

# Aiming High for Disabled Children in Nottingham City **Newsletter**

Issue – January 2010

## **Dear Reader**

Happy New Year to you all and welcome to the January 2010 Aiming High (AH) newsletter. The following briefs you on our current progress.

## **Infrastructure**

All current reports have been sent to our Departmental Management Team (DMT) for approval.

## **Parents on Panels**

We still have a list of parents and carers keen to attend task groups, meetings and offer their experience and knowledge to inform service delivery and commissioning developments so get in contact if you would like to have some parents or carers involved in your service.

Thank you to the parents who have been involved so far in the task groups, interview and commissioning panels, we really value your support.

## **Home From Home Post**

The Home From Home Team Manager Post – has now been advertised. I will update you with further information as soon as is possible (ASAP).

## **Commissioning Manager Post**

The Commissioning Managers post was advertised again and we are interviewing the candidate on January 29th.

## **The Direct Payments Officer post**

Neil Brettell is now in post and can be contacted on 0115-9153729 or on email [neil.brettell@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:neil.brettell@nottinghamcity.gov.uk).



Neil will be reviewing the direct payment service and contacting parents who use direct payments and relevant professionals over the next few weeks.

## **The Asian Short Break Pilot Project Post**

The Asian Short Break Pilot Project has now appointed a Targeted Support Worker. Welcome to Shazia Mohammed.



Shazia will be setting up this pilot project which has now been agreed to run until September 2010. More information will be distributed in due course.

## **Individual Budgets Pilot**

The Project Manager post for the Individual Budgets Pilot has been agreed this post will also be advertised and we will update you on the progress of the project plans and any scope.

## Commissioning

The Commissioning intentions document and a short breaks service specification have been approved by our Senior Officer Group. We will be giving the required notice to current services soon and be looking to retender four lots as detailed in the specification. There will then be a further briefing event and Parents will be included in the future commissioning / interview panels.

## New Short Breaks Ideas

We have now had a number of requests to support the development of new short break ideas and projects. We have held a professionals and parents panel to review the applications for this years available capital and revenue AH money and a separate AH special peoples group, young peoples panel has also been held to identify the successful capital applications.



The following organisations were successful applicants and they will be delivering a wide range of services this year to support disabled children and young people and their families.

**1. Barnardos Butterfly Project** will be delivering trips out and activities and parent / carer support, music activities and sensory sessions – revenue awarded £2025.00.

Barnardos have also asked for money to pay for a ceiling hoist tracking system and height adjustable changing table and were awarded- £5466.00 capital money to pay for this.

**2. Oakfields School and Sports College** – will be delivering inclusive activities and residential trips - awarded £17,000.00.

Oakfields **Arts Plus After School club** have also been awarded - £7500.00 of capital

money to contribute towards a minibus to enable trips out and activities to take place.

**3. Mencap Positive Futures** will be delivering support to young people with learning disabilities, their parents and carers, through a new youth club activity - awarded £4023.47 revenue money. They were also awarded two lots of capital money to develop the youth club, purchase equipment and to provide an interactive garden area. £5418.00 and £5683.31.

**4. Norsaca** will be delivering support to children with ASD through Saturday clubs, outdoor activities, holiday schemes and trips out – awarded £17,980.00 revenue money.

**5. Top Valley Youth Centre, The Ridge Adventure Playground** were awarded -£7000.00 capital money to go towards the developments in the new pathfinder play area including new seating and a fire pit.

**6. Aiming High** has also supported the **Children and Carers Support Services** group by awarding them £1500.00 to undertake a range of activities to undertake a range of indoor and outdoor activities and trips

## Whole Family Short Breaks

Nottingham City Council is very keen to provide support to access a range of services. Whole family short breaks have now been added as part of the AH program, following the feedback from the children, parents and carers.

The option of one week's holiday which equates to 21 sessions of care, from a year's allocation, is available after assessment and is paid via a direct payment. This has now been included in the menu of available services.

If you are interested in this option this can be chosen as part of a package of support to you and discussed at panel.

## Aiming High Parents Forum News & Developments

The AH Parents Forum is continuing to develop and since September 2009, funding from AH and the TDC participation grant has enabled the City Parents'/Carers' Forum (CP/CF), in conjunction with the Nottinghamshire Parents' Reference Group, to provide leisure activities for families.

This group are now planning to book 3 further events to take place between January and March 31<sup>st</sup> 2010. The selection of activities was chosen to match requests from parents/carers.

The AH Parents Forum Facilitator Bev Denby, has been in post since December 2009. Bev has targeted 3 City Special Schools with the forthcoming programme of events and it is anticipated that forging links via these schools will access the harder to reach families so they can have a voice within the Aiming High work.

Additional families can explore the benefit of the support group, allowing them to express themselves in a safe understanding environment with some professional support. The children will have an opportunity for free play with the support of trained and experienced staff. Additional support for children with more complex or physical needs will allow for 1:1 support as required.

**We will keep you informed of what each project is delivering and what is happening as we receive more information.**

### New Purchases



The wheelchair swing and trampoline are in place at crocus fields and the childrens art work is on the walls in the garden area.

The new wheelchair vehicle has now been delivered and as the children requested it is red.



### Computers

Accessible computers and software for Crocus Fields have arrived and internet lines are being installed.

### Bicycles

The bicycles have enabled some children attending short breaks to go on bike rides. This is something that some children have never had the opportunity to do.

### Workforce

The task group for our Disabled Childrens Workforce will be meeting regularly throughout this year. Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire Local authorities support the NHS in both the City and County plans to fund a joint clinical skills audit of relevant training. A proposal has been made for a Workforce Champion and Officer to drive these changes and look at the training being undertaken in all of our city integrated childrens services.

Together Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire will then review this training with the NHS and look to develop an agreed joint framework of suitable training.

### Eligibility & Care pathways

Jane Shepherd, the consultant from Maddocks, has nearly finished her work on reviewing the eligibility and care pathways document. Jane has now met with several professionals and parents already and plans are in place to put this document into a parent friendly version. This will then be written in a suitable format.

### Latest News

There has also been some new guidance released from the Council for Disabled Children on the complex area around eligibility.

[http://www.ncb.org.uk/cdc/latest\\_news/news\\_jan-jun\\_2010/eligibility\\_criteria\\_-\\_practic.aspx](http://www.ncb.org.uk/cdc/latest_news/news_jan-jun_2010/eligibility_criteria_-_practic.aspx)

There is also a consultation document out on care planning for short breaks.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1678&external=no>

Both of these documents can be found on the links above or via an internet search engine like google.

### **Integrated Care & Early Support Pathways**

An "Integrated Care & Early Support Pathways Task Group" is now in place. This work is supported by relevant key professionals and we plan to deliver a simple visual path so that parents and carers can be clear about the assessment routes that their child takes.

### **Inclusion Task Group**

The Inclusion Task group has met, Terms of Reference were agreed. Amendments were made to the objectives, and It was agreed a visual path was required to look at the timeline of what we are asking the Inclusion Development Officer (IDO) to do. The group discussed their ideas of the IDO's role and created a visual diagram, which will continue into the next meeting.

### **Core Offer**

The Core Offer group has completed the draft Core offer and this has been sent to the parent's forum for their consultation, along with some suggested signs and symbols to identify levels of support, advice and information available from the services on offer.

The AH parents forum will also look at the format to present this offer and further details will follow.

### **DCATCH**

The next DCATCH task group meeting is to take place on January 14<sup>th</sup>. More news will follow.

See the latest news at the following links:

[http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn\\_id=2010\\_0003](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2010_0003)

<http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/e/OrderingDownload/DCATCH-Report.pdf>

<http://www.togetherfdc.org/Lists/WhatsNew/NewsDispForm.aspx?List=e0ade6ba%2D89bb%2D42e5%2Dab70%2Db528bc589497&ID=210>

### **Data / Reporting**

The Together for Disabled Children (TDC) area representative is Sue North and Sue has confirmed that Nottingham City's status has been reviewed and our area continues to be assessed as having a Low Level of Support Rating. This is great news.

This relates to the information provided in the LAIMP, in the tracker, the evidence we have produced to support the work towards the Full Service Offer (FSO), and any of our meetings.

Sue has said "I would like to thank you for all of your hard work, and am confident this accurately reflects your area's transformation of short break services for disabled children and young people in your local area".

I am very pleased to inform you that we are on track to meet the FSO.

### **Aiming High One Year on Event**

The Aiming High - One Year On event is to be held on – 17th March 2010 at The Council House, Nottingham. The Programme for the day is as follows;

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 10.00am  | Arrive & Registration  |
| 10.15am  | Opening & Welcome – Councillor Mellen                          |
| 10.20 am | Nigel Parkes, Family Action - Launch of IRIS                   |
| 10.25am  | Toby Beck, Aiming High Short Breaks – Presentation & DVD       |
| 10.30am  | Lucy Davidson, Nottingham City NHS - Presentation              |
| 10.35am  | Jo Rooney, Aiming High Special People's Group – DVD and Speech |
| 10.55am  | Bev Denby, Aiming High Parent's Forum - Speech                 |
| 11.15am  | Tea & Coffee Break   |
| 11.45am  | <b>What Next?</b>  |

1.00pm Closing Speech –  
Viv McCrossen

Lunch

2pm Finish

If you wish to attend there will be limited spaces so please ensure you send your invitation reply back ASAP.

If need be Contact Carole Dickinson or Tracy Meadows on 0115-9155500.

**Thank you all for your continued support.**

**Toby Beck**

## Useful contacts

### **Aiming High Short Breaks Group**

Toby Beck, Project Manager

0115 915 7544

[toby.beck@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:toby.beck@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

### **City Parents Forum**

Jo Rooney / Bev Denby at Barnardos

Sherwood Project

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[bev.denby@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:bev.denby@barnardos.org.uk)

### **Aiming High 'Special People'**

Eleanor Shelley at Barnardos

Sherwood project

0115 9691177

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Edwina Cosgrove at Parent Partnership

0115 948 2888