

Community Support Service Newsletter - Issue 6

Grafham Water Overnight Stay

In August 2011 the Community Support Service held its third overnight short break to Grafham Water. Children and Young People who receive a Community Support allocation, aged 8+, were given the opportunity to express an interest in attending the overnight visit. This was offered county wide. 52 families responded and the final group was selected with regard to creating a fair representation across the service and with the intent of building positive group dynamics.

From those who expressed their interest a group of 8 young people attended, aged 8 – 14 years.

The short breaks have been developed as part of the Short Break initiative, with the continuing aim of highlighting further ways in which the Community Support Service can develop the opportunities provided to Disabled Children.

As with the two previous short breaks parents/ carers were required to drop the young people at the Grafham Water Centre at 10am on Wednesday 31st August and collect them from the Grafham water Centre at 4pm on Thursday 1st September, providing them with two full days and one night's break. The short break was completely separate to their current Community Support allocation and all meals were provided; the Short Break initiative secured all costs, there was no cost for families.

The group took full advantage of the sunshine and participated in numerous outdoor activities including, power boating, sailing, canoeing, high ropes, low ropes, Grafham challenge (assault course). They also took part in the climbing wall and archery among other indoor games initiated by the Community Support staff.

The young people were supported by a team of Community Support Workers and Grafham Water instructors, their approach combined with the centre's facilities enabled young people of all abilities to participate.

The break was a success in terms of providing the young people with the chance to participate in new activities which would not usually be available to them and providing families with a much needed short break!

Continued.....

Comments from young people included;

'Go and ask for speedboat, it's very cool'
'Its cool you should go'
'I don't have a sad bit'
'I like everything'

Feedback from parents / carers included;

'It was perfect; both boys were happy and really enjoyed the whole thing'
'An opportunity to go out without having to rush back for a babysitter- complete relaxation'
'Good break from routine of looking after a child with learning disability'
'I would say the whole experience was a complete success'

The Community Support Service is keen to continue the partnership working with Grafham and provide future breaks to children and young people.

Grafham Water Activity Group

The Community Support Service runs a weekly activity group at Grafham Water Centre on a Wednesday evening from 6 – 8pm, the group offers young people aged 8+ the opportunity to take part in activities such as wall climbing, archery, orienteering, high ropes & low ropes and water based activities in the summer weather. The activities are run by qualified Grafham staff and the group is supervised by Community Support Workers.

Young people are able to attend each week or more flexibly if preferred; attending the group is part of a young person's Community Support allocation. Where required transport can be arranged but travel to and from the group would also then come out of the young person's allocation of hours.

If you would like further information please contact your area Co-ordinator or Assistant Co-ordinator.

Autism Friendly Cinema

These screenings are held at Cineworld, Huntingdon, especially for people on the autistic spectrum and their families, friends and carers.

Low lights are left on in the auditorium and the soundtrack volume is reduced. It is also ok for customers to move around, make noise or take a break during the film.

The film is shown on the last Sunday of every month and tickets cost just £1 per person.

Details of the films to be screened will be shown on Cineworld website.

<http://www.cineworld.co.uk> and in the local papers.

CamPlay Inclusion Team

The CamPlay Inclusion team offer a variety of services to children & young people entitled to 100 hours of Short Break Funding.

Disabled children and young people who receive high rate Disability Living Allowance (Care Component) but who are not already receiving support services from Cambridgeshire NHS or Cambridgeshire County Council are automatically entitled to Short Break Funding.

Within this scheme eligible children and young people and their parents are able to make choices and to change the services they use should they wish to.

The types of services available through the scheme are:

Direct Payments

Community Support Service

Clubs – including evening, weekend and school holiday clubs

Inclusion Project – can support your child or young person to attend an inclusive provision.

CamPlay Holiday Clubs

Throughout the summer CamPlay Holiday Clubs supported 148 children and young people aged 6-19 years with a variety of needs. The venues included Spring Common School - Huntingdon, Maple Grove School - March, Samuel Pepys School - St. Neots, Lantern School - Ely and Thomas Clarkson Community College, Wisbech.

The children and young people were supported by a team of Play Leaders and Play Workers whose inclusive approach to the activities which were offered meant that all of the children and young people were able to participate in the activities irrespective of ability.

Below are some comments from the parents / carer's evaluations - I have taken a comment from each location:

Thomas Clarkson

Outings and activities good value for money

Maple Grove

Fantastic club, many thanks to all involved for giving my son such a great time

Samuel Pepys

My son loved the whole week at CamPlay and enjoyed all the activities very much

Spring Common

So much work and planning has gone into each CamPlay session. The staff are brilliant and really care for each child, we cannot thank those who organise and carry out the schemes enough as the respite is so important to us. We know our daughter is safe, very happy and have a great time - thank you.

Lantern

The staff are full of energy, very supportive, kind and fun!!

Community Support Service Clubs

The Community Support Service is committed to creating ongoing opportunities to enable children and young people to have positive and inclusive experiences with the opportunity to socialise and build relationships with peers from their area.

Cambridge City and South

This youth club, named by the children and young people who attend as 'The Star Gang' is running at Horizons Day Care Centre, Coldhams Lane, Cambridge on a Thursday and will start at 6pm and then finish at 8pm.. The youth club is running throughout the year.

East Cambs & Fenland

March Youth Club is running at Young People March, The Centre, City Road, March fortnightly on a Thursday and will start at 7pm and then finish at 9pm. The Youth Club will run term time only and is aimed at allowing children and young people building relationships with their peers.

Sensory Youth Club is running at Larkfield Resource Centre, High Barns, Ely fortnightly on a Tuesday and will start at 6:30pm and then finish at 8:30pm. The Youth Club runs term time only and is aimed at providing children and young people sensory based activities; as well as the opportunity to build relationships with their peers.

Huntingdon & East Cambs & Fenland

There are three clubs which run on a Saturday on a monthly basis all of which are aimed at increasing independence and social skills. The young people have the opportunity to choose what they would like to do during the group and are supported with planning the activities. These clubs include the following:

Teens Group is running at Elm Children's and families Centre, Main Road, Elm starting at 10am and finishing at 2pm

The other two groups are based at Buttsgrove Centre, 38 Buttsgrove Way, Huntingdon. They are called Buttsgrove Club & Befriending club. They start at 10am and finish at 4pm. Time may vary slightly dependant on the planned activities.

Please note that for the clubs which are running on a Saturday the venues are the base to meet and will not necessarily be used as a venue on a regular basis.

Attendance at the clubs would be part of your child/young person's current allocation of Community Support Hours.

Your child/young person would need to be dropped off and collected by parents/carers. The youth clubs are staffed by experienced Community Support Workers from across the area however these may not be the workers who currently support your child/young person.

For more information please contact your area Co-ordinator or Assistant Co-ordinator.

Addenbrookes Information

Addenbrookes Hospital have designed a range of resources that can be used to support children and young people when they have to go into hospital. These resources include communication guides, leaflets about using hearing aids and a passport for children and young people about things that are important to them such as how to know when they are in pain, their support needs and things that they like and dislike. These resources can be found at:

http://www.cuh.org.uk/addenbrookes/patients/patient_information/for_people_with_disabilities/for_people_with_disabilities_and_their_carers_index.html

Buckle Boss Belt Guard



Help Keep Kids Safely Buckled Up

The Buckle Boss® Belt Guard is an automobile seatbelt safety accessory/device designed to guard the vehicle seat belt release button from the fingers of special needs children or adults with cognitive disabilities such as ADD, Angelman Syndrome, Alzheimers, Autism, etc.

The Buckle Boss® Belt Guard does not restrain the passenger in any way apart from normal use of the seat belt. It will only cover the seat belt release button to keep it from being pressed while a vehicle is in motion.

The Buckle Boss® Belt Guard is of durable construction, simple to use, releases with any slim object and is very effective.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THIS IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY. THE COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICE IS NOT PROMOTING THE USE OF THE BUCKLE BOSS OVER ANY OTHER PRODUCT.

The Community Support Service Team

Community Support Service Manager – Sandy Watkins 07825 781562

Community Support Team Manager- Berni Mueller 01480 379800 or 07785 517975

Cambridge City and South

Co-ordinator – Amy Claypole 01480 379808 or 07879 608852

Assistant Co-ordinator – Emma Fordham 01480 379809 or 07500 127051

Business Support Assistant – Gail Herbert 01480 379810

Fenland & East Cambs.

Co-ordinator – Lucy Batty 01480 379805 or 07775 703577

Assistant Co-ordinator – Eva Lonc 01480 379806 or 07766 245234

Business Support Assistant – Claire Dovey 01480 379823

Huntingdonshire

Co-ordinator – Lynsey Dorrington 01480 379801 or 07917 068230

Assistant Co-ordinator – Caroline Melling 01480 379802 or 07795 646175

Business Support Assistant – Christina Mason 01480 379807

CamPlay

CamPlayCo-ordinator – Alison Lucas 01480 379811 or 07917 068225

Business Support Assistant - Kate Richardson 01480 379812

Holiday Club Assistant Co-ordinator – Ryan Armes 01480 379840

Saturday Club Assistant Co-ordinator - Vacant 01480 372519

CamPlay Inclusion Co-ordinator- Helen J Phillips 01480 379813 or 07500 974129

CamPlay Inclusion Business Support Assistant – Gemma Hearn 01480 379817

Senior Child & Family Worker for CamPlay Inclusion Team, Huntingdon - Emma Cannon

SCFW for CamPlay Inclusion Team Cambs & Cambs South City - Zofia Lumley

SCFW for CamPlay Inclusion Team East Cambs & Fenland - Emma Cannon

Emergency Care Team

Senior Child and Family Worker - Mark Walton 01480 379818 or 07780 593459

emergency.carescheme@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Emergency Numbers:

Community Support Duty Manager: 01480 379800

Community Support Out of Hours: 07769 908235

All staff can also be reached via e-mail, firstname.surname@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Please be aware that the e-mail will not be across a secure network so confidential information should not be included.