

Title	Early Years - Conception to Age 13
Growth Type	Mayoral priority
Reference	MPG / CHI 001 / 19-20
Strategic Priority Outcome	Inequality is reduced and people feel that they fairly share the benefits from growth
Lead Member	Danny Hassell
Directorate	Children's
Service Area	Education and Partnerships Division, Tower Hamlets Education Partnership
Lead Officer	Christine McInnes

Financial Information	Budget Allocation	Growth Bid		
	2018-19 £'000	2019-20 £'000	2020-21 £'000	2021-22 £'000
Employee Costs				
Other Costs		1,000		
Income				
To Reserves				
Total		1,000	0	0

Staffing Impact	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Employees (FTE)	0	0	0	0

Description & Justification

This growth proposal is required to fund a range of initiatives that support early years and childcare services.

2 year old top up funding - £500k

For an additional 10hrs of early education per week for 2 and 3 year olds from low income backgrounds in outstanding settings. We will also be asking Schools Forum for match funding for this in January. This is most likely to support our nursery schools to offer more hours to the most deprived families. They are themselves facing government cuts due to changes in national funding formulas.

Expansion of the holiday child care scheme - £353k

To double the capacity of the holiday childcare scheme. It is delivered 43 days per year and provides 160 places, 6,450 places per year. This would enable us to provide 12,900 sessions per year. It is heavily subsidised and offers access to affordable childcare from 9-5 or 8-6 during holidays for children aged 3-13, including those with SEND.

Ready to learn – £50k

Following a successful 2 year pilot, this is for the scheme to be implemented. The programme works with primary schools with low levels of attendance in Reception and Nursery Classes. Key outcomes from the pilot include a 7% increase in school attendance of targeted children and schools moving out of the bottom quartile (25%) for attendance.

Breakfast clubs and after school provision – £97k

A pilot programme for a minimum of 10 school based breakfast / after school clubs which will also provide affordable childcare for working parents. It will support schools to develop the provision, co-ordinate and quality assure the provision.

Total revenue = £1,000k.

Capital investment – TBC

Mobile peripatetic units in agreed areas of disadvantage to offer access to child and maternal health services and early education and childcare outreach services. Funding for inclusive settings e.g. induction loops for deaf children and acoustic treatment. Funding for adaptations to existing buildings to enable sessions involving under 5s and elders to facilitate this intergenerational work.

Budgeted Outcomes/ Accountability (Focus on Improved performance)

This contributes to the council priority of 'People are aspirational, independent and have equal access to opportunities'.

- Additional 10 hours funding for Childcare
- Increased EL2 take up
- Improved outcomes evident in EYFSP in reception and beyond
- Increased take up of additional hours
- Improved GLD

Different models of provision will be explored and developed in partnership with schools to ensure the needs of individual school communities are met and the breakfast clubs are sustainable. Schools will be supported to manage and sustain the programme. There will be close liaison with the IEYS Community Cohesion Team to ensure that the offer is consistent across ages and inspection frameworks.

A pilot programme of a minimum 10 school based breakfast / afterschool clubs will provide affordable morning childcare for working parents and could also support a wider agenda such as volunteering opportunities for those parents seeking experience to return to work, transition between schools (some clubs could be used by children from a number of schools), healthy eating and support for vulnerable children. These aspects of the work will be co-ordinated by the Parent and Family Support Service in partnership with IEYS children's centres.

Risks & Implications

Risks

- Tower Hamlets parents would not be able to access affordable childcare and gain and sustain employment
- New school sites may not be identified to accommodate the increased provision relying on existing schools to cover the whole year
- Unable to recruit qualified and experienced childcare / play / youth workers delaying availability of additional places Parents not being able to access affordable childcare

Advantages

- Expansion of the holiday childcare scheme would enable an increase in staff to meet the scheme ratios whilst maintaining a high quality, inclusive provision
- The scheme would continue to provide affordable provision for families particularly those on the lowest income
- Provision would target and support the most disadvantaged families including those children with SEND

Value for Money & Efficiency

The provision of more early learning hours in outstanding settings for the most disadvantaged families will allow parents to access a range of education, training, and employment opportunities.

The expansion of the Holiday Childcare provision will increase provision of affordable childcare places for working parents, particularly those on low incomes and also those parents accessing targeted places for vulnerable children and children with SEND.

Provision will be accessible to children 3 – 13 years and will support parents in work between 8am – 6pm on a weekday.

The Holiday Scheme will maintain close links with all schools and further development of the scheme including the support for Breakfast clubs and wrap around provision will support parents to access and sustain training and employment improving whole family outcomes.

The Ready to Learn Programme is one of the first within Children's Services to introduce the Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) model. Data is collected on a half termly basis and contributes to the strong and developing evidence base for this programme.