**Issues arising from sharing premises**

Several of the pilot projects are considering sharing premises and/or staff to deliver an agreed partnership offer. There are a number of issues to consider before formalising such an arrangement.

**Fit for purpose**

Ofsted will have assessed whether premises meet Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) requirements and health and safety standards. If the partnership intends to use premises which have not yet been subject to an Ofsted inspection, or which have had changes (e.g. building work), the partnership should carry out a risk assessment to ensure that each partners is satisfied the premises are fit for purpose.

**Insurance**

Partners should satisfy themselves that there is adequate insurance cover for the premises being used and for each of the organisations on site. This means checking that e.g. Public Liability Insurance for the premises includes Third Party Cover and does not rely on someone from the insured party being on-site, or if it does that working arrangements ensure that cover requirements are met. Individual partners should also check that their insurance covers their organisation and employees when working off-site and inform their insurer of new working arrangements if in any doubt that cover is provided.

**Health and safety**

Partners will be familiar with registration and EYFS requirements and should make sure that these are met when working off-site e.g. identifying who is providing paediatric first aid cover.

It is good practice for staff working in different premises to familiarise themselves with local arrangements e.g. fire evacuation procedures, first aid equipment and premises alarms, in advance of opening the doors to children.

It should be clear who is responsible for accident recording, reporting and any necessary follow up action.

**Safeguarding**

Each partner remains responsible for implementing safeguarding processes and procedures for the children in their care.

**Ofsted registration and inspection**

If the three and four year old provision is run directly by a school, there is no requirement for separate Ofsted registration.

Where a third party e.g. a Private, Voluntary or Independent (PVI) provider delivers any or all the three and four year old entitlement, that provider will either have to register separately with Ofsted or, if they are already registered on a separate site, add the site to their registration.

Where there are shared premises, and each provider is using their own Ofsted registration for delivery of the EYFS (or in the case of schools, their exemption from such registration), Ofsted inspection will apply their inspection duties to the providers separately; that is:

* The element of the school offer of the EYFS will be inspected as part of the school Section 5[[1]](#footnote-1)
* Any additional hours offered on a school or any other premises by any other provider will be inspected as if this were a separate provision under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006

1. Section 5 of the Education Act 2005 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)