

Policy Development Board – Early Years

Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

The Early Years Policy Development Board (the Board) will bring forward policy development proposals in four areas across the term of government. The four policy areas to be progressed include:

- Establishing a shared strategic policy position across Early Years, based on a consistent vision and set of agreed principles and outcomes that evidence improvements and progress;
- Developing a regulatory framework to ensure all child care provision is of a high quality and offers a safe environment for children;
- Setting out funding options that deliver equitable access to high quality child care;
- Describing approaches to developing an early years learning framework that supports a shared pedagogy for early childhood education that is aligned to workforce development, home learning programmes, and the nursery education funding programme.

2. Background and rationale

Evidence is clear that children's early year's experiences shape their development, educational attainment and life chances. Children who receive high quality early childhood care, education and health services from conception onwards are more likely to have a positive attitude to learning when they start school, be more resilient, and have better learning, development and health outcomes overall. They are more likely to complete secondary school and secure jobs with wage progression. They are also less likely to rely on the welfare system and are significantly less likely to become involved in the criminal justice system.

3. Inclusions and Exclusions

For the purposes of this Board, Early Years will cover the period from conception up to the age of five years. The policy ambition will be focused on how, drawing on evidence of need and effective practice, to create the best start to life for every child in Jersey. The starting point for the Board is that, whilst every child is unique, parents/carers, family and the wider community all have a key role to play in realising every child has the best start in life.

4. Membership

The Minister for Education will Chair the Board. The members of the Board are as below.

- Senator Tracey Vallois: Education Minister
- Deputy Jeremy Maçon: Assistant Education Minister
- Senator Sam Mezéc: Children's Minister

- Deputy Louise Doublet: Gender Pay Gap Review Panel

5. Executive Support

Lead Executive Support:

- Andrew Heaven: Children's Policy Lead
- Nicola Mulliner: Head of Early Years

Wider Stakeholders

- Dr Cathy Hamer: Independent Chair of Best Start Partnership
- Best Start Partnership Membership
- Government Policy Officers

6. Roles and Responsibilities

- The Board will be supported by officials, to the same standards and applying similar practices as they would apply in supporting individual Ministers.
- In doing this, officials will produce reports and provide free and open access to information to members of the Board, save for any data protection limitations, as requested.
- Board members will respect the impartiality of officials, and maintain the confidentiality of any information or advice provided, in so far as this is not already in the public domain or shouldn't enter it.

7. Timeline

- The Board will bring forward a discussion paper for a proposed strategic policy position across Early Years by the end of March 2019.

8. Records and Reporting

- Minutes of meetings will be taken to ensure that a proper official record is maintained. Minutes will be published as soon as practical and appropriate.
- The findings of the board will be drafted into a report by the executive support staff and, following approval by the Chair, provided to the Chief Minister. The dissent of any member will be noted where requested. The findings will also be provided to the Council of Ministers, following which the report will be published as soon as practical and appropriate.

9. Meeting Schedule

- Quarterly meeting schedule, starting in November 2018.
- Specific working groups will be deployed as required in order to progress work.

ENDS