

## **Kent Early Years and Childcare Provider Association Meeting**

**16 September 4.30pm - 6.30pm via Zoom**

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Lisa Evans           | Abacus Nursery & Childcare Ltd               |
| Lynne Tomlinson      | Bright Beginnings Nurseries                  |
| Julie Miles          | Discovery Day Nursery                        |
| Debbie Jones         | Muddy Puddles Nursery                        |
| Gemma Maclachlan     | Childminding Representative - East Kent      |
| Sue Atkinson         | Childminding Representative - West Kent      |
| Abi Akin             | Childminding Representative - North Kent     |
| Michelle Stanley     | Education Lead Adviser - Kent County Council |
| The Education People |  |

- Alex Gamby Assistant Director 0-5 and Out of School Provision
- Kim Harris Senior Sufficiency and Sustainability Officer
- Jenny Jarvis Equality and Inclusion Manager
- Karen McKinley Business Support Officer

### **1. Welcome, introductions, apologies**

Apologies Zenia Ford, Hayley Coombes, Lucy Norman, Charlotte Roles, Penny Seward, Tracey McCartney

### **2. Membership update and vice chair**

Alex chaired the last meeting as Lisa was absent and we have no vice chair.

We have not received any expressions of interest for the current vacancies. The Swale representative has also now resigned. We will now be following up for Ashford, Canterbury and Swale vacancies.

What do we want to do about the vice chair – discussion. Julie Miles put herself forward – agreed

A small number of providers attendance at these meetings is occasional and apologies are not always sent. Alex will have a discussion with the chair regarding this.

### **3. Minutes of last meeting (15/07/2024) and matters arising**

Briefing and Networking Session (June)

One provider didn't engage with any other OOS providers and she felt very isolated  
**Trace back to see who this was – Action Lucy – action carried over.**

Having the questions for B&N sessions was agreed as very useful

WhatsApp group for the PA, this was agreed. Members attending the meeting to send their numbers to be added to this.

## **Next steps for the Education Strategy (Michelle Stanley)**

It is in the final stages of being written, we have received really good feedback from the sector, parents, children and young people about our areas of focus. Now finalising the content of the draft for consultation. We are hoping the consultation will start either W/C 14 or 21 October. We have asked Alex to have a slot on the next agenda to gather feedback at the meeting. Agreed to move the next PA meeting from the 16 to the 9 December.

## **Minutes agreed**

### **4. New Free Entitlements September 2024 – general feedback and discussion**

Discussion and feedback on how things are going with the new free entitlement. Largely positive so far.

### **5. Sufficiency and Sustainability Vacancy Audit Review - *Kim Harris***

Purpose to gather feedback and inform a practical review of the vacancy audit.

- Timing of the audit – agreed the timing two to three weeks after head count
- Microsoft form is easy to complete
- How do we measure a vacancy on the questions we ask? We ask for vacancies so we can inform CFIS if parents are looking for a place/s.
- There seems to be a lot of ambiguity around the questions for childminder hence a break down on the questions would be useful

### **6. KCC Early Years Review – update**

*Alex on Sam Sheppard's behalf*

Update on the EYC Review.



### **7. Stronger Practice Hub update – *Julie Miles***

SPH has been extended until the end of March, more time to support providers in Kent and partner areas. Looking at doing a series of webinars and building on our legacy of networks, if you have not seen one of our webinars or are not a part of our network please contact me – [Julie.miles@theeducationpeople.org](mailto:Julie.miles@theeducationpeople.org)

### **8. Questions for the Provider Association slot on the October Briefing and Networking Sessions – *Lisa***

Provision for SEND children and change

- How do you structure your setting to meet the needs of children with SEND?
- how are providers going to meet the needs of the children?
- How are setting feeling about that.
- What support would really help you manage the changes?
- What are you worried about?

### Children's self-regulation

- What training are you accessing for children's self-regulation?
- What is the gap in training and what you would recommend?
- What are the most effective ways have you found in support of self-regulation?
- What are the most effective ways have you found in support of children that are non-verbal?

**Lisa will confirm the questions for the October B&N on the WhatsApp group**

### **9. Any other business –**

Alex- on behalf of Lucy Norman shared the new government banner for support with childcare costs. Should there be anything added to say what you are offering?

Abi- still a lot of confusion that CM do offer this, it would be good if this can be added

**10. Next meeting** 9 December 19.30 - 21.30 Meeting closed.