

Report for: Cabinet Member Signing, 7th October 2016

Item number: 3

Title: **Funding Early Education in Haringey: Permission to Consult on Early Years Funding Proposals**

Report authorised by: Charlotte Pomery, Assistant Director, Commissioning

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Ward(s) affected: All

**Report for Key/
Non Key Decision:** Key

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 In March 2016, the Childcare Act 2016 was passed. This provides for an extended entitlement of up to 30 hours of free early education in each of 38 weeks in any year for the eligible three and four year old children of working parents. The Government intends that the extended entitlement will be introduced from September 2017. Draft statutory guidance¹, issued in March 2016, made it clear that the current duties on Haringey Council around sufficiency and access to the free entitlement will remain under the new plans.
- 1.2 The Department for Education (DfE) has developed proposals for a new national funding formula for early years which will inform the levels of Dedicated School Grant (DSG) Early Years block funding councils are likely to receive from April 2017 onwards, and has provided indicative funding rates for councils and early years providers for delivering the current universal 15 hour per week free entitlement offer and the forthcoming additional 15 hour per week offer for eligible 3 & 4 year old children of working parents. The DfE's consultation over these proposals closed on 22nd September 2016 and their response to the feedback given is awaited.
- 1.3 This report requests permission to launch a consultation with stakeholders and affected groups on a number of possible options for the application of the Dedicated Schools Grant Early Years block funding in Haringey from 2017-18 .

¹ *Early Education and Childcare*, Department for Education, March 2016

- 1.4 The outcome of the consultation and final options for a revised early years funding formula for Haringey will be set out in a report to Cabinet in February 2017.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

- 2.1 The long-awaited government consultation on a national funding formula for early years closed in September 2016 and contained proposals that are likely to have a significant impact on Haringey's early years sector and the local authority. The timing of the consultation, and when we can expect government to publish its response to the consultation, means that planning for the potential changes to Haringey's allocation of Early Years funding within the Dedicated Schools Grant from April 2017 is extremely challenging. This is not just the case in Haringey but for all local authorities in London and across England.
- 2.2 A positive feature of the national consultation appears to be the anticipated increases in funding rates for providers of the free early education entitlement for 2, 3 and 4 year olds. However, a cap on the amounts of early years DSG funding that the local authority can retain has wide-ranging implications, most notably on the continuing delivery of maintained childcare in Haringey. The cap will mean a significant reduction in the money that has, until now, been available to subsidise the cost of this type of childcare.
- 2.3 In light of the timing of the national consultation, the local authority has been encouraged to use the details contained within the consultation documents to begin local planning and decision-making processes so that, once the government's response to the consultation is published and final DSG funding allocations are known, we can be in a strong position to take forward the development of new early years funding formula for Haringey from April 2017. Launching our own local consultation on key areas of change at this time will enable us to begin a process of meaningful dialogue with Haringey's early years sector on a number of decisions that Council will need to take as a consequence of government plans, as well as gather the views of parents, carers and residents on aspects of change that will have an impact on their lives.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Cabinet Member for Children and Families is asked for permission to launch a consultation on proposals to:
- (i) Introduce the universal base rate proposed in Appendix 1 for providers of the three and four year old free entitlement from April 2017. Appendix 1 sets out how that rate has been calculated,
 - (ii) Set from 1st April 2017, a deprivation supplement at £0.40p per hour, per child.

- (iii) Introduce from September 2017 a single discretionary supplement of £0.12p per hour, per child, targeted towards supporting providers in the delivery of the additional 15 hours,
- (iv) Introduce from April 2017, a taper down from the current local authority funding rate of £6 per hour for providers of the 2 year old free entitlement, to the funding rate received by the local authority from the DfE as follows:

2017/18	£6.00
2018/19	£6.00
2019/20	£5.83
2020/21	£5.66

3.2 The Cabinet Member for Children and Families is also asked to agree a process of engagement, to run as part of the consultation process, as set out in Appendix 2, to gather views of residents, staff and governors on the following options:

- To replace the current, Council-determined single fee structure, applied across all eight maintained childcare settings with a new structure where fees differ from setting to setting.
- To remove the Council's involvement in the delivery of school-based provision, allowing the schools to set their own fees.
- To increase fees in the directly managed child care settings to mitigate the loss of subsidy funding.

4. Reasons for decision

4.1 Local authorities have been advised by the DfE to use the proposals set out in its consultation on an early years national funding formula to develop local funding formula arrangements and to progress local consultation and decision-making in order to meet the April 2017 deadline imposed for the introduction of the national funding formula for the existing universal 15 hours per week entitlement for eligible three and four year olds.

4.2 The proposals and options set out under paragraph 3, when put out to consultation, will enable the Council to gather views on, and shape the development of, options for how the Council will meet the requirements placed on it by government for funding early education from April 2017.

5. Alternative options considered

5.1 The alternative option would be for the Council not to launch a consultation at this stage and wait until the government publishes its response to the DfE's consultation exercise, alongside the final local authority funding allocations in the autumn. Uncertainty about when the government will issue their response and provide the information required to enable the Council to fully assess the implications means that if the Council was to await the response and the final local authority funding allocations, the timescale for developing a new local early years funding formula for Haringey from April 2017 may be impossible to meet.

6. Background information

6.1 DfE launched a government consultation on proposals for an Early Years National Funding Formula on Thursday 11th August 2016 which closed on 22nd September 2016. The consultation set out, in detail, proposals for:

- the way in which the three and four year old free entitlement is funded
- the levels of funding for the free early education entitlement for 2, 3 and 4 year olds to local authorities
- indicative funding rates for providers
- how local authorities are expected to administer the entitlements
- the amount of funding that can be centrally retained by local authorities

The proposals set out in the consultation introduce significant changes to the way in which early education will be funded from April 2017 and from September 2017

6.2 Haringey Council, like all local authorities, are required to develop plans for managing and implementing these changes, whilst ensuring the sufficiency of the universal 15 hour per week free early education places for all 3 and 4 year olds, the targeted 15 hour per week places for eligible 2 year olds and, from September 2017, additional 15 hour per week places for eligible 3 & 4 year olds.

6.3 The government, in their consultation document, recognised that the announcement of the outcome of the consultation in the autumn set a challenging timetable for local authorities to determine their local approach to funding free entitlement and advised local authorities to use the information and data provided within the consultation documents to begin developing local funding formula proposals through planning and discussion with providers and the schools forum.

6.4 It should be noted that this paper has been prepared ahead of the outcome of the government's consultation which is anticipated in the autumn and final

proposals may be subject to change depending on the outcome of the government consultation.

6.5 National Policy Context

6.5.1 The Childcare Act 2006 places a number of statutory responsibilities on the Council in relation to childcare and early education. These include;

- i. Improving the well-being of children under five in its area and reducing inequalities between them
- ii. Taking steps to identify parents or prospective parents in its area who would otherwise be unlikely to take advantage of early childhood services and encouraging them to do so
- iii. Providing information, advice and assistance for parents and prospective parents on the provision of childcare and other services in its area that benefit them, children or young people.
- iv. Securing, so far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient childcare to meet the requirements of parents in its area who are working or who are in education or training
- v. Securing free early years provision as prescribed by legislation
- vi. Assessing the quantity and quality of childcare provision in the borough
- vii. Providing information, advice and training to childcare providers and prospective providers

6.5.2 The Council's statutory role as commissioner and market manager is set out clearly in statutory guidance issued by the DfE under the Childcare Act 2006. It is expected to satisfy itself that:

- there is a sufficient range of places overall, taking into account demographic trends, and patterns of employment
- there is sufficient flexible childcare to fit with working patterns
- places are accessible, high quality, affordable and sustainable
- childcare places are inclusive and meet particular needs
- there is good knowledge and information about the supply of places in the borough

6.5.3 The introduction of the Child Poverty Act 2010 placed a requirement on local authorities to make arrangements to promote co-operation between the authority, each of its partner authorities and such other persons or bodies as the authority thinks fit, with a view to reducing and mitigating the effects of child poverty in the local authority's area

6.5.4 A national approach to tackling some of the disadvantageous effects of child poverty through providing parents and children with access to high quality early education led to:

- The extension of the free entitlement for 3 and 4 years old to 15 hours per week in 2010;
- The introduction of a free entitlement offer for the 40% most disadvantaged two years olds in 2014;
- The introduction of the early years pupil premium, in 2015, which aims to provide schools and early years providers offering the free entitlement with additional funding for the most disadvantaged 3 and 4 year olds.

6.5.5 More recently, the Childcare Act 2016 provides for an extended free entitlement adding to the 15 hours per week universal free entitlement offer for all 3 and 4 year olds, an entitlement of 30 hours per week in each of 38 weeks in any year for the 3 and 4 year old children in families where both parents are working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family) and each parent earns on average a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum wage or national living wage and less than £100,000 per year. The Government intend the extended free entitlement to be introduced from September 2017.

6.6 Local Context

6.6.1 Strategic priorities for early education and childcare in Haringey

There are 18,477 children aged 0-5 in the borough who will be directly affected by the government's proposals for a national funding formula for early years. Early education and childcare has a key role to play in the life of the borough and in meeting Corporate Plan objectives, namely:

- **Under Priority 1:** All children will have the best start in life
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- **Under Priority 4:** Ensuring that residents have the training, skills and support to find and keep good quality employment

6.6.2 To meet these objectives, the following strategic priorities have been identified:

1. *Sufficiency: growing Haringey's childcare market*
2. *Sustainability: encouraging providers to develop viable businesses*
3. *Quality: supporting all provision to be high quality*
4. *Narrowing the gap between the most disadvantaged and the rest*
5. *Widening access for children with SEN and disabilities*
6. *Improving access to quality childcare for low income families and those seeking to work*

6.6.3 Principles

The approach to achieving these strategic priorities is underpinned by the following principles:

- *Reducing inequality*

- *Inclusion*
- *Improving Quality*
- *Improving children's access to local provision*
- *Removing reliance on Council funding*
- *Targeting resources towards narrowing gaps in children's outcomes*

6.6.4 The government's proposals have been considered in light of Haringey's strategic priorities and principles.

6.7 An early years national funding formula: key implications

6.7.1 **Universal Base Rate**

The government consultation proposes that authorities must introduce this element of their local funding formula by 2019/20. In Haringey, this will involve moving from a formula that incorporates variable provider funding rates, dependent on size and type of provision, to a consistent base rate for all. An indication of what the universal base rate for Haringey might be under the proposals contained within the government's consultation is provided at **Appendix 1**.

Indications are that, based on the proposed funding rate to be paid to the Council, all types of providers in Haringey will see an increase to the current level of base rate funding paid under the current early years funding formula. It is believed that this therefore could be introduced with minimum turbulence in the market.

6.7.2 **Supplements**

Initial calculations (as shown in **Appendix 1**) indicate that, after funding the base rate, Haringey will have £0.52p per hour available to pay additional supplements. It is proposed by government that a deprivation supplement is maintained and that this will be the only mandatory supplement.

In Haringey, the deprivation supplement is currently set at £0.50p per hour and paid in addition to the base rate. Providers currently attracting the deprivation supplement are identified by the application of the indices of multiple deprivations (IMD) metric for the postcode of the setting.

The government is consulting on whether authorities should have the discretion to fund supplements concerning sparsity/rural areas, flexibility, efficiency and delivery of the additional 15 hours free childcare

6.7.3 **2 Year old programme**

The DfE consultation contains an indicative funding allocation to the Council under the proposed early years national funding formula. This shows that the hourly funding rate received by the Council would be raised from £5.28 to £5.66 from April 2017. The DfE will publish actual funding allocations later in the year.

Providers in Haringey are currently paid an enhanced rate of £6 per hour, paid for by ring-fenced early years DSG monies held in reserves. The enhanced rate of £6 is not sustainable in the longer term as reserves are expected to deplete over time. If patterns of take-up and expenditure remain at current levels, indications are that early years DSG funding held in reserves will be available until at least 2021 and therefore the priorities going forward should include:

- Establishing a sustainable funding rate for the 2 year old place provision and manage the transition from Haringey's current funding rate levels to the rate at which the council are funded.
- Safeguarding the sufficiency of 2 year old places in the short to medium term, given the introduction of the 30 hour offer from September 2017.

6.7.4 Nursery Schools

The funding of the three nursery schools is allocated through the early years single funding formula. This funding arrangement is determined by government and in this authority provision is made for enhancements in funding rates as well as additional subsidies from the early years and high need blocks within DSG in recognition of the high costs associated with delivering nursery school education.

The government is proposing a separate, supplementary funding stream that will be provided to support maintained nursery schools for at least two years and is intended to enable stability whilst longer term sustainability planning, including scope for efficiencies takes place.

Haringey has three Nursery Schools, Rowland Hill, Pembury House and Woodlands Park in the borough. All three nursery schools offer childcare, alongside early education. This includes wrap-around, holiday and after-school provision for 3 and 4 year olds and childcare for children under the age of three. The schools are reliant on a myriad of funding to sustain the provision. This includes external grant funding for specific projects and initiatives. Increasingly, the nursery schools are being impacted by changes to these additional sources of funding and there is a need to determine how the nursery school model in the borough can be sustained in the future. An initial review of Haringey's nursery school provision was undertaken in 2015.

In this current consultation, the government has set out an intention to carry out a consultation on proposals for the future of maintained nursery schools. The

date of this is as yet unknown. To this end, it is likely that a further review of Haringey's nursery schools will need to be undertaken.

6.7.5 Centrally retained early years DSG funding

The government's proposal is for a high minimum threshold for the proportion of funding passed to providers: 93% in 2017-18, rising to 95% from 2018-19 onwards. The level of Haringey's centrally retained early years DSG will need to fall from the current level of 15% to 7% in 2017-18, and then to 5% in 2018-19. In the consultation and also in previous consultations on the proposed delivery model for the 30 hour offer and revised statutory guidance, the government recognise the need for the Council to administer the free entitlement funding and other associated funding.

The biggest effect of the reduction in the levels of centrally held early years DSG will be on the amounts allocated as a childcare subsidy. This is currently £1.427m, but is projected to reduce to £449,427 for 2017/18 and then £217,301 for 2018/19.

6.7.6 Maintained Childcare in Haringey

The Local Authority currently maintains childcare provision across eight settings in the borough. Four of these provisions are organised and managed by school governing bodies and the remaining four are directly managed by the local authority. All eight maintained settings offer childcare that can be described as '*full day care*' with all providing a childcare offer between 8am and 6pm, over 48 weeks of the year. Approximately 500 children currently are in receipt of care provided through these settings.

Across the eight children's centres offering childcare, the approximate numbers of places offered in 2016/17 are;

Age range	Number
0-2 years	44
2-3 years	353
3-4 years	155
TOTAL	552

The projected cost of delivering maintained childcare services for 2016/17 is £4,748,082. Income generation is estimated at £ 2,934, 262 for the same period.

6.7.7 Childcare Subsidy

In 2011, an annual childcare subsidy of £1.982m was reduced by £425k due to the loss of a previously ring-fenced Sure Start Grant from DfE. The only subsidy retained since 2011 has been the £1.427m allocated from the Early Years Block within the Dedicated School Grant (DSG) since 2011 and distributed according to an agreed funding formula.

This DSG allocation has not been sufficient and therefore, in addition to this, the Council has supported the costs, on an annual basis, through additional funding (approx. £400k) from the early years budget.

The maintained childcare service delivery is supported through a combination of fee income and some Dedicated School Grant (DSG) which comprises of funding for 2, 3 and 4 year olds free entitlement places and a childcare subsidy of £1.427m.

For 2016-17, the actual amount needed to close the gap between costs and the income generated through fees is projected as £1,814m. With the level of DSG subsidy at £1,427,000, this means that for 2016/17, there will be a call on the General Fund of £387K.

In previous years, this gap has been met by a contribution from the Council's General Fund, and from the DSG Early Years Block. As the Council's early years budget has reduced significantly it is no longer possible to continue with this approach.

6.7.8 Childcare Fees

Since 2007, fee levels for the eight settings have been set by the Council and it has been a requirement that all settings apply these fees consistently across their service offer.

The Council's childcare fees were increased in September 2011 to mitigate this reduction in subsidy amounts. Since 2011, fees have been increased in line with inflation. Fee levels for 2016-17 were:

£179 per week for a full-time 3 -4 year old place (before deduction of the free entitlement)

£205 per week for a full-time 2-3 year old place

£230 per week for a full-time 0-2 year old place

All of the maintained settings have experienced increasing service delivery costs year-on-year and significant financial pressures on the Council's early years budget. A set of options have been developed following a review of the current business model for each of the eight settings. The options aim to mitigate the impact on the financial viability of the settings following a reduction in subsidy contribution from DSG from 2017-18. As a consequence of government proposals for restricting the amounts the Council can centrally

retain, a reduction in available funding for subsidy of £0.977m in 2017/8 and of a further £0.232m in 2018/19, a total of £1.209m by 2018/19, is anticipated.

6.7.9 Delivering sustainable childcare

Given Haringey's strategic priorities, there are a number of options for consideration in light of the significant reduction to the levels of subsidy available from 2017 onwards. In considering the possible options, it has been important to ensure that the on-going focus on improving outcomes for the most vulnerable children is not lost.

It is important to note that the options set out below will not necessarily mean that childcare fees for the eight settings will not rise from current levels. The options are set out as measures which are intended to stabilise the sufficiency of childcare in these areas.

6.7.10 A single fee structure across all eight settings is replaced by differentiated fees structure.

A review and development of business models for each of the maintained settings identified the need for each of them to charge fees appropriate to their circumstances and to ensure that service delivery costs could be met through fee and DSG grant income alone.

6.7.11 To remove the Council's involvement in the delivery of school-based provision, allowing the schools to set their own fees.

This option proposes that the school based provision be transferred completely to the control of each governing body and therefore governing bodies would be responsible for setting fees and staffing salaries. Access to business support would continue to be provided via the local authority. This would affect: Woodlands Park, Pembury House, Rowland Hill and Broadwaters.

6.7.12 To increase fees to mitigate the loss of subsidy funding.

The option under consideration here is to increase fees from current levels in order to generate the levels of income required to mitigate the loss of subsidy funding.

It should be noted that any option to increase fees would need to be kept under review due to the risk of a negative impact on service take-up and therefore, fee income generation.

6.7.13 Develop a new childcare offer from the Park Lane setting

Park Lane provision serves one of the most deprived parts of the borough. The setting experiences continual challenges due to difficulties in achieving full occupancy as parents/carers struggle to afford the current fee rates. It is clear that any increase in fees may only contribute further to the setting's inability to be sustained through fee and free entitlement income alone. Under this option, an alternative model for childcare would be developed that would be designed primarily to support:

- Local parents who are working
- Local parents seeking affordable childcare in order to enter the job market
- Local parents entering into training as a stepping stone to gaining skills for the job market
- Development of Haringey's childcare workforce ; supporting apprenticeships and placements

Further work will be undertaken by officers to engage current and prospective users of childcare in the Park Lane area and develop the understanding of how best to meet the childcare needs for those living in the Park Lane catchment area.

6.7.14 Target funding towards ensuring access to good quality early education for the most vulnerable children.

It is suggested that, rather than target the limited funding available within centrally retained DSG towards making very slight reductions to fee levels, available funding be directed towards ensuring access to good quality early education for the most vulnerable children.

Each year approximately 30-50 children under 5 years of age, deemed at risk, children in need or subject to plans are provided with access to a childcare places as part of support packages.

Currently the majority of these places are commissioned within the eight maintained settings, which means that costs per place are higher. In future, the approach will be to ensure that places can be secured in good or outstanding settings closest to a child's home location and this may be in settings other than the eight maintained provision.

The estimated cost of these places, based on the current profile of places, is approximately £400k. The projected reduction in funding in future years will mean there would need to be some careful consideration of demand for such places and how best to meet the needs of these children.

6.7.15 Inclusion

In Haringey, there is an established SEN Inclusion Fund. This was officially launched in 2016-17 as part of the implementation of Haringey's Early Help Strategy, inclusion and access policy and in line with embedding the SEND local offer across the borough. The fund is comprised of £390k provided through the High Needs Block in the DSG and offers early years providers the opportunity to request additional amounts of funding, based on differing levels of children's needs, in order that they can appropriately support children with SEN and disabilities to access the free entitlement. The intention behind the funding allocation is to widen access to good quality early education for children with SEN and disabilities and begin to narrow the gap in outcomes.

The government proposes that Local Inclusion Funds can be developed through pooling High Needs and Early Years Block Funding.

6.7.16 Existing full time place provision in Haringey Schools

There are currently 119 full time (30 hour places) distributed amongst schools across the borough. These places are part of an historic provision of full time place provision for some of our more disadvantaged 3 and 4 year old children that has been on offer in the borough for number of years. Places have always been funded through the early years DSG and the availability of funding to maintain this offer has become increasingly limited.

The reduction in available early years DSG funding since 2012 has meant that the number has been gradually reducing since then. Those schools in Haringey, with an allocation of places, manage admissions to these places and apply admissions criteria intended to target more disadvantaged children. The 119 full time nursery class places currently allocated to some schools cannot be sustained from September 2017 and therefore schools will be notified that these places will not continue from September 2017.

The new statutory 30 hour offer targets working families and is not necessarily a replacement for the current offer.

7. Consultation process

- 7.1 This paper is seeking permission to launch a consultation on the proposals in paragraph 3.1 and 3.2 . The consultation will invite feedback from all affected stakeholders and the wider community. Detail on the proposed process is set out in Appendix 2.
- 7.2 Parent engagement /involvement will be an important part of the consultation exercise and the views of parents and carers on any proposals or options being considered will be gathered.

7.3 The outcome of the consultation will inform final proposals, which will be submitted to Cabinet in February 2017 for approval prior to implementation from April 2017.

8. Contribution to strategic outcomes

8.1 The proposals within this paper contribute to how the Council seek to address the objectives set out in the Corporate Plan 2015-2018. In particular, they have a bearing on how the Council is able to continue to meet the objectives set out under the priorities below:

- **Priority 1**: All children will have the best start in life
- **Priority 4**: Ensuring that residents have the training, skills and support to find and keep good quality employment
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9. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)

9.1 Finance and Procurement

9.1.1 The report is seeking to consult on how the Early Years components of the Dedicated Schools Grant are to be distributed to early years providers, in line with changes required by the Department for Education.

9.1.2 The changes proposed for the Early Years Block (EYB) of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) are significant and whereas Haringey will get an overall increase in funding the proposed Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF) will affect how the EYB can be used. Of concern is the restriction on the level of centrally retained funding and the effect this will have on childcare subsidy and the financial viability of children centres offering childcare. An option to improve viability considered in this report is for a change in the fee structure at centres.

9.1.3 The proposed funding formula will redistribute funding between providers for the current 15 hours of free entitlement but, given the additional funding, the majority and possibly all early years providers should see an increase in funding through hourly rates.

9.1.4 The introduction of 30 hours free entitlement combined with the requirements of the EYNFF may jeopardise the financial viability of some early years providers.

9.1.5 The timescale for implementing the EYNFF is extremely tight and the consultation recommended in this report is essential in engaging with early years partners in time to implement changes for April 2017.

9.2 Assistant Director of Corporate Governance

9.2.1 The relevant statutory obligations of the Council are set out in the body of the report. In order for the proposed consultation to be legally valid, the Council must:-

- (a) Consult when the proposals are still at a formative stage
- (b) Provide those consulted not only the proposals but other available options , even if they are not the Council's preferred options
- (c) Give those consulted adequate information about the proposals and options , so that they have a fair and proper opportunity to understand them
- (d) Give those consulted adequate time by which to respond
- (e) Consider any responses proper and genuinely

9.3 Equalities

9.3.1 The Council has a public sector equality duty under section 149 of the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate the discrimination, harassment and victimisation of persons that share the characteristics protected under section 4 – 12 of the Act. These include the characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (formerly gender) and sexual orientation;
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics (with the exception of marriage and civil partnership) and people who do not;
- foster good relations between people who share those characteristics (with the exception of marriage and civil partnership) and people who do not

9.3.2 The consultation will inform Haringey Council's final options for funding early years to be decided in early 2017. We will be seeking engagement with a wide diversity of groups throughout the consultation, and in particular parents who are using or will in the future be using childcare provision in the borough who are most directly affected. We will ensure local representative forums are given the opportunity to input into the consultation, including Haringey Involve, a forum for parents and carers of children with special educational needs and disability.

9.3.3 Securing the long-term sufficiency of childcare provision for all parents to access is the key priority underpinning the options being considered in the consultation. This will include from September 2017 an expanded offer of up to 30 hours per week free childcare for eligible 3 and 4 year olds, as well as the continuation of 15 hours per week of free childcare for the 40% most deprived 2

year olds. Improving equality of access to quality early years education and supporting parents to work are key policy drivers.

- 9.3.4 The options being consulted on also prioritise securing childcare access for the most deprived and vulnerable children and families. For example, the proposed alternative scheme for Park Lane aims to expand the offer from this site, including additional employment support alongside childcare, in one of the most deprived areas of the borough.
- 9.3.5 Following the consultation period, should Haringey Council decide to proceed with increasing the fees at maintained childcare settings, the impact on access and take-up of places should be kept under close review.
- 9.3.6 A full equality impact assessment will accompany the Cabinet's final decision on early years funding options (decision expected early 2017) after the consultation period is completed.

10. Use of Appendices

- 10.1 Appendix 1 - Indicative base rate
- 10.2 Appendix 2 - Consultation process

11. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

