

Aiming High for Disabled Children in Surrey

Spring 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?

Surrey AHDC Logo

Until recently Surrey Aiming High for Disabled Children had been using the Surrey Alliance logo on all paperwork to indicate that this project has joint input from NHS Surrey and Surrey County Council.

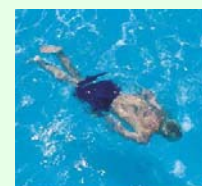
At the Surrey AHDC Family Fun Day on 27th March children and young people were asked to choose a logo that they would like to represent Surrey AHDC.

The result was this logo with a hot air balloon.



Children and Young People's Questionnaire 2009

All organisations applying for funding from Surrey AHDC were given the results of the Children and Young People's Questionnaire 2009 which outlined the types of activities children and young people wanted on their short breaks. The organisations listened to these views and as a result many have designed their services to be much more focussed on sports activities, arts and crafts.



For more information on what Surrey AHDC is funding see page 2 of this newsletter. Further information on this and other results of the Children and Young People's Questionnaire 2009 can be found on the AHDC website. <http://www.pwpsurrey.org/ahdc/>

Surrey Special Schools Ski Trip

The Surrey Special Schools Ski Trip applied for capital funding to buy "uni skis". These are sit down skis that allow disabled young people with poor mobility to take part on an Italian ski trip. Each year 12 Surrey schools send staff and students on this trip

There is still capital funding available therefore if you know of an organisation who may be interested in applying for funding please have them contact Alison Parker: Alison.K.Parker@surreycc.gov.uk



2010/2011 Funding

In order to capitalise on the knowledge and enthusiasm of the diverse range of providers in Surrey and surrounding counties we decided to allocate a large portion of the AHDC 2010/11 revenue funding using a "Sustainable Commissioning Model". This model meant that providers were able to apply for funding to meet the needs of the AHDC priority groups by any means they thought would be appropriate.

We advertised this opportunity to hundreds of potential providers and as a result received 45 applications for funding that included after school clubs, adventure holidays, play schemes, sitting services and much more.

All applications were assessed separately by a professional panel and a parent panel who were in very close agreement as to what should be funded. 28 applications were agreed for organisations whose logos you can see below. For a full list of services funded by Surrey AHDC and details on how you can contact them please see the list accompanying this newsletter or visit the Aiming High website at <http://www.pwpsurrey.org/organisations-funded-by-surrey-ahdc.html>



Young People's Involvement in the Funding Decision Making Process

Separate to the main 2010/11 funding process a number of organisations were invited to apply to run a Buddying scheme and provide a Participation Worker to work specifically with disabled children and young people.



Reigate and Redhill YMCA will run a buddies scheme providing young people to volunteer to take part in social activities with disabled young people aged 11-19. These activities could be group activities or accompanying the disabled young people to social activities such as Brownies or Scouts. This service will capitalise on Reigate & Redhill YMCA's extensive experience with Vinvoled, helping young people to get involved in volunteering.

The organisations shortlisted to provide a Participation Worker were required to give a presentation to a young people's panel. Following the presentation both the young people's panel and the professional panel were in complete agreement that Barnardo's were the best organisation to provide this worker.



Surrey AHDC Family Fun Day

On Saturday 27th March the Surrey Aiming High for Disabled Children Team ran a Family Fun Day for families with disabled children and young people. The event was held at Pond Meadow School in Guildford. 86 Families came along with 173 children and young people, more than 100 of whom were disabled. Despite the rainy weather a good time was had by all.

Families were greeted at the entrance of Pond Meadow School by a variety of animals including a snake and meerkat! Once inside the school there were plenty of activities available for the families to enjoy such as Face painting, African dancing and singing and arts and craft activities. Sound and light activities were provided by Decoda. The children and young people were also kept entertained by Balabash, an entertainer, who made both children and adults laugh out loud.



The school quickly became alive with children with faces painted in a range of animals and superhero's alike.

Positive feedback from the day included:

'It is brilliant- many more to come fingers crossed'

'Fantastic event- lots of fun had by all'

'It was fab! Very well organised and the venue was great. Thank you for all the hard work'



Due to the popular demand and positive feedback the Team are now busy organising another event for the summer. We hope to hold this in the East of the county. If you would like to be kept informed of future family fun day events, please contact Angie by emailing ahdc@surreycc.gov.uk or phone 01372 833098.



Useful Information:

Merlin's Magic Wand Charity:

Merlin's Magic Wand is a worldwide charity for children, aiming to provide magical experiences for those who are seriously ill, disabled or disadvantaged. Usually this involves the family receiving tickets to take their child on a day out at an attraction within the Merlin Group, although other experiences relevant to the child's circumstances may also be considered.

Applications may come from individuals who are aware of a particular child or group of children who might benefit from an award. They will also consider applications from many organisations that work with such children, such as Carer and Support Groups.

To find out whether you are eligible to apply for tickets for days out please see the Merlin's Magic Wand Charity website: <http://www.merlinsmagicwand.org/>

Home Access Scheme:

In the Winter AHDC newsletter we told you about the Home Access Scheme which aims to provide practical and financial support to low income families who may not be able to afford a computer or the internet.

For families who have a child with special needs or disabilities the Home Access Scheme now have a full range of **free** assistive technology solutions available. For further information please visit the following website: www.homeaccess.org.uk/

For further details please contact:

michelle.blackman@surreycc.gov.uk Chair, Surrey Home Access Steering Group or
debbie.dart@vtplc.com VT Group, Extended Services Consultant

AHDC Surrey Website:

The AHDC Surrey website has been updated with much more information. To find out about the results of the Children and Young People's Questionnaire 2009, The Parent/Carer Questionnaire 2009, past copies of newsletters or organisations who have received funding please visit our website at <http://www.pwpsurrey.org/ahdc/>

Aiming High for Disabled Children (Surrey):

To contact Aiming High for Disabled Children in Surrey:

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