

# Knowsley Early Years Service Newsletter

April 2021

Following on from the Covid-19 Newsletter we sent out in January, this proved highly successful and popular so we are going to produce a quarterly newsletter to let you all know what has been happening with Knowsley Early Years and its partners over the last 3 months.

All childcare settings are now fully open, welcoming new and returning children – 592 2 Year Offer children, 2737 Universal and/or Extended Hours childcare offer children.

## What's happened between January and March in Early Years

- 370 families were offered support by Early Years Practitioners.

It's been great to hear such positive feedback from parents about the campaign:

Your support has been amazing, benefitting me and my children. I honestly wouldn't know where I would have been or how I may have ended up if I didn't have the support from this service.

*Grateful parent*

Enjoyed all of the information posted this week, it's been really helpful and I have also recommended this page to a friend.  
#Knowsleyearlycommunication

- Knowsley Early Years and North West Boroughs social media campaign **#Knowsleyearlycommunication**

From Monday 15th March 2021, the Knowsley Early Years Service and North West Boroughs Healthcare worked in partnership to launch a five-day social media campaign based on the importance of promoting early communication from pre-birth to five years of age. The campaign provided parents with lots of advice and information to help them develop their confidence in supporting their child's speech and language development. We wanted to equip parents with easy to follow activities that they can embed into their daily routines in order to help enhance the home learning environment. Throughout the campaign, parents were able to find out more about: supporting early communication from pregnancy up to the age of 5 years old; mind mindedness; advice for those children that may be experiencing a delay in their speech and language development.

Very helpful information for speech and language milestones and what to expect with great links/videos to help.  
#Knowsleyearlycommunication



Among parents who engaged with the campaign, some were lucky enough to win a free Hungry Little Minds activity pack! All of the campaign content is still available to view on our Knowsley Early Years Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages – just type in the **#Knowsleyearlycommunication** hashtag into your social media search bar to find out more.



# New Staff

## EARLY YEARS HEALTH INTEGRATION LEAD

My name is Sharen Harwood and I have been seconded for 12 months to the role of Early Years Health Integration Lead.

I qualified as a Registered Children's Nurse 21 years ago and have experience in paediatric intensive care, medical, accident and emergency, school nursing and health visiting. I also hold the dual Specialist Community Public Health Nursing Qualification in School Health and Health Visiting. Prior to taking up my current role I was a health visitor in St Helens.

As part of my role as Early Years Health Integration Lead, I will be looking to identify and strengthen partnerships working within the early years settings to enable best practice to be shared among agencies and ensure it is available to young children and families. A key part of this work is to enhance and develop integrated pathways for families and young children to provide a coordinated, integrated approach that puts the child at the centre and has a positive impact on the life of the child.

Please do not hesitate to send me an email if you would like to find out more about my role and how I may be able to help your service: **Sharen.Harwood2@nwbh.nhs.uk**



## EARLY YEARS HEALTH INTEGRATION OFFICER

My name is Ellie Forrester and I work as an Early Years Health Integration Officer for Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council.

Previously, I have worked as a primary school teacher. I then moved onto completing a Masters degree in Public Health and a lot of my assignments were based on health inequalities and child poverty. I have now moved from the North East to work in Knowsley as an Early Years Health Integration Officer.

In my role as an Early Years Health Integration Officer, I am looking to strengthen partnership working with professionals and organisations so that a wide range of support is made available to young children and families. In order to do this, I am aiming to create and improve integrated pathways for families and young children to ensure a smooth transition between services.

With multi agency support and coordinated working, we can work together to improve the outcomes for young children and their families. Please do not hesitate to send me an email if you would like to find out more about my role and how I may be able to help your service: **ellie.forrester@knowsley.gov.uk**



# Early Years Staff Update

## BARBARA JOHNSTONE – FAREWELL

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Barbara for all the hard work and dedication she has given the Early Years service over the 21 years she worked here. Barbara will now get to spend some quality time with her new grandchildren which we know she will enjoy. The whole team would like to join with all her previous colleagues and external partners to wish her all the best for the future.



## STEPHANIE MALONEY – NEW ROLE ANNOUNCEMENT

Hello all,

I just wanted to take this opportunity to express my excitement about the new position I hold within the Early Years team as Locality Manager for Area 2. After working as a Quality Officer for the past 7 years I have observed first-hand the passion and commitment of everyone who works with Early Years children across Knowsley and I look forward to this continuing.

I am enjoying my induction into the new role as I learn from the vast knowledge of the Early Years management team and I hope to share with them new ideas from my 15 years Early Years' experience. I was lucky enough to be managed and supported by Barbara during my Quality Officer position and I hold a lot of her values and echo her words in recognising the importance of partnership working and striving for the best for all children.

Thank you, take care and hopefully see you all soon.

Stephanie



## Contact information

- If you need to contact us by phone please call our main number and select an option. The number is **0151 443 5633**
  - Kirkby Centres **Option 1**
  - Stockbridge Village, Jubilee or Southmead centres **Option 2**
  - Huyton and Halewood centres **Option 3**
  - Childcare and Family Information Service **Option 4**
  - 2 Year Offer enquiries **Option 5**
  - Child Development Team **Option 6**
  - Or hold for other enquiries
- You could also contact us via our Early Years and Family Information Social Media platforms where we promote what is happening in the service and also to inform you of any relevant up to date information, advice and guidance for parent/carers, families and providers. Please feel free to follow our social media accounts to keep up to date.
  - Facebook - [@knowsleyearlyyears](#), [@knowsley FIS](#), [@Knowsleyplacetogo.thingstodo](#)
  - Twitter - [@knowsley\\_eyes](#), [@knowsleyfis](#), [@knowsleyplaces](#)
  - Instagram - [@knowsleyearlyyears](#)
- To find out more about us or some of the services we work with please visit our website [www.knowsleyearlyyears.co.uk](http://www.knowsleyearlyyears.co.uk)

## Early Years SEND Support

- Face to face visits have resumed to all settings taking into account social distancing guidelines with observations and support being provided onsite, with feedback and any additional follow up support being offered via Zoom or telephone call.
- Support has been offered to SENCO's with paperwork, intervention and general coordination of what they need to do as part of the assess, plan, do and review cycle.
- Settings are able to contact the SEND Support Quality & Development officers via phone or email.
- We have been attending the newly established Early Years Practitioner Consultation Groups which hold regular meetings enabling us to support PVI and maintained settings.
- We would like to congratulate all the Early Years staff and childcare providers who successfully completed and passed the Level 3 Senco Award Training.



## What's happening over the next 3 months



As the government have begun to lift some restrictions we are in the process of reviewing how we can safely provide both universal and targeted support to our families.

At this time, targeted work supporting child development and language is our priority with smaller numbers to maintain social distancing requirements.

We will aim to introduce some universal sessions in the summer but this is likely to be bookable to manage attendance numbers.

We look forward to welcoming all our families back to our centres as soon as it is safe to do so.

We will be working with early years providers to support them and parents with understanding the importance of children attending early years provision and how it helps them to reach their full potential as they grow. From 7 June we will be running another social media campaign around children's mental health please watch out for it.

All Early Years settings will be offered EYFS Reforms and Exe training during the Summer months ready for the changes in September 2021.

## Do you have a child under 5? Are you registered with Knowsley Early Years Service?

The Early Years Service brings together a range of services that work in partnership to improve the lives of all young children aged 0-5 years and their families.

Working from Children's Centres and within your community offering online courses for babies, toddlers and young children using activities such as Baby Massage, Sensory Play, Song Time, etc. We also use these activities to support with Speech and Language skills. There are also parenting workshops in partnership with health practitioners.

For further information about the Service, including how to register visit our Early Years website

[www.knowsleyearlyyears.co.uk/](http://www.knowsleyearlyyears.co.uk/)

