

## **SCHOOL'S FORUM**

### **Early Years Funding – Funding for 2 year olds**

#### **Purpose of report**

- 1 To update school's forum on the spending of capital and trajectory funds allocated to the development of funded two year old places since 2013 and to propose the balance be carried forward towards the Early Years budget.

#### **Funding allocation by the Government**

- 2 In 2013-14, Wokingham was allocated £231,152 trajectory funding and £150,649 capital funding to develop places in early year settings for funded two year olds. In 2014-15, an additional £89,867 was allocated as trajectory funding. This is a total of £471,668 for both trajectory and capital funding over two years.

#### **Spending**

- 3 Capital funding has been spent on the development of a unit for two year olds at Loddon Primary School in the building originally designated as Riverdale Children's Centre which closed in 2013. In addition, bids for projects to increase the number of funded two year old places were invited from pre-schools and nurseries. The total amount spent to date and agreed spending by the end of the current financial year is approximately £180K with agreed projects including adaptations to existing buildings, safe outdoor areas for two year olds and employment of additional staff. One pre-school has employed an additional worker to specifically encourage parents in the area to take up the free entitlement for their two year olds.
- 4 Over the past two years, a wide range of training to support the early years workforce in understanding the developmental needs of two year olds and support for their families has been provided free of charge.
- 5 Currently £270K of the Early Years budget remains unspent; however, with the increased housing developments in Wokingham providing some social housing and the probability that maintained school nursery classes will be encouraged to admit funded two year olds in the future, it is anticipated that funds will be required to further develop places for funded two year olds, particularly in identified areas of sufficiency such as Woodley and central Wokingham.

#### **Proposal**

- 6 It is proposed that the £270K underspend from the Early Years budget be carried forward and allocated towards the Early Years budget. Of the £270K, it is proposed that £100K be used for the further development of places for funded two year olds and the remaining £170K be kept as a contingency fund for possible additional 2, 3 and 4 year old funded places.

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