

# Working Together

Issue 17 Autumn 2007

The newsletter of the Warwickshire Parent Partnership Service

## NEWS/DEVELOPMENTS

### Every Disabled Child Matters

Every Disabled Child Matters (EDCM) is the campaign to get rights and justice for every disabled child. According to the EDCM website:

'Disabled children, young people and their families have been left out for too long. EDCM is the campaign to put this right. We want all disabled children and their families to have the right to the services and support they need to live ordinary lives.

'EDCM is a campaign by four leading organisations working with disabled children and their families – Contact a Family, Council for Disabled Children (CDC), Mencap and the Special Educational Consortium (SEC).

'We will challenge politicians and policy makers to make good on the government's commitment that every child matters.

'EDCM is an inclusive campaign. We support and represent thousands of disabled children, young people and families. Through CDC and SEC, the campaign represents hundreds of organisations, professionals and disabled people working with and for disabled children, young people and their families.'

*For more information and to sign up to support the campaign, visit the Every Disabled Child Matters website at [www.edcm.org.uk](http://www.edcm.org.uk).*

### Diary dates

Drop-in sessions at Manor Park School, Nuneaton

Are you confused, or in need of some guidance, about your child's special educational needs?

If so, come along to our drop-in sessions at Manor Park School on:

- Tuesday, 16 October 2007: 10am to 12pm
- Tuesday, 26 February 2008: 10am to 12pm
- Tuesday, 27 May 2008: 10am to 12pm

Parents of children from all schools are welcome (not only statemented children).

*For more information, please contact Susan Higgins on 024 7658 8464.*

### Campaign objectives

- Families with disabled children to have ordinary lives
- Disabled children to matter as much as all other children
- Disabled children and their families to be fully included in society
- All disabled children and their families to get the right services and support – no matter where they live
- Poverty amongst disabled children and their families to be cut by 50 per cent by 2010 and eliminated by 2020
- An education system that meets the needs of each child and enables them to reach their full potential
- Disabled children and their families to shape the way that services are planned, commissioned and delivered

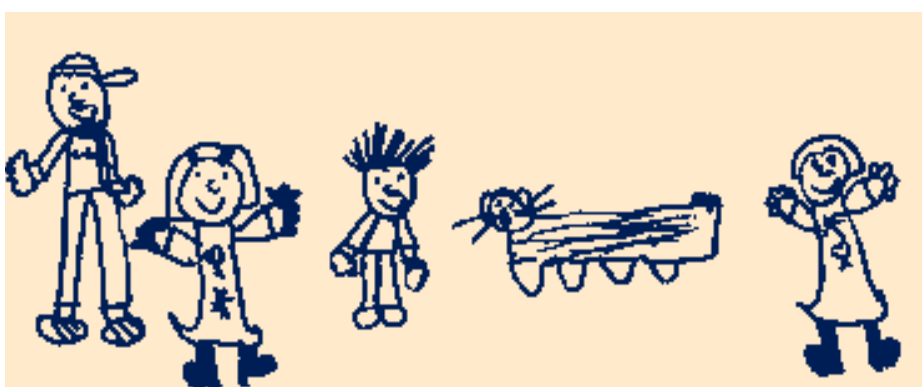
### Warwickshire School Transfer Support Service

Jo Bohler and Vicki Pool are newly appointed School Transfer Co-ordinators for Warwickshire, based in the Children's Information Service at Warwickshire County Council.

Their role is to provide independent, impartial advice to parents and carers on all aspects of the school admissions process, especially those families with children transferring from Year 6 to Year 7. In particular, they will help and support those parents who may struggle with the admissions system, enabling them to make informed choices on their child's education.

Delivery of this service will be through open events, one-to-one sessions, and partnership working with other agencies and schools.

*Jo and Vicki can be contacted through the Children's Information Service helpline on 0845 090 8044, or by email at [cis@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:cis@warwickshire.gov.uk).*



# Nuneaton/ Bedworth/ North Warks and Rugby

## Leisure links

A booklet outlining recreation and leisure activities for children with disabilities in Nuneaton, Bedworth and North Warwickshire.

*For a free copy, phone Susan Higgins on 024 7658 8464.*

## Carers get online...

...with Guideposts Carers Support Service and Silver Surfers, a volunteer group that promotes independent living for older people through the use of the internet and computers.

Come to a drop-in session at the Community Cafe, Church Street, Nuneaton, on Tuesdays (10am to 12pm), where a Silver Surfer who is also a carer will help you to use your computer with confidence.

Guideposts also runs manual handling, first-aid, coping with challenging behaviour, and assertiveness training courses for carers. These are held as part of their carer support groups across North and East Warwickshire.

*For more information, phone Guideposts on 024 7638 5888.*

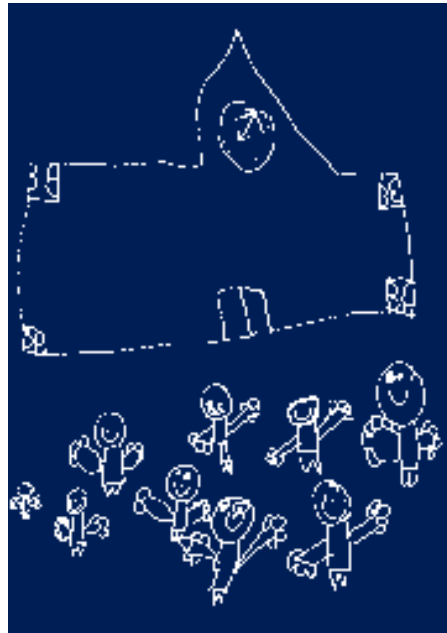
## Home-Start

Home-Start North East Warwickshire Limited is a registered local charity that offers a sensitive, practical and confidential service to families with at least one child under the age of 5.

Volunteers are recruited, trained and supervised to provide tailored individual support, friendship and practical help to families within their own home.

Volunteers visit a family for about two hours per week, and receive all out-of-pocket expenses. Families can self-refer or are referred by organisations.

*To find out more about the service, or about volunteering, phone the Nuneaton office on 024 7639 3248 or the Rugby office on 01788 553237. Alternatively, email home-start01@btconnect.com.*



## Centre/South Free counselling service

South Warwickshire Relate has recently launched a counselling service aimed at those who are disabled, or a carer for somebody over 60, black or from an ethnic minority. Counselling is free if you or someone in your family is in one of these categories and lives in South Warwickshire.

Individual sessions are available, as well as sessions for couples, young people, and families. These can take place at Relate's new office (with disabled access) or at a neutral venue.

*Please call 01926 403340 for an appointment.*

## Developing skills

Would you like to improve your self-esteem, assertiveness, or communication skills?

Relate can deliver these, and other, workshops free for those who fit the criteria above.

*To find out more, email alisonoliver2007@aol.com or lakhwinder2007@aol.com.*

## Play fun for wheelchair users

Schools are being encouraged to tell children with disabilities about a new play facility at the Recreation Ground, Park Street, off Market Hill in Southam.

Recent additions to the play equipment include an accessible roundabout, a wobble bridge and a wheelchair swing.

The wheelchair swing is the only swing in a public park in Warwickshire capable of taking a child in his/her wheelchair. A RADAR key is required to unlock the wheelchair swing. The park is open to all, so why not pop along.

## ILEAP

Inclusive Leisure Education Activities Project (ILEAP) is a registered charity working with disabled people and people with learning disabilities in South Warwickshire. ILEAP assists its members so that they can access leisure activities of their choice.

The young people who take part in activities at ILEAP have formed their own organisation, called South Warwickshire Association for Disability Services (SWADS). They organise and deliver sports and social sessions for and with disabled young people, and their non-disabled peers.

Sessions for various age groups take place in numerous venues across South Warwickshire, focusing on a variety of different sports, adventure, arts and drama activities.

Adult members and their families have formed a project called Lets Go. The Lets Go programme of activities is aimed at adults with learning disabilities who still live at home with a parent/carer. Members are offered assistance so that they can access leisure opportunities of their choice.

*For further information, please phone 01789 260644/07980 004381, or email ileap@stratford-dc.gov.uk.*

## Would you like to make a new friend?

Do you have a son/daughter aged 16 years or above with Aspergers Syndrome who would like to meet up with other similar young people for friendship and leisure activities? A family living in the Warwick/Leamington Spa area is happy to be contacted.

*Please phone 024 7658 8464 for contact details.*

## Financial support for post 16

Do you want to encourage your teenager to stay in learning, but find yourself worrying about costs? There may be financial support to help you.

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is a weekly payment of up to £30, depending on your household income, which is intended to help teenagers stay on in education or training after they have reached school-leaving age.

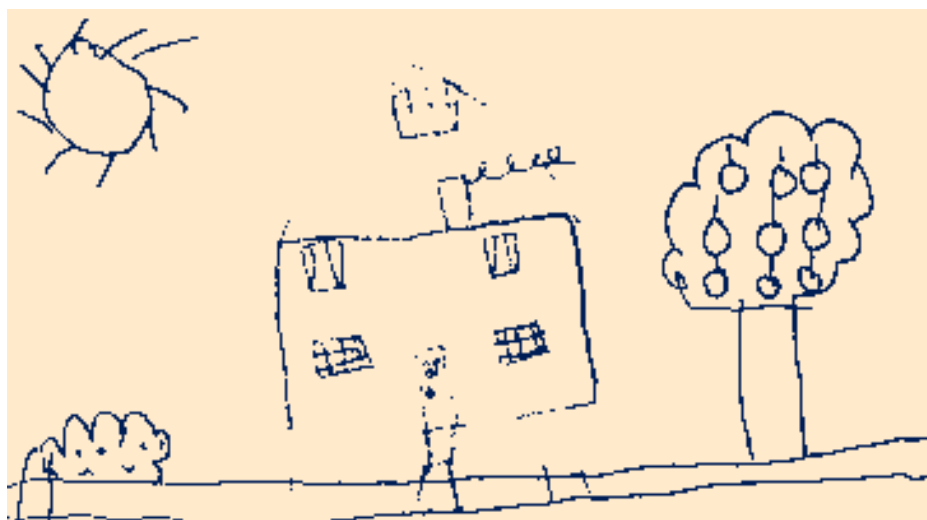
The money is intended to help with the day-to-day costs of learning at school, college or with a training provider, for example, with travel, books and equipment. Your teenager could also receive up to five £100 bonuses if they stick with their course and make good progress. However, if they do not attend, the money will be stopped.

EMA does not affect other benefits paid to parents, carers or students, for

example, it does not affect child benefit. Also, it does not affect the money your teenager may earn from part-time jobs. Your teenager is now eligible for EMA if:

- your household income is below a certain level (£30,810 in 2005–06)
- their course is at a school sixth-form, sixth-form college or further education college and involves at least twelve hours' guided learning, such as lectures and supervised study per week
- they are doing Entry to Employment (e2e) or a Programme Led Pathways Apprenticeship, where they are not paid a wage.

*For more information, visit the EMA website at [www.direct.gov.uk/ema](http://www.direct.gov.uk/ema) or call the EMA student/parent helpline on 080 810 162 19.*



## Contact us

We are starting a question and answer section, so if you have any questions that you think we may be able to help you with, contact Susan Higgins at the Service.

If you have something that you would like to share with other readers, something you have found helpful or something that has made you laugh, please send it to us.

## A parents' guide to P Levels

P Levels are used for children who are working below Level 1 of the national curriculum. They are useful: when writing individual education plan (IEP) targets; for showing the children's strengths; and in helping professionals describe progress in a consistent way.

There are eight P Levels (P1 to P8). Levels P1 to P3 focus on very early stages of development, where a child's aims will be very similar across all subjects. For example, a target covering English, maths and science at these early levels might be to consistently choose a favourite toy from a choice of two toys.

Levels P4 to P8 describe a child's progress within each separate subject.

*Further information about P Levels is available from the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) at [www.qca.org.uk](http://www.qca.org.uk).*

## Autism West Midlands Courses

**The autistic spectrum and mental health spectrum**

**Where?**

Perdiswell Youth Centre, Worcester

**When?**

Tuesday, 27 November 2007

**Price (incl lunch and refreshments)?**

- Professional: £110
- Parent/carer: £35
- Individual with an ASD or mental health difficulty: £35

**The sensory impact of ASD – a deeper understanding (a one-day conference)**

**Where?**

Oak Farm Hotel Watling Street, Cannock

**When?**

Thursday, 6 December 2007 (9.45am to 1.15pm)

**Price?**

- Parents: £35
- People with an ASD: £35
- Professionals: £110
- Membership discount: £99

**Back to basics – developing self-help skills for people with autism**

**Where?**

Meeting Point House, Telford

**When?**

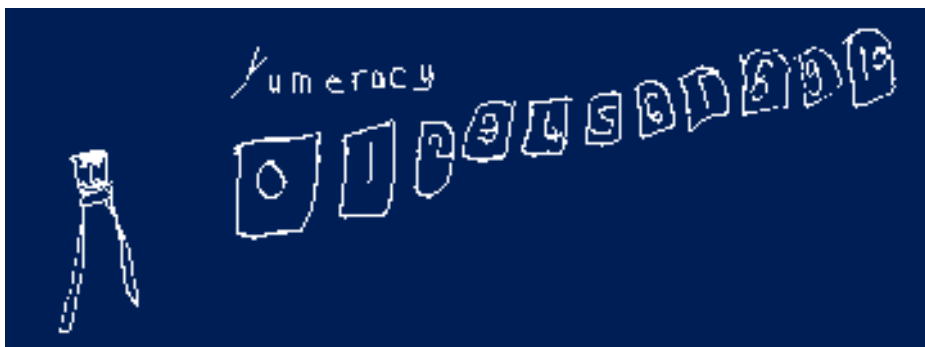
Thursday, 15 November 2007 (9.30am to 4pm)

**Price (incl lunch and refreshments)?**

- Parents: £25
- People with an ASD: £25
- Professionals: £55

*For more information on any of these courses, contact Ian Carty on 0121 450 7576.*

## USEFUL CONTACTS



### Useful websites

#### **Advisory Centre for Education (ACE)** – [www.ace-ed.org.uk](http://www.ace-ed.org.uk)

The ACE website includes free downloads/booklets for parents, including:

- *Getting extra help – school action and school action plus*
- *Asking for a statutory assessment*
- *Understanding annual reviews*
- *Getting the statement right*
- *Fixed period exclusion*
- *Permanent exclusion.*

#### **Askability – [www.askability.org.uk](http://www.askability.org.uk)**

The children's society has launched this image-led website specifically for disabled children, to help ensure disabled young people, particularly those with learning difficulties, can make full use of the internet.

#### **Multikulti – [www.multikulti.org.uk](http://www.multikulti.org.uk)**

A website providing information, advice, guidance and learning materials in community languages, including: Albanian, Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, English, Farsi, French, Gujarati, Somali, Spanish, Portugese, Turkish, Urdu.

#### **OAASIS – [www.oaasis.co.uk](http://www.oaasis.co.uk)**

OAASIS (the office for advice, assistance, support and information on special needs) has a new, more informative and easier to navigate website. All their publications are now free to download.  
Helpline: 01590 622880

#### **Research Autism –** **[www.researchautism.net](http://www.researchautism.net)**

Research Autism is the only UK charity exclusively dedicated to research into interventions in autism.

If you know of any other useful websites or organisations, please send us the details.

### Other useful resources

#### **Severn Trent Water (The Vulnerable Household Scheme)**

This scheme is intended to help customers who pay for their water charges by a water meter and are experiencing difficulties as a result of high water usage for essential purposes. To find out what criteria you need to meet to qualify for this scheme, and to request an application form, call 0845 750 0500.

#### **The Transporters -** **[www.transporters.tv](http://www.transporters.tv)**

Does your child have an autistic spectrum disorder? If they do, have you heard of The Transporters?

The series involves imaginary toy vehicles with their own personalities. They have human faces, and use facial expressions to show their feelings about what happens to them on their adventures.

The series was created especially for children with autistic spectrum disorders who find it hard to recognise and understand emotions and facial expressions.

#### **Warwickshire Children's Information Service**

This free, county-wide information service for parents and carers provides information on all aspects of childcare (0 to 16 years), free nursery/pre-school, education (3 to 4 years) and other family support services.  
Helpline: 0845 090 8044 (local rate)  
Textphone: 01926 736327

### Anti-bullying contacts

#### **Rachel Evans, Anti Bullying Co-ordinator**

Warwickshire County Council  
Tel: 01926 742522  
Email: [rachelevans@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:rachelevans@warwickshire.gov.uk)

### Children, Young People and Families

Saltisford Office Park  
Ansell Way  
Warwick CV34 4UL

#### **NSPCC**

Helpline: 0808 800 5000  
Website: [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

#### **ChildLine**

Tel: 0800 1111  
Website: [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

#### **Kidscape**

Helpline: 08451 205 204  
Website: [www.kidscape.org.uk](http://www.kidscape.org.uk)

#### **Anti-bullying alliance (ABA)**

Website: [www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk](http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk)

#### **National Autistic Society (NAS)**

Bullying information sheet  
Autism helpline: 0845 070 4004  
Website: [www.autism.org.uk/a-z](http://www.autism.org.uk/a-z)

#### **Advisory Centre for Education (ACE)**

Tackling bullying booklet  
Tel: 0808 800 5793  
Website: [www.ace-ed.org.uk/advice/booklets](http://www.ace-ed.org.uk/advice/booklets)



The members of the Parent Partnership team are:

- Sue Robus: Co-ordinator
- Sue Higgins: Support Assistant
- Sally Park: Caseworker
- Janet Gaten: Assistant Co-ordinator
- Dawn Lamont: Caseworker

They can be contacted at ContinYou:

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Email: [pps@continyou.org.uk](mailto:pps@continyou.org.uk)  
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**continYou**  
SUPPORTING PARENTS  
AND CARERS

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