

BRIEFING

Local Early Years Partnership Arrangements

Following a period of in-depth consultation with Family, Parenting & Early Years subgroup and Early Years Strategy Group members, the following structure and remits will be introduced as the mechanism for co-ordinating and promoting Early Years priorities across Fife's seven localities

Local Early Years Groups

The Local Early Years Groups will act as subgroups of the Fife-wide Early Years Strategy Group.

Membership will be comprised of:

- Family Nurture Centre – Head Teacher
- Social Work – Senior Practitioner
- NHS – Team Leader
- Voluntary Sector – Team Leader/ Manager level

Groups will be asked to nominate a Chair which will then be rotated annually.

REMIT:

- To have a strategic overview of early years developments (0-8) at a local level identifying and responding to needs and gaps
- Ensure early years developments are integrated to Local Community Planning priorities supporting an integrated approach
- Encourage and support new areas of work with an emphasis on evaluation of impact and sustainability
- Support the development of the Networking Groups
- Support workforce development opportunities at a local level
- Monitor and report on the progress of local action planning on a quarterly basis

Networking Groups

In some areas local practice networking sessions have taken place, this model of local practitioners coming together to share information on developments has been successful in working towards the aim of improving local coordination of services and strengthening partnership working. The Local Early Years Groups will have a role supporting and sustaining the Networking Groups.

REMIT:

- Identify new opportunities for collaboration and partnership working
- Share information on local services to support better coordination
- Inform and sustain a data base to ensure effective signposting for families (Fife Families)
- Identify joint training opportunities
- Feedback areas for development/ priorities to the sub group

Development Plan and Timescales

It is recognised that there is work to be done to support the establishment of the Local Early Years Group and to develop and sustain local Networking Groups.

It is the intention to bring all new Local Early Years Group members together for an orientation session in June. This session will be an opportunity for the Local Early Years Groups to examine their local area data profile through the lens of the new Early Years Strategy (forthcoming) priority themes:

- Reducing inequalities
- Supporting Families
- Strengthening Communities
- Supporting Learning
- Workforce Development

The new Local Early Years Groups will then be in place from August 2015. As a transition arrangement the current groups should continue to meet until the summer period.

It is important the work of the current Family, Parenting and Early Years subgroups is not lost and as such support will be given to the new Local Early Years Groups to connect with current Chairs and subgroup members.

Local Early Years Strategy orientation sessions will be arranged as a mechanism for the Local Early Years Groups to connect with local practitioners and to ensure the Networking Groups are connected to the Fife Early Years Strategy and the development of the Local action plan.

In order to maintain consistency and momentum, it is proposed that a rolling development plan for the subgroups is established. Information gained from the recent survey and development session has indicated the following as potential areas of focus:

- Local profiles, assets and community connections
- Outcomes and action planning
- Monitoring, evaluation and impact
- Sharing practice and supporting Networks
- Annual review and reporting

The development plan will be established and supported by the Early Years Team through Family Nurture and Partnership Support staff.