



Ealing Early Years Development & Childcare Partnership Meeting

Date: Thursday 25th May 2006, 9.30 p.m.
Venue: Queen's Hall, Town Hall, Ealing.

1. Welcome & apologies

The Chair officially welcomed Polly Bradley in her new position as Partnership Manager and Barbara Simpson who had taken over her previous role as the CIS Manager. She welcomed Anu Bilon and Marcella Phelan to their first Partnership meeting and mentioned the arrival of the new additions for Liz Benhamou baby David and Charles Barnard baby Oliver.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising.

In response to a query, Polly Bradley reported that the Hanwell Children's Centre had experienced delays in setting up the IT link and had not been able to open over Easter. It would not have Nursery provision other than a crèche in support of training programmes. Polly would let members know when the Centre was open.

4. Children's Centre Website - Laura Jay

A great deal of 0-3 information had been added to the Early Years (pink) section on 10th May, much of which should be useful to childminders.

The Early Years team has showcased the start of their Listening to Young Children Project, which uses ICT as a tool in consulting children currently across 15 school settings, which will roll out to further settings in the autumn.

Partnership Minutes (including back numbers) will be available in the EYDCP section (although the Chair warned that these should not go in until formally passed.) Perfect Practices was now online, again under EYDCP.

Usage: There have been 3,412 unique hits, over 3,000 of which are the result of local publications and promotions, and the others from search engines. "Ealing Children's Centres" comes up regularly on the first page of search results.

The site no longer has a link from www.ealing.gov.uk website.

Jenny Wright pointed out that it would be useful to have maps and directions to Children's Centres & other venues. Laura agreed that there was huge potential for expansion, and welcomed any suggestions for links, etc. Please email l.jay@childrenscentres.org.uk with any suggestions.

5. Children's Centres Update – Charles Barnard

In phase 2, 2006-2008, Ealing has £3.6 million capital and £4.8 million revenue to spend. This calls for creativity, and the first step is to see the whole picture. Certain areas such as domestic violence, overcrowding in homes, challenging behaviour in under 5's, families facing redundancy were known areas that need attention.

Charles asked for ideas from the meeting. Among those offered were sensory rooms as part of therapy, more outdoor play spaces, connections with Relate and other voluntary organisations, debt counselling, adult training. Kate Saunders said that domestic violence should be dealt with in the context of other children's services in order to reduce stigma, and needed adequate space so that both children and parents could have privacy.

Marvis said that the 8-16 age group is a problem with inadequate research or information, and childminders are often less confident. In addition there is a lack of Youth Clubs or other services for this age group. Charles agreed that the cut off at 5 is very artificial and that Marcella's wider sphere of interest should help to link these concerns up. Other concerns were the high cost of play schemes and the lack of play park access for disabled children. Charles mentioned one lone example of a wheelchair roundabout in the Borough of Richmond.

Charles referred to the list of ten Phase 1 officially designated Children's Centres in Ealing: Viking Primary, South Acton, Limetrees, Copley Close, Windmill, Grove House, Maples, Dormers Wells School, Greenfields and Ealing Hospital. Ealing Hospital is the only NHS work place nursery in London to be given Children's Centre status. This was something to celebrate. The satellites are within walking distance of the above and would be Sure Starts in South Northolt & Acton, West London Academy, Sunlight Community Nursery, Medcliffe and Oaktree.

The big picture was the need to progress on workforce reform, providing multiple professional pathways to qualification, the audit and consultation requirements statutory from 2007, the local area agreement post-2008, and training provision to be tendered out with the local authority only stepping in where the market is not fulfilling needs.

In Phase 2, the proposed new Children's Centres would be: Acton Park, Havelock, Wood End, North Acton, Horsenden, North Ealing Primary, Grange, St John's, Northolt Park, Petts Hill, Southall Park, Gifford and Medcliffe. Charles showed on a wall map how the planning for these centres had been done undertaken; the quality of information had improved vastly over the last three years, with the distribution, quality and cost of childcare services all mapped into a new multiple-page audit. A summary of this would be made available as a paper copy but the full document will be available on the web at www.childrenscentres.org.uk.

New Directions in Phase 2.

Four Area Boards, for Ealing, Acton, Northolt and Southall, would co-ordinate and target families in need. Free childcare would be available in local Children's Centres and specialist outreach through an early support team for ages 0-3. A new Speech and language centre on I CAN principles would open at Featherstone Primary, making three altogether. The emphasis would be on quality, sustainability and access rather than the indiscriminate opening of new places, which could sometimes result in the closure of existing ones.

Key objectives.

These were,

- 1) To develop high quality early years, childcare and play provision,
- 2) To increase targeting of support for vulnerable families and reduce inequality,
- 3) To improve the integration of provision and make access easier.

The meeting then divided into three groups during the coffee break, according to Childminding, the under 5's and Out of School. Each group was asked to identify three challenges and propose three solutions in each area.

6. Report back

a) Jeff Parkinson reporting for Out of School.

The challenges were

- i) Access – insufficient availability, widely variable cost, & lack of special needs provision,
 - ii) Space – dual use issues with older & younger children using the same facilities needing different equipment & furniture, and
 - iii) Sustainability – keeping continuity between holidays, keeping staff that tended to move on.
- One suggestion was more use of private/public partnerships.

b) Julia Senior-Smith reporting on Childminding.

Challenges identified were

- i) Lack of space for drop-ins, training, events and activities. Local community halls should be utilised, but the problem of paying for them hard to deal with.
 - ii) Access to training; childminders could only take up evening and weekend places, which was very limiting. If crèches were offered, would parents mind children being passed on? Would online education be practical, e.g. the Open University. They should get information about parenting classes, which could also be passed on to their customers. Even getting access to a Children's Centre can be daunting, with high security barriers.
 - iii) Joined up working. Some childminders could offer disability places, and childminders could be included more in other programs, e.g. those for parents.
- Proposals included a Youth Worker to incorporate teenage issues, an environment inclusive for children with special needs, signposting and free phone for advice and support literature, free drop-in sessions for children, an Out of Hours service after 6 p.m. and at weekends, a mandatory probation period with mentoring, and induction period including shadowing and training in special needs, behaviour management, etc.

c) Rose Alphonse reporting on Under 5's

Challenges were

- i) Special needs. There should be links with Mencap and a drop-in centre for the parents with who have additional needs.
- ii) Access out of hours for families
- iii) Staff knowledge and attitudes required more induction training in special needs and facilitation of mentoring schemes. Charles commented that there is a general need for respite care perhaps more than full-time placements.

Charles recapped on the list of Centres, and reiterated these Phase 2 Children's Centres were not finalised and they were proposed only.

7. Workforce Development – Polly Bradley

a) Training Programme.

As reported previously, the newly introduced requirement for tendering had delayed the training programme, which should be starting in September 2006. Emergency courses on Child Protection and other core subjects essential for Ofsted registration have been held between April & September.

Polly asked for the return of overdue Audit forms; it was hoped that the results would be presented at the July meeting.

b) Transformation Fund

It is new investment by the Government to help deliver its long-term commitment to transforming the quality of childcare without compromising affordability for parents. The Government has allocated £250 million to the Transformation Fund to be spent between April 2006 and August 2008 on early years provision.

The Transformation Fund is being introduced initially as a two-year initiative to test out approaches to workforce development in the early years sector and to understand better what works in order to inform future policy development. It will also provide local authorities with a means to implement their local workforce strategies in support of the strategic priorities set out in their Children and Young People's Plan.

Recruitment Incentive – from September 2006

The Government has set a challenging target of having an EYP leading professional work in every full daycare setting by 2015. The Recruitment Incentive element of the Transformation Fund will make it easier for providers in the private, voluntary and independent sectors to recruit graduates with relevant qualifications without risking affordability to parents or sustainability of provision.

Quality Premium – from September 2006

It will take time for the EYP standards and training routes to become established and for a cadre of staff with EYP status to become available. In the meantime settings that already employ graduate-level staff with relevant qualifications can claim the Quality Premium to help towards the professional development of all staff and other activities leading to quality improvement. The Quality Premium is available to full daycare settings run by the private, voluntary or independent sector, where professional leadership is provided by those with level 5 or 6 qualifications relevant to working with children. Settings meeting this description and the conditions will be eligible to apply to their local authority for a Quality Premium of £5,000 in each of the two years with more for settings in London. The Quality Premium is paid pro rata on a 6 month basis for settings claiming less than the full period.

The overall aim of the Quality Premium is to support quality improvement leading to better outcomes for children. It is not intend to prescribe the specific activity on which the Quality Premium should be spent but expect that at least half of it will be used to support professional development of staff working with children and families.

The remainder should support improvements in the quality of services to children and parents, in accordance with the local strategic priorities set out in each local authority's Children and Young People's Plan and informed by the work of their early years advisers. In summary it is expected the Quality Premium to be used as follows:

- At least half of it should be used to support professional development for staff;
- Any remainder should be spent on improvements to the quality of services to children and parents;
- Settings in receipt of the Quality Premium only (i.e. not getting the Recruitment Incentive) may use up to 49% of the Quality Premium to boost wages of existing staff if by so doing they can demonstrate that they will support retention of the existing workforce and hence stability for children. In judging whether this is a valid use of the Quality Premium, local authorities should take account of turnover rates among their local early years workforce.

Everything funded by the Quality Premium must contribute to improved quality of services for children. Other than professional development suitable uses for the money could include:

- Activity to get parents involved in their children's learning & development,
- Buying in specialist support e.g. nutritional advice, support for children with additional needs;
- Enrichment activities – music, sport, languages etc.

Training For Staff To Level 3 And Above – from April 2006

This element of the Transformation Fund is intended to supplement, not replace, provision already made in the General Sure Start Grant for workforce training and development and is for PVI providers only. It will be open to childminders who care for under 5's, providers of sessional care (playgroups) as well as full daycare settings of any size, run by the private, voluntary or independent sector. It offers support for training, additional to that normally undertaken, for staff to improve their qualifications to achieve a full Level 3 and up to Level 5 qualification in a relevant subject.

Training Staff to work with disabled children – from April 2006

All early years and childcare settings are required by the Disability Discrimination Acts (1995 and 2005) and the SEN Code of Practice to provide inclusive services accessible to all children, but many practitioners report feeling that they lack the necessary skills to care for and work with disabled children. The Transformation Fund can be used to fund specific training on issues relating to disability and inclusion for all childcare and early years staff in the private, voluntary and independent sectors, whether in full daycare, sessional or childminder settings. In so doing the Fund will have a major impact on the quality of provision for the most vulnerable children. Local authorities are encouraged to see this as part of their general children's services training, bringing early years into line with arrangements for services for older children

The Transformation Fund Implementation Plan for Ealing is being compiled at present. A leaflet for providers will be available in the spring. For more information on the Transformation Fund www.everychildmatters.gov.uk

8. Ofsted Update - Laura Jay

Communications with Ofsted were being rebuilt via Shirley Harper, who emails amendments to the EYDCP. This can consist of changes of address, new contacts, updates on requirements, changes in CRB or fees structure, etc. Currently, this information is passed on by email to Charles Barnard, Vina Mistry, Samira John, Barbara Simpson, Jeff Parkinson and Lesley

Hunter. Laura would add any member to the list on request. Please email Laura at ljay@ealing.gov.uk

Ofsted has also produced a new publication called "Ofsted Direct; Early Years" The second (May) issue contained material on quality of food in settings, news of the Childcare Bill, reports on pilot schemes, inspections, and a report on best practice in staying safe. The next edition would be on 28th July, and readers are encouraged to suggest topics. Ofsted Direct can be received automatically by email by signing up on the ofsted.gov.uk website.

Polly asked for a link from the Children's Centre website to Ofsted. Laura agreed and mentioned that the site also has an acronyms list which users may find useful. Important changes would also be published in Perfect Practices. The Chair regretted that Shirley could not now attend EYDCP meetings, where her contribution had always been valuable.

9. Any other Business.

a) Sal Dennis reminded the meeting of the Early Years Conference entitled "Creativity" to be held on Saturday 9th September 9 – 3.30 in the Town Hall. There would be keynote speakers in the morning and workshops in the afternoon, and the work of Children's Centres would be showcased as well as local arts groups in the Victoria Hall. Numbers of visitors had been capped at 250. The event should give many opportunities for networking.

b) Julia Senior Smith reported on the Big Toddle, a half mile walk for Barnardo's stressing Fun, Fitness and Food. This would be on 22nd June in Lammas Park, and would include a clown and other entertainment.

c) Charles Barnard reported on the Quality Indicators piloted this year giving guidance for provision managers and practitioners in measuring the effectiveness of services across the board. He distributed the handout, which would also be on the Website. The Chair commented that this unified scheme would give everyone confidence and contribute to a joined-up childcare environment.

d) The Chair asked the meeting to report back on the EYDCP's own communication system. This was the first time exclusively electronic methods had been used to distribute the Agenda and Minutes, and she asked for information about any glitches.

10. Date of next meeting

20th July, 1.30 p.m., Queen's Hall, Ealing Town Hall.

The meeting closed at 12.00.

10. Partnership Members

Name	Surname	Organisation	Attended	Apologies/ Minutes only #
Rose	Alphonse	Ealing Hospital Children's Centre	✓	
Joseph	Anastacio	Priory Community Centre		#
Bob	Anderson	School Effectiveness Manager		#
Surrinder	Aulak	Disraeli Nursery Centre		
Alina	Balysz	Bunny Park Day Nursery		
Charles	Barnard	Ealing Early Years Childcare & Play	✓	
Jo	Bedingfield	Volunteer Reading Help		
Liz	Benhamou	EYDCP		#
Usha	Bhojwani	Chefettes and Picassos		
Anu	Bilon	Jobcentre Plus	✓	
Corine	Bovell	Ealing Pre school Learning Alliance		
Polly	Bradley	Ealing EYDCP	✓	
Pauline	Bryant	Childrens Fun Zone		
Matt	Burdett	3 BRIDGES Breakfast Club		
Tim	Burnett	Play Service		
Mary	Butler	SENCO Team		
Florencia	Casaccio	St Gregorys, St Augustines,		
Dennis	Charles	West London YMCA		
Tracy	Cherry	Childminding Network Coordinators		✓
Sidney	Chu	Ealing Paediatric Occupational Therapy Services		#
Carole	Clement	South Acton Children's Centre		
Amanda	Cole	EYDCP	✓	
Cathy	Coleman	Ealing Opportunity Playgroup	✓	
Jill	Collins	Jobcentre Plus	✓	
Lisa	Cord	Ealing Pre school Learning Alliance		
Cathy	Coyle	Windmill Nursery Centre	✓	
Marvis	Cummins	EYDCP	✓	
Joanne	Dabir-Alai			
Alice	Daly	Childrens Information Service	✓	
Sally	Dennis	EYDCP	✓	
Esther	Digan	Children's Centres	✓	
Sarah	Doyle	Early Years Advisory Team		
Liz	Fairclough	Ealing PCT	✓	
Sharon	Flynn	The Log Cabin		
Nicola	Forster	Schools Inspectorate and Advisory Service & Early Years Advisory Team		
Rose	French	Play Service		
Mrs S	Goodwin	Costons Breakfast club		#
Sarah	Grand	Ealing Play Association		
Annette	Griffith	Special Treasures	✓	
Jackie	Hall	Vulnerable Childrens Service		#
Gerda	Hanko	Caspari Foundation		#
Carol	Henry Smith	West Twyford ASC		#
Madeleine	Hickman	Education Dept	✓	

Penny	Hill	Willow Tree Breakfast Club		#
Agnus	Hillier	Happy Child		
Maria	Hines	EYDCP		✓
Rebecca	Holmes	Ealing Council		#
Vivienne	Hoskins	Viking Breakfast Club		#
Lesley	Hunter	Ealing (Sub-Committee) Pre school Learning Alliance		#
Marion	Iles-Hunt	Parents of Ealing Self-help Training Scheme (PESTS)		
Aldeen	James	Playservice		
Estelle	Jacobs	Volunteer Reading Help	✓	
Jayne	Jardine	Springhallow School		
Rajinder	Jaswal	Early Years		
Laura	Jay	Childrens Information Service	✓	
Samira	John	The LBE School Improvement and Achievement Service		✓
Irene	Johnson	Agape Kidz Club		#
Bryn	Jones	Early Years Development		#
Maz	Jooma	Early Years		#
Ashraf	Jussab	Happy Bunnies Playgroup		#
Anne	Kabega	Children with Disabilities team		
Shamaila	Khan	NCMA		
Annette	Linnane	Early Years		
Jeni	Long	Pride and Joy Day Nursery		#
Jane	Maltais	Early Years		
June	McHugh	Greenfields Children Centre		#
Pat	McNair	Intuition PPIMS		
Vina	Mistry	SENCO Team		✓
Kevin	Moule	West London YMCA		
Brendan	Murphy	Communications Department		#
Sue	Nath			
Councillor S	Nirwal	Ealing Council		#
Santa	Nyeko	Ealing Pre school Learning Alliance		
Siobhan	Oktay	Sure Start Acton		#
Mia	Ospovat	Maples Children's Centre		
Ann	Staunton	St Raphaels Catholic Primary School		
Nina	Ozals	Cybertots		#
Jeff	Parkinson	Ealing Education Service	✓	
Himisha	Patel	Grove House Children's Centre		
Georgie	Packer	NCMA		
Sylvia	Pearce	Sure Start Northolt		
Marcella	Phelan	Children & Families	✓	
Marge	Proudlock	Milestones NVQ Centre, c/o Community Programs		#
Johanna	Purcell	Jumpers'! Nursery WEST LONDON ymca		
Jeannie	Rolfe	Early Years Development	✓	#
Kattaneh	Saherifar	Ark of Noah		
Davinder	Sanghera	CIS		
Kate	Saunders	Sure Start drop in centre	✓	
Julia	Senior-Smith	EYDCP	✓	
Liz	Shack	NCMA	✓	

Jennie	Shaw	EYDCP Chair		
Barbara	Simpson	Childrens Information Service	✓	
Claudette	Simpson	Copley Children's Centre		
Elaine	Sinclair	Children's Centres		
Jane	Smith	Area Senco		✓
Melanie	Smith	EYDCP		
Sheila	Vizard	South Acton Childrens Centre		
Jusleen	Walia	Ealing Primary Care Trust		
Gwen	Watkins	Sure Start Acton		✓
Kate	Whelan	Grove House Childrens Centre		
Stefan	Wrana	Contact A Family		
Jenny	Wright	NCMA/EYDCP	✓	
Kim	Young	School Improvement		#
Kaneez	Zaidi	Ealing Pre school Learning Alliance		