

## Stronger Practice Hubs – Application Scoring Matrix



Setting information		
Name of setting		
Address of setting		
URN		
Lead contact name		
Lead contact role		
Contact email address		
Contact phone number		
Type of setting Maintained / PVI etc...		
Local Authority		
Local Authority contact		
Government Region		
Single provider or partnership		
If unsuccessful, wishes to be considered for any future Early Years Stronger Practice Hub recruitment	Yes	No

Eligibility criteria for lead Early Years Provider		
How we will score		
<p>Each of the first 3 eligibility criterion is a simple met or not met.</p> <p>Eligibility Criteria 4 has 2 options – one of the options must be met.</p> <p>Applications MUST meet every criterion in order for their application to progress.</p> <p>Applications that do not meet all eligibility criteria will not be considered further.</p>		
Eligibility Criteria	Met / Not Met	
1 - Group-based early years setting, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ School-based (LA-maintained; schools belonging to Multi-Academy Trusts)</li> <li>○ Private, voluntary, or independent (PVI)</li> </ul>		
2 – Currently rated good or outstanding by Ofsted		
3 - Providing pre-reception early education		
4 - Location of setting (or lead setting if application is on behalf of a partnership)  <i>Hubs are expected to be located in an area of deprivation (<b>deprived or most deprived area</b> – as defined on the application form); however, we will consider applications from settings that can demonstrate extended experience of working with socio-economically disadvantaged children.</i>	Select which criteria is met One of these 2 MUST be MET	
	Setting meets eligibility criteria for location within deprived area.	Setting not situated within a deprived or most deprived area, but has given a sufficient outline of experience of serving socio-economically disadvantaged children.

## Selection Criteria

## Scoring Guide

<b>0</b>	Unsatisfactory / no evidence	<b>1</b>	Weak/Poor evidence	<b>2</b>	Satisfactory evidence	<b>3</b>	Good evidence	<b>4</b>	Exceptional evidence
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## How we will score

Each selection criterion has a sub-set of statements which will be used to consider applications. These will not be individually scored but will form part of the overall suitability judgment.

Selection criteria 5 only applies to applications from Stronger Practice Hubs which intend to work as a partnership (please see FAQ for further explanation of this). Where this section applies it will not be scored but considered as an eligibility criterion.

A maximum of 16 points can be scored for an overall application, and there is a minimum requirement for each sub section to achieve an overall score of 2 or above in order to be considered further.

**6.1 - Use of Evidence: Be able to understand and reflect on evidence from research and exemplify evidence-informed practice.**

Criteria	Demonstrated		Comments		
	Yes	No			
Understands and has ability to use current research and evidence to inform practice development; particularly in regard to improving outcomes for children experiencing poverty or disadvantage.					
Understands the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on children's experiences and outcomes at both local and national level.					
Understands the potential barriers Early Years settings may face in using evidence to inform practice improvements.					
Overall comments on criteria			Maximum score potential	Score 1-4	

**6.2 – Implementing and Sharing excellent practice:**

**Be able to demonstrate excellent practice underpinned by the reformed EYFS (2021) and an ability to support others to improve practice, including practice beyond your own setting.**

Criteria	Demonstrated		Comments
	Yes	No	
Expertise in implementing high quality early years practice for all children underpinned by the reformed EYFS (2021)			
Expertise in working with younger children across the 0-5 age range, including 1-2-year age bracket.			
Evidence of championing the reformed EYFS (2021)			
Evidence of supporting practice improvements within own setting and being able to articulate and reflect on own journey so far in terms of practice improvements.			
Experience and recognition for supporting other Early Years providers (preferably including childminders) with understanding high quality early years provision and practice.			
Knowledge and understanding of effective support strategies such as coaching and mentoring to encourage others to reflect on and develop their own practice			
Ability and experience to support the needs of children from disadvantaged backgrounds and those with SEND.			

Any specific expertise or experience championing particular topics such as early language development, personal, social and emotional development, trauma/bereavement or transitions within and between settings.				
Overall comments on criteria			Maximum score potential	Score 1-4

**6.3 - Networks and partnerships: Proven ability to build strong local networks, working with, understanding and supporting the local early years sector.**

Criteria	Demonstrated		Comments
	Yes	No	
Knowledge of the differences and similarities in all provider types including maintained and PVI settings and the specific work of childminders, and how the context affects practice.			
Understands the development needs of other early years providers.			
Understanding of, and ideally involvement in, current local networks and communication channels and experience in contributing to and maintaining these networks, including in a leadership role			
Experience of working in partnership with a variety of organisations (e.g. EYs providers of different types, LAs, health professionals, charities, English hubs)			
Experience using a variety of communication tools to engage an external audience e.g. social media, webinars, blogs, events, coaching/mentoring			

Overall comments on criteria	Maximum score potential	Score 1-4



6.4 - Capacity: Be able to demonstrate you have the people and systems in place to operate as a Hub.				
Criteria	Demonstrated		Comments	
	Yes	No		
Capacity of existing staff to fulfil the role of a Hub and/or a plan of how and when to recruit staff to deliver the work of the Hub.				
Financial capability to manage a large grant.				
Ability to be ready to start delivering the role of a Stronger Practice Hub swiftly				
Overall comments on criteria			Maximum score potential	Score 1-4

5. ONLY APPLICABLE TO PARTNERSHIP APPLICATIONS						
Criteria				Demonstrated		
				YES	NO	
Partnership application?						
All named partners are settings that are providers or pre-reception early education currently rated Good / Outstanding by Ofsted						
Clearly demonstrated how the partnership will work collaboratively to fulfil the role of the hub.						
Partnership includes spans settings from PVI, maintained, childminder/home-based						
Suitability evidence						
6. Local Authority Statement						
Statement from EY lead includes input from full remit of EY teams (for example: Quality, SEND, sufficiency, finance)						
Statement does not suggest any reason why the setting would not be suitable to be a Hub.						
7. Due Diligence						
Online presence and social media check – NCB						
Finance check – NCB						
Ofsted records – Ofsted e.g. inspection reports, complaints, WRNs etc						
8. Regional Shortlist						
To ensure geographical spread of hubs we will also consider geography in our selection process.						
Government Region	North East		North West		Yorkshire and the Humber	
	West Midlands		East Midlands		East of England	
	South East		South West		London	

