



**Parent
Partnership
Service**
CHESHIRE EAST

Newsletter

For parents and carers of children who have special educational needs



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Spring 2014



www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/parentpartnership

What do Parent Partnership Service do?

- Give impartial information and advice around Special Educational Needs (SEN) issues
- Offer support in preparing for and attending meetings
- Help with filling in forms and writing letters or reports
- Support parents and carers in resolving disagreements with school and the Local Authority
- Signpost to other statutory and voluntary services
- Link to local parent support groups and forums
- Ensure that parents and carers views help inform and influence local policy and practice
- Offer training opportunities for parents and professionals
- Train and deploy Independent Parental Supporters who can work alongside parents/carers to providing support and guidance

We are funded by Cheshire East Council although the work we do is at arms length and separate from the Council's work. The service is available to parents/carers of children between the ages of 2 and 19 years.

How to get in touch:

E-mail: parentpartnership@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Post: Parent Partnership Service
FREEPOST RSSU-KCZX-HXSC,
Floor 4, c/o Municipal Buildings, Earl Street,
Crewe, CW1 2BJ

Tel: 01625 374278

Want to see the next newsletter as soon as it is produced and receive updates throughout the term?

You can "like" us on [facebook.com/PPScheshireeast](https://www.facebook.com/PPScheshireeast), follow us on [Twitter.co.uk/PPScheshireeast](https://twitter.co.uk/PPScheshireeast) or contact us and we will add you to our e-mail alert and bulletin service.

All details and events correct at time of print.

If you do not have web access but want the additional information referred to in any of the articles in this newsletter, please do contact us and we will print and send it out to you.

If you need this newsletter in a different format please see it on our web pages - there you will be able to hear it, enlarge the text, or see it in a different language via Google Translate.



I would like to wish all our parents and carers a very happy 2014.

This will be a year of change and challenge for you and for our service. The Children and Families Bill is expected to become law in the spring and we will all have to deal with the reforms this will bring about.

As with all change, there will be a period of transition and we will do our best to support you during this time. You will have questions that we may not be able to answer initially as this is a new way of working for everyone. We will continue to keep you informed and work with you so that we all have a good understanding of the new legislation... watch this space.

Shortly, you will see the publication of the Local Offer, there is an article on page 5. This is part of the of the Children and Families Bill and is in response to concerns from parents who have found it difficult to find information about what support is available and how to access it. Some of you have already been involved in initial consultations and there will be further opportunities as this work progresses.

Finally check out page 9 and why not consider signing up to Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum?

I hope you will find the time to join us at one of our events in 2014.

Best wishes, Liz

Discovering More About Dyslexia

If you are the parent of a child with dyslexia and you would like to understand how school can support your child then this could be the event for you.

Wednesday 19th March 2014 at Sandbach Library, The Commons, Sandbach.

Jude Nash, Borough SENCO, will lead the event which will focus on how schools identify and support learners. Jude will also provide 'Top Tips' for you to use with your child at home.

Please e-mail or telephone PPS to reserve a place at this event.



Children and Families Bill

You will be aware that this bill is currently being debated in parliament and it is expected to become law in 2014. Until the law changes the current legal arrangements and the Code of Practice remain in place. The responsibilities of schools and the Local Authority remain the same.

If your child has a statement then changes can only be made if the statement is amended. As parents you need to be aware that support for your child should not change unless the needs of your child have changed.

Schools are responsible for identifying and making special educational provision for all children with special educational needs (SEN). When schools are inspected OFSTED (Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills) will check how well children are learning and how much progress they are making.

The new funding arrangements were outlined in our previous newsletter so this is just a reminder. All schools receive **core funding** which is an amount for each pupil in the school including those with special educational needs.

Each school also receives an additional amount of money to provide for those children with SEN. This is to provide anything that is "additional to or different from" the provision that is made for all children. This is a '**notional budget**' and schools have flexibility in deciding how to spend this money to meet the needs of all their children with special needs.

If a school can show that a pupil needs extra provision, over and above what the school can fund, they can apply to the local authority for **top-up funding**. This is a small pot of money and is for individual pupils who have a high level of need.

Pupils in academies receive the same level of funding as those in local authority schools.

Have a look at the Parent Partnership website for questions and answers from our summer forum at www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/parentpartnership.

You will find more information and updates on the website of the Council for Disabled Children at www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk.



Update on New School at Church Lawton

The new Autism School at Church Lawton held an open evening on the 14th November for parents, nearby residents and professionals. The school was initially scheduled to open in September 2014; however this has been put back and the school now plans to open early 2015. The school will accommodate 60 children between ages 5-19 and will be sectioned into primary, secondary and sixth form, each having their own entrance to the building. The original building will be used for the school with an additional extension to accommodate the different sections. Within the first year of opening the school will aim to accommodate 24 pupils, building up to full capacity within 3 years.

The school will offer GCSEs in core subjects and A-levels, there will be the opportunity for dual placements enabling students to access mainstream provision as well as having the support of an autism specific learning environment. Their aim is to have only a small number of young adults between the ages of 16 – 19 remaining in full time education at the school as they hope that they will be accessing mainstream provision, college or vocational placements within the community.

The National Autistic Society who will be running the school will use their knowledge and experience in the Autism education sector to give each person an education which suits their own needs with a focus on independent skills, academic learning and inclusion. They also aim to reach out to other schools within Cheshire East that have pupils with autism and share their knowledge and experience and offer support.



Cheshire Autism Practical Support (ChAPS) Annual Conference

This year's ChAPS conference will take place on **Monday 17th March 2014** at the Holiday Inn, Runcorn, WA7 3HA. The main speaker is Dean Beadle, who is a 24 year old man with aspergers syndrome. Dean has developed a career as a journalist and a professional speaker. In the afternoon there will be a choice of presentations from Shine Therapy Services, Cheshire Autism Diagnostic Services, Simply Misunderstood and Springboard.



Attendance fees are £50 for parents/carers/people with ASC or £90 for couples and professionals. For more information or a booking form visit the website www.asparents.org.uk or ring 07462 887815.

Curriculum and Assessment Changes Going Forward - Implications for Parents Written by Mark Bayley, Corporate Manager Standards and Learning

The Government is committed to pushing forward with its reforms of schools and in particular the quality and content of the curriculum which is delivered. Clearly, such changes will have impact on all learners but there will be real implications for SEN pupils in terms of accessing appropriate curriculum structures and maximising their potential within the proposed assessment frameworks.

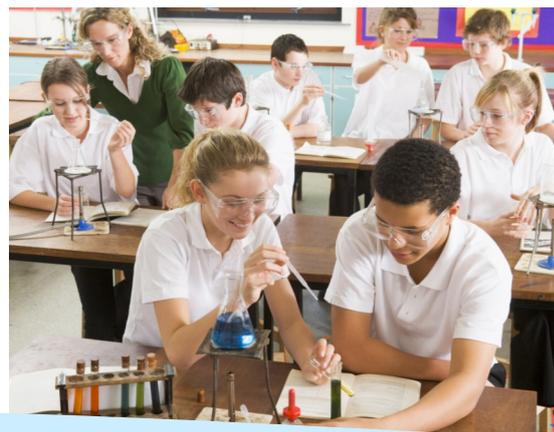
In summary, the majority of the new National Curriculum changes will commence from September 2014 so schools are currently preparing for these changes. Teaching of all national Curriculum subjects will remain compulsory but schools are able to choose to follow existing programmes of study or adjust them to support the transition to the new curriculum models. As from September 2015, the new National Curriculum for English, maths and science for Years 2 and 6 comes into force with the same subjects being phased in at Key Stage 4 from this date. At the end of the primary phase, new tests will be used as from 2016.

In terms of assessments, it is expected that the current national curriculum levels used to report children's attainment and progress will be removed and not replaced. Schools will be able to introduce their own approaches to assessment with Ofsted inspections being informed by whatever pupil tracking data system the school chooses to use. Within the secondary sector, new GCSEs will be introduced as from September 2015 and a new number grading scale of 1-9 replacing the current letter grades. Grade 9 will be the highest grade with students receiving a U if their performance is below the minimum pass rate.

These changes are radical and all schools are currently having to come to terms with the implications and plan for the future and this includes how the new curriculum will be delivered for all learners including those with specific educational needs. For parents, there are likely to be many questions which will need answering at this early stage of these reforms. These may include :

- How are parents going to be kept informed of the proposed changes and the detailed implications for their child?
- What will be the implications for secondary pupils if they are not able to achieve 8 qualifications or achieve the expected pass rate?
- What are the implications for those learners with special educational needs of having one single assessment paper?
- What curriculum changes are schools proposing and how will schools shape and adapt the curriculum to meet the needs of **all learners**?

I am confident that schools in Cheshire East are doing everything they can to respond to the changes but it is clear that parental awareness of such radical changes is patchy. I am sure that Parent Partnership would welcome feedback on how best we can keep parents informed so that they can best support their child's learning as these reforms begin to take effect.



What is the Local Offer?

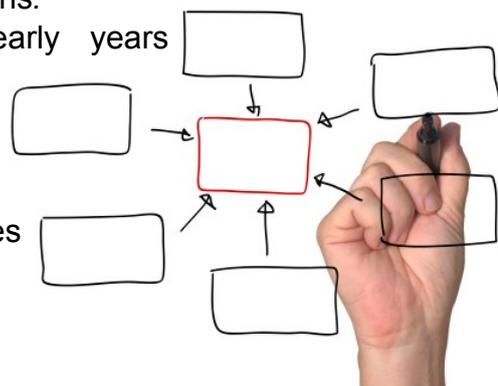
Written by Vicky Howarth, Local Offer Working Lead, SEN and Inclusion

The Children and Families Bill (*Clause 30*) puts a duty on each Local Authority to develop, publish and review their **Local Offer**. The Local Offer will set out, in one place, information about provision that the Local Authority expects to be in place for children and young people aged 0 - 25 with special educational needs (SEN), including those who do not have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan. It must include both **local provision** and **provision outside the local area** that the Local Authority expects to be used by its children and young people with SEN – including relevant regional or national specialist provision.

The duty on each Local Authority to publish a local offer is intended to address concerns from parents and families regarding difficulties in accessing information about available support, as described in the *SEN Support and Aspiration* Green Papers. However, the Local Offer should **not** simply be a directory of existing services. The process of developing the Local Offer is intended to help Local Authorities and their partners improve provision, and make it more responsive to local need and aspirations. Local Authorities **must** involve children and young people with SEN and the parents of children with SEN in developing and reviewing the local offer.

What must be included in the local offer? The *Special Educational Needs (Local Offer) Regulations* (currently in draft form) specify the requirements that all Local Authorities must meet in developing, publishing and reviewing their Local Offer. The following are examples of the information that must be included within the Local Offer, as stipulated in the regulations:

- Details about **special educational provision** provided by early years providers, schools, post-16 institutions etc.
- **Health Care** Provision – including therapies & mental health services
- **Social care** Provision
- **Transport** arrangements to/from school or post-16 institution
- Sources of **information, advice & support** - this includes **childcare** and **leisure** activities
- Procedures for making a **complaint**
- Information regarding how to request an **EHC needs assessment**
- Information about **criteria** for any service or provision
- Provision available to assist in preparing children and young people for **adulthood and independent living**
- Special educational provision around **apprenticeships & training**



Currently, the Children and Families Bill is due to achieve **Royal Assent in Spring 2014**, with the *Special Educational Needs (Local Offer) Regulations* coming into force on **1st September 2014**.

Here are some highlights of the work done so far around the Cheshire East Local Offer:

- We have discussed the Local Offer at a session for Headteachers and Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinators (SENCOs) of local primary and secondary schools, and run an exercise to stimulate thought around their contribution to our Local Offer
- We started the engagement process with parents and carers at a Cheshire East Parent Carer Open Forum and asked for their thoughts on aspects of developing the local offer in Cheshire East
- We have run a session with children and young people at one of our special schools around the type of provision they would like to see, and talked about what works well and not so well for them currently.

What are we currently working on, and what will we be doing next?

Finalising our plans for delivery of the Local Offer, assessing local need using data from a variety of sources, developing a framework and relevant IT systems for our Local Offer, once complete, we will use the framework to gather provision information from partners and providers. We will continue to engage with professional partners, children and young people with SEN and their families throughout the development process.

If you require any further information around the Cheshire East Local Offer, or would like to be involved, please contact sen.reforms@cheshireeast.gov.uk.



Transition to Adult Life Event Monday 3rd March 2014 at St Peter's Church Hall, School Lane, Elworth, Sandbach, CW11 3HU

Last year, Parent Partnership held a Transition to Adult Life event. We decided to hold this event as parents are always asking us; "What happens when my child leaves school?" "What options will be available to my child?"

To help answer these and many other questions that parents have, we invited professionals from education, employment services and social care to join us.

The event showcased some of the options available to young people, after they leave school. We had speakers explaining how their service could help young people through supported employment locally; how young people can have opportunities to work, or continue with education; how care support can be accessed for more complex individuals. We also had a presentation about money, benefits and personal budgets which many parents found really helpful.

Alongside the interesting speakers, we had a variety of stands for parents to view and many were able to take information away with them on the day. These were hosted by local education providers, services and charities.

After the success of this event, we are again inviting parents and carers to join us on **Monday 3rd March** in Sandbach. We are hoping to be able to provide you all with even more information than last year from a wider range of services...so we hope that you will spread the word to anyone that you feel would benefit from this event.

To book a place please telephone or e-mail Parent Partnership Service.

The following items are extracts of articles written from different perspectives on the transition to university. The full articles can be seen on the PPS website.

Transition to adult life...from a parent's perspective...

"What happens when my child leaves school?" all parents want this question answered. However, when your child has a disability or an additional need this question may need far more planning before it can be answered. I have just begun this process with my own son. He has Asperger's, Tourette's Syndrome, OCD, ADHD and dyspraxia. He has always managed to stay in mainstream education, with a lot of support...25 hours throughout high school, which lessened when he entered the sixth form to enable him to try to become more independent and ready himself for choices he might want to make in the coming years.

For us it has always been about planning and looking ahead...when he was in years 7 & 8, we were already thinking about how he would access GCSEs. By year 9, options were being made and of course my son had not a clue about many of the subjects on the list...as they had never been done in the lower school! It helped to work backwards...what would he like to do? We encouraged him to look through college prospectuses. End of year 10 and into year 11...discussions had with youth support worker again...what next? Should he go to a specialised college to help support his Asperger's? Should he go to a local college that could support his social skills? Should he try to get an apprenticeship? How about staying on and doing A-levels? So many choices, we as parents were overwhelmed, no wonder our son needed extra support to get through all of this!

He finally decided on A-levels as he'd done well enough in his GCSEs to merit doing so. Meanwhile, 'Mum was on a mission' ... I toured colleges, universities, went to open days, events such as 'Kids up North' where I could speak to representatives from a variety of colleges. I spoke to many professionals.

The choice was ultimately with my son; his life, his choice; his first steps to independence! So far, all of this support has been invaluable to him, ensuring his success with his degree.

Transition to University - Written by a former student of Staffordshire University

Two days after moving into my room in Halls of Residence at Staffordshire University, I phoned home. "See how you feel in a week. You'll probably be more settled," my mum told me. Like many, I found student life was very different to what I was used to. It took a while to settle, but I'm glad I gave it the chance. My main piece of advice would be to realise that starting Uni is inevitably stressful. Knowing that it's going to be stressful means when the stress hits, it's easier to manage.

There's also ways to help starting Uni be less stressful and more enjoyable. Here's a few...

Apply for DSA Choosing the right place Getting around Meeting people Students' Union

Quick Tips:

- Check out the University's website, both before and after applying – most will have a section specifically for disabled students. This will help you get an idea of what particular support the University offers (including things like Counselling services), and also who to contact for more info.
- For many students (apart from those living in catered Halls, commuting from home, etc.), starting Uni = starting cooking. Before I went, my mum taught me preparing several basic, healthy meals which I could easily cook for myself in Halls.
- Make the most of resources to help with independent living. I spent the summer before Uni having regular mobility sessions with someone from my local visual impairment support charity, especially focusing on using public transport on my own. Local authorities and charities can offer various types of support for different disabilities, so, if you haven't already, see what's on offer.
- Remind your son / daughter that University is a fantastic experience, so enjoy it!

I graduated last month. Three amazing years led up to the moment I went across the stage and got my degree. University has been a life-changing experience.



The role of Transition Officer - Written by Anna Dent, Transition Officer, Staffordshire Regional Access Centre

Making the transition to higher education can be a daunting process for even the most confident of students. Many disabled students are not fully aware of the support available and the process for putting that support in place. Others may not disclose their disability and are not able to access the support.

The process of application for Disabled Students' Allowances, to fund the many and specific types of support (equipment, software, mentor, support worker etc) opened up a whole new world to me.

I support all students, regardless of the university that they hope to go to. Much of my work involves supporting students on a 1:1 basis. Supporting them in completing applications for Disabled Students Allowances, checking their evidence before it is sent, answering their questions and making further individual arrangements to support their transition to university.

My key messages to disabled students are:

- Universities actively work to remove all barriers that may exist in reducing a person's opportunity to fulfil their potential
- Disabled Student Support teams, within universities provide a free and confidential service for disabled students. Be pro-active, contact them, ask questions and if you can visit them
- Students that have a disability or suspect that they have a disability should disclose on university application forms and finance application forms
- Apply for Disabled Students' Allowances as early as possible with evidence of disability
- Take responsibility for your own support and regularly review your support
- Aim high
- Support is additionally available at University for the transition into work.

Anna can be contacted by telephone 01782 294978 or e-mail a.dent@staffs.ac.uk.

Transfer to High School Event

On the 19th of November Parent Partnership Service hosted a Transfer from Primary to Secondary School information day at St Peter's Church Hall in Elworth. The event was attended by both parents and professionals, Mark Bayley, Corporate Manager for Standards and Learning introduced the event, followed by information on key points to consider when choosing a school. There were talks by two parents who gave their perspective on their experiences regarding their child's move to high school. Borough Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator (SENCO) for primary schools, Jude Hood, spoke to parents about the work that schools will typically do to prepare children with additional needs for the move up to secondary school. Amanda Thornton, Borough SENCO for secondary schools, explained how schools are usually organised and how schools might work together with parents to help and support their child as they move on. Both answered many questions which helped parents to fully understand the transition process and hopefully reduce some anxieties. Both of these presentations are available to view on the Parent Partnership Service website www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/parentpartnership.



Following lunch, parents had the opportunity to attend workshops by the SEND Assessment and Monitoring Team and by the Cheshire East Admissions Team who led parents through the admissions process for children with SEN, including those who do and do not have statements.

Feedback from the day was positive, parents reported that they felt better informed and more prepared for this period of transition.

Potty Training - Written by Tracey, Volunteer for PPS

I have two children, Meg my youngest is two (going on 16!) and Josh (who just happens to have Downs) is six years and twenty days. I mention the twenty days as this is the number of days he's been wearing big boy pants as opposed to nappies and pull-ups. It's not been an easy twenty days but on the whole it's been very successful. This is how I did it!

I have tried to toilet train Josh a number of times in the past year and his school have always been very helpful and followed my guidance but I think the main reason that it this time has worked and other times have failed is that Josh has been at home on his summer holiday so I have been able to take full control of the situation. Before I started toilet training I prepared for every eventuality! I bought over twenty pairs of big boy pants, I fitted a toilet training seat to our toilet and I bought a potty seat rather than a normal potty as Josh's bottom is far too big to go on one of those! I also had a notebook ready to make a note of Josh's eating, drinking, and toilet habits. From the first day Josh has been in pants and this has at times been messy but I'd tried to train Josh in pull ups before and it didn't work because he couldn't feel he was wet and didn't seem to care when he was dirty! For the first few weeks I made a note in my notebook of what time Josh ate, drank, went for a wee and a poo and after tracking his activity for a few days I decided to put him on the toilet every hour for the first week or so. I also didn't leave the house with him which meant I could concentrate completely on the task in hand!

We have had a number of accidents at home and out in the big wide world but by the end of the first week Josh was going to the toilet on his own for around 90% of the time and not soiling his pants or the bed or the sofa! Twenty days in we rarely have an accident as long as he is reminded to go to the toilet. He does occasionally take himself but the key to his success had definitely been the fact that I take him to the toilet every hour or so. He puts up a fight and doesn't always want to stop what he's doing but I always reward him with lots of praise, hugs and kisses. I wasn't aiming to get Josh dry at night but by making sure his last drink of the day is at tea time and by making sure he goes to the toilet before he goes to bed means he is waking up dry. I hope with time that Josh will start taking himself to the toilet rather than being taken, but for now I am so proud of my big boy and I'm sure his teachers and friends will be when he returns to school in pants not pull ups.

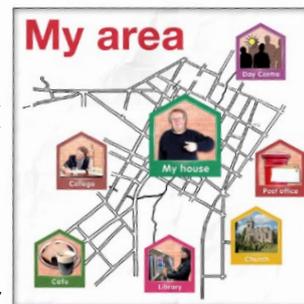


Learning Disabilities Life Course Project

The **Learning Disability Life Course Project** is a Cheshire East initiative to look at **all** support and commissioning for individuals with a Learning Disability and/or Autism Spectrum Conditions of all ages. Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum have been invited to take part in this Project.

As part of this Project, the team would like to look more closely at the pathways individuals have taken, so they are asking for parent carers to share their experiences and tell their story. The team are trying to gather evidence of how the system works now, for all ages and all learning disabilities/conditions. Whether you are just starting on your journey, or are well under way, struggling, coping, or have managed to transition from one service to another, your experience can help them understand what works and what doesn't, and will help inform future decisions in Cheshire East across the education, health and social care partnership.

If you would like to take part please contact Diane Taylor to arrange an interview session, Diane's e-mail is diane.taylor@cheshireeast.gov.uk.



Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum News

Dear Parent Carers,

Many thanks to those of you who came along to the Open Forum in October. The feedback was very positive and we have taken on board some of the suggestions for improving future events.

As I'm sure you're all aware, there are some huge changes coming into effect in September 2014. The Children and Families Bill will affect us all. This is an anxious time for many of us, wondering how the changes will affect our children's support – and ours. We are doing our best to learn about the changes so that we can pass on information, signpost you to people/places and to represent you to the best of our ability. It's also a very exciting time, with the opportunity to influence these changes before they happen. One such opportunity is the next **Open Forum on January 23rd**, at Middlewich Community Church. Diane Taylor will be there to talk about the Life Course Project, which includes the Local Offer and Transition (now called Preparing for Adulthood). Please come along and find out about how these changes might affect you and what they will look like in Cheshire East.

The Forum is building some very good relationships with commissioners and providers, and we are increasingly being asked for members to attend meetings/events to share experiences and opinions. If you want to take part in any of these activities, you can claim travel and childcare expenses from the Forum – we want to make it possible for as many people to join in as we can. Of course, you don't have to go to meetings to get involved – we have lots of ideas and plans and we have already started work on a new website. If you would like to get involved in helping us maintain the new website, keeping the information on it up to date, monitoring it, or if you have any ideas that you would like to see, please get in touch – we would love to hear from you!

We are hoping to launch it at the **Annual General Meeting on March 14th** – this will be a big event with a 'market place' of stands with information, a talk by Edward Timpson MP (Under Secretary of State for Children and Families), reports from the current Officers and election of Officers for the Forum for the next year, followed by lunch.

We are very aware that we keep asking you to join in, come to meetings, give your spare time (what spare time?!) and would like to thank everyone who has been to any of our events. We would like to be able to offer something in return, so will also be fundraising in 2014. We can then book speakers/training etc that are not just about participation, but whatever you tell us you want. If you enjoy fundraising we would love to hear from you.

2013 was a year of growth and change for the Forum – let's hope 2014 is even better

Nicola, Acting Chair



Connect Group

The Connect group was originally set up in January 2011 and initially funded by Aiming High. The aim of the project was to have an integrated after school club for young people who were in main stream provisions and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities (LDD).



The group have been involved in many activities over the years including African drumming, samba dancing, modern dance, baking, media work and trips out canoeing and on a narrow boat.

Throughout the time of the project the connect group have learned new skills, worked together as a group, made new friends, built on confidence and had lots of fun. By coming to the group they have all gained achievements including ASDAN (Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network), Duke of Edinburgh's, and V for volunteering awards. The group has been a huge success and continues to be.

The group runs on a Thursday at 15:30-17:30 at the Youth Support Service Hub, 23-25 Market Street, Crewe. For more information on Connect please contact Rachel Lawton at Cheshire East Youth Support Service on 01270 253633 or e-mail Rachel.lawton@cheshireeast.gov.uk.

Cheshire East Leisure Development Activities

Cheshire East Leisure Development Team aim to provide children, young people and families with disabilities to engage in leisure activity. They provide a range of activity throughout the year and try to meet the needs of individuals by sign posting or helping with transition in to clubs. The sessions are aimed for all individuals to take part, learn and enjoy activities in a safe and friendly environment. We welcome family and friends to assist and join in too.

ACTIV8 SESSIONS: Every Monday 6.00 - 7.30pm evening and Wednesday evening 5:30-7pm (for venue detail please get in touch). Come along and enjoy exclusive use of these fantastic interactive venues. You can play in the soft play area or join in with a number of different sports/activities. A great way to have fun and enjoy yourself. Siblings and friends welcome.



CYCLING SESSION: 1.00 - 2.30pm at Congleton Leisure Centre.

Saturday 18th January, Saturday 15th February, Saturday 15th March and Saturday 26th April.

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL: 10:30-12.00pm at Alsager Leisure Centre.

Saturday 11th January, Saturday 25th January, Saturday 8th February and Saturday 22nd February.

CYGNET SWIM: 1.00 - 2.00 pm at Alsager Leisure Centre.

Sunday 19th January, Sunday 16th February, Sunday 16th March and Sunday 27th April.

For more information on all the above activities please contact Nasar Riaz on 07809 665228, 01270 685789 or e-mail nasar.riaz@cheshireeast.gov.uk.

Friends for Leisure Activities

Youth Groups for 11 – 21 year olds run weekly at All Saints Church, Crewe, St John's Church, Macclesfield and Trinity Church Hall, Congleton. Drama sessions run every Monday evening during term time at Fallibroome Academy, Macclesfield. Bowling sessions at AMF Bowling, Lyme Green, London Road, Macclesfield, SK11 0TB and Lakeside Bowling, Dunwoody Way, Crewe, CW1 3AJ.

February Half Term activities include a decopatch session and climbing wall session. There will be trips to the cinema in the Easter holidays.

For more information or to book a place on any of the activities please contact Friends for Leisure on the website www.friendsforleisure.org.uk or call 01260 275333.

SPACE4AUTISM Parents Meeting. Monday 20th January, 19.30 pm - 21 .30 pm

1b Lowe Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 7NJ. For adults only. For more information please visit <http://space4autism.com>.

Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum Meeting. Thursday 23rd January

See page 9 for more details.

Educational Psychology Team Drop-in Session. Wednesday 29th January, 9.15 am - 12.15 pm

Knutsford Children's Centre, Manor Park North, Knutsford, WA16 8DB. Tel 01625 374904. Free sessions for parents, carers and educational professionals across Cheshire East. This is an opportunity to ask any questions or raise concerns about the well-being, behaviour, learning or development of your child or a child that you work with. Please book with the Children's Centre you wish to go to (tel above). The Educational Psychology Team can be contacted by e-mail educational.psychologists@cheshireeast.gov.uk or telephone 01625 374794.

Disabled Children's Database Parent Carer Support Service Monthly Coffee Morning & Toy Library. Monday 3rd February, 10.30 am - 12.30 pm

Cheshire & Warrington Carers Centre, Unit 1 - Brierley Business Centre, Mirion Street, Crewe, CW1 2AZ. If you care for a child or young person with additional needs why not come along to our informal monthly coffee morning to meet and chat with other carers over a cuppa?

SPACE4AUTISM host ASC Sleep Clinic. Tuesday 4th February, 19.00 pm - 21.00 pm

1b Lowe Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 7NJ. The speaker is Chris Hoyle, a ASC Sleep Clinic Co-Ordinator from The Together Trust. This workshop is FREE and aims to give practical suggestions to resolve sleep issues in children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. This is a FREE workshop and is for parents/carers (no children allowed). To book your place e-mail info.space@hotmail.com.

Disabled Children's Database Parent Carer Support Service Monthly Coffee Morning & Toy Library. Wednesday 5th February, 10.30 am - 12.30 pm

SHOPMOBILITY, Churchill Way, Town Centre, Macclesfield, SK11 6AY. If you care for a child or young person with additional needs why not come along to our informal monthly coffee morning to meet and chat with other carers over a cuppa?

Educational Psychology Team Drop-in Session. Wednesday 5th February, 9.15 am - 12.15 pm

Monks Coppenhall Children's Centre, Remer Street, Crewe, CW1 4LY. Tel 01270 371240. See 29th January for full details.

SPACE4AUTISM Parents Meeting. Monday 17th February, 19.30 pm - 21 .30 pm

See 20th January for full details.

Educational Psychology Team Drop-in Session. Wednesday 26th February, 9.15 am - 12.15 pm

Sandbach and Alsager Children's Centre, Crewe Road, Sandbach, CW11 4NS. Tel 01270 371235. See 29th January for full details.

Disabled Children's Database Information Session. Wednesday 26th February, 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

Cheshire & Warrington Carers Centre, Unit 1 - Brierley Business Centre, Mirion Street, Crewe, CW1 2AZ. This session is an introduction to 'Contact a Family'. To find out more and to book a place please contact Lisa Tydd on 01606 352834 or e-mail dcd@cheshirecarerscentre.org.uk.

PPS Transition to Adulthood Event. Monday 3rd March, 10.00 am - 14.00 pm

See page 6 for more details.

Disabled Children's Database Parent Carer Support Service Monthly Coffee Morning & Toy Library. Monday 3rd March, 10.30 am - 12.30 pm

Cheshire & Warrington Carers Centre, Unit 1 - Brierley Business Centre, Mirion Street, Crewe, CW1 2AZ. See 3rd February for full details.

Disabled Children's Database Information Session. Tuesday 4th March, 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

Cheshire & Warrington Carers Centre, Unit 1 - Brierley Business Centre, Mirion Street, Crewe, CW1 2AZ. 'Difficult behaviours that challenge us: developing understanding and getting support'. Part 2 is on Tuesday 1st April. To find out more and to book a place please contact Lisa Tydd on 01606 352834 or e-mail dcd@cheshirecarerscentre.org.uk.

Educational Psychology Team Drop-in Session. Wednesday 5th March, 9.15 am - 12.15 pm

Oakenclough Children's Centre, Colshaw Drive, Wilmslow, SK9 2PZ. Tel 01625 374180. See 29th January for full details.

Disabled Children's Database Parent Carer Support Service Monthly Coffee Morning & Toy Library. Wednesday 5th March, 10.30 am - 12.30 pm

SHOPMOBILITY, Churchill Way, Town Centre, Macclesfield, SK11 6AY. See 5th February for full details.

Educational Psychology Team Drop-in Session. Wednesday 12th March, 9.15 am - 12.15 pm

Nantwich Children's Centre, Dog Lane, Nantwich, CW5 5GX. Tel 01270 375390. See 29th January for full details.

Disabled Children's Database Information Session. Wednesday 12th March, 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

Cheshire & Warrington Carers Centre, Unit 1 - Brierley Business Centre, Mirion Street, Crewe, CW1 2AZ. Disability Living Allowance and benefits. To find out more and to book a place please contact Lisa Tydd on 01606 352834 or e-mail dcd@cheshirecarerscentre.org.uk.

Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum Annual General Meeting. Friday 14th March.

See page 9 for more details.

PPS Dyslexia Training for Parents. Wednesday 19th March, 10.00 am - 14.00 pm.

Sandbach Library, The Commons, Sandbach, CW11 1FJ. See page 4 for full details.

Disabled Children's Database Information Session. Wednesday 19th March, 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

Cheshire & Warrington Carers Centre, Unit 1 - Brierley Business Centre, Mirion Street, Crewe, CW1 2AZ. 'Helping your child to sleep'. To find out more and to book a place please contact Lisa Tydd on 01606 352834 or e-mail dcd@cheshirecarerscentre.org.uk.

Disabled Children's Database Information Session. Wednesday 26th March, 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

Cheshire & Warrington Carers Centre, Unit 1 - Brierley Business Centre, Mirion Street, Crewe, CW1 2AZ. 'Coping and Support' - The session will consider how stress impacts on the family and how we can manage stress in our daily lives. The aim is to give parents the tools to recognise the triggers of stress and look at different ways of dealing with it. To find out more and to book a place please contact Lisa Tydd on 01606 352834 or e-mail dcd@cheshirecarerscentre.org.uk.

Kidz in the Middle. Thursday 27th March, 9.30 am - 16.30 pm.

Jaguar Exhibition Hall, Ricoh Arena, Coventry, CV6 6GE. Free exhibition dedicated to children and young adults with disabilities and special needs, their families, carers and the professionals who work with them. Over 120 exhibitors and free seminars. For free tickets please call 0161 607 8200, e-mail info@disabledliving.co.uk or visit www.kidzinthemiddle.co.uk.

Our next newsletter will be out in May.

Please send us your good news stories
and items for the next edition by
Friday 28th March 2014



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