

Schools Forum			
REPORT TITLE	Update on 30 Hrs of Funded Childcare Entitlement for Working Parents		
KEY DECISION	Yes	Item No.	10
CLASS		Date	22 June 2017

1. Purpose of the Report

This report updates members on the progress around the implementation of the 30 hrs of funded childcare for working parents which begins in September 2017.

2. Recommendation:

- That there should be a review of the agreed charge that a maintained provision should make for any additional purchased hours and that schools should consider which of the charges shown should apply.

Which of the rates shown below should be used as the standard charging rate for any additional hours a parent might wish to purchase?

- The basic rate as provided by the new Early Years Funding formula = **£4.94** per hr
- A rate increase of 56p per hr = **£5.50** per hr
- A rate increase of 1.06 per hr = **£6.00** per hr

Schools should consider which of the rates best match their needs in terms of supporting delivery of provision.

The result of the consultation will be brought back to the next schools forum meeting and if agreed will be taken forward to mayor and cabinet with a recommendation on the standard hourly rate.

3. Background & Update

The Early years Sub Group has continued to meet since submitting its annual report on 8th Dec 2016 in which it made 3 recommendations for consideration in relation to the Early Years National Funding Formula. The Early Years Sub Group has met monthly during 2017 in order to consider the implementation of the 30 hours policy and the wide implications this has for the childcare market as a whole.

Agenda items have included:

- **Family information Service**
- *Are you Prepared, sustainability and managing change*
- *Capital Funding Outcomes* - Lewisham submitted 4 successful bids 3 are now proceeding
- **Managing the Inclusion Fund**
- *Locality information & other key issues*
- *Modelling delivery of 30 hrs*
- **Operational Guidance**
- **Childcare Choices** website and information
- **Early Years Partnership Board**
- **Setting a standard charge for additional hours**

Updates are provided below on the most relevant aspects:-

3.1 Family information Service:

The family information service will act as a conduit for all information about early years. It will ensure that information is clearly available about services and provision, and is easily accessible to parents. It will also enable us to identify links and connections much more easily and therefore ensure that we are operating at optimum impact.

3.2 Managing the inclusion Fund:

From April 2017 local authorities have been required to implement an Inclusion Fund. Lewisham has set aside £200k (*1% of the available funding*). This fund is available for providers to access to support children at SEN support and applications are being submitted by providers across the sector. It is being financially administered by the Early Years Quality and Sufficiency Team and will provide resources to support inclusion and intervention for a child with additional needs over a term.

3.3 The Operational Guidance:

The operational guidance to support the delivery of the 30 hours extended entitlement has now been published.

This builds on the statutory guidance and is intended to support local authorities and providers understand in more detail the Department for Education's expectations about how the free entitlements should be delivered.

3.4 Childcare Choices – The Childcare Service System

The Childcare Service System has also now gone live for parents with children up to the age of 4. This means that parents wishing to access the 30 hours free childcare entitlement from September, will now be able to apply using the system.

The systems that providers will use (*including nurseries and nursery classes*) to validate codes that parents provide them with is now established. Lewisham will use a web services system that will allow providers to initially check eligibility themselves, via an online portal.

Schools are in the process of offering places for the Autumn term.

3.5 Early Years Partnership Board:

The sub group also considered the terms of reference and the make-up of the Early Years Partnership Board which will bring together stakeholder representatives working with children and young people across Lewisham to oversee the delivery of services that support children 0-5 and their families.

The EYPB's aim is to ensure that there is an overarching strategy that promotes joined up working and to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the variety of approaches used across all agencies within the LB Lewisham.

3.6 Setting a standard charge for additional hours in maintained provision:

One of the aspects given consideration is whether the agreed standard hourly rate that maintained provision *i.e. nursery schools and nursery classes* should charge parents for any additional hours they require should remain. The recommendation of the sub group was that it should continue, but be reviewed (*as this has not happened since 2010*) and that schools be consulted about any change to the rate.

There are implications for parents in increasing the charge, over the current EYNFF rate, however schools are facing considerable funding cuts and as a result of the EYNFF have already had to accommodate a decrease (*4% for primaries and 36% for nursery schools*) in the hourly rate for 3 & 4 yr olds.

At whichever rate the majority of schools select it would continue to provide a standard charge across maintained provision in Lewisham. It is logical for the Local Authority to be charging the same fee for the same service across the Borough.

It continues to provide an opportunity for a school to sell surplus places that would not have otherwise have been used. Any level of fee is beneficial to the alternative of not having the place filled. The only financial disadvantage is if the paying places led to extra staff being required, therefore resulting in extra costs.

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