

Female Matters

November 2008

produced by



Events

Sexual Health Conference – still some spaces left!

The Sexual Health Team (Eastern Area) is hosting its 14th Annual Regional Sexual Health Conference from 19th - 20th November 2008, at the Radisson Roe Park Resort, Limavady. This event will bring together a mix of speakers and workshops with the overall aim of increasing people's awareness of sexual health and current thinking, as well as strategies and methods from local, regional and international perspectives. The event is open to anyone working in the statutory, voluntary, community and private sectors who has an interest in enhancing their sexual health knowledge, skills and awareness. This year's programme includes: parent-child communication; talking about tough issues; sexual orientation and problematic alcohol and drug use; male experiences of domestic violence; delaying sex; sexual health in Northern Ireland; engaging parents; the Checkitout Project (sexual health needs of homeless people). For further information, please contact the Sexual Health Team on Tel: 02890 900051 or Email: shealth.team@belfasttrust.hscni.net

News

Parents Advice Centre is moving!

From Monday 24th November 2008, Parents Advice Centre (including The Men's Project, Parenting Forum, The Parenting Project and the Parent Support Line) will be moving to Andras House, 60 Great Victoria Street, Belfast, BT2 7BD. Our office telephone number will remain the same (02890 310891) as will our Freephone Helpline (0808 8010 722).

Paternity Leave and Pay Fact Sheet

Paternity Leave and Pay are part of a package of rights and benefits designed to give support to working fathers, mothers and their partners. These paternity rights have applied in Northern Ireland since 6th April 2003. The rights to Paternity Leave and Statutory Paternity Pay (SPP) allow an eligible employee to take paid leave to care for his baby or to support the mother following birth. He can take either one week or two consecutive weeks' Paternity Leave and, during this time, may be entitled to SPP. The Men's Project has collated a fact sheet to provide answers to some of the key questions about Paternity Leave and Pay. This fact sheet describes the situation in Northern Ireland, and is available in Portable Document Format online at:

www.mensproject.org/resources/paternityrights.pdf

Kids' Life and Times Survey

Findings from the 2008 Kids' Life and Times (KLT) Survey show that boys' and girls' experiences of primary school are very different. This survey was carried out by [ARK](#) - a joint initiative between Queen's University Belfast and the University of Ulster. More P7 girls (44%) than boys (26%) said they were completely happy coming to school. 84% of girls, compared with 76% of boys, said they had been 'mostly happy' at primary school. Girls were happier than boys with writing, reading, spelling, shapes and working by themselves. Boys and girls felt the same about doing sums and science experiments and working on the computer. There were no subjects where boys were much happier than girls. 3,440 P7 children across Northern Ireland took part in the survey, which asked about school, bullying, health and wellbeing, and the Transfer Test. KLT was funded by the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister. For further information, please look at the KLT website www.ark.ac.uk/klf or email Katrina at: k.lloyd@qub.ac.uk

Fathers and Neonatal Intensive Care: A Qualitative Follow-up Study

This study aims to generate knowledge about fathers' experiences, needs and expectations while caring for their premature and/or critically ill infant in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and following the infant's discharge home. Recruitment of fathers commenced on the 18th August 2008 in the Regional Neonatal Unit at the Royal Jubilee Maternity Hospital, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. Data collection and analysis are ongoing. Data generated from this study will be disseminated at a local and national level, and published in full. For information, please contact the School of Nursing and Midwifery Research Unit, Queen's University Belfast, by emailing Kathleen Deeney at: kdeeney01@qub.ac.uk. This study is funded by the School of Nursing and Midwifery and Tiny Life - the premature baby charity for Northern Ireland.

New DVD from Child Contact Centres

The Northern Ireland Network of Child Contact Centres recently celebrated ten years of existence with the launch of a new DVD entitled "Positive Contact". This DVD highlights the service provided by Child Contact Centres - which maintains, and in some cases establishes, contact between children and their non-resident parents and other family members. The DVD is useful for families who may be interested in learning about how a Child Contact Centre operates and what services they can provide. It will also be informative for social workers and solicitors who may be unfamiliar with Child Contact Centres. The DVD is available from all the Contact Centres across Northern Ireland. The Child Contact Centre helpline number is Tel: 0845 0730438 and the web address is: www.contactni.org

Young Fathers' Project - Manager Vacancy

This is a three year, Big Lottery Funded project which aims to equip young men with the skills and confidence to build and maintain a positive relationship with their children. The manager will ensure the comprehensive delivery of a range of services for young parents. Criteria include: 3rd level qualification in a Health, Youth and Community, Social Care or Community Development subject OR three years experience at management level within a community development setting. Experience of working in partnership across a range of sectors, a current driving licence, and access to a car is also required (this criteria will be waived in the case of an applicant whose disability prohibits driving, but who is able to organise suitable alternative arrangements). Secondments may be considered. Salary negotiable depending on experience and qualifications. Closing date is Friday 7th November 2008. Please contact Dymphna Healy on Tel: 02871 266115 or Email: dympnahealy@first-housing.com

Typist / Receptionist Vacancy

Parents Advice Centre is looking for a Typist / Receptionist in their Derry Branch. Essential requirements include: three GCSE passes at Grade C or above (or equivalent) including English and Maths; OCR Stage II Word Processing (or equivalent); at least two year's experience in typist/receptionist duties. Hours = 15 hours per week. Salary =

£6,279 per annum. Requests for an application pack can be made in writing to: The Chief Executive, Parents Advice Centre, Franklin House, 12 Brunswick Street, Belfast BT2 7GE. Applicants must enclose a self-addressed B4 sized envelope, with a 52p stamp attached. Alternatively, the pack can be downloaded from the PAC website at: www.parentsadvicecentre.org/about/vacancies.asp The closing date for applications is noon on Friday 14th November 2008. Interviews will take place on Thursday 20th November 2008.

Courses

Family Conflict Course

It is normal for relationships to go through stages of change, and many parents living together or apart have to cope with conflict in their relationships. This four week course aims to equip parents with information, skills and confidence to deal with conflict issues, and to reduce the impact on their children. The course will take place on Wednesdays, from 7.00pm - 9.00pm, on the 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th November, in Parents Advice Centre, Franklin House, 12 Brunswick Street, Belfast. To register for this Belfast course, please contact Sharon on Tel: 02890 310891 or Email: sharonr@pachelp.org The course will also take place on Mondays, from 7.00pm - 9.00pm, on 24th November, 1st, 8th and 15th December, in Parents Advice Centre, 1&2 Feeny's Lane, Dungannon. To register for the Dungannon course, please contact Bernie on Tel: 02887 753630 or Email: bernie@pachelp.org

Ideas for Dads and Kids

Autumn Activities

This is a really exciting time to get out and go for a walk in a park or forest. So much is changing in nature at this time of year, and it's a perfect opportunity to teach your child what is happening. The following link will bring you to a Portable Document Format (PDF) file which will refresh your mind about all those things you learned in science lessons - so that you can impress your child/children with your knowledge!!! ...

www.naturedetectives.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/813E4EC0-DB8D-4ED1-A86E-379000319ACF/0/why-leaves-change-colour.pdf

Road Safety Week

Road Safety Week, from 10th-16th November, is organised by Brake - the road safety charity. To educate and keep your family safe, they have created a "Stay Safe Family Promise". The Promise is aimed at families with young children (under 12 years). You can print the Promise, sign it, and display it in your home. Please click on the following link to open this file: <http://www.roadsafetyweek.org.uk/index.php?p=135>

On the Web

[Dad's tips on teething](#)

[Single jab cancer therapy backed](#)

[Premature ejaculation gene found](#)

[Meat 'ups prostate cancer risk'](#)

[Testicles 'are stem cell source'](#)

[Gene scan to predict hair loss](#)

[Workmen 'ignoring asbestos risk'](#)

[Transsexual gene link identified](#)

['New prostate' grown inside mouse](#)

Website of the Month

Kids' Life and Times Survey

The opinions of children are generally ignored when decisions are made about many of the issues that affect them. The Kids' Life and Times survey gives children a voice. It is an annual survey of all P7 children in Northern Ireland which looks at what they think about school and other issues which are important to them. Visit www.ark.ac.uk/klt to find out more.

**HEY! What are you up to in December?
Let me know about it for in the next edition!
Email: trisha@mensproject.org**

We have a simple template for all articles. Let us know within 150 words: the title, date, time, venue, a description of the event, and your organisation's contact details for further information i.e. a named person, telephone number, email address or web address.

The Men's Project: We are always updating our online directory of organisations which offer support or services to men. If you would like to update your existing entry, or would like be registered on it, please visit: www.mensproject.org/mendir/index.html

Note to readers: If you know of anyone who is interested in joining our mailing list, or you wish to be removed, or you have any news you want included, please email: trisha@mensproject.org

[The views expressed in Emale Matters are not necessarily those of The Men's Project]