

London Borough of Bromley

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Briefing for Education Services
Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee
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Achieving Two Year Olds' Capital Allocation

Contact Officer: Nina Newell Interim Head of Schools and Early Years Quality Assurance and Commissioning
Tel: 020 8461 7275/4038 E-mail: nina.newell@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Terry Parkin, Executive Director, Education, Care and Health Services

1. Summary

A briefing was provided in March 2013, outlining the intended process for the £557,903 of capital funding that has been allocated to Early Years. We are providing an update because the types of scheme that have been put forward are different than those expected and outlined in the original briefing.

The capital funding is intended 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 in response to this becoming statutory for 20% of two year olds in September 2013, increasing from 10 to 15 hours and increasing to 40% of two year olds from 2014;

2. Background

- 2.1 Free Early Education (FEE) for two year olds becomes statutory in September 2013 for the 20% of two year olds whose parents are in receipt of benefits eligible for Free School Meals and also Looked After Children (LAC). This will increase to 40% of two year olds in September 2014.
- 2.2 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.

3. Briefing

- 3.1 Further to our previous briefing provided in March, we have completed the initial process of calling for Expressions of Interest (EOI's) from all providers in receiving capital funding.
- 3.2 EOI's have been received to date from 47 providers, for expenditure totalling £976k.
- 3.3 All schemes were moderated using the criteria outlined in the previous briefing. The criteria was weighted to specifically support provision in the areas of greatest need, creation of additional places and resources for two year olds.
- 3.4 In the March briefing, we advised that the expenditure required was likely to be limited to small items such as:

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

3.5 Although many of the EOI have been for these items, we have had thirteen submissions for capital build of over £15k, four of which are over £100k. Previously, we have entered into clawback agreements for any capital scheme of £15k or over and intend to use the same process for this capital funding.

3.6 Below are a summary of the four schemes that are over £100k: these schemes have been evaluated and will provide much needed places for funded two year olds. Feasibility studies will be undertaken and provided they can be delivered on time and in budget they will go ahead.

(i) Blossom Years Day Nursery - Chislehurst

£128k for a modular build to accommodation 20 additional two year olds

(ii) Honeys Nursery – Biggin Hill

£130k for a modular build to accommodation 18 additional two year olds

(iii) Southborough Pre-School – Bromley Common and Keston

£130k for a modular build to accommodation 18 additional two year olds

(iv) Orpington Priory Nursery – Orpington

£100k for contribution to the renovation of the Library

The proposal is to provide a new Day Care Nursery facility at the old Orpington Library as part of a larger scheme, led by Leisure Services which will form part of a full report submitted by them in due course.

This will provide a valuable and much needed childcare facility in the Orpington area, including additional places for funded two year olds, which we are keen to support.

The project is currently at feasibility study stage, with options appraisal and outline cost estimates. Full Planning Permission will eventually be required and if this project goes ahead the early years' aspect will be subject to tender for the Day Care Nursery provision.

3.7 Work is likely to commence on smaller capital build and resources in the Autumn Term. For the larger schemes, new places will not be available until 2014.

3.8 Further updates will be provided as required, and by March 2014 at the latest.