

News release

December 2010

Double Trouble for Parents' Group

A group of pioneering Sunderland mums who spelt out double the trouble when they set up a parents' group is still looking to boost numbers.

The volunteer parents' group based in Wessington Children's Centre already has three sets of twins that regularly attend, but the parents said that they are keen to welcome more families.

The group has been going strong for four months, and Megan Blythe, one of the founders, said they are encouraging other parents from the area to join them.

Megan, 31 from Washington, said: "It's wonderful to have a place to go where you can relax with people who understand what it's like to have a young child. It can be quite difficult to cope with twins at times, so the fact that three of us at the group can sympathise really eases the pressure.

"The group has been a great way to support other parents in the area and share advice about having twins, triplets and more, and it gives the children a chance to play and socialise with one another. It's been great fun and I'd like to invite any other mums and dads in the area with multiples to come along and join us."

Raj Singh, Extended Services Manager at Children's Services within Sunderland City Council, said: "It's wonderful to see parents in Sunderland making Children's Centres work for them and we are keen to support other such local initiatives which enrich the lives of the city's children.

"One way in which we do this is through the Children's Centres' Inspiration Fund. This fund is available to all projects which, like the Wessington parents' group, support the social, emotional and physical well-being of children aged from birth to five years old. Eligible organisations can bid for up to £750 per financial year to support and enhance their services.

“I would encourage all local community groups, including the Wessington parents’ group, to take advantage of this fund in order to help improve the already excellent support available to families throughout Sunderland.”

Sunderland Children’s Centres are designed for children aged from birth to five years including the antenatal period, offering support to parents and preparing children on an ‘early learning’ journey. They bring together play activities, health services, early education, childcare, parenting support, and help for parents looking to find work or training – helping to ensure that every child has the best start in life.

For more details on the Inspiration Fund community groups should visit the Children’s Centre website at www.sunderlandchildrenscentres.co.uk