

Dates for the two day ...

**'Introduction to social pedagogy'**

...course are available through this coming year. For more info email [Jackie.mee@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:Jackie.mee@derbyshire.gov.uk) or [cathy.barrass@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:cathy.barrass@derbyshire.gov.uk)

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## Practitioner's view: Steve Appleby, Reflecting on Reflection

Steve has been a foster carer for almost 18 years. And in fact the story should read, all the family have been fostering for 18 years. Alongside his wife Jayne and their three children they have supported numerous children in foster placements over the last two decades and their youngest son has grown up only knowing life in a fostering family.

The family started fostering when Jayne wished to move on from working as a childminder. It was a big decision as unlike childminding you do not handover at the end of the day.

One of their fostering placements was a young girl with Foetal Alcohol Syndrome, which occurs in someone whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy. Overtime this relationship blossomed and they adopted her while still continue to foster other children.



Steve and Jayne have always been keen to support the wider fostering service and Steve has become involved in a range of training delivery to support new and experienced carers. He delivers on the 'skill to foster' training and is also involved in supporting the adoption service.

Steve first encountered social pedagogy when

he went on the social pedagogy two day course.

At that time it was focused mainly on residential staff but for Steve he immediately saw the benefits of working in a socially pedagogic way. It reinforced many of the ways he was working and gave him new approaches.





Steve leading a session on the two day social pedagogy course

## Continued...Steve Appleby, Reflecting on Reflection

One particular area of focus for Steve is the reflective aspects in social pedagogy. Using reflection when things are most strained is where social pedagogy aids his care and offers fresh approaches.

Steve has become a great advocate for social pedagogy across fostering. He is involved in the social pedagogy fostering steering group which meets to challenge the service and to explore and embed social pedagogic ways of working.

The social pedagogy taster day was developed three years ago to ensure foster carers had every opportunity to develop an understanding of social pedagogy. Steve was part of the group which developed the taster day and he delivers it still with other carers.

Alongside that he has also become part of the pool of practitioners who deliver on the two day social pedagogy course: training all children service staff across Derbyshire. As part of this he has completed the City and Guilds, 'Introduction to Trainer Skills' to hone his extensive training experience.

Currently Steve is involved with the steering group in exploring how understanding risk as part of fostering can be a beneficial part of carers' social pedagogic thinking. Challenging policy and exploring training opportunities will help all carer's ensure children are

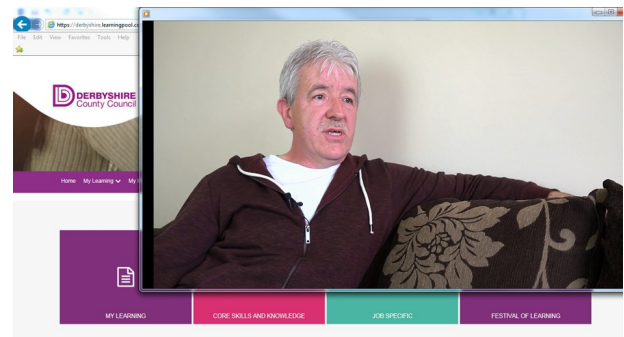
supported to engage with the world to best grow and flourish, having developed a balanced understanding of how to manage risk for themselves. This is what social pedagogy refers to as risk competency.

This is where we take some controlled risks when we are cared for so we can build resilience and the capacity to understand risks and be more confident as we grow. It also identifies that those who have good risk competency will have better life outcomes for both health and learning.

Steve recalls for one child they supported who came

daughter is now looking to develop her own independence and wanting to go to the shops on her own, rather than a simple no, Steve and family have developed an approach which allows her to maximise her independence by going into the shops and purchasing things for herself without being too far from their support. Enabling her to take some risk, to grow and learn but remain as safe as possible. And what could be more social pedagogic than that.

Steve says, "Fostering has changed dramatically over the years and children have more support needs than ever but social pedagogy opens up more approaches



to them with extensive bruising how they had to initially follow her around and record every minor tumbled the toddler made. This approach was stifling the child and impossible to manage. After some reflection Steve spoke with the social worker and explored a more balanced approach. This allowed an initially clumsy toddler to explore and develop their motor skills.

Also reflecting, Steve mentioned how his adopted

and provides rounded tools to best work with all children whoever they are, from toddlers to teenagers"

You may have seen Steve in the foster care social pedagogy video. This explores social pedagogy within carer's roles. You can find this online by logging onto Derbyshire's Learning Pool. <https://derbyshire.learningpool.com/> and searching for social pedagogy.

*Thanks so much to Steve and family for letting us share their story.*

# Two Day Social Pedagogy Course



More training  
dates

At the heart of every part of our lives with children are relationships. Building these, developing trust and ensuring we can understand their world. Its all part of keeping them safe and also challenge them and ourselves to have the best aspirations for their achievements.

The two day course help all practitioners to develop a clear understanding of social pedagogy, explore how rela-

tionships for them and for children can embed into how we work and how we care.

The course is currently run by a pool of practitioners including foster carers, residential workers and early help workers.

The two days is interactive and everyone seems to leave with a smile on their face and new thinking to consider.

Dates for the next few will soon be launched in the training programme but as heads up you can contact Jackie Mee on 01629 531933 or jackie.mee@derbyshire.gov.uk

Dates:

- 16th & 17th May 2019
- 11th & 12th July 2019
- 3rd & 4th October 2019
- 14th & 15th November 2019

## Social Pedagogy course across Europe launching on Coursera

In the last edition of the Gazette we heralded the launch of the UK Social pedagogy development network's pan-European massive open online course MOOC in social pedagogy which ran as a pilot last year.

It is now live and it's not too late to get involved. It will present social pedagogy as used in a range of European countries, including here in the UK. It also

explores social pedagogy ideas and approaches in real life situations. Available free online with video, text and interactive forums the course info can be found here:

[www.thempra.org.uk/category/mooc](http://www.thempra.org.uk/category/mooc)

Although free to access learners who want a final certificate do have to individually pay a small cost. The course is a great next step for anyone's developing understanding of social pedagogy and is well worth registering as there is no expectations to complete and you can progress at your own pace.

If you do enrol why not get in touch and tell us how you found the materials.

Course to  
help you  
dig deeper





**'Working creatively together to inspire and empower children, young people and their families and communities to be the best they can be: safe, healthy, 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.**

**Simon Taylor**

**Senior Staff Development Officer (Social Pedagogy)**

**Tel: 01629 531 938 | Ext: 31938 | Mob: 07948 507145**

**Email: [simon.taylor@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:simon.taylor@derbyshire.gov.uk)**

**Social pedagogy quote:**

**"It is unconditionally true: where the ability to love is found in the home, there one can confidently predict that education almost never fails."**

**— Johann Heinrich Pestalozz**

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.

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<http://bit.ly/29P1Aip>