Home > Retention and return: Delivering the expansion of early years entitlement in England

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Executive summary excerpt

In the 2023 Spring Budget the Chancellor announced a significant expansion in early years funding. The announcement focused on the funding of this expansion, but little was said about the workforce who would deliver it. This research combines new modelling focused on the additional demand likely to be generated by the expansion, with the working conditions and experiences of those currently working in the sector and those who have recently left. The research team gathered nearly 1,000 surveys and 60 participants in interviews and focus groups. It aims to better understand the conditions of the current early years workforce, the implications of the extended entitlement and what is needed to ensure any expansion of access can be successful, while ensuring the high-quality places that children deserve.

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