

Early Years Investment

Key Messages

Forum members are asked to:

- Note the proposal for the £500k early years investment fund; and agree to the distribution method outlined below, as recommended by the Early Year Working Group.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1. In September 2019 the Schools Forum Early Years Working Group agreed that the £500k Funded Early Learning (FEL) Fund should be invested in early years provision across the city.
- 1.2. In September it was agreed that a further report be shared outlining recommendations of how the investment fund should be allocated to providers, given the pressures in the early years sector due to Covid-19.
- 1.3. The Schools Forum Early Years Working Group is now recommending how and when this funding should be distributed.

2. Proposal for Distribution

- 2.1. It is recommended that the investment funding be distributed using the number of hours paid to early years providers in the 2018/19 financial year.
- 2.2. This is in recognition that early years providers are facing a financially challenging situation.
- 2.3. This will allow each provider to set their own priorities to recover from the impact of Covid-19, as and when they feel it is appropriate.
- 2.4. Providers can still come to a local agreement if they wish to “pool” their funding with other settings.

3. Method of Distribution

- 3.1. The funding will be allocated to all current providers (schools/PVIs and childminders) using their funded FEL hours in the 2018/19 financial year.
- 3.2. There will be a minimum payment of £250.
- 3.3. The maximum payment to be received will be £6,700.
- 3.4. The average for the payments of over £250 is £2,600.
- 3.5. The funding will be distributed as soon as is practical.

4. Recommendations

Forum members are asked to:

- Approve the recommendation of the Early Years Working Group: to distribute the £500k early years investment by applying the distribution method as set out above.