

EHRIA - Payment of the 2, 3 and 4 year old Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) Funding – Explanatory Note

In February 2016 the Children and Family Services Departmental Equalities Group (DEG) received and approved an EHRIA concerning the payment of the 2, 3 and 4 year old Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) Funding.

The EHRIA was concerned with planned changes to the way that FEEE payments were made with the intention of creating a less burdensome administrative process for both the LA and providers as it would mean that we would not have to make an adjustment data collection and payment. The EHRIA predicted a positive impact arising out of these changes and in the Summer Term 2016 the department became an early implementer for the 30 hours FEEE scheme and the changes were implemented.

However, in light of a number of concerns raised by providers and childminders with regards to cash flow arising from these changes the decision has been made to reinstate the previous payment as follows:

- An initial advance payment will continue to be made at the end of the previous term. This will continue to be a large advance which ranges from 70% - 100% (dependent on the term) and takes account in the fluctuation and trends in attendance. The large advance is also to support providers with their cash flow and to account for the possible increase in take up due to the 30 hours.
- We will then conduct a headcount at the beginning of the term where providers can tell us about the take up of FEEE in that setting at that point. A final payment will be just after the half term point which looks at the claims of the headcount forms, deducts the previous initial payment and will pay the difference (or create a debit on their account if they have been over paid).
- We will then give providers an opportunity to tell us about anything different, leavers / starters and increases / decreases in hours. These will then be calculated and paid, along with the next terms initial payment at the end of term.

This process is something the providers are familiar with and the decision to revert back to our original process is based on feedback from providers and a more in-depth understanding of what they require at this time.

As a result the EHRIA concerning 'Payment of the 2, 3 and 4 year old Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) Funding' now refers to a process that has been tested and is no longer being used. This was brought to the attention of the Children and Family Service's DEG in February 2017 and the group took the decision that the EHRIA should be removed from the LCC webpages and a note of explanation published in its place. As the new payment process has previously been used at the Council a new EHRIA was not considered necessary.

For further information about the payment process for the Payment of the 2, 3 and 4 year old Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) Funding please contact: Jo Fisher on 0116 305 5788 or visit the

following website, <http://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/early-learning-and-childcare/fee-information-for-providers/fee-guidance-and-policies>.