

## Consultation responses - Proposal to introduce a Single Funding Formula for Early Years Provision

### QUESTION 1

Do you agree with the issues that have been considered to develop the basic rates?

Yes	No	No opinion	Comments
12	1	2	Mount Pleasant Primary (No) - The document does not go far enough in explaining to what extent it has considered the fact that PVIs do not have to employ qualified teachers whereas maintained school nurseries do. Will staff costs for Nursery teachers still appear in the main budget or will these staff now appear separately? Will schools be able to use Reserves to support Nursery costs? Does the Local Authority anticipate that teachers who are Y3 and hold TLR's for their role as managers of maintained. Nurseries are as sustainable as PVIs with no such staff and with similar levels of child 'participation'?
			Fairytales Day Nursery (Yes) - Although I feel personally that all rates should be more in line with each other P.V. I have higher staff to child ratios hence need more allowances for this, I agree that Nursery schools should be supported but not at double the rate of everyone else. we all do the same job. Secondly Netherton Park receives huge grants etc we are not entitled to therefore creating a more enhanced provision. Surely their private provision can help support them as ours does.
			Bramford Primary School (Yes) - The issues are agreed with, provided that 5p per hour per child does in practice cover the extra costs incurred in mainstream provision
			Foxyards Primary School (Yes) - The issues are agreed with, however are we sure that an extra 5p per hour will cover all of the extra costs incurred by the maintained sector?
			Alder Coppice Primary School (Yes) - Governors agreed with the issues being used to develop the basic rate
			Hasbury Pre School (Yes) - Will there be a guarantee that these rates will be set for a minimum of 12 months. How much notice would be given of any proposed changes?
Recommendation of DCS: Agree			

### QUESTION 2

Do you agree that funding should be allocated to those children from the 20% most deprived backgrounds?

Yes	No	No opinion	Comments
10	2	3	Mount Pleasant Primary (No) - We feel strongly that whilst we appreciate that the local authority needs a fair system by which to identify 'deprivation' - the use of postcodes will once more favour "pockets" in the Dudley Borough without recognising that children's life-long chances amounts to more than a postcode. have the authority considered children's learning needs e.g.. speech and language problems, poor outcomes using developmental stage assessments which are advocated by the early years team, levels of support given to the family via Children's Centre or Health Visitors etc?
			Fairytales Day Nursery (Yes) - Deprived children generally need more time and opportunities, extra funding would help to develop this.
			Teresa Uproot - Childminder (Yes) - All children have the same need and although parents maybe wealthy they may not spend it on their children.
			Belle Vue Primary (Yes) - Agreed, however, there needs to be further developments with regards to the 20%. A banded approach maybe worth considering e.g. 0-5%, 5.1-10%, 10.1%-15%, 15.1%-20%. With 0-5% receiving the most funding
			Priory Primary School (Yes) - To spread it further would dilute the funding and it would have no impact
			Bramford Primary School (Yes) - This appears fair and reflects the deprivation funding formula for the whole schools budget share
			Foxyards Primary School (Yes) - This appears fair and reflects the deprivation funding formula for the whole schools budget share
			Alder Coppice Primary School (Yes) - This appears fair and reflects the deprivation funding formula for the whole schools budget share
			Hasbury Pre School (Yes) - Will the bands be clearly identifiable allowing us to make a clear application if our children fall into this category?
			Manor Way Pre-School (No opinion) - Difficult to reply without knowing the impact of 10% or 30%
Recommendation of DCS: Agree. This is in line with the way deprivation funding is allocated in the School Budget Share.			

### QUESTION 3

Do you agree that the deprivation funding should be 10p an hour per child from the 20% most deprived background?

Yes	No	No opinion	Comments
8	4	3	Mount Pleasant Primary (No) - If funding is to provide 'additional support' for the children identified, then based on current IMD data for the whole of our school, this would possibly equate to a maximum of £9.00 per week. I am not sure what level of 'additional support' this would buy.

			Fairytales Day Nursery (Yes) - It would help.
			Belle Vue Primary (No) - What additional support is to be provided. 10p per hour per child will not raise sufficient monies to employ support staff for a concerted period of time.
			Priory Primary School (No) - This is an inadequate amount and does not meet the governments wish to make this a priority. To suggest it will be a priority in the future is disingenuous in light of known financial constraint
			Bramford Primary School (Yes) - With the proviso that this be reviewed annually - the consultation recognises that this is a nominal rate so if it turns out to be incorrect then this should be reviewed
			Foxyards Primary School (Yes) - With the proviso that this be reviewed annually - the consultation recognises that this is a nominal rate so if it turns out to be incorrect then this should be reviewed
			Alder Coppice Primary School (Yes) - With the proviso that this be reviewed annually - the consultation recognises that this is a nominal rate so if it turns out to be incorrect then this should be reviewed
			Manor Way Pre-School (No) - What additional support can be provided for 30p?
Recommendation of DCS: Agree. This is a nominal rate which can be reviewed annually if it proves to be inadequate.			

**QUESTION 4**

Do you agree with the proposed transitional arrangements?

Yes	No	No opinion	Comments
7	5	3	Mount Pleasant Primary (No) - The arrangements are to allow providers to 'adjust' to changes in funding levels. Presumably this is with regard to Nurseries finding that they have to take money from their main school budget, or from reserves, to maintain overall costs including staffing costs. For schools a year is a very short time to do this. Personnel guidelines would lead schools to have to act differently in terms of changes to staff pay/contracts, which, I understand is not the same as private providers.
			Fairytales Day Nursery (No) - If sufficient notice is given why do a transitional approach. We as PVI have to wait for our funding and pay people in advance and our support comes from paying customers. Schools are funded greatly so should be able to support the changes.
			Fairhaven Under 5's Centre (No) - We consider the providers who are worse off as a result of new funding arrangements would need a higher percentage of funding protection in order to continue to operate
			Belle Vue Primary (No opinion) - 30% is still a substantial budget reduction which could lead to redundancies being made
			Bramford Primary School (Yes) - Transition should give a short period of adjustment so this seems fair and reasonable
			Foxyards Primary School (Yes) - Transition should give a short period of adjustment so this seems fair and reasonable
			Alder Coppice Primary School (Yes) - Transition should give a short period of adjustment so this seems fair and reasonable
			Hasbury Pre School (Yes) - Will providers receive full updates if these conditions change and if so how much notice of change will be provided
			Cotwall End Primary School (No) - Settings would find it very difficult to operate a 70% funding
			Manor Way Pre-School (No) - Only Brierley Hill due to benefit
Recommendation of DCS: Agree. If the transitional arrangements were extended, it would be at the expense of other providers.			

**QUESTION 5**

Do you support the need for additional funding of approx £662k being transferred into early years from the schools budget?

Yes	No	No opinion	Comments
11	3	1	Mount Pleasant Primary (No) - The document does not make clear the amount of money which has previously been taken from the centrally retained part of the schools budget to support PVIs and therefore it is not possible to make a comparison with regard to whether this amount of additional funding is realistic, generous etc or not.
			Fairytales Day Nursery (Yes) - It is quite unfair to see a 60 place school settling receiving money for 60 children if only 32 in attendance when the money can be used to enhance the provision not being used to its full capacity, and the school appearing wealthy!
			Teresa Upcott - Childminder (Yes) - Already I am out of pocket delivering free NEF as I charge between £3.50 phr-£5.00 phr and still only making a net profit per year of £5, 500 working 50 hrs per week. I think it should be more If we are to raise standards and encourage educated young people in to early years education.
			Fairhaven Under 5's Centre (Yes) - In the case of our setting it is imperative that funding increased in this way and that the rates in paragraph 16 table 2 are implemented. Should this not be the case we would have greater difficulty in remaining sustainable
			Belle Vue Primary (Yes) - Where will this come from? Centrally retained part of schools budget? Top slicing existing school budgets should not be an option
			Priory Primary School (Yes) - This is absolutely essential and will only provide a very poor funding base. If the LA wishes to raise standards long term then inadequate funding of early years will need to be addressed
			Ham Dingle Primary School (No) - Additional funding should be provided for early years but not from the schools budget as other older children would then suffer. Funding from elsewhere should be found and allocated
			Bramford Primary School (Yes) - Otherwise there would be no fairness to the new arrangements
			Foxyards Primary School (Yes) - Otherwise there would be no fairness to the new arrangements
			Alder Coppice Primary School (Yes) - To ensure the new arrangements are fair to all providers
			Cotwall End Primary School (No) - Robbing Peter to pay Paul? What impact will this have on already over-stretched school budgets
			Manor Way Pre-School (Yes) - But not optimistic
Recommendation of DCS: Agree.			

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

Designation	Comments
Jo Hartill and Governors, Mount Pleasant Primary	The local Authority advocates Foundation Units. As a school we have moved forward with this agenda. Does the local authority continue to advocate Foundation Units and if this is the case, will the authority ensure that maintained nurseries with falling 'participation' rates will not be closed and re-open under private provision?

Mrs. C. Hale, Fairhaven	Funding at the present level is not currently covering our outgoings. Energy costs have soared along with other essentials and we are finding it increasingly difficult to maintain our high standard of care and education due to us having to enforce spending cuts on resources and equipment. Staff wages have not been increased for some time now and staff give freely of their own time for fund raising activities and parents evenings etc. unless additional funding is provided we will find it impossible to increase our sessions to the required 3 hours
Bramford	The new arrangements with the extra funding would go some way towards redressing the balance regarding funding of nursery provision in mainstream schools, so they have our full support
Foxyards	Governors would like to register that while they recognise that the new arrangements go some way towards redressing the balance of funding, they are still some way off being well-funded for the nursery set up at Foxyards - indeed compared to some schools they will be the poor relation regarding Early Years funding
Christchurch	This is an issue nationally and really relates to the future of nursery schools. I believe very strongly that nursery schools have a unique and special part to play in the jigsaw of early years provision as the work they do is so needed and other providers cannot do this. We must be strong in our determination to protect this provision - it is not about numbers who support this but it is about the pedagogical issues etc