Partnership Working in the Early Years

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10 YEARS OF PROMOTING QUALITY IN EARLY YEARS

who we are

- National membership organisation for children's nurseries across the UK
- Promoting quality in early years
- Registered charity since 1999
- Specialist support for children's nurseries
- Support to local authorities

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what we do

- Voice of the sector
- Support, information and advice
- Conferences, seminars, forums, *Nursery News* and nursery awards
- Campaigns for healthy lifestyles for children
- Training and CPD
- Brokerage support

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local authority perceptions

“We send out a lot of information to providers and I am always disappointed by the low response.”

“You come to rely on a minority of the most vocal providers for feedback on everything. I sometimes worry about how representative this is.”

“I am surprised about the lack of challenge. Providers just sometimes go along with things and then grumble afterwards”.

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providers perceptions

“The local authority has made their mind up and in reality there is no time to change things.”

“We only get consulted at the end of the process. Why can’t we be involved at the beginning?”

“The local authority has a set way of doing things.”

“When we do get the chance to talk about things as equals, it is great. And it makes a big difference to what eventually happens.”

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partnership working

- Attitude not a policy
- Displayed in behavior not reporting
- A belief that things can be done differently
- A willingness to use what you currently have
- Achieves the ‘that makes sense’ test

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what do we want from partners?

- To do things together
- To do them because our customers want it
- To talk
- To listen
- To do things the best way not necessarily our way
- To work with those who want to work with us
- To encourage creativity and innovation

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partnership principles

- Trust
- Communication
- Equality
- Respect
- Understanding

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recommendations

- Provide information in a variety of formats
- Involve providers at the earliest possible opportunity
- Encourage the development of independent provider networks
- Consider an allowance for providers to attend meetings

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- Develop an annual schedule of meetings
- Involve providers in the development of application criteria and processes
- Consider developing an online portal for providers containing information, consultations and a discussion board
- Develop a cascade system to get information out quickly

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Thank you

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