

Social Pedagogy Gazette

PUBLIC

EDITION 25

MAY 2020

Dates for the
two day ...

'Introduction to
social peda-
gogy'

...dates will be
publicised once
available.

**Meanwhile,
stay safe
and well!**

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The Hopewell family's creative lockdown

Hopewell is a two bed therapeutically informed children's home for children requiring a high-level of support. Once they learned that the country was going into lockdown they discussed what measures needed to be in place to protect and support the two residents, one of which has health concerns that put them at a high risk if they were to catch the infection.

They estimated, given current ways of working, that rotas put the home in direct contact with well over 100 people. This seemed a very high risk. Social pedagogy's head, heart, hand emerged from Hopewell's

creative thinking and careful planning to find an inventive solution. Rather than approaching this with an institutional mind-set they responded as a family. This was the heart response. Alongside that, they needed their head response as professionals, considering options and planning in detail how to address the challenge. Finally the hand response was needed for workers to step up and make it a practical solution. With the plan approved by senior management they now live very differently. One young person has been temporarily fostered by one of the home's workers. Taking them into their own family home alongside their own children for the lockdown.

The other young person, with the additional health concerns, was joined in the residential home by three other workers who are permanently living, or should we say locked down, there.



Hopewell's Opening 2019



Still playing Banana- grams

The Hopewell family's creative lockdown

This has reduced the number of contacts for the young person to in essence three. The situation suited these members of staff who are themselves at less risk in this arrangement. And they are in turn supported virtually, by the rest of the Hopewell family who are in lockdown or working elsewhere.



Living this way brings challenges to all with the conflicts of the 3Ps (our private, personal and professional selves) when living together with few breaks but the thoughtful approach has protected and supported the children living at Hopewell and highlights the excellence of the staff there.

The homes manager Ryan is feeling, as are all staff not in the home, the loss and separation but he reassured me that playing Banana-grams over a video call is still possible.

*Have a look at **page five** for a highlight of Hopewell's creative photography.*

Social pedagogy training

Currently all social pedagogy face to face training is on hold. Still if you want to flex you social pedagogy learning muscles why not visit the social pedagogy pages on the website.

www.derbyshire.gov.uk/social-health/children-and-families/children-we-look-after/social-pedagogy/social-pedagogy.aspx

If you are feeling more adventurous try the massive open online course MOOC. It explores a range of social pedagogy ideas from a range of European countries, including here in the UK. All materials are free online (with a small fee if you want certification from the University of Barcelona) with video, text and interactive content. You can do the whole course or just drop in and explore. <https://www.coursera.org/learn/social-pedagogy->



**Time to
create and
learn**

Fostering in Lockdown: Creativity and Learning

Despite the challenges the social pedagogy foster care steering group met via skype in April. We heard tales from a carer of the challenges and the adventures of the lockdown. Some carers have been sticking to routines, even keeping children in the routine of putting on uniform before learning, which helps children who need regular structure. While others are having to be more flexible to suit children's needs.

Home educating is a real challenge amid the complexities of daily life. The common third, an everyday planned activity with learning at its heart, plays a vital role now in helping any child thrive.

The steering group used the well-worn social pedagogy phrase 'it depends'. It depends on the child, their need for structure or flexibility, it depends on the carer and their approach and resources and it depends on the home environment.

No one should feel guilty in not achieving everything. Even simple approaches can benefit the child and the relationship. One carer looks after a four year old and a ten year old, whose learning is at a similar level. The ten year old has not wanted to engage in school work since being at home.



The four year old had a magnetic fishing game borrowed from nursery, the carer involved both children and turned it into a maths game.

Each fish has a number and they do sums as they catch the fish. The kids are loving it and everyone is learning together.



Planting a
seed
together

Fostering in Lockdown: Creativity and Learning

Another wonderful idea we heard about was where one family member writes a chapter of a fairy story. They then send it to another family member via social media, (they might not even be in the same household). This family member is also given four words they have to use as they write the next chapter. They then send onwards and the story unfolds.

Also with children at home, the home itself becomes the learning environment. Great for many life skills with educational aspects. Children learning to change a duvet, cooking and cleaning up afterwards are all life skills learning. Yet many such activities involved maths, reading and planning.



Just using the washing machine together requires an understanding of the weight of the

load, measuring for the soap and reading the labels. And setting the machine going needs some basic but essential programming skills. Who would have thought?

Rob, a carer who delivers on the social pedagogy training said, "Don't forget a common third activity doesn't have to be contrived. Any situation where two people are engaged will deepen a relationship. I think the Social Pedagogy (Reflection) comes into play, recognise that you are in such an activity and maximise its benefits. Struggling with being in lockdown together is an opportunity in itself."

From planting a seed for the first time to developing craft activities, anything can be done with a little thought about the role of these common third activities.

The steering group would also refer all to the foster care bulletin which has ideas around educational linked and common third activities.

Stay safe, have fun and learn together!

Hopewell's creative photography

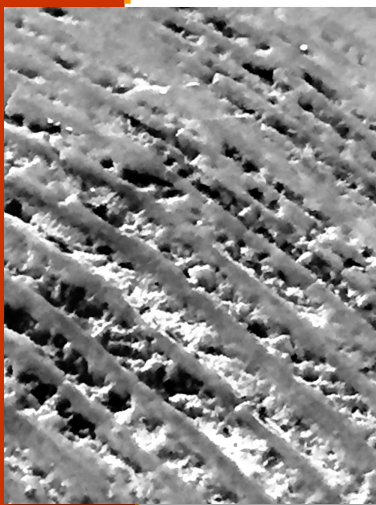


Seeing
different
perspectives

At Hopewell creativity continues in lockdown and the limitations have become part of the creative challenge. For example one challenge explored taking a series of images while remaining in one single spot. By changing perspective it allowed for exploration, finding beauty in the mundane and familiar.

This has all been done by using

the young person's own mobile phone and with things found around the home and a basic editing tool on the phone. All done with a member of the team facetimeing once a week to discuss the images and decide on the next week's challenge. You can see some of the fruits of this brilliant creativity below. Thanks to all the Hopewell family for their contributions.





**'Working creatively together to
inspire and empower children,
young people and their families and**

Stay Safe! and 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:

**"Knowledge emerges only through invention and re-
invention, through the restless, impatient, continuing,
hopeful inquiry human beings pursue in the world, with
the world, and with each other."**

Paulo Freire

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