

Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel



Date of meeting:	18 February 2026
Title of Report:	EARLY YEARS ENTITLEMENTS
Lead Member:	Councillor Sally Cresswell (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Apprenticeships)
Lead Strategic Director:	David Haley (Director for Childrens Services)
Author:	April Davies (Service Manager Early Years and Childcare)
Contact Email:	april.davies@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	N/A
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

To update the Panel on the current position and trends in Plymouth's uptake of the 30 hours early years funding entitlement (working parents).

To set out barriers impacting up take and sufficiency.

To update Scrutiny on the current position for Breakfast Clubs.

To update Scrutiny on the role of CATERed in the provision of Breakfast Clubs.

Recommendations

- I. For the Panel to note the report.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

This work directly supports The Plymouth Plan through improving school readiness and giving children the best start in life, reducing inequalities by targeting support to disadvantaged families and expanding provision in areas of lower childcare capacity. Strengthening communities through the growth of high quality early years and breakfast club provision and supporting Plymouth's inclusive economic growth by helping more parents access and sustain employment. It also reflects the Plan's commitment to integrated, partnership-based public services by working closely with providers, schools, PCC teams and national partners to improve access, affordability and quality of childcare across the city.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

The expansion of early years entitlements continues to increase demand on the Early Years and Childcare Team, particularly around sufficiency planning, provider support, parental enquiries and funding administration. These pressures are further intensified by the national Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life plan, which places greater expectations on local authorities to improve Good Level of Development (GLD), expand access, improve quality and reduce inequalities. Recent staff retirements have also reduced capacity within the team, creating additional strain on remaining officers. While activity

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Sign off:

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<p>Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Amanda Davis, Service Director for Education, Participation and Skills</p>											
<p>Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes</p> <p>Date agreed: 10/02/2026</p>											
<p>Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Cresswell approved via email.</p> <p>Date approved: 10/02/2026</p>											