

WGO

WHAT'S GOING ON...

SPRING 2011

Is for all children and young people with disabilities and special educational needs, plus their parents, carers and front line service providers. By special needs we mean learning disabilities, physical disabilities, sensory impairments, specific learning problems (eg dyslexia and dyspraxia) and children with behavioural difficulties.

Aiming High for Disabled Children

Most people associate Aiming High for Disabled Children with many of the projects and activities that have been commissioned in relation to short breaks over the last two years. However, there is also a significant programme of capital work that has taken place throughout the programme that will have an impact on the services families will be able to access. This article gives you a summary of some of the things that have been, or are in the process of being delivered.

For those who are not familiar with the term 'capital' in relation to the work that the Council may carry out, it is important to clarify exactly what we mean. Capital projects relate to physical developments, usually the build, renovation or refurbishment of premises, or the purchase of equipment.

Over the past two years the Council has worked hard to ensure the capital projects undertaken as part of Aiming High have as great an impact as possible, for as many people as possible, and across as much of the city as possible. We have focused upon the principle that was repeatedly stated by families of disabled children and young people when we started the project. This is that, in general, people simply want to access normal activities in normal places and this is reflected in much of the work that has been commissioned.

Here are some more details about the wide range of projects that have been undertaken:

Chancet Wood Residential Centre

This was previously the site of a disused hydrotherapy pool, which was



An artist's impression of the new sensory room at sensory Concorde

used as little more than a storage facility. The space is now a fantastic multisensory environment with disabled toilet facilities. The room is self-contained and sits outside the main Chancet Wood building. This means it will be available to users of the centre and it can also be opened up to community groups, or for individual families to access for recreation.

In addition to the sensory room, we have also refurbished a number of bedrooms and bathrooms, and made some general improvements to the centre, to make the environment as pleasant as possible for families accessing their short breaks.

For more information contact: **(0114) 274 6459.**

Graves Park Play Area

Many people will be familiar with the facilities at Graves Park. As part of Aiming High we have had the opportunity to provide the play area with a complete facelift, particularly focusing on inclusive play. This will include changing the access routes

to the play area, installing a range of specialist inclusive play equipment and developing sensory areas. This means that when disabled children visit Graves Park with their families there is plenty in the play area to keep everyone entertained.

For more information visit www.gravesparksheffield.info/

Sensory Room at Concorde Leisure Centre

There are a number of sensory rooms across Sheffield, but most are in schools or centres of some kind and access can sometimes be restricted. The Council, in partnership with Sheffield International Venues, has worked on the build of a community sensory room. It has a floor area the size of a squash court (it did in fact use to be one), a wide range of equipment, and spaces for people to chill out. The facility also has changing places, changing facilities, a gym (that has been accredited by the Inclusive Fitness Initiative as accessible for disabled

Continued overleaf

THIS ISSUE OF
'WHAT'S GOING ON' HAS
BEEN FUNDED BY CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S
SOCIAL CARE

The agencies and organisations
involved in this Newsletter:

SIGN Information Service

Contact the Sheffield Information
Giving Network, 10.00-3.00pm,
Monday to Friday, out of hours
answerphone, on:

0114 266 9476

Sheffield Child Disability Centre (Formally the Sheffield Index)

Contact the Under 19s Disability
Register on:

0114 271 7626

Parent Partnership Service

Contact the impartial education
advice service on:

0114 264 0033

Children and Young People's Social Care

Contact: **0114 273 4855**

Please remember that WGO
cannot recommend, authorise or
take responsibility for any of the
services, groups and activities
mentioned in this newsletter.

As parents it is your responsibility
to ensure that the services, groups
and activities are safe for your
child. We suggest that you make
sure that they have received the
necessary approval to carry out the
activities and the training to meet
your child's needs.

Please send any comments,
articles or ideas for the
Newsletter to any of the
organisations above.

Aiming High for Disabled Children

Continued from front cover

people), a sensory room and a host of
other facilities. For more information
please contact **Concorde** directly on
(0114) 2570053.

Changing Places Toilet and Changing Facilities

Sheffield was already one of the
leaders nationally in the provision of
Changing Places facilities. Changing
Places are accessible toilets with a
difference; they generally have hoist
facilities, full changing beds and,
importantly, more space than you
would expect from a conventional
accessible toilet. Facilities already
exist across the city including at the
Town Hall, Concorde Leisure Centre,
Ice Sheffield and Ponds Forge. For
more information please visit [www.
signpostsheffield.org.uk/out-about/
changing-places](http://www.signpostsheffield.org.uk/out-about/changing-places), or contact **SIGN
information service on (0114)
266 9476**.

In addition to the four large projects
outlined above, we were keen to make
sure that smaller, voluntary groups in
the city also had the capacity to access
capital funding. After an assessment
process we were able to support a range
of projects including the following:

Aspergers Children and Carers Together (ACCT)

Through a small grant we were able
to support ACCT, a parents group
providing services for families of
children with Asperger's Syndrome, to
install an IT Suite, which will provide
additional opportunities for children to
improve their IT skills when accessing
their holiday and weekend activities. For
more information about **ACCT** please
visit www.acctsheffield.org.uk or call
(0114) 2521911.

Greentop Circus

Greentop already do a great deal
of work with disabled children. This
small grant will provide them with the
opportunity to improve the accessibility
of their venue, including the installation
of an accessible changing room. The
grant will also enable them to achieve
a better division of space at the venue,
providing the opportunity for children
who need to, to get away from the
hustle and bustle of activities. For more

information about **Greentop** please
visit www.greentop.org or call
(0114) 2448828.



Thornbridge Outdoors

In the heart of the Peak District yet
within easy striking distance of Sheffield,
Thornbridge Outdoors have been able
to use their grant to build an 800m
cycling track, and a smaller practice
track. They have also purchased a range
of specially adapted bikes, which allows
them to offer fully accessible cycling
sessions. For further information please
visit www.thornbridgeoutdoors.co.uk
or call (01629) 640491.

Manor Community Childcare Centre

Manor Community Childcare Centre
already has a number of disabled
children accessing its services. However,
they have noticed an increasing need
for sensory equipment for some
children. They will use their small grant
to purchase a wide range of sensory
equipment, much of it portable, to
ensure that they can integrate as
many children as possible and provide
stimulating and worthwhile activities.

For more information please contact
the centre on (0114) 264 2594.

As you can hopefully see, the capital
programme, delivered through Aiming
High by Sheffield City Council - in
partnership with a whole host of other
organisations, has delivered real change
throughout the city.

For more information on Short
Breaks and Aiming High in Sheffield,
please contact:

SIGN

Tel: (0114) 2669476

Email: sign@sheffinfofolk.org.uk



Support group news



*The Princess Royal Trust
Sheffield Carers Centre*

Are you a parent or carer for a child with a disability or special educational need? Do you sometimes struggle and would you like some support, information and advice?

We can help!

Hi my name is Ruth and for those who don't know I am the Parent Carer Development Worker at Sheffield Carers Centre. I have

been in post for just over 18 months and my role is to support parents and carers who are caring for a child (0-19) with a disability and or special educational need.

Part of my role is to offer one to one support for parents and carers who contact the Carers Centre through our telephone helpline. I can help with advice about agencies that can assist or local support you can access, as well as information about activities for children that apply to your own caring situation. At the moment, I run a support group on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Carers Centre, where we often offer aromatherapy and group support to give you time out from your caring role. I've also

been developing a group in the south of Sheffield at Birley Spa Primary School and if you're interested in finding out more about either group please get in touch.

In the next 18 months I hope to increase awareness of the services we can offer to parents and carers, and of how we can best support the needs of more parent/carers across Sheffield. If you would like to find out more, or need advice, help or support, please free to contact me on the details below.

Ruth Lawson, Parent Carer Development Worker

Sheffield Carers Centre, 7 Bells Court, Bells Square, Sheffield S1 2FY **Tel: (0114) 278 8942**

New Drop-In Sessions and Coffee Mornings at ACCT (Asperger's Children and Carers Together)

ACCT is a parent-led support group for children and families affected by Asperger's Syndrome. In January ACCT launched their new Drop-In Coffee Mornings, which will run 10.00am – 12.00pm, every Monday during term-time. Parents and carers can drop in at any time during these two hours.

So why not come and join us, and meet other parents and carers of children with Asperger's Syndrome and high functioning Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)? You will also be able to pick up an information pack, borrow library books, find out about upcoming events, get hints and tips, and sample some delicious buns!

This will be an opportunity for us to support each other and, please



remember, you don't need to have a specific issue to come along. In fact, we'd like you to come along and share your success stories as well as your worries.

Find us at Sheffield Carers Centre, 7 Bells Court, Bells Square, Sheffield S1 2FY. Limited parking is available and the venue is easily accessible by public transport.

For more information please call: **(0114) 252 1911** or email: **admin@acctsheffield.org.uk**

PDA Parent/Carer Support Group

For parents and carers of children/young people with Pathological Demand Avoidance Syndrome.



Come and chat with other parents at the Carers Centre, 7 Bells Court, Bells Square, Sheffield, S1 2FY. Tel: 0114 278 8942.

The groups run from 10.00am – 12.00pm, so please drop in and join us at any point.

Friday 1st April 2011

Friday 13th May 2011

Friday 10th June 2011

Friday 8th July 2011

Friday 5th August 2011

Friday 2nd September 2011

Friday 14th October 2011

Friday 11th November 2011

Friday 9th December 2011

For more information about PDA please contact:

Margaret Duncan (0114) 258 9670 / e-mail: margaret.duncan@pdacontact.org.uk

Support group news

SIBS

Free Fun Days Out for Siblings of Children with Disabilities - Places Available!

We're looking for more children to take part in our free, fun days out and have several places available on upcoming trips.

What is SIBS?

SIBS (Something Interesting for Brothers and Sisters) is for children aged between 8 and 13 years who have a brother or sister with a disability. The aim of the project is to give children a day away from their home responsibilities and an opportunity to meet other children in the same position.

How does it work?

Around fifteen children get together to take part in the monthly trips held on Saturdays during term time. Volunteers meet the children and stay with them throughout the day. Previous trips have included activities like bowling, skiing, circus skills, samba, drumming workshops, pot painting and lazer quest.

How much will it cost?

The only cost for families is to pay for food on the day. All activities, resources and transport costs are funded by the University of Sheffield Students' Union.

Who is involved?

SIBS is a student led project run by student volunteers from Sheffield Volunteering at Sheffield University Union of Students. All volunteers receive child protection / behaviour management training and have a valid reference and an enhanced CRB disclosure. Volunteers are also supported by a Sheffield Volunteering staff member.

Interested?

For more information and to request an application form, please contact **Meredyth** on (0114) 222 8544 or e-mail meredyth.hayler@sheffield.ac.uk

Scope Response

Scope Response is a free and unique service that offers impartial and expert information, advice and support to disabled people and their families. It is a gateway to all Scope services. Individuals, families and professionals can get in touch with Scope Response through our helpline and receive support in a number of different ways. Some issues will be dealt with by the Response Helpline, for example funding searches and general enquiries, and others will be referred to the Scope Regional Response Worker (SRRW) for more in depth support.

Penny Dickinson is the SRRW in this area; her role is to offer in depth support to people with cerebral palsy, their families, and the people working with them. She can also offer a home visit to families who have recently received a diagnosis of cerebral palsy, to talk over the many issues that can arise at that particular point in time.

You can contact **Scope Response** in the following ways:

Phone: 0808 800 33 33

Email: response@scope.org.uk

By post

PO Box 833, Milton Keynes, MK12 5NY (Please include SAE for a reply)

O2 Kids Group

The O2 Kids Group is a support group for oxygen-dependent children in South Yorkshire. Below is a list of the new dates for the group up until June. We will give you further updates in the summer edition. So please come along, we'd love to meet you!

April 4th - Early Days Children's Centre - 9.30am - 11.00am

May - No group due to Bank Holiday

June - Weston Park and museum. Bring a picnic! If the weather is bad then we'll meet at The Play Centre, Ranmoor. Time to be confirmed

The group hopes to be able to meet on the first Monday of each month. For further information please contact:

Linda Wright

Project Co-ordinator

Children and Families

linda.wright@sheffield.gov.uk



Changes at the Children's

A new facility has been developed at the main Children's Hospital site (on Western Bank) to enable older children to be changed. The room is located near the Parkside Restaurant/ Outpatients Department, and has been fully fitted with a couch and a hoist to make changing much easier and more convenient for young people, parents and carers.

If parents would like any more details please contact **Linda Towers** (Patient Advice and Liaison Service Co-ordinator) on (0114) 271 7594.



Sibling Support Group Service's 'Tell Us What You Think' Event

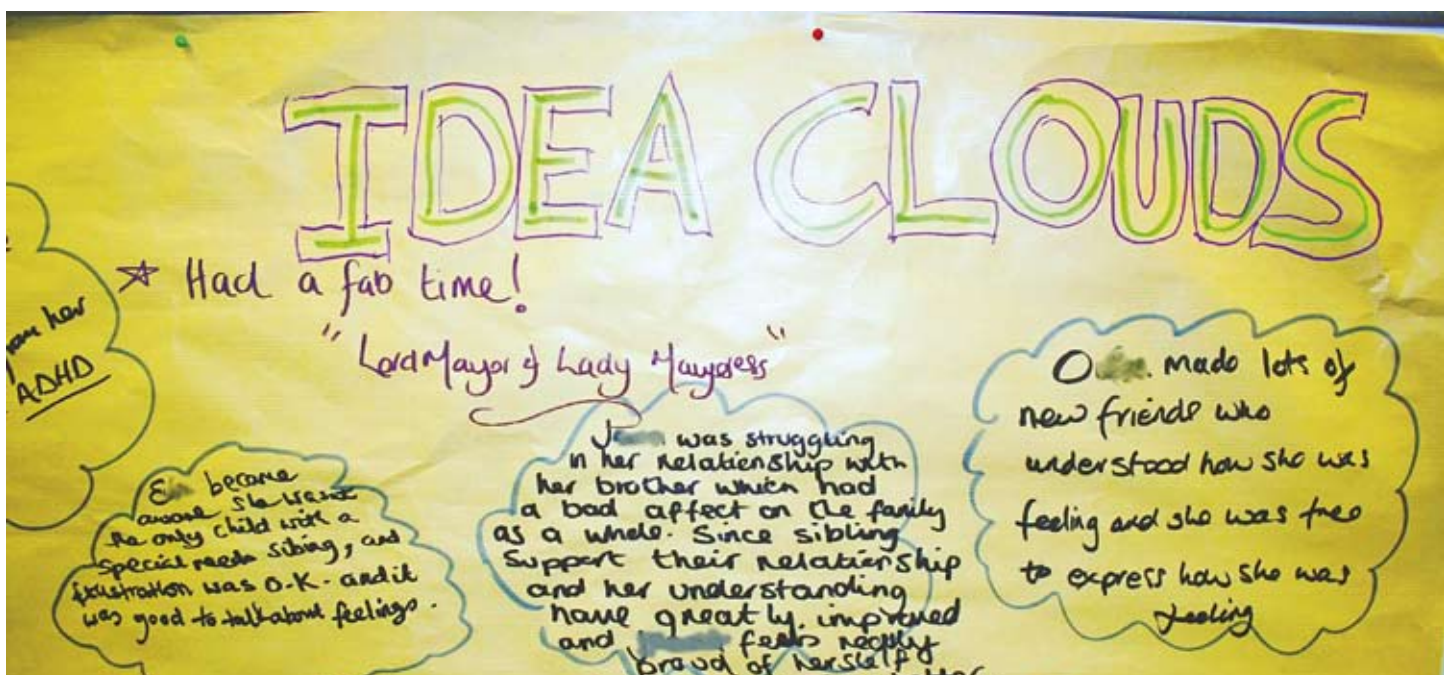
On November 13th 2010 the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress had "a fab time" at our *Tell Us What You Think* event, which was hosted by Mencap and Gateway. Twenty-five families came to tell them about their experience of using the Sibling Support Group service and the benefits for their family. The day also provided the opportunity to meet other parents and carers, obtain information and try a range of activities.

Families that attended the event were able to give feedback on the day via our "idea cloud." The general feeling was that they had enjoyed it very much and would like to see similar events in the future. In the meantime, just a quick reminder that our next Family Fun Time session will be during the Easter holidays, please contact us for further information (details below).

We also wanted to update you on what's new for 2011. In March the service is introducing **Awareness**

Raising Workshops for parents and carers. The workshops will include topics such as how to help siblings with their concerns and anxieties, and ways to explain your child's disability to others. If you would like more information about these workshops, or about the range of support the service offers to siblings please contact:

Philip Hazlehurst
Telephone: (0114) 273 4017
Email: Philip.hazlehurst@sheffield.gov.uk



Exciting new developments at Parent Partnership Service

Sheffield Parent Partnership Service is a statutory service offering confidential and impartial advice and support to parents and carers of children with Special Educational Needs. The advice we give is firmly rooted in legislation and the SEN Code of Practice and can cover any matter relating to the education of children with SEN.

We are always looking at ways we can improve, extend and develop the service that we offer to Sheffield parents and carers. With this in mind we would like to take this opportunity to let you know about a number of innovative and exciting new projects for Sheffield launching in 2011.

Firstly, we are now lucky enough to be in a position where we are able to recruit, train and support a number of volunteer Independent Parental Supporters (IPS) who will be able to help other parents and carers by,

- Being a listening ear for parents
- Offering information and support to parents
- Helping to establish and run a Parent Partnership SEN Information Helpline
- Attending information sessions at various venues across the city to meet other parents and let them know about the service
- Helping us to keep in touch with the parents and carers who have used the service

We are really grateful for any help that volunteers can offer and we want to ensure that they feel

valued and supported so we will offer all of our volunteer Independent Parental Supporters,

- A free, comprehensive training package including the SEN Code of Practice and other relevant legislation
- Training delivered at a convenient time and venue
- Regular meetings with a named worker from Parent Partnership
- Regular group meetings with other volunteers
- Frequent training sessions on any relevant issues

Volunteering as an IPS is a great opportunity to develop and enhance your existing skills, as well as learning new ones, whilst working with our team. If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, or even if you would just like to have a chat about volunteering for us, then please do not hesitate to get in touch with me (Lydia) on **0114 261 9191**. Alternatively, you can email me on **Lydia.wilson@sheffield.gov.uk** or **ed-parent.partnership@sheffield.gov.uk** and I will be in touch.

In other news, we are very excited about another new service we have available for parent/carers from February 2011, our '**Out of Hours' SEN Information Helpline**. This will be open to anyone, parents/carers and professionals, who have any questions or queries regarding any aspect of Special Educational Needs. This free, confidential service is available to all callers on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 5pm to 7pm, term time only. So give

us a ring on **0114 261 8765** – we'll be waiting for your call!

In addition to the service we already offer to all Sheffield parents and carers, we are also pleased to announce that we are now able to offer tailor made, training packages to schools, children's centres, parent/carer support groups and community groups. This is available to all teachers, governors, Local Authority staff and other agencies, as well as groups of parents. Amongst other topics we are able to provide:

- Customised training for school staff and governors on 'Working Positively with Parent/Carers'
- Tailor made training for school staff and governors on 'Communicating Effectively with Parent/Carers'
- Customised training for anyone on the statutory duties relating to SEN, especially the Statutory Assessment process and the statutory appeal process
- Customised training for parent/carer support groups and other agencies
- Information sessions for parent/carers and governing bodies.
- Drop-in sessions for parents and carers at any community venue or school

If you have any questions about Sheffield Parent Partnership Service, or would like to discuss any of the above, please feel free to telephone us on **0114 261 9191** and ask for either Yolande or Lydia or email us on **ed-parent.partnership@sheffield.gov.uk**

Important Changes to Family Fund Criteria

To make sure we help families who are on the lowest of incomes and those in greatest need, the Fund will be making a change to its income criteria and will now be guided by a family's entitlement to government financial support in the form of benefit and tax credits.

This means they will now consider a grant application from any family caring for a disabled child or young person aged 17 and under in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, where they are eligible for, and can send us evidence of entitlement to one of the following:

- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit
- Income based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income Support
- Incapacity Benefit
- Employment Support Allowance
- Housing Benefit
- Pension Credit

Families must still however meet all our other eligibility criteria in order to be eligible.

Why has the Fund amended its income criteria?

More families are coming to the Fund

for help to meet the cost of the most basic of needs. The Fund has seen that some families who are raising more than one disabled child or have larger families, have been outside of the Fund's income limit, and we wanted to do something about it.

The new updated eligibility criteria, taking into account the recent changes, is as follows:

- You live in **England, Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales.**
- You are the parent or carer of a severely disabled child or young person aged 17 or under, who lives at home.
- You are eligible to receive and can send us evidence of one of the following: Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit, Income based Job Seeker's Allowance, Income Support, Incapacity Benefit, Housing Benefit, or Pension Credit.
- You have permanent legal residency in the UK and have lived in the UK for six months.

Family Fund forms are available from SIGN information service.
Tel: 0114 266 9476,
email: sign@sheffinfolink.org.uk

Spending Review: a guide for parents and carers of disabled children



On October 20th 2010 the Government published its Spending Review. The Spending Review tells us how Government money will be spent over the next four years. Due to the budget deficit this Spending Review has announced a wide range of cuts.

Every Disabled Child Matters (EDCM) has produced a guide to

what the Spending Review may mean for families with disabled children. This can be downloaded at the link below. There are still a lot of things that need to be explained but this document gives an overview on what is known at the moment.

www.ncb.org.uk/edcm/spending_review.pdf

theDen

The Den is a new website for teenagers with Autism. It is the first of its kind, designed to give teenagers with autism information about the subjects which may interest or worry them in a way they can easily digest, as well as giving them the opportunity to share their opinions. Launched by the **Autism Education Trust (AET)** in May last year, the Den is a hub of information, advice, personal stories, films and games designed specifically for teenagers and young adults on the autism spectrum and their siblings and friends. Check it out at www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk/theden.aspx



Every Disabled Child Matters (EDCM)

What's the Latest?

Last December both Sheffield City Council and NHS Sheffield made a public commitment to ensuring the inclusion and equal rights of disabled children by signing up to the EDCM charter. Work is ongoing to ensure disability awareness training is a key aspect of the council's new e-learning induction. In addition colleagues in the Inclusion & Learning Service are working with schools to increase the involvement of disabled children and young people in the Disability Equality Scheme.

For further information please contact **Mark Alexander** on **(0114) 239 8336**

Ready Steady Go!

Do you have any concerns about your child's development?
Why not come along to one of the Ready, Steady, Go groups, where:

- Your child can play and learn
- You can meet with other parents and carers
- Advice and support is on hand from a variety of specialist services, including Speech and Language, Portage and the Inclusion Team.

With more groups now up and running across the city, the Ready, Steady, Go project is now more accessible than ever. Listed below are all the groups that are up and running as of March 2011, so please come along to a session near you.

Early Days Children's Centre

Contact: Carley Redgate (SENCO)
Tel: 0114 250 3060
Email: carley.redgate@actionforchildren.org.uk

Wednesday a.m.

The Meadow Children's Centre

Contact: Rachael Jones (outreach worker)
Tel: 0114 232 2203
Email: rachael.jones@actionforchildren.org.uk

Thursday (1.15pm - 2.45pm)

Shiregreen Children's Centre

Contact: Tansy Roebuck (SENCO)
Tel: 0114 246 2489
Email: tansy.roebuck@sheffieldpct.nhs.uk

Day/ Time: Thursday (10.00am -12.00pm)

Sharrow Sure Start

Contact: Debbie Miller (Family Support)
Tel: 0114 250 7373
Email: debbie.miller@sharrowsurestart.org.uk

Day / Time: Thursday a.m. (10.00am -12.00pm)

Darnall Children's Centre

Contact: Dawn Ware (SENCO)
Tel: 0114 242 3510
dcn.childcare@btconnect.com

Day/ Time: Thursday (1.00pm – 3.00pm)

Birley Children's Centre

Contact: Andrea (Family Support)
Tel: 07792 528656

Day/ Time: Thursday, a.m.

Tinsley Green Children's Centre

Contact: Genine Nuttall (SENCO)
Tel: 0114 244 8899
Email: tpcc9@btconnect.com

Day/ Time: Monday (1.00pm - 3.00pm)

Wybourn CC

Contact: Michelle Stroud
Tel: 0114 265 1188

Day / Time: Thursday (12.45pm – 2.30pm)

Manor CC

Contact: Tracy Lee
Tel: 0114 272 7796

Day / Time: Friday (9.30am – 11.30am)

Below is a list of areas that should be providing Ready, Steady, Go groups in the near future.

- Broomhall
- Woodseats
- Chancet Wood
- Athelston
- Charnock

- Holt House
- Angram Bank
- Primrose
- Brightside
- Beighton
- Hillsborough

As always, *What's Going On* will keep you updated!

Calling all Providers!

If you are a Childcare Provider reading this, and you would like some information about how to set up a *Ready, Steady, Go* group at your venue, please contact Linda Wright, who will be able to advise you on how to go about this. As we go to press there is still some money available for initial set up costs!

For further information please contact **Linda Wright**
Email: linda.wright@sheffield.gov.uk

Kit 4 Kidz Exhibition

Kit 4 Kidz is a completely free exhibition that is dedicated to disabled children and their families, and to all professionals working in this area.

The exhibition will feature a wide variety of companies demonstrating a wide range of equipment, including car seats, tricycles, beds, buggies, adapted toys and technology for teens.

The location for the exhibition is **Pudsey Civic Hall**, which is a completely accessible venue with excellent road and rail facilities.

With food and drinks available, you can spend the day browsing and trying products at your leisure. Workshops for professionals will also be available on the day. Please contact the Centre on **(0113) 214 6110** or visit the **William Merritt** website at www.williammerritleeds.org for further information.



"This is Colin, who is using head controls on his wheelchair to access the games console. Colin is part of the Technology for Teens project which will have some kit at the exhibition."

Update on Carers and Young Carers Board

The first meeting of the Carers and Young Carers Partnership Board took place in October, 2010. The meeting was an informal workshop to enable everyone to understand the role and remit of the board, which is to deliver Sheffield's Carers Strategy and ensure that organisational action plans are put in place. Organisations and departments who sign up to action plans will report progress directly to the Carers and Young Carers Board.

The action plans will assist employees who have caring responsibilities and encourage them to adopt a "think carer" approach when

designing and delivering services.

At our first meeting of 2011 we looked at how the board would structure its meetings and how business would be conducted. There was also a presentation from young carers about how they want to be involved in the board and the work that it plans to carry out.

Next Steps

The board will meet every two months. Minutes and updates will be available on the websites of Sheffield City Council, NHS Sheffield, the Carers Centre and the Young Carers Project. Updates will also be published in

various newsletters that are used by carers and young carers, including *What's Going On*.

For more information on the Carers and Young Carers Board please contact:

Cherry Daniels – Sheffield City Council Carers Lead
Telephone: (0114) 2734746
Email:
Cherry.Daniels@sheffield.gov.uk

Or

Elise Gilwhite - NHS Sheffield Carers Lead
Telephone: (0114) 3051074
Email:
Elise.Gilwhite@sheffieldpct.nhs



Computer Club

Computer Club works with children from the Sheffield area, who are on the Autistic Spectrum, between the ages of 8 and 15, and their siblings.

What happens at Computer Club?

It runs on Saturdays in term time from 9.45am – 10.45 am for 8 – 11 year olds, and from 11.00am – 12.00pm for 12 – 15 year olds.

The children work on computers at the University of Sheffield.

What About Parents?

Parents who bring their children to the club are asked to stay for the duration of the session, in a room nearby, where they can chat to other parents and enjoy some refreshments.

Who runs Computer Club?

It is a project funded by the University of Sheffield Students' Union and organised by SheffieldVolunteering.

A team of student volunteers work on a rota basis to maintain a ratio of one volunteer to every child.

Parents can rest assured that all volunteers have an enhanced CRB check, and have provided a written reference. They also receive training in child protection and autism awareness.

What will it cost?

There is no cost for the group.

Interested?

Please contact **Helen** on **0114 222 8547**.

Children with Disabilities Strategy - What's Happening?

We are continuing to work with parents/carers and other key partners towards getting the strategy endorsed by the 0-19 Partnership Board in February. This will give Sheffield a clear direction

that all key partners support. Following the Partnership Board in February, work will begin to put the words into actions.

For more information contact **Mark Alexander** on **(0114) 239 8336**

New Direction for Early Support

Sheffield Care Pathways Project, based at the Ryegate Children's Centre, closed at the end of December 2010, after five years of supporting families with young children with complex needs.

The Care Pathways Project was established in 2005 to deliver a national initiative called Early Support and during the last five years the Care Pathways Team have been able to provide Early Support for more than 130 families.

Although the Care Pathways Project at Ryegate has now ended, delivering Early Support for families with children with complex needs (0-5) remains a top priority in Sheffield.

What do we mean by Early Support?

- Early Support identifies a named Key-worker to support families.
- Early Support helps families to be more involved when planning services for their child.
- Early Support helps professionals to provide better co-ordinated care and support for families

How can a Key-worker help?

The Key-worker could be anyone involved with the young child and family. This could include parents or other family members.

The Key-worker should:

- Be a named contact for families.
- Provide advice and information, or signpost to other services as needed.



- Arrange regular Family Service Plan meetings to ensure the planning, review and delivery of a co-ordinated package of care.

Are there any resources to help me?

Early Support produce a range of information for families who have a young disabled child.

These include:

- Family File
- Family Pack
- Information for Parents and booklets including:
 - Autism Spectrum Disorders
 - Cerebral Palsy
 - Downs Syndrome
 - Speech and Language Difficulties
 - Hearing Impairment
 - Visual Impairment
 - Behaviour
 - Sleep
 - Neurological Disorders

For more information contact **Linda Wright** or **Tracy Rodgers** from the Children, Young People and Families Service:

Tel: (0114) 239 8336

Email: early-support@sheffield.gov.uk

Children, Young People & Families – Travel Service

How does the Travel Service work?

The aim of the Travel Service is to provide the most appropriate method of travel assistance for children and young people to get to and from their place of education or care. In the past we have only been able to offer minibus or taxi transport, but we have now developed a range of travel options designed to meet the needs of each individual and to encourage increased independence.

The Travel Options:-

The 'Get Going' Project has been running for the past 18 months and can benefit all young people in Sheffield, with a particular emphasis on those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, who receive council funded transport to and

from school.

The aim of 'Get Going' is to give young people their first steps towards independence in the way they travel to and from school. A meeting is arranged with parents/ carers to agree a safe and appropriate collection/ drop off point for the young person taking into account their additional needs. The change could be as simple as standing at the door waiting for the minibus, progressing to standing a couple of doors away, or walking to the end of the road if this is safe. The capabilities of each young person participating in the project are assessed and a risk assessment is carried out before the project begins. The benefits participants enjoy are increased independence and confidence, working towards becoming an independent traveller



and being able to access more social and work opportunities in the future.

Young people who have taken part in the project become more independent individuals and parents/carers have seen their children grow in confidence and maturity. Many young people who have started on the 'Get Going' project have now become successful independent travellers.

indetravel





Disability Travel Pass News

DID YOU KNOW

You can now apply for your Blue Disabled Parking Badges and Disabled Persons Travel Permits (concessionary Bus, Tram and Rail travel) in person at First Point, Howden House.

You can complete an application form there and then, before being assessed by an Advisor who will give you a decision right away. In some cases we may need to send for further evidence which may slightly delay your application being processed.

Please note: proof of address, identity and 2 passport size photographs are

needed for a Blue Disabled Parking Badge, together with a £2.00 non refundable administration fee.

Please make sure you bring this information with you to avoid any delay in processing your application.

First Point is open from Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm – if you don't want to wait at busy times you can leave your application at reception and we will contact you later to carry out the assessment over the telephone.

If you have any questions or queries regarding the information given, then please do not hesitate to contact us:

Mobility Travel Pass Team
Tel: (0114) 203 4897

Opening hours are 8:45am to 5:15pm Monday to Friday.



A new look for the ask Sid website

The Sheffield Information Directory for Children, Young People and Family Services website, better known as ask Sid (www.asksid.net), is now in its third year. Widely used by parents, carers and practitioners all over Sheffield, it's packed with up-to-the-minute details of local family services as well as areas exclusively for children and young people. Last year a huge 205,000 pages were viewed by families and

professionals keen to find out what services were out there locally.

Over the past few months the ask Sid team has been hard at work making the site even better. The website has had a make-over, with a fresh new look and improved search facilities. To share your thoughts on the new design, contact asksid@sheffinfo.org.uk, or use the 'contact us' form on www.asksid.net.

