



Schools Forum February 2015

Report from the Operational Director, Early Help & Education

For information

Update on the funding allocation and place take up for under 5's supported nursery places.

1.0 Summary and Background

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the funding allocation and place take up for under 5's supported nursery places including spend to date.

A combined panel was set up after consultation with the Head of Pupil and Parent Services, the Head of Early Years and Family Support and the Interim Principal Officer for Children with Disabilities. The aim of combining the three previous panels was to increase efficiency and to provide a more integrated and consistent approach.

The combined, multi agency panel came into effect on 7 March 2014 and it meets monthly. (See Appendix 1 for referral pathway flowchart)

The panel has representatives from all appropriate Early Years teams and an experienced social worker to support applications for the CIN places.

A supported nursery place can be allocated by the panel for a child with a disability (CWD) or for a child in need (CIN) CWD children are referred by a variety of professionals including early years settings and Health providers.

In general a place allocated for a CWD is for 15 hours per week and for term time only.

CIN referrals come following an assessment by a social worker or Early Intervention practitioner. These places are for 15 hours a week but all year round.

Background

This funding, allocated from DSG Early Years block was originally (2009/10) divided between the three council Sure Start children's centre nurseries as a lump sum to each. An internal audit in 2010 highlighted the inappropriateness of the method of allocation as there was no full audit trail and it was not possible to identify which children had specifically been funded through this budget. A formula was set up based loosely on the schools formula funding, selecting the most appropriate

banding to bulk book places at nurseries, including 2 maintained nursery schools and a children's centre nursery. It was not possible to exactly replicate the schools formula as different costs needed to be taken into account, e.g. teachers' salaries. It had become apparent that some children would be more effectively placed in PVI settings (e.g. when a sibling attends the setting or it is too far to travel to the pre booked nursery). A sum of money is kept to fund these places as and when they are taken up. In addition to this a small sum of money is allocated to provide transport to the specialist nurseries.

The funding has been adapted over the last couple of years to better reflect needs. This has led to the employment of a teacher to support the Early Years Inclusion team from November 2014. As the teacher has recently started it is not yet possible to evidence outcomes. It is hoped that she will support settings in devising appropriate targets for the new individual plans, encourage partnership with social care and health, as well as suggesting modifications to the early years settings to enable children to access appropriate learning opportunities. The role of the teacher will help PVI and nursery schools support improved outcomes for children with additional needs and disabilities.

1.2 The eligibility criteria for entitlement to a supported nursery place are as follows:

- the child has a significant additional need or disability which impacts on their ability to access early years provision
- the child has been diagnosed as being on the Autistic Spectrum.
- the child is subject to a Child Protection or Child in Need plan
- the child is looked after or in care
- the family has no recourse to public funds

Each referral is considered on a case by case basis and from time to time, children not meeting the above criteria are allocated places on a discretionary basis in order to support children that are not at the higher banding level or have not yet had a formal diagnosis but require some input in order to meet their needs.

1.3 The eligibility criteria for transport is as follows:

- The family do not have access to transport

and

- The journey to nursery requires 2 or more changes of transport
- The level of specialist equipment prevents them from using public transport
- A single carer needing to take other children to school, where it would not be possible to do 2 or more pick ups
- The journey from home to nursery exceeds 45 minutes

(see Appendix 4 for transport budget and spend to date)

1.4 The targeting of provision to support vulnerable children through early support and intervention is in line with the Council's Children and Young People's Plan. Funding for the supported nursery places is part of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation.

1.5 Supported places

A CWD place allocation is for 15 hours per week term time only (38 weeks). This funding acts as a top up to the NEG funding in order to provide interventions as appropriate to the needs of the child, support at key points of the day, release time for the keyworker to liaise with health professionals, any additional resourcing needed and additional training needs for staff (these places are generally from 2 years of age but an earlier place might be considered).

CIN place allocation is for 15 hours per week for 50 weeks of the year. The rationale for all year round provision is a protective factor and to act as a support system for the family, possibly reducing the need for further involvement of social care.

On occasions where more time is desirable, this will be individually negotiated and where the time allocated exceeds 15 hours per week, more than one of the identified places will need to be allocated. If a CWD child/family requires respite during school holidays, alternative funding will be sought e.g. Direct payment funding or Care at Home funding.

2 DSG Funding Allocations for supported nursery places and spend to date

2.1 DSG allocations to date:

2013-14

£957,818 was allocated which included £134,288 to provide support for PVI places and £38,172 for transport.

2014-15

- £1,027,000 which includes £227,829 to provide support for PVI places and £38,172 for transport.
- This also included an amount of £51,871 for a teacher to work in the Early Years Inclusion team in order to raise the quality of provision for children with additional needs in PVI settings and nursery classes. This has not been fully used this year as the post holder only came into post in November 2014.

2.2 Spend to date

Please see Appendix 2 for actual allocation of places for CWD and CIN

2.2.1 Promotion

There has been internal promotion of supported nursery places through the following teams

- Social care (including localities), care planning, children with disabilities and no recourse to public funds
- Family Solutions
- Children's Centres
- CFIS
- Early Support
- Portage
- Paediatricians
- Head of therapies-SALT, OT and physiotherapy

- SALT-in children's centres and clinics
- PVI providers

2.3 Challenges

2.3.1 There have been some challenges with filling the allocated CIN places. It is not clear that this is due to a lack of need. Anecdotal evidence suggests it is not. In order to address this, an intensive promotion in the appropriate teams is planned for January and February.

In addition, the Head of Service for Localities will oversee and monitor an assessment of need and referrals going forward.

2.3.2 The referral rates for CWD have been consistently low at Curzon/Fawood. Analysis of this suggests that the children either have a diagnosis of ASD, and therefore they are allocated a place in the additionally resourced provision, that families request a PVI that is more convenient or that the family already has links with. In addition to this until recently they were unable to take 2 year olds and the majority of referrals in the Harlesden and Willesden area were for this age range.

2.3.3 There is further work to do to improve the quality of CAF's to provide more accurate information for children with additional needs. This will be jointly carried out with the CAF and Early Years Inclusion team.

2.3.4 Further input is also needed to increase PVI's confidence in completing CAF's so that they can complete them independently. Feedback on the quality of CAF's will be given to referrers and support given where needed. This will be carried out by the Early Years Inclusion team, including the NEG2 Inclusion Officers. There has already been some positive impact noted in this area.

3 Future plans

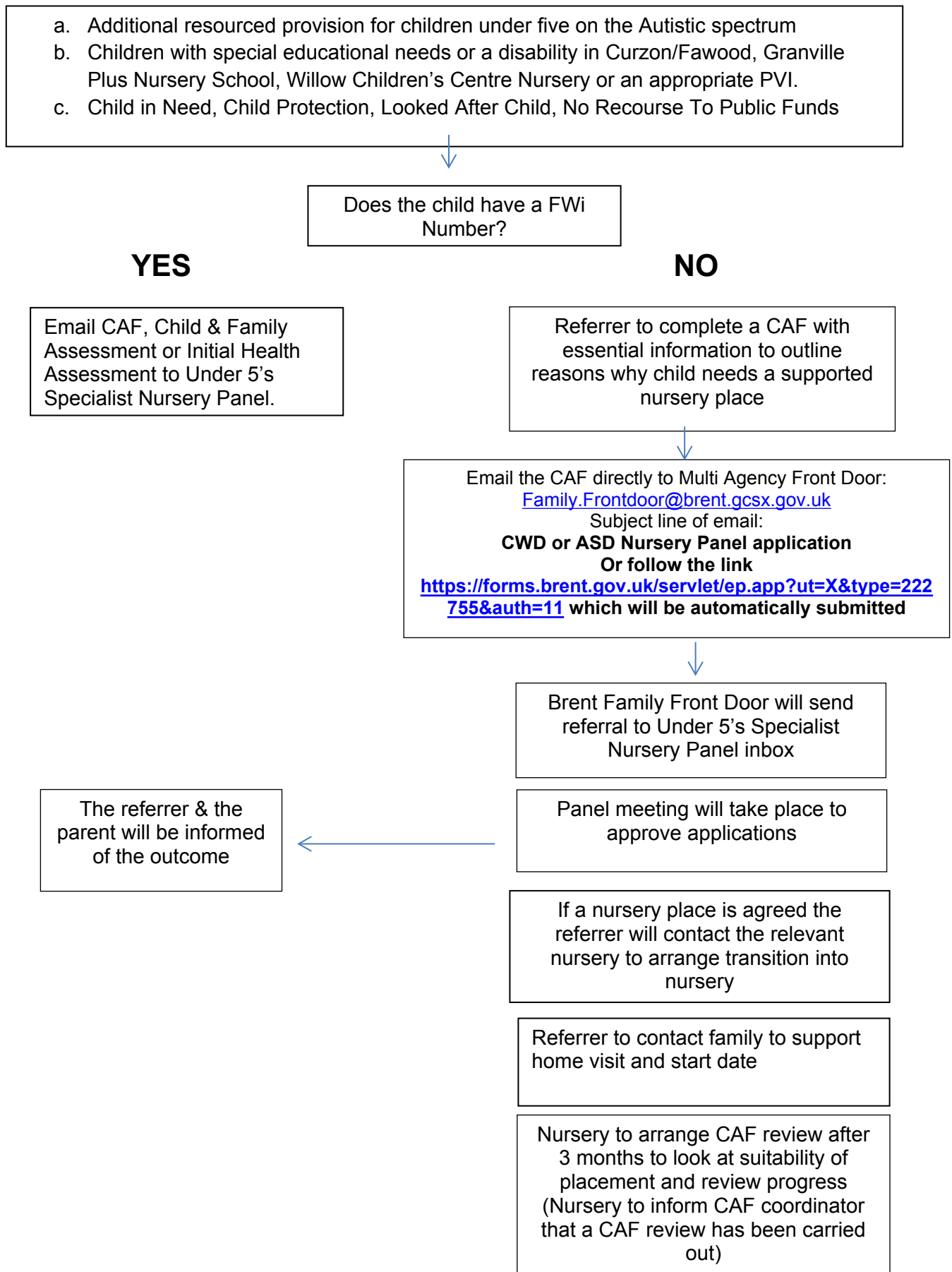
3.1 The prediction is that numbers of CWD places will continue to increase as they have over the past 2 years, based on increased availability in the PVI sector and better viability of spaces.

3.2 Further work needs to be implemented to ensure that providers notify the panel when any changes have taken place i.e. if a child leaves the setting or the setting has had issues in contacting a family so that we can be sure that children access the provision that they have been allocated.

3.2 Promotion is planned with the health visitors in January 2015, with the hope that there will be a health visitor champion. Further intensive work needs to be carried out with social care teams to increase referral rates.

3.3 The funding subgroup reviewed this paper at a meeting on 7 January 2015 and agreed it was desirable to ensure all places are filled. This will be addressed initially by being flexible around some of the places e.g. if CWD places are full a CIN place can be allocated.

This will be monitored over the year and a more permanent change considered once the level of need for CIN places is clearer.

Appendix 1: Referral pathway

Appendix 2:**CWD places over 3 years, from 2012 to 2014**

	Dec 12	Dec 13	Dec 14
Curzon/Fawood	no places offered	0/6	1/6
Granville Plus	2/6	4/6	4/6
Willow	24/36	30/36	31/36
PVI	no places offered	no places offered	36

CiN places over 3 years, from 2012 to 2014

	Dec 12	Dec 13	Dec 14
Curzon/Fawood	5/12	5/12	10/10
Granville Plus	4/6	2/12	5/10
Willow	16/40	21/40	11/30
PVI	4	11	18

As CIN places were not being filled the place allocation was reduced from 74 part time places to 50 part-time places in the financial year 2014/15

Appendix 3:**Children with Disabilities places allocated during 2014/15**

	April 14	May 14	June 14	July 14	Sept 14	Oct 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	
Curzon/Fawood	2/6	2/6	2/6	2/6	1/6	1/6	1/6	1/6	
Granville Plus	3/6	3/6	4/6	4/6	4/6	5/6	5/6	5/6	
Willow	34/36	34/36	34/36	32/36	24/36	24/36	24/36	31/36	
PVI	22	22	28	28	25	25	29	36	

Children in Need places allocated during 2014/15

	April 14	May 14	June 14	July 14	Sept 14	Oct 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	
Curzon/Fawood	7/10	7/10	7/10	7/10	4/10	4/10	4/10	10/10	
Granville Plus	7/10	7/10	8/10	10/10	7/10	8/10	8/10	8/10	
Willow	28/30	26/30	25/30	26/30	15/30	15/30	14/30	11/30	
PVI	17	18	19	20	18	18	18	18	

Appendix 4: Transport

Allocated budget	Spend & forecast until March 2015	Budget remaining
£38, 172	£21,440.49*	£16,731.51

Funding to PVI's for supported nursery places

Allocated budget	Spend & forecast until March 2015	Budget remaining
£227.829	£145, 566.76*	£82,262.24

*This forecast covers the costs of the children who are already in the system and will need to be funded until the end of this financial year. Part of the remaining budget is likely to be allocated to new children coming to panel in the period January to March 2015.

Any remaining underspend will be used to address a predicted overspend in another Early Years DSG budget.

Appendix 5

CIN & CwD budget for 2014/15

	Children with Disabilities 2014/15		Children in Need 2014/15		Summary
	Total				
£1,027,000	FTE	Banded Total Annual Funding	Annual Places	Annual Cost	Total Funding
Setting	Total Annual CWD Places	20,172 (per 15 hour place)		£6 (per hour)	
Fawood/Curzon	3	60,516	10	45,000	105,516
Granville Plus	3	60,516	10	45,000	105,516
Willow Nursery	18	363,096	30	135,000	498,096
Transport					38,172
Additional for 2YOs and PVI Support					227,829
Staff member for EY Inclusion Team					51,871.00
Total	24	484,128	50	225,000	1,027,000