

Children Young People and Learning

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Dear Early Years and Childcare Providers

We are writing to you with some exciting news. West Sussex County Council (WSSC) has been successful in securing support from the Local Government Association (LGA) to write an overarching Early Years Strategy. You will know from recent communications that WSSC are committed to a strategy that follows a child's journey from birth and their earliest years through to adulthood.

The process of writing a strategy is as important as the end result. It provides an opportunity for connection, greater shared understanding, and very importantly gaining strategic ownership of the strategy at the highest level. We will be working with Ann Van Dyke, from the LGA, and a peer from Cumbria County Council, who will facilitate a series of meetings and focus groups with key stakeholders who are essential to ensuring our strategies are legally compliant.

Stakeholders will include meeting senior leaders at the Council and Local Authority Directorates, wider teams who engage with the early years sector, early years and childcare providers and parents. As practitioners working in the sector, your perspective will be crucial to us in shaping the strategy in a way that ensures it focuses on what will have the biggest impact in improving outcomes for children in West Sussex.

We are really pleased that we have been able to secure this support to help us on our journey to writing an early years to adulthood strategy that meets the needs of West Sussex children and families, and we would very much encourage you to be part of the conversations and shaping of the vision.

The voice of Early Years and Childcare providers is key to our strategy and we hope that you will be able to share your knowledge and experience with us in order to ensure the best start for all children in West Sussex.

The provider focus group will be taking place on 7 December 2022, 6.00pm to 8.00pm via Microsoft Teams and will be led by Katie Clarke from Cumbria County Council.

To express interest in taking part in this session, please email: family.info.service@westsussex.gov.uk. Spaces are limited and if we have more requests to join, we will endeavour to ensure a balanced representation. Further session information will be sent at a later date. For those who are unable to attend, we will contact you to let you know how you can share your views.

Yours Sincerely

Helen Gillespie (Senior Education Advisor) and
Yasmin Maskatiya (Head of Service - Standards and Effectiveness)