

Alfey Funding Report

In the new academic year September 2017 to August 2018 a new format was introduced for allocating the SEN Inclusion Fund; known as Alfey Funding. Previously the fund was managed by the Early Years Inclusion Advisory Teacher but it was agreed that this role needed to change and a panel was formed to allocate and manage the funding.

Alongside these changes, the budget for the funding was also increased to accommodate the evident need for increased and ongoing SEN support in Early Years settings, as well as the implementation of the extended entitlement seeing children in settings for more hours. The following changes have been made to the process:

- The introduction of an ALFEY panel who meet 6 times per year at set dates and times with a strict deadline for applications to be submitted prior to each panel.
- The panel consists of representatives from the Early Years' Service (including an officer without an early years/education background) and external representatives from the PVI sector.
- A cease date, one calendar year from the initial application, is given (unless an earlier cease date is considered appropriate)
- Applications will be renewed and reviewed by the panel each year from the date of the initial allocation
- If funding needs to continue after the cease date, providers must submit a new application to the panel prior to the cease date

The panel operates a robust assessment process of individually assessing applications against the funding criteria document. The panel then discusses each case during the session and agrees a score for each child. The panel has also, in some cases, declined to allocate funding and referred the application back to the provider. This would either be with an accompanying request for further information which could be considered at the next panel, or with reasons for the rejection. Where an application is considered to lack sufficient information, but there is clear evidence of a level of need, the panel will allocate low level funding for a short period of time (i.e. one or two terms) and request that the provider reapplies with a more robust application.

This 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	20%	£1.80
2	40%	£3.60
3	60%	£5.40
4	80%	£7.20
5	100%	£9.00

Below is a table which outlines the number of children in receipt of ALFEY Funding across the academic year (note the changes were introduced for the autumn term):

Term	Number of children	Term Total £
Summer 2017	97	£82,889.64
Autumn 2017	72	£62,798.40
Spring 2018	82	£69,989.40

Below is a summary of the number of children in each score bracket for each term:

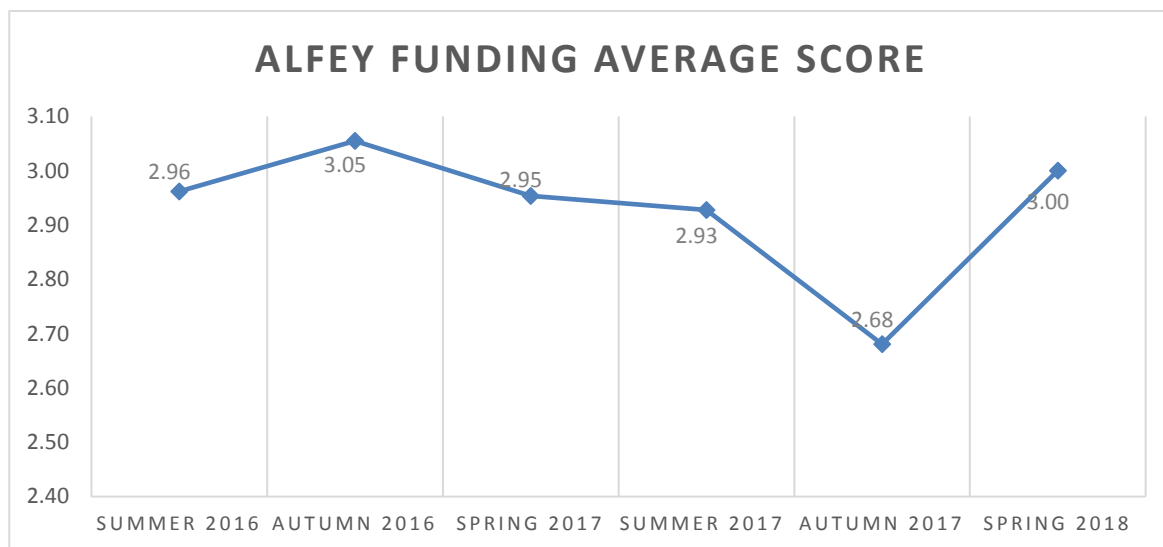
Score	Number of children Summer 2017	Number of children Autumn 2017	Number of children Spring 2018
1	7	6	6
2	24	29	42
3	38	20	29
4	25	16	16
5	3	1	1

This is compared to the last financial year 2016-17:

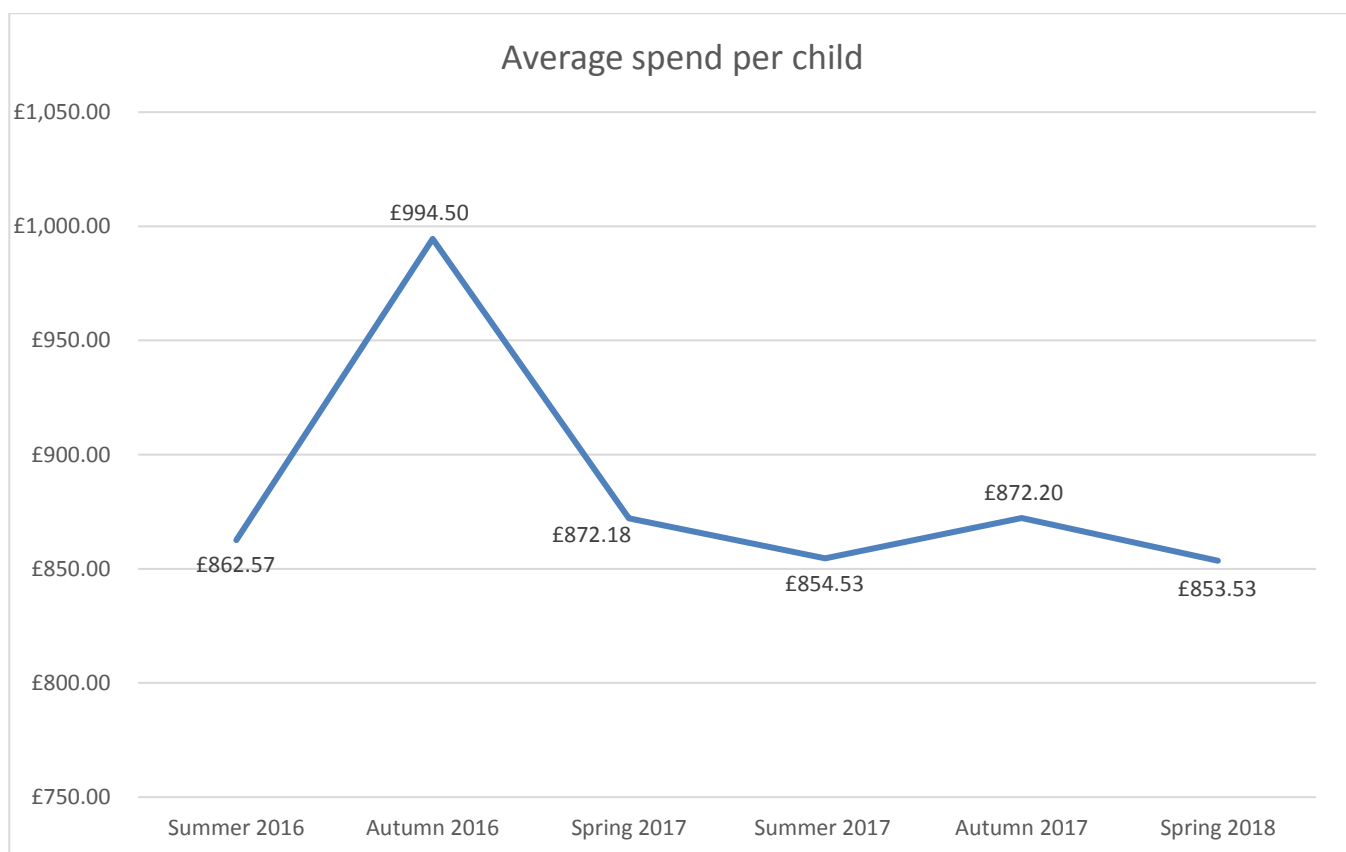
Term	Number of children	Term Total £
Summer 2016	79	£68,142.96
Autumn 2016	73	£72,598.68
Spring 2017	86	£75,007.44

Score	Number of children Summer 2016	Number of children Autumn 2016	Number of children Spring 2017
1	4	7	10
2	19	12	16
3	37	28	32
4	14	22	24
5	5	4	4

The average score allocated has reduced from 2.99 in 2016-17 to 2.87 in 2017-18. The termly average score breakdown can be found below:



The average spend per child has also decreased:



The AlfeY Funding budget will come in on target at the end of the financial year and will not be overspent.

This is evidence that the impact of the panel on the funding allocation has worked well to ensure that the funding available is allocated in a clear and transparent way whilst ensuring that the budget allocation is not exceeded.