



Swings & Roundabouts



ISSUE THREE JUNE 2010

Intergenerational Project Saturday 19th June

BPCN has become increasingly aware of the lack of dialogue between generations; a decrease of quality play opportunities, shrinking childhoods and the challenge of community engagement. BPCN sees play as an overarching theme to bridge the gap between the two generations. An intergenerational approach brings generations together in a purposeful and mutually beneficial way, involving them in activities which promote greater understanding and respect. BPCN held an Intergenerational Consultation Day as part of an open day event at Sunrise Senior Living Solihull; gathering information from residents and young people about play types. Play consultation games on offer were; playing a game of marbles, create a giant marble run, creating tea light jar lantern and graffiti candle.



“This is so much fun,

I want to play with marbles everyday”

Community Cohesion Research Project: Your help needed!

BVSC is completing a research project to map Third Sector contribution to the community cohesion agenda in the city. Through the project we hope to better understand the general contribution the Third Sector makes to cohesion activities, collate specific instances of good practice, and highlight any gaps in delivery.

We have appointed M-E-L to conduct the research on our behalf and they will be contacting assembly members over the coming weeks to ask for your views and opinions.

If you want any further information on this please contact Julie Whiteman at BVSC on **0121 678 8877** or email juliew@bvsc.org

To get in touch with the research agency conducting the fieldwork please contact:

Jayne Francis on **0121 604 4664** or email Jayne.francis@m-e-l.co.uk



Further details
inside...

News Headlines

Read All About It!

Intergenerational Project cont...



Mawson Chipchase

Activities & Volunteer Coordinator,
Sunrise Senior living Solihull

"At Sunrise Senior Living one of our aims is to encourage family and friends to visit and socialise at every opportunity. With this in mind our garden party was set to be a packed one, and boy we were not wrong. With well over a hundred visitors we needed plenty for them to do, so alongside the usual stall holders we had 2 extras sure to make things a little different. Birmingham Play Care Network were the first of these ingredients and the vibrant fun & laughter from the children sparked lots of inquisitive play from visitors. From their graffiti candle (capturing play memories from all ages) to the giant marble run and more in-between it really made people smile. The second ingredient being live music in the form of 16 year old steel drummer Jamani Stewart helping to create a typically tropical atmosphere, that and the Makalakatui Cocktails everyone was drinking from fresh cut coconuts. It appeared to be a fantastic event that was enjoyed by all who attended and definitely one not to miss next year."



**"this is so much fun,
I want to play with marbles everyday"**

Child Participant

If you have held an Intergenerational Project, let us know how it went! Email bpcn@bpcn.org.uk and you could be seeing your article in this space.

Play England Reorganisation



This statement from Adrian Voce, Director of Play England was sent out earlier this month.

"I want to tell you about changes that we are planning to make to Play England's structure and activities.

Shortly after the general election in May, the new government announced a £5m reduction in the play revenue budget at the renamed Department for Education. It soon became clear that this would need to include a significant reduction in our role as the national delivery partner for the Play Strategy and we have been in discussions with the DfE about this.

Although a new contract is yet to be signed, we are now confident that a refocused role for Play England will soon be agreed, dedicating our expertise to supporting local communities to develop and deliver their own play provision.

We hope to be able to announce details of our new contract soon, but, anticipating the reduction in our revenue, and in light of other changes to the play strategy funding programme, we are today announcing plans for a new organisational and staff structure that would see the closure of our regional offices, the loss of round 40 jobs and the creation of around 25 new ones.

Please be assured that Play England's member services and broader, lottery funded activities until March 2011 are unaffected by these plans and that we are working to secure funds to deliver the new strategy, adopted for the period from April 2011 by the Play England Council earlier this year.

Adrian Voce, Director, PlayEngland, 28th June 2010.

"As an organisation who shares its vision and passion for play, BPCN will support Play England through their reorganisation however that may look or what route it might take."

Emma Payne, Business Development Manager, BPCN.



Birmingham

PlayCare

Network

New Taskforce

On the 17th June 2010 Nick Clegg spoke to Barnardo's about a new taskforce, which includes Liberal Democrat education minister Sarah Teather. This taskforce will look at ways in which the Coalition Government can make a real difference to children's lives and support families to give every child a fair start in life. Clegg sets out some of the areas the taskforce is going to be looking at and their priorities are detailed in the 5 points below.

“The first is parental leave. The Coalition is committed to encouraging shared parenting from the earliest stages of pregnancy - including through the promotion of a system of flexible parental leave. The Task Force is going to look at how we now put that commitment in to practice.”

“Secondly, the Task force is going to look at how we can provide greater support to disabled children. The Government agreed very early on that we would find a way of using direct payments to carers and better community-based care to give them more support. And it's why we have since announced that we will invest in respite care for these families, an additional £20m a year, starting in 2011-12. That money will be recycled from the ending of the Government's contributions to Child Trust Funds.”

“Third, we need to look at how we can protect children in the event of family breakdown. Preventing breakdown where we can, making it as painless as possible where we can't. Separation and divorce can be deeply traumatic for any family... Healthy, loving relationships are the cornerstone of any happy childhood... And we know that family breakdown plays a big part in cycles of disadvantage”

“Fourth, every parent understands the importance of a secure environment for their children. Spaces where they can play, where they can feel completely free, where they can safely push at the boundaries, learning and experimenting. Places where different generations can meet, binding the community together... If you ask adults if they used to play near their homes as children, 71% will tell you they did. Every single day. That compares to just 21% of children now. It's not right, and it has to change. But, despite how obvious that is, I do

appreciate that there's no easy answer.

It isn't up to central government to start handpicking the areas where children across the country should play. Given the lack of money in the Treasury's coffers, we wouldn't now be able to do that, even if we wanted to. But isn't that even more reason to get the Task Force looking at this? There's no more money to throw at these problems, and even when there was money, Labour didn't fix them. So we have to be innovative, we have to find new solutions. No, we need to work out how we can empower people to deliver these changes in their own neighbourhoods... By giving councils more power over how they spend their money. By giving communities more control over what gets built in their neighbourhoods... And by making it easier for volunteers and charities to get involved.”

“Finally, we need to take steps to help children avoid the adult pressures that force them to grow up too quickly. Like the irresponsible advertising that sexualises children... That makes them anxious about how they look... That encourages them to place too much value on brands. I see it for myself when my own children remember the adverts better than they remember the programme. And I know lots of other parents will know exactly what I mean. We are committed to cracking down on irresponsible advertising and marketing... Drawing on previous reviews, including Dr Tanya Byron's review on internet safety. And Professor Buckingham's review of commercialisation. If we are really going to restore and protect the innocence of childhood, action here is absolutely key.”

Clegg concludes to say that these priorities need practical help in whatever way that can be delivered. He reports that in 5 years time he wants to be able to say that Britain is a place every family wants their children to grow up in.

“I want us to be able to look back and say: we tackled the deficit, we protected our children's future, and we rediscovered childhood, so that every child gets the best start. These are big ambitions. But if we're not in government to do this, what are we here to do?”

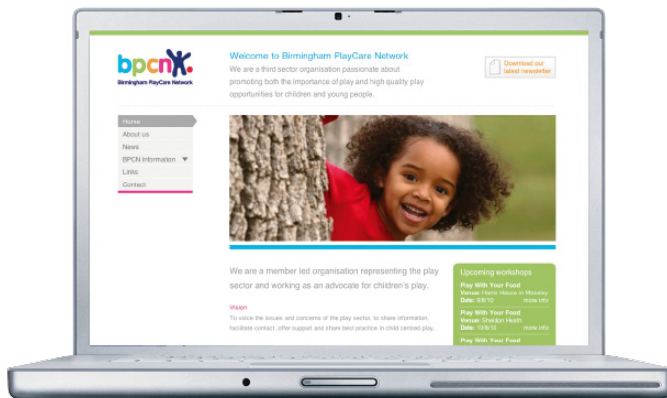
The full speech can be downloaded from the Liberal Democrat news update website.

News Update



Hi to all our readers and members!

We are thrilled to announce that finally after many months of work our website is now live! Please take 5 minutes to check out www.bpcn.org.uk and give us your thoughts, comments and ideas.



Branding and website by Craig at Rockfish Design & Communications

It has been an amazing last 12 months for BPCN to re-launch it's image and make itself more visible to both you our members and the sector. The website is really the final stage of that process and we are all very proud of our achievements to get so far in a relatively short time. From the website you can now download our newsletters, access training and workshop events and find out about our activities.

This week also saw the start of our programme of play based workshops. The first set of workshops 'Consultation Matters' ran on four separate days across all four areas of the city, Birmingham East, North, Heart of Birmingham and South. 50 playworkers attended the events and feedback has been excellent ;

"The day was thoroughly enjoyable, but yet extremely informative, thanks"

Please make sure you watch out for fliers for our next set of workshops – 'Play with your food' running throughout August.

BPCN are also preparing for another summer of 'Play in the Parks' and we are ready now to get out and start delivering. Please make sure you come down and visit us in one of our 5 summer locations.

Booth St. Park Chapel Street, Soho, B21

George's Park Wills St. Lozells, B19

Sandwell Recreation Ground Island Road, B'ham, B21

Burford Road Rec'tion Ground Burford Road, B'ham B44

Hillside Recreation Ground Kingsdown Ave, B'ham, B42

We look forward to seeing you over the summer!

Emma Payne, Business Development Manager, BPCN.

BPCN Library for settings

BPCN has now launched its fantastic library of inspirational books, to get your creative juices flowing!

Categories include Playwork Theory, Arts & Crafts, Outdoor Games, and so much more.

Please get in touch with your BPCN Quality Development Mentor in your area to find out more!

East: Erenjit Kaur eren@bpcn.org.uk

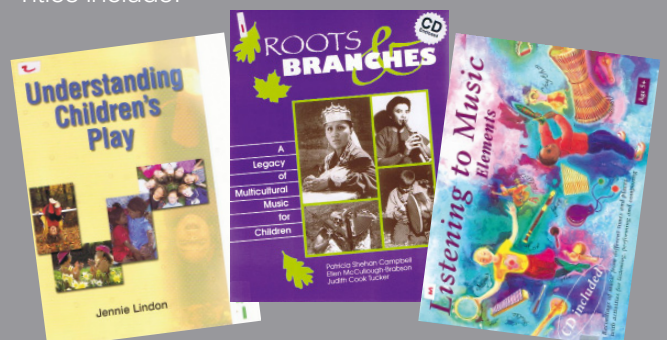
HOB: Shirley Gayle shirley@bpcn.org.uk

North: Zoe Corden zoe@bpcn.org.uk

South: AJ Herbert aj@bpcn.org.uk

Tel: 0121 236 2917

Titles include:-





Birmingham

PlayCare

Network

BPCN Welcomes to the team, Zoe Corden and AJ Herbert

Hi I'm Ajauna (AJ) Herbert and I'm one of the new Quality Development Mentors at BPCN. On my first day I attended a Mindfulness session (Exercises to relieve stress) at Cannon Hill Park and I can honestly say I've never had a better first day at work. I'm looking forward to working with the settings in the South, compiling the resource packs and delivering workshops. It's good to join the team just before summer starts as it's a very busy time for everyone and a great opportunity for me to learn. I'm eager to contribute all I can.



Hello, my name is Zoe Corden and I am one of the new Quality Development Mentors at BPCN. I am very excited about my new role and look forward to working with various settings within the North Birmingham area. I have worked with children in several of my previous jobs including Primary school Teacher and Museum Worker but I can safely say my days spent as a Playworker were some of the most enjoyable. In the coming months I hope to visit many of the playwork settings in my PCT Area, South.; share good practice and get to know you all.

Quality Update

New QDM's

BPCN would like to welcome 2 new Quality Development Mentors to the team. Zoe Corden will be covering the north of Birmingham and AJ Herbert will be covering the south of Birmingham.

Go play

The 'Go Play' programme has been developed by Birmingham PlayCare Network as a response from the sector and development workers to raise the quality and profile of play within out of school provision. A number of after school settings have already taken part in BPCN's Go play programme: Congratulations to you all! If any settings would like further information on this please contact BPCN on **0121 236 2917** and speak to your Quality Development Mentor:

South - AJ Herbert
HOB - Shirley Gayle

East - Erenjit Kaur
North - Zoe Corden

Quality in Play

Currently Foxes and Cottesbrooke ASC are working through a quality assurance scheme and are looking to complete the award by March 2011.

Workshops

This year BPCN are running play based workshops within your pct area. They will be running July 2010 - March 2011. Please contact your quality development mentor or BPCN for information on dates and venues. They are full of playful ideas to put some spark into the world of play.

South workshops will be held on a Monday
East will be held on a Tuesday
HOB will be held on a Wednesday
North will be held on a Thursday

Places are going fast so book yourself a place NOW!!

What's On Guide

National Playday - Our Place

Wednesday 4th August 2010
10:30am till 3:00pm



Come and Make Cannon Hill Park your place to play this Playday

This year's Playday event will take place in Birmingham's Cannon Hill Park as work continues on the new build of the Central Library. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun as Birmingham's Play Services, Rangers and Play Networks come together to create a place to play, and perhaps remind the grown up's how important it is to have the chance to play.

**Bring a picnic and stay for the day,
Dig in the sand, and play in the hay.
Build a rocket to take you to mars,
Get messy and creative as you play with the arts
Make a den with your mates,
have fun while you play
and take laugh's and smiles and new idea's away.**

Playday is a national campaign – now in its 23rd year – where thousands of children and young people get out and play at locally organised events. Last year over 834 events were held across the UK.

As well as a celebration of children's right to play, Playday is also a campaign that raises awareness about some serious issues affecting children's play. The Playday 2010 campaign is Our place.

The Our place campaign puts children at the heart of our communities, and asks everyone, young and old, to help create better places for all of us to live and play.

For more information go to:
http://www.playday.org.uk/playday_campaigns/2010_theme.aspx



The **G:XL project** are pleased to invite you to the following two meetings to discuss how savings can be made from back office services.



Midlands Youth is looking at collaborative back office services as part of the G:XL project and wants your input.

4 August, 11am - 12.30pm

The meeting will be joined by Paula Wilson of the Community Accountancy Service who will help to explore the savings that can be made by outsourcing Payroll, book keeping, accountancy services and independent examination etc.

Both meetings will be held at:

**WAYC, Jubilee House, Westlea Road,
Leamington Spa CV31 3JE**

Travel expenses will be paid for those attending (up to a maximum of £40 per person).

Contact Jan Goddard to confirm your attendance:

Tel: 01926 450156

email: Janet.goddard@wayc.org.uk

Animal Fun at Thinktank

Thinktank Birmingham's Science Museum is going wild this summer as they celebrate the wild and wonderful creatures that live on our planet. There will be lots of animal-themed fun activities for everyone to enjoy, including workshops, science shows, animal handling sessions, arts activities and under 8's story telling. For more information and price details, please visit: **www.thinktank.ac**

**6 May - 5 Sept
2010**



**Thinktank
goes WILD**



Fun
With
Food

Next
Workshop
bpcn
Birmingham PlayCare Network



Birmingham PlayCare Network

Play With Your Food Workshop

This workshop will help practitioners create fun activities with food which they can use in their settings to integrate the idea of healthy eating. The activities will include a desert island ice-breaker; camp fire cooking; as well as growing your own vegetables and mentos explosions! Practitioners will also get a free goody pack on completion of the workshop.

Aims of the workshop:

- To make settings aware of the benefits of Healthy Eating
- To introduce the contents of the Grab 5 Healthy Lifestyles pack
- To introduce fun activities using fruit and vegetables

Time: 9:30am - 2:30pm

Dates & Venues:

9th August - Harris House in Moseley

10th August - Sheldon Heath

11th August - Handsworth Day Care Centre

12th August - The Sanctuary Building Castle Vale



www.bpcn.org.uk

Caring About Play

Please book by 4th August 2010 to secure your place contact Fatima Bibi on: **0121 236 2917**



Birmingham PlayCare Network

503b The Big Peg
120 Vyse Street
Jewellery Quarter
Birmingham B18 6NF
Tel: 0121 236 2917
Email: bpcn@bpcn.org.uk

Email & large print version

We are happy to email Swings & Roundabouts or provide a Large Print Version. For further details, or if you wish to be added to our mailing list, contact our offices.

BPCN welcomes contributions to Swings & Roundabouts. If you have an interesting article you would like to submit for inclusion please contact us. BPCN reserves the right to edit all copy received in order to fit the space available. Opinions expressed in Swings & Roundabouts are not necessarily those of BPCN or Birmingham Early Years & Childcare Team.

www.bpcn.org.uk

Caring About Play

affordable effective design



"We very much enjoy working with Craig at Rockfish Design & Communications. He is quick and efficient with lots of great ideas"

Emma Payne - Business Development Manager, BPCN

**get in touch today on
07958330655 or email
craig@rockfishdesign.co.uk**

Schools 'too safe' teachers say

Nearly half of teachers believe the health and safety culture in schools is damaging children's learning and development, a survey suggests. When questioned by Teachers TV, teachers complained about a five-page briefing on using glue sticks and being told to wear goggles to put up posters.

Around 45% of those who took part thought health and safety precautions had a negative effect on teachers, as well as on students' personal development and learning.

SAFETY RULES

- **Wearing goggles to put up posters**
- **Five-page briefing on the dangers of glue sticks**
- **Ban on running in the playground**
- **Wet grass stopping PE lessons**
- **Ban on playing with conkers**
- **One person at a time in staff kitchen**
- **Ban on sweets because of choking risk**
- **Buoyancy aids for capable year 11 swimmers on a school trip to France**

The Health and Safety Executive has called some of the examples of health and safety precautions cited in the survey "frankly ridiculous". HSE chair Judith Hackitt said children needed to learn how to manage risk. She said: "Stop worrying about the 'conkers stories' and help children learn how to handle risk by doing things and going on visits. "Concentrate on the real risks - not the trivia - by putting measures in place to manage them as far as is reasonable, but don't try to eliminate all risk and don't stop the activity."

BBC NEWS <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/8107858.stm> **June 18th 2010**

