



Walsall Council

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Walsall Children's Services

Schools Forum

Date: 2 March 2010

Subject: Early Years Single Funding Formula- pilot authority status

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Purpose of Report: To inform Schools Forum of the outcome of the local authority's bid to become a pilot authority for the implementation of the Early Years Single Funding Formula.

Recommendations: Schools Forum are requested to note the success of the Council's application, and to continue to support the implementation of the funding reforms during the 2010-11 financial year.

1. Introduction

1.1 Following the DCSF decision in December 2009 to defer the Early Years Funding Reforms until April 2011, both Cabinet and Schools Forum supported the proposal to continue with this reform as a Wave 2 pilot authority.

2. Pilot authority status

2.1 DCSF has now confirmed that Walsall will be a pilot authority with effect from 1 April 2010. Exceptions to the relevant funding regulations have also been agreed to facilitate the new funding framework during this pilot phase.

2.2 There are advantages to running the scheme as a pilot, as there will be opportunities to make any necessary adjustments to the new formula as we learn from the experience.

2.3 Schools Forum will receive regular reports during the year regarding progress and the financial impact of the in-year adjustments to the early years budgets of maintained nursery providers.

3. Recommendations

3.1 Schools Forum is asked to continue to support for the implementation of the Early Years Single Funding Formula during this pilot phase.