



Early Years Education and Childcare

Research Report

April to May 2024



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Summary

Background

In April 2024, the Local Government Association (LGA) conducted an online survey of county councils, unitary authorities, metropolitan districts and London boroughs regarding the impact/s that may result from the chancellor's announcement of the expansion to the existing early years entitlements. The survey gathered the views of how authorities have managed to deal with their sufficiency duties over the past 12 months, and any concerns or challenges they may face with the coming phases of the expansion. A total of 77 responses were received from individual local authorities resulting in a final response rate of 50 per cent.

Key findings

- **Sufficiency duty:** Almost all respondents (95 per cent) were very or fairly confident that they had delivered on their sufficiency duty in the past 12 months.
- **Changes in childcare and education places:** Nearly a fifth of respondents (18 per cent) said the number of early years childcare and education places available in their local authority had increased whilst almost half of the respondents (47 per cent) said it had remained the same.
- **Workforce vacancies:** Just under a third of respondents (30 per cent) said they had filled workforce vacancies to a moderate extent in the past 12 months whilst over half (55 per cent) said to a small extent. Around a tenth of respondents (13 per cent) said they hadn't filled workforce vacancies at all.
- **Expansion confidence:** For the expansion from April 2024 of 15 hours of support for two-year-olds, nearly all respondents (99 per cent) were very or fairly confident they would have sufficient early years and childcare places.
- **Expansion confidence:** For the expansion from September 2024 of 15 hours of support for children from the age of nine months to three years,

over two thirds (70 per cent) said they were very or fairly confident they would have sufficient early years and childcare places whilst a quarter of respondents (25 per cent) said they not very confident they would have sufficient places.

- **Expansion confidence:** For the expansion from September 2025 of 30 hours of support for children from the age of nine months up to school age, just over a third (36 per cent) said they were fairly confident they would have sufficient places. Two fifths of respondents (40 per cent) said they were not very confident whilst ten per cent were not at all confident.
- **Concerns:** The majority of respondents (92 per cent) said that provider workforce numbers were an area of concern whilst three quarters (75 per cent) said provider capacity. Around three-fifths of respondents (61 per cent) answered funding for providers as an area of concern.
- **Concerns:** The majority of respondents raised concerns about ensuring sufficiency for children with SEND (93 per cent). Just over three-fifths of respondents (63 per cent) said babies whilst just under half (49 per cent) said children on the disadvantaged two-year-old entitlement.
- **Government support:** Nine-tenths of respondents (90 per cent) said they needed investment and support for the provider workforce from the government to implement the expansion whilst around two thirds (64 per cent) said they needed capital funding and a further 58 per cent requiring revenue funding.

Introduction

In April 2024, the LGA launched an online survey which was open to responses for around five weeks. The survey was distributed to Directors of Children's Services of single-tier and county councils in England. The survey was launched following the announcement of the expansion of the existing early years entitlements and aimed to capture the thoughts of the respondents on the challenges that the expansion may create and any support or guidance that may be required to help local authorities ensure there is sufficient childcare for children of working parents.

Methodology

The survey was open between 4 April and 10 May 2024 as a unique online form sent to the Directors of Children's Services of all county councils, unitary authorities, metropolitan districts and London boroughs in England, distributed by the LGA's Research and Information Team. A total of 77 responses were received from individual local authorities out of a possible 153, resulting in a response rate of 50 per cent. Whilst these respondents may not be fully representative of all Directors of Children's/Education Services of single-tier and county councils, this level of response means that the results are likely to provide a good indication of the position of the sector more widely.

The responses to this survey have been weighted to better represent all single-tier and county councils in England. The number provided for the base for the tables refers to the **unweighted** number of respondents who answered each question.

The full set of survey questions is included in Annex A for information.

In addition, the following points should be noted about the research methodology:

- The bases from which percentages were calculated vary throughout the survey, as not all respondents were shown all questions, and some questions were optional, meaning that some respondents chose not to answer them.

- Throughout the report, percentages in figures and tables may add to more than 100 per cent due to rounding. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole per cent.
- Where the response rate is less than 50, care should be taken when interpreting percentages, as small differences can seem magnified. Therefore, where this is the case in this report, absolute numbers are reported alongside the percentage values.

Response rates

As Table 1 shows, by council type, the response rate was highest from county councils (71 per cent) and lowest from London boroughs (36 per cent).

Table 1: Response rate by type of council

Type of council	Total number	Number of responses	Response rate
County	21	15	71%
London borough	33	12	36%
Metropolitan district	36	16	44%
Unitary	63	34	54%
Total	153	77	50%

Regionally, as shown in Table 2, the response rate was highest from the East Midlands (90 per cent) and lowest from London (36 per cent).

Table 2: Response rate by region

Region	Total number	Number of responses	Response rate
Eastern	11	6	55%
East Midlands	10	9	90%
London	33	12	36%
North East	12	6	50%
North West	24	10	42%
South East	19	11	58%
South West	15	10	67%
West Midlands	14	6	43%
Yorkshire and Humber	15	7	47%
Total	153	77	50%

Early Years Education and Childcare

This section contains analysis of the full results from the survey.

Sufficiency duty

Respondents were asked how confident they felt that their local authority had delivered on its sufficiency duty in the past 12 months. Almost all respondents (95 per cent) were very or fairly confident that they had, whilst 5 per cent of respondents were not very confident that they had delivered on their sufficiency duty in the past 12 months. The results for this question are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: In the past 12 months, how confident do you feel that your local authority has delivered on its sufficiency duty?

	Number	Per cent
Very or fairly confident	73	95%
Very confident	33	43%
Fairly confident	40	52%
Not very confident	4	5%
Not at all confident	0	0%
Don't know	0	0%

Unweighted base: All respondents (77).

The four respondents who answered that they were not very confident that their local authority had delivered on its sufficiency duty were then asked to explain why. Three of the respondents cited providers experiencing recruitment issues as a factor whilst two respondents said it was due to the lack of sufficient physical spaces available. One respondent also said it was because they were 'unable to secure places for children with additional needs in Summer 2023' whilst another respondent said it was due to 'funding rates'. The results for this are shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Why do you feel that your local authority has struggled to deliver on its sufficiency duty?

	Number	Per cent
Providers experiencing recruitment issues	3	75%
Lack of sufficient physical spaces available	2	50%
Other (please specify below)	2	50%
Don't know	0	0%

Unweighted base: All respondents (4). Please note that respondents could select more than one option.

Change in childcare and education places

Respondents were then asked how the number of early years childcare and education places available in their local authority had changed in the past 12 months as a result of all closures, openings and place number changes). Nearly a fifth of respondents (18 per cent) said places had increased whilst almost half of the respondents (47 per cent) said it had remained the same. A third of respondents (34 per cent) said places had decreased whilst 1 per cent of respondents were unsure. The results for this question are displayed in Table 5.

Table 5: In the past 12 months, how has the number of early years childcare and education places (not limited to funded entitlement places) available in your local authority changed (as a result of all closures, openings and place number changes)?

	Number	Per cent
It has increased	14	18%
It has remained the same	36	47%
It has decreased	26	34%
Don't know	1	1%

Unweighted base: All respondents (77).

Workforce vacancies

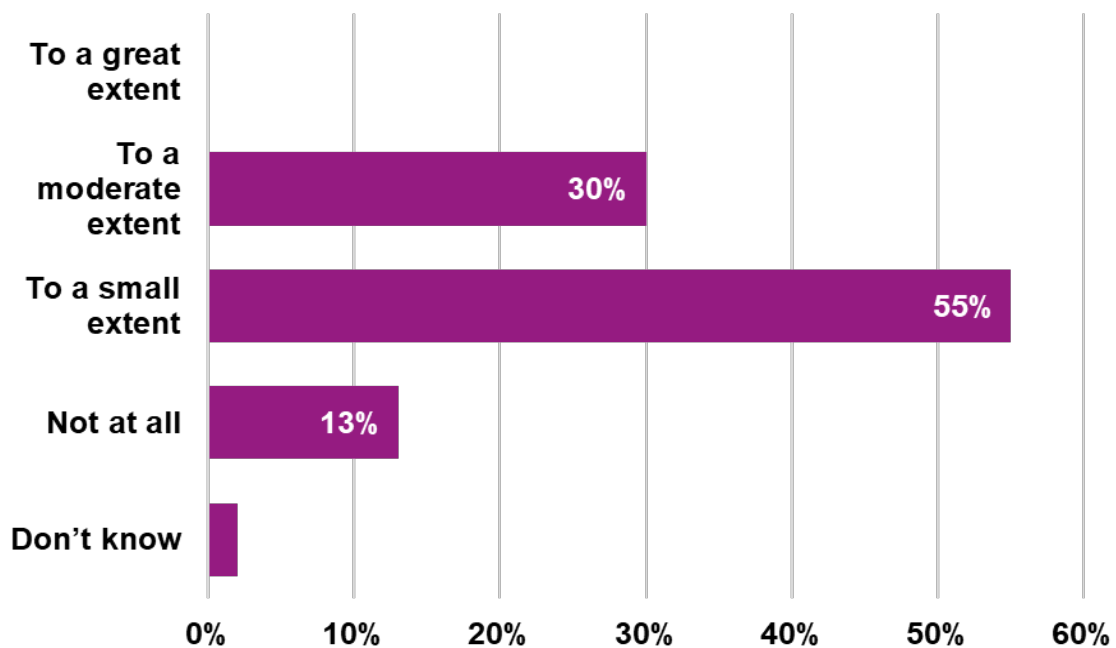
Respondents were asked to what extent they felt that early years providers had been able to fill workforce vacancies in the past 12 months. Just under a third of respondents (30 per cent) answered to a moderate extent whilst over half (55 per cent) said to a small extent. Around a tenth of respondents (13 per cent) said not at all whilst 3 per cent of respondents were unsure. No respondents answered to a great extent. The results for this are shown in Table 6 and Figure 1.

Table 6: To what extent, if at all, do you feel that early years providers have been able to fill workforce vacancies in the past 12 months?

	Number	Per cent
To a great extent	0	0%
To a moderate extent	23	30%
To a small extent	42	55%
Not at all	10	13%
Don't know	2	3%

Unweighted base: All respondents (77).

Figure 1: To what extent, if at all, do you feel that early years providers have been able to fill workforce vacancies in the past 12 months?



Unweighted base: All respondents (77).

Respondents were then asked to what extent they felt that recruitment had become more challenging for different levels of qualified workers. Over four-fifths of respondents (81 per cent) said that recruitment was becoming more challenging for the manager workforce to at least a moderate extent, whilst 11 per cent said to a small extent and 4 per cent said not at all. Nearly nine-tenths of respondents (86 per cent) said that recruitment was becoming more challenging for staff above level three to at least a moderate extent, whilst 7 per cent said to a small extent and 1 per cent said not at all. Over nine-tenths of respondents (93 per cent) said that recruitment was becoming more challenging for staff at level three to at least a moderate extent whilst 1 per cent said not at all. Around three quarters of respondents (74 per cent) said recruitment was becoming more challenging for staff below level three to at least a moderate extent, whilst 15 per cent said to a small extent and 3 per cent said not at all. Finally, just over half of respondents (56 per cent) said recruitment for apprentices had become more challenging to at least a moderate extent, whilst a quarter (25 per cent) said to a small extent with a further 2 per cent saying not at all. The results for this are shown in Table 7.

Respondents also had the option to state if other roles had experienced challenges in recruitment. Three respondents said that SENCo (special educational needs coordinator) roles had become more challenging to recruit for, with all three answering to a great extent. A further three respondents answered that support roles (e.g. cooks, admin, cleaners) had become more challenging to recruit for with two of these respondents saying to a small extent and one saying to a moderate extent. Two respondents mentioned SEN (special educational needs) support roles as becoming more challenging to recruit for with one of these respondents saying to a great extent and the other to a moderate extent.

Table 7: To what extent, if at all, has recruitment become more challenging for the following levels of qualified workers?

	Manager workforce	Staff above level 3	Staff at level 3	Staff below level 3	Apprentices
To a great extent	33%	42%	59%	22%	8%
To a moderate extent	48%	44%	34%	52%	48%
To a small extent	11%	7%	0%	15%	25%
Not at all	4%	1%	1%	3%	2%
Don't know	4%	6%	6%	8%	18%

Unweighted base: Manager workforce (74), Staff above level 3 (76), Staff at level 3 (75), Staff below level 3 (74), Apprentices (73)

Confidence in available childcare and education places

Respondents were asked how confident they were that their local authority would have sufficient early years childcare and education places for the three phases of the childcare expansion. For the expansion from April 2024 of 15 hours of funded entitlements for two-year-olds, nearly half of respondents (47 per cent) were very confident they would have sufficient places whilst just over half (52 per cent) were fairly confident. Just one respondent said they were not very confident they would have sufficient places.

For the expansion from September 2024 of 15 hours of funded entitlements for children from the age of nine months to three years, two respondents (3 per cent) said they were very confident they would have sufficient places whilst around two-thirds (67 per cent) said they were fairly confident. A quarter of respondents (25 per cent) said they were not very confident they would have sufficient places whilst two respondents said they were not at all confident. A further two respondents were unsure.

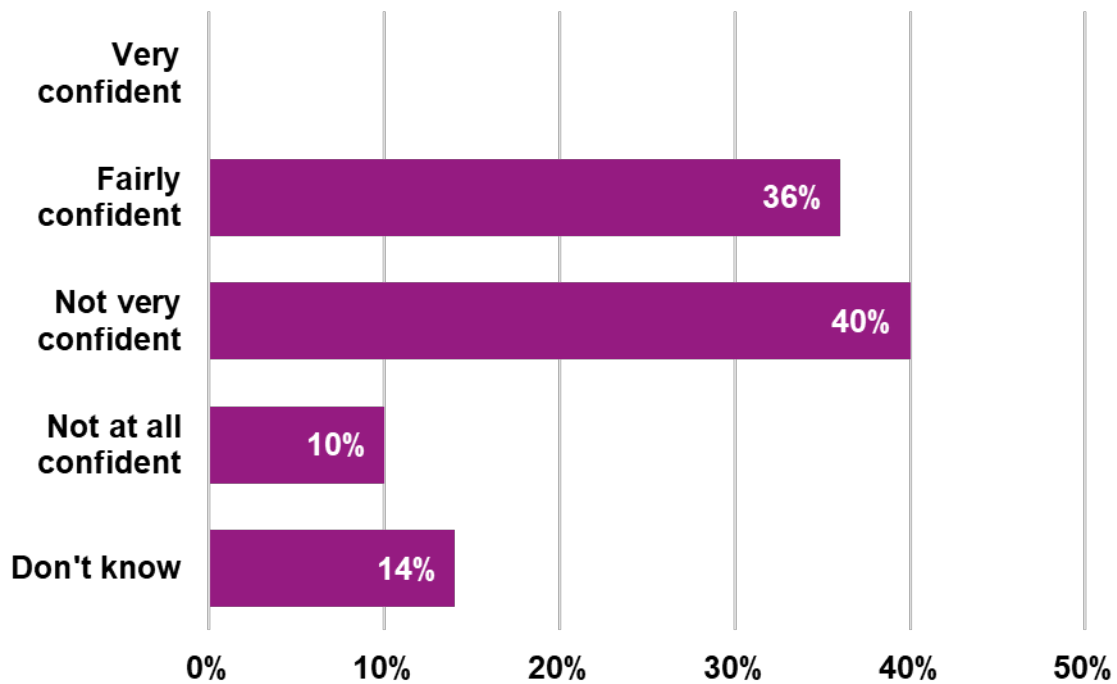
For the expansion from September 2025 of 30 hours of funded entitlements for children from the age of nine months up to school age, no respondents said they were very confident they would have places whilst just over a third (36 per cent) said they were fairly confident. Two fifths of respondents (40 per cent) said they were not very confident they would have places whilst 10 per cent were not at all confident. A further 15 per cent of respondents said they didn't know. The results for this are displayed in Table 8 and Figure 2.

Table 8: How confident are you that your local authority will have sufficient early years childcare and education places for the following timelines?

	From April 2024 – 15 hours of funded entitlements for 2- year-olds	From September 2024 – 15 hours of support for children from the age of 9 months to 3 years	From September 2025 – 30 hours of funded entitlements for children from the age of 9 months up to school age
Very or fairly confident	99%	70%	36%
Very confident	47%	3%	0%
Fairly confident	52%	67%	36%
Not very confident	1%	25%	40%
Not at all confident	0%	2%	10%
Don't know	0%	3%	14%

Unweighted base: From April 2024 (76), From September 2024 (76), From September 2025 (76)

Figure 2: How confident are you that your local authority will have sufficient early years childcare and education places for the September 2025 expansion?



Unweighted base: All respondents (76).

Respondents were asked whether their authority have plans in place to ensure they would have sufficient early years childcare and education places moving forwards. Just over a third of respondents (34 per cent) said that they did have plans in place whilst around two-thirds (65 per cent) said that plans were in development. No respondents said they didn't have a plan in place whilst 1 per cent were unsure. The results for this question are displayed in Table 9.

Table 9: Does your local authority have plans in place to ensure your authority will have sufficient early years childcare and education places moving forwards?

	Number	Per cent
Yes, plans are in place	26	34%
Yes, plans are in development	50	65%
No	0	0%
Don't know	1	1%

Unweighted base: All respondents (77).

Concerns

Respondents were then asked to say what the main areas of concern were for their local authority's ability to ensure sufficiency of childcare for the expansion timelines. The main area of concern for respondents was around providers. The majority of respondents (92 per cent) said that provider workforce numbers were a main area of concern whilst three quarters (75 per cent) said provider capacity. Around three-fifths of respondents (61 per cent) answered funding for providers. A quarter of respondents (25 per cent) gave an 'other reason' and these comments covered the following themes; funding constraints and how insufficient funding was affecting providers' ability to expand and improve services; operational challenges which were impacting upon recruitment and staff retention; significant challenges in terms of training and development with low staff levels making it difficult to release available staff limiting their professional development opportunities; a lack of infrastructure and space hampering the ability to operate effectively; providers struggling to adapt their business models and insufficient funding and capacity to provide support for SEND (special educational needs and disability) children. No respondents said they had no concerns. The results for this question are shown in Table 10.

Table 10: What would you say are the main areas of concern about your local authority’s ability to ensure sufficiency of childcare for the expansion timelines?

	Number	Per cent
Provider workforce numbers	71	92%
Provider capacity	58	75%
Funding for providers	47	61%
Parental expectations	31	40%
Funding for local authorities	30	39%
Local authority workforce and capacity	27	35%
Provider training and skills	22	29%
Lack of tools and levers to support provider expansion	20	26%
Provider willingness	14	18%
Support for childminders	13	17%
Lack of tools and levers to challenge provider expansion	9	12%
Other	19	25%
No concerns	0	0%
Don't know	0	0%

Unweighted base: All respondents (77). Please note that respondents could select more than one option.

Respondents were asked which groups, if any, they had particular concerns about ensuring sufficiency of childcare for, within the expansion timelines. The majority of respondents raised concerns about ensuring sufficiency for children with SEND (93 per cent). Just over three-fifths of respondents (63 per cent) said babies whilst just

under half (49 per cent) said children on the disadvantaged 2-year-old entitlement. Seven per cent of respondents gave an 'other' reason.

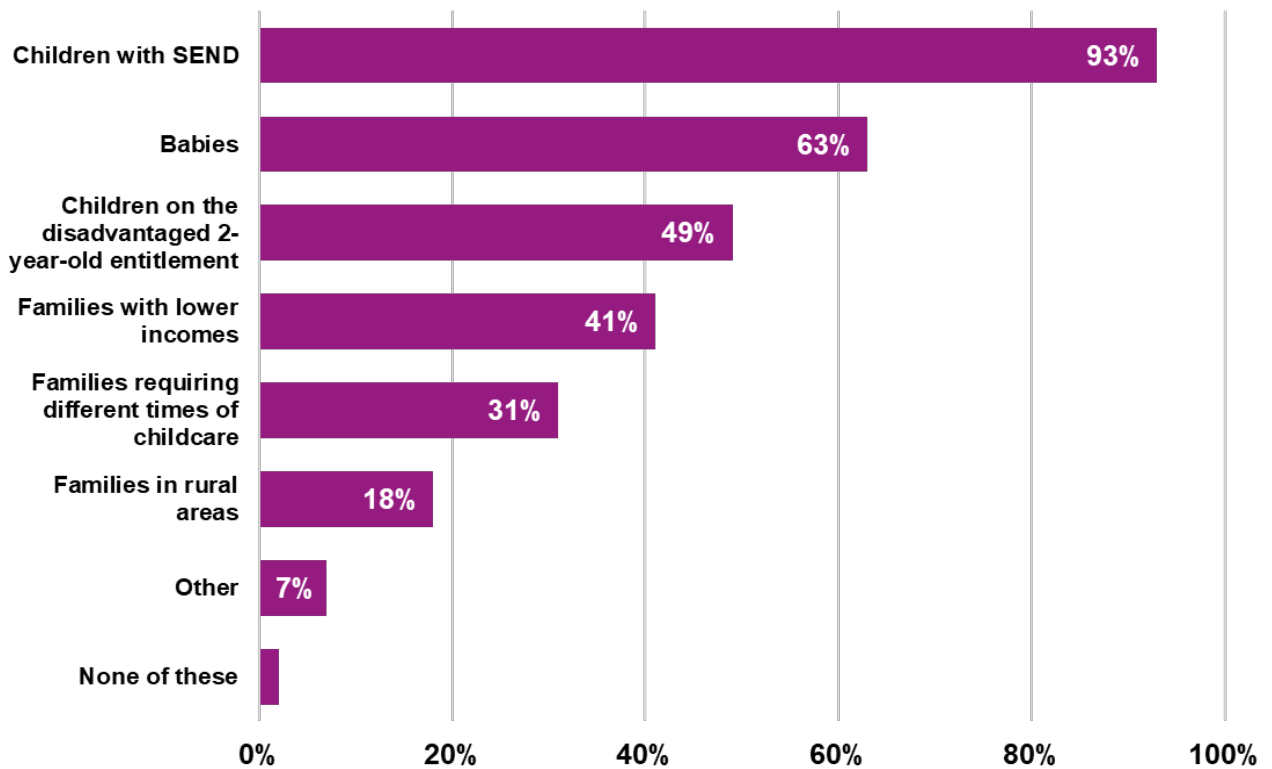
The results for this question are shown in Table 11 and Figure 3

Table 11: Which of the following groups, if any, do you have particular concerns about ensuring sufficiency of childcare for, within the expansion timelines?

	Number	Per cent
Children with SEND	72	93%
Babies	48	63%
Children on the disadvantaged 2-year-old entitlement	38	49%
Families with lower incomes	31	41%
Families requiring different times of childcare	24	31%
Families in rural areas	14	18%
Other	5	7%
None of these	2	2%
Don't know	0	0

Unweighted base: All respondents (77). Please note that respondents could select more than one option.

Figure 3: Which of the following groups, if any, do you have particular concerns about ensuring sufficiency of childcare for, within the expansion timelines?



Unweighted base: All respondents (77). Please note that respondents could select more than one option.

Government support

Respondents were then asked how confident they were that current levels of government support would help their local authority deliver on its sufficiency duty regarding the expansions. For government funding one respondent said they were very confident that it would help their local authority deliver on its sufficiency duty regarding the expansions whilst just over half (53 per cent) were fairly confident. Just under a third (30 per cent) were not very confident whilst a further 10 per cent were not at all confident. Six per cent of respondents were unsure.

For government guidance two respondents were very confident that it would help their local authority deliver on its sufficiency duty regarding the expansions whilst around two-thirds (62 per cent) were fairly confident. A quarter of respondents (25 per cent) were not very confident whilst 5 per cent were not at all confident. A further 5 per cent of respondents were unsure.

For local authority support contact just over a tenth of respondents (13 per cent) were very confident it would help their local authority deliver on its sufficiency duty regarding the expansions whilst around two-thirds (62 per cent) were fairly confident. Fourteen per cent were not very confident whilst four per cent were not at all confident. Six per cent were unsure. The results for this question are shown in Table 12.

Table 12: How confident are you that the following current levels of government support will help your local authority deliver on its sufficiency duty regarding the expansions?

	Government funding	Government guidance	Local authority support contact
Very confident	1%	3%	13%
Fairly confident	53%	62%	62%
Not very confident	30%	25%	14%
Not at all confident	10%	5%	4%
Don't know	6%	5%	6%

Unweighted base: Government funding (75), Government guidance (75), Local authority support contact (75)

Respondents were asked what their local authority would need from the government to implement the expansion effectively. Almost nine-tenths of respondents (90 per cent) said they needed investment and support for the provider workforce. Around two-thirds (64 per cent) said they needed capital funding with a further 58 per cent

requiring revenue funding. Just under a third of respondents (31 per cent) said they needed changes to the statutory guidance with a further 28 per cent saying they required guidance in general. A fifth of respondents gave an 'other' answer which covered themes such as funding and financial sustainability, improved operational and strategic coordination, a need for alignment between Ofsted and the Department for Education (DfE) guidance to avoid confusion and ensure consistency in regulations and expectations, timely support to help meet necessary timelines, an improved understanding of local authority governance levels to set more realistic timeframes and improved workforce capacity and training to help address gaps in current training and support provisions. The results for this question are displayed in Table 13.

Table 13: What does your local authority need from the government to implement this expansion effectively?

	Number	Per cent
Investment and support for provider workforce	69	90%
Capital funding	49	64%
Revenue funding	45	58%
Changes to the statutory guidance	24	31%
Guidance	22	29%
Communication with senior council leaders	15	19%
Further input from the contracted support partner	5	6%
Other	16	21%
Nothing	0	0%
Don't know	0	0%

Unweighted base: All respondents (77). Please note that respondents could select more than one option.

Further comments

Respondents were then asked to provide any further comments or suggestions on the topics covered in the survey. Overall, 49 per cent of respondents provided a comment or suggestion, with comments particularly focusing on the significant challenges facing the early years sector, particularly in workforce recruitment and retention, funding adequacy, operational coordination, and regulatory alignment. Respondents made comments about the critical need for appropriate funding levels, realistic timelines, standardized processes, and sector-specific support to address

these challenges, as well as simplifying the childcare system and ensuring equitable access to early years education.

The most common theme mentioned by respondents was around funding and financial sustainability. Comments referred to the insufficient capital and revenue funding available as well as the need for appropriate funding levels for local authorities to distribute to the early years sector.

“Central to this government initiative is the appropriate funding levels for local authorities to distribute to the early years sector through the base rate to enable them to meet their costs and deliver a high-quality childcare offer.”

County Council

“Additional capital funding resource to support the sector, especially private providers for small scale capital projects that would increase capacity to expand. LAs do not have any additional financial resource to support capital grants over what has already been received from the DfE as part of the EY expansion to EY entitlements.”

County Council

Another common theme was workforce challenges. These comments centred around the difficulty in retaining both qualified and unqualified staff due to low pay and challenging working conditions and the need to ensure proper remuneration, improve conditions and improved career progression to counter this.

“Need to develop an increased understanding of the roles and responsibilities of professionals working with young children, for proper remuneration for their work, for conditions of service that support them in a challenging job, and for a career structure which enhances retention.”

Metropolitan District

“Recruitment and retention in the workforce is felt to be the biggest barrier to providers being able to support the LA with its sufficiency duties long term, along with rent and utility increases (meaning generally preschools closing).”

Unitary Authority

“It is the lack of staff both qualified and unqualified that will prevent us from progressing towards full rollout of the Childcare Entitlements.”

Unitary Authority

Multiple respondents also made comments on operational coordination and efficiency. Many comments here emphasised the need for more realistic timelines to implement changes and a call for clearer, standardised guidance.

“Timelines and expectations for the reforms have not taken into account the position in local authorities, funding and capacity and the position in the sector.”

Unitary Authority

“Guidance needs to clearly define, with no risk of wrongful interpretation the requirements on LAs.”

County Council

“Guidance, requirements and reporting is becoming far too complex. The whole system needs simplification.”

Unitary Authority

Another theme was around regulatory and governance issues with a need for guidance to be consistent to avoid confusion and ensure smooth implementation of policies.

“The constant returns the DfE are requesting at the moment are a hinderance to our implementation plans and the pressure they are exerting is adding unnecessary stress to an already challenging policy delivery.”

County Council

“The childcare system continues to be quite complex and families struggle to navigate through the system to access funding. This has to be streamlined and simplified. Early years education should be accessible by more families and children, as this has a long-term impact on children's attainment. The government's proposal to reduce the retention rate to 3% from 5% is concerning, as some local authorities may not be able to continue offering the same level of service when the funding allocation reduces.”

London Borough

Equal access to childcare was also a common theme where comments focused on the widening gap between children from working families and disadvantaged children as well as the complexity of the current childcare system making it difficult for families to navigate and access funding.

“There is still a need to manage the market in terms of how many 'free' places a provider offers and this will be even more pertinent with the expansion of the age ranges. The current system allows providers to determine how many entirely free places they offer and, in some cases, this is a tiny fraction of total numbers of places available, with parents losing out as a result. A requirement to offer a percentage of registered places as a free entitlement provider would increase the number of entirely free places available, ensuring parents are not restricted from accessing due to cost.”

London Borough

“Gap will widen on working parents funded childcare and deprived children childcare (30 hours v 15 hours); some providers will prioritise working parents placements over disadvantaged child placements to secure funding.”

Unitary Authority

Comments by a smaller number of respondents covered support and resources for the sector, particularly around caring for babies and managing SEND children.

“SEND is an area we continue to focus on and have concerns about, as the sector is concerned about the level of funding available and the way that children with SEND are being supported. This is an area that needs to be reviewed and radical changes need to be introduced to ensure that our settings and schools can be more inclusive in their approach with meaningful and impactful funding being made available to all settings and schools. A review of the current SEND system is necessary.”

London Borough

Annex A: Questionnaire

Early Years Education and Childcare Survey: 2024

In March 2023, the Chancellor announced an expansion to the existing early years entitlements with three separate phases rolling out over the next two years, with the first to begin from April 2024. The Local Government Association is keen to understand the challenges this may create and any support/guidance that may be required to help local authorities ensure there is sufficient childcare for children of working parents.

This survey will look at all early years provision; school-based provision, maintained settings, PVI, childminders as well as looking at how authorities have managed to deal with their sufficiency duties over the past 12 months, and any concerns/challenges they may face with the coming phases. **When sufficiency is mentioned, this is looking at the duty of local authorities to ensure sufficient childcare for children of working parents and access to funded entitlements.**

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. You can navigate through the questions using the buttons at the bottom of each page. Use the 'previous' button at the bottom of the page if you wish to amend your response to an earlier question.

If you stop before completing the return, you can come back to this page using the link supplied in the email and you will be able to continue where you left off. To ensure your answers have been saved, click on the 'next' button at the bottom of the page that you were working on before exiting.

Please complete this survey by 5pm on Friday 26th April. Please contact keiron.watt@local.gov.uk if you encounter any issues in completing your submission.

All responses will be treated confidentially. Information will be aggregated, and no individual or authority will be identified in any publications without your consent. Identifiable information may be used internally within the LGA but will only be held and processed in accordance with our [privacy statement](#). We are undertaking this survey to aid the legitimate interests of the LGA in supporting and representing authorities.

If you would like to see an overview of the questions before completing the survey online, you can access a PDF here: [Early Years Survey](#)

Please amend the details we have on record if necessary.

If you are responding on behalf of more than one authority please note this in the 'authority' box below, but please check with us first whether a separate return is needed for each authority.

- Name
 - Authority
 - Job title
 - Email address
-

In the past 12 months, how confident do you feel that your local authority has delivered on its sufficiency duty?

- Very confident
 - Fairly confident
 - Not very confident
 - Not at all confident
 - Don't know
-

If in the past 12 months, how confident do you feel that your local authority has delivered on its sufficiency duty? = Not very confident

Or if in the past 12 months, how confident do you feel that your local authority has delivered on its sufficiency duty? = Not at all confident

Why do you feel that your local authority has struggled to deliver on its sufficiency duty?

You may select more than one answer.

- Lack of sufficient physical spaces available
- Providers experiencing recruitment issues
- Other (please specify)

- Don't know
-

In the past 12 months how has the number of early years childcare and education places (not limited to funded entitlement places) available in your local authority changed (as a result of all closures, openings and place number changes)?

- It has increased
 - It has remained the same
 - It has decreased
 - Don't know
-

To what extent, if at all, do you feel that early years providers have been able to fill workforce vacancies in the past 12 months?

- To a great extent
 - To a moderate extent
 - To a small extent
 - Not at all
 - Don't know
-

To what extent, if at all, has recruitment become more challenging for the following levels of qualified workers?

Scale

- To a great extent
- To a moderate extent
- To a small extent
- Not at all

- Don't know

Options

- Manager workforce
 - Staff above level 3
 - Staff at level 3
 - Staff below level 3
 - Apprentices
 - Other role (please specify below)
-

How confident are you that your local authority will have sufficient early years childcare and education places for the following timelines?

Scale

- Very confident
- Fairly confident
- Not very confident
- Not at all confident
- Don't know

Options

- From April 2024 – 15 hours of support for 2 year olds
 - From September 2024 – 15 hours of support for children from the age of 9 months to 3 year olds
 - From September 2025 – 30 hours of support for children from the age of 9 months up to school age
-

Does your local authority have plans in place to ensure your authority will have sufficient early years childcare and education places moving forwards?

- Yes, plans are in place
 - Yes, plans are in development
 - No
 - Don't know
-

What would you say are the main areas of concern about your local authority's ability to ensure sufficiency of childcare for the expansion timelines?

You may select more than one answer.

- Local authority workforce and capacity
- Provider workforce numbers
- Provider training and skills
- Provider capacity
- Provider willingness
- Funding for providers
- Funding for local authorities
- Parental expectations
- Lack of tools and levers to support provider expansion
- Lack of tools and levels to challenge provider expansion
- Support for childminders
- Other (please specify)
- No concerns

- Don't know
-

Which of the following groups, if any, do you have particular concerns about ensuring sufficiency of childcare for, within the expansion timelines?

You may select more than one answer.

- Children with SEND
 - Families in rural areas
 - Families requiring different times of childcare
 - Families with lower incomes
 - Children on the disadvantaged 2 year old entitlement
 - Babies
 - Other (please specify)
 - None of these
 - Don't know
-

How confident are you that the following current levels of government support will help your local authority deliver on its sufficiency duty regarding the expansions?

Scale

- Very confident
- Fairly confident
- Not very confident
- Not at all confident

- Don't know

Options

- Government funding
 - Government guidance
 - Local authority support contact
-

What does your local authority need from the government to implement this expansion effectively?

You may select more than one answer.

- Capital funding
 - Revenue funding
 - Further input from the contracted support partner
 - Guidance
 - Communication with senior council leaders
 - Investment and support for provider workforce
 - Changes to the statutory guidance
 - Other (please specify)
 - Nothing
 - Don't know
-

Please provide any further comments or suggestions on the topics covered by this survey.

Once you press the 'Submit' button below, you will have completed the survey.

Many thanks for taking the time to complete this survey. You are in control of any personal data that you have provided to us in your response. You can contact us at all times to have your information changed or deleted. You can find our full privacy policy here: [click here to see our privacy policy](#)



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