

# NEWSLETTER

Issue number: 22  
November 2010

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If you have any items for this newsletter  
please contact Leanne on 01424 733067  
or email: [leanne@bbufa.org.uk](mailto:leanne@bbufa.org.uk)



## Helen Atkin Development Manager



Dear all, just a quick update from me as this term, like always, has been very busy and as I speak snow is again on the ground just to test out those Adverse Weather Conditions Policies that hopefully you all put in place following last years snow fall and we, like most organisations, struggle to deliver our services when roads are made treacherous especially (but not exclusively) in those rural areas so please bear with us if we have to reschedule any appointments.

October saw our BBUFA AGM and Conference which was a lively event with speakers ensuring that we get up and active. The event hopefully enabled practitioners and our staff team an opportunity to get re energised and refocused on delivering creative opportunities for children. I certainly had a great day and the feedback has been most positive.....

- *'90% of delegates stated that session one (Play to Z) would inform and change their future practice'*
- *'Another fun and informative day, thanks to Helen and the BBUFA teams for making it all happen'*
- *'The conference was great fun and we really enjoyed it. Looking forward to next year's one'*

The development team are very aware, as they go round to your settings, that Governance is a re-occurring concern with many Early Years settings having large staff teams with potentially high liabilities.

Settings will often look at their constitutions at AGM time to check whether they are fit for purpose and as an organisation we fully support this. Organisations, (remembering that Charities are determined by their actions rather than just a charity number) need to continually check to ensure that they are operating according to their governing document and seek to make changes as required. Whilst the rules relating to changing and amending constitutions were relaxed following the Charities Amendment Act 2006 however there are still important procedures to follow.

If you need any advice and support in this area please contact your development worker as it is vital that your setting has a workable governing document that is fit for the purpose of your group.

Merry Christmas?!

**Helen**

## Emma Turner Development Worker Hastings and Eastbourne

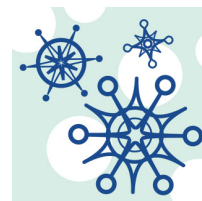
"Supporting families and the most vulnerable in our society is at the heart of our vision for transforming early education. We know that high quality, accessible early education is vital so we can give every child the foundation they need to succeed and parents can balance work and family life"... I wanted to open with this statement from children's minister, Sarah Teather, following the recent spending review and hope that this reinforces, once again, why we are all here in our respective roles, to provide quality childcare and education for the families of our neighbourhoods, towns or villages. There is no doubt that times are changing and the field of early years and the funding that has been allocated for this vital area will change...so whilst our wider society may well find things tougher in the coming months (and years) I urge everyone to reflect on why we first got involved in early years and ensure that the children and families of East Sussex continue to receive consistent quality early years provision of which they can rely!....right that's it...I'm stepping down from my soapbox now! On to less political issues...

I've been to quite a few AGMs this term and welcomed new parents onto committees in various roles, as always there are different levels of skills and experience among the new recruits and so next year we'll be looking at a training programme for new committees – watch this space!

Thankfully, despite some close calls and funding withdrawals this past term/year, groups who last year were concerned about their sustainability have managed to stay open and are now balancing their books effectively with increasing numbers of children and families needing childcare... let's hope that this year continues to see groups thrive in numbers and those wanting help with forecasting and financial planning please contact your BDOs. The 15hr EYEE has proven successful with many groups pleased at the amount of children accessing their provision, however, with more families only accessing their entitlement, supervisors and managers are having to carefully manage sessions, ensuring they meet the families' needs along with the setting's.

And so I'll finish by hoping that, wherever you are spending the holiday period, whether the weather be wet, warm or even white... it is a good opportunity to relax with friends and family.

**Emma**



## Claire Dennis Rother Development Worker

With summer a distant memory and new children hopefully now well settled into the routines of the setting, many of you will probably now be in full swing planning Christmas parties and nativities etc. There is much talk of snow but hopefully we won't need to worry about the adverse weather policies just yet, however, now is the time to review them before panic sets in - did your's work effectively last year? Do you need to amend and adjust any elements? Don't leave it too late and be left in a situation that could have been avoided - staff teams and parents do need clarity in what can be a very challenging situation.

I too have attended several AGMs this term and have welcomed new chairs into post. The role of chair can be extremely demanding on a volunteer who may have little or no experience of managing a business. BBUFA have produced a new committee handbook which we hope will provide committees with the tools to get started in their role, see page 10 for details. Committees in the Eastbourne area find Emma's monthly Committee Coffee mornings a good way to network and share experiences, if any chair or committee members are interested in attending a similar meeting in the Rother area please let me know and I will facilitate this.

Many of you will have attended the recent EYEE discussion groups as I did this month. I was pleased to hear that settings at the session were not experiencing many, if not any, issues in the delivery of the 15 hour offer. It showed how much planning and thought had gone into where groups had placed the free entitlement to best meet the needs of parents and their business. Although the EYEE team did report that settings current offers were not always a true reflection of what settings were actually offering and in fact lots of settings were offering more to accommodate parental need. The EYEE team went on to clarify that the next provider offers sent to the EYEE team in April next year would need to be a true reflection of the settings offer as it would be published for parents to view. If as you have started progressing through the term you are finding that the reality of what you have stated in your offer is not working for your business please contact the EYEE team or your Business Development Officer for support. Settings have fed back that whilst numbers on the settings registers are average for this time of year, parents are taking up fewer sessions due to their personal finances. This was reflected in feedback from the EYEE team who said more children than last year were currently claiming EYEE but the amount of hours they were accessing outside of their free entitlement had dropped.

I would like to congratulate Battle Pre School and Ladybirds Pre School who both gained OUTSTANDING in their recent Ofsted inspections, also congratulations to St Mary Magdalene nursery who gained a good.

A very merry Christmas and a happy new year to you all.

## Claire

### \*\*\*\*\* **Policy Reviews! (a new regular feature)**

With most management team meeting agendas now including the review of policies and procedures, we thought it would be helpful to list some of the new or updated policies as they are introduced/reviewed. Some are new legislation which needs to be introduced to compulsory policies; which we will highlight in bold, others are simply recommended as good practice, a list follows:

- **equality and diversity/equal opportunities policy** (does this include explanation and reference to the new Equality act 2010).
- **staffing and recruitment** (again the equality act 2010 may need to be included where relevant).
- staff code of behaviour/conduct (with addition of social networking restrictions to ensure no reference to provision etc).
- confidentiality for committee and regular parent volunteers (see article within this newsletter).
- adverse weather (what will you do should the harsh winter they speak of turn into reality?).
- fees and finance (with bad debt increasing its time to review your policies, and enforce them!).

As always we can help with any questions relating to the above, and of course your Standards Development Officers are able to offer further guidance on this, we also have one or two examples which we are happy to share for settings to refer to when writing their own policies.

Claire and Emma



## Reminder Equalities Act 2010

The Equality Act became law on 1st October 2010, it brought together and replaced all previous equalities and discrimination legislation, such as the Race Relations Act 1976 and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. The Act has been introduced to simplify and strengthen aspects of existing equality law, in order to tackle discrimination and inequality. The Equality Act covers and protects a range of groups, the same as previous legislation. These are now called 'protected characteristics' and include:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- race
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity

The Equality Act extends the protection for some of the above characteristics. As an employer your obligations remain largely the same, however you may need to review your existing policies and practise in light of some of the changes.

Further information on the Equality Act can be found on the Government's equality office website: [www.equalities.gov.uk](http://www.equalities.gov.uk). As well as on the ACAS website: [www.acas.org.uk](http://www.acas.org.uk), where you can download the Equality Act 2010 Acas Quick Start Guide for Employers.

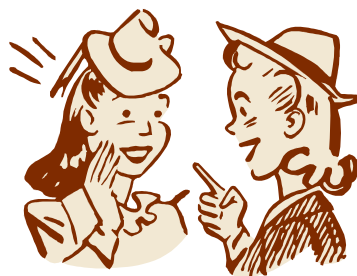
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### Minimum Wage Increase

#### On 1st October 2010 the rates increased to the following:

- Workers aged 22 years and over: must be paid a minimum of £5.93 per hour.
- Workers aged 18 – 21 years: must be paid a minimum of £4.92 per hour.
- Workers aged older than school leaving age and younger than 18: must be paid a minimum of £3.64 per hour.

As a childcare employer these rates apply to all your full time, part time and casual staff, the only exceptions being voluntary workers and a worker under the school leaving age.



### Confidentiality and Committees

Confidentiality can be challenging for parents on the management committee as it is so easy to discuss matters which arise at meetings in the corridors and waiting areas, and sometimes information needs to be shared, but when catching up on matters with informal chats who is listening and will they fully understand the discussion?

One might say that anyone with an interest should surely be encouraged onto the committee, or at least be offered copies of the general committee meeting minutes, others will say that all parents have the right to know about pre-school matters, some say that no matters should be discussed outside of the meeting room, where do you stand? Do your fellow committee members agree? Have you had a discussion about this as a committee and agreed some guidelines to ensure that you are all following the same 'rules'? If this has not already been done we would urge committee members to consider this as priority. Many quality settings now ask committee members to sign a document to recognise the importance of confidentiality, and this really does aid for clear lines of communication and for tackling any contentious issues. For those with our new committee handbook an example can be found in section 1)

Of course the confidential personal information about people, such as names and addresses or even information about children, families and other private matters must be carefully managed and only shared with those who really need this information. You must ensure that individuals do not breach the Data Protection Act, which provides strict rules in this area and if issues arise seek advice from your development worker and ensure matters are addressed as promptly as possible.

The website address to the data protection act and its principles follows...  
[http://www.ico.gov.uk/for\\_organisations/data\\_protection/the\\_guide/the\\_principles.aspx](http://www.ico.gov.uk/for_organisations/data_protection/the_guide/the_principles.aspx)

## Den Making at Battle?

On October 22<sup>nd</sup> I attended a Den Making course with a few of my colleagues. The course was advertised as Den Making, but it was actually about how we communicate with children with the training provided by the speech and language team.

We began the course with instructions to form a line in our birth order without speaking to each other we did this by using our fingers to show which month we were born in. We were asked how many forms of communications we thought that we use daily.

They explained that as practitioners and parents, we all lead very busy lives and do not give children a chance to answer when asked a question and also that we over load children with question and instructions.

These are few examples from the training;

### **K.I.S.S - KEEP IT SHORT AND SIMPLE**

Often children lose half of what we tell them because we burden the message with lots of unnecessary words. Keep instructions short and to the point, by trying it this way children are more likely to be successful to follow your instructions.

We should give children means, reasons and opportunities for communication. By this we offer a choice and then WAIT...offer something they can't do without help then... WAIT.

As adults we end up leading the play with children, by making suggestions or pointing out how things should be done. We should try sitting back and letting the child lead you on how their play is going, this way they will be more likely to listen to words, and responded back to you.

It was suggested that we should make four comments to children about the activity or book etc before we ask one question.

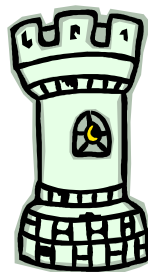
Making dens with children is a good resource for communication, and let the children take the lead. On the course we worked in small groups and made dens from many different resources that were offered to us, it was a very good exercise as we had to communicate to each other to share ideas and talk about

what our den was going to be...the different groups all made different dens and had named their den. The group I was with made a castle, (well, it was supposed to look like a castle...).

At the end of session it was discussed that this applies to children over a wide age range up to their teenage years.

This was indeed the best informative course that I have attended in a long while, and would suggest that all practitioners if they get the chance to attend this course do so, I have all the above information and more if anyone would like a copy of the training pack.

**Sandra Chambers**  
**Rother Crèche Team Leader**



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## Stepping Stones Playgroup Celebrate 25 Years

Stepping Stones playgroup in Bexhill celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this month with three events held at the setting. A fun day was held with Rother Children's Centres in October and in November a party was held in the morning for the children, with a bouncy castle and a visit from the town's Mayor, Mr Carroll, who spent some time talking to the children and helping with snack time. The evening saw a gathering of staff past and present who were joined by guests from the local community.





## Reflection on Learning

On 12<sup>th</sup> October Helen contacted myself, as an Advisory Group member, regarding the opportunity to join a focus group to look at some new products for early years from Reflections on Learning, an equipment supplier based in Tonbridge. The date and time of the meeting did mean it was very short notice (14<sup>th</sup> October) but when I read who the supplier was I was eager to rearrange my plans and organise travel 'tout sweet'.

I have always found this company's catalogue very appealing (one of the few I will open straight away!) with lots of natural materials, prices that are competitive and with the knowledge that all of the equipment we have ordered over the years were of good quality, very popular with the children and most pieces still standing up well. Imagine my excitement (yes, I know for some of you I will sound sad and I probably do need to 'get a life'!) when I also read in the email -re read twice just to make sure, that the company were going to pay us for attending - wow, just think of all the things I could buy!

When we arrived we were greeted by two members of the company and they explained exactly what they hoped to gain from the meeting. It was centred on advertising and marketing and encompassed quality of product, packaging, sales team-before and after service, speed of delivery plus much more.

The meeting went very quickly (lovely chocolate biscuits) and they seemed pleased by our comments and views ....we all had plenty to say!

I think the consensus from the attendees about the meeting was positive and when asked if we would like to continue the 'focus' group in the future most expressed they would. Helen suggested we could 'trial' new equipment for them and feedback with our views and findings, which was agreed - well done Helen.

The money we received for attending was certainly a bonus (I do not mean it was on par with the 'bank' bonus scale though!) and it will be put to good use and buy new equipment for the children to enjoy ... the only problem is there is so much to chose from!

So thank you Helen for the email and opportunity, I am looking forward to the next meeting and receiving the new products to try out in the future.

Karen Hathaway  
EYP/Manager  
Herstmonceux Pre School

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## Bexhill Toy Library



Don't forget that the Bexhill Toy library based at Sidley Children's Centre is open to all Rother pre-schools, nurseries and toddler groups, in addition to parents.

Settings can hire resources for their Group to expand play experiences and investigation. For example, we have recently hired out;

- Road safety set which includes traffic lights, road signs and a zebra crossing
- Multicultural food sets
- Magnifying glasses and mini creature peepers

And we have plenty of resources to choose from both from the store and via our on line catalogue.

The toy library is open term time only on:

- Monday 11.00am to 11.30am
- Tuesday 1.00pm to 2.00pm
- Wednesday 10.00am to 11.30am
- Thursday 12.00 to 1.00pm
- Friday 1.30pm to 2.30pm
- Wednesday Monthly Additional Needs
- Group 1-30pm to 2.30pm

The mobile toy library also still continues to visit toddler groups and pre-schools in the rural area on a fortnightly rota. See our website for current visiting dates.

## **Rother Children's Centre Reach Area Meeting**

*As part of the Children's Centre services, each area has a Reach Area Meeting - this is where anyone delivering a service to 0-5 in the area can come together to share experiences and network, the meetings are each quarter and can provide good links with other partners as Little Common Pre-school experienced;*

My colleague Gill attended the reach meeting on 15th October at Egerton Park Children's Centre and found the information about housing and training for parents who have English as a second language interesting. Gill came back to playgroup with training information that we were able to pass on to one of our parents who is now attending a free 16 week English course at Sidley House in Bexhill. Our parent was pleased to be given this opportunity as the times of the sessions coincided nicely with her child attending our Playgroup. We were pleased also that we could put this into practice as it came along at just the right time.

Gill also enjoyed the lovely multi-cultural food that was available at the meeting too!

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Many thanks to Helen for attending our AGM in October and providing us with useful information. Helen also wanted me to tell you about our lovely 'grannie' and 'auntie' helpers that volunteer to play with the children each week. With increasing pressure for mums to work now, we find that parents simply do not have the time to spend a morning, for instance, helping at the group. However, we have several retired dedicated volunteers that we love, and really could not do without. This generation come with a wealth of experience, we have an ex-kindergarten teacher and piano player, ex-brownie leader for instance. It is lovely for the children to talk and play with them and our helpers love coming into the group.

If you think you could do with an extra pair of hands I would put an SOS in newsletters, community notice boards etc. Good luck.

Many thanks.

**Julie Webster, Little Common Playgroup**

## **Money available for training!!!**

### **Have you heard of The Skill Share Bursary?**

The Skill Share Bursary is open to all voluntary and community sector groups and organisations working with children, young people and families in East Sussex. The bursary will provide funding for the following activities:

- attending external training courses;
- attending conferences, workshops and other events;
- payment of course fees in order to gain a qualification.

There is a maximum limit of £500 per application. Applications must be submitted on the official form which can be found on the Skill Share website at:

[www.skill-share.net](http://www.skill-share.net) . (Paper copies available from Jemma Black on 01273 336417 or email [jemma.black@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:jemma.black@eastsussex.gov.uk))

Applications will be assessed on the following criteria:

- level of benefit to an individual's personal or professional development;
- level of benefit that the group or organisation will see as a result;
- level of benefit children, young people and families will see as a result;
- direct relevance to the work of the group or organisation.

Priority will be given to those groups and organisations who have not applied before. Priority will also be given to small to medium sized groups or organisations with an annual income of £80,000 or less. However, a reserve list will operate for larger organisations – this includes local branches of national organisations.

The next deadline for applications is 10 January 2011 so get working on your application now—we all know how valuable staff training is and this should enable you to pay staff whilst they attend and also get staff cover. Second deadline is 7 March 2011. Applications will be assessed on a 'first come, first served' basis and once the bursary fund has been spent in full, the scheme will close for this financial year. Groups and organisations are therefore advised to submit applications early to avoid disappointment.

The Skill Share Bursary is funded by the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC).





## **BBUFA conference and AGM 2010**

### **Bannatynes Spa Hotel in Hastings were our hosts for this year's AGM and conference**

Helen and the board opened the day before Play to Z speaker Sue Gascoyne presented some wonderful ideas for refreshing treasure baskets and adding new dimensions with some wonderful demonstrations of products which can enhance the baskets.

Helen then presented the annual report, with details of the many different services that BBUFA provide and the successes of the past year, along with the introduction of Hastings crèche services and how this has successfully established our crèche empire! She then presented her predictions for this year and possible challenges ahead with possible funding cuts and contracts coming to an end.

A bottle of champagne was presented to Battle Preschool Playgroup following their outstanding Ofsted report earlier in the year, before breaking for lunch within the welcoming environment of the conservatory and gardens.

After a healthy lunch there were lots of giggles when Sue Prior took the floor, sharing a few examples of her songs and movements sessions.

Daniel Bernstein, creativity consultant from Creative Partnerships finished off the day with a hands-on session demonstrating the opportunities for creative play. This was when the competitive characters were revealed which proved an interesting area for discussion - is competition amongst children to be encouraged....?!!



## **Conference Feedback from BBUFA's Newest Recruit!**

Hello, My name is Claire Davis and I'm the Team Leader for the Hastings side of the crèche service. I been with BBUFA since February this year and been on a rather big learning curve.

I've attended many training sessions about all sorts, and for any of you that have been on these courses, I was the one rushing in at the last minute, papers flying behind me!

It was whilst at the BBUFA Conference in October, listening to Sue Gascoyne from Play to Z talk about treasure baskets that I had a WOW moment. Previously I had been sceptical about treasure baskets as I was uneducated about the vast learning that can come about with such a few basic store cupboard items. So the gauntlet was down and there is now an unofficial competition to see who can come up with the best item in the treasure baskets that we have scattered across Hastings! Although Alison's massage 'thingie' is brilliant and I obviously need to test it when I go to her crèche, I'm really impressed with my coloured scratchy clothes. Perhaps we could all do with a good sort out of our treasure baskets and restock its really great fun finding bits for them.

I was also empowered by Carol Prior who taught us some really silly songs to use with the children within our settings. She made me realise that I don't use enough songs and rhymes in the sessions I run, and since studying the maths section of the Early Years Degree, I now realise what an important part songs play in giving children a really good start in the basics of maths and all things mathematical. I have now made up some song cards so the children can choose the songs and rhymes which I thought was a really good idea until one child picked a card and both myself and my colleague could not remember for the life of us the words, so homework for this week:- read up on nursery rhymes and songs.

**Claire Davis**  
**Crèche Team Leader Hastings**

## Fundraising and the Law

Please find below a link to information regarding fundraising and the law

<http://www.doitforcharity.com/fundraising-law.aspx>

I am sharing this as a recent event at 3VA highlighted that changing committees are often unaware of these regulations and so I thought all would benefit from a reminder, in particular the rules surrounding raffles (lotteries) and need for licensing ...for those considering larger raffles in the lead up to Christmas events (please remember that obtaining a license is quite straight-forward and if done properly larger raffles can often/sometimes prove very worthwhile with large amounts raised)

I have copied and pasted some info from 'ideasfundraising' website below (*in italics*) which I feel explains it all in straightforward terms.....

*Before you run a raffle, prize draw or lottery for your charitable cause, you will need to make yourself aware of the latest lottery legislation. Even small, incidental lotteries are regulated under gambling laws, and as such there are strict rules to follow.*

*Here is what you should consider when organising a raffle, lottery or prize draw:*

### **Rules and Regulations For Lotteries**

*There are many laws to consider when running a lottery. As each fundraising circumstance is different, you should contact your local authority or seek independent legal advice to ensure you are adhering to the latest lottery and gambling laws. In general, however, the following rules and regulations apply to lotteries:*

- *Every ticket must be sold for the same price*
- *Every ticket must have the same odds of winning the lottery*
- *Tickets can only be sold to persons aged 16 or over*

*Please note that, depending on the size of your lottery, you may also require a licence from your local authority or from the Gambling Commission. You may refer to the Gambling Act 2005 for guidance, or contact your local council.*

### **Organising a Raffle or Lottery as Part of a Larger Event**

*Although raffles are great fundraising endeavours on their own, many groups and charities also run raffles as part of other events, such as shopping fairs and parties. These types of lotteries are referred to as "incidental non-commercial lotteries"; in other words, the lottery is not the main event.*

*When running an incidental, non-commercial lottery, you will be exempt from many of the rules and regulations governing other types of lotteries. However, although the rules are less strict, the Gambling Act 2005 still applies and you should seek guidance if necessary.*

*When organising an incidental lottery, you should consider the following rules:*

- *All lottery tickets must be sold at the event, with all participants present*
- *You cannot offer more than £250 in prizes, even if prizes have been donated*
- *You cannot offer cash prizes*
- *You cannot conduct a "roll-over" lottery of any type*

*By adhering to these rules, the process of running an incidental non-commercial lottery is actually made a lot simpler for fundraisers. You will need to print or buy ticket books, collect prizes and choose your ticket price ahead of time. Then, on the day of your event, you can move around the room and sell tickets to interested parties.*

*The best way to conduct a lottery as part of another fundraising activity is to leave the prize draw until the end of the event. This way, not only will you have more time to sell tickets, but people will also stay to see if they've won, giving you more time to fundraise with other activities too!*

### **Four Steps to a Successful Lottery, Raffle or Prize Draw**

*Once you have decided to conduct a lottery and have reviewed the relevant legal requirements, it's one of the easier fundraising events to plan.*

*Running a lottery requires four simple steps:*

- *Printing tickets or buying ticket books*
- *Procuring prizes*
- *Promoting the lottery and selling tickets*
- *Running the lottery*

*Once you have cleared the legislative hurdles, these steps are easy to perform and are likely to result in a fair amount of money raised for your charitable cause.*

*By making yourself aware of current legislation and keeping your plans organised, you are well on your way to a successful lottery, prize draw or raffle. However, if you're ever in doubt about your plans or need assistance, you should contact your local authority, the Institute of Fundraising, the Gambling Commission, or check the Gambling Act 2005.*

(the above was sourced from <http://www.ideasfundraising.co.uk/run-fundraising-book-fair.html> 26/10/10)

I have also included a link to Eastbourne, Hastings and Rother borough council pages for guidance/forms on those considering larger raffles or 'lotteries' for which licenses are required

<http://www.eastbourne.gov.uk/business/licences/gambling/lottery/>

<http://www.hastings.gov.uk/licensing/default.aspx>

<http://www.rother.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=1056>

so good luck to all those fundraising in the lead up to Christmas 2010



## BBUFA COMMITTEE HANDBOOK

We hope that both new and existing committee members will find the updated BBUFA committee handbook a useful tool to assist in the effective running of the setting.

The handbook is divided into ten sections that are tabbed for ease of use.

1. Welcome and introductions – Includes a committee induction checklist, organisational structure, EYFS & Safeguarding children, Health & Safety confidentiality and data protection.
2. EYFS/Ofsted/Policies – The EYFS Keeping Ofsted Informed and Policies and Procedures.
3. Your first committee meeting – formatting your committee and designating roles, management committee skills audit questionnaire.
4. General committee meetings – a guide to effective meetings.
5. Annual General meeting (AGM) – count down to AGM, how to organise a successful AGM, post AGM business, AGM checklist.
6. Recruiting Committee members – committee and parental involvement.
7. Staffing – Employment Acts, Employer obligations, Staff Appraisal.
8. Training – Committee training and Mentoring.
9. Committee check list – Management committee checklist and 20 questions for Trustees/committee members.
10. Useful contacts.

Please ask your chairperson to contact their development worker if they are interested in receiving a free copy of the BBUFA committee Handbook.



Ofsted have changed their telephone number, please make sure you amend your policy information to reflect this change and ensure that you are displaying the current poster for parents showing the new number:

**0300 123 1231**

### **Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) Update**

On October 22nd Theresa May issued a statement to the House of Commons which confirmed the terms of reference for a review of the Vetting & Barring and criminal records regimes to ensure that they are scaled back to common sense levels.

She announced that 'The Review will be thorough and consider afresh the principles and objectives of the scheme and recommend what, if any, scheme is now needed. The Review will be developed by officials working jointly across our three departments and recommendations are expected early in the New Year. In parallel, a review of the criminal records regime will take place, led by the independent Government Advisor for Criminality Information Management, Mrs Sunita Mason. This will be undertaken in two phases and will report firstly on employment vetting systems which involve the Criminal Records Bureau, followed by a report on the broader regime'.

***If you have not already subscribed to the updates by the ISA we would strongly recommend that you do so at [www.isa-gov.org.uk](http://www.isa-gov.org.uk)***

## £££ Funding Opportunities

With capital funding opportunities withdrawn many settings are currently looking at external funding for projects so here are a couple of ideas:

### **Sussex Community Foundation**

Awards grants to smaller community and voluntary groups whose work benefits people in East Sussex, West Sussex or Brighton & Hove.

### **Landfill Site Funding**

East Sussex county council funding pages offer a guide to understanding the various opportunities available through Landfill Tax Credits, with postcode checks to determine which area qualify, ask your BDO for further advice, or call the ESCC funding team on 01273 482859

### **GRANTnet**

"A free-to-use funding website – The most comprehensive and up-to-date database of grants, loans and other initiatives operating in the UK. Relevant to all kinds of organisations and individuals across the county. Do as many searches as you like" (<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/community/funding/grantnet/default.htm>)

And for those of you who are operating out of a village hall, The Big Lottery has a new round of funding available for village halls so speak to your hall committee and try and put in a bid— whilst there will be high demand for the funds those who offer good community use should meet the criteria well;

### **COMMUNITY HALL FUNDING**

The Big Lottery Fund is investing an additional £75m in grants for rural and urban community buildings. Money will be targeted through its Reaching Communities programme.

Voluntary sector organisations, as well as parish and town councils, will be able to apply.

Applications will open for capital grants of £100,000-500,000 from December. Funding will be available for all types of multi-purpose buildings used by communities. These include memorial halls, community centres and village halls. Eligible projects must have a total value of no more than £750,000.

The funding stream aims to transform existing buildings into community buildings for everyone. They will offer a range of activities, benefiting a broad group of citizens.

Sanjay Dighe, chairman of the Big Lottery Fund's England committee, said funding would be directed towards those communities most in need. "This gives rural and urban communities the opportunity to revamp and update buildings." Given the economic climate, however, competition for grants was likely to be intense. "We also want to minimise the risk of organisations spending time and effort developing bids that stand little chance of success.

"Full details about eligibility will follow which will ensure there is a fair balance between rural and urban areas.

"An online support checker will enable projects to assess their eligibility at a glance, before submitting an outline proposal."

Applications will be assessed on a monthly rolling basis taking the pressure off applicants having to rush through an outline proposal.

For help in making an application please contact RVA's Funding and Finance Manager Rod Davidson on 01424 217259 or email [rod.davidson@rothervoluntaryaction.org.uk](mailto:rod.davidson@rothervoluntaryaction.org.uk)

### **BBUFA Small Grant**

Just a reminder that member groups can apply to the BBUFA Small Grant scheme for grants up to the value of £200 - see our web site for details.



### **Grant Success!**

Bexhill High School Nursery were successful in their application to the BBUFA Small Grant Fund and were recently awarded £200 contribution towards the cost of new equipment for the nursery's outside area. (see the next edition of the BBUFA newsletter to find out how they spent the funding).



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Registered Charity No: 1110025

## Training Updates

Hopefully you will have all received your Termly Flyer from the Workforce Development and Quality Team detailing the training available for the next term however just a reminder of a couple of dates;

### **Inclusion Support Groups**

Monday 21 Mar 2011 7.00pm-8.30pm  
Dale Hill golf club, Wadhurst

Tue 22 Mar 2011 7.00pm-8.30pm  
Landsdowne Hotel, Eastbourne

This term they will be focusing on the Inclusion Bursary Fund, so if you want more info on how to apply and use the funding etc do attend this support group.

### **Food Safety Training**

(always heavily over subscribed)  
Sat 12 Mar 2011 9.00am-4.00pm  
Sedlescombe Golf Club, Battle.

Full details can be found on the CZONE website:

<https://czone.eastsussex.gov.uk/supportingchildren/childcare/training/pages/main.aspx>

**Safe Handling of Medicines Training** in January - see flyer sent individually to settings or contact the training team on 01323 747492 for further info.

## **Early Years Qualifications available at Bexhill College**

### **New for January 2011**

Qualification for Childcare Practitioners

Level 2 Certificate in Children and Young People's Workforce (Qualification Credit Framework)

And

Level3 Diploma in Children and Young People's Workforce (QCF)

Ensure you complete your application for funding to the EYCESS and call 01424 215746

Ask Judith Hattam to add your name to the list - dates and times will be confirmed in the New Year.

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