**[*Add embargo date*]**

**[*Based on what your finding shows the title should reflect the starkest data in either availability or affordability of childcare in your local area. See below example for title .*]**

**Availability: Example title 1 : Data shows that (number) childcare places have been lost during (period of time) in (location)**

**Affordability: Example title 1: Childcare for (Insert childcare age group) absorbs (percentage) of women’s salaries.**

**[*Introduce the data in your headline] Example below*.**

Availability example: (Number) childcare places have been lost during the winter lockdowns than in the first six months of the pandemic in (location). Providers have been closing at a concerning rate, with (number) more providers closing between Sep-Mar 20/21 than in Mar-Aug 2020.

Affordability example: For (childcare age group) in (location), full-time childcare costs absorb (percentage) of women’s median earnings while part- time childcare takes up (percentage) of women’s salaries.

**[*Organisation’s name*]** analysis has found that **[*introduce the rest of the data. You can list them in bullet points*]**

This analysis was carried out with the support from the Local Data Project led by Women’s Budget Group. Women’s Budget Group analysis shows that the availability and affordability crisis in childcare is being exacerbated by the pandemic and subsequent childcare closures.

*You can now introduce England wide data*

**Reduced access to childcare in England**

New data from Ofsted shows that in the six months up to March 2021, there were 14,385 fewer childcare places and 3,292 fewer providers in England. This represents a 4.4% net loss of childcare providers and 1.1% net loss of childcare places. This decrease is being largely driven by childminders leaving the market.

Prior to the pandemic, childcare provision was already scarce for some groups of children. According to data from Coram Family and Childcare, for disabled children in England, **only 25% of local authorities reported having sufficient childcare** in 2020.

**Affordability of childcare in Great Britain**

Women’s Budget Group analysis shows that **families are expected to spend a significant proportion of their income on childcare costs** with evidence suggesting that mothers’ jobs and earning potential are more likely to be sacrificed when childcare is unaffordable.

For under 2s in Great Britain, full-time **childcare costs absorbhalf (49%) of women’s median earnings while part- time childcare takes up nearly a third (63%) of women’s salaries.**

State support in the form of free-entitlement hours only starts for most children once they reach three. But even with childcare state support, **childcare for 3- and 4-year-olds is still between a fifth and a quarter of women’s salaries** with women spending on average 24% of their earnings on part-time childcare.

Childcare costs continue to rise faster than wages, with childcare fees having increased 4% in 2020, according to data from Coram Family and Childcare.

**[*Add a quote] Name/ role/ organisations name. Below is an example of a quote. Make sure the quote has the main message in your press release and that you include any recommendations/ action you would like local MPS/ Councillors to take.]***

***Hana Abid, Report author and Research and Policy Officer at Women’s Budget Group, said:***

*“The childcare closures many feared at the start of the pandemic are materialising. During the Autumn and Winter lockdowns of 2020/21, over 7,500 providers left the sector and in March 2021 there were 64,000 fewer places than in August 2020. Demand is expected to go up after ‘Freedom Day’ and once people return to the office many parents might struggle to find childcare available for their children. The closures, combined with the ongoing affordability crisis, are likely to have an impact on parents’ – especially mothers’ – ability to remain in their jobs. The Government must urgently intervene to save the sector and fully covering the provision cost of the ‘free hours’ should be the minimum. Investing in a free universal high-quality childcare system would have benefits across the economy and be truly transformative for millions of children, in line with the levelling-up agenda.”*

[END]

**For further information, please contact: [*add contact details for someone in your organisation who can deal with media enquiries*]**

**About [*Organisation’s name] a few sentences on what your organisations/ group does*.**

**[Keep the below disclaimer on your press release]**



This analysis was carried out with the support from the [Local Data Project led by Women’s Budget Group](https://wbg.org.uk/ldp/). The Local Data Project provides organisations with training to analyse local data. Women’s Budget Group does not accept any responsibility or liability for the accuracy, content, completeness, legality or reliability of this data and information. Furthermore, use of our logo is not an endorsement of the content published.