

Report from the Schools Forum Early Years Reference Group

Purpose of report

1. To report on the meeting of the Early Years Reference Group held on 20th September 2013

Main considerations for School Forum

2. The draft minutes of the meeting are attached at Appendix 1.
3. The EY Reference Group made the following recommendations:
4. ***Changes to the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF)***

Rapidly Expanding Settings

The current formula works on the basis of projected numbers from the previous autumn. Funding is updated retrospectively for actual take up of places on a termly basis but the funding for future terms is still based on the previous autumn census. Whilst this works well for most providers it has been found that for rapidly expanding settings this can create significant cash flow issues as the payments through the formula do not reflect the full impact of increases in numbers until the end of the year.

It was recommended that for rapidly expanding settings, the formula could be updated for the numbers in the previous term.

Proposal to fund new children for actual weeks in attendance & children who start & leave prior to a headcount

It was recommended that That approval be sought to develop the free entitlement processes to –

1. Pay free entitlement funding to settings for the weeks newly registered children for actual in attendance.
2. Pay settings for those children who start & leave a setting before the headcount.

5. ***Terms of Reference of the Group***

Schools Forum is requested to agree an amendment to the Early Years Reference Group's terms of reference by deleting the requirement for the chair of the group to be a serving council officer.

6. ***Proposals***

That Schools Forum agree the recommendations of the Early Years Reference Group.

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