

# Information Briefing

## Issue No 6 – February 2008



Welcome to the latest edition of the Early Years Information Briefing for the early childhood sector. This is one in a series of briefing papers which will be issued for Early Years staff and members.

---

### DENI INVESTMENT IN EARLY YEARS SECTOR

Education Minister Caitriona Ruane announced her first budget for schools on Tuesday 12 February, with a total of almost £1.8billion in funding for Education for next year. Out of this amount, schools and Education and Library Boards will receive £1.45billion. Included in this budget announcement was a provision for the early year's sector, as worded in the DENI press release

- £8million a year to enable Early Years services to be funded, plus a further £8million over the next three years for service development;

Early Years – the organisation for young children has welcomed the investment announced for the early years education sector, especially funding for service development over the next 3 years. However at this stage the department of education has **not** outlined how the money for the early years sector will be allocated. We will be lobbying on behalf of the early years sector and monitoring the situation closely.

---

### ACCESS NI

Access NI comes into effect on 1 April 2008. It will replace the current Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults (POCVA) checking system. Access NI was established by a joint programme between the Northern Ireland Office, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, the Department of Education and the Police Service of Northern Ireland. Access NI enables organisations in Northern Ireland to make more informed recruitment decisions by providing criminal history information about anyone seeking paid or unpaid work in certain defined areas, such as working with children or vulnerable adults.

Early Years have registered with Access NI and are currently exploring becoming an umbrella organisation for the sector.

For further information please contact Access NI on 028 9025 9100 or visit [www.accessni.gov.uk](http://www.accessni.gov.uk)

---

### NEW EARLY YEARS CONSTITUTION

Early Years have adopted a new constitution to coincide with their name change. The new constitution will increase the powers of a group. The changes will enable groups to take out loans, introduce a rotation system for the election of new members and allow groups to join together. Early Years are advising local branches and groups to consider adopting these new changes. Information on the new constitution will be available in the next issue of the Early Years Newsletter and all relevant documents available online at the end of March.

---

# Information Briefing

Issue No 6 – February 2008



## EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

### ZOO DAY 2008

The Early Years annual Zoo day will take place on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2008. All members are invited to come along to Belfast Zoo from 10am for this annual members' event. Applications forms will be sent out with this briefing and information will also be available on [www.early-years.org](http://www.early-years.org) and in the Early Years newsletter. If you have any queries please contact Jennie Hammond on 028 9038 7904.

### ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND AGM

The 2008 International Conference and Early Years AGM will be held on the 12th & 13th June 2008 at the Derry City Hotel. The theme will be "Eager and Able Learners". The Keynote speakers are Professor Guy Claxton, one of the UK's leading experts on practical ways of developing young people's learning and creative capacities and Dr. Larry Schweinhart, an early childhood program researcher and speaker throughout the United States and in other countries.

**Branch Resolutions** - The Early Years AGM is an opportunity for Branches to have a democratic voice and put forward resolutions to be debated at the AGM. Individual branches need to decide upon issues and form a resolution for the AGM. Proposed resolutions must be sent to Early Years by the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2008 to be considered for debate at the AGM. We will include more information in the next information briefing on AGM procedures.

---

## GRANT INFORMATION

1. Lloyds TSB Foundation for NI [www.lloydstsbfoundationni.org](http://www.lloydstsbfoundationni.org) next closing date is April. Small medium and large grants £1000-£60,000
2. BBC Children in Need T: 9033 8221 [www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey](http://www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey)
3. Big Lottery fund [www.awardsforall.org.uk](http://www.awardsforall.org.uk) T:90559090 up to £10 000
4. Co-op has been undersubscribed at present T:9335 7518 [www.yourseociety.org](http://www.yourseociety.org) £100-£5000 based on self help and social responsibility

### Top Tips for completing grant applications

- A quality application demonstrates that an organisation is clear about its purpose, is able to deliver a realistic well run needed service and is focused.
- Planning is everything! Before you even read the application form, get together with a couple of colleagues and write some bullet points down. What do you want to achieve? Who is involved? How were children's/young person's views taken into consideration? Who else was consulted?
- Read the guidelines carefully, they will tell you a great deal about what funders are looking for. Follow guidelines & contact funders directly with queries.

# Information Briefing

Issue No 6 – February 2008



- For larger or three year awards you need to understand the difference between terms. Outputs means '*numbers and statistics*'. Outcomes means '*The difference or positive change, there has been over the period, for those involved*'.
- How you will monitor your progress and measure effectiveness?
- Where else have you looked to for funds? Mention other funders.
- Most common mistakes made... Guidelines not read before completion check that what you are planning to do fits the funders programme. Application form incomplete. Financial section contains insufficient or unclear information. Unclear about what the grant is needed for.
- Have at your fingertips any data, figures or research that backs up the need or the impact of your work. Always have a copy of your completed application form to hand.