



Minutes of meeting of West Midlands OBC held on 21st October 2016

Present: Nazma Meah, Tricia Wellings, Jyoti Jaspal, Alison Beard, Beverley Sharpe, Dale Ramsey, Sarah Presswood, Tim Landreth, Christine Harding, Liz Smith-Keitley, Penny Hustwick, Sue Crawford (OFSTED) joined during meeting

Apologies:

Nikki Flintham, Debbie Clarke, Anne Stevens, Andy Matthews, Andy Bent, Danielle Cassidy, Sue Bailey, Matthew England, Joanne Smith, Victoria Vann, Nikki Tomkinson (Moyens)

Non-attendance: Sally Mayer, Susan Berry

Retired

Katy Broomfield, Jemma Llewellyn

1. Welcome and Apologies

Nazma welcomed everyone to the meeting held at the Novotel, courtesy of OFSTED after a venue change

2. Appoint Minute Taker

Tim Landreth volunteered to take the minutes on this occasion. Duties to be shared each meeting.

3. Introduction to Members

No new attendees this meeting, although there are still some spaces.

We have had one member from Stoke resign and both members from Wolverhampton have resigned.

Nikki Flintham remains as representative for Stoke

Deb Clarke to be approached to take on Wolverhampton (2 spaces available)

4. Nominations for Co Chair

Alison Beard volunteered for the role, Sarah Presswood proposed, all agreed

5. Actions from last meeting

Were reviewed as agenda items

6. Report back from OBC and Discuss

The focus on disadvantaged children by Lorna from Ofsted was interesting and thought provoking, particularly with the need to acknowledge that disadvantage is not necessarily straightforward to

identify and that Local Authorities need to be doing more to identify all types of disadvantage and to share the EYPP money across all types of disadvantage.

Tricia offered anecdotal evidence of preschool transition documents not being used and errors in assessment on arrival at school.

ACTION – Providers requested to offer information on how much their transition information is used.

Lee Ryan spoke at length on the new Inspection regime – ie In house. Lee will be in charge of training and invited the OBC participants to apply to be inspectors! The conduct and behaviour of inspectors was also discussed

The Procedural representative also gave guidance on the correct use of forms etc.

Sarah Presswood suggested from her Birmingham network meetings that there was a feeling that OFSTED inspections had already improved.

7. Financial report on the OBC and Discuss

The financial report was presented, the costs were relatively low, and a small surplus of £81.00 generated.

8. Learning from other OBC regions – dates and times of meetings

It was thought that the location may have hindered attendance and that next time we may run a North and South OBC.

It was also thought that a Friday event during the day (10.00am to 1.00pm) would encourage more attendance.

9. Area Representatives and engagement of Sector and LA's

Each region offered thoughts on how they are able to access settings within their region, as far as sharing OBC information is concerned.

There was a feeling that with funding cuts, Local Authorities are unlikely to do much more that they are legally bound to do.

ACTION - Tricia Wellings – to circulate known list of LA Ofsted Contacts for confirmation by members

Birmingham – information shared via EYMIS. Good system with regular weekly information. It was felt that many providers do not access it however. There are other good EY Networks in existence. It was confirmed that Tracy Linton is the LA Ofsted rep.

Coventry – It was often a struggle to identify the correct LA representative, only real contact through Early Education Funding

Dudley – Dale reported that Dudley was pretty good at sharing information and allowing him to be a speaker at various events. Other Network groups are quite strong.

Solihull – Disappointed with the take of the OBC session, Tim will contact LA Rep to ensure that he is copied in on emails to other providers.

Telford and Wrekin – There is an amount of uncertainty in the area as a result of restructuring.

There are networks in place and they have offered an opportunity for OBC to speak up. The LA are offering a charged for service to include specific number of visits, phonecalls and training discounts.

Shropshire – seem to be quite proactive with bulletins, forum meetings

Warwickshire – another area where there has been a recent shakeup, Alison to ask how information is to be disseminated to those who aren't buying the LA services.

Worcestershire – information from the LA is not great, although Network groups are strong. Babcock seem to have a contract that covers both LA duties and administration of the NEF.

Nazma suggested that the charging for services by Local Authorities was the shape of things to come, as they need to cover their costs. The OBC should be seen as a “free” service for the benefit of all.

Tricia and Nazma both suggested that we all reinform our networks of the existence and value of the OBC and pointed people in the direction of the OBC website.

10. Planning for next Open Meeting (s)

A date was pencilled in for 10th March (subject to availability of OFSTED/other speakers)
The following topics were considered as possible agenda items;

PSED with 2 Year olds
Transitions from Nurseries to School
A school HMI or Nursery HMI (or both)
Deprivation v Disadvantage
Feedback from Focus Group meetings

ACTION – track which areas people are from at the next meeting

ACTION – all to consider speakers/topics of value and report to chair

ACTION – Chair to contact Sue Crawford with specific requirements

Gill Jones has now confirmed her attendance at this meeting.

11. Ofsted Updates – what do we need to know?

There is more guidance on Inspecting Safeguarding, this is supplementary to EYFS
SCR is a local requirement not an OFSTED one
Changes are shown on OFSTED website (although not much has fundamentally changed)
Designated Safeguarding Person needs to be contactable/accessible not necessarily on site

Nazma asked if OFSTED checked the quality/robustness of training courses, Sue suggested it was for us to decide, but generally online training may be of less value.

Medicines in EY settings – discussion over prescription/non prescription, it was felt that either was OK with parental permission

Forthcoming EYFS – not quite ready for publication and publication date unknown

First Aid Qualifications – all staff must have recognised emergency qualification within 3 months,

Millie's mark very much separate to EYFS requirements. Display of First Aid Qualifications – sufficient to have a file on hand.

If you miss The Phone Call? – they will still come to inspect (although they will try several times to get hold of you).

ACTION: attach relevant information to the minutes when circulated.

12. Ofsted Issues to be raised.

Discussion over who is contacted in the case of an inspection – it is essential that the details on the Portal are correct in order to avoid a missed call

A query was raised in relation to reasons that an Inspector might call OFSTED on the day of the inspection – they will call if there is a judgement of Inadequate or Inadequate with Enforcement proposed. Additionally an Inspector may, if they choose (but don't have to), call to qualify something in relation to a possible Outstanding judgement.

All reminded that the OFSTED OUTSTANDING Logos are only to be used by Settings after they are awarded. A logo pack with guidance is sent from OFSTED. Settings are being told to remove incorrectly used or edited Logos.

The potential difficulties associated with sharing a child's hours across a number of settings (as may happen with the introduction of 30 hours) was raised, not only for the administration of the system, but the welfare of the child.

13. Date & Location of next Steering Group meetings

Tuesday 31st January 2017 10.30am – 12.30pm

14. Any other business

ACTION – Sue Crawford to confirm OFSTED forum members (against supplied list here) from each LA and to contact Herefordshire and Wolverhampton to encourage OBC participants.