

Equality Impact Assessment

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Name of project/proposal | Strategy to provide 30 hours childcare for children aged three and four years with SEND |
| Originator | Campling, Claire |
| Email address | claire.campling@hants.gov.uk |
| Department | Childrens Services |
| Date of Assessment | 30 Aug 2017 |

Description of Service / Policy

Funded hours of free childcare will increase from 15 to 30 from September 2017 for 3 and 4 year olds. Following consultation, the conclusion is that, due to financial constraints, the number of specialist early years SEND placements cannot be expanded to offer 30 hours. However services supporting early years mainstream providers to be able to meet the needs of these children is available and developed further. This is through the use of outreach from specialist early years SEND provision, the early years intervention teams and top up funding being provided directly to early years mainstream providers.

Geographical impact* All Hampshire

Description of proposed change

The approach being suggested is to provide support and additional funding into mainstream providers to ensure that they can offer 30 hours childcare for children with SEND. This may either be through offering the full 30 hours with one mainstream provider with either outreach from early years specialist placements or early intervention teams or for those children with the most significant SEND to have 15 hours in a mainstream provider and 15 hours in an early years specialist placement.

Engagement and consultation

Has engagement or consultation been carried out? Yes

Engagement and consultation events have already taken place in order to understand what the potential demand for the additional 15 hours will be and can be found in the following link; <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/childrens-services/childcare/providers/eye-eyesff/thirtyhours-childcare.htm>.

Further consultation with parents/carers and providers on the options that have been presented and agreed upon would be required so that the impact of any changes are fully understood and any arising issues can be addressed. A consultation conference is planned for 18 November 2017 to explore strategies being used so far and to explore further creative partnership working. This conference is aimed at early years specialist provisions, mainstream providers (to include child minders) and parent representatives.

It is proposed that the changes begin to take effect from September 2017 but that this is monitored carefully with an interim review undertaken in March 2018 and a full review in September 2018 so that any further necessary adjustments can be made in a timely manner.

Impacts of the proposed change

This impact assessment covers Service users

Statutory considerations**Impact**

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Age Impact | Medium Children aged three and four years with SEND entitled to 30 hours free childcare, who meet the criteria for a specialist early years placement will generally not be able to receive the full 30 hours in the specialist placement, they will need to split the placement between and specialist and mainstream. |
| Mitigation | Following the inclusion agenda in Hampshire County Council, more mainstream placements will be supported and encouraged to be able to meet the needs of children with SEND. This will mean that these children will be able to have their needs met locally with the support from specialist staff. |
| Disability Impact | Medium For those who are eligible to 30 hours free childcare and meet the criteria for an early years specialist placement where only 15 hours can be offered, parents will need to chose a mainstream placement to top up the hours to 30. Parents may struggle to balance the need to transport children to another setting during the working day. |
| Mitigation | Wherever possible provisions will be encouraged to offer the 15 hours over full days rather than half days to reduce the need to transport the child to another location during the working day. Through close liaison between the specialist setting and the mainstream setting, the skills of the team within the mainstream setting will develop so that the child can transfer full time into a mainstream. |
| Sexual Orientation | Neutral |
| Race | Neutral |
| Religion and Belief | Neutral |
| Gender Reassignment | Neutral |
| Gender | Neutral |
| Marriage and civil partnership | Neutral |
| Pregnancy and Maternity | Neutral |
| Other policy considerations | |
| Poverty Impact | Positive Childcare will be more available to parents of children with SEND enabling them to be able to either return to work or increase their working hours. |
| Rurality | Neutral |

Additional Information