

pip news

For parents of children and young adults with special needs or disabilities

Issue 4

Summer 2013

Hello to all you parents and carers out there

Welcome to the summer newsletter from Parents in Partnership. We hope that by the time you read this the weather will have changed for the better and we will all be enjoying the sunshine.

As many of you will be aware, the Government is planning national changes to services for children and young people with SEN and disabilities. Here in Croydon, the Council is considering how to respond to these changes. One of the guiding principles of the SEN reforms is that parents must be closely involved in planning developments and the Council is keen to discuss ideas with as many parents as possible. Please get in touch with us, as your local parent carer forum, to register your interest if you would like to contribute to this work.

In the meantime, we hope you find this newsletter useful. There should be something of interest for everyone!

Enjoy!



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What's new...

RAP Sports Courses

The RAP Sports Courses are for children and young people with disabilities or additional needs including wheelchair users, aged 5-18 years in Croydon.

To learn more about the huge range of activities available please contact: Pearl Sethna, Sports Development Officer

Telephone: [020 8760 5592](tel:02087605592)

Email: SDO@croydon.gov.uk

www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure/sports/csdteam



Rutherfords Saturday Club is for Croydon children aged 6 - 19 with profound & multiple learning disabilities, complex medical needs, and/or severe sensory impairment. It is currently operating some Saturdays between 10 - 3pm. For more information and an application form, please contact [Amanda Cox on 0208 688 7560](tel:02086887560).

PRISM - the new consortium

We are delighted to announce that following a successful bid to Croydon Council, **PIP** will be working as a team with Croydon National Autistic Society, Jubilee Parenting and Woodlands Children's Centre. We asked you to suggest suitable names for our team, and are grateful for all the thoughtful and creative suggestions we received. It was a difficult decision, but in the end we decided on "Prism" We all liked the symbolism of a "prism", as it is multi-faceted, like our organisations and transforms a single ray of light into a rainbow, as we hope to transform families' lives by working more closely together. Thanks to Hale Own for this suggestion.

Croydon's "Children Will Shine" Project

Croydon Dyslexia Association is running workshops for local secondary pupils in Years 7, 8 & 9. These will take place in term time on Saturday mornings at Cornerstone House, West Croydon.

The aim of the workshops is to increase students' self-esteem, literacy, numeracy, study skills and the best use of IT, through dyslexia specialist teaching. Sessions of 1¼ hours (10 sessions a term) help students to improve their access to the school curriculum and boost confidence. The subsidised charge is £20 per session, and the first session is a free taster session. Teaching is led by a qualified specialist teacher, supported by experienced teaching assistants and trained volunteers, working with 10-12 students per session.

If your child is dyslexic and receives limited or no support, either at school or from a tutor, and if you are interested in your child attending the Children Will Shine Project, call the [CDA helpline on 08442 49 69 49](tel:08442496949) or email CDAhelpline@hotmail.co.uk

*Parents/carers – please discuss this with your child **before** contacting CDA about the workshops.*

All Change...

On the 1st April 2013, Family Lives took over the Parent Partnership Service in Croydon and is now providing independent information, advice and guidance for parents/carers of children and young people with Special Educational Needs. They can offer:



- Information about special educational needs (SEN) to include: school based support (School Action and School Action Plus and related SEN issues), the Statutory Assessment Procedure, Statements of SEN and Annual Reviews.
- Support in liaising with school staff and other professionals including the Local Authority SEN team.
- Help for parents to be able to say what they think their child's needs are.
- Help for parents to understand how the education system works.
- Support to find parents an independent parental supporter to offer them advice and support.
- Support to put parents in touch with organisations/parent support groups for special educational needs.
- Information about the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal and Mediation Service.

New contact details are **020 3131 3150**; email parentsupportherts@familylives.org.uk

Carers Support Centre

A dedicated new walk-in information and advice centre will soon be available to all carers. The Carers' Support Centre will be located in George Street and offer a diverse range of free activities and services for unpaid carers of all ages.

The centre will provide easier access to support and information on a variety of issues such as housing, benefits, debt and employment issues, as well as leisure, social and respite activities. There will also be a café area exclusively for carers.

The new centre is expected to open by September 2013, following a complete refurbishment of the building, so keep a look-out for further information.

Update from the SEN department...

News on expansion of school provision



Plans for investing £35 million in new provision to enable more children and young people with SEN to be educated locally are well known and many parents attended consultation meetings back in 2011 in the early stages of planning the delivery of new provision and provided valuable insights into the improvements needed. The programme is not just about new places but making sure we deliver a continuum of provision with appropriate support to give families more choice about the most appropriate educational environment to meet their child's needs.

18 months into a 4 year programme we can demonstrate some early successes:

- New 6th form provision open at Bensham Manor school providing both continuity and new challenges to support transition to adulthood for the pupils there
- Additional primary places for pupils with severe learning difficulties at Red Gates school last September and for September 2013 to help address growing demand as the primary school population in the borough increases
- Enhanced Learning Provision for primary aged pupils with speech, language and communication needs at Aerodrome School since September to complement the provision at Applegarth School and enable pupils to receive intensive specialist support in a mainstream school environment

A number of building projects in mainstream primary and secondary schools are due to be ready for opening in September 2013 and will provide new specialist facilities to enable pupils to benefit from both intensive specialist support and a mainstream school environment. These include specialist support for:

- pupils with physical difficulties and associated medical needs at Chipstead Valley Primary and Woodcote High schools;
- pupils with ASD at Kensington Avenue Primary School and Oasis Academy Coulsdon (in addition to existing provision at Castle Hill Primary School and Addington High School);
- secondary pupils with speech, language and communication needs at Edenham High School
- pupils with moderate learning difficulties at Fairchildes Primary School

Other projects underway include:

- the completion of a new primary special school provision for pupils with ASD / challenging behaviour at Coleby Court in Cherry Orchard Road;
- upgrading the facilities for the Speech and Language Centre at Applegarth School;
- the build phase of the new school for pupils at Priory School on the school's Hermitage Road site ready for opening in the summer of 2014

Further projects to increase and improve provision for pupils with ASD are in the planning stages.

Linda Wright, Head of Inclusion, Learning Access and SEN

Coffee & Chat....



**Crossroads Care
Carers Support and
Advocacy Service holds
regular Carers Clubs**

Held once a month at various locations:

Costa coffee 950 Brighton Road
Mondays 10.30am-12pm
Blue and Orange, Thornton Heath
Thursdays 11-12,
Pop Inn Café, Wickham Rd Shirley
Thursday 10.30am-12pm
call 02086679893 for more info.

CAMHS run sessions for parents and carers of children/young adults with ASD. These sessions take place on Tuesdays at Selhurst Children's Centre. Pre-registration is required. Contact [Frank Morgan, West Collaboration, Universal Services Children's Centre Coordinator on: frank@scc.croydon.sch.uk](#)

Mencap Parents' Support Group

This group is for parents of pre-school and school age children with learning disabilities. The group meets at the Treetops Centre at Portland House, 678 London Road, Thornton Heath, CR7 7HU (opposite Thornton Heath bus garage) between 10.30am & 12.00pm. You are welcome to bring pre-school children with you.

Meetings will be:

Tuesday 4th June

Monday 8th July

Tuesday 17th September

Monday 18th November

For more information contact:

Julia Cross, family navigator on 0208 684 5890

Chill n Chat

Tuesdays 9.45-11.45
Woodlands Children's Centre
for parents with special needs children.
Contact [Rachel Cummings](#) or [Jane Carey](#)
Parenting and Family Support worker
020 8649 5671.

NAS Croydon

Branch group
Woodside School
Contact [Jane Poulter](#)
croydonbranch@nas.org.uk or
nascroydonbranch@gmail.com.



N.A.A.Gs New Addington Autism Group

Alternate Fridays, 10am-12pm
Fieldway Family Centre, Fieldway,
New Addington CR0 9AZ
Contact [Marie Pace](#) on info@naag.me.uk

NEW

Jubilee Chill 'n' Chat Special

Peppermint Children's Centre
Franklin Way, Valley Park
Croydon, CR0 4UD

Tuesday Afternoons
1.00-2.30pm

A weekly group for parents/carers of children (0-5) with special needs.
Information, support and 'me-time' treats to keep you going!
Do join us.

To book a place please contact Jane Carey
079063 98017 Email jane.carey@croydon-jubilee.co.uk

PRISM-NAS, PIP, WCC, JP
working together for parents

Activities for Teenagers...

There are a number of youth clubs now running across the borough. For further details, contact [Paul Funnell on 07990 790183](mailto:paul.funnell@croydon.gov.uk) or email paul.funnell@croydon.gov.uk

Monday 6.45pm-9.00pm
Special Blend Youth Club,
Sir Phillip Game Centre
38 Morland Avenue, Addiscombe, CR0 6EA

Monday 3.30pm-5.30pm
Bensham Manor School
Ecclesbourne Road,
Thornton Heath, CR7 7BN

Tuesday 3.00pm-6.00pm
Fabulous Youth Club
Waddon Youth Centre
85 Waddon Way, Croydon, CR0 4HY

Wednesday 3.00pm-6.00pm
All 4 One Youth Club
Waddon Youth Centre
85 Waddon Way, Croydon, CR0 4HY

Thursday 7.00pm-9.30pm
Boomerang Youth Club
Purley Youth Centre
906a Brighton Road, Purley, CR8 2LN

**Places available now
in New Addington..**
for young people with learning
difficulties and disabilities;

**Mondays 3.30pm - 5.30pm
Goldcrest Youth Centre
Goldcrest Way, Croydon CR0 0PL**

**To find out more and book a place
contact Paul Funnell 07990 790183 or
email paul.funnell@croydon.gov.uk**

Croydon Youth Services are holding an Outdoor Adventure Fun Day/Weekend for young people 11-25 with special needs or disabilities, on Saturday 10th August at Frylands Wood Scout Outdoor Centre, Croydon. There will be plenty of activities to participate in such as climbing, rifle shooting, assault course and bush craft skills. Some of these activities will be accessible for young people with limited mobility. There are opportunities for parent and child to camp for the weekend or just come for the Saturday.



For further information and a booking form, please contact [Paul Funnell on 07990 790183](mailto:paul.funnell@croydon.gov.uk) or paul.funnell@croydon.gov.uk or visit our website www.pipcroydon.com

Additional Funding for 16-19 year olds

Croydon Local Authority is pleased to announce that they have been awarded nearly £1.2m additional funding this year for young people aged 16-19 with special educational needs. This is funding that will enable them to improve educational services for this group of young people.

Transition to adulthood...

How PIP Plus has helped me - a parent's view

"Whenever I was asked about the challenges of parenting a disabled child, my usual response was that the darkest days are when you are struggling to obtain a diagnosis, and that once you know what you are dealing with, then you can start moving forward. However, as my son has moved from early to late teens, once again I feel I am facing the unknown. How will he fit into the adult world? What training and employment opportunities are there? What sort of care packages are available? Where will he live and what will he do? No one has all the answers, but PIP Plus' varied list of speakers, each with their own areas of expertise, and the support of other parents and carers facing the same issues, has reduced the isolation I was feeling. I would recommend it to other parents of teenagers".

PIP Plus has reduced the isolation I was feeling....

PIP Plus Programme for 2013

18th June

Social Services - How they can help us

18th July (Thursday)

Changes to benefits and welfare

17th September

Carers Information Service

15th October

Employment and day centre opportunities

19th November

Legal matters - Mental capacity, power of attorney and court of protection

PIP Plus
 Now meets on the third Tuesday
 of the month
 At Cornerstone House, 14 Willis Road,
 Croydon, CR0 2XX
 From 7.30pm – 9.30pm
ALL WELCOME

Remploy (www.remploy.co.uk) has assigned an employment officer Ibrahim Sowe, to support young people with learning disabilities to gain employment. They have links with major stores such as M&S and Sainsbury's and Ibrahim is passionate about finding paid work for people with learning disabilities. You can meet Ibrahim at the Special Blend youth club (CR0 6EA) on Monday nights 19:00 – 21:00 or in Croydon Library.

If you would like to discuss employment opportunities and have an employment assessment with Ibrahim for your son or daughter, then please contact him.

Ibrahim Sowe on 07769 164 844 or email Ibrahim.sowe@remploy.co.uk



Parent Training Courses...

A parent's perspective

"I've attended several seminars/workshops organised by PIP over the last 2 or 3 years, some aimed at me as a carer and others more directly to do with my special needs child.

There are two main ways in which I've benefited really; one is from meeting other parents in the same (or similar) boat: my child is still quite young (age 7) but I've sometimes had a glimpse of the future when talking with parents of older children or young adults, and heard things I may store up for future reference. Aside from picking up useful information, it's also nice when you come across people you met on one course further down the line again on another course and hear how things are progressing for them and their child.

Another way I've benefited is by meeting the various professionals that PIP invite to run the courses. These are often people with years of experience in a variety of different special needs backgrounds, who have a wealth of knowledge/advice to share. I usually come away feeling I have a greater understanding of and insight into my child, and with ideas of different strategies to try with him.

Our children may not all have the same condition, but I feel there are many overlaps in the arena of special needs, and we can all learn a lot from each other's experiences".

Free Training

PIP offers free training workshops for parent/carers of children with special needs or disabilities. We are in the process of securing the following workshops:

October 2013 **Making sense of IEPs, School Action/School Action Plus**

7th & 14th November 2013 **Makaton**

To register your interest, please contact:

PIP Croydon on: 0208 684 9082 or email: office@pipcroydon.com

Free Training Opportunities



Carers Information Service run regular free training and information sessions for Croydon carers aged 16 and over. For more information take a look at their website www.carersinfo.org.uk or contact [Ruth Laws](mailto:Ruth.Laws@carersinfo.org.uk) on 020 8649 6280 or email ruthlaws@carersinfo.org.uk

PIP Croydon

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Together we can make a difference