# Bristol Men in Early Years Network Meeting 06.10.2015

**Minutes**

**National conference**

We discussed the national men in early years conference being organised by David Wright in Southampton for Saturday the 13th of February 2016. We were encouraged and excited by the prospect of a national conference and a national voice and also the opportunity to contribute to the content of the conference. From looking at the poster and website it was unclear to us as to whether the conference was for men already working within the early years or men thinking about joining the sector, we agreed to e-mail David to clarify the target audience as this would greatly influence what sort of content we would devise. Possible ideas for contributions included: presentation of or running an outreach workshop of the type that we are going to take into schools and colleges; Setting up a classroom in the early years style for adults to participate in; A panel format open discussion; A clear presentation of all the roots into early years. I (Jay) have since E-mailed David asking for Target audience clarification and also shared some of our potential ideas of contributions. I also asked him to let us know any other confirmed contributions, Keynote speakers et cetera. As we only have one more network meeting before the national conference it was agreed that much of the agenda for our meeting on the 12th of January would be dedicated to the content of our contribution. It was also apparent that much work would need to be done before this date and we agreed to use Google documents to set up a working document for the conference. **Publicity and press**

Amy Bullen from Bristol City Council press office came on a proactive mission to report some positive news, she was very interested in our group and what we strive for. She conducted a whole group interview and took some group shots outside. She then did some one-on-one interviews to get more in-depth and personal stories. The article will appear in council publications and local press and will also be offered to nursery world and Times educational supplement. Amy’s visit was very welcome as it highlighted just how far we have come and what we have to celebrate in our short existence.**Agenda for meeting with Sally Jaeckle** We had a lengthy discussion about potential support from Bristol City Council and determined what information help and support would be most beneficial for our network, this included: **Funding** for administration, dedicated leadership time, outreach supply cover, research, conference travel and accommodation. **Data** how many men are in early years in Bristol? What percentage of total workforce are male? What are their roles? What is their distribution/Where do they work?

**Outreach and mentoring** sharing of contacts for schools colleges and universities, looking at existing outreach programs mentoring and apprenticeship schemes. Being backed by the council would lend our operations a more official touch. We wanted to find out **all the routes into working with children** to improve our outreach work.**Website** benefits from being linked to a larger website but needs more dedicated Space: drop down menus, Map, testimonials and photos, contact details, Survey monkey, hit counts, own links to; other networks; our settings; research; articles; safeguarding procedures et cetera. We would like the network to be consulted by the council so we can potentially **feed into policy.**

**Fathers and male carers.Information pack and flyers** to give to settings and schools.**Guest speakers** who may be interested in addressing our network. To arrange a follow up meeting. **Plan for the year** Topics for future meetings include content for conference, gender stereotyping and gender issues, inverse sexism within workplace, cultural competency boundaries and perceptions of men within other cultures within the city, involving fathers and male carers. **Guest speakers** are a popular and inspiring way to generate insight and discussion on these topics. Possible guest speakers include Marvin Rees, Steve chalk, and contacts made through SARI. The importance of the networks role in supporting members was highlighted and practicalities discussed. It was agreed to include any tricky subjects or concerns in the introductions and to ask at that stage if there are any items for Any Other Business. Meeting closed at 5:30.