

Parent Partnership Newsletter

E-mail: parentpartnership@iow.gov.uk

Summer Term
2009

Parent Partnership Update

Welcome to the Spring Edition of our Parent Partnership Newsletter.

In March we said goodbye to our Admin Assistant, Vanessa Thon. Vanessa moved on to a post in Housing as a Housing Options Adviser. We thank Vanessa for all her hard work and wish her the very best of luck with her new role. We expect to recruit Vanessa's replacement soon. In the meantime we are doing our best to ensure that parents receive the advice they need. We are aware that parents may have to wait a little longer than usual to receive a call back, but we are doing our best to ensure that parents receive the help they need as soon as possible, please do bear with us.

Introducing our Independent Parental Supporter Volunteers!

We are proud to introduce our team of volunteer Independent Parental Supporters. The team have already been successful in helping a number of parents whose children have special educational needs. Steve Palmer, Jo Parker and Julie Loosemore have been active since 2007 and our new recruits are David and Linda Shaw, Gareth White and Anna Benford. If you have some free time and an interest in special educational needs maybe you would like to join our team, or if you are a parent who would like our support, please ring us on 825548.



Gareth Steve, Julie. David Anna



Jo and Linda

Some comments we have received from parents about our IPS Service:

"As a parent I cannot stress how important the role your IPS played was, in my fight to get the right education for my son. I could not have done it without her help. She also supported me emotionally throughout the statementing process, my son's exclusion from a school, to visiting and choosing another school. She was my rock in a very traumatic time in our lives for which I will be eternally grateful"

"I would not have survived the system without an IPS!"

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Check out our new website

www.iwpp.co.uk

The website has both SEN and School Choice Advice pages. The site contains lots of information for parents and carers and can also be helpful to professionals. There are several interesting sections and the site is updated regularly to provide fast access to relevant, up to date, information that parents often need. *Have a look and send us your comments!*



If you would like to receive this newsletter in another language, large print or audio version, please contact us.

Aiming High for Disabled children – short break care transformation programme

This is a government programme aimed at helping Local Authorities and Primary Care Trusts develop new short break care services for children who have complex needs.

The Isle of Wight has ring fenced funding for the next two years and there has already been much discussion and planning about how best to spend the money so that children and parents are able to see a difference in the range and quality of short break opportunities provided.

In January there was a workshop held in Cowes where a range of people got together to discuss the development of the programme and the highlight of the day were two presentations from parents who talked about their children's needs and what families felt about short break services on the Island.

There is an Aiming High steering group who are overseeing the work on the Island - arrangements for parental representation on the group are just being set up in conjunction with Dorothy Harrington from Parent Partnership.

In 2008/9 money has been allocated to develop the Family Link fostering scheme so more children can benefit from having short breaks in a family setting, there is also money to provide some additional staffing at Beaulieu house so that about 170 nights of care can be provided. It is hoped to run a summer holiday scheme and also to set up a six month pilot with an organisation called Cool2Care who will recruit extra personal assistants so that parents can buy help in the summer holidays and at other times by using direct payments. There is also money to develop a Saturday club and Youth club. Some of the capital money is being used to buy various pieces of equipment and to pay for improvements to the playground at Beaulieu.

There is also a pot of money put aside to enable anyone to set up "taster" activities or schemes. It is hoped that if these prove successful that funding can be made available in 2009/10 to support the activity as there is more money available then. If parents have ideas or want to set up activities and apply for funding they should get in touch with jo@cscconsultantsco.uk tel 07867855355

An "Aiming High" newsletter will shortly be published which will go to all readers of this newsletter – this will provide more details of the delivery plan, so watch this space!

Jo Blake

Choice Adviser News

For parents of children who are currently attending pre-school and are due to start school in Sept 2010 I will be running several sessions at the Children Centres. The sessions will be run on an informal basis and will be covering topics such as;

- When does my child have to start school?
- How will the changes affect my child?
- How do I apply for a school place?
- When do I have to apply?
- What are my options?
- What if I don't get the school of my choice?



So far dates confirmed are;

- 21st May at Barton Primary School's Spring Fayre 4-7 pm where there will be a joint display of information with the FIZ team.
- June 8th at Ventnor Children Centre 10 am
- July 14th Furzehill Shanklin Children Centre 9.30 am

Please either telephone or check the Parent Partnership website, www.iwpp.co.uk for updates on other sessions available.

As a reminder I am happy to help over the telephone or visit any parents/carers of children of all ages who may be transferring schools for any reason. I am also available for support during school visits or meetings.



Tina Wroath Choice Adviser

A New Service to Support Children with ADHD

A New Service to support children with ADHD is being formed. It brings together colleagues from a number of teams; Child and Adolescent Mental Health, Oak House, Parenting and Family Support, Educational Psychology and the Curriculum Language Autistic Spectrum Disorder Team.

The Service will offer:

- training for schools and colleagues working in health and social care
- workshops for parents and a member of the school staff at the time of diagnosis
- a consultation service for schools
- parenting programmes.



If you would like further information, please contact Maria Young at Oak House, phone number 535370 extension 2

Clare Bowen, Consultant for Language and Curriculum

Parents Voice—Helping to Promote Parents Views

Do you know that the government is now actively promoting the involvement of parents/carers of children with a SEN/disability in the shaping of services for our children?

Your views are important in this process, as your experiences can help to highlight what is already working well, together with which areas of our local services would benefit from improvement.

Parents Voice is a voluntary group of parents/carers who are already working together with the local authority (LA) to help influence local services, but we need your help so that we can effectively feedback as many of your views as possible. We have recently expanded the group so that we can also work with the local Primary Care Trust, and help to represent parent's views about the services they also provide to our children.

So that you can help to make a difference with the future of services, Parents Voice needs to know if you would like to take part in consultations when they occur. This could be by simply filling in questionnaires, attending group consultations and events, or even being part committees or steering groups. You can tell us how much you would be prepared to do. If it is ticking a few boxes on questionnaires once in a while, then that is fine with us. We understand how much pressure parents/carers can often be under, but we want everyone to have the opportunity to share their views.

We feel that it is really important that as many of us as possible are able to contribute our views, as we have the experience of being at the receiving end of many of these services. Surely it makes sense that we are involved in the design of them too? We hope that you can support us in our efforts to make a difference, and let us know that you would like to have your voice

heard, alongside those of other parents/carers. Please ask your school SENCO for a Parents Voice leaflet, if you have not already received a copy. Alternatively visit www.iwpp.co.uk/parentsvoice.aspx where one can be downloaded. If you would like any further information please telephone Parent Partnership on 01983 825548, who can put you in touch with one of our parent volunteers.

Understanding Statutory Assessment—Coffee Mornings

Parent Partnership hold regular Coffee Mornings to take the mystery out of the statutory assessment process. Invitations are sent out to the parents and carers of children and young people where the Local Authority has agreed to carry out a statutory assessment.



The coffee morning begins with a presentation by a member of the Parent Partnership team explaining the statutory assessment process from beginning to end, and explains the support Parent Partnership can offer. At the end of the presentation there is time to ask general questions, and to meet members of the SEN Assessment and Review team from the Local Authority.

At the end of the session there are opportunities for each parent/ carer to speak individually with a member of Parent Partnership staff, or SEN Assessment and Review Team with questions specific to their child. If you believe that this coffee morning would be beneficial to you call Sarah on 825548.

News from Voluntary Organisations.....

ISLE OF WIGHT INCLUSIVE FOOTBALL CLUB

COME AND HAVE SOME FUN!

All types of disability are welcome - please come and try - everyone welcome!

It does not matter if you have played football or not before!

**EVERY THURSDAY
5PM - 6PM**

For any more information please contact
jamesloosemore@aol.com



IW Toy Library and Opportunity Group - NEWS UPDATE

Who are we?

We are a parent run toddler group for under 5 children with special needs and their siblings. At our Thursday morning session (10-12 term time at Barton Primary School), parents/carers can meet, chat and watch the children play in our fantastic playroom. We offer a great selection of toys and books to borrow which have been carefully chosen for young children with special needs.



New website

Come and have a look at our new website, www.iwtlogroup.org.uk, which will tell you much more about us, a map of where we are exactly, has catalogues of the books and toys available and much more! A work in progress, it is hoped this will build into a useful site for info and support.



Do you have a child with special needs over 5 years old?

We need you! We are keen to get more parents/carers of older children with special needs involved in the group and to help support new parents/carers facing the early challenges. We would love to hear from anyone who could spare some time on a Thursday morning, even on a once a month basis. Please email Amanda Ringer at iwtlogroup@hotmail.co.uk.



Useful websites

Talk About Autism

An online autism community hosted by TreeHouse, the national charity for autism education. This site has been created for parents and carers of children with autism to share their experiences, in a safe and reliable environment.

<http://www.talkaboutautism.org.uk>

Contacting Parent Partnership....

The Parent Partnership Service offers impartial information, support and advice to parents/carers of children who have special educational needs on the Isle of Wight.

**BY PHONE
825548**



**BY E-MAIL
Parentpartner-**



**BY POST
11 Orchard Street
Newport. PO30 1JZ**



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