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PRESS RELEASE

Do you care for a child with a disability?

darts (Doncaster Community Arts) would like to invite parents who care for a child with a disability to a series of free, stimulating and fun creative workshops. Sessions will run at The Point (16 South Parade) with parent carers to find out more about the challenges they face when thinking about, looking for, finding and sustaining employment. All the ideas and opinions gained in the workshops will contribute to the creation of a stunning installation in darts' gallery space where workshops will be run with businesses and potential employees to spark debate around the changing face of the workforce.

The UK has over three million working carers. One in seven people in any workforce are juggling work and care, often managing what can seem like two jobs, one paid and one unpaid.² Locally, the 2001 census showed there were 32,000 carers in Doncaster, of which 17,000 said they received no support.¹

Lucy Robertshaw, Arts Development Manager at darts explains "We all experience the competing tensions of home and work but for a parent whose child has a disability the difficulties of combining their care responsibilities and paid work can seem daunting. This project will use creative activities to bring to life the day to day challenges that are faced so that the group can start to give and share advice and coping mechanisms as well as identifying the most helpful things businesses can do to support carers into work"

Sessions will run on Thursdays between 10.00am – 12 noon between 10 February and 7 April at The Point on South Parade. Anyone who is interested can contact Lucy Robertshaw or Sophy Sylvester on 01302 341662 or email lucy@thepoint.org.uk or sophy@thepoint.org.uk

Sources:

¹ Doncaster Partnership for Carers www.doncastercarers.org.uk

² Working Families www.workingfamilies.org.uk

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About darts

Website: www.thepoint.org.uk

darts' (Doncaster Community Arts) is a registered charity working across Doncaster with people of all ages and backgrounds, most with little or no access to the arts.

Our ambition is to expand the ability of every single person we work with. At the heart of all our work is a passionate belief that the arts can fuel change for individuals and communities: change in perception, in ambition, in environment or in achievement.

We are a team of arts development professionals and artists backed by a dedicated support team. We specialise in a wide range of different artforms including drama, dance, visual arts, photography and sculpture.

Our home is 'The Point' on South Parade, Doncaster which is a space which allows us to create a different environment and experience for lots of people. At the heart of the building a café allows groups and members of the public to meet and an exhibition space offers stimulus for our work.