



Support Group News

This is **YOUR** newsletter and we would like to feature reports from groups affiliated to Link-Upp. In this issue we have been sent details of an enterprising fundraising effort and a good idea for a Support Group day out. We would also like Group Organisers to check that

they have returned their Link-Upp membership forms as we would like to publish a new Group Directory.

The Equality Act 2010



The Equality Act 2010 will replace the *Disability Discrimination Act* with the majority of the provisions coming into force on 1 October 2010. This Act brings disability, sex, race and other grounds of discrimination into one streamlined piece of legislation. It is designed to strengthen the law, giving individuals greater protection from unfair discrimination and make it easier for employers and companies to understand their responsibilities.

The Equality Act is a significant piece of legislation which will bring in some major changes to disability discrimination law including: new protection for parents and carers; a change in duties for schools regarding 'reasonable adjustments'; and a change in the way public bodies are required to promote disability equality. You can read the full act by visiting:

http://195.99.1.70/acts/acts2010/pdf/ukpga_20100015_en.pdf

Yardley ASD Parent support group

NICK STOYLES is cycling from Birmingham to Milton Keynes and back again, raising money for the children of Yardley Autistic Spectrum Disorder Parent Support Group, to enable the group to take the autistic children and their families on a day out suitable for their needs and abilities.



Nick will be cycling on the Sat 4th September 2010 from The Watering Hole (now McDonalds) in Birmingham to Milton Keynes down the canal towpath and back again on Sun 5th September 2010.

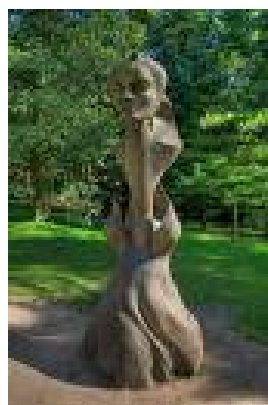
We are looking for people to sponsor Nick, please donate as much as possible for this cause. To do this all you have to do is go to www.yardleyasd.com and click on the donate button, you can then donate through PayPal, it's very simple!

Please give generously and tell others to support us as well, every penny will count. Thanking you all in advance.



IMPACT Parent Support Group

Members of this group enjoyed an informative walk around Lickey Hills Country Park in the South of the city. The sun was out, the company was great and the group were shown around by a very knowledgeable Ranger who answered all manner of questions with humour and flair! The group were taken on the "Sculpture Trail" and were also shown the wheelchair accessible facilities at the park. Cost for the guided tour lasting a good hour & a half, £50. The number to call to arrange a visit: 0121 447 7106. Highly recommended!





Balsall Heath C.A.T.S.

CATS (Children Action Team Support) in Balsall Heath held their "Official Launch" on Thursday 23rd July, that's despite being an active force in the local community for a few years!

Saeeda Bi, and her sister Nazreen, have been running the organisation for years, but now have an office to base the project in. Saeeda is pictured left with the Lord Mayor, Councillor Len Gregory, and the Lady Mayoress, Mrs Gillian Gregory. The event was truly inspirational, with many parents declaring how CATS had

helped both them, and their children, take part in activities that many children and families take for granted. CATS runs playschemes, family trips, sports activities, parents workshops and training. For any parent looking to set up a scheme to provide support in their area, you could do no better than try to emulate CATS!

For more information:

e-mail: info@bhcats.org.uk or **call:** 0121 440 1007



Carers Assessments—What are your rights?

The following guidance has been received by Link-Upp and we are happy to publish it as we are aware that many parents do not realise that their needs as a Carer must be raised during their child's assessment. They cannot have a separate "Carers assessment" until their child becomes an adult. The bold & underlined sections are those that this editor considers most important! Also, please remember to ask for copies of any assessment paperwork, you have the right!

Recent government guidance on short breaks for disabled children and their families has clarified how local councils should meet their responsibilities under the section 6 of the Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000. Under this Act, parents of a disabled child **have a right to an assessment of their needs as carers** if the council is satisfied that the child and family may be eligible for services provided under section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

The guidance says that carers' assessments **should not be carried out in isolation**, and advises that the needs of parents should be recorded under the dimension of **"family functioning"** within the framework for the assessment of children in need and their families.

The guidance gives a good practice example of the sorts of information which should be sought and considered during the assessment, which includes **asking about the carer's physical and mental well-being**, sources of support available to them, their access to work, education, training and leisure, what emergency provision they have, and how they see their future as a carer over the longer term.

At the end of the assessment, the information gathered should be analysed and incorporated into the "child in need" plan, and there should be **an agreed process for review**.

New Group

Small Heath Parents all together

This new support group is being set up by Najma Sajid who is a Mum of a daughter with a disability. The group is for parents living in and around Small Heath, who wish to meet other parents of children with Special Needs. They hope to meet monthly and provide information, fun activities, social events and emotional support. If you wish to be part of this new group please get in touch with Najma on:

Phone: 07917 332 551

e-mail: parents-all-together@live.co.uk



www.link-upp.org.uk

CONTACT US



Link-Upp (Birmingham)

Prospect Hall
12 College Walk
Selly Oak
Birmingham
B29 6LE



0121 415 4445
07767 086 417

info@link-upp.org.uk



FUN IN BRUM

By the time you get this newsletter the Summer edition of "Fun in Brum" should be available at over 400 Family Information Points around Birmingham, including schools, libraries, Childrens Centres. There are some fantastic things happening in Birmingham this Summer and there does seem to be more inclusive stuff than last year. However, the team at the Family Information Service always recommend contacting a provider beforehand to discuss individual needs. In addition, don't forget that the Social Inclusion Team can provide support for those on medium and higher rate DLA.



If you haven't got your copy yet you can: **Call the helpline** on 0121 303 3521 and they will post one out.

Email: familyinformation@birmingham.gov.uk and they will email or post it out.

Visit: www.birmingham.gov.uk/fis or www.vcsmatters.org and download a copy.



**BIRMINGHAM AS
SOCIAL CLUB**

Empowering young people with Asperger's syndrome.

BASC is a social group run by CRB checked volunteers who buddy up with a group of young people aged 14+ with Asperger syndrome within the local community.

Aims: To develop social and creative strategies to build a better world for people with Asperger syndrome. To equip our AS buddies with the social skills that are needed to enable them to emerge from isolation to integration and acceptance. To share perceptions, information, knowledge, skills and to provide each other with emotional support and most of all to have fun!

What: We meet up each month and get involved in social activities such as tenpin bowling, ice skating, rock climbing, mini golf, meals to name but a few!

When: We meet on the first Wednesday of each month approximately between 7pm and 9pm although we do occasionally run slightly over this time depending on what the activity happens to be.

Where: We meet up at a different social venue each month.

Contact: Sylvia Owen, Director

Mobile: 0789 405 9791 or 0751 209 8580

Email: basco9@yahoo.co.uk

Website: www.birminghamasclub.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/basc

Parent Views Count is working across Birmingham to enable parents/carers to share their views about Service development. By joining with us you can help us make a difference. We represent parents with children of all abilities and all ages across Birmingham. We are currently expanding our engagement to parents with children under 5 years. We have regular Parent Forum meetings at which we collect your views and give out information relevant to parents' needs. The next Parent Forum meeting will be Wednesday 29th September 10.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m. at Carrs Lane Church Centre. We will be hosting a Market Place for parents to come along and meet with service providers from across Birmingham. This will be followed by the Parent Views Count AGM on Thursday 11th November 10.00 a.m. - 12 noon.



If you would like more information about Parent Views Count or would like to become involved please log on to www.parentviewscount.org or call us on: **0779 5121281**

If you are a service provider for Disabled children and would like to have a table at the event in September, please contact Jasvinder Hayre on the number above.

Disclaimer

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