

Early Years Provider Payment Frequency 2025/26 Consultation

Key Messages

Forum members are asked to note:

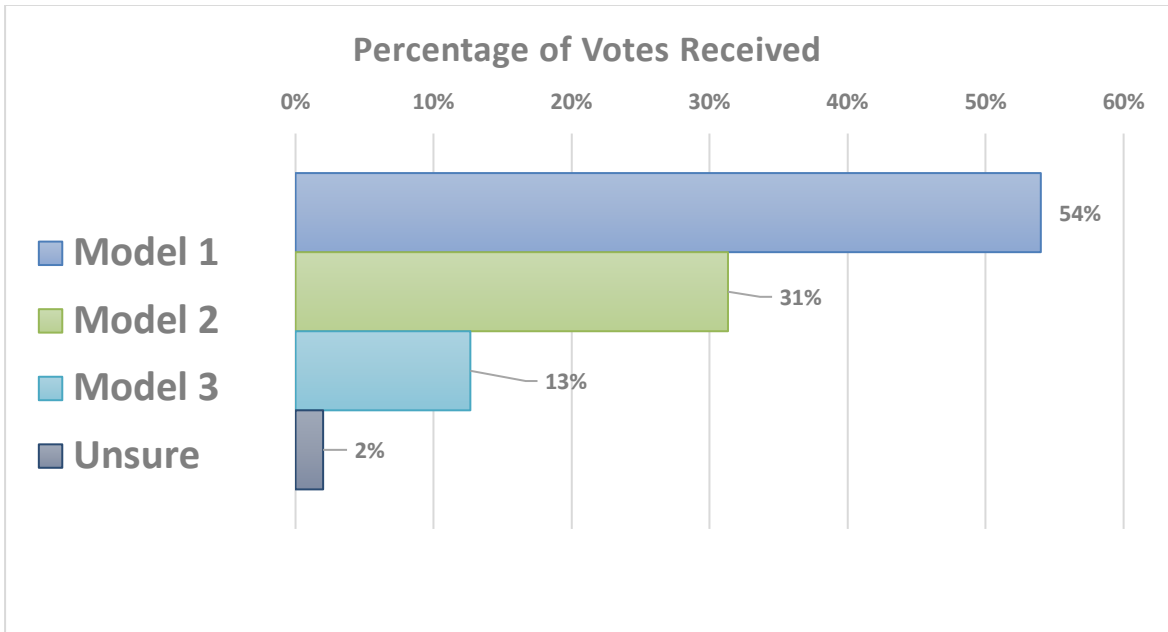
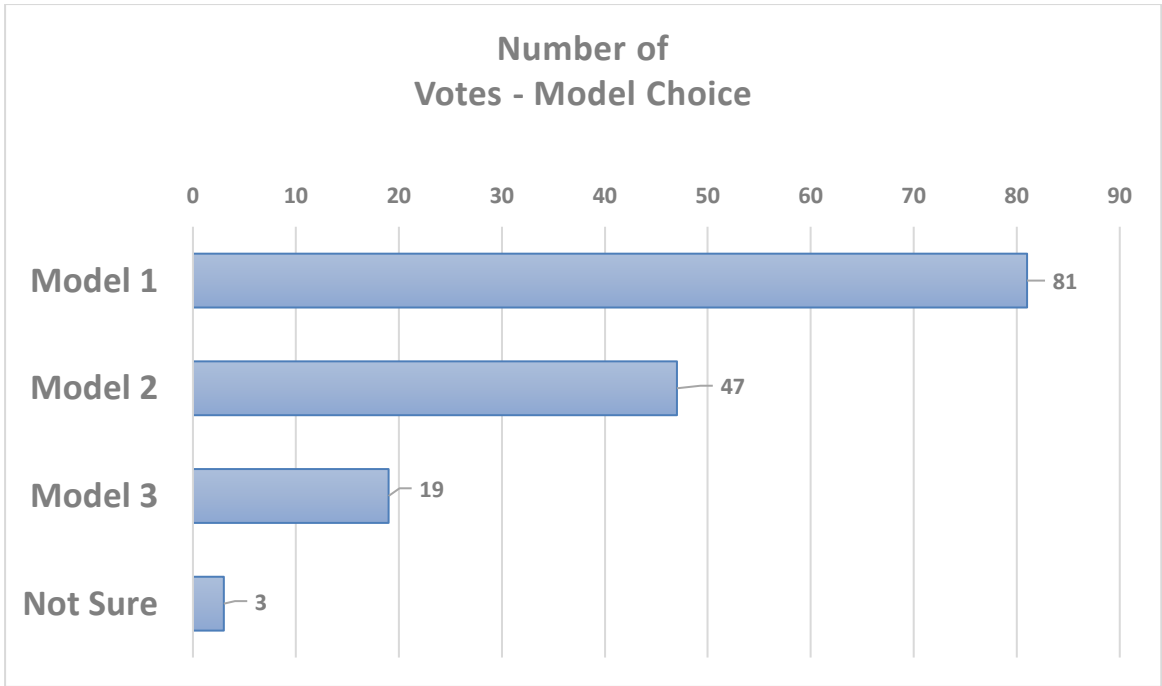
- **54%** of Early Years Providers in Sheffield have voted to **agree** that we remain with the existing payment methodology and do not move to implement a monthly payment process.
- We await the published outcomes of the DfE consultation and agree to consult with the sector if required to do so, upon receipt of the consultation results in the Autumn 2024 Term.

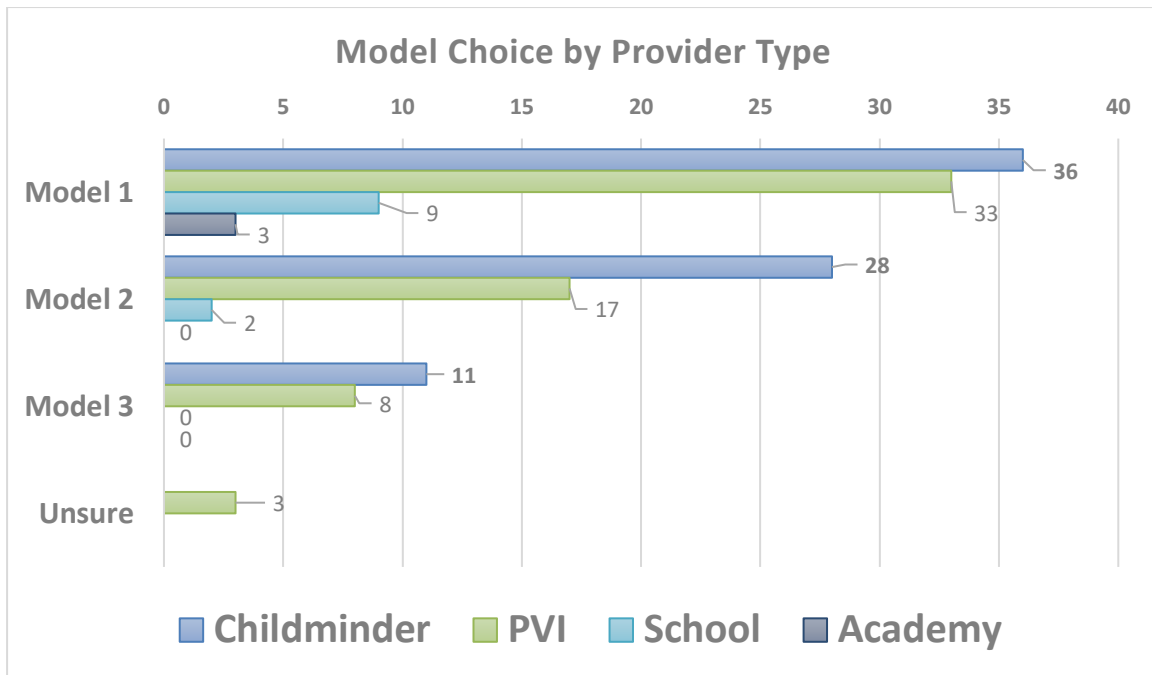
1. Introduction/background

- 1.1. As agreed in the September meeting, the early years sector was consulted on their preference of implementing a monthly payment process or to remain with the current payment methodology.
- 1.2. Sheffield City Council held a consultation from 2nd October to 30th October 2024.
- 1.3. It stated in the consultation if the sector voted to move to implement a monthly payment process this would be reviewed after one year but as the votes are to remain with the current payment methodology, the payment process will not be due for another review until the summer term of 2027.

2. Consultation Results

- 2.1 The results of the Early Years Provider Payment Frequency Consultation reveal that **54% agree** to remain with the existing payment process.
- 2.2 There was an overall response from 150 early years providers, which is 46% of the sector.
- 2.3 The breakdown of the votes received for each provider type are shown below for each model type:
 - Model 1 – 70% payment upfront - current payment methodology
 - Model 2 – 40% upfront then equal instalments for remainder of term
 - Model 3 – 45% upfront then equal instalments for remainder of term





Number of Votes Received by Provider Type

PROVIDER TYPE	SCC EY Providers	Number of Votes	% share of votes
Childminder	121	75	62.0%
PVI*	127	61	48.0%
School	28	11	39.3%
Academy	52	3	5.8%
	328	150	46%

*PVI – Private, Voluntary or Independent early years providers.

3. Recommendations

Forum members are asked to:

- Note the results of the consultation with 54% of early years providers voting to remain with the current payment process.
- Agree to continue with the existing funding arrangements.
- Await the published outcomes of the DfE consultation and agree to consult with the sector if required to do so, upon receipt of the DfE's consultation results in the autumn term.