

Appendix 3

Update on the Statutory Free Early Education Entitlement for Two Year Olds

1. Background

1.1 The universal 15 hour early education entitlement for three and four year olds has been in place since September 2010 and for the most disadvantaged two year olds since September 2013. Children are eligible for the two year old entitlement if their families are in receipt of:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- support through part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (but not Working Tax Credit) and have an annual household income under £16,190
- Universal Credit and have an annual household income of £15,400
- the Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Working Tax Credits and earn £16,190 a year or less

Or if they:

- are Looked After by a local council (LAC)
- have a current Statement of Special Education Needs (SEN) or an Education Health and Care plan
- get Disability Living Allowance
- have left care under a special guardianship order, child arrangements order or adoption order.

1.2 Currently 131 providers are registered to deliver the entitlement (1 nursery school, 3 primary academies, 67 PVI settings and 59 childminders). Only providers holding a 'good' or 'outstanding' Ofsted rating are included on the authority preferred provider list. Once allocated children retain the place until they transition into their universal three and four year old entitlement.

1.3 There has been a significant decrease in the number of eligible children; the latest list from DWP suggested 1505 children being eligible, the lowest number since September 2013. This would suggest an increase in the number of parents accessing work or training or changes to the benefit system impacting on parents' eligibility to receive the above benefits

1.4 The authority childcare sufficiency assessment continues to be used to identify available places in individual wards, and areas where there is a requirement to create additional capacity.

2. Current Position

2.1 The table below shows the number of new children who have accessed the entitlement each term over the last academic year and those who have chosen for whatever reason not to take up their place.

September - December 2018	January – March 2019	April – August 2019
646 Applications 586 successful Total no. of 2 year olds funded 1348	444 applications 400 successful Total no. of 2 year olds funded 1294	391 applications 356 successful Total no. of 2 year olds funded 1274
Take up 81%	Take up 79%	Take up 84% (Nat 72%)

2.2 Uptake remains high. The local authority attempts to contact all families who choose not to apply or who, despite being eligible, decide not to take up the place. Whilst many wish to delay the child's start for a term, a significant number of the details provided by the parents appear to be inaccurate and as a result cannot be contacted or followed up. Children's Centres and Health Visitors continue to support and encourage known families reluctant to access their entitlement to attend 'Stay and Play' sessions in the first instance as an initial step to taking up the offer and are given the opportunity to gradually build up attendance at a nursery or childminder over a period of time.

2.3 A new referral pathway was started in March 2018 whereby 2 year olds not achieving specific milestones in speech and language at the 2-2 ½ year ASQ3 assessment are offered access to a nursery place outside the previously listed criteria. To date 79 children have been placed in nursery to access 15 hours of early year's education. Workforce development for practitioners is critical and the authority continues to offer a wide range of training for those practitioners working with two year olds specifically focusing on early language and communication, emotional well-being and early identification for children with or who may have SEND.

2.4 Training is well attended; the impact of this is evident in the monitoring of setting environments, and increased and improved staff interactions with children. EYFSP outcomes for those children who have previously been involved in the two year old entitlement programme have been compared with those children not involved as well as nationally. 1419 two year old entitlement children were identified, 43.2% of the 2019 cohort.

	% Achieving Good Level of Development						Average Total Point Score					
	201	2016	2017	201	201	Tren	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Tren
2 Year Old Entitlement	38.	58.1	63.2	61.	63.	25.2	27.3	31.1	32.1	31.4	31.8	4.5
Non Entitlement Pupils	62.	66.3	68.7	70.	71.	8.9	32.0	32.6	33.1	33.6	34.0	2.0
All Pupils	61	65	65.1	65.	67.	6.7	31.7	32.4	32.5	32.5	33.1	1.4
National	66	69.3	70.7	71.	71.	5.8	34.3	34.5	34.5	34.6	34.6	0.3

(please note this is LA and not published data)

- 2.5 The data shows that overall outcomes for children accessing the two year old early education entitlement continue to improve year on year. Outcomes remain below those of all children and non-programme children, both in the percentage achieving a Good Level of Development and Average Total Point Score. However, this cohort of children has improved at a significantly greater rate than those for non-entitlement children locally as well as nationally.
- 2.6 The gap between the number of two year old entitlement and non-two year old entitlement children achieving a Good Level of Development was 9.1 percentage points in 2018. This has narrowed to 7.5 percentage points in 2019.
- 2.7 Data for Pupil Groups:

2019	Percentage Achieving a Good Level of Development												
	All	Boys	Girls	Gap	FSM	Non FSM	Gap	SEN D	No SEND	Gap	EAL	Non EAL	Gap
2 YO Entitlement Pupils	63.5	54.7	73.0	18.3	60.8	65.2	4.4	21.1	70.8	49.7	63.5	63.7	0.2
Non 2 YO Entitlement	71.0	65.5	76.6	11.1	55.2	72.9	17.7	26.6	75.6	49.0	58.2	75.3	17.1
All Pupils	67.7	60.8	75.0	14.2	59.2	70.2	11.0	23.3	73.2	53.0	60.	70.0	10.0
National	71.8	65.5	78.4	12.9	56.5	74.4	17.9	24.3	77.4	53.1	66.	73.6	7.0

- 2.8 The gender gap for two year old entitlement children achieving a 'Good Level of Development' is narrower than that of non-entitlement children, whereas the gap between the outcomes for FSM and non-FSM two year old entitlement children (4.4 percentage points) is significantly narrower than that of non-entitlement children (17.7 percentage points).
- 2.9 The gap between the outcomes for EAL and non-EAL children accessing the two year old entitlement is significantly narrower than that of non-entitled children, in both Good Level of Development and Average Total Points Score.

Strategic context

- 2.10 The two year old early education entitlement is a key strand in Hull's Children, Young People and Families Plan 2019-2013 and plays a crucial role in preparing children to become 'school ready'.

2.11 Access to the entitlement has enabled children with additional and sometimes complex needs to be identified and supported at an earlier stage. Over the last year 114 2 year olds received additional funding to enable them to access mainstream provision.

2.12 The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment continues to be used to map current applications and take up by ward to ensure potential gaps in provision are identified and adequate provision is available. The table below shows the current take up of the entitlement in each ward.

Ward	Eligible Population Autumn 2019	Funded Children	Take up Percentage
Newington & Gypsyville	113	82	61%
Total	113	82	61%
Boothferry	34	31	68%
Pickering	46	29	68%
Derringham	45	56	104%
Total	125	116	82%
North Carr	110	87	93%
West Carr	72	50	97%
Kingswood	31	20	68%
Total	213	157	91%
Southcoates	89	75	96%
Drypool	59	53	58%
Marfleet	146	143	93%
Total	294	271	86%
Holderness	23	31	96%
Total	27	31	96%
Ings	40	39	54%
Longhill & Bilton			
Grange	71	64	86%
Sutton	56	38	61%
Total	167	141	71%
Central	76	50	78%
St Andrew's & Docklands	147	122	81%
Avenue	34	37	86%
Bricknell	28	24	96%
Beverley & Newland	46	25	88%
Total	331	258	83%
O Park & Greenwood	179	156	90%
University	57	47	72%
Overall totals	236	203	85%
	1506	1259	

Next steps

- 2.13 Continue to ensure targeted information is distributed to families known to meet the eligibility criteria to encourage participation and maximise take up.
- 2.14 Early Years team to continue to work with Children's Centres, Health Visitors and Early Help teams to support early intervention and more targeted engagement of all eligible and reluctant families, the key focus being language and communication and school readiness.
- 2.15 Monitor and evaluate the implementation and impact of practitioner training on day to day practice and children's learning and development in order that future training is targeted to support and ensure high quality provision for children is maintained.
- 2.16 Use termly progress data submitted to the authority to monitor the progress of children and follow up where this suggests improvement may be required.
3. Extension of the Early Education Entitlement for working parents
 - 3.1 From September 2018 the early education entitlement for eligible working parents of three and four year olds doubled to 30 hours a week for 38 weeks a year or the equivalent of 1140 hours over 50 weeks. Parents are eligible if:
 - Both are working and/or one parent in lone parent family is working (earning equivalent of 16 hours a week on National Minimum Wage including those receiving tax credits or Universal Credit)
 - One/ both parent/s is away on leave (parental, maternal etc.)
 - One/ both parent/s on Statutory sickness
 - One parent is employed and the other parent has either substantial caring responsibilities/and or disability
 - One/both parents individually earn less than £100,000/year
 - 3.2 Parents are required to register and check eligibility on the 'Childcare Choices' website and if eligible will receive an 11 digit code which has to be verified by the local authority before they are able to access the additional hours at a provider offering the extended hours. Providers are required to have written permission from parents prior to contacting the authority for validation.
 - 3.3 Not all schools and providers are required to offer the additional hours and parents are able to access their entitlement across two different providers if that meets their needs. Currently 47 schools/academies and 117 nurseries and childminders are offering the 30 hours to parents.
 - 3.4 Unlike the universal 15 hour entitlement, the extended hours can only be taken from the start of the term after the child turns three, there is no option to begin at any other point during the term and parents are required to recheck their eligibility on the 'Childcare Choices' website for the additional hours every three months.
 - 3.5 The DfE have set date parameters by which children who fall out of eligibility during

the term will cease to have access to the additional hours.

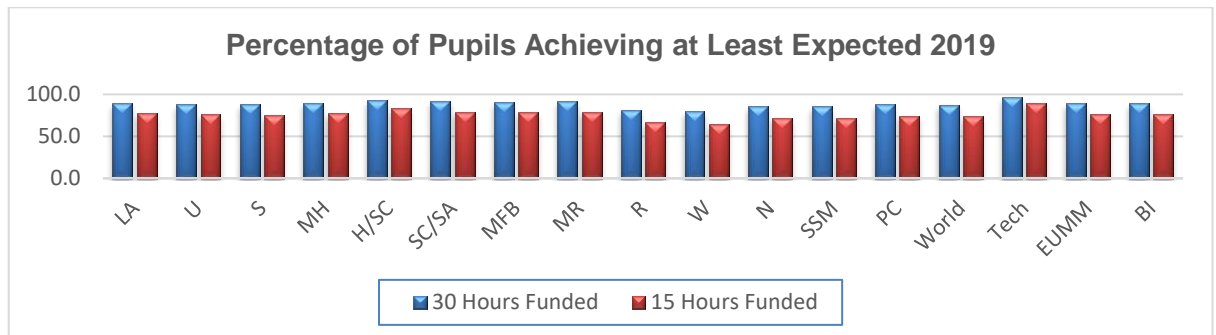
- 3.6 The table below shows the number of new children who have accessed the extended entitlement each term and those who have chosen for whatever reason not to take up their place.

September – December 2018	January – March 2019	April – August 2019
1351 codes validated and 1235 children accessed Take up 82%	1549 codes validated and 1450 children accessed Take up 96%	1079 codes validated and 994 children accessed Take up 96% (national 90%)

- 3.7 The table below shows the uptake of the 30 hour early education entitlement within each ward over the last 3 terms.

Ward	Actual no of children accessing (PVI and schools)	Actual no of children accessing (PVI and schools)	Actual no of children accessing (PVI and schools)
Term	Spring 19	Summer 19	Autumn 19
Avenue	68	60	48
Beverley	43	54	44
Boothferry	55	53	54
Bricknell	58	68	35
Central	33	28	25
Derringham	58	72	61
Drypool	61	79	49
Holderness	89	77	49
Ings	52	61	41
Kingswood	111	132	76
Longhill	50	68	47
Marfleet	66	79	55
Newington	79	61	49
North Carr	75	90	63
OP&Greewood	64	81	43
Pickering	34	34	24
Southcoates	57	70	40
St Andrew's	36	57	30
Sutton	69	77	53
University	35	39	38
West Carr	59	68	46
Total	1315	1491	1016

- 3.8 As you would expect EYFSP data shows for the second year running outcomes for those pupils accessing 30 hours of early education are consistently higher than those who access only 15 hours, the biggest gaps being Reading (15.3 percentage points) and Writing 15.2 percentage points).



Next steps

- 3.9 Continue to validate codes for the extended hours to begin at the start of each term to maintain current uptake.
- 3.10 The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment be updated termly to map current 30 hour applications and take up by ward to ensure potential gaps in provision are identified and adequate provision is available for both the universal and extended entitlement.
- 3.11 Work with CAPITA to audit and check ongoing eligibility to the extended entitlement and provide updates to schools and settings.