

Date of Early Years and Childcare Funding Panel Meeting: 18 September 2018 Date of report:	County Divisions affected by the decision: All Divisions
Title of report: Chief Officer Action Early Years and Childcare Funding Panel Recommendations	
Report by Carolyn Terry, EYCC Sufficiency and Sustainability Manager Tel: 07825 860004 Email: carolyn.terry@essex.gov.uk	
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1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. For the Chief Officer for Education and Lifelong Learning, Early Years and Childcare to consider the applications which have been recommended by the Early Years and Childcare Funding Panel.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. For the Chief Officer for Education and Lifelong Learning, Early Years and Childcare to approve and sign off the recommendations made by the Early Years and Childcare Funding Panel.

3. Background and proposal

- 3.1. The Early Years and Childcare Funding Panel (the Panel) meets monthly and is chaired by Councillor Tony Ball, Deputy Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning.
- 3.2. The Panel considers applications made to Essex County Council (ECC) by early years and childcare providers for revenue funding which support high quality provision, inclusion of children with special and additional needs.
- 3.3. Terms of Reference, details of funding available and application processes are available as background papers, as detailed in section 10.1
- 3.4. The Panel have considered and recommended those applications made to the Panel for approval by the Chief Officer for Education and Lifelong Learning, Early Years and Childcare.

4. Policy context and Outcomes Framework

The recommendations of the Panel support the delivery of Essex Organisation strategy 2017 – 2021

- Enabling Inclusive Economic Growth
- Helping people to get the Best Start and Age Well
- Helping to create a great place to grow up, live and work
- Transform the Council to achieve more with less

Enabling Inclusive Economic Growth

- Supporting employment and entrepreneurship across our economy – through providing opportunities for private, voluntary, independent and maintained sector childcare provision to expand

Helping people to get the Best Start and Age Well

- Increasing educational achievement and enhancing skills – through supporting access to nursery education and childcare for some of the most disadvantaged children

Helping to create a great place to grow up, live and work

- Developing and maintaining the infrastructure that enables our residents to travel and our businesses to grow – through developing childcare provision that supports parents to work and train

Transform the Council to achieve more with less

- Developing and maintaining sustainable early education provision.

These proposals support our planned activities to

- Deliver school readiness intervention projects in county hotspots linked to district GLD outcomes and working with the broad definition of disadvantage.
- Ensure all early years & childcare provision and schools in every community are judged good or outstanding by Ofsted

4.1. Under Section 6 of the *Childcare Act 2006*, ECC must ensure that there is sufficient childcare within the local area. Section 6 of the Act defines 'sufficient childcare' as sufficient to meet the requirements of parents in the area who require childcare in order to enable them to take up, or remain in, work or undertake education or training which could reasonably be expected to assist them to obtain work.

4.2. Section 7 of the *Childcare Act* sets out a duty to secure free early years provision for preschool children. Currently every child aged three or four is entitled to 15 hours per week free early years provision for 38 weeks of the year.

4.3. The Free Early Education Entitlement for 2 year olds (FEEE2) currently entitles the 40% most disadvantaged 2 year olds to 15 hours per week of free nursery education.

5. Financial Implications

5.1. All sufficiency and accessibility awards are made within the 2018/19 budget allocation of £523,000

5.3 Budgetary position

Period 6 Sufficiency and Accessibility

Sufficiency and Accessibility budget allocation	523,000
Committed to date	375,362
Budget available for September 2018	147,638

5.4 September 2018 EYCC Funding Panel recommendations

Sufficiency and Accessibility budget available	No: of applications	Funding requested £	Funding agreed £
Interim Inclusion Funding	2	1,427	819
Full Inclusion Funding	16	18,490	16,395
Total budget committed at EYCC Funding Panel September 2018			17,214

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1. All applications are considered in accordance with ECC policies, strategies and guidelines, and payments are made in accordance with ECC Financial regulations.

7. Staffing and other resource implications

- 7.1. No additional resources are required. The Funding Panel falls within the business as usual remit of the Early Years and Childcare Service

8. Equality and Diversity implications

- 8.1 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 creates the public sector equality duty which requires that when ECC makes decisions it must have regard to the need to:
- (a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act
 - (b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - (c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.
- 8.2 The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation.

- 8.3 The equality impact assessment indicates that the proposals in this report will not have a disproportionately adverse impact on any people with a particular characteristic.

9. List of Appendices

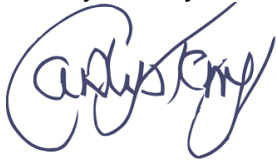
- 9.1 None

10. List of Background Papers

- 10.1 Funding Panel Terms of Reference, application guidance for early years and childcare settings, application documents.

11. Chief Officer

Carolyn Terry, EYCC Sufficiency and Sustainability Manager

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Terry', is written over the printed name.

Signed:

2 January 2019

Date: