

FORUM UPDATES

Early Childhood Forum: 19 March 2009

Main issues arising from this, and the previous meeting, were the impact of the demands of the new Ofsted self assessment process and the early years foundation stage on private, voluntary and independent providers. Providers are concerned about the amount of extra paperwork expected from them with no additional staff or support. There is concern that it may result in some providers giving up or a decline in new providers entering the market. There was also concern about delay in response about capital funding applications. Possibility of having a meeting on commissioning for the voluntary sector is to be explored with the Community Link Forum.

There is a national entitlement for some free hours of early years education for three and four year olds. It was reported that in some areas settings are asking parents for a voluntary contribution, while some boroughs have said that settings cannot make any extra charge and a question was raised about the position in Haringey. It was also noted that parent's experience of using the Childcare Information Service varies.

There was the regular update on developments in Early Years Services. New national reports and strategies were also brought to the Forum's attention including the:

- Government's Play Strategy;
- Healthy Lives, Brighter Futures the Strategy for Young People's Health from Government;
- the Rose Review on the primary curriculum and
- an independent report from the Cambridge Review, Towards a New Primary Curriculum.

Five to Eleven Forum: 27 January 2009

The Forum had a presentation on the Primary and Pre-school (PPS) Programme. The programme aims to improve educational opportunities for children aged 0-11 by managing capital projects aimed at improving educational outcomes in primary schools, early years quality and access, children's centres and extended services. The presentation covered the scope of the programme, the streams of work involved and the main projects within it that had either started or were due to start soon. This was followed by a discussion which raised points on priorities and decision making processes and the importance of having an overview of all the work taking place, or planned, for an individual site.

The second item was part of the forum's continuing review of the Every Child Matters Outcomes. At this meeting the focus was on the staying safe outcome. Discussion emphasised the importance of training having an educational perspective which clarifies the roles and expectations.

Eleven to Nineteen Forum: 17 March 2009

The Forum meeting was devoted to teenage pregnancy. There was a joint presentation from the Associate Director of Public Health for children and young people and the Teenage Pregnancy Coordinator. After the presentation the meeting broke into small groups to consider what was already in place and what more could be done in response to each of the risk factors identified as contributing to teenage pregnancy.

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