



Northumberland County Council

Wellbeing and Community Health

Schools Forum – Formula Funding Committee

Monday 4th February 2019

1. In Attendance:

Graham Wilkin, David Street, Jane Kennedy, Katie Morrison, Ian Walker (chair), Richard Woolhouse, Mike Deane-Hall, Bruce Parvin, Theresa Cameron.

2. Apologies:

Julie Roberts, Kieran McGraine, Maurice Hall, Graeme Atkins, Mike Hodgson, Colin Pearson, Ben Watson, Sue Aviston, Eve Sinclair.

3. Discussion:

A summary paper based on the EY information to the January 2019 School Forum meeting was circulated. The group discussed the Early Years block overspend, alternative funding options and the impact of these.

4. Summary and Conclusions:

There was general agreement that encouraging the take up of pupil premium was seen as a positive outcome. Being proactive and encouraging parents/carers to sign up for pupil premium as part of the enrolment process would help maximise funding available to providers. There were also potential benefits to Schools once pupils started statutory education if this improved overall pupil premium numbers.

However there were concerns that time scales were tight in respect of communicating this to providers, particularly where there was a potential decrease in funding involved with the removal of IDACI.

There was general consensus that a phased approach over 2019/20, with a view to moving to a ET based pupil premium based system from April 2020. This would give providers more time to encourage take up of pupil premium.

It was agreed that David Street to model figures around option 2 (keeping band A and B, and removing C this year), as a preferred model for the purposes of the consultation .

5. Subsequent to the FFC meeting:

After discussion with Corporate Finance, information was provided information that if band C was removed wef Sept 2019 this could provide first years savings of £126k, with the full saving being realisable from April 2020, with the move to EY pupil premium based system. A consultation was sent out on this basis on Friday 15 February, with a closing date of Friday 8 March. EY Providers must be sent their estimated 2019/20 figures by 31 March 2019.