

18 May 2023

TITLE OF REPORT: Early Years Spring 2023 Budget Announcements

Purpose of the Report

1. To bring to Schools Forum a summary of the Governments Spring 2023 Budget announcements for the early years sector.

Background

2. On the 16 March the Chancellor announced several reforms to childcare for parents, children, and the economy. This included increased funding and increased free entitlement:-
 - Increase in funding rates to local authorities for 2 year olds from a national average of £6 per hour to £8 per hour
 - Increase in funding rates to local authorities for 3 and 4 year olds from a national average of £5.29 per hour to £5.50
 - The average funding for under 2 year olds from 2024/25 will be £11 per hour
 - From April 2024 all working parents of 2 year olds can access 15 hour per week free entitlement
 - From September 2024 all working parents of children aged 9 months to 3 years can access 15 hours per week free entitlement
 - From September 2025 all working parents of children aged 9 months to 3 years can access 30 hours free entitlement
3. The above is in addition to the current free early education entitlements.
4. The DfE have stated that more funding will be available for wrap around care so that parents of school age children can access childcare in their local area from 8am to 6pm.
5. No individual local authority funding rates or funding allocations have been provided to date.

Proposal

6. It is proposed that Schools Forum notes the contents of the report.

Recommendations

7. Schools Forum notes the report.

For the following reasons:-

- To inform Schools Forum of the increased entitlements to early education and the increase in funding that will be available from September 2023.

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