

SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM
15 January 2014

Early Years Block 2014-15
(Directorate of Wellbeing)

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Schools' Forum of the proposed Early Years Block budget for 2014-15 and the carry forward from the Two Year Old portion of the budget.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Forum notes the estimated Early Years Block for 2014-15 and agrees the carry forward of the Two Year Old funding from 2013-14 to 2014-15.
- 2.2 Forum are recommended to agree the two remaining central expenditure items shown in Appendix 1; the early years contribution to Behaviour Support and the early years contribution to Trade Union duties.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Early Years Block for three and four year olds has been estimated at £9,147,255 based on January 2013 numbers. This is the same amount as the current 2013-14 budget. The final Early Years Block will be based on January 2014 numbers.
- 3.2 The 2014-15 Two Year Old places and trajectory funding is £3,130,366.
- 3.3 The Two Year Old places and trajectory funding is currently forecasted to underspend by £1,111,090 and this will be carried forward into 2014-15. The eligibility criteria for funded early learning for vulnerable two year olds were introduced on 1st September 2013. Although sufficient places were created, take-up of places has been significantly lower than expected. A targeted marketing strategy and campaign is now required and has been formulated to address the low take-up and stimulate demand as we move towards the 2014 targets.
- 3.4 Two of the centrally held budgets within the Early Years Block have already been agreed by Forum at its December 2013 meeting. Forum are also being asked to agree two further items as notified in 2.2 above.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 Not applicable.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

5.1 Appendix 1 shows the total estimated Early Years Block for 2014-15. The Early Years Block is one of three blocks within the Dedicated Schools Grant.

5.2 Appendix 1 also shows the estimated expenditure of the Early Years Single Funding Formula for three and four year olds, the estimated income and expenditure for two year old funding and the centrally held items already agreed.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

6.1 The relevant legal provisions are contained within the main body of this report.

Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Resources

6.2 The financial implications of the report are outlined in the supporting information.

Access Implications

6.3 There are no access implications.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

7.1 None.

Method of Consultation

7.2 Not applicable.

Representations Received

7.3 Not applicable.

Background Papers

Appendix 1

Contact for further information

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