

Nottinghamshire Early Years Improvement Plan (January 2018- April 2019)

The Early Years Improvement Plan aims to improve the life chances of the most vulnerable young children by ensuring they achieve a good level of development and are ready for school.

What are the issues?

Despite 89% of all early years providers delivering early education places rated as Good or Outstanding by Ofsted, and a year on year growth of all children achieving a good level of development (GLD) when they reach school age – the gap between some of the most vulnerable children and their peers is widening.

Our overall position with our statistical neighbours has slipped being ranked the lowest in terms of GLD so more needs to be done to improve outcomes.

Priority Actions:

1. Further analysis of the 501 children who did not achieve any area of learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage to identify possible trends, additional needs of children and/or improve early years practice.
2. Further in depth analysis of the children least likely to achieve a good level of development e.g. children with SEND, white boys, looked after children etc.
3. Additional research and work with statistical neighbours to understand what practices are most effective in improving the level of development of children.
4. Close the attainment gap for children eligible for Free School Meals and their peers, ensuring that progress is on par with statistical neighbours (measured by the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile).
5. Develop and implement a Language and Literacy Strategy.
6. Improve the tracking of vulnerable children to help early identification and intervention of developmental needs.
7. Development of a school readiness tool for the early years sector (including schools), Children's Centres and health practitioners.
8. Active engagement with parents to promote home learning environments.
9. Improve the aspirations that target parents have of themselves and their children through opportunities for parent volunteering, adult education and parenting programmes.
10. Work with early years providers to ensure there are sufficient high quality and sustainable early years places available to disadvantaged children.
11. Increase take up rates for 2 year olds from disadvantaged backgrounds to access 15 hours a week free early education.
12. Raising the quality of early year's providers to ensure that all childcare settings are 'good' or 'outstanding' to enable poorer children to gain the best start in life.
13. Evaluate the new early years tracker tool (Better Start) to track the developmental needs of children and assess impact of services and interventions, including analysis for Children in Need and those on Child Protection Plans
14. Increase take up and analysis of Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) funding and ensure that EYPP is devolved quickly with clear advice for evidence based interventions that would improve the educational outcomes for disadvantaged children. This includes improved analysis of the EYPP for Looked After Children.
15. Allocation and guidance for using supplementary early years funding which will be launched in April 2017 to ensure the most vulnerable children receive additional support to improve attainment level.

Overarching Priorities:

- Ensure that early childhood services are working effectively together to provide early help for children and families to meet identified need.
- Ensure there are sufficient, sustainable, high quality, inclusive and safe early education and childcare places.
- Improve school readiness, especially for the most vulnerable children.
- Effective parental engagement.

For further information:

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