

E-LINKS

ISSUE 7

Dear Member

News bulletin is produced fortnightly and is designed to keep you up-to-date with the latest developments in children and family policy.



In this edition you will find the following:

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Forthcoming Events: Please make sure you check out our exciting events

If you have any news or information that you would like to share in the E-Bulletin please email membership@childrenlinks.org.uk



HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT APPRENTICESHIPS

Would you like to know more about them? Do you, or would you be interested in employing an apprenticeship.

Children's Links currently offer Apprenticeships and Advanced Apprenticeships in:- Playwork, Children's Care, Learning and Development. Supporting Teaching and Learning Schools and Youth Work.

Please contact our Apprenticeships Officer Tel: 0845 373 0645 E: training@childrenslinks.org

The Qualifications and Curriculum Framework (QCF)

All qualifications are changing ! There will not be any NVQs after September 2010 and all qualifications will have been changed to meet the requirements of this new framework and will be presented as awards , certificates or diplomas at the appropriate level. The size of the qualification determines whether it is an award or certificate or diploma and the level remains as the current system. The qualifications for working with children in social care, learning mentor role or early years have been finalised and are on the framework already ; the full level 3 qualification is the Diploma for the Children's and Young People's workforce at level 3. There is no longer a full qualification at level 2.

The Playwork diploma at level 2 is now complete but not yet publically available but has not changed dramatically from the old NVQ Level 2 and the Playwork diploma at level 3 was finalised this week !

<http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/qualifications-credit-framework>

Again as it is based on the occupational standards it looks fairly similar to the old NVQs but you can take just the award and this is intended to replace the transitional award from Early Years to Playwork, as well as act as an induction into the workforce. The Teaching assistants and youth work qualifications are still in progress.

Of course a change of government may interrupt or alter the way forward for the remaining developments but most of the work is already in place.



Fathers' Story Week will take place from 14 to 20 June 2010.

Timed to coincide with Fathers' Day (20 June). It's the first ever Fathers' Story week, a vital opportunity for primary schools, nurseries, pre-schools and Children's Centres to get fathers and children working and spending time together in

support of the children's learning and development.

They are also inviting schools to take part in Bring Your Dad To School Day on 18 June – a chance to welcome fathers and father-figures



and start to establish a sustainable, ongoing rapport with them - in support of

[Barnardo's](http://www.barnardos.org.uk) and the [Fatherhood Institute](http://www.fatherhoodinstitute.org).

Many fathers want to be more involved in their children's education. For more information visit:

<http://www.fathersstoryweek.org/>

Equality Act

The government has consolidated existing discrimination law into a single Equality Act, due to come into force in October 2010. The new Act covers not only discrimination and equality in employment, but also in the provision of goods and services, education, private members' clubs and duties of public authorities.

Childcare vouchers

Currently the first £55 a week of employer-provided childcare vouchers is exempt from both income tax and national insurance contributions, so long as certain conditions are met eg the vouchers must be open to all staff at a particular site and the vouchers must be approved childcare. From 6th April 2011, employees taking up childcare vouchers for the first time will only be eligible for basic rate tax relief of 20%, although existing users of childcare vouchers will be unaffected.

Time off for Training

On 6th April 2010. employees with at least six months' service in large organisations were given the right to request unpaid time off for training that will benefit both the employee and the employer. Employers will have to consider such requests carefully following a set procedure, and will only be able to refuse requests for specified business reasons (eg additional costs or impact on customers) or where the training will not benefit the employer's business. Employers are not obliged to pay for the training or the time spent away from work, and some commentators have suggested adoption of the new right will be low. The right will only apply to employers but will extend to all employers from April 2011.

www.hays.co.uk/employment-law-bulletin-may.aspx



ContactPoint amendment regulations

The amendment regulations (the legal framework for ContactPoint) came into force on 8 April 2010 following parliamentary approval. A public consultation on proposed amendments ran from 2 October 2009 to 29 December 2009. For full details, read the [Government response to the consultation](#).

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/strategy/deliveringservices1/contactpoint/contactpoint/>



The Children's Workforce Development Council wants anyone recruiting people to work with children and young people, whether in the public, private or voluntary sectors, to do our **online safer recruitment training**.

The safer recruitment training is required to ensure that correct decisions are made during the recruitment process to ensure that unsuitable people are not given the opportunity to access children and young people. The CWDC's Safer Recruitment e-learning course is free to access. You need to register but it is a quick process. The link is: <http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/safeguarding/safer-recruitment/e-learning>



The National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) has commissioned the University of Manchester to produce a framework to help Local Safeguarding Children's Boards review their safeguarding arrangements for deaf children.



Keeping our children safe. Raising awareness in BME communities.

BME communities CD-ROM is available

This unique resource provides an opportunity for participants to share and learn about positive and harmful childcare practices and ways in which children can be kept safe. It is suitable for use with parents, carers, community groups, staff and volunteers working with or in black and minority ethnic communities.

If you work in or with the community and voluntary sector, you can order a **FREE** copy of this resource

<http://www.safenetwork.org.uk/RESOURCES/>



The Safe Network supports Child Safety Week, 21-27 June 2010.

Child Safety Week is organised by the [Child Accident Prevention Trust \(CAPT\)](#) a leading charity working to reduce the number of children and young people killed or seriously injured in preventable accidents.



A Free child safety week toolkit has been produced for organisations to get involved, this includes an ideas booklet, awareness poster and leaflets.

http://www.safenetwork.org.uk/news_and_events/

For more information on any aspect of safeguarding, the Safe Network is there to help. The Safe Network is the third sector safeguarding unit which is jointly managed by the NSPCC and Children England, and was created as a result of the Government's Staying Safe action plan. We are the East Midlands co-ordinator here at Children's Links..



Nick Hurd Appointed Minister for Civil Society

Nick Hurd will be the minister responsible for charities, social enterprises and voluntary organisations in the Cabinet Office, following an announcement by the Prime Minister's office. After a year and a half as shadow charities minister, Nick has now secured the role within the new coalition government. The son of former Conservative home secretary Douglas Hurd, Nick was elected to parliament in 2005. He has served on the environment audit committee and in 2006 successfully took through parliament a private members bill, the Sustainable Communities Act. http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/governance/news/content/6612/nick_hurd_is_new_charities_minister

DCSF guidance on safeguarding will be going out for consultation in the next few weeks, and we would encourage employers to look at the clarity and ease of understanding of this guidance and feed back through the consultation.

The guidance is called: Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education: Young People involved in both education and the workplace and can be found on the DCSF consultation website

The consultation closes on Tuesday 15 June.

The new Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) registration commences on 26 July 2010.

Employers do not have to have all their staff registered under the scheme through the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) in order to employ a 16-18 year old or vulnerable adult as an apprentice.

Employees do not have to register as a matter of course with the VBS if they are working with apprentices aged 16-17 in the workplace, but the employer is entitled to ask employees to register. The employer will be able to decide who should register by carrying out a risk assessment.

The employer of an apprentice will decide who, if anyone, to check on the basis of suitability and risk assessments. This will also be stipulated in the funding contract and will encourage a sensible and proportionate approach. The Learning Skills and Improvement Service (LSIS) are developing what will be required under the risk assessment and will provide risk assessment workshops for employers later in the year.

For more information please visit:

Direct Gov - <http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/>

Independent Safeguarding Authority - <http://www.isa.gov.org.uk/>

CRB - <http://www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

DCSF Consultations - <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/>



Supporting voluntary organisations that work with offenders and their families.

Clinks has published a Working with Offenders Directory. The directory is a free resource detailing rehabilitation services in prison and the community. The directory includes services run by over 350 organisations and services can be located geographically.

Clinks Working With Offenders Directory is an online database that allows you to search for organisations that work with offenders and their families in England and Wales.

Further information is available at: www.workingwithoffenders.org

Advice for young carers

[The Princess Royal Trust for Carers](#), a charity for carers with a website specifically for young carers

[YouthNet UK](#), a charity which runs a website for young people called TheSite.org with advice on issues affecting young people (suitable for Key Stages 3 and 4)

[Youngminds](#), a charity offering advice and support, including from other young people

Advice for professionals working with young carers

[The Children's Society](#), a charity with the National Young Carers Initiative with advice for young carers and professionals working with young carers

[Carers UK](#), a charity campaigning to get the voice of carers heard, with specific web pages on the needs of young carers

Forthcoming Events:

How to understand and help Young People & Suicidal Thoughts

- Suicide an introduction
- What is the extent of the problem?
- The extent of the problem for Lincolnshire
- What can we do! The community response
- SafeTalk Outline of training
- ASIST Outline of training

All sessions start at 7pm and conclude to 9pm.
Refreshments provided.

Contact your LCVYS Development Worker in your area to book a place. Details below:

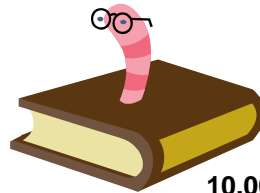
Boston Borough, South Holland & South Kesteven

Bex Mezzo: bex.mezzo@lcvys.com
Monday 7th June 2010

Travel and child care costs available on request, subject to confirmation

Safeguarding (with St Johns) and Vetting & Barring workshop on Saturday 12th June from 10 am to 1 pm at Bourne Methodist Church and Church Hall – both running at the same time. For further details and information contact: Bex Mezzo, Development Support Worker Boston/South Holland/South Kesteven. LCVYS (Lincolnshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services) 07595 893 723
bex.mezzo@lcvys.com

Safeguarding workshop is restricted in numbers so book early.



Fun with Books in Hemingby Village Hall on 26th May 2010.
10.00am– 13.00pm

Do you remember a special book when you were younger.... How exciting it was to make believe that you were the hero, prince or princess... to just look at the pictures and imagine you were in the pages? Come and join other parents and carers in a fun session to share new and exciting ways to enjoy books with your children. Wouldn't you like to be the one to inspire that kind of memory for your child and have them remember the time that they spend with you?



Grandparents Can Play Too in Spridlington Village Hall on 27th May
10.00-13.00

Do you ever hear the words 'I am bored' or 'There's nothing to do' from your grandchildren? ... come on this course and we will give you new ideas of games and activities to play with your grandchildren, whatever their age. By sharing both experiences and time, you play an important role in the life of your grandchildren so come and join other grandparents for this fun and interactive session.

Do you already have a level 3 in Early Years and would like to gain a Level 3 Playwork qualification?

The Transitional Award will be running again in June, it consists of 2 taught sessions (Saturdays) and then home study and the production of 2 assignments. You will also need to access a setting who's main purpose is playwork at the appropriate level of responsibilities

It is recognised by Ofsted as a Level 3 qualification.

For more information or to book your place contact the training team on 0845 373 0645 Ext 2. or E: training@childrenslinks.org.uk

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