

## Early Years SEND Inclusion Funding (ALFEY Funding)

### Contextual Information

It is the duty of all providers delivering funded early education places to meet the needs of children with SEN and disabilities. In order to do this the Local Authority follow recommended guidelines to ensure the funding arrangements for early education reflect the need to provide suitable support for these children.

It is at the discretion of each private, voluntary and independent (PVI) provider to decide how to spend their allocation for special educational needs. Some providers choose to fund extra teaching or non-teaching staff to support pupils with special educational needs and/or use this funding to provide interventions and resources. Others may pay for additional time for the provider's special educational needs coordinator (SENCO) to work with pupils. This funding also covers the providers duties around the provision of specialist equipment and aids.

### Local Practice

Settings make applications using a form which is submitted to the Alfeiy Funding Panel (the panel is comprised of LA Officers and PVI sector representatives). The panel assess the applications against criteria developed by the Inclusion Advisory Teacher prior to the panel meeting. During the panel meeting each application is discussed and a score is agreed and awarded to the child. Depending on the application, there may be some recommendations made in regard to the child or funding awarded. Funding is usually allocated to the child for a period of one year, unless the panel require further information and request this for the next panel meeting. The score allocated to the child dictates how much additional funding the setting will receive for the child. The scores are set out below:

ALFEY Score	% of hourly rate received	£ hourly rate received
1	This level is no longer awarded	
2	40%	£3.60
3	60%	£5.40
4	80%	£7.20
5	100%	£9.00

### Spend

There has been an evidenced increase in level of need which is clear from the information that follows detailing the increased spend and increase in average score across the terms.

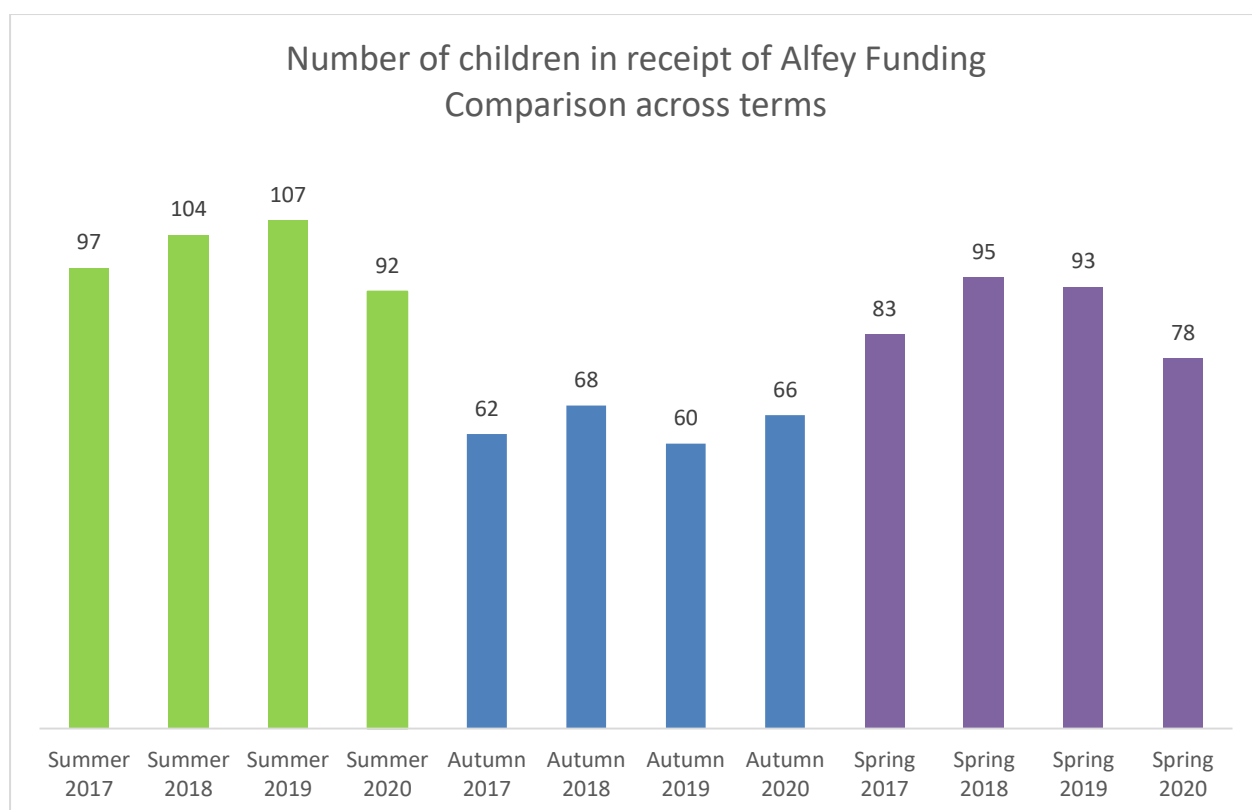
The following table provides a breakdown by term since 2015 of numbers of children, total spend, average spend per child, average score as well as the number of children accessing the extended entitlement.

	Number of children	Spend	Average Spend per child	Average Score	Number of children receiving more than 15 hrs
<b>Summer 2015</b>	65	£43,960.50	£676.32	2.5	
<b>Autumn 2015</b>	50	£39,073.50	£781.47	2.9	
<b>Spring 2016*</b>	69	£50,738.22	£735.34	2.9	
<b>Summer 2016</b>	79	£68,493.96	£867.01	2.9	

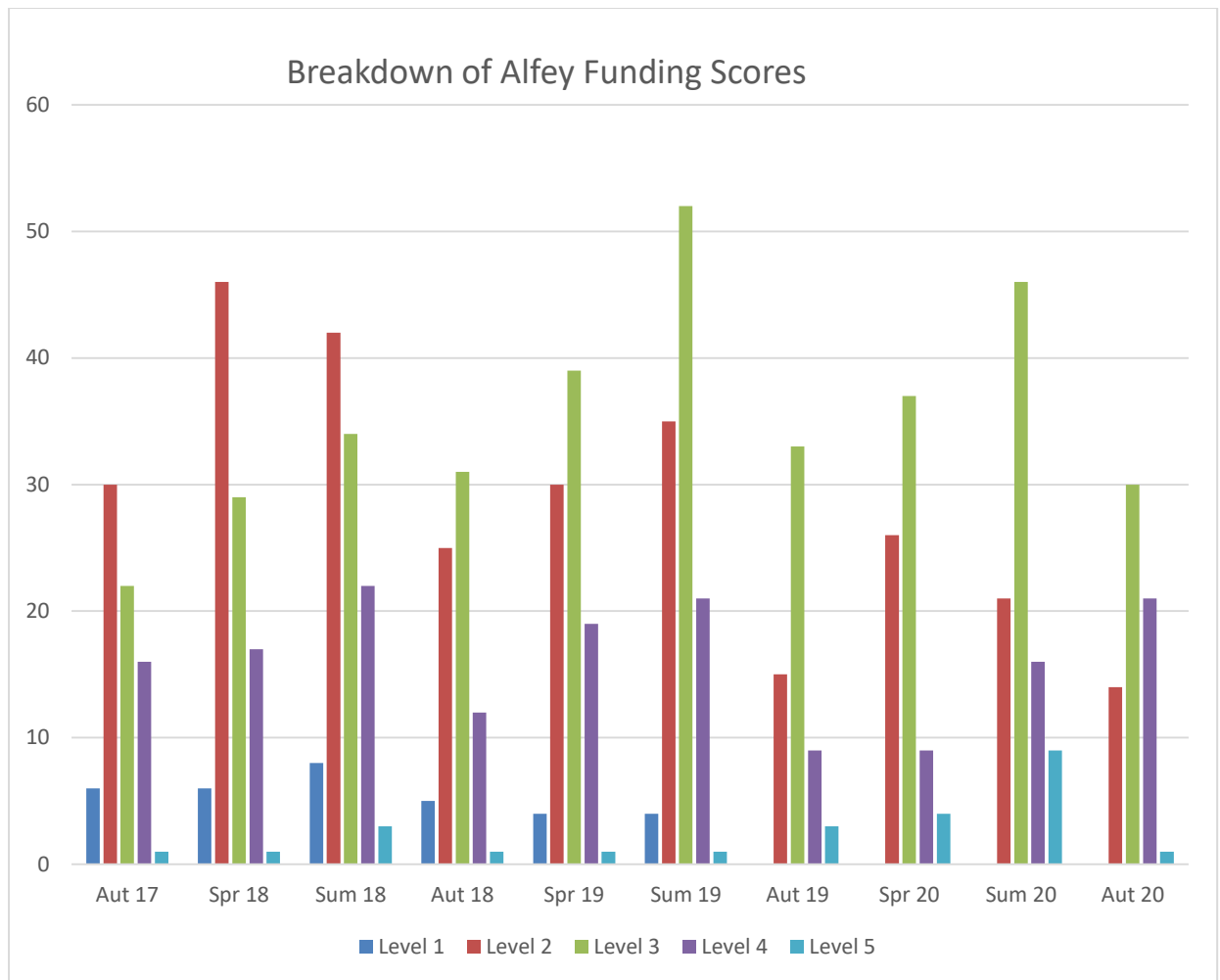
<b>Autumn 2016</b>	67	£67,906.08	£1,013.52	3.1	
<b>Spring 2017</b>	83	£71,767.44	£864.67	2.9	
<b>Summer 2017</b>	97	£82,889.64	£854.53	2.9	
<b>Autumn 2017</b>	62	£59,232.60	£955.36	2.7	7
<b>Spring 2018</b>	95	£75,432.60	£794.03	2.6	14
<b>Summer 2018</b>	104	£98,702.10	£949.06	2.7	25
<b>Autumn 2018</b>	68	£75,412.35	£1109.01	2.7	16
<b>Spring 2019</b>	93	£89,802.00	£965.61	2.8	23
<b>Summer 2019</b>	107	£106,501.95	£995.35	3.0	26
<b>Autumn 2019</b>	60	£66,222.45	£1103.71	3.0	17
<b>Spring 2020</b>	78	£76,171.95	£976.56	2.9	22
<b>Summer 2020</b>	92	£113,833.80	£1,237.32	3.1	24
<b>Autumn 2020</b>	66	£75,519.00	£1,144.23	3.1	11

*\*Important note – the hourly rate increased from £7.50 ph to £9.00 ph in Spring 2016.*

The chart below compares the number of children in receipt of Alfey Funding over the three terms and clearly demonstrates an increase in need over the last 4 years which has subsequently dropped slightly in 2019 and 2020. This is likely to be due to the drop in the number of children overall this academic year and the impact of the covid-19 pandemic.



The chart below shows a trend of increasing levels of need; with lower level scores decreasing and higher level scores increasing.



Alfey Funding has continued to be paid to providers as normal throughout the covid-19 pandemic and there has been no interruption to the panel meetings which are now hosted virtually.