



Department  
for Education

# Getting it Right in Early Years

**Susie Owen** – Director for Early Years, Childcare  
and School Food, Department for Education

November 2021

# Investment in Early Years professional development to build a stronger, more expert workforce -

## £153m invested over three years

A **universal training offer** together with **targeted support to both leaders and practitioners** creating a more sustainable, self-supporting system:

- **universally accessible online training**
- **access to mentoring support for settings most in need**, along with bespoke whole-setting and leadership support.
- **Early years innovation programme** to explore innovative practice, help grow the evidence base and facilitate cross-sector sharing.



**Strengthening specialist expertise and leadership** by boosting skills to develop children's early language and maths as well as their personal development.

- Expansion nationally of the **Professional Development Programme** for frontline practitioners.
- Expand the number of places for **initial teacher training in early years**, increasing the supply of qualified graduates
- Review **Level 3 qualifications**, leading towards an evidence-based Level 3 qualification.



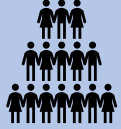
Improving capacity in the early years workforce to **support children with special educational needs**

- Expanding funded training to increase the number of staff with an **accredited Level 3 SENCO qualification**, leading to better identification of SEND, and better support for children with SEND.



Training practitioners to **support parents with home learning**, one of the biggest drivers of early outcomes and future school attainment

- Programmes giving priority to families that would benefit the most. Proven to improve children's early language and social and emotional development, these include **intensive home visiting and group-based interventions**.



# Family hubs programme



**Champion the model and develop best practice**



**Build the evidence base**



**Digital and data innovations**



**Funding to support transformation**



**Anna Freud**  
National Centre for  
Children and Families

- Evaluating 6 existing FH models: Essex, Suffolk, Bristol, Leeds, Sefton and Doncaster
- Working in partnership with Bristol, Lancashire, Salford, Suffolk and Tower Hamlets
- £3.24m of Recovery Fund awarded to LAs across all nine English regions
- £12m Transformation Fund now open

# Spending Review

- The Government is investing **£300 million** to transform 'Start for Life' and family help services in half of the council areas across England. This will fund:
  - a network of Family Hubs (£82m) [*75 local authorities*],
  - local areas to publish their Start for Life offer (£10m),
  - perinatal mental health support (£100m),
  - breastfeeding services (£50m)
  - parenting programmes (£50m) and
  - trials of innovative workforce models in a smaller number of areas (£10m)
- The Department for Education and Department for Health and Social Care will work together to determine the best approach for selecting local authorities and distributing the funding.
- The Government is also investing over £500m in the early years entitlement funding rates – full details for 22/23 LA rates will be published tomorrow
- Confirmation that the national roll out the Holiday, Food and Activity programme will be funded for next three years - £200m pa

