



## REGULATORY AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORT

<b>NAME OF COMMITTEE:</b>	Lincolnshire Schools Forum
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	22 April 2015
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Early Years in Lincolnshire Analysis of the local authority's current early years priorities and intentions for 2015-16
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<b>IS REPORT CONFIDENTIAL?</b>	No

### SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to share with the Schools Forum the local authority's statutory duties under the current DfE guidance and an analysis of Lincolnshire's priorities during 2014/15.

This will enable the Schools Forum to see how Lincolnshire compares to other local authorities and that should help inform future discussions about early year's provision.

## DISCUSSION

### BACKGROUND

Lincolnshire's Birth to Five Service works to improve outcomes for young children and their families with a particular focus on the most disadvantaged families, in order to reduce inequalities in child development and school readiness.

The Service provides monitoring, challenge and support for inclusive practice and training to all Early Years Providers within Lincolnshire which cater for children from birth to five years. This includes support for Schools, Pre-Schools, Nurseries, Children's Centres, Day Care Settings and Registered Childminders. The Birth to Five Service ensures that all Early Years Providers have access to efficient and effective support in order to deliver the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework and to make a measurable, positive impact upon the lives of young children throughout Lincolnshire. Working closely with targeted teams based in Children's Centres and seeks to progress early intervention through integrated working.

EYFS and Ofsted outcomes in early years continue to rise and to be above the national average. A high percentage of children are accessing the free Early Years Entitlements and there is a strong sufficiency of high quality childcare available to families in Lincolnshire.

The Birth to Five service provides both targeted and universal support. Accessible to all is Management and Leadership briefings held three times a year, a range of training opportunities and a wealth of information and resources available through the Birth to Five website. Direct support for settings has been revised and is now provided through a targeted support programme, further information on key areas of the service is within this report.

### EYFS PROFILE OUTCOMES

The EYFS Profile summarises and describes children's attainment at the end of the EYFS. It is based on ongoing observation and assessment in the three prime and four specific areas of learning and the three learning characteristics. A completed EYFS Profile consists of the attainment of each child assessed in relation to the 17 Early Learning Goal (ELG) descriptors together with a short narrative describing the child's three learning characteristics. For each ELG, practitioners must judge whether a child is meeting the development expected at the end of the Reception year (expected), exceeding this level (exceeding) or not yet reaching this level (emerging).

In addition, the EYFS profile provides an accurate national data set relating to levels of children's development at the end of the EYFS. The DfE uses this to monitor changes in levels of children's development and the readiness for the next phase in their education both nationally and locally. The level of development is referred to as a good level of development (GLD). Children with a GLD are those achieving at least the expected level in all the following areas of learning: communication and language; physical development; personal, social and emotional development; literacy; and mathematics. All areas of learning within the EYFS are important and to reflect this, the GLD measure is supported by a measure of the average of the cohort's total point score across all the ELGs. This ensures that the attainment of all children across all ELGs is captured.

In 2014, 67.5% of children in Lincolnshire achieved a Good Level of Development, 7.5% higher than the national average of 60%. Girls outperformed boys in Lincolnshire; 76% achieving a GLD compared to 59%. The average point score (supporting measure) in Lincolnshire was 35.4 compared to 33.8 nationally. At a national level, the achievement gap between the lowest attaining 20% of children and the mean is 33.9%. At 28.3% the gap in Lincolnshire remains less than the national figure.

Agreement trialling training was provided to schools based on analysis of the Lincolnshire EYFSP outcomes. During this academic year, training has focused on the moving and handling and reading ELGs. Practitioners from 41% of schools in Lincolnshire attended these events.

Training events for NQTs, teachers new to the EYFS, new Head teachers and senior leaders were provided to enable a clearer understanding of the profile, quality assurance of judgements and data sets.

An evaluation and planning form is completed and submitted annually to the DfE detailing the systems in place to fulfil the statutory arrangements for local authorities. The Standards and Testing Agency (STA) confirmed that Lincolnshire met requirements as outlined within the 'Early Years Foundation Stage 2015 Assessments and reporting arrangements' and the 'Early Years Foundation Stage Handbook'.

As part of its Inter local authority activities the service took part in a peer review of its moderation processes. The review was led by Derbyshire local authority who identified strong, strategic leadership of the moderation processes in place, including a rigorous process for quality assurance of moderation events and data. This process has helped to ensure systems are effective prior to a visit by a STA external moderator planned for May 2015.

The outcomes achieved at the end of the EYFS are underpinned by the ongoing partnership working with schools which includes a responsive suite of training and also bespoke consultancy offered through the Brochure for LCC services. Training events for schools delivered across the county during the Autumn and Spring terms were attended by over 240 teachers and teaching assistants. 45% of courses delivered had 100% attendance. Early Years Consultants have supported 29 schools since October through paid consultancy work. This has mainly been tailored support dependent on the unique needs of each individual school, with a commitment to working in partnership to improve the outcomes of every child in the county.

## **QUALITY OF PROVIDERS JUDGED BY OFSTED**

In September 2014, the Birth to Five Service introduced more targeted support for Early Years Providers with a 'less than good' Ofsted outcome, in line with the Early Education and Childcare Statutory guidance for local authorities (September 2014). The revised model of support was shared with all Early Years Providers during Leadership and Management briefings in the Autumn Term. Building on the previous successful intervention model, Early Years Consultants now provide bespoke support within the 'Getting to Good' programme for Early Years Providers with a Requires Improvement Ofsted outcome. The Targeted Improvement Programme was introduced in September 2014 to provide intensive support and monitoring for Early Years Providers with an Inadequate Ofsted outcome. Similar tailored programmes for registered Childminders have also been introduced and data shows that this is having a positive impact on raising standards.

Local data indicates that currently 92% of Early Years Providers on 'non-domestic premises' were judged as good or outstanding at their last Ofsted inspection. This is an increase of 7% from Ofsted's statistical release for the period up to July 2013 and 6% above the national outcome published for the period up to December 2014. This confirms that Lincolnshire's Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) Early Years Providers are continuing to build on their good practice and that the revised model of support from the Birth to Five Service has not had a negative impact on the outcomes of providers with a good or outstanding grade.

The statistical release shows that national outcomes are higher for Early Years Providers registered as 'childcare on non-domestic premises' in comparison to Childminder registrations. Historically Lincolnshire statistics have reflected this trend. Since the introduction of targeted support from the

Birth to Five Service, local data shows that in March 2015, 86% of the 623 registered Childminders in Lincolnshire achieved 'good' or 'outstanding' outcomes at their most recent Ofsted inspection. This is an increase of 8% from data in September 2014.

Universal support continues to be available to all Early Years Providers through termly Leadership and Management Briefings which now include evening and weekend sessions to facilitate attendance. Evaluations show that these events continue to be valued by the Early Years sector who have been willing to pay a small fee to attend. Lincolnshire also hosted 'Getting to Good' seminars, delivered by Ofsted, for Early Years Providers with Requires Improvement/Satisfactory outcomes. These seminars were well attended and the Ofsted inspectors who delivered the regional event commented on the high quality support the Local Authority currently provides.

Lincolnshire's five Nursery Schools have continued to achieve very strong Ofsted outcomes with three of the five schools graded as 'outstanding' and the remaining two schools graded as 'good with outstanding' features.

Children's Centre Teachers continue to contribute to the very strong Ofsted outcomes for the Children's Centres across Lincolnshire. 86% of inspections have resulted in a 'Good' or 'Outstanding' outcome. The most recent 3 inspections under the new, more robust Children's Centre inspection framework have achieved a 'Good' result, demonstrating the continued commitment to working in partnership to raise outcomes for young children and their families.

## **THE EARLY YEARS ENTITLEMENTS (EYE) FOR 2, 3 & 4 YEAR OLDS**

From September 2014, the Department for Education rolled out the 2 year old free early education places nationally for around 260,000 children. This equates to approximately 40% of all two year olds in the country.

The Department published an update to all local authorities from data collected in February 2015, detailing their position at regional and national levels. Lincolnshire was placed 2 out of 9 local authorities regionally and 50 out of 152 local authorities nationally.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has committed to produce a list of all those eligible families for individual local authorities and this will be available 7 times during 2015-16. Lincolnshire's list produced in March 2015 indicated 3,300 two year olds are currently eligible for funded education places.. The Government has confirmed that funding for 2015/16 will be based upon participation, it is therefore crucial to ensure as many eligible families access their child's full entitlement to secure appropriate funding for the future take-up for 2 year olds.

Lincolnshire are currently funding 2,420 children to access the 2 year old entitlement (data recorded at the end of March 2015) which represents 73% of the total eligible families.

Lincolnshire has agreed places for 2,796 children to access their free education place from April 2015 which represents 85% of the total potentially eligible appearing in the latest list produced by the DWP. This exceeds the national take-up which is currently 62% Statistics supplied by the Department for Education in March 2015).

We recognise that there are still a high proportion of children that have not accessed the entitlement, following an application and local authority agreement to take this up. The gap between the number of approved places compared to actual take-up is being supported by a targeted outreach programme of support. Lincolnshire has commissioned this work to the Participation & Engagement teams working from the locality Children's Centres and a joined up approach has been implemented to ensure the most effective methods are used to support families to access their child's entitlement. The Birth to Five Service is working in partnership with the Virtual School to ensure all these children are identified at the earliest opportunity and the 2 year old entitlement places are accessed.

The number of Early Years Providers delivering funded 2 year old places continues to rise and there are currently 442 providers offering the entitlement for 2 year olds in Lincolnshire, this includes 166 Childminders and 20 school governed providers. This is 85% of all providers delivering free education places to 3 and 4 year olds. The Service is continuing to build this offer to ensure high quality provision is available for all eligible children in Lincolnshire. The DfE has commended the local authority's progress with the initiative.

The number of 3 and 4 year olds accessing the free entitlement continues to rise and national figures published in January 2014 indicate that 97% of 3 and 4 year old children accessed their free entitlement in Lincolnshire in 2012. This is above the national figure of 96% and on par with the regional East Midland figure of 97%. The increase in children accessing the 2 year old entitlement can be seen to be having an impact as children transition into accessing the 3/4 year old offer.

The Early Years Pupil Premium is being introduced from April 2015. This is additional funding for early years settings to improve the education they provide for disadvantaged 3 and 4 year olds. The Birth to Five Service has implemented robust systems to gather data from Early Yproviders to check parents eligibility and will be allocating the additional funding to providers in the summer term 2015. The Birth to Five Service will continue to liaise with targeted teams and Early Years Providers in Lincolnshire to ensure participation and attendance of all 2, 3 and 4 year old children in funded education continues to be supported.

In addition, the Service is working collaboratively with the Virtual School's Head to identify and fund all those Looked After Children in early year's settings to ensure this additional funding is being used to support Looked After Children's needs as identified in their Personal Education Plans (PEPs).

## **CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY**

There have been a significant number of newly registered Early Years Providers around the County since September 2013. Some of these new registrations represent new childcare businesses and thus new childcare places, whilst others have been as a result of relocation, change of ownership or change of governance, which may or may not have impacted on the number of places they are able to offer.

In addition to this, there has been a significant increase in the number of schools introducing early year's provision for 3 and 4 year olds and some have also introduced places for 2 year olds.

The development of 2 year old places has been driven by the governments' agenda to provide funded early education places for the 40% most disadvantaged 2 year olds. The trajectory funding and capital funding made available to the local authority has been used to target where 2 year old places are most needed.

A detailed analysis of the market capacity and the expected additional eligible children was undertaken and a breakdown of the needs assessment by district area was created. The targeted activity has included capital build programmes to create new places and small revenue grants to improve the quality of existing 2 year old provision. Many capital projects have been completed however there are still several in development as we move into the 2015-16 financial year to support the market need.

Changes to the Statutory Duty placed on local authorities in September 2014 means that all new Early Years Providers are able to deliver the Early Years Entitlement for 2, 3 and 4 year olds upon opening. This supports the local authority to meet its Sufficiency Duty, however, where a new provider fails to achieve a good or better Ofsted judgement at first inspection, the EYE funding is withdrawn resulting in a loss of funded places. To mitigate this, a programme of support has been developed to

give new providers the best chance of achieving a good or better judgement at first inspection and thus maintaining a sufficient supply of funded childcare places.

There have been the inevitable closures but overall the number of available places has increased over the last year. There are a number of reasons for this which include; change in personal circumstances for owner's i.e retirement, financial pressures other issues include quality issues leading to inadequate judgements.

The market place will continue to fluctuate and therefore a new capacity audit is currently being analysed to inform future sufficiency planning for the period 2015-2016 and will also inform the Annual Sufficiency Report.

In view of changes to the commissioning arrangements the Birth To Five Service have reviewed the support available for Childminders and out of school providers. Those wanting to become a Childminder are supported via planned group briefing sessions provided by the Birth to Five service around the county in response to demand. Once Childminders are registered, with Ofsted they have access to a variety of tools and resources to support their development journey via the Birth to Five service website; it is not possible with current resource levels to provide individual support on a one to one basis to assist them to achieve a good or better Ofsted judgement at first inspection. If the outcome of the first inspection is less than good then there is a support programme in place similar to the one provided to Early Years Providers.

Those wanting to develop standalone out of school provision are supported remotely in the first instance with telephone advice and support provided; those seeking to establish new early year's provision can request a visit from a consultant. A key driver for this is capacity within the service however legislation around out of school provision has been significantly relaxed since September 2014.

## **WORKFORCE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

The Birth to Five Service continues to support the development of the Early Years & childcare workforce across Lincolnshire to ensure that managers / leaders are able to drive forward continual improvement and ultimately improve outcomes for children. Growing and retaining a highly skilled workforce has been recognised as key in supporting the delivery of outstanding practice.

The Lincolnshire online Early Years Training Directory provides a comprehensive programme of statutory courses that assist the sector to meet the EYFS / Ofsted requirements and to provide and maintain high quality provision. The training includes 60+ Paediatric First Aid Courses, 40+ Safeguarding Courses, 16 Food Safety Courses and 30+ Health & Safety Courses (Risk Assessment, Fire Safety and Emergency First Aid at Work) plus a full range of inclusion & quality based courses. New for 2014/15 was the introduction of pre-registration briefing sessions, developed in partnership with the family information service. These have been successfully undertaken this year for those thinking of becoming a Childminder with 80+ attending, with feedback from delegates stating they feel more prepared for establishing their childminding services.

Following on from the success of the 2013/14 targeted seminars for Leaders and Managers, the Workforce Team developed a similar programme again for this year, inviting nationally recognised trainers / authors / speakers to come to Lincolnshire to deliver their messages – attending national conferences that would otherwise be out of reach for the majority of the sector. During November 2014 to March 2015 the training undertaken was:- Getting it right for 2 year olds with Helen Moylett, Making physical activity a priority with the British Heart Foundation, Boys will be ... Brilliant with Gary Wilson, Six Impossible Things with Ben Kingston-Hughes, Supporting Quiet Children with Michael Jones and Working in partnership with parents with Barnados. These all ran to capacity and feedback from delegates was excellent. In evaluations Managers have stated that it had a positive

impact on outcomes of the children in their care, has altered thinking of the whole team as delegates cascaded the messages throughout their teams which enhanced performance.

Regular information sharing at Managers Briefings enables the Birth to Five Service Workforce Development Team to keep the sector abreast of imminent changes to legislation and promote tools that have been created to support managers with developing their staff teams in order to meet the requirements placed upon them within the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage. A new web based audit tool has been introduced to assist managers to monitor training profiles of their staff and to help the workforce team to plan the future training requirements of the sector to inform future commissioning cycles, this has proved beneficial for the managers that are regularly using the tool to date and their feedback has supported the continued development of the system to ensure it continues to meet their needs.

The continuation of Graduate Support Programme Funding (GSP) has enabled practitioners to continue with their studies that otherwise would not have been accessible to them as adult learners in the PVI sector continues to be a low paid profession. The Graduate Leader Subsidy supports the sponsorship of fees, enables the settings to pay a salary enhancement to the graduates that they employ in order to retain them within the early years workforce (it is recognised within the Private, Voluntary & Independent sector that there are not the salary scales or terms and conditions from which graduates may benefit are not as attractive as the maintained sector therefore supporting equality for the graduates) and the Future Graduate Allowance stand supports the early years settings to purchase staff cover for the times the growing graduate is attending University, thus ensuring that children's safety, learning and development are not compromised. The Birth to Five Service has excellent links with local FE / HE Training Providers, working in partnership to promote the graduate pathways open to the sector.

The Lincolnshire Early Years Postgraduate (EYP) Network Meetings remain strong, with a maintained membership of over 130 EYP's. The Service continues to support the network with the focus on a sector led model that will direct the work of the network going forward. The Early Years Professionals and the Early Years Teachers within Lincolnshire remain committed to the role they play in supporting children and their families and also their colleagues. At the most recent EYP Standardisation meeting, it is proposed that a training session will take place with Chris Jones delivering the 'Nurturing Success: Developing Leadership Practice' programme. A trained Skills Coach would be on each table to help facilitate this training – continuing to support their professional development by encouraging them to take the lead in these sessions.

The Birth to Five Service established a network of Graduate Early Years Skills Coaches, this went live in September 2013. The Skills Coaches (all qualified to degree level and from Good or outstanding settings) are now offering peer to peer support to managers across Lincolnshire on the 'Getting To Good' programme as well as working in partnership with Bishop Grosseteste University, who are using the Skills Coaches to offer mentoring required to those students on the Early Years Teacher Pathway. This project has now been expanded further to include support for newly registered Childminders or Childminders with a judgement of requires improvement taking part in the Getting to Good programme.

Our Childminder Skills Coaches, of which there are 11, have now completed their third session with Chris Jones on the 'Nurturing Success: Developing Leadership Practice' training programme with one more to go. They are well on their way to becoming the next cohort of Skills Coaches all from Good or Outstanding Settings within Lincolnshire. The pairing process is well underway and the request for pairing for newly registered Childminders has been sent out. The Birth to Five Service are already receiving request's to be paired with our Skills Coaches so it expected that more trained coaches will be required as the project grows.

We continue to provide a programme of training events and also packages of support for schools through the School's Brochure for LCC services. This area of work is described above in the EYFS profile outcomes section of this report.

## **INCLUSION AND EARLY INTERVENTION**

Early Years Providers continue to be supported through the allocation of the Early Years Inclusion Fund. Early Years Consultants provide support and advice for inclusion to setting staff, parents and children, as required from within their Area SENCo role, and the inclusion funding enables them to enhance support for children with severe and complex needs. The Early Years Inclusion Fund supports government strategy by supporting early intervention and removing barriers to learning faced by children with special educational needs. Inclusion funding is used by Early Years Providers to:

- Enhance staff ratios
- Purchase specialist equipment
- Provide training for additional needs and all aspects of inclusive practice

The Birth to Five Service has supported 425 children with inclusion funding from April 2014 – March 2015. This is an increase of 135 families on last year's figures. The funding reduces reliance on requesting Education, Health and Care Plans for our youngest children with additional needs, by providing a mechanism for children to access Early Years provision with appropriate support. If it is felt that a child may need further support with transition into school that cannot be met through the schools notional SEN budget an Education, Health and Care Plan can be requested and be in place if criteria is met by the time child enters school.

Inclusion funding was increased for 2013-14 to enable the 34 maintained nursery classes in schools and 576 registered Childminders to have access to this funding for the children with an inclusion need who attend their provision. The schools and Childminders have been notified of this process through electronic updates and face to face cluster meetings. The nursery classes and Childminders are now also invited to the termly SENCo network meetings that provide updated information on processes and training on relevant topics to meet needs. The inclusion funding criteria is being updated with all relevant professionals and this is now being trialled by the inclusion panel and will be published on the local offer to ensure that there is a transparent system in place for how funding is awarded.

Early Bird is being co-ordinated from within the Birth to Five Service team and thirty seven families have participated in programmes this year – an increase of 16 families from the year before. Birth to Five Service have trained a further two consultants to deliver programme and there is now a team of 8 people across the county able to deliver.

The Birth to Five Service has been an integral part of the project board, delivery assurance group and working parties that have been put in place to ensure that the Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0-25 years has been implemented in the county through co-production to ensure that families are seen as being at the centre of the process. The Early Years Consultants are supporting Early Years Providers to fill in requests for education, health and care plans and ensuring that the correct information is there for the allocation meeting. A member of the senior leadership team attends the allocation meeting on a weekly basis having read through all requests to ensure that a decision is made through a robust process. The Birth to Five Service will continue to work closely with the SEND team to update processes and ensure they are fit for purpose taking account of feedback from all services and parents. The Birth to Five Service are part of the Local Offer and this information is available for all on the family services directory.

## **PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

The Service is committed to working in partnership with targeted teams and other agencies across Lincolnshire to raise outcomes for young children. There are numerous examples of successful partnership working across Lincolnshire teams. The managers within the service and the Children's Centre Teachers work closely with colleagues in Children's Services to identify and support the most vulnerable children and are actively involved in quality assuring CfBT Early Years groups in the Children's Centres. This rigorous process, working in partnership with Children's Centre Leaders and Early Years practitioners, has played a significant role in improving and sustaining the delivery of high quality group sessions.

Working together with Children's Centres, the Children's Centre Teachers (CCTs), continue to deliver a targeted project for 2 year olds called Prime Time, working in partnership with Early Years Providers who deliver the Early Years Entitlement for 2 year olds. Working with funded children, and prioritising the most vulnerable children who are known to Children's Services, the project aims to raise achievement of vulnerable children and to support families to raise outcomes for their children. Prime Time was first piloted in a few centres but due to its evident impact on improving children's learning and development, has been identified as a key priority for the work of CCTs. The CCTs work with small groups of children alongside practitioners, offering coaching and training and affirming their existing expertise. During the Autumn Term 2014, 141 children participated in a Prime Time programme, 28% of whom were open to Children's Services. Data shows that 84% of all families actively participated in the programme such as attending launch or celebration events or supporting with home learning tasks. All children who participated made progress in some or all Prime Areas of learning ie Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language and Physical Development. Follow up visits have now been introduced into the programme delivery to ensure the children's progress continues to be monitored in order to narrow the gap of achievement for the most vulnerable 2 year olds.

The Birth to Five Service, the Children's Centre Hub and NHS partners are working to pilot an integrated 2 year old review project in East Lindsey, in preparation for the national implementation planned for September 2015. Working with a small group of Children's Centre Teachers, Early Years Providers and Health Visitors, the project aims to enable professionals to work together and in partnership with parents to review the child's progress and promote early identification of any developmental or health needs to ensure appropriate support is offered.

The Birth to Five Service has reviewed the support provided to early years setting who work with Looked After Children (LAC). Working more closely with the Virtual School to support Looked After Children in Lincolnshire it; has been agreed that when a LAC is attending an Early years setting an Early Years Consultants from the Birth to Five Service will now be allocated to the provider to monitor the educational progress of the LAC, with a view to supporting the practitioners with the implementation of strategies to ensure progress towards targets set in the children's Personal Education Plans. Consultants will highlight any specific needs of 2 year old Looked After Children to the Virtual School in order to ensure adequate support is provided to facilitate the child's progress with a focus on early intervention. Consultants will also provide interim moderation for schools to ensure accurate EYFS profile assessment of the Looked After Children at the end of their reception years. Consultants will index termly assessments onto ICS (Mosaic) to ensure all professionals working with the children are aware of their progress within the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The Service Manager for Early Years (Head of Birth to Five) continues to be committed to working with Early Years Providers and the Lincolnshire Teaching School Alliances to develop models and explore innovative practice with regard to sector led improvement in Early Years. Birth to Five are currently working in partnership with both KYRA and Elite Teaching School Alliances', who both have individually been successful in securing grants regarding sector lead improvement projects.

The termly Early Years Leadership and Management briefings are delivered across the county three times a year, providing further opportunities for partnership working. The spring term briefings included inputs from The Virtual School, which provided opportunities for information sharing regarding educational provision for individual Looked After Children. An input was also provided by the NHS dentistry team on 'Promoting Oral Health in the Early Years', highlighting key messages of good practice with the aim to reduce the prevalence and levels of tooth decay within young children in Lincolnshire. These are well attended and valued by the sector with on average 300 attendees at the events delivered across the county each term.

## **EARLY YEARS CONFERENCE**

The Birth to Five Service is holding its seventh annual Early Years Conference on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> June 2015, at Lincolnshire showground. The two day event, entitled 'Be Healthy, Be Cool .... Be ready for school will focus on the holistic approach to school readiness. 250 places will be available each day an increase of 50 places on last year's event due to increased demand. There is a charge for the event to cover costs of venue and delivery of the event. Neil Farmer, Shonette Bassoon, Ben Kingston – Hughes, Andy Cope to name but a few of the speakers confirmed for the event.

## **BUDGETS**

The DSB budget for Early Years is across two key areas identified via the following budget codes of MCHAD 35101 and MCHAD35105.

### Summary of MCHAD 35101

This includes staffing and associated costs to enable Birth to Five to deliver a range of support services across the early years PVI and maintained sector as described within this paper. It includes areas such as direct support, training, information and advice to Early Years Providers and Childminders in relation to meeting the needs of vulnerable children who are looked after and those with an identified inclusion need. Also provided within this area is targeted support to Childminders and Early Years Providers, in response to an Ofsted inspection with an outcome of less than good or a new Ofsted registration giving additional support on the facilities, equipment and policies without this support there is significant risk that the number of children in Lincolnshire accessing good and outstanding EY would decline and outcomes for children would not continue on its current upward trajectory.

### Summary of MCHAD35105 – EYE 2, 3 and 4 Year Olds:

The second area is directed to the delivery of the EYE for 2, 3, and 4 years olds across the county including the payments to all Early Years Providers and Childminders registered to deliver the Early Years Entitlement for 2, 3 and 4 years olds including all the required support systems, administration, distribution marketing, data collection, monitoring and auditing.

## **AREAS OF FOCUS FOR 2015-16 –**

- Continue to provide targeted support to Early Years Providers and Childminders in order to sustain and increase the number of settings within Lincolnshire with a good or outstanding Ofsted outcome to ensure that all children in Lincolnshire experience a high quality education.
- Continue to increase the number of children accessing the 2 year old free entitlement.
- Implement the revised Early Education and Childcare, Statutory Guidance for local authorities.
- Implement a robust process for the introduction of the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) across the early years sector.

- Develop collaborative strategies with the Virtual School to improve outcomes for all Looked After Children in Lincolnshire,
- Ensure LAC access the 2 year old entitlement at the earliest opportunity and support the allocation of the EYPP in partnership with the Virtual School Head.
- Review the Service to reflect the statutory requirements of local authorities with respect of early years support services and SEND.
- Support the delivery of Lincolnshire’s Early Help strategy.
- Continue to implement a targeted model of support for providers across Lincolnshire, including Childminders and focus on those providers who have been judged as Inadequate or Requires Improvement by Ofsted.
- To determine opportunities for traded services and options to this delivery.
- Continue to work in partnership with the Early Years Providers and teaching school alliances to support sector led improvement.
- Define the service areas responsible for tasks associated with assessing childcare sufficiency in Lincolnshire, including data capture and analysis, and development of new childcare places to support market management.

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
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The Birth to Five Service endeavours to maximise outcomes for Lincolnshire’s youngest children through the delivery of varied early intervention strategies. The Service continues to ensure that sufficient, inclusive, quality provision is being delivered across the county and has strong relationships with Service users.

The Service is well placed to support the early years sector in order to continue to improve children’s outcomes, support inclusive practice, school readiness and improve and maintain safeguarding practices within the county’s Early Help strategy.

The Schools Forum is asked to:

- a. Note the contents of the report.
- b. Consider and comment upon the contents of the report.

<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>			
<b>PAPER TYPE</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>ACCESSIBILITY</b>
Department for Education	Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities	September 2014	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-education-and-childcare--2">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-education-and-childcare--2</a>
Department for Education	Funding Early Learning for 2 Year Olds	December 2013	<a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/publications">www.gov.uk/government/publications</a>
Department for Education	Early Years Pupil Premium	January 2015	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/early-years-pupil-premium-guide-for-local-authorities">https://www.gov.uk/early-years-pupil-premium-guide-for-local-authorities</a>
Office for Standards in Education, Children’s Services	Early years and childcare inspections and outcomes September 2014 to December 2014	March 2015	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/early-years-and-childcare-inspections-and-outcomes-september-2014-to-december-2014">https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/early-years-and-childcare-inspections-and-outcomes-september-2014-to-december-2014</a>

and Skills (Ofsted)			
Department for Education	Implementation study: integrated review at age 2 to 2 and a half years – integrating the early years foundation stage progress check and the healthy child programme health and development review.	November 2014	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/376698/DFE-RR350_Integrated_review_at_age_two_implementation_study.pdf">https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/376698/DFE-RR350_Integrated_review_at_age_two_implementation_study.pdf</a>