

# Wiltshire Council

## Early Years Reference Group

### Covid19 Meeting

13.05.2020

**Present:** Lucy Anne Bryant, Commissioning Lead (chair), Wiltshire Council; Nicola McCann, Systems and Coordination Manager, Wiltshire Council; Natalia Reyner, Service Manager Early Years (and notes), Wiltshire Council; John Proctor, Director South Hills; Rosemary Collard; Director Snapdragons; Sarah Hawkins, Executive Coordinator, TNB Early Years; Debbie Muir, Warminster School; Mark Cawley, Director New Road Nursery; Jane Boulton, Manager Springboard Trudy Surman, Managing Director Sunshine  
**Apologies:** Jenny Harvey; Wiltshire Council

Items Discussed:	Action
<p>1. Changes from 01/06 onwards what needs to be considered for re-opening</p> <p>2. Changes to funding if all settings are open from 01/06</p> <p>3. Transitions</p> <p>4. Any Other Business</p> <p><b>Minutes from previous meeting:</b> Not available for discussion.</p> <p><b>Updates:</b> Childminders now allowed to open from today (new guidance last night). This was a change.</p> <p><b>Changes from 01/06 onwards what needs to be considered for re-opening:</b></p> <p>Challenges/solutions: South Hills: LA survey asking for number of staff working from 1<sup>st</sup> June unhelpful as would imply if shared with staff they are definitely returning then. Have completed the parent survey re. spaces required.</p> <p>Liaising with local schools re. whether a room can be borrowed to accommodate extra children. One room nurseries will find spacing challenging. Have mapped out entrance procedures for different groups. Children bringing own snack; need to wash hands inbetween each snack box opening. Were planning to re-introduce hot meals but unsure whether this is possible given the risk of cross contamination during serving. Attachment toys are washed every</p>	<p><b>ACTION: Jenny Harvey to circulate</b></p> <p><b>ACTION: LAB/NR to raise at schools and settings cell</b></p>

evening by parents and supervised in the setting so that other children don't touch them.

Policy decisions: Staff have to declare if they will be available from 1<sup>st</sup> June. Work contract expectation that they are available to work unless shielding. Has made it clear that decisions whether to return need to be made on 1<sup>st</sup> June and next opportunity will be July to enable planning.

Springboard – The number of places available will depend on whether staff with young children can gain a KW place at their school. Will need to stick to current numbers unless colleagues can return. Trying to decide priority group above and beyond KW and Vulnerable. Prioritising school starters. A major challenge is their shared children as majority also attend mainstream settings. Filtering down parental preferences.

Snapdragons – both surveys completed. Majority want to return (only 11 out of 1000 saying they don't want a 0-5 place). Have also requested booking patterns in case this changes. They have capacity to do this as not everyone is returning at the same time. Helpful for staff planning. Able to accommodate demand. Needs to be made clear to schools that there cannot be an expectation to run breakfast and after school clubs as this means taking school aged children from other sites.

Staff moving between settings needs to be considered e.g. moving from breakfast club to nursery. Are they changing clothes? (Need to minimise risk). T&B have found a way round this which has been risk assessed. (When the staff arrive to run OSC daytime children have left).

T&B: Have surveyed parents, tight deadline. Retainers to secure finances. Likelihood of having to reduce staffing numbers/hours.

Warminster: awaiting responses. Parents are changing minds due to guidance changes. Don't currently take 2s. Large outdoor space for 3-4s will be useful.

Cleaning/avoidance of cross-contamination tips:

Steps providers are taking:

Outdoor handwashing; roping off areas; staggering outdoor play times, hiring outdoor washing stations. Anti-bacterial spray not plentiful. Regular handwashing; antibacterial cleaning of flooring vital.

Being firm with parents re. illness isolation periods needed. Having confidence to say that to parents. Staff teams need to read government guidance and also have training. Staff need to avoid inter-mixing and stay with key children.

Keeping children outside as much as possible.

Establishing clear and consistent cleaning and housekeeping procedures.

Good to re-establish the past cleaning standards.

Staff training – need to implement a COVID19 induction for returning staff.

**ACTION: LAB/NR  
to raise at schools'  
cell**

Possibility of NDNA training on this becoming available online.  
Stories to help explain to children are useful.  
Family – an account from a Danish nursery re-opening successfully following COVID19.  
Training available from Gompels,

Further guidance will be out next week. NDNA guidance for settings is being developed.

Insurance still an issue – e.g. food poisoning outbreaks are covered but Covid19 related matters are not.

Some providers are triaging children as they come through the door – contactless temperature checks. Guidance states no benefit in temperature checking. But some nurseries have decided to use this and/or visors – mainly if parents find it reassuring. Agreement that this is an example of something you could do if you wanted to and parents wanted this. Would be a choice for managers.

PPE is challenging to get hold of. Could LA help? Visors and masks required in isolation situations when a suspected outbreak occurs. LA currently assisting care homes with this so could they extend to settings?

New providers of affordable hand sanitisers: Sky chemicals hand gel, Ramsbury Brewery. All agreed this is often overpriced.

Settings need to think about what this will look like with additional children and families joining as the risk will look different.

Snapdragons- Filming a video tour of how to enter building to make it visual. Staggered drop off times, spacing (but no security support). One-way system were other solutions shared.

### **Changes to funding if all settings are open from 01/06:**

Nicola McCann – modelling for incentive was originally based on the definition of vulnerable and key worker when all settings were instructed they must close unless serving those families. Now unlikely to be able to honour this as all settings can re-open.

To relieve burden of cash flow problems in June with settings re-opening from scratch it may be necessary to spread the June adjustment over 2 or 3 months.

Furlough scheme being extended to October may have some impact on settings re-opening.

Suggestion given to survey settings – would they prefer a hit in June but 100% funding after or would they prefer this is spread. Nicola confirmed both options are viable financially. Request for statement – for full transparency LA will put the top sliced budget amount into a separate line.

### **Transitions:**

**ACTION: Sarah Hawkins to circulate**

**ACTION: Jane Boulton to forward**

**ACTION: LAB/NR to investigate**

Lucy-Anne updated the group about the new transition working party. This includes heads, teachers and setting managers and is developing some shared good practice guidance. Query around delayed entry to school. This is looking unlikely now that children will transition back to settings before the summer. It would be a parental decision to defer entry.

**Date of next meeting:**  
27<sup>th</sup> May 2020 12.30-2pm

**A.O.B.**  
No A.O.B.