



SCHOOLS' FORUM MEETING

Thursday 30th June 2022

Rutland Childcare Sufficiency Statement

The Childcare Act 2006 requires all Local Authorities (LA) in England to secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children). At the time of the assessment, Spring 2022, Rutland continues to maintain sufficient childcare places with 76% occupancy (691 places) and 24% (213 places) vacant.

Actions have been identified to further support the LA in meeting the Childcare Sufficiency Duty:

- 1: To reduce parental concerns raised over affordability of childcare by ensuring parents are well-informed, through a well-planned communication strategic approach, about the range of Early Education and Childcare financial entitlements that are available to them.
- 2: To increase accessibility to a childcare place for all children through a programme of support which provides confidence and capability to the sector so that there is a consistent approach to inclusion of children with additional needs within the Universal childcare offer.
- 3: To mitigate risk of future insufficient Early Education and Childcare places through identifying and promoting opportunities which support Providers in developing their own business models which are financially viable and meeting the requirements of Rutland families

The working party set up by Schools Forum to focus on Early Years continues to contribute to future developments within the sector.