

## Record of Officer Decision

This form is the written record of a key or significant operational decision taken by an officer.

<b>Decision type</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Significant Operational Decision
<b>Director<sup>1</sup></b>	Director of Children and Families	
<b>Contact person:</b>	Rebecca McCormack	Telephone number: 0113 3787217
<b>Subject<sup>2</sup>:</b>	<b>Early Years DSG - Arrangements for FEEE payments Autumn 2020 due to Covid-19</b>	
<b>Decision details:</b>	<p>What decision has been taken?<sup>3</sup></p> <p>In the absence of the Director of Children &amp; Families, the Chief Officer, Resources and Strategy agreed to offer providers, in autumn 2020, a minimum funding guarantee of 95% of their Autumn 2019 FEEE income, where they have fewer children claiming FEEE in Autumn 2020 due to the impact of Covid-19.</p>	
	<p>A brief statement of the reasons for the decision<sup>4</sup></p> <p>Funding under current arrangements is paid to providers based on the number of children they have attending over the term.</p> <p>The DfE have issued guidance to LAs for Autumn 2020 advising that providers should be funded 'broadly at the level they would have expected to see in the Autumn term if there had been no coronavirus outbreak'.</p> <p>Based on summer uptake (when providers were allowed to re-open) and current requests for places, many providers are expecting to see a lower than normal number of children attending their settings in the Autumn term due to parental confidence and changed working patterns due to Covid-19 impacting on their need for childcare.</p> <p>Introducing a commitment to fund providers at least 95% of their Autumn 2019 FEEE funding (but to fund the number of children they have attending where</p>	

<sup>1</sup> With delegated authority set out in Constitution

<sup>2</sup> If the decision is key and has appeared on the list of forthcoming key decisions, the title of the decision should be the same as that used in the list

<sup>3</sup> Set out all necessary decisions to be taken by the decision taker including decisions in relation to exempt information, exemption from call in etc.

<sup>4</sup> Include any significant financial, procurement, legal or equalities implications, having consulted with Finance, PACS, Legal or Equality colleagues as appropriate.

	<p>this is greater) is in line with this guidance and provides some assurance to providers that they will receive funding in Autumn 2020 similar to their 2019 Autumn funding, regardless of the number of children who take up their place in the Autumn term.</p> <p>Settings who have chosen to close (not due to PHE / DfE guidance) will not be funded in Autumn term, in line with the DfE funding guidance and our existing FEEE contracts (no change).</p> <p>Brief details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the officer at the time of making the decision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make no change to existing arrangements – providers who have significantly fewer children attending in Autumn 2020 due to parental confidence / childcare needs due to Covid could face closure due to lack of income, leading to sufficiency issues in the future and a disrupted childcare market</li> <li>• Fund all providers at 100% of their Autumn 2019 FEEE claims – risk of overspend on DSG income received (which will be paid to the LA based on January 2020 census) as some providers may have naturally lost children due to age transitions, others will claim (and be paid) for more children than they had attending in Autumn 2019.</li> <li>• Compare FEEE claims to the last ‘normal’ term (Spring 2020) rather than Autumn 2019 – each term, the number of FEEE claims differs. Using Autumn 2019 as the benchmark for the minimum funding guarantee provides the best comparative data to reflect normal patterns of take up and funding for the term.</li> </ul>
<b>Affected wards:</b>	City wide
<b>Details of consultation undertaken<sup>5</sup>:</b>	<p>Executive Member</p> <p>Councillor Venner</p> <hr/> <p>Ward Councillors</p> <p>N/A</p> <hr/> <p>Others</p>
<b>Implementation</b>	<p>Officer accountable, and proposed timescales for implementation</p> <p>Rebecca McCormack – Lead for Admissions and FIS</p>

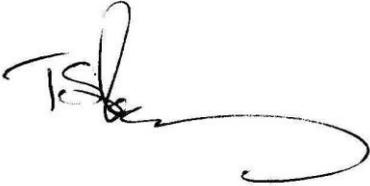
<sup>5</sup> Include details of any interest disclosed by an elected Member on consultation and the date of any relevant dispensation given.

	<p>To be implemented from September 2020.</p> <p>Providers will be paid their September payments prior to the decision being taken. They will be paid based on their submitted estimates for the term in September, October and November <b>as normal</b>, however the decision may influence the estimates that providers choose to submit for October onwards in order to spread their income across the remainder of the term. The December balancing payment will be adjusted for those who trigger the minimum funding guarantee. Providers are seeking reassurance as soon as possible about their expected funding for the term so they can plan accordingly.</p>		
<b>List of Forthcoming Key Decisions<sup>6</sup></b>	Date Added to List:- 21 August 2020		
	<p><b>If Special Urgency or General Exception</b> a brief statement of the reason why it is impracticable to delay the decision</p> <p>General Exception – Providers are urgently seeking assurance on the funding they should expect to receive in the Autumn term and we are required by the DfE guidance to confirm our approach with providers as soon as possible.</p>		
	<b>If Special Urgency</b> Relevant Scrutiny Chair(s)		
	Signature		Date
<b>Call In</b>	Is the decision available <sup>7</sup> for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<b>If exempt from call-in</b> , the reason why call-in would prejudice the interests of the council or the public:		
<b>Approval of Decision</b>	<p>Authorised decision maker<sup>8</sup></p> <p>Tim Pouncey – Chief Officer, Resources and Strategy</p>		

<sup>6</sup> Complete this section for key decisions only

<sup>7</sup> Significant operational decisions are never available for call in. Key decisions are always available for call in unless they have been exempted from call in.

<sup>8</sup> Give the post title and name of the officer with appropriate delegated authority to take the decision.

	<p>Signature</p> 	<p>Date: 25/8/20</p>
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