

Progress Update – Review of Quality and Sufficiency of Childcare

No	Recommendation	Responsibility	Anticipated Completion Date	Progress Update 18/09/13	18/09/13 Assessment of progress (Categories 1-4)
1	The information available to parents when choosing childcare be expanded to provide information about whether providers are engaging with SBC Journey to Outstanding as well as information about OFSTED ratings;	Diane McConnell / Jane Wright	Dec 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journey to Outstanding now aligned with new Early Years Foundation Stage 2012. • Journey to Outstanding on final proof read in preparation to be transposed onto disc. • Information on the method of delivery given to all sector through Early Years Newsletter using Families Information Service (FIS) to circulate. • Discs then to be disseminated across settings, Childminders in Network and all childminders across borough. • Dissemination through Network Meetings, appointments and Early Years Conference on 9th November. • Any support or extra training required to be delivered through Drop in Surgeries promoted through Early Years Newsletter. • FIS to be regularly informed of any who do not wish to engage with the Local Authority and/or Journey to Outstanding Quality Improvement Document. • FIS team is currently updating the on-line Directory to incorporate a new statement which confirms whether a setting/childminder is engaging with the Journey to Outstanding. • The update will also include Ofsted judgements for each setting/childminder. • Parents/Carers contacting FIS by telephone currently receive printed information that already includes Ofsted judgements. This document will be updated to include the Journey to Outstanding statement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 – On Track but not yet due for completion.
2	In order to foster closer working between settings, childminders and schools, locality based networks (possibly based around Children's Centres) be considered; the purpose of the networks would be to:	Diane McConnell	March 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:07:13 met with G.Charlton – Early Years Operations Manager, Children Centres (EYOM) - to discuss possible parties involved, terms & conditions, purpose of and ethos of proposed 'HUBS', times of meetings and how often and which L.A Children Centres should be used for these across the Borough. • Paperwork compiled showing how future locality based Networks – HUBS - would run. They would involve health, schools, settings and childminders, chaired by Early Years Development Officer (EYDO) & Children Centre Manager and overseen by 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 – On track but not yet due for completion.

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	a. share good practice b. provide peer support c. ease transitions between settings/schools d. embed a single approach to EYFS profiles e. demonstrate partnership working f. foster early intervention g. provide a consultation platform			J.Marriott – Early Years Manager (EYM) and G.Charlton – EYOM. They will therefore be more focused, share practice & paperwork, offer early intervention and training and would involve the community of that particular area. They would, therefore, realise points a-g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further meetings held looking into the detail of ‘Hubs’. • 10:09:13 link up with EYOM to pull information together in preparation for us to consult with Managers at Network Managers Meeting on 26:09:13. 	
3	A model of commissioned peer support be considered utilising good quality childminders from within the network in a mentoring role;	Diane McConnell	March 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26:09:13 Childminder Network Meeting to introduce new Network members, now 33 from 17. • Agenda of the evening has been given out to the existing members who have already agreed to take up the ‘mentor’ role to those who are in need of a little more support. • Allocate the mentors explaining the agenda and disseminate Journey to Outstanding discs to reiterate the value placed by the LA on quality and safeguarding for all the children in their care. • Explain the role of FIS in the promotion of the Network members and their positive engagement with their LA Officer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 – On track but not yet due for completion.
4	The Admissions Booklet and other information provided to parents be revised to clarify that attendance at a nursery will not give automatic entitlement to attend a school;	Jane Wright	August 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The information for parents/carers has been revised and expanded for inclusion in the new Admissions Booklet – currently awaiting final draft from print section. • The same information has also been made available on a single sheet which has been circulated to settings to hand out to both existing and future parents/carers. • The Admissions Booklet will be in print and available online from early/mid September. • The ‘Help with the cost of Free Childcare’ page on SBC website will also be updated to include the Information Sheet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 – On track but not yet due for completion.

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5	The Officer Project Board continue to oversee work on the introduction of the two year old offer and engage with the network of providers on delivery, subject to detailed analysis of the Government's recent announcement on childcare provision;	Jane Wright	March 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed analysis of the recent document – '<i>Early Education and Childcare – Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities – September 2013</i>' has been undertaken to ensure the roll out of the programme for 2 year olds meets all requirements. • Sufficient capacity has been established within settings/childminder provision/school nurseries to meet the 571 target for available places. • Publicity and promotion has taken place through articles in Stockton News, briefing sessions with professionals, Children's Centres and childcare settings/childminders. • Systems are in place to enable parents to apply for a free place for their 2 year old – online, via an application form, through support from a professional/childcare setting and via Children's Centres. • Systems are also in place to enable applicants to be assessed and receive confirmation of eligibility as appropriate. • Details of local childcare places are provided to eligible parents/carers to enable them to make an informed choice. • Less confident parents/carers are able to contact the FIS for support in making an application and/or choosing a setting. • Further presentations to settings/childminders planned for September and November in order to monitor progress. • Presentation to Head Teachers planned for October. • Estimated target for September 2014 is an additional 729 places. • Systems are in place to monitor take up. • A number of meetings have been held with colleagues from neighbouring authorities from the region and a draft protocol for 'cross boundary' working has been established. The protocol is being considered alongside others from other areas across the country with a view to establishing a national agreement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 – On track but not yet due for completion

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6	Officers continue to work towards finding solutions to meet gaps in provision where they are identified in order to provide sufficient childcare places across the Borough.	Jane Wright	March 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The focus of recent work has been to address the gaps in provision for 2 year olds in order to meet the 571 places target by September 2013 – this has been achieved. Ongoing focus on sufficiency of places for 2 year olds in order to achieve the September 2014 target of an additional 729 places. Further discussions to take place regarding the implications for the production of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment for March 2014 based on the requirements within the 'Early Education and Childcare – Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities – September 2013' document. Proposals are being prepared for approval in order to meet the Council's revised duty in relation to Early Years & Childcare, as stated in the new Statutory Guidance - <i>'Report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare, and make this report available and accessible to parents. Local authorities are responsible for determining the appropriate level of detail in their report, geographical division and date of publication.'</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 – On track but not yet due for completion