



Network Newsletter

Issue No.10 April/May 2008

'FACT Card'

The Northumberland Families and Children's Trust (FACT) Card will replace the Max Card.

The Max Card scheme was set up and has been run for many years by Museums, Libraries and Archives (MLA) by North East. MLA has now handed over Max Card to another organisation called the North East Museum Hub. Originally Max Cards were just for children in care and in future will be just for them again and instead of allowing free entrance to places of interest, cards will entitle holders only to discounted entrance.

We know Max Cards have been of great benefit to families of disabled children in Northumberland enabling them to have breaks away from home and family time together. The FACT Card scheme will be run by Northumberland County Council Children's Services. Families living in Northumberland who qualify for inclusion on our disabled children database will be entitled to a FACT Card.

FACT Cards have a photograph of the disabled child on them and can be used only by people (adults, brothers and sisters) accompanying the child in the photograph. Unfortunately we are not able to negotiate free access to places of interest but are negotiating discounts and special offers for FACT Card holders at places where you used Max Cards. We are also negotiating with places such as soft-plays that you have told us you would like to be able to use.



Thank you to everyone who has applied for a FACT Card and sent in a photograph. **Some people have omitted to send a photo—PLEASE NOTE we can only issue a FACT Card if a photo has been received.** We will be sending the cards out in the next few weeks together with information about where you can use it.

If you have any questions about the FACT Card Scheme,
please contact Jackie Stanton on 01670 533883
or email jstanton@northumberland.gov.uk

New website

The national children's health charity ERIC (Education and Resources for Improving Childhood Continence) is delighted to announce the launch of its new, improved website!

www.eric.org.uk contains comprehensive information about ERIC's services as well as access to many of the useful, downloadable resources that ERIC has available to help manage or overcome childhood wetting and soiling.



For more information about ERIC, please contact Eileen Jacques, Information & Helpline Manager, 34 Old School House, Britannia Rd, Kingswood, Bristol, BS15 8DB or Tel: 0845 370 8008 (Mon-Fri 10-4)

Adult Size Changing Table

Recently there has been installed an adult size changing table at the Prudhoe Children's Centre, Broomhouse Lane, Prudhoe. The height is adjustable so it can be used by children and adults alike. The centre is open daily from 9-3pm - families are welcome to pop into the centre if they are in the area and in need of a changing facility.

Western Tynedale Children's Centre at Haltwhistle also have the facility.

The SureStart logo consists of the word 'SureStart' in white, bold, sans-serif font on a blue rectangular background.

New Sibling Group in Tynedale

NCH IN-PACT have been commissioned by Northumberland Family and Children's Trust to set up support for siblings of disabled children aged between 8 - 16 years in Berwick Upon Tweed and Tynedale. This will involve a combination of activities and group work on alternate months.

" In Berwick we are working with 10 young people at present" says Susan Cullingworth, the Service Coordinator, "with no shortage of referrals; Tynedale is just getting started with 5 young people at present."



Anyone wishing to make a referral should contact Susan Cullingworth on 01670 857816.



Aiming High for Disabled Children and Every Disabled Child Matters

The Government is injecting considerable money into all Local Authorities to improve services for families with a disabled child particularly respite care - this is called 'Aiming High for Disabled Children'.

Northumberland will get about £300,000 in 2009-10 and just over £1m in 2010-11.

This year (2008-9) Northumberland will be given £60k to be used for preparation including talking to parents of disabled children and young people, disabled children and young people themselves and organisations that work with families.

Two Local Authorities in the North East - Gateshead and Sunderland are 'pathfinders' for 'Aiming High for Disabled Children' and have got their large amounts of money this year, a year earlier than most Local Authorities like Northumberland. You will be hearing lots about 'Aiming High for Disabled Children' during 2008-9, we will keep you informed through this newsletter.

Northumberland has also signed up to the Council for Disabled Children 'Every Disabled Child Matters' Local Authority Charter. The Charter has nine clauses which reflect the same sorts of things that 'Aiming High for Disabled Children' seeks to improve.



In 2008-9 the Children's Services Directorate will produce and start to implement a single plan to address both 'Aiming High for Disabled Children, and our obligations to the 'Every Disabled Child Matters' charter.

To read more about Every Disabled Child Matters—log on to :
<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/disabledchildren/aiminghigh/>

Or <http://www.edcm.org.uk/Page.asp>



NEW PARENTS SUPPORT GROUPS

Haltwhistle Parents/Carers Support Group

This is a parent led support group for parents/carers of children with additional needs living in the north, west and south Tynedale areas. The group is very informal and offers a chance to meet over a cup of coffee in a relaxed and informal atmosphere.

They meet at the Children's Centre, Woodhead Lane, Haltwhistle fortnightly. It is an opportunity to share ideas, experiences and information.

For further details, contact Janet Nicholson
on 01434 684422 Ext 243 or mobile 07895 174184
or email jnicholson05@northumberland.gov.uk

Parent Groups in Amble/Hadston area

Parent Group for Children with Autism/Aspergers. Meet on the first Wednesday of each month at Amble Links First School, Links Avenue, Amble.

Parent Group for Children with ADHD. Meet on the first Monday of each month at Old Library Building, Druridge Bay Middle School, Hadston Road, South Broomhill, Hadston.

The groups are there to offer support, an opportunity to offload, to share advice and information and to invite professionals along to meet and talk with parents.

Contact Angela Killoran for further information on 01670 760578
or email akilloran@northumberland.gov.uk.

Hexham Nurture Support Group

A new support group is being set up in the Hexham area for parents and carers of pre-school children with disabilities. They will be meeting monthly to share similar experiences, ideas and information. It is a chance to meet other parents over a cuppa in an informal atmosphere.

The meetings will take place at the Hexham Children's Centre, Beaufront Avenue, Hexham on the third Tuesday of each month.

For more information please contact Lesley Grieve
or Karen Fleck on 01434 601698.

Collingwood Weekend Fun Club

For all Parents/Carers of children with moderate learning disabilities.

Come along every 2nd Saturday of each month, 10am to 11am in the Stobhill Boys Club, Stobhill. A Kidz Get Fit coach will deliver activities so all children are safely amused.

Refreshments are available for all, so parents/carers can have a coffee and a chat while watching the kids enjoying themselves!

Costs are just £2 per child and a small fee for tea, coffee, juice and biscuits.

The kids really enjoy coming so come and join us.

We hope to see you there.



Brothers and Sisters can come too
Contact Sarah or Jackie at Collingwood School for
further details on 01670 516374.



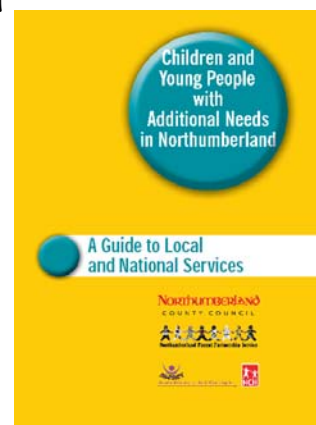
Launch of New Service Directory

On Tuesday the 18th March, the Parent Partnership and NCH IN-PACT launched the new Service Directory for families who have children with additional needs at the Holiday Inn Seaton Burn.

It was great that so many parents were able to attend. The parents were joined by Jim Wright, the Executive Member for Children's Services who said a few words of encouragement.

Also attending to give a Parent's Perspective was Elizabeth Richardson, a member of Berwick Hidden Dysability Group and Chairperson of the IN-PACT Steering Group.

If anyone would like a copy of the directory,
contact IN-PACT on 01670 857816
or email anne-marie.donnelly@nch.org.uk



Hydrotherapy Pool



Pine House hydrotherapy pool is a small purpose built indoor heated pool attached to a private house at Hepscoth Park, just south of Morpeth.

It has been designed to be used by, ideally, 1 or 2 disabled adults or youngsters, together with their support, with needs that would benefit from hydrotherapy.

The pool is 7 metres long and 2.5 metres wide. It has a three wide-stepped entrance at one end and then is a constant depth of 1.2 metres. It also has a hoist for wheelchair users and is kept at a constant recommended temperature of 33°C.

It features a Jacuzzi facility and an optional powerful jet stream for non-stop swimming. Other facilities include accessible toilet and shower and a changing room.

There are four 1½ hour sessions available during the week from 9.30am to 3.30pm with the possibility of some late afternoon and Saturday sessions. Each session costs £15.

To arrange a visit or be sent further information please phone Will or Dawn Benson - 01670 504877.

Epilepsy Action

Epilepsy action hold meetings in Hexham, Berwick and Newcastle city centre for people with epilepsy, for carers, for relatives and anyone with an interest in the condition. People can share their experiences, get involved and learn more about epilepsy. The meetings are usually held monthly.

For more details about the meetings, please contact Bob Dennis on 0191 2845892 or email bdennis@epilepsy.org.uk.

epilepsy action

Dyslexia NE

Dyslexia NE has been set up with the aim of giving support and information to parents, teachers and other professionals, who are helping dyslexics and their families. They offer educational meetings and training opportunities, as well as giving advice and support to parents who may have children or family members with dyslexia, dyspraxia and other related problems.

Dyslexia NE meet at the RGS Junior School in Jesmond, Newcastle, usually on the first Thursday of the month and welcome any parents, carers, teachers or others interested, to come along. Membership is £10 per family per year, or reduced (if on low incomes)to £5. They welcome anyone from the North East who would like to come.



Please contact Liz Ferguson on 0780 300 3475 for more information.

Opticians who have an interest in testing for Visual Dyslexia are :

- ♦ Andrew McGregor, Laburnum Terrace, Ashington
Tel. 01670 813033
- ♦ Alistair Wade, Behavioural Optometrist, Prudhoe
Tel 01661 835 353
- ♦ Stuart Henderson, Harvey's Opticians, 9, Saville Row, Newcastle
Tel 0191 232 7615

Family Information Service Directory

The Family Information Service (FIS) starts on 1st April. It used to be called the Children's Information Service. The service gives impartial information and advice on childcare and work-life balance issues to parents and carers and assists childcare providers. Families, young people and professionals can benefit from a one stop shop of information.

FIS is launching the Northumberland Children and Young People Directory - the new online Directory is a huge database of organisations relevant to children, young people, parents and practitioners.



The information has been organised into four zones so you can easily and quickly find what you need. The database is at:

<http://northumberland.childreaninformation.org.uk/>

but also has a freephone number: 0800 023 4440.

Useful Local Telephone Numbers:

Berwick Autism Support	Michelle Mitchell	01289 304309
Bliss ADHD Support Group	Lorraine Walker	01670 540979
Contact a Family	Kathy Rist/Sarah Lewis	0191 2136300
Downs Syndrome & Friends Support Group	Anne-Marie Donnelly	01670 857816
Dyslexia North East	Liz Ferguson	0780 3003475
Hidden Dys-Ability (Berwick upon Tweed)	Kim Redpath	01289 331450
Hyperkidz	Tracey English	01670 516537
In-Pact	Anne-Marie Donnelly	01670 857816
Parent Partnership	Alison Bravey	01670 533694
Ponteland Parents' Special Needs Group	Kate Whitehead	01661 822103
Portage Service	e/o Anne-Marie Donnelly	01670 857816
Support Group for Parents of Self-Harming Children	Susan Cullingworth	01670 857816
Toby Henderson Trust	Lesley Henderson	01670 789753
Tynedale Support	Ali Shotton	01434 601594
Wansbeck Parent Carer Support Group	Anne-Marie Donnelly	01670 857816

Some of the articles in this newsletter are those of individual contributors and are not necessarily supported by Northumberland County Council.

Produced by Children's Services, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 2EF
Contact Jackie Stanton Tel: (01670) 533883

If you require this newsletter in an alternative format, please contact 01670 857816.

Supporting families who have children with special needs



If you would like your child to be registered on the Network Database for Children with Disabilities, you will receive your own copy of our Network Newsletter. Please complete below to receive an application form and send to **Jackie Stanton, Children's Services, County Hall, Morpeth NE61 2EF**

Name of child:

Name of parent:

Address of child: