

News & Views

Wakefield Information Network
Issue 23 Autumn

Hello and welcome to News & Views!

Hello and welcome to the Autumn edition of News & Views. This issue aims to keep you up to date with what has been happening over the Summer months, as well as giving you the latest information available around Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.



NHS
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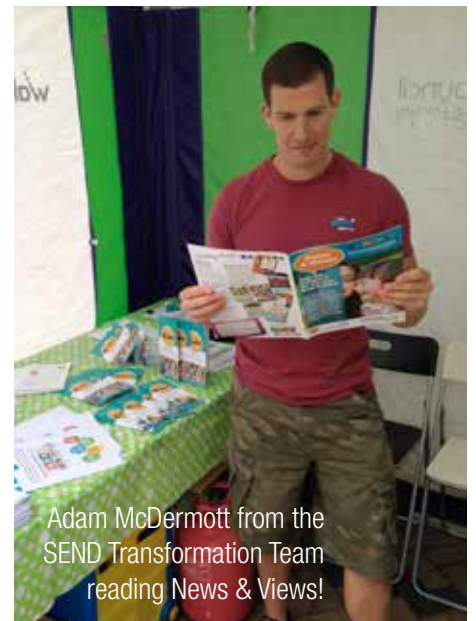


Seaside in the City!

On the 15th and 16th of August, KIDS, TEAM Parent Forum and the SEND Transformation Team from Wakefield Council hosted a stall at Seaside in the City.

The colourful stall presented information for Parents, Carers, Children and Young People with a Special Educational Need and/or Disability. Passers-by were able to pick up helpful leaflets, have the opportunity to speak with a member of staff and for the younger ones helium balloons were on offer! Please look for information regarding future events

This article was provided by Adam McDermott – SEND Business Development Officer at WMDC.



Adam McDermott from the SEND Transformation Team reading News & Views!



Natalie Jones from the SEND Transformation Team blowing up balloons



Introducing the new Designated Keyworker Service for Young People from Wakefield Early Support Advice Information Liaison (WeSail)



How does the Keyworking service for young people work?

Keyworkers will work with young people with identified special educational needs or a disability aged over 16 where there are two or more professionals involved and live within the Wakefield District.

How does a Keyworker support young people?

A Keyworker's main job is to work with you and other agencies (health, education, social care and the voluntary sector) to provide you with the advice, information, emotional and practical support you may need.

A Designated Keyworker can ensure that the help and support you receive is well planned, co-ordinated and targeted to your specific needs.

The Designated Keyworker Service is able to respond flexibly to meet individual needs. They can offer both home visits and telephone advice. They are there to listen to your aspirations, goals and future aims and support you to achieve these. They can support you to apply for benefits and signpost you to services that are available for you. Keyworkers provide a single point of regular contact enabling and empowering you to make decisions and use any agreed personal budgets in a way that is most effective for you.

Keyworkers can also support you to access everyday services and activities.

Young people can make a referral themselves, or someone can make a referral on their behalf with the young person's consent.

For more information Phone: 01924 379015

E-mail: wesail@kids.org.uk

Opening hours Monday to Friday 9 am until 5pm





YoungSibs www.youngsibs.org.uk is an online support and information service for children and young people aged 6-17, who have a brother or sister who is disabled, has special educational needs or a serious long-term condition. It is run by Sibs www.sibs.org.uk - the UK charity for siblings of disabled people.

Siblings can:

- Share their experiences with other siblings and feel less isolated.
- Find out more about their brother or sister's disability or condition.
- Send in their requests for help with a range of issues including worry about the future; activities to do with their brother or sister; help with bullying; and coping with difficult behaviour.

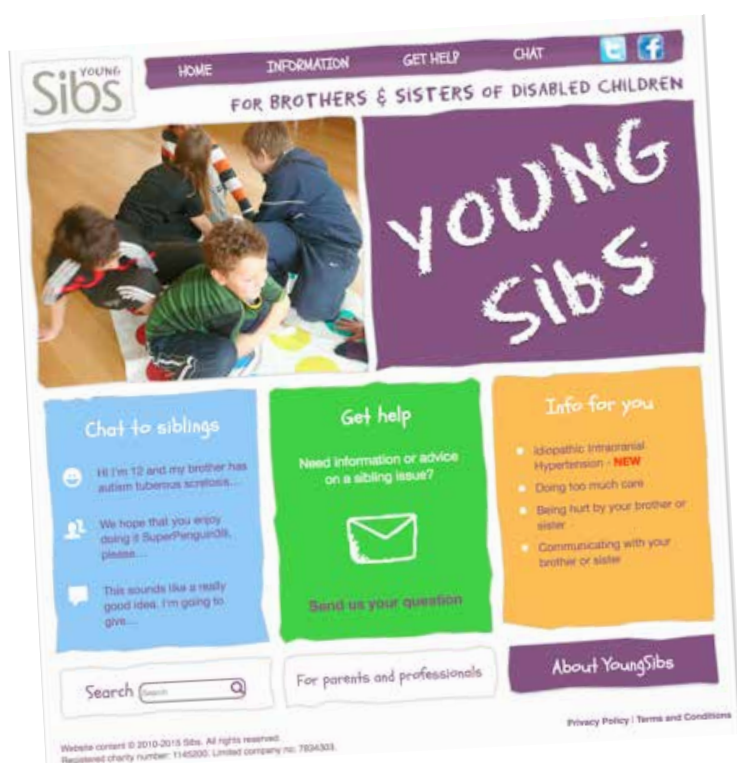
Once they get in touch we give them ideas for dealing with the issue or talk to their parents or teachers on their behalf.

For more information and a leaflet for siblings contact Sibs.

Website: www.sibs.org.uk

Email: info@sibs.org.uk

Tel: 01535 645453



Introducing the new SEND information and advice service for Young people from Wakefield Early Support Advice Information Liaison (WeSail)

The service is for young people aged 16-25 who live within the Wakefield District and have a special educational need or disability.

We can help you by:

Providing impartial & confidential advice & information about your special educational needs or disability around education, health and social care.

- Supporting you to express your goals, aspirations & needs.
- Letting you know who else is out there to support you.
- Young People can also access Independent Support.

What is an Independent Supporter?

Independent Supporters are trained to help young people understand what Education, Health and Care Plans are along with the process that is involved to receive one.

They will also support young people who are changing from a Statement of Special Educational Needs or with a Learning Difficulty Assessment to an Education, Health and Care Plan.

How does an Independent supporter help young people?

- Listens to what the young person wants
- Helps the young person think about the future and what they might like to do
- Explains what different things mean, comes to meetings with you so they aren't so scary.
- Talks to people on your behalf to get the information needed for your assessment.

For more information

Phone: 01924 379015

E-mail: wesail@kids.org.uk

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday 9 am until 5pm





Healthwatch Wakefield

*This article was provided by Helen Watkiss –
Communications Officer at Healthwatch*

healthwatch
Wakefield

Healthwatch Wakefield held an event on what it's like for people with learning disabilities and autism to use local health and care services.

Over 120 people were there including people with learning disabilities and autism and their families and carers. People who run services also attended to show what has been working well and to find out what people would like to see improve. A report from the event including the presentations, discussion notes and the letter Healthwatch have sent to commissioners and service providers with recommendations can be found on their website at www.healthwatchwakefield.co.uk under the tab 'What we've done'.

You can also find their latest newsletter which gives links to other news including what 1,500 local young people feel about going to see their GP, what 330 local young people said about accessing mental health counselling, and how to contact Healthwatch for advice and information or to share your experiences.

If you would rather talk to someone you can telephone **Healthwatch Wakefield** on **01924 787379**.

Laila Milly Foundation

This article was provided by Amanda Owens – Fundraiser and Project Assistant at the Laila Milly Foundation

Here at the Laila Milly Foundation, we have had a wonderful summer. We have just had a beautiful large sun awning put up in outdoor sensory garden and two additional play panels, we are then just awaiting a final bit of painting on the fences and a sensory border to be delivered then our garden is complete and ready to be enjoyed by our beautiful children!

We have had Mini Maestros come in twice over the holidays to entertain us on a Friday, and the children enjoyed it so much that we have booked them again on the 28th October. Starting on the 11th of September and running for 6 weeks we have an infant massage course at the centre (open to any child with additional needs under 5 years not just babies) and starting on the 21st September for 7 weeks we are running a lovely creative crafts for families course over the road from us in Hemsworth Community Centre.

Lastly but certainly by no means least... we have our annual ball coming up! Last year was a sell out so this year we are expanding and moving the venue to The Space in Wakefield. It's on the 21st of November and this year we are having a Hollywood theme! We are so excited for this one it's going to be amazing!

If you would like to register for any of the above events please email amanda.owens@lailamillyfoundation.org.uk or call **07791400245**

Much Love, Amanda and Maya xxx



Laila Milly
FOUNDATION



Changing Places

This information was provided by Mike Le-Surf – Changing Places Development Officer

Changing Places toilets are different to standard accessible toilets (or “disabled toilets”) as they have extra features and more space to meet the needs of people who use them.

Each Changing Places toilet provides a bench, hoist and peninsular toilet. They are for people who need additional support to meet their personal needs.

There are now over 750 Changing Places registered across the UK with 3 currently available in Wakefield. The Changing Places toilets in Wakefield can be found in The Ridings Shopping Centre, Sun Lane Leisure Centre and Wakefield College: Thornes Park.

Our social media presence continues to grow and the Changing Places Facebook page (run by campaigners) now has over 7,000 likes, whilst the Changing Places Consortium has over 3,000 followers.

To find out more about Changing Places and how you can support the campaign please visit

www.changing-places.org



Sun Lane Leisure centre is 1 of 3 venues in Wakefield to have Changing Places toilets.



How a Changing Places toilet cubicle can look

WFYouth!

This information was provided by Joanne Browning – Service Development Officer with the Youth Work Team

Wakefield Council's Youth Work Team runs 2 youth clubs for young people with special education needs and disabilities aged 13 – 25 years

These clubs provide a safe environment for young people to meet new friends, participate in life skills; activities and most of all have fun!

So come and see us at:-

Platform 1, Wakefield Road, Hemsworth, WF9 4AB on Tuesday nights 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm and:

The All Stars Group meet at Crofton Young People's Centre, High Street, Crofton, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF4 1NF on

Monday nights 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm.

Both groups will re-commence following the summer break on w/c 21 September 2015

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*This article was provided by Adam McDermott –
SEND Business Development Officer*

Children, Young People, Families and Practitioners across Wakefield are being asked to take part in a national pilot looking at the impact of parts of the new Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) reforms. These reforms require Health, Education and Social Care to plan and work together to meet the needs of Children and Young People with SEND.

Wakefield Council is one of 74 Councils in England selected for the programme. They will be part of a pilot project to measure the difference that the newly introduced Education, Health, Care (EHC) Plans and Personal Budgets have made to the lives of Children and Young People with SEND.

The programme is being led by the charity 'In Control' with Lancaster University, and is supported by the Department for Education. It will involve the use of a new questionnaire that has been developed and known as the Personal Outcomes Evaluation Tool (POET) to look at what is working well and what is not working with new EHC Plans and also whether they have made a difference to Children and Young People's lives. We will also be able to look at how many Children and Young People have Personal Budgets and their impact.

The use of POET will also support the Local Authority to provide evaluative evidence when the SEND Reforms OFSTED is implemented and when Wakefield is inspected under this new framework. The existing workstreams will be developed to support this new work around the SEND Reforms OFSTED.

Children, Young People, Parents/Carers and Practitioners who have experience of the EHC assessment and planning process and EHC Plans are encouraged to take part to give their views and share their experiences. The results from this will be used to help improve what happens locally and will also be used on a national level to influence the implementation of the reforms.

An EHC Plan is for Children and Young People who have SEND and where an assessment of Education, Health and Social Care needs has been agreed. EHC Plans replaced Statements of Special Educational Needs and Learning Disability Assessments from September 2014. EHC Plans are available from birth to age 25. The aim of an EHC Plan is to coordinate services and support into one person centred plan focused on meeting the support needs of that child or young person.

A Personal Budget is the amount of money identified by the Council and/or Clinical Commissioning Group needed to deliver the support set out in the EHC plan and this may be given as a direct payment to the family or young person.

This is the third phase of the national pilot project. Stage one involved 6 council areas and a survey of 133 people. Stage two involved 19 councils and a survey of over 700 people. The results were positive about the impact that EHC Plans and Personal Budgets were having across a range of areas.

Families of Children and Young People will have the opportunity to complete the survey between 1st September and 31st December 2015. For any further information please contact Adam McDermott at 01977 723236 or adammcdermott@wakefield.gov.uk



BARNARDOS CAPS

This article was provided by Kate Pearson – Barnardos CAPS Team Manager

CAPS are really pleased to share that the EHCP Advocacy Project will be running for the next academic year – 2015/16.

What the service can offer:

The overall aim of the Education, Health and Care Plan Advocacy Service is to ensure children and young people's voices are heard and represented through access to independent advocacy, information, advice and support.

Meet Kim -she is our Education, Health and Care Plan Advocate



Kim's job is to make sure the young person understands:

- the role of the Advocate
- what the EHCP is and what it means for them
- the processes involved
- their rights; that their views and aspirations will form the basis of the EHCP
- how to self-represent in order to share their views and aspirations. This includes encouraging the young person to have the confidence to speak out during the EHCP assessments and meetings and contribute equally with others about their future needs and provisions.

Kim will ensure the young person's views are equally represented and that the young person is able to contribute to the decision making process. She will support young people to receive information about their options even if the young person's wishes and

aspirations are at discord to what they can access.

If all other means to resolve issues have not been successful Kim can provide support with an appeal.

Kim is part of the wider CAPS service who offer Advocacy support to young people who are looked after by Wakefield Council or going through the child protection process. All our advocates have a qualification in independent advocacy and the LAC Advocates are social work qualified too.

Referrals can be made by anyone via the CAPS admin team on 01977 552493.

Jacqueline Wilson, the famous children's author, has written a book called Katy.

In the book Katy is an active young girl who has a serious accident. The story is all about how Katy copes. Here at CAPS we would like any budding writers or artists to let us what you think of the book.

Would you recommend it to others?

Was it a good read?

Who would like the book?

Entries should be no more than A4 and can be in any format that can be published. Please send your entries to:

**Kate Pearson
CAPS**

**Castleford Civic Centre, Ferrybridge Rd
Castleford, WF10 4JH**

or email to WakfieldCAPS@barnardos.org.uk

Please make sure you include your name, age and contact details. The deadline for entries is Friday 30th October. The winning entry will be published in the next News and Views and get a £10 love to shop voucher.



Also, Barnardo's two Education, Health and Care Plan services (EHCP Advocacy service and Wakefield Independent supporter service) held a sunflower growing competition.

The sunflower packs were distributed across the SEND Spring fest back in February and below are the winner and runner up of this competition.

Vouchers are on the way to these two promising gardeners!



Rosanna C-R was the winner of our sunflower competition. Her sunflower measuring an amazing 16.4cm – well done Rosanna!



Toby C-R was the runner up, his sun flower measuring an impressive 14.4cm. A big well done to you too Toby!

Autism Training and Support



Are you a parent or carer of a child with Autism?

Do you want to learn and support other parents / carers who are in a similar situation as you?

If the answer is yes then please come and join us at one of our friendly and relaxed learn and support groups

These groups run every week term time only

9.30am till 11.30am

Every Thursday at Mocca Moocho Café 10 Cross Street Wakefield WF1 1PH

Every Friday at The Hut, Airedale, Castleford WF10 3EF

Soft Play for children with Additional Needs

Every other Monday Evening at 5-30pm until 6-30pm we hold a soft play session exclusively for children with disabilities and their siblings at Happy Days indoor soft play centre, Denby Dale Road, Wakefield, WF2 7AZ. All ages are welcome.

For more information contact Sharon on 07903 271785 or on Facebook at Beat Autism



Information and Advice Sessions

for Parents and Carers of Children and Young People with Disabilities

The sessions aim to provide information and advice from specialist services and an opportunity to meet other parents and carers

All sessions run from 10am - 12pm. Refreshments provided

The sessions are facilitated through Kids WeSail and the Special Educational Needs Support Service (SENSS)

Tel: WeSail 01924 379015 or SENSS 01924 303660

No need to book, just come along on the day

****Please note these sessions are not suitable for children or young people**

Wednesday 16 September 2015 Sensory needs: Understanding and supporting my child

Platform 1
(South East Early Help Hub) Wakefield Road, Hemsworth
WF9 4AB
Telephone: 01977 723165

Wednesday 14 October 2015 Assessment & Services for children with Hearing or Visual Impairments

Platform 1 (South East Early Help Hub)
Wakefield Road, Hemsworth
WF9 4AB
Telephone: 01977 723165

Wednesday 11 November 2015 Toileting and Feeding: What can help to make things easier?

Sunbeam Children's Centre (Wakefield Central Early Help Hub)
9 -11 Lupset Crescent, Lupset, Wakefield
WF2 8RH
Telephone: 01924 302333

Wednesday 2 December 2015 Helping to develop your child's communication

Sunbeam Children's Centre (Wakefield Central Early Help Hub)
9 -11 Lupset Crescent, Lupset, Wakefield
WF2 8RH
Telephone: 01924 302333

Wednesday 20 January 2016 Special Educational Needs Explained

Platform 1
(South East Early Help Hub) Wakefield Road, Hemsworth
WF9 4AB
Telephone: 01977 723165

Saturday 20 February 2016 Behaviour: Responding to difficult times. What is it like for my child?

Platform 1
(South East Early Help Hub) Wakefield Road, Hemsworth
WF9 4AB
Telephone: 01977 723165

Wednesday 9 March 2016 Moving and handling your child: Helping to keep you and your child safe

Platform 1
(South East Early Help Hub) Wakefield Road, Hemsworth
WF9 4AB
Telephone: 01977 723165

Wednesday 20 April 2016 Toileting and Feeding: What can help to make things easier?

The Brig
St Mary's Rd, Altofts, Normanton
WF6 2JH
Telephone 01924 892737

Wednesday 18 May 2016 Helping to develop your child's communication

The Brig St Mary's Rd, Altofts, Normanton
WF6 2JH
Telephone 01924 892737

Wednesday 15 June 2016 Behaviour: Responding to difficult times. What is it like for my child?

New Brook House Club, 221 Barnsley Road, Wakefield
WF1 5NU
Telephone 01924 255385

Wednesday 6 July 2016 Sensory needs: Understanding and supporting my child

New Brook House Club, 221 Barnsley Road, Wakefield
WF1 5NU
Telephone 01924 255385

SEND Strategy



The SEND Transformation Board has developed a draft SEND Strategy, which is on Wakefield's Local Offer website. The Council is keen to receive your feedback on the SEND Strategy. To view the SEND Strategy please visit <http://wakefield.mylocaloffer.org> and send any feedback you have on the SEND Strategy through to **SEND@wakefield.gov.uk**

Facebook



Please like us on Facebook at **www.facebook.com/wakefieldSENDinformation** in order to stay up to date with SEND events and information available in the Wakefield District.

TEAM Wakefield Parent Carer Forum
are excited to invite you to our first

Parent Conference

Wednesday 21 October 2015 9.30am - 2.30pm
Snozone Xscape, Colorado Way, Glasshoughton,
Castleford, WF10 4TA

TEAM are pleased to announce our speaker for the day is Steve Broach -
Barrister and Leading Legal Advisor on the rights of Disabled Children

The conference will help answer the following questions:

- Do you know what rights you and your child have?
- Do you know what support your child is entitled to?
- Do you know how the law can help your child and your family receive support?
- Do you know where to start to get support?
- Do you know what happens when your child becomes 18?

Information on Education, Health, Social Care, Personal Budgets, Short Breaks, Needs Assessments and Preparing for Adulthood will be available, with information stalls available over lunch for your personal questions and advice

Key legislation will be explained including the Children and Families Act and the Care Act

Lunch and Refreshments will be provided free of charge.



To book your place at the conference please contact KIDS WeSail on
01924 379015 or @wesail@kids.org.uk
www.facebook.com/wakefieldSENDinformation



Whatever your age, size, physical condition or disability you are likely to benefit from being more active. You can be active, having fun and meeting new people sooner than you think.



Register with Creating Connections to find out about opportunities near you.
wysportcc.co.uk/register



Creating
Connections
Supporting disability sport

Something exciting is happening this Autumn...

SEND Festival

Monday 9 November 2015 10am - 2pm
Cedar Court Hotel, Wakefield

This year, the 'Moving On' event and the 'Market Place' event are joining in order to make information and guidance easily accessible.

This is a **FREE** event, with **FREE** parking.
Refreshments will also be provided.

There will be stalls from:

- Local services
- Independent Travel Support
- Equipment providers
- Charities
- Colleges
- Health
- Parent support groups and many more...

"It was great to see new stalls attending, as it really helps me see what is available for my child."
Market Place Event 2014

"This event was really useful as I got to see what is offered to my child Post 16."
Moving On Event 2014

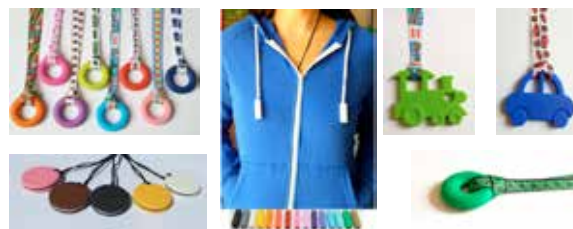


For more information please contact KIDS WeSail on
01924 379015 or @wesail@kids.org.uk
www.facebook.com/wakefieldSENDinformation



Funky, custom-made, chewy jewellery!

I'm Abbi and I've been working with people with Autistic Spectrum Disorders and Sensory Needs for over ten years. I make and sell a wide range of chewy jewellery tailor-made for each person with their favourite design/colour/character



- Stylish & discreet
- Made from BPA free, non-toxic, heat resistant, 100% food grade silicone
- Soft & flexible material purpose-made for mouthing/chewing
- Provides a more appropriate & socially acceptable outlet for chewing behaviours



enquiries@sensoryoojamabobs.co.uk

facebook.com/sensoryoojamabobs

@Oojamabobs

www.sensoryoojamabobs.co.uk



For families of children with disabilities and
children with additional needs

Halloween Party

31st October 3pm – 5pm

At the Hut, Kershaw Avenue, Castleford WF10 3ES

Tombola
raffle

50p entry
games

Music, bouncy castle

Bowling

optional spooky fancy dress

FOOD / DRINK AVAILABLE

If you need further info and to book please call Mellissa Mackell
07467 254632



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working for you

