

Aim: To work with Private, Voluntary, Independent (PVI) providers and maintained schools to fulfil the Local Authority Statutory Duties for early years and childcare

The Childcare Act 2006 and 2016 contain the following duties for the local authority;

- Secure early years provision free of charge for some 2 year olds and all 3 and 4 year olds
- Secure sufficient childcare for working parents with children aged 0-14 (up to 19 for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities SEND)
- Prepare and publish a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, at least annually
- Provide information, advice and assistance to parents to find and take up early education and childcare – including parents of children with SEND
- Provide information, training and advice to early years and childcare providers – to raise the quality of provision
- Secure the equivalent of 30 hours of free childcare for eligible 3 and 4 year olds from September 2017

Early Years Consultation Group

The Nottinghamshire Early Years Consultation group represents the views of all early years providers across Nottinghamshire, and is the formal body for all Nottinghamshire County Council consultations in relation to early years.

The group provides opportunities for regular dialogue between Early Years providers, the Local Authority and the Schools Forum.

The Early Years Consultation Group is represented at the Nottinghamshire Schools Forum where funding decisions are made regarding the Devolved Schools Grant, including the Early Years funding block.

The Nottinghamshire Schools Forum constitution states that the forum must appoint non-schools members comprising at least one Private, Voluntary and Independent Early Years Provider (PVI) representative.

Membership of the group comprises of representatives from each of the seven districts; one representative from each type of setting from the PVI sector; together with 3 school representatives, and one to represent children centres. NCC officers will also be in attendance as and when required.

Provider networks

Each term PVI providers attend network sessions with national and local sector information updates, training, consultative activities and briefings in related practice such as safeguarding, workforce development and tracking progress of children

Provider newsletter

Termly electronic newsletters are circulated for providers to share with their staff teams in their setting, for those unable to attend networks, giving national and local updates on revised practice and delivery

Provider Portal

PVI providers now securely log on to the portal to check child eligibility for provision, record headcount and census data, confirm payments and receive electronic messages and updates.

Nottinghamshire County Council is committed to ensuring that **all** young children and their families are able to reach their potential by having the best possible start in life, through the provision of high quality childcare and early education that prepares them for school. High quality provision delivered by practitioners that understand and respond to changes in individual children's needs as they grow and develop has a real impact on children's social, emotional and physical development; their subsequent performance at school; and in the long term their chances of social mobility. A good home learning environment is an even stronger predictor of children's future attainment and so high quality services must involve parents as partners in their children's learning at every stage.

Central to the Council's vision for Early Years is that providers of early education are clear that self-evaluation is key in ensuring continuous improvement. The delivery of early education places in Nottinghamshire is managed as a partnership between the Council and Providers. In this way we have been able to fulfil our statutory duties under the Childcare Act 2006 and 2016 to provide sufficient free of charge early education places for the most disadvantaged 2 year olds and all 3 and 4 year olds.

For further information contact the Early Childhood and Early Help Services Team

EMAIL: earlychildhoodservices@nottscc.gov.uk

Tel: 0115 977 2510