

Education Matters Conference 2011
'Raising the Achievement of Children in Care – In and through the Arts'
Application Closing Date: Friday 8th April 2011

I am writing to invite you to apply for the above event that is taking place on **Wednesday 22nd June 2011** from 9:30am to 4:00pm at the John Innes Centre, Norwich.

The government is determined to improve the educational experiences of children in care. Despite substantial reform and investment, outcomes for looked after children continue to lag detrimentally behind those for other children. The majority of children enter the care system as a result of abuse and neglect and are subsequently disproportionately vulnerable to high levels of mental health problems. Instability of placements and limited support often further deteriorates a child's mental health, increasing poor educational attainment.

This year's conference will focus on how creative activities can enhance the educational journey of looked after children and promote their emotional well-being. Research demonstrates that involvement in the expressive arts can be an effective way of increasing children's emotional intelligence and resilience. It can also provide a range of opportunities that can promote self-confidence, self-esteem and social interaction. The link between the value of creative activities and improved educational and social outcomes is now widely acknowledged.

Many looked after children struggle to fulfil their potential at school but they have the right to expect the outcomes we want for every child. To achieve this Norfolk County Council as their 'corporate parent' demonstrates the strongest commitment to help every child they look after to achieve the highest educational standards they possibly can. This includes supporting their aspirations to engage in all aspects of the expressive arts. It is our intention to provide good practice examples of effective strategies that schools, professionals and carers can adopt to incorporate creative activities to support the education of children in our care.

It is acknowledged that the standard of educational achievement of children is the litmus test for local authorities. How many children in care reach their potential is a real testament of how far services within the local authority are working together effectively to secure positive outcomes for these children. Therefore, this is a multi-agency conference that will be useful for all those who work with Children in Care, including Councillors, Foster Carers, Designated Teachers for Children in Care, Head teachers, Governors, Social Workers, Residential Workers. Participants will come from statutory, voluntary and independent sectors. It promises to be informative, stimulating and will include input by young people who have experienced the care system in Norfolk.

If you would like to attend this conference, please complete the attached application form and return it to Amy Scott (at the address below) by Friday 8th April 2011.

It is anticipated that this conference will be over-subscribed so I would recommend that you apply as early as possible. Successful candidates will be sent a confirmation letter along with full joining instructions by Friday May 6th.

Tricia Ciappara
The Professional Development Centre, Woodside Road, Norwich, NR7 9QL

Education Matters Conference
Raising the Achievement of Looked After Children - In and Through the Arts

Wednesday 22nd June 2011

Please complete all the following details to enable your application to be processed efficiently.

Name: _____

Full Job Title/Role: _____

Organisation: _____

Email: _____

Contact Address: _____

Post Code: _____ **Phone No:** _____

Do you have any particular requirements (e.g. access, sensory, dietary)?

Please return the completed form by Friday 8th April 2011 to:

Amy Scott, Professional Development Centre, Woodside Road, Norwich, NR7 9QL

Tel: 01603 307737 **Fax:** 01603 700236 **E-mail:** amy.scott@norfolk.gov.uk

Successful candidates will be sent a confirmation letter along with full joining instructions by Friday 6th May 2011.

If you have any further queries then please contact Amy Scott at the telephone number or email address above.

Tricia Ciappara
Senior Specialist Lead Teacher