

Special Needs & Disabilities Newsletter

Fast Forward is the new project from “the stuff”



The project is funded by the Big Lottery Fund and aims to deliver a host of intergenerational skill sharing events. The project will encourage young people between the age of 11 – 25 and people age 50 and over, to participate in workshops, training events and interactive sessions in Derby and Derbyshire.

Activities include:

- ICT course including internet safety
- money and budgeting
- baking
- sewing
- arts and crafts and more!

We are also hoping to include an allotment or community garden in the future.

All activities are free.

For more information or to find out what's going on near you please contact : Claire whitehead or Lea O'Meara

claire.whitehead@disabilitydirect.com

lea.omeara@disabilitydirect.com

Telephone: 01332 299449

www.disabilitydirect.com



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In this issue

Fast Forward Project

Equine Assisted Therapy

Thank you

Bringing us together event

The Invisible Friends

Local Area SEND
Inspections

Half Term activity day with
Fast Forward

ECH Plan Feedback

Umbrella Senior Youth
Group

Inspire Fitness Academy
Holiday Club

Contacts:

Mhairi McDonald-Junor
SEND Development Manager
Tel: 01332 641406
mhairi.mcdonald@derby.gov.uk
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Not all teaching staff have 2 legs and not all classrooms have 4 walls

Equine assisted therapy is an established way of working with a number of emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Lessons learnt through equine assisted interventions can be more easily absorbed and remembered, resulting in lasting and positive changes that can be transferred to the world of human-human relating. Equine Assisted Therapy work can also be an excellent bridging therapy for people who are not ready to engage in talking therapies and counselling.

Equine assisted approaches tend to be split into EFL - Equine Facilitated Learning and EAP - Equine Assisted Psychotherapy.

The horse provides benefits such as being non-judgemental and motivational

Pony Partnerships undertakes this work with both individuals and groups from mainstream education, pupil referral units and specialist and alternative provision as well as offering private sessions.

For more information contact Danielle Mills on 07505951793 or info@ponypartnerships.com
www.ponypartnerships.com

Thank you – You are helping us develop a city wide vision.

We would like to say a big thank you to all the groups who have helped us start developing a city wide vision for children and young people with special needs or a disability.

Some of the groups that have taken part are:

- Voices in Action
- T2
- St Martins Special School
- Derby City Parent and Carer Forum
- Umbrella
- The Lighthouse Young People Council
- Derby City Disabled Children's Integrated Commissioning Board

From all the feedback we are creating a draft vision in two formats.

Next Steps: We will be inviting the above groups and other interested parties to give feedback on the drafted visions.

If you would be interested in taking part please contact: Mhairi.mcdonald@derby.gov.uk

Bringing us together event

The NHS England Learning Disability Network is hosting an event which aims to bring together families who either have children or young disabled people in Assessment and Treatment Units, or have had children or young disabled people in an Assessment and Treatment Unit.

The event means to bring families together so they can meet each other, share stories, stay connected, share and collate tips for survival and moving forward (so we can share them with others) and to consider next steps and ways forward.

We will be hosting the event at **Le Tour Hotel, Birmingham** and the funding covers refreshments, lunch, evening meal, bed and breakfast plus travelling expenses.

Families will arrive for 11am on **Sunday 5 June** for refreshments, with the event starting at 12pm. Overnight accommodation is available.

The funding has kindly been provided by NHS England

For more information please go to: <http://bringingustogether.org.uk/stronger-together/>

The Invisible Friends

The Invisible Friends are a signing group of 11 – 30 year olds with an invisible disability



Do you enjoy singing?

Are you aged between 11 – 30?

Have you or anyone you know got an invisible illness?

If you answered YES to any of these questions, then The Invisible Friends NEED YOU!

The group meet weekly between 6.30 – 8.30pm at Derby Homes Community room on Oakleigh Avenue, just off Chaddesden Park Road, DE21 6NR

If you would like more information then please send us an email:

theinvisible.friends@yahoo.co.uk Or contact Abbie on: 07561823098

Here are what some of our members had to say:

'TIF' has helped me to realise that just because I am sick, does not mean that dreams won't come true'

'My favourite thing about being a member of TIF is when we get to perform at music festivals and lots of other exciting concerts all over the Country'

'I feel a huge sense of pride knowing that through joining TIF, I am helping to raise awareness if invisible illnesses'

SEND Local Area Inspections

From May 2016 onwards Ofsted and CQC will commence **local area inspections** of arrangements for special educational needs and disabilities. It is expected there will be eight inspections by the end of July 2016 using the recently issued [Framework and Handbook](#).

The Framework sets out the **key principles for the inspection** which is focused primarily on **evaluating how well the local area fulfils its responsibilities** for individual children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities from the age of 0 to 25 years.

To make their judgement about the effectiveness of the local area, inspectors will gather evidence to answer three primary questions:

- How effectively does the local area **identify** children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities?
- How effectively does the local area **assess and meet the needs** of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities?
- How effectively does the local area **improve outcomes** for children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities?

All local areas will be inspected at **least once during a five-year period**. Inspections can take place **at any point during a school term** from May 2016 onwards. Inspections will normally **last for five days** and there will be **five working days notice** of an inspection.

The inspection team will visit a variety of settings and will want to meet with a wide range of key stakeholders during the inspection week including: Children and young people with SEND and parents/carers / Health Managers / Local Authority Managers / Early Years & Education providers & elected members.

There will be no formal judgement as a result of the inspection. Ofsted and CQC will instead publish the outcomes in the form of an **inspection letter**. This will outline the evidence that inspectors reviewed and provide a **summary of key findings including strengths and areas requiring further development**.

Half Term activity Day with Fast Forward!



Come along and Paint a pot and plant some seeds with the residents of Oakleigh Avenue, Chaddesden on **Thursday 2nd June 10-4pm.**

Why not bring some money and stay for some Fish and Chips lunch and join in with the fun with some old style board games in the afternoon.

For more information

<https://www.facebook.com/TheStuffProject/>

Please contact Claire or Lea on 01332 299449 or info@disabilitydirect.com to book your place.

Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan Feedback

You may be aware that Derby City took part in using a tool called POET to collect views from parents and carers about the EHC Plan process and plans.

POET stands for Personal Outcomes Evaluation Tool. Derby City tested the tool between September and December 2015.

We now have a survey available to gain feedback which you can find on the Local Offer webpages. The feedback you give will help us identify parts of the process you think are good and parts you think we need to work on.

If you receive a **Final ECH Plan** from Derby City Council from June onwards you will receive a letter with your final plan and on there will be details about how to complete the survey.

The survey covers those receiving a plan as the result of a new assessment or through a transfer review from a Statement.

Umbrella Senior Youth Group

Umbrella Senior Youth Group is held fortnightly at Umbrella House in Mackworth.

This group is open to young adults aged **16 to 30** years old who have a mild to moderate disability and are not receiving any other funding such as Short break Payment or Direct Payments or a Personal Budget.

This group will to be Person led; with the group planning the activities.

The group is held on a **Friday** evening from **6.30pm until 8.30pm.**

The cost of the youth club is **£6.00 per session**

For more information please contact Nicola Green on 01332 521229 or email nicola.green@umbrella.uk.net



Inspire Fitness Academy Holiday Club

Inspire Fitness Academy (Splash Fit) are offering kids club during the holidays.

There are various options which include :

- Breakfast club 8 - 9am
- Full day of activities 9 - 3pm (lunch provided)
- Afternoon club 3 – 6pm

Prices vary depending on activity selection.

Activity choices include:

- arts and crafts,
- film club,
- multi sports,
- swimming and
- rollerskating

For more information contact Sam Godfrey on 01332 203081 or 07546161805

sam@splashfit.co.uk

www.inspirefitnessacademy.co.uk

