



News

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL PRESS RELEASE

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CHILDREN GEAR UP FOR A SUMMER OF FREE FUN

CULTURAL and art based activities and events are just some of the highlights of a free summer of fun festival planned for the city's children this year.

The month long Sheffield City Council led "Festival of Fun" will feature a range of activities delivered in the run up to and the start of the summer holidays.

It will be free to Sheffield children with a Children's University Passport to Learning, which can be bought for just £2 at the city's libraries.

Details of the programme of events are still to be completely confirmed but it follows on from a successful February Freebie event run by the Children's University earlier this year when more than 50 adventurous and creative activities were run during the half-term holiday.

Activities planned for the summer festival include woodland fun, chicken keeping, circus skills, rock climbing, martial arts, sports, science, dance, drama, gaming and exploring the history of your local area.

The Festival of Fun is the natural progresser from the hugely successful Children's Festival, held across the city in previous years.

Councillor Jackie Drayton, Sheffield City Council's Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families said: "The aim of the Festival of Fun is to provide as many activities

across as many communities as we can and the vast majority of these will be free at the point of delivery to children and young people with a Passport to Learning. We know from our research that taking part in extra learning activities has a positive effect on attendance and achievement at school, which is of course a key priority for us.

“The Sheffield Children’s University is a really inspiring initiative and there’s sure to be something to interest all children in this summer of activities, whether they like arts and crafts, outdoor activities, sports or learning new skills. This is also a great opportunity to push forward the success of previous festivals but in a sustainable event. The focus of previous festivals has shifted over the last few years towards family activities and this Festival of Fun takes this element forward. I hope as many children and young people as possible take part in what I am sure will be an excellent and exciting summer of fun!”

The Sheffield’s Children’s University is part of a national initiative which encourages and celebrates participation in a wide range of learning opportunities outside normal school hours. It tracks and rewards Sheffield children who take part in voluntary learning activities including breakfast and after-school clubs, and activities in the evenings, at weekends and in holidays. If they have a Passport to Learning they can collect the credits (one per hour), which lead to a range of 30 certificates and badges from 30 credits right up to 1,000 credits.

The Children’s University has commissioned its Learning Destinations - approved activity providers - to deliver various activities on its behalf as part of the Festival of Fun. These will begin on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th July in the final school week of the academic year before the activities begin in earnest, running between Saturday 18th July and Saturday 1st August. The idea is that during those times, Sheffield children, young people and their families will be encouraged to try new activities, earning Children’s University credits at the same time.

Since the Sheffield Children’s University began eight years ago 29,075 children and young people have taken part – earning more than 1.4 million credits so far. There are 68 schools subscribed to the initiative and 130 learning destinations across the city.

To discover the full list of free, exciting activities on offer this summer visit www.sheffield.gov.uk/cu, email CU@sheffield.gov.uk or call 0114 2813761.

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Notes to Editors:

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