24.1.2021

Dear All

I am writing to you our Local Council leaders and representatives, to ask that you pledge to support the Early Years sector by prioritising them for the Covid 19 Vaccination programme. I am now aware that Local Authorities are making their own decisions regarding prioritising Early Years educators for the vaccine.

For example Doncaster Council has today announced that they aim to vaccinate all Early Years staff by mid February ‘as part of the priority Health and Social Care frontline workers’. Camden and Cambridgeshire are also rolling this out. This therefore suggests that Early Years staff are facing a postcode lottery of protection from Covid 19 which is not acceptable.

**We now know that the new variant of Covid 19 :-**

* Is more than 30% more transmissible
* Has a higher mortality rate

**We now know that to date :-**

* 18 nursery workers have now died of Covid 19 and a total of 217 educational staff when looking at all teaching and teaching support roles
* 0-4 year olds are the only age group with rising infection rates . Week of the 4.1.2021 - 1267 children in this age group infected compared with week of the 2.11.2020 - 537 children infected.
* 31k nursery workers have been infected since December 1st 2020
* 1 in 10 nursery workers are now expected to be infected
* 591,000 children were attending Early Years settings 18.1.2021
* A total of 2086 0-5 year olds have been hospitalised with Covid 19

We keep hearing that Nurseries and schools are safe, they pose no risk to the workforce or community transmission. However the above facts do not suggest this to be the absolute truth. So therefore please raise these issues as a matter of urgency to protect Worker Rights but more importantly Human Rights.

I hope to hear back from you at your earliest convenience regarding this urgent matter

Yours sincerely,