

 Brent	<p align="center">Schools Forum</p> <p align="center">4th December 2013</p> <p align="center">Report from the Director of Children & Families</p>
For Information	
<p>2014/15 Early Years Funding – Consultation with Schools and PVI Sectors</p>	

1. Background

- 1.1 It was not possible to hold the Early Years Funding Sub Group (the Sub Group) meeting scheduled for October due to a large number of absences rendering the meeting inquorate. A November meeting has also proved impossible in diaries. The council was consulting the sub group on the following items impacting on 2014/15:
- Increase in the base rate of 3% to be funded from savings arising from the over funding of FT places during 2013/14
 - Funding a post for the early years inclusion team to support children with emerging SEN in school nursery classes and PVIs from the additional £500,000 approved for early years in 2013/ 14 with the residual sum being allocated using the IDACI criteria within the deprivation supplement
 - To retain the current FSM eligibility requirement and process for funding FT places.
- 1.2 In the absence of the Sub Group meeting and to facilitate the development of the 2014/15 budget and guidance to schools continuing to offer FT nursery places for the September 2014 intake it was decided to consult Sub Group members via email.

2 Detail

3% Increase in the Base Rate

- 2.1 The Forum was consulted last year for the 2013/14 early years funding on a proposal to increase the base rate by 5% if affordable. However, it was only possible to fund a 2% increase. Savings will arise in 2013/14 from the over funding of schools offering FT places due to the operation

of the clawback mechanism. This is where the actual number of eligible FSM children was less than the number estimated for the school's budget share. The savings will be sufficient to fund a 3% increase in the base rate.

Additional Early Intervention (SEN) Post

- 2.2 The Forum approved additional funding of £500,000 for the 2013/14 early Years to support children with emerging SEN in school nursery classes and PVI providers. There is now a need to use this funding in a more targeted way that will provide additional staffing resources within the early Intervention Team to assist providers in managing the needs of SEN children.

Funding Full Time School Nursery Places for FSM Pupils

- 2.3 Following an earlier review of the provision of FT places Schools Forum asked that work was done to review the feasibility of offering funded FT places to all schools and PVI providers. The proviso was that it had to be funded from within the existing cost of provision and it had to include additional local eligibility criteria.
- 2.4 Initial work undertaken by officers during the summer indicated that the current funding would only support around two places per setting in all primary, nursery and PVI settings. In addition the administration of any new scheme could be prohibitively complex if additional local eligibility criteria were introduced over and above the current FSM criterion.

3 Conclusions and Recommendations

- 3.1 The email responses from the schools and PVI Sub Group representatives supported the three proposals.
- 3.2 Schools Forum is asked to:
- a. Note the responses from the Sub Group representatives
 - b. Note the proposals outlined in paragraph 1.1 of this report.

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