



**Forward Plan Select Committee 3 March 2010**

**Report from the Director of Children and Families**

For Action

Wards Affected: All

**Report Title: Early Years Single Funding Formula and Full-Time Nursery Places**

## 1.0 Overview

- 1.1 The proposal being presented to the Executive should be considered as 2 separate proposals, the first covering the introduction of an Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) and the second covering how full-time places are allocated and funded.
- 1.2 Extensive consultation with all nursery providers and the schools forum has taken place over the past year. The last Schools Forum supported unanimously the proposed changes to both the EYSFF and full-time places allocations.

## 2.0 EYSFF

- 2.1 The proposal going to the Executive is for Brent Council to apply to the DCSF to become a Pathfinder Authority and introduce this new formula from April 2010 which will be one year earlier than when it is made compulsory for all local authorities. The EYSFF will for the first time put in place a formula which funds schools and private, voluntary and independent nursery providers on a consistent basis and in accordance to this new formula we have developed.
- 2.2 We recently received notification from the DCSF that our Pathfinder application has been successful.

### **3.0 Full-Time Nursery Places**

- 3.1 With regards to full-time places the proposal going to the executive is to introduce a new basis of allocating funding for full-time places from September 2011, this is one year later than we had originally planned. The reason for the delay is two fold. Firstly, the Schools forum, although supportive of the proposed changes, raised concerns that we would be working to a very tight timeline if we wanted to adequately consult parents on these changes. We reflected on this and we did agree that it would be quite challenging to consult effectively in time to introduce it for September 2010. Secondly, an important element of changing the allocation of full-time places would have been schools having the power to charge parents who still wanted their child to have a full-time place and were willing to pay for the additional hours on top of the funded half-time place. To enable this, the government had intended to introduce new regulations giving schools such powers. Unfortunately these new powers have not been introduced and there is no clarity on when the Government will introduce them.

#### **Contact Officers**

Mustafa Salih, Assistant Director Finance and Resources,  
Children and Families, Chesterfield House, 9 Park Lane,  
Wembley Middlesex HA89 7RW.

Tel: 020 8 937 31910. Fax: 020 8 937 3093

Email: [mustafa.salih@brent.gov.uk](mailto:mustafa.salih@brent.gov.uk)

**Director of Children & Families**  
**John Christie**