

APPROVAL REQUEST FOR RECEIPT OF NURSERY EDUCATION GRANT

Report By: Sue Peasgood, Early Years Inspector

Purpose

1. To seek the approval of the Partnership for two early years settings that have applied to be included in the Herefordshire Directory of Providers and to receive Nursery Education Fund from the autumn term 2005.

Background

2. The first setting for consideration is *Noah's Ark Pre-school* at the Christian Life Centre on Edgar Street. Whilst this registered pre-school has been in existence for several years it is the only one in Herefordshire which is not currently included in the Herefordshire Directory of Providers to receive Nursery Education Fund. This was the decision of the pre-school providers who preferred not to register for Ofsted Inspection of their nursery education and parents were prepared to pay for their children to go there. The pre-school have had a mentor teacher since 1998, attended and hosted local early years partnership meetings regularly and have been enthusiastic participants on training courses.
3. The current supervisor is now looking for a change of direction and parents were informed that the pre-school would close at the end of the summer term. However, the parents and trustees were very keen that the pre-school should remain open and have found a new manager. They would now like to offer free Nursery Education and would like to apply for Nursery Education Fund. They have agreed to the conditions required of all settings who wish to receive Nursery Education Fund.
4. The second setting is *Bubbles* at Eastnor. This is a completely new setting which is preparing for opening in September and is going through the process of Ofsted registration. They have agreed to the conditions required of all settings who wish to receive Nursery Education Fund.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Partnership approves the inclusion of *Noah's Ark Pre-school* in the Herefordshire Directory of Providers, and also of *Bubbles* providing they have received their Ofsted certificate, in order to receive Nursery Education Fund in the Autumn term 2005.