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SCHOOLS' FORUM

Day: Tuesday
Date: 5 March 2024
Time: 9.45 am
Place: Remote Meeting

Item No.	AGENDA	Page No
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE To receive any apologies for the meeting from Members of Schools' Forum	
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest from Members of Schools' Forum	
3.	MINUTES To consider the minutes of the meeting of Schools' Forum held on 18 January 2024	1 - 8
4.	SCHOOLS' FORUM FORWARD PLAN 2024-2025 To consider the attached report from the Assistant Director of Education and Director of Resources (S151 Officer)	9 - 12
5.	EARLY YEARS FUNDING 2024-2025 To consider the attached report from the Assistant Director of Education and Director of Resources (S151 Officer)	13 - 26
6.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING To note that the next meeting of School's Forum is to be held remotely on Tuesday 25 June 2024 at 10am.	

From: Democratic Services Unit – any further information may be obtained from the reporting officer or from Natalie King, Democratic Services, natalie.king@tameside.gov.uk, 0161 342 2316, to whom any apologies for absence should be notified.

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Agenda Item 3

SCHOOLS' FORUM

18 January 2024

Commenced: 10.00am

Terminated: 12.10pm

Present:

Karen Burns (Chair)	Primary Schools – Academies
Susan Marsh	Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
Kirsty Rimmer	Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
Lisa Lockett	Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
Lisa Gallaher	Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
Steve Marsland	Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
John Cooper	Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
Simon Brereton	Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
Gemma Patterson	Primary Schools - Academies
Bev Oldham	Primary Schools - Academies
Andrea Din	Secondary Schools – L/A Maintained
David Waugh	Secondary Schools - Academies
Pierre Coiffait	Special Schools – Academies
Anthony Benedict	Pupil Referral Service
Anne Morgan	Tameside Teachers' Consultative Committee
Rebecca Woollam	Early Years Private, Voluntary and Independent
Elaine Horridge	Church of England Diocese
Jerome Francis	Finance Business Partner
Louisa Siddall	Senior Finance Manager
Wendy Lees	Finance Manager
Ashley Hughes	Director, Resources (S151 Officer)
Allison Parkinson	Director, Children's Services
Jo Pearson	Head of Education, Improvement and Partnerships

Apologies for absence:

Heather Farrell	Primary Schools- Academies
Lisa Richards	16-19 Sector
Joanne Lennon	Primary Schools- Academies
Cllr Feeley	Executive Member
Cllr North	Executive Member
Jane Sowerby	Assistant Director, Education

22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from Members of Schools' Forum.

23 MINUTES

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of the School's Forum, which was held on 28 November 2024

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of Schools' Forum, which was held on 28 November 2024 be approved as a correct record.

24 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT (DSG) MONITORING UPDATE 2023-24

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Resources (S151 Officer) and Assistant Director of Education, which provided an update on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budget position for the financial year 2023-24.

Members were made aware that there was a forecast surplus of £0.016m on the Schools Block, which related to unallocated growth of £0.018m. It was noted that this was slightly offset by academy conversion adjustments of £0.002m.

It was explained that the Central School Services Block was expected to be spent in full and that there was a forecast in-year deficit on the High Needs Block, expected to be £6.178m, which would reduce to £5.484m with the £0.694m transfer from the Schools Block.

In relation to the Early Years Block, Members were informed that there was a forecast surplus of £0.737m. It was suggested that this would be partially offset by a forecast deficit on the Early Years Supplementary Grant (EYSG) of £0.059m and noted that there would be a further adjustment following Spring term census data.

A reduction in participation rates for 3 to 4 years olds was noted and this was explained as being mainly due to the reducing birth rate. It was explained that Tameside was seeing a high level of take up (approx.. 97%). Estimates suggested that universal uptake was reducing but after a previous upwards shift in extended entitlement, there was an estimated reduction in uptake in the spring term.

Members noted that there had been a gradual increase in 2 year old participation and, as a result of this, revised estimates for the spring term, showed an increase in expected uptake and, therefore, an increase in the distribution of funding.

Members were made aware that the Early Years Supplementary Grant (EYSG) had been updated to reflect the actual distribution of funding for the Autumn term and estimated distribution, based on estimated participation, for the Spring Term.

With regard to the Early Years Teachers Pay Grant, Members were informed that the amount for Tameside was £0.070m. This allocation was based on part time equivalent (PTE) data from the January 2023 early years, schools and alternative provision censuses and there would be no adjustment to the allocation. It was explained that this was also subject to conditions of grant and it was to be determined how this funding will be allocated to providers

With regard to the High Needs forecast position, Members were made aware that the year-end forecast was showing an in-year deficit of £5.484m, this represented an adverse movement of £0.393m, when compared to the forecast position reported in November 2023.

It was explained that the Growth forecast had been updated and reviewed following the real time exercise for the autumn term and that there had been spend to date of £1.249m. A further £0.474m of Growth was also expected over the next 3 months to year-end. This was based on the assumption that the number of EHCPs being issued would continue at a similar level to the previous 9 months (an average of 45 per month).

Members were informed that the High Needs forecast also included £0.100m expenditure in relation to Children's Social Care (CSC) placements. It was noted that a review was underway ensure all partner contributions, including Health, Education and Social Care were applied fairly and in accordance with the specific individual placement requirements. It was further suggested that this may identify additional contributions required from the High Needs Block.

Members were provided with information about the closing position of the DSG reserve for 2022-23 and the estimated position as at 31 March 2024. It was noted that, if the 2023-24 projections materialised there would be a deficit of £8.100m on the DSG reserve. Members were assured that a deficit recovery plan had been developed and submitted to the DfE and that discussions were ongoing and the plan scrutinised as part of Stage 2 of the DBV programme. Members were advised

that the DSG position would continue to be closely monitored and regular updates would be provided to Schools' Forum.

Discussion took place in relation to the assumptions surrounding the predicted growth in EHCPs and the continued costs in relation to out of borough placements. Members were assured that much of the focussed work being undertaken as part of the Delivering Better Value Programme looked to address these issues and that timeliness of EHCPs remained a high priority, alongside offering support for mainstream schools to be able to provide appropriate and effective provision.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted and supported

25 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT (DSG) FUNDING FORMULA 2024-25

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Resources (S151 Officer) and Assistant Director of Education, which outlined the arrangements concerning DSG funding for 2024-25.

Members were made aware that the £283.251m provisional DSG settlement for 2024-25 was received on 19 December 2023 and noted that all DSG funding must be deployed to schools and/or pupils in accordance with the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2023. A detailed breakdown of the provisional settlement for each of the 4 blocks was provided, which provided a comparison with 2023-24 settlement figures.

It was noted that the Schools Block settlement was made up of the following elements of funding and that Tameside continued to use National Funding Formula (NFF) rates for allocation of Schools Block funding:

Element of Funding	Schools Block £m
Primary Funding (20,022 Pupils)	105.779
Secondary Funding (14,974.50) Pupils)	102.586
Premises Funding	4.480
Growth Funding	0.790
Total	213.636

Members were informed that PFI funding continued to be delegated to the relevant schools with the delegated figures based on historic factor funding and uplifted by RPIX of 10.4%. Following a review of affordability of PFI services, in 2022-23, it was explained that there was a reduction to the PFI Affordability Factor of £0.263m. However, due to significant inflationary increases over the last 12 months, the affordability had since been reviewed again and required this contribution to be reinstated at the inflated rate. This had resulted in £0.324m being added back into this factor. However, Members were made aware that, in 2024-25 the LA would continue to recover the full, delegated PFI Affordability factor as in previous years

It was explained that business rates were funded to the equivalent value of the business rates charge for 2024- 25. It was noted that this funding was estimated and would be removed from Tameside's allocations and retained by the DfE, who would pay this directly to Tameside MBC on behalf of all Tameside Schools and Academies.

Members were made aware that, in 2024-25 LAs would be able to set the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) between +0% and +0.5% per pupil. With this in mind, Members were reminded that, in the Schools Forum paper in November 2023, the proposals were to include a 0.5% MFG which is the rate at which MFG has been set. In addition, it was confirmed that, for 2024-25, there would be no gains cap as per the proposal in the November Schools Forum paper

Members noted that the estimated Growth Fund required in 2024-25 was £0.170m. It was explained that there was no implicit growth in 2024-25 as schools, which were previously 'new' now had all year groups occupied. Members acknowledged that final growth allocations to schools would be based on actual numbers, which would be taken from the October 2024 census (up to a maximum of the agreed growth pupil numbers).

The Growth Policy was explained and it was stated that, where a school had agreed planned growth, there should be a minimum of 5 or more pupils before growth funding is allocated, but a minimum level of funding of 15 pupils would be funded to ensure that the school would not face financial difficulty. It was further explained that, as the schools identified had agreed to take 10 additional pupils they would be funded for 15 pupils, if they take a minimum of 5 pupils. As the agreed growth was what the LA required, it was confirmed that, anything above 15 pupils, would not be funded from the growth fund.

In relation to the previously agreed transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block, it was explained that, as a result of changes in pupil characteristics in the October 2023 census, more funding was required to support the Additional Educational Needs Factors. The total impact of this would be an increase of £1.519m.

Members were made aware that, prior to 2022-23 financial year, a review of the PFI schemes took place. As a result, the PFI affordability factor element of the DSG was reduced to ensure a large surplus was not remaining at the end of the schemes life. Following the high inflationary environment of the past 24 months the financial sustainability of the scheme had significantly reduced and it was, therefore, necessary to reverse the reduction in the PFI affordability factor.

As a result of this additional cost, Members were made aware that the cost of the proposed formula had increased and it would, therefore, not be possible to transfer 0.50% to the High Needs Block, as previously agreed. It was explained that, in order to afford this proposed funding formula, the transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block had now been reduced to 0.2%, £0.427m and noted that this would add to the significant pressure on the High Needs block, as there was an assumption that the 0.5% transfer of £1.068m would be actioned. Members noted that this equated to a reduction of £0.641m and, as a result, it was acknowledged that mainstream schools would need to continue to support high needs pupils, where possible

Members were reminded that the contingency budget had been established to support those schools facing a deficit budget position or to support the DSG against any future pressures, where schools were closing or were forced to convert to academy leaving a deficit balance. It was noted that the de-delegation rate for Contingency for 2024-25 remained at £5.81 per pupil and agreement was sought from both the Primary and Secondary sectors to de-delegate in 2024-25. Members were advised that, should both sectors choose to contribute, based on the October 2023 census data, this would result in the following contribution to Contingency:

- Mainstream Primary Maintained Schools - £0.058m
- Mainstream Secondary Maintained Schools - £0.035m

It was further noted that there had been no requests made to the contingency fund during 2023-24 and that this fund would be carried forward into 2024-25, less any approvals that may be agreed before year-end.

In relation to de-delegation for school improvement, Members were reminded that the School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant had ceased in the financial year 2022-23 and that, last year schools chose to de-delegate funding at a rate of £12.78 per pupil. It was explained that the rate for 2024-25 would be £13.58.

Members were made aware that, since 2018, the model of School Improvement activity in Tameside had not been limited to maintained schools, with Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and support being available to any school that may need it. With this in mind, it was explained that the Council would liaise with academies and offer them the opportunity to buy into the School

Improvement Service in order to ensure the ability to support the whole sector and retain equity, which had proved so successful in Tameside over the last years.

The potential benefits of de-delegating for school improvement were outlined and it was highlighted that all schools need to be part of the big picture and emphasised that Tameside's school improvement model was built on partnerships and relationships. It was further noted that strategy and priority setting was based on full engagement with the Tameside Primary Consortium, Tameside Association of Secondary Headteachers and Special Schools Sector Partnership.

In addition to supporting strategic and operational cohesion in the school system, it was also stated that the de-delegation was also intended to support the LA with its school improvement statutory duties and powers of intervention. This included:

- Ofsted engagement and liaison
- Annual categorisation process of primary schools
- Implementing Schools Causing Concern guidance
- Brokering and monitoring school-led improvement partnerships e.g. schools at risk of becoming inadequate or double RI
- Commissioning and facilitating support for RI, Inadequate and category 3 schools
- Data collection, management, and support outside of the data SLA
- Statutory monitoring of SATs/phonics screening and moderation at KS2 writing for primary schools.

Members were informed that, as in previous financial years, schools were expected to support safeguarding in the borough, by agreeing to make a contribution of £3.24 per pupil towards the cost of the TSCP (Tameside Safeguarding Children Partnership). All schools were asked to support the continuation of this arrangement in 2024-25, which equated to approximately £0.114m across all mainstream schools and £0.117m including special schools.

Members were advised that, where schools had opted into the Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA) for 2023-24, membership would continue on an ongoing basis and noted that, should a school choose to opt out of this arrangement, they would need to make their own risk protection arrangements. It was stated that the cost of RPA for 2024-25 would be £25 per pupil and that the LA would continue to treat this in the same way as de-delegation items and recover the cost from the relevant schools on this basis. Members were also advised that nursery numbers were included to calculate the charge for the primary sector, where applicable.

In relation to the High Needs Block, Members were made aware that, following the funding announcements in the summer, the provisional High Needs Block settlement for 2024-25 had now been updated with the following:

- Increase in pupil numbers used to calculate the basic entitlement factor, based on data from the January 2023 alternative provision (AP) census and October 2023 school census
- Update to the import/export adjustments following the outcomes of the place change exercise in November and queries from other LAs

It was also noted that there would be a further update to the Import and Export adjustments to reflect cross border movement of pupils living in one borough and accessing provision in another.

A detailed update on the updated High Needs settlement was provided for Members and it was noted that Tameside was seeing an increase in before academy recoupment of recoupment of £2.204m, or 6%. It was explained that this was the maximum 'like for like' allocation increase, which in 2024-25 would be capped at 5 plus £0.357m due to an increase in pupil numbers in the special and Alternative Provision (AP) census data. However, it was noted that, following these increases, the funding available for 2024-25 remained significantly below current year expenditure, before any growth was factored in, which continued to contribute to the overall deficit on the DSG.

Detailed information in relation to the Minimum Funding Guarantee, additional funding, Teachers Pay Additional Grant and Teachers' Pension Grant was provided for members and a detailed over

view of commissioned places for September 2024 was shared, which included Alternative Provision, Special Schools, Resource Bases and Further Education.

Members were provided with information relating to the current funding settlement for Early Years for both 2023-24 and 2024-25, along with an outline of the new entitlements for working parents, which would be introduced in phases.

It was noted that the rate the LA was funded for 3 and 4 year olds had increased by £0.25 from the combined rates of £5.37 (£5.06 DSG and £0.31 EYSG) to £5.62.

Members were also made aware that the rate the LA was funded for 2 year olds had increased by £0.53 from a combined rate of £7.43 (£5.73 DSG and £1.70 EYSG) to £7.96. It was further explained that this funding received for both disadvantaged 2 year olds and the new entitlement for working parents of 2 year olds was the same rate.

In relation to the Disability Access Fund (DAF), Members were made aware that the allocation rate had increased by £29, from a combined rate of £881 (£828 DSG and £53 EYSG) to £910. Similarly, the allocation rate for Early Years Pupil Premium had increased by £0.02 from a combined rate of £0.66 (£0.62 DSG and £0.04 EYSG) to £0.68 per hour per eligible pupil up to a maximum of 570 hours. It was noted that, previously, these allocations only related to 3 and 4 year olds but had now been extended to children 2 years old and under as part of the new entitlements.

It was suggested that consultation needed to be held with Early Years providers regarding the increased rates and new entitlements and, with this in mind, an additional meeting of Schools' Forum was proposed for 5 March 2024, in order to share further information on the funding arrangements for the LA and for providers.

Members approval was sought in order to centrally retain 5% (0.844m) of 3 and 4 year old funding (in line with operational guidance) and up to 5% of funding for children 2 years old and under (£0.582m based on the current settlement). It was stated that this would continue to support the services set out below, along with the additional administration requirements for the new entitlements:

- Early Education Funding Team – This fully supports the administration of Early Years funding, the annual costs associated with the Servelec IT system which is used to calculate and process the payments to Schools and Private, Voluntary and Independent providers.
- Family Information Services – This supports an Information Officer. This post provides advice, guidance and information to families wishing to access Children's services and was implemented to support the increased demands from the early years extended provision.
- Early Years Quality Improvement Team – This currently supports the work of the Quality Officers, specialist SEND Quality Officers and a School Advisor for Early Years. Support is primarily in relation to: signposting and promoting the standard 15 hours offer and extended 30 hours offer; Ofsted regulations and standards; practice development and training; safeguarding; and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities related support. The focus of the team going forward is now weighted heavily towards SEND and language development.
- SEN Team – funding support for an Early Years SEN Caseworker as specific support for SEN in early years.
- Social Emotional and Mental Health service – funding support for an Early Year Coordinator as specific support in early years.
- Sensory Support – funding support for a Hearing Impaired Teacher as specific support for Early Years.
- Making it REAL (Raising Early Achievement in Literacy). This is aimed at supporting practitioners to build parents' knowledge and confidence so that they can support their children with early language and reading and writing and create a positive early home learning environment.

With regard to the Central School Services Block (CSSB), Members were informed that this brought together:

- Funding previously allocated through the retained duties element of the Education Services Grant (ESG)
- Funding for ongoing central functions such as admissions which were previously top sliced from the schools block
- Residual funding for historic commitments of which there are none for Tameside MBC.

It was noted that the total allocation for 2024-25 was £1.349m and that this was based on a per pupil element of £38.54 for ongoing duties (i.e. Admissions, Schools Forum, Copyright Licenses, former ESG duties).

Members were reminded that, in line with DSG operational guidance for 2024-25, the LA must formally request Schools' Forum approval for the central retention of funding for the following:

- School Admissions
- Servicing of Schools Forum
- Contribution to responsibilities that LAs hold for all schools (formally the retained duties element of the ESG)

Whilst it was acknowledged that the budgets for the above were still being worked on, the costs were currently estimated in excess of the £1.130m available.

A number of updates were also provided for Members of Forum. These included:

- **Pupil Premium – New Rates**
The new rates for 2024-25 were announced in December 2023.
- **Teachers Pay Additional Grant (TPAG)**
LAs would continue to receive a separate grant allocation to cover the additional pay award for teachers that was received for September to March 2024. The grant would continue as a separate grant in 2024-25 and from 2025-26 will be rolled into the schools and high needs national funding formulae.
- **Teachers Pension Grant**
As an outcome of the valuation of the Teachers Pension Scheme, the Government had announced superannuation rates for employers will increase from 23.68% to 28.68% in April 2024. The Government had stated additional funding will be made available to cover the increases in employer contributions in year.
- **Recovery Premium**
The Recovery premium was part of the package of funding to support pupils whose education has been impacted by COVID-19. The funding was initially set over 3 academic years and with 2023-24 being the final year the funding will cease in August 2024.
- **National Tutoring Programme (NTP)**
The NTP was a scheme that provided support to pupils affected by the disruption to their education as a result of COVID-19. The 2023-24 academic year was the fourth and final year of funding and funding allocations to schools will cease in August 2024.
- **PE and Sport**
The Government had confirmed that the Primary PE and Sport Premium would continue in 2024-25 academic year. Updated guidance and conditions of the grant had been published to steer schools towards the effective uses of the premium. To improve accountability the DfE planned to introduce a new digital tool that would be available in summer 2024 with an expectation for schools to trial its use at the end of 2023-24 academic year. From 2024-25 academic year completion of the digital tool will be mandatory.

Discussion ensued in relation to various aspects of the report. It was noted that maintained schools were feeling increased financial pressures and that, whilst it was acknowledged that all schools,

including academies needed to work collaboratively to benefit from school improvement, greater clarity was sought with regard to this being a fair and equitable offer. It was also acknowledged that schools were facing increasing pressures in terms of both financial and political uncertainty and noted that all decisions needed to be taken carefully and from a position of feeling fully informed. With this in mind, it was suggested that a review should be undertaken to look at the core offer for school improvement and how this may be enhanced and academy contribution considered. It was agreed that a task and finish group could be set up with a view to addressing this going forwards.

Questions in relation to centrally retained Early Years funding were raised, relating, in particular, to the uncertainty surrounding the extended entitlement offer and additional resourcing, which may be required. It was noted that this would be discussed in more detail at the next Early Years Working Group meeting and also during the next meeting of School's Forum in March.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the proposed funding formula for mainstream schools, as set out in Section 3, be approved. This will continue with national funding formula rates, sets MFG at 0.5%, has no gains cap and allows a transfer of 0.2% to the High Needs Block.**
- (ii) That the growth Fund, as outlined in Section 3, be approved.**
- (iii) That the transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block, as outlined in Section 3, be approved.**
- (iv) That de-delegation of funding for Schools Contingency be rejected for the primary maintained sector.**
- (v) That members of the secondary maintained sector abstain from the vote on de-delegation of funding for Schools Contingency**
- (vi) That de-delegation of funding for School Improvement be rejected for the primary maintained sector**
- (vii) That members of the secondary maintained sector abstain from the vote on de-delegation of funding for School Improvement**
- (viii) That continued contribution to Tameside Safeguarding Children's Partnership, as outlined in Section 3, be approved.**
- (ix) That central retention of the Early Years funding, as outlined in Section 5, be approved.**
- (x) That the allocation of the Central Services Schools Block, as outlined in Section 6, be approved.**



26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED

That the next meeting of The Schools Forum be held remotely on 5 March 2024 at 9.45am

CHAIR

Agenda Item 4

Report to:	SCHOOLS' FORUM
Date:	5 March 2024
Reporting Officer:	Deborah Myers – Assistant Director of Education Ashely Hughes – Director of Resources (S151 Officer)
Subject:	SCHOOLS' FORUM FORWARD PLAN 2024-25
Report Summary:	Provide members of Schools Forum with the Forward Plan of reports and meeting dates for the Financial Year 2024/25.
Recommendations:	Members of Schools Forum are requested to note the meeting dates set out for 2024/25 and the reports to be tabled at each meeting.
Corporate Plan:	The Schools Forum decision making, supports the Corporate Plan by supporting best use of resources to ensure children have the very best start in life, ensuring children are ready to learn and encouraged to thrive and develop.
Policy Implications:	Overall effective use of resources across Tameside schools is a key component in the Authority's Annual Use of Resources Statement.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)	There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report, however an effective Schools Forum supports good stewardship and good use of resources.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	The report provides the forward plan of reports and meeting dates for the forthcoming Financial Year in relation to the Schools Forum. The Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012 (S.I. 2012/2261) govern the composition, constitution and procedures of Schools Forums. There is a legal requirement for the Schools Forum to meet for a minimum of four times per year.
Risk Management:	There are no direct risk management implications as a result of this report.
Access to Information:	NON-CONFIDENTIAL This report does not contain information, which warrants its consideration in the absence of the Press or members of the public.
Background Information:	The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting  Telephone: 0161 342 3044  e-mail: Jerome.francis@tameside.gov.uk

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report outlines the timetable and schedule of meetings and reports to be presented for the upcoming year, forming a forward plan. The plan will enable forum members to be kept informed of items to be tabled for consideration.

2. TIMETABLE

- 2.1 The meeting dates for the 2024/25 financial year for Schools Forum have now been set and proposed as detailed below. Setting the annual schedule of dates in advance assists Forum Members with diary planning.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Venue</u>
Tuesday 25 June 2024	Zoom
Tuesday 24 September 2024	Zoom
Tuesday 26 November 2024	Zoom
Thursday 16 January 2025 or Tuesday 21 January 2025*	Dukinfield Town Hall

**TBC – Will confirm once DfE forward plan for School Funding Submission is released. This is to enable the maximum amount of time from the funding announcements, which are expected just before Christmas to be worked into a final plan for Forum’s consideration.*

- 2.3 Dates may be subject to change. The following meeting date is confirmed at the end of each meeting.

3. FORWARD PLAN

- 3.1 The table below summarises the forward plan of reports to be considered at each meeting by Schools Forum.

Forum Meeting	Report	Purpose
June	DSG Outturn 2023/24 and 2024/25 Update	Noting
	School Balances including Review of School Balance Mechanism Scheme	Noting/Approval
	Scheme of Financing for Schools	Noting/Approval
	SEND DBV and Deficit Recovery Plan Update	Noting/Approval
September	Forum Membership	Approval
	Schools Balances	Noting/Approval
	Schools Financial Values Standard Returns	Noting
	School Funding Update on NFF and Summer Announcements from DfE	Noting
	Consultation of Funding Formula (Schools Block)	Noting
	DSG Monitoring 2024/25 Update	Noting
	SEND DBV and Deficit Recovery Plan Update	Noting/Approval
November	Deficit Recovery Plan Update	Noting
	DSG Monitoring 2024/25 Update	Update
	Outcome of consultation of Funding Formula (Schools Block)	Noting
	De-delegation Items (Schools Block)	Noting

January	DSG Monitoring 2024/25 Update	Noting
	Formula Funding 2025/26	Approval
	SEND DBV and Deficit Recovery Plan Update	Noting/Approval
	Schools Forum Forward Plan	Noting

- 3.2 Further reports may be added to the agenda where Schools Forum involvement is necessary throughout the year.
- 3.3 The DfE recommends periodic review of the effectiveness of Schools Forum and provides a self-assessment tool to support this review, which can be found at the link below. Schools Forum are asked to consider building this into the work plan for 2024/25.
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5ecfb300e90e0754cc92fb20/Schools_forum_self-assessment_checklist.pdf

4. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 As set out at the front of the report.

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Agenda Item 5

Report to:	SCHOOLS' FORUM
Date:	5 March 2024
Reporting Officer:	Deborah Myers – Assistant Director of Education Ashley Hughes – Director of Resources (S151 Officer)
Subject:	EARLY YEARS FUNDING 2024-25
Report Summary:	A report on the arrangements concerning the Dedicated Schools Grant Early Years funding for 2024-25
Recommendations:	Members of the Schools Forum are requested to note and support the contents of the report.
Corporate Plan:	Education finances significantly support the Starting Well agenda to provide the very best start in life where children are ready to learn and encouraged to thrive and develop, and supports Aspiration and Hope through learning and moving with confidence from childhood to adulthood.
Policy Implications:	In line with financial and policy framework.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)	The Dedicated Schools Grant is a ring fenced grant passed through local authorities solely for the purpose of schools, early years provision and for pupils with high needs. . This report sets out the allocation basis for all Tameside early years providers for 2024-25.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	The report requests that the Schools Forum note and support the report. In terms of the funding described the Dedicated Schols Grant is pass- through funding which is ring-fenced and restricted to the uses described in the report. Where a discretion can be exercised regard must be had to statutory guidance issued by the Department for Education and which must be followed unless there is good reason not to do so.
Risk Management:	The correct accounting treatment of the Dedicated Schools Grant is a condition of the grant and procedures exist in budget monitoring and the closure of accounts to ensure that this is achieved. These will be subject to regular review.
Access to Information:	NON-CONFIDENTIAL This report does not contain information, which warrants its consideration in the absence of the press or members of the public.
Background Information:	The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Jerome Francis – Finance Business Partner – Financial Management, Children's and Safeguarding Services



Telephone: 0161 342 3044



e-mail: jerome.francis@tameside.gov.uk

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report sets out information on the allocation of the Early Years element of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2024-25 and the outcome of the recent consultation on the Early Years funding.

2. EARLY YEARS FUNDING 2024-25

- 2.1 **Table 1** provides the current funding settlement for Early Years for 2023-24 and 2024-25. The settlement is based on the Schools, Early Years and Alternative Provision censuses data from January 2023. The 2024-25 allocation will be updated based on January 2024 census data. An adjustment will also be made to the 2023-24 allocation based on January 2024 census data which will occur in July 2024.

TABLE 1 – Early Years Funding

Early Years Funding Streams	2023-24 Early Years Allocation at Nov 2023 £m	2024-25 Provisional Early Years Allocation £m	Increase / (Decrease) in Funding £m
3 & 4 Year Olds Universal Entitlement*	10.539	11.302	0.763
3 & 4 Year Olds Additional 15 Hours Entitlement for Eligible Working Parents*	5.205	5.581	0.377
2 Year Old Disadvantaged Entitlement*	2.927	3.466	0.539
2 Year Old Entitlement for Working Parents	-	4.828	4.828
Under 2s Entitlement	-	3.337	3.337
3 & 4 Year Olds Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)*	0.243	0.257	0.014
2 Year Olds EYPP	-	0.140	0.140
Under 2s EYPP	-	0.007	0.007
3 & 4 Year Olds Disability Access Fund (DAF)*	0.137	0.168	0.032
2 Year Olds DAF	-	0.065	0.065
Under 2s DAF	-	0.007	0.007
Total	19.051	29.158	10.108

Note: the table above includes rounding's

* The 2023-24 Early Years Allocation includes the Early Years Supplementary Grant (EYSG) which has been rolled into the DSG from 2024-25. The EYSG covered the period September 2023 to March 2024

- 2.2 A consultation was launched for the period 30 January until 12 February 2024 to gather opinions on the proposals set out below. The response to the consultation is included at Section 8 of the report.

3. 3 AND 4 YEAR OLD FUNDING

- 3.1 The hourly rate of funding received by the LA has increased by £0.25 from the combined rate of £5.37 (£5.06 DSG and £0.31 EYSG) in 2023-24 to £5.62 2024-25 for both universal and extended entitlement. Of the £0.25 increase £0.15 is an increase in core funding and £0.10 relates to Teachers' Pay & Pension Grant funding. There is more on this in paragraph 3.5. The local funding scheme must include a base rate that applies to all children in all settings.

It is proposed that the hourly base rate is increased from £4.49 to £5.00, an increase of £0.51, of which £0.31 relates to the full inclusion of the EYSG rate.

Supplements

- 3.2 There is a mandatory requirement to have a supplementary rate in relation to Deprivation and it is possible to have other supplements in relation to Rurality/Sparsity, Flexibility, Quality and English as an Additional Language. The total value of these supplements cannot exceed 12% of the overall funding within this block.
- 3.3 The DfE's guidance gives authorities flexibility to create supplements of this type, but authorities are expected to adhere to the following principles:
- the use of supplements should be transparent and fair and should be open to all providers which meet the eligibility criteria.
 - for the 3 and 4-year-old entitlements, local authorities should not distinguish between the universal 15 hours entitlement and the additional 15 hours for working parents; any supplement should apply equally to both entitlements.

Deprivation

- 3.4 In 2023-24 it was agreed to continue with the model where deprivation is allocated based on three bands and allocated for all children. No changes are proposed to this supplement for 2024-25 but will be reviewed for future years and consulted upon again for 2025-26.

Teachers' Pay and Pension Grant (TPPG)

- 3.5 In 2023-24 Tameside introduced a quality supplement of £0.23 per hour. This was as a result of the rolling in of the teachers' pay grant and teachers' pensions employer contribution grant into the funding allocation for 3 and 4 year old entitlements. Previously these were paid as a separate grant direct to school based nurseries, to support settings with teachers pay awards and pension cost. It should be noted, the use of "quality" to describe the supplement is following DfE guidance and does not reflect any superiority on the level of provision.
- 3.6 In 2024-25 the DfE have included a total of £22.5m provided in respect of the September 2023 teachers' pay award, as well as a total of £34.7m additional funding to support providers with the costs of employer contributions to the teachers' pension scheme, which are due to increase from April 2024. This funding has been included in the hourly rates for 3 and 4 year olds. For Tameside this equates to an additional £0.300m, or an additional £0.10 per hour across all hours delivered in nursery classes and in Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) providers.
- 3.7 The DfE continue to encourage LAs to consider the purpose for which the funding has been provided when designing their approach to the local formula. LAs could continue to target the funding to take account of the additional pressures that some providers might face, for example, the need to pay employers contributions to the teachers' pension scheme.
- 3.8 We propose for 2024-25:
- To hold the hourly rate at £0.23. This supplement will be paid to eligible providers for 3 and 4 year old's in 2024-25.
 - That the additional funding received for teachers pay and pension grants from April 2024 be rolled into the base funding for all hours delivered, in recognition of the wage pressures being felt across all providers.
 - To be eligible for this supplement, the early years provision has to be led by a qualified teacher working directly with children and the setting incur additional costs due to teachers pay and pension conditions.

Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF)

- 3.9 There continues to be a mandatory requirement for a SEN Inclusion Fund for 3 and 4 year olds. A fund for disadvantaged 2 year olds has been in place since 2020-21. There is significant pressure on the fund in 2023-24 as shown in **Table 2**.

TABLE 2 – Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund for 2023-24 and Proposal for 2024-25

Early Years Funding Streams	2023-24 SEN Inclusion Fund £m	SEN Forecast Distribution to Providers £m	2023-24 Forecast Deficit / (Surplus) £m	2024-25 Proposed SEN Inclusion Fund £m
3 & 4 Year Olds	0.500	0.637	0.137	0.700
2 Year Old Disadvantaged	0.066	0.063	(0.003)	0.066
Total	0.566	0.700	0.134	0.766

- 3.10 We are proposing to increase this fund to £0.700m for 3 and 4 year olds and hold the fund at £0.066m for 2 disadvantaged 2 year olds. The demand for support from providers for SENIF support continues to grow and it is therefore necessary to increase this fund. Further work must be undertaken to review the SENIF allocation and demand, specifically in light of the additional roll out of eligibility and expectation from the DfE for there to be a SENIF for these entitlements. Further information on the extension of SENIF is contained in Section 4 and Section 5 of this report.
- 3.11 The operational guidance has confirmed that LAs must ensure that at least 95% of the funding in relation to 3 and 4 year olds is passed through to providers in 2024-25. This has been extended to 2 year old disadvantaged and to the new entitlements for 2 year old working parents and Under 2s entitlements. The proposed rates, together with the supplements and SEN Inclusion Fund means the LA will be compliant with the legislation and the retention of the funds has already been agreed at Schools Forum on 18 January 2024. Details of what this supports can be found in the Schools Forum paper through the following link: [ITEM 5 - DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT DSG FUNDING FORMULA 2024-25.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk/2024/01/18/schools-forum-paper-2024-25/)

4. 2 YEAR OLD FUNDING

- 4.1 The hourly rate of funding received by the LA has increased by £0.53 from a combined rate of £7.43 (£5.73 DSG and £1.70 EYSG) to £7.96. The funding for both disadvantaged 2 year olds and the new entitlement for working parents of 2 years olds is based on the same rate. The entitlement is for up to 15 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year.

Supplements

- 4.2 The DfE have extended local funding rules to the disadvantaged 2 year old entitlement and the new working parent entitlements meaning supplements can be added. There is also an expectation that local authorities have special educational needs inclusion funds (SENIFs) for all children with special educational needs (SEN) eligible for or taking up the new and existing entitlements, regardless of the number of hours taken.

Deprivation

- 4.3 Considering the extension of local funding rules it is proposed deprivation will be introduced as a supplement for both 2 year old entitlements, on the same basis as it is distributed

currently for 3 and 4 year olds. This will be reviewed and consulted on for the 2025-26 early years funding formula.

SENIF

4.4 Additionally, it is proposed to increase SENIF for 2 year olds due to the new entitlement for working parents. The proposal is to increase the fund by £0.034m, providing a total SENIF of £0.100m for 2 year olds.

4.5 Taking account of these additional elements of funding and considering the 95% pass through rate it is proposed there is an hourly base rate of £7.37 for both 2 year old entitlements.

5. CHILDREN AGED 9 MONTHS TO 2 YEARS

5.1 A new entitlement for working parents for children aged 9 months up to 2 years old will be effective from September 2024. This entitlement is for up to 15 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year. The hourly rate of funding received by the LA is £10.86. Again, as stated in 4.2, supplements can be added and there is also an expectation that LAs have SENIFs for all children with SEN eligible for or taking up the new and existing entitlements, regardless of the number of hours taken.

Deprivation

5.2 It is proposed deprivation will be introduced as a supplement, on the same basis as it is distributed for 3 and 4 year olds. This will be reviewed and consulted on for the 2025-26 early years funding formula.

SENIF

5.3 A SENIF will also be created and the proposal is to include £0.039m. This is reflective of the entitlement being introduced from September 2024.

5.4 It is proposed there is an hourly base rate of £10.12.

6. EARLY YEARS PUPIL PREMIUM (EYPP) AND DISABILITY ACCESS FUND (DAF)

6.1 The allocation rate for EYPP has increased by £0.02 from a combined rate of £0.66 (£0.62 DSG and £0.04 EYSG) to £0.68 per hour per eligible pupil up to a maximum of 570 hours.

6.2 The allocation rate for DAF has increased by £29 from a combined rate of £881 (£828 DSG and £53 EYSG) to £910.

6.3 Previously the allocations of EYPP and DAF only related to 3 and 4 year olds but have now been extended to children 2 years old and under as part of the new entitlements.

6.4 The allocation of both these funds is in line with the operational guidance. The full operational guidance can be accessed via this link – [Early years funding: 2024 to 2025 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/121212/Early_years_funding_2024_to_2025_-_GOV.UK.pdf)

7. PAYMENT BASIS

7.1 The current funding arrangements for 2, 3 and 4 year olds attending both school and PVI provision is currently paid in 2 termly payments as follows:

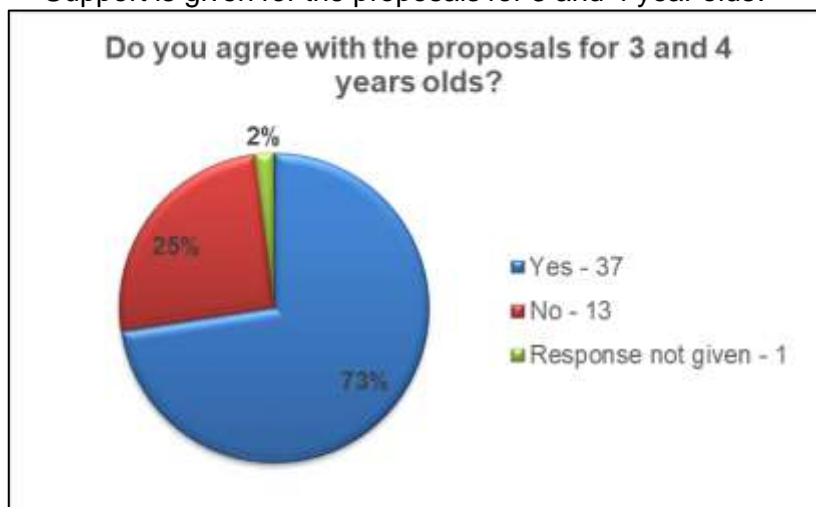
Payment Submission Type	Payment Timeframe
Estimate payment	75% of pupil numbers for the term paid in advance during the first week of each term
Final payment	Paid approximately three quarters of the way into term once headcount/actuals is completed

- 7.2 Statutory Guidance indicates that councils should make monthly payments to providers and it sets out the requirements for this in section A4.13 of the Statutory Guidance. However, each council can determine its own best practice. Any change to monthly payments would need to be implemented for all providers, as it is not possible to administer different methods of payment.
- 7.3 The current system requires all providers to submit a termly estimate return the term before and also a funding actuals submission (headcount) during the first month of the term. This system would remain in place, but providers would have the opportunity to update their estimate submission during the term e.g. children joining and also leaving.
- 7.4 The council is re-considering moving to monthly payments, especially in light of the substantial increases to funding the new entitlements will bring for providers. This will ensure providers can receive adjusted monthly payments in real time and minimise any risk to both providers and the council.
- 7.5 The consultation sought views from all providers as to whether they are in favour of the change or not.

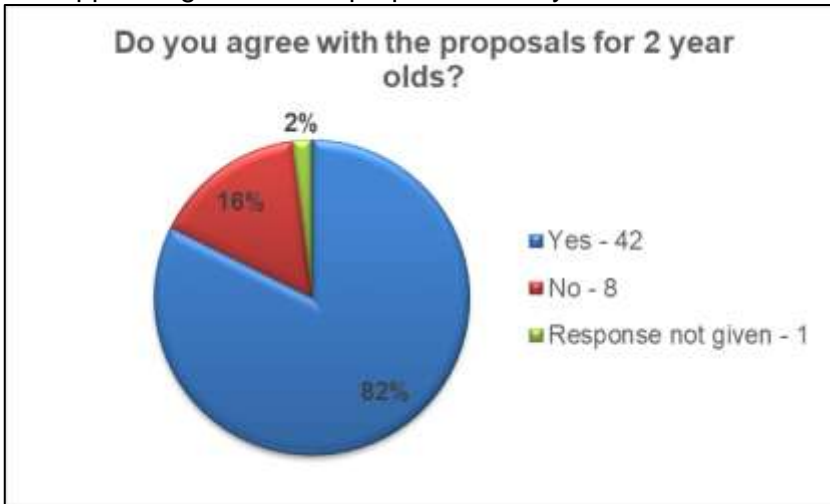
8. CONSULTATION RESPONSE

- 8.1 Consultation took place with all Early Years Providers in Tameside between 30 January and 12 February. It was carried out via survey monkey and shared with all Early Years providers included on Tameside Directory of Providers.
- 8.2 A total of 51 responses were received.
- 8.3 The outcome of the consultation is as follows:

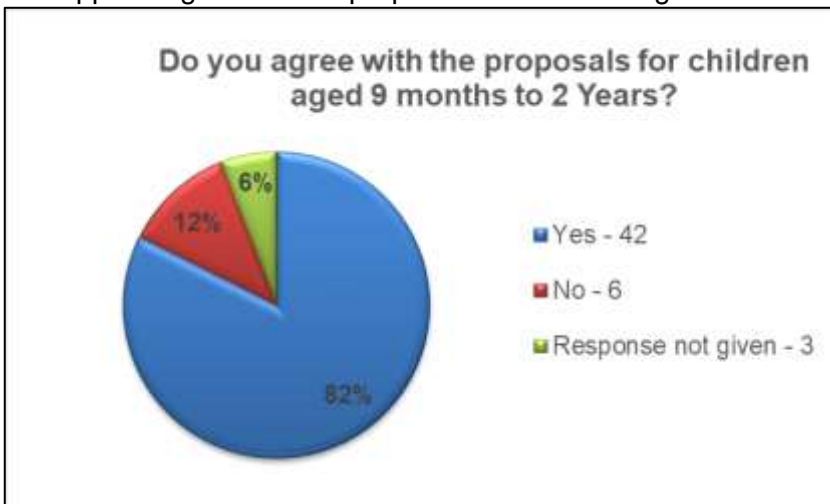
- Support is given for the proposals for 3 and 4 year olds.



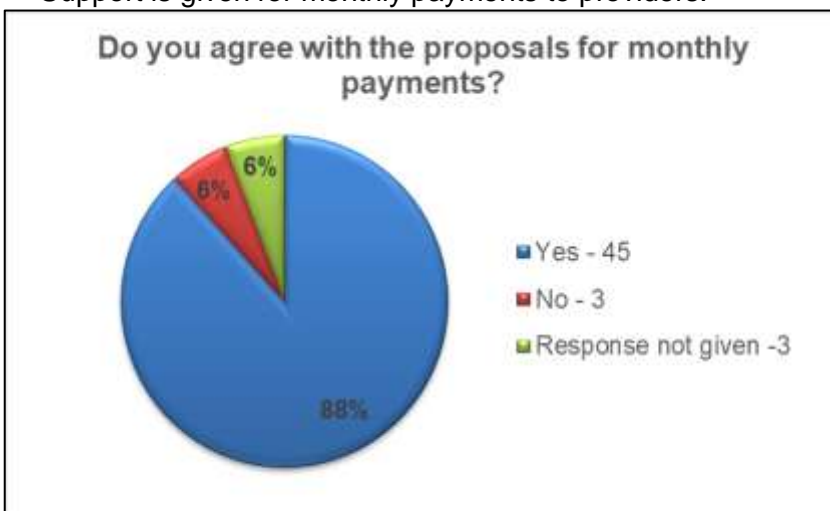
- Support is given for the proposals for 2 year olds.



- Support is given for the proposals for children aged 9 months up to 2 years old.



- Support is given for monthly payments to providers.



8.4 A number of comments were received for each question asked and have been included at **Appendix A** for additional information.

- 8.5 The difference in hourly rates across the age ranges has been frequently commented on. The three hourly funding rates are set initially by DfE and in theory reflect the ratios required for the different age ranges.
- 8.6 Comments also were raised about the comparative rates for other authorities being higher than Tameside. Rates are determined by DfE through a prescribed formula and further information can be found in the technical note as to how this is calculated in the following link: [Early years funding: 2024 to 2025 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/early-years-funding-2024-to-2025)
- 8.7 There were also comments regarding the pass-through rate. In calculating the rates, the LA ensure compliance of the 95% pass through rate. Further information on the pass-through rate and what is included can be found in the operational guidance under Section 4: [Early years funding: 2024 to 2025 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/early-years-funding-2024-to-2025)
- 8.8 Further clarification was also raised regarding the centrally retained funding. A review is currently underway to full determine the additional resource required to support the roll out of the new entitlement funding. There is an immediate need to increase the resource in the Early Education Funding team and work to implement this is in progress. A cautious approach to this funding must be taken due to the uncertainty of uptake of the funding and the potential for funding adjustments from DfE on the new entitlements. Further updates on this and how the funding is being utilised will be provided through the regular Schools Forum monitoring reports.
- 8.9 Due to the overwhelming support to move to monthly payments, the council are considering the next steps to implement this. In order to ensure a clear process and smooth transition to updating the payment system, an implementation plan will need to be completed and providers will kept fully informed of any updates / changes prior to moving to a new payment process.

9. SUMMARY

9.1 3 and 4 Year Olds

- The hourly base rate is set at £5.00
- Deprivation will be allocated on the same basis as 2023-24
- A quality supplement (TPPG) of £0.23 per hour will be paid to eligible providers for 3 and 4 year olds only. To be eligible for this supplement, the early years provision has to be led by a qualified teacher working directly with children and the setting incur additional costs due to teachers pay and pension conditions.
- There will be a SENIF of £0.700m

9.2 2 Year Olds

- The hourly base rate is set at £7.37 for both disadvantaged and working parent entitlement
- A deprivation supplement is introduced on the same basis as the distribution of 3 and 4 year old deprivation for both disadvantaged and working parent entitlement
- There will be a SENIF of £0.100m

9.3 Children Aged 9 Months to 2 Years

- The hourly base rate is set at £10.12
- A deprivation supplement is introduced on the same basis as the distribution of 3 and 4 year old deprivation for both disadvantaged and working parent entitlement
- There will be a SENIF of £0.039m

9.4 **Payment Basis**

- Due to the overwhelming support to move to monthly payments, the council are considering the next steps to implement this. An implementation plan will be created and providers will be kept informed of next steps / implementation.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 As set out at the front of the report.

APPENDIX A

Comments from: Do you agree with the proposals for 3 and 4 year olds?	
1	Funding amounts should not be so different for the different ages of the child. As a childminder we hope to provide consistency and security for both the parent and child right through the early years especially when a school nursery would not be the best option.
2	I think it's a huge drop in pay from the 2 year funding and the same amount of work/input required.
3	94.34% pass through rate
4	What determines the rate across the borough? As its confusing that other local authorities seem to be paying their childminders a much higher rate than we are being paid in our area when we all do the same job,
5	The funding is not enough.
6	As a childminder with limited age ratios its a lot less to earn for at least one third of daily numbers assuming that the other 2 places can be filled with a 1yr old and 2yr old.
7	The level of funding is not enough to cover the cost of an actual nursery day. This level of funding is not in line with the other funding amounts offered
8	I this should have been a bit higher
9	Although I do feel it would be better to average the 3 amounts & then have the same rate eg $10.12+7.37+5=22.49\div 3=\pounds 7.49$ per hour across all the age ranges. That seems more fair & consistent. Stops our wages going down from 1 term to the next
10	Whilst I whole heartedly agree that working parents should be entitled to help towards childcare and agree that funded hours for working parents are important. The proposed figures are so out of touch with the real world and small non profitable settings such as mine will struggle dramatically financially. The proposed hourly rate is no where near enough to cover outgoings which come with running a childcare setting and it is an insult to myself and other setting owners that the government believe that the level of care we work endlessly aim to provide is worth so little.
11	It is such a big drop in fees compared with the other age bands. This may work for nurseries where the ratio increases however for childminders our ratio does not increase.
12	It's a very minimal amount
13	These need to be much higher due to the increase of wages, staff demands, because staff are very hard to find offering minimum wage for the pressure they face has more and more children with additional needs need to be met. increase of bills and rents for building, business rates. I can go on and on.
14	your quality supplement is unfair as always. No private day nursery can apply for this as staff don't work in a school so cannot join the teachers pension.
15	Providing the additional 23p pension contribution is available to all settings with a QTS . We have tried to join the teachers pension and we cannot access this due to not being a school. We do however employ 4 x QTS who work direct with this age group, we pay their pension and should be entitled to the supplement.
16	Why are the rates so low, when they recieve the same amount of care and attention as year old and below.

Comments from: Do you agree with the proposals for 2 year olds?	
1	funding amounts should not be so different for the different ages of the child. As a childminder we hope to provide consistency and security for both the parent and child right through the early years especially when a school nursery would not be the best option.
2	I feel that information could have been clearer and the funding rate increased to cover the gap.
3	92.59% pass through rate
4	The funding is not enough.
5	currently this matches the cost of an actual nursery day
6	Although I do feel it would be better to average the 3 amounts & then have the same rate eg $10.12+7.37+5=22.49\div 3=\pounds 7.49$ per hour across all the age ranges. That seems more fair & consistent. Stops our wages going down from 1 term to the next
7	We object to the Teacher Quality Rate of £0.23 for this age group due to the fact that many teachers are not qualified in the early years and especially not for under 3's.
8	Whilst I whole heartedly agree that working parents should be entitled to help towards childcare and agree that funded hours for working parents are important. The proposed figures are so out of touch with the real world and small non profitable settings such as mine will struggle dramatically financially. The proposed hourly rate is no where near enough to cover outgoings which come with running a childcare setting and it is an insult to myself and other setting owners that the government believe that the level of care we work endlessly aim to provide is worth so little.
9	I do not agree with taking off the top of our hourly rate to top up teachers pensions. This should be for all.
10	But will not have any scope for offering places to 2 yr olds in our school nursery
11	These need to be much higher due to the increase of wages, staff demands, because staff are very hard to find offering minimum wage for the pressure they face has more and more children with additional needs need to be met. increase of bills and rents for building, business rates. I can go on and on.
12	your quality supplement is unfair as always. No private day nursery can apply for this as staff don't work in a school so cannot join the teachers pension. Teachers are not qualified to work or educate the under twos age range.
13	Far below other boroughs and far below daily/hourly rate
14	It would be good if there were further clarification of how the top slice for this will be used. IE what additional costs are incurred over the existing admin ones.

	Comments from: Do you agree with the proposals for children aged 9 months up to 2 year olds?
1	qualifying criteria. Babies could be over 1 yr before allowed to claim.
2	i agree that younger children may sometimes have more expenses for example nappies, baby powder etc but this is mainly taken on by the parent. our ratios do not change according to the age of the early years child unless under one year
3	I feel that information could have been clearer and the funding rate increased to cover the gap.
4	93.18% pass through rate
5	There are still too many unknowns.
6	currently this matches the cost of an actual nursery day
7	Although I do feel it would be better to average the 3 amounts & then have the same rate eg $10.12+7.37+5=22.49\div 3=\pounds 7.49$ per hour across all the age ranges. That seems more fair & consistent. Stops our wages going down from 1 term to the next
8	We do not have children at that age
9	Doesn't affect my setting
10	I do not agree with taking off the top of our hourly rate to top up teachers pensions. This should be for all.
11	But again do not have any scope for offering places to this group of children in our school nursery
12	These need to be much higher due to the increase of wages, staff demands, because staff are very hard to find offering minimum wage for the pressure they face has more and more children with additional needs need to be met. increase of bills and rents for building, business rates. I can go on and on.
13	your quality supplement is unfair as always. No private day nursery can apply for this as staff don't work in a school so cannot join the teachers pension. Teachers are not qualified to work or educate the under twos age range.
14	Far below daily hourly/daily rate
15	It would be good if there were further clarification of how the top slice for this will be used. IE what additional costs are incurred over the existing admin ones.

	Comments from: Do you agree with the proposals for monthly payments?
1	Its not Im against monthly. I feel the impact on funding team for monthly would be massive compared to termly. As it is settings receive 75% up front and budget according. feel there would be a lot of teething issues, with little time to adjust these before the next months is due. How it is works and don't see how monthly would better this.
2	I agree with the monthly payment proposal, with having a staff member to buy monthly and the rising cost of living this will allow me to budget and cover my expenses.
3	Although this would mainly be if the amount of funded children became the main income which is yet to see
4	I say I agree but do not know if this will be better or not? I wont know until this is put into place.
5	Confirmation would be required as to how the monthly payments would be split and if these would be paid over 12months or term time months. I.E. Accounting for August
6	I would rather have a monthly payment as it is easier for me to budget with my bills
7	This would be very beneficial, its going to be very difficult to loose monthly income, i have bills to cover. However, i wouldnt want to do loads of monthly data stuff on the portal, it takes a lot of time up.
8	Monthly payments would be better for all- however I dont want to be burdened down with repeating the same paperwork task and then imputting it into an archaic system, then imputting it again, then changing the funding paperwork only to go and do it again. The data input system needs urgent attention and updating- I would urge the funding team to take advice from other councils on how they collect the data as the way it is collected in Tameside is clearly not working- as evident in the analysis that was published on how providers performed in the headcount.
9	It will be easier to budget if paid monthly.
10	I don't really have a preference to leaving payments as they are now or changing to monthly so happy either way.
11	This would make finances much easier to manage, especially if the majority of children are on funding.
12	Does this mean we have to complete monthly estimates/additional monthly paperwork?
13	This will help with managing finances
14	This will work well for childminders who maybe on universal credit.
15	I'm happy with the current system and think the monthly payments will create more admin.
16	Paying monthly is just creating more work for the setting and the LA, the way we receive payment at the moment has worked well for years why change something that obviously works
17	Not too sure! could be better for paying staff. Would have to see how this works.
18	I think it will help with cash flow
19	Monthly payments would n out only ease the financial juggling of funded placements but would also help to avoid issues in payments with both early and late starters. Consideration does need to be made as to payment dates though as many providers, myself included, typically require payments at the beginning of the month for the month ahead.
20	I currently have non qualifying children on roll however come September I will. Thankyou
21	unsure as it depends on your expectations for administration of this. If we are expected to do monthly what we currently do termly then it is not achievable.
22	Monthly payments will be essential for cash flow with the new scheme
23	Will help with budgeting and being able to pay my staff her wage

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