

Ofsted News:

Inspection dates: The Inspectors are taking a break from inspecting during August 2015. **The next possible Inspection dates are:**

- **14th September 2015**
- **12th October 2015**
- **26th October 2015**
- **23rd November 2015**

During August I will be reviewing all the reports to support the Inspection to ensure all the information is up to date so please remember to send any new or updated information to me at Michele.Mohamed@bathnes.gov.uk

2015 Ofsted Inspections recap: Between January and July 2015 Ofsted have inspected 25 Local Authorities under the Single Inspection framework. 19 Inspection reports have so far been published. Of these the overall judgements were:

- Good – 6 (Enfield; Leeds; Trafford; Salford, Nottinghamshire and Kingston on Thames.)
- Requires Improvement – 6
- Inadequate – 7

Updated Handbook: In June 2015 Ofsted published an updated Inspection Handbook with some amendments to the schedule:

- Inspectors will be on site for 9 days during the Inspection (instead of 11 days) – they will be on site for 3 full days (Tues – Thurs) in weeks 1, 3 & 4.
- On Tuesday of Week 3 the whole Inspection Team will be case-tracking.
- Inspection fieldwork will cease on Wednesday of week 4
- New requirement: report on Female Genital mutilation
- New Annex to complete re: gaining consent to speak to children and young people. [LINK](#)

New Ofsted report published 04/08/2015: [“The Quality of assessment for children in need of help”](#) – thematic report on assessments.

Good Practice:

In Bath and North East Somerset we work really hard to ensure that we provide good services for children, young people and families and we have lots of examples of good practice. In the May Newsletter I asked for you to send me some examples to highlight. Here are some of those examples:

R2K

Fundamental to the successful fostering of children in care is the quality of support provided to foster carers. R2K offers periods of respite and support for Bath & North East Somerset foster carers by providing a variety of group activities and events throughout the year for the children in their care; day and overnight trips during the school holidays as well as week-long summer holidays. Individual work can also be considered for specific young people – who either cannot manage group settings or when specific carers need additional support.

Key to the success of R2K:

- The ability of dedicated sessional workers.
- Strong links with providers & within the community
- Knowledge of the individual young people - as well as connections they have within their peer group
- Young people experiencing a non-judgmental approach
- A variety of new opportunities and challenges for young people to try within a safe environment
- Information sharing between foster carers, children's social worker and Family Placement team staff
- Completion of Respite Information Handover Form

R2K values the feedback they receive from children and young people and this feedback has been actively used to change the service in accordance with young people's feedback and ideas. Children and Young People have also expressed how they value this service.

Toy Library for Foster Carers

The Family Placement Team has produced a beautiful Toy Library Catalogue of all the resources that they provide for foster carers to use with children and young people. There is an emphasis on issues of equality, culture and diversity and categories include Books, Art and Crafts, Audio- Visual tools, Games and Imaginative Play. This catalogue whilst specifically designed for foster carers contains lots of ideas of resources for all practitioners to use in direct work with children and families.

Link Person: Becky Brown R2K Coordinator Family Placement Team

Foot Prints

This project is designed for parents who have previously had children removed from their care and who want to develop the necessary skills to provide good enough parenting in the future.

Key Objectives:

- ❖ The aim of the project is to support parents to achieve sufficient change in to enable them to develop the skills required to parent a child.
- ❖ To support and facilitate recovery from past trauma, develop understanding of the impact of past experiences on the individual, their relationships, parenting and child development.
- ❖ To deliver education to support understanding of child development, attachment and parenting strategies to support a child's needs.
- ❖ To support parents to actively engage and be open in challenging examples of "disguised compliance".
- ❖ To support the development of change that is sustainable.
- ❖ To empower and enable parents to build resilience.
- ❖ To develop confidence and skills that will support the potential to create mentors for future parents in similar situations.
- ❖ To seek outreach support for those who have moved through the project.
- ❖ To create a programme that can evidence the desired outcomes and inform future practice.

Link Person: Liz O'Gorman Team Manager Specialist Family Intervention Team

Stonewall Education Equality Index

Bath and North East Somerset was ranked BEST LOCAL AUTHORITY in 2015 for tackling homophobia and celebrating difference out of 47 Local Authorities who presented evidence in the Stonewall Equalities Index.

- **Bath & North East Somerset Council** has made a film featuring young people and a cross section of staff (including the Director of Children's Services) voicing their values and commitment to tackling homophobia and supporting LGBT young people.
- Having been inspired by a presentation at a Stonewall Education Seminar, Bath & Northeast Somerset has actively encouraged primary and secondary schools to develop staff-pupil Equality Teams (E-Teams) to work collaboratively on addressing the issues of diversity and inclusion.
- There are now 35 E-Teams in Bath & North East Somerset, many of which are focusing their activities on challenging discriminatory language, and the Chair of the Council recently hosted a reception for them at which they shared good practice.
- Bath & North East Somerset offer a universal early years training session to all home and group based practitioners which explores what makes an inclusive setting and how this helps prevent homophobia.

Link Person: Kate Murphy Drug and PSHE Consultant

These are just a few examples of creative and innovative practice in Bath and North East Somerset that we can be proud of.

Practitioners Resources web page:

In October we are launching a new web page on the Intranet – “**Resources for Practitioners**”. The aim of the webpage is to provide all practitioners working with children, young people, families and carers with useful information, resources and tools to use in their work.

If anyone has some really good tools or resources please let me know so that I can add them to the web page.

Ofsted Preparation Workshop

“Do you know what they are looking for?”

This Lunch time workshop will be held on:

Date: Thursday 10th September

Time: 1.00 p.m. to 2.00 p.m.

Venue: Keynsham Civic centre **Room W1.3**

Don't forget; this is your opportunity to shine and show what a good job you do for children and young people in Bath and North East Somerset.

Michele Mohamed
OFSTED Preparation Lead