



**Briefing Note for Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

**Reynolds, Day Care, Scartho Nursery School, and Great Coates Village Nursery**

This briefing note provides summary information on the latest position in relation to each of the maintained settings.

**Great Coates Nursery:**

The setting has worked hard to address the budget position and although they started off the year in a cumulative deficit position of approx. £17k, their last approved plan following their detailed budget meeting in September demonstrated that by the end of this financial year they should be in a cumulative surplus position of approx. £32k. It should be stressed that at the time of this meeting the Autumn term and Spring term funding figures were estimated; finance has confirmed the actual Autumn term funding facilitated, and this was in line with the setting's estimate. Should the information that the setting has provided that the Spring Term estimate also be accurate alongside other budget assumptions, then the school's forecast position as per their approved plan would seem reasonable.

**Scartho Nursery:**

The setting has worked hard to address the budget position. They also started off the year in a cumulative deficit position of approx. £55k, their last approved plan following their detailed budget meeting we undertook in September demonstrated that by the end of this financial year should remain in the same position. It should be stressed that at the time of this meeting the Autumn term and Spring term funding figures were estimated; finance has confirmed the actual Autumn term funding facilitated, and this was in line with the setting's estimate. Should the information that the setting has provided that the Spring Term estimate also be accurate alongside other budget assumptions, then the school's forecast position as per their approved plan would seem reasonable

Revised meetings with both nursery settings will take place in January ensuring close analysis of the settings' predictions for numbers.

### **Reynolds Day Care:**

The setting has worked hard to address the budget position and has been supported by the increase in the government's childcare entitlements, needed to develop waiting lists for some of the popular sessions and consequently increase the staffing establishment. As at period 8 monitoring, the setting is currently forecasting an in-year surplus of £75k, it is assumed that this balance will be transferred into EMR at year end to support sustainability of the setting going forward.

### **LA Support:**

Each setting continues to receive a raft of support from LA officers including:

- Line management and People and Culture Support for employment matters and wellbeing support
- Constructive financial support as a budget holder, with the option for monthly finance meetings
- Education advice and guidance (safeguarding, signposting, DfE elements)
- Capital advice (buildings and capacity)
- Early Years advice: sufficiency and projection data.

### **Anticipated next steps:**

Each setting will continue to receive budget monitoring support, with the next planned meeting scheduled for the end of January 2025.

Continued updates at Children's Scrutiny on each setting's financial position

### **Contact Officers:**

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