

REPORT TO: School Forum

DATE: 17th January 2018

REPORTING OFFICER: Senior Finance Officer, Financial Management Division

SUBJECT: Early Years Funding for 2018-19

1.0 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To report to the School Forum the current position on Early Years funding for 2018-19

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Background

Halton moved to the new Early Years National Funding Formula as required by the Department for Education in April 2017. We are now preparing for the 2018-19 funding formula.

Update

The Early Years NFF Operational Guidance was released towards the end of November with no major changes to the NFF requirements. We were also notified of the hourly rate that we will be funded for 2018-19 and the indicative grant allocation, although this will be updated during the year. Following the consultation with all stakeholders during the Autumn Term the intention is to change the quality supplement criteria for 2018-19 to support staff with qualifications at Levels 5, 6 and 7 plus QTS (Early Years).

The hourly rate we received from the DfE for 2016-17 was £5.69 which reduced to £5.40 for 2017-18. This is reducing again to £5.13 per hour for 2018-19. Due to the low level of DSG reserves it is likely that the only way to keep within budget is to reduce the hourly rates. This is not what is wanted and every effort will be made to minimise any such reduction, however if the overall funding for Early Years to the authority is being reduced – possibly by £400-£450k there is no other option available to us.

Next Steps

Information from providers regarding staff qualifications has been received and collated. Once the January headcount data is received work can commence on calculating the likely grant allocation and the cash values for our funding factors for 2018-19. A further report will be brought to Schools Forum in March.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None

5.0 **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None