
Consultation Response for the 2018/19 Early Years Single Funding Formula

November 2017

Children, Schools and Families Department

Director: Yvette Stanley

Response Summary

17 responses

- 2 PVI's
- 15 Maintained schools

Response Analysis

Question 1: Funding formula for 3 and 4-year-olds

Merton Council is proposing no change to the existing EYSFF. Do you agree with this proposal?

	Maintained schools	PVIs
Yes	13	2
No	0	0
Don't know	2	0

All Respondents

Yes 88%

No 0%

Don't know 12%

Comments

- *We think schools who receive high volumes of children who are new to English are disadvantaged by the lack of an EAL supplement. Although these pupils will generally achieve well by end of Y6, they are less likely to achieve well at end of YR and end of Y2 – two points of accountability for schools.*
- *Concerns re inclusion support for reception pupils as currently only provided for nursery*

Question 2: Funding formula for 2-year-olds

Merton Council intends to use the funding allocation for 2-year-olds solely for this purpose and not move any funding between 2 year and 3 and 4-year-old allocations

Please provide any comments about this that you would like to be considered by Merton Council and Schools Forum when setting the 2018/19 formula

Comments

- Agree
- *Why, what is the reason for this. If the money is not being used for 2 year olds, where is it going? We need transparency here.*
- *Keep the formula as is*
- *I agree. Would like to know what will happen with excess monies (if any) at the end of the year.*

Question 3: SEN Inclusion Fund (SENIF)

It is proposed that the value of the SENIF is based on the factors as described in the document in paragraph 3.1.7. Do you agree with this proposal?

	Maintained schools	PVIs
Yes	6	1
No	0	0
Don't know	9	1

All Respondents

Yes 41%

No 0%

Don't know 59%

Comments

- *The explanation in the consultation document is not easy to understand – we need further clarification to understand the impact of this.*
- *Further clarity on this would be helpful in making an informed decision*
- *Requires much more clarification. What does this mean? Can Alison Jones consult schools?*
- *Feel like I can't comment on this as further clarification is needed about this*

Question 4: Contingency

Merton Council continues to propose a contingency as part of the high pass through rate, which is allocated at the end of the year in accordance with guidance. Do you agree with this proposal?

	Maintained schools	PVIs
Yes	7	2
No	0	0
Don't know	8	0

All Respondents

Yes 53%

No 0%

Don't know 47%

Comments

- *The explanation in the consultation document is not easy to understand – we need further clarification to understand the impact of this.*
- *I don't understand what this is all about. There needs to be a much clearer explanation about the impact of this before we can agree or disagree.*
- *Requires much further clarification. What does this mean? Can Alison Jones consult schools*

- *More clarity needed about allocation and how this is determined.*
- *It would be helpful to know what happens to any contingency monies that are not allocated at the end of the year.*

Question 5: Retained items

Merton Council intends to retain 5% of the total budget to fund key statutory duties (administration, information, securing training for staff in the sector) support and advice to the sector, focussing on support to weaker settings and settings working with children with additional needs.

Please provide any comments about this that you would like to be considered by Merton Council and Schools Forum when setting the 2018 / 19 formula

Comments

- *Yes – there is a definite need for this – details of support available need to be set out clearly for schools, so that it can be accessed accordingly.*
- *We are in agreement with this proposal.*
- *Does this apply to PVI's as well as maintained schools? It would be useful to have some transparency around how this fund is spent – what are the criteria for support and how these are applied.*
- *What is this money spent on? Why do we need to go to the maximum of 5%? Does this apply to PVI's as well as maintained schools? Again, we need more information and more transparency.*
- *What options are available otherwise?*
- *Transparency on where this money is spent-a breakdown of costs; as support to children with additional needs in Early Years has decreased i.e. Early Years inclusion only working with Nursery age children and not Reception pupils and yet there is a great need in our Reception classes*
- *With regards to the weaker settings – is there a time frame on how long monies will be put into the same weaker settings?*

There were no additional comments about the EYSFF