

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Annual Report



September 2020 to August 2021

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Information about where to get advice and support on finding and paying for childcare is available in [appendix 1](#).

Devon Childrens' and Families Partnership

Our Children and Families Partnership is working together to make sure that **children and families get the right support, in the right place at the right time**. We believe that every child in Devon should have the best possible start in life and the opportunity to thrive.

The Children and Young People's Plan [Children and Young People's Plan 2019 - 2023 - Devon Childrens' and Families Partnership \(dcfp.org.uk\)](#) outlines our commitment.

We believe all children and young people in Devon have the right to:

Life Chances	Be Healthy and Well	Feel Safe	Be Protected from Harm
Achieve their potential with the opportunities to thrive.	Have the best start in life, stay well and thrive. With good information and specialist help when they need it.	Be protected from neglect and supported when vulnerable.	Be protected from harm, abuse, and exploitation.

Introduction to Childcare Sufficiency

Each Local Authority is required [to publish](#) a [Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Annual Report](#) for [elected members](#) and parents. This and other duties are set out in the [Childcare Act 2006 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#).

What you can expect to see in this report

[Statutory guidance](#) states that Childcare Sufficiency Assessment reports should include information about the current and projected supply and demand of childcare, including specific references to how the Local Authority are ensuring there is sufficient childcare available to meet the needs of:

- [children with special educational needs and disabilities](#);
- [children from families in receipt of Universal Credit](#);
- [children with parents who work irregular hours](#);
- [children aged two, three and four taking up funded places](#);
- [school age children](#);
- [children needing holiday care](#).

When planning for sufficient childcare, Local Authorities must ensure that places are accessible, affordable, and delivered flexibly, in a range of high-quality settings, so that parents can work or participate in training activities.

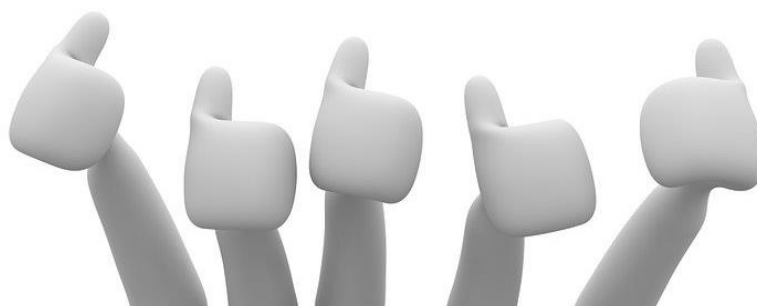
This report covers the period from **September 2020 to August 2021**.

All references to 'we' and 'us' in this report relate to the Early Years and Childcare Service which is part of Devon County Council.

Summary of Early Years and Childcare Sufficiency in Devon

Strengths

- ✓ **Continued development of childcare provision across the county:** Despite the pandemic there have been 11 new day nurseries, 3 new pre-schools, 4 new academy nursery classes, 9 out of school clubs, 6 holiday clubs and 29 new childminders. There have been more enquiries relating to becoming a childminder than the previous year.
- ✓ **More providers offering the Early Years Funding:** The number of funded providers has increased from 738 in Summer 2020 to 754 in Summer 2021. The number of providers registered to offer the two-year-old funding has also increased from 637 in Summer 2020 to 660 in Summer 2021.
- ✓ **Increased take-up of the two-year-old funding:** The percentage of two-year-olds accessing a funded place has increased by 7.4% to 86.5% this year and remains higher than the [national average \(62.0%\)](#). The take-up of the full entitlement and take-up by children in care and children in need has also increased.
- ✓ **Increased take up of the three- and four-year-old funding:** The percentage of three- and four-year-olds accessing a funded place has increased by 0.7% to 95.9% this year and remains higher than [the national average \(90%\)](#). The take-up of the extended entitlement and the full entitlements have also increased.
- ✓ **Increased take-up of the Early Years Pupil Premium:** The percentage of three- and four-year-olds accessing the Early Years Funding who have been funded for the Early Years Pupil Premium has increased by 2.6% to 12.3% this year.
- ✓ **More providers graded 'good' and 'outstanding':** The percentage of providers graded as good or outstanding by Ofsted has increased from 94.5% in Summer 2020 to 96.5% in Summer 2021 and is similar to the [national average \(96.4%\)](#).
- ✓ **More children accessing the Disability Access Funding:** 119 children were accessing the Disability Access Funding in 2019/20. This increased to 127 in 2020/21.
- ✓ **Increased social media connections:** The number of likes and followers of the Early Years and Childcare Service [Facebook](#) (8% increase), [Twitter](#) (18% increase) and [LinkedIn](#) in pages (61% increase) have increased over the last year. We introduced a new [Instagram](#) profile this year. The number of subscribers to our weekly digest/newsletter has increased by 143. This means our messages are being seen by more parents and providers.



Areas for Action

- **Potential lack of out of school provision:** Some out of school providers do not need to be registered with Ofsted. As a result, we do not always know about the provision that is made and therefore we may not have a complete data set covering the supply of places for older children.
- **Parents are not aware of the Early Years and Childcare Service:** Responses to the Parents Childcare Survey suggest that some parents are not aware of the services provided by Devon County Council and that they can be supported to find suitable childcare.
- **Fewer childminders:** The overall number of childminders has decreased. Two factors influencing this are the effect of the pandemic and data cleansing. Several childminders had stopped taking children but had retained their Ofsted registration.
- **Fewer unable to find childcare forms submitted:** This may mean that all families found the childcare that they needed, but we believe that it could also be because parents do not know they can contact us if they cannot find the childcare they need.
- **Fewer parents helped to find suitable childcare:** 66 parents submitted forms relating to 96 children in 2020/21. The percentage of parents that were helped to find childcare decreased from 71.6% in Summer 2020 to 33.3% in Summer 2021. This was either due to parents' specific requirements for childcare not being available or parents not letting us know if they had successfully found childcare.
- **Low usage of the 'right to request' childcare and the 'right to request' the use of a school site:** Very few schools have contacted us to say that parents have requested that they provide childcare or that they have had any childcare providers requesting the use of the school site. This could reflect more families working from home during the pandemic.
- **Decreased take-up of the early years funding by disadvantaged children:** The percentage of three- and four-year-olds living in the [top 30% most disadvantaged areas](#) accessing a fully funded place has decreased by 0.8% to 89.3% this year. The take-up of the extended entitlement has also decreased.
- **Less traffic to the Early Years and Childcare webpages:** The number of users that initiated at least one session on our webpages has continued to decrease by 18% from August 2020 to August 2021. This is most likely due to the significantly increased use of our social media platforms, our weekly digest having more subscribers and providers using the [early years COVID-19 page](#); so they are getting the information they need from other places. Also, if a user does not accept cookies on a webpage, they will not be included in the website analytics.

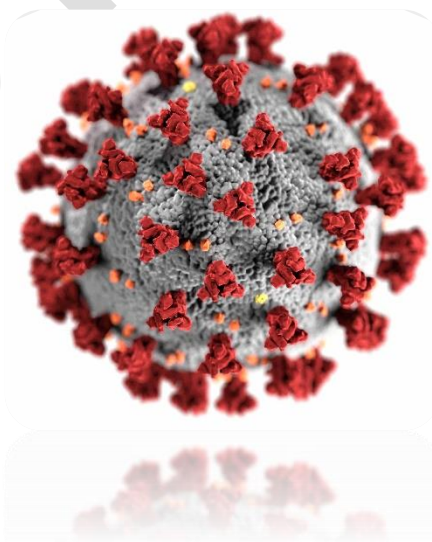
Opportunities

- **Continued increase in birth rate in some areas:** This may create an increase in demand for under-two-year-old provision followed by an increase in demand for two-year-old provision from 2023 and an increase in funded provision for three- and four-year-olds from 2024.
- **More childcare required in rural areas:** With more people working from home and the potential for these changes to be permanent, there could be an increase in demand for childcare nearer to where people live. Demand for childcare could become more evenly spread across the county rather than concentrated in larger towns and cities or on travel to work routes.
- **Early years provision in new schools:** Where a new school is built, as part of a large housing development, early years provision is included. The Early Years and Childcare Service work with the school place planning team to ensure the development of provision in new schools.
- **Active childcare marketplace:** There continues to be interest in setting up new provision in Devon. Some are new to Devon; others already have provision in Devon and want to set up another provision in different area.
- **Funded providers could be more flexible:** There are 62 funded providers that open all year round but only permit funded time to be taken during school term times. Childcare would be more affordable for some families if they could take their funding throughout the year.



Threats

- **Further COVID-19 outbreaks and impact on childcare providers:** The threat of further outbreaks and lockdowns poses a business risk to all providers due to changes in demand by working parents and staff sickness.
- **Less demand for childcare:** As more of us are working from home with no commute and shorter working days there is potentially less demand for childcare.
- **Potential threat to providers on travel to work routes:** With more parents working from home there may have been a shift with more provision being required closer to home rather than closer to work. This could result in reduced take up in provision on travel to work routes and in more urban areas, potentially resulting in unsustainable businesses and closures.
- **Government furlough scheme ending in September:** Businesses could become financially unstable due to the government furlough scheme finishing at the end of September 2021. Childcare businesses could close, as fewer parents will need childcare if they are made redundant; although more parents may become eligible for Universal Credit that could increase the demand for funded two-year-old places. This may also present a permanent loss of capacity within the early years and childcare sector if furloughed childcare staff do not return to work.
- **Inability to recruit and retain staff:** Locally and nationally recruitment into early years and childcare settings is proving to be extremely difficult. Low wages, high levels of responsibility and accountability to Ofsted as well as rural travel issues have impacted on many providers in Devon already.
- **Ofsted resuming inspections:** For some providers several years have elapsed since they were last inspected. If standards have not been maintained by 'good' and 'outstanding' settings, they could potentially have a downgraded judgement. The [Early Years ONE DEVON](#) aims to mitigate this risk.



Support for providers and the impact of COVID-19

Our focus in Devon

For the past 12 months, the Early Years and Childcare Service (we) have focussed on supporting providers through the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in areas where there is not enough provision.

We continue to take a lead role with the [Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) programme](#). This involves working to identify childcare and other providers that could offer activities and food during the [school holidays](#).

In Spring 2021 we introduced the [termly providers survey](#) and [termly parents survey](#) so we could find out more about the impact of covid on providers and parents.

We have noticed that there has been a large increase in the [number of people aged 16-49 on universal credit](#). We are starting to see the impact of this with an increased demand for [two-year-old funding](#) and take-up of Early Years Pupil Premium but a decrease in those [eligible for the extended \(30-hour\) funding for three-and four-year-olds](#).



Availability of provision

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the governments '[overarching objective is to maximise the number of children and young people in face-to face education or childcare and minimise any disruption, in a way that best manages the COVID-19 risk.](#)'

Table 1: Overview of changes to provision in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Date	Early Years	Childcare for over 5s	Schools	Comment
July 2020	Fully open	Critical workers and vulnerable children only	Fully open	Some early years providers through fear, concern for their health or misinterpreting guidance were only taking children that came to their provision and no other. As a result, other providers lost children and income.
5 November to 2 December 2020 LOCKDOWN 2	Fully open	Critical workers and vulnerable children only	Fully open	
November 2020 to March 2021	Fully open	Critical workers and vulnerable children only	From 4 January Critical workers and vulnerable children only	Family and friends could form 'childcare bubbles' for under 14s for childcare and respite care.
Spring Term 2021 LOCKDOWN 3	Fully open	March 8 Fully open	March 8 Fully open	
Summer Term 2021	Fully open	Fully open	Fully open	

Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2021), Early Years and Childcare Service

For more data on the coronavirus outbreak in Devon please see [Devon County Council's Covid-19 dashboard](#).

Support for providers

From September 2020, all early year's providers were told by the government to open as usual to all children. We continued to support all providers as normal throughout the Autumn Term 2020, with added links to information, guidance, and support from Public Health through the weekly online [digest](#), calls and emails and social media.

On the announcement of the Spring Term 2021 lockdown, we recognised that providers would need additional support. Therefore, we introduced bi-weekly virtual catch-up sessions to keep them updated on advice and guidance from Public Health England, the Department for Education (DfE), as well as information about what was happening with early years funding and the spring term census.

We maintained line of sight of vulnerable children through the locality teams and providers.

Monitoring the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19)

During 2020/21 we continued to collect data on openings, closings, and attendance of children from early years providers to report back to the DfE. The reporting schedule for the attendance returns changed from daily, to weekly, then fortnightly. Since the start of Autumn term 2021, only monthly reporting has been required. This data is used to inform national policy.

We wish to thank those providers that have, without fail, completed, and submitted the returns.



A Picture of Devon – Putting Childcare into Context

Socio-economic Differences

We use the [Index of Multiple Deprivation \(IMD\) 2019¹](#) to define disadvantage. For more information on deprivation in Devon, please see the [deprivation section of the Devon Facts and Figures webpages](#), including the [Analysis of Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019](#).

This data helps us to plan for the supply and demand of early years and childcare to meet the needs of families and to **'manage the childcare market'**. For example, the criteria for accessing [two-year-old funding](#), [Early Years Pupil Premium \(EYPP\)](#) and [Free School Meals \(FSM\)](#) mainly apply to parents receiving [certain benefits and/or those on low wages](#). Therefore, in areas where employment levels are low, we would expect more providers to be receiving this funding and we may need to plan for more places for two-year-olds.

In areas of high employment, we know that there are more working families, who will be eligible for the 30 hours extended entitlement, and families that need childcare all year round and throughout the school holidays. Therefore, these areas need to have more places for three- and four-year-olds and for school aged children and places that are available all year round.

Population

Over the last year² the population of 0 to 16-year-olds had increased by 0.3% (370 children) to 140,429.

- The districts of East Devon, South Devon and North Devon saw an increase in population of 0 to 16-year-olds whilst the districts of Exeter, Mid Devon, Teignbridge, Torridge, and West Devon saw a decrease.
- East Devon saw the largest increase of 1.8% (438 children) in the population of 0 to 16-year-olds. This is mainly due to the large housing developments at Cranbrook and on the eastern side of Exeter.
- The population of under-five-year-olds in Devon has continued to decrease by 1.9% (705 children) and is currently predicted to continue to decrease.
- The population of two-³, three- and four-year-olds eligible for the Early Years Funding is predicted to continue to decrease over the next 12 months.
- The number of births in the first six months of 2021 has increased by 35 compared with the first six months of 2020. This is the first sustained growth in births for several years. The main area of growth is East Devon.

Further population data on under five-year-olds is available in [Appendix 2](#).

¹ The IMD 2019 provides a relative measure of deprivation in small areas, known as Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs), across England.

² Population of children as at 31/03/2020 compared with population as at 31/03/2021 – Health Data

³ Based on DWP Eligibility list for Summer Term 2021

Housing Developments

There are several areas in Devon where new housing developments will significantly increase the population and therefore the demand for childcare.

We work closely with the [School Place Planning Team](#) to ensure requirements for early years and childcare provision are considered in responses to District Council Local Plans and [Section 106](#) requests. For more information, please see the [Education Infrastructure Plan](#).

There are currently 53 signed [Section 106 agreements](#) that include a contribution for early years places to be created.



Sufficiency of Provision

Demand for early years and childcare

We have two ways of finding out about parent's childcare needs:

- 1) The online '[Unable to find Childcare](#)' form enables parents to tell us at any time when they cannot find childcare.
- 2) The new online [termly parents childcare survey](#).

Unable to find childcare forms

66 parents submitted forms relating to 96 children in 2020/21. This is lower than the number submitted in 2019/20 (103 forms relating to 124 children).

Table 2: Number of children needing childcare as reported on unable to find childcare forms submitted.

Exeter	Bideford	Newton Abbot	All Other Areas of Devon
20	6	5	65

Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2021), Early Years and Childcare Service

Table 3: Number of children needing childcare by type of place required.

Under 2-year-old provision	2-, 3- or 4-year-old provision	Out of School Provision (4-11-year-olds)	Out of School Provision (11-16-year-olds)	Holiday Provision (4-11-year-olds)	Holiday Provision (11-16-year-olds)
9	23	56	3	2	3

Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2021), Early Years and Childcare Service

57 parents asked us to get in touch with them:

- We found childcare for 19 children.
- We didn't find childcare for 9.
- There were 29 where we didn't know the outcome.

Parents Childcare Survey

Our first survey was sent out in Spring Term 2021 followed by the second in Summer Term 2022. We asked parents if they used childcare, or if they needed to use childcare, if they could get enough childcare and what type they required.

They were then asked if they were willing to answer more questions. These included where childcare was needed, their reason for using childcare and the hours of childcare used. In addition, there were age-related questions about their reasons for using childcare, their awareness of funding and their use of childcare for atypical and irregular hours.

Spring Term 2021 Headlines:

- There were 1815 responses relating to 3471 children. 3369 of these children were aged between 0-16 and represents 2.41% of the population in Devon (140,049).
- 670 (37%) did not use formal childcare and of these, 45 (7%) needed to use childcare.
- 1145 (63%) parents used formal childcare.
- 278 (24%) said they could not get all the childcare they needed.
- 159 (57%) wanted out of school provision and 124 (45%) wanted holiday provision.

For further analysis please see the [Spring Term 2021 Parents Survey Analysis](#).

Summer Term 2021 Headlines:

- There were 1044 responses which related to 1835 children. 1806 of these children were aged between 0-16 and represents 1.29% of the population in Devon (140,429).
- Of those responding to the survey, 917 (88%) had not responded to the spring term 2021 survey.
- 306 (29%) did not use formal childcare and of these, 37 (12%) needed to use childcare.
- 738 (71%) used formal childcare. Of these, 293 (40%) said they could not get the all childcare they needed.
- 154 (53%) wanted out of school provision and 174 (59%) wanted holiday provision.

Further analysis please see the [Summer Term 2021 Parents Survey Analysis](#).

Conclusions:

- The main demand was for out of school and holiday childcare for primary school aged children.
- Some parents do not know to contact us if they cannot find childcare.
- Some parents need childcare who were not currently using it and others were already using childcare and needed more.
- More parents may now want childcare closer to home rather than closer to work.
- More parents were confident using childcare during the summer than they were during the spring.

Responses were mapped and audits were carried out for the main areas where the affected families were clustered. Areas that were deemed to have sufficiency issues are included in the [hot spots](#).



Supply of Childcare

Changes to the amount of provision available

The [types of Early Years and Childcare Providers factsheet](#) explains the differences between provision in Devon.

Table 4: Number of group childcare providers by type of care on 31 August 2021 compared with 31 August 2020.

Type of Provider	Total 19/20	Closed	New	Changes	Total 20/21
Day Nursery	130	5	11	1 changed to a Holiday Scheme 2 changed to Out of School Clubs 2 previously Pre-schools	135
Pre-school	188	4	3	9 changed to Academy Nursery Classes 2 changed to Day Nurseries 1 changed to a Maintained Nursery Class	175
Nursery unit of Independent School	15	0	0		15
Academy Nursery Class	60	0	4	9 previously Pre-schools 1 previously a Maintained Nursery Class	74
Maintained Nursery Class	53	0	0	1 changed to an Academy Nursery Class 1 was previously a Pre-school	53
Out of School Club	168	12	9	1 changed to a Holiday Scheme 2 previously Day Nurseries	166
Weekend Club	4	0	0		4
Holiday Scheme	77	9	6	1 previously a Day Nursery 1 previously an Out of School Club	76
Childminder	486				441
Home Childcarer	126				133
All Provision	1303				1272

Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2021), Early Years and Childcare Service

Changes to provision between 31 August 2020 and 31 August 2021:

Table 5: Number of childcare providers by type of care on 31 August 2021 compared with 31 August 2020.

	Devon	South West	England
Decrease in the number of Ofsted registered providers⁴⁵	-3.7%	-5%	-4%
Decrease in the number of childminders⁶	-8.1%	-7.6%	-5.9%

Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2021), Early Years and Childcare Service

⁴ Ofsted Registered Childcare Providers 31 March 2020 compared to 31 March 2021 -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/early-years-and-childcare-statistics> [Accessed September 2021]

⁵ School run provision is not included as it falls under the schools Ofsted registration - 31% of early years group provision in Devon is run by schools

⁶ Ofsted Registered Childcare Providers 31 March 2020 compared to 31 March 2021 -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/early-years-and-childcare-statistics> [Accessed September 2021]

Some childminders have closed because of:

- the pandemic
- personal health concerns
- the sustainability of their business
- taking up other work during the pandemic and not returning to childminding.

Several childminders had also chosen to retain their Ofsted registration but were no longer actively childminding which decreased the overall number of childminders that were actively childminding in Devon when we undertook a data cleaning exercise.

Despite the economic impact of COVID-19, we have continued to receive enquiries from existing and new providers proposing to open or expand provision and we are supporting them to do so where there is believed to be demand for places.

Provider Survey Headlines

The termly Provider Survey was introduced in Spring Term 2021. There was no Provider Survey in Summer Term 2021 due to other service priorities. It will recommence in Autumn Term 2021.

All funded group-based day care providers⁷ (426) returned the survey. This means we have excellent data on pre-schools and nurseries. We were delighted that almost three quarters of all early years and childcare providers (785) returned the survey.

We found out that:

- You can use your funded time all year round at 283 out of 652 funded providers. Many of you will be working all year round, so this could present a challenge.
- 62 funded providers open all year round but only offer funded time during the school term times.
- Almost three quarters of providers (582) open before 9am and 68% (532) after 3.30pm. This is good if you work during the mornings but could be tricky if you need to work a full day or during the afternoon.
- One in four providers (200) have a waiting list.
- More providers reduced provision in the last year than increased it.
- Many of these providers could have done so because they limited themselves to take only critical workers and vulnerable children.
- Reassuringly, very few felt like they were at risk of closure.
- Our providers are very accommodating - over 80% of requests for childcare before 8am and after 6pm had been met. Similarly, requests for overnight care, irregular hours and weekends were being met too.
- Capacity information provided in the survey is used to calculate full time equivalent (FTE) places that enable us to establish a picture of provision in districts, parishes, and wards so that we know what places we have and where they are in relation to where people live and go to work. It is also used for determining [hot spots](#).

⁷ Day nurseries, pre-schools, maintained nursery classes, academy nursery classes and independent schools.

Quality: Early Years One Devon

The [statutory guidance for local authorities](#) on securing sufficient childcare states 'childcare places' should be made available in 'high quality settings'. Places for two-year olds should only be funded by the local authority in good or outstanding provisions unless there is a sufficiency issue.

[Early Years ONE Devon](#) is the overarching strategy to support early years settings effectiveness in Devon. The strategy supports all early year's settings to become 'good' or 'outstanding' and ensure they meet the needs of all children. There is a strong focus on disadvantage as the aim is to support children to access their right to education, good quality care, and achieve their full potential.

Sufficiency of provision for two-year-olds taking up early years funding

Funding for two-year-olds is based on [national criteria](#), so a proportion of two-year olds will be funded for 570 hours a year and all other parents of two year olds need to pay for the childcare they use. Every six weeks we receive a list of potentially eligible parents' names and addresses from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). These parents were sent Golden Tickets. A Golden Ticket was a postcard that was sent to the parents on the DWP list whose child we already had a record of on our system. Parents who did not receive a Golden Ticket were sent a Purple Ticket and were encouraged to check their eligibility through the [Citizen's Portal](#).



It is important that as many eligible children as possible access a place so that they get the best start in life. Only providers that Ofsted consider to be good or outstanding are funded to take these children. There can, however, be one or two exceptions - where there is no alternative provision and local advisers are supporting the provider to improve and where children have attended the provider since they were a baby.

- This year has seen an increase in the numbers of two-year-olds eligible for two-year-old funding including more eligible due to Disability Living Allowance, Education Health and Care Plan and [Universal Credit](#).
- The take-up of funded places by eligible two-year-olds in Devon has increased from 79.1% in Summer 2020 to 86.5% in Summer 2021.
- This remains 24.5% higher than the national average of 62% (January 2021)⁸.
- The take-up of the full entitlement has also increased this year from 73.3% to 74.4% in Summer 2021.
- The take-up by children in care (80.8%) and children in need (81.9%) has also increased.

⁸ <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/education-provision-children-under-5>

The Golden Ticket is having to change this year because of data security. As the ticket identified that the parent, whose name, and address was on the ticket, had a two-year-old child this was not acceptable. The DFE have begun working on a new process and now require all local authorities to complete a Data Security Questionnaire explaining how we will manage the DWP data, what systems are used, who it is shared with etc. This means that from September, parents on the DWP list will be sent an invitation (see images below) signposting them to check if they are eligible for funding for their two--year-old through the [Citizen's Portal](#).

If a parent is found eligible through the [Citizen's Portal](#) or if we find them eligible because they have provided evidence to be checked, the parent is sent an eligibility message to take to a provider of their choice so they can book a place.

We will monitor successful eligibility checks to determine if the parent has gone on to take up a place. If they have not, then a prompt will be sent to them.

In addition, there is a new [webpage](#) and a new email address that parents can use to contact us about 2-year-old provision 2info@devon.gov.uk



Would you like:

- ☒ to give your child a head start?
- ☒ to be able to go back to work?
- ☒ to give your child high quality learning and care?
- ☒ to have some time for yourself?

Check out if your 2-year-old can get 15 hours of childcare per week at a preschool, childminder or nursery - **and at no cost to you!**

Visit: devon.cc/tyf

Call: **0345 155 1013**



You can also check if your child can have a free meal if they go to a nursery in a school!

For further information and terms and conditions visit:
devon.cc/childcaretyf

From the Early Years and Childcare team



Sufficiency of provision for three- and four-year-olds taking up early years funding

Funding for three-year-olds is a universal entitlement. We fund early years providers for children from the start of the funding period⁹ following their third birthday up until when they start at school or, if they are being home educated, until they reach statutory school age. The entitlement is for 570 hours a year. Many parents take this as 15 hours a week during term times only, but working parents often stretch the entitlement taking fewer hours each week over more weeks of the year.

We want children to take up as many of the funded hours as possible.

- The take-up of universally funded places by three- and four-year olds has increased over the last year from 95.2% in Summer Term 2020 to 95.9% in Summer Term 2021 and remains higher than the [national average of 90% in January 2021](#).
- The increase in take-up could be because more providers have signed up to receive early years funding.
- Just over a half (50.7%) of all funded three- and four-year olds (Summer Term 2021) are also taking up some of the extended entitlement up from 48.3% in Summer Term 2020.
- The take-up of the full universal entitlement by three- and four-year-olds living in the top 30% most disadvantaged areas has decreased by 0.8% to 89.3% this year.
- Data on the take-up of funded provision can be found in [Appendix 2](#).

Take-up remains high and data suggests that overall, there is sufficient provision to meet the current need for funded two-, three- and four-year-old places.

We recognise that there will be times of the day and weeks of the year when some families may not be able to access the places they need. Parents can report this to us on the [‘unable to find suitable childcare feedback form’](#).

Please see [our webpages](#) for more information.

⁹ [Early education and childcare \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) - Points 1.6 and 1.7

Sufficiency of provision for children from families in receipt of the childcare element of Working Tax Credit or Universal Credit

In Devon the Universal Credit roll-out is expected to complete in March 2023; until then some families will continue to receive the childcare element of [Working Tax Credit](#).

Families in receipt of Universal Credit or the childcare element of working tax credit may be eligible for a [Free School Meal, Early Years Pupil Premium and two-year-old funding](#).

The number of people aged 16-49 on universal credit¹⁰ in July 2021 (40,096) is slightly lower than was seen in July 2020 (40,737) but remains significantly higher than the level seen before the pandemic in July 2019 (13,444).

The number of two-year-olds eligible for funding due to the Universal Credit has increased from 816 in Summer Term 2020 to 1398 in Summer Term 2021. As a result, the number of two-year-olds taking up funding has increased from by 235 to 1577 this year.

Similarly, the number of children receiving Early Years Pupil Premium has increased by 289 to 1434 this year and the number of children taking up Free School Meals in nursery classes has increased from by 257 to 570 this year.

Across Devon, 13.5% of 16-49-year-olds received universal credit¹¹. North Devon (17.2%) and Torridge (17.4%) saw the highest percentages of 16-49-year-olds receiving universal credit, whereas Exeter (9.9%) saw the lowest percentages receiving universal credit.

There are a higher proportion of children receiving two-year-old funding, Early Years Pupil Premium and Free School Meals in North Devon and Torridge than elsewhere in Devon.

We work with Job Centre Plus and providers to ensure that there is sufficient provision to meet the needs of all families including those in receipt of the childcare element of the [Working Tax Credit](#) and those affected by changes under the welfare reforms. We work to increase the take up of all funding that is benefit related.

¹⁰ Job Centre Plus – Stat Explore – It is assumed that over 50-year-olds are less likely to have young children, therefore the analysis just looks at people on universal credit aged between 16 and 49.

¹¹ Mid-year population estimates 2020 <https://www.devon.gov.uk/factsandfigures/the-people/population-estimates/> (subtracting number of 15-year-olds from Health Data Summer Term 2020)

Sufficiency of provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities

Early years and childcare providers are required to be inclusive¹². Support for group childcare providers with inclusive practice is available through the [Early Years Consultants](#) and for childminders through the [Early Years and Childcare Advisers](#). We believe that there is sufficient provision to meet the needs of parents of children with additional needs because there have been no enquiries to the service made by families with children with additional needs who cannot find childcare.

The information below outlines some of the other support available to providers:

Early Years Funding for children with additional needs

- 37.5% of two-year-olds and 93.8% of three- and four-year-olds with additional needs¹³ were accessing the Early Years Funding in summer term 2021.

Disability Access Fund (DAF)

The [Disability Access Fund \(DAF\)](#) is intended to aid access to places for three- and four-year-olds who are in receipt of the Disability Living Allowance, by supporting providers in making reasonable adjustments to their settings. Providers are entitled to receive a one-off payment of £615 per year¹⁴.

- 127 children have been funded through the [Disability Access Fund \(DAF\)](#) in 2020/21.

Nursery Plus

[Nursery Plus](#) is an educational outreach service, supporting early years settings in receipt of early years funding to meet the needs of individual children identified with additional or Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

- Despite the pandemic (when many providers were closed and children were absent), 377 children attending 113 providers were supported through the [Nursery Plus](#) service in 2020/21.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Individual Inclusion Fund

The [Early Years Consultants](#) and the Nursery Plus teams have continued to promote the SEND Individual Inclusion Funding application process to ensure all providers are fully informed of this support. Through their Area SEND Co-ordinator role, the Early Years Consultants have offered additional advice with regards to the identification of children's needs and evidencing an 'assess, plan, do, review' process that settings are then able to include in the application process. Early Years Consultants and Nursery Plus have worked with individual settings to ensure that the funding is utilised to have maximum impact on progress.

¹² Required through the [Equality Act 2010](#) and the [Children and Families Act 2014](#).

¹³ Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are defined as children who have an Education, Health and Care Plan or SEN Support (this means they are supported by Devon County Council for special needs and disabilities).

¹⁴ Or pro rata for school starters: £410 for two terms and £205 for one term.

The funding panel have noted an increase in requests for funding for children with higher level needs possibly linked to waiting lists for therapy and delays in assessment and that have resulted from the Covid situation.

- 1058 children have been funded through the [SEND Individual Inclusion Fund](#) in 2019/20.

Early Years Complex Needs (EYCN) Service

The [EYCN service](#) is an education-based service for children with significant or complex developmental delay in two or more areas of development. One of these areas must be cognition (acquiring knowledge or understanding).

- The service is affiliated to the [National Portage Association](#) (NPA) and is based on the principle that parents and carers are the key figures in the care and development of their child.
- It works closely with a wide number of professionals from health, education and care and is made up of a service lead, specialist teachers and practitioners.
- The child and family will be supported by the EYCN team in the following ways:
 - ✓ Regular home visits by practitioners, providing parents with strategies, skills, and ideas to help their child's development,
 - ✓ Support to access community settings (such pre-school and nursery; Children Centre's and their 'Step by Step' groups which focus on supporting children with a disability, and groups specifically led by the EYCN Service).
 - ✓ The specialist teachers contribute to the Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) process, transitions into settings and schools, including requests for Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

Between September 2020 to August 2021 the EYCN service worked with 250 children. There were 299 referrals in that period and the service accepted and worked with 250. The ones not accepted were not appropriate referrals and were signposted to the right places.

Local Offer

Information on education, health and social care services and support for children and young people (0-25) with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), can be found in [Devon County Council's Local Offer](#), with more information on [what is available for 0-4 year olds in Devon](#).

There are a range of specialist provisions across Devon i.e., specialist holiday play schemes and Saturday clubs. [To search for these visit Pinpoint – Community Services Directory](#).

[To find out about help with childcare costs see appendix 1.](#)

Sufficiency of provision for children requiring holiday care

With the seasonal nature of employment opportunities in the tourism and hospitality sectors it is important to ensure there is sufficient provision for parents needing to use holiday care to enable them to work. Both sectors have been particularly hard hit by the pandemic and so demand for childcare is difficult to determine.

This year the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme was introduced, providing free holiday provision including healthy food and enriching activities to disadvantaged children. The programme ran over the Easter and Summer holidays and will continue in the Christmas holiday. During the Easter holidays, 8,891 places were provided with 3,021 children attending the provision. During the Summer holidays, 39,000 places were provided with many children accessing in excess of the prescribed number of sessions. For more information, please see the [Holiday Activities and Food programme web pages](#).

Attendance in early years and childcare settings changes during the summer as some parents choose to use holiday provision whilst others do not require it, for example, those who work term-time only. Other parents use their annual leave entitlement to cover holiday periods to reduce the need for childcare, whilst others will use friends or relatives to care for their children.

There were four unable to find childcare forms submitted in 2020/21 from parents looking for holiday provision for their school aged children (five children). Three parents were supported to find suitable childcare options, another parent opted not to be contacted. In addition to this the parent survey told us that more parents need holiday provision for 174 children. These parents had the option of completing the unable to find childcare form, but they did not do so.

Given the above, there appears to be sufficient childcare to meet the needs of children requiring holiday provision, but we will keep monitoring this.

Sufficiency of provision for school aged children

Demand for out of school provision (before school and after school clubs) for school-aged children is usually met through the local schools that the children attend, where there is sufficient demand from parents to ensure sustainable provision. If the school does not or cannot deliver childcare provision where a need has been identified, an external provider may want to set up in partnership with the school to provide this service from the school site. Many childminders offer breakfast childcare dropping children off at school and collecting them when the school day ends.

Parents have the **'right to request'** that schools offer childcare and childcare providers can **'request to use school buildings'** from where they can operate childcare. It is the responsibility of the school governors or trustees to respond to these requests. This is set out in ['Wraparound and holiday childcare: parent and childcare provider 'rights to request'](#). We have asked schools to inform us if they receive requests from childcare providers and parents. There have been several requests from parents and a few requests from childcare providers that we are aware of although these have not specifically been raised as a 'right to request' nor dealt with as such by schools so far as we are aware.

We do not always know about all school run before and after school care as there is no requirement for it to be registered separately with Ofsted. As a result, there may have been more places made available than we know about.

42 parents contacted us because they were looking for out of school provision for 59 children. We helped 11 parents to find suitable childcare. We were not able to help 9 parents and the outcome for the remaining parents is unknown.

We recognise that sufficiency of out of school provision is an issue across the county and will work to address this over the forthcoming year. For more details, please see the [Action Plan](#).

Sufficiency of provision for children with parents who work irregular hours

We will fund two-, three- and four-year-old places at weekends and bank holidays enabling providers to claim funding whenever they are open between 6.00am and 8.00pm.

The Spring Term Parents Survey told us that most parents requiring childcare for atypical hours for their children of different ages wanted it before 8am. Very few wanted overnight childcare and the same was true for childcare at the weekends. There was also an even spread of ages requesting different atypical hours.

The low levels of demand generally make group provision during atypical hours unviable and so childminders are often the best option for parents who need irregular hours of childcare.



Sufficiency of Early Years and Childcare Provision

Early Years and Childcare Sufficiency Hot Spots

Data held by the Early Years and Childcare Service about provision of early years and childcare in Devon and parental demand is analysed, assessed, and monitored as part of a comprehensive approach to planning for sufficient provision and to enable effective market management.

'Hot Spots' are [parishes](#) in Devon where a need has been identified following the annual analysis of data. This could be a need for more provision or where further work is required by us to better determine if the current provision meets the potential demand. The data is put into a report that is shared with our locality teams and their feedback is added. The hot spot areas are then agreed by our managers before publication.

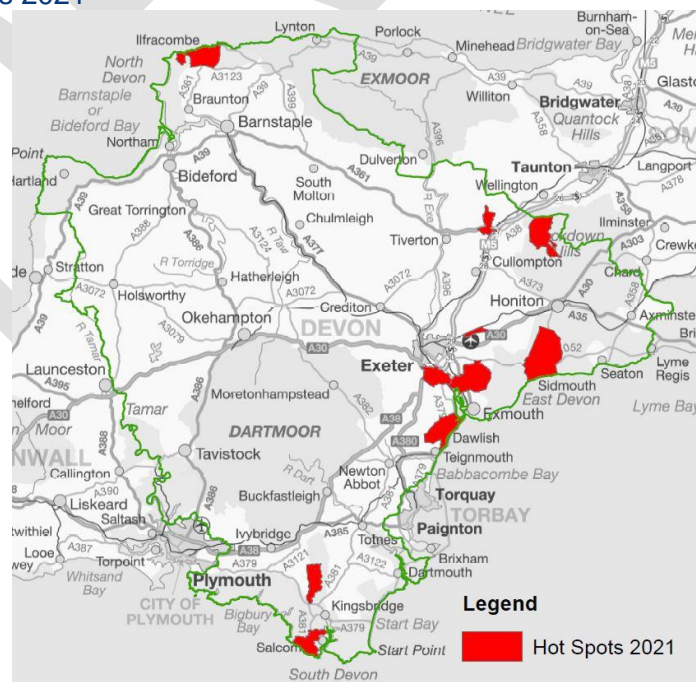
Hot spot areas identified in August 2021 are:

Table 6: Hot Spot Areas.

Category	Hot Spot Area
Under-five-year-old provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hemyock • Ilfracombe • Sampford Peverell
Under-two-year-old provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cranbrook • Exminster • Dawlish • Malborough • Loddiswell • Woodbury
Two-, three- and four-year-old provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sidmouth
Out of School Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County wide

Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2021), Early Years and Childcare Service

Map 1: Hot Spot Areas 2021



Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2021), Early Years and Childcare Service

Spotlight areas are [parishes](#) where we need to better understand the supply of and demand for early years and childcare provision and to consider different local factors that may be having an effect in these areas:

- Kingskerswell
- Fremington
- Holsworthy
- Chudleigh
- Bideford and Northam
- Stokenham
- Exeter and the surrounding developments

There is uncertainty relating to parental demand for childcare as working patterns continue to change, the economy adjusts after the pandemic and the supply of childcare alters as a result. We will monitor the childcare market and respond where necessary.

Further information on work to be undertaken to address issues relating to these hot spot areas can be found in the [Action Plan](#).

Summing up sufficiency

As there were a very low number of instances where the service has not been able to match parents to suitable childcare, we believe there is sufficient early years and childcare provision in almost all parts of Devon to meet the needs of most parents.

We have identified:

- ✓ **Hot spots** where we think more places are needed,
- ✓ that we must review the supply and demand of **out of school places**
- ✓ **Spotlight areas** where we need to do more work to better understand the local dynamics that may have an impact on sufficiency planning.

Monitoring of Early Years and Childcare

Monitoring and reporting on sufficiency, quality, affordability, and accessibility

Our internal termly reports for managers, enable the monitoring of data relating to the local authority's sufficiency duty and market management. These reports also help managers to measure how the targets, within the Service Action Plan, are being addressed and met in a timely manner throughout the year.

A COVID-19 Recovery Plan has been drawn up and sits alongside these established systems and is regularly reviewed and updated so that the service is prepared to respond should there be localised lockdowns.

Please see [appendix 2 for an excerpt from the 2012-21 end of year report](#).

Summary of progress towards actions from 2019/20

Population

A large increase in births has not been seen in Devon so no specific action was taken.

Early Years and Childcare Providers

The Early Years and Childcare Advisers continued to support all providers including those who were looking to [expand or open new provision](#).

A [termly survey of providers](#) was introduced to capture data on a regular basis.

The [Department for Education \(DfE\) Attendance Register](#) has also continued this year.

Ensure high quality early years and childcare provision

We have continued to support providers through [Early Years ONE Devon](#). The percentage of all providers graded as good, outstanding, or met at their latest Ofsted inspection has increased from 95.4% as at August 2020 to 96.5% as at August 2021. The percentage of funded providers graded as requires improvement, inadequate or not met at their most recent inspection has decreased from 4.2% as at August 2020 to 3.3% as at August 2021.

Ensure early years and childcare provision can be made affordable

Responses to the [Parent Surveys](#) suggest that affordability is a barrier to accessing childcare mainly for parents with two-year-olds and then for those with primary school aged children.

The [Provider Survey in Spring Term 2021](#) included questions on charges. The average charge per hour reported for an under-two-year-old is £5.23, two-year-old is £5.02 and for a three-or four-year-olds is £6.16. For primary school aged children, the average reported was £5.07 and £5.67 for secondary school aged children.

Parents can use Tax-Free Childcare at many providers in Devon to make childcare more affordable. This will continue to be promoted. [‘If you get Tax-Free Childcare, you’ll set up an online childcare account for your child. For every £8 you pay into this account, the government will pay in £2 to use to pay your provider.’](#)

This may be particularly helpful for parents whose child has a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and where childcare costs may be higher due to additional

resources that may be needed. Tax Free childcare for a child with SEND is available for children and young people up to the age of 16.

'You can use the extra Tax-Free Childcare money you get to help pay for extra hours of childcare. You can also use it to help pay your childcare provider so they can get specialist equipment for your child such as mobility aids. Talk to them about what equipment your child can get.'

Ensure sufficient early years and childcare provision

The results of the new parents' surveys were analysed, and areas were highlighted where there were several parents reporting that:

- they did not use childcare but needed to so they could work or train
- they used childcare but could not get as many hours as needed.

Audits were carried out to establish whether these areas were [hot spots](#).

- Providers continued to report on 'requests [for childcare] not met' through the DfE Attendance Survey. These were followed up by the Early Years and Childcare Advisors.
- The [unable to find childcare form](#) was promoted through social media on pages and groups where there is a perceived lack of childcare, and through the parent's survey. There were fewer unable to find childcare forms submitted in 2020-21 compared with 2019-20. This could be due to an influx of parents completing the form in March 2020 at the start of the pandemic when childcare closed, or because there is sufficient childcare or because parents are not aware that they can ask Devon County Council for help to find childcare.
- The 'Childminding as a Career' campaign has continued this year with regular posts on social media and links to the [Pacey #notababysitter campaign](#). The 'Preparing to be a childminder course' has been held in areas where there is a need.
- We have worked with the School Place Planning Team to establish Early Years Provision in schools and have requested S106 for early years provision where appropriate.

The following work was undertaken to address the sufficiency issues in identified hot spot areas from 2019/20:

Table 7: Progress towards addressing identified need in hot spot areas 2019/20

Hot Spot Area 2019/20	Progress towards addressing identified need
Cranbrook under-two-year-old provision	No new places created this year. We are aware that there is space for a nursery in the Cranbrook Town Centre Development. The nursery provider has not been finalised. Planning permission has been granted for two small nurseries one near Aylesbeare at Greendale and the other near Whimble at Cotley Farm .
Dawlish under-two-year-old-provision	Continued to monitor the situation whilst working with local providers including the Multi Academy Trust that runs both the Primary schools in Dawlish.
Newton Abbot under-three-year-old provision	We have supported three new childminders and one new day nursery to open in Newton Abbot providing all year-round provision. There is another new pre-school that will be opening from September. There have been ongoing discussions with two schools about taking two-year-olds and offering the extended entitlement.
Ilfracombe under-five-year-old-provision	We are supporting a potential new provider in the area. It is not clear when they may open. We supported an existing nursery to temporarily increase their places for 12 months by using the Children's Centre building whilst it was not being used. We have investigated the expansion of the school nursery; this did not progress. A recruitment campaign via social media resulted in one new childminder. The Holiday Activities and Food Programme successfully ran at Easter and Summer in the Infant and Nursery school.
Out of School Provision across Devon	Three new out of school provisions opened in Exeter and two in Torridge. Four new holiday schemes opened in Exmouth, Stokenham, Heathfield and Tiverton. Due to operational issues associated with COVID-19, some schools took the decision to bring the out of school provision in house. The Early Years and Childcare Advisers supported these schools. They also support schools to survey parents, establish if there is a need for provision and support with setting it up where required. Parents requesting support through the unable to find childcare forms are contacted by the Early Years and Childcare Advisers. The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme has given more opportunities to work with schools and other providers to offer holiday provision. Providers have been encouraged to register with Ofsted. We continue to promote childminding as a career which will also help to address the lack of out of school provision particularly in rural areas where a club might not be viable. There have been 29 new childminders across Devon.

Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2021), Early Years and Childcare Service

Ensure sufficient provision for two-, three- and four-year-olds to take up the free early education

As there were no concerns about the amount of provision available our efforts focused on improving the take up of funded places. The two-year-old funding process was reviewed and instead of Golden Tickets a new invitation has been introduced (from September 2021) that signposts parents to check their eligibility through the Citizens Portal. This will continue to be monitored.

Prompts to encourage the take up of two-year-old places will be sent to parents that have been found eligible.

When parents check their eligibility for a two-year-old place they can also give us consent to check their eligibility for the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) when their child is three. This should improve the take up of EYPP.

Communication

The Early Years and Childcare webpages are under continual review.

We have continued to promote the use of social media. The number of followers on our social media platforms have continued to increase. The [Early Years and Childcare Service are now on Instagram](#).



Action Plan

To ensure there is sufficient provision in 2021/22 we will carry out the actions set out in the [Action Plan in Appendix 3](#).

In next year's report (1 September 2021 – 31 August 2022), in addition to the ongoing actions, we will consider:

- How changes in population and employment effect how and where childcare is accessed through the termly Parents Survey and a Travel to Work survey with Exeter providers.
- How we have built on communications with parents and improved the information we give to them.
- How we have improved our website and the information we give to providers.
- The impact of the data review of out of school provision on sufficiency of provision.
- What we have done to establish the demand for childcare as parents work situations continue to adjust and change.

Our focus for the coming year will be:

- ★ **Promoting our services** including the unable to find childcare form, childcare brokerage, and other support for families. Raise parents' awareness of the help they can get with meeting the cost of childcare.
- ★ **Out of school provision** and ensuring we hold a complete data set. This will be done in collaboration with the Early Years Childcare Advisers and schools (that are not required to separately register with Ofsted).
- ★ As **Ofsted** have started to reinspect provision, we anticipate more inspections will be undertaken. The monitoring of outcomes in registered childcare providers and in schools with nurseries and governor/trustee run preschools will be essential during the next year as many providers have not been inspected for several years.
- ★ To embed the new **two-year-old funding process** with a view to improving take up of places and of hours.
- ★ **Spotlight areas** will be introduced. These are areas where we need to know more or better understand what is happening in relation to the supply of childcare and local demand. Sometimes the data tells us one thing, but local knowledge tells us something else.
- ★ **Recruitment and retention** of staff is an ongoing concern.

APPENDIX 1: Information about Childcare

Where do I find out about childcare?

Information on childcare in Devon is available from the Family Information Service through the [Education and Families website](#) and through the [online Community Service Directory, Pinpoint](#).

What if I can't find suitable childcare?

If you are a parent who is unable to find suitable childcare, it is important that you tell Devon County Council's Early Years and Childcare Service so that we can help you find childcare if it is available. Feedback from parents helps inform our sufficiency planning so that the Early Years and Childcare Service can make sure there is enough childcare in your area. To do this, please contact the [childcare brokerage service](#) by phoning 01392 383000 (and ask for Pinpoint) or email pinpoint@devon.gov.uk or complete our [online parent feedback form](#).

I need help paying for childcare



This website brings together all the government childcare offers in one place, helping parents find the right childcare support to suit them including Tax-Free Childcare, two-year-old funding, universal funding for three- and four-year-olds and extended (30 hours) funding for eligible three- and four-year-olds.

Parents who experience difficulties in accessing childcare because of the affordability, should contact Devon County Council's [Family Information Service](#) by phoning 01392 383000 (ask for Pinpoint) or email pinpoint@devon.gov.uk or complete our [online parent feedback form](#).

APPENDIX 2: Early Years and Childcare Service End of Year Report

Early Years and Childcare Service: Excerpt from the End of Year Report 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021

Indicators relating to SEND children are colour coded as follows:	SEND
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Population

	Baseline 2019/20	Target	Autumn Term 20	Spring Term 21	Summer Term 21	End of Year 20/21	Direction since 19/20
Population of under-five-year-olds	36270	N/A	35738	35540	35491	35491	↓
Population of two-year-olds	7259	N/A	7146	7145	7146	7146	↓
Population of three- and four-year-olds (not eligible for school)	12390	N/A	7877	10390	11900	11900	↓

Early Years and Childcare Providers

	Baseline 2019/20	Target	Autumn Term 20	Spring Term 21	Summer Term 21	End of Year 20/21	Direction since 19/20
Number of all early years and childcare providers (Unique Ofsted URN)	1023	N/A	1018	995	1010	1010	↓
Number of providers active and operating ¹⁵	609	N/A	703	658	662	662	↑
Number of providers active but closed ¹⁶	238	N/A	154	40	65	65	↓
Number of providers registered within the term	14	N/A	15	5	29	49	-
Number of providers closed within the term	11	N/A	4	23	19	46	-
Number of funded providers (Unique Ofsted URNs)	738	N/A	743	742	754	754	↑
Number of early years providers registered to offer two-year-old funding	637	100%	640	644	660	660	↑
Number of early years providers offering the extended entitlement	642	75%	636	630			

¹⁵ From DfE Attendance Register – Autumn Term 2020: 17/12/2020, Spring Term 2021: 25/03/2021, Summer Term 2021: 22/07/2021

¹⁶ From DfE Attendance Register – Autumn Term 2020: 17/12/2020, Spring Term 2021: 25/03/2021, Summer Term 2021: 22/07/2021

Ensure high quality early years and childcare provision

	Baseline 2019/20	Target	Autumn Term 20	Spring Term 21	Summer Term 21	End of Year 20/21	Direction since 19/20
Percentage of all early years and childcare providers graded as Good, Outstanding or Met (at their latest Ofsted inspection) ¹⁷	95.4%	100.0%	95.5%	97.5%	96.5%	96.5%	↑
Percentage of all early years and childcare providers graded as Requires Improvement.	2.1%	0.0%	2.3%	1.2%	1.8%	1.8%	↓
Percentage of all early years and childcare providers graded as Inadequate	1.0%	0.0%	0.8%	0.5%	0.8%	0.8%	↓
Percentage of funded providers graded as Requires Improvement, Inadequate or Not Met (with actions)	4.2%	0.0%	4.4%	4.1%	3.3%	3.3%	↓

Ensure early years and childcare provision can be made affordable

	Baseline 2019/20	Target	Autumn Term 20	Spring Term 21	Summer Term 21	End of Year 20/21	Direction since 19/20
Percentage of funded group providers making the stretched offer	28.6%	30%	28.4%	27.9%	28.9%	28.9%	↑
Percentage of all providers registered for Tax Free Childcare	73.0%	100%	70.2%	72.0%	67.2% ¹⁸	67.2%	↓
Number of people on Universal Credit in Devon ¹⁹	42456	N/A	52864	53826	54244	54244	↑

Ensure sufficient early years and childcare provision

	Baseline 2019/20	Target	Autumn Term 20	Spring Term 21	Summer Term 21	End of Year 20/21	Direction since 19/20
Number of childminders (Unique Ofsted URNs)	457	N/A	461	445	440	440	↓
Number of enquiries relating to becoming a childminder	87 (33)	N/A	40	19	37	96	↑
Number of out of school providers (Holiday schemes, out of school clubs and Saturday clubs) (Unique Ofsted URNs)	197	N/A	198	190	199	199	↑
Number of 'Unable to find childcare' forms submitted	126 (84)	N/A	12	18	36	66	↓

¹⁷ Only includes active providers, include schools where we have an outcome recorded

¹⁸ There is no information from providers who have registered since the Provider Survey in Spring Term. Of those returning the Provider Survey – 91.1%.

¹⁹ Baseline 2019/20: April 2020, Autumn Term 20: September 2020, Spring Term 21: January 2021, Summer Term 21: April 2021

Ensure sufficient provision for two-, three- and four-year-olds to take up the free early education

Two-year-old funding

	Baseline 2019/20	Target	Autumn Term 20	Spring Term 21	Summer Term 21	End of Year 20/21	Direction since 19/20
Number of two-year-olds potentially eligible for funding as per the DWP list	1722	N/A	2015	1977	1970	1970	↑
Percentage of the population of two-year-olds eligible for funding	24.1%	N/A	28.2%	27.7%	27.5%	27.5%	↑
Percentage of two-year-olds accessing a funded place (percentage of the DWP number) ²⁰	79.1%	91.0%	81.2%	82.9%	86.5%	86.5%	↑
Percentage of two-year-olds who are accessing a funded place who are taking up the full entitlement	73.3%	75.0%	72.5%	75.4%	74.4%	74.4%	↑
All two-year-old funded children allocated inclusion funding	34		16	36	43	95	↑

Three- and four-year-old funding

	Baseline 2019/20	Target	Autumn Term 20	Spring Term 21	Summer Term 21	End of Year 20/21	Direction since 19/20
Percentage of three- and four-year-olds accessing the Early Years Funding ²¹	95.2%	99.0%	95.6%	95.5%	95.9%	95.9%	↑
Percentage of three- and four-year-olds who are accessing a place who are taking up the full universal entitlement	86.9%	80.0%	85.9%	87.2%	88.7%	88.7%	↑
Percentage of three- and four-year-olds accessing the Early Years Funding who are taking up the extended entitlement	48.3%	N/A	48.4%	48.4%	50.7%	50.7%	↑
Percentage of three- and four-year-olds who are accessing the extended entitlement who are taking up the full extended entitlement	59.3%	N/A	56.9%	56.7%	59.5%	59.5%	↑
Percentage of three- and four-year-olds accessing the extended entitlement as a proportion of those estimated to be eligible (60% of population)	80.5%	N/A	80.7%	83.6%	81.0%	81.0%	↑
Percentage of previously funded two-year-olds taking up the extended entitlement	19.4%	N/A	26.8%	22.3%	24.9%	24.9%	↑

²⁰ Two-year-old take-up is based on the number of children on the last DWP list of the term and EY hours taken up; no individual children are matched. The DWP list seems to have less two-year-olds on it now and it is estimated that there are more children funded through the Citizen's Portal that are not on the DWP list, hence the increase in percentage.

²¹ EYEF take-up is based purely on health data and EY hours taken up, no individual children are matched.

Percentage of three- and four-year-olds who are accessing the extended entitlement across the year (stretched offer)	42.8%	N/A	40.3%	38.3%	42.4%	42.4%	↓
Number of three- and four-year-olds with an EHCP	206	N/A	37	59	196	196	↓
All three- and four-year-old funded children accessing the extended entitlement ²² and inclusion funding	327	N/A	72	113	169	354	↑
Percentage of three- and four-year-olds accessing the Early Years Funding who have been funded for the Early Years Pupil Premium	9.7%	10.5%	10.2%	11.2%	12.3%	12.3%	↑

Ensure sufficiency of provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities

	Baseline 2019/20	Target	Autumn Term 20	Spring Term 21	Summer Term 21	End of Year 20/21	Direction since 19/20
Number of children under five who have an Education, Health and Care Plan	212	N/A	41	70	199	199	↓
All children funded through Early Years Inclusion Funding	1079	N/A	217	342	499	1058	↓
Number of children accessing Disability Access Funding	119	N/A	53	57	111	127	↑

²² Includes all funded two-, three- and four-year-olds

APPENDIX 3: Action Plan

To ensure there is sufficient, high quality, affordable and accessible early years and childcare provision we will:

Population

- Monitor the health data to identify increase or decrease in population.

Specific observations and actions for 2021/22:

Observation	To Monitor:	Action
Increase in birth rate in the first six months of 2021	Population of under-one-year-olds to identify future demand.	If there is a large increase in births, share this data with providers and stimulate the childcare market to expand provision.
Potential increase in families moving into Devon. Some into their holiday homes and others buying property to relocate.	Population increases in certain areas.	Share data with providers that may be impacted and ensure there are enough places for all children.

Early Years and Childcare Providers

- Carry out a termly survey of providers to capture data more regularly.
- Encourage staff who have been made redundant to register as childminders.

Specific observations and actions for 2021/22:

Observation	To Monitor:	Action
Enquiries still being received from providers to open or expand provision	Number of early years and childcare providers and places. Openings, closures, and expansions of providers.	Support providers to expand and set up where appropriate. Raise the awareness of providers 'right to request' the use of school sites for early years and childcare provision.
Better data on out of school and holiday providers required	Number of out of school and holiday providers and places.	Carry out a regular audit of out of school provision with Early Years and Childcare Advisors and cross reference

		<p>with Pinpoint to ensure accurate data is held and capture information on school-run childcare that is not registered.</p> <p>Survey schools that we do not have recorded as having an early years or childcare service.</p>
Some providers reported they were at risk of closure in the Spring Term Provider Survey	Number of early years and childcare providers and places.	Follow up and support providers who reported to us that they are at risk of closure.
Providers are really struggling to recruit and retain staff	Number of early years and childcare providers and places.	<p>Support providers with their recruitment process.</p> <p>Continue to offer reduced cost advertising of vacant posts.</p> <p>Work more closely with colleges and training providers.</p>
Voluntary sector preschools continue to close, and academies open nursery classes so there continue to be places for local families	<p>Number of preschool closures.</p> <p>Number of academies extending their age range.</p>	<p>Support pre-schools to close.</p> <p>Support academies to set up new provision.</p> <p>Work more with Multi Academy Trusts to form good working relationships.</p>

Ensure high quality early years and childcare provision

- Support providers through [Early Years ONE Devon](#) to become good or outstanding.

Specific observations and actions for 2021/22:

Observation	To Monitor:	Action
Very early indications suggest that more providers are being graded as Requires Improvement (RI) and Inadequate since Summer 2021	<p>Percentage of registered providers and schools graded as good or outstanding by Ofsted.</p> <p>Areas/towns where provision is consistently RI or inadequate.</p> <p>Providers receiving a second RI or a second inadequate.</p>	<p>Improved data will be presented to support the Early Years ONE process.</p> <p>Support new providers to move into areas where there is low quality provision with limited capacity to improve. This is particularly important for funded two-year-old places.</p> <p>Review how we report in the Termly Monitoring Report, so all data is captured and monitored.</p>

	<p>Where funding has been removed or suspended because of an Ofsted inspection.</p> <p>The impact of the new Early Years Foundation Stage on outcomes and compare with neighbours, South West and national Ofsted data.</p> <p>Frequency of inspections.</p>	
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Ensure early years and childcare provision can be made affordable

- Encourage providers to develop all-year-round places and funded providers to make the stretched offer (enabling the funded time for two-, three- and four-year-olds to be taken across the year).
- Promote the stretched offer to working parents to help spread the cost of childcare across the year.
- Encourage all providers to register for Tax Free Childcare (TFC) and to promote this to families.
- Raise awareness of the benefit of setting up a TFC account to parents.

Specific observations and actions for 2021/22:

Observation	To Monitor:	Action
<p>Not all providers are registered for Tax Free Childcare.</p> <p>Lower proportions of Home Child Carers, Independent Schools and Holiday Clubs are registered for Tax Free Childcare.</p>	<p>Percentage of providers registered for Tax Free Childcare.</p>	<p>Survey Providers termly.</p> <p>Early Years and Childcare Advisers (EYCA's) to work directly with unregistered providers.</p> <p>Ask in the Parent Survey if Tax Free Childcare is being used.</p> <p>Promote the benefits of registering for Tax Free Childcare to providers.</p>
<p>The main reason for not using childcare reported on the Parents Surveys were that parents could not afford it.</p>	<p>Percentage of providers registered for Tax Free Childcare.</p> <p>Take up of early years funding including the extended entitlement.</p>	<p>Increase awareness of help with the cost of childcare through improved communications with parents.</p> <p>Promote the stretched offer to working parents to help with spreading the cost of childcare across the year.</p>

		<p>Share information on help with the cost of childcare regularly on social media including childcare choices, tax free childcare, stretching funding, two-year-old funding, early years funding and the extended entitlement.</p> <p>Share information with providers through the Digest so they can signpost parents.</p> <p>Survey parents termly to identify barriers to using childcare.</p>
Only three quarters of parents were aware they could 'stretch' funding.	<p>Percentage of funded group providers making the stretched offer.</p> <p>Parents reporting in the parent survey that they are aware of the stretched offer.</p>	<p>Share information and data on social media about 'stretching' funding.</p> <p>Encourage providers to develop all-year-round places and funded providers to offer the stretched offer.</p> <p>Follow up with those providers who are open all year but only offer funded places during term times.</p> <p>Survey parents termly to identify awareness of funding.</p>
62 providers that open all year round restrict the funded time to term times only.	<p>Providers making a stretched offer.</p> <p>Parents stretching the entitlement.</p>	Encourage those 62 providers to enable the funding to be taken during the school holidays.

Ensure sufficient early years and childcare provision

- Promote the use of the [unable to find childcare form](#) to parents.
- Continue to assess sufficiency and identify hot spots through data analysis and discussion on the supply and demand of childcare with locality teams and providers

Specific observations and actions for 2021/22:

Observation	To Monitor:	Action
Lack of out of school provision - Parents reporting a lack of out of school provision (parents survey and	<p>Number of out of school providers.</p> <p>Number of places.</p> <p>Changes in demand.</p>	If schools with early years provision have wraparound care, work with the school to ensure two-, three- and four-year-olds can access longer hours if there is local demand.

unable to find childcare forms)		<p>Raise the awareness of providers 'right to request' the use of school sites for early years and childcare provision.</p> <p>Raise awareness of parents right to request that a school provides childcare.</p> <p>Survey parents termly to identify need.</p> <p>Survey providers termly to identify provision.</p>
Provision may be at risk when furlough ends at the end of September 2021	Number of early years and childcare providers and capacity.	Encourage staff who have been made redundant to register as childminders.
Fewer unable to find childcare forms returned Large proportion of parents are not aware that Devon County Council can help them find childcare.	Number of ' unable to find childcare ' forms submitted, number of parents contacted and whether suitable childcare arrangements have been found.	<p>Promote the use of the 'unable to find childcare form' to parents as a way of feeding back to Devon County Council when they cannot find childcare, particularly in areas where places are limited, so that Devon County Council are informed when more places are needed.</p> <p>Raise awareness of the Early Years and Childcare Service and the services it offers.</p> <p>Make the unable to find childcare form more visible and accessible.</p>
Identified lack of provision in hot spot areas.	Unable to find childcare forms submitted.	<p>Promote the unable to find childcare parent feedback form in these areas to confirm if these areas are hot spots.</p> <p>Stimulate the market to encourage new providers.</p> <p>Encourage existing providers to expand.</p>
Planned housing developments increasing the demand of childcare.	Number and location of S106 agreements	Work with the School Place Planning Team to establish Early Years Provision in new schools and request Section 106 for early years provision where appropriate.
Government piloting free before and after school provision for the armed forces from September 2021	The number and location of service families that will use this service.	Survey service parents and work with organisations and people who support service families.

		An update on this initiative has been requested from the Department for Education but at the time of writing we had not heard back. We believe that the pilot is ongoing. There has been no change in Devon.
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Ensure sufficient provision for two-, three- and four-year-olds to take up the free early education

- Monitor the take-up of two-, three- and four-year-old funding.
- Monitor the take up of Free School Meals in school nursery classes and improve take up where it is low and specifically in disadvantaged areas where we would expect a higher take up.
- Monitor and promote the take-up of Early Years Pupil Premium.

Specific observations and actions for 2021/22:

Observation	To Monitor:	Action
Anticipated increase in the number of people on Universal Credit especially when the government furlough scheme comes to an end in October.	Number of people on Universal Credit in Devon to inform eligibility for two-year-old funding, Early Years Pupil Premium and Free School Meals in school nurseries Number of previously funded two-year-olds taking up the extended entitlement at three and four.	Continue to promote the take-up of Early Years Pupil Premium. Promote Free School Meals in nursery classes so schools know that they must offer these to eligible children and to parents so they can take up the meal.
Decreased take up of early years funding by children living in the top 30% most disadvantaged areas.	Percentage of three- and four-year-olds living in top 30% most disadvantaged area accessing a funded place. Percentage of three- and four-year-olds living in top 30% most disadvantaged areas accessing an extended place.	Identify the areas where take up is lowest. Work with providers in these areas to increase the take up of places and hours. Target parents living in these areas through social media to improve take up. Work with other professionals who work with families in these areas to raise awareness of the importance of taking up a place.
Decreased take up of early years funding by children with additional needs.	Percentage of two-year-olds with additional needs accessing the funding.	Identify children with an Education, Health and Care Plan

	Percentage of three- and four-year-olds with additional needs accessing the funding	<p>Identify children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance through working with the EYCN service and 0-25 colleagues.</p> <p>Work with other professionals who work with families in these areas to raise awareness of the importance of taking up a place.</p> <p>Ensure that community and voluntary controlled schools with early years provision are using the Devon County Council Nursery admissions policy.</p>
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Ensure sufficient provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities

- Monitor the number of children with Education, Health and Care Plan.
- Monitor the number of children funded through the Early Years Inclusion funding.
- Monitor the number of children accessing the Disability Access Funding.
- Monitor the number of children allocated a Nursery Plus place.

Specific observations and actions for 2021/22:

Observation	To Monitor:	Action
Fewer children allocated a Nursery Plus place	Number of children allocated a Nursery Plus place	Increase the number of children that are supported through Nursery Plus.

Communication

- Monitor the number of followers of our social media accounts.
- Monitor the number of subscribers to the Digest.
- Monitor the number of users of the Early Years and Childcare website.

Specific observations and actions for 2021/22:

Observation	To Monitor:	Action
Less traffic to the Early Years and Childcare website	Number of users.	<p>Continue to review and refresh the Early Years and Childcare webpages.</p> <p>Promote webpages and social media</p>

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