

**Report of Capacity Planning & Sufficiency Lead**

**Report to the Deputy Director, Learning, skills & Universal Services**

**Date: 18<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

**Subject: A2YO – Summary report requesting approval of expenditure**



Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Ardsley and Robin Hood, Temple Newsham, Gipton and Harehills, Beeston and Holbeck, City and Hunslet, Killingbeck and Seacroft, Burmantofts and Richmond Hill.		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:		
Appendix number:		

**Summary of main issues & Recommendations**

1. To seek approval for applications received from early years providers for revenue start-up grants (SUG) in respect of the provision of places in early years settings for vulnerable two year olds.
2. The overall strategy in respect of the implementation of the Achieving Two Year old programme (A2YO) was agreed by the Children's Services Leadership Team (CSLT) on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013. The key elements of this approval was the establishment of the rates to be paid per place created in settings and the governance process to be followed when assessing need and the most appropriate deployment of resources.
3. The first round of allocations was approved by the Director of Childrens Services on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2013 - see report for full details of scheme.
4. The applications for SUG listed within this report have been subject to governance arrangements agreed by the Children's Services Leadership Team (CSLT) on 1st October 2013.

5. The Achieving Two Year Old Project Group has endorsed the recommendations made by the sufficiency and planning team to offer a start-up grant to the organisations as listed within paragraph 3.2.

## **Recommendations**

6. The Deputy Director Learning, Skills and Universal Services is recommended to agree the proposed start up grant allocations listed within paragraph 3.2 of this report.

## **1 Purpose of this summary report**

- 1.1 To seek approval for applications received from early years providers for start-up grants in respect of the provision of places in early years settings for vulnerable two year olds.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 Leeds City Council has been offering free early education and childcare for two year olds since 2006 through a pilot instigated by the previous government. Leeds provided 692 free places targeting the 15% most disadvantaged two year olds. Eligibility criteria were based on specific benefits and a number of local criteria.

- 2.2 Since 2010 the government has consulted on and subsequently amended statutory guidance on delivering early education and childcare including funding for the free entitlement. The updated context for the two year old offer includes:

- Outcomes from the consultation on the eligibility criteria for extending the two year old offer from September 2014
- Revisions to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) effective from September 2012
- Revisions to the current Statutory Guidance for three and four year olds (formerly the Code of Practice) that incorporates the two year old offer that the government issued in 2012
- Changes to the statutory requirements for schools around offering places for two year olds
- Changes to the DSG early years block funding regime from 2013/14
- Learning and case studies from the DfE early learning for two year old trials published in June 2013.

## **3 Summary of main issues**

- 3.1 The strategy for the Implementation of the Achieving Two Year old programme (A2YO), which outlines the required numbers of 2 year old places, details of revenue funding, governance arrangements, and details of communication with potential applicants, was agreed by CSLT on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013.

3.2 The following applications for SUG funding are recommended for approval to the Steering Group or direct to the decision-maker at the sums agreed within the CSLT report i.e. to pay £1,000 per place created in a group provider and £500 per placed created in a child-minder setting.

<b>Provider</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Grant Value</b>	<b>Places Created</b>
Sarah Connors Childminder	Ardsley Tingley	£500	1
Shepherds Lane CC	Gipton and Harehills	£24,000	24
Osmondthorpe CC	Burmantofts and Richmond Hill	£12,000	12
Little Stars	Burmantofts and Richmond Hill	£40, 000	40
Beanstalk	Beeston and Holbeck	£10,000	10
Flowerpots	City and Hunslet	£25,000	25
La Coccinelle	Killingbeck and Seacroft	£16,000	16
Twinkle Toes Colton	Temple Newsham and Colton	£1,000	1
<b>Sub-total</b>	-	<b>£128,500.00</b>	<b>129</b>

\*Childrens centre run by directorate

#### **4 Corporate Considerations**

4.1 Consultation and engagement with key partners and CSLT has taken place and progress is reported back at regular intervals.

## **4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration (EDCI)**

4.2.1 An EDCI was undertaken at the outset of the project and is reviewed regularly.

## **4.3 Council policies and City Priorities**

4.3.1 The A2YO strategy is in line with Leeds' aim to be the 'best city in the UK'.

## **4.4 Resources and value for money**

4.4.1 The market for this service is under-developed. Engagement events designed to stimulate the market and the provision of start-up grants or capital funding will expand existing premises and places.

## **4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

4.5.1 Appropriate processes have been put in place to ensure the award of grants and/or capital funding complies with LCC policies and practices.

## **4.6 Risk Management**

4.6.1 Risk management information related to SUG funding, take up of places and future revenue funding can be found within the 'Achieving two year olds project – approval of expenditure' report.

## **5 Conclusion**

5.2 The applications referred to in paragraph 3.2 have been thoroughly scrutinised and are considered appropriate to receive the funding outlined.

5.3 The number of two year old places provided as a result will increase by 129 places at a total value of £128,500.00.

## **6 Recommendations**

6.1 The Deputy Director Learning, Skills and Universal Services is recommended to agree the proposed start up grant allocations listed within paragraph 3.2 of this report.

## **7 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

7.1 None

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.