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 **Norfolk** County Council

april 2003

SURE START

A new identity, a new commitment
and new money to go forward



SureStart



Norfolk
early years development
and childcare partnership



welcome

to the Spring term issue of Partnership News. This issue seems to be better again than the last one, with so much more contribution being made by our partners and workers in the field.

This term we have seen the submission and approval of the final implementation plan - 2001 - 2004, and also the submission of 10 Neighbourhood Nursery Initiatives bids. We welcome the new Sure Start Identity and learn more about the new Unit and what that means for us, including the new Children's Centres initiative; and we celebrate the increase of early education places for three year olds.

However whilst celebrating all our achievements including the recent NOF funding rounds - with over £1.7m announced in February for Norfolk, we are faced with one of the biggest challenges ever. We, like local authorities up and down the country, are in need of quality childcare workers. (Norfolk needs to recruit 900 new childcare workers before March 2004) Individuals who will staff and develop the provisions, so that the money that has been awarded can be translated into open childcare places. Therefore our main focus this term and indeed for the next 11 months will be concentrated on working with these successful applicants to ensure that they can recruit staff and open their doors. This will ensure that these provisions can then be of real benefit to children and families.

So there is much to do in the coming months, but with the new joined-up approach to working practices we can help and support each other in reaching these goals.

Best Wishes

Marcelle Curtis

Marcelle Curtis
Head of Early Years and Childcare Strategy

news round-up

New Opportunities Fund Awards – Norfolk puts in bids for another £1.6m

February was another busy month in which round 14 of the NOF awards were submitted. This time Norfolk was bidding for nearly £1.6m in the hope of creating 1846 new places. The bids, from a wide range of projects, included holiday places and before and after school care. What is also great news is the remarkable work by the teams, with Norfolk (who were so far behind targets just over a year ago) now well ahead! This round saw a large number of projects for disadvantaged areas, where quality services are most needed. All bids, as a reflection of the high standards we continually aim for, had quality assurance funding written in. We look forward to reporting their success in the Summer. It is important to remember that the NOF funding still remains the first step on the pathway to opening, and we continue to provide all the support mechanisms to helping new and expanding provisions reach their goal. Use us!

Another first for Norfolk with the "Children Come First" Approval for Norwich Network



Congratulations are due to the childminders and Co-ordinator of the STEM Childminding Network, Norwich, who have achieved "Children Come First" approval. The National Childminding Association assessor inspected the network on 30th January and passed it with flying colours! In her report, she records that the "childminders are committed to the aims of the network and to ensuring equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. They are enthusiastic and professional in their support of families with differing needs."

This network is the first in Norfolk to achieve approval and is already achieving excellent results for parents and children in the catchment area of Earlham Early Years Centre. If any childminder in that area is interested in becoming a member of this network, please contact Debbie Dawson, Network Co-ordinator on 01603 881423, e mail: dkdxxx@lineone.net



The Wonderful World of Make Believe comes to the Forum!

We are delighted to announce that the fantastic "Wonderful World of Make Believe Event" this summer is due to be held at the Forum in Norwich.

We hope for an exciting interactive 2 days on the 13th and 14th of June. Watch this space for more details, but put the date in your diary! The "Wonderful World of Make Believe Event" will also be at the Ecotec Centre in Swaffham on the 27th and 28th June.

First admissions to schools 2003-2004

A reminder that the policy for first admission to schools and nursery classes will change from September 2003. The new policy will be:

By law children must start statutory education full time at the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday. Where admission is offered prior to compulsory school age, parents may defer their child's entry into school until later in that academic year.

For Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools, children born between 1st September and the end of February may start school full time at the beginning of the autumn term before their fifth birthday.

Children born between the 1st March and 31st August, may start school part time at the beginning of the autumn term before their fifth birthday and full time at the beginning of the spring term before their fifth birthday.

This policy has been strongly recommended for adoption by Voluntary Aided and Foundation Schools

Schools have now received further guidance on the application of this policy and admissions to nursery classes and this may be accessed on the NCC esinet www.norfolkesinet.org.uk

Recruitment Campaign

February and March were recruitment action months with a targeted direct mail campaign delivered to doorsteps right across our region. Press adverts were also placed to highlight the growing need for childcare workers. So far the feedback has been very positive with over 130 people visiting our roadshows and a general increase in enquiries. We have had over 150 Making Choices information requests since the campaign started with many more still coming in. What was also clear from the feedback we have received is that despite the taking being slightly lower than expected, the calibre of respondents was higher. March also saw the start of the National Campaign highlighting again the need for quality childcare workers.

Early Years News!

2003 saw the re-birth of an old favourite publication – the Early Years News. EY News focuses very much on the work of the link teachers and has a fantastic range of activities and review articles celebrating and demonstrating good practice. Each edition is themed and has a dedicated pull-out section to tear off and keep. Next issue – due for publication next half term - focuses on Music. For more information on Early Years News contact the editorial team on 01603 433276.



BSF update

The Business Support Fund is well and truly up and running with nearly 100 packs already been sent out. We hope to encourage more and more users to log on and share information, swap ideas and post messages and queries. If you haven't been online yet, take a look, register and get messages at www.buspack.info Watch this space for information on how to get your free BSF goody pack!

Chapel Break – an opened project!

Following a successful NOF grant and some very hard work from the organising committee and from our development worker Pam Arrowsmith we are delighted to announce that the Chapel Break Scheme opened on the 6th January 2003. It has capacity for 56 after school places and 40 holiday places. Well done to all concerned.

Neighbourhood Nursery Initiative update

Having received over £3m in Norfolk, NNI has a range of projects ongoing, however we hope to further improve on this with 13 bids submitted to NOF just before Christmas. Update on the existing projects are as follows:

In **Emneth** nursery school building works start this spring with services set to open in the New year 2004. Emneth is our flagship of cross-border working with Cambridgeshire NNI and the Sure Start programme. **Thorpe Hamlet** is due to be opened this summer by the Secretary of State for Education, Charles Clark. We are delighted to report that already they have children waiting to start. **Priory Sure Start Programme** is a listed building being developed in Great Yarmouth by trailblazer sure start, and is due to open in the new year 2004. **Earlham early years centre** – the building works are well underway with services aimed to start in Jan 2004. They are also piloting a linked NNI childminding project attached to the scheme as part of a DfES trial initiative for younger children.

On a more general note we are aiming to develop over 300 new daycare places through the NNI programme right across the county for children from Birth to 5 years old.

We will hopefully be able to link up with other funds including European Union single regeneration budget new deal.

Youtopia has arrived in Dereham!

Youtopia is a brand new Daycare Provision based in Scarning. Previously there was nothing, but they now have 23 full time places. To date there are a few left – so if you're interested please contact Dawn Dye on 07776 138727 for more information.

Birth to Three Matters

Many of you, mostly childminders and Day Nurseries, may have received a pack called "Birth to Three Matters" It was published by the DfES as a framework for supporting children in their early years. To help those of you caring for the youngest children we will be developing training and support to help you use this pack. Watch out for further information in forthcoming issues of Training News.

Joiners, Leavers and Movers

Welcome to:

- Chris Jones** - Administrator, Business & Finance Central Team
- Olwyn Peers** - Senior Information Officer, Childcare Information Service
- Rachel Elvin** - Information Officer, Childcare Information Service
- Emma Watson** - Information Officer - Childcare Information Service
- Lynne Janes** - Information Officer - Childcare Information Service
- Jackie Seager** - Village Co-ordinator, Fenn Border Sure Start
- Shirley Jordan** - Care Standards Officer

Goodbye to:

- Lisa Connolly** - Marketing & Communications Manager
- Jan Smith** - Services Development Manager
- Rachel Jackson** - Administrator, County Hall (maternity leave)

Shona Nelson - Training & Recruitment Officer who moves to the Thorpe Hamlet Sure Start project. We wish her success in her new post.

We take a look at the Childcare Information Team and find out about the people within it.

The Childcare Information Service...

A new team for a new set of challenges

The Childcare Information Team (CIS) have recently undergone several staff changes, but they now have a team in place who are ready to meet the challenges ahead of them. The new team are drawn from a range of backgrounds and disciplines, and bring with them a wealth of experience and knowledge.

With the increasing demand for childcare information from parents, carers and other professionals the CIS face a huge task this year to ensure that information is kept up to date and accurate. With the end of Ofsted's transitional phase in site the team feel ready to face their new set of challenges. Julia Gurney, Manager of the CIS comments "I feel confident and excited about the coming year. We are beginning to be able to concentrate on some key objectives that will really move the CIS forward. By having a city centre location at St Andrews House, and telephone lines in operation between 9am – 5pm we feel we can offer a huge range of services to the partnership, parents, carers and providers and feel integral in the plans for the year ahead."

In the coming months the CIS will be concentrating on a number of key areas, amongst which are;

Keeping provider information updated

With the ever increasing demand for quality childcare information so comes the need for quality data. Over the next 12 months the CIS are looking to improve the level of information available, this is being done by a two-prong approach, firstly by regularly updating provider's information so that when it is sent out it is accurate and up to date and then secondly by supplying providers and the local community with more literature to support awareness of the service.

Outreach service

CIS now have a new outreach worker in the form of Olywn Peers. Her role will be the promotion of the CIS, both internally and externally, concentrating on the key 29 areas of disadvantage. Most particularly she will set up a distribution system for our literature and provide essential feedback on whether the information we deliver is

accurate and effective. Olywn's new post allows the CIS to have a more visible presence in the community and we welcome Olywn to her new role.

Online information

As the changing face of information exchange marches on, the CIS have recognised the need for more exchange of information to be carried out online. As part of their objective they would like to offer a more interactive service with queries and searches being communicated electronically. (More information on this later on in the year).

Quality standards

The CIS continually strive to become a better and more effective information, advice and guidance service. A key part of this is the desire to look towards gaining a recognised quality standard mark.

We welcome the new CIS team and look forward with them to an exciting year ahead.



Who's who?

1. Julia Gurney
Manager of the Childcare Information Service

Dare-devil Julia who enjoys snowboarding, diving and swimming hails from a childcare background with over 8 years of setting up and managing childcare facilities. She has been with the CIS for just over a year and is still amazed at the volume and pace of changes coming continually from all sorts of directions. She loves the opportunity to get out and meet people and has also been known to sample the odd glass (or two) of vino!

2. Olywn Peers
Senior Childcare Information Service Officer.

Olywn joins the CIS from a libraries background, most recently she was Information Manager for libraries at the London Borough of Sutton. Her passions are eating, drinking and the theatre as well as exploring Norfolk. Olywn has been visiting Norfolk on holiday for the past 6 years so having moved here she is now looking for a new holiday destination – suggestions please.

3. Lynne Jones – part-time
Childcare Information Service Officer.

We welcome Lynne to the CIS from a social work background, where she was involved with children with disabilities. She is excited about the new challenges ahead but aware of the huge number of enquiries. Lynne says the new CIS seem a 'very friendly team to work with!'

4. Angela Oxbury
Childcare Information Service Officer.

Angela is an experienced member of the team, having worked in the CIS since December 1995. Her hobbies include food – cooking and eating – reading, the theatre, books and music as well as going to the gym, although she admits she should go more often. She also has a Jack Russell called Juno.

5. Emma Watson
Childcare Information Service Officer

Emma comes from a childcare background, with a wide range of knowledge from different settings and experience of working with children of all ages. An intrepid traveller Emma has just returned from backpacking around Australia and New Zealand. She enjoys cinema, live music and outdoor pursuits.

6. Rachel Elvin
Childcare Information Service Officer

We welcome Rachel to the CIS from a retail customer services background. She brings with her extensive customer handling skills as well as experience in telephone techniques. Rachel openly admits to being a fair-weather gardener (aren't we all?) and golfer, who enjoys eating out.



Sure Start

A new identity, a new commitment and new money to go forward

By Dorothy Wedge - Chair of Norfolk EYDCP

Since the National Childcare Strategy was launched in 1998, excellent progress has been made with nearly a million newly created childcare places, early education places for three & four year olds and over 9 Sure Start programmes in the county and over 500 in country. Each year the DfES hosts a conference to celebrate the achievements of Local Authorities and members of their local Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships and to announce plans for the coming year.

This years Conference heralded a new way of thinking. Alongside the EYDCPs were representatives from other agencies and organisations such as Primary Care Trusts, job centres and voluntary agencies. The attendance of these delegates was a reflection of the partnership approach, where agencies will join together to deliver the childcare strategy over the coming years.

In this issue of Partnership News we hear from the chair of our EYDCP, Dorothy Wedge who was present at the conference, and her views on what these new announcements mean for us all in Norfolk.

Tell us about the conference?

This year's conference as ever was a good opportunity to meet with the ministers and to get a feel for how important and how highly they rate the work we are doing. There was a real feeling that it was a celebration of the initiatives we have all been part of. I believe that as Chair of our partnership I need to express to you all how valued all your contributions are. However alongside the celebrations Baroness Ashton announced the new Sure Start programme and branding and talked about how this would effect us and the work we do.

What was the main thrust of the announcements?

Sure Start is evolving. On 11 December last year Sure Start was adopted as the name for all government's work on early education, childcare, health advice and family support. The joined up strategy was inspired by success of Sure Start local programmes (SSLP) in providing integrated services to involve local communities, and intends to ensure this approach is more widely applied.



The three crucial outcomes of the conference were,

The new identity. From now on there will be an umbrella identity that encompasses all government's work on early education, childcare health advice and family support. These joined-up services will be headed up by Catherine Ashton as the Minister for Sure Start in the Department for Education and Skills and the Department for Work and Pensions. Naomi Eisenstadt is the Director of the Sure Start Unit.

New commitment. The emphasis is on working together to maximise resources and meet local needs. Following the governments Interdepartmental Review, the report 'Delivering for Children and Families', published in November 2002, highlighted the need for other ministers and departments to be integral in bringing together this policy. The measures detailed in this report represent good news for children, good news for parents and good news for communities. This is detailed in the Sure Start aims and objectives which are to achieve better outcomes by:

- Increasing the availability of childcare for all children 0 - 14 years
- Improving health, education and emotional development for young children
- Supporting parents as parents and in their aspirations towards employment

Achieved by:

- Helping services develop in disadvantaged areas and providing financial help to enable parents to afford childcare
- using the principals of the Sure Start approach in the development of services for children and parents.

The Sure Start Unit works with Local Authorities Primary Care Trusts, Jobcentre plus, local communities and voluntary and private sector organisations. It aims to ensure delivery of free early education for all three and four year olds, affordable quality childcare and after school activities in every area, and health and family support in disadvantages areas where they are most needed. It works with parents to build aspirations for employment and for their children's education.



New investment. All of the work and achievements to date (detailed in the review) has provided a strong case for further investment. Therefore new money is being provided to establish children's Centres from 2004-2006. This will enable them to link with existing Sure Start programmes, Early Excellence, Neighbourhood Nurseries, nursery schools/classes and voluntary and private pre-school settings.

So, what's happened since then?

Since the conference Naomi Eisenstadt, Director of the Sure Start Unit has written to all Chief Executives of Local Authorities. In this letter she introduces the new plans and attaches set-up guidance for children's centres to enable local authorities to begin their strategic plan. This follow up letter demonstrates real commitment by the Government to the new programme.

What does all this mean for us at a local level?

The Sure Start programme does exactly what it says, it aims to offer a sure start for every child. Every child deserves the best start in life. Evidence collected in the governments 2002 review of childcare shows that: Childcare can make a positive difference to children, parents and communities by

- Helping to tackle child poverty
- Improve children's achievements at school
- Enable parents to chose work as a route out of poverty
- Improve health and reduce crime

For Norfolk it will mean:

- Joining up services
- Increased investment for new developments
- Greater commitment by our local authority to developing integrated services to young children and their families
- Improved links with other Norfolk organisations.

What are Children's Centres?

Children's centres concept was first promoted in the report of the Inter-departmental Childcare Review published in November 2002. Children's centres will serve children and families in disadvantaged communities and will provide integrated care and education for young children, health services, family support and a base for childminders. The idea of Children's Centres focuses on the joining up of agencies and their support services. It is envisaged that some Children's Centres will be housed in a central building providing a 'one-stop-shop' for families, but that others will be existing services in different centres all linking together.

First draft guidance has been circulated and we will have to submit the plan for Norfolk by 15 October 2003.

But I thought we already had Sure Starts in Norfolk?

Yes, we have 9 Sure Start programmes which are known as Sure Start Local Programmes (SSLP's) These programmes are set to continue and will form part of the new Sure Start Unit. This unit will become the new overarching name for any work connected to early education, childcare, health and family support.

So what's the Sure Start future hold for us?

There will be greater emphasis than ever before on a joined-up approach to services for families and children evolving into a more universal approach to the way we work.

We now have a strong foundation on which to build. With the Local Authority leading the way under the new Sure Start identity we can begin to take the huge steps forward together.

SureStart

Making life better for children, parents and communities by bringing together:

- ▶ early education
- ▶ childcare
- ▶ health and family support

Diary Dates and Useful Contacts



Childminder Information Sessions

Great Yarmouth High School, Salisbury Road, Great Yarmouth	Thursday 27 March 2003	7.30 – 9.30pm
The Annexe, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich	Tuesday 1st April 2003	7.30 – 9.30pm
Alderman Jackson School, Marsh Lane, Kings Lynn	Tuesday 08 April 2003	7.30 – 9.30pm
Dereham Neatherd Community High School, Norwich Road, Dereham	Wednesday 09 April 2003	7.30 – 9.30pm
Alderman Jackson School, Marsh Lane, Kings Lynn	Tuesday 06 May 2003	7.30 – 9.30pm
The Annexe, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich	Wednesday 07 May 2003	7.30 – 9.30pm
Oriel High School, Oriel Avenue, Gorleston	Tuesday 20 May 2003	7.30 – 9.30pm
Diss High School, Walcot Road, Diss	Wednesday 21 May 2003	7.30-9.30pm
Emneth Nursery School, Hollycroft Road, Emneth	Thursday 22 May 2003	7.30-9.30pm
Cloverhill Village Hall, Humbleyard, Bowthorpe	Tuesday 03 June 2003	7.30-9.30pm
Kelling Primary School, Salthouse Road, Kelling, Holt	Wednesday 18 June 2003	7.30-9.30pm

Great Yarmouth High School, Salisbury Road, Great Yarmouth	Tuesday 24 June 2003	7.30-9.30pm
Emneth Nursery School, Hollycroft Road, Emneth	Wednesday 25 June 2003	7.30-9.30pm
The Annexe, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich	Thursday 03 July 2003	7.30-9.30pm
Queensway Community Junior School, Hilary Road, Thetford	Monday 07 July 2003	7.30-9.30pm
Oriel High School, Oriel Avenue, Gorleston	Monday 14 July 2003	7.30-9.30pm
Cromer Junior School, Norwich Road, Cromer	Tuesday 15 July 2003	7.30-9.30pm
The Annexe, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich	Thursday 11 September 2003	7.30-9.30pm
Alderman Jackson School, Marsh Lane, Kings Lynn	Tuesday 16 September 2003	7.30-9.30pm
Fakenham High School, Field Lane, Fakenham	Wednesday 24 September 2003	7.30-9.30pm
Dereham Neatherd Community High School	Monday 29 September 2003	7.30-9.30pm
Great Yarmouth High School, Salisbury Road, Great Yarmouth	Tuesday 30 September 2003	7.30-9.30pm

Daycare Information Sessions

Venue:	Training Annex at County Hall
Time:	7.30 – 9.30pm
Dates:	Tuesday 8th April, Monday 12th May Tuesday 10th June, Tuesday 8th July

Forum Dates

East Forum	
Venue:	Rollsby First and Nursery School, Main Road, Rollsby.
Time:	6pm
Date:	17th June
South Forum	
Venue:	South Norfolk, Council Offices, Swan House, Long Stratton, Norfolk.
Dates:	27th March, 13th May, 10th July 7th October, 4th December

Broadland Forum	
Venue:	Starting Out Day Nursery Thorpe Hamlet, Norwich
Date:	21st May
Venue:	Treehouse Nursery Thorpe Hamlet, Norwich
Date:	10th September
Breckland Forum	
Venue:	West End Kindergaten, Watton
Time:	7.30pm
Date:	2nd June
Venue:	South Green Park Childrens Centre, Matishall
Time:	7.30pm
Date:	4th November

West Forum	
Venue:	EYDCP Western Office, Unit 5 North Lynn Business Village, King's Lynn
Time:	7.30pm
Date:	5th June
Venue:	Emneth Nursery
Time:	7.30pm
Date:	23rd September

Norwich Forum	
Venue:	Starting Out Day Nursery, Thorpe Hamlet
Time:	7.30pm
Date:	21st May
Venue:	Treehouse Nursery, Norwich
Time:	7.30pm
Date:	10th September
North Norfolk Forum	
Venue:	North Walsham Court House
Time:	7.30pm
Date:	10 June

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

Early Years & Norfolk Museums

A magical educational experience

Many of us have or care for younger children and are continually looking for activities to do and places to visit that are outside the home or setting. This issue we are focussing on Norfolk Museums and what they can offer, in particular the under fives. We hear from Colly Mudie the education officer for Norfolk museums as she tells us about a magical educational experience!

At the many Norfolk Museums situated around the county we actively welcome groups of pre-school children and their carers. We are looking to provide a range of different activities and experiences for young children, whilst trying to support the Foundation Curriculum in inspiring, imaginative and relevant ways.

We hope that by offering this unique experience to the youngest visitors on the age spectrum that we they will become interested in learning and by experiencing new things they will take that interest and develop it in the following years.

To attract children we offer discounted admission charges for all educational groups and any child under five is free. Plus, when coming with a group carers are free too.

I have tried to list various museums and centres all around the county and provide useful names and numbers. We hope that you will contact us to discuss ideas and to book the educational facilities that we offer. For more information on any of the museums we have a website, please log on and check us out on www.norfolk.gov.uk/tourism/museums.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Colly Mudie.

Roots of Norfolk at Gressenhall

A family-friendly museum based in 50 acres of countryside with a working farm with rare breed animals. Excellent visitor facilities including friendly café, gift shop, adventure playground, baby changing and good pushchair access.

The museum offers a special facility for under fives, the Early Years Centre. Fully equipped with toys, books and activities the centre can be booked in advance by pre-school groups and provides an excellent base and a focus for visits.

Plus: ask for details of our special event days for under fives.

Contact:

Colly Mudie, Education Officer

Tel: 01362 869256

Email: colly.mudie.mus@norfolk.gov.uk

Norwich Castle

A real castle! Packed with history, art and archaeology treasures and with lots of child-friendly displays. Top class visitor facilities include friendly café, gift shop, baby changing and excellent pushchair access.

Ask for details of our monthly drop in sessions for families with under fives.

These sessions explore themes such as toys and animals and support the Foundation Curriculum. We can also tailor similar sessions for visiting pre-school groups.

Contact:

Katrina Siliprandi, Head of Museum Education

Tel: 01603 495892

Email: katrina.siliprandi.mus@norfolk.gov.uk

Elizabethan House, Great Yarmouth

Welcomes groups of under fives and offers a range of special activities. Call us to discuss the possibilities.

Contact:

Colin Stott, Education Officer.

Tel: 01493 745526

Email: colin.stott.mus@norfolk.gov.uk

Kings Lynn Museums & Ancient House Museum, Thetford

Welcome groups of under fives and offer a range of special activities. Call us to discuss the possibilities.

Contact:

Ellie Jones, Education Officer.

Tel: 01553 773450

Email: ellie.jones.mus@norfolk.gov.uk



Pathway to registration

In the summer of 2002 the DfES commissioned two projects to consider the sharp dip in the number of childcare places following the transition of registration and inspection from local authorities to Ofsted. In this article we look at the most important findings from the research and find out about how we can all play a vital role in development of quality childcare.

The research that was carried out by the DfES produced some important findings. They both concluded that a systematic approach towards the development of day-care and childminder places, in which the applicant, the local authority/EYDCP, Ofsted and the DfES all took a vital part, provided the most effective pathway to registration.

The shared experience and knowledge from local authorities/EYDCP's and Ofsted and the findings from both of the research projects led to the development of a Pathway to Registration toolkit. This toolkit is based on the existing good practice in local authorities and a demonstration and determination of all the "partners" to work together to create new childcare places. It contains:

- a systematic approach "map"
- a helpful spreadsheet that assists in the translation of expression of interest into production of childcare places
- a self-evaluation framework
- gateways with background information of each stage of the work and signposts to some practical approaches.

This toolkit is not intended as a comprehensive guide to every aspect of developing childcare places, but as an opportunity to review your practice in light of the pathways research.

It is also important that we all see the work of turning an expression of interest into registration as a whole process rather than separate tasks to be carried out; otherwise the interdependencies between different stages of the process will continue to be fragmented. An effective system needs to be flexible whilst remaining a clear pathway for potential providers. The three big milestones along the way are:

- expression of interest
- Ofsted application
- registration

In Norfolk we help this process by being able to offer potential providers business, finance and marketing support as well as help in the recruitment and retention of staff. We look to our partners in Ofsted to help us identify the type of issues we need to address prior to inspection, and to the local authority and their development teams to identify areas of focus.

So, in summary the development of the Pathways to Registration idea is all about how, by building bridges with our colleagues in other organisations and by also internally creating a joined up approach to working, we can ensure that the target of providing good quality childcare places is realised in a smoother, more effective way.





Thorpe Hamlet Sure Start Local Programme

Sure Start Local Programmes (SSLP's) were first introduced back in 2000. In this article we hear about the trailblazing SSLP at Thorpe Hamlet and get an update on its progress and what lies ahead for the team in 2003.

Thorpe Hamlet Sure Start Local programme (SSLP) was born in 2000 and was part of the trailblazer project, being one of only 60 initial schemes around the country. This spring, three years down the line we hear from Liz Chapman, Project Manager about the lessons learned, the history and vision for the years to come.

Thorpe Hamlet Sure Start was located up to a few weeks ago at St Leonard's Road, where they were housed in two converted shops. They started life as a drop-in centre and an initial base for the visionary multi-agency team. A new build was always in the plan, but there was a need to kick off the project and to get all the services working in the meanwhile. Thorpe Hamlet SSLP has been able to utilise venues around the immediate area such as churches, schools, libraries and other such venues in order to establish and provide a range of play and drop-in sessions.

Over the interim period they have established a strong team of multi-agency workers, among them, two health visitors – responsible for visiting every child under 4 years old, in the area; a midwife, three speech and language therapists, a fathers worker, social workers, three project workers, a team of administrators and following a successful funding bid, an Education Development Worker. "It wasn't easy at first to bring together multi agencies all with their own ideas and working practices, but over time we have built a strong network of support and inter-agency working and feel we now offer seem-less provision to local families," says Liz.

However the sessions and services needed more space and so in late March 2003, Thorpe Hamlet SSLP finally moved in to their brand new building at Wolfe Road, in the grounds of Thorpe Hamlet Middle School. This new centre gives them the opportunity to consolidate and extend their existing provisions and also to provide extra services, such as baby clinics and establish a learning centre for parents. The new building also has a brand new Neighbourhood Nursery, providing the equivalent of 29 Full Time Day Care places.

Liz Chapman comments, "we are delighted to have reached this new phase in our programme and are excited about all the possibilities we now have on offer. It's been a learning curve but as we have gone along we have improved and extended our range of services. Our new Educational Development Worker who will run taster sessions as well as offer help and advice on accredited courses and GCSE's will offer essential support to parents. This service can now run alongside the new Nursery with its day care provision. We feel that in our new centre we are able to offer a fully integrated provision that has been built in the local area, offering help, support and guidance for local families and children. Sure Start is about offering a sure start to every child and that's exactly what we do. I feel in essence we are an embryonic Children's Centre"

For more details on Thorpe Hamlet SSLP or for information on the range of services they offer, please contact Liz Chapman and her team on 01603 307680 or email them on info@surestartthorpeh.co.uk

news from the development teams



The West Team

We were thrilled to hear that all 29 partners had been successful in the October NOF round and look forward to working with them to get their places open as soon as possible. Along with those who have been successful in previous rounds we are supporting our groups in many ways including giving assistance in premises issues, registration and recruitment. Recruitment is proving a major issue for us as it is the rest of the county and indeed nationally. We still need to attract large numbers into a career in childcare to enable our places to open. In response, we have held local childcare careers roadshows in King's Lynn and Emneth to try and address this and hope to have more in the coming months. Look out for our Trailer coming to an area near you!

We are also pleased to be working with KES and Park High Schools in King's Lynn and Downham Market High School on the Extended Schools Pathfinder project. We are looking at ways of fixing childcare firmly on the community agenda to ensure families are able to take up training, education and employment opportunities.



Central Development Team

Following extensive pro-active work the Central team submitted a total of 41 bids for New Opportunities Funding, of which 17 were in areas of disadvantage. Having just heard that our previous 45 bids were all successful in the October round much work is being done to ensure the new clubs open as soon as possible.

213 places have been successfully created in the last four months and our congratulations go to those providers that include Chapel Break who opened 56 Breakfast, After school and 40 Holiday places. Our congratulations also go to Sunflowers at Heigham Park School who extended their numbers by 19 following an extension to the school, and Avenue First school who opened the After School club for 28 children complementing those places available at the Middle school. Mulbarton Kidzone also opened 16 Before and 20 After school places.

Deciding on the business structure, obtaining charity status, producing procedures and employing staff are all time consuming challenges for groups just starting out but much help is available from development workers, our training and recruitment team and Business and Finance Manager.

With four Sure Start and six Neighbourhood Nursery projects being developed throughout our area great effort is being made to close the childcare gap.



South & East Development Team

Supporting new providers in opening their facilities and helping them overcome any difficulties is the current task for the South & East Development team. Thirteen new settings are already up and running in our area but we have another 24 projects who have been awarded NOF funding and are hoping to open their doors to local children very soon.

Some are applying for planning permission, others are building new purpose built premises. Most groups have to register with Ofsted, have policies and procedures in place before opening and of course - most importantly, find their staff! The EYDCP's recruitment campaign should help us with this.

And, if we are successful with the February 2003 NOF bid, we will have another 19 new projects to support. There are also two Neighbourhood Nurseries Projects in Great Yarmouth and Gorleston who we are working with - so another busy year awaits us.

Development worker Jane Paterson is pushing forward the Extended Schools Pathfinder Project in the Martham High School Catchment area. This is a short term project looking at creating models in order to help schools to offer childcare provision. Contact Jane for more information on 01493 335740.



partner focus

NCCMA Network Opportunities for Childminders

NCCMA is setting up childminding networks in several areas of the county. If childminders are interested in joining and so benefiting from the extra support, vacancy matching, toy and equipment libraries and training; please contact the Network Co-ordinator for the area, who will give more details:

Sally Lee
Great Yarmouth
Tel: 01493 445556

Sue Farrow
North Norfolk
Tel: 01263 821997

Sarah Vick
Emneth
Tel: 01945 587990

Steph Copeland
King's Lynn
Tel: 01406 350756

The Young Parent Support Scheme

A Young Parent Support Scheme is now operational within Great Yarmouth and the surrounding villages served by the Great Yarmouth Childminding Network. The Network is co-ordinated by Sally Lee and is based at: 119/120 Gordon Road, South Town, Great Yarmouth.

The scheme aims to offer children of teenage parents and their families support through quality, community based childcare and to help develop teenage parents' parenting skills. The Network Childminders will also offer mentoring support to the parents. This aims to help the teenage parents build their self-esteem and develop confidence in their skills of parenting. By using community based childcare, the teenage parent will be able to access training, education and/or employment more easily.

When working in the Young Parent Support Scheme, the Network Childminders aim to provide quality childcare for children of all ages, including those with special needs, disabilities, children in need and children of working parents or those just needing time to themselves.

A training course in "Community Childminding" is currently being organised for those working in this scheme. Sally is looking to recruit childminders from Great Yarmouth and surrounding villages into the Network to increase the availability of this provision.

This scheme is exciting news and can offer much needed support for teenage parents. If you would like to know more please contact:

Sally Lee
Great Yarmouth Network Co-ordinator,
Tel / Fax: 01493 445556 or

Nikki Bird
County Liaison Officer (South/East),
Tel / Fax: 01986 872181

NEYSN

We are very pleased that following a successful Tender process the Network have secured a Service Level Agreement with Norfolk County Council, via the EYDCP, to continue providing our support services for at least another year. This means that you will still be able to call upon your Daycare Advisor for support and information and assistance is also available from the Network Admin Centre.

We are currently looking at the services we offer, particularly with regard to supporting groups with their Ofsted inspections. We are working alongside our colleagues the Link teachers to plan support for those settings who will be undergoing a Combined Inspection for the first time to ensure the process results in the best possible outcome.

Our national body, Playgroup Network, will be holding their in AGM and conference in Bradford this year. This will be taking place at the Hilton Hotel on 16th - 18th May and the theme is 'Tuning in Together', exploring different forms of communication with children. The keynote speaker is Jennie Lindon, well known author, child psychologist and Early Years Consultant. Members will be receiving their booking forms shortly. Norfolk is usually well represented at these events and we look forward to seeing you there.

Leavers

Jill Wilson Daycare Advisor
leaving to take up a post as manager of a new daycare setting.

Andrea Scott-Coy Daycare Advisor
leaving at the end of March to take Maternity Leave

Planning Permission for Childminding

If any childminder is having difficulty with planning permission, please contact Sarah Mutch, County Liaison Officer on 01953 498115. Sarah is compiling a dossier of cases to discuss with Planning Officers. There will be more information in NCCMA's newsletter "Between You & Me".

Childminding Conference

NCCMA is organising a conference for childminders for Saturday 14th June at Sprowston Training Centre, Norwich. For more details and a booking form contact NCCMA on 01603 615667.

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.

Glynis Hannant
North Norfolk
Tel: 01692 404904

Linda Wright
Norwich
Tel: 01263 722744

Sarah Mutch
Eastern Norfolk
Tel: 01953 498115

Mandy Maguire
Western Norfolk
Tel: 01953 717582

WEETU working with the NCCMA to support Childminders

WEETU (Women's Employment Enterprise and Training Unit) is working in partnership with the NCCMA to develop a new strand to their Full Circle programme specifically for childminders as part of a national ESF funded project called "Accelerating Women's Enterprise". As businesswomen in their own right and as providers of an essential service for other women in business and employment, it is important that childminders are supported in every possible way.

The NCCMA already provides childminders with excellent support through their training courses and friendly staff team. The Norfolk EYDCP provides Start-up Grants for new childminders.

What WEETU can offer childminders are two types of loan to help them set up or develop their business.

An interest free mini-loan of £60 is available to new childminders to help meet registration costs, repayable when the Start-up Grant is received. Application forms can be obtained from WEETU and the loan cheques could be released within two weeks of form completion.

A loan of up to £1000 is available via WEETU's Full Circle programme. Full Circle works through establishing small support groups, i.e. lending circles, that will help childminders through the development of their business and application for a Full Circle loan, and the programme provides additional business support e.g. for writing a business plan.

More information will be available at the next NCCMA Seminar on 15th March, or you can contact me on 01603 665555, or by email at t.davies@weetu.org.

Preschool Learning Alliance - Celebration and Presentation Evening



The Preschool Learning Alliance recently held a fun family evening to celebrate the end of their successful three year project and to present students who have completed any of the Alliance's long or short courses, with their certificates.

The chair Christine Clark welcomed everyone to the third such evening in recent years. She congratulated the students and thanked their families for supporting them throughout the courses. She also introduced Di Gunton, Training and Quality Assurance Manager, based at the Alliance's Eastern Regional Centre near Cambridge. Di, along with Jane Tagg, Regional Training Officer, and Dawn Rackham Norfolk county coordinator have been negotiating with the Partnership Training Project so that most of our training has been offered FREE to students. MANY THANKS TO THE PARTNERSHIP. Di explained the role of the Eastern Region in organisation of courses and registration and training of Alliance tutors.

It was a pleasure to welcome Constance Tyce, Link Teacher project manager and Rosie Smith Early years co-ordinator from the partnership. Constance also congratulated all the students and acknowledged all the valuable work they are doing in their groups. Rosie explained the role of the link teachers and said how much they were enjoying their work visiting and supporting pre-school staff and how impressed they were with their commitment to providing high quality provision

After Constance had presented the students with their diploma's and certificates Christine made a surprise presentation to four long serving Alliance staff. Debbie Wise, administrator, Kerensa Martin, book keeper (five years) and tutors Jane Paterson and Angela Johns (many years!). She thanked all the staff and county and branch volunteers for their part in the community fund project. The project aimed to support branch volunteers, provide an advice and support service to all members and to specifically visit Parent and toddler groups with advice and activity workshops. The project will continue until the end of June

The evening finished with a delicious buffet and dancing.

Date for your diaries: NORFOLK PRE-SCHOOL LEARNING ALLIANCE

AGM SATURDAY MAY 17th 2003 at the Adult Training centre Ipswich rd Norwich. Come and hear experienced trainer Don Smith on: "IMPROVING YOUR ASSERTIVENESS AND NEGOTIATION SKILLS" All pre-school staff committees and parents welcome (free to members small charge for non members) Ring 01603 767 525 for a booking form.

Stop Press

Our recent application to the Community fund for continuation funding has not been successful. Until such time as further funding is secured, from July 2003 the following services will still be available:

Access to the county resource centre at Anderson yard for:

- alliance publications
- use of meeting room / photocopier / laminator
- collection point for loan equipment
- telephone advice/support 01603-767525 - in person (part time) and 24hr answerphone
- training information and some course administration.
- regular newsletters

Also:

- county and branch meeting open for all early years providers
- representation on the EYDCP and some sure start local programmes
- access to Regional Training officer Jane Tagg 01953 2323279, or 01284750160
- access to National legal help line for Alliance members and other benefits of membership

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**



Available in large print,
braille & alternative
languages