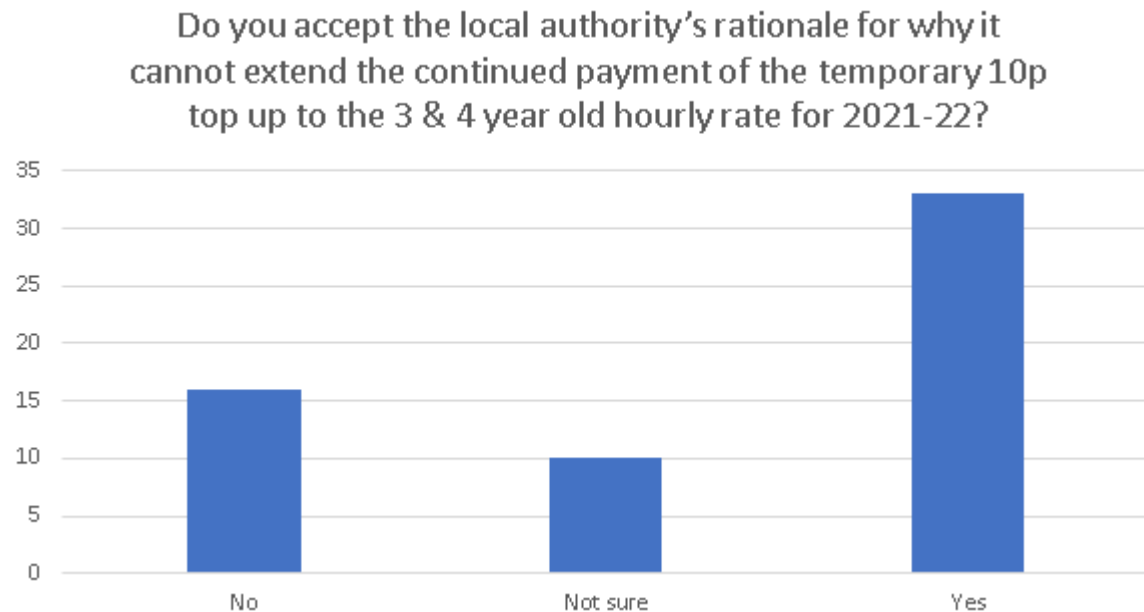


# 2021-22 School Consultation Responses

## Question 1

**Do you accept the local authority's rationale for why it cannot extend the continued payment of the temporary 10p top up to the 3 & 4 year old hourly rate for 2021-22?**



Options	Total	Percent%
No	16	27.12%
Not sure	10	16.95%
Yes	33	55.93%

## Comments

- My expenses increase yearly
- Though I understand the rationale it is difficult to accept any drop in funds
- I understand the 10p uplift was only for the one year- however with talk of further 44 million coming to early years to support the funding rate it's difficult to totally understand the rate
- The early years sector had been hit hugely by Covid. I have lost several children during the pandemic and I need to seriously consider my future as a childminder. Funded hours are less than my hourly rate, so I am already losing out.
- I am a childminder who has an assistant. I have not been able to claim any of the government help through the pandemic. I got told I couldn't put my assistant on furlough because I claimed funding off the government. I have the same amount of children on funding hours as I did last year, but minders who have no funding got theirs paid for this term. So yet again I'm losing out.
- The 10p top up is not enough as it is. The government should invest more widely into Early Years Education

- We are in desperate need of support to survive this financially challenging time, as we negotiate our way through to a more stable future. We have already suffered staff losses as a direct result of the Pandemic and the coming year is uncertain
- Completely understand the reasoning. Also completely disheartening considering the challenging and difficult circumstances in which Early Years Settings are finding themselves.
- My hourly charge for a child's place is £5.25ph I am not incentivised to offer funded places as my business loses income on every place offered. Places will be limited if reductions are made as this is not sustainable for me.
- I'm sure had we as a PVI sector not had filled our forms out we wouldn't have got our funding. Schools need to be treated the same way regardless.
- I understand why the 10p top up cannot be extended but think this could have been avoided if actual head counts were considered in September.
- Early Years has suffered enough since Covid pandemic. Our setting has struggled to fundraise as a result of this and we rely on government funding a top up of 10p to the 3 and 4 year old hourly rate is surely not asking too much.
- Whilst I appreciate this money was pulled from underspend in previous years, the council has not explained how it will ensure/monitor underspend doesn't happen in the upcoming year. The fund should be distributed out timely and shouldn't be a reserve fund for future years. Early Years providers need access to the funds at this difficult period now.
- I don't accept the rationale. Being a private EY provider, I have experienced a substantial decrease in private (outside funded hours) intake at the nursery during Covid pandemic. The funding/hour fee payment is very low comparing to the actual costs of employing staff and other costs of running the nursery. The 10p increase allowed us to, partially, 'bridge' the gap, but not eliminate it. Therefore, taking it away, will negatively impact our ability to provide care and pay the bills. As far as your concerns of overspend in the sector, this is a problem for the Government not the providers; we have remained open to care for the children of key worker, and other that not having to pay business council tax, we have not received any help from the Government whatsoever. The funding we received for the summer term, just covered our wages bill and no more. We lost 90% of our private income for that term, we had to furlough staff, but their pension and full holiday pay continued at our cost. Example - 6 children on 3/4 years old funding generate £26.38/h; Cost of employing 2 practitioners on minimum wage (just wage pay without NI or Pension contribution) to take care of this group of children - £17.44/h Surplus - £8.84 to cover all other associated costs, not mentioning the profit that we can re-invest to provide better care and education for our children. Not a very optimistic or 'pretty' picture!"
- I didn't know it was temporary.
- Our evidence is that less Children are accessing the funding meaning that the council are still holding on to money from Central Government which should be distributed to early years providers. With only a 6 pence increase in 3-4 year old funding less the 10 pence means that settings are 4 pence per hour down on last year with a 20 pence per hour increase in living wage plus pension and NI. Settings will now be worse off and all what will happen is that the non-funded children will pay more, and service fees will have to be introduced for all Children accessing early years funding.
- The removal of the 10p increase will impact greatly my provision. The government increase of 8p per hour and then the additional cost to minimum wage means that I will be operating at even more of a loss. This needs to remain to help the sustainability of provisions. We have also experienced heavy expenses in order to operate, through additional cleaning, additional

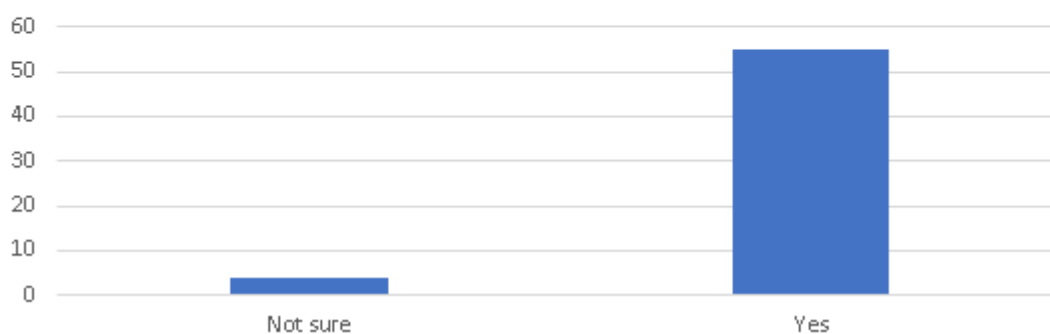
PPE, covering staff absence, handwashing (soap and hand towels), additional support for children who have been impacted and much more. We have been delivering above and beyond the funding amount for many years and now you want us to deliver for nothing. No business can sustain such loss.

- just as times are hard for the local authority, the sector is on its knees with years of underfunding and COVID19 has added to the financial pressure we are all under.
- Although it is recognised that the Early years Funding formula must be sustainable, the 10p top up is much needed to ensure the continuation of many provisions. Due to Covid there are now additional expenses such as PPE, extra cleaning and covering staff absences which need to be drawn from somewhere.
- The increased payment in Autumn 2019 ensured we were able to continue operating.

## Question 2

Do you understand that the expected increase in the 2021-22 hourly rate, to be announced by the government by 18th December, will be passed on to providers?

Do you understand that the expected increase in the 2021-22 hourly rate, to be announced by the government by 18th December, will be passed on to providers?



Options	Total	Percent%
No	0	0.00%
Not sure	4	6.78%
Yes	55	93.22%

## Comments

- Hopefully it will balance out!
- we hope the rate will be passed on in full once announced
- This is not guaranteed, so I cannot rely on this going forward.
- This still does not afford us the amount required to provide adequate funds to sustain our business.
- Hoping the Government support the sector as promised and enable Council to subsequently pass on any additional funding to providers.
- I feel that childcare businesses have been seriously let down by government this year and many will go out of business. I have no faith that we will get what we deserve.
- Yes, this should be passed in full 100%
- Any increase in funding will be greatly appreciated!
- Yes, but again this does not cover the increase in operational costs.
- Although it is minimal in comparison the additional costs we are have already had and the rise in minimal while welcome has added even more pressure onto an already stretched Early Years.
- Does the LA agree with the rationale behind the sector's agreement to increase the rate of retention (which fell in line with the temporary 10p uplift) and understand that this rationale may change now that the 10p has been removed from our budgets?

**In consideration with the proposed changes to the hourly rate, do you have any comments or concerns about the impact of this on your provision**

- Obviously the pandemic has and is having significant consequences to our business and that of parents, the change in the hourly rate needs to reflect the hardships that we are all going through and should be enough to help us sustain our businesses, we are not going to be able to put up our prices for the foreseeable future as our families just cannot afford this. as well as facing rises in wages and general running costs.
- My expenses increase yearly. I could have all my children at the same time claiming the 30 hours how do I pay my increase bills with no extra funds coming in.
- Our numbers have dropped significantly with Covid, so the provision is impacted all round!
- the impact on my provision will be felt greatly- the last year has put even more financial pressures on already pressured finances- whereas the funding scheme for the Autumn Term helped many providers with low 3-4 year olds I think the sector still has low occupancy and sustainability is an ongoing issue
- I have a child of my own so am only allowed to care for 2 others. If I received funding for 2 children, it currently would give me an income of 8.70 an hour before expenses. It would be nice if the funding added up to living wage or minimum wage plus a little more to allow for expenses. Low funding means for many this is not a viable business so i am not surprised that many childminders are choosing not to continue.
- Huge concerns about whether I can afford to stay open. This will just compound matters. Fellow childminders I know already refuse to take funded children - I met be forced into making this decision too if my work has so little value.
- It's costing me more money on paper towels for the children extra cleaning products.
- After a difficult year any expected increase should be passed on to us the providers. We are having to increase our outgoing in April 2021 due to the rise in the minimum wage increase and therefore an increase to incoming fees would be welcome. We charge no top up fees and therefore a child attending 30 hours is totally free to attend for the parents and their fees to us are completely paid via the funding.
- Obviously, with the pandemic having had the effect it has had on the nurseries and take up of places low, which impacts on income and therefore sustainability the removal of the 10p is not ideal. However, we knew the extra 10p was temporary, but it would have really helped if it could have been continued into the next financial year. Any additional increase in the hourly rate will be very well received at a time of uncertainty.
- I am concerned that the 2021-22 funding increase will not be enough, particularly given the removal of the temporary 10p per hour top up. The number of children attending the nursery is lower due to reduced take up/ restricted visiting times due to Covid/ reduced nursery capacity to provide space for additional staff rooms in order to reduce contact between room groups within the nursery. Financially it is going to continue to be a real struggle for the next year or two, until things can go back to normal and parent's confidence has increased. However, I also understand that the government and local authority will have been hit hard financially due to the current crisis, and we all need to seek an approach that is prudent but also enables us to get through the difficult times.
- Even an increase will continue to pose a financial challenge to our future.
- We are already beginning to access our charity reserves this term and we are very lucky that we have been able to build those up over the last few years in preparation for such events (although we could never have anticipated this)! This term has been considerably hard for us, an influx of two year olds starting but only with minimal sessions as parents are

understandably nervous. We have a high degree of children needing specialist support and interventions but with all services stretched and a backlog of waiting lists there are additional pressures placed on setting to deliver and support. We are finding this hard when funding is low and will remain low. Every penny really does count at this moment in time!

- I think the hourly rate should be much more attractive to encourage providers to offer the funded places. When you take into account the resources and food that we provide before our wage is taken, in most cases we fall below the national minimum wage. We should not have to take on more children to get a good wage. We should be paid the appropriate rate to provide care which provides us with an appropriate salary.
- A reduction in funding will mean that fewer places are offered to funded children as this is unfortunately not sustainable. My hourly rate is £5.25ph and this is how much I need to earn per place to ensure I can meet all my obligations.
- Our setting continues to be affected by the pandemic. Our numbers have still not recovered and increased cleaning materials, wages for extra cleaning when the children have left is all taking its toll on our future sustainability. Our setting did not benefit from any grants as we rent a hall from the scouts.
- Early Years is always underfunded and as a sector we are struggling as is especially with the Free Word.
- As a small school any change in the hourly rate will have an effect on us
- Continuing low birth rate plus increased costs relating to Covid continue to make it difficult to operate viably. The loss of the top up payment will have a further effect on already tight finances.
- The hourly rate is so low that it doesn't even cover the increase in the living wage let alone the pensions, then there are utilities and rise in all costs. This then has to be passed onto the parents the nursery cannot be sustained on these funding figures, if we have better hourly rate, I would not need to increase the nursery fee's year on year and parents and nurseries would both benefit.
- It is very concerning the impact of ever rising costs not only to do with reducing COVID risks and associated staffing, but also living and minimum wage increases alongside large increases to supplies and disposables. This is economically a very challenging and worrying time and know that whilst the local authority will fight for funding in these uncertain times it is a real concern for the ongoing of funded provision. Whilst we aim to be a qualified and skilled workforce, I am concerned about maintaining high quality on a shoe-string budget.
- If the headcount from September 2020 were the fees that were paid rather than taking the higher numbers from September 2019 this could have been avoided. With the current situation in the country I think even more childminders will have to stop work and we've lost quite a lot this year already.
- Since Covid staff have had to work extra hours to maintain high standards of cleaning. I believe the hourly rate should be increased.
- In the report it mentions double funding providers, surely this is down to the poor process where parents are given freedom to move between providers as they like. Surely if we have a process where parents have to have confirmation from existing provider or transfers can only happen at the start of a term, we can check an online portal before we sign a child up. This would be more beneficial for all.
- We need to ensure the funding that is assigned to providers is paid in full to them as far as possible and it's the councils provider agreement that is not in line with the gov template that puts Nottingham city providers at a disadvantage. Here is a link.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/free-early-years-provision-and-childcare-model-agreement?fbclid=IwAR1fMX3->

[xsYeISYeRLQbAaieLibYJ1pn1Q1cQN5h3Ds66ZdOhWcKqZgswWA](#) . We operate across 3 local authorities and the Nottingham City provider agreement appears to be the one that puts providers like us at an unfair disadvantage when it comes to claw backs for attendance, notice periods when these are outside of our direct control. Other LA's appear to do this much better. There may be lessons across the county boundaries we should look at. I am happy to feedback in person, I just don't know who I should link in with to pick these discussions with.

- It should have no big impact on my setting
- I do still believe that especially in these difficult times we should be able to ask parents and carers to top up their payments to meet our hourly rates
- The EY Childcare and Education is underfunded. The government via Ofsted wants a greater emphasis on education in the EY sector, the view that we fully support. Yet, Level 3 Early Years Practitioners, who are generally paid the living wage (or just above), have a qualification designed for childcare and child safety, in most cases they are not ready/able to deliver high quality EY education due to the limitations of their training. If the Government wants our children to enter school education well prepared for the primary curriculum, EY providers must be able to afford to employ EY teachers as well as Level 3/4 practitioners - and this costs more money in wages. Wages for the majority of nursery employees has increased substantially over the last two years while the funding for childcare has remained static. The temporary 10p was needed and should remain as a minimum increase in April 2021. If we don't receive a substantial increase to funding soon, our future as EY private provider will remain very uncertain.
- This will have no impact.
- We will have no choice but to reintroduce the service charge for funded Children (3-4 yr olds) which we scrapped last year with the 10 pence extra payment. I really just don't understand how this is acceptable to award, in effect, a lower hourly rate than last year. I find your newsletter quite insulting and very Patronising with the heading "Good News" In effect you are calling the providers of Childcare stupid in believing this to be good news. How can a 4 pence reduction be "Good News"
- With increases to minimum wage things will be difficult
- Yes...we are a small team, and this has helped us to remain afloat over this last 9months. The additional payment of the 10p has supported us to help more children who have been impacted and support the children who were unable to attend through regular catch ups on zoom or other platforms to continue their education. We have cut our cloth as thin as we could, both myself and my business partner both work within provision all the time to cut staffing costs. This in its self has but untold stress on our health's. We have no more give and if you feel your need is greater than ours and take away the 10p we will have no choice other than to cut the services we have been offering to children and their families. In truth you may at a later stage have the additional funds again however at what cost and to whom.
- The increases in settings outgoings expected this year due to NMW increase, increased spending due to covid19, (cleaning, staffing, etc) and potentially less children accessing on top of a cut in funding is a perfect storm waiting to happen and settings will close. The impact on the mental health of myself and staff is huge and exhausting and a cut in funding feels like a kick in the teeth.

- It will have no impact because off all the on line work and the site a pain to get on and work and having to think of new passwords all the time when the children that I have now have gone to school I will take no more 15 or 30 hour
- It is disappointing that the proposed rate changes for 2021-22 are not higher and it is a big concern that these small rises (and an end to the 10p top up) will actually be enough to continue running over the longer-term. Our pupil numbers continue to be down, additionally we are advised to cap numbers for Covid safely and we have new costs as a result of the pandemic. For a sector that has continued working hard through the pandemic to provide quality care, this raises seriously concerns over long-term sustainability.
- Yes; my setting has lost considerable income arising from the pandemic. Everyone in the sector is concerned about their long term sustainability and whether they will survive a second period of lockdown given the likely impact on attendance as parental confidence falters again.
- Numbers have fallen dramatically during the pandemic and i worry about future sustainability for the setting.
- We don't agree with it, but nothing we can do about that.
- It will increase fees for pageants and make it increasingly difficult to provide a Susanne provision. The government needs to wake up and realise that the early years sector is grossly underfunded!
- Funding needs to keep up with at least min wage annual increase