

Early Years National Funding Formula 2017-18 - Halton

The EYNFF guidance for 2017-18 was issued on 1st December 2016 following the consultation over the summer. Consideration was given to the options available to us and modelling, using the January 2016 headcount data has been completed. We have decided to focus on two options only for 2017-18 as below. We support the proposal of having the same base rate for all providers, however we also recognise that the additional costs of the required staffing structure in Maintained Nursery Schools cannot be changed overnight. We need to ensure the financial sustainability of all our Early Years providers and therefore we have considered a transitional approach to the EYNFF.

Funding Factors:

Basic per pupil – this is a mandatory factor with a minimum of 90% of the provider funding to be passed through this factor.

Deprivation – this is a mandatory factor although Local Authorities can choose the basis of funding (IDACI or FSM) and can choose the amount to fund through this factor. We have used IDACI (based on children's postcodes) and recommend that this basis is continued.

Rurality/Sparsity – an optional factor targeted at providers who support rural areas less likely to benefit from economies of scale. As we are such a compact authority we are not recommending the use of this factor.

Flexibility – an optional supplement to support the offer of flexible provision to parents. We would need to develop a criterion upon which this funding would be based, then collect and monitor sufficient data from providers to devolve this funding. We are recommending this factor is not used in Halton.

Quality – an optional supplement to support workforce qualifications or system leadership. We consider this would be useful in recognising the employment of qualified Early Years teachers and are recommending the use of this factor.

English as an Additional Language – an optional factor to support providers with children for whom English is not their first language. Although we would be interested in using this factor, reflecting the provision in primary and secondary schools, data has not been collected in sufficient quantity to enable modelling to be done. Therefore, we are unable to identify what level of funding would be needed. We are recommending that for 2017-18 this factor is not used but that modelling is done to identify possible levels of funding for 2018-19 onwards.

Option A

This option uses the two mandatory factors (Basic per pupil and Deprivation) plus the Quality factor where all providers receive the same base rate.

Option B

This option uses the same factors as Option A but, as allowed in the guidance, has a different base rate for Maintained Nursery Schools for 2017-18 only.

Due to commercial sensitivity, we have anonymised the names of the providers on the modelling; however, the data is taken from the January 2016 headcount.

Consultation questions:

1. Do you agree with our recommendation to continue to use the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index, based on a child's home postcode, for the Deprivation factor?

Yes / No

If No, what criteria would you suggest? _____

2. Do you agree with our recommendation not to use the Rurality/Sparsity factor in Halton's funding formula?

Yes / No

If No, what criteria would you suggest? _____

3. Do you agree with our recommendation not to use the Flexibility factor in Halton's funding formula?

Yes / No

If No, what criteria would you suggest? _____

4. Do you agree with our recommendation to use the Quality factor to support the employment of qualified Early Years teachers?

Yes / No

If No, what criteria would you suggest? _____

5. Do you agree with our recommendation to not use the English as an Additional Language factor for 2017-18 due to the lack of data?

Yes / No

If No, what would you suggest? _____

6. Do you agree with our recommendation that for 2017-18 only we use a different base rate for Maintained Nursery Schools to allow time for options to be investigated and implemented to reduce overall costs.

Yes / No

If No, what would you suggest? _____

SEN Inclusion Fund

Another element of funding (but not within the hourly rates paid to providers) is funding for disabled children and children with Special Educational Needs. In Halton we already have both a budget and a process in place for passing additional funding to settings on a case by case basis to address the needs of individual children with SEN. The EYNFF guidance now makes this a requirement of all local authorities in England from April 2017. This is in addition to the new Disability Access Fund which will be paid as a one-off annual grant from 2017-18.

Applications for funding to support an individual child are made to a panel of SEN Officers and Head Teacher representatives for the maintained sector and Early Years Officers and PVI representatives for Early Years settings. Although we have the option to retain some SEN Inclusion Fund to support specialist SEN services, we are not looking to do this for 2017-18. We are recommending that the current processes in place to provide funding to disabled children and children with SEN are continued.

7. Do you agree with our recommendation to continue to use the current processes for top-up funding payments to providers, to be made on a case by case basis?

Yes / No

If No, what would you suggest? _____

The deadline for responses is 5.00pm on Wednesday 18th January and will be reported to Schools Forum on Monday 23rd January. Any responses received after this deadline will not be taken into account.

Actual funding factor amounts and indicative budgets will not be available until mid-February at the earliest following receipt of the January 2017 census data.