Early Childhood Services

June 2020

Nottinghamshire County Council

Overall Aim of the Service: To provide sufficient high quality early years provision and support to families with children under the age of 5, to improve a range of outcomes including enabling children to be ready for school.

What do Early Childhood Services offer?

Early Years and Early Education

- Childcare Sufficiency Assessments.
- Quality & Improvement– support packages, Ofsted readiness, safeguarding support, etc.
- Guidance for all Early Years Providers.
- Promotion and funding for 15 hours funded early education for eligible 2 year olds.
- Promotion and funding for 15 -30 hours of funded childcare for eligible 3 and 4 year olds
- Narrowing the Gap – targeted work with vulnerable groups (Looked After Children, English as an Additional Language and SEND), some BAME groups).
- Supplementary funding for Early Years settings working with vulnerable groups.

Children's Centre Service

- Provision of family and parenting support, and work to help parents to improve health and wellbeing, work readiness and school readiness.
- Provision of volunteering opportunities for parents and carers.

Commissioning and Projects

- Commissioning NHT Home Talk to address speech, language and communication needs.
- Commissioning the Families Information Service.
- Procurement of Early Years provision.
- Property and capital works

Why are we doing this work?

Early education is far more than childcare and aims to prepare young children to be ready to continue to learn when they enter statutory education.

Securing a successful start for our youngest children, and particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, is crucial. It can mean the difference between gaining seven Bs at GCSE compared with seven Cs and is estimated to be worth £27,000 more in an individual's salary over the course of their career.

Families benefit by a free childcare entitlement, this can reduce the barrier to employment; as well as closing the educational gaps at the earliest opportunities.

Improving outcomes for young children and their families, with a particular focus on the most disadvantaged families, reduces inequalities in child development and school readiness, supported by parenting aspirations, self-esteem and parenting skills, child and family health and life chances.

Key priorities for the service 2020-21

- Increase the level of development of target groups of children and narrow the attainment gap for children eligible for Free School Meals and their peers.
- Ensure eligible 2 year olds access their early education entitlement.
- Ensure children eligible for funded childcare from disadvantaged areas take up their entitlements.
- Deliver a Home Learning Strategy, engaging parents from target groups.
- Delivery of the ECS Communications Plan.
- Embed the Children's Centre Service into the Council from June 2020.
- The Children Centre Service actively engages increasing numbers of children from low income families and other identified target groups.
- Establish recovery plans and responses to the Covid 19 pandemic including Children's Centre Service delivery and business sustainability.
- Develop and Launch the new Best Start Strategy
- Support the development of an integrated speech and language pathway.
- Increase the take up of the Care to Learn grant and Tax Free Childcare.

For further information contact:
earlychildhoodservices@nottscc.gov.uk
Tel: 0115 97 72510