The Early Years Foundation Stage Review

Patrick Heisel & Andy Fisher – Department for Education

Outline of today's session

- 10 minutes talking through the background to the review

- Work in groups for 20 minutes

- Plenary for 15 minutes

The EYFS review is an independent review

- The review was formally announced on 6 July 2010
- Chaired by Dame Clare Tickell, Chief Executive of Action for Children
- Sarah Teather MP has asked Dame Clare to look at:
- how professionals can best support all children's early learning and development, particularly in preparation for the move to formal schooling;
- How any framework can ensure that the right foundations are in place to protect children's welfare, and support the most vulnerable and disadvantaged;
- How the flexibility of the framework can be improved to allow for professional judgement and foster a diverse and flexible childcare market; and
- How to reduce the burden of the EYFS on those who have to deliver it.

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The Minister for Children and Families has set a clear scope

- The review will cover four main areas:
  - **Scope of regulation** – whether there should be one single framework for all Early Years providers.
  - **Learning and development** – looking at the latest evidence about children's development and what is needed to give them the best start at school.
  - **Assessment** – whether young children's development should be formally assessed at a certain age, and what this should cover.
  - **Welfare** – the minimum standards to keep children safe and support their healthy development.

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The Minister has been clear that she wants the review to be based on the best evidence

- She has specifically asked Dame Clare to take an open and outward facing approach to the review and to take into account the best independent evidence about how children learn and develop.

- As part of this, she has asked Dame Clare to work with early years practitioners, other experts in the early years, parents, and carers.

- The call for evidence for the review was launched on 2 August, and will close on 30th September

- Have also commissioned some research to feed into the review – eg the report on practitioners' experience of the EYFS published end August.

- Dame Clare has been having a series of one to one conversations with a range of stakeholders

- Just starting a more intensive programme of workshops

- Has also invited a number of people to set up an expert panel to provide advice and support for the review.   This includes academics, practitioners, local authority representatives, primary head, and other early years experts.

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The timeline is very tight

Date	Milestone
w/c 2nd August	Launch of call for evidence
30th September	Call for evidence closes
October	Analysis of evidence collected through workshops and call for evidence
November	Full evidence collation & analysis
w/c 13th December	Stakeholder event to share evidence and emerging direction of travel
Dec & January	Refine policy recommendations
31 March	Target date for publication of final report

Please contact us with any further views you'd like to feed in

- **The call for evidence is running up until 30 September. It can be accessed via the department's website at:**

  http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/

- **There's also an EYFS review mailbox where you can reach us**

  EYFS2010.review@education.gsi.gov.uk

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We'd like to get your views to feed into the review….

Scope

1. What are your views on having a single framework that all early learning and care providers have to deliver?

Learning and development

2. Do you think that the learning and development requirements need changing?

Assessment

3. Do you think assessment in early years settings helps with early identification? Do you think this could be improved at all?

Welfare

4. Do you think that partnership working to meet the needs of children and their families should be more explicit in the EYFS?

Other

5. Overall, do you think the EYFS could be strengthened to help with early identification and supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged children? If so, how?

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