



## **LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT**

### **EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, 15 December 2009 at 7.30 pm**

PRESENT: Councillor Motley (Chair) and Councillors Arnold, Mistry and Tancred, together with Mr Lorenzato (Voting Co-Optee)

Also Present: Councillor Wharton (Lead Member, Children and Families) and Mrs L Gouldbourne (Observer - Teachers' Panel), Ms Jolinon (Observer - Teachers' Panel), Ms J Cooper (Observers - Teachers' Panel) and Rizwaan Malik (Observer - Brent Youth Parliament Representative)

Apologies were received from: Councillors Mrs Fernandes, J Moher and CJ Patel

#### **Matters Arising**

##### **Allocation and Funding of Nursery Places**

Following a request for an update on this item, Councillor Wharton (Lead Member for Children and Families) informed the Committee that this issue was considered at the Schools Forum meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> December, on the same day that the Children's Minister announced that the introduction of the Early Years Single Funding Formula, under certain circumstances and conditions, would be delayed by a year. He explained, however, that the Government were inviting those local authorities who were ready to implement the funding formula to take part in pathfinders. He stated that therefore the Executive would need to decide whether to go ahead or to delay the introduction of the formula when the proposals go to the Executive in January 2010. Councillor Wharton reminded the Committee of the significant progress Brent had made in developing the Early Years Single Funding Formula. He added that there were a number of authorities who had suggested that they would be starting implementation in April 2010.

It was noted by the Committee that the Schools Forum had overwhelmingly voted in favour of asking the Council to delay implementation for a year. Furthermore, a view was put forward that it was not just representatives from the private, secondary and independent sector that had concerns regarding the proposals but that a number of head teachers had also expressed a concern at the Schools Forum. As a result of this and out of concern for a possible adverse impact on the private, independent and voluntary sector, Councillor Arnold proposed that the Executive be asked to endorse the Schools Forum's recommendation that the implementation of the Early Years Single Funding Formula be delayed until April 2011 and this was supported by Councillor Mistry. The Chair and Councillor Tancred in response expressed a concern that the Committee did not have enough information before it to make such a recommendation. However, following a vote the proposal was supported.

Councillor Wharton then explained that the Executive would also be asked to agree an interim process for one year until September 2011 for the allocation and funding of full time Early Years places with implementation from September 2010. He added that the Schools Forum had agreed to this.

It was requested by the Chair that a verbal update and a copy of the report, which was due to go to the Executive in January 2010, be provided to this Committee at the next meeting in February 2010.

RESOLVED:-

- i) that the Executive be asked to endorse the Schools Forum's recommendation that the implementation of the Early Years Single Funding Formula be delayed until April 2011;
- ii) that a verbal update and a copy of the report, due to go to the Executive in January 2010, be provided to this Committee at the next meeting in February 2010.