

NEWSLETTER

August - October 2010



FULL OF LIFE INFORMATION SERVICE

Our Information Service has now been launched on our website www.fulloflifekc.com. This service



will continually develop and the aim is to provide families with practical enabling information both local and national. But

we need your help too...so if you find anything that you think will help other parents or need us to do some searching for you, please contact **Adrian Graham** our **Information Officer** on **05601535446** or email info@fulloflifekc.com

We do not want this service to be another 'Directory' we want it to be an active service. So check it out and let us know what you think!

As part of the Launch please find enclosed with this Newsletter some free gifts from us to you including a practical Strawberry Shopping Bag...**Press the button and free the bag!**



FULL OF LIFE CARERS ADVOCACY SERVICE

Patricia Torres is our New Carers Advocate, Patricia supports carers of Adults with Learning Disabilities and works Monday to Friday 10-4pm. If you would like to speak to Patricia you can contact her on 0208 962 9994 or email patricia@fulloflifekc.com

FULL OF LIFE'S FIRST MARKET STALL!!



ON the 27TH August 10-3pm Young People who have taken part in

our summer project will have a market stall on Portobello Road. This is our first attempt at a mini social enterprise, all products on sale will have been made by young people and all proceeds will go towards the ongoing development of this project **PLEASE** come along and show your support.

VACANCIES FULL OF LIFE AFTERSCHOOL/COLLEGE CLUB



Full of Life afterschool/college club supports young people with complex needs who need one to one support. We currently have space for two young people. The service operates three days per week 3.30-6pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays Term time only. Young people are dropped to Full of Life by their school transport and we drop them home after each session. Afterschool provision is a great way of ensuring that your son/daughter meets up with their local friends and also extends your respite time! If you would like further information about the service contact **Jenna Fashola** on **0208 969 9994** or email jenna@fulloflifekc.com

FULL OF LIFE PARENT PARTICIPATION GRANT MORE GREAT INDEPENDENT TRAINING SESSIONS FOR PARENTS.



Following our very successful training sessions with Luke Clements, we are proud to present the first of six training sessions for parents dealing with all issues relating to the Special Educational Needs Process. The sessions will be delivered by Claire Franklin and Tessa Sambrook from ASSET which is an Independent Charity.

Details of each session are enclosed on a separate poster. Full of Life want to develop a parents panel that can help shape local Special Educational Needs. The following are brief biographies of Claire and Tessa. **Lunch will be provided so please call us straight away to book your place on 0208 962 9994.**

Claire Franklin:

Claire has a degree in Politics and Government, has two children, one of whom has ASD. She also has a grandson who has just been diagnosed to

To Contact Full of Life: Tel: 020 8962 9994 or Email: office@fulloflifekc.com

have ASD. Claire has been working as a tribunal parent representative for 15 years. She has run a Tribunal Service for a London charity and was a member of the original Advisory Panel that established the Education Advocacy Service at the National Autistic Society. Claire is also a founder member of ASSET, for whom she works as a Parent Advisor, assisting parents to prepare their appeals for the SEN and Disability Tribunal.

Tessa Sambrook:

Tessa Sambrook was a Helpline Manager for AFASIC (the main charity supporting parents who have children with speech and language difficulties), she is also the Vice Chair of a Specialist Independent School for pupils with complex needs - and was one of the first IPSEA Tribunal parent.

RESPITE CARE PANEL MEETINGS HINT AND TIP!

Please remember that if you need transport to access a service you will need to request this at your panel meeting. If you need further information please contact us on 0208 962 9994.



SUMMER IS UPON US AGAIN... CALL PAULA TO SECURE YOUR CHILDS PLAYPLACE

Please make sure that you let Paula Ellery know what days and venues

you would like your child to attend play services during the summer holidays.

And please remember that if you have allocated days in your child's care package for instance three days during holidays you need to make sure you use those days during each holiday period otherwise you will lose them. You will not be allowed to carry days forward. Can you also please make sure you let Paula know if your child is not going to attend on a day you have booked so that the place can be offered to other children and money is not wasted.

We understand that the Children with Disabilities Team will move over the summer holidays to the Isaac Newton Centre, you will still be able to contact Paula Ellery on 0207 361 3919 until new numbers have been allocated, if you have your social workers work mobile phone number these

will remain the same. If you need to contact Paula you can also email her paula.ellery@rbkc.gov.uk. The team will also write to everyone letting them have the new contact details.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES TAKING PLACE THROUGHOUT THE BOROUGH.



This year's programme covers all sorts of activities encompassing sports, visual arts, fashion design, martial arts, performing arts, trips, music and

much, much more! All events are listed on the Borough's website www.rbkc.gov.uk enter Summer 2010 in the search bar and you will find further details about what's happening where. You can download a brochure and a map of where activities are taking place throughout the Borough.

Most activities are either free or subsidised but you'll need to check in advance by contacting the venues. You may also need to register in advance you can download consent and registration forms from the site.

It's also advisable to check event details carefully. If you plan to attend something, we recommend that you phone in advance because there may be occasions when times and dates vary slightly.

Contact us

If you need more information you can contact the organisers directly or email us at summer4u@rbkc.gov.uk

Changes in Carers benefits rules will help more families with disabled children claim



From 12th April 2010 Carer's Allowance, the only state benefit specifically aimed at carers, will be made available to a greater number of those who are in paid employment.

Carer's Allowance cannot be paid to a carer if they work and earn more than a set amount. The

government has announced that this earnings limit will be raised from £95 to £100 after tax deductions - the first time it has been changed since 2007.

For working families caring for a disabled child, the Carer's Allowance rules allow certain childcare costs to be deducted from earnings, so some may qualify even though they are earning slightly more than £100 per week.

From April, Carer's Allowance will also rise from £53.10 per week to £53.90.

So it's good news for families who have a disabled child who provide 35 hours a week of care but are just missing out on Carer's Allowance.

To qualify for Carers Allowance you must meet the following criteria:

- Be aged at least 16 years old
- Provide at least 35 hours per week care to someone who gets either Disability Living Allowance at the middle or highest rate or Attendance Allowance
- Not be studying on a course involving 21 hours or more supervised study
- Meet certain residence and immigration conditions
- Have weekly earnings below the earnings limit



£20 million from Child Trust Funds for disabled children to be redirected to short breaks

The new coalition government announced that Child Trust Funds would be scrapped and £20 million would be redirected to fund "additional respite breaks" for families with disabled children.

It is believed that the £20 million announced is **additional** to funding already allocated for short breaks next year.

It is important that the government has recognized the pressures that families with disabled children face and any additional funding for respite care is welcome. To live ordinary lives we know that families with disabled children need a range of stable support services and financial support. We just hope that this funding will continue to develop our local support services in practical ways....watch this space!

[Disabled children: an agenda for the new Government](#)



Sarah Teather MP confirmed that disabled children would be a significant policy priority for Government saying 'Disabled children are at the heart of this

coalition Government. We want to make sure that the most vulnerable children get the best quality of support and care. Children with special educational needs and disabilities should have the same opportunities as their peers. The system needs to be more family friendly so that parents don't feel they have to battle to get the support their child needs.'

She went on to announce that:

* A Green Paper on Special Educational Needs and the lives of disabled children will be published this autumn, based on work with parents, young people and the disabled children's sector over the summer;

* Regulations setting out details of the local authority duty to provide breaks from caring under the Children and Young Person's Act 2008 will be published in autumn 2010.

This is all very positive news...but everyone on the ground seems to be waiting for cuts! So please let us know if there is a cut to your support services, or if you have been refused support, call us on 0208 962 9994 or email office@fulloflifekc.com