

7th March 2017



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:

- GCSE requirement for early years trainees scrapped as workforce strategy is unveiled
- Funding Finder
- LCVYS Roadshow
- Kickstart Course
- £415m 'sugar tax' cash available for school mental health support
- JOB CLUB - Every Wednesday - 10am-12pm - Children's Links, Horncastle
- 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

GCSE requirement for early years trainees scrapped as workforce strategy is unveiled

A controversial requirement for early years staff to gain good GCSE grades before completing their training is to be scrapped, it has been announced.

The requirement for those wanting to complete a Level 3 early years educator (EYE) course to have at least grade C in both GCSE English and Maths had been criticised by early years sector groups for causing a [recruitment crisis](#).

In announcing the U-turn, early years minister Caroline Dineage said staff will no longer be restricted by GCSE qualifications.

Instead, "functional equivalent" tests, which show good working knowledge of maths and English, will now be accepted to complete the course.

The change in policy forms part of an [Early Years Workforce Strategy](#), to be put in place ahead of the roll out of the government's 30-hour free childcare entitlement for three- and four-year-olds this September.

[Find out more.](#)

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](#)

LCVYS Roadshow

LCVYS is organising a series of networking sessions, to bring together Volunteers, Youth Leaders, Youth Workers and Committee Members who work in the voluntary youth services.

Our informal session will allow you to connect with other LCVYS members.

This is a great way to meet similar groups; to share resources and ideas; meet LCVYS staff and find out what we can offer. We can help with Safeguarding, Writing Policies, Risk Assessments, Training, Grant Applications and many other areas that involve running a youth club or working with young people.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 22nd March 2017
6.30pm-8pm
Venue: The Lighthouse Church, 10 Haverfield Road, Spalding PE11 2XP

Please book on using the link below <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lcvys-roadshow-tickets32289152725>

Call us on 01522 720789

Or email lcvysadmin@lincolnshire.gov.uk



MOVE

LOTTERY FUNDED

EUROPEAN UNION

children's links

KICKSTART!

This workshop will give you a chance to build your confidence, in a supportive environment. You will be encouraged to take part in fun activities and to support a healthy lifestyle. It could also give you an opportunity to experience working towards a qualification.

MOVE is an employability project involving 24 organisations across the whole of Lincolnshire, to help people into work, training and volunteering.

This free service includes:
Opportunities for training and qualifications
Job clubs and job search
CV writing and interview practice
Work experience and volunteering
One to one support, even after you've started work

Financial help is available for childcare or respite care and travel expenses: please ask for more information

To find out more about how MOVE could help you please contact Joski McGarel at Children's Links on 01507 528 305

FREE 6 week workshop (Subject to eligibility)

Starts Tuesday 28th March 2017

10am-12pm

The Storehouse Skegness

To book your place, please contact us on the number below.



Promote physical development through the use of stories and story sacks.

Create your own games and activities which you can make and play with at home with children.

Take part in simple gardening activities and see the benefit of 'growing your own'.

Learn how to make a healthy smoothie, a dip and identify benefits of leading a healthy lifestyle.

Company number: 3484661
Registered Charity Number: 1071058
Company Limited by Guarantee
in England and Wales

Registered address:
Holland House, Fortuna Horncastle Business
Centre,
Mareham Road, Horncastle,
Lincolnshire, LN9 6PH



If you would like further information please contact our Training team:
Tel: 01507 528 305
training@childrenslinks.org.uk
www.childrenslinks.org.uk

Committed to improving the life experiences of children, young people and families

find us on Facebook @childrenslinks

£415m 'sugar tax' cash available for school mental health support

Around £415m of funding being handed to schools as a result of the so-called "sugar tax" could be spent improving support for young people with mental or physical health problems, Education Secretary Justine Greening has said.

The money - from the Soft Drinks Industry Levy - will be available to schools in the 2018/19 financial year, with more detail on how it will be distributed among schools due to be published later this year.

When the levy was first announced in March 2016, by then Chancellor George Osborne, emphasis was placed on how the money would be used to improve physical health, with the cash initially earmarked to double the primary school PE and sport premium, and to allow secondary schools to opt in to longer school hours so they could offer a wider range of activities for pupils. But Greening has now said that mental health and physical conditions are now on the agenda as well.

In addition to using the initiative, which is being called the healthy pupils capital programme, to pay for facilities to support physical education, after-school activities and healthy eating, Greening said it will also be available to improve facilities for children with physical conditions or support young people struggling with mental health issues.

[Find out more](#)

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
www.childrenslinks.org.uk

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

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](#).