Members of the School Forum are asked to note the contents of this report for information

Early Years Funding Review Group

The EYFR sub group have now met on two occasions. The first meeting held in April was not well attended and as such the consultation document and resulting requirements were discussed in outline only. All sectors were represented at the second meeting held in May and fuller discussions around the implications of the extended and flexible offer to three year old took place.

Issue raised/considered:

Target Dates:

April 2009: Budgets must be based on participation not headcount – has implication for small nursery classes who currently have "ghost pupils" to ensure minimum 26 places funded

September 2009: Requirement to offer 15hrs minimum, flexibly to the 25% most deprived pupils in the authority. Guidance on how DCSF envisage this being done is due in July 2009. Standards Fund will be made available to target funding to the specific providers undertaking the provision

April 2010: Must have in place a single funding formula across all providers of early years provision, maintained, private, voluntary and independent sectors

September 2010: Universal availability of 15hrs provision offered flexibly

Limits to offer:

15 hours must be taken over a minimum of three days
15 hours can be taken with a maximum of two providers
Contract with parents – commitment to provision

DCSF are still considering changes to count dates for pupil numbers, currently January census for maintained sector and termly headcount for PVI's. DCSF are considering moving all sectors to a termly count for three year olds, with reconciliation to actuals.

No clear guidance from DCSF on SEN and deprivation funding. Our PVI's do not receive any funding currently for either, this may have implications for single funding formula. Also in the maintained sector nursery schools receive allocations using Core and Additional Level 1 funding and funding for deprivation, however nursery aged pupils in primary classes are not included in calculations for primary school SEN and deprivation allocations.

DCSF are looking for the single formula to be very simple and transparent, almost entirely pupil led, with very few other factors. In order to inform the development of a single local formula DCSF are expecting LA's to undertake a needs and cost analysis across the maintained sector.

Next Steps:

- Undertake an audit of all provision – identify all providers, types and where.
- Implications of funding based on participation in maintained sector from April 2009
- Identify how the extended, flexible offer is to be delivered to 25% most deprived pupils

Two further meeting of the sub group have been scheduled – 17th July 2008 - a guest speaker from Worcester, a pilot LA, will be attending and 19th September 2008.

June 2008