

Item 6**TITLE OF REPORT: Early Years Funding**

Purpose of the Report

This report builds on a report from Septembers Schools Forum on proposed amendments to the Early Years Single Funding Formula and 2 year old funding for 2016/17 needed to make the administration of the Early Years Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant more efficient.

Background

Gateshead currently uses several elements of the Tribal Synergy information system across Care Wellbeing and Learning. The Tribal Synergy system was initially extended to manage the administration of two year old offer, but officers saw the potential to use the system to calculate payments which would remove the need for information to be transferred from the system into calculation spreadsheets.

Queries were raised on the proposal to move 2 year old funding on to the same basis as 3 & 4 year olds and only fund children at the setting on head count day. Schools Forum made the request to identify the possible impact of this proposal if it is implemented.

Data was collected for the summer term 2015. Under the current system providers with 2 year olds had up until the 1st July 2015 to submit their final summer term numbers, and this was the date used to determine at which setting a child was deemed to be attending.

As the date for final amendments is so late in the term no children left any settings after this date and no children started after this date, but 13 children left before 1st July 2015, and 9 settings were affected.

The table below shows the impact on the settings, if only children who were present on 1st July were funded.

Settings most affected by this potential change are the smaller settings as this possible reduction in funding represents a larger proportion of their funding.

Child		Date Left	Cost to setting	Total	Total Summer Funding	Potential % decrease
Child 1	Setting 1	15/06/2015	£509.25			
Child 2	Setting 1	01/05/2015	£363.75			
Child 3	Setting 1	29/04/2015	£145.50	£1,018.50	£46,870.40	2.17%
Child 4	Setting 2	15/05/2015	£291.00	£291.00	£10,330.50	2.82%
Child 5	Setting 3	15/05/2015	£291.00	£291.00	£32,955.75	0.88%
Child 6	Setting 4	03/06/2015	£436.50	£436.50	£6,722.10	6.49%
Child 7	Setting 5	05/06/2015	£436.50	£436.50	£23,875.34	1.83%
Child 8	Setting 6	28/04/2015	£106.70			
Child 9	Setting 6	19/06/2015	£582.00	£688.70	£21,121.75	3.26%
Child 10	Setting 7	22/05/2015	£303.12	£303.12	£4,486.10	6.76%
Child 11	Setting 8	08/05/2015	£218.25			
Child 12	Setting 8	17/06/2015	£218.25	£436.50	£45,711.25	0.95%
Child 13	Setting 9	22/05/2015	£363.75	£363.75	£9,224.70	3.94%

Proposals

As children leaving before 1st July would not be funded under the proposed arrangements, and this issue affects a small number of children, the decision was taken that the current funding arrangements to remain in place and settings will be funded for the weeks children attend the setting. As this does not represent a change to current funding arrangements settings do not need to be consulted.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Schools Forum notes the proposals to fund on a participation basis, and that this aspect of the current funding arrangements for 2 year olds will not change.

For the following reasons:

- To ensure that settings receive funding on a participation basis for 2 year olds.
- Small settings are not disadvantaged.

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