



# **Wirral Borough Council**

Provider Portal
Better Start User Guide

Version 4 March 2020

**Early Years Cohort Tracker** 

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### 1. Background

- 1.1 Better Start is a module within the Wirral Provider Portal which is used for recording and submitting tracking data. This is a direct replacement for the Excel Wirral Cohort Tracker previously used.
- 1.2 All funded providers will have access to submit tracking data for funded children which is required during each of the four submission windows- one as a baseline, as well as one for Autumn, Spring and Summer terms.
- 1.3 If a new member of staff within a setting requires a log in for the Provider Portal, the manager of the setting must complete a 'Provider Portal Proforma' form and send this to the budget support team <a href="mailto:budgetsupportearlyyearsqueries@wirral.gov.uk">budgetsupportearlyyearsqueries@wirral.gov.uk</a> This is included within the new provider pack when setting up as a funding provider and can be obtained by emailing <a href="mailto:fis@wirral.gov.uk">fis@wirral.gov.uk</a>. Information required includes:

**Full Name** 

Date of Birth

**Business Email** 

(Please note: email must be an individual work address rather than a generic setting email. For instance, <a href="mailto:daniel@littledinosaurs.com">daniel@littledinosaurs.com</a> as opposed to <a href="mailto:enquiries@littledinosaurs.com">enquiries@littledinosaurs.com</a>)

1.4 All portal users have responsibility to inform Wirral Borough Council when access is no longer required to the Provider Portal. Notification of any changes to work location should also be made, for instance if a staff member moves from one setting to another. Changes should be emailed to <a href="mailto:budgetsupportearlyyearsqueries@wirral.gov.uk">budgetsupportearlyyearsqueries@wirral.gov.uk</a>

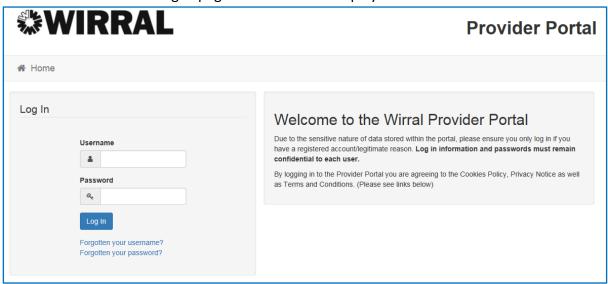
### 2. Logging on to the Better Start Portal

- 2.1 The username and password used to log in to the Better Start Portal is the same log in for Headcount and Self-Update. For providers who have recently registered, during the first log in a request to change your password will be displayed.
- 2.2 If new user access is required please contact <a href="mailto:childrenssystemsteam@wirral.gov.uk">childrenssystemsteam@wirral.gov.uk</a>
- 2.3 To open a new internet browser session, select the browser installed on your machine, ie: Internet Explorer, Google Chrome or Firefox etc
  In the search bar located at the top of the screen the Provider Portal address needs to be added:

https://emsonline.wirral.gov.uk/Provider Portal LIVE

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2.4 The Provider Portal log in page should now be displayed.

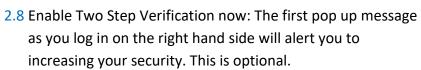


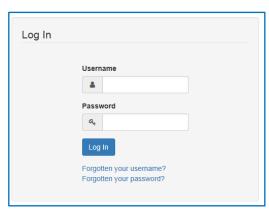
- 2.5 Please note the Provider Portal log in page will also display any notices such as maintenance or upgrade times. If there are difficulties logging in please check here first for any relevant information.
- 2.6 Log in: Please now enter your Username and Password. (All passwords are case sensitive and must follow the following guidelines: a minimum of 10 characters containing at least 1 capital letter, 2 numbers and 1 special character.)

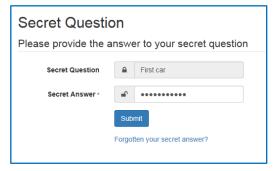
Once the information is entered please click the 'Log In' button.

2.7 Secret question: Please now enter the answer to your secret question. If this is your first time logging in you will be asked to set this up. Once you have entered this information please click the 'Submit' button.

(If you have forgotten your secret answer please click the link 'Forgotten your secret answer'.)

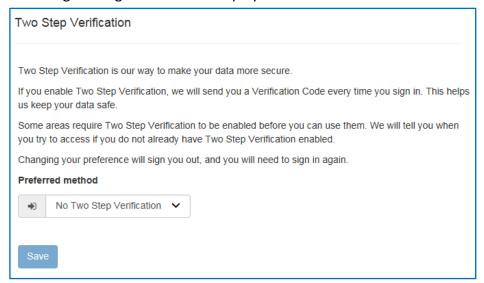






Enable Two Step Verification now
You can increase your security by
using Two Step Verification. Enable
now

2.9 If you wish to set-up two step verification, please click the 'Enable now' text. The following message will then be displayed.

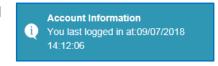


The preference for two-step verification is set to 'No Two Step Verification' as default. To enable this added security measure, please click the drop down menu and select 'Email'. Enabling this feature will send an email to the registered account at each sign in with a specific code which needs to be entered swiftly before you can access the portal.



(Please note that if you set up this feature each time you sign in a new code will have to be entered to allow access. This has to be entered within a very short time frame.)

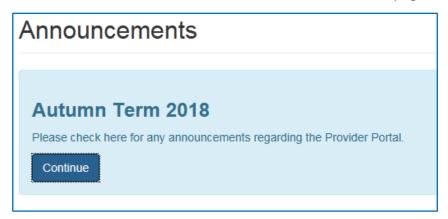
2.10 Account information: As you log in, again on the right hand side an information box will appear. This details the last time the account was logged into by the user.



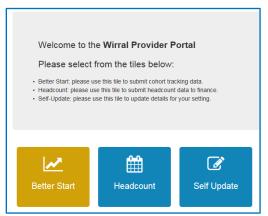
(If the date and time do not reflect the last time you logged into the account this could potentially highlight a security breach. Firstly please change your password and then email <a href="mailto:childrenssystemsteam@wirral.gov.uk">childrenssystemsteam@wirral.gov.uk</a>)

### 3. Home Page

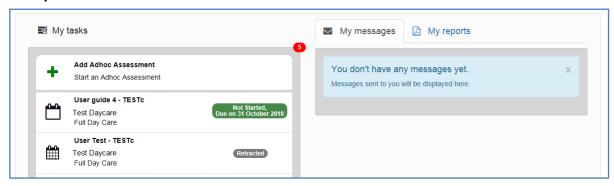
3.1 When you log in any announcements for Better Start, Headcount, Self-Update and Two Year Old Funding will automatically be displayed before the home page is accessed. Please click the 'Continue' button to move onto the home page.



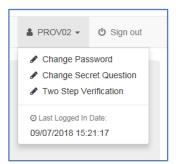
3.2 Once you have logged onto the Provider Portal the portal home page will be displayed. Different tiles will be shown to reflect the areas which can be accessed. Please click the 'Better Start' button to access the cohort tracking side of the portal.



3.3 Once you have clicked the 'Better Start' tile you will now be at the Better Start home page. There are now three headings you can access: 'My tasks', 'My messages' and 'My reports'.



3.4 Changing password and secret question: From any home page the currently logged in user can also change their password and/or secret answer. Clicking on the user name in the top right corner of the screen will display both options.



### 4. Tasks

4.1 On the Better Start home page you will see all tasks which are required to be completed on the left hand side. Please click anywhere on the task to open.





A blank calendar icon means a task is available but has not been started.

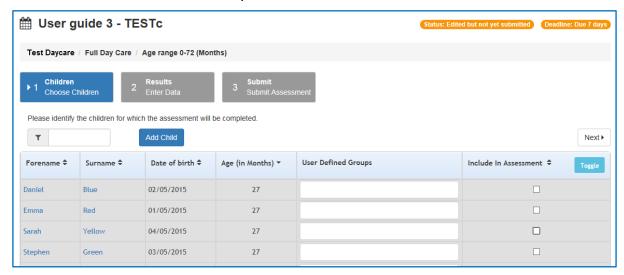


This icon means that a task has been opened and started.

4.2 Each task will also have a due date shown via a traffic light system. This will initially be green but will change to amber and then red as the task gets nearer to its due date.
Once the due date expires it will then turn grey.

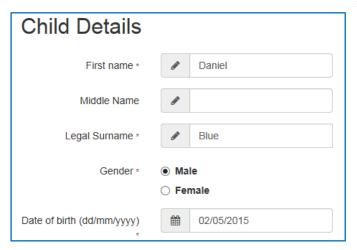


4.3 Once a task has been clicked on and opened, the following screen will appear, allowing children to be added to the assessment. All children in the appropriate age range for the assessment should automatically be available to select.



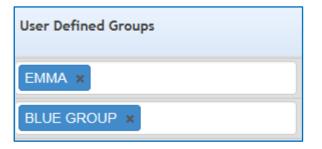
#### (Please note: age in months refers to the child's age at the date of the assessment.)

4.4 If a child's details are incorrect, for instance a name is spelt incorrectly or date of birth is wrong please click on their name. This will then bring up the child details screen where information can be edited. Please click 'Save' when you have finished.

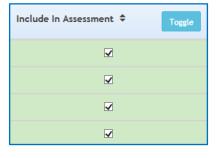




4.5 User defined groups can also be added on this page, for instance key workers or other groupings relevant to individual settings. To enter a group, please click on the box under 'User Defined Groups' and type in text before pressing enter. (Please note: more than one group can also be added per child if required.)



4.6 Once the list of children has been checked for accuracy and any additional children added (Please see section 8 regarding how to add a new child), then the children to be included in the assessment need to be selected. Please use the column on the right hand side titled 'Include In Assessment'. If all children need to be included please click 'Toggle' to select/de-select all.



4.7 Once all relevant children have been selected for the assessment, please click the 'Next' button located at either the top right/bottom left of the screen.



### 5. Entering Tracking Data

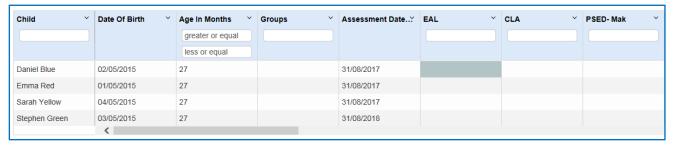
5.1 The next stage is to input tracking data for the selected children. This will take you onto the second tile at the top of the page- 'Results'. (Please note that the 'Choose Children' tile should be green when this section has been completed.)



5.2 In the top right corner of the screen will be displayed the current status of the assessment.



5.3 The screen below will now be seen with children selected displayed. Children's date of birth, age in months at time of the assessment and assessment date are automatically generated. Any 'User Defined Groups' (as added in a section 4.5) will be present under the 'Groups' section.



5.4 To filter results for a specific child please use the white search box by clicking and entering a child's name. To view all children added to the assessment, please click the 'x'.

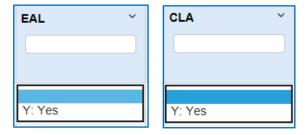


5.5 Children's results can also be filtered by age using the 'Age In Months' heading.
Greater or equal: enter a valid number here, ie: 27 to view all children who were 27 months or older at the date of the assessment.
Less or equal: enter a valid number here, ie: 27 to view all children who were 27 months

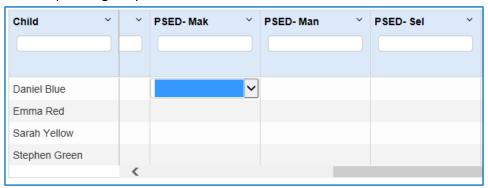


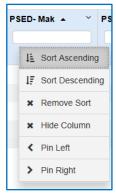
or younger at the date of the assessment.

5.6 Requested information can then be added for each child using the dropdowns present and scroll bar to access all of the available menus. Move from left to right beginning with EAL (English as an Additional Language) status and CLA (Child looked after status.) Both are set to 'no value' and only need to be selected if 'Yes' is applicable.



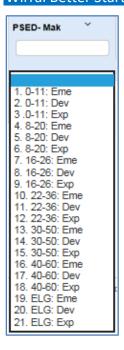
5.7 Scrolling across to the right, tracking data can now be added for each selected child. Each sub area of development is displayed and needs to be selected using the corresponding drop down menu.





Clicking the small down arrow next to each heading will also bring up the menu to the left. This allows results to be sorted and columns pinned to either the left or right of the screen for ease of inputting data.

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The current level for each child then needs to be selected from the drop down menu under each sub area heading (17 in total). These are banded into age ranges with refinements 'emerging', 'developing' and 'expected'.

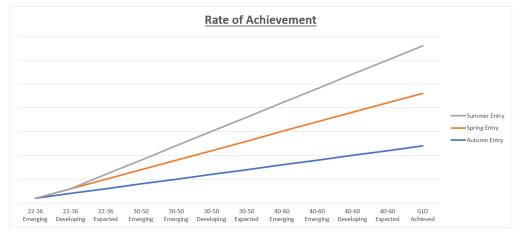
Once each sub area has been added using the drop down menus, a comment can also be added (if required) on the far right of the scroll bar by clicking the blue box. Then click save to return to the input screen.



5.8 The final drop down which requires information to be added, is whether each child is on track to achieve their GLD (Good Level of Development) by the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The information is input on a simple drop down menu with the options 'No' or 'Yes'.



This is identified using the GLD grid as in indicator of progress (located in section 12 of this user guide) combined with professional knowledge. Please note: A child <u>can be</u> on track for their specific age, however, also <u>not be</u> on track to achieve their GLD by the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage. This essentially requires accelerated progress for the specific child, as diagrammed below.



5.9 Once all levels are added please click the save button located at the bottom of the tracking screen.



(Please note: saving the assessment will just store the information which has currently been entered, it <u>does not</u> send this through to Wirral Borough Council.)

5.10 Results which are added to the tracker can also be downloaded as an Excel document by clicking the 'Download' button. The message below will appear: please click 'Open' to open the document or 'Save' to save the document to your computer.

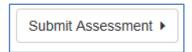


5.11 (Please note: when carrying out this process, the portal may log itself out due to the time spent on a task. The log in page will then re-appear, where you will need to reenter your password.)



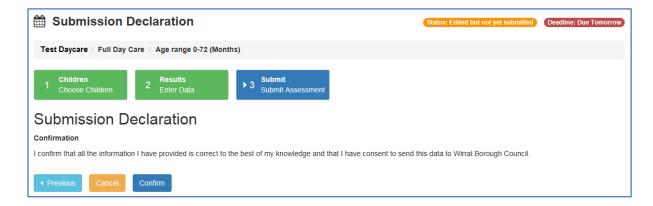
## 6. Submitting an assessment

6.1 When all data has been added for relevant children, please click the 'Submit' button located at the bottom of the tracker.



6.2 The 'Results' tile at the top of the screen will now have turned green, and the next stage is to submit the assessment. The deadline date for the assessment can be found in the top right corner of the screen- this will highlight when the assessment is due on a traffic light system.

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Before tracking information is submitted, please read the submission declaration. This confirms that the information submitted is correct and consent has been gained to send this data to the local authority.

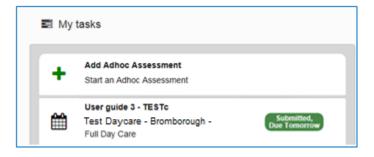
To confirm the declaration has been read and to submit your tracking data please select the 'Confirm' button. A message will appear to check that you wish to submit the tracking information in its current state. Please click the 'Yes' button to continue.



6.3 The following message will then appear in the top right corner of the screen if the task has been submitted successfully. If this has not worked please try re-submitting the assessment.

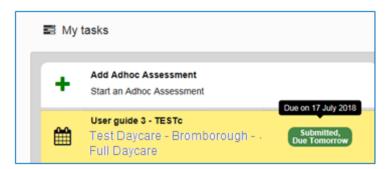


6.4 The task which has been submitted will now appear on the 'Better Start' homepage. This will appear with a green icon to the right which also includes the submission date. (Please note: tasks can be submitted a number of times, however we would recommend that each task is only submitted once to ensure that data is accurate and up-to-date for all children. Prior to the submission deadline, changes can be made and saved until the whole data set is complete, before then being submitted.)



### 7. Re-submitting a task

7.1 Once a task has been submitted, as long as the deadline date has not elapsed, it is possible to re-submit this if amendments have been necessary. There may be several reasons that a task needs to be resubmitted, for instance if a child needs to be added to the assessment or if developmental levels need to be changed due to inaccurate input. To make any changes to a submitted assessment, please click on the task on the 'Better Start' home page.



- 7.2 This will automatically open the assessment on the 'Results' entry page. If developmental levels need to be changed please use the drop down menus to select the correct values. (Please see section 5.7 for guidance.)
- 7.3 Once all changes have been made please click the 'Next' button at the bottom of the tracking table. Then follow steps in section 6 to submit the assessment.

### 8. Add a new child

8.1 If the changes to the submission require a new child to be added, please click the 'Previous' button located at the bottom of the tracker. This will bring you back to the 'Children' screen. If the child you need to add is already present on the list, please select the tick box on the right hand side and then click the 'Next' button. (This will bring you forward to the tracker screen, please then follow steps in section 6.)



8.2 Adding a new child: to add a child which is not present on your list, on the 'Choose

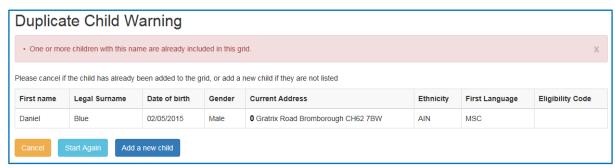
Children' tab please select the 'Add Child' button.

(Please note: Forename and surname added must be identical to those recorded in checked documents, for instance on a birth certificate of passport.)



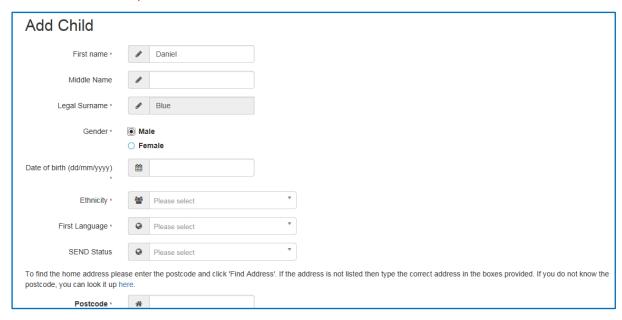
Please then add the requested information and click the blue 'Next' button.

8.3 Duplicate child message: when you have selected 'Next' after inputting the child's forename and surname, if they have already been included within the assessment the following warning box will appear.

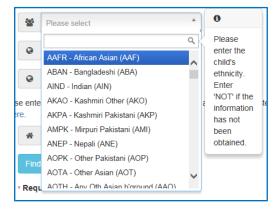


If the information present is correct for the child you are attempting to add, please click 'Cancel' to return to the previous screen. If it is a different child which needs to be added, please select the blue button 'Add a new child'.

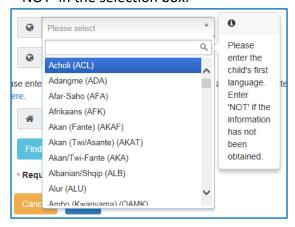
8.4 The screen below will then appear. Please then use the available boxes to input the required information for the new child. (Please note: all mandatory fields are marked with an asterisk.)



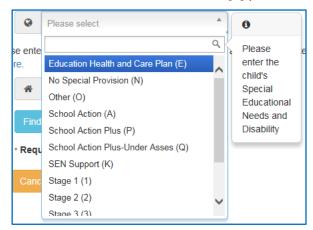
8.5 When inputting a child's ethnicity, please select from the drop-down menu. If information regarding ethnicity has not been obtained or is not available, please enter 'NOT' in the selection box. (This will then automatically select NOBT- Info not yet obtained.) If the code for a specific ethnicity is known, this can be typed into the search box to find the correct selection quickly. (Please note: if the wrong ethnicity is selected, please click the small 'x' in the right hand corner of the selection box before selecting the correct value.)



8.6 When inputting the child's first language, please select from the drop-down menu. If information on first language has not been obtained or is not available, please enter 'NOT' in the selection box.



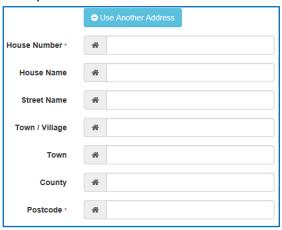
8.7 When inputting SEND status, please select from the drop-down menu. (Please note: only relevant selections are required as follows: No Special Provision [N], SEN Support [K] or Education Health and Care Plan [E] )



8.8 When adding the child's address, please first type in the postcode and then use the blue 'Find Address' button. Please then select the correct address from the results provided. If the required address is not present, please click the 'Enter Address Manually' link and type in the correct information.



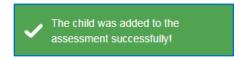
8.9 This will then bring up the menu for manually adding an address. Please fill in all of the required fields.



8.10 If you do not know the child's postcode, please click the blue link outlined below. This will re-direct you to the Royal Mail website to locate the correct postcode and address. Once this has been used, please return to the portal page to input the correct address.

you can look it up here.

8.11 Once all of the required information is added, please click the blue 'Save' button located at the bottom right corner of the screen. The following confirmation button will then appear at the top right of the screen.



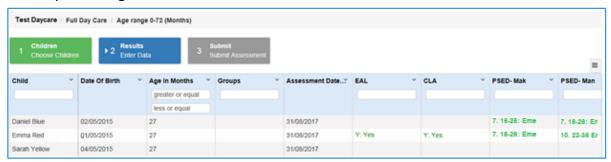
8.12 You will then be re-directed back to the 'Choose Children' tab. The child added will then appear on the list of children included in the assessment. If numerous new children need to be added, please repeat the previous steps.

(Please note when a child is added through the 'Add a new child' menu, a tick will automatically generate to include them within the assessment. Children should only be added via this route if they are to be included within the assessment.)

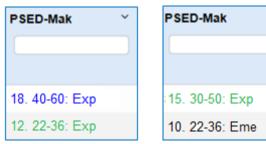


### 9. New Term Tracking Task

9.1 Cohort tracking submissions are required four times each year during designated submission windows- one baseline and then Autumn, Spring and Summer terms. When the task is opened from the 'Better Start' home page (see section 4) clicking on this will take you through to the tracker screen.

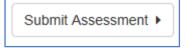


9.2 Values which have previously been added for a child will appear as 'green' text. (These relate to values that were added during the previous terms assessment.) If values are then changed within the assessment they will appear as 'blue' text. For values that are added where initially blank spaces were present, the text will be 'black'. (For instance, a new child being added to an assessment.)



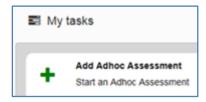
(Please note: if values have stayed the same in this assessment as they were in the previous term, they will remain as 'green' text.)

9.3 Once all updates have been made to the assessment and any new children have been added, please select the 'Submit Assessment' button. This will then take you to the 'Submission Declaration' page. (Please refer to section 6.)

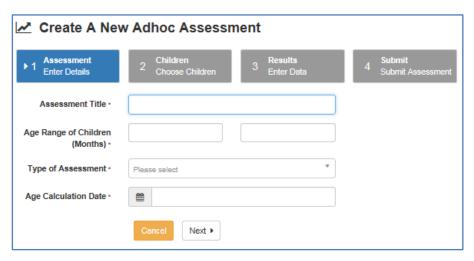


### 10. Adhoc Assessment

- 10.1 Adhoc assessments can also be run at any time, including outside of designated submission windows. These allow providers to carry out additional tracking if required. (Please note: adding an adhoc assessment instead of submitting a task will not replicate the same information. Please use the tasks to submit tracking information during each submission window.)
- 10.2 To add an adhoc assessment, please click on the 'Add Adhoc Assessment' button.

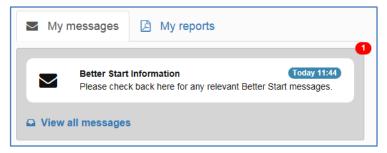


10.3 This will bring up the screen below. Please enter the information for your assessment, ensuring the 'Type of Assessment' is selected before clicking the 'Next' button. (Please then follow steps in section 5.)

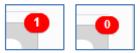


### 11. Messages

11.1 Any messages which have been sent by the local authority regarding Better Start will be viewable on the Better Start Homepage under the 'My Messages' tab.



11.2 The number of unopened messages will appear as a red bubble in top right corner of the message dialogue box. This will change once the message has been opened and read.

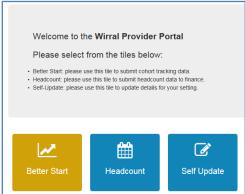


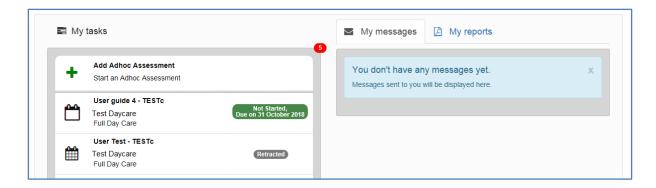
11.3 To open the message please click anywhere on the message alert. This will then open the page below. Please use the red 'Delete' button to the right to delete the message, or 'Back' to keep the message and return to the previous screen.



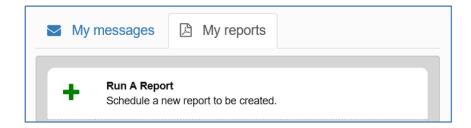
### 12. Reports

12.1 To run a report, access the Better Start tile and click on 'My reports' next to 'My messages'.

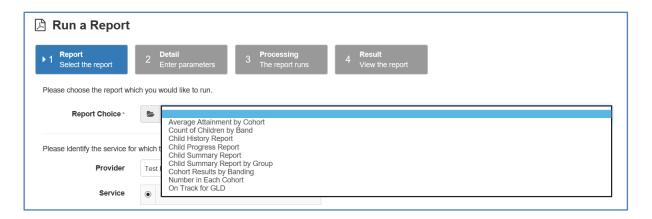




### 12.2 Next, click 'Run A Report'.



12.3 Select the drop-down menu next to 'Report Choice' to view a selection of reports that can be created.



Here is a brief description of the reports available to generate:

### **Average Attainment by Cohort**

A bar graph showing the average attainment scored in the areas of learning and development.

### Count of Children by Band

Create a bar graph showing the count of children in each band for a set of aspects.

#### **Child History Report**

A report detailing all assessments results for a single child.

#### **Child Progress Report**

A report detailing all assessments results for a single child showing a graph of their progress. Results which do not have a numerical value are excluded from this report (e.g. results which are comments will not be included).

#### **Child Summary Report**

A report detailing the assessment results for a single child for a single assessment with explanatory text.

#### **Child Summary Report by Group**

Child Summary Report for a user defined group of children.

#### **Cohort Results by Banding**

A report to show all children within the cohort and their individual result for each Aspect.

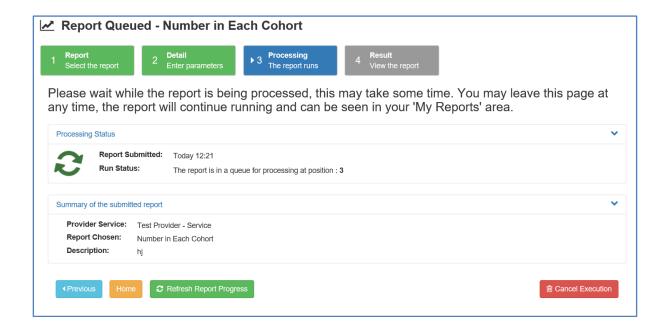
#### Number in Each Cohort

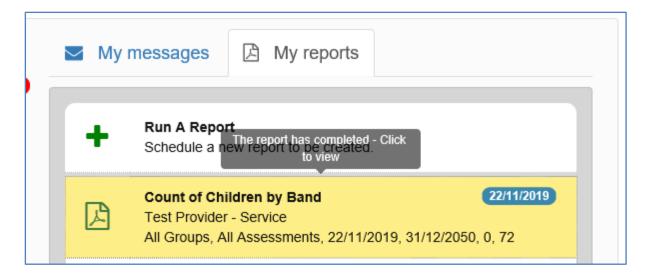
A numerical count of children achieving in each level per Aspect.

#### On Track for GLD

A table showing numerical count of children on track for GLD within the whole cohort.

12.4 The report will then be added to a queue for generation. It may take some time for the report to generate. You may leave the page at any time and the report will continue to generate in the background. When it is completed, it will appear in the 'My reports' area.





## **12. Supporting Documents**

12.1 GLD Grid for measuring children's current attainment against their expected trajectory to a good level of development (GLD)

	+1+									
					Foundation One			Foundation Two		
	Baseline Result	End of Autumn	End of Spring	End of Summer	End of Autumn	End of Spring	End of Summer	End of Autumn	End of Spring	End of Summer
ELG										ELG ACHIEVED
40-60 Expected										
40-60 Developing										
40-60 Emerging	Minimum result for F2									
30-50 Expected										
30-50 Developing										
30-50 Emerging	Minimum result for F1									
22-36 Expected										
22-36 Developing										
22-36 Emerging	Minimum result for 2YO									
16-26 Expected										

This grid should be used as a guidance document when assessing whether children are on track to achieve their GLD during the Better Start tracking process. This is a guide using the required steps to achieve GLD at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage, and follows a steady trajectory of progress which will not occur for all children. The GLD results should therefore only be used as an <u>indication</u> as to whether they are on track for this specific achievement.

