

News & Views

Wakefield Information Network
Issue 28 Spring 2017

Hello and welcome to News & Views!

Welcome to the Spring edition of News and Views. Keeping you up to date with things that are happening, as well as providing you with useful information currently available around Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

- See inside for what happened at Local Offer Live
- Learn more about something different to do locally
- Find out about TEAM Wakefield Parent Carer Forum
- Plus more on information and advice sessions



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Local Offer Live

Back in November, the annual information and market place event, Local Offer Live, took place at Cedar Court Hotel in Wakefield. The event was organised by TEAM, KIDS WESAIL, Oakfield Park and Wakefield Council.

Running from 10am till 2pm, the free drop-in event aimed to give families with children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) the opportunity to find out more about some of the services and groups available as part of the Wakefield area Local Offer, face to face. Local Offer live was well attended by parents, carers and practitioners.

Stallholders included a range of local and national groups who support families like Contact a Family.

*“ We are just starting on the journey finding out what **support** is out there so having the chance to **talk** to people face to face has been a **big help** – we have lots **information** now to take away and read. - Parent*

Contact a Family are a national charity supporting families with children who have additional needs through all aspects of their life. They offer information, support, guidance and direction and have a team of specialist advisors dealing with education, health, finance and benefits as well as family and legal issues. You can find out more at their website at <http://www.cafamily.org.uk/> or by contacting Karen Hoe, special educational needs parent advisor, on 07920 654 966 or email at karen.hoe@cafamily. You can also call their general helpline on 0808 808 3555.

*“ It's been a **good opportunity** for me to **network** with other services in the area. It will really help with **signposting families** to what else might be available for them. **Contact a Family***



There is more information about local support groups for parents and carers on pages 4 to 7 in this issue of News and Views.

*“ We came for an hour before we collect our daughter from nursery, not knowing what to expect. But to be honest, now we are here, there is **so much to see**, we could have stayed for the full event. - Parent*

Also there were representatives of things to do, like **The Hepworth**. Did you know The Hepworth are developing a new learning resource for families with children aged 3-12 with autism? To find out more go to www.hepworthwakefield.org/whatson/autism-friendly-family-project/ or email learning@hepworthwakefield.org. You can also call 01924 247398.

*“ Meeting the **families** has been really good, we've actually learnt lots more ourselves about different **issues they face** and we have lots of **contacts** and **information** to follow up. - The Hepworth*



The Hut, a community, sports and leisure centre, based in Airedale were also at the event. They offer a wide variety of activities and facilities for all ages. You can find out more about their facilities and details of what's on at The Hut at <http://www.thehutairedale.com/>.

There are more things to do on page 3 and our What's On section on the back page.

If you are not online, don't worry, you can call **KIDS WESAIL** on **01924 379015** for more information about any of the stall holders.



*“ We've had a **really busy day**, helping lots of families with **dental issues**, it's been great. **Community Dental Service***



Riding for the Disabled Association

If your son or daughter has been inspired by the outstanding performance of our amazing Paralympians at the Olympics or if they have always wanted to have a go at horse riding, the Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) might be for them.

Run by volunteers, there are currently four RDA groups across the Wakefield area. The groups work hard to make sure that the riders get pleasure and a sense of achievement from their lessons.

Each of the groups aims to ensure everyone receives professional tuition related to their own abilities and ambitions. This helps to encourage independence and build confidence. The success of RDA is down to a combination of people and ponies working together and believing that anything is possible. Above all, it's about having fun! If you would like to find out what each group offers, see below for their contact information.



Who: Wakefield RDA

Where: Pennine Camphill Community, Wood Lane, Chapelthorpe, Wakefield, WF4 3JL

Facebook: @WakefieldRDA

Email: enquiries@wrda.org.uk

Telephone: 01924 241341

Who: Ackworth RDA

Where: Long Lane, Ackworth, WF7 7EY

Facebook: @ackworthrda

Email: ackworth.rda@aol.com

Telephone: 01977 614215

Who: Dial Wood Carriage Driving Group

Where: 29 New Hall Way, Dial Wood, Flockton, Wakefield, WF4 4AX

Facebook: Dial Wood Carriage Driving for the Disabled

Email: audrey.honeyman@virgin.net

Telephone: 01924 849368

Who: Snydale RDA

Where: Commonsides Farm, Snydale, WF7 6HE

Facebook: Snydale Riding for the Disabled Association - RDA

Email: karenfrendz@yahoo.co.uk

Telephone: 01977 794557

To find out more about RDA as a whole and the work they do visit their website at www.rda.org.uk.

West Yorkshire Astronomical Society (WYAS)

Did you know we have our very own observatory here in Wakefield? The Rosse Observatory, opened in 1983 by Sir Patrick Moore OBE, is on Carleton Road in Pontefract and is run entirely by volunteers.

The Society's vision is to bring astronomy to all ages and abilities in the community and they have particularly focused on making it accessible to those with disabilities and/or additional needs over the last few years, adding an extension to include a wheelchair ramp and disabled access toilet facility. Lots more changes are planned to the observatory to help disabled people complete their own astronomy projects with very little assistance.

As well as helping local scout and brownies groups earn their astronomy badges, the Society holds an open night every Tuesday between 7:15pm and 9:30pm when you can go along and find out more about the observatory as well as try your hand at a spot of

stargazing. You can also get help and advice on equipment or with your own telescope. Entry fee is £3 for non-members but accompanied children go free.

For more details about Rosse Observatory and WYAS visit their website



at <http://www.wyas.org.uk/> or email secretary@wyas.org.uk



It doesn't have to be winter time to take up skiing or snowboarding with the fantastic indoor snow slope at Xscape, it is winter all year round.

At Snozone their aim is to make snowsports accessible to those with a cognitive, sensory or physical impairment. They have sit skis available for people to either ski independently or with assistance as well as stand up riggers for amputees or people with poor body coordination or mobility.

For children and young people with additional needs the dedicated coaches at Snozone can use different teaching styles and additional equipment to help with making sure they have a fantastic time on the slope.

To find out more about what is on offer as well as discuss your needs and availability, contact Adam by email at snowteamcas@snozone.com.



Introducing TEAM Wakefield...



“Working together to ensure that parents and carers of disabled children and children with additional needs have a voice that shapes services in Wakefield and District.”

What is TEAM?

TEAM is the Wakefield Parent Carer Forum. It is funded by the Department of Education and is facilitated by KIDS with full support from Wakefield Council.

TEAM understand the day-to-day challenges faced by parents, as they are parents too. The aim of TEAM is to give parents a voice and to make their views count towards the improvement of services for our children.

*“Hi, my name is **Melissa Mackell** and I am the Parent Participation Lead for TEAM Wakefield Parent Carer Forum.”*



What made you decide to get involved with TEAM?

In June 2013 I wanted a new challenge and didn't know what that would be. A letter came through the post detailing how to get involved with TEAM.

Since my daughter had been diagnosed with autism, we've faced many challenges and TEAM felt like a way to help make sure other families didn't do the same.

What are some of things that TEAM have been involved in so far?

Where to start? Since I started working with TEAM, they have certainly managed to keep me on my toes. I was literally thrown in at the deep end. Shannon Dale, the previous Parent Participation Lead, called me about some work TEAM were doing providing parent voice on what parents and young people would like the Local Offer Website to look like.

She asked if, instead of just watching and learning from the consultation, I would say a few words and really get involved. I laughed it off and said I would be okay, inside I was incredibly nervous and wanted to run in the opposite direction! So, I hit the ground running (hoping I wouldn't fall flat on my face).

I found myself being challenged and having to understand how co-production and participation work, and why they are so important. Thriving on each challenge, my confidence boosted as I began to understand how much more we could achieve.

TEAM have worked hard to develop relationships with the local authority, health and social care, helping to provide parent voice at a strategic level and voice concerns on behalf of families. Some of the things we have been involved in include:

- organising the first Market Place event for services in Wakefield to come together under one roof giving families the opportunity to meet them face to face. In 2016 we worked in partnership with Wakefield Council, KIDS WESAIL and Oakfield Park High School, to include Post 16 services, and make this bigger as Local Offer Live.



- co-producing the Wakefield Charter with the local authority to help embed a good working practice between parents and services and working towards consulting with schools and health services to embed the Charter as a mark of good practice.
- organising the annual Parent's Conference. Barrister Steve Broach is back this year on 23rd February to give a parent friendly guide to the law and discuss how changes from the Children and Families Act 2014 work.
- representing views of parents on the SEND Transformation Board and different working groups set up to bring in SEND Reforms in the Wakefield area.
- helping to signpost parents to where they can access help and support
- linking in with the National Parent Carer Forum to help shape government policy.

It's not all work and no play. We have coffee, cakes (which are always a winner) and arrange play days so our children can gain new friends and parents can speak to like-minded people. When someone's child melts down or, as my daughter does, says something that may seem inappropriate to some people, I feel comfortable that I am not judged and can laugh along with others that understand.

How do you link in with the other parent/carer groups?

TEAM is not a replacement for other groups - parents can be members of more than one. TEAM is not disability-specific so we aim to link with other groups. I try to attend sessions other groups hold from time and keep in touch via email about any issues coming up.

What is TEAM's proudest achievement?

It's hard to pin point our proudest achievement. If we had to pick, it would be the 'A Day In My Shoes' course - parents get together and go on a journey of what they have been through having a child with a disability, recognising how far we as parents have come and what a fantastic job we do. TEAM have met some fantastic parents who have shared their journeys with us. We have learned a lot from each other and feel that our shared experiences are our strength.

What is next for TEAM?

We're working with the local authority at the moment about Blue Badges and a change to the policy from the Department for Transport.

How can other parents/carers get involved with TEAM?

We still feel we have a long way to go and we need to keep connecting with families. To start to help us do that, we are hosting a **Participation Event** for parents/carers on **Thursday 2nd March 2017** from **10am to 1pm** at **Dimple Well Lodge Hotel, 35 The Green, Ossett, WF5 8JX**. If you would like more information or want to book a place at the event, please contact us.

Over the next 12 months, we will continue to work on ideas to help us encourage more parents and carers to get involved and have their say. Together we truly can make a difference to ensure we have the best services in Wakefield that work well for our families.

To get involved, or if you have any concerns you would like us to raise, you can contact us directly or ask any group you attend to raise it with us on your behalf.

We look forward to meeting you soon.

Find out more...

Web: www.teamwakefield.org.uk

Facebook: TEAM Wakefield

Telephone: 07880 203670

Email: teampcf@hotmail.com





Wakefield and District Down's Syndrome Support Group

Who are we for?

Wakefield and District Down's Syndrome Support Group is a small, entirely volunteer-led local charity.

Our group provides a wide range of fun and friendship activities for people with Down's syndrome and their families. Our group thrives on parent-to-parent support, which we encourage through our monthly Saturday Club meeting and through our busy parents' Facebook group where friendships develop through shared experiences.

What do we do?

We work hard to make a difference for the people with Down's syndrome and their families in our area, through training and information for families and for professionals, through awareness-raising in many forms and through supporting inclusion.

We have a new Parent Contact (details on our web site) who is available for support when parents find out they are expecting a baby with Down's syndrome, and we are also publishing new booklets and leaflets to provide information and positivity.

There are a number of exciting activities for young people with Down's syndrome supported by our group, including TriStars21 Gymnastics run by Normanton Sports Acro for school-aged children with Down's syndrome, and TriStars21 Dance sessions at Dance House. Our projects also include Baby Sensory sessions for under 3s, Star Speakers speech and language therapy sessions, our Super Sibs group for siblings and we also organise regular outings and activities for our older group (high-school age and over). There's never a dull moment!

How can you find out more?

www.downsyndrome-wakefield.co.uk
Email: info@downsyndrome-wakefield.co.uk
Phone: 07814 367 594

****Stop Press****
Check out page 11 for
details of our
Family Fun Day
25 March



Who are we for?

Laila Milly is a local charity set up to support families who have a child up to the age of 5 with serious or complex health needs, or a life limiting condition. We work with parents and siblings to enable parents to have a rest from their caring role and spend quality time with their other children.

What do we do?

We have a day centre in Hemsworth with a state of the art multi-sensory room. Our main activity room is brightly decorated with beautiful murals. Here the children can do group or one-to-one activities, from story corner to making artwork.

We have a parent's lounge which has a homely feel to it with a comfortable sofa, TV, bookshelf and Tea/Coffee making facilities, so that they can have some time to themselves or chat with other families/staff.

We will be running different courses such as infant massage and baby signing, please get in touch to register your interest in either/both of these courses.

How can you find out more?

www.lailamillyfoundation.org.uk
Email: enquiries@lailamillyfoundation.org.uk



Who are we for?

Kidz Aware is a local charity with a mission "to ensure that all children and adults with a disability and their carers have the opportunities to achieve their aspirations in life."

What do we do?

We deliver direct support for parents and carers, and targeted interventions with key partners. These include supporting parents and carers in accessing services, parents' forum, awareness sessions and Fun Days, Galas, children's parties etc.

We also provide educational programmes and training about bullying, racism and discrimination. We provide practical support and guidance to disabled children and disabled adults and carers and the organisations what work with them.

How can you find out more?

www.kidzaware.co.uk
Email: info@kidzaware.co.uk
Phone: 01924 376882



Who are we for?

Beat Autism is a local charity created to help parents and carers of children with social and communication difficulties (including Autism and Aspergers).

What do we do?

We run regular parent support groups during term time in Wakefield and Castleford and cover a range of topics.

We also run a wide range of activities for children and their families such as Soft Play, Craft and Sensory Play and Music Interaction. Over holidays we often run other activities and sessions, so look at our website or follow us on Facebook for more information.

How can you find out more?

www.beatautism.co.uk

Email: beatautismuk@aol.com

Phone: 07903 271785



Who are we for?

Carers Wakefield & District a local charity for carers and young adult carers (from the age of 18) living in the Wakefield Council area. We work with anyone who gives support to a member/s of their family, a partner or friend who has an illness, disability, learning disability, is frail/elderly or has a mental health condition.

What do we do?

We run regular carer support groups throughout the Wakefield District so go to our website to check out what we have in your local area. We provide the opportunity for carers to meet together in a relaxed, informal atmosphere over a cup of tea or coffee. Many people gain help and support from meeting together with others who have similar experiences or problems and from being able to 'let off steam' with people who understand.

All groups are different, some purely social and some also offering the chance to hear talks on caring issues or topics of general interest. Most groups organise activities, social events and outings throughout the year for carers

We can also:

- Listen and talk things over to help you make decisions and choices
- Give advice and information about services available for you and/or the person you care for

- Provide you with benefits guidance and support
- Support you at meetings that are relevant to your caring role
- Offer a grant for eligible carers to take a break, help fund a hobby or even a treat.

How can you find out more?

www.carerswakefield.org.uk

Email: contact form via the website

Phone: 01924 305544



Who are we for?

KIDS is a national disabled children's charity commissioned by Wakefield Council and NHS Wakefield to deliver a service to support families living within the Wakefield district caring for a child or a young person with special educational needs and or disabilities (SEND) aged 0 to 25 years old.

What do we do?

We provide the Wakefield's Early Support Advice Information and Liaison Service (WESAIL) which offers a one stop shop for advice, support and signposting.

We also provide the Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS). This service provides access to free, accurate and impartial information, advice and support about matters relating to SEND including issues related to health, education, social care and around personalisation & personal budgets.

We also work with those organisations, professionals and schools who support children and young people with SEND and their families.

We provide 'Early Support' through a Designated Keyworker team. Parents of disabled children can benefit from a Designated Keyworker, who can act as a coordination point for getting the right support in place, giving advice, information and emotional support.

We also offer targeted short term support along with workshops and training for parents and carers.

How can you find out more?

www.kids.org.uk/wakefield-early-support-and-advice

Email: wesail@kids.org.uk or

SENDIASSWakefield@kids.org.uk

Phone: 01924 379015



Peer Challenge

On the 10th and 11th October 2016, Wakefield Council and the Local Area were part of a Peer Challenge for SEND.

A Peer Challenge is not the same as a Joint Local Area Inspection by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission, but it is about identifying where there are strengths and where there are things that could be improved. During their time in Wakefield, four Peer Challengers from other local authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) met with over 150 practitioners, providers, parents, carers, young people, managers and Councillors.

They carried out observations and attended meetings, focus groups, schools and family homes to find out as much as they could in the time they were here.

A few weeks after their visit, Wakefield Council received a report letter from the Peer Challengers with a summary of their findings. This is available to read on the Local Offer website page, About Us.

The Peer Challengers praised the Wakefield Area for having a very good self-awareness of the strengths and areas for development. A summary of what they found is shown below.

Strengths

- Wakefield is seen as a champion of inclusion by many different organisations and families.
- The processes around Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans are extremely effective.
- Training for staff is a priority and there is a wide range of training and courses provided, including training for parents and carers.
- There are some very strong relationships between practitioners and parents.
- There is a high level of commitment across partners, and at all levels, to make sure we provide the best for children.
- There are examples of strong partnership working, particularly in early years.
- Wakefield Area has a very good self-awareness of the strengths and areas for development and the Peer Challengers didn't find any areas for development during their visit that we didn't already know about.

Areas for development

- The vision for short breaks in Wakefield is good, but it needs to be shared so that everyone knows.
- We need to make plans to reduce the very long waiting times for autism assessments, CAMHs provision and short breaks.
- We need to help schools to work with each other better, and work with us better, particularly for those children and young people with SEND, but without an EHC Plan (this is called SEN Support).
- The voice of young people with SEND needs to be better heard at a strategic level.
- We need to further develop the parent voice to help make sure there is more genuine co-production.
- We must share more about the plans for any changes related to the SEND Reforms.
- Improve health engagement, after early years.
- We also need to improve our joint commissioning at a strategic level to help balance the high aspirations that the Wakefield Area has with a reducing budget.

What happens next?

A wide range of partners, including parent representation by TEAM (Parent Carer Forum), met before the Christmas holidays to agree ways we can all work together to help address the areas for development.

Wakefield SEND Board will look at all the information provided in the next few weeks and a new SEND Strategy for Wakefield will be produced. This will be put on the Local Offer website as soon as it is agreed so everyone knows what we are working together to improve

What do you think?

Do you agree with the findings? What have you experienced? You can tell us by contacting the SEND Transformation Team via email: SEND@wakefield.gov.uk or you can write to us at Room 230, County Hall, Bond Street, Wakefield, WF1 2QW.



Listening to you

In December, the Wakefield Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) met with young people from groups for young carers and children and young people with SEND for a 'Listening To You' event at Wakefield Town Hall, giving them a chance to tell the board how services and people who work with them can respond in more helpful ways to their additional needs.

The key points that the young people raised about schools are:

- To have smaller classes and groups so that they are better understood.
- To be treated fairly and have the same rights within schools. Young people want to be respected and treated no differently from others.
- Support is important as well as having helpful tutors.
- For others to understand different disabilities by using social media and sending messages within school assemblies. Schools need to understand disabled students' personal situations and be understanding.

What is working well?

- Meeting new friends and the youth club
- Having a group
- More support is given at some schools
- Schools are offering more opportunities (working at farms)
- There is a brilliant young people team getting young people's point across

What are you worried about?

- Not enough facilities for disabled young people to get out of homes
- Transport
- Funding cuts may lead to the end of the groups or the numbers in groups affect funding, might make groups stop.
- People in my class disrupt and frighten me
- People feel left out or different – how they are treated
- Not having people to relate to
- I'm scared of things changing, I get very anxious

So what needs to happen?

Well, young people feel there needs to be better transport available and schools and others need to be more understanding. They also feel there should be better mental health education and more early support for Mental Health issues and they would like their youth clubs to run more often.

Feedback from the day showed having the chance to share ideas and express themselves was very valuable to the young people. They particularly enjoyed listening to others experiences and talking to others as well as joining in the activities on the day. You can find out more about WSCB and what will happen with the information from the day by visiting their website at <https://www.wakefieldscb.org.uk/>

The young person's voice came from attendees at clubs run by Wakefield Youth Team - All Stars for ages 13-25 on Mondays 6pm to 8pm at Crofton Young People's Centre, Platform One for ages 13-25 on Tuesdays 5:30pm to 8pm at Platform One in Hemsworth and SEND Young Voice for ages 11-25 on the second Tuesday of the month 4:30pm at Crofton Young People's Centre. If your young person would like to be more involved in having a say, then they can get in contact with the team on 01977 722815 / 01924 302665 or email YouthTeam@wakefield.gov.uk.



We would love to hear your thoughts about News and Views so please tell us if you like the articles or if you want us to include something else.

We also need you to tell us your story or tips for other families from the Wakefield area or, your son or daughter may have something they want to share about their life with SEND.

No matter how big or small the story, it's important to you and we would love to share it. Don't worry if your spelling isn't great, we can work with you to tell your story.

You can send your story or ideas by email to SEND@wakefield.gov.uk or post to SEND Transformation Team, Wakefield Council, Room 230, County Hall, Wakefield WF1 2QW.

Information & Training Opportunities



“ I learnt loads today. Feel like my *knowledge and understanding* is much stronger and it was nice to *meet other parents* in the same position ”

“ The *session* was well delivered and very *informative* ”

KIDS WESAIL and Wakefield Council's Communication Interaction & Access Team (CIAT) offer a range of Information & Advice sessions, workshops and ASD specific programmes for parent and carers of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

These sessions are free of charge and are offered at a range of venues across the Wakefield district, including some sessions on Saturdays. An overview of what each workshop covers, a calendar detailing where and when they are held and an Expression of Interest form to request places on workshops is available on Wakefield's Local Offer website at <http://wakefield.mylocaloffer.org/wakefield-early-support-advice-information-and-liaison-wesail> or you can contact KIDS WESAIL on 01924 379015 for a form.

The workshops are really popular; from September to December 2016, over 10 workshops were delivered which were attended by more than 140 parent/carers and professionals!

“ I found it very *informative*, and it has helped me to; a) *understand my child's needs* further, b) *made me aware of other services* that are *available* ”

Places are still available for the following sessions running up to July 2017:

Information & Advice

Sessions:

Education

Communication

Sensory processing difficulties

Behaviour

Parent workshops:

Stepping Stones

Balancing Act

Sleep

Autistic Spectrum Disorder specific workshops and parent programmes:

Early Support ASD Workshop

Early Spirals

Spirals Parent Programmes

Cygnets Parent Programmes

Some sessions have been more popular than others, and we will take this into account along with any suggestions for future workshops as we begin to plan the sessions for the next school year. Let us know your thoughts and ideas or if you need further information please contact **KIDS WESAIL on 01924 379015**.

Did you know?



Wednesday 22nd February 2017 is World Encephalitis Day

Encephalitis can affect abilities such as concentration, attention, thinking, memory, judgement and inhibition, while leaving a legacy of additional challenges such as epilepsy or fatigue. To show your support and to raise awareness, wear something red and join in the conversation on social media using **#RED4WED**.

To find out more visit <https://www.worldencephalitisday.org/>



Tuesday 28th February 2017 is Rare Disease Day

2017 sees the focus of the 10th annual Rare Disease Day being on raising the issue research plays a vital role in the lives of people with a rare disease and involving patients in research provides more

research better targeted to the needs of patients themselves. Rare Disease Day helps make the general public more aware of issues people with a rare disease face and encourages people to share their stories about what life is like to live with their condition.

You can find out more by visiting <http://www.rarediseaseday.org/> where you can read others stories about Complex Regional Pain Syndrome, Scimitar Syndrome, Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome and more and share your own.



Sunday 26th March 2017 is Purple Day for Epilepsy

Set up in 2008 by 9 year old Cassidy Megan in Canada to show people with epilepsy they are not alone, Purple Day is a worldwide event with

thousands of people wearing purple to show support and raise awareness.

Epilepsy is the second most common neurological condition and is most common in childhood or in the over 65s. How someone is impacted by their epilepsy can depend on the seizure type and frequency, so their memory can be affected and it can impact on what they may be able to do or take part in daily life – everyone is different!

You can find out more at <http://www.purpleday.org/>. For support and advice for young people living with epilepsy visit <http://www.youngpilepsy.org.uk/> or follow them on facebook @YPwithEpilepsy. Parents and carers can also find information about epilepsy by visiting the Epilepsy Action website at <https://www.epilepsy.org.uk/>

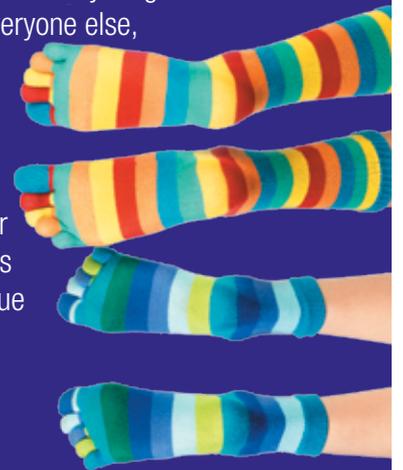


Tuesday 21st March 2017 is the 12th anniversary of World Down's Syndrome Day

This day is all about raising awareness of what Down's syndrome (DS) is, what it means to have it and how people with DS play a vital role in communities as well as enabling people with DS to get their voices heard, influence policy and be fully included in the community.

By using **#MyVoiceMyCommunity**, or **#WDS17**, on social media you can share your stories of how people with DS take part in everything in the community alongside everyone else, to raise awareness.

You can also show your support for the day by wearing Lots of socks – brightly coloured, long or short for the three copies of chromosome 21, unique to people with DS.

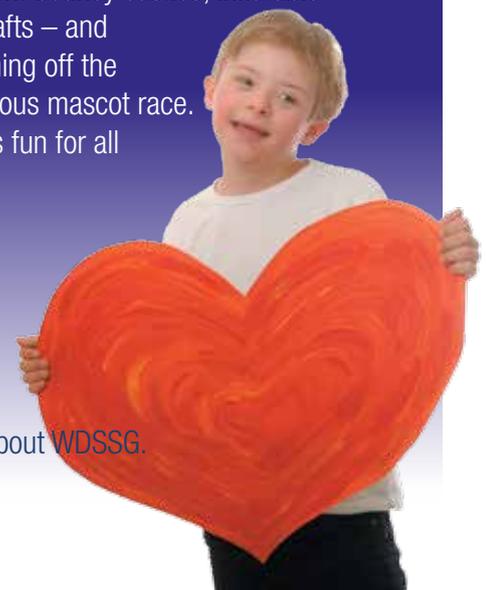


To find out more about the day visit

<https://worlddownsyndromeday.org/wdsd-2017>.

****Stop Press****

Wakefield Down's Syndrome Support Group (WDSWG) is marking the day by hosting their hugely popular community event on Saturday 25th March at Pontefract Park. This year they are going even bigger - children's entertainer **Dave Benson Phillips** will be there. There is all of the usual fun and games fairground rides, giant bouncy castles, inflatable football, singing, crafts – and refreshments, finishing off the event with the hilarious mascot race. With FREE entry, it's fun for all the family!



See page 6 for more about WDSWG.



...for the Spring

Rhubarb Crumble for ages 6-11 at Wakefield Museum, FREE
Make a mouth-watering rhubarb crumble to take home and visit the museum for a fun rhubarb quiz.
Tues 14 Feb, 10am to 11:30am and 1:30pm to 3pm

Festival of Food, Drink and Rhubarb in Wakefield Precinct, FREE to attend
Fri 17 and Sat 18 Feb, 10am to 5pm
Sun 19 Feb, 10am to 4pm

Heroes and Heroines at National Coal Mining Museum, FREE
Find out about local people in the mining industry that went above and beyond the call of duty
Until Fri 31 Mar

Family Fun Day hosted by Wakefield Down's Syndrome Support Group, FREE
Sat 25 Mar, 1pm to 4pm

Easter Discovery Quiz Trail at Fairburn Ings
FREE, Parking £3
Sat 8 Apr to Sun 23 Apr, 9am to 5pm
Got a Max Card? You can get FREE parking if you are a non-blue badge holder or non-member

We're going on a bear hunt for ages 3-7 at Theatre Royal Wakefield,
Tickets £14.50, £12.50 or £10.50
Tues 18 Apr, 1:30pm and 4:30pm
Wed 19 Apr, 10:30am and 1:30pm



...all year

Oxygen FreeJumping, Leeds, Peaceful Play (autism sessions)
Every Sunday from 6pm to 7pm, sessions cost £8 per person. *Got a Max Card?* By booking through the Max Card website you can get 20% on the ticket price for these sessions plus other discounts. To find out how to get a *Max Card* see the bottom of the page.
You can find out more about Oxygen FreeJumping by visiting their website at <http://oxygenfreejumping.co.uk/locations/leeds/>

Tropical World, Leeds
Open 10am to 4pm everyday, tickets cost £5 for adults and £2.50 for children aged 5-15.
Got a Max Card? For each card you have, one carer can go free with every fee paying child. See the bottom of the page for more about Max Cards.

Autism friendly, Subtitled and Audio Described Film Screenings
At cineworld cinemas. Check your local listings at <https://www.cineworld.co.uk/>

To get discounts on days out, why not apply for a *Max Card*. You can see the full range of what's on offer with a Max Card at <http://www.mymaxcard.co.uk/browse/yorkshire>. There is plenty for everyone to enjoy and do. If you don't already have your Max Card, contact KIDS WESAIL on 01924 379015 for more information and an application form. Cards cost a one off fee of £3 and are valid for two years.

[mymaxcard.co.uk](http://www.mymaxcard.co.uk)

For more information on these events please visit - www.experiencewakefield.co.uk
News on events can also be found on Wakefield Council website - www.wakefield.gov.uk
You can also find out about events at your local museums here <http://museumslearning.blogspot.co.uk/> and for What's On at your local library visit <http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/residents/libraries-and-local-history/library-events>
And for specific events for Children and Young People with a Special Educational Need, visit Wakefield's Local Offer - <http://wakefield.mylocaloffer.org>

