

Impact of implementing the Single Funding Formula

Questions to make sure you have the answers to

Does the formula proposed in your local authority area include the following:

Recognition of the costs related to **legal** requirements for your setting

- In nursery classes, a qualified teacher (QTS) and NVQ level 3 qualified staff>
- In nursery schools, a head teacher, qualified teacher (QTS) and NVQ level 3 staff
- Governing bodies;

(NB: man local authorities are putting in a supplement for the cost of a head teacher in a nursery school. Check to see whether this is the intention of your local authority?)

Recognition of premises, rates and rent costs for your setting if appropriate;

Recognition of the need for some funding for spare capacity for emergency safe-guarding admissions;

Sufficient funding through the deprivation element to protect vulnerable groups and help to close the gap;

Recognition of the particular needs of

- Looked after children
- Children in need
- Children with special needs and disabilities
- Children from some minority ethnic groups;

Recognition of the increased co-ordination and liaison requirements of a multi-professional workforce to meet the needs of these groups;

In the recently published DCSF 'Implementing the Early Years Single Funding Formula Practice Guidance, July 2009', there is an expectation that local authorities will use the formula to target funding to the most deprived.

Recognition of the costs for small stand alone schools (nursery and primary) who are required to meet all the policies and procedures of larger schools without the ability to spread the costs of the administration, HR , finance, catering and professional development across a larger number of children;

Provision in the formula for sustainability;

Recognition in the formula that it will not necessarily result in the same hourly rate for all settings as it must reflect the real costs of providing free entitlement by different providers.



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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.