

COUNCIL		
Report Title	Motion 3 in the name of Councillor Brooks to be seconded by Councillor Peake	
Key Decision		Item No.
Ward		
Contributors	Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee)	
Class	Part 1	Date: November 27 2013

“This Council welcomes the introduction of free childcare for two year olds from the poorest families. 2,200 families across Lewisham will benefit as a result of this policy, directly helping those families that may be struggling with childcare costs. Since September 2013, children who are 2 years of age from families that would meet the Free School Meals criteria have been eligible for 15 hours of funded childcare per week for 38 weeks a year. Alongside the increase in pupil premium funding in 2013, this money helps those families most in need to focus on their children's development.

Giving children the best start in life will help us work towards closing the attainment gap, and ensure bright futures for the young people of Lewisham.

This Council notes that the number of available childcare places will need to be increased next year in order to meet expected demand. As of September 2013 the Council estimated that there will be a total of 1,188 places available over the financial year to March 2014, against a profile target of 1,320. This would leave an additional 132 places to create.

Council will take necessary actions to ensure that childcare places are available for any eligible family that desires them and will ensure that it can create the number of required places.”