**WHERE NEXT FOR UPSTART? Discussion at 2019 AGM.**

Suggestions included:

* **Play workshops for parents and children.** Upstart has already worked with ‘Play on Wheels’ in Fife to create an ‘Outdoor Play’ workshop and would be happy to work with other organisations.

There is plenty of interest in developing play across Scotland (Play Scotland is currently supporting LAs to create their own local Play Strategies) and we’d like to help in any way we can.

* **Put on a Big Event.** We’re currently working on plans for a large-scale conference in Spring 2020. More info on this when we have it.

* **Collaborate with ACE-Aware Nation on a conference about ACEs and Play.**

Sue will look into this.

* **Debate in Parliament.**

Discuss with Patricia of Give Them Time, which successfully organised a debate this year.

* **Don’t lose sight of Upstart’s core purpose of achieving a kindergarten stage**

We’re now looking at two practical questions:

* What about premises? We’re now assuming the best way forward is for nurseries to offer to take children from three to seven (as is being trialled using flexi-schooling in some outdoor nurseries), alongside schools with nursery classes + appropriate practice in P1/2 combine these to create their own kindergarten stage.
* What about qualifications? For 5/6-year-olds, it’s clear that EIS would require at least one GTC-registered teacher. However, there should be a requirement that anyone working with the under-sevens should have professional qualifications covering child development, play-based pedagogy and outdoor education.

We shall look for ways of negotiating these points, apropos CfE Early Level, with the Scottish government.

* **Look at initial teacher education**

There are misunderstandings around skills and knowledge between Early Years Practitioners and Primary Teachers.

* **Work with other organisations changing outcomes for Pre-birth to 8!**

See whether there’s any response at Children in Scotland to Sue’s recent article.

* **Respond to GTCS survey on the dichotomy for teachers as to whether to follow their beliefs or to adhere to what LA's demand in obedience as employees.**

Survey ends soon – publicise via social media.

* **Create a Parents’ Toolkit**

Form a small working group to put together a support package for the website, aimed at parents who want to support Upstart in their local area. Amelia to advise.

Don’t forget Parenting Rights/Child's right to stay at home, to choose when to go back to work - what is right for their family- this is missing from debate.