

RCT CHILDCARE TEAM NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 05 • OCTOBER 2022

HELLO AND WELCOME

TO THE AUTUMN EDITION OF OUR NEWSLETTER.

There's lots going on, so we hope you find this update useful.



Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

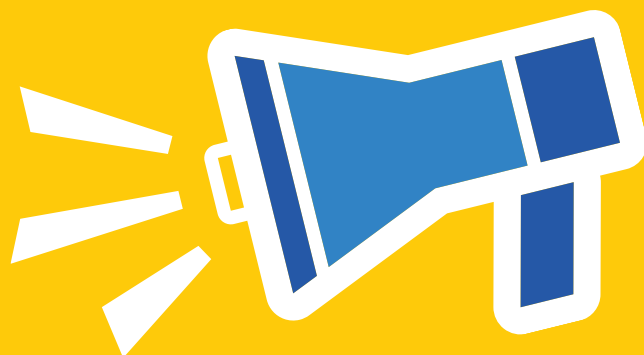
The CSA has now been finalised and is available to view on the council website at www.rctcbc.gov.uk/csa.

Childcare team update

We are busy planning how to action the priorities identified in the CSA. The priorities that we will focus on for this year are available to view at www.rctcbc.gov.uk/csa.

We will be conducting surveys in identified schools in the Cynon area over the next couple of months to assess demand and implement new services if required. We will also be working with existing out of school providers to support them to open in holiday periods to help families who have told us that they struggle with this type of care.

We are also keen to support unregistered settings. If your provision is currently unregistered, please get in touch with us so that we can offer you tailored support to achieve CIW registration. We can offer funded training, grant support and 1:1 advice.



If you are not able to register with CIW for any reason, the team can also support you to follow the National Minimum Standards so that you can demonstrate that you are offering a quality service.

As always, we are committed to recruiting and supporting new childminders. We have a tailored package of support and work with partners to promote childminding as a career. If you know of anyone who is interested in becoming a childminder, please pass our details onto them.

Mae croeso i chi gyfathrebu â ni yn y Gymraeg / You are welcome to communicate with us in Welsh.



Engagement with providers and parents

Now that the COVID restrictions have eased, we have been able to resume our timetable of attendance at P&T/Ti a Fi groups and other events. We come along to give families advice on the Childcare Offer, how to become a childminder or to signpost them to any other services. Oliver, the FIS Officer, is attending some with us and he will be able to help families with a wide range of queries. A flyer is available on our website that shows where we will be, and when. This will also be emailed to you. Please pass it onto your families and feel free to come along. If you run a P&T/Ti a Fi group, get in touch with us and we will be glad to add you to our schedule.



Our next provider engagement event is on 20th October 6.30pm-8pm. For the first time, we are trying a hybrid model. You can come to see us in person at Pontypridd Deaf Club or log in online. Guest speakers include the Flying Start commissioning team and an update from the Childcare Offer team regarding the new digital system. To book your place, please do so via the links below. We look forward to seeing you all.

If you would like to attend in person:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/406803930507>

if you would like to attend virtually:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/406812135047>



Expansion of Flying Start childcare

Welsh Government are continuing with the phased expansion of Flying Start childcare. The aim will be that every 2-3 year old will eventually be offered a free childcare place, from the term following their second birthday.

In RCT we are preparing for the expansion and have an approved provider list for Flying Start childcare. There are currently 30 settings approved with just under half being Welsh medium. If you are a childcare provider or childminder, you can apply to join by registering on eTenderWales, expressing an interest in **ITT-92447**, answering and submitting the questions. If you want more information please contact **Helen Fisher-Holland** on **07824 496497**.

Training

The next round of training for January-March 2023 will be released in mid-November.

As well as our normal mandatory training, we will be offering Attention Autism training for those of you who have not benefitted yet. Food Allergens and Food Safety training courses are also available on a rolling basis. If you require these, send an email to childcareteam@rctcbc.gov.uk to request your space.



Please ensure you are signed up to our Facebook group and FIS to receive details on how to access our funded training.

As a reminder, all training is fully funded and is on a first come first served basis, and you must give us 48 hours' notice if you are unable to attend so that we can offer your place to someone else.





Family Information Service

FIS are currently contacting all providers whose accounts on DEWIS are dormant to reactivate, or delete, the accounts. Remember, FIS is a fabulous, **FREE**, way to advertise your business to parents and professionals. All our information is also emailed out via the FIS distribution list. So if your business isn't listed on the FIS database, you're missing out on parent hits on your profile but also missing important updates from us.

To register or update your account, please email:
fis@rctcbc.gov.uk.



Official opening of the Hollies

Welsh Government Deputy Minister for Social Services Julie Morgan MS recently opened the new Hollies childcare building based on the site of Gwauncelyn Primary School. This is one of nine capital projects that we have undertaken over the last four years to increase and improve childcare services, specifically for Welsh Medium and Childcare Offer providers.

Due to increasing numbers on roll, the school was no longer able to provide the classroom space that the Hollies had previously used. Funding was secured via the WG Childcare Offer capital grant scheme and they have now relocated to a purpose built facility in the school grounds. This has allowed them to increase their delivery of the Childcare Offer and extend their after school and holiday club services.



ALN



The Access & Inclusion department runs a rolling programme of ALN training for providers. Play Plan training took place in September but will be repeated later in the year. Referral Process training is due to take place on **16th November**. Module 1: 'Person Centred Practice' took place earlier in October but Module 2: 'Inclusion for all in the Early Years' is scheduled to take place on **5th December**.

A new Early Years ALNCo Forum has recently been established and this is next due to meet on **10th November**. This is a great opportunity to ask questions and to share issues and good practice with your peers.

The Early Years Forum is a multi-agency forum that meets each month to discuss children who may have emerging ALN. You can refer to this forum for any children that you have concerns about. Dates have been emailed to you and shared on our Facebook page.

To book your place on training, join the ALNCo forum or for more information on the Early Years Forum, please contact **ryan.phillips2@rctcbc.gov.uk**. If you have not referred to Early Years Forum previously then contact **luci.hooper@rctcbc.gov.uk** for more information or attend the Referral Process training.



Childminding Forum

Remember, there is a private Facebook group that has been set up for childminders to exchange ideas, support and inspire each other to provide open ended play opportunities. It's an excellent way to engage with your peers, so if you're a childminder in RCT, please search for **Curious Adventures, Learning Through Play**.

STOP PRESS

Another round of funding for small scale capital works is due to be confirmed soon. You should start thinking now about what you need to improve your venue.

Further information on how to apply is coming later in October!



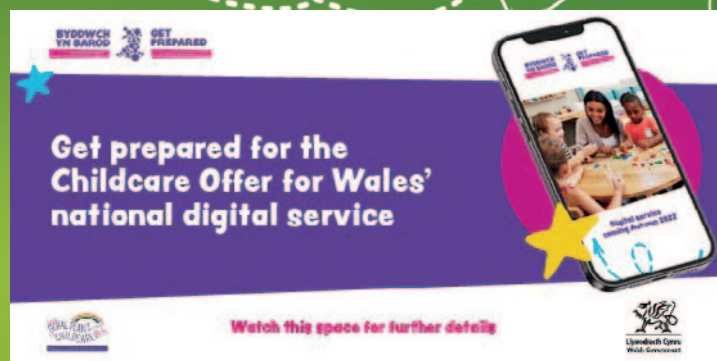
Remember our closed Facebook page is a great way to stay in touch with the latest news from the team and other partners.

To join, go to...

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/childcareteamRCT> or search for **RCT Childcare Team** in the Facebook search facility.



If you no longer wish to receive these newsletters, please let us know and we will take you off our distribution list.



Childcare Offer for Wales

The new national system is due to launch later this term, with parents of children eligible from January 2023 able to apply from **7th November**.

This will replace the 11 systems currently used by different LA's across Wales. For the next year, some of you will still have to use our old system to claim funding for any children who are currently eligible. But this will only be until the end of August 2023 when these children will be too old to receive the Offer. If you have any queries about this, please get in touch.

Provider registration is being rolled out in RCT from **w/c 20th October**. We are holding a series of support sessions for any of you who need support to register. The timetable for provider support sessions will be emailed to you and shared on our Facebook page and **www.rctcbc.gov.uk/childcareoffer**.

Please keep an eye out for details. Parent support sessions will be taking place from November onwards and will be widely publicised.

As always, please promote the Offer to new parents and ask us if you want any promotional material.

Contact Us ...



01443 570048



www.rctcbc.gov.uk/childcareteam



Childcare Team:
childcareteam@rctcbc.gov.uk

Childcare Offer for Wales (Providers only):
ChildcareofferProviders@rctcbc.gov.uk



RCT Childcare Team

