

| Early Years Reference Meeting (EYRG) | | |
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| Date | 22 nd March 2010 | |
| In Attendance: | Geoff Taylor-Smith (Chair), Andy McHale, Alison Hitchins, Trish Mallinson, Sue Peasgood, Naomi Christelow, Matt Whiteley, Ann Starr, Jane Long, Prue Winton, Chris Hurley, Sharon Bryan, Pat Croom, Rose Large, Lyn Breakwell, Sara Londesbrough. | |
| Apologies: | Nicky Burford, Alison Newman, Val Weddell-Hall, Claire Hill, Wendy Bevan. | |
| | Notes | Action |
| Notes of the Previous Meeting 25 th January 2010 | Agreed | |
| Matters Arising | <p>GTS confirmed that Cabinet had agreed to the deferral of the introduction of the EYSFF until April 2011.</p> <p>On the issues relating to the provision of 'shadow budgets' a letter to providers had been drafted. The EYRG felt there needed to be clarity on the purpose of any meetings with providers in progressing this issue. TM confirmed that the DSG calculation for 3 and 4 year olds had changed for 2010/11.</p> <p>The EYRG were advised the recently issued DCSF school funding review for 2011 included proposals for the mainstreaming into the DSG of the current specific grant for the extension of the EY free entitlement. This could mean that less resource is allocated than currently received. However, there will be no decisions on this until the late Autumn 2010.</p> <p>A meeting of the Nursery HT's Consultation Group had taken place but was not well attended. Meetings of the PVI Forums were being arranged.</p> | |

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| | <p>The group were advised of a 'Save our Nurseries' web site.</p> | |
| <p>SEN Funding Discussion</p> | <p>GTS welcomed colleagues from special schools to the meeting to discuss this extremely important issue.</p> <p>The key issues for SEN to be considered by the EYRG were detailed at the previous meeting.</p> <p>The EYRG were reminded that the EFSFF could include a formula supplement to SEN need, particularly low incidence high cost.</p> <p>It was noted there were currently different funding models for EY SEN provision, e.g. primary schools SEN in the AWPU and nursery+ places, special schools SEN matrix including nursery assessment, PVI 15 hours including resourcing for 15 hours but with less attendance, etc.</p> <p>The differences in these scenarios, coupled with the requirements of the new EYSFF needed to be addressed. It was stressed there is a need to apply the any SEN formula supplement consistently across all EY settings.</p> <p>In terms of place led funding for EY the revised draft funding regulations removes the option for LA's to provide funding on places 'except where there are places specifically reserved for pupils with SEN in any setting'.</p> <p>The following areas were discussed: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are significant demands on budgets to support low incidence high cost SEN. • In special schools there are two types of provision – via assessment with those pupils often moving into the maintained sector (sometimes on an outreach model) and those of nursery age remaining in the sector (PMLD). | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach will lead to some schools being more inclusive than others • How are children identified for nursery+ or special school assessment? • Nursery+ is via pre school panel referrals with nearly 500 currently. • PVI SEN funding is considered by the area SENCO panels. • There needs to be some data gathering on numbers of pupils and their settings together with resources currently being allocated. • To formula fund there will have to be consideration of specific criteria to measure and agree need. <p>It was agreed to prepare a time line and project plan for the development.</p> | AH |
| Children's Trust Issues | <p>GTS advised on the requirements for Children's Trusts and performance management issues including EY.</p> <p>There was a request to consider the EYRG picking up this role for EY, which would probably require a need to extend its membership.</p> <p>It was agreed for some discussion documents to be drafted for consideration.</p> | SP |
| Consideration of Next Stages | Ongoing dialogue between EYRG and LA required. | All |
| Any Other Business | None. | |

Date of Next Meeting: - Monday 24th May 2010 6.00pm for 6.30pm County Hall