

Dear Childcare Provider,

Each year, Portsmouth City Council works with childcare providers to produce a report assessing the local childcare market to ensure there is sufficient provision. This statutory duty ensures that childcare places are available, accessible, affordable, and of high quality, enabling parents to work and children to thrive.

Recent government initiatives - including the continued expansion of early years entitlements and the drive to improve access for working families - have placed a strong national focus on the importance of childcare. We recognise that many of you are already delivering these entitlements and providing exceptional services to children and families across Portsmouth.

To maintain our commitment to high-quality childcare across the city, we need a current and accurate understanding of the market. This helps us identify any gaps, anticipate pressures, and develop effective plans to support providers and meet local needs.

We ask that all childcare providers in Portsmouth complete the 2026 Childcare Provider Survey alongside the Early Years Census. Your participation is essential in helping us produce a comprehensive Childcare Sufficiency Duty Report for 2026.

This year, we have again commissioned Darwinnovate Ltd to undertake this work for us and you can access the survey here: [Portsmouth Childcare Provider Survey 2026](#)

The deadline for return is Friday 23 January 2026.

The survey is brief, and your responses will be used solely to improve our understanding of the childcare landscape. The findings will be published in our report, which will be made available online.

Attached, you will find a Privacy Notice detailing how we handle and use your data.

Should you have any issues accessing the survey please contact:
info@darwinnovate.co.uk

Thank you for your time and for your ongoing dedication to providing excellent childcare services in Portsmouth.

Best regards,

Mindy Butler
Early Years and Childcare Manager