



Summer 2010

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

NEW LIBRARY BOOKS

Thanks to a generous donation the CHIP+ library now has a wide-ranging selection of new books available, such as:- Poo go Home and Sneaky Poo; Anger Management Game for Children; Art Therapy and ADHD; Tics and Tourette Syndrome; An Introduction to Dyslexia for Parents and Professionals; Autism, Access and Inclusion on the Front Line; Sensory Smarts.

The library list can be viewed on our website and hard copies are available from the office.

ANOTHER PINES COFFEE MORNING

**Drummond Road, Inverness IV2 4NZ
Wednesday 25th August from 10 - 12**



The first coffee morning was such a success The Pines would like to invite you to another one. Whether you are a parent, a carer or would just like to have a blether and learn more about The Pines, please come along. It is also hoped that representatives of local support groups will be present.

To get more information or directions contact CHIP+ on **01463 711189** or The Pines on **01463 720030**.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The CHIP+ Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday 23rd September 2010 at Inshes Church Hall. Further details will follow in the next edition of our newsletter.

NHS DENTAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITHIN HIGHLAND REGION

There are many dental clinics within the Highland Region which provide continuing care to registered patients and emergency dental access to unregistered patients.

At present they are able to prioritise children who are without a dentist into continuing care. Their aim would be to offer access to your nearest possible clinic.

For information on registering your child into dental care, please telephone:

The Dental Helpline on **0845 6442271** between 2.00pm - 5.00pm, Monday to Friday.

EDUCATION LEGISLATION

The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2009, which makes certain amendments to the 2004 Act, will be enacted in the school session starting after the summer. In light of the changes in legislation the current Code of Practice will be revised in the Autumn.

Further information on the implications of the new legislation will be available in the near future.

NEW DISABLED TOILET FACILITIES

The Birnie Child Development Centre now has a new and very up to date disabled toilet with hoist and appropriate changing facilities, as well as the facility for weighing the children/ young people.

FOUNDATION COURSE IN AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

This **one day** training course in Autism Spectrum Disorder has been devised jointly by the National Autistic Society, Speech and Language Therapy, Clinical Psychology and Autism Outreach Education Service. Topics to be covered include ASD awareness, sensory processing differences, psychological theories, communication, challenging behaviour and practical strategies for support. Proposed dates for future one day Foundation Training are:

Monday 13 September	Education Staff	Apply through education CPD
Wednesday 27 October	Support for Learning Team	INBS- Organiser D. Fergusson
Monday 1 November	Locality Diagnostics Teams	By invitation
Monday 22 November	Parents/Carers	Register your interest to alison.arnold2@highland.gov.uk
Wednesday 8 December	AHP/Early Years Staff	Register your interest to alison.arnold2@highland.gov.uk

THE EARLYBIRD PROGRAMME

The NAS EarlyBird Programme is for families who have a child between 3 and 5 years old with a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder. The format combines 8 group training sessions with individual home visits, where video feedback is used to help parents to combine theory with practice. Two places are allocated to each family with a minimum of three and maximum of six families per course. The sessions are held locally on the same day each week. Each session lasts two and a half hours.

The programme is run by local professionals with experience and understanding of autism spectrum disorders who have all been trained at the National Autistic Society EarlyBird Centre in South Yorkshire.

The next EarlyBird Programme starts on 14th September 2010 at The Pines, Drummond Road, Inverness.

CHANGE IN CALCULATING BENEFITS

Money such as child maintenance, will no longer be taken into account when the DWP are calculating benefits, meaning more money going direct to supporting the child.

At present parents are allowed to keep the first £20 of child maintenance per week (the disregard) before benefits are reduced. With the full disregard available since 12th April, the income from child maintenance will not affect benefits at all unless it increases savings to over £6000.

CHALLENGING BEHAVIOUR DVDS

The Challenging Behaviour Foundation has produced DVDs which are free to families and unpaid carers (though they do say that donations are welcome). The titles are:

- An Introduction to Challenging Behaviour
- Self Injurious Behaviour
- Communication and Challenging Behaviour
- Challenging Behaviour - Supporting Change
- A New Pathway

To get a copy contact Tel: **01634 838739** or email: info@thecbf.org.uk

HIGHLAND CHILDREN'S FORUM - POSTCARD LOBBYING CAMPAIGN

Future funding for services for children and young people with additional support needs.

Highland Council is facing severe challenges when constructing its budget for the coming financial years. Highland Children's Forum is determined that the scale of the support required by children and young people with additional support needs will be made clear to Councillors.

If undue cuts are forced through now there will be:

- poorer outcomes for young people
- additional long term care and support costs

These cuts will affect your child or young person and your family.

The most effective pressure on Councillors will come from direct approaches from individuals and families who are their constituents - you understand the likely effect of these cuts in services on the future of your children and young people. The Forum is offering specially prepared postcards that can be sent to Councillors to alert them to the concerns of the community about the effect of cuts on services for children and young people.

Full details of the campaign can be found at www.highlandchildrensforum.org/campaign.asp

The Forum is urging parents and carers to send these postcards to their local Councillors and to encourage family and friends to join in - copies can be made available if you need them for yourself, for family members, your friends, your neighbours, Carers' groups, community or action groups or school boards. Each Council ward can have up to four Councillors and you can lobby all four by sending each a card. Up to eight cards can go in one envelope to Council HQ for a single 1st or 2nd class stamp!

Contact cuts@highlandchildrensforum.org or leave a message on **01463 223000** to get a supply - telling us how many you need. The Forum would welcome a copy of the response that you get from your Councillors. They will collate these and use them in campaigning.

Join this campaign and make the voice of children and young people with additional needs heard by Highland Councillors!



THE FAMILY FUND - CHANGES TO ELEGIBILITY CRITERIA

The Family Fund is the largest charitable grant-maker for families with disabled children and has recently changed the way it looks at income in order to help more families on the lowest of incomes. As of 1 April 2010, they will consider a grant application where a family's total income from all sources, including net income and benefits, is below £25,000 in England and £27,000 in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Whilst families can apply for things such as holidays, washing machines and hospital visiting costs, Family Fund also encourages requests from young people that have a particular meaning to their age group, such as driving lessons, laptops and equipment for college.

To contact them: Tel: **0845 130 4542** or **01904 621115** Email: info@familyfund.org.uk

CHIP+ also has copies of the new application form available.

NHS MINOR AILMENT SERVICE (MAS)

MAS is an NHS service for people, including children, who do not pay prescription charges and are registered with a GP surgery in Scotland. This means that if your pharmacist thinks you need it they can give you a medicine on the NHS without you having to pay for it. It will also save you making an appointment with your GP simply to get a prescription (though you can still make an appointment with your GP if you feel this is more suitable).

You will be able to get advice and free treatment from your community pharmacist for a range of minor illnesses and ailments (such as allergies, cold sores, coughs, constipation/diarrhoea, head lice, sore throats).

Patients need to register with the community pharmacy of their choice. Once registered they can present at any time with symptoms and the pharmacist, having ascertained whether the patient is still eligible to use the service, will treat, advise or refer them on to another health care practitioner where appropriate.

You can still use other pharmacies to buy medicines or to pick up prescriptions. However, you can only use the NHS Minor Ailment Service at the community pharmacy you have registered with.

To find out more about this service you can contact your local community pharmacy, GP or call the NHS Helpline on **0800 22 44 88**.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Govan Law Centre Education Law Unit has moved office to 18 Orkney Street, Govan, Glasgow, G51 2BX.

Their next free legal surgery in Inverness will be held on 22 September from 1 - 4 pm.

Tel: **0141 445 1955**

Email: admin@edlaw.org.uk

Web: www.edlaw.org.uk

USEFUL WEBSITES AND HELPLINES

The Fragile X Society provide a Link Family Network and Helplines. To contact them:-
Tel: **01371 875100** (and ask for Family Support Workers Wendy and Jane).
Website: www.fragilex.org.uk

The **Scottish Network for Arthritis in Children** charity is a national support network providing factual, practical and emotional support for children with arthritis and their families. It aims to pull together the wider community of affected children in Scotland as well as raise public awareness of childhood arthritis. Tel: **07504 609510**
Email: secretary@snac.uk.com
Web: www.snac.uk.com

You can join **Artsplay Highland** if you are a parent, childcare group, nursery, primary school, parent council, or freelance artist (music, drama, visual arts, dance) or student in childcare, teaching or the arts. For more information visit their membership zone (to register electronically/download the form) go to www.aphmembers.org.uk

HIGHLAND AD/HD SUPPORT GROUP AGM

The Group's Annual General Meeting will be held at Inshes School on Monday 28th June 2010 at 7.15 for 7.30 pm. All welcome.

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Website: www.chipplus.org.uk

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

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