

School Readiness – Early Education Funded Places Uptake

1. National Data

- The national data is taken from the spring census, which is a snapshot based on children on roll/attending during the 3rd week of January. This includes all children that are accessing provision in Lancashire, regardless of where the children live. It therefore includes children that live outside of Lancashire's administrative boundaries and excludes children that are accessing provision in another local authority area.
- As can be seen from the table below, Lancashire has made considerable progress in the percentage of two year olds that are accessing provision.
- 80.2% of two year olds were accessing provision in the spring census 2023 compared to 69.1% in 2019.
- The take up of 2 year old provision in Lancashire is now above both the England and Northwest averages for the first time.
- The take up of 3 & 4 year old provision remains consistently high.

Table 1: 2,3 & 4 Year Old Take Up

Area	Description	2-year-olds					3 and 4-year-olds				
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
England	Number of registered children	148,751	143,439	124,543	135,410	124,211	1,277,137	1,271,544	1,211,991	1,212,234	1,196,031
	Estimated percentage of eligible children registered	67.8%	69.2%	61.8%	71.9%	73.9%	93.4%	92.9%	89.7%	92.3%	93.7%
Northwest	Number of registered children	24,286	23,724	21,082	22,655	20,785	171,016	171,376	164,200	163,124	161,485
	Estimated percentage of eligible children registered	73.6%	72.2%	67.3%	76.2%	79.1%	96.2%	96.3%	93.5%	95.5%	97.3%
Lancashire	Number of registered children	3,243	3,210	2,705	3,279	3,027	27,019	27,153	26,223	25,790	25,707
	Estimated percentage of eligible children registered	69.1%	68.6%	62.2%	76.0%	80.2%	96.9%	98.0%	96.6%	98.2%	99.6%

2. Local Data

- Local data is calculated based on the number of children accessing provision across the full term, rather than the snapshot census week.
- The local data only includes children that live in Lancashire and access provision in Lancashire. It does not include Lancashire children that access provision elsewhere as we do not hold that data.
- As can be seen from the table below, improvements have been made in two year old take up across all Lancashire districts.
- Target areas for the last twelve months have been Preston, Pendle, Hyndburn, Rossendale, and Burnley and apart from Preston, we now have over 80% of children in these areas taking up a two year old funded place, which is considerable progress. Although Preston is the area with the lowest take up, good progress is still being made.
- The reason take up is above 100% in some areas, is due to the timing of the population figures from the DfE as some families may have become eligible and accessed provision since the latest DfE data was provided. In addition, Lancashire also has 5 categories of 'discretionary criteria' (e.g. children in need, child protection, portage, GRT families and children of armed forces personnel residing in Lancashire), so these children are included as taking up a place but are not included in the DfE population figures supplied to us.

Table 2: Local Data 2 Year Old Take Up

District	Spring Term 2021			Spring Term 2022			Spring Term 2023			% Increase from 2021
	Eligible Population (DfE)	No. of children	% take up	Eligible Population (DfE)	No. of children	% take up	Eligible Population (DfE)	No. of children	% take up	
Burnley	547	385	70.4	560	463	82.7	500	422	84.4	14.0
Chorley	304	221	72.7	286	266	93.0	239	250	104.6	31.9
Fylde	177	112	63.3	174	131	75.3	114	120	105.3	42.0
Hyndburn	447	275	61.5	470	364	77.4	407	339	83.3	21.8
Lancaster	458	364	79.5	410	389	94.9	404	382	94.6	15.1
Pendle	467	279	59.7	504	372	73.8	392	326	83.2	23.4
Preston	662	426	64.4	672	514	76.5	604	473	78.3	14.0
Ribble Valley	76	51	67.1	84	69	82.1	85	94	110.6	43.5
Rossendale	272	175	64.3	249	200	80.3	206	177	85.9	21.6
South Ribble	287	205	71.4	267	246	92.1	254	219	86.2	14.8
West Lancashire	340	229	67.4	344	313	91.0	291	269	92.4	25.1
Wyre	314	235	74.8	286	243	85.0	248	213	85.9	11.0
Unknown		2		11	6	54.5	28	16	57.1	57.1
Total	4351	2959	68.0	4317	3576	82.8	3772	3300	87.5	19.5

3. Take up by Vulnerable Groups

- The following two tables show the take up of 2,3 &4 year old places by vulnerable group.
- The BSiL Senior Children's Operational Group has identified take up for vulnerable groups a stretch priority for the coming year.
- Education Service, Children & Family Well Being Service and Children's Social Care are working closely to ensure improvements are made in these areas.

Table 3: Local Data 2 Year Old Take up Vulnerable Groups

Vulnerable Group	Spring 22			Summer 22			Autumn 22			Spring 23			% Changes	
	No. of 2 Year Olds	No. of Children Accessing	% Take Up	No. of 2 Year Olds	No. of Children Accessing	% Take Up	No. of 2 Year Olds	No. of Children Accessing	% Take Up	No. of 2 Year Olds	No. of Children Accessing	% Take Up	% Change from Previous Term	% Change From Same Term Last Year
Children Looked After	94	59	62.8	95	55	57.9	79	46	58.2	71	30	42.3	-16.0	-20.5
Children In Need	75	51	68.0	76	53	69.7	67	35	52.2	70	45	64.3	12.0	-3.7
Child Protection	45	32	71.1	39	28	71.8	56	34	60.7	50	35	70.0	9.3	-1.1
Children & Family Well Being Cases	159	92	57.9	175	102	58.3	159.0	100.0	62.9	174.0	103.0	59.2	-3.7	1.3

Table 4: Local Data 3 & 4 Year Old Take up Vulnerable Groups

Vulnerable Group	Spring 22			Summer 22			Autumn 22			Spring 23			% Changes	
	Total No. of 3&4 Year Olds	No. of Children Accessing	% Take Up	Total No. of 3&4 Year Olds	No. of Children Accessing	% Take Up	Total No. of 3&4 Year Olds	No. of Children Accessing	% Take Up	Total No. of 3&4 Year Olds	No. of Children Accessing	% Take Up	% Change from Previous Term	% Change From Same Term Last Year
Children Looked After	108	77	71.3	108	75	69.4	132	88	66.7	149	97	65.1	-1.6	-6.2
Children In Need	148	133	89.9	151	124	82.1	159	134	84.3	158	128	81.0	-3.3	-8.9
Child Protection	62	48	77.4	97	77	79.4	122	101	82.8	108	91	84.3	1.5	6.8
CFW	317	252	79.5	404	313	77.5	353.0	261.0	73.9	363.0	293.0	80.7	6.8	1.2

4. Quality of Access

- The percentage of children accessing good or outstanding provision remains high at just under 96% for 2 3 & 4 year olds with just under 96% as can be seen in the tables below:

Table 5: Quality of Access 2 Year Olds

Year	Term	District	% Good or Outstanding
2022/23	Spring	Burnley	99.48
2022/23	Spring	Chorley	100.00
2022/23	Spring	Fylde	92.44
2022/23	Spring	Hyndburn	88.01
2022/23	Spring	Lancaster	99.22
2022/23	Spring	Pendle	86.34
2022/23	Spring	Preston	97.72
2022/23	Spring	Ribble Valley	91.76
2022/23	Spring	Rosendale	100.00

Year	Term	District	% Good or Outstanding
2022/23	Spring	South Ribble	96.92
2022/23	Spring	West Lancashire	98.19
2022/23	Spring	Wyre	100.00
2022/23	Spring	Lancashire	95.92

Table 6: Quality of Access 3 & 4 Year Olds

Year	Term	District	% Good or Outstanding
2022/23	Spring	Burnley	98.1
2022/23	Spring	Chorley	99.0
2022/23	Spring	Fylde	95.7
2022/23	Spring	Hyndburn	89.1
2022/23	Spring	Lancaster	97.5
2022/23	Spring	Pendle	93.6
2022/23	Spring	Preston	94.8
2022/23	Spring	Ribble Valley	95.2
2022/23	Spring	Rosendale	99.3
2022/23	Spring	South Ribble	92.3
2022/23	Spring	West Lancashire	96.8
2022/23	Spring	Wyre	94.7
2022/23	Spring	Lancashire	95.6