

## Children's Services

### Minutes of Meeting Early Years Consultative Group

Held on: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Time: 13:30 – 15:30

Venue: Barnham Broom Hotel

Present:	Post Title	Dept/Organisation	Attendance
Jo-anne Lamb	Senior Adviser for Early Years Learning	NCC	Y
Su Rushbrook	Early Years Finance Manager	NCC	Y
John Crowley	Assistance Director Education?	NCC	Y
Lacey Douglas (Chair)	Manager	The Heathers Nursery	Y
Alison Hughes	Primary Director	Inspiration Trust	Apologies
Kim Walters King	Senior Lead	Martham Academy	Apologies
Cassandra Williams	Head Teacher	Lakenham Primary School	Apologies
Louise Rosen	Head Teacher	Little Drakes	Y
Claire Hooker	Head Teacher	Emneth Nursery School	Y
Claire Henry	Owner	So Schools Out	Apologies
Lesley Doy	Manager	Chapel Break OSC CIC	Y
Carol Vincent	Nursery Manager	Spring Thorpe Hamlet	Apologies
Victoria Furness	Owner	Forest School for Life	Apologies
Suzie Squirrel-Hughes	Owner	Little Squirrels	Y
Jayne Rayner	Manager	Alburgh & Denton Pre-school	Y
Jane Pears	Manager	St. Helens Pre-school	Y
Lynne Armitage	Committee Trustee	Ducklings Pre-school	Y
Sue Brown (minute taker)	Early Years' Service Manager	NCC	Y
Nina Hopson	Manager	East Dereham Day Nursery	Y
Charlie Wilson-Boast	Manager	Seedlings Day Nursery	Y
Susie Pull	Owner	Glebe House	Y

Item	Minutes	Action and due date
1	<b>Apologies</b> Alison Hughes, Kim Walters King, Cassandra Williams, Claire Henry, Carol Vincent, Victoria Furness	
2	JL welcomed the new members to the group <b>Minutes of last meeting &amp; matters arising</b> Minutes from the previous meeting held on 12.9.23 were read as a true and accurate record.	

- JL advised there was now a tab on the website to publish the minutes, if anyone does not wish for their names to be published, please advise.
- Would be good to get full representation at the meetings so if there was someone who could deputise, please let us know.

### 3

#### **Expanded Entitlement Update**

- Statutory Guidance is not expected to be published until January 2024, therefore stage 2 of the Local Agreements, which was to collate policies, has been halted
- It is expected consumables will still be chargeable, so no change expected, but feel the wording needs to be clearer
- Confirmed the funding will start term after child turns 9 months or term after child turns 2. Claim periods will remain as current
- Childcare Choices has now updated, and parents can now check eligibility. SR now has a contact, so if anyone feels the wording that is not clear for parent's please let her know. The start date with the codes to be the start of the entitlement not when parents apply for it. Parents need to obtain the codes in time to claim.
- Obtaining the code process will be the same. Need to obtain a HMRC code and for disadvantaged 2-year-olds a NEO account.
- There are conversations with DfE around signposting a non-eligible child from HMRC to Early Years and vice versa
- There will be some 2-year-olds who will not be eligible
- Advise all families to use the calculator in the Childcare Choices as this will advise what they are eligible for
- Key messages to be sent to providers so they are able to support the families
- LA raised that when parents have concerns about the consumables charge they are advised to speak to the setting. Very often the parents would rather move setting than have that conversation.
- LD advised a debate in parliament had taken place so funding is being raised ( read/watch here [Read the transcript](#) [Watch the debate](#))
- SR advised when the LA Funding Agreements are issued, we will be requesting a copy of policies if we have not seen a copy for more than two years. Consumables will be included in Stage 2 of the Funding Agreement process. However, the LA cannot stipulate what settings can do so there will never be a variable consumables cost across the county.
- SR confirmed that if parents pay there will be no additional funding available
- Jo raised from the responses in the survey (which will be

covered later) a lot of settings say they do not claim SENIF because they meet needs. Communication needs to go to settings raising the importance of claiming especially as it would help the transition to school.

- It was raised that sufficiency of places will be a challenge in particular areas, there is some demand, and many providers are happy to accommodate if able to, but many are waiting for the announcement of the funding before they commit.
- LA raised that there may be a shift to schools taking more 3- and 4-year-olds, and the PVI sector focussing on younger children

#### 4

##### **Wraparound Pathfinder Update**

- LA has been informed officially of the allocation and Norfolk will receive £7.4 million over the 2 years. Expect the first small payment this term so we can get an infrastructure in place.
- The money is to support the expansion or development of new wrap around care for primary aged children term time only.
- Will also be linking to the HAF programme.
- A Wrap Around Consultative Group will be set up and JL asked if anyone is interested in being part of the group could they let her know.
- The programme Handbook is now available to download, The National Wrap Around Childcare Programme - [Wraparound childcare: guidance for local authorities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wrap-around-childcare-guidance-for-local-authorities)
- Plan is to hold briefings after Christmas.

#### 5

##### **Survey & Results**

SR circulated the document with the findings to the group prior to the meeting, it was then shared on the screen and the following comments raised:

- The result was very close as to which model to go for
- CH felt the three maintained nursery schools are not represented sufficiently in relation to view of TPPG. SR advised that this element of nursery funding is within the MNS supplement.
- Said we would go with the results of the survey for the recommendation to School Forum, however some questions did not have a clear answer.
- JR felt the quality supplement had to remain and also the flexibility supplement (even if a small amount)
- SSH agreed, however also thinks if it were a level base rate it would be more consistent if providers are receiving the qualification rate and then have that member of staff leave you would lose the staff member and the

supplement.

- SR confirmed the funds the LA receive is based on the Census return. X number of pounds for x number of children.
- JL added, the decision of how the funds are allocated always has to be consulted on with the sector. Currently 95% goes to providers with 5% held back for the LA.
- JR raised the frustrations around receiving a low funding rate and other projects being set up, offering staff more money

SR shared the funding models and the following comments were made:

- Question why was Norfolk the lowest paid and is it being challenged? SR attends a DfE group where it has been raised. DfE re using out of date data, and Norfolk and other authorities are challenging this
- JL added that DfE are very open to conversations, and we have been in more contact with them this year more than we ever have. The conversations will continue to take place.

After much discussion and deliberation, a vote was taken with the following results:

Option 1 (keep Supplements) 5 votes.

Option 3 (no supplements) 6 votes

Therefore a decision was passed to go with the survey result.

## **6 Any Other Business**

**N/A**

## **7 Dates of future meetings**

Proposed dates (venue and times to be confirmed)

17th January 2024

24<sup>th</sup> January 2024

26<sup>th</sup> June 2024

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024