



Briefing Note for Children's Scrutiny Meeting Thursday 6th March 2025

Reynolds, Day Care, Scartho Nursery School, and Great Coates Village Nursery

This briefing note provides summary information on the latest position in relation to each of the maintained settings.

Great Coates Nursery:

The setting continues to work hard to address the budget position; following their recent budget setting meeting, by the end of this financial year they should be in a cumulative surplus position of approx. £26k. The finance team have now received the validated headcount from the Early Years team and will be able to see if the setting's assumptions were reasonable alongside other budget assumptions. Should this be the case, then the school's forecast position as per their approved plan would seem reasonable.

Scartho Nursery:

The setting continues to work hard to address the budget position; following their recent budget setting meeting, by the end of this financial year, they should be in an in-year surplus of approximately 10k with a reduced cumulative deficit of approximately 44k. The finance team have now received the validated headcount from the Early Years team and will be able to see if the setting's assumptions were reasonable alongside other budget assumptions. Should this be the case, then the school's forecast position as per their approved plan would seem reasonable.

Reynolds Day Care:

The setting continues to recruit to increase its staffing establishment due to increase numbers for each of its sessions for the government's childcare entitlements. Within the latest budget monitoring meeting, , the setting was forecasting a potential £145k underspend which currently is being shown as a transfer into a reserve at year end to support financial stability going forward; this reserve will be monitored in order that any amount being accumulated is reasonable.

The setting has also been commended in a recent press release in relation to supporting children with additional needs following their work with the Springboard Targeted Outreach Service, with an extract provided below:

'Springboard is a programme aimed at providing tailored support to settings and children in Early Years, and Key Stage 1.

Now in its second year, Springboard has already worked with about 40 different settings.

During their time with each setting two dedicated practitioners work with settings weekly over a term.

Feedback from the project has been outstanding, with schools saying that they feel well supported and that they feel more confident in their ability to support students with additional needs.

Staff at Reynolds said: "Having an experienced practitioner who is currently working with children with additional needs and providing practical support has been a valuable training experience for staff.

"They have been able to learn new and relevant skills and techniques which support the children's communication and learning."

Staff at Reynolds saw a marked improvement on their pupil's development.

They said: "Because of the support we were able to offer, the children are now able to communicate more, and we are seeing increased cognitive development as a result."

Following a term of support the setting are able to share their new skills with other staff and use their knowledge to support other students.

This provides longevity for the strategies to continue to be implemented and provides a knowledge base directly in the setting'.

LA Support:

Each setting continues to receive a raft of support from LA officers including:

- Line management and People and Culture Support for employment matters and wellbeing support
- Constructive financial support as a budget holder, with the option for monthly finance meetings
- Education advice and guidance (safeguarding, signposting, DfE elements)
- Capital advice (buildings and capacity)
- Early Years advice: sufficiency and projection data.

Contact Officers

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