

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Annual Summary 2016/17

Devon County Council has met the childcare sufficiency duty in 2016/17 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 2016/17

- Population data is now received from health on a termly basis
- [Section 106 requests](#) now include requirements for early years provision
- There is now a weekly '[Digest](#)' to keep providers up to date with the latest news and information
- The [Working in Childcare campaign](#) has been launched.
- There has been an increase in delayed entry requests to schools resulting in more children staying in early years provision.



Devon County Council's achievements in ensuring sufficient childcare in 2016/17:

- The percentage of providers graded as good or outstanding by Ofsted has increased this year to 98.2%
- The take-up of the Early Years Funding for eligible two-year-olds has continued to increase over the last year from 83.9% to 91.1% and take up of the full entitlement has remained stable at 73.9%
- The take-up of the Early Years Education Funding for three- and four-year-olds has remained high at 98.7% and the take up of the full entitlement has increased by 0.9% to 82.9%
- 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 assess sufficiency data and carry out agreed actions to ensure a comprehensive approach to planning sufficient early years and childcare provision to include ensuring sufficient provision for the roll out of the extended entitlement for working families from September 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 2016/17'.