

Urgent Decision Record - Department for Education Consultation on an Early Years National Funding Formula

Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking the decision	Cllr Colin Hayfield <i>Agreed</i> <i>Colin Hayfield</i>
Date of Decision (on or after)	19/09/2016

Decision Taken

I approve the enclosed response to the Department for Education Consultation on an Early Years National Funding Formula.

Reasons for Decisions

On 11 August 2016 the Department for Education (DfE) issued a consultation on an early years national funding formula.

Currently, all three- and four-year-olds are entitled to 15 hours of free early education a week. The DfE allocates Dedicated School Grant to the Early Years Block based on a unit of funding and the number of Early Years pupils. Local authorities then distribute this funding to Early Years providers taking into account a range of factors, including deprivation, and the type of Early Years setting. Providers include the maintained sector (nursery schools, nursery classes, and special school nurseries) and the private, voluntary and independent sector.

In future the DfE is proposing that it allocates funding to local authorities based on a national funding formula. Local authorities will then be required to use a universal rate to determine the sums it pays to providers, regardless of setting. There will be some limited scope to apply a small number of specified factors including deprivation. In addition, it proposes to extend the current 15 hours' free entitlement to 30 hours for eligible working families. The enclosed sets out a response to the consultation.

The deadline for responses is 22 September 2016 and the Chair of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee has therefore agreed to accept this as an urgent item to which the call-in process will not apply and this decision will take immediate effect.

Background Information

None

Financial Implications

None (as this is merely the submission of response to consultation).

Report Author	Liz Firmstone
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Strategic Director	Monica Fogarty
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Colin Hayfield

Checklist

Urgent matter?	Yes.
Confidential or Exempt? (State the category of exempt information)	No
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

List of Reports considered - please include link to report

None – other than the response attached.

List of Background Papers - please include a contact for access to background papers

None (other than published Government consultation)

Members and officers consulted or informed – please include any comments

Councillors: Colin Hayfield (Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning, taking this decision). Dave Parsons, Chair of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the following OSC spokespersons have been informed: Cllr Julie Jackson; Cllr Clive Rickhards and Cllr Chris Williams.

Officers: Monica Fogarty, Nigel Minns, Jane Pollard (legal), John Betts (finance).