



JUNE 2012

Our journey to economic independence eighteen months on and still going strong!

Our achievement of an independent Highfields Centre in December 2010 coincided with the general economic downturn in the British economy and the subsequent severe cutbacks in both national and local government expenditure. Although this has proved very challenging, we are delighted to announce our first full year of trading has shown a steady growth in our turnover and we have not only managed to maintain our valued services but also, to identify new service needs and funding to provide the required service.

The return to a one Highfields Centre service continued with the transfer of the Highfields Multi-Access Centre service to the Association on 1st May 2012 and we're well placed to respond to the City Council's likely decision in the next few weeks to seek external agencies to provide some of its current children and young people's services. As with all major change initiatives and whilst welcoming the Council's proposal to commission services locally, we will have to maintain a close vigilance, especially the proposed ending of their funding for the After School Care service and the amount of funding to be made available for the locally commissioned services. Already, a petition with over 2,700 local signatures objecting to the proposed withdrawal of



Workshop to update the Highfields Area Plan (March 2012)

Forthcoming Summer 2012 Activities at Highfields Centre

7 and under Play scheme	Monday 16th July – Friday 3rd August	9.00am – 12.00pm	For ages 3 – 7 years (Closed session with limited places)
8 and over Play scheme	Monday 16th July – Friday 3rd August	9.00am – 12.00pm	For ages 8 – 12 (Closed session with limited places)
Sports and Arts Activities	Monday 16th July – Friday 3rd August	1.00pm – 4.00pm	For ages 8 – 14 years
Late Lounge – (Ramadan Activities)	Monday 23rd July – Friday 17th August	9.30pm – 11.30pm	For ages 16 plus

For further information, please contact Jay Patel on 0116 253 1053 or jay.patel@highfieldscentre.ac.uk

funding for the After School Care service has been handed in to the Council. We have laid the necessary foundations to not only meet the many challenges ahead but also, to continue providing the leadership for the area's regeneration, as exemplified

by the Highfields Area Plan and the Highfields Festival and we hope to see you on Saturday 30th June for what promises to be a fun packed day, as detailed on the last page of this H-CAN.

Leicester University Award Winner

For the second successive year, a student from Highfields Centre's Certificate in Advice Work course has received the University of Leicester's prestigious Philip Collins Learner of the Year Award. This year, it was Zainab Lester's turn and she said "The main motivation for me to join the course was so that I could help people. I had done voluntary work in welfare rights and wanted to learn new skills so that I could make a career change. She added "As an adult learner it was not easy juggling a busy family life with the demands of the course. The support from tutors was excellent and I enjoyed working with other learners in my class and the support received from my tutors and Centre staff was excellent."

Since completing the course, Zainab has found employment working for Leicester City Council in the Housing Options Section. She is able to utilise her knowledge and skills developed on the course when advising clients on homelessness issues and housing law.

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H-café opening hours are Tuesday to Thursday 10.30 – 1.30pm



University of Leicester Certificate Presentation Evening (March 2012), with Zainab Lester (back row, second from right)

The course is offered by Highfields Centre in partnership with Leicester University and provides a unique access route for learners to progress on to professional employment or Higher Education.



H-café is situated on the 1st floor of the Highfields Centre. We provide value for money halal & vegetarian refreshments, buffets and catering for individuals and various organisations. Our focus this year has been on providing support to develop local volunteers and equip them with the necessary skills and qualifications to gain employment. We have catered for special events and also worked with local schools, voluntary and statutory sector organisations and provided them with access to a meeting area with refreshments/catering.



For further information, contact H-café Highfields Centre, 0116 2531053
Email: jay.patel@highfieldscentre.ac.uk



Highfields Multi-Access Centre

- Do you need help finding work?
- Are you having difficulty finding a job because you lack experience?
- Do you need help developing your skills and training?
- Do you want to know about the variety of jobs on offer?

If you are currently unemployed and are looking for work, our Adviser at the Highfields Multi-Access Centre can provide you with individual support to help you find a suitable job or training opportunity.

Our dedicated staff will help you to identify your learning and training needs, as well as providing support to complete application forms and preparing for interview – contact us about the new Job Club starting on Tuesday 11th June.

If you have either lost your job recently, facing redundancy, looking for a new direction or have been out of work for some time, we can help you in the journey back into employment.

For more information, please contact our Personal Adviser:

Furzana Khalifa on tel: 0116 – 253 1053
Highfields Multi Access Centre
Highfields Centre

Advice Service

Events such as redundancy, relationship breakdown, spiralling debt, homelessness or to navigate a complex maze of rights, responsibilities and public services make access to advice services essential.

Our Advice Officer Yasmin Nathani provides free, confidential and independent advice on a range of matters including Benefits, Housing, Immigration/Nationality, Debt, Education and General Advice to the local community, so that individuals and families can access their rights and entitlements. The service is accredited by the Community Legal Services Commission, Matrix and Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner.

Yasmin is available by appointment on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 12:30pm – 3:30pm and for drop-in sessions on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:30am – 12:30pm. Please note that the Advice Officer can only see the first 10 people at the drop-in sessions.

Tickets will be issued half an hour before the session and if you choose to leave the building, you will have to wait until the end of the session before you will be seen again.



Yasmin Nathani and colleagues celebrating Matrix Award re-accreditation (July 2011)



Production of Highfields Area Plan (March 2012)



Celebration of ex-HCA Chair Cllr Abdul Osman's appointment as Lord Mayor (June 2012)



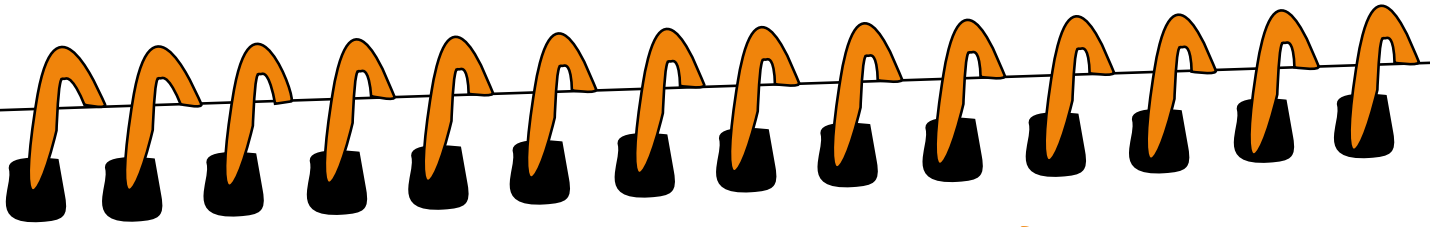
Launch of Future Jobs Fund Evaluation Report with Jon Ashworth, MP (October 2011)



Visit to EU Parliament with Glenis Willmott, MEP (October 2011)



HC Certificate Presentation Evening (July 2011)



Highfields Summer Festival

A celebration of diversity and unity in the community!



Last year's festival highlights:



Come along and join this year's festival on Saturday 30th June at the Highfields Centre which promises to be bigger and better and it will also incorporate Uplands Junior School Fete on the day.

The Festival Planning Group have worked hard over the last 6 months to put the event together and we are pleased to announce that this year, there will be a main stage in the front car park with local musicians and artists. There will also be a children's activities zone, a Jobs and Training Fair, information stalls and sports and arts activities zones. The festival will be formally opened by the City Mayor Sir Peter Soulsby and there will

also be a 'Meet the Mayor session'. The MP for Leicester South Jon Ashworth will also be present as well as local councillors and the Lord Mayor. The Festival finale will be between 5 and 8pm in the main hall with a spectacular show of music, fashion and spoken word.

The event is free and will be starting at 10.00am

Some comments from last year:

'Weather was good, team spirits very good, food & community involvement excellent.' 'Prices good and affordable, welcoming for all ages.' 'Good number of volunteers. Staff +volunteers worked well together.'

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