



## ■ Wooden spoon

**Wooden Spoon is a children's charity dedicated to helping underprivileged children and young people (disadvantaged physically, mentally or socially), to live happier, richer lives.**

Previous support has included capital toward medical treatment and recovery centres, sports and activity areas, sensory rooms and gardens, playgrounds (includes schools). Outreach programmes for children and young people in their communities can also receive funding through Wooden Spoon. [www.woodenspoon.com](http://www.woodenspoon.com)

## ■ Wheels for Good

**Easi-Drive, the accident management company has announced a new £60,000 community fund, designed to support worthy causes related to the motor industry, 'wheels' or transport.**

In 2010 the fund supported a number of 'wheel' based projects including £10,000 to the Motor and Allied Trades Benevolent Fund, Fix-It,

the Wigan based charity that runs vocational training courses in motor mechanics for disadvantaged 14–19 year olds, and an Olympic wheelchair for paraplegic sportsman Myles Pearson. For further information and to apply online, visit [www.wheelsforgood.com](http://www.wheelsforgood.com)

## ■ Andy Fanshawe Memorial Trust (AFMT)

**Funds projects that give disadvantaged young people the chance to develop an existing interest in the great outdoors.**

The AFMT doesn't fund taster sessions or one-off residential trips and they prefer that applicants have done some fund-raising. They are unlikely to support foreign trips or capital projects. Previous grants include money for an initiative by Carlisle fire-fighters to take 'last-chance' teenagers on a climbing and personal development course, and financial support for a young man with Autistic Spectrum Disorder to develop his interest in climbing. Grants are usually in the region of £300–£500.

## Welcome...

**I am writing to you as editor and lead commissioner for Short Breaks as well as the Senior Manager for Disabled Children, for Bristol City Council.**

This is the first newsletter to be produced jointly with Bristol Parent Carers. It replaces the 'Disability Register Newsletter' produced by the disabled children's team, and the 'Aiming High' newsletter. The content aims to reflect what parents want to know, and have asked for, in a newsletter. It is also part of our communications strategy; to improve communication to and from parents of disabled children, and to and from children. The newsletter will be sent to all those parents with children registered on the disabled children's register, schools, early years and health settings, voluntary organisations and posted on the council's website.



The information contained here in will be found on the new disabled children information site, designed in conjunction with Bristol Parent Carers 'Find Ability Bristol', to be launched early in 2012.

I do hope this is a useful letter, all feedback please send to Mark Hamilton.

**Richard Hurst,**  
Service Manager, CYPS

- If you have any feedback, comments, or would like to include an article or event, email [askcyps@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:askcyps@bristol.gov.uk) or call on **0845 129 7217**. The deadline for articles for the Spring Edition is 27/02/2012.
- If you would like this form in another language, Braille, audio tape, large print, easy English, BSL video or computer disk please contact us.



## Bristol Parent Carers' Participation Forum

# Update...

In the last six months, those of you on our database have received emails asking you to participate in improving services. Thanks to all of those who got involved. If you're wondering what happened as a result – here's a brief summary.

- Improved access to information:** The name you chose for the new website for parent carer/disability issues is Find Ability Bristol. You helped design the look of the site that is currently being built. It will be launched in the New Year, after you test it.
- Special Education Green Paper:** You contributed your opinions on the government's proposals for change, and Bristol Parent Carers submitted a formal response. We are waiting to see what the government's White Paper will contain.
- Short breaks:** All local authorities should publish a Short Breaks Service Statement. You helped Bristol City Council make their eligibility criteria and statement more parent-friendly – it can be found on the council's website.
- You also submitted ideas for equipment purchases that will help with short breaks – the council is working on a number of these.
- Children's Hospital:** You helped the hospital with the design of its new disabled toilet/changing facilities. You also helped them to consider the needs of parent carers who have to stay at their child's bedside. The hospital is developing an Action Plan to address your needs – we will keep you informed of progress.
- Parent carer assessments:** You have been helping to design an appropriate assessment form. BCC and NHS Bristol are identifying personnel and resources to ensure that systems for assessing and addressing parent carers' needs can work.

- Diagnosis pathways:** Paediatricians have developed clinical guidelines that standardise how children are diagnosed. You are helping them to make sure the guidelines are correct, and to make parent-friendly versions.
- Therapies in schools:** Parents met with the Community Children's Health Partnership to look at ways to increase access to therapies. They are considering a number of strategies – we will let you know what's decided.

### Want to get involved in any of these, or future, activities?

Want to help the parent carers who make all this happen? – contact us.

### Want to find out the details of these changes and outcomes?

Come to our annual Participation Event in Feb/Mar 2012 – look out for our event poster.



**Bristol Parent Carers**  
Shaping the future together

For families of children and young people with disabilities and special needs

### Participation Forum

Working in partnership with BCC and NHS Bristol to design better services for our children

[www.bristolparentcarers.org.uk](http://www.bristolparentcarers.org.uk)  
[info@bristolparentcarers.org.uk](mailto:info@bristolparentcarers.org.uk)

Tel: **0845 642 0124** (local rate)

Run by parent carer volunteers, for parent carers

## Short breaks: news from the summer

An update on Short Breaks for children, young people and parents too, which were positive and inclusive, building confidence, independence and friendships.

### ■ Inclusive Play Project

(Small Grant fund and Bridging Workers service) is a very popular service for putting parent carers in touch with the right short break opportunities for their child and ensuring the mainstream play and leisure settings are suitably equipped and supported.

### ■ Short Breaks Health service

The Short Breaks Health Support Service, a joint venture between Bristol City Council and NHS Bristol has been providing staff at universal play and leisure settings with free training in 'health' procedures to enable them to meet the specific requirements of Disabled Children and Young People. Examples of

training delivered included: Working With Life Limited Children, Moving And Handling, Communication, Managing Epilepsy.

### ■ Action for Children

held an exciting August holiday on Exmoor at Calvert Trust, for children and young people with complex needs. There was good pre-planning, with families following school visits. Young people enjoyed a range of challenging outdoor activities. It was well received by parents, and another holiday is planned for Easter.

### ■ Briarwood New Friends

held a two-week summer playscheme Mondays – Fridays, with arts, sports and drama on offer, with siblings welcomed too. This is always very popular, and the Saturday workshops were well received.

### ■ Friends of Claremont School

held a Summer Playscheme and school holiday activities focusing on sport, music and art and theatre work. Good fun for all.

### ■ New Fosseway Holiday Club

held popular after school and summer holiday clubs including sports, dance, film, music and cookery.

### ■ Sports Service

organised holiday multi-activity programmes at St Paul's Sports Academy and schools for children with autism – all were enjoyed by children and well received by parents.

### ■ Bristol Playbus

had a varied and exciting summer holiday programme including gardening, cooking and good fun, at the city's adventure playgrounds.

### ■ Families in Touch

organised Playdays and outings for children and siblings as well as coffee mornings for parents, providing much needed breaks and support.

### ■ Core Children's Services

provided on and off-site weekend skills sessions throughout the year, including cookery, arts and crafts. Good satisfaction reported from young people and parents alike.

### ■ KHAAS

held well-supported trips to a range of suitable and exciting destinations, including a 4-day-away break for south Asian children and families.

### ■ NAS and Bristol Autism Project

provided holiday activities for children with autism and their siblings, and skills and play based activities at a variety of venues. Offer good continuity for children when school is out.

### ■ Rainbow Trust

held holiday clubs for children & young people with life threatening or terminal illness, providing much welcomed emotional and practical support to families at home, at hospital and in the community.

### ■ Time to Share

An informal specialist befriending scheme for a range of children and young people which holds half term activities and meetings for parents too, and is always well praised.

### ■ Wecil Out & About and Residential

organised accessible weekend activities in social settings including sport, computers, cooking and arts work, plus exciting and well supported residential breaks much appreciated by children, young people and families alike.

Our capital investment continues to provide exciting opportunities for disabled children and families to take a break in a variety of community venues, such as ice skating, sailing, horse riding, cycling, play etc and supports many other children across a variety of settings in the city.



## Supportive Parents for Special Children – The Parent Partnership Service for Bristol

This parent-led organisation provides a confidential and independent parental support service to parents and carers of children with any kind of special educational need (SEN).

The trained parent support workers aim to enable parents to play a more active and informed role in their child's education, and to encourage parents and professionals to work more closely together in the interest of the children.

They do this through:

- Information – their literature, training courses, website
- Support – their confidential telephone support line, face-to-face support, help with paperwork for schools, support for school meetings
- Raising awareness – their work in partnership with the Local Authority to voice the views of parent carers and SEN children.

### Information & Support Line:

0117 989 7725 (open 10am to 2pm, on Mon, Wed, Fri during term times, with an answerphone outside these hours).

### Email:

mail@supportiveparents.org.uk.

### Call admin/fax: 0117 939 2562

For more information about their service (and much more), visit: [www.supportiveparents.org.uk](http://www.supportiveparents.org.uk)

**Office address:** 3rd Floor, Royal Oak House, Royal Oak Avenue, Bristol BS1 4GB

## Carers' Support Centre

The Princess Royal Trust for Carers' Centre relaunched with a new identity in June.

They are now called The Carers' Support Centre. They are dedicated to supporting the work of unpaid carers (carers of disabled adults, parent carers, and young carers). Through their confidential support line, team of support officers, workshops, training and events, they:

- provide information on services available for carers
- support carers to access the help they need
- offer practical support – counselling, carers' breaks and holidays, emergency card, quarterly newsletter.



The Carers' Support Centre

- For information and advice call CarersLine: **0117 965 2200** (open 10am–1pm Monday to Saturday, with an answerphone outside these hours).
- For all other enquiries call **0117 939 2562** or email: [info@carerssupportcentre.org.uk](mailto:info@carerssupportcentre.org.uk)
- For more information about their work, see their website: [www.carerssupportcentre.org.uk](http://www.carerssupportcentre.org.uk)

They are based at The Vassall Centre, Gill Avenue, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 2QQ.

## Family Life – Relationships

The Contact a Family (CAF) project 'The Family Life' has been busy speaking to parents to gather their views on the topic of family relationships. Feedback has been very positive, highlighting how

necessary the project is and the need for families to know about the support that is available.

CAF is now developing sessions to be delivered to children's centre staff and parents to discuss the results, and expect to start delivering these

sessions within the next few months. One interesting development is that Relate have been feeding into some aspects of the project and CAF now have a link from their website direct to Relate counsellors: [www.cafamily.org.uk/families/familyissues/index.html](http://www.cafamily.org.uk/families/familyissues/index.html). Relate are keen to hear from anyone who

needs a bit of support or advice about relationship issues.

- If you wish to find out more about this project, or if you have used the Relate service and want to provide feedback on your experience, email CAF at [louise.derbyshire@cafamily.org.uk](mailto:louise.derbyshire@cafamily.org.uk)

## Ofsted: A New Voice for Parents

Ofsted has launched Parent View, a new online questionnaire that will allow parents and carers to give their views on their child's school at any time of the year.

Covering over 22,000 schools across England, the 12 question survey will help other parents as they make important choices about their child's education and provide Ofsted with information about schools that will help inform priorities for inspection.

You can access the site at <http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk> after which you'll be able to search for results for schools or if you have children at school, register to complete a questionnaire.

The questions have been carefully chosen to cover those issues that parents have told Ofsted are the most important to them. They are also designed to provide Ofsted with information to support decisions about inspections, and will give head teachers a direct route to gather the views of their parent group.

## ERIC Helpline extends opening hours to provide 24/7 support

ERIC, the UK's childhood continence charity, has extended the opening hours of its confidential telephone Helpline.

Children, parents and professionals will now be able to access information and support 24 hours a day, seven days a week for distressing problems including childhood bedwetting, daytime wetting, constipation, soiling and toilet training.

Childhood continence problems affect 1 in 12 of children and young people in the UK, and ERIC is the only organisation dedicated to providing information and support to help families manage or overcome these problems. The extended support comes from a partnership with Family Lives, the confidential helpline previously called Parentline, which provides support for families on all aspects of family life.

Contact ERIC on **0845 370 8008** or visit **[www.eric.org.uk](http://www.eric.org.uk)**



There is important information for parents/carers (who live in Bristol), with children born between 1 September 2007 and 31 August 2008 who may start school in September 2012, in this year's Primary Booklet at the Bristol Admissions page of Bristol City Council's website:

**[www.bristol.gov.uk/page/primary-admissions](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/page/primary-admissions)**.

The best way to apply for a place is to complete the online form. The form can be found at:

**<https://admissions.bristolcyps.org.uk/prefs.php>**

The School Admissions team will be running support sessions for online applications in some children's Centres. Please look out for the details.

As it is not always possible for a child to go to a first preference school (many schools in Bristol are oversubscribed), parents are strongly encouraged to list three schools. In general the closer a school is to home the higher the chance for a child to get a place, as 'over-subscription' criteria are applied and places allocated firstly to children in care, then siblings (of children who will still be in the school in September 2012), and finally on home to school distance.

The closing date is **midnight on 15th January 2012** but don't wait until the last minute!

● If you have any queries contact School Admissions on **0117 903 7694** or **[school.admissions@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:school.admissions@bristol.gov.uk)**



## Voluntary and community organisations to play a key role in helping children with special educational needs and disabilities

Voluntary and community organisations will help deliver key reforms to support children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities, and their parents.

The Department for Education is providing funding of around £6 million a year for two years to deliver the support. The organisations will support the delivery of short breaks, provide greater information and help to parents, and help disabled young people and those with SEN prepare for employment, training and independent living after they leave school.

The successful contractors will provide knowledge and support on

the delivery and improvement of local services and help the twenty SEN Green Paper pathfinder areas test some of the Government's key reforms. The organisations and contracts are:

- **The IMPACT consortium** (Serco, in partnership with the Short Breaks Network): to help local authorities deliver their legal obligations to provide short breaks and involve parents in how short breaks are provided.
- **The Council for Disabled Children:** to support local parent partnership services across England. The CDC will provide parents with clear information about their rights and responsibilities under SEN legislation, along with local information about options and choices to meet their child's SEN.
- **A consortium led by the National Development Team for Inclusion:** to improve outcomes for young people with SEN and disabilities. The consortium will work with local authorities, schools, and young people to improve their employment, training and independent living outcomes after they leave school.

- **The ES Trust with the National Children's Bureau:** to extend the successful Early Support programme to improve the quality, consistency and coordination of services for disabled children over five years old (the programme is currently designed from birth to five years old) and help develop key worker training.

- **The Early Language Consortium, led by I CAN, the children's communication charity:** to introduce Early Language Development Training for people working with children up to five years old. The training will help families to raise aspirations in secondary school, and will also focus on the importance of early language development to improve communication and language skills for all children, particularly those with SEN.

## Free Olympics Tickets For Special Schools

Special schools are being offered a free allocation of tickets to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games if they sign up to join the Games' reward and recognition scheme, the Get Set network.

To join the network, schools need to demonstrate a commitment to the Olympic and Paralympic values by, for example, delivering school assemblies or whole school events based on Olympic and Paralympic ideals. To date, more than 380 special schools across the UK have signed up.

In addition to receiving a number of tickets to the Games for students

aged 10 and over, schools joining the Get Set network also receive a plaque and certificate to mark their school's achievement, authority for the use of the London 2012 education logo on the school's sign, letterhead and website, and access to exclusive opportunities such as tours of the Olympic Park and visits from the London 2012 mascots.

The deadline for claiming ticket allocations is Friday 16 December 2011. To Join the Get Set network, schools should complete a short online application form, available at: <https://getset.london2012.com>

## Hospital Passport

The aim of the Hospital Passport is to provide hospital staff with information about a child during a hospital visit. It will enable all staff to work together smoothly to meet a child's needs when using hospital services.

The Hospital Passport uses a 'traffic light' system. All essential information about the child is written in the red section; this will alert staff to any vital information about, or specific requirements for the child. The amber section is for important details about the child's day-to-day activities, dietary requirements etc, and the green section is for the child's personal



likes and dislikes; not vital, but making a lot of difference to a child's hospital experience.

To download copies of this passport and for more information go to: [www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/hospital-passport](http://www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/hospital-passport). If you have difficulty completing it or require a paper copy please contact Liaise at Bristol Royal Hospital for Children on **0117 342 8065** or the Children's Disability Nurse on **0117 342 8653**.

## Childcare for children with additional needs

Finding childcare can be difficult and parents of children with a disability or special educational needs may find that their options are limited, particularly for older children.

However, all childcare providers are required by law to provide childcare for children with disabilities, and there is a wide range of childcare options available; some have specifically tailored their care for

children with disabilities and special educational needs while others include special needs within their existing childcare provision.

For further information contact the Family Information Service (FIS) on **0845 129 7217** or [askcyps@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:askcyps@bristol.gov.uk)

Direct payments can be used to buy in services for your child following an assessment of need from your local authority.

## Hello Bristol

Bristol is supporting 'Hello', the national year of communication 2011. This campaign is to increase understanding of how important it is for children and young people to develop good communication skills.

'Hello' aims to make communication for all children and young people a priority in homes and schools in the UK so that they can live life to the full. In the UK today, over 1 million children and young people have some form of speech, language or communication need. This can affect them severely, and for life. In areas of poverty, over 50% of children start school with delayed language skills, putting them at a disadvantage to their peers as they struggle to learn and make friends.

Bristol 'Hello' week of communication was 26 Sept – 2 Oct, when the whole of Bristol children's workforce reflected on their communication skills, using the 'Top tips for developing talk' see [www.nbt.nhs.uk/hello](http://www.nbt.nhs.uk/hello).

There have been various activities in Bristol during the year at libraries, the Harbourside festival,

Playdays, and supermarkets, to name but a few. The speech and language therapists developed a Wow Gorilla sheet for parents to use with their children and a cook book for children with severe communication problems.

Many schools have communication champions who share this information with school staff. Ask if your school has identified a champion.

- See [www.hello.org.uk](http://www.hello.org.uk) for lots of information and resources.



# diarydates



## ■ The National Autistic Society

The National Autistic Society will be providing two weeks of activities for children and young people with autism through the Bristol Autism Project over the Christmas holidays (19–30 December) please contact Rebecca Peacock for details of activities or to find out more about the project.

If you require any further information then please don't hesitate to get in touch.

## ■ Time2Share

Throughout the year Time2Share runs a Friday night group for people aged 13–25 with Aspergers Syndrome. The group is really friendly and meet up three times a month. For information contact Jonny Hicks **0117 941 5868** or email **groups@time2share.org.uk**

## ■ Disability Dance sessions – Dance Fun

Dance Fun has available sessions on Friday evenings at Shirehampton Primary School, starting at 6.30pm. These sessions are aimed specifically at giving children the

chance to get involved in some unstructured, fun dancing.

Dance Fun's leader says "the sessions are aimed at disabled children and other members of their family, so come along and have some fun with dance. There's no pressure, join in if you like or just sit out and watch if you're not in the mood..."

So if your child likes music and dance, why not give them a call on **01454 615 463**.

## ■ Get Outside and Play!

Savlon and Play England, in conjunction with Natural England, have launched an interactive map to help families find great places to play outdoors near to where they live. Featuring the best places for children to engage with nature, including playgrounds and green spaces across England, this map encourages families to explore new local territory and play freely outdoors.

**[www.playengland.org.uk/nature-play-map.aspx](http://www.playengland.org.uk/nature-play-map.aspx)**

## ■ Let's All Play on Bristol's Adventure Playgrounds: 2011–12 sessions

**Christmas Holiday:** No Service

### Term 3 weekend sessions

**St Paul's:** Saturdays 12–4pm

14th and 28th January,  
11th February

**Felix Road:** Sundays 11am–3pm

8th and 22nd January,  
5th February

### February half term

13th Feb to 24th Feb inclusive

**Mondays** 10.30am–2.30pm

Felix Road

**Tuesdays** 10am–2pm

Southmead

**Wednesdays** 11.30am–3.30pm

Lockleaze

**Thursdays** 12–4pm

Windmill Hill

**Fridays** 10.30am–2.30pm

St Pauls

### Term 4 weekend sessions

**St Paul's:** Saturdays 12–4pm

25th February,  
10th and 24th March

**Felix Road:** Sundays 11am–3pm

19th February,  
4th and 18th March

For further information contact Playbus: **0117 955 1561**



## Did you know...?

**People who have been issued with a wheelchair by the Wheelchair & Special Seating Service based at North Bristol NHS Trust are reminded that they have access to an on-call Wheelchair Repair Service.** The Repair Service will make arrangements to repair your wheelchair at a location and time convenient to you and can be contacted on: **0117 957 7952**