



# Early Years and Childcare Bulletin

May 2016  
Issue 13

## IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 Safeguarding
- 2 Early Years and Childcare Service: Improvement and Standards Team
- 3 Out of School
- 4 Early Years and Childcare Service: Sufficiency and Sustainability Team
- 5 Early Years and Childcare Service: Equality and Inclusion Team
- 6 Early Years and Childcare Service: Partnership and Integration Team
- 7 Children and Families Information Service
- 8 Briefing and Networking Sessions
- 9 Tribute to a Valued Early Years Colleague
- 10 Contact Us

## Welcome

*From Alex Gamby, Head of Early Years and Childcare*

Welcome to the summer terms' Bulletin. I do hope that you all had some well-deserved rest and relaxation over the Easter period.

### Ofsted Outcomes

Firstly some good news. You will recall that during 2015 we were concerned at the decline in the percentage of Early Years settings judged by Ofsted to be Good or Outstanding, from 91% to 87%. I am pleased to say that, due to your hard work and the support that we have been able to provide through Pre-Ofsted Health Checks, the percentage of Good or Outstanding settings in Kent has now increased to 91%. We look forward to this improving even further over the coming months. Very well done to everyone involved.

### Kent Early Years and Childcare Strategy 2016 – 2019

We are pleased to share Kent's revised and refreshed Early Years and Childcare Strategy 2016 – 2019. The Strategy's Aims are broadly the same continuing to focus on improved outcomes for children and improvements in the quality of provision, and to reflect:

- Support for vulnerable children as a very high priority
- A focus on *embedding* what has been developed and achieved
- An extension of the age range of some elements of the Strategy into Key Stage One and beyond

The Strategy is available on [KELSI](#).

### Vulnerable Learners Strategy 2016 – 2018

We have just published our online [Vulnerable Learners Strategy for Kent](#) for 2016 – 2018. This brings together in one document all the actions we are taking, in partnership with Early Years and Childcare providers and schools, to improve outcomes for vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people.

## Department for Education (DfE) Consultation on 30 Hours of Free Childcare

The Childcare Bill has now received Royal Assent ([Childcare Act 2016](#)) and the DfE has launched a consultation on proposals to double free childcare for working parents of 3 and 4 year olds. The consultation seeks views on a range of issues including:

- ensuring the operation of a 'grace period' for parents
- how places might be delivered more flexibly
- provision for children with special education needs and disabilities
- the role and responsibilities of local councils in securing places
- information about childcare for parents

Find out more about the [30 hour free childcare entitlement consultation](#) here. The closing date for the consultation is 6 June and we would strongly encourage you to respond, either as individual providers or as a collaboration.

## Education Trust

You may be aware from the last round of Early Years and Childcare Briefing and Networking Sessions about the possible development of an Education Trust, for the future delivery of all our current education and young people's services. After consideration by KCC Cabinet Members there is not full agreement to go ahead with developing an Education Trust or Company on the scale proposed. While this is disappointing, there is agreement to go forward to develop an Education Services Trading Company. We will continue to explore options and hope to share some firmer proposals with you in the near future.

## Kent Early Years and Childcare Provider Association

Thank you to those of you who, at our last Briefing and Networking Sessions, expressed an interest in being part of an Early Years and Childcare Provider Association. We are in the process of contacting everyone who expressed an interest and will publish the final membership once this is confirmed.

# 1 Safeguarding

## Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) e-learning

The Kent Safeguarding Children's Board (CSE) e-learning can be accessed by Early Years providers and is currently free. However there is a charge of £40 if the course is not completed within 4 weeks of registering for it.

Please see this [link](#) for more information.

## 2 Early Years and Childcare Service Improvement and Standards Team

### Ofsted News

Early Years inspections and regulatory work will be managed directly by Ofsted from April 2017, when the current contracts with Tribal and Prospects come to an end.

Bringing Early Years inspections under direct management means that Ofsted will have full control over the selection, training and management of inspectors, and complete oversight of the quality of inspection.

Where they have capacity Ofsted will inspect new and re-registered settings within the stated 30 months. We are already beginning to see newly registered settings receive their first inspection after 15 months. It is also worth noting that complaints received by Ofsted in relation to a particular setting may result in an inspection much earlier than the stated timescale.

### Ofsted Update

#### What are the most frequent recommendations following recent Ofsted inspections?



Analysis of the most recent Early Years provider reports has identified the following areas for improvement:

- Observations, planning, assessment, tracking of children and cohort tracking to identify gaps
- Self-evaluation, monitoring systems including identifying strengths and areas for development including the environment
- Quality of teaching, in particular sustained shared thinking by asking open questions to challenge children's thinking
- Ensuring Ofsted is informed of changes to manager, committee, including providing information on suitability
- Safeguarding, including training, understanding roles and responsibilities, policy and procedures, disqualification arrangements, mobile phones and safer recruitment.

How is your Early Years provision meeting these key requirements? The Early Years and Childcare Service has a range of support packages that can assist you in addressing these, including:

- **Leadership and Management** – Supports leaders and managers in their processes to develop a rigorous monitoring, reviewing and evaluating system that drives continuous improvement
- **Observation, Assessment and Planning** – Provides Early Years practitioners with the opportunity to explore the cycle of observation, assessment and planning, to ensure they fully understand how to make accurate and effective observations and assessment and to inform planning that meets the needs of individual children and addresses gaps in learning

- **Are you ready for your inspection?** – This course supports Early Years managers in understanding the current Ofsted inspection framework. Using the Ofsted documentation it explores the main elements of the inspection process and provides practitioners with the opportunity to reflect on their current practice and provision in preparation for inspection
- **Strategic Improvement visits** – Advisers will act as a critical friend through regular structured visits to support settings in identifying key areas for improvement
- **Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement Audit** – Advisers will complete a robust and rigorous audit to support settings in identifying key areas for improvement in preparation for the Common Inspection Framework.

Please contact our team to discuss your training and support requirements:

[EYImprovementservices@kent.gov.uk](mailto:EYImprovementservices@kent.gov.uk)

### **‘Outstanding Practitioners Make the Difference’**

The Early Years and Childcare Service is currently delivering the new **Leaders of Learning Professional Development Programme ‘Outstanding Practitioners Make the Difference’**, in partnership with Shepway Early Years Teaching School and Early Years Foundation School Alliance (Northfleet).

This exciting and challenging programme is delivered one day a month for a five month period. The overarching aim of the programme is to:

*Help each practitioner release the enormous potential that is inside them in order to lead highly effective educational provisions for children, as well as understanding how they can build the capacity of those that they work alongside.*

The importance of emotional intelligence and building resilience run throughout the course. In addition exploring reflective practice, how children learn, teaching strategies, child development, observation, assessment and planning, the environment, managing the process of change, securing continuous improvement and action planning results in increased confidence for those attending.

Feedback from the current cohort has been excellent with practitioners stating after day one that they felt more confident and had learnt a lot about themselves. The Director of the Shepway Teaching Schools commented that the sessions were well judged and the workbook cemented understanding between case study and the characteristics of an outstanding practitioner.

Target audience: Middle Management, Deputy, Lead Practitioner, Room Leader or experienced Practitioners.

From September 2016 this programme will be available to all Early Years and Out of School providers either as a purchased package or via CPD Online.

If you are interested in purchasing this programme please contact us via our mailbox – [EYImprovementservices@kent.gov.uk](mailto:EYImprovementservices@kent.gov.uk) or sign up for alerts on CPD Online.

## **Bursary Funding Awards for Early Years Qualifications for September 2016**

*Are you looking for a new challenge?*

***Apply now for bursary support to undertake Early Years qualifications***

For those of you considering embarking on a new challenge, developing your knowledge or undertaking a higher qualification, we are looking for expressions of interest from practitioners who are interested in applying for a bursary towards undertaking the Foundation Degree in Early Childhood Education and Care or Level 3 Early Years Educator through one of our approved providers.

We have been fortunate in the past to be able to support a number of students through their studies and firmly believe that this has contributed to the high quality of practice in our Early Years settings. The following qualifications are available for **September 2016** starts:

### ***Level 3 Early Years Educator (EYE)***

This qualification is for practitioners working in the Early Years PVI sector or childminders with Early Years children on their register, who have no Early Years qualifications or a Level 2 and wish to up-skill themselves with a comprehensive full and relevant Early Years qualification. The qualification is work place based and will take approximately 18 months to 2 years to achieve.

### ***Foundation Degree Early Childhood Education and Care***

This qualification is for practitioners working in an Early Years PVI setting who have a full and relevant Early Years Level 3 qualification and wish to up-skill themselves with a higher education Early Years qualification. The qualification is a part-time course over 2 years and will require the student to attend university one day a week during term time.

### ***(Third year) BA Honours Degree in Early Childhood Education and Care***

This qualification is for practitioners working in an Early Years PVI setting who already hold a relevant Foundation Degree.

**Terms and conditions and selection criteria apply. Bursaries will be allocated in line with our criteria and in respect of the Foundation Degree there will be a focus on those settings who do not yet have a graduate leading practice.**

If you are interested and would like an application form please email the Early Years Workforce Development mailbox: [Earlyyearsworkforce.ask@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Earlyyearsworkforce.ask@kent.gov.uk), deadline for applications is 24 June 2016.

## 3 Out of School

### The Power of Play

“Ask me, respect me, understand me and help me play”

The Second Kent Out of School Childcare Annual Conference

Saturday 16 July 2016, 9.30am to 4.30pm

Oakwood House, Maidstone

This conference is open to practitioners working within stand-alone Out of School childcare settings, Early Years settings offering wrap-around care and school-based Out of School childcare, with an opportunity to hear from inspirational speakers:

- Elizabeth Jarman - leading education professional and sole provider of ‘The Communication Friendly Spaces Approach’
- Stuart Lester - Senior Lecturer in play and play work at the University of Gloucestershire

There will also be a range of interactive workshops and market stalls offering advice, support and information to delegates. The conference will be accessible via CPD Online.

### Ofsted Update

Analysis of the most recent Out of School provider inspection reports has identified that:

- Self-evaluation and monitoring systems including identifying strengths and areas for development including the environment is often not robust
- There is a need to develop the environment including the range of resources on offer, their accessibility and to ensure they are challenging
- Planning activities and learning experiences that are informed by and appropriate to the developmental stage of the children and are purposeful and challenging need improving
- Independence including snack-time and making choices from resources needs to be improved.

How is your Out of School provision meeting these key requirements? The Early Years and Childcare Service has a range of support packages that can assist you in addressing these, including:

**Planning, monitoring and evaluation of play opportunities in Out of School settings** - This course supports Out of School managers and practitioners in understanding the importance of planning for play and the benefits of monitoring, reviewing and evaluating taking into account the child’s voice.

**Strategic Improvement visits** – Advisers will act as a critical friend through regular structured visits to support settings in identifying key areas for improvement.

**SACCERS Audit** – Advisers will complete a robust and rigorous audit to support settings in identifying key areas for improvement in the environment and interactions.

To discuss your training and support requirements please email [EYCImprovementservices@kent.gov.uk](mailto:EYCImprovementservices@kent.gov.uk)

## Out of School Briefing and Networking Sessions

The next round of Out of School Briefing and Networking Sessions are now available for booking through CPD Online. It is intended that the agenda will include updates from the Early Years and Childcare Service and the opportunity to undertake a networking activity. An agenda will be available on KELSI at least a week before the event.

Please note there are now two sessions available on CPD Online.

Early Years Out of School Briefing and Networking Session (North)	EYC 16/079	11/05/2016	19:30 – 21:30	Riverside Community Resource Trust
Early Years Out of School Briefing and Networking Session (West)	EYC 16/081	18/05/2016	10:00 – 12:00	Hadlow Manor Hotel

## 4 Early Years and Childcare Service Sufficiency and Sustainability Team

### Compliance Update

#### Free Early Education Pattern of Delivery

Now is the time to start thinking about setting your pattern of delivery for Free Early Education from September 2016. Do not forget that if you are offering a stretched pattern of 12 hours per week over 48 weeks you also need to offer a 38 week pattern.

Please do not hesitate to contact your Childcare Sufficiency Officer (CSO) if you would like help. Recent compliance visits have highlighted that providers are not publishing their pattern of delivery or offering the full 38 or 48 weeks. This is a requirement of the Kent Provider Agreement and needs to be available for parents so they can make an informed choice about where they take up their child's place.

#### Registers

In a previous Bulletin we highlighted a problem with settings not keeping accurate registers. We are still concerned to find settings who either have incomplete or non-existent registers. Settings have a legal obligation under paragraph 3.76 of the Early Years Foundation Stage September 2014 to maintain records of children's attendance for the safe and efficient management of the setting. A daily record of the names of the children being cared for on the premises and their hours of attendance must be kept. Failure to do so is a breach of the welfare requirements and may have a significant impact on your Ofsted inspection judgement. This will also prevent you from being compliant with the Kent Provider Agreement.

#### Parental Declaration Forms

We have become aware that settings are not always getting parents to complete Parental Declaration Forms before making a claim for funding. The Provider Agreement clearly states on page 7 that you must *"have a signed Parental Declaration with parents showing the weekly free hours they wish to claim"*. Only the number of hours on the form can be claimed for. There have been unfortunate instances where providers have claimed the full 15 hours for every child and then have had to reimburse KCC.

### Children Starting School

Can we please remind providers that in accordance with the Department for Education guidelines, children who have been admitted to Primary school and are attending a maintained school Reception class will be funded through the main school's budget. Children will not be funded through the PVI sector if they are also in attendance in a Reception class of a maintained school.

### Register of People with Significant Control – are you ready?

From 6 April 2016, all companies including charities and social enterprises structured as companies will need to keep a new statutory register alongside their company books, the register of people with significant control ("PSC register"). Rules requiring details of the information on the PSC register to be filed at least annually with Companies House are due to come into force in June 2016. Once filed, this information will be publicly available on a company search. The PSC register will be used to record the details of individuals and legal entities with significant control over the company ("PSC"s), with a note about the nature of their control. Not everyone will have PSCs but you will need to make a note to that effect in the PSC register.

In preparation for the new rules companies should be taking steps to establish whether they have PSCs and, if so, exactly what they need to do next. Further guidance can be found at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and for any specific queries please contact [Tamsin Anderson](mailto:t.anderson@bwblp.com) at Bates Wells Braithwaite on 020 7551 7702 or by email at [t.anderson@bwblp.com](mailto:t.anderson@bwblp.com).

### Charities at risk of online extortion demands

The Charity Commission issued an [alert](#) on 11 March 2016, as regulatory advice, warning of online extortion or 'ransom' demands currently affecting UK businesses. Charities could also be vulnerable to attack and so are encouraged to be vigilant.

#### What to look out for:

- a number of businesses throughout the UK have received online extortion demands from a group calling themselves 'RepKiller Team'
- the group have sent emails demanding payment of between £300-£500 in Bitcoins (a form of digital or 'crypto' currency) by a certain date and time
- if their demand is not met, they have threatened to launch a cyber-attack against the organisation and damage its reputation by automating hundreds of negative reviews online
- the demand states that once their actions have started, they cannot be undone

#### If you have received such a demand, or receive one in the future, you are advised to:

- NOT meet their demands and NOT pay the ransom
- make a report to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or via their website [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)
- retain the original emails (with headers)
- make a note of the attack, recording all times, type and content of the contact

### Committee News

Are you a registered charity or perhaps a new trustee who has a variety of questions? If so, why not have a look at the Charity Commission website, they have a variety of information about their services along with their latest news. This [link](#) will take you to their services and information page where you will find articles, help sheets and a variety of information to help answer your questions.



## **A new look and feel charity annual return**

The Charity Commission's digital plan includes simple and easy to use services to meet the needs of charities. This includes a new annual return for 2016 expected to be launched in June. One change to note will be the need to confirm that your charity information including contact, trustees, email addresses and charity activities are up to date before completing the rest of the 2016 form. Please do not wait until the launch of the annual return before you update your information, prepare for the release and update now. For further guidance please follow this [link](#).

If you have further queries about your committee in general, please give your Childcare Sufficiency Officer a call or email us at [sufficiencyandsustainability@kent.gov.uk](mailto:sufficiencyandsustainability@kent.gov.uk).

## **FF2 Delivery Team**

At the end of the spring term 2016, 4063 two year olds from 6084 potentially eligible families had accessed a Free For 2 place in Kent.

At the end of the spring term, the FF2 Delivery Team chased providers for outstanding paperwork. This exercise resulted in a 'mop-up' payment being processed after the final payment run had gone through as claim forms to the value of £15,314.06 were received for a total of 56 children.

Had the team not carried out this piece of work, the money would have stayed with central government and 53 providers would have been out of pocket. This would also have affected our final take-up percentage which would have been 66.17% instead of 67.10%.

A new DWP list arrived from the DfE on 2 March containing details of 6124 potentially eligible families with children who could take a place in the summer term. Postcards were sent to the 3427 families not already engaging with the scheme, to encourage take-up.

## **5 Early Years and Childcare Service Equality and Inclusion Team**

### **Joint Child Health and Education Reviews At Age 2 Extended Pilot – Phased Implementation Thanet District**

A team of multi-agency professionals within the Thanet district have been meeting regularly to devise a meaningful, consistent and manageable model and process to bring together the Healthy Child Review at 2 to 2½ years and the EYFS Progress Check. The integration of these two reviews has been titled the Joint Reviews at 2 (JR2s) and a pilot has now commenced with 13 Early Years settings and 4 childminders already organising JR2s for eligible 24 to 28½ month old children attending their provision. Parents have a fundamental role to play in their child's JR2 and the starting point for each review is an acknowledgement that parents and carers know their children best and are their most important advocates. This acknowledgement is reflected throughout the process and in ongoing relationships and dialogues with parents and carers.

The reviews are being held within the familiar environment of the Early Years settings, and this is proving extremely beneficial for both child and parents and carers. Initial feedback is identifying that children are able to play in a relaxed, comfortable and familiar environment with discrete observation by the adults. Relevant resources are accessible for children to explore and demonstrate their abilities.

Parents and carers are reporting the benefits of the joint reviews, for example:

- “C has never walked upstairs at home. However, today I found out she does this at nursery”
- “I have learnt more about how he is developing and coping in nursery”
- “I felt backed-up by my key person, it was more free-flowing and comfortable”
- “I felt it was amazing and by far the best Health Visitor check I’ve attended. It was relevant and helpful to the family, nursery and child”
- “I think this is an excellent idea for parents, children and Health Visitors. It gives a truer likeness to how the child is in real time, without having to ‘perform’”
- “In the centre it is quite a ‘clinical’ assessment. In nursery environment it’s very casual, laid back and much more beneficial for the child” (N.B. Family had older child who had separate reviews).

The benefits for both Early Years practitioners and Health professionals are clear, in working closer together and developing a broader and dynamic picture of individual children. Concerns are being discussed sensitively and requests for support are gently and professionally addressed and with clear direction. Families are offered ideas for enhancing their child’s experiences and learning in the home environment but equally the feedback is illustrating that key persons are benefitting from the ‘conversational assessment’ model in planning next steps for children. All concerned are recognising the value of the potential for ongoing discussions about young children’s progress and support for families.

### Next Steps

We will continue to work closely with Health colleagues to complete and evaluate the pilot and will then make recommendations for the county-wide roll out to the Kent Children’s Health and Well-Being Board in July 2016. We will ensure you are kept fully informed of the decisions made and how the Joint Review will be delivered to the children and families of Kent.

## 6 Early Years and Childcare Service Partnership and Integration Team



### SmarterPlay App

With up-to-date information from a range of locations and in-app tools, SmarterPlay offers families ideas and information to enhance young children’s learning and experiences - literally at their fingertips.

SmarterPlay app is totally free and available for iOS (version 7 or above) and Android.

**The App provides:**

- Regular weekly pop-ups, related to the age of the child on fun ideas and activities to promote early learning
- Information and links to useful websites
- A guide to choosing childcare
- Making memories, the opportunity to capture and annotate special moments
- Geo-located family friendly places to visit
- An interactive quiz for families
- An audio function for families with English as an additional language

For more information please signpost parents, carers and families to visit their app store.

**NOTE TO ALL SETTINGS:** Please note that if you would like us to advertise your Early Years setting on the app's geo-location feature, you will need to update your information on the CFIS online updating facility to ensure you have given us permission to share your information. Whilst accessing this facility, please take the opportunity to update the rest of your details (including your website address) so that the CFIS hold up to date and accurate information about your service. For information as to how to use this facility please email [Kentcfis@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Kentcfis@kent.gov.uk).

**New Threads of Success Launch Events**

Further to the update in the last Bulletin, we are pleased to advise that places at the Threads of Success launch events are filling up fast. We are keen to ensure that as many of Kent's Early Years providers and schools are able to attend, so we can share with you:

- How our Threads of Success offer is being expanded
- How you can access centrally funded and traded services through the new look Threads offer
- Information on some of our new products and services
- The benefits of accessing our services to your setting
- An opportunity to discuss with the Early Years and Childcare Service how we can support your training and development needs

The eight Threads of Success launch events are taking place in the four regions of Kent and at varied times and days (including early evening, later evening and weekend sessions), to ensure that we fit around your valuable work. We look forward to seeing you there to discuss Threads of Success and our exciting new suite of products with you.

Those attending these events will also have the chance to win a free Emporium Plus membership.

You can book your place at one of these sessions on CPD Online, details are as follows:

Event Name	Code	Date	Times	Venue
Threads of Success launch event (East Kent)	EYC 16/101	24/05/2016	12noon-2pm	Aylesham Community Project
Threads of Success launch event (East Kent)	EYC 16/102	24/05/2016	9.30am-11.30am	Aylesham Community Project
Threads of Success launch event (North Kent)	EYC 16/095	23/05/2016	4.30pm-6.30pm	Inn on the Lake Gravesend
Threads of Success launch event (North Kent)	EYC 16/096	23/05/2016	7pm-9pm	Inn on the Lake Gravesend
Threads of Success launch event (South Kent)	EYC 16/097	25/05/2016	1pm-3pm	Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce Ashford
Threads of Success launch event (South Kent)	EYC 16/098	25/05/2016	3.30pm-5.30pm	Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce Ashford
Threads of Success launch event (West Kent)	EYC 16/099	21/05/2016	10.30-12.30pm	Oakwood House Hotel Maidstone
Threads of Success launch event (West Kent)	EYC 16/100	21/05/2016	1pm-3pm	Oakwood House Hotel Maidstone

## Early Years Collaborations

We are pleased to let you know that the number of settings in collaborations is beginning to increase. The percentage of settings belonging to a collaboration across the county is now at over 64%.

If you would like support in forming or joining a collaboration please email [eycollaborations@kent.gov.uk](mailto:eycollaborations@kent.gov.uk).



## Enhancing Family Involvement in Children's Learning (EFICL)

The recent launch events of EFICL were extremely well received, with colleagues from a range of disciplines and settings benefiting from attending. Further copies of the EFICL toolkit are available to purchase. Some copies of the full length Power of Schemas DVDs are also available. They would be useful for staff development or for loaning to parents to enable them to further their understanding of child development. If you are interested in purchasing a copy please contact [EYCImprovementservices@kent.gov.uk](mailto:EYCImprovementservices@kent.gov.uk)

## Emporium Plus (formerly Treasure Chest)

Kent's resource loan service has rebranded to Emporium Plus. The new website is due to be implemented in May and the link will be forwarded to customers in due course.

New membership fees were introduced on 1 April 2016 and have been revised to reflect the needs of our customers.

New SEN resources have been purchased to support children with a SCARF plan, please call us for further details. Schools and settings in Gravesham can also call us regarding resources to support the Bring on the Boys project.

By the beginning of May we will have welcomed three new team members, helping us to further improve our service.

Contact us at [emporiumplus@kent.gov.uk](mailto:emporiumplus@kent.gov.uk) or on 03000 422 355.

## 7 Kent Children and Families Information Service

### How can CFIS help you as a provider?

We can:

- advertise your setting's details online, via email or through our advice line to families looking for childcare in your area
- advertise an event your childcare setting is holding through our [Facebook page](#)
- advertise any childcare job vacancies that you may have through the Kent County Council website
- support all childcare providers no matter what the enquiry and are happy to offer advice, information and assistance whenever needed.

If you need to contact us about any of the above please call 03000 41 23 23 or email us at [kentcfis@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kentcfis@kent.gov.uk).

### How can CFIS help the families that attend your setting?

The Kent Children and Families Information Service has a team of experienced information officers who can provide free, confidential, impartial information and advice to parents and carers. We can help with childcare, early education, parenting and family life issues.

Contact us on 03000 41 23 23 or email us at [kentcfis@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kentcfis@kent.gov.uk) or view our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/kcccfis](http://www.facebook.com/kcccfis)

## 8 Briefing and Networking Sessions

The next round of Early Years Briefing and Networking Sessions is available to book through CPD Online. The agenda will include a networking activity around the government's Prevent strategy, the launch of our revised Transition Matters document and an update from Early Help District Managers. The full agenda will be available on KELSI at least one week before the sessions begin.

**Please note these sessions are relevant to both Early Years and Childcare providers and schools**

Early Years Briefing and Networking Session (Dartford/ Gravesham)	EYC 16/007	06/06/2016	Inn on the Lake	Dartford
Early Years Briefing and Networking Session (Maidstone/Tonbridge & Malling)	EYC 16/008	09/06/2016	Oakwood House	Maidstone
Early Years Briefing and Networking Session (Tunbridge Wells/Sevenoaks)	EYC 16/009	14/06/2016	Salomons	Tunbridge Wells
Early Years Briefing and Networking Session (Canterbury/Swale)	EYC 16/010	16/06/2016	Best Western – Abbots Barton	Canterbury
Early Years Briefing and Networking Session (Dover/Thanet)	EYC 16/011	20/06/2016	St Augustine's	Thanet
Early Years Briefing and Networking Session (Ashford/Shepway)	EYC 16/012	29/06/2016	Holiday Inn – Ashford Central	Ashford

## 9 Tribute to a Valued Early Years Colleague

Denise Margaret Aldridge (1 February 1949 – 1 April 2016)

Denise came into childcare in 1989, having stayed at home until her sons were old enough to be at school. She regretted not having done her training before raising her family and often spoke at how different their early education would have been. Denise started her career at St Mary's Convent which at that time only took girls. It later changed its name to St Mary's College, enabling boys to be enrolled, and eventually it became St Mary's Westbrook. Upon the resignation of the Manager, Denise accepted the role, until such time the owner decided to go to Montessori appointing his wife Manager and making Denise redundant. Her next position was not long in coming, she became Manager of First Learners' Nursery which at that time was run by South Kent College. A change in Government funding policy eventually saw the college decide to close the nursery. Once again she was made redundant.

Using her redundancy monies, Denise obtained permission to buy the name First Learners from the college who allowed her to take the resources as well. This led to a frantic search for premises so as to be able to open in the September of 2006. Finally, she obtained a lease on the St John Ambulance Headquarters in Cheriton, Folkestone to run as a pack-away setting. Denise felt so strongly about the poor level of Paediatric First Aid training that some providers gave that in 2008 she started First Learners' Training in partnership with David Gilbert. She became a trainer for Kent Safeguarding Children's Board and helped run courses for local nursery staff.

In 2011 Denise became a Trustee for the Pre-School Learning Alliance, a role she held to her death. She always strived to drive the Alliance forward to provide opportunities for children in many deprived areas to flourish.

Comment from a parent *“Denise was such a lovely lady and so kind. She will be greatly missed, but hopefully her legacy of First Learners will continue to give our local young children the wonderful experience it has always done.”*

Comment from a fellow manager *“Denise was an inspirational nursery manager, amongst many other roles and I hold her advice and help over the years very highly.”*

David Gilbert (First Learners' Nursery)

## 10 Contact Us

Sufficiency and Sustainability

Free For 2 (FF2) Team

Improvement and Standards

Equality and Inclusion

Collaborations

Emporium Plus

Workforce Development

Kent Children and Families Information Service

KELSI:

[http://www.kelsi.org.uk/curriculum\\_and\\_pupil\\_learning/early\\_years\\_and\\_childcare/including\\_all\\_children.aspx](http://www.kelsi.org.uk/curriculum_and_pupil_learning/early_years_and_childcare/including_all_children.aspx)

Schools e-bulletin

[Sufficiencyandsustainability@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Sufficiencyandsustainability@kent.gov.uk)

[eyfreefor2@kent.gov.uk](mailto:eyfreefor2@kent.gov.uk)

[EYImprovementServices@kent.gov.uk](mailto:EYImprovementServices@kent.gov.uk)

[EYInclusion@kent.gov.uk](mailto:EYInclusion@kent.gov.uk)

[EYCollaborations@kent.gov.uk](mailto:EYCollaborations@kent.gov.uk)

[Emporiumplus@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Emporiumplus@kent.gov.uk)

[Earlyyearsworkforce.ask@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Earlyyearsworkforce.ask@kent.gov.uk)

[kentcfis@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kentcfis@kent.gov.uk)

[http://www.kelsi.org.uk/working\\_in\\_education/news.aspx](http://www.kelsi.org.uk/working_in_education/news.aspx)



# KENT & MEDWAY

# FUNDING FAIR

Twitter: @FundingforAll Facebook: Funding for All  
 Website: [www.fundingforall.org.uk](http://www.fundingforall.org.uk) Email: [fundingfair@fundingforall.org.uk](mailto:fundingfair@fundingforall.org.uk)

**Are you involved in a community or voluntary group?  
 Need help and advice on where to find funding?  
 THEN THIS IS THE EVENT FOR YOU!**



**Kent & Medway Funding Fair**  
 Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016, 8.45 am - 4.00pm  
 The Skinners' Kent Academy  
 Sandown Park, Tunbridge Wells,  
 Kent, TN2 4PY

**£17.50 - Early Bird**  
**£25.00 - Standard Price**

**BOOKING NOW OPEN**  
 Bookings close  
 20/5/16  
Early Bird discount available for delegates who book by 05/05/16

<p><b>Run or looking to run a Project in your community?</b>  <small>Come along and listen to seminars by Big Lottery Fund, Charity Bank, Kent Community Foundation, Heritage Lottery, Arts Council, KM Charity, University of Kent, UniLd, Funding for All specialist mentors plus many more.</small></p>	<p><b>NEW FOR 2016!</b>  <small>Speakers for 2016 include:        Tutor Trust, Small Charities Coalition, Skinners Company.  <b>Plus an opportunity to purchase a printed copy of our Funding Guide priced at £5.</b></small></p>
<p><b>Interest Groups for Older People? Youth Projects? Community Buildings? Sports Projects? New to Evidence Based? Income Generation? Project Development? Arts Project?</b>  <small>Free 1-2-1s with a Funding Mentor available (bookable on the day).        Come along and speak face to face with Funders and Support Organisations.</small></p>	<p><b>Let's not forget Support outside Grants?</b>  <small>We have seminars with top tips on Approaching a Business or Philanthropist, Diversifying income, Gifts-in-Kind or using Social Media?</small></p>
<p><b>24 confirmed seminars        Over 35 exhibitors</b>  <small>Opening Speakers:        Skinners Livery Company, Kent County Council,        Big Lottery Fund,        Olympic Sports Personality</small></p>	<p><b>Planning a new community building or refurbishing an existing one?</b>  <small>Come and speak to Action with Communities in Rural Kent, KCC Community Halls, Ethical Property and Whitehead Monckton</small></p>

FREE shuttle bus for all delegates will be available from Tunbridge Wells Station to the venue.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT**  
[www.fundingforall.org.uk/event/kent-and-medway-funding-fair-2016](http://www.fundingforall.org.uk/event/kent-and-medway-funding-fair-2016)

