



Children and Young People's Directorate
3rd Floor Laurence House,
London Borough of Lewisham
Rushey Green, Catford,
London
SE6 4RU

**To all private and voluntary sector
early years settings**

direct line: 020 8314 6301
fax: 020 8314 3039

18th April 2012

Dear Colleague,

**Improving services to support children in private and voluntary nurseries in
Lewisham**

We want to support children and young people with complex needs, and their families in the best possible way. We know that this can be especially challenging when children are under 5.

Please find attached a document that sets out proposals to change how we provide support for private and voluntary nursery providers to meet the needs of their children with special educational needs and disabilities and their parents and/or carers.

We are keen to hear your views on the proposals as well as to hear the views of your parents/carers. I am enclosing 50 copies and would be very grateful if you could provide a copy of the covering letter for parents, together with the consultation document to parents of children in your setting. If you need additional copies please contact my colleague, Yasemin Aray on 0208 314 7150 or at yasemin.aray@lewisham.gov.uk who will arrange for additional copies to be sent to you.

Improving services for children and young people with complex needs

These proposals are part of a wider review about how children and young people with complex needs in Lewisham can best be supported. We are consulting with staff on proposals to change how we organise our services, in order to bring those services together which assess and support individual children with complex needs. The aim is to improve both the outcomes and the experience of children, young people and their families/carers. Services for children with SEN and those that support children with complex needs with their social and health needs are all strong and improving in Lewisham. The purpose of the broader proposals is to help us to move to a more integrated offer for children and young people with complex needs across education, social care and health to improve outcomes. In addition, the proposals aim to integrate management, remove duplication and set the foundations for further exploration of integrating assessment and support processes.

The proposals seek, in addition, to strengthen our already very good work in Lewisham to build the capacity of schools and early years settings to meet the needs of their children with complex needs. We propose to expand our Educational Psychology service and link it more fully with our School Improvement Team and our Early Years Improvement Team.

The consultation attached, however, just deals with proposals that will affect you in relation to changes in how we support private and voluntary sector early years settings.

Responding to the consultation

We really want to hear from you so we can feed your views into the final proposals and decisions about our future services. The consultation will run until the 21st May 2012, and we have arranged a drop in session for private and voluntary nursery providers on 30th April at Prendergast Ladywell Fields College, Manwood Road, SE4 1SA from 3pm to 6.15pm where you can discuss these proposals with myself and colleagues, ask questions and/or provide your feedback.

Alternatively, if you would like to respond by post or email please send your comments to Warwick Tomsett, Head of Commissioning, Strategy and Performance by 21st May 2012 at warwick.tomsett@lewisham.gov.uk, or at:

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Yours sincerely,

Frankie Sulke
Executive Director for Children and Young People