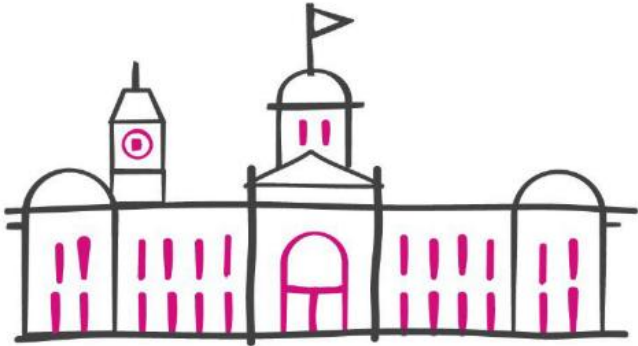


Early Years Education Entitlement

Lindsey Trivett – Head of Early Years and Childcare

Helen Ellis – Director of SEND and Inclusion

28 February 2024



 RESET

 RESHAPE

 RESTART

Agenda:

Early Education Entitlement and Childrens Outcomes

- Early Education take-up
- Childrens Outcomes at the end of the EYFS

Quality of Provision

Sufficiency and the New Offers

Inclusion in the Early Years

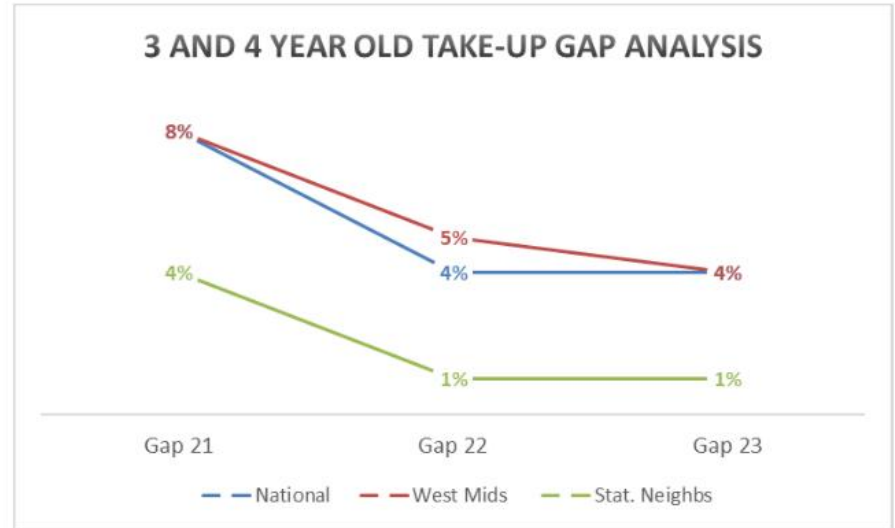
Risks and Challenges



Early Education Entitlement and Childrens Outcomes: 3 and 4-Year-Old Take-Up in Birmingham

What's going well?

- Early education entitlement improves children's educational outcomes
- Children who took up early education entitlement more likely to achieve good development
- Take-up has increased over past 4 years and participation now higher than pre-COVID (Autumn Term was 92%)
- Gap between Birmingham and national, regional, and statistical neighbours averages is closing
- Participation increasing at higher rate in city than rest of country



Early Education Entitlement and Childrens Outcomes: 3 and 4-Year-Old Take-Up in Birmingham

Challenges?

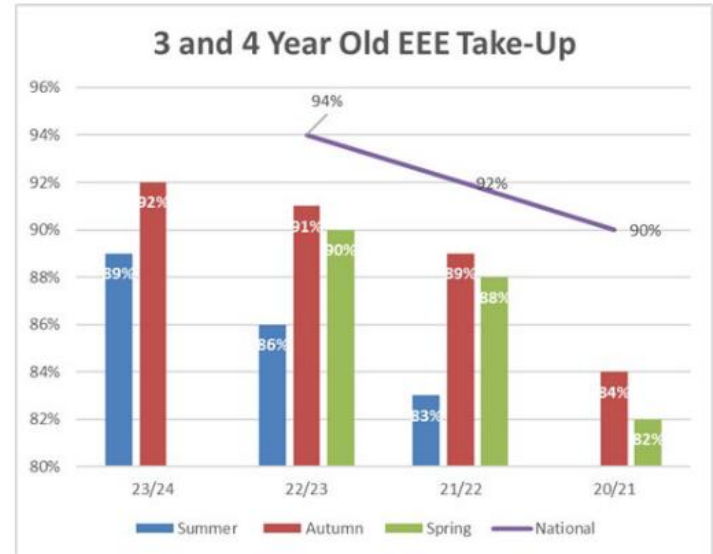
3 and 4-Year-Old Take-Up in Birmingham is lower than national level and we sit in the bottom quartile of all LAs (ranked 127 out of 152)

Small window of opportunity and high turnover – getting messages to parents to get children in during first term of entitlement

Wide variance of participation across the different 69 wards

Lowest is 69% in Hall Green South
Highest is 110% in Sutton Four Oaks

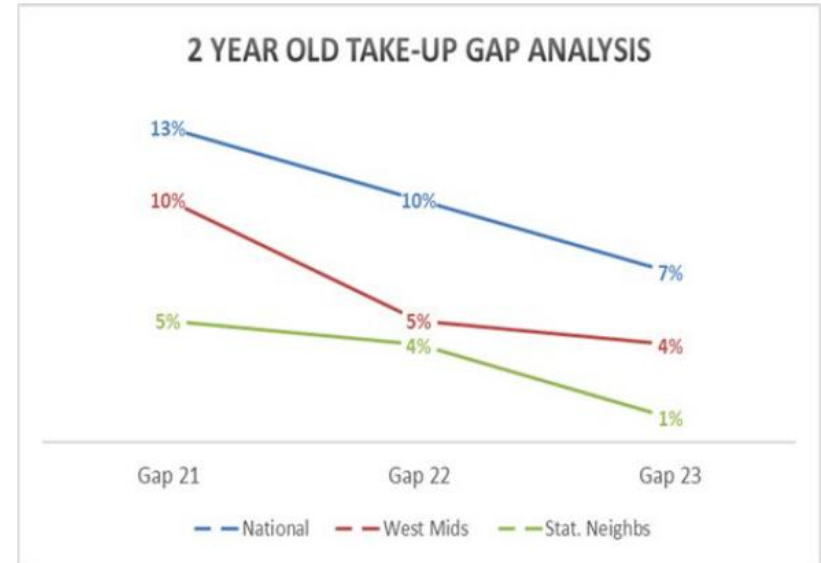
8% of eligible children are NOT engaging



Early Education Entitlement and Childrens Outcomes: Take-Up for the Disadvantaged 2-Year-Old Offer

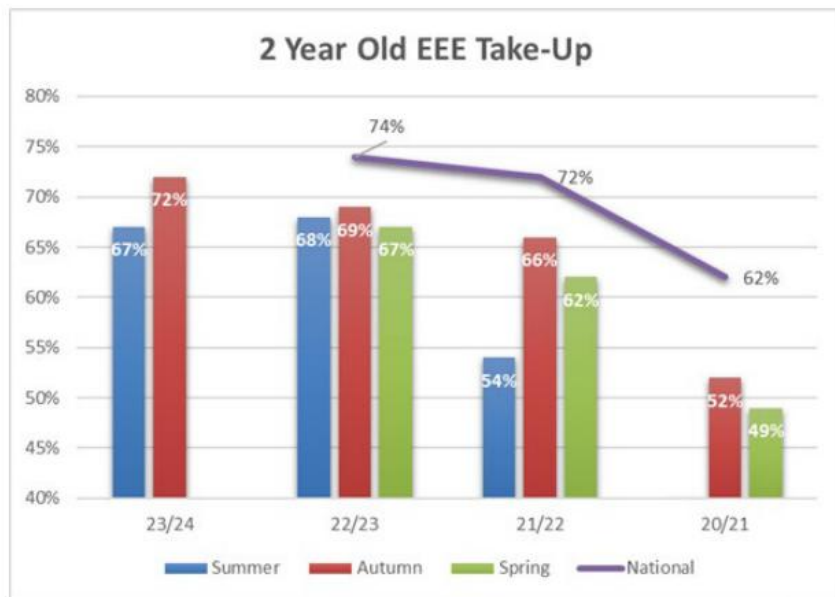
What's going well?

- Take-up for disadvantaged 2-year-old offer has been increasing over the last 4 years - Autumn term 23 reached the highest ever level in Birmingham at 72%
- Gap between take-up in the city and national average reduced by almost half (13% in 2021 to 7% in 2023)
- Gap reduced by over half compared to the West Midlands (10% to 4%)
- Gap reduced by over half compared to the West Midlands (10% to 4%)
- Gap reduced by 80% compared to statistical neighbour local authorities (5% to 1%)
- Which means the number of children accessing entitlement in the city is increasing faster than elsewhere in the country



Early Education Entitlement and Childrens Outcomes: Take-Up for the Disadvantaged 2-Year-Old Offer

Challenges?



28% of eligible children are still not engaging

Although the gap to the National is closing and the trajectory is increasing we are still in the bottom quartile nationally (ranked 131 out of 152)

Wide variance of participation across the different 69 wards

Lowest is 40% in Hall Green South
Highest is 100% in Sutton Reddicap



Early Education Entitlement and Childrens Outcomes: Take-up of Early Education Entitlement

What could we do better to increase take-up?

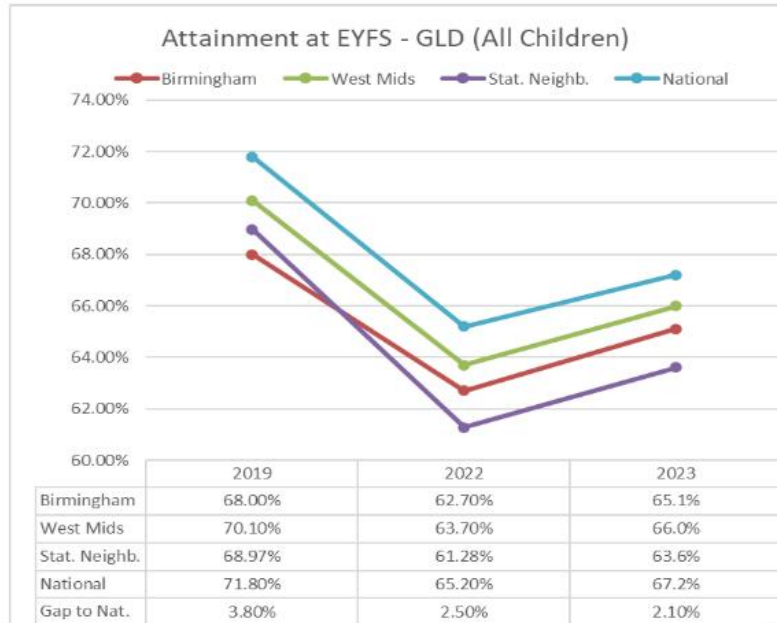


- Target each age group to coincide with phasing of new entitlements
- Maintain focus on take-up of disadvantage 2-year-old offer
- Ensure inclusion for children facing social, racial, or SEND barriers
- Improve use of data for more effective targeting
- How will we do this?
 - District take up analysis - targeting districts with lowest take up
 - Use the DWP lists to follow-up where parents haven't used codes
 - Ongoing awareness sessions targeted at family facing professionals
 - Support for children in temporary accommodation targeting districts with high TA numbers
 - Use of promotional video
 - Ongoing work with Children's Centres District leads
 - Tracking eligibility codes
 - Flexible funding approach
 - Review of marketing materials



Early Education Entitlement and Childrens Outcomes: Children's Outcomes at the End of the EYFS

What's going well?



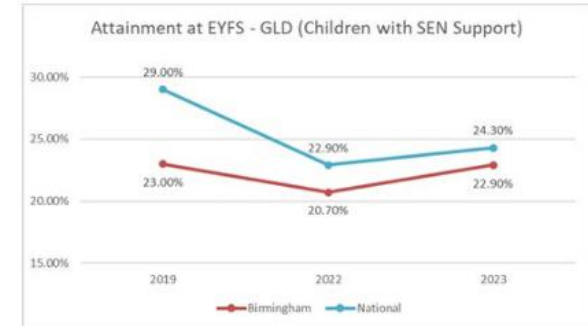
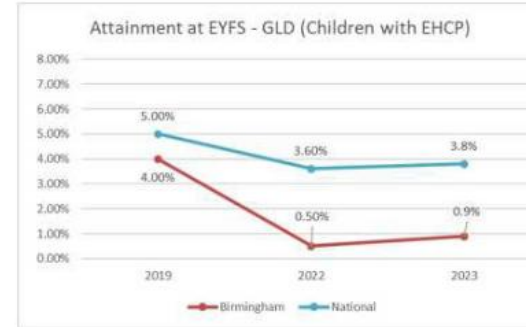
- Gap to national has reduced to 2.1% from 2.5% for children's outcomes at end of EYFS
- Birmingham's GLD percentage is higher than statistical neighbour average (ranked 3rd out of 11 local authorities)
- The percentage of FSM pupils that achieve a GLD in Birmingham is 6.8% points higher than the England average
- 75.8% of children reached expected level in Communication and Language (an increase of 0.4%)
- 67% of children reached expected level in Literacy (an increase of 1.9%)



Early Education Entitlement and Childrens Outcomes: Children's Outcomes at the End of the EYFS

Challenges?

- The percentage of pupils achieving a GLD in Birmingham is consistently lower than the West Midlands and England average
- We still sit in the bottom quartile of all LAs (ranked 116 out of 152)
- Proportion of children with SEN support and EHCP in Birmingham achieved a GLD in 2023 is lower than the England average



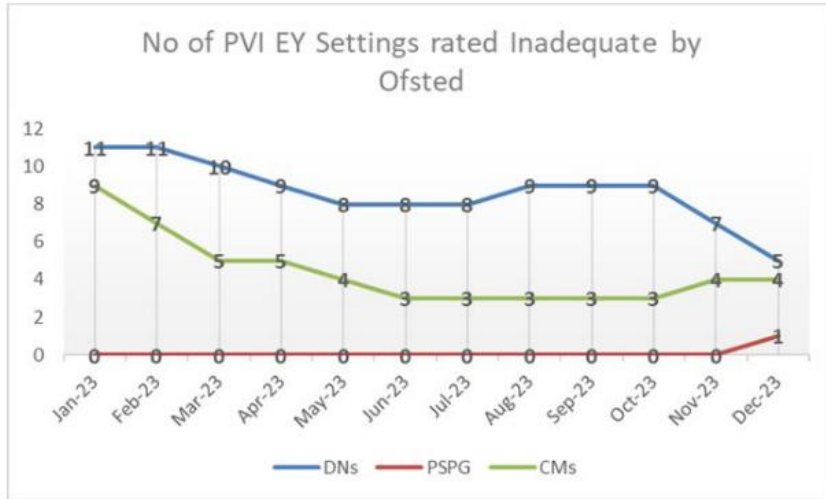
Early Education Entitlement and Childrens Outcomes: Children's Outcomes at the End of the EYFS

What could we do better to improve EYFSP outcomes?

- Drive-up the take-up of the early years entitlements – children who access early education are far more likely than those who did not to achieve a good level of development
- Continue our focus on Speech, Language and Communication (SLC) development with WellComm
- Bring together the Early Years Census/termly headcount process for schools and PVI providers to enable “in real time” duplicate checking and allow multiple points of/rolling funded admissions
- NESTA project data tool that can be used within the City Observatory and will enable us to target and address barriers to take-up within specific communities/areas of the city
- EY DLP2 programme we will focus on improving take-up and supporting transition for children with SEND from Nursery to Reception with targeted support for children where placement breakdown is likely



Quality of Provision: What's going well?



94% of Early Years provision rated as Good or better by Ofsted

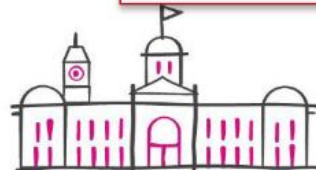
- Out of 915 settings

95% of registered childcare for over 5's rated as Good/Outstanding

- Out of 450 settings

There are a declining number of Early Years settings rated as "Inadequate" by Ofsted

- This has reduced by 50% in the last 12 months.



Quality of Provision: Challenges

- Numbers of registered childminders have fallen significantly over the last 10 years
- Statutory duty to support providers rated “less than good” and newly registering
- Understanding of complex needs of children
 - Ensuring all settings are inclusive
 - Ensuring all children can access early years entitlements



Quality of Provision: What could we do better?

Support from Early Years Consultant

- Visits for settings judged less than Good to include discussions and observations of EYFS
- Access to district EYC for all settings with general themes of support offered
- Menu of Early Years and Childcare Workshops

Ongoing support for Speech-language and Communication

District Early Years Networks led by the Maintained Nursery Schools

- Management of a comprehensive website resource
- Work with primary schools with nursery/reception classes
- MNS linked to EYC's to experience and understand innovative pedagogical approaches of teaching so can be cascaded and modelled across to the PVI sector

Engagement visits for group care providers rated good or outstanding

DfE Covid Recovery Programme

- Experts and Mentors
- Heart Stronger Practice Hub for the West Midlands

Ongoing engagement in the Early Years Inclusion Project from Dingley's Promise

- Develop practitioner knowledge and understanding of inclusive practice in Early Years to improve quality



Sufficiency and the New Offers: What's going well?



General sufficiency position is good due to falling birth-rate for several years

General oversupply of places citywide

Small number of wards have a deficit of places

There will not be a need to create additional places until phase 3

Good systems and processes in place to forecast supply of places



New entitlements will help to sustain the existing provision

Phase 1 (Apr 24): Eligible working parents of 2-year-olds can access 15 hours of childcare

Phase 2 (Sept 24): Eligible working parents of children aged 9 months to 3 years can access 15 hours of childcare

Phase 3 (Sept 25): Full roll-out of offer, with eligible working parents of children aged 9 months and above able to access 30 hours of childcare



Sufficiency and the New Offers: Challenges

Rollout of expanded statutory duties for early education and wraparound childcare

- 9 wards identified with immediate pressures due to current sufficiency gaps
- Garretts Green; Handsworth Wood; Highters Heath; Holyhead; Kingstanding; Perry Common; Quinton; Stockland Green and Yardley East
- Anticipated increase in demand for places from April 2024
- Further work required to “sense check” desktop assumptions
- Workforce Recruitment and Retention

Expansion in wraparound childcare from September 2024

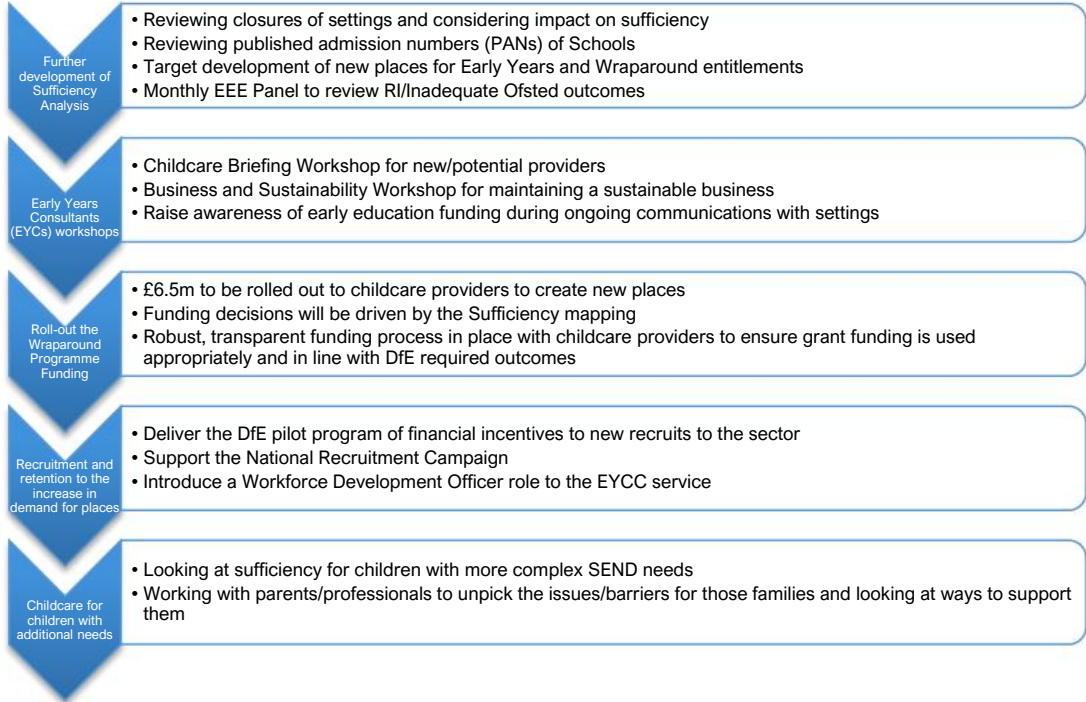
- Every parent able to access term-time wrap-around childcare by September 2026
- Programme for Term-Time only provision
- Primary focus to support 'Working Parents'
- Funding can be used for providers such as PVI's, Childminders and Schools

Increasing feedback from settings unable to accommodate children with additional needs

- Forecasting childcare demand for children with additional needs has been difficult and was flagged as a priority area in our last sufficiency assessment
- Accessing data from other agencies to assist with forecasting and assessing sufficiency



Sufficiency and the New Offers: What could we do better?



Inclusion in the Early Years: What's going well?

Inclusion Support in Early Years (ISEY) is available to 2-year-olds and 3- and 4-year-olds who meet the criteria and applications are considered outside of the routine allocation period to support earliest possible access to places.

Area SENCo team targets support around children in receipt of EY Inclusion Funding (ISEY) or with an EHCP. Includes a specific visit to all settings receiving an Inadequate or Requires Improvement rating from Ofsted

Currently 99% of PVI providers have one or more practitioners who have attended the core SENCo training delivered by the team.

Tracking how soon children reported with SEND (at headcount) took up their place once eligible to begin to understand any delays and plan to address these.



Inclusion in the Early Years: Challenges....

- Driving up the proportion of children with SEN Support and ECHPs achieving a GLD
- Funding for ISEY will increase to £3.75 million in 2024/25 to support all funded children access their early years entitlement
- Challenges in securing places in a setting of choice for children with SEND
- Upskilling the workforce is critical in developing best inclusive practice and sustaining the placements of children with the most complex needs



Inclusion in the Early Years: What could we do better?

Ongoing Support of the Childminder Inclusion Network – a city-wide network managed by Early Years Consultant for Inclusion

- Combined with network offered by Stronger Practice Hub following the positive impact of DfE funded Childminders Experts and Mentor Scheme
- Partnership enables reaching more childminders and responding to feedback
- Offers SEND training program to strengthen practice
- Half termly network meetings for sharing good practice and information

Early Years Inclusion Project from Dingley's Promise

- Support the increased take up of 2/3 year old early education places of children with SEND
- Reduce the numbers of children on reduced timetables
- Positively engage the family and the child in support and transition plans

Developing Local Provision for Children Under - targets improvement in the quality of provision available particularly for children with additional needs

- Percentage increase of children achieving GLD at end of EYFS
- Percentage decrease of children accessing their early education remaining with an EY provider rather than taking up their Reception place in school with typical age cohort
- Percentage decrease of children across the district who are at risk of placement breakdown following transition to Reception in school
- Phase 2 of the EY DLP will build on the workforce capacity building undertaken in phase 1 by now focusing on outcomes for individual children
- Governance and monitoring arrangements will align to the 5-16 Years DLP and report directly into the SEND Improvement Board



Risks and Challenges:



- Rollout of expanded statutory duties for early education and wraparound childcare
 - Recruitment of additional capacity to Early Years and Childcare Service
 - Implementation of additional Statutory Duties
- Development of understanding of complex needs of children
 - Ensuring all settings are inclusive
 - Ensuring all children can access early years entitlements

