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partnership news

january 2003

 **Norfolk** County Council



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welcome

Well I can hardly believe that I am already wishing you all a Happy New Year – it barely seems five minutes ago that we were seeing in 2002. We achieved a great deal in 2002 and you all played a valuable role and 2003 will be an equally challenging year. The Partnership is heading towards the final phase of the 2001-2004 strategic plan and we are currently working hard on the implementation plan for 2003/2004. We hope to involve as many of you as possible to make sure we get it right for children and families. Forums will play a crucial role in this process and we have seen a marked increase in attendance at the forums of late so thanks to all of you who attend and promote them.

In the next few months we will be concentrating on helping more of you get 'out of school' childcare places and getting Neighbourhood Nurseries ready to open and I hope to report back on the progress we make in the next edition.

Until next time

Marcelle Curtis

Marcelle Curtis
Head of Early Years and Childcare Strategy

What you told us about Partnership News

'More on education & parent support - less on childcare.'

'Contact detail of organisations / bodies mentioned would be useful'

'Is the glossy paper very expensive?'

Many thanks to all of you that completed our questionnaire about Partnership News. Your feedback was invaluable.

About 83% of respondents said Partnership News is informative and there were lots of suggestions for topics to cover.

The cost of producing a glossy newsletter concerned some of you. We pay close attention to the costs involved and aim to achieve a balance between this and delivering an informative and appealing publication. With this in mind we endeavour to produce each issue for less than 50 pence per copy.

'This issue has been my first and I'll find it very useful.'

'Like it - looked very professional!'

'What is happening in other EYDCPs. Examples / case study of good practise'

Primary School Performance

The 2002 Primary School Performance Tables for Norfolk, showing Key Stage 2 results, are now available. They can be found on the website www.esinet.norfolk.gov.uk under the heading "Performance and Results". If required, a paper copy can be obtained from the Education Department, telephone number 01603 222146.

Delivering for children & families

'The inter-departmental childcare review: delivering for children and families' has just been published by the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit. The report outlines how new funding will create additional childcare places, establish new children's centres in disadvantaged areas and develop a more integrated approach to policy and planning at both national and local level. Local Education Authorities will be key in developing wrap around childcare and extended school provision in partnership with their schools. The report is available at: www.strategy.gov.uk or by telephoning 020 7276 1881

National Lottery New Opportunities Fund

We were very pleased to hear that Norfolk was awarded nearly £1 million in the summer 2002 round of applications. This will create over 1300 childcare places in 45 schemes across the region.

The October 2002 submission was our largest to-date with a bid for £1.8 million from 84 schemes to create nearly 2000 childcare places.

The New Opportunities Fund have also announced two additional rounds will be added to the programme this year.

Information for Parents on Early Education

To help parents make decisions about early education for their children we have produced an information booklet. In it we explain who is eligible, where early education is available, how to get a place and the key stages of learning.

The booklet will be distributed to schools. If you would like a copy of the booklet please contact 01603 622292.



Business Support Fund

In the last edition of Partnership News we reported on the new business support fund granted from the DfES.

We will soon be able to offer you support online with distant learning tutorials for business planning, marketing, developing your service, ICT and financial planning.

We have also developed an online community where you can join discussion groups and talk with like-minded people about childcare and early years issues.

Support for After School Clubs

Consultation will take place this term with a number of after schools clubs to find out how they can be best supported. The findings will help us develop a support package that should become available in 2003.

Sure Start

From 11 December 2002 Sure Start became the overarching name for early education, childcare, health and family support including Sure Start local programmes.

Sure Start is all about making life better for children, parents and communities by bringing together:

- early education
- childcare
- health and family support

Sure Start is the next step in the Government's commitment to deliver:

- the best start in life for every child
- better opportunities for parents
- affordable, good quality childcare
- stronger and safer communities

& it comes under Department for Education and Skills and Department for Work and Pensions

The EYDCP Implementation Plan

The delivery team at the EYDCP have been busy preparing the implementation plan for 2003/2004. This will be submitted to the DfES for approval in February. The recently approved 2002/2003 plan will be available on www.norfolkchildcare.info soon.

Out and About in Wells



The West Development team together with NCCMA was out and about in Wells during October half term to raise awareness of the new and expanding schemes happening in the area. The event took place at Playland. Parents were able to have a well-earned break whilst their children had fun on the equipment and the team spoke with a number of people interested in a career in childcare.

Funding for three and four year olds

Norfolk is one step closer to being able to offer universal early years education for all three year olds with funding now available to three year olds born between 1st January and 30th November 1999. Headcount day is 16th January 2003 for all provisions eligible for funding.

We want your stories

This is your publication and it is great to hear about all your news and events going on in the county. If you have any news stories or feedback please contact Lisa Connolly, Marketing and Communications Manager on 01603 59 84 72 or email lisa.connolly.edu@norfolk.gov.uk

Joiners and Leavers

Welcome to:

Linda Woods, secretary supporting Marcelle Curtis and Anne Dobson
Jess Gooch, project development worker for Silver Road initiative
Peter Nash, Development worker, East team
Sarah Harris, Development worker, East team
Karen Johnson, development worker, West team
Christine Hudson, Fen Border Sure Start administrator
Jess Darch, Yvonne Howard, village co-ordinator, Fen Border Sure Start
Hazel Francis, Administrator supporting Sue Dale and Jan Smith
Andrew Carmels, Administrator supporting Central Team

Goodbye to:

Ralph Astley, central team administrator
Jill Peart, Childcare Information Service
Jenny Cuthbert, Administrator, East Team (maternity leave)
Elizabeth Fletcher, Gillian Pointer, Childcare Information Service

Who's who?

- 1 Jane Lidstone-Scott - Link Teacher** Jane enjoys walking, cycling and the theatre. She splits her time between teaching at Fakenham infant and nursery school and being a Link teacher. Jane has three children including a set of twins. She also enjoys circle dancing.
- 2 Karina Savage - Link Teacher** Karina loves travelling and spends her free time in the South of France where she has a house. When she isn't providing a taxi service for her three children, Karina enjoys the odd glass of wine or two.

- 3 Rosie Smith - Early Years co-ordinator (covering Jo mixer who is on maternity leave)** Rosie is partial to curry and loves interactive theatre. She also belongs to a gym and tries to go as often as possible.
- 4 Janette Smith - Link Teacher** Janette has 3 children aged 14, 11 and 8 and when she isn't taking them to their various hobbies she enjoys walking, camping and cycling.

- 5 Caroline Wiley - Link Teacher** Caroline enjoys the theatre and music. She has been known to do the odd bit of tap dancing in her free time. Caroline is also a cat lover and has three of her own.
- 6 Jo Rolfe - Link Teacher** Jo is a sculptor and is particularly interested in African styles and influences. She has two daughters, one who practices acupuncture and the other is at University. Jo also enjoys circle dancing.

- 7 Carole Stone - Link Teacher** Carole keeps herself busy walking, cycling and gardening. But if that wasn't enough she has plans to work on a barn conversion next year.
- 8 Mary Read - Early Years co-ordinator** Mary currently commutes between her home in Kent and Norfolk. She enjoys reading, the theatre, eating out and walking. Mary also manages to fit in studying a part time MA degree.

- 9 Kathy Bailey - Link Teacher** Kathy enjoys walking, swimming and any outdoor activities. Her particular passion is antiques and her best buy is an old nursing chair.
- 10 Peter Bates - Early Years co-ordinator** Peter enjoys walking, theatre and the cinema. He has six children between the ages of 10 and 26. He also enjoys cooking. When he was at school Peter ran 50 miles over 12 hours - twice!

- 11 Linda Pieri - Link Teacher** Linda enjoys drama and scuba diving. Her recent thespian activities include the part of May the Maid in 'The Philadelphia Story' at the Maddermarket Theatre. She is about to start a course in Technical theatre (lights, make-up, scenery, etc). Linda also enjoys Egyptian dancing and even has the full outfit.
- Constance Tyce (not pictured)** Has recently been appointed as overall manager of the team. She is also a numeracy advisor.

Peggy Webster (not pictured) - Link Teacher Peggy is currently working as Deputy Head at a nursery school in London and will be joining the team in January.

Clare Scott (not pictured) - Link Teacher Clare splits her time between this role and also works at the Earham Early Years centre.

Heather Kirby (not pictured) - Link Teacher As well as her Link teacher duties, Heather is teacher in charge at Hillside Avenue Nursery in Norwich.

Introducing the Link Teacher team

In this edition of Partnership News we take a closer look at the Advisory Service and the Early Years Co-ordinators and Link Teachers.

This team has recently expanded and now consists of three full time Early Years co-ordinators and 11 Link Teachers.

If you are one of the 400 providers in the non-maintained sector in Norfolk that offer the foundation stage curriculum the Link Teachers should already be familiar to you.

To offer the foundation stage curriculum, the DfES ask that all providers have the support of a qualified teacher and this is where the Link Teachers come in.

The Link teachers are here to give you help, guidance and ensure quality and standards are maintained and improved in this very important stage of learning. They also have access to the Early Years resource bank that can offer a range of materials and teaching tools.

The team will be supporting providers' delivering the Foundation Stage curriculum with visits at least once a term and will always be on hand to respond to requests for advice and support.

We have a target of ensuring there is one teacher to every ten non-maintained providers by 2004 and each of the newly appointed link teachers will have a case-load that means this target is well on the way to being met.



Joined up services are exactly that, where services and facilities can overlap and complement each other in terms of childcare, health, adult learning, early education and so on. It makes sense to join them together so each benefits from the other in terms of resource and support.



demonstrating joined up services in practice

Fen Border Mini Sure Start wins top award

In recognition of this fantastic initiative Norfolk EYDCP and Cambridgeshire Care and Education Partnership have received an award from 'Partners in Excellence' under the category 'Making the most of Partnership Working'. Marcelle Curtis, Head of Early Years and Childcare strategy for Norfolk, together with Gill Heaford, Vice Chair of the Norfolk Partnership and colleagues from Cambridgeshire recieved the award from Cherie Booth QC who is patron of the Awards at a ceremony held in London on the 10th December 2002.

There is a great deal of talk about joined up services but what exactly is it all about. With so many new initiatives being introduced with Sure Start, Neighbourhood nurseries, extended schools, childminder networks and so on is there a danger of overlap?

The government have a vision of providing communities with a 'one-stop shop' of child care, health care, education and parental support.

Partnership News takes a closer look at a project in West Norfolk that is putting joined up services into practice.

Emneth nursery is currently a hub of activity in the rural fens of Norfolk because the

nursery has become the focal point for a number of joined up initiatives not to mention their own bid to become a neighbourhood nursery.

The bid to become a neighbourhood nursery

Emneth has some ambitious plans in their bid and this links very closely to the nursery becoming a focal point for the Fen Border Sure Start initiative.

By joining together it enables Emneth to bid for capital funding from the Sure Start programme and Neighbourhood Nurseries Initiative (NNI).

The funding would enable Emneth and the surrounding villages to benefit from:

- Childcare
- A childminder network
- Toy library
- Support group for children with additional needs and their families
- Family learning
- Health activities
- Parent and toddler groups
- training

Jill Wharton, head teacher of Emneth nursery, appointed in the summer 2002 is delighted to be working on the initiative 'Emneth is known as a pocket of disadvantage and the surrounding villages are incredibly rural. This family centred service should be a breath of fresh air for the children and families who will benefit.'

Fen Border Sure Start

Emneth becoming a neighbourhood nursery is not the end of the story as some of the

funding is coming from the Sure Start initiative set up by the government. The Fen Border Sure Start links in to Emneth but will also offer outreach services to the villages spread across the isolated Fenlands stretching from West Walton to Welney to Upwell and Marshland St James, Friday Bridge and Elm.

In total almost 600 children under the age of four should benefit from the programme with plans to build on the services available through the nursery.

Parental involvement in the programme has been a key factor. Right from the start parents are consulted and can contribute to the way the Sure Start programme develops in their area.

The icing on the cake is the cross border nature of the project, run by the Cambridgeshire and Norfolk Partnerships.

Valerie Heath, programme co-ordinator comments 'It is an exciting time to be involved with the project. It has provided an initiative to both counties to seek creative ways of working together to provide services needed in this rural area.'

After School Care

To complete the picture the nearby primary school has bid for New Opportunities Funding from the National Lottery to offer after school care.

Following the summertime release of the Education bill school governors can be responsible for managing the childcare.

Progress so far

This is an enormous initiative with many strands to it but much progress has already been made with the beginning of the childminder network, support groups for children with additional needs and parents, parent and toddler groups and three new staff in place for Fen Border Sure Start. Bids will be submitted for capital funding soon for NNI and Sure Start money has been granted.

Partnership News is really impressed with the project and hopes to see it go from strength to strength.

If you want to find out more about joined up services contact your local development worker or call 01603 62 22 92.

Diary Dates and Useful Contacts

In response to your feedback we have made the diary dates section a pull out poster for you to put up on the wall.



Childminder Information Sessions

- The Annex, County Hall,
Martineau Lane, Norwich
Thursday 23 January 2003 7.30pm - 9.30pm
- Alderman Jackson School,
Marsh Lane, King's Lynn
Tuesday 21 January 2003 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Tuesday 18 March 2003 7.30pm - 9.30pm
- Dereham Neatherd Community High School,
Norwich Road, Dereham
Tuesday 28 January 2003 7.30pm - 9.30pm
- Queensway Junior School
Tuesday 4 February 2003 7.30pm - 9.30pm
- Oriel High School, Oriel Avenue, Gorleston
Thursday 13 February 2003 7.30pm - 9.30pm
- Holt Community Primary School,
Norwich Road, Holt
Tuesday 25 February 2003 7.30pm - 9.30pm
- Manor Field First and Nursery School,
Manor Road, Long Stratton
Tuesday 4 March 2003 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Daycare Information Sessions

- County Hall Annex, Norwich
Monday 10 February 2003 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Monday 10 March 2003 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Tuesday 8 April 2003 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Monday 12 May 2003 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Tuesday 10 June 2003 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Tuesday 8 July 2003 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Quality Assurance Information Sessions

- St Andrews House, Norwich
7 January 2003 1.30pm - 3.00pm
- Berger Way, King's Lynn
8 January 2003 1.30pm - 3.00pm
- Havenbridge House, Gt Yarmouth
9 January 2003 1.30pm - 3.00pm

Forum Dates

- Norwich Forum
TBC
- South Norfolk Forum
TBC
- East Norfolk Forum
TBC
- West Norfolk Forum
West Team Office, King's Lynn
Thursday 6 February 2003
- Emneth Nursery School, Emneth
Tuesday 1 April 2003
- North Norfolk Forum
Seaview Playgroup, Cromer
Tuesday 28 January 2003
- Broadland
St Williams Primary School, Williams Loke,
St Williams Way, Thorpe St Andrew
Tuesday 4 February 2003 7.00pm - 8.30pm
- Breckland
North Elmham Primary School, Holt Road
5 March 2003 7.30pm

Useful Contact Numbers

Norfolk Childcare Information Service
For information on available childcare, training and recruitment and developing your services.

01603 62 22 92

NEYDCP Area Offices

- Kings Lynn
01553 66 76 20
- Yarmouth
01493 33 57 40
- Norwich
01603 59 84 84

NCCMA
Norfolk county Childminding Association. Offering a support service for childminders in the county

01603 61 56 67

NEYSN
Norfolk Early Years Support Network. Offering help and support for providers of early years education/childcare.

01603 21 93 00

PLA
Pre-school learning alliance. The local branch of this national charity offers support for early education and the development of children.

01603 76 75 25

NATLL
National Association of Toy and Leisure Libraries.

020 7387 9592

KCN
Kids Club Network. Offering help and support for 'out of school' childcare providers across the UK.

0207 512 2100

Ofsted
general enquiries

0845 601 4771

complaints

0845 601 4772



Recruiting people into the childcare profession is an on going challenge. The DfES recognise there is a national shortage of qualified childcare workers and periodically runs nationwide marketing campaigns to encourage recruitment. This article looks at how the Norfolk EYDCP is trying to combat this growing problem.

recruitment

the ongoing challenge

We have already reported on the huge success Norfolk has achieved bidding for National Opportunities funding to create more childcare places, with the most recent bid hoping to create 2000 places. That also means more jobs in childcare so there is certainly the demand but what is being done about supply ?

The Norfolk EYDCP has a dedicated training and recruitment team who spend a great deal of time pro-actively encouraging individuals to consider childcare as a career.

The team is responsible for;

- publishing a weekly job vacancy list on paper, our website, the childcare link national website and through local jobcentres
- running Making Choices courses for people considering a career in childcare
- Attending local job fairs and recruitment events
- Creating public awareness of Childcare as a career and the training courses available by ensuring information in places like the Learning Shop is readily available
- Running roadshow events at venues across the county

And in the future..?

The EYDCP will continue to promote childcare as a career option at every possible opportunity. We have plans to publish courses in the widely distributed Adult Education course booklets and we start 2003 with a dedicated recruitment campaign.

The campaign will focus on 'New Year, new start' and will include press activity, radio adverts, roadshow events, Making Choices courses and much more.

If you know of any job fairs or recruitment events happening in your area please tell us – contact the training and recruitment team on 01603 62 22 92.

Successfully Recruiting Staff – a case study

If you are finding it difficult to recruit staff don't get down hearted, The Barn Club in Poringland were faced with the onerous task of recruiting five new posts in the summer and were pleasantly surprised with the response. Forty eight candidates applied for the position and Ruth Foster who is the Childcare Manager at the Club put it down to careful planning, learning from previous experience and timing. She comments 'We tried to structure the role's around the potential candidates paying close attention to working hours and making sure rates of pay were competitive. The Barn Club also has an excellent reputation so I'm sure that

helped'. Not only was the Barn Club able to successfully recruit for this position but they now have a list of potential candidates if anything else comes up in the future.

Top Tips to successful recruitment

- Discuss the precise requirements of the job with everyone involved in the recruitment decision and be clear what you are looking for
- Prepare a job description
- Draft an inspiring and eye catching advert - don't forget we offer a job vacancy service
- Make sure you offer salary and benefits in line with your competitors
- Put out feelers in the local community – word of mouth is very powerful
- Consider getting together with other providers and buddy up to offer a better range of hours
- Be professional, the candidates will be interviewing you as much as you are interviewing them
- Make all candidates aware of your final decision
- Your salary bill will be your biggest outgoing so recruit wisely - don't make the appointment if you are unsure
- Keep a record of all short listed applicants in case you need to recruit again in the future



From April 2003 the Inland Revenue will be changing the way it supports parents with tax credits. Working Family Tax Credit (WFTC) will be no more and gets replaced with Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit.

As the new names suggest support for families is still a key focus but Working Tax Credit will include adults without children, both will help tackle poverty.

Child Tax Credit will bring together elements from Income Support, Income-based Jobseekers allowance, WFTC, disabled persons tax credit and the Children's tax credit.

working family

tax credit is changing

What's new?

- Whether parents are working or not they could be eligible for Child Tax Credit.
- The main carer will receive the payments.

The Child Tax Credit Comprises:

Family element c. £10.45 per week	max entitlement
Family element, baby addition c. £10.45 per week	max entitlement
Child element c. £27.75 per week	max entitlement
Disabled child element c. £41.30 per week	max entitlement
Enhanced disabled child element c. £16.60 per week	max entitlement

- Available to both lone parents and couples with one or more children.
- Working Tax Credit provides a top up to low income workers
- Paid directly into the wage packet

The Working Tax Credit Comprises:

Basic element - c £29.20 per week	max entitlement
Couples/lone parent element - c £28.80 per week	max entitlement
Childcare element - covers 70% of qualifying childcare costs up to max limits	

How to claim

Claims can be made for both tax credits on the same form. Forms can be obtained from the Inland Revenue by phone on 0845 300 3900 or individuals can apply online at www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk/taxcredits Awards will be based on annual income in the previous year.

Eligibility

The Inland Revenue ultimately determine how much individuals are eligible for but there is some guidance:

- Based on gross income
- Full child tax credit for Job seekers and Income support recipients
- Full working tax credit for incomes under £5,060
- Full child tax credit for income up to £13,230
- Full family element of tax credit for incomes up to £50,000

What can childcare providers do?

One of the biggest obstacles for parents getting quality childcare is affordability. It is proven that providers who inform parents about the tax credits available fill more child care spaces for longer and therefore ensure their own sustainability.

Why not get a supply of claim packs from the Inland Revenue and make parents aware of their eligibility.

Claim packs can be ordered by e-mail. The address to write to is taxcredits.claimforms@ir.gsi.gov.uk



extended schools the role they play in childcare

With the introduction of the Education Act last summer, school-governing bodies have been empowered to manage childcare on school premises.

This together with support from the DfES has encouraged many schools to consider offering childcare facilities.

Schools offering childcare makes a lot of sense particularly in areas of disadvantage where voluntary or independent providers are harder to find or find it increasingly difficult to justify opening new facilities that may not remain sustainable. Schools, with ready-made facilities and premises could be the answer to closing the childcare gap.

Schools also readily lend themselves to breakfast clubs and after school care for children of school age. Providing childcare for pre-school children in their local community and at a school they may ultimately attend also leads to smooth transition into the school environment.

This extension of services does not stop at childcare, it can also support community needs and be a single point of access for an integrated range of family services including childcare, healthcare and adult education.

What impact will this have on existing providers?

Many readers of Partnership News may have had a long hard struggle securing appropriate premises for their provision or may still be searching and the thought of competition from schools may cause concern.

Rest assured the EYDCP is very aware of spread of childcare in Norfolk and any request for support from new providers, whether schools, volunteer groups or independent providers, would be assessed based on demand and existing provision in the area.

School Governors are also empowered to appoint partners or outside organisations to run the childcare provision on their behalf.

Next Steps for schools thinking of offering childcare provision

If you think the children and parents in your community would benefit from childcare facilities on school premises then speak to us. A Development worker can help you through the childcare maze – call 01603 62 22 92.

Further information is available on the DfES website, which is www.dfes.gov.uk

news from the development teams



The West Team

It's been as busy as ever in the West. We are now fully staffed and welcome Karen Johnson to cover the West Walton, Terrington, Swaffham and Downham Market High School Catchment areas. We have finished all our initial proactive survey work across the Western area and have prepared a report of our findings for each high school catchment. We are using this as the starting point for encouraging any new developments locally. We continue to be successful in being awarded NOF grants for new out of school childcare and working with new providers to create more new places. The Development Workers are working really hard to make sure that the new places are open as soon as possible. In some areas however we are reaching the stage where "saturation point" is being reached especially King's Lynn itself. Anyone thinking of expanding or developing new provision is welcome to give us a ring to ensure that their ideas will fit in with current developments that may not be widely known yet. Hopefully we will be able to support you in making your vision reality.

We have enjoyed getting out into the patch and in particular the Family Fun day in Wells at half term and the Roadshow in Fakenham in November. We look forward to meeting some of you soon.



Central Development Team

The Central team submitted their biggest bid for New Opportunities Funding to-date in October. Of the 45 bids over half were for providers in areas of disadvantage, addressing the childcare gap has been a real focus for the team and it is hoped this bid will start to address the balance.

The different types of bids we get involved in are always varied and this time is no exception with a bid from 'Football in the Community' amongst the submissions.

Work is well under way for the February round of bids for funding with over 1500 questionnaires going out to parents in Hellesdon, Taverham, Coslany ward, Stalham, Cromer, Aylsham and Lakenham ward to find out childcare needs in each area.

Many projects are also starting to come to fruition with Barn Club and Sunflower looking to extend their services and work should start onsite in September 2003 for the Sherringham project.

Finally, recognising that the Partnership can offer help and support for older children, Earham High School Café opens its doors for children to drop in for breakfast before school starts.



South & East Development Team

The South & East Development Team have two new workers – Peter Nash (Full-time) and Sarah Harris (Part time).

Questionnaires to parents asking about their childcare needs were sent out in the Autumn term in Wymondham, Martham and Harleston areas and these have been followed up with Public meetings to inform local people about their findings. The team have now completed this work in nearly all of the South and East area and are currently working with new childcare groups and providers to ensure the successful opening of their projects.

Another consortium bid to the New Opportunities Fund was submitted by the team in October and the team were delighted to hear that their June bid was successful and that as a result 17 new groups will open in the South & East.

The South & East Team have just celebrated their first year in their office at Havenbridge House and are pleased to report that within their first year they have helped raise nearly £700,000 for the development of childcare provision in the area and await news of a further £175,000 which has been bid for.



Partner Focus

NCCMA

Two-thirds Rule to be scrapped from April 2003

Under Working Families' Tax Credit child-minders can claim an approximation of expenses in calculating their income from self-employment, that is 2/3 of gross income (before expenses) is disregarded instead of making a deduction for actual expenses.

The Government is planning to introduce new tax credits from April 2003 – the Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit, which will replace the current system. Self-employed childminders will have to report their taxable income, i.e. their income after business expenses, so the calculation they use will be the same as that used for claiming tax credits.

Ofsted Requirements for First Aid Courses

Newly registering childminders will need to complete a 12 hour First Aid course within 6 months of registration. Booking forms for these courses are printed in the Training News.

Childminders who are already registered will be required to complete a 12 hour First Aid course when their current First Aid Certificate runs out. This is likely to be expressed as an action on their inspection record.

Planning Permission for Childminding

Norfolk County Childminding Association (NCCMA) is working with planning departments across the county to try to ensure that planning permission requirements are easily understood. If any childminder is having difficulty with planning permission, please contact Sarah Mutch, County Liaison Officer on 01953 499912. Sarah is compiling a dossier of cases to discuss with Planning Officers. There will be more information in NCCMA's newsletter "Between You & Me".

Grants for Childminders

If you are starting out as a childminder or struggling to keep going because you have unfilled vacancies, ring NCCMA's County Liaison Officers for advice on Start-Up Grants or Sustainability Grants. They will talk you through your application and, if you would like, they can visit you to help you with your application for a Start-Up Grant.

North & Central Norfolk
Glynis Hannant
01692 404904

Eastern Norfolk
Sarah Mutch
01953 499912

Western Norfolk
Mandy Maguire
01953 717582

Norfolk Early Years Support Network

Since the last edition of the Partnership News our team of Daycare Advisors have been out around the county offering you support prior to Ofsted Transitional inspections. Most of you have now been offered or received a visit, but if you have not yet heard from an Advisor and would like to request a visit we would be happy to hear from you. Contact our Admin Centre on 01603 219300.

Ofsted will shortly be embarking upon the first round of Combined Inspections looking at the National Daycare Standards and the educational provision of the setting. The Network is working with the Link Teachers to ensure that settings are fully supported and that everything is in place for a successful inspection outcome.

Details of our training programme for the Spring term, and full details of the courses, venues and dates can be found in Training News.

This is often a popular time of year for undertaking training and we would recommend that you apply as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

We are very pleased to announce North Anglia Open College Network has accredited 'First Skills in Play and Management' our training course for committee members and those new to early years care and education. This means that those successfully completing the course receive a nationally recognised award of credit. Details of this training programme can be found in Training News, or you can contact our Admin Centre for further details.

And finally, for those of you that contact us by e-mail our address has now changed to NFKEYSN@aol.com.

Norfolk Early Years Support Network
01603 219300

The Pre-School Learning Alliance

If you are thinking of becoming a Limited Company the Alliance have developed a useful book to take you through the process.

"The complete guide to incorporation for pre-schools" offers a step by step guide for pre-schools who have already adopted the model constitution, registered with the Charity Commissioners and wish to gain the benefits of becoming a Company limited by guarantee. It also includes an easy to use CD-ROM containing most of the forms and documents referred to in the guide.

Copies of the guide are available from the Norfolk Resource Centre
01603 7675 25
or the Eastern Regional Centre on
01954 23 23 27
and cost £10.95 for members or £14.95 for non-members plus postage and packing.

For more information see the latest edition of 'Under5' magazine.

whatever you're thinking
about childcare or early years
education please call the

Norfolk Childcare Information Service
on 01603 62 22 92 for details
or visit our website at
www.norfolkchildcare.info

