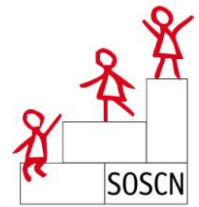


Scottish Out of School Care Network

Policy Newsletter, July/ August 2010



"Supporting play, care and learning"

Westminster Government

Budget June 2010

Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne, announced a number of cuts which will have direct and indirect influence on out of school care services. VAT will rise from 17.5% to 20% on the 4th January 2011 which of course will have a knock-on effect to all purchases and many services. If an OSC club is considering any large purchases we would recommend that this is done in advance of the VAT rise.

From April 2011 lone parents will be moved off Income Support and onto Job Seekers Allowance once their youngest child is 5 years old- this will have a direct impact on the need for childcare. For many lone parents access to reliable childcare is the most important factor when considering employment or training opportunities- out of school care will play a key role.

From April 2011 Child Tax Credits will be available to families with a joint income of £40,000 or less; this is a considerable reduction on the previous threshold. This of course will have a direct impact on childcare tax credits- only families on or below a joint income of £40,000 will be able to access childcare tax credits. SOSCN recommends that services continue to promote childcare tax credits and childcare vouchers, as for some families the voucher scheme will become the only support to cover childcare costs. One positive development: the personal allowance tax rate will rise by £1,000 to £7,475 meaning that earnings below this sum will be tax and NI free.

Scottish Government

Current Consultations

Education and skills Draft National Guidance: Under-Age Sexual Activity - Meeting the Needs of Children and Young People and Identifying Child Protection Concerns

Consultation on draft guidance for practitioners working with children and young people to consider what local policy and procedures are required to effectively support those engaged in under-age sexual activity, in particular where there might be a child protection concern. The guidance reflects the principles set out by the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009.

Closing date: 23/07/2010

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/04/23154747/10>

National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland: Consultation

The Scottish Government is consulting on revised guidance on child protection, to replace the 1998 guidance Protecting Children – A Shared Responsibility: Guidance on Inter-Agency Co-operation.

Closing date: 17/09/2010

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/05/27095252/0>

Publications

Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme: Guidance for individuals, organisations and personal employers

This guidance explains what the PVG Scheme is for, how it should be used, the information it collects and provides and how it operates.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/06/29093004/0>

The Scottish Out of School Care Network is a charity registered in Scotland SC 020520

SOSCN, Level 2, 100 Wellington Street, Glasgow G2 6DH

www.soscn.org

0141 564 1284

Full report on the Review of Gaelic Medium Early Education and Childcare

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/06/22090128/0>

Summary guide to implementing getting it right for every child - for practitioners

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/06/22124708/0>

Equally Well Review 2010: Report by the Ministerial Task Force on implementing Equally Well, the Early Years Framework and Achieving Our Potential

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/06/22170625/0>

Starting Young?: Links Between Childhood and Adult Participation in Culture and Science - A Literature Review

A selective review of research literature on the extent of childhood exposure to and experience of culture and science and subsequent adult cultural or science participation.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/06/10140914/0>

Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC)

Practitioner Registration- IMPORTANT DEADLINE

All individuals not already registered with the SSSC but working as a Practitioner in an out of school care must send registration applications to the SSSC by the 30th September 2010 to ensure registration by 30th September 2011. [Any individual currently employed as a practitioner but not registered by 30th September 2011 will not be allowed to work in a practitioner role.] For those individuals coming into post after 30th September 2010, they will have time from the start of their employment date in which to become registered.

Level 9 Childhood Practice Award

SOSCN is currently seeking further information from the Scottish Social Services Council regards the implementation of the Level 9 and the development of vocational courses in addition to the currently available BA in Childhood Practice. In the meantime, please visit the SSSC website which has detailed information about the Childhood Practice Award, including a Frequently Asked Questions section:

www.sssc.uk.com/sssc/social-service-workforce-planning/the-new-childhood-practice-awards.html

SOSCN News

SOSCN Conference 2010

Future Changes

Friday 26th November, Radisson Hotel, Glasgow

KEEP THE DATE

Everything you need to know about qualifications, changes to regulatory bodies as well as training opportunities. Input will be provided by Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC), colleges and universities, as well as other organisations, yet to be announced.

More details to follow shortly.

Out of School Care- Scottish Overview 2010

SOSCN has produced an overview of out of school care which details: what out of school care is and its origins; the number of services currently in existence, legislation and regulation requirements; qualification and staffing requirements; what it means to be a quality out of school care; Aiming High Scotland; as well as the benefits and importance of out of school care in supporting children and families. This document is useful for informing parents, community planning partnership and education staff of the important role that out of school care plays in the lives of many families in Scotland today.

This document can be downloaded for free from our website www.soscn.org



Anti-bullying Policy Guidance for Out of School Care

In partnership with RespectMe, Scotland's Anti-bullying Alliance, SOSCN has developed anti-bullying guidance for out of school care services. This can be downloaded for free from our website: www.soscn.org For further information on RespectMe: www.respectme.org.uk

Other News

Making Space 2010

Architecture and design for children and young people

An international award and conference promoting innovation, creativity and sustainability in design for children and young people aged 0-18.

Making Space 2010 international award is supported by the Scottish Government, Children in Scotland and the OECD's Centre for Effective Learning Environments (CELE). Making Space 2010 invites submissions from across the world for the most successful building or space (indoor or outdoor) for children and young people aged 0-18 (inclusive), completed between January 2005 and December 2010. These could include schools, nurseries, school-age childcare services, recreational, cultural or community centres for children, families and young people, combined services for this age group or services shared with other age groups, play areas or street furnishings such as school bus shelters. **Closing date: 8 August 2010**

For further information: www.childreninscotland.org.uk/html/makingspace.htm

Making Space International Conference

7-8 October, Edinburgh with supporting events in Glasgow & Stirling

The Making Space 2010 programme will culminate in two days of study visits to centres of excellence across Scotland and presentations from world-renowned architects, academics and practitioners.

It will encourage debate on the promotion of innovative design, allowing architects, planners and those working with young people in a variety of settings to share ideas and challenge conventional architectural approaches. Scotland has embarked on a major building programme and wants to share its vision, which is pivotal in achieving the goals of Scotland's broad curriculum. The conference will examine all aspects of the school learning environment, from buildings to furniture, and look at how these relate to visions of learning. For more

information or to register to receive advance notification of early bird delegate and exhibitor rates, please contact Hannah Goodrum by hgoodrum@childreninscotland.org.uk

Funding Information

Children in Need

Funding deadlines: July 15th and October 15th

Grants are open to organisations working with disadvantaged children and young people who are 18 years old and under. Main grants of £10,000+ and small grants of under £10,000 are available.

For further information: www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey/grants/general_grants.shtml

Big Lottery Fund

Investing in Communities

Funding deadline: - rolling programme

As part of Investing in Communities, Supporting 21st Century Life wants to fund projects that build stronger families and stronger communities. It aims to improve the quality of family life by helping families most in need to deal with the challenges of family life, intervening early to prevent poverty and disadvantage and give children a better chance in life.

The Big Lottery will fund projects that bring people together, create understanding, help people think about their future and reduce isolation. The Big Lottery Fund expect to fund a wide range of activities and services such as parenting and family support as well as advice and tailored support to help people access services. Projects can encourage mentoring, befriending and peer support. They can also support activities, such as play, volunteering and outdoor experiences.

www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_supporting_21st_century_life.htm?regioncode=-sco

Awards for All

Funding deadline: rolling programme

Awards for All provide grants of up to £10,000 to charitable and not-for-profit organisations as well as schools, community councils and statutory bodies which promote education, the environment and health in the local community. Out of school care services in the past have successfully accessed funding to pay for participation and mentoring in SOSCN's Quality Assurance Scheme Aiming High Scotland.

For further information: www.awardsforall.org.uk/scotland/index.html

Follow SOSCN updates on:

Web: www.soscn.org

Twitter: soscn

Blog: www.soscn-updates.blogspot.com