

## Report on Annual Parents' SEN Conference 2011



The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Parents' Conference took place on Saturday, 15 October, at Bramingham Primary School. There were 77 attendees. Feedback showed that the conference was a very enjoyable and successful day.

During the conference, parents had the opportunity to share their experiences and to talk informally with local authority professionals and representatives from local voluntary organisations.

### Opening presentation

Dr Harriet Martin, Educational Psychology & Assessment Manager, welcomed parents and opened the conference with a short introduction.

### Workshops

Attendees had the opportunity to attend two workshops. The sessions focused on:

Getting the best out of meetings in school

Bullying - how parents/carers can help

Services for pupils with visual impairment

"HELP! What happens next?"

Post 16 transition

Accredited parenting support programmes in Luton

An introduction to Autism Spectrum

Managing medical needs in special schools

What services are out there?

Supporting children with hearing impairment

For information, support and advice, contact: Parent Partnership Officers

Vicki Lloyd  
01525 719754



Nina Muurman  
01582 548156

Or write to Parent Partnership Service,  
Unity House, 111 Stuart Street, Luton, LU1 5NP  
( Email: [parentpartnership@luton.gov.uk](mailto:parentpartnership@luton.gov.uk) )

## Displays

This year, the following organisations provided information and/or stands in the main hall.

Friends of Bright Eyes (FOBE)

Tel: 0785 830 2564

Website: [www.fobe.org.uk](http://www.fobe.org.uk)

The Centre for Youth and Community Development (CYCD)

Tel: 01582 519500

Website: [www.cycd.org.uk](http://www.cycd.org.uk)

Out and About

Tel: 01582 433713 or 0845 241 2576

Website: [www.oaa.co.uk](http://www.oaa.co.uk)

Families United Network (FUN)

Tel: 01582 523691

Website: [www.familiesunitednetwork.org.uk](http://www.familiesunitednetwork.org.uk)

Autism Bedfordshire,

Tel: 01234 350704

Website: [www.autismbeds.org](http://www.autismbeds.org)

GreenHouse Mentoring

Tel: 01582 528213

Scouting

Email: [brendan.owen@ntlworld.com](mailto:brendan.owen@ntlworld.com)

Guiding

Email: [jan.owen@ntlworld.com](mailto:jan.owen@ntlworld.com)

National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS)

Tel: 808 800 8880 (voice and text)

Website: [www.ndcs.org.uk](http://www.ndcs.org.uk)

A representative from 'Puppets on a Mission' displayed a variety of puppets.

Tel: 01462 639829

Website: [www.puppetsonamission.com](http://www.puppetsonamission.com)

Various council services also provided displays and information. These were:

Access to sport

Transition team

Early Years Support team

Children and Families Information Service



Families in Luton Autism Group (FLAG)  
Dads Autism Discuss Support (DADS)

## Conference feedback

Parents were invited to comment on various aspects of the conference. 35 evaluation forms were returned. Most attendees said that they had found the conference helpful.

Comments included:

- it has been a wonderful experience
- very helpful
- relevant.

Ideas for future conferences included:

- more time to talk to professionals
- opportunity for parents to have open discussions on matters that concern them
- be able to attend more than two workshops
- more varied workshops
- more time available for the workshops
- parent to speak about obstacles they have overcome
- information on Local Authorities and political changes.

## Thank you

**to everybody, who contributed to the conference, helping to make it so successful.**

**A special thank you to Local Authority staff, Dawn Crowhurst (Independent Parental Supporter) and staff at Bramingham Primary School**

## Losing a wheel for Cancer Research

John Owen, who attends a Luton high school, swapped the four wheels of his wheelchair for the three wheels of his trike, when he took part in the 'Relay for Life' at Stockwood Park, Luton in September.

John was a member of the team from Someries Explorer Scouts, who took part in the 24 hour event, raising funds for Cancer Research. The team had to have a member of their team on the track continuously and John spent his two hour long sessions pedalling his trike around the athletics track. At other times, he was busy selling cakes from their stall while relaxing in his wheelchair.

He enjoyed taking part in the whole event, however many wheels he was using at the time and has raised over three hundred pounds for the charity in sponsorship.



### Parents and Services Forum (PSF)

The forum is made up of parents, representatives from Luton's Children and Learning Department, Parent Partnership Officers, health, leisure, and voluntary organisations.

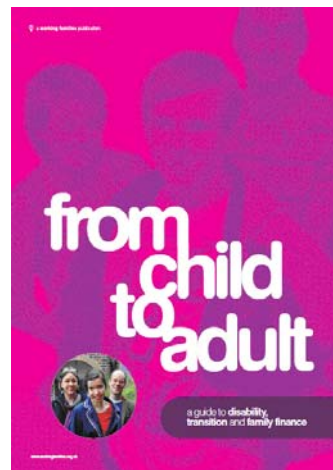
The PSF meets once a term. It gives parents and other agencies a chance to contribute ideas to the service and to help inform local policy and practice.

**If you would like to:**

**join us**  
and

**share your Views**

contact the  
Parent Partnership Service



### A guide to disability, transition and family finances

How are family finances affected when your disabled child becomes an adult?

When is it most advantageous for a young person to start claiming their own benefits? Can you change your working hours to fit with your disabled young person's new regime? Working Families' free transition booklet has sections for parents and carers and disabled young people, a step-by-step guide to better-off calculations and a list of useful publications, organisations and websites. (2011) This guide can be downloaded as a PDF from [www.workingfamilies.org.uk](http://www.workingfamilies.org.uk)

# enabled

## Short Break Service Statement

**Luton Borough Council's Short Break Service Statement** was published on Luton Borough Council's website on 1 October 2011. Written in partnership with parents and our short break providers the statement outlines the principles of short breaks, the eligibility and referral process and details about what support and information is available to families.

Integrated Services for Children with Additional Needs would like to thank everyone for their valuable input and a special mention to:

**Phab Frenz  
CYCD  
Autism Bedfordshire  
Families United Network  
Parenting Support Service**

Details of the service statement can be found on our website under the short break section:

- [www.luton.gov.uk/childrenwithdisabilities](http://www.luton.gov.uk/childrenwithdisabilities) then select short breaks for children and young people with disabilities
- or call **Children and Families Information Service** on **01582 54 88 88** for a copy.

## Baylands Equestrian Centre at Stockwood Park

**Luton Borough Council Integrated Services for Children with Additional Needs** have provided capital funding to Baylands for the purchase of equipment to support disabled children and young people accessing riding lessons.

Baylands can offer a range of sessions tailored to the needs of the individual including one to one support, sibling and family sessions, small groups and schools.

For more information contact **Baylands** on **01582 72 07 66** or visit [www.baylandsequestrian.com](http://www.baylandsequestrian.com)

## Weekend swimming club for disabled children

Lewsey Park Pool is now offering dedicated swim sessions for disabled children and young people every Saturday from 3.30-5.00pm. The leisure centre is fully accessible and has a pool side hoist available for wheelchair users and those with mobility difficulties.

**Important.** Whilst the leisure centre supports access for all disabled children and young people the temperature of the water may not be appropriate for all disabilities and families should check with the centre manager before attending

For more information please contact **Gary Cooke** at **Lewsey Park Pool** on **01582 60 42 44**

## New Booklets Available



**Your Choice** – decisions in years 7, 8 and 9. For young people aged 11-13, 'Your choice' is designed to help with some decisions they will be facing over the next few years. Contains activities to do to get young people thinking and where to go for more information. Also contains a parents and carers section.



**Next Steps – after year 11.** The guide for young people aged 16+ in Luton. Helping to make decisions about what courses to take in college or sixth form or go into work based training. It also gives information on money available to support young people and contact information for further help and advice.



**Mix it up@18** - Helping young people with options available at 18 and into the future. This booklet provides helpful information when young people are looking at their options such as finding a job, Apprenticeship, training, college or university courses, gap year or volunteering. It also provides information on choosing a full-time higher education course, how to apply, the UCAS 'Extra' and 'Clearing' procedures and student finance.

To order a paper copy of any of the above booklets, please email [youth@luton.gov.uk](mailto:youth@luton.gov.uk) with your name and address or phone Children and Families Information Service on **01582 54 88 88**



## Families in Luton Autism Group

The Autism Spectrum Team are running a family support group for Luton families, who are affected by Autism

We would like you to join us at our new venue:  
Limbury Fields Community and Children's  
Centre, Icknield Pavilion, Icknield Way, LU3 2JR

Come for a coffee and a chat with other parents and the team.

### Next meetings

**Monday 5 December 2011 10am to 11.30am**

Theme: Transitions / Christmas

**Wednesday 18 January 2012 7pm to 8.30pm**

**Monday 30 January 2012 10am to 11.30am**

Theme: Planning for the holidays (what's available, who can help?)

Contact us at: Children & Learning, for more details, or just turn up!

Tel: **01582 548151**

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide crèche facilities.



## Fully Inclusive Sports Opportunities



Access2Sport provides a range of sport and physical activities for disabled young people, aged 5-18, in Luton.

Activities include, athletics, badminton, basketball, cricket, football, dodgeball, tennis, rock-climbing, swimming and dance.

Children must be booked on to activities, to ensure appropriate staffing is provided.

For further information, contact:

Matt Corder, Outreach Development Officer,

Tel: **01582 400272**

Email: [matt.corder@activeluton.co.uk](mailto:matt.corder@activeluton.co.uk)



## D.A.D.S. (Dads Autism Discuss Support)

The Social Communication Difficulties Team in Luton run a group to support fathers/male carers of children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders/Asperger's syndrome.

The group meets regularly, in the evenings and/or at weekends. It is for fathers/male carers, who are currently unable to access the groups already run by Autism Beds, during the day.

Meetings are held at  
Luton Regional Sports Centre,  
St. Thomas' Road, LU2 7XP

If you are interested in joining this group, and would like dates and further information, please e-mail or phone:

Matthew Sims, Team Leader, Integrated Services for Children with Additional Needs

Tel: **01582 548113**

Email: [matthew.sims@luton.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.sims@luton.gov.uk)

# New government funding for voluntary and community organisations

From October 2011, eleven voluntary and community organisations are receiving new government funding, to deliver support to families. These include the following organisations, which may be particularly useful for parents/carers of children with additional needs.

## Contact A Family

provides advice to parents/carers, on a range of issues relating to special educational needs. The new SEN National Advice Service will be part of the integrated helpline/online service for families.

Tel: 0808 808 3555

Website: [www.cafamily.org.uk](http://www.cafamily.org.uk)

## Coram Children's Legal Centre

provides advice relating to law and policy affecting children and young people. This includes advice on all aspects of family law, child law and on some education issues, such as exclusions.

Helpline 0808 802 0008

Website: [www.childrenslegalcentre.com](http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com)

## YoungMinds

provides advice to parents/carers or anyone concerned about the emotional, mental health or behaviour difficulties of a child or young person.

Parents Helpline 0808 802 5544

Website: [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

## Family Lives

offers advice, information and support on any aspect of parenting and family life, including extended support with complex and difficult issues. It also provides parent classes and workshops for parents to share ideas and learn new skills. The website contains a range of information, including leaflets and an email support service.

Tel: 0808 800 2222

Website: [www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk)

## Family Rights Group

gives advice to parents/carers and other family members, whose children are involved with or require social care services. It promotes policies and practices that assist children to be raised safely and securely within their families.

Tel: 0808 801 0366

Website: [www.frg.org.uk](http://www.frg.org.uk)

For further information, contact: Department for Education (DfE)  
Helpline: **0870 000 2288**  
or contact: Parent Partnership Service

**Update**

## Advisory Centre for Education (ACE)

is an independent, national advice centre for parents of children, aged 5-16, in state education.

ACE still continues to give free independent advice to parents and carers, on exclusions and other educational issues affecting children in England and Wales.

Due to reduced funding, ACE's advice line hours have changed as follows: -

Monday – Thursday from 10.00 – 1.00pm

Tel: **0808 800 5793**

Or for information and to download publications, visit:

**[www.ace-ed.org.uk](http://www.ace-ed.org.uk)**

**For information about special educational needs**

and for links to other useful websites.

Visit the Parent Partnership website:  
[www.luton.gov.uk/parentpartnership/](http://www.luton.gov.uk/parentpartnership/)

If you would like the Luton Parent Partnership newsletter by email, please email your name, address and child's name to :

[parentpartnership@luton.gov.uk](mailto:parentpartnership@luton.gov.uk)

Please tell us whether or not you already receive a printed copy.

This information can be made available in other formats. If you require a copy in large print, on tape or in a language other than English, please  
(Telephone) 01582 548137 (Minicom / text phone) 01582 548106

Bengali

এই তথ্য অন্যান্য সংস্করণেও সরবরাহ করা যেতে পারে। আপনি যদি বড় হরফে ছাপা, টেপ-এ রেকর্ড করা অথবা বাংলা ভাষায় অনুবাদ করা কপি চান, তাহলে এই নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করবেন (টেলিফোন) 01582 548137  
(মিনিকম/টেক্সটফোন)

Gujarati

આ માહિતી વિગતની વ્યવસ્થા બીજી રીતે પણ થઈ શકે છે. જો તમને આ માહિતી મોટા છાપેલાં અક્ષરોમાં, ટેઈપ પર રેકોર્ડ કરેલી અથવા ગુજરાતી ભાષામાં જોઈતી હોય તો, કૃપયા ટેલિફોન કરો: 01582 548137  
(મિનિકોમ/ટિક્સ્ટ ફોન)

Polish

Informacje te mogą być dostępne w innym formacie. Jeżeli wymagana jest kopia napisana większym drukiem, na kasecie lub w języku innym niż angielski prosimy o kontakt telefoniczny pod numerem: 01582 548137 Lub o kontakt poprzez minicom lub telefon tekstowy: 01582 548106

Punjabi

ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਦੂਜੇ ਤਰੀਕੇ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਮਿਲ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ ਜਿਵੇਂ ਅਗਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਦੀ ਕਾਪੀ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿਚ ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ ਜਾਂ ਟੇਪ ਤੇ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੋਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ : ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ 01582 548137  
ਮਿਨਿਕੋਮ / ਟੈਕਸਟ ਫੋਨ

Urdu

یہ معلومات آپ کو دوسری صورتوں میں بھی فراہم کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ اگر آپ کو اس کی کاپی بڑے حروف میں، یا آواز کی صورت میں کیسٹ پر آرڈو زبان میں درکار ہو تو براہ کرم اس فون نمبر پر 01582 548137 فون کریں۔  
منی کوم/ٹیکسٹ فون پر رابطہ کریں۔