

**Agenda Item
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Report Status

For information/note
For consultation & views
For decision

Report to Haringey Schools' Forum – 2nd July 2026

Report Title: Early Years Block 2025-26 outturn and reserve proposals

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Purpose:

1. To update Schools' Forum on Early Years Block 2025/26 outturn
2. To update Schools' Forum on the costings of reserve spend proposals agreed to date
3. To update Schools' Forum on proposed future reserve spending

Recommendations:

1. To note the Early Years Block 2025/26 outturn
2. To note the costings of reserve spend proposals agreed to date
3. To note the proposed future reserve spend

1. Early Years Block

1.1 Early Years Block 2025/26

The Early Years Block outturn for 2025/26 is detailed in table A Below:

Table A – Funding Entitlements and Allocation	2025/26 March Allocation	2025/2026 Outturn
	£'000s	£'000s
Universal entitlement for 3 & 4 year olds	12,776	12,247
Additional 15 hrs for 3 & 4 year old working parents	4,810	4,532
2 year old requiring additional support	3,025	2,781
2 year old entitlement for working parents	7,017	7,302
Under 2s entitlement	11,474	11,596
Early years pupil Premium for 3 & 4 year olds	356	330
Early years pupil premium for 2 year olds	170	146
Early years pupil premium for under 2s	11	12
Disability access Fund for 3 & 4 year olds	107	37
Disability access fund for 2 year olds	39	1
Disability access fund for under 2s	6	1
Maintained nursery school supplementary funding	1,373	1,421
Centrally Retained	1,629	1,169
Total Early Years DSG	42,793	41,575

As at 31st March 2026 the EY block is currently showing an underspend of £1.2million. The final outturn position for 2025/2026 will be confirmed in July 2026 by the department of education.

2. Early Years Funding Reserves

The Early Years Working Group have agreed to distribute £425k EY reserves for the following projects:

2.1 Early Years Conference

Total cost **£6,000**

2.2 Language Enhancement and Empowerment Project (LEEP)

Total cost of LEEP **£45,000**

2.3 Priority Early Learning Places

2.3.1 The Priority Early Learning Places (PELP) model aims to improve early education outcomes for children under two who are identified as being in need, ensuring the Council meets its statutory duties under the Children Act 1989.

2.3.2 We want to establish a PELP panel to coordinate childcare placements for vulnerable children. The goal is to ensure that children facing significant challenges enter school healthy, happy, and ready to learn. Children allocated PELP places will be fully integrated alongside their peers in mainstream early years environments, including:

- Children's centres
- Nursery schools
- Primary school nurseries
- PVI Settings
- Childminders

2.3.3 This inclusive model will promote socialisation, equity, and access to high quality early years support and services.

2.3.4 Total cost of the PELP **£57,511**

2.4 Deferred Entry to Reception

2.4.1 The Early Years Working Group has been reviewing the needs of children who, due to SEND or emotional development, may benefit from remaining in an early year's setting for an additional year rather than transferring to Reception at the usual point of entry. Work will be undertaken to set a budget and criteria for access to a third term of funding for these children when required. To ensure a consistent and transparent approach across the system, the group recommends that Schools Forum consider funding children for whom the Early Years funding has stopped

2.4.2 Total cost of the deferred entry to reception **£26,871**

2.5 Early Years Access to HAF-Style Provision for Vulnerable Families

2.5.1 It is recognised that some families would benefit greatly from an early years holiday provision. Families with children under 5 are currently not eligible for HAF, despite often facing the same financial pressures, food insecurity, and social isolation as families with school-aged children.

2.5.2 Early intervention is critical. Providing structured activities, nutritious meals, and wraparound support during school holidays can significantly improve outcomes for children's development, wellbeing, and family stability.

Key Components of the Proposed Provision would include:

- Free or low-cost holiday sessions delivered through any Early Years setting.
- Healthy meals and snacks aligned with EYFS nutritional guidance.
- Play-based learning activities that support communication, social skills, physical development, and school readiness.
- Family support access, including signposting to food banks, parenting support, early help, SEND services, and mental health resources.
- Flexible attendance models to accommodate younger children's routines

2.5.3 Work will be undertaken to develop an application process for settings and eligibility criteria.

2.5.4 Total cost of the holiday provision for vulnerable families **£38,052**

2.6 One off payment per setting & payment per child

2.6.1 The Local Authority and Early Years Working Group agreed that any remaining underspends would be distributed equitably to early years settings. The distribution model for these payments were agreed below:

- One off payment of £250 per setting – **Cost £52,250**
- Per child payment to settings of £17.86 based on 11,157 pupils - **Cost £199,264**
- **Total cost £251,514**

3. Proposed future use of reserves

3.1 Schools Forum to consider continuation of the targeted package of early years initiatives designed to improve outcomes for vulnerable children aged 0–5, strengthen inclusion, and ensure the Local Authority meets its statutory duties.

The focus

- Deferred entry to Reception - A structured approach to reviewing and supporting children who may not be ready to transition into Reception at the standard point of entry.

- Early Years access to holiday provision for vulnerable families - This proposal recommends extending access to early years holiday-style provision for vulnerable families.
- Priority Early Learning Places - The Priority Early Learning Places model aims to improve early education outcomes for children under the age of two who are identified as being in need.

Recommendation/Decision

- 1) To note the Early Years Block 2025/26 outturn position**
- 2) To note the costings of reserve spend proposals agreed to date**
- 3) To note the proposed future reserve spend**

Appendix A - EYE Reserve Movement 2025-26

EYE Reserve Movement 2025-26	Total	Breakdown of Reserve	
Reconciliation	Reserve at 31-03-26	Schools/Settings Element	Centrally Retained Element
EYE - Reserve Balance at 31 March 2026	2,930,077	2,415,529	514,548
Less: Commitments (See below)	0	-548,848	0
Less: Retained Element	0	0	0
EYE - Revised Reserve Balance at 31 March 2026	£2,930,077	£1,866,681	£514,548
Committed against EYE Reserve		Schools/Settings Element	
Early Years Conference		-6,000	
Total cost of LEEP £45,000		-45,000	
Priority Early Learning Places		-57,511	
Deferred Entry to Reception		-26,871	
Early Years Access to HAF		-38,052	
One off payment per setting + payment per child		-251,514	
Total Expected Expenditure 26-27		-424,948	
Anchor Project - Committed		-232,000	
Spent in 2025-26		108,100	
Total Expected Expenditure 26-27		-123,900	
Total Expected Expenditure 26-27		-548,848	