

### Business in brief

The Mayor of London's Great Design for London and Bromley Council to prepare a plan for the public realm in the Village. The council and are now looking at refining a number of improvements to the road network and crossing points as part of future bids for the design of options for a new view to implementing in 2012/13.

When centre businesses are their free wall-mounted There is the opportunity to bins or the company can orship themselves. If you are in Pain in the Butt Ltd on 0844 are also opportunities to in the town centre. Call town er Lorraine McQuillan on 020 for more information.

Business E-Bulletin is a free newsletter with all the latest and help for local businesses - important in these challenging omley.gov.uk/businessbulletin contact Business Support on 5.

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# Looking out for young workers

## Cash-starved parents still putting their kids first

BROMLEY is gearing up for Child Employment Fortnight.

Run by the the National Network for Children in Employment and Entertainment (NNCEE), the initiative puts the spotlight on the safety of children who are in work.

Nationally, the number of children injured every year in the workplace goes largely unreported, especially if they are injured while being employed illegally.

In recent years there have been cases of a 15-year-old boy losing the fingers of his hand in a sausage mincer, a 14-year-old girl lost the tips of her fingers in a vegetable slicer, a 13-year-old boy was killed while doing his paper round and a 16-year-old boy had his hand mangled in an industrial printing press.

Children aged 15 and 16 years have been found working until 3am in nightclubs and fast food chains.

Children have also been found starting work between 5.30am and 6.30am, delivering newspapers.

This year's initiative, which runs between March 28 and April 8, Bromley Council will be giving advice to employers, young people and the public about working while at school.

Council officers will be visiting



Delivering newspapers is the most common job for children who are at school

schools and places of work across Bromley and information about Child Employment Fortnight will be displayed in libraries across Bromley, as well as the Civic Centre.

During Child Employment Fortnight 2010 local authorities across the country sent letters and information to employers and carried out visits to

children found working, 374 of

these were being employed illegally, mostly without the necessary work permit. A total of 322 employers were re-visited.

Most of the employers were unaware of the legislation regarding the employment of school-aged children and the legal requirement of a work permit. The work permit is one way in which the local authority can be aware of children being employed and, therefore, able to monitor the hours that they work and the occupation in which they are employed.

There are around 200 acts and regulations which govern employment of children, some of which are nearly 100 years old. Employers who breach the regulations can be prosecuted and fined.

A spokesman for the NNCEE said: "There are concerns a lack of awareness and understanding of the law is leaving young people vulnerable to exploitation and injury. The aim of this initiative is to increase awareness of the law and thus ensure more young people are working safely and legally."

To find out more about Child Employment Fortnight in Bromley, contact Lucy Jones on 020 8313 4120 or lucy.jones@bromley.gov.uk

THREE-quarters of parents in south east London would reduce their spending on clothes and nights out rather than their children's activities, including toys and birthday parties, according to a new survey.

The survey polled 2,000 parents of children aged up to five to find out how they feel about their child's development and the pressures facing families in the current economic climate.

More than 56 per cent of parents think their child's development will be affected by the recession because the community facilities they frequently use, such as libraries and children's centres, will shut down, and they will have to greatly increase their levels of spending.

Kate Freeman, I CAN's Chatterbox Challenge communication advisor and speech and language therapist, who conducted the survey, said: "Despite the obvious pressures on families, parents are still determined to put their children first.

"The majority of parents believe talking with their children will improve their confidence, and it's great to see so many parents making time to have these precious moments to help their child reach their full potential."

Zoom out