Hello

My name is Sarah, and a senior lecturer at the University of Birmingham. In this short video I would like to introduce an innovative programme of study for people working within out of school settings. The University led programme of study has been developed through collaboration between Birmingham City Council and myself at the University of Birmingham. It is a programme of study which seeks to underpin practice in out of school settings through a study of academic learning, engaging in an understanding of policy documentation, and developing reflective practice, with the aim of ensuring all children and young people in the city have the best possible outcomes.

Our first cohort of participants have just completed the programme and will be awarded a certificate of participation. Over the course our participants have been engaging in a really exciting programme of learning which has involved lectures, seminars, online work, and the opportunity to discuss and learn with others who work in out of school settings from across Birmingham. Our participants have come from a wide range of out of school settings; this course is open to everyone regardless of your level of previous study. I hope that the learning and teaching approach I take will support your own continual professional development regardless of your previous learning background.

So what did we learn about in our sessions? Our first teaching session focused on child development and learning theories; in this module of learning participants were able to unpack different theories about how children learn from an educational, psychological and philosophical approach. Participants were encouraged to think about how theories of child development are important in out of school settings.

Our second session focused on special educational needs and disabilities; participants were able to study recent policy and governmental guidance on working with children and young people with special educational needs, and we looked at best practice when working with children who may have autism, mental health needs, dyslexia, or physical needs for example.

Our third session focused on safeguarding; this important session unpacked government guidance and processes which everyone working with children and young people must be know and follow to ensure the safety and well-being of all children with whom we work.

Our next session focused on mental health and well-being; and how we may support children and young people who may be exhibiting mental ill-health. We also focused here on the impact of Covid 19 on children and young people.

Our final two sessions focused on resource management within your out of school setting, and the importance of the UN Convention on the rights of the child in supporting children’s voices and how the UN articles could be embedded within your out of school settings.

Due to Covid 19 our first cohort of participants completed the course virtually over zoom; I am hoping that our future cohorts will return to face-to-face teaching at the University of Birmingham or a combination of face-to-face and online teaching.

I do hope that you will register interest to undertake the University of Birmingham out of school settings programme of study which has at its core the aim of ensuring that all children and young people in Birmingham have the best possible outcomes as Birmingham aims to become a child friendly city.

I look forward to working with some of you in the near future on this exciting programme of continual professional development.