



NORTH YORKSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM

Date of meeting:	14 th March 2019
Title of report:	Schools & Early Years Funding Update
Type of report: Delete as required	For information only
Executive summary: Including reason for submission	The report provides an overview of recent developments in relation to the issue of school budget allocations for 2019/20 and the continuation of supplementary funding for Maintained Nursery Schools until the end of the 2019/20 academic year.
Budget / Risk implications:	None
Recommendations:	The Schools Forum is asked to note the recent developments related to Schools and Early Years funding.
Voting requirements:	N/A
Appendices: To be attached	None
Report originator and contact details:	Sally Dunn, Head of Finance – Schools & Early Years sally.dunn@northyorks.gov.uk 01609 532118
Presenting officer: If not the originator	Sally Dunn

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on schools and early years funding developments which have occurred since the last meeting of the Forum on the 24th January 2019.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the previous meeting of the Forum the decision from the Secretary of State was still awaited in respect of the LA request to transfer 1% of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs budget. The production of school budgets was not possible until this decision had been received.
- 2.2 The DfE have provided specific supplementary funding for maintained nursery schools to enable their 2016/17 funding levels related to the delivery of universal provision to be maintained. This enables a higher level of funding to continue to be paid to maintained nursery schools during the period which the supplement funding is in place. At the time of the January 2019 meeting of the Forum, the DfE had not indicated whether this funding will be provided beyond the 2019/20 financial year.

3.0 SCHOOL FUNDING UPDATE

- 3.1 The decision from the Secretary of State to approve the LA request to transfer 1% of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs was received on the 27th February 2019. Within a very tight timescale 2019/20 school budgets were issued on the 28th February 2019; this is the statutory deadline by which school budgets are required to be issued by. The delay in receiving the decision from the Secretary of State resulted in school budgets being issued approx. 2 weeks later than usual.
- 3.2 A Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) of -1.5% has been applied in the school funding formula for the 2019/20 financial year, as endorsed the Schools Forum. This allows those schools which gain from the NFF implementation to start to receive some funding benefit and any funding loss is limited to -1.5%. In order to fund the MFG protection, funding gains under the NFF transitional arrangements have been required to be capped to 2.29%. In addition to the capping and MFG arrangement the minimum per pupil funding level has been applied for 2019/20 which is £3,500 per pupil for primary pupils and £4,800 per pupil for secondary pupils.

4.0 MAINTAINED NURSERY SCHOOLS SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING

- 4.1 The current supplementary funding allocation provided by the DfE to enable the funding levels for the universal provision provided by Maintained Nursery Schools to be protected at the 2016/17 funding level is in place until 31st March 2020.

Schools & Early Years Funding Update

4.2 On the 28th February the DfE announced that a further £24 million in supplementary funding will be provided to local authorities for Maintained Nursery Schools to enable the continuation of the funding protection for the whole of the 2019-20 academic year. At the time of writing this report, no detailed information has been received from the DfE in relation to the allocation of this further funding allocation.

4.3 In the announcement, The DfE also indicated that the forthcoming 2019 Spending Review will determine the longer term funding provision of Maintained Nursery Schools alongside wider early years' considerations.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The Schools Forum is asked to note the recent developments related to Schools and Early Years funding.

STUART CARLTON

Corporate Director – Children and Young People's Service

Report prepared by: Sally Dunn, Head of Finance for Schools & Early Years