

Royal Borough of Kensington
and Chelsea Town Hall,
Hornton Street
London
W8 7NX



Date: 3rd September 2019

Re: Updates regarding the Bi-Borough Childcare and Early Education Service

Dear Colleagues,

Firstly, I would like to introduce myself as the newly appointed Strategic Lead for the Bi-Borough Childcare and Early Education Service. I have been in post since 3rd July and whilst I have been settling in, I have had numerous opportunities to discuss key priorities with colleagues from different teams and services, visit some of the early years providers and identify key areas of focus for this academic year. This work will ensure that our service will be closely aligned with other services and stronger partnerships will be established to create an exciting and effective offer for our early years providers, schools and families, which in turn will greatly benefit all children under the age of five, so they can have the best possible start in life.

I am writing to update you on the progress of some of the areas that were previously mentioned in a letter that you received on 18th June. In the letter, it was stated that you were going to receive the details of a named Early Years and Inclusion Advisor for your setting. Unfortunately, we are not in a position to do so at the moment, as there have been some changes in the team since the letter was sent out in June. One member of staff has left the service and another team member will be leaving the service at the end of October.

Jess Milne, who was working as part of the Early Years Service in Westminster for the past three years, left the service in late July. We would like to thank Jess for all her hard work and dedication to the service and for the support and advice she offered to early years settings and service users in Westminster and wish her well in her future endeavours.

Alex Samara, who has been working as part of the Early Years Service in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea for the past fourteen years will also be leaving the service in late October. We would like to take this opportunity and thank Alex for all her hard work, dedication and commitment she has shown during this period. I am aware that numerous early years providers would like to say goodbye to Alex and we will be sending out further information regarding arrangements that we will be making in order to facilitate that. Whilst we will miss Alex, we would like to wish her well for the future.

However, we are pleased to inform you that we have successfully appointed three new Early Years and Inclusion Advisors who will be joining our service on 28th October, subject to further checks. We will be sending you the name and contact details of your Early Years and Inclusion Advisor in November.

Over the summer, we have looked at our priorities and have identified the key areas that we will be focusing on throughout this academic year. Please find below the main areas and key functions of our service.

A document outlining the differentiated support that will be available for your setting will be sent separately.

Early Years and Inclusion Advisory Team

Advice and support to settings in relation to the implementation of the EYFS, Inclusion/SEND and Ofsted requirements.

Training Team

Co-ordination of the training and Continuous Professional Development offer for RBKC and WCC early years providers.

Early Years Funding Team

Administration and co-ordination of the funding arrangements for early years providers.

Family Information Service

Information, advice and guidance to parents/carers and early years providers (with links to the local offer).

Starting this week, we are also going to be introducing weekly updates by email containing key information in relation to a variety of areas including: Ofsted and DfE updates; Safeguarding; examples of best practice; current research; training updates etc.

It is a very exciting time for our service and we look forward to working with you to establish one of the most aspirational and outstanding early years services for our children, families and early years providers. Therefore, over the next few months, we will continue to consult with you and gather your views and feedback to ensure that the Bi-Borough Childcare and Early Education Service will be meeting your needs effectively and consistently.

I look forward to working with you and meeting you in person.

Kind regards,

Iraklis Kolokotronis

Bi-Borough Strategic Lead Childcare and Early Education Service