

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting:	19 June 2012
Report of:	Lorraine Butcher Strategic Director Children's, Families and Adults
Subject/Title:	Early Years
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Hilda Gaddum

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 Request by Children & Families Scrutiny for “an initial background paper on what the council can do to help stop children arriving at school with below average levels of cognition and behaviour”.

2.0 Decision Requested

- 2.1 Children and Families Scrutiny to consider the contents of the paper and determine if further information is required.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 Initial background report provided - detailed specific reports to be produced as appropriate.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All

6.0 Policy Implications including - Carbon reduction - Health

- 6.1 National Policy

7.0 Financial Implications (Director of Finance and Business Services)

- 7.1 National Policy

8.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

8.1 National Policy

9.0 Risk Management

9.1

10.0 Background and Options

10.1 *“There is no single factor that determines attainment but good quality early years provision is important. No one factor is the key to enhancing child cognitive and behavioural outcomes in the long term. It is the combination of experiences over time that matters:*

- *A good early years home learning environment*
- *A good quality pre-school*
- *A more effective primary school*

A child who has all three of these experiences is more likely to show improved cognitive and social outcomes compared with children that have two, one or none of these experiences”. EPPSE (previously called the Effective Provision of Pre-school Education (EPPE)

10.2 Developing Quality Early Years Provision within the LA

10.2.1 The Local Authority is responsible for securing sufficient childcare to enable children to access their 2/3/4 year olds Free Early Education Entitlement and to enable parents to access work and training. Funding for the delivery of the Free Entitlement is managed by the LA. All providers and children in receipt of the Free Entitlement are known to the LA.

10.2.2 A list of all Ofsted registered childcare is maintained by the Local Authority via regular notifications from Ofsted (referred to as the Ofsted Download). The download data includes details of newly registered, resigned and proposed day nurseries, pre-schools; LA maintained nurseries, independent schools and childminders, out of school and holiday clubs.

10.2.3 The Early Years provision within Cheshire East is divided as:

- Childminder - 352
- Creche - 5
- Day Nursery - 124
- Holiday Scheme - 52
- Home Childcarer (voluntary registered nannies) - 64
- Maintained Nursery (within a maintained primary school) – 23
- Maintained Nursery School - 1
- Nursery Units of independent schools - 7

- Out of School Care - 111
- Pre School Playgroup – 54
- Reception classes - 127

Of the provision that delivers the Free Entitlement, over 78% is “good” or “outstanding”.

10.3 Regulation

10.3.1 Ofsted is the regulatory body. Ofsted information can be accessed through various sources:

- the Ofsted website: www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report
- ‘Tribal’ our LA database which holds all the names of the registered early years provision within CE and is regularly updated with information received from Ofsted (the contact for Tribal is Mark McGonigle, a member of the First Contact Team.)
- Cheshire East Family Information Directory (FIDY) accessed via the Cheshire East website.

10.3.2 Officers monitor whenever provision within the Local Authority’s area has been inspected, and the inspection reports are downloaded. The judgements are collated and a selection of the LAs training and support programmes are based on this information.

10.4 Information, advice and training for Early Years providers

10.4.1 All providers registered on the Early Years Register, whether voluntary or maintained, follow the Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework – Setting the Standard for Learning, Development and Care for Children from Birth to Five.

10.4.2 The LA has a duty to provide information, advice and training to childcare providers. The LA officers supporting delivery of Early Years and Childcare have specific expertise in the birth to five age group. These include:

- Early Years and Childcare Consultants [Qualified Early Years Teachers]
- Early Years and Childcare Development Officer
- Early Years and Childcare Project Adviser
- Children’s Centre Pedagogues [Qualified Early Years Teachers]
- Childminder Network Coordinators

10.4.3 The Early Years and Childcare team is deployed to offer targeted support to childcare providers. Universal, targeted and intensive support is provided for settings. Early Language Development is a focus of all programmes. Cheshire East’s “Every Child a Talker” programme has been judged as outstanding.

11.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

Name: Carol Sharples

Designation: Early Years and Childcare Manager

Tel No: 07979460655

Email: carol.sharples@cheshireeast.gov.uk