

EARLY YEARS WORKING GROUP

AGENDA & PAPERS

Wednesday 11th November 2009 at
3.00PM

Training Room 2, Building 2,
North London Business Park,
Oakleigh Road South, London N11 1NP

Early Years Working Group Members					
Anthea	Abery	Rosh Pinah	Maintained	Nursery Class	Faith
Liz	Bartlett	Wingfield	Maintained	Children's Centre	
Pauline	Congdon	Little Acorns	PVI		
Marina	Economides	Bright Sparks	PVI		
Perina	Holness	Moss Hall Nursery	Maintained	Nursery School	
Sharon	Lee	FRS	PVI	Setting	Faith
John	Maxwell	Holly Park	Maintained	Nursery Class	
Julie	Paice	LBB Senior Childminding Co-Ordinator	PVI	Childminders	
Christine	Read	All Saints, N20	Maintained	Nursery Class	
Diana	Rose	Kerem House	PVI	Independent School	
Sarah	Vipond	Middlesex Uni	PVI	Full Day Care	Schools Forum
OTHER ATTENDEES					
Stuart	Gray	Principal Inspector	Children's Service	Chair	
Martin	Baker	Acting Director of Children's Service	Children's Service		
Sheila	Abbott	Early Years & Extended Services Manager	Children's Service		
Stav	Yiannou	BRSI Manager	Children's Service		
Sarah	Hargreaves	Extended Services Development Manager	Children's Service		
Diane	Lewis	Early Years Inspector	Children's Service		
Zahid	Parvez	Business Manager	Children's Service		
Carol	Beckman	Schools Funding Manager	Children's Service		
Lisa	Barry	Barnet Pre School Learning Alliance			
Akos	Adu	Research & Mgmt Information	Children's Service		
Claire	Gray	School Resources & Support Officer	Children's Service	Minutes	
OBSERVERS					
Liz	Pearson	Schools Forum member			
Jodi	McCallum	Schools Forum member			

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of previous meeting: 30th September 2009
3. Matters Arising
4. Items for information
 - Operational update – Phase 1s Sheila Abbott
 - Report to CRC Carol Beckman
 - DCSF Consultation on the Code of Practice Zahid Parvez
5. Items for discussion:
 - SEYFF implementation Claire Gray/Carol Beckman
6. Any other business
 - Dates of future meetings

Dates for future meetings:

To be discussed

Please contact either Sarrosh or Claire if you have any queries about this meeting:

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1. Apologies for Absence.		
1.1	Apologies were received from Liz Bartlett, Sarah Hargreaves, Perina Holness, Christine Read and Sarah Vipond. Elaine Rosenthal has now retired and will therefore no longer be representing Playsafe (PVI provider).	
2. Minutes of previous meeting – 1st July 2009.		
2.1	Agreed.	
3. Matters arising.		
3.1	SL advised that she tried to attend the meeting/workshops that took place on 21 st September to address quality issues, but that on arrival she was advised that it was for Phase 1 providers and maintained settings only. SA apologized for this misunderstanding, but said that the operational briefing document should clarify the issues raised and solutions offered.	
4. Operational update		
4.1	<p>Phase 1s</p> <p>SA provided a report (see Appendix I) summarizing the experiences of Phase 1 providers who started delivering the extension to the free entitlement w.e.f. September 2009. The issues raised by Phase 1 providers vary depending on the sector, but the document provides solutions suggested by providers themselves as to how these might be addressed. Further PVI network meetings have been arranged and will be attended and supported by LA Early Years staff, so that the LA understands the effect of the extension on childcare sufficiency and strengthens the relationship with PVI partners.</p> <p>SA will attend PVI locality network meetings, and will invite Phase 1 champions to attend so that experiences and best practice from pathfinders can be passed on.</p>	
4.2	<p>PVI representatives commented that the additional Phase 1 funding was likely to mask the impact of offering the extension and are still very concerned that sustainability and sufficiency will be adversely affected once all providers are offering the extension and are required to comply with the Code of Practice.</p> <p>PVI representatives commented that since the start of the new academic year, providers have just taken on board the full impact of the proposed changes. The general consensus amongst PVIs is that the overall quantum of funding available is inadequate to support settings. Major concerns were expressed that current proposals will adversely affect the delivery of high quality provision, long-term sustainability for providers, and the overall sufficiency of places in Barnet and for these reasons PVIs believe that Barnet should apply to the DCSF for the Code of Practice to be waived.</p> <p>It was agreed that despite concerns expressed by providers, deadlines for policy decisions and for ratifying SEYFF proposals still had to be met and decisions could not be deferred beyond the current meeting. However, the impact of implementation would be monitored and evaluated, and the SEYFF could be reviewed each year in the same way as the schools funding formula.</p>	

4.3	<p>Val White (Assistant Director – Partnerships, Performance & Planning, Children’s Services) introduced herself to members, and explained her responsibilities for Schools & Early Years Finance on behalf of the Director of Children’s Services. She reiterated that compliance with the Code of Practice is a statutory requirement, and that LA officers are not in a position to vary this arrangement.</p> <p>SA confirmed that Phase 1 providers in receipt of Early Years funding are complying with the Code of Practice, and are signing an agreement to confirm that ‘top-ups’ will not be charged w.e.f. 1 September 2009. The 15 hour entitlement must be free at the point of delivery and all billing must reflect this.</p> <p>(VW made her apologies and left the meeting after this item).</p>	
4.4	<p>SEYFF – consultation responses</p> <p>CG presented a report showing the responses and comments returned in relation to the SEYFF consultation proposals (Appendix II), and after further discussion particularly concerning flexibility levels, flexibility weighting and qualifications funding, it was agreed that the final proposals shown below should be recommended to Schools Forum for approval.</p>	
4.5	<p>CB put forward a suggestion that settings offering home visits/phased admissions should be recognised in the formula, but members unanimously agreed that this would reduce the quantum of funding available to the majority of providers through other formula factors and that this option should not be pursued further.</p>	
5. Discussion items		
5.1	<p>Final proposals</p> <p>Proposal 1 - Base Rate per pupil</p> <p>All providers should receive the same Base Rate per pupil per hour to provide the 12½ hours basic free entitlement, and that the same hourly Base Rate per pupil would also be paid to those providers delivering the 2½ hours per week extension for each eligible pupil.</p> <p>Proposal 2 - Basic Entitlement per pupil</p> <p>That the Basic Entitlement allocation should be applied to all providers at a level of £100 per pupil to a maximum limit of £3000 (09/10 levels).</p> <p>Proposal 3 - Deprivation Supplement</p> <p>That an allocation based on the IDACI deprivation scores derived from the postcode of children taking up the free entitlement should be included in the SEYFF.</p> <p>Proposal 4a/4b - Flexibility Supplement</p> <p>That flexibility funding should be allocated on the basis of the three levels proposed (Levels 0, 1 or 2) with Level 1 generating approximately £40 per pupil per annum and the funding rate for Level 2 set at double that of Level 1.</p> <p>Proposal 5a/5b - Qualifications Supplement</p> <p>A qualifications premium should be allocated to settings at £50 per pupil up to a maximum of £1500, in recognition of those settings employing more highly qualified staff (qualifications as defined by CWDC).</p> <p>Proposal 6 - Mid-term pupil number adjustments</p> <p>It is proposed that mid-term adjustments will be optional for all providers under the SEYFF.</p>	

	Proposal 7 - Payment frequency That payment to PVIs will be made on a termly basis. (Schools are not affected by this proposal).		
	6. Any other business.		
6.1	Dates of future meetings CB advised that the next meeting will be used to explain the practical arrangements for implementing the SEYFF. It was agreed that further EYWG meetings will be required once the SEYFF estimated budgets have been issued (during March 2010) and also to provide an evaluation of feedback and experiences from Phase 1 providers, but the date(s) for any subsequent meetings will be arranged at the meeting on 11 th November.		
	Dates of future meetings		
	3.00pm	11 th November 2009	(Training Room 2)

4. Items for information

- **Operational update – Phase 1s**

Tabled paper

Sheila Abbott

- **Final SEYFF proposals to Cabinet Resources Committee**

Tabled paper

Carol Beckman

- **DCSF Consultation on the Code of Practice**

The DCSF consulted over the summer on changes to delivery of the free entitlement, which will be implemented through a revised Code of Practice for local authorities, from September 2010. The focus of the discussion phase was on opportunities around flexibility, quality and partnership working and the key issues and concerns of respondents.

A re-drafted Code of Practice has now been issued to reflect these changes, and is now available online. The BRSI team is currently formulating the LA response to the new proposals, but the DCSF is also inviting providers to respond to the consultation individually. The consultation and supporting documents can be viewed using the following link and any responses to the consultation can be submitted online:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1676&external=no&menu=1

The deadline for responses to the consultation is 8th January 2010.

Zahid Parvez/Lyn Gallacher

5. Items for discussion:

- **SEYFF implementation**

Presentation on funding implementation details.

Claire Gray/Carol Beckman