

Bristol Schools Forum
Early Years Supplementary Grant 2023/2024

Date of meeting:	28 th November 2023
Time of meeting:	5.00 pm
Venue:	City Hall

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 This report provides information of the recently announced Early Years Supplementary Grant (EYSG).

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 **Schools Forum is invited to:**

a) note the provision of the grant for 2023/2024.

3 Background

- 3.1 The Early Years Supplementary Grant (EYSG) is a funding initiative to provide additional financial support for existing early years entitlements during the current financial year (23/24) starting from September 2023..
- 3.2 This grant is specifically intended for local authorities to increase the hourly rates paid to childcare providers who offer the government's existing entitlement programs, with LAs passing all of the available funding through to providers; to there is no centrally retained funding as is permitted from the usual EY DSG Block, which is passed at 95%, with 5% retention.
- 3.3 The announced sum for Bristol's allocation of the supplementary grant is £843,216 and covers the funding period September 2023 to March 2024.

4 Use of the Early Years Supplementary Grant

- 4.1 The grant provides supplementary funding for all existing early years funding streams including:
- 2Year Olds, (government funded hours for parents on low or no income)
 - 3-4Year Olds, (government funded hours for universal and extended hours for working parents)
 - Disability Access Fund (DAF for children who claim disability living allowance);

- Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP children who meet the eligibility criteria, which is the same as free school meals).
- Maintained Nursery schools supplementary funding (MNSS)

4.2 The funding provided via the Early Years Supplementary Grant (EYSG) is in addition to and separate from funding provided via the Early Years Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the existing entitlements in 2023-24 and is subject to its own terms and conditions of grant.

4.3 This additional funding is for local authorities to increase hourly rates paid to childcare providers for the government’s existing entitlement offers.

4.4 The allocation is based on the published rates in September 2023 and the rate will remain same for 7 months from September 2023 to March 2024. The reasoning for this separate funding stream is due to LA’s being unable to change the published funding rate in that same financial year. De-delegated resources (Nil variance). At this stage of the year it is anticipated that this will be in a balanced position. Any variance will be carried forwards to future years.

4.5 LAs must pass on the EYSG in full to early years providers for each of the funding streams. LAs have the flexibility to determine how best to pass on this funding to their providers..

4.6 It should be noted that the DfE does not require local authorities to consult their Schools Forum but encourages local authorities to engage appropriately with their early years providers about the funding amounts from September, with the uplift reflected in the actual headcount October payment for providers.

4.7 The additional funding from September 2023 for the funding streams are as set out in the table below:

	Current rates	Increase to rate through EYSG	New rates from Sept 23
Three- and four-years olds	£4.71	0.06p	£4.77
Two-year-olds	£5.86	£1.91	£7.77
DAF	£828.00	£53.00	£881.00
Pupil Premium (EYPP)	£0.62p	£0.04	£0.66
MNSS	£3.08	£0.21	£4.01

- 4.8 Based on the provided context for the grant, for 2024-25, the additional grant will be integrated into the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Any surplus on the supplementary grant can be utilized to offset overspending on the main Early years grant.
- 4.9 The funding rates to Local Authorities for 2024-25 will be announced later in the autumn in line with the Department for Education's regular timetable. The funding rates paid to Providers will be revised with effect from April 2024.

Expansion of Early Years Entitlement for children aged 2 & Under 2s

- 4.10 The Department for Education (DfE) have extended the early education offer to working parents of children aged:
- Under 2 years (term after 9th month birthday to end of term they turn 2) – Sept 24
 - 2 year olds (term after 2nd birthday to end of term they turn 3) – April 24
 - Further information is expected to be presented to the Schools Forum in January 2024

Wrap Around Childcare for Schools and Academies

- 4.11 The Department for Education (DfE) have commenced a project to deliver 'wrap around childcare' for all children in primary schools/academies between 0800 and 1800 to support working parents, beginning in September 2024.

Further information is expected to be presented to the Schools Forum in January 2024