

November 2009

TRANSPORT

As parents we need your help in order for us to help you we need you to help us.

We are in the process of setting up a working group for school transport to establish a charter agreed by ourselves and West Sussex County Council but in order to do this we need parents input.

We have recently sent out an updated questionnaire which we would appreciate your comments and returned to us by mid November.

AIMING HIGH FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

WSPF would like to welcome Dan Cheesman who is the Aiming High Parent Participation Lead.

Dan is independently employed by West Sussex Council for Voluntary Youth Services but will be working to the criteria of Aiming High for Disabled Children. We are working with West Sussex County Council around the Eligibility Criteria for Short Breaks through Aiming High for Disabled Children. I will write to you shortly when we have worked out how we can involve parents effectively in this matter. It seems that a few parents/carers are confused over what Aiming High for Disabled Children actually is and I can fully understand this so I will send out separate information on this as feel it is too long to put in a Newsletter. Aiming High are having another Fun Day at K2 leisure centre in Crawley on Saturday 5th December 2009 to book you place please contact the Aiming High Team on 01243 642284

TRANSITION

We hope that by now most of you will know that West Sussex County Council plan to finish their consultation regarding transition and the pathway of information that you receive. West Sussex Parents Forum recently attended two workshops and would like to thank everybody that has been involved and given feedback regarding this. We will endeavour to update you on this in January 2010.

PARENT PARTNERSHIP SERVICE

We would like to update you of the following regarding Parent Partnership Service. There have been some recent staff changes to this service these are as follows:

Hilary Stirling - Interim Parent Partnership Officer

Suzy Lury - Information Officer (Maternity Cover for Claire Chapman until Summer 2010)

Elaine Worrell - Information Officer (Term-time only)

Gemma North - Administrative Assistant. Also Heather McIntosh will be the new Parent

Partnership Officer from Mid December. You can contact the Parent Partnership Team on the following details.

Our Helpline number is: 0845 075 1008

Email: parent.partnership@westsussex.gov.uk

Address: 65 Westgate, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 3RJ

Helpline hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm

SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS GUIDANCE BOOKLET

A new revised Guidance Booklet regarding statutory assessment (statementing). We would like to urge parents to obtain a copy of this booklet for their perusal. These can be obtained by WSPF by emailing parents@westsussexparentsforum, Parent Partnership Office (see above). An alternative is to download the booklet on www.wsgfl.westsussex.gov.uk/statutoryassessment.

WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL/PRIMARY CARE TRUST REVIEWS

At present, there are numerous reviews taking place within the Primary Care Trust and West Sussex County Council. These are as follows :-

Children's Delivery Programme led by *Stuart Galimore* – Being undertaken in West Sussex at present and is focusing on staying safe component of children's services, as this has been judged as inadequate by OFSTED

Children's Local Integrated Programme – *Sara Weech* – To develop local commissioning through the Children's Trust

Rapid Improvement in SEN and OSL – *David Sword* – Early intervention and improved planning for educational provisions for children with additional needs, We would like to ask if there are 4 parents who are willing to help getting involved with the planning for an event to take place in either December 2009 or January 2010. This meeting could be arranged for 10th November so if you are interested please contact us as soon as possible.

Disability Review – *PCT* led work stream – This is for children with complexed long term needs. Dame Phillipa Russell, is involved in doing this review. Should you require further information regarding this please contact parents@westsussexparentsforum or telephone 07528 418149.

West Sussex County Council led work stream – Commencing 2010 This is a review regarding Children and Adults with disabilities but due to Dame Phillipa Russell work at present this will commence in the Summer 2010.

WEST SUSSEX PARENTS FORUM SO FAR AND BEYOND

NEWSLETTER

At present we are addressing the look of our newsletter and hope that the next couple of issues meet your satisfaction.

This newsletter is designed for you to have a voice and share with other parents so we are open to any suggestions and comments. You can now following West Sussex Parents Forum on Twitter.

We are currently doing a lot of work around getting proper foundations set for the Forum so that it becomes a sustainable organisation. One way you can help us is by filling in the membership form enclosed so we can update our records.

DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE – INFORMATION EVENT

We recently attended a meeting in London which we have been given test papers for the Disability Living Allowance for your perusal and comment. We understand that this form is daunting and complicated and improvements and work in progress is taking place and we are pleased to announce that we have a member of Children's DLA team joining us. **BUT we need your input so we are holding a meeting to discuss this on 26th November 2009 at Billingshurst Family Centre (Weald School) Station Road, Billingshurst RH149RY. From 7pm-9pm.**

PARENT AND FAMILY CARE FOUNDATION

Are holding a free Parent Workshop on 14th November 2009 at Heronsdale School, Shoreham by Sea. This will include training on Behaviour management, introduction on sign-a-long and Makaton contact me for further details of this event and a booking form.

WE PLAY TOO AGM

Are looking for a new secretary so if you have a few hours a week to spare and would like to help this organization who campaigned for and raised funds to put disabled play equipment in Brooklands Park in Worthing.

WEST SUSSEX PARENTS FORUM- QUESTION AND ANSWER TIME

We are holding a question and answer session with members of West Sussex Social Services, West Sussex PCT and West Sussex Education on 17th December at 1pm. This is a pilot session to see what questions you have, if it works well we will open it to everyone. So please send us your questions.