



**TO: All Early Years Providers in Bracknell Forest**

**BY EMAIL**

9 December 2016

Dear Early Years Provider

**Bracknell Forest Consultation on Early Years Funding Arrangements from April 2017**

You will be aware that the Government are making significant changes to the way that the free entitlement to early years will be funded next year, including the extension to 30 hours per week for eligible families.

In order to develop the right arrangements in Bracknell Forest, the Council is today launching a consultation on the changes we propose to make. These are intended to maximise quality of provision, increase the number of free entitlement hours and target support to children that need it the most to succeed (who providers then prioritise). Additional funds will be paid to providers which will result in an average increase in hourly funding rates of 14.1%.

Before we implement any changes, we want to make sure that we consider the views of our providers all of whom will be crucial to the successful delivery of the free entitlement to local families. I therefore urge you to read our proposals and feed back any comments or suggestions you may have no later than 20 January 2017. We will also be holding evening briefings on 10 and 12 January which I hope as many as you as possible will attend.

Attached to this email is a copy of the consultation document and a separate document that lists a number of supporting annexes. As these are long documents, we will be sending you paper copies next week, together with the response form.

Next week, we will forward by email a spreadsheet that you can use to view illustrative hourly funding rates to be paid next year, assuming all of the proposals in our consultation are actually implemented. It also allows you to simply model various 'what if?' scenarios, with operating guidance included on the spreadsheet.

**Children Young People & Learning**

Bracknell Forest Council, Time Square, Market Street, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 1JD  
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We have also set up a dedicated web page where you can view the council's consultation document and other relevant information at:

<http://schools.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/finance/early-years-funding-reform>

I look forward to receiving your responses to the consultation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Watkins', with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

**DAVID WATKINS**  
**Chief Officer: Strategy, Resources and Early Help**

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