

PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE IN YEAR FUNDING FOR EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE PROVIDERS 2022-2023 FINANCIAL YEAR

Purpose of the Report

To seek agreement on the proposal to uplift the hourly rate for Early Years Providers by 5p per hour for funded three and four year olds.

Information and Advice

There is a predicted underspend of £562,000 in the Early Years DSG budget for 2022-2023.

In previous years, any underspend has been allocated as a lump sum to providers in the following financial year once the final allocations have been known.

In this financial year, we have been able to forecast with more certainty, any likely underspend. We are able to do this due to a revised monitoring process of both payments to the PVI and Schools budgets and using data to more accurately predict numbers of children in attendance.

We are therefore in a position to make payments to providers within this financial year. We propose to offer a lump sum payment in year for Summer and Autumn terms of 2022 to be paid in late Autumn equating to 5p per 3 and 4 year old attending in those terms.

We propose to then offer an uplift on hourly rate in year for Spring 23 increasing this year's hourly rate paid to providers by 5p to £4.53.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Forum:

- 1) Accept and agree the recommendation to uplift the hourly rate for three and four year olds by 5p per hour per child.
- 2) To allow Early Childhood Services to make one lump sum payment for all children in attendance in the Summer and Autumn Terms 2022 in late Autumn term
- 3) To allow Early Childhood Services to uplift the hourly rate by 5p on children attending in the Spring 2023 term.

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