

Dates for the two
day ...

**'Introduction to
social pedagogy'**

...course are avail-
able through this
coming year. For
more info email Jackie.mee@derbyshire.gov.uk
or
cathy.barrass@derbyshire.gov.uk

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Caring through Creativity: Derbyshire's Virtual School

Derbyshire's Virtual School has featured in the gazette before. But it seemed worthwhile catching up with them and their nationally recognised work which has developed a creative mentor resource to support

young people in care to grow and thrive.

The Virtual School is a service run by every local authority. Children and young people remain on the roll of the school or setting they attend. The Virtual School then help to effectively co-ordinate educational services to help cared for children get the best opportunities and reach their fullest potential.

Derbyshire's Virtual School continues to offer much more than most, enhancing the life oppor-



tunities for Derbyshire's children in care by supporting and promoting the importance of their education and enabling them to achieve.

The Virtual School is a team of educational professionals working alongside schools and settings to ensure we all provide the best for children and young people in our care. As part of this work the Virtual School offers a programme of creative mentoring. 'Creative mentoring' is Derbyshire Virtual School's approach to

working with looked after children who are struggling to engage in education.

A creative mentor is commissioned to work with the young person and is briefed jointly by social care professionals and schools. They get to know the young person and introduce creative activities such as film, drama, music, poetry, photography and stories. This helps them safely explore the world around them, learn...

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Creative sculpting with recycling broke the ice and set the tone.



Mapping the story of creative mentoring

Caring through creativity

...new skills, communicate and address personal and emotional issues from an artistic distance.

The mentors are freelance creative professionals with experience of working with children and young people as 'artist pedagogues'.

To continue to enhance this service a workshop for the creative mentors entitled "Working with care experienced children and young people" was attended by many of the creative mentors, both old hands and new faces.

The training explored, through social pedagogy and creativity, the role of an 'artist pedagogue' in the lives of children in care. Artist pedagogues are seen as offering something distinctive from other social pedagogic practitioners or activities. The creative training which all mentors have, brings to the relationship they form with children a confidence about the flexibility and freedom of

creative opportunities. It also informs how they move towards a structured creative process through development of a young person's personal abilities and confidence.

One creative mentor related a time when a young person, who was developing skills in visual creativity, one week lost heart in the activities and the engagement, becoming engrossed in social media instead. Rather than giving up, the mentor spent some time talking with their carer and just 'being' with the young person. The mentor took an interest in the social

media and subtly suggested helping the young person to use the social media platform more creatively. This revealed that the young person was developing many cartoon like characters within one specific social media platform. This was a new start and maybe a new step in their creative relationship, bringing this from social media to a broader creative space.

Another mentor, working in design, wood and sculpture, returned one week to find the young person had destroyed their previous week's creative endeavour, after having had a difficult week. Rather than judge or blame, the mentor saw this as a creative oppor-



tunity. They used the material from the destroyed creation, almost in a restorative way, to create something new. These subtle approaches in the early stages of the mentoring process can lead to some brilliant and effective creations by young people down the line but really it is about the process of working creatively to enable the young people to grow.

The workshop, held at the impressive Haarlem Gallery workspace in Wirksworth, explored the 'Learning Framework for artist pedagogues' developed by Helen Cham-

bers and social pedagogy's doyen Pat Petrie. This looks at the principles of practice in artistic pedagogy and explores how to identify key indicators to see when and how the creative learning process is working. The training was delivered by Thure Johansen and Jenny Young, who plan to refresh and adapt the Framework for Artist Pedagogy for wider use across the UK.

In the words of Kim Johnson the assistant head of the Virtual School, leading on the programme "Creative Mentors help us to be aspirational for the children we care for, by making visible their unique talents to reveal their often hidden ambition. We have

seen young people grow in confidence and go on to achieve way beyond what they thought they could – being successful in school, gaining qualifications, making friends, gaining apprenticeships and going to University."

If you wish to find out more about the Virtual School's creative mentor programme you can contact:

kim.johnson@derbyshire.gov.uk

The Framework for Artist pedagogues can be found here: <https://creativity.supanaught.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/CR-LFAP.pdf> and its companion journal article here: <https://creativity.supanaught.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/CR-RicherLives.pdf>



Rob and Steve
start to review
the training

Social Pedagogy Training Review

As part of Derbyshire's commitment to social pedagogy being a key strength based approach throughout the children service workforce, the dedicated pool of practitioner trainers have put time and thought into a review of social pedagogy training.

Thanks to the pool of practitioner trainers which includes foster carers, residential workers and early help workers.

Their work helps all practitioners to develop a clear understanding of social pedagogy, explore how relationships, for them and for children, can be the foundation of how we work and how we care.

The two day course remains interactive with a focus on practical engagement with children which builds social learning and relationships. We now dig deeper into ideas around the com-

mon third and look at new approaches to making children's lives more positive.

Dates for the next half to the year 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:

- 3rd & 4th October 2019
- 14th & 15th November 2019

Social Pedagogy TV? Channel

For many coming to this gazette social pedagogy may still be a question waiting to be answered. I wanted to guide you to a great resource which explains the background and core concepts of social pedagogy in six short videos.

These are embedded on the website of a partner organisation we have worked with on many occasions to support social pedagogy in Derbyshire and they lead, with others, the social ped-

agogy development network.

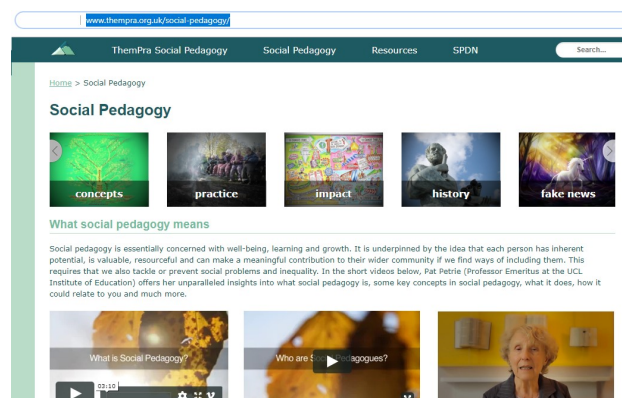
Ideas like the common third and the role of social pedagogues are explained by Pat Petrie a long established practitioner, researcher and propo-

nent of social pedagogy.

Each video is only 3-4 minutes long and all are certainly worth a watch. Why not tune in next time you're online.

<http://www.thempira.org.uk/>

Resource
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.

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Social pedagogy quote:

"Whoever teaches learns in the act of teaching, and whoever learns teaches in the act of learning."

~Paulo Freire, Pedagogy of Freedom

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.