

Parent & Carer Council Newsletter

March 2007



c/o

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www.parentcarercouncil.co.uk

Moving Forward

At an Extra Ordinary meeting of the Parent & Carer Council members in November, it was agreed that the organisation would become a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity, with a board of trustees/directors.

This major step will 'future proof' the organisation and also protect the name of the Parent & Carer Council both locally and nationally.

To cover the work we do helping other Parent & Carer Councils to be created, we have also agreed with our members to set up a separate body which will be known as the National Federation of Parent & Carer Councils. The planning for this development has taken up a great deal of my time over the last 2 years and I am grateful for the support that it has received.

Julie Marriott

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County Parent Partnership has moved

Our new address is:

**OEM Building
Whiteacres
Cambridge Road
Whetstone
Leicestershire
LE8 6ZG.**

You can contact us as follows:

Telephone Number: **0116 2752097** or Fax Number: **0116 2845184.**

Disability Living Allowance

There is a great book available with free delivery on how to fill out your DLA forms by CEREBRA.



It goes through the forms question by question and there is even a quick test to see if you will be eligible and other helpful tips and information.

“Claiming Disability Living Allowance for children under 16 with brain related conditions”

Ring **0800 328 1159** for a copy, or you can download a copy from their website or fill out your address online and it will be posted to you. www.cerebra.org.uk

Parents & Carer Council

Members Meeting Dates

29th March 2007*

21st June 2007*

13th September 2007*

29th November 2007*

*Times and Venues to be confirmed

If you would like to attend any or all of the above meetings please contact **Sue Harrison** on **07986 857 598** to register your interest.

All members meetings may be attended by anyone who is registered on the Parent & Carers Council database.

Specialist Equipment

Occasionally parents asked us for advice on where to start to find the right specialist equipment for their child. We thought it is useful to share the following web address.

<http://www.abilities.fsnet.co.uk>

They provide information, advice and support for parents of children with disabilities.

Grandparents Association

Talk to Your Baby and the Grandparent's Association have developed a new information pack for grandparents "Communicate with Your Grandchild". The pack is free to download and highlights the important role that grandparents can play in early year's language development. To download the pack visit:

www.literacytrust.org.uk/talktoyourbaby/grandparents.html

Or contact:

Moot House, The Stow, Harlow, Essex CM20 3AG. **Tel: 01279 444964**

27a Access Artspace

On the 15th November 2006, 27a Access Artspace was awarded a lottery grant from the People's Millions scheme, run by the Big Lottery Fund and ITV, thanks to the votes of local people.

27A Access Artspace is a Disability Arts Centre which provides a wide range of visual and performing arts activities for people with learning disabilities, physical disabilities and mental health problems.

It hosts regular, informal workshops, led by professional artists, in a range of art forms including:

Drama, Dance, Visual Art, Video, Photography, Creative writing, Music, Sculpture & Textiles

We also organise performances, exhibitions and one-off collaborative projects, where disability art can be showcased to the public.

For further information contact:

**27a Access Artspace Ltd
27a Belvoir Street, Leicester LE1 6SL.
Tel: 0116 2229030**

Every Disabled Child Matters - sign up now!

Every Disabled Child Matters, is a new campaign which is aimed at obtaining rights and justice for every disabled child and was launched at this year's party political conferences. The campaign aims to make sure that families with disabled children have the right to the services and support they need to lead ordinary lives. The campaign is led by four organisations working with disabled children and their families: Contact a Family, Council for Disabled Children, Mencap and the Special Educational Consortium.

To visit the campaign website go to <http://www.edcm.org.uk>

Remap

REMAP is a national charitable organisation with over 100 Panels (groups) spread throughout the United Kingdom. The objectives of REMAP are to improve the lifestyle of disabled people and their carers by designing and supplying specialised equipment that is not available from commercial or other sources.

Our products range from essential daily needs to those that enhance the recreational activities of our clients. We utilise the voluntary services of some 1500 professional engineers, technicians and craftspeople.

Our members have extensive experience in a wide range of disciplines and skills. Their technical expertise is supported by input from the medical, healthcare and welfare professions when required.

The Panel covering Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland meet once a month to discuss new work and review ongoing projects. If you would like to join us at a meeting please contact us for the meeting details via our website, telephone, or please write to the following address:

**REMAP Leicestershire
c/o The British Red Cross Society
76 Clarendon Park Road, Leicester, LE2 3AD
Tel: 0845 1300456
<http://www.remap.org.uk>**

Disclaimer

A mention of any product, treatment, therapy, web link or event does not constitute an endorsement by the Parent & Carer Council.

Should you wish to submit an item for consideration in the next PCC newsletter please send a copy via email or post to:

**Caroline Coxon, Parent & Carer Council
C/O Fosse Neighbourhood Centre,
Mantle Road, Leicester LE3 5HG. Email:
caroline@parentcarercouncil.co.uk**

Dyslexia Action

The Dyslexia Institute is now going to be known as Dyslexia Action. I want to take the opportunity to reassure you that our remit and our operations continue as before. You will not notice any change in the good teaching, training and assessment we do.

This is an exciting time for the organisation and a very positive step for us and for dyslexia and literacy in the area. I hope you will agree.

Dyslexia Action Leicester centre
Clock Chambers, 6a Hotel Street
Leicester LE15AW
Tel: 0116 2511 525
www.dyslexiaaction.org.uk



Dyslexia
Action

Assessment • Education • Training

Useful Web Addresses

Have you visited the new-look Scope website yet? The early years section has been completely re-vamped and includes lots of information for parents and professionals.
<http://www.scope.org.uk/earlyyears>

Contact a Family has produced two new fact sheets - Finding and Paying for Childcare and Education Maintenance Allowance. Both can be downloaded free at:
<http://www.cafamily.org.uk/factsheets.html>

Disability Equality Duty (DED) came into force on 4 December 2006. This new legal duty requires all public authorities to actively look at ways of ensuring that disabled people are treated equally. The DED covers all public bodies including schools.
<http://www.drc-gb.org/>

The National Literacy Trust is looking to increase the number of images on their website of disabled children reading and enjoying books. If you have any photographs that you would be prepared to share for their website www.familyreading.org.uk please contact susan.clow@scope.org.uk

Carers UK have launched a year long investigation looking at the extra costs faced by carers. They are looking for people to complete an online survey - if you are interested in finding out more and/or completing a survey visit:
<http://www.carersuk.org/Newsandcampaigns/Fairdeal> <

ACT, the Association for Children with Life-threatening or Terminal conditions, has recently re-launched its website designed to meet the needs of families.
<http://www.act4families.org.uk/>

Missing genetic information key to severe learning disorders - Scientists have discovered a genetic anomaly responsible for severe learning difficulties. Using a new technique for detailed examination of human chromosomes - 'Nature Genetics' - or visit www.wellcome.ac.uk/doc%5Fwtx033177.html

Help Mencap by recycling your old mobile phones - There are currently over 1.5 million unused mobile phones in the UK - all of which can be recycled. In a new partnership with Greener Solutions, Mencap will receive £3.50 for every old phone that is donated - For more information - If you would like to get involved, please contact **Gemma Hill** on gemma.hill@mencap.org.uk

Tel: **0845 077 0777** to request your freepost envelopes or visit:
<http://m.fwreply.com/www/3YJhxB/A34WZ7/B54k11/W50NeC/mobilephones.html>

For more information about a technique called Davis Dyslexia Correction, please visit the following website:
www.dyslexia.com

Leicestershire County Take-a-Break Scheme 2007/2008

From April 1st 2007 The Parent & Carer Council will be administering the Take A Break Scheme for Carers who have children 0-18.

To apply you must be in receipt of Disability Living Allowance at the middle or higher rate and must NOT have received any funding from social services for your child within the previous 12 months.

This will be on a first come, first served basis, and those who applied last year and were unsuccessful will be processed first.

Application forms will be processed at our support groups. Details of venues can be found on the website www.parentcarercouncil.co.uk or contained within this newsletter. For more details please phone the PCC lines on 07968 857 598 or 07870 688 973. We do operate an answer phone service so please leave a message and we will return your call within two working days. Alternatively you can e-mail us at enquiries@parentcarercouncil.co.uk

Parent & Carer Council Volunteering "Developing County Peer Support Networks"

At the Parent & Carer Council we are keen to develop volunteer parents through Peer Support Networks. We know that all parents develop their own expertise around their children and it's good to share what works (and what doesn't) and we can all learn from each other. Our volunteers all have children of differing ages and we can support parents, and each other, through various stages of a family's journey.

We appreciate that life can be fraught with stresses and challenges and that some families need lots of support a great deal of the time and some need a short period of support occasionally. Other families feel they

need no support for themselves, but would like to pass on their support and skills to other families. We are all different.

We are seeking to increase our parent volunteer base and to provide training to parents who wish to develop and support other parents and to work with other agencies.

Currently we have volunteers who help out at our joint support groups around the County and also at the support group in the City.

Our volunteers help other parents with general support, form filling and signposting as well as providing a listening ear and we can also refer directly into certain services. Some of our volunteers represent parents' views on planning groups and we can also provide parent consultation for agencies.

As the County Children's Centre Networks begin to develop & take shape we would like to be able to provide parental support to parents of children with disabilities/special needs through these networks. This can be achieved through ongoing development of the support groups within the Children's Centres (we currently meet in Loughborough & Coalville Children's Centres), such as holding training sessions for parents on issues like behaviour support & advice, transition issues, further education issues etc. Helping parents to understand their children and exploring various strategies can enable parents to cope with some of the everyday stresses that we live with.

If you would be interested in finding out more about what the Parent & Carer Council does, its structures and how we work in partnership with other agencies, or if you are keen to become involved in our volunteer peer support network in the County, or become a City Volunteer, then please feel free to contact me for an initial chat:

Sue Harrison
Volunteer Family Support Manager
sue@parentcarercouncil.co.uk
07968 857598

SEE SUPPORT GROUPS TIMETABLE



Countywide Parent Drop-in Support Groups Dates, Times and Venues for 2007

The Leicestershire Parent Partnership Service

CASTLE DONINGTON

The Village Hall

Moira Dale, Castle Donington
2nd Tuesday of month (term time)
1.00pm - 3.00pm

9th January 2007 12th June 2007
13th March 2007 10th July 2007
8th May 2007

COALVILLE

Warren Hills Children's Centre

Stamford Drive, Coalville
4th Thursday of month (term time)
1.00pm - 3.00pm

25th January 2007 26th April 2007
22nd February 2007 24th May 2007
22nd March 2007 28th July 2007

HINCKLEY

Holy Trinity Church Hall

Marchant Road, Hinckley
3rd Wednesday of month (term time)
10.00 am - 12 noon

17th January 2007 18th April 2007
21st February 2007 16th May 2007
21 March 2007 20th June 2007

MARKET HARBOROUGH

Congregational Church Centre

Bowden Lane, Market Harborough
3rd Tuesday of month (term time)
10.00 am - 12 noon

16th January 2007 17th April 2007
20th February 2007 15th May 2007
20th March 2007 19th June 2007

WIGSTON

Menphys Centre

Launceston Road, Wigston
2nd Friday of month (term time)
11.00 am - 1.00 pm (including light lunch)

12th January 2007 11th May 2007
9th February 2007 8th June 2007
9th March 2007 13th July 2007

LOUGHBOROUGH

Shelthorpe Children's Centre

Woodthorpe Road, Loughborough
4th Friday of month (term time)
12.00 noon - 2.00 pm (including light lunch)

26th January 2007 27th April 2007
23rd February 2007 25th May 2007
23rd March 2007 22nd June 2007

MELTON MOWBRAY

Melton Mencap & Gateway

Mencap Centre, Chapel Street, Melton Mowbray
1st Friday of month (term time)
12.00 noon - 2.00 pm (including light lunch)

5th January 2007 4th May 2007
2nd February 2007 6th July 2007
2nd March 2007

SYSTON

Syston Community Centre

School Street, Syston
2nd & 4th Wednesday of month (all year round)
10.00 am - 12 noon

10th & 24th Jan. 2007 9th & 23rd May 2007
14th & 28th Feb. 2007 13th & 27th Jun. 2007
14th & 28th Mar. 2007 11th & 25th Jul. 2007
11th & 25th Apr. 2007

TO CONTACT US

Parent Partnership Service:

0116 275 2097

Parent & Carer Council:

07870 688973

Menphys SOS: 01455 899111