



Claire Kenyon (Busy Lizzie's Nursery, Chichester)

I would like to put myself forward as a candidate for the role of early years representative on the West Sussex Schools Forum. I am hugely passionate about the needs of the sector, particularly in relation to changing the way the profession is viewed, increasing the value placed on early childhood and ensuring that children under 5 are given the best possible start in life.

I am already working hard to unite the sector in West Sussex, for example by recently creating a Facebook group for West Sussex Providers as a place to gather the views of providers across the county – both childminders and nurseries. I am also working to unite the sector nationally with a campaign group – Early Years Equality – which aims to support those in the profession to realise their own worth and ensure that the rights of children are at the centre of discussion.

I have a huge amount of experience working in early years having been in this career my entire adult life (19 years and counting). I have been co-owner and managing director of Busy Lizzie's Nursery since 2019 and have also recently qualified as an Early Years Teacher.

A large proportion of the sector are apprehensive about the expansion of the government's 'free' entitlement offer. I believe it is important that these views are shared and discussed so that we can work together to deliver a format that supports providers, enables quality provision, gives children a good start in life, promotes professionalisation of the sector and ensures our educators can be paid appropriately according to qualifications and experiences whilst also giving families and parents they need. I believe that I am well placed for this role in West Sussex and appreciate your consideration.