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# Early Years Budget 2021/22

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**Report being considered by:** Schools' Forum on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021

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**Item for:** Information **By:** All Forum Members

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## 1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To update the Schools Forum on the funding rates for the Early Years Block for 2021/22.

## 2. Grant funding rates 2021/22

2.1 The guidance for the Early Years funding for 2021/22 has recently been published, including details of the new funding rates.

2.2 The new funding rates are shown below, along with their increases:

	2020/21 rate	increase	2021/22 rate
2 year old funding	£5.82	8p	£5.90
3 to 4 year old funding	£4.78	6p	£4.84
Early Years Pupil Premium	£0.53	0	£0.53
Disability Access Fund	£615	0	£615

## 3. Census information to determine grant levels

3.1 The normal process for determining funding allocations for local authorities for the early years entitlements is to take an annual census count of the number of hours taken up by children in each local authority in January. This is the mid-point of the academic year and so balances the relatively lower numbers eligible for the free entitlements in the autumn term and the higher numbers in the summer term. This means that local authorities would in normal circumstances be paid for the spring term 2021 based on the January 2021 census data.

3.2 For the January 2021 census, the process will remain the same. However, the DFE have recognised that the number of children attending childcare may not have returned to normal levels in all areas when we take the January 2021 census, and it may not therefore represent the mid year point in the normal way. Therefore if attendance is below 85% of our January 2020 census levels, a top up will be applied.

3.3 The final allocations will be updated in July 2021 as normal.

## 4. Grant funding 2021/22

4.1 The grant allocation for 2021/22 has been confirmed as £10,360,415

## **5. Maintained Nursery Schools**

- 5.1 For 2021 to 2022, part of the supplementary funding allocations are published as indicative, and part as conditional.
- 5.2 The allocations for April 2021 to August 2021 are indicative and will be updated on the same basis as the universal entitlements.
- 5.3 The maintained nursery school supplementary funding allocations for September 2021 to March 2022 are conditional: they may be subject to change and local authorities should therefore treat them as unconfirmed.

## **6. Conclusion**

- 6.1 Whilst we have seen a real terms increase in this grant funding, it is unsure how this will impact on the current deficit on the block since we are still seeing an ongoing decline in numbers due to Covid.
- 6.2 The Early Years Funding Group will be considering the impact of this rate change along with the deficit recovery in due course.