

Early Years and Childcare News



EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Childcare Partnership Celebrates 10 Years



Early Years Partnership



Adam Ingram Minister for Children and Early Years

In May 1998 the Government published "Meeting the Childcare Challenge" – A Childcare Strategy for Scotland. The overall aim of the strategy was to make high quality affordable childcare available in every area and information on available childcare. In addition the Government promised every eligible 3 and 4 year old child a part time funded pre-school education place. The Sure Start initiative was also launched around this time and aimed to help disadvantaged families with very young children.

The Western Isles Childcare Partnership was formed in 1999 to take forward this childcare agenda and celebrated 10 years of operation in the "Bridge Centre" Stornoway on the 29th September 2009. There

was a lot to celebrate with 89 childminders receiving support and funding over the 10 years, three quarters of the workforce now meeting the requirements of the Scottish Social Services Council, 63% of pre-school provision being delivered through the medium of Gaelic and an increase in pre-school funded hours. There were numerous displays showing the work that has been carried out over this period and services available from several partner agencies.

In addition to the developments in childcare and pre-school education, the number of children benefiting from the Sure Start service has increased dramatically over the years. 89 children accessed the service during the last financial year. This service supports disadvantaged children and their families. The range of support includes: information on child development, help with child health issues, behaviour, play, sleep problems and parenting skills.

Adam Ingram, MSP, Scottish Government Minister for Children and Early Years attended the celebrations and praised the Western Isles Partnership for all that they had achieved.

Entertainment for the afternoon was provided by Oichdhe Chiadain, Stornoway



Patricia White, Early Years Service Manager, Bernard Chisholm, Head of Early Years and Inclusion, Cllr Annie MacDonald, Chair CCP, Adam Ingram, Minister for Children and Early Years, Alasdair Allan, MSP

Primary Gaelic Nursery and Primary 1 GM, and Laxdale After School Club.



Stornoway Primary, Nursery & P1 Gaelic



Oichdhe Chiadain



Laxdale After School Club

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New Logo, New Name

With a new Early Years and Early Intervention Strategy taking forward an integrated early year's agenda it was agreed that it would be appropriate for the Western Isles Childcare Partnership to change name to Early Years Partner-

ship. The new Partnership has had its inaugural meeting and pupils of the Nicolson Institute art department were asked to design a new logo. The new Logo is a combination of the art work of two pupils, Ayla

Macphee and Amy Robin Stewart. Cllr Morag Munro, Chair of Education and Children's Services presented the prize to both of the young people at the 10th anniversary celebrations. The Early Years Partner-

ship would like to thank all those who entered the competition and also Mr Rowlands of the Art Department for his assistance .

The final version of the logo can be seen on the front cover.



Ayla MacPhee



Amy Robin Stewart



Mr Rowlands, Ayla MacPhee, Cllr Morag Munro and Amy Robin Stewart

Art Competition Winners

All childcare providers in the Western Isles were invited to submit artwork for a competition that was run on the day of the 10th anniversary celebrations.

All those present on the day were asked to vote for their favourite picture.

The winner was four year old Murray MacDonald who attends Cròileagan Nis.

Murray was presented with his prize by Alison Macleod Early Years Support Officer.

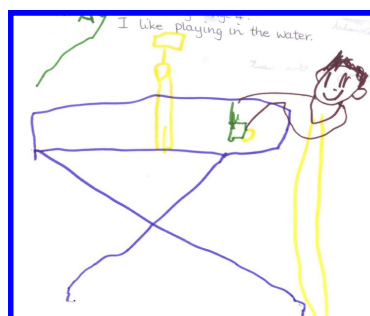
Second prize went to Kirsty MacLeod age three who attends Sandwickhill School Nursery.

Kirsty was presented with her prize by Fiona MacLeod Early Years Support Officer



Above: Second prize art work, Kirsty MacLeod being presented with her prize by Fiona MacLeod.

Below: First prize art work, Murray MacDonald being presented with his prize by Alison Macleod.



Early Years & Early Intervention Strategy 2009-14

The Early Years and Early Intervention Strategy was approved by the Comhairle in August 2009. This strategy links to the Scottish Governments Early Years Framework, National and Local outcomes. The Early Years and Early Intervention Strategy aims to provide children in the Western Isles with the best start in life by improving children's early experiences, identify those at risk of low achievement, and supporting families and communities to develop their own solutions to meet children's needs.

The Early Years Partnership has had its inaugural meeting and is in the process of forming 4 working groups to take forward the strategic objectives outlined within the document.

Further information on the Early Years and Early Intervention Strategy can be found at

<http://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/earlyyears/>

The photo shows Adam Ingram MSP, Scottish Government Minister for Children and Early Years, Cllr Annie Macdonald, Chair of the Childcare Partnership, MSP Alasdair Allan at the launch of the new strategy on the 29th September.



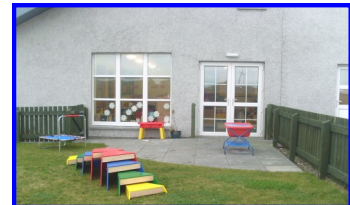
Sgoil Araich Airaidhantuim



Sgoil Araich Airaidhantuim recently moved from their accommodation in the portacabin into a purpose built room in the new Clan Mac-Quarrie hall.

The sgoil arach was officially opened by Cllr. Agnes Rennie on the 22nd of June.

The children and staff have settled into the new premises and are enjoying spending time in their new garden.



Dates for your diary

Literacy Across Learning

3rd December
9am - 3pm
Meeting Room LEC
4th December 2009
9am - 4pm
Caledonian Hotel

Manual Handling

9th December
1pm - 5pm
Cothrom Training Centre
South Uist

Risk Assessment

10th December
9.30am - 4pm
Cothrom Training Centre
South Uist

Elementary Food Hygiene

4th & 11th December
9.15am - 12.15pm
Catering Department
Lews Castle College

Education and Children's Services

Western Isles Early Years Partnership



Early Years Partnership

The new website for Early Years has now been launched and can be visited at :

www.cne-siar.gov.uk/earlyyears

You will find information on policies, grants, family support services, training and Sure Start.

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Minimum Wage Enrolments 2010/11

The minimum wage increased on the 1st of October 2009 to:

16 to 17yrs - £3.57

18 to 21 yrs - £4.83

22yrs+ - £5.80

All voluntary management committees should ensure that their staff are not being paid below the national minimum wage.

For help with any queries regarding the National Minimum Wage contact the Pay and Work Rights Helpline 0800 917 2368



Parents are reminded that they should enrol their children in February at their chosen pre school provider or school.

Dates for enrolments for individual schools and settings will be advertised in the local press at the beginning of 2010.

Children who are three before 28th February 2011 will be eligible for a funded pre school place during 2010/11 academic year.

For more information of pre school funding contact your local provider or visit www.cne-siar.gov.uk/earlyyears

ARE YOUR DETAILS UP TO DATE?

To enable parents and carers to choose the most suitable childcare for their children the details held on the ChIS database must be up to date and accurate. A form goes out to each childcare provider each year so that the details can be updated.

Have you completed and returned your form?

Has anything changed since you submitted your details?

Are you not sure ?

Make sure your details are up to date.

Contact Margaret Morrison

Tel: 01851 822282

email

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