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23 September 2023

Our Ref: LB/pmc

Dear Colleagues

Right from the Start: The West Sussex Early Years and Childcare Strategy

"Science tells us that a child's experiences from conception through their first five years will go on to shape their next 50"
Jason Knauf, CEO of the Royal Foundation, December 2020

West Sussex County Council and Integrated Care Board are on an exciting journey together to further develop services within Early Years. We want to work in closer partnership to improve outcomes for children and families. As a result, we are developing a joint Early Years and Childcare Strategy. We really need your input to help achieve this! For the strategy to be successful it is essential that all stakeholders are involved in this process.

To ensure that our strategy is comprehensive and effective, we will be holding engagement events to gather initial input from stakeholders, including leaders and managers from across the county. We need representatives across the breadth of services, and we would be grateful if each senior leaders of each service could ensure the event is prioritised and nominate additional attendees with a leadership role from within their teams.

We are holding two half day events on **Wednesday 8 November 2023**. Ann Van Dyke MBE will be speaking about the importance of joint working in the early years along with colleagues from Education and Skills, the council and health services. These will be held at Field Place in Worthing and colleagues can attend either 09:30am - 12:30pm or 13:30pm - 16:30pm. To book your place, please follow [this link](#) and select the appropriate event.

For you or your staff who want to engage but cannot make the date, we have created a survey to gather initial input from stakeholders. Please visit [YourVoice](#) to read about the process and to complete the survey, which will be open until **Monday 16 October**. The results of the survey will feed into the Early Years and Childcare Strategy. Even if you have booked a place on the engagement event, you may still complete the survey.

We very much look forward to seeing you and hearing your views.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lucy Butler".

Lucy Butler
Director of Children, Young People and Learning (DCS)