

REPORT TO THE EARLY YEARS REFERENCE GROUP (EYRG)
THE NEXT STAGES

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To discuss with the EYRG the next stages in the development of the single funding formula.

2. ISSUES TO CONSIDER

2.1 In terms of formula modelling, once the principles for delivering the early years entitlement are agreed it will be possible to model the policy for further discussion by the EYRG.

2.2 The DCSF have proposed a timescale for LA's in introducing the new formula for 2010. The suggested stages are as follows: -

- Establish Team – October 2008 *
- Design Cost Survey – October 2008 #
- Check Returns – October 2008 to February 2009 #
- Develop Cost Model – January 2009 to April 2009
- Combine Approaches – February 2009 to April 2009
- Analysis of All Data on Costs – November 2008 to April 2009
- Design Formula – March 2009 to June 2009
- Build Formula – April 2009 to August 2009
- Undertake Impact Assessment – July 2009 to August 2009
- Develop Transitional Proposals – September 2009
- Consult on New Proposals – October 2009 to December 2009
- Sign Off New Formula – February 2010

* The management of the issue has been undertaken so far through the officers Early Years Management Group, the EYRG has been established and the Worcestershire Schools Forum (WSF) have been updated on progress.

This had already taken place in Worcestershire.

2.3 There will also be a need to report back to and obtain the support of the WSF for any proposals including the consultation process.

2.4 The above project plan will meet the legislative requirements for implementation by April 2010. There is a concern that it does not readily lend itself to providers in both the maintained and non-maintained sectors being able to make any necessary staffing changes as a consequence of the new single formula. However, once the modelling is commenced there will need to be consideration of relevant transitional arrangements if required.

2.5 The EYRG are requested to consider the above timescales to see if it meets the requirements or whether a shorter timescale is more appropriate.

3. RECOMMENDATION

The EYRG consider and agree the timetable for implementation.

Alison Hitchins
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