

REGULATORY AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORT

NAME OF COMMITTEE:	Schools Forum
DATE OF MEETING:	24 April 2013
SUBJECT:	Arrangements for Early Years provision
REPORT BY:	Steph Douglas (Head of Service – Birth to Five service)
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IS REPORT CONFIDENTIAL?	No

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide the Schools Forum with information regarding arrangements for early years provision in 2013/14.

DISCUSSION

As reported to the Schools Forum in October 2012, the DfE's Schools Forum regulations state that Local Authorities (LAs) must consult Schools Forums annually on a number of financial issues. These include those in respect of the LA's functions relating to the schools budget, in connection with arrangements for early years provision.

Despite officers' best efforts to clarify with the DfE what needs to be considered by the Schools Forum each year, the position remains unclear. The LA has always consulted the Schools Forum on any significant changes to early years budgets that are funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant, including changes to the way that early years provision is funded (e.g. the introduction of the Early Years Funding Formula). Nevertheless, to ensure openness and transparency and compliance with the DfE' regulations, Steph Douglas, Head of Services for the Birth to Five service, has provided below a summary of the current service provision, key performance indicators, the 2013/14 budget and key pressures.

The Birth to Five Service is a team of specialist early years consultants who strive to improve outcomes for Lincolnshire's youngest children through the delivery of early intervention strategies. There is a strong focus on child development and school readiness and a commitment to working in partnership with all Early Years providers and professionals to ensure that sufficient, inclusive and quality provision is being delivered across the county. The Service has strong relationships with all service users. The Service monitors, challenges, supports and provides training to Early Years providers within Lincolnshire which cater for children aged from birth to five. This includes support for Schools, Pre-Schools, Nurseries, Children's Centres, Day Care Settings, Independent schools and registered Childminders as required. The Service is also responsible for ensuring that there is a sufficiency of childcare places across the Out of School and Early Years Sector.

The Service co-ordinates the delivery of the free entitlements for 2, 3 and 4 year olds which are at the heart of the Government's vision for all children to have access to high quality early years provision that helps them reach their full potential. All 3 and 4 year old children are entitled to access up to 15 hours per week of Early Years Entitlement (EYE), for 38 weeks per year. In addition to this, the Local Authority has a new duty to ensure the 'Entitlement for Disadvantaged Two Year Olds' initiative is delivered to the most vulnerable families within the county from September 2013. These two areas are led by consultants from the Service and are linked closely to the allocation of Supported Childcare places for targeted children and families. The Service works alongside the LA's senior finance officers to develop the Early Years Single Funding Formula which is applied to childcare places and provides feedback to the Local Authority through the Early Years Consultative Group in relation to the funding formula.

Consultants provide inclusion support and advice to all early years settings, specific children and families to ensure all children can access high quality inclusive provision, especially the most vulnerable. They also advise on the appropriate allocation of the Early Years Inclusion Fund which supports the inclusion and participation of children with severe or complex additional or special educational needs that attend Early Years settings and are assessed as Early Years Action Plus (DfE Code of Practice for SEN).

Workforce Consultants provide universal and targeted support for Workforce Development to ensure Private, Voluntary and Independent practitioners and schools meet the mandatory training requirements of the Early Years foundation Stage (EYFS) framework and receive quality continuing professional development. This includes the implementation of the Graduate Support Programmes, working towards the Department for Education aspiration for settings to be led by a graduate by 2015. Universal support is also provided for Safeguarding and the EYFS Welfare requirements. In addition, targeted support in Safeguarding is provided as required, working with LSCB.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Measure	Definition	Outcome
Context Indicator 1	N172 - percentage of pupils achieving a good level of development at age 5 i.e. the percentage of children achieving 78 points or more across all 13 scales and 6+ in PSED and CLL	70.3% (2012 outcome) Increase of 5.5% from 2011 against a target of 59%, Exceeding national outcomes by 6%.
Context Indicator 2	N192 – the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the EYFSP and their peers i.e. the narrowing of the gap between lowest achieving 20% and the rest	27.2% (2012 outcome) Gap has narrowed by 1.6% from 2011. Lower than the national outcome by 3.0%
KPI 1	The percentage of funded PVI settings judged good or outstanding by Ofsted	82% (March 2013) Exceeds national average by 4%
KPI 2	The percentage increase in take up of early education places for disadvantaged 2 years olds	27% increase from Autumn 2012-Spring 2013 27% increase from Spring 2013 to the number of places allocated for Summer 2013 Overall increase of 54%
KPI 3	The percentage of 3 and 4 year olds benefitting from some free early education	98% increase of 1% from 2012
KPI 4	The percentage of Sufficient affordable high quality childcare places for each age range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baby Places - 82.0% • Toddler & Preschool Places - 89.6% • Out of School Places: 96.9%

BUDGET FOR 2013-14

Total Budget allocation £23,673,669

EARLY YEARS ELEMENT	TOTAL BUDGET
3 & 4 Year Old Free Entitlement Places	£15,548,080
2 Year Old Free Entitlement Places	£4,878,826
Birth to Five Service	£1,339,000
Childcare Sufficiency	£135,540
Inclusion Fund	£250,000
Workforce Development	£250,000
Graduate Support Fund	£666,050
Children's Centre Teachers	£420,885
Safeguarding & Inclusion Consultants	£78,948
Operations & SEN Support	£106,340

KEY PRESSURES

EYFS Profile Outcomes 2013 - Early Years results in Lincolnshire demonstrated an improvement of 5.5% in 2012, which was outstanding and builds on the top quartile performance of 2011. In this area, the gap in achievement also narrowed in 2011 and has done so again in 2012. In comparison to National Outcomes in 2012, Lincolnshire exceeded the national scores by 6%. Lincolnshire is placed well within the top 10% of all LAs nationally. Increases in scores are attributed to improved assessment processes in schools, extensive LA moderation of outcomes at school level and enhanced quality of early years provision across Lincolnshire. However, in 2013 the assessment and moderation systems will change radically and there is potential for a change in outcomes. The results from the national 2012 Profile pilot indicate that outcomes for children regarding a good level of development will be lower in 2013 under the new profile assessment compared to the current good level of development measure. This will impact on context indicator 1 and outcomes are likely to decrease for 2013 when the new measure is implemented although the two measures are not directly comparable. However, from the 20000 children assessed in the national pilot, 41% achieved a good level of development under the new measure. This is a decrease of 23% from the current national outcome of 64%.

2 Year Old Free Entitlement - As part of a coherent framework of services for families announced in 2011, the Government will increase the offer of free entitlement to 1700 two year olds from disadvantaged backgrounds across Lincolnshire from September 2013. The LA is well placed to meet this need due to the high percentage of high quality settings in the county. However, from September 2014, free early education will be increased from the current 20% offered to 40% of two year olds. The Government is yet to announce the broader eligibility criteria, following a recent consultation (October 2012). Lincolnshire will need to ensure that there is a sufficiency of high quality providers able to deliver the entitlement for this increased quantity of 2 year olds.

'More Great Childcare' - On 29 January 2013, Elizabeth Truss MP, and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Education and Childcare), launched the report *'More Great Childcare: Raising quality and giving parents more choice'*. The government wish to make more, good quality childcare available for parents and children as there is clear evidence to show that high quality qualifications and well-trained staff have a positive impact on both social and behavioural outcomes and subsequent achievement at school. As part of this process, a number of consultations are being undertaken by the DfE. A recent consultation on the proposed changes to the role of the local authority in early education and childcare sets out changes as to how local authorities will be expected to work with early years providers, alongside draft statutory guidance which will come into force in September 2013.

The Government therefore intends to change the regulations so that they are clear on how local authorities are able to spend their early years Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). LAs will not be able to use centrally retained DSG funding on quality assessment and provider training, but will be able to use it to spend on 'activities to support the important local authority role of improving access and support for disadvantaged children and those with special educational needs and other additional needs'. Should this element receive approval, changes will be required to the allocations of the early years element of the Dedicated Schools Budget.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Schools Forum is asked to note the contents of the report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS			
PAPER TYPE	TITLE	DATE	ACCESSIBILITY
Report to Schools Forum	Schools Forum (England) regulations 2012	10 October 2012	County Offices, Newland, Lincoln