

## **Childrens Centre Staff Announcement 29<sup>th</sup> April**

Norfolk County Council has selected Action for Children to operate its new £5.2 million Early Childhood and Family Service from October 2019.

The service will have a network of 15 bases, offering outreach support across the county and deliver early childhood and family services for families living across the county.

Executive Director of Children's Services, Sara Tough, said: "I'm confident that Action for Children will make a success of delivering our more targeted, consistent and accessible service, in line with national best practice. I would personally like to thank all staff associated with childrens centres for their commitment and continued dedication to support vulnerable families during this period of uncertainty."

**Action for Children's Director of Children's Services for England South, Emma Horne, said: "We're thrilled to have been chosen to deliver the new services from October and be able to continue supporting vulnerable children and families across Norfolk.**

**"We look forward to continue strengthening how we meet the needs of children across the county through vital community services like these, which can be a lifeline for families."**

We will now move forward with Action for Children to implement the mobilisation plan, and we will continue to keep you updated as things progress.

As previously stated, the new Early Childhood and Family Service will:

- Provide targeted support for families with children aged 0-5
- Offer help so that all families can connect with local support and universal early childhood activities
- Operate through 15 early childhood and family support bases and use a range of local delivery venues
- Contribute to joint working and maintaining partnerships as part of securing a local early offer

The new service will be expected to work closely with a range of local partners and agencies, including the Healthy Child Programme, maternity and early years settings.

Alongside this the Council is:

- Working with local partners to invest £250,000 in community development to ensure there are strong networks of support
- Supporting an enhanced online and digital information, advice and guidance offer for families
- Extending the Library Service's year-round offer of bounce and rhyme and stay and chat sessions, open to all families across the county's 47 libraries.
- Continuing discussions with organisations interested in taking on the majority of the remaining former children's centre sites so that they can continue to be used by providers of services for children and families. This is being supported by a £500,000 capital grant fund.

The locations of the new early childhood and family bases are:

**Breckland:**

- Swaffham
- Thetford (Kingsway)

**Broadland:**

- Acle
- Drayton and Taverham

**Great Yarmouth borough:**

- Great Yarmouth (Priory)
- Seagulls

**King's Lynn & West Norfolk borough:**

- Downham Market
- Nar

**North Norfolk:**

- Fakenham
- North Walsham

**Norwich city:**

- Catton Grove, Fiddlewood, Mile Cross (CFM)
- City and Eaton
- Earlham

**South Norfolk:**

- Diss
- Long Stratton