

NOTES FOR KEYU OF THE EARLY CHILDHOOD MEETING ON March 12th, 2019.

State of Child Health report

Emily Arkell , Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health

Emily presented this stand-alone document. It has 25 indicators on child health on outcomes used, including three on mortality, pulling data together from many sources. Different approaches in Scotland and Wales. N. Ireland data worse. Some gaps in availability of data: childhood obesity, maternal health, disability and social housing. Also, on mental health but more data available now (since the report). Next report due 2020.

For this report 300 interviews with young people undertaken and their priorities identified as: mental health, PSHE, gender identity and inequality. Report took a 'life course approach.'

Key indicators:

One in five living in poverty with inequality increasing. UK 15th out of 19 for infant mortality. Smoking and early pregnancy greater with disadvantaged – 40% of whom overweight (compared to 27% in affluent areas).

Key messages:

Smoking and alcohol use on downward trend, but UK has 10 indicators needing improvements

Pathway to improvement:

1. Coordinated strategy for child health
2. Consistent stats
3. Develop research capacity
4. Reduce child poverty and inequality (really big determinants)
5. Meet the needs of children
6. Maximise women's health
7. Maximise mental health
8. Improve PSHE
9. Smoking and alcohol harm awareness
10. Implement guidelines and procedures

New focus:

Gender identity
LGBT Agenda

Scorecards for each home nation: Scotland and Wales best; England OK and N. Ireland worse (no regional government)

Marmott review was in 2013 and RCPCH will be involved in the 2020 review. The Anderson Network (4-19) is whom they survey.

Discussion:

Directors of social care and education to be engaged

ECF to respond to the green paper?

Playing outside very important and now gaining more traction as a way to reduce strain on NHS

Need to be more proactive and preventative.

OFSTED

Wendy Ratcliff and Phil Minns (Specialist Adviser Education Policy)

Case for change of the Education Inspection Framework. Move away from data collection and stop making outcomes judgements – will ease EY professionals' workload.

The proposed inspection areas, looking at overall effectiveness of;

1. Quality of education
2. Behaviour and attitudes
3. Personal development
4. Leadership and management.

The new focus is through 'evolution not revolution', especially, for example on SEND – what are they getting; what they need and when they are getting it. Some settings hit the target but miss the point. Ofsted looking at intent, implementation and impact. The framework is to be published in 3 months

Inspectors will 'take into account' the age range.

Ofsted looking at the use of space in the EY and risk aversion.

Lots of inspector training going on. All inspectors in house now. Schools inspectors to have some EY experience but does that include the breadth of provision?

Consultation ends 05/04/19

The child's intent is not inspected; it is adult and organisation focussed not child-focussed.

The NAHT feels the new framework is too prescriptive, especially for 2 -3 year olds. 'Cultural capital' – the essential knowledge children need to be education citizens regardless of their background beginnings – some have poorer experiences e.g. with vocabulary. Members felt that cultural capital was far more complex and would need careful training if it was to be implemented.

- Is the EYFS at the heart of the new framework?
- Use of the word 'curriculum.' Terminology is uncomfortable – doesn't sound like early years.
- What changes to EY inspection can reasonably happen by September?
- The webinar didn't show respect to either the children or indeed the childminders' professionalism.
- Headteachers/senior leaders without EY experience will interpret Ofsted's words formally.
- The curriculum is narrowing from KS2 downwards and is moving to earlier and earlier, not just maths and phonics.
- Is the definition of teaching and learning gone? Awe and Wonder are back.
- Inspect the curriculum offered on the basis of the needs of the children.
- Phonics doesn't suit every child – extend their language through play. Many teachers in EY don't have EY experience now; also, not taught child development. Qualified EY teachers good teaching at teaching EY and those used to teaching older children but non EY trained are not good at teaching EY.
- Importance of outdoor play
- Research used by Ofsted as stated very limited and disappointing - TACTYC to put together a supplementary list.

- Framework is very secondary orientated. Division into two EY inspections is not helpful
- EY inspectors need to use the correct language or experience
- Having a bigger view and moving away from data means a need to understand the curriculum better. We are giving schools the opportunity to discuss the curriculum
- We must all please respond to the proposals. Consultation ends 05/04/19
- Curriculum isn't to be narrowed down and phonics don't need to go down to nursery
- EY inspector training inadequate with knowledge and skills emphasis not relevant for 4 -5 year olds
- What they say seems reasonable but is quite different to what the proposals are
- EY. Professionals already being trained to the framework even though it is only proposed at the moment
- The 35 pages of research stated by Ofsted are focussed on instruction and systematic phonics. Biased research used. Tolston Brooks says there is no evidence to support any particular form of phonics. HMI's are implementing government policy now and have no discretion to use their own judgement.
- NAHT is sending out advice to headteachers on how to respond to the proposals. In the NAHT hierarchy primary and secondary dominates over EY.
- Every member organisation of ECF should respond individually and with a few bullet points
- Non -linear nature of EY education is not acknowledged. TACTYC will respond to revised Baseline changes.
- Recent Childminder webinar was patronising at best.
- Words missing from Ofsted's new framework; Engagement, understanding and Involvement.

ALL: Need to respond asap. They have received 4000 responses so far

Maintained Nursery Schools, Baseline Assessment

Early Learning Goals proposals and response.

Beatrice Merrick , Early Education and Ken Jones of NEU

MNS

At the recent MNS APPG Nadhim Zahawi said that funding improvements 'are getting there.'

There is true cross-party support for universal funding of the remaining 392 MNS
A good example of what a campaign can achieve. Now need to talk about Baseline.

The Family and EY APPG is also chaired by Lucy Powell. The EY and Childcare APPGs may join up to do something on the EYFS

Baseline

Meeting with DfE yesterday with the EY stakeholder group. Several non-negotiables such as stopping BL. It was acknowledged that EY has several concerns. Ofsted framework has inconsistencies with the EYFS. Trial results are not being published so children won't be tutored for it.

Good response to their pilot requests. Will the pilot change anything? Some questions and narrative statements altered.

Workload issue: EY will do BL at the beginning with the profile at the end.

Scotland's P1 tests similarly disliked - chalk pavement protest.

BL not passed into legislation yet.

NEU has written to schools to say that tests are voluntary and shouldn't be done. Research being done on schools' experience, independent of the DfE NEU petition of 50,000, to be handed in next month. Also working with More Than A Score.

What about SEN pupils? "It's a cohort matter so it will all average out."

All BL tests will be blackboxed to all until Y6.

BL is not about the children but about accountability of schools

Need to tell our MPs that our EY is very good but being adversely affected by all these changes. The EY sector is already measured by the Profile.

Costs to date: £10m.

Continue to ask questions, sign the petition and keep up the pressure. Any questions asked in parliament? Yes, Tracy Brabin. Co-ordinate questions with Early Education.

ELG

Advisory panel starting to look at broader issues but only had one meeting so far.

Also sector-led group with high profile launch in July on literacy especially in EY. Froebel Trust have donated £9K

Coalition meeting 23 March. Consultation on ELG ends after autumn so influence ministers in May-July.

Complete absence of EY knowledge in the DfE so need to use APPG to inform HMG on ELG.