

Dr Bryan Slater  
Director of Education

## MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

**SUBJECT:** EARLY YEARS DEVELOPMENT AND CHILDCARE PLAN 1999/2000

**WORKING TITLE:** PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN EARLY YEARS DEVELOPMENT & CHILDCARE PLAN

**DATE PUBLISHED:** 18 FEBRUARY 1999

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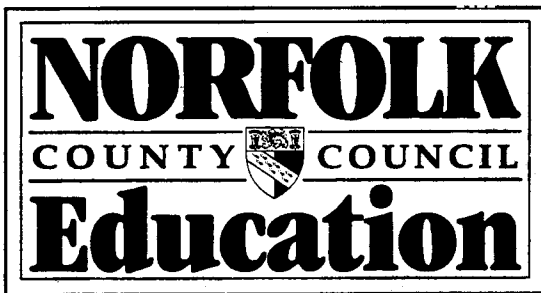
**DISTRIBUTION:** ALL EARLY YEARS PROVIDERS

**CONTENTS:** Letter from Director of Education

**ACTION REQUIRED:** None – for information only

**ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS:** Early Years Development and Childcare Plan 1999/2000

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**16 February 1999**

**To: All Early Years Providers**

Dear Colleague

## **EARLY YEARS DEVELOPMENT AND CHILDCARE PLAN 1999/2000**

I thought it would be helpful if I were to write to you now giving some initial details of how arrangements in 1999/2000 may affect you.

The Norfolk Early Years Development and Childcare Plan was submitted to the Department for Education and Employment on the 1st February 1999. It is currently being assessed by the Department and we hope to hear the outcome of this process in March 1999. The Plan makes proposals in the following areas and I have provided brief details.

### **1. Funding for Four Year Olds.**

It is intended that the funding system for four year olds receiving Early Years education will remain the same for groups in the private and voluntary sector. The funding arrangements for schools have altered somewhat and there will now be no difference in the level of funding for those schools which operate the standard admissions policy and for those which have an exception.

The Government intends to change the arrangements by which the local authority is funded for four year olds in 2000/2001 and as details of this become available I will keep you informed.

### **2. Funding for Three Year Olds**

The Government have announced that funding for three year olds will only be available for 1999/2000 in those areas with the highest levels of

need. This means that Norfolk will not benefit from this funding next year. Hopefully some funding will become available in the year 2000/2001. The Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership has a Sub-Committee which is looking at the issue of provision for three year olds and which will make recommendations regarding a scheme for funding three year olds. The Government's intention is that such provision should be targeted on those most in need.

### **Funding for Childcare Providers who are experiencing difficulties**

Within the sum of money allocated to support the Early Years Development and Childcare Plan for 1999/2000 there is a sum of some £70,000 which is available to support groups offering childcare who are experiencing difficulties. The Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership is currently considering the criteria for allocating this fund and the procedure which will need to be followed by groups wishing to apply for funding.

I will forward further details as these become available. However, if your group is in this category, it would be helpful if you could contact Jonathan Towns, telephone number 01603-222314, and inform him of your situation. This will help to give a view of the extent of such difficulties in the County.

### **Sure Start**

Sure Start is a Government programme which is designed to provide support to the Under 4's in areas of high need. Norfolk has two trailblazer projects in the first year of this programme and these will be situated in Norwich and Great Yarmouth. The projects are designed to be community-led and the Norwich project is being co-ordinated by NSPCC and the Great Yarmouth project by the Ormiston Trust. The Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership has a representative on each of the Steering Groups for these projects.

### **Early Years Training**

The Department for Education and Employment have again made available to the Education Department, through a Standards Fund Grant, a sum of money for supporting training to improve provision for four year olds. A number of initiatives are being investigated at the moment but there will be continuity with last year's grant in that the Open College Network Course will continue to be supported, as will the Effective Early Learning Project.

6 Childcare Training

The Norfolk and Waveney TEC has a grant for training for Childcare staff. The exact details of this grant are not yet available but further information will be circulated in due course.

I do know that a number of providers are very concerned about the impact of recent employment legislation, in particular the minimum wage and holiday pay. I am continuing to press the DfEE about these concerns and about the issues of viability and sustainability for small providers.

I will write to you again soon once the Plan has been approved by the Department for Education and Employment.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bryan Slater'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Bryan' and the last name 'Slater' clearly distinguishable.

Dr B Slater  
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION