

REFORM OF EARLY YEARS FUNDING

Report By: Ros Hatherill – Manager Early Years and Extended Services

Purpose

1. To request the EYES partnership to consider the implications of the reform in aiming to support better outcomes for children aged 5 and the extension of the free entitlement by September 2010 and to note that there are a number of changes to the LA funding system to be implemented over the next three years. The Government is making changes to the membership of School Forums to bring a wider expertise to support funding reforms.

Background

2. In March 2007 the Department for Education and Skills published a consultation document on the arrangements for schools, early years and 14-16 funding that will apply from April 2008. Further detail on arrangements and decisions were announced to Parliament on 25 June 2007.
3. The two main areas effecting Early Years are:
 - Development of the funding arrangements for early years education to support the extension to 15 hours and increased flexibility of the **free entitlement to early years school budgets** from April 2008
 - Changes in the membership of **Schools Forums**, to put them in the best possible position to support the programme of changes to school funding – particularly for early years and 14-16 provision.

Recommendation:

4. That the partnership notes the following
 - During the autumn term (2007), Ministers expect local authorities to carry out an analysis of the costs of Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) providers in their area and to present it to their Schools Forum and relevant sub-group to inform setting the budget setting process for 2008-11
 - Authorities that do not currently have representatives of the PVI sector on their Schools Forum are strongly encouraged to do so. We will be changing the regulations this autumn (2007) to allow extra non-schools representatives and looking to legislate to make such representatives compulsory.

- From 2009-10 all local authorities will be required by regulations to change how children are counted in the maintained and PVI sectors. Local authorities will be encouraged to introduce the formula from April 2009 wherever possible.
- From 2010 –11 local authorities will be required to use a single formula for funding early years provision in the maintained and PVI sectors. Local Authorities will be encouraged to introduce the formula from April 2009 wherever possible.

Additional information:

At a recent Schools Forum (Wednesday, 10 October 2007), it was agreed that two (2) new members on the Schools Forum would be offered to the Early Years.

Membership would then include Early Years Sector Representatives. Two representatives at manager level to be appointed from fulltime daycare, sessional day care, and breakfast and after school clubs.

R Hatherill – Oct 2007