

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM – 27th SEPTEMBER 2011

REPORT OF INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

EARLY YEARS SINGLE FORMULA REVIEW

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) was introduced in April 2011 to fund the Free Entitlement to early years provision for 3 and 4 year olds across all sectors. DfE guidance indicated that the formula should be reviewed six months after implementation.

BACKGROUND

LAs were required by the DfE to develop a single funding formula to fund the free entitlement to early years provision for 3 and 4 year olds across all sectors. The DfE issued practice guidance in July 2009 setting out what LAs must and should do. One of the requirements of this document was the LAs must review the new formula six months after implementation.

Wirral's EYSFF was implemented in April 2011 and is therefore due for review.

REVIEW

The DfE guidance includes a requirement for LAs to revisit the cost survey and typical cost model as part of the review to ratify their formula and ensure that any changes can be implemented in time for the next financial year. It does not give any further guidance on how the review should be carried out.

It is important that all providers have the opportunity to feed into the review process. We therefore propose writing to all those in receipt of the EYSFF seeking their views on the impact of the new formula. The Schools Forum Early Years Working Group will need to meet to consider the responses from providers and whether any changes need to be made to the formula for 2012.

The review will take place between September and December 2011, with a report to the Forum at the January 2012 meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That:

(1) the Forum supports the proposal to involve all providers in the review of the EYSFF

David Armstrong
Interim Director of Children's Services