

- Further 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
- Make sure you have a look at the DCC social pedagogy webpages: <http://tinyurl.com/jnefte9>

IN THIS ISSUE:

- A Foster Carer's Journey 1
- SPPA launch professional association 2
- Skills for Fostering and Social Pedagogy 3
- Stay in touch 4

A Foster Carer's Journey with Social Pedagogy

Rob became aware of the world of fostering as a teenager when his Sister & Brother-in-Law started fostering over 30 years ago. In 2004, through his wife's aspiration to be a foster carer, the time was right for Rob & Kay to begin their own fostering journey. They live in the south of the county and have supported 56 children. The couple now have over twelve years' experience as carers for children from nought to eight years old.

Rob attended the two day training for social pedagogy and had a full on "Lightbulb Moment" as he found there a set of ideas that chimed with his own views on supporting children. Rob has just completed the University of Derby's course in social pedagogy. There he chose to focus on how the use of common third activities

and inclusion in a shared world supports the development of relationships with children. He



Rob, speaking about social pedagogy on the new film developed with carers' for use across children services.

reflected on the change in these relationships from the tentative early stages through to the times when children start to find their own identity and begin to thrive. Rob states, "We help the children feel empowered in the household by giving them age appropriate choices all the time."

His supervising social worker describes Rob as a 'thinker and a good reflector, embracing ideas quickly and applying them to practice.' In line

with this he has attended the social pedagogy development network events off his own bat and is a frequent contributor to the UK social pedagogy Facebook page. Where ideas in social pedagogy, particularly in Derbyshire are shared and explored. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/socialpedagogy>

As part of his passion for social pedagogy Rob contributes to the foster care social pedagogy steering group, a group which look at all aspects of social pedagogy in foster care and how to help inform and evolve caring in Derbyshire. He has contributed to the film made for Derbyshire carers, funded through the Uni-fi project, which explore Foster Carer's View of Social Pedagogy. I would encourage everyone to have a look at the new film made in conjunction with Derbyshire carers about their experience of using social pedagogy with children. <https://youtu.be/fqD-rBHX1zs>
...continued page 2

SPDN event SPPA launch - 21 February



SPPA will be the professional home for social pedagogy

Following consultation with the Social Pedagogy Development Network about the new Social Pedagogy Professional Association the launch of this new body now on track.

I would recommend all interested in the development of social pedagogy as a profession to sign up to the mailing list and once launched join as a founder member which should be free.

<http://www.sppa-uk.org/join-our-mailing-list/>

SPPA Vision and Aims are as a UK membership organisation, SPPA will be the professional home and centre of excellence for social pedagogy, its theory and practice.

They will be led by practitioners eventually as a not for profit organisation and hold the Standards for Occupational Proficiency in Social Pedagogy and the Standards of Education and Training in Social Pedagogy. As a community of practice we

will continue to learn from each other. We will develop a qualifications framework and introduce social pedagogy into the workforce.

Our overall aim is to improve the support of children, young people and adults, many of whom live in disadvantaged circumstances or are vulnerable.

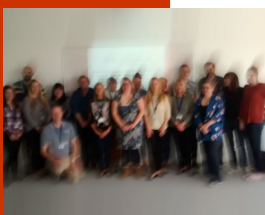
Find out more about the launch and the future of this work on their website and don't forget to sign up: <http://www.sppa-uk.org/join-our-mailing-list/>



SPPA
Social Pedagogy
Professional Association

Continued...A Foster Carer's Journey with Social Pedagogy

Rob at Derby University with fellow students

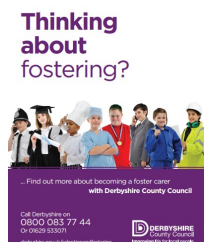


We would like to thank all the carers involved in making the film for sharing their experiences which has made such a great film.

Rob has a great handle on social pedagogy and would encourage all carers (and anyone involved in supporting children & young people) to find out more, saying that he is..."excited that social pedagogy can be ex-

plored, studied and practised in the world of DCC fostering. I personally find I can use and promote the art and science of Social Pedagogy and from my experience, I can see it is a powerful force for good."

Skills to Foster and Social Pedagogy



Skills to Foster is part of the support offered to make sure we are helping carers in their day to day role

Skills to Foster is a training programme for all potential Foster Carers joining Derbyshire and is linked to the fostering assessment which all carers undertake.

It has gone through an evolution as a training programme and embraces the values of social pedagogy. Sessions are delivered by two social workers and one foster carer and the days are supported by other carers who bring their experience to life for the new carers.

Any child coming into the care of the local authority has a background with aspects of their care and support needs missing. The course thus covers a lot of ground helping people to understand and prepare for fostering. It reflects on the lives of the children who come into fostering services and how they need to be supported to develop their self-esteem and begin to value themselves, to give them the best chance of thriving in the future.

It covers how to work with other professionals who support the

child and also how to work with the child's own family when contact needs to be maintained and supported. Dealing with transitions is hard for both children and carers. Ensuring these are as positive as possible chimes with the social pedagogy concept of maximising positive experiences.

The section of training called understanding and caring for children, underlines the shift towards the values seen in social pedagogy practice which focus on the child as a whole. It is about the emotional bond children and carers develop and how secure attachments promote children's healthy emotional and physical development. Foster carers are sometimes faced with unusual and



challenging behaviour, but with the right knowledge and techniques can understand the children and help them express what they are feeling more constructively and work towards more positive behaviour.

The session on safer care now also reflect social pedagogy and the increase in the delegated authority to Foster Carers to

make good decisions to enhance children's wellbeing and welfare. This autonomy and how best to include the views of the child and to use the expertise of the supervising social workers is now much clearer and enables carers to be more flexible and responsive to the children they care for.



As part of the Skills to Foster course, the new film made in collaboration with Derbyshire foster carers has been shown a couple of times and received really positive feedback. The film can be found here and is also being used in foster care support group to highlight the role of social pedagogy in Derbyshire. <https://youtu.be/fqD-rBHX1zs>

If you want to know more about the development of Skill for Fostering please contact Liz Bryan on Eliza-beth.Bryan@derbyshire.gov.uk

"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.

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These bulletins can be found at:

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