



Children in the Highlands Information Point

CHIP Bulletin

March 2017

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

In this issue:- New Wheelchair Ruling, Transitions, Upcoming Events, Changes to the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) & more.....

CHIP & Family Fund FREE i-pad training for families

There's a great opportunity for families raising seriously ill or disabled children to have free training on understanding how your i-pad works. Family Fund, in association with **CHIP** and Contact a Family are bringing this event to Inverness on Wednesday, 15th March from 10.30 am – 2.30 pm at the Culloden-Balloch Baptist Church.



Workshops include customising your i-pad to the needs of your child, helpful apps and parental controls.

From 12 pm until 1.30 pm, Karen Hookham, SDS Officer for children & young people will also be available to answer any questions you may have regarding your SDS package or general enquiries on how to apply for SDS and if you would be eligible for it. Stay after the morning workshops or come early for the afternoon workshops to talk to Karen.

This is an exciting opportunity for families, with information stalls also on offer from **CHIP**, Family Fund and Contact a Family so please pass on to anyone you think may be interested or who would benefit. Full details and registration form for this FREE event from www.chipplus.org.uk/news.asp.

CHIP Lochaber is under way with three events planned for the months ahead. The first workshop is on Tuesday, 21st March, titled **Exploring Disability**, followed by **Responding Positively to Difficult Behaviour** on Tuesday, 4th April. The third workshop is on Tuesday, 2nd May and is **Your Child's Rights in the Education System**. All three workshops are hosted by Izzy Valenti, supported by **CHIP** Information & Support Officers. We are delighted that Ian Nisbet, independent Education Law Consultant, formerly of the Govan Law Centre will be the keynote speaker for the third workshop in May. Full details on facebook under **CHIP Lochaber** or contact the **CHIP** office, details on pg4.

Principles of Good Transitions 3



The Scottish Transitions Forum, supported by Association for Real Change (ARC Scotland) have produced a document which provides a framework to inform, structure and encourage the continual improvement of support for young people with additional needs between the ages of 14 and 25 who are making the transition to young adult life. Just launched at the Scottish Parliament it's available now to download, either the complete document or one of the seven principles at a time from their website scottishtransitions.org.uk/summary-download/.



Bus companies must end 'first come, first served' policies,

and do more to give priority to wheelchair users after a landmark Supreme Court ruling.

The case of Paulley vs FirstGroup plc, backed by the Equality and Human Rights Commission, will mean wheelchair users should be given priority for wheelchair spaces on buses. Bus companies should have clear policies in place and give training to drivers to remove the barriers wheelchair users face when using buses. Mr Paulley, a wheelchair user was told he could not board a bus when a mother refused to shift her pushchair with a sleeping child out of the allocated space to allow Mr Paulley to board.

This ruling will give confidence to thousands of disabled people in Britain

The Scottish Government has released a consultation that seeks views on its draft guidance on Healthcare in Schools in Scotland.

The guidance is intended to assist health boards and schools in the delivery of healthcare support to pupils who need extra help due to a health need. To take part in the consultation, go to consult.scotland.gov.uk/supporting-learners/guidance-on-healthcare-needs-in-schools/



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Carer Respite Fund

If you are a carer and have a Carer Support Plan with Connecting Carers, you could qualify for 8 hours of respite care as long as you are registered with a recognised care provider.

For more information, call 01463 723560.



Connecting Carers
A better life for unpaid carers in Highland

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) have updated their guide for children & young people. There is also an easy read guide using symbols for children with additional needs. Go to the Children & Young Peoples Commissioner Scotland website to download a copy or contact the **CHIP** office for a hard copy. www.cypcs.org.uk/rights/

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S
Commissioner
Scotland

Upcoming Events:-

Sunday, 12th March - Pop Up Play, Church Street, Inverness from 11am - 3pm, no need to book. The top end of Church Street will be changed into a multi-area play zone for this free event from playhighland.co.uk

Monday, 13th March - Highland ADHD group are having a DVD night at Culloden-Balloch Baptist Church from 7-9pm. For more details e-mail Wendy, highland.adhd@hotmail.co.uk.

Monday 13th & Tuesday 14th March - Half day training in autism with Yo Dunn on Mental Health, New Thinking & Addressing aggressive/self injurious behaviours, all at Dingwall Free Church, High St, Dingwall. Contact Muriel Urquhart, St Clements School on 01349 863284 or Muriel.Urquhart@highland.gov.uk to book. Full details of times and costs on the **CHIP** website www.chipplus.org.uk/news.asp

Tuesday, 14th March - Lego Club at Inverness Library for ages 4-12 years. On alternate Tuesdays from 4-5pm, call 01463 236463 or e-mail inverness.library@highlifehighland.com to book a place.

Wednesday, 15th March - Free i-pad training for families from Apple and also SDS surgery with Karen Hookham. See page 1.

Thursday, 16th March - Free & exclusive preview of St. Clement's practical autism videos at Smithton-Culloden Free Church from 10am-1pm or 6-9pm. Covering Gender, Social, Sensory issues & more. To book your free place, call 01349 863284 or e-mail Muriel.Urquhart@highland.gov.uk.

Thursday, 16th March - New parent drop-in for Polish families at the Pines, Drummond Rd, Inverness from 10.30am - 12 noon. For families whose child has a new diagnosis of autism or is going through the process.

Tuesday, 28th March - Come & try Shinty day with Highland Disability Sport at Inverness Leisure from 10am-2pm. Age P5 up, £4 per player.

Saturday, 1st April - Down's Syndrome Highlands & Islands Branch meet-up at Hilton Community Centre, Inverness from 1-3pm. Sing and Sign from 1-2pm, then Dave Martin from Artsplay Highland with lots of percussion instruments!

For full details on all of the above events, go to the **CHIP** website www.chipplus.org.uk/news.asp or call the office on 01463 711189.



Listening. Informing. Empowering.



Carers Credit

You may qualify for Carers Credit if you are or have been a carer and that has prevented you from full-time working, leading to a gap in your National Insurance payments. If you get Carer's Allowance, you'll automatically receive Carer's Credit but if not, go to www.gov.uk/government/publications/carers-credit-application-form to download the form and apply.



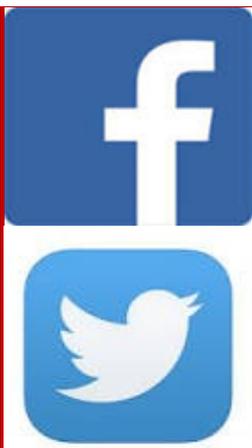
SIGN Guidelines have produced a new booklet aimed at adults going through the diagnostic process or who have already been diagnosed. Go to www.sign.ac.uk/pdf/PAT145_adults.pdf or get a hard copy from the **CHIP** office.

The charity "I Can" helps children communicate. Their blog and website covers all aspect of communication at every age & stage. Go to www.ican.org.uk.



Changes to PIP Payments

Planned changes to Personal Independence Payments could affect around 150 000 in the UK, including young disabled people who use PIP to help them to lead a more independent lifestyle. The new ruling will make it more difficult for people with mental health problems to claim under the mobility component. In addition, it will be harder for people to qualify for PIP who don't get therapy but who instead need help to both manage their medication and monitor their health condition. This will come into force on the 16th March and will not affect existing payments, only new applications. More information on the Contact a Family website www.cafamily.org.uk/news-and-media/government-announces-surprise-change-to-pip-entitlement-rules/. Benefits advice is available from the Welfare Support Team in the Highland Council, call 0800 090 1004 or contact the **CHIP** office for a copy of their Benefits Advice booklet.



Published by CHIP

Birnie Centre

Raigmore Hospital

Inverness

IV2 3UJ

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

Tel: 01463 71189

E-mail: info@chipplus.org.uk



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Reg. No. 241635 Reg. Office: 28 Queensgate, Inverness, IV1 1YN