

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.

New Look for Ryegate Therapy Block

Back in March this year the Ryegate Children's Centre was given a fantastic facelift thanks to a generous team of cyclists: all employees, friends, families and colleagues of South Yorkshire-based retail developers, Dransfield Properties Ltd.

The twenty-strong team donated their time and skills to give the Physiotherapy Block at the Ryegate Children's Centre a "Changing Rooms" style makeover.

Initially, the group biked 326 miles from Marseilles, France to Portofino, Italy in order to raise money for the Children's Hospital Charity, which supports the work of Ryegate. But, after raising £15,574 for the Charity, they decided they wanted to go further still and offer their strength and expertise to help complete the refurbishment of the waiting area, gym and meeting/ treatment room in the Ryegate Therapy Block.

The Therapy Block houses Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Hydrotherapy services for children with disabilities in Sheffield. It provides over 3000 treatment sessions each year for disabled children, and each year over 200 new children are introduced to the team to start their rehabilitation.

During the makeover weekend the team worked through the night to ensure everything would be finished on time. Staff from the Hospital Trust and the Children's Hospital Charity, inspired by the team's commitment to the project, also helped out over the weekend, along with parents of some of the children who use the Ryegate Centre.

New gym



Old gym

During the marathon makeover various enhancements were made to the Centre including: a striking new entrance feature, exterior cladding, a new ceiling in the seminar room, full interior repaint throughout, new sensory room with UV lights, new storage facilities, consulting bays in gym area, doors replaced throughout, new flooring throughout the centre and new lighting in the corridor and seminar room. Toys

and equipment, mirrors, whiteboards and new artwork were also added.

Motorbike champion James Toseland, a keen supporter of The Children's Hospital Charity, also donated money to the project to help purchase various pieces of equipment, and Gavin Ward, partner at WCEC Architects in Chesterfield, was also heavily involved in the project.

Continued overleaf

THIS ISSUE OF 'WHAT'S GOING ON' HAS BEEN FUNDED BY PARENT PARTNERSHIP SERVICE

The agencies and organisations involved in this Newsletter are:

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 Register (Formerly the Sheffield Index)

Contact the Under 19s Disability Register on:

0114 271 7626

Parent Partnership Service

Contact the impartial education advice service on:

0114 261 9191

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.

Welcome to the summer edition of What's Going On! As usual, it's packed full of interesting articles and updates for children and young people with additional needs and disabilities, and their families. In addition to our usual features, this edition also includes a special section on Childcare – just in time for the Summer hols! We hope you enjoy reading the summer newsletter and, remember, if you have any ideas for articles, or wish

to comment on anything in this edition, please get in touch – I'd love to hear from you!

Finally, the WGO want to say sorry for any inconvenience caused by a misprint that appeared in the last edition. This meant that the wrong contact telephone number was provided for the Blue Badge/Mobility Travel Pass Team. The correct number to call if you wish to speak with a member of the team is **(0114) 273 4897**.

Continued from front cover

Cat Powell, Art for Health Programme Co-ordinator at The Children's Hospital Charity, who managed the project, said: "It has been a pleasure to be involved with such a fantastic project and to ... create such a wonderful space for the children who attend the centre.

"I hope the patients really enjoy their refreshed Therapy Block and that the bright colours and unique artwork provides a welcoming, stimulating environment for their therapy."

Jenny Featherstone, Team Leader for Community Physiotherapy and

Occupational Therapy Service at the Ryegate Children's Centre, said:

"I can't believe how much a place can change in a weekend. It has been a fantastic transformation.

"When staff arrived at work the following week there were gasps of amazement and a real sense of wow! Throughout the week parents were commenting on how great it all looked and the children have been enjoying the new equipment and environment. We are all so grateful for all the hard work and generosity of everyone who contributed to the project."

Support group news

Does your child have Asperger's Syndrome?

ACCT is a parent led support group, based at Sheffield Carers Centre, for children, parents and carers in the Sheffield Area

Monthly Parent Meetings

Dates for 2011

6th January	5th May	6th October
3rd February	9th June	3rd November
3rd March	7th July	1st December
7th April	8th September	

7.30 – 9.30 pm

St. Mary's Community Centre, Bramall Lane S2 4QZ

Weekly drop-in at Sheffield Carers Centre

Mondays 10.00am - 12.00pm during School Term

Update on Ready Steady Go Groups

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.

Ready, Steady, Go is for children aged 0-5 years and, with more groups now up and running across the city, the project's more accessible than

ever! You may remember in the Spring edition we printed a list of the RSG groups, which were up and running as of March 2011. Well, listed below are the new RSG groups that have been launched since then. So please come along to a session near you!

RSG Groups	Contact Name:	Day/ Time:
Newfield Green Clinic, 501 Gleadless Road, S2 2BS	Jane Richards – (0114) 241 6968	Friday (term time only) 9.30 – 11.30am
Burngreave Children's Centre	Hafeeza Shoaib (EY outreach worker) - (0114) 252 5220	Tuesday 1.00 – 3.00pm
Owler Brook Children's Centre	Hafeeza Shoaib (EY outreach worker) - (0114) 252 5220	Friday 1.00 – 3.00pm
Bankwood Children's Centre / Valley Park Children's Centre	Jane Richards - (0114) 2416968	Friday 9.30-11.30am
Chancet Wood Children's Centre	Jane Richards - (0114) 241 6968	Friday 1.00 – 3.00pm
Athelston Children's Centre (in Handsworth Community Nursery)	Natalie Robinson (family support worker) – (0114) 239 8697 / 07814 265986	Tuesday 9.15 - 11.15am
Hilsborough Children's Centre	Cheynene Grossett (Parent Engagement Worker) - 07815 192274	Wednesday 9.00 – 11.00am
Stocksbridge Children's Centre	Josey Broomhead – 07815 192971 / (0114) 283 6930	Monday 1.00 – 3.00pm
Primrose Children's Centre, Creswick Street, S6 2TN	Elizabeth Skellet – 07973 478192	Tuesday, 9.30 – 11.30am
Broomhall Nursery School and Children's Centre, Broomhall Road, S10 2DN	Vicki – (0114) 272 1453	Tuesday, 1.00 – 3.00pm
Hackenthorpe Hall Nursery, 28 Main Street, Hackenthorpe, S12 4LB	Laura (SENCO) – (0114) 248 3737	Thursday, 9.30 – 11.30am
Angram Bank Children's Centre (Angram Bank Primary School), Kinsey Road, High Green, S35 4HN	Joanne Elson – (0114) 284 6204	Thursday, 10.00 – 11.30am

What's Going On will continue to keep you updated about new Ready, Steady, Go groups across the city ...

Other groups currently running in the following areas:

- Parson Cross
- Shirecliffe
- Shiregreen
- Sharrow

- Darnall
- Birley
- Tinsley
- Wybourn
- Manor

For a complete list of all RSG groups with contact details please contact **SIGN**

Tel: (0114) 266 9476

Email: sign@sheffinfoolink.org.uk

Calling all parents and carers ...

Have you and your child attended any of the Ready, Steady, Go groups? If so, Linda would love to hear about your experience there. RSG is a new initiative and we would really like some feedback from parents accessing these groups in any part of the city. Please contact **Linda Wright** by emailing: linda.wright@sheffield.gov.uk

Support group news Continued

PINNT

(Patients on Intravenous and Nasogastric Nutrition Therapy) is a national support organisation intended for all nutrition patients and their carers. They are able to offer advice on all issues related to artificial nutrition, such as equipment issues, benefits advice and even going on holiday. Through their website forums, PINNT can put parents and young people in touch with others who have had, or are going through, similar experiences.

As well as helping parents with the day to day issues associated with having a child who requires artificial nutrition therapy, PINNT is also able to bring these issues to the attention of professionals and industry, with the aim of improving services and equipment.

For more information and to become a member visit www.pinnt.com

The WGO team would like to ask our readers to get in touch if they know of any interesting support groups out there. Perhaps you have used the group before and found it helpful, or maybe you've stumbled across an interesting-looking support group online. Either way, let us know and we'll research it and hopefully include it in a future Support Group News bulletin. Contact **Martina** on (0114) 271 7626, or email: martina.capaldi@sch.nhs.uk

Childcare Sp

New Childcare Opportunities

If you are a parent of a child with additional needs or disabilities and you are frustrated by the lack of flexible childcare, especially as the school holidays approach, maybe there is some help out there.....

Student Practitioners

These are students at Sheffield Hallam University who are currently undertaking Degree level study in courses including Childcare, Education, Psychology and Social Work. They have been supported by, and received training from, the Sheffield Childminding Network. This has helped to further develop their skills and understanding when working with children with additional needs.

Student practitioners are:

- Registered with Ofsted on the Voluntary Register.
- Registered to care for a child in the child's own home.
- Looking for paid work.
- Able to offer a flexible childcare service to parents (days/ evenings/ weekends depending on the practitioners availability).
- Interested in working with children of all ages including young people, where befriending/supervision is more suitable than childcare.
- CRB checked.

Student Volunteers

These are students at Sheffield Hallam University who are currently undertaking Degree level study in Childcare, Education, Psychology and Social Work. They would like to gain experience working with children and young people with disabilities and special educational needs

but have less prior experience of working in positions of responsibility in childcare settings.

Student Volunteers are

- Available to work alongside a family member, in the child's own home.
- Able to provide support and 'another pair of hands' to enable families to manage outings, leisure activities etc.
- Able to befriend a young person and offer a 'social' contact.
- CRB checked.
- Able to offer flexible support to parents (days/ evenings/ weekends, depending on the volunteer's availability)

There are currently 10 Practitioners and 7 volunteers, who are all keen to start working with children with additional needs and disabilities in Sheffield.

As the holidays are fast approaching and numbers are limited, it is recommended that you contact SIGN information service as soon as possible on (0114) 266 9476. SIGN hold the profile reports for all practitioners and volunteers involved in the scheme, which detail individuals' experience and training. They will be able to assist you in finding the right person to support your child.

If you are eligible for Tax Credits, you may be able to use these to offset the costs of employing a practitioner / student.

For more information visit www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredit or Tel: **0845 300 3900**

Good luck having a fun filled and stress free summer!

Special Feature

Skool's Out



Skool's Out is a service that has been developed to support working parents and carers with childcare after school, during term time. The service is available for parents who have children and young people, aged between 8 and 18 years, who have additional needs. It is accessible straight from school, subject to parents' working requirements, from 3.15pm – 7.00pm. A qualified Outreach Worker will be able to support your child using public transport/taxis, although transport costs are covered by parents/carers.

The service has a team of Outreach Workers, all fully trained and CRB-checked, who are available to support children whilst their parents are at work by taking them to participate in activities of their choice at different venues across the city. Activities available include arts and crafts, fun with computers, cooking and baking

and various sporting activities. The team make use of person-centred planning and activities, which are discussed with the children and young people and their parents/carers.

There is currently a session charge of £3.25 per hour, plus any additional cost for the chosen activity. The service is subsidised by the Special Needs Inclusion Playcare Service (SNIPS).

If you are interested and would like more information then please contact Jeanette Snell or Barrie Haigh at:

The Burton Street Foundation
57 Burton Street,
Hillsborough,
Sheffield
S6 2HH

Tel: **(0114) 233 2908**

www.burtonstreet.co.uk

Additional Needs Training for Childminders

Have you ever considered using a childminder but were unsure about their experience and commitment to working with children with additional needs?

The Sheffield Childminding Network have developed and delivered a training programme for childminders to help them to further develop their skills, knowledge and understanding when working with children with additional needs and disabilities. The programme includes communication skills, positive behaviour strategies and supporting individual needs. It helps childminders to develop their communication skills, their understanding and practical skills to promote positive behaviours. It also helps build their confidence in order to better support individual children's needs within an ordinary environment.

The Childminding Network plans to extend this programme of training and develop a brokerage role, increasing the number of childminders who are trained and confident to offer childcare to children with a broader range of additional needs. Each area of the city has a Childminding network Co-ordinator working directly with childminders in their area to support their professional development and increase the number of places for disabled children and children with additional needs.

All of the childminders are Network Members, CRB checked and Ofsted registered. They offer childcare in the home of the childminder.

For more information, please contact SIGN information service on **(0114) 266 9476**. SIGN hold profile reports for all the practitioners involved in the scheme, which detail individuals' experience and training.

What is the CEA Card?

The CEA card is a national concessionary card developed by the Cinema Exhibitors' Association for UK cinemas. The card allows people with disabilities to obtain one free ticket for a person accompanying them to the cinema.

To apply for the card you will need to meet one or both of the following criteria:

- a) Be in receipt of the Disability Living Allowance;
- b) Be a registered blind person.

There is an administration charge of £5.50 for the card, which lasts for one year. For further information of the scheme, including a list of participating cinemas, visit www.cinемаuk.org.uk/ceacard. The CEA Card is administered and run by The Card Network. For general enquiries please call 0845 123 1292.

Some other useful websites for film fans ...

www.yourlocalcinema.com - allows you to identify cinemas in your area that are playing subtitled and/or audio-described films

www.artsline.org.uk - A comprehensive information service providing more general access information for cinemas and other entertainment venues.

<http://www.rnib.org.uk> - offers information about audio description services in cinemas, on DVD, on digital television and in theatres.

Holidays are Coming – A Helping Hand from SIL & SIGN

As the holidays approach, you may be on the look-out for services to make your summer go more smoothly. Perhaps you need to find childcare for the long break from school, or need new ideas for family activities which will be fun for everyone. Sheffield Information Link (SIL) is the Family Information Service for Sheffield, and this is just the kind of thing we are here to help with. SIL also hosts the SIGN service, which specialises in disability information and is based at the Ryegate Children's Centre.



"It is all 'fight fight fight' for our children to get what they are entitled to. It's great to have a place where they know who can help us."

- A Sheffield parent's thoughts on SIGN, in response to our customer impact survey in the spring

SIL produces a 'What's On' guide for every school holiday, full of information about what's happening for children all over Sheffield. Our bumper summer edition will be available from 18 July, and is free! You can pre-order your copy from SIGN by emailing sign@sheffinfo-link.org or calling (0114) 266 9476. You can also download it from www.sheffinfo-link.org

When you receive your 'What's On,' you may need to know more

about certain activities – for instance, how accessible the venue would be for your child, or what support would be available to help them participate. That's where the team at SIGN can help – we can assist you in finding out what you need to know, and direct you towards other local activities and resources which you might find helpful. Callers to SIGN are often surprised at what's available in Sheffield that they had never heard of before!

The SIL team will also be out and about in your local community as usual during the holidays – find out when we're in your area by visiting www.sheffinfo-link.org

You can contact SIGN on 0114 266 9476, sign@sheffinfo-link.org, or drop in to see us next time you're at Ryegate – we're based in the Resource Centre and we're open from 10.00am - 3.00pm, Monday to Friday, all year round. And don't forget, SIGN is now on facebook! We will be regularly updating our page with news, events and new information, so check us out and don't forget to "like" our page! Happy holidays!



Sheffield
Information
Link



Special Cinema Screening

On Thursday 11th August, ODEON cinemas across the UK will be showing a film screening specifically for children with autism and their families. The film will be a

preview of 'Mr Popper's Penguins'

The nearest participating cinema will be the ODEON in Sheffield.

For details about the screenings

times, ticket prices and all other information please visit to the web link/sites below at

www.dimensions-uk.org/autismfilms/
or www.odeon.co.uk

Sheffield Parent Partnership Service Frequently Asked Questions

We thought it might be helpful if, in future editions of 'What's Going On,' we answered a few of the questions parent and carers frequently ask Parent Partnership. Since each child is an individual, as are all the issues presented to us, we've tried to make the answers as generic as possible and avoid giving specific advice. The information and advice individuals receive may vary a little, depending upon the details of the individual case.

'School has said that they can't give my son any support because he hasn't got a statement and they haven't got any funding for him. Is this true?'

Schools have a statutory duty to identify a child's special educational needs (SEN) and make appropriate provision to meet those needs, regardless of whether the child has a Statement of Special Educational Needs or not. In Sheffield, most of the funding for SEN has been given out to schools, so that they can use it to support a range of children rather than being restricted to just a few, but the funding is not tied to an individual child.

'I've been told my daughter can't stay for school dinners because she's too disruptive. I've been taking her home and then taking her back since before Christmas but feel this isn't right.'

Some children find the hustle and bustle of the dinner hall difficult to cope with, and/or have difficulty with waiting their turn in a queue and/or don't know how to deal with the unstructured nature of the long lunchtime break. However, school

should be looking at the reasons for, and the timings of, the disruption and then looking at ways of removing or reducing the causes. In effect it seems school are imposing an informal exclusion on your daughter as lunchtime exclusions should be conducted as any other exclusion from school i.e. must be for a fixed term, for a specific incident and notification given in writing. It might be appropriate for school to agree with you arrangements for your daughter to go home for lunch for an agreed period whilst they put in place arrangements to support her. However, this should not be an indefinite arrangement and there should be a plan, agreed with you, of how to gradually increase the time she stays over lunchtime until she is there for all of the time, with the rest of her peers.

'I think my child needs a statement, school agrees but says they can't apply for one.'

A Statement of Special Educational Needs is a legal document that records the outcomes of a statutory assessment of a child's special educational needs. The statutory assessment is a gathering of information from everyone who is involved with your child, including school and health professionals, firstly to decide whether a full assessment is necessary and then to clearly identify the nature and extent of the child's needs. In many cases school will make the initial request to the Local Authority for the assessment but parents too have the right to make that request directly to the Local Authority. School will be expected to provide details of what

they think the child's needs are, and to explain what they have been doing to meet those needs. They will also have to identify what advice they have sought from other agencies and professionals and how they have used and followed that advice.

'I've just been told my child's Annual Review is tomorrow. It's the first I've heard of it and its too short notice to get time off work so I can't attend.'

The SEN Code of Practice (9:13) states that in preparing for a review meeting the head teacher must request written advice from the child's parents, anyone specified by the LA and anyone else the head teacher considers appropriate. It also states that the head teacher must circulate a copy of all advice received to all those invited to the review meeting **at least two weeks before the date of the meeting**. When the word 'must' is used it means that this is a legal requirement and part of the school's statutory duty. Consequently, by not notifying you at least two weeks in advance of the meeting, not asking for reports and not circulating them at least two weeks in advance of the meeting, the school is in breach of its statutory duty. In this instance, we would usually advise parents to point this out to school and to request the meeting be rearranged accordingly.

We hope you find these FAQs useful. We'll include some more in the next edition. However, in the meantime, we continue to welcome parents contacting us on **(0114) 261 9191** to discuss their individual concerns and experiences.

Parent Partnership Update

Parent Partnership Service provides impartial, confidential advice, information and support for all parents and carers of children with special educational needs, on any aspect of their child's education. Over the last few months there have been some exciting additions to the service we offer parents and carers in Sheffield.

After a really successful recruitment drive, all of the volunteer Independent Parental Supporters successfully completed our free four week training programme. We now have a group of super-volunteers, supporting parents and carers across the city. For example,

we asked parents and carers what they would like from our service and they suggested that sometimes they would like us to provide an 'Aftercare' service, where Parent Partnership will follow-up with the parent/carer to see how they are getting on. So, this is an area where our Independent Parental Supporters are now really helping to support Sheffield parents.

We are also pleased to announce that our 'Out of Hours' helpline is now up and running in term time from 5.00pm to 7.00pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. This line is available to any parent or professional with any query regarding

Special Educational Needs. Please call **(0114) 261 8765**.

Due to the success of the initial recruitment and training programme we are now in the process of organising a second training course. We have already had a lot of interested applicants and spaces are filling fast, if you would like any more information about volunteering or to book a place on the course then please do not hesitate to get in touch with me, Lydia Wilson on **(0114) 2619191** or **Lydia.wilson@sheffield.gov.uk**. I look forward to hearing from you!

Free Speech and Language Workshops for Parents

The Sheffield Parent Carer Forum has chosen 2011, the National Year of Communication, to campaign for more and better speech and language therapy in Sheffield. For more information about our campaign, please visit our website: www.sheffieldparentcarerforum.org.uk.

Training for parents and carers of children with speech, language and communication needs is one of our campaign targets. Funding from the Achievement for All pilot has enabled us to organise a programme of parent training workshops, which will be delivered by the Sheffield Speech and Language Therapy service in June and July 2011.

All workshops are free and will take place at the Quaker Meeting House, 10 St. James Street, Sheffield S12 2EW, from 10.00 am to 11.30 am.

By the time you receive this newsletter, the first three workshops (on supporting children's early verbal language development, helping

children who have difficulties with speech sounds, and PECS) will already have taken place. However, we do hope that you will be able to attend the following workshops in July:

Friday 1st July Communication Aids

For parents of children who understand some spoken language but have little or no spoken communication, and who might benefit from using technology to support their communication skills. A range of communication aids will be available to try.

Monday 4th July Using Pictures to Help Your Child Communicate

For parents of children who find understanding and using spoken language difficult. We will look at using pictures/symbols to support your child to:

- make choices
- tell someone what they have

- been doing
- understand what is happening, and when
 - develop independence

Monday 11th July An Introduction to Makaton

A workshop for parents of children of all ages. Makaton uses signs (gestures), symbols and speech to help children with learning and/or communication difficulties to communicate.

To book a place, please contact Lynne Williams at the Speech and Language Therapy Service on **0114 2261782** or email lynne.williams2@nhs.net.

We may be able to put on more workshops if the first ones prove popular. To register your interest in future speech and language training for parents, please contact the Sheffield Parent Carer Forum on **0114 2521913**, or email enquiries@sheffieldparentcarerforum.org.uk.

Future Short Break Developments

The last two years have seen unprecedented investment in short breaks for disabled people, with Sheffield investing over £3 million in their development as part of the national programme: Aiming High for Disabled Children.

Now that Aiming High has come to an end, and amidst a period of some economic uncertainty, the local authority has signalled its dedication to the development of short breaks by committing to an investment of £1.7 million during the 2011/12 financial year, which will come from the Council's Early Intervention Grant allocation. In addition to this, Sheffield has just received confirmation from the Department for Education that a further £382,000 will be made available for capital developments in the city.

These announcements enable the momentum around short breaks to be maintained and developments to continue.

A number of existing short breaks contracts, funded through Aiming High, have already been confirmed to be continued. These include provision delivered by parents' groups, Ray of Hope and ACCT, and also the support provided to us by the Sheffield Parent Carer Forum. All of these will continue for at least the next twelve months.

Additionally, the popular short breaks grants programme which ran last year will be repeated, offering families the opportunity to access a one-off payment of £370.00 to get their own short breaks. As before, this programme is all about flexibility and providing families with some funding to buy what they need at a time when they need it most. The

closing date for applications this year is September 30th, and families need to have taken their break by March 31st, 2012.

The past few weeks and months have seen some of the outcomes of Aiming High come to realisation. Most notable were the launches at Chancet Wood of their sensory room and building refurbishment, the launch of the sensory room at Concord Leisure Centre and also the opening of the redevelopment of Graves Park playground, which is now kitted out with a range of accessible equipment for disabled children and young people to enjoy.

The impact of last year's comprehensive spending review, and

its knock on effect for local authority budget announcements, means that some of the planning for this year is still taking place and will become clearer in the coming weeks. As before, the views of families will be pivotal to any development that is made. If you want to make sure your views are heard in regard of the development of short breaks, as well as other council services, then please contact the **Sheffield Parent Carer Forum** on **(0114) 252 1913**. We will also include updates in future editions of What's Going On.

If you would like more information about any of the short breaks available in Sheffield, including the grants scheme, please contact **SIGN** on **(0114) 266 9476**.



A child enjoys his first experience in the new sensory room at Chancet Wood Residential Unit.



The Digital Switchover - Are You Prepared?



(Please note, this information has been taken from the official Help Scheme website. For more information visit www.helpscheme.co.uk)

TV is going digital all over the UK and soon the traditional TV signal will be switched off in your area. If you don't have digital TV by the time of switchover, you will lose your TV service. But there's no need to worry, because the Help Scheme is here to ease the transition from analogue to digital.

What does the Help Scheme do?

The Scheme helps eligible people to convert one of their TV sets to digital. If you're eligible, they will explain digital TV to you clearly and simply, tell you about all the options available to you, and install the equipment you need in your home.

They'll also make sure you are happy with how it all works!

Am I eligible?

Many different people are eligible, including everyone who:

- Receives (or could receive) – Disability living allowance (including DLA claimed on behalf of a child), or – Mobility supplement, or
- Is registered blind or partially sighted.

How do I know if I have digital TV?

If you get more than five channels on one of your TVs, you probably already have digital TV. However, even if you already have digital TV on your main set, the Help Scheme can still convert another TV in your home, for example in your bedroom or kitchen. They aim to make it as easy as possible for you to go digital, and

you won't even have to change your TV set.

The service is free if to some people who are in receipt of certain income-related benefits. Please call the helpline for further information. Please be aware also that you must have a valid TV licence in order to get help with the switchover.

Will I have to pay?

You may be asked to pay £40 for the standard offer, which includes:

- Easy-to-use equipment that meets your needs.
- Help with installing the equipment, if you wish.
- An aerial check and replacement if needed, where we can.
- A demonstration and someone you can call for help while you're getting used to things.

For more information call free on **0800 40 85 900**, or visit www.helpscheme.co.uk Questions? Call **0800 40 85 900** or visit we'll. Lines are open 8.00am – 8.00pm Monday to Friday and 8.00am – 6.00pm on Saturday and Sunday. If you are using a mobile phone, call rates may vary. For more information, call us free The Switchover Help Scheme is run by the BBC, under an agreement with the Government.



Whizz-Kidz Presents... The South Yorkshire Ambassador Club



Whizz-Kidz is a national charity, established in 1990, which aims to give disabled children and young people independence to support an active childhood – at home, at school and at play. We do this by providing them with mobility equipment such as powered and manual wheelchairs. In fact, Whizz-Kidz is the largest provider of young people's mobility equipment outside the NHS.

But providing the right wheelchair is only the start of a life journey to independence. Whizz-Kidz decided to start providing a series of innovative "Life Skillz" services to young wheelchair users.

To make this possible Whizz-Kidz has developed a network of young disabled people across the UK called "Ambassadors". The aim of the network is to give young disabled people a voice on a regional and national level. The Ambassador Clubs provide a space where young disabled people can meet regularly and get involved in lots of exciting projects, training and activities as well as making new friends and building self-confidence. One of the main objectives of the clubs is to train older members to become leaders and then for them to run

the clubs themselves assisted by volunteers and Whizz-Kidz staff.

So what's happening in South Yorkshire?

The South Yorkshire Ambassador Club is held at North Ridge Community School, Tenter Balk Lane, Doncaster DN6 7EF. The group of ambassadors meet from 10.00am to 3.30pm every 6-8 weeks during school holidays or on a Saturday. There are lots of exciting activities to take part in, such as our accredited Skillz For Life programme, planning your own campaign, disability sports, making short films, and plenty of music and drama sessions to name but a few!

With over 500 ambassadors currently taking part in our Ambassador Clubs, this makes us the biggest network of young disabled people in the UK. Places are limited so sign up ASAP and come and join the fun!

For an application pack, or if you have any further enquiries about the South Yorkshire Ambassador Club please contact Ruth Madeley, Ambassador Club Co-ordinator (North England) on **07795325928** or email r.madeley@whizz-kidz.org.uk.

Children in the Picture

Scope's In the Picture campaign raises awareness of the need to include disabled children in the books they read. It has ten guiding principles that are based on the social model of disability.

As part of the campaign they have so far produced:

- A list of early years picture books that feature disabled characters
- An image bank to inspire authors and illustrators, including examples of good practice, photos for reference and children's drawings
- Resources including FAQs and lesson plans for teachers
- An exhibition of colourful works from leading artists, all featuring images of disabled children
- Links to useful websites

For more details about the campaign check out Scope's website at www.scope.org.uk/campaigns/scope-campaigns/children-picture

You can also view their online video about what children have to say, as well as read about the views of authors and illustrators, such as Quentin Blake.

Scope Befriending

Did you realise that Scope now has an online (email) and telephone parent befriending service? The service compliments their existing face 2 face support scheme, which runs in various parts of the country - although unfortunately not yet in Sheffield. So this is great news for our parents, because the new online and telephone befriending service delivers the same support, just at a distance!

Scope states that the aims of the new service are:

- To provide a befriending service to parents who do not have a local Face 2 Face scheme in their area.
- To provide a service to those who find it easier to discuss their feelings online or by telephone.
- To provide a befriending service to those with commitments that make

meeting in person difficult.

- You can apply for online and/or telephone befriending now by visiting www.scope.org.uk/help-and-information/families-and-parenting/face-2-face/online-befriending, or call 0808 800 3333 and ask to speak to somebody about the Face to Face telephone befriending scheme.



Ableize.com is a massive online database of mobility, product and service information, which is owned and maintained by people with disabilities. Here you will find a vast collection of sites offering information, advice and sales from education, products, aids and services through to disabled groups, clubs and sports - covering all special needs and disabilities. For more information visit www.ableize.com

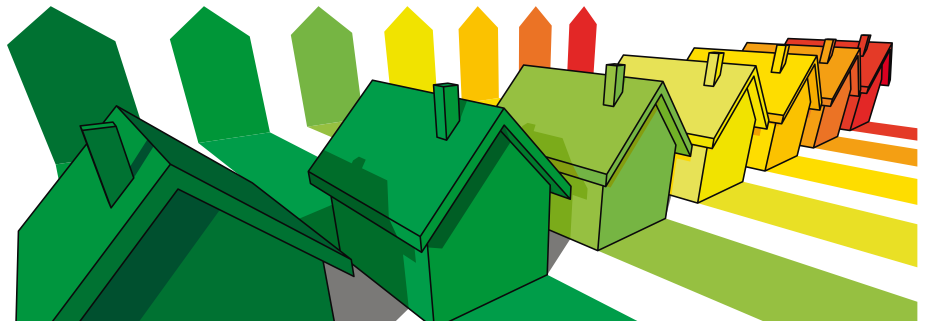


Energy Supplier Information

Although fuel bills are probably the last thing on everyone's minds at the moment – with all the lovely weather we've had, we thought we'd let families know about a useful website we've come across. Consumer Focus is the statutory consumer champion for the UK. Their website contains energy advice and information for vulnerable customers, including a list of energy suppliers' cheaper tariff information and updates on

the proposed changes to existing discount schemes for consumers with a disability. Go to www.consumerfocus.org.uk/get-advice/energy/households and click on 'help for vulnerable consumers.'

If you would like to know more but do not have internet access don't worry, just give SIGN information service a call on **(0114) 266 9476**. SIGN will be happy to print this out and post it to you.



We really hope that you've enjoyed reading this edition of **Whats Going On**. Did you know that many families receive this newsletter direct to their homes? You could be one of them! If you have a child with a disability, special educational need or any life-altering medical condition then you can register with the Child Disability Register (CDR) - formerly known as Index. The CDR is a confidential, secure computer database held by Sheffield Children's Hospital. Its

purpose is to develop better services for children and young people with disabilities in Sheffield and to give families a say in how those services are shaped. Receiving this newsletter direct is just one of the benefits of registering your child! Along with regular copies of What's Going On, upon registration your child will receive a unique enrolment card, a copy of all the information you've supplied, and you'll also have the knowledge that you are helping to inform the planning

of services for children with disabilities across Sheffield.

For more information please contact **Martina Capaldi** on **(0114) 271 7626** or complete the tear-off slip below (choosing option a or b) and return it to the following address – no stamp required!

Child Disability Register (CDR)
FREEPOST NEA 12925,
Sheffield, S10 5ZZ.



a) I'd like to register my child on the CDR. Please send me more details and an enrolment form.

Your name:.....

Your address:.....

b) I'd like some more information about the CDR. Please call me to discuss it further:

Your daytime telephone number:.....