

***the newsletter for families of children with additional needs and the professionals who work with them***

**JOINT DROP-IN INFORMATION DAY**

CHIP+ and Highland Carers Advocacy are jointly hosting **FREE** Drop-in Information Days across Highland.

This is an opportunity for adult and parent carers to access support and information through face to face meetings with staff from both organisations.

CHIP+ staff will be available to talk to parents of children who have Additional Support Needs on lots of topics including:-

- The Additional Support for Learning (Scotland) Act 2004 and how it affects your child
- Solution Focused Meetings
- What is an IEP or a CSP?
- What is GIRFEC?
- Planning for Transition
- What to do when things go wrong
- Benefits, Funding, Support Groups and much more!!

Just come along for a chat or a browse through our free information. No need to book.

There will be other organisations present during the day with information too.

Further information or individual appointments:

**Marie Bird (CHIP+) - 01463 711189**

**Anita Evans (HCA) - 01349 856776**

**Mollie Tweedie (HCA) - 01463 723567**

See next column for details of forthcoming event dates.

**DROP-IN DAYS : DATES & VENUES**

**THURSO - 19 March 2009 / 11am - 7pm**  
Main Hall, Thurso College

**GOLSPIE - 25 March 2009 / 11am - 8pm**  
Sutherland Arms, Golspie

**PORTREE - 28th April 2009 / 11am - 5pm**  
Aros Centre, Portree

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL  
CHILDREN'S DISABILITY SERVICE**

This new service is the outcome of the consultation undertaken over several months in 2007-08 and is in response to the overwhelming desire of families and professionals for a specialist disability service.

The new service gives professionals and families access to an additional level of service where the priority is supporting those children with the greatest and/or most complex needs as a result of disability.

The overall Manager is the Development Officer for Children's Disability Services, Marlyn Campbell.

The Team Manager for the South and East Team (covering Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey) is Jonathan Turner **01463 709251**.

The Team Manager for the North, Mid and West Team (covering Caithness, Sutherland, Ross, Skye and Lochaber) is Alan Richards **01349 861508**.

Requests for advice or service can be made through the Team Managers.

## Kinship Care

Kinship Care is a term used to describe situations where a child's day to day care is taken over by a relative or friend, due to the birth parents being unable to care for the child for one reason or another.

The Scottish Government has contracted Citizens Advice Scotland to provide a service over 3 years to raise awareness of Kinship Care. They assist Kinship Carers with issues such as identifying their legal status and looking in to the financial implications and income maximisation, as well as a range of other services which are available within their region. This initiative is part of the Scottish Government's aim of putting in place an obligation on Local Authorities to provide financial assistance to kinship carers.

This project covers both "looked after" (where there is an obligation from social work to be involved e.g. under a supervision order) and "non looked after" children (where arrangements are less formal e.g. a grandparent taking over care of a grandchild). The financial and emotional implications of this situation can be immense and the project is able to assist kinship carers in the following ways:

- By referring kinship carers to appropriate organisations who are able to provide emotional or practical support
- By identifying the legal status of the child and providing a comprehensive advice and assistance service in relation to the complex way in which allowances paid for kinship carers affect benefits, and looking into maximisation of kinship carer's income and avoiding problems with overpayments of benefits. Whether this is income support, pension credit, tax credits, child benefit or housing benefit, to name but a few.
- Providing assistance with challenging decisions

Citizens Advice Scotland has put in place a dedicated Kinship Care Line and a network of five regional specialist support workers overseen by a National Coordinator in order to provide the best possible service for Kinship Carers.

This service can be accessed by contacting the Kinship Care advice line on **08445762955** or by contacting a local Citizens Advice Bureau, details of local bureaux are available either in the local phone book or on [www.cas.org.uk](http://www.cas.org.uk) or in the Highland Region by contacting the Regional Specialist Support Officer on **0131 550 1097**.

## CHIP+ NOW HAS AVAILABLE OUR NEW UPDATED GUIDE TO THE EDUCATION (ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR LEARNING) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2004.

It contains all the information previously provided in our Information Sheets but has been updated and improved. Included is an information sheet on GIRFEC (Getting It Right For Every Child).

The updated individual information sheets are also available via our website and the Highland Council website.

Contact CHIP+ for your copy of the guide.



## HIGHLAND DEVELOPMENTAL CO-ORDINATION DISORDER

HD.C.O. is a local charity in its 12th year offering specialised information on Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (DCD) and Dyspraxia for children, young people, families and all other professionals.

For further information please contact:  
Arlene Maxtone, Development Officer,  
Unit 6, 15 Lotland Street, Inverness, IV1 1ST.

Tel: **01463 709907**

Email: [hdcd.org@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:hdcd.org@tiscali.co.uk)

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

## CUSTOMER INCOME MAXIMISATION TEAM

The team provides free, confidential and impartial help to ensure you are claiming all your Benefits and Entitlements.

Their aim is to put more money in your pocket so that you can pay your bills, heat your home and have a better quality of life. They do this by ensuring that individuals who are eligible for benefits and other entitlements have the advice and assistance available to them to access their full entitlement.

They can advise you about all the benefits and other entitlements available, undertake benefit checks to ensure you are not missing out on any benefits and provide assistance to help you complete the relevant forms.

Many benefits are means tested, however some are not; some are based on your individual circumstances where you need help to look after yourself because of physical or mental disabilities, e.g. Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance, which if awarded act as a gateway to other types of help. These can include additional premiums in the assessment of Income Support, Income Based Job Seekers Allowance, Housing and Council Tax Benefit, Pension and Tax Credits potentially increasing the amount of money you receive. They may also qualify you for concessions on public transport, exemption from road tax, the Blue Badge Scheme, and the Motability scheme.

This service can also assist you with advice and support if your Benefit is turned down and you wish to appeal against the decision, and if required, accompany you and provide representation at Tribunal Hearings.

Getting in touch with them is the first step to maximising your potential income. You can contact the Council's Income Maximisation Team on **0845 600 4222**, or by e-mail at [income.maximisation@highland.gov.uk](mailto:income.maximisation@highland.gov.uk), or in writing to PO Box 5650, Inverness, IV3 5YX.

## CHARITY NAME CHANGE

Recently the UK wide charity NCH was re-launched as "Action for Children" and in Scotland will be known as "Action for Children Scotland".

It is important not to get them confused with the well established Scottish charity "Action for Sick Children (Scotland)" which continues to work on behalf of all sick children, young people and their families to help them to meet their healthcare needs.

## ACTIVE SCHOOLS NETWORK

The fundamental aim of the Active Schools Network is to offer children and young people the opportunities and motivation to adopt active, healthy lifestyles, now and into adulthood.

Active Schools Managers and Coordinators are responsible for developing and supporting an infrastructure for Active Schools within the school and wider community. They do this by recruiting, supporting and sustaining a network of volunteers, coaches, leaders and teachers who in turn deliver physical activity and sport before, during and after school and in the wider community.

Highland has one Active Schools Manager and 29 Active Schools Coordinators working towards the National outcomes to make Scotland more active. Each Coordinator is responsible for a cluster of schools many including both secondary and the feeder primaries.

There are many aspects to active schools including active travel, active play, active communities, active curriculum, active clubs and active pathways. If you would like to be part of the active schools team whether it is to volunteer as a coach, leader or within admin then just contact your local school and they will be able to pass on details of your local Active Schools Coordinator.

## USING YOUR BLUE BADGE ABROAD

Blue Badge holders are entitled to the same parking concessions in other EU member states, and in some European countries, that are given to disabled residents of those countries. It is important to check the concession details for the country you are visiting and make sure you apply the rules when you park. It is also a good idea to enquire locally before you park, as some countries operate local concessions.

A leaflet giving details of participating countries is available from the Scottish Executive, Enterprise, Transport & Lifelong Learning Department, Aviation, Ports & International Division, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ. Also available at: [www.iam.org.uk/motoringtrust/advice/parking/bluebadgeusersparkingineurope.htm](http://www.iam.org.uk/motoringtrust/advice/parking/bluebadgeusersparkingineurope.htm)

## NATIONAL AUTISTIC SOCIETY

Harriet Tay was recently appointed as Information Support Officer at the National Autistic Society Inverness Office and provides telephone information and advice to parents and carers of children and young people affected by ASD. Young people can also access this service via email.

The NAS provides quality training to parents and carers and Harriet will be undertaking a consultation regarding their training needs. She hopes to develop close relationships with external agencies, voluntary organisations and parent groups. Raising understanding of autism and issues that concern people with ASD is a primary role and Harriet is committed to delivering Autism Awareness Sessions to as wide an audience as possible throughout Highland. Contact details:-  
Tel: **01463 258802**  
Email: [Harriet.Tay@nas.org.uk](mailto:Harriet.Tay@nas.org.uk)

## DISABILITY INVERNESS SPORTS CLUB

The club has vacancies for Junior Members (age 8 upwards) on Monday evenings 6.30 - 7.30 pm at Drummond School, Inverness. Contact Josie on 01463 790367.

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## USEFUL WEBSITES AND HELPLINES

**Dental Helpline** - for help and advice on dental registration and access to emergency dental services. Tel: **0845 644 2271**

**Listening Books** - Do you know of someone who has a learning difficulty, disability or illness which makes it difficult to access printed books? For more information:-  
Tel: **0207 407 9417**

Email: [info@listening-books.org.uk](mailto:info@listening-books.org.uk) or visit  
Website: [www.listening-books.org.uk](http://www.listening-books.org.uk)

**Disability Snowsport UK (DSUK)** is a charity for skiers and boarders no matter what their disability). For further information:-  
Tel: **01479 861272**

Email: [admin@disabilitysnowsport.org.uk](mailto:admin@disabilitysnowsport.org.uk)  
Website: [www.disabilitysnowsport.org.uk](http://www.disabilitysnowsport.org.uk)

**"eye4news"** - a new online magazine written by/for young people with sight loss providing news and views on sport, music, travel and fashion, as well as articles on life and school experiences, opinion pieces and reviews.  
[www.eye4news.org](http://www.eye4news.org)

**"see me"** Scotland's national campaign to end the stigma and discrimination of mental ill-health, has launched a new website. Go to [www.seemescotland.org](http://www.seemescotland.org)

**Brittle Bone Society (BBS)** - Contact their Support Worker for a range of information and support - Freephone: 08000 28 24 59  
Email: [karen@brittlebone.org](mailto:karen@brittlebone.org)

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Birnie Child Development Centre

Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, IV2 3UJ

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

*If you would like to be placed on our mailing list or contribute to the newsletter please contact us*

Tel: (01463) 711189

Email: [info@chipplus.org.uk](mailto:info@chipplus.org.uk)

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