

Scoping the EYCP

An on-line survey was conducted in June/July 2016 to scope the Early Years and Childhood Partnership (EYCP). The survey was circulated to previous members of the EYCP. While there were only 7 responses they give a flavour of views. They are recorded in full below.

1. What are your expectations of the Partnership in terms of its functions?

* To enable and improve communication for all around all aspects of early childhood development. To provide a more joined up approach to (i) influencing changes to relevant family policy or legislation and (ii) communicating health, education or other messages to families and the children and family workforce. To create a reflective practice approach (adopt the 'always learning' perspective) to consider current practice locally against latest research from elsewhere and inform changes to practice. This to include local parent and children's experiences, thoughts and feedback regularly from all member services. To enable more collaborative working (informed by the voice of parents and children), reducing any duplication and enabling clarity of roles.

* That it will be a wide ranging body, encompassing all areas of childhood who can work together to improve children and families lives in Jersey. It is a forum where all voices can contribute, however work must be prioritised and completed. Not just an idealised talking shop. We need clear objectives and projects which fed into a strategic policy. 1001 days is part of it, however work from Children and Young People's Strategic Framework must also be considered as 1001 days forms only a small part of children's life. That the work of EYCP is recognised and informs or contributes to policy in the Island. Includes the voices of parents and wherever possible the children themselves as well as representatives from organisations. Of the options highlighted below. I feel it needs to focus on Informing policy, Influencing the planning and development of services in order to promote children and families' needs and interests and rights. (I did not think one option covered the whole brief.)

* To support the partnership of private and states.

* The children of Jersey need a force which strives to achieve the very best for each and every child in the Early Years Those who work with children in all sectors need support to work in partnership to achieve this. The system is fragmented and a lot of the work done during the early stages of the EYCP has been either forgotten or disregarded. The Minister and the Education Department have little regard for the opinions of parents or child care/ education workers. Parents and Childcare professionals need a voice so that they will be listened to.

* To bring together all involved with children and families. To consult with all stakeholders including children and parents. To be fully inclusive - this is not currently happening e.g. 1001 days task force - certain groups are excluded and have not been consulted.

* Unify agencies who too often appear to have conflicting agenda and act in silos.

* To co-ordinate a joined up approach to meeting the needs of the island's children and families.

2. On which of the following should the partnership focus?

NB This question only permitted a single response. Hence the findings should be regarded as the top priority.

Several respondents commented that they would have liked to include several, or all responses.

	No. of responses
Informing policy	0
Influencing the planning and development of services	1
Setting standards	0
Promoting children and families' needs, interests and rights	2
Undertaking research	1
Workforce development / training	1
Sharing and improving practice	1
Co-ordinating activity e.g. service delivery / key messages	2
Awareness raising	0
Exploring opportunities for new developments	0

3. What would you like the Partnership to achieve in:

a) The next six months:

- Getting to know members and existing work streams and forums/Boards, establish a structure to work within, identify key areas of focus and accompanying data sets if relevant (to include Childcare Registration Review Outcomes as immediate priorities but additionally influenced by parents, children and the workforce). Also a task and finish group to coordinate sector CPD.
- To establish a co-ordinating team with an overall plan. Play strategy published and launched properly. Objectives for short and longer term.
- Partnership!
- Making sure those in authority actually listen to parents and people who work with children.
- Bringing stakeholders back together and listening.
- Common aims and vision developed by, and shared with, all agencies.

b) The short term (1 – 2 years)

- Begin to put early years and childhood 'on the map' to include questions in the Annual Social Survey. Influencing policy/legislative changes re CCR review & Social Inclusion. Beginning to share key messages with the public.
- Early Years Pre Birth – 3 years for child and family a joined up approach.
- As above.
- All agencies working in partnership to achieve what is best for our Early Years children.
- Consultation.
- Establish framework for 0 – 5 that encompasses all agencies and is achievable by all.
- Effective working groups accountable for projects.

c) The longer term: 3 to 5 years

- To reach a good working together model by now that enables new areas to be considered by stakeholders and members. To have a childcare registration review process that is effective, efficient and useful to all, including parents to influence decisions around childcare.
- Life as a family in Jersey an “ask only once” approach for families.
- As above.

- Looking at best practice in countries where they provide better for children and working to implement it in Jersey.
- Research to inform policy.
- Positive impact on children's lives.

4. How could the Early Years and Childhood Partnership support you in achieving your strategic objectives?

- To create a reporting structure that enables action and ensures members are accountable to each other and the Partnership objectives. That this structure liaises well with for example the NCB Early Childhood Development Programme and applies any data sets established by Jersey through this and other work, to our emerging planned activities. (Baby Friendly Initiative (breastfeeding data just released), through the Food and Nutrition Strategy - Martin Knight for example) To engage with the Health Intelligence Unit to establish strong links and ensure that EYCP work is informed, informs and is at the cutting edge of any States priorities too. To create a system with members to enable us to work creatively and productively together without barriers (low administration - action points rather than long minutes) shared IT point for communication (social media opportunities?), focussed meetings, well chaired with informed agenda points with easy reporting back structure that reduces any duplication for members. In an ideal world for all members to have experienced Resilience Skills Training to develop a common resilient language and way of working. 20 Early Year's Managers and Leaders did it in late 2014 and the feedback given at a recent Managers Meeting with Childcare Registration continues to show the impact that this training had on them over a year and a half ago now. Enable one and two-way communication amongst members and stakeholders - embracing social media and other methods. To have a member of the Communications Unit fully informed and 'on the journey' with the EYCP.
- By being able to form relevant working groups from a range of areas to work on a focussed project. By being a voice at the policy making process to ensure all areas of a subject are included before policy or procedures are put in place.
- Working together would have ensure that we are not in the position that we find ourselves in today regarding funding and building of new nurseries. Also inequality and the dilemma of our registrar being our competitor.
- By supporting the states and private sectors to work in partnership for consistency of standards and co-operation so that every child receives the same quality of care and education.
- Listening to stakeholders, consultation, representation.
- Establishing common aims and objectives that engage all. Co-ordinated training for practitioners. Setting the expectations for partnership work and supporting this.
- To enable the children in my school to make progress and achieve, we need to understand their experiences in the early years, identify where families need support and know what services are available to them. The Partnership could help strengthen multi-agency working so that the children get the best start possible.

5. To whom should the Partnership be open and from your previous attendance were there groups not represented?

- Open only to those delivering services and working with and for children, parents and the workforce. Caring Cooks Charity - provides cooking courses for parents, growing projects for children, and meal delivery service for families at time of need. Resilience Matters Charity - delivers Resilience Skills Training to practitioners and parents. The EYCP should be clear on who or what each member is actually representing. It a

group claims to represent a certain sector of society, then evidence of how views are requested and represented would be valuable. Safeguarding Partnership Board has undergone various changes since previously EYCP was operating and we would all benefit from joining up the two organisations.

- It should be open to any group/organisation who is involved in children and their families' lives. Some representatives may only need to be part of the wider meetings for focussed topics which involve them. This happened last time with Employment Law.
- Everyone who is involved with, or has an interest in, Early Years children.
- All involved with children and families.
- All agencies serving 0 – 5 and their families. Not sure who did attend previously.
- All agencies who represent the interests of children and families - well attended last time (this was my first meeting) - was there a representative from Police Public Protection Unit - they work closely with families through child protection

6. Who would be the most appropriate representative of your service / organisation / institution / group and who would they be able to represent?

- Fiona Vacher - Executive Director Alice Bennion - Area Special Needs Inclusion Coordinator. Fiona is best able to represent a proportion of working parents in Jersey. This is through knowledge gained through Annual Focus Groups. Additionally, through the regular enquiries to the Childcare Information Service and choosing childcare workshops delivered at various parent groups across the Island. Alice is best placed to represent elements of the registered day nursery and preschool workforce and parents in relation to children inclusion matters for children with special educational needs and disabilities. Fiona also has elements of knowledge of the registered and accredited childcare sector providers in relation to skills development needs, CPD and qualification needs, resources requirements, safeguarding issues. Representation of these issues, however, might be a trickier one to pin down to who!
- Nicola Mulliner could represent Early Years in Education Department, as she is Head of Early Years. I am happy to represent regarding the regulation sector of childcare.
- JEYA
- JEYA is the voice of the private sector
- Unsure of the question? The representative could change dependant on date and time of meeting.
- Gill Speed, Samares Pathways Child & Family Centre Manager - representing facilitators at Pathways and the families served.
- As a Primary Headteacher I represent the States Primary Heads and their schools. There is more than one representative from the Education department, as we provide different services.

7. How do you intend to disseminate the work of the EYCP and bring back a representative voice?

- We are open to the prospect of re-establishing a Parent's Forum to inform the work of the JCCT. We have a number of parents who regularly input into our work and perhaps would appreciate this being more formalised. If not a forum, then the annual Parent's Focus Groups provide a parent's voice to the EYCP. JCCT website is currently being re-designed and we have designated a place for EYCP business to show our activity and the outcomes associated with this for the sector. JCCT's membership on the Safeguarding Partnership Board, Preschool Forum, Bridge Strategic Board, will enable dissemination of work too.

- If I am involved I would ensure all discussed is disseminated at team meetings and where appropriate members of this team could sit on working groups. This would be according to expertise or links with that topic.
- Over to you!
- People need to feel that their opinions will actually be valued, listened to, considered and acted upon. Jersey is not good at this. Those who work with children already take on enormous workloads (and in many cases already work outside of the hours they are paid) it will be a huge task to get them involved because they just don't have the time and energy, with the pace of life as it is today.
- Through membership of the organisation.
- Through staff meetings and parent forum.
- Through regular Primary Headteacher meetings and Chief Officer meetings which include secondary heads. As co-chair of Primary Heads, I am well-placed to consult and disseminate.

8. How would you see an effective partnership operating?

* One where we look forward to attending the meetings. Where we leave the meetings with a clear set of actions that create eventual outcomes that make a clear and tangible difference for children and their parents. One that is open and transparent, where members are consulted and involved equally and where space for creating new ideas and thinking together is enabled. Then for the systems and some support/outside expertise (communications, data...) to be provided to enable the best work to be done.

* The independent chair- working closely with a small coordinating team to drive the work on Island. Some wider partnership meetings where initially objectives would be agreed, then working groups led by someone in that area to work on specific pieces of work e.g. a task and finish type style of working to ensure completion on time. An annual review is important. The work must be fed up and down to policy makers in government via EYCP chair and a small co-ordinating team. Administration support will be required. Work could be published on the web.

* Simply working together for the best interests of our island children and their families. This has clearly not been the focus or the aim.

* It can only work if everyone has a voice, opinions are listened to, considered and when appropriate acted upon.

* With effective leadership

* Frequent, ongoing partnership work towards common shared aims

* Task teams and working groups, with a clear expectation for action.