

Welcome to the latest edition of Childcare Connections, a newsletter for all childcare providers in Torfaen.

We would be pleased to include your stories and achievements, send them to your Childcare Development Officers - Aimee, Jo or Danielle.

You can contact us with comments or questions on 10633 648114 / 648115 or email us at:

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NEWSLETTER FOR CHILDCARE PROVIDERS



A message from Torfaen Family Information Service...

As you all may know, we are currently in the middle of a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment. We would like to express our gratitude for all your support in the promotion of the Parent Carer Survey and participating in the Childcare Provider Consultation. Both surveys are now closed and the results will be published with the Gaps Analysis in late March 2017. Should you have any questions about the CSA please contact Hannah Bedford on 01633 647400 or email fis@torfaen.gov.uk.

CONGRATULATIONS YSGOL FEITHRIN PONTYPWL

Following a nomination by members of the public to the Mudiad Meithrin Awards Process, Ysgol Feithrin Pontypwl are proud to announce that they were awarded first prize in an Award Ceremony on Friday, October 21st in the Marine Hotel, Aberystwyth. The prize was presented as recognition of the work the Welsh medium Nursery in the Centre of Pontypool does in creating Partnerships in the community.

Ysgol Feithrin Pontypwl was set up in 1979 and works hard to create a happy friendly atmosphere for the children. We work in partnership with schools, local amenities and organizations in the community.

Helen Greenwood, Nursery Leader said, "I was very pleased to accept this award on behalf of the children,

staff and parents at Ysgol Feithrin Pontypwl. It was great to have Ena Morris and Annie Taylor, two of the parents who set up the Group over 35 years ago in St James' Hall, with me in Aberystwyth for the awards ceremony.



Important - Childcare SASS part two

CSSIW will be emailing all childcare providers regarding the second part of the SASS, to let them know it will be happening in May. This will be the first communication to give a date for when SASS part two will be happening.

SASS part two will involve the Quality of Care Review and a number of other questions, all using CSSIW Online.

If CSSIW have your email address, you'll receive an email from them. If not, you'll receive a hard copy by post.

Advice for providers

Between now and May, providers can start ensuring that their Statement of Purpose is up-to-date.

If you already have a CSSIW Online account you can log in and check your contact details are correct. You can also view your submitted SASS part one.

If you didn't submit or only partially completed SASS part one, you will need to complete it at the same time as SASS part two, in May. **You cannot do anything online now.** CSSIW will not be able to accept late SASS part one before May.

Website

CSSIW will be posting a news item on their website which will closely follow the email that providers will receive. The website will be updated over the next few months to ensure that there's relevant information on there for providers. It will be kept up-to-date on the latest developments.

Help

When SASS part two goes live in May, CSSIW be providing technical support, and umbrella organisations will be once again providing support to providers, helping you to complete the form and encouraging you to use CSSIW Online.

Most providers completed SASS part one on time, but for those who didn't, the inspectorate wrote to them to advise them that they'll *still need to complete SASS part one* this spring, along with SASS part two.

CSSIW will be issuing guidance on SASS part two in February and will be contacting all providers ahead of SASS part two going live to remind them about the process and what action they need to take to meet their legal requirements.

More information

Full details will be available at www.cssiw.org.uk/self-assessment and the inspectorate will be tweeting updates too – follow them on Twitter @CSSIW or @Arolygu_gofal for the latest news.

National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage

National Minimum Wage

The National Minimum Wage (NMW) is the minimum pay per hour most workers are entitled to by law. The rate will depend on a worker's age and if they are an apprentice.

The National Living Wage

The Government's National Living Wage was introduced on 1 April 2016 for all working people aged 25 and over, and is currently set at £7.20 per hour. In April 2017 it will go up to £7.50. The current National Minimum Wage for those under the age of 25 still applies. The rate will change every April. The rates from 1 April 2017 will be:

- £7.50 per hour - 25 yrs old and over
- £7.05 per hour - 21-24 yrs old
- £5.60 per hour - 18-20 yrs old
- £4.05 per hour - 16-17 yrs old

£3.50 for apprentices under 19 or 19 and over who are in the first year of an apprenticeship:

www.acas.org.uk/nmw

<https://www.gov.uk/national-minimum-wage-rates>

Newly opened settings:



Lauleighs (pronounced Lollies), is a drop in crèche situated in Cwmbran Centre. Lauren and Lindsey were able to set up their new Community Interest Company with help and support from PaCE a Welsh Government/DWP initiative aimed at supporting parents who want to return to work but have childcare barriers. Lauleighs also provide car shopping trollies for hire, host children's parties, and stay and play sessions.



Meithrinfa at Trinity Church Pontnewydd is a newly opened Welsh medium day nursery situated in a beautifully refurbished Church building. The nursery is both a Flying Start and non-maintained education setting.