

DIRECTORS' REPORT SPRING TERM 2019	ITEM NO 21	FOR INFORMATION	ATTENTION OF: All primary
TITLE	Early years updates		
SUMMARY	Updates on moderation, Ealing early years conference, 30hr entitlement, the local offer and special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) inclusion fund.		
KEY ACTION POINTS	Deadline for conference bookings 8 March 2019		
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New Early Years Quality and Partnership Principal Leads

Himisha Patel and Ellie Larkin currently headteachers in two of Ealing's outstanding nursery schools have been seconded to share the role, on a part time basis.

Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) moderation

Himisha will be managing the EYFSP moderation and ensuring statutory duties are met by the local authority and schools. A moderation plan has been sent to headteachers and schools that are to be moderated by the early years consultants. Governors and headteachers should be clear that the primary responsibility for the moderation of EYFSP assessments sits within the school. All statutory duties as set out in both the *2019 EYFSP Handbook* and *Assessment and Reporting Arrangements (ARA) October 2018 must be met* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2019-early-years-foundation-stage-assessment-and-reporting-arrangements-ara>

Early years conference, 'Mind the (word) Gap', Saturday 23rd March 9:15am to 4:00pm

Historically, the majority of attendees to the conference have been from the private sector. However, the conference is open to all early years' practitioners including reception and year one and is free.

Oxford Language Report carried out market research with more than 1,300 teachers. Over half of those surveyed reported that at least 40% of their pupils lacked the vocabulary to access their learning. 69% of primary school teachers and over 60% of secondary school teachers believe the word gap is increasing. The report can be accessed here <https://educationblog.oup.com/primary/why-closing-the-word-gap-matters-the-oxford-language-report>

We need to address this from the very early years of a child's life so the conference '**Mind the (word) Gap**' offers a range of workshops to support practitioners on how to extend young children's vocabulary. Nancy Stewart is a renowned early years consultant who specialises in communication and language and will be the keynote speaker who will also run a workshop.

Demand and take up of 30hrs extended entitlement for children aged three and four

As of 24 January 2019, 1323 eligible children are accessing a 30hour place in the borough. All eligible children have found a 30hour placement. 1136 places for children resident in Ealing and 187 places for children resident outside the borough.

Of the 1136 places 39% were taken up by children living in the 30% most income deprived (Lower-layer Super Output Area or LSOAS (Indices of deprivation) in England. If we add the next two deciles, it would mean that 70% of all places are used by children resident in the 50% most deprived areas in England. We are anticipating an increasing demand for places in the Summer term 2019

Supply of Places

Providers

There are currently 151 providers offering 30hr places in Ealing: two academies, 25 primary schools, four maintained nursery schools, 89 private, voluntary, independents (PVI), and 25 childminders.

Over the last three terms we have seen a 107% increase in the number of primary schools offering 30hr places from 15 in Summer 2018 to 31 in Spring 2019. However, we have seen a 30% decrease in childminders from 36 to 25 in the same period. This may be due to factors such as greater availability of places from other providers and the additional bureaucratic responsibilities related to processing codes, reconfirmation etc.

Monthly payments to providers

All providers offering 30hr places utilise the specially designed synergy portal for monthly returns, which enables monthly payments to be made, assisting business cash flow and sustainability.

Increase in hourly rates

From April 2019 the hourly funding base rate will increase from £4.43 to £4.63 and supplement funding will increase by 0.01p.

Enhancing communication with harder to reach parents

We are in the process of completing a series of 30hr promotional videos in a range of community languages, utilising the 30hr Delivery Support Funding, to assist in raising wider awareness and encouraging harder to reach eligible parents to apply.

The Local Offer

This is a one-stop-shop of information and guidance on services and provision within the borough for children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND). Everything a parent needs to know on SEND is accessible through this website. This is a golden opportunity to empower and make a real difference to families. We really need schools' help in promoting our wonderful Local Offer, so it reaches all relevant families <https://www.ealinglocaloffer.org.uk>

The service can provide training to school staff to highlight the key features of the website and how schools might be able to maximise this fantastic resource. To discuss further please contact:

Izra Bernard (Family Information SEND Officer)

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Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF)

Applications for the SENIF continue to be processed monthly with over 50% of these now coming from schools to support the inclusion of children with additional needs in the early years (NEG). Early Start SEND Inclusion workers work with nurseries and schools as part of a support package awarded. This is based on the individual needs of each child. Process of application and forms are on Ealing Grid for Learning (EGFL) www.egfl.org.uk/SEND-EY

Disability Access Fund (DAF)

Providers who offer three and four-year-old children free early years education can apply to claim DAF. A lump sum payment of £615 per year is available to providers who have eligible children in receipt of child Disability Living Allowance who are claiming free early years education. Four-year olds in primary school reception/foundation stage classes are not eligible for DAF funding.