

Children's Services

Minutes of Meeting Early Years Consultative Group

Held on: Thursday 24th October 2024

Time: 13:00 -15:00

Venue: Broadland Business Park, The Horizon Centre

Present:	Post Title	Dept/Organisation	Attendance
Jo-anne Lamb (Chair)	Senior Adviser for Early Years Learning	NCC	Yes
Su Rushbrook	Early Years Finance Manager	NCC	Yes
John Crowley	Assistant Director Learning & Achievement	NCC	Yes
Lacey Douglas	EY Rep, Schools Forum		Yes
Nina Hopson	Manager	East Dereham Day Nursery	Apologies
Louise Rosen	Head Teacher	Little Drakes	No
Claire Hooker	Head Teacher	Emneth Nursery School	Yes
Claire Henry	Owner	So Schools Out	No
Lesley Doy	Manager	Chapel Break OSC CIC	Apologies
Victoria Furness	Owner	Forest School for Life	Yes
Suzie Squirrel-Hughes	Owner	Little Squirrels	No
Jayne Rayner	Manager	Alburgh & Denton Pre-school	Yes
Jane Pears	Manager	St. Helens Pre-school	Yes
Lynne Armitage	Committee Trustee	Ducklings Pre-school	Yes
Charlie Wilson-Boast	Manager	Seedlings Day Nursery	Apologies
Jo Tuttle	Director of Business	Aylsham High School	Apologies
Claire Gravett	Nursery Class	Fakenham Infant School	Apologies
Katie Stephens	Manager	Fakenham Daycare	Yes
Samantha Mann	Owner	Attlebridge/Cawston/Lyng Montessori Nursery	Apologies
Yvonne Hamilton	Manager	Chestnut Nursery @NRP	Apologies
Hayley Fiddy	Deputy Manager	East Dereham Day Nursery	Yes
Sue Brown (minute taker)	Early Years' Support Manager	NCC	Yes
Lindsey Symington	Early Years Adviser Home Learning	NCC	Yes

Item	Minute	Action and due date
1	Welcome & Apologies Apologies received from: Yvonne Hamilton, Samantha Mann, Claire Gravett, Jo Tuttle, Charlie Wilson-Boast, Lesley Doy, Nina Hopson	
2	Minutes of last meeting	

No actions from previous meeting

3 PEEP Talk Programme

LS shared information regarding the PEEP Programme. (Copy of the power point attached.)

- The programme builds on what practitioners and parents already do to support children's speech.
- Training is available, which is one day and will provide an opportunity to have a practice session and see others running one, will also have a full access to programme materials, resources and support.
- The PEEP groups are structured with a consistent delivery over 8 sessions
- Can be delivered flexibly either 1:1 at home, Targeted groups, or Parent & Toddler Groups
- The programme can be used alongside Wellcomm. LS suggested start with the Peep programme and then follow on with Wellcomm with individual parents.
- JL added that there is a plan in place for the Early Years staff in the Schools & Community Teams to deliver PEEP training in partnership with settings across the County. We will be providing the S&C Teams with the Being 2 Data we collect, which will enable them to carry out targeted work. Schools and Communities team will deliver the sessions with settings, for parents and children to attend together.
- LS advised if anyone was interested in carrying out the training to do it now as it is currently free and post April 2025 there will be a cost of £400. Once the training has been completed ESCF will supply a PEEP kit/resources.
- Once the programme has been rolled, we will revisit to see what the impact is. JL advised, at this stage unsure how that impact will be measured.

4 Early Years Budget Grant (EYBG)

- JL advised a decision needs to be made regarding the distribution of the EYBG.
- Do we carry on distributing across both the schools and PVI sector evenly as agreed previously? The only exception is Nursery Schools as they receive funding in a different way.
- Following discussion those present felt it was important to distribute the funding across all providers and this would be the recommendation going to Schools Forum

5 School based nursery provision (SBNs)

- JL advised regarding the new DfE initiative announced recently. A capital grant offered to state funded primary schools to convert surplus space within the school building to make it suitable for nursery provision. The bidding closes in December although there may be more bidding rounds
- Part of the criteria schools must make contact with the Early Years Lead and the Pupil Planning Lead, whose agreement is needed for the application to progress. The final decision is made by DfE.
- JL confirmed a number of schools had already contacted her who were interested.
- JL asked for any feedback if anyone hears of other schools wanting to apply.

6 Charging Review

- JL advised the DfE had recently announced there is to be a review of the statutory guidance around charges. It has stemmed from the “voluntary” being removed from the current guidance. The consultation will be launched in January, and we will advise all when it is available.
- SR added it would be good to have consumables made clear.

7 Roll out of new entitlements

- JL wanted to get some feedback how things were since the roll out of the new entitlements in relation to demand.
- It was fed back that baby places had the biggest demand, with a lot of settings having big waiting lists.

8 LA Engagement with Providers

- JL raised if the level of engagement we have with providers was sufficient?
- The SEND and Childminder Consultative group has been suspended due to low numbers. Feel this group and the Wraparound Group works well, with good discussions on a regular basis.
- JL asked do we need to offer this group differently and look at the membership?
- It was suggested to have a slot at the L & M Briefing and could include representatives from this group to give some input as to what the group is about, how it works for the settings?

9 Any other business

- **Lacey** raised that Ofsted have raised that some settings

have not received their suitability letters, when making changes to people known to Ofsted. Advise settings to contact Ofsted if they have not received the suitability letter.

- JP queried regarding 2 tier funding initiative from Portage stating if attended Shine, Hamlet, and Portage can be funded for 2 terms in mainstream school JL asked to see a copy of the email and will look into it. **JP**
Action: JP to send email to JL

10 Dates of future meetings

Thursday 16th January 2025 14:00 – 16:00 – Cranworth Room County Hall

Thursday 13th February 2025 10:00 – 12:00 Cranworth Room, County Hall.