



Images from Forest School Taster Session (February 2011) featuring Mel Pearce, Childminding Development Officer

Welcome...

Issue 2 - March 2011

...to 'From Infancy to Beyond!' from Wiltshire's early years and childcare team. Compiled and sent out by [Emily Wood](#) (tel 01225 785 666) on behalf of the information subgroup, who will welcome all feedback on this communication.

More chance to taste..

Due to popular demand more Forest School taster sessions have been organised:

- 3 May: Stanton St Quintin Primary School 1530-1730hrs
- 4 May: Colerne Primary School 1530-1730hrs
- 11 May: Wyndham Park, Salisbury 1530-1730hrs **FULL**
- 14 May: Wylde Valley School, Codford 1000-1200hrs & 1300-1500hrs
- 17 May: Rocking Horse, Shaw Nr Melksham 1300-1500hrs
- 24 May: Coral Cove, Devizes 1530 - 1730hrs
- 25 May: Sutton Benger CE Primary 1550-1730hrs

£15 per session. Book your place by emailing [Karen Bird](#).

If you would like the opportunity to host a session and get two free spaces, please send a photo and brief description to [Ella](#) or [Niki](#).

Dates for your diary

Early Years Conference: 4 and 5 November 2011
Devizes Corn Exchange. More information to follow.



First Children's Centre inspection - GOOD

Wiltshire has just received its first OFSTED Inspection of a children's centre. Although this requirement has been in place since April 2010, [Salisbury City Children's Centre](#) is the first in the county to be visited. The Inspection was detailed and demanding. The overall judgement was satisfactory with many good features including; capacity to improve, outcomes for users, leadership and management and safeguarding.

This first Inspection has given us a useful benchmark for comparison and it has shown that areas of development include; using data to target services successfully and making greater efforts to engage with the hardest to reach families.

Congratulations to Jan Slade and her team at Salisbury City, who are now having a bit of a lie down.

You may have seen reference in newspapers and on the news to the number of local authorities closing children's centres. In Wiltshire **NONE** of our children's centres are closing. We have had to tighten our belts a bit, but through a process of recommissioning, we have made some savings. The number of contract holders is reducing from 13 to four; 4Children, Spurgeons, Barnardo's and The Rise Trust. A full list of children's centres and their new managers will be available once the contracts are signed. Staff will be transferred on 1 April ready for a smooth transition.

Level 1 Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Course (Face to Face) Please note that from the 1 April 2011 the Face to Face level 1 safeguarding children and vulnerable adults course is no longer available. This change has been implemented in order to bring the Wiltshire Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) training programme into line with training offered by neighbouring LSCBs. If you still require either Level 1 Safeguarding Children training or Level 1 safeguarding adults training both are available as follows:

Online Level 1 Safeguarding Children training - This is for staff who have infrequent contact with children, young people and/or parents/carers who may become aware of possible abuse or neglect. To apply please use the following link <http://www.wiltshirepathways.org/TrainingList.asp?CatID=17&Sub=Child%20Protection>

Level 1 Vulnerable Adults training - Two different half day courses; one for direct care staff and one for managers of care services, are run throughout the year. For more information please contact barbara.mercieca@wiltshire.gov.uk

Childcare Management

The Childcare Development Officers (CDO), Childminding Development Officers (CMDO) and Play Advisers have now combined to work as one team, under the supervision of the Childcare Manager, Sarah Clover. Every registered childcare provider in Wiltshire is assigned one of these officers to support them in running their business. If you are unsure who is assigned to support you contact [Karen Bird](#).



Karen Bird

Would you like to make your administration and financial life easier and faster? Wiltshire Council has purchased a [Superfox Software](#) license and is able to distribute the software FREE to all out of school clubs, registered providers delivering the free entitlement and other childminders working with assistants. Not only is the software intuitive and easy to use, but it's also a great aid in supporting sustainability. If you would like to know more contact [Karen Bird](#).



Free Entitlement

The Local Provider Agreements have all been signed and Childcare Development Officers have started the auditing process. So far feedback from settings has been generally positive.



Play Partner Parties...

for disabled children aged five-17 and their families take place on a monthly basis in Salisbury, Devizes, Trowbridge and Chippenham. For further information see the [Wiltshire Parent Carers Council Newsletter](#). These parties are working well and will continue in the new financial year starting April.

Thank you for your feedback

Look out for the final [Childcare Sufficiency report](#) which will be published before 1 April alongside an action plan and 18 community area plans. Thanks to all who provided feedback by the 20 March deadline.



Information from ask



The **ask** helpline will be available from 9.00am – 6.00pm from 4 April, an hour reduction from that currently offered. We hope this will not have too great an impact on families. The Coalition Government have decided they will no longer be able to provide details of childcare providers on the direct.gov website from 31 March. **ask** is currently working on making this information available on the **ask** website www.askwiltshire.org although this will not be completed before April. Parents/carers should ring the helpline 08457 585072 or email info@askwiltshire.org for up to date information about all registered childcare in Wiltshire. The new Free Entitlement leaflet, Funding for Pre-school Children 2011 – 2012 will be available for parents and providers shortly.

CWDC Qualifications list

Remember to use the list to check that your staff meet EYFS requirements. Those staff who **do not** hold a **'full and relevant'** qualification and are currently counted in ratio must update them by September 2012. These may include Teaching Assistant qualifications and some older qualifications. The link to the list is at www.cwdcouncil.org.uk

New improved job search facility

www.childcarejobs.co.uk for vacancies, careers information, newsletters, training and funding. If you are looking for a job you will be pleased to see our newly improved search facility.



Two year old funding update

In the past 12 months Wiltshire Council has funded 407 two year old children to enable them to access up to ten hours of free childcare provision per week. Only those childcare providers that met the rigorous quality criteria qualified to deliver this free provision. Children are referred by outreach workers and health visitors and applications are assessed by a panel. If you wish to learn more email the lead professional for early years targeted support: [Lucy-Anne Bryant](#).

EYP graduate programmes

In January the Government pledged to continue to invest in both Early Years Professional Status pathways and in the New Leaders in Early Years programmes recognising the crucial role played by graduate practitioners in improving the achievement of children. The next EYP pathways should begin in 2012. There are currently 6,000 EYPs in the country and 4,000 in training. In Wiltshire we have at least 42 leading practice in settings with many more in other roles within the Early Years workforce and 30 in training. Congratulations to all those who have recently received their EYP Status. On the [CWDC website](#) you can view the results of a recent EYP impact survey.



Childcare Grant funding for 2011/12...

...will be available from 1 April. Full details of funded courses in the latest [training and recruitment bulletin](#) or at www.childcarejobs.co.uk. Alternatively pick up the phone and call the Workforce Development Team on **0845 6012392**

Next edition: May 2010

