



Families in the Foundation Years

Strategic Partnership

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Context

- **The role of the of the strategic partnership**
- **To gain an insight into Families in the Foundation Years – direction of travel**



Strategic Partnership

- Children England, Contact a Family, Daycare Trust, Fatherhood Institute , Social Investment Board
- Communication Conduit
- Advice to DfE
- Work with national partners
- Provide strategic representation
- Draw together sector expertise
- Active in supporting the sector in taking forward DfE priorities



Families in the Foundation Years



In July the DfE published...

- *Families in the Foundation Years* – the Government’s vision of the offer to parents, from pregnancy to age 5.
- *Supporting Families in the Foundation Years* – for commissioners and the workforce how they can deliver on our vision
- *Evidence Pack*

www.education.gov.uk/familiesinthefoundationyears

- A parent friendly website with resources and links to help mothers and fathers who care for babies and young children on 4Children’s companion website

www.foundationyears.org.uk





Early years consultation

Launching at the start of November – have your say at one of the discussion events around the country

[Read more](#) 



This site is indispensable to support you as a professional working with children and families in the foundation years.

It is a one stop shop for resources, information and the latest news on the foundation years.

It has been developed collaboratively by you, the sector, for the sector – to bring together information from many sources that will help you to support children to develop and flourish. [Read more.](#)

Jump to an area that's relevant to you:

Making it Happen

Professionals **working together** to deliver sustainable services and **improve outcomes**: children's centres, early intervention, integrated working

[➤ More Details](#)

Quality Provision

Find out about the key elements to support you in **improving quality**, including: healthy development, early language, EYFS and **child development**

[➤ More Details](#)

Professionals Hub

Keep up to date with **workforce developments**, the latest thinking on leadership and management; **share and extend your knowledge** and skills

[➤ More Details](#)

Working with Parents

Good practice tips and resources to support your **active engagement** and **effective communication** with mums and dads

[➤ More Details](#)

Looking for something?

Latest Tweets:

- > RT @PennySnowball: Post Natal Depression and the 4children charity: Thank goodness, it is finally being talked about openly and mak...h ...
- > RT @annelongfield: Great interview on Women's Hour with @Claire4Children talking about chronic lack of awareness of post natal depressio ...
- > A Give Me Strength Petition has just been submitted! Submit yours here: <http://t.co/gSEplmyY>
- > RT @Bluebellnurses: @4ChildrenUK this such a great campaign and I support you all the way! So needed we would love to be involved

Other links:

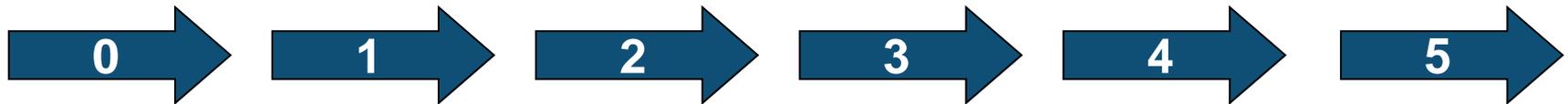
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The Government's Vision

- While significant progress has been made, there needs to be a new joint approach across foundation years services if the full benefits are to be realised and all children will benefit from the programmes and support in place.
- A child's journey through the foundation years:



0 Preparing for parenthood	1 Transition to parenthood	2 2 year olds	3 Free early education	4 Primary school
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Midwives, GPs and health visitors Shared parenting Preparing for Birth and Beyond 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4200 extra health visitors High-quality delivery of Healthy Child Programme Family Nurse Partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New 2 yr old entitlement to early education (2013) New requirement on providers to provide a summary of progress between 2 and 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universal entitlement to 15 hours over 38 weeks New flexibilities from 2012 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choice of school Reception classes will consolidate and extend children's learning before KS1.



Principles and priorities

- The foundation years are vitally important in their own right and for promoting future life chances.
- The moral argument is clear and the economic argument increasingly well understood.

Focusing on child development

Parents and Families at the heart of services

Effective and evidence based early intervention

Improving the quality of the workforce

A strong relationship with the sector



Young children deserve the best provision...

- A coherent approach to promoting child development will provide the best basis for the next stage of learning. The Government will:
 - increase the health visitor workforce by 4,200 by 2015;
 - introduce a reformed Early Years Foundation Stage by 2012;
 - maintain universal free early education for 3&4 year olds, and extend this free early education to all disadvantaged 2 year olds, by 2013;
 - revise the Code of Practice on free early education to reduce national prescription and enable more children to access their full entitlement;
 - strengthen the quality criteria for providers of the free entitlement; and
 - promote a diverse early education and childcare sector.



Simplifying the EYFS

- Responding to the findings of Dame Clare Tickell's review we have consulted on a revised EYFS:
 - a stronger emphasis on interacting with children and encouraging parents to become involved in their child's development;
 - a focus on early identification of children's additional needs through a mandatory summary of progress at age 2 to 3;
 - a strong focus on basic social, emotional, communication and language skills;
 - a reduction in the number of early learning goals from 69 to 17; and,
 - clearer requirements on providers to help keep children safe (renaming the requirements 'safeguarding and welfare requirements') through a focus on safeguarding training, staff supervision and policies about mobile phones and cameras.
- We sought views specifically on the assessment of children with SEN.
- Consultation closed end September and we received over 2,300 responses which we are now analysing.



Extending and strengthening the free entitlement

- From Sept 2013 will be extended to the 20% most disadvantaged two year olds - approximately 140,000 children nationally. About to consult on:
 - Eligibility: mirroring free school meals, and looked after children
 - LAs to have flexibility to fund other groups depending on local need (e.g. emerging SEND)
- Will also consult on a basket of eligibility criteria for receiving funding for the free entitlement, for example:
 - the Ofsted inspection rating;
 - internal local authority quality assurance systems;
 - workforce qualifications.



Mothers and fathers are most important

- Warm and authoritative parenting is critical to children's social, emotional and intellectual development. Strong relationships also make a big difference. So the Government will:
 - introduce new arrangements for more flexible family leave;
 - make sure parents can access relationship support if they need it;
 - support provision of online and helpline family and relationship support;
 - Trialling universal access to parenting classes in 3 or 4 areas;
 - explore ways to enable parents and communities to have more say in the running of Sure Start Children's Centres; and
 - make sure those families who need it the most get extra support with the costs of childcare.



Children's Centre Governance

- Commitment to put communities at the centre of decision making and to devolve power to the lowest possible level.
- Encouraging Local Authorities to promote diversity of Children's Centre provision: more use of third sector organisations, mutuals and social enterprises.
- Will consult on proposals that will enable parents and community groups to apply to their local authority to run a children's centre in their local area. Local authorities, not the Government, would have the final say on whether projects go ahead



Early intervention is the key to reducing problems later

- We want to make the most of all opportunities for early intervention in the foundation years by:
 - helping professionals to use all interactions with families as opportunities to identify additional needs and offer further help;
 - Introducing a new requirement on providers to give parents a short written summary of their child's progress around age two and how this could be integrated with the health visitor led development review;
 - encouraging evidence-based parenting programme, and doubling the number of families benefiting from the Family Nurse Partnership; and
 - setting out a new core purpose for Sure Start Children's Centres.



Children's Centre core purpose

The Government believes that children's centres should have a clear **core purpose**, focused on:

- Improving outcomes for young children and their families, with a particular focus on the most disadvantaged families, in order to reduce inequalities in:
 - child development and school readiness;

Supported by improved:

- parenting aspirations, self esteem and parenting skills;
- child and family health and life chances.

The Government has worked with sector leaders to consider what children's centres can do to achieve the core purpose, including:

- Assessing need across the local community;
- Providing access to universal early years services in the local area including high quality and affordable early years education and childcare;
- Providing access to targeted evidence based, family-centred support;
- Acting as a hub for the local community, building social capital and cohesion;
- Sharing expertise with other early years settings to improve quality.



Payment by results?

- Government wants to increase the autonomy that Sure Start Children's Centres have, but with this comes greater responsibility and accountability
- Payment by results will operate at two levels: national to local and local to national. A range of measures are likely to be trialled:
 - Early Years Foundation Stage Profile assessments – to narrow the gap in attainment at age five so more children start school achieving the expected level.
 - Breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8 weeks – to be developed in partnership with the Department of Health's plan for a Health Premium for public health outcomes.
 - Parenting/home learning environment – for example, completion of evidence based parenting programmes by vulnerable families.
 - Sustained contact with families in greatest need – so that children's centres are targeting families effectively.



The workforce is crucial...

- Ensuring there is a well qualified and motivated workforce is fundamental to the experience of children and families. The Government will:
 - review how best to strengthen qualifications and career pathways for workers supporting families in the foundation years – Professor Cathy Nutbrown;
 - continue to invest in graduate-level training in early education, childcare and social care;
 - make early years education professionals part of the remit of the new Teaching Agency, and
 - support the sector in developing system leadership, including reviewing the National Professional Qualifications in Integrated Centre Leadership



Every part of the sector has a role to play and should be held to account

- Government wants to develop a new relationship which puts more power in the hands of professionals with strong systems of accountability.
- Important roles for every part of the sector to work in a more integrated way, with better information sharing and payment by results.
- The Government will:
 - Work to promote better sharing of information;
 - Introduce payment by results for children's centres; and,
 - Continue with co-production



Continuing co-production...

- Reformed EYFS - consultation closes 30 September
- School and early years funding – consultation closed Tuesday
- Free early education entitlement statutory guidance – consultation autumn 2011
- Children’s centres statutory guidance – consultation autumn 2011
- Qualifications Review – call for evidence this autumn



Thank you

www.foundationyears.org.uk

