
Early Years Policy Development Board (the 'Board' or the 'EYPDB') Meeting 5
Monday 3rd January 2020, 1330 – 1700hrs

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:
Andrew Heaven – Director Children's Policy (AH)
Clare Newman – Senior Policy Officer, Children's Policy (CN)

Ministerial Support Unit:

Martin Keith (MK)

Children, Young People, Education and Skills (CYPES):

Mark Rogers – Director General CYPES
Cathy Hamer – Chair Best Start Partnership
Nicola Mulliner – Head of Early Years Service

1. Welcome and apologies

1.1 TV welcomed all those in attendance, apologies were received from Mark Rogers.

1.2 The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

2. 4Insight – Focus Groups Report

2.1 The Board reviewed the report and agreed the conclusions and recommendations provided useful evidence to support and inform their future policy development options. An assessment of alignment with the engagement day outcomes would be carried out.

All agreed the recurring theme of lack of accessible information was one that needed improvement. It was highlighted that there are many good resources of information online but these are not always up to date and it is not currently possible to find it all in one place.

NM explained that creating online information is much easier than ensuring it is continually updated to ensure it is always relevant and accurate. Financial resources are required to provide the manpower for continuous update of information. LD mentioned apps that are available that can prompt mothers with useful tips and information at key times during a child's development.

It was agreed to publish the report on gov.je and circulate to a wider audience of engagement day attendees, Best Start Partnership etc.

3. Family Friendly Policy Options

3.1 Sue Duhamel (Social Security Policy) and Cora O'Brien (tax Policy) attended and gave the Board further information on Social Security benefits and Income Tax allowances and reliefs that affect parents with children.

Maternity benefits, parental leave and general income support were discussed. SD explained how each worked in practice and the relationships and effect. Modelling of any potential policy changes would be required to assess impact and associated cost if applicable.

A high level overview of Child Allowance, Childcare Tax Relief and Single Parent Allowance was given. It was acknowledged that these all provide some financial benefit to tax payers but as mentioned in the recent Government Plan debate, they provide no positive impact for families who do not pay tax.

The Board were asked to agree some key principles for officers to assess and develop some modelling options for future consideration. The Revenue Policy Development Board would welcome the thoughts of the EY PDB for them to consider as part of the personal tax review.

4. Importance of Home Environment – Update on best practice

4.1 Cathy Hamer gave a short presentation highlighting the wealth of worldwide evidence that proves the importance of early learning, parental interaction and the lifelong benefits that can be delivered by high quality early years provision. The Best Start Partnership was well placed to take forward initiatives but lacked resources to do so currently.

5. Measuring development outcomes in nursery settings

5.1 Nicola Mulliner explained how development goals were measured and the tools and assessment models used in Government and private settings. Government settings use EXAAT software and most private settings use Tapestry. Nicola has developed a PAT Tracker which can be used to measure the primary goals in Nursery before children start nursery. TV was keen that prior attainment could be identified (if possible) before children start reception as this would enable any potential targeted funding to be applied one year earlier than the English model.

6. Consideration of report to Council of Ministers

6.1 AH presented some draft policy options for consideration in advance of the Oxera report due next month. It was agreed for the Board to meet individually with AH to discuss these in more detail before the next meeting.

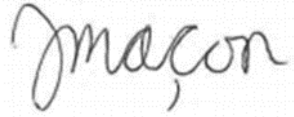
Meeting closed 1700hrs

5. Action Points

	Action required	Allocated to	Required by	Date completed
1	MK and CN to arrange signing and upload of previous minutes to gov.je	MK & CN	7 th February 2020	
2	LD to speak to S. White and report back to A Heaven	LD	17 th February 2020	
3	Confirm publication with 4insight, amend misspelt acronyms MESCH and CAMHS, publish on gov.je and circulate to engagement day attendees, Best Start Partnership and Knowledge Make Change newsletter	NM	24 th February 2020	
4	EYPDB to agree principles for Social Security and Tax officers to consider for development of modelling options	EYPDB	29 th February 2020	
5	Assess / compare outcomes of 4insight report and engagement day outputs	AH	24 th February 2020	
6	Write to Digital Jersey for advice on information interactive apps	TV	24 th February 2020	
7	Arrange meetings for AH with the Board members individually to discuss tax and benefits principles and potential priority policy options	MK	29 th February 2020	

Minutes agreed:

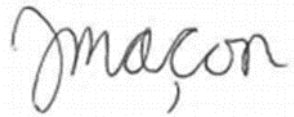
Date: 2nd March 2020

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Deputy Maçon
Chair of the Policy Board

Agreed for publication:

Date: 2nd March 2020

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Deputy Maçon
Chair of the Policy Board