



## **Early Years & Childcare Services E-newsletter – June 2010**

Welcome to this month's e-newsletter, keeping you up-to-date with all early years news!

Every month a sample of childcare stories from around the country will be posted in this newsletter, keeping you on the pulse of what is happening in your sector without having to source the information yourselves.

We'll also let you know about events specific to Nottinghamshire, which may be of interest to you. For example, in this issue we will be bringing you information on Play Days, changes to the Childcare Recruitment Campaign and the new Family Services Directory website.

If your early years & childcare setting appears in the local paper, why not share it with other practitioners by emailing the story to [philip.golding@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:philip.golding@nottscc.gov.uk)

We hope you find this e-newsletter useful and details of how to subscribe/unsubscribe can be found at the bottom of the document.

Finally, please remember the **Nottinghamshire Families Information Service (FIS)** are easily reachable on freephone 0800 781 2168 or [fis@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:fis@nottscc.gov.uk) to update providers details and are always happy to give out free, impartial advice on childcare.

Happy reading...

### **[Events in and Around the County](#)**

#### **Childhood Obesity Week – 5 to 11 July 2010**

With an estimated three million overweight and obese children in the UK, childhood obesity is one of the most serious health epidemics facing our society today. Not only is this crisis damaging our children's health and quality of life, it also has huge financial implications for the NHS.

To raise awareness about this epidemic, MEND and the National Obesity Forum have joined forces to launch National Childhood Obesity Week.

Settings concerned with child health are encouraged to promote National Childhood Obesity Week around the country. To find out more about National Childhood Obesity Week and MEND Move It Week or to become an official supporter, call 020 7231 7225 or [click here](#) for more information.

#### **Play Days – August 2010**

The Nottinghamshire County Council Play Service, Play Forums and their partners invite all children and their families to the FREE play day events this August. The days will run from 1pm to 4pm (Broxtowe 12pm to 4pm) at various parks across the county.

August 4 – **Bassetlaw** – Kings Park, Hospital Road, Retford, DN22 7BG  
August 5 – **Mansfield** – Carr Bank, Windmill Lane, Mansfield, NG18 2AL  
August 6 – **Ashfield** – Kingsway Park, Hodgkinson Road, Kirkby, NG17 7DJ  
August 10 – **Newark** – Scone Hill Park, Farndon Road, Newark, NG24 4SA  
August 11 – **Gedling** – Arnot Hill Park, Nottingham Road, Arnold, NG5 6LU  
August 12 – **Broxtowe** – Hall Park, Mansfield Road, Eastwood, NG16 3AR

If you require any additional information please contact the Nottinghamshire Families Information Service on **0800 781 2168**.

The **Rushcliffe** district will be hosting 'Lark in the Park' again this year (organised by Rushcliffe Borough Council) on 4 August, 10am-4pm at Bridgford Park, West Bridgford.

For more general information on play days [click here...](#)

### **National Parents' Week 2010**

National Parents' Week 2010 is taking place in October (more information to follow in the coming months), however in 2009, there were over 30 National Parents' Week events held in Nottinghamshire's schools, Children's Centres and community venues, and we want 2010 to be even bigger.

So... Nottinghamshire County Council's Parenting Support Team will be hosting planning sessions at Rufford Mill's Talbot Suite on:

- Wednesday 14 July 9.30–11.30am
- Monday 27 September 1.15–3pm

**If you, or a school/nursery representative are interested in coming** please confirm your attendance by contacting Natasha Mellors (see contact details below).

You do not necessarily have to put on a separate event for National Parents' Week: just add a parent celebration angle to your pre-planned events. There are a range of giveaways and a small amount of funding available to support National Parents' Week events. For further details on event ideas and support, please feel free to get in touch.

Natasha Mellors, Positive about Parenting Project Officer, Nottinghamshire County Council  
Tel: **01623 433 194** or email: [natasha.mellors@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:natasha.mellors@nottscc.gov.uk)

### **Training & Development Opportunities News**

#### **Changes to the Nottinghamshire Childcare Recruitment Campaign from 1 July 2010**

Following a review of the Childcare Recruitment Campaign that has taken into consideration many issues, it has become apparent that we have to ensure the service has a more targeted approach. This will in turn offer a more needs led service making best use of funding. From 1 July 2010 we will limit its use of payment for advertising to newly registered childcare in recruiting their new workforce and childcare settings experiencing sustainability, recruitment or retention issues only.

If you find that this service will be of use to you and you fall within these categories you can request this support by completing an 'Advert Request Form' available from the Training Admin Team on 0115 977 3966 or e-mail [ey&cc.training@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:ey&cc.training@nottscc.gov.uk)

For those settings who do not fall into these categories this will mean that adverts to employ new staff can no longer be supported through the campaign. However advice is still available on alternative advertising routes and resources for your setting, eg:

- Job Centre Plus
- recruitment through volunteering and the Childcare Training Project
- benefiting from the 'Thinking of Working with Children?' eight week taster course held in Children's Centres
- advice regarding recruiting through local colleges.

The Nottinghamshire Childcare Recruitment Campaign can still continue to support you with advice and guidance on recruitment and retention issues, interview support and issues surrounding employment law, support with contracts of employment, writing job descriptions and setting visits. You can request this support by completing a 'Request for Support Form' by contacting the Training Admin Team on put 0115 977 3966 or e-mail [ey&cc.training@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:ey&cc.training@nottscc.gov.uk)

**If you have any queries regarding the changes to the service, please do not hesitate to contact Charlotte Hurst on 0115 977 3966.**

## **[Nottinghamshire Families Information Service \(FIS\) News](#)**

### **Family Service Directory**

A new Family Services Directory website has just been launched for you to browse at your leisure and find the services you require. If you have any kind of family query, whether it is about babies, behaviour, benefits, pregnancy, relationships, teenagers or travel arrangements – visit the Family Services Directory to find the contacts you need!

Visit: [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/fis](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/fis)

### **Looking for boredom busters this summer?**

If you know of families in your district who are looking for things to do and places to go this summer then please direct them to the Nottinghamshire Families Information Service (FIS) – the one stop shop for fun and boredom busters this summer.

Our database contains a list of activities and events that are happening across Nottinghamshire. From baby massage and under 5's story time to arts and craft sessions, play schemes and play days. Whatever parents/carers are looking for Nottinghamshire FIS can provide information about what's on across the county for 0–19 year olds and their families.

**Please feel free to display the attached poster in your childcare setting.**

We can also help find childcare facilities over the holidays and give advice on: help with childcare costs; support for parents or carers with learning difficulties and/or disabilities; and support for disabled children, young people and their families.

Contact Nottinghamshire **Families Information Service (FIS)** on 0800 781 2168, or if calling from a mobile 01623 520 694 (standard mobile rates apply), or email [fis@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:fis@nottscc.gov.uk)

## **[National News](#)**

### **Home Office**

**Vetting and Barring Scheme registration halted**

Registration with the Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) will be halted to allow the government to remodel the scheme back to proportionate, common sense levels.

Voluntary registration with the VBS for new employees and job-movers working or volunteering with children and vulnerable adults was due to start on 26 July, but registration has now been stopped. To read the full story [click here...](#)

## **Department of Education**

### **Full list of Department for Education ministerial appointments confirmed**

The list is as follows:

- Secretary of State for Education: The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
- Minister of State for Schools: Nick Gibb MP
- Minister of State for Children and Families: Sarah Teather MP
- Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools: Lord Hill of Oareford CBE
- Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families: Tim Loughton MP.

To read the full story and to see profiles of the MPs [click here...](#)

### **Sarah Teather sets out overarching vision for Early Years services**

Research clearly shows that good-quality childcare provision does, in fact, benefit children in the long term, and in particular the most disadvantaged. The Effective Provision of Pre-School Education (EPPE) project, for instance, has shown that high-quality, pre-school provision enhances children's all round cognitive, language and social development.

To read the full story [click here...](#)

### **Munro Review to look at children's social work and frontline child protection practice**

Secretary of State for Education Michael Gove has today written to Professor Eileen Munro to invite her to conduct an independent review of children's social work and frontline child protection practice. Children's Minister Tim Loughton and Professor Munro outlined the broad remit and length of the review which will look at how to remove the barriers and bureaucracy which prevent social workers spending valuable time with vulnerable children.

To read the full story [click here...](#)

### **Free nursery meal update send to Local Authorities**

The Secretary of State for Education has written to all local authorities setting out the details of the Department's contribution to the £6.2 billion of cross-government savings, announced on Monday 24 May 2010.

The text of the letter can be found by following the link, as can a series of frequently asked questions and answers regarding free school meals. To read the full story [click here...](#)

## **Daycare Trust**

### **Daycare Trust welcomes free entitlement extension go-ahead**

Daycare Trust, the national childcare charity has welcomed the government's announcement that the extension of the free entitlement for all three and four year olds to 15 hours a week from September will go ahead as planned.

Education secretary Michael Gove has also confirmed that the government will continue to fund places for 20,000 two-year olds in the most disadvantaged areas, and will look to extend this further when funding allows. To read the full story [click here...](#)

## **4Children**

### **Charity Welcomes New Childhood and Families Task Force**

National charity 4Children today welcomed the establishment of a new Childhood and Families Task Force, to be chaired by the Prime Minister.

4Children launched The Family Commission, a national inquiry into family life, in April 2009. The charity says that many of the priorities of the new taskforce will be welcomed by parents, in particular those intended to help families in crisis, improve flexibility in the workplace and support dads in taking a more hands-on role in bringing up their children. To read the full story [click here...](#)

## **Children & Young People Now**

### **Emergency Budget child benefit update**

Addressing the House of Commons, George Osborne said he would not means test or tax child benefit but instead said he wanted to keep the popular universal benefit. But the rate of child benefit will remain at £20.30 per week for the eldest child and £13.40 per week for each other child in a family for the next three years.

"This benefit is usually claimed by the mother. To tax it would mean that working mothers received less than the non-working partner of a millionaire. Means test it and we would have to create a massively complex new system to assess household incomes." To read the full story [click here...](#)

### **Child poverty to be redefined**

Work and Pensions Secretary Iain Duncan Smith has said he is looking at the possibility of widening the definition of child poverty.

The news comes after Chancellor George Osborne last week insisted that the government would keep the Labour government's target of eliminating child poverty by 2020. Osborne added Labour's definition of child poverty had not been opposed by the Conservative Party when it was enshrined in law last year. To read the full story [click here...](#)

### **ContactPoint plans to be stopped**

The government has written to all ContactPoint projects confirming that "the idea of a single national IT database for all children has gone for good".

"We are scrapping ContactPoint. We will develop better ways of keeping children safe. The investment made won't be wasted because we can use the technical expertise we've acquired to protect those children most in need." To read the full story [click here...](#)

## **Nursery World**

### **Nursery schools keep up their high marks**

More than half the maintained nursery schools seen by Ofsted in the first two terms of the new inspection framework have been rated outstanding.

Data since the introduction of the new framework in September last year shows that 58 per cent of maintained nursery schools were rated outstanding, 36 per cent good, 4 per cent satisfactory and 2 per cent inadequate. To read the full story [click here...](#)

## **NAFIS**

**The National Association for Families Information Services have launched a new website to support the Parent TV channel**

You can now view content online, to get parental tips and advice: [www.parentchannel.tv](http://www.parentchannel.tv)

### **National Childminding Association**

#### **Childminder Week a success**

National Childminding Week 2010 - "Reaching the right notes" was a great success, with hundreds of events throughout England and Wales.

The week kicked off with a letter in many local newspapers from Susanna Dawson, NCMA's Chair, outlining the benefits of home-based childcare. To read the full story [click here...](#)

### **Local News**

#### **Newark Advertiser**

##### **Mother aims to save sports club**

A sports club for children with special needs from the Ollerton area may have to close unless more members can be found to keep it going.

Mother-of-two Mrs Joanne Tatt, of Whinney Lane, Ollerton, is appealing for new members. To read the full story [click here...](#)

### **And Finally**

#### **A family's thanks for gift of life**

The parents of a boy who has had a life-saving bone-marrow transplant have said a huge thank you to the man who was the donor.

Miss Vicky Tasker, 30, and Mr David Giles, 33, were told Jacob needed a bone-marrow transplant and three months later a perfect match was found. The donor was a 45-year-old man from New Zealand. To read the full story [click here...](#)

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Subscribe/Unsubscribe**

If you think a friend or colleague would be interested in the childcare e-newsletter please tell them to email [philip.golding@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:philip.golding@nottscc.gov.uk) with the title: **SUBSCRIBE** and we will add them to the mail-out for the following month.

If you should ever wish to be removed from the mail-out, please email [philip.golding@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:philip.golding@nottscc.gov.uk) with the title: **UNSUBSCRIBE** and we shall remove you from the list. It would also be beneficial to us, when unsubscribing, if you could spare the time to

tell us why you no longer wish to receive the e-newsletter. This way we can improve the service and hopefully regain your subscription at a future date.

Kind Regards,  
Phil Golding  
NCC Early Years & Childcare Marketing Officer