

Nottinghamshire Early Years Funding Agreement 2017-18

Purpose of the Report

1. To notify forum members of Nottinghamshire's 2017-18 Early Years Funding Agreement and subsequent actions for school led early years provision.

Background and Information

2. All Local Authorities are responsible for the distribution of early years funding to providers who deliver funded childcare places for eligible children. This task is stated in the 2006 Childcare Act and legislation included in Appendix 1 of this report.
3. The local authority role requires the effective auditing of early years funding. Arrangements for financing early years education were audited in 2016-17, this resulted in the requirement for all early years providers to sign the early years funding agreement. This is the first year where schools are also asked to sign the agreement as a condition of funding.
4. The Department for Education published a Model Agreement in March 2017¹. The national model agreement has been used to update Nottinghamshire's Funding agreement which has also been informed by the local audit of early years funding.
5. The agreement sets out the council's expectations of the following early years providers in delivering free entitlements:
 - i. Early years providers other than a childminder registered on the Ofsted Early Years Register;
 - ii. Childminders registered on the Ofsted early years register;
 - iii. Childminders registered with a childminder agency that is registered with Ofsted;
 - iv. Schools and academies who provide early years services for 2, 3 and/or 4 year olds;
 - v. Independent schools and academies taking children age two and over and which are exempt from registration with Ofsted as an early years provider.
6. By signing the agreement, early years providers are expected to respond to requests made by the local authority to collect and share data. This could include attendance on a weekly basis, half termly reports on the number of eligible children accessing free childcare places, the progress of children accessing funded childcare etc. The local authority will audit 10% of early years providers so not all providers will be asked for this data.
7. All early years providers will be issued with an agreement form to sign as evidence of receipt and agreed compliance. This agreement document is included in Appendix 2 of this report.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/free-early-years-provision-and-childcare-model-agreement>.

8. Both the Early Years Funding Agreement and form have been circulated to existing Private Voluntary and Independent (PVI) early years providers across Nottinghamshire; and will be shared with schools through the schools portal following this report.
9. The Nottinghamshire Early Years Funding Agreement is attached as Appendix 3.

New Extended Childcare Offer for 3 and 4 year olds

10. From September 2017, 3 and 4 year olds from working households will be entitled to an additional 15 hours of funded childcare a week. The local authority is asking all early years providers to sign the agreement by the end of this term to ensure compliance for the new funding arrangements (including for 2 year olds eligible for 15 hours a week). Funding will be made available to schools for funded early years places through NCC School Finance, this arrangement includes Academy and Independent schools.
11. Further briefings and information about the new extended childcare for 3 and 4 year olds are being made available to early years providers and parents over the new few months. The local authority is delivering a series of workshops for schools who are planning to or are already offering early years provision. These workshops are taking place in June.
12. Information for parents is available on the Notts Help Yourself website and facebook page <http://www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk/kb5/nottinghamshire/directory/landing.page?directorychannel=2> . Information includes links for parents to apply for funding at <https://childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk/par/app/applynow>.

Recommendations

That the Schools Forum:

- Notes the content of the report and endorses plans for school compliance with Nottinghamshire's Early Years Funding Agreement.

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Irene Kakoullis
Group Manager Early Childhood Services
Nottinghamshire County Council

01159 774431

irene.kakoullis@nottsc.gov.uk

APPENDIX ONE

The following frameworks and legislation underpin the Nottinghamshire Early Years Funding agreement:

- Early Education and childcare, Statutory guidance for Local authorities 2017
- Childcare Act 2006
- Childcare Act 2016
- Equality Act 2010
- School admissions code 2014
- Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage 2014
- Local Authority, (Duty to Secure Early Years Provision Free of Charge) Regulations 2014
- The Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) Regulations 2016
- Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years 2015
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Local Authority, (Duty to Secure Early Years Provision Free of Charge) Regulations 2014
- The Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) Regulations 2016
- Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years 2015
- Data Protection Act 1998

APPENDIX TWO

PROVIDER DETAILS (“the Provider”)

NAME OF SETTING:

ADDRESS:

POSTCODE:

EMAIL:

TEL:

NAME OF REGISTERED PERSON:

OFSTED REGISTRATION NUMBER:

I have read and understood the Provider Agreement.

Name.....

Date.....

Position.....

THE COUNCIL HEREBY CONFIRMS TO UPHOLD ITS COMMITMENT TO SUPPORTING PROVIDERS OF EARLY EDUCATION AS OUTLINED WITHIN THIS AGREEMENT

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO

Email: earlychildhoodservices@nottsc.gov.uk

Address:

**Early Childhood Services
Children Families and Cultural Services
Nottinghamshire County Council
County Hall
Nottingham
NG2 7QP**