

## Early Years Business Sustainability – August 2017

**Aim of the Childcare Business Sustainability Officer:** To develop and maintain the viability of all businesses across the childcare sector in Nottinghamshire.

### Rationale for the work:

- Legislation places a duty on local authorities to secure sufficient childcare for working parents.
- Developing the business management skills of early years and childcare providers is essential to ensure that they have every opportunity to make their business a success.
- The culture of the sector has meant that business skills are not as highly valued as the ability to provide safe and secure provision for children.

### Support offered to Childcare Providers:

- Business planning and administration advice
- Business health checks
- Business Start Up advice
- Budgeting and cash flow forecasting
- Grant funding advice
- Legal Structures guidance
- Book keeping and accounting systems advice
- Pricing policies and pay structures
- Staff ratio management
- Marketing Toolkit

### Other areas of work, include:

- Assessment of financial plans and funding applications from providers.
- Support Tendering and Procurement of Childcare on School and Children Centre sites.
- Audit of settings with regard to Childcare Funding

### What has been the impact?

- Stable number of Preschool settings in the County.
- Successful tenders to procure Childcare on School and Children Centre sites.
- Successful Grant programme to support the expansion of Funded Two Year Old's places.
- Clawback of Funding as a result of Audit visits.

### How is support offered?

- Requests direct from Childcare Providers.
- Referrals made by the EY teacher team and advisors.
- Provider Support Meeting recommendations.
- Proactive contact made in response to monitoring trends of Preschool Accounts filed at the Charity Commission.

### Priorities:

- Management committees of voluntary sector Out of School Clubs and Pre-schools are a particular area where support is needed, due to frequent changes in the committee membership.
- Childcare Providers, where there is a deteriorating trend in their finances.
- Assisting with the planning and implementation of the extended Free Entitlement Funding for eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds.

### For further information:

<http://nottinghamshire.family servicedirectory.org.uk/kb5/nottinghamshire/directory/site.page?id=psPvzfKKp4!>

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