CCG Case Study

**The Childcare and Play Grant, in partnership with the Early Years Integration Transformation Programme (‘The Early Years Pathfinder’)**

One workstream of the Early Years Pathfinder is the development and delivery by Inclusion Services of training for childcare providers, aimed at raising awareness of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribuanal Act (ALNet), and to support settings to provide an inclusive environment for children with a wide range of needs.

In order to further encourage attendance by staff from childcare settings, funding from the Childcare and Play Grant was made available to provide each setting that attended the training with an equipment grant of up to £280. The grant eligibility was limited to the purchase of a range of resources and equipment, referred to in the training, and supplied to the settings as a ‘long list’ of suggested items, from which the setting could choose items up to the maximum value.

To reduce the bureaucratic burden as far as possible, childcare settings were only required to submit a simple grant application, identifying the items from the list they wished to purchase. The grant payment is paid, and the setting then submits evidence in the form of receipts for the items bought, to provide a robust audit trail.

A total of 50 delegates attended the training event run in the Ely and Caerau Children’s Centre on October 7th. 33 staff from 13 childcare settings, and 17 childminders attended, and to date, 9 setting settings and 15 childminders have accessed their grant allocation, with a total of £6,720 paid out or committed to date.

By aligning with the work of the Pathfinder, and using the Childcare and Play Grant to provide suitable resources to assist with the delivery of strategies and approaches highlighted in the training, the joint aims of the Pathfinder and the Childcare Sufficiency Action Plan – namely to increase the childcare sectors skills, knowledge and confidence in providing inclusive services to meet the needs of children requiring additional support – are more likely to be delivered, and providers are more likely to engage and seek to improve their inclusion practice.

Looking ahead, the Childcare Business Support Team, and Inclusion colleagues will discuss the impact of the training and materials on practice during visits to settings, and lessons learnt, and notable practice will be integrated into future training delivery and shared with childcare providers across Cardiff.