

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL NOT FOR GENERAL CIRCULATION

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

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To advise the EYRG on the outcomes of the statutory consultation on the proposed the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) to be introduced from April 2010.

1.2 To request the EYRG to make any comments to the Worcestershire Schools Forum (WSF) for inclusion in the County Council Cabinet report.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The formulation of the proposals and the consultation process has been overseen by the Early Years Reference Group (EYRG). This sub group of the WSF is made up of representation from both the Maintained and Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) sectors. The consultation document was widely circulated on 10th June 2009 with responses were requested by 17th July 2009. As well as the detailed document 3 area meetings were held in early July 2009 for consultees to attend and discuss the proposals. There has also been a meeting with the Headteachers of maintained schools with NC provision.

2.2 The number of responses received from the consultation via the questionnaire pro-forma were as follows: -

Provider	Number of Providers	Number of Responses	Percentage of Responses
Nursery/First/Primary with NC	55	9	16
Nursery/First/Primary without NC	123	3	2
Middle	21	0	0
Secondary/High	29	0	0
Special	10	1	10
PVI and Childminders	320	45	14
Other	0	2	N/A
Total	558	60	11

Key: NC – Nursery Classes

Note – The percentage responses from purely the maintained and PVI early years providers is 15%.

3. KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 Consultees were requested to respond to 9 questions that related to specific issues for the introduction of the new EYSFF. Appendix A shows the responses from schools to these 9 questions. Recommendations resulting from the consultation are detailed in Appendix B. A summary of the key issues arising from the consultation responses and those from the area meetings are detailed in Appendix C.

3.2 The responses detailed in Appendix A are summarised as follows and overall show support for: -

- The principles as determined by the EYRG in the introduction of the new local SFF for EY from April 2010.
- The staffing ratios as detailed within the consultation document as the basis for the new SFF for EY.
- An enhanced rate for PVI settings of more than 20 children.
- The proposed entitlement models as detailed within the consultation to be used within the SFF for EY.
- If the DCSF permit, consider the potential to ring fence the EY budget within the DSG.
- The use of participation numbers as detailed within the new SFF for EY.
- The introduction of a deprivation model on an individual pupil basis as in the mainstream funding formula.
- The funding of high cost/low incidence Special Educational Need to be initially outside of the new SFF for EY together with the development of further proposals in this area.
- The need for some form of transitional arrangements for the introduction of the new SFF for EY.

3.3 The next stage is to take the outcomes and recommendations to WSF. A report will then be prepared for the County Council Cabinet for final decision. This report will also include any comments made by the EYRG and the WSF.

3.4 In light of the outcomes, in particular, the EYRG are requested to consider the key issues of pupil counts as detailed in Agenda Item 5 and potential transitional arrangements.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The EYRG notes and comments on the consultation outcomes in Appendices A and C.

4.2 The EYRG considers the recommendations for decision detailed in Appendix B for reporting to the WSF.

Alison Hitchins
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