

19th December 2016



**Dear Children's Links Member**

**Your news bulletin is produced fortnightly and is designed to keep you up-to-date with the latest developments in children and family policy.**

**In this edition you will find the following:**

- **Breakfast clubs improve primary pupils' progress**
- **Funding Finder**
- **Children's Links Learner Journey**
- **Mindfulness Taster Sessions**
- **Cambridgeshire LSCB Training Courses**
- **JOB CLUB - Every Wednesday - 10am-12pm - Children's Links, Horncastle**
- **Improving quality in early years provision**
- **Upgrade your Children's Links Membership!**
- **Children's Links' Vacancies**

If you have any news or information that you would like to share in the E-Bulletin please email [membership@childrenslinks.org.uk](mailto:membership@childrenslinks.org.uk)

## Breakfast clubs improve primary pupils' progress

Trials conducted for the Education Endowment Fund by the IFS and National Children's Bureau has found that attending a breakfast club - even without eating breakfast - improved the performance of primary school pupils in English and maths lessons. Looking at the effects of the clubs, provided by Magic Breakfast, in 106 primary schools with higher-than-average numbers of disadvantaged pupils, the research found:

- Year 2 children in schools with a breakfast club made two additional months' progress in reading, writing and maths compared with a similar group whose schools were not given support to offer breakfast
- Pupils' concentration and behaviour improved too. This suggests that breakfast clubs provide an opportunity to improve outcomes for all children, not just those who actually attend, by creating better classroom environments.
- Attending the breakfast club, not just eating breakfast leads to academic improvements. This could be due to the nutritional benefits of the breakfast itself, or the social or educational benefits of the breakfast club environment.

## Funding Finder

CYP Now have a directory that lists over 100 sources of funding and grants to support work with children, young people and families. [Find out more](#)

## Children's Links Learner Journey

'Outstanding Childminder' started her journey with the Children Links Training team back in 2013 on a 6 week Play4Life course to promote physical development with young children in a fun and interactive way to complement her already established Childminding business. Her husband Martin then completed his childminding unit with us and gave up his full time job to become Helen's partner in the business and together they became Morton Early Years Childcare. This business grew so much they moved house and converted the garage into a purpose made play room with its own dedicated outside area. In November this year they both received individual Outstanding grades from their Ofsted inspections. They still haven't finished, Helen is now going to do her Level 4 Advanced Practitioner qualification with Children's Links and Martin is going to do his Level 3 Early Years Educator.

It has been a pleasure working with you over the years and seeing your hard work paying off by recently be graded OUTSTANDING by Ofsted. We also look forward to supporting you with the next step of your journey.

For further details of how this could be your journey email [training@childrenlinks.org.uk](mailto:training@childrenlinks.org.uk) and further details of childcare vacancies contact [enquiries@mortonearlyyearschildcare.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@mortonearlyyearschildcare.co.uk)

## Mindfulness Taster Sessions

### *How mindfulness can help you*

- **What is it?**
- **What does research tell us about how it works?**
- **Where is it being used and why?**
- **Try it for yourself!**

**WHEN:** Thursday 19th January 6.30 – 9.00pm

**WHERE:** Boston College, Spalding

**FEE:** £40.00 per person

*(There are limited number of free places for people on means tested benefits)*

**To book a place, please click [here](#), call or text Maureen on 07939 845920, or email [maureen@nowunlimited.co.uk](mailto:maureen@nowunlimited.co.uk)**

**Full course details can be downloaded [here](#)**

## Cambridgeshire LSCB Training Courses

- An Introduction to Child and Adolescent Development - 16 Jan—Hunts FA - 9.30 - 4.30
- Safeguarding Children & Cultural Competence - 18 Jan - Green Britain Centre, Swaffham - 9.30 - 4.30
- An Introduction into Social Networking and Safeguarding Children and Young People - Hunts FA - 19 Jan - 9.30—12.30
- Alcohol Identification and Brief Advice - Cambs FA- 31 Jan - 9.30 - 12.30

For more information and how to book a place on the courses please look at the training brochure on the LSCB [website](#).

## **JOB CLUB - Every Wednesday - 10am -12pm - Children's Links, Horncastle**

**Do you live locally to Horncastle? Are you aged 19+ and unemployed? If you would like help finding a job, writing a CV or a cover letter, come and join our FREE weekly Job Club!**

Why attend our Job Club sessions?

- It's FREE!
- Friendly and experienced staff on hand to help in a relaxed environment
- Access to computers and the internet for job searching and applications
- Open, drop-in session – you choose how long you stay!
- Learn what employers want – and how to impress them in an interview!
- FREE opportunities to progress onto further training

We'll help you create a professional and up to date CV which highlights your skills and qualities and will make employers notice you!

Our staff will help you identify your skills and support you throughout the job application process.

If you would like further information please contact our Training team:  
Tel: 0845 373 0645 (option 5)  
[training@childrenslinks.org.uk](mailto:training@childrenslinks.org.uk)  
[www.childrenslinks.org.uk](http://www.childrenslinks.org.uk)

## **Improving quality in early years provision**

The Family and Childcare Trust has outlined opportunities for boosting the quality of early years education and childcare, including calling on the government to establish an Early Excellence Fund of £111 million per year in order to ensure each setting has an experienced graduate member of staff, sufficient support from SENCOs and capacity to train and develop other members of staff. Their recommendations are:

- Supporting early years staff through better wages and professional development opportunities
- Introducing richer quality metrics for Ofsted inspection and regulation
- Monitoring children's development effectively in the early years
- Integrating childcare with early help services in children's centres and elsewhere
- Raising the quality of childcare for children with special educational needs and disabilities
- Nurturing links between childcare settings and parents to support home learning
- Improving the physical environment of settings and promoting physical activity

## **Upgrade your Children's Links Membership!**

Children's Links' Membership Service is full of relevant children's sector benefits designed specifically to meet your needs. We have recently introduced new membership packages: Enhanced at only £75.00 per year, and Standard which is currently free.

If you would like to become a member please complete the membership application form or contact us by email.

As part of the Enhanced Membership package we can offer bespoke advice and support tailored towards meeting the specific needs of your setting. This will be provided via phone or email, time limited to one hour. The advice will focus on Committees, Recruitment and employment, Ofsted requirements and Finance

You will also have free access to Children's Links resources and guidance documents on key topics and legislation and much more!

To see the full benefits of our Enhanced Membership Package please visit our [new website!](#)

If you would like to upgrade your membership please contact us by calling 0845 3730645 or emailing [membership@childrenslinks.org.uk](mailto:membership@childrenslinks.org.uk)

## **Children's Links' Vacancies**

Children's Links have a variety of vacancies in the children's sector ranging from Childcare Assistants to Visit Centre Workers in prisons.

To view the current vacancies visit the Children's Links [website](#).