

West Berkshire SEND Local Offer Newsletter Summer 2021



WestBerkshire
C O U N C I L

Welcome to the Summer Edition of the West Berkshire SEND Local Offer Newsletter; If you'd like to get in touch with potential content for future newsletters, to query about setting up a Directory profile for your organisation, or to ask if FIS can help advertise your upcoming event, please email: fis@westberks.gov.uk

Local events, activities, childcare, SEND Local Offer details, and more can be found on the West Berkshire Directory:

<https://directory.westberks.gov.uk/kb5/westberkshire/directory/home.page>

You can also register your local family oriented business or event at no cost.

And be sure to Like and Follow the West Berkshire Family Information and Local Offer Service on Facebook! We regularly provide updates on behalf of HealthWatch Berkshire, Family Hubs, and the NHS on Facebook, as well as providing timely information on local clubs and groups in West Berkshire.

News from the Autism Team

We hope the return to school is going smoothly and our expanded team is here to support you.

Pilot Projects

Our pilot projects are now underway and are supporting EBSA pupils in secondary schools and some pupils who need extra input around emotional regulation in primary schools. As time goes on we hope to roll out the projects to more schools and we will be sharing the results with you all so that everyone can benefit.

Autism Toolkit

We are also delighted to have launched our Autism Toolkit at the last SENCO network meeting. This includes our protocols and a wide range of topics and strategies such as anxiety, sensory profiles, behaviour, executive functioning, social communication and interaction, autism and ADHD. If you have not received your copy please contact the Learning

Support Team. It will be updated and added to on a regular basis and we welcome your feedback on this and hope you enjoy using it and sharing it in your setting.

Transition

We are aware that at this time of year, many are thinking about transition. Our Year 6 to 7 transition evening for parents/carers took place on the 22 April

For those thinking about options post 16 we have an evening on the 17 June from 6:30pm – 9pm on Zoom. This is open to parents/carers and the young people themselves in Year 10 or above.

To book your place please contact learningsupportteam@westberks.gov.uk

Courses

We continue to offer a wide range of courses over Zoom for parents/carers and school staff. Please refer to our Autism Calendar for further details or email us or the Learning Support Team learningsupportteam@westberks.gov.uk



Free Autism Network Meetings

Emotional Regulation - 27 May

Comic Strip Conversations - 17 June

Both 1:30pm – 3pm on Zoom

These follow the usual pattern of half an hour to forty minutes of input from the team followed by an hour of solution focused discussion.

To book contact: Training@westberks.gov.uk

Our full range of training can be seen on our Autism Calendar.

If you would like a copy please contact:

Learningsupportteam@westberks.gov.uk

You can also find more about training through

www.westberkseducation.co.uk/training

West Berkshire Autism Team

Parent Courses

A range of parent course will also be taking place. As well as emotional regulation workshops, we will be running courses on sensory processing, communication, Parent Awareness (PAWS) plus a range of coffee mornings.

These are listed on the Autism Calendar or contact:

Learningsupportteam@westberks.gov.uk

And finally.... due to the backlog of assessments caused by Covid we have seen an increase of 4 x the number of new diagnoses in the past few weeks. We aim to see everyone with a new diagnosis within 8 weeks, however due to this massive increase this won't be possible.

Please bear with us, we will be in contact as soon as we can.

Early Years SEND Partnership Work with Contact



Early Years SEND Partnership Work with Contact Over the past few terms, West Berkshire Early Years Team, parents and a number of colleagues from schools, early years providers

and different local services including Health have been meeting with Contact to receive training and further develop how we work with parents of children with SEND to deliver our services through co-production.

This has been a thought provoking programme of support funded by the DfE and one that we are very pleased to have been a part of. We have reviewed where we feel the LA is as a



whole against Contact's Four Cornerstones of Co-Production and plan to ensure that this work is fed into the SEND Strategy Review.

If you would like to know more about this work with the EY SEND Partnership Programme please feel free to get in touch with Sarah Whatmore sarah.whatmore@westberks.gov.uk

More information about the programme as a whole can be found here:

<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk>

More information about the free resources and training that is on offer as part of this programme can be found here:

<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk>



On 9.30—11.30am
Every Wednesday
At Swings & Smiles,
Thatcham, RG19 3RR

Minis—Sessions for under 5's

Minis is an opportunity for families to attend a toddler group specifically for children with special needs, with activities planned to help with development and socialising.

As well as lots of games and toys inside we have a fantastic accessible garden for everyone to enjoy. The group meets every Wednesday at the centre and costs £2.50 per family

Please contact office@swingsandsmiles.co.uk to book or for more information on any of the above.



Book now for Summer respite

We are taking bookings for all of our Summer holidays respite sessions.

Sessions will be running every Monday and Wednesday in the school holidays starting on Monday 26th July . We have a mixture of full days and half days.

These sessions are a chance for the children to come and enjoy a day of fun with the team. We will have activities, games and trips out planned to keep everyone busy and ensure everyone has a great time.

If you would like more information, to register with us or to book some sessions please contact office@swingsandsmiles.co.uk



Sunshine and Showers Group



Being the parent of a child with additional needs can be both rewarding and very hard work. Some days are full of sunshine, others you wait for the showers to pass.

Come and meet us via **Zoom** and talk with other parents about their own experiences and get information and support. I would really like to know how the last few months have been for you all and how we can best support you moving forward.



The next group meeting will be

Thursday Morning

20th May 2021

17th June 2021

8th July 2021

9.30am -11.00am

Melissa Hutchings the **Autism Advisor for Families**, along with **Lesley Botchway** and **Sue Granger** the **Autism Advisor's for Schools** will hopefully both be joining us.

Please come along if you can. Remember to make your coffee and share your biscuits!

For further information contact:

Melissa.hutchings@westberks.gov.uk or Tel: 01635 503646

Professionals and other Services / Organisations are also welcome to join us

20th May Venue: Zoom
Meeting ID: 875 1287 8015
Passcode: 218297

17th June Venue: Zoom
Meeting ID: 860 5147 2886
Passcode: 888275

8th July Venue: Zoom
Meeting ID: 819 6339 9835
Passcode: 283152

SENDIASS

Free Virtual Drop-ins

Every Tuesday 10am – 11am (Term Time)

**for Parents & Carers of children with
Special Educational Needs (0-25)**



**Pop in for an informal chat
& support with your queries**

For joining details click this link → [Sign up!](#)

**Starting after the Easter
Holidays from Tuesday
20th of April 2021**

Contact Us

Southampton: 0300 303 2677

Portsmouth: 0300 303 2000

West Berks: 0300 303 2644

Email: familyservices@roseroad.org.uk

Clarendon Way Walk & The Ultimate Clarendon

11th & 12th September 2021

Upon signing up participants will receive a t-shirt and fundraising pack.

All information at: www.naomihouse.org.uk/events/25-ultimate-clarendon-clarendon-way-walk-2021

Clarendon Way Walk Overview

This year celebrates 15 years that Naomi House & Jacksplace have run this event.

There are several options:

Classic Clarendon Way Walk – 12 September
Winchester to Salisbury (26 miles during the day)

Half Way Clarendon Way Walk – 12 September
Broughton – Salisbury (12 miles during the day)

Mini Clarendon – 12 September
Pitton – Salisbury (5 miles during the day)

Virtual Clarendon Way Walk – 10-12 September
Participants can choose to walk their planned distance (any distance they like)

Ultimate Clarendon Overview

New for 2021

Night and Day – 11-12 September
Salisbury – Winchester – Salisbury
(52 mile ultra challenge)

Dusk to Dawn – 11 September
Salisbury - Winchester
(26 miles throughout the night)

Social media post copy:

This September, take on the challenge of a lifetime with our all new Ultimate Clarendon or classic Clarendon Way Walk!

Leave the glow of the city behind and embrace the night with a 52 mile ultimate hike from Salisbury to Winchester and back again. Or, take on a countryside adventure walking 26 miles from Winchester to Salisbury (joining the Ultimate Clarendon walkers on their way back), walking through beautiful landscapes and picturesque villages with upbeat camaraderie and beaming sunshine!



PALS (West Berkshire)

I thought that I would take this opportunity to share our recent news of our annual awards party. We always hold a little event to celebrate the previous year and what our “PALS” have achieved. This year was slightly different as we had to do things virtually, but that wasn't



going to stop us. With the last year being tough, everyone deserved an award but we did present two very special awards in memory of a former PAL, Florence Oliver, to Otilie and Chloe for their amazing challenges that they achieved in 2020. Otilie completed a Captain Tom Moore-inspired fundraising walk for Great Ormond Street Hospital and Chloe raised thousands of pounds for The Spinal Injuries Association riding from Bristol to Newbury. We are all very proud of these two young ladies!

We support children and young people from 5 to 25 with physical disabilities. We are thrilled to be back running face to face sessions, although things look a little different in current times. We are busy planning the summer and are off sailing, climbing, meeting some alpacas and having a go at archery for starters!

For more information, please call Helen on 07887 871112.

Helen Randall



West Berkshire Youth Forum:

We are a local youth group for young people (16+) with SEND that meet on a Friday night on zoom.

We have enjoyed doing lots of 'Hangout Nights' these past months, using makaton to play charades, playing 'would you rather..?' games and doing lots of quizzes!

So come and tell us: would you rather be able to fly for a day, or be invisible for a day?

And even get a £10 Amazon voucher for joining our online events!



Interakt Summer Programme

Wednesday and Friday

*August 4th, 6th, 11th, 13th, 18th, 20th,
25th & 27th*

Wednesday
InterHollywood

*Film, Action,
Dance,
Scavenger
Hunts, Life
Skills.*

InterHollywood
finishes with

***A Red Carpet
Premier***

*On 25th August.
Details to follow*

Sessions to be held at:

*Newbury Rugby Club, Monks
Lane,
Newbury RG147RW
And near by facilities TBC*

Timetable

*9.00 am – Registration
10.00-12.00 – Activity 1
12.00-12.45 – Lunch
12.45-2.45 – Activity 2
3.00pm – Finish*

*£50 per day
Contact details 07900867704
email: enquiries@interakt.org.uk*

Fun Friday's

*Nature Walks,
Bake Offs,
Create Music
Videos,
Photography,
Scavenger Hunts*

Fun Friday
finishes with
***Fun Friday Show
Case***

*On 27th August
Details to follow*





Time Out for Special Needs: West Berkshire Council Area

A six week course for parent/carers of children and young people with special needs who live, or attend a school, in the West Berkshire Council area.

Tue 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th June, 6th and 13th July: 11am-1pm.

Kinship Carers Support Group

For family members who are caring for children who cannot be cared for by their birth parents (e.g. Grandparents, Aunts/Uncles, Family Friends).

Wed 9 June: 11am-12.30pm

Sleep Course for Professionals

A course for professionals working with children and adults with neuro-developmental conditions (e.g. Autism, ADHD).

Fri 11 June: 10am-12.30pm

Pre and Post Assessment Workshops ADHD: Berkshire West

A series of three linked ADHD workshops for families registered with a West Berkshire NHS GP surgery (Reading, West Berkshire & Wokingham).

You are booking to attend all three workshops.

Tue 15 June: 7-8.30pm: Intro to ADHD

Tue 22 June: 7-8.30pm: Anxiety and ADHD

Tue 29 June: 7-8.30pm: Managing ADHD Behaviour

Adoptive Mums Workshop and Support Group

An online support group for adoptive mums. Discussion topics are agreed with attendees each month.

Wed 16 June: 7.30-9pm

Sleep for parent/carers of C&YP with additional needs: Berkshire West

A workshop for families registered with a Berkshire West NHS area GP surgery who have children and young people with additional needs who struggle with their sleep.

Fri 18 June: 10am-12pm

Interoception Workshop

A single workshop for parent/carers of, and professionals working with, children and young people who have difficulties with the lesser-known sense of Interoception (an aspect of sensory processing). We have a small number of tickets for non-Berkshire attendees.

Mon 21 June: 7-8.30pm

Challenges for children affected by alcohol during pregnancy

A workshop for parents/carers and professionals.

Mon 28 June: 10am-12.30pm

Kinship Carers Support Group

For family members who are caring for children who cannot be cared for by their birth parents (e.g. Grandparents, Aunts/Uncles, Family Friends).

Wed 7 July: 11am-12.30pm

Adoptive Mums Workshop and Support Group

An online support group for adoptive mums. Discussion topics are agreed with attendees each month.

Wed 7 July: 7.30-9pm

West Berkshire Mencap Children's Outreach



The outreach service provides a bespoke package of care to support children with *additional needs*, this support can be offered in the home, out in the community or at our centre in Enborne gate in Newbury.

We design the package of care to suit the needs of the child and to work towards goals or targets they wish to achieve.

IN THE COMMUNITY; we can support the child to access activities such as swimming, attending other social activities or learning a skill such as travel training.

IN THE HOME; may include helping with homework, bathing & getting the person ready for bed or helping them learn to cook.

AT OUR CENTRE; a large hall, sensory room, soft playroom & large outdoor playground. Are accessible with hoists available in the soft playroom, sensory room & changing room. The playground includes swings, slides, a zip wire & a wheelchair accessible swing. As well as a large range of toys & craft activities.

We have a team of trained staff who are able to offer the service, after school, weekends or school holidays, we aim to be as flexible as possible with days & times to suit the young person & their family.

Want to know more?
01635 41464
info@wbmencap.org

