

EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

Report By: Sue Peasgood, Early Years Inspector

Purpose

1. To inform the Partnership of the public consultation during Summer 2006 on the proposed Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) which will become statutory in September 2008.

Background

- 2 The new EYFS will cover from birth to the end of the academic year in which children become five. It will bring together the current *Birth to Three Matters Framework*, the *Curriculum Guidance to the Foundation Stage* and the elements of the *National Standards for Under 8s Daycare and Childminding* into a single framework set in the context of *Every Child Matters*.
- 3 It will be designed to deliver improved outcomes for all children, across every area of learning and development. Well-planned play will continue to be central to children's development and learning, ensuring that learning is both challenging and fun. There will continue to be an emphasis on the importance of: high quality interactions between practitioners and children; the provision of a good range of play opportunities both inside and outside; and a balance of adult-initiated and child-initiated activities.
- 4 There will still be a clear focus on the Early Learning Goals. The guidance will be set out so that practitioners can see children's general progression through the four aspects of children's development in *Birth to Three Matters* towards the Early Learning Goals, and see how that relates to the five outcomes.
- 5 AS now, there will be no tests or group assessment for young children in the EYFS. Instead, practitioners' planning for individual children's development and learning will be based on their continuing observational assessment throughout the EYFS. Practitioners will supplement this with discussions with parents. The Foundation Stage Profile (FSP) will continue as an ongoing record of children's achievements during the final year of the Foundation Stage. It is not expected that there will be any change to the current timing of data return for the FSP.
- 6 The EYFS guidance will include exemplification, drawn from existing good practice from across the country reflecting different types of setting, different age groups and will be fully inclusive of the diversity of children, families and communities within our settings.

- 7** It will be compatible with and take account of the SEN framework and the key objectives for young children's learning and progression as set out in *Removing Barriers to Achievement: the Government's Strategy for Special Educational Needs*.
- 8** The Childcare Bill will give the EYFS the same legal status as the Foundation Stage currently has under the National Curriculum. The EYFS will form the basis of the new inspection system and Ofsted will be developing a new inspection framework.
- 9** The Primary National Strategy's Literacy and Numeracy frameworks for Reception through to Year 6 are being reviewed and will be published by September 2006. The renewal of the Literacy Framework will, in particular, take account of the findings and recommendations of the Rose Review into the teaching of early reading. This will also have an influence on the EYFS.
- 10** Training for the new EYFS will be provided during 2007. A formal consultation on the detailed content of the EYFS will take place in Summer 2006.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT

the Partnership is alerted to the proposed Early Years Foundation Stage and the importance of its members, and early years practitioners across the county, to respond to the formal consultation which will take place this term.