

Disability Matters

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

Issue 3 - Autumn 2009



Hello and welcome to the autumn issue of Disability Matters

I hope you all had an enjoyable summer break and have now settled into school routines.

You may notice that the newsletter's name has changed. Congratulations to Nahid Dinn who was the winner of our competition to name the newsletter. A £25 gift voucher for Eldon Square is in the post. Thank you to everyone who took part it was a close decision.

There have been several developments for Childrens Services over the summer and some exciting events coming up which I hope you will find useful and interesting. 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.

Best wishes



Jacqui Adams
Parent-carer Participation Officer — Disabled Children

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**Putting parent-carer participation at the
centre of planning and developing
services for disabled children and young
people**

Disabled Children's Services Indicator Survey (NI54)

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) introduced a measure called the disabled children's services national indicator (NI 54). Every local authority (LA) and primary care trust (PCT) will be measured against this indicator. The score for the indicator will come from a national parents' survey.

The survey asks parents to score how well local services are meeting the needs of disabled children and their families against the five key parts of 'Aiming High for Disabled Children' - information; assessment; transparency; feedback; and participation (known as the Core Offer).

The scores will also be used for the 'NHS Vital Sign' on parents' experience of services for disabled children (VSC33).

30 local authorities and attached PCTs took part in Phase One. The overall score for parents satisfaction was 59 out of 100.

In July 2009 a screening survey was sent to 750,000 households of school-aged children across England. This survey will identify parents and carers of children with a wide range of disabilities to take part in the main questionnaire. This will be sent to parents this autumn and results will be published in December.

If you get a survey and need help filling it in please contact me and I can give you a helpline number.

Copies of the report from Phase One and a blank questionnaire are available if you are interested.

Eligibility criteria

The Council for Disabled Children (CDC) wants to help local authorities look at eligibility criteria in social care services for disabled children

The Council for Disabled Children (CDC) has had long-standing concerns about the use of eligibility criteria in social care services for disabled children and their families. We want all disabled children to get the services and support they need to lead ordinary lives.

In March 2009 the Islington judgment clarified the lawfulness or otherwise of eligibility criteria used to limit access to disabled children's services. It cleared up a number of issues and concerns around the use of eligibility criteria, but left challenges for both central and local government which will take some time to consider.

The CDC believe the government will need to fully respond to these challenges but hopes this will not stop local authorities maintaining the momentum in delivering the 'Aiming High for Disabled Children' programme. Later this year they will provide examples of model eligibility criteria, developed in partnership with local authorities.

For more information on Aiming High go to www.togetherfdc.org/default.aspx

Better protection for disabled children

Children's Minister, Delyth Morgan, announced new guidance on the safeguarding of disabled children. The guidance, produced by The Children's Society for the government, will advise local organisations on how to best safeguard and promote the welfare of disabled children. Copies of the guidance can be downloaded from: www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/safeguardingandsocialcare/safeguardingchildren/safeguarding/

Landmark ruling on mobility benefits for disabled toddlers

'Every Disabled Child Matters' and 'Contact a Family' have welcomed a court ruling to grant a judicial review of mobility benefits for disabled children under the age of three. Stephen and Wendy Meek, whose son Justin is disabled, argued in court that, by not paying mobility benefits to under threes, the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) contravened their son's human rights. The Court of Session has ruled that the DWP may be breaching Justin's rights under European law.

Children's Trust Fund

From next year the government will pay £100 every year into the Children's Trust Fund accounts of disabled children, with severely disabled children receiving £200 each year. This means

- to get these payments your child must get the Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and have been born on or after 1 September 2002 and
- that the first payments are due in April 2010 for those getting the DLA at any point in 2009-10.

'Contact a Family' want to make sure all families whose children are seven and under in September make a claim for a DLA now to make sure their child receives the significant annual payment to their Children's Trust Fund.

If you would like a full benefits check, you can contact the Children's Trust Fund national freephone helpline on 0808 808 3555 (open Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm and on Monday evenings between 5.30pm and 7.30pm)

You can also get confidential benefits advice from our **local welfare rights team**
Phone 0191 277 2633
Monday - Friday 9am-5pm (appointments only)

www.newcastle.gov.uk/welfarerights

Individual budgets gather pace

The Department of Children Schools and Families have chosen Newcastle to pilot 'individual budgets' with children aged 14-16 with disabilities. Work began in July to contact families and we now have 30 families interested in taking part. Thank you to all the families who have expressed an interest in this exciting pilot

A popular message with families has been the way 'individual budgets' put families at the centre of the support-making choices about what works best for young people.

Individual budgets are proving an important way for young people and children to become involved in youth activities in their local community with support. It gives a greater choice in how families use their short breaks.

Families who have joined the pilot are promised by the Children with Disabilities Team:

- to receive detailed information about the pilot
- to receive support if you need it to plan and manage the budget and
- that there will be no change in the existing service until the 'individual budget' goes live.

You can leave the pilot at any time and return to the previous way of receiving support.

We'll be including regular updates in future editions of this newsletter.

For more information contact, Martin Donkin, project manager for the 'individual budgets' pilot on 0191 277 4700 or email martin.donkin@newcastle.gov.uk

Short Breaks

The Aiming High Short Break project has given Barnardo's the contract for the new **Community Support Service**.

This service delivers direct support, to those disabled children and young people with challenging behaviour, in their own homes, community or local activities. The Community Support Service will be operational by the end of October 2009.

Parents from the Short Break advisory Group and young people were part of this commissioning process. Thank you to them for their involvement, it made a difference to the whole process.

In September we are short listing for the **Contract Carers Scheme** and interviews will be in October. The scheme is to provide local short breaks to severely disabled children. The carers will be approved foster carers and will be able to deliver care on a more full time basis in their own homes.

The Short Break Access Fund

This fund continues to be available for disabled children and young people to support them to join in with local and community activities. We have not had as many applications for this fund as we had hoped. **This money will only be available up to 31 March 2010.**

The fund exists to remove the simple barriers that often prevent a disabled child or young person from participating in an activity in their community that their non-disabled peers access easily for example the local play or youth group, Scouts or Girl Guides.

Common barriers to participating in an activity may be specialist equipment, staff training or initial support to encourage attendance. The fund is not designed to meet the cost of the activity itself.

Parents have often said their child's disability has meant they cannot have the same leisure opportunities as non disabled children. This is an opportunity to show that with a little extra help at the start disabled children can access the same leisure activities as others. The fund is time limited and if it is not used it could be seen that there is not a need for this type of support.

Applications can be made for disabled children and young people living in Newcastle from nought to 18 years, by self-referral, by their parent or carer, professional or organisation.

Details are available from the Children with Disabilities Team on 0191 277 4700 or Families Information Service phone 0191 277 4133, www.newcastleFIS.org.uk

Find out how your
little star can be our
little star on page 18



'Together for Disabled Children' - Aiming High participation grant

As part of 'Aiming High for Disabled Children', the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has given £5million to support the development of parent and carer involvement in the planning and strategic development of services for disabled children.

The money has been shared across the country with the help of 'Together for Disabled Children' and 'Contact A Family'. Each area had to apply for a £10,000 grant. We have to spend the money by the end of March 2010. Newcastle has been successful in getting the participation grant. The Participation Steering Group have agreed to spend the money on:

- **The Annual Parent Carer Conference** — we had this in June. Everyone who attended should now have received a copy of the report. The action plans are being worked on and will update the Children with Disabilities Management Partnership on their progress. Contact Jacqui Adams if you would like a copy of the report.
- **Parent participation training** — 'Participation and You!'
29 people have signed up to do this. The workshops are for parents, carers and paid workers to come together and look at how to improve and develop parent participation in Newcastle. Feedback from this training will be in the next newsletter.
- **A family information day on 28 November at the City Library** ([see page 20 for more information](#))
- **A family activity day—Sunday 24 January 2010 at Newburn Activity Centre**
There will be a climbing wall, five-a-side football, sensory room, archery , trampolining and, weather permitting, a special speed boat.
We want more dads and male carers to get involved in planning services, but we don't want mums to miss out on the fun too! So we want to involve the whole family!

Getting involved

- **A cultural awareness family day - Monday 15 February 2010 at the Nunnsmoore Centre.**

The event will be hosted by Asra a family support group for black, minority and ethnic families. The day is so you can find out more about Islamic traditions and join families from the south Asian community in celebrating their culture.

We hope to encourage more families from black and ethnic minority communities to get involved in shaping services so that services meet everyone's needs.

More about these last two events and how to book will be in the winter newsletter.

Ways you can get involved:

- **Attend focus groups** - there are focus or advisory groups already set up around short breaks, play, parent participation and transition. Parents have also been involved in consultation about the new special educational needs strategy.

If you have a particular area of interest you want to be more involved in let me know or if there are enough parents interested we could talk about setting up a group

- **Come to the Annual Parent Carer Conference**
- **Sign up to the Disabled Childrens Register** - this means you will get invited first to any events we have planned, get a copy of the Disability Matters newsletter and be able to tell Children's Services what your future needs will be to help them plan services.
- **Join the email forum** - if you want to be part of my email forum email me at disabled.childrens.register@newcastle.gov.uk You will get regular updates of information that might be useful.



Education

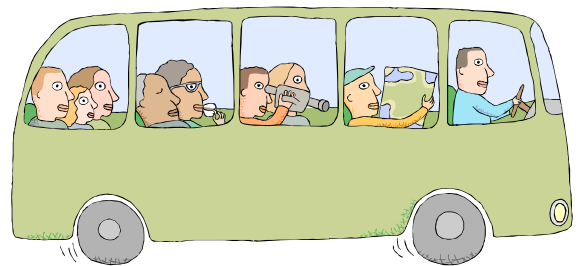
Special Educational Needs, Learning Disabilities and Difficulties Strategy

Thank you to all the parents who attended the meetings and offered views by email.

We'll give you feedback from this consultation in the winter newsletter.

Transport review and Special Educational Needs (SEN) transport update

You may be aware the council is reviewing the way all services are organised and delivered. One area they are looking at is how SEN transport is organised and provided. By changing how we work with the companies we buy transport from, we expect to provide a more efficient and cost effective service.



You or your family may use the SEN Transport service, so your views are important to us. You will be getting our annual SEN Transport Questionnaire during the half term holiday in October. Please take the time to complete this as your answers will help shape future services.

You can also contact us anytime at sentransport@newcastle.gov.uk or phone us on 0191 277 4646.

School Admissions 2010

Is your child entering reception in September 2010 or moving on to middle, secondary or high school? Do you have family, friends or neighbours who are in this situation?

All parents and carers wanting a school place in September 2010 must apply for a place. Apply online at www.newcastle.gov.uk/admissions

Our web pages have lots of information about the different schools in Newcastle and tips for making your application. Applying online is quick, safe and secure.

Applications can be submitted from 1 September to midnight on 23 October 2009.

Transition

Independent Living Fund (ILF) - What is it and does it matter to me?

The Independent Living Fund might be available to young people who are over the age of 16.

It is money that can be used to buy support from people that young people and families choose.

There are two really important things that have to have happened first:

1. You have to be getting support from or use social care services already which cost more than £320 a week.
2. The young person has to be getting the high rate of the Disability Living Allowance (DLA) of the care component (it doesn't matter about the mobility part of DLA).

There is no doubt that there are complicated rules. If you want to find out more yourself go to the ILF website www.ilf.org.uk or if you would like to talk to somebody about this in Newcastle phone **Paul Connolly on 277 4700** or email **paul.connolly@newcastle.gov.uk**

Service focus

Cerebra

Cerebra supports families of children who have brain injuries, neurological conditions, learning disability or developmental delay, including autistic spectrum disorders and ADHD.

They've opened a new Parent Support office in Newcastle, where parents and carers are welcome to come in and discuss any of Cerebra's free services. These include:

- grants for adapted toys, trikes, computers, special car seats, some therapies or other activities to enhance your child's quality of life
- sleep counselling with individualised plans made through a telephone consultation or face to face.
- speech and language therapy vouchers to provide some one-to-one speech therapy if it is not available to your child.
- a library of books about parenting and disabilities, as well as sensory toys for loan.
- Personal portfolios are colourful booklets to introduce your child to new people and communicate any special needs, preferences or requests.
- Stress counselling help line 0800 0439385.



To arrange an appointment at our office in Newcastle or set up a home visit phone Sally McLean Regional Officer on 0191 230 8036

Get the info you need at home

At Newcastle Welfare Rights, we have a website with lots of information and advice about benefits – for children with disabilities, parents and carers and more!

You will find benefit rules, benefit rates, benefit office contact details, where to get independent advice and much more.

Recent items on children, families and benefits include:

- payday changes
- Child Trust Fund
- at a glance guide to Tax Credits
- Health in Pregnancy grant
- Maintenance disregards
- lone parents, benefits and work
- dealing with Tax Credit overpayments
- maternity, paternity and adoption improvements



Make sure you don't miss out on important news and changes sign up for an email benefit bulletin direct to your inbox.

To keep up to date with all the benefit information, news and changes now and in the future, find us at www.newcastle.gov.uk/welfarerights

North of Tyne Learning Disability and Difficulty project

Progress on the project

The Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (RIEP) commissioned this project to look at how the three North of Tyne local authorities could work together to deliver innovative family support to children and young people with complex needs, in particular those experiencing Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

The project builds on a number of local reports and recent government guidance recommending an increase in support to families with a child with ASD and complex needs to better meet their needs.

It aims, over time, to reduce the need for placements a long way from the child's family and home, to improve the use of resources and consequently deliver ongoing cost efficiencies and across the region.

The project will look to complement and join together other initiatives like Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC) and new short break resources.

A project board has been set up made up of senior representatives of Children's Services from the three local authorities. A project lead has been appointed to coordinate and push the project forward employed by the RIEP but based at North Tyneside Council. John Thompson (SEN Assessment Provision and Review Service) and Linda Mason (Head of Integrated and Targeted Services) go to this board.

There is also a stakeholder group that can pass on information into the board via the project lead. This group is made up of a parent representatives, transitions officers, voluntary and community group and Aiming High representatives from each area. These representatives will make sure that they keep parents and colleagues up to date on what is happening. People from Newcastle involved are Paul Connelly (transition social worker), Helen Milner (NSNN) Mary Craven (parent) and Lisa McWiggan (Aiming High).

We have already held one successful event just as I came into post to explain what we are doing. The details of this can be seen at www.northeastiep.gov.uk/children/CS009June09.htm. There will be other consultation events during the course of the project.

The project is funded until September 2010. In this short time we need to see what can be done to better meet family and children's needs in the region. The project has been given £140,000 to help improve joint working and buy services that can be used by families from all three local authorities.

If you want more information about this project contact Roseann Szomoru on 07989 187428 or email Roseann.Szomoru@northtyneside.gov.uk



How Daslⁿe helps us help your child

We need accurate information about the numbers of children and young people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Daslⁿe is a database of children with autism spectrum disorder living in the north east.

Children can have a range of levels of ability and types of difficulties, and as this has been better understood, so the number of children and families who need advice and support is growing. Health, education and social care need to respond and to plan for the future, including planning for the transition to adulthood. Therefore, a comprehensive database is an important resource for parents and professionals.

The Daslⁿe database is able to provide descriptions of the needs of children at different ages and stages, and raise the status of children and families in local planning. Parents of children with ASD are able to ask for all the same information as the professionals. This will help parents to lobby for useful services where they are needed.

Over 800 children in Northumberland, Tyne and Wear are now registered on the database. Parents have provided information about their child's schooling, abilities and problem behaviours. With this snapshot information, the Daslⁿe team can provide summaries which help local authorities and voluntary organizations in planning services.

Families can also be informed about autism research projects which are underway – in the past year alone four projects have received help with recruitment from Daslⁿe.

The conference 'Searching for Answers', took place in March this year. It highlighted for parents and professionals the essential contribution that families make to research in the puzzling field of autism. Feedback from parents showed that they had particularly enjoyed the afternoon workshops on varied topics such as leisure activities, sleep problems and assessment pathways.

If you would like to receive a pack about Daslⁿe, contact Mary Johnson, Daslⁿe co-ordinator on 0191 282 1400 or email daslne@ncl.ac.uk

To find out more about Daslⁿe, visit their website www.ncl.ac.uk/daslne

Finding out what you need

Daslⁿe, the parent partnership service and clinicians from Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Trust, wanted to understand more about what is helpful to parents whose child has a diagnosis on the Autism Spectrum. They were particularly interested in what kind of support families got after diagnosis and what support parents considered ideal.

What did they do?

In April 2009, they sent out a questionnaire to families in Newcastle registered on the Daslⁿe database who had children aged between six and 15 with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). They asked about perceived needs for different types of support, for example dealing with night-time disturbance, as well as open questions about ideal support.

Who responded?

30% of questionnaires received were from parents at children at special schools including Thomas Bewick and Hadrian schools. The remaining 70% of questionnaires came from parents whose children attended various mainstream primary and secondary schools. Children had an average current age of 10 with a diagnosis age of four in special schools and six in mainstream schools. They were pleased to find a wide range of health, local authority, charitable and private sector organisations were involved with families. However there seemed very little consistency between services that people with children with similar needs were getting. A lot of parents mentioned finding out about services through their own research after diagnosis instead of being guided to appropriate support.

What was needed?

There was a great deal of overlap with both sets of parents about what they felt they needed more help with. Help with their child's behaviour and developing social and communication skills and positive new skills were very important to both groups. The need for accessible leisure activities with other children with ASD or similar difficulties, such as swimming, sporting activities, drama, arts and crafts and social skills groups, was highlighted as a key need, again across both groups. Also easier access to short breaks, information, help organising holiday and weekend activities were very important to parents of children at different places on the spectrum.

Sibling support, help explaining ASD to others and parent support, both in a group and on a one to one basis were also raised as needs. One specific idea suggested was a 'special needs' clinic, open a few hours a week that parents could drop into for advice on a host of issues from diet to behaviour management.

[More on the next page](#)

Survey results

Finding out what you need... continued

For children at mainstream school there was a common theme of more specialised help needed earlier in primary school. Parents felt issues like social skills could benefit from early intervention and teachers needed more support to understand ASD. Several parents wanted one to one speech therapy, classes and workshops and more information about available services. They also identified better joint working amongst professionals as being important, to reduce the chances of conflicting or duplicated advice. Several parents felt they would benefit from more practical support at home with behaviour and anger management.

Positively, both sets of parents felt they had plenty of opportunity to discuss their child's progress regularly and they didn't feel the need for help with night-time disturbance. Equally, they didn't feel they needed help with marital difficulties or in coming to terms with their child's diagnosis.

Ways forward?

There is a wide variety of services and professionals for children with ASD to access.

What was very clear was that those with similar needs weren't accessing the same support.

A lot of parents mentioned having to track down services themselves and fight for referrals. The need for appropriate leisure, weekend and holiday activities was also paramount.

An ideal outcome of this survey would be that all parents upon diagnosis are made aware of what is available in the city and what they are entitled to access. Provision of leisure activities should also be explored with a view to opening up after-school, weekend and holiday opportunities.

For more information contact Jamie Dibdin on 0191 219 6426 or email james.dibdin@ntw.nhs.uk

Events

The National Autistic Society Resource Base and Parents Group based in Thomas Bewick School

They are open to any parent who has a child on the Autistic Spectrum and provide support, information and training.

- The parents group meets fortnightly. (Next meeting - 15 October 10am -12pm)
- Sleep Talk by Cerebra 20 October 4 - 5pm at Thomas Bewick School.
- Sleep Clinic by Cerebra (maximum four families) 21 October.
- Six-week behaviour management course with Annette Hames and Julie Waters starts 4 November.

To book places for these events or for more information and contact Deborah Garland on 0788 4117 741 or Deborah.Garland@nas.org.uk

Deborah works part-time

Sensory Spaces Jamboree project will be at:

- The Disabled Children's Services Information Day, Wednesday 28 October, Newcastle Library, 10am-3pm. Free
- Alan Shearer Centre Halloween Party, Friday 30 October 30 4.30pm-6.30pm. £5 per child and £2.50 per carer or parent includes activities and food.

For details contact the Alan Shearer Centre on 0191 267 8118 or jamboreeproject@yahoo.co.uk. Visit www.freewebs.com/jamboreeproject

Cheviot View Short Break Service coffee mornings

10am to 12pm on 22 October, 19 November and 17 December, Cheviot View Bedeburn Road Newbiggin Hall. Come along just for a chat, meet other parents and paid workers. If anyone has anything they wish the coffee mornings to particularly focus let the staff team know. **Phone: 0191 277 2686**

NSNN networking lunch

26 November 12pm to 2pm at the Bamburgh Suite, Northern Counties School, The focus for this lunch is Education and the Disability Equality Duty for Schools. **For more information call NSNN 0191 281 2255**



Children Young People and Specialist Services - Involving People Best Practice Conference

17 November 10am – 4pm at Walkergate Park

Northumberland, Tyne and Wear



NHS Trust

This is your opportunity to have a say about how we involve people in our services. The programme includes best practice and service user experiences. **For more information email helen.atkin@ntw.nhs.uk**

CP Talk

Hello my name is Anna and my son has Cerebral Palsy.

There are plenty of web sites that will give you all the medical information you need, some of the ones I feel are the better ones are listed on this site. There are very few that goes any way towards helping you through the emotional roller coaster of either living with or being informed that your child has C.P.

When Harry was born we asked to see a counsellor, we had a lot of feelings and needed help to deal with them, and the hospital gave us the number of a bereavement counsellor that was the closest they could get!

Over the years, I most certainly have and believe David (my other half) has, felt very alone. We have both dealt with things in different ways. I know I have, and if I am honest still do have, feelings of guilt, maybe I could have done something to prevent this happening to my child and my family.

Sometimes I just want to talk to someone, who has gone through similar things, I want someone to tell me its ok to feel whatever you feel, I want someone to say I know I felt like that, I got through it like this, or this made it better or I found that.

So here it is CPTalk. It is as you will see very new, but I hope it will grow, I hope it will help. To start it off I have taken out of a drawer an old journal I kept when H was a baby, when I got sad, angry, frustrated or just mad, I would take it out and write, some of it are just ramblings, some of it are facts or information I had been given. Some pages are tear stained one is even just a huge scribble. I am going to use it to write a few articles for this site in the hope that it will prompt others to talk about their worries, fears, and emotions. CPTalk is not going to fix things, but I hope it will help you cope with things, help sort things, give some bits of advice and a lot of support.

I am not going to say “I know how you feel”, because I don’t, I only know how I have felt and still feel, if I let you in to our world maybe you will see you are not alone.

Have a look and see what you think.

www.cptalk.org.uk

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



Question time

How are disabled children and young people involved in shaping services?



What is Viewpoint?

Viewpoint is a laptop computer assisted interviewing process. It allows all Looked after Children from the age of four to 15 plus, to present their views both positive and negative, about their short break or care provision.

Who is Viewpoint for?

Viewpoint is structured in age bands which can be adjusted to suit the young person's ability (four years, five to seven years, seven to nine years, 10 to 14 years and 15 years plus)

We have a specific questionnaire for children who have Short Breaks.

Professionals use the Viewpoint answers to contribute towards the care planning process for the young person.

Who is present during a Viewpoint session?

Children are given the opportunity to complete their Viewpoint questionnaire one to one with the Independent Viewpoint Workers.

The questionnaire may be completed at an appropriate location which could be a foster home, residential unit, family home, online or at school.

How is Viewpoint used?

Viewpoint is offered to a young person before each Looked After Children (LAC) review. Their answers to the questions are given to the reviewing team for discussion at their review.

What will happen if my child does not want to complete a Viewpoint questionnaire?

The Viewpoint worker will offer the young person a verbal consultation covering the key areas of the care provision package. An online version can be offered if the young person prefers. Where a young person has complex needs their parents will be consulted about appropriate alternatives.

If you have any further questions the three Viewpoint workers are based at the Children's Safeguarding Standards Unit at the Springfield Centre and can be contacted on 0191 277 4636.

Children's Services Participation Unit

The participation unit provides children and young people with a range of ways of having a say about services they use. These include:

- helping choose service providers,
- making decisions about funding,
- helping recruit staff,
- mystery shopping of services
- taking part in discussions and a think tank about the future direction of children's services.

We work with young people of all ages abilities and backgrounds, and alongside Skills for People support a forum for young people with learning disabilities and difficulties.

If young people get in touch with us, we will let them know about ways they can help make a difference.

For more info contact Nick Brereton Participation Unit Manager
Phone: 0191 260 6518 Email: nick.brereton@newcastle.gov.uk

Photographic models wanted

Let your little star be our little star

The Families Information Service are designing new information leaflets for Children's Services. A leaflet for the Children with Disabilities Social Care Team is one of these.

They would like to use and promote positive images of disabled children, young people and their families who live in Newcastle.

You will need to sign a consent form to give Children's Services permission to use the photographs. You will get a copy of the photos to keep for yourself.

If you or your children and young people fancy yourselves as cover models contact Jonathan Gilroy at the Families Information Service
Phone: 0191 2774133
Email: jonathan.gilroy@newcastle.gov.uk



Parents and Carers get involved!

Family information day at the City Library

28 October between 10am and 3pm

You can get information about what services are available to you if you look after a disabled child or young person. This is an important part of Aiming High for Disabled Children.

Drop-in to find out:

- what's available for you and your family,
- have a chat with workers,
- sign up to get more involved and tell us what you think
- and maybe even get a relaxing hand massage

Jamboree Sensory Spaces will be there to provide some Halloween fun for the young people (parents must support their children in these activities)

Eileen Hughes from Holistix will be there to offer advice about massage techniques that will benefit you and your child.

There will be stalls from lots of Childrens Services including:

- health,
- social care,
- leisure,
- play,
- children's centres and the
- Families Information Service

We'll also have our partners from voluntary organisations including Northeast Special Needs Network, Newcastle Toy Library, Contact a Family and more.

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 277 4605**

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 27 November 2009.