

OF INTEREST

- Many thanks to all the contributors for this edition which highlights the work of our Residential Care
- New dates for the 2 day introduction to social pedagogy course are available running monthly through this coming year. For more info email Jackie.mee@derbyshire.gov.uk or cathy.barrass@derbyshire.gov.uk
- Nationally the Social Pedagogy Development Network are exploring how a Professional Association of Social Pedagogy Practitioners can be supported. If you're interested drop me a line (contacts info on page 4) or visit: www.thempira.org.uk/

IN THIS ISSUE:

Social Pedagogy: Chris and Derbyshire 1

Social Pedagogy Event 2

Thomas and John on Merseyside 3

University social pedagogy course 3

Residential Care Partners with Creative Mentoring 4

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The social pedagogy journey for Chris and Derbyshire

Chris Goetzinger has been involved in the social pedagogy movement in Derbyshire from the start revealed here some of the story about where it began his hopes for where it can go.

Chris is from Sollefteå in Sweden, he started work in residential services within Derbyshire in 2006 as a peripatetic worker. He remembers how great this was, being able to see residential work in a range of homes but not all the practice was ideal. Chris recalls, "Being from Sweden set me a little at odds to some ways of working that where reflecting on the care we were providing for young people. It has become too easy to give in to the misunderstood red tape and hide behind health and safety rules to not do things rather than finding way to do things."

When working in one children's home new management was enabling workers to be more empowered in their roles. This linked to seeing the impact of working with creative mentors in the homes to reinvent the home environments.

This gave Chris his lightbulb moment, by working with



Chris delivering social pedagogy training reflecting with staff their own childhoods

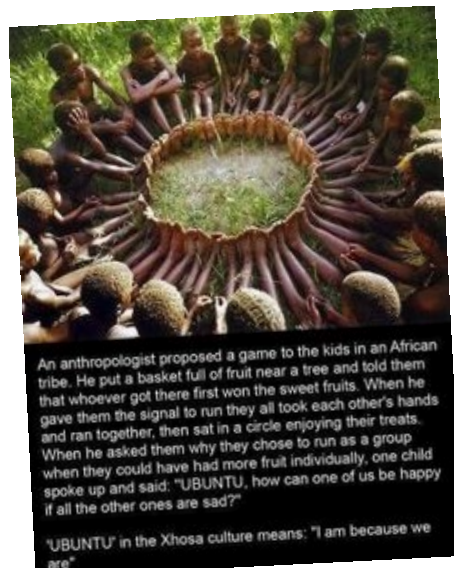
the young people redefining the living space together showed him how such cooperation transformed the young person's experience of residential care as well as the attitude of the workers.

This went hand in hand with support from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) to help workers develop effective reflective practice to best support young people in their care.

A chance visit to the home by Sue Owen at the time leading on corporate parenting identified these approaches as being in tune with social pedagogy and this brought it to the attention of others within Derbyshire.

Social pedagogy expertise was brought in through Jacaranda, a national social pedagogy agency, to explore it further. A social pedagogy steering group was established which put residential workers at its heart, prioritising the grass roots workers and bringing senior managers into these forums to ensure new ideas could be developed and implemented.

The Uni-fi project was at the time, seeking to explore creative approaches to work with children in care and Chris notes that it was this investment that ensured social pedagogy really developed. Chris was fortunate to join other on a trip Uni-fi facilitated to Sweden.



Social Pedagogy Event: come build a home for social pedagogy together



“...how practitioners can embed social pedagogy in their work and their teams....”

When

17th May 2016, 8:30—16:00

Who

An invitation to all Derbyshire County Council Children's Services staff and Foster Carers. A chance to learn more about social pedagogy for all levels of understanding.

Keynote speaker

Robyn Kemp from the National Social Pedagogy Network will explore what it means to develop our social pedagogy practice

together.

The day will focus on how practitioners can engage with and embed social pedagogy in their work and their teams.

It will feature practical, creative and inspiring activities and workshops which will include: Foster Care and Social Pedagogy; Reflective Practice; Social Pedagogy and Residential Services; Attachment Aware School's Programme; Troubled Families etc.

Where

Lea Green (Main Road, Lea, Nr Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 5GJ).

Refreshment provided but **bring your own lunch!**

To Book

Contact Jacqueline Mee, Children's Training Team, Denby Depot, Prospect Road, Denby. DE5 8RE.

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Tel: 01629 531452

The social pedagogy journey for Chris and Derbyshire...continued

They saw a home back in his old hometown and also in Uppsala. There was also an exchange visit and all this enabled many residential staff to really explore how social pedagogy might impact on their work.

Further investment allowed staff to gain a qualification through Bristol University. Chris says, “This time for learning and reflection enabled us to develop a Derbyshire specific two day social pedagogy course”... which Chris still involved in delivering.

In regard to residential services social pedagogy has also given Chris a real

insight into how social issues impact on young people. Society changes so fast, technology, law and policy and as workers he feels we need to understand the children lives now and think about what changes will come in the future to help them negotiate the society they will live in.

Social pedagogy is just starting to be understood in Derbyshire's wider workforce but he sympathises with manager at all levels of seniority who do not have the training or practical experience of using social pedagogy approaches. He indicated that the challenge for them is to understand it more for their team and

use it approaches effectively.

For Chris one of the greatest aspects of his own journey has been seeing others move forward in their thinking about engagement with children.

However, he also says, “Social pedagogy is an ongoing journey that never ends becoming a part of reflective practice and growth in all work practice. It would be so disappointing if there was a loss of focus on social pedagogy and return to the worst of the past. Derbyshire has come a very long way with very small resources and we should be very proud but also inspired to do much more.”

Chris' hometown of Sollefteå and the home the group visited called Vemyra



Thomas and John take a well earned trip to Merseyside



Visiting the Liverpool and Maritime Museums and the docks along the River Mersey.

John Ford, works in residential care, is from Liverpool and here reflect on a trip for Thomas and himself that stemmed from their shared interest in all things Liverpool and the Beatles.

In August of last year myself and Thomas arranged a trip to Liverpool as a city break.

Thomas had done particularly well with engagement in his education provision, so this was a well-deserved trip for him.



Thomas was quite excited about the trip and had no idea where he was staying; he thought we were staying in a hostel.

We travelled by train and on arriving in Liverpool we made our way down through the city to the Albert Dock where I had booked a night on a themed canal boat anchored there.



The boat was the Joker Boat and on making our way down I contacted the guy waiting for us to make out that we just want to go on board to look around, which he did and whilst on there I told Thomas that this was his hotel for the night. Well his face shone, he was so happy and excited.



During our trip we did a magical mystery tour of the city on a bus, going to familiar places related to

the Beatles, Penny Lane, Strawberry Fields, their childhood houses and the world famous Cavern Club on Mathew Street. Thomas loved the tour and he sang along to the songs played on the bus.



We also checked out other places of interest around the city, going on the Liverpool Eye, visiting the Liverpool and Maritime Museums, the Liver Buildings and also the Docks along the River Mersey.

This was also quite educational for Thomas finding out about how the music culture of Liverpool in the 1960's influenced the bands up to the present day.

Huge thanks also to Thomas for permitting us to share the story and photos of the trip.

University of Derby Introduction to Social Pedagogy Course

Another 25 students (pictured) from across our Children's Service are now just completing their assignments for the University of Derby course 'An Introduction to Social Pedagogy'.

The last group did fantastically with everyone who enrolled passing.

The opportunity for further places will be promoted through the summer, as soon as dates are available from the University, for the September 2016 start.

It is a great chance to explore social pedagogy further, reflect on your practice in new ways, meet a range of colleagues, bring additional learning back to your work and your team

and of course have fun learning together.

You can register your interest by emailing...
simon.taylor@derbyshire.gov.uk



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**"Working together to support and inspire
children, young people and their families to be
the best they can be; safe, health, happy,
learning and working."**

Stay in touch

If you have any comments about the gazette or would like to know more about the development of social pedagogy please feel free to get in touch. Also do make contact if you would like to highlight your own or colleagues work developing social pedagogy.

Disclaimer: we hope this provides useful and relevant information, but we cannot guarantee that all source documents referred to have been checked and verified. We cannot accept responsibility for actions or omissions taken after reading this bulletin. Nothing in this bulletin is intended as a substitute for expert, professional or legal advice.

These bulletins can be found
at: <http://bit.ly/1sYdNIU>

Residential Care, Partners With Creative Mentoring

There is a great project just starting off in six Derbyshire's children's homes which has grown out of the Virtual School's successful Creative Mentoring programme. 'In Residence' has been developed with managers and staff to help embed a culture of learning in the homes through creativity. Each home will host a creative mentor 'in residence' to work alongside residential staff to make learning part of day to day life in the home.



Creative Mentoring embodies practice that 'invites learning through shared endeavour', building a foundation for the enjoyment of learning through emotionally supportive relationships and creative social pedagogy. A significant body of evidence shows that creative mentoring has a positive, transformative impact on young people's 'emotional readiness'. The emphasis is on empathy, leadership, teamwork, problem solving, determination, calmness, and respect - skills and competences that employers are increasingly prioritising.

Each home has reviewed its latest Ofsted report and prioritised a particular area they want to develop. Christine Haywood, who is facilitating the mentors for the project

said "The Ofsted reports are generally very positive but there are always areas that homes wish to work on and this project can help to support a process of continual improvement."

The project will find new ways for young people and staff in the homes to explore and capture everyday learning effectively. For example, something as simple as going to a football match can require computer research, journey planning and considering the cost involved. Thus maths and the practical application of technology can be encouraged and progressed through further extension activity, which must be engaging as possible. In this way practical learning happens alongside the social and emotional benefits that sharing such an activity can provide for a young person.

Most of the projects are based on the homes' environments, particularly the external spaces that staff wish to develop as safe place to share time together. Young people and staff are fully involved in the planning stages facilitated by the creative mentors, many of whom are environmental artists. Ideas have started to emerge including memory walls, garden graffiti spaces, calming spaces involving sounds of water etc. The creative input helps shape things with the actual

work being done by the young people, working alongside the mentors and the home's staff. Everyone can contribute to the process and make the most of the opportunity to learn new skills.

One home is developing a garage space into a soundproof studio for making music and recording. Another is planning to make a film for



new arrivals to the home to help people settle in, which led to

the making of some simple box cameras from scratch. Another idea is for sessions to create felt and bead work linked to stage and prop creation for Buxton opera house.

These varied projects will produce new tools and skills with which staff can continue to develop creativity within the homes, developing and sharing new approaches to learning, sharing their own enthusiasm and helping young people make progress. It is of course, not hard to see social pedagogy at the heart of this work as it emerges in very practical ways for each home.

If you want to know more about this particular project or other Creative Mentor programmes contact
kim.johnson@derbyshire.gov.uk.