Local Authority Agreement for the Provision of Early Education Funding

Summary of Changes Effective from 1 September 2019

7.1 – Updated wording to make clearer when children become 'age eligible' for a funded place.

- The eligible age for two year olds is the term after a child's 2nd birthday. The eligible age for 3&4 year olds is the term after a child's 3rd birthday.

12.2 – Added additional detail to existing clause to make clearer what information is required to enable EYPP checks to be undertaken.

- The Provider must ensure all prescribed information is included in the headcount or supplementary claim for any children they wish to claim EYPP for, to enable the Local Authority to check if the child is eligible for EYPP (i.e. Parent name, date of birth and NI/NASS number)

13.6 – New clause regarding reference to Ofsted inspections and publicity/marketing

- The Provider must ensure that any marketing or publicity materials that make reference to Ofsted inspection judgements are up to date, and reflective of the most recent published inspection report. This includes any information published on the Provider's website. Where the Provider chooses to publish their Ofsted inspection report, they must ensure it is the most recent version.

14.21 - New clause to clarify what should happen in the event of short term closures e.g. bank holidays, polling days, severe weather etc. This is what has always happened in practice.

- Where a closure day occurs due to a bank holiday, polling day, or unforeseen circumstances such as severe weather, funerals etc., the Provider should, wherever possible, offer the missed session/s at an alternative time or allow the parent to 'bank' the hours for a future date/time.

15.7 - Additional wording added to existing clause 15.7 for clarity regarding 'top ups' following recent parental disputes and how settings show the funded hours/charge for additional services.

- The Provider must ensure they show the funded hours at a £0 charge on the parent's invoice before any charges for additional hours/services are made.

15.11 – New clause to clarify that EEF cannot be used to offset parental debts for 'paid for services'

- The Provider cannot use EEF funding to offset any outstanding fees a parent has accrued as a result of any non-funded hours or additional services delivered by the Provider.

16.12 – Changed to the payment date for supplementary claims received in the last month of each term to the 15th of the following term instead of the 30th of the following term.
18.7 & 18.8 – Updated funding rules in the event that a provider receives an ‘inadequate’ inspection judgement

- **18.7** - In the event that Ofsted publish an overall rating of ‘inadequate’, ‘not met’ or ‘ineffective’ for the Provider, the following will apply:
  a. Where the ‘quality of education’ judgements are less than ‘good’ the Local Authority will withdraw funding 8 weeks after the date the ‘inadequate’ inspection judgement is published, but reserves the right to reduce or extend this period, as the Local Authority in its absolute discretion considers appropriate;
  b. Where the ‘quality of education’ judgements are ‘good’ or better the Local Authority will continue to fund the Provider until the next inspection. If at the next inspection, the Provider remains ‘Inadequate’, ‘not met’ or ‘ineffective’ the Local Authority will withdraw funding 4 weeks from the date the next inspection is published;
  c. The Provider will be required to submit an action plan within 15 workings days of the ‘inadequate’ judgement being published. The action plan must include participation in training/quality improvement activities and provide details of who/how this is being provided. Failure to meet this within the specified timescales could result in funding ceasing 8 weeks after ‘inadequate’ inspection is published.
  d. Ineffective judgements apply specifically to a Provider who is part of a Childminder Agency.

- **18.8** - In such cases outlined in clause 18.7:
  a. the Provider must inform parents of the inspection judgement within 5 working days of it being published, and must explain what the funding implications are for their child's(ren's) place;
  c. the Local Authority will only re-instate Early Education Funding when the Provider has been re-inspected and the published Ofsted rating is ‘Requires Improvement’ or better. Funding will be backdated to the date of the re-inspection providing a Funding Agreement for the Provision of Early Education and Childcare is in place between the Provider and the Local Authority.