



Funding boost for Nottingham's play resource centre offers hope to entire city play sector

Nottingham charity Playworks - the city's leading resource centre for the local play sector has been awarded funding worth £40,000 to develop and deliver a comprehensive play training programme for Nottingham.

The new training programme will include free training courses and will be open to all organisations delivering play-related services in Nottingham, from schools and nurseries to charities and community projects.

The programme will aim to train volunteers as play workers, as well as boosting the skills of paid staff and professionals.

Playworks has been delivering play training in Nottingham for over 25 years but the funding will enable the charity to acquire the SkillsActive training licence.

SkillsActive is the national Sector Skills Council for the play sector and through training providers like Playworks it aims to ensure that play organisations can access the training, qualifications and continuous professional development support they need to keep their workforce appropriately trained - including volunteers and paid staff.

Liz Asher, Project Director at Playworks, believes that training is key to the future of the city's play sector, as well as to the quality of play provision for children.

"Play training is critical for the workforce that supports the development of our children and young people. Training staff and volunteers can help to keep children and young people safe, whilst ensuring that Nottingham retains and develops a highly knowledgeable, motivated workforce of play professionals and volunteers. In turn, this will help to boost the quality of play provision in Nottingham and will hopefully help organisations to become more robust and flexible.

Training also ensures that there is good practice throughout the sector, from nurseries, playgroups and crèches through to schools, after-school clubs and holiday activities."



The income that Playworks generates from becoming a SkillActive-endorsed training provider will help the charity to continue to provide much-needed resources to the play sector. At the moment these resources are free or available for a nominal charge.

For example, it runs a scrapstore offering a huge range of arts and crafts materials to schools and other play organisations, together with training and advice on how to use the materials.

The £40,000 funding has come from the Government's Transition Fund, which aims to help voluntary sector organisations like Playworks adapt to what it calls 'a different funding environment'.

Playworks is planning to run several free training courses over the next few months including:

- **Positive Behaviour, Positive Children**
- **Playing Out for the under 5's - using the outdoor environment**
- **Play Free - introductory play for volunteers**
- **Outdoor cookery**
- **Autumnal lights (craft activity)**
- **Winter Wonderland - making seasonal arts and crafts**
- **Drama games**

To find out more about these courses or for more information on Playworks' new training programme please call Liz Asher on 0115 958 9199 or email liz.asher@playworks.org.uk