

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

PEOPLE CABINET MEMBER

CREATION OF THE POST OF COORDINATOR 2YR OLD PROVISION

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval to create the post of Coordinator 2yr old provision.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Under the Education Act 2011, the Local Authority is responsible for identifying the eligible 2yr old children and securing sufficient early years education places for 2, 3 and 4 year old children.
- 2.2 From September 2013 funded places of up to 15 hours per week for 38 weeks per year, will be available to all 2 year olds who meet the Free School Meals eligibility criteria and to those who are in care of the Local Authority.
- 2.3 North Lincolnshire Council has been advised by the Department for Education, that the number of places for eligible 2 year olds required from September 2013 is 396. From 2014, an additional 604 places making a total of 1000 children aged 2 will become eligible for free places, using criteria yet to be made available.
- 2.4 To ensure the effective identification and support of children and their families in the first phase of implementation, a temporary coordinator was appointed for one year from August 2012 on a secondment basis, to work with Children's Centre and other service staff to facilitate the required processes and systems to ensure timely and effective implementation.
- 2.5 The secondee is also required to provide effective leadership and management of the two North Lincolnshire Council (NLC) Children's Centre nursery supervisors to ensure the Nurseries provide quality day care and comply with Ofsted regulations. The work with nursery staff has included training and development to prepare them to work with an increased number of 2 year olds in the Nursery with a range of additional needs.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 **OPTION 1** - Approval is sought for the creation of a permanent post to ensure the ongoing effective coordination and implementation of the 2yr placements, which will continue to be facilitated, in partnership with Children's Centre Staff as part of a universal offer, and as part of an early help assessment, offer and plan.

- 3.2 The embedding and promotion of the Imagination library and the implementation of the new national Bookstart Offer for 2yr olds will be included as part of any universal or early help offer.
- 3.3 The post holder will ensure that the NLC run day nurseries in the Children's Centres are compliant with Ofsted regulation and are able to meet the specific needs of the children and the requirements of the 2,3,4yr old offer.
- 3.4 OPTION 2 - To not approve the creation of the post.

ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 OPTION 1 - To agree the creation of the post of Coordinator 2year old provision, will ensure the full implementation of the statutory duty, and compliance with Ofsted of the local authority children's centre nurseries.
- 4.2 OPTION 2 - To not approve the creation of the post will reduce capacity in the team and may leave NLC vulnerable in fulfilling the statutory duty and the securing of a good or better judgement by Ofsted for NLC nurseries and children's centres.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 5.1 The budget for two-year-old funding allocation within the Direct Schools Grant has been notified as £1,522K for 2013/14. This includes funding to build capacity and ensure sufficiency of places. It is anticipated that an increased amount will be allocated to provide the 1000 places for 2014/15.
- 5.2 The cost of Coordinator 2yr old provision mid point grade 8 (as evaluated in August 2012) = £36,948 including on costs

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

- 6.1 It is a requirement that all children eligible for funding are identified and offered a place of up to or equivalent to, 15 hrs per week for 38 weeks per year, this allocation can be requested to be taken flexibly over a shorter number of hours per week over a longer period if required
- 6.2 North Lincolnshire Council has a duty to ensure that sufficient places are available for families to access places in local day-care provision.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Consultation is ongoing with Local Providers of Services, to ensure sufficient places are available for September 2013 and September 2014. Capital funding is available as part of the Local Authority funding allocation, to develop provision and or places i.e. to increase the number of available places where demand is anticipated to be high.

7.2 Consultation with parents is ongoing as part of the North Lincolnshire Council Sufficiency Audit process.

7.3 Based on the positive outcomes of existing placements for those children who have additional needs, it has been proposed that the additional discretionary criteria relating to children with additional needs should remain as priority criteria for the increased 2 year old offer.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Cabinet Member approves the creation of the post of Coordinator 2-year-old provision

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: None