

EYFS Settings and Start Well Coordination Hub MINUTES

10th July 2020, 11:30am – 12:30pm
Skype / Remote

Present:	Helen Shearer (HS) Janet Lomax Baker (JLB) Vicky Hough (VH) Samantha Baron (SB) Karen Hart (KA) Jasmine Saunders (JS) Laura Wright (LW) Angela Wallace Paul (AW) Dawn France (DF) Helen Ashton (HA) Nicola McDonagh (NM)	Interim HOS SW Professional Lead Croft House Nursery Saplings Day Nursery SW Service Development Officer SW Business Support Officer Bolton School Nursery SW Early Years Adviser Carechiefs @ Highfield House SW Early Years Adviser Moorgate Primary School Alexandra Nursery School
Apologies:	Julie Edwards Ali Hart Julie Robinson	Bolton Council – Early Years Finance FIS Principal Information and Comms Eagley School House Nursery

A SECTION OF MINUTES

1 Minutes and actions from last meeting (HS)

Minutes from 25th June 2020 reviewed – all agreed for accuracy.

Actions discussed:

Early years nursery childcare information clip (HS) the clip aims to help parents understand childcare provision from 1st June. The group acknowledged seeing the clip and agreed it is useful and will continue to share.

Summer Offer (HS)

Government guidance now published - confirmed the changes for early years from 20th July 2020. In particular, the changes to 'bubbles' – a welcomed change to guidance for the sector, that will mean operating again within normal group sizes and ratios from this date. Still awaiting further guidance for those providing wraparound provision for September 2020. There is concern about wraparound provision for critical care workers, as it is felt the current guidance cannot support a meaningful service for working parents. The LA have looked at demand for wraparound services and the results suggest that we don't have a sufficiency issue in Bolton at the moment for summer cover. Take up for wider Childcare places is slow, significantly below what it should be (only 20% of children taking up their place) well below national average. (HS) This is a complicated situation, which is partly due to parental confidence and the ongoing furlough periods for working parents, amongst other things. Our focus now, is to ensure that when parents need wraparound support / summer holiday care, that provision will be available.

COVID-19 education childcare and signpost service – Here is a link to the information about this service for families across the borough:

<https://www.bolton.gov.uk/summer2020>

In the first instance, families should talk to their usual childcare provider. However, if their usual childcare provider isn't able to provide care, families should be directed to the website above or contact the One Stop Shop on 01204 337220. There will be a list of services / providers that we can signpost parents to. The list is currently being prepared and updated.

This type of information was previously held on the My Life in Bolton webpage, however a lot of this information is outdated. LA staff are in the process of compiling a more comprehensive list to provide to families, directing them to the nearest service. A questionnaire has been email out to all registered and non registered service providers across Bolton. We have asked that this is responded to by **Wednesday 15th July 2020**.

Colleagues will also be phoning around to try to gather the information. HS will add further information about the service to the early years update email which will go out today and urges all to respond to that as soon as possible.

HS acknowledged that it is a challenging time for OOSC providers at present and understands the concerns raise around financial viability. We have a number of briefings organized and HS assured the group that this is high on the agenda at the moment. HS also acknowledge the concerns raise by the coordination hub group regarding unregistered provision, football camps etc. We anticipate that they will follow the Government guidance as we are, and work is being carried out to support this. We will signpost the parents to all provision, but we will ask/recommend parents not to move children across settings wherever possible in line with recommended guidance. FIS are directly contacting the unregistered provision to get reassurance from them as well.

JLB advised that they will be running a holiday club but this will be difficult as some children will only be attending one or two days a week. They may have to restrict numbers to those that can attend at least 2/3 days per week to make it financial viable. It is barely profitable.

HS is writing to GM, DfE etc to make them aware of the issues at the moment, and to seek clarity / further guidance for summer / wraparound providers.

HS will add the information about the sector specific briefings that start from next week to the early years update email today.

3 **Early Years Funding Entitlement (HS)**

Childcare sufficiency numbers for the autumn term – (HS) 2 year old take up is an ongoing issue - we are working with GM colleagues who are launching a campaign to raise awareness of the early years funding entitlement – HS will update the group about this more as work develops and further information is obtained.

Citizens Portal - We are still waiting for the final update of the citizens portal – This is a portal that will enable parents to do their own funding eligibility checks. We have been given assurances that, by the end of July, this service should be up and running. We are looking at advertising this service once live. (AW) can we advertise in the shop windows across Bolton like we used to do? HS no additional funding and campaigns like the previous national campaigns are very expensive. We hope that by working with GM there may be some funding available for a GM campaign. HS will keep the group informed. We are currently using social media to advertise and can continue to do that e.g. Bolton SW at Home. Our colleagues within the 0-19 service are also getting the messages out to families. We also have a slot with Bolton FM, so we will do something for that as well. VH reported that her setting is full for September now. Reported that they have not done any additional advertising to achieve this. Will encourage parents who enquire about places from September to see other settings in the area. HS encouraged use of the signposting service as detailed above.

JS – seen an increase in parent enquiries for childcare recently for care over the next few months. Seeing good numbers, now wanting to return.

Schools Cluster Meeting - HS meeting next week with Headteachers as early years school cluster with regards to September school starts – will be discussing the possibility of staggered start for early years children and the delay of children going up to reception. Will share feedback from this group meeting, as soon as possible.

Funding going forward – we should get the details very shortly, we would like to honor the funding in a similar way that we did in summer, again for the autumn term. We are waiting confirmation of how this will work and we hope to have this information by 20th July, before the end of term.

4 **DfE Webinar Update (LW)**

LW briefly discussed the key points and confirmed that no additional information was provided on top of what we already know from guidance published.

Key points

Notes from DfE Briefing for LAs 09.07.20

Slides to be circulated with QA. Recorded webinar so questions not answered during the session.

DfE local delivery team members introduced by Hannah Brabham

EY Reforms – just headlines of consultation response, no additional information to what has already been released.

Checking confirmation of schools who expressed interest in becoming early adopters, will let LAs know who they are. Dedicate webinars will follow to support the Early adopter year including EYFSP arrangements.

Development Matters will be released in due course via Foundation Years, no date.

EYFS disapplications – no plans to lift these before 25th September.

EY Providers Covid 19 guidance and system of controls – DfE are cross referencing documents to be able to remove planning guidance and reduce number of guidance documents.

Arrangements regarding LA sufficiency data collection being confirmed.

No routine Ofsted inspections until January 2021.

Summer provision- from 20th July holiday provision can open to more children. Parents encouraged to minimise the number of settings attended. No additional information. Lots of comments from delegates asking for clarification for arrangements from September; if wrap around providers can take continue to take children from multiple settings when schools reopen in September.

Funding for education and childcare places going into Autumn- advice will be released to LAs, hopefully before 20th July. Acknowledge there were concerns about what data this would be calculated on.

Had been a question about 'exceptional costs' funding to schools, acknowledged this was only accessible under strict criteria and not available to other providers including Maintained Nursery schools.

Sustainability for EY providers acknowledges as an issue. Guidance has been updated re CJRS; from 1 July employers can bring furloughed employees back to work for any amount of time and any shift pattern, while still being able to claim a grant for the hours not worked. To be eligible to claim for an employee from this date, an employer must have previously submitted a claim for this employee in relation to a furlough period of at least 3 consecutive weeks taking place any time between 1 March 2020 and 30 June.

What happens if there is another lockdown or a local lockdown? Learning from Leicester situation. Lots of comments from LAs highlighting financial issues for providers.

DfE said Issue in some LAs about billing authorities not giving business rates holidays to providers, to do with information sharing about providers.

Will be a spending review as usual, EY funding will be considered in context of all public spending.

Maintained Nursery schools can access FSM summer provision for eligible pupils. MNS are an 'important provider'. High on list of non-covid priorities. Again this needs to be discussion in context of wider spending review. Talking to sector- Minister Ford/ NAHT/Nursery HT representatives. More information coming out.

School deferrals into Reception class- DfE aware of heightened interest, no additional funding available to support this. Delegates commented larger chains in their LAs actively encouraging parents to defer. DfE aware of this. Concerns raised by delegates re potential extended transitions into school nursery and reception places, leaving working parents unsupported.

Ofsted Fast track facility- Glen Jump summarised process for LAs to put forward applications for providers to be fast tracked for approval for operation from different premises.

EYPDP- Alan Conlon summarised revised delivery plan timeline for EYPDP activity and that roll out would now start in January 2021 rather than the Autumn term. Champions supported to embed their learning and settings for roll out secured over Autumn term.

Hannah Brabham went through procurement process for support and challenge partner to work with LAs re sufficiency now Childcare Works contract has ended. Moving forward

again. LAs requested they are consulted and suggested facilitated peer support may be more helpful.

Comments- Increase in number of insurance companies asking LAs for evidence of written guidance that led to settings closure.

ACTION:

- 1. LW to distribute the presentation slide from the DfE webinar.**

5 Staff from September (NM)

Staffing - NM we don't know what schools will do from September (staggered starts, early finishes etc), so staff at Alexandra Nursery School are leaving early for childcare reasons, which impacts on the care that can be offered. HS – acknowledged the difficulties and advised – will need to seek further clarity from schools how they interpret the national guidance to assist with addressing the issues.

Encompass - NM also asked about the encompass service (an instant update if children and families have been party to DAV). Can the LA support the sector to highlight the fact we don't have access to encompass. It would help to have access. HS advised that the LA is looking at that for all EY providers. LW attended a North West meeting recently and other authorities have shared how beneficial the service is and how it works. The service also provides resources, as well as alerts for users. In Wigan, most early years services are signed up. We are keen, as are Safeguarding colleagues, to progress this for EY providers across the borough.

Track and tracing - HS updated the group, numbers haven't greatly increased in Bolton since we last met. There have been five closures of bubbles of children in Schools across the borough. HS urged all to read and use the guidance: **Bolton, what to do if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in an education or childcare setting:**

<https://www.boltonstartwell.org.uk/news/article/89/bolton-what-to-do-if-there-is-a-confirmed-case-of-covid-19-in-an-education-or-childcare-setting> to ensure that service is operating safely.

6 AOB

Financial incentive for unfurloughing staff - JLB advised about unfurloughed staff if returning to work prior to January 2020 there is a financial incentive (£1000.00).

School charges - VH to email details about a school issue to HS. VH notified the group that a school is charging parents if they want their child to stay in school on a Friday afternoon as school is closed for cleaning.

Sector training - HS urged all to book onto the briefings and Hemsalls training. Need to book directly onto Hemsalls training even if already expressed an interest – links below and details to go out on the early years update later today:

Hempsall training: <https://www.boltonstartwell.org.uk/news/article/88/hempsall-s-training>

Childminder briefing: <https://www.boltonstartwell.org.uk/news/article/91/covid-19-briefing-for-childminders>

PVI briefing: <https://www.boltonstartwell.org.uk/news/article/90/start-well-summer-briefing-for-early-years-leads-in-pvi-daycare-settings>

The group would like to meet again in a fortnight. All agreed and HS will send out an invite for the usual day and time.

HS brought the meeting to a close, thanking all for attending.

Next meeting: 23rd July 2020, 1:35pm – 3:05pm