



the care forum

Voluntary and Community Sector Joint Representation

Feedback Form (please photocopy)

Name Amy Halls **Group/Meeting** Early Childhood Services Strategic Partnership

Date of meeting

Overall view of meeting and general comments

A well attended meeting covering the following agenda items of relevance to the voluntary sector:

- ❖ Strategic update in light of recent changes to Government
- ❖ Anti-poverty strategy and shared agenda
- ❖ Code of Practice & free flexible childcare entitlement

Key issues/main points of interest for the voluntary & community sectors

Strategic Update:

- ❖ Recent Ofsted inspection has resulted in a good outcome. The cross-sector way of working that arose out of the inspection process was in itself found to be positive; the intention is to build on this for the future.
- ❖ Proposals for budget reductions have been discussed and the strategic options set out will be going to the new administration for approval.

Anti-poverty Strategy:

- ❖ Statistical data is being collected as part of the needs assessment for the Child Poverty Strategy. However, views of children, young people, parents and frontline practitioners are equally sought to help identify priority needs. This is an opportunity to influence development of this strategy. A dedicated email address is open until the end of August and can be used to express views and opinions:

childrensneeds.assessment@bristol.gov.uk

Code of Practice & Free flexible childcare entitlement

- ❖ A new code of practice has been issued to Local Authorities on the Delivery of Free Early Years Provision for 3 & 4 year olds, effective from Sep 2010
- ❖ LA must work in partnership with all settings (PVI & Maintained) to ensure quality, flexible childcare is provided to all families.
- ❖ Providers must be listed on Bristol's Directory of Providers in order to receive free entitlement funding.
- ❖ Provider Agreements will set out terms of acceptance onto the list and expectations and commitments each party will make to ensure quality childcare is delivered. A draft Local Provider Agreement has been prepared for consultation with the Early Years Reference Group.
- ❖ The Local Authority is required to assess quality of settings in receipt of funding: to prioritise those settings categorised as good or above, provide support to settings rated below good and consider withdrawal of funding from settings not demonstrating the agreed commitment to quality improvement. This will be achieved through use of the MSCI Framework.

Comments and concerns raised by voluntary and community sector representatives

A meeting for voluntary sector childcare managers was held in May to discuss the MSCI Framework. Feedback from this meeting was positive, as were the briefing sessions that took place throughout the city.

There are still queries arising around provision of the Free Entitlement from vol settings (this is true of settings outside the sector too). Clarification was sought as to who within the Local Authority should be contacted regarding this. Rosie Reed rosie.reed@bristol.gov.uk is the main point of contact that settings can be signposted to.

Key decision/s made

Review of the Membership of the Group will be discussed at the next meeting.

Although membership currently includes a PVI rep, BAND will be invited to attend meetings in the future with the intention of providing further representation for PVI childcare settings.

**Please return a copy of this form to
The Care Forum, The Black Development Agency and Voscur
within five working days following the meeting. Thank you.**