

# Parent Partnership Newsletter



Summer 2010

## Independent Parental Supporters

Could you use your experience to help other parents?

### Why not join our team of volunteers?

It won't cost you anything except your time - all expenses will be paid. Independent Parental Supporters can help parents express their views about their child's needs, support parents at meetings and listen to concerns in a way which help parents make choices. If you are interested in this valuable role, please phone Parent Partnerships on 825548 for details of our next training sessions.

If you would like to receive this newsletter in another language, large print or audio version, please contact us.

### Inside this issue

ADHD Conference	2
IW Toy Library & Opportunity Group	2
Summer Activities	3
Family Link Scheme	3
Caring with Confidence	4
Allsorts	4
Bays Children Centre	4

## Choice Adviser Service

Changing schools is an important time in your child's life and choosing which school you would prefer your child to attend is an important decision. When your child is due to transfer school you receive information from the School Admissions Team—there is a lot to think about, decisions to make and forms to fill in—The Choice Adviser can help you understand the system.

- ☺ Completing the application form
- ☺ Provide information about schools, Information about Ofsted reports and latest inspections on schools.
- ☺ Information about special educational needs facilities and provision within schools.
- ☺ Times of school day and term dates
- ☺ Information about transport, school uniform and what help is available.

Contact Tina Wroath on  
825548  
or email  
[choiceadviser.gov.uk](mailto:choiceadviser.gov.uk)



## Children with Statements transferring school 2011

Children in Year 6, 7 and 8 in September 2010 will transfer to high school in September 2011. If your child has a statement, you will receive a letter in July from the SEN Assessment and Review Team explaining in detail what you will need to do and by when. The letter will also invite parents to the Information and Advice sessions being arranged by Parent Partnership in September.

The law gives parents/carers of children with statements the right to say what their preferred choice of high school is. That school and the Local Authority then have to admit your child unless the school can show good reasons that it can't meet the child's needs. This rarely happens in practice.

Children with statements also have their school places dealt with ahead of other children.

You will need to have stated your preference by October 29th 2010. You will be notified of your child's school by 15th February 2011. If you would like more information please contact **Parent Partnership**

**on 825548.**

**Email:**  
[parentpartnership@iow.gov.uk](mailto:parentpartnership@iow.gov.uk)

# The curious case of ADHD

29—30 September 2010

Newclose County Cricket Ground, Blackwater Road, Newport

Day One 29th September Key Stages 1 and 2

Day Two 30th September Key Stages 3 and 4

**Trainer: Fintan O'Regan**

Fintan O'Regan has a well-established reputation as a national and international lecturer in ADHD and related learning difficulties and has been both a teacher and headteacher in public and independent schools for over 16 years.



**Parents: £30.00**  
**Professionals £80.00**

For booking information Tel: Chris Cane or Paul Barnard 527565  
Email: [cyp.workforcedevelopment.iow.gov.uk](mailto:cyp.workforcedevelopment.iow.gov.uk)

## News from Isle of Wight Toy Library and Opportunity Group (IWTLOG)

### CHANGE OF LOCATION / MEETING

We have been very grateful for the home Barton Primary School has provided for us over the last few years but the low attendance at the Thursday group has meant we have had to re-evaluate our future. Luckily, the great facility offered to us by Medina House means that we can continue the work the Group has carried out for more than 40 years. The move to Medina House not only allows the toy library facility to continue but will mean more children with Special Needs getting access to the toys available as children from the school as well as those not yet attending school will be able to borrow from IWTLOG. The Thursday morning play session will not continue although there is potential for this at some point in the future should the need arise. Details of the toys to borrow and how to borrow them will be available on the website shortly: [www.iwtloggroup.org.uk](http://www.iwtloggroup.org.uk).



The **IWTLOG**, however, will continue to organise events to enable parents/carers to get together on an occasional basis and details of these will be on the website. We recently had a very successful evening visit to Marwell Zoo's Dreamnight, an annual event for children with special needs, and thanks to Red Funnel sponsorship each family's ferry ticket cost just £15. Also our "Mum's Dine Out" group meet at least once a term (usually the 2nd Friday of each new term). Mums gather for a meal out at a local pub and would welcome any new faces. Locations and dates on the website. The Dads night out may be coming soon...

## Summer Activities for children with SEN/LDD



The Isle of Wight Council and NHS Isle of Wight are providing a range of planned short breaks and activities for disabled children, thanks to funding provided by **Aiming High for Disabled Children**.

### What's on offer?

A whole range of activities ranging from tree-climbing, specialist interest clubs, watersports, football and SEN swimming to holiday camps and specialist play groups.

Your disabled child can choose what activities they want to follow and make friends with other children.

Family Link have also purchased a caravan at Lower Hyde, Shanklin for families to use for short breaks over the year.



### How can I access these?

These short breaks are aimed at all disabled children, in particular those with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, severe learning difficulties and complex health needs. Priority will be given to those groups above who have, historically, not benefited from a short break. You will be asked to complete an Enrolment form by the provider which will tell you if your child is eligible\*.

### How do I find out about them?

Find out specific details through **FIZ – the Family Information Zone**. 01983 821999 (Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5.00pm; Friday 8.30am to 4.00pm)  
[www.wightchyps.org.uk](http://www.wightchyps.org.uk)  
or email: [familyinfozone@iow.gov.uk](mailto:familyinfozone@iow.gov.uk)

### Will I have to pay?

Not always. A small charge may be asked for which will vary according to the activity and the nature of the short break on offer. Charging helps to ensure that the activity is sustainable.



(Eligibility criteria are subject to council Confirmation)

## Family Link Scheme Are you a family in need?

### Do you:

- ◇ Need a few hours to do your shopping?
- ◇ Need quality time to spend with other members of your family?
- ◇ Need some 'me' time?
- ◇ Need an evening out?

### Does your child need:

- ◇ A chance to meet new people?
- ◇ A chance to make new friends?
- ◇ A chance to do something new and exciting?

### What is the Family Link Scheme?

The Family Link Scheme is free and supports disabled children and their families on the Isle of Wight. We aim to place a disabled child with a 'Link Family' to offer a short break. This can be for a few hours or a couple of nights every month.

### How does this work?

The family and their child are assessed by a social worker in the Childrens Disability Team. If a respite need is identified then a referral is made to the Family Link Team. As soon as a prospective carer has been identified, the Team liaise with both families who arrange an initial visit at a mutually agreeable place to ensure both families are happy with any short term break planning.



### What do I do next?

If your child is already open to the Children's Disability Team then please talk to a social worker/assistant based in the team: Children's Disability Team. Tel:01983 535370

### Assessment and Intervention Team

If you have a disabled child requiring an assessment of need then please contact: Assessment and Intervention Team.

**Tel : 01983 525790**

## Other News

### Caring with Confidence?

Caring with Confidence sessions are free courses for unpaid carers which help to make a positive difference both to carers and the people they care for. Each course is made up of 7, three hour sessions which gives the carer the opportunity to develop skills, get advice and information and talk and share experiences with other carers.

The sessions are:-

- o **Finding Your Way**
- o **Caring and Coping**
- o **Caring and Me**
- o **Caring Day-to-Day**
- o **Caring and Resources**
- o **Caring and Life**
- o **Caring and Communicating**

Tuesdays in Newport starting 7<sup>th</sup> September  
1 pm until 4 pm

Courses can also be run for individual organisations and can be scheduled to meet their specific needs. For example, it is possible to run the sessions more often than once a week.

For more information or to book your place, please call

**Carers Together on 01794 519 495 or e-mail [admin@carerstgether.org.uk](mailto:admin@carerstgether.org.uk).**

## Allsorts

Special Needs Stay and Play Group

1st Wednesday of the Month

10.30-12.00



Ventnor Children's Centre  
Albert Street  
Ventnor  
Call 057372 for further details



### The Bays Childrens Centre

The Bays Childrens Centre are introducing a new stay and play session for parents and their children with additional needs. The sessions will run alternate weeks on a Wednesday morning 9.30-12 noon at St John's Annex, St John's Crescent, Sandown. There will be a wide range of specialist equipment available. Advice and modelling on how to support a child's development through play will be an integral part of each session.



For further details please contact **Margaret Blamey on 07847118550** or email **[margaretblamey@fhcc@tesco.net](mailto:margaretblamey@fhcc@tesco.net)**

## Contacting Parent Partnership....

**By post to: 11 Orchard Street, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1JZ Email: [parentpartnership@iow.gov.uk](mailto:parentpartnership@iow.gov.uk)**

**Telephone: 01983 825548 or Visit our website: [www.iwpp.co.uk](http://www.iwpp.co.uk)**

**The Parent Partnership Service offers impartial information, support and advice to parents/carers of children who have special educational needs and disabilities on the Isle of Wight. This newsletter is produced termly by Parent Partnership and distributed to parents, schools, voluntary groups and professionals—please share with parents and colleagues.**

**The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of Isle of Wight Parent Partnership**

