

## **The Early Years Commission – Call for Evidence Questions**

### **1. How can we ensure that parents and children receive the best possible physical and mental health support, particularly during the perinatal period?**

*Suggested areas of focus:*

- The Healthy Child Programme and other public health services
- Supporting the parents (including the father and partners of the mother) in the perinatal period
- A preventative approach to parent and infant mental health
- Education of early years professionals on parent and child mental health

### **2. How can we ensure that parents are supported to balance work and caring for their child during the early years?**

*Suggested areas of focus:*

- Statutory levels of pay for maternity and paternity leave
- Maternity allowance and the introduction of a paternity allowance
- Shared parental leave
- Unpaid parental leave policy
- Flexible working policies
- Financial support: Universal Credit Child Benefit and the Flexible Support Fund

### **3. How can we support parents to develop the skills and maintain the relationships that support healthy child development during the early years period?**

*Suggested areas of focus:*

- Education on early child development
- Parental relationship
- Positive attachment formation

### **4. How do we provide the most effective and integrated early years services in local community spaces to give children the best start in life?**

*Suggested areas of focus:*

- Children's centres and family hubs
- The support and programmes provided in the community
- How support is accessed by parents and families

### **5. How do we ensure every family can access high-quality childcare that works for both parents and children?**

*Suggested areas of focus:*

- High-quality early years workforce
- Encouraging quality improvements
- Provider funding

- Affordability
- Provision for SEND children

**6. How can central government work better together to develop effective policies on early years?**

*Suggested areas of focus:*

- Cross-departmental strategies
- Using evidence to inform interventions
- Funding allocations for prevention
- Data sharing

**7. How can local government and agencies work together to deliver innovative high-quality early years provision?**

*Suggested areas of focus:*

- Early Intervention Grant and other funding for local government services
- Data sharing
- Service integration

**8. If you could introduce one early years policy designed to bring about the greatest impact on a child's life chances, what policy would it be and why?**