

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Annual Summary 2015/16

Devon County Council has met the childcare sufficiency duty in 2015/16 by:

- Ensuring there is enough accessible early years and childcare provision across the county by holding Childcare Sufficiency Hot Spots meetings, supported by the locality teams to address gaps in provision.
- Ensuring high quality early years and childcare provision for children aged two, three and four taking up free early education.
- 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 2015/16

- The Golden Ticket was introduced in Autumn 2015 as proof of eligibility for the early years education funding for two-year-olds which has significantly increased the take up.
- A Devon Early Years and Childcare Facebook page has been set up to improve communications with parents and providers.
- Childminders are now allowed to operate up to 50% of their time on non-domestic premises.
- Schools now only need to register with Ofsted to admit children under the age of two.
- A non-attendance fee for fully funded courses was introduced from 1 January 2016 to improve attendance at training.

Devon County Council's achievements in ensuring sufficient childcare in 2015/16:

- The take-up of the Early Years Education Funding for eligible two-year-olds has significantly increased over the last year by 14.9% to 83.9% and take up of the full entitlement has remained stable at 71.2%.
- The take-up of the Early Years Education Funding for three- and four-year-olds has remained high at nearly 100% and the take up of the full entitlement has increased by 0.7% to 82.0%
- The take-up by children in care has also increased this year.

To ensure sufficient early years and childcare provision in 2016/17, Devon County Council will:

- Focus on improving the quality of providers graded as 'inadequate' or 'requires improvement'
- Continue to conduct Childcare Sufficiency Hot Spots meetings and carry out agreed actions to ensure a comprehensive approach to planning sufficient early years and childcare provision across the county to include ensuring sufficient provision for the increase of the Early Years Entitlement to 30 hours a week for working families in 2017.
- Continue to market and promote the free early education for two-, three- and four-year-olds to increase take-up of places and hours.

For further information please see the Early Years and Childcare Service 'Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Annual Report 2015/16'.