

There are a number of factors which can be regarded as the 'benchmark' of sufficiency. Local authorities will need to satisfy themselves that, so far as is reasonably practicable:

- There are sufficiency places overall in each sub-local authority area, having regard to demographic trends and to patterns of employment and of travelling to work
- There is sufficient flexibility, with places being available at the right times (for example, in the early morning, late evening, at weekends or during school holidays), to fit in with working patterns
- Places are sufficiently accessible, so that parents do not have to travel too far out of their way to access childcare
- Childcare places are high quality, in terms of judgments made by Ofsted
- There is sufficient range, with the balance between sessional and full daycare appropriate to meet the needs of parents identified through the assessment
- There is sufficient knowledge and information about supply of places
- Childcare places are sufficiently affordable
- Childcare places are sufficiently inclusive and meet particular needs
- Childcare places are sufficiently sustainable.

'Securing sufficient childcare' DCSF 2007