

## OF INTEREST

- **'Social Pedagogy for Approved Foster Carers'.** Saturday 5th March. Development sessions for Foster Carers led by Foster Carers. To book contact: Clare Freeman, 01629 538427, clare.freeman@derbyshire.gov.uk.
- **New dates for the two day social pedagogy course** are now available. These can be booked through the staff training portal or by contacting the training team at Denby on 01629 531452.

## IN THIS ISSUE:

**Youth Worker's** |  
er's and family life-space

**Person Centred Planning** 2

**Myth-busting** 3  
visits, activities and risk

**Busy festive season for Uni students** 3

**Stay in touch** 4

**Every Child Wild** 4

## Youth Worker's creatively promoting family life-space

The new Youth Work social pedagogy steering group first met this autumn. They have already thought about the links between Youth Work and social pedagogy and started to identify some key issues. Dean Barr, a Youth Work from the Bolsover Multi Agency Team (MAT) highlighted the links between work he is involved in and social pedagogy.

Dean has been working with colleagues to encourage parents to get the most from the Positive Parenting course which runs from the Bolsover DACES centre. He and colleagues found that after the first few sessions parents were reporting barriers to doing their 'home work'. This asked them to spend fifteen minutes doing something positive with their child. Barriers included, demands from other siblings, family arguments, difficulties due to the

home environment.



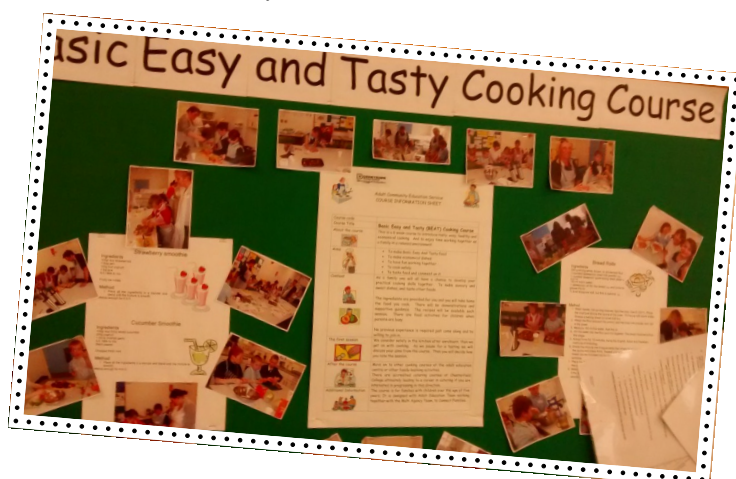
**They also used the mobile youth van, set up in the market place with outdoor camping stoves**

Seeing this as a challenge to overcome Dean used his relationships with the Derbyshire Adult Community Education Service (DACES) centre manager at Bolsover to enable links to the other activities on offer. With a number of parents they encouraged involvement in family

craft sessions which Dean also joined. These sessions offered a new environment for parents to engage and provided a way for Dean and colleagues to model the positives approaches, use of praise and the principal of engaging as equals which are at the heart of the positive parenting approach.

Parents who previously felt the pressure to find positive activities flourished in a new environment, spending time in a shared activity outside of the hectic aspects of life and learning together.

(Continues page two...)



## Person Centered Planning gets personal



Support for working towards a Duke of Edinburgh award.

Dea Ayling has lots of experience working with young people. Including ten years in residential care that gave her a real appreciation of how the array of information we keep about young people can often get in the way of knowing them as people. Person Centred approaches, which are at the heart of the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) reforms, seek to give as much ownership of this information as possible to young people themselves.

Dea is supporting parents, carers and staff to understand this approach and has developed resources for all, including our staff, to use. There is a great e-learning package including a fantastic video that features real

stories of how Lee, Ashley, Carlos and Matthew have taken control of their support needs and learning outcomes alongside their families and the professionals who support them through the use of their Personal Budgets.

You can access the eLearning here:

<http://www.derbyshiresendlocaloffer.org/applications/Personal-Budgets-Derbyshire-EmployeesWeb/Personal-Budgets-Derbyshire-EmployeesWeb.htm>

Also the set of resources that parent and professionals can use as part of Person Centre approaches that help in capturing the child/young person's voice in a way that means others can see at a glance

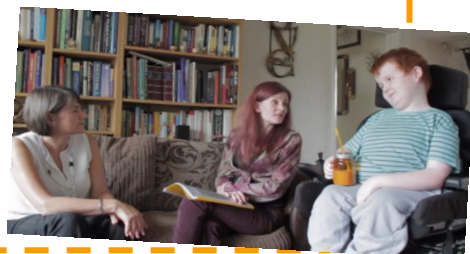
their story - thus taking away the need for them to "say it all again", they can be found here:

<http://localoffer.derbyshire.gov.uk/getting-support/personal-budgets/resources-for-IT-learning/default.asp>

Dea says, "My dream is for all staff to be adept in this way of working, developing personal profiles which contain all that is poignant to supporting a young person but are in a form that everyone can understand."

You can contact Dea, Personal Budgets and Personalisation's Officer at:

[denise.ayling@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:denise.ayling@derbyshire.gov.uk).



*"..the sessions helped families see the value of good food share together as a way of informally catching up through shared family time."*

Seeing the need to explore the positive aspect of cooking they developed the 'Basic, Easy and Tasty' course



### Youth Worker's creatively promoting family life-space...continued

Further to this Dean has also develop links to other courses. Seeing the need to explore the positive aspect of cooking at home for both parents and children they developed the 'Basic, Easy and Tasty' course as an antidote to many other cookery programmes which were far to intimidating and extravagant for everyday family cooking.

Here parents and children come together alongside a chef/tutor from adult education and the family support workers from the MAT. From 'getting the mileage out of

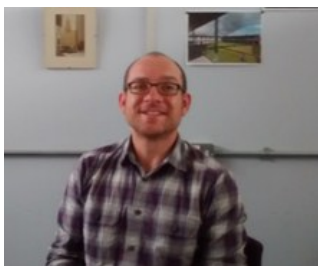
mince' to 'meals from a pack of eggs', the course sees children from eight year and upwards working alongside their parents. By cooking together and then sitting and eating the meal together the sessions helped families see the value of good food share together as a way of informally catching up through shared family time. It also allowed the workers to more effectively coach and mentor families, rather than just telling them about the benefits of positive time spent together.

They also used the mobile youth van, set up in the market place with outdoor camping stoves. This showed how simple cooking for yourself

can be and with free samples and recipes it also helped promote the course. Staff also contacted the local veg shop and butcher who agreed to makes bags of veg and offers on meat coincide with the recipes being prepared for each session. These community links creatively emphasised the potential of social connections which social pedagogy sees as a vital part of any work.

Thanks to Dean for sharing the story. Dean also wanted to thank his colleagues Debbie Barraclough, part time Youth Worker, Carol Healey, DACES Centre Manager and Steve Bateman the Adult Education Tutor all who have contributed to the works success.

## Social Pedagogy Interview: Dave Wheal, myth-busting visits, activities and risk



**“Dave who does visits”... can be quoted as saying... “I hate paperwork”**

If you put David Wheal in a dnet search you find he is the “Health and Safety Officer - Offsite Visits”, it does not say “Cheerful myth-buster” which might be more accurate. Although now qualified in Health and Safety he originally came from a training background and has been on a mission to break the ice with people about Health and Safety and make visits something people absolutely can do with children safely.

Initially he came into a team of four, that treated school visits in a very mechanistic way with some 120 or so different risk assessment forms and he saw that these did not work for schools, staff or the children.

Over the last five years he has become a team of one, in offsite visits and has developed an informal personal approach, becoming for the people he works with, “Dave who does visits”. He can also be quoted as saying “I hate paperwork”, a refreshing change: as is the lack of a suit, the broad smile and the aversion to clipboards.

Dave commented, “The risk of a trip is rarely in the destination, by developing an approach to risk that replicates what people naturally do in planning a visit, workers and teams can develop an ethos of safety which is about fewer risk assessments and more about a safety aware approach to all visits.” This has led to Derbyshire schools now leading the way with an impressive number and diverse range of visits and activities.

More recently he has been involved in supporting the early help services with colleagues in MAT teams. Initially horrified by folders fluttering with risk assessments he has worked closely with colleagues to develop, alongside them, things like the health and safety aspect of the Youth Services Practice Matter handbooks. There is now a flexible and clear approach to safely working with children and young people in the real world. It allows workers to be adaptable for the young people they work with. This helps establish relationships through being more spontaneous and doing things, such as just taking them bowling, rather than avoiding such due to the paperwork.

Dave has been on the two day social pedagogy training where while appreciating social pedagogy’s intent he felt some people may still be unnecessarily putting up their own barriers to activities due to the myth of the

red tape: something which thankfully Dave is working to demystify.

More flexibility does mean we are approaching safety and risk differently but Dave echoes ideas held dear to social pedagogy, that children need to be supported to build their own understanding of risk and safety by experiencing the world alongside key adults who can help them appreciate risk.

I asked Dave if there was a dnet link I could add here regarding visits, and working out and about with children.

Dave said, “Well the best thing is to just get people to give me a call.” and reiterated, “People can come and ask. I will probably say yes, we can do that safely.”

Thanks so much to Dave for showing how the entangling red tape can be rewound by looking at what really works for children, staff and the authority. Dave Wheal:  
david.wheal2@derbyshire.gov.uk  
01629 535 708

**Dave echoes ideas held dear to social pedagogy that children need to be supported to build their own understanding of risk and safety.**

### Busy festive season for the University and our social pedagogy students

Another 25 workers and carers are now in the final assignment stage of the University of Derby course with the big deadline in the New Year. This is just before the next, recently recruited, group start. Everyone’s hard work hopefully with not impinge on their Christmases.

If you do all the family and friends, card writing and festivities you might also take

time to reflect on how all the things we do are about showing our love for those we care for. Which is great fun and socially pedagogical at the same time.

As a corporate parent we know many young people do not have as good a Christmas as they and we would wish. Make sure you squander some time and affection on you and yours over the dark winter days but

also squander some too on the children and young people we support and care for.

New dates for the University of Derby social pedagogy course should be available, for the September 2016 start, in late spring when the days will be hopefully, sunny and warm.

Meanwhile have a very Social Christmas and a Pedagogic New Year.





## Derbyshire County Council

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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.



## Every Child Wild: Making nature part of growing up

The Wildlife Trusts have published a report following research into children's wild play. The focus is on the health and social benefits derived from being in the natural world. This is contrasted against a recent YouGov poll showing the discrepancy between what parents think is best for children and what they actually experience.

91% of parents of children aged 18 and under think that having access to nature and wildlife is important for children, yet..

Less than half (46%) of children aged 8-15 had looked for wild flowers with their parent/

guardian or grandparent with even fewer (42%) listening for birdsong.

The Wildlife Trusts are concerned about a loss of contact with wildlife during childhood. Children's freedom to roam and time spent outdoors has shrunk disconnecting them from nature and their opportunities to discover wildlife, with just one in ten ever playing in wild places.

Sir David Attenborough, President Emeritus of The Wildlife Trusts, said: *"We will be physically, mentally and spiritually impoverished if our children are*

*deprived of contact with the natural world."*



Find out more:  
[www.wildlifetrusts.org/  
node/116881](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/node/116881)