



To: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board

Date: 28th November 2019

Subject: Early Years

1 Purpose of the briefing note

1.1 To update members on the following:

- 'School Readiness' / Good Level of Development
- Ofsted profile and current performance
- Uptake of places
- Family engagement in learning
- Partnership working

2 Recommendations

2.1 The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) are recommended to:

- 1) Consider the information provided to comment and/or raise questions.
- 2) Identify any recommendations for the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills.

3 Information/Background

4 'School Readiness'

4.1 School readiness is measured by a child's achievement of the 'Good Level of Development' at the end of the reception year of statutory schooling.

4.2 This measure determines how prepared a child is to succeed in Key Stage 1 cognitively, physically, emotionally and socially. It is assessed through the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFSF) which considers children's development against 17 Early Learning Goals (ELGs).

4.3 Children achieve a 'Good Level of Development' if they reach at least the 'expected level' for each goal within the areas of: communication and language; physical development; personal, social and emotional development; literacy and mathematics.

4.4 It should be noted that the arrangements for assessment in the early years are changing. A new 'baseline assessment' is being piloted. In addition, revisions to the early learning goals will change what is measured at the end of reception. This is likely to start at the beginning of the 2021 academic year, after a national consultation on the proposed changes. We are aware of 27 Coventry schools who are undertaking the pilot which is providing a strong insight into future changes and allowing schools to reflect upon and manage these ahead of time.

5 Ofsted Profile






Ofsted Inspection Grades for Registered Childcare providers in Coventry, June 2019

Type of provider	No inspected	No. & % achieving 'Outstanding'	No. & % achieving 'Good'	No. & % achieving 'Requires Improvement' or Satisfactory	No. & % achieving 'Inadequate'
Childcare on non-domestic premises: 114	97	19 20%	72 74%	6 6%	0 0%
Childminders: Providers on domestic premises 249	212	23 11%	177 55%	11 83%	1 0.4%
Overall city total: 364	310	42 13.5%	250 81%	17 5%	1 0.5%
National outcomes: <i>(% are rounded and may not sum to 100)</i>		20%	76%	4%	1%
Commentary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Coventry the overall effectiveness of active Early Years registered providers at their most recent inspection largely tracks in line with that seen nationally, There are 364 registered providers of early years education in the city (preschools, private day nurseries and child minders). Overall, inspection outcomes are above the national figure for providers with a 'good' judgement, but below national for those with an outstanding grade. Looking at types of early years provider, childminders do not do as well as pre-schools and day nurseries. The Local Authority Statutory duty for early years states LA early years teams can intervene when a grade is requires improvement or below. There is also a duty to offer access to support, guidance and training. 					

6 Performance

EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE PROFILE

Good Level of Development	2017	2018	2019	Trend
Coventry	66.1%	67.8%	69.0%	Upward
National	71%	71.5%	71.8%	Upward
LA ranking	132	132	124	Upward
Stat neighbour (SN) average and ranking	68% 7 th	68.8% 7 th	69.0% 6 th	Above SN average Improved from 7 th to 6 th position
Commentary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coventry has continued to improve against this measure and in 2019 the improvement is at a faster rate than national (1.2pppts compared to 0.3pppts). 				

PERFORMANCE of VULNERABLE GROUPS					
Phase	Measure	2018 (national)	2019 (national)	2018 to 2019 comparison	Gap with national
EYFS % Good level of Development	Disadvantaged – Advantaged	55.1% (57.2%)	55% (56.5)		Narrowed by 0.6%
	BME % of NoR	65.8% (68.9%)	66.7% (69.0%)		Narrowed by 1.2%
Coventry average All children 69%	SEN support	26.5% (27.6%)	24.6% (28.5%)		Widened by 2.8%
	EHC plan	1.8% (4.8%)	0% (4.5%)		Widened by 1.5%
National average for 'ALL' children 71.8%	White British boys & disadvantaged	43.1% (47.3%)	47.5% (47.1%)		Narrowed by 4.6 % and now above national

Commentary

- Amongst children in receipt of free school meals (disadvantaged), 55% achieve a good level of development. The gap between disadvantaged and 'ALL other' children in Coventry is 16%. The gap between disadvantaged children in Coventry and 'ALL' other children nationally is 19.3%.
- Children classified as BME or not 'white british' achieve slightly below their peers (ALL) but the gap has narrowed in 2019 by 1.2%.
- The gap has narrowed at a faster rate than national for White British boys who are also disadvantaged
- Gaps have increased slightly for pupils with SEND
- In 2018/19 there were 12 children who are 'looked after'. The figure for those achieving the good level of development is 26%, a decrease of 18% points on 2018 when it was 44%. The small cohort size distorts data.
- Girls do better than boys, 74.4% compared to 63.8%. However, they are still lower than the national average at 78.4% and with a larger gender gap – 13.5 percentage points.
- In 2019, 64.0% pupils with EAL achieved GLD compared to 66.6% of nationally. Within this group 29.3% were also disadvantaged, compared to national figure of 15% (14.3% difference)

Percentage achieving a Good Level of Development by Family Hub 2019	
OOO (reside outside Coventry)	80.7%
Aspire Family Hub: St Michaels	72.5%
Families for All Hub: Foleshill	66.0%
Harmony Hub: St Michaels	63.4%
Mosaic Family Hub: Westwood	73.0%
Park Edge Family Hub: Henley	63.3%
Pathways Family Hub: Radford	68.9%
The Moat Family Hub: Henley	70.2%
Wood Side Family Hub: Binley & Willenhall	66.8%
Average	68.8%

7 Uptake of places

7.1 Two-year-old funded places

7.2 Sufficient access to high-quality early education is the starting point for firm foundations. The Early Years' Service has worked with the early years sector and Family Hubs, focussing on the areas with the lowest uptake to improve the number of children accessing a funded two-year-old place. Improved participation rates for 2-year olds can be seen as a result with an 11% increase in uptake from Spring 2017 to Spring 2019.

Spring 2017: 67%, Spring 2018: 70%, Spring 2019: 78% Current: Autumn 2019: 72%

7.3 Details on the location of Family Hubs can be found in Appendix 1

7.4 Improved uptake of 30 hours places

7.5 Between Spring 2018 and Spring 2019, there was a 14% increase in the take up of 30-hour places. This has been achieved by working closely with childcare providers and schools, to support the creation of various models of delivery and facilitating partnership working between providers.

The percentage of children living in each family hub area who accessed a free early learning place in Coventry between 2018 and 2019

Estimated % in provision

Summer term	Eligible 2-year olds		3-year olds		4-year olds		3- & 4-year olds		Eligible 2, 3- & 4-year olds	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
Aspire	61%	69%	76%	85%	92%	84%	84%	84%	80%	83%
Families for All	62%	57%	78%	78%	92%	87%	85%	83%	80%	78%
Harmony	57%	72%	70%	80%	87%	88%	78%	84%	74%	82%
Mosaic	76%	85%	81%	86%	89%	93%	85%	90%	84%	89%
Park Edge	56%	85%	82%	83%	91%	102%	86%	92%	80%	91%
Pathways	72%	71%	80%	87%	93%	97%	86%	92%	84%	89%
The Moat	64%	62%	81%	93%	94%	108%	88%	101%	84%	95%
Wood Side	75%	81%	79%	86%	96%	98%	88%	92%	85%	90%
Total	65%	72%	79%	85%	92%	95%	85%	90%	82%	88%

Commentary

- The percentage of eligible 2, 3- and 4-year olds living in each family hub area who accessed a free early learning place in Coventry between 2018 and 2019 has improved by 6% points from 82% to 88% for all eligible 2, 3- & 4-year olds (final column).
- The rates have increased in 7 out of the 8 family hub areas for all eligible 2, 3- & 4-year olds.
- For two-year olds uptake has increased in 5/8 hubs.
- For 3- & 4-year olds uptake has increased or been maintained in 7/8 hubs.

8 Family engagement in learning

- 8.1 To create partnerships that improve outcomes for children, families and local communities it is important to move beyond positive involvement with families to gain their committed engagement. In striving for family engagement, professionals need to listen to what parents think, dream, and worry about. The goal of family engagement is not to serve clients but to gain partners, this requires a detailed understanding of family’s contexts and barriers.
- 8.2 The 2018 – 2023 Coventry parenting strategy outlines the context for our city. (pages 13 – 14).
- 8.3 Coventry’s population is 352,911 and children and young people make up approximately 25.04% (88,372) of the population.
- 8.4 According to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation Coventry is in the most deprived fifth of all local authorities in England. Some wards in Coventry are among the most deprived in the country. Deprivation is linked with poorer outcomes for children and, therefore, the challenge to improve health and wellbeing for children in Coventry is significant. Additionally, the evidence is clear that the first two years of life is a critical period for child development and in Coventry, areas with the highest population levels of 0-2 years correlate with the higher levels of deprivation.
- 8.5 The Migrant Health Needs Assessment identifies that over 100 languages are spoken in Coventry and 9% of households do not have a single person within the home who speaks English as a first language
- 8.6 There are relatively more households with dependent children in Foleshill – and in particular, one in 10 children in that ward are aged under five. Radford, Henley, Holbrook and Longford wards are also noted to have higher populations of children aged under five and the wards with higher populations of under five years tend to be in those wards with higher levels of deprivation.
- 8.7 Domestic abuse, mental health illness and substance misuse are significant issues for some Coventry parents, which impacts on their children. Approximately 1 in 6 people in Coventry are estimated to be affected by a common mental health condition at any one time. This means many children will grow up with a parent who at some point will experience poor mental health, which can negatively impact on outcomes for children and families.
- 8.8 The barriers for parents to be able to engage in their childrens learning in Coventry include, but are not limited to:

Self-esteem / Stigma	Negative experience of school or authority	Teenage parents	Literacy skills & language barriers	Poor health / disability
More pressing priorities: debt, lack of food, inadequate housing	Mental health illness and substance misuse	Cultural perceptions	Lack of opportunity or information	Don’t understand the importance

- 8.9 Family engagement is important in the early years. When children are provided with a range of learning opportunities at home, their cognitive, language and social development are all improved. The Home Learning Environment, often called the ‘HLE’ can have up to twice the size the effect of attending early years education settings.
- 8.10 The most effective systems are seen when early years practitioners provide parents with help concerning home experiences that can promote children’s learning.
- 8.11 To some extent, good quality early education can compensate for inadequacies in the child’s home learning environment. However, children are more successful when the

home learning environment and the early childhood education provided are supportive of the child's development.

- 8.12 In early years there is a direct link between the quality of practice and education received and the level of qualification held by the practitioners, with not surprisingly graduate led provision securing the best outcomes. In Coventry, in 2019 the percentage of 2,3- and 4-year olds accessing early education where a graduate leads practice is 38%, compared to an England figure of 52%. This may be an underlying barrier to increasing the proportion of children who achieve a good level of development.

9 Partnership working

- 9.1 We provide an integrated approach to service delivery from conception to five working across a range of services and partnerships using evidence-based approaches to help children and families to succeed. This includes consideration of:

- The need for multi-agency teams with common goals to provide responsive, consistent advice to families on aspects relating to childcare, health, social welfare, training and employment. Individuals within these teams will understand the local community context and ensure that planned services meet individual needs (*Health, Public Health, Early Help, Childrens Social Care, Family Hubs Early Years Quality and Business support, Early Years SEND*)
- Outreach services to support local families with additional needs and access to information (Family Information Directory)
<https://cid.coventry.gov.uk/kb5/coventry/directory/family.page?familychannel=0>
- Development of programmes to engage more parents and carers in their children's learning
- A framework of training opportunities for practitioners. This is important because the qualification base of practitioners is in decline. The 2018 Education Policy Institute report indicated the proportion of childcare workers studying towards a higher qualification had fallen from 22.7 per cent in 2008 to 17.2 per cent in 2013 and to 14.9 per cent in 2018. (EPI 2018:3-4).

- 9.2 More information on Partnership working can be found at Appendix

- 9.3 No single strategy or approach will improve outcomes for children in the early years, but we do know that getting it right from the start is imperative, particularly for disadvantaged children. This group of children are less likely to be successful in school. They are more likely to have health problems and are at a greater risk of engaging in crime and other problem behaviour later in life. Their family structure is less able to provide a nurturing environment due to competing factors including family dysfunction, mental health, abuse and poverty. Gaps in achievement can now be determined at age 4 and children never catch up.

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Report to: Kirston Nelson: Director of Education and Skills

Appendix 1: Family Hub Areas



1. Pathways Family Hub

Radford Primary School Lawrence Saunders Rd, Coventry CV6 1HD Tel: 024 7678 8444

2. Mosaic Family Hub

Jardine Crescent, Coventry CV4 9PL Tel: 024 7678 7801

3. Aspire Family Hub

Gosford Park Primary School Humber Rd, Coventry CV1 2SF Tel: 024 7678 8489

4. Wood Side Family Hub

Middle Ride, Coventry CV3 3GN Tel: 024 7678 8430

5. The Moat Family Hub

Moat House Primary School Deedmore Road, Coventry CV2 1EQ Tel: 024 7678 5621

6. Park Edge Family Hub

Roseberry Avenue, Coventry CV2 1NE Tel: 024 7678 6868

7. Families For All Hub

454 Foleshill Rd, Coventry CV6 5LB Tel: 024 7678 5575

8. Harmony Hub

Clifton St, Coventry CV1 5GR Tel: 024 7678 7474

Appendix 2: Examples of Partnership Working

Area	Activity	Partners
<p>Improving outcomes for all children</p>	<p>Early Years Briefing sessions provide updates, signposting and access to sharing good practice for reception and nursery teachers / EYFS leads</p> <p>Early Years Newsletter - accessible to all practitioners: https://www.coventry.gov.uk/info/39/nurseries_and_childcare/3289/early_years_newsletters</p> <p>Monitoring visits to private and voluntary sector providers with a requires improvement or below Ofsted grade and for those new providers who have not yet been inspected. Action plans are implemented with a clear accountability process</p> <p>Early Years Strategic Lead (0.5 fte secondment) provides support for Schools and Early Years more widely in response. Ofsted reports are monitored and those with a requires improvement judgement access ongoing support. Over 30 different schools have accessed support</p> <p>The Coventry Early Years Workforce Development Programme provides access to training, planned in relation to need and emerging themes from Ofsted Inspections: https://www.coventry.gov.uk/info/39/nurseries_and_childcare/3455/workforce_development_for_early_years_and_childcare_providers</p>	<p>SEND Early Years Early Help Schools Early Years Providers Education Improvement & Standards team Early Years Service</p>
<p>Improving outcomes for disadvantaged children</p>	<p>Sustained shared thinking and emotional well-being audits 11 Schools supported. This project looked closely at the provision and practitioner interactions for disadvantaged groups</p> <p>Together we can project The portage team delivers a parent support group, in partnership with Health visitors from the Foleshill Families for All Hub. This supports the parents of children aged 18 months to 4 years with developmental delay. The assessment group provides structured play experiences to enhance development. This is at an early stage of evaluation but is evidencing impact.</p> <p>Support for children with special educational needs at an earlier stage In Coventry, unlike many other Local Authorities, 2-year old attending 15 hours early education with a SEND need can also access 'inclusion grant' to support them in the early years setting. In the last 12 months 52 children have been funded</p>	<p>Schools Portage Health Visiting Family Hubs</p>
<p>Focus on Looked after Children</p>	<p>15 hours funded education is available for 2-year olds who reside in families that meet certain financial criteria. It is also available to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children who are looked after by Coventry City Council (for example by a Foster Carer) Has left care under a special guardianship order, child arrangements order or adoption order. <p>'Theraplay' training: March 2018 to March 2019</p> <p>The aim of this training is to introduce ideas and techniques to help children who are struggling to feel settled, connected and calm. This training was funded through the Looked After Children in Education team</p> <p>57 people trained in total</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 Childminders 23 Day Nurseries and Pre-schools 	<p>Early Years Service Early Years Providers Schools Social Workers Early Years SEND Health Looked After Children in Education team</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Nursery School (Hillfields) <p>Further training is planned for Autumn 19 / Spring 2020, via liaison with LAC Team to identify providers.</p> <p>Attachment and Trauma Spring 2018 attended by approximately 40 providers across the City.</p> <p>Wellcomm speech and language training offered each term, relating to the 'Together at Two Review'.</p>	
Family engagement and support for home learning	<p>Adult Education Service</p> <p>This service offers bespoke courses within schools, Family Hubs and community venues to provide adults with the skills and knowledge they need to support their child's learning and development. The provision is free.</p> <p>In 2018/2019, Coventry Family Learning delivered 30 courses focussed on supporting the development of children in the early years.</p> <p>In total, there were 558 parents who enrolled onto Family Learning courses throughout the year, many of whom attended more than one course</p>	<p>Adult Education</p> <p>Schools</p> <p>Settings</p>
Transitions and School Readiness	<p>School Readiness – a shared and consistent view and expectations</p> <p>A group of partners and professionals will meet on 28.11.19 to look at developing a shared understanding of school readiness, the barriers for children from different groups and how to develop strategies and documentation to benefit everyone who works in early years</p> <p>School Network Project: 3 of the 8 School networks are engaging in a project with support from the early years strategic lead improve transition into school and develop closer partnership working with their feeder early years providers</p> <p>Transitions Conference</p> <p>The 2020 Transitions conference will build on the success of work last year by including an early years workshop.</p>	<p>Schools</p> <p>Early Years Providers</p> <p>Health visitors</p> <p>Public Health</p> <p>Early Help / Family Hubs</p> <p>SEND Early Years</p> <p>Education Improvement & Standards team</p> <p>Early Years Service</p>