



# **Families in the Foundation Years**

## **Strategic Partnership**

**Sue Robb**

**Head of Early Years, 4Children**



# 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



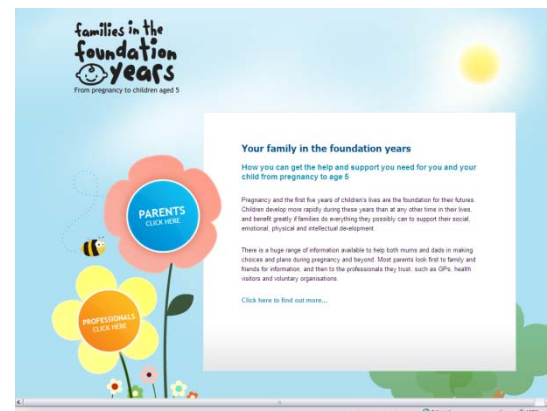
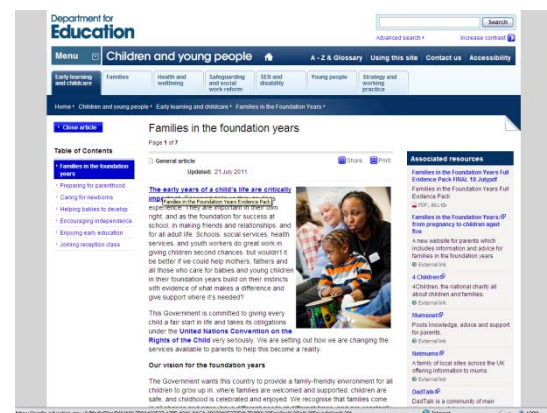
# In July the DfE published...

- *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](http://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](http://www.foundationyears.org.uk)



4Children



## 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/gSEplmY>
- 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:

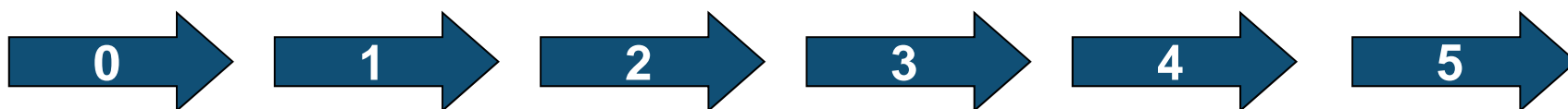
[Contact us](#)  
[Accessibility](#)  
[Disclaimer](#)

#### Follow us on: Test



# 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:



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





# 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](http://www.foundationyears.org.uk)

