

the eXchange

WELCOME...

Welcome to the 17th edition of the Information Exchange newsletter. At this moment in time the weather outside looks like a winter wonderland but as we know snow & ice can be treacherous, take care on the pavements as well as the roads. We are in for a long spell – then again I'm sure I remember someone saying we were going to have a barbeque summer!!

Talking about summer, after an informal consultation with children and young people who attended Aiming High for Disabled Children funded activities, we are organising a 'Celebration of Play' Weekend Saturday 31st July & Sunday 1st August 2010. Enter it into your diaries now! More information can be found on page 6

In this edition we introduce you to volunteering opportunities on page 2, new members of staff on pages 3 & 5 and additional Support Services on page 4.

On page 12 Self Management workshops are on offer and information on current youth activities which are funded by the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme can also be found on page 16.

Rotherham's Disability Forum is going from strength to strength and you can find out more about them and what they do on page 6 as well as information about local sporting events on page 18

We've taken the opportunity of inserting 'The disabled children's services indicator NI54' – Parental Survey, which gives detailed information about how Local Authority's performances are being measured and compared. Please take the time to read the leaflet and if you have any questions don't hesitate to contact Jackie Parkin or Linda Adcock on 01709 336423

Remember if you have anything which you would like to share with others or wish to place a FREE article in the newsletter please contact Linda Adcock.

Winter/Spring 2010 · 17th Edition



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Please remember...

if you have anything you would like to share with others or wish to place a FREE article in the newsletter please contact Linda Adcock at Families Information Service on 0800 0730 230 or email: linda.adcock@rotherham.gov.uk

Disclaimer: Every effort is made to ensure that the information in this newsletter is correct. Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council can accept no liability for errors or omissions. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.

NHS

Rotherham

Rotherham
Metropolitan
Borough Council
Where Everyone Matters

It doesn't take much to help... ..so can you?

Rotherham Time 4 Play is run by a small committee of volunteers who raise funds towards and commission summer play schemes and other activities for children and young people with disabilities in Rotherham.

Over the years we've developed the expertise to successfully raise money through various sources.

We continue to celebrate success by working well with partners who provide quality provision and have made firm friends along the way. We've also lobbied for better provision for our children and young people and are now pleased to be a recognised driving force within the sector. However, we are always open to new ideas and welcome new input.

We hold a monthly meeting - usually the second Monday of the month at 6.30 pm at Grafton House in central Rotherham - and we plan the activities and the funding bids we need to make things happen. The people who come to the meeting are parents and carers (like you), professionals who work with disabled children and young people and other volunteers. All of us want to provide fun activities for the children and young people and a bit of respite for the families.

The good news is that we are a registered charity and a not-for-profit company and those things help us to raise funds more effectively. During 2009 we've been and continue to be involved in two local successful projects, but we are always open to new initiatives and challenges. That's why it would be really good if you could join us and help plan the activities.

We know it's difficult to get away, and we don't expect everyone to come to every meeting, but if you can spare an hour or so - once a month or whenever you can - to share your ideas about what you'd like for your son or daughter and how we might help to provide it, that would be great! We'd love to see you!

Please contact Jayne Newall on 01709 877149 or through e-mail at ricalajay@gmail.com so we can get in touch with you.

Registered Charity Number 1101889
Company Number 4900360

Getting to know YOU



Michelle

My name is Michelle Maynard, I am a third year Social Work Student from Sheffield University. My final placement has been with Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council's Children's Disability Team. I have a physical disability myself and use an electric wheelchair, so can appreciate the 'barriers' that hinder people like me when choosing a career. When I began working in Rotherham I assumed my own disability would create barriers and I have had to overcome some such as access to people's homes but with the help and support of the team I feel I have been fully included within all aspects of social work.

My case work and appointments have to be co-ordinated where not only access to buildings is given priority but also in how I get there as I have an electric wheelchair so planning ahead is crucial.

It is possible to achieve a job in Social Work and other professional areas and though I felt before

beginning my degree that my disability would prevent me from achieving my goal as a Social Worker, I have not looked back after first considering it as a career. I have had to work very hard to get here but my determination and the help and understanding of others has got me there.

I have really enjoyed my time within Rotherham and especially so with the Children's Disability Team - I have felt fully accepted and part of the team and will be very sad to leave and yet more determined to become a Social Worker.

Hi, I started work at the Child Development Centre (CDC) just three months ago and have a lot to learn.

However I have been a Health Visitor and Educator within Health Visiting for a long time previously and have found a lot of my experience and knowledge has stood me in good stead in dealing with my new and challenging role here.

One of the main aspects of my role has been to introduce individualised care plans for all children in CDC and this has been achieved however it is ever evolving and I am working closely with the Multi-Disciplinary Team to

refine and review these to ensure they are fit for purpose.

Another important part of my role is to talk to parents with children going through assessment and diagnosis in CDC especially where they may be finding things particularly difficult or upsetting. I work closely with all the Therapy Teams here to ensure that the highest possible standard of care and service is offered to children and families and can act as a Key Worker within CDC for certain families. I also make sure I work hard at linking up with services outside CDC which can offer ongoing support and services appropriate to children and families both before and after



Jo

diagnosis. I can be contacted on 01709 308854

Children and Young People's Services (CYPS)

Any child, young person or someone acting on behalf of a child or young person has the right to make a complaint about a service they are receiving from Children and Young People's Services (CYPS).

Rotherham Borough Council, CYPS Complaints and Customer Service Team are responsible for receiving, recording and monitoring complaints, compliments and suggestions about our services.

This information can be taken over the phone, by e mail, on a complaints leaflet, or in person if you would prefer it. Complaints, compliments and suggestions assist us in improving and developing our services. We consider each one individually and decide on the most appropriate method of response/ action.

The team have recently developed a children's leaflet (Tell Us) in consultation with some Looked After Children to make it easier for children and young people to have their say, in a way which is

appropriate to them. The leaflet has been acknowledged as excellent as part of the Customer Service Excellence Assessment. We are pleased with this recognition; however the team are aware that more development work is needed to enable younger children and children with disabilities to have their say.

We would like to carry out some consultation work in the New Year with families, children and young people to progress this work, If you interested in being part of this development, then please contact us.

CYPS Complaints and Customer Service Team are based at Norfolk House in Rotherham, the team are;

Zoe Burke, Complaints and Customer Service Manager,
Lisa Sadler, Complaints and Customer Service Officer and
Hollie Hudson, Customer Service Assistant.

We can be contacted by telephone on Rotherham 01709 822642, 01709 823738 or 01709 254903, by email at cyps-complaints@rotherham.gov.uk or at the following address; CYPS Complaints & Customer Service Team, 1st Floor, Norfolk House, Walker Place, Rotherham, S65 1AS.

If you want any further information about what we do, or want a copy of our leaflet then please get in touch and we will be happy to help.



Projects funded by Aiming High for Disabled Children Programme.

Family Support Workshops

Tim Southwell is the Outreach Service, Family Support Worker. His role enables him to consult with parent/carer's and identify with them the workshops which would best support them with their children and their children's needs.

The workshops are being offered to families of children and young people with disabilities and associated behavioural difficulties – in particular those within the Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Suggestions for the workshops

so far have been: challenging behaviour, sleep issues and understanding autism. Tim would like to hear from you which workshops you feel would assist you as a parent/carer in supporting your child's needs. If you have any suggestions or would like to enquire to what workshops are being made available please contact him on 01709 555967 or 07917 070121. All ideas are welcome – let Tim know what you need!

Direct Family Support Worker

Sarah Griffiths is the Direct Family Support Worker. Sarah, like Tim is based at the Outreach Service at Orchard View Children's Centre in Masborough. Sarah's role is to work directly with families and offer support, advice, guidance and signpost to appropriate services. Sarah can also attend reviews, offer support with any paperwork or indeed anything which the family feel they need support with.

Referrals to the service will be via a Social Worker from the Children's Disabilities Team. A 12 week service agreement will be offered to the family where an individual/family programme of support will be delivered which includes home visits, phone calls and, if required, attendance at meetings.

Sarah can be contacted on 01709 555967 or 07917 053254

Post Diagnosis Family Support Worker

Jan Jevons is the newly appointed Post Diagnosis Family Support Worker and she is also based with Tim and Sarah at the Outreach Service. Jan will be introduced to families of disabled children aged between 0-5 years via referral from the Child Development Centre and will be supporting families through the assessment/diagnosis process. The aim of the service is provide specific support packages and offer family support via the means of implementing the Early Support Programme which supports family's in the co-ordination of services. Jan will also assist families in accessing other relevant services and offer practical support where necessary. Jan can be contacted on 01709 555967 or 07917 070778

From left to right:
Sarah, Tim and Jan



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Young Minds -

the voice for young people's mental health & wellbeing

My Head Hurts is a resource for parents and young people who want advice on mental health treatments, the evidence supporting them and where to get help.

Topics include: your rights, real life stories, treatments, campaigns, surveys

and an advice/support line. Also included are sections for parents, young people, professionals and campaigns and policy.

Further information can be obtained from: www.youngminds.org.uk/my-head-hurts and for telephone support contact: 0808 802 5544.



Rotherham Disability Forum

Chaired by RMBC's Sports Development Team, partners from local, regional and national organisations meet on a quarterly basis to discuss ways of improving and developing sport and physical activity opportunities for people with a disability through listening to the needs of local children, young people and adults with a disability, developing and sharing new initiatives and challenging barriers to participation.

The Forums Objectives are:

- To represent disability sports related issues to the Rotherham Active Partnership.
- To raise awareness of sporting and physical activity opportunities in Rotherham available to people with disability.
- To work with local providers of sport and physical activity to improve coaching and facility provision within Rotherham.

- To support local organisations in providing high quality sporting and physical activity opportunities for people with disability.
- To identify and support partners to apply for external funding or the development of sustainable initiatives.
- To promote communication between organisations with an interest in disability sport and physical activity.
- To produce a record of all opportunities available to people with a disability.

If you would like more information on the Disability Sports Forum please contact Amy Roden, RMBC Sports Development on 01709 822489 or amy.rodan@rotherham.gov.uk Amy will be happy to answer any queries or questions which you may have.

'Celebration of Play' Weekend

How many times have you wanted to go out into the park but have been put off due to the comments that you overhear or the lingering looks that your child receives? These comments are shared frequently by families of disabled children. Only you know how difficult it can be but in Rotherham we would like to support and encourage you together with other like minded families to come and join us at Clifton Park on Saturday 31st July & Sunday 1st August 2010. Rotherham's providers will be putting on a selection of events and activities to encourage you and your family to participate and enjoy. There will be specific activities for disabled children which will include dancing, sporting events, face painting - it's going to be a truly all round carnival atmosphere. All we need is good weather and YOU. Come and join us - you won't be disappointed.

Chatterbox Challenge

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February 2010

Minibeasts and the Garden

I CAN's ever popular, group fundraising extravaganza for 0 – 11 year olds is coming round again. Sing songs, play games and raise money for children who struggle with communication.

All of the Minibeast and the garden themed activities in the free Chatterbox Challenge fundraising pack have been developed by teachers and speech and language therapists so children can:

- Build vocabulary
- Improve listening and learning skills
- Practice numeracy
- Encourage Conversation

Primary aged activities support the national curriculum and the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority's (QCA) objectives for speaking and listening.

We'll give you everything you need to run a successful Chatterbox Challenge event including:

- Minibeast and garden themed songs and activities
- Stickers and certificates
- Guide to organising your event
- Sponsorship forms and ideas to make fundraising easy
- Press release templates as Chatterbox Challenge is a great way for you to get media coverage in your local area!



Register at www.chatterboxchallenge.co.uk

Thanks to Openreach's support, all of the money raised goes directly to help children who struggle with their speech and language.



Contact Us:

If you would like to contact us please call 0845 225 4073 or email info@ican.org.uk

I CAN, 8 Wakley Street, London, EC1V 7QE

I CAN - the children's communication charity:
www.ican.org.uk

Talking Point - the first stop for information on children's communication:
www.talkingpoint.org.uk

Charity Registration Number: 210031

What is Inspire Rotherham?

Inspire Rotherham is a dynamic, new approach, being managed by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, which is set to provide opportunities to raise aspirations and develop innovative, inspirational approaches to building skills and confidence in communication within our young people, families, carers and practitioners across Rotherham. Inspire Rotherham is supported to deliver these opportunities with investment totalling £2.94 million from Yorkshire Forward, over 3 years from June 2008 to May 2011.

Inspire Rotherham aims to ensure every young person in Rotherham is accurate and fluent in literacy, orally and written skills by the age of 11 years old, such that they can access higher value employment, in increasing numbers, due to the possession of higher levels of academic qualifications and other skills. This will be achieved by:

Raising the aspirations of families to support and help young people to develop literacy skills

Inspiring children as communicators

Improving communication through working with an extensive network of children and adult mentors

Establishing an internationally recognised research community to learn and apply measures that have succeeded.

Studies estimate that children with language disorders are five times more likely to have academic difficulties and therefore more likely to only achieve basic level education and skills. Only 50% of children with language difficulties stay into further or higher education compared to 75% of young people without language difficulties. However a recent longitudinal study has shown that if corrected earlier in a child's education these children will progress through school to achieve the same level as

children who entered school with communication skills.

Inspire Rotherham is working across communities and with a range of agencies who work with schools and families to ensure a partnership approach to improving communication skills across Rotherham.



Supported by



inspire Rotherham

The themes of Inspire Rotherham include:

- Family engagement**
- Early intervention**
- Reading for pleasure**
- Raising aspirations**
- Professional development**
- Leadership**

All projects and activities, developed and delivered will be in line with the above themes.

Inspire Rotherham has over 40 projects in schools, children's centres and libraries across Rotherham. The projects cover

a wide range of ages from early years to secondary and family engagement sessions for all ages. Here are just a few examples of some of the projects Inspire Rotherham is supporting at the moment;

The Family Learning Team run activities for parents and children together in their Stay and Play sessions. During this activity parents/carers are encouraged to stay with their children before school and create a literacy resource that can be used to develop the child's learning. This includes nursery cards, rockets and bookmarks.

Primary Schools have also got a number of projects in schools including the Rotherham Titans who are being partnered with children in Rotherham to encourage reading. The children

have a half hour one on one session for 12 weeks which aims to result in higher reading and communication skills as well as boosting confidence, self esteem and raising aspirations.

Peter Murray author of the 'Mokey Joe' series is also going to be working in schools performing an interactive drama piece where the children will see the character in the books come to life right in front of them! Peter will then work with 50 children on a closer basis in order to improve their reading skills. They will work through a challenging activity pack that will be used both in school and at home with their family.

If you would like to find out more about the projects or Inspire Rotherham please visit our website: www.inspirerotherham.org.



Attractions and hospitality for less

Enjoy fantastic Rotherham attractions and hospitality for less

From the unique Magna Science Adventure Centre to the relaxing beauty of the Tropical Butterfly House, Rotherham boasts a wealth of engrossing experiences which mix history and heritage with places of interest, all available right on your doorstep.

To make your experience even more enjoyable, Rotherham's attraction and accommodation providers have teamed up to offer local residents a host of great discount offers throughout the year.

The "On your Doorstep" discount vouchers, which will be available from various pick-up points, including the Rotherham Visitor Centre, are the perfect way to enjoy all the fantastic sights and attractions the borough has to offer.



Offers available in the free leaflet include deals for Magna, Rother Valley Country Park, Superbowl, Film @ the Studio, Simply Skate Arena, RSPB Old Moor, Tropical Butterfly House Wildlife & Falconry Centre and Rotherham Leisure Complex. As well as a range of discounted accommodation rates and meal offers at local hotels.

Did you know you can also save a packet on your purchases in the town centre with the money saving Click-Back vouchers? Visit the Rotherham town centre website, www.rotherhamtowncentre.co.uk, check out the special offers, print out the vouchers you want and then take them into town to spend in the shops.

Every month, there will be a range of discounts for you to enjoy - these will vary, covering everything from food to fashion, household goods and much more.

To pick up a "On your Doorstep" leaflet or for more information on attractions or event information, please contact Rotherham Visitor Centre, 40 Bridgegate, Rotherham, S60 1PQ, telephone 01709 835904, or email tic@rotherham.gov.uk.



Who are we? What do we do?

We are available to all parents or carers of children from 0 – 19 years of age who have or may have learning difficulties, disabilities and or special educational needs.

We operate across the Rotherham Borough.

We enable parents/carers to play an active and informed role in their child's education.

We offer a range of flexible services including:

- Confidential, impartial advice and information on special educational needs from staff and trained volunteers (Independent Parental Supporters).
- Information about Education, Health and Social Care, Voluntary Organisations and Support Groups.

Often our involvement will only last for a few weeks in most cases. You can talk to the Service as many times as you wish. Our hope is that you would feel more able to tackle issues yourself and need less active support from us because of our involvement. Your case can easily be re opened later if necessary.

We want to help parents, carers, other professionals and schools work together to raise the

achievement of children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Meet the Team



Manager – Pip Wise



Ros Needham - Referral Officer



Kerry Taylor - Referral Officer



Administrative Officer – Kath Horsfield



Independent Supporters – Sue Watts & John Gilling

For more information visit our website:
www.rotherhamparentpartnership.com or give us a call
on 01709 823627

FREE Self Management Workshops

Free Self Management Workshops in Rotherham for Anyone Caring for a Child who has a Long-Term Health Condition or Disability

The Expert Patients Programme Community Interest Company (EPP CIC), Supporting Parents Programme, is a FREE 6 week course for anyone who cares for a child with a long-term or life-limiting health condition or disability.

The aims of the programme are to provide support and develop self confidence to help you feel more in control, covering topics such as finding time for you, coping with difficult emotions, relaxation, dealing with family issues and tensions, communicating with family, friends, health professionals and schools and planning for the future.

The Supporting Parents' Programme Workshops, funded by NHS Rotherham, are run over 6 weekly sessions, each lasting 2½ hours, by trained facilitators, who themselves have experience of caring for a child with a long-term condition.

People who have taken part in the Supporting Parents Programme have reported that it has helped them to:

- Feel confident and more in control of their life
- Manage their child's condition and treatment together with healthcare professionals
- Be realistic about the impact of the condition on their child and their family
- Feel less isolated - there are other families in similar situations
- Use their new skills and knowledge to improve their quality of life

For more information or to book a place on a course then please call our FREEPHONE number 0800 988 5530 or email anne.higgins@eppcic.co.uk



10,000 landmark reached

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on Imagination Library

Rotherham's Imagination Library had twin reasons for celebration in December as it officially welcomed its latest members, taking the total number of beneficiaries to over 10,000.

The Library, launched in 2007, aims to help children between the ages of 0-5 to improve their literacy skills by providing a free book for them, sent to their home, every month.

More than 10,000 have now signed up and the 10,000th and 10,001st sign ups were officially welcomed to the Library by Wentworth MP John Healey at the Willow Tree Children Centre at Dalton.

The two were 14 week old twins Conor and Lois Plant and their mother Rachel said: "Books aren't just about learning – they are also a social occasion for a family to sit down and read and enjoy them. It makes you realise how important books are in this age of computers and video games."

John Healey added: "This is an excellent scheme as anything that gets children interested in reading with parents and grandparents or carers is a great thing."

We are leading the way again in Rotherham and I would like to see this scheme happening across the country."

Rotherham became the first area within the United Kingdom to sign up to the Imagination Library. The Imagination

Library is run by the Dollywood Foundation and is funded through donations from individuals, groups and organisations at a local and national level.

Councillor Shaun Wright, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services, said: "Improving children's literacy rates is a key priority in Rotherham, and schemes such as this will help us achieve that aim."

"The benefits of improving reading and communication in families are being noticed by parents and carers, and they are joining the project now in their thousands."

If you would like to enrol your child please contact Families Information Service 0800 0730 230 who will talk you through the process and send out to you the necessary enrolment forms.



Elephant's In Step Club

(Rotherham Youth Service)

This social group for both disabled and non-disabled young people aged 13-25 has now been up and running for 12 months.



Sessions take place on the last Thursday of each month at the International Centre (near the Ring O' Bells pub) in Kimberworth Park between 7.00 pm and 10.30 pm. Theme evenings have so far included Harry Potter, Buggy Malone, Good Vibrations Beach Party, 70's night, Frite Nite and the last session was Santa's Ho ho ho down which included Christmas dinner and craft session.

Attendance to date has varied between 30 and 50 and a good relaxed 'vibe' has been created.

Activities include karaoke, dancing, relaxation room, nail art and beauty, crafts and themed activities such as Treasure Hunt or Murder Mystery. Prizes are always awarded for best-dressed girl or boy and the team challenge. Admission is £3.00 which includes refreshments.

Carers and parents are welcome (although our aim is to encourage independence and socialisation). Qualified youth workers staff the sessions.

Spinoffs have included an Arts week in August (culminating in a multi-arts performance of 'Jungle Fever'); a trip to Magna Lifewise Centre and a trip to 'Cinderella' at West Yorkshire Playhouse on 15 January 2010.



The 'Elephant' will be 'rolled out' in January 2010 at Thrybergh Youth Club and will be named 'Monkey's Whiskers' and at Treeton Youth Centre where it is to be called 'Cat's Miaow'.

We have a full schedule of dates for 2010 and further details can be obtained from Claire Haddon or Russell Oxley on 01709 515400.

Hope to see you there!





Do you have a disabled child aged 0 to 5 years of age?

If the answer is yes – Early Support is for you.

We would like to invite parents and carers of young disabled children to attend a FREE two day training course. There are a range of dates available at venues across Rotherham – please contact the number below for further information.

The training is called "Working Together in Partnership through Early Support" your views as parents / carers are important in planning for your little one, and we want to hear them.

If you would like to know more about Early Support please visit the website at the following:

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/healthandwellbeing/ahdc/earlysupport/home/>

If you would like to book a FREE place on the training please contact: Vikki on 01709 822556

The PDA Contact Group

A group for parents of children with PDA which is part of Contact A Family. The website features information about PDA and its history, as well as support advice for home and school. Also includes an online support forum.

Web: <http://www.pdacontact.org.uk>

Support Forum: <http://ccgi.pdacontact.org.uk/forum/index.php>

Tel: 0114 2589 670 (Margaret Duncan, National Coordinator for the group)

Calls are preferred after 8pm, or leave an answerphone message.



Change of Address Slip

If you know that you are going to be moving house in the next six months do not forget to tell us. Phone 0800 0730 230 or cut out this form and send it to: Linda Adcock, The Psalter Lane Centre, Kimberworth Road, Rotherham. S61 1HE

Name:

New Address

Date of Birth

Go For It!



The Extended Services subsidy is part of the Government's commitment to the provision of Extended Services in and around school. It will become available to all Learning Communities from April 2010.

In Rotherham, this scheme is known as the Go For It! project. A pathfinder has been running in the Dinnington and Brinsworth Clusters and from April 2010 the funding will roll out across Rotherham with over £1 million available to support the scheme next year. This is a time limited opportunity for those families eligible in the 2010/11 academic year so it is important that as many families engage with the scheme as possible.

The funding is designed to subsidise access to activities outside of the school day for children and young people who might not otherwise be able to pay some or all of the charges associated with taking part. It aims to improve pupils' well-being, help raise aspirations and narrow the attainment gap.

As well as providing a valuable opportunity for children and young people to access out of school and holiday activities the additional short and long term benefits of this initiative are to:-

- Raise aspirations.
- Promote attendance.
- Encourage positive behaviour.
- Provide the opportunity to have positive conversations with parents.
- Support the Healthy Schools agenda.
- Assist in delivering other targets for schools and other teams within Children and Young People's Services.
- Sustain involvement in activities.
- Improve family relationships.
- Improve relationships between families and school.

For further information, please contact your school or Hayley Brown, Senior Extended Services Partnership Officer on 01709 823698 or Hayley.Brown@rotherham.gov.uk

New children's disabilities registration form

Prior to Christmas you may recall receiving a letter asking you to complete the new children's disabilities registration form. The information collated from the registration form will assist Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council in informing the appropriate services of your child/ren, young person's interests, hobbies and needs. Information will only be shared with other agencies in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2003.

This project is made possible by

 **Aiming High for Disabled Children**
short breaks programme funding

Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC)

New Short Breaks (respite care) opportunities are now available in Rotherham.

If you want to know more about Short Breaks for disabled children and young people, please visit our web-page at the following:

http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/info/200071/parental_support/878/aiming_high_for_disabled_children

or contact Families Information Service on FREEPHONE
0800 0730 230

Age Range Lowered

Due to the requests from families SCOPE have lowered their age range to 10 years for disabled children to access their services. SCOPE have received funding from the Aiming High for Disabled Children Programme where they offer a range of activities for children and young people aged 10 – 18 years. SCOPE can be contacted on 01709 830820.

Ability Days Commence

- South Yorkshire Playground To Podium

81 young people with a disability attended a talent identification event held at the English Institute of Sport, Sheffield, to assess their potential as a sports star of the future. The event funded through the Youth Sports Trust (YST) organised jointly by the Links School Sports Partnership and The South Yorkshire Competition Managers, involved pupils from 14 South Yorkshire mainstream schools, and 2 special schools, with the majority of the participants having a physical and sensory impairment.

Participants took part in a range of assessments including acceleration and speed, hand-eye coordination & manoeuvrability (using the standard YST assessment cards). Participants also had the opportunity to play Boccia between assessments allowing their competitive side to flair. Each athlete had their performances recorded individually so that personal achievements could be logged onto Parasport. The most talented performers will progress into the County Athlete Assessment Day (CAAD) scheduled for the 9th June 2010.

The Ability Day is part of a South Yorkshire wide development that involved six of the ten South Yorkshire School Sports Partnerships. Following the day all participants had the opportunity to access local sporting "exit-routes" in the form of local (county-wide) sports clubs including Athletics, Football and Wheelchair Basketball along with multi-skills clubs within the School Sport Partnerships.

Christopher Badger, aged 11 from Aston Comprehensive School is a keen table tennis player, but was looking forward to trying out new activities including Athletics and Boccia. He said:

"So far I've done some skills tests & recorded my

performances ... I'd like to get faster at the 100m".

Jane Smith, a member of staff from one of the participating centres was thrilled with the event.

"It's been brilliant. Our students have loved it. In fact it's been very moving; I have never seen our pupils look so animated."



Rotherham dates

Tues 20th April - Boccia & Testing Stations 10am-12noon at Aston

For details contact Jill Newbolt email: jill.newbolt@aston.rotherham.sch.uk or Louise White: rs1.white@rgfl.org

Playground to Podium is part of the PE & Sport Strategy for Young People and is the framework to identify and develop the ability of disabled athletes, working towards inclusion in the London 2012 Paralympics.

For further information on Playground to Podium in South Yorkshire or for details of your local clubs please contact Michelle Dent, South Yorkshire Disability Development Officer. Email: michelle.dent@sysport.co.uk tel: 0114 223 5680.

Deaf Sports Taster Day for Yorkshire and The Humber Supported by:



The Federation of Disability Sports Organisations (FDSO) are utilising key partnerships to showcase what sporting opportunities are available in Yorkshire and The Humber for people with hearing impairments.

The event was held on Thursday 4th February 2010 at Doncaster College for the Deaf and was aimed at 11 – 18year olds encouraging them to participate in the recommended 5 hours sport and physical activity each week. Consisting of four sports working on a rotation system every participant had the opportunity to experience sport taster sessions in Athletics, Badminton,

Basketball & Boxing.

On the event FDSO Deaf Sports Development Officer Sean Curran commented:

'The event showcased just how much activity is out there for people with hearing impairments across the region. The organisations involved offered a variety of participation opportunities in their sport and were willing to showcase this to capture the children and youths sporting aspirations.

Many children with hearing impairments are integrated into mainstream education systems and are unsure where to turn outside of education for further high quality sports opportunities. The taster

day provided much needed pathways and exit routes widening opportunities and perceptions.'

Places for the day were allocated on a first come first served basis uniting people from across Yorkshire and the Humber.

For further event details please contact Sean Curran, FDSO Deaf Sports Development Officer; email: scurran@fdso.co.uk Text: 07861 996692. Or Michelle Dent, South Yorkshire Disability Development Officer: email: michelle.dent@sysport.co.uk tel: 0114 223 5680.

We look forward to seeing you at the next event!

LOCAL SUPPORT GROUPS

ADAPT – Anston & District Autistic Parents Together – contact Angela Ward 01142 879 596 – supportive, friendly coffee mornings.

CBIT – Child Brain Injury Trust – contact Caroline Mitchell – 01142 767 777

ENCORE – Friendly, welcoming, informative and supportive parent/carer group for children who have a disability or are awaiting a diagnosis. Contact Janet or Carole on 01142 872 530. Venue: Aughton Early Years Centre.

FISH – friends, information, support & help. Parents & carer's of ASD children & young people in the Dinnington, Wales, Woodsetts, Todwick, Aston, Kiveton Park, Thurcroft, Killamarsh & Harthill or any of the surrounding areas – meet at the Sue Walker Children's Centre, Storth Lane, Kiveton Park once a term. Contact Anne Lindley 01909 770219

Headway – the brain injury association (16+ age group) – contact Sadie, Chris or Bill – 01709 835 835

LAF (Linking Autistic Families) – Meetings held at Ferham Children's Centre. Contact Jayne 0792 904 6680 or Sharon 01709 851 079

MADIS (Mums & dads in sorrow) – contact Anne Moore – 01709 380 569

Maltby Stepping Stones – Meet on the 1st Thursday of every month between 9.30am – 11.30am at the Children's Centre. Further details can be obtained from Lynda Cardwell – Family Support Worker on 01709 816946

Parents of Abbey School pupils – meet and discuss issues surrounding their child's needs – contact Liz Manson 01709 822580

Pathological Demand Avoidance Syndrome (PDA) contact group website and forum www.pdacontact.org.uk local meetings at Sheffield Centertainment. Contact Margaret Duncan 0114 258 9670 preferably after 8pm or email margoduncan@googlemail.com

PIN – Parents In Need – meet at East Dene Primary School – contact Janine Casswell 01709 320834

RODS – Rotherham organisation for Downs Syndrome – contact Sharon Critchlow – 01709 541 807

Rotherham Branch of the National Autistic Society – fortnightly meetings at the Meadow View Children's Centre to discuss the issues surrounding ASD. Contact Cheryl Wilson – 07554 439427

Rotherham Parent Carer's Forum – aiming to be the 'voice' of Rotherham's disabled children's parent/carers. www.rotherhamparentsforum.co.uk Mobile: 07906 462573

RYDERS (Rotherham Young People with diabetes education, resource support). Organise outings and fundraising events, meet once a month in the evening at Rotherham Fire Station on Fitzwilliam Road. Encourages every family member to attend and learn more about diabetes. Contact Lynn on 01709 582927 for more details.

SMILE – parent and carer's of children who attend Hilltop school meet to discuss issues surrounding their child's needs. Contact Liz Manson 01709 82580

Please remember if you would like your groups information to be shared and advertised in the newsletter please contact Linda Adcock on 0800 0730 230.

Are you paying for customer advice?

A growing number of organisations and individuals, often known as freelance benefits advisers, are charging people for help that is provided FREE by the Pension Service, Job Centre Plus, the Disability and Carer's Service, and many Welfare Rights organisations. Department of Works & Pensions fully trained staff offer a wide range of help and advice and can often take claims over the telephone, complete or help with forms and give estimates of how much benefit customers will get. Customers can also get up-to-date guidance from the Directgov website: www.direct.gov.uk

More help for carer's

A National Audit Office report states that one in four carers want to combine work with their caring responsibilities.

As part of the national carers strategy, Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities, Jobcentre Plus is committed to improved the support and advice available to carers who wish to re-enter the labour market.

Each Jobcentre Plus district has a new Care Partnership Manager in post. They will develop partnerships with key stakeholders involved in providing services for carers in their area. Their role is to work with local authorities, the National Health Service, and voluntary and private sector carer specialists to improve the prospects of carers combining caring with paid work.

Care Partnership Managers will act as champions for care issues within Jobcentre Plus, making sure that advisers have up-to-date information about local carer services, and the right knowledge and skills to provide effective support.

Between October 2009 and June 2010, Jobcentre Plus will Provide specialist training for 2,500 advisers who work with Carers.

From December 2009, Jobcentre Plus will extend access to employment support to all carers who are not already eligible and not working full time who want help to find paid employment.

From the same date, Jobcentre Plus will be able to fund replacement care where a carer needs to participate in return to work activities agreed with their adviser.

Further information

www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk and follow the links to Customers – Disabled People and Carers

www.dh.gov.uk