

Awards for inclusive practice



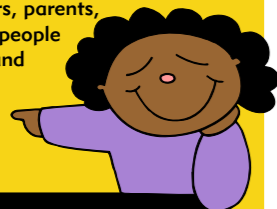
Out of school clubs from Ashfield and Mansfield were presented their HUFU Awards by Councillor Joyce Bosnjak, Nottinghamshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

Hands up for Inclusion (HUFU) Awards have been presented to Greenwood, Hucknall National and Leen Mills out of school clubs, Ashfield and Young Adventurers, Ed's Club and the Tree House out of school clubs, Mansfield.

Providers have worked with our Out of School Development Workers to achieve the awards – congratulations!

Big THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who helped us with our recent early years and childcare photo shoot. In particular we would like to thank all providers, parents, children and young people that were involved and for their time.



Investors in Volunteers

Congratulations to our Children's Centres in the Mansfield District who have been awarded the Investing in Volunteers UK quality mark which recognises the practice of recruiting, supporting and training volunteers across the district has reached a high standard.

Our centres are the first Sure Start Children's Centres in the country to achieve the standard and the first to achieve the standard as a district too! Well done! Children's Centres in the Mansfield District are run by Nottinghamshire County Council and Family Action (formerly FWA), a leading provider of services to disadvantaged and socially isolated families.



National Bookstart Day 2008 – Pirates Ahoy!



Ahoy there shipmates! Pirate fever hits Ollerton and Boughton Children's Centre

Rainworth bookstart day event

Pirate fever spread across the county for National Bookstart Day on Friday 10th October. Libraries and Children's Centres held pirate themed events during the week to celebrate, such as treasure hunts, fancy dress, pirate stories and lots more!

For more information about Bookstart visit www.bookstart.org.uk for more information or call 01623 553409.

Little Oaks Nursery celebrates 10th birthday



Ten years ago Little Oaks Nursery in the district of Broxtowe opened as a small 30 place nursery and has since grown to 72 places with many of the original staff still working there.

To celebrate their 10th birthday over 200 parents, children and young people who have attended Little Oaks Nursery over the past ten years were invited to a BBQ reunion.

Linda Birkin, nursery owner, pictured with 2 of her original staff who continue to work at the nursery today, alongside some of the first children to attend.

Children's Centres success in Notts

Since the Children's Centres programme was introduced in 2004, building on the successful Sure Start Local Programme initiative, 49 centres have been designated in Nottinghamshire, covering 65 wards.

These have been in areas of disadvantage, and since March 2008, 75% of the county's children aged 0-5 have been receiving Children's Centre services. The majority of these children officially live in poverty.

The final stage of Children's Centre service implementation will be complete by March

2010, and all children aged 0-5 throughout the county will then have access to Children's Centre services. To deliver their service, these final centres will build on existing services and add value to that provision, whilst offering targeted support when it's needed most.

To find out about Children's Centre services near to you contact Nottinghamshire Families Information Service on 0800 781 2168.

If you wish to submit an article for the next issue of Partnership News, please contact Clare or Vicky on 01623 520071 or email clare.morrell@nottscc.gov.uk or victoria.windsor-beck@nottscc.gov.uk All information correct at time of printing in November 2008.



Nottinghamshire
County Council

Partnership News

Early Years & Childcare Services November 2008

In this issue Latest news on the extended entitlement... Free business and marketing support for providers... Early Years and Childcare Conference 2009.



Aiming High Childcare Pathfinder Pilot Project

We have recently been awarded Aiming High Pathfinder status by the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) and funding, of £1.4m over 3 years, to support working parents seeking childcare for children and young people with disabilities.

The Nottinghamshire Aiming High Childcare Pathfinder Project presents us with a fantastic, new opportunity for us to work with disabled children and their parents, and to explore new and innovative ways of improving service delivery.

We understand and are aware that meeting the childcare needs of some children and families needs a more individual response; particularly for those with older disabled children, and children prevented from accessing group care because of the complexity of their needs.

Aims of the project:

- Tackle some of the perceived barriers to employment experienced by parents of disabled children and young people by offering an enhanced information and brokerage service, and the provision of providing specialist support from the first point of enquiry.
- Address the childcare needs of families whose children aren't able to access group provision by establishing a network of specialist practitioners who

will meet individual needs via home based care.

- Provide one to one worker support for older, disabled children and young people, by developing a bank of young adult staff who will take on the role of 'responsible buddies'. We hope that workers will be 'matched' wherever possible on the basis of shared interests with the young person.

We are one of only two local authorities with both Short Breaks and Childcare Pathfinder Projects and this puts us in a unique position to work with external organisations and colleagues within the authority to commission on a joint basis and work towards creating joined up services.



Summer days drifting away

Our Play Service worked with their many partners to provide six play days across the county which attracted more than 8000 people.

A range of amazing activities suitable for all ages and abilities were on offer at each event, giving children and young people the opportunity to "take the challenge".

The Play Service would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all the partners, volunteers, individuals and people that supported the events. Without them they would not have been possible.



Contact details

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NG2 7QP

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Fax: 0115 878 7525
Email: ey&cc@nottscc.gov.uk
Web: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk

Parent Know How

A new programme called Parent Know How has been launched by the DCSF.

It brings together a range of free services developed to provide support and advice to anyone in a parenting role – mothers, fathers, carers and other adults with parental responsibility.

If you work directly with parents and adults with parental responsibility find out more about Parent Know How to help you sign post them to services that can provide support and advice.

Call Nottinghamshire Families Information Service on 0800 781 2168 or visit www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/parents/parentknowhow



Celebrate!



Celebration was a key theme at The Nottingham and County Childminding Association (NCCMA) AGM and Conference held on 11th October 2008 at County Hall West Bridgford.

Guest speaker Alison Hill, Early Years and Childcare Services Manager for Workforce Development and Training, talked through the learning and development opportunities on offer to childminders before congratulating childminders completing the DHC and presenting them with certificates. We've congratulated these childminders on our recruitment and training page, why not take a look?

A great selection of stalls opened over lunchtime and a free prize draw kicked off the afternoon of workshops which provided information, creative planning and ideas around forthcoming festivals and how these would link into the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Formalities of the day were led by Christine Emery, Chair of the NCCMA, and a new committee has now been elected.



Update on the roll out of the extended entitlement

The DCSF has released Interim Guidance on the extended entitlement for the first 25% of three and four year old children. We are in the process of identifying schools and settings which will be eligible to deliver the extended hours and increased flexibility from September 2009, (note: all schools and settings will be eligible from September 2010 when the entitlement becomes universal for three and four year olds).

Helen Ruff, (Pre-school Development Coordinator for Bassetlaw), has been seconded to join the Early Years and Childcare Service, on a part time basis, to support the roll out of the extended entitlement. During the forthcoming term Helen will be contacting

eligible schools and settings to find out if they are able to offer the increased entitlement and to offer support with the new agenda. When details of eligible providers have been agreed all schools and settings will be informed.

You can have a look at the Interim Guidance on the Every Child Matters website: <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk>, choose Early Years and Childcare on the left hand side of the page then click on the link for Interim Guidance.

If you have any questions please contact Helen.ruff@nottscc.gov.uk or Helen.crowder@nottscc.gov.uk.

Business and marketing support

Our Business and Marketing Support Officers have been looking at the impact of inflation and downward turn in the economy upon providers across the county. You may want to think about:

- The impact upon your business where childcare is used on a casual or social basis and this is now less affordable.
- Parents/carers returning to work or training to increase their household income will need childcare.
- Unemployment as businesses make cut backs. How is this affecting your parents/carers?
- Increase in the National Minimum Wage.

If you are a day nursery, pre school or out of school provider why not complete our self-assessment enclosed to help you decide about your need for support. Alternatively you can call to arrange a free health check on 01623 520686.

Calling all childminders!

Network meetings are here to support all childminders through many changes and hopefully to make friends and have a laugh along the way!



Dates of next meetings are:

Rushcliffe	25 November 2008
Mansfield	26 November 2008
Broxtowe	27 November 2008
Newark	1 December 2008
Ashfield	3 December 2008
Bassetlaw	3 December 2008
Gedling	4 December 2008

Venues to be confirmed.

For more information call Gale Cockayne on 0115 981 4869.



Be a buddy

Find out about what other professionals in your sector actually do, share best practice and network through our buddying project which offers funded shadowing and mentoring.

Buddying opportunities are available for all Early Years and Childcare workers including childminders, children's centres workers, PVI practitioners, foundation stage teachers, teaching assistants, health visitors, and speech and language therapists.

To find out more call Janet Lang from our Children's Centres Development Team on 01623 404 212 or email janet.lang@nottscc.gov.uk

Learning IS fun!



Learners at the Mansfield District "Thinking of Working with Children?" course had fun with corn flour as they practice their skills for a career in childcare.

Held at Mansfield Woodhouse Children's Centre, the course is one of seven running in each district across the county.

Organised and funded by our Childcare Recruitment Campaign, in partnership with colleagues from our Play Work Training Team and the Pre-School Learning Alliance, the free ten week taster course looks at each sector within childcare, from working within a pre-school or day nursery to out of school and holiday childcare for older children.

Attracting adults, both male and female of all ages who don't have any childcare related qualifications, the courses gives an in-sight

into working with children before they commit to a childcare qualification. The courses are held at local Children's Centres and community centres to steer away from classroom learning and offer free childcare if needed.

The courses, which started in September, focus on what qualifications, experience and personal attributes are required when working with children and explore the different pathways of how to gain the skills needed. Learners also have the opportunity to have a one to one guidance and advice session to discuss work or training opportunities available to them. Sessions on interview techniques, application form writing and how to create a C.V are also included within the course.

If you don't already have a childcare related qualification and would like to attend the January 2009 courses, or for more information about a career in childcare, please contact Charlotte Hurst, Childcare Workforce Development Officer on 08449 808080.



Children's Centres Conference 2008



Children's Centres workers, partner organisations and parent, and carer volunteers recently gathered for the county's first ever Children's Centres Conference. The day was a huge success with a great variety of workshops. You can read more about it and see photos from the day in your local issue of Notts Sure Start News. If you don't already receive a copy, speak to your local Children's Centre.

Awards and achievements



Congratulations and well done to our Children's Centres Coordinators Mandie Jobling, Pip Beasant, Annie Fletcher, Una Daniels, Teresa Kerr, Janice Hunt, Helen Marriott, Carol Pearce, Michaela Bould and Pam Robinson who have successfully completed the National Professional Qualification in Integrated Centre Leadership.

Congratulations to our 9 childminders who have completed the full level three diploma in home-based childcare. Well done to Pauline Ashford, Deborah Chester, Alison Thornton, Jan Norton, Carol Raymond, Karen Thurston, Clare Goodyear, Ellen Manton and Jayne Willis.



Congratulations to all our Early Years Professionals (EYPs) awarded Early Years Professional status earlier this year. We know some of you are on course to achieve it too! Good luck! Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County EYPs have come together to share best practice and ideas as well as support each other in their new roles at the EYP Network Group. If you're an EYP and would like to join the group contact Alison Hill on 0115 878 7500. You're all really welcome!

Save the date!

Early Years and Childcare Conference 2009

We wanted to get in early with the date for our 2009 Early Years and Childcare Conference so you can save the date in your 2009 diaries. Our 11th annual Early Years and Childcare Conference will be held on Saturday 13 June 2009 at the East Midlands Conference Centre, University Park, Nottingham.