

Good To Know

18th December 2019

Working with Families News

News:	For more info:
<p>Training dates for the revised Changes programme are now available for January 2020. The training programme is designed for practitioners working with families in Sandwell and guides parents through their parenting journey, focusing on their wellbeing and parenting approaches, hints and tips. It is a flexible programme that can be delivered in groups or one-to-one.</p>	<p>More details are available on the booking system.</p> <p>For practitioners to register: www.bookwhen.com/parentsupport</p>
<p>There are still a few places available on Sandwell's Changes Antenatal Programme in February and March 2020 (all dates in Jan fully booked!) This programme is a 4 week antenatal programme, FREE for those about to become parents and living in Sandwell, and is delivered jointly with Children's Centres, midwives and health visitors.</p>	<p>For more info and to book: www.bookwhen.com/changes</p>
<p>It is now Stop Loan Sharks Week and so a great opportunity to remind people not turn to loan sharks to cover the cost of Christmas. A small loan can quickly escalate into something much more serious and victims are often subjected to threats, intimidation and violence. A series of videos including a Sharks Flashmob and catchy festive jingle are on the Stop Loan Sharks Facebook and Twitter accounts to raise awareness of the issue.</p>	<p>https://twitter.com/LoanSharkNews</p> <p>https://en-gb.facebook.com/StopLoanSharksProject/</p>
<p>An investigation by the consumer watchdog Which? revealed security flaws in several popular children's toys which could allow strangers to contact them, according to The Independent. Which? is asking several retailers to remove specific products - including brands of walkie talkie and karaoke machine - from their shelves.</p>	<p>https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/smart-toys-hackers-cyber-attacks-which-investigation-walkie-talkies-karaoke-machine-a9240111.html</p>
<p>Snapchat is rolling out a new feature called Cameos which enables people to replace faces in videos. Cameos will only provide 150 pre-set clips but there are concerns that this technology could make it easy to create 'deep fakes' - realistic, computer-generated depictions of individuals doing and saying things that they haven't done or said in real life.</p>	<p>www.snapchat.com</p>
<p>CEOP have released some online safety advice to help keep children and young people safe over the festive period and to remind parents to make themselves aware of what new smart toys can do.</p>	<p>https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/professionals/our-views/how-you-can-keep-young-people-safer-online-over-the-christmas-period/</p>

<p>The Screwfix Foundation supports building refurbishment projects for people in need due to financial hardship, sickness, disability, distress or other disadvantage. Grants available to fix, maintain, improve and repair properties and community buildings/facilities in deprived areas. Apply any time.</p>	<p>https://www.screwfix.com/help/screwfixfoundation/</p>
<p>SAFS is looking for a Care Manager who will be responsible for the smooth operation and delivery of a range of care and support services provided to children and adults with disabilities. Applicants must have an NVQ Level 5 or equivalent in working with vulnerable children and adults as you will be the Registered Manager with CQC with five years previous experience</p>	<p>For information and an application form please contact SAFS offices on (0121) 558 2198 or email admin@safscare.org.</p> <p>Closing date is 17th January</p>
<p>Interested in becoming a childminder? Two free briefing sessions will tell you everything you need to know to help you decide whether it's the right career for you. The next sessions will be held on 22nd January 2020, 1pm - 3pm, and 18th March 2020, 5pm - 7pm, both at Greets Green, Yemeni Centre.</p>	<p>Find out more and book a place: https://fis.sandwell.gov.uk/kb5/sandwell/directory/site.page?id=HAvoxd2r4_Q</p>
<p>If you are (or know someone who is) an EU citizen in the UK, find out about how to apply for the EU settlement scheme.</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/eusettledstatus</p>
<p>It is time to apply for your child's school place. If your child will be starting school for the first time, or starting junior school in September 2020, you will need to apply for their place by 15 January 2019.</p>	<p>http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200303/school_admissions/349/apply_for_a_school_place</p>
<p>Sandwell MBC offices will be closed for Christmas on Friday 20 December and re-open on Monday 30 December. Offices will also be closed on New Year's Day (Wednesday 1 January). Normal opening hours resume on Thursday 2 January.</p>	<p>http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/christmas</p>
<p>Join the Think Local teams on Facebook and please tell your families about the page too - for information about jobs, apprenticeships, events and much more.</p>	<p>www.facebook.com/SandwellJobs www.facebook.com/futureskillssandwell</p>
<p>If you would like to promote services or information in this newsletter or share a good news story please contact the team.</p>	<p>Parent Support Team parent_support@sandwell.gov.uk</p>

