

## **Education Scrutiny Committee**

Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 29 November 2016

Electoral Division affected: All
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### **Early Education and Early Years, Education, Schools and Skills**

Contact for further information:

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#### **Executive Summary**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Education Scrutiny Committee with an update on the work of the Early Education and Early Years Teams following on from the initial report on 19 July 2016.

#### **Recommendation**

The Education Scrutiny Committee are asked to receive and comment on the report and to receive further reports as appropriate.

#### **Background and Advice**

The Early Education and Early Years Teams sit within the Education, Schools and Skills Service under the new structure and works with childcare providers across Lancashire. These include private, voluntary and independent settings (PVI), childminders, after of school clubs, breakfast clubs, holiday clubs and sessional day care provision (such as pre-school play groups).

#### **The Quality of Current Childcare Provision in Lancashire**

Lancashire currently has in excess of over 2000 childcare settings. These are currently made up of 797 childminders, 349 day nurseries, 142 pre-school play groups, 163 maintained nursery schools and classes, 99 holiday schemes, 280 breakfast clubs, 308 after school clubs and 15 nursery settings in independent schools.

Currently 96% of childminders are judged to be good or outstanding by Ofsted compared to the national average of 83%, 95% of PVI settings are judged to be good or outstanding by Ofsted compared to a national average of 90% and 95% of all childcare across Lancashire is judged to be good or outstanding by Ofsted compared to a national average of 86%.

## **Free Early Education Take Up in Lancashire**

There are currently 98% of three and four year olds accessing a free early education (FEE3-4) place across Lancashire compared to the national average of 95%, and 78% of 2 year olds (FEE2) accessing a FEE place across Lancashire compared to a national average of 68%.

91% of FEE3-4 children are accessing provision that has been rated good or outstanding by Ofsted compared to a national average of 86% and 90% of FEE2 children are accessing provision that has been rated good or outstanding by Ofsted compared to a national average of 83%.

## **Early Years Pupil Premium**

Early years pupil premium (EYPP) is additional funding that the Government has made available for early childcare providers to improve the education they provide for disadvantaged three and four year olds who access an FEE place. Currently EYPP take up in Lancashire is 94.3%, unfortunately there is no national comparator data available. The take up of EYPP is steadily increasing and is almost double what it was in the summer term 2015.

A cross sector steering group has been established to evaluate and improve on the impact of EYPP across the childcare sector. This includes the development of information to support setting in match funding against children's needs, the development of case studies to support inspections and the sharing of best practice.

## **Early Education and Early Year Priorities**

### **30 Hours Free Childcare**

The Early Education and Early Years Teams are currently working with the sector to prepare for the increase from 15 hours free childcare per week to 30 hours free childcare per week (up to a maximum of 11,140 hours per year). The extended entitlement comes into effect from the 1 September 2017 for all eligible families.

This offer will be open to families where both parents are working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family) and each parent has a weekly minimum income equivalent to 16 hours at the national minimum wage or national living wage, and neither parent has an annual income of more than £100,000. The initiative has been developed by Central Government to enable parents to return to work.

Consultation has taken place through the Early Education Consultative Group to look at how childcare providers can prepare for the increased offer of free childcare. As part of this work, settings across Lancashire have been able to apply for capital grants from Central Government to enable them to expand as necessary where there may be a shortage of childcare places within an area. Six capital bids have been submitted by settings in Lancashire and we are expected to hear back on whether we have been successful in December 2016. A Steering Group has been established to assist with the implementation of the extended entitlement of 30 hours

free childcare and key areas of work include: sufficiency, communication to parents and professionals, systems development, payments and contracts.

### **Special Educational Needs Support for Childminders**

We are currently working with the Special Education Needs Team (SEND) to develop support for childminders to enable them to meet the needs of children that have a disability or some form of developmental delay. Very often a home environment can provide the best childcare for children with additional needs and this key piece of work will provide childminders with resources, skills and knowledge so that these children can access the best care and development within a home environment.

### **Ofsted Inspection Cycle**

The new 45 month Ofsted inspection cycle for all early years settings has just restarted on 1 September 2016. This means that all childcare providers across Lancashire will need to be inspected within this period. This is a huge task to undertake in maintaining our 95% Ofsted judgement of good or better in providing support and challenge to over 2000 settings across Lancashire.

### **Early Years Foundation Stage and Childcare Register**

In August 2016 new guidance was introduced for all early years settings called 'Inspecting Safeguarding in Early Years Education and Skills' This guidance provided greater focus on the Prevent Duty, Staff Behaviour Policy, Peer Abuse and children with SEN or a disability. In light of this guidance the service is currently working with settings to ensure that regular updates are made to safeguarding documents and records, that there is a designated member of staff responsible within the setting for safeguarding and that online filters are in place to protect children when using online materials.

### **Consultations**

There have been no formal consultations, however Consultation is ongoing with the sector through the Early Education Consultative Group around the delivery of the 30 hours free childcare.

### **Implications:**

N/A

### **Risk management**

The 30 Hour Steering Group will be looking at sufficiency across Lancashire to ensure the childcare market is able to grow in areas of need and offer sufficient free childcare places

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**  
**List of Background Papers**

N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

NA