

Westminster Education Forum Keynote Seminar: Key issues for early years - funding, building workforce capacity and extending free childcare

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 29th March 2017

Venue: Royal Over-Seas League, Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR

Agenda subject to change



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- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Baroness Perry of Southwark
- 9.05 - 9.40 **Early Years Education - the state of play**
Neil Leitch, Chief Executive, Pre-School Learning Alliance
- Entitlement to free early education and childcare - assessing implementation so far**
Dr Andy Fisher, Audit Manager, National Audit Office
Questions and comments from the floor with **Neil Leitch**, Chief Executive, Pre-School Learning Alliance
- 9.40 - 10.15 **Extending free childcare to 30 hours per week - lessons from the early implementer pilots**
Councillor Neill Young, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services, Portsmouth City Council
- Improving accessibility to childcare provision for children with SEND**
Tracey Messer, Strategic Manager, Childcare and Business Support, Hampshire County Council
Questions and comments from the floor with **Councillor Neill Young**, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services, Portsmouth City Council
- 10.15 - 11.05 **Tackling the challenges of extending free childcare: funding, widening access and improving flexibility**
What will be the impact of the new funding formula on the planned extension of free childcare for three- and four-year-olds to 30 hours a week in September 2017; does it address historic disparities in funding and the concerns raised by childcare providers about the capacity issues facing the sector? Will the Disability Access Fund be sufficient to meet the needs of disabled children; will basing eligibility on receipt of the Disability Living Allowance limit its reach? How effective will the establishment of a local inclusion fund for SEND children be in improving their outcomes? How are local authorities and childcare providers coping with the provision of 15 hours' free childcare a week, and what support do they need to extend this provision to 30 hours? In light of evidence that 80,000 disadvantaged two-year-olds failed to take up their free place at an early years setting last year, what could be done to address underlying issues and to encourage low-income families to use their entitlement? What has been the impact so far of the newly created childminder agencies in tackling the shortage of childcare providers and improving flexibility for parents? How can more schools be encouraged to learn from current best practice examples and establish school-led nurseries and play a more active role in providing out-of-hours childcare?
Dr Gillian Paull, Senior Associate, Frontier Economics
Sally Panayiotou, Director, Policy Team, Kantar Public
June O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, London Early Years Foundation
Barbara Morton, Childminder Agency Officer, Leap Ahead
Valentine Mulholland, Head of Policy, NAHT
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.05 - 11.10 **Chair's closing remarks**
Baroness Perry of Southwark
- 11.10 - 11.35 Coffee
- 11.35 - 11.40 **Chair's opening remarks**
Rt Rev the Lord Bishop of Durham, Co-Vice Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Parents and Families
- 11.40 - 12.35 **The early years workforce - improving quality, capacity, recruitment and retention**
What will be the likely impact of measures contained in the Government's Early Years Workforce Strategy, such as abolishing the GCSE English and Maths requirements for Level 3 Early Years staff and plans to recruit more graduates into childcare settings, on tackling the barriers to attracting and retaining early years staff? Following evidence that a number of university providers are reducing their provision of early years education training courses due to insufficient uptake, what more can be done to improve uptake of early years courses at university, particularly with claims that there is a growing trend of students opting for teacher training courses rather than early years courses due to better pay and career progression prospects? In what ways can Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities for early years workers be improved and career pathways be made clearer for early years professionals? How effective will the childcare and early education route of the 15 route technical education reforms be in simplifying career routes in the sector? What would be the likely impact of Britain's exit from the European Union on the early years workforce, and what can be done to mitigate the negative effects?
Joanne Elsey, Head of Early Years and Director of Early Years Initial Teacher Training Programmes, Institute of Education, University of Reading
Julia Hinns, Managing Director, Trio Childcare Connections
Janet King, Senior Subject Specialist, Childcare, Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education
Susanna Kalitowski, Policy and Research Manager, Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years
Laura Henry, Managing Director, Laura Henry Consultancy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.35 - 12.55 **The future for the inspection of early years settings**
Alex Magloire, Senior Manager, Early Education and Policy, Ofsted
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Education Forum closing remarks**
Rt Rev the Lord Bishop of Durham, Co-Vice Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Parents and Families
Marc Gammon, Associate Editor, Westminster Education Forum