

Report for Schools Forum

Service Area:	Learning and Early Support
Presented By:	Martin Wilby
Report:	Early Years Funding consultation and timeline 2025/26
Date:	10 January 2025
Purpose Of Report:	To provide Schools Forum with details of the Early Years Funding consultation and timeline 2025/26
Is a Decision Required?	No
Decision context	n/a

Early Years Funding consultation and timeline 2025/26

Key areas for consultation in 2025-26

The Council is seeking providers views on the following elements for 2025-26:

- A. The amount of funding retained centrally to support local authority statutory duties around the early years entitlements including administration of the funding.
- B. Retaining a contingency fund for each of the five entitlement funding streams.
- C. Transfer of funds from the Early Years Block to the High Needs Block.
- D. The amount of funding allocated to the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Inclusion Fund (SENDIF).
- E. The frequency of early years funding payments to providers in the private, voluntary and independent sector including academies.

Consultation timeline

Table 2: Consultation timeline

Event	Dates
Online survey	20 December 2024 to 19 January 2025
Virtual briefing sessions	8 and 16 January 2025
Early Years and Childcare Reference group includes provider representation for childminders, pre-schools, day nurseries, out of school provision and schools and academies with nursery provision.	27 January 2025
Schools Forum	7 February 2025
Funding formula and rates communicated to providers	Before 28 February 2025

Full details of the consultation can be found at the following link:

[Early Years Funding Formula 2025-26 Consultation](#)