Early Years Ministerial Meeting, London

27 October 2023

Communiqué

The British-Irish Council (BIC) held an Early Years Ministerial Meeting today hosted by the UK Government in London. In advance of the Ministerial Meeting, Ministers and officials heard from June O'Sullivan OBE, CEO of the London Early Years Foundation, on the expansion of the English childcare offer and sector supply challenges. A full list of Ministerial participants is attached.

Discussion on Early Years Policy Report 2023

Ministers discussed the Early Years Policy Report 2023 which outlines the work undertaken by officials over recent years. Ministers thanked officials for producing the report, and agreed it demonstrated the value for all Member Administrations from participation in the work sector. Ministers also agreed that the report should be published.

Discussion on Forward Work Plan

Ministers discussed the Forward Work Plan of the BIC Early Years work sector. Agreeing that this was an area where Member Administrations should continue to collaborate through the BIC, Ministers agreed that the Forward Work Plan should focus on four themes:

- The early years workforce;
- Childhood experience;
- Child poverty; and
- Child development.

BIC Secretariat

27 October 2023

List of Ministerial Delegates

Government of Guernsey	
Vice-President of the Committee for Education, Sport and Culture	Deputy Sam Haskins

Government of Ireland	
Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth	Roderic O'Gorman TD

Isle of Man Government	
Minister for Education, Sport and Culture	Hon Julie Edge MHK

Government of Jersey	
Minister for Children and Education	Deputy Inna Gardiner
Assistant Minister for Children and Education & Home Affairs	Deputy Louise Doublet

Scottish Government	
Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping the Promise	Natalie Don MSP

UK Government	
Minister for Children, Families and Wellbeing	David Johnston OBE MP

Welsh Government	
Deputy Minister for Social Services	Julie Morgan MS