



Agenda Item
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Report Status

For information/note X
For consultation & views □
For decision X

Paper for Schools Forum Meeting - 13 October 2022.

Report Title: Early Years DSG underspend plan

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Purpose: To provide Schools Forum with an overview of how we will spend the Early Years DSG underspend

Recommendations:

1. That Schools Forum notes the £879,000 underspend will be spent on increasing the free for 2 take up, universal speech, language and communication pathway in early years and funding the gap in changes to the deprivation funding.
2. That, following the recommendations of its Early years Working Group, Schools Forum agrees the early years DSG underspend be spent in the methods set out in this report.

1. Introduction

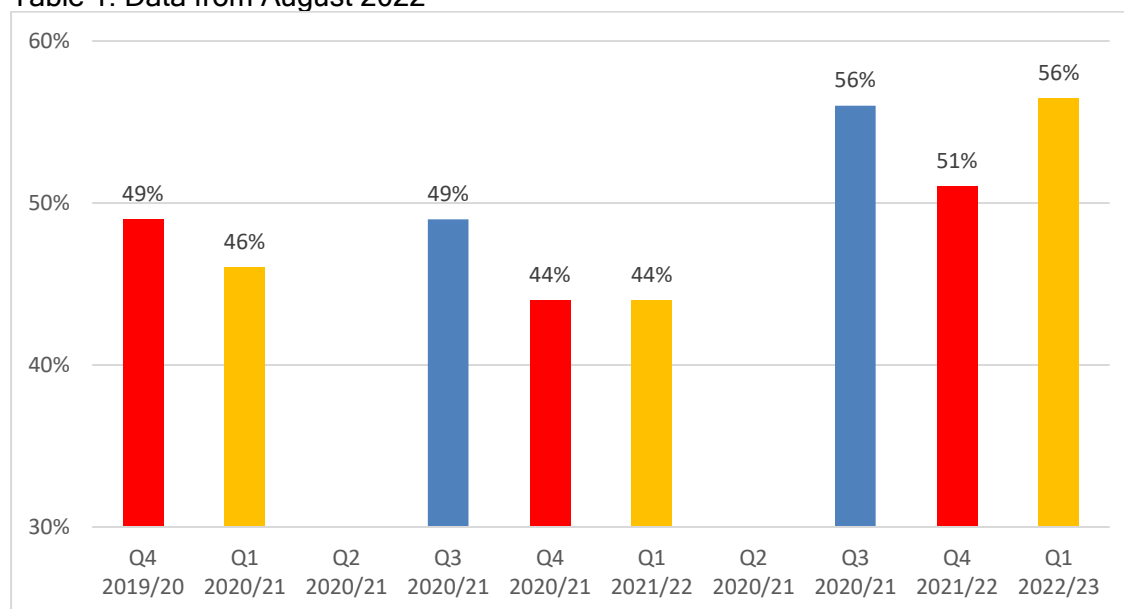
- 1.1 DSG is allocated to the council based on the January census information. This information is re-adjusted mid- year, this means that if less children attend than the previous year an underspend is built up. Given the decline in pupil numbers seen in 2020, into 2021, it was anticipated that claw-back from DfE was likely. £1.46 m underspend was placed in DSG reserves and would enable the clawback to be accommodated without a direct impact on 2021 financial year. In November 2021, DfE confirmed that a negative adjustment of £583,959 had been applied to our 2020/21 early years DSG allocation. Drawing on early year's reserves, this leaves a closing reserve balance of £879,000.
- 1.2 The purpose of this paper is for Schools Forum members to note the Early Years working groups recommendation to use the underspend on increasing the free for 2 take up, universal speech, language and communication pathway in early years and funding the gap in changes to the deprivation funding

2. Increasing the free for two take up £479,215

- 2.1 The free for two offer provides families on low income and a select group of vulnerable families e.g., those on CP or CIN, 15 hours of free early education. This is an excellent early intervention tool to support families into education, training, work. Haringey's take up is particularly low and has always been low since the scheme was established in 2013 in comparison to neighbouring local authorities see chart below.

Take up has historically been low, however we have seen an increase in uptake from 49% Autumn term 2020/21 to 56% summer term 2022/23 and Summer 2022 free for 2 take up was 51% the national average free for 2 take up is 68%.

Table 1. Data from August 2022



- 2.2 Targeted community work will enable focused work with four specific community groups, initial thoughts are to work with the following groups due to the low levels of GLD at the end of reception and the areas of the borough where take up is low and larger proportions of these communities live. We have chosen to work with the following groups:

- Turkish/Kurdish
- Somali
- Bulgarian's
- Latin American

- 2.3 £100,000 split four ways would be allocated to a children centre to commission four community groups to directly employ a worker from each community to:
- Engage their community in early years and early childhood services
 - Run stay and plays across the borough
 - Run focused stay and play 6-week course on importance of early education and early childhood services
 - DWP / URN calls and direct free for 2 promotion
 - Two events across the year
 - Enrol 20 children from each community group in the free for two scheme
- 2.4 Employment of a free for 2 champion via the children centre, employed on a pay scale SO1 at £45,000 which includes on costs for staff in the pension scheme. The children centre will also be allocated £16,000 to cover the cost of management, HR, hosting and laptops for the role. Their role will include:
- Work with PVI settings to support them to take up free for two
 - Promoting the free for two offer
 - Support children centres to develop their free for two offer
 - Develop key partnerships - job centre, health visiting, speech and language therapists, housing and adults social care
 - Increase the free for two take up by 100 children, currently at 609 taking it to 709.
- 2.5 Each children centre will be given £2,500 to run free for two promotional events across the year across all early years settings in their reach areas. Children centre's will share when and where they are running these events on the Family Information Service Directory, with other children centres and early years settings.
- 2.6 A service level agreement for the funding for children centres will be drafted documenting clear project aims and objectives, with associated outputs and outcomes to achieve and monitoring procedures. Monitoring of the work will be carried out quarterly and feedback to the Early Years Working Group and any changes to agreed funding will be approved via the same group.
- 2.7 Children centres will be invited to put an expression of interest in, if there are more than two centres interested then we will move this to a procurement process and have a transparent bidding process supported by procurement.
- 2.8 £295,715 will be allocated directly to early years settings including nurseries, schools, PVI's and childminders to increase the free for two take up.
- Every new free for 2 place that is created in a early years setting will be given a bonus one off following the end of the first term of that place being filled. Nurseries, schools and PVI's will be given £500 and childminders will be given £200.
 - Every nurseries, schools and PVI's that has a free for 2 place will be able to access money to promote the places £250 PVI/£75 childminder
 - A list of appropriate equipment for every setting with free for two places £500 nurseries, schools and PVI's /£150 childminder

- One off funding of £170 per free for two place filled for early years settings who have had an existing free for 2-year-old place over the last three terms 2021-22.

3. **Speech, language, and communication needs (SLCN) pathway £359,320**

3.1 Speech, language and communication is at the heart of child development. Needs are strongly linked to deprivation and poverty in the early years, and research shows their presence has a detrimental impact on educational outcomes, employment, youth offending, health and wellbeing. An agreed model for a speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) pathway has been developed which incorporates a tiered model with a universal offer for all children, targeted support for those needing a little more input, personalised approach for those who need a modified approach based on their needs and a specialist service for those who require focused 1-1 therapy from a Speech and Language Therapist. The SLCN pathway will place speech, language and communication at the centre of our approach to child development and will support everyone involved in the speech and language development of children. The pathway will set out a proportionate, responsive offer to all levels of need, with a focus on early intervention and prevention. The pathway will make the best use of specialist skills and capacity to manage demand effectively.

3.2 SLCN Early Years leads - £233,770 will be given to a children centre to run a launch event, costing £12,000, for the SLCN pathway in early years, employ and manage the four SLCN early years leads, employed on a pay scale SO1 and the children centre will be allocated £45,000 to include on costs for staff in the pension scheme, whose remit is to:

- Attend train the trainer ICAN training
- Deliver ICAN training to PVI's
- Modelling ICAN practices in PVI's
- Support PVI's with SLCN audits
- Run parent and child groups across the borough

The children centre will be allocated £23,770 to manage the staff including HR, recruitment, space to host them and IT equipment.

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3.4 Children centres will be invited to put an expression of interest in, if there are more than two centres interested then we will move this to a procurement process and have a transparent bidding process supported by procurement.

3.5 Early Years setting, including nurseries, schools and PVI's will be allocated £125,550 for SLCN work, this includes funding to back fill staff to attend ICAN training to become a communication champion for their setting, early years talk kits and progression kits for each communication champion in a nurseries, schools and PVI's will get £500 to spend on SLCN specified resources from a pre identified shopping list

4. **Covering the loss of funding for PVI's and childminders from the change in deprivation funding - £26,398**

- 4.1 It was agreed at the Early Years Working group in February 2022 that changes to the deprivation funding that left any setting or childminder on less money than they received the previous year would be reimbursed on a one off payment basis out of the DSG underspend.
- 4.2 28 settings lost money which included: 12 childminders, 7 school nurseries, 5 nurseries, 3 playgroups and 1 independent. Losses ranged from £3 - £3852. All settings will be given the exact amount of money back that they lost due to changes in the deprivation funding calculations.
- 5. **Contingency - £14,067**
- 5.1 Contingency kept in reserve in case things get more costly, specifically if more settings take on free for 2 places or through monitoring we decide to invest more in an aspect of the project.