



31st January 2011

LEADING LIGHTS TAKE CENTRE STAGE AT CHILDCARE EXPO 2011

One of the early years industry's most eminent figures will be opening Childcare Expo 2011 this September.

Patrick Leeson, Director of Development, Education and Care for Ofsted, will launch this year's event by delivering the opening seminar on Friday 16th September at the Ricoh Arena, Coventry.

For many years Patrick has been a prominent and influential figure in the early years sector. In his current post with Ofsted he is responsible for policy and development for inspection of schools, early years settings, children's centres and childcare, as well as the annual assessments of Local Authority Children's Services.

Until September 2009 he was Strategic Director of Learning and Children's Services for the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames.

Patrick became Director of Education and Leisure in 2002. He joined Kingston in 1997 as the Assistant Director with responsibility for school improvement. Before that he worked as the Chief Inspector of Schools in an inner London borough.

He has also been a head-teacher and in the early part of his career he taught English and drama in secondary schools.

Patrick is a recent past Chair of the Association of London Directors of Children's Services (ALDCS) and was also on the national council for the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS).

In his seminar Patrick will be examining the challenges for the future delivery of the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) and the proposals for inspection and improvement.

His seminar is just one of a wide range of diverse and useful topics which will be up for discussion during this year's seminar programme. Following on from the success of last year's event, Childcare Expo has secured a wealth of influential and high-profile figures from the industry to share their knowledge and advice as part of the agenda.

Other speakers include Deslynne Roberts, Areté Consultancy, Courtney Donaldson, Christie and Co and Sarah Steel from The Old Station Nursery.

Event Director Emma Barrett comments: "We are absolutely delighted by the high calibre of speakers who have agreed to share their expertise with us at this year's show.

"Bringing a wealth of knowledge with them, delegates can discover more about a host of important issues affecting early year's professionals from some of the industry's leading lights.

"From subjects such as recruitment, acquisition sales and values and growing your business right through to ideas and inspiration for learning in the outdoor environment, it's all there at this year's event!

"Places are on a first come first served basis so be sure to reserve your place so as not to miss out!"

For more information please visit www.childcareexpo.co.uk