Welcome to the first Childminder News, we would firstly like to introduce ourselves to you all as your new Early Years and Childcare Advisors, we form part of the Early Years Team and will be working alongside the Early Years Consultants. Our role will be to support all childminders who care for children under 5 years old. We aim to provide you all with briefings throughout the year and we will offer you newsletter updates termly. We are your new point of contact for enquiries relating to practice and Ofsted preparation. Our newsletters are aimed at providing important information as well as updates to any services, policies and procedures to support you as childminders.

We plan to deliver a number of briefings through the year covering a range of topics. The first dates will look at being Ofsted ready, the briefing will support those of you who have not yet been inspected or are due an inspection, but is open to everyone. Tea and Coffee will be provided.

We hope as many of you as possible can attend!

Monday 26th February 2018, 6.30-8.00pm, Dale Camp Community Centre CH2 4BD (Chester Hive)
Wednesday 7th March 2018, 6.30-8.00pm, Victoria Road Children; Centre, Northwich CW9 5UT

Please email confirmation of attendance to holly.bowe@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Important Contact Details

Please be advised the contacts below are key to your safeguarding:

i-Art: 0300 123 7047
Ofsted: 0300 123 1231
Emergency Duty Team: 01244 977277
Taf advisors:
Sheila Morris (Northwich & Winsford) Tel: 07500 921084 sheila.morris@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
Alyson Jones (Chester & Rural) Tel: 07919228417 Alyson.jones@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
Jayne Ford (Ellesmere Port & Neston) 07500974999 jayne.ford@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
Starting Well Service

At the start of this year an exciting and innovative integrated service was launched for 0-19 year olds and families in west Cheshire.

Health visitors, Children's Centre Early Years Workers and Starting Well nurses will work together as part of the Starting Well Service. The new teams will work from children’s centres, giving advice and support on a range of health and well-being issues, supporting children, young people and families from birth through to adulthood to provide the best possible start in life. Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CWP) has been commissioned to deliver this new service and will support local families to be happy and healthy.

From 1 January 2018 Starting Well Teams will provide developmental checks and support with additional needs such as speech and language development alongside educational activities to help your child thrive - all in one place at your local children’s centre. Families and professionals can call in for advice and support on a wide range of issues from perinatal mental health to employment, drug and alcohol support to oral health, food and nutrition to smoking cessation. The service will also be responsible for school based immunisation and vaccinations across the borough and providing support for children with special needs.

For more information about receiving support for a child or family you work with please contact your local Children’s Centre:

- Chester - Blacon Starting Well Team 01244 397412
- Ellesmere Port - Stanlaw Abbey Starting Well Team 0151 4888036
- Winsford - Wharton Starting Well Team 01606 555285
- Northwich - Victoria Road Starting Well Team 01606 555286

Early Help and Prevention Service

From 1 January 2018 the previous IES service will now be known as Early Help and Prevention Service and will focus on:

- family case work
- supporting people affected by domestic violence and abuse
- assessing, coordinating and sequencing a range of targeted support services
- young people leaving school and moving into further education or employment
- providing accessible targeted youth services to engage young people across the borough
- community safety to help protect our local communities.

All staff in the Early Help and Prevention Team will be co-located as three district teams in corporate council buildings. They will continue to work to embed Team Around the Family assessments across different partner organisations and will continue to work closely with the Starting Well service. They will work in partnership to deliver some of the targeted interventions in the children’s centre buildings, including parenting provision and gateway along with some 1:1 sessions.

To discuss a referral to the service please contact i-Art: 0300 123 7047

Dates for the Diary

Raising awareness of key dates and events to be shared with children and families:

- Young Carers Awareness Day 25/1/18
- National Child Abuse Awareness Month April 2018
- Autism Awareness Day 2/4/18
- World Health Day 7/4/18
- World Book Day 1/3/18
- National Story Telling Week 27/1/18
- No Smoking Day 7/3/17
Informing Ofsted about Changes

It is really important that you keep Ofsted informed about any changes that have happened in your provision, it is equally important to inform them of any changes about yourself and also your family living in your home.

You will need to notify Ofsted within 14 days of any occurrence but it is best to inform them immediately after something happens.

You will need to inform Ofsted of the following (be aware this is not an exhaustive list):

♦ Any safeguarding incidents that occur both on or off the premises involving any childminded children for example losing a child or a child going missing. This should also include accidents and injuries that a child has to attend hospital for.

♦ New people moving into your house; for example a new partner, child returning home, friend living with you.

♦ People moving out of your house for example your partner or child moving out (however not if they are going to University where they come and go during holidays).

♦ Any significant event that might affect your suitability and any assistants suitability to care for children, this covers a range of things, however if you think it needs to be raised, raise it! During inspections this is the main reason why childminders receive actions for not informing Ofsted about changes.

♦ Any significant changes that affect anyone living in your home over the age of 16. This means any significant event that might affect the suitability of any person over 16 years old who lives or works on the premises. For example if the police have been called to an incident involving the individual (not necessarily during working hours).

♦ Any personal changes in health since you completed your health declaration.

♦ If you are planning major changes to the house for example an extension to your home

♦ Any incident of food poisoning, that has affected 2 or more children.

♦ Any changes to hours during which childcare is provide; or to provide overnight care.

♦ Any change to the name or registered number of the company.

♦ Any changes to the ‘nominated individual’, if you are working as a partnership.

The advice is to notify of anything you think may be significant. You can never over-notify, but if not informed Ofsted could highlight these issues during an inspection. You can call always call Ofsted for advice.

If you email Ofsted, you have a paper trail to evidence you have contacted them. Keep copies of all sent emails and all responses from Ofsted to confirm they have received your email, keep these emails in a folder as evidence when inspected. Email: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

Finally…
If any of your details have changed please let us know, we will be sending lots of information by email and want to ensure you all get this. If your email or phone number changes please let one of us know using the email contacts on the newsletter!

We hope to create a ‘Frequently asked questions’ section for future newsletters, putting together a number of questions that are being asked and we think may be useful for you all to have the answers. If there are also any topics you would like us to cover in one of our newsletters, please don’t hesitate to get in touch we want this to be interactive and showcase what you are all doing as childminders in Cheshire West and Chester!

We look forward to meeting you over the coming year at our Briefing events

Rachel and Holly