

Helping childminders get ready for work

REGISTERING as a self-employed childminder will become less complicated for residents across the borough by the end of this month.

Those who want to take up these much-needed roles will find it easier to get offer the service from January 30, thanks to a newly established Lifeline Childcare Agency.

The agency will help provide better options for parents returning to work by creating a supportive system for new and existing childminders.

As a co-operative venture, between Barking and Dagenham Enterprise (BDE) and Lifeline Projects, it also

hopes to increase the numbers working as self-employed childminders.

Prospective childminders can engage with the agency, who will be based at the LifeLine JobShop, in Dagenham, to get help with training, registering and support in their childcare role.

Huge risk

Chris Oliver, BDE Chairman told the POST: "There is a huge risk that many new childminders will not be able to become registered and that existing childminders will lose registration without additional support.

"That can't be good for the communi-

ty or for enterprise in general and that is why we are backing this project."

Lone parents and women in particular will be targeted by the service and advised on how to register as self-employed, market themselves and sell their service.

Consequently other parents, particularly lone mothers or fathers, will be able to get back to work due to an increase in flexible and affordable childcare.

Project Manager Kay Treacy said: "We offer free community-based training, linked to children's centres, bringing real training opportunities right into the heart of our community."