

## **EARLY YEARS REFERENCE GROUP EMERGENCY MEETING** **NOTES OF MEETING 4<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2010**

### **In Attendance**

Val Weddall-Hall, Trish Mallinson, Geoff Taylor-Smith, Alison Hitchins, Sue Peasgood, Matt Whiteley, Chris Hurley, Rose Large, Lynn Breakwell.

### **Apologies**

Andy McHale, Catherine Shearwood, Prue Winton.

### **Issue**

- Dawn P 10/12/09 – EYSFF to be delayed. 2/3 of LA's indicated not ready. Worcestershire has Cabinet approval to proceed. Expressions of interests for pathfinders by 29/01/10 with 15/02/10 decision.

### **Do we become a pathfinder for 2010/11 or not?**

#### **Comments were made from group members as follows:**

- We will remain as an extended entitlement pathfinder for 2010/11 – 38 weeks / 15 hours. until March 2011 – a lot of hard work already.
- We would be second wave of pathfinder authorities
- More affect on maintained sector than PVI. If we delay there is more time to prepare.
- Benefit of 15hr pathfinder for next financial year
- April 2010 – will still have extended entitlement funding, potentially could cost more.
- Currently schools cannot change.
- Delaying appears to be inevitable.
- Will SFF be abandoned altogether if we have a change of Government? If there is a chance of this then we should delay.
- Schools forum, working towards implementation?
- Buys us more time, so many unknowns in current climate.
- If we do not implement we could prepare shadow budgets and 'what if' scenarios and help settings to see that if we had implementation this is what they would have received
- Still think that there is a lack of understanding within both sectors. Delay gives us more time to engage.
- Expected formula would help settings to see what they would have had,
- This may not help a setting – would need to know how many children may move to school / stay in any one year.
- Changes to school admissions from Sept 2011 – children can start in Sept after their 4<sup>th</sup> birthday. Parents can keep child in private sector full time if do not want to take up school place.
- Delaying may give us more idea of financial situations.
- By going ahead non-maintained will get one drop initially and then another drop in 2011. Settings may find one drop easier for business planning.
- 'Shadow budgeting' across both sectors could look at impact of different rates to evidence impact on future sustainability Lower rate, could they have been sustainable on lower rate?
- Will have to start working on straight away even if not accepted to pathfinder. Must keep the momentum to continue to develop the formula.
  
- **NB** – Code of practice – proposed Sept 2010. Quality indicators changing. Would prefer to have embedded the Code of Practice and then to implement the SFF.
- Quality must remain as a high focus
- Yes, to go ahead. Just do it!

## Summary

GTS – No enthusiasm for pathfinder – too many anomalies

- Uncertainty of future funding
- Potential impact of admissions changes (Sept 2011)
- Code of Practice – quality indicators
- SEN supplement not yet agreed and included

Would like to press ahead and "ghost" budget for selected schools, settings and childminders.  
Where would setting have been if SFF wasn't introduced?

Work with the ones who could lose out

Schools will have more opportunity to make changes to provision offered.

West Midlands meeting – what will other LA's do? AH to feedback to the group

Must not waste the next 12 months – have to learn lessons. Hardwork to carry on

Now has to go to cabinet for approval to delay / not apply to become pathfinder

**Next Meeting – 25<sup>th</sup> January 2010 6.00pm for 6.30pm  
Great Malvern Room County Hall**