

newsandviews

Wakefield Information Network

Issue 6 Spring 2011

Parents' Conference 2011

Following on from the success of last year's event, details of this year's Parents' Conference have been announced. The event will take place on Monday the 7th of March, at Minsthorpe Training and Conference Centre and will run from 9:45am until 2:30pm.

The free conference is being run by the Parents' Reference Group. The Reference Group has run many events over the past 3 years, including last summer's Sports 4 U event, numerous soft play information events, a Christmas party and also family fun days. The group has been operated by Carers Wakefield since January 2011.

Wakefield's Parents' Reference Group is a leading consultative group for parents of disabled children and young people living in the Wakefield District. It has established good partnership relationships between parents, the local authority and related services and provides an opportunity for direct discussion to improve the knowledge and understanding of all partners and inform future policy and practice.



There was plenty of glamour at last year's conference.



Useful information is always readily available for Parents.

Parents have been consulted on what workshops and information stands they would like. As a result there will be three workshops, of which parents will be able to choose to do two. These are 'Growing up' by Bronwyn Roberts from Huddersfield University, 'Back care' by Julie Webster, plus an Autism workshop run by SENSS.

There will be a demonstration of special needs toys/sensory toys by suppliers. Information stalls from KIDS, Carers Wakefield, Telecare and others will also be available.

This year's introductory speeches will be delivered by Councillor Margaret Isherwood and Ian Bradbury of Carers, Wakefield and District. There will also be a complimentary hot lunch. Please be aware that if you wish to attend you MUST pre-book.

If you require support with childcare or transport to attend the conference, please mention this when you book your place.

The event is totally free but places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. This event is for parents & carers only, children cannot attend. In order to book your place contact: **Carers Wakefield** on **01924 305544** between 9:30am and 4:30pm.



Dogs For The Disabled; Boarding

Bored this winter? Do some boarding!

Have the winter blues set in? Would you like to take on a new challenge, start a new exercise regime and help a great cause? Dogs for the Disabled are looking for canine carers in the Wakefield area to give their dogs bed and breakfast. So you could fill the cold, miserable months with a rewarding new role.

The charity, which provides assistance dogs for children and adults with disabilities, need local people and families to become temporary boarders and provide a loving home for a dog while it completes the final phase of its training. So if you have longed for a family dog, but working makes this impossible, temporary boarding gives the enjoyment of having the company of a dog during evenings and weekends without the full time commitment.

Applicants need to be able to provide a home for an adult dog for 2 to 3 months and must live within a short distance of the charity's North of England centre in the grounds of Nostell Priory, near Wakefield. Ideally temporary boarders will drop their dog off for training in the morning, from Monday to Friday, and collect him or her in the evening after 5pm.

No previous experience of handling dogs is necessary as full training will be given. All dogs have great obedience skills and have lived in family homes previously and can normally be homed with other pets and with children. The charity also provides everything the dog will need for its stay including food, equipment and veterinary care – meaning you can enjoy your time with the dog at no cost to yourself!

Helen Harper, trainer with Dogs for the Disabled said “Our temporary boarders provide a fantastic service caring for our dogs while they complete their advanced training, before they are matched to a child or adult with disabilities to begin working as an assistance dog. Having a dog in your home can be fun for your kids and helps to get the family fit with its daily exercise routine.”

If you are interested in finding out more about joining the temporary boarding scheme please contact **Helen Harper** on **01924 860899** or E-mail helen.harper@dogsforthedisabled.org.

Please note, the charity is looking for boarders for young adult dogs and currently do not require any boarders for puppies.



Dogs for the Disabled



Could this be you?

New Dates & Venues for Kingsland C.A.P.S. Meetings

The ever popular Kingsland CAPS Group are pleased to announce the details for their forthcoming meetings:



The second Thursday of every month - 10th Feb, 10th Mar, 12th May, 9th Jun, 14th Jul.

From **12:30pm** until **2:30pm** at **Sandal Magna Community Primary School**, Belle Vue Road, Wakefield, WF1 5NF

The last Thursday of every month - 31st Mar, 28th Apr, 26th May, 30th Jun, 21st Jul.

From **12:30pm** until **2:30pm** at **Kendal Drive Centre**, Kendal Drive, Ferry Fryston, Castleford, WF10 3SP

Time To Sleep... Again!

Due to the popularity of February's workshop, the Time2Sleep workshop is returning to Wakefield in March. The workshop is ideal for parents and staff who support families where a child has an additional need. Attendance can help maximise potential for early interventions and raise awareness of sleep problems and their effect, as well as increasing skills, knowledge and resources.



Parents places are free of charge and practitioners places are £85 per delegate. The day will run from **9:30 am** until **2:30pm** on **Thursday 24th March** at **Fit4Funding (The Charities Information Bureau), 93 Lawefield Lane, Wakefield, WF2 8SU**. The training is delivered by a highly experienced sleep practitioner.

To book your place contact **Vicki** on **0771 4853763** or email **vicki@face2facenetwork.org.uk** or visit **www.sleepsolutions.org.uk**

Play schemes 2011



Parents have said that they would like to know the dates of available play schemes and holiday clubs as early as possible, as this helps to plan holidays/ working arrangements across the Summer Holidays.

To support this request, there is dedicated information available on the Wakefield Family Information Service website, under the "Disabled Children, Young People & their Families" section. In order to keep parents as informed as possible, this webpage will be regularly updated with details of play schemes/ holiday clubs as they are confirmed.

Contact numbers for other providers are also listed, so that parents can ring for an informal discussion.

For further information visit www.wakefieldfis.org.uk

Askability.org.uk

Askability.org.uk, hosted by The Children's Society, features content for disabled children and young people who have difficulty reading.

The site features news and details of events, clubs and activities in their local area in a pictorial format. It uses the symbol language Widgit, which consists of more than 10,000 simply drawn representations of concepts. A standard text version of the story accompanies the pictures. It also has a forum for young people to share their experiences, again entirely in symbol-form.



One Askability user said: "I'm profoundly deaf and use an electric wheelchair because I have cerebral palsy. My first language is British Sign Language, not English. Askability has opened up a new world for me and my friends."

The Children's Society plan to roll out a social networking function on the site over the next year.

Visit www.askability.org.uk to check it out for yourself.

The Holiday Club

The Holiday club is a group of young people and helpful adults that meet to plan trips and fun activities for young people with special needs in the Wakefield District. If money is needed for these things, we also try to secure that. The group was founded in January 2003 and is currently made up of a group of young people aged above with a variety of disabilities.

There are usually four or five meetings a year, but we also do plenty of fun things as well. In April last year we had a three day drama project, on the final day our members put on a performance for their parents. During October there were trips to Clumber Park and Flamingoland. Plans for this year include a Sports Day during February half-term. A Prom will be held in March to which all Holiday Club members are invited, as a thank you for their hard work. All activities are supported by staff from the Home Based Break Service.

If you would like to have more say in what you get to do in the Wakefield area and have some good ideas, why don't you join the Holiday Club? Its fun to do and you can make some new friends. At the moment there are eight members, but there is room for up to six more.

For more information contact **Tracey Jones** on **07770 221116**.

World Down Syndrome Day

Ann-Marie Sheard and some enthusiastic helpers are organising a fantastic family fun day event to celebrate World Down's Syndrome Day from **1pm** until **4pm** on **Sunday 20th March** at **Nostell Priory**.

Everyone is welcome and the event promises something for everyone. Planned activities include a dog agility show, dancing, multi sports, face painting, Jo Jingles, signed stories and songs, cakes, arts, crafts and lots more.



Anglers Country Park Disabled Changing Facility

The new Changing Places standard facility was opened at Anglers at the beginning of February 2011, following the refurbishment and extension of an existing disabled toilet. The facility has been funded from the Aiming High for Disabled Children Capital grant.



Time for
a quick
change?



The new facility has an overhead tracking hoist and height adjustable changing bench. It is on a radar lock and keys are available from the visitors centre.

Anglers Country Park is a fantastic day out for the family and features a 2 mile lakeside walk, a woodland walk and the lake is a 'Site of Scientific Interest' for migratory birds. Other features at the park include picnic areas, a cafe, free car parking with disabled bays, 'Kiddies Corner' with puzzles, games and craft activities. Electric mobility scooters are available on loan, free of charge. Current opening hours are **10:30am** to **3:30pm**, **Tuesday** to **Sunday**.

For more information about Anglers Country Park call **01924 303980** or visit **www.wakefield.gov.uk**

Fore more details on Changing Places visit **www.changing-places.org**

KIDS Christmas Party

On Friday 10th December 2010, Wakefield Wildcats Belle Vue Stadium was the place to be as the KIDS team hosted their fantastic Christmas Party, for families who use their services. The two function rooms were transformed into areas perfect for festive fun and frolics and were filled as 150 people attended the party.

Santa's workshop was clearly missing a few Elves, as the team had been busy throughout the day making sure everything was set up in advance of the evening's festivities. It's fair to say that the results of their hard-work were spectacular, as an indoor winter wonderland, complete with an 8 foot tall Snowman, Reindeer, ice lake and snowstorm, proved to be the centre piece of the party.



Team Elf decided to move out of Motorsport



Make sure you leave me a Mince Pie & then I'll see you in two weeks.

There were plenty of games and activities for the boys and girls too, including Christmas Tree decoration making, Present Bag designing, lucky dip in snow and a DJ amongst some of the things to do. Daddy Cool also put in a surprise appearance. Delicious food was also on offer, featuring a wide variety of Christmas cakes and treats, as well as Sandwiches and even Angel Delight.

The real highlight for everyone though was when the special guest arrived. Father Christmas himself was on hand, along with Rudolph, to reward all the girls and boys for being good during the past twelve months and he had brought presents for them all and even some lucky helpers too. As all the delighted families returned home having thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the children content in the knowledge that Santa would be visiting them again in only two weeks, the Elves were left to clean up another fine mess. However the head Elf will tell you that it was all worth it.

KIDS would like to say a big thank you to Alan Little and all our helpers on the night, without whom the party wouldn't have been a success. We hope to see you at future events. Also thanks to Stuart McMullan Photography, for the excellent pictures.

Accessible Gaming

The Leeds based William Merritt centre now run accessible gaming sessions. These are open to children and young people, parents, siblings and also professionals.

You will have the opportunity to access games consoles such as Playstation and Nintendo Wii, using switch adaptors. The opportunity will be there to play independently or as part of a team.

An initial individual appointment may be needed to identify what equipment you need.

The sessions will be held on **Tuesday 22nd February**, **Friday 3rd June** and **Tuesday 25th October**, all from **1pm** until **4pm**, at the **William Merritt Centre**, St Mary's Hospital, Green Hill Road, Armley, Leeds, **LS12 3QE**.



For more information contact the centre on **0113 305 5332** or visit www.williammerritleeds.org

Wakefield Able 2 Club

What would you like to be able to do?

That's what a group of young people, their parents and friends asked each other after taking part in a very successful Wheelchair skills training course which was held at Freeston Sports Centre in Normanton in the Autumn of 2006. The parents suggested that this had been the first time there had been activities geared specifically towards children who had physical disabilities and they were keen for more. And so the Wakefield Able2 Club was born.

The Club has come such a long way since then and yet so many of those early members are still with the club and now help with the running of club activities. The Club has moved its location from Freeston to Featherstone, where there are the Sports Centre facilities, an accessible Fitness Suite, Astro-Turf Football pitches and of course the Featherstone Swimming Pool.



Wheelchair racing with Linford Christie and Darren Campbell

Wheelchair activities still form a large part of what Able2 has to offer – from Wheelchair training courses through to dynamic Wheelchair sports. One thing that has remained consistent from the time Able2 was created is the multi-sports Saturday Club. Here members, their families and friends are able to sample a variety of different activities. There is lots of specialised equipment available that make it possible for young people who have physical disabilities to try all sorts of sports. On a Saturday the emphasis is always on making sure that everyone feels included, is able to make friends and enjoy themselves. We like to think of the Saturday Club in the Wakefield Able2 Club as our 'parent club'. So what about the rest of the family? There's just about something for everyone.

On Monday evenings there is the Yorkshire CP Football Club that trains on the outside Astro-Turf pitches. This Club has teams in the National CP League and in the more local West Riding County FA Ability Counts League. New for this season is our Wheelchair Football Club, who are looking for enthusiastic Powerchair users who would like to play this exciting game.

One of the activities that members enjoy on a Saturday is the game known as Boccia. Those who have chosen to play this game in competition attend the Wednesday Boccia Club and play in several Regional and National events. Our club is regarded as a Centre of Excellence in West Yorkshire for Boccia, something we're quite proud of.



Boccia the new sport of kings

Many of the members enjoy the Thursday Swimming Club and again some have trained hard and take part in competitions all over the country. Non-swimmers are encouraged to come along on a Thursday evening and we have a group of willing swimming volunteers that can offer one-to-one support in the water.



Beware the Yellow Whirlwinds

Featherstone is recognised as the Regional Development Centre for Wheelchair Basketball and it's on a Friday evening that our Wheelchair Basketball team, the Wakefield Whirlwinds, meet and train. The club has grown dramatically over the last two years and now has U-15 and U-19 teams in the Lord's Taverners Junior League, as well as a team in the Division 4 League.

If its Rugby League that you enjoy then the Whirlwinds also have a Wheelchair Rugby League Team in the National Championship League. So if you or someone in your family or maybe a friend or relative has a physical disability

and would like to try some new and exciting activities – it could be Boccia or Kurling on a Saturday or playing Football with others with similar abilities or whizzing around with the Whirlwinds – why not contact someone from the Able2 group of Clubs. You may just want to make friends but, you never know – you could be one of the future Paralympians. Just come along and see what you are able2 do.

All Able2 Clubs are based at **Featherstone Sports Centre**, Featherstone Technology College, Pontefract Road, Featherstone, WF7 5AJ.

Monday: Yorkshire CP and Able2 Football **5:30pm – 6:45pm**

Wednesday: Boccia Club **6:00pm – 7:00pm**

Thursday: Swimming Club **6:15pm – 7:15pm**

Friday: Whirlwinds Wheelchair Basketball **6:15pm - 8:00pm**

Saturday: Able2 Club (multi-sports) **11:00am – 1:00pm**



Were the Able2 Club trying out for Hawaii 5-0?

For more information contact **Steve Greatorex** on **01977 709576** or E-mail greatorex_s@sky.com or visit www.able2.org.uk

Wakefield and District Parents in Partnership Forum

The Parents in Partnership, (PiP), Forum is a group for parents/ carers and voluntary groups and organisations who have an interest in Special Education Needs, (SEN), to meet with representatives of the Local Authority, (Family Services, Speech and Language etc).

Meetings are held four times a year, with the times alternating between 6:00pm to 8:00pm and 7:00pm to 9:00pm. The meetings are organised by Wakefield Parent Partnership but are chaired independently, usually by a parent.

The purpose of the meetings is to provide a forum for parents/carers and voluntary groups and the LA to discuss national and local SEN policy, practice, commissioning and delivery of services within our district. The meetings are informal and are held in a spirit of openness and collaboration, with representatives of the various organisations attending the meetings to discuss those issues which impact on families of children with SEN.

Whilst the PiP Forums are not the place to resolve personal issues, the relaying of personal experience is critical to the formation of policy and practice and is, therefore, welcomed. The PiP Forums are parent driven and are a real opportunity for parents/carers and voluntary groups to meet with the decision makers and the service providers within our area. They are also an opportunity to question current policy and practice and, more importantly, to have your views heard and to be involved in the ongoing formation and delivery of those policies and services.

Why not come along to the next meeting which is on **Wednesday 27th April** from **6:00pm to 8:00pm** in **Room 1 of Wakefield Town Hall**.

For further information please E-mail either **Gary Cooper** at gcooper2@wakefield.gov.uk or **Geoff Tulley** at g.tulley@sky.com

Michaelmas Parent Support Group

Do you have a child with 'special' or 'additional' needs? Would you like support from other parents feeling the same? Come along for a coffee, a chat and share your experiences. Helping us to support each other.

The group runs every **Monday morning** during term time, from **9:15am to 11:15am** at **Michaelmas Children's Centre**, Flanshaw Lane, Wakefield, **WF2 9JA**.

For more information contact the Centre on **01924 303747**



Coffee & a chat does it get much better?

What is CAF?

How will CAF help my family?

Sometimes you and/or your child may need extra support. Services who work with your child want to find workable solutions quickly, so the situation doesn't get any worse. The Common Assessment Framework or CAF can help support your family and make sure you and your child are placed at the heart of decisions made about your child.

It is your family and your CAF!

The CAF process means you only need tell your story once and you should have one single point of contact.

How does it happen?

Someone who works with your child may suggest a CAF or you may ask for a CAF if you think your child could do with extra support.

What happens?

You will have a guided conversation with the worker completing the CAF form. Your worker, with your permission, may ask other people to contribute to completing the form. For example, they may talk to school, consultants or therapists who may work with your child. Where appropriate, these people will form part of the team, who will look to find solutions to support you and your child.

Someone will be identified, or you may choose, who should be your "lead professional" or you may already have either a Keyworker or a Designated Keyworker. The lead professional or the Keyworker is the person who will co-ordinate the team of practitioners around you, to provide support and ensure the work is planned and co-ordinated to avoid duplication and prevent you from needing to re-tell your story to different people.

Once the CAF form is completed you will be asked to sign it. So you know all that is in it and can agree this, you will also be able to decide who else the CAF is shared with. Sometimes a meeting maybe called. This is known as a "CAF meeting". We have one of these if more work is needed from the "team around the child".

This allows you and those involved a chance to discuss solutions and to help move things forward. At the end of the meeting there should be a "CAF Plan". This outlines the actions that have been agreed, so you know what everyone has agreed to do, who is responsible and when they will do it. The lead professional or Keyworker will ensure the plan is delivered.

Where appropriate children and young people may contribute to their CAF and may attend the CAF meeting.

One of the most important things to remember is the CAF process is voluntary, you and your child can choose who is involved.

For more information about CAF contact the **CAF Team** on **01977 722331** or E-mail **cafteam@wakefield.gov.uk** or visit **www.wakefield.gov.uk/caf**

Stay Safe Online

CEOP, (Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre), have developed some accessible clips and webpages for children with a learning disability, regarding staying safe on the Internet.

The website is also useful and informative for adults too and could be a good starting tool for any Internet safety discussions.

Visit: www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11_16/new/staysafe/



Aiming High Grants and Family Activities Scheme

The Aiming High Grants and Family Activities Scheme has been funded by Wakefield Council and was launched in June 2010. The scheme has been administered by KIDS. The scheme was to provide one off grants to groups and individuals to provide breaks or activities for disabled children in Wakefield.

To date 264 families have received a break. Some families have used it to pay for holiday care or play schemes with registered providers, although most families have chosen to take short breaks, daytrips, or do activities as a family. (All the following names have been changed.)

The Smiths took their boys for a weekend to Lego Land. They said: "They enjoyed it so much we struggled to get them back home. Thanks again for an unforgettable weekend".



Its a Pirate Day
but where's
Jack Sparrow?

The Jones used their grant for a trip to Disney Land. They said: "It helped us greatly because we have wanted to do this trip with all three children for a long time. Thank you".

The Shahs took their children to Centre Parc for the weekend. They said: "Our family and friends go every year... in the past it has been difficult for us to afford this. It will be lovely to spend time as a family and be nice to have a rest. Thank you very, very much".

The Roses went away for a week to Butlins. They said: "The £150 grant took us swimming, to a pleasure beach fun park and other activities that we couldn't afford. Thanks for a great holiday with my children".

The Rooneys took their family to the Lake District. They said: "Wayne enjoyed all the activities we did – the boat on Windermere Lake, the car museum, the steam train and the Peter Rabbit attraction. He said more new words and bonded more with his sister".



More satisfied customers!

The Clarks took a trip on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway They said: "It was a bonus for our family.... The children were treated like royalty for a change instead of naughty children. They really loved it which made the day so memorable".

Nine groups to date have also benefited from the Aiming High Grants. These include KIDS, Riding for the Disabled, Able2, Kidzaware and Wakefield Down's Syndrome Support Group. Grants awarded to groups have funded countless sporting activities, Halloween and Christmas parties, family fun days and trips to attractions such as Magna and Flamingoland. Two of the groups, Shabang and Faceless, are also using the money to run theatrical sessions for a variety of ages.

There is still a small amount of money left. If you have not already applied then please contact us quickly as the scheme ends **March 31st 2011** and any activities must be completed by then.

For more information or to apply for a grant please contact **Alison Clark** on **01924 379015** or E-mail aiminghg@kids.org.uk

New Social Group

A new social group has been set up for young people with Down's Syndrome and of secondary school age and over and also their siblings.

The first session is on **Friday 18th March** and will be Bowling at **Xscape** and then the option of going onto Frankie & Benny's. If you want to go along you must book your place by **Friday 4th of March**.

Contact Sue Hodgson on 07876 070983, or Ann Aylward on 07836 342002, or Alicia Tulley on 07889 335196.

Wakefield & District Down's Syndrome Support Group Members Are Stars of Emmerdale

Nina Allen and Ayuub Kasia, who both attend the Wakefield & District Down's Syndrome support group, were recently involved in filming as extras in Emmerdale, as part of a key storyline.



Surely he's
offside Ref?



Who's the real
celebrity here?



Say Cheese
team

The character Rhona is having a baby with Down's Syndrome and her, Marlon and Paddy, (also characters from the soap), come to see a support group. The shooting took place at Morley Sports Centre and there was an opportunity for the children to have a Football kick-around with Marlon and Paddy. Everyone had a fabulous day and our stars returned home knowing that Hollywood could be calling at any moment.

The episode will be shown on **ITV1** on **Monday 7th March** at **7pm**.
We wish the budding stars well in their future career.

Carers Development Day

This event is for family carers of people with learning disabilities and is being run by Wakefield Learning Disability Partnership Board

Taking place on **Wednesday 2nd March** from 10:30am to 2pm, at the **Alice Bacon Centre**, (next to the Library), Market Street, Normanton, **WF6 2AR**

Refreshments will be served from 10am and lunch will be provided at 1pm

Personalisation; government policies and their impact locally; changes to health services.....

There are lots of things happening for people with learning disabilities and their carers. This day is about: thinking about how this might affect you and your family, how we can work together to keep our voice strong and how we can take advantage of any opportunity.

A representative from Family Services will be present to tell us about the local picture and there will be an opportunity to watch 'Housing Choices', a new short DVD specifically for people with learning disabilities in the Wakefield District. There will also be information stands to browse around over lunch.

Transport may be available if necessary. Please let us know if this is required.

To book a place contact **Chris Clark** or **Lucy Horobin** on **01924 305544** or E-mail **chrisc@carerswakefield.org.uk**



Able2 Special Olympics

Able2 Pontefract Special Olympics is affiliated to Special Olympics GB and offers coaching and competitive opportunities in sport for children and adults with learning disabilities. At present, our athletes range from 8 to 37 years of age.



Could you be a future Paralympian?

We offer sporting opportunities in the following sports: Swimming, Boccia, New Age Kurling, Table Tennis, Badminton, Equestrian and Athletics. Our athletes have had several wins at regional Boccia competitions and Swimming galas, National Equestrian championships and the Great Britain New Age Kurling championships. We also take a team to compete in the Yorkshire and Humberside Athletics championships and Festival of Athletics in Sheffield.

For more information about joining our group please contact **Steve Peace**, Chair, on **07551 648661**.

Together For Disabled Children

As the Together for Disabled Children programme comes to an end we invite you to the last of our events on Parent Participation for parents and professionals in Yorkshire and Humber. On Wednesday 2nd March from 10am to 3pm at The John Charles Centre for Sport, Parkside Suite, Middleton Grove, Leeds, LS11 5DJ

We do hope you will join us not only to celebrate the work of the past three years, but also to find out about the new regulations for local authorities regarding delivering short breaks from April 2011 and how to make best use of the accompanying guidance.



We are devoting the afternoon session to the ways different local areas are including families from BME communities into parent participation and showing a short stop animation film made by the children. Booking is essential as places are limited.

For further information contact **Miranda Parrott** on **01751 417291** or E-mail miranda.parrott@cafamilly.org.uk

Feedback Form

You can have your say about services and support for Disabled Children in the Wakefield District, or your thoughts on this Newsletter and any future articles you would like to see included.

What would you like to share? _____

If you would like direct feedback to your comments please provide;

Your name _____

Address _____

Please return the form to **WeSail, Office Suite 7, Bizspace Business Park, Denby Dale Road, Wakefield, WF2 7AZ**

Focus on Occupational Therapists

The role of the Occupational Therapist (OT), is to help facilitate a child's maximum level of independence in every aspect of their lives. This covers three areas - self care, work/productivity (school) and leisure. So many things are included in those areas, such as cleaning teeth, hand writing and play. Essentially things that you do throughout the day.

To enable children to do these things the OT will assess their level of function, (occupation), and provide hands on intervention. In addition you can expect the OT to provide advice, strategies and treatment programmes and also make recommendations for equipment and adaptations specific to the child's needs.

Children's Occupational Therapy in Wakefield is provided by two organisations at present, Mid-Yorkshire and Wakefield District Community Health Care Services. From the 1st April the two teams will combine and be provided by Mid-Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust. Currently the two teams are based in the two Children's Centres in Pontefract Hospital and Pinderfields Hospital.

The OTs will work in partnership with other services supporting your child, including physiotherapists, speech and language therapists and CAMHS. The OTs see children and young people from birth to 18 years or 19 if they are in full-time education. They are seen in their own Homes, Children's Centres, Nurseries, Play Groups, School or at the Hospital.

For more information contact **Lesley Donington** on **01977 747188**, E-mail **Lesley.Donington@wdpct.nhs.uk** or contact **Shelley Williams** on **01924 541430**
E-mail **shelley.williams@midyorks.nhs.uk**

1Voice West Yorkshire



1Voice is a national charity that takes a family and social perspective on communication and recognises the great need for adult role models to inspire children and families alike. Many children and adults have plenty to say but are unable to control their mouth muscles to speak clearly. They can use aids written words and technology to communicate. This is known as AAC.

1Voice recognizes how much hard work it takes to learn to use a communication aid and the isolation families can experience when using an aid. 1Voice offers support by way of events, a website, E-mail, support

groups, role models, newsletters and teenage support. Local branches have also been developed to give families more opportunities to meet up locally and attend events.

1Voice W.Yorks has held two successful and fun events over the last two years. Both our Pirate Day and Chocolate & Smoothie Day were held in Wakefield and have proved to be fun and useful for all who came.

1Voice W.Yorks is holding an informal meeting for families of children using AAC on **30th March**, from **4:30pm to 6pm**, at the **Heath View Centre**, Queen Elizabeth Road, Eastmoor Wakefield. **WF1 4RJ**. This is an opportunity to meet other families and at the same time find out more about 1Voice, how to get involved and attend our future events. The meeting is open for the whole family, including children, to attend. Refreshments will also be available.



More Pirates but still no Jack Sparrow!

If you would like to come along or have any enquiries please contact **Lyn Clarke** on **01924 302765** or E-mail **1Voicewestyorkshire@1voice.info** or visit **www.1voice.info**