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## 1 Introduction

This gap analysis is based on the information contained in Southwark's detailed Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, designated "draft 3" and prepared in January 2008. The report is organised as follows:

Section 2 addresses the following cross-borough issues:

- Supply and demand
- Age
- Specific needs of disabled children
- Location
- Timing and flexibility
- Affordability
- Working parents
- Black and minority ethnic groups

Section 3 takes each community council area in turn, and addresses the following key points:

- Type of care
- Age
- Affordability
- Timing and Flexibility
- Specific needs of disabled children
- Location
- Other key issues (where appropriate)

Section 4 provides a one page summary of the key known gaps.

## 2 Cross-borough issues

### 2.1 Supply and demand

Although there are vacancies in the borough, it appears that parents may have difficulty accessing them.

#### Summary of Evidence:

- A relatively high proportion of childcare providers in the borough have vacancies: 63% of providers have an average of 3 childcare vacancies – a total of 1275 vacancies (see table 1).
- Southwark can be relatively confident that the current level of provision will not shrink. Page 21 “Provider Opinions” indicates that around 78% of providers agree that their business is sustainable, with no providers expecting to reduce in size or to close completely.
- However, feedback from parent interviews indicates that, for some parents at least, finding facilities which have vacancies is problematic (see page 57).
- Table 7 indicates that the majority of parents, in all age groups feel that there is “not very much” or “no” provision for their children.

This may be because the right *type* of childcare is not being offered in the right *location*. However, more detail regarding the demand and supply of childcare in specific areas is set out in section 3 below.

### 2.2 Age

In spite of comments above regarding the relatively high number of vacancies in Southwark, there appears to be demand for increased provision at all ages. Taking all the evidence together, we can tentatively draw the following conclusions:

- Access to affordable childcare is the main problem for the 0-4 age group (which means this age group tends to make more use of informal care).
- Choice of childcare is the main problem for older age groups.

#### Summary of Evidence:

- A relatively high proportion of childcare providers in the borough have vacancies: 63% of providers have an average of 3 childcare vacancies – a total of 1275 vacancies (see table 1).
- However, Table 7 indicates that the majority of parents, in all age groups, feel that there is “not very much” or “no” provision for their children.
- Table 3 indicates that:
  - most of the families who choose informal care have children aged between 0 and 4 (41% of all users of informal care)
  - 20% of families who use informal care have children aged between 5 and 10.
  - 29% of families who use informal care have children aged between 11 and 14.
- Although Table 7 indicates that parents tend to feel that their choice of provision decreases as their children get older, this finding needs to be balanced with Table 10, which indicates that:
  - demand for childcare is highest for children aged 0-4
  - concern over cost is also most marked for this age group.

### 2.3 Specific needs of disabled children

Initial evidence suggests that the needs of disabled children are not being met effectively. Data suggests that this is principally about availability of places that can meet the needs of these children. Further information is required to more accurately understand the barriers faced by this group.

#### Summary of Evidence:

“Parents of a child with a disability or special need were more likely to say that they didn’t want to use childcare, or couldn’t find childcare that would accept their child. In free-text questions a number of parents expressed their concerns that childcare settings would be able to care appropriately for the special needs of their child” p35

## 2.4 Location

Chart 11 and table 10 indicate that respondents are generally relatively satisfied with the location of services. However, there are some key pockets of concern which will be dealt with separately below.

## 2.5 Timing and flexibility

Although the feedback is mixed, on balance the available evidence indicates that timings and flexibility do not represent key gaps for Southwark.

### Summary of Evidence:

- Feedback from some interviews with parents (see page 57) suggests that there may be some difficulties with flexible timings.
- However, chart 13 indicates that respondents are generally very happy with the times that childcare is available. Responses ranged from 76% (Walworth) of people agreeing that childcare is available at the right time, to 90% (Peckham).
- Comments on p45 reinforce the suggestion that the number of people who find timings problematic is relatively low: “a small number of the parents in the household interview had stopped working, or found it difficult to start because their employer would not offer sufficient flexibility to balance parenthood and work”.

## 2.6 Affordability

Table 24 indicates that across Southwark as a whole, the affordability of childcare is not an overwhelming problem; only 16% of those who were unable to find childcare through the Children’s Information Service felt that cost was a key barrier. **[NOTE: We were quite surprised to come to this conclusion. Do you have any other data that we can use to triangulate this finding – for example, data on average fee rates or take up of working tax credits which we could compare with London-wide averages?]** However, this issue appears to vary for different parts of the borough and will be explored in more detail below.

## 2.7 Working parents

The available evidence indicates that the majority of parents who are currently not in employment or training would like to start. However, the most important factor affecting people’s decision to take paid work relates to concerns over workplace flexibility.

### Summary of Evidence:

Chart 15 indicates that the most important factor affecting people’s decision to take paid work is work-place flexibility (91% of respondents feel that this is a factor). Other key factors are as follows:

- the availability of suitable employment (75%);
- concern about spending enough time with children (75%);
- refusal to leave children with anyone other than friends and family (71%);
- desire to look after children myself (70%);
- lack of qualifications/experience to get the job I want (70%)

The least important factors appear to be:

- My parents wouldn’t like it if I worked (17%)
- I have difficulties due to my health condition/disability (23%)
- I care for someone who has as health condition disability etc. (29%)
- I have personal or family troubles that need to be sorted out (39%)
- I am concerned about leaving the security of benefits (39%)

Information on page 44 indicates that two thirds of parents who attend jobcentre plus would like to get a job and 40% would like to start some form of education or training. The vast majority (83% overall and 93% for children aged 0-4) of parents who are planning to start work would need childcare.

## 2.8 Black and minority ethnic groups

Information on page 23 explains that the available data suggests that there are no statistically significant differences in the take up of childcare among different ethnic groups. However, it appears that Black British and Asian children were less likely to claim the minimum free entitlement in 2007.

## 3 Gaps by community council area

### 3.1 Bermondsey

#### 3.1.1 Type of care

There is likely to be increasing demand for nursery places, holiday schemes and play schemes in Bermondsey.

##### Summary of Evidence:

- Bermondsey has a moderate provision of all types of service; when compared to other community council areas, there appears to be neither a large over- or under-provision (see maps 8 and 9).
- Most households make use of family, friends and nurseries (see chart 3).
- However, this level of provision may not be meeting demand. Bermondsey ranks 6<sup>th</sup> (out of eight sub-local areas) in relation to parents stating that they have “not very much” or “no” choice of childcare provision (see table 8).
- Only 28% of households in Bermondsey make use of childcare. This means it has the lowest take up of childcare of any of the community council areas (see chart 2).
- Bermondsey is likely to see the greatest increase in demand for nursery places, holiday schemes and play groups (see chart 18).

#### 3.1.2 Age

See section on cross-borough gaps above.

Unable to find any information on a sub-local level regarding age gaps.

#### 3.1.3 Affordability<sup>1</sup>

Although the feedback is mixed, on balance, it appears that Bermondsey does not present important gaps in relation to the affordability of childcare.

##### Summary of Evidence:

- One of the key reasons why parents in Bermondsey felt their choice was limited related to finding services which were affordable (see table 9).
- The latent class analysis set indicates that cost may be one of the key concerns for parents living in places like Bermondsey. However, this information is not specific to Bermondsey, and is drawn from evidence which is based on a number of assumptions (see tables 12-14)
- However, chart 12 indicates that respondents in Bermondsey are generally happy with the cost of childcare: 82% of respondents agree that the cost of their childcare is reasonable.
- Parents who chose not to use childcare (table 11); only 6% felt that that cost was the key reason for their decision.

#### 3.1.4 Timings and flexibility

This does not appear to be a key gap for Bermondsey. Chart 13 indicates that around 83% of respondents in Southwark felt that childcare was available at the right times.

#### 3.1.5 The specific needs of disabled children

See section on cross-borough gaps above.

Unable to find any information on a sub-local level regarding the needs of disabled children.

<sup>1</sup> Although table 15 indicates that around 96% of the eligible population in Bermondsey is taking up the minimum free entitlement, we have disregarded this piece of evidence because we understand that there is some doubt in relation to these findings (see comments on page 40).

### 3.1.6 Location

Although the location of childcare in Bermondsey could probably be improved, the balance of evidence suggests that this location of childcare does not present a key gap for this sub-local area.

#### Summary of Evidence:

- Table 9 indicates that, for parents in Bermondsey, finding services in the right location is an important barrier to choice (second only to “finding out about services”).
- However, children in Bermondsey have the shortest journey to take up minimum free entitlements; 0.75 km on average (see page 39)
- Chart 11 indicates that respondents to the SHPS are generally satisfied with the location of childcare; just 5% of respondents felt that they were “fairly dissatisfied” and none indicated that they were “very dissatisfied”.

## 3.2 Borough & Bankside

### 3.2.1 Type of care

The available evidence suggests that there is an important need to increase all childcare provision in Borough and Bankside, with the following types of provision being particularly in demand: after school clubs, youth clubs, nurseries, holiday schemes, childminders, after school-based activities and play groups.

#### Summary of Evidence:

- Map 8 indicates that Borough & Bankside may have slightly less provision of the full range of childcare than other sub-localities in the borough. This is especially notable in the North-West of Borough & Bankside<sup>2</sup>.
- This finding is reinforced by table 8 which indicates that parents in Borough and Bankside expressed the second-highest degree of concern about the choice of services available to them: 83% stated they had “no” or “not very much” choice.
- Chart 20 indicates that there are likely to be increases in service take up in Borough and Bankside, particularly in the following types of childcare (in priority order): after school clubs, youth clubs, nurseries, holiday schemes, childminders, after school-based activities, play groups, other types of childcare.

### 3.2.2 Age

See section on cross-borough gaps above.

Unable to find any information on a sub-local level regarding age gaps.

### 3.2.3 Affordability

There is evidence to suggest that the affordability of childcare is an important gap in Borough and Bankside<sup>3 4</sup>.

#### Summary of Evidence:

- 33% of respondents did not feel that the costs of childcare were reasonable. This places Borough and Bankside “mid-table” as regards affordability (chart 12).
- Table 9 indicates that one of the two most important reasons why parents in Borough and Bankside feel unable to exercise choice relates to the availability of affordable provision.
- Table 10 reinforces this finding: 23% of parents who do not use childcare cite affordability as a key barrier (second only to “don’t need to use childcare”).
- The latent class analysis indicates that cost may be one of the key concerns for parents living in and around this sub-local area. However, this information is not specific to Borough and Bankside, and is drawn from evidence which is based on a number of assumptions (see tables 12-14).

### 3.2.4 Timings and flexibility

Timings and flexibility would not appear to be a key gap for Borough and Bankside. Chart 13 indicates that around 78% of respondents in Borough and Bankside feel that childcare is available at the right times for them.

### 3.2.5 Specific needs of disabled children

See section on cross-borough gaps above.

Unable to find any information on a sub-local level regarding the needs of disabled children.

<sup>2</sup> However, it should be noted that Map 3 indicates that this is the area of the borough with the lowest number of families (based on HM Revenue and Customs’ data regarding take up of child benefit by location).

<sup>3</sup> Although we acknowledge that affordability is an even greater difficulty for some other community council areas.

<sup>4</sup> Table 15 indicates that around 83% of eligible families in Borough & Bankside take up the minimum free entitlement, which ranks them in the “bottom-half” of the table by this measure. However we have set aside this piece of evidence as we understand there are some doubts about this information (see page 40).

### 3.2.6 Location

The evidence regarding location of childcare is mixed. However, on balance it would appear that location is not a *key* concern in Borough and Bankside.

#### Summary of Evidence:

- Table 9 indicates that the third largest barrier to parents being able to exercise choice relates to location.
- However, Chart 11 indicates that the majority of respondents are happy with the location of childcare.

However, when combined with the findings of 2.2.1 “Type of care” above it would seem reasonable to conclude that problems with location may be one of a number of factors contributing to an overall need for increased provision in Borough and Bankside.

### 3.2.7 Other relevant issues for Borough and Bankside

Chart 10 indicates that parents in Borough and Bankside have greater concerns about the quality of childcare than any of the other sub-local areas. Borough and Bankside scores minus 17 on this measure, with the average score being in the region of minus 4.



## 3.3 Camberwell

### 3.3.1 Type of care

Households in Camberwell make less use of childcare than almost all other community council areas; there is no evidence to suggest that demand will increase significantly in the future.

#### Summary of Evidence:

- 33% of households in Camberwell make use of childcare; only Bermondsey has a lower take up of childcare (see chart 2).
- Households in Camberwell are especially unlikely to take up school-based activities (see chart 3).
- Parents in Camberwell feel they have much more choice of childcare options than any of the other wards. When asked about the degree of choice available, 83% of respondents in Camberwell chose “yes, a lot of choice”. This is significantly higher than the ward which came second on this scale (Nunhead and Peckham Rye) where 55% of parents agreed that they had a lot of choice (see table 8).

Table 22 suggests that changes in childcare use will be relatively limited in Camberwell when compared with other wards. It appears that there is likely to be a small increase in the number of people making use of childminders, and after school clubs. There is likely to be a small reduction in the number of people making use of nursery places.

### 3.3.2 Age

See section on cross-borough gaps above.

*Unable to find any information on a sub-local level regarding age gaps*

### 3.3.3 Affordability<sup>5</sup>

Overall, affordability does not appear to be an important concern for parents in Camberwell.

#### Summary of Evidence:

- A small proportion of respondents felt they had “little” or “no” choice of childcare. Of these respondents, most (5%) cited affordability as the key barrier (see table 9). However overall the numbers involved are too low to be of real concern.
- Around 78% of respondents agree that the cost of their childcare is reasonable, which means that Camberwell ranks among the better performers by this measure (see chart 12).
- Table 11 indicates that only 1% of respondents to the Southwark Household Parents Survey found childcare in Camberwell to be too expensive.

### 3.3.4 Timings and flexibility

Timings and flexibility would not appear to be a key gap in Camberwell. Chart 13 indicates that 85% of respondents in Camberwell feel that childcare is available at the right times.

### 3.3.5 The specific needs of disabled children

See section on cross-borough gaps above.

*Unable to find any information on a sub-local level regarding the needs of disabled children.*

<sup>5</sup> According to table 15, around 88% of the eligible population take up the minimum free entitlement, which means that take up is Camberwell is better than most other wards (Camberwell is joint third out of eight when ranked by this measure). However we have decided not to take this information into account as we understand there are some concerns about this data (see p40).

### 3.3.6 Location

The available evidence indicates that overall location of childcare is not an important gap for Camberwell.

Summary of Evidence:

- Table 9 suggests that only 2% of parents felt that the location of childcare was a barrier to access or choice of provision.
- Chart 11 which indicates that all respondents are satisfied with the location of their childcare; Camberwell performs better than all the other community council areas in this regard.

## 3.4 Dulwich

### 3.4.1 Types of care

The available evidence regarding gaps in types of care in Dulwich is a little mixed.

#### Summary of Evidence:

- Parents express a high need for services
  - Table 10 indicates that 62% of parents in Dulwich need to use childcare. This is higher than most other areas (only Rotherhithe has a higher score).
  - Chart 2 indicates that 52% of households in Dulwich make use of childcare; this is the third highest take up of childcare among community council areas in Southwark.
- There appears to be a limited local supply of services
  - Map 11 indicates that there is generally less childcare provision for all ages in Dulwich than in other parts of the borough.
  - Providers in Dulwich perceive their businesses to be less sustainable than in other areas.
- Yet parents still feel they have a reasonable degree of choice.
  - Table 8 indicates that parents in Dulwich tend to have more choice than the majority of other community council areas (although, even so, only 49% of parents in Dulwich felt they had sufficient choice).

In Cordis Bright's view, this mixed picture could be explained by parents in Dulwich making high use of services in neighbouring areas or boroughs (since Dulwich has borders with Lewisham, Lambeth and Bromley). However, we have no hard evidence to support this opinion.

On balance it appears that demand will increase a great deal in the future in Dulwich and that current provision is unlikely to meet this demand. In particular, there are likely to be gaps in school-based activities, childminders and holiday schemes.

#### Summary of Evidence:

Chart 23 indicates that Dulwich will experience a number of changes in the take up of childcare services in future. This area can expect large increases in the take up of after school clubs and other school-based activities, childminders and holiday schemes. There will also be some increase in the take up of breakfast clubs, youth clubs and nurseries.

### 3.4.2 Age

See section on cross-borough gaps above.

Unable to find any information on a sub-local level regarding age gaps

### 3.4.3 Affordability<sup>6</sup>

Affordability would not appear to be a key gap for families in Dulwich.

#### Summary of Evidence:

- Affordability was the second most important reason given by parents regarding limitations of choice in child-care, however, even so, this was only a concern for around 5% of parents.
- Chart 12 indicates that 81% of parents in Dulwich agree that the cost of their childcare is reasonable, ranking Dulwich among the better performers in this regard.

<sup>6</sup> According to table 15, in common with most other areas, a high proportion of eligible families (82%) make use of the minimum free entitlement in Dulwich. However, we have decided not to include this data in the gap analysis as we understand there are some doubts about the available information (see page 40)

### 3.4.4 Timings and flexibilities

Chart 13 indicates that 85% of parents in Dulwich feel that childcare is available at the right times.

### 3.4.5 The specific needs of disabled children

See section on cross-borough gaps above.

Unable to find any information on a sub-local level regarding the needs of disabled children.

### 3.4.6 Location

The location of childcare does not appear to be a key gap for families in Dulwich.

#### Summary of Evidence:

- Table 9 indicates that the main reason why parents feel they have a lack of choice in Dulwich relates to problems with location. However, even so, only 8% of respondents felt this was a difficulty.
- This is reinforced by Chart 11; no respondents from Dulwich indicated that they were dissatisfied with the location of their childcare provision.

## 3.5 Nunhead & Peckham Rye

### 3.5.1 Type of Care

There is high take up of childcare in Nunhead & Peckham Rye, particularly after school clubs, breakfast clubs, other school-based activities and childminders.

#### Summary of evidence:

- Nunhead & Peckham Rye has the second highest take-up of childcare in Southwark, with 56% of households using childcare (see chart 2).
- Chart 3 indicates that families make a lot of use of after school clubs, breakfast clubs, other school-based activities and childminders. They appear to make relatively limited use of holiday schemes.

However, there is evidence to suggest that this high level of demand will not continue.

#### Summary of evidence:

- Parents in Nunhead & Peckham Rye indicated that they have a relatively high degree of choice over childcare provision; 54% of parents feel they have a reasonable choice (only Dulwich appears to offer more choice).
- Providers in Nunhead & Peckham Rye tend to be less confident about the sustainability of their business than providers in most other parts of the borough.
- Chart 24 indicates that there is likely to be some change in the way that childcare services are taken up, with respondents indicating a slight down-ward trend in the amount of childcare provision that they use.

### 3.5.2 Age

See section on cross-borough gaps above.

*Unable to find any information on a sub-local level regarding age gaps*

### 3.5.3 Affordability<sup>7</sup>

On balance, the available evidence indicates that affordability is not a key gap for Nunhead & Peckham Rye.

#### Summary of evidence:

- Table 11 indicates that around 10% of parents in the area perceive childcare to be too expensive.
- However, table 8 indicates that just 5% of parents felt that the cost of childcare limited their choice of provision.
- Chart 12, indicates that 84% of respondents agree that the costs of their childcare is reasonable

### 3.5.4 Timings and flexibility

Timings and flexibility would not appear to be a key gap in Nunhead & Peckham Rye. Chart 13 indicates that 85% of respondents feel that childcare is available at the right times.

### 3.5.5 The specific needs of disabled children

See section on cross-borough gaps above.

*Unable to find any information on a sub-local level regarding the needs of disabled children.*

<sup>7</sup> Table 15 indicates that a good proportion (88%) of eligible families in Nunhead & Peckham Rye take up their minimum free entitlement place. However, we have decided not to include this data in the gap analysis as we understand there are some doubts about the available information (see page 40).

### 3.5.6 Location

On balance, the available evidence indicates that location of services is not a major concern for parents in Nunhead and Peckham Rye.

#### Summary of evidence:

- Maps 8 and 11 indicate that the northern part of Nunhead & Peckham Rye may have slightly less provision than other areas of Southwark, although the rest of this community council area appears to have a reasonable balance of services.
- Table 8 indicates that around 12% parents in Nunhead & Peckham Rye felt that location of services was a key factor in limiting their choice of childcare provision.
- However, table 11 indicates that only around 1% of parents perceive location of childcare services to be problematic.
- Chart 11 which indicate that most parents are satisfied with the location of childcare (only 7% of respondents indicated that they were “fairly dissatisfied”).

## 3.6 Peckham

### 3.6.1 Type of care

The available evidence indicates that there may be a slight under provision of childcare for families in Peckham, and that in the future, there are likely to be quite notable gaps in terms of after-school clubs, nurseries and holiday schemes.

#### Summary of Evidence:

- Only 1% of parents in Peckham perceive it to be difficult to find a place for their children or believe there to be no childcare available (see table 11).
- However, around 60% of parents in Peckham felt they had “little” or “no” choice about the childcare available to them (table 8).
- Chart 25 indicates that Peckham should expect an increase in the take up of childcare in the coming years. In particular, increases are most likely in after school clubs, nurseries and holiday schemes. Increases are also likely to occur in the take up of other school-based activities, play groups and childminders.

### 3.6.2 Age

See section on cross-borough gaps above.

*Unable to find any information on a sub-local level regarding age gaps*

### 3.6.3 Affordability<sup>8</sup>

The affordability of childcare appears to be a relatively important problem in Peckham.

#### Summary of Evidence:

- Around 24% of parents in Peckham perceive childcare to be too expensive. This is a high proportion compared to responses from other areas; only in Rotherhithe do a higher proportion of parents consider childcare provision to be more expensive (table 11).
- Chart 12 indicates that only 44% of parents agree that the costs of childcare are reasonable; this means that Peckham ranks as the “worst” performer; in all the other community council areas, respondents were more likely to state that the costs were reasonable.

### 3.6.4 Timings and flexibility

Chart 13 indicates that 90% of respondents in Peckham feel that childcare is available at the right time. By this measure, Peckham is the best performing community council area.

### 3.6.5 The specific needs of disabled children

See section on cross-borough gaps above.

Unable to find any information on a sub-local level regarding the needs of disabled children.

### 3.6.6 Location

Peckham appears to have greater difficulties with the location of childcare than all the other community council areas. However, even so, these difficulties do not appear to be affecting a large proportion of the population.

<sup>8</sup> Table 15 indicates that 80% of eligible families in the area take up their minimum free entitlement. Whilst this is a relatively high proportion, it still means that Peckham has one of the lowest take up rates in the Borough. However we have decided to set aside this piece of information as we understand there are some concerns about the data (see comments on page 40).

**Summary of Evidence:**

- The western part of Peckham appears to have a high level of vacancies which may suggest a degree of over-provision in the area. However, neighbouring areas in North Peckham may have a lack of supply (map 11).
- Table 9 indicates parents who felt their choice was limited indicated that location was a key limiting factor. This was the second most important issue highlighted, suggesting that this is an important challenge for parents. However, even so, only 9% of parents responded in this way.
- This finding is reinforced by Chart 11; it indicates that Peckham has greater difficulties regarding location than any of the other locality areas. However, even so, only 15% of respondents highlighted this issue.

**3.6.7 Other relevant gaps for Peckham**

Table 8 indicates that parents in Peckham may have more concerns about quality of provision than parents in other areas. 16% of those who felt that their choice of childcare was limited, indicated that quality of provision was the main limiting factor.



## 3.7 Rotherhithe

### 3.7.1 Type of care

There is a lot of evidence to indicate that there is a large gap in the supply of childcare provision in Rotherhithe across all age ranges, with the greatest need likely to be for school clubs and other school-based activities.

#### Summary of Evidence:

- Rotherhithe has the highest proportion of households (65%) making use of childcare (chart 2).
- However, Rotherhithe has fewer services than other parts of Southwark. In particular, holiday schemes, day nurseries, and parent & toddler groups/playgroups appear to be under-represented (see maps 8 and 9).
- Most provision is therefore made by families and friends (see chart 3).
- Table 8 which suggests that parents in Rotherhithe have less choice than any other community council area; 84% of respondents felt they had “little” or “no” choice about childcare in the area.
- At present, families in Rotherhithe make a lot of use of after school clubs and other school-based activities. Families in the area appear to make almost no use of crèches and play groups (see chart 3).
- Rotherhithe will witness large increases in demand for after school clubs, holiday schemes and other school-based activities (chart 19).
- Increases in demand for breakfast clubs, play groups, nurseries and “other” types of childcare are also likely (chart 19)

### 3.7.2 Age

See section on cross-borough gaps above.

*Unable to find any information on a sub-local level regarding age gaps*

### 3.7.3 Affordability<sup>9</sup>

The information regarding the affordability of childcare in Rotherhithe is mixed. However, on balance it would seem that efforts to improve affordability of childcare in Rotherhithe would be beneficial, but not essential.

#### Summary of Evidence:

- Chart 12 indicates that 84% of respondents are happy with the costs of childcare.
- Nevertheless, parents in Rotherhithe considered affordability to be the key barrier to their ability to exercise choice over childcare provision. 21% of respondents highlighted this issue; this is the highest response of any of the other community council areas (table 9).
- In addition, table 11 indicates that 34% of parents in Rotherhithe perceive childcare to be too expensive; this was the highest response received, with fewer parents perceiving cost to be a concern in all other parts of the borough.

### 3.7.4 Timings and flexibility

Chart 13 indicates that 85% of respondents in Rotherhithe feel that childcare is available at the right times.

### 3.7.5 The specific needs of disabled children

See section on cross-borough gaps above.

*Unable to find any information on a sub-local level regarding the needs of disabled children.*

<sup>9</sup> This finding regarding concerns over cost is of particular concern given that, according to table 15, Rotherhithe has the highest number of eligible parents taking up their minimum free entitlement (close to 100%). This suggests that improving affordability in this community council area may be challenging.

### 3.7.6 Location

The information regarding location is rather mixed, however, on balance, it does not appear to be an overwhelming concern for parents in Rotherhithe.

#### Summary of Evidence:

- Children using PVI settings appear to have further to travel in Rotherhithe (1.7km on average) than in any other community council area.
- However, table 9 indicates that only a relatively modest proportion of parents (12%) consider the location of services to have hindered their choice.
- In addition, chart 11 indicates that only 2% of parents have concerns about the location of their childcare provision. By this measure, Rotherhithe is one of the better performers.

## 3.8 Walworth

### 3.8.1 Type of care

Overall, it appears that provision in Walworth is largely meeting demand, with no particular gaps in types of care.

#### Summary of Evidence:

- Walworth has the third lowest take-up of childcare in Southwark; 35% of householders make use of childcare (see chart 2).
- Around 58% of parents in Walworth feel they have “little” or “no” choice of childcare. This results places them “mid-table” with 3 community council areas appearing to have more choice and 4 areas appearing to have less choice (see table 8)
- Map 10 indicates that there is a relatively high number of vacancies in Walworth.
- Chart 24 indicates that Walworth should not necessarily anticipate significant changes in demand. Any increase is likely to be in the take up of after school clubs, but the overall increases in demand are likely to be small.

### 3.8.2 Age

See section on cross-borough gaps above.

*Unable to find any information on a sub-local level regarding age gaps*

### 3.8.3 Affordability<sup>10</sup>

There is some evidence to suggest that affordability may be a concern for families in Walworth.

#### Summary of Evidence:

- Chart 12 indicates that 67% of respondents agree that the costs of childcare are reasonable, which ranks Walworth as “middle of the table” by this measure.
- 17% of parents who felt their choice was limited, felt that cost was the main barrier (see table 9). By this measure, Walworth is the second-most unaffordable area (after Rotherhithe – 21% of respondents).
- This finding is reinforced by table 11 which indicates that a moderate amount of parents (around 16%) perceive childcare to be too expensive.

### 3.8.4 Timing and flexibility

Chart 13 indicates that 76% of respondents in Walworth feel that childcare is available at the right time. This is actually the lowest response which was received to this question, suggesting that timing and flexibility is more problematic in Walworth than in any other area.

### 3.8.5 The specific needs of disabled children

See section on cross-borough gaps above.

*Unable to find any information on a sub-local level regarding the needs of disabled children.*

### 3.8.6 Location

On balance, location of services does not appear to be an important concern in Walworth.

<sup>10</sup> Table 15 shows that around 80% of eligible families in the area take up the minimum free entitlement. Whilst this is a high proportion, it still means that Walworth has the lowest take up when compared with the other community council areas. However, we have not included this information in the gap analysis as we understand there are some doubts about this data (see page 40).

Summary of Evidence:

- Map 11 indicates that most of Walworth is generally well-served, however it does highlight that East Walworth has a lower level of provision than most other parts of the borough.
- According to Chart 11, Walworth ranks as the second worst community council area as regards location. However, even so, only 8% of respondents raised this as a concern.

## 4 Summary of key known gaps

	Bermondsey	Borough & Bankside	Camberwell	Dulwich	Nunhead & Peckham Rye	Peckham	Rotherhithe	Walworth
Type of care	Nursery places; holiday schemes; play schemes	Increase all provision, especially: After school clubs and activities; youth clubs; nurseries; holiday schemes; childminders; playgroups.	-	Increase all provision, especially: school-based activities; childminders and holiday schemes.	-	After-school clubs, nurseries and holiday schemes.	Large gap in all types of provision across all age ranges. Greatest need likely to be for school-based activities.	-
Age <sup>11</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Affordability	-	More affordable provision needed.	-	-	-	Relatively important need for more affordable provision	-	Some concerns over affordability
Timing and flexibility <sup>12</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Some concerns over timing and flexibility.
Needs of disabled children <sup>13</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Location	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other issues	-	Concerns over quality	-	-	-	Concerns over quality	-	-

<sup>11</sup> It would be helpful to gather more data at a local level on age gaps.

<sup>12</sup> It would be helpful to gather more data at a local level on timings and flexibilities.

<sup>13</sup> It would be helpful to gather more data at a local level on the needs of disabled children