

Message from the Chair

We have had a busy year since the launch of the new EYCP last April 2009. We have created a new partnership to build and strengthen communication and collaborative working across agencies and individuals, so that children in Jersey are able to access high quality early years and childcare. This new cooperative arrangement means that no particular sector or partner is unduly favoured.

As the Independent Chair of the EYCP, whilst commissioned by the Minister for Education Sport and Culture (ESC), I am independent of the department. My role is to ensure that all the many different groups committed to promoting the best interests of children on the Island are well represented – parents, providers of early years and childcare services and play – and together we will work to make better decisions for the community. EYCP is and will continue to be consulted on policy initiatives that affect early years and childcare, and will be given a voice in informing the strategic direction of ESC's Ten Year Strategic Plan, with regard to early years and childcare.

I am delighted by the enthusiasm and commitment already demonstrated by all the many organisations and States departments who have joined up and contributed so much knowledge and experience to the work of the Partnership, in particular through their contribution to the six working groups. In addition to the time and support given by all the many groups represented on the Partnership we are extremely grateful for the valuable expertise and assistance provided by the States departments in furthering our work.

We plan, in our second year, to build on what has already been achieved in year one, as set out in this Review. The emphasis in our first year has had to be on setting up the Partnership, establishing the working groups, consulting the many interested groups and developing programmes of work. We want to continue to involve parents in our work and to ensure that the voice of children is well represented and to provide more tangible evidence of the work that we have undertaken on the curriculum, play, qualifications, the nursery education fund and equal opportunities.

We hope you enjoy finding out more about the work of the EYCP as set out in our first Annual Review. We also welcome your comments and feedback.

Nicky Road

Nicky Road



EYCP Members

- Chair of the Partnership
- Education Sport and Culture
- Jersey Association of Child Carers
- Jersey Child Care Trust
- Jersey Early Years Association
- Jersey Association of Playworkers
- Play Safety Forum for Jersey
- Parenting Services
- Highlands College
- Parents for Children
- Youth Service
- Health and Social Services
- Children's Service
- Social Security and Tax departments
- Economic Development department
- Family Nursing and Home Care (Health Visitors)
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- ESC Psychology Service
- Primary Heads Association
- Representatives of employers and employees
- Representatives of voluntary organisations for children and families

How Can I Find Out More?



Early Years and Childcare Partnership

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Please contact us with your feedback.



Annual Review
2009

Early Years & Childcare Partnership

By working together, we can make sure the different organisations in Jersey use their resources effectively and economically to deliver good outcomes for children.



What is the Early Years and Childcare Partnership?

All the evidence shows that children who get a good start do better later and are more likely to reach their potential.

What kind of issues does the EYCP tackle?

We are currently looking at the following issues:

- getting the quality right for under 5s
- staff qualifications
- social inclusion
- play and care
- the new Nursery Education Fund

How does the EYCP work?

Members meet 3 times a year to identify the most important priorities for improving early years and childcare services in Jersey. They also take part in working groups that carry out detailed background work on the priorities.

Working Groups of the EYCP

The work of the EYCP is carried out by Working Groups (WGs) and membership of each group is made up of the different organisations represented on the partnership.

The members are professionals, parents and voluntary workers who serve on 5 different working groups. They draw up an action plan and work together to implement it. They consult widely with parents, children and other relevant parties to make sure their work is widely supported.

Why was the EYCP set up?

In March 2008, a Scrutiny report suggested that the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture set up the Partnership so that professionals, parents, children, States departments, voluntary organisations and other agencies could work more closely together on important issues in early years and childcare.

Is this part of the States?

No. We are an independent organisation that aims to bring everyone together. We have an independent chair, Nicky Road, who is an early years and childcare expert based in the UK. She has worked in this area for 30 years and has a wealth of professional experience in voluntary and government bodies.

What makes the EYCP effective?

The Minister for Education, Sport and Culture is kept up to date on progress of the partnership. When the EYCP recommends improvements for early years and childcare in Jersey, the Minister will take them to the Council of Ministers and the States.

The Working Groups are the key source of activity

The work of the EYCP is carried out by the Working Groups of the Partnership, which are the key source of activity for carrying out the aims of the EYCP Strategic and Annual Implementation Plans. Working Groups meet between each Partnership meeting.

WORKING GROUP 1



Working Group 1

The first objective of the EYCP Strategic Plan, is to produce a Quality Framework for children up to the age of five years, and two 'Working Groups' carry out this work.

- Working Group 1a - Getting the quality right for over 3s
- Working Group 1b - Getting the quality right for under 3s

WORKING GROUP 2



Working Group 2

This group is producing a qualification framework relevant for all people working with children in Jersey and to consider recruitment as a factor in quality and sustainability of provision.

Our aim:

To produce a framework of qualifications designed specifically for Jersey to enable the Island to maintain a high quality children's workforce.

WORKING GROUP 3



Working Group 3

The third objective in the EYCP Strategic Plan is to consider social inclusion.

Our aim:

To uphold the States of Jersey's Strategic Plan to achieve a socially inclusive society, by ensuring equity of opportunity in early years and childcare and the EYCP.

WORKING GROUP 4



Working Group 4

The fourth objective in the EYCP Strategic Plan is to look at quality play and care for school age children.

Our aim:

To determine what Jersey's under 12s need for quality play and care, and to produce a Play Strategy for the Island.

WORKING GROUP 5



Working Group 5

The final objective in the EYCP Strategic Plan is to look at how the new Nursery Education Fund works in practice.

Our aim:

Monitor the impact of the Nursery Education Fund (NEF) and its effect on pre-school education in Jersey.

The NEF was set up in September 2009 to provide free nursery education for all eligible children in the year before they start Reception at a primary school. The fund pays for each child to have up to 20 hours a week during term time at a private registered pre-school or day nursery.

This group will monitor all aspects of the NEF, including administration, documentation and publications. We aim to consult with parents and providers over the next three years.



The Early Years and Childcare Partnership

Play is something we often take for granted as a community but if we want our children to be happy, active and getting the most out of what Jersey can offer then we need a formal play strategy. This will give young people and their parents a voice and it will put their needs higher up the political and planning agendas.

We have identified four important areas where each setting will work towards a high quality provision:
Relationships • Organisation • Learning • Achievement
 Currently there are three working groups using this framework.

What have we achieved?

Working Group 1 - Getting the Quality Right for Under 5s

There are two parts to Working Group 1 - Group 1a and Group 1b

1a - Getting the Quality Right for Over 3s

Our aim is to produce a Pre-School Quality Framework (PSQF), which will:

- Set clear, agreed standards for the kind of education provided in Jersey's States and private sector nurseries.
- Ensure that every child has opportunities for high quality learning and development.
- Set targets that early years settings must reach to be eligible for States funding through the Nursery Education Fund, which pays for up to 20 hours of free education a week, during term time.
- We have agreed to adopt an internationally-recognised system called ECERS that staff can use for self assessment and improvement. This looks at how the learning environment is organised and managed.

1b - Getting the Quality Right for Under 3s

Our aim is to produce a Quality Framework for children under three in Jersey that spans:

- Community care for the mother before the child is born.
- Community care for babies.
- Support for parents returning to work after the birth of their child.
- The care of children by adults who are not their parents.

Working Group 1a has produced a document, created by practitioners in both the States and private sectors with the ethos of respect for each others professional viewpoints. The final document reflects the enthusiasm and commitment of practitioners from both sectors, working towards a common understanding of the statements of quality criteria in the framework, with the aim of providing the highest quality of care and education for pre-school children in their settings.

Working Group 4 - Play and Care

This has been a busy year with a multi agency group working to bring playwork and care forward, with an emphasis on including the voice of children and parents.

As part of a long term plan to obtain everyone's views on play we consulted first with children, and asked them to look at what types of play are available to them in Jersey, and what they would like that is not there.

We have also started work on producing a quality framework for school age care for children up to the age of twelve years, which can be used as a guide regardless of the setting they are in.

Working Group 2 - Staff Qualifications

This group is producing a qualification framework relevant for all people working with children in Jersey.

We have looked at existing research that clearly shows how well trained and qualified staff in childcare make all the difference to children's development. A good start undoubtedly helps children reach their full potential later in life.

We have spent time with leading experts from the UK government, exploring the children's workforce and the future.

We will take the best bits and make it right for Jersey.

We will be sending out a survey to parents, carers and professionals in 2010 and we will urge everyone to tell us what they think.

Working Group 3 - Social Inclusion

In the past year, the Social Inclusion Working Group has successfully formed with membership of a good selection of agencies that work in the best interests of children and families in Jersey.

The group has agreed that its first major piece of work is to devise a self assessment tool that can be used by anyone working with or for children and families in Jersey.

Working Group 5 - The New Nursery Education Fund

In our first year we undertook consultations with parents using registered nurseries, pre-schools and nursery classes. The results were published in January 2010 and a summary of the report is available on EYCP website. We also carried out a review of the nursery class admissions policy. In the future we will continue to monitor the NEF and the information given to parents.

Looking after the Future

