



Department
for Education

Early years funding - extension of the entitlements

Government consultation response

November 2023

Ministerial Foreword



This Government is committed to supporting hardworking families to access high quality, flexible and affordable early education and childcare. This helps children learn in those crucial early years and supports both families and the economy by enabling parents to work and giving them the freedom, support and choice to look after their children in the way that works best for them.

That is why, at the 2023 Spring Budget in March, the Government announced plans for reforms to childcare to support parents to return and stay in work, which will be transformative for parents, children and the economy.

We are extending our 30 hours free childcare offer so that even more parents and children will benefit. By September 2025, this will mean eligible working parents in England will be able to access 30 hours of free childcare per week, for 38 weeks per year, from the term after their child is 9 months old to when they start school. We expect to provide over £4.1 billion by 2027-28 to fund these new entitlements, and to be spending in excess of £8 billion every year overall on free hours and early education, helping working families with their childcare costs. This represents the single biggest investment in childcare in England ever.

With the expansion of the government early education entitlements and the significant increase in government spending, it is vital that the funding is directed to where it is most needed and can do most good. That is why, between July and September 2023, we consulted on proposals for distributing this investment fairly and efficiently across the country.

Our proposals included the introduction of a new funding formula to distribute entitlements funding for children aged two and under in 2024-25, building on the existing formula used to fund the three-and-four-year-old entitlements. We also set out our proposals for the local funding framework within which authorities will be expected to pass the funding on to providers. This will give authorities the support and flexibility they need to support delivery of the childcare offers whilst ensuring funding reaches providers in a fair and transparent way.

Alongside this, we proposed to extend eligibility for the early years pupil premium and disability access fund to eligible children aged two-years-old and under accessing the entitlements from 2024-25, to ensure we are continuing to provide support for disadvantaged children in the younger age groups.

The proposals set out in the consultation, the vast majority of which we will now take forward from 2024-25, will help to ensure that the Early Years funding system distributes funding fairly and efficiently.

We recognise how important funding is to the successful delivery of the new early education entitlements and we will continue to work with local authorities and providers to ensure the system is set up for success.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who responded to the consultation. Your thoughts and suggestions have been invaluable in informing our work.

David Johnston MP

Minister for Children, Families and Wellbeing

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Introduction

The Department for Education is expanding the free childcare offer so that eligible working parents in England will be able to access 30 hours of free early education per week for 38 weeks per year from the term after their child turns 9 months to when they start school.

Between 21 July 2023 and 8 September 2023, the government held a consultation on our proposed approach to distributing entitlements funding for 2-year-olds and under from 2024-25 in light of the expansion of the government childcare entitlements.

The proposals that we consulted on were:

- To introduce a new funding formula for distributing entitlements funding to local authorities for 2-year-olds and under from 2024-25, and to use the same weighting for the additional needs factor in the new national funding formula as in the current 3-and-4-year-old formula, meaning that it will account for 10.5% of funding. Specifically, we proposed:
 - To introduce an additional proxy for deprivation based on the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI), and to use that alongside free school meals (FSM) to create a basket of measures approach to deprivation within the additional needs factor.
 - To continue to use English as an additional language (EAL) and Disability Living Allowance (DLA) as proxies in the additional needs factor.
 - To use the same area cost adjustment (ACA) as in the current 2-year-old formula
- To give local authorities rates for 2-year-olds and under 2s in 2024-25 as determined by the new national funding formula (as set out above).
- To extend eligibility for the early years pupil premium (EYPP) and the disability access fund (DAF) to eligible children aged 2-year-olds and under accessing the entitlements from 2024-25.
- To extend all current rules for local authorities when setting their own local funding formulae to the existing offer for disadvantaged 2-year-olds and to the new offers for working parents of children aged 2-years-old and under, and specifically:
 - To set the pass through rate on each individual early years dedicated schools grant (DSG) funding stream at 95% from 2024-25, rising to 97% once the roll-out of the new entitlements has sufficiently progressed.
 - To extend the existing list of allowable supplements to apply to each funding stream, capped at 12%, including a mandatory deprivation supplement.

- That local authorities should extend their special education needs inclusion fund (SENIF) to include children aged 9 months to 2-years-old who are taking up the free entitlements. We also asked some wider questions about the operation of SENIFs.

The consultation was conducted online, and we received 983 responses. We also ran two webinars for local authorities, as well as engaging in more detailed discussions with representatives from stakeholder groups and individual local authorities. We listened carefully to the views of local authorities, providers and wider stakeholder groups to ensure our proposals enable successful delivery of the new entitlement. Overall, we received broad agreement on our proposals.

Having carefully considered the feedback to the consultation, this document presents our response and confirms our overall approach to the early years entitlements funding for 2-year-olds and under from 2024-25.

We recognise how important funding is to the successful delivery of the new early education entitlements and we will continue to work with local authorities and providers to ensure the system is set up for success.

Alongside this consultation response we have published [final 2024-25 funding rates and step-by-step calculations](#), an accompanying technical note and the 2024-25 operational guidance for local authorities.

Summary of responses received and the government's response

In total we received 983 responses to the consultation. Of the total respondents, 566 stated that their response was on behalf of an organisation. A breakdown of organisation type is given in the table below. Further details of organisations that responded to the consultation can be found at Annex A.

During the consultation period we held discussions with local authorities and representative organisations, including two department-led webinars and informal conversations with smaller groups of LAs. In addition to the online responses to the consultation, we have taken on board comments raised during these meetings and events when making final decisions and, where relevant, these have been reflected in the responses set out below. Our detailed response based on our analysis of the responses is set out below.

Many respondents chose to answer using just the Yes / No / Unsure options and as such are not included in breakdowns of free text comments. Some respondents choosing to answer through the free text boxes provided comments falling under more than one category, or did not provide a response to a particular question. Where comments did not relate to the question asked, these were noted and considered as either part of the appropriate question or as more general feedback, particularly where the comments did not relate to the proposals set out in the consultation.

Type of Organisation	Number	Percent
Academy	14	1%
Childminder	293	30%
Diocese	0	0%
Local Authority	123	13%
Maintained Nursery School	28	3%
Maintained School	20	2%
Parent or Carer	25	3%
Private, Voluntary or Independent Group Provider	419	43%
Sector Organisation	8	1%
Other	39	4%
Prefer Not To Say	14	1%

Main findings from the consultation and the government response

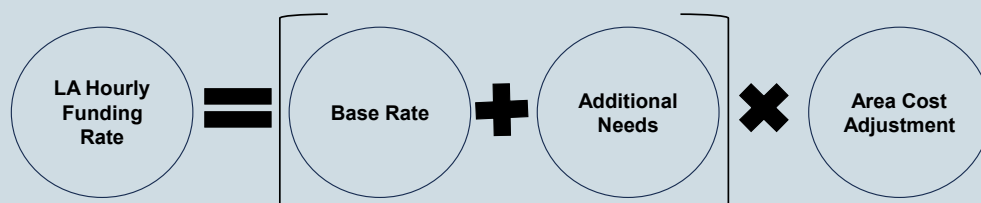
This section provides a high-level summary of what we heard through the consultation, and confirms the government's approach to distributing entitlements funding for 2-year-olds and under from 2024-25. The next section then sets this out in more detail.

There was broad agreement with our proposals relating to the national funding distribution for the entitlements for 2-year-olds and under. Each of the proposals outlined in this section of the consultation received majority agreement, except one. There was a significant level of uncertainty in response to the question relating to the area cost adjustment (ACA) element of the new formula, perhaps reflecting the more technical nature of the proposal.

National funding distribution for the entitlements for 2-year-olds and under

We will implement all of the proposals outlined in this section of the consultation. This means that, for 2024-25, we will introduce a new national funding formula to distribute funding for the 2-year-old and under 2s entitlements to local authorities. This formula will be made up of:

- a universal base rate of funding for each child (89.5% of funding).
- an additional needs factor (10.5% of funding).
- an area cost adjustment to reflect variations in costs across England.



With regard to our proposal to extend eligibility to the disability access fund (DAF) and the early years pupil premium (EYPP) to 2-year-olds and under, over 85% of respondents agreed with our proposals. There was broad support by all types of providers with regard to this proposal, and support was further highlighted in the text responses received to these particular questions.

Disability access fund (DAF) and early years pupil premium (EYPP)

We will proceed with our proposals to extend both the DAF and EYPP eligibility to the new entitlements from 2024-25.

DAF – This means that, for 2024-25 onwards, all children accessing the entitlements, including those aged 2-years and under, will be eligible for the DAF providing that they are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA).

EYPP – This means that, for 2024-25, younger children aged 2-year-old and under accessing the entitlements will be able to access EYPP funding should they meet the criteria for this.

The majority of respondents agreed with our proposal to set local authorities' funding rates for the 2-year-olds and under entitlements using the new national funding formula, and the rationale behind why we have decided to take this approach. Some respondents indicated that year-to-year stability in rates would be helpful for their business planning, and so suggested that year-to-year protections would be desirable to achieve this. We recognise the importance of managing fluctuations in future funding rates and will consider protections when setting rates beyond 2024-25.

Impact of proposals on local authority funding rates

We will proceed with our proposal to set local authority funding rates for 2024-25 for 2-year-olds and under using the new national funding formula.

We will consider year-to-year protections when setting rates beyond 2024-25.

There was, broadly, agreement with our proposals relating to the framework of rules for local authorities to follow when passing on the funding for the new entitlements to providers. There was an uncertainty with regard to our proposed approach to the list of allowable supplements being applied to all entitlements funding streams. This was particularly the case where respondents (childminders or PVI providers, for instance) do not have a strong understanding of their local authority's current approach, and the way in which supplements work, and, as a result, do not feel certain when commenting on it.

Local authority funding formulae for childcare entitlements

We intend to proceed with all but one of the proposals in this section of the consultation. This means that for 2024-25 we will be extending the vast majority of the existing local funding rules, which relate mainly to the current 3-and-4-year-old entitlements, to apply to the entitlement funding streams for children aged 2-years-old and under. Specifically:

- the 95% pass through requirement will apply to the early years funding streams for children aged under 2-years-old and under in 2024-25, with the pass through rate rising to 97% once the new entitlements are sufficiently embedded.
- the same list of allowable supplements will be applicable to early years funding streams for children aged 2-years-old and under 2024-25, with the only change being that the deprivation supplement *will not* be a mandatory requirement with respect to funding for 2-year-olds and under.
- local authorities will be expected to establish a SENIF for 2-year-olds and under for 2024-25.

We continue to believe that it is important that local authorities reflect deprivation within their local funding approach. To support this, we are introducing a requirement for local authorities to ensure that the funding rate they pay to providers for the disadvantaged 2-year-old entitlement is at least equivalent to the rate for the 2-year-old working parent entitlement. Local authorities will have the flexibility to either treat the two 2-year-old entitlements (for working parents, and for disadvantaged children) the same, with a single local 2-year-old formula, or to have separate local formulae for the two entitlements.

As such, we will not be making the deprivation supplement mandatory for 2-year-olds and under. If local authorities choose to have separate 2-year-old formulae, it would not be logical to require them to include a deprivation supplement in their local disadvantaged 2-year-old formula. For under 2s, we believe it is important to take a consistent approach to that taken for the working parent entitlement for 2-year-olds, given the similarity in the cohorts. We would encourage local authorities to include a deprivation supplement in their local working parent formula, or if they have a single 2-year-old formulae.

We also intend to conduct a more detailed review of SENIF arrangements that are currently in place across local authorities nationally and to what extent they are meeting current need. We will look to draw examples of best practice together and suggest longer-term changes to improve the extent to which SENIFs can meet children's needs.

Question analysis

The consultation included fifteen substantive questions, which are analysed below. Specifically:

- Section 1 focused on the national distribution of funding for 2-year-olds and under.
 - Questions 1 to 4 asked about our proposed approach to a new national funding formula for 2-year-olds and under, including our approach to the additional needs factor and the area cost adjustment.
 - Questions 5 and 6 asked for views on our proposal to extend eligibility to the disability access fund (DAF) and the early years pupil premium (EYPP) to 2-year-olds and under.
- Section 2 looked at the impact of these proposals on local authority funding rates.
 - Question 7 invited comments on our overall approach to funding rates for 2-year-olds and under in 2024-25.
- Section 3 then made proposals about the local funding rules framework.
 - We included questions related to the pass-through rate (question 8) and supplements (questions 9 and 10).
 - Questions 11 to 13 sought views on our proposed approach to the SEN Inclusion Fund (SENIF), and invited wider comments on what more can be done to support local authorities with the operation of local SENIFs.
- Section 4 focused on potential equalities impacts of our proposals.
 - Question 14 invited views on our provisional equalities impact assessment
- Finally, question 15 provided an opportunity to raise any other comments related to our proposals.

Note that the total of the percentages in the summary of responses may not always add up to 100% due to rounding.

Section 1: National funding distribution for the entitlements for 2-year-olds and under

In this section we set out proposals in relation to the national funding formula that we will use to distribute funding to local authorities for 2-year-olds and under for 2024-25 in light of the new entitlements. We also set out proposals to extend eligibility for DAF and EYPP to eligible children aged 2-years-old and under accessing the entitlements.

Question 1:

In the new national funding formula for 2-year-olds and under, we proposed to take a slightly different approach to deprivation in the additional needs factor compared to the 3-and-4-year-old formula. With a mixture of disadvantaged and working parent families, we believe that the additional needs factor should take account of general levels of deprivation more broadly within each local authority. We therefore proposed to introduce a proxy for deprivation based on the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI), which is an area-based measure. We propose to use this alongside free school meals (FSM) data, which is already used in the 3-and-4-year-old formula as a proxy for deprivation. This is similar to the approach taken in the schools and high needs NFFs. We believe that this 'basket of measures' approach will mean we are reflecting a broader range of deprivation, and more accurately reflecting relative differences between local authority areas.

Do you agree that we should introduce IDACI as a new proxy, and use it alongside FSM as a basket of measures for deprivation in the additional needs factor in the new national funding formula for 9-month-olds to 2-year-olds?

Answer	Total	Percent
Yes	596	61%
No	112	11%
Unsure	267	27%
Not Answered	8	1%

The majority of respondents agreed with the proposals set out in this question and this support was consistent across all types of respondent. Around 30% of the 265 comments received in response to this question reinforced support for this proposal by stating that IDACI was a useful measure and was a good reflection of need.

Around 15% of the text responses raised concerns around the use of postcodes in IDACI and that it was, as a result, not an accurate measure of deprivation, with an additional 15% expressing a desire for a different measure instead. Most of these comments came from local authorities and PVI providers. The most common suggestion of a measure to use either instead of or in conjunction with IDACI, was the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD).

A minority of text responses, around 8%, raised concerns that IDACI is not updated often enough to provide current, accurate data on deprivation. Some respondents suggested they would support this proposal provided that the data was updated on a more regular basis. This concern was, primarily, raised by local authorities.

Government response

We propose to proceed with the proposals set out in this question. This means that in 2024-25, in the new national funding formula that we will use to determine LA hourly rates for 2-year-old and under, the additional needs factor will include proxy measures using both IDACI and FSM data to reflect deprivation. We continue to believe that the IDACI data will be a valuable measure to use, to capture those families who may just not meet the FSM eligibility criteria and to also pick up 'pockets' of deprivation within local authority areas. We do recognise the concerns raised around the frequency the IDACI data is updated, and the risk of it becoming outdated. One of the reasons why we propose to use both IDACI and FSM data together is to help mitigate this risk, as the FSM data will be updated annually and so will ensure that we are capturing year-on-year changes to deprivation levels. We believe that this 'basket of measures' approach will mean we are reflecting a broader range of deprivation, and more accurately reflecting relative differences between local authority areas.

Question 2:

We proposed to use data on children with English as an additional language (EAL) and children who are entitled to Disability Living Allowance (DLA) as proxy measures in the additional needs factor in the new formula. We believe that these proxies, which are currently used in the 3-and-4-year-old formula, will be appropriate for the new formula.

Do you agree that we should continue to use EAL and DLA as proxies in the additional needs factor in the new funding formula?

Answer	Total	Percent
Yes	767	78%
No	81	8%
Unsure	125	13%
Not Answered	10	1%

The majority of respondents agreed with our proposals to use EAL and DLA as proxies. This high level of agreement was consistent across provider types, with academies, local authorities, maintained schools, PVI providers, and sector organisations all being at least 80% in agreement.

The key concern raised in the text responses to this question was that, as qualifying for DLA is contingent on a SEND diagnosis, there is a fear that many children will miss out due to the process involved in a child receiving a SEND diagnosis. As a result, many of

these comments suggested that DLA was not the most appropriate indicator of SEND. This was a concern that was primarily raised by local authorities and PVI providers. Some respondents suggested that data on Educational Health Care Plans (EHCP) or public health data collected from GPs or health visitors should be factored into the formula instead of DLA as these options would provide more accurate data for children with emerging or additional needs.

Of the 189 comments received in response to this question, around 20% echoed the support seen in the multiple-choice section of the question by stating that using DLA was a good approach and would assist providers when it came to resource provision for children with additional needs. This was a response primarily received from local authorities.

Government response

We will proceed with the proposals as set out in the consultation, meaning that EAL and DLA will be used as proxies in the additional needs factor in the new funding formula for 2-year-olds and under. We continue to believe that EAL and DLA are the most suitable proxies to use in the formula. This approach will help ensure that more money reaches local authorities where the incidence of children with additional needs is greater, reflecting the extra costs associated with narrowing the gap in outcomes and supporting children's early education.

Question 3:

We proposed to include an area cost adjustment (ACA) in the new formula to take account of the relative difference in costs in different areas of the country. We proposed to use the same ACA as in the current formulae, meaning that the ACA in the new formula would be made up of:

- General labour market (GLM) measure to reflect staff costs: weighted 80%
- Nursery and infant primary rates cost adjustment (NIPRCA) to reflect premises costs: weighted 10%
- The remaining 10% of costs are assumed not to vary from authority to authority

The schools and private nurseries rateable values data in the NIPRCA is weighted based on the relative use of the different provider types. As we do not have data on take-up of the new entitlements, we will use take-up of the existing 2-year-old offer for the time being. However, we indicated our intention to keep this under review, with a view to updating this to more accurately reflect take-up once the new entitlements have been fully rolled out.

Do you agree with our proposed approach to the area cost adjustment in the new national funding formula?

Answer	Total	Percent
Yes	415	42%
No	233	24%
Unsure	310	32%
Not Answered	25	3%

There were a wide range of responses to this proposal. 42% of respondents agreed with our proposals, with a further 32% expressing uncertainty around the inclusion of the area cost adjustment (ACA) in the new funding formula. Approximately two-thirds of local authorities that responded agreed with the proposals, with the remaining third being split between uncertainty and disagreement.

One of the chief concerns that was raised by local authority respondents was that the data being used in the ACA is outdated. Specifically, the staffing cost element of the ACA uses a General Labour Market (GLM) measure that dates back to 2013-14 meaning that the significant rise in the national living wage since then is not factored in. There were also concerns around how up to date the data used for premises costs was, with a number of respondents noting that outdated data meant their current property costs were not being reflected accurately. The suggestion across almost all respondents raising this issue was to use more recent data to improve the efficacy of the ACA.

Another of the views raised in the text responses was that costs between areas do not vary enough to justify this measure and that there should be greater similarity between funding received across all areas. A minority felt that the ACA was unnecessary, given how many early years staff are on the national living wage and so there is less disparity in staffing costs across the country, and instead felt funding should be more evenly distributed.

In certain instances, the uncertainty that could be seen in response to this question was because respondents (predominantly childminders in this case) may not have a clear understanding of the ACA in the existing formula and how it would be applied to the new formula. Some of the more technical aspects of the proposals in the consultation which may require a more specialised knowledge of the mechanisms of the formulae could have led to responses showing a higher degree of uncertainty.

Around 15% of the text responses supported the ACA being introduced in the new national funding formula. The predominant themes from these responses were that the additional funding should help settings in areas of deprivation, that the ACA was a

sensible idea as different areas have different needs, and that it is a good idea to have consistency across the different formulae.

Government response

We will proceed with the proposals as set out in the consultation meaning that the ACA will be included in the new national funding formula. We recognise the concerns raised relating to the date of the general labour market (GLM) data we are using. We are continuing to consider the latest GLM data that the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) published in March 2022, which was compiled in a different way from the 2013-14 data, and so is not suitable for use in the national funding formulae (NFFs) in its current form. We are discussing with DLUHC what, if any, transformations will be applied to the dataset before it is used. This will then inform decisions on whether the data will be used for the NFFs in future years.

Question 4:

As set out above, overall we proposed that the new formula would follow the shape of the existing 3-and-4-year-old formula. We took this existing formula as the starting point, and then considered the extent to which we could apply the same approach for the younger age groups and new entitlements, or whether amendments are needed.

Like the 3-and-4-year-old formula, we set out that the new formula will feature:

- a universal base rate of funding for each child (89.5% of funding)
- additional needs factor (10.5% of funding)
- an area cost adjustment to reflect variations in costs across England

Overall, do you agree with our proposed approach of following the same structure and weightings for the new national funding formula as in the existing 3-and-4-year-old formula?

Answer	Total	Percent
Yes	528	54%
No	271	28%
Unsure	173	18%
Not Answered	11	1%

The majority of respondents agreed with our proposals set out in this question, with particularly high agreement rates from academies (86%), local authorities (80%), and maintained schools (75%). Both PVI providers and childminders were around 50% in agreement.

Around 10% of the comments received in response to this question substantiated the support for the proposals, agreeing with what had been laid out in the consultation document. Comments supporting the proposals were made predominantly by local authorities.

A minority of the text responses expressed a desire for the rate for 3-and-4-year-old children to be brought in line with the rate for 2-year-old children. There was a level of dissatisfaction in these comments at the prospect of a drop-off in the rate received per child once that child turned 3. These were comments made solely by childminders and PVI providers.

There were a substantial number of comments in response to this question that outlined more general concerns regarding the overall funding levels, which did not specifically relate to the proposals but were consistently made across respondent types (around a third of total responses).

Government response

We will proceed with the proposals laid out in the consultation, meaning the new funding formula we are introducing for 2-year-olds and under will have the same weightings and overall structure as the existing 3-and-4-year-old formula. Further details of this new formula can be found in the technical note published alongside the final 2024-25 hourly funding rates.

Question 5:

We proposed to extend disability access fund (DAF) eligibility for 2024-25 so that children aged 9 months up to 4-years-old could access this funding if they are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA). The DAF is intended to aid access to the entitlements for disabled children and can be used to support providers in making reasonable adjustments to their settings and/or assisting with building capacity.

Do you agree that we should extend DAF eligibility to all children accessing the entitlements from April 2024?

Answer	Total	Percent
Yes	847	86%
No	47	5%
Unsure	81	8%
Not Answered	8	1%

The vast majority of respondents were in agreement with this proposal. No respondent type showed less than 70% agreement.

Around 50% of the comments received were positive, stating that the extension of DAF to all eligible children accessing the entitlements for 2024-25 would be beneficial and that the additional funding would allow providers to more adequately support children with additional needs. A further 10% of comments expressed a view that there should be no age limit on accessing disability support and, as a result, the extension of DAF was a positive thing.

A minority of responses aired concern that the waiting time for DLA is an issue when trying to access DAF. This was a concern that was raised mainly by local authorities and by PVI providers and made up approximately 20% of comments.

A separate issue raised in a small minority of the text responses was a desire for a more accessible application, as the current process can prove quite difficult to understand. However, it is worth noting that, of the comments received that relate to this issue, most were still in agreement with the overall proposals.

Government response

We will proceed as set out in the consultation, so 2-year-olds and under accessing the entitlements will be eligible for the disability access fund (DAF) for 2024-25. This will provide additional funding to support disabled children's access to the entitlements.

Question 6:

We proposed to extend the early years pupil premium (EYPP) eligibility to all children accessing the entitlements for 2024-25. Extending EYPP eligibility will provide additional funding, on top of the core hourly funding rate, to support those children in the younger age groups accessing the entitlements from more disadvantaged backgrounds.

Do you agree that we should extend EYPP eligibility to all children accessing a free childcare entitlement from April 2024?

Answer	Total	Percent
Yes	854	87%
No	67	7%
Unsure	57	6%
Not Answered	5	1%

The vast majority of respondents agreed with this proposal, with every respondent type showing an agreement rate of 70% or more. The 3 most responsive groups to this

question, childminders, local authorities, and PVI providers, showed 81% agreement, 98% agreement, and 88% agreement respectively.

There were 175 text responses to this question and, of these, almost 40% further confirmed support for this proposal, giving positive feedback that the extension of EYPP eligibility to all eligible children accessing the entitlements would be beneficial. A number of PVI provider respondents elaborated on this point by stating that the earlier funding is made available to support children, the greater the benefit and the better the outcome.

A minority of respondents raised some concerns, including about wider EYPP policy. Firstly, there were some who felt that the additional funding made available through the EYPP did not justify the additional amount of work that would be created for providers, parents and carers. There were also some respondents who would prefer EYPP to be more targeted to support children from the most deprived backgrounds, and that the current proposals would erode the amount of support that these children could receive. Finally, a very small number of comments stated a desire for a higher base rate for all children as opposed to the EYPP.

Government response

We will proceed with extending EYPP eligibility to all eligible children aged 2-year-olds and under accessing the entitlements from 2024-25. This policy change will ensure that the most disadvantaged children across the younger age groups receive additional support on top of the core hourly funding rate.

Section 2: Impact of proposals

In this section, we set out the anticipated impact of our proposals on local authority funding rates.

Question 7:

We proposed to set each local authority's rates in 2024-25, for the 2-year-old and 9-month-old up to 2-year-old entitlements, using the formula set out above. These funding rates are for a new working parent entitlement for under 2s, and for a new mixed cohort of the disadvantaged 2-year-old entitlement and the new working parent entitlement for 2-year-olds, and they will be calculated using a new funding formula. This means that there is no baseline against which they should be compared.

Year-to-year protections for these funding rates may be desirable in future years. We therefore said that we will keep this under review and consider whether any protections are appropriate when we are setting rates for 2025-26.

Do you agree with this approach?

Answer	Total	Percent
Yes	526	54%
No	150	15%
Unsure	297	30%
Not Answered	10	1%

The majority of respondents agreed with the proposals made in this section of the consultation. There was also a relatively high level of uncertainty in the responses to this question.

One of the main points raised in the comments in response to this question was that rates should rise on an annual basis in line with economic factors such as increases in inflation or rises in the national living wage. Whilst this is not necessarily directly relevant to the proposals in this section, it was a point made consistently in the text responses, primarily by PVI providers.

Another general concern that was raised in a minority of the replies to this question was a concern regarding the pass-through rate from local authorities to providers. This was a point made, largely, by PVI providers and childminders. The concern was that the pass-through rate was too low and rendered the illustrative rates redundant if top-slicing by local authorities was not reduced. This is something that is covered in more detail in response to a separate question below.

A number of responses indicated a desire from providers for rates to remain stable year-on-year and suggested that implementing protections from the start of the new entitlements would be desirable to achieve this. Around 13% of the comments received made reference to this.

Government response

We will proceed with our proposal to give local authorities their 2-year-olds and under rates in 2024-25 as determined by the new funding formula. Currently, there is no meaningful baseline on which we can apply year-on-year protections as we are producing funding rates for a new working parent entitlement for under 2s, and for a new mixed cohort of the disadvantaged 2-year-old entitlement and the new working parent entitlement for 2-year-olds. We will return to the question of potential year-to-year protections when setting rates beyond 2024-25.

Section 3: Local authority funding formulae for childcare entitlements

In this section we set out proposals relating to the rules that local authorities follow when passing on funding to providers. With the expansion of the entitlements, we proposed to extend the current framework of rules for the distribution of entitlements funding by local authorities to the existing offer for disadvantaged 2-year-olds and to the new offers for working parents of children aged 2-years-old and under. The questions in this section focused on the key features of this framework and sought views on the current processes around SEND funding and options for change.

Question 8:

Currently, local authorities are required to pass through at least 95% of their 3-and-4-year-old entitlement funding to providers. The remaining (up to) 5% can be retained centrally to be spent on activities such as central SEND support and eligibility checking. We proposed to extend this current framework to all of the early years funding streams in 2024-25.

Do you agree a pass through rate of 95% should be applied to each funding stream in 2024-25: the 3-and-4-year-old universal and 30 hours offer; the two-year-old disadvantaged and working parent offers; and the 9 months to two-year-old offer?

Answer	Total	Percent
Yes	610	62%
No	162	16%
Unsure	200	20%
Not Answered	11	1%

Of the responses received to this question, the majority were in agreement with the proposals that the 95% pass-through rate should be applied to each funding stream in 2024-25. 89% of local authority respondents agreed with this proposal, with the remaining respondent types averaging around a 60% agreement rate.

Of the 301 text responses to this question, around 40% were in favour of either a higher percentage of pass-through from local authorities to providers or 100% pass-through and for local authorities to have a separate source of funding that did not impact what providers received. This was a theme in responses received from providers across the board. There were also a small number of comments that expanded on this, stating a desire for greater transparency around where local authorities were allocating the central spend that was not being passed-through.

Conversely, around 30% of the comments received were in agreement with the proposals around a 95% pass-through rate. These comments were predominantly made by local authority respondents. These responses indicated that, with a new cohort of children, workload for local authorities would increase and an increased pass-through rate would hinder the ability for this work to be carried out. Specifically, some LA respondents expressed concern for the intention to move to a 97% pass-through rate.

Government response

We will proceed with the proposals made in the consultation relating to the amount of funding that local authorities are required to pass on to providers. For 2024-25, the 95% pass-through rate will separately apply to each of the following dedicated schools grant (DSG) funding streams:

- the 3-and-4-year-old universal and 30 hours entitlement – no change from the current approach
- the 2-year-old disadvantaged entitlement
- the 2-year-old working parent entitlement; and
- the 9 months to 2-year-old working parent entitlement.

[Further detail about how the pass through calculation will work is provided in the funding operational guidance for 2024-25.](#)

We set out in the consultation that, as the quantum of funding in the early years block increases with the roll out of the new entitlements, the proportion of overall funding LAs will require to hold back for central spend will fall (whilst still allowing for a higher cash value to be retained, reflecting the increased central activity). It remains our intention to increase the pass-through rate to 97% once the new entitlements are sufficiently embedded. We recognise the concerns raised by some respondents, particularly local authorities, about the potential impact of this change, and understand the need to provide sufficient lead in time to allow local authorities to prepare. We will continue to keep the timing under review and provide further details ahead of making any changes.

Question 9:

Local authorities are currently able to use a restricted number of supplements to top-up the 3-and-4-year-old base rate for certain providers, up to a cap of 12% of planned formula funding to providers for that entitlement. We proposed to extend this list of allowable supplements to all of the entitlement funding streams with the same cap of 12% being applicable.

Do you agree that the same list of allowable supplements should be applied to every entitlement funding stream, capped at a maximum 12 percent of planned funding for that entitlement?

Answer	Total	Percent
Yes	445	45%
No	125	13%
Unsure	396	40%
Not Answered	17	2%

There was a significant level of uncertainty in response to this question, with 40% of respondents expressing that they were unsure that the same list of allowable supplements should be applied to every entitlement stream. Local authorities were the outlier, with 79% being in agreement. The average agreement rate for the remaining respondent types was around 40%.

As seen in responses to question 3, the technical nature of the way local formulae work currently appears to have driven a degree of uncertainty from a number of respondents, mainly PVI providers and childminders. This may have contributed to the mixed response to this proposal.

The most common theme from the text responses was that there would be a preference for a higher base rate for all children as opposed to having supplements. This was a comment which came largely from PVI providers.

Whilst the majority of local authorities were in agreement with this proposal, there were a number of local authority respondents whose agreement was contingent on the basis that they could remain flexible, and the supplements would not be mandatory. These local authorities' view was that giving them the discretion to decide how supplements are distributed would mean they could continue to use a high base rate as the main medium for allocating funding to providers.

Government response

We intend to proceed with the proposals laid out in the consultation. This means that we will extend the list of allowable supplements that local authorities can currently use for 3- and 4-year-olds to all of the entitlements funding streams for 2024-25. The amount that can be spent through supplements will be capped at a maximum of 12 percent of planned funding for that entitlement. The use of these supplements will continue to be discretionary, so LAs will continue to have the flexibility to use them to target funding according to locally determined need. Further details on the deprivation supplement are set out below.

Question 10:

In the list of allowable supplements referenced in question 9 is the deprivation supplement, allowing local authorities to recognise deprivation within their areas and support children in those areas in taking up the entitlements. It is currently mandatory for local authorities to include a deprivation supplement in their 3-and-4-year-old funding formula and is optional for two-year-olds. We proposed in the consultation to make this a mandatory requirement for all of the entitlement funding streams for 2024-25.

Do you agree that the deprivation supplement should be mandatory for every entitlement funding stream?

Answer	Total	Percent
Yes	762	78%
No	79	8%
Unsure	130	13%
Not Answered	12	1%

In general respondents agreed with the proposals that were set out in this question regarding the deprivation supplement. This could be seen across all respondent types.

We received 130 written responses to this question and, of those, a little over 35% reiterated the support seen in the multiple-choice section of the question. From the responses containing positive and supportive feedback, respondents generally agreed that it was important for local authorities to reflect deprivation in their local funding approach. Respondents were supportive of local authorities targeting additional funding towards children in more deprived areas. A number of these comments also went on to state that it was a positive that there would be consistency across funding streams.

Despite the high-level of agreement across the responses received, there were a small number of the written responses that raised concerns, largely around the way in which the deprivation supplement may operate locally. For example, one concern, primarily raised by local authorities, was that the data they would need to use for a deprivation measure would need to be accurate and up to date for this proposal to be effective. Another concern was that the deprivation supplement should not be measured based on area or postcode, but should, instead, factor in the individual circumstance of the family / child.

Government response

We continue to believe that it is important for local authorities to reflect relative differences in levels of socio-economic deprivation and additional needs within their local funding approach. However, we also recognise that flexibility for local authorities is

important, to allow them the freedom to determine the approach that would be most suitable for their local area.

This is particularly important for the 2-year-old entitlements, where the introduction of the new working parent entitlement, alongside the existing offer for disadvantaged families, creates a new, mixed cohort of 2-year-olds accessing the entitlements. We have considered further the way in which local authorities may wish to approach the funding arrangements for these two entitlements. We believe that there should be an overarching principle that LAs should not fund children on the disadvantaged 2-year-old offer at a lower rate than children on the 2-year-old working parent entitlement, and we intend to make this a requirement through regulations.

However, we recognise that there are different approaches that can be used to achieve this intended outcome. Local authorities may wish to introduce a single 2-year-old formula, or to have two separate 2-year-old formulae (one for the disadvantaged offer, and one for the working parent entitlement). We believe local authorities should have the flexibility to determine the approach taken based on their local circumstances as long as they meet the overarching principle of the 2-year-old disadvantage rate being at least as high as the rate for 2-year-olds receiving the working parent entitlement. If a local authority chooses to have two separate formulae, it would be illogical to require a mandatory deprivation supplement on their local disadvantaged 2-year-old formula as this would force them to identify deprivation within a cohort which is already targeting deprivation. For under 2s, we believe it is important to take a consistent approach to that taken for the working parent entitlement for 2-year-olds, given the similarity in the cohorts. Therefore, we are making the deprivation supplement optional, not mandatory, for the 2-year-old and under entitlements funding streams. We would encourage local authorities to include a deprivation supplement in their local working parent formula, or if they have a single 2-year-old formulae.

Question 11:

Local authorities currently should have a special educational needs inclusion fund (SENIF) in place for all 3-and-4-year-olds with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) who are accessing the free entitlements. These funds are intended to support providers in addressing the needs of children with lower or emerging levels of SEND. In the consultation, we proposed that local authorities should extend their SENIF to cover children aged 9 months to 2-years-old.

Do you agree with our proposal that local authorities should establish a special educational needs inclusion fund for children aged 9 months to 2-years-old who are taking up the entitlements?

Answer	Total	Percent
Yes	854	87%
No	42	4%
Unsure	78	8%
Not Answered	9	1%

A large percentage of respondents agreed with the proposal in this question. The total agreement rate across respondents was 87%, with some individual respondent types as high as 93% in agreement.

Around 50% of the text responses to this question confirmed their strong agreement to our proposal. This could be seen across respondent types. Throughout the responses received, there was widespread agreement that children in this age bracket should also have access to additional support and agreement that SEN Inclusion Funds will assist settings in providing adequate support. Many respondents highlighted that their agreement depended on funding levels being high enough.

Some respondents raised concerns about the sufficiency and delivery of SENIF funding under our proposals, or suggested more significant changes. For example, some local authorities believe that this proposal will impact budgets that are already under pressure and that SENIFs should be established as a separate funding stream. Other respondents reflected the concern that diagnosis of SEND among the younger cohort is more challenging, making it less clear what demand there would be for SENIFs.

Government response

We will proceed as set out in the consultation. This means that for 2024-25, LAs should extend SENIFs to children aged 9 months to 2 years with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) who are eligible for the free entitlements.

Question 12:

We recognise the challenges faced by the early years sector in meeting the needs of children with SEND. We have already committed to working with stakeholders across the sector to understand whether changes may be required to the SENIF, and other associated elements of the wider current early years funding system, as part of the [Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan](#).

We are considering ways in which we can support local authorities to improve the administrative processes around the SENIF, particularly to reduce bureaucracy and ensure funding is made available in a timely manner. Therefore, questions 12 and 13

were used to gather views and feedback on the current process for SENIF funding and options for potential change.

What more can be done to support local authorities and providers to reduce bureaucracy and streamline SENIF processes whilst also ensuring the system remains fair and financially sustainable?

For this question, we did not collect 'Yes', 'No', and 'Unsure' data as this question was designed to gather suggestions about how to make the SENIF process more efficient. We received 550 text responses in response to this question, and the key themes received in responses are summarised out below.

The most common responses (accounting for around 30% of responses received to this question) were that a) the SENIF process created too much paperwork and administrative burden for providers and b) that the SEND diagnosis process was too difficult or time consuming.

Providers suggested that a streamlined application process in terms of paperwork would be the single most useful change that could be made because, as it stands, they feel the administrative burden takes too much time and impacts on the quality of care and engagement that staff are able to provide to children within their settings. Providers felt that a streamlined approach would ensure funds reach the children who need them in a timelier manner.

Providers also voiced frustration that getting a SEND diagnosis for children has become increasingly difficult, reporting a lack of specialist staff, the reduction of in-person visits to determine children's needs, and lengthy administrative processes. The suggestion to improve some of these issues was for local authorities to receive the appropriate level of funding to employ staff to expedite the diagnosis process and to ease the burden on providers.

From local authorities, the primary suggestion made was for the Department for Education to set a standardised, national criteria or process for local authorities to follow as opposed to having different processes in place in different areas of the country. It was felt this would reduce the expectation for local authorities to create their own process, ensure parity between each local authority, and streamline the process overall.

Other notable suggestions that were made by various respondent types included: providing more training for local authorities and providers on the application process, encouraging a greater level of trust in staff in settings who have identified emerging needs, and making funding available in a more timely manner through more regular payments.

Government response

We have reviewed all feedback received in response to this question.

Building on the feedback received, we intend to conduct a detailed assessment of the SENIF arrangements that local authorities currently have in place, looking at how SENIFs are being used nationally and how far they are meeting current need. We will look to draw examples of best practice together, with a view to sector-wide dissemination, and recommend longer term changes that we think will improve the extent to which SENIFs can meet the needs of children taking up the entitlements.

Question 13:

As stated above, this question was used to gather views and feedback on the current process for SEND funding and options for potential change.

Would local authorities and providers find it helpful for the department to be more prescriptive about the operation of local SENIFs?

Answer	Total	Percent
Yes	551	56%
No	97	10%
Unsure	305	31%
Not Answered	30	3%

The majority of respondents were in agreement with this question. Sector organisations (63%), PVI providers (61%), and local authorities (58%) were the respondent types with the highest agreement rate. Across the remaining respondent types, the average rate of agreement was around 50%.

The feedback received in the written responses to this question provided a range of opinions. Of the 179 responses received, around 30% agreed that the department being more prescriptive about the operation of local SENIFs would be beneficial and that they would prefer to see a greater level of consistency across the country.

A number of comments (43%), made almost exclusively by local authority respondents, outlined a preference for local authorities have the freedom to make decision around SENIFs themselves citing a need for a local discretion. These comments also suggested that being too prescriptive may hinder local authorities rather than help.

However, around 20% of comments received (again, almost all of which were made by local authorities) stated a desire for more clarity and guidance on how local SENIFs should operate.

Government response

Our planned assessment of the SENIF arrangements mentioned above will consider current local authority arrangements and what longer term changes could be made. In doing this we will take full account of the range of views reflected in the responses to this question, noting that some LAs would welcome something more prescriptive whilst others would not. Our priority is to see SENIFs operate in a way that is consistent and of greatest benefit to early years children with SEND.

Section 4: Equalities Impact Assessment

Question 14:

Do you have any comments about the potential impact, both positive and negative, of our proposals on individuals on the basis of their protected characteristics? Where any negative impacts have been identified, do you know how these might be mitigated?

For this question, we did not collect 'Yes', 'No', and 'Unsure' data as this question was designed to collect general comments and feedback around the potential impact of our proposals on individuals on the basis of their protected characteristics. There were 293 written responses to this question.

Of the comments received, around 20% explicitly stated that they could see no real negative impact as a result of these proposals and that, if anything, there would only be a positive impact on children with SEND, which is a protected characteristic.

Around 25% of the comments received in response to this question were general comments on the entitlements policy itself. Many of these comments were around eligibility of the entitlements, with the majority expressing concern at the fact that non-working parents would be unable to access childcare funding or that the funding rates for children aged 3 and 4 should be the same as the rates for children aged 2-years and under. Whilst we acknowledge the comments made, these issues are outside of the scope of this consultation.

There were a small number of comments which raised the concern that, without additional funding being made available, children with SEND would be disadvantaged as current funding levels are not adequate. Again, these comments were outside the scope of this consultation.

Government response

Of the comments received, there was nothing raised that changed the initial findings laid out in our original equalities impact assessment. We continue to believe that the proposals laid out in this consultation will either have no impact or a positive impact on

persons who share certain protected characteristics compared to persons who do not share them.

Section 5: Any other comments

Question 15:

Are there any other comments that you would like to make about our proposals set out in this consultation?

The majority of respondents used the 'any other comments' section to raise comments about overall early years funding levels, or to discuss wider early years entitlements policy. We received 493 text responses in this section.

Of the responses received to this question, the most common point raised, by a significant margin, was that the early years sector as a whole was not adequately funded. Respondents of all types expressed concern that, without the overall level of funding to the sector being increased, providers and local authorities would find it difficult to ensure high quality childcare.

In addition to this, one of the most frequently raised points was frustration around the marketing of the entitlements as 'free' childcare funding. This was stated to portray an inaccurate picture of what the entitlements actually allow parents to access for their children, and places the onus on providers to accurately explain this. The preference suggested in the text responses was for the entitlements to be referred to as 'subsidised' childcare funding, which would allow providers to charge a 'top-up' rate to parents which would simultaneously deal with the confusion and the hourly funding issues providers face. This was a point that was made across all childcare provider types.

A number of other concerns that were raised in the comments responding to this question included:

- concerns with the pass through rate, with providers primarily suggesting the 95% rate should be increased, and a number of local authorities claiming an increased pass through rate would hinder their ability to carry out work centrally.
- Increased funding specifically for children with SEND, with respondents across the board suggesting that SEND children would be the most impacted by inadequate funding levels.
- The hourly rates for all children to be the same, as a number of providers felt that it was unfair to receive a substantial drop in funding when a child turned 3, and suggested it may lead to providers prioritising the 2-year-old and under places as a result.

Government response

We recognise the pressure the sector has been under, and this is why we have provided an additional £204m of funding through the early years supplementary grant (EYSG) from September 2023. The March 2023 Spring Budget also announced an additional £288m for 2024-25 to allow for further uplifts to the existing entitlements next year, which will be rolled in within the early years funding streams via the dedicated schools grant as normal. This funding is on top of the £4.1 billion that the government expects to provide by 2027-28 to facilitate the expansion of the new free hours.

Alongside the consultation response, we have published final 2024-25 hourly funding rates for local authorities.

We are mindful of the crucial role funding plays in the ability of providers to provide entitlement places, particularly as the roll-out of the new entitlements commences from April 2024. We will continue to engage with sector stakeholders and local authorities to monitor local markets, parents' access to the government's entitlements and the childcare they require, and the sustainability of the sector.

In response to the point raised around the reference to 'free' childcare and the desire to charge a 'top-up' rate to parents, the department's statutory guidance sets out that local authorities should ensure that providers do not charge a 'top-up' rate to parents and should utilise the funding received from the local authority to deliver free places.

While many other comments were not in scope for this consultation, we have noted these responses and they will be considered in our ongoing monitoring and engagement on the early years entitlements and funding system.

Next steps

Alongside this consultation response document, we have published step-by-step tables with final local authority hourly funding rates for all of the early years entitlements for 2024-25, along with the accompanying technical note and operational guide. We intend to publish initial Early Years DSG allocations for 2024-25 in December.

Annex A: List of organisations that responded to the consultation

This list of stakeholder organisations was drawn from the form submitted online and from responses to the consultation mailbox. Some respondents chose to keep their responses confidential and thus are not listed here, and the list does not include individual respondents, including those on behalf of individual schools.

- Abbotswood Day Nursery
- Achieving For Children
- Acorns In Eldwick Limited
- Acorns Pre-School
- Adams Fothergill Ltd
- Adventure Farm Day Nursery Ltd
- All Saints Nursery Limited
- Angela's Childminding
- Apple Blossoms Nursery
- Apple Trees Nursery Ltd
- Attenborough Church Pre-School
- Banana Moon Day Nursery Wollaton
- Barney Bears Nursery's Ltd
- Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
- BBN Ltd
- BCP Council
- Bedford Borough Council
- Benfieldside Primary
- Best Friends Day Nursery Chester Ltd
- Bexhill Family Collective CIC
- Bilingual Day Nursery & Preschool Ltd
- Birmingham City Council
- Bizzy Tots Day Nursery Ltd
- Bluebell Montessori School
- Box Pre School Playgroup
- Bracknell Forest Council
- Bradford Abbas Preschool
- Brambles Outdoor Nursery Group
- Brayton Headstart Preschool
- Bridges Childcare Limited
- Bright Futures Day Nurseries
- Brighter Futures for Children (Reading Borough Council)
- Bristol City Council

- Briston Community Nursery School & Preschool
- British Association for Early Childhood Education (Early Education)
- Brough Eagles Playschool
- Brough Pre-School Nursery
- Broughton (Sevenoaks) Ltd T/A Broughton Cottage Day Nursery
- BS3 Community Development
- Buttercup Corner Day Nursery
- Buttons Preschools Limited
- Bybrook Pre-School
- Calderdale
- Cambridgeshire County Council
- Carousel Day Nursery & Pre-School Ltd
- Castle View Private Day Nursery
- Chantreyland Children's Ltd
- Cheam Baptist Church Pre-School
- Cheetham CofE Community Academy
- Cherubs South Normanton
- Cheryl's Childminding
- Chestnuts Childcare & Training Limited
- Child 1st Nurseries
- Childcare East Midlands
- Childcare Pathways Part of the MKCF
- Children's Corner Preschool
- Children's Corner Day Nursery
- Christchurch Kindergarten Childrens Nursery Limited
- Christopher Robin Nursery
- City Of Bradford MDC
- City Of York Council
- Clapham & Clapham Park Montessori LLP
- Clover Farm Childcare
- Confederation Of School Trusts
- Coppice Childcare Shard End Ltd
- Coram Family and Childcare
- Corner House Nursery
- Cornerstone Nurseries Ltd
- Cornwall Council
- Crosslands Day Nursery
- Cuddles Day Nursery Ltd
- Culverdene Day Nursery
- Cumberland Council
- Daisy Maisies

- Daisychain Day Nursery
- Darnall Community Nursery
- Deerness Valley Nursery
- Derbyshire County Council
- Derwent Stepping Stones
- Devon County Council
- Dingley's Promise
- Dorking Nursery School
- Dorset Council
- Dudley MBC - Integrated Early Years Service
- Early Days UK Ltd
- Early STEP's Nursery
- Early Years Alliance
- Early Years Consultation Group
- Earlybirds Carter Lane Neighbourhood Nursery
- East Sussex County Council
- Eastbourne Pre-School
- Eastlea Community Centre
- Elmscot Group
- Elstow Pre-School "The Ladybirds"
- Emley Playschool
- Essex County Council
- Falconhurst School
- Federation Of Small Businesses
- Fenwood Nursery, Rawmarsh, Rotherham.
- Flying High Nursery
- Forget Me Not Day Nursery Ltd
- From Little Acorns Childcare Limited
- Fullbrook Nursery School and Thrive Together SPH
- Future Schools Trust - Tiger Cubs Day Nursery
- Gateshead Metropolitan Council
- Gem's Childminding
- Giant Leap Childcare Ltd
- Giggles Nursery - Cheltenham
- Gogmore Lane Nursery
- Golden Acorns
- Grace Owen and Broomhall Nursery Schools
- Grappenhall Pre-School
- Greystones Preschool
- Halton Borough Council
- Hampshire County Council

- Hanslope Preschool
- Happy Kids
- Hayley's Childcare
- Hertfordshire County Council
- Holy Trinity Preschool
- Hoole Enterprise Trust Time for You
- Hopscotch Preschool
- House of Eden Ltd
- Hull City Council
- Isle Of Wight LA
- Joseph Locke Primary School
- KCP Keystone CIC
- Kensington And Chelsea
- Kids Academy Leeds
- Kids Capers Limited
- Kirkbymoorside Pre-School
- Kingsway Pre-School
- Kirklees Council
- Knowsley Council
- Krafty Kids Oldham Ltd
- Krista's Tiney Home Nursery
- Lancashire Schools Forum - Lancashire County Council
- Layton Pre-School
- LB Bexley
- Leaps and Bounds Day Nursery
- Leeds City Council
- Leicester City Council
- Lietutis Day Nursery
- Lime Tree Day Nursery
- Lincolnshire County Council
- Lisa Clarke Childminder
- Little Acorns Childcare
- Little Acorns Preschool
- Little Angels Fun Club and Nursery Ltd
- Little Angels Nursery Ltd
- Little Angels Uppingham
- Little B's Childminding Harrogate
- Little Castle Nursery
- Little Characters
- Little Cubs Day Nursery
- Little Darwins Nursery

- Little Dots Daycare
- Little Ducklings
- Little Foxes Forest School
- Little Gemz Day Nursery
- Little Me Nursery
- Little Monsters Daycare Ltd
- Little Owls Day Nursery
- Little People Nursery
- Little Rainbows Community Preschool & Nursery
- Little Sunbeams Childminding Service Guisborough
- Little Tigers Day Nursery and Preschool
- Local Government Association
- London Borough Of Barnet
- London Borough Of Brent
- London Borough Of Bromley
- London Borough Of Camden
- London Borough Of Ealing
- London Borough Of Lambeth
- London Borough Of Lewisham
- London Borough Of Redbridge
- London Councils
- London Heads of Early Years Network
- London Road Nursery
- Longsight Community Primary
- Lucy Huckle Early Years Ltd
- Manchester City Council
- McMillan Nursery
- Medlock Day Nursery
- Mel's Childcare
- Merryvale Day Nursery
- Mill Cottage Montessori School Limited
- Millers Dene Day Care
- Milton Keynes City Council
- Minibugs Nurseries
- Monkey Puzzle Day Nursery East Finchley
- Morning Star Nursery
- National Day Nurseries Association NDNA
- National Education Union (NEU)
- National Network of Parent Carer Forums
- Natural Choice Nurseries
- Nell Gwynn Nursery School

- New Adventures (Doncaster) Limited
- New View Nursery
- Newborough Pre-School Playgroup
- Newcastle City Council
- Newfield Primary School
- Nextsteps Nursery
- Noah's Ark Preschool
- North East Lincolnshire Council
- North Halifax Partnership
- North Lincolnshire Council
- North Northamptonshire Council
- North Yorkshire Council
- Northumberland County Council
- Northumbria University Nursery
- Ogley Hay Nursery School
- Oldfield Park Pre-School
- Oldham Council
- Once Upon A Time Day Nursery
- Overseal Pre-School
- Oxhill Nursery School
- Pennywell Early Years Centre
- Peterborough City Council
- Play N Learn
- Playday Nursery
- Playsteps
- Plus Three Nurseries Ltd
- Plymouth Grove Primary School
- Pooh Corner Day Nursery / Time for Work Nurseries
- Poppies Daycare Nursery Ltd.
- Poppins Childcare
- Pramukh Kids Montessori
- Puddle Ducks Preschool Alvingham
- Puddleducks Pre-School Salisbury
- Pumpkin Patch
- Racing Start Pre-School and Nursery
- Radcliffe On Trent Pre-School Playgroup
- Rainbow Forge Primary Academy
- Rainbow Nursery
- Rainbows Playgroup
- Ramsden Robins
- Rhymes Nursery

- Right Start Day Nurseries Lancashire Ltd
- Riverview Day Nursery
- Robertsbridge Children's Services
- Rocking Horse Childminding
- Rocking Horse Montessori Nursery
- Rokesly Infant School
- Rose Tree Day Nursery
- Rosy Cheeks Nurseries Ltd
- Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
- Rowland Hill Nursery School
- Rutland Local Authority
- Sale Private Day Nursery Ltd
- Sefton Council EY Team
- Sheffield School Forum Early Years Working Group
- Shining Stars Day Nursery
- Shirehampton Primary School
- Side By Side Nursery Limited
- Small Wonders
- Smart Start Preschools & Childcare LTD
- Snapdragons Nurseries Ltd
- Soar Childcare and Education LTD
- Solihull Council
- Somerset Council
- South Gloucestershire Council
- Southdown Nursery
- Southmead Saplings Day Nursery
- Southwark Council
- Sowing & Growing Nursery and Preschool
- Sparkle Lodge Early Years
- St Helen's Playgroup
- St James Nursery and Pre-School
- St Mary's CofE Primary School
- St Michaels Church Pre School and Nursery
- St Osmund's Preschool
- St Oswald's Ladybirds Pre-School
- St. Andrew's Church of England Primary School
- St. Phillips Pre-School
- St. Andrew's CofE Primary School
- Stem Montessori Education
- Stockport M B Council
- Stockton Council

- Stockton-On-Tees Borough Council
- Summerfields Day Nursey
- Sunderland City Council
- Sunnydays Preschool
- Sunrise Day Nursery Ltd
- Sunshine Day Nursery Ltd
- Swindon Borough Council
- Swineshead Preschool
- Tameside Council
- The Avenue Nursery
- The Barn Nursery School
- The Blue Door Nursery
- The Bristol Montessori
- The Cedars Nursery Ltd
- The Childcare Village Ltd
- The Crescent Pre School Nursery Ltd
- The Day Nursery Peterborough
- The Enchanted Wood Day Nursery
- The Garden Preschool
- The Hullbridge Preschool
- The Little Acorns Preschool
- The London Early Years Foundation
- The Mulberry Primary School
- The National Deaf Children's Society
- The Nest Hove Ltd
- The Nursery at Whitehouse Farm
- The Old Station Nursery Ltd
- The Palace Day Nursery
- The Peterborough School Nursery
- The Red House Children's Centre Ltd
- The Rockinghorse Day Nursery
- The Study School and Nursery
- The Sunflower Centre
- The Sutton Trust
- The Teddy Bears Inn Day Nursery
- The Weir Link
- The Wendy House
- The Willows And EYC
- Tiny Tots Nursery
- Torbay Council
- Trafford Council

- Vicarage Farm Pre-School
- Victoria Park Hall Preschool
- VPHPS LTD
- Wakefield Council
- Walsall Council
- Warton Nethersoles CE Primary School
- Warwickshire County Council
- Watermead Day Nursery
- Wellingtons Day Nurseries
- Went Valley Pre School
- West Sussex County Council
- West Town Pre-School
- Westminster City Council
- Westmorland & Furness Council
- Westside Day Nursery Ltd
- Westwood Montessori Nursery
- Whiston Preschool
- Wiltshire Council
- Windmill Hill City Farm
- Wivenhoe Park Day Nursery
- Wix And Wrabness Preschool
- Wizz Kids
- Women's Budget Group
- Worcestershire County Council & Worcestershire Children First
- WPS Childrens Centre Cic

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