

SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM
15th January 2020

Directorate of Children, Learning and Skills

Early Years Centrally Retained Funds 2020-21

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise and propose to Schools' Forum the planned use of centrally retained funds across the Early Years Block for financial year 2020-21.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Schools' Forum **review** and **agree** the use of centrally retained funds across the Early Years Block, which is to be set at 5% of the 2, 3 and 4 year – old funding allocation.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 In-line with current regulations, as described under 5.2 of the Early Years entitlements: local authority funding of providers Operational guide for 2020-21, local authorities are required to pass-through 95% of their 3 and 4 year - old funding from the government to early years providers, leaving a maximum of 5% of that funding to support central functions. As with the previous year, the LA is seeking to maximise the use of this allowance, which is broken down further on within the report.

4 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The 5% remaining expenditure can be used to support:
- Centrally retained funding (for central services or services in-kind, including special educational needs and disability (SEND) services),
 - Transfer of any funding to 2- year-olds,
 - Any extra hours that local authorities choose to fund in addition to the government's hours for 3- and 4- year olds,
 - Any funding movement out of the Early Years block.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 The provisional settlement for financial year is £14.349m, which is predicated on Jan 19 census data. The tables overleaf illustrate the calculations to derive the centrally retained budgets and the proposed use of them for 2020-21 reflecting the most up to date settlement provided by the DfE. Note that EYPP, MNS, DAF and 2 Year Old funding are not included in the pass through calculation; however, under section 4 of the Operational guidance, it stipulates that there is currently no regulatory requirement to pass through a set amount of the government's funding to providers for the delivery of 2 Year

Old entitlements. Therefore it has been treated in the same manner as the 3-4 year old funding.

- 5.2 Budgets are provisional and are therefore subject to change. A revised settlement will be provided in Jul- 20, when the Jan-20 census has been verified. This may result in changes to the level of centrally retained funds available +/-.

Initial funding allocation for universal entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds (£s)	Initial funding allocation for additional 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of 3 and 4 year olds (£s)	Initial funding allocation for 2 year old entitlement (£s)	Total eligible for top-slice
£m	£m	£m	£m
9.659	2.551	1.284	13.494

Total provisional Central Budget 2020.21

0.483	0.128	0.064	0.675
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Early Years Central Budget	Base Allocation 2019.20	Proposed Allocation 2020.21	Description
Early Years Strategic Financial Support	£80,000	£78,811	Financial contribution for the budget overview / management by DCS, Service Lead and Strategic Finance Officer.
Central Early Years Expenditure	£69,800	£68,763	Statutory duty for a child with suspected or diagnosed SEND; managing referrals across the sector and delivering identified programmes and packages of support.
Early Years Team Contribution detailed below:			
Quality Care & Learning & Advisory Teachers	£281,110	£276,932	Statutory duty to provide support to all new providers, mandatory training, support and challenge settings receiving an Ofsted outcome of Inadequate (FIPP). Additional non- statutory duties: Bristol Standard Quality Improvement Scheme, promotion of self - evaluation and action planning through the Partnership Improvement Plan and regular QT involvement in settings.

2 year funding, 3 & 4 year old funding and other statutory responsibilities	£211,990	£208,215	Statutory duty securing free early education places; pass through of funding to all providers; the promotion of partnership working including flexibility of provision; compliance work to ensure providers offer entitlements appropriately, in- line with statutory guidance.
Littledown School	£42,000	£42,000	Payment to Littledown school for a range of behaviour support services.
Sub TOTAL	£684,900	£674,720	
Early Years Adaptations/Practical Support	£50,000	£50,000	A central resource to enable providers to access practical equipment/support in order to enable children with SEND to continue to access their entitlement/s.
Grand Total	£734,900	£724,720	£10,180 less funding for 2020-21

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6.1 N/A

7 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

7.1 Not applicable

8 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

8.1 Monitoring Officer

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

8.2 Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Finance and Resources

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

8.3 Access Implications

There are no access implications.

9 CONSULTATION

9.1 N/A

Contact for further information

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