

Not to be missed...

How young people can get involved

It's really important that children and young people are actively involved in planning AHDC short breaks in the borough. The role of Knowsley's Young Advisers, who are part of the Engagement and Participation Team, is to ensure young people's views are channelled through the council's and other young people's networks to those who shape children and young people's service provision across Knowsley.

A Young Adviser team dedicated to working with young people will soon be in place. In the meantime to have your say or for more information on all aspects of the programme please contact John McIntyre on 443 5601.



New parent led support group

A new support group for parents, carers and guardians of children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) met for the first time in September. Sessions will be held on the third Thursday of each month at the Carer's Centre, 143 Bewley Drive, Kirkby. Everyone is welcome, giving an opportunity for parents to meet informally and have a coffee and a chat.

For more information please contact Julie, Nicky or Sharon at ADHDknowsley@gmail.com

Trust Fund Payments

From 2010 the Government will contribute £100 every year to the Child Trust Fund accounts of disabled children and £200 for severely disabled children. To benefit a child must receive Disability Living Allowance and

have been born on or after 1 September 2002. The first payments are due in April 2010 for those children in receipt of DLA at any point in 2009-2010. Visit the website www.cafamily.org.uk or call the free helpline 0808 808 3555 for more information.

Does your child have speech & language difficulties?

Margaret Thurgeson, a Knowsley parent, has linked up with SAL4KIDS, a speech and language group for children with learning difficulties to provide support for parents whose children have speech and language difficulties.

For more information please contact Margaret on 07709 245 770 or Lesley from AFASIC on 07950 911 004.

newsletter

AIMING HIGH FOR DISABLED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN KNOWSLEY

Autumn 09



AIMING HIGH FOR DISABLED CHILDREN is the Government's new plan to make things better for all disabled children, young people and their families.

Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC) is the Government's plan to make things better for all disabled children, young people and their families by increasing short breaks. Knowsley has funding from April 2009-11 to make this happen.

Short breaks allow disabled children more opportunities to take part in activities, with or without their families, at weekends, overnight, after school or in the holidays.

In Knowsley the programme provided 287 disabled children and young people between one and 16 short breaks from July to September, a number we aim to increase over the next three months.

.....
This is the second Aiming High for Disabled Children newsletter which will keep you up to date with what is happening in Knowsley.
.....

If you want to get involved in transforming short breaks in Knowsley in any way whatsoever - whether you're a parent, someone who can help provide short breaks, someone who works with disabled children or just someone with a good idea - please get in touch by emailing aiming.high@knowsley.gov.uk

Or you can contact **Sheila Denson** on 07825 112 439 or sheila.denson@knowsley.gov.uk or **John McIntyre** on 443 5601 or john.mcintyre@knowsley.gov.uk

This newsletter is also available in other formats including Braille, large print and audio tape. Please request a copy by phoning 443 3245 or emailing aiming.high@knowsley.gov.uk

Your say on services for disabled children in Knowsley



Knowsley Council



Short breaks you've been enjoying

Extended Summer Play Scheme

Placements on the SpringElms summer play scheme were **doubled** thanks to AHDC funding.

150 children attended across The Elms and Springfield Schools over four weeks.

Activities included art & crafts, dance & music, soft play, sensory garden sessions, cookery, t-shirt printing, ball games, judo, swimming and mask making.

New opportunities are introduced every year to broaden children's experiences.

"Pedalaway" also visited with a range of adapted bikes so all children could enjoy cycling in the grounds.

Parents said:

"It was a God send, I could work through the summer and not look for childcare."

"The staff were excellent and made me feel really comfortable leaving my child in their care."

"I don't think I could have coped without SpringElms."

Children said:

"I can't wait to come to SpringElms! It's the best."

"Thank you for all the good times I have had throughout the year."

Family Fun Days

Families enjoyed two fun packed days in August arranged by AHDC.

They enjoyed live music, majorettes displays and activities including sports and games, face painting, therapy and pamper sessions.

Information and advice from various services was also available.



SPEAK residential trip

In July AHDC provided funding for Supporting Parents, Events and Advice in Knowsley (SPEAK) parent support group to take five families on a residential to Barnstondale Activity Centre in Wirral.

The trip provided the chance for families to try a range of activities which they could all enjoy.

Using the funding SPEAK organised transport, catering and accommodation.

The families took part in river crossing, archery, abseiling, orienteering and wall climbing sessions.

Funding opportunities for Parent Support Groups

If your parent support group would like to apply for AHDC funding to access short breaks, we would like to hear from you.

We are especially keen to support trips and activities after school, weekends and during school holidays.

To find out more call John McIntyre on 443 5601.

Funding update

Knowsley's Play Pathfinder programme will provide 15 new play spaces across the borough. Each will have one piece of inclusive play equipment and thanks to £72,000 AHDC additional funding, six play spaces will be

enhanced with elements such as water play, sensory planting, basket swings and inclusive play equipment.

Discussions are currently taking place between Aiming High representatives and Knowsley

foster carers with a view to purchasing a caravan in North Wales which will be fully adapted. The aim is to use this facility for short breaks and family holidays.



What else has been happening?

- The Parent Forum has met twice and will meet again in December. More parents have volunteered to help develop the programme, if you want to join in please contact Sheila Denson on 07825 112 439.
- The Bridging Worker Project has started and staff are receiving training to enable disabled children to access mainstream activities, such as out of school clubs. Seven schools have been identified to pilot this project, including Northern, Central and Southern Primary Support Centres, Springfield School, The Elms, Halewood Centre for Learning and Kirkby Sports College. Others will be included after Christmas. The project will provide funding for extra staff if needed, along with adaptations to building, toys and equipment so all children can enjoy activities. For more information please ring John McIntyre on 443 5601.
- The Arts Service has provided various taster sessions at several schools to gain pupils'

feedback about what activities they would like in the future.

- To provide better coordinated, family focused services for young children under 5 with additional needs or disabilities and their families we are piloting an Early Support keyworker scheme. Two parents joined staff from services including portage home visitors, sensory impaired service assistants and speech and language therapists on a two day training session. Ten staff are now working with families involved in the pilot. We plan to extend the Early Support scheme across the borough from April.
- The Unite Project, run by Merseyside Youth Association, are working with council staff to pilot an inclusive youth group in Kirkby at Centre 63. If successful, it could be introduced borough-wide.
- Staff from various services are attending PIP (Planning Inclusive Play) training which focuses on inclusion around play. The aim is to provide

lasting changes in practice and service management so more disabled and non-disabled children have opportunities to play together.

- In a pilot project Leisure Services are working closely with parents of children with ADHD to extend swimming opportunities.
- Extended schools are enabling more disabled children to access after school and weekend activities.
- Plans are underway to extend activity programmes for siblings.
- Just Kids have started a youth club called the Friday Nite Project, assisted by AHDC.

