

Children, Young People, Education and Skills Ministerial Decision Report

Nursery Education Fund (NEF) rate increases for September 2024 – September 2027

1. Purpose of Report

To enable the Minister to approve the NEF rate increases for the academic years 2024-25, 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28.

2. Background

The Nursery Education Fund (NEF) enables children in their pre-school year to attend registered providers in the private sector. Payment for 30hrs per week during term time is made by the Children, Young People, Education and Skills (CYPES) department direct to the providers.

Under the NEF partnership agreement with registered providers the fee rate is reviewed annually, enabling access to high quality early years education for children aged 3-4 years. This requires consideration of the Jersey Retail Prices Index (RPI) and Index of Average Earnings within the broader context of affordability of Government of Jersey finances.

Further to discussions with the Jersey Early Years Association (JEYA) the approval of the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning has been sought for a multi-year increase agreement as per the below table:

Period from:	NEF rate	Percentage increase
September 2024	£8.30	11.6%
September 2025	Tbc	December 2024 RPI
September 2026	Tbc	December 2025 RPI
September 2027	Tbc	December 2026 RPI

3. Recommendation

The Minister is recommended to approve the fee increases as proposed above.

4. Reasons for Decision

To meet the requirements of the partnership agreement for an annual review of the fee rate.

5. Resource Implications

The fee rate increase for September 2024 is forecast to result in additional expenditure for CYPES of £120,000 in 2024 and £329,000 in 2025. This will be met from existing resources.