

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

2011



Richmond upon Thames
Children and Young People's Trust



Statutory Duty and Guidance

- Under the Childcare Act 2006 local authorities have a statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare to address the needs of working parents/carers in their area for children up to the age of 14 years, or until they reach the age of 18 years in the case of children with a disability.
- A core element of this duty is to complete a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment every three years which assesses the supply of, and demand for, childcare in the local authority and identifies any gaps in provision.
- The statutory guidance on undertaking a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment recommends that an action plan is also developed to help address the identified sufficiency gaps.



Method

- Sub Local Authority areas (SLA's)
 - For the purposes of the analysis the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames was divided into ten (SLAs).
 - These were determined by geography, the spread of total population of 0-19 year olds in each ward, the number of providers in each ward and needed to be conterminous with ward boundaries.
- Supply
 - information held by LBRuT was used to profile the childcare available in the borough.
 - The analysis looked at number of places, number of children per place, opening times, vacancies, fees and quality. It looked at differences in the childcare market by type of provider, locality, age of child and time of year.
 - The analysis of supply also included results from an online questionnaire sent to all childcare providers (and completed by 54) asking about their views of the childcare market.
- Demand
 - a telephone survey was conducted with 510 parents/carers in LBRuT to find out about their views and experiences of childcare. The questionnaire included (amongst others) questions on childcare that they use, reasons for not using childcare, improvements required, and financial support. The full report, completed by Ci Research, will be available online as a support document once the final report has been published.
- Specific Groups
 - three focus groups were held in October 2010 with: low income families in Barnes ; young parents living in Whitton/Healthfield area ; and families from Black and minority ethnic groups.
- Gap Analysis
- Action Plan
- Consultation
- Publication and Work to address action plan objectives

Gap Analysis - Objectives

- The Gap Analysis uses a range of data collected as part of the Assessment process to identify gaps in the childcare market in LBRuT.
- It seeks to quantify the scale and extent of gaps with the aim of helping the local authority and its partners decide which gaps to address as part of their action plan.



Gap Analysis – Objectives (cntnd)

- The Gap Analysis focuses on the following ‘types of gaps’:
- **Income gaps:** where there is a shortage of affordable childcare for the income groups in the local area
- **Time gaps:** where there is a shortage of childcare at a time that parents/carers wish to use childcare. These could be at certain times of the day or days of the week, or might be seasonal, for example, during school holidays
- **Age gaps:** where there is a shortage of childcare suitable to the needs and requirements of a certain age group
- **Type gaps:** where there is a shortage in the type of childcare for which parents/carers may be expressing a preference
- **Specific need gaps:** where there is a shortage of suitable places for children with a disability, or children with other specific needs or requirements, including those from particular faiths or community groups
- **Geographical gaps:** where a geographical area has a general shortage of supply

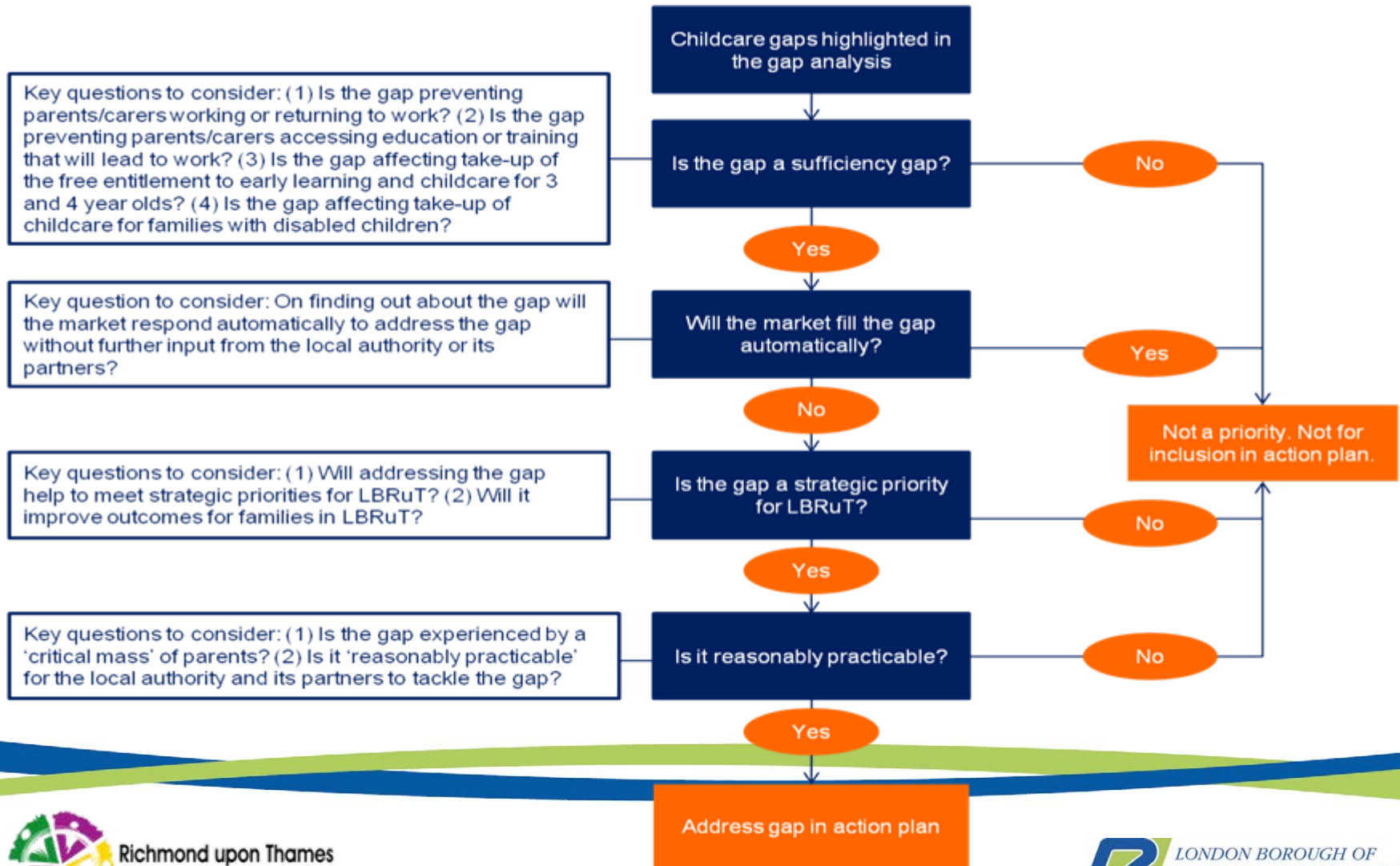


Developing an Action Plan

- The flowchart below shows the key questions considered in deciding whether to address a childcare gap in the childcare sufficiency action plan



Approach to Developing an Action Plan



Structure of the action plan

- **Objective:** this highlights the change in the childcare market that the local authority and its partners are hoping to achieve.
- **Actions:** this summarises the actions that will be undertaken to meet the objective
- **Responsible officer and partners:** this highlights who will be responsible for implementing the action and any other partners that will be involved in delivery
- **Timescales:** when the action will be completed by
- **Additional resources required:** whether additional resources are required to implement the action and, if so, which budget monies may be allocated from
- **Outcomes improvement:** whether meeting the objective will contribute to other strategic priorities within the local authority



Consultation

- Link :
http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/education_and_learning/early_years_education_and_childcare/childcare_sufficiency_assessment_consultation.htm
- Closes 12p.m Friday 18th February
- Form on website to make comments



Going Forward

- Publication of report in April 2011 after consultation has ended and any necessary amendments made.
- Signed off by Director of ECCS and Members.
- Action plan put into place

