

Disability Matters

Newcastle Children's Services Parent-Carer Participation
For parents and carers of disabled children and young people



Issue 4 - Winter 2009/10

Hello and welcome to the winter issue of the Parent-Carer Participation Newsletter.

Happy New Year and I hope you all had a good Christmas.

I would like to thank you for your support and involvement during 2009 and hope that 2010 will see more parent carers getting involved in helping to shape Children's Services. These are your services so it is important you have a say in how they are run and developed.

If you want more information about the items in this newsletter unless a different name is given contact me using the details on the back page. From the end of January I will be moving in with the Participation Unit based at Blackfriars in town so please note the change of phone number.

Best wishes



Jacqui Adams
Parent-carer Participation Officer - Disabled Children

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Disabled Children's' Services Indicator Survey (NI54)

The results are in for the National Indicator (NI 54) from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF)

The survey asked parents to score how well local services are meeting the needs of disabled children and their families over the last 12 months against the five key parts of Aiming High for Disabled Children; information, assessment, transparency, feedback and participation (the Core Offer).

Key Points

This survey provides a national measure of parental experiences of services for disabled children in 2009-10. The national overall score was 61 points in 2009-10.

For the first time the survey provides figures for 145 local authorities (LAs) and 150 Primary Care Trusts (PCTs). Overall scores ranged from 55 to 68 points across LAs and from 55 to 68 points across PCTs.

The National Indicator Set and Local Area Agreements (LAAs)

The National Indicator Set underpins the performance management framework for local areas. It contains the only measures on which central Government can performance manage outcomes delivered by local government working alone or in partnership.

In each local area, targets against up to 35 national indicators are negotiated and agreed within the LAA. Each area also agrees a number of education and early years statutory targets, which relate to specific national indicators but which legally sit outside the LAA. This publication provides 2009-10 figures for the large majority of local authorities and PCTs.

It also provides both 2008-09 and 2009-10 figures for the 30 local authorities who have chosen NI 54 to be part of their LAAs for 2008-09 (either as a formal LAA indicator or as a local target). This indicator is also included in the NHS Operating Framework as one of the 'vital sign' indicators (VSC 33) for PCTs. Currently Newcastle does not have this indicator as one of its Local Area Agreements or local targets. Next time you see your councillor you may want to ask them about this.



National News

200 people from Newcastle filled in surveys. Newcastle scored 64 which is above the national average of 61.

Parental Experiences of Services Provided to Disabled Children: Overall and core offer (sub indicators) 2009-10

Overall National score 61, Newcastle 64

	National Score out of 100	Newcastle Overall Score out of 100
Health		
Information	69	79
Assessment	76	82
Transparency	96	97
Participation	61	70
Feedback	12	12
Education		
Information	70	70
Assessment	77	82
Transparency	92	93
Participation	48	60
Feedback	20	24
Care and Family Support		
Information	69	62
Assessment	67	-
Transparency	89	-
Participation	53	-
Feedback	12	18

Please note:

If there were less than 30 people who said they were in receipt of a service area **no score** was given. For care and family support only 24 out of the 200 parents who replied in Newcastle said they were in receipt of care and family support this is why we don't have some scores in this area.

Government to set up national SEN helpline for parents

The government is to set up a national helpline for parents of children with special educational needs (SEN), following an independent inquiry into current provision.

Brian Lamb, chair of the Special Educational Consortium, led the review, which found too many parents of children with SEN struggle to get the support they need.



Lamb called for a cultural shift in how schools, councils and other services work with parents and children.

As well as the advice helpline, Lamb's report recommends introducing improved independent appeals panels for children with SEN who are excluded from school.

The report also suggests that codes of practice be reviewed so that professionals must consider a child's needs first, rather than the cost of services.

New pilot schemes will investigate how to make local authority decision making more transparent, so that parents can be confident that choices made are in the interests of the child.

The Local Government Ombudsman and the Anti-Bullying Alliance will receive extra funding to improve the complaints process for parents and identify best practice in tackling SEN and disability-related bullying.

Lamb said parents too often have to "battle" to get the educational needs of their children identified and met.

He explained: "There needs to be a radical recasting of the relationship between parents, schools and local authorities to ensure a clearer focus on the outcomes and life chances for children with SEN and disability. We have a unique opportunity now to make a real and lasting change for future generations of children."

Children's Secretary Ed Balls said he would set out plans for making further improvements to the SEN system in the New Year. He said: "We are now working to ensure all parents have confidence in decision making by giving them and their children a stronger voice at the heart of the SEN system,"

By Lauren Higgs - Children & Young People Now 16 December 2009

Parents, have your say about teachers for disabled children!

The Salt Review: Independent Review of Teacher Supply for Pupils with Severe, Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (SLD and PMLD)

We would like your views

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families asked Toby Salt (Deputy Chief Executive and Strategic Director, National College for Leadership of Schools and Children's Services) to lead an Independent Review into the supply of teachers trained to meet the needs of children with Severe, Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (SLD and PMLD).

To inform this Review Toby would like to get views from a range of people who have an interest in this area – including parents. Read more about the Review and send your views through the parent questionnaire at the 'Call to Evidence' section at the following link.

www.dcsf.gov.uk/saltreview

The call for evidence closes at 10pm on 20 January 2010 follow this link

Disabled children and young people's challenge to the next Government

Ahead of the 2010 General Election, Every Disabled Child Matters (EDCM), in partnership with disabled children and young people, have produced the [Disabled children's manifesto for change](#). This document is based entirely on the views of disabled children and young people themselves.



They want to make sure that all political parties **make promises** in their own manifesto to make disabled children and young people's lives better. They want them to tell people what they are going to do to **make things better** about the issues that are important to disabled children and young people.

The Manifesto for Change sets out disabled children and young people's challenges to the next government:

- Make people understand and **respect** disabled children and young people.
- Support us to take part in our **communities**, doing the things that all other children and young people do.
- Make sure the **services** we use can support us to live ordinary lives.
- Help us to get the **education, jobs and training** we want.

These are all things that disabled children and young people have told EDCM are important to them.

For more information go to: <http://www.ncb.org.uk/edcm/home.aspx>

Newcastle Children's Trust Update Every Disabled Child Matters Charter (EDCM)

Newcastle Children's Trust Board recently updated the EDCM Charter. Councillor Nick Cott said:

'All members of the Trust Board have whole heartedly endorsed this document as being central to the success of the future development of high quality services for disabled children and their families. The Children's Trust Board will continue to review and promote the progress of this work.'

The EDCM Charter for Newcastle Children's Trust is checked by the Children with Disabilities and Special Needs Management Partnership to make sure these actions are happening.

The Charter has 13 statements for service area development and improvement these are:

- ☑ We know how many disabled children live in our area and that all agencies in our area are planning services on the basis of this knowledge.
- ☑ There is a key worker service in our authority providing support to families who are accessing more than one specialist service.
- ☑ Our Parent Partnership Service is sufficiently resourced to provide advice, information and support to parents of disabled children and young people who have been excluded from school.
- ☑ Parents and carers in our area are getting accurate and timely information and advice on the full range of services available to them and their families.
- ☑ All staff have received both disability equality training and training to ensure that they have core competencies to work with disabled children; relevant staff have received specialist training and other staff know how to contact them for information.
- ☑ Disabled children are involved in drawing up our Disability Equality Scheme and also in monitoring its effectiveness in eliminating discrimination.
- ☑ Our Children and Young People's Plan explains how we will provide specialist services and also make all universal services including extended schools and children's centres accessible to disabled children.
- ☑ Our Local Area Agreement includes targets for the level of service to be delivered to families with a disabled child.
- ☑ Disabled children and families are involved in the planning, commissioning and monitoring of services in our area, including both specialist and universal services.

Local News

- ☑ We are working to reform our community equipment and wheelchair service to improve the quality of the equipment available, and to address the holistic needs of children and young people in a timely way.
- ☑ We are commissioning comprehensive specialist medical, nursing and therapy service for children and palliative care and complex health needs, and are working with all commissioners and local authorities in our area to integrate these services into wider children's services.
- ☑ We can demonstrate an effective partnership with disabled young people and adult service providers in our area to ensure a smooth transition to adult services for disabled young people.

The full document states Newcastle's current position as of October 2009, what actions are being taken to develop these areas, where it fits with the Core Offer for Aiming High and the Every Child Matters Outcomes. You can see a copy Newcastle City Councils website http://www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk/mcs_parentcarerparticipation

For more information about the Every Disabled Child Matters campaign go to: <http://www.ncb.org.uk/edcm/home.aspx>



First city wide parent and carer participation postal survey

A big thank you to parents and carers who took the time to help Children's Services make a real success of the first large-scale Parent & Carer Participation postal survey in Newcastle.

We had over 600 responses to the question: **If you could change one thing for children, young people and families in Newcastle, what would it be?**



Parents and carers from all wards in the city, diverse backgrounds, and minority communities took part, as did a very significant number of our foster carers.

Schools, libraries, health centres, children's centres, and customer service centres encouraged parents and carers to participate and acted as collection points for the postcard replies. In addition, colleagues from community development, ward coordination, fostering, and the voluntary sector all helped to ensure a high level of participation for a survey of this kind, which traditionally produces a much lower response rate. Many valuable lessons have been learned about how to make improvements to a large scale survey of this kind in the future.

A full report about the results will be available soon. Briefly the following priorities came out of the responses:

- Teach values/respect for others in schools
- Provide affordable childcare
- More street wardens to patrol parks to make them safe
- Help to stop young people drinking and smoking
- Better mental health support for children and young people
- Consistent services from the council
- Teach children how to be parents themselves
- Provide more clean parks and safe play areas
- There should be earlier intervention and help for families that are struggling
- Better quality of teaching in schools
- Cheaper public transport
- The Council should show it puts children first

This survey was coordinated by **Val Chadwick, Parent and Carer Participation Coordinator.**

Phone: 0191 260 6516



Your Chance to Be the Change - Newcastle Citizens Assembly

Newcastle Citizens Assembly is an exciting new way for anyone who lives, works or studies in Newcastle to get involved in improving their city.

All aspects of life in Newcastle are being considered from the economy, health and the environment to creating quality places to live, safer communities and improving the lives of children and young people.

Set up by Newcastle Healthy City, on behalf of the Newcastle Partnership and Newcastle City Council, Newcastle Citizens Assembly recognises the vital contribution citizens can make to the ongoing improvement of Newcastle. Manager, Lucy Thomson, explains:

“Through Newcastle Citizens Assembly, groups throughout the city can share ideas then, together with key decision makers, help find solutions to bring about changes to benefit the whole city. The people of Newcastle can show their support for particular city-wide improvements they would like to see happen.”

“We recognise there are often practical difficulties to overcome to attend meetings or find the time to get involved. However, with Newcastle Citizens Assembly you can take part whenever it is convenient for you and spend as much or as little time as you wish commenting on proposed city-wide improvements”.

Lucy added: “Proposed city-wide improvements can be found on our website www.newcastlecitizensassembly.org.uk or can be sent to you if requested. I urge everyone to take this opportunity to be the change!”

You can contact **Newcastle Citizens Assembly** by:

Post: Newcastle Citizens Assembly

Newcastle Healthy City

14 Great North Road

Newcastle upon Tyne

NE2 4PS

Phone: 0191 211 3583

Email: citizensassembly@healthycity.org.uk

Text: Text ‘CHANGE’ followed by your name, contact details and comments to 80806. Texts are charged at standard network rates

Parent Carer Participation

What we have done:

- **‘Participation and You!’** - Parent Participation Training.



The workshops were funded through the Parent Participation Grant. Nine paid workers and 18 parent cares attended across all workshops. Six parent carers attended the Saturday workshop 3 of whom would not have been able to attend if appropriate childcare had not been provided.

The training was very positively received by both parents and paid workers.

‘I really enjoyed taking part in the two days training. Mandy was an excellent choice as facilitator...inspirational and I will defiantly be tasking T.E.D (Tell me about, Explain, Describe) to meetings....the mix of parents and professionals was good and senior managers seemed very happy to bring the openness and transparency into Children’s Services parents have wanted for a long time.’ (parent)

A full report has been sent to the people who attended the training, the Parent Participation Steering Group and the Children with Disabilities and Special Needs Management Partnership.

- **A Family Information Day on 28 October at the City Library**

There was information from across Children’s Services, fun Halloween activities provided by Jamboree and aromatherapy provided by Holistix. Thank you to all the stall holders who attended and to the Children’s Centre's for providing the free draw raffle prizes.

We had hoped more families would come along and would appreciate feedback from parents who knew of the event but chose not to come as this will help us plan events that meet your needs in the future.

Feedback from the families who did come along was very positive:

Can I pass on my thanks and express appreciation for how useful I found it. I am the mother to a 5 year old with autism as well as two other children. I thought I knew most things that were going on but picked up such a lot of new information. It was a really informative event and was wonderful to have activities for the children as well.



Education

Special Educational Needs / Learning Disabilities and Difficulties Strategy

Over the past 10 months children and young people, parents and carers and Local Authority officers have been working together to build a new Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy for the City of Newcastle.

The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy 2010-2013 sets out a vision and range of practical actions centred around **5 Priority aims**:

- To improve outcomes for vulnerable groups of children and young people
- To ensure the early and timely identification of children and young people's needs
- To deliver services for children and young people in an inclusive way
- To ensure there is a range and choice of local, high quality accessible provision
- To provide services in a way that is consistent with best value principles and which match resource to defined need

The strategy is informed by the Children Act 2004, and Every Child Matters, and also reflects the developing impetus towards multi-agency integrated working practice. The overall aim of the strategy is to enable all children and young people to overcome barriers to achievement and become the best they can.

The draft strategy was presented to Newcastle Children's Trust Board on Monday 16 November. The cycle of consultation with partners is almost complete and the finalised strategy will be available in January 2010.

If you would like further information about the strategy please contact :

Jonathan Caswell, Lead Specialist Practitioner (Additional Needs) and Principal Educational Psychologist

Phone: 0191 277 4577

e-mail: jonathan.caswell@newcastle.gov.uk

Transition

Newcastle Children Services will host its second annual transitions conference;
Transition Event - One Year On on Friday 26 February 2010.

This event will give people an update on what progress has been made on the 6 priorities that were agreed at last year's conference. These priorities looked at how the experiences of young disabled people growing up and their families could be improved.

There are a number of places available to young people and their parents or carers. If you would like to find out more about the 6 priorities and this event please contact:

Paul Connolly at the Children with Disabilities Team

Phone: 0191 277 4700

E-mail: paul.connolly@newcastle.gov.uk

Short Breaks

We are slowly getting more application forms in for the Access Fund but we have not had as many application from families as we had hoped.

Feedback has suggested this may be because people feel the guidance is too restrictive so we have widened it to include Social Opportunities so disabled children are able to follow the same interests and hobbies as their non disabled peers. This would include things like:

- Being able to join a dance class
- Being able to go to music concerts, the cinema, sports activities.

The Short Break Reference Group and Advisory Group are currently working on a Communication Strategy and a Workforce Development Strategy. These are to make sure families get timely and accurate information about what Short Breaks are available and that paid workers who provide these services have accurate training to meet the needs of disabled children.

If you would like to be more involved in the consultation process for these strategies or any other part of developing Short Breaks contact:

Lisa McWiggan at the Children with Disabilities Team

Phone: 0191 277 4700

E-Mail: lisa.mcwiggan@newcastle.gov.uk

Active Newcastle

Hello, my name is Emma Moynihan and I am the Disability Sports Development officer for Newcastle City Council. It is my job to get more children and adults with disabilities, more active in sport and leisure, more often across Newcastle.



Activities that are available now include:

Lucky Stars multi sports drop in session every Saturday 1.30pm -3.30pm for £3 at Benfield Centre for Excellence.

Freestyle Activities multi sport drop in session every Tuesday 10am – 12pm for £3 at Newburn Activity Centre.

Newcastle Wolves Football group every Tuesday 6-7pm (during term time) for £1 a week at Heaton Manor School.

Deaf Fitness for women over 16yrs every Monday 6-8pm at Centre for Sport, Westgate. £2 offers an hour in the gym and another activity which changed every week, for example. Boxercise, circuits, cycling and climbing.

Dance drop in session every Thursday at Newburn Activity Centre.

There is also a lot of activities that are coming soon, some plans include:

Aqua Splash swimming festival during school time 27th January at Elswick Pool.

Fusion swimming session for families with children on the autistic spectrum starts Friday 29th January 2010 6.30-7.30pm at Elswick Pool (free for Newcastle residents with a Fusion card).

Wheelchair Fencing coaching in schools from January – March 2010 and then at an inclusive club every Saturday at All Saints College, West Denton.

Visual Impairment Football taster day 18th February 2010, which will be followed by some coaching in schools and if we can get enough children interested an Easter training course to lead into a weekly VI football group.

County athletics will be held between March and April for 12 year old and older, who will then be invited to the Regional DSE event on May 19th 2010 if they qualify.

The third annual Newcastle Disability Sports Day held in the first week of July 2010.

If you would like any more information or would like to talk to me about any of this phone Emma Moynihan on 277 3643 or Email emma.moynihan@newcastle.gov.uk or sms 07816976609

National Autistic Society help! Programmes



These courses are open to families in Newcastle too. Courses are free and include a sandwich lunch and refreshments.

- **The one day programme** is aimed at parent carers who have a child with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnosed in the last 18 months and aged between 3 and 12. On **Thursday 14th January 2010** from 9.30am-3.00pm at the Dryden Centre, Gateshead
- **The three day programme** is aimed at parents and carers who have a child who has a recent diagnosis of an ASD (within the last 18 months) who is between 5 and 11 years old On **26th & 29th January 2010 & 2nd February 2010** at Blyth Community Enterprise Centre, Blyth, Northumberland

Programmes will include an overview of ASD, tips for communication and accessing support services and benefits.

To book places contact: **Jan Fuller at NAS on 0191 5680732**

or see their website <http://tinyurl.com/yhruwnq>

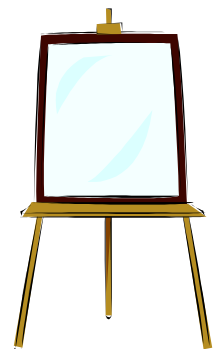
Free Transition Training Event with Autism Education Trust

'Transition : practical steps for moving forward' at **Jury's Inn Hotel in Newcastle, from 9am - 3.15pm on Thursday 11th February 2010**. there will be a range of speakers and practical seminars.

The roadshow event is FREE to attend but must be booked in advance. It is aimed at teachers, professionals and parents/carers involved in the education of children and young people on the autism spectrum. It will cross the education, social and health services and shows there is often a need for a more integrated approach between these services. It is one in a series of events the AET is holding across the country.

To book contact: aetevents@nas.org.uk or phone 0115 9113367.

For further information please see:
www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk





Beating Anxiety Together

Here is some information about a new study finding out how to help young people with ASD aged between 9 and 13 years.

Why is this research being done?

This study aims to find out the value of a new approach to treatment for anxiety in young people with ASD. It involves 6 sessions of adapted Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) delivered in a group setting by trained professionals. The sessions cover a range of topics:

- Including understanding emotions and how we experience anxiety.
- Each participant develops a 'Toolbox' to manage anxiety, including relaxation techniques, how to change anxious thoughts and how to use distraction.
- It works best where parents attend a parent group at the same time, to learn the strategies.

What will the researchers be doing?

Young people who agree to participate will be asked by the researchers to:

- complete some assessments including puzzles, interviews and questionnaires
- Parents will also complete questionnaires and an interview about their child

So that the study can find out if the CBT group is helpful, half the people in the study will be asked to attend the group sessions. These families will be chosen at random by computer. After 3 months, some of the assessments will be done again with everyone. The families not attending the group sessions will be offered the chance to attend a group, if they would like, about 2 to 3 months after that. The groups will be held in early evening not in school hours.

Who is funding the research?

National Institute for Health Research, Research for Patient Benefit programme. The study is led by Helen McConachie, Professor of Child Clinical Psychology, Newcastle University and Northumberland, Tyne & Wear NHS Trust.

Parents and young people who are interested in taking part are asked to contact a health professional who knows you, such as a member of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) or your community paediatrician.

Professionals in these local services have full information about the study, and can discuss further if this study is likely to be right for you and your family.

If you are not sure who you can contact, you can email the study team at BAT@ncl.ac.uk

Newcastle Early Learning Service

Newcastle Early Learning Service is run by Action for Children for all children with 'additional needs' aged 0 to 5 years. We have Early Years Practitioners working from 3 Children's Centres across the city - East, Central and Outer West.



What does it offer?

The service helps support children's learning in their own homes and, where appropriate, in the community they live in.

The work will be linked to the Early Years Foundation Stage. Staff will provide opportunities to extend children's learning and meet individual needs. Children using our service will need to have had an assessment undertaken like a CAF (Common Assessment Framework) or Social Care.

If you feel you or your child could benefit from this service or would like to know a bit more about it you can:

Telephone or call into one of the Children's Centres:

East 224 0217 **Central** 214 2460 **Outer West** 214 2470

Ask a paid worker who is already helping you to contact:

Val Hobson on 214 2460 or **Ellen Watts** on 224 0217

Include Duchenne

My name is Jane Longford and I work as a research assistant with the charity "Include Duchenne" which is a branch of "Action Duchenne".

As you may know, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, as a Neuro-muscular condition, has often been mainly treated as a physical condition

However, parents often report big problems with learning and behaviour and our charity has been funded by Children in Need and the Big Lottery to run a learning and behaviour research project for 3 years.

As part of this project we run workshop days to spread information and encourage a better understanding of this condition. These sessions are very useful in raising awareness the complexity of problems many young people with disabilities may face.

If you would like more information contact us

Include Duchenne janet@actionduchenne.org

Include Duchenne janelongforddmd@googlemail.com

Action Duchenne website contains a great deal of information <http://www.actionduchenne.org/>

Parent-Carer Focus

This section is for you to share ideas, tell other parent carers what or who has helped you and ask questions.



Toothbrushes and eating

Check out the toothbrushes at www.colliscurve.co.uk They clean all surfaces of the teeth at the same time so are useful to do the job quickly if a child objects to having his teeth cleaned.

Remember you can put **anything** onto a pizza base if it helps gets the food into the child!

Adrienne Nicholas

Stay and Play Toddler Group (0-5)

A new toddler group has been set up by a couple of parents based at Cheviot View, Bedeburn Road, Newbiggin Hall Estate, NE5 4JQ

10am -12 noon every Wednesday term time only

£1.20 per session

There is space for 12 children all abilities welcome.

Any enquiries contact: Denise or Paul 07814662692



Aspergers Syndrome website

Hi my name is.....

www.asperger-syndrome.me.uk is a parent and carer friendly web site to help families and friends who need some help or support with a child or adult effected by Aspergers Syndrome.

The only reason I wrote this site is because when I found out our son had Aspergers Syndrome my wife and I found it quite hard to find out information about the condition and about help and support.

I decided to search the net as well as use various books plus the information I received from the doctors dealing with my son.

I have put all the information I found together on this site. Before you go any further I must state I am **not** a Doctor or expert on Aspergers Syndrome I am just a father with a son with Aspergers Syndrome.

On the site you will find many things from the history of Aspergers, teaching Strategies and even a list of famous people believed to have Aspergers Syndrome.

I hope you find it useful.

Question Time



Dear Mr Reed,

I work for parent carers in your PCT area and many of them are supporters of the Every Disabled Child Matters campaign.

I understand our PCT was required to publish a statement on local health services for disabled children and children with palliative care needs by 30 September 2009.

Please send me a copy of our local statement on disabled children and children with palliative care needs. I would like to then publish this in our parent participation newsletter 'Disability Matters' to inform families in Newcastle of our PCT's commitment to providing services for families with disabled children and young people.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Dear Ms Adams

Thank you for your email requesting a copy of statement on local health services for disabled children and children with palliative care needs. We have received a number of requests for this information recently.

NHS North of Tyne is the organisation which commissions health services on behalf of Newcastle and North Tyneside Primary Care Trusts and Northumberland Care Trust for the population North of Tyne. We published our action plans on our website at the end of September. The action plans are in the format outlined by the Department of Health in Christine Beasley's (Chief Nursing Officer and Director) letter of 21 August 2009.

These documents can be accessed through the following link <http://www.northoftyne.nhs.uk/publications/annual-reports>

A further statement on progress is also included on page 9 of our latest performance report, which again is available on our website. Performance Report 24 November 2009.

The action plans show that there is still much work to do. I would like to reassure you that NHS North of Tyne is committed to improving services in line with the national Child Health Strategy and these action plans will continue to be developed accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Reed Chief Executive

More from Parent Carer Participation

A Family Activity Day - Sunday 24 January 2010 at Newburn Activity Centre, 10am – 2pm



We want to encourage more dads and male carers to get involved so we have tried to put on activities for the 'boys' but we didn't want the 'girls' to miss out on the fun too so bring along the whole family!

There will be:

- The climbing wall
- Five A Side Football
- Archery
- Trampolining
- Soft Play
- Aromatherapy from Holistix
- And weather permitting Speed Boat and adapted bikes



Indoor activities will run 4 times during the day to try and make sure everyone gets a chance to have a go. You will need to book activities on the day, places will be on a first come bases.

A Cultural Awareness Family Day - Monday 15 February 2010 at the Nunnsmoore Centre 9.30am – 1.00pm

For parent carers of disabled children and young people from South Asian Communities

Come along, meet other parent carers and paid workers, share your experiences and help Children's Services learn how they can meet your needs.



There will be:

- Henna Painting
- Calligraphy
- Drumming
- Aromatherapy (20 minute sessions)
- Activities for the children
- Information about services
- Buffet Lunch



Both these events are on a drop in basis but please get in touch if you want any more information.

Get in touch

If you have a story you would like to share with other parents, any questions you want answering or things you have found helpful that would help other parents send them in before the deadline at the bottom of this page.

If you have any suggestions about how to make this newsletter better for you let me know.

How to get in touch

If you would like:

- Your child to be included on the Disabled Children's Register
- To get more involved
- This information in another format or language

Contact Jacqui Adams on:

Phone: **0191 260 6516**

Email: disabled.childrens.register@newcastle.gov.uk

You can also get information about the Disabled Children's Register and Parent Participation from: www.newcastle.gov.uk/disabled.childrens.register

If you would like to contribute to the next Participation Newsletter send your information into Jacqui by 5 March 2010.