

Maintained Nursery Schools in Lancashire

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Maintained Nursery Schools - position in Lancashire

- Recognition nationally that maintained nursery schools are some of the highest quality institutions in education
- Nationally 63% graded 'outstanding' by Ofsted and 35% 'good'
- In Lancashire this is reflected by 75% 'outstanding' and 25% 'good'
- Schools were set up to serve 2, 3 and 4 year old children and families
- Specifically set up to serve deprived areas of the communities
- Nationally have twice the proportion of pupils with special educational needs or disabilities than other early years provision

The Funding Pressure

- Funding changes arise after summer 2020 which could lead to 40% of funding in any individual school being removed
- Maintained nursery schools are asked to plan for a future without sustainable funding – may lead to staffing cuts or possibly even closures
- Minister allocated £24m in additional supplemental funding until summer 2020 to guarantee places for children for the 2019 academic year

Lancashire Position

- Task & Finish Group met in 2018/19
- Support for financial management continues
- Previous cabinet member, Cllr Susie Charles, sent a letter to the minister lobbying for funding
- Current cabinet member, Cllr Williamson, attended a recent meeting of maintained nursery schools with headteachers and governors to discuss issues
- Executive Director involved in debate and there is an officer/member understanding of the situation in Lancashire

Next Steps

- Continue to lobby the minister for additional funding
- Review with clinical commissioning groups of health authorities if support is available to fund or enhance special educational needs provision
- Possible federations or shared services with other schools
 - **NB: an academy is not possible in law**
- Headteachers and governors may come up with alternative or innovative solutions

Questions or comments?