



Network Newsletter

Issue No. 25 Nov/Dec/Jan 2011

Northumberland County Council Children's Services,
Aiming High for Disabled Children and Action for
Children would like to wish everyone a
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Action For Children — New Service Co-ordinator

Action for Children are thrilled to inform you that Jenny Campbell has been appointed as the new Service Co-ordinator for the Parent Participation Network (formerly known as IN-PACT).

Jenny will become a member of the Northumberland Parent, Carer and Professional Forum and help support the development of a Northumberland Parent Participation Network from April 2011.

The funding from Aiming High for Disabled Children is for six month project. Jenny has just recently come into post. Part of Jenny's role will be to set up the Parent Network as a sustainable model and hopefully attract further funding to support her role as the Service Coordinator post May 2011.



Jenny comes to the role from her previous post as Common Assessment Framework (CAF) Implementation Manager for the county with many years of experience and skills; she will be an asset to the project.

Jenny can be contacted on 01670 857816
or email: Jenny.Campbell@actionforchildren.org.uk
The IN-PACT website www.in-pact.org.uk is still available
providing lots of information on many topics.

Two more days with Joshua Muggleton

Due to the overwhelming positive response that Joshua has already received from Northumberland parents, Aiming High are inviting Joshua back to Longhirst Hall for another two days.

On **Wednesday 26th January 2011** the day will be for parents and carers whilst **Thursday 27th January** is for all professionals, including health, social care and education.

As training days go, they can often be considered 'standard' and 'text book'; however these are NOT two words which can ever be used to describe a training day with Joshua Muggleton.



Joshua has a diagnosis of Asperger's Syndrome, a form of Autism. His ability to deliver exceptional seminars has forged the way to a series of opportunities, including Joshua appearing as a key note speaker on behalf of the National Autistic Society in 2005.

Since then, Joshua has not only gone on to host his own conferences, he has achieved excellent grades at 'A level' enabling him to enrol as a student at St Andrews University reading Psychology. Furthermore, he is currently in the stages of writing his own book - and all by the tender age of just 21.

Upon meeting Joshua you are instantly made aware that this will be no 'standard' conference. He introduces the conference speaking from the heart conveying the truth, the reality, the sadness and of course the happiness which he has endured throughout his childhood and adolescence whilst learning to live with Asperger's Syndrome.

What you will hear does not come from a text book; you won't find such raw emotion and insight leaping from any pages as you will hear if you are fortunate enough to attend an event with Joshua.

As we are again anticipating a high demand for places
it is imperative that you book.

To reserve your place
please contact Nathan at the Aiming High Team on 01670 516 131
or email: Nathan.Hall@northumberland.gov.uk

Victorian Family Fun Day at Linden Hall

Unfortunately the Victorian Family Fun Day that was due to take place on 12th December was postponed due to the adverse weather.

Aiming High are pleased to confirm that the Family Fun Day will now take place on Sunday 23rd January 2011 from 10am until 2pm at Linden Hall.

If you would like to attend, please contact Nathan Hall on 01670 516131 or email: Nathan.Hall@northumberland.gov.uk



Northumberland Parent Participation Network

A group of parents have been working together for a number of weeks to bring the Northumberland Parent Participation Network in line with other Regional Groups, within the North East.

The Network is undergoing a total restructure including change of name. The aim is to shape the future for Children and Young People with Disabilities/ Additional Needs in Northumberland.

It will be a parent led forum, providing the opportunity for parents and carers to gain information on all aspects of the caring role and, through the Parent Carer Professional Forum, participate in consultation with service providers.

We are really keen to get more parents involved. This could be through signing up for our Newsletter, attending a Locality Meeting in your area or attending our Conference in March 2011.

The next dates for the local forums are:-

Berwick Group

Wed 26th January—10—12 noon at Swan Leisure Centre, Berwick upon Tweed

South East/Central Group

Thursday 20th January—10—12 at Ashington Young People's Centre

Hexham Group

Thursday 20th January 1.30-3.00 at Hexham Community Centre.

For more information on the new changes
contact Jenny Campbell on 01670 857816

Family Autism Support Team

Helping children and families affected by Autism

The Family Autism Support Team (FAST) works with parents and carers who have a child who is autistic and are struggling to deal with their behaviours.

We can:

- ◆ Help families affected by autism make positive changes
- ◆ Empower parents and carers to positively support their child
- ◆ Reduce the social exclusion of children and young people
- ◆ Help children and young people develop and improve their skills
- ◆ Give support to siblings of autistic children and young people

FAST will work with families in their own home to build on parents' and carers' confidence and ability to implement behaviour strategies to change children's behaviours.

The nature of the service depends on the particular needs of the family, but could include supporting the family to access doctors, dentists and other professional services that the child or young person may need.

For more information about our work, please contact:



Action for Children Family Autism Support Team
Wansbeck Young Peoples Centre, South View,
Ashington NE63 0SF
Telephone: 01670 857900
Email: NEFamilyAutism@actionforchildren.org.uk

New Disability Grants Website

A new time-saving website is available to help parents and carers of disabled children and adults to access grants towards the high cost of disability equipment, holidays, housing, days out etc.

The website is www.disability-grants.org



Parent 2 Parent

Parent 2 Parent is a small network of trained volunteers who will help other parents, perhaps with a new diagnosis to make positive adjustments to the news that their child has a disability.

Every Parent 2 Parent volunteer is a parent whose own child has a disability. They know and understand what it is like to cope with a new diagnosis and can offer support. They will share their knowledge and sign post you to useful information and services.

Parent 2 Parent support is free and confidential; we will support parents and carers of children of all disabilities and special needs.



action for
children IN-PACT

Contact Angela Tait, Parent2Parent, Volunteer Co-ordinator,
Action for Children IN -PACT

Tel: 01670 857816 www.in-pact.org.uk

Conflict Management Training

There are two more Conflict Management Training Courses running at the beginning of the year.

The courses run from 10am—2.30pm and take place on Wednesday 19th January at West Hartford Fire Station, Cramlington and Wednesday 9th February at Swan Leisure Centre, Berwick upon Tweed

The course will help parents to identify the key components present in all challenging confrontations, recognise different stages of conflict escalation, maintain composure when responding to conflict and aggression and learn how to use verbal and non verbal skills to better manage the situation.

It is expected that there will be a high demand for this event. Places will therefore be given on a first come first served basis. If you would like to attend this event please contact:

Nathan Hall - Aiming High for Disabled Children

Telephone: 01670 516131 Email: Nathan.Hall@northumberland.gov.uk

Aiming High Magazine

The next edition of the Aiming High magazine is soon to be available. All children and young people who are registered on Northumberland's Disabled Children's Register will get a copy sent to them through the post.



Useful Vision Activities in 2011

"supporting children with vision impairment in the north east"



Useful Vision (UV) is a registered charity established in the North East to help blind and visually impaired children get the most out of life.

They do this through the delivery of family support services, imaginative events and educational activities designed to meet the needs of visually impaired children of all ages and abilities.

Registration with Useful Vision is free and they will keep you up to date with all activities and events. Please contact the office for further information and to discuss your requirements on 0845 60 48 491.

Rock Climbing at Rock Antics, Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre, Co Durham.
Sunday 23rd January 2011, 1pm - 2.30pm for children 4 years and over.

Family Day at The Alan Shearer Centre, West Denton, Newcastle upon Tyne.
Sunday 6th February - sessions available 10am-midday and 1pm-3pm.
Everyone welcome to enjoy the facilities including hydrotherapy pool, ball pool, sensory rooms etc and a buffet lunch.

Making Music Workshop at The Sage, Gateshead. Sunday 20th February 2011, 10.30 - 1.30pm for all the family. With percussion, singing, movement and samba drumming, all ages and abilities welcome.

Drama Workshop at The Performance Academy, Newcastle College, Scotswood Road, Newcastle, on Wednesday 23rd, Thursday 24th & Friday 25th February

Cookery Course at Ashington Children's Centre, Ashington on Saturdays 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th March.

More information about these events, past events and photos can be viewed on the website at www.usefulvision.org.uk

You can contact Useful Vision
at 80B Front Street, Prudhoe, Northumberland, NE42 5PU
Telephone 0845 60 48 491
E-mail: info@usefulvision.org.uk

Family Fund - Helping families across the UK

The Family Fund helps families with severely disabled children and young people aged 17 and under to have choices and the opportunity to enjoy ordinary life.

We give grants for things that make life easier and more enjoyable for the disabled child, young person and their family, such as washing machines, driving lessons, computers and holidays.

The Fund is a registered charity, helping around 55,000 families in the UK with around £33 million in grants a year.



How often can we help?

We try to help families caring for severely disabled child or young person once every year, and will consider a grant application usually 12 months from the date of the last grant.

We do understand that sometimes the need for help can be greater, especially if there is an emergency or critical situation relating to a disabled child or young person. If this happened we can be flexible and consider an early application. Please note that all our grants are discretionary and subject to available funding.

What can we help with?

We will consider any grant request that will make a difference to the lives of a disabled child, young person and their family.

Families can apply for things from attraction tickets to zoo trips, but we also encourage requests from young people that have particular meaning to their age group such as driving lessons, laptops and equipment for college.

Family Fund, 4 Alpha Court, Monks Cross Drive, York YO32 9WN

Telephone: 0845 130 45 42 Textphone: 01904 658085

Email: info@familyfund.org.uk

Web: www.familyfund.org.uk

A new way to contact Northumberland Citizens Advice Bureaux

In October there was the launch of the new single telephone number for the Northumberland Citizens Advice Bureaux.

By dialling **0844 4111309** residents of Northumberland will be given a number of menu options.

Residents can listen to recorded information on a range of advice topics, be transferred to a helpline or speak to an assessor.

The problem will be evaluated and decide what needs to be done next—this may include a referral to their local CAB for face to face advice if necessary.



Citizens Advice
the charity for your community

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, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 2EF

Contact Jackie Stanton Tel: (01670) 516131

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



action for
children IN-PACT

Supporting families who have children with special needs

NORTHUMBERLAND
COUNTY COUNCIL

If you would like your child to be registered on the Disabled Children's Register, you will receive your own copy of the Network Newsletter. Please complete the slip below to receive an application form and return it to **Jackie Stanton, Children's Services, 94 Newgate Street, Morpeth NE61 1BU**

Name of child:

Name of parent:

Address of child: