

Early Years DAF and Deprivation Consultations

Key Messages

Forum members are asked to:

1. Note the results of the deprivation consultation that closed on 31 July 2022 which proposes no change in the distribution of the £1.2m mandatory early years deprivation funding factor as recommended by the Early Years Working Group on 9 September 2022.
2. Note the results of the Disability Access Funding (DAF) consultation that closed on 31 July 2022 which proposes a one-off payment to distribute £544k to all current 3&4-year-old FEL providers paid for any FEL participation hours in 2021/22 as recommended by the Early Years Working Group 9 September 2022.

1. Deprivation Consultation

- 1.1. As reported at the September 2022 Early Years Working Group meeting, a consultation was launched to the Sheffield Early Years sector asking how they would like the future mandatory deprivation funding of £1.2m to be distributed to the sector.
- 1.2. Three models were shared with the sector. The models were: to distribute the £1.2m funding based on the current IDACI method, to distribute the funding based on pupils that attract early year pupil premium funding (EYPP) or a combination of the two models to distribute 80% of the funding based on the IDACI method and 20% based on EYPP pupils.
- 1.3. There was a 4% response rate from the sector with 14 replies received. 86% of responders chose the existing IDACI distribution method and the remaining 14% chose the EYPP model of distribution.
- 1.4. Following discussion at the Early Years Working Group it is proposed that Sheffield continues with the current deprivation funding methodology as per the consultation results.
- 1.5. Following discussion at the Early Years Working Group it is proposed that Sheffield's deprivation funding methodology be reviewed every four years in line with the publication cycle of the updated IDACI data sets.

2. Disability Access Funding (DAF) Consultation

- 2.1. As reported at the September 2022 Early Years Working Group meeting, a consultation was launched to seek how the Sheffield Early Years sector would like to distribute the one-off available Disability Access Funding of £554k.

- 2.2. Three models were shared with the sector: the first was to distribute funding based on SEND pupils, the second model was to distribute funding based on cumulative DAF claims and the final model to distribute funding based on the total participation hours paid to providers in 2021/22.
- 2.3. There was a 12% response rate from the sector with 44 replies received. 48% of responders voted to distribute funding based on total hours paid in 2021/22, 39% voted to distribute funding based on SEND pupils and the remaining 13% chose the cumulative DAF model of distribution.
- 2.4. Following discussion at the Early Years Working Group it is proposed that Sheffield implements the model that received the highest votes and pay the £554k to all 3&4-year-old FEL providers who received funding for FEL participation hours in 2021/22. Funding will be paid to early years providers in December 2022 with a minimum payment of £250 per eligible provider.
- 2.5. Following discussion at the Early Years Working Group it is proposed that DAF positive funding be reviewed every three years, subject to and in line with any changes in national guidance.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1. There were a number of questions raised by the sector: several providers were unaware of how to assign an early years child with a SEND indicator on the Sheffield Provider Portal, three providers were unclear on how to claim DAF and one provider was unclear on Sheffield's deprivation funding methodology.
- 3.2. All questions were answered, and the Performance and Analysis team (PAS) have included additional information in the Autumn Early Years Newsletter that is distributed to the sector highlighting the processes and staff are working internally to raise the profile of DAF with a view to raising its uptake.

4. Recommendations

Forum members are asked to:

1. **Approve** the recommendation from the Early Years Working Group that the mandatory deprivation funding factor continues to be paid to the sector based on IDACI data from 1 April 2023 onwards.
2. **Approve** the recommendation of the Early Years Working Group to distribute the Disability Access Funding to all current 3&4-year-old FEL providers who received funding for FEL participation hours in 2021/22.