SCHOOLS’ FORUM

**6**

Date: November 2017

Heading: Early Years SEND Report

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| **Forum asked to be informed/decision** | To note how Schools’ Forum funding is being spent in the Early Years on children with additional needs and the impact on the budget as some children (aged 3 and 4) are now eligible for an extra 15 hours free childcare (maximum 30 hours free childcare).  To note a budget pressure of **£100,000** from 2018-2019. This is an estimate based on current data available. |
| **Time Needed** | **5-10 minutes** |

1. **Early Years Inclusion Support Funding**

Schools’ Forum currently allocates funding to support two, three and four year olds with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) to access their Early Years Entitlement (EYE). Inclusion Support Funding (ISF) is a process which allocates funding to an early years provider, primarily to promote continued progress and to enable children aged 2 years and over with SEND to achieve better outcomes.

As children from the age of two/three are entitled to government funding (EYE), the Local Authority must ensure children with SEND can access their full entitlement. As of April 2017, the government now requires all Local Authorities to establish an inclusion fund which has been in place in B&NES since 2010. This funding supports prevention and a possible longer-term need for an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Data collected since 2010 shows that approximately 50% of the children who receive inclusion support funding do not go on to receive a statutory plan (EHCP).

In addition to the above, thresholds have been revised as part of a wider re-development and will link to the new statutory guidance to ensure that early years, schools and further education are all aligned. Since the new thresholds went live (September 2017) we have seen a decline in cases meeting the highest banding (C) and more cases meeting the lower bandings (A and B).

1. **The need for extra funding**

The new 30 hours Early Years Entitlement funding announced by the government last year has now been in place since September 2017; it means that working parents of three to four year olds who work more than 16 hours per week are now eligible for an additional 15 hours per week (up to a maximum of 30 hours). 735 families in B&NES have taken up the new additional hours since September 2017 and of those, 10 children with SEND have been identified as needing extra support. This number is likely to increase to 25-30 children from November to March 2018.

Based on current estimations from the Department of Education, a maximum of 1,300 families in B&NES will be eligible for the new 30 hours entitlement from April 2018 to March 2019. It is important to note that not all families will access the full 30 hours; some will not take it up and others will stay within the existing 15 free hours. It is estimated that out of the 1,300 families eligible, 5% of those families will have a child with SEND.

1. **Budget pressure**

Not every child with SEND will require the full inclusion funding and, again, not all families will take up the full 30 hour entitlement. The bullet points below are an estimation based on the current data available and illustrate the identified budget pressure for the next financial year (2018-19):

* A maximum of 65 children in the summer term, 40 children in the autumn term and 55 children in the spring term with SEND potentially eligible for the new 30 hour entitlement from April 2018 to March 2019 (38 weeks)
* 80% take up which means 52 children in the summer term, 32 in the autumn term and 44 in the spring term will claim the new entitlement (up to 30 hours)
* The above children will require inclusion support at band B
* £50,000 allocated by Schools Forum from previous year which means a total budget pressure of £100,000 for 2018-19.

The numbers quoted are based on current estimations from the Department of Education. The numbers may increase or decrease which will be carefully monitored over the year.

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| **\*\* Budget pressure of £100,000 \*\***   * based on 52 children being eligible for the extra 15 hours and receiving ISF at band B during the **summer term** (18-19) * based on 32 children being eligible for the extra 15 hours and receiving ISF at band B during the **autumn term** (18-19) * based on 44 children being eligible for the extra 15 hours and receiving ISF at band B during the **spring term** (18-19) |

1. **Additional information**

Inclusion funding thresholds:

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| **Band A** | **Band B** | **Band C** |
| **Based on 15 hours EYE** | **Based on 15 hours EYE** | **Based on 15 hours EYE** |
| Up to £2,052 ISF  per annum | Up to £3,591 ISF  per annum | Up to £5,130 ISF  per annum |

Current inclusion funding budget:

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| **Financial Year** | **Budget** | **Notes** |
| **2017-18** | **£357,000** | 150 children with SEND supported through inclusion funding this financial year to date **(October 17)**  Estimating an additional 40 cases from November 17 to March 18  Received 71 progress reviews for children receiving inclusion funding. 81% of those children made progress, 12% remained the same and 7% regressed. |
| **2018-19** | **£357,000**  **Require £100,000 increase in budget for a total budget of £457,000 for 2018-19.** | Anticipating budget pressure of £100,000 for financial year 2018-19. |