Report of the Borough Treasurer

Item 8 – Early Years Funding High Needs

Schools Forum

17th September 2014
1. Purpose of the Paper
The purpose of this paper is to propose changes to the funding of Early Years High Needs pupils and to ensure all schools with Nursery pupils receive notional Sen funding of £3,600 pa.

2. Background
Currently schools receive high needs funding for pupils in mainstream schools whose needs are greater than £6,000. This value is also applied to nursery pupils who are funded at 0.6 fte. Following a request from the Fair Funding group we said we would review this.

Schools receive Early Years funding based on the Early Years Funding Formula however there is not a notional amount identified separately.

It was also felt we needed to review the notional Sen received by schools in receipts of nursery pupils using the same criteria as for High Needs Pupils funded from the Schools Delegated Budgets.

The total notional Sen for Nursery pupils has been assumed to be

Base Rate – 0.78%
Disadvantage – 25%

Using the above criteria there is only one school who does not receive the notional Sen funding of £3,600 pa.

The estimated costs to the Dedicated Schools Grant if the changes were implemented are:-

- Amending the funding of nursery pupils so £3,600 is used as the value of SEN above which High Needs Funding is received £38k
- Ensure all schools with nursery pupils receive £3,600 notional SEN £3k

3. Actions/Recommendations
School Forum members are asked to approve the following

- £3,600 to be used as the value of notional SEN for nursery pupils
- Ensure all schools with nursery pupils receive notional SEN of £3,600 per pupils.