

**Meeting:** Children Education and Skills Sub-Committee

**Date:** 9 September 2021

**Title:** Update on Children's readiness for school response report and action plan.

---

**Author:** Lesley Davies- Senior Manager Prevention and Early Help

**Service:** HECS

**Wards affected:** All

---

### 1. Purpose of Report

To provide and update on Children's readiness for school report and action plan.

### 2. Introduction

In September 2019, the Children, Education and Skills Sub-committee agreed to review the early intervention support available for parents in North Tyneside that supports childrens development, to be ready for school with the aim of identifying if any improvements could be made.

Following a period of consultation with partners from Early Help, Education and Health, the report was published in November 2020, with a number of recommendations, which were all accepted, and an action plan developed.

### 3. Progress

The following shows the recommendations, agreed actions and subsequent update.

	RECOMMENDATION	PROGRESS/UPDATE
1	<p>Cabinet requests that the Director of Children's and Adult Services considers improving communication between the Council, schools, and private nurseries in relation to early help and being ready for school.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Develop and deliver a comprehensive communication plan to launch the new Prevention &amp; Early Help Strategy. This will increase awareness of the services and support offer across the partnership.</p>	<p>The Early Help Strategy launch is currently with the Communication team, finalising the agreed launch material, which we are planning to release in September 2021.</p>
2	<p>Cabinet requests the Director of Children's and Adult Services to consider simplifying the early help assessment process, so it is less time consuming and bureaucratic for schools and private nurseries or provides adequate help to schools and private nurseries in completing the early help assessment process.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> It is proposed that further communication is undertaken with early years providers and settings to ensure the respective Early Help Assessment and early years funding and resources processes and requirements are understood.</p>	<p>The Early Years Manager now attends the Early Years and Primary Network meetings, working with the school improvement team to ensure that early year's providers and schools have up to date information and guidance around any new training available or changes to legislation. This has also helped to improve the communication systems from the local authority to schools and private nurseries, whilst providing a networking opportunity for schools and early years settings to access peer support.</p>
3	<p>Cabinet requests that the Director of Children's and Adult Services provides more help to schools and private nurseries for toilet training, including for children without special needs.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> All partners, including schools and private nurseries, will receive information and materials regarding available support so that parents are aware of what is available.</p>	<p>Virtual information and awareness sessions have been developed around key areas including toilet training, child development, communication, and language that parents and professionals can access at any time.</p> <p>There has also been a working group established to develop a quality award for nursery settings and schools offering the 2-year offer. This will consist of 6 sessions covering; training and knowledge required to work with 2-year-olds, working in partnership with parents and the whole family, professional</p>

		<p>relationships, the EYFS, personal, social and emotional wellbeing, communication and language and physical development.</p> <p>We are also currently developing a 'plan on the page' information summary of what is on offer that will be disseminated to both parents and professionals. It will be updated as the offer develops/changes.</p>
4	<p>Cabinet requests that the Director of Children's and Adult Services provides more help and encouragement for parents and carers in accessing early help information and services, including help for toilet training, language development, and accessing online educational material for children.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Pilot sessions to be mainstreamed on both the Ready For School (RFS) and Children's Centre Facebook pages, with the option to join virtual group sessions or face to face options, dependant on Covid restrictions.</p>	<p>Parenting sessions to be offered to all new parents attending the Ready for School Centre on a rolling basis.</p> <p><b>Update:</b> These sessions are also now available to any parent or professional via the Children Centre and RFS face book pages. The 0-19 team also have access to the modules and can use them with families, to enable a consistent approach.</p>
5	<p>Cabinet requests that the Director of Children's and Adult Services consults with parents, schools, and private nurseries about early help and being ready for school, including a focus on the size and distribution of any problems in North Tyneside. The findings of this consultation are to be shared with Cabinet and all Elected Members.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> External evaluation of the Ready for School offer to be commenced, including an assessment of need across the Authority and consultation with families and key stakeholders, to inform future service development.</p>	<p>We are currently working with our parent/carer forums to evaluate the parenting offer we have and establish if there are any gaps. Through this consultation we will be able to identify what parents need and work with them to develop an offer that meets the current need.</p> <p>In addition to this we have started an external evaluation of the RFS offer in partnership with St John's University in York, which will then help inform the further development of the offer across the borough.</p>

#### **4. Background Information**

The following documents have been used in the compilation of this report and may be inspected at the offices of the author.

- Children's readiness for school response report and action plan.

#### **5. Appendices**

- Children's readiness for school response report and action plan.