



Partnership working Key learning points

Our Expert Panel was comprised of representatives from various parts of the sector:

Adam Hindhaugh from Warrington Borough Council
Kay Tobin from Evelyn Street Primary School
Lisa Edwards from Little Treasures Day Nursery
Penny Webb from Penny's Place Childminding.

The debate was focused on the development of partnership working to support the implementation of the 30 hours free entitlement.

- Building the strategy using the Roffey Park model (introduced to Warrington BC by Jacqui Burke) is useful
- Set up a Partnership Strategy Group with senior leadership and representatives from all stakeholders to ensure decisions can be made by this group rather than having to keep referring them elsewhere
- Change the times of meetings to ensure various stakeholders such as childminders can attend
- Recognise and respect the different working patterns of various partners
- Put effort into building informal relationships between staff at all levels from the various partnership members
- Ensure mutual respect for everyone involved – everyone has a part to play in the child's journey
- Give everyone an opportunity to be heard even if they can't attend meetings by enabling them to send in their comments and tabling those at the meeting as if they were actually there
- Seek common ground and agree a common vision that everyone can commit to
- Conduct joint activities that will create a common language and understanding e.g. joint moderation
- Engage childminders by asking them how they would like to participate rather than telling them what you need them to do
- Build partnership costs into budgets and ensure there is a plan for how additional profit generated will be distributed (ring-fence for further investment in EY rather than disappearing into school coffers)
- Establish pilot groups who can trial and test new initiatives before rolling out to the sector and utilise these groups to act as champions and advocates

Notes taken by Jacqui Burke