

LEARNING CITY

Directorate of Education Services

Summer Term 2001
Issue One

Southampton's search for
teacher recruits

OFSTED - Looking to the future

French accept the Rock Challenge

Emotional Literacy hits the headlines

Education at the Balloon Festival

“YOUR CITY NEEDS YOU

YOU”



SOUTHAMPTON
CITY COUNCIL

JUNE BRIDLE

Chair of Education and
Leader of Southampton
City Council



This new publication is for everyone connected with education in Southampton. Learning City will welcome your ideas, comments and contributions - everyone contributing to the on-going debate about learning and teaching within our city.

Everyone contributed to the achievements recognised by the recent OfSTED report and this first edition of Learning City highlights the importance of that teamwork and goodwill. As we build on the successes and respond to the report's recommendations, we will once again be encouraging everyone to play their part and share their ideas. Someone from Education Services will soon visit the staff of every school, eager to listen to your views and concerns and determined to promote good ideas and good practice.

Learning City will address the matters that concern you, further promote the many positive things that are happening in Southampton and play its part in showing that 'this is a good LEA'.

QUITE A STORY

MAY '01

When you have a good story to tell, you call in a story-teller.

That's what the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership did to celebrate the successes and achievements of their first two years.

Local story-teller Mike O'Brien played his musical walking stick, perched on his star-spangled props box and held an audience of almost 300 people in the palm of his hand as he spun a wonderful tale about the sword of St Bevois. Some 200 childcare and play-workers, trained since the Partnership was formed, met at Southampton's Novotel Hotel for an evening of entertainment and were presented with certificates as recognition of their dedication and hard work.

Provision for pre-school children and the improvement of childcare in Southampton has changed dramatically over the last two years. Much of the credit goes to Southampton's Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership - a group that has turned fine words into positive actions to provide a better start for the city's young people.

Those honoured have completed a wide

range of courses including Play Is It Fair, Basic Training, the Diploma in Playgroup Practice and NVQ's in Playwork/Childcare.



The Partnership chair, Anne Davies, thanked her predecessor Julie Greer for laying the strong foundations of success during a celebration evening which also featured an impressive exhibition mounted by Early Years and Childcare providers and music from Art Asia.

EARLY YEARS & INFANTS IN BRIEF

The move to improve facilities for the hearing impaired took another step forward recently when the Mayor of Southampton, Councillor Peter Wakeford, opened specialist facilities at Tanners Brook Infant School. A renovated building has been transformed into a bright new aural unit where seven pupils will work under the care of a teacher for the deaf and two specially trained LSA's.

Finance Officer, June Glasspell, is retiring in June after 27 years service at Bitterne Park Infant School. Appointed initially as a matron, looking after sick children, counting dinner money and doing odd jobs, she now has a totally different role. "I had to be computerised, but I went on

courses and have managed to cope." June, already a grandmother with a new grandchild on the way, is hoping to spend more time with her family, improve her golf and take a few more holidays.

Play Services is under new management. Sean Holehouse, who moved from Crewe earlier this year, now leads a development team responsible for two adventure playgrounds, a play centre, courses, training and links with the voluntary sector. The Play Services Manager previously worked in Reading, Edinburgh and Cheshire and is currently coming to terms with SRB, New Deal and Sure Start initiatives across Southampton.