



Coventry City Council

7d

Public report

REPORT BACK ON CONFERENCE/SEMINAR

REPORT TO: Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee 8th December 2010
REPORT OF: Interim Director Children, Learning and Young People's Directorate
TITLE: International Study Visit - Reggio
DATE: 14th - 21st November 2008
VENUE: Reggio Emilia, Italy

1. Recommendation

- To re-establish a focus group in Coventry on Reggio Emilia approach in order to :
 - Develop 'Documenting Children's Learning' in the Local Authority
 - Plan an exhibition that raises awareness of the importance of early education and the capability of very young children
 - Build on previous work with Artists in Residence in order to develop creativity in the early years
 - Establish a 'Reggio Approach' group that can plan and influence approaches to young children's learning.

2. Background

In January 2008 Cabinet approved a request from a group of practitioners from Early Years Services in Coventry to attend a study week in Reggio Emilia, Italy in November 2008.

Reggio Emilia has an international reputation for:

- its approach to provision for pre-school children;
- its innovative use of creative materials to stimulate children's development;
- the community approach to developing resources.

The group consisted of:

- Integrated Service Manager – Early Years

- 2 Early Years Development Officers
- 4 Children's Centre Teachers
- 1 Partnership Advisor
- 2 Children's Centre Managers

The study week was a combination of:

- Visits to centres to observe practice and resources
- Lectures on the organisation of the Reggio Centres
- Philosophy of approaches - role of Atellerista / Pedagogists / Teachers
- How the recording of developments is undertaken
- Opportunity to meet with Reggio parents
- Sharing of study week participants' approaches to childcare education provision

3. Cost of attending

Conference Fees:	£12,100.00
Flights:	£1,305.18
Additional Travel Expenses:	£334.00 –accommodation at Gatwick Airport £179.69 - insurance £300.00 – hire of minibus
Accommodation:	£3,150.00
Subsistence:	£908.26

4. Benefits

- The combination of the group who visited Reggio for the Study week was an important factor in the success of the opportunity.
- Attendees had opportunities to have discussions with international partners and importantly Coventry Early Years staff to identify partnership working.
- Each group member has brought back experiences and observations, which will influence current future approach to children's services, both within their own setting and also to the wider early years sector.
- Lectures and visits to settings provided scope for discussion on approaches and individual learning paths. For example:-
 - Recording children's learning in creative ways
 - The importance of environment and long-term planning space and design of facilities
 - Whole community commitment to support for Reggio
 - Observation and assessment
 - Management and leadership structures

List of background papers

Proper Officer: Colin Green, Director Children, Learning and Young People's Directorate

Author: Chris Wainwright, Integrated Service Manager, Early Years & Childcare

Tel Number: 7683 3615

(Any enquiries should be directed to the above)

Other contributors:

Papers open to public inspection

Description of paper:	None	Location
------------------------------	-------------	-----------------

CONFERENCES/SEMINARS

AUTHORITY FOR ATTENDANCE

THIS FORM TO BE USED FOR COUNCILLORS (FOR ATTENDANCE BOTH IN AND OUTSIDE THE U.K.) AND FOR EMPLOYEES (OUTSIDE THE U.K. ONLY OR, IF ACCOMPANYING A COUNCILLOR, INSIDE THE UK)

1. Title of Conference	Reggio Preschools UK Study Week
2. Organising Body	Sightlines Initiative
3. Location	Reggio Emilia, Italy
4. Date(s)	13 th – 18 th April 2008
5. Councillor(s) recommended to attend	
6. Employee(s) recommended to attend	Chris Wainwright – Lead Officer, Early Years & Childcare Kate Rix – Radford Children's Centre Manager Dawn Jearum – Manager, Flutterbies Children's Centre Sue Wescott – Children's Centre Teacher Angela Byers – Children's Centre Teacher Ingunn Hutt - EY Partnership Adviser Emma Linton – Early Years Development Worker
7. Cost per person, including travel, etc (Note: If total cost is less than £100.00, formal Cabinet/Cabinet Member approval is not required) *subject to formal approval during the current review of the constitution.	£1,400 per person, including flights, accommodation, course fees
8. Is participation at this event as part of a group	YES
9. If so, how many people IN TOTAL will be attending the event as part of that group	200
10. Is there anyone travelling with the Member, officer or group in relation to whom any of the costs of travel, accommodation or any other expense will be paid for by a Member or officer. If "YES" please state number.	NO
11. Source of Funding (FIS Code)	ECEC 84710
12. What are the reasons for attendance and what benefits to the City Council are expected from attendance	Reggio Emilia has an international reputation for: -its approach to provision for pre-school children; -its innovative use of creative materials to stimulate children's development; -the community approach to developing resources

**Part 5.7 – Protocol for Cabinet Approval of Best Value Reports
and Best Value Service Improvement Action Plans**

	<p>The study week format will be a combination of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ visits to centres to observe practice and resources ▪ lectures on the organisation of the Reggio Centres ▪ Philosophy of approaches – role of Atelierista / Pedagogues / Teachers ▪ How the recording of developments is undertaken ▪ Opportunity to meet with Reggio parents ▪ Sharing of study week participant's approaches to childcare education provision <p>Completed By/Signed: Date:</p>
<p>13. Is this conference part of an overall project involving further visits in the future?</p>	<p>YES</p>
<p>14. Recommendation of Cabinet Member/ Cabinet/Chair of any other City Council Committee</p> <p>(a) Are you satisfied that there is a genuine reason for attendance and genuine benefit for the Council?</p>	<p><u>YES</u></p> <p><u>YES</u> NO <i>Joe Bennett</i></p>

*Part 5.7 – Protocol for Cabinet Approval of Best Value Reports
and Best Value Service Improvement Action Plans*

(b) Will Councillor attendance affect the decision-making processes of the Council?	YES/NO
(c) Is attendance recommended?	YES/NO Signed: Date:
15. Cabinet Member's recommendation	YES /NO Signed: <i>J. Brindley</i> Date: <i>3/01/2007</i>
16. Leader's recommendation	YES/ NO Signed: <i>[Signature]</i> Date: <i>8/2/2008</i>
17. Person responsible for booking conference following approval of attendance	Name: Margaret Brassington Department: CLYP Telephone No: 7683 1513

THIS FORM SHOULD NOW BE RETURNED TO THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES (Room 64)

FOR LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES DIRECTORATE'S USE ONLY

Decision APPROVED / NOT APPROVED	Cabinet Member/Cabinet Date:
--	---------------------------------

Notification to:	<u>YES/NO</u>	<u>DATE</u>
(a) Officer responsible for booking conference		
(b) Councillor attending		
(c) Member of Management Board		
(d) Members' Services		
(e) Committee Officer		

Date report back obtained	
---------------------------	--

Date of meeting of Scrutiny to receive report back	
--	--

Sightlines Initiative

Registered Charity No 1087834

Reggio Preschools UK Study Week, 13th - 18th April 2008 Reggio Emilia, Italy



'This is the city of Reggio Emilia; it's a little piece of the city. I made a hotel, because when it rains in our town you can go inside and you're safe from the rain. I put the municipal theatre near the hotel. People go to see shows there and it's nice because there are lots of statues. It's great to have a city with all these beautiful things and when foreigners come they say 'What a wonderful city and what a beautiful theatre!'

Andrea 5.8 yrs

**Reggio Children have been able to offer a study week during 2008
for a visit by UK early childhood educators and advocates.**

Programme

Topics will include:

- Background and history of the Reggio Emilia educational project
- Children as citizens with rights
- The school as a system of interactions and relationships
- The environment and the educational space
- Observation, interpretation, documentation
- The hundred languages of children
- Parents' involvement in the life of the school
- ReMida (recycled materials as resources)

The programme will be organised through:

- Presentations/seminars by pedagogistas, teachers and atelieristas
- Visits to Pre schools and infant-toddler centres
- Visits to exhibitions
- Workshops

The programme will include time and space for:

- Discussion groups and exchanges of experiences among the participants
- Encountering the town of Reggio Emilia - guided tour

The new 'International Centre Loris Malaguzzi' will be the venue for the week. We encourage people to attend together with colleagues or in small groups in order to maximize the long-term potential for development. There are up to 100 places available for UK participants. Colleagues from other English speaking countries (New Zealand, Singapore,

America and Australia) will be joining us for the study week. This will provide the opportunity for us to share and learn from each others experience.

Participants

We will be seeking to encourage the participation of all those involved in early childhood education:

Educators (teachers, nursery nurses, teaching assistants) artists, politicians, trainers, advisers, Early Years Partnership officers, auxiliary staff (cooks, gardeners, administrators) outreach workers, Children's Centre Managers etc.

Please note: All applications forms must be filled in on an individual basis and we cannot take block bookings: each application will be considered individually.

Participation Fee = £995.

(Please note: Sightlines Initiative have not increased the study week fee since October 2003 and this is despite increased costs incurred)

The above cost does not include flights and accommodation.

Sightlines Initiative is currently arranging block bookings at Hotels in Reggio Emilia.

Accommodation for 6 nights will be in the region of £500; this cost is reduced by sharing a room.

Depending on when you book, return flights (to Bologna or Milan) range from £100 - £250.

Participants will be provided with information regarding travel and accommodation upon applying.

The participation fee covers the following:

Reggio Children Srl

- Guided tour of city
- Seminars and presentations
- Visits to pre schools and Infant toddler centres
- Information folders (town of Reggio Emilia, its municipal infant toddler-centre and preschool experience and Reggio Children S.r.l.)
- Private bus transportation from and to the centers in Reggio Emilia when required by the programme
- Interpreters and professional leadership
- Coffee breaks
- farewell dinner

Sightlines Initiative

- Advice, information and support
- Travel and accommodation advice
- Participants booklet
- Preparatory meetings and materials
- Administration
- Welcome event
- ReFocus Network info
- Post study week support
- Network meeting opportunities
- UK network development
- Participants information exchange

Study week experiences

To find out more about the thoughts and responses of past study week participants and the impact of their visits go to: events/Reggio Study Week 08 at www.sightlines-initiative.com.

Further information and preparation

We will provide additional information and support once the participants' group is established.

- Study week discussion forum for communication between participants.
- Study week preparation meetings within Refocus Regions
- A list of recommended reading.
- Preparation materials

For further information please contact Margaret @sightlines-initiative.com Tel: 0191 2617666

For an application form please go to events at www.sightlines-initiative.com