

Dear All,

The second wave of the GM childcare provider pulse survey is now live:

<https://www.gmconsult.org/strategy-team/8542979d>.

The closing date for the survey is **Wednesday 16th December**.

The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) is working with Early Education and Childcare Leads across Greater Manchester to support early years providers and the early years workforce throughout the coronavirus pandemic. To inform this work, we are asking providers to undertake a short survey. This survey is designed to hear providers' views on challenges in their setting over the next 12 months. The survey is repeated every half term, in order to monitor changes over time. Findings from the survey will feed into conversations with government about local childcare needs as well as shape future local support. Survey results from October 2020 were presented to the Mayor's Office, informed discussions with government and helped shape a scoping exercise around future business support to support the early years provider market.

A big thanks for all of you who completed the first survey in October - we had a very high response rate, with over 300 responses from providers. Some of the findings from the first wave are outlined below:

- 53% of providers surveyed saw a decrease in average occupancy over the last two months
- 27% at least partially closed due to Covid-19 in the last two months
- 44% believed staffing reductions were likely over the next two months
- 68% said their financial position had worsened over the last two months; 44% expected it to get worse over the next two months
- 23% were not sure if they will be open in 12 months' time.
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- the responses generated from the survey help us gain a deeper insight into the childcare market in the current context.
- Future waves of the survey will allow us to gain a deeper insight into market sufficiency, and how these issues have changed over time.