

Kingston Connections

Spring 2009

The newsletter for disabled children, their families and carers.

From the Editor:

Happy New Year!

The winter so far has been extremely cold. Do not forget that many energy suppliers offer significantly reduced tariffs to households, which include someone with a disability. Do contact your energy company for advice on reducing those bills.

I would like to congratulate local parent, Sophie Ugle, who has been presented with an extremely prestigious award from the "Working Families" organisation for her "passionate and committed campaigning for the rights of parents of disabled children".

It is only right that Sophie's contribution to this area has been recognised nationally. Many parents in Kingston have had the ability to return to work and thus improve their personal circumstances because of Sophie's tireless campaigning.

The copy date for the next issue of this newsletter is 5th May 2009

Caroline Baxter

EnhanceAble, Kingston "I-Count" Register and the Team for Disabled Children distribute this newsletter.

The views, articles and suggestions in this newsletter are those of the individual contributors and are not necessarily supported by the Editor, EnhanceAble or the Team for Disabled Children. The Editor cannot accept responsibility for any goods or services mentioned or enclosed in the newsletter.

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EnhanceAble Confidentiality Protocol:

EnhanceAble is a voluntary organisation that provides its clients with a guarantee of independent, impartial and confidential advice.

For more information see our website:
www.enhanceable.org

Kingston
Children & Young People's Trust
Making a Difference Together

EnhanceAble

Disabled Children's Information and Advice Service – (DCIAS)

We were delighted to welcome Anne Frayda as the new and permanent Parent Partnership Officer (PPO) in November.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Hannah Piper, who was with us for six months as the temporary PPO. Hannah was great fun to work with and we want to wish her the very best for the future and her return to teaching.

EnhanceAble were successful in being awarded a grant from "Together for Disabled Children" to work with the Royal Borough of Kingston (RBK) and the Kingston Primary Care Trust to provide the parent consultation element of the Government's "Aiming High for Disabled Children" Agenda.

It is vital that RBK and the Primary Care Trust hear your views and wishes so that any plans designed reflect the genuine needs of local families.

A consultation day was held on the 7th February at EnhanceAble's headquarters at the Geneva Road Centre. This newsletter had gone to print before the event so an article reporting on the day and its outcomes will be in the next newsletter.

There will be other events and we will ensure all are kept informed.

The DCIAS staff and the parents/carers who joined us, all really enjoyed last term's Information and Social Evening – our biggest turn out yet! We would be delighted to see even more of you at our next event on Thursday 19th March 2009.

The evening is a relaxed one with food and drink and a great deal of good old nattering. See the invitation below for details.

Don't forget if you have any questions regarding disability, benefits, leisure, childcare, blue badges, support groups or Special Education please do contact the DCIAS on:

020 8934 6378

or by email on

www.children@enhanceable.org

or you can visit our website

www.enhanceable.org

and click on Children's Services.

Information and Social Evenings

We have been running Information and Social Evenings for parents and carers on a termly basis – these have proven to be highly successful and you are cordially invited to the next one in March. See below for details.

Invitation

The DCIAS would like to invite parents and carers to our
Information and Social Evening
on Thursday 19th March 2009 between 7.30 – 9.30pm

The event will be held at EnhanceAble's head office,
The Geneva Road Centre,
Geneva Road,
Kingston KT1 2TW.
(The centre is fully accessible and parking is also available)
Everybody Welcome!!

RSVP: Tricia Farlow on **020 8934 6378** or
Patricia.Farlow@enhanceable.org

Parent Partnership Service - Anne Frayda takes up post...

The Parent Partnership Service listens to and represents the views of parents who have children with Special Educational Needs in the borough of Kingston – and I'm delighted to take up this assignment as Parent Partnership Officer.

I bring to the post 10 years' teaching experience, and 10 more in the voluntary sector, where I worked as Direct Payments Information Officer at Kingston Centre for Independent Living, promoting the values of independence, choice and control to our service users, including the families of disabled children.

Both experiences were hugely rewarding, and I'm now keen to contribute the range of skills developed by each towards the development of a Parent Partnership Service that corresponds to your needs in prompt and practical ways.

I'm here to offer friendly, impartial and confidential support to any parent who feels they could benefit from this perspective. No query, no problem, is too small – or too large – to share! For example, perhaps you're thinking....

- “My child is struggling at school at the moment...what can I do to help?”
- “The local authority is starting an Assessment – what does that mean?”
- “What does the law say about Special Educational Needs?”
- “I've been asked to write a report – where do I start?”
- “What happens at an Annual Review?”
- “Do I have to go to this meeting on my own?”
- “I don't feel the school is listening to my concerns...”

Whatever your concern, I'm happy to hear from you.

What's important to me is that, through our work together, you'll feel less overwhelmed - and more confident that you are indeed on track to ensuring positive outcomes for your child later in life through the educational options and choices available *now*.

Please feel free to contact me on **020 8934 6378**, or email anne.frayda@enhanceable.org
Website: www.enhanceable.org

The Parent Partnership Service in Kingston offers impartial advice, information and support on educational matters to parents of children with special needs. It also works to strengthen relationships between parents, schools and Kingston Local Authority.

Activities for the Under Fives

Tuesday Special club:

10am – 12pm
Warren Park, Kingston Hill, Kingston,
KT2 7LX

This is a group for parents and carers of children with special needs. Come and join us for a coffee and an opportunity to use a fantastic facility. Sensory room, ball pond, climbing frame, trampoline and arts and crafts. Sing and Sign at 11 am every Tuesday.

We run all year round (with the exception of this October half-term) and siblings are welcome during school holidays.

Just come along and join us or call
020 8547 6567.

Norbiton Children's Centre

Wednesday afternoon Stay-and-Play:

1pm – 3pm
Norbiton Children's Centre
The Mount Primary School
Dickerage Lane, New Malden, KT3 3RZ

We are delighted to announce that there is a new drop-in Stay-and-Play session for parents/carers of children under 5 with special needs every Wednesday during term time between 1pm to 3pm at the recently opened Norbiton Children's Centre. This is an excellent facility, which includes a sensory room and a wonderful outside play area.

Please join us for a coffee and a chat in this relaxed, friendly atmosphere. For further information, call the DCIAS on: 020 8934 6378.

North Kingston Children's Centre

Watch this space.....

We are currently looking at the possibility of setting up a Stay-and-Play session on Thursday mornings for parents/carers of children under 5 with special needs at North Kingston Children's Centre at Latchmere School. We will let you know just as soon as things are agreed but in the meantime, watch this space....!

Any queries, then please contact the DCIAS on: 020 8934 6378.

Staff News Update

There have been a significant number of staff changes since the last issue of this newsletter. We have had to say goodbye and good luck to: -

Wendy Wakelin, Social Worker - has left the Team for Disabled Children to take up a post in Surrey.

Laura Harbor, Social Worker - has left the Team for Disabled Children to take up a post in Surrey.

Mark Hill, Social Worker - has left the Team for disabled Children to work with RBK's Looked After Children's team.

Dr Claire Scott – started her maternity leave at the end of January. Claire will be back later in the year.

Plus, congratulations to:

Eleanor Hains, Family Support Worker - who had a daughter Rosie on Christmas Eve.

Karen Cooke, Speech Therapist - had a daughter Molly in January.

Leigh Edser, Blue Class teacher at Dysart - who had a daughter Hollie in December.

Ellie Hall, TA at Dysart - had a daughter Josie in January.

Charlotte Still, Adult Disability Services

Talking and listening



Following on from a recent Partnership Board, the Action Group has been discussing a Communication Strategy, which will be sent out soon. One of the things that people have told us is that they want to be able to get information more easily.

We are trying out a new job so that people will be able to phone up one person to get information about what's happening for adults with learning disabilities in Kingston.

The Information Officer role has been created to provide one point of contact for all adults with learning disabilities (over the age of 19), carers and families. This will enable easy access to all the services available in the borough, such as supported living, activities, day centres and financial assistance. Drop in sessions will be run to allow people with learning disabilities to speak face to face with an adviser as well as the production of easy read information on all services. Advice will also be available over the telephone and via email.

We are trying this out so that we can get a better idea of what sort of information people will want. At the moment, Charlotte Still is doing this job.

You can contact Charlotte to find out more about things like activities, housing and support on 020 8547 6044 or e-mail charlotte.still@rbk.kingston.gov.uk



Dates for your Diary

RBK Half-Term week: Mon 16th – Fri 20th February - RBK Spring Term Ends: Fri 3rd April

Date	Event	Venue	Time
22 nd Feb	Born Too Soon Graduates Party (Contact: Pauline Woods – 020 8974 9157)	Antoinette Hotel, Beaufort Road, Kingston	12–4pm
19 th March	DCIAS Info & Social Evening (Contact: Tricia Farlow – 020 8934 6378)	Geneva Road Centre, Kingston KT1 2TW	7.30-9.30pm

Weekly - Born Too Soon Parent Support Group

Every Wednesday throughout the year. Welcare House – 53-55 Canbury Park Road – Kingston

For families whose baby/babies have been cared for on the Neonatal Unit at Kingston Hospital. This Group is now in its 13th Year. Large Playroom, Garden and Kitchen.

Siblings welcome.

For further details about the above events please contact: Pauline Woods, Born Too Soon – Co-Ordinator. Telephone 8974 9157 – Website www.borntoosoon.org.uk

Play cut and go

At Warren Park, Kingston Hill, KT2 7LX
Hairdressing for special needs kiddies!

10am till 1pm

Date: Sunday 8th March

Sunday 5th April & Sunday 3rd May 2009

Coffee and relaxed atmosphere with other parents

I'm Gina and have 24 years experience, plus I have a disabled child so I know how hard it is to take them to a salon and expect them to behave.

Kids are relaxed and respond well to Warren Park's playful environment, so give it a try - we don't bite!

(Only) £ 5.00 per cut

Any queries please call Gina on 07970-833652



Special Olympics Surrey Kingston Branch Members Timetable



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	SATURDAY
<p>MEMBERS ONLY!!!! Every Fortnight <u>Term Time ONLY</u> Athletics & Boccia. Cost: £3.00 per session Time: 6.00pm to 8.00pm Richard Challoner School Manor Drive North New Malden Surrey KT3 5PB</p> <p>2009 Dates: January 19th February 2nd March 2nd, 16th & 30th April 27th May 11th June 8th & 22nd July 6th & 20th</p>	<p>MEMBERS ONLY!!!! Weekly Ten Pin Bowling Specific Training and coaching on offer Cost: £3.00 per session Time: 7.30pm to 9.30pm Charrington Bowl Kingston Road Tolworth KT5 7PB</p>	<p>MEMBERS ONLY!!!! Weekly Football Training must be aged 18+ Quality Football Coaches from Fulham FC Cost: £3.00 per session Time: 6.30pm to 7.30pm Tolworth Recreation Centre Fullers Way North Tolworth KT6 7LQ</p>	<p>FRIDAY</p>	<p>SUNDAY</p> <p>MEMBERS ONLY!!!! Skiing Training Coaching available Cost: £10.00 per session Time: 5.00pm (beginner) 6.00pm (intermediate) Sandown Ski Centre Moor Lane, Esher KT10 8AN Dates: Jan: 4th & 18th Feb: 1st & 15th March: 1st, 15th & 29th April: 19th You must PRE BOOK by calling Clive Friend on 01932 864983</p>

For more information about members sessions please contact Sue Frett (Branch Secretary) on 020 8336 2768 or email: specialolympicssurrey@googlemail.com
Website: www.sosurrey.org

NEW SPORT AVAILABLE IN 2009
SWIMMING @ Teddington Pool.
in partnership with Special Olympics Surrey, Richmond Branch contact Sue Frett to find out more



SPECIAL OLYMPICS SURREY (KINGSTON SPORTS CLUB)

If you are not a member of Special Olympics Surrey, Active Kingston gives you the opportunity to access Recreation Multi Sport sessions.

Recreation Sessions

is open to anybody aged 8 to 80 with a disability and gives you the opportunity to play various sports such as: Basketball, Cricket, Tri-Golf, Short Tennis, plus much more. Please note sessions run **TERM TIME** only!

Dates of the 2009 sessions are:

January 12th & 26th
 February 9th & 23rd
 March 9th & 23rd
 April 20th
 May 18th
 June 1st, 15th & 29th
 July 13th

There is no need to book, sessions run on a fortnightly basis. For more information about any of these sessions please contact

The Active Kingston Team on
 020 8547 5207 or visit www.kingston.gov.uk/sport



[Active Kingston Card](#)

Are you eligible for an Active Kingston Card? Up to 70% discount on selected leisure activities in Kingston

You can apply if you live in the Royal Borough of Kingston and you are:

- · Registered disabled or receive a disability benefit
- · Receive Carer's Allowance
- · Are aged 60 or over
- · Receive Income Support
- · Are a full time student in further of higher education

For an application form call The Active Kingston Team on 020 8547 5207 or visit your local leisure centre.