

Training | Research | Consultancy

Working to provide equal chances, challenge disadvantage and achieve best practice in services for children and families

The Childcare Bill: Implementing the Ten Year Childcare Strategy

The Childcare Bill will have far reaching impacts for everyone with a stake in the children's services sector, as it seeks to secure early years and childcare for the long term and to reform the regulation and inspection framework.

The Bill places a duty on local authorities to secure sufficient childcare to meet the needs of parents and to make information to parents more locally accessible, particularly through Children's Centres and extended schools.

There is a further duty to improve the well-being of children up to the age of five years by improving outcomes, consistent with *Every Child Matters*.

There is a clear focus on lower income families and families with disabled children.

We have recently worked with local authorities in Telford and Wrekin, Leicestershire and Barnsley to facilitate responses to the consultation and to plan the way forward on a local level by bringing together key stakeholders in strategic planning and consultation events.

For more information contact Sue Foreman or download Hempsall Consultancies' response to the *Childcare Bill* from our [web-site](#)

Our work at this time is focused upon:

- **Strategic consultancy** supports work on the notion of sufficiency; target services to meet the needs of lower income families and families with disabled children; working within the Early Development and Learning Framework; and extended schools.
- **Research services include:** childcare audits; research with parents to evaluate how services are meeting their needs; work with providers to support their response to the new agenda.
- **Bespoke training and policy development includes:** partnerships with parents; complaints policies and procedures; business planning and sustainability; delivering integrated services; and a range of other areas.

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Join our mailing list

This newsletter is published 3 times each year and aims to provide information about our activities, training and projects. If you would like to join our mailing list please contact us.

Supporting the Development of Children's Centres

Recently we have worked with Barnsley Choices (EYDCP) in supporting the transition of a local authority nursery school to become a Children's Centre. The plan for conversion had been underway for some time.

Our role was in providing an independent, objective facilitator to work with members of the local community to ensure that they were confident about the future role of the Children's Centre and their role in providing a local consultation mechanism.

During a facilitated session, members of the local community were actively involved in developing the Terms of Reference as well as providing a forum to formalise membership of the group and the development of an initial action plan.

“The support has been invaluable, and has allayed many of the fears held by both community members and staff about continuing involvement at grass roots level. We are now positive about moving forward collectively to meet the needs of the local community by extending the existing services developed within the centre.”

Claire Gilmore, Children's Centre Programme Manager

Activities included:

- gathering background and contextual information from key individuals
- developing a governing document for the Steering Group
- designing and facilitating a session with potential Steering Group members and
- making a number of recommendations for their future development.

The development consultancy provided a focus and momentum for the transition process ensuring that the centre was able to be launched in September 2005.

Four days of consultancy were delivered and the project is now being progressed by the local authority with the Steering Group. The Steering Group is now formally established, after adopting the Terms of Reference, agreeing the business plan and is now implementing their action plan with active involvement with the local authority.

“The session promoted action rather discussion. Aims were clearly set out and met, the Steering Group was in place by the end of the first session.”

Local community member

For more information contact Carol Gorman.

Sure Start Chatham

We have been appointed as the local evaluators for Sure Start Chatham in Kent.

The evaluation will focus on:

- providing information that can be used to inform the Programme Manager and Management Board/ stakeholders of ways to improve the delivery of services in the community

- how these services can be taken forward as the local programme becomes a Children's Centre.

For more information contact Barbara Wilson.



Sure Start Local Evaluation in Cornwall

We have been appointed as the local evaluators for Sure Start Lescudjack in Penzance.

The evaluation will focus on:

- measuring parents' perceptions of the programme's impact on quality and availability of services
- a themed evaluation of health and family support.

The evaluation will be undertaken from August 2005 to January 2006.

For more information contact Barbara Wilson.



Extended Schools Parents' Consultation

Hamilton Extended Schools and the Leicester Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership commissioned us to consult with parents and carers to identify what services are required under the extended schools plan.

Our questionnaire survey and focus groups found an overwhelming expressed need for all types of out of school childcare with a priority being given to holiday playschemes and after school provision.

The survey also found an expressed need for family-based activities (e.g. help to support children's learning/ learning together) and 25% of parents expressed an interest in receiving support to return to work.

For more information contact James Hemsall.

Extended Schools Pilot Success

By 2010, all primary and secondary schools will offer extended services, opening from 8am to 6pm every day of the week. This is part of the Government's vision building on *Every Child Matters* and the *Ten Year Childcare Strategy* (published in December 2004).

In Leicestershire we have been supporting this agenda through working on a DfES sponsored pilot programme which aims to meet the childcare needs of lone parent families by creating 400 new out of school childcare places in areas where incidence of lone parent families are high.

Building on the sound foundations of the existing out of school development framework has enabled us to recruit and support settings to focus upon the needs of lone parent families.

Within weeks of the project starting, we had exceeded the target and the Early Years and Childcare Service is now seeking ways of funding additional places to meet the high demand we are experiencing.

Extended school settings are supported to apply for funding to create these new places, and to tailor their policies and practice to meet the needs of the target groups.

The places are created either on school sites, directly managed by governors; or through partnership arrangements with providers in the voluntary and private sectors.

The success of the project is partly due to the link between the existing out of school development work and the pilot programme scheme.

It is by building on the sound foundations of the existing out of school development framework that we have been able to recruit and support settings to focus upon the needs of lone parent families.

The intensive development work we are able to undertake within this project supports extended schools to implement their plans for good quality provision.

The DfES are said to be delighted with the outcomes generated by the project so far.

For more information contact Sue Foreman.

Derbyshire Childminding Conferences

Working with Derbyshire County Council Early Years and Childcare Service we delivered two childminding conferences to promote race equality and anti-discriminatory practice in a childminding setting.

A formal welcome and presentation started the conferences and set out the aims and objectives followed by the keynote speeches.

Refreshment breaks included time to network and visit displays.

Childminders attended one workshop before lunch and two after lunch, finishing with a plenary session to bring everyone together and to celebrate and evaluate the day.

Workshops included:

- dance
- natural world creative activities
- storytelling on environmental themes
- shoestring puppets

For information about our wide range of training conferences contact Anne Robertson.

“It was a pleasure to present to the childminders at this very valuable and well-organised event”

Dalvir Gill
Early Years Equality

We were delighted to welcome Dalvir Gill from Early Years Equality to present the keynote speech. Afterwards, James Hemsall and the Derbyshire Development Workers shared the key national changes in childcare contained in *Every Child Matters*.



How can we help with extended schools

Hemsall Consultancies offers a bespoke service to support this development.

- This can include supporting
- development of new places
 - reviewing new and emerging legislation and guidance
 - strategic planning for service delivery
 - facilitating partnerships
 - training and consultancy.

For more information contact Sue Foreman.



Reach for the sky!

This autumn we are working with Hertfordshire County Council to launch a new programme of playwork training offering up-to-date, new and practical ideas for new and experienced playworkers or out of school workers working with children aged 5 to 14 years old.

The series includes:

- **'Keeping active through quality play'** – supporting children in playwork settings to have fun and stay healthy too.
- **'Behaving positively and having fun'** – new ideas for fun games and activities to support positive behaviour.
- **'Reach for the sky!'** – using Playwork to develop children's self esteem and confidence.
- **'Making the links - parents'** – practical ideas for working with parents in playwork settings.
- **'Consulting with children'** – involving 5 to 14 year olds as partners in planning for play.

For more information contact Anne Robertson.



Children's Food Bill

The campaign for a Children's Food Bill is seeking to promote better food and a healthier future for the nation's children.

It particularly wants to:

- end junk food marketing to children
- provide healthy school meals
- stop junk food vending in schools
- teach cooking and healthy food skills, and
- promote more fruit and vegetables.

Please join us in supporting the campaign and find out more, by logging on to www.childrensfoodbill.org.uk.

For more information contact Sue Foreman.



Managing Change: Open Access to Out of School

We have recently started a Neighbourhood Renewal Funded consultancy to support Leicester City Council to change a range of open access out of school schemes to targeted out of school childcare schemes.

The new provision will be linked to schools in areas identified for raising educational achievement.

For more information contact Carol Gorman.

Our Peer Observation Training

Peer observation is a recognised assessment system for use by all childcare providers. It is also an essential element of all Investors in Children accredited quality assurance schemes.

Direct benefits are found in the quality of team work in order to achieve the best possible outcomes for everyone.

They can also improve interaction between adults, children and young people.

Our training workshop provides strategies for carrying out productive and effective peer observations and is available for a minimum of 4 hours.

Peer observations provide a mechanism for encouraging colleagues to share their knowledge and experience, develop their practical skills and work as a team.

For more information contact Anne Robertson.

Contact us



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