

MINUTES - OBC/OFSTED MEETING 26TH JANUARY 2017

Attendees

Ofsted: Eileen Mulgrew – Senior HMI in NW
Martin Williams – ARC
Chris Russell – RD in NW
Elaine White – Senior Officer for EY in NW

OBC: Jennie Johnson
Jo Kinloch
Cary Rankin
Nicole Politis
Clare Roberts
Jane Casey
Claire Robinson
Clair Beswick
Rachel Buckler

Apologies: Elaine Sagar
Sarah Neville

• Preparation for Open Meeting Saturday 18th March 2017

- Ticket sales – currently sold over 480 tickets. 20 to be allocated to Ofsted.
- Agenda – agreed that Ofsted would have a 30 minute slot from 10-10.30am, on issues relating to 'inspection and compliance'. We also discussed a focus on the type of evidence that inspectors may gather when assessing children's progress in a setting.
- This would be followed by an OBC presentation entitled 'The Perfect Storm' which will address current issues facing the sector. These will include 30 hours, national minimum and living wage, lack of LA and SEN support, qualifications crisis re GCSEs, apprenticeship levy, business rates. We will attempt to focus on what settings can do to positively affect the issues and where to look for help.
- The keynote speaker Alice Sharp will then speak for 75 minutes. The event will be concluded with the usual Q&A session.
- We will attempt to gather questions in advance to allow Ofsted chance to prepare answers in conjunction with ARC and the policy unit, but will also take questions on the day.
- We spoke for some time about one of the current issues i.e. LA support for settings. Ofsted has 'Annual conversations' with local authorities and can

feed back information to them from OBC. AC spoke about the importance of the GLD (Good Level of Development) at the end of reception years and how Liverpool are currently bottom of the league table in the North West, and they are in the process of challenging Las to find out what they are doing to support settings as part of the aim to increase these results.

- The OBC representatives agreed to gather information about their respective Las and feed it back to AC and EM – under the headings training, vision/engagement/strategy, contact and communication, LADO, Safeguarding, transition projects
- **Childminders are reporting they are having problems ringing Ofsted for information or advice. The phone line does not allow them to speak to a person and sends them to the website - some do not have computers at home and others do not access computers when they are working - plus many find the Ofsted website hard to navigate. Can Ofsted advise the best way to get through to a person please, if that is what the Childminder wants?**
 - MW confirmed that the Ofsted approach is to try to encourage people to use the Ofsted website as much as possible from an efficiency/costs savings perspective. However, if childminders have their EY number to hand, there is a sequence of entries they can make on the phone line which will enable them to speak to a real person. He will send this to us.
- **Millie's Mark – we have had reports that during an Ofsted inspection, when it was pointed out to an Inspector that all staff were first aid trained, the Inspector replied “Have you considered Millie's mark that would help get you an outstanding!”. We would like to discuss with you Ofsted's feelings towards Millie's Mark and its impact on our grading.**
 - Ofsted rejected any suggestion that Millie's Mark or any other external grading system should have any impact on the outcome of an inspection and would look into clarifying this with inspectors. Millie's Mark makes no difference to inspection outcomes.
- **To discuss “full and relevant childcare qualifications”, for example, Cache Level 3 Diploma in Home Based Childcare having to be classed as Unqualified in a Nursery.**
 - This is a point relevant to the DfE and CACHE rather than Ofsted and the link can be found as follows re 'full and relevant' qualifications:
<http://www.education.gov.uk/eypgd/search/search.cfm>
- **AOB**

- Minibuses – we discussed that one of our members has recently established that the type of driving licence needed for minibuses greater than 9 seaters must be a D1 and PSV licence, not just relying on a standard licence, assuming the setting owning the business is not a charity – this has had a significant financial implication for the business and we suspect that many settings are not in compliance.
- Early years delivery unit – this is the name of the new national unit which will be in charge of all EY inspectors from April. All is going well in preparation for the new regime.
- Group inspections and paid for inspections – Ofsted confirmed that plans for both of these are on hold at the moment.