

## Appendix 1

### Maintained Nursery Schools (MNS) Finance and Resources Scrutiny Sub-Committee

#### Action Plan – July 2022 (updated 26/9/22)

##### The Sub-Committee Brief Aims to:

1. Tackle issues of direct relevance to local people and seeks to understand the reasons for the apparent inequity in funding across the 4 nurseries.
2. Consider the outcomes of children attending (or who have attended) the nurseries and determine if the delivery of outcomes is proportionate to the funding of the nurseries.
3. Consider how nurseries can adapt to deliver early years provision that meets the needs of their communities and supports a local and inclusive agenda through a strong start in life.
4. Produce clear proposals to deliver 'future proofed' tangible recommendations for equitable, outcome improvements for children accessing maintained nursery provision across the communities of NNC.

Proposed Action	Action	Who	By	Comments	RAG
1. Sub-Committee to visit all 4 MNSs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarify Sub-Committee Membership with Democratic Services</li> <li>• Arrange a visit from September 2022 –</li> <li>• Pre-arrange some holds in diaries for the nurseries for the visits in September 2022</li> </ul>	<p>Kelly Mills/Judy Matthews</p> <p>Rajvir Sohal</p>	<p>By 22/7/22</p> <p>12/8/22 Check to see if sorted</p> <p>23/08/22</p>	<p>Email sent requesting committee members 12/7/22 by Tony Challinor – Kelly will follow up <a href="mailto:Rajvir.Sohal@northnorthants.gov.uk">Rajvir.Sohal@northnorthants.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Rajvir to identify subcommittee members and arrange visits and feedback to JM and AM</p> <p>Subcommittee Members are: Valerie Anslow Jim Hakewill Richard Levell Paul Marks Steven North Mark Pengelly Malcolm Ward</p>	

				<p>Pre information meeting booked: Time: Sep 8, 2022, 02:30 PM</p> <p>Raj will book visits post introductory meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pen Green - <b>Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October (9am)</b></li> <li>• Croyland - <b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October (10am)</b></li> <li>• Ronald Tree - <b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October (9:30am)</b></li> <li>• Highfield - <b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October (10am)</b></li> </ul> <p>Jo Hutchinson will be Officer who accompanies Cllr's on visits</p> <p>Draft Questionnaire and prompt sheet provided to support questions and observations.</p>	
2. Allow the Sub-Committee to attend and discuss with Schools Forum	Agree a date for attendance with democratic services	Ann Marie	TBC	<p><i>School Forum dates from October 2022</i> 20/10/22 14/12/22 19/1/23</p> <p><i>Query: Will it be December Schools Forum or January?</i></p>	
3. Inform Chair of the Sub-Committee when the Audit will be completed and when the report available	<p>Ask Internal Audit for timescales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slideshow prepared for subcommittee on</li> </ul>	AnnMarie Dodds/Rachel Ashley -Caunt		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pen Green audit taking place 25/8/22 then needs to be written up and presented in report with recommendations – audit should</b></li> </ul>	

	<p>Maintained Nurseries – Ann Marie to present prior to visits</p>			<p><b>be completed early September 2022</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Draft report 30/9/22</b></li> <li>• <b>Send out to nurseries for them to agree (2 weeks) return date 17/10/22</b></li> <li>• <b>Judy and Rachel meet week commencing 17/10/22 to review and then aim to finalise week commencing 24/10/22</b></li> </ul>	
<p><b>4. Analyse existing data or commission new data to assess:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relationship between outcomes for children and levels of funding - <i>Can we track EYFS profiles of children who attended the nursery previously v their peers or nursery to present how they monitor progress of children eg. tapestry? – Ofsted removed the requirement and so settings are not systematically collecting information will be more reliant upon observations etc</i></li> <li>• Impact since 2017 of reducing/increasing budgets on the ‘offer’ and the outcomes for children</li> <li>• Are staffing structures equitable – <i>will staffing</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- data gathered and analysed from Council systems</li> <li>- Evidence and information gathering from the destination schools of children leaving the maintained nurseries</li> <li>- Feedback from children and parents</li> <li>- Feedback from Stakeholders</li> <li>- Feedback from School Forum members</li> </ul>	<p>Kelly Mills/Judy Matthews/ Ian Atkinson</p>		<p>Action: Feedback from parents/carers can be included I the CSA, which is just due to go out, we can put in some specific questions about MNS settings – Kelly</p>	

<p><i>structures/ratios and budgets be covered in the review?</i> <i>YES</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Local offer' consistent and/or proportionate to the needs of the local community</li> <li>• <i>Should we also look at the qualifications and skillsets within each nursery v outcomes – covered in review</i></li> </ul>					
<p><b>5. Finance review</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the funding being applied in accordance with the requirements and expectations of the funder (i.e., application of DSG)</li> </ul>	<p>Internal Audit Report undertaken by: Rachel Ashley-Caunt</p> <p>Desktop Review</p>	<p>Judy Matthews and Rachel</p>		<p>Judy to meet with Rachel to get an update on progress, anticipated completion dates and understand full scope of audit. 14/7/22</p> <p>Audit completed, draft report being prepared – report should be ready 24/10/22</p>	

NB – Democratic Services Lead for Schools Forum is **Raj Sohal**.

[\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Finance and Resources Scrutiny Committee, 21/06/2022 19:00 \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)