

Aiming High for Disabled Children in Surrey

Newsletter Winter 2009

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."

In Surrey, AHDC is a programme funded jointly by Surrey County Council and NHS Surrey working together in partnership under the Surrey Alliance. The Surrey Alliance logo will be found on all AHDC documentation across the county.



What AHDC Has Done Since The Autumn 2009 Newsletter Update

Autumn was an exciting time for Aiming High for Disabled Children in Surrey.

We have set firm plans regarding the priorities for 2010/ 2011. The priority areas are largely based around what parents have told us they would like to see developed in Surrey. These include:

- **Embedding disabled children and young people's participation.** This will take the form of a participation worker being employed to work with disabled children and young people. They will also help to implement the CAT Mark Scheme, a scheme whereby young people assess the quality of services
- **Increasing access to community based activities.** This will include implementing a buddy Scheme that recruits young people to volunteer to be buddies to disabled young people
- **Expanding the services currently available in Surrey.** Parents like many of the services such as play schemes and carers coming into the home therefore some of these services will be expanded.
- **Improving data collection.** This will be useful in supporting planning, development and information distribution
- **Developing Early Support** for families of disabled children aged 0 - 5.
- **Expanding the range of short breaks opportunities available to children and young people.** AHDC plans to increase the number of activities children and young people have to choose from including using local facilities, community based activities and specialist services.

2010/11 Funding

We are currently in the process of distributing funding for 2010/11 to those organisations who have applied to deliver activities and services to Surrey children and young people. We contacted more than 100 potential providers and received 47 applications from a variety of providers many of whom are new to Surrey.

The bid applications are being assessed by a parent panel, a professional panel and then passed to the AHDC steering group. Successful organisations will be notified in February 2010 and details of the successful applications will be outlined in the AHDC newsletter in Spring 2010.



Applewood Update

In 2010 AHDC will contribute funding towards Applewood, a new residential short breaks provision that will be opening in Tadworth.

This six-bed unit is now waiting for the final touches to be completed. An opening date has not yet been set as this is subject to OFSTED registration however the whole team is hoping it will be early in 2010.

Once open, Applewood will offer short breaks to children and young people with a wide range of disabilities who are referred from social care teams.



↑ Applewood Front



↑ Applewood Back

Children and Young People's Short Breaks Questionnaire 2009

The purpose of this questionnaire was to find out from children and young people the types of short break activities they would like; and to then distribute the findings to existing and potential providers to inform their planning.

In total 453 children were approached and 237 chose to take part in various forms of questionnaire and/or discussion.

By far, the most popular activity across all age ranges, disability groups and areas was swimming with 72% of all children listing it as an activity they enjoyed. Trampolining and bowling were the next most popular sports.



There were many activities that the children and young people enjoyed, the most popular of which were doing arts and crafts (45%), taking part in music related activities (45%) such as playing music, listening to music and dancing.



The most popular outing across most age groups, disability groups and areas was going to the cinema with 57% of all children enjoying this activity.



Eating out and going to the seaside were also very popular.

The reports of the findings will be available on the Partnership with Parents website early in January: www.pwpsurrey.org/ahdc-introduction.html



The Future For AHDC Funding

It is not possible predict what is likely to happen to Aiming High funding beyond March 2011 as with an upcoming general election, government spending plans have not yet been set.

Many of the organisations who have benefited from AHDC funding have come up with innovative ways to sustain their service if funding should cease therefore we expect the effects of AHDC to be felt for years to come



Useful Information

Easter Play And Youth Schemes

There will be many organisations running Easter holiday schemes but to help with your planning, below are schemes we have been told of:

The Children's Trust **This club is awaiting final confirmation**

Who can attend: Children and young people with profound and multiple learning disabilities/ requiring nursing care

To be run in: Tadworth

Age Group: 5—18 years

Contact: 01737 365080

Email: wmccannon@thechildrenstrust.org.uk.

Disability Challengers

Who can attend: Children and young people who have a wide range of physical and learning disabilities

To be run in: Bookham, Caterham, Dorking, Epsom, Farnham, Guildford, Leatherhead, Oxsted

Age Groups: 4 - 12 years, 13 - 18 years and 18—25 years

Contact: Please see the booking instructions at <http://www.disability-challengers.org/OurService/howToBook.html>

Link Leisure

Who can attend: Children and young people who have a wide range of learning disabilities

Being run in: Woking

Age groups: 4 -11 years, 12 -17years and 18 -25years (in education)

Contact details: 01483 770 037

Email: kristina.lastow@linkleisure.org.uk (children aged up to 11),

jo.tuck@linkleisure.org.uk (youth aged up to 17)

lesley.sponge@linkleisure.org.uk (adults)

Reigate and Redhill YMCA

Who can attend: Children and young people who have a wide range of physical and learning disabilities

Being run in: Redhill and Banstead areas

Age groups: 5 - 13 years and 13 -15 years

Contact details: Phone 01737 779979 or book via the website <http://www.ymcarehill.com/>

White Lodge Centre

Who can attend: Children and young people who have a wide range of physical and learning disabilities

Being run in: Walton, Spelthorne and Chertsey

Age Groups: 4 - 12 years and 13 - 18 years.

Contact: Phone 01932 577961 to speak to Gill or Carole

The Card Network

The Card Network administer the Cinema Exhibitors Association Card. This card entitles the holder to one free ticket for a person accompanying them to the cinema. To apply, a person will need to meet one of the following criteria-

- Be in receipt of Disability Living Allowance at any rate
- Be a registered blind person

Cards are valid for 1 year and a £5.50 processing fee applies. 90% of UK cinemas support this card, from large chains like Odeon, Vue, Showcase, Empire Cinemas, Cineworld to the independents.

For further information please contact The Card Network:

Website: www.ceacard.co.uk

Phone: 0845 123 1292

Address: CEA Card, PO Box 199, Deeside, CH5 9BW



Becta Home Access Scheme in Surrey



“Home Access aims to provide practical and financial support to low-income families who may not be able to afford a computer or the internet. We will support these families to ensure that the educational and social benefits of 21st Century technology are available to them” Diana Johnson, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools

Home Access is the government programme which will help to ensure that more children in state maintained education in England have access to technology at home to support learning.

Home Access packages are available for purchase by all families. Families who meet the set eligibility criteria can apply to Capita, the managing agent, for a Home Access Grant to cover the full cost of the package. Home Access has been designed with a family's needs in mind. Packages include as standard:

- One year's service and support
- Pre-set parental controls
- Installed office productivity suite
- Firewall and an anti-virus package
- Award winning e-safety guide 'Know IT All for Parents'
- Enhanced warranty and reinstatement service in the event of theft
- Educational guidance

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

Useful Websites/ Contacts

Go2Do: <http://www.go2do.co.uk/kbroker/surrey/go2do/start.jsp>

Go2Do is the new positive activities website for 11-19 year olds in Surrey. The search facility allows for searches around the word "Disability"



Family Information Service: Email: surrey.fis@surreycc.gov.uk Tel: 0300 200 1004

Surrey Family Information Service (FIS) is an internet, telephone and outreach service that provides information, advice and assistance to parents of children and young people aged 0 to 19 years old (up to 25 years old for young people with special needs).



Aiming High for Disabled Children (Surrey):

To contact Aiming High for Disabled Children in Surrey:

Email: ahdc@surreycc.gov.uk

Phone: **01372 833073**

Address: **Mid Surrey Area Office (AO1),
Bay Tree Avenue,
Kingston Road
Leatherhead
KT22 7SY**

Website: <http://www.pwpsurrey.org/ahdc/> (currently under development)

