SCHOOLS’ FORUM

**9.5**

Date: November 2016

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 potential impact on budgets as children (aged 3 and 4) will be eligible for an extra 15 hours free childcare from September 2017 (maximum 30 hours free childcare).  To request an increase in budget of **£50,000** from 2017-2018. This is an estimate based on current data available.  To note an increase in budget will be required in 2018-19 financial year of **£150,000**. |
| **Time Needed** | **10 minutes** |

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

Schools’ Forum currently allocates funding to support 2, 3 and 4 year olds with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). As children from the age of 2 are entitled to government funding (Early Years Entitlement – EYE), the Local Authority has a duty to ensure children with SEND can access their full entitlement. Without the funding there is the possibility of challenges from parents/carers and professionals. This funding also supports prevention and a possible longer-term need to have EHC Plans for children.

Inclusion Support Funding is a process which allocates funding to early years nurseries, primarily to enable children aged 2 years and over with SEND to achieve better outcomes.  It allows early years nurseries to increase their staffing ratios within the environment in order to increase the capacity of the child’s Key Person and ensure the child can access their full entitlement.

1. **The need for extra funding**

The government has confirmed from September 2017 it will be doubling the free Early Years Entitlement (EYE) for working parents. This means that many working parents of 3 to 4-year olds will be eligible for 30 hours of free childcare (rather than the current 15 hours). The extra 15 hours are only available to working parents who work more than 16 hours a week and earn under £100,000 per year. This is different to the current free childcare scheme which is open to everyone. Therefore, the Local Authority has a duty to ensure children with SEND who meet the criteria for the full 30 hours entitlement are able to access this.

Based on current estimations from the Department of Education (DfE), 480 families in B&NES will be eligible for the new 30 hours entitlement from September 2017 to March 2018. 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. However, it is estimated that out of the 480 families eligible, 5% of those families will have children with SEND. This means potentially 24 children will be eligible for the new 30 hour entitlement from September 2017.

1. **Budget pressure**

Inclusion funding at full support would cost £5,130 (based on 38 weeks) for a whole financial year. The cost for a child starting from September 2017 would be £3,375 (based on 25 weeks). However, not all children 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 current data available and illustrate the identified budget pressure for the next financial year (2017-18):

* 24 children with SEND potentially eligible for the new 30 hour entitlement from Sept 17 to March 18 (25 weeks)
* 80% take up which means 21 children out of the 24 will claim the new entitlement (up to 30 hours)
* 21 children will require at least 70% inclusion funding (some will require less and others more).

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| **\*\* Budget pressure of £50,000 \*\***   * based on 21 children receiving inclusion funding at £9.00 per hour at 10.5 hours over 25 weeks from Sept 17 to March 18. |

1. **Additional information**

Inclusion funding thresholds for standard 15 hours entitlement:

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| **Tier 1**  Needing individual support for some group/individual activities | **Tier 2**  Needing individual support for a range of identified activities including group work | **Tier 3**  Needing individual support all of the time for safety and to access play and learning |
| **Term time only (38 weeks)**  6 hours per week at £9.00 per hour **(40% support)**  (38 weeks of the year)  **Final costings**  £54.00 per week over a 38 week period is a total sum of **£2,052** | **Term time only (38 weeks)**  10.5 hours per week at £9.00 per hour **(70% support)**  (38 weeks of the year)  **Final costings**  £94.50 per week over a 38 week period is a total sum of **£3,591** | **Term time only (38 weeks)**  15 hours per week at £9.00 per hour **(100% support)**  (38 weeks of the year)  **Final costings**  £135.00 per week over a 38 week period is a total sum of **£5,130** |

Current inclusion funding budget:

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| **Financial Year** | **Budget** | **Notes** |
| **2016-17** | **£307,000** | 135 children with SEND supported through inclusion funding this financial year to date **(Sept 16)**  Estimating an additional 40 cases from Oct 16 to March 17  Received 44 progress reviews out of 70 for children receiving inclusion funding. 82% of those children made progress, 14% remained the same and 4% regressed. |
| **2017-18** | **£307,000**  **Require £50,000 increase in budget** | Anticipating budget pressure of £50,000 for this financial year. |
| **2018-19** | **£357,000**  (if increase agreed from previous year)  **Require £150,000 increase in budget** | Anticipating budget pressure of £150,000 for 2018-19 financial year.  ~ 65 children with SEND eligible for the new 30 hours entitlement from Apr 18 to March 19 (38 weeks)  ~ 80% take up which means 52 children out of 65 will claim the new entitlement (up to 30 hours)  ~ 52 children will require at least 70% inclusion funding (some will require less and others more). |