

Enid Fairbrother

South Tyneside's Local Authority Service Manager Education and Standards, Enid Fairbrother shares her thoughts on EYPDP3.

Please explain how you have managed to promote the EYPDP to practitioners in your area?

The information has been shared with Early Years school-based practitioners at EY network meetings and they have also had email updates and reminders. It has also been shared with the private and voluntary sector. **We have shared positive feedback that settings have received from Ofsted inspectors.** When recommending the programme, we have advised colleagues to speak with those practitioners who have completed the course about the benefits.

Information has been shared with senior leaders and Headteachers, both electronically and at face to face meetings, **noting particularly, the quality of the content and the impact this can have on supporting key priorities and addressing gaps in children's learning.**

We have felt it important to share data with EDT as we wanted all eligible settings to have the opportunity to take part. Practitioner feedback from the course has been very positive and it has helped that there has been some funding to support practitioner involvement.

Moving forward, we are aiming to target those settings we feel will most benefit for cohort 4, as we are aware this will be the last opportunity for them to access this training.

What do you think is the most beneficial aspect of the programme for practitioners?

The flexibility and mix of online study and practical application has made it very

personalised to different settings. Practitioners have valued the opportunity to hear the experiences of colleagues across the country. They have felt the nature of the course and action planning has helped them reflect on their practice and support next steps.

What would you say to a practitioner who isn't sure if the EYPDP is for them?

We would tell them to speak to others who have done it. Ask how it has impacted on their practice and on the wider EY provision in the setting.

What feedback have you had from those who have accessed the programme?

They have enjoyed the opportunity to "meet" with EY practitioners in different parts of the country and share experiences. They recognise that the duration and nature of the course has required a high level of commitment from them and sometimes, this has been a challenge, but feel it has been worthwhile. They were positive about the course content and the way it was structured. Most felt the communication and language module had the biggest impact on their practice. The action planning was valuable in helping them reflect on their practice and to see the impact of what they had learned. **They said they felt they had achieved a great deal at the end of the course and appreciated there was a certificate to acknowledge they had completed it.** They appreciated the backfill payments as this gave the setting some flexibility to support them.

Why do you think this programme is relevant to your local sector?

In the North East we are still seeing the effects of Covid on children's learning and development. Missed experiences in the Early Years have had a major impact on children's communication and language and on their social interactions. Many children are entering EY provisions demonstrating learning and behaviours developmentally below what might be regarded as "typical" for their age. **The content and nature of the EYPDP3 programme equips practitioners with the knowledge and skills to support children in these areas of learning and helps them to reflect and build on their own practice and that of the setting they work within.**

Funded by



Delivered by



In partnership with

