



# Parent Partnership Service

CHESHIRE EAST

# Newsletter

For parents and carers of children who have special educational needs



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## Summer 2013



[www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/parentpartnership](http://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](mailto:parentpartnership@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

Post: Parent Partnership Service  
FREEPOST RSSU-KCZX-HXSC,

Floor 3 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.



It has been some time since we published a newsletter so this is a bumper edition and I hope you will find something of interest to you and your family.

We have had a busy few months with staff changes and a significant increase in the number of families requesting our support.

Since I last wrote to you we have: Recruited and trained 6 new Independent Parental Supporters; Recognised Gemma's contribution and secured promotion for her; Appointed 2 new staff members; Organised and delivered our autumn forum; Represented parents at the Cheshire East Special Needs Extended Group and the Transition Group contributed to the national forum for Parent Partnership; Met with Special Needs Co-ordinators; and Worked with a number of Children's Centre Managers and groups as well as having a presence at locality meetings.

We continue to support families at school meetings, Annual Reviews, exclusions and admission appeals as well as providing written information on the new funding arrangements for schools which we have included in this issue on page 4.

Phew... that's quite a list and there is still so much more to be done!

### The most important work we do is with you, our parents and this takes priority over all other matters.

In an effort to provide you with a more responsive service we have trained a number of volunteers who come in to the office to answer the telephone and help parents who call for assistance and information. This has proved to be very successful with over 100 parents receiving advice and support since this began in November. We plan to extend the service and details can be found on page 6.

During the next few months we will be offering further information sessions for all parents on topics including exclusions, transfer to high school and early year's provision. The summer forum on 20<sup>th</sup> June will focus on transport issues as well as having a round up of other useful information for parents. Please put this date in your diary and look out for further details nearer the time.

If there are any topics you would like to be considered then please do let me know and I will do my best to include these in an information session or at our forthcoming forum events or as a topic in the next newsletter.

Happy reading! *Liz Warham*

## New (and not so new) Staff in Parent Partnership!

As you know we have had a number of staff changes in recent months. Monica McCabe left the service at the end of August. In September we were successful in securing a promotion for Gemma Keen who is now one of our Partnership Coordinators. She has a wealth of experience and is well known to many of you.



In addition, we have recruited two new members of staff who had previously volunteered as Independent Parental Supporters. I am sure many of you will know Diane Gruber and Karen Lynch who have attended a number of events during the past year. Both completed the accredited IPS course in 2012 and bring with them up-to-date knowledge and a real commitment to helping to develop the service we offer to parents and carers.

We now have a very strong team of individuals who are dedicated to ensuring that our children and young people have every opportunity to fulfil their potential. We have a good deal of work to do and I know we won't always get it right but I am absolutely confident that this team will always do their very best for young people and their families in Cheshire East.

## Welcome to the class of 2013

I am delighted to introduce you to our new Independent Parental Supporters who you will find pictured on the front cover of this edition of the newsletter.

They have all completed an intensive course of study during the autumn and are now eager to put all this learning into practice. These individuals bring with them a wealth of experience together with real commitment to making a difference to the lives of children and young people living locally.

Each new volunteer will accompany an experienced supporter to meetings with parents and will also be providing information by telephone and email to parents who contact our service. Gradually, as they gain confidence and become more experienced they will be assigned their own individual cases.

I am indebted to **all** our supporters who give their time generously. Fintan Bradley, Head of Service, presented certificates at our recent celebration event and commented...

**"I am in awe of the work that you take on so willingly and the time you give so freely to support families in Cheshire East."**

I extend a very warm welcome to the new members of our team!



## Would You Like to Volunteer?

We are looking to recruit more volunteers to help families whose children have special educational needs. An Independent Parental Supporter (IPS) can help parents by providing information and offering guidance about their child's education and may act as a liaison with teachers and other professionals. However, they do not make decisions for the parent. The aim is to provide an impartial source of independent advice and support.

Full training is provided, free of charge, and applicants will gain an Open College Network qualification upon completion of the course. The course covers SEN procedures and processes and it will also teach valuable communication skills.

**A pre-course session is being held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June, at Riverside Offices, Congleton from 10.30am-12.30pm.** This will give more information about the course and allow people to speak to the Parent Partnership team as well as existing volunteers.

If you would like to receive a free information pack, or to book a place, please contact PPS on 01625 374278 or e-mail [parentpartnership@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:parentpartnership@cheshireeast.gov.uk).



## New Special Educational Needs Funding Arrangements

From April 1<sup>st</sup> the Department for Education will fund pupils with Special Educational Needs in a different way. It has been agreed that more money should be given directly to schools. This should ensure that as soon as a child's needs are identified the school will already have the money in their budget to meet the need.

The Department for Education believe this will ensure that resources for Special Educational Needs are more fairly distributed and will provide more support for more children. In addition, schools will have more flexibility and less paperwork and the Special Needs Co-ordinator will have an opportunity to use their professional judgement and their knowledge of each child to agree what support would be best.

The Cheshire East Schools Forum (which has head teacher and governor representation) has worked with the Local Authority to agree how to implement these changes as fairly as possible. You should have received a letter from Pam Davies Principal Manager for SEND & Inclusion which details the funding available.

These are key points...

- Cheshire East Schools Forum has agreed that all pupils with Statements will receive 'Top-Up' funding to meet the agreed level of support detailed in the Statement until the next annual review. This means the provision in statements will be maintained until the Annual Review.
- The new funding arrangements mean that Cheshire East will no longer have money for Individual Pupil Finding (IPF).
- Funding to support pupils with Special Educational Needs in Cheshire East remains the same as in 2012-13 which is in excess of £19million.

For more details please refer to the copy of the letter below.



Services for Children, Families & Adults

Council Offices  
Dalton House  
Dalton Way  
Middlewich  
Cheshire CW10 0HU

Date: 4 April 2013

Dear Parents/Carers,

### Re: Changes to Funding Arrangements for Special Educational Needs

This letter is being sent to you as the Government, through the Department for Education (DfE), have introduced new funding arrangements for pupils with Special Educational Needs that will begin on 1<sup>st</sup> April this year.

Under these new funding arrangements, Cheshire East will not be able to continue to finance Individual Pupil Funding (IPF) and from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 all existing IPF funding will cease. Schools will, however, directly receive funding for pupils with Special Educational Needs following the new Government scheme outlined in the information below.

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 Special Educational Needs Funding will be delivered to schools in 3 Elements: -

**Element 1 - Linked to Mainstream Funding** - This will be delivered as part of the 'Schools Funding Block' and allocated to ALL pupils, mainly through the **Basic per Pupil Entitlement, (BPPE)**. This is estimated by the DfE to be around **£4,000** per pupil.

For Cheshire East this per pupil funding will be: -

School	Key stage	Element 1 funding
Primary	KS1 and KS2	£3,312
Secondary	KS3	£3,928
Secondary	KS4	£4,674

**Element 2 - Low Cost, High Incidence Funding** - This will now also form part of the 'Schools Funding Block', estimated by the DfE to be around **£6,000** and will be called **'Additional Pupil Support'**. This funding will be allocated, by the DfE, according to a pupil's previous attainment. The two triggers for this funding are:-

- Pupils who have scored below 73 points on the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) when they move from Reception to Year 1 in primary school and,
- Pupils whose attainment is below level 4 in both English and Maths in their KS2 SATS when they move from primary school to high school

The number of pupils in Cheshire East who will trigger this allocation is 4,130. This is far more than the current number of pupils with statements for SEN, or those receiving IPF, which is currently 1,322 pupils.

As a consequence of these higher numbers of pupils the proposed funding for Element 2 is as follows:

School	Number of pupils	Element 2 funding
Primary	2,745 pupils	£2,128
Secondary	1,685 pupils	£4,005

This means that there is no direct link between this funding and pupils who currently receive IPF or have a Statement of Special Educational Needs. This funding is available for the schools to spend in supporting all pupils with Special Educational Needs.

**Element 3 - 'Top-up Funding'** - For pupils with more complex needs the school will be able to apply to Cheshire East to be considered for **'Top-up Funding'**.

**Pupils with Statements** - Cheshire East Schools Forum has agreed that for all pupils with Statements the Local Authority will continue to **'Top-up'** their funding above Elements 1 and 2 already assumed to be in the schools budget, to the agreed level on their Statement, until the pupil's next annual review.

These new changes affect every pupil in the country with Special Educational Needs. Cheshire East Council has worked very hard with schools to prepare for these changes and I can assure you that the spending going into schools to support pupils with Special Educational Needs in 2013-14 is in excess of £19 million pounds as it was in the year 2012-13.

In conclusion, all schools will have to make changes to the way they organise their support for pupils with Special Educational Needs and I hope that you, as parents and carers with a keen interest in your children's education, will work with your school to ensure the smoothest possible transition to these new arrangements.

If you require further information on these changes please contact your child's school in the first instance who will have up to date information on their current situation.

Yours faithfully,

*Pamela A. Davies*

Principal Manager for SEND & Inclusion  
Services for Children, Families & Adults  
Cheshire East Council

## Transition To Adulthood Event

Cheshire East Parent Partnership hosted a Transition to Adulthood event on the 21<sup>st</sup> March at Chelford Village Hall. The event aimed to target parents of children with a SEN age 14 and above to help them to prepare for their child's transition. The event was well attended by both parents and professionals. A variety of keynote speakers provided information to parents including benefits advice, supported living options, further and higher education information and advice on supported employment. In addition a "Market Place" of information stands with various organisations offering information and support to parents was hugely successful and parents commented on the wide range of information available and how useful they found the speakers, as well as having the chance to browse the information stands and chat to other parents. Parents reported how they felt much more positive about their child's future as they gained information on the opportunities available for their young people and how to access a range of services. Parents also gave feedback on topics which they would find useful to be covered at future events. The wonderful lunch of sandwiches and homemade cakes provided on the day added to a very successful event!



A full list and contact details of the organisations that attended can be found below

**Cheshire Carers Centre** - Wide range of support services catered towards the carer.

Website [www.carers.org/cheshire](http://www.carers.org/cheshire), e-mail [dcd@cheshirecarerscentre.org.uk](mailto:dcd@cheshirecarerscentre.org.uk), tel 0800 085 0307.

**Cheshire Centre for Independent Living** - Supporting young people into an independent life.

Website <http://www.cheshirecil.org/>, e-mail [office@cheshirecil.org](mailto:office@cheshirecil.org), tel 01606 331853 or 0845 340 2777.

**Cheshire East Leisure Services** – Helps young people to access sports and leisure activities creating a healthy lifestyle, also volunteer opportunities. Full details on page 8.

**The David Lewis Centre** – Provides education, therapy, support and life skills development.

Website [www.davidlewis.org.uk](http://www.davidlewis.org.uk), e-mail [Darren.brodrick@davidlewis.org.uk](mailto:Darren.brodrick@davidlewis.org.uk), tel 01565 640000.

**East Cheshire Advocacy**– Provides a range of advocacy services to young People.

Website [www.ecadvocacy.co.uk](http://www.ecadvocacy.co.uk), e-mail [admin@ecadvocacy.co.uk](mailto:admin@ecadvocacy.co.uk), tel 01625 429922.

**The Great Outdoors** – New day service for young people and adults providing activities in the Peak District. Full details on page 9.

**Just Drop In Macclesfield** – Provides advice, help and counselling for young people age 12-25 and their carers. Website [www.justdropin.co.uk](http://www.justdropin.co.uk), e-mail [info@justdropin.co.uk](mailto:info@justdropin.co.uk), tel 01625 665079.

**Macclesfield College**

Website [www.macclesfield.ac.uk](http://www.macclesfield.ac.uk), e-mail [Katherine.howell@macclesfield.ac.uk](mailto:Katherine.howell@macclesfield.ac.uk), telephone 01625 410002.

**Neuro Muscular Centre** - Provides support for people with muscular dystrophy and associated conditions through transition and beyond. Website [www.nmcentre.com](http://www.nmcentre.com), tel 01606 860 911.

**The Purple Onion / Lady Verdin Trust** – Crewe information service, social activities and drop in for people with learning difficulties. Website [www.ladyverdintrust.org.uk](http://www.ladyverdintrust.org.uk), e-mail [morrist@ladyverdintrust.com](mailto:morrist@ladyverdintrust.com), tel 01270 256700 or 01270 253683.

**Purple Wheels** – Specialist driving Instructor teaching pupils with ASD, ADHD and other SEN. Full details on page 8.

**South Cheshire College**

Website [www.s-cheshire.ac.uk](http://www.s-cheshire.ac.uk), e-mail [Jacqui.gregory@scc.ac.uk](mailto:Jacqui.gregory@scc.ac.uk), tel 01270 654654.

**Staffordshire Regional Access Centre** - Information regarding disabled student support and how to apply for Disabled Student Allowance. Anna Dent is based at Staffordshire University Campus but supports students at any university. Website [www.yourdsa.com](http://www.yourdsa.com), e-mail [a.dent@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:a.dent@staffs.ac.uk), tel 01782 294978.

**Staffordshire University** - how the Student Enabling Centre at Staffordshire assists their students.

Website [www.staffs.ac.uk](http://www.staffs.ac.uk), e-mail [disability@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:disability@staffs.ac.uk), tel 01782 294977.

## Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum - Written by Nicola Bartzis, Acting Chair

As some of you are aware, we have been busy reforming and I'm very pleased to be able to report that we will shortly be 'open for business'.

Business for a parent carer forum means:

- listening to what parent carers tell us
- asking for views – unfortunately this could be via the dreaded questionnaire!
- working with partners in social care, education and health
- telling these partners what is affecting parents and
- helping them to involve parent carers in the decisions they make that affect us. This might include consulting with our members, or asking parent carers to attend meetings or events.

There are other things that we can do, including signposting to services, parent training etc, but these are our core functions.

We have a Steering Group which includes parent carers, Parent Partnership and other partners and meets regularly, and hope to have Focus Groups for the Macclesfield and Crewe areas. These are still 'under development' – so watch this space!

If you would like to get involved, or would like to know more, please do get in touch [ceparentgroup@gmail.com](mailto:ceparentgroup@gmail.com).



## Telephone Duty - Written by Karen L, PPS Volunteer (at the time!)

You may have noticed recently, when calling the Parent Partnership phone number, that more of your calls are being answered by a real live human being rather than the answering service! Trained IPS Volunteers have been answering calls since November 2012. Generally calls are answered between 11.00 am and 2.00 pm.

We were very nervous, although we all agreed that it was a 'must' for the parents of Cheshire East...we felt that it was important to have someone available at the other end of the phone when parents called in ...there are some things that machines just can't do and being supportive and answering questions are amongst them!

We had some detailed training on how to use the telephone to begin with ... simple you might think, anyone can use a phone...ho!ho! So many buttons and to remember what they all did! Once the phone was mastered I learnt how to remove messages that had been left over night on the machine. We keep a record of every call, time it was made and as much detail as we can...So that when we return the call we have an idea of what the problem might be beforehand. This is helpful if some research is required into what has been asked... not everyone can know the answer to every question!

Some calls were quick and easy to answer there and then, from the knowledge I already had and from the training from my Parent Partnership IPS Course ...some were a little more complex that required further follow up calls and possibly the parent to have a PPS Supporter assigned to them to help them for longer. I found that signposting parents to the Parent Partnership website, to check out the online leaflets and information packs was helpful to some.

I really enjoyed my time being on 'Phone Duty', I found it rewarding and really interesting as well as being a valuable way of supporting the Parent Partnership Service further. Hopefully I gave the parents that I spoke to enough support and advice... although mainly, we just chatted...which I think is the most important part of phone duty and being an IPS...being available to 'just listen'.



## New Special School in Cheshire East

As many of you are aware, a new school is planned to meet the needs of children who are assessed as being on the autistic spectrum. The proposed school will be in Church Lawton and is due to open in the autumn of 2014. The Local Authority has supported bids by two organisations and it is hoped to announce the successful bidder early in the summer term.

At present, it is expected that the school will open on schedule. We will keep you updated by posting news on our website at [www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/parentpartnership](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/parentpartnership).



## Educational Psychology Team Sessions Summer 2013



Parents, carers and education professionals; do you have any questions or concerns about the well-being, behaviour, learning or development of your child or a child that you work with? (Parental consent and pre-consultation form required for staff).

Educational Psychologists will be holding free 30 minutes sessions for parents/carers and educational professionals in Children's Centres between April and July 2013.

You must book an appointment with your chosen Children's Centre, dates and the number to call to book a place are in the calendar on pages 11 and 12.

If you have any questions please contact The Educational Psychology Team, Macclesfield Town Hall (Floor 1) SK10 1EA, telephone 01625 374794, e-mail [educational.psychologyteam@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:educational.psychologyteam@cheshireeast.gov.uk).

## Bullying

All children can be vulnerable to bullying and can be bullied for a range of reasons. For many children with a disability or special educational needs (SEN) bullying can be a real issue. Children with an SEN can be particularly vulnerable and may also have difficulty in accurately reporting incidents of bullying and therefore can be difficult to pick up and identify. Schools have a duty of care to provide a safe environment for your child and they must have an anti bullying policy which has information on what steps they take to prevent bullying and what action is taken when cases of bullying arise. If your child is or you suspect your child is being bullied at school you should arrange a meeting with the school to discuss the issues and find a positive way of resolving the problems.

The Contact a Family Website provides a guide for dealing with bullying and can be accessed at [www.caf.org](http://www.caf.org).

Anti Bullying Week will take place on the 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> November 2013, further information and themes to be highlighted can be found at [www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk](http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk).



## Cheshire Carers Centre Personal Budgets Expansion

Following the huge success of the Carers Personal Budget pilot in the Crewe and Nantwich area, Cheshire Carers Centre are ecstatic to announce that the project will expand to the whole of the Cheshire East area!

A carers personal budget is an amount of money awarded to carers who are in need of some time to themselves. Carers complete the application process with a member of the Carers Centre and they work out exactly how the budget could be of benefit. Most carers manage their own award, returning receipts after they've spent the money.



There have been all manner of different types of breaks and some very happy carers! Do you fancy Bollywood dance classes? Perhaps a visit to your long lost friend or a west end show?

You can register interest by contacting the personal budget team on 01270 215009.

## Aspergers and Learning to Drive

The constantly changing scenarios on our roads can be very off putting to someone with Aspergers who is considering learning to drive but good training by an instructor who understands the need for routine without absolutes can turn the experience into an enjoyable and confidence building skill that will remain with you for life.

The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) recommends **at least** 42 hours instruction with another 20+ hours private practice to prepare you for today's roads. Anyone with Aspergers or other Special Needs should be prepared to more than **double** this number of hours tuition.

A few good tips:

- Find the right instructor – an independent instructor is more likely to be able to meet your specific needs. Be prepared to change instructors to find one that works for you. Ask if they are prepared to let your carer be in the car with you for the first couple of lessons.
- Do not pay for blocks of lessons before you start – Always pay for your first lesson in full – this way if you are not comfortable in any way you can find someone else and are not tied in.
- Do some research – it is always better to choose an instructor who has been personally recommended to you. 90% of all new pupils should come from recommendations.

For further information or personal queries with no obligation please e-mail: [tracey@purplewheels.co.uk](mailto:tracey@purplewheels.co.uk), look on [www.purplewheels.co.uk](http://www.purplewheels.co.uk) or call or text 07973 128590. Tracey is also happy to give advice even if you do not want to change driving instructors.



## Disability Sports - Inclusive Sports Activities

Cheshire East Leisure Development Team (LDT) aim to deliver a range of activity and community small breaks for disabled children, young people and their families across Cheshire East.

The LDT are also looking to extend the opportunities available across Cheshire East for all types of sport, physical activity and active recreation. By working with organisations and support groups they want to ensure these activities are accessible to young people and adults who have additional needs.

The **Activ8** sessions are designed to give children and young people with disabilities the opportunity to participate in sport and play activity whilst developing skills in a fun environment.

Fun4All, Macclesfield 6.00 pm to 7.30pm £3.00 per child (every Monday during term time)

Play World, Shavington 5:30pm to 7:00pm £2.00 per child (every Wednesday during term time).

**Cygnets Family Fun Swim Sessions** are designed to give families (including carers) with disabled children of all ages the opportunity to have exclusive use of the pools and enjoy swimming as a family. These sessions are for families with children aged 0-19yrs and costs £5.00 per session for a family of up to 4 individuals. They are held at:

Alsager Leisure Centre, Hassall Road, Alsager, ST7 2HP, 1.00 pm - 2.00 pm, on Sunday 21st April, Sunday 19th May, Sunday 16th June and Sunday 21st July.

Seashell Trust, Stanley Road, Cheadle Hulme, SK8 6RQ, 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm, on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April, Sunday 26th May, Sunday 23rd June and Sunday 28th July.

**Fun Cycling and Multi Activity Session**, using specially adapted cycles, the session is designed to give individuals regardless of disability the opportunity to enjoy cycling. Fun Cycling Sessions take place at Congleton Leisure Centre, Worrall Street, Congleton, CW12, from 1.00 pm to 2:30pm, are for families with children aged 0-19yrs and costs £5.00 per session for a family or £2.50 for an individual. They will take place on Saturday 20th April, Saturday 18th May, Saturday 15th June and Saturday 20th July.

For more activities or information please visit [www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/sport](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/sport) or contact the Club Development Officer on 07506 317055 or 07809 665228 or e-mail [disabilitysportandplay@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:disabilitysportandplay@cheshireeast.gov.uk).

## Children's Able and Disabled Sport (CADS)

CADS is a series of unique sport, health and leisure activities organised by the Seashell Trust, in Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire. The activities are for both able and disabled children and young adults. Making sport fully inclusive is important to CADS, and that aim is reflected in their events and throughout their website.

The CADS team have many different sport, health and leisure activities happening throughout the year. These include sport specific events, multi-sports clubs, multi-sport weeks and many more. These events take place in term time and during the school holidays.

For more information please visit [cads.seashelltrust.org.uk](http://cads.seashelltrust.org.uk), or e-mail [sports@seashelltrust.org.uk](mailto:sports@seashelltrust.org.uk) or call 0161 610 0122. Address CADS, Stannley Road, Cheadle Hulme, SK8 6RQ.



## Activate Arts

Creative play based sessions for 5-13 year olds with disabilities. Designed to provide a short break for parents and carers. The cost is £3.00 per session but please discuss any problems with funding with them.

They take place every Saturday during term time.

Malbank School, Welsh Row, Nantwich, CW5 5HD between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm.

New Life Community Church Hall, Fuller Drive, Crewe, CW2 6TH between 2.00 pm and 5.00 pm.

To book or for more information contact the office on 0151 482 4884 or visit [www.activatearts.com](http://www.activatearts.com).

## The Great Outdoors

The Great Outdoors Day Service begins in May 2013. They aim to provide the opportunity for adults and young people with Learning Difficulties to experience and enjoy walking in The Peak District National Park.

The Great Outdoors will professionally manage your individual walking programme: They will collect you from your home, help you to experience beautiful walks in The Peak District and then take you home. Apart from the obvious benefits to your health and well being, there will also be an educational/learning emphasis - this will include: orienteering (map reading and compass skills); photography; functional and communication skills (which will be embedded into all activities by using communication systems, encouraging peer communication, leadership roles and group discussion).

The Great Outdoors Day Service is available from Monday to Sunday, 52 weeks a year. They can organise shorter morning or afternoon walks and longer full day walks; each walk can be tailored to your personal needs, ability and availability.

Martin and his colleagues are qualified SEN teachers and carers who just happen to love walking in the hills. Please join The Great Outdoors and experience the fantastic Peak District for yourself!

Contact Martin Mallett at [thegreatoutdoorsds@gmail.com](mailto:thegreatoutdoorsds@gmail.com), or telephone 07795547865.



## Cheshire Centre for Independent Living Youth Schemes

The **Buddy Scheme** provides opportunities for disabled young people aged 5-18 to attend sporting and leisure activities of their choice supported by a volunteer buddy across Cheshire. The **Buzz Youth Activity Group** was set up in response to disabled young people area asking for a place to 'hang out' with their friends and to have some fun.

Both clubs have a range of activities and are staffed by experienced staff that motivate and encourage the children that attend to be more independent and confident. If you would like further information about the groups please contact Cheshire Centre for Independent Living by telephone 01606 331853 or 0845 340 2777 or e-mail: [office@cheshirecil.org](mailto:office@cheshirecil.org).

## Autism friendly film screenings



Autism Friendly Film Screenings are for anyone that would benefit from the subtle differences made to the cinema environment. There are a number of sensory differences made to the cinema environment that might make these screenings more attractive to people with autism who are sensory sensitive but the screenings are for anyone that feel they would benefit. This might be someone with a learning disability, or it might be the family and friends of someone with autism or with a learning disability who want to enjoy a cinema experience together.



The film shown is a mainstream film but it is the differences made to the cinema environment that make it autism friendly. Lights are left on low, the volume is turned down, people can move around the cinema and make noise as they feel comfortable and people can bring their own food and drinks if they have special dietary requirements. There are no trailers so the film will always start at the time advertised. The screenings take place at Odeon Crewe, Odeon Stoke, Odeon Trafford Centre and Cineworld Chester.

The films are chosen to appeal to as many people as possible and give people choice. The aim is to use new releases because previously people who would benefit from sensory friendly screenings or quieter cinema auditoriums would have to wait until a film has been out for a while before getting the opportunity to see it in an environment more conducive with their needs. Tickets can be booked in advance or brought on the day.

The screenings take place once every month at each cinema chain. If you would like to receive details of each screening straight to your email inbox, please register for Dimensions eNewsletter on the website [www.dimensions-uk.org](http://www.dimensions-uk.org) or e-mail [autismfilms@dimensions-uk.org](mailto:autismfilms@dimensions-uk.org). You can "like" Dimension on facebook [www.facebook.com/dimensionsUK](http://www.facebook.com/dimensionsUK) or follow them on twitter [twitter.com/dimensionsuk](http://twitter.com/dimensionsuk).



## Staying in Hospital?

Leighton Hospital has a **Privacy & Dignity Matron** who is available to help and support your child in hospital or with appointment needs. Please contact Philippa Pordes on 01270 278080 or e-mail [philippa.pordes@mcht.nhs.uk](mailto:philippa.pordes@mcht.nhs.uk).

If your child is going to Macclesfield Hospital please phone 0800 161 3997 (freephone).

## Free Downloads from the Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities

Publications include "Meeting the needs of young people with learning disabilities" & "You are not alone" A practical resource for family carers. Visit [www.learningdisabilities.org.uk](http://www.learningdisabilities.org.uk) and click on "Publications".



## Would you like Parent Partnership to Support a Family You Work With or a Friend?

If you would like to recommend PPS to somebody else please give them our contact details and ask them to get in touch.

A general PPS information leaflet titled "Can we help?" can be downloaded from our website and printed out to give to others or you can ask the office for some paper copies.

Sometimes people like to check that we are the right service to signpost a friend to before they give the details to someone and that is absolutely fine, we wouldn't want to get people's hope up that they will be receiving support if it is something that we do not know about.

PPS can support parents and carers regarding educational issues where the child has a special educational need, whether diagnosed or not.





## Transfer to Secondary School Information Day

PPS is planning an information day to give parents and carers whose children will be moving up to secondary school over the next few years some helpful information. The day will be in late June. To receive date and venue information please e-mail PPS to make sure you are on the e-mail bulletin list.

### **Educational Psychology Team Drop-in Session. Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April, 9.15 am – 12.15 pm**

Broken Cross Children's Centre. See page 7 for more details. To book call 01625 374 470.

### **Educational Psychology Team Drop-in Session. Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April, 9.15 am – 12.15 pm**

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

### **Educational Psychology Team Drop-in Session. Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April, 9.15 am – 12.15 pm**

Poynton Children's Centre. See page 7 for more details. To book call 01625 383 090.

### **School Exclusion Event. Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April, 10.00 am to 12.00 noon**

St Peter's Church Hall, School Lane, Elworth, Sandbach, CW11 3HU.

What you need to know about school exclusions.

Find out more about: • Exclusions and the law • Fixed term exclusions • Permanent exclusions.

Jenni Elliott, the Education Support Access Officer, will be advising you about school exclusions and answering your questions.

To book a place please email [parentpartnership@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:parentpartnership@cheshireeast.gov.uk) or ring 01625 374278.

### **Autism Parent Support Group. Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2013, 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm**

The Community Learning Centre at Sir William Stanier School, 7 – 9 Coronation Crescent, Crewe.

All welcome, your child does not need to attend Sir William Stanier School.

Please ring 01270 685433 if you have any questions. Run in association with Autism Networks, Crewe.

### **Cheshire Carers Centre Parent Carer Coffee Mornings. Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May, 10.30 am-12.30 pm**

Cheshire Carers Centre, Unit 1, Brierley Business Centre, Mirion Street, Crewe CW1 2AZ.

Guest speakers - Cheshire East Play & Leisure.

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.

Cheshire Carers Centre will be launching coffee mornings in Macclesfield soon. Please get in touch with the Carers Centre if you have any ideas for future meetings [dcd@cheshirecarerscentre.org.uk](mailto:dcd@cheshirecarerscentre.org.uk).

### **Educational Psychology Team Drop-in Session. Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May, 9.15 am – 12.15 pm**

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

### **Educational Psychology Team Drop-in Session. Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May, 9.15 am – 12.15 pm**

Congleton Children's Centre. See page 7 for more details . To book call 01260 371 061.

### **SPACE4AUTISM Meeting. Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm**

Association House, South Park Road, Macclesfield, SK11 6SH.

For adults only. There is a small library with books/dvd's and videos that you can borrow available.

### **Educational Psychology Team Drop-in Session. Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm**

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

### **The Transition Event in Association with Progress. Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2013**

National Motorcycle Museum, Coventry Road, Bickenhill, Solihull, Birmingham, B92 0EJ.

The transition event is a one day guide for parents, professionals and young people to explore the move to adulthood. Incorporating a series of main presentations, workshops and interactive sessions.

If you would like to attend or find out more information visit [www.progressmagazine.co.uk](http://www.progressmagazine.co.uk) or ring 01223 207 770.

**Cheshire Carers Centre Parent Carer Coffee Mornings. Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 10.30 am-12.30 pm**

Cheshire Carers Centre, Unit 1, Brierley Business Centre, Mirion Street, Crewe CW1 2AZ.  
For more details see 13th May.

**Autism Parent Support Group. Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2013, 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm**

The Community Learning Centre at Sir William Stanier School, 7 – 9 Coronation Crescent, Crewe.  
Guest speakers - Cheshire East Autism Team.

**Paint the Town Red/Paint it Red for Autism 2013 Family Fun day and Balloon Release. Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June**

Willaston Social Club, Nantwich.

'Paint the town red' is a local autism awareness campaign group, which was started by a local mum to create awareness around the difficulties that people with autism are facing and also some of the positive aspects of their lives. The fun day and balloon release will feature Carly Ryan (BBC Autistic Superstars) and Scott James (The X-Factor). The event is for all the family to join in with.

For more information on 'paint the town red/paint it red for autism' and to find out about other events that are being arranged please email [paintthetownred@gmail.com](mailto:paintthetownred@gmail.com).

**SPACE4AUTISM Meeting. Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June, 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm**

Association House, South Park Road, Macclesfield, SK11 6SH .

**PPS Parent and Carer Forum. Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June, 10.00 am - 12.30 pm**

Venue to be advised. Focus on school transport.

**Independent Parental Supporter (IPS) Training Information Session - Making a Difference. Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June, 10.30 am - 12.30 pm**

Riverside Offices, Mountbatten Way, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 1DG.

Are you interested in becoming a volunteer for Parent Partnership Service? Then please come along to the information event to find out more about what the role entails and to meet current IPSs.

**The Autism Show 2013. Friday 28<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2013, 10.00 am – 17.00 pm**

EventCity, Manchester – near The Trafford Centre.

The Autism Show is the UK's largest event dedicated to helping people living and working with autism on a daily basis. Whether 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 positive difference at home or in the workplace.

For full details and to book visit [www.autismshow.co.uk](http://www.autismshow.co.uk), call 020 8882 0629 or e-mail [info@autismshow.co.uk](mailto:info@autismshow.co.uk).

**Cheshire Carers Centre Parent Carer Coffee Mornings. Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July, 10.30 am-12.30 pm**

Cheshire Carers Centre, Unit 1, Brierley Business Centre, Mirion Street, Crewe CW1 2AZ.  
For more details see 13th May.

**Educational Psychology Team Drop-in Session. Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July, 9.15 am – 12.15 pm**

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

**SPACE4AUTISM Meeting. Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July, 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm**

Association House, South Park Road, Macclesfield, SK11 6SH .

**Educational Psychology Team Drop-in Session. Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July, 9.15 am – 12.15 pm**

Broken Cross Children's Centre. See page 7 for more details. To book call 01625 374 470.

**Our next newsletter will be out in September.**

**Please send us your good news stories and items for the next edition by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2013.**