

**Schools Forum 7 October 2008**

**Report of the Director of Children's Services**

**Update on Early Years Provider Reference Group**

**Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide Schools Forum with an update on recent progress on the work of the Early Years Provider Reference Group.

**Budget Working Group Discussed**

2. No.

**Action for Schools Forum**

3. To note the contents of the report.

**Attachments to Report**

4. Appendix A - Extract from Early Years Provider Group minutes (10 July 2008).
5. Appendix B – Proposed Dudley Timetable for implementation.

Sue Coates  
Senior Principal Accountant  
Children's Services Accountancy  
22 September 2008

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##### **Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide Schools Forum with an update on recent progress on the work of the Early Years Provider Reference Group.

##### **Background**

2. A report was presented to Schools Forum on 5 February 2008 which reported the outcome of the analysis of the costs of providing the free entitlement to nursery education in the PVI (Private, Voluntary and Independent) sector, and the progress of the Early Years Provider Reference Group towards the introduction of a single funding formula for both maintained and PVI sectors from April 2010.
3. Future changes to funding delivery of the free entitlement to nursery education are detailed below:
  - By April 2009 the introduction of a single method of counting pupils in both the maintained and PVI sectors.
  - By April 2010 the introduction of a single local formula for funding early years provision in both the maintained and PVI sectors.
4. The Early Years Provider Reference Group met on 10 July to discuss progress made and to agree a timetable to achieve implementation of all changes by April 2010.
5. An extract from the meeting is attached at Appendix A which provides latest information available from the six Local Authorities involved in the pilot Formula Development Project. This provides useful guidance for LA's such as Dudley.
6. Appendix B gives timetable dates agreed for Dudley at the meeting on 10 July 2008.
7. The Early Years Provider Reference Group will continue to meet and undertake further work towards developing a single funding formula during the coming months. Further progress will be reported to Schools Forum as indicated in the timetable at Appendix B.

## **Finance**

8. The funding of schools is prescribed by the DCSF through the School Finance (England) Regulations 2008.
9. Schools Forums are regulated by the School Forums Regulations 2002 as already amended by the Schools Forums (Amendment) Regulations 2004 the Schools Forums (Amendment) 2005 Regulations and the Schools Forums (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008.
10. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct DCSF grant: Dedicated School Grant (DSG)

## **Law**

11. 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**

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

## **Recommendation**

13. Schools Forum to note the report and attached timetable regarding implementation of a single formula for all Early Years funding from April 2010.



**John Freeman**

**Director of Children's Services**

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