

Derbyshire County Council's Children and Young Adults Social Pedagogy Gazette

Welcome to the first edition

I hope that the Derbyshire County Council Children and Young Adults Social Pedagogy Gazette will become a great way to stay in touch on all the issues around the development of social pedagogy across CAYA. It's a first edition so there is plenty of scope for all people in CAYA who are interested in developing their social pedagogy practice to evolve the contents. I envisage it being dispatched every two months but again this also may develop over time. If you have any feedback on this edition or ideas about its contents do let me know.

What's happening?

Social Pedagogy Development Role

June saw the start in post of the Senior Staff Development Officer (Social Pedagogy). The postholder is me, hello all, my name is Simon Taylor. I have been trying to get out and meet as many people as possible who have been involved in the development of social pedagogy in Derbyshire so far. This has been absolutely fascinating and I would like to thank all the people I have met for their warm welcome and hope to meet many more people as the role develops. If you have any queries about the post and my work or feel I can help you in your thinking and development of social pedagogy approaches in your work feel free to contact me. My details are:



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Steering groups

Residential steering groups

I was privileged, before I started in post, to get along to the two day event at Lea Green organised by the residential steering group in collaboration with the Unifi initiative and the national Social Pedagogy Development Network. It was a great event with my personal highlights including toasting marshmallows round the camp fire, being led blindfolded around the woods and sculpting moulding clay with Professor Pat Petrie. More on the event can be found here: <https://twitter.com/hashtag/SPDN?src=hash>
All involved in these two days need a big thanks for all their hard work in making the event so successful.



The residential social pedagogy steering group has been meeting for ??? years now with their most recent gathering being on the 20th June. They have big plans for their next meeting on 19th September which will culminate in a wild camp at the Eco centre. If you want to know more contact Christer Goetzinger on: chris.goetzinger@derbyshire.gov.uk

Inaugural Fostering social pedagogy steering group

The first Fostering social pedagogy steering group met on the 25th June. It was a great meeting and involved some very committed people from across fostering and contact care including carers themselves and all were up for the challenge of looking at how social pedagogy could support what they do and grapple with key challenges. A further date is now set for the next meeting where key seed groups to progress work will be set up. If you want to know more contact Julie Brown on: julie.brown@derbyshire.gov.uk

Further steering groups

It is hoped that all service areas will begin to develop their own steering groups and I will look to support these as they grow and evolve and ensure that the links between these groups remain strong. If you are already developing your own and others understanding of social pedagogy do get in touch to find out more about the existing and emerging steering groups and how you can get involved.

Want to learn more

The two day social pedagogy training

The two day social pedagogy training continues to run with a fully booked course on the 17th and 18th July. Further dates should become available so please keep an eye out if you are interested or pass these onto other colleagues as they are advertised in the main training brochure produced by CAYA training team contact Jackie Mee for further details.

University of Derby – Introduction to Social Pedagogy

The next round of this level 4 course that we run in partnership with the university will begin in October 2014 with a following round in January 2015. We were overwhelmed by the number of applications and were delighted by how many people can appreciate the value of social pedagogy in their work and want to develop what they do in this way. There are a number of places left for the January start date and a CAYA all email will advertise this opportunity after the summer holidays. Please get in touch with me if you need any further information or guidance.

Raising awareness

Research in Practice Leadership Forum

Nicola Chavandra received a great deal of positive interest when she spoke about DCC's approach to social pedagogy at the Research in Practice Leadership Forum Conference on the 13th June. You can see some of this interest at here:

<https://twitter.com/hashtag/lfl14>



And the wider world

Relevance of Social Pedagogy in Residential Child Care: Viki's journey

This article by Gabriel Eichsteller of Thempra and Viki Bird a Learning Support Assistant, outlines Essex County Council's journey of social pedagogy development in residential services and makes interesting reading. www.goodenoughcaring.com/the-journal/the-relevance-of-social-pedagogy-in-working-with-young-people-in-residential-child-care/

Kids Company campaign

The intriguing tagline of "*See the Child, Change the System*" that heads-up the campaign by the charity Kids Company has some definite resonance with a child focused, system challenging approach core to social pedagogy. The campaign looks to change the structure of childrens' social work following the publication of a damning report by think-tank the Centre for Social Justice. They analysed the cases of 20 children and found "staggering" failures in the care and support provided by their local authorities. Community Care's article has links to the original report and more on the campaign. <http://bit.ly/1ivPb5w>

Some interesting facts from Ofsted's latest looked-after children research

The data is presented as a snapshot of children looked after and their placements on a particular day. It is intended as a broad insight into the types of placements in which children live. You can find these and other interesting facts here:

- One in 20 children are placed more than 50 miles from home
- Seventy-five per cent of the 67,886 looked-after children identified in the report were in foster placements.
- Half of children's home places were unused
- The private and voluntary sector look after one in three children.

You can find the research and the community care article about its findings in the link below:

www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/official-statistics-children-looked-after-placements-31-march-2013

www.communitycare.co.uk/2014/06/12/10-key-stats-social-workers-ofsteds-latest-looked-children-research/#.U5qzaflDxkU?cmpid=NLC|SCSC|SCDDB-2014-0613

Government restricts children's services outsourcing

Councils will be given powers to outsource children's services functions, including child protection, but only to non-profit providers. The move is confirmed in the Department for Education's (DfE) official response to its consultation on proposals to allow local authorities to delegate children's services functions to third-party providers. This does not include adoption and independent reviewing officer functions. Councils will be given the delegation powers under regulations introduced in autumn of this year. The DfE revised its stance and will now restrict delegation to not-for-profit organisations after the most common concern raised during the consultation was the prospect of privatising children's services. However, further concerns have been raised as the opportunity for private sector providers to set up non-for-profit trading arms to gain work remains possible.

www.communitycare.co.uk/2014/06/20/government-restricts-childrens-services-outsourcing-non-profit-providers-following-privatisation-fears/

Contacts

Stay in touch

If you have any comments about the contents of the gazette or would like to know more about the development of social pedagogy approaches in Derbyshire County Council please feel free to contact me at the details below. Also if you would like to highlight your own or colleagues work in developing social pedagogy practice do get in touch.

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