

Early Years Funding 2020/21: Local Authority Underspends and Overspends

National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) is the national charity representing private, voluntary and independent (PVI) children's nurseries across the UK. We are the voice of the 24,000-strong nursery sector, an integral part of the lives of more than a million young children and their families.

NDNA and our members want all children and families to flourish through excellent early years education and care. The current challenges of delivering early education and childcare against an existing backdrop of chronic underfunding within early years means the availability and quality of childcare is under extreme pressure.

Headline Findings:

- 136 out of 149 (91%) Local Education Authorities (LEAs) responded to our Freedom of Information (FOI) request about early years spending. Of these responses five were unclear or required further detail that we did not receive – 131 responses were included in the final analysis.
- 80% of LEAs (106) who responded reported an underspend **totalling £55.2million**. These were reported either in their overall budget or specifically for two-year-old places and for three and four-year-old places.
- 15 LEAs underspent by **more than £1 million** each – four of these also had £1m plus underspends in 2019/20 and 7 also in 2018/19
- When asked about use of underspend budget only 12 (9.1%) of LEAs reported that some or all of their underspends will be passed to providers.
- 30 LEAs put their unspent money for 3 and 4- year-olds (£16.2m) into their DSG reserves (28% of respondents with underspends)
- 24 LEAs said they had money “clawed-back” or “adjusted” by DfE and a further ten reported that they expected this to happen
- 18 LEAs either didn't respond, gave unclear responses or told us they did not hold this information
- Over the three years of investigation, 55 LEAs (37% of all LEAs) reported an underspend in every year. These alone have amounted to **£115m** over three years.

Overview

In 2019 and 2020, National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) discovered that large amounts of funding, earmarked for children's early education and care, was left underspent in LEA schools budgets. Some was reported as being channelled into other areas of education spending. The investigation focused on funding for early entitlement places for three and four-year-olds including the 15 universal hours and the additional 15 hours for eligible children of working parents. This year we looked at funding for 2020/21 which included one period when many nurseries were closed during the national lockdown.

Background

Currently in England all three and four-year-olds are entitled to **15 hours of funded early education and childcare** from the term following their third birthday during school term time; 38 weeks a year.

In addition, any three and four-year-olds who have two parents in work - or one parent if a lone parent family – each earning between 16 hours a week at minimum wage and £100,000 a year are entitled to an **additional 15 hours** per week. This takes their potential entitlement to **30 hours of funded childcare** for 38 weeks of the year.

Funding for these places is provided by the Department for Education (DfE) to Local Education Authorities (LEAs) through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) which is made up of the Schools Block, High Needs Block and Early Years Block. The DSG is scrutinised and monitored at LEA level by the council's Schools Forum whose size and membership is determined locally. These will generally comprise of representatives from schools and non-school members. In most areas there is only one representative from Private, Voluntary or Independently (PVI) run nursery providers but in some areas there is no PVI rep, resulting in a lack of voice for the sector.

The early years funding for each LEA is set by the DfE using the Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF), which provides each council with an hourly rate of funding per child. Budgets are then set based on the expected number of children entitled to access funded childcare through census data. Local authorities must decide how to allocate this funding to early years providers through an hourly 'base rate' with additional hourly supplements for local priorities. This could take account of accessibility, Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), children from areas of deprivation or the quality of provision all taken from this one hourly rate.

LEAs need to show that once all supplements and the base rates are factored in, early years providers receive **95%** of the total early years funding for children within that area. This means up to **5%** of the budget can be retained for central administration of the scheme and other early years priorities for the LEA.

Since the **30-hour** funded childcare policy was introduced in September 2017, NDNA has been clear in highlighting the challenges nurseries face because, for the majority of providers, the funding rate given to them by the DfE and LEAs does not cover their delivery costs.

While costs have risen due to minimum wage rises which go up by at least 6.6% in April, business rates increases (which return in full from April 2022, with the average bill being £12,400 per nursery), pension and National Insurance contribution increases, energy costs rising and inflation currently forecast for 6%, these funding rates have not kept pace. They have only increased nationally in three of the past six years. For 2022/23 the lowest hourly rate has gone from **£4.44 to £4.61**, an increase of **3.8% which is much lower than inflation and wage rises**.

For the last two years NDNA has conducted research into how LEAs are using the Early Years Block, how it reaches the providers who are delivering the funded hours and what is happening to any unspent funding or how overspends were being managed. Those reports found that the majority of councils reported an underspend at the end of 2018/19 and 2019/20. For this report we have looked at whether local authorities are underspending overall in their early years block, and whether they are under or overspending within their budgets for two-year-old and three and four-year-old funded entitlements.

LEAs have to report their planned budgets and end of year outturn reports to the DfE via Section 251 returns. These include data collected on demand for **15** and **30** hour funded places, base rates and supplements, central expenditure and contingency funds. Some of this reporting was put on hold during 2020/21 as part of efforts to reduce administrative burdens during the pandemic, however LEAs had to report their end of year position.

Impact of Coronavirus

The period covered by this report is 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 at the height of the first wave of the Coronavirus pandemic. On 23 March 2020, all schools and early years providers were instructed to remain open only for children of critical workers and vulnerable children. The Government announced that funded hours would continue to be paid throughout the Spring and Summer terms in 2020, regardless of whether a setting was forced to close or had children who were not able to attend. Funding returned to normal for the Spring 2021 term.

Throughout this year, the sector faced increased operating costs to work in a Covid-safe way, parental demand reduced drastically and nurseries had to close rooms or close completely due to Covid absences. Following updated advice from the Competition and Markets Authority, childcare providers were not allowed to charge parents for sessions their children were unable to attend due to Covid-19. This covered where children had to self-isolate or when nurseries were unable to offer sessions to that child due to staff isolating or being absent with Covid-19. Many nurseries had to reach voluntary arrangements with parents to remain sustainable in this period. It was more important than ever that budgets allocated for the delivery of childcare places were reaching the providers at a time of crisis within the sector.

The Freedom of Information (FOI) questions

Under the FOI act, NDNA asked four questions to **149** LEAs in England relating to funding for the free entitlement for two, three and four-year-olds in the financial year 2020/21. We did not ask City of London or Isles of Scilly due to size and funding arrangements of these authorities. The requests were sent in November 2021 to allow time for final reporting to have taken place.

The aim was to follow the funding through an annual cycle from planned budgets to actual expenditure and back into the planning process again. The questions therefore included whether they reported an underspend or overspend in their total Early Years budget, their budgets for funded two-year-old places and for three and four-year-old places in 2020/21; if so what the amount in each age group was and how they had distributed or planned to distribute any unspent budget.

The full text of the FOI questions is available in Appendix A.

Analysis of FOI responses:

A total of **136** LEAs, out of **149**, responded to the FOI request by 25 February. Of these we have analysed **131**¹ responses because five could not give us any information and the rest were incomplete or unclear. Across England, **13** LEAs did not respond, including four in the North East.

Underspends for two-year-old (2YO) funding

A total of **64** LEAs (55% of those whose responses we could analyse) reported an underspend for 2020/21 within their two-year-old funding. Altogether these LEAs underspent this budget by **£10.41m** at the end of the financial year.

The largest proportion of this unspent money for two-year-old funding (**£3.42m**) from **23** LEAs went into DSG reserves and was carried forward for the next year. Eight LEAs said they would be passing some or all of this money to providers in some format, the total amount covered in these areas was just over **£2m**, although not all of that amount may have been covered by the plans to pass through.

A further **6** LEAs reported a mix of destinations for their unspent money (**£1.89m**) including consulting with Schools Forum, passing to providers in some form, offsetting deficits or earmarking for SEN support.

Eight LEAs used their unspent two-year-old funding to offset deficits elsewhere in their DSG budgets (just over **£1m**). Barking and Dagenham had the largest underspend within this budget of **£1.17m** which it used for some SEN support and said it planned to put the remaining amount into reserves.

Underspends for three and four-year-old funding

More LEAs had underspent on three and four-year-old funding than for other areas of their early years budget, with **76** (67% of councils) reporting an underspend here totalling **£40m**. Islington said they had an underspend in this area but did not give any figures.

Almost half of this total (**£16m**) went directly into DSG reserves in **29** of the councils who reported an underspend. A further **17** LEAs, with reported underspends amounting to **£5m**, had not yet decided what to do with the unspent money or did not give us any information on this point. **Nine** councils used this money to offset other deficits, amounting to **£3.4m**. **Nine** LEAs used **£4.8m** for a variety of purposes including giving some money to providers, offsetting deficits and supporting children with SEN.

Only **eight** LEAs, with underspends totalling **£5.6m**, were planning to give, or had already given, a proportion or all of any unspent funding back to providers. This includes three LEAs who had underspent by more than **£1m**.

Leeds reported the largest underspend for three and four-year-olds of **£2.3m** followed by Staffordshire with **£1.6m**. Both these councils reported plans to put this unspent money into their DSG reserves.

Overall underspends within their early years budgets

We asked LEAs if they had an overspend or an underspend overall within their early years budgets. Although **86** LEAs (69%) reported an overall underspend, only **56** of these gave a figure for their overall underspend.

Altogether those that did give us a figure collectively underspent their EY budget funding by **£35.9 million** at the end of the financial year 2020/21.

Almost a third of this unspent money - **£11.8m** from 17 LEAs went into their reserves. This included two councils Islington and Tower Hamlets who underspent by more than **£1m** overall.

A further **14** councils either had not decided what to do with this money yet or did not give us any details – totalling **£5m**. **Nine** LEAs were using their unspent funding in a variety of ways which include some going to providers or offsetting other deficits.

Only **three** of these LEAs gave all or some of their unspent funding back to providers totalling **£4.1m**: Croydon, Greenwich and Lancashire. In most cases, LEAs did not use all their underspent money to support providers but were not all clear about how much they did actually give to providers.

Unable to report on separate funding streams

Seventeen LEAs told us they did not break down their figures into different funding blocks so just reported their overall position within the early years block. Of these, **five** had an overspend overall, the rest had an underspend. Some did not give their overall figure or their final figure was unclear.

Local Authority	Underspend	Overspend
Bedford	£3,000.00	
Cambridgeshire	£120,000.00	
Darlington	No Figure Given	
Durham		£802,000.00
Ealing	£925,000.00	
Halton	£8,221.00	
Herefordshire	£157,000.00	
Merton	No Figure Given	
Newcastle upon Tyne	£1,251,000.00	
Peterborough		£484,177.00
Redbridge	£359,617.00	
Rutland		£17,000.00
Torbay	£105,000.00	
Tower Hamlets	£1,720,000.00	
Wirral	£174,000.00	
Wokingham		£83,679.00
Worcestershire		£2,459.00
TOTAL	£4,822,838.00	£1,389,315.00

Break-even

Seven LEAs reported that they had spent their budgets exactly with no over or underspends within their overall early years budget. These were Cheshire East, Hounslow, Southampton, Southwark, Wandsworth, Somerset and Northamptonshire.

Within their two-year-old funding, three LEAs (Birmingham, Lambeth and Tower Hamlets) told us they had balanced their figures. **Five** LEAs (Cheshire East, Hounslow, Southampton, Southwark and Wandsworth) reported no under or overspends within their three and four-year-old funding.

Overspends

32 LEAs (24% of responses we could analyse) told us they had overspent on their early years budget overall totalling **£8.4m**. Of these, **28** LEAs were being given a Government funding rate of less than **£5**; **18** were given a rate of **£4.50** or less and twelve received the lowest funding rate of **£4.38**. This link between funding rates to LEAs could indicate they were not receiving sufficient resources to be able to deliver the service required at the local level.

Only Central Bedfordshire overspent their early years budget by more than **£1m** for 2020/21 (**£1.05m**) having previously overspent by **£1.45m** in 2019/20. This LEA is also on the lowest funding rate of **£4.38** per hour in 2020-21.

For two-year-old funding, **42** LEAs reported overspends, 36% of those whose responses we could analyse. In total they overspent by **£7.6m**.

For three and four-year-old funding, fewer LEAs reported an overspend – **31** in total, 27% of those who gave responses for this funding stream. This amounted to **£10.37m**, just over a quarter of the total underspends for three and four-year-olds.

There were also an additional **five** councils who did not split their figures but were overspent on their overall early years budget (see previous table p5).

In recent years the take up of two-year-old funded places has fallen with DfE statistics showing only 62% of eligible children taking up a place in 2021, down from 69% in 2020. In March 2020, the National Audit Office found that *“The Department has not met its aspiration for between 73% and 77% of eligible 2-year-olds to take up the disadvantage entitlement.”* With lower take-up rates than expected it is worrying that LEAs are experiencing more overspends in two-year-old funding than other pots and we recommend that the DfE investigate further to better understand this picture.

High underspends

A total of **15** LEAs reported an underspend of more than a **£1m** in 2020/21, either overall or for their two or three-year-old funding. Of these, **eight** had also underspent their funding budgets by more than **£1m** in one of the previous two years, **three** LEAs (Islington, Hertfordshire and Surrey) have been on this list every year since 2018/19.

Underspends totalling more than £1 million 2020/21		
Local Education Authority	Total underspend £	Agreed LEA actions relating to underspend
Islington**	£2,496,000	Rolling forwards but no breakdown for 3 and 4YOs
Leeds City#	£2,328,000	For 3 and 4 YOs – formed part of overall DSG
Norfolk#	£2,242,000	Used to offset small overspend on 2YOs then put into reserves
Croydon	£1,998,000	Expect to be passed to providers
Barking & Dagenham#	£1,804,000	For SEN support and reserves
Greenwich*	£1,780,382	To be passed to providers
Hertfordshire**	£1,779,000	Rolled forwards
Tower Hamlets	£1,720,000	Offset overspends in other parts of DSG block
Wakefield	£1,611,000	Ring-fenced for EY providers 21/22
Staffordshire#	£1,600,000	For 3 and 4 YOs – rolled on and offsetting deficits
Harrow	£1,566,000	For clawback by DfE and support increased participation in 21/22
Lancashire	£1,520,542	Majority clawed back by DfE
Nottingham City	£1,511,000	Some held for contingency, some for MNS and some to support a base rate increase
Newcastle upon Tyne	£1,251,000	Almost half clawed back by DfE; proposing system to pass rest onto providers
Surrey**	£1,127,000	Carried forward; overspent on 2 YOs

*these LEAs reported underspends of over £1m in 2019/20

** these LEAs reported underspends of over £1m in 2018/19 and 2019/20

#these LEAs reported underspends of over £1m only in 2018/2019

Case Study – Croydon and Greenwich: These two LEAs told us they were giving their large underspends back to providers. Croydon noted that its underspends were “expected to be disbursed to all providers with Schools Forum approval”. Greenwich reported that its underspend “will be re-distributed to Early Years Providers in 2021/22”.

Case study – Surrey Council: although Surrey reported a **£1.13m** underspend for 2020/21, it has previously seen the highest underspends in previous years. They told us they had underspent their 2019/20 budget by **£3.732m** which remained within the early years block. The previous year, Surrey reported the biggest underspend we have ever uncovered totalling **£5.157m** but at the time Surrey had not disclosed any plans to use this money. For 2020/21, Surrey overspent its two-year-old funding by **£372,000** so the underspend in part covered this and no decision had been made to use the remaining underspend.

Case study – Barking & Dagenham: This council also underspent by **£1.520m** in 2018/19 which was put into its DSG reserves. Barking makes the **£1m** underspend list again this year for 2020/21 with a higher underspend of **£1.804m**. They reported that an unspecified amount of this money is earmarked for early years SEN support, with the balance going into the DSG reserve.

Cumulative underspends

Looking back over our research, **55 LEAs** (36% of LEAs) have reported an underspend every year since 2018/19. A total of 116 LEAs have given us a usable response for all three years, so that means that 47% of total responses over the three-year investigation have consistently reported underspends.

Looking at these consistent underspenders, almost two thirds of these rolled on their underspends or gave us no information about what they did with the money. A further 16 LEAs used this money earmarked for early years places to offset other deficits within their DSG budget.

Just over a quarter (27%) gave some of this funding back to providers in the form of an increased funding rate, one-off payment or setting up a hardship fund.

The vast majority reported a cumulative underspend figure of more than **£1m** over the three years. The highest cumulative underspend was reported by Surrey who told us about more than £9m in underspends over the three years. The LEAs between them reported underspending more than **£115m** in total.

DfE adjustments or “clawbacks” as reported by LEAs

24 LEAs reported in their response to us that they had experienced an adjustment or a ‘clawback’. This was either reported against their overall early years budget position, or broken down into two-year-old or three and four-year-old spending areas. Some councils reported a ‘clawback’ but did not provide details of the amount. Others were able to provide their budget positions before and after any ‘clawback’ had taken place.

A further **10** local authorities told us that they expected a ‘clawback’/adjustment from the DfE but could not confirm this or any amount that might happen at the time of responding (November 2021 -February 2022).

LEA	Overall early years budget		2 year old funding		3 & 4 year-old funding	
	Reported claw back/adjustment	Over/under spend after claw back/adjustment	Reported claw back/adjustment	Over/under spend after claw back/adjustment	Reported claw back/adjustment	Over/under spend after claw back/adjustment
Barnsley	£142,424.00	Unspecified underspend	£74,788.00	£34,105.00	£67,636.00	£15,997.00
Bath & NE Somerset	£275,110.00	£145,654.00	Unspecified	£24,551.00	Unspecified	£121,103.00
Bexley	Unspecified	£589,000	Unspecified	£111,000	Unspecified	£478,000
Buckinghamshire	£392,000.00	£268,000.00	Unspecified	Unspecified 2s underspend	Unspecified	Unspecified 3s&4s underspend
Cambridgeshire	£467,000.00	-£347,000.00	Unspecified	Unspecified 2s underspend	Unspecified	Unspecified 3s&4s underspend
Camden	Unspecified	Unspecified underspend	Unspecified	Unspecified 2s underspend	Unspecified	Unspecified 3s&4s underspend
Coventry	£284,924.00	Unspecified underspend	£49,125.00	£331,717.00	£235,799.00	-£310,610.00
Darlington	Unspecified	Unspecified underspend	Unspecified	Unspecified 2s underspend	Unspecified	Unspecified 3s&4s underspend

Derbyshire	Unspecified	-£974,000.00	Unspecified	£90,000.00	Unspecified	-£1,050,000.00
East Sussex	£670,000.00	Unspecified underspend	£114,000.00	£87,000.00	£556,000.00	£86,000.00
Lancashire	£1,195,214.00	£325,328.00	Unspecified	Unspecified 2s underspend	Unspecified	Unspecified 3s&4s underspend
Liverpool	at least £218,360.00	at most £699,230.00	Unspecified	Unspecified 2s overspend - "offset savings made elsewhere"	£218,360.00	£712,573.00
Newcastle	£477,000.00	£774,000.00	Unspecified	Unspecified 2s underspend	Unspecified	Unspecified 3s&4s underspend
North East Lincolnshire	£121,000.00	£11,000.00	Unspecified	£58,000.00	Unspecified	-£12,000.00
North Tyneside	£120,683.00	£78,218.00	£23,746.00	-£21,023.00	£96,927.00	£99,241.00
Nottingham	£647,000.00	Unspecified Underspend	£180,000.00	£161,000.00	£486,000.00	£684,000.00
Peterborough	at least £484,177.00	-£484,177.00	Unspecified	Unspecified 2s underspend	Unspecified	Unspecified 3s&4s underspend
Redbridge	£381,923.00	-£22,306.00	Unspecified	Unspecified 2s underspend	Unspecified	Unspecified 3s&4s underspend
Slough	Unspecified	£165,000.00	Unspecified	£16,000.00	Unspecified	£149,000.00
Southend on Sea	Unspecified	Unspecified Underspend	£27,720.00	£280.00	Unspecified	£211,000.00
Torbay	£97,000.00	£8,000.00	Unspecified	Unspecified 2s underspend	Unspecified	Unspecified 3s&4s underspend
Tower Hamlets	-	-	£160,000.00	Unspecified 2s underspend	£580,000.00	Unspecified 3s&4s underspend
Warrington	Unspecified	Unspecified Underspend	Unspecified	£518,100.00	Unspecified	£115,261.00
Warwickshire	£619,000.00	£262,000.00	Unspecified	-£201,000.00	Unspecified	£771,000.00

Conclusion

Over the three years of conducting this research we have tracked underspends of more than **£180 million**. This breaks down into; **£63 million** in 2018/19, **£62 million** in 2019/20, and now **£55.2 million** in 2020/21.

The proportions of LEAs with underspends has remained high at **80%**. This means that millions of pounds of public money, which has been designated by the Government to deliver funded early education for our youngest children, is still not reaching the providers on the frontline. These are the people who are delivering high quality early education and care services to children and working families. This underspend amount should be seen alongside analysis of the Tax Free Childcare (TFC) scheme which showed that it was underspent by **£2.4 billion** over four years as a result of low take-up.

Throughout the pandemic and since the end of 2020/21, providers have faced a number of challenges in operating. Ofsted data on joiners and leavers of the early years register has shown a net loss of nurseries and pre-schools while NDNA's own analysis of closure data has shown increased rates of nursery closures. Settings in areas of deprivation have been most affected.

At the same time the sector has faced an increase in the workforce crisis which existed before the pandemic but has been exacerbated by it. The joint research by the Education Policy Institute and NDNA showed the early years workforce shrinking over the pandemic and providers struggling to recruit the staff they need as demand increased in late 2020/21. This picture has continued into 2021/22.

All budgets set aside for early years must be ring-fenced so that they can only be spent for that purpose, especially when parents are struggling, children need additional support and providers are facing a challenging recovery from the impacts of Covid-19.

The Government has announced additional funding of **£160m** to increase the hourly rates for 2022/23. However, this investigation has revealed **£55.2m** has been underspent at the end of the last financial year. While neither amount is enough to address the years of chronic underfunding of early years places, ensuring that money set aside for early years and childcare reaches providers should be a priority.

In reality, the underspend figure is likely to be higher as **18** LEAs failed to disclose any information under the FOI request or gave incomplete or unclear data. Equally in many cases in which LEAs have used some of their underspend to increase the provider base rate, they have not given details of how much of the underspend was used in this way and whether any amount was left to carry forward.

We are still seeing funding pressures on SEND and the High Needs Block and these should be addressed. It is vital that children with identified additional needs in early years can access the support that will make a life-changing difference to them at this crucial stage of their development.

The Government recently announced increases to National Living Wage (NLW) and National Minimum Wage (NMW) rates which will be due from April 2022. With NMW rising by as much as 9.8% and NLW increasing by 6.6% at the same time as inflation is running at over 5%, this will significantly increase providers' delivery costs because salaries make up about three quarters of the average nursery's total outgoings.

For those nurseries who are going to receive the full **17p hourly rate** increase in April, this is still only a **3.9%** rise compared to statutory wage increases of **around 6 - 9%**. However, we know that ten local authorities will not receive the full 17pph increase and not all LEAs plan to pass through the full rate increase to providers due to pressures on other elements of their budgets.

Despite two previous years of reporting on underspends in early years budgets, this year's research shows a shockingly similar picture with **tens of millions** still not finding its way to the frontline. This is funding intended to support children's early education and development but it is not reaching those children.

As a matter of urgency, the Government must address this situation and set out plans to radically reform and overhaul the way childcare support is funded, ensuring funding follows the child to support their development in their crucial early years. This approach must also support the sustainability of providers so they are available and able to provide the early education and childcare that families need.

Urgent recommendations

- The Department for Education (DfE) should bring forward a comprehensive review of how early education and childcare is funded. This must:
 - Ensure funding follows the child it is intended to support
 - Reduce the administrative burdens on LEAs and providers to ensure time and funding is spent on education and care for children
 - Annually review the true delivery costs of high quality care and education and ensure that the funding rate reflects these
 - Maximise the understanding and uptake of childcare and early education support among parents
- The underspends and budget adjustments/claw-back reported must be investigated and any underspends should be invested in high quality early education and care
- The DfE should ring-fence all early years block funding to ensure it is only spent on children's early education and care. All additional funding for early years should be ring-fenced to ensure it is passed through to providers
- To support the educational recovery of children from disadvantaged backgrounds the early years pupil premium should be brought in line with the rate paid to primary schools
- The DfE must ensure there are adequate resources in the High Needs block of the DSG to fully support all children with additional needs
- The DfE should investigate the cause of overspends in two-year-old funding to understand whether the funded places would be viable if more eligible families take up places
- The DfE should bring forward a requirement for local authorities with an underspend in their early years block to consult with providers on how that can be used to support children
- The Government should extend the current business rates discount for childcare businesses to ease the burden of increased costs in the coming financial year.

Appendix A – Text of FOI Question

FOI request – Local Authority funding for free entitlement for two, three and four-year-olds

Financial year 2020/21

1. Did you have any underspend or overspend in the early years block in 2020/21?
2. Please provide information about any **underspend** in the early years block for two-year-old places in 2020/21 including the amount of any underspend and what actions, if any, were agreed relating to this underspend.

OR:

Please provide information about any **overspend** in the early years block for two-year-old places in 2020/21 including the amount of any overspend and what actions, if any, were agreed relating to this overspend.

3. Please provide information about any **underspend** in the early years block for three and four-year-old places in 2020/21 including the amount of any underspend and what actions, if any, were agreed relating to this underspend.

OR:

Please provide information about any **overspend** in the early years block for three and four-year-old places in 2020/21 including the amount of any overspend and what actions, if any, were agreed relating to this overspend.

ⁱ For the purposes of this exercise, NDNA has **not** included information from Isles of Scilly and City of London local education authorities due to their small size.