

Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum Finance & SEN Working Group
30th November 2020

Schools Forum
10th December 2020

DEDICATED SCHOOLS BUDGET – EARLY YEARS BLOCK UPDATE 2021-22

Purpose of the Report

1. To update schools forum on issues related to the early years block for 2021-22 and the decisions that will need to be made as part of the budget setting process for 2021-22 financial year.

Main Considerations

2. No information for Wiltshire is available yet in relation to Early Years funding, in line with previous years. Details of the 2021/22 EY funding will be received in December together with the rest of the DSG information for 2021/22.
3. In his 2020 Spending Review, the Chancellor announced the following:
 - £44 million nationally for early years education in 2021-22 to increase the hourly rate paid to childcare providers for the government's free hours offers. This is on top of the £66 million national increase for the current financial year. This could represent a 5p per hour increase in funding. December modelling will look to passing the maximum possible increase on to providers.
 - Growing up well (£11.8 million nationally to departments including the Department for Education and others (DHSC, DWP, MHCLG and CO.) This pilot aims to improve cognitive and non-cognitive outcomes (such as language skills and health) for disadvantaged and vulnerable 0-5-year olds through improving the family user experience of early years services and is a welcome investment in closing the gap for disadvantaged children.

Proposals

4. Schools Forum is asked to note the information in the report. The budget for early years will be considered in full at the January 2021 meeting.

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