

**September 2017**

## **Funding guidance for schools**

**Q. Previously when our Nursery class had a separate Ofsted Registration we were able to access the Area SENCO support. Since we have come under the school's registration we have been unable to access this and have been told that we no longer have access to this because we have additional funding provided for this in the delegated school's budget. Please can you confirm if this is correct and if so where in the schools budget is this amount and what is it referred to as?**

**A.** Yes this is correct. In school budgets there is a notional SEN fund that schools should spend on SEND including any SENCO support. Schools are notified of this when they receive their budget share each year. The school SENCO has responsibility for any nursery provision that is under the school's registration.

**Q. We get a rate of £4.21 per hour which is a preschool rate. Is this correct because we are no longer a preschool, since February 2016 we have been a nursery class, should we receive a higher rate because we are a maintained school nursery class?**

**A.** Yes. At the time the provision was taken over by the school ECC took the decision that schools would continue to be paid on the PVI rate rather than the school and academy nursery class rate. This was agreed with the Director for Education and was due to an overspend in the Early Years Block of the DSG caused by underfunding from the DfE.

In 2016 the Government announced that all Early Years Providers offering the Free Early Years Entitlement (FEEE) must be paid the same rate from April 2019, regardless of what type of provision they are. ECC are working on a two year transition period commencing April 2017. ECC moved from 5 rates to 3 rates in April 2017 and will move to 1 single rate for all providers from April 2018.

**Q. When I tried to book a course for a member of staff that works in the nursery class the charge was £70 not £35, why is this?**

**A.** You need to ensure your details on EES are updated with any changes in your provision. Subsidised costs, i.e. £35 for a half day course, are available to all EYCC practitioners working in PVI Ofsted registered early years and childcare settings and Essex nursery classes in maintained, private, independent and academy schools, or at one of the two Essex County Council maintained nursery schools.

School practitioners working within the Early Years Foundation Stage in **reception classes** in maintained, private, independent and academy schools are required to pay the full cost of £70 per half day course.

**Q. I am just trying to clarify, are we an Essex nursery class in a maintained school? A short while ago we were told that we receive no funding with our delegated budget and that it all comes in via the headcount because it is only nursery classes originally set up by ECC over twenty years ago that are**

**funded via the delegated budget. Is there a difference between a Nursey class and an Essex nursery class?**

A. No, there is no difference, the funding for maintained school and academy nursery classes comes from the Early Years Block of the Designated Schools Grant (DSG) which is generated by the headcount information you input into the Early Years portal twice each term.

However, as the nursery classes are part of the school some of the overheads involved in running the provision are shared with the school which is funded by the Schools Block of the DSG.

This differentiates maintained school and academy nursery classes from Maintained Nursery Schools which are funded entirely from the Early Years Block of the DSG and subsequently receive a higher funding rate.