

## Monthly Communications - July 2010

### Local Updates

#### Stafford:

Family & Parenting  
Institute



## Parents' Week 2010

18 – 24 October

### Knowing Families: how well do you know yours?

Hi everyone the Family and Parenting Institute have announced that the autumn Parents Week will be Monday 18 October until Sunday 24 October.

We would like to include on the FIS Directory all the activities that you will be planning for Parents Week to maximise on the marketing opportunities.

Would you please therefore let Jo Beardmore know of any activities you are planning, her details are [joanne.beardmore@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:joanne.beardmore@staffordshire.gov.uk)

#### Stafford:

### Young Curators

#### Exploring the treasures in Staffordshire's museum collections

'Young Curators' is a new touring exhibition, developed by Staffordshire Arts and Museum Service, which tells the exciting story of a partnership project between four Staffordshire museums (The Staffordshire County Museum at Shugborough, Stafford's Ancient High House, Cannock Chase Museum and Newcastle Borough Museum) and their local schools.

Pupils from Anson Primary School, Great Haywood, Walton Hall Community Special School, Eccleshall, Hassell Primary School, Newcastle under Lyme and Hazel Slade Primary School, Cannock have chosen objects discovered in their local museum collections to help create four fascinating displays for the Young Curators exhibition.



Pupils visited their local museum and spent a day with museum staff and an education specialist. They also discovered what it was like to work in a museum and learned about the skills needed to be a historian.

Chris Copp, Senior Museums Officer from Staffordshire Arts and Museum Service said: "We hope that the Young Curators exhibition gives children and young people a sense of ownership over their local history, raises awareness of museums and galleries in Staffordshire and acts as an inspiration celebrating the County's collections".

The displays will travel independently across Staffordshire over the coming year. Museums and schools participating in the project and up and coming touring venues:

To find out more about the different projects Staffordshire Arts and Museum Service are involved with, visit

[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/leisure/museumandgalleries](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/leisure/museumandgalleries)



## National Updates



### Family Focus - July 2010

#### The Family and Parenting Institute Newsletter

for those who work with families

News

## Families and the new government

The Family and Parenting Institute hosted a headline-grabbing Westminster conference on 13 July which saw the coalition government's family policy hotly debated. The event brought together policy makers and family sector experts in a bid to establish the priority issues for the new government if it is to succeed in making Britain a family friendly society. Speakers included Children's Minister Sarah Teather, Dr Samantha Callan of the Centre for Social Justice, and Mike Brewer of the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

The delegates and speakers reviewed the Family and Parenting Institute's [UK Family Friendly Report Card](#) which awarded the country low grades on family policy. Speeches from leading experts recorded at the event can be viewed at [www.familyandparenting.org/familyPolicySeminar](http://www.familyandparenting.org/familyPolicySeminar)

The conference also received coverage in the Guardian after Sarah Teather revealed that the coalition government was still divided on the issue of tax breaks for married couples.

[Guardian](#)

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### Family Policy Digest

The items in this month's digest include: the Munro Review of child protection; the Childhood and Families Taskforce; the coalition's Budget; an update on the Family Justice Review; experimental British Crime Survey data on crimes against under 16s and the launch of the Children's Society Fatherhood Commission.

[More](#)

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### Horizon Scan

#### **Parents' Week 2010: Knowing Families – registration now open**

The 11th national Parents' Week runs from Monday 18 to Sunday 24 October and registration for supporters is now open.

[Register now](#) for your limited edition Knowing Families book to support your Parents' Week events. After registration, event ideas can be accessed and a media pack can be downloaded.

We are keen to work with national organisations and local authorities to raise the profile of family support during Parents' Week. If you would like to become a Parents' Week partner, please email: [sophie.linington@familyandparenting.org](mailto:sophie.linington@familyandparenting.org).

#### **Volunteering as a family**

Saturday 30 October will be CSV's Make a Difference Day – the UK's biggest single day of volunteering. This year the campaign is encouraging families to volunteer together as a bonding event.

CSV says that 'the campaign is a great way for organisations to recruit volunteers, build links with other groups and gain press coverage. Free materials on offer include a handbook full of ideas, case studies and advice and a free Action Pack containing t-shirts, posters and certificates to help publicise your activity and thank volunteers.'

Events for the campaign will be taking place between 23 October and 7 November. To request any of the free materials, email [difference@csv.org.uk](mailto:difference@csv.org.uk) or call on Freephone 0800 284 533. To find out more visit [www.csv.org.uk/difference](http://www.csv.org.uk/difference).

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### Forward Look

Here you can find out the latest information on events in the sector.

Email [info@familyandparenting.org](mailto:info@familyandparenting.org) to add your event

[More](#)

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### Notice Board

#### **Family Links scoops Centre for Social Justice award**

The charity Family Links has received a prestigious award from the Centre for Social Justice. It was presented on July 14 to Programme Director Shirley Stephenson by Jemima Khan at a London ceremony.

The judges commented that “Family Links has a vision for impacting the next generation by breaking intergenerational cycles of poverty, and has an admirable pursuit of long term goals. Family Links targets the most deprived areas and thoroughly deserves this award. Over 500 charities were considered.”

[www.familylinks.org.uk/](http://www.familylinks.org.uk/)

Family Links is part of the **Family Room**, a coalition of 15 charities (including the Family and Parenting Institute) which will be hosting a series of fringe events at the Lib Dem, Labour and Conservative party conferences, focusing specifically on continued investment in families.

[Family Room](#)

#### **Are housing policies helping poor families?**

A new web tool has been created to help housing providers quickly and easily assess how their policies affect poor families. [Equip](#) has been developed for the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust. It promises to gauge the impact of existing or new housing policies on service users. This can be done both by considering them as a homogenous group and as part of distinct groupings (such as 'households with disabled members').

The impetus for the tool came from the realisation that little consideration is being given to assessing the impact of the housing policies of Housing Associations.