Department for Education

Early years benchmarking

User guide

March 2015

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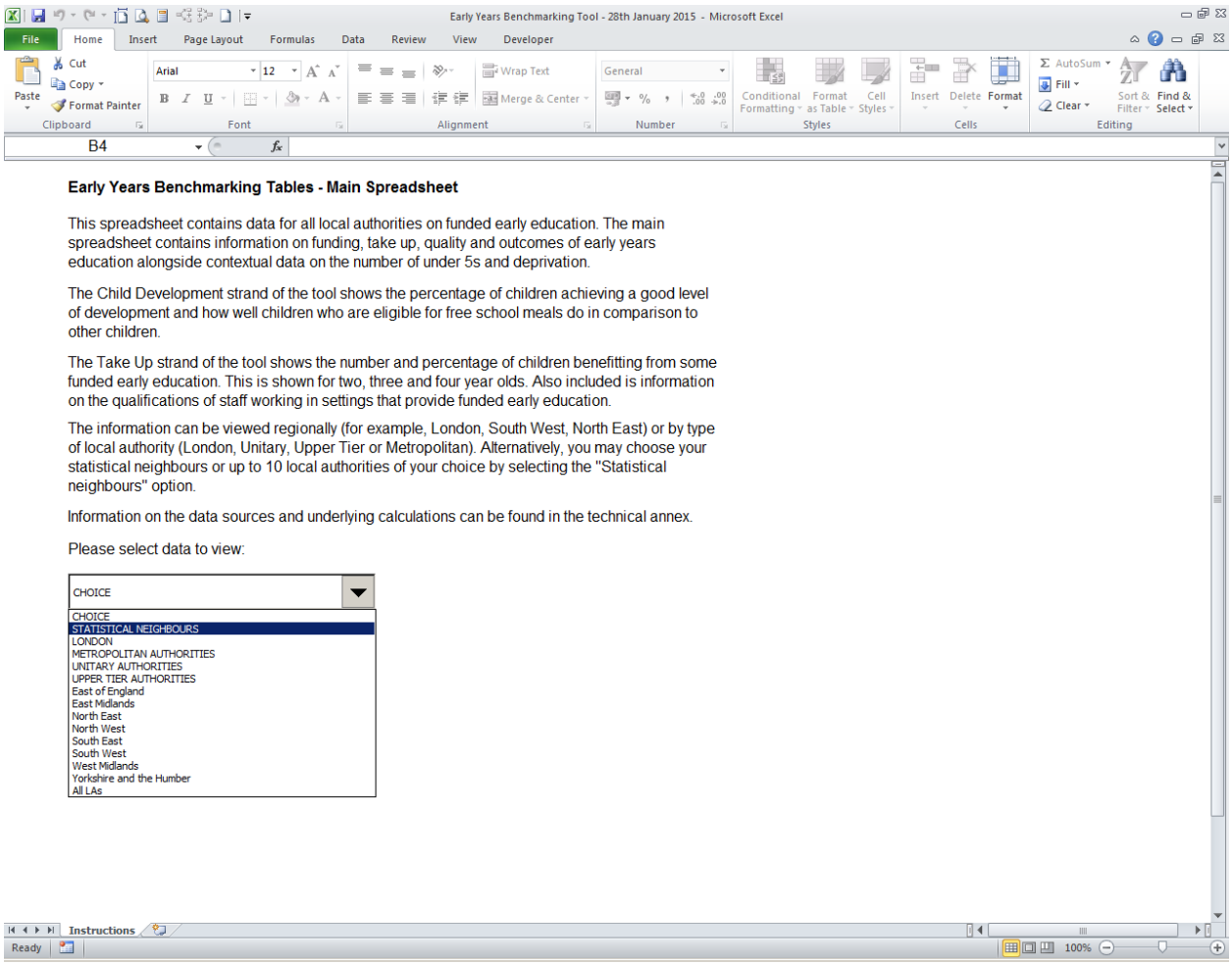
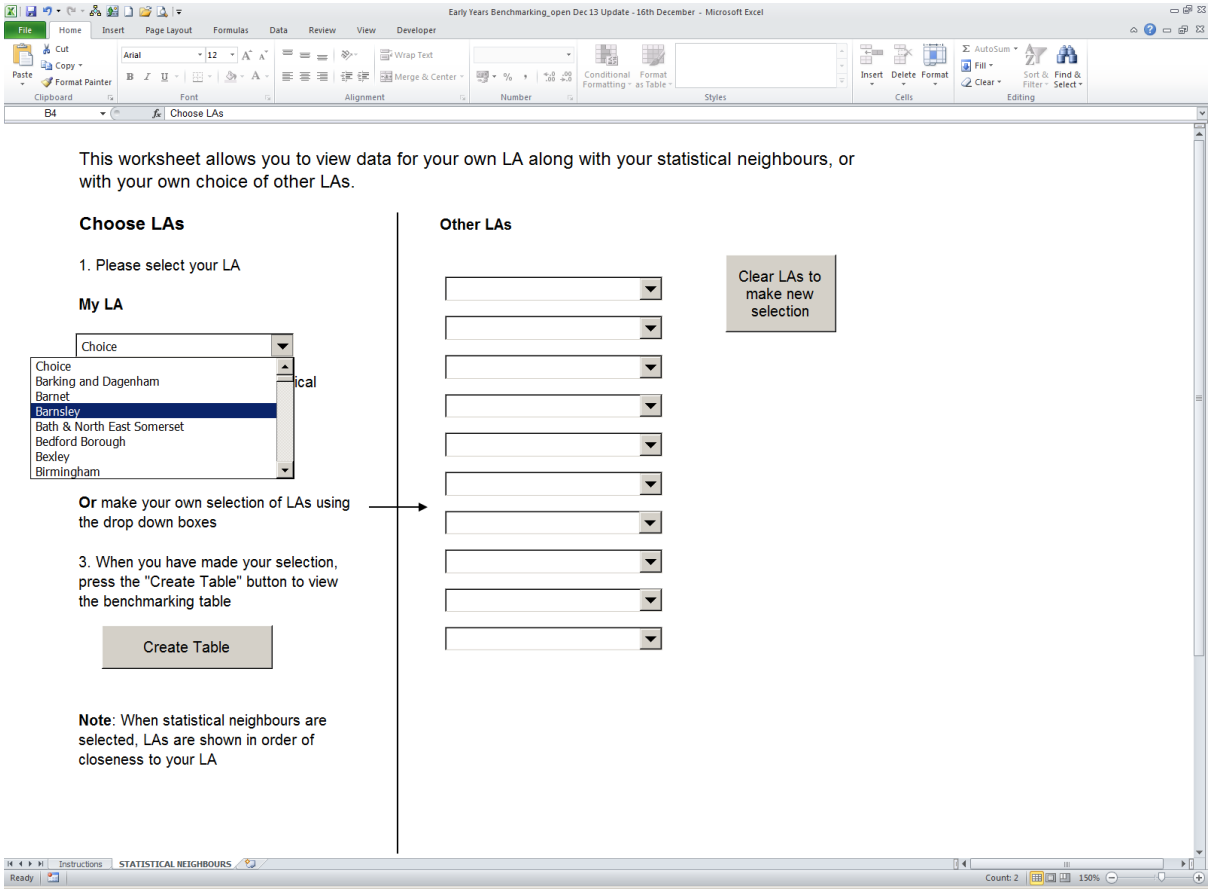
Introduction

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.



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:

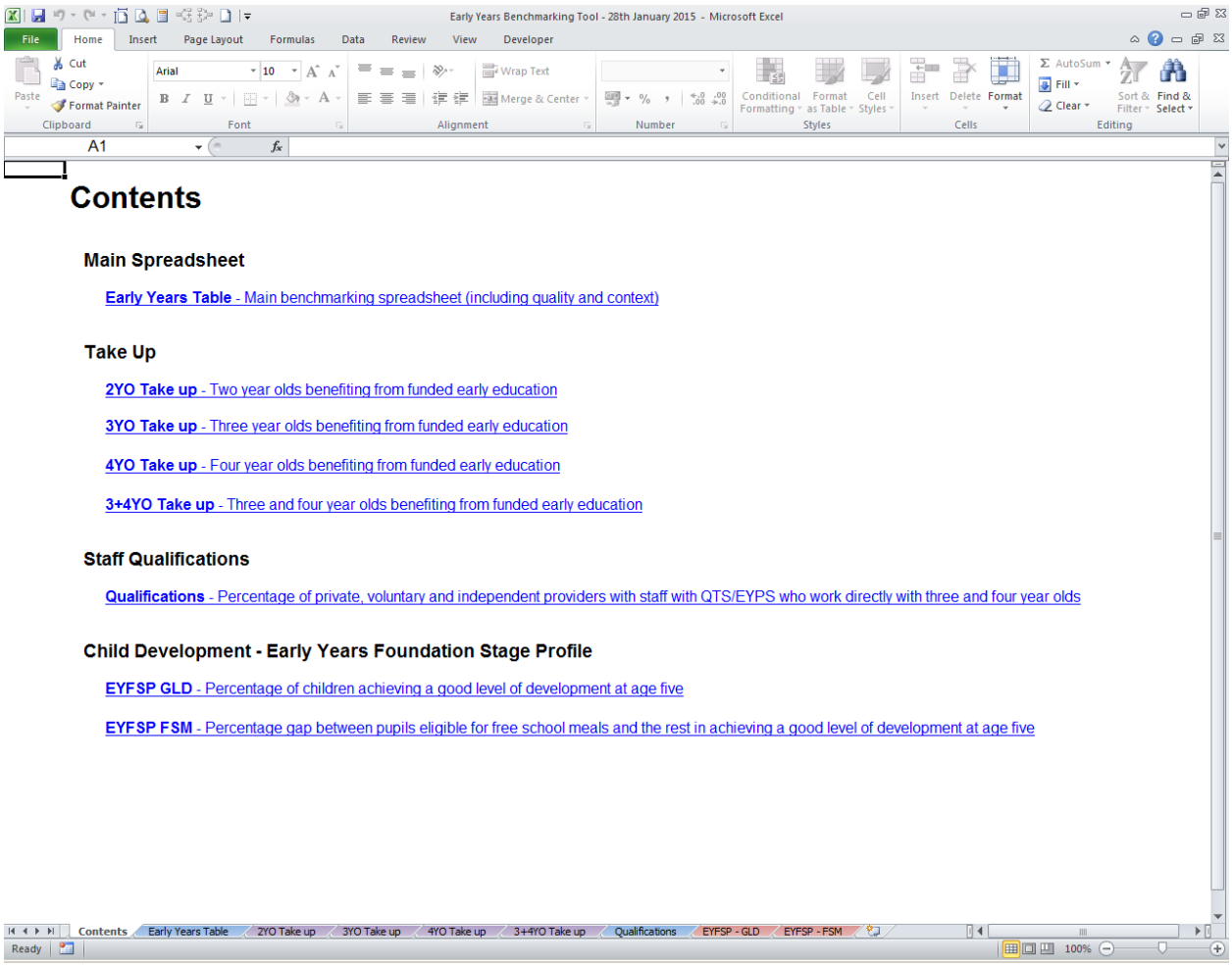
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/360557/LAIT_user_guide.pdf

The 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 tool provides more analysis on the projected spend in 2014-15 to deliver early learning places for two, three and four-year-olds. More detailed information on spend is also provided in the Early Years pro forma which complements the information in the benchmarking tool.

Main benchmarking tool

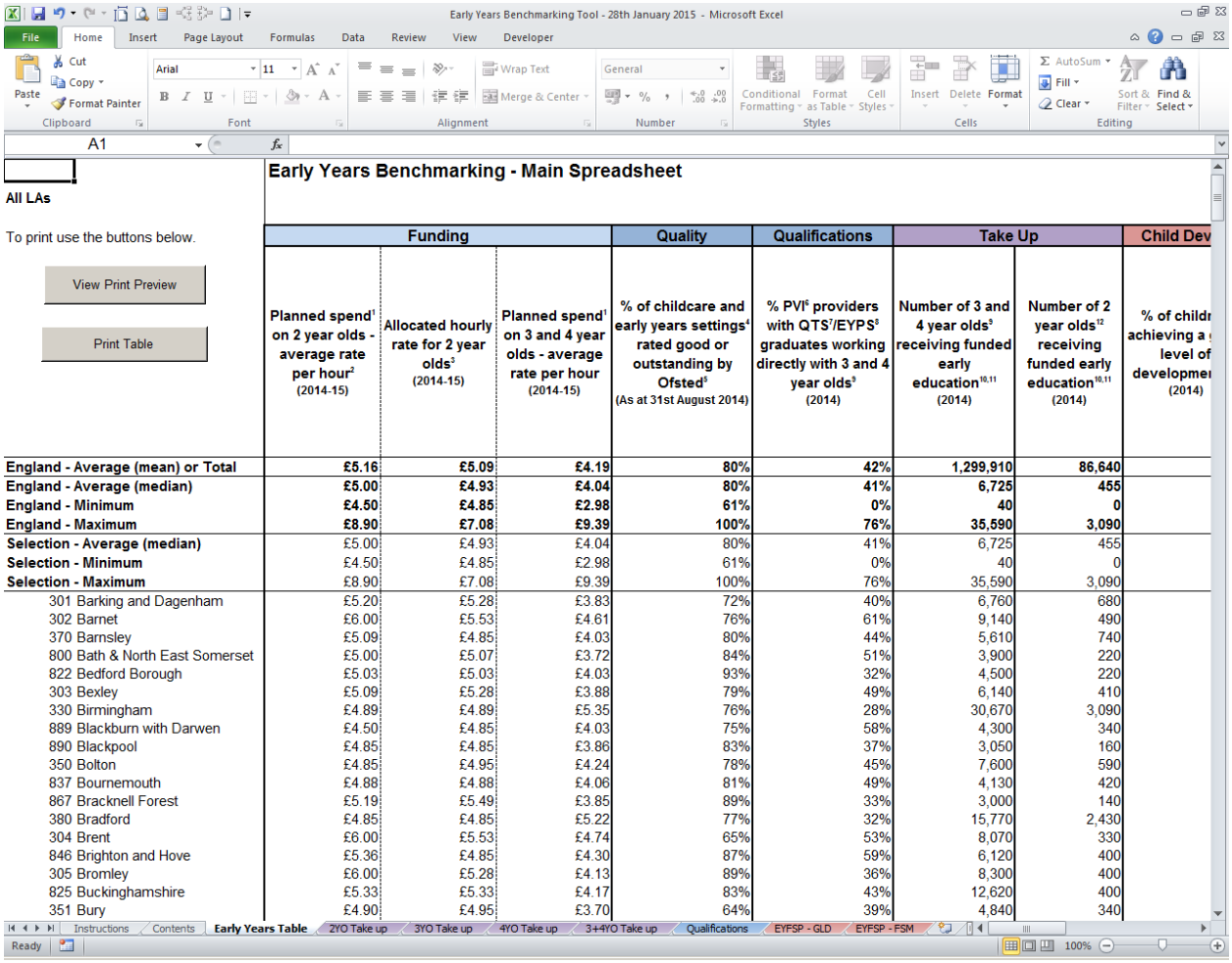
Once a local authority is selected the user is taken to the contents page.



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 2013-14 section 251 returns.



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

All LAs

To print use the buttons below.

View Print Preview

Print Table

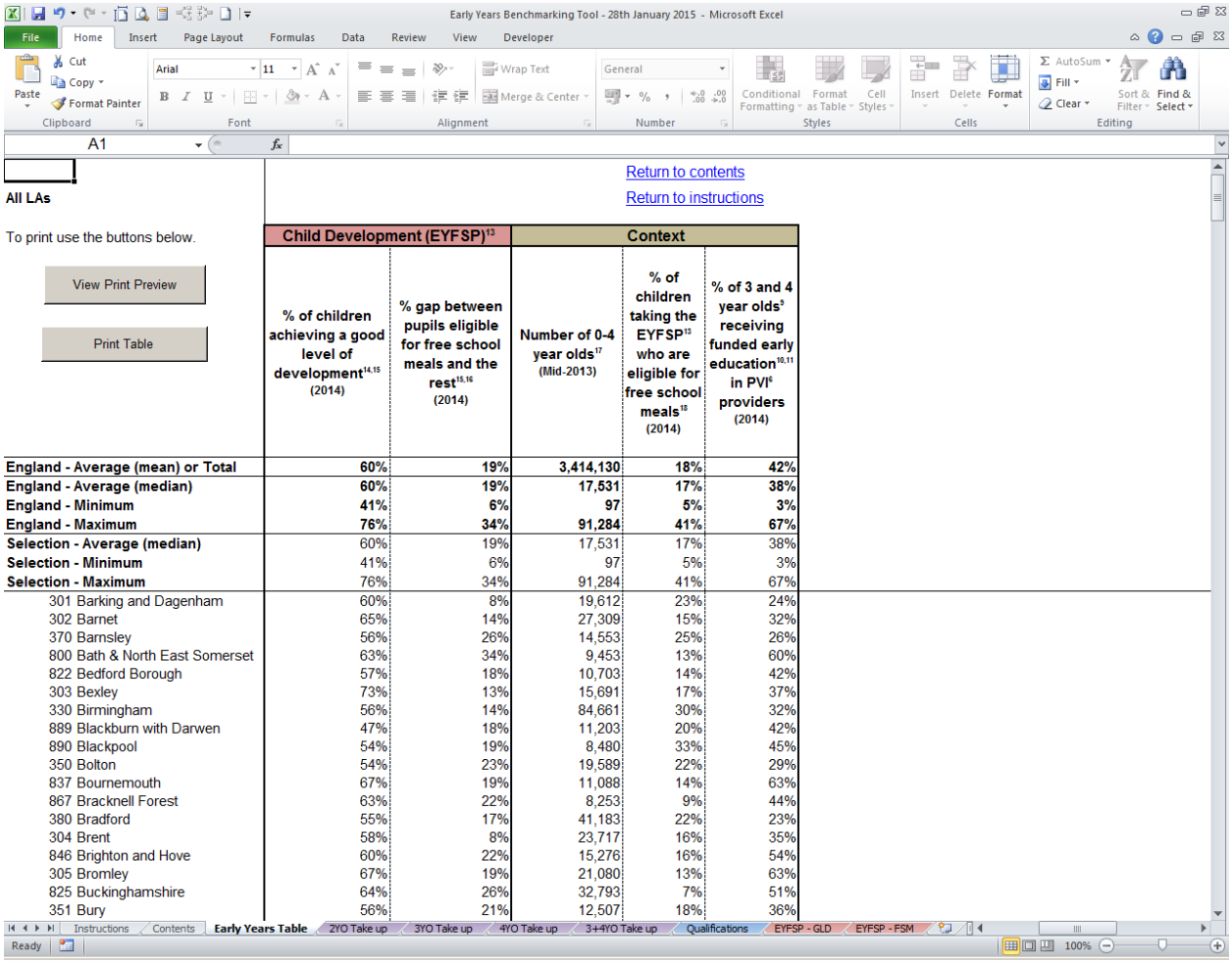
Early Years Benchmarking - Main Spreadsheet

	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[3] (2014-15)	Planned spend[1] on 3 and 4 year olds - average rate per hour (2014-15)	% of childcare and early years settings[4] rated good or outstanding by Ofsted[5] (As at 31st August 2014)	% PVI[6] providers with QTS[7]/EYPS[8] graduates working directly with 3 and 4 year olds[9] (2014)	Number of 3 and 4 year olds[9] receiving funded early education[10,11] (2014)	Number of 2 year olds[12] receiving funded early education[10,11] (2014)	% of childr achieving a level of developmer (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	65%	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	

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.



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

All LAs

To print use the buttons below.

View Print Preview

Print Table

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	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[13] who are eligible for free school meals[18] (2014)	% of 3 and 4 year olds[9] receiving funded early education[10,11] in PVI[6] 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%

Instructions | Contents | Early Years Table | 2YO Take up | 3YO Take up | 4YO Take up | 3+4YO Take up | Qualifications | EYFSP - GLD | EYFSP - FSM

Ready

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.

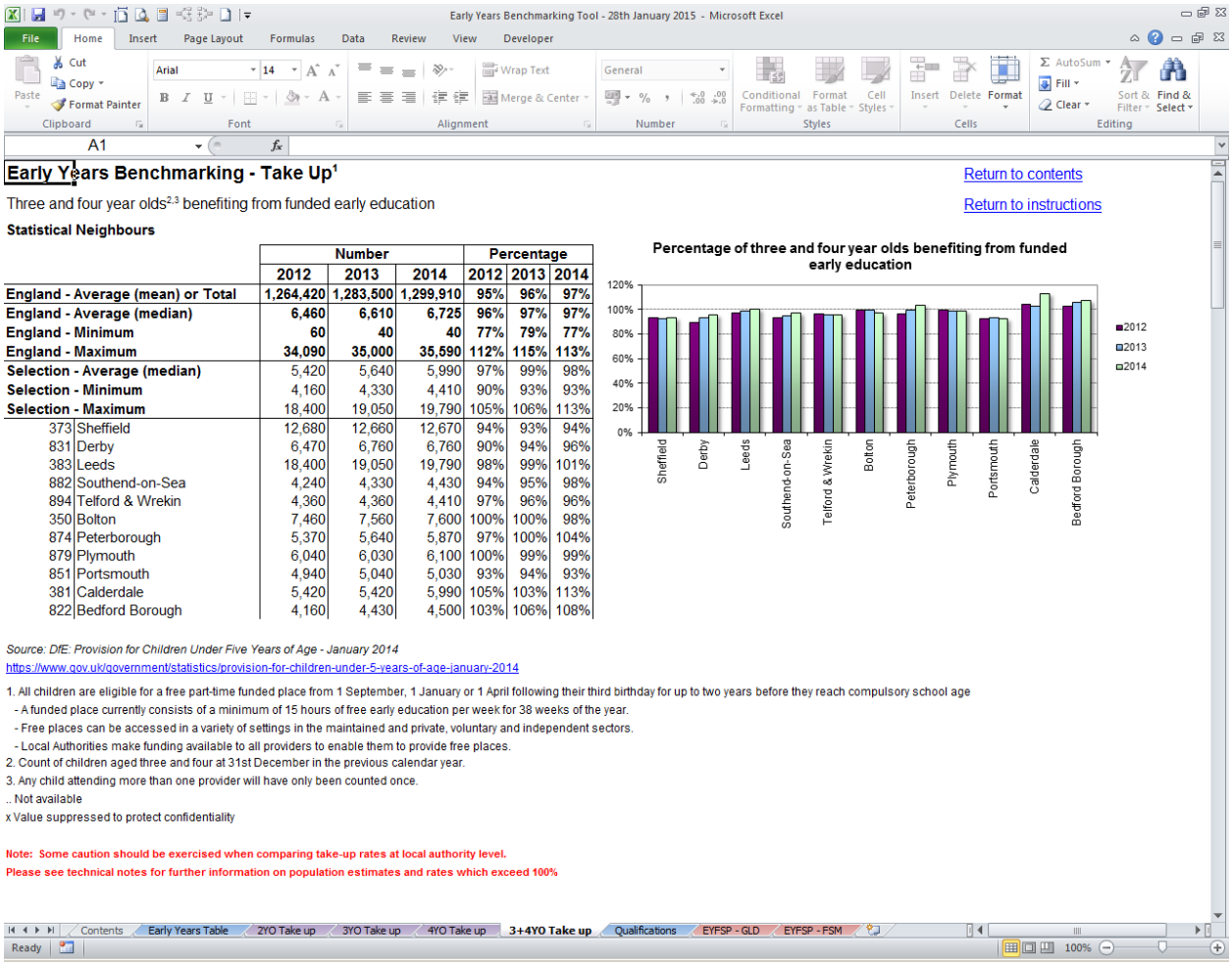
There is also a range of **context** data. This includes the number of 0-4 year olds in a local authority, the percentage of children taking the EYFSP who are eligible for free school meals and the percentage of three and four year olds taking up funded early education in PVI settings to give an indication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



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

Early Years Benchmarking - Take Up[1]

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Three and four year olds[2,3] benefiting from funded early education

Statistical Neighbours

		Number			Percentage		
		2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
England - Average (mean) or Total		**1,264,420**	**1,283,500**	**1,299,910**	**95%**	**96%**	**97%**
England - Average (median)		**6,460**	**6,610**	**6,725**	**96%**	**97%**	**97%**
England - Minimum		**60**	**40**	**40**	**77%**	**79%**	**77%**
England - Maximum		**34,090**	**35,000**	**35,590**	**112%**	**115%**	**113%**
Selection - Average (median)		5,420	5,640	5,990	97%	99%	98%
Selection - Minimum		4,160	4,330	4,410	90%	93%	93%
Selection - Maximum		18,400	19,050	19,790	105%	106%	113%
373	Sheffield	12,680	12,660	12,670	94%	93%	94%
831	Derby	6,470	6,760	6,760	90%	94%	96%
383	Leeds	18,400	19,050	19,790	98%	99%	101%
882	Southend-on-Sea	4,240	4,330	4,430	94%	95%	98%
894	Telford & Wrekin	4,360	4,360	4,410	97%	96%	96%
350	Bolton	7,460	7,560	7,600	100%	100%	98%
874	Peterborough	5,370	5,640	5,870	97%	100%	104%
879	Plymouth	6,040	6,030	6,100	100%	99%	99%
851	Portsmouth	4,940	5,040	5,030	93%	94%	93%
381	Calderdale	5,420	5,420	5,990	105%	103%	113%
822	Bedford Borough	4,160	4,430	4,500	103%	106%	108%

Source: DfE: Provision for Children Under Five Years of Age - January 2014

https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/provision-for-children-under-5-years-of-age-january-2014

1. All children are eligible for a free part-time funded place from 1 September, 1 January or 1 April following their third birthday for up to two years before they reach compulsory school age
   - A funded place currently consists of a minimum of 15 hours of free early education per week for 38 weeks of the year.
   - Free places can be accessed in a variety of settings in the maintained and private, voluntary and independent sectors.
   - Local Authorities make funding available to all providers to enable them to provide free places.
2. Count of children aged three and four at 31st December in the previous calendar year.
3. Any child attending more than one provider will have only been counted once.

.. Not available

x Value suppressed to protect confidentiality

Note: Some caution should be exercised when comparing take-up rates at local authority level.

Please see technical notes for further information on population estimates and rates which exceed 100%

Contents | Early Years Table | 2YO Take up | 3YO Take up | 4YO Take up | 3+4YO Take up | Qualifications | EYFSP - GLD | EYFSP - FSM

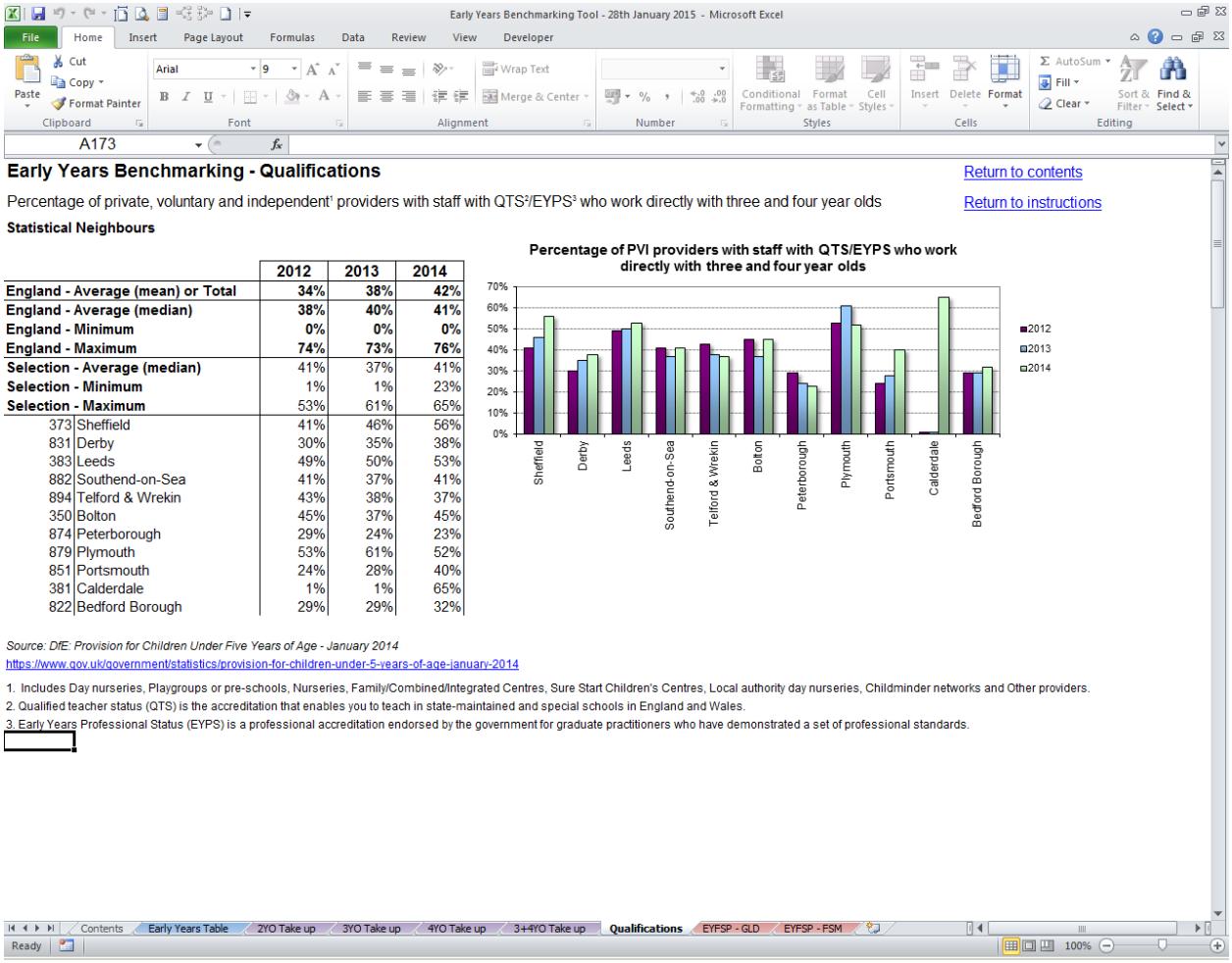
Ready

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.



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

Early Years Benchmarking - Qualifications

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Percentage of private, voluntary and independent[1] providers with staff with QTS[2]/EYPS[3] who work directly with three and four year olds

Statistical Neighbours

		2012	2013	2014
England - Average (mean) or Total		**34%**	**38%**	**42%**
England - Average (median)		**38%**	**40%**	**41%**
England - Minimum		**0%**	**0%**	**0%**
England - Maximum		**74%**	**73%**	**76%**
Selection - Average (median)		41%	37%	41%
Selection - Minimum		1%	1%	23%
Selection - Maximum		53%	61%	65%
373	Sheffield	41%	46%	56%
831	Derby	30%	35%	38%
383	Leeds	49%	50%	53%
882	Southend-on-Sea	41%	37%	41%
894	Telford & Wrekin	43%	38%	37%
350	Bolton	45%	37%	45%
874	Peterborough	29%	24%	23%
879	Plymouth	53%	61%	52%
851	Portsmouth	24%	28%	40%
381	Calderdale	1%	1%	65%
822	Bedford Borough	29%	29%	32%

Source: DfE: Provision for Children Under Five Years of Age - January 2014

https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/provision-for-children-under-5-years-of-age-january-2014

1. Includes Day nurseries, Playgroups or pre-schools, Nurseries, Family/Combined/Integrated Centres, Sure Start Children's Centres, Local authority day nurseries, Childminder networks and Other providers.
2. Qualified teacher status (QTS) is the accreditation that enables you to teach in state-maintained and special schools in England and Wales.
3. Early Years Professional Status (EYPS) is a professional accreditation endorsed by the government for graduate practitioners who have demonstrated a set of professional standards.

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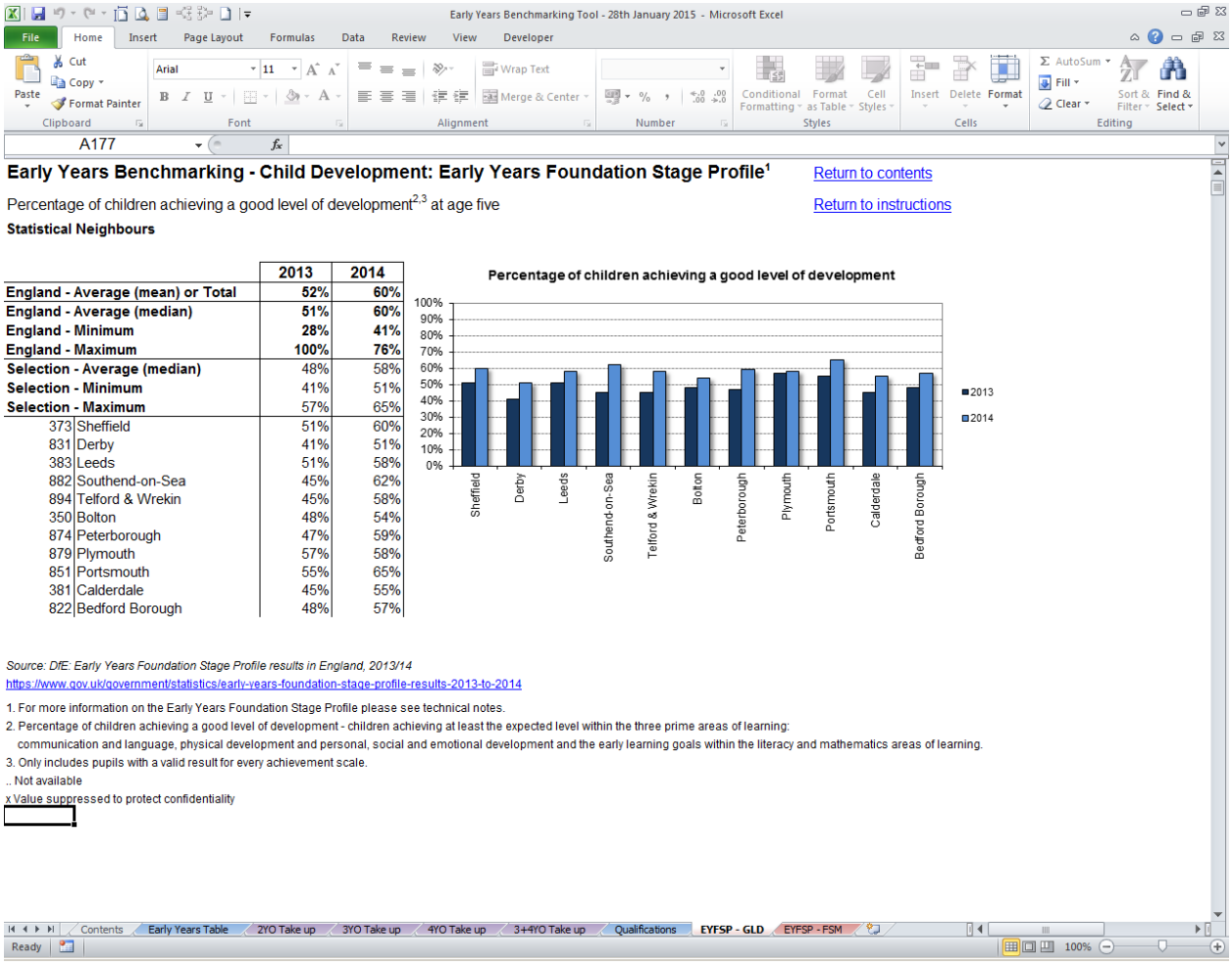
Ready

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.



		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%

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

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. There is not a separately identified amount of funding for early learning for three and four-year-olds at national level, but the Department published the individual local authority allocations for supporting early learning for eligible two-year-olds:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/la-allocations-for-early-learning-for-2-year-olds-2014-to-2015

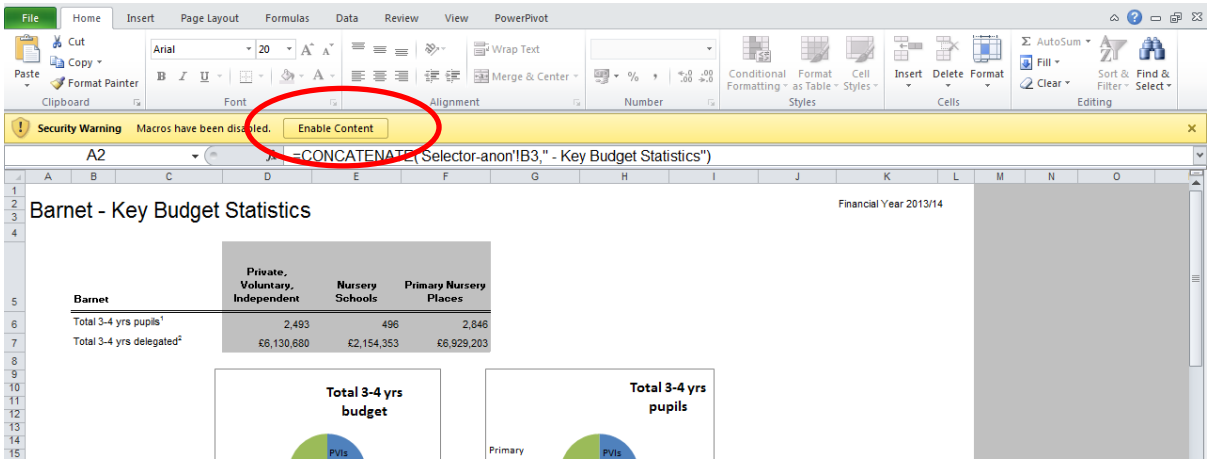
All decisions about the amount of DSG to be spent on early learning are made by local authorities in consultation with their schools forum.

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 2014-15 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.

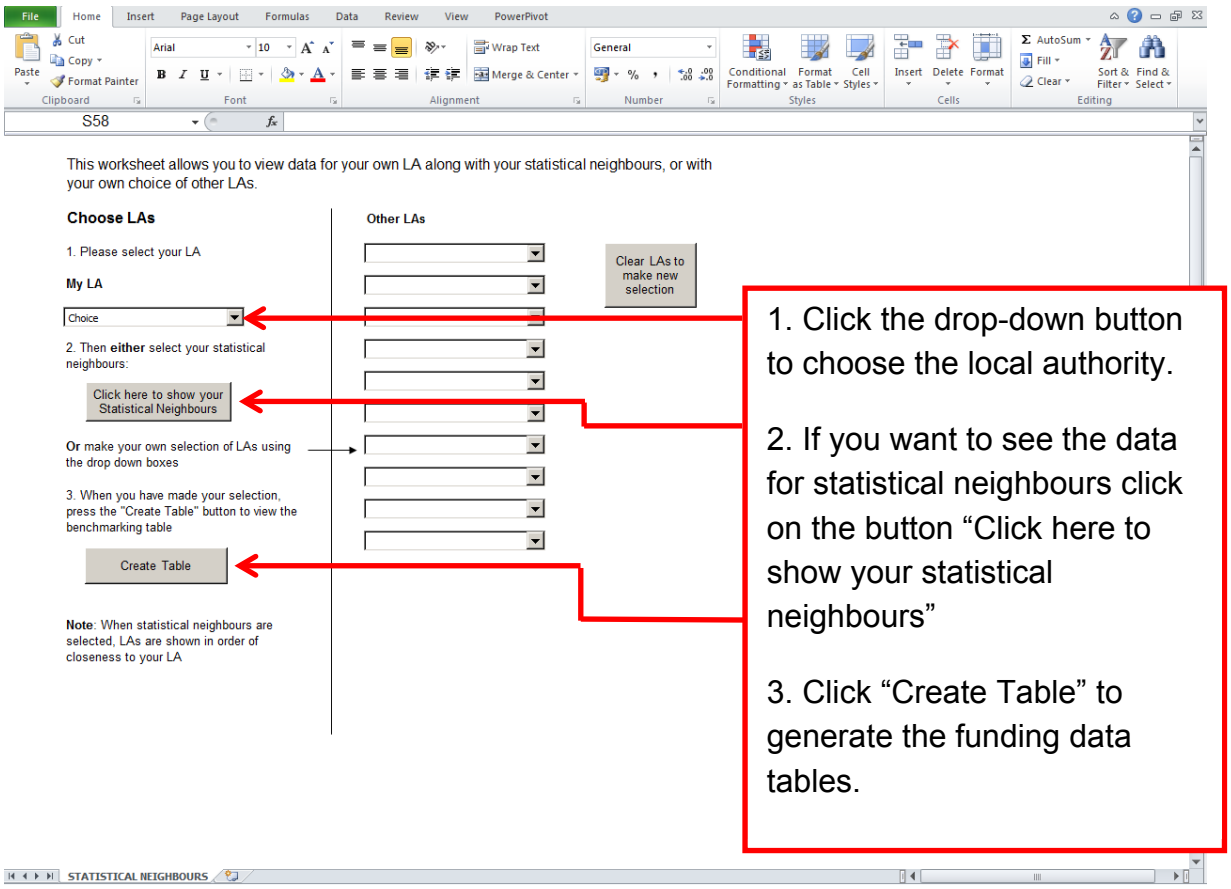
Early years funding benchmarking toolkit

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.

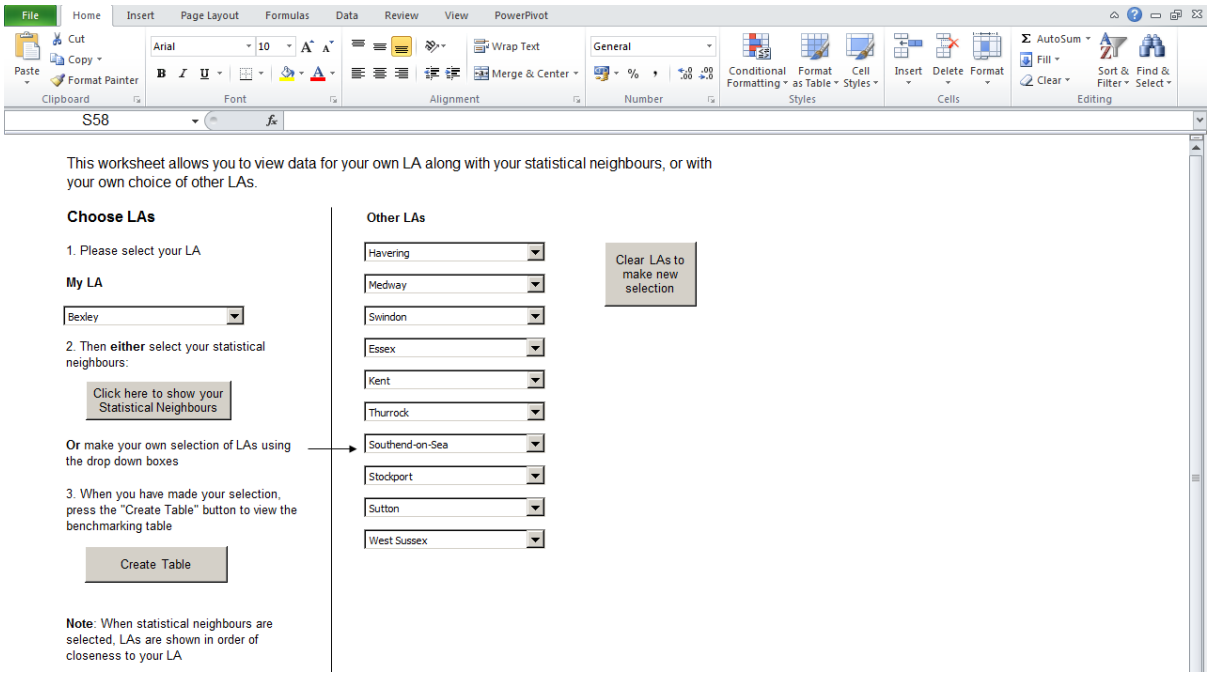
Before you start, click the “Enable Content” to start using the toolkit.



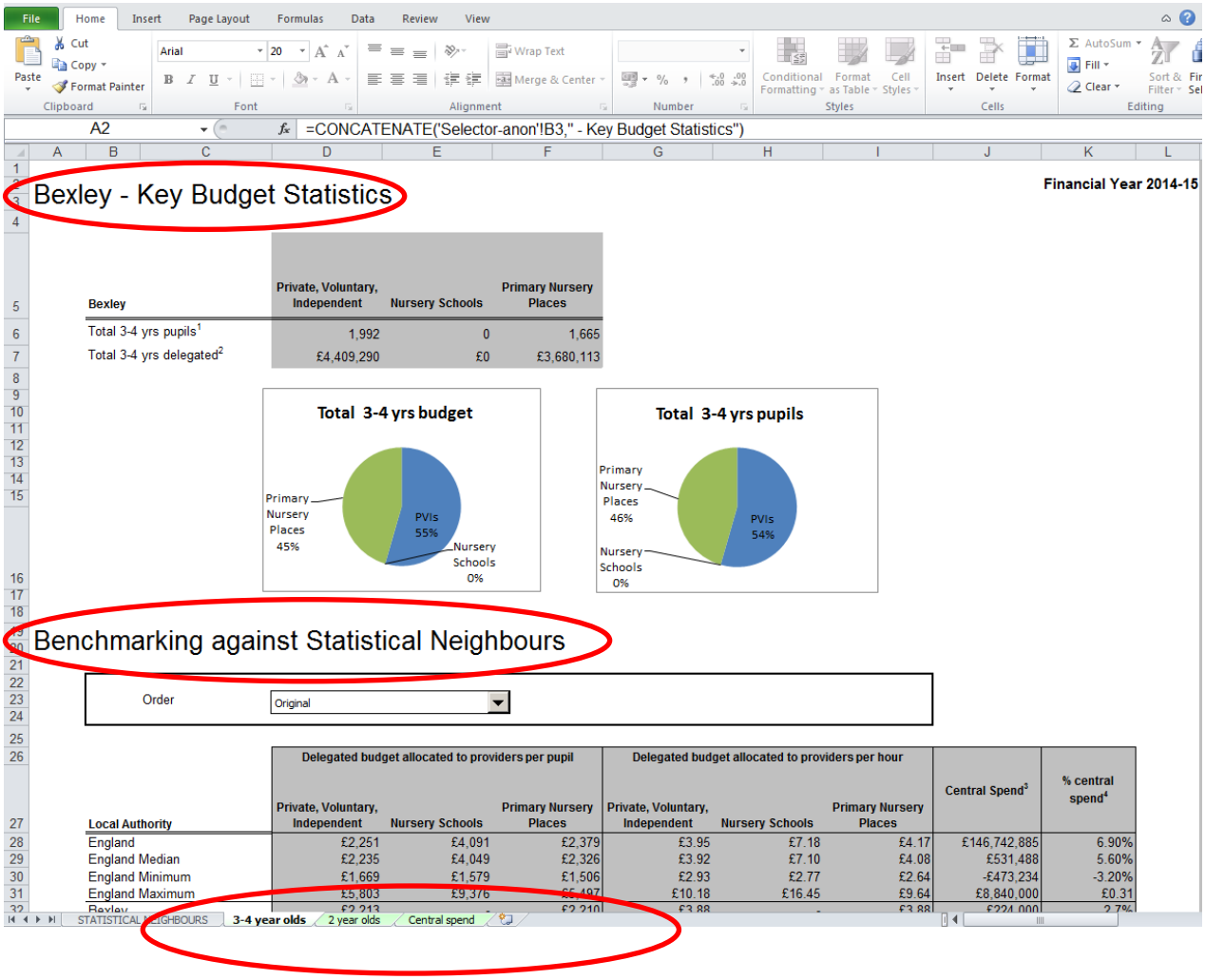
The benchmarking toolkit allows you to view data for a chosen local authority, with the added option to view data for up to ten of its statistical neighbours.



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

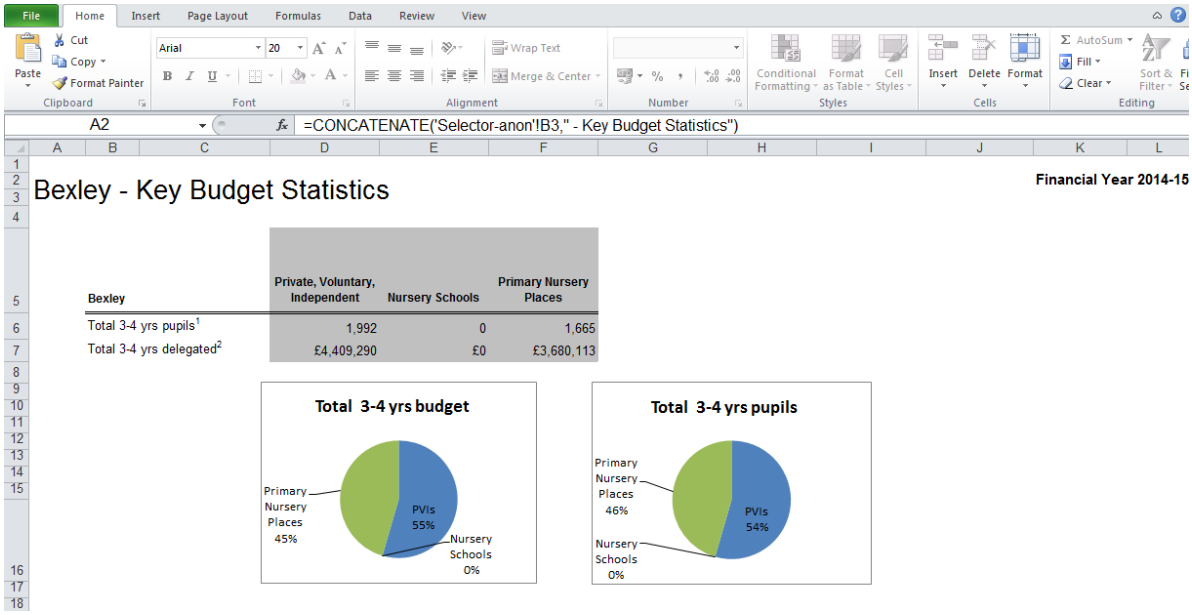


The toolkit includes separate worksheets for three and four-year-olds, two-year-olds and central spend information. Each worksheet is split into two sections: key budget statistics and benchmarking against statistical neighbours.



Key budget statistics

The key budget statistics table 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.

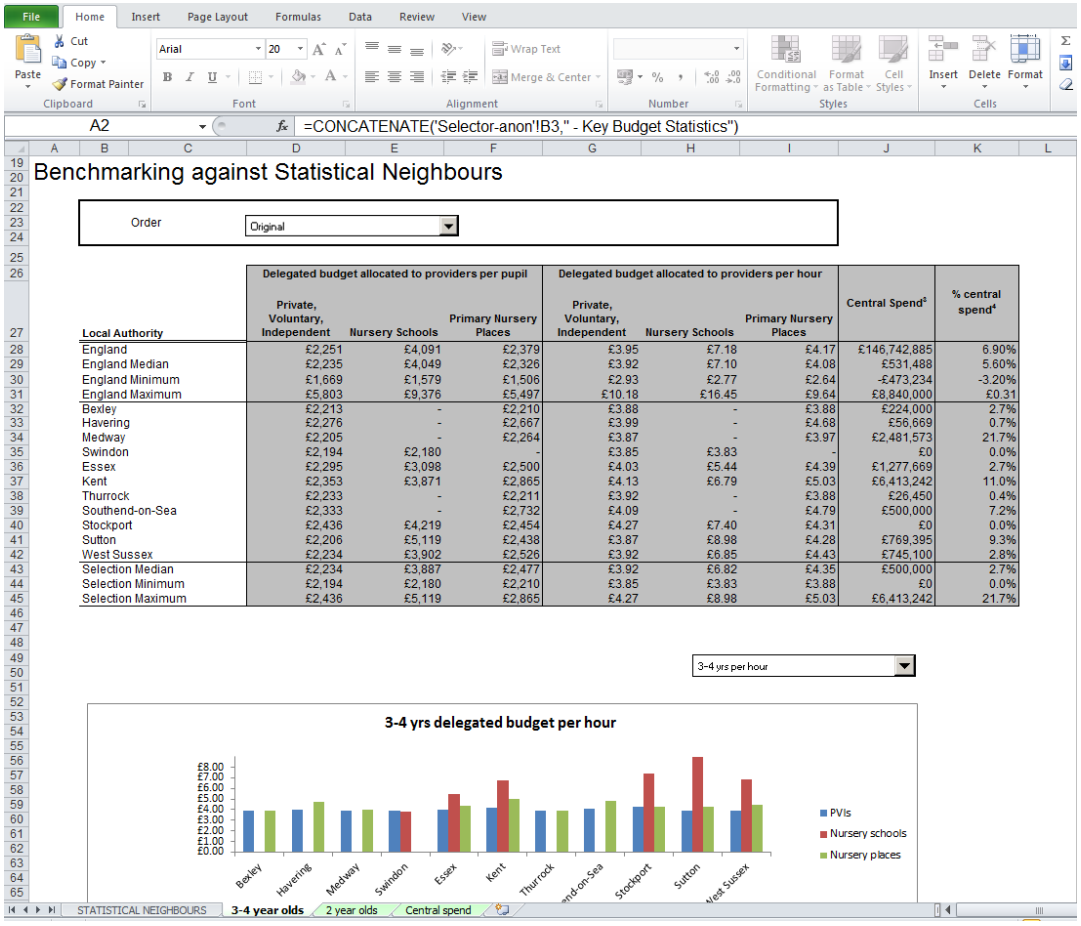


Benchmarking against statistical neighbours

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.



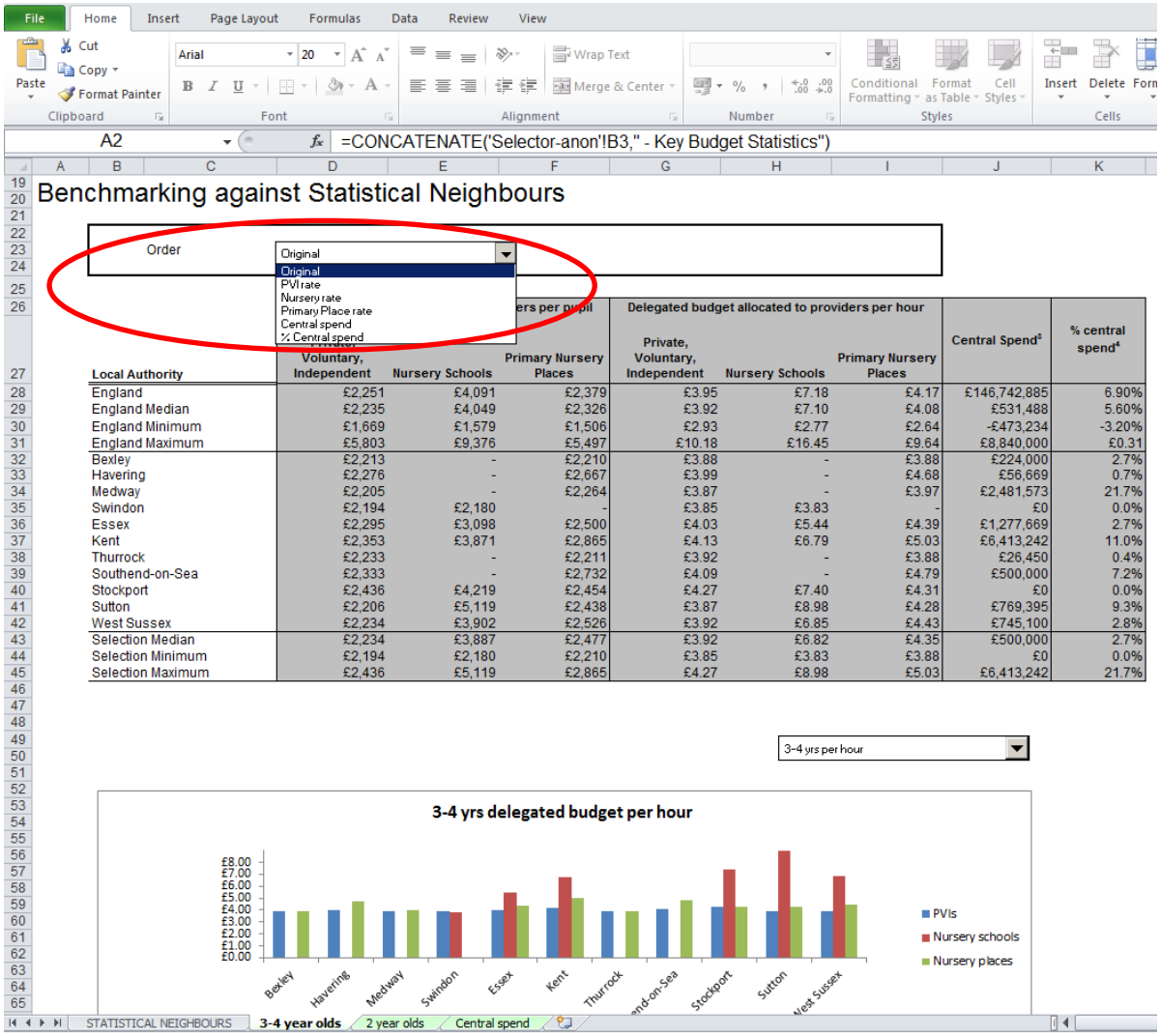
Benchmarking against Statistical Neighbours

Order: Original

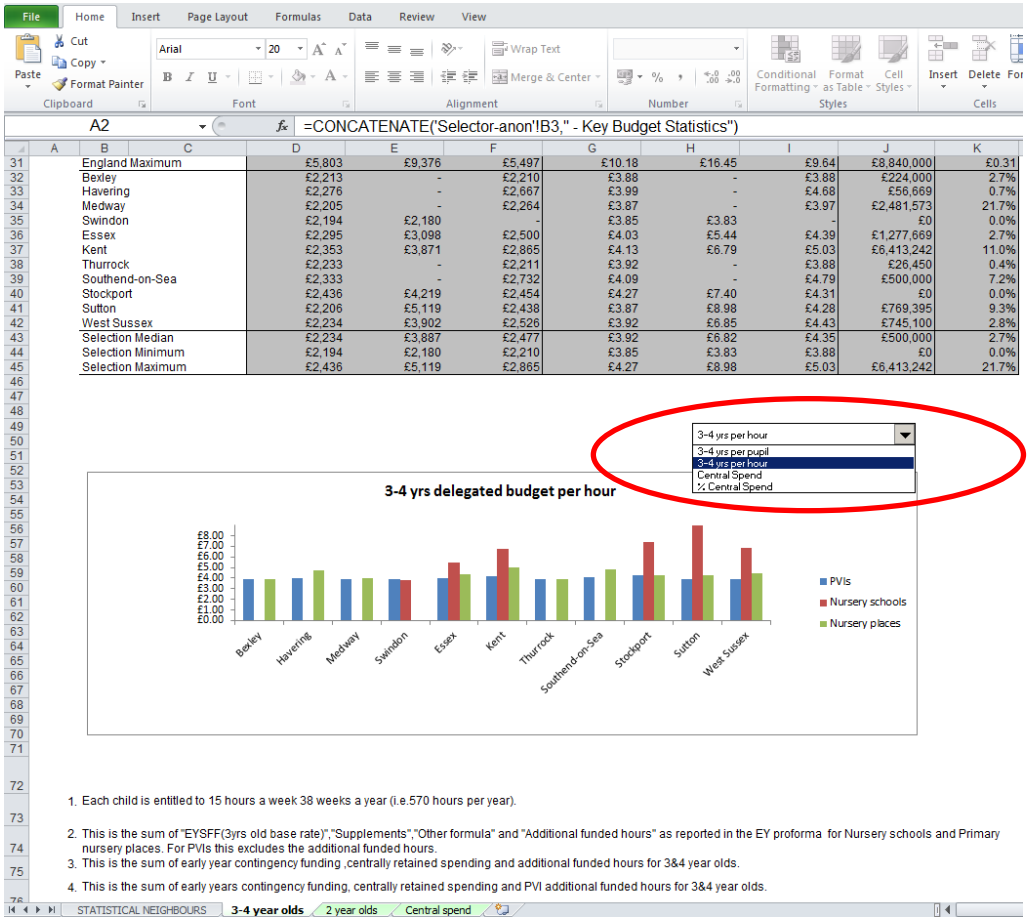
Local Authority	Delegated budget allocated to providers per pupil: Private, Voluntary, Independent	Nursery Schools	Primary Nursery Places	Delegated budget allocated to providers per hour: Private, Voluntary, Independent	Nursery Schools	Primary Nursery Places	Central Spend[3]	% central spend[4]
England	£2,251	£4,091	£2,379	£3.95	£7.18	£4.17	£146,742,885	6.90%
England Median	£2,235	£4,049	£2,326	£3.92	£7.10	£4.08	£531,488	5.60%
England Minimum	£1,669	£1,579	£1,506	£2.93	£2.77	£2.64	-£473,234	-3.20%
England Maximum	£5,803	£9,376	£5,497	£10.18	£16.45	£9.64	£8,840,000	£0.31
Bexley	£2,213	-	£2,210	£3.88	-	£3.88	£224,000	2.7%
Havering	£2,276	-	£2,667	£3.99	-	£4.68	£56,669	0.7%
Medway	£2,205	-	£2,264	£3.87	-	£3.97	£2,481,573	21.7%
Swindon	£2,194	£2,180	-	£3.85	£3.83	-	£0	0.0%
Essex	£2,295	£3,098	£2,500	£4.03	£5.44	£4.39	£1,277,669	2.7%
Kent	£2,353	£3,871	£2,865	£4.13	£6.79	£5.03	£6,413,242	11.0%
Thurrock	£2,233	-	£2,211	£3.92	-	£3.88	£26,450	0.4%
Southend-on-Sea	£2,333	-	£2,732	£4.09	-	£4.79	£500,000	7.2%
Stockport	£2,436	£4,219	£2,454	£4.27	£7.40	£4.31	£0	0.0%
Sutton	£2,206	£5,119	£2,438	£3.87	£8.98	£4.28	£769,395	9.3%
West Sussex	£2,234	£3,902	£2,526	£3.92	£6.85	£4.43	£745,100	2.8%
Selection Median	£2,234	£3,887	£2,477	£3.92	£6.82	£4.35	£500,000	2.7%
Selection Minimum	£2,194	£2,180	£2,210	£3.85	£3.83	£3.88	£0	0.0%
Selection Maximum	£2,436	£5,119	£2,865	£4.27	£8.98	£5.03	£6,413,242	21.7%

3-4 yrs per hour

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.



England Maximum	£5,803	£9,376	£5,497	£10.18	£16.45	£9.64	£8,840,000	£0.31
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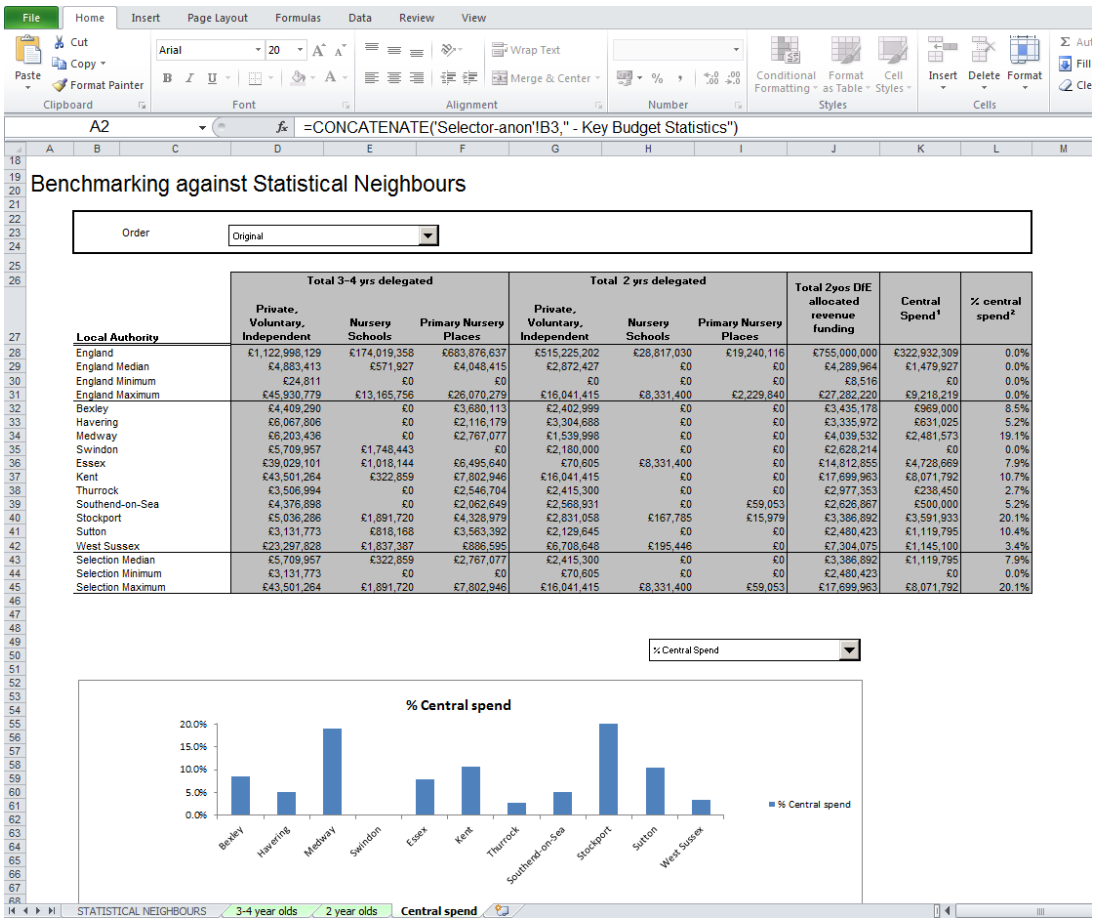
Selection Minimum	£2,194	£2,180	£2,210	£3.85	£3.83	£3.88	£0	0.0%
Selection Maximum	£2,436	£5,119	£2,865	£4.27	£8.98	£5.03	£6,413,242	21.7%

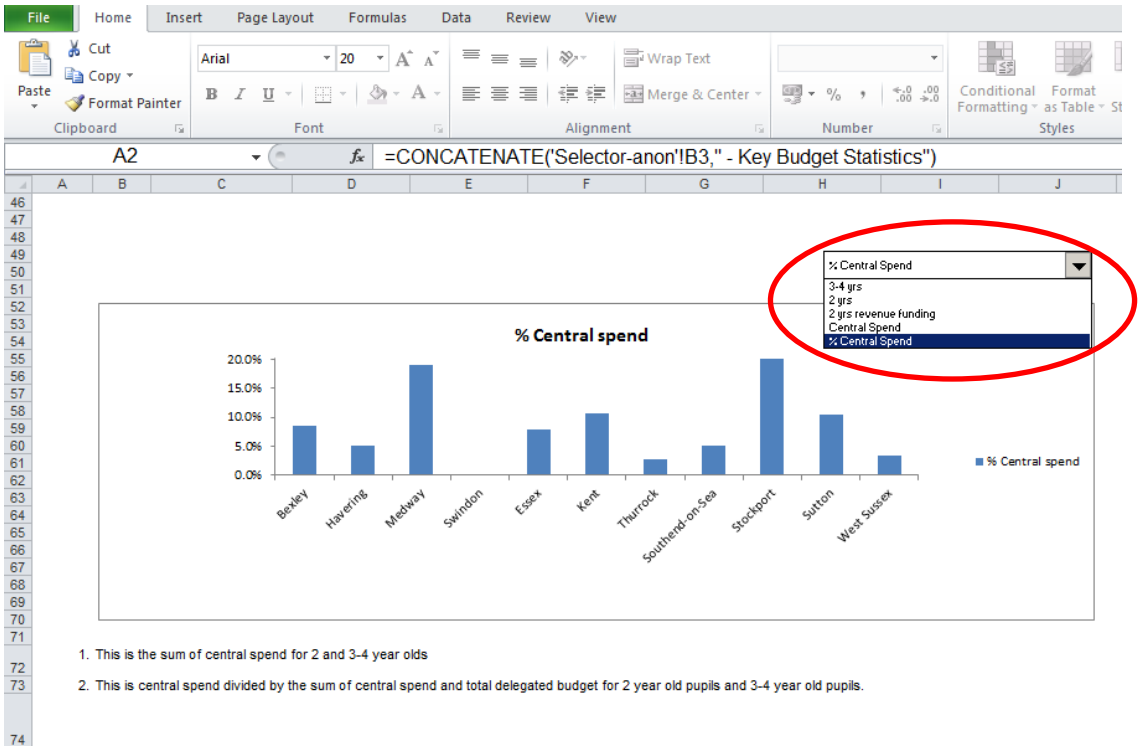
Central spend

The benchmarking table for the central spend worksheet includes:

- 3 and 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 PVIs)
- % of central spend against delegated budget for 2, 3 and 4-year-olds



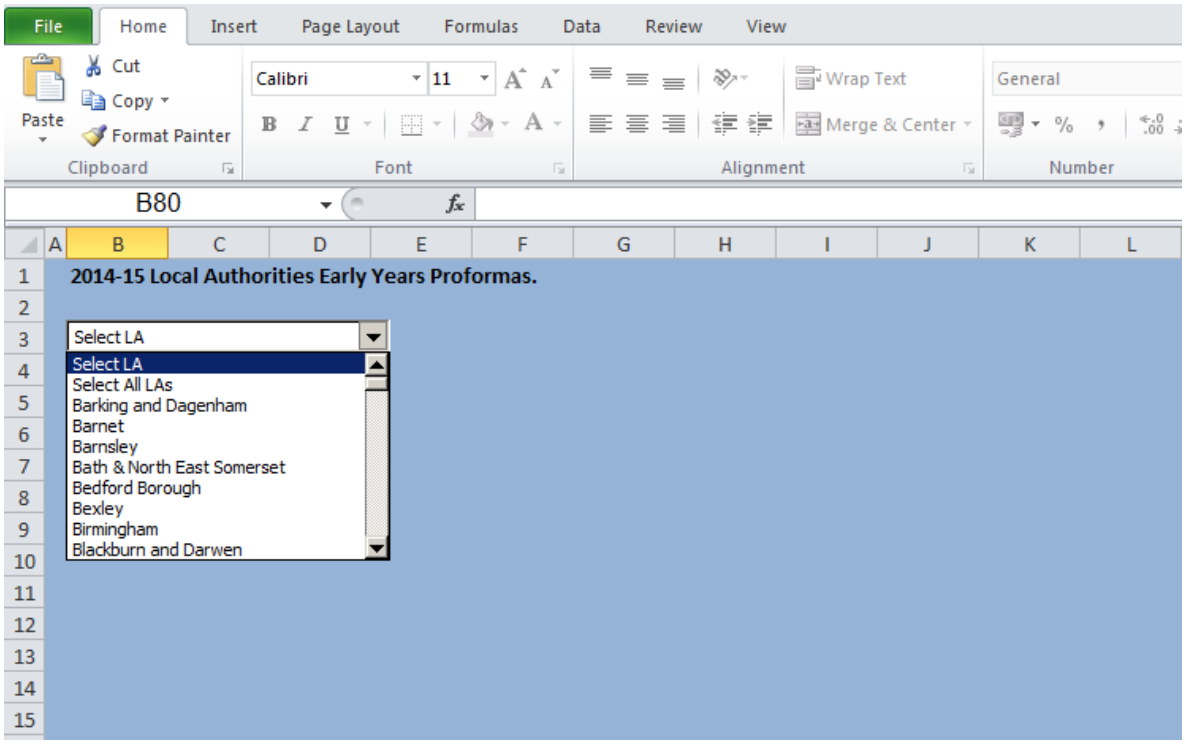
As with the 2-year-olds and 3 and 4-year olds worksheets, the benchmarking table can be sorted by each of the columns by using the drop down box; and the graph can be viewed for each of the columns.



Early years proforma

This has been produced by the Department based on the same section 251 returns as the benchmarking tables, i.e. projected spend in 2014-15.

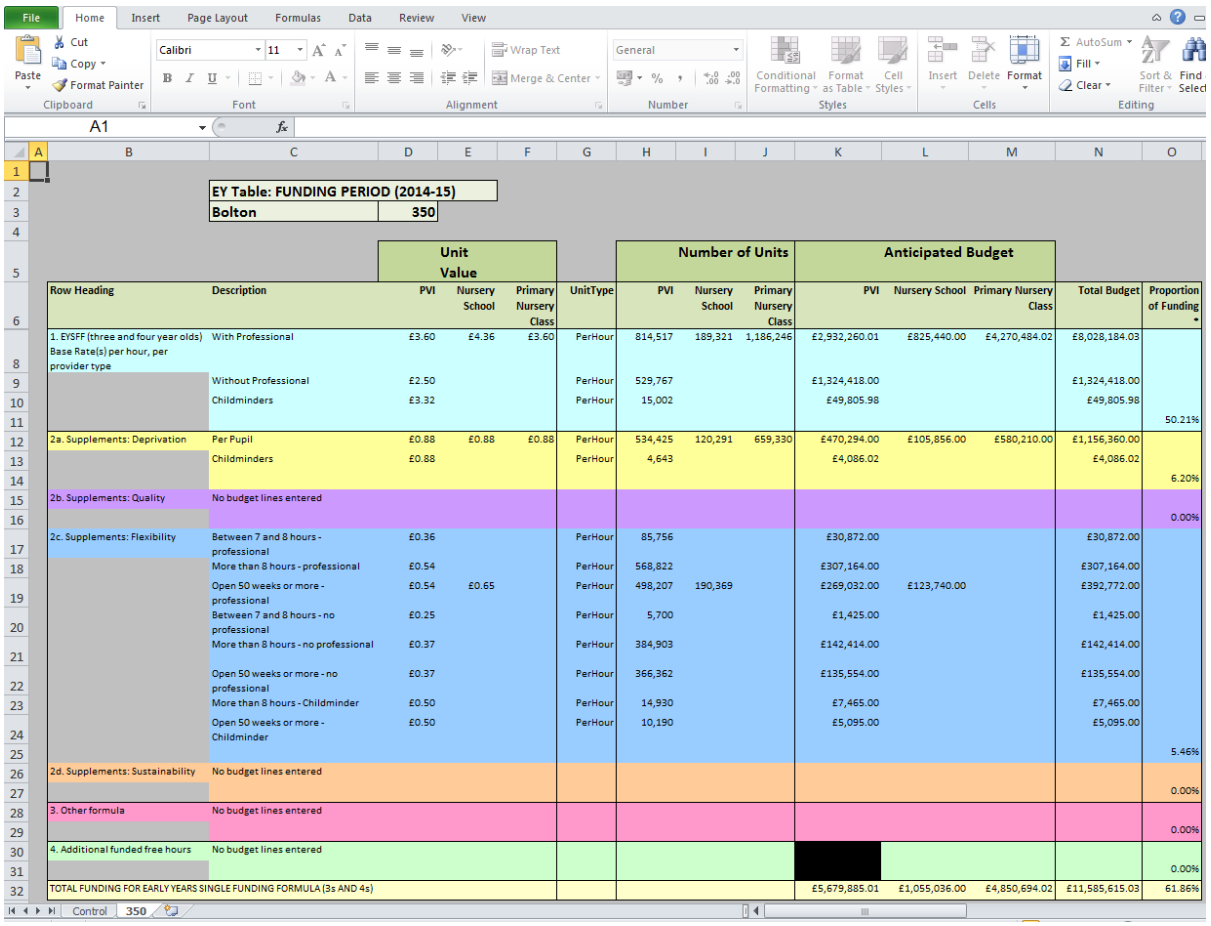
Select the local authority from the drop down box:



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; and
- The size of early years contingency funding.



EY Table: FUNDING PERIOD (2014-15)

Bolton 350

Row Heading	Description	Unit Value PVI	Unit Value Nursery School	Unit Value Primary Nursery Class	UnitType	Number of Units PVI	Number of Units Nursery School	Number of Units Primary Nursery Class	Anticipated Budget PVI	Anticipated Budget Nursery School	Anticipated Budget Primary Nursery Class	Total Budget	Proportion of Funding
1. EYSFF (three and four year olds) Base Rate(s) per hour, per provider type	With Professional	£3.60	£4.36	£3.60	PerHour	814,517	189,321	1,186,246	£2,932,260.01	£825,440.00	£4,270,484.02	£8,028,184.03	
	Without Professional	£2.50			PerHour	529,767			£1,324,418.00			£1,324,418.00	
	Childminders	£3.32			PerHour	15,002			£49,805.98			£49,805.98	
													50.21%
2a. Supplements: Deprivation	Per Pupil	£0.88	£0.88	£0.88	PerHour	534,425	120,291	659,330	£470,294.00	£105,856.00	£580,210.00	£1,156,360.00	
	Childminders	£0.88			PerHour	4,643			£4,086.02			£4,086.02	
													6.20%
2b. Supplements: Quality	No budget lines entered												
													0.00%
2c. Supplements: Flexibility	Between 7 and 8 hours - professional	£0.36			PerHour	85,756			£30,872.00			£30,872.00	
	More than 8 hours - professional	£0.54			PerHour	568,822			£307,164.00			£307,164.00	
	Open 50 weeks or more - professional	£0.54	£0.65		PerHour	498,207	190,369		£269,032.00	£123,740.00		£392,772.00	
	Between 7 and 8 hours - no professional	£0.25			PerHour	5,700			£1,425.00			£1,425.00	
	More than 8 hours - no professional	£0.37			PerHour	384,903			£142,414.00			£142,414.00	
	Open 50 weeks or more - no professional	£0.37			PerHour	366,362			£135,554.00			£135,554.00	
	More than 8 hours - Childminder	£0.50			PerHour	14,930			£7,465.00			£7,465.00	
	Open 50 weeks or more - Childminder	£0.50			PerHour	10,190			£5,095.00			£5,095.00	
													5.46%
2d. Supplements: Sustainability	No budget lines entered												
													0.00%
3. Other formula	No budget lines entered												
													0.00%
4. Additional funded free hours	No budget lines entered								[redacted]				
													0.00%
TOTAL FUNDING FOR EARLY YEARS SINGLE FUNDING FORMULA (3s AND 4s)									£5,679,885.01	£1,055,036.00	£4,850,694.02	£11,585,615.03	61.86%

Department for Education

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