

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM - 29th SEPTEMBER 2010

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

EARLY YEARS SINGLE FUNDING FORMULA UPDATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report updates the Forum on the implementation of a funding formula for Early Years.

1.0 Background

A Working Group from the Schools Forum has met to consider how a single formula for Early Years should best be designed, taking into account guidance from the DFE and models operated by pilot authorities. The formula must be introduced from April 2011 and will apply to all providers of Early Years Education.

Update

There are a number of issues that the Working Group will need to consider shortly before finalising the new Formula for Early Years. These include:

- Calculation of the Minimum Funding Guarantee for all providers and any exceptions required
- Funding of salary protections for some nursery staff
- Funding of SEN provision in nursery schools and classes
- The operation of transition and the cash floor
- School and provider briefings.

Extension and Flexibility

The offer of 15 hours free Early Years Education is being made at 164 out of 171 providers from the start of this term. In addition, a small number of providers have confirmed they are making a flexible offer available to parents either within or outside of the school day. Progress and feedback from these changes will be considered by the Working Group.

Financial Implications

The Formula will be funded from DSG (including growth of £200,000) and a Standards Fund Grant.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That

- (1) The report is noted
- (2) The proposed Formula is reported to the Forum for approval at the December/January meeting.

Howard Cooper
Director of Children's Services