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To: All Directors of Children's Services

Local Authorities (England)

CC: Head of Early Years

CC: Head of School Funding

18 December 2009

### **Early Years Single Funding Formula**

Further to our letter and Dawn Primarolo's statement on 10<sup>th</sup> December confirming the Minister's decision to delay the implementation of the Early Years Single Funding Formula, we are writing to inform you of the process which local authorities should follow if you wish to be considered as a second wave pathfinder.

The new group of pathfinders will be selected after consideration of the information provided against the criteria outlined in the proforma attached. This form should be completed and returned directly to the Department, copied to your Government Office early years lead, by those authorities who consider themselves to be in a position to implement their Early Years Single Funding Formula successfully by April 2010.

Local authorities that wish to be pathfinders will need to apply to the Secretary of State for additional arrangements to be made under the School Finance (England) Regulations 2008 in order to disapply certain regulations. This is explained in the proforma. We would strongly advise all local authorities to take a collaborative approach in consultation with LA colleagues, Schools Forum, providers and representative groups before making a decision to postpone or to apply to become a pathfinder.

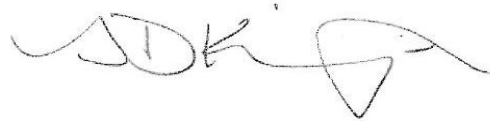
The new pathfinders will be expected to work with the Department and the existing pilot authorities to help simplify the process for others and share good practice to provide support for local authorities that have yet to implement the formula and/or are experiencing difficulties.

The closing date for applications will be 29<sup>th</sup> January 2010. We expect to notify local authorities of the outcome of their application by 15<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

Once again, we would like to thank you for the hard work that has been undertaken so far. We appreciate that there have been challenges and hope that this extra time will enable those who require it to resolve any issues in partnership with their providers. We look forward to continuing to work with you over the next year to ensure the successful implementation of the EYSFF.



Ann Gross  
Director  
– Early Years, Extended Services and  
SEN Group  
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Stephen Kingdom  
Head of School Funding Unit  
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