



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

CHIP+ AGM

will be held at 1.30 pm in
The Pines, Drummond Road, Inverness
on Thursday 24th September 2009

Guest Speaker: Gillian Newman
Children's Consultation Worker,
Highland Children's Forum

Sandwiches & tea/coffee
available from 12.30 pm

If you wish to join us for lunch
Tel: 01463 711189 or
Email: info@chipplus.org.uk

ALL WELCOME

We know that people caring for a child with any kind of additional needs (e.g. disability, chronic illness, mental health, behavioural difficulties etc) often have a desperate need for information. Whether living in a remote, rural area or large town, parents/carers can feel very isolated.

CHIP+ is here to provide reliable information which is available free of charge for parents, carers and professionals working with children who have all kinds of additional needs.

You could help these families by becoming involved as a Director of CHIP+.

Contact us if you are interested in being a Director or want further information.



Connecting Carers is the new name for the Highland Carers Project. After consultation it was agreed that the name Connecting Carers better describes what the project aims to achieve (which is connecting carers with advice, information, advocacy, training, policy makers and other professionals, plus other carers). For further information contact Connecting Carers - email them on carers@hccf.org.uk or telephone the Carers Information Line on **01463 723561**.



The name of the young carers group has also been changed to **Connecting Young Carers**. For more information on the group please contact Frances Nixseaman, Young Carers Strategy Development Officer, Highland Carers Project, Highland House, 20 Longman Road, Inverness IV1 1RY. Tel: **01463 723563**
Email: fnixseaman@hccf.org.uk
Web: www.youngcarers.net

CHILDREN'S HOSPICE SERVICE CHANGES

CHAS-at-Home Inverness (formerly Rachel House at Home) has moved from the Highland Hospice to 9 Ardross Terrace, Inverness, IV3 5NP. Nurse Susan Stanworth has joined Alison and Yvonne, bringing the CHAS Homecare team up to three. Further information about the service can be obtained via **01463 248479** or you can make an appointment to visit at the new premises.

CONSULTATION INTO PARENT TRAINING NEEDS

The Inverness team of the National Autistic Society Scotland, in partnership with Integrated Children's Services, will be carrying out a consultation into the training needs and experiences of parents, carers and families of children affected by autism spectrum disorders. They are looking for a wide range of information on issues such as the types of training that parents would find beneficial, the topics that are important and how training can best be delivered.

Parents will be asked to complete a standard questionnaire which will invite parents to add their own comments and suggestions. All the responses will be anonymous and used to inform the development of parent training. An opportunity for parents to participate in an interview for the consultation is available. This can be at a suitable setting or by telephone.

The National Autistic Society Scotland are asking families across the Highland area to take part in this consultation. It is an opportunity for parent's voices to be heard and their opinions will enable us to gain as broad an understanding of training needs across the region as possible.

If you are interested in completing the questionnaire or participating in the consultation in some way, please contact **Harriet Tay, Information Officer** at the **National Autistic Society Scotland** on **01463 720056** or email Harriet.Tay@nas.org.uk

FREE CALLS TO CAF HELPLINE

Contact a Family has received confirmation from the Telephone Helplines Association (THA) that calls made within the UK to the CaF freephone number **0808 808 3555**, from a number of mobile providers (including O2, Orange, 3, Virgin, T-Mobile, Vodafone) are free.

DISABLED? - YOUR RIGHTS TO FLY

A step by step guide is available for disabled and less mobile passengers. Under new European law, if you are disabled or have difficulty moving around you can receive assistance when you fly to and from Europe.

You do not need to be permanently or physically disabled to benefit from this service. In fact, anyone who has difficulty moving around (e.g. because of disability, age or a temporary injury) can receive help when they fly. To view/download the guide go to: www.equalityhumanrights.com/airtravel or contact CHIP+ for a copy.

NEW GROUP FOR PEOPLE WITH TOURETTES AND THEIR FAMILIES

This new support/advice group is being set up by a parent of two children with Tourettes Syndrome and other special needs. The family is all too aware of the lack of understanding and knowledge surrounding this condition in the Highlands (and further afield). The first meeting was held at 7 pm in Dingwall Community Hall on Thursday 27th August 2009. If you are interested in the opportunity to meet others in a similar situation please ring **01862 871231** or get in touch with CHIP+ for further information.

OpenBritain - NEW INFORMATION RESOURCE FOR DISABLED TRAVELLERS

Tourism for All UK, RADAR, and the National Federation of ShopMobility have teamed up with national tourism bodies to create a new guide book and web site for people with disabilities and access requirements. Entries in OpenBritain will either have had an access inspection, or apply for self certification, with all members subject to random checks. Clear symbols will show facilities available. OpenBritain 2010 will be published in November 2009 and a redesigned website launched shortly at www.openbritain.net

ADULTS WITH INCAPACITY (SCOTLAND) ACT 2000

The Adults with Incapacity Act (AWI) was the first major piece of legislation to be passed by the Scottish Parliament and it has revolutionised the way that decisions are made on behalf of people who lack the capacity to manage their own affairs. The Act established a set of guiding principles and a definition of incapacity. It also created a series of interventions including Powers of Attorney and Guardianship which can assist in ensuring that people who lack capacity are protected and safeguarded.

It is worth noting that the Act applies to adults over 16 years of age, which means that some decisions made by parents, for example giving consent to medical treatment, are not legally valid once the person has reached 16.

Many parents of young people with a learning disability who lack capacity apply for Welfare Guardianship in order to ensure that their future is safeguarded. In practice, if the young person is well-cared-for and happy with the care provided for them, the powers available to a Guardian may never be needed. However there is no certainty that this will continue to be the case, and Guardianship can provide the security that there will always be someone to make decisions when needed. It is advisable to think about having joint or substitute Guardians in case the original Guardian is unable to act.

APPLYING FOR GUARDIANSHIP

Anyone with a legitimate interest in an adult's affairs can apply for Guardianship with Welfare and/or Financial powers. **Advice is available from the Office of the Public Guardian (01324 678300) and from the social work service at Highland Council (01463 702000).** The Scottish Government has published a useful guide for carers 'Guardianship and Intervention Orders - making an application' which is available on the Government web-site or from Blackwell's Bookshop in Edinburgh.

Legal Aid is available for Welfare Guardianship regardless of income and many people rely on a solicitor to make the application, but it is possible to do this yourself, making use of the advice available. Two medical reports of incapacity, one of which must be from a psychiatrist, are required, together with a report from a Mental Health Officer. A 'summary application' is then completed and sent to all interested parties and to the Sheriff Court. The Sheriff makes the decision to approve the application or not. It can take several months from the original decision to apply to approval.

The standard period for Guardianship used to be 3 years, but the majority are now indefinite. All Welfare Guardianships must be supervised by the local authority, whereas Financial Guardianship is supervised by the Office of the Public Guardian.

The decision to apply for Guardianship is not a light one and the responsibilities are significant. It is always worth seeking advice and discussing the implications with family and friends.

NEW WEBSITE ON SELF DIRECTED SUPPORT

There is a new Scottish Government website giving general information, video case studies, links, and lots more about self directed support (otherwise known as direct payments). Check it out at www.selfdirectedsupportscotland.org.uk/

SIMPLER RULES ON BACKDATING EXTRA TAX CREDIT PAYMENTS

If your child is awarded Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or has an existing DLA award increased to the highest rate, this can lead to extra child tax credit payments, known as the disability elements. Following lobbying by Contact a Family and others, rules on backdating of these payments have been simplified.

Since April 2009 the rules have been simplified and now you only need to notify DLA once - when you get an award. If you are awarded DLA for your child (or have an existing award increased to the high rate for personal care) let tax credits know within three months of the DLA decision.

Do this and any extra tax credit payments will be backdated in line with the DLA award. You can access the new rules in full at:

www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/pdf/uksi_20090697en.pdf

If you have any questions about this or any other benefits issues go to the Contact a Family helpline **0808 808 3555**.

LIVING MADE EASY FOR CHILDREN

The Disabled Living Foundation has launched an advice and information website on equipment for children and young people with disabilities. The site aims to bring together information on every product for children and young people with disabilities into one place.

The site includes a star rating system showing whether suppliers have provided prices for the product and whether they have signed up to industry Codes of Conduct. Users can review products themselves, discuss products with other parents or ask for specific advice from occupational therapists.

For more information visit Web:

www.livingmadeeasy.org.uk/children

USEFUL NUMBERS AND WEBSITES

The Muscular Dystrophy Campaign has launched its first-ever website for children and young people. To get playing, blogging and chatting go to www.myonlineworld.org.uk

For information concerning children born with hand or arm deficiencies contact www.reach.org.uk/reachcms/

Contact a Family's social networking site now has message boards to enable families across the world to share experiences and support each other. There are over 6,000 parents registered on the on-line service enabling them to make contact with others whose children have the same condition in order to gain/give, support. www.makingcontact.org

YoungMinds have launched a new website 'My Head Hurts' for young people with mental health problems. It provides information to young people diagnosed with anxiety, self harm, conduct disorder, depression, ADHD and eating disorders.

www.youngminds.org.uk/my-head-hurts

You can now preview online a short clip of all 5 of the Challenging Behaviour Foundation's DVDs free of charge. A written outline accompanies the clip to provide an overview of the content of each DVD. Check them out at www.challengingbehaviour.org.uk

Published by CHIP+

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

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