



Open Meeting Report

Tuesday 4th October 2016, Paint Pots Nurseries, Southampton

There were around 50 attendees, comprising providers, local authority representatives, Ofsted colleagues and trainers.

Ofsted staff in attendance :

Jo Caswell, Penny Fisher, Mandy Mooney, Lisa Troop, Stephen Long

Apologies – Sadly, Kate Peach was unable to chair the meeting due to injury.

Welcome and introductions – David Wright, Co-chair South East OBC / Owner Paint Pots Nurseries.

‘Online Safety for Professionals Working with Young Children’

Ken Corish, (SWGfl)

Ken gave a fascinating, insightful, entertaining and very practical presentation on trends, habits and good practice with regard to online activity. He provided guidance, tips and recommendations for maintaining effective controls, good practice and education for children, staff and families

http://prezi.com/3fyqednix4rm/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy

Links to the content referenced in the presentation:

www.swgflstore.com

www.swgfl.org.uk

www.saferinternet.org.uk

Further detail:

www.kencorish.info

OBC Business

Stephen Long spoke on behalf of all Ofsted remits in the region, giving support for the approach adopted by OBC in providers setting agendas. He said that it was something Ofsted hoped to adopt across representative and consultative groups in other remit sectors.

Stephen reiterated the commitment by OBC to positive engagement and the shared objectives to improve outcomes for children; to address general issues affecting delivery and recommendations for improvement.

David Wright reminded attendees of the rationale and achievements of OBC. He outlined the schedule of 3 annual meetings – 2 steering committee meetings interspersed with 1 open meetings. He said that the steering committee acts on behalf of providers and asked for their continued input to ensure that future agendas are representative and democratic.

David chaired a Q&A session, with points previously submitted and input from the floor. He noted that due to circumstances it had not been possible to make Ofsted aware of the content of submitted questions in advance and it was therefore unrealistic to expect full answers to all of the points raised.

Ofsted colleagues responded to questions raised. –

Setting Registration Delegates described their experiences in registering new and re-registering existing settings. In one case this had necessitated 2 separate 4+ hour interviews within a 7 day period. The point was made that this was not an efficient use of Ofsted resources and an unnecessary imposition on providers. It is unclear what criteria are used by the Ofsted registration team in

determining the requirement for a pre-registration interview rather than issuing a certificate to existing providers.

Ofsted Response Thank you for raising this issue. We are aware of the inconsistencies in process. This is under review.

Recent Inspection Experiences General feedback was that the majority of inspections are being conducted in a spirit of collegiality, with inspectors working with providers to give them the greatest opportunity to provide evidence and to demonstrate the standard of education and care their setting is providing. 2 providers stated that they had experienced “difficult” inspections. Both providers had raised complaints and one had had their judgement reviewed upwards at QA stage.

Ofsted Response Reiterated the commitment to inspectors working with providers; the need for providers to “be fully involved in” their inspection and ensure they take the opportunities to evidence their practice and to discuss and review inspection findings with the inspector during the inspection; reminded providers of the complaints procedure to follow in the event that they are not happy with any element of the inspection.

Guidance was sought for the situation where an inspection was not going as hoped for. It was noted that there is only a small window of opportunity on the day to challenge judgements should the inspector prove to be intransigent. The inspector holds a relative position of power and providers have no wish to antagonise, appear confrontational or defensive. What is the advice with regard to the best way to challenge differences of opinion?

Ofsted Response It was reiterated that providers should take the initiative in owning their inspection. In the event of disagreement it is for the manager to be assertive in challenging findings Guidance in the Early Years inspection handbook also states that inspectors will provide emerging feedback throughout the inspection. If this does

not happen, Ofsted colleagues confirmed the provider must ask the inspector about information on emerging issues so that any additional evidence may be provided.

Use of Ofsted logo There have been recent articles / discussions noting some providers adapting the Ofsted Outstanding Provider logo for use in promoting Good inspection judgements.

Ofsted Response The Outstanding logo is deliberately reserved for the exclusive recognition of providers who have achieved the required standard. It is not permissible for this logo either to be used by providers who are not entitled to do so or for it to be amended.

Several points were raised in relation to the document 'inspecting safeguarding in early years education and skills settings', 2016

Update:

It was noted that there is a reference to Child Protection in paragraph 18. The question is whether providers are now required to have a separate child protection policy in addition to a safeguarding policy?

Ofsted Response The EYFS statutory requirements have not changed. There is no requirement for a specific child protection policy. Providers must show that they have policies that sufficiently cover all aspects of child protection.

With respect to safeguarding, there is a stated requirement for all staff to have 'their knowledge and skills refreshed at regular intervals, but at least annually'. There was a question as to what constitutes sufficiency in terms of refreshing knowledge and skills. Are all staff required to undertake a recognised training course annually?

Ofsted Response It is for providers to assess the level and method of training required to ensure staff are sufficiently knowledgeable. There is no definition of the term 'regularly' – it is the responsibility

of providers to ensure the quality of the training provided to staff to ensure they gain the relevant skills and updated knowledge.

The document references a Staff Behaviour Policy 'to keep all children and learners safe'. Are providers required to have a specific policy covering staff behaviour detailing how they keep children and learners safe?

Ofsted Response As stated above, Ofsted do not require providers to have a specific Staff Behaviour policy. It is for providers to demonstrate that their policies cover staff behaviour necessary to keep children and learners safe.

There is a requirement for a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) to be always available during hours of opening. Providers have been asking whether this means that a DSL has to be on site at all times during hours of opening?

Ofsted Response The requirement is for a DSL to be available at all times during hours of opening. This includes being accessible eg by phone or at another location. Further guidance will be issued by the policy team on this.

Concern has been expressed at the guidance to inspectors to investigate a provider's online presence prior to inspection and the focus on safeguarding with respect to the control and distribution of digital images of children. Some providers have reported being told that open Facebook groups are unacceptable. Does Ofsted have specific prescriptions in this area?

Ofsted Response Providers need to demonstrate that they are mindful of and have implemented controls sufficient to safeguard all children in an online environment. This includes assessment of digital images. As such, Ofsted do not insist that a provider's facebook group must be closed. However, it is the responsibility of providers

to demonstrate how they have considered the safety and security of children, families and staff when using social media.