

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Cabinet	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	13th November 2013	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 2596
TITLE:	Capital Allocation of the Department for Education (DfE) Grant provided for Early Learning for Two Year Olds	
WARD:	Twerton, Radstock, Keynsham South	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Section 6 Childcare Sufficient Assessment 2013 (see background papers for link to the full report)		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 From September 2014 up to 40% of 2 year old children will access a free early learning place. The DfE provide a revenue grant within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) to pay for places. A small capital grant has been provided to expand provision where additional provision is required. Cabinet are required to approve the expenditure.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To action recommendation 6.3 of the 2013 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment by using available capital to increase the supply of 2 year old places in the areas identified as follows:

Twerton, Bath
Keynsham
Writhlington, Radstock

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 The capital allocation from the DfE totals £201,874
- 3.2 Bath and North East Somerset Council has also secured Section 106 capital in two of the proposed locations for the increase and/or improvement of Early Years Childcare provision as follows, £25,934 in Keynsham and £9,445 in Radstock.
- 3.3 It is expected that the Council follows the requirements of the Childcare Act (2006) in enabling projects across the Early Years Childcare sector which is Private, Voluntary, Independent (PVI), School and Local Authority provision.
- 3.4 Due to the limited size of the budget; the need to expand provision in the areas where take up will be greatest and supply of available places is lowest; as the offer is targeted rather than universal, combined with the requirement that the 2 year old entitlement should only be offered in Ofsted Good or Outstanding provision; there will be a very limited or no choice option in locations where these projects can happen, subject to both the childcare provider's agreement and Council planning regulations.
- 3.5 Revenue funding for places is provided through the DSG (rather than Council funding) which is assessed through the Early Years Census so that every additional place funded is remunerated through the DSG. This enhances the resources available for support functions, for example providing support to providers to attend case conferences regarding the needs of individual children as part of the funding formula applied. The planning, development and administration ensuring both sufficiency places and allocating the funding are carried out in accordance with the schools funding regulations provided by the DfE.
- 3.6 There is no additional cost of meeting both the delivery and administration of the scheme as it has been absorbed within an existing staffing structure and administration processes for delivering Childcare Sufficiency and the 3 and 4 year old entitlement.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1 From September 2013 all eligible 2 year old children and their families meeting the DfE published criteria have been statutorily entitled to up to 570 hours of early learning a year subject to a maximum of 15 hours per week over a minimum of 38 weeks a year. This offer will be increased to a further group of eligible children from September 2014. This proposal is therefore considered in line with relevant consideration of equalities, children, public health and inequalities legislation relevant to this offer.

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 In September 2009 all Councils in England began piloting an offer of a 2 year old early learning targeted at the most economically disadvantage families in order to narrow the attainment gap as measured during key assessment stages as a child goes through their education. In Bath and North East Somerset Council our initial objective was to reach 50 children for 10 hours a week for at least 38 weeks a year. In 2011 it was announced that from September 2013 the two year

old offer would become a statutory entitlement for 20% of children in England and in the Autumn Statement later that year it was announced that the entitlement would be increased further to 40% of 2 year old children from September 2014.

5.2 Bath and North East Somerset Council was set an indicative target of 248 children to fund from September 2013. To date we have now reached 263 children with the additional places being funded by the “trajectory funding.” This is also included within the DSG to help Councils work towards their 2014 objective. Rather than try and make a single jump from one September’s objective to the next when the indicative target doubles, the “trajectory funding” enables some linear growth to occur. The DfE are anticipating confirming the 2014 objective for all Councils in November 2013.

5.3 The current eligibility criteria for accessing a 2 year old place are as follows:

All two year olds who are looked after by their local authority are eligible.

Two year olds whose family receives one of the following are also eligible:

- income support
- income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- support through part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (but not Working Tax Credit) and have an annual income not over £16,190
- the Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

From September 2014 the follow additional eligibility criteria will apply:

- if their families receive Working Tax credits and have annual gross earnings of no more than £16,190 per year
- if they have a current statement of special educational needs (SEN) or an education, health and care plan
- if they attract Disability Living Allowance
- if they are looked after by their local authority
- if they have left care through special guardianship or through an adoption or residence order

The benefits and earnings criteria for families on Universal Credit will be confirmed at a later date.

5.4 In order to help identify families the Council has been provided with information about eligible families by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) which has been mapped alongside existing Council data and reports, including the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2013, in order to identify where there may be a shortfall in provision. The results were included as recommendation 6.3 of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2013 and these capital funding sources can be used to address this recommendation.

6 RATIONALE

6.1 Due to the limited amount of capital and targeted nature of the 2 year old entitlement the funding has to be allocated where the demand for places will be and where places need to be created in order to meet that demand.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 None

8 CONSULTATION

8.1 Two year old entitlement steering group, project initiation and capital strategy groups.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

Contact person	Philip Frankland 01225 394330
Background papers	<p>DfE Early learning for 2-year-olds: Information for LAs: LA funding allocations http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/earlylearningandchildcare/delivery/free%20entitlement%20to%20early%20education/b0070114/eefortwoyearolds/la-funding-allocations Letter to Local Authorities from Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Education and Childcare regarding Early Learning for Two Year Olds https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/letter-from-elizabeth-truss-to-local-authorities-about-early-learning-for-2-year-olds Early Education and childcare: statutory guidance for local authorities http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/earlylearningandchildcare/delivery/Free%20Entitlement%20to%20Early%20Education/g00209650/code-of-practice-for-las Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2013 http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/children-young-people-and-families/childcare-early-years-play/childcare-sufficiency-assessm</p>
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