The Early Years and Childcare Service is offering ‘Threads of Success’ funded services to Early Years and Out of School Childcare Collaborations to support their further development. These services are available on a ‘one-off’ basis and within specified criteria only. The following are the eligibility and allocation criteria:

- Threads of Success services will be allocated to an Early Years Collaboration according to the number of Early Years PVI group settings within it that have not previously received Collaboration funding. Threads of Success services will be allocated for each ‘Stand Alone’ Out of School Childcare setting within a newly formed Out of School Childcare Collaboration. A Stand Alone Out of School Childcare setting is defined as a Registered setting which offers Out of School Childcare only for a minimum of 10 weeks per year.

- Two days of Threads of Success services will be allocated in each of the above scenarios. Both training and support services in the form of visits from the Threads of Success brochure may be booked.

- Although allocation of funded services is made on the basis of the number of previously unfunded Early Years settings or Stand Alone Out of School Childcare settings, it is required that the services should be made available for the benefit of the whole collaboration.

- It is for the whole Collaboration to agree how access to the funded services is managed within it.

- To have funded services allocated to their Collaboration, leaders will need to have confirmed to eycollaborations@kent.gov.uk the names of the settings forming the Collaboration and have sent copies of a Terms of Reference document and a Collaboration Development Plan by Friday 29th April 2016. Settings joining or forming a Collaboration or Collaborations notifying KCC after this date will not be eligible to receive funded services.

- The cut-off date for Collaborations booking all allocated funded training/support services is 22nd July 2016. No bookings for funded services will be taken after this date and allocated services will no longer be available to the collaboration. For the purpose of these services, bookings should be made via EYCImprovementservices@kent.gov.uk.

- The cut-off date for using the allocated training/support services is 31st March 2017. Any funded services not used by this date will no longer be made available to the Collaboration.

- For Collaborations eligible to receive funded services, each setting within the Collaboration should be committed to evaluating the impact of the received services on their setting and children. A final evaluation of the collaboration’s action plan will take place at the end of March 2017. A template will be provided for this evaluation.