

Early Years Working Group – 26th November 2008

Results of Questionnaire – Summer 2008

1. Questionnaire sent to all settings represented in the Early Years Working Group

	No.	True	False	DK
Questionnaires sent	11			
Questionnaires returned	8			
Already offer 15 hours		4	4	0
Already offer flexibility		4	2	2
Introduce changes Sep 09	2			
Introduce changes Apr 10	3			
Introduce changes other/no answer	3			

General observations:

- Private and voluntary organisations seem to be more able to offer the increased entitlement and flexibility than maintained schools
- Members have limited plans to provide the extended entitlement in conjunction with other settings or childminders
- Settings seem less sure about how they might provide additional flexibility than extending their session times.

Follow Up

- This questionnaire is not necessarily representative of settings generally.
- Assuming that it is representative, it would indicate that settings are looking for clear practical advice on
 - How they should extend the entitlement to 15 hours
 - How they can offer more flexibility.
- It also suggests that settings are looking for a solution to manage the issue themselves rather than with a partner
- The DCSF has not provided guidance on this and is unlikely to do so.
- We need to discuss issues arising from different options in order to advise schools.

2. Results of Revised Cost Analysis - Autumn 2008

	No.	Average	Max	Min
Surveys sent out	About 200			
Surveys returned	38			
Average cost per hour		3.72	10.89	1.46
Average vacancies		16%	70%	0%
Maintained nurseries cp/h		5.26	6.76	4.46
Maintained schools cp/h		4.44	6.66	2.83
Sessional cp/h		4.18	10.89	1.46
Full Day Care cp/h		3.26	7.54	1.51

General Observations

- The response has improved thanks to the intervention of BPSLA staff managing the data collection process on their visits to PVIs. Of PVIs 50% were full day care, 50% sessional.
- Despite providing a prompt sheet, some settings still seem to have misunderstood the form particularly in relation to their vacancy levels
- Full day care continues to show the lowest cost per hour – presumably because the non staff costs are spread over a larger number of children and over the whole year
- Sessional settings and maintained schools have similar cost levels, but the sessionals have the maximum cp/h costs caused by the enhanced impact of changes in occupancy
- Based on average per hour costs, maintained nurseries have the highest cost per hour – they have heavy management and infrastructure costs in relation to the number of children on roll
- The most expensive are children's centres whose infrastructure includes the provision of community services.

Follow Up

- To use this additional data from a range of settings to model a number of formula factors to include combinations of both a fixed and a variable 'NEF AWPUP' (paper by Carol Beckman refers), a lump sum/premises element, AEN/SEN/Deprivation, and other uplifts (qualifications/training incentives).
- To continue to follow up investigations with other Pathfinder authorities regarding exemplar formulae.

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19 November 2008

