



GATESHEAD SCHOOLS FORUM AGENDA

Thursday, 22 September 2022 at 2.00 pm via Microsoft Teams

From the Chief Executive, Sheena Ramsey

Item	Business
1	Apologies
2	Minutes (Pages 3 - 6) The Forum is asked to approve as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting held on 7 July 2022
3	Emotionally Based School Avoidance Learning Mentors (Pages 7 - 10) Julie McDowell, Education, Schools and Inclusion
4	School Funding Announcements (Pages 11 - 14) Carole Smith, Resources and Digital
5	Harpur Trust V Brazel - Term Time Only Non-Teaching Staff (Pages 15 - 16) Carole Smith, Resources and Digital
6	Early Years Consultation (Pages 17 - 22) Carole Smith, Resources and Digital
7	Feedback from Maintained Schools on Financial Difficulty De-Delegation Verbal Update
8	Date and Time of Next Meeting Thursday 10 November 2022 at 2.00pm.

Contact: Rosalyn Patterson - email: rosalynpatterson@gateshead.gov.uk,
Tel: 0191 433 2088, Date: Thursday, 15 September 2022

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GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

GATESHEAD SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING

Thursday, 7 July 2022

PRESENT:	Peter Largue (Chair)	Trade Union Representative
	Sarah Diggle	Secondary Maintained Governors
	Jacqui Ridley	Primary Governors
	Denise Kilner	Nursery Sector Representative
	Julie Goodfellow	Primary Academy Headteachers
	Steve Haigh	Secondary Academy Headteachers
	Domenic Volpe	Maintained Secondary Headteachers
	Christina Jones	Pupil Referral Unit
	Councillor Sheila Gallagher	Elected Member
IN ATTENDANCE:	Carole Smith	Gateshead Council
	Terence Appleby	Gateshead Council
	Suzanne Dunn	Gateshead Council
	Rachel Pizzey	Gateshead Council
	Rosalyn Patterson	Gateshead Council

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Andrew Fowler, Michelle Richards, Mustafaa Malik, Alison Hall, Paul Harris, Ethel Mills and Cllr Gary Haley.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

3 DSG OUTTURN 2021/22

The Forum received a report on the provisional outturn position of DSG for 2021/22.

It was reported that the final outturn position of £106.397m against the budget of £106.641m, which is an underspend of £245,000. With the Early Years clawback of £230,000 this will result in the reserve increasing to £2.255m as at 31 March 2022.

It was noted that the underspend generally relates to the growth fund.

RESOLVED - That the Schools Forum noted the content of the report.

4 RIVER TYNE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST FUNDING FORMULA

The Forum received a report outlining a proposal to change River Tyne Academy's funding formula from September 2022.

The proposal includes; commissioned number to remain the same, all top ups will be equal, no fixed cost lump sum and 70 guaranteed top ups which will offer some security. 5 places will be reserved for SEND and 10 places for LAC.

Termly payments will be made in advance, with effect from September 2022, then on a financial year basis from April 2023.

A concern was raised about top up for poor attenders. It was noted that a further conversation would be held with the Trust to have something written into the SLA.

RESOLVED - That the Schools Forum approved the change to the funding formula for RTA from September 2022 and going forward on a financial year basis from April 2023.

5 NURSERY SCHOOLS FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY FUNDING

The Forum received a proposal for a Nursery Schools in Financial Difficulty Procedure following the proposal that maintained nursery schools can apply for additional lump sum funding.

It was acknowledged that costs are continuing to increase as well as an increase in the number of children with complex needs.

RESOLVED - That the Schools Forum approved the proposal for maintained nursery schools to be able to apply for additional lump sum funding via the procedure in Appendix 1 of the report.

6 SPECIAL SCHOOLS FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY FUNDING

The Forum received a report around the proposal for a Special Schools in Financial Difficulty Procedure. This will allow Special Schools and Pupil Referral Units to apply for funding from the High Needs Block.

RESOLVED - That the Schools Forum approved the proposal for special schools and pupil referral units to be able to apply for financial difficulty funding via the procedure in Appendix 1 of the report.

7 MAINTAINED SCHOOLS BALANCES MARCH 2022

A report was presented on the movement of school balances for the financial year 2021/22 and the number of schools in a deficit position at the end of the financial year.

At 31 March 2022 maintained school balances increased by £31,000 to £8.94m.

It was acknowledged that Kingsmeadow School have a sizeable balance but that this amount would be taken up with planned building work.

RESOLVED - That the Schools Forum noted;

- (i) The value of maintained school balances and the in-year increase of balances by £0.031m to the year-end value of £8.94m
- (ii) The number of schools with a deficit balance at the end of 2021/22
- (iii) The increase in the value of deficit balances at the end of 2021/22

8 OPTIONS FOR MAINSTREAM MAINTAINED SCHOOLS IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY

The Forum received a report which provided options for mainstream schools in financial difficulty. Mainstream maintained school representatives on the Forum were asked to seek the views of their sector on the level of de-delegation.

Using October 2021 data, to have a fund of approximately £1m, would be £95 per pupil. Therefore schools would de-delegate between £8,550 and £39,615.

RESOLVED - That the Schools Forum will seek the views of mainstream maintained schools on the option to de-delegate funding for a financial difficulty fund to assist schools in a deficit situation.

9 SEND REVIEW - RIGHT SUPPORT RIGHT PLACE RIGHT TIME

The Forum received information on the recent consultation on special education needs and disabilities and alternative provision.

It was noted that the consultation has now been extended until 22 July 2022 so there is still time for any comments to be submitted.

RESOLVED - That the Schools Forum noted the content of the report.

10 OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL - SCHOOLS WHITE PAPER

A report was presented on the schools policy paper 'Opportunity for All – strong schools with great teachers for your child'.

It was noted that the biggest impact of the paper is the intention to raise teachers starting salaries to £30,000 by 2023.

Concerns were raised that budgets have been set on initial estimations, therefore if a pay award comes through schools will be constrained in terms of what they can afford. It was suggested that potential lobbying would be required to ensure a good pay award is fully funded.

RESOLVED - That the Schools Forum noted the report.

11 DIRECT NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA CONSULTATION

The Forum received a report on the second stage consultation on implementing the Direct National Funding Formula (DNFF). It was acknowledged that the lack of detail made it difficult to answer the consultation.

RESOLVED - That the Schools Forum noted the report and decided not to submit a response in the name of Gateshead Schools Forum.

12 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 22 September 2022 at 2pm.

22 September 2022

TITLE OF REPORT: Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) Learning Mentors 2021/2022

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to bring to the attention of School Forum the work of the Emotionally Based School Avoidance (ESBA) Learning Mentors during academic year 2021/2022 and to consider the funding of this resource moving forward.

Background

2. Gateshead has seen an increasing number of children and young people who are unable to attend school due to EBSA. This is not just a mainstream school issue, as we also have children and young people with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) who are unable to attend their special school placement as well as children and young people who have been taken out of school to be electively home educated due to mental health/anxiety issues.
3. Given the complexity of the issue, it was previously agreed at School Forum to pilot a two new positions within Gateshead Council known as Emotionally Based School Avoidance (ESBA) Learning Mentors with one of these positions being funded from the high needs block and the 2nd being funded through schools until the 31st March 2022 in the first instance. This was extended until 31st March 2023 after discussion and agreement at School Forum in autumn term 2021. These posts are at Grade G (£34,725 to £37,925 including on costs, but the 2022/23 payaward). This does not include travel costs for the two posts. These posts are filled by a 0.8 and full time colleague. The latter of these posts is currently vacant due to the resignation of the previous post holder from 1st September 2022.
4. The work of the ESBA Learning Mentors continues to be allocated through a referral system to Education Inclusion Panel (EIP) which is multi-disciplinary. The referral categories are:
 1. Either children/young people currently not attending school or
 2. Those still attending school but there is declining rate of attendance
5. Both types of referral have to present an evidence base that clearly demonstrates ESBA. In referral type 1 the Panel also require evidence from an appropriate medical professional.
6. The EBSA Learning Mentors are line managed by the Education Support Service who oversee the management of EIP and the provision of tuition for children and young people unable to attend school due to medical reasons.

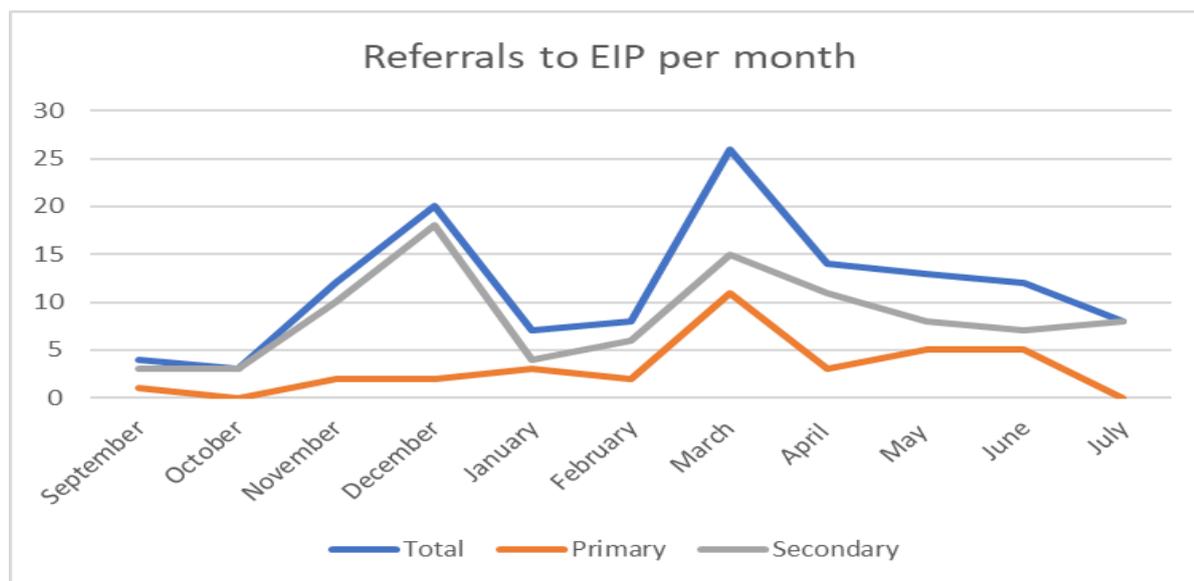
7. The benefits to schools of these two posts are:-

- Improved attendance as children/young people are supported more effectively back into a school setting or to improve their attendance
- Schools supported with strategies and interventions to help the children/young person transition back to school or improve their attendance

Education Inclusion Panel 2021/2022

8. This year a total of 127 cases were referred to the Education Inclusion Panel for consideration, compared to 79 cases in 2020/21.

Referrals per month



9. The above graph does not provide detailed information as to when concerns become evident, however, it does suggest an increase of concerns that coincide with end of term holidays.

Panel Outcomes

Total	Referral deemed appropriate	Tuition allocated	Alternative education provided	EBSA LMs	Declined referrals	Withdrawn referrals	RTA assessment placements
127	78	38	3	30	44	5	7

10. The 44 referral that were declined were either lack of evidence to support the medical element of the referral or a determination by panel that on the evidence presented, it could not be ascertained if the cases met the criteria as set out in pupils unable to attend to school due to health reasons. 5 referrals were withdrawn.

Emotionally Based School Avoidance Learning Mentors

11. 30 students were allocated an ESBA learning mentors in 2021/2022. These officers carry a case load of 15 pupils at any one time. 29 cases that were carried forward from academic year 2021/2022.

12. Of the all the cases that were active within academic year 2021/2022 the following applied:

Number of active cases 2021/2022	59
Number closed – pupil returned to school	21
Number closed – pupil did not engage Decision to close made by Education Inclusion Panel	8
Number closed – other than returned to school or pupil did not engage Decision to close made by Education Inclusion Panel	15
Number of cases carried forward to 2022/2023	15

13. This was during a period of continued long term staff absence within the very small ESBA Learning Mentor team.

Gender break down of active cases 2021/2022

Female: 31

Male: 28

Year group breakdown of active cases 2021/2022

Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Blank
1	4	9	8	13	6	6	10	2

Recommendations

14. That School Forum provides feedback from all schools and agrees to de-delegate for maintained mainstream schools for a ESBA Learning Mentor to support children/young people with EBSA.

15. Academies and schools that cannot de-delegate agreed to pay towards the cost of a ESBA Learning Mentor to support children/young people with EBSA.

For the following reason(s):

To ensure that all children and young people in Gateshead engage in an education that is suitable and appropriate to their age, aptitude and abilities.

CONTACT: Julie McDowell

ext. 8644

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TITLE OF REPORT: School Funding Update

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Schools Forum on the funding announcements released by the Department for Education (DfE) July 2022

Background

2. The funding announcements by the DfE July 2022 provide the direction of travel for Gateshead's dedicated schools grant (DSG) funding for the financial year 2023/24. This is indicative funding and the actual allocations for the schools block and the central school services block will be confirmed December 2022, together with an update on the high needs block and the early years block which will both be subject to further adjustments.

Mainstream Schools

3. The main funding announcements are listed below
 - The current supplementary grant will be rolled into the formula factors for 2023/24 adding:-
 - £97 to the primary age weighted pupil unit (AWPU)
 - £137 to the KS3 AWPU
 - £155 to the KS4 AWPU
 - £85 to the primary free school meal ever 6 (FSM6)
 - £124 to the secondary FSM6
 - £3,680 to the school lump sum
 - On top of the above FSM6 and income deprivation affecting children indices (IDACI) factor values will increase by 4.3%. All other factors will increase by 2.4%
 - Rates for 2023/24 will be based on 2022/23 APT estimated rates figures.
 - The PFI factor will increase in line with PRIX measure of inflation.
 - There will be further consultations on the move towards a hard national funding formula (NFF)
 - The funding floor is set at 0.5%
 - Low prior attainment proportions will be taken from 2019 data
 - MFG for mainstream schools will be between 0.0% and +0.5%
4. Provisional Allocation for Gateshead
 - Primary unit of funding increased from £4,710 to £4,950
 - Secondary unit of funding increased from £5,898 to £6,249
 - Premises factors increased from £4,348,281 to £4,561,314

- Provisional allocation increased from £131,981,150 to £135,116,226 excluding growth funding but including the mainstreamed supplementary funding.
- All formula factors will have to be used by local authorities and Gateshead's current formula "mirrors" the NFF and as such will not need to be substantially changed.

Growth Funding

5. The DfE have not yet issued the Growth Funding Estimate spreadsheet to help LA's to estimate the additional funding they will receive in the December 2022 DSG settlement. In order to use this tool, the September 2022 admission numbers are requested for reception and year 7 for all Gateshead mainstream schools under the LA's funding arrangements. These were added to the May 2022 school census information, year 6 and year 11 data were removed.
6. This work will be undertaken once the DfE release the spreadsheet.

High Needs Block

- A 5.2% increase in funding for Gateshead with the funding floor set at 5% after resetting the baseline to include the supplementary funding.
 - Limit on gains set at 7%
 - The basic entitlement factor to £4,660 for special schools is the same as 2022/23
 - MFG for special schools must be at least 3% or higher on a per pupil basis as compared to 2021/22 to ensure that the additional funding for the increase in national insurance and other cost pressures has been passed on to special schools.
7. Provisional allocation for Gateshead
 - Based on 2022/23 HNB after import/export adjustment the HNB will increase from £31,813,782 to £33,336,546 which the DfE have calculated as a 5.2% increase.

Central Schools Services Block

- Funding for historic commitments will decrease again by 20% but LA's with costs above their allocation can provide evidence for consideration to the DfE. In order to reflect any additional funding in the December DSG allocation, evidence is requested by Friday 28 October 2022; and to reflect this in the March DSG publication, evidence is requested by Friday 3 February 2023. No evidence can be submitted after this date.
 - The maximum per pupil year on year reduction for ongoing responsibilities is 2.5% with a year on year gains cap of 5.86%
8. Provisional Allocation for Gateshead
 - The provisional unit of funding is £37.87
 - Historic commitments reduced by £97,587 from £487,936 to £390,349

- Overall reduction in CSSB of £80,985 from £1,376,278 to £1,295,293 although it is anticipated that actual funding will be lower than this due to academy conversions.

Growth Funding

9. The DfE have not yet issued the Growth Funding Estimate spreadsheet that helps LA's to estimate the additional funding they will receive in the December 2022 DSG settlement. When issued the September 2022 admission numbers will be requested for reception and year 7 for all Gateshead mainstream schools under the LA's funding arrangements. These will be added to the tool and the outcome will estimate the amount of growth funding that will be allocated in the December 2022 settlement.

National Tutoring Programme

10. Information on the national tutoring programme for the academic year 2022/23 has been published.

[School Led Funding Publication File flat values .ods \(live.com\)](#)

[National Tutoring Programme: guidance for schools, 2022 to 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

11. For the academic year 2022/23 the programme will include School-led tutoring for eligible state-funded schools and academy trusts based on the number of pupil premium students. This payment is ring-fenced to fund locally sourced tutoring provision for disadvantaged pupils. This could include using existing staff such as teachers and teaching assistants or external tutoring resources such as private tutors or returning teachers. This grant must only cover up to 60% of the cost of any provision with the other 40% of the funding coming from other sources.

Early Years

12. The consultation on early years proposals closed 16 September 2022. The outcome of the consultation is not yet known and the funding rates for 2023/24 have not yet been published.

Proposal

13. It is proposed that Schools Forum notes the information in the report and that further information will be brought to Schools Forum when issued by the DfE.

Recommendation

14. It is recommended that Schools Forum note the information in the report.

For the following reasons:

- To ensure Schools Forum is aware of the current school funding information.

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REPORT TO SCHOOLS FORUM

22 September 2022

TITLE OF REPORT: Term Time Only Non-Teaching Staff

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Schools Forums of the implications of implementing the February 2019 amendment to Part 4 of the Green Book introducing guidance on the employment of term time only employees.

Background

2. Currently, holiday entitlement is calculated on a pro rata basis based on the number of hours and weeks an employee is required to work per year. As term-time only employees work 39 weeks per year, they only accrue holiday for these weeks. Therefore, they do not receive the statutory minimum of 5.6 weeks holiday per year that a full year employee accrues.
3. Recent caselaw (The Harper Trust v. Brazel) refers to a term-time only employee claiming that she must receive the statutory minimum holidays in accordance with the Working Time Regulations and the pro rata of holiday entitlement to 39 weeks is incorrect. The Court of Appeal agreed with the employee and stated that the Working Time Regulations do not provide for pro-rating of holiday for any employee who works part year.
4. The case went to appeal at the Supreme Court in November 2021 and the judgement was issued 20 July 2022 which unanimously supported the earlier decisions.
5. The implication of the judgement is that the term time only calculation for all term time only employees will need to be amended positively to recognise that leave cannot be pro-rata'd for part year working. The Council will be calculating the individual implications and there will be liability for backdating .
6. The Council together with maintained schools made a provision for this outcome but until the individual calculations for the employees involved have been carried out it is not yet known if the provision will be sufficient for the costs associated with the judgement.
7. HR, Payroll and Finance are currently working through the implications and further detail will be provided when they are known.

Proposal

8. It is proposed that Schools Forum notes the content of the report and that further reports will be brought to Schools Forum when more detail is known.

Recommendations

9. It is recommended that Schools Forum notes the contents of the report and the judgement made by the Supreme Court.

For the following reasons:

To inform Schools Forum of the current situation re term time only non-teaching staff.

CONTACT: Carole Smith Ext 2747

TITLE OF REPORT: Early Years Funding Consultation

Purpose of the Report

1. To bring to Schools Forums attention the Department for Education's (DfE) early years consultation that ran from 4 July 2022 to 16 September 2022.

Background

2. The DfE launched a consultation on 4 July 2022 on proposed changes to the early years formula funding to local authorities. The proposals do not include changes to early years formulas between local authorities and providers.
3. Many of the proposals in the consultation deal with updating the data sets behind the early years national funding formulas for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds to local authorities. Some of the proposals did not provide enough information to make an informed decision as no comparative data was provided, and some of the proposals seemed counter intuitive to the Government's levelling up agenda and the providing more funding for deprived 2-year-olds in more affluent areas.
4. A copy of the consultation for Gateshead Council is included in appendix 1 for information.

Proposal

5. It is proposed that Schools Forum notes the information in the report and the outcome of the consultation is anticipated before the December 2022 settlement.

Recommendation

6. It is recommended that Schools Forum note the information in the report.

For the following reasons:

- To ensure Schools Forum is aware of the current school funding information.

CONTACT: Carole Smith ext. 2747

Appendix 1

EYNFF additional needs factor

1 - Do you agree with our proposal to update the underlying data in the additional needs factor in the EYNFF?

Yes

Comments

For 3- & 4-year-olds in Gateshead the percentage of FSM has increased from 17.9% to 26%, EAL 6.75% to 9.9% but children in receipt of DLA has decreased from 6.4% to 4.37%. Overall, the updated data set should provide additional funding for Gateshead children.

2 - Do you agree with our proposal to move to using the free school meals headline measure?

Unsure

Comments

It is not clear from the consultation documentation what impact this change would have on the data and therefore the formula.

3 - Do you agree with our proposal to update the way in which the Disability Living Allowance data is used?

Yes

Comments

Although Gateshead has a lower % of children in receipt of DLA in 2021 than in 2015/16 this is more reflective of the Gateshead population and therefore is the correct approach.

EYNFF area cost adjustment

4 - Do you agree with our proposal to update the underlying data used in the area cost adjustment in the EYNFF, in particular the rateable values data and the GLM data, when available?

No

Comments

This update favours more affluent areas. It also does not take into account settings that hire their facilities or settings that are charities and therefore pay reduced rates. The rateable values of all non-domestic properties are due to be updated from April 2023, and therefore the impact of this on area cost adjustment cannot be known. Another issue with the ACA is that all settings are facing wage inflation and the increased costs of utilities and food. This is something that is ubiquitous and not related to the ACA. It would be totally

wrong for the more deprived areas that are struggling with sufficiency to receive the lowest over all % increases which will not keep pace with rising costs.

5 - Do you agree with our proposed amendments to the proxy measure for premises related costs in the EYNFF, including introducing schools rateable values data?

No

Comments

This was not a factor in the original formula due to the diversity of providers, from childminders to big private providers, schools, nursery schools and providers hiring facilities and not paying rates. Therefore, this was left out of the original formula for this reason. If the rateable value is included in the proxy measures it will benefit areas of the country that have higher property values. However, this is not automatically reflected in actual cost the provider incurs. There is no detail to be able to evaluate what effect this will have on the hourly rates around the country other than the underlying outcome that area's that have more expensive buildings will have more funding. The rateable values of all non-domestic properties is due to be refreshed from April 2023 and it is not known how this will impact of the formula going forward.

Teachers' pay and pensions grants

6 - Do you agree with our proposed approach to mainstreaming the early years element of the teachers' pay and pensions grants?

No

Comments

Allocating the funding as part the LA base rate which is applicable to all providers (including nursery schools) is not a solution to mainstreaming the TPPG. There are also several issues with the suggestion that this funding can be allocated via the quality supplement. This supplement is for all providers and therefore could dilute the funding to nursery classes. The cap of 10% of funding to providers via the supplements would also need to be breached if the full amount of TPPG was allocated via this supplement without diluting funding to other providers. If this cap is not removed it will result in all settings seeing an increase in their hourly rates, but school nursery classes will receive less funding then under the current arrangements. It might be worth having a separate supplement for TPPG for nursery classes only. Another issue with this suggestion is that there is no direct correlation between the number of hours and the number of qualified teaching staff for schools as teacher numbers are usually constant throughout the year and do not vary with the number of children that nursery classes have throughout the year.

7 - Do you agree with our proposal to update the operational guide to encourage local authorities to take account of additional pressures that some providers might face using the existing quality supplement?

No

Comments

This suggestion does not work if the quality supplement is already fully utilised, which it is in Gateshead.

There are also several issues with the suggestion that this funding can be allocated via the quality supplement. This supplement is for all providers and therefore will dilute the funding to nursery classes. The cap of 10% of funding to providers via the supplements could also be breached. Currently Gateshead has 2 supplements. The first for deprivation based on a subset of IDACI being the Acorn score of a setting, and a quality supplement. Both supplements currently allocate 5% funding to settings therefore the 10% limit is already in place. If this cap is not removed it will result in all settings seeing an increase in their hourly rates, but school nursery classes will receive less funding than they would if the TPPG was separate. It might be worth having a separate supplement for TPPG.

Another issue with this suggestion is that maintained nursery schools will be double funded via the supplement and via the maintained nursery school grant.

2-year-old funding formula

8 - Do you agree with our proposal to update the underlying data in the area cost adjustment in the 2-year-old formula?

No

Comments

This approach seems to benefit the more affluent areas which goes against the Government's levelling up agenda.

9 - Do you agree with our proposal to introduce a proxy for premises related costs into the 2-year-old formula?

No

Comments

Two-year-old funding is for deprived children and there is more demand for places in deprived areas. Adding proxy premises related costs into the formula seems to provide additional funding for more affluent areas with lower proportions of funded 2-year-olds as compared to universal funded 3- & 4-year-olds.

Areas with ACA of between 1.57 to 1.40 had an average of 12.7% deprived 2-year-olds ranging from 7.69% to 16.57% with funding rates of £6.87 apart from one that had a funding rate of £6.29.

Areas with an ACA of 1.00 to 1.01 average 22.13% funded 2-year-olds compared to universal funded 3- & 4-year-olds ranging from 13.62% to 25.82% had funding rated of £5.57 which is £1.30 less than areas with the highest ACA.

Areas with the highest % of funded 2-year-olds compared to funded 3- & 4-year-olds (25.38% to 31.9%) had an average funding rate of £5.64 which is £1.23 less than the areas with the highest ACA.

Protections

10 - Do you agree with our proposed approach to protections in the EYNFF for 2023-24?

No

Comments

A minimum funding floor is needed to ensure that all LA's receive a minimum level of funding. However, the rationale for applying the ACA to the EAL and FSM elements of the formula seem counter intuitive as it dilutes the funding to LA's in with higher levels of deprivation as these usually have an ACA closer to 1. A guaranteed increase of 1% to LA's will not enable provider rates to increase sufficiently to cope with the increase in staff and utilities costs which are ubiquitous across the country.

11- Do you agree with our proposed approach to protections in the 2-year-old formula for 2023-24?

No

Comments

A minimum funding floor is needed to ensure that all LA's receive a minimum level of funding. However, the areas receiving the highest levels of funding protections of over £0.50 which are all in Inner London, Outer London and the Southeast which all have high ACA values and an average of 11% of funded 2-year-olds compared to universal 3- & 4-year-olds. This compared to the areas with the highest levels of funded 2-year-olds (and therefore the highest levels of deprivation) receiving protections of between £0.00 and £0.25. Again, this shows that the proposals are favouring the more affluent areas of the country.

Reform of maintained nursery school supplementary funding

12 - Do you agree with our proposal to introduce a minimum hourly funding rate and a cap on the hourly funding rate for MNS supplementary funding?

Yes

Comments

13 - Do you agree with our proposed approach to rolling the teachers' pay and pensions grants into MNS supplementary funding?

No

Comments

Teachers pay and pension costs do not fluctuate with hours, as staffing rates in maintained nursery schools are not able to be totally re-active to pupil hours. This proposal could also lead to double funding for MNS if the TPPG for nursery classes is distributed via supplements in the EYSFF. A better solution would be for there to be an additional supplement for teachers pay and pension grant or to lift the 10% cap on supplements so that if the funding is mainstreamed it can be allocated more fairly.

Equalities Impact Assessment

14 - Do you have any comments about the potential impact, both positive and negative, of our proposals on individuals on the basis of their protected characteristics? Where any negative impacts have been identified, do you know how these might be mitigated?

Comments

Any Other Comments

15 - Are there any other comments that you would like to make about our proposed reforms?