**Document FH Appendix 2**

**Flexibility in School Nurseries**

**Background**

The Schools Forum has asked for a report, which provides more information on the position of early years place planning and numbers across the District and strategies for the development of flexibility in maintained provisions / how the Authority is helping schools to be more flexible. The issues that have triggered this request are:

1. A number of maintained nursery provisions being down on 3 and 4 year old numbers (causing budget pressure for their settings)
2. A feeling that, because the 2 year old offer is predominantly delivered in PVI settings, that this is affecting through-put to maintained nurseries
3. A feeling that, as maintained schools are not as flexible, schools are becoming increasing less attractive to working parents than PVI offers. Maintained schools need to do something to respond to this i.e. get better at flexibility otherwise they will be pushed out of the market.
4. The need to prepare for the forthcoming 30 hour entitlement.

The Government want schools to offer more flexibility. On October 14, Childcare Minister Sam Gyimah’s speech at a Policy Exchange on giving the most disadvantaged children the best start in life, explained how schools across the country are offering flexibility <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/childcare-minister-speaks-about-more-pre-schools-in-schools>

Family and Childcare Trust have produced an evaluation of Family Action’s Childcare in School project (2013-2015) and made recommendations for schools across England <http://www.learning-exchange.org.uk/case_studies/wraparound_case_studies/developing-childcare-in-schools-research-duncan-lugton.30.3.15.pdf>

**Position in Bradford**

Bradford schools predominantly offer morning and afternoon sessions, with some schools providing before school, after school, holiday care and wrap around care.

**Case study one - Foxhill Primary** – have a morning only nursery and, if parents need, afternoon wrap around childcare they can attend the school run Fox Club which provides afternoon sessions up to 3pm, which includes lunch. If parents need childcare until 6pm they can access a 3pm-6pm session which includes a meal. Fox Club also provides childcare in the school holidays. All the childcare is very popular and is meeting working families’ needs.

**Case Study 2- Home Farm Primary** - had always offered morning and afternoon sessions and was concerned about falling nursery numbers. From September 2014, the school offered parents the choice of 2.5 days or am/pm sessions. From September 2015, all 60 children opted for the 2 and a half day split and the school have made it a permanent arrangement.

**Case study 3 – St Oswald’s CofE Primary -** offer full flexibility with full day sessions and am and pm sessions. The school started offering flexible places in January 2014 with early education places for 2 year olds and parents were requesting flexibility for 3 and 4 year olds as well. They have changed the environmental to create sleep areas and at times the 2 year olds share the same space as 3 and 4 year olds. Additional part time staff was employed to cover lunch time as well as full time staff on a rota basis. The school feels flexibility is working well and this has helped to increase take up of early education places at the school.

**Support for Schools in Bradford**

Family Action Network provides lots of useful information for schools which want to explore flexibility

<http://www.learning-exchange.org.uk/documents_library_pages/wraparound/setting_up_childcare_in_schools___dismantling_the_barriers>

Sufficiency Officers based in Early Childhood Services can support schools to undertake market research to ascertain the need in the area and give advice on developing a model that meets the needs of parents and children.

**30 hours** - Bradford has expressed an interest in being part of the pilot for the introduction of 30 hours from September 2016. Full implementation isn’t until September 2017and Bradford will learn from the pilots and implement recommendations. For more information on the extended free entitlement.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/440631/Childcare_Bill_-_policy_statement.pdf>

NAHT have produced a report from 791 members on extending childcare provision in schools

<https://www.pacey.org.uk/Pacey/media/Website-files/PACEY%20general/An-Early-Years-Place-for-All-Final-Report.docx>

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