

**Meeting of the Early Years Working Group**  
**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009**  
**(3.15 pm, Conference Room 3, Building 2 at NLBP)**

<b><u>Attended</u></b>	Members:	Sarah Mordecai (Substitute for Anthea Abery, Rosh Pinah, Maintained Nursery Class-Faith)
		Diana Rose (Kerem House, PVI Independent School)
		John Maxwell (Holly Park, Maintained Nursery Class)
		Liz Bartlett (Wingfield, Maintained Children's Centre)
		Perina Holness (Moss Hall, Maintained Nursery School)
		Sarah Vipond (Middlesex Uni, PVI Full Day Care)
		Sharon Lee (FRS, PVI Setting)
		Substitute for Pauline Congdon (Little Acorns, PVI Sessional)
	LA Officers:	Sheila Abbott (Early Years and Extended Services Manager)
		Diane Lewis (Early Years Inspector)
		Carol Beckman (School Funding Manager)
		Jill Smith (Locality Development Officer, West Network)
Clerk:	Claire Gray (School Resources Support Officer)	
Observer Status:	Elizabeth Pearson (Schools Forum member)	
	Lisa Horne (Barnet Pre-School Learning Alliance)	
<b><u>Not Present</u></b>	Members:	Elaine Rosenthal (Playsafe, PVI Sessional)
		Christine Read (All Saints N20, Maintained Nursery Class)
		Jodi Gurney (Schools Forum member)
		Julie Paice (Senior Childminding Co-Ordinator, LBB)
		Marina Economides (Bright Sparks Nursery, PVI Sessional)
	LA Officers:	Martin Baker (Acting Director of Children's Service)
		Stuart Gray (Principal Inspector, Chair)
		Zahid Parvez (Business Manager)
		Akos Adu (Research & Management Information)
<b>1. Apologies for Absence.</b>		
1.1	Stuart Gray, Zahid Parvez, Julie Paice. Pauline Congdon sent her apologies, but sent a representative from Little Acorns on her behalf.	
<b>2. Minutes of previous meeting - 26<sup>th</sup> November 2008.</b>		
2.1	The minutes showed the time of the meeting on 1 <sup>st</sup> April as 3.00pm, rather than the 3.15pm shown on the agenda. It was agreed that all future meetings will start at 3.00pm. All other items agreed.	
<b>3. Matters arising.</b>		

3.1	It was agreed that matters arising will be covered within the agenda items for this meeting.	
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<b>4. Free of charge EY provision</b>	
4.1	<p><b>DCSF updated guidance and guiding principles:</b></p> <p>Carol Beckman presented a summary of updated guidance from the DCSF (file attached) which has confirmed that the principles being applied in Barnet closely match both statutory requirements and the experiences of pilot EY formula funding authorities. The DCSF has confirmed that a deprivation factor or supplement will be a requirement in any EY formula, and also that quality/qualifications and flexibility, although not statutory at present, should be incentivised. All of these factors were agreed in principle at the last EYWG meeting, but the quantum available for each of these supplements still needs to be finalised. Future allocations will depend on the flexible options implemented at individual settings and also the data collection/methodology agreed to measure deprivation and qualifications.</p>
4.2	<p>The DCSF has recognised that the pupil count mechanism is the most complex issue, and further guidance will be issued. The requirement for termly submissions of pupil data from the maintained settings (and any subsequent pupil funding adjustments) is very different from the current arrangements, whereas PVI providers are more familiar with termly counts and adjustments. It also notes that arrangements for adjustments to funding will need to vary between providers, as small settings and childminders are more sensitive to adjustments than larger nurseries.</p> <p>The updated guidance document can be viewed at:  <a href="http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/localauthorities/documents/content/1802090003%20single%20funding%20formula.doc">http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/localauthorities/documents/content/1802090003%20single%20funding%20formula.doc</a></p>
<b>5. Discussion</b>	
5.1	<p><b>Funding options 2009/10 (non-formula)</b></p> <p>The additional funding available for Phase I (40 settings) in Barnet is £785,000. It was proposed to be used as follows: extension supplement (Total: ~£285,000), a flexibility supplement (Total: ~£75,000), a pro-rata (7/12ths) basic entitlement to non-maintained settings (Total: ~£31,000), and a 'start up' supplement (Total: ~£395,000) to Phase I settings. This funding cannot be carried forward by the LA to 2010/11, and must be viewed as 'one year only' amounts to support the Barnet Pathfinders.</p> <p>Members agreed that the basic entitlement level for 2009/10 should be set at the same figure as currently received by maintained settings, pro-rata'd for the financial year (September 09 – March 2010).</p> <p>Members discussed the allocation of the one-off 'start up' funding and unanimously agreed that the quantum available should be distributed on a per pupil basis, rather than a lump sum allocation, as this recognised the impact of the extension on larger settings.</p> <p>Flexibility funding should be allocated based on three levels – Levels 0, 1 or 2, as agreed with the BRSI team and in line with demand from parents in each locality, but the amounts attached to these levels cannot be determined until offerings at the settings are known.</p>

5.2	<p><b>Funding options 2010/11</b></p> <p>2010/11 will see the introduction of EY formula funding, with all settings receiving their indicative budgets by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010. The total additional amount available for distribution in Barnet is £2.8m.</p> <p>Members discussed the main formula factors planned by Barnet and agreed that the following will be included for 2010/11:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Base Rate per pupil</li> <li>Basic Entitlement per pupil (up to a maximum of approx. £3,000)</li> <li>Extension Rate per pupil (+20% of Base Rate)</li> </ul> <p>The total cost of these items is expected to be approximately £2.2m</p>	
	<p>Members agreed that the expected balance of £600,000 should be distributed equally using the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1/3<sup>rd</sup> Flexibility supplement - Level 0, 1 or 2 (as determined by the BRSI team)</li> <li>1/3<sup>rd</sup> Deprivation supplement – IMD factors to be used</li> <li>1/3<sup>rd</sup> Qualification supplement – Graduate Leader (PVI), NPQICL (Children’s Centres) or NPQH (Maintained settings).</li> </ul> <p>After much discussion and pending any further guidance from the DCSF regarding pupil counts/funding adjustments, the majority of members proposed that pupil number changes could be updated on a weekly basis (by claim form) although a number of larger settings felt that this might cause a considerable workload and preferred termly counts/termly adjustments. It was noted that any system used for adjustments in 2010/11 could be monitored and reviewed for later years. The requirements of different types of provider do vary considerably and it is unlikely that the first draft of the funding formula will be the last</p>	
<b>6. Progress report – 2.5hr Extension &amp; information to settings</b>		
6.1	<p>SA provided members with packs showing the various letters, documents and publicity materials that have been circulated to settings (depending on sector and extension Phase) so that all providers are aware of developments in their localities, contact points, and also to ensure that consistent information is reaching parents.</p> <p>PVI representatives raised concerns about charges for additional services, and suggested that further guidance to parents should clarify justifiable additional services which may be charges for by providers, subject to the revised Code of Practice.</p> <p>SA plans to meet as many providers as possible (particularly PVIs) to discuss issues and further developments. Additional discussions and meetings will include BPSLA representatives, early years consultants, early years co-ordinators, FYI staff and Health Visitors to ensure that a full range of colleagues are aware of and can inform parents of the changes in each network.</p>	
<b>7. Any other business.</b>		
7.1	None.	
<b>Dates of future meetings</b>		

	3.00pm 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2009	(Training Room 5)	
	3.00pm 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2009	(Training Room 5)	

