

## Impact of implementing the Single Funding Formula

# Have you thought of?

- Organising a meeting with your local MP and councillors to explain to them, the impact of the Single Funding Formula on your setting
- Trying to get the local media interested in the plight of your nursery school:
  - ◆ Use the Early Education press release template as a starting point and amend it so that the issues that relate to your local area are reflected
  - ◆ Make sure you have local parents who use your school who are happy to speak to the local press about how the changes or closure of the nursery school is going to affect their lives. The press love the human interest angle!
  - ◆ Identify articulate spokespeople who are free to speak to the press – your governors could be good people to use as are likely to be less constrained as they are not employees of the local authority.
- Asking your parents and supporters to write to the local paper highlighting the plight of your local nursery school and expressing concern about the changes/closure of your maintained nursery school that have been brought about by the implementation of the Single Funding Formula
- Asking your parents and supporters to write to the local MP and councillors highlighting the plight of your local nursery school and expressing concern about the changes/closure of your maintained nursery school that have been brought about by the implementation of the Single Funding Formula. For details of how to contact your local MP and councillors visit [www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com)
- Encouraging your parents and supporters to sign the Early Education petition on the Number 10 website. <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/EarlyYearsSFF/>
- If there is more than one maintained nursery school in your local area who is going to be affected or closed through the changes being brought about by the implementation of the Single Funding Formula, work together to highlight each others plights!

## Impact of implementing the Single Funding Formula

*Is there an awareness by the local authority that some services currently provided by your setting may need to receive funding from other sources if your budget is cut?*

*If funding is not available for services such as those outlined below, then the quality of provision in your setting and other settings will be adversely affected.*

- Involvement in the children's centre services (working with a multi-agency team, liaising with partners to provide the full range of children's services)
- Managing extended day/year facilities for children
- Support for parents (toy libraries, workshops, parenting courses, 1:1 support)
- Attendance at safeguarding case conferences and related planning and monitoring groups
- Delivery and co-ordination of support for children with special needs and disabilities
- Support for other providers and practitioners (information and guidance, setting visits, training and professional development of practitioners)
- Support for students (placements for NVQ students, support for EYPs)
- Support for transitions to primary schools, particularly for vulnerable children

*Is the local authority currently funding more than the 12.5 hours free entitlement?*

A number of local authorities are currently funding more than the free entitlement for children identified as 'at risk' or 'in need'. These places are usually delivered in the maintained sector which consistently shows is more effective. Historically, funding for this has come from the authorities own budget with a rationale that additional 'free' hours (usually amounting to 25 hours per week in total) encourages participation by children whose parents would usually access fewer hours and who do not have the resources to pay for a longer day themselves.

It would be a regressive step if in extending the free entitlement from 12.5 hours to 15 hours per week leads to a reduction in the hours available to the most vulnerable children whose parents do not have the resources to pay for extended hours themselves.

Department for Children, Schools and Families guidance categorically states that "meeting the needs of deprived children is a key part of the Government's objective of narrowing the gap between children from different backgrounds... Funding for deprivation will be a mandatory part of the EYSFF and, as such, LAs should incorporate a deprivation supplement into their formula." *Implementing the Early Years Single Funding Formula, Practice Guidance, July 2009*

***If it is not going to be possible for your setting to continue to deliver extended full time places to this group of children, questions also need to be asked as to how the needs of this group of children are going to be met.***