**Appendix 1**

**Ofsted Requires Improvement Protocol**

**September 2018**

Oldham wants to create a 0 -19 education and skills system that is underpinned by a collective vision for the borough of high quality teaching, a dynamic and relevant curriculum and outstanding leadership. The council is clear and consistent in its expectations of continuous quality improvement to ensure the free Early Education Entitlement (EEE) for 2, 3 and 4 year olds has maximum impact. We will continue to concentrate free education funding wherever possible on those providers judged by Ofsted to be delivering the highest quality provision whilst prioritising support to others.

This protocol outlines the actions that will be taken by Oldham Council where a setting receives a first overall Ofsted grade of *requires improvement*. The protocol applies to full day-care provision, pre-schools, childminders and out of school (OOS) settings. However, OOS settings should note that the sections relating to EEE funding do not apply.

1. Following notification of a *requires improvement* judgement by Ofsted at inspection, the Early Years provider must contact the council to inform them of the outcome of inspection on familyinfo@oldham.gov.uk.
2. At this point the council, or organisation working on its behalf, will discuss the inspection outcome with the owner/manager of the provision and explain the implications for EEE where there is funding for 2 years olds in place.

In line with statutory guidance[[1]](#footnote-1) Oldham Council will continue to fund existing and new 3 and 4 year olds. However, it will only fund eligible 2 year olds in requires improvement provision where there is not sufficient accessible Ofsted good or outstanding provision.

The owner/manager will be informed that the setting will be placed into **Category B** in the council’s Support and Challenge Framework (Appendix 1) and the *requires improvement prevention programme support package* will be initiated. Engagement in this support package is **mandatory** if the setting has existing 2 year olds and/or wishes to be considered for EEE funding for new 2 year olds.

1. On publication of the report, the Children’s Centre Right Start Team will be informed about the requires improvement judgement and that funding will not be **automatically** available for any **new[[2]](#endnote-1)**2 year olds at the setting until an improved judgement is received at re-inspection by Ofsted.

NB: The council will take the following into account when looking to fund 2 year olds at an early years setting with a requires improvement Ofsted judgement:

* Is there a sufficiency need? (Evidence to be provided).
* Is the setting actively engaged in the requiring improvement prevention programme?
* Is there evidence of rapid and sustained improvement.
* Is as robust FIP in place?
* Are there any exceptional circumstances identified and endorsed by a social worker e.g. placement part of a CIN plan
1. Dialogue will take place with the council and the owner and or manager of the setting following the publication of the report to discuss the report and the requirement to submit a *focused improvement plan (FIP)*. The plan must clearly demonstrate how the owner/manager will address the actions and recommendations of the Ofsted inspection (including timelines and strategies for sustaining improvements) **(Stage 1)**.
2. The manager/owner of the setting submits the completed FIP to the council within 10 working days of the initial discussion/meeting. The council will review the FIP and confirm with the setting that the FIP addresses the actions and recommendations identified in their Ofsted inspection report. At this stage a programme of bespoke, time limited focused intervention is agreed between the council and provider e.g. 4 x 2 hour visits, and dates for formal progress review meetings agreed (1) **(Stage 2)**.
3. Monitoring visits will be undertaken during the 12 month period until re inspection by Ofsted. These visits may be undertaken by specialist early years consultants commissioned by Oldham Council. Monitoring reports will be completed and progress reported to the relevant Early Years Quality and Standards Officer **(Stage 3)**.
4. Assessment of progress will be measured through: Visit reports; FIP’s; attendance at learning networks and any identified training. After a period of 6 months a setting that has not been able to demonstrate rapid improvements are being made to secure an improved outcome at re inspection will be given notice of termination of their contract to deliver EEE funded places for 2 year olds. Funding will not be paid for any 2 year old child registered from the date the setting receives notification of termination of contract.
5. Once all actions on the FIP are completed, with clear evidence of how the improvements will be monitored and sustained, the setting submits the FIP to the council for evidence of improvement **(Stage 4)** to enable funding to continue on current basis.
6. Following the publication of the Ofsted re inspection report the council will take the following actions:
* **‘Good and outstanding’** – Process for the automatic reinstatement of EEE funding for 2 year olds initiated. The setting will be placed in Category A of the Support and Challenge Framework
* **2nd ‘Requires improvement’** – The setting is placed in Category C of the Support and Challenge Framework and the owner/committee/manager of the setting must formally sign up to take part in the council’s Intervention Process prior to continuation of EE funding for existing and new 2 year olds
* **‘Inadequate’** – The settings is placed in Category C of the Support and Challenge Framework and the owner/committee and manager must formally sign up to taking part in the council’s Intervention Process

 ***NB:*** ***Where there are deemed to be serious safeguarding concerns i.e. Ofsted suspension of registration, the safeguarding /welfare of children is put at risk, EEE funding for all children may be withdrawn with immediate effect.***

1. Early education and childcare Statutory guidance for local authorities June 2018 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. On publication of the report, consideration will be given to families of 2 year old children eligible for EEE, who have already been registered for a place, whose paperwork has been submitted to the council and for whom induction visits have begun. Parents will be informed of the ‘requires improvement’ judgement, what this means and given the option of retaining their funded place. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)