

Early years & childcare services

E-newsletter – February 2011



Welcome to this month's e-newsletter, keeping you up-to-date with all early years' news, updates and events.

We hope you find this e-newsletter useful. If you would prefer not to receive this email, just let us know by emailing fis@nottscc.gov.uk

Please let your colleagues know about E-News and let us know their email address if they also wish to receive a copy.

Early Years and Childcare Workforce Development update plus additional TADO information

TADO courses are still available to book onto and can be found on www.nottinghamshirecountycouncil.gov.uk/earlyyears places are booking up so please take time to have a look and see what is available for you and your team. We will also be sending out via email news of some additional training over the Summer Term.

Although we are working hard to ensure that a variety of opportunities are available to the early years and childcare sector we are also in a position of having to prioritise our work to fit the new budget for 2011-2012. As you would expect we have had to make some savings and this update will inform you of the areas that have been affected by those savings.

Budget Savings 2011-2012

Due to ongoing budget constraints we have had to make further budget savings as part of the workforce development team. The five specific areas that are affected are:

- First Aid
- Supply fees
- Graduate Leader Fund
- Early Years and Childcare Conference
- Foundation Stage Networks
- Playwork training

Offering the sector the opportunity to continue to build a quality workforce has been the main priority as decisions have had to be made around what elements of the current programme need to be considered.

We know that the sector is as committed to this agenda as we are and feel assured that through implementing these changes we can still offer staff training and development opportunities albeit with a contribution from their employer as we have to remove funding such as supply cover.

Supply Cover removed from 1 April 2011

We are no longer in a position to be able to offer any supply cover costs for staff to attend training and development programmes. From the 1 April 2011 if you have already booked onto a course/network that originally advertised supply I am afraid this is no longer the case. You can call us on 0115 977 4310 if you wish to cancel your place.

Buddying Host Fee will however remain in place to support the buddying programme but no supply fee for those benefiting from the experience.

First Aid Funding removed from 1 April 2011

From 1st April 2011 we will no longer be offering funding for Paediatric First Aid qualifications. We will still organise courses on your behalf and manage the booking process to ensure you can access the qualification when your setting needs it. You will however be invoiced for the cost of the programme. At this time we are unsure as to the fee as we are meeting with a number of providers to ensure we get the best price for you. When you book on the course you will be invoiced for the fee and there will be an expectation even if your staff member can't attend on the day that the fee is paid as we will have to ensure 100% return of all of our outgoings. You will have to be 100% sure that if one person can't make it on the day that you can send a replacement. Cancellations with 24hrs notice may allow us to help you and try to find a replacement but if we can't you will still be responsible for the place you originally booked. We will endeavour to work with you to ensure this is not the case.

As we are now working more closely with corporate commissioning services any invoices that are not paid will be dealt with centrally through County Council finance procedures.

All bookings and invoicing for First Aid from the 1 April 2011 will now be undertaken by the training admin team at County Hall so please email your applications to ey&cc.training@nottscc.gov.uk or post to Early Years and Childcare Team, Nottinghamshire County Council, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP. You can of course access your first aid training from elsewhere but it has to be from a Local Authority approved provider so we will continue to publish our list (page 31 TADO) in case this is the option you choose. The costs of these courses per person do vary so please check before agreeing to a course.

Graduate Leader Funding for 1 April 2011 - 31st March 2012

New figures are now available for the payments to support those working towards Early Years Professional Status. These will be effective from the 1 April 2011. We are in a position to maintain the fee to the individual however; the fee to the setting has been reduced but will allow for any on costs that they may occur to be covered.

Home Grown Graduate Incentive (HGGI)

- £220 for the setting
- £1,000 for the individual

Quality Premium (QP) – only paid once the individual has started the EYP programme

- £330 for the setting
- £1,500 for the individual

Early Years Professional Payment (EYP)

- £1,100 for the setting
- £5,000 for the individual

For EYP's we will no longer be able to fund supply cover.

We will continue to cover fees for the Foundation Degree but will not fund any new starters onto the programme. We want to ensure that we can use the funding we have to support those already on the pathway to qualify. The only exception to this will be for those setting where there aren't any individuals working towards a Foundation Degree or Early Years Professional Status.

We have also been informed that there will be no new places for the EYP programme in September 2011 the next possible intake will be January 2012. They are also suggesting that candidates must now have their maths and English prior to starting the programme so this may be an opportunity to use this time to gain those qualifications if you don't already have them. We will still fund you to gain these qualifications.

If you would like advice on how to move forward with your EYP status please email alison.hill@nottsc.gov.uk

Early Years and Childcare Conference

Unfortunately we are not in a position to be able to fund the conference for 2011. We understand this will be disappointing for many colleagues but also that you will understand the need for us to prioritise our use of the budget for 2011-2012. We will be exploring the possibility of a partnership conference for 2012.

Foundation Stage Networks

Although supply cover has been removed we still want to offer the opportunity for foundation stage colleagues from schools and the PVI sector to come together to discuss best practice and find out about key messages for them in their work. We will continue to offer the network but it will be reduced from 3 per year to 2. Dates will be advertised on WIRED and through the e-newsletter.

Playwork Training

As you may already know the playwork training team will be reduced due to restricted budgets. However, the training team are working hard to ensure that they have plans in place to support those who work with older children. We are also working hard to expand our register of training providers to include aspects of training that will continue to support those working in out of school settings etc. Please continue to read the e-newsletters when they come out as we will post any new courses/opportunities etc on it throughout 2011-2012.

Buddying Opportunities – ‘creating a learning community across early years and childcare in Nottinghamshire’

One way we have been able to plan for these reductions is through the development of programmes such as ‘buddying’ This programme was always going to be a fantastic resource for us as we move into 2011-2012 as it enables us to use each other to raise those standards and meet those needs. Even if we can’t afford a specific programme or you can’t afford to send a member of staff on a full day’s training, it is highly likely that there is an expert ‘Host’ in Nottinghamshire who has that knowledge or ability to share.

We are retaining the host fee so that will mean that this programme is still accessible to you, especially if the host is willing to visit you in your setting. If you are interested in finding out more about the Buddying Programme and the details of our host opportunities please email charlotte.hurst@nottscc.gov.uk or call 0115 977 4226 or look on line on www.nottinghamshirecountycouncil.gov.uk/earlyyears

General Update

TADO – Training and Development Opportunities

You can access the TADO on the internet by going to:
www.nottinghamshirecountycouncil.gov.uk/earlyyears

It can be found on the right hand side of the web page and you can print off the pages you need. The application process is now paper free as you can save a copy of the application form, complete it when you want to apply and then email it us on ey&cc.training@nottscc.gov.uk

It is important that all those wishing to attend a course send in an application form as we need to calculate numbers to pass onto the venue (for refreshments and seating etc), tutor (for numbers of handouts etc) and production of certificates etc. There may not be space for you when you arrive on a course if you haven’t completed an application. It may also mean that a course is cancelled due to low numbers if delegates don’t formally book a place. So please book early to secure your place.

TADO is also currently available for schools on wired.

CAF Training – new charges for non-attendance and non-completion

We would like to draw your attention to a new charge that has been allocated to those not attending a CAF course or not completing their CAF on-line learning programme within the set time allocated. This has come direct from the course provider and you would be charged directly by them not through our team.

Their statement reads:

‘A charge of £30 will be made for non attendance unless we are given at least 24hrs notice of cancellation or non completion of the e-learning module within 6 weeks of the training date.

Failure to give at least 24hrs notice if non attendance prior to the start of the training and non completion of the e-learning module within 6weeks of the training date will incur a charge of £40’.

To cancel please inform Anita Mcnair on 0115 97 73065

Although these cuts have been made it is important to remember the opportunities that are still available through workforce development:

- Qualification funding
- Graduate Leader Funding for Foundation Degrees (for those already studying)
- Graduate Leader Fund to support bursary's for staff on the Foundation Degree and EYP pathway
- Funding to support GCSE maths and english
- Free courses daytime, evening and weekend
- Access to pre-arranged First Aid training
- Free safeguarding training
- Free designated person training
- Buddying Opportunities
- Free Communication, Language and Literacy training
- Free district training linked to your local Children's Centre
- Free networks

Plus many more commissioned courses from experts in early years and childcare. Just keep checking the web site for further additions.

www.nottinghamshirecountycouncil.gov.uk/earlyyears

Marketing Support

From 1 April 2011, there will no longer be a dedicated marketing & communication officer for the early years and childcare services. This is due to the centralisation of marketing and communications across the Council and the need to make budget savings.

The marketing toolkit will be updated on a regular basis via corporate communications for settings to use as a marketing planning guide. Settings should contact the Nottinghamshire Families Information Service on 0800 781 2168 or 01623 520 694 for a copy of the marketing toolkit and contacts for other support organisations.

Nottinghamshire Childminding Services

Nottingham and County Childminding Association website

Please remember to check the website regularly as we are up-dating it all of the time!

Some new documents have been put on the download section and also documents have been amended such as the useful contacts document with new addresses and contact numbers.

Also watch this space, as in the near future, we will be including some sample policies and we are currently in the process of up-dating the premises risk assessment.

Nott's County Council Grant aid for Childcare Settings and Childminding Groups

Please be aware that letters have gone out to all local childminding groups regarding this grant and forms need to be returned by Monday 28th February.

Through the grant you can choose from a selection of packs of equipment and resources.

Events

Hello to the national year of communication

The *Hello* campaign will make communication for all children and young people a priority in homes and schools across the country in 2011, so that they can live life to the full.

The theme for March is '**Early chatter matters - from bump to birth and beyond**'
Babbling babies don't turn into talkative toddlers by chance. It requires help and encouragement from you!

Visit www.hello.org.uk to find out about other monthly themes for the year, free resources to help support children's communication development and find out about events that are happening in your area.

I CAN's Chatterbox Challenge 2011

I CAN's Chatterbox Challenge is an annual activity for nurseries, children's groups and childminders. Children aged 0-5 have fantastic fun and develop their communication skills by singing songs and rhymes. Chatterbox Challenge is a milestone event of *Hello*. February and March are the official Chatterbox Challenge months, but you can take part anytime that suits you best.

Join the Guinness World Record™ attempt

Chatterbox Challenge needs you to help make 2011 a very special year for talking. You can join the Guinness World Record™ attempt for the most children and adults singing Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes (multiple venues) at 11am 1 March 2011 and help make this the biggest and loudest Chatterbox Challenge yet.

Get your free activity pack

Chatterbox Challenge will give you everything you need to run a successful Chatterbox Challenge event including:

- Instructions for joining the Guinness World Record™ attempt
- Activity guide packed with songs and activities to perform
- Guide to organising your challenge event
- Stickers and certificates to reward children who have taken part
- Press release templates for Chatterbox Challenge and Guinness World Record™ attempts are a great way for you to get media coverage in your local area!

To find out more and register for your activity pack please go to www.chatterboxchallenge.co.uk or call 0844 409 9565.

News from early years websites

Department for Education

Government and Booktrust confirm bookgifting plans

Education Secretary Michael Gove today confirmed that children in England will continue to receive free books at key stages of their childhood to instill a love of stories and reading. For more information visit:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/pressnotices/a0074911/free-books-for-children>

Sure Start Children's Centres statutory guidance

Details of the Government's approach to Sure Start children's centres and access to the accompanying statutory guidance for local authorities, primary care trusts and Jobcentre Plus. For more information visit:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a0074514/sure-start-childrens-centres-statutory-guidance>

Publication of the findings from the review of the Vetting and Barring scheme

On 11 February, the Government published the findings from the review of the Vetting and Barring Scheme. For more information visit:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a0074347/publication-of-the-findings-from-the-review-of-the-vetting-and-barring-scheme>

National Childminding Association

New networks funding announced

NCMA has secured Government funding to develop home-based childcare networks across England. For more information visit:

http://www.ncma.org.uk/news_and_events/news/january_to_june_2011/new_networks_funding_announced.aspx

Play England

Parents for Playgrounds

Play England is pleased to have partnered with Robinsons Fruit Shoot to launch 'Parents for Playgrounds' - a national programme that will give five local play areas the chance of winning a renovation bursary of up to £15,000. For more information visit:

<http://www.playengland.org.uk/news/2011/02/parents-for-playgrounds>

Ofsted

A good start for the Early Years and Foundation Stage

All types of childcare provider can, and do, deliver the learning and development requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage well, with training, support and challenge, key to their success.

Ofsted's report, The impact of the Early Years Foundation Stage: a good start, examines the work of early years providers across the sector, from large primary schools to childminders working alone with one or two children. For more information visit:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News/A-good-start-for-the-Early-Years-Foundation-Stage>

Daycare Trust

Results of the Daycare Trust's annual childcare survey. For more information visit:
<http://www.daycaretrust.org.uk/pages/rapid-rise-in-childcare-costs-adds-to-family-finance-woes.html>

Child Accident Prevention Trust

Think you know about falls? Think again

45 under fives EVERY DAY are admitted to hospital following a fall. That's a staggering 16,425 per year. Very often, childhood falls are not taken as seriously as we believe they should be. But how do you help parents and carers to take precautions? For more information visit:

<http://www.capt.org.uk/who-we-are/news/think-you-know-about-falls-think-again>

Children and Young People Now

Workers face fewer checks under 'common sense' safeguarding plans

Millions fewer people will have to register and be checked to work with children under proposals to overhaul vetting and barring measures. For more information visit:

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/Archive/1054514/Workers-face-fewer-checks-common-sense-safeguarding-plans/>