



Parent Partnership Service

CHESHIRE EAST

Newsletter

For parents and carers of children who have special educational needs



Meet the Professionals Event
Tuesday 8th July
Crewe Alexandra

Inside this issue:

Page 3

Preparing for Primary School

Page 4

Children & Families Act

Page 5

Youth Support

Page 7

Cheshire East Parent & Carer Forum

Page 10

Activities

Page 11

What's on

Summer 2014



www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/parentpartnership

What is the Parent Partnership Service?

Parent Partnership (PPS) is a free and impartial service for parents and carers of children who have difficulties with learning. We provide information, advice and guidance to help parents and carers to make informed decisions about their child's education. We are funded by Cheshire East Council although the work we do is at arms length and separate from the Council's work. The service is available to parents and carers of children who have a special need with or without a diagnosis.

The service supplies literature and guidance leaflets, we listen to parental concerns and can arrange individual meetings with parents and children as well as arranging meetings for groups of parents/carers to share experiences and ideas. We hold free parent and carer forums in Cheshire East. These have been established so that we can hear directly from our parents and carers, involve them in consultations and provide high quality, relevant information.

We also train and deploy a number of Independent Parental Supporters who can work alongside parents and carers to providing support and guidance.

If you feel the service would be helpful to someone you know please ask them to contact the office.

How to get in touch:

E-mail: parentpartnership@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Post: Parent Partnership Service
FREEPOST RSSU-KCZX-HXSC,
Floor 4 c/o Municipal Buildings, Earl Street,
Crewe, CW1 2LL

Tel: 01625 374278

Want to see the next newsletter as soon as it is produced and receive updates throughout the term?

You can "like" us on [facebook.com/PPSCheshireeast](https://www.facebook.com/PPSCheshireeast), follow us on [Twitter.co.uk/PPSCheshireeast](https://twitter.co.uk/PPSCheshireeast) or contact us and we will add you to our e-mail alert and bulletin service.

All details and events correct at time of print.

If you do not have web access but want the additional information referred to in any of the articles in this newsletter, please do contact us and we will print and send it out to you.

If you need this newsletter in a different format please see it on our web pages - there you will be able to hear it, enlarge the text, or see it in a different language via Google Translate.

Summer is here at last and we can all look forward to some warmer weather and to the longer days.

We promised to keep you updated about the changes around Special Educational Needs. The Children and Families Bill became law on 13th March. You can read an overview on page 4 showing the changes in the way children and young people with Special Needs and Disability will be supported in school and in the community. Find this article on pages 5.

We hope you will be able to join us at our **Meet the Professionals Event on Tuesday 8th July** when you will have another opportunity to hear about the Education, Health and Care Plan and to see a copy for yourself. See page 3 for more information.

On page 7 you can read more about the successful first year of **Cheshire East Parent and Carer Forum**. They are inviting all parents to come along to their Open Forum in June. Make sure you visit their website for details of this event and other opportunities to get involved on www.cepc.org.

I hope you can find a spare moment to have a look through the newsletter. Do check out our calendar on the back pages and why not bring a friend along to one of our summer events.

And finally... I have received a number of e-mails from parents expressing their thanks for the support that has been provided by my staff and volunteers. We are not able to perform miracles but parents who contact us can be confident that we will listen and always do our best by working with them in achieving the best outcomes for their children. I am enormously proud to lead this team of dedicated and knowledgeable individuals.

Liz



Meet the Professionals Event Tuesday 8th July, 9.45 to 14.00 at Crewe Alexandra Football Club

Parent Partnership Service are hosting a Meet the Professionals event on Tuesday 8th July at Crewe Alexandra Football Club, Gresty Road, Crewe, CW2 6EB.



The day will start at 9.45 with an update about the Parent Partnership Service in light of the new Children and Families Act. This will include a new name and details of services we will provide from September 2014. We then hope to be able to share the new Cheshire East version of an Education Health and Care plan and address some of the myths around the introduction of the new Code of Practice.

Parents will then have a choice from a range of speakers and will be able to attend three sessions. The speakers we have confirmed so far are the Community Learning Disabilities Team, the Educational Psychology Service, an ADHD Nurse, Cheshire Carer's Centre, Cheshire East Autism Team and a session on top tips to help your child if they have Dyslexia. This will be an opportunity to speak to professionals face-to-face and may help you decide if a service is the right one to access for your family.

We hope to be able to offer more speakers and are currently contacting other teams. If you would like the opportunity to speak at our day please contact the Service before Monday 12th May.

If you would like us to display your leaflets please send them into the office by Tuesday 1st July.

Full details of the speakers and booking information will be released on our website, facebook and twitter the week beginning Monday 19th May.



Preparing to go to Primary School

We know that moving from nursery to primary school is a big step for children with additional needs and for you as parents. To help make this move as smooth as possible Parent Partnership Service will be hosting an event to offer advice and guidance for parents of children who are about to start primary school. We will provide information around what to expect and how your child might be supported in their new setting. You will be able to hear from a number of professionals and will include information about looking for a school and how to apply for a place.

There is no cost for the event which will take place on Wednesday 22nd October at St Peter's Church Hall Elworth. We start at 10.00am and finish at 1.30pm, refreshments and light lunch will be provided.

Make sure you book your place by calling the service on 01625 374278 or e-mailing parentpartnership@cheshireeast.gov.uk.

Little Stars Group

Do you have a child with additional needs? A new group for families was launched at the Sandbach Children's Centre in April. A monthly group will now be held on the last Thursday of each month beginning Thursday 29th May 10.00 - 12.00. Please contact the centre on 01270 371235 for further information.

Each Children's Centre will have an individual list of activities and events. Please contact your local Centre for a full programme of groups and events taking place in your area. Details for your Children's Centre can be found on the Cheshire East Website www.cheshireeast.gov.uk.

Ruby's Fund has found a home in Congleton

The new home for Ruby's Fund is at Meridian House, Roe Street, Congleton. They will open a sensory room and soft play area soon. The sensory room can be used by individuals and groups of all ages and abilities for relaxation, focused work, therapies and sensory stimulation. For more information please visit their website www.rubysfund.co.uk, e-mail info@rubysfund.co.uk or telephone 01260 277666.



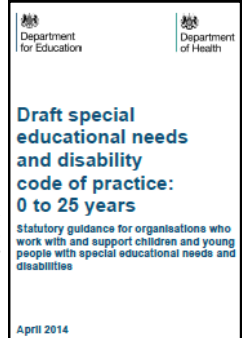
Children and Families Act 2014 and Information for Families


Following the Royal Assent that was given to the Children and Families Bill in March, lots of new information has been released.

The Department for Education published a new draft "Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years" on 16th April. The consultation closed on Tuesday 6th May. The draft can be viewed on Dropbox using the short link <https://db.tt/5Y6jxocR>. We are expecting the final version in the summer term and it will be implemented from 1st September.

Edward Timpson, Minister for Children and Families, released a open letter to parents on 8th April regarding the changes. The letter can be seen in full below. Separate letters were sent to local authorities and health partners, teachers and colleges. Follow this short link to view all of the letters www.goo.gl/cGa4mB.

We will be updating the PPS website, facebook and twitter with new information as we receive it.



 Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BT
0370 000 2288
www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus
8 April 2014

Dear Parents

NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

This September we're making changes to the law for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. The new law will result in changes to the way you and your child receive support from your local council, health and social care services and your child's nursery, school or college. I therefore wanted to write to you with information about what this means for you.

A better family centred approach

Many parents have welcomed the changes the new law brings, particularly the greater focus on personal goals, increased family involvement and improved rights and protections for young people in further education and training. I know that some parents remain concerned about the changes and are nervous about the speed of change. I want to reassure you. This is not about cutting services but about creating a better system that puts you and your child first. It will take time and the changes will be gradually introduced over the next three and a half years. I can also reassure you that the current protections you and your child have will continue and, in many cases, be enhanced further.

From statements to education, health and care plans

We are replacing statements of special educational needs and Learning Difficulty Assessments with a single education, health and care (EHC) plan for children and young people with complex needs. The EHC plan will place much more emphasis on personal goals and will describe the support your child will receive while they are in education or training. We're also introducing personal budgets to accompany this plan to give you more control over the support you and your child receive. The amount you would be given, and how it can be spent, is something that you would agree with your council.

From School Action and School Action Plus to SEN support

For children with less complex needs but who still require help we are introducing a new system called special educational needs (SEN) support which replaces School Action and School Action Plus (and the equivalent in nurseries). It will also be available in colleges. The process will be similar but it will be less about counting the hours or resources given to your child at nursery, school or college and more about what your child has achieved as a result.

Moving to the new system

If your child already has a statement or Learning Difficulty Assessment they will be transferred to the new system within the next three and a half years. The transfer is likely to happen around transition points in your child's education such as when they move from primary to secondary school. Your local council will let you know when you are due to switch and there'll be Independent Supporters on hand to make the transfer as simple as possible. The legislation relating to statements and Learning Difficulty Assessments will be withdrawn when everyone has completed the transition to the new system.

If your child currently receives help at school through School Action or School Action Plus (or the equivalent at nursery) the transfer to SEN support will take place between September 2014 and spring 2015. It is likely to be during one of your child's termly reviews.

Concerns about losing support


Some parents have expressed concern that their child will lose support because of the changes. I can assure you that no one will be left without support just because of the changes. We have not changed the definition of special educational needs or the basis on which councils determine whether a child needs a statutory assessment.

Next steps

I hope this letter helps answer some of your questions about the changes. I've focused on the aspects of the reforms that you are likely to be most interested in at the moment but there are lots of other changes being introduced to improve the system. This includes: improved coordination between local authorities, health, care and education providers; greater rights and protections for young people in further education or training; and more control for families.

Your local council will shortly be publishing a 'local offer' which lists the support and services you and your child can access under the new system. If you'd like to get involved in developing this speak to your council or your local [Parent Carer Forum](#).

We'll be issuing a parent and a young person's guide to the new 0 to 25 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Code of Practice later in the year and we'll continue to work closely with our partners to help you and your child prepare for the changes. In the meantime you can speak to the [Council for Disabled Children](#) (who have published a [guide for parents](#)) [Contact a Family](#), the [National Network of Parent Carer Forums](#) or your [local council](#) for advice. You can also find more information about the changes on [gov.uk](#).



EDWARD TIMPSON
Minister for Children and Families

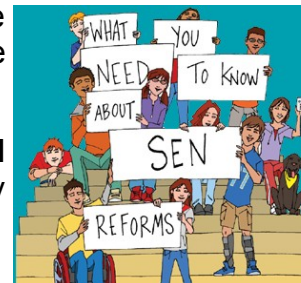
Council for Disabled Children Factsheets



The Council for Disabled Children has issued several factsheets, these include:

SEND Reforms: What Parent Carers Need to Know & Do This factsheet has been written collaboratively by CDC, Contact a Family, National Network of Parent Carer Forums (NNPCF) and the National Parent Partnership Network (NPPN) to give parent carers an overview of how the Children and Families Act will change the way in which children and young people with Special Educational Needs and disabilities are supported at school and in the community. To download the factsheet please visit www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk or Dropbox using the short link <https://db.tt/5Y6jxocR>.

A guide for disabled children and young people and those with special educational needs This document is to help a child or young person find out key information about what's changing and how it might affect them.



Update on the Children and Families Act 2014

The Children and Families Bill gained Royal Assent on 13th March 2014 and will now be referred to as the Children and Families Act 2014. The final legislation can be found here http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/6/pdfs/ukpga_20140006_en.pdf.

Part 3 of the Act refers to the government's reforms within the system for children and young people with special educational needs and/or a disability (SEND), and their families. This legislation, along with the accompanying regulations and a new SEN Code of Practice, will become statutory on 1st September 2014. Current practices and legislation will continue to apply until this date. To find out more about the main themes of the reforms, and the work being done locally in Cheshire East in these theme areas, please visit our update page on the Cheshire East website, which is available at: http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/children_and_families/special_educational_needs.aspx.

We will continue to work with a number of partners, including our local Parent Carer Forum, to develop the new assessment process and Education Health and Care Plan that will replace statements of special educational need from 1st September, and we will be consulting schools early in the summer term on these new processes.

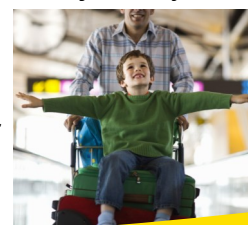
We are also working with local SENCOs and other partners (including Parent Partnership and the Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum), to develop the Cheshire East Local Offer, which will detail all of the provision available locally for children and young people with SEND. Further details around schools' contribution to the Cheshire East Local Offer, and support for schools in completing this, will be distributed next term.

For further information about the SEND reforms and our work in relation to them, or to get involved, please get in touch with Parent Partnership, the Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum or email: Sen.Reforms@cheshireeast.gov.uk.

Written by Cheshire East SEN and Inclusion Service

Manchester Airport Awareness Guide

Manchester Airport has produced booklets to provide travel advice for parents and carers of children on the Autistic Spectrum to help their son or daughter understand what will happen on their journey through Manchester Airport. There is a guide for each terminal and uses photographs and descriptions of the various parts of the airport. They can be downloaded from <http://goo.gl/7PRkAB> or contact the MAG customer Contact Centre for a guide and wristband to identify your child as having additional needs by telephone 0871 477 7747 or e-mail customer.relations@magairports.com including which terminal guide you would like and proof of your child's ASC.





Youth Support in Cheshire East

Newly published Department of Education figures show that Cheshire East is better than the North West Average for those with a Special Needs taking part in education and training when they leave school. Under the Raising of Participation Age legislation, which requires all school leavers to be in education or training when leaving school at the end of Year 11.

The published data shows that 93.8% of those who are 16/17 yrs with an LDD (learning difficulty or disability) are in education or training – this is considerably greater than the North West average of 87%. This has seen a significant increase in the last year, and shows real progress against the National figure of 85.9%

These figures show real progress in ensuring that young people in Cheshire East achieve and gain the training and education they need to succeed, this is supported by a coordinated approach from training providers, schools and colleges to offer flexible programmes to meet the needs of young people. The Youth Support Service has also reshaped to ensure they support the most vulnerable young people and support them to gain training, apprenticeships or college places.

The Youth Support Service provides one to one support, advice and guidance for NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) young people aged 16-19 years through one to one work, group sessions, focused interviews, CAF (Common Assessment Framework) assessments and referral into learning and training. We work with young people with a Cheshire East Council (CEC) Statement of Special Educational Need to engage them in learning and training post 16 via the completion of the Learning Difficulty Assessment (LDA).

Contact Youth Support Service at

Macclesfield Hub, Great King Street, SK11 6PN. Tel 01625 412420

Crewe Hub, 23-25 Market Street, Crewe, CW1 2EW. Tel 01270 253633

Cheshire & Warrington Carers Centre

Did you know that if you are a parent or carer of a child or young person living in Cheshire East or Cheshire West and Chester, the Carers Centre - a local charity are able to provide you with free information, advice and support? Many parent carers do not recognize themselves as carers and therefore don't realize that this local charity has a wide variety of support which may be useful to you and your family!

The Carers Centre are celebrating their 20th year anniversary this year and will be organizing a series of events that families will be welcome to attend including as part of Carers Week on Saturday 14th June an event to celebrate at Congleton Leisure Centre in partnership with Cheshire East Leisure Development. The event will be from 13.00 - 15.30 and will offer lots of free activities including holistic therapies, nail art, face painting, adapted bikes, disability golf plus much more! The Carers Centre support all carers but have a specialist service for parent carers - if you don't know about the service and would like to find out more please get in touch (details below).

Services include, access to the Carers Caravan located in Prestatyn, Disabled Childrens Toy Library, information and support including regular family newsletters and e-newsletters, the Disabled Children's Database, carers craft group, relaxation vouchers, personal budgets (breaks for carers), benefits advice, plus over the coming year there will be a series of events and activities including an inclusive family fun day, a parent carer leisure day, monthly coffee mornings and regular leisure break days.

In order to boost activities and support for families the Centre have regular fundraising events, the next event will be an Evening of Dinner and Dance at Abbeywood Estate near Delamere. All funds raised will be matched by Barclays Bank. Tickets are £30 per person.

If you would like to find out more please contact Lisa Tydd, Children's Lead, Cheshire & Warrington Carers Centre, telephone 0800 085 0307, e-mail dcd@cheshirecarerscentre.org.uk or join our Facebook group Cheshire Carers Centre.

A fantastic first year for the Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum

We held our first AGM last month where we reported on the tremendous progress we have made in our first year. For those of you still unfamiliar with us, we are a voluntary group of parent carers of disabled children and young people that hope to improve the quality of life of families dealing with all kinds of disabilities and additional needs. We are also part of a national network of parent carers. We aim to work in partnership with commissioners and providers of social care, education and health to influence policy and provision. The last twelve months has seen our membership grow and we have facilitated parents participating in the decisions being made that affect us. Our forums have included parents contributing to some of the work being undertaken to by the local authority to implement the new Children and Families Bill. This has included work on the Local Offer, the Life Course Project and at our AGM parents were asked to comment on a draft Educational and Health Care plan which is to replace the current statement starting from September. We currently have parent representatives on various workstreams including the Local offer, Preparing for Adulthood, Health Voice and the Carer's Reference Group. So, as you can see it was a busy year and a successful launch event for professionals showed how beneficial it can be to ask parents how they think services should look.

A big thank you to our retiring chair, Nicola Bartzis, whose energy and enthusiasm has brought us so far. I have been elected as the new chair and hope to build on the amazing work Nicola has done. Our main aim this year is to increase our membership so we have more parent voices to contribute their views and opinions. We want as many parents as possible to participate at whatever level they feel comfortable with, the ultimate aim being co-production of services so that they are right from the start. We shall be offering training for those who wish to become a more active member of the forum with an emphasis on how to be a parent representative. The development of our new website by our new vice-chair Helen Davies and a local web design company, Thrive Creative, is packed with useful information. We hope the website will enable us reach many more parents and make it easier to join and find out about what we do and our events.

Our next **open forum meeting** is in **June** (date to be confirmed) where we will have an update from Cheshire East Council about the new SEND reforms. Our forums are informal and offer an opportunity to meet with other parents in similar situations to help combat some of the isolation felt as a parent carer. We always provide lunch and cover any travel expenses and childcare costs incurred, so come along and see what we are all about.

So, as you can see it was a busy year and hopefully we will go from strength to strength with the help of more parents. I couldn't finish without saying a big thank you to Liz Warham and her team at Parent Partnership who have helped us immensely on our journey through our first year and who we continue to work closely with.

If you would like any more information about the forum and how you can become involved visit our website www.cepcf.org, e-mail us enquiries@cepcf.org, or call us on 07794 431768.

By working together we can make a difference to our lives and our children's lives.

Written by Suzanne Hoxworth, Chair, CEPCF



Review on Dyslexia Seminar Held by Parent Partnership

I am a mum of a daughter aged 10 who has a diagnosis of dyslexia, autism and complex needs. My daughter attends a mainstream school but struggles on a daily basis with school work along with the dreaded homework.

I decided to attend the seminar to see if I could gain any more information on how best to help support my daughter in the home setting and to support links with her school. Although we had a diagnosis of my daughter's dyslexia I have found it difficult to find out what I needed to do next.

The seminar was really helpful. The speaker was Judith Nash (Borough SENCO). Judith had endless information on what schools can put into place to help our children with dyslexia in all school settings. I found Judith to be very open and honest. It was delivered in a parent friendly way that was easy to understand. The group had approximately 20 parents/carers who attended which meant it was a really friendly and relaxed atmosphere, you could ask questions openly to Judith without feeling uncomfortable she was very honest and open about her own dyslexia and the difficulties she has faced and how she has overcome these.

Judith explained the tracking systems the schools have in place. Who should or not as the case may be, carry out an assessment on a child/young person. We did a number of small activities which gave us an insight into how our children view the world; it certainly gave me an understanding on why my daughter refuses to do her homework. A child with dyslexia has to work and concentrate 3 times harder than that of their peers, so a school day for a dyslexic child is a staggering 18hrs! We were shown strategies for the children so they can learn their spellings. Mark on the page where you expect a child to write up to/complete. I have since tried these and guess what...it actually works and my daughter found it fun!

My daughter is in Year 5 at Primary school and we have been looking at secondary education. It was great to hear what primary and secondary schools put in place, the resources they have to help your child/young person. We discussed the different areas of Dyslexia. My daughter struggles in all areas of dyslexia but I learnt that you can be a good reader and still have dyslexia, so for me it was great to hear and learn about other aspects of dyslexia.



It was fantastic to talk to other parents/carers who have a child/young person with dyslexia, we were able to swap tips but best of all it was great to have other people to talk to who understand the difficulties our children face and how frustrating it can be as a parent. I now feel confident on what I need to request the school to put in place to further support my daughter's learning and how I can support the school within the home setting.

I now know there is a light at the end of the tunnel and it is now shining a little brighter than before.

Written by Julie, a Parent

Church Lawton School



This is a free school which is owned and run by the NAS Academies Trust for children and young people with a diagnosis of autism. It is due to open in January 2015 and will provide education for 18 pupils aged between 5 and 19 in the first year. The school will cater for children and young people with high functioning autism who need to be supported in an autism-specific environment.

The focus will be on the development of independent skills, learning and inclusion and will be appropriate to meet the needs of each person. If you are interested in your child attending Church Lawton School you can indicate this on your school preference form or at the Annual Review.

To find out more please visit the website www.autism.org.uk/ChurchLawton.



Contact a Family Booklets

Contact a Family have produced a booklet for parents and carers called “When your child has additional needs”. It is a general introduction to a range of topics and services that might be helpful. It covers early years through to growing up and the teenage years and includes information about health, financial help, education and recreation.

You can find a copy of this booklet and a list of other guides on their website www.cafamily.org.uk.

Preparing for Adulthood

Parent Partnership Service hosted a second Preparing for Adulthood event in March. The aim of the event was to provide parents with information about the range of opportunities for education, supported work opportunities and leisure activities that are available to our young people after they have left school. The information available was in the format of guest speakers and information stands. Parents were able to browse the stands; speak to colleges and university staff, care providers, groups that provide social and leisure activities and take information away...for later!

Guest speakers included Pam Davies, Corporate Manager SEN and Inclusion, who shared information about the changes that will be implemented from September. She described the Education, Health and Care Plans that will be replacing statements. The next speaker was Vicky Howarth who talked about the Local Offer. Parents commented: “I found the information about the new law re: EHC plans a revelation!” “There is now a clear pathway for educational transition 18+ under the new children and families bill”.

Presentations were given by Staffordshire University, Petty Pool, Reaseheath College staff sharing with parents the huge variety of courses on offer and the support that is available. There was so much information to share in one day, that parents were encouraged to contact facilities directly for a more personalised consultation. Parents also heard from Colin Jacklin from Cheshire East, about how young people can access supported employment opportunities if they choose to work rather than to stay on in education. Mark Coup from IMAP described to parents how they can offer support for young people with autism. Alison Davenport from Cheshire Centre for Independent Living gave a clear and direct talk about how parents can access direct payments and what they can be used for, which parents found ‘very informative’.

The highlight of the day was a presentation given by two young people from the ‘Wishing Well project’. They prepared and delivered a piece about all the activities and opportunities that were available to them; including preparing children’s parties and putting on bingo for older residents. They said that their lives are more fun and enjoyable now they were involved in projects and how well this was preparing them for adult life and helping them to develop the skills they would need to be independent in the future.

Parents really enjoyed being able to talk to the ‘people behind the names’ of local groups and find out exactly how they would benefit their young person.



We appreciate that it wasn’t possible to include everything in our day and we have noted what parents have asked for in the future. Parents also told us that that they found the event “very informative” and that they had “learnt something new” from the day. One parent after hearing from the speakers and reading through some of the available information commented “my daughter has a brighter future”.



Cheshire East Leisure Development Team

The Leisure Development Team is supporting the Crewe and Nantwich School Sports Partnership Inclusion events for primary and secondary schools. In March the Primary School Games Inclusion event had 70 young people from years 5 and 6 and the Secondary School Games Inclusion event which had 30 young people from years 7, 8 and 9 to experience a range of different sports. In addition to this the team have also worked with schools to support Paralympic days with activities which included wheelchair basketball, blind football, sit down volleyball and goal ball. Recently they supported Congleton High School with a Citizenship Day for their year 11 pupils.

If you would like the team to support your school/area please can in touch with them.

The team also run various inclusive activities every week and throughout the school holidays. For full details please visit www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/sport or call the team on 01625 383796 or 01270 685782.

Growing Opportunities For Learning Disabilities Group

GOLD (Growing Opportunities for Learning Disabilities) is a forum for groups who provide leisure or learning opportunities for adults with learning disabilities to work together, share best practice, knowledge and learning and promote services across Cheshire East. The aim of the group is to enable adults with learning disabilities in Cheshire East to use and benefit from more leisure and learning opportunities. In particular the group aim to:

- Share knowledge and experience between all organisations involved in the provision of activities for adults with learning disabilities across Cheshire East.
- Increase opportunities for Adults with Learning Disabilities to access such facilities.
- Increase knowledge and publicise accessible information about opportunities available to adults with learning disabilities in Cheshire East.
- Make recommendations to the Cheshire East Partnership Board and other relevant groups, on how existing provision may best be targeted, prioritised and developed, and potential funding sources.

An up to date booklet listing all of the groups available can be found on the Cheshire East Council website within the Disability Sport section, then selecting the Leisure Development Team. This booklet is aimed at adults with learning disabilities, their parents and carers to enable them to find leisure and learning opportunities in the area that they live.

If you would like more information about the GOLD Group including adding an entry to the booklet or to join the group, please contact Nigel Watson on Nigel.Watson@cheshireeast.gov.uk or Andy Molyneux on andy.molyneux@cheshireeast.gov.uk.

Growing Opportunities for Learning Disabilities Group



Opportunities and activities in Cheshire East

New Adult Activity Group



Cheshire Centre for Independent Living (CCIL) are consulting on starting a new **Good Company** group in either Congleton or Sandbach. Good Company will provide adults, 19 to 65, with a chance to meet old friends and new ones and to participate in quality leisure activities. Activities will include Creative Arts, Wining and Dining, Cookery and Quiz Nights. There are currently two different groups already running in **Handforth**, Tuesday, 18.00 to 20.00 and **Macclesfield**, Thursday, 18.00 to 20.00. Please contact CCIL for venues and news of the new group.

CCIL also run the Buzz youth group for younger people. In **Crewe** it is on a Wednesday, 16.45 - 18.15 is for ages 8 to 13 and 18.30 - 20.00 is for ages 14 to 18. In **Congleton** it takes place on a Thursday, 16.30 - 18.00 is for ages 8 to 13 and 18.30 - 20.00 is for ages 14 to 18.

For further information please contact Siobhan Oldroyd by e-mail Siobhan.oldroyd@cheshirecil.org or telephone 01606 331853 or 07756149714.

Cheshire Carers Centre Parent Carer Coffee Mornings. Monday 12th May, 10.30 am-12.30 pm

Cheshire Carers Centre, Unit 1, Brierley Business Centre, Mirion Street, Crewe CW1 2AZ. Toy Library available, Carers Resources & local information available at every session. This is an informal session providing Parents and Carers with the opportunity of meeting other families, children welcome too. Please get in touch with the Carers Centre for more details dcd@cheshirecarerscentre.org.uk.

Autism Parent Support Group. Monday 12th May, 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm

Autism Networks, Crewe. Run in association with Sir William Stanier School. All welcome. Please ring Dawn Jones 01270 685398 if you have any questions.

Educational Psychology Team Drop-in Session. Wednesday 14th May, 9.15 am – 12.15 pm

Sandbach & Alsager Children's Centre. To book call 01270 371235. Free sessions for parents, carers and educational professionals across Cheshire East. This is an opportunity to ask any questions or raise concerns about the well-being, behaviour, learning or development of your child or a child that you work with. Book a place with the Children's Centre. The Educational Psychology Team can be contacted by e-mail educational.psychologists@cheshireeast.gov.uk or telephone 01625 374794.

Educational Psychology Team Drop-in Session. Wednesday 21st May, 9.15 am – 12.15 pm

Monks Coppenhall Children's Centre. See 7th May for more details. To book call 01270 371 240.

Macclesfield College Employment Opportunities and Progression Event. Thursday 22nd May, 14.00 pm - 19.00 pm

Macclesfield College, Park Lane, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 8LF. This is for those who are looking for local job opportunities or apprenticeships. The event is free and open to everyone, whether they are a student at high school, sixth form or the college, parent, or member of the public looking to kick-start their career. Contact the College for further details on 01625 410022.

The Transition Event in Association with Progress. Thursday 22nd May, 9.30 am - 16.15 pm

National Motorcycle Museum, Birmingham, B92 0EJ. The transition event is a one day guide for parents, professionals and young people to explore the move to adulthood. If you would like to attend or find out more information visit www.progressmagazine.co.uk or ring 01223 207 770.

Little Stars Group. Thursday 29th May, 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

Sandbach Children's Centre, Crewe Road, Sandbach, CW11 4NS. A group for families with children with additional needs. Please contact the centre on 01270 371235 for further information.

Cheshire Carers Centre Parent Carer Coffee Mornings. Monday 2nd June, 10.30 am-12.30 pm

Cheshire Carers Centre, Mirion Street, Crewe CW1 2AZ. For more details see 12th May.

Macclesfield Accessibility Group. Tuesday 3rd June 2014 at 13.00 p.m.

Shopmobility Churchill Way, Macclesfield, SK11 6AY. Want to have your say on accessibility issues in Macclesfield? The Group is committed to working towards a Macclesfield which is fully accessible to all members of the community. Contact Becky Lea for more information & to register your interest, telephone 01625 501759, e-mail: rebecca.lea@dibservices.org.uk or www.dibservices.org.uk.

Cheshire Carers Centre Parent Carer Coffee Mornings. Wednesday 4th June, 10.30 am-12.30 pm

SHOPMOBILITY, Churchill Way, Macclesfield, SK11 6AY. For more details see 12th May.

Cheshire down syndrome support group. Friday 6th June, 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

Cheshire Academy, Broad Street, Crewe. Cheshire down syndrome support group are running a new monthly pre school play group If you have a pre school child with downs or have a prenatal diagnosis please contact us for more info or just turn up! For further information please e-mail admin@cdssgroup.org.uk or visit www.cheshiredownssyndrome.com.

Educational Psychology Team Drop-in Session. Wednesday 11th June, 9.15 am – 12.15 pm

Oakenclough Children's Centre. See 7th May for more details. To book call 01625 374 180.

Carer's Week Celebration. Saturday 14th June, 13.00 pm - 15.30 pm

Congleton Leisure Centre, Worrall Street, CW12 DT. Cheshire Carers Centre and Cheshire East Leisure Development are hosting an event to celebrate Carer's Week. The day will offer lots of free activities including holistic therapies, nail art, face painting, adapted bikes, disability golf plus much more! For further information please e-mail dcd@cheshirecarerscentre.org.uk.

Educational Psychology Team Drop-in Session. Wednesday 18th June, 9.15 am – 12.15 pm

Nantwich Children's Centre. See 7th May for more details. To book call 01270 375 390.

SPACE4AUTISM hosts Communication Difficulty and Intervention. Saturday 21st June, 14.30 pm - 17.30 pm

1b Lowe Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 7NJ. This course offers a theoretical look at how and why the communication difficulties arise in individuals with autism and then a practical look at some solutions and interventions. For full details please visit www.space4autism.com.

Little Stars Group. Thursday 26th June, 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

Sandbach Children's Centre, Crewe Road, Sandbach, CW11 4NS. For more details see 26th May.

The Autism Show 2014. Friday 27th - Saturday 28th June, 10.00 am – 17.00 pm

EventCity, Manchester. The UK's largest event dedicated to helping people living and working with autism on a daily basis. If you are a parent, carer, professional or on the autism spectrum a visit to The Autism Show provides you with the information and tools to make a difference at home or in the workplace. For details visit www.autismshow.co.uk, call 020 8882 0629 or e-mail info@autismshow.co.uk.

Cheshire Carers Centre Parent Carer Coffee Mornings. Wednesday 2nd July, 10.30 am-12.30 pm

SHOPMOBILITY, Churchill Way, Macclesfield, SK11 6AY. For more details see 12th May.

Cheshire down syndrome support group. Friday 4th July, 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

Cheshire Academy, Broad Street, Crewe. For more details see 6th June.

SPACE4AUTISM Parent/Carer Appointments for Managing Challenging Behavior. Saturday 5th July, 10.0 am - 16.00 pm

1b Lowe Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 7NJ. Geoff Evans has offered to come to Space4Autism and hold half hour "individual family" appointments to discuss Managing Challenging Behaviour. For full details please visit www.space4autism.com.

Cheshire Carers Centre Parent Carer Coffee Mornings. Monday 7th July, 10.30 am-12.30 pm

Cheshire Carers Centre, Mirion Street, Crewe CW1 2AZ. For more details see 12th May.

Autism Parent Support Group. Monday 7th July, 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm

Autism Networks, Crewe. Run in association with Sir William Stanier School. For more details see 12th May.

PPS Meet the Professionals. Tuesday 8th July, 9.45 am - 14.00 pm

Crewe Alexandra Football Club, Gresty Road, Crewe, CW2 6EB. For full details please see page 3.

SPACE4AUTISM hosts Parent/Carer Workshop. Wednesday 16th July, 18.30 pm - 21.30 pm

1b Lowe Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 7NJ. Workshop led by Martyn Jowett, ProACT/Deputy SENCO. For full details please visit www.space4autism.com.

Little Stars Group. Thursday 24th July, 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

Sandbach Children's Centre, Crewe Road, Sandbach, CW11 4NS. For more details see 26th May.

Our next newsletter will be out in September.

Please send us your good news stories and items for the next edition by Friday 8th August 2014.