

In this issue: Early Years & Childcare Conference, adult learner celebrations, marketplace events and more...

Early Years & Childcare Conference 2010

On 12 June 2010, over 270 early years and childcare workers from around the county arrived at the East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham for a range of stimulating workshops and educational seminars – keen to find out why this year's conference was entitled 'All about me!'

The name for the conference originally came from the title of a transition document, but developed to mean so much more. Practitioners were encouraged to see themselves within the title, and the difference they make to the children in their care.

Andy Cope (author of 'The Art of Being Brilliant' and the afternoon keynote speaker) summed this up by engaging with childcare workers, and encouraging them "to take others on a journey of positivity... by exploring how being yourself 'brilliantly' will give you a real buzz and inspire those around you, and in your care, to feel brilliant too!"

Delegates were also treated to an insightful speech from Kate Cairns (training manager for AKAMAS and the morning keynote speaker) on the latest research on attachment, and

the important role early years learning plays in helping children form strong bonds throughout their life.

A range of workshops were on offer, covering subjects such as: team building; leadership; sensory learning; working with disabled children; partnership working; and ways to engage children through music.



Running alongside the main event was the **Children's conference and creche**. The morning started with games and challenges, as the children and young people collected tokens to come to the afternoon's 'Wizard party!'

A fruit barbeque, animal enclosure, water target and dream-catcher were just a few of the activities on offer, before a 'quizdom' was set-up in the theatre for delegates to take part in a questionnaire put together by the children and young people.

To book a place at next year's conference, look out for details in the coming issues of Partnership News.



Family Services Directory

Nottinghamshire County Council has launched a Family Services Directory. The directory contains lots of useful information about services in Nottinghamshire for children, young people and their families and those who work with them.

Whether your query is about: babies; behaviour; benefits; pregnancy; relationships; teenagers or travel arrangements

– the Family Services Directory is a great place to start!

visit: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/fis

If you still can't find what you're looking for, you can phone the Nottinghamshire Families Information Service on **0800 781 2168** or 01623 520 694 (Monday-Thursday 8.30am-5.30pm, Friday 8.30am-4.30pm).

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

By April 2011, Nottinghamshire County Council must have completed a full audit of all the childcare available in the county – under the Childcare Act 2006, and we would appreciate your co-operation in doing this.

When complete, the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment will show how much childcare there is in each local area. This will help the Early Years & Childcare Services to develop current and future childcare needs and identify gaps in the market – to plan services which help to meet the needs of working parents and their children.

Nottinghamshire County Council will send a questionnaire to all registered childcare providers in the county. Please complete and return the form to the address provided.

In August and September, a sample of parents will be questioned to find out their childcare needs. The two surveys will be compared and any gaps in provision will be addressed through the production of an action plan. The details of the assessment will then be published next spring on the County Council website, and will be available through childcare settings.

When complete, Nottinghamshire County Council will then consult with private, voluntary and independent providers, to see how together, families in Nottinghamshire can have their childcare needs better catered for.

For more information on the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 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

Teddy Bears Picnic



Bumble Bee Day Nursery, Ollerton hosted a teddy Bears picnic on 24 June 2010 to raise funds for the charity Shelter with lots of games and activities.

500 through Community Centre doors

Mansfield Children's Community Centre based on Somersall Street, Ladybrook recently celebrated the 500th family coming through their doors to access their services.

Caroline and her son Tyler aged two years were the 500th family to come to the centre.

Caroline said "Tyler absolutely loves it here; the staff are always very welcoming and supportive."



Extended Entitlement – September 2010

The Government has now published the new 'Code of Practice for Local Authorities - on the Delivery of Free Early Years Provision for 3 & 4 year olds'.

The new code gives details of the free entitlement increasing from 12 ½ to 15 hours a week, and issues guidance on flexible delivery and being responsive to meeting the needs of families.

The document can currently be downloaded at:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/resources-and-practice/IG00689/
(Please be aware that this link is likely to move to the new Department for Education website in the future).

New Provider Agreement

As part of the Code of Practice, the local authority has revised the conditions for nursery funding and produced a document which is being circulated to providers delivering the free entitlement. The document forms part of the new Provider Agreement.

It will be reviewed and reissued on an annual basis and providers will be required to sign their agreement to the conditions. The Provider Agreement introduces changes to the conditions including:

- ★ quality
- ★ community and family engagement
- ★ continued professional development
- ★ administration and finance.

Roll out of the extended entitlement

County Council plans are underway in readiness for the roll-out in September 2010. We will be confirming 'delivery models' over the summer term and from September the Nottinghamshire Families Information Service will hold the database with your current models on. Any changes please use the vacancy update forms issued at each headcount.

Please be aware that Helen Ruff will be available throughout September if settings require any support during the roll out of the extended entitlement.

Helen can be contacted by:
Email: helen.ruff@nottscc.gov.uk
Phone: **0115 977 4294**

Growing into a career in childcare



An event aimed at people wishing to progress their careers in the childcare profession was recently held at West Nottinghamshire College, Mansfield.

The event entitled 'My how you've grown!', gave childcare workers studying or already qualified to level 3 in childcare the opportunity to learn more about higher education programmes available to them.

Representatives from local colleges and universities talked through the pros and cons of full-time, part-time and distant learning study. There was then a chance to speak in more detail to specific education bodies at the end of the evening.

For more information on early years childcare courses and taster evenings in Nottinghamshire, contact the Nottinghamshire Childcare Recruitment Campaign on: **08449 808 080**

Changes to the Nottinghamshire Childcare Recruitment Campaign

Following a review of the Childcare Recruitment Campaign, the service will move towards a targeted approach. This will mean a more 'needs led service', making best use of funding.

From July 2010, the service now only use paid advertising for: newly registered childcare when recruiting a new workforce; and childcare settings experiencing sustainability, recruitment or retention issues.

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 3266** or e-mail ey&cc.training@nottsc.gov.uk

For 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. For example:-

- ★ 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 **0115 977 3266** or e-mail ey&cc.training@nottsc.gov.uk

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

Spotlight on... Julie Truman (Nursery Manager and Early Years Professional)

Having gained Early Years Professional Status in June 2009, Julie Truman, Nursery Manager of Early Learners Centre, North Nottinghamshire College, Worksop. talks to Partnership News about qualifications, new ideas and better outcomes for children...

How do the children in your care benefit from your continued professional development?

We want the children at the nursery to have fun, but we also want them to learn things that will help them through their life. I think continuing to develop professionally has made me more aware of the importance of giving the children the opportunity to be curious, and develop a real thirst for learning.

What would you say to other early years professionals who feel anxious about starting an early years qualification?

Taking up a course helps to increase your confidence in the setting, but the opportunity to network with other childcare workers is also brilliant.

Whichever level of study you've reached, continuing your professional development helps to raise the profile of early years care and education, and improve outcomes for the children in your care. Plus you might even enjoy it!



Playdays 2010

Nottinghamshire County Council's Play Service have organised the following play days this summer:

- ★ Kings Park, Hospital Road, DN22 7BG
RETFORD 4 August
- ★ Carr Bank, Windmill Lane, NG18 2AL
MANSFIELD 5 August
- ★ Kingsway Park, Hodgkinson Road, NG17 7DJ
ASHFIELD 6 August
- ★ Sconce Hill Park, Farndon Road, NG24 4SA
NEWARK 10 August
- ★ Arnot Hill Park, Nottingham Road, NG5 6LU
GEDLING 11 August
- ★ Hall Park, Mansfield Road, NG16 3AR
BROXTOWE 12 August

All play days run from 1pm–4pm, apart from Broxtowe which runs from 12pm–4pm.

Lark in the Park play day organised by Rushcliffe Borough Council is on 4 August, 10am–4pm at Bridgford Park, West Bridgford.

National Childminding Week

14–20 June was this year's National Childminding Week, helping raise awareness of childminding.

More than 160 childminders and 300 children marked the occasion at the Childminding Extravaganza held at Rufford Country Park. 'Caterpillar Music', a magic show and picnic were just some of the activities on offer.

For information from the Nottingham & County Childminding Association contact: **0844 225 2053**

Marketplace events

On 18 and 20 May 'Aiming High in Nottinghamshire' reached out to disabled children and their families by hosting two marketplace events where 30 exhibitors gave details of the support they could offer families in the county.



Supported by Nottinghamshire County Council's Short Breaks and Disabled Children's Access to Childcare (DCATCH) services, the two events took place at Rushcliffe Arena and Mansfield Civic Centre.

DCATCH, Scope, Youth Services, Nottingham Regional Society for Adults and Children with Autism (NORSACA), Play, Short Breaks, Children Centre's and MENCAP were just some of the stalls at the events, where parents and carers were able to talk through their concerns and have their questions answered.

If you wish to know more about DCATCH and the support available for children with a disability in Nottinghamshire, contact: Nottinghamshire Families Information Service on **0800 781 2168** or email fis@nottscc.gov.uk

A Sure Start for adult learners in Bassetlaw



Parents who attend adult learning courses at Bassetlaw Children's Centres joined forces on the 21 May 2010 to celebrate their achievements at The Well, Retford, as part of Adult Learners' Week.

The event, staged in partnership with Sure Start, North Notts College and the Adult Community Learning Service – saw adult learners from around the district receive certificates and try taster sessions which will be available in their local Children's Centre.

Visit a local Sure Start Children's Centre for training opportunities.



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