

# Transition Next Steps



Issue 19  
Summer Term 2010

**Welcome to the Summer Term 2010 edition of Next Steps, the newsletter for parents and carers of young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities in transition from school to adult life.**

Partnership with Parents provides information, advice and support to Surrey parents and carers of children of all ages with special educational needs. We can help in many ways, from form filling, to providing information about parents' rights and responsibilities. We offer a free, confidential helpline, as well as training and information sessions.

If you have any queries or concerns about your son's or daughter's transition, we can provide information about who the key people are for you to be in contact with, what role each agency or organisation fulfils and what should be in place to ensure that the transition process is as smooth as possible. Please do not hesitate to get in touch – our contact details are below.

For some of you, this will be the first time you have received our newsletter. We send it out at the beginning of each term, and try to include in it items of interest and details of forthcoming events. If there is any topic you would like covered in a future edition, or an event you would like us to promote, I should be pleased to hear from you. We may be able to add it to our website.

In this issue, there is an update from Aiming High, and the projects which they are funding in the current year. There are a substantial number of schemes for teenagers.

There is also a review of 'Moving On', the transition conference we held in March, and information about what Adult and Community Learning can provide.

**Sally Brooks, County Transition Advisor**

## ***Partnership with Parents***



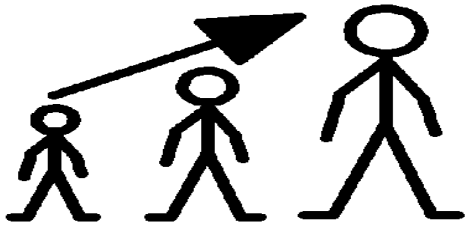
Noke Drive, Redhill, RH1 4AX

**Helpline: 01737 737300**

**Email: [pwp@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:pwp@surreycc.gov.uk)**

or visit our **website: [www.pwpsurrey.org](http://www.pwpsurrey.org)**

To contact **Sally Brooks the County Transition Advisor** call 01737 737300 or email [sally.brooks@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:sally.brooks@surreycc.gov.uk)



# 'Moving On' Conference

On 6 March, we held a very successful conference at the Holiday Inn, Guildford. It was attended by 110 parents, who enjoyed a delicious lunch in the middle of a packed day. They listened to presentations from a variety of professionals including Sarah Mitchell who is Director of Adult Social Care. She talked about changes in the way services are provided - in particular around personalisation and self-directed support - and gave some fantastic success stories of young people who have made a full and satisfying life for themselves. She also said that, jointly with the Children, Schools and Families directorate, they are appointing a Transitions Manager to ensure early focus, joined-up service provision and improved information and support.

There were also excellent presentations about:

- ❖ Housing options and supported living - which explained about different types of housing available and how the support could be put in place, as well as stressing that when the young person reaches 16, their name should be put on the local housing register
- ❖ the 'benefits maze' - which included information about the different benefits available at different stages, and showed what a minefield it can be
- ❖ the law - what you need to know- which covered the Mental Capacity Act, powers of attorney and much more
- ❖ Connexions - which explained their role, and when they can help
- ❖ self-directed support - which explained the processes from assessment onwards, emphasising that people are at the centre of decisions about their lives, and that choice and control are central themes
- ❖ County Transition Team - their role and involvement, including assessments, referrals and the new Carers' Support role.

There were also workshops on health action planning, friends and relationships, and supported employment. These were also very well received.

The only drawback to the day was the amount of information given - a bit of an overload!

Once again - a big 'THANK YOU' to all those who came, whether to listen or to present, to all the organisations which manned stands and gave out information and to those who helped plan the day with me (Ginny Willis, Alaster Calder, Sara Truman and Adrian Good). I've already been asked when the next one will be.....

## NATIONAL AUTISTIC SOCIETY (NAS) EVENTS



### **Skating**

The NAS are once again holding a private skating event at The Spectrum in Guildford, along with the Epsom-based charity, interAKtive (formerly GASP). It will be on **Saturday 15th May from 5.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.** The event is designed for the whole family: children with ASDs, siblings and parents and carers: they will have the whole ice rink to themselves. Skating is great fun and can help to build confidence in anxious children, but as it can be dangerous, the Spectrum's safety guidelines must be followed - please ask for more information when booking.

To book, please contact Sarah Mead on email: [sarah.mead1@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sarah.mead1@tiscali.co.uk) or tel: 01483 454245.

### **Youth Clubs**

The NAS has now secured funding for its six youth clubs and (at time of going to press) there are places available at all except Guildford. The clubs are:

Monday - Reigate 7 - 9pm  
Tuesday - Epsom 6.30 - 8.30pm  
Wednesday - Woking 5 - 7pm  
Thursday - Ash 7 - 9pm  
Friday - Guildford (currently full)

There are also plans for a new youth club in Spelthorne, and the Hart & Rushmoor (Hampshire) branch is trying to get a club going in Aldershot, which may be accessible to people on the Surrey / Hants borders.

For more information, please contact Kate Nixon on email: [kate.nixon@nas.org.uk](mailto:kate.nixon@nas.org.uk), tel: 07909 930086.

### **Parents of girls group**

The next get-together of the branch's group for parents of girls with ASDs will be on Tuesday 4th May from 10.00a.m. to 12.00. in Woking.

For details contact the group co-ordinator Rachel Pearson, tel: 01483-727378 or email: [racheldpearson@aol.co.uk](mailto:racheldpearson@aol.co.uk).

**BRANCH MEETINGS: - Guildford: Weds 12th May - Autism and CAMHS Speaker: Matthew Downie, NAS, Campaigns Manager**

**Woking: Thursday 8th July - Growing up with ASD Speaker: Joshua Muggleton**

**Meetings start with coffee at 7.45pm and begin at 8.00pm**

More information from: Sara Truman 01483 822630, Email: [nas@mugsy.org](mailto:nas@mugsy.org)

**YMCA**



**REIGATE & REDHILL**

### **BUDDYING SCHEME**



Reigate and Redhill YMCA are setting up a buddying scheme to help young people with a learning difficulty or disability, aged 11-19, by giving them a buddy to help them participate in activities of their choosing. This will help them develop social interactions and key skills, as well as giving parents/carers a short break. The buddies will be volunteers.

For more information or to refer a young person to the scheme, please contact John Brunswick on 01737 784970 (9am-6pm weekdays) or by email to [john.brunswick@ymcaredhill.com](mailto:john.brunswick@ymcaredhill.com).



## **Supported Learning – the team says.....**

### **What we do**

The supported learning team offer Adult and Community Learning (ACL) for learners over the age over 16 years in the North and South West Surrey. Learners choose ACL when Further Education provision is not available or not suitable for the individual. Learners often have employment or attend other services as well as coming to our classes.

A wide range of subjects are offered which include; art/craft, exercise, dance, money management, cookery, computers, performing arts and many more.

Our classes are offered at 7 main sites and we have a range of outside venues also available. We offer classes specifically aimed at learners with learning disabilities and/or difficulties.

All learners have an individual learning plan and records of learner progress are kept. This is based on the initial assessment learners have at the start of the course. On occasions learners have taken the learning plans and progress reports to their care review so that they can share this with their parents, care managers or friends, for example. Our tutors are qualified to teach and are experienced in their subject area. We are visited by Ofsted, rather like schools and colleges are,

and we therefore have to maintain high standards in the service we offer.

All the staff in the supported learning team are subject to an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check and we take our safeguarding duties very seriously.

### **What we don't do**

We do not provide personal care for learners and at some venues there are access issues that might require consideration. The supported learning team will work together with learners and their parents / advocates to see which classes, venues and help will be required to allow the learner to participate.

Most classes are 2 hours in length – some are longer, others shorter. Some learners choose to come for the day but need to understand there are no facilities for them to be cared for between classes. In some cases, advocates have arranged for buddies to join the learners at break time between lessons.

### **Further information**

If you would like to learn more please contact Jo McSherrrie on 01932 794504 or email to [Joanne.mcsherrrie@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:Joanne.mcsherrrie@surreycc.gov.uk)

Please note: similar services are available in the East of Surrey, run by East Surrey College.



# Family Fun Day

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."

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. Everyone was entertained by a range of activities, from pat dogs to dancers, animals to arts and crafts.

There are plans to hold another Family Fun Day, on 31<sup>st</sup> July, Auriol School, Stoneleigh, with lots of outside activities and space for children to run around - details will be on the Partnership with Parents website at [www.pwpsurrey.org](http://www.pwpsurrey.org)

Through AHDC, funding has been allocated to 28 organisations for a variety of projects, which include after-school clubs, holiday activities and youth clubs. For a full list of services funded by Surrey AHDC and details on how you can contact and access them, please see the list on the Aiming High website at [www.pwpsurrey.org/organisations-funded-by-surrey-ahdc.html](http://www.pwpsurrey.org/organisations-funded-by-surrey-ahdc.html)

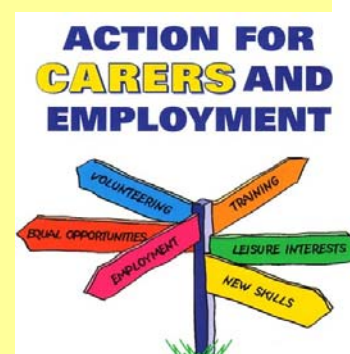
In addition to the main funded projects:

- ❖ Reigate and Redhill YMCA will run a buddying scheme for disabled young people aged 11-19. Please see page 4 for more details, and
- ❖ a Participation Worker to work specifically with disabled children and young people will be provided by Barnardo's - a young person's panel, and a professionals' panel, decided that they were the best organization to provide this worker.

**Action for Carers and Employment** offers a free and confidential service to all parent carers, carers and former carers aged 18 and above. We can help you with:

- Researching courses, full or part-time.
- Obtaining funding for training.
- Free vocational courses.
- Adult Directions to help with career options.
- Employment.
- Exploring choices in the job market or voluntary sector.

If you would like to talk to one of our Development Workers, call 01737 244220 or 01483 565874. Alternatively email us at [ace@actionforcarers.org.uk](mailto:ace@actionforcarers.org.uk) or text 07736 561977.





Challengers' youth schemes are for young people aged 13 - 18. They run at weekends, evenings and school holidays all through the year at Challengers youth centres and venues across Surrey. Youth schemes have a programme of organised activities and trips out - for example the Imax cinema, skiing, bowling, lunch out at Pizza

Express and more. As well as this there is also time to just hang out and make friends. The programme for each youth scheme is promoted in advance so that young people can choose the day and the scheme they prefer. Up to half the spaces are reserved for young people who have complex impairments and who need 1:1 support.

Go to [www.disability-challengers.org](http://www.disability-challengers.org) for more information including the packed summer programme of activities around the county, as well as all their activity weekends and youth schemes which run all year round.

The booking number is 01483 230939, and the dates for booking places on the summer youth schemes are:

- 24-25 May for young people who have 1:1 support, and
- 26-28 May for young people who do not have 1:1 support.

**DON'T MISS THE DATES!!!**

**Us in a Bus**, the Surrey-based voluntary organisation that works with people with profound learning disabilities/complex needs, runs regular workshops about Intensive Interaction. This is an approach that encourages the development of connection, sociability and communication. There is an Introduction to Intensive Interaction workshop in Redhill on 5<sup>th</sup> May, with an optional follow-up workshop on 7<sup>th</sup> July (if you book both at once there is a discount). Us in a Bus offers reduced rates for family carers. To find out more visit [www.usinabus](http://www.usinabus) or give them a call on 01737 764774. Flyers can also be seen on Partnership with Parents' website



### **LEARNING & SKILLS COUNCIL UPDATE:**

From 1 April 2010, the role of the Learning & Skills Council in planning and commissioning young people's education and training has been transferred to Surrey County Council. For more information about Surrey's 14-19 Education & Training, including the Surrey 14-19 Plan 2010-2015, see the Surrey County Council website at [www.surreycc.gov.uk](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk) - Learning - 14-19 Education & training.



### **MINIATURE RAILWAY EVENT**

Malden & District Society of Model Engineers in Claygate is once again hosting a FREE open day for families with children with disabilities or special needs on Sunday 20th June. Children can ride on the model trains, and you can buy refreshments or bring a picnic. Please ensure that you have enough carers to ensure appropriate supervision for each child you bring.

For more information, contact Peter Pullen on 020 7738 9174 email [pjpullen@talktalk.net](mailto:pjpullen@talktalk.net)

