



Haringey Council

The Children and Young People's Service

Report to Haringey Schools Forum – 25th March 2014

Agenda Item

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Report Status

For information/note
For consultation & views
For decision

Report Title: The distribution of full time nursery class place provision in Haringey's Schools for September 2014.

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Purpose: To provide Schools Forum members with options for the distribution of the available full time nursery places across Haringey schools for September 2014.

Recommendations:

1. That Schools Forum considers Options 2a, 2b and 3 set out in this paper and agree a new profile of full time place provision across Haringey's nursery school classes and nursery schools for September 2014.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to inform Schools Forum of a number of options being put forward by the Early Years Working Group for the distribution of full time places for September 2014.

2. Background

- 2.1 On 26th February 2014, a paper presented to Schools Forum set out the final stages of the implementation of changes to full time nursery class place provision for 3 and 4 year olds in Haringey's schools.
- 2.2 The effect of these changes is a reduction in the 351 full time places available in September 2013 to 175 for September 2014 and 118 for September 2015.
- 2.3 At the Schools Forum meeting on the 26th February, a paper, in response to the proposed changes, was tabled on behalf of the three maintained Nursery Schools in Haringey. In summary, the paper proposed that Schools Forum consider that the allocation of all full time places be made to the three nursery schools as a part of a wider strategy to support their long term sustainability and their ability to provide integrated care and education to the families of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable three and four year olds.
- 2.4 It was agreed by Schools' Forum that a meeting of the Schools Forum's Early Years Working Group would be convened to give further consideration to the distribution of the available full time places for September 2014. It was agreed that the meeting would be followed by an additional meeting of the Schools Forum, prior to 31st March, in order that final decisions about the allocation of places across schools could be made and allow school early years budgets for 2014-15 to be issued within the statutory time frame.
- 2.5 The Schools Forum's Early Years Working Group met on the 5th March 2014. A further paper was tabled at this meeting on behalf of the Nursery schools. The paper proposed that changes for September 2014 be maintained but any unallocated full time places be distributed across the three nursery schools and primary schools that are also designated children's centres.
- 2.6 Officers reviewed the number of unused full time place allocations for the academic year September 2013-14 and have determined that, based on the revised allocations for September 2014, **10** places remain unallocated.
- 2.7 Officers also considered the utility of the £67,000 centrally retained funding for targeted full time places for the most vulnerable children in September 2013. This amount of funding provides the capacity for additional part-time hours, over and above their free entitlement, to be

offered to approximately 28 children. As very little use was made of this funding in 2013-14, the amount retained for 2014-15 can be reduced by 50% and therefore the capacity limited to approximately 14 children.

This change would enable an additional **14** places to be allocated directly to schools for September 2014.

- 2.8 An Early Help Framework is currently in development and will incorporate ways of working that will support the use of centrally retained funding for targeted place provision for our most vulnerable children from September 2014.
- 2.9 Following two meetings of the Schools Forum Early Years Working Groups and the review of unused and allocated places by Council officers, this paper now proposes some options for the distribution of the available 175 places including the additional 14 places.

3. Changes to full time place provision for September 2014:

3.1 Option 1

There was some consideration given as to whether a minimum allocation of 13 would present a more viable option for the distribution of places. This option would distribute places in blocks of 13, starting with the schools with the highest deprivation ranking and continuing on until there are no more places available. This option was reviewed by members of the Early Years Working Group and it was felt this could not be implemented at this point in time due to the potential implications on schools left without any allocation under this model of allocation. The profile for option 1 is presented at **Appendix 1** for completeness.

3.2 Option 2a or Option 2b

These options propose that the place allocation profile set out in the paper to Schools Forum on the 26th February is largely maintained but revised to take into account the re-distribution of a total of **14** unallocated and **10** unused places on the basis of either Option 2a or Option 2b

Key to the approach being taken here is to avoid creating too much turbulence for schools through the allocation of significant numbers of additional places for September 2014 that will be reduced again in September 2015.

3.2.1 Option 2a

To prioritise schools according to their pupil-based deprivation profile and apply the following methodology to the allocation of 24 places to schools, on top of the allocations set out in February 2014.

Deprivation Supplement Rate Banding	Additional places allocated
0.80 and above	3
0.70-0.79	2
0.60-0.69	1
0.59 and below	0

3.2.2 **Option 2b**

To distribute the 24 places needing to be reallocated evenly across all schools with an allocation of full time places.

The profile for Options 2a and 2b is presented in **Appendix 2**

3.3 **Option 3**

This option proposes that the place allocation profile set out in the paper to Schools Forum on the 26th February is revised on the basis that nursery schools and those schools with designated children's centres are prioritised for the allocation of any unallocated places. The rationale for this is that as integrated settings the nursery schools and children's centres are equipped to provide an additional package of support for vulnerable families who are allocated a full time place with them.

This option redistributes the 24 unallocated places across the nursery schools and school based children's centres; giving each an additional 3 places for September 2014 on top of the allocations set out in February 2014.

A revised profile for option 3 is presented in **Appendix 2**

4 **The provision of full time nursery places in Haringey from September 2015**

- 4.1 The options set out in this paper address the allocation of full time nursery place provision for the academic year September 2014-15 only and seek to utilise unused places to ensure children are able to benefit from them. The provision of full time places from September 2015 will be considered within the context of developing a robust strategy for Early Years in Haringey. Developments in Early Years Strategy and proposals for the future use of the Early Years Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant will be reported to the Schools Forum in due course.