



Network Newsletter

Issue No. 11 June/July 2008

Aiming High for Disabled Children

'Aiming High for Disabled Children' is a major government investment in services for families of children with disabilities and learning difficulties including autism spectrum disorders, ADHD and other disabilities.

Every Local Authority has been allocated substantial grants up to 2011. In Northumberland we have been given £60k 'preparation grant' this year (2008-2009). We have been told we will receive £360k in 2009-2010 and £1.1m in 2010-2011. The money must be spent to provide new **short break** services for families of children with disabilities and learning difficulties. It must not be used to pay for existing short break or other services.

'**Short breaks**' means parents being able to have regular, planned breaks from the responsibility of caring for their disabled child. This may be for a few hours, during the day, evening, overnight or for a whole weekend. The breaks might happen at home or in a residential or community setting.

Examples of **short break** services are:

- ◆ Sitting
- ◆ Enablers to take children out
- ◆ Training up child minders and nurseries to accept disabled children more easily
- ◆ Training up sports and youth groups, after school and holiday schemes to accept disabled children more easily
- ◆ More weekend and holiday playschemes specially for disabled children
- ◆ Recruiting foster carers to look after certain disabled children overnight or for weekends
- ◆ More places residential places like Monksfield and Barndale

Every Child Matters
Change For Children

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As part of the **Aiming High for Disabled Children** programme, Local Authorities are also expected to:

- ♦ improve information available to families of children with disabilities and learning difficulties;
- ♦ ensure the views of parents of children with disabilities and the children and young people themselves are listened and responded to;
- ♦ address issues of eligibility and assessment for services;
- ♦ develop and train the local workforce so there are enough trained people to work in short break services.

Jeremy Cripps is leading this work for the Northumberland Children's Services Directorate; he is very keen to know what you think about short breaks. Please contact him by letter, email or phone:

Jeremy Cripps, Children's Services Directorate,
County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF

Email: jcripps@northumberland.gov.uk

Phone: 01670 533878

Look out for news about **Aiming High for Disabled Children** in future Network Newsletters.

Fact Discount Card

By now all the parents who sent in a passport size photo of their child with a disability should have received their FACT Card.

We are working hard to get other places signed up to the scheme and will update you before the school Summer holidays with any news.



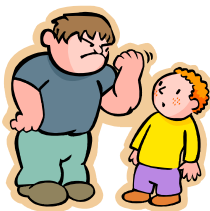
If you have not got your child's FACT card yet, it may be that you have not returned the form to us or omitted to send in a passport size photo when you completed the form. **We are unable to issue cards unless we have a photograph.**



For further information contact
Jackie Stanton on 01670 533883 or
email jstanton@northumberland.gov.uk

Tell us about bullying !

Contact a Family is joining forces with Parentline Plus to produce a guide for parents of disabled children to help them cope if their child is being bullied and we're looking for your help.



Research suggests that more than one in three disabled children have been bullied at school and many parents can feel they have nowhere to turn. Bullying can take place at school, on school transport, in playgrounds, at leisure activities, online; bullying can take place anywhere.

The guide will be a tool for parents to help them cope if their child is being bullied. As well as containing information about the law relating to bullying and the action schools should be taking, it will include parents' experiences.

If your child has been bullied or is being bullied because of their disability and you'd like to share your experiences to help other parents please get in touch. Contact a Family would also like to hear from you if your child has been bullied because they have a disabled sibling.

They want to know how you spotted signs of bullying, the strategies you used to deal with the bullying, how you coped with the situation and any advice you would like to give to other parents in similar situations. Your experiences will be used anonymously in the guide.

The guide is due to be published in November in time for Anti-Bullying Week 2008.

contact a family
for families with disabled children

If you would like to share your experiences or have any questions about the project, please contact Penny Roper on the Contact a Family freephone helpline 0808 808 3555 or email penny.roper@cafamily.org.uk.

Learning Disabilities & Bullying

Don't Stick It, Stop It! is Mencap's campaign to stop the bullying of children and young people with a learning disability.



Children with a learning disability are bullied everywhere they go. It affects children's lives, making them scared to go out because they are frightened they might be bullied. The campaign is calling for children and young people, adults and the Government to take action to stop children and young people being bullied because of their disability. Visit www.dontstickit.org.uk.

Holiday day trips - recommendations required!

With the summer school holidays fast approaching many parents will be thinking about possible activities for their children. Please let us know about any places you have visited that are child-friendly; particularly for children with disabilities and special needs.

Any holiday hints/tips you have for other parents would also be greatly appreciated. Your recommendations will be published in the next Network Newsletter in time for the summer break.



Please send your responses to Anne-Marie Donnelly at NCH IN-PACT, Wansbeck Young People's Centre, South View, Ashington, NE63 0SF or e-mail: Anne-Marie.Donnelly@nch.org.uk.

Ability to Play

Ability to Play is a sport's service helping young disabled people aged 5—16 years with any level of sporting ability to access sporting opportunities organised across South East Northumberland. This project has been set up in order to get more children to enjoy sports and physical activities, open doors for young people to join mainstream clubs, introduce new and exciting activities for children and provide support and information for participants, coaches and clubs.

If you would like more detail, contact Adam Dixon at Blyth Sports Centre, Bolam Park, Blyth NE24 5BT or telephone 01670 367286.

Riding for the Disabled—Alnwick

This is a group providing horse riding and tuition for disabled children and adults. It runs on a Thursday 1.30pm—2.45pm from Easter to Autumn term, during school term time.



For more information, contact Fiona Thompson at Silvermoor, Denwick, Alnwick NE66 3RG on telephone 01665 602587.

Tynedale Activities for Special Children—TASC

TASC offers activity clubs for children 4—19 with learning and/or physical disabilities in the Tynedale area.

For further details, telephone: 01434 600077 or email tascadmin@tiscali.co.uk

Knox Disabled Sports Fund

The Knox Disabled Sports Fund was inspired by local disabled athletes and volunteers who help to run disabled sports in Wansbeck.

A grant of up to £100 per individual is being made available to enable disabled and deaf sports participants of all ages to attend regional, national and international events.

This would give athletes who live in Wansbeck the opportunity to reach their full potential and possibly reach a major championship representing their country.

Wansbeck District Council and Wansbeck Initiative are providing funding for the Knox Disabled Sports Fund and are committed to supporting disabled and deaf athletes to compete in regional, national and international events.

If you are interested or know someone who might benefit—please email: C.Weitz@Wansbeck.gov.uk requesting an application pack or write to Chris Weitz, Wansbeck District Council, Wansbeck Square, Ashington NE63 9XL.

Deadline for applications is 22nd August 2008 for decision by 22nd September 2008 and 9th March 2009 for decision by 20th March 2009.



Free Cinema Ticket for Carers!

The Cinema Exhibitors' Association Card is a nationally recognised card entitling the holder to a free cinema ticket *for the person accompanying them*. To apply for the card, you will need to meet one or more of the following criteria:

- a) Be in receipt of the disability living allowance or attendance allowance.
- b) Be a registered blind person.



The card is valid for 3 years from the date of issue and costs £5.00 to pay for processing. An application form can be printed from the CEA website or collected from a participating cinema. Details of the nearest participating cinemas can also be accessed via the CEA website: www.ceacard.co.uk

The card is issued to the person requiring the assistance and there are no restrictions for the carer.

Details can be obtained from The Card Network Tel: 0151 348 8020.

New National Autistic Society Branch in Hexham area

think
differently
about
autism

NAS branches provide information and support in a variety of ways, to parents, carers, individuals with ASD and local professionals and are an invaluable service to those affected by autism.



Branches carry out a range of activities which may include self help support for parents and carers, information and advice, running of workshops and seminars, social groups, campaigning for better local services and much more. NAS are aiming to set up a Branch in The Hexham Area with the support of Sele First School.

If you are interested in becoming involved
contact Lisa Pitkeathly on 01915680733
or email Lisa.Pitkeathly@nas.org.uk for further information.

Tynedale Support

For families of children with special needs. They meet on the second Wednesday of the month at Monksfield, Corbridge Road, Hexham. Parents and carers come from all parts of Tynedale and from a variety of family situations.

For more details, contact Ali Shotton on 01661 831457 or
email: ginashotton@supanet.com.

Website: <http://tynedalesupport.mysite.orange.co.uk>

Relationships and Caring for a Disabled Child

Parents caring for a disabled child have to adjust to new roles, different expectation about their child and cope with significant emotional, social, physical and financial pressures.

Many parents find these experiences bring them together and make their relationship stronger but some couples are overwhelmed by the experience and struggle to stay together.



This guide offers information and ideas to parents of disabled children about looking after their family relationships.

Download it from <http://www.oneplusone.org.uk/publications/relationshipsguide.pdf>

Website of interest



A parent has passed on to us a very interesting website for parents of any chromosome 17 abnormalities.

Log onto www.chromo17.com

If you know of an interesting website that you think may help other parents, let us know and we shall print it in the Newsletter. [Contact Jackie Stanton on 01670 533883 or email jstanton@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:jstanton@northumberland.gov.uk)

Parents in Touch website

Parents in Touch is a parent-friendly website giving guidance for all stages of education. It can help parents with decisions such as preparing for school, how to help your child, understanding education and with reading suggestions. Popular sections include phonics, English, number and topics.

The website www.parentsintouch.co.uk has a huge range of free worksheets as well as sections on 3-5 year olds and leaving school.

The Social Communication Disorders Clinic

This is one of many clinics run by The Great Ormond Street Hospital. This clinic has recently created a new website for information about their national clinic for High Functioning Autism. It provides information on the assessment and diagnosis of this condition and related disorders, support information for families and professionals and current research that is carried out in conjunction with the Institute of Child Health at the University College London.

Visit their website at :-

http://www.ich.ucl.ac.uk/gosh/clinicalservices/autism_services/Homepage

Calibre Books

Calibre books provides an audio book service for children with poor sight, dyslexia or difficulties that prevent them from holding a book or turning pages. Being able to access the magic world of books gives them a chance to succeed at school and unlock new ideas and imagination. Visit www.calibre.org.uk



Useful Local Telephone Numbers:

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	c/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.

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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: