

To Solihull Early Years Providers who are Early Years registered and also those on childcare registered

CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SKILLS

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Your Ref:

Please ask for: Lisa Morris /
Sonia Waszczak

Our Ref: LM/SW

Date: September 2017

Dear Leaders, Managers and Childminders

**Solihull Early Years and Education Improvement Service
'Setting Improvement Strategy' Visit [SIS] 2017/2018**

We are writing to outline the agenda for this year's 'Setting Improvement Strategy' support visit. The purpose of this visit will be to jointly evaluate the provision with the setting, and determine strengths and on-going support needs. We are undergoing a review within the service which may affect the visits after January 2018.

We plan for the visits to take place between September 2017 and the end of August 2018, but this may change through the change management process. We hope that reflecting on your provision together with an early years adviser, will support your self-evaluation. It also allows us to use our resources in proportion to need, in order to maintain and improve quality. Discussions will be based on the national EYFS guidance documents (EYFS Statutory Guidance, Early Education and Childcare 'LA' Statutory Guidance, Operational Guidance, Solihull LA Agreement, and the Ofsted Registration / Early Years Handbook). The visit will be tailored to the registration requirements of each setting and we will prioritise our visits as outlined below.

The visit will include:

- **A walk around the provision** to discuss any changes or as part of a 'joint evaluation activity' – as applicable
- **A joint discussion** using the EYFS and the Ofsted evaluation criteria or the registration requirements for the setting.
- **A review of the last SIS Report** and any further developments.
- **A 'joint evaluation activity' for EYFS provision** which will be identified with the LA adviser and the settings to focus on a setting priority. The focus of this activity will be decided during the pre-visit telephone conversation. It will focus on one of the four themes within the Ofsted evaluation schedule. We expect to talk to the lead/ manager and another staff member during visits to larger settings with

multiple members of staff. This may be the lead for the main part of the visit and another practitioner for the joint activity. This activity will be for settings on the Early Years Register.

The Early Years Adviser who is allocated to your setting will contact you to arrange a visit. We are prioritising settings that match the following criteria for our support during the first part of the year.

Priority settings:

- Those on the Early Years Register
- Early Education Funded providers on the local authority register of providers
- Settings that have not had a good/ outstanding Ofsted Inspection grade within the last year
- Ofsted / Setting Improvement Strategy history – priority for those settings that have not been judged as good during their last inspections
- Settings which are new and those that are due an Ofsted inspection

We will also consider local intelligence such as training attended, other support from LA teams such as Speech and Language Therapy through the 'interaction' coaching, Solihull Early Years Inclusion support, and the settings capacity for continuous quality improvement. Our information, advice and training will be focused on childcare providers identified as needing to improve the quality of their provision, although LA teams will continue to promote high-quality provision through their work with settings across Solihull.

Generic training opportunities continue to be available and will be advertised through www.solgrid.org.uk/eyc, this includes some on-line training links. Additional training is available through Solihull LSCB at <http://www.solihulllscb.co.uk/training>.

To discuss this further, please contact a member of the team by telephone on 0121 704 6150 or eyenquiries@solihull.gov.uk.

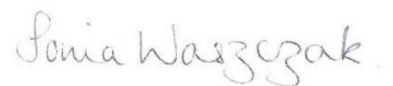
Yours sincerely



Clair McNeill
Head of Solihull Early Years and Education Service



Lisa Morris
Early Years Adviser



Sonia Waszczak
Early Years Adviser

Early Years Advisers: Sonia Waszczak and Lisa Morris

Learning and Development Advisers: Jayne Draper, Rachel Painter (maternity leave 30/9/17) and Vicki Watson

Welfare and Safeguarding Officers: Wendy Hillier

Inclusion Support Worker: Helen McKiernan

<http://www.solgrid.org.uk/eyc/team-2/>