

partnership news

childcare **information update**
for 0-14 year olds



welcome

to the Summer 2002 edition of Partnership News.

As you would expect a lot has happened since the last news, including submission of the 2002/03 Early Years Development and Childcare Implementation Plan. This was approved by Members of the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP) and the County Council in January and submitted to the DfES. We are awaiting approval before publishing the plan on the internet.

It is great to be able to report some success stories, including the awards from the New Opportunities Fund (NOF) in February (for the projects who bid last October) and the Toy Library grants that were awarded earlier in the year.

The Education Bill currently going through Parliament will mean that from later this year, it will be easier for schools to provide childcare. The Bill will apply to all schools, not just early years.

I am pleased to welcome new staff to the team, particularly Julia Gurney, who has joined as Manager of the Childcare Information Service. Julia previously ran the City College Nursery so brings a wealth of knowledge to the team from a provider's perspective. A number of staff are also moving on to new challenges so we say goodbye to Thea Abbott, one of the longest serving members of staff who left in March. Ron Holmes also left to return to Australia after two years with the EYDCP. He was a familiar face around Norwich. Sarah Welsh left her post as childminding co-ordinator in Gt Yarmouth in March and Sarah Fox will be leaving the team in May to take up a role at Norwich Union. We wish them all well.

Details of forthcoming events, including childminder and daycare briefing sessions, along with local forum meetings are also inside.

Finally, the next edition of Partnership News will be out in September. If you would like to publish details of events coming up in the Autumn (or Spring) terms, please send or email details to me.

Marcelle Curtis

Head of Early Years and Childcare Strategy

For the latest on

Childcare development, early years education,
neighbourhood nurseries, Earlham early excellence,
the latest new opportunity funds grants plus other
sources of funding, recruitment opportunities
and much, much more

early education

First Admissions to Schools

The consultation on policy for First Admission to Schools and admission criteria for Nursery Classes was completed in February. Many thanks to all who completed and returned the consultation questionnaires. Many of you also attended one of the seven district forum meetings and contributed to what was often a lively debate. The preferred option, put forward to Members of the County Council, is for all children to start school in September in the year of their fifth birthday, with the younger children starting part time, becoming full time in January. The final outcome is not known at the time of writing, but will be circulated during the Summer term.

Teacher Involvement in Settings Delivering Foundation Stage Curriculum (private and voluntary sector provision)

A condition of receiving the Nursery Education Grant for settings in the voluntary and private sector is the involvement of a qualified teacher. The overall aim is to have one teacher per ten settings by 2004. During 2001-02 the number of 'Involved Teacher' projects increased and there are now 15 teachers supporting 94 settings.

In February the teachers and settings taking part in the projects met for a conference where Mary-Jane Drummond from the School of Education at Cambridge University inspired everyone when she talked about the role of the practitioner. The conference celebrated the successes of existing projects and sought ways forward for 'Teacher Involvement'. From these discussions the EYDCP will develop a structure to support settings through qualified teachers. During the summer term, additional teachers will be recruited and the EYDCP hopes some will be teachers already involved with settings. The present clusters will be encouraged to continue to support each other.

The EYDCP is currently exploring ways of introducing opportunities for Advanced Skills Teachers in the Foundation Stage.

For more information on existing and new developments please contact Anne Dobson, Education Officer, Early Years on 01603 222071.

Foundation Stage Training

All Foundation Stage practitioners in the voluntary and private sector receiving Nursery Education Grant were expected to attend a training day during 2001-02, this will increase to two days in 2002-03. Last year's training programme was very successful and will be built on in 2002-03.

The EYDCP is conducting an audit of qualifications and training needs for teachers operating within the Foundation Stage. Any school that has not yet completed a questionnaire should do so as soon as possible so that the results can be used to inform planning. Training needs for the private and voluntary sector have been audited already and the results, together with feedback from training sessions and the outcomes of Ofsted inspections, will be used to plan future training.

The EYDCP hopes to have a totally integrated training programme for Foundation Stage Practitioners in the maintained and non-maintained sectors from 2003-04.

Early Education Audit

The results of the early education audit for high school catchment areas have been analysed and each setting and school should have received a copy of the report. Meetings will be arranged in each area to discuss the results at a local level, starting with the areas of highest shortfall. All areas will be visited, starting in the summer term with areas where there appears to be a shortfall.

Conditions of Joining the Plan

A number of settings have joined the Plan recently and are now able to receive Nursery Education Grant but there are still some settings that have not yet joined. Funding is now available for 3 & 4 year old children, provided the setting is a member of the Plan.

For advice or support please contact one of the Advisory Teachers, Peter Bates, Jo Mixer or Clare Scott on 01603 433276.

A small working party from the EYDCP has been meeting to review the conditions of joining the Plan to receive Nursery Education Grant. Following the agreement of the EYDCP, new agreements will be available this term and will be circulated to all existing and new settings.

A resource pack for providers who join the Plan will be produced and information on this will be circulated shortly. Any existing providers who wish to purchase resources will also be able to do so.

Extending Provision in Maintained Nursery Classes & Schools

Many schools will be aware of the funding available through the New Opportunities Fund to develop wraparound care (childcare) for early education places, to enable parents to access training or employment. The childcare can extend the two and a half hour early education session to four hours or more. If you are aware of childcare needs in your area and have spare capacity in your nursery class or school please contact the EYDCP.

Funding for Three Year Olds from April 2002

The EYDCP will continue funding early education for all three year olds for two terms (ie the term of their 4th birthday and the term before). This means children born between 1 September and 31 December 1998 will be entitled to free early education from April 2002.

In areas of disadvantage the EYDCP will fund children from the term after their third birthday. This means 3 terms of early education for children born between 1 January and 31 March 99.

Children who live in Norfolk or Suffolk and attend a pre-school in Norfolk will be funded through Norfolk EYDCP. Norfolk children attending a pre-school in Suffolk will be funded through Suffolk EYDCP. Children who live in Norfolk and attend a pre-school in Cambridgeshire or Lincolnshire will also be funded by the EYDCP, provided the pre-school is registered with the relevant County Council's EYDCP.

Claims

Please remember that only those children who are registered on or before the term Headcount date can be included on the funding claim. Headcount day for the Summer term is 18 April and for the Autumn term it is 19 September.

Contact: Hilary Bradshaw 01603 222427



Due to the increased funding for three year olds a number of settings have expressed an interest in increasing the number of sessions they provide to ensure places are available for all eligible children. Pre-schools can increase their sessions without the involvement of Ofsted as long as:

- the number of children attending does not exceed the number the setting is registered for
- sessions are under four hours long (sessional)
- the ages of the children attending are the same
- staff are the same and have all been checked out
- there is a break between the morning and afternoon sessions

However, if a setting has stated its opening days on its registration Decision Notice the number of sessions cannot be increased without the agreement of Ofsted.

Special Educational Needs

From April the team of Area Special Needs Co-ordinators (Sencos) will increase significantly to the equivalent of five full time Sencos. All settings should by now know who their named Senco is.

Contact: Linda Shiner, Senior Educational Psychologist 01603 764707

Additional SEN Support for 3 & 4 Year Old Children

All requests for additional support are now dealt with by the early years funding panel. Representatives from Health, Social Services and Education sit on the panel. Detailed guidance will be circulated during the first half of the Summer term.

neighbourhood nurseries for norfolk

Last year Norfolk was awarded £2.3m to develop neighbourhood nurseries, creating 350 childcare places by March 2004. In November 'expressions of interest' were invited from local providers and in January this was extended to national providers, following guidelines from the Department for Education & Skills (DfES). So far, the EYDCP has selected partners to work with to develop bids for Neighbourhood Nurseries in:

Mile Cross, Norwich
Magdalen East & West, Great Yarmouth
Mershe Lande, West Norfolk
Central, North & West, Kings Lynn
Saxon, Abbey & Barnham Cross, Thetford
Thorpe Hamlet, Norwich linked with Sure Start
Great Yarmouth linked with Sure Start
Mousehold, Norwich
Earlham, Norwich, linked with the Early Excellence Centre

The new Neighbourhood Nurseries will offer opportunities for childcare and training for parents in disadvantaged areas.

The Neighbourhood Nurseries scheme is part of the wider Neighbourhood Childcare Initiative (NCI) whose aim is to reduce child poverty by providing childcare to enable parents to go back to work or take up education to help them back to work. By providing integrated quality childcare and early years education the NCI also aims to improve the life chances for children from disadvantaged areas.

A neighbourhood nursery provides full day care for local children from birth to school age and early education for 3 & 4 years olds. Providers, who may be from the private, voluntary or maintained sector, often work in partnership with other forms of family support and may include different types of childcare, eg a day nursery complemented by childminders or a childminding network.

First Steps

Neighbourhood Nurseries to support parents/carers with literacy, numeracy or language skills needs.

A new national training programme to help Neighbourhood Nursery staff in their work with families, First Steps, will be an accredited programme to enable staff to work with adults who have basic skills needs. It has been developed by the Adult Basic Skills Strategy Unit and the Early Years and Childcare Unit at the DfES. The project will help staff understand the difficulties that parents and carers with low basic skills may face and by recognising these difficulties, staff will be able to refer people to appropriate support agencies to take up local family learning opportunities. As the first educator for their child, it is important to build both skills and self esteem with the parents and carers, and Neighbourhood Nurseries are seen as trusted starting places.

Pilots are taking place before the programme is rolled out across the country and Norfolk has been selected as one of the pilot areas. The first training day took place in March and the second one is planned for June. A number of local practitioners will join the 'train the trainers' programme.



east anglia's first early excellence centre

On 22 January 2002 the Department for Education & Skills announced that Earlham Nursery School in Norwich had been designated an Early Excellence Centre. Earlham is the first Early Excellence Centre in East Anglia and this recognition from the DfES reflects the hard work of the Head Teacher, Felicity Thomas and her team.

As an Early Excellence Centre, in addition to the early years education already offered, Earlham will offer centre based high quality childcare for 24 local children in a new building. It will also support an approved childminder network in the North Earlham, Larkman and Marlpit area, and Sure Start areas. Earlham is already providing early education places for over 140 children.

There are 58 Early Excellence Centres across the country and each is working with the local EYDCP to pioneer local solutions to the challenges of early years education and childcare that so many communities face. Family Support is also integral to the services that an Early Excellence Centre offers and Earlham will work with local agencies that offer these services. The new Early Excellence Centre in Earlham will receive funding to extend and refurbish the buildings and introduce new services for families and others early years providers.

The Early Excellence Centre programme sets the benchmark in providing one-stop-shop integrated early education, day care and family support for children, parents and the wider community. Earlham will be a model centre and will play an important role in raising standards, working closely with EYDCP to share best practice with, and offer training to other providers.



quality assurance

The EYDCP has a commitment to ensuring that at least 20% of providers have been accredited with a quality assurance scheme by 2004.

Last year it was agreed to 'adopt and adapt' the Sheffield Kitemark Quality Assurance Scheme for Norfolk. In November a number of early years and childcare practitioners from Norfolk met with representatives from Sheffield for two days during which time the Sheffield pack was adapted for use in Norfolk. In late April the EYDCP will start a pilot with 20 childcare providers, working with the revised pack to test it fully before it is introduced throughout Norfolk. Updates on the pilot and plans to launch the Norfolk Kite Mark Quality Assurance Scheme will be provided during the year. A Quality Assurance Co-ordinator is being recruited and the EYDCP is looking for practitioners to join the pool of mentor/verifiers for the scheme.

The DfES launched 'Investors in Children' (IiC), a national quality rating scheme for early years and childcare in March.

The EYDCP will conduct local consultation as part of the national consultation process. The consultation document can be found on the DfES website at www.dfes.gov.uk/consultation. Anyone wishing to comment should contact the EYDCP or the person who represents their organisation on the EYDCP.



grants

NOF

There are only three rounds left to bid for New Opportunity Funding! Anyone who is aware of a childcare need in their community and is thinking about setting up or expanding a childcare service has just three more opportunities to bid for a grant from the National Lottery New Opportunities Fund (NOF). Deadlines for the final three rounds are June and October this year and February 2003. Local Partnership teams can help with putting together bids. The sooner work starts on bids, the better the chance that they will go through successfully.

The outcomes from last October's bids were announced in February. Norfolk was awarded over £0.5m for 20 childcare services to create 648 new places. Many of these are holiday clubs that plan to open this July so there are many vacancies for staff to work in the new facilities.

At the same time that the success of the October bids were announced, the EYDCP submitted bids from 25 projects for a further 673 places, worth over £400,000 in grants. These will be assessed by NOF and announcements will be made in June.

Toy and Equipment Library Grant

In February the EYDCP awarded grants to two Norfolk Toy Libraries, the Hamlet Centre Toy Library [Thorpe Hamlet, Norwich] and the Thetford Toy Library. The Hamlet Centre works closely with Sure Start in Thorpe Hamlet and Earlham Early Excellence Centre, together with a number of schools and pre-schools to provide better services for children, specialising in children with disabilities.

Play Equipment

In March the EYDCP awarded grants to 14 groups in Norfolk.

Day Care Expansion Grant (Revenue)

This grant provides revenue funding for any group provider of early years education intending to expand services beyond the traditional two and a half hours to provide a longer day care service. The maximum amount available for a new extended place is £380.

A few grants have been paid out, but there is still some funding left for 2002-03.

NEW for 2002-03 is the capital funding available for the expansion of day care. Up to a maximum of £285 per place, for 140 places is available. For more information contact your local Development Team.

Growing your Pre-School is a course that the EYDCP will offer during the summer to help providers expand their services.

Contact Pauline Jackson on 01603 598470

Childminder Start Up Grants

Grants of up to £300 are available for new childminders to help with start up costs (this increases to £600 in certain postcode areas).

childcare

Childcare Information Service

We are developing a wide range of materials, including factsheets on careers and leaflets aimed at parents and employers. Please contact the CIS if you would like more information. We are also increasing our advertising activities and maximising all opportunities for media coverage. The results are usually apparent in the increased volume of calls that the CIS receive after adverts or articles appear in the press or on the radio.

Surgeries for Providers

Anyone who provides childcare and would benefit from talking to the EYDCP's Business & Finance Manager, Stacey Beddows-Wilkinson, will be pleased to know that she runs 'drop in surgeries' on Wednesdays around Norfolk. To book an appointment, please call the local development team who will be able to make an appointment with Stacey.

June is National Childcare Month

The first ever National Childcare Month will take place in June. National Childcare Month will celebrate all that is good and new in childcare and will help make parents aware of the services in their community. The month will involve a wide range of day care providers and families in local activities. The month is supported by the National Day Nursery Association, Pre-School Learning Alliance and Kids Club Network with national activities organised by the Day Care Trust.

The EYDCP will be joining other county council departments at the Royal Norfolk Show. Please visit the marquee to find out more about all the things the EYDCP is involved with.

The EYDCP will be happy to publicise any events being planned to support National Childcare Month, so please let the CIS know of anything that is planned.

Update from a Local Development Team by Tracey Andrews

In this issue there is an article from the West Team – in future editions other teams will be featured.

If you live between Wells and Thetford or any point to the west, we hope by now you will have seen the West Team in action! If not, we hope to be in your area soon. I would also like to introduce my newest development worker to you. She is Sue Martin and will cover the Thetford, Methwold and Watton High School Catchment areas.

The main purpose of our team is to ensure there is (or will be!) enough childcare places for children aged 0-14 (up to 16 for children with special needs) for parents who want them. This is in line with the National Childcare Strategy (1998) which states there will be affordable, accessible, high quality, inclusive and diverse childcare in every neighbourhood for parents of children who want it, by March 2004. As you can imagine this is quite a tall order, given the wide area that we cover and the fact that much of it is very rural.

Firstly we need to find out demand from parents in a local area and that is why we have been sending out questionnaires "in bulk" to all schools by high school catchment area. We sent out questionnaires in Fakenham, Wells and King's Lynn in September. This was followed by Thetford, Methwold Swaffham and Hunstanton in January. Our next round is due for the end of March in Litcham, West Walton and the "outskirts" of King's Lynn.



Thank you to everyone who returned a questionnaire. We consider this to be only the beginning of our work in an area and still need to consult with parents much more. We have now had local meetings in our first 7 areas and reported local findings so far. . . . From this we have formed local steering groups and would welcome more members.

Although it will be necessary to create brand new provision to meet the demands of this strategy, it is not our intention to jeopardise any existing high quality provision that already exists. In fact we positively value the part existing providers play and ask them whenever possible to consider the possibility of expanding. As part of our pro-active work the local development worker contacts existing providers to let them know that we are working in the area. We do appreciate that it is not possible for all providers to expand, but value their involvement on one of our local steering groups that make sure what we develop meets the needs of local children and families.

We offer our congratulations to our successful NOF bidders in the West. **King's Lynn Borough Council** will be offering 8 Holiday Playschemes around King's Lynn, Marshland and Downham Market. **West End Lodge Children's Centre** in Watton will be offering an After School Club and wraparound childcare. **Sackhouse After School Club** will offer after school care for older children and young people in Wells and **Wells After School Club** will offer an after school club to meet the needs of the younger school aged children. We will continue to work with these groups to ensure that their doors will open for business as soon as possible.

We would be delighted to work with any new provider who wishes to set up high quality childcare in any part of our area, as long as it will not jeopardise existing provision. If you would like to talk to the West team to discuss your ideas, do not hesitate to give us a ring and one of the development workers will come and have a chat about possibilities. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Tracey Andrews
Partnership Area Team Leader (West)
Tel No. 01553 667620

childminding update

From April the Norfolk County Childminding Association (NCCMA) will increase the work it does with the EYDCP. NCCMA will be involved in all aspects of childminding, support, advice, training, developing new places, and networks. The childminding briefing sessions will still be hosted by the local Partnership Development Teams with representation from the NCCMA and Ofsted.

Registered childminding is worthwhile, rewarding and fun! That is the message to parents all over the county from the Norfolk County Childminding Association's (NCCMA) County Liaison Officers. Recruiting new people to childminding is high on their list of priorities so NCCMA staff are visiting playgroups, pre-schools, parent and toddler groups and schools to talk to parents about childminding and encourage them to consider registration. Some parents are already looking after other people's children and just need a bit of support to register; others are looking for work but just hadn't thought of working from home. Of course, there are also many parents who work outside the home and struggle with day care who welcome general information on what is available. **All parents benefit from knowing about childcare opportunities in Norfolk, so anyone running a parents group or providing information to parents should contact the local County Liaison Officer who will be pleased to provide up to date information.**

- Eastern District:** **Nikki Bird, tel. 01502 578922**
- Western District:** **Eileen Edwards, tel. 01603 890847**
- Central District:** **Linda Wright, tel. 01263 722744**

Thinking of Childminding?

The Childcare Information Service will be pleased to send childminding information packs to anyone considering childminding. Packs include information on start up grants mentioned earlier.

Already Registered?

New childminders are achieving the Introducing Childminding Practice (ICP) qualification – the first unit of three that together make up the Level 3 Certificate in Childminding Practice. Anyone who has been minding for a while and wants this qualification, can do a shorter ICP Conversion course free of charge provided they have attended pre-registration training in the past. Contact NCCMA on 01603 615667 for details.

Childminder Support Grant

Registered childminders in areas of disadvantage can apply for a grant if they are having difficulty filling vacancies. This grant, administered through the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership, provides 80% of the usual fee for one vacant place (up to £100 per week) for a maximum 5 week period in qualifying areas where the vacancy has been unfilled for more than 2 weeks.

Contact Rachel Jackson on 01603 222521

Approved Childminding Networks

There has never been a better time to be a childminder! One of the new opportunities open to registered childminders is the chance to join an Approved Childminding Network. Networks offer childminders the chance to "prove" the quality of the childcare and early education they provide. All network childminders benefit from:

- Regular one-to-one support and information
- Access to a toy & equipment library
- An individual training plan and regular training opportunities
- Help to fill vacancies or provide alternative care for children when the regular childminder is on holiday or unwell.

Childminding Networks are approved by the Department for Education & Skills and the National Childminding Association for the care of children under 14 years. Childminders within accredited networks can be approved to deliver early education, paid for by the Nursery Education Grant. Debbie Dawson co-ordinates the Norwich network that covers Earlham and Thorpe Hamlet. She can be contacted on 0775 1129381. There is a vacancy in Gt Yarmouth, since Sarah Welsh left last month. The NCCMA is recruiting to fill this post as partnership news goes to print.

NCCMA is also setting up networks in King's Lynn, Emneth and Sheringham/Holt/Kelling areas and started planning the recruitment of Network Co-ordinators for these areas.

NCCMA is always pleased to talk through any childminding-related issues. A support service is open to childminders, parents and childcare professionals throughout Norfolk, so please call the NCCMA office on 01603 615667 with any childminding questions. The Administrator, Judy Freeman, will be pleased to help or ensure that another staff member is contacted for you.

Out of School Childcare

During the Autumn a draft bill will be passed in Parliament, to allow schools to run childcare services on school premises. This is a wonderful opportunity to improve services for children and families by offering care in the same location as education, avoiding the need to transfer children between the two. The EYDCP is keen to facilitate this by putting schools who are thinking about setting up out of school care in touch with local providers. In this way, the school can benefit from the existing local childcare expertise and providers can increase their potential market by working closely with the school to publicise their service. Anyone interested should contact their local development team.

A Special Feature on Out-of-School Childminding by Patsy Withers, Childminding Services Manager

The EYDCP development teams and Norfolk County Childminding Association (NCCMA) are planning to help schools develop their own childminding networks. Many children of school age are cared for by registered childminders out of school hours, especially if their parents work full time or do shift work. The opening times of out of school clubs don't always fit with parents' work and travel hours, so childminders often provide out of school care, or collect children from out of school clubs.



Childminding is the most widely available form of registered day care in Norfolk for working parents and is used most often when relatives are not on hand to care for children. Some parents do not organise registered care, relying on informal arrangements instead. The EYDCP and NCCMA plans to work with schools to promote the benefits of good quality registered day care and help parents to access local information as the child's school can be an obvious starting place for parents trying to find out about childcare.

By holding a childminding file in the school office and a poster on the parents' notice board, schools could give parents vital information to inform their childcare decisions. For example, parents could be made aware of:

- The requirement to register with Ofsted if they are caring for children under eight years of age, who are not related to them, for more than 2 hours per day and for reward (Children Act 1989)
- Information on how to register as a childminder – for parents who have an interest in caring for children under eight years old
- The requirements of childminding registration eg police checks, public liability insurance, training and annual inspection
- The main features of good quality childminding
- Information on services usually provided by childminders
- Up-to-date details of registered childminding vacancies in the school catchment area linked into the Norfolk Childcare Information Service – supplied by childminders in the network who are willing to collect children from the school
- The range of day care available to children
- Organisations to contact for further information and advice

Schools, just like the Childcare Information Service, would not be allowed to recommend individual childminders or other childcare services to parents but information on who provides what could be available, leaving parents to contact providers to organise places.

Childminders within a school network will be encouraged to become active members of the school community, alongside parents, receiving the school newsletter and routine information for parents. They could be invited to school activities and included in any relevant staff training events and, premises permitting, be offered the opportunity to hold group meetings at the school. This would benefit the schools who would enjoy closer working relationship with the children's carers and the wider community. Local childminders would be better informed about school policies and practices enabling them to support these more effectively in their dealing with parents and children. Parents would be able to make contact with registered childminders quickly and easily and would be well informed before placing their children with a childminder. Some parents may decide to register as childminders, thereby improving the choice of day care locally. Children would undoubtedly benefit as all their carers would be working closely together to meet their individual needs. And the school's promotion of the benefits of registered care may perhaps discourage some parents from continuing with unsatisfactory ad hoc arrangements.

For further information and details of other developments in childminding contact: Patsy Withers, Childminding Services Manager at NCCMA, First Floor, St Andrews House, St Andrews Street, Norwich NR2 4UH 01603 615667, or telephone her direct line on: 01692 500797.

team news

Career Opportunities

The need to recruit more people into a childcare career goes on! Anyone who is interested in working in childcare, should contact the Childcare Information Service (CIS). Information sessions for childminders take place regularly around Norfolk and full details are available from the CIS on 01603 62 22 92 or the national website at www.childcarelink.gov.uk.

Anyone interested in day care should also call to find out about both existing vacancies and getting started on a career in childcare.

The EYDCP itself is also looking for staff. There are various roles available and anyone interested should send a CV to Marcelle Curtis stating the kind of work that they would be interested in doing.

The NCCMA is recruiting Network Co-ordinators for the networks it is setting up in King's Lynn, Emneth and Sheringham/Holt/Kelling. Anyone with an early years/childcare qualification who would like to work with childminders should contact the NCCMA on 01603 615667 to find out about vacant posts. Also contact the NCCMA for information on the three part time vacancies for two County Liaison Officers and a Recruitment Services Officer. All posts are advertised in the press and the National Childcare Links website.

New Accommodation for the Teams

Since the last edition of Partnership News, there have been some more office moves. The Childcare Information Service is now based at St Andrews House in Norwich along with the Training & Recruitment Team, Central Development Team and NCCMA. The EYDCP also has office space in Havenbridge House, Great Yarmouth, where the East Development Team is based.

The Childcare Information Service, Training & Recruitment Team, Central Development Team and Norfolk County Childminding Association are all based at:

St Andrews House, St Andrews Street, Norwich NR2 4UH

The East Development Team are at:
Floor 2, Havenbridge House, North Quay, Gt Yarmouth NR30 1HZ

There will be an official opening of both the Great Yarmouth and Norwich offices – more details will be provided nearer the time.



Roles & Responsibilities of Staff Linked to the EYDCP

Day Care Advisers, Norfolk Early Years Support Network (NEYSN)

There have been a number of questions about the changing role of the NEYSN. The following explains the changes that have recently been agreed.

For the last four years Norfolk Early Years Support Network has been working with the Local Authority and the EYDCP to offer a support service to providers registered under the Children's Act.

Many developments and new initiatives have come along during this time and it has been decided that the Network will serve providers best where it focuses on areas that are outside the remit of other colleagues

From April 2002 the Network will employ a team of six Day Care Advisors whose role will include support to providers prior to, and in some cases following, their Children's Act inspection, to ensure they meet the National Day Care Standards. The staff will be available for support and information to voluntary management committees on issues such as Charitable Law, Employment and Health & Safety; they will also offer support and advice to providers thinking of extending their hours or moving in to wraparound care. The main purpose of the work of the advisors, like so many colleagues in the EYDCP, is to help providers to offer high quality, inclusive early years and childcare for children and families.

The new appointments are:

- West - Melanie Calway and Andrea Scott-Coy
- South East - Jean Chaston and Jill Wilson
- Central Northern - Jane Heyburn and Jean Nelson
- All will be managed by Jacqui Doran

The Advisors work closely with the three Partnership development teams. Their key role is to support the development of new, sustainable childcare places in communities to meet local needs to enable parents to access education, training and employment.

The Advisory Teachers and Area Sencos are key to the support, advice and training for settings providing early years education that are in receipt of Nursery Grant.

Consultation on Early Years and Childcare Regulation

DfES is consulting on two aspects of early years and childcare regulation: how to regulate childcare facilities in maintained and independent schools; and how to regulate providers of childcare for children aged over 7.

The EYDCP will prepare a response. More information on how to contribute to the response will follow. Documents are available on the website: Childcare.CONULTATION@dfes.gsi.gov.uk.

focus on partners

Sure Start & Children’s Fund

In this edition, there is an update on the link between the EYDCP, the Children’s Fund and Sure Start. The EYDCP is developing links with the Children’s Fund, an initiative that has been set up to break the cycle of poverty and disadvantage by working with children aged between 5 and 13, complementing the work that Sure Start does with the under 4s. The Children’s Fund’s objective is to provide additional resources over and above those provided through mainstream statutory agencies. The initiative will support a programme of preventative work with Norfolk as one of the pilot areas. In January project Manager Nicky Dawson came into post and appointed two development workers. More information will follow in the next News.

Contact Nicky Dawson on 01603 495121 (from May 1st).

Be Sure of a Sure Start

The national Sure Start programme is at the centre of the government’s anti-poverty strategy. Sure Start programmes are concentrated in neighbourhoods where a high proportion of children live in poverty and where, by pioneering new ways of working to improve services, the quality of life can be improved. Working with parents-to-be, parents and children to promote physical, intellectual and social development in babies and young children, Sure Start aims to provide a good start for children enabling them to flourish at home and school, thus breaking the cycle of disadvantage that families can become locked into.

By 2004 there will be at least 500 local programmes and Norfolk is in the fortunate position of having two established Sure Starts in Norwich and Great Yarmouth, one newly established Sure Start in King’s Lynn and two more Sure Starts that are currently developing. There will be updates on the developing Sure Start programmes in later editions of Partnership News.

We are also developing a rural Sure Start programme with Cambridgeshire EYDCP on the Cambridgeshire/Norfolk border. The programme will link with two proposed Neighbourhood Nurseries in west Norfolk (one in Emneth and one in Wisbech).

The plan has been submitted to the Sure Start Unit and approval is awaited.

Involvement of Employers

The EYDCP has begun to raise its profile with Norfolk employers through Shaping the Future, an initiative run by the Economic Development unit at Norfolk County Council and by running features in the professional publications such as the Chartered Institute of Personnel Development’s East Anglia Newsletter. Sarah Fox met with the Economic Development Officers from the seven District Councils to discuss how the EYDCP can complement the work they are doing throughout Norfolk. The EYDCP will join the main trade bodies and support organisations to attend events and spread the childcare message, both by using the networking opportunities that the meetings offer, producing articles for newsletters and using mailing lists to send leaflets out to employers. More detailed plans to engage local employers in supporting their employees’ childcare needs will follow in future editions.

diary dates

Forums

North Norfolk	Monday 20 May, 7.30	Fakenham (TBA)	Richard Draper, tel. 01692 407354 Hill Farm, School Road, Edingthorpe, North Walsham, NR28 9SY Info@benjaminfoundation.co.uk
Broadland	Monday 8 April, 7.30	Heathlands Village Hall	Richard Draper, tel. 01692 407354 Hill Farm, School Road, Edingthorpe, North Walsham, NR28 9SY Info@benjaminfoundation.co.uk
South Norfolk	Thursday 13 June, 7.30	Barn Club, Poringland	Patricia Arnup, tel. 01508 533693 South Norfolk District Council, Swan Lane, Long Stratton parnup@s-norfolk.gov.uk
Breckland	Thursday 2 May, 7.30	Attleborough - TBA	Jill Wilson, tel. 01362 850350 Madingley, 30 Dereham Road, Mattishall, NR20 3NP
Norwich	Wednesday 1 May, 7.30 Monday 8 July, 7.30	Treehouse Children’s Centre St Andrews House, Norwich	George Gearing, tel. 01603 611147 Chapelfield Children’s Day Nursery, Chapelfield Gardens, Norwich NR2 1SF
East Norfolk	Monday 20 May, 1.30 Monday 8 July, evening	TBA (Possibly GY Library) TBA	Diane Jary, tel. 01493 740270 Rollesby First and Nursery School Rollesby, Great Yarmouth, NR29 5EH office@rollesby.norfolk.sch.uk
West Norfolk	Tuesday 7 May, 7.30	King’s Lynn EYDCP Team Office	Poppy Nice, tel. 01485 536205 c/o Yellow Door Nursery, Eastland House, Westgate, Hunstanton, PE36 5EW

Childminder information sessions

Date	Town	Venue	Time	Tutors
15 April 2002	Methwold	Methwold High School	7.30 – 9.30pm	Sarah Mutch
16 April 2002	Norwich	County Hall Annexe	7.30 – 9.30pm	Sue Tams
14 May 2002	King's Lynn	Western Area Office	7.30 – 9.30pm	Mandy Bavin
15 May 2002	Norwich	County Hall Annexe	7.30 – 9.30pm	Laura King
21 May 2002	West Walton	West Walton Primary School	7.30 – 9.30pm	Mandy Bavin
18 June 2002	Norwich	County Hall Annexe	7.30 – 9.30pm	Stella Tobin
19 June 2002	Downham Market	Clackclose Primary	7.30 – 9.30pm	Mandy Bavin
09 July 2002	Great Yarmouth	St Nicholas Children's Centre	7.30 – 9.30pm	Stella Tobin
10 July 2002	Norwich	County Hall Annexe	7.30 – 9.30pm	Eileen Edwards
15 July 2002	King's Lynn	Western Area Office	7.30 – 9.30pm	Lynda Oldfield

Day care information sessions

Date	Area	Venue	Time
17 April 2002	King's Lynn	Western Area Office	7.30 – 9.30pm
14 May 2002	Norwich	County Hall Annexe	7.30 – 9.30pm
17 June 2002	King's Lynn	Western Area Office	7.30 – 9.30pm
16 July 2002	Norwich	County Hall Annexe	7.30 – 9.30pm

Norfolk preschool learning alliance events

Norfolk County AGM	Saturday 29 June 2002 10am-1pm	Dereham	Sue Eagle on Using Brain Gym With Young Children. Call 01603 767525 to book.
National AGM and Conference	Friday 24 May 2002		Keynote speakers and training seminars in London. Phone Resource Centre for booking forms 01603 767525
North East Coastal Branch	Thursday 20 June 2002 10am-1pm	North Walsham	Scout Hunt, North Walsham. Fun Day for groups and families
Central and District Branch	Friday 21 June 2002 11.00am-2.00pm	Banham Zoo, South Norfolk	Fun Day for groups and families.



thinking about childcare for your own children ?

thinking about training to gain more qualifications
so that you can progress your existing
childcare career ?

thinking about childcare as a career, becoming
a childminder or playworker, or setting
up in business as a nursery or
out of school playscheme ?

thinking about providing childcare for your
employees ?

**whatever you're thinking
about childcare or early years
education call the
Norfolk Childcare Information Service
on 01603 62 22 92**



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