

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**6 May 2008**

## **New Face brings new opportunities at Lakeside Children's & Family Learning Centre**

A new manager has been appointed for the Lakeside Children's & Family learning Centre, situated on the Wyrley Birch Estate, Kingstanding.

Geraldine Dowling, who previously worked as ENTA's Key Stage 4 co-ordinator, has been promoted to Lakeside Centre Manager. Geraldine is responsible for the smooth running of the Centre which welcomes up to 200 children, parents and visitors through its doors each week.

The Lakeside Centre opened in March 2006 as a partnership between ENTA (Employment Needs Training Agency), North Birmingham PCT, Birmingham City Council, Sure Start Kingstanding and the LSC. Since then the Centre has played a valuable part in bringing family support, health services and training courses into the heart of the local community.

Geraldine says "My vision is that people see the Lakeside Centre as so much more than a nursery. We have a fantastic range of activities and provide support for local people of all ages. Our latest new initiatives include Salsa Dancing classes and children's Street Dance / Fit Kids sessions"

The Centre offers free careers advice and guidance, a counselling service, NHS services, a Home Start Stay n Play group, Book Club and a weekly aerobics class. As well as a cyber café open to all, there is an attractive function room that can be hired for tea dances, family parties, or by other local groups plus a full catering service. The Centre of course also has a well equipped 50 place nursery for children 0-5 years and Geraldine and her team are hoping to develop more events for the elderly community in the near future.

Geraldine (who is also busy working on plans for a September Open Day at the Lakeside Centre as part of ENTA's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations), added "I am looking forward to developing an exciting and relevant range of activities for the local community and to seeing even more people benefit from this fantastic Centre!".

For further details about any of Lakeside's activities and facilities, residents are invited to call the centre on 0121 386 6150. -----Ends-----

## *Editors Notes*

1) *ENTA has been working across Birmingham since 1977 providing learning opportunities, training, information, advice and guidance to help people think about and prepare for paid employment.*

*As a Community Interest Company (CIC) ENTA is a not-for-profit organisation working in the community, for the benefit of the community. The work of ENTA fulfils our vision of enabling all people to achieve their potential, no matter what barriers they have faced in education, employment or training.*

*ENTA has 3 bases in Birmingham City Centre (head office, main training academy and IT training centre) plus 2 bases in the community on the Kingstanding Wyrley Birch Estate (Lakeside Children's and Family Learning Centre and a nearby Community Learning Centre)*

### ***Please contact***

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