

27 February 2019

Approval of Centrally Retained Early Years DSG for 2019 – 2020

Report of the Director of Children's Services

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 To seek the approval of the Forum for the holding of early years central budgets in 2019-20

2. Summary

- 2.1 This paper details the early year's budgets for 2018-19 that are classified as central budgets, including the EY SEN Inclusion Fund. Forum is asked to approve these budgets.

3. Recommendations

Forum is asked to:

- 3.1 Agree for 2019/20 the centrally retained early year's budgets listed in Table 1

4. Background

- 4.1 Schools Forum is required to agree Early Years centrally retained budgets annually.
- 4.2 The DfE limits the amount that local authorities are able to centrally retain, from the EYDSG to 5%. In Hertfordshire we are considerably below this figure.

5. Proposal

Table 1 sets out the 2019/20 central budgets that Forum is asked to agree.

Table 1. Early years block centrally retained budgets

			2018/19 Budget	2019/20 Budget	Budget part of 5% limit on central retention
1	Quality improvement	HfL commissioned to deliver quality improvement	£664,000	£664,000	Yes
2	Business support	Bespoke business support commissioned for all EY providers	£75,000	£50,000	Yes
3	Full time places	Additional 15 hours of education for vulnerable children	£50,000	£25,000	Yes
4	Managing free early education and childcare schemes	To ensure the LA is able to manage and develop the entitlements	£503,000	£503,000	Yes
5	Early Years Sufficiency	Start-up revenue funding for new provision in identified areas of need	£150,000	£80,000	Yes
6	HfL nursery class/school improvement	Previously agreed by Forum	£250,000	£250,000	Yes
7	IT Infrastructure	To develop and maintain the bespoke payment and progress system required for EY entitlements	£50,000	£20,000	Yes
SEN Inclusion Fund					
Central support					
8	SEND development fund	To be used as a result of SEND transformation	£600,000	£600,000	Yes
9	PVI SEND support	Setting support delivered by ISL	£560,000	£560,000	Yes
Allocated to settings					
10	Emerging needs fund	To fund settings for individual children with lower level or emerging needs	£200,000	£200,000	No
11	SENCo Support	Supporting all settings who require a SENCo by law	£200,000	£200,000	No

			2018/19 Budget	2019/20 Budget	Budget part of 5% limit on central retention
12	Ludwick Enrichment Group	Specialist provision, being reviewed as part of the EY SEND workstream	£55,000	£55,000	No
13	Primary and maintained Nursery SEN support	Each schools receive funding based on funding formula	£700,000	£700,000	No
Total			£4,057,000	£3,907,000	

6. Details of centrally retained funding

6.1 Quality Improvement **£664k**

To continue to commission HfL to support PVI providers and childminders to offer high quality education and childcare in Hertfordshire. HfL deliver a programme of interventions based on progress data obtained by HCC from settings. They also offer an extensive series of training opportunities. Forum received a full evaluation of this work in November 2018.

6.2 Business support **£50k**

Bespoke business support is offered to all early education providers including maintained schools. This budget has been reduced by £25k by decreasing the face to face meetings and increasing the amount of online access to business tools. Forum received a full evaluation of this work in November 2018.

6.3 Full time places scheme **£25k**

To continue to fund emergency childcare for the most vulnerable three and four year olds already accessing free early education. The amount requested has reduced due to reduced demand despite promotion of the scheme. The scheme enables professionals to work with parents whilst their child is in good quality childcare.

6.4 Managing free early education and childcare schemes **£503k**

To administer and manage the free early education and childcare schemes for two three and four year olds. This is a resource heavy activity. The LA is responsible for managing the early years market to ensure that all families regardless of income or situation are able to access a high quality place. This is paramount to the narrowing the attainment gap work which is currently being undertaken.

6.5 Early Years Sufficiency **£80k**

The LA has a statutory duty to ensure there is sufficient early education and childcare places for those parents who wish to use them. Where current provision is insufficient to meet parent demand, there is a need to support existing and new providers to create additional places.

6.6 HfL nursery class/school improvement **£250k**

Previously agreed at forum

6.7 I.T Infrastructure **£20k**

The early years portal has been developed and improved over the past five years and now offers a level of specialism which is unique to Hertfordshire. Improvements over the coming year will enable PVI providers to provide progress data on individual children which will support the work to close the attainment gap.

6.8 SEND Development Fund **£600k**

This funding will be used to implement the improvements identified from the Early Years SEND workstream currently underway.

6.9 PVI SEND support **£560K**

PVI providers receive SEN support from Inclusion Development Workers based in the EY SEN team within ISL.

6.10 Emerging Needs Fund **£200k**

All LA's are required to have an inclusion fund for lower level needs to support children accessing free early education and childcare, children who do not meet the threshold to receive exceptional needs funding. The EY SEND workstream are currently reviewing the effectiveness of this funding stream.

6.11 SENCo Support **£200k**

In recognition of the additional cost faced by providers who by law have to have access to a SENCo, each provider will receive £250.

6.12 Ludwick Enrichment Group **£55k**

This specialist speech and language provision for approximately 10 children who attend Ludwick Nursery School is currently under review by the EY SEND workstream.

6.13 Primary and Maintained Nursery Schools SEND support **£700k**

All primary schools with nursery classes and maintained nursery schools receive funding for children with SEND. The funding is allocated according to the same funding formula used to distribute deprivation funding.

7. **Conclusion**

The forum is asked to agree to the recommendation in section 3