



advice, information
and support for
children and carers

Welcome to the winter edition of the asc news

Featured in this newsletter

**2 Parent Partnership
workshops**

4 Direct payments

**6-7 Dudley Short Breaks
Statement October 2012**

If you would like to contribute an article to future newsletters please contact the network co-ordinator.

If you would like to receive this newsletter in an alternate language or via email please contact the network co-ordinator on 01384 815813 or e-mail CDN@dudley.gov.uk



Dudley play week 2012

The fourth annual play week took place between 30 July and the 3 August at the five healthy hubs across the borough. The week long event celebrates national play day which is celebrated across the country on the first Wednesday in August.



1,300 children got involved and played during the week with family members also joining in the fun. This year the fun included group games, sports, campfires, climbing wall, den building, crafts, face painting, story telling, tug of war, zumba sessions, bunting making, badge making, animal handling, cooking sessions, food tasting, baby zones, information stalls and much more.

Extremely positive feedback was received from participants who found the events were fun, safe, inclusive and full of choice for all ages and abilities. Next year play week will take place between Monday 5 and Friday 10 August 2013.

The children's disability network is a record of information about children and young people who have additional needs or a complex health condition. You can join the network if you live in the Dudley borough and have a child aged 0 -18 years with additional needs or a complex health condition. These may include difficulties with hearing or seeing, a learning disability, autism or ADHD, a physical disability, language or communication difficulties, complex health condition or mental illness. As a member you will:

- help ensure that the local authority has accurate information on the needs of disabled children and their families to ensure that support and short break services are continued now and in the future
- receive the ASC newsletter termly and email bulletins which will keep you up-to-date with what is happening locally and nationally
- have a chance to have a say on changes to services through consultation meetings, surveys and other activities (if you wish)
- join the carers emergency contact scheme
- participate in any activities and events organised by the network

For more information on the network or for an application pack contact the network co-ordinator on **01384 815813** or email **CDN@dudley.gov.uk** or visit **<http://www.dudley.gov.uk/health-social-care/children-and-family-care/children-with-disabilities-services/the-childrens-disability-network>**

Sign up to our monthly email bulletins to be kept informed of activities and support services available to you and your child.

Dudley Parent Partnership Service

Dudley Parent Partnership is a confidential service providing information and support to parents and carers who have children with special educational needs and disabilities. We work with parents and carers who have children from two to 19 years old, supporting them to make appropriate and informed decisions about their child's SEN. We can explain SEN processes and procedures and discuss the parents' role in their child's education. We support and help prepare parents for meetings in schools and with the local authority.

Spring programme 2013

Monday 14 January

Understanding the strategies schools use to manage behavioural issues

Monday 21 January

Understanding dyspraxia

Tuesday 29 January

Supporting siblings in understanding the ASD/Aspergers diagnosis

Monday 4 February

Planning and organising for effective school meetings

Monday 11 February

Tackling bullying in school, support & strategies for parents

Monday 4 March

Find out more about the changes to SEN provision and how this may impact on your child

Tuesday 12 March

An introduction to ASD, suitable for grandparents and extended family members

Tuesday 19 March

Moving onto adult services, understanding the eligibility criteria

These workshops will be held between 10am and noon at

Dudley Parent Partnership Service

Trafalgar House, 47-49 King Street, Dudley DY2 8PS

IMPORTANT! Please telephone 01384 236677 to reserve a place

Wednesday 6 February and Wednesday 13 March, 10am - noon

Managing and understanding glue ear - Hearing Impaired Team

To book a place call Sue Meehan on 01384 818003.

Wednesday 20 March between 10.30am and noon - End of term coffee morning

Pop along for a chat or to find out more about the service. Everyone welcome, parents / carers / professionals.

Wednesday 23 January and Wednesday 27 February between 10.30am and noon

Parents supporting parents support group/parent forum

Dudley Parent Partnership Service, Trafalgar House, 47-49 King Street

Everyone welcome - an opportunity to meet other parents

More information on any of the workshops and meetings

www.dudley.gov.uk

Kids Orchard

Kids Orchard now provide direct support to disabled children and young people (0 - 25 years) in and out of the family home as well as in the community. The service operates seven days a week so if you are looking for a one to one support worker or buddy for yourself or your child, you can use your Direct Payments to access this service.

Kids Orchard is also offering an opportunity for disabled children and young people to access one of two new groups solely for those who are in receipt of Direct Payments and who would like to experience activities in smaller groups with friends.

- Mondays 5 - 6.30pm at Kids Orchard, Lye By-pass, Lye, Stourbridge DY8 8HA for up to 12 years
- Wednesdays 4.30 - 6pm at Valley Road Youth Centre, Lye for 13+ years

Contact Gemma Dufield on **01384 897489**.

KIDS Christmas party

Saturday 15 December, 12 noon to 2pm

Children £2.50, adults £1

Santa will hand out gifts to every child at the party.

Please book early as places are limited.

Call Anna on **01384 897489**.

Autism friendly shopping nights

ASDA, Pearson Street, Brierley Hill

INSIGHT for carers service has arranged for Asda at Pearson Street, Brierley Hill to have Autism Friendly Shopping Nights. Every Wednesday night from the 24 October 2012, 7pm onwards the store will turn off all music and keep tannoy announcements to a bare minimum. Asda staff will be on hand to help you with your shopping, whether that means pushing your trolley, carrying your basket, fetching items, pushing wheelchairs or pushchairs, bag packing or helping you to your car. If you don't get the help you need please talk to the team at INSIGHT on **01384 483708** who will feedback your comments to the store.

Home-start Dudley

Home-start Dudley could offer friendship and support to you and your family if you have a child under the age of five years. Raising a family can sometimes seem overwhelming and as our volunteers are parents themselves they understand the challenges. Whether it's you or your child that has a disability or a long-term complex health condition we may be able to give you that extra support that could make a difference.

Home-start is a national charity and all of our volunteers are fully trained. Call Cheryl, Sue or Charlotte on **01384 416842** to find out more.



Santa comes to Sycamore Centre

Keith Rogers, the centre manager at Sycamore Adventure has been on the phone to the main man in the North Pole. After a full year of negotiation and providing proof that all of the children who access Sycamore Adventure have been really good all year round (well, mostly), Father Christmas has agreed to come down and spread some festive magic dust every Wednesday and Saturday in December.

If your child would like to meet him in Sycamore Adventure's relaxing sensory room, you need to book your own special meeting time and date now. Bookings can be made by calling **01384 813755**.

For more information visit

www.sycamoreadventure.co.uk

Saturday 8 December 9.30 to 11am

CDN play session at Sycamore Adventure

Members of the children's disability network are invited to attend a Network play session at Sycamore Adventure. During the session go-karting, free adventure play and sensory room activities will be available. Siblings are welcome. (A parent or carer must be able to stay with the child during the session). The session takes place at Sycamore Adventure, Old Park Farm Estate, Dudley DY1 3QE. If you would like to join in the fun contact Nicola on **01384 815813** to book a place.

PA database

A list of PAs (personal assistants) working in the Dudley borough is now available on the Family Information Service website.

The list provides information on prospective PAs for parent carers who are in receipt of Direct Payments to provide care and support for their child.

Visit <https://fis.dudley.gov.uk/fsd>

Direct Payments

Direct Payments help give more choice and control over how services are provided and can give more independence to parents, carers and young people.

What is a Direct Payment?

A Direct Payment is money, which can be paid to a parent who cares for a child or young person with a disability or complex health condition instead of Dudley's children services providing the care directly. (It is sometimes possible to have both with some care paid for via Direct Payments and some provided directly by Dudley children's services).

Direct Payments maybe offered to you as a way of providing you support to care for your child or to allow them to access leisure activities following an assessment of need via the children with disabilities team.

How does it work and what can the money be used for?

Following an assessment by a social worker or nurse from the children with disabilities team a decision will be made about how the needs of the child can be met. If this is by Direct Payments then a sum of money is paid into a bank account so that you can buy the care directly from a provider. This could be to employ a personal assistant (PA) or to purchase help directly with a registered agency or nursery. The payments can be used to support the child or young person and/or you as a parent in your parenting responsibilities.

Direct Payments can:

- offer more choice and control with help that is needed, such as who helps with the care; when you want the care to be provided; what help the carer provides.
- provide an opportunity to be imaginative in providing care as long as it meets the needs identified in the assessment.
- give flexibility - if the money is not spent one week then more can be spent on the care the next week (this is subject to a time limit).
- be used to provide some of the care with children's services providing the remainder of the help.

Support with Direct Payments

In order to access Direct Payments you will need to be able to manage a Direct Payment account alone or with help from a friend or relative. You can get independent support and advice from one of three agencies:

- A4e independent living services
www.dpvc.a4e.co.uk
- Local support team
www.localsupportteam.co.uk
- Ideal for all www.idealforall.co.uk

More information on the support these organisations can provide is available on the Dudley website www.dudley.gov.uk

Where to get more information

Direct Payments are subject to an assessment via Dudley's children's services. For more information refer to the Short Breaks statement on page seven or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/health-social-care or contact children with disabilities team to check if you would qualify for the scheme on **01384 815813** or email CDT.CS@dudley.gov.uk

Dudley Carers Network

Provides information to people who support a relative or friend of any age with a long-term illness, a disability or a person who is old and frail. Members will receive a newsletter three times a year and a monthly e-mail bulletin (if you wish). They also produce a range of fact sheets.

For further information on the Dudley Carers Network contact Christine Rowley on **01384 818723** or email: carers.network@dudley.gov.uk

Mum & Dads groups at INSIGHT House

Breaking the Silence for Dad's of children with disabilities and additional needs. Meetings take place from 7pm onwards on the last Tuesday of every month (except December). Next meeting date 29 January 2013.

New Mum's group for mums of children with disabilities and additional needs. Meetings take place from 7pm onwards on the last Thursday of every month (except December). Next meeting date 31 January 2013.

Both groups take place at the Secret Coffee Lounge, INSIGHT House, Pearson Street, Brierley Hill DY5 3BL.

For more information contact Marc marc@insightforcarers.org or Rachel rachael@insightforcarers.org or call **01384 483708**.

Castle & Crystal Credit Union

Direct Payments accounts

Everyone who is in receipt of Direct Payments is required to hold a bank account. Castle & Crystal Credit Union (C&CCU) are able to offer an account to service the needs of anyone in receipt of Direct Payments.

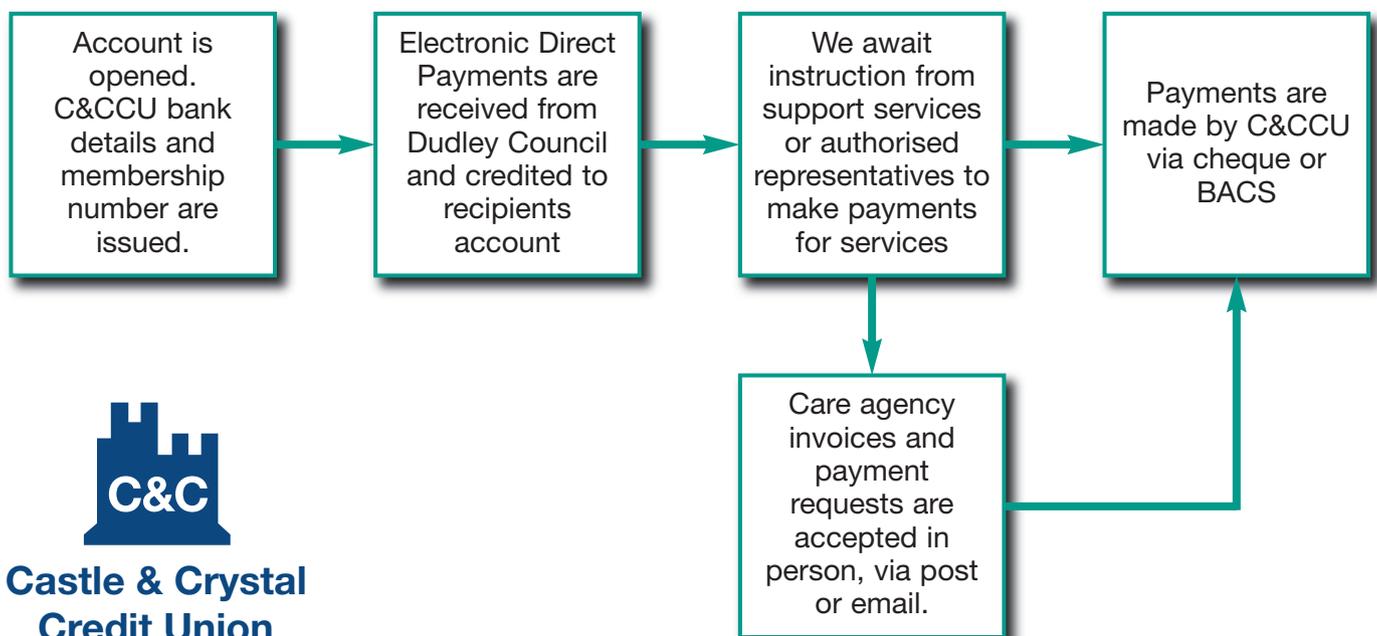
Castle & Crystal's instant access savings account can be used to receive Direct Payments. Key points for Direct Payments accounts are as follows.

- Direct Payments accounts are available for parents or carers of disabled children and young people
- Carers, representatives or support providers are permitted to manage the account on the recipients behalf
- All funds will be held in a separate nominated account solely for Direct Payments
- Online banking facility available for adult members
- Account withdrawals strictly via cheque or BACS payments
- Account does not come with a cheque book or debit card facility
- Statement of account available at any time upon request
- Payees bank details are stored to facilitate the speed and convenience of regular payments

To open an account, two forms of Identification are required. For example a current UK passport and a benefit letter would be acceptable. A support services referral form may also be accepted. Identification can be provided electronically or from a third party.

How does it work

Castle & Crystal liaise with Dudley Council and other supporting organisations to receive and manage Direct Care payments on your behalf. All you need to do is apply for membership to activate an account for your funds to be deposited. Payments can then be made for care services on a regular basis, simply forward us the invoice or payment request and we can make payments via BACS or cheque.



Castle and Crystal Union are authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. The Financial Services Compensation Scheme protects your deposits with Castle & Crystal Credit Union up to a total of £85,000. All our members can be assured their savings are safe with us.

For enquiries regarding our Direct Payments accounts and services please contact: Rebecca Blakeman on **01384 817615** or email rebecca.blakeman@dudley.gov.uk

For general enquiries: 25 New Street, Dudley DY1 1LT. Telephone: **01384 815771**
Email: castle.crystal@dudley.gov.uk or visit www.castleandcrystal.co.uk

Short Breaks

A statement for Short Breaks for disabled children and their families (October 2012)

Introduction

Welcome to Dudley Council's **Short Breaks statement**.

The aim of this is to provide parents and carers with information on:

- what Short Breaks are
- how Short Breaks are designed to meet the needs of disabled children and their families
- who can access Short Breaks
- how to access Short Breaks (see the information in How to Access Short Breaks - via the tiers)
- how to get more information about Short Breaks
- to advise that families with disabled children are enabled to have choice through personalisation - a direct payment with support

This statement is available in accessible formats and can also be made available in other languages.

Why produce the statement?

The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2010 came into force on 1 April 2011. These regulations establish in law the local authority's duty to provide Short Breaks for disabled children and their parents and carers. The regulations also required the local authority to produce a Short Breaks statement by 1 October 2011 which now must be regularly reviewed. This statement is our annual review.

What are Short Breaks?

Short Breaks can be any type of extra care or positive activity provided for a disabled child, so that their usual carer or family can have a short break from looking after them and should also support their child's health and well being.

Short Breaks have become available in Dudley to many more parents, carers and disabled children and young people over the last few years.

Short Breaks can:

- take place anywhere (at home or away from home)
- happen at any time of day or night
- last for different lengths of time, from hours, to several days
- be a part of mainstream provision (universal) or specially provided for disabled children and their families
- Short Breaks are sometimes enabled via the provision of transport
- Some young people have a short break and are prepared for transition through travel training

How are Short Breaks designed to meet needs of disabled children and their families and carers?

Parents and carers, as well as children and young people, have been and are involved in designing and shaping Short Break services in a variety of ways.

- We have consulted parents and carers of disabled children who have been involved in all of the panels which have made decisions about what services and activities to fund and on this statement.
- A parents' forum is in place which feeds information into the Aiming High for disabled children's management and steering groups and takes information back to a wider group of parents.
- A children and young peoples forum is held to gain disabled children's views on which services to fund.
- Providers of services are offered relevant training where there is an expectation that they will attend.
- We collect data on the numbers of disabled children having a short break

For more information on joining the forums contact emma.williams@mencap.org.uk 07904 616195

Who can access Short Breaks?

Dudley's Short Breaks are available for disabled children and young people who are ordinarily resident in Dudley and aged from birth up to their 18th birthday. (See the information in How to Access Short Breaks - via the tiers and Right Services, Right Time, Right Place guidance on access criteria.

<http://www.dudley.gov.uk/health-social-care/children-and-family-care/children-with-disabilities-services/>

Once a young person becomes 18 services are provided via adult services (DACHS) who use fair access to care services as their way of eligibility criteria. <http://www.dudley.gov.uk/health-socialcare/adult-health-social-care/eligibility-criteria>

How to access Short Breaks

Short Breaks available to	Referrals accepted from	Service
Tier 1 Universal Services - access via Short Breaks		
All children and young people with disabilities, their family and carers	No referral required (although providers of the service will need details of disability and personal details e.g. name/age/address and contact numbers)	Universal services (for example: youth provision, sport and leisure activities all those activities which are available to all children irrespective of their ability)
Tier 2/1 Children in need of early intervention - access via Short Breaks		
All children with disabilities, their family and carers where appropriate, who meet the criteria of individual groups (for example some groups may be specifically for children and young people with autism or with a physical disability)	Anyone, i.e. children & young people, parents, carers, professionals and agencies but the child and family will require a common assessment by professionals competent to do so and also a family service/team around the child support plan	Specialist (not universal), group activities including some play schemes or other specialist providers of short breaks
Tier 2/2 Children in need of early intervention - access via Short Breaks		
All disabled children and young people who may be in receipt of medium rate DLA and who have had an assessment under the provisions of the Common assessment framework	Anyone, i.e. children & young people, parents, carers professionals and agencies the child and family will require a Common assessment and family service/support plan by professionals competent to do so	Access to group or individual activities (specialist or sometimes may be universal where the service has appropriate equipment)
Tier 3 Children with complex needs - access via Children's Social Care		
All disabled children and young people and their families who are normally in receipt of the higher rate DLA. Available to all children with disabilities their family and carers, providing they meet the criteria of the individual service and have had an assessment under the provisions of 1. Children Act 1989, and 2004 and 2. The Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000 and/or 3. The National Framework for Children and Young People's Continuing Care, 2010	Anyone, i.e. children & young people, parents, carers' professionals and agencies. The child and family will require either: 1. common assessment and family service/ support plan undertaken by appropriate professionals 2. an initial or core assessment national framework for the assessment of children and their families and/or 3. a continuing health care assessment	Specialist care in the home Sleep management Behaviour management Continuing health care Palliative care Carers assessment Payment in lieu of services (Direct Payments)
Tier 4 Children with acute specialist needs - access via Children's Social Care		
All disabled children and young people and their families who are normally in receipt of higher rate DLA. Available to all disabled children and young people, their family and carers, providing they meet the criteria of the individual provisions, who have had an assessment under the provisions of 1. Children Act 1989, and 2004 and 2. The 2000 and 2004 Carers Act	Anyone, i.e. children & young people, parents, carers professionals and agencies The child and family will require either: 1. common assessment and family service/ support plan undertaken by appropriate professionals 2. an initial or core assessment national framework for the assessment of children and their families and/or 3. a continuing health care assessment	Specialist overnight short break services including residential provision or specialist foster carers Payment in lieu of services (Direct Payments) Specialist care in the home Sleep management Behaviour management Continuing health care Palliative care Carers assessment

How to get more information about Short Breaks?

For up to date information on Short Breaks and other activities for disabled children in Dudley contact the Family Information Service on 01384 814398 or go to www.fis.dudley.gov.uk/fsd or www.askability.org.uk or <http://www.dudley.gov.uk/health-social-care/children-and-family-care/children-with-disabilities-services/the-childrens-disability-network/> to view the latest ASC newsletter.

Services that have received short break funding include:

- Phoenix Centre (under 5s specialist day centre)
- Kids Orchard - family support service, specialist youth club, holiday play scheme
- Acorns Hospice and Hospice at home
- Direct Payments
- Carers direct short break payments
- Insight holiday play scheme



Groups which have benefited from the small short breaks funding programme include:

- Physical impairment team - Holiday and weekend activities for physically impaired children
- Glasshouse - London Olympic guard of honour trip
- Participate/Insight Chaos extreme 16+ boys club
- Crestwood School support for deaf students extended school activities
- Kids Orchard - trip to SNAP and magic shows
- Insight for carers - jubilee party
- Ashwood Park Hearing Impaired Unit - Pioneer Centre residential for pupils
- Dudley Sportszone - netball club
- Sycamore Adventure - holiday play sessions
- Smile Group - Disney on ice trip
- Rockies Youth Service - cinema, bowling and pizza visits
- Dudley Library Service - animal lady visits during school holidays



A complete list of the various Short Break services available are listed in on the Dudley website www.dudley.gov.uk

Dudley Short breaks parent forum

Are you a parent or carer of a disabled child in the Dudley borough?

Would you like an opportunity to meet and support other parents in a friendly environment?

Would you like your say in influencing services for children and young people in the Dudley borough?

The Dudley Short Breaks parent forum, led by Mencap, needs more parents like you to give their honest and valued opinions on small bids and answer questions like these:

- Is it a worthwhile break for parents and carers?
- Is it an enjoyable experience for disabled children?
- Is it good value for money?

You have the knowledge to know what works. Meetings are held on Thursday afternoons once a month, 12 - 2pm at Insight for carers, Pearson Street, Brierley Hill. For more information on the forum and the next meeting contact Emma Williams on 07904 616195 or emma.williams@mencap.org.uk

Leisure Option+

Options+ is a discount scheme for leisure activities in Dudley borough. If you fit into one of the concessionary groups including DLA for your child or carers allowance you are entitled to apply for an Options+ leisure discount card. Cards cost £2.50 for adults and £1 for under 16s (living at the same address) per year and offer 50% of a number off services and events including activities at Crystal, Dudley and Halesowen leisure centres and half price rental on CDs, DVDs and video hire from all Dudley libraries. For more information or an application form call **01384 814640** or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/options

Disability grants website

Do you have a disability or are you a parent or carer of a disabled child or adult?

If so, use this website to **save time** finding disability grants <http://www.disability-grants.org/>

Sleep support group

It is estimated that 85% of children and young people with additional needs also have sleep difficulties. This can present in a number of different ways from night waking to issues with settling. Sleep deprivation can have a huge impact on the child's level of functioning making it difficult to concentrate in school and often leading to behavioural problems. Lack of sleep can lead many parents into crisis resulting in them feeling exhausted.

So sleep solutions are running monthly support groups to enable parents and carers to get together and offer support to each other.

The support groups are open to all; you don't have to be accessing the service, and they run on the last Tuesday of the month next dates:

18 December 11am - 12.30pm (Christmas special)

29 January 2013 11am - 12.30pm

26 February 11am - 12.30pm

26 March 11am - 12.30pm

30 April 11am - 12.30pm

Time 2 Sleep' sleep awareness workshop

Time 2 Sleep can provide support to families of children and young people with additional support needs and severe sleep problems.

- Does your child have a disability or additional needs and have difficulty sleeping?
- Would you like to find out how to help your child to get a better night's sleep?
- Is your child waking frequently in the night?
- Does your child find it difficult to get to sleep?

If you can answer yes to one of these questions the Time 2 Sleep workshop may be able to help.

Sleep Solutions is offering free training for parents and professionals throughout Dudley. Places are strictly limited. The training sessions are between 9.30am and 2.30pm as follows:

Thursday 7 February 2013 - Brierley Hill Children's Centre, Parkes Street, Brierley Hill

Tuesday 23 April 2013 - Queen Victoria Children's Centre, School Street, Sedgley

To book your free place contact Leanne on **07530 932174** or leanne.killman@scope.org.uk
For more information visit their website www.sleepsolutions.org.uk

ADHD/ASD Parent support group

The group provides parents the opportunity to support each other, share information and advice in a relaxed atmosphere. Meetings are held at INSIGHT House, Pearson Street, Brierley Hill DY5 3BL between 1pm and 2.30pm. Next meeting dates are 10 December 2012, 14 January 2013, 4 February 2013 and 4 March 2013.

For more information email stourbridgeadhdgroup@gmail.com or you can find them on Facebook **ADHD/ASD Parent Support For Stourbridge and Beyond**.

Call to parents of children who have attended the Rollercoaster's play scheme

Parents of children who have attended the Rollercoaster's play scheme may be interested in new summer provision. Marc at INSIGHT for carers is asking parents to contact him directly at marc@insightforcarers.org as he is hoping to hold a couple of discussion sessions to find out what parents want and need for the future.

Resources for Autism New in Dudley

Resources for Autism is an established charity providing a range of services for young people and adults with an autism spectrum condition. They have received lottery funding to expand their Reach Out services to other parts of West Midlands such as Walsall, Dudley and Solihull. Reach Out is a befriending service where a volunteer is matched to work with children and young people aged between eight and 19 years on the autistic spectrum and their families providing support within the home and out in the community. They offer three hours minimum a week support for a six month period. The service is free of charge (parents do have to pay for their child's travel and activity if going out). Self referrals from families are welcome.

For more information and a referral form visit www.resourcesforautism.org.uk or contact Philippa Oddi on **07817 736096** or email philippa@resourcesforautism.org.uk

What's on

Free cinema tickets for carers

This is a national card scheme for people with a disability, who are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance, or who are registered blind. You can apply for the card, which entitles you to one free ticket for the person accompanying you to the cinema. The card is valid for one year and costs £5.50. Contact **0845 123 1292** or visit www.ceacard.co.uk

Sedgley Kids Club

Sedgley Kids Club is an inclusive club for children. It offers a weekly activity group, afterschool groups and holiday playscheme based at St Chads in Catholic Lane in Sedgley. Information about the different clubs can be found on their website, as well as the registration forms should you require a place. If you would like to discuss your requirements further or have any queries about any of the services the group offer contact Kate on **07989 984940** or email sedgleykidsclub@aol.com or visit <http://www.sedgleykidsclub.co.uk>

Sally's playgroup

An inclusive playgroup three mornings a week for children aged two and over, providing a range of activities for young children to help prepare them for nursery and school. Activities include painting, drawing, bikes and trikes, playdough and trips to the park. The playgroup runs from 10 to 11.45am Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays at Quarry Club, The Recreation Ground, Vale Street, Upper Gornal, Dudley. Cost is £4 per session.

Children are cared for by qualified staff with over 12 years childcare experience. Contact Kate on **07989 984940** or email: sedgleykidsclub@aol.com

Friday adaptive sports club

Sessions are led by experienced disability coaches, for children with physical and/or learning difficulties. Friday's during term time from 5 to 6pm for eight to 16 year olds. The session takes place at the Crystal Leisure Centre, Bell Street, Stourbridge. For more information contact Greg Southall **01384 814179** or greg.southall@dudley.gov.uk

Orchard Saturday Sports Clubs

Sessions are led by experienced disability coaches for children with physical and/or learning difficulties aged seven to 12 years on Saturdays (term time only) 11am to 1pm. The session takes place at Kids Orchard, Providence Street, Lye. For more information contact Kids Orchard on **01384 897489**

Under 5s stay and play at INSIGHT

Stay and play for children under five with disabilities and additional needs. Fortnightly sessions 9.30 to 11.30am, next sessions are 18 December (with a childrens party), 8 January and 22 January. Cost is £2 per child to include drinks, toast, biscuits and fruit and a tea or coffee for parents. There will be a chance to hear news, information and developments that may be of interest to you as a parent. For more information call **01384 483708**. INSIGHT House, Pearson Street, Brierley Hill DY5 3BL.

Club CHAOS

Club CHAOS is working towards launching a very specific youth project, aimed at boys aged 16+ on the autistic spectrum. The boys will need to be independent as the project will not offer any specific care and support services, simply a safe, structured environment with a little support to help the lads to have fun, make new friends and get out of the house for a few hours. If you would like to find out more or you know a young man who would be interested in joining please contact Steve by email - steve@clubchaos.org.uk. A girls only club will be launched too if there is enough of a demand, email Steve and tell him if you would be interested in one.

Friday 14 December, 7pm Kids Orchard presents - A tale of Scrooge

Kids Future Stars and Lets Dance Group will perform A tale of Scrooge. The performance will take place at Netherton Arts Centre, Netherton DY2 9ER. Tickets for adults cost £8 stalls, £7 balcony and for children £5 stalls and £4 balcony. To book tickets contact Danielle Bevan or Anna Billingham on **01384 897489**.

Sunday 16 December, 11am Nativity 2 - Danger in the Manger (U)

Disability-friendly film screening

The Odeon at Merry Hill is participating in a scheme to offer monthly autism/disability friendly film screenings. Visit www.dimensions-uk.org/autismfriendly for more information. The screening will take place at any Odeon Cinema (including Merry Hill Centre, Brierley Hill DY5). Don't forget one carer or companion goes free if person with disability has a cinema exhibitors association card, visit www.ceacard.co.uk for more information.

Sunday 23 December, 4.30pm Children's Christmas party

A Christmas Party for children with disabilities and their siblings at Scallywags, Level Street, Brierley Hill. Santa will be on hand for the whole session and every child gets a very special hand-picked present from Santa. There is a £10 contribution per child towards the cost of the party. For more information please call INSIGHT for carers on **07597 575277**.

What's on

Thursday 3 January and Thursday 21 February 2013 Inclusive activezone

Inclusive activezone offers children and young people with disabilities the chance to take part in physical activities, have fun and learn in a friendly and supportive environment that has lots of energy and colour.

10am to 12pm for five to eight year olds. Sports include trampolining, bouncy castle, boccia, curling and fun games in the form of multi skills. Costs £5 and Options+ cardholders receive a 50% discount.

1 to 4pm for eight to 16 year olds. Sports to include trampolining, wheelchair basketball, boccia, curling, table tennis and cheerleading. Costs £7.50 and Options+ cardholders receive a 50% discount.

Crystal Leisure Centre, Bell Street, Stourbridge.

For more information contact Greg Southall **01384 814179** or greg.southall@dudley.gov.uk

Sunday 6 January 2013 wheelchair basketball

A new wheelchair basketball group will start on 6 January 2013, the sessions will be held at Valley Road Youth Club, Lye. Chairs will be provided.

Junior sessions for 11 to 16 yrs will be 10 - 11.30am and cost £20 for 6 sessions.

Adult sessions 16+ yrs will be 11.30am - 1pm and costs £25 for 6 sessions.

For more information contact Lee Lough at Effective Play on **01384 893 655** or **07515115756** or email leelough@effectiveplay.co.uk

Tuesday 19 February 2013, 9.30am - 12pm CDN play session at Sycamore Adventure

Members of the children's disability network are invited to attend a Network play session at Sycamore Adventure. During the session go karting, free adventure play, sensory room activities will be available. Siblings are welcome. (A parent or carer must be able to stay with the child during the session). The session takes place at Sycamore Adventure, Old Park Farm Estate, Dudley DY1 3QE. If you would like to join in the fun contact Nicola on **01384 815813** to book a place.

Lets dance minis and lets get together Tuesday 10am (fortnightly)

Lets dance minis is a fun dance and music session for disabled children mainly under five their parents or carers and siblings and costs £2 per child. The

session is then followed by lets get together which is a group for parents or carers who have a disabled child to attend the centre to either meet other parents, have a coffee or just to let their child/ren have a play. Lets get together is free of charge, however there is a small contribution towards refreshments.

For more information contact Anna Billingham on **01384 897489**.

Free family day passes to Dudley Zoo

Members of the children's disability network can book a free family day pass (two adults and up to three children) for entry to Dudley Zoo (car parking is also included).



For more information contact the network co-ordinator on **01384 815813** or email CDN@dudley.gov.uk

Dudley Museums Service - Juniors At Museums (JAM)

JAM provides a range of weekend and holiday activities at Broadfield House Glass Museum, Dudley Museum & Art Gallery and Red House Glass Cone.

For more information about events and activities taking place visit www.dudley.gov.uk/museums

Family Information Service

Are you looking for things to do with your children weekends or school holidays?

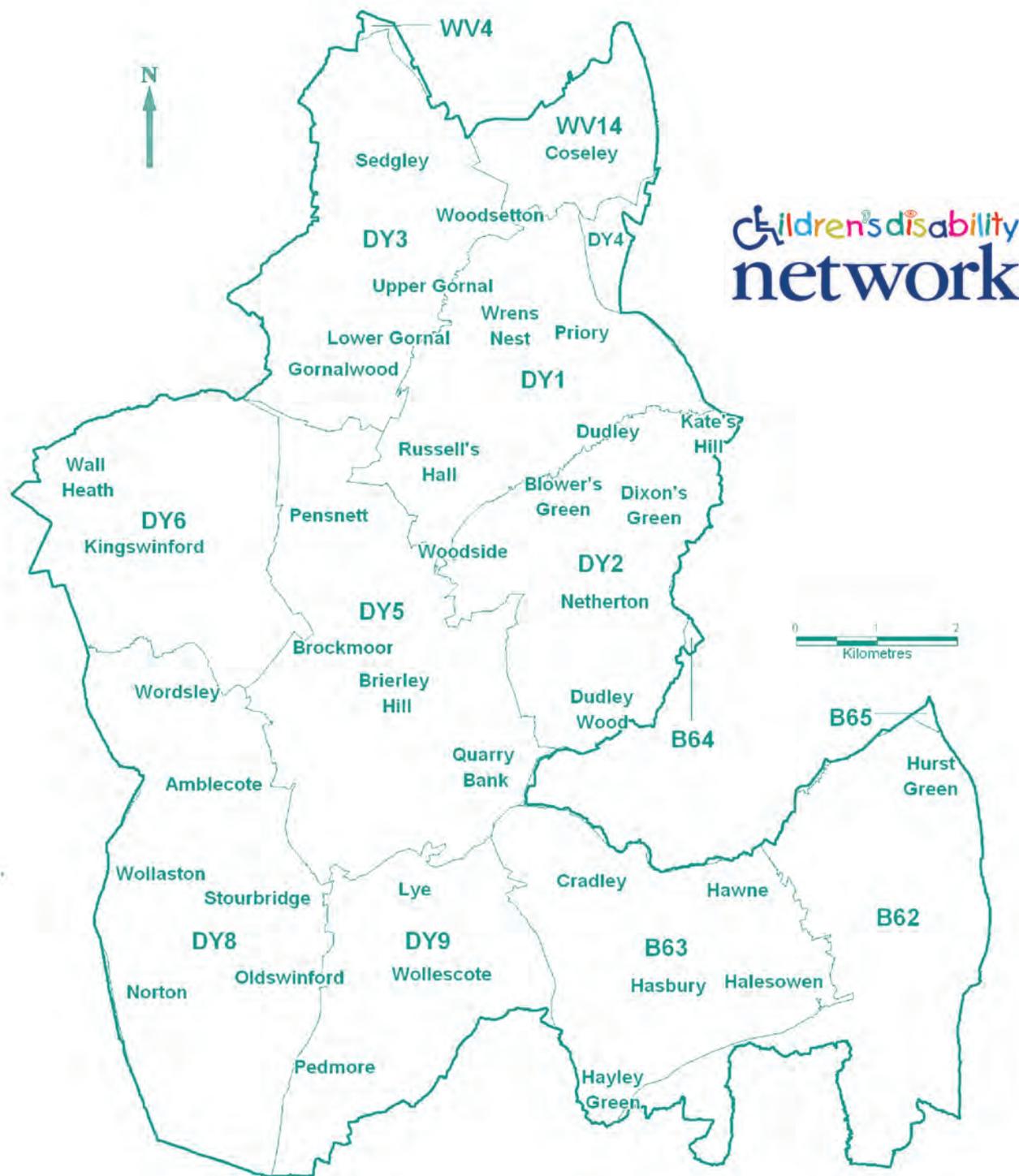
Contact the Family Information Service on 01384 814398 who can provide you with a list of events and holiday schemes. Alternatively visit the website <https://fis.dudley.gov.uk/fsd> and click on boredom busters to see what's on offer.

Ask ability

The Ask ability website offers information on current news affairs both at a national and local level and also provides information on local events and groups. Dudley Short Breaks has already signed up to the website and you will find details of local events, places of interest and groups available in the borough. Visit <http://www.askability.org.uk>

If you do not have access to the internet but would like more information on these companies contact the network co-ordinator at the children with disabilities team on 01384 815813 or email CDN@dudley.gov.uk

Dudley borough map



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Bag books at Dudley Libraries

Dudley Libraries have a selection of Bag Books titles which are available to borrow. Individuals and groups can reserve and collect them from their local library free of charge. Bag Books is a UK charity providing tactile and multi-sensory books to people with learning disabilities and are ideal for use with children, teenagers and adults with profound and multiple learning disabilities, severe learning disabilities and people with autistic spectrum disorder.

For more information or to book a visit contact Jackie Bayliss **01384 813041** or Sue Harper **01384 818360**.