



West Lothian
Council

EDUCATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

PARTNER PROVIDER EDUCATION SUPPORT FOR IMPROVEMENT

REPORT BY HEAD OF EDUCATION (QUALITY ASSURANCE)

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Panel of the support given to Pre-School Partner Providers to ensure continuing improvement in the quality of education.

B. RECOMMENDATION

To note the content of the report.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; providing equality of opportunities; developing employees; making best use of our resources; working in partnership
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Partnership with Pre-School Providers Policy 2010 The Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act, 2001. The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004. Guidance on Pre-school Education issued under Section 34 of the Standards in Scotland's Schools Etc Act 2000. Curriculum for Excellence 2009
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	Partner Provider reviews evaluate the extent to which their procedures enable continuous improvement and identify areas for action which will contribute to positive Education Scotland (Inspectorate of Education) reports reflected in our performance indicators.

V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	To secure positive outcomes for children in the early years by providing a high quality pre school education service including the implementation of a Curriculum for Excellence.
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Within existing resources
VII	Consideration at PDSP	Underway
VIII	Other consultations	None

D. TERMS OF REPORT

1 Background

West Lothian Council is recognised nationally as providing high quality pre-school education. Pre-school provision in West Lothian comprises of early years centres, nursery classes and partner providers.

1.1 The Education Support Officer assures the quality of pre-school education in partner provider establishments. She also assists with quality assurance in council nurseries.

1.2 The scope of pre school partner provider quality assurance covers:

- Reviewing practice, identifying strengths and areas for improvement, reporting on these and providing actions for improvement.
- Supporting partner providers in preparing action plans following council visits, integrated inspections by Education Scotland(Inspectorate of Education) and the Care Inspectorate.
- Developing and supporting all partner provider teachers.
- Planning, sourcing and delivering Continuing Professional Development(CPD).

2 Education Support for Improvement

Evidence of partner providers' performance is gathered by the Education Support Officer during regular quality assurance visits:

- Follow up support visits when required
- The annual review of the provision

Areas for improvement identified during session 2011-2012 were:

2.1 To ensure the effectiveness of planning and assessment

Support provided by the Education Support Officer included:

- Providing a support visit and report, detailing action points for improvement.
- Providing follow up visits as required to individual partner provider centres.
- Organising and leading partner teachers' meetings, focusing on learning, teaching and assessment.
- Sharing good practice and directing staff towards the Education Scotland website to read a range of early years case studies.

2.2 To ensure high quality activities and resources are provided that support and challenge all children's learning

Support provided by the Education Support Officer included:

- Arranging CPD and ICT support.
- Directing partner provider staff to undertake good practice visits.
- Advising on resources, supplying resources and arranging for council funds to be distributed when funding is available, for named resources.

2.3 To ensure all partner provider staff continue their professional development to meet the needs of high quality pre-school education provision

Support provided by the Education Support Officer included:

- Providing regular updates of relevant West Lothian Council CPD courses.
- Planning and organising additional CPD courses to enable partner provider staff to keep abreast of current educational initiatives and to specifically address issues identified during support visits.
- The following courses were provided during session 2011-2012: Early Years Leadership Skills Development Programme, Improving Learning through Observations, Early Literacy, Early Numeracy, Managing Children's Behaviour and Developing an Outdoor Learning Environment.
- Providing relevant curricular documentation and advising on professional reading and current early years research.

2.4 To ensure systematic and robust monitoring practice of pre-school provision

Support provided by the Education Support Officer included:

- Providing training to partner providers on formal monitoring procedures.
- Providing the range of West Lothian Council pre-school monitoring documentation (monitoring calendar, monitoring guide, monitoring proformas).
- Providing training on self evaluation using Child at the Centre: self evaluation toolkit, using quality indicators(QIs) and providing examples of good practice.

E. CONCLUSION

A range of education support is provided to pre-school partner providers in response to quality issues and to promote continued improvement and professional development.

In most establishments the education support has impacted positively on the quality of pre-school provision and early level learning. Within the current contractual period 2010-2013, this has been evidenced in council support visit reports and Care Inspectorate reports. Also within Education Scotland (Inspectorate of Education) reports for First Adventures Nursery and Careshare Nursery.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None

Appendices/Attachments: None

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