

## Schools Forum

1 October 2020

### Update on Matters Arising

This report relates to all members of the Schools Forum

#### Recommendations

The Schools Forum is asked to note the update on the matters arising following the 4 June 2020 meeting of the Schools Forum.

#### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to outline for the Schools Forum any matters arising from the minutes of the last Forum meeting that are not already being considered elsewhere on today's agenda.

#### 2. Sparsity Funding

- 2.1. Sparsity funding has been allocated to Warwickshire's 14 small rural schools.

#### 3. Admissions

- 3.1. This outstanding issue will be brought back to a future meeting (December 2020). It is recommended that the AD for Education Services identifies a Service Manager to work with legal services to assess if a rebate is due, and if so, the value to each Academy.

#### 4. Early Years Ring-fenced Carry Forward

- 4.1. The early Years Working Group has met twice, June and September, to discuss how the early years ring fenced carry forward could be used to support all early years providers.

4.2. Guidance from the ESFA sets out the following:

- LAs should continue to fund early years providers who are open and offering their usual entitlements places at broadly the levels they would have expected to see in the 2020 autumn term had there been no coronavirus outbreak.
- In addition, LAs should continue to fund providers which have been advised to close, or left with no option to close, for public health reasons.
- But, LAs should not fund providers who are closed in the autumn term for non-public health reasons.
- Normally we would use the January 2021 census data for funding allocations for the 2020 autumn term. By exception, we will use the January 2020 census data for funding allocations to LAs for the autumn term 2020.
- We expect local authorities to pass that support onto providers who are open, but may not be as full as usual.
- We intend to return to the normal early years funding process from the start of 2021. This means we intend to use the January 2021 census count to drive funding allocations for the 2021 spring term. It is also our expectation that local authorities' funding to childcare providers will return to the normal approach for all providers from 1 January 2021. However, we will keep this under review and confirm the approach in further guidance in the autumn

4.3. As there is significant uncertainty around the level of Early Years Block DSG the LA will receive in 2020-21 the Working Group would like to delay review the use of reserves until the Spring 2021 term when there may be more certainty around funding. Any allocation of the reserve needs to be distributed equitably to all providers and the Working Group is very mindful that it would not be prudent to allocate funding at this time as there is a real risk of some providers not being in a position to continue their businesses.

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