

27 November 2019

Early Years Centrally Retained DSG 2020/21

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 2020/21

2. Summary

- 2.1 This paper details the early year's budgets for 2020/21 that are classified as central budgets. The budget items shown are the same as for the current year. In two cases the amounts have changed. Forum is asked to approve these budgets in the sums shown. Any additional provision in relation to inflation or additional retained services will be considered in January when the final Early Years budget is agreed; members will see in the budget strategy report that there may well be insufficient funding fully to cover inflation for all elements of EYs services.

3. Recommendations

Forum is asked to:

- 3.1 Agree for 2020/21 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 2020/21 central budgets that Forum is asked to agree.

Table 1. Early years block centrally retained budgets

			2019/20 Budget	2020/21 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	£50,000	£50,000	Yes
3.	Full time places	Additional 15 hours of education for vulnerable children	£25,000	£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	£75,000	£75,000	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	£20,000	£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	£250,000	No
11.	SENCo Support	Supporting all settings who require a SENCo by law	£200,000	£200,000	No
12.	Ludwick Enrichment Group	Specialist provision, being reviewed as part of the EY SEND workstream	£55,000	£0	No

			2019/20 Budget	2020/21 Budget	Budget part of 5% limit on central retention
13.	Primary and maintained Nursery SEN support	Each schools receive funding based on funding formula	£700,000	£700,000	No
	Total		£3902,00	£3,897,00	

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 termly by HCC from settings. They also offer an extensive series of training opportunities.

6.2 Business support **£50k**

Bespoke business support is offered to all early education providers including maintained schools. The budget was reduced in 2019/20 without a significant drop in effectiveness. The budget is considered necessary going forward due to expected changes in FEE entitlements as a result of the December 2019 General Election.

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 scheme enables professionals to work with parents whilst their child is in good quality childcare. The scheme has seen a significant drop in applications which is being addressed by promoting the scheme to EY providers.

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 closing the attainment gap work which is currently being undertaken. There is likely to be changes to the FEE entitlements as the result of the December 2019 election which may result in additional responsibilities for this team.

6.5 Early Years Sufficiency **£75k**

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 all EY's 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 **£250k**

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. This funding was reviewed by the EY SEND workstream and as a result the application process was simplified resulting in a significant improvement in allocation resulting in a need to increase the fund by £50k.

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 **£0**

The EY SEND workstream identified the need for this funding to stop due to the inequality across the county. The implementation of the new integrated therapies contract which includes Speech, language and communication needs supports will support the children who have historically accessed this provision.

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