

**Early Years Reference Group**  
**Notes of meeting 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>Apologies:</b>
Andy McHale (AM) Alison Hitchins (AH) Caroline Brand (CB) Chris Hurley (CH) Naomi Christelow (NC) Matt Whiteley (MW) Sharon Bryan (SB) Pat Croom (PC) Nicky Burford (NB) Charlotte Anson (CA) Alison Newman (AN) Val Weddell-Hall (VW-H) John Edwards (JE)	Trish Malinson Pru Winton

<b>Detail</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Action</b>
1. Notes of previous meeting	NB – parent contracts still in progress, looking at other local authorities.  AH – reps for schools forum, no response to letter sent, position to remain vacant at the moment.	
2. Matters arising	None	
3. Outcomes of Fair Funding Consultation Autumn Term 2010	AM - Following the formal consultation of the SFF, taken to the County Council Cabinet and approved on 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2010.  Changes include new category for school run non-maintained and childminders, and the allowing the maintained sector to charge for over 15 hours. (At the time not aware of the Education Bill that has since passed.)  Diverse comments: PVI rate undermining vs it's a level playing field.  AH - mindful of primary schools implying that if you don't take a pre-school place you won't get a place in reception, or if you do attend re-school a reception place is guaranteed. Challenge to tackle.	

	<p>CH – in new FIS brochure.</p> <p>MW – parents view nursery as reception.</p>	
<p>4.The School And Early Years Funding Settlement 2011/12</p>	<p>AM – funding from settlement to be shared with schools, pick out areas for early years. Mainstream into one grant. Early years funding (12.5 hours) from the DSG collated from the annual census. Retain this arrangement, if not at 90% take up, assume they are, so no impact on local authorities above 90% take up.</p> <p>SFG currently funds the 12.5- 15 hours, in 2011/12 this grant will go. Authorities funded for the extra hours through the pupil count (based on the census). As the census is currently taking place, we do not know what the impact will be on the hourly rate. Should have rates by the next EYRG meeting.</p> <p>CH – losing the extra funding for over 12.5 hours? Still 38 weeks, not 32.</p> <p>AM – the DfE will take into account of census when do grant settlement. DSG will be confirmed over the census, will include what is in the standards fund.</p> <p>VW-H – raised query on extra funding for special needs. SEN to be discussed later in the meeting.</p> <p>CH - lose 1.6 in the standard fund, 10% of funding, shows us roughly where we are.</p> <p>AH – rate will reduce from consultation last year.</p> <p>NB – have always said that the higher ate we currently have would always go down.</p> <p>AH – not pretending not to know the figures, not just Worcestershire but nationally.</p> <p>PC – Settings wanting to know for budgeting.</p> <p>AH – will send a letter to providers saying that we do not know, and we will let them know as soon as we know. But will be</p>	

	<p>lower than consultation rate.</p> <p>AM – ABG has disappeared, replaces with EIG, not ring fenced therefore not just spent on early years, effectively to old SS grant.</p> <p>VW-H – not early intervention if not in the early years.</p> <p>AH - grant was generous and ring-fenced before, divided it all up, not all for early years not an internal decision. Not unhappy with the way it has been divided, but 20% cut means less to deliver and pay staff.</p> <p>JE – all grants rolled into one. Flexibility allows priority. Children's Services heavily grant funded means that we are getting less but it's fair. Agree with Alison.</p> <p>CH – PVI need to adopt the same view, coming from growth in funding means that PVIs see it as an entitlement.</p>	
<p>5. Update on Early Years Issues in Forthcoming Education Bill</p>	<p>AH – all schools can now charge for additional hours. Schools can set own fees.</p> <p>MW – could we be given average rates for our area?</p> <p>AN – potential problem, business support officer states don't start with what everyone else does, start with your own costs.</p> <p>MW – to use as a loss leader</p> <p>AH – but would schools be subsidising this?</p> <p>MW – if we cover our costs at 15 hours, any other money/ hours would be extra, could charge 10p to get in for 15 hours</p> <p>NB – private providers on school site having concerns over this.</p> <p>JE – can authority show good practice? Is this necessary and appropriate?</p>	

	<p>SB – I have been offering 18 hours for the funded 15 to get people in the door, as a private provider.</p> <p>AN – as long as not using money that should be for education for business purposes.</p> <p>CH – pitfalls of defining criteria and profit and loss.</p> <p>JE – previous local authority, small classes unsustainable, cross subsidising, paid for lower down in the school. When is it a business and when isn't it is a hard line.</p>	<p>AH to talk to Derek Emmins (Business Support Officer)</p>
<p>6. Definitions for Early Years Settings</p>	<p>NB – present the sector definitions to the group before sending it out tomorrow as part of the census.</p> <p>CH – fundamentally agree. Trying to put in boxes, boundaries will be crossed. For example, if a ltd company but directors are unpaid, then it is voluntary. Perhaps another thing to involve Derek with.</p> <p>PC – yes, although there is profit, it stays where it is, it is not paid out.</p> <p>CH – also, accounts fewer than 2 million not audited, but checked.</p> <p>NB – must keep the definition basic so that all providers understand and are clear.</p>	<p>NB – to discuss with Derek Emmins (Business Support Officer) before it is sent to providers.</p>
<p>7. Update on the Funding of low Incidence High Cost SEN</p>	<p>AH – This will be built into the Single Funding Formula but not this year. Considerations to be made. SEN children currently double counted, take 25 hours and attend somewhere else. Where should they be assessed? Working with special schools heads in support the mainstream? Move out or keep them there? How much money do we have for children with special needs? Most complex priority – if settings say they can't cope without more money and don't take the children, then we have a parent not accessing their 15 hours.</p> <p>Apportion funding to what we have, may</p>	

	<p>be less children are funded. More children are coming through as identified as special needs.</p> <p>V W-H – early intervention to prevent costs later on. AH – ECAT has been evidence for this, but not realistic, we need to be creative. Aware that at Batchley, children in nursery plus would not have gone onto reception if they hadn't had that early support. What we can do with limited funding.</p> <p>PC – shared provision the way to go, not boxing into one or the other.</p> <p>AH - perhaps that needs to be parental choice with professional advice. CDCs an anomaly, as they are health funded. Then take 5 hours as it is different funding.</p>	<p>AH – welcomes comments to the next meeting. Not ready for decisions without further exploration.</p>
8. Any Other Business	<p>CH – three year plans for PVIs – schools used to do this.</p> <p>CB – schools currently on a one year plan, will become a three year plan after this one.</p> <p>NB - funding via the DSG, aiming to give three year funding allocation after this year.</p> <p>AH – PVI consultation group – some PVIS had said that wanted a forum. Have set one up, response was 45 people. Too many, so fist meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2011 to work out how to whittle down the numbers to have a manageable, representative group. Not intended to replace the EYRG.</p>	<p>AH to send an invite to Pat Croome.</p>

**Next meeting date: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2011**

(provisional on hourly rate being calculated)