

PLAYWORK NW AND THE NW CENTRE FOR PLAYWORK EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The aims of Playwork NW are to:

- Raise the status of Playwork
- Increase the quantity and quality of local Play and develop tools to measure quality
- Support a local network of Play forums that encourage children's participation
- Support a network of Play Trainers and Playworkers
- Provide a clear framework and routes to qualifications, endorsed by the Regional Council (now SkillsActive)
- Deliver training, conferences and open learning programmes
- Bring together lead agencies to represent the field, acting as a link to a national network (now UK Network)
- Provide a base for administration and information sharing
- Secure funding, communication and marketing resources
- Provide a library and database of courses and play opportunities
- Provide resources and equipment to support play
- Provide access using IT and web based infrastructures
- Carry out and distribute up to date research on Playwork and how Play relates to Early Years targets and outcomes (now includes allied sectors and professions)

(Aims as Defined in 2000. Text in italics indicates sector/name changes since 2000)

About Playwork NW

Playwork NW has been in operation since 1990 and was formally known as the NW Play Officers Forum. In 1996 it took steps to widen membership by relaunching as Playwork NW. Playwork NW provides vital links to national developments in Play and Playwork, and ensures that the views and ideas of the region's Play Providers are represented at a national level.

Playwork NW supported the development of a national endorsement system for Playwork training and qualifications and since April 2003 Playwork NW has incorporated the work of the NW Centre for Playwork Education and Training. The NW Centre strengthens the links to national developments in Play and Playwork and broadens the range of Playwork Training and Qualifications offered in the region.

Playwork NW remains the largest and most established regional membership body representing Playwork in the region. Membership is drawn from a wide variety of Playwork Professionals in the region including both Playworkers and Playwork Leaders & Trainers.

Playwork NW Website

<http://www.playworknw.org.uk>

About the NW Centre for Playwork Education and Training

The North West Centre for Playwork Education and Training covers 22 key geographic areas. The areas are Bolton, Blackpool, Blackburn & Darwen, Bury, Cheshire, Cumbria, Halton,

Knowsley, Lancashire, Liverpool, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Sefton, St Helens, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford, Warrington, Wigan and Wirral. The areas range from rural to urban populations and are supported by 5 Learning and Skills Councils and 1 Regional Development Agency based in Warrington. The NW Centre is operated regionally by Playwork NW (in partnership with SkillsActive).

Playwork NW is a Registered Charity (No: 1096201) and membership organisation operating since 1990. Playwork NW and their local Delivery Partners work to raise the status of Playwork alongside increasing the quantity and quality of local provision and developing tools to measure quality. Playwork NW shares the belief with SkillsActive that the development of a qualified workforce both in the region and nationally is key to the success of these aims.

The NW Centre was developed in 2001 to work alongside the existing Regional Centres for Playwork Education and Training. In this time Playwork NW have brought innovative communication strategies to the UK Network and enabled Playwork NW to fulfil other key aims of providing a library of courses, play opportunities and resources all accessed using IT and web based infrastructures.

The North West Centre was the first region to introduce e-briefings and you can read the latest edition at:

Playwork NW Bulletin including NW Centre Briefings

<http://www.tyrsorrel.co.uk/plusten/pages/information/playworknw.htm>

Subscribe to the Bulletin (FREE)

<http://www.tyrsorrel.co.uk/mailform/pwnwmemberlink.htm>

NW Centre for Playwork Education and Training Website

<http://www.playworknorthwest.org.uk/>