



### **Early Start service – Bulletin 1. December 2011.**

During 2010 /11, a review of services for the under 5s and their families was undertaken by NHS Leeds, Leeds City Council and Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust. This review was known as the Universal Services Review and involved front-line practitioners working in these organisations.

Following the review it was recommended that children, families and the practitioners working with them, would benefit if existing services provided by health visiting and children's centres were brought together.

As a result, a new Early Start service is being developed and the first two cluster areas involved are Seacroft Manston (East Leeds) and Open XS (North West Leeds). We will learn from their experience on what works best in practice.

Their feedback will then help to guide new Early Start teams in other cluster areas as they move towards this way of delivering services. By September 2012, all cluster areas should have a fully integrated Early Start team in place.

This is an exciting and scary time. We are communicating regularly with everyone and we promise to keep you informed and up to date on progress that is being made on a regular basis. If you are worried, concerned or very keen to learn more, please email either:

[carolyn.wellings@nhs.net](mailto:carolyn.wellings@nhs.net) or [sarah.newell@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.newell@leeds.gov.uk)

**For LCC staff only** – You can access further information on [www.thefamilyhubleeds.org](http://www.thefamilyhubleeds.org)

**FOR LCH staff only –**

You can read more about the review on the children's and family services pages of the intranet here.

<http://nww.inet.leeds.nhs.uk/index.pl?id=11714&isa=Category&op=show>