

# Kingston Connections

## Summer 2008

### The newsletter for disabled children, their families and carers.

#### From the Editor:

Thanks very much for the kind comments made about the last issue of this newsletter. It is always good to hear from you and nice to know we are giving you the information that you and your family require. We were particularly grateful to Tracey Lovell for her contribution and are delighted that another parent Sarah Quibell has found the time to prepare an article.

The big news of course is that a site has been secured for the Integrated Services for Disabled Children. We will all be moving to the Moor Lane site of Castle Hill School. The benefits to having all services for disabled children and young people on one site are clear. This is a very exciting move and all the staff involved are looking forward to this next step.

The Easter Holidays went well with the many and varied play schemes proving a huge success for all those who attended. Congratulations to all those involved both as workers and attendees.

The copy date for the autumn issue of this newsletter the 6<sup>th</sup> October we really would love to hear about the activities that you got up to over the summer.

I understand that the summer holidays can be a difficult and stressful time for families and hope that within the

pages of this newsletter you will find some suggestions to keep your children and young people happily occupied.

#### **Caroline Baxter -Editor**

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.

EnhanceAble, The Disabled Children's Register and the Team for Disabled Children distributes this newsletter.

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

Changes are afoot again at the DCIAS – this time with regard to personnel. Megan Naylor and Linda Sargeant have both left us for pastures new. Both have provided excellent support to parents and children and will be much missed. We wish them both well.

We are currently in the process of recruiting a new Parent Partnership Officer and we hope to be able to introduce them to you in the next newsletter.

Caroline Baxter and Julie Hagarty, CEO EnhanceAble, will deliver the Loan Equipment Service in the interim. See article on page 4 for more details.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding these changes please do not hesitate to contact us.

Reflecting on the expanded services delivered by the DCIAS and our continued commitment to high standards of customer service we are carrying out a detailed evaluation of the DCIAS and would be very grateful if you could please complete and return the questionnaire that is enclosed with this newsletter.

The DCIAS relies upon your input to guide us as to how develop in the ways that you require. If you reply to this evaluation questionnaire we will be able to

respond according to your wishes and concerns.

The DCIAS, which is your service, will therefore be able to continue to successfully serve the community it was designed to support.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete the evaluation questionnaire.

### **Contact us:**

**Phone - 020 8934 6378**

**Email - [children@enhanceable.org](mailto:children@enhanceable.org)**

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

### **Benefits**

We have been made aware over the last few months that some parents have not been accessing all the benefits to which they are eligible. Families in particular are not claiming Child Tax Credit. Please do not hesitate to contact us to receive support and information about accessing all the benefits to which you are entitled.

### **Information and Social Evenings**

We have been running Information & 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 June. See below for details.

## **Invitation**

The DCIAS would like to invite parents and carers to our Social and Information Evening  
on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June 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](mailto:Patricia.Farlow@enhanceable.org)**

## **Parent Partnership Service**

### **School Admissions**

The school places have now been announced and I hope that many of you were pleased. For those of you who were not do contact the RBK Admissions team to ask about their Appeals Procedure and find out what happens next. Their telephone number is 020 8547 5757.

### **NEW Parent Partnership Officer**

There will soon be a new Parent Partnership Officer in post to replace Megan who is leaving the service at the end of May. She has greatly enjoyed her time in post and would like to wish all the families she has worked with the very best. Please be assured that there will be no break in the service being provided.

### **Parent Partnership Information Leaflets**

The service has information leaflets available about all sorts of topics including 'Statutory Assessment & Statements of SEN', a Dictionary of Terms, 'Choosing a School' and 'Gathering Your Child's Views'. These are available through the Disabled Children's Information & Advice Service.

### **Year 5 Reviews**

Many of you will be having your Year 5 Transition Review this term. Hopefully it will be a time when you can start discussing your child's move to Secondary Education. This can be a stressful time for parents/carers and young people alike, but do keep in mind that you have plenty of time and there are lots of people that can support you. If your child has a Statement of SEN, the Parent Partnership Service is available to assist you. If your child does not have a Statement of SEN, the Choice Advisor at Welcare can help you navigate the system. Her name is Michelle Flight and her telephone number is 020 8546 3258.

The Parent Partnership Service exists to provide parents/carers of children with Special Educational Needs

independent, impartial and confidential support and advice. We can provide that support in any number of ways, from attending meetings and reviews, helping you understand and write reports and explaining the statutory procedures. We can meet you at our office, at school, at your local Children's Centre or at your home. You don't need a professional to refer you to this service so if you think we can help, pick up the phone and give us a ring.

For more information please call:

### **Parent Partnership Service**

**Phone: 020 8934 6378**

**Email: [children@enhanceable.org](mailto:children@enhanceable.org)**

**Website: [www.enhanceable.org](http://www.enhanceable.org)**

**The Advisory Centre for Education** has launched a new text advice service for parents: AskACE.

Parents should text '**AskACE**' to **68808** for advice on any part of the admissions process, including appeals.

Enquirers will receive a choice of options including tips by text, an information pack on appeals or an 'Applying for a School' booklet and the chance to ask their own particular questions about the process.

From 7th May the service will also be available for questions on Special Educational Needs. Enquirers should text 'AskACE' to 68808 then follow the reply options for texting their own specific question.

**All advice is free and independent and texts are free to send and receive.**

In June 2008 advice will be available for admissions, Special Educational Needs and the full range of education issues including bullying and exclusions.

## DCIAS Loan Equipment Service

Following Linda's departure from the DCIAS Caroline Baxter and Julie Hagarty, EnhanceAble CEO, will in the interim, be delivering the service.

We have a good range of equipment including wheelchairs, specialist seating systems & buggies. We can also help parents/carers source equipment if they wish to purchase their own items.

Any parent/carer wishing to borrow equipment from the DCIAS will need to ensure that the therapist for their child or young person is present with them when assessing the equipment to advise on its suitability.

### **Loan Equipment Service:**

**Phone: 020 8934 6378**

**Email: [children@enhanceable.org](mailto:children@enhanceable.org)**

**Website: [www.enhanceable.org](http://www.enhanceable.org)**

## Activities for the Under Fives

### **Tuesday Special club:**

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

We are a very welcoming mother and baby/toddler group. 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 and siblings are welcome during school holidays. Just come and join us or call 020 8547 6522.

## 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:

**Megan Naylor** – Parent Partnership Officer - DCIAS

**Linda Sargeant** – Loan Equipment Officer - DCIAS

**Jacqui Glazer** - Health Care Assistant – Maple Children's Centre

**Karen Reekie** – Staff Nurse – Maple Short Term Care Unit

**Tom Firth** – Health Care Assistant – Maple Short Term Care Unit - will be sharing his time between the Maple Short Term Care Unit and Paediatric Outpatients

**Lia Lansley** – Health Care Assistant – Maple Short Term Care Unit – has left to start her maternity leave – we wish her all the very best.

**Alan Thorne** - has completed his time as temporary manager of the Transition team at Beaconsfield Children's resource centre.

We would very much like to wish them all good luck and best wishes for their new roles.

### **Welcome to:**

**Katie Angiolini** – Transition Worker – Team for Disabled Children

### **And welcome back to:**

**Ambika Fox** - Staff Nurse – Maple Short Term Care Unit – has returned from her maternity leave.

## Opening of Norbiton Children's Centre

Good news - Norbiton Children's Centre situated in the grounds of the Mount Primary School, Dickerage Lane, New Malden will be up and running soon.

Most of the internal works have been completed and work on the landscaping and outdoor gardens is in full progress.

The centre, which is fully accessible, will accommodate:

- a full day care centre for working parents for 17 children under 3, from 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. 48 weeks of the year
- a health suite for visiting midwives and health visitors
- a community room for meetings, training and conferences
- a crèche.

If you are looking at returning to work and have a little one please come and visit us.

Situated just off the crèche there will also be a small sensory room equipped with soft matting, bubble lamps and mirrors and an overhead projector. It is anticipated that this room will be made available every day to anyone who would like to come and visit. We are planning on operating this as a "drop in" for parents who want to use this room but if the demand becomes too great then it may be that parents

and carers will have to pre-book a session. The cost will be £1.00 a visit.

The centre will continue to run its Stay and Play sessions for families with children under 5 on a Monday morning from 0900 a.m. to 11.00 a.m.

Every third Saturday in the month the Dads session will be run from the centre for all Dads and their children.

Other sessions will include family parenting workshops, music and rhyme, transition to nursery classes, computer give-aways and lots more.

Once the opening date has been finalised we will let you know all the services as they are planned.

We are also looking for parents with children under 5 to become members of the Children's Centre Advisory Board who can help and advise us on the types of services you would like to see.

The Board will meet on a regular basis and timings will be agreed at the first meeting. If you are interested in becoming involved in the planning of services and want to have a say in how the children's centre operates or would like further information on the centre please contact:

**Nikki Gray on 020 8949 6065.**

Watch this space - an open day is planned for everyone to come and visit the wonderful facilities and a date will be set once the building has been fully commissioned and handed over.

## Kingston Holiday Club:

Many congratulations to Laura Power and her team at the Kingston Holiday Club; the group was subject to an Ofsted inspection on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April and we are delighted to report that they received a grading of "Good" with some "Outstanding" features.

Laura and her team work tirelessly to provide extremely high quality play schemes that offer stimulating and challenging activities to children and young people who would find it impossible to access mainstream activities.

We are delighted that all their hard work has been recognised with such a good result. Well done to all the team!!

Kingston Libraries



**New Malden Junior Library**

Kingston Road  
New Malden  
Surrey KT3 3LY

**Monthly  
Special Needs Storytime**

**Do you care for a child with Special Needs?**

**We run a specially adapted story session monthly on a Saturday.**

**Please contact the librarian to discuss your child's specific requirements.**

**2.00 – 2.30pm**

**Dates for 2008**

**14<sup>th</sup> June**

**12<sup>th</sup> July**

*No meeting in August*

**13<sup>th</sup> September**

**11<sup>th</sup> October**

**8<sup>th</sup> November**

**13<sup>th</sup> December**

**For more information contact: Kate Priestley.**

**Tel: 0208 547 6464**

**Email: [kate.priestley@rbk.kingston.gov.uk](mailto:kate.priestley@rbk.kingston.gov.uk)**



## Dates for your Diary

RBK Half Term week: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2008  
RBK Summer Term Ends: Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2008

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Time</b>
Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup> June	DCIAS Social & Information Evening (Contact: Tricia Farlow 020 8934 6378)	EnhanceAble, The Geneva Road Centre, Kingston KT1 2TW	7.30pm-9.30pm
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Born Too Soon Event – The Arnould School of Dancing present “Away We Go”	NESCOT (Contact: Pauline Woods on 8974 9157 or email <a href="mailto:pwoods@kingstonhospital.nhs.uk">pwoods@kingstonhospital.nhs.uk</a> or <a href="http://www.borntoosoon.org.uk">www.borntoosoon.org.uk</a> )	
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Born Too Soon Event - Annual Dragonboat Challenge on the Thames	(Contact: Pauline Woods as above)	
Weds 24 <sup>th</sup> Sept & Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Born Too Soon Event - The Arnould School of Dancing present “Away We Go”	Epsom Playhouse (Contact: Pauline Woods as above)	
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Born Too Soon Event- “The Wedding Ball” – wear your wedding dress or ball gown for charity	Sandown Park Contact Alice Austin via <a href="mailto:enquiries@weddingball.co.uk">enquiries@weddingball.co.uk</a> or view <a href="http://www.weddingball.co.uk">www.weddingball.co.uk</a>	

### 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.borntoosoon.org.uk)

## Parent's Article – Sarah Quibell

I have just collected my tired, grubby but very happy seven year old son from a football training session. Thousands of parents experience this sort of task so why should it prompt an article ? The difference is that our son has ASD and normally dislikes any form of organised sport. Football has been something that he has always endured rather than enjoyed until he started to attend ASD specific football training sessions run every half term and during the school holidays by Fulham FC's Community Sports Trust. They also run other disability football courses for children from ages 3 to 17.

The courses are run at Hurlingham Park in Fulham and at the YMCA Hawker Centre in Kingston by Fulham FC's Disability Sports Development Officer, Susi Williams. Susi has boundless and infectious enthusiasm and engages brilliantly with the children. She focuses on building their self esteem and confidence whilst simultaneously developing their balance and coordination by using lots of short games which involve running, chasing and picking up cones before footballs are even introduced into the sessions. Susi is supported by a number of assistants so the child to adult ratio is very good.

The ASD course is non competitive but the children learn dribbling, passing and moving with the ball. Everyone has the opportunity to score goals and to save them. I thoroughly enjoyed watching a five a side game where the children ran with the ball and passed it to each other. At the end of the course all the children receive a small "award" and individual rounds of applause.

I cannot recommend these courses highly enough to other parents of a disabled child. My son asked me today if he would see Susi again. When I told him that he would he said, " Good. I like football with Susi. She's fun."

**For further details of Fulham Football Club's disability courses please phone 0870 442 5432 or email [swilliams@fulhamfc.com](mailto:swilliams@fulhamfc.com)**

## RADAR toilet access keys

The National Key Scheme (NKS) offers independent access for disabled people to around 7,000 locked public toilets around the country. RADAR would like all providers of accessible toilets to keep their toilets unlocked if at all possible but the NKS is suggested for use only if the provider concerned has to keep the toilets locked to stop vandalism and misuse.

RADAR makes no profit in supplying keys but needs to make a small charge to cover the costs of supply.

**For further information about ordering a key please contact RADAR:**

- **by phone - 020 7250 3222**
- **by email - [radar@radar.org.uk](mailto:radar@radar.org.uk) or**
- **view their website - [www.radar.org.uk/radarwebsite/tabid/41/default.aspx](http://www.radar.org.uk/radarwebsite/tabid/41/default.aspx)**

## Smoke Alarms

We have been contacted by the Kingston Fire Service who has asked us to remind families of the service that they can offer to fit smoke alarms for free and carry out a risk assessment of properties.

If you are interested, please contact:  
Jeff Hall, Kingston Fire Service on:

Tel: 020 8555 1200 ext 84555  
Email: [jeff.hall@london-fire.gov.uk](mailto:jeff.hall@london-fire.gov.uk)

## **Seminars for Parents and Carers of children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)**

In collaboration with the National Autistic Society, I am pleased to be able to offer four seminars for parents and carers of children with Autism and Social Communication Difficulties.

The aim of the programme to equip parents with the skills and information they need to care for their child with ASD more effectively, and to offer a range of advice, support and practical strategies on a number of themes.

The courses, to be held at Warren Park Children's Centre, Kingston Hill, Kingston, KT2 7LX, are as follows:

1. **Understanding Autistic Spectrum Disorder** - an introductory course  
Wednesday 4 June, 6.30pm-9.30pm
2. **Managing anger in young people with Asperger's Syndrome**  
(for parents of children and young people aged 8-16yrs)  
Wednesday 11 June, 10.15am- 2.15pm
3. **Meeting your child's sensory needs**  
(for parents of children aged 3-18 yrs)  
Thursday 12 June, 10.15am- 2.15pm
4. **TEACCH in the home** - a practical approach using visual structure to solve problems at home and in the community  
Friday 20 June 9.30am- 1.00pm

It is recommended that parents who wish to attend any of the seminars 2-4 attend the introductory course first if they do not have prior knowledge of ASD.

There is no cost.

Refreshments are available. Participants of seminars 2 and 3 will need to bring their own lunch.

Parents and carers can attend any number of seminars. It is likely however that places on these seminars will fill quickly. We would therefore be grateful if you could try to ensure that you can attend if you do sign up for a seminar. Places are allocated on a first come first served basis.

Further information and application forms are available from:

**Marie Doyle**  
**Advisory Teacher and ASD Service Co-ordinator**

**Tel: 020 8547 6674**

**Email: [Marie.doyle@rbk.kingston.gov.uk](mailto:Marie.doyle@rbk.kingston.gov.uk)**

**or contact DCIAS on: 020 8934 6378**

**Kingston Special Needs Toy Library**

**Open every Friday between 10am and 12 noon**  
**(Except for August)**

**At the Friends Meeting House**  
**(Next to Primark)**

78, Eden Street  
Kingston - upon -Thames  
Surrey  
KT1 1DJ

For more information ring:

Roma on 0208 398 6565

Charlotte on 0208 541 5157

Sarah on 0208 399 3247

Or Visit our new website at:

[www.kingstonepublish.org.uk/kingstontoylibrary](http://www.kingstonepublish.org.uk/kingstontoylibrary)

## **Useful numbers and email addresses:**

Disabled Children's Information and Advice Service		020 8934 6378
Team for Disabled Children		020 8547 6587
Children's Information Service	<a href="mailto:CIS@rbk.gov.uk">CIS@rbk.gov.uk</a>	020 8547 6582
Portage Service	<a href="mailto:ann.Macpherson@rbk.kingston.gov.uk">ann.Macpherson@rbk.kingston.gov.uk</a>	020 8547 6698
Dysart School	<a href="mailto:DYS@rbksch.org">DYS@rbksch.org</a>	020 8412 2600
Bedelsford School	<a href="mailto:BDS@rbksch.org">BDS@rbksch.org</a>	020 8546 9398
St Philips School	<a href="mailto:PHS@rbksch.org">PHS@rbksch.org</a>	020 8397 2672
Surbiton Children's Centre	<a href="mailto:SHN@rbksch.org">SHN@rbksch.org</a>	020 8390 2555
Warren Park		020 8481 0200
Maple Centre		020 8934 2195
MAPS	<a href="mailto:info@mapschildren.org.uk">info@mapschildren.org.uk</a>	
SWAPS	<a href="mailto:swapskingston@googlemail.com">swapskingston@googlemail.com</a>	
21&co	<a href="mailto:tattyloulou@hotmail.com">tattyloulou@hotmail.com</a>	
Children's Fund		020 8547 5847
Continence Clinic		020 8399 7111 ext 4105
RBK SEN Department		020 8547 4615
Kingston Carers Network		020 8547 1614
Contact a Family (Wandsworth)	<a href="mailto:wandsworth@cafamil.org.uk">wandsworth@cafamil.org.uk</a>	020 8947 5260
Kingston Welcare		020 8546 3258
Kingston Mencap	<a href="mailto:gillcwood@blueyonder.co.uk">gillcwood@blueyonder.co.uk</a>	020 8540 1399
Kingston Centre for Independent Living		020 8546 9603
Benefits Enquiry Line		0800 882200
DLA Office		08457 123456
Child Tax Credit Office		0845 3003900
Disabled Children's Register		020 8770 8397

## **SNAPS**

### **Special Olympics Surrey**

The mission of Special Olympics Surrey (SOS) is to provide year round sports training and competition for people aged eight years and older with a learning disability, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate achievement, experience enjoyment and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families and other Special Olympic Athletes.

Special Olympics Surrey – (Kingston) meets on a fortnightly basis on a Monday night at Richard Challoner Sports Hall, Manor Drive North, New Malden KT3 5PE.

This club is open to people with **ALL** disabilities and the sports on offer are: Athletics, Boccia and Football. The times of the sessions are 6.00pm to 8.00pm and the cost per session £3.00.

You also have the opportunity to become a member of Special Olympics Kingston. The cost is £25 per year. For this you will be given sports training in your chosen sport, given the opportunity to be selected to take part in local, regional, national & international competitions. In the Spring & Summer months, sports training will be outside & you have the opportunity to train at Kingsmeadow Athletics Stadium (transport will be provided) except for Boccia which will remain in the sports hall. To be eligible to become a member of Special Olympics you must have a **learning disability** and fit the eligibility criteria.

Sports kits will be available for SOS members to purchase and will include sweatshirt, polo shirt & kagoule.

For more information please contact:

**Active Kingston Team on**

**020 8547 5207.**

## **Integrated Services for Disabled Children**

An excellent response to the questionnaire on Childcare and Leisure Provision for Disabled Children and Young People in the Royal Borough of Kingston was received. We would very much like to thank all those who took the time to provide such valuable information.

Should you wish to see a copy of the report that has now been written please contact Caroline Jager by email:

[Caroline.Jager@rbk.kingston.gov.uk](mailto:Caroline.Jager@rbk.kingston.gov.uk)

### **Service Provision Map**

You will find enclosed with this newsletter a comprehensive document detailing Specialist Provision for Family Support, Leisure and Childcare Services for children and young people aged 0-19.

Should you have any questions regarding this document you can either contact the specific officers highlighted in the document or you can call the Disabled Children's Information and Advice Service on:

**020 8934 6378**

**or by email**

**[Children@enhanceable.org](mailto:Children@enhanceable.org)**