
Early Years Policy Development Board (the 'Board' or the 'EYPDB') Meeting 1
Monday 8th April 2019, 1400 – 1600hrs

Board:

Minister for Education, Senator Tracey Vallois (TV) (Chair)
Assistant Minister for Education, Deputy Jeremy Maçon (JM)
Minister for Children and Housing, Senator Sam Mézec (SM)
Deputy Louise Doublet (LD)

Executive Support:

Strategic Policy, Performance and Population:
Megan Matthias – Group Director Policy (MM)
Andrew Heaven – Director Children's Policy (AH)
Sarah Stoten – Policy Principal, Children's Policy (SS)
Jack Norris – Policy Principal (JN)

Ministerial Support Unit:
Martin Keith (MK)
Sophie Bertram (SB)

In Attendance:
Cathy Hamer
Nicola Mulliner

1. Welcome and apologies

1.1 TV and AH welcomed all those in attendance, no apologies were received.

2. Terms of reference

2.1 The terms of reference had been approved by the Chief Minister and would be published on gov.je.

3. Presentation

3.1 SS and AH gave a detailed and comprehensive presentation of statistics and insight relating to the Early Years sector. This covered socio-economic factors, educational outcomes, childhood development and capacity and demand.

The presentation provoked a broad round table discussion on the issues highlighted and comments made included:

- Jersey Premium is an indicator of potential socio-economic factors but as it is only available to non-home owners, the Minister for Education questioned whether it was likely to be an accurate indicator that provided full coverage of need. This was particularly evident where parents/carers were working multiple jobs but still facing financial hardship with no eligibility for assistance from income support.
- There are 5 mandatory health checks for Jersey children between 0 and 3 years. In The UK there are 8 checks between 0 and 5 years.
- Data was collected by different agencies for differing reasons and the potential for a single comprehensive record was highlighted.

4. Priorities

4.1 The Board were asked to consider what areas they believed required more detailed focus, the following suggestion were made with regard to a future work programme;

- Language and Communication – What role could parents play in talking and reading to their children and how could this be supported/strengthened?
- Wellbeing in settings. How is play highlighted as a method of delivering learning? How can we understand more about the differences in ethos between various settings. How is the Early Years curriculum delivered in different settings?
- The Early Years Curriculum (Development Matters) – What focus/balance is there on reading, writing and numeracy and the other early learning goals in the Foundation Stage and what is the impact on progress in later key stages?
- What do parents want? Such as consistency and wrap-around requirements.
- What could partnership working look like?
- What information about the pathways and journeys through the Early Years is available for parents?
- The Minister for Education expressed a desire to engage with members of the public and providers of early childhood education in order to fully understand the issues and requirements.

5. Action Points

	Action required	Allocated to	Required by	Date completed
1	To publish the Terms of Reference and minutes of this meeting on gov.je	SS	30 th May 2019	6 th June 2019
2	To prepare a summary of the Board's prioritised policy areas identified in the meeting discussions	AH/SS	19 th April 2019	12 th April 2019

Minutes agreed

Chairman:

Date:



12/06/2019

Agreement for publication

Chairman:

Date:



12/06/2019

