

Dudley Schools Forum – 24th March 2015

Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services

Education Funding for Disadvantaged Two Year Olds

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Schools Forum with an update in respect of the indicative Early Years Census Return and current childcare arrangements in Children's Centres for disadvantaged two year olds.

Budget Working Group Discussed

2. Yes – 18th March 2015.

Schools Forum Role and Responsibilities

3. From 1st April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct Department for Education (DfE) grant: the Dedicated School Grant (DSG).
4. Schools Forum is the 'guardian' of the local Schools Budget, and its distribution among schools and other bodies, and therefore must be closely involved throughout the development process.

Action for Schools Forum

5. For Schools Forum to note the updated information in respect of the two year old census data and the information regarding the childcare arrangements in Children's Centres.

Attachments to Report

6. Appendix A Table 1 – Time for Twos Children's Centres take up

Donna Farnell/Laura Jones-Moore
Childcare Strategy Manager/Principal Accountant
9th March 2015

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Purpose of Report

1. To provide Schools Forum with an update in respect of the indicative Early Years Census Return and current childcare arrangements in Children's Centres for disadvantaged two year olds.

Background

2. Schools Forum were advised at the February 2015 meeting that the provision of Early Learning for two-year-olds became a statutory entitlement for targeted children in September 2013; Phase 1 introduced criteria aimed at Looked After Children, children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and parents who were benefit recipients receiving income of less than £16,190. Phase 2 widened the criteria to include children who had left care through adoption or child arrangement orders and low income working families with earnings of less than £16,190.
3. Of significance for funding purposes, from January 2015, the data collected via the Early Years Census will be used by the DfE to identify levels of take up for two-year-olds and therefore the associated funding to be made available for two-year-old places to the local authority. This allocation of funding will be based on participating children and take up units of 15 hours; therefore overall funding will be reduced as discussed at the January 2015 Forum meeting. There will be a further voluntary Early Years Census collection in October 2015 so that adjustments can be made to the level of funding received by local authorities to support the on-going increase in take up of places.
4. The Early Years Census data recorded on 15th January 2015 will provide funding for the two-year-old places to the local authority in respect of the 2015/16 financial year. Table 1 summarises the January census data, yet to be validated by the DfE and subsequently confirmed in June 2015. The Dedicated Schools Grant Planning Process 2015/16 report on this agenda includes the full funding details.
5. As the 15th January census is a snap shot of participation, there will be a further Early Years Census undertaken in the Autumn 2015 which will advise the DfE of the revised in year participation levels for two year olds. The DfE will adjust the Dedicated Schools Grant in year to reflect the mid year second data count.

Table 1 – Provisional Early Years Census Data Two Year Old Funding and Associated Funding

Weekly Hours Recorded for Eligible Two Year Olds Accessing Provision	Number of Funded Weeks for 2015/16	Funding 2015/16 at £4.89 per hour	Expected Participation 2015/16 (full time equivalent)
*11,590	38	£2,153,653	773

* Weekly hours have not been validated by DfE or the Directorate of Children’s Services Information Technology team. The validated data will be available from week commencing 16th March 2015.

- 6 The decision to pay providers at the full rate of £4.89 per eligible child per hour was agreed at the February Schools Forum meeting. The payments will be monitored on a monthly basis during 2015/16 and an allocation of £180,000 has been set aside from the Dedicated Schools Grant reserve to allow for an increase in the level of take up throughout the year. In year funding contingencies may also be required if the take up increases significantly.
7. With the DfE’s approval, there is provision to convert two year old Dedicated Schools Grant revenue funding to capital to assist in the capacity building across the Borough; at this stage no firm decisions have been taken in respect of this action.

Childcare Arrangements in Children’s Centres

8. The core purpose of Children’s Centres is to improve outcomes for young children and their families and reduce inequalities between families in greatest need and their peers in:
 - a) child development and school readiness;
 - b) parenting aspirations and parenting skills; and
 - c) child and family health and life chances.
9. Increasingly Children’s Centres deliver their services in a variety of places which allow greater opportunities for families to access services in other community venues. Much of the one to one family support is provided through outreach in the families’ own homes and some services such as Stay and Play sessions are delivered in primary schools sited within their Reach areas.
10. The purpose of funded early education for two year olds is to improve the educational outcomes to some of the most disadvantaged two year olds living in the borough. This is easily translated into one of the Children’s Centres core purposes in terms of ‘improving child development and school readiness’.
11. Whilst there is no statutory requirement to provide childcare within Children’s Centres, there is some existing Local Authority and governor lead childcare provision across the Children’s Centre Cluster’s that are providing free educational entitlement for two year olds.

12. The capacity to increase the take up of childcare for eligible two year olds within Children's Centres is limited by:

- existing preschool childcare arrangements and capacity across the age bands and the current combination of wrap around and sessional childcare being delivered;
- requirement to consult with the public when planning significant changes to Children's Centres, for example to cease wrap around care;
- resources - staffing costs and building capacity.

13. In order to increase take up of two year old entitlement Children's Centres are developing eligible two year old placements as children transition into school. Children's Centre staff are promoting the take up of entitlement across the Cluster areas by distributing marketing materials and undertaking promotional work in activity groups, clinics, and contact opportunities.

14. There is a more focussed and targeted approach by family support staff using DWP data to identify and engage with parents in the community who have not taken up their child's free education entitlement. This work is not without its challenges as the cohort of parents are likely to experience interrelated and multiple problems, for example they may have suffered abuse or neglect as children, they may be new arrival families, they may be living in abusive and isolated home environments, have substance and alcohol misuse issues and/ or unmet health needs including mental ill health. These parents may be disengaged from services and community and be overwhelmed by their life experiences. Many of these parents require a longer term skilful early help intervention by Family Support Workers in order to prevent these problems escalating and becoming embedded.

15. There are currently 255 eligible two year olds who have taken up their free educational entitlement across the Children's Centre Clusters either through LA or Governor lead provision.

16. At the February Schools Forum meeting Members requested further details confirming the Children's Centres that were providing 'Time-for Two's' provision and the number of children that had taken-up the provision at those Centre's. Appendix A Table 1 includes the Time for Twos Children's Centres data and take up of the provision.

Finance

17. The funding of schools is prescribed by the Department for Education (DfE) through the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2014.

18. Schools Forums are regulated by the regulated by the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012 as amended by the 2013 and 2014 School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations.

19. From 1st April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct grant; Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

Law

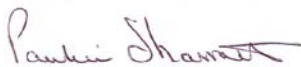
20. Councils' LMS Schemes are made under Section 48 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The Education Acts 1996 and 2002 also have provisions relating to school funding.

Equality Impact

21. The Council's Equal Opportunities Policy is taken into account when considering the allocation of resources.

Recommendation

22. Schools Forum to note the updated information in respect of the two year old census data for 2015/16 and the information regarding the childcare arrangements in Dudley's Children's Centres.



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Interim Director of Children's Services

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Table 1 – Time for Twos Children’s Centres Data and Take Up

Children’s Centres – with childcare	Registration type and FTE places available	Status LA / Governor	Time for Two known take up	Ofsted Outcome	DWP data February 2015 Total number of families	DWP data eligible families- as at February 2015 still to take up a place
Dudley North						
Priory CC	Full daycare – 24 FTE (2-3yrs)	LA	28	Good	83	49
Wrens Nest CC	Ful daycare – FTE 12 (2-3yrs)	G	19	Good	105	52
Queen Victoria CC	Sessional – FTE 24 (2-3yrs)	G	13	Outstanding	63	34
Dudley Central						
Netherton Park Nursery School & CC	Ful daycare – FTE 50 (0-5yrs)	G	37	Outstanding	124	67
Kate’s Hill & Sledmere CC	Full daycare – FTE 38 (2-3yrs)	LA	28	Outstanding	181	110
Woodside CC – Little Bears	Full daycare – FTE 50 (0-5yrs)	G	13	Not yet Inspected	105	51
Brierley Hill						
Brierley Hill CC	Full daycare – FTE 28 (0-5yrs)	LA	15	Good	127	76
Halesowen						
Butterfly CC (lye)	Full daycare – FTE 29 (2-5yrs)	LA	19	Good	127	100
Stourbridge						
Quarry Bank CC	Sessional FTE 24 (2-3yrs)	G	36	Good	93	41
Little Hands (Little Colliers)	Full daycare – FTE 50 (0-5yrs)	G	47	Good	92	47