



Walsall Council

Walsall Children's Services

Report to: Schools Forum

Date: 12th June 2012

Subject: Schools Funding Formula – Early Years

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Purpose of the report: This report highlights key information in the “School funding reform: Next steps to a fairer system” document which relates specifically to the new Early Years Block. This report is an overview and several reports will be produced at future Schools Forums to ensure members are adequately briefed.

Recommendation: To note the report

1. Summary

1.1 Department for Education (DfE) produced "School funding reform: Next steps to a fairer system" on 26 March 2012. While this document has consultative elements, in essence it informs interested parties in decisions that government has made which will start to impact from 2013/14.

1.2 With this document being very complex, DfE have also produced operational guidance, presentations to aid understanding, an ever increasing frequently asked questions and held meetings with school finance officers around the country. There is huge amount of detail.

1.3 The key points of the changes in relation to Early Years Block would be:

1.3.1 Government state in the consultation:

"Alongside simplification of school funding arrangements, we will also support local authorities to simplify funding for early years provision and ensure greater transparency. We will also ensure that deprivation funding has more impact on disadvantaged children. Our detailed proposals on early years are set out in Chapter 4. "

1.3.2 Free early education for 3 and 4 years olds will continue.

1.3.3 Government intend to allocate funding for this to local authorities on the basis of a formula. DfE intend to work on this over "the next few years"

1.3.4 Local Authorities will have to complete and publish a pro forma of how their Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) is set out.

1.3.5 The 90% Floor will be removed from 2014/15

1.3.6 The local authority post consultation may well be responsible for funding all 3 and 4 year old places including academies.

1.3.7 Walsall council's belief is the EYSFF in use already meets most of what the DfE is trying to achieve. There will be further work to ensure this.

2. Next Steps

2.1 Jenni Ward has attended the initial meeting regarding Schools Funding Formula.

2.2 Dawn Morris will be organising an early years funding group to look at the current formula in light of the recent consultation.

3. Recommendations

3.1 To note the report.

