

Item 7

TITLE OF REPORT: 30 Hours Early Implementation

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to inform Schools Forum the outcome of the Local Authority's application to be an early implementer for the 30 hours free entitlement.

Background

The DfE released documents and criteria for applying for Early Implementation status on the 28th October 2015. The DfE set very tight timescales and an application criterion for expressions of interest for LA's to be an early implementer.

LA's had until the 13th November to submit questions to the DfE for clarification or questions on the application process, and applications had to be submitted by 12 noon 20th November and all applications had to be signed by the Director of Children's Services (DCS).

Outcome

The DfE announced that Wigan, Staffordshire, Swindon, Portsmouth, Northumberland, York, Newham and Hertfordshire have been identified as early implementers from September 2016.

The government will also be looking at the issues that make it difficult for parents with particular challenges to access childcare, including special educational needs and disability.

The core group of councils will be supported by 25 LA's who will look specifically at innovative ways of making sure childcare is accessible to as many parents as possible.

Gateshead received notification on 2nd February, that it had been selected to be an Early Implementer Innovator that will share £4m with the other 24 LA's to support the core group of 8 LA's. Early innovators in each local cluster will work together and support the core group to focus on special educational needs and disability, flexibility, availability of places, and making work pay.

Gateshead is in the North East and Yorkshire and the Humber cluster which comprises of:-

Gateshead, Bradford, Sheffield, Eastriding, Wakefield and North Yorkshire

The DfE have not yet provided any detailed information on which area Gateshead will be requested to make childcare more accessible to as many parents as possible. As further details become available these will be communicated.

Proposal

That Schools Forum notes the contents of this report that Gateshead has been chosen to be an early implementer innovator.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Schools Forum notes the contents of the report and that further information will be brought to Schools Forum when it becomes available.

For the following reasons:

- To inform Schools Forum of Gateshead's successful application to be an early implementer innovator.

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