

## Response ID ANON-8PBM-MUN7-X

Submitted to **Early years funding: changes to funding for 3 and 4 year olds**

Submitted on **2016-09-21 13:38:08**

### Introduction

#### 1 Welcome - would you like to provide your email address?

**Email:**

rachel.cartwright@slough.gov.uk

#### 2 Would you like to tell us the name of your organisation?

**Organisation:**

Slough Borough Council / Cambridge Education

### About you

#### 3 We'd like to know which area of the early years sector your answers represent. Which of these categories best describes your role in the sector?

This is a drop down menu of different categories of respondent - from nursery to local authority:

Local Authority

If you have answered 'other' please provide more details::

#### 4 In which region do you work?

A drop-down menu of the 9 regions of England:

South East

#### 5 If you are not responding as a local authority, which local authority you work in?

A list of all the local authorities in England:

Slough

#### 6 If you are a childcare provider, do you consider yourself to work in a:

#### 7 If you are a childcare provider, how many children can your individual setting offer places to?

Not Answered

#### 8 If you are a childcare provider, do you offer the free entitlement to:

### Page 2 - Early Years National Funding Formula

#### 9 Should there be an early years national funding formula (to distribute money from Government to each local authority)?

Yes

#### 10 Considering a universal base rate of funding which does not vary by local area...

**Base rate (EYNFF) - Should a universal base rate be included in the early years national funding formula?:**

Yes

**Base rate (EYNFF) - Is 89.5% of overall funding the right amount to channel through this factor?:**

No

#### 11 Considering an additional needs factor...

**Add needs - metrics - Should an additional needs factor be included in the early years national funding formula?:**

Yes

**Add needs - metrics - Do we propose the correct set of metrics?:**

Unsure

**Add needs - metrics - Do we propose the correct weightings for each metric?:**

Unsure

## 12 Considering an area cost adjustment...

**ACA - Should the early years national funding formula include an area cost adjustment?:**

Yes

**ACA - Should that adjustment be based on staff costs (based on the General Labour Market measure) and on nursery premises costs (based on rateable values)?:**

Yes

**13 If you have any comments or recommendations for alternative metrics or weightings to be used in the early years national funding formula, please explain here:**

**This box allows you to write an answer freely:**

Greater clarity is required on the definition and measure of EAL, in addition to sources of FSM data.

Regarding the area cost adjustment, consideration should be taken of Slough's proximity to London, including good transport links and market competition.

**14 To what extent do you agree with the proposed funding floor limit, so that no local authority would face a reduction in its hourly funding rate of greater than 10%?**

Disagree

## Page 3 - Two technical questions

**15 To implement the increased hourly rate for the two-year old free entitlement...**

**2YO - Should we retain the current two-year-old funding formula?:**

No

**2YO - Should we use the additional funding secured at the spending review to uplift local authorities' allocations based upon this?:**

Yes

**16 Considering the Dedicated Schools Grant, should the free entitlement be capped at 30 hours for children of eligible working parents and 15 hours for all other children?**

Yes

## Page 4 - A high pass-through of local authority funding to providers

**17 Should Government set the proportion of early years funding that must be passed on to providers?**

Yes

**18 Do you think that 95% is the correct minimum proportion of the money that should be passed from local authorities to providers?**

No, 95% is too high

**19 If you would like to explain a response you've submitted on this page in more detail, please do so here:**

**This box allows you to write an answer freely:**

The proportion of funding that must be passed on to providers should still allow for the LA to provide support and challenge to improve outcomes for children and to improve quality, including our statutory functions. This would continue to have a particular focus on settings requiring improvement, or those judged to be inadequate.

## Page 5 - How money is distributed from local authorities to childcare providers

**20 Should local authorities be required to give the same universal hourly base rate to all childcare providers in their area?**

No

**21 Considering funding supplements that local authorities could choose to use (above the universal base rate)...**

**Supplements - Should local authorities be able to use funding supplements?:**

Yes

**Supplements - Should there be a cap on the proportion of funding that is channeled through supplements?:**

No

**22 If you agree that there should be cap on the proportion of funding that is channeled through supplements, should the cap be set at 10%?**

No, the cap should be higher than 10%

**23 Should the following supplements be permitted?**

**Basket of supplements - Deprivation:**

Yes

**Basket of supplements - Sparsity / rural areas:**

Yes

**Basket of supplements - Flexibility:**

Yes

**Basket of supplements - Efficiency:**

Yes

**Basket of supplements - Additional 15 hours of childcare:**

Yes

**24 When using funding supplements, should local authorities have discretion over the metrics they use and the amount of money channeled through each one?**

**Metrics & amount - supplements - Deprivation:**

Yes - over the metric they use, Yes - over the amount of money

**Metrics & amount - supplements - Sparsity / rural areas:**

Yes - over the metric they use, Yes - over the amount of money

**Metrics & amount - supplements - Flexibility:**

Yes - over the metric they use, Yes - over the amount of money

**Metrics & amount - supplements - Efficiency:**

Yes - over the metric they use, Yes - over the amount of money

**Metrics & amount - supplements - Additional 15 hours of childcare:**

Yes - over the metric they use, Yes - over the amount of money

**25 If you agree that efficiency (efficient business practices that provide excellent value for money) should be included in the set of supplements, do you have a suggestion of how should it be designed?**

This box allows you to write an answer freely:

**26 If you agree the delivery of the additional 15 hours of free childcare should be included in the set of supplements, do you have a suggestion of how should it be designed?**

This box allows you to write an answer freely:

**27 If you think that any additional supplements should be permitted which are not mentioned here, please set out what they are and why you believe they should be included:**

This box allows you to write an answer freely:

The LA should be enabled to have greater flexibility in relation to supplements, using local discretion governed by Schools' Forum

**28 Finally, for this page, if you want to explain a response you've submitted on this page in more detail, please do so here:**

This box allows you to write an answer freely:

**Page 6 - Funding for disabled children**

**29 Should there be a Disability Access Fund to support disabled children to access their free entitlement?**

Yes

**30 Should eligibility for the Disability Access Fund be children aged 3 or 4 which are a) taking up their free entitlement and b) in receipt of Disability Living Allowance?**

Unsure

**31 When it comes to delivering the funding for the Disability Access Fund, is the most appropriate way the existing framework of the Early Years Pupil Premium?**

No

**32 If you want to explain a response you've submitted on this page in more detail, please do so here:**

**This box allows you to write your answer freely:**

Both DLA and EYPP criteria and numbers are not reflective of the number of children who may benefit from and need a Disability Access Fund.

### **Page 7 - Funding for children with special educational needs**

**33 To what extent do you agree that a lack of clarity on how parents / childcare providers can access financial support results in children with special educational needs not receiving appropriate support? (We mean children who do not already have an Education, Health and Care Plan)**

Strongly agree

**34 When it comes to establishing an inclusion fund...**

**SEN - inclusion fund - Should local authorities be required to establish an inclusion fund?:**

Strongly agree

**SEN - inclusion fund - Would an inclusion fund help improve the supply of appropriate support children receive when in an early years setting?:**

Strongly agree

**35 If you envisage any barriers, arising from existing practice or future proposals, to introducing a new requirement on local authorities to establish an inclusion fund, please tell us what they are and how they might be overcome:**

**This box allows you to write an answer freely:**

The LA already has an established Inclusion Fund, funded through the High Needs Block. It will continue to need to be governed by Schools' Forum.

**36 When it comes to the SEN inclusion fund, should local authorities be responsible for deciding...**

**SEN - local authority role - The children for which the inclusion fund is used?:**

Yes

**SEN - local authority role - The value of the fund?:**

Yes

**SEN - local authority role - The process of allocating the funding?:**

Yes

**37 Where specialist SEN or SEND services are delivered free at the point of use, should they be considered as funding passed directly to providers for the purposes of the 95% high pass-through?**

Agree

**38 If you want to explain a response you've submitted on this page in more detail, please do so here:**

**This box allows you to write an answer freely:**

### **Page 8 - Transitions to a new funding system**

**39 To what extent do you agree with the transition approach proposed for the Early Years National Funding Formula (money distributed from Government to local authorities)?**

Agree

**40 To what extent do you agree with the transition approach proposed for the high pass-through of early years funding from local authorities to providers?**

Disagree

**41 To what extent do you agree that our proposals on the high pass-through of funding from local authorities to childcare providers makes the existing Minimum Funding Guarantee for the early years unnecessary?**

Disagree

**42 To what extent do you agree with the transition approach proposed for introducing the universal base rate for all providers in a local authority area?**

Disagree

**43 If you want to explain a response you've submitted on this page in more detail, please do so here:**

**This box allows you to write an answer freely:**

The LA considers that the transition approach should be extended to allow for growth from 90 - 95% over a longer period of time (e.g. minimum 3 years). The transition approach to introducing the universal base rates may leave some providers vulnerable to issues of sustainability.

### **Page 9 - Equality Assessment**

**44 Please provide any representations and/or evidence on the impact of our proposals for the purposes of the Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010). The protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race (including ethnicity); religion or belief; sex and sexual orientation.**

**This box allows you to write your answer freely:**