

Agenda Item 55

TITLE Early Years 2018-19 Budget

FOR CONSIDERATION BY Schools Forum on 28 March 2018

WARD None Specific;

DIRECTOR Interim Director of People Services - Paul Senior

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Not Applicable

RECOMMENDATION

Schools Forum is asked to note the further breakdown provided on the Early Years Team Budget.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The report shows the 2018-19 budget allocation for the Early Years Team and a breakdown of the Centrally Retained Funding provided for the statutory requirement of this service.

2018/19 Early Years Report March 2018

.01 Purpose of the Report

This report provides the Schools Forum with details of the 2018-19 Early Years' Budget.

.02 Recommendations

The Schools Forum are asked to note the content of the report.

.03 Background

Since its introduction in April 2017, the Early Years' National Funding Formula (EYNFF) has set the hourly funding rates that each local authority is paid to deliver the universal and additional free entitlements for three and four year olds.

Local authorities are required, from 2018/19 onwards, **to pass 95%** of their three and four year old funding from Government onto Early Years' providers. This pass-through requirement ensures that the vast majority of Government funding reaches providers so that they can deliver the free entitlements.

The '5%' retained by the local authority is to fund the following types of expenditure:

- Centrally retained funding to support the administration of the Early Years' structure. These provide direct support to settings in line with fulfilling its statutory obligations, and support the specialist SEND services from the SEN Inclusion Fund;
- Any funding movement out of the Early Years' Block.

At the February 2018 meeting of the Schools Forum, a centrally retained budget of 4% was agreed, subject to a further breakdown being provided on the use of the funds.

.04 Financial Summary

Please see:

Table A – the Early Years 2018 -19 indicative Budget from the Department for Education (DfE),

Table B – the allocation of the Early Years Budget, and

Table C – a breakdown of the Centrally Retained allocation.

.05 Summary

The Schools Forum had requested additional information that has now been provided in Tables A to C.

The Early Years allocation has been increased for both 2 and 3 & 4 year olds by 24p per hour, to £5.54 and £4.39 respectively.

The team provides the following services

- Provider Agreement with Terms and Condition to all Early Years providers which includes PVis, Schools with Nursery provision, Childminders and maintained nursery.
- Direct work with settings, to support quality - ensuring that the Council meets its statutory obligations under the Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance document (2017)
- Training to providers
- Support to settings to ensure inclusive provision for all children
- Moderation of EYFSP data, in line with the STA's requirements
- Cluster groups to support Early Years' providers
- Presentation and briefing at Early Years' Forum
- Monitoring the termly adjustments and verifying census information from providers to enable the correct funding to go to providers.
- Financial management of supplements and free entitlement

Some of the other support to the Early Years' Team which is included in the recharges to it are:

- Leadership support;
- Finance, I.T., HR, Legal and other support costs;
- Property services etc.

Coral Miller
Interim School Finance Manager
March 2018

John Ogden
Head of Finance
March 2018

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	N/A		
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	N/A		
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	N/A		

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision
N/A

Cross-Council Implications
N/A

List of Background Papers
N/A

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