

REPORT TO: School Forum

DATE: 21st March 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

RECOMMENDED:

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That the centrally retained budgets be agreed.

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

We have an indicative allocation of £9,479,357 for the provision of Early Years support. We are continuing to follow the Early Years Funding Formula with a universal base rate for all sectors, a deprivation factor using IDACI and the quality factor as per the autumn consultation for staff across all sectors who are qualified at level 5 and above. The level of maintained nursery school transitional protection has not yet been confirmed so it is assumed to be at the same level as for 2017-18.

Unfortunately, at the time of writing, the cash values have not yet been finalised so will be tabled at the meeting. As reported at the January meeting, we are seeing a reduction of 27p per hour in funding from the DfE to Halton. Therefore, the calculations are extensive to ensure we are setting hourly rates that are affordable to the level of Early Years grant that will be received.

Centrally Retained Budgets

The following are the budgets we are proposing to centrally retain, with their comparison to 2017-18 budgets.

	<u>2018-19</u>	<u>2017-18</u>
Staffing	£160,740	£156,150
Supplies & services	£45,740	£45,740

Premises costs	£24,210	£24,210
Transport costs	£3,000	£3,000
Contribution to Early Intervention Team	£50,000	£50,000
Early Years Pupil Premium	£120,270	£99,920
Contribution to Capital post	£5,000	Nil
EY SEN Inclusion Fund	£80,000	From High Needs Block

The elements of the above centrally retained budgets relating to 3 & 4 year old provision total £244,440 which equates to 3.02% of the total allocation so is well within the maximum 5% allowed in the regulations.

The elements relating to centrally retained budgets for 2 year old provision total just £44,250 or 2.81%. There is no maximum for centrally retained budgets for 2 year old provision within the regulations.

Early Years Pupil Premium (at an assumed level matching 2017-18) and EY SEN Inclusion Fund are not counted as centrally retained budgets as they are devolved to providers throughout the year.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None

5.0 **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None