

Free Early Education for 2 Year Olds

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Background

Free Early Education for 2 Year Olds is part of the Government's commitment to make childcare more accessible and affordable for parents and carers particularly those from less advantaged backgrounds. It also supports the life chances for less advantaged young children by enabling access to high quality early learning experiences.



Participation

Participation has increased by 11% since spring term 2015. NCC are now placed 122 out of 152 across the country compared to 133 spring term 2015

	TERM	APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN (DfE)	TAKE-UP (NUMBER OF CHILDREN)	% TAKE-UP
40% ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	AUTUMN TERM 2014	2,530	1,198	47%
	SPRING TERM 2015	2,535	1,223	48%
	SUMMER TERM 2015	2,386	1,387	59.8%



Developing the programme

The LA is fully committed to supporting parents appropriately and has fully embraced the support and challenge from the Government's appointed agency 'Achieving 2 Year Olds (A2YO)' in order to address participation rates.

Improvement plans have been drawn up, approved by A2YO and implemented by the Early Years and Early Help teams.



Improvement Plan

- Drill Down project
- Marketing plan
- Use of data
- Online eligibility checker
- Early Help Bus
- Health Visitors/Job Centre Plus
- SSBC
- Childcare sufficiency
- Role of Children Centre's



Childcare places for 2 year olds

- The LA to date has sufficient childcare places to meet current demand.
- Three wards remain a concern (Aspley, Clifton South, Bilborough) with regards to number of childcare places for **all** eligible 2 year olds.
- These wards are prioritised for expansion by the Early Years team.
- However; participation within these wards remains lower than the number of available spaces therefore current supply is sufficient.



Children's Centres

- Linking with childcare providers
- Checking eligibility
- Contacting parents
- Outreach activity
- Getting Ready for Nursery

2 Year Old Funding

- Historically based on eligible children (regardless of take-up) plus trajectory funding.
- Levels of take - up lower than funding - reserve balance of £4.165m.
- From 2015/16 funding is based on participation
- £4.88/hour received and passed on in full to providers.
- Final DSG allocation will be based 5/12 on January 2015 participation and 7/12 on January 2016 participation.

	2013/14 £m	2014/15 £m
Funding	4.405	7.142
Expenditure	3.220	4.162
Balance	1.185	2.980
Cumulative Balance	1.185	4.165



Recommendation for EY reserve

- No requirement to separately ring-fence 2 year old funding.
- No claw-back of unspent 2 year old funding.

Recommendations:

1. **Un-earmark £4.165m within SSR.**
2. **Any future spending proposals to drive up 2 year old participation to be considered as part of normal budget/reserve proposal processes.**