

Advantages to Local Authorities Having a Childminder Agency

<u>Area of Work</u>	<u>Benefit of Agency Model</u>	<u>Possible Impact</u>
Recruitment of childminders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quicker and individualised induction and registration process. • Possibility of moving people from unemployment to work. • Developing children’s work force as starting point career. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased number of childminders. • Reduction of unemployed people living within LA. • Development of new business within LA. • Increased number of childcare practitioners.
Quality assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality can be managed more effectively targeting support to raise grades within time frames through focused action planning. • Regular assessments of practice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit the time childminders are not allowed to offer funded places due to low grading. This will impact on sufficiency improving number of places (as Ofsted do not prioritise childminder inspections anymore if they are graded RI). • A better insight as to the quality of care being provided and support tailored to meet needs.
Safeguarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childminders are regularly monitored rather than infrequent inspections. • Each child cared for will be accounted for by the agency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children are safeguarded more effectively; childminders are supported appropriately especially where respite or emergency placements are offered. • Where there are safeguarding concerns children can be identified promptly.

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Retention/sufficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Built upon the well-researched 'network' model agencies will offer a supportive environment where retention of numbers could be higher. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sufficiency and quality of childcare placements are supported (30 hours, 2 year places.)
Partnership working with parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents would be supported through bespoke childcare packages, through initial introduction, list of childminders, evaluation processes and possibly back up placements. Working with partnership agencies/professional services childminders could act as parenting buddies/family support and offer respite services for those children with SEND (Local Offer) and could work within Hub projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More parents/carers accessing work. More parents/carers going back into training. A better awareness of the professional childminder.
Tracking of children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Childminders would track every child cared for and report findings to agency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LA could track the impact of Two Year funded placements/EYPP provided via the agency feeding into data systems.
Income generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a source of income for the LA through agency membership/parental contributions and through training support to Ofsted and agency registered childminders and other early years settings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retained income, contact and quality control of local childcare offer.