

# Link-Upp (Birmingham)

Networking for Parent/Carer Groups

[www.link-upp.org.uk](http://www.link-upp.org.uk)

Issue 55

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## Help! We really need you!

**Firstly: HUGE apologies for the lack of any newsletter since October.**

Most of you may know that Link-Upp activities are run by a committee of Parent/Carers (all of whom are volunteers) supported by professionals from Contact-a-Family and the Carers Support Initiative. We have all been **really** busy with "other stuff"!



**What we could really do with is a few more volunteers to help spread the workload and to provide us with some fresh ideas and new impetus to get moving!**

It is very likely that within the next 12 months we will be receiving some additional funds specifically to put on events for Parent/Carers of disabled young people (aged 16-25). These events will be aimed at supporting the parents through their child's transition from children's to adult services. It would be great to have a few such parents on our steering group to ensure that we are covering the things that really matter.

But at the same time we will still be running the same mix of Family networking events and Carer Support/Personal Development courses that we have been running for the past 7 years, so any Link-Upp member would be more than welcome on our steering group. You can do as much or as little as you wish, just tell us if you feel we are asking too much and someone else will give it a try. We're all friendly and fully understand the practicalities of a household where there are children with additional needs... we have one too! Sometimes you just have to say "No!"

**But we really really really hope that some of you will say "YES!" and come and give us a hand!**

Our next meeting is at the Link-Upp office in Prospect Hall on Tuesday 3rd February at 10am. If you are thinking of coming please call Anne for a chat on the Link-Upp mobile (07767 086 417) before the day.



## [www.ineed2know.org.uk/](http://www.ineed2know.org.uk/)

This website is full of information about Children's services in Birmingham. There are separate sections for adults, children and young people. Even if your enquiry doesn't turn up an answer straight away it's worth trying a few days later as all questions are monitored and if there is no information available then BSS try to find one out!

The Ineed2know website is run by BSS (the Birmingham Signposting Service) on behalf of the BCYPB. If you don't have a computer you can also phone BSS free on 0808 808 1001, text them a question on 0777 333 4 555 or use their 1 to 1 chatroom at [www.signposting.org.uk](http://www.signposting.org.uk) BSS is funded by the Birmingham City Council and run by NYAS (the National Youth Advocacy Service).

You can even find Link-Upp on there!!!





**CARERS UK**  
the voice of carers

## Chancellor brings New Year cheer for carers with £60 bonus

Carers UK has welcomed the announcement, on 24th November, by the Chancellor Alistair Darling MP that all carers who are entitled to Carer's Allowance will receive an additional payment of £60. This is on top of the usual £10 Christmas Bonus which they will have received. The increase will be paid automatically in the New Year to all those who qualify and will not affect any other benefits that you may be getting.

Imelda Redmond, Chief Executive of Carers UK, said:

"We welcome the announcement in the Pre-Budget Report that carers will receive an additional £60 payment in the New Year. This will go some way towards meeting the additional costs that carers face with high food and fuel bills this winter.

The total cost of this payment is around £55 million and over 900,000 carers across the UK will benefit. It shows that the Chancellor recognises that carers are a group in need of extra help, along with pensioners and those with disabilities.

However, it will not stop Carers UK campaigning for radical and lasting changes to carers' benefits. There needs to be an urgent and radical review of carers' benefits, in particular Carer's Allowance which is just £50.55 per week. This extra payment doesn't solve the many problems with Carer's Allowance, but it will help carers struggling to make ends meet during the current economic crisis."



### Birmingham North Autistic Support Group

Birmingham North Autistic Support Group are holding an event called *How can we Support Families and Children on the Autism Spectrum* at Sutton Coldfield Library Room 1. The speakers will be Dr. Glenys Jones and Professor Rita Jordan OBE who are experts in the field of autism. The date is Tuesday 24th March from 9.30am until 1.15pm. This will be a free event for parents but please ring Lin Lloyd on 0121 357 4928 to secure a place as numbers are restricted.



## Parent Views Count

Parent Views Count is a monthly forum for Parents and Carers of children with disabilities or any additional need. These can be children with a Statement of SEN, children on "School Action" or "School Action Plus" or they may be children with a need as yet unrecognised by the authorities, but which concerns the Parent.

**To get more information on a regular basis, to ask questions about anything we are doing, to give your views, or to talk about becoming a Parent Rep, please**

- **Email:** ParentViewsCount@aol.com
- **Phone:** Sue on 01676-533-565
- **Visit:** [www.bgfl.org/ParentViewsCount](http://www.bgfl.org/ParentViewsCount)
- **Come and meet us** at Carrs Lane Church Centre. The next meetings will be:  
Tuesday 10th March (Evening) 7pm-9pm or Wednesday 11th March (Morning) 10am-12.30pm  
Wednesday 22nd April (Evening) 7pm-9pm or Thursday 23rd April (Morning) 10am-12.30pm

**NOTE:** Each evening & morning "pair" of meetings will cover the same topic, you don't need to attend both.





## NAIDEX 2009:

**Tuesday 28th—Thursday 30th April**

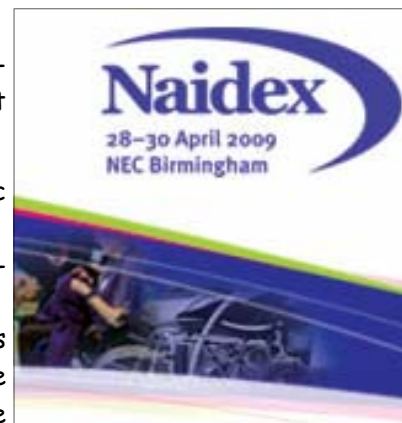
[www.naidex.co.uk](http://www.naidex.co.uk)

NAIDEX is the UK's largest event for homecare, disability and rehabilitation. It is your best opportunity to touch, test and compare all the latest new products and services available.

Whether you are a healthcare professional or a member of the public NAIDEX 2009 will be bursting with content to meet your needs.

With over 350 companies lined up at the UK's number one product showcase -You'll be spoilt for choice!

NAIDEX is packed with exhibitors, products, features, and seminars. Tips on planning your visit are available on the website [www.naidex.co.uk](http://www.naidex.co.uk) where you can also pre-register. This will save you time as you will then not have to queue when you arrive!



### **Best of all entry to NAIDEX is FREE!**

Parents & Carers who have previously been to NAIDEX have reported back that it is valuable "eye-opener" to all the equipment and teaching ideas that are available. It can also inform you when meeting with Health, Education and Social Services personnel.

**KideQuip** is an area of Naidex dedicated to children's equipment and services, aimed at parents of children with disabilities and paediatric healthcare professionals.

A wide range of products and equipment are on show from children's wheelchairs, buggies, walkers, communication aids, clothes, hoists & lifting equipment, soft play and sensory products, as well as information and advice from children's charities.

A **free seminar programme** is located at the heart of KideQuip which contains topical seminar content and hands-on product demonstrations.



**PLUS!** The national charity "The Association of Wheelchair Children", will also be putting on free "Hot Wheels" Wheelchair Training Sessions at their exciting feature!

AWC (The Association of Wheelchair Children) will be offering wheelchair skills training as well as 'Have a go' sessions featuring wheelchair games, dance & challenges. The feature will run throughout the 3 days and we hope that lots of young wheelchair users will join in the fun. We will have spare wheelchairs so that non disabled visitors will be able to join in too.

### Proposed Link-Upp Activity Plan

**Jan '09 — March '09**

**Tuesday Feb 3rd:** 10am: Steering Group Meeting. Prospect Hall.

**Thursday Feb 12th:** Annual Member's Meal at the Big Wok.  
12 noon OR 7.30pm

(If you receive this newsletter as a direct mailing from Link-Upp then a Flyer for this event will be attached. If you require more information please contact us.)

**Wednesday March 25th: AGM.** To be held at "The Bond Company" 180-182 Fazeley Street, Birmingham B5 5SE. More details (including a map) will be sent out in February. *Please note the date in your diary.*

### In case you were wondering.....

On the forms that you fill in to attend a Link-Upp event we always ask for your ethnicity and whether you have been to a Link-Upp event before. This is because we have to report these figures to the City Council as part of the conditions of our Service Level Agreement. Please help us by answering these questions. Thanks!



www.link-upp.org.uk

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**contact a family**  
for families with disabled children

(They've gone all "Technical" again!!)

A new podcast from Contact a Family has been produced to help explain the meaning of Special Educational Needs (SEN) and other related terms like SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator). The podcast also has more information about what to do if you are concerned your child has SEN, what schools and the local authority can do to help, how to request a 'statutory assessment' and the 'statementing' process.

To listen to the podcast visit Web: [http://www.cafamily.org.uk/SEN\\_England.mp3](http://www.cafamily.org.uk/SEN_England.mp3) .



## Planning for transition to adulthood



The Annual Review of a Statement of special educational needs that occurs in Year 9 and subsequent years must include the drawing up and reviewing of a **Transition Plan**.

The Transition Plan is about ongoing school provision and post-school arrangements. Its aim is to plan coherently for the young person's transition into adult life, including future education or employment possibilities.

Local authorities are to receive funding to improve standards of transition for young disabled people.

As part of the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme, the government is investing £19 million to improve standards of transition in England.

At the official launch in December, the Minister for Schools and Learners Sarah McCarthy-Fry MP confirmed that every local authority area is receiving £10,000 to assess their current support for transition. This includes drawing in the views of young people and families and completing a self assessment questionnaire.

And 13 local authorities will receive an additional £37,500 to extend their practice in the following areas:

- engagement with disabled young people and also their families
- personalisation
- joint assessment processes in children's and adult services
- education, employment and training options at 16 plus
- strategic partnership working

The 13 areas receiving additional funding have been named as: **Birmingham**, Cornwall, Coventry, Devon, London Borough of Redbridge, London Borough of Richmond, Leicester City, Medway, North East Lincolnshire, North Tyneside, Nottinghamshire, Oldham, and Suffolk.

The Council for Disabled Children is to be the national transition support team and will work with local authorities to help them improve standards of transition.

For more information about the Transition Support Programme visit Web: <http://www.transitionssupportprogramme.org.uk/>

### Disclaimer

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### Acknowledgment

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