

SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM

5th July 2018

Directorate of Children Learning and Skills

Early Years Centrally Retained 2018-19

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report outlines the proposed use of centrally retained funds across the Early Years Block.

Background

- 1.1 Following the introduction of the Early Years National Funding Formula in 2018/19 this short report requests Schools' Forum approval for the use of centrally retained funds across the Early Years Block.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Schools' Forum:
 - Review and confirm the use of centrally retained funds across the Early Years Block.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 In 2018/2019, the DfE mandated a reduction in centrally retained funds for English local authorities from 7% to 5%.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The increase in the pass through rate across the sector has enabled Slough to implement the Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF) ahead of the implementation date, 1 April 2020.
- 4.2 The implementation of the EYNFF has seen rates rise across the range of Free Early Learning entitlements and above inflation.
- 4.3 The changes to the base rates and reduction in centrally retained funds are fully incorporated across the overall Early Years budget.
- 4.4 The in-year adjustments conducted by the DfE are based on participation rates. This may result in changes to the level of centrally retained funds available +/-.

4.5 The below table illustrates the proposed use of centrally retained funds and includes the accompanying detail.

EY Central budget	Base Allocation	Description
Early Years Adaptations / Practical Support	75,000	Work with providers to address the needs of children with lower level or emerging SEN; e.g. Providers can apply for grants to purchase equipment, training or other support needs to include children with SEND in their settings and remove barriers to access.
Early Years Strategic Financial Support	80,000	Financial contribution for the budget overview / management by DCS, Service Lead and Strategic Finance Officer.
Central Early Years Expenditure	91,200	Support the development of quality provision through advice, challenge and training; e.g.: mentor and validate the Bristol Standard quality improvement programme; prepare Focussed Improvement Partnership Plans (FIPP) for settings with an Ofsted categorisation of Requires Improvement or Inadequate; Promote and develop the ITalk programme to support best practice in developing children's communication skills.
Central Early Years Team Contribution		
Quality Care & Learning	187,360	Support the development of quality provision through advice, challenge and training; e.g.: mentor and validate the Bristol Standard quality improvement programme; prepare Focussed Improvement Partnership Plans (FIPP) for settings with an Ofsted categorisation of Requires Improvement or Inadequate; Promote and develop the ITalk programme to support best practice in developing children's communication skills.
3 & 4 year old funding and other statutory responsibilities	124,710	There are a number of administrative and development roles that combine to enable SBC to meet its statutory responsibilities regarding: safeguarding; the securement of free entitlement places including pass through of funding to providers; the promotion of partnership working including flexibility of provision; and information advice and training. For further details see the Provider Agreement 2017.
2 year Funding	83,570	Facilitation of all aspects of Funded Early Learning for 2 year olds, ensuring all checks take place and payments are made appropriately. Ensuring all parents have access to the appropriate 2 year funding including brokerage services.
Littledown School	42,000	Payment to Littledown school for a range of behaviour support services for children in specific settings across the borough inc the provision of training for practitioners.
Advisory Teachers	107,260	Settings in the Early Years Sector are supported with regular qualified teacher involvement, giving settings a chance to engage with a qualified teacher on a regular basis, thereby raising attainment levels
Total	791,100	

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 Not applicable.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

6.1 Monitoring Officer

The relevant legal provisions are contained within the main body of this report.

6.2 Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Resources

The financial implications of the report are outlined in the supporting information.

6.3 Access Implications

There are no access implications.

7 CONSULTATION

7.1 Not applicable

Contact for further information

Michael Jarrett
Service Lead – Early Years
michael.jarrett@slough.gov.uk