

# Aiming High for Disabled Children

Newsletter One July 2009

Welcome to our first newsletter which is letting you know how the Isle of Wight is getting on with the Aiming High programme.

## Just to remind you of the background.

- All Councils and Primary Care Trusts in England have been asked by the Government to improve their short break services for disabled children particularly those with severe and complex needs over the next two years. Councils and PCTs must to be able to show they meet the "Full Service Offer" (FSO) by March 2011 (Further information about the FSO can be found on the last page)
- A ring fenced grant is available to councils for short break services – this year, on the Isle of Wight, there is £146,000 which can be spent on services and £71,000 capital which can be spend on buildings and equipment.
- The PCT is jointly working with the children's trust to significantly increase the range of services locally focussing on palliative care and access to equipment.
- The grant should be used to enable children and young people to access "ordinary" activities which are fun and enjoyable

**ISLE OF WIGHT  
INCLUSIVE  
FOOTBALL CLUB**

**COME AND HAVE SOME FUN!**  
All types of disability are welcome - please come and try - everyone welcome!  
It does not matter if you have played football or not before!

**EVERY THURSDAY  
5PM - 6PM**

For any more information please contact  
jamesloosemore@aol.com

LOTTERY FUNDED

- A "short break" could therefore be taking part in an after school activity, pursuing a leisure pastime or attending a holiday scheme, and would not always involve an overnight stay away from home.
- Following a workshop and other consultation processes an "Aiming High" plan has been drawn up for 2009/10 (see back page).
- Discussions are underway about plans for 2010/11. It's important that parents and children "have their say" about what they want to happen! This started at the second Aiming High workshop held on 1st July.

### At the First Aiming High Workshop

(held in February)  
Parents were clear that more short breaks were needed and wanted more choice e.g. Holiday Schemes and personal assistants.



Please contact: jamesloosemore@aol.com

### CELEBRATION TIME AT BEAULIEU HOUSE!

Beaulieu House is five years old! Aiming High funds will be used to buy new playground and other equipment at Beaulieu House and also to fund a Youth and Saturday Club and Tea Visits.



ISLE of  
WIGHT  
COUNCIL



Isle of Wight

## Parents Voice – Promoting Parents Views

### What is Parents Voice?

Parents Voice is a group of parents/carers who meet to discuss real issues that affect children with disabilities and Special educational needs on the Isle of Wight. Our purpose is to help shape change to existing services and to participate in the planning of new and future initiatives for children. As parents have the experience of being at the receiving end of many of these services it makes sense for us to be involved in the design of them too.

### What we do

The group meet half termly with officers from children's services to discuss and explore issues and mutual areas of concern relating to children and young people with disabilities and learning difficulties. Parents members have the opportunity to ask questions, share their views and gain a better understanding of processes on the Isle of Wight as well as maintaining and raising awareness of the views of parents. Through the Aiming High Parent Participation Fund we have been allocated funding to help more parents/carers have a say in planning and shaping services for children with disabilities/special educational needs. We are developing our own website where parents can give their views to us and planning workshops to get more parents involved.

**For details please phone Parent Partnership on 825548 who can put you in touch with one of our parent volunteers.**



The Isle of Wight branch of the National Autistic Society was launched in June 2008 by a group of parents. We aim to give par-

ents and carers support by meeting regularly and by offering seminars and workshops. Services include an online support group; provision of information on autism. We are here to support anyone who may be affected by autism, Asperger syndrome or any Autistic Spectrum Disorder. We offer informal, friendly support and can direct families to more structured help. The NAS Isle of Wight branch currently offers:

- Get together for the families during the school holidays.
- Autism friendly screenings at Cineworld on the last Sunday of every month at 10.30am, tickets only cost £1 per person.
- NAS family sport & social group - this started 5th January 2009. The children have so far experienced Yoga Bugs with Louise Morgan, Martial Arts with Simon Lailey, Trampolining with Ian Morgan of Wight Flyers. Older children now have the opportunity to use the Climbing Wall and younger children can use the Mini Gym & Multi Skills play equipment at Medina Leisure Centre.
- The planned NAS sponsored Train Walk at IW Steam Railway, Havenstreet is being held on Saturday 25th July from 6-8pm.

For details contact Louise Foley on 07827 308768

### NAS Events coming soon in 2009



#### Saturday LEGO Club

**Gamezone** at IW College (aimed at 13-19yr olds) with transition into the Adult group at 18 (if wanted).

**Adult Aspergers** Support & Social group

**cool2care** Cool2Care is an organisation that brings together families of disabled children with people who want to care for them. If you would like to find out about how to find a personal assistant or carer for your child please visit [www.cool2care.co.uk](http://www.cool2care.co.uk), tel - 0845 123 5484 , email - [info@cool2care.co.uk](mailto:info@cool2care.co.uk) or contact our IOW team who are:

**Family Liaison Manager**

**Val Ansell**

email - [val.ansell@cool2care.co.uk](mailto:val.ansell@cool2care.co.uk)

**Recruitment Manager**

**Heidi Mearns**

email - [heidi.mearns@cool2care.co.uk](mailto:heidi.mearns@cool2care.co.uk)

# What's Going On...

## Heritage Education Service

We welcome visits from all children including those who have disabilities or additional needs.

## Things on offer at Newport

**Roman Villa** (Cypress Rd, Newport, tel: **01983 529720**)

- As well as the remains of a third century villa, complete with bath suite there are multisensory hands on activities in the education Room. Activities include grinding herbs in the replica kitchen, trying on replica clothing and creating mosaics. Open 14 May to 31 October 2009, Monday to Saturday 10am to 4.30pm, Open Sundays in July and August only - 12 noon to 4pm.
- Group bookings (telephone 01983 823828 for more information) are taken throughout the year.



## Things on offer at Cowes Maritime Museum

(Cowes Library Beckford Road, Cowes)

- As well as a collection of model boats and arte-

facts there are maritime dressing up clothes, handling table of maritime objects, boats, picture books and magnetic fish. Entry Free. For opening hours contact Cowes library on 01983 293341.

## Things on offer through the Heritage Education Service

We can offer outreach activities with original artefacts and replicas for parenting/ educational groups.

Contact:

**Estelle Baker** on **01983 523112**  
or e-mail [estelle.baker@iow.gov.uk](mailto:estelle.baker@iow.gov.uk)  
for more information.

## What is Family Link?

The Family Link Scheme supports disabled children aged 3 – 18, and their families on the Isle of Wight. We aim to place disabled children with "link families" to offer a short break from a few hours to a couple of nights every month.

The Family Link Scheme enables families to:

- Have a rest; Do the weekly shop; Spend time with other children in the family;
  - Have an evening out; Pursue a hobby
- Most importantly it means the disabled child has a positive new experience!

## Could you do it?

We are looking for people who would like to help with the care of a disabled child. Experience of looking after children is helpful but not essential. We're not looking for experts or any one type of person, but people that have a genuine interest in children. Most importantly you need to be able to offer a consistent and stable household and a fun placement.

We will attempt to match you with the right child. We'll talk to you about this before making any placement so that you and the family are happy.

- Carers will receive ongoing support and training.
- Applicants undergo an assessment, which includes health and safety checks on the home and pets, Criminal Records Bureau check and references.
- Expenses will be met with a small allowance to cover the additional cost of looking after an extra child.
- Additional equipment will be supplied if required

Please contact:

**Mat Penney**

Adoption and Fostering team  
Town Hall, Lind Street  
Ryde, PO33 2NQ  
Tel: **(01983) 566011**

## What is the "full service offer"?

It's a statement of the standards for short breaks services that all Children's Trusts are meant to reach by March 2011. Services should:

- Be based on a needs assessment and led by consultation and feedback
- Offer a greater volume of short breaks when measured against 2008/9
- Use fair, understandable and transparent eligibility criteria
- Offer a wide range of provision that is planned and regular
- Be fit for purpose and age appropriate
- Be a positive experience for the child or young person
- Provide for children and Young Person with ASD who also have severe learning difficulties or challenging behaviour and those with complex health needs
- Provide value for money in terms of quality of care/outcomes delivered

## Some of the service developments planned for 2009/2010

Creation of Youth and Saturday clubs

Increasing supply of personal care assistants to work with families

Introduction of pilot summer holiday schemes

Increasing number of nights care that Beaulieu House can offer

Increasing support that Carisbrooke contact centre can offer in the school holidays

Recruiting more family link carers

Working with special schools to expand extended school provision

Funding the setting up of small pilot or taster activities

## The IOW has set up a steering group to oversee "Aiming High"



Dorothy Harrington

Alison Dempsey  
(Chair)

Jo Blake

Helen Lewis

Sara Perkins

Matthew Penney

Jo Thistlewood

Rachael Hayes

Parent Partnership Officer

Principal Officer for SEN/LDD

CSC Consultants

Commissioner for Children's Centres, Healthy and Extended Schools

Principal Officer Referral & Assessment

Senior Practitioner

Finance Manager

Senior Joint Commissioning Manager - Childrens Policy Lead, Primary Care Trust

Sue Holman, Headteacher St Georges School is also on the group

## Funky Friends summer holiday scheme

Newport Youth Centre, Lower St James St, Newport  
27 July - 14 August 2009, Mon - Fri, 10am - 3pm

Children with disabilities 13 years +

**Note: Places are limited to maximum of 10 children per day.**

Youth centre will be used as base with some activities taking place there and some in the community. The activity programme will be decided by the young people themselves.

£1 per day per Young person + pocket money (between £5 - £10 per day) for activities and food

Please Contact - Alison Phillips, Youth Centre manager, on [alison.phillips.iow.gov.uk](mailto:alison.phillips.iow.gov.uk) or Tel: 07857

**STOP PRESS!**

## YMCA playscheme

Winchester House, Sandown Road, Shanklin.

10th August - 28th August, 10am - 3pm

Children with significant and complex disabilities aged 4 - 14 years

**Note: Places limited to 12 per day**

Outline programme will be available - series of activities in separate "zones" that are age appropriate and have suitable equipment. Siblings with less significant needs can attend YMCA Daycamp sessions if required. Parents to provide packed lunch.

£10 a day plus any costs incurred by parents in transporting children to the scheme.

Telephone Carole Smith, YMCA, Winchester house on 01983 862441 or email [carole.smith@ymca-fg.org](mailto:carole.smith@ymca-fg.org)

**COMMENTS? QUESTIONS? THINGS YOU WANT TO SAY IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER?**

PLEASE EMAIL [jo@cscconsultants.co.uk](mailto:jo@cscconsultants.co.uk)

or call - 07867 855355