



Children in the Highlands Information Point

CHIP Bulletin

May 2017

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

In this issue-a new app for young people, the HCF AGM, reports, Lego, football and more.....

Parent-carer Information sessions: **CHIP** was awarded funding through NHS Highland to run free information sessions in Caithness and Lochaber. A series of 3 day-long events-with speakers on a range of issues including Transitions, Coping with challenging behaviour and Your rights under Education Law, along with a relaxation session, a chance to discuss issues with **CHIP** staff and to meet other parents over lunch- have been held in each area. You're still in time to book for the final session in Wick on 7th June.

Changes at CHIP! *Christian Maclean, Chief Officer of **CHIP** for the past 12 years, is leaving us in July, when Sarah Fowler takes over the role. We say farewell to Christian and welcome to Sarah, who will be profiled in the next Bulletin.*



New Neurodevelopmental Pathway



Earlier this year, NHS Highland and Highland Council carried out a joint review of the assessment service for children and young people with neurodevelopmental difficulties (such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Developmental Coordination Disorder and Foetal Alcohol Syndrome), and as a result, a completely new multi-agency, multi-professional service is being set up, which will aim to offer a much more timely and supportive service to children and families.

The aim is that children will be seen jointly by two professionals. This will avoid further delays as previously if another professional view was required you would then sit on a further waiting list.

For more information and the leaflet, please go to the **CHIP** website <http://www.chipplus.org.uk/information-packs/neurodevelopmental-assessment-pathway>.



Take a Break

The Take a Break short breaks scheme is now open for applications from parent/carers of disabled children from 0-20 years or young people in their own right. One application per household will be considered & you will need to provide feedback on how the grant was used and the difference it made. Applications are open until 30th June 2017 & letters will be sent out by 28th July when a decision will be made. One application can be made each year and can be used for leisure activities, outings to theme parks, theatre breaks, gym membership, sports equipment and much more. Apply online at <https://takeabreakscotland.org.uk/>

Solution Focused Meetings

From time to time multi-agency groups meet with parents to discuss how best to support a pupil in school. There is now an updated leaflet available on the Highland Council website to keep parents informed of the process. Go to http://www.highland.gov.uk/site/scripts/google_results.php?q=solution+focused+meeting to download a leaflet or contact the **CHIP** office for a copy.



Glow is a secure, online tool that teachers & pupils can use to communicate, blog and learn within each school and with other schools throughout Scotland. Teachers who have a Glow account can now download Microsoft Office 2016 for free on up to 15 personal devices on all platforms. The Office apps include Word, Excel, PowerPoint & OneNote. To take advantage of this, log in to Glow and either click on the Download Office Now tile or go to the Office 365 Home tile and once in O365, click on "Install Office 2016" at the top right of the page.

#IncludED in the Main?!

Enable Scotland have published a report on the journey to inclusion for every pupil with a learning disability. With 22 recommendations based on information from pupils, parents/carers & education staff, it examines where things stand 16 years on from the move towards inclusion for most pupils.



View the report "#IncludED in the Main?!" at http://www.enable.org.uk/Pages/Enable_Home.aspx.

Workshop for People with Learning Difficulties

The National Involvement Network are running a workshop for people with learning disabilities in order to create an action plan in association with NHS Highland to ensure that people with learning disabilities are included in decision making & planning. It's on 31st May from 11am to 3pm in the Corbett Centre with lunch included. Please support anyone you know with a learning disability to attend the day and pass it on. Priority will be given to people with LD but professionals not supporting someone may be able to attend if there is capacity. Contact christine.sutherland3@nhs.net, by telephone to Christine on 01463 706947 or by text to mobile 07775411355.

Playscape Holiday Club - Applications are now open for registering your child for a place at the summer Holiday club in Inverness or Cawdor. For children aged between 4-12 with learning and/or communication difficulties or additional needs, each session is from 10-4pm and is £30 each session. Contact Fiona on 01463 703036 / 07935959032 or e-mail info@directchildcare.co.uk for an application pack.

Women@Work in association with Workers Educational Association (WEA) run free workshops for women over all of Highland. Sessions are free but booking is essential. Previous subjects have included Get inspired, Power Up (how to use power tools with confidence) & Interview Skills. The next lot of workshops are in Ullapool & Fort William on Confidence, developing your Writing Skills & Speaking Up. Go to <http://www.weawomenatwork.org.uk/events/> for a full calendar of events.

This years' **Autistic Pride Day** event is on Sunday, 18th June from 12-4pm in Bellfield Park, Inverness. Come along and help celebrate neurodiversity! An information table, speakers and arts & crafts will all be at this family friendly, community event. Bring a picnic!

Session two of this term's **Lego club** is nearly underway, running from Wednesday, 31st May to 28th June from 6-8pm in Culloden Library. Registration is essential as places are limited for all builders aged 6-12 years plus a parent/carer. Call the library on 01463 792531 to book a place.



Disability sport & Hi-Life Highland run **football sessions** for anyone from 8 years up with a learning, physical or sensory disability. Go along to the Inverness Royal Academy from 5-6pm every Tuesday. Contact Fiona Green, Disability Sport Development, 07557 744 447 or e-mail fiona.green@highlifehighland.com.

If your young person is moving on from school to college at Inverness UHI, they may benefit from attending a **Transitions Event** on Wednesday, 9th August 2017 from 10am till 2pm at the campus. There will be tours in small groups with a relaxed atmosphere & no pressure to take part whilst hearing about relevant course information. Learn about study support, having fun at college and enjoy some mindfulness! To book a place, e-mail barbara.brown.ic@uhi.ac.uk.



Listening. Informing. Empowering.



"For Me" App

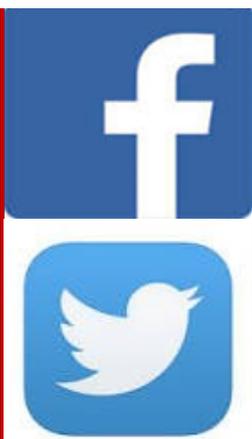
ChildLine have launched an app that provides help directly to young people through their mobile device. The app is called "For Me", which means it can be discreetly installed and masks the fact it's a ChildLine service. It was created by four teenagers who realised there was an urgent need for young people to have easy access to confidential advice & support. Last year, 1.8 million sessions on the ChildLine website were conducted via mobile devices. Sessions are delivered through e-mail and 1-2-1 chat, with a Private locker to record thoughts & feelings. Available to download free from the app store <https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/for-me/id1094217440?mt=8>

Highland Children's Forum are having their AGM on Tuesday, 20th June 2017 at Smithton Free Church with lunch from 12. There will be contributions from young people speaking about their experiences. All welcome.

Save money on a visit to Frankie & Lola's, Asda Retail, Ivanhoe Ave, Inverness with their discount passports. With £1 discount at peak times & £2.50 at off-peak, it will save families with young children money when buying the Cheeky Monkey or Little Tiger passports for up to seven visits. Ask at reception for full details.

Down's Syndrome Scotland have completed a report on the Healthcare experiences of children & adults with Down's Syndrome & their families in Scotland. "Listen to me - I have a voice" draws on the responses of over 400 parent/carers, adults, young people & children with Ds and makes 18 recommendations to improve services in Healthcare through the Scottish Government & the NHS. To see the report, go to <https://www.dsscotland.org.uk/about-us/external-policy-and-parliamentary-affairs/health-report/>

Carers Week this year is from 12th - 18th June. Keep watching the website for details in the near future <http://connectingcarers.org.uk/>



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