



Subject	Covid Response and Funding
Meeting Date	7 th July 2020
Report Author	Neil Goddard
Classification	For Information
Executive Summary	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The government have implemented a number of financial support packages for education providers. 2. This report provides a summary of the most significant support available, and an overview of local financial policy that has been implemented.
Recommendations	For Schools Forum to note the content of the report
Reasons for Recommendations	N/A

Covid Response and Funding

1. The council have been led in its response to Covid-19 by government guidance, policy and legislation.

Early Years Settings

2. Early Years settings continued to receive full Early Education Entitlement Funding throughout the Covid Emergency legislation (“lockdown”) period until 1st June.
3. In addition, providers that remained open and admitted additional children from other settings received hourly funding for these children above their usual funding.
4. Early Years settings have been allowed to furlough staff up to the proportion of their wage-bill that is privately funded, in line with the national Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme for all private businesses.
5. Early years settings were able to apply to the local authority for a Discretionary Business Grant until 9am 15th June.
6. Some providers have been able to access a corona-virus small business grant of £10,000.
7. From 1st June, where a provider remains closed and the child takes up a childcare place elsewhere funding for that child is withdrawn and paid, instead, to the “new

provider". The usual 4 weeks' notice period is not paid to the closed provider. Where a child moves between open providers, the usual 4-week notice period still applies.

8. Ofsted registered Early Years providers that are not LA-run nurseries have been eligible for business rates relief.

Schools

9. Schools have continued to receive full DSG funding throughout the duration of the "lockdown" period, and have continued to receive full DSG funding from 1st June. This covers both individual school budgets funding paid either by the local authority for maintained schools or the ESFA for Academies, as well as High Needs place and top-up funding to schools and other providers for children and young people with an EHCP.

10. The government announced a financial support package that all schools are able to claim against, for additional costs incurred to the school as a direct result of the Coronavirus pandemic. The funding is available to cover specific items, and is intended to be available to schools that are either unable to meet these costs from their existing resources, or where drawing on reserves would undermine their long term financial sustainability.

11. The government announced on Friday 19th June a support package worth £1bn nationally to support schools with pupil 'catch up', particularly vulnerable children. £350m will be retained by the DfE to fund a national tutoring programme, while the remaining £650m is expected to be passed on to schools. The funding is equivalent to £80 per pupil. This will replace the £55m national year 7 literacy and numeracy catch up grant.

12. Increases to Dedicated Schools Grant funding announced by the government for 2021-22 pre-Covid are expected to continue.

Financial Implications and Risks

None

Legal Implications

None

Background Papers

None