



City of Westminster

# Children and Adults, Public Health and Voluntary Sector Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Date:	22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2022
Report of:	Councillor Tim Roca
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member for Young People and Learning
Report Topic:	Out of School Provision in Westminster City Council
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## 1. Summary

Out of school provision was one of the sectors that was affected by the pandemic. Many families stopped using breakfast and after school clubs and holiday clubs' numbers declined quite significantly, which led to the closure of some clubs.

However, in recent months with parents and carers returning to workplaces, numbers have started to increase again. A small number of schools report low numbers and concerns regarding long term sustainability.

Out of school providers and schools report that the patterns of attendance have changed and many families only access three sessions per week as opposed to five days, which used to be the case before the pandemic. This makes sustainability a challenge.

Breakfast and after school clubs are primarily organised by the schools and delivered by school staff or by external providers that are non-Ofsted registered as sessions usually last less than 2 hours.

Based on the information we have received from schools, there are currently 1551 places for breakfast clubs and 2124 places for after school provision across Westminster schools.

## 2. Current Issues

This year has been particularly challenging as staff shortages have had an impact on out of school hours provision. Some providers are reporting that breakfast clubs are quieter than before the pandemic, as mentioned above. It is not always easy for families to find suitable provision, especially for children under the age of five. Families report that it is not always easy to find relevant information and prices vary quite significantly.

## 3. Cost Ranges

The types of provision available varies substantially, between and within schools. For after-school provision, most schools can only specify a range of costs that may apply. Some schools also deliver a reduced or no cost offer to children eligible for Free School Meals (FSM), or discounts for siblings. The range of costs across schools is illustrated below based on cost per session, estimated from termly or weekly prices where necessary.

<b>Provision</b>	<b>Phase</b>	<b>Minimum Cost anywhere</b>	<b>Maximum Cost anywhere</b>	<b>Average Minimum to Average Maximum Cost</b>	<b>Average Mid Cost</b>	<b>Number of Schools responding</b>
<b>Breakfast Club</b>	Primary	£0	£6.85		£3.34	18
	Secondary	£0	£1		£0.50	2
<b>After School</b>	Primary	£0	£15	£5.95–£9.84	£7.89	20
	Secondary	(Insufficient data)				

## 4. Next Steps

The Early Education and Childcare Service will continue to work with out of school providers, send out regular newsletters and offer support, advice and guidance and facilitate forums, as required. We will continue to have conversations with schools and out of school providers to introduce more affordable, flexible and high quality out of school provision for Westminster families.

We will work closely with schools to explore the possibility of introducing multi-school hubs for schools that are considering discontinuing the out of school offer for their families. This will ensure that geographical areas will have wraparound care hubs where local families will be able to access services.

Moving forward, information about breakfast and after school clubs will be added to the individual school records on the Westminster Family Information Service (FIS) website to support parents to identify and compare the offer.

The Council will work with schools in Westminster to register for 'Magic Breakfast' which subsidises breakfast clubs. 'Magic Breakfast' is a government funded initiative and breakfast

club places are free to attend for all children in schools accessing the scheme. To access the scheme schools need to have at least 35% of pupils recorded as eligible for Pupil Premium. Currently, 56% of our schools are eligible and eight of them are already accessing the offer. We have identified the schools that have not signed up yet and will encourage them to register so that we make breakfast clubs available to all children. It is worth mentioning that all pupils of participating schools will be able to access the offer for free, as mentioned above.

### **Primary Offer**

Breakfast and after school clubs are delivered in almost all primary schools in Westminster.

### **Secondary Offer**

Many secondary schools offer after school activity clubs. However, it has been difficult to determine associated costs and collate specific information due to gaps in the information shared by schools. We are aware that the secondary after school offer is also supplemented by youth and library provision.

### **Library Offer**

Libraries run a variety of sessions that are free for all families/children (see attached information). The offer consists of a variety of sessions (for example, homework clubs, Lego clubs, story time sessions, craft activities, Saturday clubs, coding clubs, chess clubs, rhyme time etc.). This is a popular offer and the sessions are well attended. The voluntary and community sectors offer services that families access too.

### **Youth Offer**

There is an after-school youth offer in place, which is well attended.

An interactive map has been introduced to demonstrate where out of school provision currently takes place in Westminster, a snapshot of which is included below.

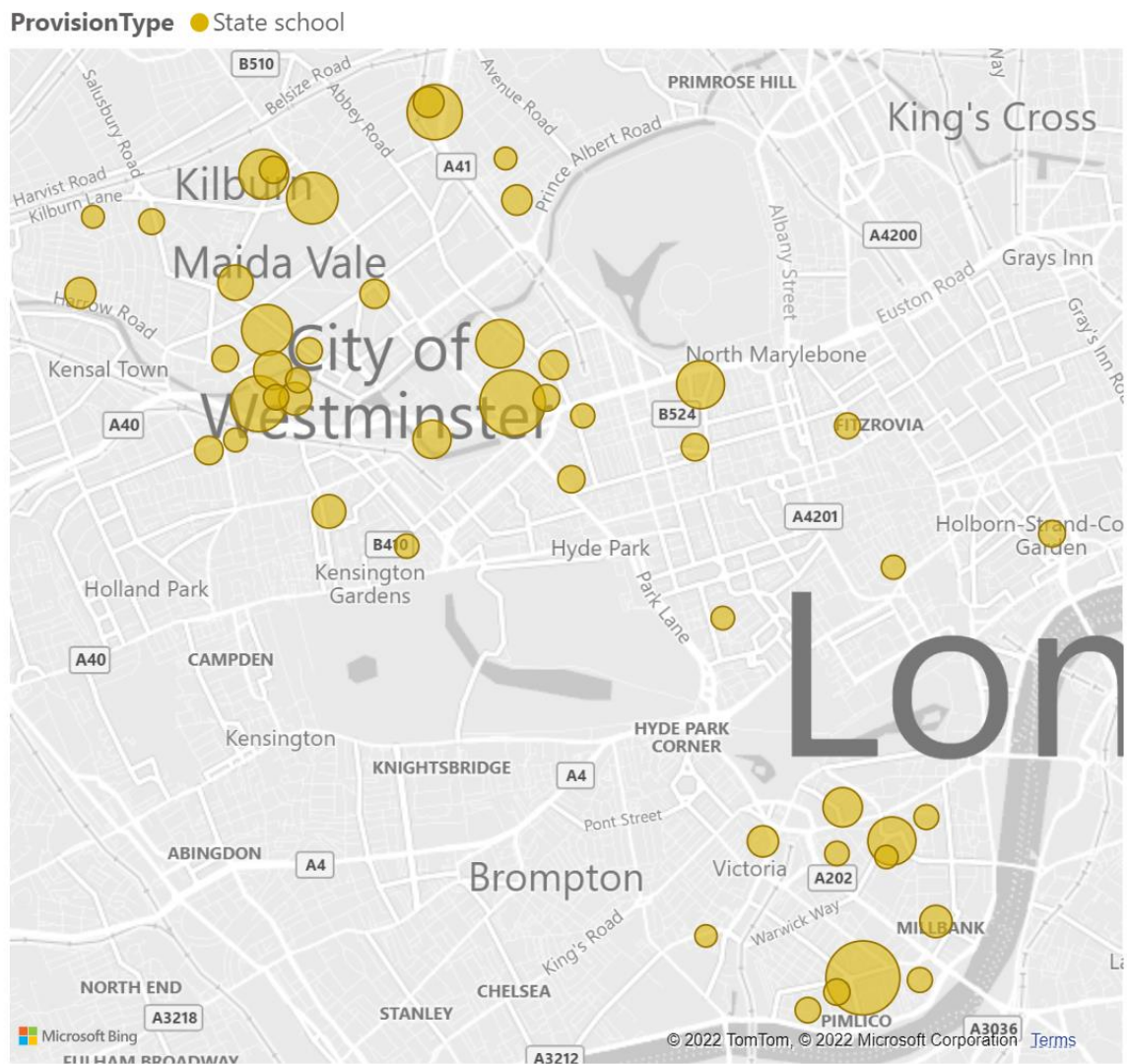
This provision is in addition to a wider leisure and sports offer.

Figure 1: Map of known provision for out of school hours:

Type of provision ● AfterSchool ● Breakfast ● Library After-school



Figure 2: Map of state schools with Key Stages 1 to 3, for comparison. Size of bubble represents number of pupils in Key Stages 1,2, or 3 in January 2021.



Link to interactive map:

[https://app.powerbi.com/links/prsrJOOhmM?ctid=50d8c115-b77f-4395-a3ba-3b407caf0d88&pbi\\_source=linkShare](https://app.powerbi.com/links/prsrJOOhmM?ctid=50d8c115-b77f-4395-a3ba-3b407caf0d88&pbi_source=linkShare)