



Department
for Education

Early years benchmarking

User guide

November 2015

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Introduction

This document contains a brief explanation of how to use the benchmarking tool and details of the data used within it. For a more detailed explanation of the methodology employed in the calculation of these spreadsheets please see the technical note.

For each of the different strands it is possible to view information for different regions and by type of local authority.

Early Years Funding

All funding for early learning for two, three and four-year-olds is in the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), which is ring-fenced for education purposes for children aged 2 to 16. The Department for Education calculates a total amount of DSG for each local authority and distributes it to them.

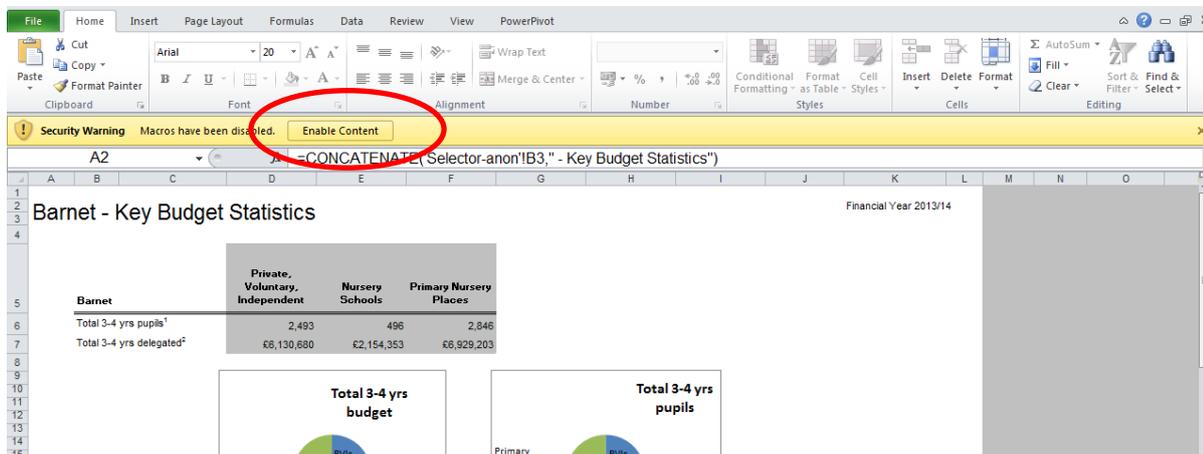
All decisions about the amount of DSG to be spent on early learning are made by local authorities in consultation with their schools forum.

The Department is publishing an **early years funding benchmarking toolkit** and an **early years proforma** for each local authority. Both tools include the projected spend in 2015-16 to deliver early learning places for two, three and four-year-olds and is based on the budget information from the Section 251 data provided by the local authorities.

Early years funding benchmarking toolkit

The funding benchmarking table includes the projected spend on early years providers to deliver early learning places for two, three and four-year-olds. The information is broken down into provider types and includes budget per pupil and budget per hour information.

Before you start, click the “Enable Content” to start using the toolkit.



The benchmarking toolkit allows you to view data for a chosen local authority, with the added option to view data for up to ten of its statistical neighbours.

This worksheet allows you to view data for your own LA along with your statistical neighbours, or with your own choice of other LAs.

Choose LAs

1. Please select your LA

My LA

Choice

2. Then **either** select your statistical neighbours:

Click here to show your Statistical Neighbours

Or make your own selection of LAs using the drop down boxes

3. When you have made your selection, press the "Create Table" button to view the benchmarking table

Create Table

Note: When statistical neighbours are selected, LAs are shown in order of closeness to your LA

Other LAs

Clear LAs to make new selection

1. Click the drop-down button to choose the local authority.
2. If you want to see the data for statistical neighbours click on the button "Click here to show your statistical neighbours"
3. Click "Create Table" to generate the funding data tables.

In this example, the data for Birmingham and its statistical neighbours is selected.

Choose LAs

1. Please select your LA

My LA

Birmingham

2. Then **either** select your statistical neighbours:

Click here to show your Statistical Neighbours

Or make your own selection of LAs using the drop down boxes

3. When you have made your selection, press the "Create Table" button to view the benchmarking table

Create Table

Note: When statistical neighbours are selected, LAs are shown in order of closeness to your LA

Other LAs

Clear LAs to make new selection

Luton

Sandwell

Nottingham

Wolverhampton

Enfield

Waltham Forest

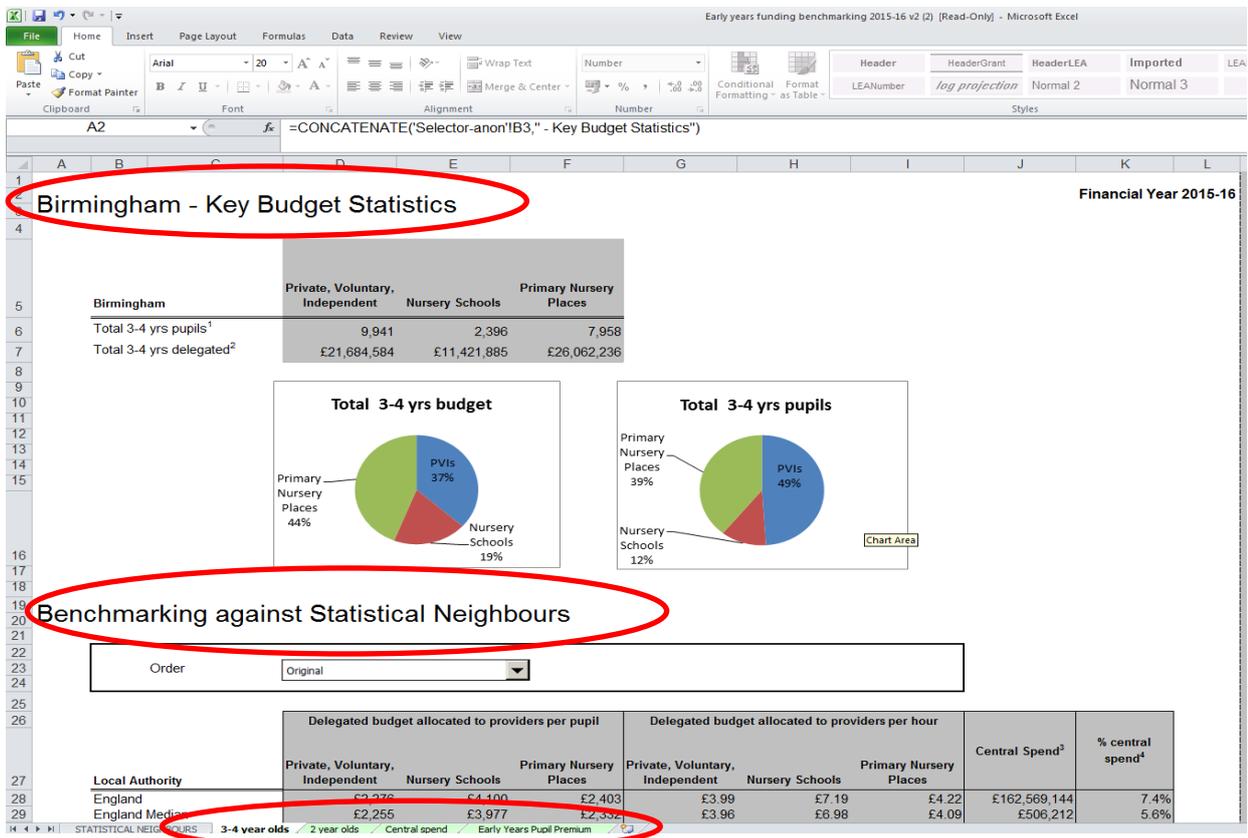
Slough

Manchester

Walsall

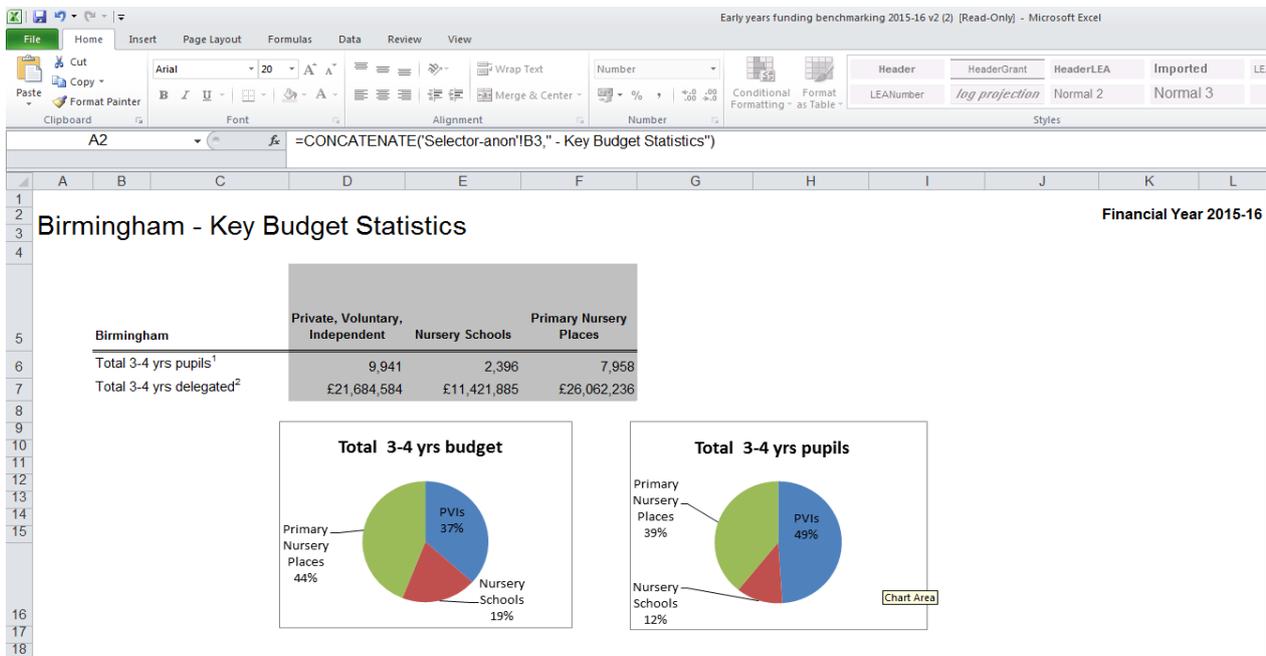
Derby

The toolkit includes separate worksheets for three and four-year-olds, two-year-olds, central spend and early years pupil premium information. Each worksheet is split into two sections: key budget statistics and benchmarking against statistical neighbours.



Key budget statistics

The key budget statistics table shows gives the total number of pupils and the total projected spend (in £000s) on each of the provider types: PVI (Private, Voluntary & Independent), maintained nursery schools and nursery classes within a primary school. For the purposes of this spreadsheet, a child is considered to be the equivalent of 15 hours provision a week for 38 weeks, or 570 hours of provision, that being the same as one child taking their full entitlement for the year. The total delegated budget and the total early years pupils are also represented as pie charts and show in percentages

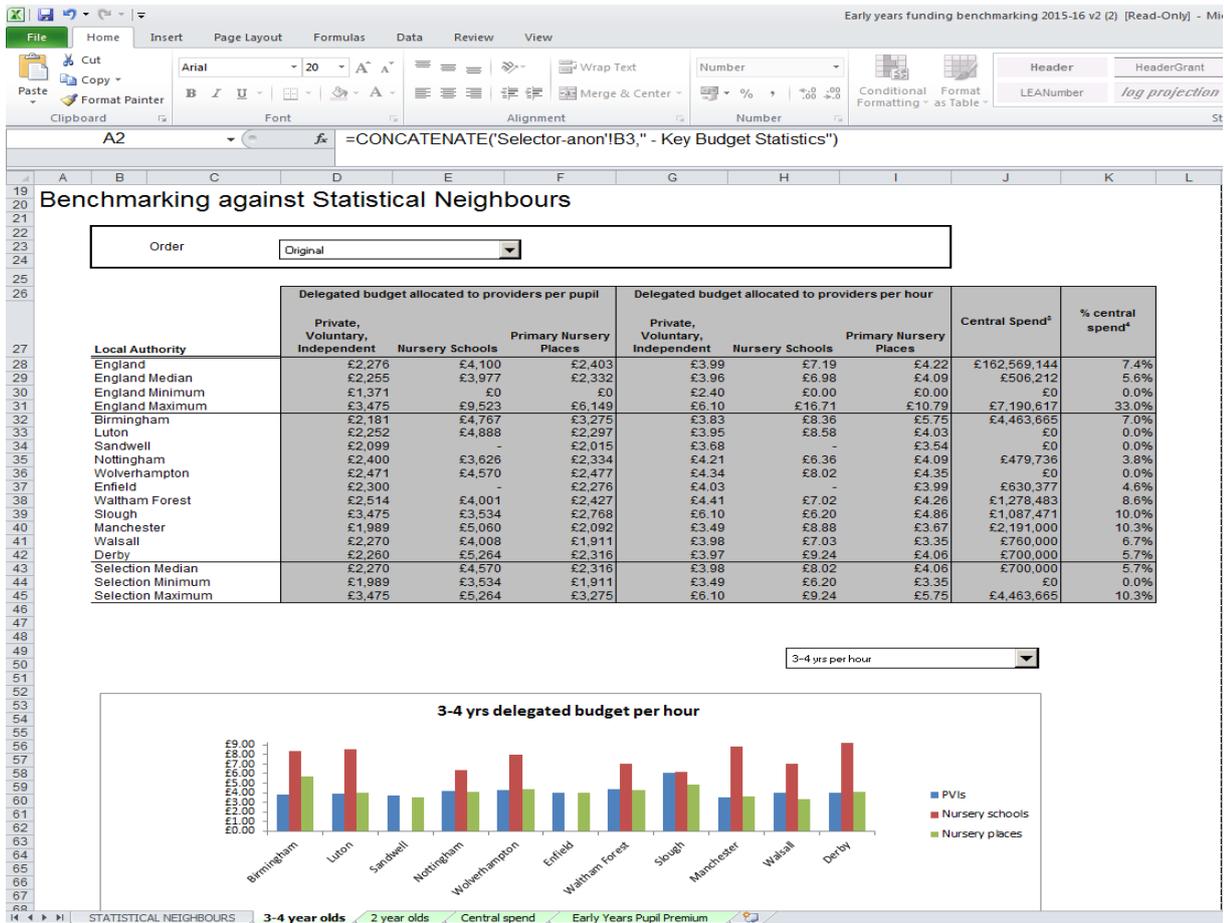


Benchmarking against statistical neighbours

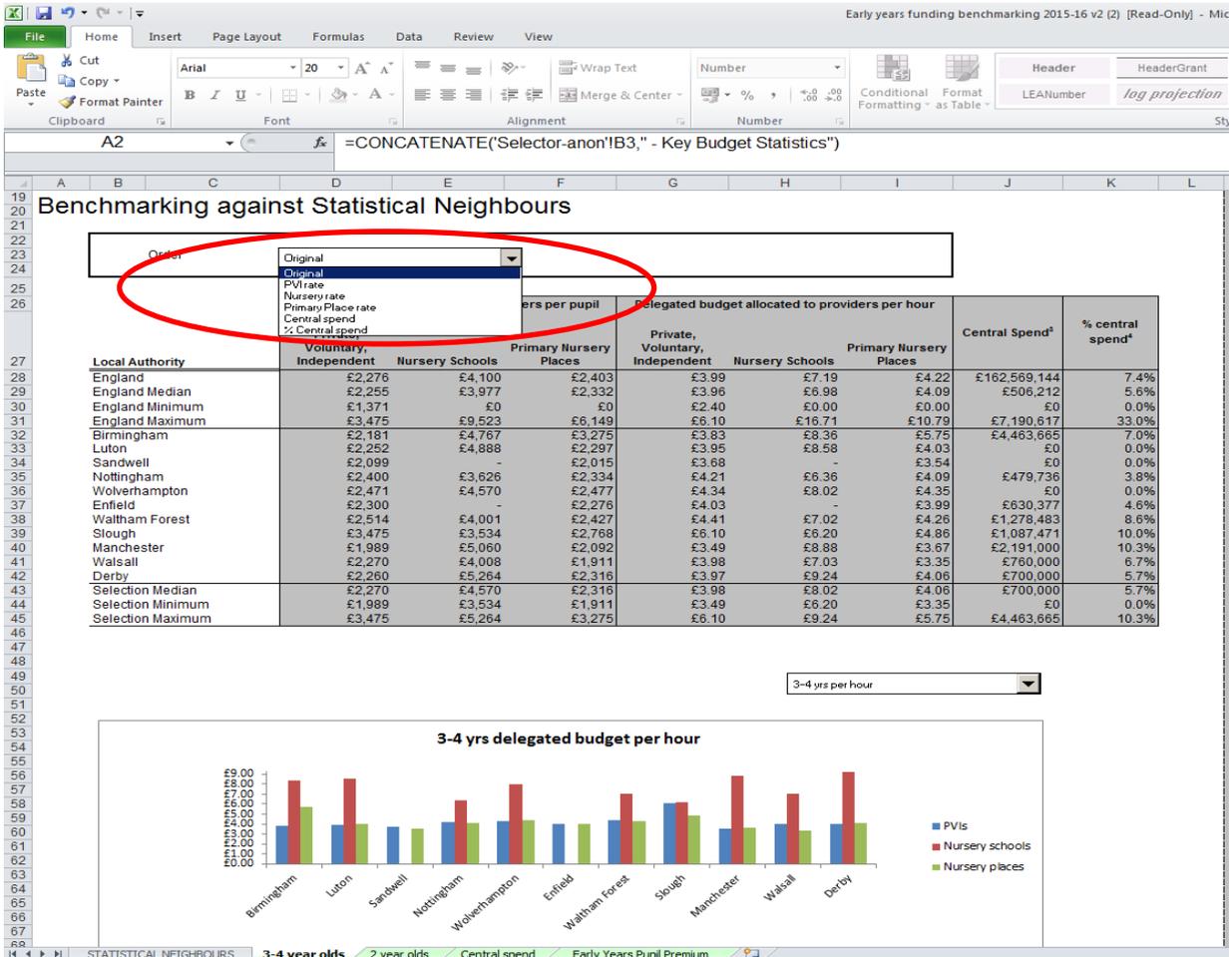
The benchmarking against statistical neighbours section includes a table showing the average cost per pupil and per hour by early years provider types; and the same information represented in a bar graph form.

It is important to note that the hourly rate may not be the actual rate a provider receives. The data presented here is an average for each provider type across individual local authorities.

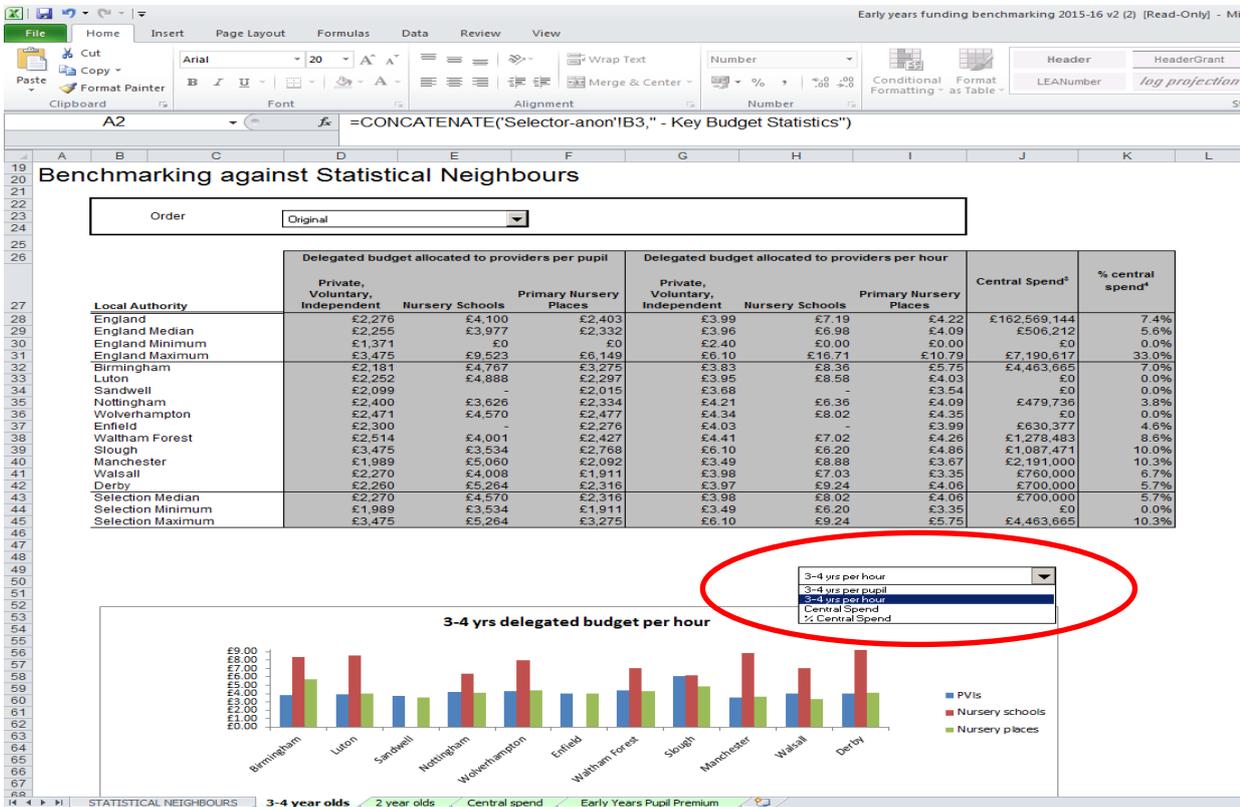
The benchmarking table also shows the England mean, median, maximum and minimum for each provider type. The mean, median, maximum and minimum of the selected local authorities is also included, where possible.



The table can be sorted by each of the columns by using the drop down box.



The graph can be viewed by per pupil, per hour data or central spend data.



Central spend

The benchmarking table for the central spend worksheet includes:

- 3 & 4-year-olds total delegated budget to each provider
- 2-year-olds total delegated budget to each provider
- Total DfE allocated revenue funding for 2-year-olds
- Central spend (this is the sum of early years contingency, early years central retained and additional funded hours beyond the statutory 15 hours a week for PVI's)
- % of central spend against delegated budget for 2, 3 and 4-year-olds

Early years funding benchmarking 2015-16 v2 [Read-Only] - Microsoft Excel

File Home Insert Page Layout Formulas Data Review View

Clipboard Font Alignment Number Conditional Formatting

Header LEANumber *log projection* HeaderGrant HeaderLEA Normal 2

A2 =CONCATENATE("Selector-anon\B3," - Key Budget Statistics")

Benchmarking against Statistical Neighbours

Order: Original

Local Authority	Total 3-4 yrs delegated			Total 2 yrs delegated			Total 2yos DfE allocated revenue funding	Central Spend ¹	% central spend ²
	Private, Voluntary, Independent	Nursery Schools	Primary Nursery Places	Private, Voluntary, Independent	Nursery Schools	Primary Nursery Places			
England	£1,174,789,976	£179,209,911	£682,206,570	£476,470,376	£22,343,583	£21,127,177	£427,678,163	£240,284,328	0.0%
England Median	£5,281,214	£563,433	£4,077,079	£2,726,085	£0	£0	£2,471,995	£997,366	0.0%
England Minimum	£14,389	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£6,726	£0	0.0%
England Maximum	£48,013,735	£11,421,885	£26,062,236	£12,355,661	£2,650,500	£2,659,382	£13,564,860	£8,200,000	100.0%
Birmingham	£21,684,584	£11,421,885	£26,062,236	£12,355,661	£385,748	£46,724	£13,564,860	£4,463,665	5.8%
Luton	£6,605,004	£3,468,531	£1,314,788	£1,784,305	£556,357	£0	£2,599,504	£0	0.0%
Sandwell	£4,148,023	£0	£8,134,272	£3,295,740	£0	£0	£3,223,977	£0	0.0%
Nottingham	£3,695,054	£302,011	£8,050,521	£5,225,587	£67,398	£336,993	£3,634,624	£1,435,736	7.5%
Wolverhampton	£2,127,416	£2,358,003	£6,743,301	£4,890	£4,890	£4,890	£2,801,237	£0	0.0%
Enfield	£7,517,020	£0	£5,639,754	£6,262,972	£0	£260,959	£4,098,072	£630,377	3.1%
Waltham Forest	£5,445,499	£1,229,471	£6,981,721	£3,114,162	£558,096	£602,742	£2,668,512	£5,662,483	24.0%
Slough	£3,337,558	£2,389,148	£4,092,365	£1,646,912	£0	£0	£1,382,108	£1,087,471	8.7%
Manchester	£4,999,959	£1,121,684	£12,988,515	£7,887,000	£0	£0	£8,036,573	£2,191,000	7.5%
Walsall	£2,129,265	£2,912,433	£5,554,248	£2,875,320	£0	£0	£3,052,094	£5,060,000	27.3%
Derby	£4,777,678	£2,558,252	£4,148,176	£3,849,300	£208,211	£89,240	£3,114,670	£720,870	4.4%
Selection Median	£4,777,678	£2,358,003	£6,743,301	£3,295,740	£4,890	£4,890	£3,114,670	£1,087,471	5.8%
Selection Minimum	£2,127,416	£0	£1,314,788	£4,890	£0	£0	£1,382,108	£0	0.0%
Selection Maximum	£21,684,584	£11,421,885	£26,062,236	£12,355,661	£558,096	£602,742	£13,564,860	£5,662,483	27.3%

Central Spend

% Central spend

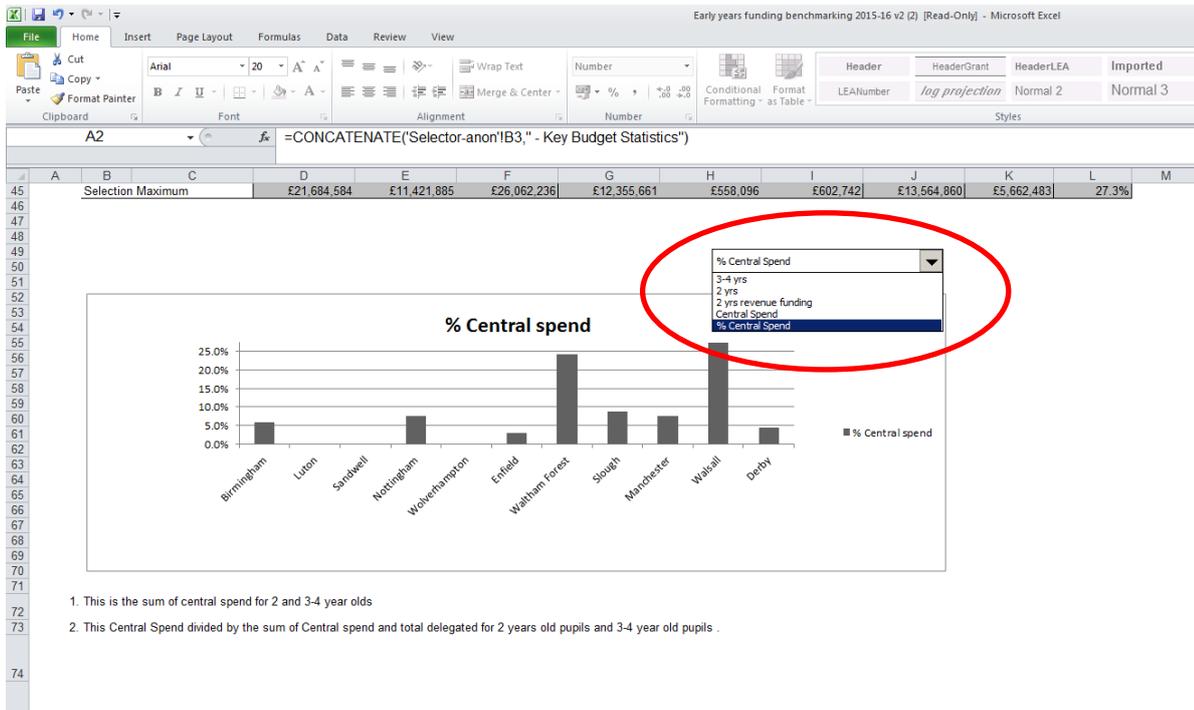
25.0%
20.0%
15.0%
10.0%
5.0%
0.0%

Birmingham Luton Sandwell Nottingham Wolverhampton Enfield Waltham Forest Slough Manchester Walsall Derby

■ % Central spend

STATISTICAL NEIGHBOURS 3-4 year olds 2 year olds Central spend Early Years Pupil Premium

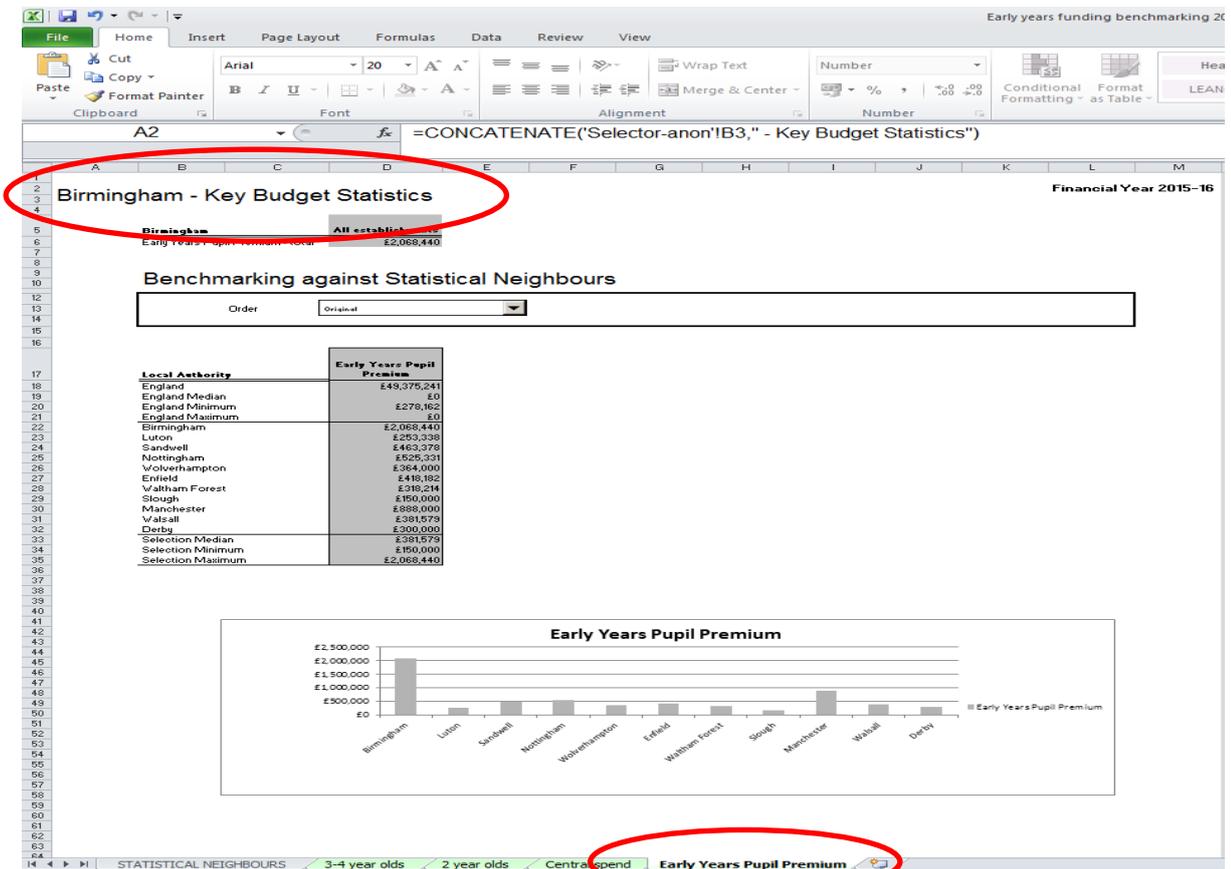
As with the 2-year-olds and 3 and 4-year olds worksheets, the benchmarking table can be sorted by each of the columns by using the drop down box; and the graph can be viewed for each of the columns.



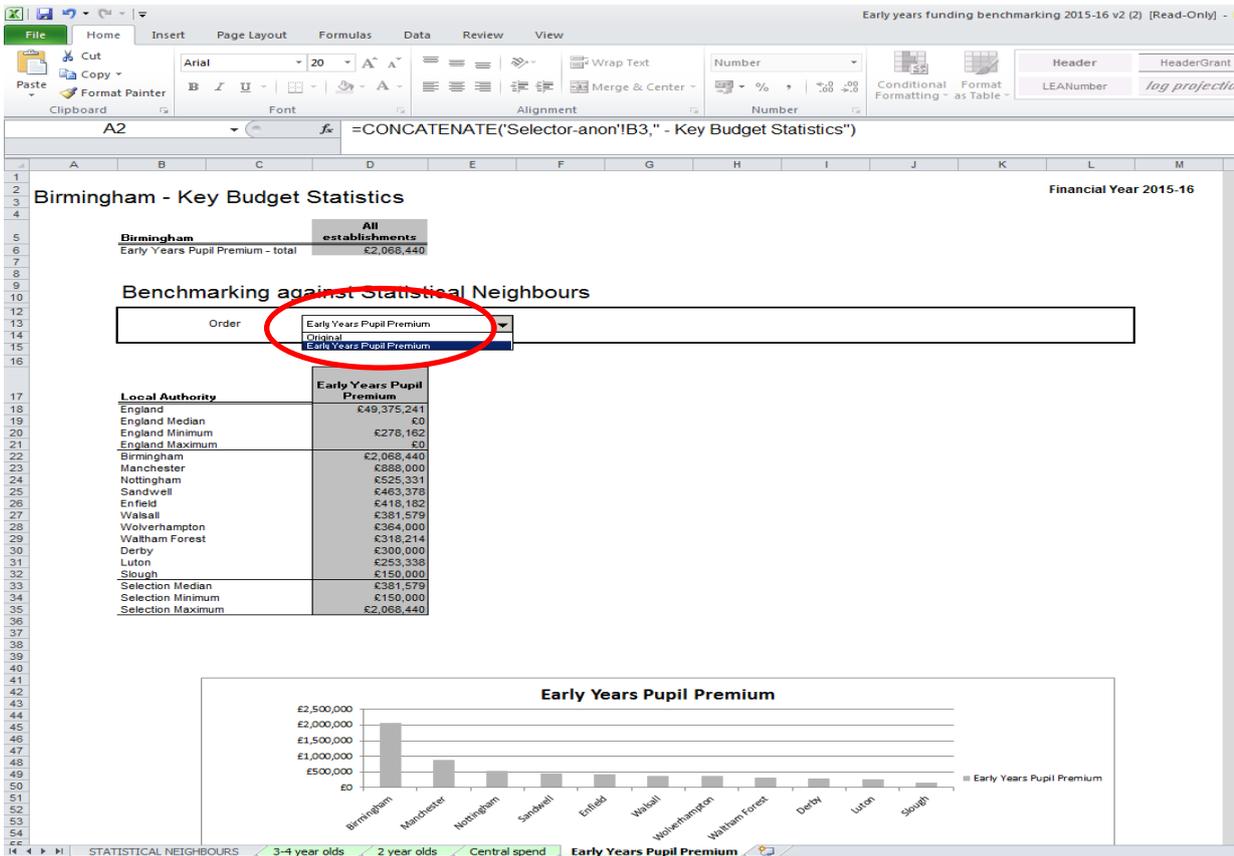
Early Years Pupil Premium

A new tab has been introduced which provides information about the allocated early years pupil premium budgets.

The benchmarking table for the early years pupil premium worksheet includes the allocated budget per local authority against statistical neighbours (but not spilt by provider type).



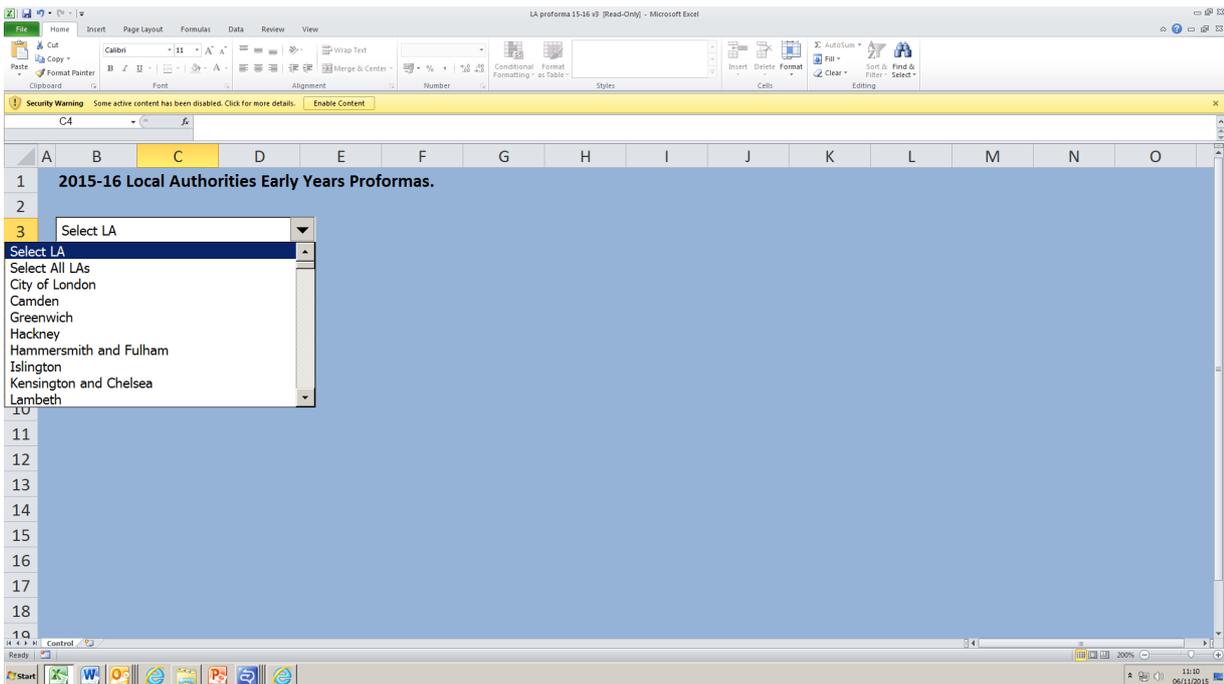
The table also allows you to change the order in which the data is presented by displaying the highest to lowest values by selecting early years pupil premium from the order drop down menu.



Early years proforma

This has been produced by the Department based on the same section 251 returns as the benchmarking tables, i.e. projected spend in 2015-16.

Select the LA from the drop down box:



The early years proforma includes more detailed information on how each local authority allocates early education funding. The proforma is intended to complement the benchmarking tables.

The early years proforma contains, for each local authority, details of:

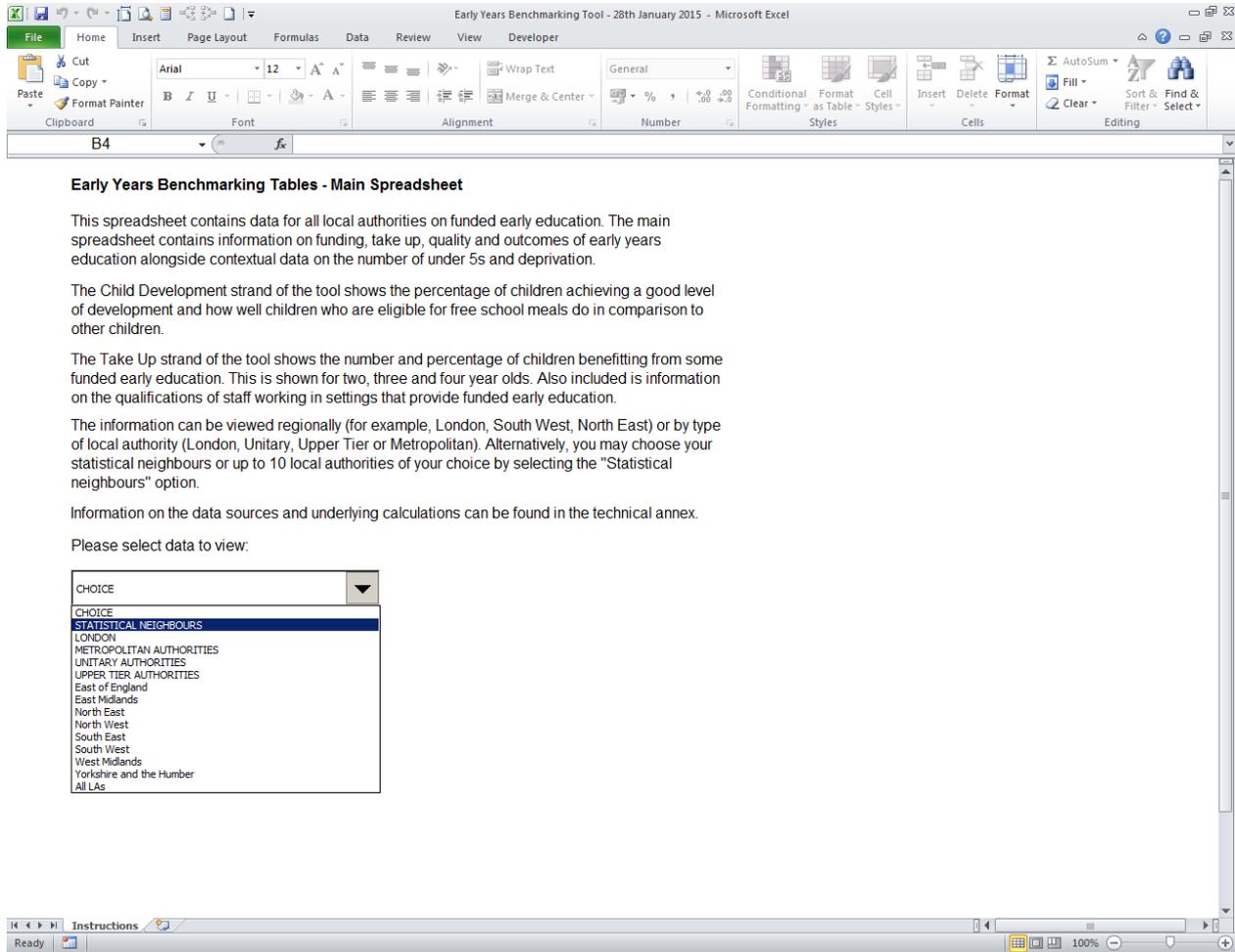
- The early years single funding formula (EYSFF) for two, three and four year olds, setting out the base rates, supplements and lump sums paid;
- Details on any additional hours funded by the authority;
- Information on how early years central spend is utilised;
- The size of early years contingency funding; and
- Early years pupil premium allocation.

The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet titled 'LA proforma 15-16 v3 [Read-Only] - Microsoft Excel'. The main data area is titled 'EY Table: FUNDING PERIOD (2015-16)' for 'Birmingham' with a value of '330'. The table is structured as follows:

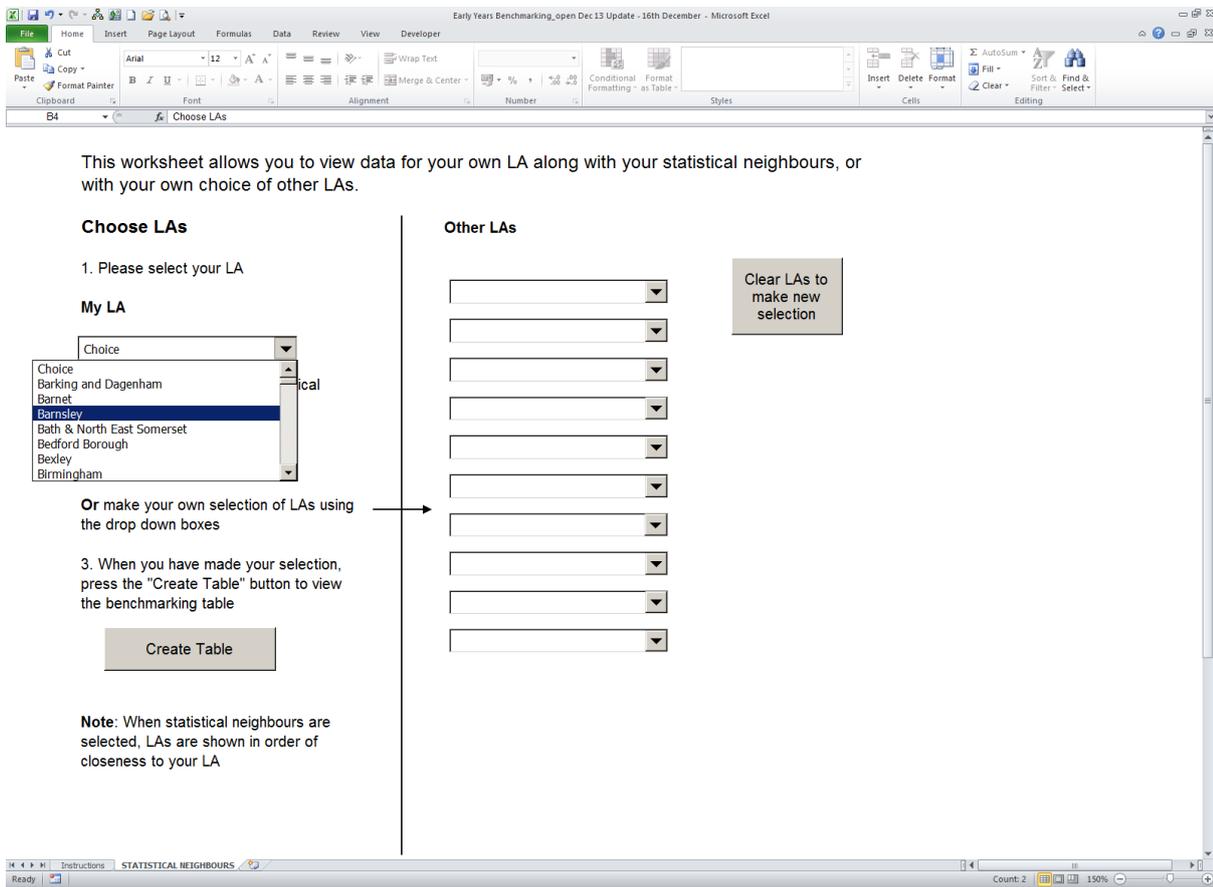
Row Heading	Description	Unit Value			UnitType	Number of Units			Anticipated Budget			Total Budget	Proportion of Funding
		PVI	Nursery School	Primary Nursery Class		PVI	Nursery School	Primary Nursery Class	PVI	Nursery School	Primary Nursery Class		
1. EYSFF (three and four year olds) Base Rate(s) per hour, per provider type	Base Rate	£3.59	£6.30	£4.94	PerHour	5,666,108	1,365,805	4,535,855	£20,341,327.72	£8,604,571.50	£22,407,123.70	£51,353,022.92	67.22%
2a. Supplements (please supply a short note for your supplement payment) - Deprivation	IDACI Top 5%	£0.31	£0.31	£0.31	PerHour	960,969	452,123	1,178,833	£297,900.39	£140,158.13	£365,498.23	£803,496.75	
	IDACI Top 10%	£0.20	£0.20	£0.20	PerHour	1,885,035	669,228	2,337,763	£377,007.00	£133,845.60	£467,552.60	£978,405.20	
	IDACI Top 20%	£0.08	£0.08	£0.08	PerHour	2,866,043	900,121	3,248,814	£229,283.44	£72,009.68	£259,905.12	£561,198.24	
	FSM	£495.00	£495.00	£495.00	PerChild	887	621	925	£439,065.00	£307,395.00	£457,875.00	£1,204,335.00	4.64%
2b. Supplements (please supply a short note for your supplement payment) - Quality	No budget lines entered												
2c. Supplements (please supply a short note for your supplement payment) - Flexibility	No budget lines entered												
2d. Supplements (please supply a short note for your supplement payment) - Sustainability	No budget lines entered												
3. Other formula factors and lump sums (if applicable)	Variable Lump Sum	£80,243.00			LumpSum	1			£80,243.00			£80,243.00	0.11%
4. Additional funded free hours eg full time places (if applicable)	Full Time	£6.30	£4.94		PerHour	330,740	425,980		£2,083,662.00	£2,104,341.20		£4,188,003.20	5.48%

Early Years Benchmarking Tables

Please note the main early years benchmarking table will no longer be updated. The information for 2015-16 will soon be available in the Local Authority Interactive Tool (LAIT).



In addition you can chose to compare your chosen local authority with its statistical neighbours or a selection of up to ten local authorities of your choice. Once you have chosen your local authority and those local authorities to compare it with, you can use the create table button to view the data.



Statistical neighbours are designated local authorities which are deemed to have similar characteristics, using a detailed set of criteria. A more detailed explanation of statistical neighbours can be found in Appendix A of the following guide:

[Detailed explanation of statistical neighbours](#)

The current statistical neighbour benchmarking tool can be found here:

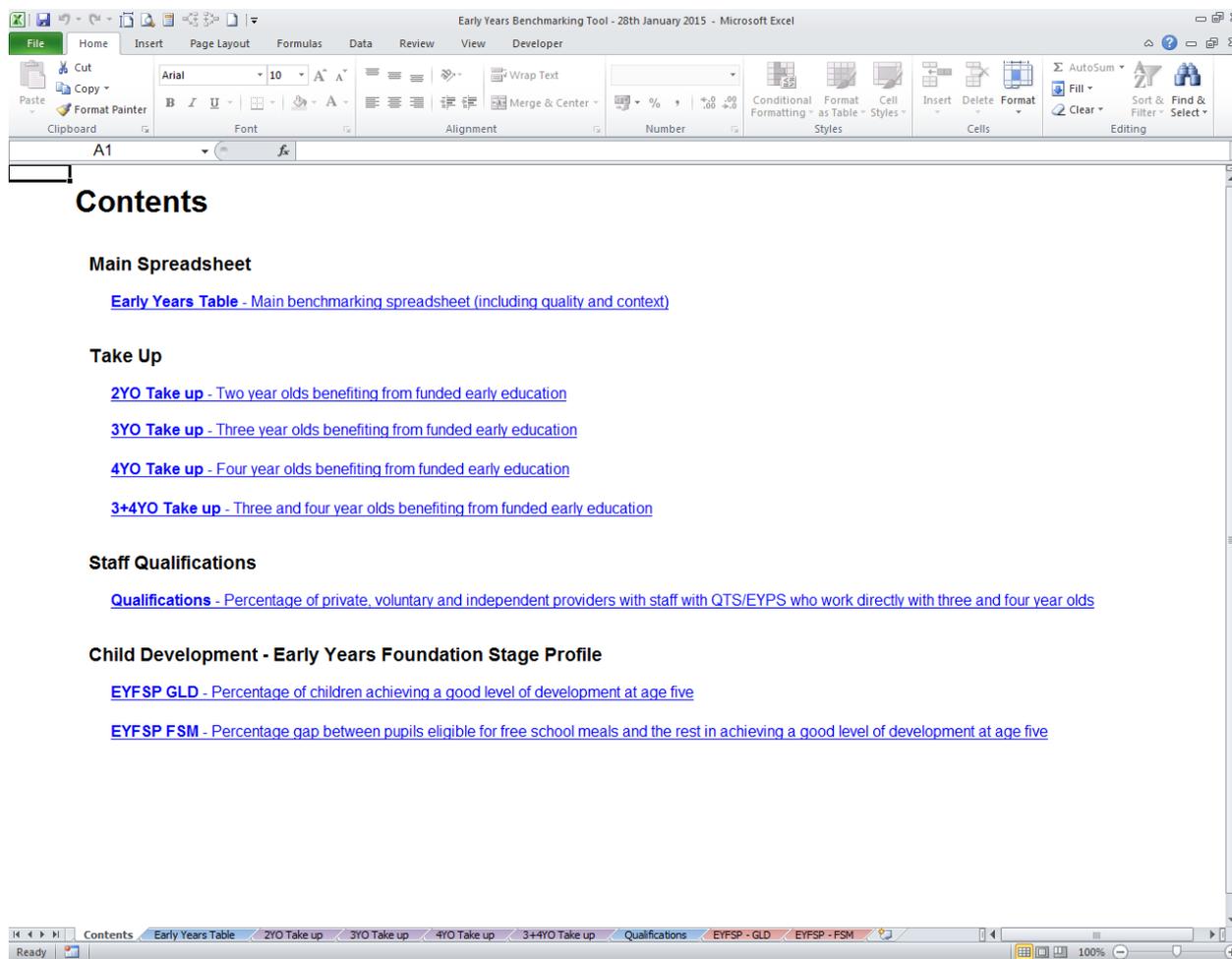
[Statistical neighbour benchmarking tool](#)

The **early years benchmarking tool** is formed of three main spreadsheets. The main benchmarking tool provides summary information on funding alongside detailed information on quality, take up and child development, as measured by the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) profile outcomes, as well as contextual data for each local authority.

In addition to the main benchmarking tool the **early years funding benchmarking tool** provides more analysis on the projected spend in 2015-16 to deliver early learning places for two, three and four-year-olds, including the early years pupil premium. More detailed information on spend is also provided in the **early years funding proforma** which complements the information in the benchmarking tool.

Main benchmarking tool

Once a local authority is selected the user is taken to the contents page.



The user can then click on the hyperlinks to view the different tables.

Main Spreadsheet

The funding columns in this spreadsheet show the average planned spend per hour on two year olds and three and four year olds for each local authority. This data is from 2014-15 section 251 returns.

Early Years Benchmarking Tool - 28th January 2015 - Microsoft Excel

File Home Insert Page Layout Formulas Data Review View Developer

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A1

Early Years Benchmarking - Main Spreadsheet

All LAs

To print use the buttons below.

View Print Preview

Print Table

	Funding		Quality	Qualifications	Take Up		Child Dev	
	Planned spend ¹ on 2 year olds - average rate per hour ² (2014-15)	Allocated hourly rate for 2 year olds ² (2014-15)	Planned spend ¹ on 3 and 4 year olds - average rate per hour (2014-15)	% of childcare and early years settings ¹ rated good or outstanding by Ofsted ² (As at 31st August 2014)	% PVI ² providers with QTS ³ /EYPS ³ graduates working directly with 3 and 4 year olds ³ (2014)	Number of 3 and 4 year olds ³ receiving funded early education ^{10,11} (2014)	Number of 2 year olds ¹² receiving funded early education ^{10,11} (2014)	% of child ¹³ achieving a level of development (2014)
England - Average (mean) or Total	£5.16	£5.09	£4.19	80%	42%	1,299,910	86,640	
England - Average (median)	£5.00	£4.93	£4.04	80%	41%	6,725	455	
England - Minimum	£4.50	£4.85	£2.98	61%	0%	40	0	
England - Maximum	£8.90	£7.08	£9.39	100%	76%	35,590	3,090	
Selection - Average (median)	£5.00	£4.93	£4.04	80%	41%	6,725	455	
Selection - Minimum	£4.50	£4.85	£2.98	61%	0%	40	0	
Selection - Maximum	£8.90	£7.08	£9.39	100%	76%	35,590	3,090	
301 Barking and Dagenham	£5.20	£5.28	£3.83	72%	40%	6,760	680	
302 Barnet	£6.00	£5.53	£4.61	76%	61%	9,140	490	
370 Barnsley	£5.09	£4.85	£4.03	80%	44%	5,610	740	
800 Bath & North East Somerset	£5.00	£5.07	£3.72	84%	51%	3,900	220	
822 Bedford Borough	£5.03	£5.03	£4.03	93%	32%	4,500	220	
303 Bexley	£5.09	£5.28	£3.88	79%	49%	6,140	410	
330 Birmingham	£4.89	£4.89	£5.35	76%	28%	30,670	3,090	
889 Blackburn with Darwen	£4.50	£4.85	£4.03	75%	58%	4,300	340	
890 Blackpool	£4.85	£4.85	£3.86	83%	37%	3,050	160	
350 Bolton	£4.85	£4.95	£4.24	78%	45%	7,600	590	
837 Bournemouth	£4.88	£4.88	£4.06	81%	49%	4,130	420	
867 Bracknell Forest	£5.19	£5.49	£3.85	89%	33%	3,000	140	
380 Bradford	£4.85	£4.85	£5.22	77%	32%	15,770	2,430	
304 Brent	£6.00	£5.53	£4.74	76%	53%	8,070	330	
846 Brighton and Hove	£5.36	£4.85	£4.30	87%	59%	6,120	400	
305 Bromley	£6.00	£5.28	£4.13	89%	36%	8,300	400	
825 Buckinghamshire	£5.33	£5.33	£4.17	83%	43%	12,620	400	
351 Bury	£4.90	£4.95	£3.70	64%	39%	4,840	340	

Ready

The **quality** column shows the percentage of early years settings in a particular local authority that received a good or outstanding rating at their last Ofsted inspection. Ofsted inspects all early years providers at least once every three to four years. Early years registered providers that are inspected as part of a school inspection are not included.

The **qualifications** column shows the percentage of private, voluntary and independent (PVI) settings providing funded early education who have staff with Qualified Teacher Status or Early Years Professional Status working directly with three and four years olds.

The **take up** columns show the number of two year olds and three and four year olds benefiting from some funded early education.

Return to contents
Return to instructions

	Child Development (EYFSP) ¹³		Context		
	% of children achieving a good level of development ^{14,15} (2014)	% gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and the rest ^{15,16} (2014)	Number of 0-4 year olds ¹⁷ (Mid-2013)	% of children taking the EYFSP ¹⁵ who are eligible for free school meals ¹⁸ (2014)	% of 3 and 4 year olds ³ receiving funded early education ^{10,11} in PVI ⁸ providers (2014)
England - Average (mean) or Total	60%	19%	3,414,130	18%	42%
England - Average (median)	60%	19%	17,531	17%	38%
England - Minimum	41%	6%	97	5%	3%
England - Maximum	76%	34%	91,284	41%	67%
Selection - Average (median)	60%	19%	17,531	17%	38%
Selection - Minimum	41%	6%	97	5%	3%
Selection - Maximum	76%	34%	91,284	41%	67%
301 Barking and Dagenham	60%	8%	19,612	23%	24%
302 Barnet	65%	14%	27,309	15%	32%
370 Barnsley	56%	26%	14,553	25%	26%
800 Bath & North East Somerset	63%	34%	9,453	13%	60%
822 Bedford Borough	57%	18%	10,703	14%	42%
303 Bexley	73%	13%	15,691	17%	37%
330 Birmingham	56%	14%	84,661	30%	32%
889 Blackburn with Darwen	47%	18%	11,203	20%	42%
890 Blackpool	54%	19%	8,480	33%	45%
350 Bolton	54%	23%	19,589	22%	29%
837 Bournemouth	67%	19%	11,088	14%	63%
867 Bracknell Forest	63%	22%	8,253	9%	44%
380 Bradford	55%	17%	41,183	22%	23%
304 Brent	58%	8%	23,717	16%	35%
846 Brighton and Hove	60%	22%	15,276	16%	54%
305 Bromley	67%	19%	21,080	13%	63%
825 Buckinghamshire	64%	26%	32,793	7%	51%
351 Bury	56%	21%	12,507	18%	36%

The **EYFSP outcomes at age five** columns show the percentage of all children achieving a good level of development at age five across the local authority; and the difference between the level of attainment for children who qualify for free school meals compared with other children.

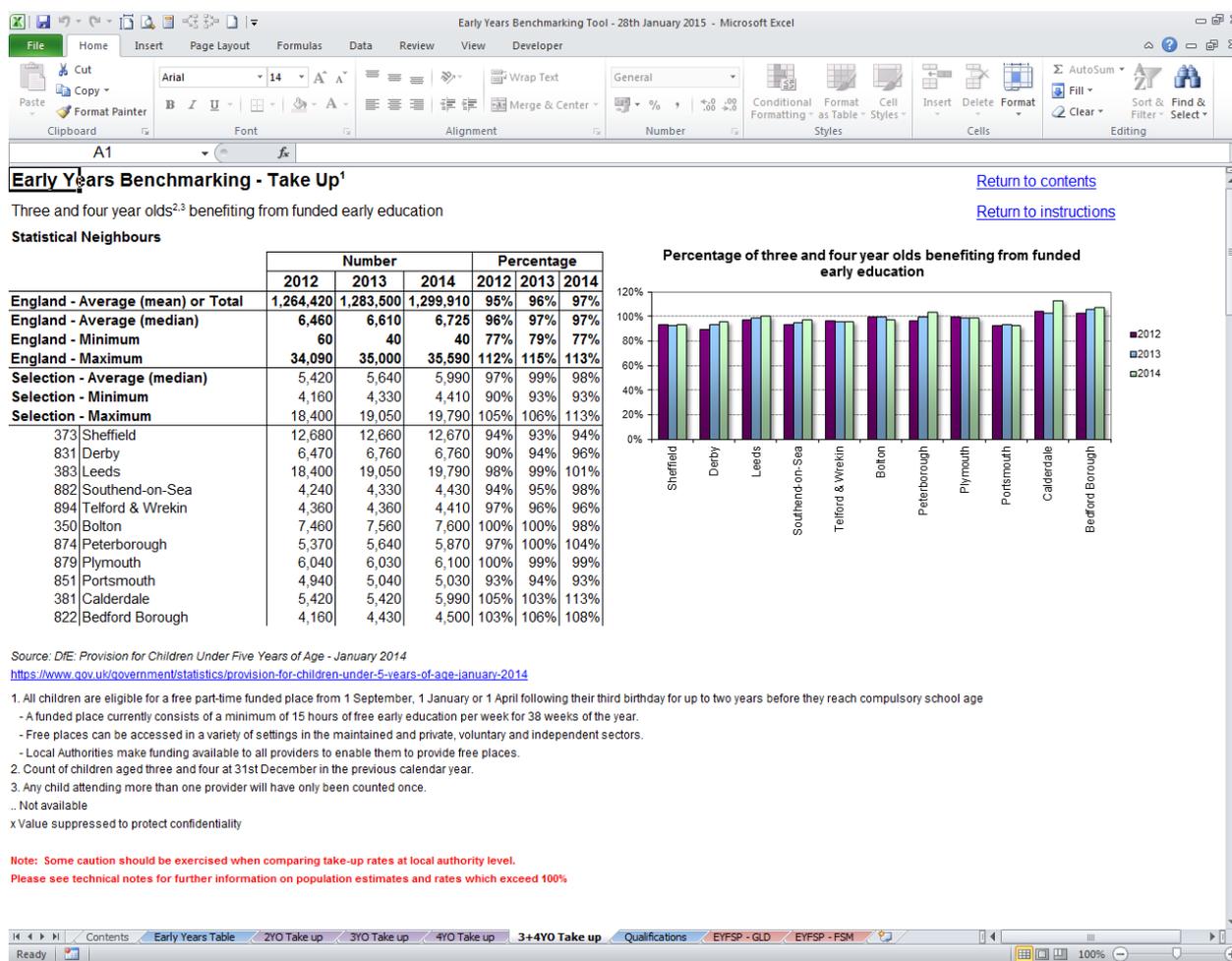
There is also a range of **context** data. This includes the number of 0-4 year olds in a local authority, the percentage of children taking the EYFSP who are eligible for free school meals and the percentage of three and four year olds taking up funded early education in PVI settings to give an indication of the local childcare market.

Above each table hyperlinks are available to take the user back to the content page or to the instructions sheet to make the tool easier to navigate.

Take Up

The sheets cover children benefitting from funded early education in each local authority. The first sheet covers **two year old** children taking up the entitlement alongside information on the qualifications of childcare workers and the proportion of funded early education that is provided in private, voluntary and independent settings; the second sheet covers **three year old** children taking up the entitlement in the last three years; the third covers **four year old** children taking up the entitlement in the last three years; and

the fourth covers **three and four year old** children combined taking up the entitlement in the last three years.



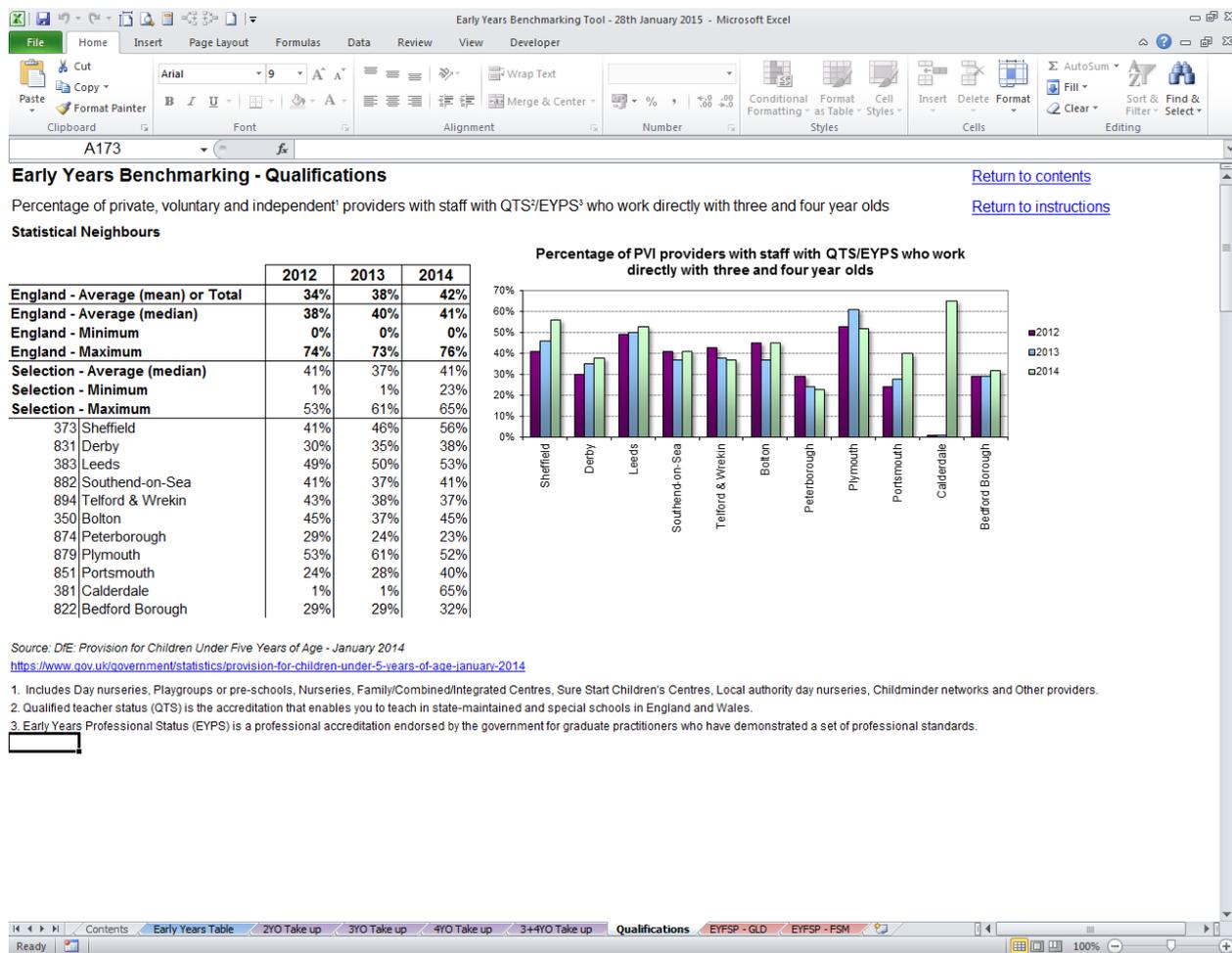
Why some figures are over 100 per cent:

Population estimates at lower geographic levels, such as a local authority, are subject to a greater degree of uncertainty than at national level. The estimates used here are derived from mid-year estimates and projections provided by the Office for National Statistics. They are estimates and are not directly comparable to the Early Years Census data. So, although the figures for the number of children taking up the free entitlement are accurate, when these are used in conjunction with the population estimates, there is less certainty about the accuracy. In some cases, this has resulted in local authority take-up rates exceeding 100 per cent. The figures here should therefore be viewed as an approximate basis for comparison between local authorities and on a year on year basis, rather than as accurate estimates of take up rates.

Staff Qualifications

This sheet shows the percentage of private, voluntary and independent settings providing funded early education who have staff with Qualified Teacher Status or Early Years

Professional Status working directly with three and four years olds in each of the last three years.



Child Development: Early Years Foundation Stage Profile

The EYFS Profile assesses each child's progress against a set of 17 early learning goals. All early years providers must complete an EYFS profile for each child during the academic year in which they reach the age of five. The profile describes the child's level of development at the end of the EYFS and identifies their learning needs for the next stage of school.

The first sheet shows the percentage of all children achieving a good level of development at age five across the local authority. It contains figures for the last two years.

The second sheet shows the achievement gap for the most deprived children compared to other children. This is calculated by comparing the results of children who qualify for Free School Meals to the achievements of all other children.

Early Years Benchmarking Tool - 28th January 2015 - Microsoft Excel

Early Years Benchmarking - Child Development: Early Years Foundation Stage Profile¹ [Return to contents](#)

Percentage of children achieving a good level of development^{2,3} at age five [Return to instructions](#)

Statistical Neighbours

	2013	2014
England - Average (mean) or Total	52%	60%
England - Average (median)	51%	60%
England - Minimum	28%	41%
England - Maximum	100%	76%
Selection - Average (median)	48%	58%
Selection - Minimum	41%	51%
Selection - Maximum	57%	65%
373 Sheffield	51%	60%
831 Derby	41%	51%
383 Leeds	51%	58%
882 Southend-on-Sea	45%	62%
894 Telford & Wrekin	45%	58%
350 Bolton	48%	54%
874 Peterborough	47%	59%
879 Plymouth	57%	58%
851 Portsmouth	55%	65%
381 Calderdale	45%	55%
822 Bedford Borough	48%	57%

Percentage of children achieving a good level of development

Source: DfE: Early Years Foundation Stage Profile results in England, 2013/14
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/early-years-foundation-stage-profile-results-2013-to-2014>

- For more information on the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile please see technical notes.
- Percentage of children achieving a good level of development - children achieving at least the expected level within the three prime areas of learning: communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development and the early learning goals within the literacy and mathematics areas of learning.
- Only includes pupils with a valid result for every achievement scale.

... Not available
 x Value suppressed to protect confidentiality

A new profile was introduced in September 2012 which is substantially different from the old profile, hence figures for earlier years are not comparable.



Department
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