

Early Years DSG Centrally Retained Funding Evaluation

Report of the Director of Children's Services

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide Forum with an evaluation of the work undertaken funded via the centrally retained element of the EYDSG as requested.

2. Summary

- 2.1 The paper details the work undertaken by Family Services Commissioning relating to the following areas:
- Quality improvement
 - Business support
 - Full time places scheme
 - Managing free early education and childcare schemes
 - Early years sufficiency
 - IT infrastructure

The evaluation has been conducted as requested by Forum to be used as evidence in budget planning discussions.

3. Background

- 3.1 Early Years Block centrally retained budgets in scope of evaluation

		2017-18 Budget £000	2018-19 Budget £000
1) Quality Improvement	HfL commissioned to deliver quality improvement	664	664
2) Business Support	Bespoke business support to all EY providers	75	75
3) Full time places	Additional 15 hours of care for vulnerable	100	50

	families		
4) Managing free early education and childcare schemes	To ensure the LA is able to manage and develop the existing and new entitlements	503	503
5) Early years sufficiency	Start-up revenue funding for new provision in identified areas of need	150	150
6) IT infrastructure	To develop the bespoke payment system required for early years entitlements	50	50
Total		£1,545m	£1,495m

3.2 Quality improvement £664k

HfL are commissioned to support PVI providers, maintained nursery schools and childminders to offer high quality education and childcare provision to children in Hertfordshire. HfL deliver a programme of interventions based in the areas of the county with the poorest EYFSP results. They also deliver training opportunities.

3.3 Business support £75k

Bespoke business support is offered to our 500 PVI providers and 1300 childminders to ensure long term sustainability, change business models and increase capacity in areas in the county identified as needing additional free early education capacity.

3.4 Full time places scheme £50k

To fund emergency childcare for the most vulnerable three and four year olds already accessing free early education. The scheme enables professionals to work with families whilst their child is in good quality childcare.

3.5 Managing free early education and childcare schemes £503k

To administer and manage the free early education schemes for two, three and four year olds is a resource heavy activity. The LA is responsible for managing the early years and childcare market. This involves collecting take up information from approximately 900 early years providers six times per year and managing the payments to these providers, increasing take up of free early education places and supporting families to be able to access a place.

The market has to be managed to ensure that all families regardless of income or situation are able to access a high quality place and therefore is paramount to our narrowing the gap priority. The new entitlement of 30 hours free childcare creates additional work to ensure the approximately 9000 eligible families are able to find a place which meets their needs as well as

supporting all early years' providers to be able to meet the expected increase in demand.

3.6 Early Years Sufficiency £150k

The LA has a statutory duty to ensure there is sufficient early education and childcare places for those parents who wish to use them. With the implementation of the new 30 hours free childcare entitlement, there is a need to support new provision, or existing providers to expand, in areas where there is currently insufficient capacity to meet the expected demand

3.7 I.T Infrastructure £50k

The early years portal enables all early years providers, including schools, to submit termly funding returns and check on individual children's entitlement position. There has been considerable cost in developing this Hertfordshire bespoke portal and ongoing cost to support and develop further its functionality.

4.0 Evaluation

Appendix 1

5.0 Recommendation

Forum is requested to note the evaluation