SCHOOLS FORUM

**Item 5**

Date: 11th November 2014

Heading: Early Years SEND Report

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| **Lead Officer** | Sara Willis Service Manager 0-11 Outcomes  Nicholas Fortt, Early Years Inclusion & Partnership Co-Ordinator |
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| **Forum asked to be informed/decision** | To note how Forum funding is being spent in the Early Years on children with additional needs and to note the potential impact on budgets as more children aged 2 + want to take up their entitlement to 15 hours free childcare.  To request an increase in budget of **£128,000** for 2015-2016.This is an estimate based on current take-up and children being awarded the medium band of funding. |
| **Time Needed** | **10 minutes** |

1. **Early Years Inclusion Support Funding (ISF)**

In January 2014, Schools Forum allocated £99,000 to support 2, 3 and 4 year olds with Specialist Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This was to enable children with SEND to have enhanced additional support to help them access their 3 year-old Early Years Entitlement or 2 Year funding entitlement (both 15 hours per week). The funding has allowed the increase of a child’s support from 7.5 hours to 15 hours per week depending on the child’s level of needs. There is currently a banding system which allocates funding based on the child’s needs (see table).

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| **Band Level** | **Needs** | **Amount of funding required** |
| **Band 3**  (Highest level, complex needs) | Needing individual support most / all of the time for safety and to access play and learning | 15 hours per week |
| **Band 2**  (Medium level needs) | Needing individual support for a range of identified activities including group work | 10 hours per week |
| **Band 1**  (Low level needs) | Needing individual support for some group/individual activities | 5 hours per week |
| Funding is provided at £8 per hour x 38 weeks per year | | |

There is no available data from health indicating the number of children with SEND aged under two who may be eligible for two-year funding. 19 two-year olds (for one-to-one support) have been funded during the April – October 14 period. It is important to note the 2 Year entitlement funding was not available until September 2014 and there has already been an increase in requests. Funding is also currently provided for 47 children aged 3-4 years in settings. See tables below for costs.

Funding for a full financial year for a child receiving band 2 funding would cost £3,040 (based on 38 weeks). The cost for a child starting from November is £1,440. It is worth noting a child can start a placement at any time and it is therefore difficult to project funding.

1) ***Children aged 2-3 years***

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| **Number of children** | **Cost** |
| 13 Active | £38,448 |
| 6 Pending | £8,640 (projected) |
| **19 Children** | **£47,088** |

2) ***Children aged 3-4 years***

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| **Number of children** | **Cost** |
| 43 Active | £93,084 |
| 4 Pending | £5,760 (projected) |
| **47 Children** | **£98,844\*** |

*\*The total budget for these children includes £80,000 from the SEN Early Years pre-statement budget*

3) ***Estimated cases from November – March 14-15***

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| **Number of children** | **Cost** |
| 25 | **£36,000** |

4) ***Summary***

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| **Total number of children** | **Total cost** |
| 91 | **£182,000** |

Based on the above projections it is likely that the full budget of £179,000 will be only slightly overspent in the current financial year to support 2, 3 and 4 year olds with SEND. As children from the age of 2 with SEND are entitled to funding there is a legal obligation to support them in accessing their full entitlement of 15 hours per week (term time only). Without the funding there is the possibility of challenges from parents and professionals and an increase in requests for statutory funding. This non statutory SEN funding being requested will support prevention and a possible longer-term need to have EHC Plans for these children. **However it also means children from an earlier age and for a longer period of time will be funded, hence the budget pressure.**

5) ***Budget pressure***

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| **Financial Year** | **Budget** | **Notes** |
| 2014-15 | £99,000  £80,000  **Total - £179,000** | Estimated - £3,000 overspend |
| 2015-16 | £179,00  **£128,000 budget pressure** | £79,000 already committed from 2014-15  £76,000 (25 estimated new cases from November – March 2014-15)  £152,000 (50 estimated new cases for new financial year 15-16) |