

Aiming High for Disabled Children in Surrey

Autumn Newsletter 2010

Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC) is the Government's transformation programme for disabled children's services in England. "The vision behind Aiming High for Disabled Children is for all families with disabled children to have the support they need to live ordinary family lives, as a matter of course."

What Have We Been Doing?

The Aiming High team are still working on distributing funding to a large number of organisations through revenue grants and capital funding.

Capital Funding

Aiming High Capital Funding has been distributed to a large number of organisations, it has been used to pay for mini-buses, building adaptations and a variety of sporting and leisure equipment.

The largest project being undertaken using Aiming High capital funding is the building of a Disability Hub by Reigate and Redhill YMCA. This building will provide a purpose built centre for disabled children and young people from across East Surrey. As the Disability Hub will be within a wider community centre it will provide an integrated environment where local disabled children and non-disabled children can play alongside each other.

Currently there is no disability-specific centre in the East of Surrey so this project fills a large gap in service provision for disabled children and young people. The Disability Hub will be a lasting legacy of the positive results achieved by the Aiming High programme.

For more information about the Disability Hub see the YMCA website www.ymcaredhill.com



Free Event: Aiming High Involving Parents: 23 Nov 2010

On 3rd March 2009 AHDC Surrey held a very successful *Parents and Stakeholder's Conference*. On 23rd November 2010 we are hosting a similar event.



The purpose of this event is to update parents on what has been achieved during the AHDC programme, and what the future holds for this programme. The key speaker will once again be Christine Lenehan, Director of the Council for Disabled Children. In 2009 Christine Lenehan was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for her work with disabled children and their families for over thirty years and is a very captivating speaker.

For more information see the flyer on the final page of this newsletter. We hope that many of you will be able to attend.

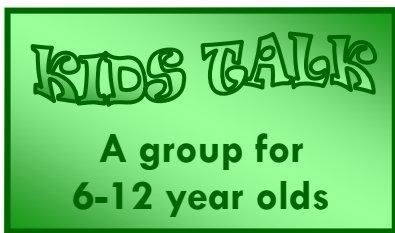




Participation Work with Gareth Lewington A Partnership with Surrey County Council and NHS Surrey



A group for disabled children & young people to have their voices heard



Groups held at venues across Surrey

RECRUITING CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE NOW

If your sons or daughters are interested, then please contact Gareth Lewington:
Phone: 01372 844 773, 07960 319 657 or E-mail: gareth.lewington@barnardos.org.uk

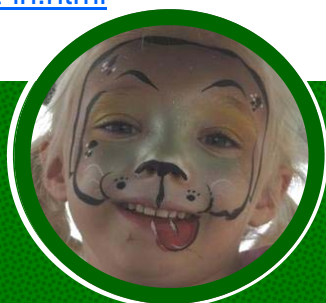
Have Your Say...

Childcare Provision For a Child With a Disability or SEN

Childcare providers have a legal duty to offer extra support to meet the needs of a child with a disability under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. This might include installing a ramp to allow wheelchair access to their premises or training staff to use special equipment. They must also take into account the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Code of Practice, which requires them to meet the needs of children with special educational needs.

The Surrey County Council Early Years Service are currently looking at a variety of ways to help parents of disabled children to have better information and ultimately better choices about their childcare options. They have a short survey about the information that is currently available to you about childcare.

To fill in the five minute [survey](#), follow the link on the Aiming High website <http://www.pwpsurrey.org/current-consultation-for-you-to-take-part-in.html>



Have Your Say...

Government launches consultation on SEN reform proposals

The government is seeking views on plans to reform support for children with special educational needs (SEN). In launching the consultation, children's minister Sarah Teather said: "*Parents should be in control of their child's education and future. They must be involved in discussions and decisions about the support they need rather than feel that they have to battle the system. I want to make it easier for parents to choose where their child is educated.*"

Some of the questions that are in the [consultation](#) include:

- How can we identify children's special educational needs earlier, and make sure that they get the support they need as quickly as possible?
- How can we improve the processes for special educational needs and disability across all services so that professionals can spend more of their time with children and their families?
- How can we improve the transition from school to adult life for young people with special educational needs and disabilities and the support provided for their families throughout?

The consultation has been welcomed by campaigners for children with disabilities.

Christine Lenehan, director of the Council for Disabled Children, urged those who work with disabled children to respond and Julie Jennings, chair of the Special Educational Consortium said the consultation was "*rightly focused on setting priorities and on taking practical action that is going to make a real difference*".

Responses from this consultation will be included in the government's SEN green paper, which is due out later this autumn.

Why not have your say? To ensure your views are heard click on the link on the Aiming High website to submit your response. <http://www.pwpsurrey.org/current-consultation-for-you-to-take-part-in.html>

The deadline for responses is 15 October.

Email your MP! Every Disabled Child Matters (EDCM) Action:

EDCM has published a new report '**Close to Crisis - frontline service cuts for disabled children**' that highlights the impact of service funding cuts on families with disabled children. One of the key findings was that parents and professionals felt they were being kept out of the loop about why these cuts were taking place, and what would happen in the future. The report also provides clear evidence that some local areas are making cuts now due to the perception that funding will not be available for frontline services when Aiming High for Disabled Children comes to an end in March 2011.

That's why EDCM are asking you to [email your MP](#) and ask them to write to Danny Alexander MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury to ask that the 2010 Spending Review Report should give a clear, unambiguous message to local authorities, and to disabled children and their families, about the funding that will be available for disabled children's services over the next five years.

To email your MP follow the link on www.pwpsurrey.org/current-consultation-for-you-to-take-part-in.html



Useful Information

Aiming High Parent Survey Coming Soon

The Surrey Aiming High for Disabled Children team would like to know what you think of the services provided through the Aiming High programme, how these have helped you and what further developments you would like to see.

To find out we will soon be producing a survey for you to complete. Watch our website for details. If you would like the link emailed to you and are not already on our contact list please send us your email address so that we can add you to our email distribution list.

Family Fund Increases Its Income Limit

From 16th August 2010, any family caring for a severely disabled child in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland where household income is **less than £28,000** will be eligible to apply for a grant. See their website www.familyfund.org.uk for more details.

Carer's Credit for Your Pension

The Department of Works and Pensions announced that from 6 April 2010 carers may be entitled to the Carer's Credit. This is a National Insurance credit which helps carers build up qualifying years for the basic State Pension and additional State Pension.

To qualify for Carer's Credit the carer must care for one or more disabled people for a total of 20 hours or more per week. Each person being cared for must receive Disability Living Allowance care component at the middle or highest rate

To find out more please visit www.direct.gov.uk/pensions or call 0800 678 1132.

National Railcard for Disabled Young People

To qualify for the National railcard your child should be between 5 and 15 years of age and their disability should be one of those listed on the railcard's application form. If eligible, your child travels at the usual rate but the adult/carer travelling with your child can have 1/3 discount off the standard fare for the journey.

For more information and advice ring the Disabled Person's Railcard helpline on 0845 605 0525 or visit www.disabledpersons-railcard.co.uk or www.direct.gov.uk.

Mumsnet and Every Disabled Child Matters (EDCM) Campaign Win

Supporters of Mumsnet and EDCM used posters and emails to campaign for action on nappy provision for disabled children.

As a result they had a positive response from the Prime Minister who said that the Secretary of State for Health has now asked the Chief Executive of the NHS to tell PCTs that: **'Pads (nappies) should be provided in quantities appropriate to the individual's continence needs. Arbitrary ceilings are inappropriate'**.



Useful Information

AHDC Staff Changes

Welcome

In October we will be welcoming two new members to the Aiming High team.

Lisa Fogerty-Scott is a former teacher and will be working primarily on Early Support and workforce development.

David Wimblett currently works for Surrey County Council in Adult Services. When David joins our team he will be working on a variety of tasks including the monitoring and evaluation of services.

We warmly welcome Lisa and David to our team

Good Bye and Thank You

Pam Quilter's final day with the Aiming High team was 24th September. Pam has returned to Surrey Community Health Services as Children's Team Manager in the 0 to 19 service covering the Surrey Heath area.

Christine Cleveland is leaving the Aiming High team on 14th October. Christine is moving to be Strategic Manager for Integrated Services for Disabled Children and Young People in the Royal Borough of Kingston.

We wish to thank both Pam and Christine for all their work with the Aiming High team.

The Future of AHDC Funding:

We have not yet had an update as to whether AHDC funding will continue beyond March 2011. We hope to receive more information about this later in the year following the Comprehensive Spending Review.

We hope we will be able to provide more information about the implications of the Comprehensive Spending Review for Aiming High funding at the Involving Parents event (see flyer overleaf). In the meantime you can keep up to date on the Every Disabled Child Matters website www.ncb.org.uk

Aiming High for Disabled Children (Surrey):

To contact Aiming High for Disabled Children in Surrey:

Email: ahdc@surreycc.gov.uk

Phone: 01372 833073

Address: Fairmount House
Bull Hill
Leatherhead
KT22 7AH

Website: <http://www.pwpsurrey.org/ahdc/>





Invitation

Aiming High for Disabled Children Involving Parents

Tuesday 23rd November 2010, 10.00am - 2.30pm
The Hilton Cobham Hotel, Seven Hills Road, Cobham, Surrey, KT11 1EW

Key Note Speaker – Christine Lenehan Director, Council for Disabled Children

Come and find out about:

- ◆ What Aiming High for Disabled Children in Surrey has been doing
- ◆ How we have been improving short breaks in Surrey
- ◆ Our plans for the future

Registration and Coffee will be from 9.30am and the event will begin at 10.00am.
Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

Places are free but limited. To book your place at this event, please contact:

Angie Edwards: Angharad.Edwards@surreycc.gov.uk or 01372 833098
Or Carole Jones: Carole.Jones@surreycc.gov.uk or 01372 833073

Register by: **Friday 5th November 2010**
We encourage registration via email or telephone.
We really hope you are able to attend

