

# RCT CHILDCARE TEAM NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 07 • SEPTEMBER 2023

## HELLO AND WELCOME

TO THE AUTUMN EDITION OF OUR NEWSLETTER.

We hope you've all had a lovely summer and are ready for the year ahead!



### Childcare team update

**Priorities for Autumn term include focusing on the North Taf Ely area to further explore the childcare needs of parents and continuing to recruit new childminders.**

The CSA action plan has also been updated for year one and is available to view at [www.rctcbc.gov.uk/csa](http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/csa).

We are keen to support unregistered settings and nannies. This can be with 1:1 support to register with CIW, business advice, access to training or signposting to other agencies. Please get in touch if you would like our support or let us know of any other settings/ nannies that would like to join our mailing list.

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.

### National Minimum Standards

As you know, there are some changes to the NMS.

These changes include:

- Updated requirements for First Aid and Safeguarding training
- Childminding Assistants now need to complete their IHC module

We are currently sourcing updated Safeguarding training to ensure it complies and hope to offer these spaces to you soon. We have increased our First Aid training provision and these dates have been sent out. Please contact us if you have not received these dates.

For Childminding Assistants, we have a funding package available for those operating within RCT. If you have any Assistants that need to complete this course, please contact the team. Please remember that all Assistants need to complete this training by the end of November 2023, so get in touch with us!

### Training

Our training programme for Autumn term has been advertised via Facebook and email. Places are filling fast but some are still available. If you have lost the schedule, get in touch and we will resend to you.

Remember to let us know if you can't attend as soon as possible so we can offer that place to someone else. Non-attendance is still a big problem, wasting money and meaning we can't demonstrate that this funded training is needed by the Sector. Last year we saw a 42% non-attendance rate across all training offered by the Childcare Team. Help us to help you and let us know if you can't attend.

Mae'r ddogfen yma ar gael yn y Gymraeg / This document is available in Welsh.





## Engagement with providers and parents

### P&T / Ti a Fi groups

Our team visit parent groups and the timetable for Autumn term is now finalised. Come along and see us or tell your families to visit us if they have queries. We can give parents information about the Childcare Offer, how to become a childminder, or signpost them to other, family related, services.

If you run a P&T/Ti a Fi group, get in touch with us and we will add you to our schedule. The timetable of our visits is shared via our social media channels every month.

### Provider Engagement Event

The next provider engagement event will be on Thursday 28 September 2023, starting at 6.30pm. This will be online via MS Teams. Guest speakers will include:

- Employment, Education and Training team – Care2work project (childcare apprenticeships)
- Helen Fisher Holland – How to become a Flying Start provider
- NDNA – Childcare Works project (information on how you can support)

Keep an eye out for details on how to log in.

## Childcare Offer for Wales

The new national system has now been running for a few months. Welsh Government continue to refine it and make updates. If you have any feedback, please let us know and we can pass it on.

Children who remained on the old, legacy system are no longer eligible and that system has now been shut down. All claims on the old system should have been submitted by the end of August. If you have any queries about the old system, please get in touch.

### A couple of reminders for the national system:

- Funding is paid in arrears. However, you can claim weekly
- Once we've approved parent applications, they must set up an agreement on the system with you for the agreed term time and holiday hours. They must do this by the **Sunday** each week to be able to claim funding from the week after
- You must approve agreements by the **Thursday** each week for that agreement to show on your claim on the Friday
- Children can still access the Offer in holiday periods, even if they are full time in school (until the September following their 4th birthday)

### Drop in sessions

We offer drop in sessions for parents and providers in libraries across RCT. Come along and see us if you have any queries and please encourage your parents to visit us if they need any help with their applications or any aspect of the Offer.

» **Pontyclun Library**  
Heol-y-Felin, Pontyclun,  
CF72 9BE

Every first Tuesday of  
the month | 2pm-6pm

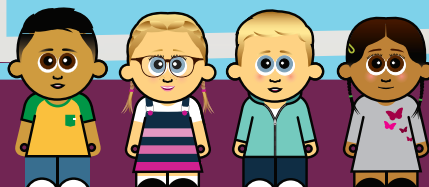
» **Treorchy Library**  
Station Road, Treorchy,  
CF42 6NN  
Every second Tuesday of  
the month | 2pm-6pm

» **Aberdare Library**  
Green Street, Aberdare,  
CF44 7AG  
Every third Tuesday of the  
month | 2pm-6pm

» **Pontypridd Library**  
1 Llys Cadwyn, Taf Street,  
Pontypridd, CF37 4TH  
Every fourth Tuesday of  
the month | 2pm-6pm

» **Council Offices**  
Ty Trevithick, Abercynon,  
CF45 4UQ  
Every Friday 9am-1pm  
by appointment only  
(ring 03000 628628)

Please promote the Offer to new parents and contact us if you would like any promotional material to display in your settings or hand out to parents.



## Coffee morning

Our first coffee morning was held in June in the Taf area. Although attendance was quite low, feedback was really positive.

The next Coffee morning will be held in **Porth Plaza, Porth on Saturday 21 October, 10am-12pm**





# ALN

Remember, the Access & Inclusion department runs a rolling programme of ALN training for providers. It also offers an Early Years ALNCo forum which gives practitioners the opportunity to ask questions and share good practice with their peers in a friendly, supportive environment. Information on these is shared with you via our Facebook page and emails. If you need more information please either contact us or email A&I directly on [AandIService@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:AandIService@rctcbc.gov.uk).

## Expansion of Flying Start childcare

The phased expansion of the Flying Start childcare is continuing. In RCT, there are currently 60 settings approved, 21 of which offer Welsh medium places. 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**.



## School Admissions

Important School Admission dates below. Please share with your parents and encourage them to apply by the deadline!

- **Pre-nursery for January 2024 start**  
Applications opened 1 September 2023, close 29 September 2023, decision letters sent by 10 November 2023
- **Nursery for September 2024 start**  
Applications opened 1 September 2023, close 11 November 2023, decision letters sent by 16 April 2024

Parents should apply online at [www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schooladmissions).

Let us know if you would like some School Admissions leaflets to hand out to parents.

**Applying for a school place is as easy as ABC**

Nursery, Reception, Infant to Junior Transfer and Secondary School places for September 2024 must be formally applied for in September 2023

**Apply online at:**  
<https://schooladmissions.rhondda-cynon-taff.gov.uk/>  
**You can also contact the School Admissions Team:**  
Tel: 01443 281111 or email: [schooladmissions@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@rctcbc.gov.uk)

1 Important Dates to remember			
Applying for a place in:	Opening date for applications 2023	Closing date for applications	Decision letters issued
Secondary School (Year 7)	1st September 2023	13th October 2023	1st March 2024
Primary School Year 3 (transfer from Infant school to Junior or Primary School)	1st September 2023	10th November 2023	16th April 2024
Primary School Reception Class (i.e. Age 4 before September 2024)	1st September 2023	10th November 2023	16th April 2024
Primary School Nursery Class (i.e. Age 3 before 1st September 2024)	1st September 2023	10th November 2023	16th April 2024
Pre-Nursery Admission from January 2024 (Spring Term) 3rd birthday falls between: 1st September 2023 and 31st December 2023	1st September 2023	29th September 2023	10th November 2023
Pre-Nursery Admission from April 2024 (Summer Term) 3rd birthday falls between: 1st January 2024 and 31st March 2024	1st January 2024	9th February 2024	15th March 2024

If you do not have access to a computer and still wish to apply online for a school place, you can access the Internet free of charge at any of Rhondda Cynon Taf Council's Libraries or One4all Centres.

# Childcare Career Choices workshop

We are working in conjunction with the RCT regional workforce development team to offer a workshop about different careers in childcare and how to start their childcare career journey.

The workshop will include information and guidance from FIS, Flying Start, Communities for Work, Coleg Y Cymoedd, Pacey and NDNA.

We will be filming promotional videos for the workshop, showing a flavour of different childcare types. Let us know if you would like your setting to feature in one of these.

Further information will be coming out soon and we would appreciate your support in getting the word out!



## Family Information Service



Remember all our emails are sent via the FIS distribution so keep your account on DEWIS up to date and active, or you'll miss out on important information from us. You will also be missing out on **FREE** advertising to parents who use the FIS database to search for childcare in their area.

To register or sign in to your account, please use this link:

<https://www.dewis.wales/secure/login.aspx>

If you have any questions or need assistance with your DEWIS account, please email: [fis@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:fis@rctcbc.gov.uk)

## Facebook

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.

## Contact Us ...

### Childcare Development team:



01443 570048



[www.rctcbc.gov.uk/childcareteam](http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/childcareteam)



[childcareteam@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:childcareteam@rctcbc.gov.uk)



**RCT Childcare Team**

### Childcare Offer team:



03000 628628



[www.rctcbc.gov.uk/childcareoffer](http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/childcareoffer)



[childcareofferproviders@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:childcareofferproviders@rctcbc.gov.uk)



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