



Summer 2009

The paper for parents and carers of children with additional needs in Southwark

Pardon our appearance!

Temporary change to Grapevine

What's happening?

Naomi Gilbert, Manager of Contact a Family, Southwark, says, 'We are very sorry not to be able to bring you a full edition of Grapevine. This is due to the many extra pressures on our time at the moment as we wait for confirmation of various parts of our funding. We hope this will all be sorted out shortly and a normal service will be resumed in September'.

contact a family
for families with disabled children

National Freephone helpline

0808 808 3555 (10am -4 pm Mon-Fri, and
Monday evenings 5.30-7.30pm)

Website: www.cafamily.org.uk

Registered Office - 209-211 City Road, London EC1V 1JN

Registered Charity No: 284912

Registered in Scotland No: SC039169

What's inside?

In this mailing you will find some very important papers for your attention. What we need you to do is:

- give us your up to date contact details. This also acts as your permission to keep your details on our database. You can't book events without doing this
- give us your permission to take and use your photo (or tell us if you don't want us to)
- choose which of our lovely Summer Events you would like to come to (we will let you know if you have got a place as soon as we can after 10 July)
- return the booking form to us by 10 July

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

Sheena Wedderman, our Events Co-ordinator, is leaving us. Sheena is moving to a new job as a nutritionist in Lewisham. We can expect health to be improved and weight to come down as she uses her considerable negotiating skills on the people of Lewisham. We all wish her very well in her new career.

contact a family
for families with disabled children
incorporating
The Lady Hoare Trust

Southwark Office
020 7277 4436

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New2

Frank Buttle Trust

Frank Buttle Trust grant schemes reopened on the 1st April 2009 and funds are available. They have updated their criteria and no longer consider repeat applications, or applications for carpeting or bedroom storage. Please see website for updated information. www.buttletrust.org.

Contact a Family can help with making an application. Please make an appointment with a Family Worker.

Osteopathy offer

The British School of Osteopathy is offering a rate of £10 a session for a child with a fully qualified osteopath. They also have offers for people on low income.

The BSO clinic is based at:
98-118 Southwark Bridge Road
London SE1 0BQ
Tel: 020 7089 5360

Website: www.bso.ac.uk/mm1abos.htm

Respond

Psychotherapy for children and adults with a learning disability

Respond works with families where there has been sexual abuse or domestic violence. They offer free therapy for up to a year but you have to be able to get to their offices in Euston. They take self referrals.

Free helpline: 0808 808 0700

Website: www.respond.org.uk

New Booklet for Parents of Disabled Children who want to return to the Workplace

'Getting into Work', Working Families' new booklet for London parents of disabled children who want to return to the workplace, is available from the office.

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Taxi Scheme

Taxicard is a method of providing subsidised door-to-door transport for people who have serious mobility impairment and difficulty in using public transport. Taxicard holders make journeys in licensed London taxis and the subsidy applies directly to each trip.

Taxicard can be used anytime, 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year, subject to taxi availability.

If you get the Higher Rate Mobility component of DLA or are registered blind you can apply for the taxicard yourself. Otherwise you may need your GP to sign a letter on your behalf.

Check out the website to see if this is for you
www.taxicard.org.uk

You can also e-mail to:
taxicard@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Tel: 020 7934 9791

Welcare Child Safety Scheme

Working towards reducing and preventing accidents at home for children under 5 years old

Welcare provides home assessment, recommendation and advice on safety issues in your home, and recommendation and installation of new child safety items.

You need to pay £10 only for the service

For further information call Patricia on:
020 7820 7910

Repaying the Kindness

Free events for adult carers including delicious vegetarian food!

Choose from a range of daytime activities including Tai-Chi and crafts and evening meetings of meditation or games. Contact them for details on 020 7820 9020 or email : repayingthekindness@yahoo.co.uk

New2

Parents rate local authorities on services

N154 data results from the first ever national survey of parents' views of services for disabled children.

On average, parents rated the services for their disabled child as 59 out of 100, providing the Government and local areas with the first ever tangible base point from which to track progress or changes in perceptions and experience in future years on services for disabled children, covering health, education and social care.

In June 2009 the Government will publish the breakdown of this national score, and each local area's score, using the five core offer standards - information, transparency, assessment, participation and feedback - against the three services areas of education, health and social care. By the end of June a report will be published providing local areas involved in this first survey with more detail on their results.

National Autistic Society

Support Groups

The Roebuck Pub, Great Dover St, SE1 4YG
Wednesdays 10am - 12noon
16 September
11 November

Mondays 7.30 - 9.30pm
13 July
12 October
7 December

The Magnolia Pub,
211 Lordship Lane SE22 8HA
Wednesdays, 7.30 - 9.30pm
30 September
28 October
25 November

Dads Club at InSpire 6-8pm, 6 August

Contact Elaine Mulligan for full details on Elaine.mulligan@nas.org.uk or the Southwark branch on Southwark@nas.org.uk

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'What makes my family stronger' report

Contact a Family surveyed 615 families with disabled children asking 'what makes you stronger practically, socially and emotionally?'

'What makes my family stronger' found that for most families with disabled children, negative attitudes towards disability coupled with a lack of services are the main barriers to leading an ordinary life. While some families show resilience, imagination and great strength in attempting to overcome these barriers, there are some who cannot cope any longer and are at breaking point.

Key findings of the 'What makes my family stronger' report are:

- Almost 70% of families with disabled children said that understanding and acceptance of disability from their community or society is poor or unsatisfactory
- Over 60% of families said they don't feel listened to by professionals
- 50% said they feel that vital support services such as short breaks, a key worker and childcare are unavailable to them
- Over 60% of families said they don't feel valued by society in their role as carers
- 50% said the opportunity to enjoy play and leisure together is poor or unsatisfactory

Big Day Out

5 August, Hyde Park

To celebrate Contact a Family's 30th anniversary, we are having a special picnic and you and your family are very warmly invited. Families from our other London services will also be there. See the enclosed programme and invitation for details. Places are limited due to Hyde Park's rules. We are asking for a refundable deposit of £5 per family to cover the cost of the coach.

Back page

Travel questions answered

Following Contact a Family's Transition Conference last October, we recently put some questions to Glenn Garcia, Head of Pupil Access. These are her answers.

Independent Travel Training

'We have developed an independent travel training project with a brief to expand the work of the travel safety officers in the borough. That team currently provides travel training for children through schools (including children with special needs and special schools). Parent Partnership has joined with this team for an exciting project to support parents to train their children for independent travel. A working party comprising eight parents, two travel safety officers, an Occupational Therapist, an SEN transport officer and two Parent Partnership Advisers has been established and meetings have been scheduled to take place with Transport for London which is very supportive of the project. A series of benchmarking links are in place and we aim to eventually provide training for parents to become accredited travel trainers.

The project is looking to provide a trial scheme which we hope to have ready for the Autumn school term.'

Disability Living Allowance

'The Disability Living Allowance mobility component is not currently taken into account by Southwark Council when considering transport applications.'

Training for drivers and support staff

'All drivers used on the home to school transport service must have enhanced CRB clearance and a range of health and safety training related to safe transportation of passengers which includes use of tail-lift

equipment and securing of wheelchairs.

All Pupil Support Assistants (PSAs) who escort children on their journeys must complete a training package which includes manual handling, safeguarding and emergency first aid and we provide PSAs with a brief induction to each round they are assigned to. In addition, a number of our PSAs have received training to deal with special medical needs e.g. epilepsy and the use of epi-pens and are deployed on rounds where the children have these needs. We regularly review our transport service and training programmes of our staff to ensure safety and comfort of children transported can be achieved.'

Contact a Family Showcase

19 May 2009

Contact a Family's annual open meeting was all based around celebrating achievement this year. We had some great fun with a demonstration of the kind of activities we run for families from Rico the Clown and his Circus Skills, a demonstration from Whippersnappers as an example of collaborative working with other agencies and sharing our own achievements with each other on the 'Arch of Triumph'! And we had a lovely lunch too.

Our Annual Review is now available on the website at www.cafamily.org.uk.

Free one day course in assertiveness

Parent Partnership is offering 6 places on this course in getting your point across to CaF members. The course will be in July and it is free. No crèche available. Please contact the office to register your interest and we will give you more details as we get them.

Grapevine is published 5 times a year by an independent editorial group based at Contact a Family, Walworth Methodist Church, 54 Camberwell Road, London SE5 0EN. Telephone: 020 7277 4436. Grapevine is printed by SGHMS.

The views expressed in Grapevine are not necessarily those of Contact a Family.

Please send contributions for the September 2009 issue to the above address or by email to southwark.office@cafamily.org.uk by 4 September 2009