

Schools Forum Early Years Working Group

Date: 12th October 2015

Location: Room G7, PDC

Time: 1.30– 3.00pm

Name	Designation/ Representation
Melian Mansfield (MM)	CHAIR
Melanie Widnall (MW)	Early Years Quality
Charles Cato (CC)	Early Years Finance
Dawn Ferdinand (DF)	
Jennifer Mclean (JM)	Two Year Old Programme Manager
Ngozi Anuforo (NA)	Early Years Commissioning Manager
Christine Yianni (CY)	Early Years Commissioning / Business Support Officer
Steve Worth (SW)	Finance Manager
Nick Hewlett	Early Years Interim Principal Advisor
Diane Richardson (DR)	Pembury Children's Centre Business Manager
Susan Tudor-Hart (STH)	PVI Settings Rep- Schools Forum
Zena Brabazon (ZB)	Governor Seven Sisters School and South Grove Children Centre
Julie Vaggers (JV)	Head of Rowland Hill Nursery & Children's Centre
Others Present	
Lineth Hypolite-Lett	Locum Clerk

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting.
- 1.2 An apology for absence was received in advance of the meeting from Duwan Farquharson.

2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

- 2.1 The minutes of the SF-EYWG meeting held on 29th June 2015 had been circulated to the group prior to the meeting which were noted and confirmed as a correct record of the meeting subject to the following amendments:
 - 2.2 **[3.3]:** delete the last sentence.
 - 2.3 **[3.3]:** delete action point
 - 2.4 **[4.3.point 2]:** remove information in brackets

ZB joined the meeting at this point.

2.2 Matters arising

- 2.2.1 **[3.4 ACTION]:** NA advised the Forum that the information had since been updated and a copy of the report will be sent to members electronically after today's meeting.

ACTION LA to email Update on the delivery of the free education entitlement for eligible two year olds in Haringey

- 2.2.2 **[3.10]:** MM said that she had contacted both Catherine West and David Lammy about the implementation of an increase of 25 free hours.
- 2.2.3 **[3.11]:** DF was not present to give an update on his action point to capture initial thoughts on vulnerable children in the wider strategy. Therefore, this action point was deferred to the next meeting.

3. STANDING ITEM DfE UPDATE: 30 HOURS EXTENSION

- 3.1 NA proceeded to take members through a presentation on an update on the government's approach in terms of the delivery of the free education for two year olds.
- 3.2 A cost survey had been issued with a closing date of 10th August 2015 for all feedback received. It was noted that there had been 70% of local authority (LA) involvement. Early implementation (2016) meant that any LA and individual providers would be invited to express an interest early in September. In terms of expressing an interest there was a concern raised in relation to other providers expressing an interest after a problem that occurred during a meeting about this issue. NA suggested that to clarify to those concerned that transparency of LAs would be useful for others to know. ZB further suggested that NA could write to those groups and STH as Convener of The Schools' Forum could undertake the distribution of it.

ACTION NA to draft letter / STH to distribute

- 3.3 MM wanted to determine the response from schools. NA indicated that that a letter will be sent to all schools including childminders. She further advised members that the government will go back to the House of Lords with the outcome of the consultation.
- 3.4 Continuing with the presentation, NA summarized headlines from the Childcare Policy Statement. It was noted however, that eligibility criteria for statutory sick pay did not state the length of time. There will be a similar checking process through DWP.
- 3.5 Under the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act, childminders can work either in school settings or other non-domestic premises. It was noted that some childminders felt that this could in effect cause difficulties for the childminder as the role is a home based one. Members discussed this matter after which it was deemed that the process would enable childminders to come together. Another element noted was that LAs will be expected to provide information to parents and regularly report on the take up of provision. ZB stated that she had explored the Haringey website and she could not find any information relating to childcare. In addition to that, she did not find the website to be particularly user friendly especially in terms of parents trying access information. It was noted that Nursery school links had since been added.
- 3.6 Members discussed the information described in the Delivering 30 hours free childcare: A road map to September 2017 map. Questions were raised in relation to timescales being feasible and the rate of pay. NA advised members that time will be stretched. She further indicated that information on the rate of pay will be available in November. There was a concern that once implemented, the new system may decrease numbers by half. It was noted that the provision was not mandatory for parents to take up although the LA must provide what is expected of them. In terms of an option to provide 15 hours as opposed to the full 30 hours, NA confirmed that the matter could not be confirmed until the new statutory guidance is received. A comment was made suggesting that due to the new 30 hours, some minders had already lost places. It was felt that 15 hours allowed for more flexibility. CC indicated that clarity was still needed on the funding rates for those that qualify for just 15 hours. DR was concerned about a gap in achievement as some of those children can actually benefit from the whole 30 hours but do not actually qualify. A question raised about the eligibility of a single parent with a SEN need will be investigated and reported back on by NA.

ACTION NA to investigate eligibility for single parents with an SEN requirement at a meeting due to be held this Thursday

3.7 **Key steps and timeline** - members noted that the LA was in the process of considering all the demands and what the implications were. Members were made aware that a lot of work was involved.

3.8 **Emerging project work stream** – The LA intend to commence small group workshops to look at issues and dynamics from now until the end of the year. ZB raised the matter of the minimum wage that was due to rise to £7.20 per hour in the spring and also the pension increase. This would impact on some providers being unable to contain those increases. MM volunteered to investigate whether the House of Lords had finished its committee phase.

ACTION MM to investigate if the House of Lords has finished its committee phase

3.9 The LAs aim is to create lots of opportunity to speak with parents, schools and all other stakeholders. The challenge noted however, was in receiving pieces of information from parliament.

3.10 **Childcare Sufficiency Assessment: Some key findings** – There had been a lack of demand even though many parents were eligible for a free place. In addition, there still remains a disparity between east and west of the borough. The LA is exploring more variations. Members felt that the findings thus far had proved to be very useful. MM felt that it would be very useful for providers to see the presentation slides. In response NA indicated that providers would be invited to a smaller group meeting.

JV arrived at this point of the meeting.

3.11 NA was requested to investigate the following:

- The issue of the minimum wage as discussed in item 3.8
- A change in parent circumstances
- Further information on the disparity between the east and west of the borough
- The concern of people being made redundant

ACTION N/A to raise points above at the meeting due to be held this Thursday

NH gave apologies and left at this point of the meeting

4. **REVIEW OF EYSFF AND DISCUSSION**

CC presented on the Early Years Single Formula and highlighted the following key areas:

4.1 **EYSFF Principles early thinking** - One of the council's requirements is to ensure that provision is sustainable. The LA has proposed a supplement of 20% for the most deprived complimentary to EYPP. CC informed members that a discussion was had on how the entitlement would be linked to the child and no longer the child's postcode. It was noted that there was a need to have an SEN supplement to support children that fall into the category of falling behind the threshold. CC further indicated that discussions would be had on what the profile should be.

4.2 It was noted that DF has a list of 20 children with a high level of need who will require more than the usual level of resources and support. NA said that the whole response will be scrutinized to ensure that staff are fully supported and that provision is adequate, such as SLT provision.

4.3 STH was concerned about targeting areas of high deprivation. She was of the view that a benchmark supplement was limited in terms of need and that it should be based on an individual need across the borough. NA implied that by default there will always be a geographic dynamics to it. ZB raised a further issue in terms of a new index of deprivation. She stated that the LA has now gone down the list and is no longer in the top 20. She felt that the percentage may need to be assessed and move up from 20% to 30%. NA agreed to send out the paper to all members. Members further resolved that there was a need to reduce inequality and widen access. Further discussion took place after which, it was agreed that this matter be included as a standard item on future agendas.

ACTION NA to send out paper on the proposed supplement to members

ACTION Clerk to add as a standard item on the agenda until further notice

5. TWO YEAR OLD PROGRAMME UPDATE

5.1 An update summarised by NA was circulated at the meeting as follows:

- Score cards have been produced and the LA is being benchmarked with its neighbouring LAs.
- Last count suggested that there had been a take up of 832 as at 5th October. It appears to fluctuate as there were 808 in June.
- Providers are being provided with lists of families to enable them to target those families.

5.2 JV expressed concern about the evidence of not enough 2 year olds available to take up places. She said that Rowland Hill could not fill vacant places. NA said that some families had moved and some did not show any interest in taking up the offer. JV further commented that the provision in White Hart Lane had above the required needed provision. ZB added that housing issues also posed a concern in terms of how it will impact on parents. NA indicated there will be a census on the children that meet the criteria.

6. EYPP UPDATE – TRIBAL SYSTEM AND CENSUS

6.1 All providers had been notified of all the children and cash flow. Forms have been upgraded to include the details of child/parents. It was noted that the deadline submitting the information on time. As more clarity on the process was required, NA said that she would undertake to send dates out to members.

ACTION NA to email details on the expectation of the process.

6.2 It was noted that the LA intends to explore how best to work with schools in the future as they will all using different systems from April onwards. November 5th was highlighted as a key dated for autumn data collection for all funded children. Private providers will be receiving a form that is to be completed before the deadline. It was further noted that a new portal will be more simplified for schools. Members noted that the launch date to schools should read January 2016.

ACTION LA to amend launch date to January 2016

6.3 ZB inquired whether the report on 2 year olds in relation to children's' centres providing 12% of places will be raised. The answer was yes. ZB further raised the matter of having a clear indication in the manager's report that by cutting centre managers could impact on the two year olds. NA agreed and confirmed that the information will be included. She further indicated that she would speak with Steve Worth about the funding formula in terms of the date of the meeting.

ACTION LA to raise ZB's concerns as noted above / NA to liaise with SW regarding funding formula in respect to meeting date

DF left at this point of the meeting.

7 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- 01 December 10am-12noon (**moved from 18th November – room tbc ACTION: Clerk**)
- 5 Jan: 9.30am-11.30am – G6
- 10 Feb: 1-3pm – G7
- 16 March: 1-3pm – G6
- 27 April: 9.30-11.30am – G6
- 15 June: 9.30-11.30am – G7
- 14 July: 1-3pm – G6

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 There was no any other business discussed

The Chair thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 3:15pm.