

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BETAKEN BY:

Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

17/00031

For publication

URGENT Key decision: YES

Subject Matter / Title of Decision

Changes to the Kent Early Years Funding Formula

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform, I agree to make the following changes to the Kent Early Years funding formula for three and four year olds:

1. Until 31 August 2017, the universal base rate, which is paid to all providers, will remain at £3.91 per hour despite the 5p per hour funding reduction. With effect from 1 September 2017 the universal base rate will increase by 5p per hour to £3.96.
2. The deprivation supplement (which is mandatory) will continue to be targeted to the 25% most deprived settings and will range from £0.01 (least deprived) to £0.90 (most deprived) per hour.
3. The quality supplement for Qualified Teachers Status (QTS) (employed and paid under the statutory teachers' pay and conditions) will remain at £0.90 per hour and Qualified Teachers Status (QTS) (**not** paid under the statutory teachers' pay and conditions) and Early Years Teacher Status will remain at the rate of £0.30 per hour. In addition, the LA is introducing a new Quality supplement under System Leadership (in Kent manifested via provider collaborations). A total sum of £250k has been allocated to support collaborations. The LA is currently formulating the process for distribution and providers will be updated on this in due course, with the full £250k funding due to be allocated with effect from September 2017.
4. The Flexibility supplement is being removed. Overall there was less support from providers to retain this supplement and this view is supported by the Council who believe that provision across the County is largely flexible in line with parental need and therefore there is no longer a need to offer providers an incentive in this area.
5. The quality Ofsted Lump sum supplement is no longer permitted and is being removed.
6. Both the Rural/Sparsity and English as an Additional Language are new optional supplements available from 1 April. There was limited support for the inclusion of these supplements and therefore the LA has decided not to introduce either of them. The LA will routinely review this position and reserves the right to introduce either of these supplements at a future date.

As Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform, I agree to make the following changes to the Kent Early Years funding formula for two year olds:

7. From 1 April 2017 the 2 year old rate will be increased from £4.95 to £5.02 per hour, a 7p increase.

Governance:

The Executive Scheme of Delegation for Officers set out in Appendix 2 Part 4 of the Constitution (and the directorate schemes of sub-delegation made thereunder) provides the governance pathway for the implementation of this decision by officers as it assumes at 1.9 of the scheme that once a Member-level decision has been taken, the implementation of that decision will normally be delegated to officers, so that multiple Member decisions are not required in respect of the same matter.

Reason(s) for decision:

Requirement to comply with Government changes to funding Early Years, which include a reduction to the hourly rate for three and four year olds.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposed decision will be considered by the Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee at its meeting scheduled 7 March.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

The detail of the considerations consulted upon are contained within the body of the report.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

None

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signed

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date