

Early Years and Childcare Update

Julian Ward, Early Years Funding



Department
for Education

Today...

- The strategy
- Focus on:
 - Childminder agencies
 - School based provision
 - Early Years Pupil Premium
 - Early learning for two-year-olds
- Questions



Three aims to our strategy

AVAILABILITY

Increasing supply by growing choice and provision across childminders, nurseries and schools

QUALITY

Introducing a simpler inspection regime; focus on outcomes and safety; removing bureaucracy

AFFORDABILITY

Reforming financial support to parents, making it simpler and more consistent. Supporting parents into employment



AVAILABILITY

- Childminder agencies.
- Actively encouraging primary schools to open for longer.
- Enabling schools automatically to accept two-year-olds as well as three-year-olds.
- Simplifying the regulations and relaxing planning rules so nurseries can expand more easily.
- Reforming the role of local authorities.



QUALITY

- Improving registration – introducing a single, clear set of safeguarding and welfare requirements.
- Improving inspection – Ofsted sole arbiter of standards, with consistent quality standards.
- Enabling good and outstanding childminders to access government funding for early education places.
- Improving qualifications: Early Years Educator, Bursaries, Early Years Teachers.
- New Early Years Pupil Premium



AFFORDABILITY

- 15 hours of free childcare for every 3 and 4 year old – worth £2,400 to each family.
- New entitlement to early education for disadvantaged two-year-olds
- Low income working families can get help for up to 70 per cent of their additional childcare costs. This will rise to 85% under Universal Credit.
- Tax-Free Childcare, those on middle incomes will get up to 20 % of their childcare costs (up to £2,000 per year) and will reach around 2 million families.



Childminder agencies

- Aim to:
 - increase the number of childminders in the market, through removing barriers to entry and offering an alternative to working completely independently
 - improve parental choice and provide support and advice with looking for childcare
 - provide more support to childminders and improve quality.
- Trials involving a range of organisations in place and progressing well.
- Primary legislation in place and expect regulations to come into force from this September.
- Ofsted consulted on the inspection of CMAs - a response will be published in due course.
- Ongoing consultation on regulations for CMAs (and LA role in early education), including key requirements for registration with Ofsted, runs until 22 May. See: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/childminder-agencies-and-changes-to-the-local-authority-role>



School based provision

- Aim to encourage more schools to offer early years provision (including two-year-olds) and extend existing offers to cover the whole day (e.g. 8am - 6pm)take two-year-olds
- Schools already have many of the facilities they need, and this can reduce costs to parents.
 - New school organisation regulations allow schools to lower age range by up to two-years without following a statutory process;
 - Subject to legislation exempting schools from having to register fro two-year-olds;
 - School demonstration projects.



Early Years Pupil Premium

- £50m in 2015-16 to provide additional support for disadvantaged three- and four-year-olds.
- This could help providers employ more highly qualified staff, for example, or to increase access to services such as speech and language specialists.
- Will also support access by disadvantaged two-year-olds.
- Consultation on further detail this summer.



Early learning for two year olds

- Launched last September for around the 20% most disadvantaged children
- Extension this September to reach around the 40% most disadvantaged children – many of whom may already be in places.
- Significant progress already made with local authorities reporting over 100,000 children accessing a place in February this year
- But wide variation in take-up rates across the country



Early learning for two-year-olds



Free childcare for your two year old.

Early years education is vital to the healthy development of your child.



Children's Centres

If you live in Barking and Dagenham and have a child aged two you may be entitled to free childcare.

High quality early education is vital in making a difference early on in a child's life.

All of our free places are offered at childminders, nurseries and preschools that provide high quality care and education for young children.

To find out if you qualify visit <http://www.tubd.gov.uk/freechildcare> or telephone the Family Information Service on 020 8227 5395.



I'm **two** and I get **15** hours **free** childcare!

Could you?



To find out about **free early education** for 2,3 and 4 year olds call **01782 232200** or visit stoke.gov.uk/beststart



Department
for Education

National actions

- Further lists of “eligible” families to be given to local authorities to enable more direct marketing.
- A Nationally-led, targeted communications campaign is under development, to run over the summer. This will learn from successful local campaigns, drawing on both the materials and the channels used by high-performing local authorities.
- Using the Voluntary and Community Sector to communicate with parents focused in particular on the new groups of eligible children (e.g. adopted and SEN).
- A renewed focus on government agents and delivery chains.
- Longer term information for parents strategy – informed by new research which aimed to identify what parents need and to help us understand what good information looks like and the types of information parents value most.



An important role for you....

- FISs have an important role to play in not just providing information but supporting parents to access information and to take up services on offer locally.
- You can also play an effective outreach role by supporting parents to access the services they seek, but by also suggesting additional support services which the family may need.



Issues

- How do you know you are reaching parents of eligible children?
- Are your websites up to date and easy to navigate?
- Can parents “apply” online?
- Are there more things Government can do to help (you?) raise awareness?



The two-year-old funding helps me go back to college. If there was no two-year-old funding, I would just sit at home and do nothing. So it's pretty good.

He's come on so much since he started. He's very confident, he's making relationships with other children. His communication has come on a lot as well. He's like a new child really, he's happy and excited to come.

...without it, my granddaughter wouldn't be the confident, bubbly girl she is today. They used the structure of play, to help her learn vital social skills



Questions?



Department
for Education