

# The Early Years' Service

Children &  
Young People's  
Overview and  
Scrutiny  
Committee 10  
March 2023



# Early Years and Local Authority Statutory Duties

- Section 6, places a duty on English local authorities to secure sufficient childcare for working parents or in education/training. .
- Section 7 places a duty on English local authorities to secure early years provision free of charge.
- Regulations made under s7 set out the type and amount of free provision and the children who benefit from free provision (funded early years entitlements) .
- Regulations made under section 9A limit the requirements local authorities can impose when they make arrangements to deliver early education places for two-, three- and four year-olds.
- Section 12, which places a duty on English local authorities to provide information, advice and assistance to parents and prospective parents ( Family Information Service).
- Section 12 placing a duty on English local authorities to publish certain information at prescribed intervals.
- Section 13, which places a duty on English local authorities to provide information, advice and training to childcare providers.



# Covid-19 and Children's Experience in Lockdown by age

Age group	Lockdown 1 23 March 2020 PM orders people to 'stay at home'	Lockdown 2 31 October 2020 PM announces a second lockdown to prevent a 'medical and moral disaster' for the NHS	Lockdown 3 6 January 2021 Third national lockdown announced
Reception children 2022-3 DOB between 1.9.17 and 31.8.18	2-3 years old	2-3 years old	2-3 years old
Nursery (3-and 4-year olds) DOB between 1.9.18 and 31.8.19	7 months to 1 year old	1-2 years old	1-2 years old
Nursery (2s) DOB between 1.9.19 and 31.8.20	Birth to 7 months old	2 months to 1 year old	4 months to 1-year old



# Current Challenges in Early Years Sector

National Funding rate for the free entitlement is low and does not cover costs ...more difficult in areas of deprivation

## Workforce

- Retention and Recruitment of staff
- Staff well-being

## Cost of Living Crisis

## The Impact of Covid-19

- Children's experiences
- Impact on Childcare Business sustainability



# Covid Recovery Programme

- Strong focus on Early Language and Communication
- PSED and a focus on co regulation – to support self regulation
- CPD Number Sense – links to Multiply
- Cost of living Crisis – response
- EYFS training for Apprentices and new staff
- Use of evidence informed practice
- DfE funded programmes
- Collaborative work and making links across other initiatives



# Early Years Sector Support

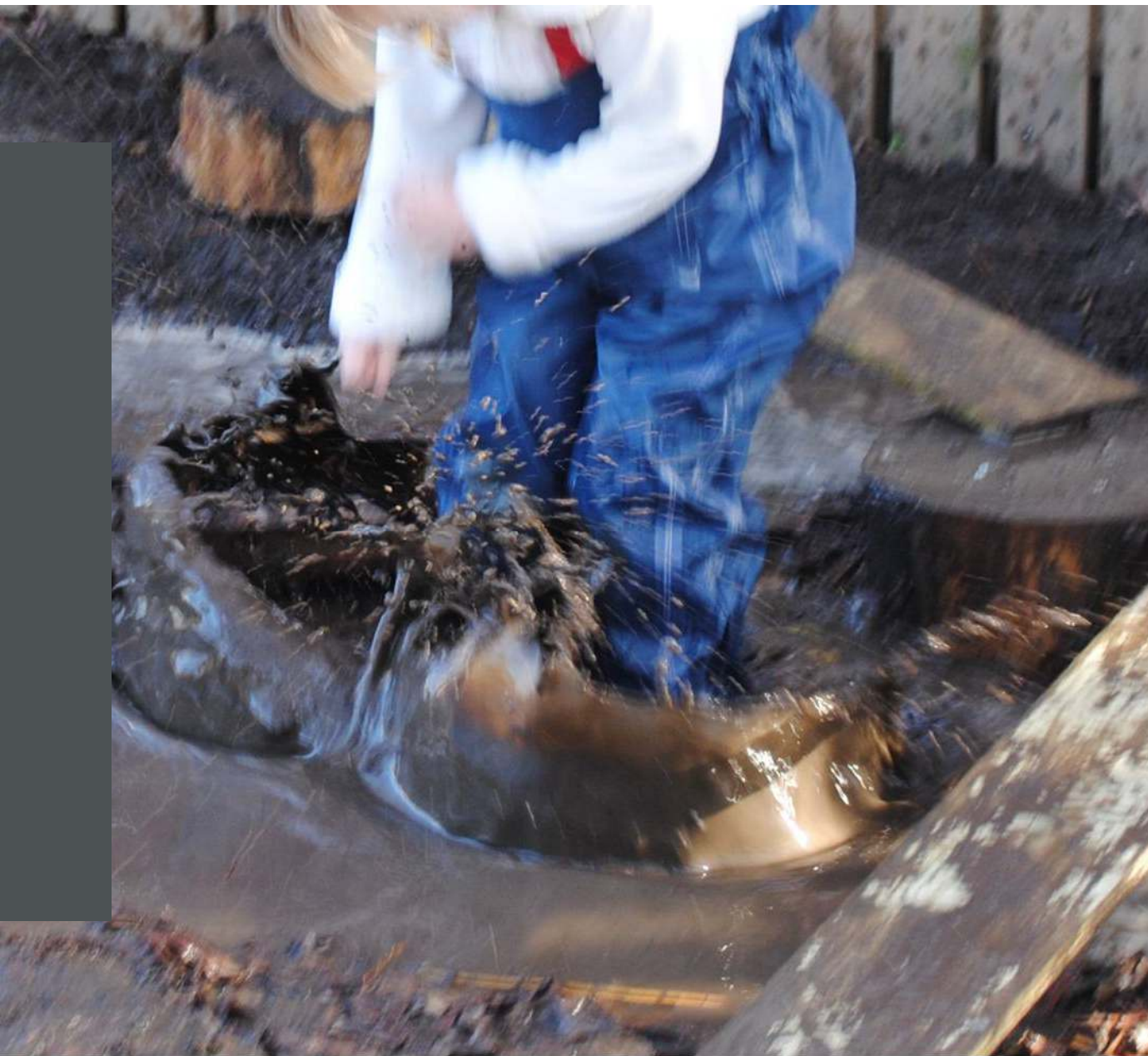


# National Challenges in the Early Years Sector

## Enquiry - Support for childcare in the early years



[parliamentlive.tv](https://www.parliamentlive.tv)



**Thank you for your  
interest in Early  
Years**

**Always Happy for  
Questions**

**Helen Nixon**

**Lead: Early years and Childcare**

**[Helen.Nixon@durham.gov.uk](mailto:Helen.Nixon@durham.gov.uk)**

**03000 268931**