



## Learning Together About Learning

Putting sound early years principles into practice

## A DfE funded project to support the introduction of Early Years Pupil Premium

Newsletter issue 6

### WELCOME

To the final newsletter from the project. It has been a year where much has been learnt but there are still many questions requiring answers as we continue to learning about EYPP.

### The dissemination events

All six dissemination events were successfully held. The events were attended by over 400 delegates. Each event had a different speaker and topics included attachment, interactions, role of the adult, influencing the home learning environment and self-regulation. The speakers were well received and handouts from several can be downloaded from our [project webpages](#). Delegates reported finding the networking opportunities to be useful, especially to find that many people were facing similar challenges and had resolved them in similar ways.

Thanks to everyone at the events who shared the ways they have been spending their funding. We've had lots of feedback that people want to know how other settings have been spending the funding. Here are some of the ways you told us about:

**Continuous professional development** – CLL training, Early Talk Boost, consultancy to develop practice, forest school training, engaging parents, development of EYPP champions and visits to inspirational settings

**Widening children's experiences** – artist in residence, extra sessions, music therapy, theatre and other trips, living eggs, 1:1 time, targeted interventions, meals, specialist support eg drama sessions and staff time to provide children with more experiences

**Developing provision** – outdoor clothing, IT resources which can be used by the children as well as staff, sensory resources, construction resources, potty seat, small world equipment, teddy bears for bedtime story bear and more highly qualified staff

**Home learning environment** – releasing staff to talk with families, loan libraries, training to see practice from family's viewpoint, training sessions for families run by familiar adults for family

**Attendance** – walking bus, car insurance so staff member can pick child up, bus fare to setting, uniform

It is important to remember that we are in a position to use the knowledge we have of the EYPP funded children so that the money is spent in a way that is going to have the greatest benefit for them. It may also be possible that this spend will also impact other groups of children who may also need careful planning for. Whilst this list could be useful it is going to be the justification of your spend that will count as well as the impact it has. Being on this list will not necessarily ensure impact. We have been given permission to be as creative as suits our children and families with this funding and have not been limited to a narrow range of choices.

Settings also shared processes they have embedded into their practice as a result of EYPP coming into effect. These include:

- refining the way in which training needs are identified
- focusing on progress children make
- cohorts of children's progress are being tracked and analysed which have led to interventions or developments to practice
- implementing action plans which focus on the EYPP children
- developing closer collaborations between the maintained and PVI sector
- information regarding EYPP initial information packs,
- reviewing policies in the light of EYPP and updated as necessary
- sharing decision making with families
- moderation activities internally as well as externally,
- case studies showing the difference the funding has made
- information regarding EYPP on the setting's website
- children's progress is central to supervision conversations
- discussion of EYPP children's progress has a regular slot at staff meetings

Settings reported including families in their decision making processes is an area they would like to focus on in the coming year. Some strategies that have been trialled this year are:

- questionnaires
- information in starter packs
- parent consultations focussing on progress and support both in the setting as well as at home
- parent workshops
- sharing of resources
- letters with suggestions or information about EYPP
- story boxes
- home visits
- "Saturdads" sessions or stay and play sessions,
- use of e-learning journal

- parental feedback forms

We also asked you for suggestions for how EYPP systems could be improved further at a local and national level, based on your own experiences of EYPP funding. Your suggestions included:

Local authorities could:

- identify eligible children more quickly
- make the payment earlier in the term
- develop further opportunities for helping settings collaborate

Government could:

- raise the rate to be closer to the school amount
- have a universal system where the funding will automatically be paid to the settings
- have one application point whilst a child is at the setting
- open up EYPP funding to all funded 2 year olds

Your suggestions for further support in relation to EYPP include:

- ideas for assessing impact of spending
- further opportunities to moderate
- lists of how EYPP funding has been spent
- EYPP reviews
- developing strategies for enhancing partnerships with parents
- further data guidance and support

## **THE PRACTICAL GUIDE**

A practical guide to allocating EYPP has been produced now from the findings of the project. It looks at areas you might like to look at when making your decisions about how the funding will be spent. There is also a suggestion for taking step by step approach to spending the funding. It can be found on the [Early Education](#) website and can be downloaded from here. Feedback from the events has been good on this booklet. Some local authorities have asked for hard copies for their settings. We hope that you find it useful as well.

## **FINALLY:**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the networks who have taken part in this project for sharing all of their learning with us. I would particularly like to thank the leads for all the time they have put into supporting the settings in their networks and to those participants who attended the events. It was a big ask as every body's EYPP processes are still in their infancy. There was lots of positive feedback about how useful an experience it was to talk to people who had had similar

challenges and to hear how they had been overcome. All of the materials that are on the Early Education Website will be remaining there and the final project report will be added shortly.

Thank you also for subscribing to these newsletters and the positive response I have had on the materials as well as the newsletters.

I wish you well and hope your EYPP journey continues to be as rewarding as it has been this year.

*Caroline Eaton*

*Project Lead*

*Caroline finishes her time as project lead at the end of March 2016. The EYPP resources developed during the project will remain on the Early Education website, and you can contact the office with any queries. Caroline and the rest of our team of Associates will continue to be available for training and consultancy in relation to the Early Years Pupil Premium and other aspects of implementing sound early years principles and pedagogy.*