



Derby City Council

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
SCRUTINY REVIEW BOARD**

4 September 2017

ITEM 7

Report of the Director for People Services

Take up of Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) for 2, 3 and 4 Year Olds in Derby

SUMMARY

- 1.1 **In relation to the “Two Year Old FEEE Flying Start Offer”**, the Department for Education (DfE) have set fixed national criteria on who can access the 15 hours of free early education entitlement (FEEE), and this targets Derby City's 40% most disadvantaged two year olds.
- 1.2 **Two Year Old Take Up Achievements:** The table below details the number of families identified by the Department of Works and Pension (DWP) who might be eligible, compared to actual number of two year old places taken up:

Term	No of Children on DWP List	Number of children accessing a 2YO place	% Level of Take Up
Autumn 2014	1768	1253	71%
Spring 2015	1826	1268	69.5%
Summer 2015	1755	1219	69.5%
Autumn 2016	1629	1201	74%
Spring 2016	1536	1129	74%
Summer 2016	1594	1103	69%
Autumn 2016	1552	1166	75%
Spring 2017	1566	1121	72%

- 1.3 Derby City's two year old take up figures are consistently above the national take up average figure of 70%. Further take up data is available in **Appendix 2**, where DWP eligibility and take up levels have been broken down to ward level.
- 1.4 **Three and Four Old Take Up Achievements:** Derby City's three and four year old FEEE take up target for the universal entitlement in 2016-2017 was 90%. It is encouraging that localised data evidences an increasing trend of eligible children accessing their FEEE. In January 2016, FEEE take up was 90%, increasing to 92.37% by January 2017. DfE national data statistics for Derby City indicates this could be as high as 93%. The surrounding local authorities, for example, Nottingham City and Leicester City mirror Derby City's overall take up levels. The Council is continuing to actively promote and encourage parents to take up FEEE places. This is, of course, a decision for parents.
- 1.5 **Three and Four Year Old Extended Entitlement- 30 Hour Offer:** From September 2017 the Government are introducing an additional 15 hours of free childcare for working families. This will be on top of the universal offer of 15 hours. DfE data indicates 2,050 children could be eligible for the new offer in Derby. However, localised strategic data and demographics assessments have established the number could be as high as 2,861 children.
- 1.6 An effective promotional campaign by the Council aimed at parents, professionals and childcare providers, has resulted in 800 successful applications to date being made to HMRC by Derby City families for the new 30 hour offer. These applications are increasing on a week by week basis. With the current rate of growth, it is projected this figure could be as high as 1,300 by the end of August 2017. Derby City's progress is strong in comparison to our

statistical / comparative local authorities.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note good take up off take up of Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) for 2, 3 and 4 Year Olds in Derby
- 2.2 To note there is a robust Implementation Plan to deliver the extended childcare offer for eligible three and four year olds to encourage high levels of take up of the new offer.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Council’s two year old take up levels consistently exceed the national level of 70%. A stretch target is being progressed for the take up levels of three and four year old FEEE and the new extended entitlement. This includes working in partnership across various agencies and partners, including Children Centres and Health.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 As background to the Two Year Old FEEE Flying Start Offer, the entitlement started in September 2014 and is not a universal offer for all two year olds. The DfE have set fixed national criteria on who can access the 15 hours of early year's provision and this targets the Derby City's 40% most disadvantaged two year olds.
- 4.2 The eligibility criteria is as follows:
- Universal Credit (UC);
 - Income Support (IS);
 - Income-based Job Seekers' Allowance (JSA);
 - Employment Support Allowance (ESA);
 - Help from the National Asylum Support Service (NASS) – Section 95 part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
 - Pension Credit;
 - Child Tax Credit and / or Working tax Credits where the household income is £16,190 or less;
 - The child has a disability and receives Personal Independence Payments (PIPs) or Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or has a Statement of Special Educational Need or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP);
 - The child is adopted or the child is looked after by Derby City Council.
- 4.3 DWP Data: The DfE provides every LA with DWP termly data on possible eligible families to allow direct mail outs, advertising and contact to be made with these families to ensure at least 70% of those eligible children take up the offer. The data can only be used over a 3 week window. The DWP data is received seven times during the year.
- 4.4 DWP Data Activities: The activities undertaken by the Council using the DWP data are as follows:
- Letter sent by the Council encouraging families to take up the two year old offer. 1,502 letters were sent in September 2016, and 1,566 in January 2017.
 - Within a 3 week window, a follow up is made with a two year old postcard or the new initiative of the 'Golden Ticket' to DWP families.
 - The Council's Children's Centre team match the DWP data every term to families on their data base, so follow up can be made by them after the 3 week data window has expired.
- 4.5 As background to the Universal three and four year Old FEEE and 30 hour extended entitlement, all children the term after they turn three are entitled to 15 hours of free early education for up to 38 weeks.
- 4.6 The DfE are introducing in September 2017, an additional 15 hours of free childcare for working families only. This will be on top of the universal offer of 15 hours which all three and four year olds can continue to access. DfE data indicates 2,050 children could be eligible although localised strategic data indicates this could be as much as 2,861 children.
- 4.7 The DfE has confirmed the eligibility criteria will be both parents working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family) with each parent having a weekly income equivalent to 16 hours at the national wage or living wage (£120 per week), and neither parent having an income of more than £100,000 per year.

- 4.8 An effective promotional campaign by the Council's Childcare and Families Information Team (CFIT) aimed at parents, professionals and childcare providers has resulted in 800 successful applications to date being made to HMRC by Derby City families for the new offer. These applications are rapidly increasing week on week. It is projected this figure could be as high as 1,300 by the end of August 2017. Derby City's progress here is better than the majority of our statistical / comparative Local Authorities. Even more encouraging is that our childcare providers have confirmed 700 parents have now signed to actually take up the new offer from September 2017.
- 4.9 There has been an excellent commitment from the City's childcare providers to deliver the extended entitlement. 82 out of 86 full day care providers, and 95% of FEEE childminders and 30% of schools. Other schools are restricted from doing this as their nursery units are usually full from September each year. There has been a significant increase in the number of our childcare providers who will be delivering the FEEE stretched flexibly. A common model is 22 ½ hours per week over 51 weeks of the year (total hours 1,140). This will have a huge impact on parent's ability to work / increase hours with childcare costs being significantly reduced and forms part of the national return to work agenda.
- 4.10 Derby City currently has 6,954, 15 hour FEEE places available to deliver the universal and extended entitlement. An additional 400 places are currently being created in preparation for the autumn 2017 and spring 2018 demand. One to one support is planned over summer and early autumn to work with childcare providers to review modelling options to increase / optimise the number of FEEE places available within their existing registrations.
- 4.11 Actions to increase levels of Two, Three and Four Year Old FEEE Take-Up:
1. Protocols are being agreed and implemented supported by the Public Health Strategic Lead from September 2017, to ensure all Health Visitors, key professionals who meet with most parents when completing their child's 2 ½ year health check, proactively promote the FEEE with robust monitoring to be implemented to evidence this;
 2. The Childcare and Families Information Team (CFIT) to maintain their strong working relationships in place with Family Visitors in Children's Centres, Health Professionals and Job Centre Plus to promote / have accountability for the take up of the two year old Flying Start offer and the three and four year old FEEE. This will include regular attendance at suitable meetings held by these groups;
 3. CFIT and Children's Centre staff chase by phone those families who have been sent a letter allocating a two year old place but who have not then gone on to take up a place;
 4. Universal promotion of the FEEE offers on buses, banners, radio, by schools, health clinics, parent champions, in community venues such as libraries and outreach events. Promotional items now include statements from the Council encouraging take up of the two, three and four year old offer.;
 5. A strategic working group is being established to develop and implement an Early Years Strategy which will support and encourage school readiness for all children. This will need to have a focus on identifying and implementing actions to increase FEEE take levels for two, three and four year olds.
 6. To support settings / schools in a locality to work collaboratively to maximise FEEE take up and the flexible delivery of the new extended entitlement.

- 7. CFIT to work with the Council's Regeneration Team / Representatives within the Derby Renaissance Board to increase the engagement we have with employers. It is crucial for the Council to engage employers to encourage them to proactively promote the two, three and four year old FEEE and the new extended entitlement. This could enable their employees' greater flexibility to work;
- 8. Identify and contact suitable statistical / comparative local authorities who have good FEEE take up levels to share best practices and processes in the region.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 Without proactive promotion of the FEEE it is likely that the take up of FEEE for both two and three and four year olds would reduce and the Derby City Council would fail to meet its take up targets and statutory duties within the Childcare Act 2006.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	
--	--

For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Gurmail Nizzer, Director of Commissioning (Acting) 01332 642720 E-mail: gurmail.nizzer@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Summer 2017 2YO Take-up Tables
---	--

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

1.1 None arising from this report.

Legal

2.1 None arising from this report

Personnel

3.1 None arising from this report

IT

4.1 None arising from this report

Equalities Impact

5.1 None arising from this report

Health and Safety

6.1 None arising from this report

Environmental Sustainability

7.1 None arising from this report

Property and Asset Management

8.1 None arising from this report

Risk Management and Safeguarding

9.1 None arising from this report

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

10.1 This contributes towards the 'Raising Achievements and Skills' objective with the Council Plan 2016-2019.

Two Year Old Take up June 2017

Comparison by Ward - June 2017

Ward	Children in Place	% takeup against DWP	DWP List
Abbey	78	80.4	97
Allestree	7	53.8	13
Alvaston	89	69.5	128
Arboretum	152	63.9	238
Blagreaves	40	83.3	48
Boulton	75	87.2	86
Chaddesden	41	56.9	72
Chellaston	31	66.0	47
Darley	35	77.8	45
Derwent	87	76.3	114
Littleover	29	80.6	36
Mackworth	73	73.0	100
Mickleover	13	56.5	23
Normanton	163	60.4	270
Oakwood	27	93.1	29
Sinfin	137	72.5	189
Spondon	23	74.2	31
Derbyshire 2Yo's	21		
Grand Total	1121*	72.0%	1566**

*Note: 19 postcodes did not match to a Derby Ward or CC

**Note: 2 postcodes did not match to a Derby Ward or CC