

REPORT TO THE EARLY YEARS REFERENCE GROUP (EYRG)
CABINET REPORT NOVEMBER 2009 – OUTCOMES OF THE
CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED SFF IN WCC

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To update the WSF on the Cabinet report in November 2009 on the outcomes of the consultation on the proposed SFF from April 2010.

2. CABINET DECISION ON THE SFF 2nd NOVEMBER 2009

2.1 The WCC Cabinet considered the outcomes on the statutory consultation together with the recommendations of the Early Years Reference Group (EYRG) and the WSF. The Cabinet report and appendices are attached for information at Appendix A.

2.2 In considering the report and the outcomes of the consultation Cabinet made the following points: -

(a) For the maintained sector, the significant financial implication would be the change from place-led to participation-led funding.

(b) Take up of early years provision was not statutory and therefore assessment of the number of children and hours could only be made by consideration of historic data. This makes it very difficult to forecast budgetary needs.

(c) It was not known if the sum of £16m currently available in 2009/10 would continue after this period.

(d) Initial indications for the future were that the Standards Fund Grant would be mainstreamed into the DSG.

2.4 Cabinet subsequently resolved that having regard to the consultation undertaken in June and July 2009 and the endorsement of the Worcestershire Schools Forum, the changes to the schools' funding formula to introduce a new local needs led Single Funding Formula for Early Years from April 2010 as outlined in the Appendices 1 and 2 to the report be approved.

3. RECOMMENDATION

The EYRG notes and comments on the issues as required.

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November 2009