

Wiltshire Council

Early Years Reference Group

Minutes of a meeting held on 18 September 2015 at the Cricket Pavilion, Melksham

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

Jane Boulton (Springboard DSC), Mark Cawley (New Road Day Nursery), Grant Davis (Wiltshire Council), Nicki Jones (Snapdragons Nurseries representative), Russell Martin (Wiltshire Council), John Proctor (South Hills Nursery) – Chair, Fiona Webb (Sunny Days Nursery), Jennifer Harvey (Wiltshire Council) – minutes

2.0 Apologies

Rosemary Collard (Snapdragons Nurseries)

3.0 Minutes of last meeting held on 15 May 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2015 were agreed as an accurate record of discussion.

4.0 Matters arising

5.3 EYPP update. JH stated the team hadn't come across any issues with the location of the signature strip from other nurseries on the Provider Declaration form so would wait to adjust it at this moment in time.

7.0 Feedback from Salisbury nursery managers meeting. AB has liaised with Emily Wood regarding an article in the next newsletter

5.0 30 hours Free Entitlement funding

AB confirmed that no further details about the 30 hours funding have been released by the DfE as yet, either about available funding, eligibility or possible rollout ideas.

AB and her team have identified provision where opening hours could be expanded for delivery of the 30 hours, and will be working with these providers. The current thinking is that the 2nd parent will only have to work 8 hours. There is the possibility that capital funding will be available, but AB isn't sure if this will come through the LA.

The group enquired about how the Early Years team is engaging with central government. The DfE have requested any LA's and early years providers to contact them if they're interested in being involved in a pilot starting September 2016. Wiltshire Council has expressed an interest in participating in a pilot. The group also expressed concern that providers need to know information as soon as possible enabling them to plan for future take up and the flexible delivery of the offer. AB also mentioned that the DfE might focus on LAs where there is high unemployment which isn't the case in Wiltshire. However, there is a high military presence in the county and this could act as factor for a pilot LA.

The group discussed the funding of the additional hours. AB said the DfE will need to provide a good rate of funding if they wish early years providers to engage. At present, providers tend to make up income from hours taken up above the current offer especially by working parents. As it is these parents and those being encouraged to return to work that will be the focus of the new offer, this will have a big impact on early years providers.

MC stated that parents seem to be unaware that this initiative is being implemented nationally from September 2017; most parents he has spoken to believe it will be available from September 2015. Also, media coverage appears to be concentrating more on school delivery of the 30 hours rather than PVI delivery. The general consensus of the group was that more information

was definitely needed for both LA's and providers in order for a decision to be made about whether or not to be involved in the pilot.

JB commented that as a DSC, Inclusion Support funding currently only covers the 15 hours. Will this also be expanded to include the 30 hours? Whilst they would want to be a part of delivering the 30 hours, it would be very difficult for them to forecast potential take up as the DSC works and hours are based on referrals. This area needs to be considered by the LA and group in terms of future planning.

Various other issues were discussed including potential provider reluctance to see how the 30 hours could be delivered and setting certain expectations for providers for delivery in September 2017.

ACTION: LA to find out more information about the 30 hours pilot, and to consider submitting a formal bid for becoming a pilot LA for the delivery of 30 hours in September 2016.

6.0 Childcare Team update

AB gave a Childcare Update to the group (copy attached).

Discussion also took place around the current Children's Centre consultation. RM confirmed there had been a media embargo leak.

ACTION: None

7.0 Local Offer Co-ordinator presentation

Anna Williams (AW), Local Offer Co-ordinator for Wiltshire Council attended and spoke about how the Local Offer is delivered in Wiltshire. All information is available on the following website – www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk. The website provides information, guidance and support tools to parents, carers and childcare and educational provisions including all My Plans and SEND documentation.

AW stated that it would be good practice for early years providers to set out what their Local Offer and SEND provision is on their website for parents. AB asked AW to attend a future Childcare team meeting as the Childcare Officers are probably the best people to liaise with early years providers about this.

ACTION: AB to invite AW to a future Childcare team meeting

8.0 Dates for future meetings

Date	Day	Time	Venue
20 November 2015	Friday	10.00 – 12.00	Cricket Pavilion, Melksham
5 February 2016	Friday	10.00 – 12.00	Lacock Room, County Hall, Trowbridge
13 May 2016	Friday	10.00 – 12.00	Lacock Room, County Hall, Trowbridge
16 September 2016	Friday	10.00 – 12.00	Lacock Room, County Hall, Trowbridge

9.0 Any other business

EYRG Membership

Discussion took place on the best way to move this forward. JH has emailed all early years providers asking for expressions of interest by end of October.

AB, MC and JP agreed to meet all interested candidates before recommendation to the rest of the group in November 2015.

ACTION: JH to organise meeting room for interviews, and interviews with interested candidates.