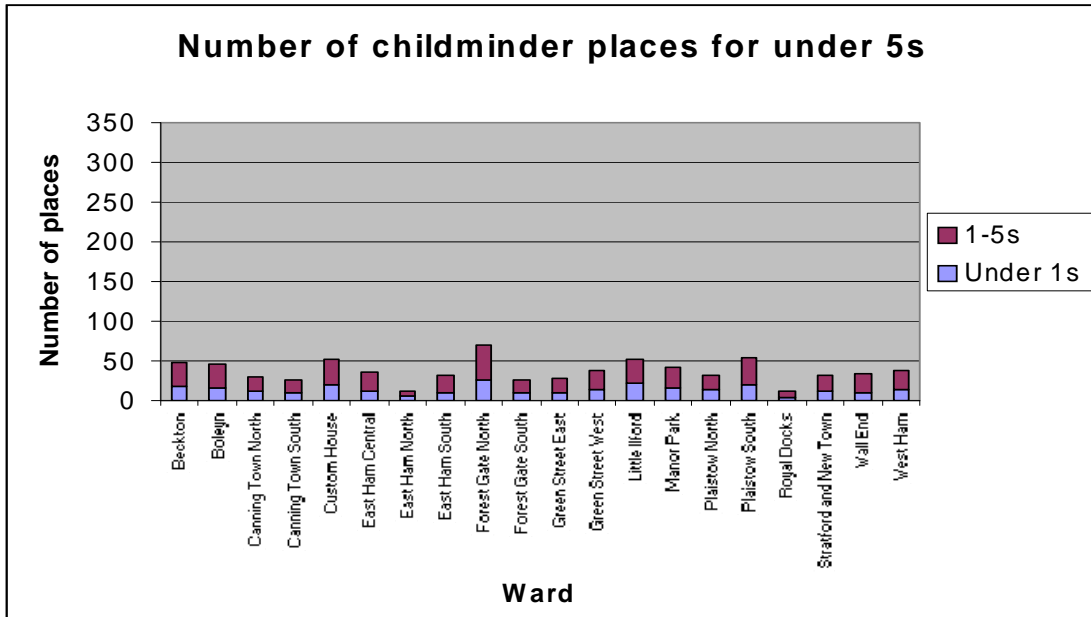
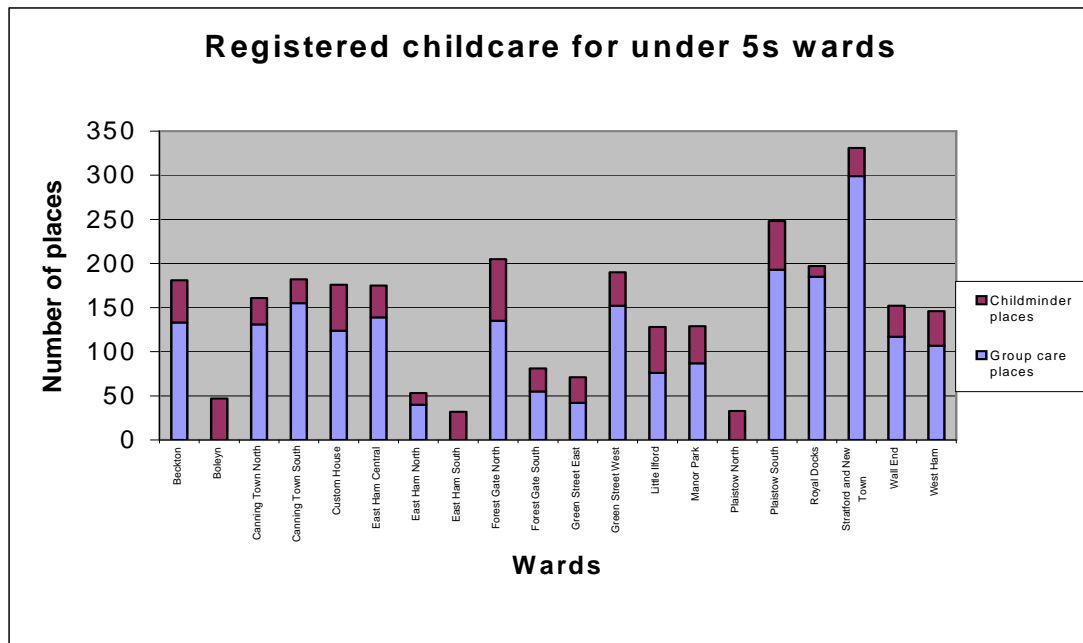


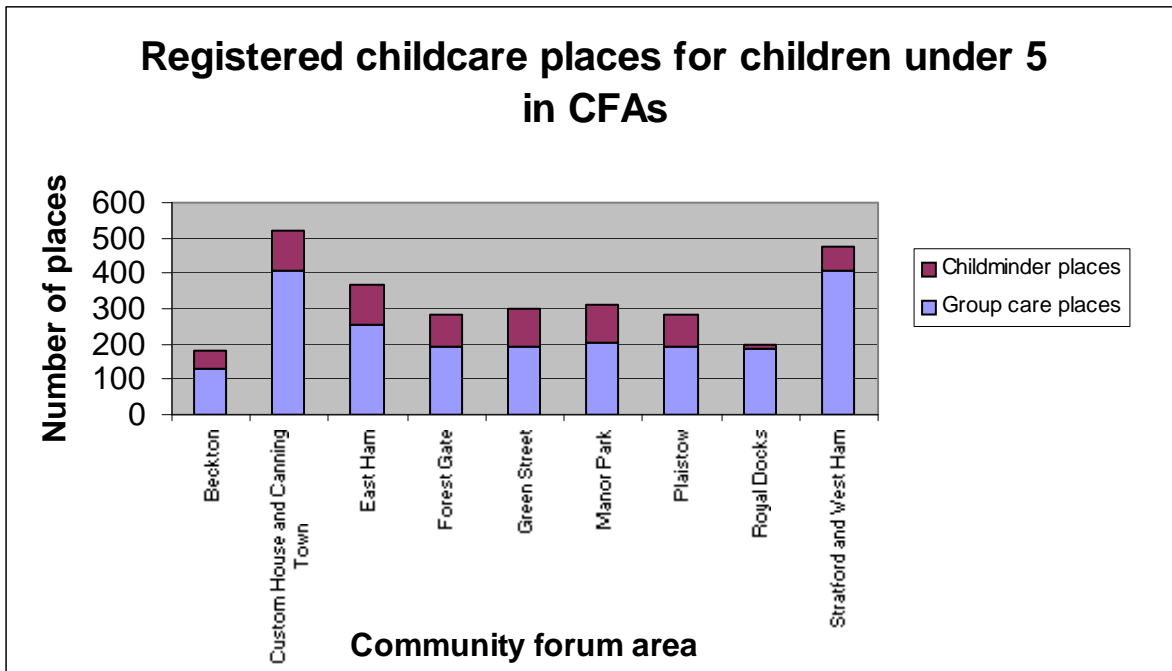
Figure 3 illustrates the distribution of childminder places in the borough. It shows that there is little supply of places for children under 1, particularly in East Ham North and Royal Docks. However, in the ward of Boleyn, East Ham South and Plaistow North, where no group care places were available, there are childminder places available for children under 5.

Figure 4. Combined number of childcare places for children under 5.



The above figure shows that all Newham wards have some provision of childcare for children under 5. However, where no group care is available, the overall supply of places is lower as the sources of places are childminders. This means that childminder places are not able to increase the overall figure to a similar level of other wards. This is particularly true for Boleyn, East Ham South and Plaistow North.

Figure 5. Number of registered childcare places for under 5s in Community Forum Areas:

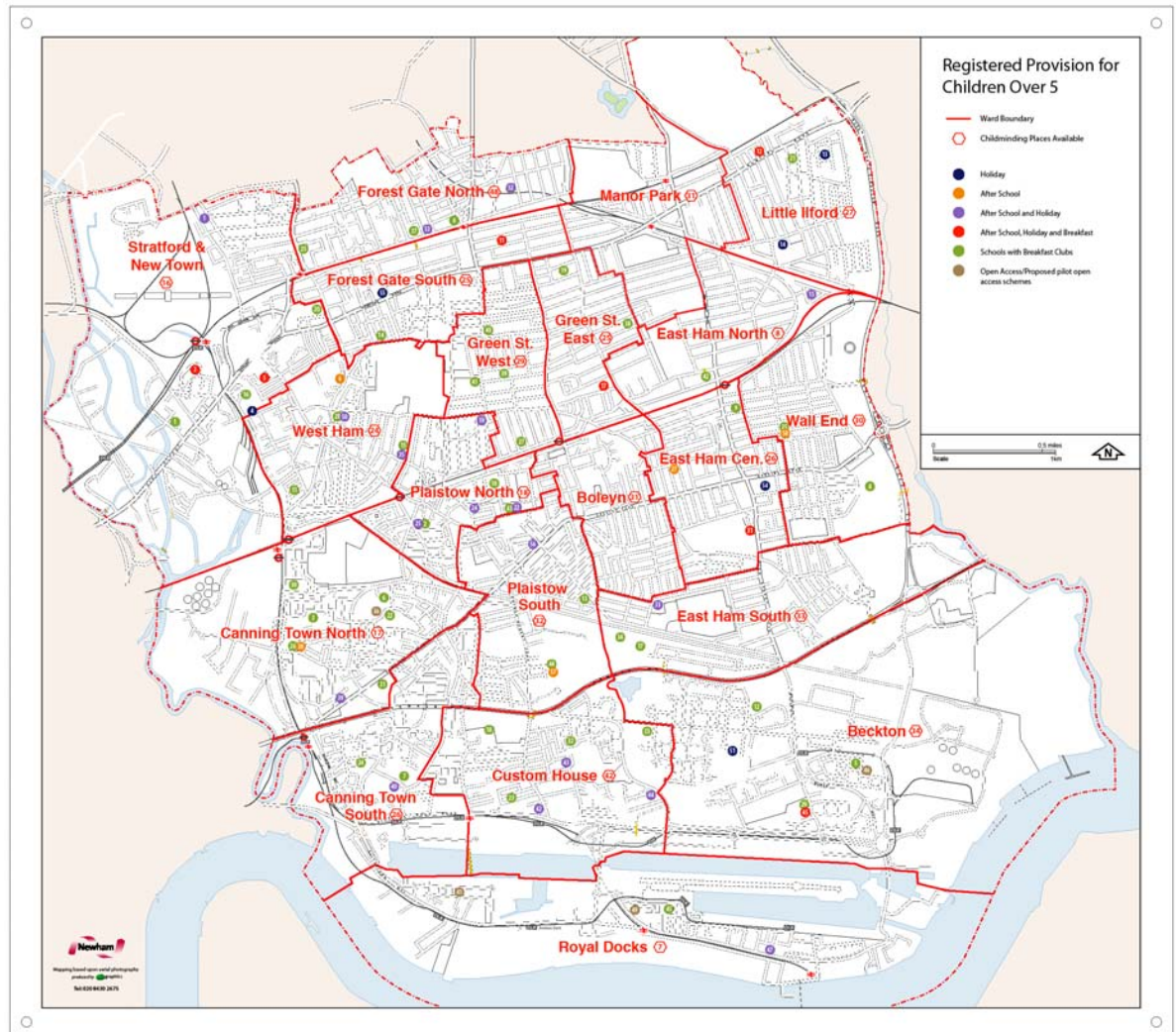


The above figure illustrates the number of childcare places in each of the 9 community forum areas. Forest Gate, Green Street Manor Park and Plaistow all have approximately 300 places available. Beckton and Royal Docks have the lowest number of places available. Custom House and Canning Town has over 500 places available and Stratford and West Ham also has a large number of places to offer. In all areas, a smaller proportion of places are provided by childminders with most places being delivered by childminders in East Ham and least places being delivered by childminders in Royal Docks.

2.2 Childcare for children over the age of 5

Childcare (out of school care) for children over the age of 5 is based around the school day. After school clubs in Newham are open between 3pm and 6pm or 6.30 and operate term time. Holiday provision will typically operate from 8am to 6pm or 6.30 pm. This report will look at availability of breakfast clubs, after school clubs and holiday provision that covers the hours of 8am to 6pm during term time and school holidays. Provision for children aged 5-8 is registered with Ofsted and the availability listed below is based on Ofsted figures. For childcare for children over the age of 8, figures from Newham's Children's Information Service, childcare providers and the borough's support officers have been used.

Map 2: Locations of out of school provisions in Newham

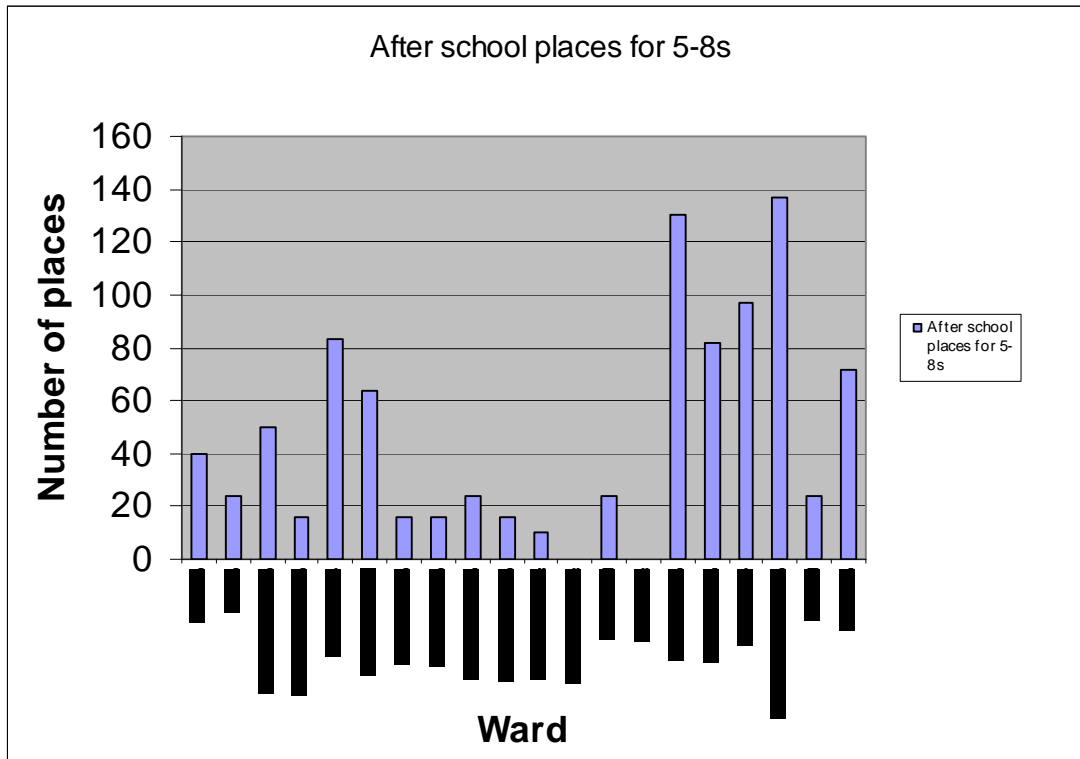


The map above shows the borough distribution of out of school care. Breakfast clubs in schools are mapped together with out of school childcare provisions some of which also supply breakfast clubs, after school clubs and holiday schemes. In addition, open access play provision or proposed open access play provision has also been mapped to give a fuller picture of activities for children of school age.

44 schools in Newham are currently running a breakfast club with a further 7 schools developing breakfast clubs. This represents a percentage of 60% of all Newham primary and secondary schools.

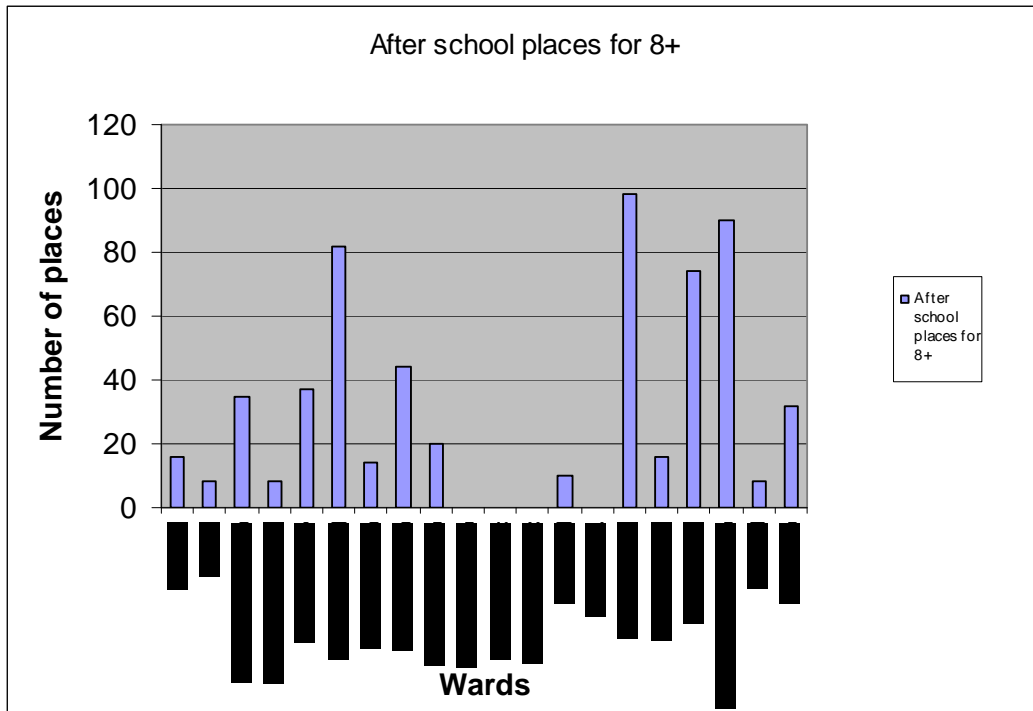
The following figures outline the numbers of childcare places available in each of Newham's wards:

Figure 6. After school places available for children aged 5-8.



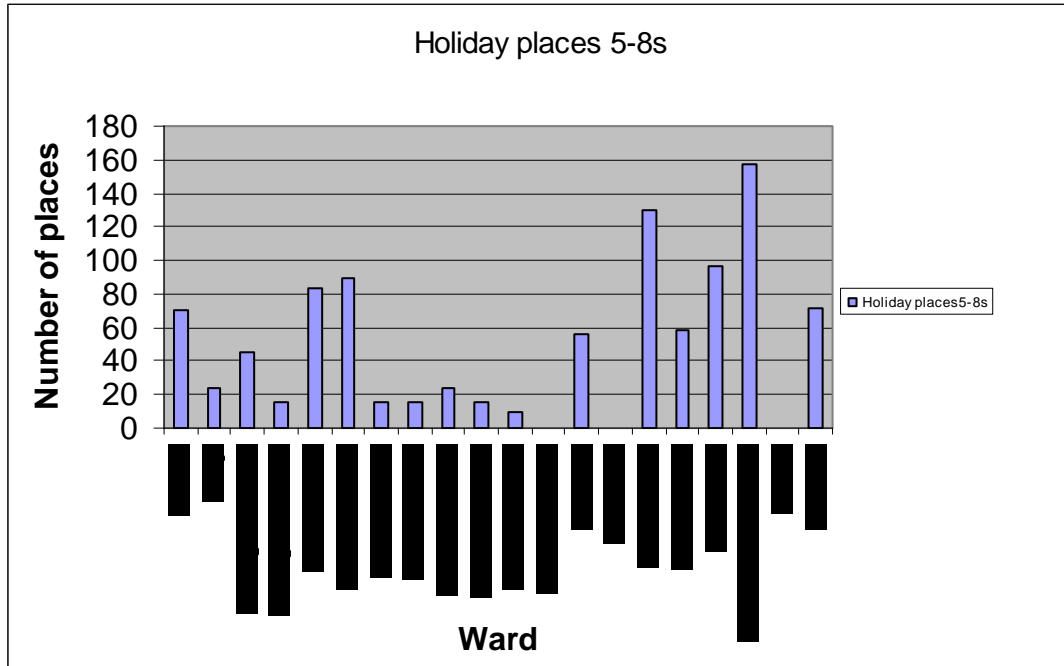
The above figure shows the number of after school places in each of Newham's wards. It is evident that there is no places available in Green Street West and also very low numbers of places (under 20) in Canning Town South, East Ham North, East Ham South, Forest Gate South and Green Street East.

Figure 7. After school places available for children over 8.



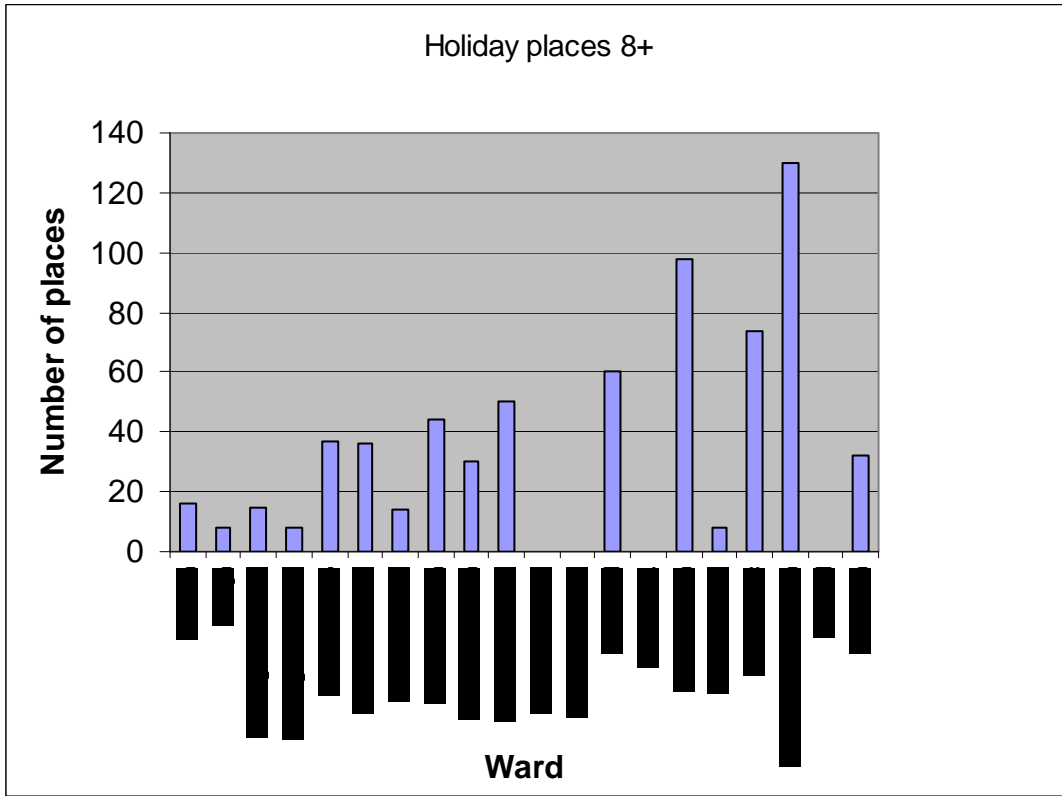
This figure shows the borough wide availability of after school places for children aged 8 and over. It shows that there is currently no such provision in Forest Gate South, Green Street East, Green Street West and Manor Park. It is also noticeable that little provision (under 20 places) is available in Beckton, Boleyn, Canning Town South, East Ham North, Little Ilford, Royal Docks and Wall End.

Figure 8 Number of holiday childcare places for children aged 5-8.



The above figure shows the number of holiday childcare places available for children aged 5-8. It shows that there are no places available in Green Street West, Manor Park and Wall End and very little provision (under 20 places) in Boleyn, Canning Town South, East Ham North, East Ham South, Forest Gate South and Green Street East.

Figure 9. Holiday places for children over the age of 8.

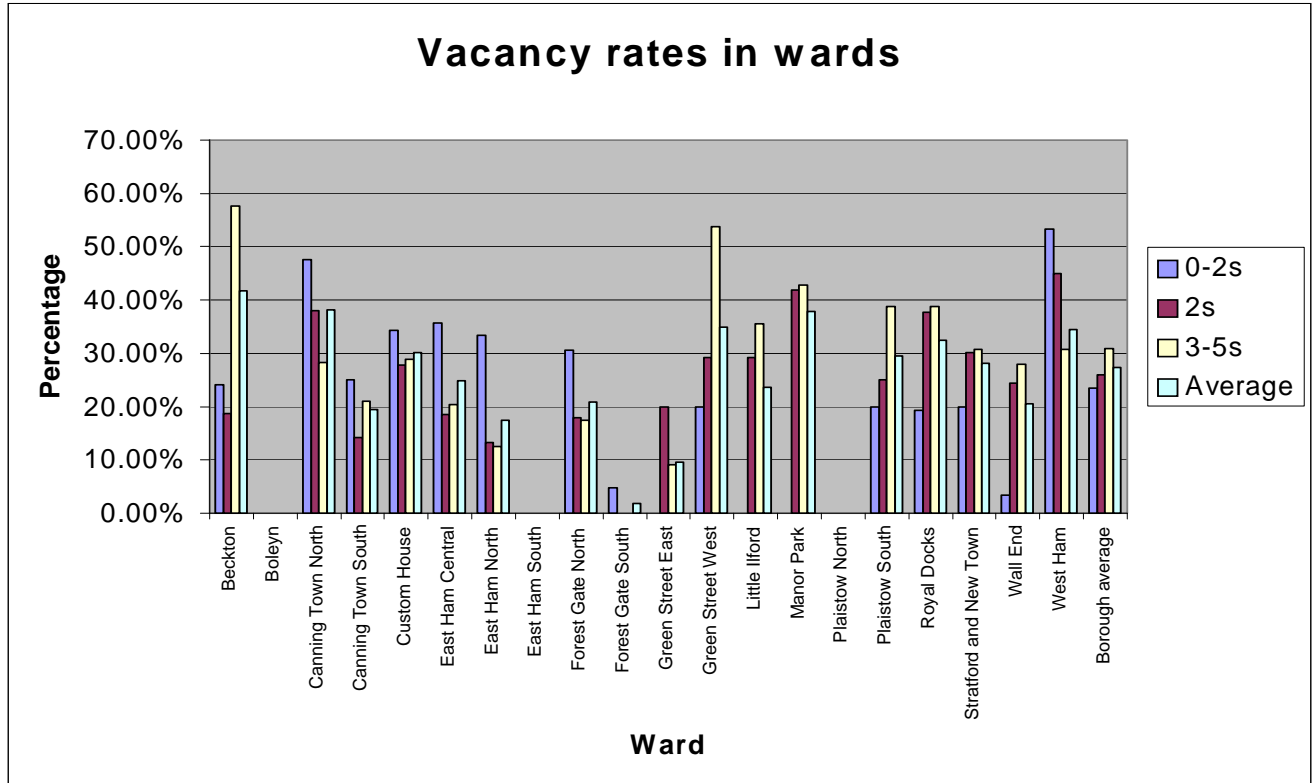


The above figure depicts the number of holiday places available for children over 8 in each of Newham's wards. It is evident that no places are available in Green Street East, Green Street West and Wall End with very little provision (under 20 places) in Beckton, Boleyn, Canning Town North, Canning Town south, East Ham North and Plaistow South.

2.3 Vacancy rates

This section will examine the spare capacity in the current market. Figures have been provided by childcare providers.

Figure 10. Vacancy rates for full daycare setting (0-5s)



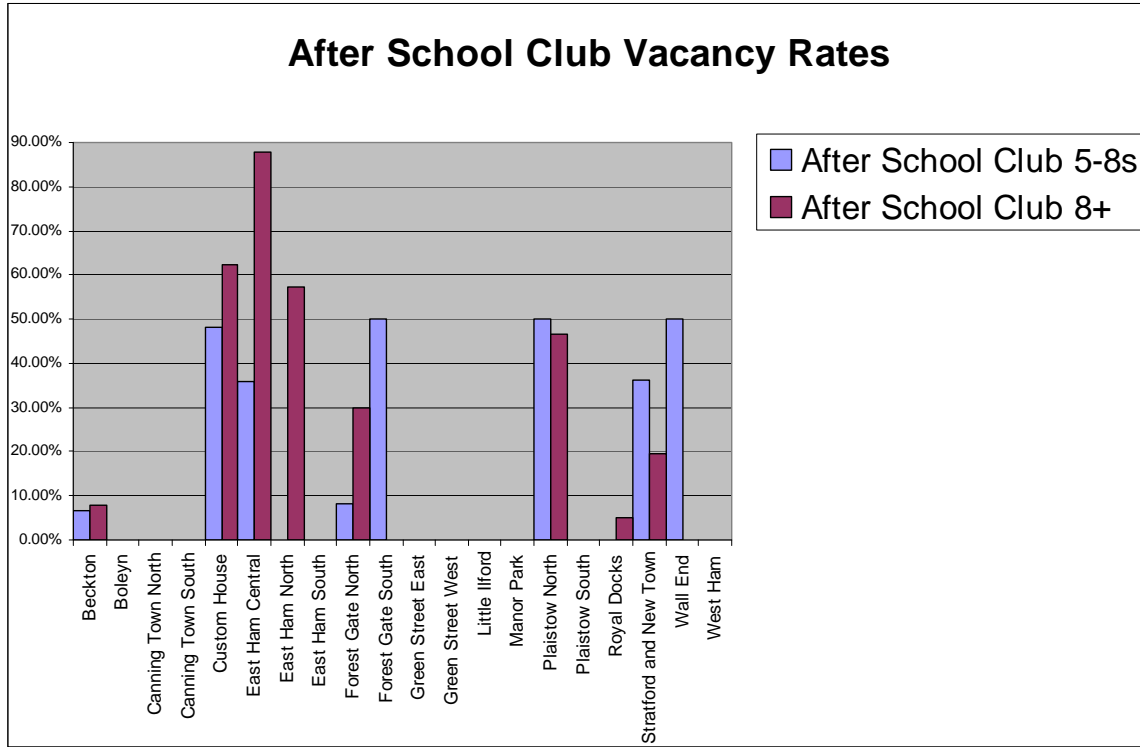
The figure above outlines the current vacancy rates within group care settings in each of the wards. The average vacancy rate across Newham is just over 27%, which means that nurseries in Newham are on average operating at 73% capacity. As it can be seen from this figure, this rate varies across the borough. Larger vacancy rates are in some instances due to opening of new nurseries, which are not yet operating at capacity. This is in particular true for Beckton.

According to the National Day Nurseries Association, the average national vacancy rate is 20%, which means that there are 3% more vacancies in Newham than nationally.

No vacancies are reported for Boleyn, East Ham South and Plaistow North as no group daycare is available in these wards.

For childcare for children over 5, the vacancy rates are outlined in the figure below:

Figure 11. Vacancy rates for out of school childcare.



The above figure shows the vacancy rates of after school childcare for children aged 5-8 and over the age of 8.

It is evident that where little provision is available for 5-8 year olds such as Canning Town South, East Ham North, East Ham South and Green Street East, there are no current vacancies.

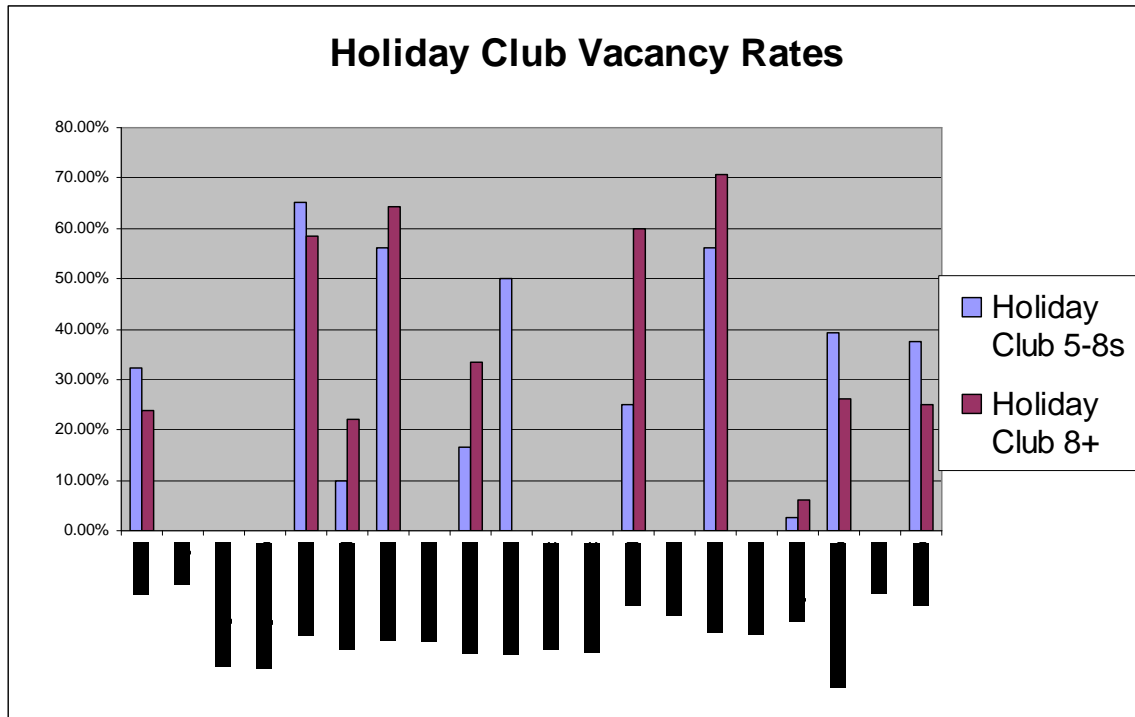
There are no places available for children aged 5-8 in Green Street West.

For children over the age of 8, there was no provision in Forest Gate South, Green Street East, Green Street West and Manor Park. In addition, where little provision was available such as Beckton, Boleyn, Canning Town South, Little Ilford, Royal Docks and Wall End vacancy rates are either very low or nil.

The average vacancy rate for after school services for children aged 5-8 is 25.2%.

The average vacancy rate for after school childcare children aged 8+ is 29.3%.

Figure 12. Holiday provision vacancy rates.



The above figure shows that where there is little provision available such as Boleyn, Canning Town South, East Ham South and Green Street East there is no current vacancies for 5-8 year olds.

However, in East Ham North and Forest Gate South where the numbers of places available are also low, there are quite high vacancy rates.

There is no provision for 5- 8 year olds in Green Street West, Manor Park and Wall End and the figures for these wards are therefore nil.

For children over the age of 8, it is evident that vacancy rates are low in Beckton, Boleyn, Canning Town North, Canning Town South and Plaistow South as little provision is available in these wards.

However, in East Ham North there is a high vacancy rate despite low supply.

No places for over 8s are available in Green Street East, Green Street West and Wall End and the figures for these wards are therefore nil.

The average vacancy rate for holiday provision for 5-8 year olds is 31.9%

The average vacancy rate for holiday provision for children aged 8+ is 29.2%

For childminders vacancy rates are much higher than for group care.

Table 4: Current vacancy rates in the sector:

Percentages of spaces that are vacant

Age range	%
Age 0-1	67%
Age 1-5	63%
Age 5-8	65%

The above figures leave a large spare capacity in the childcare places provided by childminders in Newham.

Table 5: Number of childcare places currently vacant in each sector:

Sector	Available places
Group care for children under 5	585
Childminding places for under 5s	963
Childminding places for children aged 5-8	685
After school places for 5-8s	199
Holiday places for 5-8s	237
After school places for children over 8	163
Holiday places for children over 8	147
TOTAL	2979 vacant places across the borough

2.4 Other services available out of school to children and parents

Newham has a wide range of services available for children that are not classed as formal childcare.

Newham Extended Services runs an extensive holiday school programme.

Newham's Summer School aims to raise achievement and promote learning as a lifelong process. Summer schools will run for a week period over the summer holidays.

The aims of summer school are:

- To offer young people additional learning opportunities during the summer holiday.
- To offer specific provision in Basic Skills, Literacy and Numeracy and to offer a wide range of subjects and learning opportunities which complement the National Curriculum.
- To raise achievement of children and young people at Key Stage 2, 3 & 4.
- To establish a partnership with the voluntary sector, local colleges and other Newham services.

To ensure that all students wishing to participate are able to attend at least one course, students are normally limited to a maximum of 3 course choices.

Courses are sited at a range of venues including Newham College of Further Education, NewVIC, Newham Extended Schools, youth centres and Adult Education facilities. Summer school takes school children out of their familiar setting and introduces them to a new environment with exciting new resources.

For many of our students a Summer School course is a first step on the ladder to involvement in a particular area. There are examples of students participating in a drama, art, dance, modern foreign language course and then continuing to attend classes or workshops in the following year. Some providers run workshops throughout the year and use the Summer School as an opportunity to recruit participants.

In 2007

- There were 4,346 hours of tuition available.
- There were 2,793 places available on 171 different courses.
- More than 1,900 young people enrolled on the Summer School.
- The courses were delivered over a 5 week period
- 51 organisations work with the Summer School to provide courses.
- Summer School courses were delivered at 38 centres
- It is believed that Newham offers the largest Local Authority Summer School in England. Certainly it is the largest in London.

A number of pilot open access play schemes for children over the age of 8 are also available in Newham. These are run by the voluntary sector, but funded by Newham Extended Services.

From April 08 4 year round open access play schemes are going to be available for children aged 8-14 (16 with additional needs) in the wards of East Ham North, Beckton, Custom House, Little Ilford and Canning Town North. In addition, 2 transitional play projects for children aged 11-14 (16 with additional needs) will be available – one in Beckton one in Forest Gate North.

2.5 Prices of childcare in Newham

A survey has been conducted into the average weekly price of childcare in Newham. Currently prices for group daycare are on average as follows:

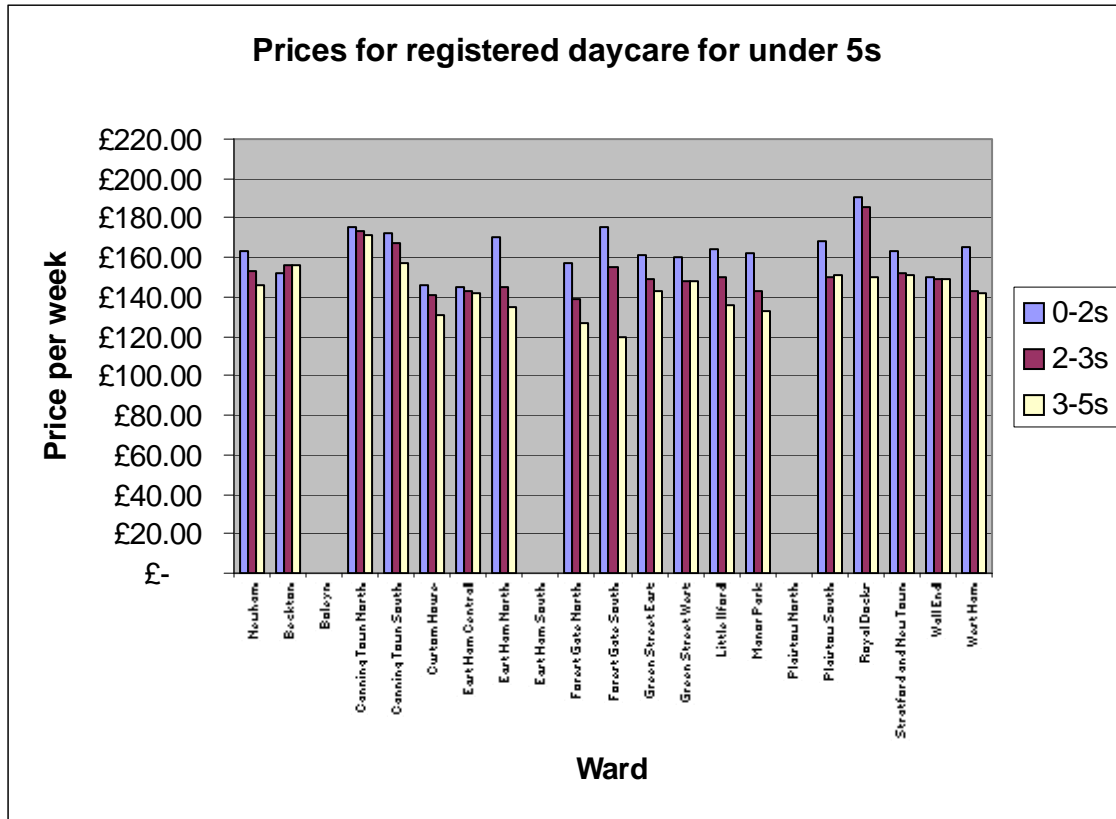
Table 6. Average childcare prices per week for group care places for children under 5.

Age group	Price per week	Outer London price per week
0-2 year olds	£163.31	£202
2 year olds	£153.31	£186
3-5 year olds	£146.07	£186

Childcare prices in Newham are lower than the average for outer London. The average price for places according to the Daycare Trust 2008 are listed next to the Newham price per week above.

Newham currently has 580 neighbourhood nursery places all of which are priced in line with set criteria. The price per week is not allowed to exceed the current threshold for childcare tax credit, which is £175 per week. Until April 2004, the price restriction was £135 per week, which has had an impact on prices and increases.

Figure 13. Prices of registered group childcare for children under 5 in wards:



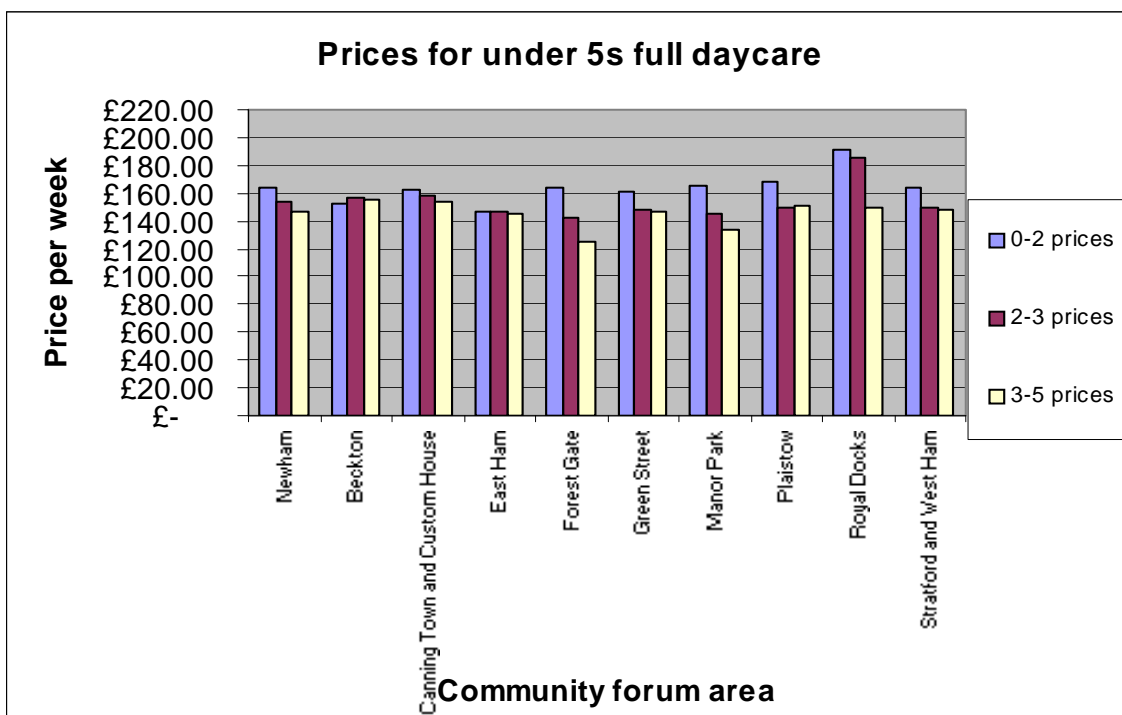


Figure 14. Prices of registered group childcare for children under 5 in community forum areas:

Prices for registered group care for children under 5 have risen by 8.63% on average from over the last year. The largest price increase has been seen in the 0-2s age range, where the average price has gone up by 9.91% since summer 2006.

From the above figures it is evident that although fees in this sector are lower than the outer London average, prices per week are consistent across the borough.

The average nursery in Newham would provide places for 42 children out of which 9 would be aged 0-2, 15 would be 2-year olds and 18 would be 3-5 year olds. At the average occupancy rate (73%), a 42-place nursery would have a turnover of approximately £4669.78 per week.

Childminders' weekly fees are significantly lower than those of group daycare. They are as follows:

Average fee charged by childminders are as follows:

- Age 0-1: £138 per week
- Age 1-5: £137 per week
- Age 5-8: £115 per week

These figures are below the outer London average which is as high as £184 per week for a place for a child aged 0-2 and £170 for children over the age of 2.

Prices for out of school provision for children of school age vary from £30 per week for an after school place to £45 per week for a place. For holiday provision there are also differences with the cheapest place costing £45 per week and the most expensive costing £65 per week.

These figures are below those listed by the Daycare Trust for the outer London average price per week:

Table 7: Out of school prices:

Type of care	Newham average price	Outer London average price
After school care	£36.05 per week	£47 per week
Holiday care	£54.15 per week	£77.48 per week

2.5.1 The Childcare Affordability Programme (CAP)

In Newham, childcare providers have been providing flexible childcare using the above supply side subsidy funded by the Sure Start unit and the London Development Agency. Participation in the CAP has been very positive in Newham. Nearly 80% of Newham's private and voluntary sector providers currently take part.

At the end of quarter 3 of 2006/07 of places were filled by children of eligible parents. This meant that Newham was able to claim just over 81% of the total funding allocation with just over 60% of total available places being filled.

Figures from quarter 3 represent an increase in places filled from quarter 2. Newham claimed 5% more funding in quarter 3 and an additional 3% of places available are filled. Newham's figures are much higher than the London average of 32% take up. According to figures provided by Government office for London in June 07, Newham is the 3rd best performing local authority in London.

Newham's providers have been able to provide flexible places at an affordable cost using the above subsidy. If this subsidy was not available, flexibility may be limited as the cost of providing such flexibility would outweigh any potential parental income thus jeopardising future sustainability of childcare providers.

2.6 Quality of childcare services in Newham

The quality of childcare services in Newham has been assessed using Ofsted inspection ratings. These fall into four categories:

1. Outstanding
2. Good
3. Satisfactory
4. Inadequate

The table below outlines the percentages of childcare providers in the above categories and compares with the national average (Ofsted annual report 06):

Table 8: Ofsted ratings:

Ofsted category	Newham percentage	National average
Outstanding or good	40.4%	60%
Satisfactory	46.8%	36%
Inadequate	2.1%	3%
Not available/inspected	10.7%	N/A

It is evident that the quality of childcare in Newham is lower than the national average. On average, 60% of childcare providers get graded as good or outstanding by Ofsted and only just over 40% in Newham have got this grade.

2.7 Childcare supply in neighboring London Boroughs.

The London Borough of Newham borders 4 other London boroughs. 3 are relevant for this assessment as they are direct extension of Newham on land. The 4th borough, Greenwich, borders Newham in the river Thames.

Information below has been provided by the London Borough of Redbridge, the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and the London Borough of Waltham Forest. They have supplied figures of childcare available in the nearest wards to Newham. These are as follows:

1. London Borough of Redbridge (Cranbrook ward):
 - 12 childminders provide 40 childcare places
 - 2 full daycare nurseries provide 109 places
 - 3 pre-schools provide 105 sessional places
 - There are no out of school provision for children over 5 in this ward
2. London Borough of Tower Hamlets (Bow and Bromley by Bow wards):
 - 24 childminders providing 105 places
 - 9 full daycare nurseries provide 355 places
 - 8 out of school provisions provide 449 places
3. London Borough of Waltham Forest (Leyton and Leytonstone areas):
 - 85 childcare providers provide 1648 places in Leyton – this includes childminding, full daycare, out of school provision and sessional care.
 - 94 childcare providers provide 1306 places in Leytonstone – this includes childminding, full daycare, out of school provision and sessional care.

2.8 Supply of free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds

The free entitlement for nursery education is provided in a variety of ways in Newham. The PVI sector provide places for 908 3 and 4 year olds and in addition, pre-school play groups provide a total of 306 early education places across the local authority area. In Newham, schools are the main provider of early education via their nursery units. The borough's 66 primary and 8 nursery schools had 6735 3 and 4 year old children on roll in October 2007, who were accessing their free entitlement.

With additional spare capacity in the above sectors, it means that the local authority meets its duty in offering free early education for all 3 and 4 year olds whose parents/carers want it.

PART 3 MAPPING SUPPLY TO DEMAND

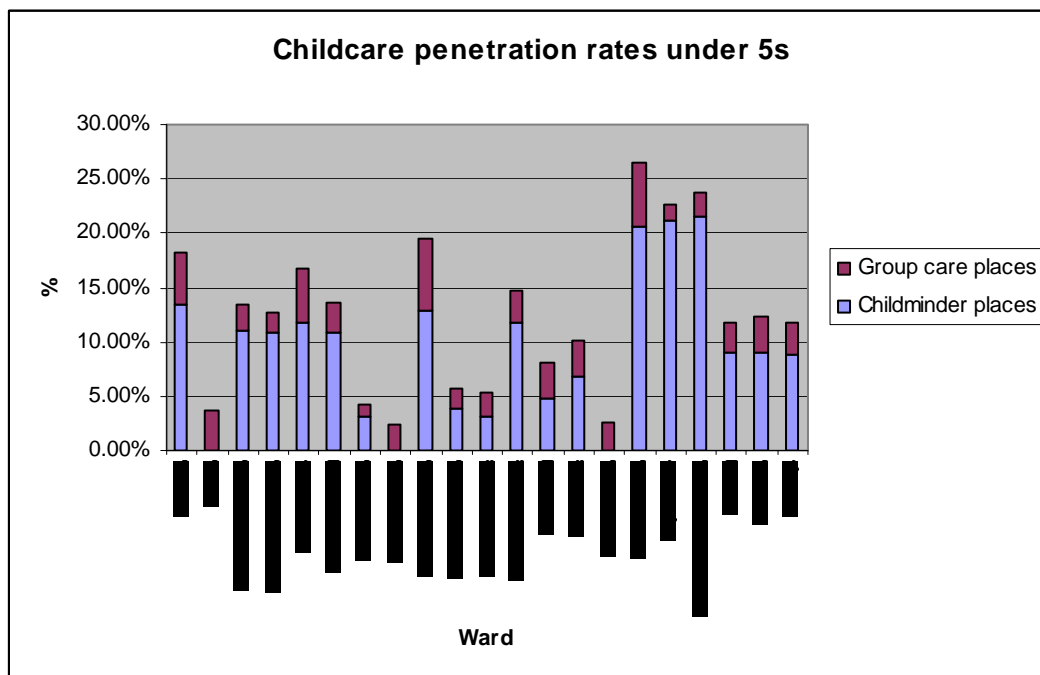
This section will examine how the supply above meets the needs of children, parents/carers in the borough. To this end, consultation has been undertaken with children and parents/carers including parents/carers of children with additional needs.

3.1 Childcare penetration rates

3.1.1 Potential demand for childcare places in Newham current penetration rates based on child population figures for children under 5.

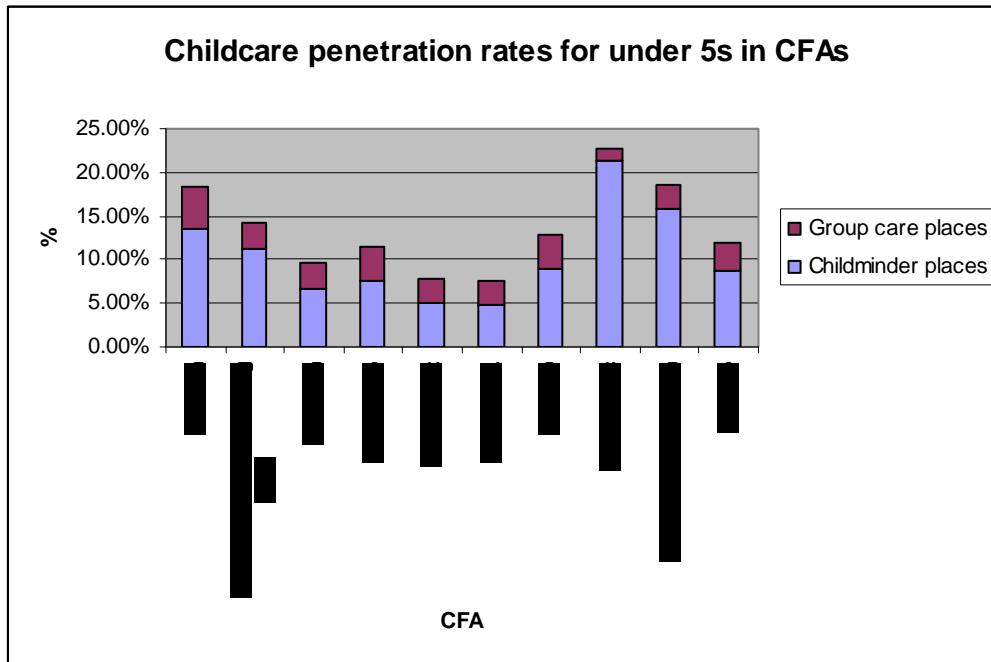
Penetration rates describe the number of childcare places available in any one area compared with the number of children in an area. It will show as a percentage of how many children in an area are able to use the childcare offered.

Figure 15. Penetration rates for all available childcare for children under 5.



The above figure illustrates the overall picture of childcare availability in Newham for children under the age of 5. The borough average is that one in every 8 children have access to a childcare place. Some wards have very little childcare available for children under 5 such as Boleyn, East Ham North, East Ham South and Plaistow North, where under 1 in every 20 children in the age range have access to a childcare place. Many wards have more childcare available than the borough average and Beckton, Custom House, East Ham Central, Green Street West and West Ham have an available place for approximately one in every 6 children. Forest Gate North, Plaistow South, Stratford and New Town and Royal Docks have a childcare place available for almost every one in 5 children.

Figure16. Childcare penetration rates in community forum areas.

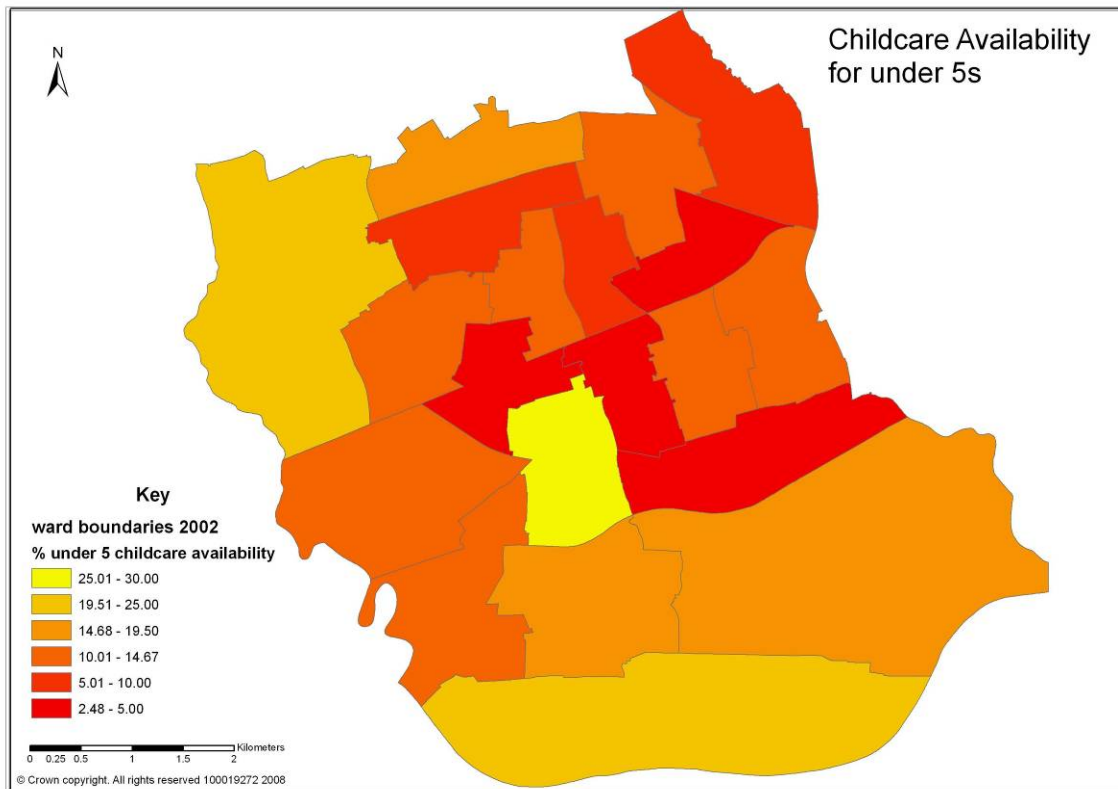


The above figure shows childcare penetration rates for childcare for children under 5 in community forum areas.

It shows the number of childcare places compared with the population in each of the community forum areas. There are large variations in the under 5s population in each area, which becomes evident when looking at the penetration rates for each of the areas. Royal Docks has a quite low supply of childcare places, but due to relatively low numbers of children under 5 in the area, a place is available for one in every 4 children. Forest Gate has an average supply of childcare places, but also has a large population of children under 5. This means that one in every 8 children in the area has access to a childcare place.

The borough average of availability is a place for one in eight children.

Map 3: Penetration rates distribution across the borough



It is evident that more childcare is available in the south of the borough and in the north west of the borough. Lower figures of availability is found in the north and particularly north east of the borough.

It has to be mentioned that where penetration rates are higher, it does not necessarily means that the number of childcare places are higher. This is particularly true for the north east of the borough, where numbers of children are high.

Comparing Newham's availability figures for children under 5 with the outer London average as supplied by the Government Office for London it is clear that the rates are lower for Newham:

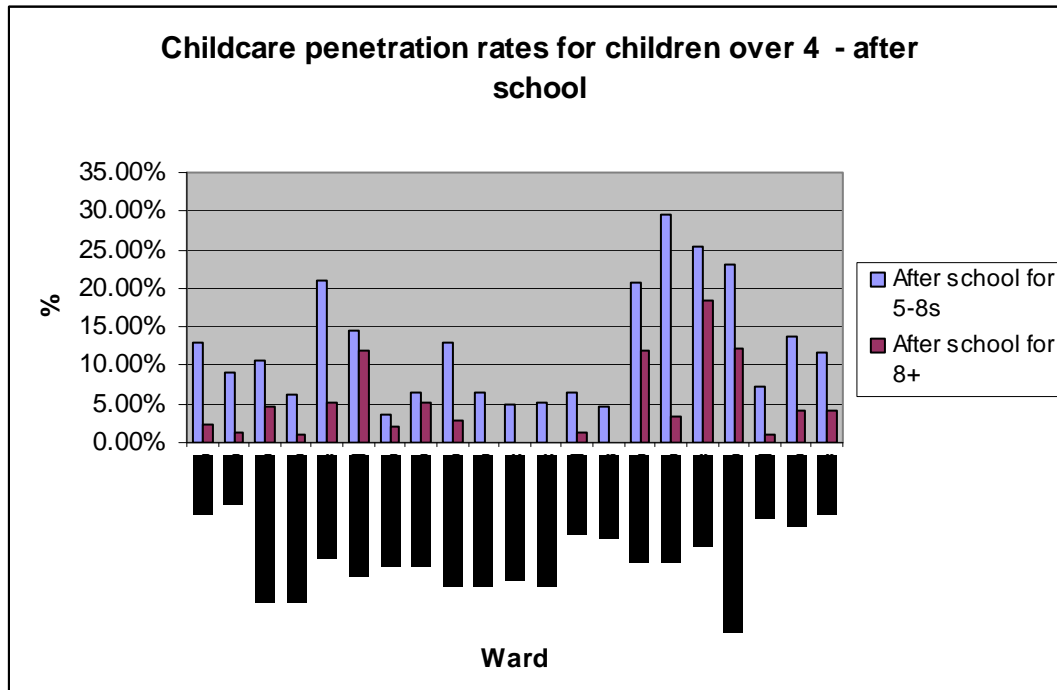
Table 9:

Type of childcare	Newham rate	Outer London average
Childminder places under 5	3.03%	9.70%
Group daycare places u. 5	8.79%	14.90%
Total	11.82%	24.10%

Although lower than the outer London average, the overall supply of childcare places in Newham has increased from 2006 to 2007 by 6.11%.

3.1.2 Potential demand for childcare places in Newham current penetration rates based on child population figures for children over 5.

Figure 17: Childcare penetration rates for after school provision.



The above figure shows the supply of out of school childcare places compared to child population figures in each of Newham’s wards. It is evident that there is a low supply of after school places in East Ham North, Green Street East, Green Street West and Manor Park, where one in every 20 children aged 5-8 have access to an after school childcare place. In some wards, the penetration rate is higher than the borough average, this is particularly true for Custom House, Plaistow North, Plaistow South, Royal Docks and Stratford and New Town, where there is between one place available for between one in 5 and one in 3 children.

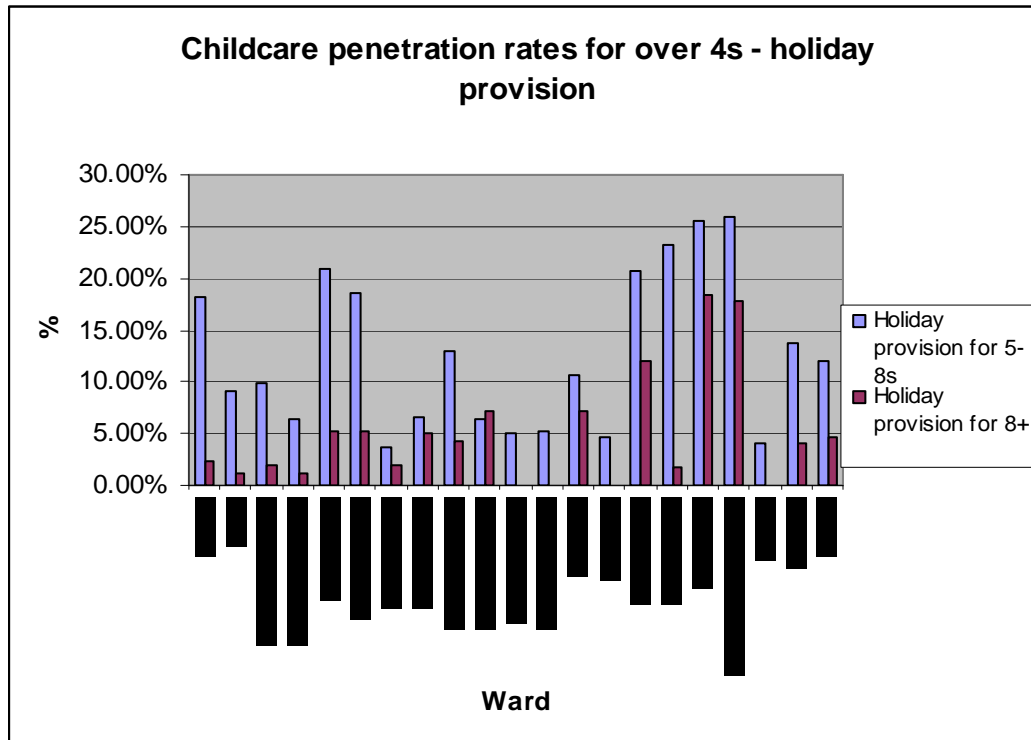
The borough average is one after school places for every 8 children aged 5-8 (or 4 years of age in most cases).

In terms of after school care for children aged over the age of 8, it is evident that there is less formal childcare available. Some wards including Forest Gate South, Green Street East and Green Street West have no such provision.

The borough average penetration rate is 4.20%, which represent a place for every 23 children in the age range 8-14 (16 with additional needs).

Some wards have more than the average rate of places available, these include East Ham Central, Plaistow North, Royal Docks and Stratford and New Town.

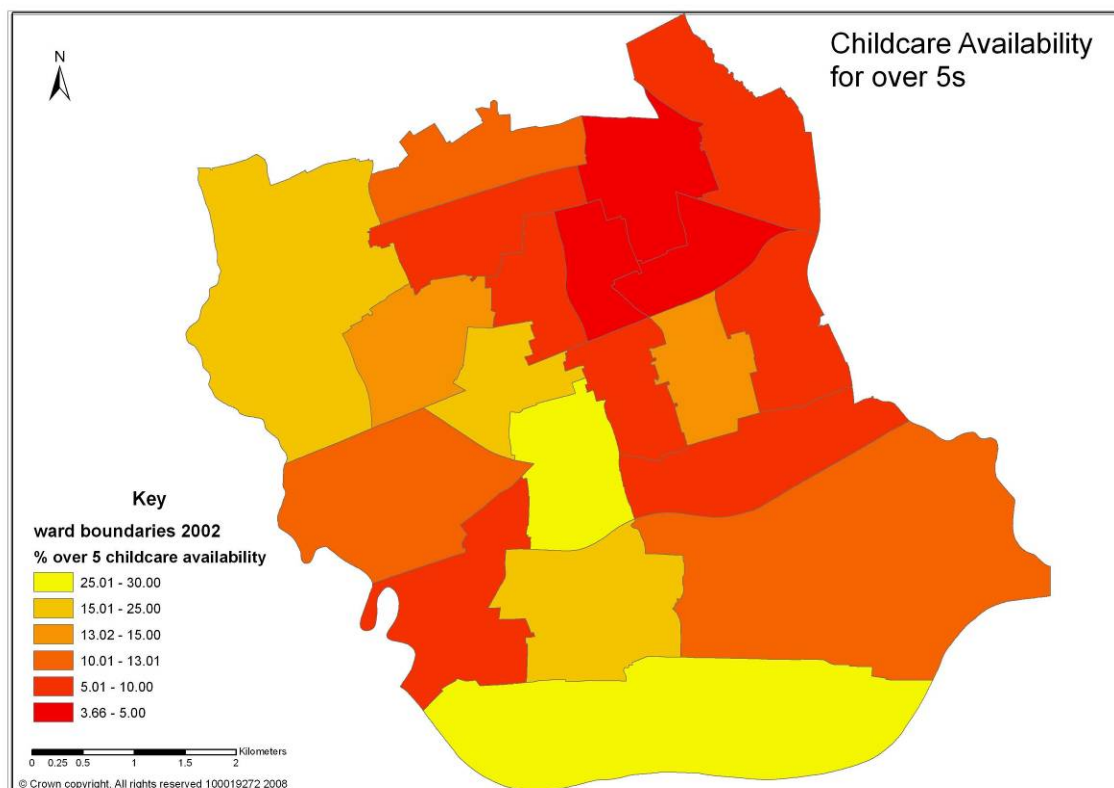
Figure18. Childcare penetration rates for holiday provision



The above figure shows the number of holiday childcare places in any one ward compared with the number of children in the age ranges in the areas. No wards have no availability of holiday provision for 5-8 year olds. The figure also evidences that there are some wards with low levels of provision of holiday provision for 5-8 year olds. This is particularly true for Boleyn, Canning Town North, Canning South, East Ham North, East Ham South, Forest Gate South, Green Street East, Green Street West, Manor Park and Wall End, where the number of places available is lower than the borough average of a place for one in 8 children. Some wards have very high levels of availability, these include Beckton, Custom House, East Ham Central, Plaistow North, Plaistow South, Royal Docks and Stratford and New Town, where places are available for between one in 5 and one in 3 children.

Examining holiday provision for children over the age of 8, it is clear that some wards have little provision compared with the population figures for that particular ward. This includes Beckton, Boleyn, Canning Town North, Canning Town South, East Ham North, Plaistow South and West Ham, where places are available for less than one in 20 children, which is the borough average. Forest Gate South, Plaistow North, Royal Docks and Stratford and New Town all have above the borough average in terms of availability. Between 6% and 18% of children in those wards will have access to a holiday place.

Map 4: Out of school childcare penetration rates for over 5s.



The above map depicts the availability of childcare for children over 5 in the borough. It is evident that more provision is available per child in the south and in the north west of the borough. In the north east of the borough there is less childcare available per child. Particularly the wards of Manor Park, Green Street East and East Ham North, where there is a maximum of 5 childcare places available for 100 children.

The table below outlines the outer London penetration rate for out of school childcare compared with the rates for Newham.

Table 10:

Type of childcare	Newham rate	Outer London average
After school for 5-8s including childminders	11.55%	6.2%
After school for 8+	4.20%	6.2%
Holiday provision for 5-8s including childminders	11.99%	6.2%
Holiday provision for 8+	4.69%	6.2%
Total	As above	6.2%

It is clear the when taking into account childminder places, Newham far exceed the outer London average of availability for after school and holiday places for children aged 4-8.

For provision for children over the age of 8, it appears that the availability in Newham is lower than that of outer London. However, this needs to be seen in the context of other services available for this particular age group across the borough. As mentioned above, an extensive holiday school programme runs for most of the summer. This programme particularly targets this age group.

In addition, there are 4 open access play schemes in the borough, which also targets the 8+ age group. These play schemes are running in the wards of Canning Town North and Beckton, where the availability of childcare places for this age group is particularly low. An additional 2 schemes are running in Royal Docks.

3.2 Geographical mapping of childcare users for children under five years old

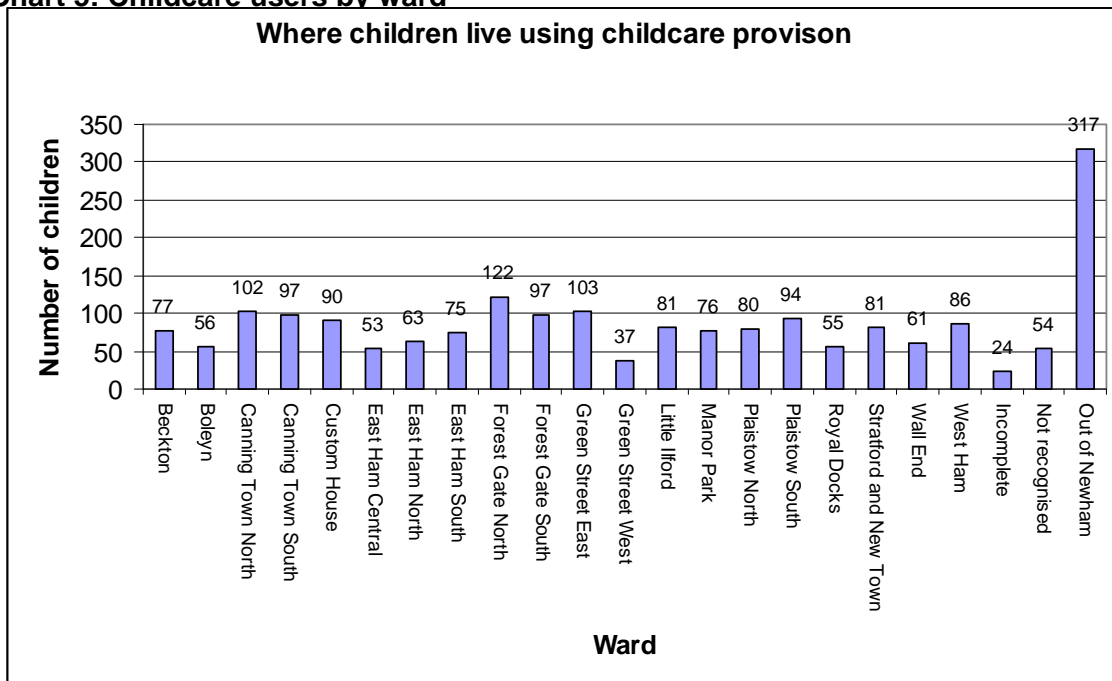
3.2.1 Introduction

The postcodes of childcare providers and those families using private and maintained nurseries were analysed at ward level to understand where families used childcare. Forty-nine childcare providers across the borough participated in this exercise.

3.2.2 Sample of Children

A total 1981 children were recorded as using a childcare setting in Newham, out of which 1610 were known to live in Newham, 317 were living out of the borough and 78 postcodes provided were unrecognised. Children using childcare provision were recorded as living in all 20 wards of Newham. A breakdown of where children live in the borough is provided below.

Chart 5: Childcare users by ward

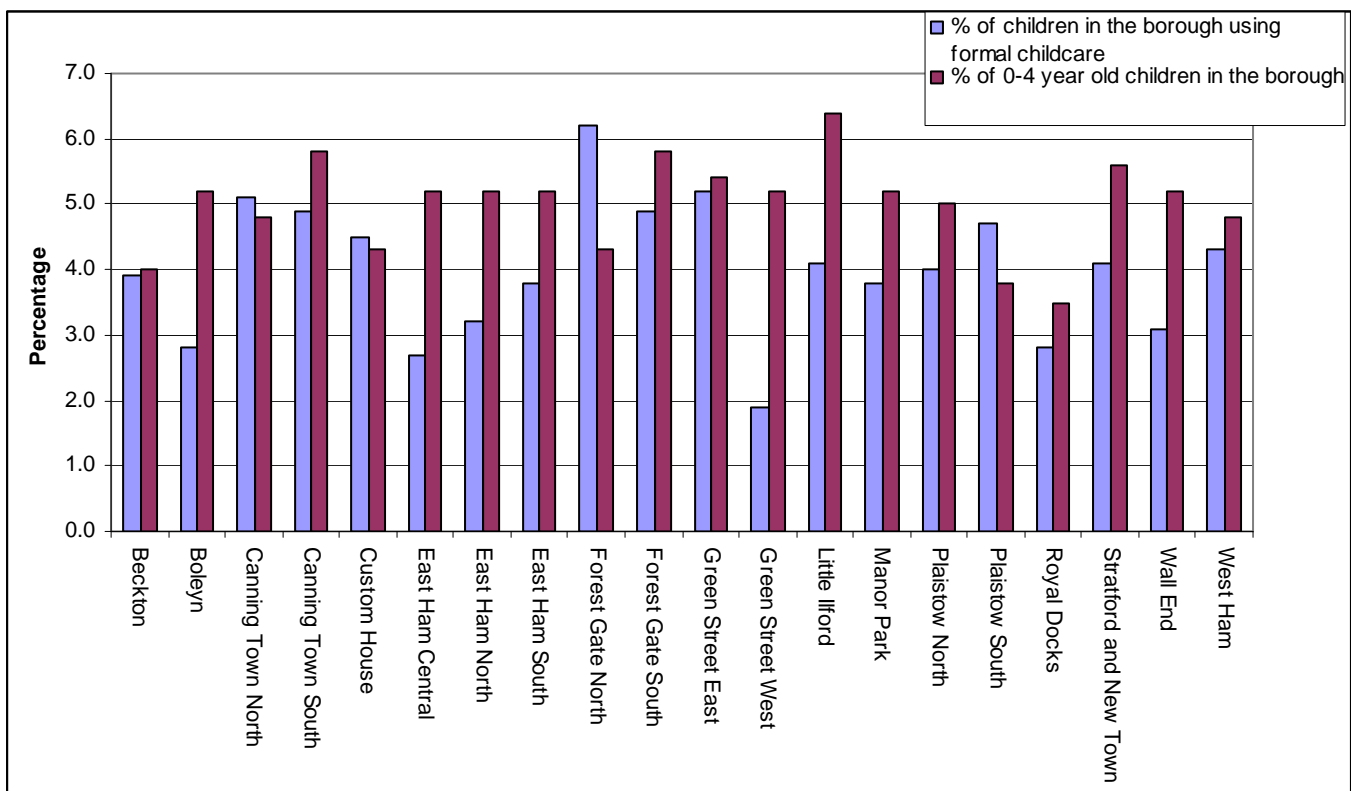


- When comparing the 0–4 year old population (GLA 2007) per ward, to the number of children living in wards using formal childcare in the borough, (see table overleaf). It is evident that a small proportion of children make use of formal childcare in the North of the borough, in the following wards:

- Boylen
- East Ham Central
- East Ham North
- Green Street West
- Little Ilford
- Wall End

- Whilst in Forest Gate North a larger proportion of children use formal childcare compared to the percentage of 0- 4year olds in Newham, living in that ward.

Chart 6: The percentage of formal childcare users in the borough compared to the percentage of 0-4 year olds in the borough



3.2.3 Summary of childcare use for the borough as a whole

- It was found that the vast majority of children using childcare in the borough live within the borough (85%).
- Out the 15% of children, who do not live in the borough, 12% were geographically close, living in neighbouring boroughs, in particular Barking and Dagenham, Redbridge and Waltham Forest.

- The remaining 3% of children come from a wide range of boroughs not bordering Newham to use childcare. This suggests drivers for a small number of people other than locality to home for using childcare in the Newham, possibly work or education.
- In particular children from out of the borough were using childcare in Stratford and New Town, Green Street West and East Ham Central.
- Nearly two thirds of families use childcare provision within a close proximity to their home, 31% of families live and use childcare within the same ward, and 32% use childcare in a neighbouring ward to where they live.
- However, children were also found to be travelling further across the borough to use childcare. Six out twenty wards in the borough had 20% or more of childcare users travelling from a greater distance from other wards in the borough, to use provision within that particular ward. These wards were: Canning Town North, East Ham Central, Plaistow South, Stratford and New Town and Wall End.
- Boleyn, East Ham South and Plaistow North do not have any childcare provision.

3.3 Analysis of childcare use and where children live at ward level

Table 11: Summary by ward of childcare provision and where childcare users live
(Ward overviews do not include untraceable postcodes so not all ward percentages will add up to 100)

Wards of nurseries	Number of Nurseries	Number of children	% In same Ward	% In neighbouring wards of Newham	% In other Newham wards	% In neighbouring Boroughs outside Newham	% in other boroughs
Beckton	3	79	39	22	4	11	8
Boleyn	0						
Canning Town North	4	106	40	20	28	0	7
Canning Town South	3	183	31	42	14	1	7
Custom House	3	85	38	39	11	0	9
East Ham Central	3	200	13	32	26	0	26
East Ham North	1	27	63	33	4	0	0
East Ham South	0						
Forest Gate North	6	204	35	23	17	14	7
Forest Gate South	2	67	25	45	12	0	16
Green Street East	1	144	55	33	8	0	4
Green Street West	3	105	17	36	20	0	21
Little Ilford	1	39	85	5	5	0	5
Manor Park	3	116	28	47	13	4	3
Plaistow North	0						
Plaistow South	5	168	26	40	21	0	10
Royal Docks	2	47	62	17	4	4	6
Stratford and New Town	7	269	17	26	22	13	16
Wall End	1	41	20	44	20	10	5
West Ham	2	101	39	33	12	0	12
Total	50	1981					

Beckton

- The largest proportion of children per ward using childcare provision in Beckton also live in Beckton (39%), followed by the neighbouring wards of Custom House and East Ham South.
- 17% of children using provision in Beckton live outside the borough, the majority of which (11%) are traveling in from the neighbouring borough of Barking and Dagenham.

Table 12: Where children live using provision in Beckton

Place of residence	Total	Percent
Same Ward: Beckton	31	39
Neighbouring ward total overall	17	22
Custom House	7	9
East Ham South	9	11
Royal Docks	1	1
In other Newham wards overall	3	4
East Ham Central	1	1
East Ham North	1	1
Forest Gate North	1	1
In other boroughs neighbouring		
Beckton overall	9	11
Barking and Dagenham	9	11
Other boroughs overall	6	8
Rebridge	3	4
Southwark	1	1
Thurrock	1	1
Haringey	1	1

n live in same ward
 n live in neighbouring ward
 g in other Newham wards
 g in another borough that borders the ward
 g in other boroughs

Canning Town North

- 88% of children using childcare in North Canning Town live in Newham, out of which 60% live relatively close to their provision, in Canning Town North, or a neighbouring ward, the most common being Canning Town South.
- 35% of children are traveling to use provision in this ward, either from another ward in Newham or from outside of the borough.

Table 13: Where children live using provision in Canning Town North

Place of residence	Total	Percent
Same Ward: Canning Town North	42	40
Neighbouring ward total overall	21	20
Canning Town South	9	8
Plaistow North	4	4
Plaistow South	5	5
Stratford and New Town	1	1
West Ham	2	2
In other Newham wards overall	30	28
Boleyn	8	8
Custom House	1	1
East Ham Central	6	6
East Ham South	3	3
Forest Gate North	1	1
Green Street West	1	1
Manor Park	2	2
Wall End	8	8
In other boroughs neighbouring		
Canning Town North overall	0	0
Other boroughs overall	7	7
Barking and Dagenham	3	3
Brentwood	1	1
Enfield	1	1
Redbridge	2	2

Canning Town South

- 92% of children using childcare in Canning Town South live within the borough, 73% of which live in a fairly close proximity to their childcare provision, either living in the same ward or a neighbouring, ward. However more children overall live in a neighbouring ward, rather than in Canning Town South itself, most commonly in Custom House or Plaistow South.
- 27% of children are traveling to use provision in Canning Town South, either from other wards in Newham, or from outside the borough (8%).

Table 14: Where children live using provision in Canning Town South

Place of residence	Total	Percent
Same Ward: Canning Town South	56	31
Neighbouring ward total overall	77	42
Canning Town North	18	10
Custom House	26	14
Plaistow South	24	13
Royal Docks	9	5
In other Newham wards overall	25	14
Beckton	7	4
Boleyn	3	2
East Ham Central	1	1
East Ham South	3	2
Forest Gate North	1	1
Forest Gate South	3	2
Plaistow North	3	2
Wall End	1	1
West Ham	3	2
In other boroughs neighbouring		
Canning Town South overall	2	1
Tower Hamlets	2	1
Other boroughs overall	13	7
Barking and Dagenham	4	2
Basildon	1	1
Croydon	1	1
Hackney	1	1
Havering	2	1
Redbridge	1	1
Thurrock	1	1
Waltham Forest	2	1

Custom House

- 91% of children using childcare provision in Custom House live in the borough. The majority of these children live near by, living in almost equal proportions in Custom House (38%) or a neighbouring ward (39%), the majority of which travel from Canning Town South.
- 20% overall of children travel from other parts of Newham or from outside of the borough to use provision in this particular ward (see table overleaf).

Table 15: Where children live using provision in Custom House

Place of residence	Total	Percent
Same Ward: Custom House	32	38
Neighbouring ward total overall	33	39
Beckton	6	7
Canning Town South	20	24
Plaistow South	3	4
Royal Docks	4	5
In other Newham wards overall	9	11
Canning Town North	4	5
East Ham South	2	2
Plaistow North	2	2
West Ham	1	1
In other boroughs neighbouring		
Custom House overall	0	0
Other boroughs overall	8	9
Barking and Dagenham	3	4
Havering	2	2
Redbridge	1	1
Thurrock	1	1
Tower Hamlets	1	1

East Ham Central

- The majority of children using childcare provision in East Ham Central do not live in the same ward.
- Outside the ward of East Ham Central, children are most commonly traveling from the neighbouring wards of East Ham South and Wall End.
- Whilst a higher proportion live in neighbouring wards (32%), over a quarter of children are traveling from other parts of the borough, or from outside to the borough to use provision in East Ham Central (26% and 26% respectively). This suggests other influencing factors in the selection of childcare other than locality, possibly place of work (see table overleaf).

Table 16: Where children live using provision in East Ham Central

Place of residence	Total	Percent
Same Ward: East Ham Central	25	13
Neighbouring ward total overall	64	32
Boleyn	13	7
East Ham North	2	1
East Ham South	20	10
Wall End	29	15
In other Newham wards overall	51	26
Beckton	10	5
Canning Town North	3	2
Canning Town South	1	1
Custom House	3	2
Forest Gate North	2	1
Forest Gate South	2	1
Green Street East	1	1
Green Street West	3	2
Little Ilford	9	5
Manor Park	6	3
Plaistow North	5	3
Royal Docks	3	2
Stratford and New Town	3	2
Other boroughs overall	51	26
Barking and Dagenham	26	13
Hackney	1	1
Haringey	2	1
Havering	1	1
Lewisham	1	1
Redbridge	13	7
Tower Hamlets	1	1
Waltham Forest	6	3

East Ham North

- 100% of all children using provision in East Ham North live in Newham, the vast majority of children live close to their childcare setting, with 63% living in the same ward or a neighbouring ward (33%).

Table 17: Where children live using provision in East Ham North

Place of residence	Total	Percent
East Ham North	17	63
Neighbouring ward total overall	9	33
East Ham Central	2	7
Green Street East	2	7
Little Ilford	1	4
Manor Park	2	7
Wall End	2	7
Other Newham wards overall	1	4
Forest Gate South	1	4

Forest Gate North

- Whilst the highest proportion of children using childcare provision in Forest Gate North live in the same ward (35%), children travel from wide variety of areas to use provision there.
- 21% of children using provision in this ward live outside of the borough, however 14% of these children live in boroughs that border Forest Gate North (Rebridge and Waltham Forest) and are therefore still living fairly close to their chosen childcare provision.
- Children are using provision in Forest Gate North in the highest numbers from Forest Gate South and Redbridge (See table overleaf).

Table18: Where children live using provision in Forest Gate North

Place of residence	Total	Percent
Forest Gate North	71	35
Neighbouring ward total overall	47	23
Forest Gate South	26	13
Manor Park	13	6
Stratford and New Town	8	4
Other Newham wards overall	34	17
Beckton	1	0
Boleyn	4	2
Canning Town North	2	1
Custom House	2	1
Green Street East	4	2
Green Street West	3	1
Little Ilford	1	0
Plaistow North	8	4
Plaistow South	3	1
Royal Docks	2	1
Wall End	3	1
West Ham	1	0
In other boroughs neighbouring Forest		
Gate North overall	28	14
Redbridge	19	9
Waltham Forest	9	4
Other boroughs overall	14	7
Barking and Dagenham	3	1
Enfield	2	1
Gravesham	1	0
Greenwich	1	0
Hackney	2	1
Havering	3	1
Southwark	1	0
Tower Hamlets	1	0

Forest Gate South

- 70% of children using provision in Forest Gate South live fairly close by, however nearly twice as many live in a neighbouring ward (45%) than in Forest Gate South itself (25%), most commonly in Forest Gate North.
- 16% of children using provision in Forest Gate South live outside of the borough in boroughs that neighbour Newham. However Forest Gate South is not a border ward, so this would suggest there are other factors influencing parents' choice of childcare provision here.

Table 19: Where children live using provision in Forest Gate South

Place of residence	Total	Percent
Forest Gate South	17	25
Neighbouring ward total overall	30	45
Forest Gate North	19	28
Green Street West	5	7
Manor Park	5	7
West Ham	1	1
In other Newham wards overall	8	12
Boleyn	2	3
East Ham North	1	1
Green Street East	4	6
Little Ilford	1	1
Other boroughs overall	11	16
Barking and Dagenham	1	1
Redbridge	5	7
Tower Hamlets	1	1
Waltham Forest	4	6

Green Street East

- The majority of children using provision in Green Street East live close by, over half of children live in the same ward as their childcare setting and a third live in neighbouring wards, the vast majority of which live in East Ham North.

Table 20: Where children live using provision in Green Street East

Place of residence	Total	Percent
Green Street East	79	55
Neighbouring ward total overall	47	33
Boleyn	9	6
East Ham Central	5	3
East Ham North	28	19
Forest Gate South	1	1
Green Street West	1	1
Manor Park	3	2
In other Newham wards overall	12	8
Beckton	1	1
Canning Town North	1	1
Forest Gate North	3	2
Plaistow South	3	2
Stratford and New Town	2	1
West Ham	2	1
Other boroughs overall	6	4
Barking	1	1
Redbridge	4	3
Waltham Forest	1	1

Green Street West

- Green Street West is very different to Green Street East. The largest proportion of children using provision here are located in neighbouring wards (36%) predominantly Plaistow South (22%)
- 40% of children traveling to use provision in Green Street West live in other wards in Newham (20%), or live outside of the borough (21%), in particular Redbridge. This would suggest other drivers for using childcare in this ward, other than locality.

Table 21: Where children live using provision in Green Street West

Place of residence	Total	Percent
Green Street West	18	17
Neighbouring ward total overall	38	36
Boleyn	4	4
Forest Gate South	2	2
Plaistow North	23	22
West Ham	9	9
In other Newham wards overall	21	20
Beckton	1	1
Custom House	1	1
East Ham North	1	1
East Ham South	6	6
Forest Gate North	1	1
Manor Park	1	1
Plaistow South	5	5
Royal Docks	1	1
Stratford and New Town	2	2
Wall End	2	2
Other boroughs overall	22	21
Barking and Dagenham	6	6
Bexley	1	1
Brentwood	1	1
Hackney	1	1
Haringey	1	1
Lewisham	1	1
Redbridge	8	8
Tower Hamlets	1	1
Waltham Forest	2	2

Little Ilford

- The vast majority of children (90%) attending childcare in Little Ilford live close by, with 85% living in the same ward.

Table 21: Where children live using provision in Little Ilford

Place of residence	Total	Percent
Little Ilford	33	85
Neighbouring ward total overall	2	5
East Ham North	1	3
Manor Park	1	3
In other Newham wards overall	2	5
East Ham Central	1	3
Plaistow South	1	3
Other boroughs overall	2	5
Barking and Dagenham	2	5

Manor Park

- Nearly half of children using provision in Manor Park live in neighbouring wards in particular Little Ilford (28%).
- An equal proportion (28%) live in the same ward, the remaining 17% travel from a variety of areas in and out of the borough.

Table 22: Where children live using provision in Manor Park

Place of residence	Total	Percent
Manor Park	33	28
Neighbouring ward total overall	54	47
East Ham North	9	8
Forest Gate North	1	1
Forest Gate South	4	3
Green Street East	8	7
Little Ilford	32	28
In other Newham wards overall	15	13
Canning Town North	2	2
Custom House	1	1
East Ham Central	1	1
East Ham South	4	3
Green Street West	1	1
Stratford and New Town	2	2
Wall End	4	3
In other boroughs neighbouring Manor		
Park overall	5	4
Redbridge	2	2
Waltham Forest	3	3
Other boroughs overall	4	3
Barking and Dagenham	3	3
Tower Hamlets	1	1

Plaistow South

- From the table below it is evident children are traveling from a wide variety of areas to use childcare provision in Plaistow South, with 10% coming from out of the borough, in boroughs close to Newham, mostly Barking and Dagenham.
- The largest proportion of children live in neighbouring wards (40%), predominantly in Canning Town North.

Table 23: Where children live using provision in Plaistow South

Place of residence	Total	Percent
Plaistow South	44	26
Neighbouring ward total overall	68	40
Boleyn	4	2
Canning Town North	26	15
Canning Town South	5	3
Custom House	6	4
East Ham South	13	8
Plaistow North	14	8
In other Newham wards overall	36	21
Beckton	9	5
East Ham Central	2	1
East Ham North	3	2
Forest Gate North	2	1
Forest Gate South	1	1
Little Ilford	1	1
Manor Park	1	1
Royal Docks	3	2
Stratford and New Town	7	4
Wall End	2	1
West Ham	5	3
Other boroughs overall	16	10
Barking and Dagenham	9	5
Dartford	2	1
Redbridge	3	2
Tower Hamlets	1	1
Waltham Forest	1	1

Royal Docks

- The majority of children using provision in Royal Docks live also live there.

Table 24: Where children live using provision in Royal Docks

Place of residence	Total	Percent
Royal Docks	29	62
Neighbouring ward total overall	8	17
Beckton	6	13
Custom House	2	4
In other Newham wards overall	2	4
East Ham South	1	2
Plaistow North	1	2
In other boroughs neighbouring Royal Docks overall	2	4
Greenwich	2	4
Other boroughs overall	3	6
Barking and Dagenham	1	2
Southwark	1	2
Tower Hamlets	1	2

Stratford and New Town

- Children using childcare provision in Stratford and New Town are living in a wide variety of areas. Half of children using provision in Stratford and New Town live close by either in neighbouring wards and boroughs or the same ward. However only 17% live are living in the same ward.
- Children are predominantly traveling from the neighbouring wards of Forest Gate North, Forest Gate South and West Ham.
- From other wards in Newham, most children live in Plaistow North (5%)
- 29% of children live outside of the borough, with some children traveling significant distances to use provision here, suggesting influencing factors other than proximity in the choosing child care provision in this ward.
- In particular children from outside of the borough are living in Barking and Dagenham (6%) (see table overleaf)

Table 25: Where children live using provision in Stratford and New Town

Place of residence	Total	Percent
Stratford and New Town	47	17
Neighbouring ward total overall	71	26
Canning Town North	1	0
Forest Gate North	20	7
Forest Gate South	27	10
West Ham	23	9
In other Newham wards overall	59	22
Beckton	3	1
Boleyn	5	2
Canning Town South	3	1
Custom House	8	3
East Ham South	4	1
Green Street East	3	1
Green Street West	4	1
Little Ilford	3	1
Manor Park	6	2
Plaistow North	13	5
Plaistow South	2	1
Royal Docks	3	1
Wall End	2	1
In other boroughs neighbouring Stratford and New Town overall	34	13
Hackney	6	2
Tower Hamlets	6	2
Waltham Forest	22	8
Other boroughs overall	43	16
Barking and Dagenham	15	6
Basildon	1	0
Brent	1	0
Brentwood	3	1
Dartford	1	0
East Hertfordshire	1	0
Enfield	1	0
Greenwich	2	1
Haringey	3	1
Havering	3	1
Lambeth	2	1
Redbridge	8	3
Thurrock	1	0
Southwark	1	0

Wall End

- The majority of children using provision in Wall End live in the neighbouring wards of East Ham Central and East Ham South.
- 20% of children live in other wards in Newham, the majority of which coming from Boleyn (10%).
- 15% of children using provision in Wall End live outside of the borough, however 10% of these are still living close by, in boroughs neighbouring Wall End.

Table 26: Where children live using provision in Wall End

Place of residence	Total	Percent
Wall End	8	20
Neighbouring ward total overall	18	44
East Ham Central	9	22
East Ham South	9	22
In other Newham wards overall	8	20
Boleyn	4	10
Canning Town South	1	2
Manor Park	1	2
Plaistow South	2	5
In other boroughs neighbouring Wall End overall	4	10
Barking and Dagenham	2	5
Redbridge	2	5
Other boroughs overall	2	5
Havering	1	2
Thurrock	1	2

West Ham

- The majority of children using childcare provision in West Ham live close by, either in West Ham itself (39%) or in neighbouring wards (33%), in particular Forest Gate South.
- 12% of children using provision in West Ham live outside of the borough, in particular in Redbridge, suggesting other influencing factors in the choice of childcare, other than proximity to their home for some families.

Table 27: Where children live using provision in West Ham

Place of residence	Total	Percent
West Ham	39	39
Neighbouring ward total overall	33	33
Canning Town North	3	3
Forest Gate South	13	13
Green Street West	1	1
Plaistow North	7	7
Stratford and New Town	9	9
In other Newham wards overall	12	12
Beckton	2	2
Custom House	1	1
Canning Town South	2	2
East Ham South	1	1
Green Street East	2	2
Manor Park	2	2
Plaistow South	2	2
Other boroughs overall	12	12
Barking and Dagenham	2	2
Havering	1	1
Haringey	1	1
Redbridge	4	4
Thurrock	2	2
Tower Hamlets	2	2

3.4 Where are children using childcare, when living in wards with no childcare provision?

Boleyn

- 56 children were recorded as using childcare provision in Newham
- The largest number of children are using provision in the neighbouring wards of East Ham Central and Green Street.

Table 28: Location of childcare provision for children living in Boleyn

Place of residence	Total	Percent
Neighbouring ward total overall	30	54
East Ham Central	13	23
Green Street East	9	17
Green Street West	4	7
Plaistow South	4	7
In other Newham wards overall	26	46
Canning Town North	8	14
Stratford and New Town	5	9
Wall End	4	7
Forest Gate	4	7
Canning Town South	3	5
Forest Gate South	2	4

East Ham South

- 75 children were recorded as using childcare in Newham (61 of which had traceable postcodes)
- The majority of children use childcare in wards neighbouring East Ham South, over a third of which are using childcare provision in East Ham Central.

Table 29: Location of childcare provision for children living in East Ham South

Place of residence	Total	Percent
Neighbouring ward total overall	38	62
East Ham Central	20	33
Beckton	9	15
Wall End	9	15
In other Newham wards overall	23	38
Green Street West	6	10
Manor Park	4	7
Stratford and New Town	4	7
Canning Town North	3	5
Canning Town South	3	5
Custom House	2	3
West Ham	1	1

Plaistow North

- 80 children living in Plaistow North use childcare in the borough.
- Children are mostly using provision in neighbouring wards. The highest number of children living in Plaistow North use childcare in the neighbouring ward of Green Street West.

Table 30: Location of childcare provision for children living in Plaistow North

Place of residence	Total	Percent
Neighbouring ward total overall	46	31
Canning Town South	3	4
Canning Town North	4	5
Custom House	2	2
Plaistow South	14	18
Green Street West	23	31
In other Newham wards overall	29	69
Forest Gate North	8	11
Stratford and New Town	13	17
West Ham	7	9
Royal Docks	1	1
Total children	75	100

Next Steps

- Further investigation regarding the wards that have a low proportion of children using formal childcare these include: Boleyn, East Ham Central, Green Street, Little Ilford and Wall End. Investigation is needed into possible influencing factors in these wards, such as socio-economic, current childcare provision, cost and quality in these areas.
- Further investigation into why the wards of Canning Town North, East Ham Central, Plaistow South and Stratford and New Town attract large numbers of children from other areas in and out of the borough.
- What drivers exist in these particular wards that encourage parents to travel a significant distance from their home, to use childcare provision in that particular ward, rather than using provision on their doorstep. This may include employment and colleges in the area, transport links and quality of childcare provision in these particular areas.
- Investigation into whether the childcare needs of those families living in wards without childcare provision (Boleyn, East Ham South and Plaistow North) are fully being met through using provision in neighbouring wards.
- Consider whether there are any particular reasons why more children from neighbouring wards are using provision in Green Street West, rather than residents of Green Street West itself.

3.5 Possible lack of childcare as a barrier to employment

Figures below have been provided by Job Centre Plus. They outline the barriers stated by unemployed benefit claimants when looking to enter employment. Many parents state that no availability, lack of flexibility or cost of childcare is the main barriers to employment. However, it must be added that Job Centre Plus do not have procedures in place to challenge the statements made or provide support in finding suitable, flexible and affordable childcare.

Table 31:

April 07 to June 07

Newham	
No Day Provision	221
Flexible Provision	63
Cost	544
Transport	16
Disabled Children	18
Cultural Needs	23
Other	445

July 07 to September 07

Newham	
No Day Provision	239
Flexible Provision	38
Cost	623
Transport	18
Disabled Children	32
Cultural Needs	36
Other	408

3.6 Regeneration and Olympics in Newham and possible influences on childcare supply and demand.

The following table outlines the planned regeneration projects and the planned housing these will yield.

Regeneration in Newham, New Homes

Table 32:

Ward	Number of homes	Site
Stratford and New Town	5,000	Stratford City
Stratford and New Town	2,300	Royal Mail Site
Canning Town South	2,500	PURA site
Canning Town South	5,000	Canning Town
Canning Town South	unspecified	Lower Lea Valley
Royal Docks	1,500	Peruvian Wharf
Royal Docks	1,500	Minoco Wharf
Royal Docks	5,000	Silvertown Quays
Royal Docks	2,000	Royal Albert Basin

For some of these a yield based on the types of housing planned have been reported. For example, it is expected that Barrier Park will yield 98 pre-school children and 174 children of primary and secondary age. The Minoco Wharf development is expected to yield 498 children of pre-school age and 886 of school age.

3.7 Childcare providers consultation survey results

3.7.1 Introduction

A questionnaire was distributed via email in February 2008, to the PVI Childcare sector (Private, Voluntary and Independent), that offer childcare in Newham to 0- 5 years olds and 5-14 years olds (16 years for children with disability or SEN). The survey was sent to 60 settings and 30 replied, giving a response rate of 50%.

The aim of the survey was to find out whether childcare providers thought the current level of childcare available in their area was sufficient and whether childcare provision was sustainable in terms of fees and occupancy levels. The survey also aimed to gauge the level of proposed future expansion.

3.7.2 Survey results

Geographical profile of providers

- Over half of surveys returned were from providers located in the South of the borough, and nearly a quarter were returned from both the North and Central areas of Newham. A breakdown of participating providers by ward and Community Forum area are detailed overleaf.
- As the sample size is quite small answers will generally be reported on at borough level overall, to make the results more meaningful, apart from where geographical consideration is required.

Chart 7. Geographical spread of providers surveyed

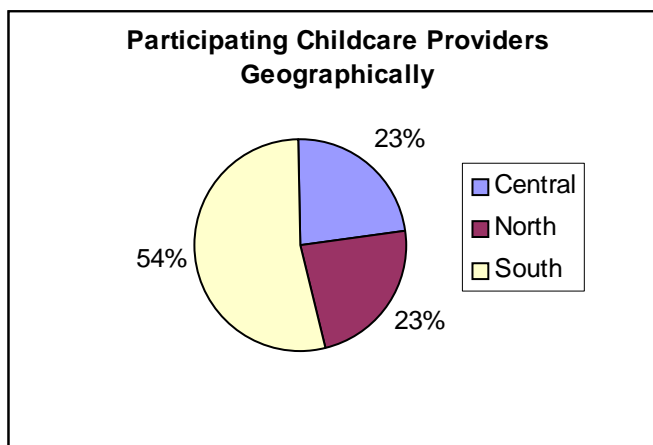


Table 33: A breakdown of survey returns per ward

WARDS	Count	Percent
Canning Town North	5	17
Custom House	1	3
Forest Gate North	4	13
Forest Gate South	2	7
Green Street West	1	3
Little Ilford	2	7
Manor Park	2	7
Plaistow North	1	3
Plaistow South	3	10
Royal Docks	1	3
Stratford and New Town	5	17
Wall End	3	10
Total	30	100

Table 34: A breakdown of survey returns per Community Forum Area

CFA	Frequency	Percent
Custom House & Canning Town	6	20
East Ham	3	10
Forest Gate	6	20
Green Street	1	3
Manor Park	4	13
Plaistow	4	13
Royal Docks	1	3
Stratford & West Ham	5	17
Total	30	100

3.7.3 Level of sufficiency

- 93% of all childcare providers surveyed thought that the level of childcare provision was sufficient in their area.
- When broken down by ward two wards were mentioned as having insufficient provision these were: Custom House and Plaistow North.
- Reasons cited included:
 - Difficulties getting planning permission for day nurseries
 - In Plaistow, a concentration of nurseries around Southern Road all in direct competition, but no provision in other parts of the area.

3.7.4 Plans for expansion

- The majority of settings surveyed (23, 77%) had no plans for expansion, the 7 settings who did have expansion plans were located in Little Ilford in the North East of the borough, Stratford and New Town in the North West of the borough and Canning Town North and Custom House in the South West of the borough.

Table 35: Whether settings have plans for expansion by ward

Ward	Yes	No	Total
Canning Town North	1	4	5
Custom House	1	0	1
Forest Gate North	1	3	4
Forest Gate South	0	2	2
Green Street West	0	1	1
Little Ilford	1	1	2
Manor Park	0	2	2
Plaistow North	1	0	1
Plaistow South	0	3	3
Royal Docks	0	1	1
Stratford and New Town	2	3	5
Wall End	0	3	3
Total	7	23	30

3.7.5 Sustainability

Occupancy levels

- 72% (21) of childcare providers surveyed thought their occupancy levels allowed them to be sustainable.
- The 28% of providers who thought it unsustainable cited the following reasons:
 - Competition from new child care settings and Children's' Centres
 - Too many part time places filled
 - High rents and services charges for premises

'Not at present as there are too many part time places took, and it is really difficult to fill the left places. Our rent is very high: the rest - over 75% is on wages;'

'There are too many nurseries in the borough and with children's centre, causing existing nurseries to be unsustainable.'

Childcare fees

- 18 out of 30 (60%) childcare settings thought that the current level of childcare fees allowed their setting to be sustainable, whilst 12 (40%) did not. The main reasons cited for un-sustainability were:
 - Again the high cost of property rates and charges compared to the level of childcare fees they are able to charge.
 - Parents in Newham demand and expect low childcare fees over other priorities
 - Competition from other settings funded by the government which have reduced childcare rates impact on what other providers can competitively charge.

‘In two of our nurseries as mentioned above, the moderate fees that we charge does not make for sustainability, because of the high rents and charges that we are being charged, we would need to increase fees drastically to make them sustainable, this may then make the fees unaffordable for parents’

‘Currently CAP funding is helping with sustainability, occupancy is down and the level to which you can change fees in this borough is limited. Money rather than quality of care is foremost in many parents minds when receiving childcare.’

3.7.6 Conclusions

Overall, the majority of childcare providers surveyed thought there was sufficient childcare provision in the borough, with few settings having future plans for expansion.

Whilst the majority of settings claimed to be sustainable in terms of occupancy rates and childcare fees, some concerns were raised. In particular, competition in the borough with other types of childcare settings and the need to be economically competitive, due to the demand for low child care fees in the borough, coupled with high running costs are preventing some settings from being sustainable.

3.8 Consultation with children

3.8.1 Introduction

As part of this review we intend to consult and obtain the views of children living in the borough regarding their experiences and priorities about childcare and out of school provision.

Further consultation with children of aged 5 – 16 years olds living in the borough is planned for this year; however some initial work has been conducted into this piece of work, in order to pilot the methodological approach taken, through a pilot consultation with children using After School Clubs. It is intended that this approach will be rolled at other After School Clubs and Breakfast Clubs in the borough.

3.8.2 Pilot, consultation with children using after school clubs

A researcher visited an after school club session in the borough to interview children about what they thought about their After School Club. The interview took the form of an informal conversation with key points of discussion raised, topics included: what that they liked and disliked about After School Club, how long they spent there and how they would like to spend their time after school and in the school holidays.

Unfortunately on the day that the researcher attended the session only three children attended After School Club, all three children were interviewed. Their ages ranged from five to seven years old. It should be noted that this after school provision was open until 5pm.

3.8.3 Research findings

The children interviewed attended after school club because their parents worked, however ever all three children said that they were happy to come to after school club.

'My mum makes me come here but I like it'

The children were very enthusiastic about After School Club, all said they liked coming to After School Club because they thought it was fun and a place where they would play with their friends, toys and do activities. Bowling was given as a particular favourite by the children, as well as creative and educational activities including drawing and painting, and reading.

Other activities suggested by the children that they would like to do at after school club were cooking and playing outdoors. However the provision visited only provides facilities in doors, so children were currently unable to do any activities outdoors.

'I'd like to do some thing outside , play games like rounders'

'Playing in the kitchen'

Whilst all children said they liked being at After School Club, two of the three children said they that given a choice about where they would like to spend time after school, they would rather be at home, playing or watching television. But all three children were happy with the duration of time they currently spent at after school club each evening.

When asked about where they spend their school holidays, children spent their time mainly in informal childcare, at home, cared for by a parent or a sibling, or at a friends house. One child did sometimes attend Holiday club.

Children spent their time in the school holidays playing at home or in the garden; one child visited the library often. When asked where they would like to spend their school holidays, again playing our doors was suggested as well as organised activities such as swimming and holiday club which they currently did not go attend.

3.8.4 Conclusions

Due to the small sample interviewed the findings are limited, however the method of discussion did yield information on current and preferred activities of children and so this would suggest this is a useful method for wider consultation.

Whilst attending After School club was not the children's preferred place to spend time after school, it was evident that the children were happy at the setting and the length of time they spent there. The children interviewed enjoyed their surroundings and activities available to them and therefore this was a positive environment for these children to be in whilst their parents were at work.

However the children did state a desire for outdoor games and activities both at after school club and in the school holidays, which was a need that was not necessarily being met at this particular provision at present.

3.9 A Consultation with parents of children with additional needs, pilot.

3.9.1 Introduction

In December 2007 there were 402 children aged 0 -5 years, with a disability of a special education need in the borough, known to Extended Services. It is vitally important as part of the Childcare Sufficiency Review that the views and experiences of parents of children with additional needs are included.

A pilot research project was conducted in early March 2008, with parents of young children aged 1 – 3 years old who have additional needs. These particular families were accessed by attending parent and child groups provided by The Learning Support Services, based at the Tunmarsh Centre in Newham, who offer a range of services to children with special needs or disabilities and their families.

Whilst at the groups, in-depth, one to interviews were conducted with parents. Discussion covered their current childcare use, future childcare needs and their experiences and awareness of childcare provision in the borough.

It is the intention to roll out this research across the borough accessing the views of parents of children aged under five and 5 – 18 years old, through a similar method of access to families via our partner organisations.

For the pilot, a researcher attended two groups provided by the Learning Support Service and conducted six in –depth interviews with participating parents. The following groups attended were:

- Poppies (Professionals Operating with Parents or carers to Provide Intervention and Early Years Support) - Aimed at parent / carers of children with profound or multiple learning difficulties.
- Rocking and Rolling –A group for parents and pre-school children run by LSDAT which is aimed at developmental movement and play.

3.9.2 Research findings

Of those parents interviewed, their children had a variety of additional needs including Cerebral Palsy, Epilepsy and delayed development.

Two children attended formal childcare (1 at day Nursery, 1 at childminder). Whilst four children did not currently attend any type of formal childcare, however two parents/carers stated that they intended to use a nursery in the future.

Meeting the needs of the child

Parents interviewed currently using formal childcare had very different experiences of the childcare they used. The mother of the child attending day nursery was overwhelmingly positive about her child's experience at nursery. In particular she felt the nursery understood her child's needs and provided specialist services to help her child in his development.

'They have been helping him in his physical development and they brought in acupuncture treatment which is helping him'

However a parent of a one year old child, who was cared for by a childminder was less satisfied with her current childcare arrangements and did not feel they were meeting her child's needs, as the daily environment for the child was not considered ideal.

'I am not fully satisfied, its not as good as others, but I can't afford it, this one just has a limited to area to play in, as its one room and no other children to interact with.'

Affordability of childcare

Parents currently using formal childcare also had vastly different experiences of childcare costs. This can be attributed to the child's age, the type of childcare used and awareness of support available to them.

Childcare was free for the three year old attending nursery and therefore this was considered affordable by the parent. Whilst for the parent of the one year old child who currently used a childminder, childcare costs were considered to be too expensive, which in turn had impacted on her choice of childcare.

Ideally this respondent wanted a nursery place five days per week, 8am – 6pm to allow her to work and her child to interact with other children. Currently she worked three days a week, using a child minder for two days and informal care through a friend on the third day, which was not considered ideal, but what she felt she could personally afford. The respondent was a lone parent and unaware of any help she could receive towards childcare costs.

'Childcare five days a week is too expensive for me, I can only afford £50 per week.'

Amongst those parents not using childcare the general view held was there was no need to pay for childcare, if they were at home themselves and so could look after their children for free. Those planning to use childcare in the future were planning to only use free nursery provision available to them.

Accessibility

Proximity to where parents lived was considered a very important factor. For one parent location was perceived as a barrier to the use of childcare, as there were no crèches close to where she lived. Nearly all of parents stated that they lived near by the childcare setting they currently used, or intended to use and generally walked to their setting.

However all parents currently using childcare provision (2) stated they would prefer to use another childcare setting that was even closer to their home. Proximity to a sibling's school was also cited as a factor in determining where to use childcare. However one carer felt location was less important and that the quality of childcare was the determining factor in choice.

'In the morning I could use some time, I would use a crèche but I don't know of any crèches that are really local, by the time you get him ready and take him there come back and then have to take him home, there doesn't seem any point.'

'My main priority is closeness to where I live, in my catchment area there are no nursery places for my older son'

'Yes close by, I could have used Abrahams, but I chose this nursery as it's very close to his brother and sister's schools. I need to be able to get to them quickly, as his brother and sister have the same condition as him, so I get called in a lot.'

Two out of the six parents interviewed felt that their child's physical needs were a barrier to them accessing childcare. One parent cited an example of attempting to use childcare in the past but was unable to do so.

'he was on oxygen then, I tried to a drop in crèche at Early Start on Canberra Road, but the staff were not were not trained, so they wouldn't take him.'

However this could partly be attributed to the level of awareness regarding what provision is available to parents that can cater for a child's additional needs, as none of the parent's interviewed were aware of what provision existed in the borough, or any that catered specially for their child's additional needs, even if they were using a formal childcare themselves.

Confidence in childcare staff

For those parents interviewed not using formal childcare, an important issue was having the confidence to leave their children in the care of unfamiliar people, as well as concerns about staff' having the necessary level of understanding regarding their child's needs.

'It's the trust factor, in leaving him with other people, I don't like to and my husband doesn't like me to either, I only go to groups were I know the staff are and the place, as you are putting your trust and faith in them.'

'Him not speaking makes it difficult to understand his needs, my husband and I have difficulty understanding what he wants, we have to guess what he needs and he cries and gets frustrated, so it would be difficult for anyone else to understand him.'

' I don't feel comfortable leaving him with other people because of his temper tantrums, I would not feel comfortable leaving him in childcare.'

Awareness of childcare provision

There was a lack of awareness amongst parents and carers interviewed, regarding what childcare is available in Newham, as well as what funding or assistance they may be entitled to, towards childcare costs.

From discussion about provision with parents awareness was particularly low amongst those parents with children aged 1 -2 years old. There was also no awareness amongst all parents in regards to where they could obtain information about childcare places, costs or funding.

' I am not aware, nothing gets told and I haven't noticed any advertisements or promotion of childcare in my area'

3.9.3 Profile of parents and their children

As the sample size is so small, the profile provided is limited to protect anonymity.

Parents / carers

- All respondents were female
- The ethnic background of the respondents included, White British, Black Caribbean, Black African, Bangladeshi and Sri Lankan.
- Five out of six parents were full time carers, one parent worked below 29 hours per week.
- Three parents were aged 26- 35 years, three parents were aged 36-45 years.

Children

- The age of the children were as follows:
 - Two children aged 1 years old,
 - Two children 2 years old
 - Two children aged three years old.

3.9.4 Conclusions

- A key barrier to childcare use was found to be parents' lack of awareness about what childcare provision there is in the borough and what financial assistance is available to them.
- Affordability determined the type of childcare used by parents. Parents favoured free provision if they themselves were at home. The one parent interviewed who paid for childcare did so to allow them self to go to work. However the choice of

paid childcare used was determined by affordability, rather than their preferred choice of childcare.

- The majority of parents/ carers (5 out of 6) interviewed were full time carers of their children.
- The most important factor for parents when choosing a childcare provider was deemed to be location, Parents wanted to use a childcare setting that was closest to their home or a sibling's school.
- Most parents themselves did not feel there were any barriers to their children accessing childcare provision in the borough, although a lack of suitably trained staff at a crèche, to cater for their child's specific physical needs, was noted by one respondent.
- Confidence and trust in staff and a setting were key considerations when choosing who cared for their child, which in turn led to some parents preferring to look after their child full time themselves rather than using formal childcare.

3.10 Parents'/carers' survey

3.10.1 Introduction

As part of this assessment we have tried to engage with parents living in all parts of the borough, who have children aged 0 -16 years old (18 years old young people with additional needs), to find out their views and experiences of childcare in Newham and future childcare needs, in particular in regards, access, affordability and quality.

3.10.2 Methodology

A self-completion survey aimed at parents and carers was distributed across the borough in late February 2008, via nurseries, nursery schools, Primary and Secondary schools, as well as Children's Centres and Early Start Programmes, in order to reach parents of children of all ages and geographical locations in the borough. Parents were asked to return the survey in a self addressed pre-paid envelope with completions entered into a prize draw.

The survey covered the subject areas of:

- Types of children care currently used for children of all ages
- The type of childcare parents would like to use in the future
- Times and days of week that childcare is currently used
- When parents would like to ideally make use of childcare
- Childcare costs, affordability and tax credits
- Priorities in their choice of childcare
- Their views about current childcare provision in Newham

5,000 surveys were distributed, via schools, childcare settings and Early Start Programmes, 190 surveys were returned by the cut off date yielding a response rate of 4%. As this review is a piece of work in progress, late returns will be used for further analysis later in the year.

The results of this survey have been analysed, where appropriate, the cross tabulation of answers were analysed by factors such as geographical ward, ethnicity, and household income. These factors have only been reported on where there exists a notable difference.

3.10.3 Profile of parents who completed the survey

190 parents completed the childcare sufficiency review questionnaire, who had a total of 285 children between them.

Table 36: Age of parents

Age	Count	Percent
Under 18	1	1
18-25	28	15
26-35	93	49
36-45	51	27
46-55	7	4
Total	180	95
Not answered	10	5
Total	190	100

Table 37: Age of children

Age	Count	Percent
Under 1	24	8
1-3yrs	86	30
3-5 yrs	78	27
5-10	70	25
11-16yrs	20	7
Missing	7	2
Total	285	100

- Children aged between 0 -16 years old were represented in the sample surveyed, nearly two thirds of which were aged below 5 years old, with the lowest proportion of children aged 11- 16 years old (7%).
- Nearly half of all parents surveyed were aged 26- 35 years old.

Ethnic profile of sample

- 74% of the sample surveyed was from a BME background compared to 82% of the borough of population. Out of which 30% were Black British, 30% were Asian British and 2% were Chinese and other ethnic backgrounds, 24% of respondents were White. For a full breakdown please see table overleaf.

Table 38: Sample breakdown by ethnic group

Ethnic Group	Count	Percent
Caribbean	24	13
British	21	11
Indian	21	11
Other Black African	16	8
System	14	7
Pakistani	13	7
Bangladeshi	12	6
White Eastern European	9	5
White and Black Caribbean	8	4
Any other white background	7	4
White and Black African	7	4
Any other mixed background	6	3
Nigerian	6	3
Any other Black background	6	3
Any other Asian background	5	3
White and Asian	3	2
Kosovan	2	1
Turkish / Turkish Cypriot	2	1
Sri Lankan Tamil	2	1
Filipino	2	1
Traveller of Irish Heritage	1	1
Somali	1	1
Iranian	1	1
Any other ethnic group	1	1
Total	190	100

Gender

87% (165) of parents surveyed were female and 8% (15) were male.

Family composition

Just over a third of parents surveyed were lone parents, this reflects the census population for the borough.

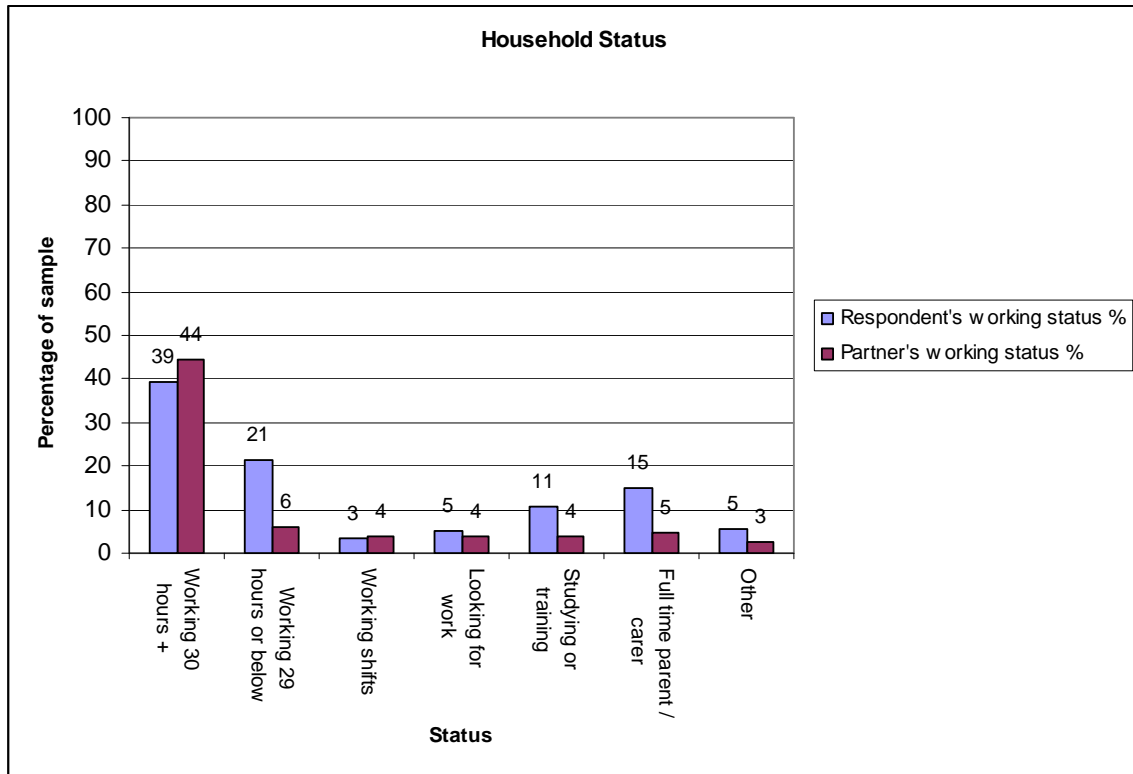
Table 39: Family composition of sample

Family composition	Count	Percent
Two parent family	108	57
Lone parent	65	34
Other	7	4
Parent to be	2	1
Total	182	96
Not answered	8	4
Total	190	100

Working status of household

The majority of parents and their partners were working, with most working over 30 hours per week, 54% of households were working outside of Newham.

Chart 8: Household working status



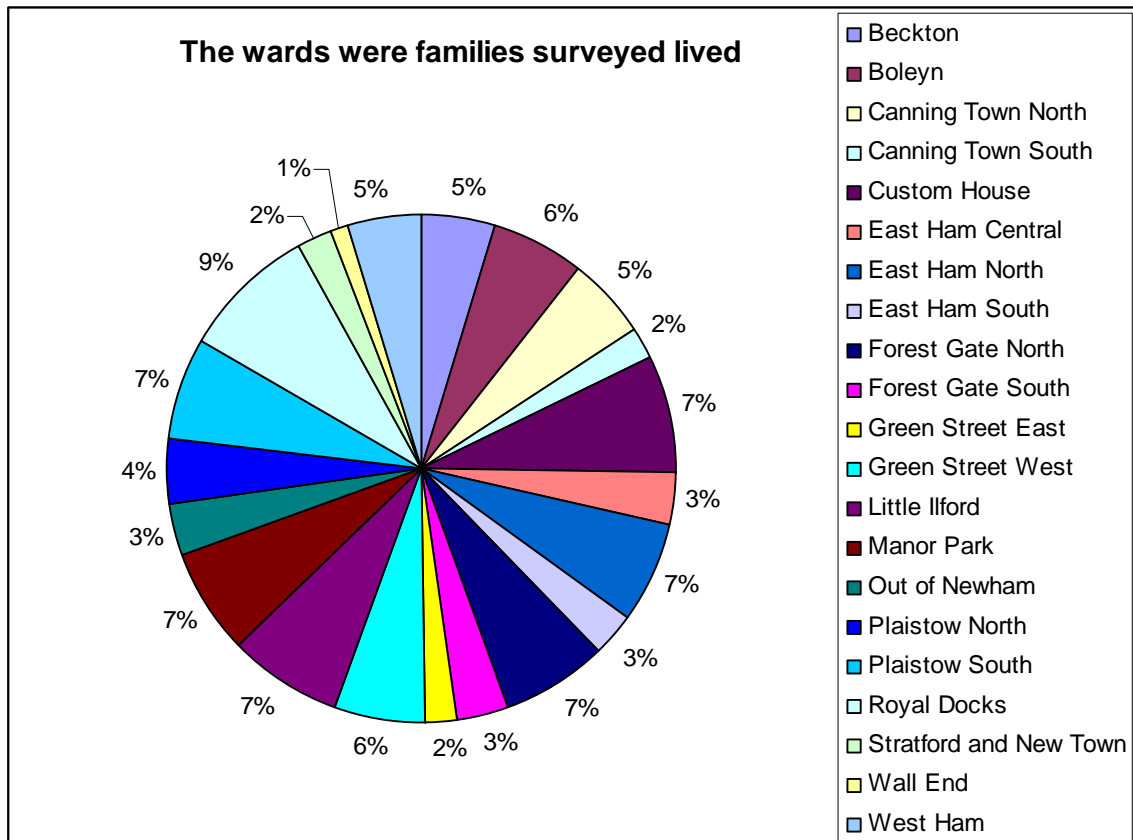
55% of households who answered this question had a household income below £30,000 per year, with the highest number of families falling into 0 - £10,000 (35) and £10,000 - £20,000 (42) income bands; this is inline with the economic profile of the borough.

Children with additional needs

5% of children in the sample had a Special Educational Need or a disability.

Geographical profile of respondents

Representation was achieved from the whole of the borough, with parents surveyed from all twenty wards of Newham. 3% of those surveyed lived outside of the borough.



3.10.4 Current use of childcare

72% of all parents surveyed used some form of formal childcare, the most popular being a Day Nursery, the types of formal childcare used are listed below. Formal childcare was recorded as only being used during the week.

Table 40: Types of childcare used, by those parents using formal childcare (multiple responses)

(Sample size = formal childcare users only 137)

Type of childcare	Number	Percent
Day nursery	82	51
After School Club	19	12
Council nursery	17	11
School Nursery Class	16	10
Childminder	14	9
Breakfast Club	11	7
Creche	1	1
Total responses	160	100
Total parents	137	

Informal childcare was used both during the week and weekend and included: parents and partners, ex partners, and grandparents.

Comparisons geographically

When comparing by Community Forum area there exists some differences in use of childcare in the sample, however these are not significant and should be treated with caution due to the small sizes.

In Forest Gate located in the north of the borough, there were a higher percentage of families using Childminders (29%) and After School clubs (26%).

In Royal Docks in the South of the borough there were a higher proportion of families using council nurseries (29%).

In Manor Park in the North East of the borough there were a higher percentage of families using breakfast Clubs (27%) and school nurseries (31%).

In Green Street there was also a higher proportion of children using School nurseries (25%).

Use and demand of formal childcare by times of day

Chart 9: Childminders

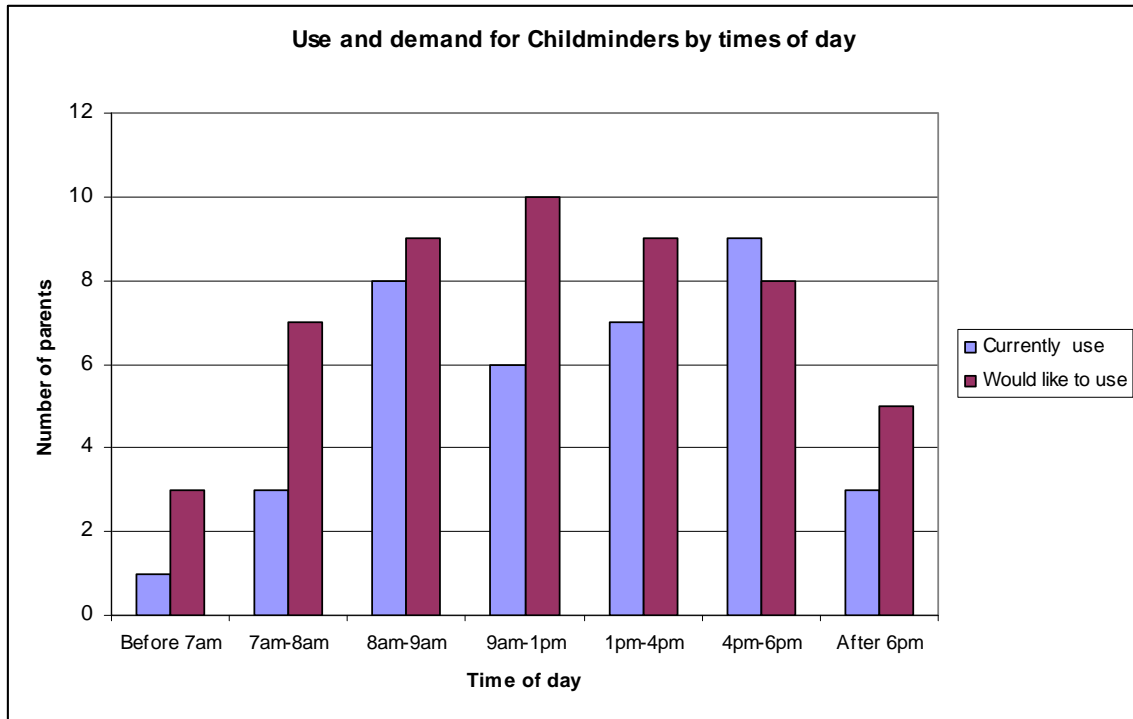


Chart 10: Day nurseries

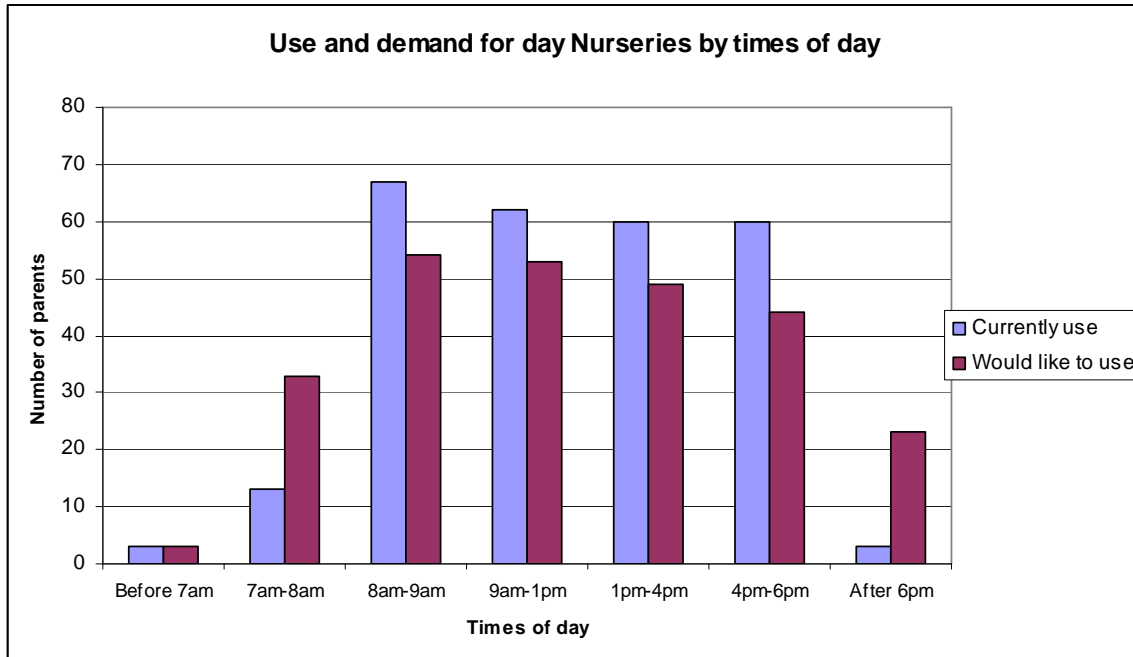


Chart 11: Council nurseries

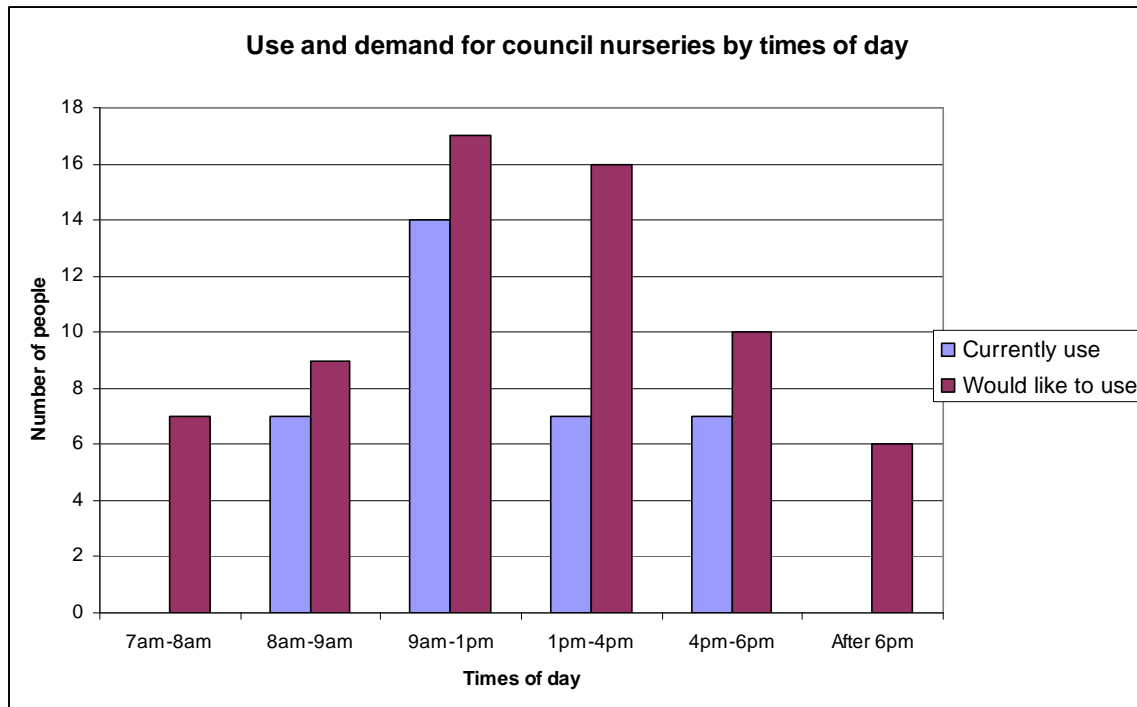
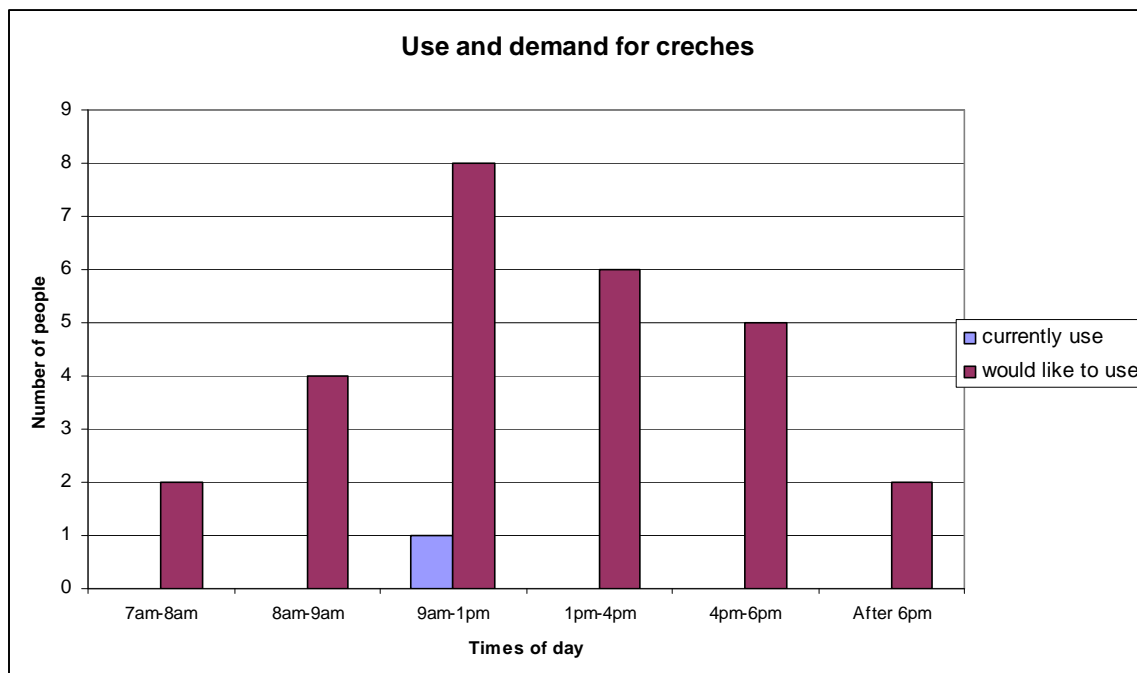


Chart 12: Crèches



- Generally there was more of a demand for childminders at most times of day than currently being used.
- Parents were generally using day nurseries at the times of day they would like to, however 23 parent would like to use a day nursery after 6pm, however very few parents at present were currently able to do so.
- The demand for council nurseries at all times of day was higher than the sample's current usage, with provision before 7am and after 6pm again being requested.
- Only one parent recorded using a crèche between 9am – 1pm, however parents were recorded as requiring the use of a crèche across all times of the day from 7am to after 6pm.

Times of out of school provision

Breakfast clubs

Just 11 Children were attending this provision between 7am and 9am, only 2 parents stated that they wanted breakfast club available before 7am.

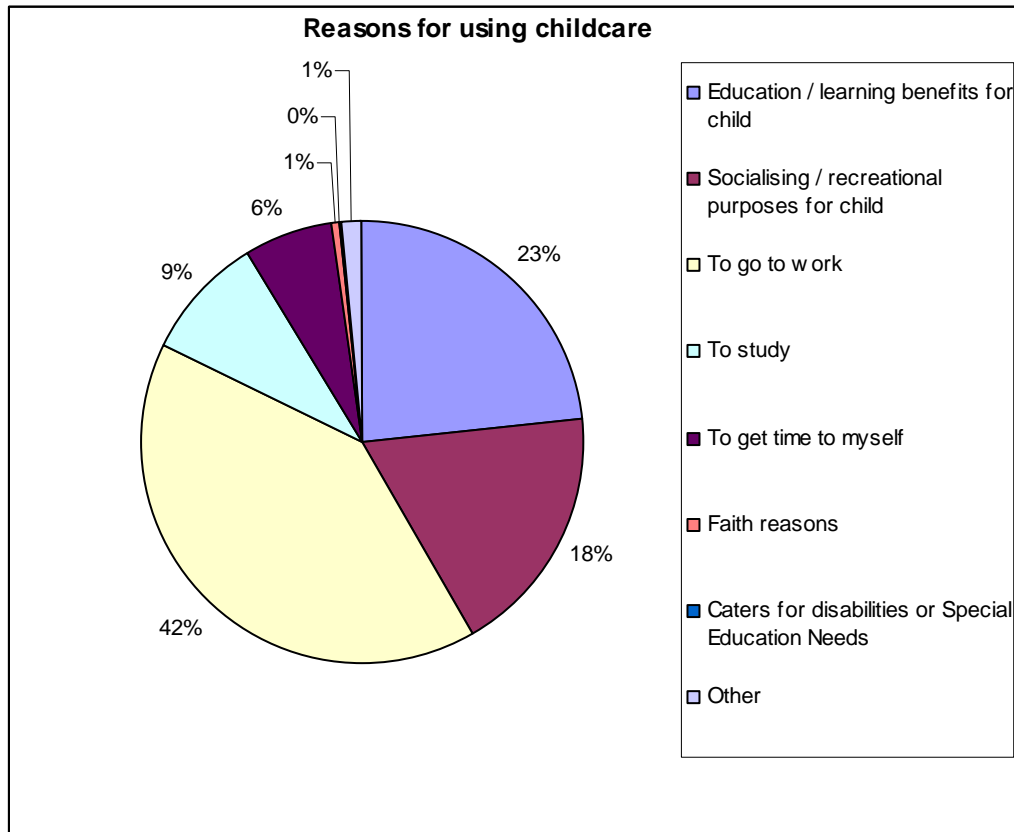
After School Clubs

19 children were attending after school club between 4 and 6pm, just 7 parents requested that this provision be available after 6pm.

3.10.5 Reasons for using Childcare

The predominant reason given by parents for using childcare, was to allow them to go to work (42%), followed by the educational benefits for their child (23%).

Chart 13: Reasons for Using Childcare (multiple responses total 300)



When broken down only by each type of formal childcare used, the predominant reason for using childcare remains employment, with the exception of school nursery classes which was used more for the socialising benefits for their child.

Breakfast clubs were also listed as being used because they catered for the additional needs of their child.

3.10.6 Factors of importance when using childcare

Parents were asked to rate how important various factors were to them in their choice of childcare.

- All factors listed below were believed to be of importance, however the factors considered of the greatest importance when using childcare were: safety and security, qualified staff and the quality of facilities.
- A setting's proximity to their home was considered of greater importance than proximity to place of work or sibling's school.

Table 41: Factors of importance when choosing childcare

Factors to consider	Very important	Important	Not very important	Not important at all	Total respondents
Quality of facilities	86	14	0	0	166
Qualified staff	95	5	0	0	169
Cost and Charges	67	27	5	1	163
Close to home	60	31	9	1	169
Close to work	25	34	32	9	150
Close to siblings school	30	37	17	16	134
Caters for Special Education Needs	30	28	23	18	130
Opening hours	66	33	1	1	166
Safety and security	97	3	0	0	190
Atmosphere	82	16	1	1	165
Home Based	34	36	22	9	138

3.10.7 Cost of childcare and affordability

Parents were found to be spending varying amounts based on the types of childcare provision used.

- Day nurseries were the most expensive type of childcare, with 44% (32) of parents using them spending £151 - £200 per week on childcare, and 32% (28) spending £101-£150 per week.
- However the majority of families using day Nurseries still found to have a household income level below £30,000 per year, with the largest number of families (17) falling into the £ 0- £10,000 per year income band.
- The majority of parents using childminders (5 out of 11) spent £51- £100 on childcare per week. However over half of the parents (6 out of 11) using childminder's, had large household incomes at over £40,000 per year.
- Parents using out of school provision (Breakfast Clubs and Out of School clubs) were found to be spending between £0 -£50 per week on childcare costs.

Table 42: Use of childcare by household income, sample size= 121)

Household income	Childminder	Day Nursery	Council Nursery	Creche	After School Club	Breakfast Club	School Nursery Class	Total
0-10,000	0	17	2	0	2	2	8	28
10,001-20,000	2	16	3	0	5	1	1	25
20,001-30,000	2	16	4	1	4	2	1	26
30,001-40,000	1	3	3	0	4	2	2	12
40,001-50,000	4	8	3	0	1	1	0	13
Over 50,000	2	13	2	0	1	2	0	17
Total	11	73	17	1	17	10	12	121

Parents were asked what they would do if their current childcare costs were to increase by £10 per week. The majority (45%) of parents stated they would continue to use the same childcare, whilst 25% stated they would find alternative childcare.

Table 42: What parents would do if childcare costs were to increase by £10 per week

Action taken	Total	Percent
Carry on using your current childcare	76	45
Stop using current childcare	17	10
Find alternative childcare	39	23
Reduce the number of hours / days childcare is used	14	8
Work additional hours	12	7
Other	12	7
Total	170	100

3.10.8 Child tax credit / Working Tax Credit

- 67% (127) stated they received Child Tax Credit or Working Tax credit, 23% (44) did not.
- Out of those receiving Tax Credit, 46% (62) received costs towards childcare.
- For those not receiving help towards childcare costs, the majority of parents cited the reason that they did not use formal childcare (32%). Other reasons cited for not receiving help towards childcare costs offered by parents were:
 - Income too high
 - Confused information / complications / uninformed
 - Citizenship / eligibility issues
 - Unemployed / partner unemployed / not working enough
 - In process of application / making enquiries
 - Not applicable
 - Have other funding contributions
 - Generally not eligible / Do not qualify
 - Haven't had time / haven't got around to it
 - Not worth it
 - Overpayment issues

'The tax credit system working on a yearly basis means that when our circumstances change, it takes effect in the next year. It's hard to pay back money.'

'My daughter does not receive any help towards childcare cost as it isn't a registered childminder'

33% (62) of parents surveyed stated they had accessed the two and half day free entitlement to nursery education for three and four year olds.

3.10.9 Are childcare needs being met?

56% (106) of parents surveyed stated that their childcare needs were being met, 22% (42) stated it wasn't and 22% did not provide an answer to this question.

When broken down by their child's age, the needs of parents are being met to varying proportions. 83% of parents with children under 1 years old felt their childcare needs were being met, whilst 70% of parents of 3- 5 years olds stated so and 68% of parents with 1- 3 year old children.

The needs of parents were being met to a lesser extent for those parents with children aged over 5 years old, in particular for parents with children aged 11-16 years, (50%, however caution should be noted as the sub sample who responded to this question was small = 10).

The main reasons cited by parents for their childcare needs not currently being met were:

- Want earlier opening times
- Want later opening times
- Want a better quality of childcare
- Childcare costs were too high

'I wish I can find childcare that is school term time only 13 weeks a year, I am paying for childcare despite my child not attending'

'Nursery opens at 8am which is difficult given we both have commutes of more than 1 hour. It is not sufficiently flexible to allow attendance for 9 days over a fortnight'

'There is no breakfast club at my child's school (Essex Primary School), so I can not start work earlier. Also there is no activities (School based or out of school) for children 5-8 years of age. This is really a big problem for parents and children'

3.10.10 Future intentions for using childcare, amongst those parents currently not using formal childcare

56 parents answered this question, the most common forms of childcare parents planned to use in the next year were informal childcare, such as themselves, partners or relatives. Out of school provision was listed as future childcare options, by 10% of this sample. See table below.

Table 43: Types of childcare parents planned to use over the next year

Childcare	Count	Percent
Myself or partner	29	29
Grandparent / relative / friend / neighbour	15	15
Day nursery / Children's Centre	13	13
After School Club	10	10
Breakfast club	10	10
Creche	6	6
Other school based activity	6	6
Nanny / Au pair	4	4
Childminder	3	3
Ex partner	2	2
Faith group	2	2
Total	100	100
Total parents	56	

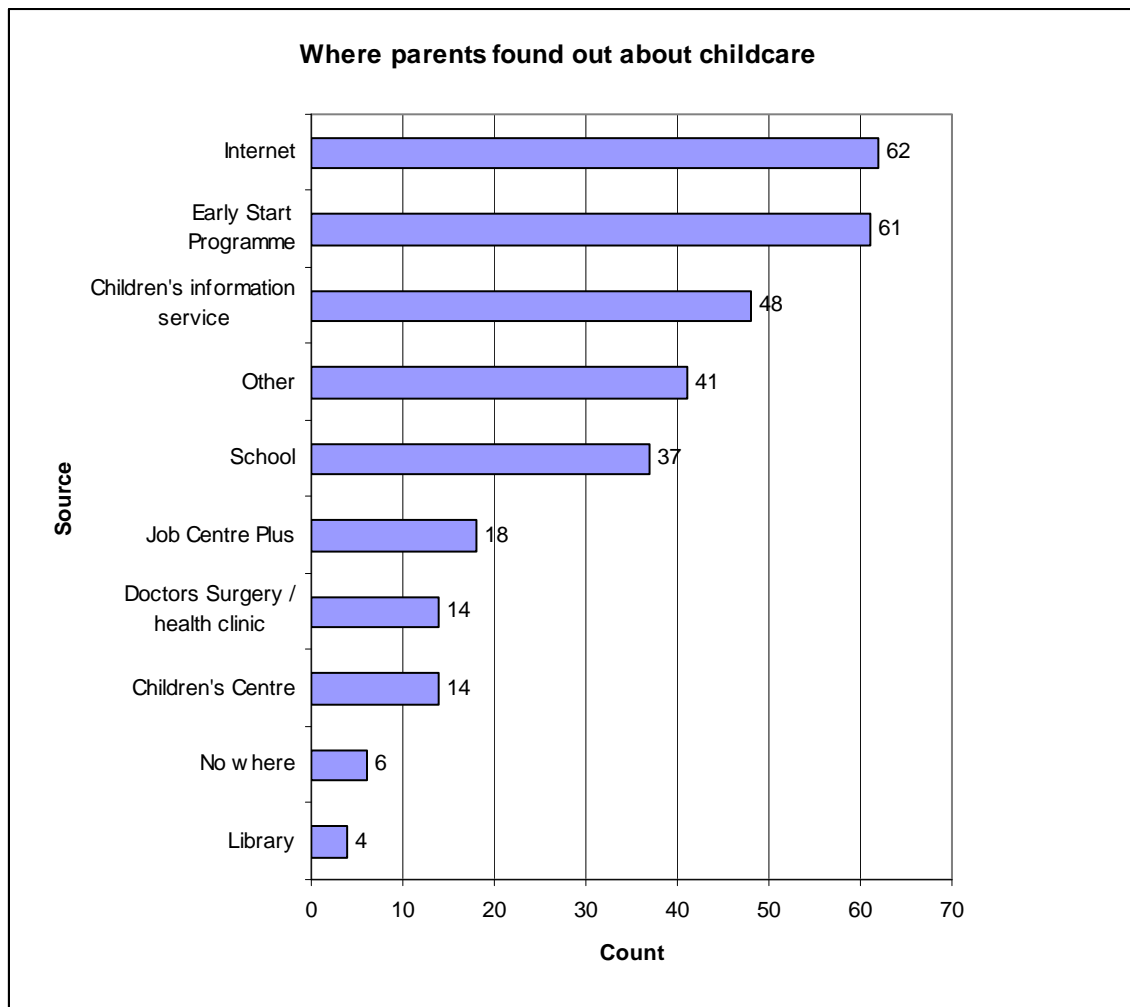
3.10.11 Method of travel to childcare setting

The most common form of travel used to a childcare setting was by foot (44%), followed by car (31%). When broken by ward of residence the same applies for all wards, suggesting that parents surveyed are generally using provision close to where they live across the borough.

3.10.12 Information about childcare

The two most common sources of information on childcare used by parents surveyed, were the Internet and Early Start Programmes. 28% of parents had used the Children's Information Service.

Chart 14: Sources of information about childcare (322 responses from 168 parents)



3.10.13 Opinions about childcare in Newham

Parents were asked how much they agreed with a series of statements about childcare in Newham, the results are listed in the table overleaf, the results of which were on the whole positive.

- 87% of parents surveyed were satisfied with childcare provision in Newham.
- The quality of provision was considered high by 83% of respondents however, 71% agreed it should be higher.
- Access to childcare came out less positively amongst parents, with 31% of parents surveyed disagreeing that they were able to access childcare in Newham and 49 % of parents disagreed that they could find childcare easily.
- Whilst parents surveyed were been found to be using childcare close to home, nearly two thirds agreed that they wanted to use childcare closer to home, less parents agreed they had a need for provision close to their place of work.

- 75% of parents agreed that they were able to use childcare at the times they needed to, however 40% disagreed that childcare in Newham was flexible to their needs. Despite this, the majority of parents surveyed agreed that their own and their child's childcare needs were being met.

Table 44: Statements about childcare in Newham (percentage of parents sample = 190)

Statements about childcare in Newham	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
Satisfied with childcare	3	10	58	29	146
Quality is high	1	16	58	25	146
Quality should be higher	3	26	38	33	144
Good choice of childcare in Newham	12	27	54	8	146
Able to access childcare	3	28	59	10	145
Easy to find childcare	10	29	50	11	144
I would like to use childcare close to work	12	44	31	12	138
I would like to use childcare closer to home	3	20	44	33	141
Childcare in Newham caters for my needs	2	7	68	23	141
Caters for child's needs	2	11	63	25	142
Good value for money	14	37	42	7	140
Prefer myself / partner look after	11	42	25	22	138
Prefer relatives / friends	17	46	25	13	144
Able to use childcare at the times I need	6	19	55	20	140
Childcare in Newham is flexible to my needs	11	29	53	8	139

3.10.14 Is there sufficient childcare in Newham?

50% of parents thought there was enough childcare in Newham, whilst 32% did not (16% did not answer the question).

Of those parents who did not think there was enough childcare in Newham, details provided by parents included:

- Long waiting lists
- Not enough after school hours provision or flexible hours
- The costs too high
- Not enough provision around generally, particularly for older children
- Need better quality of childcare provision

'I can use after school club or childminder only for my child. I would like to access any sport or art activities but there is not any for his age range (5-8 years). If there are few at school, places are very limited. Most of after school clubs have not got facilities to offer outdoor sport games to children. '

'I found it hard to find a nursery place in Beckton with the times that I required'

'1day care & 1Nurse not Ideal at all ofstead report not satisfactory'

3.10.15 Conclusions

72% of parents surveyed were using formal childcare, predominantly day nurseries; this high number using this type of childcare can partly be attributed to the profile of the sample, as two thirds of children were aged under 5 years old.

60% of parents surveyed were working full or part time, the majority of parents using day nurseries were recorded as working and were found to be using this type of childcare to allow themselves to go to work. Only those parents using school nurseries were found to be using this provision more for the socialising benefits of their child.

The use of childminders in the sample was less common, despite those families using this type of childcare generally paying less per week on childcare, than day nurseries.

Informal childcare such as parents and relatives were commonly used both at the week and weekend. Those who relied currently on informal childcare, on the whole had no intention of using formal provision in the future, with the exception of out of school provision. No type of formal childcare was recorded as being used at the weekends.

The demand for formal childcare such as day nurseries, council nurseries and childminders was generally higher than what was currently being used throughout all times of the day 7am – 6pm. However it should be noted there was some demand for provision before 7am and in particular after 4pm and 6pm.

No one was currently using any type of nursery provision after 6pm, but there existed some demand for it. Only parents using childminders were using provision after 6pm. This demand can likely be attributed to the needs of full time workers. There was also a need for after school provision after 4pm and 6pm. Only half of parents surveyed felt there was enough childcare in Newham.

The greatest factors of importance to parents about the childcare they used were the quality of provision, safety and suitably qualified staff.

Using a setting very local to their home was placed at great importance, in particular as a larger majority of parents walked to the childcare setting they used.

Whilst the sample on the whole had a household income below £30,000 and below the national average, the costs of childcare for parents in this sample would seem to be affordable. Most parents surveyed were using day nurseries, which were found to be the most expensive type of childcare used, most paying between £151- £200 per week, rather than using cheaper options. Generally most parents had the intention of using the same childcare, even if costs were to increase.

It should be noted that some parents did raise concerns about the cost of childcare and with such a large part of the sample using formal childcare the opinions about affordability may be biased, therefore further targeting of parents currently not using formal childcare would be recommended for the future work this year, to gauge their views further on childcare affordability.

Just over half of parents surveyed overall, felt their childcare needs were being met, when broken down by the age, there is a trend amongst those with very young children, under one year old, for very large numbers of parents to feel that their childcare needs are being met. Whilst levels were still high amongst parents of children under five years

old, the level at which parent's needs are being met declines as the age of the child increases.

Childcare needs were being met the least by parents of children aged 11-16 years old. In particular parents attributed this to the timing of childcare provision. Despite this satisfaction levels about childcare in Newham amongst parents surveyed, was high.

Parents predominantly found out about childcare from the Internet and Early Start programmes, and to a lesser extent from the Children's Information Service, Job Centre Plus, schools and Children's Centres.

PART 4 CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND FURTHER WORK

The report has now looked at in details the childcare market in Newham. It has examined the profile of residents in Newham, the current supply of childcare and mapped this against current and future demands of parents/carers and children.

Some gaps in provision have been identified, which the local authority would need to work to address.

The specific gaps that have been identified are as follows:

Affordability gap

All prices for childcare in Newham are within the Government's guidelines for affordable childcare and average prices do not exceed the threshold for claiming the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit. Many Newham families earn below the national income levels and should therefore qualify for support through the tax credit system. However, although the prices of all types of childcare in Newham are much lower than those recorded for outer London, parents are still referring to cost as a barrier to accessing formal childcare.

CAP has aided the cost of flexible care and made it affordable; however, the concern amongst childcare providers is the period after December 08 where this subsidy ends. Providers are being subsidised to meet parents'/carers' needs in terms of flexibility and affordability, but this would not be sustainable without the CAP funding.

There is a generally a low take up of the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit, and it is recommended that the local authority further promote this financial support in partnership with key partners and childcare providers.

Further targeting of parents currently not using formal childcare would be recommended for the future work this year, to gauge their views further on childcare affordability.

Suitability/accessibility

Early indications suggest that there is a lack of awareness of childcare available to children with additional needs.

Further consultation with parents with children with additional needs is recommended to establish the full picture. In addition, childcare providers should be consulted on inclusion perhaps using the users of the 2 year olds pilot scheme.

Time gap

Childcare provision for children under 5 is typically open from 7.30am or 8am to 6pm or 6.30 pm Monday to Friday. In many childcare settings, times are flexible and no major need for different times of operation for this age group has been expressed.

Childcare provision for children aged 5-14 (18 with additional needs) are usually open between 3pm and 6pm or 6.30pm. During holidays this provision is available between 8am and 6pm or 6.30pm.

When consulting children in this age range on the times that they attend out of school care, it was evident that they were satisfied with the time spent in out of school care.

A small percentage of parents with children over the age of 5 stated that they would like to use childcare before 7am and after 6pm, but the majority of surveyed parents are either using or wanting to use childcare between 8am and 6pm.

Age range gap

It is evident that there are low levels of childcare for all age groups compared to outer London figures. However, large vacancy rates also indicate that provision is available across the borough.

A particular gap identified is provision available for children over the age of 8, where provision levels are very low. However, many alternative activities are available for this particular age group such as out of hours learning activities and the development of open access play.

Further consultation with children over the age of 8 will take place to ensure sufficient activities to meet their needs.

Type gap

When asking parents about the type of childcare they would like and when they would like to use it, crèche provision was the prevalent answer. Parents would like to use crèche provision much more than currently used.

In addition, parents/carers' also stated that they would like to use council nurseries much more than current use.

The above gaps in types of childcare would suggest that parents would like to use services that are perceived to be free or at a lower cost.

Location gap

Early indications showed that for children under the age of 5, there are gaps in the market in the wards of Boleyn, East Ham South and Plaistow North. However, mapping children's journeys to formal childcare it was evident that children under 5 in these particular wards were traveling to neighbouring or other wards in the borough to access provision.

Where levels of provision for children aged 8 and over are particularly low such as East Ham North, Beckton and Canning Town North, the development of open access play projects in the next financial year. Further investigation would be needed to ensure that this meet the needs of parents/carers and children in these particular areas.

Level of provision gap

Levels of childcare provision are lower than the outer London average across the borough. This is particularly true for the north east of the borough, where child population is higher than the average rate and where supply of childcare is lower than average. There is still spare capacity of childcare in this particular area.

However, parents from this particular area of the borough have not brought up the issue of lack of childcare.

Half of parents surveyed, were of the opinion that there was enough childcare in the borough and more than half agreed that it met their needs. The findings of the parents' surveys were that the younger the child, the better the childcare needs are being met. For parent with older children, 50% stated that their childcare needs were being met. Further investigation into needs of parents with older children would need to be carried out to establish how needs could be met.

Sustainability gap

With lower than outer London average prices, childcare providers in Newham have a lower turnover than providers in other outer London areas. This could have an impact of a childcare provision's sustainability.

However, the majority of childcare providers mentioned that the levels of fees they charge do allow them to be sustainable. Factors that affects sustainability mentioned were high running costs such as premises costs and higher staff costs.

Quality gap

Ofsted figures above point to a gap in quality of childcare in Newham compared with the rest of the country. Outstanding and good inspection results are a third lower in Newham than the national average. This could mean that parents would be seen to get provision of a lower quality.

When looking for childcare, parents/carers sited quality as a very important factor when choosing childcare. Poor quality was also one of the main reasons stated by parents when saying that their childcare needs were not being met.

Quality is being tackled through a variety of means and is being continuously monitored to tackle parents' concerns and to promote choice.

Awareness gap

Throughout this assessment, lack of awareness of Newham's Children's Information has been prevalent. Many parents/carers are unaware of its existence and function.

When surveyed, a large proportion parents stated that they could not find childcare easily.