

CAN NEWSLETTER SPRING 2017

Welcome to the first issue of 2017 and we are very excited to share with you that Wokingham Borough Council's ASSIST team were nominated by a parent for the 2017 National Autistic Society Professionals Awards. The team will be attending an award ceremony dinner on the 7th March in Harrogate as finalists in the category of **Outstanding Family Support**. The team say that they are really honoured to have been nominated and being finalists is fantastic. They will let us know about their experience.

<http://www.autismprofessionalsawards.org.uk/finalists.html>

We are already approaching the February half term and details of holiday activities can be found on the [Local Offer](#) page and make sure you visit the [What's On](#) pages to find activities for all of the family. As always I welcome your comments, suggestions and feedback.

Kind regards,
Maria Walker
Email: CAN.Network@wokingham.gov.uk
Tel: 0118 974 6818

Activities for Families and younger children

[Animal Ranger Days February Half Term](#). Tuesday 14 February –Friday 17 February. 10.30am - 3.00pm. £25 per day. Booking essential . Contact Dawn Dingwall : dawndingwall@btinternet.com

[Dingley's Promise.](#)

Dingley's Promise believes in the best start for every child. We deliver life changing support to under 5's with additional needs and disabilities, and their families. If you would like more information or would like to arrange a visit to one of our centres, then please call us on 0118 327 7424 or visit our website www.dingley.org.uk.

[ASD Family Help Children's Activities](#)

[Lions Fun Fest](#) , Windsor Leisure Centre. Now back for the fourth year by popular demand the Windsor Lions FunFest for children with disabilities and learning difficulties. With your help we are aiming for at least 200 children to attend. This Free event will be held at the Windsor Leisure Centre for the exclusive use of the FunFest on Sunday 19th March. Only parents and siblings will be allowed to attend. This event is for children with disabilities & learning difficulties and will be a great day. Booking essential [online](#)

[GO! Wokingham](#). Wellington Country Park fun day. Saturday 25 February from 10:00am. Wellington Country Park, Odiham Road, Riseley, RG7 1SP £5 per person (includes free train ride). Parents must stay. Suitable for all ages up to 18. Booking essential. Telephone 0118 907 6397 or Email bookings@greatopportunities.org.uk

Peapods Saturday Club 10.30am to 12.30pm. Come along and relax, have a chat to other parents whilst the kids play. All the family is welcome (including extended family and carers). Every second Saturday of the month at Twyford Scout Headquarters on Loddon Hall Road in Twyford, Berkshire, RG10 9JA . Email : peapods@peapods.org.uk.

Stay and Play Saturday sessions in Maidenhead for children up to 11 years who are on the autistic spectrum. Every 2nd and 4th Saturday - 1pm until 3.30pm. Larchfield Childrens Centre Bargeman Road, Maidenhead, SL6 2SG. [Stand Out for Autism](#)

Saturday Clubs Two separate sessions on the third Saturday for children with physical disabilities and autism and similar additional needs at [Our House](#). Suitable for children of all ages and abilities, along with siblings, parents and carers. We provide a variety of activities with themed events as advertised. Email: admin@bfff.org.uk for dates and bookings

The Autism Group . A new Arts and crafts club for young people aged 11 - 25 (Maidenhead), Saturday, 2pm -4:30pm. A fortnightly Saturday club, aimed at young people aged 11-25 on the autism spectrum and typically of mainstream ability, open to beginners and talented artists.

At the same time there is a [parents support group](#) . All parents are welcome to attend even if their young person does not participate in the activity group. Both activities are charged at £8 per session

Aiming High Friday swimming . 'Aiming High' swimming sessions are available every Friday at the Carnival Swimming pool, Wokingham, from 6pm to 7pm. Children with additional needs can swim with their carer for only £1.50.

Trampolining Term-time trampolining sessions held at St Crispin's Leisure Centres for children aged 5-18 with additional needs. Thursday evenings . £4 per session. CAN card holders 20% discount. Contact chelsea.piggott@wokingham.gov.uk for bookings and more information.

Tennis Weekly term time tennis sessions held at Loddon Valley Leisure Centre for children aged 5-18 with additional needs. Wednesdays, 5.30pm to 6.30pm. £4 and 20% discount to CAN card holders. Contact : chelsea.piggott@wokingham.gov.uk for bookings and more information.

Activities for Teens and Young adults

Explorers Extreem Youth club. Thursday 7.30pm -9:30pm, Woodley Community Centre. Contact Kay Nicker kay.nicker@wokingham.gov.uk for costs and to register. Youth Club for children with additional needs. The evening works around an annual programme incorporating: Social nights, Accreditation courses , Camping trips, Short breaks

The 3.4.5 Club Thursday (Term Time only), 7pm to 8pm. Coopers Hill Youth and Community Centre, Crowthorne Road North, Bracknell. £6 per session. The 3.4.5 Club is an exciting and innovative drama group for young adults with additional needs aged between 13-22. The aim of each session will be to increase

social interaction, develop transferable life skills and enhance communication whilst having lots of fun. For more information, contact carlabellis_345club@yahoo.com.

Challengers Youth Scheme Reading Reading Youth Schemes run every Saturday for ages 13 -18. 10am -4:00pm £20 per day. There are spaces at every Youth Scheme for young people who need 1:1 support and who have complex impairments. Must register first and arrange a visit to meet the team. Details on the website. Holiday camps also available but must be booked well in advance. Bookings now being taken for Easter.

Drop in Sessions for Parents/Carers

ASSIST Drop in Sessions. Tuesday 21 February 9.30am to 12 noon

Come and join the ASSIST team alongside parents and carers of children with ASD, to chat, share ideas and problem solve. Stay for the whole session or just 10 minutes. No Booking required.

Carers' Coffe Morning. Second Tuesday of the month. 10:00am to 12 Noon. Rose Room, Bradbury Centre, Wokingham RG40 1XS.

Workshops/Training

REACH Wokingham Event – On Saturday 25th February from 1.30pm to 4pm REACH Wokingham in partnership with WBC will be holding a free Transition Information Afternoon at Woodford Park Leisure Centre, Haddon Drive, Woodley. For more information, please email: reachwokingham@hotmail.co.uk

See Ability 'Looking After Your Eyes' Workshop – SeeAbility is running an eye care workshop for adults with learning disabilities on **Wednesday 15th February** from 10.30am to 2.30pm, hosted by CLASP. The workshop is free and refreshments are included. As well as learning how to look after their eyes, people will be asked to share their experiences about eye care in the second part of the workshop and possibly filmed for SeeAbility's national eye care campaign. Spaces are limited so please book yours through CLASP on tel: 0118 979 6364, email: sammie.gibbs@claspwokingham.org.uk. For more information, please contact Sammie at CLASP or Stephen at SeeAbility on tel: 07738 040307, email: s.kill@SeeAbility.org or go to their website: www.seeability.org

Cerebra 1,000 Families Study

If you are the mother, father or caregiver of children with a learning disability, this is your opportunity to inform research and policy for coming decades!

We understand that families play a vital role in their children's lives. By listening to what families tell us we are able to help families see past barriers and discover a better life together.

Together with the Cerebra Family Research Group at the University of Warwick we are exploring the experiences of family members who live with a child with a learning disability aged 4 to 11 years. You can also take part if your child has a learning disability and other conditions such as Down syndrome, autism, or other genetic syndromes.

The study involves taking a short survey and we are really keen to hear from *at least* one person in the family. We would like to hear from fathers as well as mothers.

We want to make this the largest study ever of families of children with learning disability in the UK. The 1,000 families study will further understanding of what it is like to raise a child with a learning disability and will help shape future information and support for families and children – so please get involved.

To find out more about the study and to complete the online survey please [visit the website](#). If you prefer you can request a [paper copy](#) of the survey.

If you have any questions please email: familyresearch@warwick.ac.uk

Resources

[Wokingham Local Offer](#)

[ASD Family Help](#)

[ASSIST](#)

[AUTISM EYE](#)

[BAS](#)

[Berkshire Phab](#)

[Building for the Future](#)

[Changing Places](#)

[Contact a Family](#)

[Dingley's Promise](#)

[Disability Information Service Reading \(Disc\)](#)

[Me2 Club](#)

[National Autistic Society](#)

[Oakwood Youth Challenge](#)

[Parenting Special Children](#)

[Peapods](#)

[REACH Wokingham](#)

[RDCS](#)

[Scope](#)

[The National Autistic Society](#)

[Wokingham GO!](#)

[Wokingham, Bracknell & Districts MENCAP](#)

[Wokingham Learning Disability Partnership Board](#)

Maria Walker

Children with Additional Needs (CAN) Network Co-ordinator

LDD Service

Highwood Annexe

Fairwater Drive

Woodley

RG5 3RU

Tel: 0118 974 6818

Mobile: 07789652168

Email: CAN.network@wokingham.gov.uk

Visit the [Local offer](#)