

Early Years Funding Formula

Consultation results

By

Community Intelligence

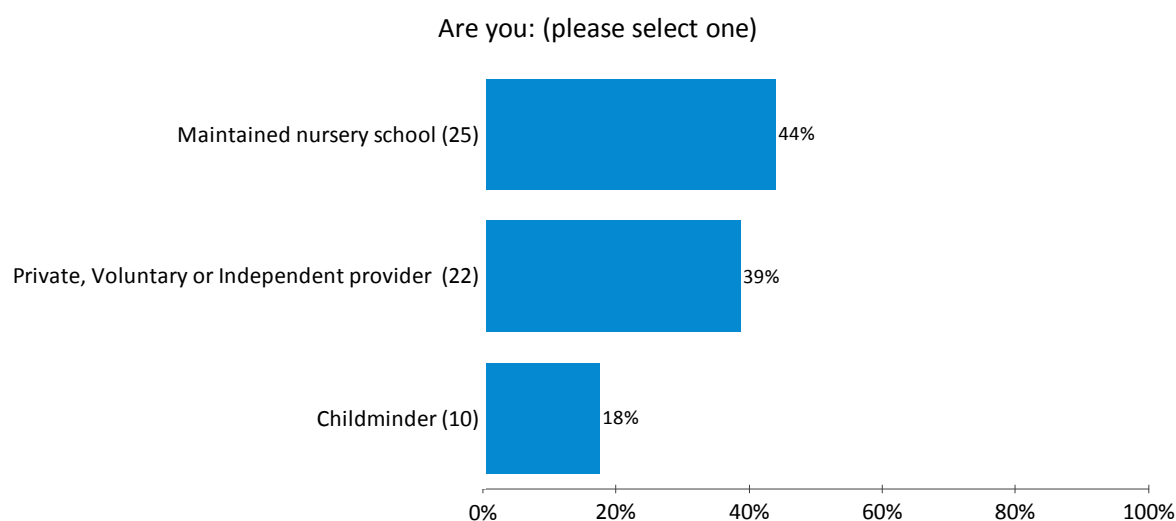


Purpose of consultation

Central Bedfordshire Council consulted on the proposed Early Years Funding Formula for 2019/20. At present there is a differential base-rate with schools receiving £3.70 per hour and the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) sector £4.05 per hour. The Early Years National Funding Formula, which governs the Early Years Block requires that by April 2019 different base rates are equalised.

Feedback on proposal

61 responses were received for this consultation.



Please note – the responses for ‘maintained nursery schools’ include the two stand-alone maintained nurseries, and schools which have maintained nursery-units.

Responses were received from:

Please tell us the name of your nursery school:

Mini explorers

Shillington Lower School

Clophill Preschool

Bramble Tots Day Nursery

Marston preschool

Acorn Pre-School & The Mighty Oaks

BEST Nurseries Ltd

Ickwell Pre-School

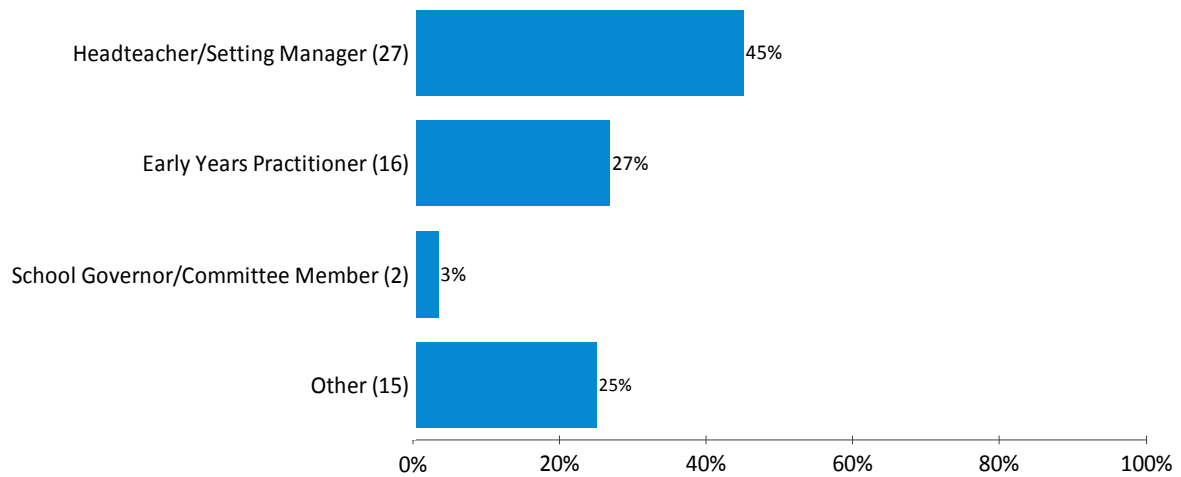
Heath Barn Preschool

Ardley Hill Pre School

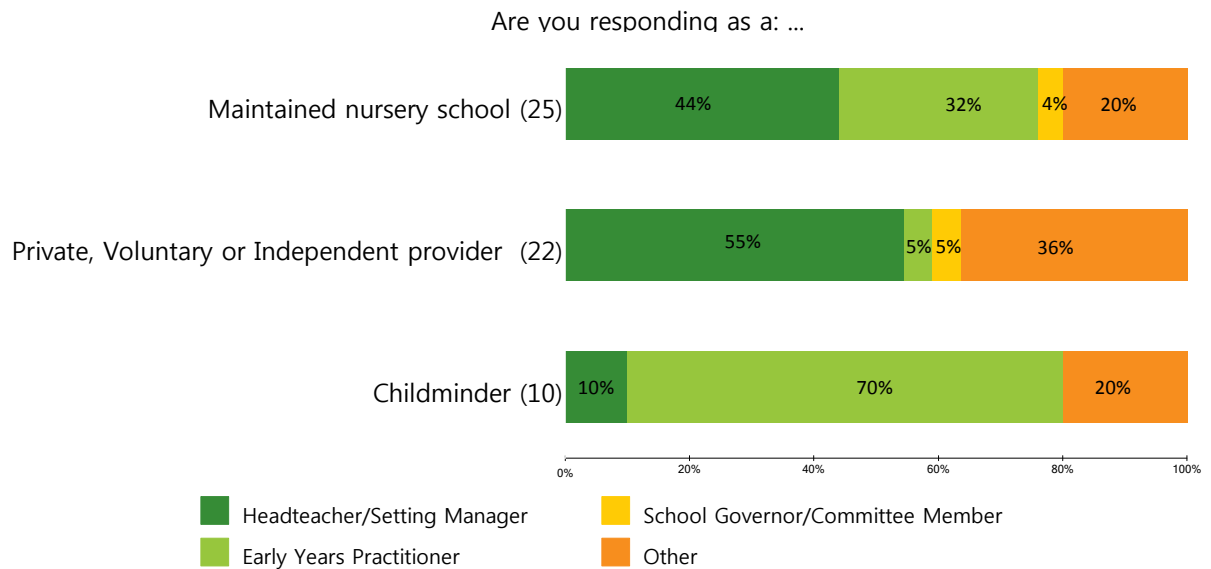
The Mary Bassett Lower School

Pippin Pre-School
Rainbow Pre-School & Extended Services
SPLAT Day Nursery and Forest School
Linslade Lower School
Dunstable Ickniel Lower School
Little Cranes Pre-School
Footsteps Nursery and Pre-School
Acorn Nursery within Clophill St. Mary's VA CofE Lower School
Woodentops Preschool
Toddington St George C of E School
Tithe Farm Primary School
Puddleducks Nursery Wrest Park
Fairfield Park Lower School
Watling Lower School - Forest CLub
Westfield Nursery School
Willow Nursery School
Haynes Nursery School
Heathwood Pre-School
Silsoe Pre-School

Are you responding as a: (please select one)



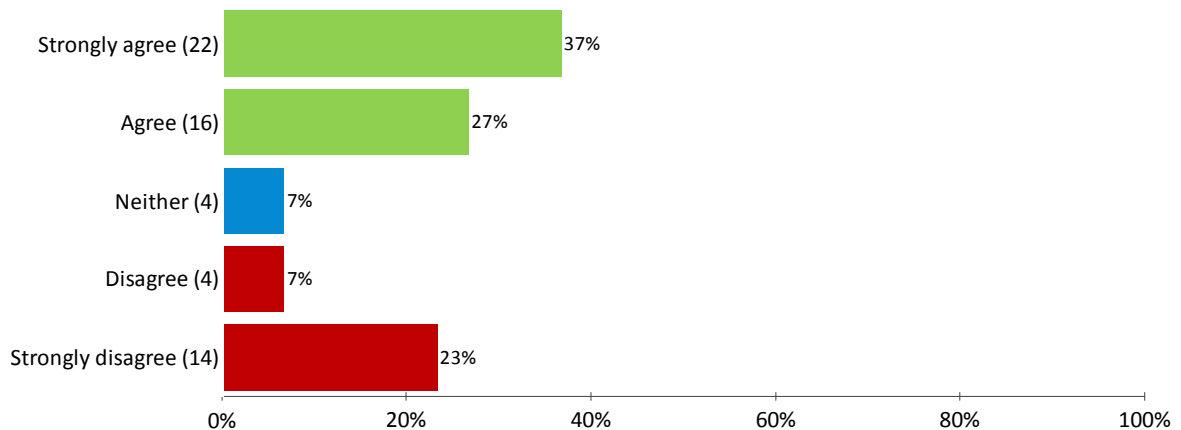
The chart below shows the breakdown of the position held, by type of setting. Most of the responses received for maintained nursery schools and PVI providers were from headteachers or setting managers. For childminders, most considered themselves to be Early Years practitioners:



Please note – the responses for ‘maintained nursery schools’ include the two stand-alone maintained nurseries, and schools which have maintained nursery-units.

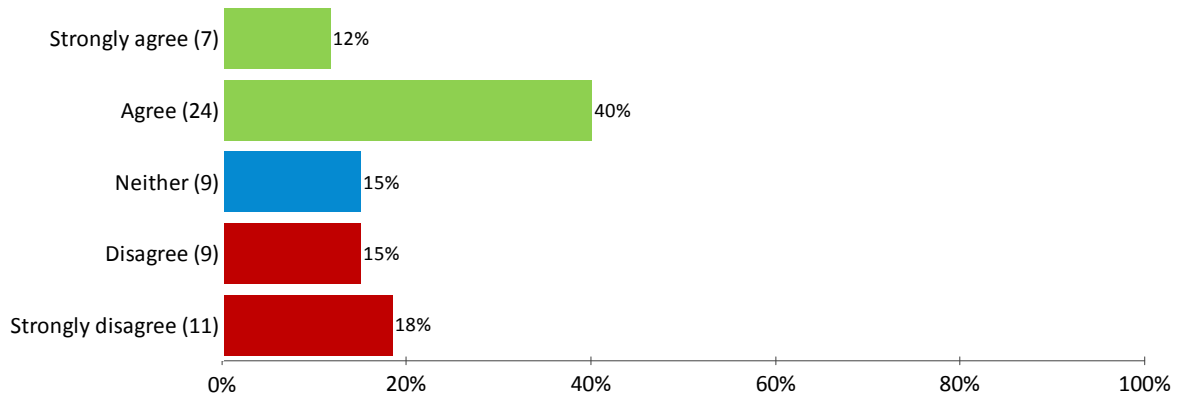
The Proposals

How far do you agree or disagree with the proposed base rate level of £4.05 for all settings?



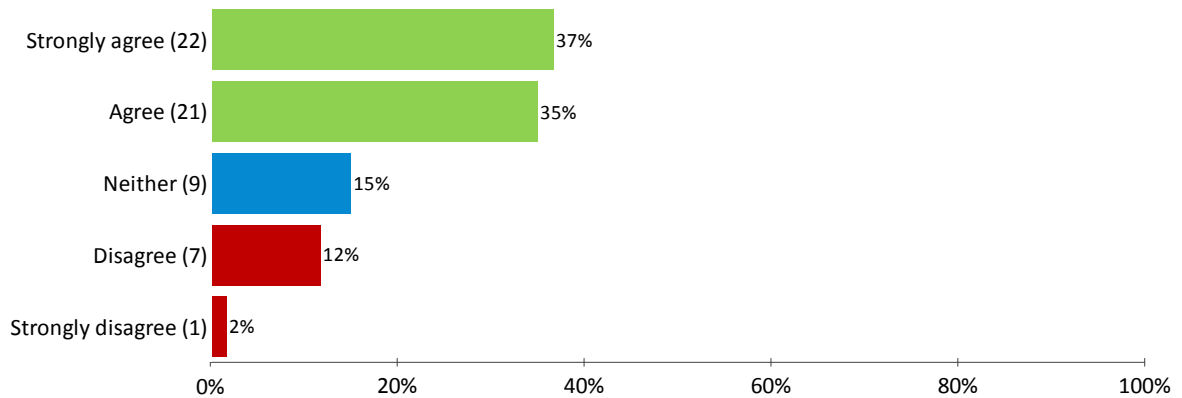
64% agreed with the proposed base rate level of £4.05 for all settings.

How far do you agree or disagree with the proposed levels of deprivation funding per child per hour, depending on home address and the LSOA deprivation level...?



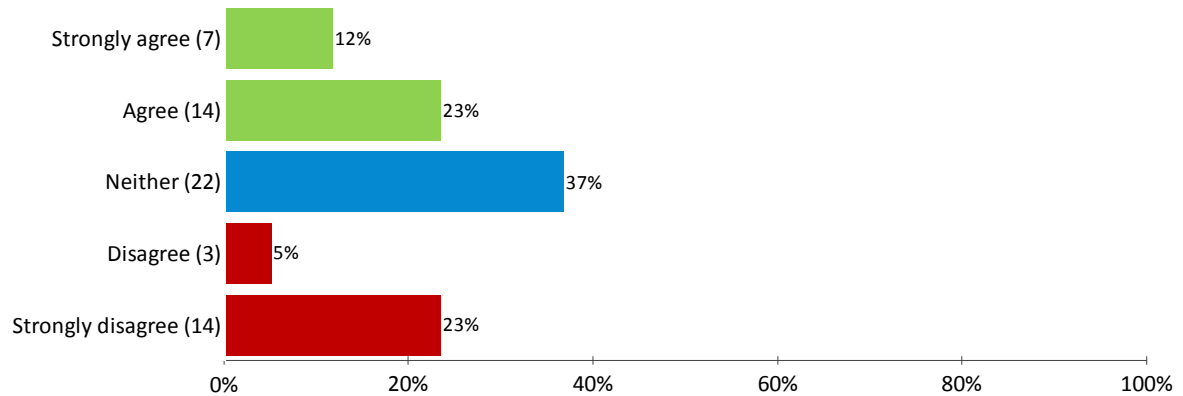
52% agreed with the proposed levels of deprivation funding per child, per hour.

How far do you agree or disagree with the proposal to retain the quality factors for the PVI settings...?



72% agreed with the proposal to retain the quality factors for the PVI settings. This topic was discussed in the open ended comments with comments about nothing extra for Level 5s, and the funding is low and barely reflects the level of education.

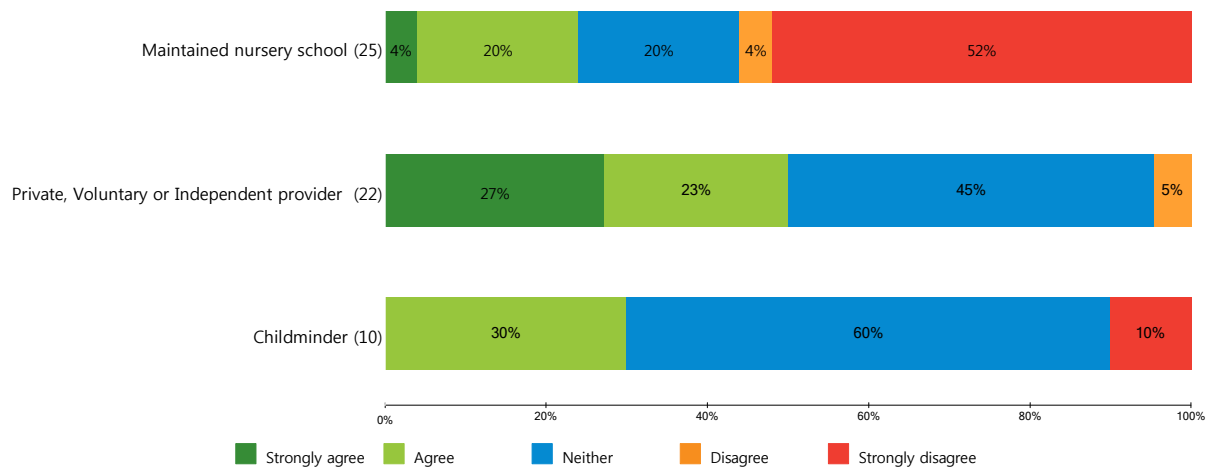
How far do you agree or disagree with the proposal to remove the lump sum from the two Maintained Nursery Schools?



35% agreed with the proposal to remove the lump sum for the two Maintained Nursery schools, with 28% disagreeing with the proposal.

The high percentage of 'neither' responses are mainly from those in settings other than Maintained Nursery schools:

How far do you agree or disagree with the proposal to remove the lump sum from the two maintained nurseries?



Comments about the proposals

Theme	No. of responses
Comments about Westfield Nursery school in Dunstable	8
Nursery schools have legal requirements that cost, PVI's do not.	8
General agreement with proposal	5
Deprived areas will get less, despite needing more	5
Payment per hour too low for qualified staff	4
Currently struggling	3
Other	7

33 responses were received. Some of the comments included:

"We are qualified nursery nurses level 3 with over 10 years experience in childcare as well as a1 training and iv training, we understand education as well as a newly qualified level 4/5 or graduates, so getting an extra 20p an hour I don't think is justified. Especially as the training cost is so high. Schools get what they want over private preschools in our case - ...we struggle with the current funding rate, with our rent increasing and minimum wages increasing. So, we would like our rate to increase too rather than only the school gain an extra 35p an hour per child."

"Current funding levels are leaving us as a setting with a significant shortfall, given the cost of quality staff and provision"

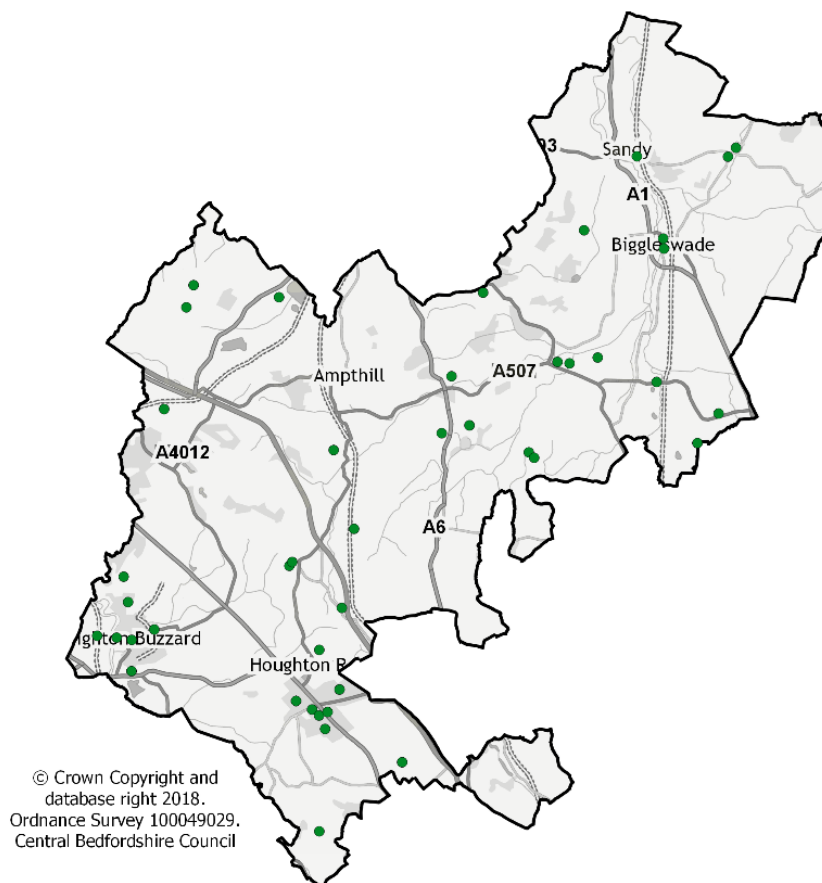
"The proposed rate of £4.05 (in my case £4.20 due to my BA degree) is just simply laughable. With the minimal wage going up to £8.50 from April 2019 not even two children on the funding will meet the minimum salary! Central Bedfordshire does an absolute minimum for the childminders in the area. Even the playgroup in Biggleswade is run by one of us and we have to fund the rental of the space. You just simply cannot have Champagne providers on lemonade funding!"

"I think the proposals are the best way forward considering your constraints. It does not make it any easier for us providers who are trying to provide the best care for the children and their families. I hope the government will increase the funding rate in 2020 in line with the cost increases that providers have had to pay out such as wage increases, pensions and rent increases plus all the increased food costs to name just a few."

"I feel very strongly that you cannot compare our Nursery school with PVI's and believe this is very unfair if you fund in the same way. This lump sum is 25% of our budget. We need the lump sum to help our Nursery fulfil our roles and responsibility and maintain our high standards... We are an asset to central beds education system. As a school we have a head teacher and at least one teacher, we provide excellent education for this socially deprived area in Dunstable. where would these children go???? we are a large setting and we can have 156 3&4 year olds and 64 2 year olds. we have an amazing relationship with the early years support team and the educational psych. we have a large number of EAL and SEND children and child protection..."

Postcode analysis

A review of postcodes indicates that respondents were from across the Central Bedfordshire



area.

Conclusions

Respondents were generally supportive of all proposals. The proposal with the highest level of support was the retention of quality factors for PVI settings with 72%.

The proposal which received the lowest level of support was the removal of the lump sum from the two maintained nursery schools with 35%. This percentage may be slightly skewed due to the larger number of 'neither' responses.

The main comments received were regarding the topics of Westfield in Dunstable (from which we had 10 responses) and the important role that the nursery plays in the community, and that nursery schools have additional legal requirements (such as providing head teachers) which incur costs that PVIs do not have.

As a result of the consultation, it may be useful to follow up with some of the settings that have responded to be able to brief them on any changes that may affect them and to address any of their specific concerns.



**Central
Bedfordshire**

Central Bedfordshire in contact

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