

newsandviews

Wakefield District Information Service

Issue 2 Winter 2010

WeSail Is Go

The new Wakefield Early Support Advice Information and Liaison Service (WeSail) was officially launched on the 27th of January at Wakefield Trinity Wildcat's Belle Vue Stadium. This service is the result of extensive consultation with parents and key professionals from across the Wakefield District.

WeSail is jointly funded by Wakefield Council and NHS Wakefield District and delivered by KIDS, the disabled children's charity. The service is a first stop for families of disabled children and offers information, specialist support and guidance. Further support is available in the form of a Designated Keyworker Service and also a Multi Agency Team which consists of a Connexions worker, Health Professional and Children and Families worker.

The launch was well attended by a range of professionals from across the Wakefield district and provided an excellent networking opportunity. The WeSail team intend to hold a launch event for families in the near future.



The WeSail team together with Caroline Slater - Programme Manager Joint Commissioning, Wakefield Council, and Sue Cawkwell - KIDS Yorkshire and Humber Regional Director.

Councilor Pat Garbutt, Wakefield Council's cabinet member for children and young people, said:

"This is an excellent example of the Council and PCT working together with a key charity to provide what we believe will be a valuable service for parents. Knowing support and guidance is out there can make a real difference to the lives of families and young people."

For more information about WeSail:

Call: 01924 379015

E-mail: wesail@kids.org.uk

Stay tuned to News and Views for more details.

Parents Conference



Keep Thursday the 4th of March 2010 free in your diary. A Parents Conference is taking place at Pontefract Race Course from 9am until 2:30pm. The event is free and promises to be a thoroughly enjoyable and informative day for parents and carers.

There will be a range of information stands and displays from organisations ranging from DIAL and Mencap, to specialist retailers such as Racketys and Seenin. Informative workshops on issues such as The Mental Capacity Act and Services and support for Disabled children and Young People in Wakefield will also be taking place during the day. A formal sit down lunch will be provided and as an extra treat there will also be pampering sessions and a manicurist available.

You'll have to act quickly though, places are strictly limited and filling up fast. The closing date to apply for a place is the 23rd of February. If you need assistance with childcare or transport in order to attend the conference then call 07776163508 or 07881637534 to discuss your needs.



"There will also be pampering sessions and a manicurist available"

For further information or to book a place contact:

Wakefield Carers between 9:30am and 4:30pm on **01924 305544**

Get online with Home Access

Home Access is a government drive which will help low-income families to get access to a computer and the internet to get online at home. If you are a low income family in receipt of certain benefits you could qualify for a grant to buy a computer and/or a minimum of one years' internet access.

The programme is aimed at those that need it most and targets families that do not have access to a computer or the internet at home.

For more information visit www.homeaccess.org.uk or call the Home Access Grant Helpline on **0333 200 1004**



The Connect Service

The Connect service is a short break service available to families who care for disabled children within Wakefield. It is one of a range of services provided by Wakefield Council's Home Based Breaks Service. The Connect service aims to provide children with stimulating and enjoyable activities within a family environment.

Connect carers are linked to children & young people aged between 0–18 years who have a significant sensory, learning or physical disability. Children will be offered a placement with one carer whom they will visit on a regular basis. This ensures consistency and enables the carer, child and family to get to know one other.

The parent of a young lady visiting a Connect Carer says:

“My daughter loves visiting her Connect carer, she loves chatting and being girly with the other young ladies in the house. Although I miss her when she's away, I have time to do things for myself too, so when she comes home we have lots to talk about.”

Connect Carers come from all walks of life, they have a background in child care and share the enthusiasm of wanting to support a child in a safe and caring environment.

Connect Carer Sue tells her story:

“I originally took on the role because I was suffering empty nest syndrome when my son moved away, but working with Connect has become so much more.”

“I have children that I see regularly; they all have different needs and personalities and are a joy to care for. It's so rewarding knowing that you've made a difference to a child and their family.”

“I can honestly say it's one of the best things I've ever done.”

The Connect service has a number of registered day and overnight carers, who offer care to children within their own homes. Day carers are registered child minders, with a 'good' rated OFSTED report. Overnight Connect carers are assessed in the same way as foster carers, but undertake this very specific role. All Connect Carers are subject to a criminal records check.

If you are interested in hearing more about the Connect Scheme and how to access it, or would like information about becoming a Connect Carer please contact Lisa Thomas on 01924 304097 or Anne Osborne on 01924 302105.



“I like staying with my carers because we go out for walks with the dogs and visit different places. I enjoy being with the other children in the house, we play games and watch films together”

25 years of...

DIAL Wakefield has been successfully providing advice and practical help for 25 years in the Wakefield District. In 2008 and 2009 DIAL helped citizens of the Wakefield District successfully obtain benefit claims valued in excess of £1.8 Million. This is vital income, helping to maintain a standard of life for those with disabilities living within our district.

The DIAL service provides an independent advice and information facility to disabled people, their carers, families and the statutory sector for anything directly relating to disability and/or caring. This is available for everyone residing within the Wakefield District.

DIAL has dealt with a number of successful Welfare Rights applications for Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Incapacity Benefit, including appeal work and representation in all of those areas. DIAL sells the keys for the RADAR national key scheme for adapted toilets. DIAL also has a small equipment loan service which includes wheelchairs and ramps.

Pictured are founding members of DIAL Wakefield, Mrs Maureen Brook and Mr Peter Westwood, each receiving an engraved wine glass commemorating 25 years since they got DIAL operating in 1983. These are being presented by Mr David Francis, Chair of the Trustee Board and a DIAL volunteer advisor.



To use the service or to volunteer with DIAL contact Beverley Land:

Call: 01977 723933 / 01977 723933

E-mail: advice@dialwakefield.co.uk.

Telephone lines are open from 9:30am to 4:00pm Monday to Thursday.

Every Child Matters

The General election will soon be upon us and the Every Disabled Child Matters campaign team are asking supporters to E-mail their MPs to find out what commitments they will be making within their party manifesto to improve services and resources for disabled children and their families.

To participate and support the campaign visit www.ncb.org.uk/edcm/home.aspx
Or join their Facebook group at www.facebook.com/everydisabledchildmatters

Carer's Alert Card

If you provide substantial care for an adult or a child with a disability the Carer's Emergency Alert Card Scheme may help you. To participate all you need to do is complete an application form and nominate substitute carers in case of an emergency. This may be family, friends or anyone else, but they should be someone you and the person you care for know and trust. They must agree to be nominated first, so make sure you ask them.

All the information that you provide will be kept confidential and won't be used for any other purpose. The card doesn't have any personal information on it other than your name and a reference number and the scheme is free to join.

The card has a 24 hour emergency telephone number on it. If you are involved in an emergency and you cannot care for the person you usually care for, then you or someone on your behalf can telephone this number and let them know what has happened. They will then contact the people you have nominated. If they cannot be reached or are unable to help then the scheme will arrange for up to 48 hours support for the person you care for, in their own home.

Your social worker, local carers centre or social care direct will be able to give you an application form to complete. Once returned you will then be sent a carers emergency card. This card will have your name and a reference number on the back, which in an emergency needs to be quoted. Once you have your card please make sure that you carry it with you.

For more information contact social care direct 08458503503

Kingsland C.A.P.S



Kingsland CAPS is a support group that aims to offer all parents and carers of a child with special needs living within the Wakefield District the chance to be able to come together as a group and meet regularly during term time. In doing so they hope that families that are newly diagnosed or are further along the road can be supportive of each other and offer ideas and suggestions on the practicalities of day to day living with a child with special needs.

The group's times and venues are varied so as to try and make the group available to all. They organise purely social nights out, for some fun 'time out'. Kingsland CAPS also arrange activities in some of the school holidays that the whole family are able to attend. Members of the Kingsland CAPS committee also attend the Parents Reference Group on a regular basis. This enables the views and opinions from the group's members to be brought to the attention of the local authority, in order to improve & influence local services.

**For further information or to join the group please contact Linsey Allott:
Call: 07917853487.**

Website www.kingslandcarers.btik.com

Facebook Request to join the Kingsland C.A.P.S. group!

Aiming High Update

Aiming High is the Government's transformation programme for disabled children. This is supported by funding, particularly for short breaks, from 2009-2011. The way in which we are spending the extra money in Wakefield was decided by looking at recommendations from local reviews, focus groups and from listening to families and disabled young people. Wakefield Council and the NHS Wakefield District already run three overnight residential short break units, a shared care unit and a busy outreach service (the Home Based Break Service). Aiming High is giving us the opportunity to develop a wider range of breaks and to make sure that more disabled young people and their families get the opportunity to benefit from a short break. It is also about supporting mainstream providers so that they can more confidently include disabled children in their activities.

The Revenue: How are we doing?

323 children and young people enjoyed a short break or play scheme place from 2002-2009. With the help of Aiming High, this number will rise to about 400 (2009-2010). More children and their families have had a break:

- From 'in house' services, such as the Home Based Break Service
- From commissioned services such as Barnardo's Leisure Inclusion Service – funded by Wakefield Council with a contribution from Aiming High money.
- By taking part in play schemes and holiday activities
- By using Direct Payments
- With an Individual budget – as part of an early implementation for young people aged 14+

What about next year?

We will continue to develop these services next year and there are also plans for some new projects. We are hoping to support some young people from Oakfield Park Special School so they can take part in the Duke Of Edinburgh Bronze Award. We are commissioning Scope's Awake Project to offer a mentoring service to young people aged 14+ and we are working hard to develop our 'Where this Weekend' project.

A bit more about 'Where this Weekend'

This is a new project being offered to young people aged 16 and 17 years. It is being developed because young people told us that they would like to have breaks away from home – but would like to choose where they had their break – such as by the seaside or at an activity centre. Young people on the project, supported by an experienced group of staff, will enjoy weekends away and will be very much involved in deciding where they go. If you or your child would like to know more about this project, please call Julie Hutchfield on 07776163508 or E-mail her on jhutchfield@wakefield.gov.uk



Look out for a further update on Aiming High in the next newsletter!

Summer 2010

Play schemes and holiday activities will be available across the district for children and young people with additional needs. These will be run by a range of providers including the Home Based Break Service, Schools and Voluntary organisations. Last year an under 5's play scheme took place in the Early Years Assessment Centre at Pinders Primary school. The plan this year is for there to be play schemes for under 5's based in three Children's Centres across the district. As soon as dates are finalised, details of all these schemes will be sent out to support groups and via the Information Network. You will also be able to see this information online at www.wakefieldsd.org.uk

The Capital: How are we doing?

The Aiming High programme has been given extra capital to support the short break programme. This is being spent in ways that support children and young people with complex health needs to more fully access a wider range of social and leisure activities – over and above DDA. The capital programme is led by a steering group which include parents.

Using this money, we have already been able to purchase an adapted vehicle for the Home Based Break Service and specialist equipment for play schemes. Plans continue to ensure that our playgrounds are inclusive, to provide equipment and adaptations so that children with complex health needs can use sporting and swimming facilities, and to make sure that Wakefield has at least three well equipped 'Changing Places' across the district. We are in the process of setting up a small grants scheme so that VCS providers can bid for money to purchase equipment which makes their activities more accessible to children with complex health needs. This Capital Grants scheme will be administered by Barnardo's Leisure Inclusion Project. The scheme will be widely advertised to all Voluntary organisations.

And...?

We have our first dataset which tells us about the numbers of disabled children and young people who live in Wakefield. This will guide our future planning.

We are working on an 'access guidance' document which will make clear to families the sort of support that is available for them in Wakefield.

Wakefield Council and NHS Wakefield District are funding a new service – Wakefield's Early Support, Advice, Information and Liaison service (WeSail). This has been commissioned from KIDS who can be contacted on 01924 379015 – see front page!

And finally

We always want to know what you think, so if you have suggestions or comments or would like to know more about the Aiming High Programme in Wakefield, please ring Caroline Slater; Programme manager (Joint Commissioning) on 07881637534



Dogs for the Disabled

Dogs for the Disabled is a life-transforming charity, offering freedom and independence through partnership between people living with disability and specially trained assistance dogs. Each assistance dog is trained to undertake practical tasks including opening doors, retrieving items that may have been dropped or are out of reach or bark on command to raise the alarm when help is needed. An 'assistance dog for autism' supports a family with a child affected by autism. Each dog acts as a continuous focus, enabling a child to remain calm in places they may have previously found too challenging. Eight year old Sam has muscular dystrophy and was partnered with his dog Josie last year. Sam said:

"Josie is the best friend I have. I want to tell everyone just how special she is because now I can do things on my own without having to ask my little sister or parents. Things were rubbish before she came to love me."



For more information contact Rowan Martin on 01924 860699

www.dogsforthedisabled.org

Get Started

For more information contact Get Started on 01924 239250

Barnardo's Out of School Leisure/Activity Inclusion Service has recently had a facelift. The 'Get Started' scheme funded by Wakefield Council will support young people with a disability, aged 5-19, to attend mainstream leisure activities of their choice, in their area.

Parents, carers, professionals and even young people themselves can make referrals to the service. Get Started's sessional workers will then meet with the chosen activity providers and support the young person to take part in the group activities.

Child Trust Fund Payments

The Government will contribute £100 every year to the Child Trust Fund accounts of all disabled children, with severely disabled children receiving £200 per year. All children born on or after 1 September 2002 have a Child Trust Fund account. Family and friends can also contribute up to £1,200 per year into these.

Disabled children who are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance who are born on or after 1 September 2002 will receive an additional £100 every year into their Child Trust Fund accounts. Severely disabled children, those who receive the High rate Care component of Disability Living Allowance, will receive £200 per year.

These payments will not count towards the £1,200 yearly contribution limit. The payments will start in April 2010 for children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance at any point in 2009-10.

www.childtrustfund.gov.uk

Coalfields Cash put to good use

A community sports club for young people with physical and learning disabilities in Wakefield is running cycling sessions on a range of adapted bicycles, thanks to a cash boost from The Coalfields Regeneration Trust (CRT).

The £5,000 grant awarded by the Trust to The Mulberry Club has helped them purchase adapted bicycles and pay to train volunteers as cycle leaders. The club's first group of volunteers have already trained to become accredited leaders. Its 'Wheels for All' project is now up and running after a series of popular showcase events at Havercroft Sports Centre.

Gail Tombs of The Mulberry Club said:

"The CRT's support has enabled this project to be set up as a valuable community leisure resource which can be accessed by all people, young and old, with and without disabilities. Wheels for All is a fun way of staying active and healthy, promoting confidence, engaging with others and making friends."

Open sessions are held on the second Saturday of every month. The next available sessions are 13th March and 10th April.

To book a place at £2 for one hour please ring 01226 723659



Other community groups like The Mulberry Club can boost their activities using grants from the CRT's Bridging the Gap (BtG) programme. In the charity's latest funding round (April 2008-March 2011), 167 groups in Yorkshire have received BtG grants totalling £1,145,483.

Grants from £500 to £5,000 are available to cover the total cost of a project, or as a contribution to a larger scheme. Projects should improve opportunities for residents of coalfield communities, for example, by preparing them for work, improving skills, encouraging active leisure pursuits or providing community transport schemes.

The BtG application process has been kept as simple as possible, however, help and support is available from the team based at the CRT's Yorkshire office in the Dearne Valley.

Ann Hammond, Small Grants Co-ordinator for Bridging the Gap says:

"We are here to help groups with the application process, but we can also help them develop their ideas and make sure they apply for the maximum amount of funding."



Most community and voluntary groups working to regenerate coalfield communities are eligible to apply for CRT funding. To check if your group is eligible, and for more information:

Contact Neil on 01709 765573 or visit www.coalfields.regen.org.uk

Disabled Young Persons Forum

On Saturday 30th January a group of disabled young people held their first Disabled Young Person's Forum Meeting. Some of the group had been involved in the development and planning of this forum during last year, however many of the young people were meeting for the first time.

This forum has been developed in response to a request made by Wakefield Council. The group has been brought together by Barnardo's, Wakefield C.A.P.S (Children's Advocacy and Participation Service), and Wakefield Y.D.S.S. (Youth Development and Support Service).

The idea is that disabled young people from across the Wakefield district meet together to discuss issues that are important to them. The information will then be passed on to Wakefield Council who have promised to listen and take account of what young people say when they are making decisions about services for young people in the district.

Members of Wakefield Council may also come to the young people's meetings to consult directly with the group. Two members of the group will be representatives on the planned new Wakefield Youth Council to ensure that disabled young people's voices are heard there too.

The young people who come to the Disabled Young Person's Forum will eventually consult with other disabled young people in the Wakefield District to get their ideas, views and opinions about what matters to them.

The group also decided that they will make reports about their meetings by making a DVD at each session, a bit like a TV news report. These meetings will be fun, as there will be lots of activities as well as lots of talking. It was decided that the group will meet once a month and they may also get out and about a bit more, in order to take part in things across the district and have some fun days out, just for themselves.

At the first meeting the group worked with members of Action Space Mobile to design a logo for the forum



Are you interested in finding out more about the forum?

Are you aged 13-25 and are interested in coming along to meetings and joining in?

Your transport costs will be paid so you can attend!



If so please contact
Bridget O'Brien:

01977 722020

bridget.obrien@barnardos.org.uk

Look out for the finished masterpiece in the next newsletter!

Parents Reference Group

The Parents Reference Group meet every 6 weeks to steer the way parents are involved in service monitoring and development, and to discuss the issues that are important as a parent /carer of a disabled child/young person in the Wakefield District.

In an attempt to reach more parents/carers and encourage participation, the next four meetings have a roving venue and a theme of 'Professionals You Might Meet and their Roles'.

Professionals from Social Work, Nursing, Therapy and Child Mental Health have been invited to give a short overview of services in relation to disabled children.

The meetings are 10am – 12pm and lunch will be provided afterwards.

Your experiences, thoughts and ideas are really important, so please try to come along. Other venue suggestions and topics for speakers for future meetings are always welcomed.

If you would like support with childcare or transport to any of the meetings, Please contact 07776 163508 or 07881 637534 to discuss your needs.

Please come along and share your thoughts and ideas!



Thursday 25 th March	PONTEFRACT St Mary's Community Centre, The Circle, Chequerfields, Pontefract WF8 2AY
Thursday 20 th May	HAVERCROFT Havercroft & Ryhill Sports and Youth Centre, Off Mulberry Ave, Havercroft WF4 2BD
Thursday 22 nd July	AGBRIGG Agbrigg & Belle Vue Community Centre, Montague Street, Wakefield WF1 5AU
Thurs 23 rd September	LUPSET St George's Community Centre, Broadway, Lupset, Wakefield WF2 8AA

Cross Keys Saturday club

The Saturday Club at Cross Keys YPC is an open access youth provision developed for young people between the ages of 13 and 19. These young people are managing either a physical and/or mental disability, or a learning difficulty.

The club runs from 1:30pm until 4:00pm on Saturday afternoons. Young people get the opportunity to engage in a wide range of activities at the club, including baking and cooking activities, arts and crafts, pool, table football, air hockey, themed discos and learning new skills. Outside organisations also visit the club to deliver specialist activities to the young people.

Visiting the club enables young people to develop their social and life skills through both their interactions with other young people, and the staff team within the provision. This in turn helps to build the young peoples' personal skills, self confidence and self esteem.

For more information call Youth Development & Support Services on 01924 305181.

Awake Mentoring Service

Funded by NHS Wakefield District and Wakefield MDC, The Awake Mentoring Service is a free, person centered mentoring service for young people and adults aged 14+ with a disability, long term health condition or learning difficulty. The service is available to any mentee who is registered with a Wakefield District GP practice.



Most of the trained mentors have lived experience of disability or long term health conditions themselves and they meet regularly with their mentees, working alongside them and supporting them to achieve their personal goals. This could be anything from building confidence, making friends and meeting people, trying something new, finding new hobbies, interests or skills, to volunteering opportunities, training or employment. Meetings are arranged where you choose – a local café or community centre, or they can be at the service's office. You can expect your mentor to be a positive role model, share experiences, listen and encourage, offer different ideas and choices and do something with you – but not for you.

You need no formal qualifications to become a mentor, but lived experience of disability or a long term health condition is an advantage. Full training and out of pocket expenses are provided.

For more information contact:

Claire Beaumont: 01924 334580

Farzana Aziz: 01924 334582.

E-mail: awakementoring@scope.org.uk

Wakefield Parent Partnership

Parents and carers of children with special educational needs and disabilities want to play their part in their child's education, but sometimes it can feel like an uphill struggle. Every Local Authority has a Parent Partnership Service to give help and support to all parents of children with special educational needs and disabilities, including those parents whose children don't have a statement of special educational needs. Wakefield's parent partnership service is free, impartial and confidential. Our aim is to try to develop partnerships between parents, schools and the Local Authority and try to help resolve any problems that might occur.

We provide support to parents and carers by;

- Listening to concerns and talking things through
- Giving advice and information
- Helping with letter and report writing
- Attending meetings to support parents and carers
- Discussing specialist advice
- Helping explain procedure and statements
- Supporting parents/carers through disagreement resolution
- Explaining appeal procedures

For more information:

Call: 0800 5878042

E-mail: parentpartnership@wakefield.gov.uk

www.wakefieldparentpartnership.org.uk

Lines open 8:30am - 5:00pm Mon-Thu
8:30am - 4:30pm Fri



Hi, I'm Omar Shefta, editor of News and Views. I hope you enjoyed this second newsletter. News and Views is available in a range of formats and languages, including Braille and audiotape, if you'd like to request an alternative copy, please use the contact details below. I'd welcome your comments, views and also suggestions for future articles and stories. Please feel free to get in touch with me on 01924 379015 or alternatively E-mail me at omar.shefta@kids.org.uk. I look forward to hearing from you in the future.



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