

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

Issue – August 2009

Dear Reader

Welcome to the August 2009 Aiming High (AH) newsletter. Well these past few months have been a very exciting and busy time for the AH Team and the following briefs you on the current progress.

Infrastructure

We have been completing reports to address our staffing and infrastructure developments these have been approved by the Local Authority and NHS management teams.

Parents on interview Panels

I would like to say a big thank you to our Parent Representatives, from the Parents Forum, for supporting us. Parents have been involved on interview panels held for the new Social workers at the Disabled Childrens Team.

We also now have a list of parents and carers keen to attend task groups, meetings and offer their experience and knowledge to inform service delivery and developments.

New Staff at Disabled Childrens Team

Congratulations to Lisa Green in being appointed as the Senior Practitioner for Occupational therapy in the Disabled Childrens Team and Emma Murfin as the temporary Senior Practitioner in social care.

We have also appointed two and a half new social workers posts. The full time posts holders are Glen Quickfall and Maxine Rose and Jane Hill is being offered the part time post.

Home From Home Post

The Home From Home Team Manager Post is due to be advertised.

Commissioning Manager Post

The Commissioning Managers post is due to be advertised.

The Direct Payments officer post

The Direct Payments officer post is being advertised.

The Asian Short Break Pilot Project Post.

The Asian Short Break Pilot Project Post is to be advertised.

Team Manager Disabled Children's Team

The Team Manger post within the Disabled Childrens Team has now been appointed to.

Individual budgets

A report on Individual Budgets has also been submitted. The Nottingham Young Select Committee will consider this report in October 2009.

Parents Forum

Barnardos have agreed to support the Parents Forum and the new worker will hopefully be in place soon. Thank you very much to Edwina Cosgrove and Parent Partnership for all the hard work and support with the forum. Barnardos and Parent Partnership will continue to work together and alongside Family Action with the new IRIS information project.

Commissioning

We have completed a draft commissioning intentions document and a short breaks service specification. Thank you to the parents who commented on the document. This will be

forwarded to the steering group and parents have been asked to comment on this again via the forum.

Parents will be also included in the future commissioning / interview process and these documents will go to Senior Officers Group and Childrens Partnership Board for approval.

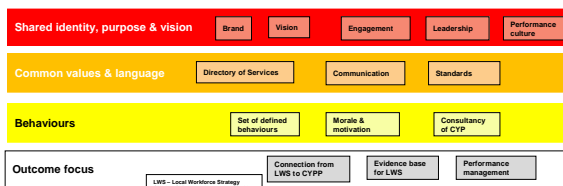
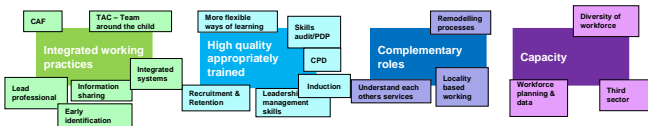
Workforce

The task group for our Workforce development have met for a fourth time and a report has been sent to Heads of Service for approval to identify a champion to lead the workforce agenda across short breaks and specialist, targeted and universal services.

We are looking at utilising the following Action Plan.



Nottingham City Council Aiming High Local workforce strategy – Identified issues & likely action areas & support



Developments of in house Short Breaks

The 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.



We are now looking to recruit / appoint an officer to deliver this pilot. 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.

Eligibility & Care pathways

We have submitted our current eligibility and care pathways document to the Nottingham City Council safeguarding board and this was approved. This is being used now and is also being reviewed by consultancy with Jane Shepherd from The Maddocks consultants.

The Government and the Together for Disabled Children, are due to publish further guidance in this complex area this may mean we have to review this document again.

There will now be a new eligibility and care pathways task group set up to work alongside the Early Support Programme. This meets on October 13th 2009.

Core Offer

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 met with the Aiming High Special Peoples group in July to find out how they want the offer presenting to them.

Young people will also inspect and test the draft for problems or gaps. Young people are keen to look at local activities and 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.

Data / Reporting

The organisation Together For Disabled Children (TDC) have produced a Local Area Implementation Programme (LAIMP) to report back regular data on short breaks provision. The latest report was submitted on July 31st 2009.

Other creative opportunities

We used a company called IBK initiatives to undertake some consultation work with the children who attend the Children's Developmental Centre Short Breaks.

This was a joint piece of consultation with Nottinghamshire County Council and the NHS. This will gather the views of the children attending this residential overnight short break service.

Pippa Murray from IBK has been leading on this work and will feedback to the AH lead officers and steering group.

Latest News

CWDC

The Childrens Workforce Development Council (CWDC) have now released the Training, Support and Development Standards for Short Break Carers and these are being implemented with our Home From Home Foster Carers.

The Fun Day 2009



In addition to all the other things happening we have held the 4th fun day event, alongside the Riverside festival at the Victoria Embankment. The event was opened by Satinder Gautam, Director of Specialist Services and the Lord Mayor, Councillor Jeanie Packer.

I am pleased to say that this was a great success and we have enabled the event to offer many more activities and facilities. Attendance has improved, as we addressed some of the transport needs of a number of children and their families wanting to attend the event.

I would like to thank all the children, their families, agencies and staff who were involved in the day.



Thank you to the 16 Children Centres and to Experian for their financial contributions to the event and to the Business and Events Team and Arts and Events team.

Other Summer Events

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.

Breaks Scheme

Aiming High has funded 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 got on.

NORSACA

Aiming High is also supporting 2 pilot projects with NORSACA. They 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.

The Special School Summer Play Schemes:

Aiming High is also supporting the Summer Play Schemes again . Which were 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 Or Rosehill: on dfnorsaca@btconnect.com

Capital Finances

Our Capital Finance plan is being approved. We are currently purchasing the following items.

New Vehicle

Plans have been sent in to purchase the wheelchair vehicle. The children and young people have been consulted over choice of colour and size etc and they want a red one this year and a blue one next year.

Wheelchair Swing

Plans have been finalised for this work and we are looking at putting a wheelchair swing in for the children at Crocus Fields.

Computers

Accessible computers for Crocus Fields are also being sourced.

Two Bicycles

We are buying two specialist bicycles One will be for the specific use with a wheelchair.

Finally have a good summer and thank you for your continued support.

Toby Beck

Useful contacts

Aiming High Short Breaks

Toby Beck, Project Manager
0115 915 7544
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City Parents Forum

Jo Rooney at Barnardos Sherwood Project
0115 969 1177
jo.rooney@barnardos.org.uk

Edwina Cosgrove at Parent Partnership
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edwina.cosgrove@ppsnotts.org.uk

Aiming High 'Special People' Group

Cara Holland at Barnardos Sherwood project
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