

News & Views

Wakefield Information Network
Issue 22 Spring/Summer

Hello and welcome to the new look News & Views!

The SEND Transformation Team at Wakefield Council would like to introduce you to the new look News & Views newsletter. News & Views will continue like before and will aim to inform you of the latest information you may need to know around Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities, what's on in the district, where to find support and more.





Local Offer Update

Wakefield's Local Offer website has continued to develop and grow so Children and Young People with a Special Educational Need and/or Disability and their families can find information about support services available.

To make the website more user friendly services have been categorised using 'tabs' and a new search function, so that people can find what they are looking for quicker and easier. More services including charities and support groups have been

added under all categories of the website and users can find all the information they need about Education, Health & Care Plans in the relevant section. This includes informative animation videos, British Sign Language videos along with the EHC Plan documents with guidance notes. Further improvements include hover buttons and the introduction of a Preparing for Adulthood Guide.

The SEND Transformation Team are still working with the website provider and listening to user feedback. Where possible improvements have been made with more changes planned for the future. Have your Say: There

is a survey available on the Local Offer and people visiting the site are encouraged to give us feedback so the Local Offer can continue to meet your needs. You can also e-mail us at: localoffer@wakefield.gov.uk or contact us via the Local Offer website: <http://wakefield.mylocaloffer.org>

CEA CARD

(Cinema Exhibitors' Association Card)

There has been a change to who can access a CEA Card as card holders must now be 8 years old and above.

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

You don't need to have a CEA Card for a reasonable adjustment to be made and cinemas still have to make reasonable adjustments. If you require an adjustment to visit a cinema because of your disability, the UKCA's policy is cinema staff should make them for you.

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, attendance allowance or Personal Independence Payment;
- b) Be a registered blind person.

The aim of the CEA Card is to provide a consistent voluntary approach to the provision of complimentary tickets for people with disabilities. In the past this was done on a site-by site-basis. Around 90 per cent of UK cinemas are supporting the scheme from the large national chains to smaller independent operators.



The card's development was overseen by the UKCA's Disability Working Group, whose members included people from the major circuits and film distributors, independent exhibitors and several national disability charities such as Action on Hearing Loss, the RNIB and the National Deaf Children's Society, along with the UKCA's specialist disability advisers.

There is an administration charge of £6.00 for the Card, which lasts for one year.

To find out more information and apply for a CEA card please visit: www.ceacard.co.uk



Like us on Facebook!

The SEND Transformation Team at Wakefield Council have recently set up a Facebook page for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities, and their families. Wakefield Special Educational Needs and/or Disability Information Page provides families with information on upcoming events,

the latest offers and any relevant information relating to SEND.

Please like and share the page!



Education Health and Care Plans



Making them happen

The Council has completed a significant amount of work on the development of the new Education, Health and Care plans (EHC plans) across the district.

There are over 1400 children and young people with statements of special educational needs or in college education with a learning difficulties assessment; all of whom need to transition to an EHC plan by April 2018. This is a massive task, especially when coupled with new requests for assessment for an EHC plan and making sure that the right support continues to be developed as plans change to reflect the needs of our children and young people.



This journey started in September 2014 with those young people in their last year of school and will continue for the next couple of years in line with the Local Authority's transition plan.

To support young people, we have developed both the EHC plan and the 'My Support Plan'. The My Support Plan is designed for those young people who need co-ordinated support but do not have such severity of needs as those with an EHC plan.

The changes to SEN are the largest for a generation. As such, there is a lot of ongoing learning and we are continuing to listen and talk to those involved. We have recently completed a consultation exercise about the 'My Support Plan' and EHC plan process and paperwork. It was always important that we listen to those involved with the process including young people, parents, schools and support services across Education, Health and Care to review what we do. The sessions were well attended and provided some excellent feedback. We've used this to review all our paperwork to ensure that it is clear, simple and user friendly. We have

had good feedback about these consultation events.

We are now in the process of delivering further training to School SENCOs and other support services to ensure that every one is clear about the new procedures and processes. Critical to this is ensuring that we are embedding person centred approaches and a focus on clear outcomes across the district. The SEND reforms are all about putting the young person at the heart of what we do and we will continue to do this.

There is still much work to do but we are pleased that the impact of the reforms is already a positive one. Please do continue to work with us as we transition young people to EHC plans and ensure that all plans help our children and young people get the best possible educational outcomes and opportunities in life in the future.

If you would like to know more about the EHC assessment process please have a look on the Local Offer where amongst other things you can find 3 animations detailing how it all works.





The Laila Milly Foundation is a registered Children's charity providing care for families with children with complex health needs in West Yorkshire.

The Foundation is continually growing and becoming more and more successful.

Recently, Laila Milly have secured support from two local businesses (Carter's Solicitors in Pontefract and NatWest Leeds and Wakefield Business Team) which will be fundraising for the Foundation throughout the year, which is great news. The Foundation runs free weekly Stay and Play sessions for children under 5 with severe disabilities and/or additional needs.

The sessions run every Wednesday:

Morning 9.30am - 11.30am

Afternoon 1pm - 2.30pm

Also, Laila Milly has a Sensations Playgroup under 5 with severe disabilities and/or additional needs.

This is sensory focused and includes rhyming and signing time, sensory activities, messy play, arts and crafts and much more!

The playgroup is held every Friday 12.30pm - 2pm.

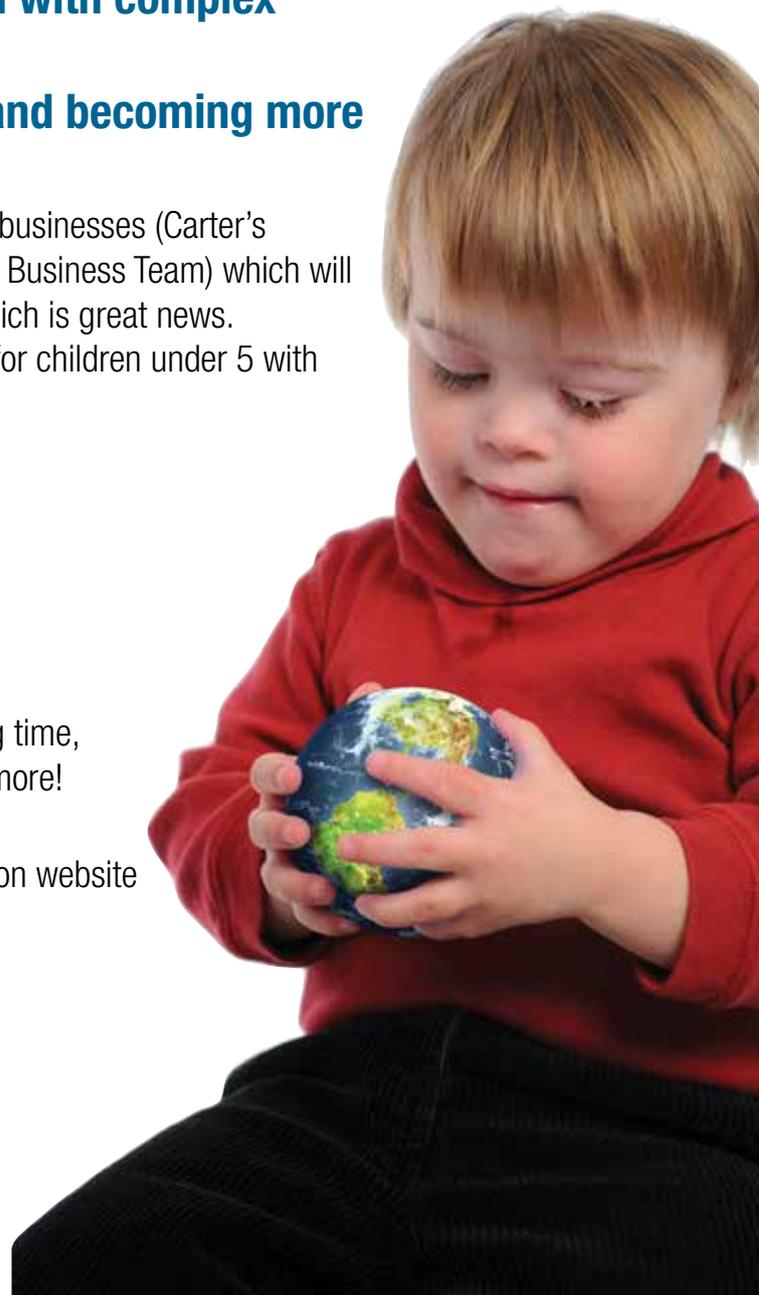
For more information, please visit the Laila Milly Foundation website

www.lailamillyfoundation.org.uk

or like the Facebook page

www.facebook.com/TheLailaMillyFoundation

**75a Kirkby Road, Hemsworth, Pontefract
West Yorkshire WF9 4AS**



It's all change at WeSail!



In 2009 Wakefield Council and NHS Wakefield commissioned KIDS, the disabled children's charity to deliver a service to support families living within the Wakefield District that are caring for a child or a young person with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities. This service was developed in response to parental requests for information, advice, support and signposting to be all in one place.

Since that time WeSail has helped over 1,614 callers through the Advice Line. They have supported 1,639 families through direct support from a Keyworker or the seconded short term team and provided 1,136 families with regular information through the Information Network.

Following the implementation of the Children and Families Act in 2014, from April 2015 WeSail now includes Wakefield's Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS), this service used to be called the Parent Partnership Service. SENDIASS will build on the services already provided by Wakefield Early Support Advice Information and Liaison (WeSail) to offer Parents, Carers and Young People a broader range of information from one place including the information and support previously given by the Parent Partnership Service (PPS).

WeSail will continue to provide Early Support through a district wide Designated Keyworker Service who

can act as a coordination point for getting the right support in place, giving advice, information and emotional support for families with disabled children aged 0-18. WeSail can also now offer Keyworking to Young People themselves over the age of 16.

The WeSail service will also offer Targeted Support from a team comprised of staff from other agencies to offer specific short term support.

For more information, to make enquiries or a referral, please call: 01924 379015

Email: wesail@kids.org.uk or follow us on facebook on: KIDS Wakefield Early Support Advice Information Liaison

Office opening hours: Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm



INTRODUCING:



Wakefield Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS)

The role of a Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) is to provide access to free, accurate and impartial information, advice and support about matters relating to special educational needs and or disability including issues related to health, education, social care and around personalisation & personal budgets.

The team within the SENDIASS take time to listen to your concerns on the telephone, at your home or another convenient place and encourage you and your child's voice to be heard. The service can include help with completing forms, understanding documents and reports, to resolve disagreements between parents/carers, the local authority and schools and to support parents with meetings with other professionals such as school meetings.

The SENDIASS team also includes an Independent Supporter who can provide impartial information, advice and support to parents and young people over the age of 16 in relation to assessments leading to Education, Health and Care Plans and conversion of statements to Education, Health and Care Plans. The independent supporter role can help parents and young people to understand the process and what Local Offer is."

If you would like more information on SENDIASS please look on www.iassnetwork.org.uk

For more information, to make enquiries or a referral please call: 01924 379015

email: SENDIASSWakefield@kids.org.uk

Office opening hours: Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm



THE CARE ACT

Recently there have been many policy changes that will impact the lives of children and young people with SEND and their families. Part 3 of the Children and Families Act which was implemented in September 2014 focuses on Special Educational Needs and Disability which introduces a system of support which extends from birth to 25. Also, Part 1 of the Care Act focuses on the care and support of adults with care and support needs.

The Care Act came into effect on 1st April 2015 and means that children and young people aged 18-25 are entitled to support through both pieces of legislation.

The intended outcome of the Care Act is that people's wellbeing, needs and goals are prioritised. It highlights the importance of preventing and reducing needs, putting people in control of their care and support and it puts carers on a par with those for whom they care.

For further information visit

www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk

TEAM PARENT FORUM



TEAM Wakefield Parent Carer Forum have been working with SENART to give a parent's perspective to Special Education Needs Co-ordinators (SENCO's) around the changes from a Statement to an Education Health and Care Plan. It has been really good being able to give a parent's perspective and build relationships with the people working with our children.

Two members of the forum have attended the Education Health and Care Plan work stream and have fed back what's working and what's not working.

We also have a Parent Representative that has attended the Local Offer and Personalisation work streams, providing parent's views on the Local Offer and Personal Budgets.

One member of the forum helped the Barnardos Independent Support service with the interview process for a new Independent Supporter for Wakefield.

TEAM are holding a weekly coffee morning at The Thorny Croft, Half Penny Lane Pontefract, every Friday 9am - 11am.

Everyone welcome, hope to see you there. For any more information on TEAM please contact Mellissa on 07467 254632 or email mellissa.mackell@kids.org.uk

Have your Say:

- We would like to know your thoughts on the new look News & Views and how we can improve it. Please send any ideas and feedback to the SEND Transformation Team at Wakefield Council. You can e-mail us at SEND@wakefield.gov.uk



One of the easiest ways for Young People to travel to school, college or to meet their friends in West Yorkshire is through use of Public Transport. This can be made even easier by obtaining a Metro PhotoCard.

In order to be prepared for the new school year, and for more information, please visit www.m-card.co.uk or contact MetroLine by phone 0113 245 7676



Caudwell Children's Family Support programme offers families with a disabled or seriously ill child (0-18) the practical and emotional support they need. The free service works around the needs of families, using skilled staff and volunteers to help from birth, diagnosis or at times of crisis.

How we help:

The service can provide telephone, email and face to face support to help families throughout Yorkshire to make informed choices and gain access to equipment, treatment, therapies and local services they need.

We help families to:

- Access equipment, therapy and treatment programmes not provided through the NHS
- Access specialist support information about rare conditions, genetic conditions and support groups.
- Identify and apply for grants and sources of funding
- Find local support groups and services
- Address financial problems, unemployment and any other barriers that a family may have

What we provide:

- Family support including short break activities
- Mobility and Sensory Equipment such as Therapy Trikes, sensory packs, specialist buggies, specialist car seats and powered wheelchairs. (We pay 80% cost of equipment if granted)
- Access to life-saving surgeries and treatments
- Therapy and support programmes (we pay 2K per year towards therapies if granted)
- Sports equipment to enable talented athletes to participate in competitive sport
- Fully supported family holidays for children fighting life threatening illnesses

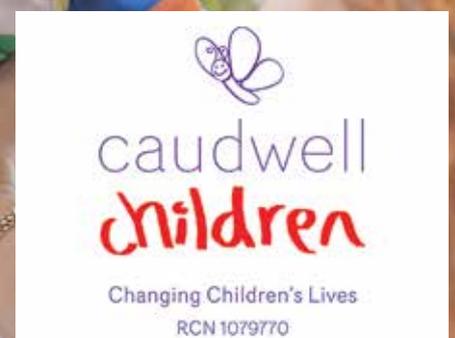
Referrals:

If you or someone you know would benefit from our services please get in touch.

Lucy Wood - Family Support Coordinator Yorkshire and Humber

Lucy.Wood@caudwellchildren.com
07972 688019

www.caudwellchildren.com/family-support-application



WF YOUTH

'All Stars' At Crofton Young People's Centre is open on Monday evenings between 6pm - 8pm.

The provision, which was previously run by Barnardos, is now run by the Youth Work Team within Wakefield Council. 'All Stars' closes for the summer on the 27 July and will re-open on the 7 September. 'Tuesday Club' at Hemsworth is run from The South East Early Help Hub. The session runs between 5.30pm-8.00pm. This provision is also run by the Youth Work Team. Both the sessions cater for young people aged 11-25 who have additional needs or disabilities. 'Tuesday Club' closes for the summer on the 8 August and will re-open on the 8 September. The aims of the projects are to help young people build up open and trusting relationships with workers and their peers. The overall objective is to ensure that what is delivered is relevant to young people's needs and understanding.

The Youth Work Team would welcome anyone who would like to volunteer on either of the projects.

For further details on volunteering please contact Darrel Robinson on 01977 722815

LILY SCHOFIELD
HAS HAD HER FIRST
DRIVING LESSON AND
IS VERY PROUD OF HER
PROVISIONAL
LICENCE

LAURA SCHOFIELD
IS ENJOYING DOING
VOLUNTEERING AT
SOME STABLES IN
WAKEFIELD

ISAAC SHAW
WATCHED
THE TOUR DE FRANCE
AND WAS VERY
EXCITED ABOUT
THE RACE



my MAX card

The Max Card discount scheme aims to make days out for children with additional needs and their families or carers more affordable.

The Max Card is a great way of saving money on days out, with just over 240 venues across the UK currently supporting us. Please see the website www.mymaxcard.co.uk for a full list of participating attractions in your area.

The cards are priced at £3.00. If you would like to order a Max Card please return the slip to KIDS ASAP along with the £3.00 contribution. Please make cheques payable to KIDS. The card will be posted to you.

Please send me a MAX CARD!

If you have any queries regarding the scheme please contact KIDS on 01924 379015

Parent Name: _____

Childs Name: _____

Address _____

I enclose a cheque for the cost of £3.00 for a Max Card.

Parent Signature: _____

Contact number: _____

Send to: KIDS Office Suite 7, Bizspace Business Park, Denby Dale Road, Wakefield WF2 7AZ



RUN, riot



Run Riot is a FREE session that runs every Thursday, the sessions run 3.30pm - 5.30pm in term time and 3pm - 5pm during school holidays.

The session operates within a safe inclusive environment at the Old Quarry Adventure Playground. The project is funded by the Big Lottery and supported by the Warwick Ahead. It is maintained by a dedicated team of specialists to support families whom have children with additional needs. This session provides children with the opportunity to learn and develop through play; activities and resources are set out by the staff that run the session. Children are asked regularly what they would like to do whilst on session and this is put into the planning to support their individual needs and abilities.

We do encourage parents/carers to get involved with the activities that the children are doing by providing opportunities such as cook and eat sessions to take place. Cook and eat sessions are provided by WMDC who inspire parents/carers to cook balanced nutritional meals that are cheap and easy to make.

We also provide sporting activities where children are inspired and supported to work together in teams in such things as tag rugby and obstacle courses. This kind of activity also supports positive behaviours within children and gives them the confidence to be able to work as part of a team. For further details please visit our Facebook page www.facebook.com/runriotattheaddy or the Addy at www.facebook.com/theaddyknottingley or contact Yana direct on 01977 670953



Upcoming Events

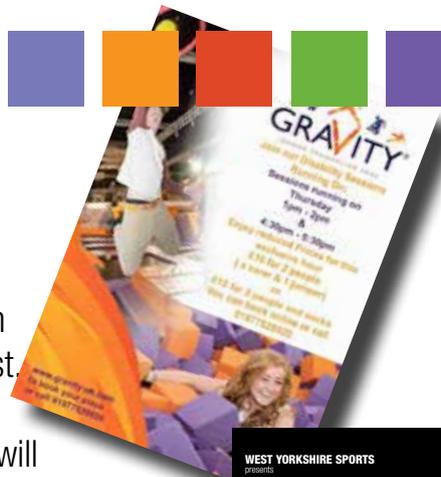
Seaside in the City Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 August

The seaside returns!
Get your flips flops ready and sharpen up your sand castle making skills for a weekend of fun as the seaside makes an exciting return to Wakefield this August.

Pontefract Liquorice Festival - Pontefract Town Centre Sunday 12 July 2015 10am - 4pm

An entertaining day out for the whole family. There's something for everyone every year. Take part in one of the many children's workshops and activities taking place throughout the day. Browse and shop at the outdoor market or enjoy street performers.

Mixed Ability Rugby World Tournament - taking place in Bradford from 17 to 21 August. Players with and without a learning or physical disability will come together from ten countries to take part. Further details about the tournament and information on how to pledge support are also on the website link - www.mixedabilitiesports.org



World Sports Cerebral Palsy Football World Championships 2015 - taking place at the FA National Football Centre, St George's Park, Burton- upon-Trent from the 13 to 28 June. Individual and group tickets are available via the website link - www.cp2015.co.uk



To find out news of more events and what's on throughout the district this summer you can visit;
Wakefield's Local Offer:
www.wakefield.mylocaloffer.org
Wakefield Council's website: www.wakefield.gov.uk
Experience Wakefield:
www.experiencewakefield.co.uk