

## Appendix C

### Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF)

#### Outcomes of EYSFF Consultation

1. The following responses to the EYSFF were received by 19 November 2010 (the consultation closing date). In total there have been 52 responses (PVI – 28, Nursery Schools – 4, Lower Schools – 19, Special Schools – 1)
  - **Option A – 11** (PVI – 8, LS – 3)
  - **Option B – 37** (PVI – 18, NS – 4, LS – 14, SS – 1)
  - **Option A or B – 1** (PVI – 1)
  - **Option C – 3** (PVI -1, LS -2)

#### Comments

2. A range of comments has been received from schools and settings and a sample is included below:

##### **PVI**

- Very little impact which ever option is adopted
- 15 hours provision - not in total agreement with any option but supported Option “B”, however it means the setting will be lose even more money. Bringing in the 15 hours per week which our setting was already doing has now prevented charging a top up fee and this will undermine long-term viability.
- Social deprivation –knowledge of the children’s post code is required to work out or hourly rate. Without social deprivation the setting’s hourly rate will be £3.60, less than the current £3.70 which seems unfair
- Quality factor – it is questioned why this is only applied to the highest qualified practitioner as settings should be encouraged and rewarded for having higher qualified staff. The factor should be allocated to all level 4 and above staff at a setting
- PVI Administration - there is still some uncertainty with regards to childminders receiving £100 lump sum plus 10p per hour per child
- Premises and utilities - regarding the 10p per hour per child for rent, rates, utilities etc; will there be any sustainability funding available for groups, particularly for rural groups, where numbers of children can be very low?
- Lump sum - can the PVI sector have the £40k (lump sum) as it is felt they have just as much, if not more, paperwork as a school nursery?

##### **Nursery Schools**

- Option B acknowledges some of the unavoidable costs within the maintained nursery school and treats nursery schools the same as lower schools
- The school will need to be completely full for the whole year to receive the same level of funding as previous years.
- It is unfortunate that EYSFF has coincided with the change to admissions for Reception age children so this will severely affect our numbers from September 2011, and consequently our level of funding
- The EYSFF Practice Guidance suggests funding for nursery schools especially those which have been funded on the basis of places and have low occupancy may need

special attention to support the presumption against closure and to retain current staffing levels.

- The 4 maintained nursery schools will lose significant levels of funding and this may lead to a loss in viability of high quality provision. All 3 options will lead to cutting the quality in all the nursery schools as large cuts in staffing will be needed to balance budgets
- The funding to the PVI sector should be increased in order to raise the quality there but NOT at the expense of the maintained sector.
- Whilst it is important to note the Government's commitment to enhanced funding for schools with high levels of social deprivation, it is also important to note that settings all require a minimum staff ratio, and with the move towards having more younger children in a nursery (as the Reception age group will largely move to school) this is increasingly important.

#### ***Lower Schools***

- Option B will bring greatest equality across the settings
- There is a difficulty in that some children do not access the nursery due to the fact that the PVI sector is still charging parents to hold their place so the parents are opting to keep their children in these settings. This is despite the fact that the parents state that they would rather the children come to school in preparation for the Reception year. This puts an additional financial strain upon the parents and the school loses out (no headcount money) so could this be reviewed?

#### ***Special Schools***

- In order to transform learning for all pupils PVI settings should be enabled to provide the same quality education as nursery schools with qualified teachers. This will sadly not be achieved by cutting funding to nursery schools leading to the loss of those provisions

3. The full range of responses on the consultation is available on request.