**Early Market Engagement Event - Additional Q&A**

**09 December 2021**

*289039/1009004 - Early Years: accredited Level 3 training for Special Educational Needs Coordinators*

**Questions**

* **Is there an argument to consider the Level 3 Early Years Educator and SENCO qualifications in tandem, as many Level 3 qualified practitioners find themselves working as SENCOs?**

**DfE response:** We do not currently have plans to review the EY SENCO qualification specification. We will consider this point further.

* **Should the SENCO qualification be Level 4?**

**DfE response:** We think that Level 3 is the right level of qualification given that there is likely to be a high number of EY staff working as SECNOs who have not yet received accredited training. However, we are open to the possibility of Level 4 EY SENCO training in the future, given the importance of the role.

* **If practitioners have an Level 3 Early Years Educator qualification, could they get funding for a Level 3 SENCO qualification?**

**DfE response:** Our proposal is to fund additional Level 3 EY SENCO training, to be available nationally (with targeting in areas of disadvantage), to any EY practitioner in a group based setting, or working as a childminder who is designated as a SENCO.

* **NASENCO is Level 6 and the Standard for the Apprenticeship is looking at Level 7 so what qualification level will the EY SENCO qualification be, or will this be another bespoke early years qualification?**

**DfE response:** The EY SENCO qualification is an accredited Level 3 qualification, delivering the published qualification specification. Training is already delivered by various training organisations. Our proposal is to fund additional accredited training. We think that Level 3 is the right level of qualification given that there is likely to be a high number of EY staff working as SECNOs who have not yet received accredited training.

* **Does the Department still intend to hold a procurement for the Level 3 SENCO training?**

**DfE response:** Yes, the department still intends to hold this procurement.