

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 15th July 2015

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Early Years and Children's Centres

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report gives an updated summary position with regard to:

- 1.1 Early Years and Children's Centre Review
- 1.2 Day Nursery provision
- 1.3 Changes in the provision of 2 year old entitlement
- 1.4 Trajectory funding current position
- 1.5 Summary of current take up of 2/3 and 4 year old entitlements
- 1.6 Overview of take-up of Early Years Pupil Premium

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Early Years and Children's Centre Review

A review of the Early years and Children Centre Service was progressed during April to August 2014 and a report was generated which went to the Councils Cabinet in September 2014. Public Consultation followed and was undertaken during February and March 2015. Feedback from the consultation and recommendations on the future delivery for the service will be taken for a decision to a meeting of the Councils Cabinet in July. The report will advise recommendations for future delivery of the service from within the available resources.

2.2 Day Nursery provision

In December 2014 Cabinet approved the recommendation for the Council to stop delivering day nursery provision as soon as was practicable. A phased approach over two terms (January 2015 – July 2015) was adopted to minimise disruption and the need for multiple transfers for children and their parents and carers.

Discussions relating to the five day nursery settings (Reach High Nursery, Windmills Nursery, Miriam Place Nursery, Honeybees Nursery and Little Ferries Nursery) have progressed with relevant partners and co-located primary schools, which have focused on the delivery of the 2, 3 and 4 year old education offer. Appropriate agreements to transfer facilities and resources to support the future delivery of the two year old extended offer have been secured with 3 of the 4 schools (Hillside, St Weburgh's and Liscard Primary Schools). Discussions with Rock Ferry Primary School are ongoing.

Work to mitigate the impact on existing day nursery staff has taken place whereby posts created within the schools will be made available to those staff displaced, in the first instance. Recruitment processes are currently underway.

The position regarding Miriam Day Nursery which is based in the St James Centre, (which is operated by North Birkenhead Development Trust [NBDT]), will see the Council cease its delivery of day nursery services in July 2015. Any future options will be considered independently of the Council by the NBDT

2.3 Changes in the provision of 2 year old entitlement

Important changes came into effect in May 2015, whereby schools are no longer required to register separately the provision for two year olds with Ofsted. This is

providing the school meets the requirements for exemption. Exemptions are that the school must already directly deliver (i.e through the governing body and as part of the school provision).

For those schools with existing nursery (F1) provision and for those wishing to develop a future provision can email Ofsted using the following dedicated account: eyschools@ofsted.gov.uk. Or contact the family information service on 0800 0858743 or 0151 637 6258.

2.4 Trajectory funding

Current position:

£433,000 of trajectory funding was rolled over from 2014-15 into 2015-16. Of this amount £292,000 has been committed to the transition of four of the day nursery settings to the co-located schools and an amount agreed with NBDT to support the development of future childcare provision in the Centre.

A further amount has been committed for the purchase an early year’s portal that will enable applications for 2, 3 and 4 year olds to be processed more effectively and efficiently. It is expected that schools and providers will be able to input child level information directly on to the system, thus reducing duplication and improving data accuracy. The purchase of this portal will require a strategy for implementation across the sector including assessment of current IT capacity and training needs.

Proposed use for development of new 2 year old places:

There will be approximately £141,000 of trajectory funding remaining. It is proposed that this be used to develop places, based on the following principles:

- Places will be targeted and based on need as determined through the lowest super output areas and through a review of families who meet eligibility criteria as defined by the DfE
- The outcome of the 2 year old joint health and education review along with EYFS data will be considered and information available through the childcare sufficiency assessment will be utilised
- Funding will predominately be considered for those setting who have not previously received any funding for the creation of new two year old places (where funding has previously been received any further funding will only be considered for the creation of additional new places).

2.5 Summary of current take up of the 2, 3 and 4 year old early education entitlements

The table below shows the number of children who had funded hours for the 2, 3 and 4 year old education offer at a maintained setting or through a PVI setting as at the May 2015 headcount. Payments made to schools and PVI’s is also illustrated.

2 Year Olds

	PVI	MAINTAINED	SPLIT P/M	HEADCOUNT TOTAL	PAYMENT £
2YO SPRING	1,047	146	0	1,193	947,109
2 YO SUMMER	1,049	168	0	1,217	1,120,296

3 and 4 Year Olds

	PVI	MAINTAINED	SPLIT P/M	HEADCOUNT TOTAL	PAYMENT £
3 / 4YO SPRING	3,438	1,778	-9	5,207	3,259,179
3 / 4 YO SUMMER	4,168	1,905	-15	6,058	4,492,843*

*Summer term costs are provisional at this time.

The level of take up for all groups has improved and across all sectors. Take up of the 2 year old places for the summer term based on the DfE list of eligible children produced in February 2015 is 70% which has increased from 65% in the previous term. The take up of 3 and 4 year old places funded through early years funding has moved from 69% in the spring term to 80% in the summer term. The take up for Wirral is 100% when those 4 year olds within schools (who are 4 at the beginning of the school year, 5) are counted.

The budget for 2 year old places remaining for this financial year is £3,208,904. In addition to this £0.5m remains ring fenced from 2014-15 underspend to meet any additional costs for places, build further capacity and improve take up and outcomes.

The remaining early years budget for 3 and 4 year old provision to March 2016 is £6,570,000.

2.6 Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

The Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) introduced from April 2015, is additional funding available to schools and childcare providers to improve educational outcomes for disadvantaged 3 and 4 year olds (£300 per eligible child). Letters were sent to each school and provider outlining the offer and a number of briefing sessions were held in March 2015.

Information relating to take up from the first headcount will be tabled at the meeting of the Schools Forum on the 15th of July 2015 - this information is currently being analysed.

There is currently an issue with schools and providers who are indicating that a higher degree of support is required to meet the needs of disadvantaged two year olds where there are significant levels of emerging additional need (EYPP is only payable when the child is eligible for their 3 year old funding).

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

Schools Forum to note:

- 3.1 The position relating to the Early Years and Children's Centre Review
- 3.2 The position relating to the Councils day nurseries
- 3.3 Information relating to the registration of 2 year olds within schools
- 3.4 Current spend on the trajectory funding and approve the approach outlined for the remaining budget.
- 3.5 The current level of take up and spend for 2, 3 and 4 year old places.
- 3.6 The current position following the roll out of Early Years Pupil Premium (to be tabled)

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