

 Brent	<p style="text-align: center;">Report for Schools Forum 25 February 2015</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Report from the Operational Director, Early Help & Education</p>
<p>Implementation of the Early Years Pupil Premium</p>	

1.0 Introduction and Background

In April 2015, the Government will be allocating £50 million across the country for 2015-16 to extend the pupil premium into the early years. The Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) will provide nurseries, schools and other providers with additional support for disadvantaged three and four year olds. The School and Early Years Finance Regulations will be amended to set a national hourly rate for the EYPP and the money will follow the child meaning that funding will be allocated to LAs through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

- 1.1 Three and four year olds will be eligible for the EYPP if they are accessing the early education entitlement and if they meet the eligibility criteria (see Appendix 1)
- 1.2 Virtual School Heads will be responsible for managing the EYPP relating to looked after children. They will be able to identify which looked after children in their local authority will attract the funding and working with the child's social worker and foster carer, they will be able to identify the settings where the child is placed
- 1.3 Local authorities have been allocated initial funding for 2015-16. A mandatory mid-year survey will take place in the autumn of 2015 to check take-up of the EYPP and make adjustments to the allocation in light of that
- 1.4 The Government will bring forward an amendment to the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill to enable the Eligibility Checking Service to be used for the EYPP
- 1.5 Guidance for local authorities on administering the funding and eligibility checking of the EYPP will be issued later in 2015
- 1.6 Ofsted is updating its inspection frameworks to make it clear that effective use and impact of the EYPP will be assessed under the leadership and management judgement
- 1.7 The deprivation supplement in the Early Years Single Funding Formula is being retained and the Government are encouraging local authorities to consider using their deprivation supplement to increase the local rate of the EYPP

- 1.8 The DfE will conduct a survey with providers part way through the financial year to see how providers are spending their EYPP and to identify early evidence of impact.
- 1.9 The current Study of Early Education and Development (SEED) research will be extended to include an assessment of the impact of EYPP on the quality of early years settings and an interim report will be available in summer 2016.

2.0 Recommendations

The Schools Forum is asked to:

- (i) Approve the commencement of the process to implement the EYPP in Brent in April 2015
- (ii) Endorse our recommendations to providers for use of the EYPP to best support disadvantaged children
- (iii) Note our plans for training and support to providers
- (iv) Note that a full review will be carried out at the beginning of 2016 to assess the effectiveness of the initial roll-out and the findings brought back to the Schools Forum with proposals for any further amendments or adaptations
- (v) Approve funding for additional FTE post on fixed term basis to administer the EYPP

3.0 Recommendations on use of the EYPP

- 3.1 The DfE has acknowledged that providers are best placed to understand the particular needs of the disadvantaged children that they work with. However they are also clear that this needs to be accompanied by a clear and effective accountability system and guidance given to providers on how to make best use of the EYPP in supporting disadvantaged children.
- 3.2 To this end, the Government plans to identify and share good practice with providers to help inform their planning on how to make the most effective use of EYPP in order to narrow the inequality gap. Support will be provided by our Quality Improvement Team to enable providers to effectively identify and meet the needs of disadvantaged children in their setting using innovative approaches that also offer value for money. This will include embedding improvement mechanisms and targeted support within their action plans and to emphasise the importance of tracking and data to evidence continued progress and impact.
- 3.3 The DfE has not yet issued any guidance but has said that providers will be encouraged to utilise peer-to-peer support and to work together in quality improvement networks to maximise use of the EYPP. The Government is supporting sector-led improvement. In Brent, this could provide an opportunity for schools through the Brent Schools Partnership and for local private, voluntary and independent providers (PVI) to learn from each other and share resources.

- 3.4 The implementation of the EYPP is an agenda item at the next PVI meeting on 29 January 2015 and further briefing sessions dedicated to the EYPP will be held for providers in March 2015.

4.0 Financial Commentary

- 4.1 The EYPP allocation for Brent for the financial year 2015-16 is £384,123 based on an estimate of 1,334 eligible children. This will be paid at the rate of 53p per hour per child.

The Council cannot alter eligibility criteria for this initiative nor do they have any flexibility to vary the amount per child. The Government has stated that local authorities may choose to offer the EYPP to a wider group of children, or to fund at a rate higher than 53p/hour, if they believe that meets particular local needs, and will need to meet these costs out of local resources.

- 4.2 Staffing will be required for the administration of this funding, particularly around eligibility checking of children and processing of payments. Key duties will include:

- (i) Eligibility checking for each child. This is to take place twice, the first time upon application for the premium and once later in the year.
- (ii) Administration and processing of each EYPP payment
- (iii) Liaison with providers re applications and payments
- (iv) Liaison with parents re applications in the system
- (v) Liaison with the LAC teams for LAC children receiving the EYPP
- (vi) Being main point of contact for all enquiries relating to the EYPP

It is expected that one FTE post will be required to administer the EYPP alongside changes to an existing job role. This should ensure sufficient capacity for the smooth running of this initiative. Funding for this post would come from money that is available from the funding within the early years block, if not it would be from the deprivation strand of funding. Staffing (costs approximately 35k) could be funded by reducing the current deprivation supplement.

Following the Early years funding subgroup meeting of 7 January 2015, a preference was expressed for additionality for the first year of implementation at a minimum and that a request be made to the Schools Forum for additional funding for this post.

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 The delivery of the EYPP is a statutory duty which will enable us to help disadvantaged children to benefit in particular from additional resources and support in order to achieve outcomes on a par with their peers.

The potential for positive impact is significant but it is acknowledged that the implementation needs to include effective processes and adequate staffing in the Early Years and Family Support Service, and promotion and guidance to providers, to ensure that that the funding reaches providers in a streamlined manner so that children can benefit immediately.

The full review at the beginning of 2016 will highlight what has worked and what would need to be changed following the initial implementation of the EYPP. It will also provide an opportunity to consider whether the allocation for the deprivation supplement should be used to increase the rate for the EYPP for future years.

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Appendix 1

Eligibility for the EYPP

They are three-or four-years old and receiving 15 hours of Government funded early education in ANY provider, AND they are either:

In a low income family. Their parents are in receipt of one or more of the following benefits: Or have been:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on –paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

- looked after by the local authority for at least one day
- have been adopted from care
- have left care through special guardianship; or
- are children subject to a child arrangement order