

Schools Forum Document PK Appendix 1

Consultation - Bradford District's Early Years Single Funding Formula 2023/24

1) Introduction & Summary

1.1 Attached with this introduction is the Technical Statement, which explains the methodology and timetable that are proposed to be used to calculate funding allocations for individual providers delivering the 2, 3 and 4-year-old entitlements in the Bradford District in the 2023/24 financial year, April 2023 to March 2024. This is known as our 'Early Years Single Funding Formula' (EYSFF). **A summary of our proposals, and a highlight of changes, are given in paragraph 1.10 below.**

1.2 Please note that the values of all funding rates quoted in this document, and highlighted in yellow, are currently indicative and should be viewed as such. It is expected that rates of funding for 2023/24 will be confirmed, following this consultation and the Council's budget meeting on 23 February 2023. The rates presented in this document however, subject to this consultation, do represent what we propose to fund and therefore, do give providers a basis on which to plan.

1.3 Following the changes that were made to entitlement funding arrangements for the 2020/21 financial year, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, all local authorities for 2021/22 were expected by the DfE to return to their 'normal arrangements' (normal arrangements for counting actual numbers of entitlement hours recorded for children on roll i.e. the normal 'funding follows the child' approach). The DfE continues to expect all local authorities to follow their normal arrangements in 2023/24.

1.4 In reviewing the current and predicted future year overall financial position of our Early Years Block, which is the block of the Dedicated Schools Grant from which local authorities fund providers for the delivery of the early years entitlements as well as other support services relating to early years provision, we do propose in 2023/24 to continue to progress changes that have been put forward in recent years. These changes are aimed at ensuring that our Early Years Block remains financially resilient and that we can sustain and continue to uplift, across the medium term, the Universal Base Rates that providers receive. Our approach continues to be based on our previously established guiding principles, as we still continue to incorporate our responses to the changes that began at April 2017, following the Government's national early years funding reforms. The DfE has made some changes to its operational guidance for 2023/24, which we must also now respond to. The most prominent change is the merger of the Teacher Pay and Pensions Grants, which have previously been allocated to maintained schools and academies, into the Early Years Block. This requires us to consider the adoption of a new Quality Supplement within our Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF), as well as amendments to the funding of maintained nursery schools.

1.5 We have looked closely at how our current 2022/23 financial year EYSFF approach compares with that of other local authorities, and we have reviewed how our provider funding rates compare. A summary of these comparisons is presented in paragraph 3. The headline from these comparisons is that we currently delegate to providers a significantly greater proportion of our Early Years Block than the average authority. As a result of this, facilitated by our use of reserves, providers in Bradford generally currently receive higher values of delegated funding per child per hour for their entitlement delivery than are found in the average authority; through the Universal Base Rates being higher, but also through our spending on our Deprivation and SEND Supplement within our 3&4-year-old EYSFF also being higher.

1.6 As we have explained in our consultations in recent years, whilst awaiting a longer term decision from the DfE on the funding of maintained nursery schools (though protection is now confirmed until the end of the 2024/25 financial year), the most significant change so far for Bradford, resulting from the 2017 national funding reforms, has been the reduction in the value of the funding Bradford receives from Government to

support the delivery of the 3&4-year-old universal and extended entitlements. Since April 2017, in response, the main priority for the Local Authority has been to protect providers as best as possible against the full impact of this reduction. The funding of maintained nursery schools has remained protected because the DfE has provided a specific additional funding Supplement for this purpose. Wider than this:

- We have earmarked reserves (one off monies from brought forward balances) held within our Early Years Block to protect the value of the 3&4-year-old Universal Base Rate at its current year level, which is £4.39 per hour.
- We continue to allocate, in addition to the Universal Base Rate, funding to providers via our Deprivation & SEND Supplement in our 3&4-year-old EYSFF on a proportion of budget that is substantially higher than found in other local authorities, meaning higher provider funding rates. We began at April 2020 to reduce the proportion of our 3&4-year-old EYSFF that is allocated via our Deprivation & SEND Supplement, with the agreed intention at that time to reduce this down to the average of our statistical neighbours, which is rounded at 6%. We set out in our consultation in autumn 2019 our intention to reduce down to the 6% average in three steps over three years, with the proportion reduced from 9.5% to 8.0% in 2020/21, and then down to 7.0% in 2021/22 and then to 6.0% in 2022/23. We actioned the reduction from 9.5% to 8.0% in 2020/21. However, in response to the challenging circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic, we did not reduce our spending further in 2021/22, nor in 2022/23. Deprivation and SEND Supplement spending in 2022/23 was retained at 8.0%, which is still around 2% higher than found in the average of our statistical neighbour authorities. Additional reserves are needed to be earmarked to support this higher spending.
- We have also needed to earmark additional reserves held within our Early Years Block to directly pass through to providers, delivering the 2-year-old entitlement, the rate of funding that the Local Authority receives from the DfE for this entitlement, with minimal 'top-slice', whilst also giving access to eligible 2-year-olds to the Early Years SEND Inclusion Fund (EYIF). The current rate of 2-year-old entitlement funding is £5.55 per hour, which is only £0.02 per hour lower than the £5.57 the Authority receives to cover the total cost of the delivery of the 2-year-old entitlement.
- As a consequence of all the above bullet points, as well as the earmarking of reserves, Bradford Council has historically retained centrally within the Early Years Block ('top-slicing' provider funding in order to fund capacity for the Council to deliver additional early years and provider support activities, as well as to administer the EYSFF) a significantly lower value of budget than is retained centrally by the average authority. This has meant that the Council's budget has contributed significantly more to these activities than the budget of the average authority.
- The funding that entitlement providers receive, as well as the funding the Local Authority receives to pass through to providers, is being affected by the reduction in the number of entitlement children in the Bradford District, as a result of demographic changes. As entitlement numbers reduce, the amount of financial flexibility that is contained within the Early Years Block also reduces. It is important that providers are aware of this reduction in flexibility, as this will influence the values of rates of funding that can be afforded going forward, and does influence our proposals for 2023/24.
- We are currently introducing a new Bradford Provider Headcount Portal for providers to use to submit their entitlement delivery information to the Authority. We have signalled that, as the use of this Portal is extended to all providers, including to schools and academies (in 2023/24), we will have an opportunity to consider whether our early years entitlement counting arrangements should adjust to be more responsive to changes in numbers within each term. There are pros for, and cons against, such a change in approach and, the last time we consulted on this, providers offered mixed views.

1.7 The financial issues for our Early Years Block, that were created by the 2017 national reforms, are still present in 2023/24. In addition, the DfE published a [new consultation](#) in July 2022, which principally focused on the national distribution of Early Years Block funding between local authorities. The DfE explained that the underlying data that forms the basis of the current national distribution of Early Years Block funding between local authorities – the proxy measures of additional need: Free School Meals, English as an Additional Language and Disability Living Allowance - has not been updated for some time and therefore, the distribution of funding does not now accurately reflect the relative distribution of additional needs between authority areas. The DfE proposed to correct this in (and from) 2023/24; to use the latest datasets that are available now and then to update these annually thereafter. However, updating

the data will produce significant swings in funding levels, with some local authorities gaining and some losing substantial amounts of Early Years Block funding, compared with 2022/23. The DfE proposed to manage this by using 'floors and ceilings' in 2023/24, most importantly, a floor of 1% (meaning that no local authority's funding rates, both for the 2-year-old entitlement as well as for the 3&4-year-old entitlement, will increase by lower than 1% in 2023/24. Thereafter, the DfE proposed to introduce an annual protection mechanism, which will prevent large unmanageable reductions in funding rates in any single year. On the DfE's illustrative modelling, published in July 2022, Bradford would be funded on the 1% floor for both the 2-year-old and the 3&4-year-old entitlements. Our warning, published for providers over the summer, was that, where our Early Years Block funding rates only increase by 1%, 1% is likely to be the maximum increase in Universal Base Rates that we can pass through to providers delivering the early years entitlements in 2023/24.

1.8 The DfE confirmed on 16 December 2022 the Early Years Block settlements for local authorities for the 2023/24 financial year, as well as the guidance that local authorities must follow. The DfE also published its [response to the summer consultation](#). The DfE has now confirmed that:

- **All the proposals that were put forward in the summer consultation will be taken forward.** This includes updating the underlying Early Years Block data, within floors and ceilings, and the merging of the school-led Teacher Pay and Pensions Grants into the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF). This merger requires us to consider the adoption of a new Quality Supplement within our EYSFF, as well as amendments to the funding of maintained nursery schools. The DfE has increased the % of the 3&4-year-old EYSFF that can be allocated using supplements, increased from 10% to 12%, to facilitate local authorities adopting a new Quality Supplement. There are no other major technical changes in how local authorities must use their Early Years Block funding, or must operate their Early Years Single Funding Formulae, in 2023/24.
- **Bradford's rate of funding from the DfE for the 3&4-year-old entitlements is increased from £4.86 to £5.05 per hour in 2023/24.** This represents an increase of + 3.91% (+ £0.19). However, £0.14 of this increase relates purely to the transfer of the school-led Teacher Pay and Pensions Grants into the EYSFF. This is not 'new money' into the District, just simply a technical change in the source of an existing funding stream. **Adjusting for this (excluding the £0.14), our equivalent rate of funding per hour in 2023/24 is £4.91, which represents an increase of 1.03%.** This confirms that we are funded on the DfE's 1% 'floor'. Although our rate of funding would be lower, at £4.87 in 2023/24, without the DfE's floor mechanism, and it can be argued that we have benefited from the lack of data update, because our funding rates since 2018 would have been lower had the underlying data been updated in real time, a 1.03% increase in 2023/24 does represent the lowest increase that is received by local authorities within the national early years settlement. This comes at a time when costs for providers have significantly increased. The 1% settlement immediately restricts the flexibility that we have to increase our provider funding rates in 2023/24 in response.
- **Bradford's rate of funding from the DfE for the 2-year-old entitlement is increased from £5.57 to £5.63 per hour. This represents an increase of + 1.08% (+ £0.06).** As with the 3&4-year-old entitlement funding rate, this confirms that we are funded on the DfE's 1% 'floor' for the 2-year-old entitlement. Again, this comes at a time when costs for providers have significantly increased, and the 1% settlement immediately restricts the flexibility that we have to increase our provider funding rates in 2023/24 in response.
- **Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) is increased by the DfE from £0.60 to £0.62 per child per hour.** This represents an increase of 3.33% (+ £0.02).
- The minimum value of Disability Access Funding (DAF) that local authorities must allocate is increased from £800 to £828 per child per year. This represents an increase in the minimum of 3.50% (+ £28). We currently already fund higher than this minimum (at £1,000 per child per year).
- **The Supplement, that is allocated to protect the funding of maintained nursery schools, will be available for the full 2023/24 financial year.** Following the DfE's consultation, we will be funded on a minimum floor Supplement value of £3.80 per hour. Without this floor, we would receive £3.74 per hour in 2023/24. The Supplement has been adjusted to incorporate the transfer of the school-led Teacher Pay and Pensions Grants. Whilst we propose to make some changes to our maintained nursery school funding arrangements, to incorporate this transfer, the uplift of the Supplement funding we will receive

in the Early Years Block does not fundamentally alter our approach to the protection of maintained nursery schools, nor the DfE's expectations for how the Supplement is used. The uplift in the value of the Supplement in 2023/24 will simply mean that we receive a level of funding that more accurately reflects the cost of our existing protection arrangements.

1.9 The DfE's 2023/24 settlement announcement of 16 December does not say anything specifically about the implications for the early years sector of the national SEND Review, and does not propose any changes for 2023/24. Within the document that was published back in March 2022, however, the DfE proposed that the early years sector is brought into the national SEND system. This will potentially alter early years SEND and EHCP systems and support mechanisms, including financial support mechanisms. The DfE has indicated that these changes will likely require a review of the Early Years Block, especially in relation to the Early Years Inclusion Fund (EYIF) and the Disability Access Fund (DAF). At this time, we do not have any details, and we are not clear about timescales for changes, but it is possible that the DfE could alter its guidance for local authorities on how the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF), EYIF and DAF mechanisms are to operate in 2024/25. If changes are made, we will review our responses with the Early Years Working Group and then consult with providers. We expect the DfE to publish, early in 2023, an improvement plan for the national SEND system, which may provide more information.

1.10 We have developed our proposed EYSFF approach for 2023/24 on the basis that:

- **We continue to roll out the new Bradford Provider Headcount Portal for the collection of entitlement delivery information from providers.** This Headcount Portal has now already replaced the previous Bradford Provider Gateway that PVI providers, and also that schools and academies that deliver the 2-year-old entitlement, used to submit their entitlement delivery information to the Local Authority. The Authority's plan now is that the Bradford Provider Headcount Portal will be used to collect 3&4-year-old entitlement delivery information also from schools and academies in 2023/24, meaning that the submission of this entitlement delivery information via the Headcount Portal will replace the current approach, whereby this information is extracted from the school's / academy's termly census return that is submitted to the DfE. There are significant advantages to using a discrete mechanism for the collection of entitlement delivery information from all providers. **The Authority will be taking further steps to roll out the Portal to schools and academies for 2023. This will be communicated further.**
- At this time, whilst we move further towards the new Portal, **we do not propose to change how provider entitlement delivery is counted. This means that we propose to continue in 2023/24 to use our existing termly headcount methodology, with a 2nd termly headcount for the 2-year-old entitlement.** The establishment of a single Portal for the collection of entitlement delivery information from all providers will give opportunities for us to explore again the pros and cons of different counting arrangements, including options for counting arrangements that are more sensitive to the movement of children and to the fluctuations in numbers within terms. When we previously consulted with providers, in 2019, on an option to move from a termly-count to a 'starters and leavers' type arrangement, the responses from providers were mixed. We will therefore, wish to consider carefully all options that might be available and to continue to consult with providers on these.
- Regarding the **2-year-old entitlement**, we propose that providers in 2023/24 will continue to be funded on a single flat rate per child per hour with no additional supplements. This rate was £5.55 in 2022/23. The DfE has confirmed that Bradford's rate of funding for 2-year-olds in 2023/24 at Early Years Block level has been uplifted to £5.63 per hour. **We propose to set our rate of funding for providers in 2023/24 at £5.61 per child per hour.** This fully passes the DfE's 2023/24 uplift onto providers, with a continuation of the £0.02 contribution, that was first taken in 2022/23, to the cost of access to eligible 2-year-olds to the Early Years Inclusion Fund (EYIF). This £0.02 contribution provides an estimated total cash contribution of £25,000 to the estimated 2-year-old EYIF budget cost of £100,000.
- Regarding the **3 & 4-year-old entitlement**, we propose:
 - **To set the 3 & 4-Year-Old Universal Base Rate (UBR) for providers in 2023/24 at £4.46 per child per hour.** This is an uplift of £0.07 (+ 1.60%) on the £4.39 that was funded in 2022/23. This uplift fully passes through to providers, via the Universal Base Rate, the DfE's uplift at Early Years Block level (the £0.05 out of the £0.19 uplift, excluding the £0.14 transfer of the school-led Teacher Pay and Pensions Grants), plus a further £0.02 per hour uplift, which is taken from the

element of the grants transfer that relates to the school-led Teacher Pay Grant (not the Teacher Pensions Grant). This is further explained under the Quality Supplement below.

- **To take the previously identified and planned second step, of the three steps in total, to reduce our spending on our Deprivation & SEND Supplement.** The first step was taken in 2020/21, reducing our spending from 9.50% to 8.00%. **The proposed second step in 2023/24 will reduce spending from 8.00% to 7.00%.** The third step will be further reviewed and discussed in our consultation to be published for 2024/25 arrangements. We previously indicated that we are minded to propose a reduction from 7.00% to 6.00%, to bring us in line with the average of our statistical neighbour local authorities. We are very likely to propose this in our 2024/25 EYSFF arrangements. Please see paragraph 3 for benchmarking.

We set out the rationale and impact of this change in our consultation document, that was published in autumn 2019. The 'second step' was proposed at this time, in outline, to be enacted in 2021/22, but was postponed over the COVID-19 pandemic period. We now propose to enact this in 2023/24. In the context of our benchmarking, showing our significantly higher spending level, the primary purpose of the reduction in % spending is to enable us to sustain Universal Base Rate (UBR) funding. If we do not reduce Deprivation & SEND Supplement spending, we will not be able to afford the UBRs (for both the 2-year-old and the 3&4-year-old entitlements) that we propose. Roughly, 1% of spend on the Supplement enables £0.04 in UBR funding per hour. The proposal is now put forward to be progressed at this time also because we already calculate that we will need to earmark a substantial value of Early Years Block reserve, in order to secure the 2023/24 EYSFF.

The proposal to reduce Deprivation & SEND Supplement spending does not affect the funding of maintained nursery schools. These schools will continue to have their 'historic' Deprivation & SEND Supplement rates protected, as expected by the DfE and using the specific Maintained Nursery School Supplement.

As a result of the proposed reduction, from 8.00% to 7.00%, the median average Deprivation and SEND funding rate for nursery classes (in primary schools and academies) in 2023/24 reduces by £0.04 per hour and the median average rate for PVI Providers reduces by £0.03 per hour. Deprivation & SEND Supplement spending in total reduces by an estimated £0.25m (by c. 10.2% on a budget of £2.45m). These reductions are in line with those we published in autumn 2019, and that were agreed following the consultation that was completed at that time.

Individual provider Deprivation & SEND Supplement rates will be updated for the January 2023 Census postcode information. This means that not all providers will see a reduction, or a reduction at the median average, in their funding rate (e.g. where their levels of deprivation have increased), but some providers may see a larger than median average reduction (where their levels of deprivation have reduced). This annual movement in funding rates is a normal aspect of our EYSFF, as we use a 3-year rolling average of the Index of Multiple Deprivation.

- **To introduce a Quality Supplement, for the primary immediate purpose of replicating as closely, but as simply, as possible the Teacher Pension Grant funding stream, that has previously been received by maintained primary schools and primary academies that deliver the 3&4-year-old entitlement, and that has now been transferred into the EYSFF.** As this is a new proposal, this is discussed further in paragraph 2. This is a proposal for 2023/24 only at this time, pending further review for 2024/25.

We do not propose to use the Quality Supplement to replicate the smaller Teacher Pay Grant funding stream (the pensions element is worth 74% of the total of the two grants that have been transferred into the EYSFF – of the £0.14 per hour, the pensions element is worth £0.10 and the pay element is worth £0.04). £0.02 of the Teacher Pay Grant (50%) instead is proposed to be added to the 3 & 4-year-old Universal Base Rate for all providers, forming part of the overall £0.07 proposed uplift, with the remainder of the funding (£0.02; 50%) not specifically allocated but supporting the total cost of the 2023/24 EYSFF.

We propose that the Teacher Pay and Pensions Grant funding that has been transferred into the EYSFF, specifically in respect of maintained nursery schools, is continued to be fully allocated to these schools via an additional fixed lump sum, which will be added to the Maintained Nursery

School Sustainability Lump Sum Factor, rather than via the Quality Supplement. As such, maintained nursery schools will not be eligible for the Quality Supplement in 2023/24, otherwise funding will be duplicated.

- We will pass through to providers the nationally set funding rate for **the Early Years Pupil Premium, which has been uplifted from £0.60 to £0.62 per child per hour for 2023/24.**
- Regarding the **Disability Access Fund (DAF)**, in 2021/22 we increased the value of funding that we allocate per child per year to £1,000, and we retained this value in 2022/23. The DfE has increased for 2023/24 the national minimum funding value, from £800 to £828. **In seeking to support providers with increasing costs, we propose to increase our DAF funding rate, from £1,000 to £1,200 per child per year, in 2023/24.**
- Regarding the **Early Years SEND Inclusion Fund (EYIF)**:
 - EYIF will continue to be fully funded solely from the Early Years Block. In responding to the substantial growth in the number of claims during 2022/23, it is necessary to increase the EYIF budget within the Early Years Block, by £0.15m (increased from £0.50m to £0.65m) to meet continuing higher volume in 2023/24. This is a further financial pressure that needs to be managed within the finite resources of the Early Years Block, which is important for providers to be aware of.
 - We propose to continue to apply the existing Inclusion Fund approach, as set out in Appendix 2, and the existing basic core funding rate per hour of £6.32. This rate is unchanged because the value of Element 2 (£6,000) to which this directly relates is also unchanged in 2023/24.
 - 2-year-olds will continue to be eligible for EYIF.
- Regarding funding the delivery of the **3&4-year-old entitlements in Maintained Nursery Schools**:
 - The protected setting base rate for maintained nursery schools is proposed to be set at £6.08 per hour in 2023/24. This is the 2022/23 protected £5.98 uplifted by 1.60%, in line with the % uplift that is proposed to be applied to the 3&4-year-old Universal Base Rate (UBR) for other providers.
 - The Deprivation and SEND Supplement rates for each maintained nursery school are proposed to be protected at their 2022/23 values, plus 1.60%, again in line with the UBR increase.
 - We propose that the existing elements of the Maintained Nursery School Sustainability Lump Sum Factor are continued to be calculated using the current methodology, with the 'outcomes' of the different factors uplifted by 1.60%, again in line with the UBR. This uplift does not mean that nursery schools will receive in 2023/24 a sustainability lump sum value increased by 1.60% on 2022/23 values. This is because the lump sum works on a sliding-scale basis, with reference to the number of entitlement hours delivered, but also because we will uplift the factors values that are used within the calculation, with 1.60% representing the increase in funding that will be 'normally' allocated through the EYSFF, before a top-up to the minimum is to be provided.
 - We then propose that an additional new fixed value lump sum is added into the Maintained Nursery School Sustainability Lump Sum Factor for each nursery school, to continue to allocate (to protect and to closely, but simply, replicate) their former Teacher Pay and Pensions Grants allocations. It feels appropriate to fund these grants in this fixed way, rather than via the Quality Supplement, because the DfE has specifically added these grants into its Maintained Nursery School Supplement funding, and also because the majority of our nursery schools have been previously funded on a fixed value, due to the DfE's methodology of allocating grant based on a minimum of 100 (FTE) pupils. So, we propose that, in 2023/24, the lump sums for each nursery school be fixed (i.e. will not move for entitlement delivery numbers) based on their total grant funding received in 2022/23, rounded upwards to the nearest £1,000 or a minimum of £20,000, whichever is higher, then uplifted by 1.60%. In 2022/23, 4 schools received allocations of £17,988, 1 received £19,967, 1 received £29,680 and 1 received £36,516. As proposed, in

2023/24, 5 would receive £20,319, 1 would receive £30,479 and 1 would receive £37,590. This approach is also intended to help support schools of a smaller size.

- Regarding sums that are proposed to be **retained centrally within the Early Years Block**, to fund support services that are accessed by providers and services relating to early years provision, on current estimates, we propose to retain a total value of £1.231m in 2023/24. Approval for this value will be sought from the Schools Forum at its meeting to be held on 11 January 2023. This compares with a value of £0.399m that was retained in 2022/23. The increase is mostly explained by two adjustments:

Prior to April 2021, the cost of the Area SENCOs (who support Private, Voluntary and Independent providers), and a contribution to early years SEND support services (including portage), were charged to the Early Years Block. In seeking to protect the Early Years Block, during the COVID-19 pandemic, we transferred these costs to be met by the High Needs Block, with the intention to transfer the costs back at an appropriate time. Within the 2022/23 budget, we transferred back the cost of the Areas SENCOs, but the contribution to early SEND support services continued to be met by the High Needs Block. In managing the financial pressure that is increasing within the High Needs Block, in the context of the current more secure position of the Early Years Block, we propose to return this contribution (£0.366m) to the Early Years Block in 2023/24. We will keep this position under review for future years.

We propose in 2023/24 to increase the Early Years Block's contribution to the cost of the Authority's early years entitlement funding and provider support services. The Authority delivers support services for provider sustainability, quality (including Ofsted support), as well as the delivery of the Early Years Single Funding Formula and related monitoring, compliance and intervention. The Schools Forum agreed a contribution to these services, of £0.100m in 2022/23, which we stated we wish to further review, as the full cost of these services is substantially higher and as there is growing need to ensure that sufficient capacity is available in response to increasing demands and complexities. We will ask the Schools Forum at its meeting to be held on 11 January 2023 to increase this contribution from £0.100m to £0.530m in 2023/24. This increase is intended to meet the staffing costs of the early years entitlement and quality support teams, inclusive of estimates of pay award / inflation in 2023/24. We have presented benchmarking information, which evidences that we are a very low central retainer of funds within the Early Years Block. This low retention has been / is to the benefit of the funding allocated to providers, but has been / is to the detriment of the Council's budget, as Bradford Council's budget is currently meeting the costs of provider support functions that are charged to the Early Years Block in other authorities. In the context of the Council's budget position, which is very challenging, whilst being very aware of the need to continue to maximise the funding rates for entitlement providers, the Council is seeking to achieve an increased contribution from the Early Years Block to the cost of these provider support services and functions, on an on-going basis, so that these support services and functions can be sustained. On current estimates, where we increase the contribution to £0.530m, our spend per child per hour on centrally retained funds will be c. £0.18 per hour, which is in line with wider averages.

1.11 The deadline for responses to this consultation is **Monday 6 February 2023**. A responses form is included at Appendix 3. However, this year we have introduced a web-based questionnaire, which we encourage you to use to submit your response. Please access the web-based questionnaire [here](#). If you wish to discuss the proposals in more detail, or have any specific questions, please email schoolfundingteam@bradford.gov.uk or EarlyEducationFund@bradford.gov.uk.

1.12 It is anticipated that final proposals will be put to Council on 23 February 2023. A confirmed Technical Statement, giving sight of the final Early Years Single Funding Formula, and rates of funding, for the 2023/24 financial year will be published as soon as possible after this.

2) The Introduction of a Quality Supplement within the 3&4-Year-Old EYSFF

Background

The DfE's operational guidance permits local authorities to add 'supplements' into their 3&4-year-old entitlement Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) arrangements. All authorities must have a deprivation supplement, but authorities can also use, on an optional basis, supplements for: rurality or sparsity, flexibility, quality or English as an additional language. For 2023/24, the DfE has increase the

maximum proportion of the EYSFF that can be allocated via supplements, from 10% to 12%. The DfE's guidance gives authorities a significant amount of flexibility to construct supplements of this type, but expects authorities to adhere to the following principles:

- the use of supplements should be transparent and fair and should be open to all providers which meet the eligibility criteria.
- supplements should be used to channel additional funding to providers and local authorities should not use them to reduce funding rates for providers that do not meet the eligibility criteria.
- local authorities should not distinguish between the universal 15 hours entitlement and the additional 15 hours for working parents; any supplement should apply equally to both entitlements.

In our consultations, in recent years, we have specifically not proposed to introduce any more supplements into our 3 & 4-year-old EYSFF, in recognition that supplements would dilute further both the Universal Base Rate (UBR) and provider Deprivation & SEND rates, at a time when we see our priority to be to maximise the value of the UBR for all providers. This continues to be our overall view of the optional supplements. However, the DfE has made a technical change in the grant funding system for maintained schools and academies for 2023/24, which requires us to consider the adoption of a Quality Supplement. In its guidance, the DfE expressly encourages local authorities to use a Quality Supplement in the management of this change.

Change

Since September 2019, maintained schools and academies with early years entitlement provisions have received two additional grants from the DfE. Firstly, a Teacher Pay Grant, the purpose of which is to support schools and academies with the additional cost of the September 2019 teacher pay award. This grant is worth £0.282m to our schools and academies in 2022/23. Secondly, a Teacher Pensions Grant, the purpose of which is to support schools and academies meet the cost that came from the significant increase in the employer's contribution to teacher pensions, which increased from 16.4% to 23.6% at September 2019. This grant is worth £0.796m to our schools and academies. In total, these grants are worth £1.078m to our maintained schools and academies in 2022/23, but with the Pensions Grant being the much more significant funding stream.

The DfE has confirmed that these two grants will be transferred into the Early Years Block at April 2023, meaning that schools and academies will no longer receive separate grant allocations and that authorities must adjust their EYSFF if they are to continue to target these grant funding streams as they have been allocated previously. The £1.078m of grant funding has been added into our Early Years Block 3&4-year-old entitlement funding rate, as an additional £0.14 per hour across all hours delivered in nursery classes and in PVI providers, and as an additional £0.49 per hour within the Maintained Nursery School Supplement. If we look at the transfer, in relation only to the funded hours in nursery classes attached to maintained primary schools and academies, we have received an additional £0.29 per hour within our 2023/24 settlement (rather than £0.14 per hour), with £0.22 of this relating to the Pensions Grant and £0.07 relating to the Pay Grant. This is because, roughly, 50% of our 3&4-year-old entitlement hours are delivered in maintained primary school and academy classes.

Proposals

We propose for 2023/24:

- To introduce a Quality Supplement, for the immediate purpose of replicating as closely, but as simply, as possible the Teacher Pension Grant funding stream, that has been received by maintained primary schools and primary academies that deliver the 3&4-year-old entitlement. This Supplement however, will extend to other providers (PVI providers) that have not previously received the Grant and that could now be eligible where they employ a qualified teacher and pay the employer's national Teacher Pensions contribution, which is currently 23.6% (please see the 3rd bullet point below).
- To fund this Supplement as an 'add on' to an eligible provider's total rate of funding per hour for the 3&4-year-old entitlement. We propose to set this rate at £0.23 per hour in 2023/24 (compared with the £0.22 that has been transferred). This means that, where a provider is eligible, their EYSFF funding rate for all the 3&4-year-old entitlement hours that they deliver will be higher by £0.23 than it otherwise would be.

- That providers will be eligible for this Supplement in 2023/24 if they received Teacher Pension Grant funding in 2022/23, or if they evidence to the Authority that they are an employer, that employs a qualified teacher, who directly delivers the 3&4-year-old early years entitlement (the Early Years Foundation Stage), and that pays the national employer's contribution to Teacher Pensions, which is currently 23.6%.
- That this Supplement is in place at this time only for 2023/24, pending review for 2024/25. This is because the primary purpose of the Supplement is to manage the immediate transitional impact of the DfE's transfer of the school-led grants into the Early Years Block. The continuation of the Supplement, as well as the shape of any Supplement, should it continue, will be determined following further review. As such, we warn providers against changing their spending bases purely on the back of the addition of the Supplement into our 2023/24 EYSFF. Also, in particular, we would highlight that the automatic payment of Supplement, to primary schools and academies with nursery classes, purely on the basis of their receipt of the former grants in 2022/23, is regarded as an immediate transitional protection mechanism only, and will certainly be an aspect that will be considered within the review.
- That Maintained Nursery Schools will not be eligible for the Quality Supplement (as the former grant funding is instead allocated via the Maintained Nursery Schools Lump Sum Sustainability Factor).
- Not to use the Quality Supplement to explicitly replicate the smaller Teacher Pay Grant funding stream. £0.02 is proposed to be added to the 3 & 4-year-old Universal Base Rate (UBR) for all providers, forming part of the overall £0.07 proposed uplift.

Rationale

The considerations that lay behind these proposals are:

- Our use of a Quality Supplement follows the DfE's expectation and strong encouragement; that local authorities should adopt a Supplement to manage the transfer of the grant funding into the EYSFF. The DfE has not provided any specific or detailed guidance on how a Supplement should be constructed.
- Reflecting the very limited time that we have had to respond to this change, and the lateness of the DfE's announcement of EYSFF funding and confirmed operational arrangements for 2023/24, our proposal is deliberately very simple in nature. The simple purpose of our Supplement in 2023/24 is to seek replicate, as closely and as practically possible within the restrictions of a £per hour-based approach to funding, the substantial Teacher Pension Grant funding stream that has been received by maintained primary schools and academies with nursery classes. We stress that the new Quality Supplement is not funded by reducing EYSFF funding that is currently allocated elsewhere. It is funded directly by the transfer of grant into the Early Years Block. We also stress that the Supplement will extend to other providers (PVI providers) that previously have not received the Grant and that could now be eligible where they employ a qualified teacher and pay the employer's national Teacher Pensions contribution, which is currently 23.6%.
- We were not to add a Quality Supplement e.g. were we to distribute the transferred Teacher Pensions Grant funding via our Universal Base Rate to all providers, whilst PVI providers would benefit, the result would be a substantial material loss of funding for maintained schools and academy classes, which would be caused, not by any changes in actual circumstances or changes in costs that need to be supported, but by technical change in the way that grant funding comes into the District. It feels highly appropriate in this circumstance to act to seek to mitigate against the negative consequences of technical system change, especially in the immediate short term, and especially when the cost of teacher pensions is still a significant issue for school budgets. It is also the case that, were we to delay the introduction of a Quality Supplement e.g. to 2024/25, to provide some more time for more holistic considerations, we would have significant difficulties 'reversing' from the 2023/24 position, as we would be required to take funding away from where it was otherwise allocated. Therefore, whilst our proposal for a Quality Supplement, if it is to continue after 2023/24 for the medium to longer terms, will definitely benefit from a review, which takes a more 'holistic' perspective on 'quality', we cannot miss the opportunity to introduce this Supplement now. We will review the position of the Supplement for 2024/25; whether it continues and, if it does, how it works. We are aware, for example, that a Quality Supplement could be used in more ways, and that there are approaches that support 'quality', other

than the employment of a qualified teacher. However, we do come back to a primary concern, which is that an extension in use of supplements will reduce the funding that is available in the future to allocate to all providers via the Universal Base Rate.

- Whilst there is a strong and very clear rationale for continuing to support schools and academies with the substantial additional cost of the employer’s contribution to teacher pensions, which does not sit evenly across all types of providers, we feel that there isn’t the same strength of rationale for using the Quality Supplement to explicitly continue the smaller value Teacher Pay Grant funding. Salaries across all providers, and all types of employees, vary. PVI providers have employees that have higher salaries and schools employ teachers across a range of salaries. In this context, the rationale for attaching to the Quality Supplement the Teacher Pay Grant does not feel to be particularly strong. For this reason, we propose not to bring this funding into our Quality Supplement. We instead propose to add £0.02 to the 3 & 4-year-old Universal Base Rate (UBR) for all providers, forming part of the overall £0.07 proposed uplift. £0.01 then supports the uplift of the Quality Supplement from £0.22 to £0.23. The remainder is not specifically allocated and supports the total cost of the 2023/24 EYSFF as proposed.
- Because the Quality Supplement, as proposed, allocates funding on a fixed amount per hour basis, individual maintained primary schools and academies may see some variance in funding (both up and down), compared against previous Teacher Pension Grant allocations. These variances will be caused by a mixture of factors, including annual changes in entitlement delivery numbers, and the movement from funding purely on January numbers to funding on numbers counted each term. The uplift of the Quality Supplement rate, from £0.22 to £0.23, is aimed at helping to minimise small variances.

3) Comparing Bradford’s Early Years Block approach and our Early Years Single Funding Formula

3.1 It is important that we regularly compare our approach to the management of our Early Years Block, and our Early Years Single Funding Formula, with other local authorities. It is also important that we review our proposed direction of travel for 2023/24 in this context. Key areas of comparison are presented below. These comparisons are all based on 2022/23 financial year budget information, which has been collected and published by the DfE.

3.2 The table below shows the median averages of 3&4-year-old provider Universal Base Rates (UBR) for the current 2022/23 financial year.

3&4 Year Old Entitlement UBRs 2022/23	UBR £
Bradford	£4.39
Yorks & Humber Regional Average	£4.31
Statistical Neighbour Average	£4.43
National Average (including London)	£4.45
National Average (excluding London)	£4.35

3.3 The table below shows the median averages of 2-year-old provider Universal Base Rates (UBR) for the 2022/23 financial year.

2 Year Old Entitlement Base Rates 2022/23	Base Rate £
Bradford	£5.55
Yorks & Humber Regional Average	£5.51
Statistical Neighbour Average	£5.46
National Average (including London)	£5.57
National Average (excluding London)	£5.52

3.4 Additional points of comparison:

- Bradford’s 2-year-old Universal Base Rate in 2022/23 is £5.55, which is 26% higher than our 3&4-year-old Universal Base Rate of £4.39. Excluding London, the national average 2-year-old Universal Base Rate is 27% higher at £5.52 than the average 3&4-year-old Universal Base Rate at £4.35. This position has not changed from the 2021/22 comparison.

- As in Bradford, the vast majority of local authorities continue to fund the 2-year-old entitlement using only a single flat Universal Base Rate of funding per hour, without any additional supplements.
- Approximately 2/3rds of local authorities, including Bradford, continue to set a 2-year-old Universal Base Rate, which is lower than the rate of funding for 2-year-olds that they received from the DfE within the Early Years Block i.e. 2/3rds of authorities in 2022/23 'top-sliced' the provider funding rate to use a proportion of this funding for other purposes.
- The national median average spending in 2022/23 on Early Years SEND Inclusion Funds (EYIF), as an amount per child per hour (calculated on all entitlement children and all entitlement hours), was £0.12, compared with £0.06 in Bradford. The statistical neighbours average was closer to Bradford, at £0.06, and the Metropolitan Districts average was higher at £0.10. Approximately 1/4 of other local authorities allocated EYIF funding to 2-year-olds in 2022/23, as we do in Bradford. Spend per child per hour is affected by the number of claims, as well as by the value of funding allocated per claim. Our comparison (our lower spend on EYIF) should be viewed in the context of our investment (from High Needs Block funding) in the Early Years Enhanced Specialist Provisions (EYESPs) that are attached to 6 maintained nursery schools. These EYESPs deliver provision both for children with EHCPs and those that are identified with significant additional needs that are being assessed for an EHCP. In other authorities, where EYESPs are not established, these assessment children would be supported by EYIF.
- When we initially compared this position in 2018/19, the national average spending on supplements in the 3&4-year-old EYSFF was 4.4% and the average of our statistical neighbours was 5.7%. Bradford in 2022/23 spends 8.0% (excluding use of reserves and the maintained nursery school supplement). All local authorities are required to have a deprivation supplement and a small number of authorities also used other permitted supplements, such as a quality supplement. It is a little difficult to update this % calculation for 2022/23, because of the way supplement spending information is now presented within national benchmarking statistics. It is difficult to cleanly see the proportion of 3&4-year-old funding that is allocated on supplements, without the inclusion of the maintained nursery school supplement, which will have a distorting impact on the figures because this supplement is not present in all authorities. With this limitation, we calculate that the national average spending on supplements in the 3&4-year-old EYSFF in 2022/23 is 4.8% and the average of our statistical neighbours is 5.6%. These %s were 4.8% and 6.3% respectively in 2021/22. These % are therefore, not significantly different from the %s we found in 2018/19. If we were to remove the maintained nursery school supplement from these calculations, on an estimated basis, the national average would be 3.4% and the statistical neighbour average would be 3.6%. However, this would not necessarily represent an accurate picture of deprivation supplement spending, as we would expect that a good proportion of the maintained nursery school supplement is spent on supporting deprivation. But, overall, the benchmarking continues to evidence our significantly higher spending on a deprivation supplement, in addition to higher Universal Base Rate funding.
- Looking at Early Years Block centrally retained funds, in 2022/23, Bradford centrally retained a value equivalent to £0.03 per child per hour (calculated on all 3&4-year-old entitlement children and hours). This excludes the funds that held centrally at the start of the year and are subsequently allocated to providers - Early Years Inclusion Fund, Early Years Pupil Premium and Disability Access Fund. This value of central retention is significantly lower than all other median averages (national median of £0.21; Yorkshire & Humber median of £0.20; statistical neighbour median of £0.17, Metropolitan Districts median of £0.19). A number of local authorities also hold additional funds centrally in relation to the 2-year-old entitlement (national median of £0.11 per child per hour), whereas Bradford does not specifically retain anything additional. Therefore, this 2022/23 comparison continues to evidence the extent to which Bradford Council is currently a very low central retainer of Early Years Block funding. This is to the benefit of the rates of funding allocated to providers, but is to the detriment of the Council's budget (where Bradford Council's budget is currently meeting the costs of functions that are charged to the Early Years Block in other authorities).

4) Equalities Impact Assessment 2023/24 Proposals

3.1 The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Local Authority to give due regard to achieving the following objectives in exercising its functions:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010.
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

3.2 We assess that our proposals for 2023/24 will have a neutral to positive impact on equalities. This is because the arrangements that the Local Authority proposes in this consultation for the 2023/24 financial year retain a significant amount of continuity on current positive practice.

- We propose to fully pass through to providers delivering the 2, 3&4-year-old entitlements, via the respective Universal Base Rates, the 1% uplift in Early Years Block funding that the Authority has been allocated by the DfE for 2023/24. These uplifts continue to support all providers in their delivery of the entitlements. Maximising the uplifts of the Universal Base Rates annually for all providers supports universal good quality provision for all children.
- We propose, via a Quality Supplement, to replicate the substantial Teacher Pensions Grant monies that have been allocated to maintained primary schools and academies with nursery classes, following the DfE's transfer of this Grant into the Early Years Block. This will help ensure that funding for schools and academies remains stable, in support of quality provision for all children, whilst also enabling other providers, who may already (or may choose) to employ a qualified teacher in their direct delivery of the 3&4-year-old early years entitlement, to access additional funding to support this cost.
- We propose to continue the protection of maintained nursery schools, with this protection being funded using the specific supplement within the Early Years Block. We propose to add to this protection in 2023/24 the former Teacher Pay and Pensions Grant funding streams for maintained nursery schools, via a new fixed lump sum approach within the Maintained Nursery School Lump Sum Sustainability Factor. As the numbers of children with SEND and from more deprived backgrounds is typically higher in the maintained nursery schools sector, this protection continues to support provision for these children.
- The Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP), as well as the Disability Access Fund (DAF) and Early Years Inclusion Funds (EYIF), will continue to complement the Early Years Single Funding Formula and will provide additional funds to support children with SEND, as these have done in 2022/23. The proposal to increase Disability Access Funding, from £1,000 to £1,200 for eligible children, is put forward with the aim of continuing to support providers in Bradford to meet the needs of eligible children with SEND.
- As discussed on page 5, we do now propose to take the previously identified and planned 'second step' (of three steps in total) to reduce our spending on our Deprivation & SEND Supplement down to the average spending level of our statistical neighbours. The first step was taken in 2020/21, reducing our spending from 9.50% to 8.00%. The proposed second step in 2023/24 will reduce spending from 8.00% to 7.00%. This 'second step' was initially proposed in outline to be enacted in 2021/22, but was postponed over the COVID-19 pandemic period.

Our current spending position is 'out of line', when we look at benchmarking (please see paragraph 3), and we assess that we are not able to sustain this position within the finite resources of the Early Years Block. In this context, the primary purpose of the proposed reduction in % spending is to enable us to sustain Universal Base Rate (UBR) funding for all providers. If we do not reduce Deprivation & SEND Supplement spending, to come more in line with the average of spending in other authorities, we will not be able to afford the UBRs (for both the 2-year-old and the 3&4-year-old entitlements) that we propose in 2023/24. This would impact on the funding that all providers receive, including those in receipt of the Deprivation & SEND Supplement. We have used reserves (one off monies), and made other adjustments (including reducing the value of centrally managed funds held within the Early Years Block) to postpone the second step over the COVID-19 pandemic period. However, we assess that it is

now necessary to act, to take a further incremental step in support of achieving the sustainability of our EYSFF over the medium term. This proposal is also put forward because we already calculate that we will need to earmark a substantial value of Early Years Block reserve, in order to secure the 2023/24 EYSFF as currently proposed following the challenging Early Years Block settlement that we have received from the DfE.

Within our assessment of the impact of this proposed change, we stress that, whilst Deprivation & SEND Supplement funding is proposed to be incrementally reduced, from 8.00% to 7.00%, meaning that rates of funding will reduce by a median average of £0.04 per hour (classes) and £0.03 per hour (PVI providers), DAF and EYPP funding streams are continuing and are being uplifted in 2023/24, and EYIF is continuing unchanged at the 2022/23 rate. We also propose to continue to enable eligible 2 year olds to access the EYIF, which is a non-statutory requirement, but which supports early intervention and provider funding for children with early emerging SEND. We are also increasing the EYIF budget by £0.150m in total in 2023/24, in response to increased demand. Within our assessment, we also identify that the £0.07 increase in the 3&4-year-old Universal Base Rate for all providers, that is proposed, exceeds the median average of losses in Deprivation & SEND rate funding. We also stress that the proposal does not affect the funding of maintained nursery schools. These schools will continue to have their 'historic' Deprivation & SEND Supplement rates protected (and uplifted), as expected by the DfE and using the specific Maintained Nursery School Supplement.

Bradford District Early Years Single Funding Formula 2023/24

(DRAFT VERSION FOR CONSULTATION JANUARY 2022)

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A PROPOSED VERSION OF THE TECHNICAL STATEMENT THAT HAS BEEN WRITTEN FOR CONSULTATION.

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

1) The Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) for the 3&4-year-olds universal and extended entitlements in 2023/24 is proposed as follows:

$$(a + b + c + d) \times e + f = \text{Total EYSFF Funding 2023/24}$$

a) Universal Base Rate (£ per child per hour)

b) Provider Deprivation & SEND Rate (£ per child per hour)

c) Quality Supplement Rate (Eligible Providers Only) (£ per child per hour)

d) Rate Protection (Maintained Nursery Schools only) (£ per child per hour)

$$(a + b + c + d) = \text{Provider's Total Funding Rate per child per hour}$$

e) No. of Entitlement Hours delivered at the provider (per year)

f) Lump Sum Funding for Sustainability (Maintained Nursery Schools only)

For example, on the simple basis that all children at a provider access 15 hours universal entitlement per week for 38 weeks per year, entitlement funding for providers using the EYSFF in 2023/24, prior to the addition of the Quality Supplement for eligible providers, will look like:

a) Universal Base Rate **£4.46**

b) Provider Deprivation & SEND Rate £0.30 **** Example Rate Only**

$$\text{The provider's funding rate per child per hour} = (\mathbf{£4.46} + £0.30) = \mathbf{£4.76}$$

c) No. of Entitlement Hours delivered at the provider (per year) = **39,660** calculated as follows:

	Children	Hours Delivered
i Summer Term	78	14,040
ii Autumn Term	62	13,020
iii Spring Term	70	12,600

$$\text{Sub Total EYSFF Funding} = \mathbf{£4.76} \times 39,660 = \mathbf{£188,782}$$

2) The Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) for the extended 30 hours entitlement for eligible 3&4-Year-Olds operates within the same framework as the universal 15 hours entitlement, as set out in this Technical Statement.

Rates of funding, timetabling and counting arrangements are the same. Specific guidance about the funding of the 30 hours entitlement, where necessary, is incorporated into this Statement.

3) The 2-year-old entitlement in 2023/24 is proposed to continue to be funded via a simple flat rate per child per hour for all providers. The value of rate for all providers is proposed to be set at **£5.61 per child per hour.**

The timetabling and counting arrangements for the funding of the 2-year-old entitlement are the same as for the 3&4-year-old entitlement. Specific guidance about the funding of the 2-year-old entitlement, where necessary, is incorporated into this Statement. A 2nd headcount per term continues in 2023/24.

4) The existing termly headcount methodology is proposed to be retained for 2023/24.

We do not propose to make any changes in the 2023/24 EYSFF to how provider entitlement delivery is calculated, meaning that we continue to use the existing termly-headcount methodology, with a 2nd termly headcount for the 2-year-old entitlement. The establishment of a single Portal (as explained in the introduction) for the collection of entitlement delivery information from all providers will give opportunities for us to explore again the pros and cons of different counting arrangements, including options for counting arrangements that are more sensitive to the movement of children and to the fluctuations in numbers within terms and during the year. However, we will wish to consider carefully all options that might be available, in consultation with providers.

4) We propose to introduce a Quality Supplement within the Early Years Single Funding Formula for the funding of the 3&4-year-old entitlement in 2023/24.

We propose to fund this Supplement as an 'add on' to an eligible provider's total rate of funding per hour. We propose to set this rate at £0.23 per hour in 2023/24. This means that, where a provider is eligible, their funding rate for all the 3&4-year-old entitlement hours that they deliver will be increased by £0.23.

The simple immediate purpose of this Supplement in 2023/24 is to seek to replicate, as closely as possible within the restrictions of a £per hour-based approach to funding, the Teacher Pension Grant funding stream that has been received by maintained primary schools and academies with nursery classes and that has been transferred by the DfE into the Early Years Block at April 2023. As such, the Supplement is in place in 2023/24 to support providers, who employ teachers in their direct delivery of the 3&4-year-old entitlement, with the cost to them of the employer's contribution to teacher pensions. This Supplement however, will extend to other providers (PVI providers) that have not previously received the Grant and that could now be eligible where they employ a qualified teacher and pay the employer's national Teacher Pensions contribution, which is currently 23.6%.

We propose that providers will be eligible for this Supplement in 2023/24 if they received Teacher Pension Grant funding in 2022/23, or if they evidence to the Authority that they are an employer, that employs a qualified teacher, who directly delivers the 3&4-year-old early years entitlement (the Early Years Foundation Stage), and that pays the national employer's contribution to Teacher Pensions, which is currently 23.6%.

This Supplement is in place at this time only for 2023/24, pending review for 2024/25. This is because the primary purpose of the Supplement is to manage the immediate transitional impact of the DfE's transfer of the school-led grants into the Early Years Block. The continuation of the Supplement, as well as the shape of any Supplement, should it continue, will be determined following further review. As such, we warn providers against changing their spending bases purely on the back of the addition of the Supplement into our 2023/24 EYSFF. Also, in particular, we would highlight that the automatic payment of Supplement, to primary schools and academies with nursery classes, purely on the basis of their receipt of the former grants in 2022/23, is regarded as an immediate transitional protection mechanism only, and will certainly be an aspect that will be considered within the review.

Maintained Nursery Schools will not be eligible for the Quality Supplement in 2023/24 (as the former grant funding is instead allocated via the Maintained Nursery Schools Lump Sum Sustainability Factor).

5) Funding continues to be allocated to all eligible providers in addition to the basic Early Years Single Funding Formula for three purposes, which are explained further in this Statement:

- Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)
- Disability Access Fund (DAF)
- Early Years SEND Inclusion (EYIF)

6) The funding levels (referring back to 2016/17 funding levels, prior to the national EYSFF reforms) of Maintained Nursery Schools continue to be protected for the full 2023/24 financial year using the specific additional supplement funding that continues to be allocated by the DfE, and as explained in this Statement.

SECTION 1

a) There is a Universal Base Rate per child per hour for the funding of the 3 and 4-year-old entitlements. In 2023/24 the value of this is proposed at £4.46

- The Universal Base Rate is expressed as a value of funding per child per hour.
- All providers are funded on this Universal Base Rate. Maintained Nursery Schools then receive an additional amount of lump sum funding from the DfE's specific Maintained Nursery School Supplement, effectively to bring the Base Rate for Maintained Nursery Schools up to a proposed £6.08 per child per hour, which is the value of their Base Rate in 2016/17, prior to the implementation of the DfE's national reform, plus uplifts in 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24, in line with the uplifts in the Universal Base Rate for all providers in these years.
- The same value of Universal Base Rate is used to fund both the universal 15 hours entitlement and the additional extended 15 hours entitlement, up to a maximum of 30 hours per child, for eligible children.
- The Universal Base Rate is fixed and will not change during 2023/24. It is fixed at the point the 1st draft of Indicative Budgets is published, which for 2023/24 is in February 2023. Please see the timetable at the back of this Statement.
- For maintained primary schools and academies with nursery classes, funding allocated to support whole school costs, such as business rates, remains fully within the primary-phase core funding formula.

b) The value of a provider's 'Deprivation & Special Educational Needs (SEND) Rate' for 3 and 4-year olds is based on the measured level of deprivation of children taking the entitlement at that provider

- All local authorities are required by the Department for Education (DfE) to have a deprivation factor within their EYSFF. This funding is allocated, in addition to the Universal Base Rate, specifically to:
 - Support raising the educational outcomes and life chances of children from more deprived background.
 - Support the reduction of the attainment gap that currently exists between children from more deprived and children from more affluent backgrounds.
 - Support providers for the additional costs associated with the delivery of the entitlement to children from more deprived backgrounds and to children that have additional lower level educational needs.
- As with the Universal Base Rate:
 - A provider's 'Deprivation & SEND Rate' is expressed as a value per child per hour,
 - These rates are fixed at the point the 1st draft of Indicative Budgets is published, which for 2023/24 is in February 2023. Rates will not change during 2023/24.
 - All 3 and 4-year-old entitlement hours, including the extended 30 hours, delivered at a provider are funded at the same Deprivation and SEND Rate.
 - The DfE's Maintained Nursery Schools Supplement is allocated to maintain each Maintained Nursery School's individual 'Deprivation and SEND Rate' at the 2016/17 value, but with the value of each school's protected rate in 2023/24 uplifted on 2022/23 in line with the uplift in the Universal Base Rate.
- Unlike the Universal Base Rate, which is the same value for all providers, Deprivation and SEND rates vary between providers according to the measured level of deprivation of children attending each provider. Each provider's Deprivation and SEND Rate is calculated using the Index of Multiple Deprivation and the postcodes of children taking up the entitlement at the provider, recorded in the January 2023, January 2022 and January 2021 censuses (this is a 3 year rolling average). Because of the time lag in data, the Local Authority appreciates that using this approach may produce some anomalous funding results, especially for smaller providers. We keep this approach under review.

- Rates of funding have been calculated, based on the estimates of funded hours delivered used to calculate the Indicative Budgets and using the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) scores linked to individual children's postcodes. Where this data for an individual provider cannot be properly determined, or is not available, and for providers that newly establish during the year, the provider's deprivation rate will be calculated using the average IMD scores for all providers of their type. This use of averages is especially applicable to the rates applied to Childminders.

c) Eligible providers will receive additional funding per child per hour via a Quality Supplement

- The Quality Supplement is proposed to be expressed as a single fixed additional value of funding per child per hour for all eligible providers, which is allocated in addition to the Universal Base Rate and the provider's calculated Deprivation and SEND Supplement Rate. In 2023/24, the single fixed value is proposed to be **£0.23**.
- We propose that providers will be eligible for this Supplement in 2023/24 if they received Teacher Pension Grant funding in 2022/23, or if they evidence to the Authority that they are an employer, that employs a qualified teacher, who directly delivers the 3&4-year-old early years entitlement (the Early Years Foundation Stage), and that pays the national employer's contribution to Teacher Pensions, which is currently 23.6%.
- Where eligible, all 3 and 4-year-old entitlement hours, including the extended 30 hours, delivered at a provider will be funded at a rate including the additional **£0.23**.
- For providers that are eligible, because they received Teacher Pension Grant funding in 2022/23, the additional rate will be included in their total setting rate for the full 2023/24 financial year. This is because the Authority already has this information. Other providers (Private Voluntary and Independent Providers), that did not receive Teacher Pension Grant funding in 2022/23, but that now assess that they may meet the eligibility requirements, or that may newly meet the eligibility requirements during the year, should apply to the Local Authority using the EarlyEducationFund@bradford.gov.uk email address. In such circumstances, following confirmation of a successful application, the additional rate of funding will be applied either from the 1 April 2023, or from the date from which the provider became eligible (e.g. began to employ a qualified teacher and incur pensions costs), whichever is later. Should circumstances subsequently change in these providers, meaning that the provider is longer eligible for the Quality Supplement, the Authority will seek to remove the additional rate funding from the date the provider's eligibility ceased.
- Maintained Nursery Schools are not eligible for the Quality Supplement in 2023/24 (as the former grant funding is instead allocated via the Maintained Nursery Schools Lump Sum Sustainability Factor).

d) Each provider is funded on the number of 3 and 4-year-old entitlement hours recorded as delivered in a single common census taken each term, with the dates of these termly censuses being the same for all providers

- Each provider's no. of funded entitlement hours delivered for the 2023/24 financial year is the sum of:
 - Summer term (term beginning 1 April 2023): the total of entitlement hours delivered per week recorded in the census taken on 18 May 2023, x 12 weeks
 - Autumn term (term beginning 1 September 2023): the total of entitlement hours delivered per week recorded in the census taken on 5 October 2023, x 14 weeks.
 - Spring term (term beginning 1 January 2024): the total of entitlement hours delivered per week recorded in the census taken on 18 January 2024, x 12 weeks.
- 'Hours delivered' are the entitlement hours a child is registered to take at that provider, taken from the contracts signed with parents for that term. 'Hours delivered' is not affected by the actual

attendance of children at the time the censuses are taken nor by a child's attendance for the rest of the term after the census is taken.

- The dates for the censuses are the same for all schools, classes and PVI providers. This is so that the entitlement delivery information for each provider can be cross checked to identify any duplicate children.
- PVI providers will continue to be required, as is the process now, to submit their entitlement delivery information directly to the Local Authority via the Bradford Provider Headcount Portal. For maintained schools and academies, funded hours information has previously been extracted by the Local Authority from the data recorded in the "funded hours" field in the DfE Termly Censuses, which schools submit to the DfE via the COLLECT website. However, the Authority plans, from April 2023, that the Bradford Provider Headcount Portal will be used to collect 3&4-year-old entitlement delivery information from schools and academies, meaning that the submission of entitlement delivery information via the Headcount Portal will replace the previous approach. The Local Authority will communicate further with schools and academies on this change. In the event of any difficulty with the initial transition to the Portal, either collectively or in the case of individual schools or academies, the Authority will revert, as is necessary and where appropriate, to using the data from the DfE Termly Censuses.
- Adjustments will be made to the funding of providers that open or close (or cease to deliver entitlement hours) mid-term, to reflect the proportion of the term applicable. Adjustments to funding will not normally be made where closure is only short term and for a public health reason, or for another circumstance that is not within the control of the provider e.g. local or national elections or damage to premises.
- Other than in the two circumstances below, no adjustments will normally be made to funded hours for starters or leavers after the census date in each term. Exceptional circumstances will be considered (via provider application), where a provider admits a significant number of children after the census has been taken in that term (please see section h).
 - Adjustments may be made to funded hours for the intake of children after the census is taken for that term where this is the result of re-allocation from the closure of an inadequate setting.
 - Adjustments to funded hours may be made specifically for the autumn term, recognising that in this term the intake of children into nursery provision is often staggered into schools and classes and that eligible children may start the term at a PVI provider and then move to a school or class before the October census. Where a child started the autumn term at a PVI provider and has moved to a school or class prior to the October census, an adjustment may be made to split the funding for the autumn term based on the number of weeks that a child has attended each provider. This adjustment applies for the autumn term only.
- For the purposes of calculating Indicative Budgets for maintained schools and academies, published before the start of the financial year, the Authority will use estimates of the funded hours that will be recorded in each of the termly censuses.
- The Authority reserves the right to make adjustments to estimates (and to initial payments), or not to make any payment, where the information submitted by providers is demonstrably incorrect or is missing. As provided for within the Funding Agreement, the Authority also will charge an administration fee where there are issues with the quality or the timeliness of funded hours information that is submitted by providers.

e) Only children eligible for the 3 and 4-year-old entitlements will be funded

- The EYSFF for 3 and 4-year-olds will allocate funding for children in providers that are accessing the entitlement only from the term after their 3rd birthday. The 1 September, 1 January and 1 April are taken as start dates for each of the terms. The entitlement is extended to eligible 2- year-olds,

but this does not mean all children accessing provision that are aged under 3 are eligible for EYSFF funding.

- The maximum number of hours any child will be funded for, for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, for the universal entitlement is 15 hours per week (for 38 weeks) or the annual equivalent of this total. This is the same for any child regardless of their age, so a four or five-year-old child staying in nursery (rather than moving into Reception at statutory school age) will only be funded for the maximum on this basis, unless they are eligible for the extended 30 hours or they continue to be placed at the request of the Authority, most commonly in the case of children with SEND placed in early years resourced provisions attached to maintained nursery schools, where children can access 25 hours per week.
- Some children will be entitled to 30 hours per week (for 38 weeks per year) and, for these children, 30 hours x 38 weeks is the maximum number of hours that will be funded by the EYSFF between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024.
- Although a child can take up their entitlement over two providers, the maximum universal entitlement is still the equivalent of 15 hours per week over 38 weeks per year, unless otherwise agreed. Where a child attends two providers, the Authority will fund each provider on a pro-rata basis only up to a maximum of 15 hours. Where a child attends two providers, the individual providers should ensure they are aware of the entitlement hours being accessed by that child at another provider; this should help to avoid funding discrepancies regarding duplicate pupils. This may involve discussion with the providers involved, in cases where the pro-rata split is not clear from the census returns.
- Although a child can stretch their entitlement over more than 38 weeks, the Authority will fund providers on the basis that all children are taking their entitlement over 38 weeks. It is for the individual provider to then manage funding. To ensure providers are funded correctly, these children should still be recorded in the censuses as accessing 15 hours or 30 hours, where they access an annual total of 570 hours (equivalent to 15 hours x 38 weeks) or 1,140 hours (equivalent to 30 hours x 38 weeks).
- The ESYFF does not apply a cap on the number of hours funded based on the published admission number of a maintained school or academy provider. However, schools and academies are expected to remain within their agreed Published Admission Number (PAN).
- More detailed guidance on the eligibility requirements for the extended 30 hours entitlement, the processes for determining this and how the Authority is required to verify eligibility, can be found on Bradford Schools Online [here](#). All providers are reminded that they must check 30 hour codes prior to confirming with parents their child's eligibility for the extended entitlement, and also prior to the submission of their censuses. The Local Authority conducts a code-checking exercise each term, through which the Authority confirms the children that are eligible to be funded for the extended entitlement. The Authority will not fund a provider for the extended entitlement, where 30 hour codes are not valid or where these have not been issued before the deadline date for eligibility in the current term.

f) The Confirmed Indicative Budget, published in March 2023, for maintained nursery schools and for maintained school and academy nursery classes only gives an estimate of funding. A pre-calculated Indicative Budget for PVI providers has been replaced by a flexible Ready Reckoner

- A pre-calculated 1st draft Indicative Budget for 2023/24 will be published at the end of February 2023 only for maintained school and academy providers. This will show the Universal Base Rate and the provider's Deprivation and SEND Funding Rate, which are fixed for 2023/24. For the purposes of calculating these Indicative Budgets, simple estimates of the funded hours for the following year will be used. The pre-calculated Indicative Budget will be based on hours delivered by each school and academy in the previous year i.e. these budgets estimate that a school's / academy's delivery numbers in the new year will be the same as in the previous year.

- Maintained school providers and academies will have the opportunity to revise their estimates, should they wish, to incorporate their latest information on admissions for the coming year. A Confirmed Indicative Budget for 2023/24 will then be published in mid-March 2023. This budget will then be used to begin payments to maintained schools and academies within the Authority's established whole-school monthly advances system. A ready reckoner for maintained school and academy providers to use to estimate any funding adjustments will be published alongside the Confirmed Indicative Budgets.
- Following feedback from PVI providers, pre-calculated Indicative Budgets are no longer published for PVI providers. Instead, an electronic (Excel) Ready Reckoner will be published in February 2023, showing the per hour rates of funding for each provider. This Ready Reckoner then allows providers to calculate their own indicative budgets, based on their own estimates of hours that they expect to deliver across the coming year.

g) A provider's actual funding will be adjusted to reflect differences between estimated and actual entitlement hours delivered during the financial year

- Adjustments to funding will be calculated following each of the termly censuses:
 - Please see the timetable at the end of this statement for when adjustments will be published and actioned in 2023/24. These adjustments will alter the amounts of funding physically paid to providers.
 - The adjustments will reflect the differences between estimated and actual funded hours delivered.
 - A ready reckoner is provided by the Authority, which providers should use to anticipate these funding adjustments and plan their provision and spending accordingly.
 - A statement of the value of adjustments is published in advance of these being actioned through the payments system. Please see the timetable.
- Additional notes on the calculation of funding adjustments:
 - The values of adjustments are influenced by the accuracy of the estimates of funded hours that are used. Adjustments are likely to be larger in value for providers that have more volatile numbers. Providers should use the ready reckoner to anticipate these.
 - Adjustments can be both positive and negative.
 - Adjustments will take account of any sustainability funding for maintained nursery schools that is funded via the DfE's supplement. The ready reckoner provided by the Authority for nursery schools incorporates this.
 - All adjustments for the 2023/24 financial year will be calculated and actioned before 31 March 2024. However, because of the very tight timescale for processing the data after the January 2024 census, the adjustments for the spring term 2024 will be based on summary information. Where amendments to funding are subsequently identified e.g. for duplicate children, following the processing of the more accurate individual child level census data, these amendments will be incorporated into the adjustments made to the funding for the summer term 2024. Where a provider does not pay back, via separate cheque or by BACs, any monies owed to the Authority at year-end, the value of funding owed will be taken from the provider's summer term payment.
 - Where closed or closing providers owe funding to the Authority, where the value owed cannot be recovered through adjustment of future payments, the provider will be asked to pay the funding back via cheque or via BACs.
- The first payment of the financial year, in April 2023, and then the first payments in each subsequent term, for schools and classes will be based on the Confirmed Indicative Budget.
- For PVI providers, these first payments will be based either on latest actual delivery information or on updated estimates that have been submitted by providers through the Bradford Provider Headcount Portal.

h) In 2023/24 EYSFF funding will continue to be paid monthly to all providers

- For maintained schools and academies, the Authority operates a well-established whole-school monthly advances payment system. EYSFF funding will continue to be paid using this. The adjustments to EYSFF funding will be incorporated into the September 2023, December 2023 and March 2024 advances adjustments. Please see the timetable.
- The Authority has now long established monthly payments to PVI providers. 2023/24 arrangements continue as follows:
 - Summer Term 2023:
 - Funding calculated on the latest delivery information / latest estimates will be divided by 5 (no. of months in the term) for 5 equal payments to be made between April and July.
 - 2 payments will be made in April, firstly for April and then for May. Payments for the remaining 3 months of summer term will be paid in May, June and July respectively.
 - Any positive or negative adjustments following the re-calculation of funding using the May Census actual numbers will be added to or deducted from the July payment.
 - Where the July payment is insufficient to recoup the full value of any negative adjustment, the August payment will also be reduced. Where a negative balance is still outstanding after this, a deduction will be made from September payment (and so on).
 - Autumn Term 2023:
 - Funding calculated on the latest delivery information / latest estimates will be divided by 4 (no. of months in the term) for 4 equal payments to be made each month between August and November.
 - The payment for September will be made in August, with payments for the remaining 3 months of the term made in September, October and November.
 - Any positive or negative adjustments following the re-calculation of funding using the October Census actual numbers will be added to or deducted from the November payment.
 - Where the November payment is insufficient to recoup the full value of any negative adjustment, the December payment will also be reduced. Where a negative balance is still outstanding after this, a deduction will be made from the January payment (and so on).
 - Spring Term 2024:
 - Funding calculated on the latest delivery information / latest estimates will be divided by 4 (no. of months in the term) for 4 equal payments to be made each month between December and March.
 - The payment for January will be made in December, with payments for the remaining 3 months of the term made in January, February and March.
 - Any positive or negative adjustments following the re-calculation of funding using the January Census actual numbers will be added to or deducted from the March payment.
 - A provider that has still been overpaid after the March payment must repay the value of overpayment by cheque or by BACs by 30 April 2024. Where a cheque or BACs payment is not received by 30 April 2024, the Authority will deduct the value of the outstanding overpayment from the next available monthly payment in the summer term. This is likely to be in May 2024.
- The Authority will continue to talk to individual PVI providers about how information submitted through the Bradford Provider Headcount Portal can feed into the monthly payments system (so that payments that are made prior to the collection of the censuses can be based on a provider's latest delivery information / latest estimates). Adjustments to payments can be made during the term and prior to the final adjustments being enacted.
- Where a PVI provider experiences exceptional cash flow difficulties, they should contact the Authority to discuss this further. Contact details can be found in Section 3 of this document.

- Providers will receive one single payment each month, which combines EYSFF funding and other grant allocations (such as EYPP, DAF, EYIF and EHCP funding) applicable for that month. A breakdown of the values paid for each type of funding and / or grant allocation will be shown on the advances (payments) update schedules. These schedules will continue to be updated and published on Bradford Schools Online monthly. We strongly recommend providers download and check these schedules each month.
- Monthly payments pull together the main recurrent funding streams, which are the 2-Year-Old entitlement, the 3 & 4-Year-Old entitlement, Early Years Pupil Premium, DAF, EYIF and SEND top up funding for children with EHCPs. Early Years Pupil Premium payments are made on a termly retrospective actuals basis and are added to monthly payments as a lump sum in September, December and March. All other non-entitlement payments (EYIF, DAF, EHCP top up) are made on an actuals basis in the next available monthly payment following their confirmation.

i) Approach to Funding Sustainability & Exceptional Entitlement Funding in 2023/24

- The EYSFF in 2023/24 continues to include a “sustainability” lump sum factor, which works on a sliding scale basis to allocate funding specifically to Maintained Nursery Schools in addition to the funding per children per hour. This factor ensures that funding allocations continue to reflect specific:
 - Site related costs: buildings and grounds maintenance costs, business rates and insurance,
 - Fixed type costs incurred by maintained providers in leadership and management and administration and premises staffing.
 - New for 2023/24: the continuation of the Teacher Pay and Pensions Grant funding streams.
- Maintained school, academy and PVI providers can access advice on sufficiency and sustainability provided by the Authority’s Sufficiency Officers.
- The Schools Forum has established a process, which is used to consider the allocation of additional funding, on a one off exceptional basis, to maintained primary schools that request financial support in response to exceptional cost pressures. Requests for funding are reviewed on an individual case basis against set criteria. Such requests are rare, but the most likely cause of a request is a significant increase in pupil numbers during the financial year, where the maintained school has had to make additional provision, such as establish a new class, but where this school’s funding has not responded to this increase in pupil numbers due to the ‘lag’ in the funding system.

This established process will continue to be used in 2023/24 to consider any requests for additional exceptional EYSFF entitlement funding that may be made by any maintained school, academy or PVI provider. The Authority expects to consider submissions of this nature only where a provider evidences that they have admitted a significant number of entitlement children after the census for that term has been collected, and so evidences that the census does not accurately reflect their true significantly higher net entitlement delivery in that term.

In such cases, exceptional circumstances will be measured in terms of the level of additional cost pressure faced by the provider in admitting these additional children, rather than simply in terms of measuring this on the number of additional children not counted in that term’s census. The Authority will also look at the provider’s actual delivery weekly across the term. The Authority would not expect providers to seek to claim additional entitlement funding only for small variances in numbers and, for example, where numbers following the term’s census may have increased but where this is balanced by numbers being much lower in the weeks prior to the census. We would remind providers that a single termly count is designed to protect funding against smaller fluctuations in numbers during each term. We would also remind providers of the standard adjustments that are made within our normal arrangements (in the autumn term and following the closure of inadequate settings) as explained in section c.

j) The Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) in 2023/24

- Providers will receive up to £353 per year, or £0.62 per child per hour, for each eligible child. The maximum number of annual hours funded for eligible children is 570 (15 hours x 38 weeks). Where a child is also eligible for the additional 15 hours entitlement for working parents, EYPP is paid on the universal 15 hours only, up to a total of 570 hours in the year.
- The DfE's guidance on the EYPP is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-funding-2023-to-2024/early-years-entitlements-local-authority-funding-operational-guide-2023-to-2024#early-years-pupil-premium-eypp>

<https://www.gov.uk/get-extra-early-years-funding> (DfE still to update this for 2023/24)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/experiences-of-the-early-years-pupil-premium>

- Providers should also refer to the specific guidance on EYPP that is available on Bradford Schools Online here:

<https://bso.bradford.gov.uk/Secure/CMSPage.aspx?mid=3346>

- As with the school-age Pupil Premium Grant, the Government expects that providers are best placed to take decisions on how to support their disadvantaged pupils. Restrictions therefore, are not imposed on how providers spend the Early Years Pupil Premium. Ofsted, through the regular inspection process however, will hold providers to account on how they have used their Early Years Pupil Premium to support their disadvantaged children.
- EYPP is paid to providers using the process explained in section h.

k) Disability Access Funding (DAF) in 2023/24

- The DfE's Disability Access Funding (DAF) guidance is available here:
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-funding-2023-to-2024/early-years-entitlements-local-authority-funding-operational-guide-2023-to-2024#disability-access-fund-daf>
- The DAF is allocated to children aged 3&4 who are accessing their entitlement hours at an early years provider in Bradford and who are also in receipt of the Disability Living Allowance (DLA). Children in receipt of the DLA do not have to be accessing all their entitlement hours to be eligible. Please note however, that 4 year olds in reception classes in maintained schools, academies or free schools are not eligible.
- DAF funding is allocated to support providers to make reasonable adjustments that will benefit the child and the setting as a whole. DAF cannot be used to pay for additional non-entitlement hours and non-entitlement services. Providers must discuss how the funding will be used with the child's parent or guardian.
- Parents / guardians are required to apply online. This can be accessed via the Authority's website:

<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/children-young-people-and-families/looking-for-childcare/childrens-disability-access-funding/>

- The application requires basic details about the parent / guardian, the name of the chosen provider, and a copy of the child's Disability Living Allowance award letter. Support is available for parents / guardians who may require help to make an application. Providers should signpost the Authority's website and provide the contact number 01274 431386. Applications are processed by the

Authority, who checks that the child is attending a provider in Bradford and that the child is in receipt of DLA. The parent / guardian is informed of the outcome of the application and, if successful, is given an award date and the date they can re-apply if their child is still accessing their early years entitlement. The provider the parent / guardian has chosen to receive the funding is also informed and is provided with details of the funding period.

- DAF is a lump sum payment, which the DfE states must be at least £828 per year per child in 2023/24. The Authority continues to enhance the value of payment per child in 2023/24 above this minimum, and proposes a value of £1,200 in 2023/24 (increased from £1,000 in 2022/23). DAF funding cannot be split between providers, so if a child is splitting their entitlement hours with more than one provider, the parent / guardian is required to nominate only one provider that will receive the full amount.
- The DAF is allocated for one calendar year with the funding period based on the grant award date. So, for example, if a child is awarded funding on the 30 October 2023 they can re-apply to be awarded again on the 30 October 2024 if they are still accessing their early years entitlement.
- If a child leaves after the funding has been awarded, the provider is not required to pay back any monies to the Authority.
- DAF is paid to providers using the process explained in section h.

I) Early Years SEND Inclusion Fund (EYIF) in 2023/24

- Local authorities are required to have an SEND Inclusion Fund for all 3 & 4 year olds with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) who are taking up the entitlements, regardless of the number of hours taken. These funds are intended to support local authorities to work with providers to address the needs of individual children with SEND. This fund will also support local authorities to undertake their responsibilities to strategically commission SEND services as required under the Children and Families Act 2014. Local authorities are expected to target SEND Inclusion Funds at children with lower level emerging SEND. All early years providers that are eligible to receive funding for the entitlements for three and four year olds are also eligible to receive support from the SEN Inclusion Fund.
- The Authority's approach is set out in detail in Appendix 2.
- EYIF is paid to providers using the process explained in section h.

SECTION 2

m) The Entitlement for Eligible 2-year-olds in 2023/24

- Early education became a statutory entitlement for eligible 2-year-olds at 1 September 2013. Eligible children are defined as children who are looked after and children who meet the Free School Meals eligibility criteria.
- Providers have been funded in 2022/23 for 2-year-old entitlement delivery on a flat rate of £5.55 per child per hour.
- It is proposed that 2-year-old entitlement hours will continue to be funded in 2023/24 on a flat rate per child per hour, which is proposed at **£5.61**. There are no additional supplements.
- 2-year-old entitlement delivery is initially counted in the same way as it is for 3&4-year-olds, using the entitlement delivery data from individual providers that is recorded in the 3 termly censuses. However, the Authority collects additionally for the 2-year-old entitlement a second headcount each term. Funding on the basis of a second headcount supports the Authority to retain sufficient capacity and to more effectively fund providers for their delivery of provision to the most vulnerable children, who may not enter settings by the time the termly censuses are taken. This is especially the case for the autumn and spring terms when the censuses are collected relatively early. The second headcounts in 2023/24 will be taken on the following dates:
 - Summer term: 8 June 2023
 - Autumn term: 2 November 2023
 - Spring Term: 22 February 2024
- The timetabling and counting arrangements for the funding of the 2-year-old entitlement are otherwise the same as for the 3&4-year-old entitlement.
- All providers continue to be required to submit their 2-year-old entitlement delivery information to the Authority via the Bradford Provider Headcount Portal.
- Providers are paid for their delivery of the 2-year-old entitlement within their single monthly payment from the Authority, as explained in paragraph h.

SECTION 3

n) Who do I contact?

- The key Local Authority contacts for any queries about the EYSFF are:

Maintained school and academy providers: School Funding Team
schoolfundingteam@bradford.gov.uk

Private, Voluntary & Independent providers: Early Education Funding Team
EarlyEducationFund@bradford.gov.uk

- Key contact details will be included in all correspondence relating to Indicative Budgets and adjustments to funding.

Appendix 1 – Timetable

Appendix 2 – Early Years SEND Inclusion Fund

Appendix 3 – Responses Questionnaire

Appendix 1: Bradford District Early Years Single Funding Formula 2023/24 Timetable

Please read this timetable alongside the separate 'Technical Statement', which explains how the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) will be applied across the Bradford District in the 2023/24 financial year.

Date	Key Activity
January 2023	<p>a) Department for Education (DfE) January Census: w/c 16 January</p> <p>b) Deadline for consultation responses: 6 February</p>
February / March 2023	<p>a) 1st draft of Indicative Budgets for 2023/24 published week commencing 20 February</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Maintained / Academy providers</u> will be able to access on the Bradford Schools Online (BSO) website pre-calculated annual forecasted allocations for 2023/24 (calculated on estimated entitlement hours) as part of their S251 Budget Statements. Providers will then have approximately 2 weeks to review their estimates of entitlement hours, with the opportunity to change these up or down, prior to the publication of Confirmed Indicative Budgets. • <u>PVI providers</u> will be able to access on the Bradford Schools Online (BSO) website an electronic (Excel) Ready Reckoner, showing rates of funding for 2023/24 and allowing providers to calculate forecasted annual allocations using their own estimates of entitlement hours. <p>b) Spring Term 2023 Adjustments Statement published week commencing 27 February</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An initial reconciliation statement for all providers will be published, which will show the differences between estimated and actual spring term entitlement funded hours delivered and the value of adjustments due. • <u>Maintained / Academy providers</u> and <u>PVI providers</u> will be able to access this statement on the BSO website.
March 2023	<p>a) Confirmed Indicative Budgets for 2023/24 published week commencing 13 March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Maintained / Academy providers</u>: Confirmed Indicative Budgets will establish the starting point for funding / payments for the 2023/24 financial year. These budgets will be different from the 1st draft where providers have asked for their estimates of funded hours to be altered. Where a provider has not asked for their estimates to be altered their Confirmed Indicative Budget will be the same as their 1st draft. • Confirmed Indicative Budgets will be published with a warning that these budgets are subject to change, for differences between currently estimated and actually delivered entitlement hours still to be recorded in the termly censuses. • Confirmed Indicative Budgets will be published in the same way as the 1st Draft Indicative Budgets. • At the same time the Confirmed Indicative Budgets are published, the Authority will provide a 'ready reckoner', which providers can use to anticipate likely adjustments to funding for their actual entitlement delivery.

	<p>b) Monthly Advances for <u>Maintained / Academy and PVI providers</u> amended to incorporate the Spring Term 2023 adjustment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For <u>Maintained / Academy providers</u>, the value of 2022/23 Local Authority I01 funding used to calculate the monthly advances will be amended in the final advances update in March 2023 to take account of the adjustment due from the January Census. This adjustment will impact on each school's March 2023 carry forward balances position. Schools should use the ready reckoner provided by the Authority to ensure that this adjustment is incorporated into their forecast of their year end balances position. • For <u>PVI providers</u>, any positive adjustment following the re-calculation of funding using the January Census actual numbers will be paid in a single additional payment. A provider that has been overpaid must repay the value of overpayment by cheque or BACs by 30 April 2023. Where a cheque or BACs payment is not received by 30 April 2023, the Authority will deduct the value of the outstanding overpayment from the next available monthly advance. This is likely to be in May 2023.
<p>April 2023</p>	<p>a) For <u>Maintained / Academy and PVI providers</u> initial payments for 2023/24 will begin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For <u>Maintained / Academy providers</u>, monthly advances for 2023/24 will be calculated from the final Section 251 Budget Statements and a schedule and breakdown of payments will be published at the beginning of April. • For <u>PVI Providers</u>, monthly payments for 2023/24 will begin. These will be based on the latest delivery information / latest estimates received from providers. Providers should consult the advances statement published on Bradford Schools Online at the beginning of April.
<p>May 2023</p>	<p>a) May (Summer Term) Census: 18 May 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Maintained / Academy providers</u>: it is intended that schools and academies will submit all their entitlement delivery information to the Authority Early Education Funding Team via the Bradford Provider Headcount Portal (replacing the use of the DfE Termly Census). • <u>PVI providers</u> will continue to submit their entitlement delivery information to the Authority Early Education Funding Team via the Bradford Provider Headcount Portal.
<p>June / July 2023</p>	<p>a) Summer Term Adjustments Statement published week commencing 26 June and payment adjustments actioned for PVI providers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A second headcount for 2 year olds will be taken on Thursday 8 June 2023. • A reconciliation statement for all providers will be published, which will show the differences between estimated and actual summer term entitlement hours delivered and the values of adjustments due. The adjustment will be a positive value (meaning that the Authority owes the provider more funding) where the number of entitlement hours delivered actually recorded in the May Census is greater than the delivery information used to make initial payments. The adjustment will be a negative value (meaning the provider must repay funding

	<p>back to the Authority) where the number of entitlement hours delivered recorded in the May Census is lower than the delivery information used to make initial payments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Maintained / Academy and PVI providers</u> will be able to access the adjustment statements on the BSO website. • Adjustments will be made to the July 2023 payment for <u>PVI providers</u> (both positive and negative) for the re-calculation of summer term funding from the May Census. The August and September payments may also be adjusted, where the value of the July advance is not sufficient to permit full recovery of a negative adjustment. <p>b) Deadline for <u>PVI providers</u> to notify the Local Authority, through the Bradford Provider Headcount Portal, of estimated delivery in the autumn term: Friday 28 July</p>
August 2023	
September 2023	<p>a) Monthly Advances for <u>Maintained / Academy providers</u> amended to incorporate Summer Term adjustments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Maintained / Academy providers, the value of Local Authority I01 funding used to calculate the monthly advances will be amended in September to take account of the adjustment due from the summer term.
October 2023	<p>a) October (Autumn Term) Census: 5 October 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Maintained / Academy providers</u>: it is intended that schools and academies will submit all their entitlement delivery information to the Authority Early Education Funding Team via the Bradford Provider Headcount Portal (replacing the use of the DfE Termly Census). • <u>PVI providers</u> will continue to submit their entitlement delivery information to the Authority Early Education Funding Team via the Bradford Provider Headcount Portal.
November 2023	<p>a) Autumn Term Adjustments Statement published week commencing 6 November and payment adjustments actioned for <u>PVI providers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A second headcount of 2 year olds will be taken on Thursday 2 November 2023. • A reconciliation statement for all providers will be published, which will show the differences between estimated and actual autumn term entitlement hours delivered and the value of adjustments due. • <u>Maintained / Academy providers</u> and <u>PVI providers</u> will be able to access this statement on the BSO website. • Adjustments will be made to the November 2023 payment for <u>PVI providers</u> (both positive and negative) for the re-calculation of autumn term funding from the October Census. The December and January payments may also be adjusted, where the value of the November advance is not sufficient to permit full recovery of a negative adjustment.

<p>December 2023</p>	<p>a) Deadline for <u>PVI providers</u> to notify the Local Authority, through the Bradford Provider Headcount Portal, of estimated delivery in the spring term: Friday 1 December</p> <p>b) Monthly Advances for <u>Maintained / Academy providers</u> amended to incorporate Autumn Term adjustments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Maintained / Academy providers, the value of Local Authority I01 funding used to calculate the monthly advances will be amended in December to take account of the adjustment due from the autumn term.
<p>January 2024</p>	<p>a) DfE January (annual) Census: 18 January 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Maintained / Academy providers</u>: it is intended that schools and academies will submit all their entitlement delivery information to the Authority Early Education Funding Team via the Bradford Provider Headcount Portal (replacing the use of the DfE Termly Census). • <u>PVI providers</u> will continue to submit their entitlement delivery information to the Authority Early Education Funding Team via the Bradford Provider Headcount Portal.
<p>February 2024</p>	<p>a) 1st Draft of Indicative Budgets / Ready Reckoners for 2024/25 Published (see notes for February 2023)</p> <p>b) A second headcount of 2-year-olds will be taken on Thursday 22 February 2024.</p>
<p>February / March 2024</p>	<p>a) Spring Term 2024 Adjustments Statement Published week commencing 26 February</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reconciliation statement for all providers will be published, which will show the differences between estimated and actual spring term entitlement hours delivered and the value of adjustments due. • <u>Maintained / Academy providers</u> and <u>PVI providers</u> will be able to access this statement on the BSO website. <p>b) Monthly Advances for <u>Maintained / Academy and PVI providers</u> amended to incorporate the Spring Term 2024 adjustment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For <u>Maintained / Academy providers</u>, the value of Local Authority I01 funding used to calculate the monthly advances will be amended in the final advances update in March 2024 to take account of the adjustment due from the January Census. This adjustment will impact on each school's March 2024 carry forward balances position. Schools should use the ready reckoner to ensure that this adjustment is incorporated by schools into their forecast of their year end balances position. • For <u>PVI providers</u>, any positive adjustment following the re-calculation of funding using the January Census actual numbers will be paid in a single additional payment. A setting that has been overpaid, must repay the value of overpayment by cheque or by BACs by 30 April 2024. Where a cheque or BACs payment is not received by 30 April 2024, the Authority will deduct the value of the outstanding overpayment from the next available monthly advance. This is likely to be in May 2024.

	c) Confirmed Indicative Budgets / Ready Reckoners for 2024/25 Published (see notes for March 2023)
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The Local Authority has sought to plan this timetable as comprehensively as possible. Please note however, that all dates in this timetable are provisional and subject to change. Where we anticipate that any dates will significantly change, the Local Authority will do its best to notify all providers as soon as possible.

Appendix 2 – Early Years SEND Inclusion (EYIF) Funding 2023/24

Introduction

1. Whilst recognising that “children develop at their own rates and in their own ways” (EYFS Framework 2017), children with additional needs may benefit from additional support. All local authorities are required by the DfE to have an Inclusion Fund for 3 & 4 year olds with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) who are taking their early years entitlements. Funding is allocated to promote the inclusion of children who may require high levels of support within a pre-5 setting. This funding also supports local authorities to undertake their responsibilities to strategically commission SEND services as required under the Children and Families Act 2014.
2. All early years providers that are eligible to receive funding for the 3 & 4 year old entitlements are eligible to receive support from the Early Years SEND Inclusion Fund. Bradford Local Authority currently also offers Early Years SEND Inclusion Funding to eligible 2 year olds, and will continue to do so in 2023/24, but this is non-statutory.
3. Local authorities are expected to target their Early Years SEND Inclusion Funds at children with lower level emerging SEND. ‘Emerging SEND’ is not defined within the DfE’s guidance. We define this as children, assessed as requiring SEND Support with assessed needs at the top of SEND Support and above, who do not have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP).
4. At the point an EHCP is put in place for a child, the resources allocated via this EHCP will replace Inclusion Funding.
5. The Deprivation and SEND supplement within Bradford’s Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) already allocates an amount of additional funding that providers should use to meet the needs of 3 & 4 year olds with emerging SEND. Additional grant funding is also available to support these children, including the Early Years Pupil Premium and the Disability Access Fund (DAF) grant. This funding must be utilised in the first instance prior to claiming Inclusion Funding.

Bradford – Holistic Model:

6. Our Early Years Inclusion Funding model is established on the following basis:
 - Applications are made by providers on an individual child basis using a prescribed referral form. Providers are required to fully evidence that the needs of the child have been appropriately assessed, that the provider has already made adjustments to meet the child’s needs and that the provider has also accessed all available resources e.g. DAF and Early Years Pupil Premium. The referral form asks the provider to set out why additional funding is now required and the level of support (number of hours of support) requested. Decisions will be taken by a Panel.
 - This Panel will consider 4 matters in each application:
 - **Decision 1:** Whether, against the agreed criteria, the child is eligible for Inclusion Funding.
 - **Decision 2:** The number of hours (of the child’s entitlement) support will be funded for.
 - **Decision 3:** The rate of funding per hour.
 - **Decision 4:** The number of terms (or weeks) that support is to be funded for and the expiry date.

7. **Decision 1** – the **eligibility criteria** are:

- The provider must be registered with Ofsted on either the Early Years Register or the Childcare Register or must be legally exempt from this registration.
- Inclusion Funding will only be allocated to children aged 2, 3 or 4 who
 - Are taking their early years entitlements, up to a maximum of 15 hours (2 year olds) and 30 hours (3&4 year olds), and
 - In their application, the provider must evidence that a child is eligible for Early Years Inclusion funding. This evidence could include:
 - *2- year olds*: EYFS development levels are approximately from 10 to 17 months behind chronological age in two or more prime areas (for example, Cognition and Learning, Communication and Interaction, Social Emotional and Mental Health Needs and Sensory and/or Physical).
 - *3- year olds*: EYFS development level are approximately from 18 to 25 months behind chronological age in two or more prime areas (for example, Cognition and Learning, Communication and Interaction, Social Emotional and Mental Health Needs and Sensory and/or Physical).
 - *4-year olds*: EYFS development levels are approximately from 21 to 31 months behind chronological age in two or more prime areas (for example, Cognition and Learning, Communication and Interaction, Social Emotional and Mental Health Needs and Sensory and/or Physical).
 - The child may have been referred to and / or be known to one or more health and/or education professionals.
 - It would be expected that the early years provider intends to or has put in place a cycle of Assess, Plan, Do and Review.
 - Information required to demonstrate that the child is experiencing a delay in some of their developmental milestones.

and

- Are likely to require small group interventions and / or structured early years experiences with high adult to child ratio of support required for up to 15% - 20% of time at setting, and
 - Do not have an Education Health and Care Plan, and
 - Are not placed in an Early Years Enhanced Specialist Provision or in a special school (as these places are already funded at a higher level), and
 - Are not in paid for childcare, and
 - Are not in an upper foundation class in a maintained primary school.
- In their application, the provider must also evidence:

- That Wave 1 interventions (Quality First Teaching) are in place for all children and that a graduated response has taken place, evidencing a clear review process and the need for targeted Wave 2 Interventions as advised by professionals from appropriate services.
- That the parent or carer of the child has been a partner in the whole process.
- Where appropriate, an EA1 Notification from Health has been received for the child.
- Where a child is newly arrived in the country, advice from other services (for example, Health Visitors, Paediatricians, Paediatric Therapists, and Specialist Teaching and Support Services) has been gathered to support the request.
- That the provider has exhausted all avenues of support available to them from within existing funding.
- That reasonable adjustments to meet the needs of the child have already been made. This includes how the provider has used the DAF and / or Early Years Pupil Premium, if the child is eligible.
- Why existing staffing is insufficient to meet the child's needs.

8. **Decision 2 – The number of hours to be funded.** The approach is as follows:

- The provider must set out in the application both the number of entitlement hours per week the child is taking with the provider as well as the number of hours per week the provider is requesting funded support for.
- The Panel will determine whether the provider's requested hours is accepted or amended. The Panel will translate this into a % of funding based on the hours a child attends their early education entitlement per week.
- The Panel will assume that the weekly entitlement is delivered across 38 weeks per year and providers will be allocated monies on this basis.

9. **Decision 3 – The rate of funding per hour,** is set at a standard (maximum) of £6.32.

- The national SEND 'Place-Plus' funding framework is based on the financial definition of a 'High Needs' child being one whose education, incorporating all additional support, costs more than £10,000 per annum (1 FTE). This threshold lays the foundation of the definition of the financial responsibility that schools, academies and other education providers have for meeting the needs of children from their delegated budgets.
- Schools are required to meet the first £10,000 of cost for children with SEND, both with and without EHCPs, from their core formula-funded budgets. This £10,000 is separated in the pre-16 national model into Element 1, at a value of £4,000 per 1 FTE (25 hours) and Element 2, at a value of £6,000 per 1 FTE (25 hours). Element 1 £4,000 represents the core funding that all pupils attract. In the Early Years Single Funding Formula, Element 1 is allocated through the Setting Base Rates, which in 2023/24 are **£5.61** for 2 year olds and **£4.46** for 3&4-year-olds. Element 2 £6,000 is the contribution that schools are required to make from their 'notional SEND' budgets, which are derived from additional funding allocated using proxy indicators of additional needs, such as deprivation and low prior attainment. Element 2 is not present in the Early Years Single Funding Formula, although the Deprivation and SEND supplement within the 3&4-year-old formula does allocate a small amount of additional funding. As a result, the primary function of the Early Years SEND Inclusion Fund is to allocate Element 2 funding to children with emerging SEND.

- So we define Element 2 as an amount per child per hour as follows:

£6,000 / 25 hours (1 FTE) / 38 weeks = **£6.32 per hour**. So, for example:

A child accessing 15 hours early education entitlement per week, term time only, with 5 hours of funded support = £6.32 x 5 x 38 = £1,201 (this would equate to 33% funding).

A child accessing 30 hours early education entitlement per week, term time only, with 15 hours of funded support = £6.32 x 15 x 38 = £3,602 (this would equate to 50% funding).

10. **Decision 4** – The number of weeks or terms that support is to be funded for and the expiry date. This would be determined by the Panel, taking account of the pupil's age, needs-assessment and timescale for transfer into reception. We would typically expect the time period to be expressed in terms e.g. 1, 2 or 3 terms and we would expect all funding decisions to be reviewed at least annually. Funding is non-transferrable between providers and would cease when a child leaves a provider. Where a child leaves a provider part way through a half term then there would be a grace period for the remainder of that half term. The provider must inform Bradford Council if a child in receipt of Inclusion Funding leaves their setting/school. Any additional unspent funding after the end of that half term would be reclaimed by Bradford Council. Funding will cease when an EHCP is put in place.

Note - Payment of EYIF Funding to Private, Voluntary and Independent Providers (PVI)

11. Following each monthly panel meeting, confirmation is sought from the Early Education Funding Team, to ensure that a child is eligible for early education entitlement, before funding is released to the provider. This check takes place after the termly headcount deadline. Therefore, there may be a delay in payment at the start of a term.
12. All EYIF applications are funded at the hourly rate of £6.32. Providers in the Bradford Local Authority will receive payment via the Schools Funding Team (SFT) and Inclusion Funding will be paid alongside the early education funding, directly into the provider's bank account. Please note that Inclusion Funding payments are not itemised on the SFT payment remittance. However, providers can log onto Bradford Schools Online to refer to their payment schedule, which will identify how much Inclusion Funding will be paid that month. This payment schedule will have a reference of 'Spring/Summer/Autumn Term SEND (EYIF)'. Providers will also receive an EYIF Outcome Summary via email, which will confirm how much funding has been agreed for individual children and the period of funding allocated.
13. Providers that are based out of Bradford Local Authority receive Inclusion Funding via a service level agreement.

RESPONSES FORM

Consultation on the Early Years Single Funding Formula 2023/24

Name _____ Setting Name _____

THE DEADLINE FOR RESPONSES TO THIS CONSULTATION IS MONDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2023

This form can be used to submit your response. However, this year we have introduced a web-based questionnaire, which we encourage you to use to submit your response, instead of using this paper form. Please access the web-based questionnaire [here](#).

Alternatively, please send completed questionnaire responses to:

School Funding Team
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council
6th Floor, Britannia House,
Hall Ings
Bradford
BD1 1HX

Email: schoolfundingteam@bradford.gov.uk

Please complete the questionnaire by marking the appropriate boxes. There is a space below each question for you to record comments.

Question 1 – Do you agree with the proposal to retain our existing timetabling and counting arrangements for the operation of Bradford’s EYSFF in 2023/24 (see Section 1 paragraphs D through to H (pages 20 to 25) and Section 2 (page 28))? If not, please can you explain why not.

Strongly Agree **On Balance Agree (some reservations)** **Strongly Disagree**

If not, please provide further explanation here:

Question 2 – Do you have any additional comments on how we could improve our proposed operational and counting arrangements?

Please comment here:

Question 3 – Do you agree with the proposal to continue to fund the 2-year-old entitlement only on a single flat Universal Base Rate of funding per hour, without additional supplements (see Section 2 page 28)? If not, please can you explain why not.

Strongly Agree **On Balance Agree (some reservations)** **Strongly Disagree**

If not, please provide further explanation here:

Question 4 – Do you agree with the proposal to set the value of the 2-year-old Universal Base Rate in 2023/24 at £5.61 per hour (see Section 2 page 28)? If not, please can you explain why not.

Strongly Agree **On Balance Agree (some reservations)** **Strongly Disagree**

If not, please provide further explanation here:

Question 5 – Do you agree with the proposal to set the value of the 3&4-year-old Universal Base Rate in 2023/24 at £4.46 per hour (see Section 1 page 19)? If not, please can you explain why not.

Strongly Agree **On Balance Agree (some reservations)** **Strongly Disagree**

If not, please provide further explanation here:

Question 6 – Do you agree with the introduction of a Quality Supplement in 2023/24 within our 3&4-year-old EYSFF, as proposed (see paragraph 2 page 7 and Section 1 C page 20)? If not, please can you explain why not.

Strongly Agree **On Balance Agree (some reservations)** **Strongly Disagree**

If not, please provide further explanation here:

Question 7 – Do you have any additional comments on the proposed new Quality Supplement, including on how it is proposed to be constructed?

Please comment here:

Question 8 – Do you agree with the proposal to now action in 2023/24 the previously identified and planned reduction, from 8.00% to 7.00%, in the % of our 3&4-year-old EYSFF funding that is allocated via the Deprivation & SEND supplement, in support of maximising the value of the Universal Base Rate in 2023/24 (see paragraph 1.10 page 5)? If not, please can you explain why not.

Strongly Agree **On Balance Agree (some reservations)** **Strongly Disagree**

If not, please provide further explanation here:

Question 9 – Do you agree with the proposal to increase the value of the Disability Access Fund (DAF) grant to providers in 2023/24, from £1,000 to £1,200 (see paragraph K page 26)? If not, please can you explain why not.

Strongly Agree **On Balance Agree (some reservations)** **Strongly Disagree**

If not, please provide further explanation here:

Question 10 – Do you agree with the proposal to continue, with the uplift that is proposed, our existing protection arrangements for maintained nursery schools in 2023/24 (see paragraph 1.10 page 6)? If not, please can you explain why not.

Strongly Agree **On Balance Agree (some reservations)** **Strongly Disagree**

If not, please provide further explanation here:

Question 11 – Do you agree with the proposal to allocate the former Teacher Pay and Pensions Grant funding streams to maintained nursery schools, via a new fixed lump sum within the Maintained Nursery School Lump Sum Sustainability Factor, as proposed, rather than via the Quality Supplement (see paragraph 1.10 page 6)? If not, please can you explain why not.

Strongly Agree **On Balance Agree (some reservations)** **Strongly Disagree**

If not, please provide further explanation here:

Question 12 – Do you have any additional comments on the proposed new fixed lump sums for maintained nursery schools?

Please comment here:

Question 13 – Do you agree with the Authority’s proposal to continue to use the existing holistic Early Years SEND Inclusion Fund approach that is set out in Appendix 2 (see page 37)? If not, please can you explain why not.

Strongly Agree **On Balance Agree (some reservations)** **Strongly Disagree**

If not, please provide further explanation here:

Question 14 – Are there any changes that you would like to see made to the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) that have not been proposed?

Please comment here:

Question 15 – Do you have any other comments that you have not made elsewhere in your response, including matters that you would wish to be included in the Authority’s continued review of the EYSFF for future years?

Please comment here: