

CHILDREN'S SERVICES DEPARTMENT**EARLY YEARS SERVICE****UNDER FIVES ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN RECEIPT OF COUNCIL FUNDING
SEPTEMBER 2010**

In considering applications for admissions to under fives provision managed by voluntary organisations in receipt of funding from the Council, organisations are expected to:

- a) formally agree and publicise their admissions policy in light of the Council's admissions and equal opportunities policy frameworks;
- b) include within their policy, criteria to determine the allocation of places when there are more applications than places available;
- c) take into account the following Council policies when determining their criteria for the allocation of places:
 - i) priority must be given to Islington residents. (Places should only be offered to non-Islington residents where they cannot otherwise be filled. The charge applicable to non-Islington residents shall be at the top charging band, except in the case of part-time nursery education places for three and four year olds from the term after their third birthday, who from September 2010, will attend free of charge for 15 hours per week, in exchange for government grant);
 - ii) places should not be allocated according to the length of time a child's name is on the application list;
 - iii) priority can be given to siblings;
 - iv) places in groups providing all day care should be prioritised for parents who are working or studying full-time.
- d) in determining their criteria for the allocation of places, give consideration to the following factors;
 - i) the specific cognitive, physical, emotional, linguistic or special educational needs and family circumstances of children applying;

- ii) children 'at risk' (or the sibling of a 'child at risk') who are the subject of an inter-agency child protection plan and who have been placed on the Child Protection Register;
- iii) children deemed by the Council to be 'in need' according to the 'children in need priority statement' agreed by the Council as part of its child care policy;
- iv) the number of places available within each age band in the playgroup or nursery;
- v) the type of provision available, that is, full-time, part-time, extended day and school holiday provision;
- vi) any specific catchment area determined by the playgroup or nursery;
- vii) the nearness of the child's home to the playgroup or nursery.

NOTE: Where the Council agrees that a child is deemed to be 'in need' according to the 'children in need priority statement' agreed by the Council as part of its child care policy, and the parent cannot afford to pay charges, the Council will subsidise the place to the level of the lowest charging band.

ADDENDUM

1. Implications of government funding through the Nursery Education and Grant Maintained Schools Act 1996

If there are places for three year olds from the term after their third birthday and four year olds which cannot be filled by Islington residents, community nurseries and playgroups may offer part-time, core day places to three and four year olds who are non-Islington residents.

2. Extended Day, School Holiday Places and Places for Children Under Three

Priority for these places should be given to Islington resident parents who are working, studying or training full-time.

Part-time places for children under three in sessional playgroups should be prioritised for parents who are working, studying or training on a part-time basis.

