

PIP News

Volume 1, Issue 3

November 2012

Hello to all you parents and carers out there

Welcome to the third issue of our newsletter.

For those of you who might not know us, we are a Croydon charity run by, and on behalf of, parents of children and young adults with special needs and disabilities.

We hope that this newsletter will give you a brief overview of what we and other organisations have been offering Croydon families in the last six months or so, and how we can continue to help.

In addition to the support we offer to families, we are also the parent carer forum for Croydon. This means that we work with professionals to make sure that parents views are listened to when services are being planned.

There are a lot of changes to keep up with at the moment. The Government is changing the law about how we and our children are supported and there are changes in Croydon too. We are pleased to say that PIP has contributed the views of Croydon parents to Government papers, as well as ensuring that parents are closely involved in planning changes in Croydon itself.

We hope this newsletter will bring you up to date on some of the latest developments, and maybe inspire you to get involved.

Best wishes from all at PIP

If you would like to be further involved in any way and be notified of events from **PIP**, please contact us on: 0208 684 9082 or email: office@pipcroydon.com so that we can add you to our mailing list.



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COUNCIL**

For the under 16's....

Kat Edwards works individually with parents of children under 16. She works together with parents to ensure they are accessing the services they are entitled to and personally refers them to relevant agencies. Kat can also direct parents towards professional support and information which can boost their self-confidence and encourage them to ask for help themselves when they need it.



If you would like Kat's help, contact the PIP office on: **020 8684 9082** or email: office@pipcroydon.com

The 'I Count' Card is given to children who are listed on the "I-Count" Register of children with disabilities. This list belongs to the Council and helps them plan how many children will need specialist services now and in the future. The card can be used as proof that your child has a disability. It can also lead to discounted entry to some attractions such as the London Eye and Chessington World of Adventures; visit their website www.i-count.org for the full list. Your child does not need a formal diagnosis to join the register.

For more information ring **020 8436 1742**

Help! What is a CAF?

Someone who works with you and your child may suggest using a CAF to help you...

Don't panic. This is simply a way of helping families who need some extra support in any area of their lives.

CAF stands for Common Assessment Framework. The CAF is a way of working out what extra support your child may need and how best to provide this support. With your agreement, professionals who work with your child will have a conversation with you to discuss your child's needs and strengths. The CAF form will record what is going well for your family, what extra support may be needed for your child and which professionals are best placed to help. The Council are keen to have more children's needs assessed through a CAF, as it is such a useful way of making sure that parents and children receive the help they are entitled to.



Short Breaks - you spoke, they listened.....

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who took part in our recent survey on short breaks and respite.

We are pleased to say that in spite of the difficult financial situation we are all facing at the moment, the Council recognises the importance of short break services to families and will **not** be reducing the number of breaks available. There will be significantly more investment in activities parents said they valued most highly. A great many of you explained how important it was that short break activities were quite near to home, as travelling can be such a problem. As a result of this, popular services will be expanded to cover all parts of the borough.

**The Council
recognises the
importance of short
break services**

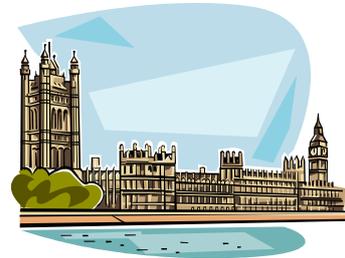
The Council now needs to look carefully at which organisations it asks to provide activities and breaks, so that money is spent as wisely as possible to benefit the largest number of families. There might be some changes to who is providing breaks and activities, but there will still be a wide range of services to choose from and most of these will remain available to everyone, without the need for a social care assessment. PIP will be working with the Council in making these decisions, ensuring that parents' views continue to be listened to and acted upon.

All change in Education - nationally....

As many of you will be aware, the Government is planning changes to the law about support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. The changes are now going through the system of becoming a law. This will take some time, but the expectation is that this law, called the "Children and Families Bill" will be in place by early 2014.

If anybody would like to read these documents in detail, they are available on the Department for Education website www.education.gov.uk/publications

Of course what we are all really interested in is how the changes will affect us personally. There is an enormous amount of detail in the Bill and most of it is still under discussion, but the headlines are:



- Local authorities and health services must work together to provide services for children with SEN in their area
- Local authorities must produce information on the education, health and care services it expects to be available locally
- Statements of SEN will be replaced by education, health and care plans. Plans will give the same legal rights as a Statement of SEN
- Education, health and care plans will not stop when a young person finishes school, but will extend statutory rights into the further education and training sector for the first time, with the exception of apprenticeships
- All of the changes in the law will apply to academies in full
- The parent or young person must participate in compulsory mediation before they can appeal to the Tribunal

If you are interested in finding out more, there is a wealth of information on the internet. We think the information from the Council for Disabled Children is clear and impartial.

Visit <http://www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/resources> to learn more.

.....and locally - a message from the SEN department

What's happening with local school places?

- ◆ investment in new building work in a number of schools. From September there have been more places in some of our special schools, as well as more opportunities for children to be educated in mainstream schools with additional specialist help.
- ◆ enhanced learning provision for speech, language and communication needs at Aerodrome School, which complements the existing provision at Applegarth School.
- ◆ secondary provision for speech, language and communication needs from September 2013 at Edenham High School.
- ◆ new provision for children with autistic spectrum disorders in the north and south of the borough at Kensington Avenue Primary School and Oasis Academy Coulsdon for 2013
- ◆ more provision for pupils with physical disabilities, both primary and secondary, from 2013
- ◆ more provision for pupils with moderate learning difficulties and a range of needs at Fairchildes School

Further new provision is planned for 2014 and 2015 and we look forward to giving you more news of developments as they happen.

Transition to adulthood...

As parents of children with special needs we all face a series of hurdles as our children grow up. Getting a diagnosis; finding an appropriate school place; coping with difficult behaviour; sometimes the list seems to go on and on.

One of the biggest difficulties for many parents is in understanding the changes that happen as our children become adults. Our children go through adolescence in the same way as other children, but for us parents there is the additional challenge of learning about support, health and education/employment opportunities available to our adult sons and daughters – and it is very different to what we have been used to in children’s services. This change from children’s services to adulthood is known as Transition.

PIP asked a group of parents to talk to representatives from the Council about their experiences of the Transition process, and what would have helped them. Parents also wrote to the Council with their feedback. Professionals have listened to what parents said and are keen to improve things. Representatives from the adult services part of the Council will be visiting some special schools and also our PIP plus meeting in December, to listen to parents and find out what we think our adult children need to lead happy, fulfilled lives.

Professionals have listened to what parents said...

BOOMERANG YOUTH CLUB

Purley Youth Centre
Thursdays between 7pm – 9.30pm
Evening fun for young people age 11-25 with disabilities and SEN.
contact Paul Funnell on 07990790183

Adventure in the woods...

Back in July an intrepid group of parents and their teenage children took part in an outdoor adventure day at Frylands Wood with the Youth Service.

There was a whole range of exciting activities to try, such as quad-biking, wall-climbing, shooting and archery. Parents were pleased to see their children rising to the challenge of unfamiliar activities and children were surprised to see their parents’ unexpected talents too! A brave few enjoyed an evening campfire and camped out overnight and although some parents looked a little tired the next morning, the teenagers were still full of energy. Top professionals from

A brave few camped out over night!

Croydon Council also attended the weekend and were delighted to meet parents together with their children.

Information was collected from families about their experiences, hopes and dreams for the future. This information has been put together and shared with many areas of the Council as they plan future services.

Everyone agreed that this had been a very positive experience and parents asked if the weekend could be repeated again next year, so if you missed out this time, look out for Frylands 2013!

Independent Travel Training

The idea of independent travel can be frightening to some of us, as it’s not always clear what this entails and we worry about our sons and daughters being put into potentially dangerous situations. Travel training is part of the national curriculum; however, decisions about our children being travel trained are made on an individual basis. If you decide with your child’s school that travel training is a good idea, a thorough training programme is available and your child will be fully supported by an experienced independent travel trainer.



The aim of travel training is to give our young adults the skills they need to make the journey to school or college safely, giving them greater independence as they get closer to adulthood.

Tansy Muller works with families of teenagers and young adults from the ages of 14 to 25. This is the time parents need to prepare for children moving into adulthood. This is a time of great change in many areas, such as leaving school, further education, employment, moving from children to adult services, housing etc. Tansy gives parents information about the options available to their sons and daughters so that make informed decisions can be made. She can also tell them about other professionals who might be able to help.



New Youth Club
 For 11-25yr olds with SEN
 and Disabilities
 Mondays 3pm - 5.30pm
 Winterbourne Youth Centre
 To find out more contact
 Paul Funnell on 07990790183

Personal Independence Payment

This is a new benefit that is being gradually phased in over a 3 year period from April 2013. Here are some basic facts. For more information visit the Government website www.dwp.gov.uk

- ◆ It is to replace Disability Living Allowance for those of working age 16+
- ◆ At the moment there are no plans to replace DLA for those under the age of 16. If your child is under age 16 you can continue to make a claim for DLA as usual.
- ◆ All children entitled to DLA approaching age 16 will be asked if they want to claim Personal Independence Payment from their 16th birthday.
- ◆ There will be two components; a daily living component (similar to current care component) and a mobility component.
- ◆ Each component will have two rates; standard and enhanced.
- ◆ Individuals already receiving DLA will need to be re-assessed before being transferred to the new benefit.
- ◆ The amounts of Personal Independence Payment have not yet been set.
- ◆ The Department for Work and Pensions will begin inviting every eligible person who gets DLA to claim Personal Independence Payment from October 2013 and they aim to have contacted them all by Spring 2016.



Our regular PIP Plus evenings for parents of teenagers and young adults are a great way of meeting other parents and picking up essential information at the same time.

Each meeting focuses on a particular topic of interest to parents whose children are 14+ although some topics are relevant to all parents and everyone is welcome to attend if they wish.

We invite speakers who are experts in their field to share their knowledge with us in a friendly and informal atmosphere. Our guests have given us so much to think about and are always willing to answer questions. Subjects such as sexuality and relationships, benefits, and information on adult social services have been some of the topics covered recently. If there is a subject you think should be addressed at PIP Plus, please let us know.

**our next meeting will
 be on Thursday 13th
 December**

We usually meet on the third Thursday of the month, however our next meeting will be a week early, on the 13th December. Representatives from adult services are keen to talk to us about how they can help our sons and daughters as they grow up.

See you there for Christmas treats!

**PIP Plus meets on the third Thursday of the month at:
 Cornerstone House, 14 Willis Road, Croydon, CR0 2XX from 7.15pm – 9.30pm**

Help with Holiday Funding

Plan ahead for your next holiday and contact Crossroads Care Croydon Carers' Support and Advocacy Service (funded by the National Lottery through the big Lottery Fund) which has £200 holiday grants available for carers. To find out more, call **020 8667 9893**



The Challenging Behaviour Foundation

making a difference to the lives of people with severe learning disabilities

Croydon Carers Information Service

are running a course on:

First Aid for Parents of Disabled Children

The course will be held on Tuesday 8 January 2013 at Whitgift House, from 10am - 3pm and includes a free lunch and refreshments. This course enables parents to learn first aid skills to deal with emergencies such as choking, seizures, burns and allergic reactions.

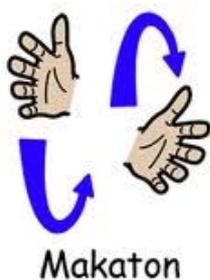
Places must be booked by contacting Ruth Laws on 020 8649 6280 or emailing ruthlaws@carersinfo.org.uk.

The Challenging Behaviour Foundation supports those caring for individuals with severe learning disabilities whose behaviour is described as challenging. Their website www.challengingbehaviour.org.uk has been revamped and includes clips featuring carers and professionals talking about understanding challenging behaviour, communication, self injurious behaviour, interventions and more.

You can also get information and advice via the Family Support Line on **0845 602 7885**.

Training - builds confidence and empowers parent carers

PIP supports parent carers by providing training on relevant topics in collaboration with other organisations, such as Jubilee Parenting and Kids, sharing resources and expertise.



We recently hosted a 2 session course on Makaton signing and symbols. Anne Chapman, the regional Makaton trainer ran this course and parents were enthusiastic about the way communication with their child had improved since attending the course.

Earlier in the year we ran a 7 session course, Time Out for Special Parents in conjunction with Jubilee Parenting. This is part of the Positive Parenting Programme. Parents felt encouraged and empowered by attending and some great comments were made:

"Thank you that was an excellent course"

"...it gave me more confidence"

"I loved this course"

"The course has been very beneficial"

PIP Training Programme 2012/13

PIP is pleased to be able to offer free training workshops for parent/carers of children with special needs or disabilities.

To book your place, please contact the office on: 0208 684 9082 or email:
office@pipcroydon.com

All these courses are held at Cornerstone House
14 Willis Road, Croydon,
CR0 2XX

31st January 2013 10am – 2pm

Challenging Behaviour

This one day course includes defining challenging behaviour, looking at the wider context and practical strategies to minimise behaviours

February 2013 TBC

Time Out for Special Parents

A 7 session course including topics such as self esteem, coping with feelings, understanding and managing behaviour and communicating with professionals

14th March 2013 10am – 2pm

Exclusion

Including your legal position and what's not exclusion
Delivered by KIDS Croydon Parent Partnership Service

*Refreshments provided
Street Parking available by meter*

**For further information or to book a place,
please contact the office.
office@pipcroydon.com 020 8684 9082**



*Together we can make a
difference*

*We're on the Web
www.pipcroydon.com*

Our office is manned 9.30am - 1.00pm Monday to Thursday. Outside of those times you can leave us a message or send us an email.

PIP Croydon

Registered Office
Cornerstone House, 14 Willis
Road,
Croydon, CR0 2XX

Tel: 020 8684 9082
Email: office@pipcroydon.com

Are you signed up to the mailing list for **Carers Information Service?**

They provide informative and useful newsletters every month. To join their mailing list:

email info@carersinfo.org.uk

or ring 020 8649 9339

Useful Numbers

Taberner House:

0208 726 6400

Carers Information Service:

020 8649 9339

National Autistic Society:

020 8662 4661

Family Information Service

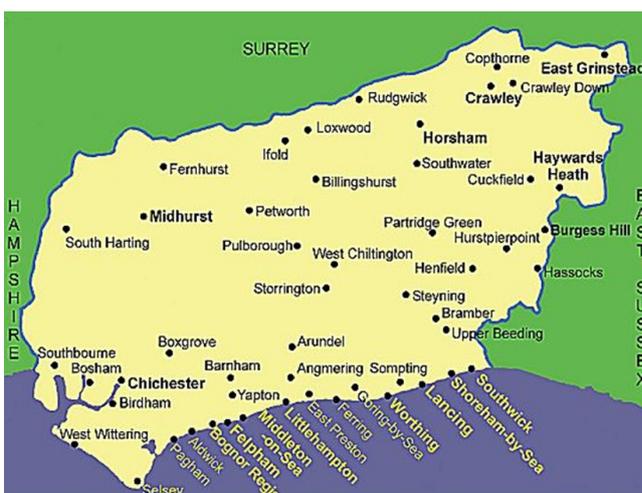
020 8726 6400 option 5

KIDs Parent Partnership Service

0208 649 9339 option 4

Fully Adapted Caravan for Hire - now taking bookings for 2013

The Garwood Foundation offers a fully adapted holiday caravan for hire, which is located at Church Farm Holiday Park in Pagham, West Sussex. www.haven.com/parks/sussex/church-farm



Pemberton Sovereign is a 2 bedroom fully adapted caravan (sleeps max 6)

2 twin bed rooms and 1 double pull out bed in living area

Extra wide and spacious with sliding doors for easy access

Fully double glazed and central heated

Shower in open wet room and portable eclectic hoist

Electric cooker, gas hob, fridge and microwave
Cutlery, crockery and cooking equipment (not specialized)

Television with DVD

Full details of local services in case of emergencies; site security, GP, hospital, pharmacy etc.

To make enquiries about availability, please call Ros Molla on 0208 686 4716 or email: ros.molla@garwoodfoundation.org.uk

For all other enquiries regarding the site or the caravan, please call Rosemary Odling on: 0208 686 9866 or email rosemary.odling@garwoodfoundation.org.uk

Also visit: Garwood Foundation website: www.garwoodfoundation.org.uk

Church Farm Holiday Park website: www.haven.co./parks/sussex/church-farm