

Key changes to Somerset's Local Provider Agreement for the provision of the Early Years Entitlement from April 2020.

	From April 2020
Section 1	Children and Young People's Plan has replaced Achieving Excellence for All strategy. Early Years helpline removed
Key LA responsibilities	Moved from Section 2 to Section 15
Eligibility requirements for membership on the Directory of Providers	Now Section 2
Safeguarding and Prevent	New email address to contact the Education Safeguarding Service
Unexplained Absences	2.21 Contact the Entitlements Team if a child is not accessing their agreed entitlement hours for prolonged periods i.e. for 3 consecutive weeks
Early Help	2.28 No longer need to register your EHA at the Early Help Hub.
SEND	Now in Section 2
Quality	Now in Section 2
Administration/records	3.18 Providers must inform the LA when a children in respect of whom funding has been paid, leaves their provision and submit an adjustment where necessary. This must be done via the entitlement claim on the Early Years & School's Portal.
	3.28 Overclaims - Case example to illustrate how funded hours are proportioned when a child attends and claims at more than one provider at the same time.
	3.34 /3.35 Name change of Auditors – The company previously known as South West Audit Partnership is now called SWAP Internal Audit Services.
Charging	Now Section 4
Claiming the Early Years Entitlement	Now Section 5
Payments	Now Section 6
	6.2 All providers must submit entitlement claims electronically via the Early Years & School's Portal.

	6.10 In the event where the setting is closing and has an entitlement debt, late documentation may be received subject to agreement from a LA Senior Manager.
Para 6.21 – 22 in the Provider Agreement Sept 2018 have been deleted.	It is no longer possible to pay an administrative fee to the Entitlements Team to cover admin costs for making corrections to paperwork or forms already submitted.
Over claims of funding	Stage 2 – Estimate reduced to 70% for the next 3 funding periods and referral for business support from the Early Years Team.
	The above sanctions will apply over a period of two consecutive years starting from the date of the warning letter and restarting from any stage above.
Extended Entitlement for eligible three and four year olds.	8.9 If claims are not verified by the given deadline extended hours claims will not be paid.
Reconfirming Eligibility	8.16 It is recommended that providers check the Early Years & School's Portal 30 hours check dashboard regularly and remind parents with an amber or red status about the importance of reconfirming.
Termination and withdrawal of funding	Reasons for removal from the Directory changes to a) and addition of e) a) Two consecutive outcomes that are a combination of 'requires improvement' or 'inadequate'. e) or if the Quality Improvement Plan does not adequately reflect the recommended Ofsted actions for improvement.