

- 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 new layout of the DCC social pedagogy webpages: <http://tinyurl.com/jnft9>

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Communication and Social Pedagogy at the Getaway

Having been invited to the Getaway Children's Home to join their, Communication and Social Pedagogy' meeting earlier this year, it was great to see so many staff engaged and involved in using social pedagogy as a way to focus and inspire creative work with the children cared for at the home.

The Getaway is one of Derbyshire's Short Break Centres providing short break services to disabled children and young people who have high-level needs. It provides a stimulating and exciting experience for 10 to 18-year-olds and has six bedrooms with en-suite facilities and specialist equipment to ensure young people have a safe and enjoyable stay. There is an outdoor play area with a swing and climbing frame. Young people who stay for regular short breaks are able to meet their friends, socialise, learn life skills and take part in activities. It is designed specifically to provide a safe, stimulating environment for young people to thrive while they spend time away from

their families.

Their 'Communication and Social Pedagogy' meeting is formed by a core group of staff dedi-



Jean (far left) with the core group of staff forming the Communication and Social Pedagogy' meeting

cated to exploring how social pedagogy as an approach can inform how they communicate with and enhance the lives of the children they work with.

The meeting explored a vast range of ideas about work already underway such as the coffee morning for parents, carers and families which was a great success. A Glee choir attended by a number of the young people which was facilitated by the workers had also been successful. The choir enabled the young people to take part, on a Friday evening, in a

local community event.

The reflection on this activity led onto the meeting exploring the idea of developing additional music workshops which would be brought into the home for young people.

The young people were all seen as being capable, with the right support, in taking part in community events, charity bag packing at the local supermarket was another great idea and exploring how the forest school programme could be integrated into the home's activities was also actioned. Social pedagogy is social because it wishes everyone to be able to engage in a shared social life. The staff work really hard to ensure the young people staying with them have these opportunities.

The meetings run every couple of months and help to focus the teams approach to social pedagogy and move this from the theoretical to the practical. Jean Jowett has led the meeting and ensures social pedagogy remains at the heart of the work at the Getaway. (continues page two)

SPDN event at Camphill School Aberdeen



Delegates involved in numerous activities at the Camphill School Aberdeen

With its holistic approach to living together, the Camphill School Aberdeen is one of the most interesting social pedagogical settings to visit.

Participants at the 14th SPDN were able to see this at the summer event of the Social Pedagogy Development Network run together with the Robert Gordon University.

The event looked at social pedagogy across the lifespan.

Many of the residents at Camphill were actively involved in facilitating the event, hosting the tour of their facilities which including delegates making candles and wooden benches, engaging in eurythmy activities, undertaking felt and other craft workshops, relaxing in therapeutic sessions using play, light, massage, art, gardening and various other therapy forms, or exploring

the sensory garden, community store, weaver and bakery.

You can find details of the formal workshops, presentation slides from the event and lots of photos of the time spent at Camphill for the event at the link below:

www.thempira.org.uk/spdn/previous-spdn-events/spdn-aberdeen-2016/

Communication and Social Pedagogy at the Getaway

She has also represented the team at the social pedagogy steering group and has been part of the journey residential services has taken with social pedagogy over the years.

Recently the team has won Gold in the Derbyshire County Council's Commendation awards. This was important to the team and they felt that their hard work had been recognised. The group also focus time on how to support each other's practice.



Gold for the Getaway in the Derbyshire County Council's Commendation awards

Time was given over for another staff member to share training which they had recently attended on 'Intensive Interaction'. This is a way of working with young people who struggle to engage in communication. This dissemination of the training was open to all team members and Fiona delivered a presentation and showed a film about the 'Intensive Interaction' approach.

A number of the team have attended the University of Derby social pedagogy course and their experiences have helped inform the social

pedagogic approaches across the team.

From their meeting one key ask from them to the wider residential steering group was more connection across homes to facilitate social pedagogy and support their approach. A further challenge for the steering group in its next phase of development.

Thanks to all at the Getaway for letting me join them for the meeting. It was an informative and fun morning.

If you have any questions contact Jowett, Jean at jean.jowett@derbyshire.gov.uk

Old Post House Energises their Social Pedagogy



Linda and Clive have been at the head of this work, included the social pedagogy development day

The latest meeting of the residential social pedagogy steering group met on the 20th October. With many homes represented the meeting was an energetic discussion of the current developments in the homes and a healthy look forward to how the work of the steering group can move forward.

As part of this the steering group have recently been considering how to ensure the well establish approaches to social pedagogy practice in the residential homes can be sustained. One interesting approach was highlighted at the meeting about the current work ongoing at The Old Post House. Given work commitments and external pressures it's often easy to allow good work to fall down the priorities. The team at the Old Post House's approach to addressing this has been to focus some love and affection on their social pedagogy practice.

They focus this work through an action plan which is facilitated by a 'lead' for social pedagogy. The Derbyshire wide social pedagogy strategy refers to such leads as 'activators' but a rose is a rose by any name. At the Old Post House, Linda and Clive have been at the head of this work which has included a social pedagogy development day. This day was held on the 12th October. A range of exercises explored the teams understanding and use of social pedagogy covering the common third, activities and

shared interests and how these could be used in the home. They also looked at how the children in the homes experience day to day life and what they deserve in their childhood to enhance their lived experience.



Crucially the day developed a range of jobs to be done. These were then collected in their action plan. This included such work as reviewing paperwork, linking it to the care standards and focusing on social pedagogy and building a firmer focus on reflective practice, the beating heart of social pedagogy. Other aspects such as identifying resources, revising staff profiles to include interest and activities they enjoy and can share, develop ways of speaking with the kids about the lived experience and developing ways to capture the great 'social pedagogy' practice staff are also included.



They have already taken some key steps in defining the role of the social pedagogy lead role at the Old Post House and it is hoped that this will feed into the developing work of the steering group to enable each home to effectively support one another in the continued

growth of social pedagogy.

As part of ongoing developments the steering group is surveying each home about the core role of the steering group and how homes can ensure they are represented at meetings and the meetings can best support social pedagogy leaders to take practice development back into their home.



As part of this a 'Self-Evaluation' form has been developed from previous work of the group. This is being rolled out from the residential managers meeting and social pedagogy leaders in each home as well as the whole team can use these to help record and track social pedagogy development in the home. A snap shot of this will be taken at the end of 2016 and the aspiration of the steering group is that this will highlight where we are and set the priorities for the next steps.

Over the last few years social pedagogy has been a key part of the development journey for residential services and things have moved on terrifically. The great thing is to see, at the last steering group, was how aspirational the people at the meeting where for where social pedagogy can go from here to best help the kids we care for.

If you have any questions about the approach to social pedagogy at the Old Post House contact:

Clive.Dean@derbyshire.gov.uk or
Linda.Vickers@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>