

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 or cathy.barrass@derbyshire.gov.uk

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Practitioner's view: Paul Marsh, Family Resource Worker, Contract Care

Paul Marsh supports young people in his capacity as a family resource worker for contract care fostering services. His work forms part of the development of young people who are in fostering placements. Working mainly with young people who are 13-18 is very much about ensuring they develop the right life skills to engage in the community, and manage their own journey to becoming independent.

Paul describes the broad range of activities that his role gets him involved in. One example is with a young man who is approaching 18 and needs to travel to college. Previously the carer was taking him each time but Paul used an opportunity, when the carer was not too well, to work with the young man toward independent travel; reading the timetables with him, sorting out a travel card and travelling alongside for the first few journeys.

They then caught the bus in the opposite direction, to visit the young man's grandmother. This helped a young man, who has learning difficulties, to become much more confident and independent. Paul's support has opened up the world for the young man who can now organise his own travel, access college himself and visit other venues: he is already talking about how he can travel to his ideal job.

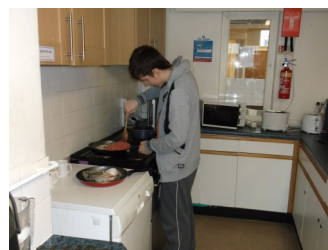
The varied nature of Paul's role can be seen in the time he has spent with Ashley.



Ashley is moving towards independence so he and Paul decided to work on cooking skills and budgeting. Thinking about healthy choices and the cost of ingredients was all part of the shopping experience.



Then successfully cooking the meal involved



the head, the heart and the hand in the learning.

Paul describes the varied nature of the work as being a balance of positive experiences shared to help build relationships, with activities that explore learning and development.

This and the work of his colleagues, Laura, Tash and Malc, also family support workers in contract care, exemplify the approaches of social pedagogy.

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Continuing to develop our social pedagogy two day training



Staffordshire colleagues learning about social pedagogy

Over the last couple of months we have completed a small exchange visit to help hone our social pedagogy training. Initially we visited Staffordshire County Council (who were a Fostering Network social pedagogy development area) looking at how they deliver social pedagogy learning.

Just before Christmas we then hosted a colleague from Staffordshire on our own two day training. We have reflected with them on what we both deliver and learned some valuable lessons.

Pictured are the mixed group of Staffordshire colleagues from foster carers to social workers.

Like our own training the course is delivered by practitioners and carers who can bring the learning to life.

New ways of thinking were present in both courses and we have taken on some new approaches to the Three Ps. Looking at a fourth P, or 'Public', which

considers how our online presence needs to be part of our reflection as practitioners.

If you have not made it along to our great two day training why not book now.

Courses are available through this coming year. For more info email jack-ie.mee@derbyshire.gov.uk or cathy.barrass@derbyshire.gov.uk



Continued...Paul Marsh, Family Resource Worker, Contract Care

Use of positive shared experiences, common third activities, ensure relationships build but also that the learning is still a key aspect of the activity.

This also echoes the idea of holistic learning ensuring that the activities build from what the young person is interested in towards what they need to achieve.

Sometimes the work involves playing pool and going to the cinema as part of the steps towards life skills, other times it is accompanying someone to more formal meetings or facilitating activities with children and family members to build quality time and strengthen relationships. Crucially Paul is always thinking about the learning experience for the young people to ensure they build on their understanding of the world.

How to live effectively and take steps toward contributing to society all make for great, social pedagogic, aspirations.

Another young person Paul has worked with arrived in the UK as an unaccompanied asylum seeker with, initially, very little spoken English. He has been travelling with Paul to Sheffield to stay in touch with his community.

Paul also helps him with budgeting and understanding British culture through trips, such as the one they took together to spend some Christmas money. Money management skills, and learning about how shopping works here were part of the life skills vital to the young person feeling more confident in this country.

The team also support people into new housing

arrangements and have helped people set up in their new home, helping with everything from a lick of paint to applying for the all-important internet connection.

Paul came to the role after working in sales and has certainly found a home in this niche, loving the work and its variety, motivated by the tough circumstances many of the young people have come from and bringing a positive view of the world to the work.

Paul still bumps into people he has worked with some years ago and frequently gets a big greeting and occasional hug, testament to the value the young people place on his support.

Thanks to Ashley and to Paul and the team for their supporting in the development of this article.

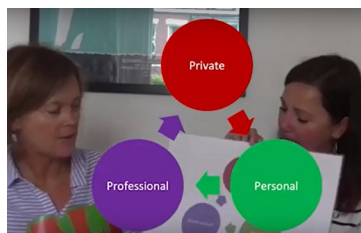
The tasty results of the culinary quest



Social Pedagogy (MOOC) Massive Open Online Course



UK Social Pedagogy, a key part of the European perspective.



I thought I would offer some feedback on the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) in Social Pedagogy which has been running before and after Christmas.

Around 35 people from Derbyshire signed up to this European wide initiative by joining this online learning community. Given that it had to be done entirely in people's own time this showed that there is still a great interest in further learning and development around social pedagogy.

The core of the course was seeing social pedagogy as it has developed and as it is practiced in a whole range of other countries. From German through Denmark, Spain, Belgium, Czech Republic, Belgium and of course the UK.

Ideas included new planning approaches, how social pedagogy has develop in various counties and how it is used with a variety of people.

UK colleagues covered creativity and social pedagogy and also ideas like the 3Ps.

All the countries' perspectives where fascinating and many of them were working with adult as well as children, which broadened the understanding of how far social pedagogy can reach.

My own highlight was the Spanish contribution. They



looked at how community education is built on social pedagogy foundations.

Seeing how they built Community Development, Community Empowerment and Social Capital through education, all with a social pedagogical approach delivered in the heart of the community, was fascinating.

I will ensure I update people on how this course is evaluated and let you know if it is due to run again in the future.

I am also interested in any ideas you may have to further develop our own learning about and use of social pedagogy.

You can either contact me directly.

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Or complete the online survey accessible here.

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/socped1

The 'Wall of Stars' is a community education programme in a disadvantaged community in Malaga.





"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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Social pedagogy quote:

"Each of our moral, mental, and bodily powers must have its development based upon its own nature, and not based upon artificial and outside influences. " - Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi

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