



Thomley Notice Board

This is the 5th edition of our "notice board" which aims to pass on information which we think might be useful. Please note that we cannot verify the quality of the services offered and recommend you find out further information directly from the organisers.

Events

London Zoo day for disabled children & their families. Date not yet specified (reduced entry fee)

London Zoo is organising a specific day with events additional to their usual activities. Activities will include animal talks and demonstrations, live music, entertainment, face painting, craft activities, multi-sensory activities etc. It is advised you book well in advance with Steve Marriott on 0207 4496551 or email steve.marriott@zsl.org

Autism Friendly Cinema Screenings - Ice Age 2 - 11am Sunday 29th March (£2.50 per person)

Screenings are especially for people with autism (and other similar severe learning disabilities), their families and carers. The soundtrack will be turned down a little, low lights will be left on in the auditorium and it is fine to make a noise or move around! The bar will be open after the film to give you the opportunity to chat and socialise. For further screenings, request email bulletins from info@autismspeaks.org.uk. Call 0871 704 2064 to book. Regal Picturehouse, 2 Boroma Way, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, RG9 2BZ

Training

Guide to Managing Challenging Behaviours - 18th March 2009, Manchester, M1 4LX.

Run by Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS - www.pecs.org.uk), this workshop outlines a powerful and effective model for dealing with challenging behaviour, including the most challenging self-injurious behaviour. The one-day workshop is suitable for parents and professionals working with people on the autism spectrum. Previous experience of PECS is not necessary. £137 for professionals and £69 for family members. To book, call 01273 609555

Respite care

Short-term breaks... your opportunity to think about a different kind of respite

Following Mencap's campaign, the Oxfordshire Learning Disability Partnership Board (OLDPB) would like to find different ways of providing respite for families of adults with learning disabilities. Due to the fact that overnight respite in a respite centre does not suit everyone, OLDPB are encouraging carers to try out different types of respite care and to influence the future of how respite might be provided in the future. The project is time-limited to end 31st March 2009. Access to short breaks funded through this project will not affect or replace existing respite entitlement. For more information please contact your Learning Disability Team Care Manager, or Trish Thomas on 01865 323632, or email trish.thomas@oxfordshire.gov.uk

The Kiloran Trust - Provides respite for full-time carers who need a break from caring in their home environment. This residential break is in a large comfortable house in Shepherd's Bush, West London. The home-from-home environment aims to give carers time and space to relax or to offer a listening ear. For full board, the cost is £50 per night for up to 5 nights. Additional financial assistance may be available. For further information call Sue Riley or Milka Witkowska on 0207 602 7404. Kiloran Trust, 157 Blythe Road, London. W14 0HL. Email: kiltrust@aol.com, Website: www.kilorantrust.org.uk

Campaigns

Autism Bill - The Autism Bill has been chosen by Cheryl Gillan, Conservative MP for Chesham and Amersham, to be taken forward for parliamentary debate. The Autism Bill aims to address:

- the lack of local information about children and young people with autism, and the failure of local agencies to include their needs in the planning of services, particularly around transition
- the lack of local information about adults with autism and the devastating lack of support for them.

For more information see - see www.autism.org.uk/nas/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=1380&a=18582

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Autism (APPGA) needs your feedback

APPGA are launching their first ever inquiry into the transition stage of young people with autism from the age of 14 to 25, and is inviting anyone with an interest in autism to submit written evidence to the inquiry. The inquiry will report in June 2009 and will result in a short, concise report with action recommendations to ministers. To submit evidence visit www.autism.org.uk/nas/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=2029&a=18311

Parent Carer Forums - Families with disabled children

Disabled Children Matter in Oxfordshire - If you would like to be part an effective parent forum in Oxfordshire, come along to meet with other parents and find out:

- How you can have a voice/be involved in issues that effect you or your child/ren
- How you can ensure that our county council and PCT hear your voice and respond to the issues that are affecting you and your child/ren locally
- How other counties have set up their parent forums

Meetings will be held on **20th March** at:

- 10.00am - 12.00pm - Stratfield Brake, Frieze Way, Kidlington, OX5 1UP
- 1.00pm - 3.00pm - Witney Four Pillars Hotel, Ducklington Lane, Witney, OX28 4EX

If you need help with transport/childcare costs, or if the date /times/venues don't suit, please discuss with the organisers as they may be able to help. To register, contact valerie.reed@cafamily.org.uk or call 01582 600388.

Buckinghamshire Parent Carer Forum - This forum will work to improve communication between parents and carers of disabled children and service providers and decision makers. The aim is to ensure that families get the services and help that they need, when they need it. The first 4 local meetings will seek the views of families on priorities for action and how the Forum should work. Meetings will be held at:

- 10.15 - 11.45 on Thursday 12th March - Elmhurst Children's Centre, Dunsham Lane, Aylesbury, HP20 2DB
- 10.15 - 11.45 on Saturday 21st March - Waterside Children's Centre, 470 Waterside, Chesham, HP5 1QF
- 1.00 - 2.30 on Tuesday 24th March - The Centre, Rutland Avenue, High Wycombe, HP12 3LL
- 6.30 - 8.00 on Tuesday 24th March - Buckingham Children's Centre, Grenville Combined School, Chandros Road, Buckingham. MK18 1AP

They can offer help with transport, pay for childcare and will provide a buffet at meetings. For more information, contact Emma Treleaven on 0208 977 0283 or email ennatrekeaveb@capacityltd.org.uk

Benefits

Cold Weather Payment - If you're on a low income, a Cold Weather Payment may be available to help you for each week of very cold weather in your area. You may be eligible for if you have one of the following:

- a pensioner premium, higher pensioner premium or enhanced pensioner premium
- a disability premium, enhanced disability premium or severe disability premium
- a disabled child premium
- Child Tax Credit that includes a disability or severe disability element
- a child who is under 5 in the family

www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/BenefitsTaxCreditsAndOtherSupport/Inretirement/DG_10018668

Funding for families in Aylesbury

William Harding's Charity (Charity No. 310619) - Welcomes applications from individual residents in Aylesbury Town. The Charity has said that they may be able to fund families who, on a means tested basis, need financial assistance to visit Thomley (N.B. Thomley's Annual Family Membership is currently £180). They may also be able to help residents of Aylesbury Town who are in need of other kinds of charitable assistance. For further information contact: John Leggett, The William Harding's Charity, Parrott & Coales LLP, 14 Bourbon Street, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP20 2RS. Tel: 01296 318500.

The Percy, Anne & David Wood Charitable Trust - Set up to specifically assist young disabled people to actively engage in sport or the arts. The Trust will provide up to £500 for a young (under age of 25) disabled person who resides in the town of Aylesbury. To apply, contact: Youth Focus, The Coach House, Green Park Centre, Aston Clinton, Aylesbury. HP225NE. Tel: 01296 631911, email: office@youthfocus.org.uk or see www.youthfocus.org.uk