

Together for Children

Newsletter

December 2009

Seasons Greetings

Wishing all colleagues we work with seasons greetings and best wishes for the New Year.

From: Bob Allen, Terry Connolly, Marie Brewer, Pat McKay, Heather Reid, David Wallis

Start4Life Campaign and Material

Start4Life is a government campaign to support a better start in life for infants from birth, by providing healthcare professionals with accessible, concise information about the recommendations on breastfeeding, appropriate introduction of solid foods and active play. Start4Life has translated these recommendations into 6 different “behaviours” for new parents to follow, with key messages and tips to engage new parents and make it easier for the recommendations to be understood and adopted. Detailed guidance useful to CC professionals is available at the website.

Go to: www.nhs.uk/start4life

TfC Support Materials

Facilitating Integrated Practice between Children's Centres and Health

This set of support materials contains examples of innovative working practice where services are integrated with health and collects them into a series of case studies. This document accompanies A Toolkit for the Integration of Sure Start Children's Centre Services, Children's Services and Health (coming soon), and acts as a support resource for those who use the toolkit for training and development purposes.

www.childrens-centres.org/SupportDocuments/FacilitatingIntegratedPracticeCCServicesHealth.pdf

Working Effectively with Families in Sure Start Children's Centres - Drawing up a Strategy

This product provides a work plan and ideas for drawing up and reviewing an authority wide strategy for working with families in children's centres. It is for those in local authorities who are responsible for the provision of services to families and can be used by groups who wish to draw up or review their strategy for providing services and activities to families in children's centres, or are contributing to related local authority strategies.

<http://www.childrens-centres.org/Topics/AllTfCSupportProducts.aspx#Strategy>

Demonstrating Outcomes in Children's Centres

This Together For Children pack assists Local Authorities and Children's Centres in providing base line data, collecting the contact numbers and percentages reached, and recording this information together with outcomes and costs.

<http://www.childrens-centres.org/SupportDocuments/DemonstratingOutcomesInCCs.doc>

CCLN Dates for Next Year

The dates for the spring children's centre leaders' network meetings are now available:

27 January 2010 South East Novotel London St Pancras
<http://www.novotel.com/>

Full details, please visit:

<http://www.childrens-centres.org/CCLN/WebPages/CCLN%202010%20Events.aspx>

Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill 2008-2009

Following agreement by both Houses on the text of the Bill it received Royal Assent on 12 November. This means the Bill is now law and, from January, Sure Start Children's Centres will have statutory status. Visit the following link for a reminder of how the Bill will impact on both LAs and centres themselves.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/download/?id=6186>

Parental Engagement - Call for Evidence

The Department for Children, Schools and Families is undertaking research on what practitioners and settings can do to support and encourage stronger parental engagement. This will inform guidance and materials to help practitioners in schools, colleges, children's centres and early years settings to improve their work with parents. To feed into this research the DCSF are keen to hear about your experiences of engaging with parents of children across the full age range i.e. from 0-19 years. Information received by the end of January 2010 will feed into the research and good practice we are producing. Information received after this date will still be of use to the Department as it will keep them abreast of new examples to highlight in future communications.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/publications/documents/laeparentalengagement/>

Action on Health Visiting

The Department of Health has recently published 'Getting it Right for Children and Families: Maximising the Contribution of the Health Visiting Team'. This is the first report since the inception of the programme of action on health visiting in March this year. The guide defines the health visiting roles in child and family health based on evidence, expert professional advice and wide input from stakeholders. It sets out the contribution that health

visitors and teams can make to health and wellbeing and public health, and some of the evidence that underpins their professional practice.

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_107006.pdf

Apprenticeships in Children's Workforce

The Government has put in place funding for the creation of up to 4,500 new apprenticeship places for staff in the schools' and children's workforces in 2009-10. This scheme is particularly focussed on encouraging schools and children's centres to take on apprentices aged from 16-25 across a range of school support staff roles as well as those working in childcare. Please ensure that schools and children's centres are made aware of funding for apprenticeships, and the support provided by the National Apprenticeship Service.

<http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/>

Hemlington and Coulby Newham Sure Start Children's Centres

The November/December issue of 'Leadership Focus' - the magazine of the National Association of Head teachers - carries a five page article about Hemlington and Coulby Newham Sure Start Children's Centres in South Middlesbrough. The article features pen portraits of five key people and its focus is 'team working'. It shows how a team works with the same families, shares practice and information and develops services for their local community. The article can be viewed on the NAHT website:

<http://www.naht.org.uk/welcome/resources/leadership-focus-issue-40-november>

A video of the Hemlington Children's Centre is also available on the TfC website:

<http://www.childrens-centres.org/Topics/CaseStudies/CCVideos.aspx#Hemlington>

News from programme Partners

Fatherhood Institute puts services to the 'dad test'

Many public services unwittingly create an environment that pushes dads to the sidelines - and discourage involvement - according to the Fatherhood Institute, as they launch new guidance to help services take the 'dad test', and assess how father-inclusive they really are. The Dad Test guide and Logbook, as part of the DCSF-backed 'Think Fathers' campaign, aim to ensure health, education and other local services are targeted at both parents to offer the best possible support for children and their families. For more information visit : <http://www.fatherhoodinstitute.org/index.php?id=0&cID=1007>

Regional Change4Life Seminars for Local Supporters

As a Change4Life partner and a key stakeholder, ContinYou has been asked by the Department of Health to carry out a series of nine regional seminars to introduce potential Change4Life Local Supporters to the campaign and all the toolkits and resources it has to offer in the local community. The seminars will give you ideas on how to help children, young people and families get more active and eat more healthily. They will enable you to

network with other local supporters and those leading strategic work. Places are subject to availability, so book early to avoid disappointment!

<http://www.childrens-centres.org/Lists/WhatsNew/DispForm.aspx?ID=299>

Safe At Home Sure Start Children's Centre – Generic article

Safe At Home, the National Home Safety Equipment Scheme, provides free home safety equipment to disadvantaged families to reduce accidents in the home. Sure Start Children's Centres located in the 141 local authority areas covered by the national scheme will benefit by receiving home safety equipment, and support to set up new or expanding existing home safety equipment scheme. The national scheme will also provide Sure Star Children's Centre staff running the scheme with free home safety training. If your Sure Start Children's Centre would like get involved with Safe At Home please contact RoSPA at info@safethome.rospa.com or visit their website www.safethome.rospa.com.

Useful Documents and Links

Case Studies

Canterbury Coastal Cool for School Transition project

www.childrens-centres.org/CaseStudy/Canterbury%20CoolForSchoolTransitionProject.pdf

Gateshead Children's Centres' Volunteers Process

http://www.childrens-centres.org/CaseStudy/Gateshead_CCsVolunteerProcess.pdf

Hartlepool Commissioning Outreach Financial Advice

http://www.childrens-centres.org/CaseStudy/Hartlepool_CommissioningOutreachFinancialAdvice.pdf

Newcastle Upon Tyne Information and Resource Centre Partnership

http://www.childrens-centres.org/CaseStudy/Newcastle_InfoAndResourcesServicesPartnership.pdf

North Tyneside Training and Support Coordinators

http://www.childrens-centres.org/CaseStudy/NorthTyneside_TrainingAndSupportCoordinators.pdf

Northumberland Child Poverty Child Development Grant Pilot

http://www.childrens-centres.org/CaseStudy/Northumberland_CPPilotChildDevGrant.pdf

Northumberland DCATCH project

<http://www.childrens-centres.org/CaseStudy/NorthumberlandDCATCH.pdf>

Redcar and Cleveland Pathways to Prospects

http://www.childrens-centres.org/CaseStudy/Redcar_ClevelandPathwaysToProspects.pdf

Stockton Information and Guidance Advisers

http://www.childrens-centres.org/CaseStudy/Stockton_InfoAndGuidanceAdvisers.pdf

Teeside JCP Shadowing

http://www.childrens-centres.org/CaseStudy/Teeside_JCPShadowing.pdf

Guidance: Using the Children's Centre Tracker v4

www.childrens-centres.org/SupportDocuments/CCT%20Guidance.pdf

Vetting and Barring Guidance - Sure Start Children's Centres

www.childrens-centres.org/SupportDocuments/VettingBarringSSCC281009.doc

The Annual Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills 2008/09

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/annualreport0809>

A report on the responses to the consultation on how Ofsted should inspect children's centres

<http://www.childrens-centres.org/Lists/WhatsNew/DispForm.aspx?ID=314>

Good Practice In Early Years Settings and Children's Centres - Letter

www.childrens-centres.org/Lists/WhatsNew/DispForm.aspx?ID=298

Early Years Single Funding Formula for maintained nursery schools - letter

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/download/?id=6728>

Expansion of family intervention projects

<http://www.childrens-centres.org/Lists/WhatsNew/DispForm.aspx?ID=301>

Commercial and Procurement skills

<http://www.childrens-centres.org/Lists/WhatsNew/DispForm.aspx?ID=305>

London Child Poverty Awards winners announced

<http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/media/current/pressdetail.htm?pk=837>

Working Together Achieving More document

<http://www.childrens-centres.org/Lists/WhatsNew/DispForm.aspx?ID=309>

Expressions of interest are sought for taking part in the Holiday Childcare pilots in 2010 - 2011.

<http://www.childrens-centres.org/Lists/WhatsNew/DispForm.aspx?ID=311>

November and December 2009 issue of Children's Play Update

http://www.ncb.org.uk/minisite/cpis/resources/childrens_play_update.aspx

Forthcoming Events

Free Change4Life Regional Seminars 2009/10

West Midlands: 19 January (9.30am - 3pm) (Event now fully booked)

North West: January/February 2010 Liverpool PCT

South East: January/February 2010 Venue tbc

www.continyou.org.uk

06-08.01.10 - North of England Education Conference (NEEC): Unlocking Children's potential

Royal York Hotel, York Minster and National Railway Museum, York

<http://www.neec2010.co.uk/>

27.01.10 Children North East Fathers Plus National Conference 2010: Involving men in children's learning: Evidence from Successful Practice

Radisson Hotel, Durham City

<http://www.childrens-centres.org/Lists/Events%20Calendar/DispForm.aspx?ID=232>

28.01.10 - Clarify the Mechanics of Inspection for Children's Services

The Ibis, Earls Court, London

<http://www.childrens-centres.org/Lists/Events%20Calendar/DispForm.aspx?ID=237>

28-29.01.10 – Capita's Children's Centres Conference

Central London

<http://www.childrens-centres.org/Lists/Events%20Calendar/DispForm.aspx?ID=228>

29.01.10 - Engaging Parents in Children's Centre - A Half Day briefing

Central London

<http://www.childrens-centres.org/Lists/Events%20Calendar/DispForm.aspx?ID=241>

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and the web-site: www.childrens-centres.org