Early learning and childcare statistics 2016

The provision and use of registered daycare of children and childminding services in Scotland as at 31 December 2016

Published September 2017

Contents

Key points

Increase in children registered with daycare of children services

2013:	2014:	2015:	2016:
207,220 children	**214,430** children	**216,740** children	**218,760** children

Overall, there was a decrease in children registered with childminding services, but an increase in 2016 compared to 2015

2013:	2014:	2015:	2016:
33,740 children	**34,680** children	**32,660** children	**33,440** children

2013-16
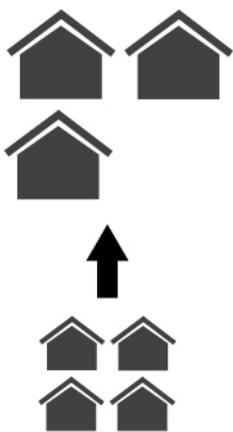
Slight decrease in number of daycare of children services from **3,783** to **3,733** services between 2013 and 2016

Services are getting bigger, average is up from **41.2** to **44.2** children

Total number of registered places (capacity) up from **154,920** to **165,010**
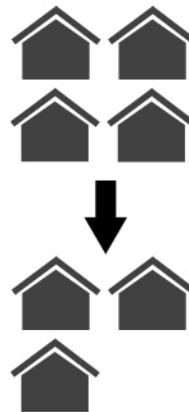
Decrease in number of childminding services **(6,185 to 5,669 = -8.3%)**

Average capacity of childminders stays the same **6.2** places per services

Total number of registered places decreased until 2015. Increase in 2016 to **35,180**

More daycare of children services provide funded places in 2016 compared to 2013

Nurseries: from **92%** to **94%**

Playgroups: from **69%** to **75%**

Flexibility in daycare of children opening times increased, part or whole days:

Choice of part or whole day sessions offered

2013:	2014:	2015:	2016:
44%	45.7%	47.7%	51.4%

Only part day sessions offered

2013:	2014:	2015:	2016:
51.8%	56.8%	48.6%	44.5%

More daycare of children services offer sessions during working hours during school holidays:

2013:	2014:	2015:	2016:
39.2%	41.3%	42.8%	44.2%
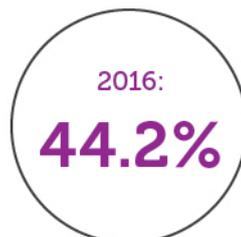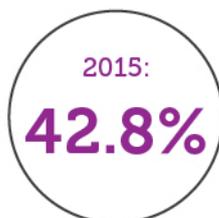
Early learning and childcare services are high quality services:

Daycare of children
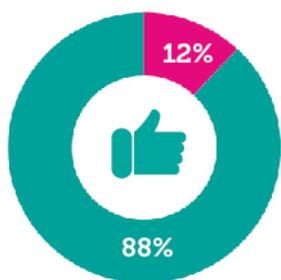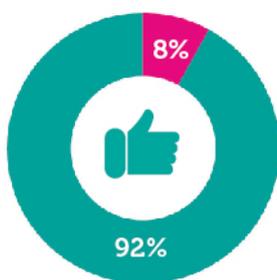
12%

88%

- quality good or better for all themes
- quality adequate or lower for at least one theme

Childminders

8%

92%

- quality good or better for all themes
- quality adequate or lower for at least one theme

Complaints upheld compared to last year:

45.3

Daycare of children services complaints per 1,000 services up to

8.3

Childminding services complaints per 1,000 services down to

Executive summary

Children experiencing early learning and childcare

- The number of children registered with early learning and childcare services[1] has increased again. 252,200 children were registered at 31 December 2016, an increase of 1.1% from 249,400 children registered in 2015.
- The number of children registered increased in both childminding and daycare of children services and the increase has mainly been in 2-year-old children as well as 6 and 7-11 year old children.

Number of registered services and service capacity

- At 31 December 2016 there were 9,402 registered early learning and childcare services in Scotland (3,733 daycare of children services and 5,669 childminding services), a decrease of 3.3% compared to 2015. The high drop of 4.8% in the number of childminders (-285 services) was in large part due to a procedural change in the Care Inspectorate relating to inactive services. Inactive services do not offer places to children and many of these inactive services cancelled their registration as they did not intend to offer a service in the future. This was reinforced by the increase in the number of children registered with childminding services. The small decrease in the number of daycare of children services (-39 services) was mainly due to a decrease in the number of playgroups.
- The overall capacity in early learning and childcare services increased by 1.9% from 196,440 in 2015 to 200,190 registered places available at 31 December 2016. Both the capacity in childminding services as well as daycare of children services increased in 2016. The increase in daycare of children capacity was due to an increase in capacity in nurseries (+3.4%) and out of school care services (+4.6%).
- Along with the increase in overall capacity, the average size of daycare of children services has also been increasing every year to 44.2 places in 2016.

Funded places and service availability

- The proportion of services providing funded early learning and childcare (ELC) has increased in 2016. At 31 December 2016, 93.9% of nurseries, 72.0% of children and family centres and 75.4% of playgroups provided funded places.
- More daycare of children services now offer whole-day sessions: almost 55% offered this option. Almost all private nurseries (96.3%) offered whole-day sessions. There was a particular increase in service provision in local authority nurseries: 34.1% of local authority nurseries offered the option of whole-day sessions, an 8.2 percentage point increase from last year.
- Breakfast and after school care has increased across all service categories, with childminders, private nurseries and out of school care services continuing to offer the highest levels of care before and after school. The proportion of services offering a service in the morning before school hours has increased from 55.1% in 2015 to 65.0% in 2016. The increase could be seen across all service types, but was particularly high in nurseries (especially in local authorities nurseries) and

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[1] This includes childminders and all daycare of children services except crèches

out of school care services. A higher proportion of services offered a service after school hours compared to the previous year (81.3% compared to 80.0% last year). There was a slight increase in the proportion of services available during school holidays.

Quality of services

- The quality of services remained high overall with 91.8% of childminders and 87.6% of daycare of children services found to be good or better for all quality themes. The proportions of childminders and daycare of children services with all grades weak or unsatisfactory remained very low.
- In general, childminders and nurseries had higher grades than out of school care or playgroups, while children and family centres consistently had the highest grades of all early learning and childcare service types.

Geographical variance in service provision

- **Urban – rural areas:** As in previous years there were more early learning and childcare services per population aged 0-15 years old in rural than in urban areas. However, services in urban areas were on average more than twice as large (in terms of maximum capacity) as services in rural areas. The fact that there is similar capacity available in urban compared to rural areas is supported by marginal differences in the rate of capacity per 10,000 population between urban and rural areas. In terms of service quality, there were no distinct differences between services located in rural or urban areas.
- **Levels of deprivation:** There were proportionately fewer childminders in the 10% most deprived areas (20.3 per 10,000 population 0-15 years old) than in the 10% least deprived areas (74.4 per 10,000 population 0-15 years old). There were differences in the nursery provision by provider sectors between areas with different levels of deprivation. The areas in the 30% least deprived zones had the lowest proportion of local authority nurseries, but the highest proportion of private nurseries.
- For childminding services the quality of services varied according to the levels of deprivation - as levels of deprivation decreased, the availability of high quality childminders increased. For daycare of children services as a whole, there was not a clear link between availability of high quality services and levels of deprivation.

Definitions of the terms we use

This publication is published together with a suite of data tables in Excel format. Throughout the report these are referred to as 'supporting data tables'. They are called 'Early Learning and Childcare Statistics 2016 – Supporting data tables' and can be downloaded from
http://www.careinspectorate.com/index.php/statistics-and-analysis
and
http://www.careinspectorate.com/index.php/publications-statistics/19-public/statistics

Definitions of the terms we use

The Care Inspectorate registers daycare of children services and childminders, which this report refers collectively to as **early learning and childcare services**[2]. For the purposes of this report, this includes services for school aged children such as out of school care services and holiday play schemes.

The report also includes, but is not restricted to, information on early learning and childcare for 3 and 4-year-olds and some 2-year-olds, who are funded under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

In this report, we present information on early learning and childcare services, including the following.

- The **number of daycare of children services and childminders** registered with the Care Inspectorate as at 31 December 2016 as well as over time and including provider sectors and registration status.
- **Children registered with early learning and childcare services:** this is calculated as the number of children registered with a service at 31 December 2016. This means the children that are on the books of services, but might not be attending a service every day or for part-day sessions only. There is an element of double counting to the registered children, as children can be registered with more than one service. The number of registered children could be higher than the capacity of services due to children not attending all at the same time (for example, part-time sessions).
- **Capacity**, which is maximum possible attendance in a service at any one time, measured by number of available registered places.
- Information on the quality of early learning and childcare services through analysis of **grading data** as at 31 December 2016.
- Information on those **complaints** in early learning and childcare services that were investigated by the Care Inspectorate between January and December 2016.
- Information on the number of services providing **funded places** under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 as at 31 December 2016.

Childminding is defined by the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 as looking after one or more children on domestic premises for reward for a period of more than two hours in any day.

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[2] When reporting on the number of children registered with early learning and childcare services, we would usually exclude crèche services, as they predominantly provide a drop-in service.

However, this does not include:
- where children are closely related to the carer
- the fostering of children
- caring for children in their own home.

By law, all childminders must be registered with the Care Inspectorate.

Childminding is usually provided from the childminder's home for a small number of children and often includes the childminder's own children. Childminders are self-employed and can operate in several ways.

- An individual may operate a childminding service alone.
- A partnership of two or more people may operate a single registered childminding service.
- Childminders who are separately registered may work together in the home of one of the registered childminding providers.
- A childminding service may have paid or unpaid assistants to help provide the childminding service, no matter which of the operating methods is used.

Daycare of children is defined by the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 as a service that provides care for children on non-domestic premises for a total of more than two hours a day and on at least six days a year. This includes nurseries, crèches, out of school care and playgroups. These services can be run by the public, private or voluntary sector and require to be registered with the Care Inspectorate whether or not parents pay for the service.

The definition does not include services for school aged children provided by schools. Nor does it include supervised activities where care is not provided, including sports clubs and uniformed activities such as the Scouts or Guides.

For the purposes of this statistical report, each of the registered daycare of children services has been assigned to one of the following categories of main service provision. This main service category is based on information supplied by the services in annual returns. If a service did not respond to an annual return in a given year, then their main category of service has been estimated by using annual return information submitted in a previous year, or from other information about the service, for example their conditions of registration.

Main service category	Description
Children and family centre	Sometimes called community nurseries, children and family centres usually provide a full-time service for children aged 0-5 years. The majority are provided by local authorities. They usually prioritise children with the greatest needs together with a range of support services for families. This also includes specialised services, such as women's aid, housing support related services or respite care and support.
Crèche	Provides drop-in care for children in order to enable adults to engage in activities such as further education, shopping or attending a meeting.
Holiday playscheme	Provides care for school aged children during the school holidays (this does not include activity-based clubs).
Nursery	Provides daycare facilities for children aged 5 years or under. The service is normally used by parents/carers on a regular basis rather than a drop-in basis and the service is provided as a minimum during the school term. Nurseries provide early learning and childcare for children not yet attending school. Nurseries can take several forms, such as a private nursery, a local authority nursery class or school or a nursery that is part of an independent school.
Nursery providing additional childcare such as a breakfast club or out of school care	As above but where additional childcare (for example, breakfast club or out of school care) is recorded as being provided.
Out of school care	Provides care for school aged children after the end of the school day and sometimes also before school starts. Many also provide a full-day service during the school holidays. Can be provided by the public, private or voluntary sectors, with many voluntary sector out of school clubs run by parent committees.
Out of school care providing additional childcare, such as a breakfast club or holiday play scheme	As above but where additional childcare (for example, breakfast club or holiday playscheme) is being provided.
Playgroup	As above but where additional childcare (for example, breakfast club or holiday playscheme) is being provided.
Other services	Mostly voluntary sector services run by a parent committee, often with parents taking part in a rota to assist paid staff.

Sector provider types in early learning and childcare services

Local authority providers: this includes services run by local authorities and three services run by health boards.

Private providers: private businesses are run by a sole trader, partnership or a limited company. Private providers operate on the basis of making a profit. Some offer funded places in partnership with the local authority. All childminders are run as private businesses.

Voluntary/not for profit providers: also known as the third sector, voluntary/not for profit providers generally re-invest any profits back into the services and include charities.

Funded early learning and childcare

Under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, local authorities have significantly increased the amount of early learning and childcare provided. The funding for all 3 and 4-year-old children initially increased from 475 to 600 hours per year and some eligible 2-year-olds also started receiving this level of funding. This will increase to 1140 hours per year by 2020. The Scottish Government issued statutory guidance to local authorities on implementing the expanded hours, but it is up to each local authority to decide which services in their area provide funded places.

Other types of funding for children to attend early learning and childcare services can be made by local authorities. However, most funding is under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act (2014) and therefore this publication only covers this type of funding, described as 'funded early learning and childcare' or 'funded places'.

1. Children registered with early learning and childcare services in Scotland

Overall, 252,200 children[3] were registered with an early learning and childcare service in 2016[4]. Of these, 218,760 (86.7%) children were registered with daycare of children services and 33,440 (13.3%) were registered with childminders (see figure 1 below and supporting table 1a). This is a rate of 27.6 children registered with early learning and childcare services by 100 population aged 0 -15. The rates vary considerably between age groups – assuming most children were only registered with one service, these rates suggest that almost all children aged 3 and 4 were registered with at least one service, compared to around half of the 2-year-old children and around a quarter of 5-year-old children. For more information, see supporting table 1a.

Figure 1: Number of children registered with early learning and childcare services, by main type of service, as at 31 December 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Childminding (left axis)	33,740	34,680	32,660	33,440
Children and family centre (left axis)	10,220	10,100	11,440	12,020
Holiday playscheme (left axis)	4,090	4,460	3,960	4,040
Out of school care (left axis)	42,210	46,080	47,890	50,830
Playgroup (left axis)	8,530	8,000	6,780	6,430
Other services (left axis)*	2,160	3,000	3,670	-
Nursery (right axis)	140,010	142,790	143,000	145,440
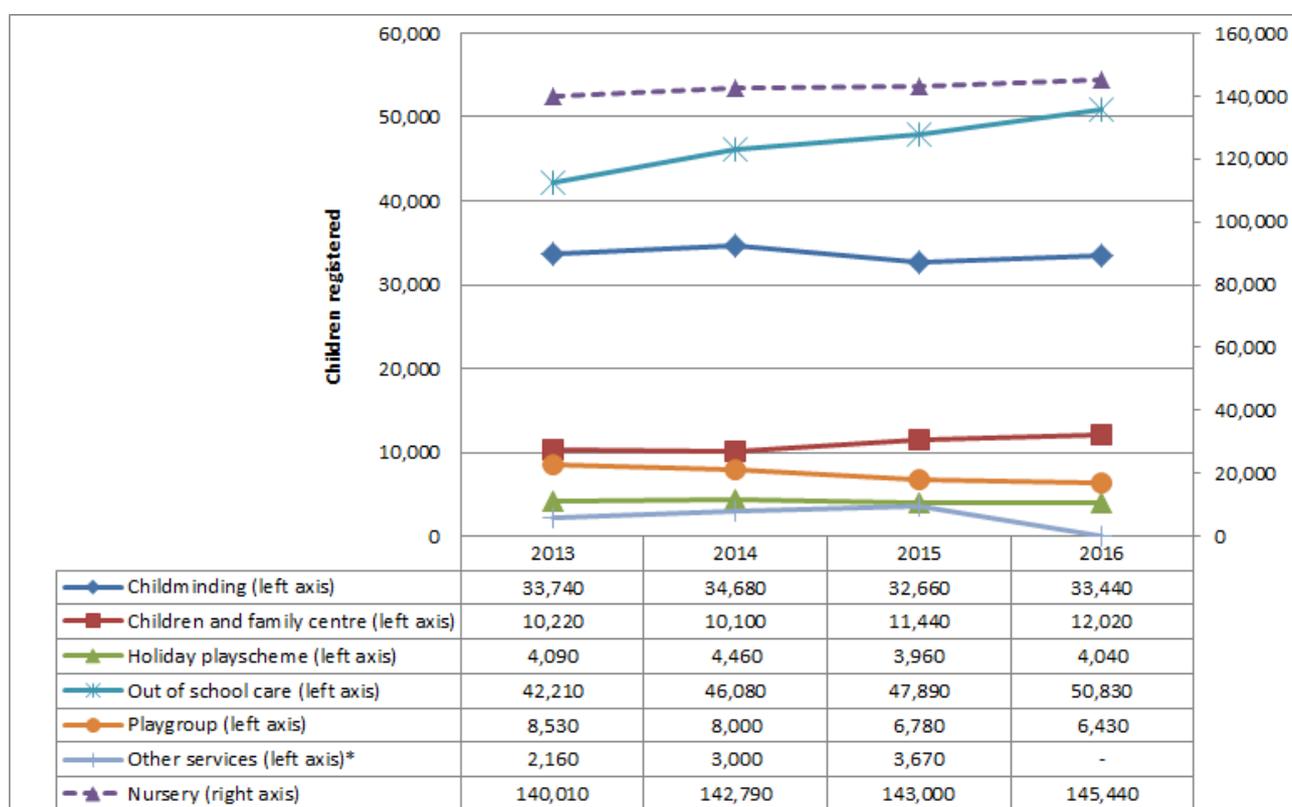
*From 2016 onwards services are all classified as one of the set categories, there is no more category for 'other services' or 'no single service type'

1.1 Number of children registered with childminding services

Overall, the number of children registered with childminding services has increased from 32,660 in 2015 to 33,440 in 2016 (despite the number of childminding services decreasing – see Chapter 2).

The figures indicate that there is an increased use of childminders to provide care to children aged 2 and for school aged children. The number of registered children aged 3 and 4 remained on a similar level as 2015. The number of school aged children (aged 5 and over) registered with childminders

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[3] Each child may attend more than one service, therefore may be counted more than once in this total.

[4] This excludes crèche services.

increased between 2015 and 2016 (by +1.6% (5-year-olds), +5.6% (6-year-olds) and +6.3% (7-11-year-olds)). The number of 2-year-old children registered also increased between 2015 and 2016 (by 2%). The increase in the number of 2-year-olds and school aged children registered was also evident in higher rates per 100 population.

1.2 Number of children in daycare of children services

The number of children registered with daycare of children services has increased from 216,740 in 2015 to 218,760 in 2016. This increase has been mainly in the 2-year-old age group as well as 6 – 11-year-olds. This indicates that there is increased demand for daycare of children services to provide for school aged children and 2-year-olds. The increase in the number of 2-year-olds could be linked to the extension of funded early learning and childcare to eligible 2-year-olds. However, this does not mean that there is no increased demand for 3 and 4-year-olds. Almost all 3 and 4-year-olds are already registered with services (see supporting table 1a). The number of 3-year-old children registered has decreased slightly (-1.6%), however the rate of 3-year-olds registered per 100 population of 3-year-olds has increased from 85.5 children registered per 100 population to 86.4. This is due to the fact that there are fewer 3-year-old children in Scotland according to the 2015 population estimate compared to the previous year. The number of 4-year-old children registered with daycare of children services has also decreased slightly (-1.1%) and so has the rate of 4-year-olds registered. As the figures include an element of double counting, where children are registered with more than one service, the decrease in the rate of 4-year-old children registered with services could indicate that fewer children attend more than one service. They might only attend one service due to increased hours of funding and extended opening hours in daycare of children services (see chapters 3 and 8).

The number of 2-year-old children registered with daycare of children services has increased by 3.3%. In 2016, 44.8 children per 100 population aged 2 were registered with daycare of children services.

Other age groups where numbers of children registered with daycare of children services have increased are 6-year-old children (increase of 6.6%) and 7-11-year-old children, which has seen a 5.8% increase since the previous year. The increase in the number of school aged children registered was also evident in higher rates per 100 population.

Figure 2: Percentage of registered children in daycare of children services by provider sector as at 31 December 2016

	Children and family centre	Holiday playscheme	Nursery	Out of School Care	Playgroup
Local authority	68.2%	10.9%	53.3%	10.2%	0.5%
Private	0.0%	44.6%	40.1%	41.0%	15.6%
Voluntary/not for profit	31.9%	44.6%	6.7%	48.8%	84.0%
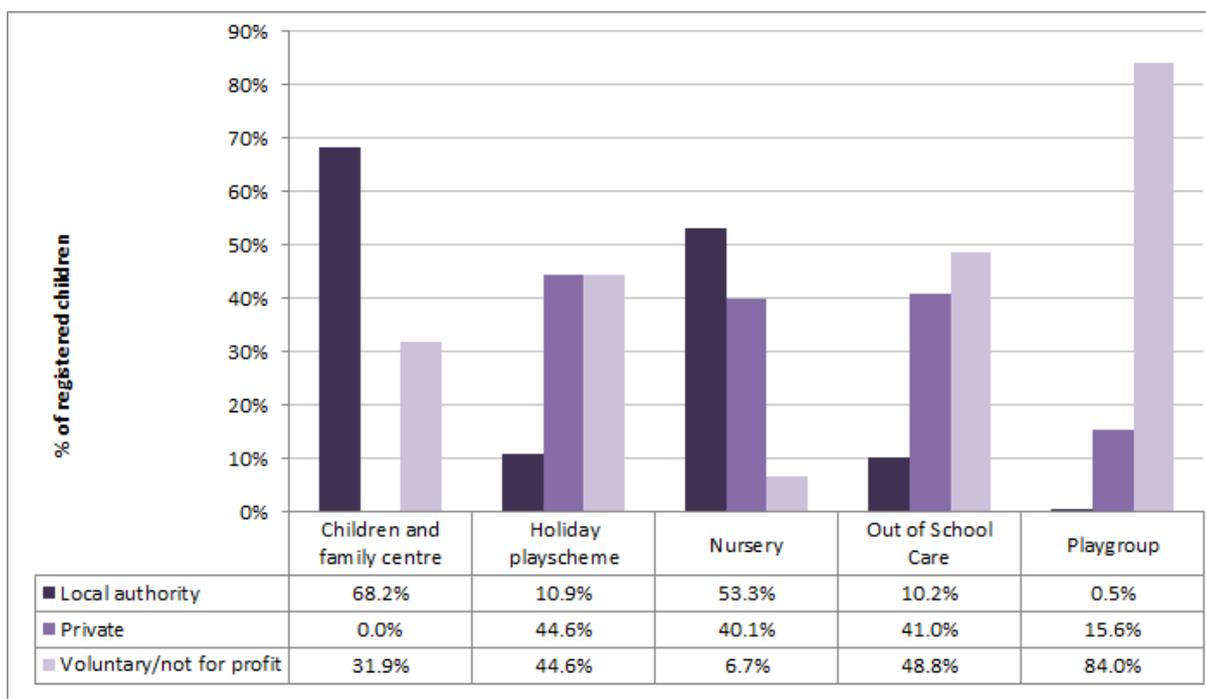
Daycare of children services provide a wide range of different types of care. The following sections show the trends for the largest main types of care.

1.3 Number of children in nurseries

The number of children registered with nurseries continued to increase, from 143,000 in 2015 to 145,440 children (1.7% increase). The increase could be seen across all provider sectors. Local authorities are the largest provider of nurseries in terms of children registered. They account for 53.3% of registered children, while voluntary/not for profit services account for only 6.7% of registered children. While the voluntary or not for profit sector is the smallest sector in terms of numbers of children registered, it has seen the largest increase in numbers of children registered with services (5% increase). The number of children registered with local authority nurseries has increased by 0.8% in the last year, compared to a 2.3% increase of children registered with private nurseries.

There are differences in terms of age groups registered in the different sectors. Most children aged 0 to 2 years old were registered with private nurseries (73.0% of 2-year-old children in nurseries) while the majority of children aged 3 and 4 were registered with local authority nurseries (65.0% and 74.2% retrospectively who were registered with nurseries). This is due to the fact that less than a quarter of local authority nurseries catered for 2-year-old children, but almost 90% of private nurseries did. However, all local authority nurseries provided funded places to 3 and 4-year-old children. Please see figure 2 above and supporting table 1b and 28b for further information.

1.4 Number of children in out of school care services

The number of children registered with out of school care services has increased from 47,890 in 2015 to 50,830 children in the past year (6.1% increase). The voluntary or not for profit sector was the largest provider in terms of children registered with out of school care services and accounted for 48.8% of children registered (private sector, 41.0% of registered children; local authority services, 10.2% of registered children). Please see figure 2 above and supporting table 1c for further information.

1.5 School aged children registered with services

Out of school care is care delivered to school aged children before or after they attend school or during school holidays. We collected this information for childminders for the first time[5].

Across all service types (excluding crèches) 76,480 children aged 5 and over were registered with services for out of school care.

75.3% of the children aged 4 and older, who were registered with childminders, used the services before or after school. This rises to 90.6% of children aged 5 and over. Across all daycare of children services 50.5% of children aged 4 and older were registered to receive out of school care. This rose to 93.1% of children aged 5 and over[6].

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[5] We always collected data on all ages of children registered with childminders, but for the first time we asked the additional questions about how many children are registered with the services for out of school care. Actual proportions of registered children using childminders for out of school care is likely to be higher, as no data was imputed for missing data, due to this being the first time the data was collected. Therefore, no historic data was available to assist with imputation.

[6] The information was collected with the assumption that all children aged 7 and over are registered with services to access care before or after school or during school holidays.

97.3% of children aged 5 and over (48,370 children) who were registered with out of school care services used the service before or after they attended school. Of children aged 5 who were registered with nurseries that provide additional services, 93.4% (7,560 children) used these services before or after attending school. Please see supporting tables 8a and 8b for further information.

1.6 Children aged under 1 registered with services

In 2016, 0.3% of childminders, 0.4% of nurseries and 8.7% of children and family centres had very young babies between 0 and 3 months registered with their services. These were similar levels compared to 2015. The proportion of childminders with children registered that were between 6 and 12 months old has increased from 10.0% in 2015 to 15.7% in 2016 (888 services). The number as well as proportion of nurseries and children and family centres with children registered that were between 6 and 12 months old have remained on a similar level as in 2015 (25.9% of nurseries (mostly private nurseries) and 57.1% of children and family centres). Of all children registered with early learning and childcare services (excluding crèches) 1.2% were aged 6 to 12 months. For more information, see supporting tables 7a – 7d.

2. Number and capacity of early learning and childcare services in Scotland

2.1 Numbers and capacity of childminding and daycare of children services

At 31 December 2016, there were 9,402 early learning and childcare services in Scotland, with a combined capacity of 200,190 places. Of these 3,733 were daycare of children services, providing 165,010 places and 5,669 were childminders providing 35,180 places. While the number of services decreased by 39 daycare of children services and 285 childminders (see explanation in next paragraph) the capacity (potential maximum attendance at any one time, measured by number of registered places available) increased in both childminding services and daycare of children services in 2016 (see table 1 below).

This overall decrease of 324 services between 2015 and 2016 was by large due to a reduction in the number of inactive childminders. This was the effect of the new operational procedure for inactive care services that the Care Inspectorate implemented from September 2015. This new procedure sets out that services cannot be inactive for longer than 12 months or services will have their registration cancelled[7]. At 31 December 2015, there were 424 inactive childminders, not providing care to children, registered with the Care Inspectorate. This reduced to 241 inactive childminders in 2016 as childminders who did not intend to operate their service in the near future cancelled their registration following the introduction of the new procedure.

In childminding services, the increase in capacity was the first increase since 2012, while the capacity in daycare of children services has increased every year since 2012 (see table 1 below). The capacity in daycare of children services increased further between 2015 and 2016 from 162,220 to 165,010 registered places (+ 1.7%). This follows on from the biggest single-year increase of 4,780 places between 2014 and 2015, which coincided with the expansion of funded hours in early learning and childcare from 475 hours to 600 hours from August 2014.

Table 1: Trends in numbers of services and capacity (all services, daycare of children services and childminding services)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend
All early learning and childcare services							
Number of services	10,159	10,099	9,968	9,859	9,726	9,402	
Total capacity	189,850	189,410	190,040	191,880	196,440	200,190	
Childminders							
Number of services	6,249	6,274	6,185	6,102	5,954	5,669	
Total capacity	34,710	35,120	35,120	34,430	34,220	35,180	
Daycare of children services							
Number of services	3,910	3,825	3,783	3,757	3,772	3,733	
Total capacity	155,150	154,290	154,920	157,450	162,220	165,010	

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[7] Childminders can apply to be treated as inactive if they have no service users but are actively seeking clients, due to maternity leave, health issues or refurbishment of premises. Reasons for daycare of children services include refurbishment of premises, no service users, but actively seeking slients.

Most sole childminders are registered with a maximum capacity of six children, which means that they can look after up to six children at any one time on their own. There has been an increase in childminders employing assistants over the years, which has seen the average capacity in childminding services rise from 6.1 children to 6.2 children since 2012 (see Table 2 below).

The average number of places in daycare of children services has seen an increase year on year and has risen again in 2016, from 43.3 to 44.2 places per service (see Table 2 below). After the Care Inspectorate completed almost 2,000 variations[8] between 2014 and 2015 and around 700 in 2015, another 700 were completed in 2016. Most of these variations enabled services to expand their capacity, which also includes changes to opening times and an extension to children's age ranges, in order to support the increased hours of funding.

Table 2: Average number of places available in childminding and daycare of children services as at 31 December 2011 – 2016

Average places	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend
Childminding	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	
Daycare of children	40.1	40.6	41.2	42.2	43.3	44.2	

2.2 Services by provider sector

All childminders are private services, while daycare of children services are operated by a mixture of local authority, private and voluntary/not for profit providers.

Of daycare of children services, 46.3% were provided by local authorities (including three services provided by health boards) while 30.5% were private services and 23.2% were voluntary/not for profit services. This distribution was similar to the previous year. The proportion of local authority daycare of children services has remained constant at around 45% between 2011 and 2015, but has increased to over 46% for the first time in 2016. During the same time, the proportion of private services has increased by 1.9 percentage points and the proportion provided by voluntary/not for profit organisations has decreased by 3.6 percentage points between 2011 and 2016 (see figure 3 below).

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[8] Registered care services can apply for a variation to add, vary or remove a condition of registration. Particularly for daycare of children services wanting to expand their service availability, this could include an increase to the number of registered places (capacity) or changes to the service availability (opening times).

Figure 3: Percentage of registered daycare of children services by main provider sector, as at 31 December 2011 to 2016

	December 2011	December 2012	December 2013	December 2014	December 2015	December 2016
Local authority	44.6%	45.1%	45.5%	45.9%	45.7%	46.3%
Private	28.6%	28.3%	28.5%	29.3%	30.5%	30.5%
Voluntary/not for Profit	26.8%	26.5%	26.0%	24.9%	23.8%	23.2%
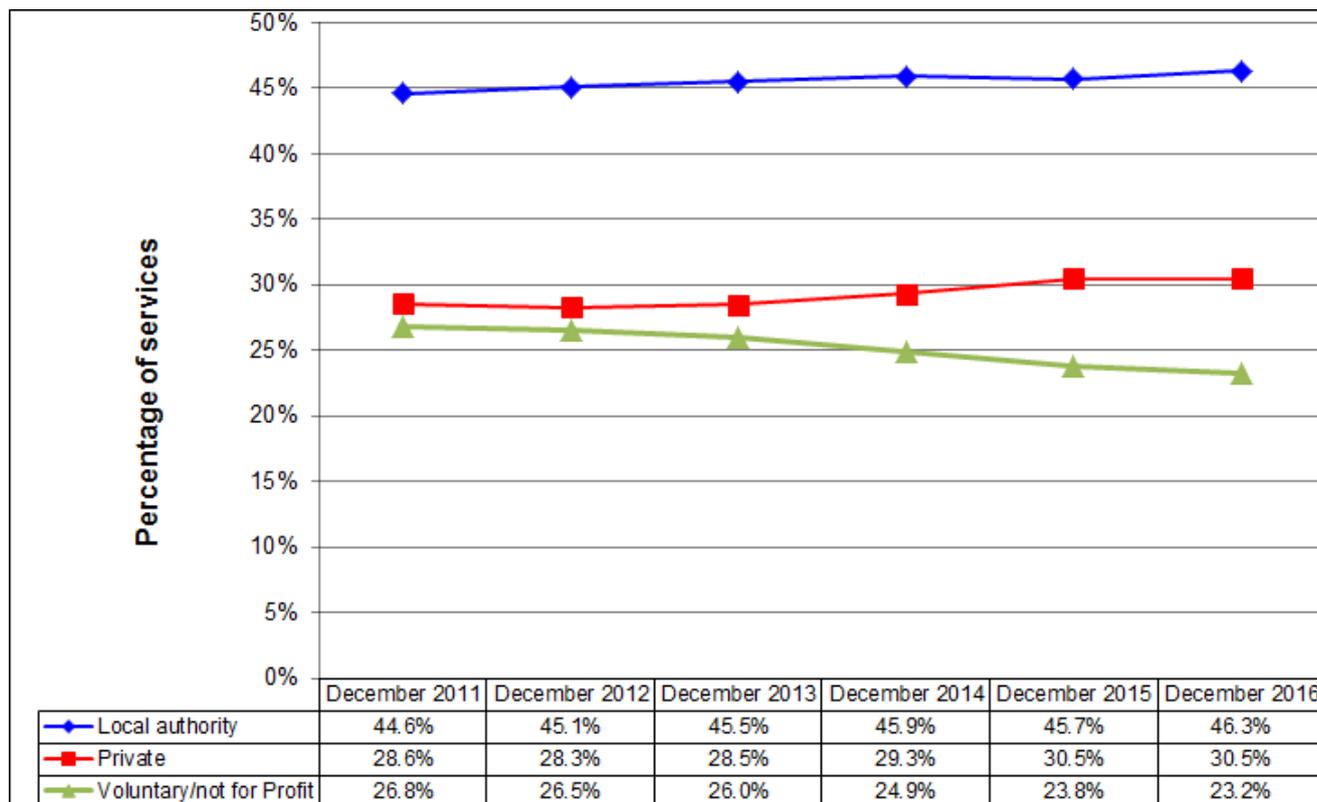
2.3 Numbers of services and capacities by service categories

Daycare of children services cover a wide range of different categories of provision, the largest of which is nurseries followed by out of school care and playgroups. Each registered service may provide several different categories of service. For example, a nursery may also provide out of school care, or an out of school care service may also provide a holiday playscheme. We have categorised services in this report based on what they have told us is the main type of service they provide.

The overall decrease in the number of daycare of children services between 2015 and 2016 was due to the decrease in playgroups and, to a lesser extent, the decrease in holiday playschemes and crèches. The overall increase in capacity was due to an increase in capacity in nurseries (+3.4%) and out of school care services (+4.6%).

Figure 4: Number of registered daycare of children services by main service type, as at December 2011 to 2016
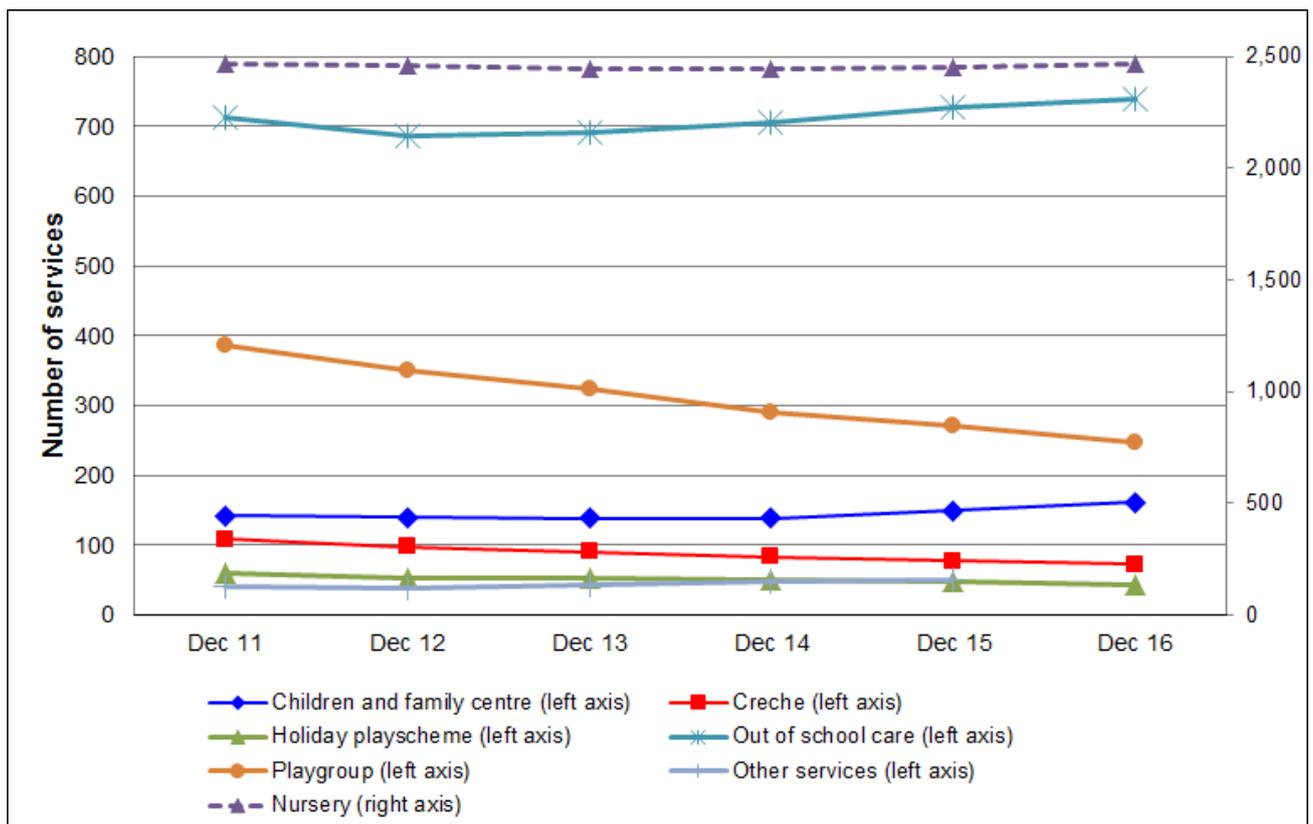
*From 2016 onwards, services are all classified as one of the set categories, there is no longer a category for 'other services' or 'no single service type'

Table 3: Number of registered daycare of children services by main service type, as at December 2011 to 2016

	Dec 11	Dec 12	Dec 13	Dec 14	Dec 15	Dec 16	Trend
Children and family centre	142	140	139	139	149	161	
Creche	109	98	91	83	78	73	
Holiday playscheme	61	53	52	50	48	44	
Nursery (all)	2,458	2,458	2,442	2,443	2,449	2,468	
Nursery (local authority)			1,494	1,494	1,486	1,497	
Nursery (private)			767	768	788	789	
Nursery (voluntary/not for profit)			181	181	175	182	
Out of school care (all)	712	686	691	703	726	739	
OOSC (local authority)			89	93	97	99	
OOSC (private)			225	240	270	290	
OOSC (voluntary/not for profit)			377	370	359	350	
Playgroup	387	351	324	291	272	248	
Other services*	41	39	44	48	50		
Total	**3,910**	**3,825**	**3,783**	**3,757**	**3,772**	**3,733**	

*From 2016 onwards, services are all classified as one of the set categories, there is no longer a category for 'other services' or 'no single service type'
The breakdown of nurseries and OOSC by provider sector was not available for 2011 and 2012 by time of publication.

Table 4: Average places per service and total capacity of services, as at December 2011 and 2015

	2011		2016	
	Total capacity (registered places)	Average capacity per service (registered places)	Total capacity (registered places)	Average capacity per service (registered places)
Childcare services by main service category:				
Childminding	34,710	6.1	35,180	6.2
Children and family centre	7,040	49.6	8,040	49.9
Creche	4,240	40.8	2,610	35.8
Holiday playscheme	2,370	42.3	1,810	41.1
Nursery	104,050	42.6	115,160	46.7
Out of school care	27,580	39.1	31,670	42.9
Playgroup	8,710	22.7	5,720	23.1
Other services*	1,160	30.5	–	–
Total	**189,860**		**200,190**	
Total excluding Childminding	**155,150**	**40.1**	**165,010**	**44.2**

*From 2016 onwards, services are all classified as one of the set categories, there is no longer a category for 'other services' or 'no single service type'

2.3a Children and family centres

Children and family centres are sometimes also called community nurseries. They provide day care and education together with a range of support services for families. This could include specialised services, which provide women's aid or respite care and support. All are provided by either local authorities or voluntary/not for profit organisations. They usually focus on providing a service for children and families in greatest need of support. The increase in the number of children and family centres from 149 in 2015 to 161 in 2016 was due to a re-categorisation of services that selected the category 'no single service type provided' in previous years (please see technical appendix for further information). There were no new registrations of children and family centres in 2016. Despite the higher number of services in 2016 compared to 2015, the number of registered places in children and family centres has remained on a similar level to 2015 (8,040 places in 2016), which means that the average capacity per service was lower in 2016 (49.9 places per service) than in 2015 (54.0 places per services).

In 2016, a further 53 services also provided support associated with children and family centres as an additional category. This is the same number of services as in 2015.

2.3b Crèches

Crèches registered with the Care Inspectorate provide a service of more than two hours a day or more than five times a year. Other crèche services that are provided for under two hours a day, or do not operate more than five times a year do not need to be registered with the Care Inspectorate and therefore are not included in these statistics.

Crèches provide drop-in care for children. The number of crèches has decreased year on year since 2011 – a reduction by a third from 109 crèches in 2011 to 73 in 2016 (see figure 4). A further 80 services offered crèche facilities as an additional type of care in 2016. These were mainly children and family centres (33 services) and nurseries (30 services).The number of services offering crèche facilities as an additional service has also decreased over time.

2.3c Holiday playschemes

Services providing care for school aged children during school holidays are called holiday playschemes. Services that provide a holiday playscheme as their main service type have decreased year on year since 2011 by more than a quarter, from 61 services in 2011 to 44 in 2016 (see figure 4). However, this does not mean that there is less provision of care for school aged children during holiday periods, as more and more services such as out of school care services or nurseries are offering this as an additional service (555 in 2016 and 2015 compared to 532 in 2014 and 523 in 2013). The continuing decrease in the number of registered playschemes should also be seen in the context of most playschemes not being registered because they provide activity clubs, which are not eligible to be registered with the Care Inspectorate.

2.3d Nurseries

Nurseries mainly provide early learning and childcare for children not yet attending school. Nurseries can take several forms, from a nursery class attached to a primary school, to a stand-alone nursery. They are operated by public, private and voluntary/not for profit providers.
While, prior to 2013, the number of nurseries showed a slight decreasing trend over time, the numbers have been increasing again slightly since 2013 with a further 0.8% increase in 2016 (see figure 4 and table 3 above).

Of the 2,468 nurseries in 2016, 60.7% were local authority nurseries, 32.0% were private nurseries and 7.4% were voluntary/not for profit nurseries.
The overall increase in the number of nurseries in 2016 was due to an increase in the number of local authority and voluntary/not for profit nurseries, while the number of private nurseries remained fairly constant (see supporting table 12b).

In 2016, nurseries offered 115,160 places for children, an average of 46.7 places per nursery. The capacity in nurseries has increased year on year, from 104,050 in 2011 to 115,160 registered places in 2016, an increase of 10.7%.

With the increase in overall capacity and only a slight increase in numbers of nurseries, the average capacity per nursery has increased year on year from 42.6 registered places in 2011 to 46.7 in 2016. Private nurseries are generally larger (59.9 places on average) compared to local authority nurseries, with 40.1 registered places on average.

2.3e Out of school care services

These services provide care for school age children after school finishes and sometimes before school starts (45.8% provide a breakfast club). Many also provide a full-day service during school holidays (52.6%). As in previous years since 2012, the number of out of school care services increased again to 739 services (1.8% increase in 2016). Almost half of all out of school care services are provided by the voluntary/not for profit sector (47.4%), 39.2% are private services and only 13.4% are local authority run services.

In 2016, out of school care services offered 31,670 registered places for children, an average of 42.9 places per service. The average and the total capacity in out of school care services has increased year on year (see table 4 above and supporting tables 22, 24a and 24c).

In 2016, 290 services delivered out of school care as an additional service provision. This has also increased over time.

2.3f Playgroups

Playgroups are often provided by the voluntary/not for profit sector and run by a parent committee, usually with parents taking part in a rota to assist paid staff.

The number of playgroups has been decreasing steadily over time and decreased further to 248 services in 2016 (–24 services; 8.8% decrease since 2015). With the decrease in the number of services, the capacity in playgroups has also decreased (–9.1%) (see supporting table 22).

The position of playgroups is complex. While some playgroups are no longer registered because they have closed completely, other playgroups continued to operate, but have reduced their opening hours to two hours or less per day and therefore could not continue to be registered. At the same time, local authorities are going into more partnerships with playgroups to provide funded places (see chapter 3, Table 5). There may be opportunities for playgroups to extend their operating hours in the future, if they wish to provide funded early learning and childcare to support the expansion of early learning and childcare to 1140 funded hours by 2020.

3. Early learning and childcare funding in Scotland

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 has significantly expanded funded early learning and childcare. From August 2014, the funded entitlement for all children aged 3 and 4 years increased from 475 to 600 hours per year and this entitlement was expanded to include eligible 2-year-olds for the first time. The funded entitlement will increase further from 600 to 1140 hours by 2020 for all children aged 3 and 4 and eligible 2-year-olds.

Most of the funded places were available in nurseries. A number of local authorities were also using playgroups and childminders for funded places.

We are going to collect information on childminders offering funded places from 2017 and will report on these in the future.

Figure 5 below shows that there had been an increase in the proportion of nurseries offering funded places every year from 92% of nurseries in 2013 to 93.9% in 2016. The increase has been across all sectors. In 2016, the proportion of private nurseries offering funded places reached the 80% mark for the first time.

Figure 5: Nurseries providing funded places, as at 31 December 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016

	All nurseries	Local authority nurseries	Private nurseries	Voluntary/not for profit
2013	92.0%	100.0%	76.0%	89.0%
2014	92.0%	100.0%	78.0%	90.0%
2015	92.6%	100.0%	79.2%	91.4%
2016	93.9%	100.0%	82.3%	94.5%
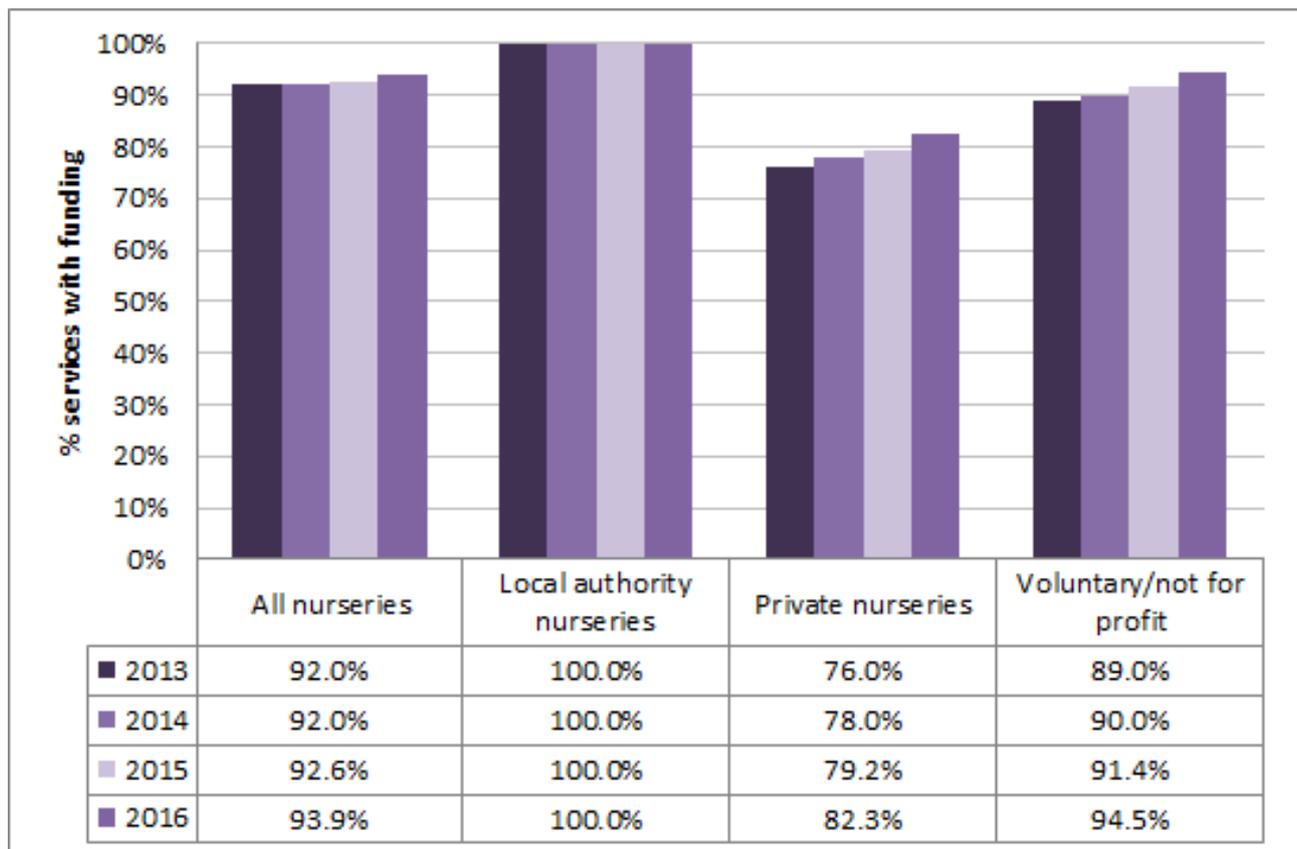
The proportion of services providing funded places not only increased in nurseries, but also in playgroups (see table 5 below). What looks like a decrease in the proportion of children and family centres offering funded places in 2016 (after a steady increase between 2013 and 2015) is due to a re-classification of services that offer very specialised care[9].

Table 5: Proportion of services providing funded early learning and childcare as at 31 December 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016

	Children and family centres				
Sector (z)	2013 (x)	2014 (x)	2015	2016(Y)	Trend
Local authority	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	95.8%	
Voluntary/not for profit	40.0%	36.4%	48.9%	37.9%	
All children and family centres providing funded places	**79.3%**	**78.7%**	**84.0%**	**72.0%**	
	Nurseries				
Sector	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend
Local authority	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	
Private	76.0%	78.0%	79.2%	82.3%	
Voluntary/not for profit	89.0%	90.0%	91.4%	94.5%	
All nurseries providing funded places	**92.0%**	**92.0%**	**92.6%**	**93.9%**	
	Playgroups				
Sector (z)	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend
Private	62.0%	64.0%	66.0%	72.2%	
Voluntary/not for profit	69.0%	71.0%	74.0%	76.7%	
All playgroups providing funded places	**67.0%**	**69.0%**	**72.0%**	**75.4%**	

(x) Figures for 2013 and 2014 have been adjusted to reflect all local authority children and family centres providing funded places.
(y) The figures for 2016 indicate a decrease in the proportion of children and family centres that offer funded places. However, this is due to a re-classification of services that offer very specialised services such as respite services for children with special needs, where we wouldn't expect to see funded places offered.
(z) Due to very small numbers, private children and family centres (only up to 2015) and local authority playgroups are not displayed in this table.

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[9] These are services such as Women's Aid and respite services for children with special needs, which are now included in the category of children and family centres. We would not expect to see funded places offered in those services.

The quality of services providing funded places was higher than those not providing funded places (see supporting tables 34i and 34j). For example, in 85.9% of private nurseries providing funded places, the quality was good or better for all quality themes assessed by the Care Inspectorate[10], while this was the case for 63.9% of private nurseries not providing funded places. A similar picture in terms of quality of service could be seen in voluntary/not for profit nurseries, where 90.5% of services providing funded places were evaluated as good or better for all themes, compared to 44.4% not providing funded places. The same applies to playgroups, where services providing funded places were of higher quality than those not providing funded places. This reflects the fact that high quality is a key criteria for becoming a funded provider.

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[10] The quality of services included in this report is based on Care Inspectorate inspections and joint inspections with Education Scotland. Education Scotland also carry out their own inspections of daycare of children services. The results from these are not included in this report.

4. The quality of early learning and childcare services

For detailed information on how we assess the quality in services, see Appendix 5 in the technical appendix.

The quality of early learning and childcare services has remained high overall. For childminders, compared to the previous year the proportion of services where the quality was found to be of the highest standard (excellent or very good for all themes) has increased slightly. Almost half of all childminders (48.7%) were excellent or very good for all themes (44.0% in 2015). The quality of early learning and childcare services remained better than in other service types regulated by the Care Inspectorate.

- As a whole, childminders performed slightly better than daycare of children services and 91.8% of childminders were found to be good or better compared to 87.6% of daycare of children services.
- There has been a slight decrease in daycare of children services that were very good or excellent for all themes from 41.5% to 40.3%.
- At the same time the proportion of services that were weak or unsatisfactory for all themes decreased from 0.5% to 0.2%. The same applies to childminders, where 0.1% of services were weak or unsatisfactory for all themes in 2016 compared to 0.3% in 2015.
- Of daycare of children services, 2.4% were graded weak or unsatisfactory for at least one theme, compared to 1.1% of childminders (see table 6 below and supporting table 36a). This compares to 3.1% of daycare of children services and 2.0% of childminders with at least one theme weak or unsatisfactory in 2015.
- Local authority nurseries continued to perform highly compared to other nursery sectors, although the proportion of high-quality local authority nurseries decreased slightly between 2015 and 2016 while the proportion of private and voluntary/not for profit nurseries increased slightly. Similarly, the proportion of local authority nurseries graded adequate or lower increased slightly while the proportion of private and voluntary/not for profit nurseries graded adequate or lower decreased slightly.

Table 6: spread of grades in childminding and daycare of children services, as at 31 December 2016

Service Category	Provider Sector	All grades weak or unsatis-factory	At least one grade weak or less	At least one grade ade-quate or less	All grades good or better	All grades very good or excel-lent
Childminders		0.1%	1.1%	8.2%	91.8%	48.7%
Children and family centre	Local authority	0.0%	0.0%	3.2%	96.8%	65.3%
	Voluntary/not for profit	0.0%	3.0%	10.6%	89.4%	59.1%
Children and family centre total		**0.0%**	**1.2%**	**6.2%**	**93.8%**	**62.7%**
Creche	Local authority	0.0%	3.6%	7.1%	92.9%	32.1%
	Private	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%	80.0%	40.0%
	Voluntary/not for profit	0.0%	8.0%	36.0%	64.0%	28.0%
Creche total		**0.0%**	**4.4%**	**20.6%**	**79.4%**	**32.4%**
Holiday playscheme	Local authority	0.0%	0.0%	14.3%	85.7%	71.4%
	Private*	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%	80.0%	20.0%
	Voluntary/not for profit	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%	87.5%	33.3%
Holiday playscheme total		**0.0%**	**0.0%**	**13.9%**	**86.1%**	**38.9%**
Nursery	Local authority	0.1%	0.9%	5.7%	94.3%	48.9%
	Private	0.4%	3.0%	17.7%	82.3%	34.9%
	Voluntary/not for profit	0.0%	1.7%	11.9%	88.1%	42.9%
Nursery total		**0.2%**	**1.6%**	**9.9%**	**90.1%**	**44.1%**
Out of school care	Local authority	1.1%	1.1%	10.6%	89.4%	16.0%
	Private	0.8%	8.2%	26.1%	73.9%	29.8%
	Voluntary/not for profit	0.0%	3.9%	19.3%	80.7%	26.4%
Out of school care total		**0.4%**	**5.0%**	**20.6%**	**79.4%**	**26.2%**
Playgroup	Local authority*	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%
	Private	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%	87.5%	25.0%
	Voluntary/not for profit	0.5%	3.9%	16.5%	83.5%	31.1%
Playgroup total		**0.4%**	**3.3%**	**16.3%**	**83.8%**	**30.0%**
All daycare of children services	Local authority	0.1%	0.9%	5.9%	94.1%	47.7%
	Private	0.5%	4.1%	19.6%	80.4%	33.4%
	Voluntary/not for profit	0.1%	3.4%	16.6%	83.4%	33.9%
Total		**0.2%**	**2.4%**	**12.4%**	**87.6%**	**40.3%**

*Some of these percentages are based on small numbers of less than 20 services (private crèche, local authority and private holiday playschemes, local authority playgroups).

4.1 Spread of grades by provider sector

High-quality services

While the majority of early learning and childcare services were of a high standard (all themes good or better) across all sectors, a larger proportion of local authority services were high-quality than private and voluntary/not for profit services (see table 6 above). A similar pattern applies to nurseries and out of school care services. However, almost one third of private out of school care services achieved the highest quality grades (all themes very good or excellent), which is a higher proportion than local authority and voluntary/not for profit out of school care services. For further information, see table 6 above and supporting data tables 34.

Services where significant improvement is needed

The quality was found to be weak or unsatisfactory for all themes in only four childminding services (0.1%) and eight daycare of children services (0.2%). In 8.2% of childminders and 12.4% of daycare of children services, we found the quality was adequate or lower in at least one theme. Breaking the daycare of children services down further, out of school care services and crèches had the highest levels of services with at least one grade of adequate, weak or unsatisfactory (around 20% of services (crèches: 14 services, out of school care: 139 services)). Children and family centres (6.2%, 10 services) and nurseries (9.9%) had the lowest levels of services with at least one grade of adequate, weak or unsatisfactory. For further information, see table 6 above and supporting data tables 34.

4.2 Grading analysis by service categories

In general, childminders and nurseries had higher grades than out of school care or playgroups, while children and family centres consistently had the highest grades of all early learning and childcare service types.

Childminders

In around 97% of childminders, the quality of care and support as well as environment were graded good or above as at 31 December 2016. Only childminders who employ assistants are graded for quality of staffing (375 childminders graded for staffing theme as at 31 December 2016). Of childminders, 9.9% were assessed as adequate or lower for this theme, which is higher than for any of the other themes.

In 1.0% of childminders, the quality was found to be weak or unsatisfactory for at least one theme, which is a decrease compared to previous year.

Of all types of early learning and childcare services, childminding services had the second highest set of grades after children and family centres.

Children and family centres

Of all types of early learning and childcare, children and family centres had the highest proportion of services where the quality was found to be very good or excellent for all themes (62.7%) and where all themes received all grades of good or better (93.8%). No children and family centres were evaluated weak or unsatisfactory for all themes and only 6.2% of services (10 services) received a grade of adequate or lower for at least one theme.

Children and family centres had the highest proportion of services graded very good or excellent in each of the themes. The quality in more than 80% of children and family centres was found to be very good or excellent for quality of care and support (85.1%) and quality of staffing (82.0%).

Nurseries

Nurseries also had a higher than average proportion of services graded very good or excellent for all themes (44.1% of services) and of services graded at least good or better for all themes (90.1%). Correspondingly, they had a lower than average proportion of services graded adequate or lower for at least one theme (9.9%).

Although all nurseries provide very high quality services, there are slight differences in grading by sector. Local authority nurseries had the highest proportion of services found to be good or better for all themes (94.3%) followed by voluntary/not for profit services (88.1%) while private nurseries had the lowest proportion of nurseries with all themes found to be good or better (82.3%). While the proportion of these high-quality services has decreased slightly for local authority and voluntary/not for profit services, private nurseries have seen a slight increase in high quality services in 2016. Of local authority nurseries, 5.7% were graded adequate or lower in at least one theme, which is a slight increase from the 4.8% in 2015. Although considerably higher than for local authority nurseries, 17.7% of private nurseries were graded adequate or lower for at least one theme in 2016, however this is an improvement from 2015 (18.2%).

Both local authority and private nurseries improved their proportion of services graded unsatisfactory or weak for at least one theme, while the proportion of voluntary/not for profit nurseries increased for services graded weak for at least one theme (from 0.6% in 2015 to 1.7% in 2016) (See table 6 above and supporting table 36d).

Overall, 66.4% of nurseries were found to be very good or excellent for quality of care and support and this ranged from 53.0% in private nurseries to 72.6% in local authority nurseries. Of all nurseries, 0.7% were found to be weak or unsatisfactory for the quality of care and support. This ranged from 0.4% in local authority nurseries, which remained the same proportion as last year, to 1.2% in private nurseries, which decreased from 2.8% last year.

The grading patterns of the other three quality themes were similar to those of the pattern for quality of care and support (local authority nurseries have the highest proportion of services graded very good or excellent for each of the themes followed by voluntary/not for profit services). (See supporting tables 35d – 35g for further information of grades by theme in nurseries.)

There were no considerable differences in grading patterns for different sizes of nurseries. Across all nurseries, the largest nurseries had slightly lower proportions, with all themes good or better compared to the smallest nurseries. However, this was not a strong correlation and consisted of a narrow range between 87.1% of larger nurseries (61 – 100 places) with all themes good or better to 92.6% of smaller nurseries (21 – 30 places). The largest local authority nurseries were of slightly better quality than the smallest local authority nurseries (again a small overall range from 91.8% of the smallest nurseries to 97.2% of larger nurseries (51 – 60 places) with all themes good or better). However, there was no statistical correlation between size and service quality.

There is more detailed information on the patterns of quality of different service types in the supporting data tables 34 to 37.

Out of school care services

Out of school care services had lower than average levels of high-quality services and higher than average levels of low-quality services. Of out of school care services, 26.2% were found to be very good or excellent for all themes and 0.4% weak or unsatisfactory for all themes. The proportion of

the highest-quality services increased while the proportion of the lowest-graded services decreased compared to 2015.

Overall, 79.4% of out of school care services were found to be at least good or better, but there were differences by provider sector. Local authority out of school care services had the highest proportion of services found to be good or better (89.4%) while the private and voluntary/not for profit out of school care services had similar proportions of services with 73.9% and 80.7% respectively found to be at least good or better.

Of local authority out of school care services, 10.6% were found be adequate or lower for at least one theme – lower than the equivalent 26.1% of private out of school care services and 19.3% of voluntary/not for profit out of school care services .

Playgroups
83.8% of playgroups were found to be good or better for all themes, which was lower than daycare of children overall as well as children and family centres and nurseries, but higher than out of school care services. The proportion with all themes good or better increased from 82.2% in 2015. On the other hand, very few playgroups were found to be weak or unsatisfactory in any theme.

Quality of environment was the highest graded theme in playgroups, with 94.6% graded good or better for this theme.

5. Complaints in early learning and childcare services

In the year to 31 December 2016, the Care Inspectorate completed 463 complaint investigations about early learning and childcare services. Most of these were about daycare of children services (72.1%) and the remaining 27.9% were about childminders.

Table 7: Complaints in early learning and childcare services, between 1 January

Early learning and childcare service	Complaint* investigations completed	Number upheld	Upheld as % of all complaints investigated	Number of services with complaints upheld	Number of complaints upheld per 1,000 services	Number of complaints upheld per 1,000 places
Childminding	129	47	36.4%	44	8.3	1.3
Daycare of children	334	169	50.6%	153	45.3	1.0
Total	**463**	**216**	**46.7%**	**197**	**–**	**–**

*Count of individual complaints

We upheld 169 complaints in daycare of children services (50.6%) which was slightly higher than the 47.3% upheld in 2015. We upheld 47 complaints about childminders – 36.4% of all complaints investigated, which was lower than the 45.1% upheld in 2015.

Of the complaints upheld about daycare of children services, the majority were about private nursery services (59.8%) followed by local authority nurseries (11.8%) and private out of school care services (8.9%).

Both childminders and daycare of children services had much lower rates of complaints upheld per 1,000 services and 1,000 registered places when compared with most other care service types registered with the Care Inspectorate. For example, in care homes for older people (about which we receive most complaints) 493.6 complaints were upheld per 1,000 services compared to 8.3 complaints upheld per 1,000 childminding services and 45.3 per 1,000 services in daycare of children services.

Each complaint can be about a number of different areas.

- Of the complaints we upheld about childminders, the main reasons for complaints were: general health and welfare; conditions of registration (exceeding capacity and other issues regarding conditions of registration) and communication (between the childminder and children's families).
- Of the complaints we upheld about daycare of children services, the main reasons for complaints were: general health and welfare; staff related complaints (staff levels, staff training/qualifications and staff other areas of concern) communication between staff and people who use the service and between staff and relatives and carers; and policies and procedures.

For more information on complaints, see supporting tables 38a – 38c.

6. Enforcement against early learning and childcare services

Where a service does not make improvements as required, we can use our legal powers and take enforcement action. If necessary, we can take steps to close services as a last resort, subject to an appeal to a sheriff but this is a power we need to use rarely and with great care. We served a total of ten childminders, three nurseries and two out of school care services with enforcement notices over the year to 31 December 2016 in order to secure improvements in care where serious defects were identified. This excludes any technical enforcement procedures (for example, to close down a childminder who has moved away from their previous address and not notified us). A further 69 childminding services were issued with enforcement notices for outstanding Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme (PVG) checks.

7. Registered early learning and childcare services in local authority areas, urban and rural areas and by deprivation category

7.1 Local authority areas

There were some differences in the number of early learning and childcare services available and the number of children registered with services across local authorities in Scotland.

The local authorities with fewest early learning and childcare services per population (0-15 years) were Glasgow City and neighbouring local authorities West Dunbartonshire, Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire. Other urban areas such as City of Edinburgh, Aberdeen City and Midlothian also had below average rates of early learning and childcare services per 10,000 population aged 0-15 years. In general, more rural areas such as Argyll & Bute, Highland, Angus and Orkney Islands had the highest rate of early learning and childcare services per 10,000 population. These clear trends in terms of number of services in predominantly urban local authorities compared to predominantly rural local authorities were not as clear cut when it comes to the rate of children registered per 100 population aged 0-15 years old. Na h-Eileanan Siar, Inverclyde and North Lanarkshire had some of the lowest rates of children registered with early learning and childcare services, which is a mixture of urban and rural areas. East Dunbartonshire, Midlothian and City of Edinburgh (predominantly urban areas) have the highest rates of children registered with early learning and childcare services.

The remote rural islands (Orkney Islands, Shetland Islands and Na h-Eileanan Siar) had the lowest average number of children per service with fewer than 30 children registered per service, while City of Edinburgh, East Ayrshire and East Renfrewshire on average had more than 75 children registered per services.

7.2 Urban and rural areas

There was a higher rate of early learning and childcare services in small towns and rural areas compared to urban areas (rate per population aged 0-15 years old), although the absolute number of services was higher in urban than in rural areas.

The capacity in daycare of children services per 10,000 population (0 – 15 years old) increased overall and across most service categories compared to 2015. The rate of capacity remained on a similar level in urban areas, but increased in rural areas. The rate decreased in remote small towns.

Childminders
The lowest rates of childminders per population were in large urban areas and the highest rates were in accessible small towns. The smallest average capacity was in large urban areas (5.9 registered places) but it was similar for all areas.

Nurseries
The lowest rates of services per 10,000 population were in urban areas and the highest rates were in rural areas. The average size (in terms of registered maximum capacity) of services was largest in urban areas and smallest in rural areas: the average size of services in urban areas was more than twice the size of remote rural services.

There was a clear difference in the nursery provision by provider sector in urban and rural areas.

- Local authorities provided the lowest proportion of nurseries in large urban areas, while providing the highest proportion of nurseries in remote rural areas.
- The opposite was the case for private nurseries: the highest proportion of private nurseries was in large urban areas; this proportion decreased with rurality. (see supporting table 15b).

The rate of nursery capacity per 10,000 population (0−5-years-old) increased across urban and rural areas. The only areas that saw a slight decrease in the rate of capacity were remote small towns. While local authority nursery rates of capacity increased in urban and rural areas, the capacity rates of private nurseries remained on a similar level in rural areas compared to 2015.

Out of school care services
The highest rates of services per 10,000 population were in urban areas and the smallest rates in rural areas. Looking at the average capacity of services, the largest services were in urban areas and the smallest services in rural areas.

Playgroups
The highest rates of services per 10,000 population were in rural areas and the smallest rates in urban areas. Looking at the average size of services, there was only a small variation in average size between different urban and rural areas with an average size of between 20 and 24 places per service.

7.3 Scottish index of multiple deprivation (SIMD) areas (2016 SIMD)

There was a correlation (although not very strong) between the rate of childminders and levels of deprivation. There were 20.3 childminders per 10,000 population (0-15 years old) in the 10% most deprived areas, while there were 74.4 childminders per 10,000 population in the 10% least deprived areas.

There was no such correlation for daycare of children services overall; the rate of services in the most and least deprived areas was similar, with a slight increased rate in between (see supporting tables 16).

Although there was no link between deprivation levels and rates of nurseries overall, there were differences in the sectors providing nurseries; the 30% least deprived areas had the lowest proportion

of local authority nurseries, but the highest proportion of private nurseries (see supporting table 15b). Similarly, there were some differences in the sectors providing out of school care services; the 30% least deprived areas had the highest proportion of private out of school care services and the lowest proportion of voluntary/not for profit out of school care services. See supporting tables 15c for more information.

There was no clear correlation between nursery size and level of deprivation.

It is only possible to look at potential correlations between SIMD and the rate of children registered with services per 100 age specific population (see supporting tables 4a and 4b) by the location of the service. However, children using services might not live in the same area or not in an area with the same level of deprivation. For most service categories, there is no, or only a weak, correlation between level of deprivation and rate of children registered. The service categories with moderate levels of correlation were childminders, private nurseries and playgroups. For these service categories, the rate of children registered decreases slightly as the level of deprivation increases. This is linked to lower numbers of services registered as well as availability (in terms of rates of services per 10,000 population) of these service types in areas with higher levels of deprivation (see supporting tables 14 and 16).

There were some differences between levels of deprivation and quality of services in childminding services. The proportion of childminders that were good or better for all themes increased as the level of deprivation decreased. In the 10% most deprived areas 78.8% of childminders were good or better, while in the 10% least deprived areas this rose to 94.4%. Equally, the proportion of childminders that were adequate or lower for at least one theme was higher in more deprived areas compared to least deprived areas.

There was no overall correlation between levels of deprivation and the quality of daycare of children services (in terms of all themes good or better). The only service category which showed moderate levels of correlation were out of school care services (voluntary/not for profit out of school care services in particular). The quality in out of school care services increased as levels of deprivation decreased.

There was no correlation between quality in nurseries overall and levels of deprivation (in terms of all themes good or better). This was also the case for each of the nursery provider sectors.

8. Service provision

8.1 Provision for different age groups

Childminders, children and family centres and private nurseries were the main service types offering services for children under two years of age.

In general, childminders catered for the widest range of ages — more than 90% of childminders offered a service to children between 2 and 11 years old.

- The main focus of **children and family centres** was on young children up to the age of 5.
- **Holiday playschemes** offered a service mainly for children aged 5 and older.
- The provision of **crèches** was predominantly for children up to the age of 5.
- **Playgroups** mostly catered for children aged 2 – 4 years old. Around half of playgroups could cater for 5-year-old children.
- The provision of **nurseries** in terms of children's ages differed by provider sector. Around three-quarters of private nurseries could cater for babies aged 1 and under, while around one-third of voluntary/not for profit nurseries offered this service. Less than 5% of local authorities offered a service to the youngest children. Local authority nurseries mainly catered for 3 and 4-year-olds, while private and voluntary/not for profit nurseries catered for a wider age range from 2 to 5 years. Around 20% of private and voluntary/not for profit nurseries could also offer a service to children aged 6 – 11.
- **Out of school care services** were predominantly for children aged 5 to 11, but around two-thirds of services also catered for children aged 4 and children aged 12 and older.

For further detailed information, please see supporting tables 28a – 28c.

8.2 Languages and service philosophies

For the first time, information on languages, used to deliver the service, was collected for childminding services[11]. Of all childminders, 0.4% provided the service in a mix of English and Gaelic or in Gaelic only (Gaelic-only in less than five services) 0.4% could offer their service in British Sign Language and 1.2% could provide the service in another language, most commonly Polish, Arabic, Punjabi or Urdu, as well as communication languages such as Makaton and Sign-along.

At 31 December 2016, 1.9% (70) of daycare of children services provided their service in a mix of English and Gaelic or in Gaelic only (Gaelic-only in 30 services) and 2.4% (90) could provide the service in another language. Both the provision in Gaelic and in other languages have increased since 2015. The most common other languages were Polish, Spanish, French, Urdu and Punjabi, as well as additional communication languages such as Makaton and Sign-along. Similar to last year, 1.3% of services (50 services) could offer their service in British Sign Language. See supporting table 29 for further information.

Overall, 240 services (6.4%) told us that they used the forest school approach. Services using the forest school approach include outdoor-based services and services that describe themselves as specialist outdoor services or services where children spend the majority of time outdoors. Around

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[11] As this is the first time this information has been collected, the results are published as first-time statistics without imputation for missing data.

12% of children and family centres (20 services) and 8% of nurseries (190 services) used the forest school approach. See supporting table 29 for further information.

Of daycare of children services, 2.4% (90 services) followed a Suzuki / Montessori philosophy and 0.8% of services (30) followed a Steiner philosophy. Both have seen a slight increase since 2015. See supporting table 29 for further information.

8.3 School term and holiday availability

In term time
In general, the number of services offering longer opening times to cover breakfast and after school hours (and to a smaller extent late evenings and weekends) has increased in 2016.
Overall, 65.0% of daycare of children services offered a service before school time. This increased from 55.1% in 2015. The proportion of services that offered a service before school times differed by service type and was most common in childminders, private nurseries and out of school care services. Around 20% of local authority nurseries provided an early morning service. This is considerably lower than in private nurseries. However, the early morning provision in local authority nurseries has seen a 55.3% increase in 2016 (+105 services).

Similarly, there was a considerable increase in early morning provision in 2016 in out of school care services (increase from 33.4% to 44.7%) as well as in childminding services (increase from 75.4% to 85.0%).

81.3% of services provided care after school hours, a slight increase from 80.0% in 2015. The increase in service provision after school hours could be seen across all service types. Almost all childminders provided their service after school hours, while just under half of all nurseries provided this (88.7% of private nurseries, compared to 27.4% of local authority nurseries).

For further detailed information, please see supporting tables 30a – 30c.

Looking only at those services that provided the funded hours (including local authority, private and voluntary / not for profit nurseries) the patterns of availability during term time were similar to the patterns of all services. For further detailed information, please see supporting tables 30d – 30e.

During school holidays
In general, the proportion of services offering a service during school holidays has increased in 2016, including an increase in the different times when services were provided.

Local authority nurseries and playgroups had the lowest provision of services operating during school holidays (more than 90% did not operate during school holidays).

The proportion of all early learning and childcare services operating before 8am during school holidays increased year on year. Almost three quarters of services operated during working hours throughout holidays and this has also been increasing year on year.

Holiday playschemes, childminders, children and family centres and out of school care had the highest levels of provision during the school holidays (during working hours as well as evenings and weekends). See supporting tables 30a - 30c for more information.

Looking only at those services which provided the funded hours (including local authority, private and voluntary/not for profit nurseries), the patterns of availability during school holidays were similar to the patterns of all services. For further detailed information please see supporting tables 30d – 30e.

8.4 Early Learning and childcare sessions

After the increase in opening times and sessions available in 2015, the extended provision increased further in 2016. The proportion of daycare of children services, which offered whole-day sessions was on the highest level yet (almost 55% offered whole-day sessions only or with the choice of whole-day or part-day sessions; see Table 8 below).

Table 8: Sessions available between 2013 and 2016 in daycare of children services and nurseries

Daycare of children services

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016
whole-day only	3.2%	3.0%	3.1%	3.2%	
whole-day or part-day	44.0%	45.7%	47.7%	51.4%	
part-day only	51.8%	50.8%	48.6%	44.5%	

All nurseries

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016
whole-day only	1.8%	1.4%	1.6%	1.6%	
whole-day or part-day	44.8%	46.4%	49.5%	54.3%	
part-day only	52.7%	51.7%	48.9%	43.8%	

The increase in the option of whole-day sessions was across almost all service types[12]:
- in almost all private nurseries (96.3%)
- for the first time, in more than one-third of local authority nurseries (34.1% in 2016 compared to 25.9% in 2015)
- in 62.6% of out of school care services
- in around 12% of playgroups (an increase from 7% of services in 2015).

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[12] What seem like a slight reduction in children and family centres providing whole-day sessions (70.8% in 2016 compared to 74.2% in 2015) is due to the fact that a number of very specialised services are now classified as children and family centres (such as some respite services).

Figure 6: Sessions available in nurseries (by sector), as at 31 December 2016

	whole-day only	whole-day or part-day	part-day only
■ Local authority nurseries	0.7%	33.4%	65.5%
■ Private nurseries	3.8%	92.5%	3.8%
■ Voluntary/not for profit nurseries	2.2%	60.4%	38.5%

For the first time, we can report on services which offered shorter flexible sessions other than whole- or part-day sessions. Children and family centres and crèches had the highest levels of flexibility in regards to shorter sessions:

- 41.1% of crèches
- 31.1% of children and family centres
- 19.0% of private nurseries
- 7.3% of local authority nurseries.

See supporting tables 31a and 31b for further information.

The increase in whole-day sessions offered could be a reason for the decrease in the number of 3 and 4-year-old children registered with services, as fewer children might be registered with more than one service if there were more services that can meet all their needs in the one service.

8.5 Provision of meals and snacks

Most childminders (92.4%) provided meals in their service, which is at the same level as in 2015. The meals were provided either by the service (20.8%) by parents only (49.7%) or by both (21.9%). Almost all childminders (98.9%) provided snacks for the children in the services, which is a slight increase from 2015.

Around 44% of daycare of children services provided meals in the service (whether by the service alone, by parents or both). This is an increase from 40.9% in 2015. The increase in the provision of meals

can be related to the increase in opening hours and the increase in whole-day sessions offered. As children spend longer hours in one service, more services were offering meals.

The provision of meals varied between different types of daycare services. It ranged from 16.2% in out of school care services and 20.2% in playgroups, to 53.5% in nurseries and 62.1% in children and family centres.

In 56.8% of private nurseries, where food was provided, this was provided by the service alone. In local authority nurseries, the provision was split between service-only provision (42.5% of those that provided food) and a mix of provision by the service and parents (40.4%). In nearly half of voluntary/ not for profit nurseries, food was provided by parents only (45.5%).

Almost one-third of local authority nurseries provided meals in the service. This increased from 23.2% in 2015 to 31.4% in 2016. 93.7% of private nurseries and 60.5% of voluntary/not for profit nurseries provided meals (whether by the service, parents or both). These were similar proportions to the nurseries offering whole-day sessions; meals might not be required where children only attend for part of the day.

Almost all daycare of children services offered snacks to the children.

See supporting tables 32a and 32b for further information.

Technical appendix

Appendix 1: Background and methodology

The Care Inspectorate regulates care services for children and adults in Scotland. This includes a wide range of services for children and young people, such as fostering, adoption and residential care. This report focuses on childminding and daycare of children services, collectively known as early learning and childcare services in this report. Statistics on, for example, looked after children are published by the Scottish Government and can be found at:
www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/Publications

• This report is about the provision and use of daycare of children and childminders registered with the Care Inspectorate as at 31 December 2016. Each daycare of children service can provide a range of different types of provision, for example a nursery can also provide a breakfast club and out of school care. In this report, we have only used the main type of provision, so a service that provides a nursery as main provision but also provides out of school care, will only be recorded as a nursery. This may lead to under-reporting of the availability of some types of provision.

- Previous versions of this report, which were published to cover the years 2010 to 2015 are available at http://www.careinspectorate.com/index.php/statistics-and-analysis.
- The statistics in this report are produced using information from the latest Care Inspectorate annual returns which asked for information about the previous calendar year (1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016) and the Care Inspectorate service list (as at 31 December 2016). Figures relating to previous years are taken from our reports on early learning and childcare statistics for 2010, 2011 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015.
- Our inspectors use the annual returns when planning care service inspections and carrying out risk assessments. Some of the information in the return is also aggregated and used by the Care Inspectorate to inform wider statistical analysis and comparisons across, for example, care service providers and geographical areas.
- The Care Inspectorate requires (under the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010, section 53(6)) all providers that are registered with the Care Inspectorate to complete and submit an annual return in order to provide us with the information needed to help plan and carry out inspections effectively. Although services registered after 1 October 2016 do not have to submit an annual return for December 2016, we encourage them to do so.
- Of the 9,402 childcare services registered with us as at 31 December 2016, 8,478 (90.2%) submitted an annual return, a 3% point increase compared to the previous year. The annual return data has been imputed for those services that did not submit an annual return (see below). For this reason, some of the tables contain figures that have been rounded to the nearest 10; therefore, rounded figures may differ slightly to the overall totals.

Please note that where a table contains percentages, those that are based on numbers equal to or smaller than 10 are shown in colour.

Appendix 2: Data sources

The Care Inspectorate service list (as at 31 December 2016) has been used to provide figures on:
- the total number of registered daycare of children and childminding services
- whether services were active or inactive (see Appendix 3 – Data cleaning for more information on inactive services)
- whether services were run by public, private or voluntary/not for profit providers
- the registered capacity of each service (that is the total number of children that can be cared for at any one time)
- the postcode of the service, from which we have derived the local authority, deprivation category and urban-rural category of the service.

We have used Care Inspectorate annual returns (as at 31 December 2016) to provide estimates for:
- the main service type, for example nursery, playgroup, out of school care and so on
- the number of children registered with the service as at 31 December 2016
- whether daycare of children services provide funded places as at 31 December 2016
- the number of children registered with services that use the services for out of school care as at 31 December 2016
- the age groups catered for and term-time/holiday-time availability of the service
- whether the service was available for full-day or part-day sessions
- whether meals or snacks were provided by the service or by the parents
- the languages and service philosophies used by services
- characteristics and qualifications of childminders.

The 2016 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) has been used to assign deprivation levels based on the postcode location of each childcare service. The SIMD does not reflect the locations where children using services live.

Further information about the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation is available here:
www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/SIMD

Scottish Government urban/rural categories have been used to assign an urban/rural category to the postcode location of each childcare service. The urban/rural categories do not reflect the locations where children using services live.

Further information about the Scottish Government Urban Rural Classification is available here:
www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/About/Methodology/UrbanRuralClassification.

The National Records of Scotland mid-year population estimates (2015) have been used to calculate rates. Further information about the population estimates is available here:
https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates/mid-2015-and-corrected-mid-2012-to-mid-2014/list-of-tables (population estimates by local authority).

https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/2011-based-special-area-population-estimates/population-estimates-by-simd-2016 (population estimates by deprivation categories).

Appendix 3: Data cleaning and dealing with missing data

Where there have been any data-input errors or incomplete responses identified in relation to specific questions, these have been fixed where possible before any analysis has taken place. For example, where a service's status was 'active' as at 31 December 2016 but the service reported working zero hours and recorded zero number of users, the status was changed to 'inactive' before any analysis took place (for this reason the count of active childminders published in this report differs from that published in other Care Inspectorate publications and by the Scottish Social Services Council in their Workforce Data report).

Not all childcare services have submitted an annual return. This means that there are some gaps in the data that we need to take account of.
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Summary of annual return response rates at December 2016

Main service	Response rate at December 2016
Childminding	86%
Children and family centre	96%
Crèche	96%
Holiday playscheme	93%
Nursery	97%
Out of school care	97%
Playgroup	93%
All services	**90%**
All services (excl. childminding services)	**96%**

For dealing with missing data, the following approach has been taken.

A. Imputation of missing data using historic data

Where a daycare of children service did not submit an annual return for 2016, but submitted a return for either 2015 or 2014, the information submitted in the most recent historic annual return was used to impute the missing data for 2016. Where a service re-registered (for example, due to a provider change) and information was missing for 2016, the most recent historic information from the previously registered service was used (if the service submitted an annual return in 2015 or 2014). For childminders annual returns from 2013, 2014 and 2015 were used in the same way.

## B. Imputation of missing data where no historic data is available

Where a service has not provided any information in 2015 or 2014 (or 2013 for childminders), or where a service was newly registered in 2016 (and not a re-registration) missing data has been estimated. To estimate missing data, we took into account the following variables: service size; service location (local authority and level of deprivation) and service category (nursery, out of school care and so on). We then estimated the missing data using average values from services based on the above criteria. No estimates were used for new data items (see below) for which the information is based on submitted annual returns only.

C. Testing the impact of imputing data

To help assess the impact of imputing missing data, some of the final results have been compared to estimates obtained from using data from completed annual returns only (that is ignoring any missing data).

For the number of children registered with childminders at 31 December 2016, the results using imputation (as used in the publication tables) produce an estimate of 33,440. This is higher than the non-estimated figure of 29,680 (based on completed annual returns only).

For daycare of children services (excluding crèche services) the estimated results after imputing (as used in the publication tables) produce an estimate of 218,760 children registered with daycare of children services. This is higher than the non-estimated figure of 213,200 (based on completed annual returns only).
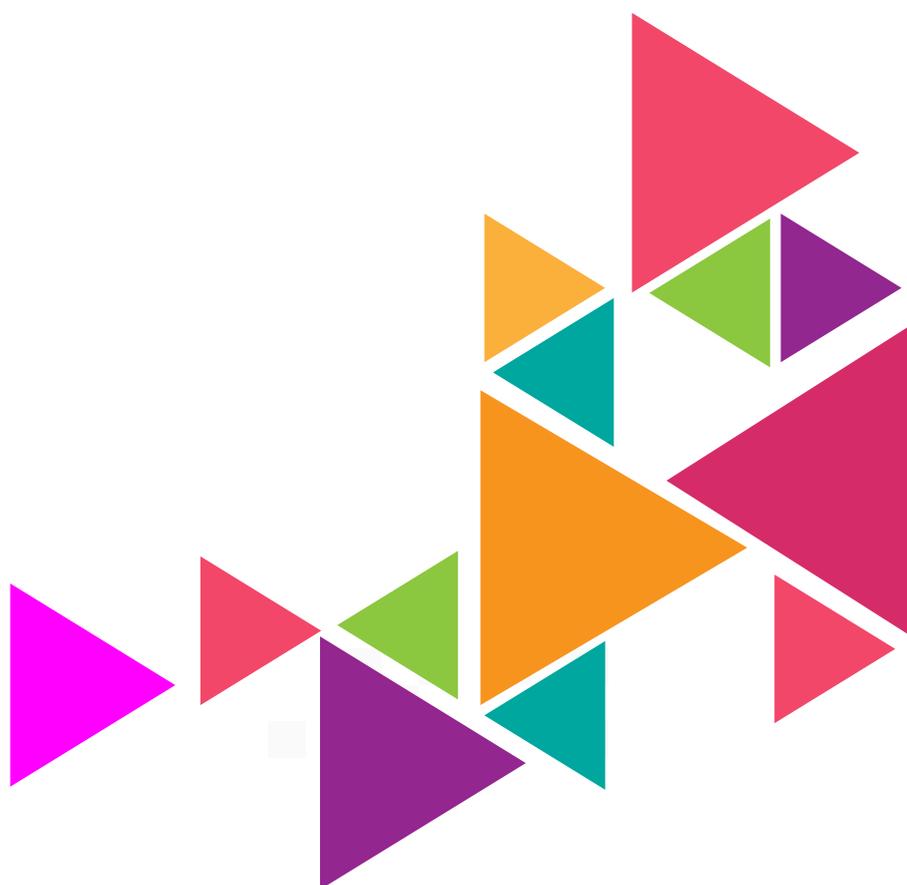
Appendix 4: Changes to data items collected in 2016

Additional data collected from childminders

In 2016, we collected the following information for the first time:
- children, who use childminding services for out of school care (aged 4 to 12+)
- the languages that childminding services are provided in
- amended set of qualifications of childminders.

The information on school aged children's use of childcare is important information used by the Scottish Government and the Scottish Out of School Network to help develop policy around out of school care. In adding the questions on out of school care and languages, the childminding annual return is now aligned with the daycare of children annual return on those data items. The qualifications list was amended to only include qualifications that are relevant to providing a childminding service.

Due to these sets of data being collected for the first time, there are some uncertainties regarding the data quality. Therefore, this information is published as a set of 'first time statistics'. Unlike for other data items, no data has been imputed to account for non-submissions and only the data actually submitted in the annual return is displayed in this report and the supporting data tables. This means that the figures reported are most likely an underestimate of the true figures.

Removal of data on ELC-funded children

The Care Inspectorate has trialled collecting data on the number of children who receive ELC funding by age group for the last two years. The information has not been included in this publication and will no longer be collected due to some data quality issues with this particular set of data (for example, double counting and incomplete information). For information on funded registrations by children's age, the National Statistics produced by the Scottish Government should be used and their latest publication can be accessed here:
http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/Pubs-Pre-SchoolEducation.

Information on services not operating during term time or school holidays

New options were added to the operating times questions for both childminders and daycare of children services. Services now have the options to state that they 'don't operate during school term time' and that they 'don't operate during school holidays'.

Classification of service categories – removal of 'no single service type'

In 2016, we removed the option for services to classify themselves as 'no single service type'. Services now have to select one of the given main service type categories (breakfast club, children and family centres, crèche, holiday playscheme, out of school club, nursery, playgroup). Some specialised services (such as respite care, women's aid) that would have selected 'no single service type' before, now fall into the children and family centre category.

Appendix 5: How the Care Inspectorate assesses quality themes during inspection

During inspections, we assess quality themes, which cover the main areas of a service's work. How well the service performs in these areas will indicate how good the service is.

The themes are:
- Quality of care and support: how well the service meets the needs of each person who uses it
- Quality of environment: where the service is delivered, for example, how clean, well maintained and accessible it is, the atmosphere of the service, how welcoming it is
- Quality of staffing: the quality of the staff, including their qualifications and training
- Quality of management and leadership: how the service is managed and led and how it develops to meet the needs of the people who use it.

Each theme is evaluated using a six-point scale.
6 – Excellent
5 – Very good
4 – Good
3 – Adequate
2 – Weak
1 – Unsatisfactory

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Tha am foillseachadh seo ri fhaighinn ann an cruthannan is cànain eile ma nithear iarrtas.

অনুরোধসাপেক্ষে এই প্রকাশনাটি অন্য ফরম্যাট এবং অন্যান্য ভাষায় পাওয়া যায়।

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