



Learning Disability News

Services for People Whose Behaviour Challenges

Southampton City Council (SCC) and NHS Southampton City Clinical Commissioning Group (SCCCG) have identified the need for a Strategy for working with children and adults with Learning Disabilities whose carers/and or services are challenged by their behaviour. This strategy aims to meet the needs, and to improve the lifestyles, of people whose behaviour challenges. We are working together to develop this strategy and would welcome your feedback on what is currently offered and what you would like to see offered.

We would appreciate any comments on the following few questions: -

1. What is good about the services provided for people whose behaviour challenges?
2. Are there any gaps or any changes you would like to see in the services?
3. How could we make the services more person centred?
4. Are there any opportunities we could develop further?
5. How well do you feel the individual you support is being kept safe? (Preventative Safeguarding)

If you have been involved in any safeguarding how effective was the support received?

The strategy will be taken to our Health and Wellbeing Board followed by a formal launch. All responses will be treated with confidentiality.

Please send comments by 9 December 2013

indicating if you are a family carer, provider or paid carer to:

Victoria Thompson, Business Support Officer,
Southampton City Council, People Directorate, Floor 1, Marland House, Civic Centre Road. Southampton, SO14 7PQ

or email: victoria.thompson@southampton.gov.uk



Pathfinder The Department for Education is consulting on a new Special Educational Needs Code of Practice.

The purpose for introducing this new law is to improve the experience of assessment for families and outcomes for our children and young people. We really want to make sure that they get this right and your views are really important to ensuring that happens.

If you would like to read this Code of Practice and respond to any of the documents please go to <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/special-educational-needs-sen-code-of-practice-and-regulations>

Alternatively – you can contact the office with your comments and we'll be happy to include them in the overall response from Team Mencap!

To keep updated on progress on the reforms in Southampton you can follow our page on Facebook for regular updates and information!

<https://www.facebook.com/southamptonsendpathfinderparentpage>



Give as you Live - Give as you Live works with over 2,400 leading stores. They've all signed up to donate a

percentage of every online purchase to the charity of your choice. Online sales this Christmas will top £17bn. Give as you Live turns shopping into money for your charity.

Some of the most popular stores are Amazon, Debenhams, John Lewis, ASOS, Argos, Mothercare, Currys, Rakuten play.com.

If you are an online shopper, you can continue to support Southampton Mencap to raise money for our much needed redevelopment of the Mencap Centre and improve equipment and facilities. For more information and to sign up, please visit:

www.giveasyoulive.com

Manager's Update

Here's to our final edition of the year of Learning Disability News which I hope you will find interesting and informative.



I seem to have been to a lot of meetings and met a wide range of people over the past few months; it's good to get to know them and to look at how we work together in Southampton to support people with learning disabilities. With this in mind, we are always very keen to find out what people are up to, what else they would like to be doing, and what issues are important to them and their carers. As we will shortly be planning for the coming year, please let me or any of the Mencap team know if you have any thoughts about what we're currently doing or what we could be doing in the future.

Thank you to the many individuals who have supported our work over the last year and best wishes for Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year to all our readers.

Alex



Season's
Greetings



Learning Disability Partnership Board

Looking back on the year the Learning Disability Partnership Board has been busy in several areas. The Mayor launched the Safe Places Scheme in the City aimed at anyone who feels vulnerable. If you would like a card then please contact Hilary.

We are currently doing a transport survey to see how the changes are effecting people; again Hilary has a copy if you would like to fill one in.

Our next meeting in December is looking at money, the changes in PIP and the money the Council asks for when providing services. We would be happy to hear your experiences. We have heard about the remodelling of social care, and had presentations relating to health issues. For example annual health checks and reports to the Government.

If you would like to hear more or maybe get involved then please let Hilary know. 02380 834854 or hilary.linssen@southampton.gov.uk

Office Christmas Closure The Southampton Mencap office will close for the Christmas period from Tuesday 24th December 2013 and will reopen on Thursday 2nd January 2014 at 9.00am.



PIP tips for family carers

Are you a family carer of someone with a learning disability who is aged 16 or over?

Do you want to know more about applying for Personal Independence Payment (PIP), which is replacing Disability Living Allowance (DLA)?

This free half day session will give family carers the confidence and information they need to support their relative with their application for Personal Independence Payment

This practical session will take place on Thursday 16th January 2014 from 10.00am to 1.30pm

At: The Victory Centre, Portswood High Street, Southampton.

Come along for practical tips and information about:

- Preparing for the PIP application
- Filling in forms
- How the DWP assesses and scores people
- Preparing for the face to face assessment
- The new appeals process
- and more...

If you would like to attend, please contact Southampton Mencap on 02380 584088.

This session is being run in partnership with the Family Carer Support Service (FCSS). For more information about the FCSS and its work, go to: www.hft.org.uk/FamilyCarerSupport or call 0117 906 1751

**Hft is a national charity that supports people with learning disabilities and their families. The Family Carer Support Service (FCSS) provides a friendly, national support service for family carers who have relatives with learning disabilities, run by a team of family carers and experienced support staff. Anyone is free to contact FCSS – all its services are free to family carers*

Local Partnership Agreement with Department of Working Pensions

Southampton Mencap has a Partnership Agreement with DWP.

The agreement means that we are able to talk through DWP services (benefits, pensions etc.) with carers and highlight the correct channels for them to use to make claims.

In addition we are able to use a referral system for carers and their relatives to access a home visit by DWP staff. A referral is made if the client is unable to attend a meeting in person and/or is unable to use the internet or is considered to be a vulnerable client. Contact: The Family Link Worker at Southampton Mencap on:

023 80 584088 or familycarers@southamptonmencap.co.uk



Did you know Southampton has a new independent organisation representing service users and patients in health and adult social care?

Healthwatch Southampton, based at Southampton Voluntary Services, is working to make sure that the overall views and experiences of people who use health and social care services are heard and taken seriously at a local and national level. They aim to build a local picture of the issues that matter most to the public and users of health and care services and use this evidence to influence those who plan and run services. They also offer a free independent NHS complaints advocacy service through our partner organisation SEAP. If you would like to find out more, or to get involved, please contact:-

02380 216 018 or email: healthwatch@southamptonvs.org.uk

Important Dates for Clubs:-

Club	Last Session before Christmas	First Session back
Livewire 18+	11 th December 2013	8 th January 2014
Livewire 25+	18 th December 2013	15 th January 2014
Friday Youth Club	20 th December 2013	10 th January 2014
Junior Gateway	21 st December 2013	11 th January 2014
Adult Gateway	14 th December 2013	11 th January 2014
Teen Access2Leisure	21 st December 2013	11 th January 2014
Access2Leisure	14 th December 2013	18 th January 2014
Own2Feet (Tue & Thu Group)	19 th December 2013	7 th January 2014
Own2Feet (Mon & Wed Group)	18 th December 2013	7 th January 2014
Home Kitchen	20 th December 2013	10 th January 2014



Redevelopment of Mencap Centre -

Work to redevelop the Mencap Centre has been postponed and is now expected to start early September 2014.

Club Vacancies - Social Clubs at Southampton Mencap

We have a wide range of exciting, play and leisure activities available during evening, weekends and school/college holiday times; these cater for children, young people and adults with a learning disability. **Places are available at the following clubs:-**

- Saturday Junior Gateway 10 am – 12 pm [Age 5-11]
- Friday Youth Club 6.30 pm – 8.30 pm [Age 11 -18]
- Livewire 18+ and Livewire25+ alternate Wednesdays 6.30-9.00pm [Age18-40yrs]

Contact the Mencap office now for further information on **023 80584088** or email: admin@southamptonmencap.co.uk

Christmas Playschemes

We will be running both our **Junior** and **Teen Schemes** for one day each during the Christmas Holidays.



- **Junior Scheme** (5-11yrs primary school age) Friday 3rd January 2014 9.30am-3.30pm £9.00 a day
- **Teen Scheme** (Year 7-age 17) Thursday 2nd January 2014 9.30am-4.30pm £10.50 a day

Please call the office on 02380 584088 or email: admin@southamptonmencap.co.uk to book a place on the schemes.



yPod Christmas Support - Please book now!

We are now accepting bookings for yPod for the Christmas Holidays, as well as throughout the school term time

yPod support will be available throughout the Christmas Holidays for days where mainstream settings are open (please check with your chosen provider as some may have limited opening hours), as well as throughout term time in after-school and weekend settings.

There are lots of things to do in the community and yPod is a free service which gives your child the support they need to access a range of mainstream activities. From whole-day playschemes to sport, leisure and play opportunities, we can also give friendly advice on what is available in your local area or simply support your child at a setting that you know and trust.

To arrange some yPod support hours, or to talk about what the service can offer your child, please contact Elly on:

02380 294604

Blue Badge Company Genuine Radar Key for Disabled Toilet This genuine RADAR key opens all RADAR operated toilets. Exclusive access to over 9,000 locked public accessible disabled toilets. Blue Badge Company are approved sellers of genuine RADAR Toilet Keys and also provides Blue Badge Display Wallets. Toilets fitted with RADAR locks can now be found in shopping centres, pubs & cafés, parks & footpaths, airports & stations. Be confident that these toilets will be available to meet your needs. **Southampton Mencap** now stock supplies of these keys for £3.50 each. Contact admin@southamptonmencap.co.uk or call 02380 584088