

**Consultation - Bradford District Early Years Single Funding Formula 2015/16**

This is a statement for consultation, which summarises the basis on which it is proposed settings across the Bradford District will be funded for the delivery of the free entitlement to nursery provision in the 2015/16 financial year, using the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF). Please read this summary alongside the [timetable document](#Timetable), which is attached as an appendix.

General Context

The context for this proposed approach to funding is:

* No regulatory changes are being made by the DfE to the operation of the EYSFF in 2015/16 and the Authority continues to have flexibility at a local level to agree our own funding approach.
* The Authority is proposing to use the same approach to funding in 2015/16 as used in this current 2014/15 financial year. Feedback from providers suggests that our current approach works well. Having discussed the position with the Early Years Working Group, and with the Schools Forum, the consensus is that we should continue with our existing approach in 2015/16. One key advantage is that this will provide for a further year of continuity prior to a national formula being implemented in the future.
* The DfE has signalled the intention to move to a national fair funding formula after the 2015 spending review. We expect more detailed consultation on this, which will enable us to assess the extent to which our current funding approach will change and the implications of this on individual settings. The key aspect of a national formula, which may have an impact on funding in the District, is the value of hourly rates that are set, recognising that we currently fund Early Years provision at a higher value than the basic national average and the average of our statistical neighbour authorities.
* Please be aware that the hourly base rates shown in the technical statement are indicative only at this stage and will not be confirmed until the Schools Forum makes recommendations on the overall budget in January. Providers should note that the one-off funding allocated in 2014/15 has been removed from the hourly base rates, but otherwise the indicative base rates are currently cash flat on 2014/15 rates.
* The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) will continue to be applied to EYSFF Base Rates in 2015/16. This means that, was the Schools Forum to decide to reduce base rates in 2015/16, then the maximum reduction would be limited to 1.5% of the indicative base rate values shown in the technical statement.
* All funding relating to Early Years SEN resourced provisions is excluded from the operation of the Early Years Single Funding Formula. Settings will not receive EYSFF funding for children placed in resourced provision. Instead, settings will be funded via the High Needs Place-Plus model.
* The Government has confirmed that an Early Years Pupil Premium will be introduced in April 2015. This is intended to support closing the funding gap between the additional support disadvantaged children receive at age 2 and the additional support they then receive in school from the existing school-age Pupil Premium. Providers will receive £300 per year, or £0.53 per child per hour, for each eligible child. Paragraph k) in the [Technical Statement](#TechnicalStatement) gives further information.
* A continued focus nationally and locally is improving outcomes for children from more deprived backgrounds and also children who are looked after. It is still a requirement for the EYSFF to use a measure of deprivation to allocate funding and it continues to be important in the Bradford District to identify additional resources for children who are looked after.

Important Additional Context

The Early Years Working Group (EYWG) and Schools Forum are currently considering benchmarking data on levels of spending on the Early Years free entitlement. From work so far, it has been identified that we spend in total at a much higher rate than the average of our statistical neighbour authorities - an additional £4.8 million on the free entitlement for 3 / 4 year olds in 2013/14. On a total budget of £30 million, £4.8 million is quite significant. This higher spend is the result of deliberate decision by the Schools Forum to support early intervention and to enable providers to drive forward improvements in outcomes for children from the start of their education. The key question for the Schools Forum and the Local Authority is how this additional spend is impacting on educational outcomes in the Bradford District. Early Years colleagues should keep track of discussions by monitoring Schools Forum papers and minutes available on the [Bradford Council Minutes website](http://councilminutes.bradford.gov.uk/wps/portal/cm) for Forum meetings from September 2014.

Of this £4.8 million additional spend, our total spend in 2013/14 on nursery classes attached to primary schools was £2.48 million higher than our statistical neighbour average. The remaining element of the higher spend is on the PVI sector, with our spending on nursery schools being slightly lower than the statistical neighbour average (the latter is currently under further investigation). From September 2014, Ofsted has introduced a separate inspection judgement for schools on their early year’s provision. A key immediate question then for primary schools with nursery classes is whether the additional funding that is being allocated for the free entitlement is having the additional impact on pupil outcomes that would be expected. At a District wide level, the evidence is not convincing. One of the possible reasons for this, the EYWG has identified through simple analysis, is that, although an additional £2.4 million is being allocated to the early year’s free entitlement, primary schools with nursery classes are not spending this on early year’s provision. As this funding is not ringfenced, governing bodies are free to set their own budgets and their own spending priorities. It is clear that a number of schools do prioritise early education and spend either at, or above, their level of early years free entitlement funding. However, a large number of schools do not appear to spend at this level. To help further investigation and discussion on this, a ready reckoner will shortly be available on Bradford Schools Online, which will enable governing bodies to calculate whether they are spending their early year’s funding on the delivery of the free entitlement, or whether they are spending a proportion of this somewhere else within the school. We expect governing bodies to consider this information in their priorities and budget setting.

**If you have any feedback or comments on any aspect of the proposed approach please contact the following officers:**

* **Maintained settings: Sarah North, 01274 385701,** [**sarah.north@bradford.gov.uk**](mailto:sarah.north@bradford.gov.uk)
* **PVI settings: Sharon Baldie / Jaclyn Butcher, 01274 431965,** [**sharon.baldie@bradford.gov.uk**](mailto:sharon.baldie@bradford.gov.uk) **/** [**jaclyn.butcher@bradford.gov.uk**](mailto:jaclyn.butcher@bradford.gov.uk)

**The deadline for responses is Friday 10 October 2014**

Responses to this consultation will be considered by the Schools Forum at its meeting on 22 October.



**Bradford District Early Years Single Funding Formula 2015/16**

**1) The Basic Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) for 3 and 4 year olds in 2015/16 is:**

***(a + b) x c + (d + e) = Total EYSFF Funding 2015/16***

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

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

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

*c) No. of Free Entitlement Hours delivered at the setting (per year)*

*d) Funding for Sustainability (where applicable)*

*e) Funding for Children Looked After (where applicable)*

For example, assuming that all children at a setting take 15 hours entitlement per week for 38 weeks per year, funding using the EYSFF in 2015/16 will look like:

*a) Setting Base Rate £4.13 \*\* Classes Base Rate*

*b) Setting Deprivation & SEN Rate £0.37 \*\* illustrative only*

***The setting’s funding rate = (£4.13 + £0.37) = £4.50***

*c) No. of Free Entitlement Hours delivered at the setting (per year)* ***= 39,660*** *calculated as follows:*

***Children Hours Delivered***

*i Summer Term 78 14,040 (78 x 15 hpw x 12 weeks)*

*ii Autumn Term 62 13,020 (62 x 15 hpw x 14 weeks)*

*iii Spring Term 70 12,600 (70 x 15 hpw x 12 weeks)*

***Sub Total EYSFF Funding = £4.50 x 39,660 = £178,470***

*d) Sustainability £0*

*e) Funding for Children Looked After £1,000*

***Total EYSFF Funding = £178,470 + £0 + £1,000 = £179,470***

**2) As in 2014/15, the 2 year old offer in 2015/16 will be funded via a simple flat rate. The value of rate for all providers is indicatively set at £4.85 per child per hour. Funding will be calculated on a termly count of children, in the same way that participation is calculated for 3 and 4 year olds, but incorporating a 2nd headcount date.**

**SECTION 1**

**a) There are 3 ‘Setting Base Rates’ for 3 and 4 year olds in 2015/16:**

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| --- | --- |
| **Type of Setting** | **Indicative Base Rate Value** |
| Maintained Nursery Schools  *\*includes £0.06 for school meals and kitchen repairs* | **£5.71\*** |
| Maintained Nursery Classes in Primary Schools  Nursery Classes in Academies | **£4.13** |
| Private, Voluntary & Independent (PVI) Settings, including Childminders | **£4.63** |

* The Base Rates are expressed as values of funding per child per hour. These rates are calculated on a ‘needs-led’ basis, reflecting the actual costs of delivery of the free entitlement and that these costs are different for different types of setting.
* In 2014/15 the Base Rates included a one-off allocation of £0.06, which was clearly identified in budget statements and in the technical statement as being an additional sum that would not be repeated in future years.
* All settings of the same type are funded on the same Base Rate.
* The Base Rates are fixed at the point the 1st draft of Indicative Budgets are published, which for 2015/16 is in February 2015 (please see the [timetable](#Timetable)).
* For Primary schools with Nursery classes, funding allocated to support whole school costs remains fully within the Primary school funding formula (e.g. rates).

**b) The value of a setting’s ‘Deprivation & Special Educational Needs (SEN) Rate’ for 3 and 4 year olds is based on the measured level of deprivation of children taking the free entitlement at that setting**

* 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 Base Rates, 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 settings for the additional costs associated with the delivery of the free entitlement to children from more deprived backgrounds and to children that have additional lower level educational needs (Early Years Action, Early Years Action +).
  + Please note that this funding does not replace the provision and processes in place within the Bradford District to support children with higher level special educational needs.
* As with the Base Rates:
  + A setting’s ‘Deprivation & SEN 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 2015/16 is in February 2015,
  + All hours delivered at a setting are funded at the same Deprivation and SEN Rate.
* Unlike the Setting Base Rates, Deprivation and SEN Rates vary according to the measured level of deprivation of children attending each setting. Each setting’s Deprivation and SEN Rate is calculated using the Index of Multiple Deprivation and the postcodes of children taking up the free entitlement at the setting, recorded in the January 2015, January 2014 and January 2013 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 settings. We will 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.

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

* Each setting’s no. of funded free entitlement hours delivered for the 2015/16 financial year is the sum of:
  + Summer term (beginning 1 April 2015): the total of free entitlement hours delivered per week recorded in the census taken on 21 May 2015, x 12 weeks
  + Autumn term (beginning 1 September 2015): the total of free entitlement hours delivered per week recorded in the census taken on 1 October 2015, x 14 weeks
  + Spring term (beginning 1 January 2016): the total of free entitlement hours delivered per week recorded in the census taken on 21 January 2016, x 12 weeks
* ‘Hours delivered’ are the free entitlement hours children are registered to take at that setting, 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 both maintained and PVI settings. The dates are those set by the DfE for the maintained termly censuses. One of the reasons for this is so that the census data for each setting can be cross checked to identify duplicate children.
* For maintained schools, the free entitlement hours information will be taken by the Local Authority from the data recorded in the “funded hours” field in the censuses, which schools submit to the DfE via the COLLECT website. PVI settings will be required, as is the process now, to complete a pre-populated form and to return this directly to Bradford Council EYCP. These forms will be sent out to settings approximately 3 weeks prior to the census date. *An electronic headcount system is currently under development and this system will ultimately replace the previous data collection process.*
* Adjustments will be made to the funding of settings that open or close (or cease to deliver free entitlement hours) mid term, to reflect the proportion of the term applicable.
* No adjustment will automatically be made to funded free entitlement hours for starters or leavers after the census date in each term. However, exceptional circumstances can be considered where a setting admits a significant number of children after the census has been taken that term. Please see paragraph i below.
* An adjustment to funded hours delivered will be made specifically for the autumn term only, recognising that in this term the intake of children into nursery provision is often staggered into maintained settings and that eligible children may start the term at a PVI setting and then move to a maintained setting before the October census. Where a child started the autumn term at a PVI setting and has moved to a maintained setting prior to the October census, an adjustment will be made to split the funding for the autumn term, based on the number of weeks that a child has attended each setting. This adjustment applies for the autumn term only.
* For the purposes of calculating Indicative Budgets for all settings before the start of the financial year, estimates of the funded free entitlement hours that will be recorded in each of the censuses will be used. Adjustments will then be made in year, where actual numbers are different from these estimates. Please see paragraph e below.
* PVI settings, please note that, due to the very tight timescale for processing information, the count of funded free entitlement hours from the January 2015 census, which will be used to calculate 1st draft Indicative Budgets, will be taken from the census summary each setting provides, rather than from the full census return. If this summary is obviously incomplete or incorrect, the Local Authority will use the count from the January 2014 census. Settings will of course be able to revise the estimates before the Confirmed Indicative Budgets are published.

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

* The EYSFF for 3 and 4 year olds will only allocate funding for children in settings that are accessing the free 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 is being 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 is 15 hours per week. This is the same for any child regardless of their age, so a four or five year old child staying in nursery (rather than starting Reception) will only be funded for 15 hours per week, unless funding for the additional 10 hours is specifically agreed with the Local Authority.
* Full Time Places have now ceased to be funded.
* Although a child can take up their entitlement over two settings, the maximum entitlement is still the equivalent of 15 hours per week over 38 weeks per year. Where a child attends two settings, the Local Authority will fund each setting on a pro-rata basis only up to a maximum of 15 hours. Where a child attends two settings, the individual settings should ensure they are aware of the free entitlement hours being accessed by that child at another setting; this should help to avoid funding discrepancies regarding duplicate pupils. This may involve discussion with the settings involved where the pro-rata split is not clear from the census returns.
* Maintained schools and academies will only be funded up to the maximum of their published admission number on a termly basis, expressed in hours e.g. a 52 place nursery’s maximum number of hours per week will be 52 x 15 = 780, so in 2014/15 for the summer term the maximum will be 780 x 12 weeks = 9,360; for the autumn term 780 x 14 weeks = 10,920; for the spring term 780 x 12 weeks = 9,360.
* Although a child can stretch their entitlement over more than 38 weeks, the Local Authority will fund settings on the basis that all children are taking their entitlement over 38 weeks. It is for the individual setting to then manage funding. To ensure settings are funded correctly, these children should still be recorded in the censuses as accessing 15 hours where they access an annual total of 570 hours (equivalent to 15 hours x 38 weeks).

**e) The Confirmed Indicative Budget published in March 2015 only gives an estimate of funding**

* A 1st draft Indicative Budget for 2015/16 for all settings will be published at the end of February 2015. This budget will:
  + Show a setting’s Base Rate and Deprivation and SEN Funding Rate, which are fixed for 2015/16
  + Be calculated on hours at setting information taken from the previous 3 termly censuses i.e. estimating that a setting’s numbers to be recorded in the following 3 censuses will be the same as the previous 3 censuses
    - May 2014 for an estimate of the May 2015 census
    - October 2014 for an estimate of the October 2015 census
    - January 2015 for an estimate of the January 2016 census
* Settings will then 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 2015/16 will then be published in March 2015. This budget will be used to:
  + Begin payments to maintained schools via monthly bank advances
  + Make the termly payment to PVI settings at the start of each term (please see paragraph g below). For PVI settings, this replaces the need for the collection of estimates of children during the year. However, where a PVI setting forecasts, after the confirmed Indicative Budgets are published, that their numbers of children will be significantly different from the estimate used, and notifies the Local Authority before the stated deadlines (please see the [timetable](#Timetable)), the Local Authority can make an adjustment to reflect this difference. This may be required for cash flow purposes, especially for settings with a high level of mobility, or for smaller settings, especially childminders. The Local Authority would not expect to need to make such adjustments for maintained schools, with larger cash resources.
* To accompany the Confirmed Indicative Budget, a ready reckoner will be provided by the Local Authority in March 2015 for settings to use to anticipate the value of potential adjustments to funding and to plan their provision and cash flow accordingly.

**f) A setting’s actual funding will be adjusted from the Confirmed Indicative Budget to reflect differences between estimated and actual free entitlement hours delivered**

* Adjustments to funding will be calculated following each of the termly censuses:
  + Please see the [timetable](#Timetable) for when adjustments will be published and actioned in 2015/16. These adjustments will alter the amounts of funding physically paid to settings. The payment framework in 2015/16 is different for maintained and PVI settings. Please see paragraph g below,
  + The adjustments will reflect the differences between the estimated and actual funded hours delivered,
  + A ready reckoner will be provided by the Local Authority, alongside the Confirmed Indicative Budget in March, which settings can use to anticipate these funding adjustments and plan their provision and spending accordingly,
  + A statement of the value of adjustments will be published in advance of the adjustments being actioned. Please see the [timetable](#Timetable).
* Additional notes on the calculation of funding adjustments:
  + The value of adjustments is influenced by the accuracy of the estimates of funded hours in the Confirmed Indicative Budgets published in March,
  + These adjustments can be both positive and negative,
  + All adjustments for the 2015/16 financial year will be actioned before 31 March 2016 i.e. in year,
  + Funding adjustments will take account of any sustainability funding; the ready reckoner provided by the Local Authority will incorporate this.
  + Because of the very tight timescale for processing the data after the January 2016 census, the adjustments for the spring term 2016 for PVI settings will be based on the 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 for the funding for the summer term 2016 following the May 2016 census. Where a setting 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 setting’s summer term payment,
  + Where closed or closing settings owe funding to the Local Authority, the setting will be asked to pay the funding back via cheque.

**g) In 2015/16 the way in which funding is physically paid, and the timing of adjustments to payments, will be different for Maintained & PVI settings**

* These differences do not affect the way in which funding allocations are calculated; they merely reflect the differences in payment mechanisms already established for maintained and PVI settings and different cash flow pressures.
* Maintained schools already have a well established monthly advances payment system and EYSFF funding will be allocated using this. Schools are already familiar with the way in which these advances are set at the start of the financial year, but are then adjusted to take account of changes in funding (e.g. for statemented SEN) during the course of the year; in June, September, December and March. The adjustments to EYSFF funding will be incorporated into the September 2015, December 2015 and March 2016 advances adjustments. Please see the [timetable](#Timetable).
* For PVI settings, as there is no change to the timetable for the collection of census information in January, and because the desire to ensure that all adjustments to funding for the spring term are carried about before the end of the financial year, the current system will continue for the spring term 2016. The Local Authority will pay 80% of the spring term’s payment at the start of the spring term and then pay the remaining 20% before 31 March, adjusted for the actual numbers of children counted in the January 2016 census. Where a setting owes funding back to the Local Authority that cannot be fully recouped by adjusting the 20% payment, the setting must send a cheque to the Local Authority for the value of the difference before 31 March 2016. Where a cheque is not received by the Local Authority by the 31 March 2016, then the balance owed will be recouped by reducing the payment to the setting for the summer term 2016.
* For PVI settings, the count date for the summer and autumn terms means that the timetable for confirming payments in these terms will be later than prior to the introduction of the EYSFF. As this may result in cash flow issues, especially for smaller stand alone PVI settings, in 2015/16 the Local Authority will:
  + Pay 100% (rather than 80%) of the value of the estimated termly payment taken from the confirmed Indicative Budget at the start of the summer and autumn terms,
  + To reduce the possibility of cash flow issues, positive adjustments for the summer term will be paid before the end of the summer term. Any negative adjustments will be rolled into the initial 100% autumn term payment. Adjustments for the autumn term will be rolled into the initial 80% payment made for the spring term,
  + These changes are shown in the [timetable](#Timetable) appendix. PVI settings must be aware that this approach (moving to a 100% initial payment from 80% for the summer and autumn terms) may increase the value of adjustments where there are significant differences between estimated and actual funded hours. Settings are encouraged to use the ready reckoner to plan effectively.

**h) Funding for Children who are Looked After in 2015/16**

* Funding for Children who are Looked After in Early Years will be allocated on the following basis:
  + Whether a child is Looked After will be recorded in the censuses, subject to audit by the Authority.
  + Every setting is allocated an additional £333 per Looked After Child per term recorded in the censuses (£1,000 on a full year basis if a child is counted in all 3 termly censuses). This is allocated on a per child basis and is not affected by the number of hours the Looked After Child actually takes at the setting
  + This funding only applies to children that are registered as currently in care
* Funding for Children who are Looked After in Early Years settings will be allocated on a retrospective basis within the termly adjustments framework, following the census each term.
* For maintained providers, the funding for all Children who are Looked After in schools will be allocated separately from formula funding and will be allocated on a termly basis. This change is in response to the introduction of the specific element of the new Pupil Premium, to ensure that we have a single joined up approach to providing additional funding support for these children. Please see the guidance notes, which will accompany the full budget statements for maintained providers, for more details.

**i) Approach to funding Sustainability Issues in 2015/16**

* The EYSFF in 2015/16 continues to include a “sustainability” factor, which works on a sliding scale basis to allocate funding specifically to 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,
  + Costs relating to supporting Newly Qualified Teachers and safeguard as a result of re-deployment,
  + Fixed type costs incurred by maintained settings in leadership and management and administration and premises staffing.
* The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) applies to the EYSFF for all providers in 2015/16. The EYSFF MFG is set at -1.5% and applies only to the Base Rates. This means that if the Base Rate reduces from one year to the next, the value of this reduction would be limited to 1.5%.
* Both maintained and PVI providers can access dedicated business support, provided by Bradford Council EYCP, for advice on any budget or sustainability issues.
* 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 setting up a new class.
* This established process will be used in 2015/16 as the basis on which to consider the allocation of additional funding to any maintained or PVI setting that may face exceptional cost pressures. A likely common reason for setting’s asking for exceptional funding will be where a setting 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 setting in admitting these children, rather than simply measured by the number of additional children not counted in the census.

**j) Resourced SEN provision in Early Years settings – Children’s Centres Plus and SIMBA**

* Resourced SEN provision for 2, 3 and 4 year olds, Children’s Centre Plus and SIMBA will be funded through the High Needs Place-Plus mechanism. This means that all funding relating to these resourced provisions is excluded from the operation of the Early Years Single Funding Formula. Settings will not receive EYSFF funding for children placed in resourced provision. Instead settings will receive funding via the High Needs Place-Plus model.

**k) The Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) in 2015/16**

* The Government has confirmed that an Early Years Pupil Premium will be introduced in April 2015. This is intended to close the gap at ages 3 and 4 between the additional support disadvantaged children receive at age 2 through the new free entitlement, and the additional support they receive in school through the school-age Pupil Premium. Providers will receive up to £300 per year, or £0.53 per child per hour, for each eligible child.
* Early Childhood Services have access to the DfE’s Eligibility Checking Service which will be used to check whether a child is eligible for the Pupil Premium. Providers will then be funded on a termly basis, along with their main Early Years Single Funding Formula, through the established termly adjustments process.
* The eligible groups for the Early Years Pupil Premium will be as follows:
  + children from low income families (defined as meeting the criteria for free school meals);
  + children that have been looked after by the local authority for at least one day;
  + children that have been adopted from care; have left care through special guardianship;
  + and children subject to a child arrangement order setting out with whom the child is to live (formerly known as residence orders)
* 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 consultation web-page gives further information on the Early Years Pupil Premium:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/early-years-pupil-premium-and-funding-for-2-year-olds>

**SECTION 2**

**l) The extension of the free entitlement to 2 year olds**

* Free 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.
* The EYWG and Schools Forum have previously considered various options to fund the free entitlement for 2 year olds. In 2014/15 these places were funded on a flat rate of £4.85 per hour, with no differentiation for different types of provision. Child numbers were counted and funded in the same way as for 3 / 4 year olds – based on participation recorded at individual settings 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) and also has supported the adequate funding of settings where there has been some slippage in the timescales of capital buildings programmes. The second headcount supports meeting the key outcome, which is to secure sufficient places on a participation-led funding basis.

* This approach is continued in 2015/16 at a single flat rate per hour, indicatively £4.85 for all children. The Funding Regulations will now only permit a single flat rate to be used to allocate funding for the 2 year old offer.

**m) Who do I contact?**

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

Maintained settings: Sarah North / Dawn Haigh, School Funding Team, City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, 01274 385701 / 01274 385700, [sarah.north@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.north@bradford.gov.uk) / [dawn.haigh@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:dawn.haigh@bradford.gov.uk)

Private, Voluntary & Independent settings: Sharon Baldie / Jaclyn Butcher, City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, 01274 431965, [sharon.baldie@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:sharon.baldie@bradford.gov.uk) / [jaclyn.butcher@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:jaclyn.butcher@bradford.gov.uk)

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

**Appendix: Bradford District Early Years Single Funding Formula 2015/16 Timetable**

Please read this timetable alongside the separate ‘[Technical Statement’](#TechnicalStatement), which explains how the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) will be applied across the Bradford District for the 2015/16 financial year.

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| **Date** | **Key Activity** |
| **January 2015** | **a) Department for Education (DfE) January Census 15 January** |
| **February 2015** | **a) 1st draft of Indicative Budgets for 2015/16 Published week commencing 23 February**   * Maintained settings will be able to access these budgets on the Bradford Schools Online (BSO) website. * PVI settings For the 2015/16 financial year all budget information will continue to be sent to settings by post. * The 1st draft of Indicative Budgets for 2015/16 will be based on each setting’s hours delivered recorded in the May 2014, October 2014 and January 2015 censuses i.e. assuming that each setting will be funded for the same number of hours delivered in 2015/16 as in 2014/15. * Settings will then have approximately 3 weeks to review these estimates of funded hours, with the opportunity to change these up or down, prior to the publication of confirmed Indicative Budgets. Settings will need to contact the LA directly to adjust estimates. Further details of the checking process will be published with the budgets. |
| **March 2015** | **a) Spring Term 2014/15 Adjustments Statement Published week commencing 2 March**   * A reconciliation statement for all settings will be published, which will show the differences between estimated and actual spring term funded hours delivered and the value of adjustments due. * Maintained settings will be able to access this statement on the BSO website. PVI settings will be posted this statement, and also emailed, where the setting has given the LA an email address.   **b) Confirmed Indicative Budgets for 2015/16 Published week commencing 16 March**   * The confirmed Indicative Budgets will establish the starting point for funding for the 2015/16 financial year. These budgets will be different from the 1st draft, where settings have asked for their estimates of funded numbers to be altered. Where a setting 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 LA will provide a ‘ready reckoner’, which settings can use to anticipate likely adjustments to funding for actual funded hours delivered.   **c) Payment of the final 20% for the Spring Term for the 2014/15 academic year (PVI settings) week commencing 23 March**   * Where an adjustment is required to the spring term payment as a result of the January 2015 census, the value of additional funding due or funding owed back to the LA will added to or taken from the 20% payment (please see page 6 of the [statement](#TechnicalStatement) for further information).   **d) Monthly Advances for Maintained settings amended to incorporate Spring Term 2014/15 adjustment**   * For Maintained settings, the value of LA I01 funding used to calculate the monthly advances will be amended in the final advances update in March 2015 to take account of the adjustment due from the January census. This adjustment will impact on each school’s March 2015 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. |
| **April 2015** | **a) Calculation of Monthly Bank Account Advances for Maintained settings**   * For Maintained Primary schools with Nursery classes & Nursery Schools, the Early Years confirmed Indicative Budget will make up part of the school’s Section 251 Budget Statement. Monthly advances for 2015/16 will be calculated from the Section 251 Budget Statements and a schedule & breakdown of payments will be published at the beginning of April.   **b) Payment of Summer Term Funding to PVI Settings week commencing 6 April**   * For PVI settings, 100% of the value of funding for the summer term, taken from the confirmed Indicative Budgets, will be paid by Bradford Council EYCP directly into each setting’s bank account. |
| **May 2015** | **a) May (Summer Term) Census 21 May 2015**   * Maintained settings will submit their termly census to the DfE via COLLECT. * PVI settings will submit their census directly to Bradford Council EYCP. Pre-populated forms for PVI settings to use will be posted out by EYCP 3 weeks before the census date. |
| **June / July 2015** | **a) Summer Term Adjustments Statement Published week commencing 29 June**   * A reconciliation statement for all settings 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 LA owes the setting more funding), where the number of hours delivered actually recorded in the May census is greater than the estimate used in the confirmed Indicative Budget. The adjustment will be a negative value (meaning the setting must repay funding back to the LA) where the number of hours delivered recorded in the May census is lower than the estimate used in the confirmed Indicative Budget. * Maintained settings will be able to access this statement on the BSO website. PVI settings will be posted this statement, and also emailed, where the setting has given the LA an email address.   **b) Adjustment to Payments to PVI settings where the LA owes funding for the Summer Term week commencing 6 July**   * For PVI settings only, where the number of funded hours delivered recorded in the May census is greater than the estimates used in the confirmed Indicative Budgets, the full value of the additional funding owed for the summer term will be paid directly by Bradford Council EYCP into the setting’s bank account. |
| **August 2015** | **a) Deadline for PVI settings to notify the Local Authority of changes to estimates of autumn term funded hours Friday 21 August**   * Where a PVI setting forecasts that their numbers of hours delivered in the autumn term will be significantly different from the estimate used to calculate the confirmed Indicative Budget, the LA can make an adjustment to the initial autumn term’s payment to reflect this difference. The PVI setting must inform the LA prior to the deadline date. The LA would not expect to need to make such adjustments for maintained schools. |
| **September 2015** | **a) Payment of Autumn Term Funding to PVI settings week commencing 31 August**   * For PVI settings, 100% of the value of funding for the autumn term, taken from the confirmed Indicative Budget (or an adjusted number of hours delivered if notified by 21 August), will be paid by Bradford Council EYCP directly into each setting’s bank account. * Where a PVI setting must repay funding back to the LA for the summer term adjustment from the May census, the value of this adjustment will be deducted from the autumn term payment.   **b) Monthly Advances for Maintained settings amended to incorporate Summer Term adjustments**   * For Maintained settings, the value of LA I01 funding used to calculate the monthly advances will be amended in September to take account of the adjustment due for the summer term. |
| **October 2015** | **a) October (Autumn Term) Census 1 October 2015**   * Maintained settings will submit their termly census to the DfE via COLLECT. * PVI settings will submit their census directly to Bradford Council EYCP. Pre-populated forms for PVI settings to use will be posted out by EYCP 3 weeks before the census date. |
| **November 2015** | **a) Autumn Term Adjustments Statement Published week commencing 16 November**   * A reconciliation statement for all settings will be published, which will show the differences between estimated and actual autumn term funded hours delivered and the value of adjustments due. * Maintained settings will be able to access this statement on the BSO website. PVI settings will be posted this statement, and also emailed, where the setting has given the LA an email address. |
| **December 2015** | **a) Monthly Advances for Maintained settings amended to incorporate Autumn Term adjustments**   * For Maintained settings, 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.   **b) Deadline for PVI settings to notify the Local Authority of changes to estimates of spring term funded hours Friday 11 December**   * Where a PVI setting forecasts that their numbers of hours delivered in the spring term 2016 will be significantly different from the estimate used to calculate the confirmed Indicative Budget, the LA can make an adjustment to the initial spring term payment to reflect this difference. The setting must notify the LA before the deadline date. The LA would not expect to need to make such adjustments for maintained schools. |
| **December 2015 / January 2016** | **a) Payment of Spring Term Funding to PVI settings and adjustment to PVI Payments for the Autumn Term Adjustments week commencing 28 December**   * For PVI settings, 80%\* of the value of funding for the spring term, taken from the confirmed Indicative Budget (or an adjusted number of hours delivered if notified by 12 December), will be paid by Bradford Council EYCP directly into each setting’s bank account. * Where PVI settings are either owed funding from the LA or must repay funding back to the LA for the autumn term as a result of the October census, the value of this adjustment will be added to or deducted from the 80% spring term payment.   \* please see the [Technical Statement](#TechnicalStatement) for more information on why this is 80% (not 100% as for the summer and autumn term payments)  **b) DfE January (annual) Census 21 January 2016**   * Maintained settings will submit their termly census to the DfE via COLLECT. * PVI settings will submit their census directly to Bradford Council EYCP. Pre-populated forms for PVI settings to use will be posted out by EYCP 3 weeks before the census date. |
| **February 2016** | **a) 1st Draft of Indicative Budgets for 2016/17 Published** (see notes for February 2015) |
| **March 2016** | **a) Spring Term 2015/16 Adjustments Statement Published week commencing 29 February**   * A reconciliation statement for all settings will be published, which will show the differences between estimated and actual spring term funded hours delivered and the value of adjustments due. * Maintained settings will be able to access this statement on the BSO website. PVI settings will be posted this statement, and also emailed, where the setting has given the LA an email address.   **b) Monthly Advances for Maintained settings amended to incorporate Spring Term 2015/16 adjustment**   * For Maintained settings, the value of LA I01 funding used to calculate the monthly advances will be amended in the final advances update in March 2016 to take account of the adjustment due from the January census. This adjustment will impact on each school’s March 2016 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.   **c) Payment of the remaining 20% for the Spring Term to PVI settings, including adjustments, week commencing 21 March**   * The remaining 20% of the spring term’s funding will be paid by Bradford Council EYCP directly into the bank accounts of PVI settings before 31 March 2016. * Where an adjustment is required to the spring term payment as a result of the January 2016 census, the value of additional funding due or funding owed back to the LA will be added to or taken from the 20% payment (please see page 6 of the statement for further information).   **d) Confirmed Indicative Budgets for 2016/17 Published for all settings** |
| **April 2016** | **a) Calculating Monthly Bank Account Advances for 2016/17 for Maintained settings**  **b) Payment of 2016/17 Summer Term Funding to PVI settings week commencing TBC** |

**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.**

If you have any queries, please contact:

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