

London Borough of Bromley

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Briefing for Education Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee 19 March 2013

‘ACHIEVING TWO YEAR OLDS’ CAPITAL ALLOCATION

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1. Summary

1.1 This briefing relates to funds that form part of the 2013/14 capital allocation to the Education and Care budget.

1.2 The amount totals £557,903 and relates to additional capital funding to support:

- the provision of an increased number of free places for two year old children who meet specific criteria;
- the building of capacity to deliver additional places for 2 year olds within Private, Voluntary, Independent and Maintained Early Years provision prior to this becoming statutory in September 2013 and increasing from 10 to 15 hours.

2. THE BRIEFING

2.1 The Department for Education (DfE) has allocated to the London Borough of Bromley a total of £557,903 in Capital grant for a single year (2012-13), to build capacity and support the implementation of Early Years Free Education (EYFE) for two year olds. These funds have been paid to the Local Authority under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.

2.2 EYFE becomes statutory in September 2013 for 20% of two years olds (whose parents are in receipt of benefits eligible for Free School Meals) and Looked After Children (LAC). This entitlement will increase to 40% of two year olds in September 2014.

2.3 The Council will have the same statutory duty to provide sufficient places for eligible two year olds as it does for the universal provision for three and four year olds.

2.4 A capital audit document entitled ‘Investing in Bromley’s 2 Year Olds’ has been sent to all early years providers. Responses have been received to date from 40% of eligible providers.

2.5 The proposed criteria for approving funding is based on five areas:

- Potential to offer additional places for two year olds
- Risk assessment, i.e. is the space safe for two year olds;
- The physical environment, i.e. are resources suitable for two year olds;
- Toileting, i.e. can two year olds easily access toilets, are changing facilities suitable;
- Storage, i.e. is this sufficient to accommodate additional resources

All schemes will be prioritised using the following proposed criteria:

- Quality of provision – settings need to be rated as Good or Outstanding by Ofsted to be involved in providing free education for two year olds
- Poor facilities (e.g. Where the physical environment has a detrimental impact to provide quality provision indoor or out)
- Area of deprivation
- The number of children that the funding will benefit
- The sustainability of the setting.

2.6 The 2008-2011 Quality and Access in Early Years Setting capital funding addressed many of the more expensive changes required to deliver high quality early years provision. It is therefore anticipated that many settings require only small adjustments to be able to cater appropriately for two year olds and this is borne out by the responses to the audit received so far.

2.7 Likely expenditure required will be in items such as:

- Room dividers
- Storage
- Age/height appropriate resources
- Changing stations
- Safety alterations

2.8 It is forecast that approximately 140 settings will be of sufficient quality to be eligible for the capital funding. This indicates an average spend of £3,985 per provider.