

Application No: Ref: APP/24/00342

Site Address: Woodcroft Farm Development Site, Woodcroft Lane, Waterlooville

Proposed Development: Outline Planning Application for the development of up to 190 units, with associated vehicular access, infrastructure and landscaping (all matters reserved except access).

Thank you for consulting Hampshire County Council on the above planning application, which has been sent to me for comment regarding Early Years.

Hampshire County Council requires housing developments to consider and ensure there is sufficient good quality early years and childcare provisions to meet the needs of working families and children. When calculating possible need for childcare, consideration must be given to the government announcement in March 2023, its policy direction to offer 15 hours funded places for working families with children aged two years old from April 2024; to babies (from 9 months) from September 2024 and to increase this to 30 hours from September 2025. Within the current context of this new government priority, the early years' capacity may help families access childcare and offer parental choice.

Based on the mix of the development for this planning application an estimate of 190 residences has been used for the calculation as residences suitable for families. This equates to approximately 24 childcare places.

The closest provision is Woodcroft Preschool adjacent to the development. It is not large enough to support the anticipated growth. However, there is also an additional full day care setting within walking distance for families. Existing provision may see an increase in demand for places depending on where families chose to attend, The market is currently meeting the demand, however any reduction to the places available in the childcare market will impact on parents' ability to access childcare in this and surrounding wards.

The population of 0 to 4-year-old children, as indicated by the Council's Small Area Population Forecast (SAPF), is forecasting a decrease from 2023 to 2030 for the ward. However, this can change as we receive ongoing updates to our SAPF data.

If you require any further information please complete the [General Enquiry form](#)

Kind Regards

Sheila Sahota
Childcare Development Officer

Services for Young Children
Hampshire County Council
Elizabeth II Court South, Room 2.17
The Castle
Winchester
SO23 8UG