

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

Annual Summary 2018/19

Devon County Council has met the childcare sufficiency duty in 2018/19 by:

- Ensuring there is enough accessible early years and childcare provision across the county by assessing data and addressing gaps in provision.
- Ensuring high quality early years and childcare provision for children aged two, three and four taking up free early education.
- Continued to support providers to offer the extended entitlement.
- Ensuring there is sufficient early years and childcare provision for children from families taking up the childcare element of the working tax credit, children with additional needs, school-aged children and children needing holiday care.

Key changes in 2018/19

- The hourly rate for three- and four-year-olds increased from £4.06 in April 2018 to £4.08 in September to include deprivation funding.
- The universal credit has been rolled out to all parts of Devon.
- The government closed the Childcare Vouchers scheme to new entrants on 4 October 2018. This has been replaced by Tax Free Childcare.
- The only local authority run day nursery has been successfully contracted out.

Devon County Council's achievements in ensuring sufficient childcare in 2018/19:

- The percentage of providers graded as good or outstanding by Ofsted in Devon (97.2%) remains higher than the national (95.2%) and South West (96.7%) average (March 2019).
- The take-up of the Early Years Funding for two-, three- and four-year-olds and children in care remains high.
- The take-up of the extended entitlement has increased from 41.8% in Spring 2018 44.3% in Spring 2019. This is 70.9% of those who are estimated to be eligible.

To ensure sufficient early years and childcare provision in 2019/20, Devon County Council will:

- Focus on improving the quality of providers graded as 'inadequate' or 'requires improvement'
- Continue to assess sufficiency data and carry out agreed actions to ensure a comprehensive approach to planning sufficient early years and childcare provision
- Continue to market and promote the free early education for two-, three- and four-year-olds to increase take-up of places and hours including the extended entitlement.
- Improve communication with parents to gauge demand for childcare.
- Support providers to grow their business, where there is an identified need.

For further information please see the Early Years and Childcare Service '[Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Annual Report 2018/19](#)'.