

<b>Schools Forum</b>			
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>Spending Review of Selected DSG Budgets</b>		
<b>KEY DECISION</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Item No.</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>CLASS</b>	<b>Part 1</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>7 December 2017</b>

### 1. Purpose of the Report

As part of the budget setting process it was agreed that it was not possible to review all the budgets in the Dedicated School Grant in one meeting when the total Dedicated School Grant budget was set as it did not allow sufficient time to give proper consideration to the issues. Officers were therefore asked to bring a rolling programme of reviews. This report reviews the Inclusion Fund

### 2. Recommendation

That the Forum agrees to keep the budget for Inclusion Fund at the same level in 2018/19 as in 2017/18 of £200k

### 3. Inclusion Fund

- 3.1 As of April 2017 it became a requirement for local authorities to set up a local inclusion fund to support EYFS providers to secure better outcomes for children with SEN.  
In January 2017. The Early Years sub group agreed that the Inclusion Fund for the financial year 2017-2018 would be £200,000. Early years block funding was used to create this fund.
- 3.2 Providers (*schools, nurseries and childminders*) can apply for Inclusion Funding for a child in their setting if they meet some or all of the following criteria:
- They are accessing the early entitlement for 3 & 4 year olds (*15 hours universal childcare*)
  - The setting provides additional SEN support which is above what would be provided for all children
  - A referral has been made to a professional for advice and guidance in supporting the child (*e.g. Speech and Language Therapy*)

3.3 Termly applications are made to an Early Years Inclusion Board Panel and if agreed, funding is paid at £600 per child. During the first term (*April 2017- July 2017*), £52,000 was accessed by 37 providers for 87 children.

3.4 During the second term (*September 2017 – December 2017*), £49,200 was accessed by 34 providers for 82 children. *This figure may rise to £63,600 due to additional requests from 38 providers for 106 children. Some applications are still being processed due to requiring further information.*

3.5 Further breakdown is provided below:

<b>Applications</b>	Number of Children accessing 3 & 4 year old funding			4,997	
	April 2017	October 2017		April 2017	October 2017
Total no of children for whom Inclusion Fund applications were received	120	101	% of children applying for Inclusion Funding	120 (2%)	
Number of maintained nursery schools applying for Inclusion Funding	2 From a potential 2 100%	2	Number of children from Maintained nursery schools applying	15 (12%)	12
Number of maintained nursery classes applying for Inclusion Funding	15 From a potential 58 25%	9	Number of children from Maintained nursery classes applying	30 (25%)	25
Number of PVI settings applying for Inclusion Funding	20 From a potential 134 14%	23	Number of children from PVIs applying for Inclusion Funding	75 (63%)	63
<b>Decisions</b>					
Agreed	90 (75%)	82	Number and % of Children with EAL	34 (28%)	

Deferred	10 (8%0	14	Number and % children with EHC request in process	34 (28%)	
Declined	20 (17%)	3	Number and % of children that had received Two Year Old Funding	62 (52%)	
Children with DLA applying for Inclusion Funding	25 (21%)	27	Number of children in receipt of DLA whose setting have applied for DAF.	20	

### 3.6 Things that have gone well/Impact

The new arrangements have:

- Given the LA an increased understanding of the needs at SEN support level of our youngest children before they reach statutory school age. This enables services within the LA to work more effectively to meet the needs of children with SEN.
- Developing staff team capacity, building knowledge and confidence in order to support children's needs more effectively.
- Highlighted the need for greater communication and collaborative across the partnership.

*"We are planning to use the funding to pay for Makaton signing training for all early years staff so that they can support our student (EAA) around school. It is important that Esther is able to communicate her needs and with others; that she is understood by and understands key staff supporting her. It should make a difference to E's well-being and progress."* M. Allen, SENCO, HAAF.

*"The Inclusion Funding would make a huge impact to the provision for two children in our Nursery. Both children are displaying significantly high levels of need, who have been diagnosed for ASD. We are currently in the process of applying for EHCP funding for both children. In the meantime this extra support would make a **huge** difference. The money will be spent on Key Resources such as –*

- *Specialised Resources recommended by Drumbeat (such as a cushion for one child to sit and focus)*
  - *Sensory resources*
  - *Apps for iPad which support children on the ASD spectrum*
  - *extra staffing to cover the provision required during the lunch period*
- It will make a massive difference to these two lovely children.”*  
Dean Houson, St Saviours RC Primary School.

### 3.7 Challenges:

The challenges of the new system have been:

- Establishing an effective electronic system for sharing information and application. Ensuring that data protection practices meet the new requirements.
- Developing a coordinated and efficient approach to monitoring impact across the partnership.
- Inclusion funding is highly valued but on occasion has drawn attention to the needs of even younger children, for example funded two year olds. This highlights the potential impact that earlier intervention could bring.

### 3.8 Impact of Inclusion Fund to date:

At this point it is too early to measure any direct impact on individual children, however there has been a positive impact on provider engagement and as a result:

- There has been an Increase in requests for Drumbeat’s INSET training.
- A decrease in the number of SEN support cases ‘causing concern’ from PVI’s, from 18 cases in April to 4 cases in November.

Attendance on PVI SENCO forums and training has increased. *We have seen a 12% increase in attendance on PVI SENCO forums and a 50% increase in attendance on PVI SEN training sessions since the introduction the Inclusion Funding in April 2017*

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