

Early Years Single Funding Formula – request to be considered as a 2010/11 pathfinder

Name of LA: Dudley MBC

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Please complete the table below and return to eysinglefunding.formula@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk by 29 January 2010 if you wish your authority to be considered as a pathfinder for the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) for 2010/11. The form must be signed by the Director of Children’s Services.

No return is necessary if your authority does not wish to introduce the single formula in 2010/11.

<p>What consultation on the single formula has taken place with providers? (please outline who has been consulted, dates of consultation process)</p>	<p>Pre –consultation with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Years Provider Reference Group (ongoing since Jan 2008) • Head teachers Consultative Forum – Budget Working Group (ongoing) • Schools Forum (ongoing) • Primary Head teachers Forum (ongoing) • PVI township provider forums (ongoing) • Early Years Co-ordinators/managers meetings (ongoing) <p>And, Formal consultation with all stakeholders (7 October 2009 to 8 January 2010)</p>
<p>Has your Schools Forum supported your application to introduce the single formula from April 2010? (Please attach relevant minutes) <i>If your Schools Forum does not meet before the deadline, please submit your application and provide the outcome of the SF meeting as soon as possible.</i></p>	<p>The Director of Children’s Services has approved in principle and will take this recommendation to Schools Forum at the next meeting to be held on Tuesday 23 February 2010.</p> <p>(Outcome of meeting to be submitted to DCSF after 23 February).</p>

<p>Does your early years reference group and/or PVI Schools Forum representative support your application to introduce the single formula from April 2010? (Please attach evidence of this)</p>	<p>The Early Years Provider Reference Group and the PVI School forum representative have been consulted and support our application to implement the single funding formula from April 2010,</p> <p>Feedback from consultation analysed, no undue concerns raised.</p>
<p>What financial impact would the introduction of the single formula have on different types of setting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintained nursery schools • Maintained nursery classes in infant and primary schools • Private nurseries • Voluntary providers • Independent sector • Childminders <p>(Please also attach copies of any modelling showing gains and losses at individual provider level in both cash terms and as a % of last years' funding)</p>	<p>We are proposing additional investment or resources into Early Years Funding for 2010/11.</p> <p>From the model attached, 7 maintained nursery classes under the new formula will have less funding. However,</p> <p><i>“transitional arrangements are proposed for one year only to allow providers to adjust to changes in funding levels. Protection will be given to those providers who are worse off as a result of the new funding arrangements. This will take the form of a minimum funding guarantee. Providers will receive funding protection up to the value of 70% of the previous year’s funding.”</i> (extract from consultation document)</p>
<p>Does your authority fund any full time places? Please provide details of where and how. Is this universal across the whole of the LA or only some providers?</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>If yes, how will the introduction of the EYSFF impact on the offer of full time places?</p>	<p>N/A.</p>
<p>Approximately how many surplus places are there in maintained nursery schools? Maintained nursery classes? What has been done to mitigate losses in providers (maintained</p>	<p>Sept 2009 school census shows 593 less children in maintained school and nurseries, (Dudley has only 1 maintained nursery school) than in Jan 2009; this is due in part to the practice of phased entry of nursery children, a</p>

<p>or PVI) with surplus places as a result of moving to participation funding?</p>	<p>final intake is due in January 2010. We will have more accurate data for the number of children in maintained nurseries by end Feb 2010. Each township (5 across Dudley) is monitored for sufficiency of places, with regular joint meetings of PVI and maintained sector providers across each township to develop partnership working, plan for sufficiency and support parents choice.</p>
<p>Will the introduction of the EYSFF directly lead to the closure of any of the following providers in the future? Maintained nursery schools? Maintained nursery classes? Other providers?</p>	<p>No; Maintained classes have since 2008 brought their admission numbers in line with the EYFS and have in some cases effectively reduced their numbers over time, whilst allowing for growth as and when necessary. We have been tracking occupancy of both PVI and maintained provision across the whole of the borough since 2004 and can identify where and when there is lower occupancy, over provision and indeed gaps in number of places. We have ensured we have early warnings from providers who have low occupancy or are facing sustainability issues we are confident that we are able to manage the market effectively across the borough.</p>
<p>What transitional arrangements are you proposing and for how long would these last?</p>	<p><i>“transitional arrangements are proposed for one year only to allow providers to adjust to changes in funding levels. Protection will be given to those providers who are worse off as a result of the new funding arrangements. This will take the form of a minimum funding guarantee. Providers will receive funding protection up to the value of 70% of the previous year’s funding.”</i> <i>(extract from consultation document)</i></p>
<p>What arrangements are you making to hold a contingency?</p>	<p>The LA intend to hold a contingency (value yet to be determined) based on the year on year increase in participation as recorded on both the Early Years Census and School Census.</p>
<p>Are there any other comments you wish to make in support of your application?</p>	

For an authority to implement an early years single funding formula in 2010/11, it will be necessary for DCSF to allow the authority to set aside certain of the School Finance (England) Regulations 2009; these are to be laid before Parliament in the New Year. References to regulation numbers relate to the 2008 Regulations. Please complete the table below for any regulations you wish to be set aside depending on your proposed formula.

The regulations which are most likely to be relevant are:

- Regulation 13 – budget shares may not be redetermined after 31 March; the single formula is likely to require redeterminations in year
- Regulation 17 – requires a count on a single date of pupils in nursery classes or nursery schools; the single formula is likely to take account of pupil numbers through the year
- Regulation 21(3) allows local authorities to abate their sixth form funding for items duplicated in the LSC (in future YPLA) formula. Some authorities may wish to be allowed to do the same for their nursery funding. If you require this facility, it is suggested that you apply to allow regulation 21(3) to be applied to funding which has been duplicated in the Early years single funding formula.

There are two other regulations which authorities might wish to set aside, but where we would need to be reassured that the implications had been properly been considered. These are:

- Regulation 19(2) requires primary and secondary formulae to have a deprivation factor. Given ministers' emphasis on targeting deprivation and "narrowing the gap", we would expect early years single formulae to have a deprivation factor as previously anticipated in the draft regulations and therefore will not approve a pathfinder application without a deprivation factor in the formula.
- Regulation 20 states that maintained nursery schools and primary schools with nursery classes should be covered by the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) through to 2011. If you wish to exempt nursery schools, or schools with nursery classes from the MFG, which you can do with agreement of your Schools Forum, then you should ensure that there has been proper consideration of the need for adequate transitional arrangements.

Regulation number	How the single formula is to be implemented	Why this regulation stops implementation
Regulation 13	Funding will be redetermined based on termly count data	Currently prohibits redetermination of budget shares after 31 March
Regulation 17	Funding will be based on a termly count to reflect the number of pupils throughout a year	Currently requires a single count of pupils in nursery classes or nursery schools
Regulation 21(3)	Mainstream funding will be adjusted to reflect funding which has been duplicated in both the the Early Years Single Funding Formula and the mainstream formula.	It prevents an equitable and transparent formula for funding both Early Years and mainstream provision.
Regulation 20	The proposed Early Years Single Funding Formula includes a factor which provides transitional protection.	This would provide a duplicate level of protection.

I confirm thatDudley MBC....LA wishes to be considered as a pathfinder for the early years single funding formula and to have the above regulations disapplied for the 2010/11 financial year.



Signed

(Director of Children's Services)

Date28 January 2010.....