

# Free Entitlement Funding spring planning (January 2021)

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**achieving  
for children**

# Overview

Achieving for Children have approached the autumn 2020 funding process with a view to secure sustainability not only for this term but to secure longevity

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In order to do this we introduced a second headcount day and to incentivise providers new children would attract funding for the whole term if the child was new to funding in the autumn term. This has attracted more children in the autumn term and providers are being more pro-active in their approach to increase take up.

# Autumn term 2020

- Providers have submitted their actual claims onto the portal at the initial headcount day 1 October 2020
- Payments of 80% have been released based on the estimated for the whole term
- Providers together with early years are working to increase take up by second headcount 5 November 2020 where possible

# What we know so far

- Richmond - The number of 3&4 year old children claimed by childcare providers in autumn 20 in comparison to autumn 19 is lower by 7% (This constitutes 212 children)
- Kingston - The number of 3 & 4 year old children claimed by childcare providers in autumn 20 in comparison to autumn 19 is lower by 3% (This constitutes 68 children)

# What we know so far

- Richmond - The number of 2 year old children claimed by childcare providers in autumn 20 in comparison to autumn 19 is lower by 11% (This constitutes 28 children)
- Kingston - The number of children claimed by childcare providers in autumn 20 in comparison to autumn 19 is lower by 16% (This constitutes 55 children)

# What we know so far

Although the figures across each borough are better than expected there has been a fundamental change in where children are accessing their childcare.

Therefore, a number of providers are financial winners having attracted more children in autumn 2020 than they had in autumn 2019 and some are financial losers.

## What does this mean

Assuming January 2021 census occurs as 'normal'

If child numbers are good in autumn 2020 then migrate to spring term 2021 for the census then the funding allocation should be fair.

If child numbers are not good then another level of support will be required in the next financial year.



## What about 2021/22?

At present we have no clear picture of an outcome.

We should plan on the basis that we gather information from providers that need support either self identified or identified by the early year team.

Achieving for Children have started this process and are working with providers to assess their feasibility of remaining sustainable

# Conclusion

## Our tasks

- To support providers to ensure there is sufficient quality childcare.
- To support parents to access quality childcare for their children
- Safeguard the future of early years to ensure its survival into the future

# Conclusion

## Our challenges

- Attempting to achieve our tasks in the midst of a pandemic
- Once the new 'normal' has been established changes in the demand for childcare could force providers to make decisions and choices that they may not have contemplated. They will need support to adapt.