

Incentivising Quality At Local Level

Jonathan Rallings
Principal Policy Officer (Children's Services)
London Councils

London Local Authorities and Inspections

- **More positive experiences of inspections**
- **Improving relationships with Ofsted**
- **Better co-ordination between schools and early years settings**

How can inspections be improved?

- **Holistic Approach**
 - Look at the broader overall quality of provision
 - Judge where support is being offered
 - ‘in-borough’ accreditation

How can inspections be improved?

- **Reduce Unpredictability**
 - Clear scale important
 - However, 'good'/'satisfactory' categories still quite broad

How can inspections be improved?

- **Develop Continuity**
 - Co-located provision
 - Implications of White Paper?
‘Outstanding’ schools to be exempt from further inspection

Quality Incentives

- **Support and advice**
- **Training offers**
- **Quality assurance scheme**
- **Free entitlement conditions**
- **Single funding formula**

Single Funding Formula

“LAs must use the EYSFF to support and promote quality and encourage a culture of continuous improvement in the quality of provision.”

(‘Implementing an Early Years Single Funding Formula: Practice guidance’, DCSF, 2009)

Single Funding Formula

Approaches:

- Ofsted Rating
- Staff Qualifications
- Ratios
- Attendance At Training
- Local Quality Assurance
- Nursery Schools

Single Funding Formula

Difficulties:

- Ofsted/Staff changes
- Monitoring/Administration
- Declining early years budgets
- Differences between Maintained/PVI
- Need to improve poorer/smaller settings

Single Funding Formula

Learning:

- Know your local market – what makes it tick?
- Keep simple
- Ensure ‘fairness’ and transparency
- Put support in place