

**Bradford District’s Early Years Single Funding Formula 2020/21**

1. **Introduction**

1.1 Attached with this introduction is the full Technical Statement, which sets out the methodology and timetable proposed for the calculation of funding allocations for individual providers delivering the 2, 3 and 4 year old entitlements in 2020/21. ***A summary of our proposals, and a highlight of changes, are given in paragraph 1.8 below.***

1.2 Please note that the values of funding rates quoted in this consultation document, including the 3 & 4 year old Universal Base Rate, are currently indicative and should be viewed as such. These indicative rates are highlighted in yellow. It is expected that all rates of funding for 2020/21 will initially be confirmed following the Schools Forum meeting to be held on 8 January and then finally by Council on 20 February 2020. The rates presented in this document however, do represent what we aim to fund and therefore, do give providers a basis on which to plan.

1.3 Our proposed approach for 2020/21 continues to incorporate our response to the changes that began from April 2017 as a result of the Government’s national early years funding reform. As we have explained, in our consultations in previous years, the most significant widespread change for Bradford resulting from this reform has been the reduction in the value of the Universal Base Rate supporting the delivery of the 3 & 4 year old universal and extended entitlements. In 2017/18, we were also required to re-direct a proportion of spending from our Deprivation and SEND supplement to the Universal Base Rate in order to comply with new restrictions. In 2018/19 and 2019/20, we have allocated reserves (one off monies from brought forward balances) held within the Early Years Block to protect the value of the Universal Base Rate at its current year level, which is £4.11 per hour. The funding of maintained nursery schools has remained protected across 2017-2019 as the DfE has provided a specific supplement for this purpose.

1.4 The DfE announced DSG rates of funding for local authorities for early years for 2020/21 on 31 October 2019. The DfE has confirmed:

* Bradford’s rate of funding from the DfE for the 3&4 year old entitlements has increased from £4.57 to £4.63 per hour. This represents an increase of + 1.31% (+ £0.06). The standard increase applied to all authorities is + £0.08 per hour. Bradford’s increase is only + £0.06 due to the removal of £0.02 of protection remaining in our settlement from the April 2017 changes.
* Bradford’s rate of funding from the DfE for the 2 year old entitlement has increased from £5.20 to £5.28 per hour. This represents an increase of + 1.54% (+ £0.08). All local authorities have been allocated a + £0.08 uplift in their rates of funding for 2 year olds.
* Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) remains at £0.53 per hour and Disability Access Funding (DAF) remains at £615 in 2020/21.
* The specific additional supplement that is allocated to protect the funding of maintained nursery schools at 2016/17 levels will be allocated for the full 2020/21 financial year. Previously this was only confirmed up to the end of August 2020. The written statement to Parliament submitted by Nick Gibb on 31 October stated that, “I can also confirm today that supplementary funding for Maintained Nursery Schools (MNS) will continue, at its current rate, for the whole of the 2020-21 financial year. I can also confirm that the government remains committed to funding for MNS in the longer term; and that any reform to the way they are funded in future will be accompanied with funding protections.”

1.5 At the time of writing this consultation the following uncertainties remain for 2020/21 and beyond:

* The DfE has not yet published its operational guidance for local authorities on the construction of Early Years Single Funding Formula for 2020/21. Although we would not now expect the DfE to make any technical changes for 2020/21 to the workings of the EYSFF, or to the restrictions that apply, we cannot confirm that further changes will not be directed. We will keep providers informed in the event that material changes in the workings of the EYSFF are directed and affect our arrangements as set out in our technical statement.
* The rates of funding Bradford will receive from the DfE for both the 2 year old and the 3&4 year old entitlements after 2020/21.
* The absolute position of the funding of maintained nursery schools after 2020/21 – what ‘reform’ will mean and what levels of protection will be put in place (and for how long).

1.6 We explained within our consultation published this time last year that:

* 2019/20 is the final year of our three year strategy, which we initially set out in autumn 2016. Our strategy has included the allocation of reserves brought forward within the Early Years Block to soften the reduction in the 3 & 4 year old Universal Base Rate that has come from the national reform. Our strategy has also included an initial reduction in the proportion of the 3 & 4 year old EYSFF that is allocated via our Deprivation and SEND supplement, although to a greater extent this was forced by the DfE’s restriction from April 2017 that supplements within the 3 & 4 year old EYSFF (of which deprivation is one) cannot allocate more than 10% of funds. Prior to this, we had allocated 14% of our 3 & 4 year old EYSFF through our Deprivation & SEND supplement. We have reduced this to 9.5%.
* The Authority’s review of the options for our EYSFF from April 2020 will need to take account of the following as these become clearer:
	+ Further directed changes from the DfE on the operation of the EYSFF.
	+ The specific outcomes of the DfE’s consultation on the funding of maintained nursery schools.
	+ The position of the High Needs Block and the relative responsibilities (between the High Needs Block and the Early Years Block) for the funding of centrally managed support services for high needs children in early years settings.
	+ The impact of our holistic Early Years SEND Inclusion Fund (EYIF) and the role this has in supporting providers and children with additional needs. The positive impact that access by 2 year olds to this Inclusion Fund has, or what would be lost if access was removed, recognising that access by 2 year olds to EYIF is non-statutory.
	+ At the point we have ‘exhausted’ Early Years Block reserves, where we continue to spend 9.5% of our EYSFF for 3 & 4 year olds on the Deprivation & SEND supplement, our 3 & 4 year old Universal Base Rate could be lower than £4.00 per hour. This could be uplifted by reducing the proportion of the EYSFF spent on the Deprivation & SEND supplement. Benchmarking indicates that the national average spending on supplements in 2018/19 was 4.4%, and the average of our statistical neighbours was 5.7%, compared against our current 9.5%. We indicated this time last year that it was likely, if the maximisation of the Universal Base Rate is viewed to be the main priority for our EYSFF going forward, that our Deprivation and SEND supplement rates would need to reduce to these averages from April 2020 in order to protect our Universal Base Rate at least at the current £4.11.

1.7 We are currently exploring the introduction of a new single Bradford Provider Gateway for all providers to use to submit all their entitlement delivery information to the Authority. The Gateway is currently used by all providers to submit their 2 year old information and by PVI providers to submit their 3&4 year old information. When fully developed, the information submitted through this Gateway will be used for the calculation of all EYSFF allocations for all providers, replacing the DfE Termly Censuses as the source of delivery information for schools and classes. There are significant advantages, both for providers and for the Local Authority, to the collection of information via a Gateway and many local authorities already use this approach. We aim to begin a pilot (a dry run) during 2020 with a view that we could move to full use of this Gateway for summer term 2021. We will keep providers informed of how this work develops.

**1.8 We have developed our proposed approach for 2020/21 on the basis that:**

* We will continue our current termly headcount methodology (and 2nd headcount for the 2 year old offer) for 2020/21. Although we do not propose to revisit for 2020/21 the option suggested previously to move to a monthly counting arrangement (a ‘starters and leavers’ approach), the introduction of a new single Bradford Provider Gateway for the collection of information from all settings will provide further opportunities for us to explore the pros and cons of moving at a point in the future to a counting arrangement that is more sensitive to the movement of children and fluctuations in numbers during the year.
* In response to provider feedback, we will make a small adjustment to the payment profile for PVI providers for the spring term 2021. This will mean that 25% of the estimated funding for the spring term will be paid in each of the 3 months December, January and February, leaving the final 25%, together with an adjustment for any differences between estimated and actual funding confirmed from the January census, to be paid in March.
* We will continue in 2020/21 to pass through to providers 100% of the nationally set funding rates for the Early Years Pupil Premium (confirmed at £0.53 per hour) and the Disability Access Fund (confirmed at £615 per year).
* We will go ahead with the planned increase in the contribution from the Early Years Block to early years high needs activities. We transferred £0.3m of cost from the High Needs Block to the Early Years Block in 2019/20. We will transfer £0.6m in 2020/21.
* Regarding the Early Years SEND Inclusion Fund (EYIF):
	+ EYIF will continue in 2020/21 to be fully funded from the Early Years Block. A budget of £1.50m has been held in 2019/20. We will consult in more detail with the Schools Forum on the value of budget required for 2020/21.
	+ We will continue to apply to all providers the holistic SEND Inclusion Fund approach that is set out in Appendix 2 at the back of this document. A separate survey for PVI providers, as well as for schools that were included in the pilot, has been conducted and feedback from this survey, alongside responses to this consultation, will inform our final EYIF approach for 2020/21.
	+ 2 year olds will continue to be eligible for EYIF. We indicated in last year’s consultation our intention that, where EYIF continues to be extended to eligible 2 year olds going forward, we would top-slice the 2 year old flat rate of funding of £5.20 per hour to provide for this. We do not propose however, to enact a top-slice in 2020/21; the cost of 2 year old access to EYIF will continue to be met from the 3&4 year old Early Years Block budget supported by one off monies.
* Regarding the **2 year old entitlement**, providers in 2020/21 will continue to be funded on a single flat rate per hour with no additional supplements. This rate was £5.20 in 2019/20, which meant that 100% of the rate of funding the Authority receives from the DfE for the 2 year old entitlement is passed on to providers. The DfE has confirmed that Bradford’s rate of funding for 2 year olds in 2020/21 at DSG level has been uplifted by 1.54% (+ £0.08) to £5.28 per hour. **We propose to pass this uplift onto providers in full by setting our 2 year old funding rate at £5.28 per hour for 2020/21.**
* Regarding funding the **3 & 4 year old entitlement**, whilst recognising that reserves / one off monies are still currently available and will be deployed in 2020/21, we do propose to begin to take incremental action, which is aimed at both reducing the reliance on one off monies and maximising the value of our Universal Base Rate over the medium term. To this end, we propose:
	+ To begin to reduce the proportion of our 3 & 4 year old EYSFF that is allocated via the Deprivation & SEND supplement, with the intention to reduce this down by April 2022 to the average of our statistical neighbours, which is currently rounded at 6% (5.7%). Our current proportion is 9.5%. We propose 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 indicatively down to 7.0% in 2021/22 and then to 6.0% in 2022/23. Further explanation of this proposal, and a view of its impact and how this sits against the position found in other authorities, is given in paragraphs 2 and 3 below.
	+ **To continue to employ one off monies to set the 3 & 4 Year Old Universal Base Rate (UBR) in 2020/21 at £4.19 per hour.** This is an uplift of 1.95% (+ £0.08) on the £4.11 set for 2019/20. The uplift of + £0.08 passes through to providers more than the £0.06 increase Bradford has received from the DfE at DSG Early Years Block level. Decisions on the deployment of one off monies after 2020/21 will be considered as part of next year’s consultation work. We can only continue to uplift the value of the UBR in future years where we take action to reduce the proportion of the EYSFF spent on supplements.
	+ Not to introduce any more supplements (in addition to deprivation) into our 3 & 4 year old EYSFF. These supplements would dilute further both the Universal Base Rate and the Deprivation & SEND rates at a time when we see our priority to be to maximise the value of the UBR for all providers.
* Regarding the funding of the **3&4 year old entitlements in Maintained Nursery Schools**, we propose that the protected base rate is uplifted in line with the general settlement and that the other elements of the protection funded by the DfE’s supplement are carried forward at existing levels, so:
	+ The protected setting base rate for maintained nursery schools is set at £5.78 per hour in 2020/21. This is the current protected £5.70 (which is carried forward from 2016/17) uplifted by £0.08 per hour in line with the uplift delivered in the 3&4 year old Universal Base Rate for other providers.
	+ The Deprivation and SEN supplement rates for each nursery school will continue to be retained at their 2016/17 values.

* + The nursery school lump sum sustainability supplement will continue to be calculated on existing variable values using the current methodology.

1.10 In setting out our proposals for the rates of funding allocated to support the delivery of the early year’s entitlements, the Authority recognises that costs, especially salaries costs, have increased and continue to do so. The rates of funding we can set are directly linked to / limited by the DSG budget available to the Authority to spend on early years. We expect providers to be especially interested therefore, in the benchmarking information that is presented in paragraph 2 and what this says about how rates of funding in Bradford, and the proportion of the total available early years budget that is passed through to providers, compares with other authorities.

1.11 Please use the responses form attached at the end of this document to submit your views on the proposals outlined in the consultation. There is space on this form for you to comment on any aspect of the proposals. If you wish to discuss these proposals in more detail, or have any specific questions, please contact either Andrew Redding schoolfundingteam@bradford.gov.uk 01274 432678 or EarlyEducationFund@bradford.gov.uk 01274 431965.

1.12 Please ensure that your response is submitted by the deadline of **Friday 20 December 2019.** Any responses received after this deadline date will not be included in the overall analysis presented to the Schools Forum.

1.13 It is anticipated that the Schools Forum will make its final recommendations on 2020/21 arrangements on Wednesday 8 January, which will then be put to Council on 20 February 2020. A confirmed Technical Statement, giving sight of the final Early Years Single Funding Formula, and rates of funding, for the 2020/21 financial year will be published early in the new year.

1. **Benchmarking Bradford’s EYSFF & Proposals for 2020/21**

2.1 It is important that we continue to regularly compare our position against that found in other local authorities. It is also important that we look at the impact our proposals for 2020/21, and our direction of travel, in this context. The key areas of comparison are presented in the bullet points below.

* The table below shows the median averages of 3&4 year old universal base rates calculated using the latest available information, which is for the 2018/19 financial year. We expect that data for 2019/20 will be published by the DfE later in November. Providers will be aware that Bradford’s Universal Base Rate reduced slightly to £4.11 in 2019/20.

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| **3&4 Year Old Entitlement UBRs 2018/19** | **UBR £** |
| Bradford | £4.12 |
| Yorks & Humber Regional Average | £4.00 |
| Statistical Neighbour Average | £4.09 |
| National Average (including London) | £4.10 |
| National Average (excluding London) | £4.02 |

* The table below shows the median averages of 2 year old base rates for the 2018/19 financial year.

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| **2 Year Old Entitlement Base Rates 2018/19** | **Base Rate £** |
| Bradford | £5.20 |
| Yorks & Humber Regional Average | £5.15 |
| Statistical Neighbour Average | £5.10 |
| National Average (including London) | £5.20 |
| National Average (excluding London) | £5.19 |

* Bradford’s 2 year old base rate in 2018/19 was £5.20, which was 26% higher than our 3&4 year old universal base rate of £4.12. The national median average 2 year old base rate (including London) was 27% higher at £5.20 than the national median average 3&4 year old universal base rate at £4.10. Excluding London, the average 2 year old base rate was 29% higher at £5.19 than the average 3&4 year old universal base rate at £4.02.
* The vast majority of authorities in 2018/19, as in Bradford, funded the 2 year old entitlement using only a single flat rate of funding per hour without any additional supplements.
* As stated earlier in this document, the national average spending on supplements in the 3&4 year old EYSFF in 2018/19 was 4.4% and the average of our statistical neighbours was 5.7%. Bradford currently spends 9.5% excluding one off monies. All local authorities are required to have a deprivation supplement. A small number of authorities also used other permitted supplements.
* Looking at early years centrally managed funds, in 2018/19:
	+ The national average pass through rate (the % of the 3&4 year old available budget that was passed out to providers through the EYSFF and SEND Inclusion Funds rather than being centrally retained) was 96.4%. Our statistical neighbour average pass through rate was 97.5%. Bradford’s pass through rate in 2018/19 was actually 101% (greater than 100% because of our use of one off monies), and indicatively, excluding the distortion on one off monies, will be 97% in 2020/21. Bradford’s figure includes the impact of the extension of our Early Years SEND Inclusion Fund (EYIF) to eligible 2 year olds, which is a charge to our centrally managed Early Years Block. Most authorities do not extend EYIF to 2 year olds and, adjusting for this aspect within the calculation, Bradford’s pass through rate indicatively is 97.7% in 2020/21.
	+ The national average % of spending in the Early Years Block in 2018/19 on retained centrally managed funds, excluding the Early Years SEND Inclusion Funding (EYIF), was 4.15%. Bradford’s figure in 2019/20 was 2.40% and indicatively is 3.36% in 2020/21, including the additional £0.30m contribution to early years high needs spending.
* The national average spending on Early Years SEND Inclusion Funds as a % of the Early Years Block in 2018/19 was 1.74%. The cost of our EYIF arrangements is currently under review as we have not yet completed a full year under our new holistic model. The initial budget of £1.50m held for EYIF in 2019/20 represents 3.78%, which is much higher than the national average but which could be reduced substantially in 2020/21 depending on the actual cost of the new arrangements.

2.2 We would conclude from this benchmarking:

* We currently delegate to providers a greater proportion of our Early Years Block than the average authority and we expect this to remain the case in 2020/21. The % of our 3&4 year old budget that we pass-through to providers is at least in line with the average of our statistical neighbour authorities and is greater than the % pass through found nationally. Our overall retention of monies within the whole Early Years Block in 2020/21 for central management is expected to continue to be lower than the 2018/19 national average.
* Our rate of funding for 2 year olds at £5.20 is in line with the national average. That our rate is 26% higher than our 3&4 year old Universal Base Rate is also broadly in line. This would suggest that, where we wish to continue to allow access by 2 year olds to EYIF, we shouldn’t fund this by top-slicing the 2 year old funding rate as, to top-slice the £5.20 by e.g. £0.15 per hour, would result in a funding rate in Bradford, which would be out of step with the rates used in other authorities.
* Our current Universal Base Rate of funding for 3 & 4 year olds at £4.11 is higher than all other measured median averages. However, the difference to the average of our statistical neighbours is modest and this benchmarking does not suggest that we could significantly reduce our Universal Base Rate and remain in line with the position found in other authorities.
* Our proportion of spending in our EYSFF for 3&4 year olds on supplements (our Deprivation & SEND supplement) at 9.5% is significantly higher than both national and statistical neighbour median averages. In reducing our % we would come more in line with other authorities and would also be able to maximise the value of our Universal Base Rate.
* Our spending on Early Years Inclusion Funds (EYIF) at £1.5m (3.36%) would be significantly higher than the average of authorities nationally. This is currently under review as £1.5m was an estimate of the cost of new arrangements, which have still to run for a full year. A possible reduction in the budget could bring us more in line as well as relieve some of the pressure on the Early Years Block and allow for a higher Universal Base Rate going forward.
* Unlike the vast majority of other authorities, we allocate EYIF to eligible 2 years olds. We must ensure that we continue to monitor the additional positive impact that this approach has, recognising that this is funded effectively by top-slicing the 3&4 year old budget.
1. **The Deprivation & SEND Supplement - Maximising the 3 & 4 Year Old Universal Base Rate**

3.1 All Local Authorities are required by the DfE to have a deprivation supplement within their 3&4 Year Old 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 backgrounds.
* 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 (Early Years Action, Early Years Action +).

3.2 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 are published, which for 2020/21 will be in February 2020. They will not change during 2020/21. All 3 and 4 year old entitlement hours, including the extended 30 hours, delivered at a provider are funded at the same Deprivation and SEN Rate.

3.3 Unlike the Universal Base Rate however, Deprivation and SEND Rates vary according to the measured level of deprivation of children attending each provider. Each provider’s Deprivation and SEN Rate is calculated using the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and the postcodes of children taking up the entitlement at the provider; for 2020/21 using data recorded in the January 2020, January 2019 and January 2018 censuses (3 year rolling average). A minimum rate is in place for Childminders.

3.4 Paragraph 1.7 summarises the proposal to begin to reduce the proportion of our 3 & 4 year old EYSFF that is allocated via our Deprivation & SEND supplement, with the intention to reduce this by April 2022 to the average of our statistical neighbours, which is currently rounded at 6% (5.7%). Our current proportion in 2019/20 is 9.5%. We propose to reduce to the 6% average in 3 steps over 3 years, with the proportion reduced from 9.5% to 8.0% in 2020/21, and then indicatively down to 7.0% in 2021/22 and then to 6.0% in 2022/23.

3.5 This change proposed for 2020/21 takes place alongside the increase in the 3 and 4 year old Universal Base Rate from £4.11 to £4.19 per hour. This uplift also has a modest positive knock on impact on deprivation spending as spend would be set at 8% of a total EYSFF budget, which has been uplifted on 2019/20.

3.6 The change proposed for 2020/21 also takes place alongside the continued protection of the funding of maintained nursery schools. The levels of deprivation of children as measured by IMD, and rates of deprivation funding, are higher in the 7 nursery schools than in the other early years sectors. It is important that recognition of this continues to be factored into our EYSFF approach.

3.7 It is also important to note that circumstances, such as DfE policy change or substantial amendment to the value of Early Years Block funding available in future years, may alter the nature of this proposal after 2020/21. However, the Authority is minded to begin to reduce the % from 9.5% to 8% in 2020/21 as an initial step. This is aimed incrementally at resolving the issue of the maintenance of a Universal Base Rate (UBR) at a value that supports quality universal provision on a more permanent basis without the reliance on reserves.

3.8 Practically, for reasons of affordability at Early Years Block level, we could not propose to uplift the UBR to £4.19 in 2020/21 without reducing our supplement spending to 8%.

3.9 The benchmarking information presented above highlights how our EYSFF is currently ‘out of line’ with other authorities in the proportion of funding allocated to providers through supplements rather than through the main Universal Base Rate. Our current value of UBR however, is in line. We have set out how we are currently using brought forward balances (reserves) within the Early Years Block to set the UBR at £4.11 in 2019/20 per hour whilst also spending 9.5% on Deprivation & SEND. We cannot afford to continue to spend at this level without using reserves. This is not a permanent solution. Within the funding settlement available to us, we need either to reduce the UBR or to reduce our spending on supplements in order to keep within budget. Our modelling suggests that, using 2019/20 budget as a reference, we would need to set a UBR much lower than £4.00 per hour in order to continue to spend 9.5% on our Deprivation & SEND supplement. The benchmarking suggests that, where we did this, we would be ‘out of line’ with other authorities as our UBR would be much lower and our % spend on supplements much higher. In this scenario, we could expect the extent to which our UBR is out of line to grow as we would expect the vast majority of local authorities to uplift their UBRs in 2020/21 in response to the DfE’s funding increase.

3.10 It is also the case that retaining our existing UBR value, or even reducing this further, in 2020/21 would not support all providers to meet growing costs, especially salaries costs.

3.11 Our current spending of 9.5% was set in response to the 10% restriction of supplement spending, which was set by the DfE at April 2017. Prior to this, we spent 14% of our 3&4 year old EYSFF on our Deprivation & SEND supplement. This was afforded by a higher level of early years funding settlement from government. We have retained our spend at 9.5% across 2017-2019 in order to complete the 3 year strategy that we set out in autumn 2016 and to provide some predictability for providers. We signalled this was not affordable in the longer term.

3.12 We would also identify that the Early Years Pupil Premium, as well as the Disability Access Fund and Early Inclusion Funds, complement the EYSFF and provide additional funds to support children with additional needs.

3.13 The tables below illustrate the changes within the EYSFF, and the impact on rates of funding, that would follow the reduction in supplement spending from 9.5% to 8% and then indicatively down to 6%. This is indicative modelling to illustrate the impact and is based on the budget without the addition of one off reserves, which increased the Universal Base Rate to £4.11 in 2019/20, and before the application of the specific protection for maintained nursery schools (MNS).

* Shown below is an indicative summary of how rates of funding, and budget spend, change following a 3 stepped reduction from 9.5% to 6%. The tables show how the value of UBR is uplifted as a result of the reduction in spending on the Deprivation & SEND supplement and how median supplement rates correspondingly reduce. ‘MNS’ = maintained nursery schools; ‘Classes’ = nursery classes in primary schools and academies; ‘PVI’ = Private, Voluntary and Independent Providers.

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| **Current** | **MNS** | **Classes** | **PVI** | **Total** |
| **Deprivation & SEND Supplement %** | **9.5%** | **9.5%** | **9.5%** | **9.5%** |
| Median Deprivation & SEND Rate | £0.56 | £0.49 | £0.28 | £0.29 |
| Universal Base Rate (UBR)\*  | £3.94 | £3.94 | £3.94 | £3.94 |

\* This is what the value of the UBR would be on 2019/20 budget based modelling without the addition of one off reserves. One off reserves increased the UBR to £4.11 in 2019/20.

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|  | **MNS** | **Classes** | **PVI** | **Total** |
| **Deprivation & SEND Supplement %** | **8.0%** | **8.0%** | **8.0%** | **8.0%** |
| Reduction in Supplement in cash terms vs. 9.5% | - £39,043 | - £237,969 | - £183,240 | - £460,252 |
| Median Deprivation & SEND Rate | £0.47 | £0.41 | £0.24 | £0.24 |
| Reduction in Median Deprivation & SEND Rate | - £0.09 | - £0.08 | - £0.04 | - £0.05 |
| Universal Base Rate (UBR) | £4.00 | £4.00 | £4.00 | £4.00 |
| Increase in UBR vs. that under 9.5% model | + £0.06 |  + £0.06 | + £0.06 | + £0.06 |

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|  | **MNS** | **Classes** | **PVI** | **Total** |
| **Deprivation & SEND Supplement %** | **7.0%** | **7.0%** | **7.0%** | **7.0%** |
| Reduction in Supplement in cash terms vs. 9.5% | - £65,068 | - £396,593 | - £305,092 | - £767,753 |
| Median Deprivation & SEND Rate | £0.41 | £0.36 | £0.21 | £0.21 |
| Reduction in Median Deprivation & SEND Rate | - £0.15 | - £0.13 | - £0.07 | - £0.08 |
| Universal Base Rate (UBR) | £4.04 | £4.04 | £4.04 | £4.04 |
| Increase in UBR vs. that under 9.5% model | + £0.10 | + £0.10 | + £0.10 | + £0.10 |

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|  | **MNS** | **Classes** | **PVI** | **Total** |
| **Deprivation & SEND Supplement %** | **6.0%** | **6.0%** | **6.0%** | **6.0%** |
| Reduction in Supplement in cash terms vs. 9.5% | - £91,022 | - £554,786 | - £426,613 | - £1,072,421 |
| Median Deprivation & SEND Rate | £0.35 | £0.31 | £0.18 | £0.18 |
| Reduction in Median Deprivation & SEND Rate | - £0.21 | - £0.18 | - £0.10 | - £0.11 |
| Universal Base Rate (UBR) | £4.08 | £4.08 | £4.08 | £4.08 |
| Increase in UBR vs. that under 9.5% model | + £0.14 | + £0.14 | + £0.14 | + £0.14 |

* In summary, every 1% reduction in supplement enables £0.04 more UBR per hour. At its fullest, a reduction of 3.5% (9.5% down to 6%) would enable the UBR to be set £0.14 per hour higher (3.6%) than under current arrangements. Correspondingly, spend on the Deprivation & SEND supplement, at its fullest, would reduce by £1.07m in cash terms and by 37% in budget / 38% in median average terms (spend reducing from £2.90m at 9.5% to £1.83m at 6%).
* Specifically for 2020/21, the reduction to 8% would mean a spending reduction on supplements of £0.46m, which would represent a 16% reduction in budget and 17% reduction in the median average. These reductions would be ameliorated slightly due to the overall uplift. The table below identifies the indicative spread of cash reductions for providers (using 2019/20 data and the providers receiving EYSFF funding at August 2019). For nursery schools, this shows the illustrative position before the protection of funding rates is applied.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Indicative Cash Reduction** | **No. MNS** | **No. Classes** | **No. PVI** |
| < £500 | 0 | 9 | 265 |
| Between £501 - £1,000 | 0 | 13 | 47 |
| Between £1,001 - £2,000 | 0 | 43 | 50 |
| Between £2,001 - £3,000 | 2 | 25 | 13 |
| Between £3,001 - £4,000 | 0 | 16 | 5 |
| Between £4,001 - £5,000 | 2 | 10 | 1 |
| Between £5,001 - £7,500 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Between £7,501 - £10,500 | 2 | 0 | 0 |

* Individual providers can assess where they sit within this table by reducing their 2019/20 Deprivation & SEND funding rate (shown on their funding and advances schedules) by 16% and multiplying the difference between their actual and their reduced rate by their total number of 3&4 year old universal and extended funded entitlement hours.
* Looking at the changes in the median averages of supplement rates for each sector, the reduction in supplement spending does impact proportionately more on the schools and the classes sectors than the PVI sector. This is because the measured levels of deprivation of children attending schools and classes are higher on average. This being recognised however, schools and classes are typically larger in size than PVI providers and so would be more affected in cash terms by a further reduction (or lack of uplift) in the UBR. This indicates the difficulty of setting out such a proposal and one of the reasons why benchmarking information is important. Nursery schools will continue to be funded at existing protected rates.

**Bradford District Early Years Single Funding Formula 2020/21**

**(DRAFT VERSION FOR CONSULTATION NOVEMBER 2019)**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS TECHNICAL STATEMENT IS WRITTEN ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2020/21 FINANCIAL YEAR BUDGET MADE BY BRADFORD SCHOOLS FORUM AT ITS MEETING ON 8 JANUARY 2020. A FINAL DECISION ON THESE RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE TAKEN BY COUNCIL ON 20 FEBRUARY 2020**

**INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY**

**1) The Basic Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) for the 3 and 4 year olds universal and extended entitlements in 2020/21 is as follows:**

***(a + b + c) x d + e = Total EYSFF Funding 2020/21***

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

*b) Provider Deprivation & SEN Rate (£ per child per hour)*

*c) Base Rate Protection (Nursery Schools only) (£ per child per hour)*

***(a + b + c) = Provider’s Total Funding Rate***

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

*e) Lump Sum Funding for Sustainability (Nursery Schools only)*

For example, on the simple basis that all children at a provider access 15 hours entitlement per week for 38 weeks per year, funding using the EYSFF in 2020/21 will look like:

*a) Universal Base Rate £4.19*

*b) Provider Deprivation & SEN Rate £0.30 \*\* Example Rate Only*

***The provider’s funding rate per hour = (£4.19 + £0.30) = £4.49***

*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*

***Sub Total EYSFF Funding = £4.49 x 39,660 = £178,073***

**2) The Basic 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 2020/21 continues to be funded via a simple flat rate per child per hour for all providers. The value of rate for all providers is set at £5.28.**

The timetabling and counting arrangements for the funding of the 2 year old entitlement are the same as for the 3 and 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 2020/21.

**4) We have made a small adjustment to the payment profile for PVI providers for spring term 2021**.

This will mean that 25% of the estimated funding for the spring term will be paid in each of the 3 months December, January and February, leaving the final 25%, together with an adjustment for any difference between estimated and actual funding confirmed from the January census, to be paid in March.

**5) Following the feedback received in the consultation we conducted in autumn 2017 we chose not to move to a monthly ‘starters and leavers’ counting arrangement. This remains our position for 2020/21. Therefore, the current termly headcount methodology is retained for 2020/21.**

However, the introduction of a single Bradford Provider Gateway for the collection of information from all providers, will provide further opportunities for us to explore with providers the pros and cons of moving at a point in the future to a counting arrangement that is more sensitive to the movement of children and fluctuations in numbers during the year.

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

* Early Years Pupil Premium
* Disability Access Fund
* Early Years SEND Inclusion

**SECTION 1**

**a) There is a Universal Base Rate per hour for the funding of the 3 and 4 year old entitlements. In 2020/21 the value of this is £4.19**

* 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, lump sum funding, from the DfE’s specific Maintained Nursery School Supplement, effectively to bring the Base Rate for Maintained Nursery Schools up to £5.78 per hour, which is the value of their Base Rate in 2016/17 prior to the implementation of the DfE’s national formula reform plus a £0.08 uplift for 2020/21.
* The 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 2020/21. It is fixed at the point the 1st draft of Indicative Budgets are published, which for 2020/21 is in February 2020. Please see the timetable.
* For Primary schools and academies with nursery classes, funding allocated to support whole school costs remains fully within the Primary sector funding formula (e.g. business rates).

**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 (Early Years Action, Early Years Action +).
* As with the 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 are published, which for 2020/21 is in February 2020. They will not change during 2020/21.
	+ All 3 and 4 year old entitlement hours, including the extended 30 hours, delivered at a provider are funded at the same Deprivation and SEN Rate.
	+ The DfE’s Maintained Nursery Schools Supplement is allocated to maintain each Maintained Nursery School’s ‘Deprivation and SEN Rate’ at the 2016/17 value.
* Unlike the Base Rate, Deprivation and SEND Rates vary according to the measured level of deprivation of children attending each provider. Each provider’s Deprivation and SEN 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 2020, January 2019 and January 2018 censuses (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, 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 this type. This is especially applicable for Childminders.

**c) Each provider is funded on the number of 3 and 4 year old entitlement hours recorded as delivered in a single common census date taken each term**

* Each provider’s no. of funded entitlement hours delivered for the 2020/21 financial year is the sum of:
	+ Summer term (beginning 1 April 2020): the total of entitlement hours delivered per week recorded in the census taken on 21 May 2020, x 12 weeks
	+ Autumn term (beginning 1 September 2020): the total of entitlement hours delivered per week recorded in the census taken on 1 October 2020, x 14 weeks.
	+ Spring term (beginning 1 January 2021): the total of entitlement hours delivered per week recorded in the census taken on 21 January 2021, 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.
* The dates for the censuses are the same for schools, classes and PVI providers. This is so that the census data for each provider can be cross checked to identify duplicate children.
* For maintained schools and academies, the funded hours information will be taken 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. PVI providers will be required, as is the process now, to submit their summer term information through the Bradford Provider Gateway.
* 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.
* 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. Only exceptional circumstances will be considered where a provider admits a significant number of children after the census has been taken in that term.
	+ Adjustments may be made to funded hours for the intake of children after the census is taken for that term where these movements are the result of re-allocation from the closure of an inadequate setting.
	+ Adjustments to funded hours may be made specifically for the autumn term only, 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 funded hours that are estimated will be recorded in each of the censuses will be used.
* 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 submitted by providers.

**d) Only children eligible for the 3 and 4 year old entitlements will be funded**

* The EYSFF for 3 and 4 year olds will only allocate funding for children in providers that are accessing the entitlement 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 offer has been extended to eligible 2 year olds, but this does not mean all children accessing provision under aged 3 are eligible for EYSFF funding.
* The maximum number of hours any child will be funded for, for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, 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 Local Authority, most commonly in the case of children with SEND placed in early years resourced provisions attached to 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 2020 and 31 March 2021.
* 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 Local Authority will fund each provider on a pro-rata basis only up to a maximum of 15. 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 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 Local 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 no longer applies a cap on the number of hours funded based on the published admission number of a maintained 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](https://bso.bradford.gov.uk/content/30-hours).

**e) The Confirmed Indicative Budget published in March 2020 for schools and classes only gives an estimate of funding. A pre-calculated Indicative Budget for PVI providers is replaced with a flexible Ready Reckoner**

* A pre-calculated 1st draft Indicative Budget for 2020/21 will be published at the end of February 2020 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 2020/21. 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 largely be calculated on hours delivered by each school recorded in the previous year i.e. estimating that a school’s numbers will be the same, but adjusted for significant known changes.
* 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 financial year. A Confirmed Indicative Budget for 2020/21 will then be published in mid-March 2020. This budget will be used to begin payments to maintained schools and academies within the established whole-school advances system. A ready reckoner for maintained and academy providers to use to estimate funding adjustments will be published alongside the Confirmed Indicative Budgets.
* Pre-calculated Indicative Budgets are no longer published for PVI providers. Instead, an electronic (Excel) Ready Reckoner will be published in February 2020, showing the per hour rates of funding for each provider and allowing providers to calculate their own indicative budgets based on their estimates of hours to be delivered across the next financial year.

**f) 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 for when adjustments will be published and actioned in 2020/21. These adjustments will alter the amounts of funding physically paid to providers.
	+ The adjustments will reflect the differences between the estimated and actual funded hours delivered.
	+ A ready reckoner is provided by the Local Authority, which providers can 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 the adjustments being actioned. 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. Adjustment values are likely to be larger in providers that have more volatile numbers that change month on month. Providers should use the Ready Reckoner.
	+ These adjustments can be both positive and negative.
	+ All adjustments for the 2020/21 financial year will be actioned before 31 March 2021.
	+ Funding adjustments will take account of any sustainability funding for maintained nursery schools; the ready reckoner provided by the Local Authority incorporates this.
	+ Because of the very tight timescale for processing the data after the January 2021 census, the adjustments for the spring term 2021 for PVI providers 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 2021. Where a provider does not pay back any money owed to the Local Authority at year end via cheque the value of funding owed will be taken from the provider’s summer term payment.
	+ Where closed or closing providers owe funding to the Local Authority that cannot be recovered through the adjustment of advances the provider will be asked to pay the funding back via cheque.
	+ Early Years Pupil Premium and Disability Access Fund will be paid within the termly system.
* The first payment of the year, in April 2020, for schools and classes will be based on the Confirmed Indicative Budget. For PVI providers this will be based on latest actual delivery information.

**g) In 2020/21 EYSFF funding will continue to be paid monthly to all providers**

* Maintained schools and academies have a well-established whole-school monthly advances payment system and EYSFF funding will be allocated using this. The adjustments to EYSFF funding will be incorporated into the September 2020, December 2020 and March 2021 advances adjustments. Please see the timetable.
* We moved to monthly payments for PVI providers at April 2016. 2020/21 arrangements are the same as in 2019/20, with the exception of a small change to the spring term payment profile so that 25% of the estimated funding for the spring term will be paid in each of the 3 months December, January and February, leaving the final 25%, together with an adjustment for any difference between estimated and actual funding confirmed from the January census, to be paid in March.
* Summer Term 2020:

* + - Funding calculated on the latest delivery information 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 adjustment following the re-calculation of funding using May Census actual numbers will be added to or deducted from the July advance.
		- Where the July advance is insufficient to recoup the full value of any negative adjustment, the August advance will also be reduced. Where a negative balance is still outstanding after this, a deduction will be made from September advance.
* Autumn Term 2020:
	+ - Funding calculated on the latest delivery information 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 adjustment following the re-calculation of funding using the October Census actual numbers will be added to or deducted from the November advance.
		- Where the November advance is insufficient to recoup the full value of any negative adjustment, the December advance will also be reduced. Where a negative balance is still outstanding after this, a deduction will be made from the January advance.
* Spring Term 2021:
	+ - Funding calculated on the latest delivery information 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 adjustment following the re-calculation of funding using the January Census actual numbers will be added to or deducted from the March advance.
		- Where the November advance is insufficient to recoup the full value of any negative adjustment, the December advance will also be reduced. Where a negative balance is still outstanding after this, a deduction will be made from the January advance.
		- A provider that has still been overpaid after the March payment must repay the value of overpayment by cheque by 30 April 2021**.** Where a cheque is not received by 30 April 2021, the Local Authority will deduct the value of the outstanding overpayment from the next available monthly advance in the summer term. This is likely to be in May 2021.
* The Authority will continue to talk to PVI providers about how information submitted through the Bradford Provider Gateway can feed into the monthly payments system (so that initial payments at the start of each term are based on latest delivery information).
* Where a PVI provider experiences exceptional cash flow difficulties, they should contact the Local Authority to discuss the matter further. Contact details can be found in Section 3 of this document.
* Monthly payments will incorporate payments for 2 Year Olds, 3 & 4 Year Olds, Early Years Pupil Premium, DAF funding, EYIF funding and any other applicable funding due from Bradford Council to providers.
* Funding of Early Years Pupil Premium will be calculated on a retrospective basis and will be added to monthly advances as a lump sum in September, December and March.
* Providers will receive one single payment each month combining all the funding and grants applicable for that month. A breakdown of the values paid for each section of funding and/or grants will be shown on the advances (payments) update schedules. This will be updated and published on Bradford Schools Online monthly. We strongly recommend providers download this schedule every month.

**h) Approach to funding Sustainability Issues in 2020/21**

* The EYSFF in 2020/21 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, rates and insurance,
	+ Fixed type costs incurred by maintained providers in leadership and management and administration and premises staffing.
* Both maintained / academy and PVI providers can access advice on sufficiency and sustainability provided by Bradford Council’s Childcare Sufficiency Officers.
* The Schools Forum has established a process, which is currently used to consider the allocation of additional funding, on a one off basis, to Primary schools facing exceptional cost pressures during the financial year. Requests for funding, submitted by schools, are reviewed on an individual case basis against set criteria. The most common reason for requests is a significant increase in pupil numbers during the financial year, where the school has had to make additional provision, such as providing up a new class. This established process will be used in 2020/21 as the basis on which to consider the allocation of additional funding to any maintained / academy or PVI provider that may face exceptional cost pressures. A likely common reason for providers asking for exceptional funding will be where a provider has admitted a significant number of children after the census has been collected for that term. In such cases, exceptional circumstances will always be measured in terms of the level of additional cost pressure faced by the provider in admitting these children, rather than simply measured by the number of additional children not counted in the census.

**i) The Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) in 2020/21**

* Providers will receive up to £300 per year, or £0.53 per child per hour, for each eligible child.
* Providers should refer to the specific guidance on EYPP available on Bradford Schools Online here:

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

* As with the school-age Pupil Premium, the Government believes providers are best placed to know how to support their disadvantaged pupils with the Early Years Pupil Premium. Restrictions will therefore not be imposed on how providers spend the Early Years Pupil Premium. Instead, Ofsted will hold providers to account for how they’ve used their Early Years Pupil Premium to support their disadvantaged children through the regular inspection process.
* The DfE’s web-page gives further information on the Early Years Pupil Premium:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/early-years-pupil-premium-guide-for-local-authorities>

**j) Disability Access Funding (DAF)**

* The DAF is allocated for children age three and four year old who are:
	+ accessing their entitlement hours at a provider in Bradford – they do not have to be accessing all their entitled hours
	+ and receiving Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
* Please note that four year olds in a maintained, academy or free school reception class are not eligible.
* DAF funding is allocated to support providers towards making reasonable adjustments that will benefit the child and the setting as a whole. It cannot be used to pay for additional hours and services. Providers must discuss plans with the parent and how the funding will be used.
* It is a payment of £615 per year.
* Parents are required to make an online application; they can access this through Bradford Council’s Families information Service website [Disability Access Fund Application](https://www.bradford.gov.uk/children-young-people-and-families/looking-for-childcare/disability-access-funding-for-three-and-four-year-olds/). The application form requires basic details of the parent, the name of the chosen provider, and a copy of the child’s Disability Living Allowance award letter.
* Support is available for parents who require help to make an application including face to face support if required. Providers should signpost parents to the website and/or provide them with the contact number 01274 431386.
* DAF funding cannot be split between providers, so if a child is splitting their entitlement hours with more than one provider, the parent will be required to nominate one provider.
* The DAF is for 1 calendar year; the funding period will be based on the award date, for example if a child was awarded the funding on the 30 October 2020 then they can reapply to be awarded again on the 30 October 2021.
* If a child leaves after the funding has been awarded, the provider will not be required to pay back any money even if the child leaves to go to another provider.
* The application will be processed by the Bradford Council; they will check the child is attending a provider in Bradford and that the child is in receipt of DLA. Parents will be informed of the outcome of the application; if successful they will be given an award date and the date they can reapply if their child is still accessing their early year’s entitlement. The provider they have nominated will be informed and provided with details of the funding period.
* Providers will receive payment of the full amount of £615 through the existing early years funding payment process.

**k) Early Years SEND Inclusion Fund**

* Local authorities are required to have SEND Inclusion Funds 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 SEN 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 implemented a holistic approach during 2019/20, which is set out in detail in Appendix 2.

**SECTION 2**

**l) The Entitlement for Eligible 2 year olds**

* Early education became a statutory entitlement for eligible 2 year olds from 1 September 2013. Eligible children are defined as children who are looked after and children who meet the Free School Meals eligibility criteria. The programme was extended from September 2014 to include around 40% of 2 year olds.
* In 2019/20 these places were funded on a flat rate of £5.20 per hour. Child numbers are counted and funded in the same way as for 3 / 4 year olds – based on participation recorded at individual providers in the termly censuses, but incorporating a second headcount each term. This second headcount identifies the most vulnerable children that don’t arrive neatly at the start of term (especially the autumn term when the census is taken early in October). The second headcount supports meeting the key outcome, which is to secure sufficient places on a participation-led funding basis.
* All providers currently submit their 2 year old funded hours information termly using the Bradford Provider Gateway and this approach continues in 2020/21.

* 2 year old entitlement hours will continue to be funded in 2020/21 using a single flat rate per hour, which is £5.28 for all children. Please note that the national funding Regulations only permit a single flat rate to be used to allocate funding for the 2 year old offer.
* The second head count will be taken on the following dates:
* Summer term: 11 June 2020
* Autumn term: 5 November 2020
* Spring Term: 25 February 2021
* The timetabling and counting arrangements for the funding of the 2 year old entitlement are otherwise the same as for the 3 and 4 year old entitlement. Providers will be funded for their delivery of the 2 year old entitlement within their single monthly payment from the Authority.

**SECTION 3**

**m) Who do I contact?**

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

**Maintained school and academy providers**: Andrew Redding, School Funding Team, City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, 01274 432678, schoolfundingteam@bradford.gov.uk

**Private, Voluntary & Independent providers**: Jaclyn McManus, Intelligence and Sufficiency, Education & Learning City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, 01274 431965, EarlyEducationFund@bradford.gov.uk

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

**Appendix 1: Bradford District Early Years Single Funding Formula 2020/21 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 for the 2020/21 financial year.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date** |  **Key Activity** |
| **January 2020** | **a) Department for Education (DfE) January Census 16 January** |
| **February 2020** | **a) 1st draft of Indicative Budgets for 2020/21 published week commencing 17 February*** Maintained / Academy providers will be able to access on the Bradford Schools Online (BSO) website pre-calculated annual forecasted allocations for 2020/21 (on estimated funded hours based on the previous year’s delivery and incorporating further estimates of full year delivery of the 30 hours extended entitlement) as part of their S251 Budget Statements. Providers will then have approximately 3 weeks to review the estimates of funded hours, with the opportunity to change these up or down, prior to the publication of Confirmed Indicative Budgets.
* PVI providers will be able to access on the Bradford Schools Online (BSO) website an electronic (Excel) Ready Reckoner, showing rates of funding for 2020/21 and allowing providers to calculate forecasted annual allocations on their estimates of numbers for 2020/21. Pre-calculated annual forecasts will not be published.

**b) Spring Term 2020 Adjustments Statement Published week commencing 24 February*** A reconciliation statement for all providers will be published, which will show the differences between estimated and actual spring term funded hours delivered and the value of adjustments due.
* Maintained / Academy providers and PVI providers will be able to access this statement on the BSO website.
 |
| **March 2020** | **a) Confirmed Indicative Budgets for 2020/21 published week commencing 9 March*** Maintained / Academy Providers: the Confirmed Indicative Budgets will establish the starting point for funding / payments for the 2020/21 financial year. These budgets will be different from the 1st draft where providers have asked for their estimates of funded numbers 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.
* The Confirmed Indicative Budgets will be published with a warning that these budgets are subject to change, for differences between estimates of and actual funded hours delivered recorded in the termly censuses.
* The Confirmed Indicative Budgets will be published in the same way as the 1st draft Indicative Budgets.
* At the same time Confirmed Indicative Budgets are published, the Authority will provide a ‘ready reckoner’, which providers can use to anticipate likely adjustments to funding for actual funded hours delivered.

**b) Monthly Advances for Maintained / Academy and PVI providers amended to incorporate Spring Term 2020 adjustment*** For Maintained / Academy providers, the value of Local Authority I01 funding used to calculate the monthly advances will be amended in the final advances update in March 2020 to take account of the adjustment due from the January census. This adjustment will impact on each school’s March 2020 carry forward balances position. Schools should use the ready reckoner provided by the Authority to ensure that this adjustment is incorporated by schools in their forecast of their year end balances position.
* For PVI providers, 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 by **30 April 2020.** Where a cheque is not received by 30 April 2020, the Local Authority will deduct the value of the outstanding overpayment from the next available monthly advance in the summer term. This is likely to be in May 2020.
 |
| **April 2020** | 1. **For Maintained / Academy and PVI providers, initial payments for 2020/21 will begin**
* For Maintained / Academy providers, monthly advances for 2020/21 will be calculated from the Section 251 Budget Statements and a schedule & breakdown of payments will be published at the beginning of April.
* For PVI Providers, monthly payments for 2020/21 will begin. These will be based on the latest delivery information. Providers should consult the advances statement published on Bradford Schools Online at the beginning of April.
 |
| **May 2020** | **a) May (Summer Term) Census 21 May 2020*** Maintained / Academy providers will submit their termly census to the DfE via COLLECT.
* PVI providers will submit their delivery information to Bradford Council EYS via the Bradford Provider Gateway on Bradford Schools Online.
 |
| **June / July 2020** | **a) Summer Term Adjustments Statement Published week commencing 22 June and payment adjustments PVI providers*** A second head count for 2 year olds will be taken on Thursday 11 June 2020.
* A reconciliation statement for all providers will be published, which will show the differences between estimated and actual summer term funded hours delivered and the value of adjustments due. The adjustment will be a positive value (meaning that the Local Authority owes the provider more funding), where the number of 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 back to the Local Authority) where the number of hours delivered recorded in the May census is lower than the delivery information used to make initial payments.
* Maintained / Academy and PVI providers will be able to access this adjustments statement on the BSO website.
* Adjustments will be made to the July 2020 payment for PVI providers (both positive and negative) for the re-calculation of summer term funding from the May Census. The August payment may also be adjusted, where the value of the July advance is not sufficient to enable full recovery of a negative adjustment.

**b) Deadline for PVI providers to notify the Local Authority, through the Bradford Provider Gateway, of estimated delivery in the autumn term Friday 24 July**  |
| **August 2020** |  |
| **September 2020** | **a) Monthly Advances for Maintained / Academy providers amended to incorporate Summer Term adjustments*** For Maintained / Academy providers, the value of LA I01 funding used to calculate the monthly advances will be amended in September to take account of the adjustment due from the summer term actual delivery data.
 |
| **October 2020** | **a) October (Autumn Term) Census 1 October 2020*** Maintained / Academy providers will submit their termly census to the DfE via COLLECT.
* PVI providers will submit their delivery information to Bradford Council EYS via the Bradford Provider Gateway on Bradford Schools Online.
 |
| **November 2020** | **a) Autumn Term Adjustments Statement Published week commencing 9 November and payment adjustments PVI providers*** A second headcount of 2 year olds will be taken on 5 November 2020.
* A reconciliation statement for all providers will be published, which will show the differences between estimated and actual autumn term funded hours delivered and the value of adjustments due.
* Maintained / Academy providers and PVI providers will be able to access this statement on the BSO website.
* Adjustments will be made to the November 2020 payment for PVI providers (both positive and negative) for the re-calculation of autumn term funding from the October Census. The December payment may also be adjusted, where the value of the November advance is not sufficient to enable full recovery of a negative adjustment.
1. **Deadline for PVI providers to notify the Local Authority, through the Bradford Provider Gateway, of estimated delivery in the spring term Friday 27 November**
 |
| **December 2020** | **a) Monthly Advances for Maintained / Academy providers amended to incorporate Autumn Term adjustments*** For Maintained / Academy providers, the value of LA I01 funding used to calculate the monthly advances will be amended in December to take account of the adjustment due for the autumn term.
 |
| **January 2021** | 1. **DfE January (annual) Census 21 January 2021**
* Maintained / Academy providers will submit their termly census to the DfE via COLLECT.
* PVI providers will submit their delivery information to Bradford Council EYS via the Bradford Provider Gateway on Bradford Schools Online.
 |
| **February 2021** | **a) 1st Draft of Indicative Budgets / Ready Reckoners for 2021/22 Published** (see notes for February 2020)1. **A second head count of 2 year olds will be taken on Thursday 25 February 2021**.
 |
| **March 2021** | **a) Spring Term 2021 Adjustments Statement Published week commencing 1 March*** A reconciliation statement for all providers will be published, which will show the differences between estimated and actual spring term funded hours delivered and the value of adjustments due.
* Maintained / Academy providers and PVI providers will be able to access this statement on the BSO website.

**b) Monthly Advances for Maintained / Academy and PVI providers amended to incorporate Spring Term 2021 adjustment*** For Maintained / Academy providers, the value of LA I01 funding used to calculate the monthly advances will be amended in the final advances update in March 2021 to take account of the adjustment due from the January census. This adjustment will impact on each school’s March 2021 carry forward balances position. Schools should use the ready reckoner provided by the LA to ensure that this adjustment is incorporated by schools in their forecast of their year end balances position.
* For PVI providers, 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 by **30 April 2021.** Where a cheque is not received by 30 April 2021, the Local Authority will deduct the value of the outstanding overpayment from the next available monthly advance in the summer term. This is likely to be in May 2021.

**c) Confirmed Indicative Budgets / Ready Reckoners for 2021/20 Published** (see notes for March 2020) |

**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 it’s best to notify all providers as soon as possible.**

**Appendix 2 – Early Years SEND Inclusion Funding**

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 support 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 2020/21, 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:

1. 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.
2. **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 Pre-5 Service) 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.
1. **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.
2. **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 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 2020/21 are £5.20 for 2 year olds and £4.18 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 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).

1. **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.

**RESPONSES FORM**

**Consultation on the Early Years Single Funding Formula 2020/21**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Setting Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**THE DEADLINE FOR RESPONSES TO THIS CONSULTATION IS FRIDAY 20 DECEMBER 2019**

Please send completed questionnaire responses to:

School Funding Team

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

1st Floor, Britannia House,

Hall Ings

Bradford

BD1 1HX

Tel: 01274 432678

Fax: 01274 435054

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 the existing basic framework, timetabling and counting arrangements for the operation of Bradford’s EYSFF in 2020/21, but incorporating the small amendment in the spring term 2021 PVI payment profile (see paragraph G page 17)? 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 comments on how we could improve our proposed operational arrangements?**

Please comment here:

**Question 3 – Do you agree with the proposal to fund the 2 year old entitlement only on a single flat funding rate without additional supplements (see section 2 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 4 – Do you agree with the proposal to set the value of the 2 year old Universal Base Rate in 2020/21 at £5.28 per hour, which fully passes onto to providers the uplift in the rate of DSG funding allocated to Bradford by the DfE (see section 2 page 20; please also see the benchmarking analysis beginning 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 5 – Do you agree with the proposal to set the value of the 3&4 year old Universal Base Rate in 2020/21 at £4.19 per hour, which fully passes onto to providers the uplift in the rate of DSG funding allocated to Bradford by the DfE (see section 1 page 13; please also see the benchmarking analysis beginning 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 6 – Do you agree with the proposal to maximise the value of the 3&4 year old Universal Base Rate going forward, and to bring us in line with other authorities, by reducing the proportion of budget allocated via the Deprivation & SEND Supplement, with an initial step in 2020/21 to reduce this % from 9.5% to 8% (see page 6)?**

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

If not, please provide further explanation here:

**Question 7 – Do you agree with the proposal not to add any further supplements into Bradford’s 3&4 Year Old Early Years Single Funding Formula in 2020/21? 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 8 – Do you agree with the Authority’s proposal to continue to use the holistic Early Years SEND Inclusion Fund approach that was established at April 2019 and is set out in Appendix 2? 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 – Are there any changes that you would like to see made to the Early Years Single Funding Formula that have not been proposed?**

Please comment here:

**Question 10 – 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 review of the EYSFF going forward?**

Please comment here: