

Early Years & Childcare Service

Briefing and Networking Sessions

October 2020

Agenda

- Welcome, Zoom Housekeeping and Introductions
- Institute for Fiscal Studies report 'Challenges for the childcare market: the implications of Covid-19 from childcare providers in England'. Key Findings
- The New Development Matters Document
- Integrated Reviews at Two Update
- Kent County Council Inclusion Statement – a consultative discussion in breakout rooms
- Current Topical and Critical Issues
- Evaluation by Zoom Poll
- Close

Institute for Fiscal Studies Report

‘Challenges for the childcare market: the implications of Covid-19 from childcare providers in England’
Key Findings

- During the lockdown, childcare providers had access to continued funding for the directly publicly funded hours they deliver, as well as programmes such as business rates holidays, the furlough scheme (for employees) and the self-employment grants (for the self-employed). The decision to restrict providers to make furlough claims only for privately funded childcare was sensible as their public funding continued at normal levels through the 2020 summer term. However, the way that this was implemented could have left some providers unable to access the furlough programme fully.
- On average, the lockdown period is likely to have significantly damaged the finances of many childcare providers with income from parent fees. Under the pessimistic assumption that all fee income from parents dried up, we estimate that a quarter of private nurseries might have been operating at a 'significant deficit'.
- Providers that rely mostly on public funding have seen their income largely protected. For providers with income from parent fees, support through the furlough scheme and self-employment grants was a significant help but provided far from full protection.

- Childminders have also been badly hit by the crisis. Even if all childminders received self-employment grants, the total loss of parent fees could see an additional almost 30% of childminders now earning less than £4 of income for every £5 of costs. In practice, many childminders will see their earnings take a hit, which could jeopardise their ability or desire to stay in the market.
- In our data, we find that smaller providers, those with more highly qualified staff or those from more deprived areas are no more likely to have run at a significant deficit during lockdown. This contrasts – but is not necessarily at odds – with surveys of providers which find that those in disadvantaged areas are more worried about their financial future.
- The key question in the medium term is how much demand for childcare recovers, and how quickly it returns. If, in addition to low fee income, take-up of funded places is still below pre-crisis levels in January 2021, voluntary providers and nursery classes will be hardest hit.

- The extent to which government support for the sector will be needed going forward depends on how the market adjusts to changing levels of demand. Before the pandemic, the childcare market featured significant turnover and there was some spare capacity, suggesting that the market is mature and could potentially adjust to rises and falls in demand (at least at the national level). But the current fall in demand is unprecedented and the blow to providers' finances could force some to close or shed places.
- If the Government does wish to provide more support to the childcare market, the fact that many providers were running significant deficits going into the crisis means that the goal should not necessarily be to keep every provider's doors open regardless of demand. If it wants to focus on preventing the closure of otherwise viable businesses that tipped into a temporary deficit as a result of the pandemic, it should focus on providers that are largely funded by parent fees.

- Although most providers who largely rely on Free Entitlement Funding were financially cushioned from the impact of the lockdown, they could see their incomes hit in 2021 if demand remains low in January – when take-up of funded childcare is measured to determine future funding levels. Of course, there could also be other reasons for the government to prioritise this part of the market, such as to support local authorities to fulfil their duty to ensure there are enough childcare places for every eligible child to be able to access their free early education entitlement.

Development Matters

Karen Lawrence
Improvement Adviser

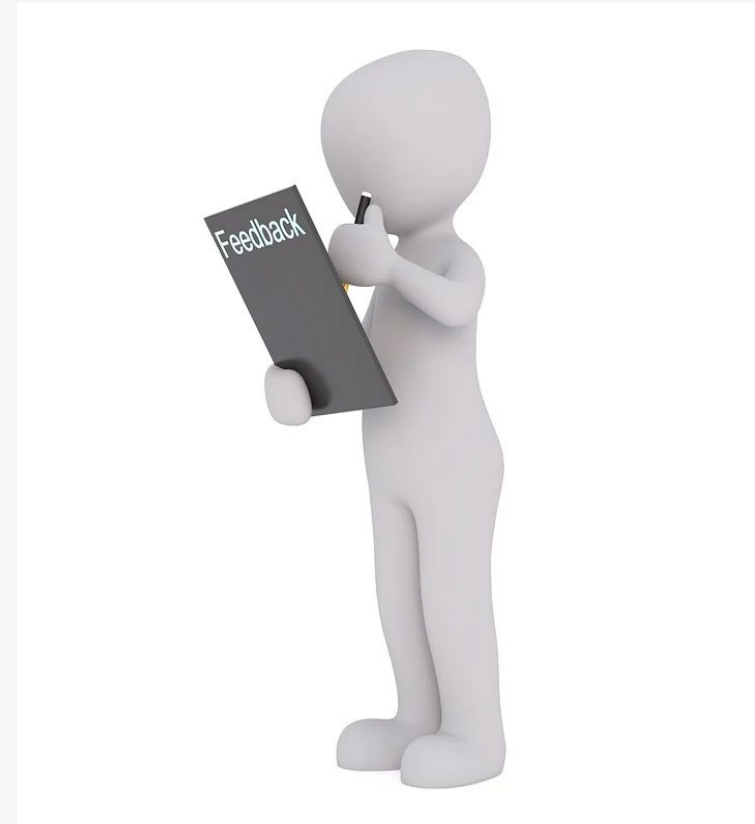
Development Matters

Overview of the changes:

- Layout
- Introduction
- Characteristics of effective learning
- Developmental stages
- Overarching statements
- Aspects
- Observational checkpoints
- Old versus new statements.



Development Matters



Integrated Reviews at Two

Sue Smith

Early Years & Childcare, Equality & Inclusion Manager

Written Statement of Action

Action 9.5

‘Integrate the two-to two-and-a-half-year check between health visitors and early years settings to embed the ‘tell it once’ culture.

March 2020

- The temporary suspension of the Health Visiting two-two-and-a-half-year development review, in line with national prioritisation guidance (between 30 March and 3 August).
- The temporary re-deployment of a proportion of Health Visiting staff to tier one services.
- The temporary closure of a number of early years settings.
- The temporary disapplication of the mandate for Early Years Settings to undertake the early years foundation stage (EYFS) progress review at two (24 April 2020 – 25 September 2020).

What has been happening since March

- Project Group continued to work – new timeline and process in place
- Amendments to original process to meet current need
- Virtual training in development
- Health Visitor Duty Line information sent out
- Poster in production

Measuring Impact

What Now

Continue to use handheld personal child health record (PCHR) to share information

Update and share pathways to include the virtual delivery of the integrated review

Training planned for December 2020/January 2021

Roll out February 2021

Kent County Council Inclusion Statement

Penny Pemberton and Celia Buxton
Kent County Council

Inclusion in Early Years and Childcare Settings



Working together to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND

Our vision for children and young people with SEND in Kent is that:-

- Children and young people with SEND in Kent feel happy, safe, supported and as healthy as they can be while they learn and grow.
- Families can reach the right people at the right time to support their children
- Services will work with families to improve outcomes and achievements for children and young people with SEND

The inspection of KCC's SEND Services in January 2019 by Ofsted and the CQC identified some clear areas for improvement. KCC is committed to working to address the issues and improve the experiences of our young people and their families

Statement of Inclusion

Improving outcomes for SEND pupils is a long-term and on-going priority. As such, a shared strategic vision of the outcomes we are seeking to achieve is essential to help us work effectively in collaboration to drive improvement across the county. A draft Statement of Inclusion is offered for comment.

Does this statement express fully our shared goals and prioritise the right areas of focus?

Discussion

Does the statement work as a vision across all Kent education settings?

What are the characteristics of an Inclusive Setting?

How can transition be improved to ensure continuity of high standards of education provision?

Current Topical and Critical Issues

Alex Gamby

Evaluation by Zoom Poll