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NEWS UPDATE -03/08

Norfolk have invited 20 schools (including a children's centre and a pupil referral unit) to participate in a pilot of IiF starting this term, autumn 2008.

Barnwell School in **Stevenage** leads an extended schools consortium consisting of 15 schools and children's centres. They have committed themselves to gaining IiF status over the next term or so along with four other units. The rest of the consortium will follow suit over the next eighteen months.

The pilot of the Welsh version of IiF in **the Vale of Glamorgan, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Merthyr Tydfil, Caerphilly, and Bridgend** has almost reached its conclusion. 13 of the pilot schools have been assessed and awarded IiF with the remainder being visited in the next month. Feedback from participating schools is extremely positive. In the pilot assessment was undertaken by senior managers from the participating schools as a professional development process and all involved have learned a lot about working with families that they'll take back to their own schools. The materials have all been translated into Welsh and three Welsh medium schools have participated in the pilot.

West Berkshire have run their assessor training day and are now recruiting schools.

Buckinghamshire have now agreed how they will roll out the award following the pilot. Schools from the northern patch initially are being invited to a session at the beginning of November to express their interest.

A voluntary organisation in **Northumberland** has expressed its interest in participating and gaining the award but we cannot go ahead with only one organisation. We need the Children's Service Department to take it on and include the voluntary sector.

In **Hampshire** three community schools have now gained the award: Testwood Sports College, the Romsey School and Aldworth Science College. All three are committed to working with their feeder schools to enable them to gain IiF.

There is a plaque now available for schools that gain the award to purchase.

Enquiries to admin@investorsinfamilies.org.uk