



Sefton Schools Forum Report

Date of Meeting:	1 July 2019
Title of Report:	Proposals to change the Early Years sub group of Schools Forum
Presenting Officer:	Kevin McBlain
Reason for Submission to Forum:	(2) ITEM FOR CONSULTATION
Executive Summary:	To provide members with some draft Terms of Reference towards a proposal to change the way the Early Years Sector is represented through its links with Providers and with Schools Forum going forward.
Budget/Risk Implications:	None
Recommendations:	Forum is asked to 1. Consider and agree the proposed Terms of Reference for a new Early Years Development Group with any amendments as agreed. 2. Agree to disband the Early Years sub group of Schools Forum with effect from the end of August 2019. 3. Acknowledge the start of the new Early Years Development Group from the new Academic Year (Sept 2019)
Appendices (to be attached)	Proposed Terms of Reference for the Early Years Development Group Appendix 1
Background Papers (available on request)	
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SCHOOLS' FORUM POWERS & RESPONSIBILITIES	
1	ITEMS FOR APPROVAL (DfE can adjudicate where Forum does not agree LA proposal)
2	ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION (Forum provides a view on LA proposal but LA decides)
3	ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION (Forum provides a view on LA proposal but DfE decides)
4	ITEMS FOR INFORMATION (No formal view of the Forum is sought)

1. Background

- 1.1 Members of Forum received a report at the last meeting to consider the establishment of a new Early Years development group to replace the existing Early Years Schools Forum sub group, which meetings have not always been representative of all sectors, or had chance to meet regularly
- 1.2 At the meeting, there was some debate around the purpose for having a new group and officers were tasked with coming back to Forum with some draft Terms of Reference. Subsequently, some draft Terms of Reference are now attached at Appendix 1.

2. Making changes

- 2.1 Over the last two years, there have been many changes across Early Years including changes to the funding from Government and the move towards paying providers a universal hourly rate; transitional funding for Maintained Nursery Schools, which now expires in August 2020 (following a recent announcement by the DfE); the addition of the extra 15 hours childcare for 3-4 year olds based on parents working; and ongoing development of the 2-Year-Old Offer
- 2.2 The need for an effective platform for all providers to discuss their common issues and to raise their concerns on a variety of issues has never been more important. Areas such as finance, transitions; quality; planning; SEND; performance and social mobility to suggest a few key areas.
- 2.3 Officers and nursery staff from across Early Years and Early help in the community have now drafted up some Terms of Reference towards the creation of a new Early Years development group, which are attached at Appendix 1 for consideration
- 2.4 The Terms of Reference cover a number of key areas including the key purpose of the group and its responsibilities; proposed membership and qualities required of representatives to support the group; the frequency of meetings designed around Schools Forum; and governance
- 2.5 Given Schools Forum agreement to progress with the creation of the new Early Years development group, membership recruitment would begin over the next few months, with a first meeting being planned prior to the next Schools Forum in September 2019.

3. **Recommendations**

Forum is asked to

- Consider and agree the proposed Terms of Reference for a new Early Years Development Group with any amendments as agreed.
- Agree to disband the Early Years sub group of Schools Forum with effect from the end of August 2019.
- Acknowledge the start of the new Early Years Development Group from the new Academic Year (Sept 2019)