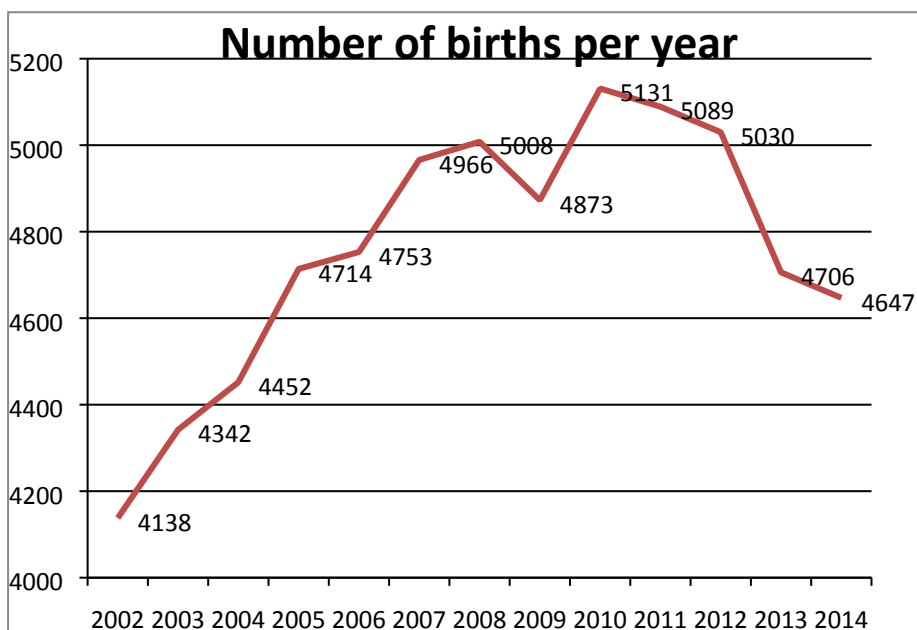


Strategic approach to ensuring sufficiency of childcare provision

Population

1. A key consideration for planning for the future of early years and childcare provision is the changing population. After rising steadily since the start of the Millennium, the number of children born each year in Southwark has reduced by 9.4% since 2010 – from 5131 to 4647.

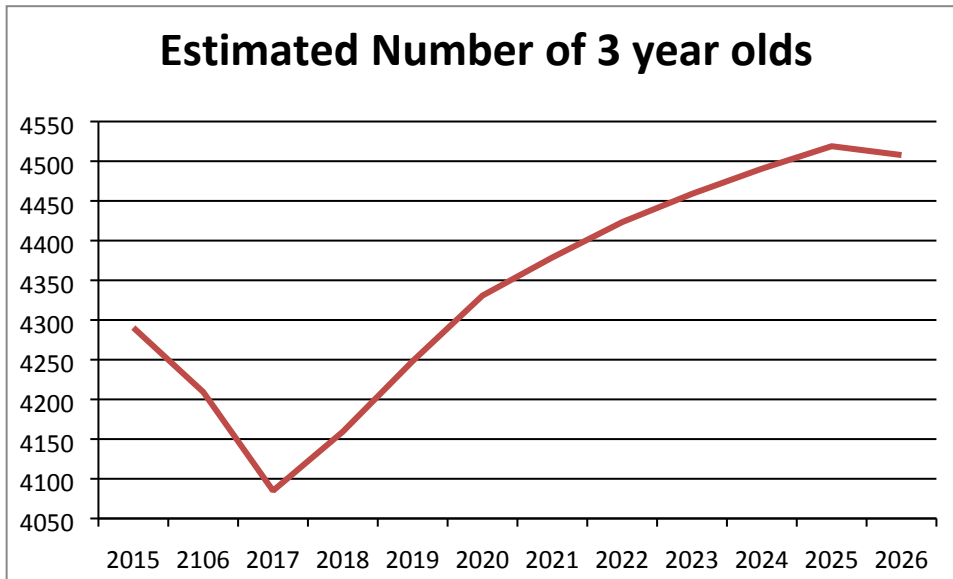
Table Two -: number of births per year in Southwark, 2002 – 2014



Source: ONS Birth Summary Data, January 2016.

2. Despite this trend, the Greater London Authority is still projecting an increase in the numbers of young children in Southwark over the next ten years due to new developments, inward migration and other factors. The number of three year olds, for instance, is expected to increase by 7.1% from 4209 in 2016 to 4508 in 2026. Significant growth (10%+) in numbers of three year olds is projected for the following wards (with a similar pattern for 0 to 5 year olds):
 - a. Cathedrals
 - b. East Walworth
 - c. Faraday
 - d. Newington
 - e. Rotherhithe
 - f. Surrey Docks.

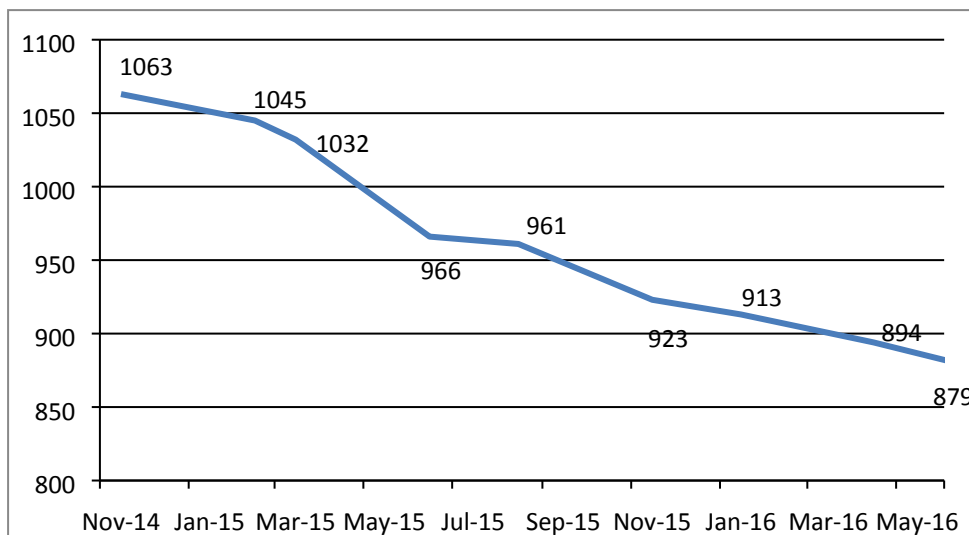
Table Three - estimated number of 3 year olds in Southwark, 2015-2026



Source: GLA

- While the number of children is predicted to rise, there appear to be a shift taking place amongst the population in terms of employment and worklessness that may affect demand for childcare. Amongst parents of young children in Southwark there seems to be a steady reduction in the number claiming workless benefits, certainly in the case of two year old children where regular data is supplied to Southwark by the Department for Education. It is unclear at this stage to what extent this is due to parents moving into employment, or workless parents moving out of borough. Since the two year old offer is targeted at these parents, the number of children eligible for a free two year old place is reducing over time.

Table Four - number of parents of two year old children receiving workless benefits



Current take up and supply

- Since 2004, all children have been entitled to a free early education place from the

term after they turn three years old. In September 2013, this was expanded to the 20% most disadvantaged two children as defined by national criteria based on workless benefits and expanded further to include the 40% most disadvantaged children from September 2014.

5. In Southwark, record numbers of children are now receiving a free nursery place, with a total of 8,300 2, 3 and 4 year olds taking up their free entitlement.

Table Five - children in free provision in Southwark, 2011-16

Year	Two year olds in free provision	Three year olds in free provision	Four year olds in free nursery provision	(number of 3 & 4 year olds combined)	Total 2, 3 and 4 year olds in free provision
2011	N/A	3120	3510	6630	6630
2012	N/A	3120	3450	6570	6570
2013	N/A	3300	3670	6970	6970
2014	620	3450	3580	7030	7650
2015	970	3510	3650	7160	8130
2016	1,140	3540	3620	7160	8300

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-childcare-and-early-years>

All figures based on annual early years and school censuses, conducted in January

6. Southwark has the highest take up of two year old places amongst the 14 inner London boroughs, with 68% of eligible children taking up a free place

Table Six - Percentage of eligible two year olds in provision

	2015	2016
Southwark	54	68
Inner London	40	53
London	46	57
England	58	68

7. Amongst three year old children, Southwark take up of 80% is in line with inner London at 79%. For four year old children, an estimated 86% of children are receiving a free early education place, compared with 85% for inner London.
8. A pressure likely to increase demand for provision is the new 30 hours offer for working parents of three and four year old children, due to be implemented from September 2017. The Department for Education estimates (June 2016) that 1700 children in Southwark children will be eligible to receive this additional entitlement, which amounts to an extra 10 hours per week.
9. This does not mean that the equivalent of an additional 1700 places at 10 hours per week will be needed to meet demand. Many children are already in provision for more than 15 hours, the key difference is that under the new scheme additional hours will be paid for by the Government (via the Council) rather than by the parent. In the January 2016 early years and school census, 1,032 three and four year children were in provision for more than 20 hours per week, of which 755 were in provision for more than 30 hours. That would suggest that the actual increase in demand for additional hours for three and four year olds could be for between 700 and 1000 children.

10. There are vacancies in nurseries and with childminders for 2, 3 and 4 year olds across the borough which indicates broad sufficiency of early education and childcare for 2 to 4 year olds. For instance, there were at least 580 part time nursery place vacancies in school nursery classes in January 2016. However provision is not equally spread across the borough. The number of nursery providers per ward varies as does the number of places provided.

Table Seven: Nursery providers by ward

Ward	Schools with nursery provision	Private, voluntary and independent early years settings	Total number of nursery settings	Three year olds attending provision in ward
Peckham	4	4	8	274
The Lane	2	9	11	248
East Dulwich	6	6	12	223
Camberwell Green	4	3	7	207
Riverside	5	4	9	204
East Walworth	6	4	10	199
Newington	3	6	9	188
Grange	3	2	5	187
Peckham Rye	1	9	10	186
Brunswick Park	3	6	9	178
South Camberwell	2	7	9	177
Chaucer	1	7	8	163
Rotherhithe	4	2	6	162
Livesey	3	6	9	157
Cathedrals	6	3	9	153
Nunhead	2	4	6	121
Village	0	6	6	115
Faraday	1	3	4	110
Surrey Docks	3	3	6	104
College	1	3	4	100
South Bermondsey	1	2	3	73

11. Likewise there are variations in the proportion of children taking up free provision in different parts of the borough. Ward level figures have to be treated with caution – for instance they do not include all independent schools, or take into account children attending provision in neighbouring boroughs (which affects some wards more than others). Subject to this caveat, it appears that the proportion of three year old children taking up a free place is lower than Southwark average in the following wards: College, Village, Surrey Docks, Faraday, South Camberwell, Cathedrals, Peckham Rye, East Dulwich, South Bermondsey, Rotherhithe, The Lane and Camberwell Green.
12. The position is less clear for children under two. There is no entitlement to provision for any children under two, and Ofsted no longer specify the number of baby places that providers can provide so data is no longer available on this. Baby places are more expensive to provide than places for older children, as staffing ratios are higher

for this age range. With the national push to provide places that meet the free education entitlement for 2, 3 and 4 year olds, some providers have switched from providing baby places to increasing the number of places for older children for whom funding is available. There is little the Council can do to directly influence this, but the role of childminders in providing childcare for babies is important. The Early Years Quality Improvement Team is supporting new childminders to register, but there continue to be childminding vacancies and not all parents appreciate that childminders can provide good quality education and childcare. The new marketing campaign to promote understanding of childminding amongst parents is intended to address this.

Quality of provision

13. Early years and childcare providers are required to register with Ofsted and are subject to inspection under the Common Inspection Framework for Education, Skills and Early Years. The quality of early years provision is critical because research indicates that children only benefit from early years education if it is of good quality. It also has a direct impact on supply, as Local Authorities cannot fund free places at settings judged as Inadequate by Ofsted.
14. The proportion of Southwark early years and childcare settings judged as Good and Outstanding at the time of their most recent inspection increased from 70% to 82% between 31 August 2012 and 31 March 2016 (latest published figures).

Table Eight: Percentage of active early years settings good or better at time of last inspection

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Southwark	70	73	74	82	82
Lambeth	68	70	69	78	76
Lewisham	71	71	72	77	76
London	74	75	76	84	83
National	74	77	80	85	86

15. Southwark's Early Years Quality Improvement Team is continuing to provide support and challenge to early years settings to drive improvement. In a context of more limited resources, this support is being targeted at those settings that are most in need as a result of being judged as Requires Improvement or Inadequate by Ofsted.

Strategy for developing new childcare places

16. Within Southwark there appears to be sufficient capacity to meet current demand for free two, three and four year old places, and to meet some increase in demand. Southwark has a well developed early education and childcare market, which with the support and guidance of the Council has responded well to previous changes in national policy that have increased demand, including the increase of free hours from 12.5 to 15 in and the introduction of free two year old places.
17. Local Authorities do not have a responsibility to directly provide places and their ability to directly influence the childcare market has been diminished through reductions in Central Government funding, including the ending of dedicated early years funding streams such as the Sure Start Grant. Nevertheless the Council has a responsibility to do as much as is 'reasonably practicable' to secure sufficient provision, and Southwark is committed to using all levers available to it to encourage new places where needed.

18. Areas where the early years population is projected to grow have been identified above, as have areas with lower than average take up. There are a number of wards where both of these apply including Cathedrals, Faraday, Rotherhithe and Surrey Docks, and these would be priority areas for new development. However this does preclude supporting projects in other areas.
19. In the absence of ongoing dedicated funding streams to support new early years and childcare developments, Southwark will:
- Explore opportunities within new development and regeneration programmes to create additional early years and childcare capacity
 - Explore opportunities within the current schools estate and Council buildings to create additional early years and childcare capacity
 - Consider on a case by case basis requests for one off grants to support providers to create new places in areas where places are needed.
20. In line with this approach, the Council has supported the opening of new and expanded early years and childcare provision in the past two years as follows:

Setting	Amount of Council funding	Outcomes	Ward
1st Place Children and Parents Centre	£150,000	New nursery opened Summer 2015 in Lorrimore Square, SE17 with 50 full time places	Newington
Camberwell After School Project	£38,000	New provision opened April 2016, including 24 new two year old places	Camberwell Green
Gumboots Community Nursery	£42,945	internal and external refurbishment to maximise space, including outdoor play area to create 16 new two year old places	East Dulwich
Cherry Tree Montessori	£77,109	internal and external refurbishment to maximise space, including extension to rear of building to create 24 new two year old places	East Dulwich
Bessemer Grange Primary School	£192,000	New two year old provision and additional nursery class for 3 & 4 year olds opened September 2015	South Camberwell
Charlotte Sharman Primary School	£14,225	New two year old provision opened January 2016	Cathedrals
St James C of E Primary School	£32,750	New two year old provision opening September 2016	Riverside
Surrey Square Primary School	£72,000	New two year old provision opening September 2016	East Walworth

21. Other planned projects include the following:

Setting	Amount of Council funding	Outcomes	Ward
Bermondsey Community Nursery	£194,589	Internal and external refurbishment to maximise space to create 20 new two year old places (date tbc)	Riverside
Charles Dickens Primary School	£467,775	New build two year old provision and replacement nursery provision (date tbc)	Cathedrals
Aylesbury Nursery	tbc	New 72 place nursery planned to replace and expand current 36 place Aylesbury Day Nursery (completion early 2020). There is also provision for two further nursery sites in the Aylesbury Masterplan	Faraday
Elephant Park	N/A	New nursery being developed by Lend Lease as part of Section 106 Agreement with Council (date tbc)	East Walworth

22. Discussions are continuing with a number of other providers about their plans for new provision.