

# Early Childhood Service

# Newsletter

Early Childhood Quality Improvement  
and Business Support Team

**Welcome to the Spring edition of Wirral Early Childhood Service Newsletter, we are looking forward to working with you during 2017.** Thank you to settings that have sent in their good news stories and celebrations! Please keep sending us these items in for our summer term Newsletter.

## Business Support and Quality Improvement

Two new team members are: Daniel Franklin, Childcare Quality Improvement Officer for Wallasey and Stuart Glavin the Data Officer. Contact details: 0151 666 3980

### Funding - Wirral update

Following the DFE consultation on Early Years funding, Wirral will receive an overall increase of 14%. Further consultation has taken place with providers on how this will be allocated and distributed across Wirral. There will be an increase to the SEN Inclusion Fund of £292,000 to increase resources and respond consistently to additional needs that are identified across all providers. Further information will follow.

## Are you ready for Tax-Free Childcare?

Childcare providers across the country are signing up for the government's new offer: Tax-Free Childcare.

Tax-Free Childcare will help working parents with the cost of childcare, offering up to £2,000 per child per year, or £4,000 if a child has a disability. Parents will be able to open an online account, which they can use to pay for childcare from a registered provider. For every £8 parents pay into these accounts, the government will add £2. Childcare providers must sign up to be able to receive payments from parents through the scheme.

To sign up, childcare providers should visit [www.childcare.tax.service.gov.uk](http://www.childcare.tax.service.gov.uk) and will need:

- Unique code included in your invitation letter.
- Bank account details for the account you wish to receive payments into.
- Unique Taxpayer Reference (UTR) number - or your National Insurance number, if you don't have a UTR



## Thirty Hours Funding

The 30 hours free childcare offer for three and four year olds will be available from September 2017 to working parents. If you are interested in becoming a provider for the 30 hour offer please contact Stephen Lindop on 0151 666 3980 [fis@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:fis@wirral.gov.uk)

## Local authority capital award

On 21 June 2016, eligible local authorities were invited to bid for capital funding to expand childcare provision in their area and to submit applications setting out individual projects in their area by 31 August 2016. Applications have now been assessed and the department has published the list of successful projects. Unfortunately Wirral were not successful in gaining any bids. [www.gov.uk/guidance/early-years-capital-fund-2017](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/early-years-capital-fund-2017)

# SEND

The Early Years Intervention Team is now based at Bromborough Satellite Centre, Gratrix Road Bromborough CH62 7BW, contact details:

Sue Lamey Early Years Intervention Officer for Birkenhead/South Wirral: 0151 666 5112. Joanne France Early Years Intervention Officer for Wallasey / West Wirral: 0151 666 5099

If you have concerns about a child relating to SEND, the Request for Involvement form can be found in Appendix G of the Early Years Intervention Brochure on the Wirral Local Offer website:

[localofferwirral.org/before-school/information-for-parents-and-early-years-settings/information-for-early-years-settings/](http://localofferwirral.org/before-school/information-for-parents-and-early-years-settings/information-for-early-years-settings/)

Under government plans, all children with existing SEN statements must be assessed and transferred from the old system onto new education, health and care (EHC) plans by April 2018. Councils will receive a share of £40m in government funding to support this process.



[www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/news/2002985/councils-to-get-further-gbp40m-to-meet-sen-reforms](http://www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/news/2002985/councils-to-get-further-gbp40m-to-meet-sen-reforms)

Sally Tittle (pictured) is the newly appointed Local Offer Communication Officer for Wirral. The Local Offer sets out in one place, information about, education, health and social care provision available for children and young people who have SEND, including those without statements or Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans.

Contact: [sallytittle@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:sallytittle@wirral.gov.uk)  
0151 666 4488.

## 2 Year Integrated Review

All childminders will receive a letter informing them of their link health professional. Parents of children turning 2 years attending a childminder setting will then be offered the opportunity to have a 2 year Integrated Review. Contact the Quality Improvement Team: 0151 666 3980 / [fis@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:fis@wirral.gov.uk)

## Training

### Prevent Training

Dates and venues for further training will be emailed to all providers as soon as they have been confirmed.

### Fundamental British Values in the Early Years

To link with the Prevent strategy we will be running workshops relating to Fundamental British Values. Invites will be emailed out as soon as dates and venues have been confirmed

### Early Years Quality Training

Training opportunities this term start with our very first Early Years

Conference on 11th March the theme for which is; 'Resilient Practitioner = Resilient Child'.

Courses include: Two sessions with Chris Williams known nationally for developing approaches to help children accelerate their early language. 'Number in Nature-Maths' in Forest School, 'Making My Mark- A Window into My Thoughts' 'Leadership and Management', 'Gender Differences', and 'Ensuring Opportunities for all Children to Succeed'.

For information/booking [www.eyqtraining.co.uk](http://www.eyqtraining.co.uk)

## Childminder Information

### Childminder sessions

Childminder Drop In sessions are weekly sessions within Children's Centres run by child-minders for child-minders. All child-minders are welcome to attend.

- Pensby Children's Centre, Fishers Lane, Pensby CH61 8SD  
Monday, 9.30am - 11.30am
- Cathcart Street Children's Centre (Formerly at Brassey Gardens), Dover Street Birkenhead, CH41 3JY  
Tuesday, 9.30am - 11.30am
- Bromborough Children's Centre, Gratrix Road, Bromborough, CH62 7BW  
Thursday, 9.30am - 11.30am
- Seacombe Children's Centre, St Pauls Road, Seacombe, CH44 7AN  
Friday, 9.30am - 11.30am

Contact the Quality Improvement Team at Bromborough Children's Centre: 0151 666 3980 / email [fis@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:fis@wirral.gov.uk)



### Childminder Introduction/ Information Evening:

Information, advice and guidance session for prospective child-minders: 7th March 2017, 6.30pm - 8.30pm at Pensby Children's Centre.

To book, contact the Quality Improvement Team on 0151 666 3980 / email [fis@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:fis@wirral.gov.uk)

# Children's Centres

## Refurbishment

Thank you to all our families for their patience whilst many of our centres undergo vast and exciting refurbishments. The improvements will ensure there are more welcoming and family friendly reception areas and more space to deliver groups and contact meetings. We hope all will be completed by March 2017.

## WE NEED YOU!

Your ideas help shape and enhance our delivery, so if you would like to become involved in behind the scenes of the children's centre, decide how funds are spent and how to make the best service for our children, contact your local centre to discuss volunteering, Parent's Forum and Advisory Board membership. This is a great way to enhance your skills, become involved with the local community and develop your CV too.

## Facebook

As part of the **My Child Can** campaign we have a facebook page [www.facebook.com/mychildcan](http://www.facebook.com/mychildcan) to promote activities for families and provide practical tips, advice and support, or just another view on keeping your child happy, healthy and confident.

The page is run by our Early Childhood team and promotes activities for 0-5's from the Council and our partners.

### Contact details for the centres are:

- Birkenhead Children's Centres: Brassey Gardens (main hub) 0151 652 1916
- Wallasey Children's Centres: Seacombe (main hub) 0151 666 3506
- South & West Children's Centres: Pensby (Hub for all enquiries) 0151 666 4819

Copies of the Children's Centre 'What's On' timetables of activities are available at [www.wirral.gov.uk/cc](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/cc)

# Millie's Mark

The first ten nurseries across England have achieved **Millie's Mark**, the new quality mark for excellence in paediatric first aid for early year's settings. Bluebells day nurseries in Bebington and Bromborough, have signed up for Millie's Mark and are ready to submit their portfolio's for assessment.

Let us know if any other settings on Wirral are undertaking the assessment process for **Millie's Mark Award**, as we would love to publish details of those settings who have been successful.

[www.gov.uk/government/news/new-gold-standard-in-paediatric-first-aid-launched](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-gold-standard-in-paediatric-first-aid-launched)

[www.milliestrust.com](http://www.milliestrust.com)



# Celebrations

- Congratulations to Louise Roy and her team at 'New Brighton Day Nursery' who received an **Outstanding** Ofsted outcome at their first inspection on 30th August 2016. The nursery also raised £600 at their Christmas fair for Claire House.

- A fantastic achievement for St Andrews Pre-School in Bebington Wirral who received their third consecutive Outstanding Ofsted judgement in May 2016!

- Bethany Day Nursery celebrated Christmas Jumper day raising £25 for the charity.

# Ofsted

## Trends from inspections over the last three months Oct/Nov/Dec 2016.

- More-detailed information from parents when children first start about what they already know / can do. Planning /organisation of activities using information about children's individual interests
- Observation/assessment systems consistently monitor and track children's progress, identifying emerging gaps/next steps in learning
- Monitoring the quality of staff practice/enhance professional development opportunities, including an effective staff supervision / induction process

## Ofsted clarifies 'nominated individual' requirement

Registered providers can appoint 'an officer' of their organisation to act as the nominated individual, provided that they have a strategic role and can act appropriately on behalf of the registered setting.

While OFSTED is still only able to communicate with the nominated individual on legal matters related to the registration, settings can appoint two additional named contacts, one of whom may be the manager of the setting, who can communicate with Ofsted on general matters relating to the setting.

# Useful links

**Wirral Safeguarding Children's Board (WSCB)** [www.wirralsafeguarding.co.uk](http://www.wirralsafeguarding.co.uk)

**Wirral Families Information Service (FIS)** [fis@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:fis@wirral.gov.uk)

**Wirral Council website Early Years and Childcare section** – for information regarding 2 year funding, what's on in children's centres and other relevant information [www.wirral.gov.uk/early-years-and-childcare](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/early-years-and-childcare)

**Business Support & Quality Improvement Team:** 666 3960, [fis@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:fis@wirral.gov.uk)

**The Early Years Intervention Team:** 666 3980, [pennybishop@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:pennybishop@wirral.gov.uk), [suelamey@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:suelamey@wirral.gov.uk) or [joannefrance@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:joannefrance@wirral.gov.uk)

**Local offer website:** <http://localofferwirral.org/>