

AIMING HIGH FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

Aiming High Newsletter Oct 2010

Welcome to the Aiming High for Disabled Children's newsletter on the Isle of Wight. This newsletter aims to bring you up-to-date with developments.

What is Aiming High?

Aiming High for Disabled Children resulted from constant lobbying of the government by key groups such as Mencap and Barnardos and most importantly of all, parents of disabled children. The Government recognised that there was an evident need to provide better services for disabled children and their families to offer not only positive and enjoyable activities for the children, but a break from caring for the parents and carers.

Funding has been provided by the Government to provide parents with a means to make their views heard via Parent Partnership and Parents Voice; to ensure that the transition from childhood to adulthood is more straightforward and to ensure that children and young people and their families can benefit from a range of short breaks.

Aiming High for Disabled Children is jointly delivered by DFE (Department for Education — Previously DCSF) and the DH (Department of Health).

If you would like more information about the different aspects of the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme, please use this link: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/healthandwellbeing/ahdc/AHDC/> or contact Lesley Forde at FIZ on 01983 821999.

What's on offer for Half Term?

Water sports, tree climbing, fishing, play sessions, day camps, specialist play groups, short stays in a caravan at Lower Hyde, swimming, overnights, tea visits and outreach into the community.

How Can I Access These?

To be eligible for some of these activities your child must be able to tick one of the following:

- Be in receipt of the higher level of Disability Living Care Component Allowance
- Have a statement of Special Educational Needs
- Professional Assessment i.e. an assessment from a Psychologist or Paediatrician or Core Assessment from the Children's Disability Team.

You will need to complete an Enrolment form before you can access an activity. **These are available from the Family Information Zone (FIZ).** Once you have filled in an Enrolment form, your details will be kept so that your needs are registered. This information will be shared with providers who may want to contact you for more information about your child before the activity. It will also help us to plan for the future and to know what demand there is.

If you think that your child is eligible for a short break or fun activity, contact Lesley Forde at FIZ (Family Information Zone) on 01983 821999 or email Lesley at: lesley.forde@iow.gov.uk

If you are in any way unsure as to whether your child is eligible, don't hesitate to contact Lesley Forde. You may find information on other activities which might be available or planned.

What's on offer?

Play Ranger Sessions at St George's School

Venue: St. George's School

Wednesday 27th October 10.00am to 1.30pm

Charge: £5 per child

Age Range: 4-18 years

Contact: Carly Bain 01983 823818/07976 009 088 to book a place.

Email: carly.bain@iow.gov.uk

The Play Ranger sessions offer a variety of indoor and outdoor play activities including parachute games, Nintendo Wii, arts and crafts, sporty games, gadgets and games, movies and lots more. There are limited spaces available and children will be booked on a first come, first serve basis. Siblings welcome if space allows.

Goodleaf Tree Climbing - Special Branch

Venue: Whippingham / Northwood

Saturday 9th & 23rd October

9.00am—11.30am / 12 - 2.00pm / 2.30pm - 4.30pm

Charge: £5 per child

Age Range: 10-18 years

Contact: Abigail on 0333 800 1188 Mobile: 0797 0033 209

Email: info@goodleaf.co.uk

Take to the trees this half term with Special Branch – tree climbing for young people aged 10 – 18 with disabilities.



Nettlecombe Farm - Fishing and Farm Breaks

Venue: Whitwell

Open access - contact provider for short stays

Charge: Free all day fishing. 1:1 tuition available at £20 per hour

Age Range: All ages

Contact: Jose Morris on 01983 730783

Email: enquiries@nettlecombefarm.co.uk

Idyllic farm setting with plenty of animals and play spaces. Fishing days out with option for individual tuition. Self catering breaks available in luxurious settings available at discounted rates for parties for a child or young person who meets the Aiming High eligibility criteria. Properties available sleeping 4, 5 6 or 10 people.

UKSA

Venue: Cowes

Any available day and half day

9.00am—4.00pm

Free

Age Range: 8-18 years

Contact: Alix Berry on 01983 203046

Email: alixberry@uksa.org

Specialist 1:1 water sport activities. Choose from Keel boating, Kayaking, Dinghy Sailing, Windsurfing. Packed lunch provided. Siblings can attend at cost.



YMCA Day Camps

Venue: Winchester House, Shanklin

School Holidays 8.00am—1.00pm or 1.00pm—6.00pm

Charge: £9 per session or £17 per day

Age Range: 4-18 years

Contact: Diana Jeffries 01983 862441

Email: Diana.jeffries@ymca-fg.org

Specialist holiday play sessions based on day camps, children can be left unattended and siblings are welcome.

West Wight Sports Centre - Dedicated swimming sessions/specialist tuition also available

Venue: Freshwater

Every week on Fridays, 17.30- 18.30 pm

Charge: £2.35 per session/Please ring to make a booking for individual or group swimming tuition

Age Range: Open

Contact details: Clare Griffin on 01983 752168

Email: clare@westwight.co.uk

Additional lifeguards and support provided for the dedicated session. Tuition is also available. Tuition can either be private (1:1) or a child can be supported in a mainstream lesson.

Term Time Activities

The Children's Society

Venue: Children Centres around the Island
Some Saturdays and weekdays after 3.00pm
Charge: Free

Age Range: 0-5 years

Contact: [Becky Denness on 0750 658 3193](mailto:Becky.Denness@childrenssociety.org.uk)

Email: Rebecca.denness@childrenssociety.org.uk

Any child under 5 who has a disability would be entitled to access 12 playgroup sessions, lasting 2 hours, until March 2011. These will be delivered at Children's Centres in your area

IW Inclusives Football Club

Venue: Sandown High School
Thursday evenings term-time 5.00pm - 6.30pm
£2 per child or £12 for 6 weeks
Age Range: All ages
Contact: [Julie on mummyloose@aol.com](mailto:Julie@mummyloose@aol.com)



Core Disability Services

Venue: Shanklin Youth Club
Tuesday evenings, 5.30 - 8.30 pm, term time only
Charge: Free
Age Range: 12-18 years

Contact: [Kevin Harrison on 01983 566300 Mobile: 07967 381 008](mailto:Kevin.Harrison@thefca.co.uk)

Email: Kevin.harrison@thefca.co.uk

Does your child have a disability? Are they aged between 12-18? Do they enjoy making friends and interacting with others? If the answer is yes, then this new youth club could be right for your child. Core Disability Services have launched a new youth club on the Island, offering opportunities for young people with a disability to meet and socialise with others.

National Autistic Society (NAS) Gamezone

Venue: Isle of Wight College— G Block
Term time only - Monday 4.30pm– 6.30pm
Charge: £2
Age Range: 13–17 years
Contact: [Helen Hughes on 07789 191 071](mailto:Helen.Hughes@btinternet.com)
Email: iowgamezone@btinternet.com
 Group activities for teenagers with ASD.



NAS Lego Club

Venue: Newport C of E Primary School
Term time only: 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month
10.00 - 12.00 noon
2 & 16th October, 6th & 20th November, 4th & 18th December, 15th January 2011, 5th & 19th February, 5th & 19th March
Charge: £2 per session
Age range: 5 - 11 years
Contact: [Gillian Elsom on 07771 920411](mailto:Gillian.Elsom@hotmail.com)
Email: elsomacres@hotmail.com

Parents should attend the initial session with their child in order to aid familiarisation. Parents are welcome to attend further sessions if they wish.

Activities available through Children's Services include:

- Beaulieu House - specialist overnight breaks and outreach
- Carisbrooke Contact Centre - Domiciliary care and outreach
- Family Link - overnight breaks and day care in the carer's home
- Core Disability Services - a retained carer for overnight stays

EXPLORE THE ISLAND

Landeez Wheelchairs

Now children and young people who use wheelchairs can also enjoy a day at the beach, park, going where no conventional wheelchair has gone before, with the innovative Landeez all-terrain wheelchair.

The Landeez is a revolutionary wheelchair designed especially for outdoor use. It was developed specifically to enable people with disabilities to come in to closer contact with nature.

Through funding from Aiming High for Disabled Children, the Isle of Wight Council is delighted to make these wheelchairs available for use to aid inclusion on school trips and group outings. They can also be hired on an individual basis for a morning or an afternoon for a nominal sum with refundable deposit. There are 3 new wheelchairs and these are situated around the Island.

Available to hire from either:

Dinosaur Isle: contact Trevor Price on 01983 404344

Beaulieu House: contact Kelly Lockwood on 01983 533024

Photo ID and evidence of ID required.

A deposit of £25 is required which will be fully refundable

All sessions, either AM or PM will have a charge of £3.00



Family Link Holiday Home

Families and Carers of severely disabled children on the Island can soon enjoy a short break together at an Isle of Wight Holiday Park, thanks to IW Council's Fostering & Adoption Team. Paid for using funding from the Aiming High Scheme, a static holiday home has been brought at Lower Hyde holiday Park in Shanklin and specially adapted for disabled users and their families. It can sleep a maximum of 6 people and includes sliding doors, ramps, a drop sink, a wet room and a hoist. It also has a decking area laid down outside to make the stay more enjoyable. As part of staying at the home users will also be given visitor passes for Lower Hyde, meaning they can use the attraction's facilities.

The holiday home was officially opened by the Isle of Wight Council's Fostering & Adoption Team on Monday 4th October, and can be booked for Short Breaks from now on.

It is available for families of disabled children, particularly those with the most severe and complex needs and can be used for anything for a day up to a week at a time.

A fee will be required and bookings should be made through Fostering & Adoption Team's Family Link Service. The team can be called on: 01983 566011.

FIZZING WITH EXCITEMENT

Not all parents are aware that in the middle of Newport, next to the bus station, tucked neatly beside the park is a place which exists to support all parents or carers of Island children. Known locally as FIZ – the Family Information Zone – was set up to provide impartial information and signposting services to families, children and young people under the age of 20 (or up to 25 years for young people with learning difficulties or disabilities).

As a result of a Parents Conference in January and parent input into strategic meetings it has been shown – time and again – that what parents most want and need is accurate and timely access to information and services in a central place. The Aiming High programme was a real chance to make this happen and a new full-time post has been created which is permanent – dedicated to those parents and carers of a child with special or complex needs. Lesley Forde, is the new Information Officer at FIZ .

“My role will be to provide parents information, support and signposting to services which can help them. I can also provide information on both registered and non-registered childcare to meet individuals needs. Based at FIZ, I will, nevertheless, be flexible and will be attending key parents’ groups on the Island and also holding regular sessions in mainstream schools to ensure that I reach all parents to support and advise if I can.

I already sit on the Aiming High Steering Group and am closely involved with service planning and developments.

My new role has recently begun but already I have found that there is a great demand for someone at the end of a telephone who can answer your questions and provide personal support and advice to a family who may be struggling to find answers.

This was a great opportunity for me as parents have consistently campaigned for more information, advice and support for this specialist area. Thanks to funding from Aiming High, I can now work closely with parent groups on the Island and I would welcome any enquiries from parents wanting to know more. **I can be contacted on 01983 821999, by mobile 07807159528 or by email at lesley.forde@iow.gov.uk or directly through FIZ, 11 Orchard Street, Newport PO30 1JZ.”**



www.WightChYPS.org.uk

What's on?
Looking for activities to do?
Information or support?
Need help?

Log on to
www.WightChYPS.org.uk



Family Information Zone

FIZ

Free information on Children's and Young People's Services and all types of childcare

- CHILDREN'S SERVICES
- YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES
- PRE-SCHOOL
- OUT-OF-SCHOOL CLUBS

Services and support

- LEGAL SUPPORT GROUPS
- MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT GROUPS

Out and about

- EDUCATION ACTIVITIES
- SPORTS
- TRAVEL
- AMATEUR AND HOBBY GROUPS
- THEATRE

And so much more!

Come and see us. We're here to help!
11 Orchard Street, Newport, Isle of Wight
Telephone: 01983 821999
family@iow.gov.uk www.wightchyps.org.uk

PARENTS VOICE - HAVE YOUR SAY!

Parents Voice is an independent voluntary organisation which was set up in 2008 to reach out to all parents of disabled children and those with either special needs or complex health conditions on the Island. Funded through Aiming High for Disabled Children, Parents Voice aims to provide a key 'voice' for parents on the Island, ensuring that local services are planned with the needs of parents and carers in mind.

Parents Voice doesn't just provide a 'voice' however, it also exists to ensure that views are heard and acted upon. Members of Parents Voice sit on various strategic groups on the Island (for example, the Aiming High Steering Group) ensuring that the views of parents are heard by the local authority and PCT. The group is formed of parents who all have direct experience of the difficulties and complexities of caring for a child with special needs or disabilities.

Parents Voice has grown into a strong and representative body who work closely in partnership with the Local Authority and NHS Isle of Wight. Its role is to support, question and challenge decisions that are often made without sufficient regard to the views of parents and to ensure that parents' views are acted upon.

Funding from Aiming High for Disabled Children has enabled the group to receive training and support, to set up a website and to hold frequent coffee mornings where any parent with a disabled child is welcome.

The main aim of Parents Voice is to reach out to those parents who are isolated and uncertain of what services are available to them. Parents can be signposted to services or people who can support parents in their day to day lives.

Working together has already achieved a desired result - the new role of Information Officer at FIZ - which gives parents a direct link to services and a voice at the end of the phone.

New parents and/or members are welcome. If you would like more information or to play a more active role, please contact Parents Voice on 07977 068 416 or visit our website: www.parentsvoice-iw.co.uk



**Parent
PARTNERSHIPS**



Children's Centres Contact Details:

Children's centres are service hubs where children under five years old and their families can receive seamless integrated services and information.

These services include:

- Integrated early education and childcare – all centres offering Early Years provision have a minimum half-time qualified teacher (increasing to full-time within 18 months of the centre opening)
- Support for parents – including advice on parenting, local childcare options and access to specialist services for families
- Child and family health services – ranging from health screening, health visitor services to breast-feeding support

Children's Centre: East Newport Children's Centre

Manager: Kathy Whitewood

Address: Green Street, Newport, PO30 2AN

Phone Number: 529208

Email: kwhitewood@spurgeons.org

Children's Centre: West Newport Children's Centre

Manager: Jane Leigh

Address: c/o Carisbrooke Primary, Wellington Road, Newport, PO30 5QT

Phone Number: 537390

Email:

westnewportchildrenscentre@childrenssociety.org.uk

Children's Centre: Cowes Children's Centre

Manager: Laura Villa

Address: Love Lane Primary, Love Lane, Cowes, PO31 7ET

Phone Number: 291719

Email: coweschildrenscentre@childrenssociety.org.uk

Children's Centre: East Cowes Children's Centre

Manager: Sue Gleaves

Address: Beatrice Avenue, East Cowes, PO32 6PA (planned opening 24th May 2010)

Phone Number: 07807 159617

Email: eastcoweschildrenscentre@iow.gov.uk

Children's Centre: The Bays Children's Centres

(Shanklin Centre)

Manager: Jill Wade – Smith

Address: Albert Road, Shanklin, PO37 7LY

Phone Number: 867310

Email: thebayschildrenscentre@btconnect.com

Children's Centre: Ryde Children's Centre

Manager: Claire Steen

Address: George Street, Ryde, PO33 2JF

Phone Number: 617617

Email: rydechildrenscentre@childrenssociety.org.uk

Children's Centre: The Bays Children's Centres (Sandown Centre)

Manager: Jill Wade – Smith

Address: The Fairway, Lake, PO36 9JH

Phone Number: 408718

Email: thebayschildrenscentre@btconnect.com

Children's Centre: Ventnor Children's Centre

Manager: Kathy Whitewood

Address: Albert Street, Ventnor, PO38 1EZ

Phone Number: 857372

Email: kwhitewood@spurgeons.org

Children's Centre: West Wight Children's Centre

Manager: Carol Attrill

Address: West Wight Youth and Community Centre, Moa Place, Freshwater, PO40 9XH

Phone Number: 756935 or 07792 508906

Email: westwightchildrenscentre@iow.gov.uk



Young Research Network

The Isle of Wight Council has been successful in an application for a £1,000 research grant from the Young Research Network.

What is the focus of the research?

The programme is designed essentially to explore young people's involvement in developing council services for children and young people and involves research led by young people, supported by professionals to explore the following research question:

'What social activities are available on the Isle of Wight for teenagers with a learning disability or difficulty?'

The young people and their research will inform the proposals to reorganize the youth service so that it is more accessible and supports more social activities that are available on the Isle of Wight for teenagers with a learning disability or difficulty.

Who will carry out this research?

The core groups of students working on this project are based at St Georges School and are 16 years and over. It will be managed as part of the curriculum and will contribute to work carried out as part of the ASDAN Award in Personal and Social Development. The lead teacher at St George's is Shirley Brown who will be working alongside Katy Edmunds, Project Coordinator (Youth Connexions) to ensure that the views of other young people on the Isle of Wight are shared.

What is the project timescale?

The project will run from October 2010 and will be completed in full by March 2011. The final research findings will be presented as a brochure which will be available as a hard copy publication and as a PDF resource which can be accessed and shared online.

Your chance to get involved - we want to hear from you!

Although the core research group is based at St George's, it is hoped that young people over the age of 16 (with SEN/LDD) living on the Isle of Wight can also be involved with this exciting project.

If you have had a good experience taking part in a social activity or alternatively if you feel that an attraction that you visited was not suitable for you in some way, we would like to hear from you. Equally if you would like to know more about an organisation that you have seen advertised in the local paper or on www.wightchyps.org.uk (as an example) why not ask our core group to find out more for you?

To feedback or to ask the group to look into an activity for you email: katy.edmunds@iow.gov.uk or call: 533523 (ext.148)

The closing date for feedback is: October 22nd 2010.

This newsletter has been produced to ensure that parents of children who meet the Aiming High eligibility criteria are aware of the activities currently on offer.

Be assured that future editions will include activities, information and events which are open to all children, young people and their families with additional needs.

Please let me know of any groups or activities which you would like included in the next newsletter which will be produced in January.

**To ensure that you receive future editions or if you have any feedback please contact:
Lesley Forde on: 01983 821999 or email lesley.forde@iow.gov.uk**