

# Aiming High for Disabled Children in Nottingham City

Newsletter - June 2009

## Dear Reader

Welcome to the June 2009 newsletter. Well May has been another busy month and let me assure you that a lot of work is taking place in the background to implement and to transform our short breaks services.

## What's been happening?

### Asian Short Breaks Pilot

We have asked our local Asian Families their views on our proposals to implement the Asian Short Breaks Pilot Project. The feedback has been great and parents and carers have said they would like some activities based around their culture and religion. Most liked the ideas of weekend day care and popular venues / areas were seen as the Meadows, All Souls' community centre (Lenton), Bobbers Mill, Forest Fields, Radford or Hyson Green.



The proposal is for the project to be run for a six month period, offering a total of 10 weeks support as part of this package, on weekends and after school and on certain days in the school holidays.

We will keep you informed and if you want any more information on this pilot project please contact Sarah Cox or Rifhat Akhter on 0115 9153881.

### Workforce Group

The Aiming High Workforce Task group has met again and our Action Plan is almost complete. We are making proposals to address the training needs of our universal, targeted and specialist staff and have asked for an internal champion at a senior level in Nottingham City Council to take this forward. All of our Home From Home short breaks carers will also be asked to develop their skills using the short breaks standards from the Childrens Workforce Development Council (CWDC).

### The Core Offer group

The Core Offer group have also met again and the core offer will be, what parents/carers and young people can expect and access from services.

This draft offer will hopefully be out in October 2009 and then we will test it and refine it before putting the real offer out for consultation. We need to gather the initial statements from each service about what they provide. Justine Darke who chairs the group will be meeting with the Aiming High Special Peoples group in July to find out how they want the offer presenting to them.

Members of the group will need to take the draft to their own networks to test for a month, getting as much feedback as possible. Young people will also inspect and test the draft for problems or gaps.

Young people are keen to look at leisure centres and once the draft has been tested and feedback discussed, the group will then work on a final document. We are looking into using a PEC style pictorial key, of symbols, as a guide to access and we are trying to find the best method to do this. If you have any views on this please let us know.

### The Fun Day 2009

Its time for a bit of fun again and in addition to all the other things happening we are planning our 4<sup>th</sup> fun day event which has been held each year alongside the Riverside festival at the Victoria Embankment.



The date is set for 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009 and disabled children, young people, parents and carers will be receiving an invitation in due course.

Further information can be accessed via your local Childrens Centre or please call the council's Families Information Service on 0800 458 4114.

### **Other Summer Events**

Nottingham City Council are committed to involving children with disabilities. We are keen to encourage and include more young people with additional needs (including learning difficulties or disabilities) into mainstream activities so they can have a positive and fun experience. We hope to inspire young people to try new things and enjoy the social aspect of making new friends.

Please call the council's Families Information Service on 0800 458 4114 for details of specific activities for children with additional needs (including learning difficulties or disabilities) and details of support available for families. Please note you may need to contact the activity provider for information about the venue and access.

### **Breaks Scheme**

Aiming High is funding 10 disabled children and young people to enable them to access a residential short break in the summer holiday. These breaks are to be at the Holme Pierrepont adventure site and we will let you know how they get on.

### **NORSACA**

Aiming High is also supporting 2 pilot projects on offer from NORSACA. NORSACA are currently working on 2 main ideas, the first being a week working in partnership with Nottinghamshire County Community Development Team, offering sports activities to children and young people aged 11-19 years.

This will offer a range of activities from experienced coaches and specialised workers, this will be a weeks pilot scheme followed by 13, 3 hr, weekly sessions. Funding needed for a 3 further years has potentially been secured from the football league trust. The second project is more adventure based and will use the facilities at Colwick Park and The Arches. These will be offering 24 children the chance to take part in an activity scheme that they would be unable to access alongside mainstream children.

### **Play Events**

Nottingham City Play service supports a wide range of play opportunities at play centers, on neighborhood playgrounds and in play projects across the city. We aim to include children aged 5-13 in all their local play activities and may be able to provide a Play worker to give one to one play support to enable this to happen.



Throughout the summer there will be several disabled children's Play Events being held which will be taking place on parks across Nottingham City. These are being held between 12 - 2pm and are happening on the following dates:

**28th July @ King George V Park, Bilborough / Strelley.**

**29th July @ Forest Recreation Ground, Hyson Green/Radford.**

**31st July @ Riverside Victoria Embankment, Meadows**

**11th August @ King Edward Park, Sneinton**

**14th August @ Breckswood Park, Clifton**

**20th August @ Birchover Park, Bilborough.**

There will be play workers and special school staff present with some structured activities e.g.: games, art and craft, but parents who are not booked onto one of the 2 special summer schools will have to stay with their children.

If parents want to leave their children they will have to make individual arrangements with one of the 2 schools. (Depending on the area you live in.)

This will also be an opportunity for disabled children, young people and their families to partake in the pathfinder wave 2 consultations - Parents and children will be encouraged to come along and comment on access to unsupervised play provision in Nottingham city.

If you want more information please contact Tracy lee Rowe (play inclusion officer) on 91556829.

If you are an organization that wants advice on how to make your play project more inclusive for disabled children please get in touch.

Schemes again . Which will be held at Shepherd School: (Bilborough) on the following dates;

Week commencing 27th July for children and young people aged 8+.

Week commencing 3rd August for young adults at Shepherd School.

Week commencing 3rd August for younger ones will be held at Carlton Digby School

Week commencing 10th August @ Shepherd School for children aged between 4 – 19 years's.

At Rosehill (Norsaca): (Sneinton) on

Week commencing 27th July and

Week commencing 3rd August only.

For more information on these play schemes:

Contact either Shepherd School: Helen Derby: [hderby@shepherdschool.org.uk](mailto:hderby@shepherdschool.org.uk) Or Rosehill: on [dfnorsaca@btconnect.com](mailto:dfnorsaca@btconnect.com)

Have a great summer and best wishes

**Toby Beck**

### **The Special School Summer Play Schemes:**

Aiming High is also supporting the Summer Play

### **Useful contacts**

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

Toby Beck, Project Manager  
0115 915 7544  
[toby.beck@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:toby.beck@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

#### **City Parents Forum**

Jo Rooney at Barnardos Sherwood Project  
0115 969 1177  
[jo.rooney@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:jo.rooney@barnardos.org.uk)

Edwina Cosgrove at Parent Partnership  
0115 948 2888  
[edwina.cosgrove@ppsnotts.org.uk](mailto:edwina.cosgrove@ppsnotts.org.uk)

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

Cara Holland at Barnardos Sherwood project  
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