

Early Start briefing – February 2012

This is the second briefing to keep you informed and up to date on the implementation of Early Start and what it means for you and your setting.

Introduction

Early Start will bring together health visitors and children's centre staff to address issues before they become problems for the wider city. It will include the integrated delivery of the new family offer which incorporates the Healthy Child Programme, children's centre core offer and the Foundation stage curriculum. The Early Start programme will provide wellness promotion and timely advice around health and wellbeing issues such as obesity, breastfeeding, immunisation and mental health. It will also deliver services such as childcare, play, early learning & development and work with children and families who will benefit from additional support. This means a greater number of families will benefit and the wider benefits will resonate across local communities. Health visitors will continue to lead and deliver the Healthy Child programme.

Where we are at present

We have been progressing well with the planning of implementing the Early Start programme and are now at the stage where we can start to send out briefings to update on the exciting developments taking place and how it will affect you.

Leaflets, posters and briefing packs have been produced and are being distributed across the city to practitioners, children's centres and families.

Health visiting teams have started the process of realigning workload to cluster boundaries. This is a massive task reviewing the team allocated to around 44,000 children. Most teams have now identified which records need to be reallocated and are beginning to prepare cases for handover to new teams. Teams in the East have already started exchanging records. The realignment process is going according to plan and should be completed by the end of May 2012.

You can find out more about Early Start on the children's and family services intranet page.

FOR LCH staff only

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

For LCC staff only

www.thefamilyhubleeds.org

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