

26 June 2019

**SUPPORTING TRANSITION FROM EARLY YEARS
PROVIDERS INTO NURSERY AND RECEPTION
CLASSES IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

Report of the Director of Children's Services

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 *To update the Forum on progress made with the Supporting Transition from Early Years providers into nursery and reception classes in primary schools project.*

2. Summary

- 2.1 This paper provides an update on the progress made with the programme of work that Hertfordshire County Council has commissioned (working in partnership with a newly established Working Group) Herts for Learning to undertake, in order to improve transition between nursery and reception provision and potentially other activities, and thereby improve attainment at EYFS.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 To note that a Working Group of Primary and Early Years representatives has been established which has agreed the broad scope of the programme, and is continuing to work on specifics related to the further development and roll-out.

4. Background

- 4.1 At the February 2019 Schools Forum discussed a proposal for additional work which Herts for Learning would undertake with PVI providers, maintained schools and their early years' provision to support transition from PVIs to school provision.
- 4.2 Schools Forum agreed in principle to set aside funding of £960k, on a one-off basis, to commission from HfL a programme of action to improve transition between nursery and reception provision and potentially other activities, and thereby improve attainment at EYFS.

- 4.3 It was also agreed that a working group would be established of Primary and Early years representatives to agree the details of the programme.
- 4.4 A working group has been established and has met twice. The first meeting took place on Friday 10th May and the second meeting on Tuesday 18th June. A third meeting has been planned for Monday 22nd July.
- 4.5 This group is made up of representatives from a range of Primary and PVI provider settings.

5. Contents of report

- 5.1 The working group has developed a shared vision for this programme of work, and has agreed the broad scope of the commission for delivery of the programme which has now been placed with HfL.
- 5.2 The working group has considered and provided invaluable input and feedback on the specifics of the HfL commission. This includes the RAYG Rating for Transition Criteria. This RAYG criterion is being developed to provide a universally shared and understood approach to transition that enables nursery and class practitioners to identify individual children's level of need so that they can adapt provision to accelerate progress from the earliest opportunity. It will also provide the County with valuable data to help identify where additional available support will be required.
- 5.3 HfL's work will now commence with greater intensity over the summer months with further development work on the RAYG rating and the Transition toolkit which will include guidance regarding expectations for information sharing between PVIs and schools across the county.
- 5.4 In September work will begin with engaging schools in this programme of work which will include the following:
- The development of an annual transition planner
 - 'Ready for school' resources developed for schools to use to engage children, parents, carers in their first visit to school
 - The development of a parent information pack so that parents have an understanding of how to support school readiness; and
 - workforce development opportunities
 - visits to schools (those identified in high-risk categories to provide them with support to equip practitioners with the skills to best support children with the highest level of need).

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 Schools Forum is asked to note that a Working Group of Primary and Early Years representatives has been established to agree the specifics of the programme has been established and to note the progress made.