

**Early Years Taskforce and Early Years Collaborative**

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**1.0 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Early Years refers to pre-school education, child health, children's social work and childcare. Pre-school education makes up the main local government investment in early years.
- 1.2 Since devolution there has been a continuing aspiration to expand pre-school provision and to improve early interventions, integrated working and quality of provision. In 2009, the SNP Government's Early Years Framework continued these themes, but with a strong emphasis on local development and shifting resources from crisis intervention to preventative work. There has been much new guidance in this area and so this may take time to embed itself into practice. Increasingly, policy throughout children's services is being described using the language of the "Getting it Right for Every Child" approach. This is a programme which seeks to change working cultures, systems and practices in order that professionals are able to: "give every child the help they need when they need it." In addition, there is a long running programme to improve the qualification levels amongst childcare and pre-school education staff.
- 1.3 Early years change activity is high on the agenda of Scottish Government and was emphasized as a priority in the 2011 Manifesto.
- 1.4 As part of the commitment to and the implementation of the Manifesto there have been significant national Early Years developments.
- 1.5 Early years Taskforce and the Early Years Change Fund – 2011 (Report Appendix 6.1)  
Set up to:
- Deliver tangible improvement in outcomes and reduce inequalities for Scotland's vulnerable children.
  - Put Scotland squarely on course to shifting the balance of public services towards early intervention and prevention by 2016.
  - Sustain this change to 2018 and beyond.
- 1.6 Early Years Collaborative - 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012  
Set up to lead and ensure clear commitment to early years across multiagency approach both nationally and locally.

- 1.7 Scottish Government has a focus on the priorities for early years being embedded in the Single Outcome Agreement. The most recent development is the Early Years Collaboration which is the first ever national multi-agency Quality Improvement Programme to be led by Community Planning Partnerships. It is believed this is the correct model for a hugely ambitious programme of work which will bring about transformational change.
- 1.8 At the launch of the Early years Collaborative it was announced that there would be a number of learning sessions planned around the country to draw partners together to build on the work they are currently taking forward and to develop a clearer understanding about the application of improvement methodology and to share learning about effective early years practice and evidence based interventions.
- 1.9 An Early Years Champion should be appointed from each CPP area. The champion will be responsible for the formation of the Early Years Collaborative team and will attend the Learning Session with the rest of their 'away' team. The Early Years Collaborative Champion will be responsible for identifying and formulating a multiagency team including children and families, health, police, third sector and other interested partners in the work of the CPP in relation to the Early Years Collaborative. The Early Years Collaborative Champion will act as a conduit between national and local implementation of the Early years Collaborative

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Community Planning Partnerships being key to the delivery of the change programme. Each local change programme has to be owned and supported by the whole CPP. Argyll and Bute CPP requires to focus on EY developments as part of integrated working.
- 2.2 Community Planning Partners should have a view to developing a clear strategy to make the shift to investing more upstream in anticipatory and preventative approaches that we know work and that help to reduce the demand for more formal, higher intensity care in the future.
- 2.3 Long term integrated planning and review between partners for children in their early years and their families is essential to ensure that the quality of early years services continues to improve and better value for money is achieved.
- 2.4 The aspiration for the Early Years is that the success of our efforts will be shown in positive outcomes of all of our children.
- Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.
  - We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk.
  - Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

- 2.5 To get it right for children at the greatest risk of negative outcomes this means being safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.
- 2.6 The Early Years Collaborative Champion requires to have a sound knowledge base of the Early Years agenda and landscape to ensure that the Argyll and Bute Collaborative is taken forward involving as wide a group membership as possible.

### **3.0 DETAIL**

- 3.1 Engagement and learning session with regard to the Early Years Collaborative is required for CPP . Establishment of Early Years strategy is required to take forward work of Collaborative within Argyll and Bute covering, at a minimum, the period 2012–2018 and include how the longer term objectives of the partnership are going to be met. Where appropriate plans should make reference to how partnerships are developing and implementing approaches to strategic commissioning and co-production.
- 3.2 CPP's identify leaders and virtual teams to lead each workstream at local level. The leadership workstream will create a forum and network for leaders supporting them to perform their roll of championing the programme of activity. Senior leadership commitment from the outset is a critical success factor. See attached workstream programme (Appendix 6.2 and 6.3)
- 3.3 Early Years Collaborative Champion should be Louise Long Head of Service Children and Families or Anne Paterson Quality Improvement Manager Early Years.
- 3.4 Identification is required of members of Argyll team to attend learning event 24/25 January 2013
- 3.5 Argyll and Bute CPP should consider the offer of support from Scottish Government into supporting work at local level.

### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 The Early years Collaborative will drive forward the importance of the early years both nationally and locally. This will be co ordinated and led by the Early Years Collaborative Champion
- 4.2 This will build on the success of the Argyll and Bute Early Years Service and will engage wider partnership working with Health, Police, Third Sector and other relevant partners.
- 4.3 This will be supported at a local level by clear leadership from the CPP

### **5.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Policy - Review of policy related to early intervention as a preventative measure.
- 5.2 Financial – None at present
- 5.3 Legal - None
- 5.4 HR – None at present
- 5.5 Equalities - None
- 5.6 Risk- If not actioned that Argyll and Bute will be unable to access national funds.
- 5.7 Customer Service - None

## **6.0 APPENDICES**

- 6.1 Early Years Taskforce Shared Vision and Priorities
- 6.2 Workstream Programme
- 6.3 Workstream Programme
- 6.4 Vision of the Argyll and Bute Early Years

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