

# This Is News!

The **FREE** termly newsletter for families with a disabled child



Congratulations to Shehnaz Shah the winner of the 'This is News' Design-a-logo competition. Shehnaz will be invited to our offices, to receive the prize and to help turn the design into reality in time for our next issue.

**Education Leeds**



**Leeds**  
CITY COUNCIL



Leeds **NHS**  
Primary Care Trust

## Editorial Team Update

Hello and welcome to the second issue of this newsletter. We'd like to say a very big thank you to all the parents who have made comments and suggestions, about this newsletter. We do take all the feedback we receive very seriously and will try to accommodate all suggestions into the newsletter. We want families to be a BIG part and process of the success of this newsletter.

The editorial team have been locked away with all the entries we received for our logo and title competition. Many thanks for all your contributions, but eventually we had to pick a winner and it was decided that Shehnaz Shah, was the winning entrant.

There will also be 2 runner up prizes as well these go to:

Alex Lui of LS8 age 14

Dilwinder Singh Tak of Harehills age 13

Many thanks for your all your entries.

Inside this issue you will find many things to do during the summer holidays, and remember 2008 is the National Year of Reading, so please visit your local library and join in the fun and games there.

Happy reading,

The editorial team.

## Contents

Page 4	Local and National news
Page 8	Play and leisure
Page 14	Childcare for Working Parents
Page 20	The Family Hub
Page 22	Money Matters
Page 30	Social Care
Page 33	Voluntary Organisations
Page 36	Feedback Form

The Family Hub gives families advice on childcare, services for families, sport and leisure activities. Contact them at:-

**0800 731 0640**  
**0113 247 4386**

**family.hub@leeds.gov.uk**  
**www.thefamilyhubleeds.org**

**Disclaimer: Every effort is made to ensure that the information in this newsletter is correct. Leeds City Council, and the agencies represented within this publication can accept no liability for errors or omissions. The views and opinions expressed within are not necessarily those of Leeds City Council and any agencies it works with.**



## Parent's Letters

Dear This Is News!

I am writing to tell parents of a very inclusive and positive organisation – The Brownies.

After being told that my 7 year old daughter who has high functioning autism, would never be put forward for her ballet rosettes "because of her condition" I was at a loss for an out of school activity for her to try.

An acquaintance suggested Brownies. I was unsure at first due to some misconceptions I had. I took her along and she loved it. She has never been treated differently and has fully participated in all of the activities her pack has undertaken: a trip to Chester Zoo, a weekend away with a party, a trip to Eureka! and a sleepover in the Church! Oh, and carol singing at Morrisons.

I never thought that she would be able to join in and broaden her horizons. This also gives us valuable respite to recharge our batteries.

Whenever I get nervous of her trying something Brown Owl just calmly re-assures me with a "of course she can take part, she's a Brownie!" Maybe statutory organisations would be more inclusive if they had this attitude.

A happy parent  
Armley, Leeds

*Editors Note:- For more information and to find your nearest Scouts/Cubs/Beavers/Guides/Brownies group contact the Family Hub on*

**0800 731 0640**

**family.hub@leeds.gov.uk**

**www.thefamilyhubleeds.org**

# Brownies



**Girlguiding UK**

*girls in the lead*

## Local and National News

### Aiming High For Disabled Children

#### **Core offer for Disabled Children and their families**

Aiming High for Disabled Children is the national programme to improve outcomes for disabled children and their families. There is additional funding of £430 million over three years across the country to support this.

The Government intends to improve outcomes and equality of opportunity for disabled children and their families, to increase the range of support available with an emphasis on early intervention. The aim is to improve access to universal services as well as focussing on specialist services.

The additional funding has been earmarked for those services that families have said are most important to help them live ordinary lives: short term breaks, access to child care, transition to adult services, access to equipment and wheelchairs, and strengthening the voice of families with disabled children.

In Aiming High for Disabled Children, the Government made a commitment to establish a "core offer" for disabled children and their families. This "core offer" will help parents and young people better understand what they can expect from local services and show differences in provision across areas and help raise standards

The core offer will focus on five areas: information, transparency, participation, assessment and feedback. There are standards in each of these areas that should be met.

In order to measure how different areas are meeting this core offer, parents will be asked in a survey about their experiences of Disabled Children's Services where they live.

Chris Finnigan  
Programme Manager for  
Disabled Children  
[Chris.finnigan@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:Chris.finnigan@leeds.gov.uk)  
**Tel 0113 247 8667**

**For more details on Aiming High or for the latest news on national government changes visit the Every Disabled Child Matters website at [www.edcm.org.uk](http://www.edcm.org.uk) or contact them on Telephone:- 020 7843 6448 Email:- [info.edcm.org.uk](mailto:info.edcm.org.uk)**



Matthew McCarthy in an EDCM t-shirt

# Early Support

## Early Support – The Story in Leeds so far....

Following on from the article in the Easter issue, we will be looking at the development of Early Support in Leeds.

### Background:

Initially there was a Marketplace Event to launch Early Support in Leeds. This introduced Early Support to all the local services and partners and was supported by individual briefing sessions and distribution of the Early Support materials.

The Early Support Days in September and October 2007 agreed the next steps to start the process of using the principles and materials. One of these next steps was to appoint a Coordinator

### Current Developments:

#### The Children and Young People's Plan

Early Support has been written into the new version of the Children and Young People's Plan and is part of the overall development plan of the Multi-agency Programme Manager for Children with Disabilities, Chris Finnigan.

#### Family Support

We are currently working on plans to provide a point of contact and support to assist families to access inclusive services in their local area and ensure co-ordination of all professionals involved with the family and the child through a key worker for families with higher level needs or by supporting a lead professional to be able to do this. This support will also enable the family to plan as future needs arise. This service should start to be available by the end of 2008.

### Children's Centres and Child Care Providers

I will be working closely with the children's centres and local child care providers over the next twelve months to raise awareness of Early Support and the materials so they are able to work in partnership with families and the services they use.

In the next issue I will look at the Early Support Family file – what it is and how it can be used.

### Louise Snowden

#### Early Support Coordinator

[louise.snowden@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:louise.snowden@leeds.gov.uk)

[www.earlysupport.org.uk](http://www.earlysupport.org.uk)

# Early Support

Helping every child succeed

From 1st May 2008, the Early Support website has been redesigned and rewritten to support the mainstreaming of Early Support across England.

The new website features:-

- talking web pages and documents
- information for families to enable them to find relevant pages more easily
- Your stories - a new section where parents and practitioners explain how Early Support has made a difference
- Short videos detailing information about Early Support and parent's views complete with subtitles if required.

To view the new website visit

[www.earlysupport.org](http://www.earlysupport.org)

## **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITY MARKET PLACE EVENT**

FREE Event  
Tuesday 24th June 2008 12pm - 6pm  
Banqueting Suite, Leeds Civic Hall

This market place event is a direct response to parent consultation carried out by Hilary Britton (Deputy Head - West SILC), Jane Midgley (Learning Mentor - West SILC) with support from the Parent Partnership Service. From the responses parents gave, they were keen to access all the services available to support their child under one roof, to provide an opportunity for information sharing, discussion and consultation.

**The following services will be there for you to speak to:**

- **Parent Partnership Service**
- **Choice Advice Service**
- **The Family Hub**
- **Leeds Inclusive Learning Strategy**
- **LEAP Project**
- **Special Needs and Parent Support**
- **The Vine – post 19 education**
- **People in Action**
- **Early Years Special Educational Needs Team**
- **Early Years Support Team**
- **The Elisabeth Svendsen Trust for Children & Donkeys**
- **Leeds Children Continuing Care Team**
- **Visually Impaired Team**
- **Leeds Speech and Language Therapy Service**
- **Deaf and Hearing Impaired Team – Sensory Service**
- **Transitions Team**
- **Child Health and Disability Teams**
- **Leeds Children Nursing Team**
- **Leeds Primary Care Trust Parenting Course**
- **Leeds Mencap**
- **Hawthorn Family Support Centre**
- **REEMAP**
- **Learning Partnerships**
- **Supporting Parents**
- **ABC Group**
- **Pyramid of Arts**
- **FAST Team – STEPS Programme**
- **Leeds Disability Benefit Centre**
- **Leeds Library**
- **North West SILC (Specialist Inclusive Learning Centre)**
- **Wellbeing – pamper sessions (booking system)**
- **Leeds Inclusion Support Scheme**
- **Phab – Physically Disabled & Able Bodied**



## Landmark case could lead to new rights for millions of carers

### What was the case about?

Sharon Coleman worked as a legal secretary for a law firm. She left her job and took her employer to court for Constructive Dismissal, claiming she had suffered disability discrimination because she had a disabled son. This is termed 'Discrimination by Association'.

### Why did she feel she had to leave her job and take legal action?

When her son was born disabled, she felt her employers began to treat her differently. When she asked for time off to deal with her caring responsibilities she was described as 'lazy'. She said she was not allowed as much flexibility as parents of other children. She said her manager had commented that her child was always sick, and had accused her of trying to use his condition to get out of work. Eventually she felt she had no choice but to resign and bring a case under disability discrimination laws, to say that she had been discriminated against because her son is disabled.

### Why is it in the European courts?

Under UK law, disability discrimination laws apply only to the disabled person themselves. The employment tribunal in London which heard Sharon's case decided to refer the case to Europe, because the European Union's Equal Treatment Directive interprets disability discrimination more widely than the UK. Under the Directive it was arguable that the person who suffers the discrimination does not have to suffer from the disability themselves but could be the parent or spouse of a disabled person.

### What has this judgement said?

An Advocate-General, the most senior law officer of the European Court of Justice, has now agreed that the Equal Treatment Directive makes "discrimination by association" unlawful in the same way as discrimination against the disabled person themselves. This statement of a legal principle is an important landmark in the case, but it is not yet the final decision.

A panel of European judges will make a final ruling on the issue later this year, though it is relatively rare for them to disagree with the Advocate-General's advice (in about 80% of European Court of Justice cases, the judges back the Advocate-General's opinion). Only after this stage will the Employment Tribunal in London consider the particular facts of Sharon Coleman's case.

### Does this mean UK discrimination law is now different?

Not yet, but the case will have huge implications for carers in the UK if the European Court of Justice follows the Advocate General's advice. There are currently 2.5 million carers who are in work, yet one in five gives up work to care, meaning that we are losing thousands of people from the workforce every year. Every employer will have to look at their practices and make sure they are not discriminating against carers.

**Editor's note:** Thanks to Carers UK, from whose website this article was taken. For more information visit their website at [www.carersuk.org](http://www.carersuk.org)

# Places to visit / things to do

One of the most frustrating times for any parents or carers are school holidays. Having to keep the kids entertained while on a budget, or finding places to go that have easy access or facilities can be a real struggle.

Please remember we invite you to share with us any positive experiences you've had, in the local area. This could be a restaurant, museum, leisure activity or a service you have used and let us know.

## Libraries

# TEAM READ

### Would you like something fun to do over the summer?

Go for gold with this summer's reading game with your local library!

Children of all ages can take part in a free reading game during the summer holiday, join Team Read at your local library, win stickers, prizes and for completing the challenge of reading 6 books in the summer you will be awarded with your very own certificate and medal!

The summer reading challenge gives children a great chance to have fun with books and to feel rewarded for reading. It is not about children reading as many books as they can; it's about children enjoying books, finding out more about books; and knowing how to find the books they're interested in reading – and sharing reading time with you!

**The challenge starts on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July and finishes on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September!**

There are lots of ways that you can support your children when they take part in the summer reading challenge:

- You can 'meet' some favourite children's authors in the reading challenge website – [www.teamread.co.uk](http://www.teamread.co.uk) - there are fun activities to try online, too.

- Take time to explore the library. Find out about all the different things children can borrow, and how to find books that they want. You can always ask the library staff for help.
- Share the reading, particularly if your child is beginning to read. Be very patient and encouraging!
- Whatever age your child is, there are always times when it's lovely to be read to – and to talk about what you think about the books. By the end of the reading challenge, we hope that your child has enjoyed all the library activities, and a range of great new books.

**Look out for free, fun library activities in the holidays and make a visit to the library a family outing. For information about free events in libraries please visit**

[www.breezeleeds.org](http://www.breezeleeds.org) or [www.leeds.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/libraries) or [www.thefamilyhubleeds.org](http://www.thefamilyhubleeds.org)

**On your marks, get set .....go!**  
For more information visit your local library or call Enquiry Express on **0113 247 6016**



## Libraries and Boardmaker

Leeds Library and Information Service has bought over 50 copies of Boardmaker software and installed it in ten libraries across the city.

Boardmaker has been installed at the following libraries:

Armley, Central Library, Compton Road, Garforth, Guiseley, Holt Park, Moor Allerton, Morley, Seacroft, Wetherby.

Boardmaker in libraries contains almost 10,000 images that can be used to make and print symbol-based materials.

Symbols can be used to create:

- visual schedules for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders,
- educational and functional living skills materials for children with special educational needs,
- symbol boards and instruction sheets for anyone with communication difficulties.

The symbols can be customised to suit your own requirements.

- You can change the colour of symbols or use black and white symbols.
- You can combine different symbols onto a single button.
- You can even use your own digital photos or import images from the internet!

Each library with Boardmaker has a laminator to use with the software, so that professionals and parents can laminate their own boards and symbols.

One parent has already learnt how to use the software at her local library. She told us what a difference it's made to her and her son:

"Since we've had Boardmaker at the library he's up to four pictures on his sentence strip now. He's expanded how he's using it just in that short time. It's fantastic! I printed this template for him

the other day and we're going to use it as a shopping list. He hates supermarkets, the light and the noise bother him. But I can use this with pictures and symbols of the things that I want him to put in our trolley when we go shopping. Then he'll have something to do and he can tick them off when he's done them. Because he'll have something to focus on, he'll forget about the things that bother him. He might start to love shopping! For me and him, in our little world, pictures are fantastic."

If you would like to learn how to use Boardmaker you can book a session with a Librarian at any library that has the software. Just contact your chosen library.

There is no charge for using Boardmaker in Libraries.

There is no charge for laminating your boards and symbols.

Regular library charges apply for printing = 15p per page.

For more information about Boardmaker in libraries, contact:

Jason Tutin, Learning Co-ordinator

**Tel: 0113 395 2357**

**E-mail: Jason.Tutin@leeds.gov.uk**



## Armley Mills

Housed in what was once the world's largest woollen mill, Leeds Industrial Museum at Armley Mills is the place where you can see history in action. It houses a wealth of gems, nestled in a beautiful riverside location.

The museum contains exhibits from the 18th century to the present day and tells the history of manufacturing in Leeds, including textiles, clothing, printing and engineering. There's even a 1920's cinema to watch films and cartoons in.

Kids bored during the summer holidays? Bring them along for craft based activities based on the museum's collection. Come along and get a bit messy! All times are **10.30-12.00** or **1.30-3.00** and **booking is essential.**

**(Call 0113 263 7861 to book)**



**Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> July** Dress Up As A Victorian. Get a photo and a frame as a memento

**Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> July** Lights Camera Action Workshop.

Learn about the history of animation and how to make cartoons like Wallace and Gromit (please bring a memory stick to save your cartoon on)

**Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> July** Colour Fun Workshop Suitable for 6+.

Explore our colour garden and carrying out hands-on experiments including making spinning spectra and see the explosion of colour in the mad-milky experiment.

**Tues 29<sup>th</sup> July** Victorian Toys/Games. Learn about the toys Victorian children would have played with and get to make your own.

**Other dates:-**

**Wed 30<sup>th</sup> July** Dress Up As A Victorian

**Thurs 31<sup>st</sup> July** Colour Fun Workshop

**Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Aug** Dress Up As A Victorian

**Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Aug** Colour Fun Workshop

**Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> Aug** Armley Bug Hunt

Search the grounds for mini-beasts

**Tues 12<sup>th</sup> Aug** Lights Camera Action

**Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Aug** Victorian Toys/Games

**Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> Aug** Armley Bug hunt

**Tues 19<sup>th</sup> Aug** Lights Camera Action

**Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Aug** Mill Children Workshop

Ever wondered what it was like to work in a mill as a child in the Victorian times? Learn the sad tale of George Dyson and experience what it was like to live, dress and work as a Victorian child.

**Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> Aug** Colour Fun Workshop

**Weds 26<sup>th</sup> Aug** Armley Bug Hunt.

As part of national insect week we'll be searching the grounds for mini-beasts and taking part in the 2 spot ladybird survey.

**Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> Aug** Armley Bug Hunt.



Armley Mills has disabled toilets on every floor, ramps, chair lifts and a lift as well.

**Leeds Industrial Museum  
at Armley Mills**

**Canal Road**

**Leeds**

**LS12 2QF**

**armley.mills@leeds.gov.uk**

**0113 263 7861**

## Reader Reviews

Reader Reviews!!!



### Our visit to Temple Newsam

By Mandy Craven, Jasmine (Age 8) and Josh (Age 11)

Jasmine is a very lively child with high functioning autism. Josh is a lively kid that likes outdoor activities, especially football!

Last year we packed a picnic, outdoor games (and a football) and headed to Temple Newsam. It was quite easy to get there on the buses in Summer. There is also plenty of car parking available. Entry prices were reasonable with Leeds and Breeze cards.

We went to the House first. This did not last long. Jasmine's condition means that she does not like following orders, and likes to touch things. Temple Newsam House is not hands-on and the constant attention from the security staff led to stress and anxiety.

However, the rest of our visit was fun. The Formal Gardens are lovely, with loads of different scents and colours. We enjoyed our picnic on the huge stretch of green grass, the kids also managed to run off some energy. Then we went for a walk in the woods and fed ducks on the lake.

Home Farm is fantastic for kids. All children are given a bag of grass pellets to feed to the animals. There are usually baby animals as well. Activities are also well-organised and staffed. The playground is good for younger children.

We finished the day off with home-made cakes and drinks in the café. This is reasonably priced and there are seats outside as indoors can get crowded.

Both of my energetic kids were exhausted at the end of the day. So, overall Temple Newsam is a great place to spend a whole day, if the weather is good.

**Many Thanks to Amanda Craven and her children for our first Reader Review. Please remember we invite you to share with us any positive experiences you've had, in the local area. This could be a restaurant, museum, leisure activity or a service you have used. Let us know, and we'll print the best one every issue.**

## Holidays!

When there is a child or an adult with special or additional needs in the family, a holiday can be quite troublesome, that is if you can find somewhere to go on holiday in the first place! Many families successfully use **THE DAISY CHAIN PROJECT** which is in Blackpool.

The Daisy Chain Project offers accommodation, notably apartments, to be used for a holiday break by any family who has a child with additional needs. It also caters for adults with additional needs who still need to holiday with their parents. These apartments can also be used by families coping with limited means in difficult circumstances or families rebuilding their lives after the loss of a child.

There are 8 apartments in total with 7 of them themed and one not themed, which is intended for families who have adult children who holiday with their parents. The themes are Peter Rabbit's Den, The Enchanted Forest, The Planet Suite, Animal Kingdom, Seaside Dreams, Bluebell Wood and Bob the Builder's Pad. The non themed apartment is called The Penthouse! Each apartment consists of a lounge, kitchen, bathroom with electric shower and two bedrooms.

There is no limit on age or on the number of visits any one family can make. The Kensington Foundation, who runs the Project, provides the accommodation rent free. The holidays run from Monday to Sunday and the only charge is a £45 booking fee. Referring agencies include Children's Hospices and Hospitals, Social Workers, Health Visitors, Mencap, Charitable Trusts, Parent Support Groups and Playschemes. Parents can also self refer and do by contacting the Daisy Chain Project themselves.

If you are interested or would like to know more go to [www.kensingtonfoundation.com](http://www.kensingtonfoundation.com) or contact:

The Project Director  
The Daisy Chain Project  
Kensington Foundation Resource Centre  
The Lodge  
216 Whitegate Drive  
Blackpool FY3 9JL

**Tel: 01253 761444**

Email: [kentrust1@hotmail.com](mailto:kentrust1@hotmail.com)

*Article submitted by  
Susan McDonagh  
Leeds ABC Support Group*



## Sport and Active Recreation

Leeds City Council Sport and Active Recreation section delivers, supports and facilitates a range of disability sports and inclusive sports opportunities. Provision is based at a range of different venues including schools and leisure centres.

Some disabled young people participate in disability specific activities such as multi sports clubs, adapted cycling and swimming. Whilst some disabled young people prefer to be included in mainstream activities such as Striker football, gymnastics, and mainstream swimming. This means that there are options available to meet a range of different needs.

During the holidays there are lots of activities available to young people and we run these as inclusive schemes. Visit your local leisure centre for more information. We try to adapt programmes to meet the needs of all who attend, so talk to the organisers about the needs of your child. If your child needs 1-2-1 someone can come with them for free. Discounts are available at our activities if you have a Breeze Card or Leeds Card Extra.

The adapted cycling scheme runs at the John Charles Centre for Sport.

This scheme offers a range of different types of bikes adapted to suit a range of different needs.

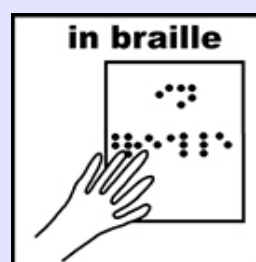
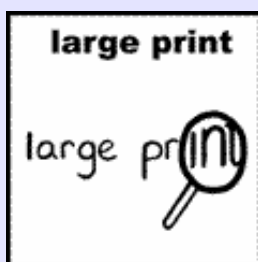
This programme runs throughout the summer including the holidays. You can book places as an individual or a group. Contact the John Charles Centre for Sport for more information **0113 395 0000**.

Daniel having fun on one of the adapted bikes



Leeds Sailing and Activity Centre (Yeadon Tarn) is another place you may like to visit. They offer a range of activities both water based and land based throughout the year. During the summer break they run a disability water based programme of activities including sailing and canoeing each week starting 25<sup>th</sup> July. For more information and to book a place contact them on :- **0113 395 0001**.

We have a booklet of information which outlines the disability specific activities available in the City. This is called the Sport and Active Recreation Programme for Disabled People - this can be found on the Leeds City Council website [www.leeds.gov.uk/disabilitysport](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/disabilitysport). This programme is also available in other formats please contact Ruth Hartley for copies  
Tele: **0113 224 3329**  
email **LSP.B&SD@leeds.gov.uk**



## Childcare for Working Families with a Disabled Child

Increasingly so, more and more parents/carers find themselves wanting to return to work, undertake training or take up further/higher education. These are some of the times when we as parents need to take up and consider the raft of childcare services available to help us achieve these outcomes. There are a few extra things to think about when it comes to childcare for a disabled child but a lot of the considerations are the same as for any child.

### Things to consider:-

No matter what your child's age, ability or circumstances, all parents need to think about

- ✓ What sort of childcare would work best for your family  
- a childminder, nursery, or out-of-school club?
- ✓ Is the carer Ofsted Registered?  
(if your child is under 8)
- ✓ Will activities be appropriate for your child's abilities?
- ✓ Is the carer/setting safe, friendly and do you think your child will be happy?

You may also need to think about questions like:

- ✓ Does the carer have experience in looking after a child with a disability, and if not, would they be happy for you to show them what's needed?
- ✓ How much specialist care does your child need and is appropriate training available locally?
- ✓ Does your child have therapy or appointments that they need to attend and can your provider take your child to these appointments?

### Children with medical needs

Does the carer need specialist training or equipment? Often carers have to have specific training to give medication. As a parent, you'll be shown how to give medication to your child by your doctor, nurse or health visitor. You can ask the same person to give this training to your child's new carer.

Your social worker or special educational needs coordinator (SENCO) should be able to tell you more.

### Disability and/or Special Educational Needs (SEN)

All childcare providers are bound by the duties of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 to make 'reasonable adjustments' for disabled children and also through the SEN Code of Practice. Through this legislation and guidance, all childcare providers have to ensure that they must not treat a child 'less favourably' for reasons related to the child's disability or special need.

- The Early Support Programme will be able to provide informal advice on the availability of appropriate services for disabled children from birth to five and their families. For more information, visit [www.earlysupport.org.uk](http://www.earlysupport.org.uk)

- Contact a Family is a voluntary organisation that provides information and support for families with disabled children. Their freephone helpline number is **0808 808 3555** or the website is [www.cafamily.org.uk](http://www.cafamily.org.uk)

### **Early Years Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCOs)**

Nurseries and schools have a SENCO who will create opportunities for disabled children to enjoy all the activities the nursery or school has to offer.

Early Years SENCOs (sometimes called inclusion officers) give additional support to nurseries and schools by giving training, offering specialist advice and liaising with schools when the child is ready to go to full time education. SENCOs can give a lot of advice and support for parents who have children with special needs.

If you think your child needs help to access childcare please contact Leeds Inclusion Support Service - Pat Baldwinson on **0113 224 3927**. These support services are in place to help ensure that all providers can provide an inclusive service for all children. Leeds Inclusion Support Scheme can only provide support to providers for training, resources and grant support for additional staffing. They are unable to provide any financial assistance for fees.

### **Funding**

Don't forget a parent of a disabled child can also help pay for childcare costs via:

- **Direct Payments** which are cash payments from your local authority for parents of disabled children to buy their own support or care. Call:- **0845 602 2260** for a copy of 'A Parent's Guide to Direct Payments'.

- **Tax Credits** for more information see page 22

### **Free part-time early education for all three- and four-year-olds**

All three- and four-year-olds are entitled to a free part-time early education place. This means that each week your child will be provided with twelve-and-a-half hours of free early education for 38 weeks each year. In Leeds we offer 15 hours of early education in many of our settings, which includes:

- school nursery classes
- state or private nursery schools
- day nurseries
- playgroups and pre-schools

### **Your choices**

Each type of childcare has its pros and cons, and you'll need to work out what suits you and your family needs best, based on work hours, budgets, etc. But the first step is to find out what's available near you.

More and more services are providing more than just childcare – many offer a range of health, parental and family services too.

The Family Hub can tell you what's available. We hold up-to-date lists of the majority of local childcare and early education services. Registered childcarers or places on the lists will be regularly checked by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted), so you can be sure of safety and standards.



## Childcare for Working Families with a Disabled Child

### The Types of Childcare Available

#### Childminders

- Registered childminders look after your child along with other children, in their own home.
- They are allowed to care for up to six children under the age of eight, including their own – but only three of them can be aged under five.
- Self-employed, they decide on working hours. Most are willing to work early mornings, evenings as well as part-time.
- All registered childminders are required to undertake a basic training course, including first aid, and most go on to do further training and professional development.
- Your child should experience learning and development activities suitable for their age.



#### Day-Nurseries

- A day nursery provides care and education for children between the ages of six weeks and five years. (Many also offer out of school care for five- eleven yr olds.
- Day nurseries can be run by the council, the community, based in the workplace or privately run.
- Opening times are from around 7am to 7pm (hours vary but many nurseries may start before 8am), 50 weeks of the year. You can send your child full or part time.
- Your child should experience learning and development activities suitable for their age.

#### Children's Centres

- Sure Start Children's Centres provide a range of easily accessible and flexibly tailored services for families and children from pregnancy until the age of five. Their services include integrated early years provision and health services for children.
- They will also offer parenting education, family support services, outreach to parents, a base for childminders and links with Jobcentre Plus, Families Information Services (FIS) and adult learning.
- They are open a minimum of 48 weeks a year, five days a week, ten hours a day.

#### Nursery Schools & Classes

- Nursery schools and nursery classes provide early education and childcare for children between two and a half and five years old
- Some schools and classes are part of the state education system; others are run by private and voluntary sector organisations. Private provision charge fees which vary across the country.
- Nursery schools are open during school hours, usually 9am to 3:30pm in term time for full or half-day sessions. Many have extended their provision to cater for the needs of working parents.
- Your child should experience learning and development activities suitable for their age.
- Some may also offer out of school care before or after school during term time and in the school holidays, which could include a range of services for children under five and their families.

## **Pre-schools & Playgroups**

- Pre-schools or playgroups provide care and most offer early education for children between two and five years old.
- A pre-school or playgroup can be organised by the community on a not-for-profit basis, often with help from parents.
- They offer sessions from two-and-a-half hours to four hours, during term time, every day or for several days a week.
- Your child should experience learning and development activities suitable for their age.
- Pre-schools are a good way of extending your childcare and some are developing their services to offer longer sessions or

full-time daycare (check what is available locally).

## **Childcare/Out of School Activities Clubs**

- Many schools offer a variety of formal childcare and other activities outside usual school hours. These range from formal childcare in primary schools to music, art, sport and other study support activities. As a result the school is often open from 8am to 6pm, including during holiday periods.
- Depending on the hours you work, you can opt for a combination of breakfast clubs (normally open from 8am), after-school clubs (typically from 3.30pm and up to 6pm) and holiday play schemes (8am to 6pm) which run outside of term time.
- Sometimes referred to as out of school clubs, these services are based on school sites, but may also be in youth clubs, community centres or nurseries. Some schools organise the childcare themselves, but others will work with local voluntary groups, private providers and childminders, who will provide staff and sometimes facilities.
- The Government wants all schools to provide access to a menu of extended services by 2010 so that all children and parents across the country can benefit. High quality wraparound childcare, alongside other activities, will be provided on the school site or through other local

providers, with supervised transport arrangements where appropriate, available 8am to 6pm, year round.

**Playschemes** are run in the holidays for school age children, the times and days of Playschemes vary between different settings. Some are based on school sites but others may be in youth clubs, community centres or nurseries.

## **Standards & Quality in Childcare Provision**

People who work as Childminders or provide Day-care providers for children under 8 years old for more than two hours a day are registered by Ofsted and inspected at least once every three years. They judge how well the provider meets a series of outcomes for children that are set out in law. They also judge how well providers organise their childcare to help promote children's well-being, taking account of whether they meet the National Standards, and whether they use the best practice guidance. This process is done at the initial registration inspection and future inspections, they are given one of four grades: outstanding, good, satisfactory or inadequate. You can view inspection reports at:-

[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

We'd encourage you to arrange a visit with the childcare provider. If the provider also runs during out of school hours, delivers groups during holidays then arrange to meet key staff. This will enable the provider to gather information so care is consistent, and liaise with you, the school (with consent) or other key professionals. The provider will have time to access training, put resources/procedures in place (for communication, personal care, behaviour strategies etc.) and apply for inclusion support funding. It takes on average 4-6 weeks to recruit an additional member of staff. Going for several visits in the run up to the holidays will help your child settle in, allow the staff to ensure they have everything in place, and give you peace of mind.

## Childcare for Working Families with a Disabled Child

### Childcare for working parents with disabled teenagers

Parents of disabled children and young people will often need to access suitable childcare to enable them to go out to work throughout the time their child is attending school. There are after school clubs and holiday childcare provision in the city that will care for young people up to 14 years old, and childminders who will care for disabled young people. The Family Hub can give specific information about childcare availability. Support is also available through the Leeds Inclusion Support Service for additional costs of caring for disabled children and young people that registered childcare providers may experience.

For providers caring for children over 8 years there is a voluntary childcare register which shows they have met the basic standards designed to safeguard children.

Leeds City Council is aware however that there is a need to develop more age appropriate childcare for disabled young people to support working parents and those parents who may wish to work but find it difficult to find suitable childcare. The Aiming High for Disabled Children programme will provide some additional funding to develop childcare for working parents of disabled children and we will focus some of this funding on developing appropriate childcare for all young people over 10 years old which will be suitable for disabled young people throughout their teenage years

If you would like to feedback in respect of your experiences in finding childcare for disabled teenagers or your views on how this should be developed in the future, please contact Chris Finnigan, Tel **0113 247 8667**, [chris.finnigan@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:chris.finnigan@leeds.gov.uk) or Julia Manning, Extended Services Development Manager on **0113 247 6827**, [julia.manning@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:julia.manning@leeds.gov.uk)





## Breeze on Tour Summer '08

This summer, get yourself a BreezeCard and try Breeze on Tour, a great choice for something to do in the summer. You'll get to try the climbing wall, karaoke, play football, different types of art, race on the obstacle course, make a DVD, watch a movie or performances by international and local artists and bands, try new sports, practice your DJ skills, learn to street dance...and so much more.

We've been working with the organisers to make sure that SILC pupils, young people with additional needs, their friends and families will have a great time on these days:

West Leeds	Armley Park, Thursday 24th July	12pm - 5pm
East	Fearnville Leisure Centre, Wednesday 30th July	12pm - 5pm
South	Cross Flatts Park, Wednesday 6th August	12pm - 5pm
North East	Scott Hall Road, Wednesday 13th August	12pm - 5pm
North West	Kirkstall, Wednesday 20th August	12pm - 5pm

If you are aged 8 to 19 just turn up with your BreezeCard and you'll get in for free.

There is a limited amount of funding available if you need transport or additional support, but this is not available to families who already receive mobility allowance or existing carer support. For information contact Pat Baldwinson at [pat.baldwinson@pre-school.org.uk](mailto:pat.baldwinson@pre-school.org.uk) or Telephone: **0113 224 3927**.

If you would like more information about Breeze or to apply for a BreezeCard go to [www.breezeleeds.org](http://www.breezeleeds.org)



## The Family Hub Leeds

The Family Hub is a free telephone, one to one appointment and internet service provided by Leeds City Council's (LCC) Early Years and Youth Service that provides information, advice and guidance for parents/carers, about organisations and services across the whole of Leeds. We aim to provide all the information that could help parents/carers and their children who live in Leeds. We also provide information on how to access all the facilities and services provided by LCC, Health Services and the thousands of voluntary groups throughout Leeds.

As parents, we'll provide you with information to support your children growing up and we focus on the 0 - 20 age range (up to 25 if your child is disabled).

Our team comprises of a team of dedicated Information Officers who are available to answer your calls.

We also have a team of Childcare Advisors who will provide advice help and support and they can come out and see you in a venue/location near to your home.

Our topic areas fall into three groups:

### Childcare

Our information systems can be accessed: by phone **0800 731 0640**; on the internet [www.thefamilyhubleeds.org](http://www.thefamilyhubleeds.org) or if you are having difficulties and require a one to one appointment call **0800 731 0640**. We can find you the nearest registered childcare eg, childminder, nursery, playgroup, out of school club or playschemes.

### Services for Families

We cover a wide range of services that include: how and where to access local health centres, local colleges, or if you need training opportunities, advice on parenting courses etc and... when things get difficult, where to get help on support, counselling and therapy services, substance abuse etc

### Sports, Leisure and the Arts

From martial arts clubs to ballet and streetdance, film-making to drawing and jewellery making. Tennis, football, and netball it's all there from A to Z! We also provide links to places of interest, galleries, parks and gardens etc

All the information on services and activities described above are available from our web site:

[www.thefamilyhubleeds.org](http://www.thefamilyhubleeds.org)

**FOR INFORMATION ABOUT  
SERVICES IN YOUR AREA  
PLEASE CONTACT THE FAMILY  
HUB ON TEL:**

**0800 731 0640**

**EMAIL:**

**[family.hub@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:family.hub@leeds.gov.uk)**

**check the website at**

**[www.thefamilyhubleeds.org](http://www.thefamilyhubleeds.org)**



## Childcare Advisors

### Who Is the service for?

The Family Hub has a dedicated team of Childcare Advisors who can help you find registered affordable childcare.

We offer a one to one service in which we give advice, help and support in finding childcare that is just right for you and your family.

If you are experiencing difficulties with

- Finding childcare
- knowing what to look for in a quality setting
- Needing advice on what questions to ask providers
- knowing what childcare options are on offer
- Feeling you could do with some support while visiting childcare settings.

Then contact one of our experienced Childcare Advisors who can help you answer all these questions and support you while finding childcare

Our Advisors can inform parents about the variety of quality, affordable childcare on offer and help parents to 'make informed choices' about suitable childcare.

### Aims/Objectives

- Our Service is available to all parents/ carers of children aged between 0-16 (up to 25 if the child/young person is disabled).
- The Advisors have a wealth of knowledge and experience in the childcare field and children and families are at the heart of everything we do.
- If necessary we can accompany parents and their children on a visit to a Childcare setting and in some cases offer a 'Childcare Taster Session' where parents can try out childcare at no cost.
- We can help you with the transition into work/training.
- If necessary we can come out to see you in your area.
- The service will be tailored to your individual needs/aspirations.
- We will provide you with information on all the different childcare options available to you.
- We can signpost you to other services that may be beneficial to you.
- We work closely with Jobcentre Plus and they can give you information and advice on benefits, training and jobs if, and when you feel ready to access them.
- We listen as well as advise - if you have any comments please contact us.

You can contact our service via The Family Hub:

**FOR  
INFORMATION  
ABOUT SERVICES  
IN YOUR AREA  
PLEASE CONTACT  
THE FAMILY HUB  
ON TEL:  
0800 731 0640**



**EMAIL:  
family.hub@leeds.gov.uk  
or check the website at  
www.thefamilyhubleeds.org**



# MONEY MATTERS!!!



## Tax Credits

Often people are not aware, or do not claim their full entitlement for Tax Credits. Read below to see if you are getting all that you are entitled to.

### Who can get Tax Credits?

There are two types of Tax Credits, you make one claim that covers both.

**Child Tax Credit**, is a tax free income for households with children. There is a family element that most families get and a child element payable for each child. You get extra if your child/ren has a disability.

Tax Credits are made up of a number of different elements. See table below. If your income is low enough, you receive a cash sum equal to the sum of all the elements that apply to you. If your income is higher you get a smaller amount of Tax Credits.

Most families qualify for at least the family element of child Tax Credit.

Rates and Thresholds	2008-09
<b>Child Tax Credit Family element</b>	£545
<b>Family element, baby addition</b>	£545
<b>Child element</b>	£2,085
<b>Disabled child element</b>	£2,540
<b>Severely disabled child element</b>	£1,020

**Working Tax Credit** is a tax-free income for households where you and/or your partner, if you have one, work but your income is fairly low. Families with children qualify provided you or your partner work at least 16 hours a week. Working Tax Credits includes a childcare element that can provide up to £300 a week towards the cost of childcare so that you can get out to work.

### Working Tax Credit Element.

Rates and Thresholds	2008-09
<b>Basic element</b>	£1,800
<b>Couple and lone parent element</b>	£1,770
<b>30 hour element</b>	£735
<b>Disabled worker element</b>	£2,405
<b>Severe disability element</b>	£1,020
<b>50+ Return to work payment (16-29 hours)</b>	£1,235
<b>50+ Return to work payment (30+ hours)</b>	£1,840

### Childcare Element of Working Tax Credits

Rates and Thresholds	2008-09
<b>Maximum eligible cost for one child</b>	£175 per week
<b>Maximum eligible cost for two or more children</b>	£300 per week
<b>Percentage of eligible costs covered</b>	80%

Rates of tax credits are shown for the tax year 6<sup>th</sup> April 2008 to 5<sup>th</sup> April 2009, please note that these will change from 5<sup>th</sup> April 2009, and are here as only a guide.

## **How Tax Credits are paid.**

Tax Credits are paid direct to your bank or building society account or, if you prefer to a Post Office Card Account. Child Tax Credit and the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit are usually paid to whoever is the main carer (normally the person who also gets the child benefit). If you are a couple you can decide which of you receives the rest of any Working Tax Credit.

## **Information you need to make a claim**

When you make a claim you'll need to give details of your income for the last tax year. A tax year runs from 6 April one year to 5 April the next.

To make your claim you might need the following information to hand:

- **your National Insurance number**
- **your Child Benefit reference number**
- **your P60 or wage slips for the last tax year if you were employed**
- **details of your income for the last tax year and your unique tax reference number (UTR) if you were self-employed**
- **details of any benefits you get, like Contributions based Jobseeker's Allowance or Carer's Allowance**
- **details of other income you get like savings interest, pensions or rent**
- **details of any childcare payments you make if you use a registered or approved provider, including, for example, an out of school hours club on school premises**
- **details of the bank or building society account you want us to pay your tax credits into**

You'll get a set of notes with your claim form that will help you fill it in. If you need more help, you can call the Tax Credit Helpline on Tel **0845 300 3900** or textphone **0845 300 3909**.

This information was taken from "HMRC Tax Credits" website.

**[www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits)**

Contact a Family have recently launched a new leaflet entitled: Benefits, Tax Credits and other financial help.

You can download the factsheet direct from them at  
**[www.cafamily.org.uk/benefits.html](http://www.cafamily.org.uk/benefits.html)**

Contact a Family is a UK-wide charity providing support, advice and information for families with disabled children.

Contact a Family may also be able to help with information and contacts for many conditions - please contact them on.

Freephone **0808 808 3555** (Mon - Fri, 10am - 4pm & Mon 5.30pm - 7.30pm)

**[www.cafamily.org.uk](http://www.cafamily.org.uk)**

**contact a family**  
for families with disabled children

## Leeds Inclusion Support Scheme

**Leeds Inclusion Support Scheme** (LISS) has grown from a small project supporting local playgroups to a scheme that provides funding in the form of small grants to everything from Brownie groups, private day nurseries, youth clubs to summer playschemes. It has seen many changes over the years to meet the different needs of families and their children and all the various community activities that they would like to use.

Although we hope our procedures have always been fair and easy to understand. We are aware that as the scheme has expanded, it has become difficult to ensure a fair and just service to families while helping settings to become inclusive.

A couple of years ago we joined Education Leeds to use a single procedure for all Early Years settings. Like any change there were some 'teething' problems but we have seen a successful merge. This made us think about how we could improve families accessing support in other types of activities, such as out of school settings and holiday playschemes. So in the next couple of months we will be launching the new Inclusion Handbook for Out of School settings.

We have taken the information developed by Education Leeds that is familiar to schools and families and have developed new help and advice that is more in keeping with Out Of School settings where play and fun is the most important outcome.

We hope the Inclusion Handbook will provide resources for settings to understand inclusion and encourage the involvement of the family and other professionals. It contains useful resources for planning, preparation, and gathering information that will support the setting to provide consistency of care for children with additional needs. We hope this will make sure that inclusion is a positive experience for all.

We recognise that the systems for applying for grants when needed will be clearer and more equal.

The handbooks will be given to Out Of School Clubs, Playschemes and other settings at forums and meetings in the next few months.

If you would like your child to access a playscheme or out of school provision your first step should be to look at all the different childcare and play provision available locally. Decide where you feel your child would be most happy. Be prepared to visit the setting. Don't be put off if they say they have never had a child with special needs before as they might be really welcoming and ready to learn but have never had the opportunity. They should know about Leeds Inclusion Support Scheme but if they don't ask them to get in touch with us. Grants for support are available for all types of childcare and play settings especially during the Summer break period.

In 2007 - 2008 we supported 212 individual children to access everything from Pre-schools to Out Of School Clubs. These grants are only possible due to funds from Leeds SureStart Partnership, Leeds Primary Care Trust, Leeds Children's Fund and Social Care Carers Grant. For further details on grants please contact:

Pat Baldwinson  
Special Needs Development Worker  
Pre School Learning Alliance  
**0113 224 3927**

Karen Green/ Bob Morse  
Inclusion Support Workers  
Leeds Play Network  
**0113 201 6790**



# Leeds Parent Partnership Service

Information and advice for parents and carers of children with individual educational needs



If you have a child with special educational needs, trying to get the best advice and help may seem like a confusing and frightening experience. The thought of approaching school, Education Leeds and other professionals can be intimidating.

The Parent Partnership Service is designed to help parent(s) and carers of children with Special Education Needs (SEN), receive the advice, information and guidance necessary to make the right choices for their child.

Leeds Parent Partnership Service is very pleased to announce that the team have recently achieved the Chartermark award. The award is for Customer Service Excellence, the team had to produce evidence to show that we:-

- **Set clear service standards and perform well**
- **Actively engage with customers, partners and staff**
- **Are fair and accessible to everyone and promote choice**
- **Continuously develop and improve**
- **Use resources effectively and imaginatively**
- **Contribute to improving opportunities and quality of life in the communities we service**

The assessor also spoke to focus groups made up of parents, carers, Independent Parent Supporters and professionals.

Some of the quotes from the report are as follows:

"Partners and parents/carers themselves are impressed with the level of specialist knowledge of staff and their ability to provide reassurance."

"Staff are regarded as professional and committed people"

In the words of one parent they frequently "*go the extra mile*"

"Satisfaction levels amongst those using the service are high."

If you wish to contact the service you can do so by

telephone:- **0113 395 1222**

email:- **education.pps@educationleeds.co.uk.**

Please also visit our new website [www.leedsparentpartnership.co.uk](http://www.leedsparentpartnership.co.uk) which is still being developed, we would welcome any comments on this.

"I feel everyone who is involved with the service contributed greatly to the award and I would like to thank you and the team for the work involved and your continuing support, we could not have achieved Chartermark without you."

Thank you once again **Bridget Mork - Coordinator Parent Partnership Service**

## Extended School Services and the Specialist Inclusive Learning Centres (SILCs) Summer 2008

**Brigshaw High School and Language College** in Allerton Bywater offers a range of inclusive activities as follows:

- A Transition Club for years 6-7 in week starting July 27<sup>th</sup>
- A Europe Culture Club for years 5-10 in week starting August 4<sup>th</sup>
- A Bollywood Culture Club for years 5-10 in week starting August 11<sup>th</sup>
- A USA Culture Club for years 5-10 in week starting August 18<sup>th</sup>

Disabled children and young people living in the Brigshaw area are welcomed. The school has facilities to support wheelchair users, but transport cannot be provided. Contact Caroline Naylor on **0113 336 8126** or **07528 314 630** for further information.

Brigshaw High School, Brigshaw Lane, Allerton Bywater, WF10 2HR

**John Jamieson School and Technology College** (East SILC) in Oakwood will offer an activity scheme between August 11<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> for up to 40 young people with special needs aged 7-18 yrs.

Contact Sue Castle on **07891 277 853** for further information.

John Jamieson School, Hollin Hill Drive, Leeds, LS8 2PW, [www.eastsilc.org](http://www.eastsilc.org)

West Oaks (North East SILC) in Boston Spa will offer a number of summer activities as follows:

- The "Seniors" play scheme for up to 15 young people with special needs aged 12-15 yrs. The scheme will be open between July 23<sup>rd</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup>. Volunteers are welcomed. A few places may also be available on the "Wosps" summer scheme for young people aged 8-11 yrs.  
Contact Elaine Hampson on **01937 844 772** for further information.
- The "Whoosh" play scheme for young people with complex needs aged 8-10 yrs. The scheme will be open between July 23<sup>rd</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup>. This scheme will operate subject to funding.

Contact Jenny Clarke on **01937 844 772** for further information.

West Oaks School, Westwood Way, Boston Spa, Wetherby, LS23 6DX

**Aireborough Summer Activities Scheme** Summer Activity Days will be taking place from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July until Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2008 at Green Meadows School, Bradford Road, Guiseley.

The scheme is open to all children, 4-19 years old, who have moderate to severe learning and/or physical disabilities and live in the Aireborough area (LS5, LS16, LS18, LS19, LS20, LS21)

The cost will be £8 per child per day, this includes transport where necessary.

If you would like your child to attend or for more information please contact:-

Jo Galasso on **07764 432 933** or email [joanne.galasso@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:joanne.galasso@leeds.gov.uk)

**Leeds MENCAP**, will offer a summer play scheme as follows:

- One week starting July 23<sup>rd</sup> for 30 children with special needs over 9 yrs.  
Contact [zoedooley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:zoedooley@hotmail.co.uk)
- Two weeks starting July 28<sup>th</sup> for 2-4 yrs (week 1) and 5-8 yrs (week 2). There will be 10 places available each week.

Contact [suekendall40@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:suekendall40@yahoo.co.uk)

Hawthorn Family Support Centre, Londesboro Terrace, East End Park, Leeds, LS9 9NE, [www.leedsmencap.org.uk](http://www.leedsmencap.org.uk)

## Leeds Mencap Hawthorn Family Centre New Makeover

### Leeds Mencap works to improve the lives and opportunities of children and adults with a learning disability and their families and carers.

Out of the Londesboro Terrace site Leeds Mencap provides a variety of services: the Hawthorn Family Support Centre, helping children aged from birth to 3 years and their families, two youth clubs, and two holiday playschemes.

From the Woodland Lane site Leeds Mencap runs the Rookery, a residential home for 12 adults with a learning disability.

Although affiliated to national Mencap, Leeds Mencap is an independent charity run by and for local people.

It entered a competition last year that was launched by Connaught in conjunction with Radio Aire offering community groups the chance to win Connaught's support to make their buildings and services the best they could be.

Thanks to a lot of online voting from all of our supporters, Leeds Mencap won this amazing prize and the results have been unbelievable.

To celebrate this successful partnership and to show how much has been done for Leeds Mencap's Hawthorn Family Support Centre, Connaught organised an official re-launch of the revamped building on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April 08.



Leeds Central MP Hilary Benn relaunching the centre assisted by Andy Corless , Connaught Area Director

One of the new children's playroom



## Parents & Carers Support Group

Do you have a child with Special Educational Needs of around Secondary School age? Would you like the opportunity to chat with other parents and carers in a similar position over a coffee in an informal, friendly setting? If so, we would love to see you at our Parents and Carers Support Group!

The Group has been started by parents and carers, for parents and carers and will be driven by your needs.

Where - Hawthorn Family Support Centre, Londesboro Terrace,  
East End Park, Leeds, LS9 9NE

When - 10am - 2pm Every Wednesday during term time from 7th May

For more information call **0113 235 1331**

## Leeds Inclusive Learning Strategy (LILS) 2007 – 2010

The Leeds Inclusive Learning Strategy (LILS) has been set up to make sure that **every** child and young person in Leeds has high-quality learning, with more opportunities both in and outside of school, and can learn in their own way based on their needs.

Education Leeds is working with our partners across Leeds, including housing, health, education, social care, the youth service and parents and carers, to improve our services and ways of working.

We want children's services to be based in your community, be available to all children and young people, and reflect the needs of the people in your community.

Through the Leeds Inclusive Learning Strategy (LILS) we hope to reach our goal of a world class inclusive education system for all children and young people in Leeds.

### **What is the Leeds Inclusive Learning Strategy?**

The LILS covers four important areas:

- Promoting and developing inclusive practice and inclusive schools
- Specialist provision to be accessed locally
- Developing how pupils access behaviour provision across the city
- Extending children's services to make them accessible for families in your community

### **What does the LILS mean for your child?**

- Your child will have full access to school life, from the curriculum and teaching to out-of-school activities;
- They will have more opportunities on offer to them; and
- They will learn and go through school in a way which suits both them and you, their family.

### **What we have done so far**

In the first stage of the project we have been holding discussions to help people with a key interest in the project understand the LILS, and get them involved. We held events in 2007 and 2008 with;

- staff from Education Leeds;
- school headteachers and staff;
- staff from schools for young people with special educational needs;
- staff from schools for young people who learn in different ways;
- governing bodies;
- people from children's services, agencies, and voluntary organisations;
- parents and carers; and
- children and young people.

## Listening to parents and carers

Listening to parents and carers is very important to us. Parents and carers have told us we need to work with schools so that:

- we include all children in school activities wherever possible;
- we make specialist help like housing services and social care available in each area of the city;
- we spend inclusion budgets to support children and young people; and
- we write learning programmes to meet the needs of children and young people.

## Next steps

We need your help to make sure that the Leeds Inclusive Learning Strategy delivers on the four important areas.

## Make sure you are involved and included.

An information leaflet will be sent to all parents and carers across Leeds. LILS will also be attending the SEN market place event on Tuesday 24th June (See page 6)

For more information and regular updates visit the website at:

[www.educationleeds.co.uk/inclusivelearning](http://www.educationleeds.co.uk/inclusivelearning)

If you would like impartial advice or you want to give feedback to Education Leeds contact the Leeds Parent Partnership Service:

Phone: **0113 395 1200**

Website: [www.leedsparentpartnership.co.uk](http://www.leedsparentpartnership.co.uk)

## Partners in Policymaking, National Course

A new national course is going to be launched by Partners in Policymaking, from September 2008.

### What is the course about?

This is an opportunity to learn from national and international leaders on disability issues. Build your knowledge, experience and confidence, and have the opportunity to meet with senior managers and change agents innovators.

### How long will the course last?

It consists of eight - 2 day sessions, to run over eight months, with one session a month and a break over the holiday periods.

### How much will it cost?

The course is free and will be as inclusive as possible, with reasonable expenses paid and support provided when needed. This will be arranged on an individual basis.

For more details contact Lynne Elwell or Julia Erskine at Partners UK, New Century Hall, Heathcote Road, Liverpool L4 6XB,

Email: - [mpip@btconnect.com](mailto:mpip@btconnect.com)

Telephone: **0151 287 7977**

mobile: **07825 433 517**

## Carers Emergency Plan

From October 2007, additional money has been made available to local authorities to develop services to provide emergency cover for parents/carers of disabled people or children.

The funding is in response to carers and parents saying that sometimes they did not take unnecessary journeys or attend events in case something happened that meant they could not get home in time and there would be no one to look after the person they cared for.

Local authorities should use the funding to develop short term home based emergency cover to provide reassurance to parents of disabled children, that if something happened to them at very short notice, which prevented them from caring, alternative arrangements can be put in place. These would be, whenever possible, in the child's home and to either cover the period or enough time for alternative arrangements to be put in place (up to 72 hours). The Emergency Care can be used for other children in the family as well as the disabled child.

Examples of what could be classed as an emergency include a parent's admission to hospital or attending the funeral of a close friend or relative.

The Social Care Department and Carers Leeds are working together on the "Carers Emergency Back Up Scheme" which offers a plan for you to complete and which will be held securely to be set in place if needed.

If you would like to know more about the scheme and consider having a plan, please contact Carers Leeds on **0113 246 8338** and they will send you a "Carers Emergency Plan" leaflet with a form to complete. Completing the form will also help us to know what services parents would want to use in an emergency so we can make sure they are available. These could be offered through a sitting service, additional direct payments with an already employed Personal Assistant, nursing care or a local childminder, etc.

Chris Finnigan  
Programme Manager for Disabled Children  
Tel **0113 267 8667**  
email [chris.finnigan@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:chris.finnigan@leeds.gov.uk)



## The Children's Society 7 Day Response Team

The Children's Society 7 Day Response Service (formerly Sure Start Mellow Valley) has lots to offer families with children under 5. We work from three bases covering the Little London, Woodhouse and Meanwood areas of Leeds from which we run various activities for parents/carers and children.

We have a Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator named Mel Midgley who works closely with families. She provides extensive support and visits families at home to help coordinate all professionals involved with the family. She also makes sure the families are receiving support from the relevant professional services.

**She provides and supports families in the use of Early Support Family Pack- this helps parents/carers to keep all necessary documents together and to keep a record of their child's progress and development, and all services involved with them. The pack also includes information on:**

- Finances,
- Education,
- Childcare,
- Social Care etc.

She works alongside and offers advice and support with specialised equipment, supporting families at meetings and appointments with other professionals; she refers to the following services on a regular basis:

- Portage programme
- Early Years SEN service
- Hawthorn Family Support Centre (Mencap)
- Parent Partnership
- The Children's Society 7-Day response team
- Willow Young Carers
- Benefit services
- Child Health And Disability team (CHAD)
- Local Children's Centres

Mel helps to put families in contact with other families in a similar position so experiences can be shared and offers encouragement to families to attend local community activity groups.

Mel runs Mini Movers, our weekly music and movement sessions in our local Church hall. Why not come along and dance? Or perhaps you could benefit from coming along to Bumps 'n' Babes, a group for those expecting a baby or with a new arrival, where you can access health information as well as a space to relax and play? Maybe you and your children would like to attend Daisy Chain Parent Support Group, a friendly drop in for parents/carers of children with additional needs? This is a group run by Parents for Parents/Carers to gain support from each other, share information and access professional help. Your children can have fun while you relax, have a chat and gain support from other parents over a cup of tea.

Mel liaises regularly with Health Visitors and professionals at both St James-Child Development Centre and Leeds General Infirmary-Belmont House, which includes

- Physiotherapist,
- Speech therapist,
- Occupational Therapist
- Doctors,
- Nurses,
- Neo-natal outreach team,
- Play workers

All family work is monitored and recorded in family files.

We also provide family support, home safety equipment, training opportunities, and much more.

To find out more, contact us at Little London Children's Centre on **0113 245 8480**, Quarry Mount Children's Centre on **0113 214 1546** or The Miles Hill Bungalow on **0113 269 1566**.

***Please see page 5 for more information on Early Support***

## The Fun Time Consultation

Disabled Children and Young people who currently use residential care based in Leeds were invited to give their views on the new units being planned for disabled children in a Fun Time afternoon at half term.

LiLAC the preferred bidder, had several stands. This included their builders (Jack Lunn), the maintenance team (Gleasons) and the architects (Halliday Clark). Visitors were able to try on hard hats and high visibility jackets, just like they will be able to if they visit the building site. Some people wanted to keep their hats forever! There were pictures to show how the sites are now, and how they will be if the buildings are built to the plans we have at present.

The architects had done lots of work making a model bedroom. It showed how each room is really spacious and has its own ensuite bathroom with a shower. There was a carpet and a pretend bed and pretend desk and you could sit down at the desk and do some colouring. Everyone liked the bedrooms, and ideas were shared about how the bathrooms must be safe, and how some young people prefer baths. One person wanted to know where the vacuum cleaner would be so they could vacuum their room.

We marked out a space showing a sensory room. The Leeds Inclusion Scheme Toy Library lent us lots of equipment you could use in a sensory room, to touch and feel with lights. Cherie and Steven from the Childrens Learning Disability Nursing Team were helping there and they found the young people who played in it really liked the sensory equipment.

We invited young people to have a wish list of what else they like to play with. The list showed they really liked going on the trampoline we had! We will make sure there are good links to the local swimming pools in our new units - both of them are planned near new swimming pools. We are looking into music systems and there will be the ability to use computers all through the new buildings. We will be looking to get some really comfy (and hard wearing) chairs and sofas.

As well as this we had workers from Speech and Language therapy, the Butterfly and Children's Community Nursing Team, the Adult Independent Living Project and Children and Young People's Complaints Team there. Parents particularly were interested in these stands.

Entries for the name of the new units were received, and the competition is still open – send entries to [judith.kahn@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:judith.kahn@leeds.gov.uk) and look at the website [www.leeds4disabledchildren.wordpress.com](http://www.leeds4disabledchildren.wordpress.com) There will be another consultation event about these units soon, about how we should organise the caring services.

All the young people who attended the Fun Time and their parents will receive certificates showing they helped with the consultation.



Jessica helping with the Fun Time Consultation

## The Prince Phillip Centre PHAB Club

The Prince Philip Centre PHAB Club started in 1970. It is a social Club for people with **PH**ysical disabilities (or mild learning disabilities) and their **A**ble **B**odied friends.

The members are aged between 9 years and 90 years old. There are over hundred members who live in all parts of Leeds. The PHAB Club is run by a Members' Committee.

The PHAB Club is supported by seconded workers from Leeds City Council Youth Service and Social Care. The club provides an environment where friends can meet, talk and relax. It is a very popular club.

There is also a varied programme of activities helping to bring further enjoyment to small groups during the evening. And some evenings we cater for the whole PHAB group, with:- music, sports, discos and parties.

The club is also supported by a small dedicated group of volunteers called 'The Friends of PHAB' established in 1972. They fundraise and they provide specialist transport with four specially adapted minibuses. The voluntary drivers are CRB vetted and MIDAS/basic first aid trained.

The Friends of PHAB also arrange outings, holidays and a summer playscheme for the PHAB members. As well as the varied and interesting club outings, the holiday programme may include:

- a teenage weekend at Herd Farm, Eccup, Leeds;
- a residential holiday for children/teenagers at Welburn Hall Residential School, Kirkby Moorside, N. Yorkshire or an activity centre;
- a week's Playscheme/Chillout week - held at Kerr Mackie School, Roundhay for the children/young people;
- a residential holiday for the senior members (25+ years) at Butlins, Skegness.

### **NEW MEMBERS FOR THE PRINCE PHILIP CENTRE PHAB CLUB.**

In all its years PHAB has not advertised for members. Members have learned about PHAB by word of mouth. Referrals have been from schools, special schools, social workers, family members – (sometimes looking for respite), and often by disabled members bringing along their own friends.

Please tell new families about PHAB.

Our small committee now finds it more difficult to make contact with disabled school children – now that they attend different schools all over Leeds. Once members join the PHAB Club - many have continued as PHAB members throughout their lives.

Do you know a disabled child/young person in Leeds who would enjoy a Friday evening at the PHAB Club and perhaps a holiday or the playscheme next summer?

Contact Ann Hart on **01937 573 722** anytime and she will put you in touch with the people leading the annual holiday/playscheme.

PHAB in Leeds meets on Friday evenings between 7.00pm and 9.15pm

Prince Philip Centre PHAB Club  
Scott Hall Road, Leeds LS7 2HJ  
(Entrance to the Centre is through the wide Ginnel between the houses half way round Scott Hall Avenue).

## The William Merritt Disabled Living Centre

The William Merritt Disabled Living Centre (DLC) offers a specialist Paediatric Service.

The Paediatric Occupational Therapist offers information, assessment and professional support for children, parents and professionals.

### Equipment Displays

A limited range of children's equipment is on permanent display including bathing and toileting equipment, car seats, supportive seating and buggies.

A great variety of products can be brought into the Centre for assessment.

### Professional Consultation

Assessment of your equipment needs by our professional Paediatric Occupational Therapist (OT).

William Merritt DLC **does not sell** anything and local retailers tend not to sell children's products. However, our Paediatric OT can arrange assessments with companies who specialise in children's equipment and details of how to purchase products will then be given to you.

You will be entitled to funding for some equipment from your local Health Authority, Social Care or Wheelchair Services and our Paediatric OT will be able to liaise with the relevant professionals for you.



The Centre has developed an assessment service and loan library for adapted toys and switches for children from the Leeds area.

Toys e.g. tape recorders, musical toys, bubble machines, fans, remote control toys etc. can be adapted with a variety of switches and interfaces to enable many children to operate them even when they have very limited movement.

The toys encourage movements and by giving a learning experience would stimulate the child's development. Thus by using the switch to operate a toy, the child receives a stimulus such as the sound or movement, and learns about cause and effect. This is a major key to many aspects of development.

### Open Days

On open days the Centre is open from 9.30a.m. - 3.30 p.m. and no appointment is necessary.

You will be able to spend 10 minutes with a member of staff discussing your needs.

You may need to make an appointment to come back at a later date:

July - Thurs 3rd & Tues 22nd  
August - Weds 6th & Thurs 21st  
September - Tues 2nd & Thurs 18th  
October - Fri 3rd & Fri 24th  
November - Weds 5th & Tues 18th  
December - Mon 1st & Mon 15th

For all enquires you can contact The William Merritt DLC by:-

Telephone **0113 305 5332**

Email:- [thewilliammerritt.dlc@nhs.net](mailto:thewilliammerritt.dlc@nhs.net)

Website:- [www.williammerrittleeds.org](http://www.williammerrittleeds.org)

## Community Equipment Advisory Group

### Who We Are

The Community Equipment Advisory Group is a small friendly group of service users and carers who use community equipment services. They first began meeting in September 2004, to offer involvement of modernising and integrating Leeds Community Equipment Services.

### Why We Meet

We exist to provide equipment to people who need aids or minor adaptations to live at home. The service can provide anything from specialist seating for children, adapted buggies, adjustable beds, bath seats, commodes, visual and hearing aids, grab rails, walking aids and much more.

### Parent Carers

Carers including parent carers of disabled children are under represented in the group at present. If you would like to be a community representative and make a real difference in improving services, then this could be an opportunity to make your voice heard. No previous experience of user representation is needed, just a willingness to share with others what you know as well as a willingness to represent the views of other users.

Expenses including travel and replacement carer costs and an attendance fee for partnership and advisory group meetings is available.

If you would like to get in touch contact

Belinda Connolly

Phone **0113 237 4508**

Minicom **0113 237 4512**

email **belinda.connolly@leedsinvolvement.org.uk**

**We'd like to thank everyone who has submitted articles for this issue of the newsletter. Please remember, we would love to hear from you about your views on its content or if you would welcome future articles. To receive further/back dated copies of this newsletter, please contact The Family Hub. To share your views, please fill in the questionnaire overleaf.**

**Many Thanks**

**The Editorial Group**





Thank you for taking the time to read this issue of the newsletter. Please remember, that we'd welcome your views and opinions on this publication. Tell us what you liked and what you didn't and please include articles you'd like to see in future issues. We would particularly like reader recommendations on places to go and see that are easily accessible for children with additional needs.

**The next issue will be available from November 2008.**

Please write to us with topics you would like to be included in future issues. If necessary please include additional sheets.

**Would you like to receive future newsletters to your door or by e-mail?  
Please fill in the reply slip below.**

Name:-

Address-

Postcode:-

Telephone:-

Email Address:-

**If you would like this publication in other languages or in Braille, large text or in an audio format, then please contact us (details below).**

**We look forward to hearing from you at the following address:  
Family Hub Leeds, City Council, Early Years Service,  
6th Floor East, Merrion House,  
FREEPOST, NEA 4600, Leeds, LS2 3YY (NO STAMP NEEDED)  
e-mail: [family.hub@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:family.hub@leeds.gov.uk) Telephone number 0800 731 0640**