

Ofsted Big Conversation – Chairs Meeting

Hosted and Chaired by London OBC

LEYF, 121 Marsham Street, SW1P 4LX

20th March 2017

In Attendance:

June O’Sullivan	London
Tricia Wellings	West Midlands
Tim Landreth	West Midlands
Jennie Johnson	North West
Jo Kinloch	North West
Sarka Juric	London
Shirley Paddock	London
Jo Verrill	North East
Linda Baston-Pitt	East of England
Cheryl Hadland	South West
Karen Taylor	South East
David Wright	South East
Kate Peach	South East

Apologies:

Catriona Nason	London, Co-Chair
Ken McArthur	North East
Andrew Clifford	East Midlands
Kala Patel	East Midlands

Agenda Items

- ~ Welcome
- ~ New ways of inspection
- ~ 30 hours
- ~ HMI roles
- ~ Sharing good practice
- ~ Paediatric First Aid
- ~ EYFS Update
- ~ Gill Jones Ofsted update
- ~ Potty training
- ~ Common Inspection Framework
- ~ Nominated Person
- ~ Safer Recruitment
- ~ Future OBC agenda

Welcome

The group reiterated the purpose of the annual Chairs meeting which is to :

create a national agenda to shape each of the regional meetings so essential issues remain on the OBC radar.

We also want to ensure we disseminate the most up-to-date and useful information as possible as coherently and consistently as is possible across the country. There was a recognition that each regional group manages the process differently. For example, some regions have steering groups while others such as London, South West and North West have lead people who organise the events. Some regions meet once a year at an Open Meeting such as the North East and East of England while others do it twice.

Jennie and Jo hire a hotel and build in training. Their recent event attracted 600 people who pay £10 and this time had the benefit of Alice Sharp who spoke on "Provocations for Learning". She is always worth listening to. We continue to struggle with balancing the broader issues and using case studies to illustrate sector wide issues against those who attend with a personal grievance they wish to air, highlighted by a case at the West Midlands meeting. It's a fine line because often the personal leads to questions which unearth bigger and more fundamental issues.

Ultimately, the feedback from the sector is that the OBC meetings are helpful. The OBC needs to remain especially during these times of change. Ofsted is changing with a new lead HMI, Amanda Spellman, and we await the appointment of a Chair. Inspectors are coming in-house but the transition from ISP to Ofsted may have difficulties we need to monitor. The principle remains that a good inspectorate have a mature and respectful relationship with its sector.

Discussion Points Summary

1. *New ways of Inspection* : This covered a debate as to whether we are to be inspected like Multi Academy Trusts with central focus on the system and visits to some sites?
2. The appetite for the *30 hours* is limited due to Local Authority rates. It appears that Local Authorities out of London are to receive similar or slightly higher payments
3. Publishing *Inspection Results*, while an appeal is progressing is continually considered unfair.

Action : GJ will discuss this further with the Senior Team

4. *HMI roles* have changed so we now have each region with a senior HMI for Early Years.
5. *Sharing good practice* and why can't good quality providers, especially groups with some capacity become what used to be known as "beacon schools" and be supported to share good practice and peer-to-peer learning.

Action : GJ will discuss this further with the Senior Team.

6. *Paediatric First Aid* : The three month moratorium on the 12-hour training was confirmed to give settings a chance to get the staff trained.
7. *EYFS Update* : Discussed the missed opportunity to strengthen Physical Play especially given the obesity and well-being crisis among so many children. Also discussed how to reaffirm the importance of outside play for children to enjoy the outside not be confused with the outside classroom which is simply taking the indoors outside, but that in itself does not give the children what they need from the outside which is space, physical exertions, investigation and imaginative play.

Action : This might be a good subject for discussion at your Open Meeting

8. GJ confirmed that Ofsted continues to look for staff from the sector to be part of the inspection team. There are also places for those who want to join the Complaints Panel.
9. Ofsted Website is being improved and made easier to navigate. They are testing a [Facebook Page for childminders](#). The Comms Team is also putting together a "myth-busting" document to help people understand what is truth and what is myth about inspections.
10. Read [Gill Jones blog](#) as this is where she will comment on changes in tone and elements of inspections and give some updates and new information.
11. Potty Training (*in terms of partnership with parents as too many children are going to school in pull ups*) and Storytelling and Reading are two areas inspectors have been keen to examine during inspections.

12. The Consultation as to refreshing the *Common Inspection Framework* will happen in 2018.
13. There are some changes to the *Nominated Person*. This is about delegating some responsibilities to two people per setting who can link with Ofsted regarding issues of registration and inspection. This does not detract from the overall responsibilities of the nominated person for all things legal regarding the setting such as suspension or deregistration.
14. *Safer Recruitment*. In the current desperate state of recruitment, it was confirmed that best practice is getting two written references. However, Employment Law instructs to obtain two but follow up on only one.
15. [OBC Website](#) and Facebook most popular sources of feedback so please post minutes and feedback from each regional meeting on there.

We thanked GJ for attending, engaging and provoking a useful discussion. We agreed that the 2017 OBC meetings would include the following on the regional agendas.

National Agenda

Ofsted Update and OBC feedback

Quality of Inspection

EYFS Focus: Physical Development and the role of the Outside

Dispelling Myths

Improved Website and Contact

Gill Jones Blog

OBC Website and Facebook Page

Actions Summary

Action for Regional Agenda Items	Lead
<i>GJ will discuss appeal process and publishing inspection results further with the Senior Team</i>	GJ
<i>GJ will discuss the idea of 'beacon schools' further with the Senior Team.</i>	GJ
<i>Physical Play might be a good subject for discussion at your Open Meeting</i>	All

Going Forward

1. All chairs and co-chair have online access to their regional part of the website (need to login and can post their news/event invitations etc.). Sarka Juric will be sending reminders of login-details separately

- 1.2 Jennie and Jo have promised to add Neala Hickey (LEYF) and Sarka Juric (NEYTCO) 'admins' on the existing OBC Facebook page, so we can share invitation etc.

2. General database of contacts exists and is maintained via MailChimp (divided to regional groups).

ACTION : Regions to send Sarka the updated database of their participants/LA

3. Chairs /co-chairs can use this tool for communication with their group and wider audience (Sarka can do it for you, or set up a login for you to do it yourselves)

Notes: June O'Sullivan