

Early Years Development Funding

Childcare Providers within the Western Area continued to benefit from the support and initiatives implemented using Early Years Development Fund, allocated to the Childcare Partnership annually by the Early Years Team within the Department of Education. Expenditures for the period of 1st April 2008—31st March 2009 were as follows:

WESTERN CHILDCARE PARTNERSHIP EYDF Funding (2008-2009)	Proposed Spend	Actual Spend (as of 31/3/09)	% of Total (Actual Spend)
Salaries	£110,077	£98,867	32%
Running Costs	£40,711	£29,452	9%
Small Grants Scheme	£77,831	£87,000	28%
Training Programmes for Childcare Workers	£30,000	£30,000	10%
Childminding Strategy (increase the numbers of Childminders in the WCP Area)	£39,676	£39,676	13%
User Involvement (support for local partnership working)	£6,000	£25,000	8%
Addition Support for the Sector (i.e. Play Bags, Light Boards, Manuals, etc.)	£0	£24,079	8%
Misc.	(£8,000)	(£21,779)	(8%)
TOTAL	£312,295	£312,295	100%



Childcare workers who achieved the CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in November 2008.

Early Years Small Grants Scheme 2008/2009

For the past several years the Childcare Partnership has supported local childcare providers by making additional funding available through its Small Grants Scheme. The scheme operates under the simple premise that better value for money is obtained through a partnership approach towards implementing services. This year the Childcare Partnership sought to expand on the partnership theme, and to encourage groups to come together and share their knowledge, resources and expertise to promote integrated working to deliver childcare services. The total potential award was increased to £20,000, as it was hoped larger partnerships would develop. Projects of exceptional quality, that demonstrated effective partnership working would be considered for funding between £20,000-£30,000.

Advertisements of the Scheme are placed in local newspapers during June/July to alert the sector to the availability of this funding and how they can apply.

See the following pages for an overview of how this funding has made a difference to the sector during 2008/2009.

Early Years Small Grants Scheme (2008/2009) continued....

Awardees	Amount	Funding Purpose	Identified Outcomes	Project Completed by 31/03/09
Altram	£19,980	Equip Irish Language Immersion Training facility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Unit 9 of the Rath Mor Centre into a well-equipped early years immersion education and training centre. Deliver the Certificate in Early Years Immersion Education to 12 staff from the Irish medium sector in the Western Board area in Year 1 of the project. Design and publish 3-targeted storyboards for use within the Irish-medium early years sector. Deliver 2 parenting programmes to support the needs of both parents and children in the acquisition of a second language in the home situation of the children. Deliver 2 training days for those staff working within an Irish-immersion Sure Start 2 Year Old Programme. Deliver 2 information sessions to organisations who work with children from linguistic minorities. 	<p>The refurbishment of the Unit within the Rath Mor Centre has been completed. Altram is now in a position to provide a venue from which the Certificate in Early Years Immersion Education can be delivered. This allows Irish Language groups within the Western Area to have access to their own dedicated training facility to support Irish Language Early Years Staff. There are currently 10 Irish Language Early Years Providers within the Western Area.</p>
Westville Family Centre	£13,429	<p>To deliver a Sure Start-like programme outside of the existing Sure Start Area.</p> <p>To deliver First Aid to the parents through the Red Cross.</p> <p>Purchase office supplies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide young children from various backgrounds with a place for social integration, which will provide them with opportunities to learn, achieve and have fun through play within a safe and friendly environment. To encourage and develop active involvement from parents and children from different backgrounds. To equip and inform parents with the necessary resources to raise healthy children who will reach their full potential and contribute positively to the community in which they live. To introduce parents to the use of the internet to access parenting information and to improve employability skills. To collect and collate information for evaluation of the project. 	<p>This project has established a mechanism for providing Parenting and Early Years Developmental support to parents within the Enniskillen Area who may not have access to local Sure Start Services. The project aims to reduce isolation, marginalisation and assist in developing networking opportunities to support parents in their role as their child's first educator. The need for such a project was identified through consultation with Parents, and Health and Education Professionals. The project exceeded its expected number of participants during 2008, when it was anticipated that somewhere in the region of 40 families would attend. To date, 131 families are registered with 174 children attending the programme. Average attendance at each session is 70 parents and children. Programme delivery is timed to complement other parent support programmes, and to meet parents' ability to attend at different times of the day.</p>

Early Years Small Grants Scheme (2008/2009) continued...

Awardees	Amount	Funding Purpose	Identified Outcomes	Project Completed by 31/03/09
First Steps	£16,800	To deliver a quality training programme to several local Day Nurseries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Training Needs Analysis for each partner. • Produce Training Action Plan. • Agree Training Outputs (Training, Venue, No of places). • Select Training Provider. • Delivery of Training (12-16 participants). • Evaluation of training. 	<p>The proposed local training plan was delivered and the following outcomes achieved:</p> <p>26 Practitioners attended a minimum of 2 courses.</p> <p>26 Practitioners achieved certificates in the programmes identified to meet their needs.</p> <p>An unforeseen bi-product of this training was that the groups developed a better working relationship with each other and have agreed to continue to work in partnership, sharing advice, support and resources to enhance their delivery of quality services at a local level.</p>
The Early Years Organisation (NIPPA)	£12,388	To provide IMMPACT training on Governance to Management Committees through the Organisation's local Branches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of committee member's roles, responsibility and governance. • Increasing the capacity of voluntary committee managers to have a more robust business approach to developing high quality sustainable provision meeting the needs of local families. • To encourage committees to manage resources and develop a strategic approach to providing early years services through training, peer/network learning and resources. • Advice clinics will sign post and connect committee/board members with specialist advisors and agencies. 	Final Report pending.
Eglinton Pre-Schools	£2,647	To purchase additional Early Years support to improve the quality of the Partnership's service delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a safe and stimulating supervised environment where children can feel happy and secure. • Provide them with opportunities through play and other experiences and to develop the learning associated with "the six areas of learning". The role of the Early Years Service would contribute to improvement in the quality of the educational provision and to support the staff in ways, which enable them as a team to identify the strengths and weaknesses in all aspects of the educational provision and to achieve better outcomes for the children and parents of the groups. 	The funding allowed several local groups to avail of additional support to assist them in planning their service delivery in line with "the six areas of learning". The support also allowed them to identify the strengths and weaknesses within their current service delivery and develop a longer-term plan to achieve better outcomes for the children attending their services.

Early Years Small Grants Scheme (2008/2009) continued...

Awardees	Amount	Funding Purpose	Identified Outcomes	Project Completed by 31/03/09
Positive Futures	£29,985	<p>Lakers Consortium Group Project</p> <p>The Project will provide support to parents of children with special needs, who are known to the consortium partners, by providing an inclusive after school programme and parent support programmes. The Project will specifically target children with autism, a learning disability and associated physical and sensory disabilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide high quality inclusive out of school activities for children with learning disability, autism and challenging behaviour. To provide quality, creative play opportunities in an out of school environment. To encourage the involvement of parents. To provide support to parents of children involved in the out of school activities. To increase the participation of children and young people in the monitoring, evaluation and development of the Service. To provide a transport Service to support the Project. 	<p>This project provided the following services and supports to children with a learning disability and their Carers:</p> <p>Weekly after school sports sessions (run by Special Olympic Coaches).</p> <p>Planning event (PATH) re: young people's participation.</p> <p>3 evening sessions run with 'Cool Kids' & local young people's Forum.</p> <p>1x 'Your say/Your day' activity day delivered at the Share Centre.</p> <p>1x 10 week 'All about me' Course delivered for Woman Carers.</p> <p>1x 6 week 'More about me' advanced Personal Development Course for 15 Woman Carers.</p> <p>'Reach me' Personal Development & mentoring support for 5 'hard to reach' Woman Carers</p> <p>In total 28 Woman supported.</p> <p>Development of innovative 'Give a Care' Scheme – local businesses & services donating resources/time/staff to support woman carers (to date over £25,000 of support donated to support woman carers).</p> <p>Celebratory Awards Evening for 28 woman involved in the Personal Development course.</p>
TOTAL	£95,229			

Play & Learning

Through our involvement with PlayBoard, the Western Area Childcare Partnership became aware of a noted speaker on Play and Learning. During January 2009, the Partnership was delighted to have been able to sponsor Marc Armitage to provide a workshop on:

“A ‘Play-Led’ Approach to Learning”

A ‘Play-led’ Approach to Learning explores the delivery of early years learning from a play perspective. The day defines a ‘play-led’ approach to learning and summarises the current state of research into the link between learning and play.



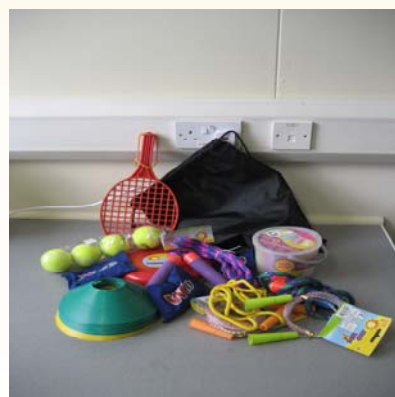
The day explored five important areas of educational development and provided a rationale from a play perspective. The five areas were defined; suggested environments and materials were linked. Participants were provided with numerous practical examples of how to implement play-based learning. The session was supported by photographic examples and evidence. By the end of the session participants had a clear understanding of the ‘play-led’ approach to early learning and had many practical ideas of the environments and materials needed to put this approach into practice.

Marc Armitage is a renowned independent researcher and teacher. He has worked for many years in the children’s sector. Marc’s expertise covers a wide range of issues relating to children, play and learning. Having worked in a number of educational and playwork roles Marc has insightful practical and theory-based experience and knowledge to share. Marc is a freelance consultant, who works under the name PLAYPEOPLE. He works extensively with universities and colleges, local authorities, central government departments and children’s play agencies throughout the UK, ROI and the Scandinavian countries. He specialises in play in educational settings, particularly on consultation and research projects involving children in developing play opportunities in the school environment.

The above event proved so successful that the Western Childcare Partnership is hoping to bring Marc back at a future date to accommodate those whose names are on the waiting list.

PLAY BAGS

Additionally, the Partnership sponsored the purchase of a “Play Bag” for each childcare facility within the Western Area. Play Bags contained items such as skipping ropes, bean bags, Bat ‘n’ Balls, Obstacle Course Cones, etc. all contained within a easy carry back-pack. The purpose of the Play Bags, was to provide some support for childcare providers who may have the outdoor play space but little in the way of equipment. Of course, the overarching purpose is to encourage children from a very early age to enjoy outdoor play. In addition to affording opportunities to learn through play, children’s positive physical and social & emotional development are also supported. It is hoped that over the longer-term, children will benefit from better overall Health & Well-being (i.e. reduced Obesity levels, better bone density, reduced stress levels, etc).



Training Timetable 2009/2010

Each year the Childcare Partnership provides training to staff working within Early Years and Childcare Facilities to meet registration and inspection requirements and to offer opportunities for continuous personal development. Summary Reports on the training offered, and its evaluation, in previous years are available on the Western Childcare Partnership's website at: www.childcare-west.org

In April 2009, members of the Quality Assurance and Development Sub-group met to assess the training needs of the childcare sector and draw up a list of training priorities for the current year. The courses on this list were identified after studying feedback from childcare groups, the Early Years Teams and regional Childcare Organisations. Once this list was agreed, it was translated into a provisional training plan and shared with the wider Childcare Partnership for approval. The Childcare Partnership approved this training plan and the training went out to tender. To date the tender process is not complete but the courses being planned are:

- Paediatric First Aid and Paediatric First Aid Refresher
- Food Safety and Food Safety Refresher
- Introduction to Home-based Childcare
- Staff Induction, Supervision and Appraisals
- Observations and Planning
- Storytelling
- Mathematics
- Observations and Interactions for Day Care Staff
- A 'Play-Led' Approach to Learning

A revised timetable will be issued and posted to the Western Childcare Partnership's website as soon as dates for the delivery of the training have been agreed (see www.childcare-west.org). In the meantime, here are other courses which are being provided across the region which may be of interest to those involved in Childcare and Early Years Organisations.

Month	Provider	Course	Location	Venue	Times	Date	Duration
Sept 09	NICVA	E Campaigning and Advocacy	Belfast	NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens	10.00 am – 1.00 pm	17/09/09	3 hours
Sept 09	VDA	Keeping Safe: Awareness Raising Workshop on Child Protection	Enniskillen	The Fermanagh Trust, Fermanagh House, Broadmeadow Place	10.00 am – 4.30 pm	17/09/09 & 24/09/09	2 days
Sept 09	VDA	Free Volunteering Strategy Consultation Event	Omagh	Silverbirch Hotel, 5 Gortin Road	9.30 am – 12.30 pm	18/09/09	3 hours
Sept 09	VDA	Free Volunteering Strategy Consultation	Belfast	NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens	9.30 am – 12.30 pm	21/09/09	3 hours
Sept 09	NICVA	Strategic Planning in the Recession	Belfast	NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens	10.00 am – 4.00 pm	22/09/09	One day
Sept 09	Citizens Advice	Young People and Money	Belfast	The Millennium Community Outreach Centre,	9.15 am – 4.30 pm	28/09/09	One day
Sept 09	NICVA	Managing Stress in the Workplace	Belfast	NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens	10.00 am – 4.00 pm	29/09/09	One day
Sept 09	VDA	Investing in Volunteers Free Information Session	Omagh	Omagh Volunteer Centre, 2 nd Floor, Community House, 2 Drumragh Avenue	10.00 am – 12.30 pm	30/09/09	2.5 hours
Sept 09	VDA	Investing in Volunteers Free Information Session	Enniskillen	The Fermanagh Trust, Fermanagh House, Broadmeadow Place	2.15 pm – 4.30 pm	30/09/09	One afternoon

Training Timetable 2009/2010 continued...

Month	Provider	Course	Location	Venue	Times	Date	Duration
Oct 09	NICVA	Winning Contracts	Belfast	NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens	9.30 am – 4.30 pm	01/10/09, 08/10/09 & 28/10/09	3 days
Oct 09	VDA	Recruitment & Selection of Volunteers	Enniskillen	The Fermanagh Trust, Fermanagh House, Broadmeadow Place	9.30 am – 4.30 pm	07/10/09 & 14/10/09	2 days
Oct 09	VDA	Time Banking Free Information Workshop	Enniskillen	The Fermanagh Trust, Fermanagh House, Broadmeadow Place	2.00 pm – 4.30 pm	08/10/09	2.5 hours
Oct 09	VDA	Introduction to Managing & Motivating Volunteers	Belfast	Volunteer Development Agency, 129 Ormeau Road	9.30 am – 4.30 pm	08/10/09 & 15/10/09	2 days
Oct 09	VDA	Time Banking Free Information Workshop	Belfast	Volunteer Development Agency, 129 Ormeau Road	11.00 am – 1.30 pm	09/10/09	2.5 hours
Oct 09	VDA	Child Protection Training for Management Committees	Enniskillen	The Fermanagh Trust, Fermanagh House, Broadmeadow Place	10.00 am – 4.30 pm	10/10/09	One day
Oct 09	NICVA	Marketing Your Organisation	Belfast	NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens	10.00 am – 1.00 pm	14/10/09	3 hours
Oct 09	Labour Relations Agency	Conducting Employment Investigations	Derry	Labour Relations Agency, 1-3 Guildhall Street	10.00 am – 12.30 pm	21/10/09	2.5 hours
Oct 09	NICVA	Managing and Assessing Risk	Belfast	NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens	10.00 am – 1.00 pm	22/10/09	3 hours
Oct 09	Citizens Advice	Young People and Money	Belfast	Spectrum Centre, Shankill Road	9.15 am – 4.30 pm	26/10/09	One day
Oct 09	Labour Relations Agency	Taking the Fear out of Handling Discipline and Grievance	Derry	Labour Relations Agency, 1-3 Guildhall Street	10.00 am – 12.30 pm	27/10/09	2.5 hours
Nov 09	NICVA	A Question of Trust? – How to Get Trusts to Fund You	Belfast	NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens	10.00 am – 1.00 pm	04/11/09	3 hours
Nov 09	Labour Relations Agency	Managing Absence from Work – Disciplinary or Capability Issue?	Derry	Labour Relations Agency, 1-3 Guildhall Street	10.00 am – 12.00 noon	10/11/09	2 hours
Nov 09	NICVA	Train the Trainers	Belfast	NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens	10.00 am – 4.00 pm	10/11/09, 17/11/09 & 30/11/09	3 days
Nov 09	NICVA	Working in Partnership and Collaboration	Belfast	NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens	10.00 am – 1.00 pm	12/11/09	3 hours
Nov 09	VDA	Designated Officer Training	Derry	North West Volunteer Centre, 22 Bishop Street	10.00 am – 4.30 pm	12/11/09	One day
Nov 09	Labour Relations Agency	Managing in an Economic Downturn	Derry	Labour Relations Agency, 1-3 Guildhall Street	10.00 am – 12.00 noon	19/11/09	2 hours
Dec 09	NICVA	Making a Better Application to Grant-Making Trusts	Belfast	NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens	10.00 am – 1.00 pm	03/12/09	3 hours
Dec 09	NICVA	Managing Staff	Belfast	NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens	10.00 am – 1.00 pm	08/12/09	3 hours

Training Timetable 2009/2010 continued...

Month	Provider	Course	Location	Venue	Times	Date	Duration
Dec 09	Citizens Advice	Young People and Money	Belfast	The Millennium Community Outreach Centre, 400 Springfield Road	9.15 am – 4.30 pm	08/12/09	One day
Jan 10	NICVA	Dealing with Difficult People	Belfast	NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens	10.00 am – 1.00 pm	19/01/10	3 hours
Jan 10	VDA	Keeping Safe: Awareness Raising Workshop on Child Protection	Enniskillen	The Fermanagh Trust, Fermanagh House, Broadmeadow Place	10.00 am – 4.30 pm	21/01/10 & 28/01/10	2 days
Feb 10	VDA	Child Protection Training for Management Committees	Enniskillen	The Fermanagh Trust, Fermanagh House, Broadmeadow Place	10.00 am – 4.30 pm	20/02/10	One day
Mar 10	VDA	Designated Officer Training	Coleraine	Causeway Volunteer Centre, 14 Killowen Court, Killowen Street	10.00 am – 4.30 pm	16/02/10	One day

Contact Details for Providers

WACP – Miss Anita Mason, Training & Quality Development Officer, HSCB, Gransha Park House, 15 Gransha Park, Londonderry, BT47 6FN. Tel: (028) 7186 0086. E-mail: Anita.Mason@hscni.net

NICVA – Roisin Kelly, NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast, BT15 2GB. Tel: (028) 9087 7777. E-mail: roisin.kelly@nicva.org. Further information can be found at <http://www.nicva.org/>

VDA – Paula Hackett, Training & Quality Development Officer, Volunteer Development Agency, 129 Ormeau Road, Belfast, BT7 1SH. Tel: (028) 9081 8305. E-mail: paula@volunteering-ni.org. Further information can be found at <http://www.volunteering-ni.org/>. For events taking place in The Fermanagh Trust, telephone (028) 6632 0210 or e-mail: info@fermanaghtrust.org. For events taking place in North West Volunteer Centre, telephone (028) 7127 1017 or e-mail: info@volunteeringnorthwest.co.uk

CENI (Community Evaluation Northern Ireland) – Gladys Swanton, CENI Training Manager, Unit 5, 127-131 Ormeau Road, Belfast, BT7 1SH. E-mail: gladys@ceni.org. Further details and an online booking form can be found at <http://www.ceni.org/>

Labour Relations Agency – Seminar Co-ordinator (Regional Office), Labour Relations Agency, 1-3 Guildhall Street, Londonderry, BT48 6BJ. Tel: (028) 7126 9639. E-mail: kiera.duddy@lra.org.uk. Further details and an online booking form can be found at <http://www.lra.org.uk/>

AbilityNet – Ms Caroline Holden. Tel: 0800 269545. E-mail: Preschool@abilitynet.org.uk

Citizens Advice – Young People and Money Team. Tel: (028) 9023 1120. E-mail: ypam@citizensadvice.co.uk. For further information visit the website: <http://www.youngpeopleandmoney.co.uk/>



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