
Report of the Deputy Director of Children and Families

Report to the Leeds Schools Forum

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Subject: Early Years Action Plan Narrative for Schools' Forum

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In the 3As Plan, Early Years is one of the 3 obsessions as follows:

1. All children make the best start to school [Attend, Attain and Achieve]

This is our first obsession because it is vital to changing outcomes for all learners over time. Research and evidence suggests that improving learning in the early years improves outcomes throughout childhood and into adult life. Improving early learning is the most effective and cost effective way of improving outcomes for all children and narrowing the gaps between groups of learners.

At present Leeds does not do well as a city for the youngest learners in some measures. In the assessment undertaken for all five year olds, the Foundation Stage Profile, only 65.7% currently achieve a 'Good Level of Development' compared to 71.8% nationally, although this is improving.

The principles that inform the Three As strategy shape our approach. As a whole child strategy we want to focus on learning and wider wellbeing – recognising the importance of early years attachment and the power of play for early learning. As a Think Family strategy we want to continue to build better ways of joined up help for the whole family because we know this is important to help infants thrive. As a restorative strategy we want to work *with* families and communities to help them to build relationships and the social capital to support families and children thrive and learn.

Key measure: the % of five year olds achieving a 'Good Level of Development' in the Foundation Stage Profile.

It is crucial that we support schools, settings and families to ensure children make the best start to learning and we recognise that strategic use of funding forms an important part of that support. We have separated a small budget for 2020-21 to support the Early Years Action Plan (attached) and will use the framework provided by that action plan to undertake a fuller review of Early Years spending so that we can bring proposals to Schools' Forum in the Autumn term 2020 for discussion and approval in order to more effectively spend the funding we receive in 2021-22.

Cost implications 2020-21 (see Early Years Action Plan for more detail):

- Improved family awareness of play and learning opportunities through 'Golden Ticket' approach to eligibility. Notify DWP families x 4 times per year: Cost £5k

- Targeting of 170 CIN, CP and LAC children aged 2-4 NOT taking up early learning offer through Social Workers, Early Help Hubs RES teams, Early Start teams: Nil cost

- Support primary schools with falling pupil numbers to establish 2 year old provision: Cost 20 x £250 = £5k

- Additional funding for schools who open new 2 year old provision. Cost 10x £500 resource packs = £5k

Improve the analysis of data of eligible 2 year olds to identify 200+ not taking up the offer Family outreach workers to make individual named contact with family and report outcome Cost £15k additional admin- for data processing and sharing

Staffing costs:

20 days EY seconded practitioner £200 x 20 = £4,000

15 days Children's Centre teacher time £200 x 15 = £3,000

Additional visits to vulnerable settings

60 half day consultant visits £250 x 60 = £15,000

Venue/Training costs

12 half day training venues £200 x 12 = £2,400

16 half day moderation meeting venues £200 x 16 = £3,200

Total training/venue costs = £5,600

Subsidised places on EY training:

50 half day training sessions £55 x 50 = £2,750

Development of guidance and support documents:

Production of guidance, templates and support documents for use by settings:

4 days consultant time £500 x 4 = £2,000

Resources to support implementation of training strategies:

£3,500 to provide resources to settings needed to implement strategies

Total estimated cost £65,850

Phil Mellen