



Children, Education and Communities

Early Years & Childcare Service  
West Offices  
Station Rise  
York  
YO1 6GA

To: Lead Contact  
Shared Foundation Partnership

Email: [Barbara.mands@york.gov.uk](mailto:Barbara.mands@york.gov.uk)

(01904) 554371

September 2019

Dear Colleague,

### **SHARED FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIPS – ANNUAL LETTER**

Firstly, thank you again to all our Shared Foundation Partnerships for their continued work over the past year. Nationally the Government and other Local Authorities are always keen to understand more about your work in addressing sufficiency and improving quality via partnership working and therefore the importance and uniqueness of our model is not to be underestimated.

It is also fantastic to see that good partnership working across York is increasingly highlighted within published Ofsted reports contributing to our overall success of 98.5% of early years and childcare providers receiving a good or outstanding judgment. This is a further increase from last year and is above the national average of 94%.

We will continue to support you to develop your partnership working to address any future sufficiency or quality challenges but with a particular focus on social mobility to close the gap between disadvantaged and vulnerable children and their peers. **Over the next year a priority will be to encourage building on transitions from settings to schools by the improved use of information to support children's readiness for school and schools' readiness for children. As part of this we will explore the contribution of the different sectors to a child's journey, the added value that each of the sectors can bring to a child's early learning and develop with you a model transition document.**

If you could continue to invite your Quality Improvement Adviser to termly/half termly meetings to provide on going support and advice it would be appreciated. This letter highlights some key arrangements over the following year.

### **Areas of focus – Three Key Themes**

We would encourage you to continue to focus on the following three key themes:

- Improving the quality of provision (early language development, inclusion, transition, moderation, supporting vulnerability)
- Increasing the provision of new childcare places ( + the broader age range + 2 year olds + 15 hour places) to meet any unmet demand.
- Development of a blended childcare offer (flexible, coordinated 6am to 8pm provision).

We recommend that you continue to look at extending your membership to include out of school clubs and how you involve childminders (where appropriate) and further develop links with your Local Area Team (LAT) and Health Visitors in order to help ensure that partnerships will be able to meet increased demand in their local area whilst sharing good practice and supporting children who are more vulnerable.

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## **Partnership Chair**

Each Shared Foundation Partnership has now appointed a Chair and you may wish to re-appoint to the role of Chair at your Autumn Term meeting. The person appointed should be able to persuade and influence and will ensure that principles and values remain central to the workings of the partnership. They should also support the continued focus on the three key themes at your main meetings alongside implementation of the SFP Action Plan.

## **Partnership Social Mobility Champion**

If you haven't already done so it is recommended that each Shared Foundation Partnership identifies a champion from within their partnership to give focus to closing the word gap in the early years and promote the sharing of best practice. The role would involve sharing good practice around identifying and supporting disadvantaged groups and could be any member of the partnership with a passion for work in this area.

## **Partnership SENDCo & Early Years Lead roles**

We advise each partnership continues to have a nominated SENDCo and Early Years Lead (formerly known as QTS).

It is worth refreshing the purpose of the Partnership roles at your Autumn Term meeting which I've attached for information.

## **Partnership Details**

It is vital that our database holds the most up to date details for the following:

- details of the chairperson
- main contact for the partnership
- details of the new social mobility champion
- nominated partnership 'SENDCo and 'Early Years Lead'
- details of all members of the partnership including an up to date email address for each of them
- account details for where funding should be paid (see Funding paragraph below)

We have attached a blank pro-forma. Please could you provide all of the information requested so that we can amend our database where necessary so that we have the most up to date information for each partnership. Please return the form with your completed action plan via email to [emma.brookes@york.gov.uk](mailto:emma.brookes@york.gov.uk) by **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019**. Once all partnership pro-formas and action plans have been returned we will process the funding as appropriate.

## **Funding**

I am pleased to confirm that we are able to continue with the funding of £100 to all active partnerships that meet once per term and have the required roles actively working to support their partnership. The funding may be used to fund:

- CPD across the partnership e.g. Speech & Language training programmes
- Supply cover for those staff wishing to attend training that would benefit the partnership

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- Marketing
- Events
- SENDCo

If the funding is paid into your school budget then the school budget code 61100 will be used.

### **Partnership Inclusion Offer template**

As in previous years we encourage you to complete the Inclusion Offer template (attached with this letter) to support the ongoing development of your partnership. If you have completed this previously it is timely to review the content to build a more comprehensive view for parents around your Partnership inclusion offer. The ethos is to develop an ongoing working document to reflect the evolving nature of practice around inclusion. The personalised offer will show the skills, knowledge and experience across the partnership and enhance our inclusive practice City wide. The themes complement both our local offer and schools local offer.

We would encourage all partnerships to discuss and complete their Inclusion Offers at their next meeting and to also publish your Partnership Inclusion Offer on your SFP web pages, SFP pages linked to school websites and setting web pages where ever possible. If you require more information or support please contact Nicola Dos Santos, Early Years and Childcare Inclusion Adviser on 01904 555424 or email [nicola.DosSantos@york.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.DosSantos@york.gov.uk)

### **Shared Foundation Partnership Information Sessions**

The local authority will continue to host bi-annual information sessions. There will be an opportunity to share new information, an opportunity for networking and a topical discussion around sharing good practice. We encourage all Shared Foundation Partnership members to attend together and there are enough places to accommodate all attendees. We are pleased that feedback from the information sessions indicates that the format is working well so we will continue to prioritise these events for you to attend.

The next information sessions will have a focus on the importance of Early Help delivered by colleagues from the Local Area Teams as well as childcare sufficiency planning and will be held on the following dates:

- Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019 9.30-11.30am, The Leyes, York, YO10 3PR
- Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019 9.30-11.30am, York Sports Club, Clifton Park, Shipton Road, York YO30 5RE

Please book by emailing [eycc@York.gov.uk](mailto:eycc@York.gov.uk).

### **Website page**

Links to all the information contained in this letter can be found on the Shared Foundation Partnership website page at [www.yor-ok.org.uk/workforce2014/Childcare%20Strategy/shared-foundation-partnership.htm](http://www.yor-ok.org.uk/workforce2014/Childcare%20Strategy/shared-foundation-partnership.htm)

### **Case Studies**

We welcome any examples of good practice or case studies that you are able to share with us which can be added to the website and shared at the SFP information sessions. Please forward to [emma.brookes@york.gov.uk](mailto:emma.brookes@york.gov.uk) any contributions you would like to share.

### **Action required**

Please complete the attached partnership form with the most up to date details of all partners.

Please review last year's action plan and use this to produce your new action plan for 2019/20.

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Please return all forms by **Friday 29th November 2019**. Once all forms and action plans have been returned we will be able to process the funding as appropriate.

Please note if you do not have an action plan there is a risk your payment will not be processed.

If you have any further questions regarding the Shared Foundation Partnerships then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you

Yours sincerely

B Mands

Barbara Mands  
Head of Early Years & Childcare Service

CC: *The Chair of Shared Foundation Partnership*