

Early Years Foundation Stage Profile Data Arrangements

Consultation Response Form

The closing date for this consultation is: 8 May
2009

Your comments must reach us by that date.

department for
children, schools and families

THIS FORM IS NOT INTERACTIVE. If you wish to respond electronically please use the online or offline response facility available on the Department for Children, Schools and Families e-consultation website (<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations>).

The information you provide in your response will be subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations, which allow public access to information held by the Department. This does not necessarily mean that your response can be made available to the public as there are exemptions relating to information provided in confidence and information to which the Data Protection Act 1998 applies. You may request confidentiality by ticking the box provided, but you should note that neither this, nor an automatically-generated e-mail confidentiality statement, will necessarily exclude the public right of access.

Please tick if you want us to keep your response confidential.

Name Sue Coates
Organisation (if applicable) National Childminding Association
Address: Royal Court, 81 Tweedy Road, Bromley Kent BR1 1TG

If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation you can contact the DCSF National helpline on:

Telephone: 0870 000 2288

e-mail: eyfspdatacollection.consultation@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk

If you have a query relating to the consultation process you can contact the Consultation Unit on:

Telephone: 0870 000 2288

e-mail: consultation.unit@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk

Fax: 01928 794 113

Please tick the box that best describes you as a respondent.

<input type="checkbox"/> LA	<input type="checkbox"/> Independent School (funded)	<input type="checkbox"/> Independent School (non-funded)
<input type="checkbox"/> Registered early years provider (funded)	<input type="checkbox"/> Registered early years provider (non-funded)	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other		

Please Specify:

The National Childminding Association (NCMA) is the only national charity and membership organisation that represents home-based childcare in England and Wales, delivered by registered childminders and nannies, with approximately 50,000 members. We promote quality home-based childcare so that children, families and communities can benefit from the best in childcare and education.

Working in partnership with Government, Ofsted, local authorities, children's centres, extended schools and other childcare organisations, we aim to ensure that every registered childminder has access to services, training, information and support to enable them to provide a professional service. NCMA offers to work with all local authorities across England (and Wales).

We also aim to ensure that everyone who supports registered childminding has access to the information, training and support they need.

1 Will the proposal to give local authorities powers collect EYFSP profile data from non-funded early years providers support local authorities in the implementation of their new duties under the Childcare Act 2006?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
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Comments:

Collecting data from non-funded early years providers, including registered childminders and other home based childcare providers who are not accredited to deliver the Early Years Education free entitlement to three and four year olds who are not in any other form of Early Years setting, will enable Local Authorities to assess across the board the provision of early years and allow a better understanding of this spread as well as targeting support more appropriately.

Registered childminders play a crucial role in the childcare market, providing a high quality childcare choice for parents. However registered childminders are not always involved in delivering the free entitlement and it is vital that these proposals acknowledge the impact on this group of providers.

In a recent survey by NCMA on Parental Awareness and Use of childcare 1 in 5 parents say they use a registered childminder to care for their child under 14. This is borne out by the statistics from the DCSF's Childcare and Early Years Survey 2007 which showed that a fifth of childcare places were provided by registered childminders.

Whilst Ofsted latest figures show that although the numbers of registered childminders are in decline they still provide 333,064 childcare places.

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2 Will the proposal to give local authorities the power to request limited additional information about individual children listed under paragraph 3.6 from non-funded providers enable effective analysis of EYFSP data, or are there further items that should be included?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
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Comments:

NCMA believes the limited additional information of date of birth, unique reference number and gender will provide sufficient information to allow an effective analysis of the EYFSP data.

3 Will the proposal to start using existing powers for local authorities to collect EYFSP information from schools which are exempt from registration with Ofsted and who are not funded to provide the free entitlement help support local authorities in the implementation of their duties under the Childcare Act 2006?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

NCMA feels that collecting data from non-funded early years providers, including registered childminders and other home based childcare providers who are not accredited to deliver the Early Years Education free entitlement to three and four year olds who are not in any other form of Early Years setting, will enable Local Authorities to assess across the board the provision of early years and allow a better understanding of this spread as well as targeting support more appropriately. NCMA is supportive of any proposals which support Local Authorities in implementing their duties under the Childcare Act 2006 so long as they are balanced to support all forms of Early Years providers.

4 Do you agree with this proposal to change the Regulations to ensure that there is a clear statutory underpinning that will allow the voluntary sharing of individual child level information between early years providers (and others) and local authorities?

Agree

Disagree

Not sure

Comments:

NCMA is keen to see all Early Years providers working together on an equal basis to ensure the best outcomes for children. NCMA welcomes the commitment through the requirements but is keen to emphasise that providers will need support in order to work together and have an understanding of different settings. NCMA would also urge that the practical challenges of childcare settings collaborating need to be addressed – for example if a child attends a childminding setting for wraparound childcare but has no interaction with the other settings, or in rural areas where geography does not allow interaction.

5 Do providers and local authorities have any comments on the proposal to replace the eye-profile system?

Yes

No

Comments:

NCMA would welcome any improvements on the current system to make returning data less burdensome, particularly for settings that are managed by one person, for example registered childminders. NCMA would also encourage a pilot of any new system with a group of home based childcare providers to ensure it is efficient and user friendly. Web based systems would be a positive development as many childminders already use the internet and find being able to do their paperwork online less time consuming than in the traditional manner. A survey of NCMA's members carried out in 2007 showed that more than half would welcome the opportunity for childminding information and products to be available online.

6 What features of either an improved eye-profile tool or new web-based tool contain that would be most useful to providers and local authorities?

Comments:

7 Is our analysis of the costs and burdens to providers and local authorities realistic?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

NCMA would query whether the estimated additional time that would need to be spent on returning this data is per setting or per child as it vital to ensure these proposals would not be overly bureaucratic for registered childminders. The nature of home-based childcare means that they are usually self employed and must meet a number of requirements for their business alongside meeting quality requirements as part of the registration process. Most childminders welcome the registration process as a way of safeguarding children, but given their flexible nature a childminder can offer over 10 different children a mixture of part time and full time places. Since the introduction of the EYFS, some childminders have expressed initial concerns over the burden of paperwork for the under 5s they care for. As they usually work alone the onus is on them to carry out the observations and assessments of each child's development, often this can be for 4 or more children under 5, who may attend at different times.

In addition, NCMA would urge the Department to ensure clear guidance is issued and training is provided, particularly with the development of a new system to ensure providers are clear about what is expected of them.

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Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views. We do not intend to acknowledge individual responses unless you place an 'X' in the box below.

Please acknowledge this reply x

Here at the Department for Children, Schools and Families we carry out our research on many different topics and consultations. As your views are valuable to us, would it be alright if we were to contact you again from time to time either for research or to send through consultation documents?

xYes No

All UK national public consultations are required to conform to the following standards:

1. Consult widely throughout the process, allowing a minimum of 12 weeks for written consultation at least once during the development of the policy.
2. Be clear about what your proposals are, who may be affected, what questions are being asked and the timescale for responses.
3. Ensure that your consultation is clear, concise and widely accessible.
4. Give feedback regarding the responses received and how the consultation process influenced the policy.
5. Monitor your department's effectiveness at consultation, including through the use of a designated consultation co-ordinator.
6. Ensure your consultation follows better regulation best practice, including carrying out a Regulatory Impact Assessment if appropriate.

Further information on the Code of Practice can be accessed through the Cabinet Office Website: <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/regulation/consultation-guidance/content/introduction/index.asp>

Thank you for taking time to respond to this consultation.

Completed questionnaires and other responses should be sent to the address shown below by 8 May 2009

Send by post to:
DCSF
Consultation Unit

Area GB
Castle View House
Runcorn
Cheshire
WA7 2GJ

Send by e-mail to: eyfspdatacollection.consultation@dcf.gsi.gov.uk