



## SPRING 2012 NEWSLETTER

[www.fulloflifekc.com](http://www.fulloflifekc.com)

020 8962 9994

### FULL OF LIFE PARENT FORUMS

Its great to see everyone at our parent's forums not only to catch up, but to go through some of the issues families are facing. Some of the topics we have covered have been therapy services, housing, dental services, respite, play, emergency situations, and transition. We have contacted dental and housing services to tell them of parents concerns and they have provided us with information that is really helpful. We also hope to meet with professionals over the next few forums to discuss respite and play provision.

Our next forums will take place on the **6<sup>th</sup> March, 20<sup>th</sup> March and the 27<sup>th</sup> March 10-1pm** at 'The Place to Eat', 4 Conlan Street W10 5AR, (just on the corner by our offices). Tea/Coffee and Lunch will be provided.

**We hope to see you there!**

### FULL OF LIFE - RBKC DIGNITY IN CARE AWARD

Full of Life received the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's Dignity in Care Award for our work with young people with complex needs. We are very proud of this, as it shows that the high quality service we provide for the young people who attend our afterschool, Saturday, holiday and now day provision is really appreciated by families and professionals alike. If you would like to know more about this service please contact Jenna Fashola on 0208 969 9993 or email [jenna@fulloflifekc.com](mailto:jenna@fulloflifekc.com). You can also check out the photographs in the gallery on our website which will give you a flavour of the opportunities available for young people who access our service [www.fulloflifekc.com](http://www.fulloflifekc.com)



### FULL OF LIFE TRANSITION SERVICE

Our own transition service for young people with complex needs, offers young people the opportunity to attend afterschool, Saturday and holiday service. We work in partnership with parents, professionals from health and social care and we are an ASDAN accredited service. Our core principals are that young people continue to learn, to have fun and have a sense of purpose to their day with us. All young people have person centred plans that are 'live and active'! Our service also enables the young people we work with to develop new friendships as well as continuing with old ones. We also provide opportunities to try new things with the support of a great staff team, who are 'literally' Full of Life! If you would like to find out more about the service please contact Jenna Fashola on 0208 969 9993 email [jenna@fulloflifekc.com](mailto:jenna@fulloflifekc.com) or to see some of the opportunities young people have had within our service, check out the Full of Life website on [www.fulloflifekc.com](http://www.fulloflifekc.com) then click 'photos'.



## OLYMPICS 2012 28<sup>TH</sup> JULY – 12<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST

### BE PREPARED!

The Olympics are coming to Kensington and Chelsea this summer and it's going to be very busy with visitors, certain streets being blocked off and even larger amounts of traffic!

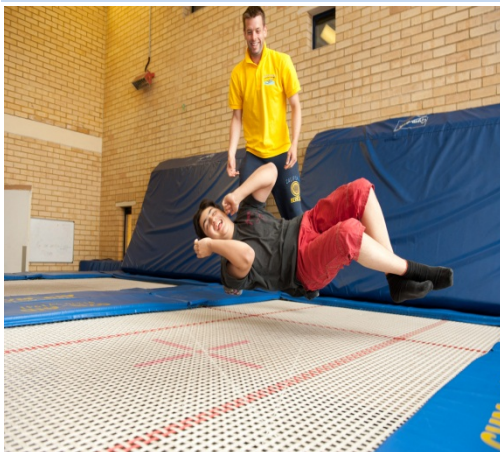
We will gather information that we feel will be helpful to our families and let you know through our newsletters, and ebulletins (if you haven't signed up please email [info@fulloflifekc.com](mailto:info@fulloflifekc.com) to be added to our list.

### But for now here's something you can do.

If you have booked hospital appointments during the summer holidays, especially if your child attends Chelsea Westminster Hospital, it might be better to reschedule to either before or after the Olympics, as it may be difficult to get there on time!

With 12,000 people expected per day to descend on Earls Court, the area will be extremely busy.

And having a child who gets bored being stuck in this traffic won't be fun! **So be prepared!**



## RBKC TRANSITION TEAM

Transition is a time when children transfer from children with disabilities teams to adult learning disabilities services. Lots of things change when your child reaches 16-18 years of age, including schools, colleges, medical care, respite and day services. Full of Life have worked hard to make things easier for people and have been instrumental in helping start the Transition Team, which consists of social workers, professionals from health working together with the children with disabilities team to try to make things smoother for families. For further information please contact the team on 020 7313 6843

## BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY PROVISION NOW!

To prevent disappointment please book your half term holiday places either at **St Quintins on 0208 968 2570** or for Mainstream Playcentres or Play Association Placements call **Paula Ellery on 020 7598 4927**

## GETTING AROUND LONDON

A guide for people with learning difficulties, 'My Guide' covers different ways of travelling, including bus, cab, Tube, train, Docklands Light Railway and tram. It helps people keep safe and shows what to do if things go wrong 'My guide' will help keep people safe while travelling independently. The guide has space for writing down details about your journey, drawing pictures or sticking in photos, and can be ordered as an easy-to-use ring binder. This guide was been awarded a prestigious Plain English Campaign award 2005 for being one of the year's clearest documents. The following is a link for further information.

<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/gettingaround/transportaccessibility/1201.aspx>

## EVIDENCING YOUR FAMILIES NEEDS- HINT AND TIPS!

Please read what's written about your child and your family to make sure that it reflects your families' needs. Needs Assessments, Care Plans, Individual Educational Plans, Annual Reviews etc are all information that should help you to build a clear picture of your child's needs and ensure you access the support your child needs.

Keep documents in one place (a box file is good) and put in writing anything that you don't agree with.

This will hopefully ensure that you have evidence of your child's needs and what is needed to support them to reach their full potential. And remember a met need is still a need!

For further information about your rights and the rights of your child please go to our information service on [www.fulloflifekc.com](http://www.fulloflifekc.com) then click 'disability and the law'.

**Or call us at Full of Life on  
020 8962 9994**

## Full of Life issues raised at parent forums - here are some answers!

### DENTAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES



Parents have real concern about how they can maintain their child's oral health to prevent fillings and extractions, which usually ends up with a visit to the hospital and General Anaesthetic. The Community Dental Service is based at Colville Health Centre, Kensington Park Road and has worked with some of our children. Feedback from families is that the service is great. They have links with the Paediatric Dentistry Department at Chelsea Westminster Hospital for dental treatment under General Anaesthesia. The service sees children up to the age of 18, you can be referred into the service by Specialist Practitioners, General Medical Practitioners, General Dental Practitioners Health Visitors, Community Nurses, School Nurses, Social workers, your schools SENCO. For further information please contact them at **Colville Health Centre, 51 Kensington Park Road**

**London W11 1PA, Telephone 020 77926141.**

Once your child is 18 they can access the Community Dental Services at St Charles Centre for Health and Wellbeing, which is also an excellent service, they were awarded Full of Life's Giraffe Award in 2010, **contact details are, St Charles Hospital, Exmoor Street, London W10 6DZ telephone number 020 89624471**

### CHILDREN WITH ADD OR ADHD

Full of Life have raised our concerns about the needs of children and young people who have a diagnosis with Attention Deficit Disorder, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, and High Functioning Autism, especially over the last year as they struggle in schools and playgrounds. We will continue to work with families to make sure they get the support they need. In the meantime the following is a bit of good news, we just need to find out how this money will be spent locally to support local children and we will let you know when we find out!

The Governments Plans to invest £22 million in child mental health services to help deliver more counselling and talking therapies. Ministers say the money will be spent over three years to expand services to support vulnerable people who have often suffered in silence. This investment is on top of the £32m for therapies set out in the Mental Health Strategy. One in two adults with mental health problems first experienced symptoms by the age of 14 and three quarters before their mid-20s. The hope is that earlier, focused intervention will reduce this burden by tackling conditions like depression, anxiety, self-harm and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder head on. Some of the money will be spent on extra training for NHS staff and those who work with young people such as teachers, social workers and counsellors....**Watch this Space!**

### BENEFITS HELPLINE

**Are you getting the benefits that you are entitled to?**

Contact a Family have set up a free phone helpline for families who have a disabled child to check their benefits with an expert - not only to make sure they are claiming all they are entitled to, but to prepare for the new benefits regulations happening in April.

The extent of changes to the welfare system aren't fully known yet, but there is no doubt that it will



bring the biggest changes in generations. It is also likely to affect our families. To make sure you have the right support to

prepare for these changes you can call their helpline on **0808 808 3355** from Monday to Friday, 9.30am–5.00pm.”

Their benefits specialist has written a short guide on what's expected to change, especially for working families and to those over 16 years of age. This can be found on their website [www.cafamily.org.uk](http://www.cafamily.org.uk).

## HOUSING - LHA CHANGES – an overview

- The Government introduced Local Housing Allowance (LHA) in April 2008. It marked a change in how Housing Benefit was assessed and paid. An allowance was paid dependant on a market rental area rather than rent officers assessing an individual property. All new private claims from this date were on the new Local Housing Allowance.
- The caps that have been introduced are only applicable to the Local Housing Allowance, and only those claiming LHA will be subject to the limits.
- **The LHA is only applicable to private tenants. Social housing tenants are not affected.**
- Many tenants that have been in occupation prior to this date and have had **continuous claims** are also not affected by the LHA caps.
- In some situations a resident's claim may have stopped and so if there is a break in the claim and this break occurred after April 2008, any subsequent claim would be on the LHA basis.
- To put into some sort of perspective – there are 2771 LHA claimants within RBKC. Of these approximately 2340 will be affected in some way by the LHA caps. This Borough has approximately 17,657 claimants in total. As you can see the LHA claimants are a small percentage of total number of claimants.
- **But if you have any concerns and want to know if you are claiming LHA or the older Housing Benefit, then please contact RBKC Benefits on 020 7361 3006.**

### **CHILDREN AT RISK OF SCHOOL EXCLUSION:**

We have seen increasing number of cases in recent months involving secondary school pupils on School Action Plus who have experienced multiple fixed-term exclusions, resulting in the school telling the parents that the child is under threat of permanent exclusion if there are any further incidents. This situation is incredibly stressful for parents who then live every day worrying constantly that the phone will ring with bad news from the school. A recent publication from the DfE (Department for Education) entitled 'A profile of pupil exclusions in England' confirms the link between SEN and exclusion to read their report please see the following link. <https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/RSG/AllPublications/Page1/DFE-RR190>.



**If you are worried about your child being at risk of exclusion here are some tips:**

- The best thing to do is communicate openly with the school about your concerns.
- Communicate first to the SENCO and/or the head of year.
- Write a letter or ask for a meeting to discuss your concerns.
- Ask for a copy of your child's IEP, a written summary of all the support your child receives, and confirm that all teachers are aware of your child's SEN and the strategies that are needed within the classroom to help your child.
- If this does not prove successful, ask for a meeting with the Head or a Deputy Head.
- Remember to document all communication with the school, including the (often) numerous phone calls and emails from various teachers informing you of incidents involving your child.
- If your child's behavioural difficulties are interfering with their ability to access education despite the school's best efforts to provide support, you can consider writing to the local authority to request a statutory assessment of your child's special educational needs. It is a good idea to speak with the school about this beforehand to get their views.

Of course, you can also always contact the **Parent Partnership Service at Full of Life for more support on these issues 0208 9609064.**