

Addendum to
FORMAL APPROVAL OF EARLY YEARS FUNDING FORMULA 2018-19

School Forum met on 7 February 2018 to consider the Early Years Funding formula for 2018-19. The meeting agreed the Early years centrally retained funding and supported the proposed formula.

The draft minutes are:

5.	<p>Early Years Funding Formula and Centrally-retained Early Years funding 2018-19 (for decision)</p> <p>Forum discussed the EY Funding Formula for 2018-19 and additional funding streams for three- and four-year olds, and members took account of written responses to the Paper from absent members SSt and SO'S in their discussions.</p> <p>The complexity of setting Early Years budgets was acknowledged.</p> <p>Concerns about the low take-up across all areas, but particularly of extended offers, and of assistance from the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Inclusion Fund SEND and the Disability Access Fund, were expressed and Forum is pleased that Officers will seek explanations and continue to promote entitlement. It may be that the application process and associated paperwork is too complex, and thus settings are not receiving funds to which some children may be entitled. In addition, funding does not follow the child, for instance if a child moves from mainstream, to which the funding has been allocated, to Special School; and more often than not the mainstream setting is the first setting a child attends.</p> <p>Forum remains concerned that the increase proposed will not meet the additional costs pressures, but given that there is no additional income being provided by the DfE to the LA, members welcomed the fact that the LA has been able to increase the rate slightly.</p> <p>Forum members and others (including F40 group) continue to lobby Government for increased funding for education.</p> <p>The funding rate for 2 year-olds is unchanged at 5.52 and is fully delegated.</p> <p>Forum <i>agreed</i> the Early Years centrally retained funding and related proposals and acknowledged the welcome, albeit small, increase in the underlying universal base rate for providers, given the funding circumstances. Forum noted the funding rate for 2-year olds.</p>		
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