



Birmingham Forward Steps e-bulletin



1 August 2018

Welcome to issue 14

Service Update

Birmingham Forward Steps Official Launch Event – 25 July

'25th July saw the official launch event for 'Birmingham Forward Steps' at the MAC in Cannon Hill Park. All 10 Districts were represented plus our wider Partners such as Homestart, PLA, Bookstart, Bump, Healthy Kitchen and Kids UK. The speech and language therapists, infant feeding coordinators, dieticians and health visitors also had stands and each brought an activity for children less than 5yrs to engage with.

There was a party atmosphere, helped along by the face painters, Baby Opera, Fire Engine, Scout Treasure Hunt , Fit for Life, who ran several activities in the park and of course, the

weather.

Of the additional two and half thousand people who passed through the MAC that day, many took time to say how wonderful it all was and can we do it again next year!!



Thank you to the 200-plus staff who attended and worked tirelessly throughout the heat to make this launch the success it was.

The speakers represented us all when they said that this launch was about the children and their families. We want them to have a say in how our new service is run.

As the local launches are now set to take place over August, if you haven't got engaged so far then please do so and make the local District launches the success that the main event was last week.



NSPPC Briefing on new Working Together

The Department for Education (DfE) statutory guidance sets out what organisations and agencies who have functions relating to children must and should do to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people under the age of 18 in England. The briefing highlights the key changes in the new 2018 edition. The guidance replaces Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015). Access the guide through the link below:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/722305/Working Together to Safeguard Children - Guide.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/722305/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children_-_Guide.pdf)

NSPPC Summary on Learning from Case Reviews involving young children

The NSPPC have published a useful summary on learning from Case Reviews involving young children - Please use this [link](#) to access the NSPPC webpage.

News

Creative Arts Project

Children's Centres in the Aston, Ladywood and Washwood Heath areas are taking part in a Creative Arts Project 'Arty E Scraps'. The Project is being run by Real Access, BPCN and We Are Frilly and is funded by a BCC Arts Grant. The Project aims to engage children and families in fun, creative arts activities using recycled materials. Professional artists will work with our staff for a period of 10 weeks in stay and play sessions, Holiday Kitchen and other groups. Activities include visual arts, sculpture, digital animation, music and storytelling. This is a great opportunity for children and parents to engage with artists and for staff to learn and develop their skills and confidence in integrating arts activities into groups. We know a lot of creative activities already happen in our centres and we are keen to further develop our arts work across BFS. If your Centre is providing arts activities and working with artists and arts organisations please do let us know and share the good news!

Springfield Project Celebration – 19 July

Springfield Project, in the Hall Green District celebrated 10 years of it's Children Centre building opening and 30 years of running a stay and play on 19th July.

Childhood Obesity

BFS were asked to attend a scrutiny panel to advise of the BFS approach and/or contribution to addressing 'Childhood Obesity'

See excerpt below from the news report in the Birmingham Mail on 17 July 2018. The full article can be accessed through the following link: www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/local-news/mums-still-being-branded-disgusting-14923886

'Calls have been made for a culture change around breastfeeding in public in Birmingham after claims mothers are still being branded 'disgusting'.

Breastfeeding is recognised as the best nutritional start for babies and rates at six to eight weeks are high in the city compared with other areas.

Mothers carrying out the practice in public spaces are protected from being discriminated by businesses by the Equality Act 2010 but yet not everyone is comfortable with it happening near to them.

The issue was raised as members of Birmingham City Council's Health and Social Care overview and scrutiny committee debated childhood obesity, with more than one in ten youngsters (11.5pc) in the city overweight by the time they reach reception.

Cllr Peter Fowler (Cons, Harborne) said: "Ladies that do breastfeed, when they go outside they have very few places to go. "Are we encouraging our outlets like cafes, your M&S, or whoever so that there is a place for mothers to go?"

In response Sharon Aspinall, infant feeding coordinator at Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, said: "What we try and do is raise confidence in mothers and fathers to feed wherever they can.

Breastfeeding support is just one way in which the council encourages healthy eating for children, as well as encouraging registration for the Government's Healthy Start Vouchers, Startwell which works to deliver nutritional advice to nurseries and the HENRY programme which works with overweight preschool children.

Dr Dennis Wilkes, assistant director of public health, admitted the measures are very 'limited' and the city council alongside health organisations need to change their approach to tackle childhood obesity which he described as a 'rising epidemic'.

Unattributed[sourcelink]<https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/local-news/mums-still-being-branded-disgusting-14923886>.

Upcoming Events

District Events - August

Local launches are set to take place in August – please look out for confirmation of dates.

Working together to give every child in Birmingham an equal chance to have the best start in life so they can achieve their full potential'



St. Paul's Community
Development Trust



We want to hear from you! Please send positive stories, comments requests and queries to earlyyears@bhamcommunity.nhs.uk