

Surveys on childcare and early years in England

Consultation document

March 2018

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# Introduction

This consultation seeks user perspectives on two surveys that are released as Official Statistics by the Department for Education as part of [statistics on childcare and early years:](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-childcare-and-early-years)

* [The Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/childcare-and-early-years-survey-of-parents-2017)
* [The Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/childcare-and-early-years-providers-survey-2016).

**Who this is for**

Academic institutions, Government organisations, business individuals, representative bodies, local authorities, membership organisations, charities, individual researchers.

**Issue date**

The consultation was issued on Thursday 29th March.

**Enquiries**

If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation you can contact the team on 0161 600 1725 and ask for Jonathon Blackburn or e-mail [EY.ANALYSISANDRESEARCH@education.gov.uk](mailto:EY.ANALYSISANDRESEARCH@education.gov.uk)

If your enquiry is related to the Department for Education (DfE) e-consultation website or the consultation process in general, you can contact the DfE Ministerial and Public Communications Division by email: [Consultations.Coordinator@education.gov.uk](mailto:Coordinator.CONSULTATIONS@education.gov.uk) or by telephone: 0370 000 2288 or via the [DfE Contact us page](https://www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus).

**Additional copies**

Additional copies are available electronically and can be downloaded from [GOV.UK DfE consultations.](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?keywords=&publication_filter_option=consultations&topics%5B%5D=all&departments%5B%5D=department-for-education&official_document_status=all&world_locations%5B%5D=all&from_date=&to_date=&commit=Refresh+results)

**The response**

The results of the consultation and the Department's response will be [published on GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?departments%5B%5D=department-for-education&publication_filter_option=consultations) in 2018.

## Respond online

To help us analyse the responses please use the online system wherever possible. Visit [www.education.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations) to submit your response.

### Other ways to respond

If you would prefer, you may download a word document version of the form and email it or post it using the consultation questions to structure your response.

By email

* [EY.ANALYSISANDRESEARCH@education.gov.uk](mailto:EY.ANALYSISANDRESEARCH@education.gov.uk)

By post

Jonathon Blackburn, Department for Education, Piccadilly Gate, Store Street, Manchester M1 2WD

## Deadline

The consultation closes on Friday 18th May 2018.

# Executive Summary

The Department for Education is seeking user perspectives on two surveys that are released as Official Statistics and part of [statistics on childcare and early years.](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-childcare-and-early-years) [The Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/childcare-and-early-years-survey-of-parents-2017) provides information on parents with children aged 0 to 14 in England. It covers parents’ and their children’s use of childcare and early years provision, and their views and experiences. [The Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/childcare-and-early-years-providers-survey-2016) collects information on the main characteristics of childcare and early years providers in England, including on the early years workforce.

## The consultation

The Department for Education is seeking user views and perspectives on the following aspects of each survey:

* Frequency;
* Sampling;
* Mode(s);
* Topic coverage; and
* Outputs and approaches to dissemination.

## Contacts

If you would like to discuss further with a member of the Department for Education Early Years Research team, please e-mail either:

Jonathon Blackburn, Senior Research Officer, to discuss the Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents, via [jonathon.blackburn@education.gov.uk](mailto:jonathon.blackburn@education.gov.uk)

Max Stanford, Head of Early Years Research, to discuss the Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers, via [max.stanford@education.gov.uk](mailto:max.stanford@education.gov.uk).

## Next steps

The Department for Education will publish a summary of the consultation and a response later in 2018.

Any changes to the surveys announced in the published response will be introduced from the 2019 surveys onwards.

# Introduction to the user consultation

To maximise the usefulness, relevance, cost-effectiveness and longer-term sustainability of the Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents and the Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers, the Department for Education is seeking user perspectives on various aspects of each survey. The user consultation will inform the design and delivery of each survey from 2019 onwards.

Both surveys are published as Official Statistics. The UK Statistics Authority’s Code of Practice for Official Statistics[[1]](#footnote-2) sets out principles and practices for the production and release of Official Statistics. Principle V1 of the Code, ‘Relevance to users’, sets out practices such as:

* Maintaining and refreshing understanding of the use and potential use of the statistics and data;
* Considering the ways in which the statistics might be used and the nature of the decisions that are or could be informed by them;
* Routinely reviewing user satisfaction with the relevance and usefulness of the statistics and data;
* Addressing, where practicable, the views received from users, potential users and other stakeholders;
* Periodically review whether to continue, discontinue, adapt or to provide the statistics through other means, in discussion with users and other stakeholders.

This user consultation seeks to understand user needs and perspectives in relation to both surveys to maximise their relevance and gain user input prior to any changes being introduced to the surveys.

The Department for Education has set out our plans for developing the Department’s statistics over the coming year, to improve the coherence of our statistics and to further modernise our approach to dissemination[[2]](#footnote-3). [Developing DfE Statistics in 2018](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/682865/Developing_DfE_Statistics_in_2018.pdf) outlines these plans. We are also undertaking user research to better understand how users want to access our data and statistics. We will provide an update on the outcome of that work in due course.

# Background to the surveys

## The Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents

The Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents (CEYSP) is a Department for Education funded cross-sectional survey that provides robust and nationally representative data in England on parents with children aged 0-14, and on children aged 0-14. The survey collects data at a household and child level. The data are currently collected via face-to-face in-home interviews with around 6,000 parents of children aged 0 to 14 years old in England. The survey provides trend data for some questions going back as far as 2004.

The survey collects data on:

* what childcare (formal and/or informal) is used by different types of families;
* take-up of childcare over the survey series;
* parents’ reasons for using or not using childcare and for choosing particular providers;
* parents’ views on the providers they used and on childcare provision in their local area in general;
* costs of childcare and sources of financial support for paying for childcare;
* the influence of childcare arrangements on mothers’ decisions about whether to go out to work and working patterns;
* the home learning environment, including the type and frequency of activities undertaken by parents with their children aged 0-5, such as reading and learning about words and numbers.

The CEYSP began in 2004 and ran annually until 2012-13. Further surveys were conducted in 2014-15 and 2017. Outputs from the survey are released as an Official Statistic via a Statistical First Release (SFR). The 2017 survey fieldwork ran from January – August 2017 with outputs published on the 21st December 2017[[3]](#footnote-4). The 2018 survey will follow the same annual timelines.

The 2014-15 and 2017 surveys also incorporated a follow-up survey of parents that agreed to be re-contacted for further research 6-18 months after mainstage fieldwork. The 2014-15 follow-up survey focussed on parents’ views and demand for 30 hours of free childcare, with the findings published in January 2017[[4]](#footnote-5). The 2017 follow-up survey will be in field over April-June 2018 and will focus on parents of 3-4 year-olds, exploring changes in their childcare use and employment since the introduction of the 30 hours of free weekly childcare policy for working parents of 3-4 year-olds. The 2017 follow-up survey findings will be published in October 2018.

## The Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers

The Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers (SCEYP) is a Department for Education funded survey that provides robust and nationally representative data on providers in England, including: group-based providers (childcare providers who operate on non-domestic premises); school-based providers; and childminders (practicing childminders on the Ofsted register).

The survey collects a wide range of data including information on

* attendance and spare capacity within early years settings;
* use of funded places;
* workforce qualifications and pay; and
* the reported costs of providing childcare.

The data is currently collected via telephone interviews with a nationally representative sample of c.10,000 providers in England.

The SCEYP began in 1998 and was repeated in 2001, 2003 and then annually between 2005 and 2011. Further surveys were conducted in 2013 and 2016 with the latter being published in February 2017[[5]](#footnote-6).

Outputs from the survey are released as an Official Statistic via a Statistical First Release (SFR). In 2018 the survey will move to being annual again with fieldwork March – June 2018. Also in 2018, a mode experiment is being carried out, trialling data collection by web and telephone. A short online financials survey that will yield data at a local authority level is also being tested.

# The consultation: proposals and questions

This section describes key aspects of each survey that the Department for Education is seeking user views and perspectives on, and lists consultation questions.

## The Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents (CEYSP)

### Use of the survey data

The Department for Education would like to hear more about how external users make use of the survey data, what the data influences or informs, how long they have used the data for, and how they anticipate they will use the survey data in the future.

| Please tell us:   1. How you make use of the survey data and what it influences or informs; 2. What data you make most use of; and 3. How you anticipate making use of the data in the future. |
| --- |

### Frequency of the survey

The Department for Education proposes for the survey to be annual over 2018, 2019 and 2020. The survey is a key data source for enriching the department’s evidence base on childcare and early years particularly given the increased Government investment by 2020 in childcare and early years provision. Each annual survey will also include a follow-up survey of parents that agreed to be re-contacted for further research 6-18 months after mainstage fieldwork.

We would welcome user views on the frequency of the survey up to 2020 and on the survey frequency in the longer-term.

| What are your views on the frequency of the survey up to 2020 and after 2020? |
| --- |

### Sample frame

Following a sample frame investigation published in January 2017[[6]](#footnote-7), the survey has used a dual sampling frame: the HMRC Child Benefit Register (CBR) and a sample of higher-earning parents from the DWP Families Resources Survey (FRS) re-contact sample.

We would welcome user perspectives on:

* The suitability and robustness of the current CBR/FRS sampling frame[[7]](#footnote-8).
* The suitability and robustness of alternative sampling frames with reference to the published sampling frame investigation, including views specifically on using the Postcode Address File (PAF) as an alternative.
* What the impact would be on your use of the statistics if any changes were introduced to the sampling frames.

| Please tell us your views on:   1. The current sample frames used for the survey; 2. The suitability and robustness of alternative sample frames such as the Postcode Address File; and 3. The impact any changes introduced to the sample frames would have on your use of the statistics. |
| --- |

### Sample coverage

The survey collects data from a representative sample of 6,000 parents with a child (or children) aged 0-14 in England. Sample boosts are conducted for each survey and tailored to key evidence needs each survey year: the 2017 survey involved sample boosts of 2-4 year-olds, boosted by a factor of 2 relative to their incidence in the population. The 2018 survey involves sample boosts of 2-4 year-olds by a factor of 3 relative to their incidence in the population.

The age range of the sample is due to the survey collecting data on childcare use among pre-school children aged 0-4 and among school-aged children aged 5-14. The data collected for school-aged children focusses on topics such as holiday and wraparound childcare. The data yielded from the survey on parental employment is primarily on mothers with children aged 0-14. Sub-group analysis of parent and child demographics such as parent work status, family income and family structure is most robust for the 0-14 age range and less robust just within just the pre-school age range or just within the school-age range.

Despite the sample boosts of 2-4 year-olds in 2017 and 2018, the survey does not meet all user needs; especially the size of the sample for pre-school children and children aged 2-4 eligible for the Government’s funded childcare hours[[8]](#footnote-9). The topic coverage of the overall survey is also increasingly weighted towards pre-school children. The sample coverage of children aged 0-14 limits the analysis potential among pre-school children who are a key group of interest and of policy relevance, especially for different demographic groups of parents and children within the 2-4 year-old age range eligible for the Government’s childcare support via funded childcare hours.

We therefore propose to make changes to the sample coverage of the survey to allow for a larger sample of parents of pre-school children. Changes could potentially include:

* Sampling parents of children aged 0-5 years-olds only, focussing the survey on children aged up to 5 years-olds that have yet to begin Year One at Primary School (so inclusive of children in Reception Year or who have deferred or delayed Reception Year). An alternative could be to sample parents of 0-4 year-olds only, focussing the survey on children aged 0-4 of pre-school age that have yet to begin school in Reception Year (which in the majority of cases is the September after the child’s fourth birthday). In both of these scenarios, child date of birth cut-offs could be used during sampling.
* We propose to use alternative approaches to collect data from parents of school-aged children, with one option being to include the older age range (children aged 5 of statutory school starting age, up to children aged 14) every second or third year of the survey series.
* Introducing alternative sample frames and/or survey modes for different age ranges within the sample, for example collecting data from parents of school-aged children aged 5-14 using an alternative mode.

We would be interested in user’s perspectives on these proposals and any ideas and suggestions users may have on the sample coverage. We would also like to hear about any impact on use of the statistics in the event any changes are introduced from 2019 onwards.

| Please tell us:   1. Your views on the current sample coverage of the survey (parents of children aged 0-14) and our proposal to change the sample coverage to focus on parents of pre-school children. 2. What alternative approaches could be used for collecting data about parents of children aged 5-14 of statutory school age? 3. How any changes to sample coverage would influence your use of the statistics should changes be introduced from 2019 onwards. |
| --- |

### Survey mode

The survey is undertaken via face-to-face in-home interviews due to the complexity of the survey questions and the need for interviewer explanation and guidance to support parents to complete the questionnaire. The average interview length in 2017 and 2018 is approximately 45 minutes. However, the average interview length for families where the selected child is of pre-school age is longer than 45 minutes. This means that should the survey population be restricted to pre-school children, there are implications for questionnaire content as survey length would need reducing to minimise burden on parents (there would need to be cuts to the questions directed at parents of children in this age group).

We think it is important that the survey continues, at least in part, to use a face-to-face mode: this will maintain the survey time series and ensure the quality of the survey statistics for release as Official Statistics. However, we would welcome user perspectives on:

* Any modules or topics areas from the survey that may be suitable for collecting via alternative collection modes such as web, postal and/or telephone;
* Conducting a mode experiment to pilot alternative modes of data collection on some modules or topic areas from the survey; and
* What the impact would be on use of the statistics if any changes to the survey mode(s) were introduced.

| Please tell us:   1. Your views on the current survey mode and potential alternative collection modes; 2. Your views on conducting a mode experiment to pilot alternative collection modes; and 3. The likely impact of any changes to the survey mode on your use of the survey statistics. |
| --- |

### Topic coverage

The survey questions cover the following topic areas:

* what childcare (formal and/or informal) is used by different types of families;
* parents’ reasons for using or not using childcare and for choosing particular providers;
* parents’ views on the providers they used and on childcare provision in their local area in general;
* Costs of childcare and sources of financial support for paying for childcare;
* the influence of childcare arrangements on mothers’ decisions about whether to go out to work and working patterns;
* the home learning environment, including the type and frequency of activities undertaken by parents with their children aged 0-5, such as reading and learning about words and numbers.

The questions on the frequency of Home Learning Activities among children aged 0-5 were added to the survey for 2017, while new questions were added to the 2018 survey on awareness, use and impact of the 30 hours of free weekly childcare policy for parents of 3-4 year-olds, and on the role of digital technology in accessing Home Learning among parents of 0-5 year-olds.

We would welcome user perspectives on whether the survey questions cover topics that are relevant and meet user needs, views on content that could be removed, and views on content that could be considered for inclusion in the survey in the future.

| What are you suggestions, if any, for:  a) Additional topics the survey could cover?  b) Amends that would improve the survey?  c) Deletions from the survey? |
| --- |

### Outputs and dissemination

The published survey outputs for the 2017 Official Statistics release were:

* A summary [Statistical First Release](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/669857/SFR73_2017_Text.pdf) report of c.20 pages, summarising headline findings across the survey topics;
* A set of c.20 [main data tables](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/669726/SFR73_2017_Main_Tables.ods) summarising key statistics from the survey across the survey topics;
* A set of c.100 [additional data tables](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/669727/SFR73_2017_Additional_Tables.ods) of statistics from the survey across the survey topics; and
* A [technical report](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/669856/SFR73_2017_Technical_Report.pdf), summarising the survey methodology and technical information about the design, fieldwork, sampling and data weighting used.

The 2017 release did not include a detailed research report as per previous years’ releases. Detailed research reports in previous years have repeated findings already available in the data tables and meant a longer timeline from fieldwork completion to publication. Therefore, a detailed research report was judged by the Department for Education to be unnecessary for 2017 and future releases.

The survey questionnaire, data dictionary, survey data files and user guidance are available on the UK Data Service around 6-8 weeks following the publication of the data[[9]](#footnote-10).

We would welcome user perspectives on whether the current survey outputs meet user needs, any improvements that could be made, or alternative ways to disseminate the survey outputs. The survey data will continue to be released as a Department for Education Official Statistic.

| What are your ideas, if any, for how we could improve the survey outputs, key products and dissemination of results? |
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## The Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers (SCEYP)

### Use of the survey data

We would like to hear how you make use of the SCEYP data, what the data influences or informs, what data is used most and any anticipated future needs.

| Please tell us:   1. How you make use of the survey data and what it influences or informs; 2. What data you make most use of; and 3. How you anticipate making use of the data in the future. |
| --- |

### Frequency of the survey

We are proposing that the survey is run annually in 2018, 2019 and 2020. The survey is a key data source for enriching the evidence base on childcare and early years, particularly given the increased Government investment by 2020 in childcare and early years provision.

We would welcome user views on the frequency of the survey up to 2020 and on the survey frequency in the longer-term.

| What are your views on the frequency of the survey up to 2020 and after 2020? |
| --- |

### Sample

The survey provides robust and nationally representative data on early years providers in England, so the sample includes: group-based providers (childcare providers who operate on non-domestic premises); school-based providers; and childminders (practicing childminders on the Ofsted register). The sample includes reception class providers, wraparound providers who must cater for children under the age of 8 (0-7) and may cater for children up to age 18, and providers of holiday clubs for children under the age of 8 (0-7).

The inclusion of reception classes, wraparound and holiday club providers dilutes the early years focus of the survey, as provision for school-aged children are part of the survey sample. We propose to intensify the early years focus of the survey by either:

1. focussing the survey on providers for pre-school children aged 0-4 alone (excluding reception providers, wraparound providers who do not cater for children aged 0-4, and holiday providers who do not cater for children aged 0-4); or
2. focussing the survey on providers for children aged 0-5 that have yet to begin Year One of Primary School, but excluding reception class providers for children aged 4-5. This means that the survey sample would be inclusive of providers offering early years provision for children aged 4-5 such as summer-born children who delay, skip or defer their reception year and providers offering holiday and wraparound provision for children aged 0-5.

**We are considering not surveying reception class providers after the 2018 survey**. Whilst reception class providers are part of the early years providers market, they are fundamentally different to other providers and the survey questions are less relevant to them. Reception providers tend to be much more integrated with a school, drawing on a main school budget. Statutory ratios and workforce qualifications are different in reception class settings compared to early years settings. As a result the survey questions are not as easy to answer for reception class providers.

In addition, the size of the reception sample is comparatively small meaning the resulting data are less reliable than for the other providers the survey covers.

Data on some aspects of reception provisions, including attendance, is available via the Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics Statistical First Release[[10]](#footnote-11), collected via the School Census. This presents data collected on one day and as such, it does not match the survey data, which uses weighting to gross up survey responses to population levels.

The key areas which the SCEYP collects data on in relation to reception provision, which there are no existing comparable data sources are: workforce, including qualifications and pay (some information is collected at primary school or teacher level via the School Workforce in England collection[[11]](#footnote-12) but is not available for reception only), operating hours, spare capacity, and financial information such as costs of delivery and income.

| Do you agree we should exclude reception providers from the survey after 2018? Please explain the reason for your answer. |
| --- |

**We are considering revising the survey to cover wraparound care for the early years age range only.** Currently the survey collects data about wraparound care for children up to the age of 18 (if provided), but only from early years providers, yielding a partial view of the wraparound market. In addition the results are easily misinterpreted to be in relation to wraparound care for the early years age range, when data could be mainly or partly about non-early years age children (children aged 5 that have started Year One of Primary School and aged up to 18). We have made some improvements to the 2018 survey to enable us to disaggregate the results by age range catered for but we are considering whether it might be clearer and cleaner to focus the survey solely on early years provision.

The spring school census collects information about whether schools offer before school provision and after school provision. If the schools offer provision onsite, information is collected about the number of places, opening times and the service provider. The school census also collects data on whether a provider signposts to offsite providers of before or after school provision. It is possible to identify schools with children in reception (or any other school year) and match these to school census data to determine whether and what wraparound provision they offer. Further, it is possible to run this analysis for all types of schools the census covers, for example what the wraparound provision is in schools with nurseries.

The spring school census would only deliver a partial picture of the wraparound market as it would only be available for providers within scope of the school census. For example, if a private nursery offered before school provision for children of school age that was not signposted to by a school, this would not be captured in the proposed re-design of the SCEYP, where it would be in the historic design of the SCEYP.

| Do you agree we should restrict the survey to cover wraparound care providers for children in the early years age range rather than 0-18 years? Please explain your answer. |
| --- |

**We are considering revising the survey to cover holiday care for the early years age range only.** Currently the survey collects data about holiday care for children aged 0-7, but only from early years providers, yielding a partial view of the holiday care market. In addition the results are easily misinterpreted to be in relation to holiday care for the early years age range, when they could be only, mainly or partly for children aged 5-7 attending school. As with the questions on wraparound care, we have made some improvements to the 2018 survey to enable us to disaggregate the results by age range but we are considering whether it might be a further improvement to restrict the survey to only cover provision for the early years age range.

The spring school census collects information about whether schools offer holiday provision. If the school offers provision onsite, information is collected about the number of places, opening times, the service providers and the number of weeks open. The school census also collects data on whether a provider signposts to offsite providers of holiday provision. It is possible to identify schools with children in reception (or any year group) and match these to school census data to determine whether and what holiday provision they offer. Further, it is possible to run this analysis for all types of schools the census covers, for example what the holiday provision is in schools with nurseries.

The spring school census would only deliver a partial picture of the holiday provision market, as it would only be available for providers within scope of the school census. For example, if a private nursery offered holiday provision for children of school age that was not signposted to by a school, this would not be captured in the proposed re-design of the SCEYP, where it would be in the historic design of the SCEYP.

| Do you agree we should restrict the survey to cover holiday care providers for children in the early years age range rather than 0-8 years? Please explain your answer. |
| --- |

| What are your views on options for refining the sample coverage of the survey to focus on early years provision? Do you favour option a or b outlined on page 16? |
| --- |

### Survey mode

Historically the survey has been administered by telephone. In 2018, we are conducting a mode experiment, trialling the collection of the data via an online survey. We will review the similarities and differences between the results from the online trial and the main telephone survey to determine if there is a mode effect that would impact on the time-series. If the effect is negligible, we propose to offer respondents the opportunity to complete the survey online or by telephone in future years, as this would be more efficient for respondents and would present better value for money.

| Do you agree with the proposal to change the collection method to a mixed mode (online or telephone survey) from 2019, pending the outcome of the mode experiment in 2018? Please explain your answer. |
| --- |

### Topic coverage

We do not envisage making major changes to the topics covered in the survey. However, if you have suggestions for additions, amends or deletions, please let us know.

The survey questions cover the following topic areas:

* Provider characteristics, opening weeks, days and hours
* Attendance and capacity, including spare capacity
* Provision of funded hours for 2 and 3 and 4 year olds, including how flexibly these are delivered
* Staff to child ratios
* Provision for children with special education needs or disabilities
* Workforce, including staff qualifications, pay, age, gender, ethnicity and churn
* Finances, including costs, income, fees, entitlement rates, use of Tax Free Childcare
* Expansion of provision

The survey questionnaire and data files are available on the UK Data Service around 6-8 weeks following the publication of the data[[12]](#footnote-13).

| What are your suggestions, if any, for:   1. Additional topics the survey could cover? 2. Amends that would improve the survey? 3. Deletions from the survey? |
| --- |

### Outputs and dissemination

The published survey outputs for the 2016 Official Statistics release were:

* A summary [Statistical First Release](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/593646/SFR09_2017_Main_Text.pdf) report of 12 pages, with headline findings across the survey topics;
* A set of c.20 main data tables summarising key statistics from the survey;
* A [research report](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/593965/SFR09_2017_Research_Report.pdf) of c.140 pages with most, but not all, results presented for each of the three main provider types;
* A [technical report](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/593650/SFR09_2017_Technical_Report.pdf), summarising the survey methodology and providing technical information about the design, fieldwork, sampling and weighting used.

The data from the survey is available on the UK Data Service, in SPSS format, for those who register to access it.

In future it’s proposed that there will be a summary SFR report, main tables and a technical report as in 2016 and the data will be available, along with a data dictionary, on the UK Data Service. However, instead of a long research report a more focused thematic report will be produced, which draws on more in-depth analysis of the main areas the survey covers.

We welcome views on the survey outputs and suggestions for improvements that could be made or alternative ways to disseminate the survey results.

| What are your ideas, if any, for how we could improve the survey outputs, key products and dissemination of results? |
| --- |

# How to have your say

When responding, please give your:

* Name, organisation and contact details. When responding please say if you are an Academic institution, Government organisation, business individual, representative body, local authority, membership organisation, charity, or individual researcher.
* Please state if you do NOT give permission for the DfE to publish your organisation name in a list of responding organisations.

Please also state whether you would be willing for the Department for Education to contact you, if necessary, to clarify your response or discuss issues raised.

To help us analyse the responses **please use the online system wherever possible**. Visit [www.education.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations) to submit your response. If you would prefer, you may download a word document version of the form and email it or post it using the consultation questions to structure your response.

**By email:** [EY.ANALYSISANDRESEARCH@education.gov.uk](mailto:EY.ANALYSISANDRESEARCH@education.gov.uk)

**By post:** Jonathon Blackburn, Department for Education, Piccadilly Gate, Store Street, Manchester, M1 2WD.

The consultation closes on Friday 18th May 2018.

If you would like to discuss further with a member of the Department for Education Early Years Research team, please e-mail either:

* Jonathon Blackburn, Senior Research Officer, to discuss the Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents, via [jonathon.blackburn@education.gov.uk](mailto:jonathon.blackburn@education.gov.uk)
* Max Stanford, Head of Early Years Research, to discuss the Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers, via [max.stanford@education.gov.uk](mailto:max.stanford@education.gov.uk)

# Next steps

We will summarise all responses, which will be [published on GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?departments%5B%5D=department-for-education&publication_filter_option=consultations) in 2018. The summary will include a list of names or organisations that responded but not people’s addresses or other contact details, or responses attributed to these. If a respondent has indicated that they wish their response to remain confidential, their name or organisation will not be listed. The summary will also describe our response and next steps for the future of each survey from 2019 onwards.



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1. <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/code-of-practice/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/standards-for-official-statistics-published-by-the-department-for-education> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/childcare-and-early-years-survey-of-parents-2017> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/parents-views-and-demand-for-30-hours-of-free-childcare> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/childcare-and-early-years-providers-survey-2016> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childcare-and-early-years-survey-of-parents-sampling-frames> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. 7 See more information in the latest 2017 survey technical report at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/childcare-and-early-years-survey-of-parents-2017> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. <https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. <https://discover.ukdataservice.ac.uk/catalogue/?sn=8318> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/schools-pupils-and-their-characteristics-january-2017> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-school-workforce> [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. <https://discover.ukdataservice.ac.uk/Catalogue/?sn=8166> [↑](#footnote-ref-13)