

Dear Colleague

Early Years Funding Formula

You will be aware that we are entering a period of significant reform for early years funding. The requirement is that by 2010/11 (at the latest) we have agreed a single local funding formula for early years provision in the maintained and PVI sectors.

Decision making and approval will be through the Worcestershire Schools Forum (WSF) whose membership is required to be broadened to include representatives of the early Years PVI sector. This Forum takes decisions on recommendations around school finance and other related areas. The current membership is from headteachers, school governors and non-school representatives. The Forum meets approximately 5 times a year.

A requirement from the Department from Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) is that the Local Authority (LA) forms an 'Early Years Provider Reference Group' who will report findings to the WSF. This reference group will be made up of early years practitioners across all sectors, including some who are on the WSF, and LA officers.

To drive this agenda forward, we need to recruit the following:

- One early years provider from the PVI sector who will join the WSF and will be the link from the Early Years Provider Reference Group.
- A number of providers from the PVI sector to join the Early Years Provider Reference Group making recommendations to the WSF.

The first task is to analyse costs in the PVI sector and we will begin to do this as soon as possible.

As you have been active members of the NEF Pathfinder Group, we are contacting you in the hope that you will maintain your interest and join the reference group. The first meeting of this group will be on 5th November from 6.00 –8.00pm at County Hall. I would be grateful if you could return the reply slip or email sharley@worcestershire.gov.uk to confirm your continued interest in the funding of early years provision in Worcestershire.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Alison Hitchins
Service Development Manager – Early Years and Childcare

Please use the freepost envelope enclosed:

Name..... Setting

- I would / would not like to be considered as a PVI sector early years provider to join the WSF.
- I would /would not like to join the Early Years Provider Reference Group
- I can / cannot be present at the first meeting of the Early Years Provider Reference Group on 5th November.

Signed..... Date