



Special Matters
Staffordshire
Moorlands

Newsletter October 10
Support Group for Parents



Swimming - Shelton
Swimming - Shelton

Peter Pan - New Vic
Peter Pan - New Vic

Santa Lunch - Alton Towers
Santa Lunch - Alton Towers

and more...

Welcome to you all!!!

The summer has come and gone. Hope you all have had a great summer and the children are back to school and settled down. We have had a good summer with our activities.

We have a number of interesting Christmas activities coming up. So please have a look and read through the newsletter. We are always interested to hear from parents about what they have enjoyed and would like to see happen in Special Matters so please contact me for a chat or drop me a line.

For my information please contact me on 07966 053040 or email faith.asplin@staffordshire.gov.uk. Remember to look the website www.specialmatters.co.uk

Faith

Context

Pg 2 - Summer Activities

Pg 3 - Swimming Activity

Pg 4 - Santa Lunch

Pg 5 - Peter Pan Theatre

Pg 5/6 - Support Groups

Pg 7 - Storyteller/Autism Workshops

Pg 8 - Global Development Delay

Pg 9/10 - Orthotics

Pg 11 - G8way

Pg 12 - Activity Service

Pg 13 - Sleep Solution

Pg 14 - Dates for your Diary's

Summer Activities

Over the summer we have had four amazing days out. We had a visit to the seaside, Drayton Manor, Black Country Museum and Chester Zoo. We have had about 300 people attending the four activities. The sun was shining for most of them, at the Black Country Museum it rained for a while in the afternoon but apart from that the SUN was shining, we picked the right days!



We met at Leek High School to meet the coaches and set off to our destinations. We got to the destination and we booked our self in and the families went off and looked around and had a great day on the rides at Drayton Manor, I saw some families wet after the ride Shockwave. At the Black Country Museum the families went to look around I had so many comments about the Fish and Chip shop. The queue way longer than I have ever seen a



queue for a fish and chip before. I was told they were the best. At Chester Zoo the weather was wonderful we met up to have lunch with some of the families and the children went off to play at the little park that was there. It was so good to see the children really having a great day. Some of the families went on the boat ride around the park.



We would like to say a big thank you to Aiming High who provided the funding for these activities.

Swimming - Shelton

We have booked a session at Shelton swimming pool exclusive for Special Matters families on a Sunday afternoon. As the session before went very well and the families had a great time and asked if we could have another session, so we have



booked one. This swimming pool is heated at a good temperature and also has a hoist for children who need it. The swimming pool has a ramp going down into the pool which will make it easier for the children to get into and out of the pool. There will be a qualified life guard and there will be floats etc in the water for the children to play with.

If you would like to book onto this activity please can you call the office on 01298 687162 by the 22nd October, places are limited due to the pool size. We would like to say a big thank you to Cath Eyre for donating the finances for this session.

Sunday 7th November 2010
1.00pm - 3.00pm

Feedback from Summer Trips

We Had a lovely day, the children really enjoyed themselves. A perfect family day out, something for everyone.

Today's trip was very well organised and most enjoyable. This was our first trip with Special Matters and we look forward to going along any more in the future. Thank you.

Santa Lunch - Alton towers

Last year we took a number of families to Alton Towers for the Santa Lunch. We have had so many comments and have been asked if we are doing this day again this year. So we decided to put another one on. On this day you can do the following:



- Christmas Lunch
- Meet Santa in hide away grotto
 - Meet Santa's Reindeers
- Shark bait ride in the theme park (selections)
 - Sea life centre
- Also an entrance to Splash Landings (if you would like to)
 - Have a go at the crazy golf
 - Puppet show



Please can you contact the office by the 22nd October to book your place. Due to the anticipated demand for places family names will be drawn out of the hat after this date and you will receive a confirmation letter if you have a place. Also when

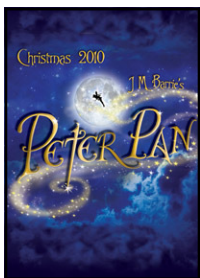
phoning please let us know any special dietary requirement and names and date of birth for children.



Cost £3.00 per Adult, £1.50 per child to be paid in advance.

Sunday 28th November 2010
12.00pm

Peter Pan - New Vic



The last few years we have had a visit to the New Vic Theatre and every year parents are surprised how their children enjoy sitting, watching and joining with the singing and have a great time. This year we are visiting the theatre again, the theatre are showing Peter Pan the magical show. The theatre is celebrating 150 years from the date of the author's birth. Come along and join us and meet the boy who never wanted to grow up and Tinkerbell with her magical fairy dust. Don't forget the Captain Hook. Please phone the office by the 26th November, family names will be drawn out of a hat after this date and you will receive a confirmation letter if you have places. When phoning please let us know whether you need a disabled parking space and a wheelchair space in the theatre. A donation of £3.00 for adult and £1.50 for a child to be paid in advance.

Saturday 15th January 2011
2.15pm

Support Groups

The next daytime support is on the 13th October at the Meadow School starting at 10.00am, we have Joy Daghish from Special People North, coming along to give a talk about their project. please come along to have a cuppa and chat with other parents, it's a great atmosphere.

Leek Support Group
13th October,
10th November,
15th December
10.00am - 12.00pm
Meadow School

Cheadle Support Group
4th October
8th November
13th December
7.30pm - 9.30pm
Cheadle Children Centre



Biddulph Special Family Matters

Chat **Drop** **Relax**
in
for coffee

Wednesday 3rd November
9.30-11.30am



North Staffs Carers

Meet the team

School nurse

Special Matters

P2P



Staffordshire Moorlands Children's Centre

Albert Street, Biddulph, Tel 01782 297970

Libraries/Storyteller

A few months ago, I think it was back in February/March time we had some ladies from the libraries service to talk about how they could help special needs children to access the libraries. We are putting a session together with a storyteller called 'Shoo Rayner'. This will be a good opportunity to talk to the library and listen to the story teller. We had a story teller a couple years ago at the Cheadle Children Centre and it went down like a storm. The children were really interested in the stories. This is at the Beresford Children Centre, Novi Lane, Leek. Please let us know you are joining us by ringing the office on 01298 687162 by 1st November.

Saturday 20th November 2010
11.00am - 1.00pm

Skillshare

Are you a parent or carer of a child with GDD in Staffordshire? Would you like to learn practical techniques to help your child now and in the future?

There are two FREE workshop at Alton Towers, near Cheadle, Staffordshire from 10.00am - 1.00pm with lunch afterwards. Please book quickly because there are limited places and must be booked in advance.

Friday 12th November 10 - 'Anger Management' and 'Managing Challenging Behaviour'

Tuesday 23rd November 10 - 'How to improve your child social skills' & 'The Teenage years, dealing with Adolescence'.

For information and book please contact Hilary Cox on 01785 356930 or hilary.cox@staffordshire.gov.uk.

Global Development Delay ("GDD")

Are you the PARENT or CARER of a child with GDD in Staffordshire?

Would you like to learn more about how it might affect your child now and in the future?

SkillShare, a project funded through the BIG Lottery Fund and managed by Staffordshire Parent Partnership Service, brings you a workshop that will cover topics such as:

- The Road to Diagnosis
- The School Years
- Person Centred Planning
- Sex and Relationships

This FREE workshop is being held on Saturday 4th December 2010 at the Stone House Hotel, Stone, Staffordshire, from 10am to 4pm, including lunch. Places are limited and MUST be booked in advance. Parents and carers may be able to claim travel and/or childcare expenses.

For further information and to book places, please contact Hilary Cox on 01785 356930 or hilary.cox@staffordshire.gov.uk or Parent Partnership Service on spps@staffordshire.gov.uk



SkillShare

providing training for parents and carers



Supported by
The National Lottery
through the Big Lottery Fund



If you have any special access requirements, or if you, or anyone you know, would like a copy of this flyer in large print, Braille, on audio-tape or in languages other than English, please contact Parent Partnership Service on 01785 356921.

North Staffs Orthotics Campaign

Campaigning to improve the NHS Orthotics Service of Stoke and North Staffordshire



113 High Street
Newcastle-under-Lyme
Staffordshire
ST5 1PS

www.nsoc.org.uk
info@nsoc.org.uk

Struggling to get a decent NHS Orthotics Service for yourself or your child?

Our ten year old son David has right sided Hemiplegia and has needed supportive footwear / Ankle-Foot Orthoses since he was toddling. We have struggled so much over the last decade to get a proper level of Orthotics service. He has gone months without any support of his ankle. Last spring he underwent serial casting and was supposed to get a new Ankle-foot orthosis to put on as soon as the last plaster cast came off. In the end the local Orthotics department took 17 weeks to get one on him. By then his foot was back to where it started. He was devastated and very angry.

This was the final "icing on the cake" on a decade of poor care. We made a formal complaint to the hospital and their response was (and I quote) "there are no problems with the Orthotics service". This pushed me "over the edge" from being a mum who had always quietly accepted the services given to David to becoming a passionate NHS campaigner!

North Staffs Orthotics Campaign began one night at 2am when I was so consumed by anger that I got out of bed and created the web site www.nsoc.org.uk.

I already knew from contact with others with disabilities that we were not on our own with our difficulties getting footwear and appliances for David. Local radio interviews and article in a local paper ensured we soon picked up a good number of members.

We are now in dialogue with the provider hospital and the PCTs who commission the local Orthotics service and we are keeping the pressure on them to address the local issues.

However, having now had the opportunity to speak with others from outside of North Staffordshire it would appear that poor Orthotics provision is a national issue. As a result we have asked the **Parliamentary Health Select Committee** to carry out a work stream into **NHS Orthotics provision in England**. In order for them to consider doing this we need MPs to make representations to the Health Select Committee on our behalf. The more political support we can get for this work stream the more likely we are to get it. In this way we hope to bring out improvements in NHS Orthotics nationally as well as locally.

We would like to ask anyone who is having difficulties with NHS Orthotics Services in England to contact their MP to ask them to back the request that the Parliamentary Health Select Committee act and carry out this work stream. We have made a web page at: <http://www.nsoc.org.uk/mp.htm> that explains the process and a template for people to use is provided at the bottom of that web page.

Furthermore if anyone wants to become a member of the North Staffs Orthotics Campaign we would be glad to hear from them. We can be emailed at info@nsoc.org.uk.

Thanks for your support.

G8way

G8way is run by Aiming High working with Disabled Children and Young People in the Staffordshire area. This project is aimed at helping disabled children and young people to make choices by supporting access to activities with in the community. This means you will have someone to come around and talk to your child/children about what their interests are and this worker will see if they can find a activity for your child. This will involve working with service providers, voluntary and community organisations and parent groups. G8way also organise some local events for the families.

If you are interested in this project you can call me and I will referer you on, or you can contact your local worker on:

Newcastle/Moorlands 07772 066955 / 07772 066966
g8way-newmoorlands@staffordshire.gov.u

Cannock/Lichfield 07772 067406/ 07772 067506
g8way-cann.lich@staffordshire.gov.uk

Stafford/South Staffordshire 07772 291192/ 07771 291191
g8way-staffs.southstaffs@stafforshire.gov.uk

Tamworth/Burton-on-Trent 07772 070170/ 07773 792140
G8way-burton.tam@staffordshire.gov.uk

Website: www.staffordshire.gov.uk/disabledchildren.

Activity Service

Staffordshire Shared Care (Trialpha) Activity Service

We are increasing our range of clubs and activities for children and young people with disabilities, offering fun things to do in the Newcastle and Stafford areas. The emphasis is on making friends and having FUN whilst also learning new skills.

Leisure Options – Stafford - Alternate Saturdays 10am - 3pm for 12 - 18yrs.

This group provides a range of fun activities such as bowling, cinema, farms, parks, zoo, outdoor pursuits etc. while encouraging the development of independence and social skills.

Leisure Options – Newcastle - Alternate Saturdays 10am - 2pm for 12 - 18yrs. This group provides a range of fun activities such as bowling, cinema, farms, parks, etc. while encouraging the development of independence and social skills.

Monday Club - Every Monday 4.30pm-7.30pm for 8 - 18yrs These activities are based around Drama, Dance and Music activities, including instrumental sessions, dance movie nights, visits to films about dance and music, learning and performing shows, and also offering important time with friends.

Tuesday Club – Every Tuesday 4.30pm-7.30pm for 8-18yrs. This club is a general activity session offering a wide range of activities such as arts and crafts, team building games, offering important time with friends to promote social skills, promoting self esteem and independence and developing practical life skills.

Wednesday Club - Every Wednesday 4.30pm – 7.30pm for 8-18yrs. This club is a smaller group for those young people with complex needs who may require individual support. We will offer opportunities for arts and crafts, music and use of the sensory resources and equipment.

Thursday Club – Every Thursday 4.30pm-7.30pm for 8-18yrs. This club is a general activity session offering a wide range of activities such as arts and crafts, team building games, offering important time with friends to promote social skills, promoting self esteem and independence and developing practical life skills.

For information re vacancies, Contact: Staffordshire Shared Care, Church St, Chesterton, Newcastle Under Lyme. Tel: 01782 565522, E-mail:staffssharedcare.north@actionforchildren.org.uk



You are invited to attend the
Official launch celebrations of
Sleep Solutions Staffordshire

sleep solutions

Service Launch

Aiming High Staffordshire have funded a new service called Sleep Solutions. Sleep solutions supports families of children and young people with a disability and severe sleep problems.

We are holding an event to launch the service and provide information about the support available and how we support families throughout Staffordshire.

There will be a short presentation and sleep practitioners will be available for a chat during the event. Parents who have accessed **the** service will also be available to share their own experiences.

A support Group meeting once a month at Blackfriars school. This will start 11th October10 at 2.00pm.
Website www.sleepsolutions.org.uk



Date: Wed 13th October

Time: 10-2pm

Location:

**Rising Brook Church,
Burton Square, Stafford
ST17 9LT**

**Contact Number:
07530932174**

Email:

leanne.killman@scope.org.uk

Dates for your Diary

Support Groups

We are having the support groups in Leek, Biddulph and Cheadle. Cheadle in the Cheadle Children Centre, meeting at 7.30pm, Leek is a daytime one at the Meadows Special School starting 10.00am and one in Biddulph at the Staffordshire Moorlands Children Centre starting at 9.30am . Please come and join us, it would be great to see you there to have a cuppa and a chat.

Cheadle - Children Centre

4th October

8th November

13th December

10th January

Leek - Meadows

13th October

10th November

15th December

Biddulph - Staffordshire Moorlands Children Centre

3rd November

Activity Days/Meeting

7th November - Swimming Shelton Swimming pool

20th November - Storyteller

28th November - Santa Lunch Alton Towers

15th January - Peter Pan New Vic Theatre

Play & Stay Support Session/Biddulph

Fridays 8th & 22nd October 1.30pm - 3.30pm
at the Staffordshire Moorlands Children Centre.
For more information please contact Anna Lindop
at the North Staffs Carers on 01782 834836

Contact Information

Faith Asplin: 07966 053040
Jenny Hurst: 07815 999079
Office: 01298 687162
Hilary Evans – Home Start: 01538 387231

Office address:

Special Matters
Moorlands Rural Children's Centre
c/o Manifold Primary School
Leek Road
Warslow
Nr Buxton
Derbyshire
SK17 0JP

E-mail - faith.asplin@staffordshire.gov.uk
Website - www.specialmatters.co.uk



Special Matters
Staffordshire
Moorlands



A Sure Start Children's Centre



Working together with the
Community & Learning Partnerships