

Aiming High for Disabled Children in Surrey

Summer 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 in Surrey has been very busy since the Spring Newsletter went out.

- ⇒ One of our main tasks was to organise another Family Fun Day. After such a successful event on 27th March and after requests from parents we set about planning another. On 31st July 2010 we held the second Aiming High Family Fun Day at Auriol School in Stoneleigh. Have a look at pages 2 and 3 for information and photos of the day.
- ⇒ Another main task of the Aiming High team has continued to be distributing both capital and revenue funding. We have had some fantastic applications for funding which we believe will make a long term difference to service provision in Surrey (see page 4 for further information).
- ⇒ The Surrey Early Support Service in South West Surrey (previously known as 'Team around the child') has always been a popular service. After much hard work the Aiming High team in partnership with the Early Years Service has now launched an expanded service across all four Surrey areas. For more information about the service please see page 5.
- ⇒ The AHDC Surrey website has been updated with much more information. To find out more including past copies of newsletters or details of organisations who have received funding please visit our website at <http://www.pwpsurrey.org/ahdc/>

Keep The Date Free: 23rd November 2010

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



The purpose of this event is to update parents on what has been achieved during the AHDC programme, and what the next steps are. 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

Look out for booking information in the near future.



Family Fun Day: 31st July 2010

The second Aiming High Family Fun Day was held at Auriol Junior School in Stoneleigh on Saturday 31st July. More than 140 people, including 40 disabled children and young people attended.

Children and young people had the chance to take part in a wide variety of activities including football, Bollywood dancing, boccia and art. We also had



specialist sensory activities aimed at children and young people with profound and multiple learning disabilities. Once again the animals (including meerkats) were extremely popular.

Many families took the opportunity to have a picnic and to have giant ice-creams from the ice-cream van whilst watching the very popular entertainer.

Overall the day was a great success and we plan to hold another Fun Day before March 2011.



"It was a great range of activities as Ella's brother could get involved with some of the activities as well - he enjoyed the football"

Parent



"It was a lovely day out, great that it wasn't packed so the children could be themselves"

Parent

"Fantastic and very good, the children are made to feel very special indeed- thank you very much all"

Parent



Providers at the Family Fun Day included



Animal Magic

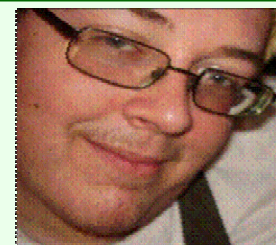


Congratulations to the Day family who were randomly selected from all families who completed a Family Fun Day Evaluation form and won a £25.00 Marks and Spencer gift voucher.

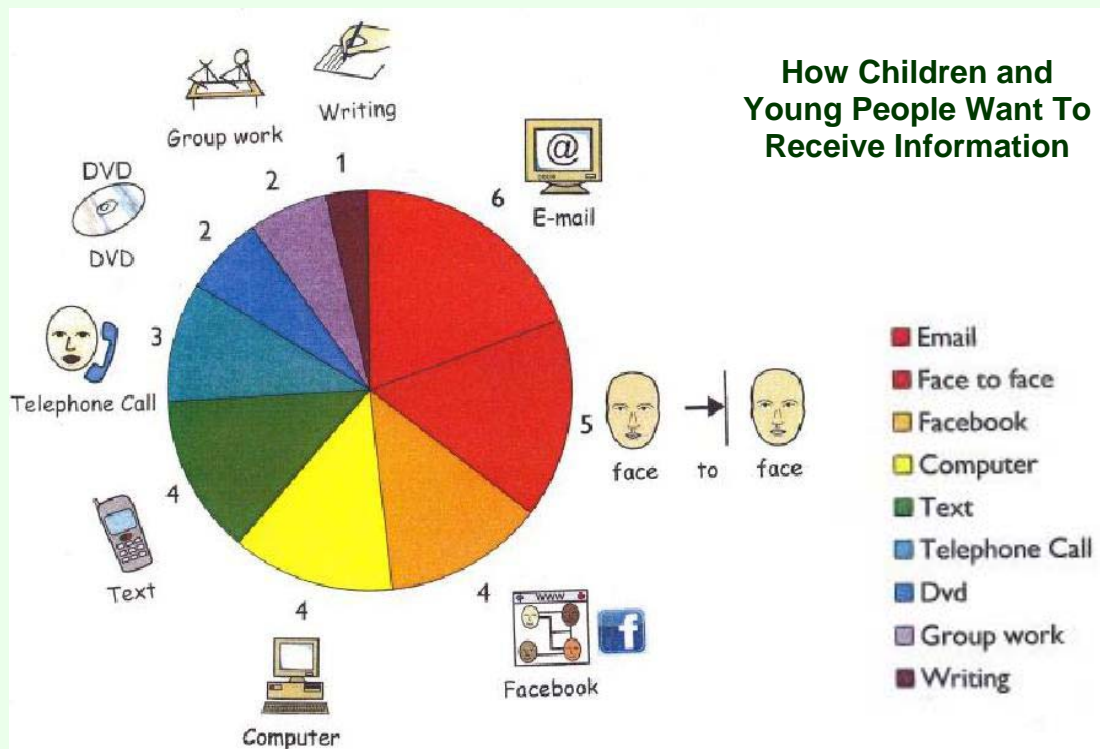


Participation Worker: Gareth Lewington

Gareth Lewington is a children and young people's participation worker funded jointly by Surrey County Council and NHS Surrey with disabilities. He will be working with children and young people to ensure they have a voice and can influence decisions about services that may affect them.



To start this work off Gareth carried out a consultation exercise at the Family Fun Day. Children and young people were asked to design a mini person (paper person) and then stick on pictures as to how they would like to receive information. Once this had been completed, children and young people had to place their mini me on the time line at what age they wanted to receive information. Below are the results:



For more comprehensive information please see our website <http://www.pwpsurrey.org/ahdc/>

DCATCH (Disabled Children's Access to Childcare):

Surrey Family Information Service is 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. The DCATCH programme is aimed at improving access to childcare for children with a disability whose parents wish to take up employment or training

We will be updating you in the coming months about these improvements to FIS and how you as a parent or carer of a disabled child or young person can take advantage of these new services.

If you would like to know more about how the Surrey FIS can help you find childcare please contact us on 0300 200 1004 or visit our website at www.surreycc.gov.uk/fis. If you would like to know more about the DCATCH programme please contact Anna Nugent on 01372 833866.



2010/2011 Revenue Funding

Some organisations who received Aiming High funding have been unable to spend all of the money they originally received due to difficulties in recruitment and other such delays. As a result we are now offering organisations another opportunity to apply for grants of up to £10,000.

We would like organisations who are established in Surrey to use these grants to expand or develop short breaks. This could be through staff training, extending services already in place or running one-off activities or events. As this funding is from a revenue budget it cannot be used to purchase equipment or make adaptations to buildings.

Although funding cannot be used towards funding for individual children grants have been given to organisations to contribute towards residential holidays, transition work, coach hire for outings and staff training.

If you know of any organisations who would be interested in applying for funding please ask them to contact Justine on 01372 833 926 or Justine.loggenberg@surreycc.gov.uk.

Capital Funding:

One of the areas where the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme will have its longest lasting impact is through the capital funding that has been distributed.

Sovereign Centre, Reigate

Reigate and Redhill YMCA are one of the main service providers for disabled children in the East of Surrey but up until now they have run their *Yippee* and *Yip 4 Youth* schemes from hired venues which although sufficient, have never been ideal.



After a very comprehensive application to the AHDC team the organisation will now be able to take over the Sovereign Centre in Reigate and create *The Disability Hub*. This will be a purpose built venue with sensory rooms, adapted play areas and opportunities for integration. The YMCA have also secured funds from Reigate & Banstead Borough Council and the YMCA's own Challenge Fund. To find out more about it visit the Reigate and Redhill YMCA website

<http://www.ymcaredhill.com/>

High Ashurst, Dorking

The other major building project being undertaken using funding from AHDC Surrey is the building of a log cabin at High Ashurst. High Ashurst is a site owned and run by Surrey Outdoor Learning and Development (SOLD).

SOLD provide adventure courses and camps to groups of children from around Surrey and beyond. Recently they have been expanding both their work with disabled young people and their onsite accommodation. AHDC is providing funding for a fourth, fully adapted log cabin to be built on site. Staff from SOLD have been consulting with managers at Ruth House and Disability Challengers to ensure their building meets all requirements of a practically useable building.



Surrey Early Support Service

The new Surrey Early Support Service (SESS) was launched at the Dorking Halls to a multi agency audience on 24th June, 2010. The aim of the service is to provide early support for children with disabilities and complex special needs, aged 0 – 5 years and resident in Surrey.

When a child has complex needs or multiple disabilities there may be a large number of people involved in providing services for them. The Surrey Early Support Service aims to co-ordinate multi-agency services to ensure timely referrals and interventions, to take a holistic view of the needs of the child and family. It intends to reduce the number of times families need to 'tell their tale' and prevent duplication of services.

When a referral is received a local Surrey Early Support Co-ordinator will allocate to the family a level of support based on their needs. For children with complex needs, the Co-ordinator will bring together the parents or carers and all those working with the child and family to a 'Team around the Child' meeting to develop a 'Family Service Plan' and ensure that the child is kept at the centre of the planning process. Those invited to attend will include parents and carers, health, education, social care and voluntary sector professionals currently working with, or soon to be involved with the child and family. This enables forward planning and co-ordinated services, and ensures that parent and carers are part of decision making processes.

The service can also arrange for a 'keyworker'. This will usually be someone already working actively with the child, and can come from health, education or social care. This role is supported by the local Surrey Early Support Co-ordinator, who will be the first point of contact for parents/ carers and professionals working with young children in their locality.

Any professional working with the family can refer to the service. Parents and carers can also self refer. For more information or to make a referral, contact your local Surrey Early Support Service Co-ordinator.

Email: earlysupport@surreycc.gov.uk

Tel: 0300 200 1004

Web: www.surreycc.gov.uk/earlysupport



The Surrey Early Support Coordinators

AHDC Staff Changes

Welcome

We welcome Susan Cryle to the team to work on Direct Payments. Susan will be the first port of call for families and social workers who have questions about direct payments and will also process the financial monitoring for this service. Susan is employed part time. She can be contacted on Susan.Cryle@surreycc.gov.uk or 01372 833 679



Good Bye and Thank You

Stephanie Anderson who worked on both the Children's Fund team and the Aiming High team has decided to return to teaching as Head of English at an independent school. We thank Stephanie for all her work and wish her all the best in her new role.



Useful Information



Family Line - Surrey: Freephone 0808 800 5678

www.familyline.org.uk

Family Line Surrey was set up to listen, in confidence, to any worries or concerns from parents, without criticising or judging.

A trained volunteer will listen and talk through problems such as parenting, adult relationships, teenagers, step-parenting, child access, grandchildren, bullying, abuse, substance misuse and many more. Specialist help can be signposted from Family Line's extensive database.

The South East Employment Network

<http://www.theseen.uk.net/job-seekers-introduction.htm>

The South East Employment Network is designed for people with physical disabilities, sensory impairments or long term mental health issues who are looking for a job or, perhaps, re-training for a new job. This support can live in harmony with anything people are doing independently to find work.

The South East Employment Network is free to join. Once an individual has registered they will send you details of specialist support agencies in your area who might be able to help you.

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 in October 2010 following the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Aiming High for Disabled Children (Surrey):

To contact Aiming High for Disabled Children in Surrey:

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