Welcome to this edition of the DCR newsletter.

With the warmer weather, this is the time to be making the most of getting out and about. Thank you to those who participated in our recent survey asking what helps or hinders your family when it comes to activities and days out. A summary of the results can be seen on pages 6 and 7. What the results of the survey, plus feedback from our seminar on the same topic showed us was that people really value getting good, clear information about what is available to do.

Family and friends may come top of the list when it comes to ideas, but you can also check out our SEND Local Offer website for information and make sure you are on our email list for news bulletins. But we are still concerned that, as the survey shows, the message about activities available through Wandsworth’s Local Offer is not always getting through. This is why we reprinted our popular new map of the borough and are sending out with this newsletter our updated guide to Short Breaks services. Also in this newsletter is our annual pull-out centrefold of what’s on that is free or low cost in other parts of London, all of it reachable by public transport.

Finally, every area of the country must, by law, provide a regularly updated Local Offer to services and activities in their area. So if you want to find out what’s on further afield, take a look at the relevant council’s website for their “SEND Local Offer”.

Get Set GO!
See pages 20-21
What’s new on the SEND Local Offer website?

Keeping children and young people safe

- There is now a Wiki about “Keeping Safe” http://bit.ly/2GY86qQ It is on both the SEND Local Offer and THRIVE websites, to help all of our website users to understand about Safeguarding.
- Unregistered Schools - http://bit.ly/2DcTNLs An unregistered school is a school that is independent from Local Authority control and meets the criteria for registration, but has not done so.

What are the risks to my child?

- Opening and running an unregistered school is a criminal offence. Sending your child to an unregistered school may put your child at risk of harm, deny them a suitable education and limit their life chances.
- It is important parents check the credentials of the person/s running any out-of-school provision, including whether staff are suitably qualified and safe to teach or tutor children by holding the necessary DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) certificate. It is also important that the place where your child is taught complies with official health and safety regulations.
Keeping you safe, our new Wiki

‘Keeping you safe’, our new Wiki about Safeguarding is aimed at children and adults who may be vulnerable.

It is everyone’s responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. There is lots of detailed information about what to do if you are concerned about a child or young person on the Wandsworth Safeguarding Children and Young People website www.wscb.org.uk. If the person you are concerned about is 18 or over, then the Richmond and Wandsworth Safeguarding Adults Board website is where you can go www.richmond.gov.uk/sab.

But what if you are the one suffering abuse? Our new Wiki aims to explain what abuse can be like, how to report it and how to get it to stop. Using pictures and simple words, which can be read aloud for you by clicking on the speaker icon, we hope that everyone can understand the many forms abuse can take, and what to do if you, or a friend, family member or stranger is being abused.

Visit the Keeping you safe Wiki here on the SEND Local Offer home page www.wandsworth.gov.uk/localoffer

Our Wiki was created thanks to great support from Camden Learning Disabilities Service, who are letting us use their Public Wikis as templates. Our Wiki will soon have some videos where Wandsworth’s young people will be talking about how they keep safe.

DCR and WAND videos on YouTube

We want to share as much as we can with our DCR/WAND community, and in a bid to do this we are launching our new YouTube channel.

It’s early days but so far we have uploaded a WAND Maker promotional video with FlipOut, highlights from GetSetGo along with over a dozen interviews with stallholders, and an interview with two young people, Johnny and Tomasz, who took part in travel training to gain independence being out and about.

We will be regularly adding videos to cover events, interviews, showcasing promotions, Parent Champions, and much more. Our next video will come out in mid-May when Parent Champions talk to Go Ape in Battersea Park about how their staff can support children and young people with SEND who visit Go Ape and share their personal experiences.

To be alerted when a new video comes out please subscribe to the channel. You can do this by signing up to YouTube, which is free, and then clicking the red Subscribe button on our channel.

To visit our YouTube channel go to http://bit.ly/2Va8hqy
News round up

Thanks to Southside for hosting our stand to mark World Disability Day last December. Our next event will be on Saturday 8 June when Parent Champions will be on hand to talk to members of the public about National Carers Week. If you’d like to drop in on us, the team will be there between 11-2pm.

NatWest Bank have been helping to raise awareness with DCR stands run by our Parent Champions in their Putney and Balham Branches recently. If you have a local venue, such as a bank branch or store where a stand might be welcome, please let us know.

The Parent Champion team attended the national Parent Champion Conference organised by Coram Family and Childcare Trust in March. There are 45 such schemes around the country but our team in Wandsworth is virtually unique in supporting families with SENDs. The good news is that we have been helping them to develop training materials to encourage more local initiatives to get started elsewhere, so watch this space!

Contact are helping to raise money for the national organisation’s annual fundraising day taking place this year on 19 June. They will be holding a Dinosaur-themed cake sale at the Early Years Centre, Stward Road on Wednesday 19 June 10:15am til 1pm.

Known for some yummy cakes at previous events, don’t miss out on what should be a ‘Dinoliscious’ treat!

Come and meet us in Southside on Saturday 8 June, 11am to 2pm

DCR, WAND and WAND+ Parent Champions and Contact-Wandsworth will be celebrating Carer’s Week in Southside this June.

Come along and find out about support for parents and carers in Wandsworth. Are you a carer? It doesn’t matter if the person you care for is a child or an adult, or if you are caring for both a child and a parent or partner – sometimes this is called being a “sandwich carer” - support, information and advice is available to help you in your role.

Contact are helping to raise money for the national organisation’s annual fundraising day taking place this year on 19 June. They will be holding a Dinosaur-themed cake sale at the Early Years Centre, Stward Road on Wednesday 19 June 10:15am til 1pm.

Known for some yummy cakes at previous events, don’t miss out on what should be a ‘Dinoliscious’ treat!
It is exciting to have been involved right from the start of the WAND Card and Parent Champion scheme. During these times of austerity, it has been great that Wandsworth Council has been up to supporting these new initiatives and good to see them now firmly embedded. It has also been so rewarding working to work with local businesses and service providers who have come on board. Above all, I have felt very privileged to work with such a dynamic and inspirational team of Parent Champion volunteers. Their commitment and drive, coupled with that of my town hall colleagues will ensure that messages about the DCR and WAND/WAND+ cards reach out to every part of our community.

Lucia Daniels

I have been involved in the WAND card and Parent Champions scheme behind the scenes in various ways since I started working at Wandsworth Council in 2017. Right from the start I have been very impressed by the work and commitment of Eleanor and Lucia and for the last few months in the run up to Lucia’s retirement I have been increasing my level of involvement in the schemes and have been to a few Parent Champion meetings and WAND card events. I have produced several promotional videos highlighting the benefits of being a Parent Champion volunteer and a WAND card partner and hope to do more in the future. I will also be supporting Eleanor at events, with the Wiki project and with administrative matters as well and hoping to make my own contributions to the schemes.

Nazim, who has been supporting the project for some months now, including producing our promotional videos says:

In March, Lucia retired from her job in Children’s Services. She will continue to cheer on the project from the sidelines with some occasional input.
What helps you get out and about around Wandsworth?

This was the question we asked DCR members in our recent postal survey, which we followed up with a seminar held at Wandsworth Town Hall in December. Over 100 people participated in these activities, representing around 10% of our members.

Feedback from here and elsewhere, suggests that in comparison to many districts, Wandsworth’s SEND Local Offer includes a wide range of activities for members of the Disabled Children’s and Young People’s Register. Yet we know that for some of our members, it is nevertheless a struggle to get out and about to make the most of what is available. Our survey sought to find out how satisfied DCR members were with the range of activities on offer; what helps or hinders children and young people from getting out more and what practical steps might be taken to improve matters.

Survey findings
60% of our survey respondents say they are happy with how much they got out and about, but a sizeable minority (40%) are not.

Cost of activities was flagged up as the primary barrier. Other considerations were anxiety about going out and the need to have someone to go with, plus transport issues.

In terms of what would help, having more information about activities was the top request, followed by help with transport issues and support with going out (see Fig 1)

The WAND card is well known by members and over 90% of respondents use theirs. The card’s primary use is to access leisure discounts and concessions in Wandsworth and elsewhere. It is also used as a handy form of ID to save explanations, to help with fast-tracking and for parking (Fig 2)

People mostly find out about activities via their family and friends network. They also access information through the internet, or via school or clubs. When it comes to the DCR, email is the number one way that members like to receive updates about events; but we also noted that paper publications are still valued and based on this fact, we have already updated and reprinted the popular Local Offer Map of the borough, new for 2019.

Seminar feedback
Our seminar was opened by Kate Bond, Wandsworth’s Assistant Director of Children’s Services (Education, Performance and Planning). Contributors included representatives from CAHMS, Disability Sports, Generate, Hall travel training, Metropolitan Police, TFL, Wandsworth Carer’s Centre and the Wandsworth Town Safe Zone. It was encouraging to hear that links between services are getting better and a recognition that with so much going on, there is further scope to highlight all that is available and to reach all parts of the community with this information.

A key issue that came up in the seminar, as with the survey, concerned travel related anxiety. The good news is that there are services out there that can help. For example, as well as local travel training by Hall, TFL now offer a Travel Mentor Scheme and special Bus Days to familiarise young people with SEND to build confidence on public transport.

They also have a Mobility Aid Recognition Scheme and card that can be used for adapted buggies. Wandsworth Carer’s Centre also works with parents anxious about travelling with those they care for.

There are examples of good practice to draw from in terms of schools and colleges who organise supervision at frequently used bus stops. South Thames College does comprehensive travel training with their students and have successfully liaised with TFL and local schools to monitor hot-spot bus stops to reduce anxiety among their students with SENDs.

Young people attending youth groups like Generate and Unique Youth, get support to help them travel independently to and from the groups. This can then support them to use their travelling skills to attend college, university and work. Why not watch our video about Tomasz and Johnny, two very confident independent travellers on the SEND Local Offer website? - http://bit.ly/2IGVWmi

Despite efforts in the right direction, it was acknowledged that for some young people with complex needs, travel
Anxiety, isolation and loneliness can feel worse in busy, crowded cities like London where communities lack the traditional networks and safety nets. Nor does it help that press publicity about knife crime suggests that it is not safe to go out on the streets. The police are trying to address these fears and set them in context with more school visits and building bridges with communities, but this is in the face of mounting concern and at a time when resources are very stretched. Nevertheless, there is much wider recognition of the issue of loneliness and the need to help people to cope and build resilience. Disability Sports Coach, for example, have launched a new awareness campaign about ‘Isolation and Loneliness’ to encourage young people with SENDs to get out and about. Catch 22 and Place2Be are both expanding their reach, as is CAHMS, to offer more support around anxiety.

While there is no one easy answer to helping young people get out and about more in 2019, several ideas emerged:

- Travel training could be offered to young people with mild to moderate SENDs who currently get overlooked
- Schools to be encouraged to include ‘early help’ travel training and practical tips as part of learning in school to help reduce problems later
- Parents want to increase their own confidence too and need courses - perhaps via the Carers Centre or a course at South Thames College
- Schools need to put more emphasis on behaviours on buses and teaching consideration for others
- School bus stop monitors at busy bus stops might help to calm behaviours
- A ‘top tips’ sheet for travelling on public transport for parents and young people would be good for 2019
- Videos and case studies to help illustrate how problems are being overcome by individuals
- Identify an APP with local info that students could use when travelling with where to go for help
- Make information about travel support more easily accessible on our Local Offer
- Promote and publicise general activities and sources of help to ensure the message gets across about the Local Offer

* For more information about TfL’s Travel Mentor Service, call 020 3054 4361 or email: travelmentor@tfl.gov.uk
Well-Being Map

Wandsworth’s Mental Health Services for young people 0 to 18.

This has been produced by Wandsworth Youth Council, Wandsworth CLICK (Children Living in Care Council) with support from The Participation People.

Robert Dyer, Commissioning Manager – Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services, Wandsworth CCG. “The map has in fact been very popular and reflects massive expansion of Mental Health Services in Wandsworth with a 35% increase in children and young people receiving treatment. Several new services have also started since printing the first version and in the summer of 2019 we will be starting online counselling and other apps to reach out to young people who don’t feel they can ask for help, but who want to ‘chat’ to someone anonymously as a first step. A new version will be printed shortly.”
Summer days out

Here are ideas for outings with school age children and young people in London. We have chosen them because they are all within approx. 45 minutes travel and are either free or comparatively reasonably priced.

Those that have entry charges often offer reductions for young people with a disability and/or their carer. This makes them extra good value as a day out. To avoid disappointment, check in advance about opening times and costs on the day you plan to visit.

There are plenty of other things to see and do in London - take a look at our ‘add on’ suggestions for free activity ideas to help make the most of your day out.

Bank of England Museum
The Museum tells the story of the Bank of England from its foundation in 1694. Attractions include banknote jigsaws, a roller ball game, interactive displays and the opportunity for some safe-cracking. Lots of children’s activity sessions and events.

Threadneedle Street, City of London, London, EC2R 8AH.
Tel: 020 7601 5545
Wheelchair accessible

Add on: Picnic in the gardens round St Paul’s Cathedral or explore London’s original Roman Amphitheatre, beneath the Guildhall Museum (Free).

Black Cultural Archives Museum
A unique national heritage centre dedicated to collecting, preserving and celebrating the histories of African and Caribbean people in Britain.

1 Windrush Square, Brixton, London SW2 1EF.
Tel: 020 3757 8500
Not wheelchair accessible

Add on: Picnic in Brockwell Park and visit the playground there.

British Museum
A full day out, with everything under the sun from the Aztecs to the Vikings and lots for young people to see and do. Be ready to queue!

Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury, London, WC1B 3DG.
Tel: 020 7323 8299
Wheelchair accessible

Add on: Enjoy the green oasis that is Coram’s Fields, a seven-acre park and playground with a small animal area, café and paddling pool. Adults can only enter when accompanied by a child, providing a calm, safe and stimulating environment for kids.

Brunel Museum
This museum tells the dramatic story of the construction and the history of the Thames Tunnel, the world’s first tunnel under a navigable river, built by the renowned engineers Sir Marc Brunel and his son Isambard Kingdom Brunel (£).

Railway Avenue, Rotherhithe, London, SE16 4LF.
Tel: 020 7887 8888
Wheelchair accessible

Add on: A visit to the site where the Mayflower Ship set sail for the Americas in 1620, or picnic by the Thames.

Charrington Bowl
32 lane ten pin bowling centre, with ramps, bumpers and lightweight balls for smaller kids. Cafe and arcade games area. Concessionsary rates for carers and disabled young people weekdays before 5pm.

Kingston Road, Tolworth, Surbiton, KT6 9PB.
Tel: 020 8335 3505
Wheelchair accessible

The Clink Prison Museum
The Museum is built on the original site of the Clink Prison, one of the oldest in England (dating to 1144). Tableaus illustrate the stories of inmates and the Southbank. Visitors can handle original artefacts including torture implements.

1 Clink Street, Soho Wharf, Southwark, London, SE1 9DG.
Tel: 020 7403 0900
Not wheelchair accessible

Add on: A walk to see Tower Bridge or visit Southwark Park.

Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace
10.45 on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, weather permitting (but check the website of the Household Cavalry before your visit) Arrive early to get a good view.

Buckingham Palace, Westminster, London, SW1A 1AA
Wheelchair accessible

Add on: Picnic in Southwark Park.

FREE

Charrington Bowl
FREE

The Clink Prison Museum
FREE

Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace
FREE
Summer days out continued

Concessionary rates for young people with disabilities and their carers.
Bushey Road, Raynes Park, London SW20 8DE.
Tel: 020 8544 9965 Wheelchair accessible

Florence Nightingale Museum
Based in the grounds of St Thomas’ Hospital, this museum tells the life story of the celebrated ‘Lady of the Lamp’ who championed health reforms and paved the way for modern nursing care. Concessionary rate for people with disabilities.
2 Lambeth Palace Road, Lambeth, London SE1 7EW.
Tel: 020 7620 0374 Wheelchair accessible
Add on: A picnic by the river in Jubilee Gardens and a close up view of the London Eye.

The Golden Hinde
Full size replica of the Tudor warship in which Sir Francis Drake circumnavigated the globe in 1577-1580. Learn about life at sea for officers and ordinary sailors, hear tales of Drake’s voyage, and explore 16th Century weapons and warfare.
1-2 Pickfords Wharf, Clink Street, London, SE1 9DG.
Tel: 020 7403 0123 Wheelchair accessible
Add on: A riverside walk and picnic or visit Borough Market.

Horniman Museum
Includes natural history, anthropology and musical collections (Free) and a family-friendly aquarium (entry fee).
100 London Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 3PQ.
Tel: 020 8699 1872 Wheelchair accessible
Add on: Explore the Horniman Gardens, including outdoor musical instruments and children’s zoo area.

London Film Museum
Permanent exhibition of the history of cinematography and its London links.
5 Wellington Street, Covent Garden, London WC2E 7BN.
Tel: 020 3617 3010 Wheelchair accessible
Add on: Covent Garden and its street entertainers.

London Fire Brigade Museum
A display of historic fire engines with an expert tour guide who can tailor the visit to your needs (by appointment only).
Winchester House, 94a Southwark Bridge Road, SE1 0EG.
Tel: 020 8555 1200 x39894 Wheelchair accessible
Add on: A walk or picnic on the South Bank of the Thames or a visit to Tate Modern (Free).

London Transport Museum
All about transport around London from its earliest horse drawn days to the coming of steam, tube trains and beyond. Free for under 16s and for a carer with a child with a disability.
Covent Garden Piazza, London, WC2E 7BB.
Tel: 020 7379 6344 Wheelchair accessible
Add on: Covent Garden market or a picnic at Charing Cross Embankment by the Thames.

Museum of London
Explore the history of London from Roman times, with lots of interactive items and a replica of the famous fire of London.
Location: Museum of London, 150 London Wall, London EC2Y 5HN. Tel: 020 70019844 Wheelchair accessible
Add on: Explore the nearby Barbican and picnic in its gardens.

Mudchute Park and Farm
London’s largest city farm, situated in a lovely park right next to the City of London and Canary Wharf.
Mudchute Park & Farm, Pier Street, Isle of Dogs, London E14 3HP.
Tel: 020 7515 5901 Wheelchair accessible
Add on: Walk through the Brunel foot tunnel to Greenwich or see the sights from the DLR overground.

National Army Museum
Museum showing the impact of the British Army on the history of Britain and the world (Free). Soft play area for young children aged 0-8 (Entry fee).
Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, London, SW3 4HT.
Tel: 020 7730 0717 Wheelchair accessible
Add on: A visit to Battersea Park’s free attractions, just over the river.
National Gallery
Host to some of the greatest paintings in the Western World – plus some art-related fun activities for children.
Trafalgar Square, London, WC2N 5DN, Tel: 020 7747 2885 Wheelchair accessible
Add on: See Trafalgar Square’s famous lions and fountains or have a picnic in St James’ Park, opposite Buckingham Palace.

National Maritime Museum
All about Britain’s relationship with the sea and the importance of oceans. Lots of toy boats and things for children to do.
Romney Road, Greenwich, London, SE10 9NF . Tel: 020 8858 4422 Wheelchair accessible
Add on: A visit to Greenwich Park and the Royal Observatory (Free).

Olympic Stadium
Go behind the scenes on a self-guided tour of the former Olympic Stadium, now home to West Ham United and UK Athletics. London Stadium, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park 10-16.15 Wheelchair accessible and concessionary discounts and carer goes free
London Stadium, Queen Elizabeth, Olympic Park, London E20 2ST Tel: 020 8522 6157 Wheelchair accessible
Add on: Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park includes a Pleasure Gardens play area

Ragged School Museum
Museum about London’s East End (home to many historic immigrant families) in canal side warehouses which housed Barnardo’s largest ragged school for poor children. Includes a reconstructed Victorian classroom.
46-50 Copperfield Rd, London E3 4RR Tel: 020 8880 6405 Wheelchair accessible - Ground and 1st floors only not 2nd and 3rd floors
Add on: Picnic in Mile End Park or take a walk along the Regents Canal to Limehouse and the river Thames.

Somerset House
An historic riverside building hosting exhibitions, open-air concerts and family workshops. In summer, children can have fun splashing about in its fountain courtyard.
Strand, London, WC2R 1LA. Tel: 020 7845 4600 Wheelchair accessible
Add on: A walk along the north bank of the Thames or seeing outdoor entertainers at Covent Garden Market.

Southbank Centre
Lots of free activities for children and 50% off performances on a first come first served basis. Disabled adults and children can register on the Southbank Access list to find out about special rates for forthcoming events and reductions to the Hayward Gallery. Concessionary rates for children and carers.
Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London, SE1 8XX. Tel: 020 7960 4200 Wheelchair accessible
Add on: Street entertainers around the South Bank Centre and picnic by the Thames.

Surrey Quays
Hollywood Bowl
28 lane ten pin bowling centre, with ramps, bumpers and lightweight balls for smaller kids. Cafe and arcade games area.
Mast Leisure Park, Teredo Street, London, SE16 7LW. Tel: 08448 261470 Wheelchair accessible
Add on: Visit the animals at Surrey Docks City Farm (Free) or picnic in Russia Docks Woodland park (formerly a dock for landing wood shipped from Russia and Scandinavia)

Tate Modern
Huge permanent collection of modern art, plus multiple temporary exhibitions. Lots of space indoors and out to explore for children.
Bankside, London, SE1 9TG. Tel: 020 7887 8888 Wheelchair accessible
Add on: A walk along the south bank of the Thames, past the Globe Theatre – a perfect replica of the original Tudor Theatre of Shakespeare’s time, or to see the many attractions of the South Bank complex.
Summer days out continued

Tate Britain
The history of British Art from the Tudors to the present day with fun activities for children interested in art and design.
Millbank, London, SW1P 4RG.
Tel: 020 7887 8888
Wheelchair accessible
Add on: Picnic in Embankment Gardens, next to the Houses of Parliament.

Victoria and Albert Museum
Extensive collection of design and technology, including fashion, photography and architecture. Cool down outdoors in the cloister garden with water feature for splashing about it.
Cromwell Road, South Kensington, London, SW7 2RL. Tel: 020 7942 2000
Wheelchair accessible
Add on: A visit to Hyde Park and the Serpentine Lake.

Wellcome Collection
Older children will enjoy the curiosities of this museum that connects science, medicine life and art, among the curios are Napoleon’s toothbrush and Darwin’s walking stick..
Wellcome Collection, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE
Tel: 020 7611 2222
Wheelchair accessible
Add on: Visit the legendary platform 9 ¾ at King’s Cross Station, where Hogwarts is said to depart from or cool off under the fountains at Granary Square, by Kings Cross station. The crowd pleasing jets change colour and squirt patterns.

Tower Bridge Museum
Climb the towers to see a great view of the Tower of London and the river from the high level walkways. The exhibition tells you all about this Victorian Bridge’s history and inner workings (Entry fee). Free for a child with a disability and for one carer.
Tower Bridge Road, London, SE1 2UP. Tel: 020 7403 3761
Wheelchair accessible
Add on: See the wide variety of boats moored in St Katherine’s Dock, Wapping.

Higher cost days out at concessionary rates
As well as our listings of free or low cost activities, you will find that many of the headline days out in and around London or further afield now recognise cards such as the WAND card and will offer discounts, queue assist for fast tracking and free entry for a carer (see website for details). To avoid disappointment, take your WAND card, plus back-up documentation, such as a DLA letter or letter from your child’s consultant.
Places that offer concessions include:

Remember to take your WAND card and ask about any concessions!
Hi, my name is Becca, I’m the Service Coordinator of Choice Support’s employment support service for Richmond and Wandsworth.

We are pan disability service, which means we help anyone who considers themselves to have a disability including a learning disability, sensory impairment, mental health condition or autism. We work with 16+ across both boroughs. We support people to find paid employment, once we have done this we can then support clients for up to a year to make sure their employment is sustainable. We also do job retention support, which means supporting people to stay in work if they are at risk of losing their job.

We do all of this by getting to know you, meeting in a place and at a time that is convenient and comfortable for you. We work with a person centred approach, which means we put clients’ wishes and aspirations at the centre of the support we provide. We go at clients’ pace and help them to grow in confidence and work according to their strengths whilst supporting them to work on areas of development.

You can self-refer or you can ask anyone else to refer you to the service. You do not need to have a social worker or an EHCP to access the service.

If you would like to know more about the service or if you’re not sure it’s right for you then you are welcome to call us and have a chat on 020 3697 7134.

You can visit our accessible website www.choicesupport.org.uk/ or email us RandWemployment@choicesupport.org.uk for more information.

I really enjoy supporting people to see beyond their difficulties and to be positive about their attributes.

Becca Neaves, Employment Service Co-ordinator
The Inclusion and Belonging Project was carried out in 2018 by Wandsworth’s Schools and Community Psychology Service.

Tara Midgen, Principal Educational Psychologist, “We worked with more than 80 children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities at 13 schools in Wandsworth about what helped them feel that they belonged in their schools. This poster was created to display the key ideas developed from the Project, under the title School for Everyone: Our Ten Top Tips to help us feel we belong.

This poster has been distributed to all local schools as well as displayed in key parts of the Town Hall building. Several presentations have taken place to promote the findings of the project and share the Top Ten tips.

You can read more about the project on the SEND Local Offer website http://bit.ly/2sdMRb j

Please contact SCPS on 020 8871 8744 or email edpsychs@wandsworth.gov.uk for a copy.
Apple comes to Linden Lodge

As part of their ‘Everyone Can Code’ initiative Apple have developed new education resources to give children and young people with vision impairment an opportunity to learn to code by playing a game.

Earlier this year, Apple engineers and staff visited Linden Lodge School, where parents and students were introduced to the accessibility features of iPads. Then they were shown how to use them, with Apple’s free Swift Playgrounds coding education app, to rapidly speed through various levels and challenges of the Swift Playgrounds game.

This app is free for iPads and through playing the game and advancing through game ‘levels’ you learn how to use Swift, the programming language that is used on iPhones and iPhone apps.

The students were able to do this using a wide range of accessibility tools. These ranged from small things like adjustments to screen settings, ‘VoiceOver’ to tell you what is happening on the screen, to brand new resources, developed with the Royal National Institute for Blind People. These include separate books with graphics of the levels from Swift Playgrounds that are rendered in tactile, braille and high-contrast ink print which allowed the students to access all the challenges and levels in the app.

You can read more about this initiative on the Independent’s website https://ind.pn/2UKq8jC

Apple CEO Tim Cook tweeted...

"The Linden Lodge School in London is doing life-changing work to support students who are visually impaired and have other disabilities. We thank them for hosting the first UK Apple Accessibility coding workshop. Everyone deserves an opportunity to learn—and that includes coding."
Positive Parent Action is ten!

Celebrating 10 years as Wandsworth’s official Parent Carer Forum.

Positive Parent Action (PPA) is an independent Parent Carer Forum. Our sole aim is improving local provision and services for all children and young people 0-25 yrs old, with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) living in the borough of Wandsworth.

PPA was founded in 2008 by a handful of parent/carers, with support from ‘Contact’ as part of the Department for Education (DfE) ‘Aiming High Short Breaks’ agenda. With a £500 pot of money the founding members established links with the Local Authority (LA) and Clinical Commissioning Group, initially to improve access to better short breaks. PPA now applies annually for the DfE participation grant, up to £15k per annum.

PPA has continued to ensure that the views of SEND parent/carer’s are integral to shaping services locally. We welcomed the SEND reforms which came into effect in 2014. We truly believe they can deliver the change that is needed to improve quality of provision/services locally. PPA steering group members have been central to the SEND implementations. PPA ensured there were SEND parent/carers in all SEND workstreams, including Developing Wandsworth’s Local Offer, Joint Commissioning, EHC/P format and processes, Personal Budgets and Preparing for Adulthood. PPA has ensured Steering Group representation (as Co-Chairs and additional parent/carer representatives in all workstreams) from 2013 to the present day.

In spirit of true Co-Production, the LA approached PPA to find a positive way to ensure SEND parent/carers could actively be listened to. We discussed the role of an ‘Independent Parent/Carer Representative’ to sit in the LA complex needs panel. 4 PPA members undertook the role in a pilot scheme, 2013-2014. Both PPA and the LA agreed that it had been a positive experience and decided to continue with the role of an ‘Independent SEND parent/carer Representative’. Of course it wasn’t without its challenges, however by working together we are ensuring the needs of the child/young person and their parent/carer’s remain central to decisions being undertaken (much more person centred approach). Now we have embedded this good practice in the EHC/Complex needs panel and in the last 6 months have worked with our 0-25 Disability Social Work Team to have an independent representative in their monthly Short Breaks panel. We hope this too will continue and become embedded into the process of decision making not only in the LA but with our health colleagues to use this good practice across health panels.

PPA has 225 members (sadly we lost many members due to new data protection law (GDPR). We do however, have over a thousand parent/carers on our email list. PPA has 12 active Steering Group members, with experiences that are varied, not only across the 0-25 age range but a wealth of knowledge and experience of SEND locally and nationally. We welcome all SEND parent/carer’s. Please consider becoming a member, help us continue to shape a community of services that improves the lives of our children/young people across Wandsworth. Everyone’s views are welcomed. PPA is PAN disability and we will always do our best to help support you to support us in making change happen locally.

Email: info@positiveparentaction.org.uk
Raising awareness on private fostering

National figures indicate that only 9% of adults in the UK know what private fostering is. Yet, the most recent government estimates of the number of children in private fostering arrangements date from 2004 and indicate that there were approximately 10,000 children in private fostering arrangements.

It is believed the figure could be far higher. Limited awareness about private fostering may be reflected in the current low rate of notification about arrangements in the borough of Wandsworth.

In Wandsworth, we are working to raise awareness of private fostering among the public and also organisations involved with children and families to improve the number of notifications we receive so that children and young people within private fostering arrangements can be appropriately supported and protected.

The laws were updated following the death of Victoria Climbie, who was an ‘undocumented’ privately fostered child. She died whilst living with her great-aunt, who beat and tortured her and left her to die of hypothermia and starvation.

We do not wish to prevent families and friends from helping care for children, and we know that many private foster carers do an excellent job. However, these children are potentially vulnerable whilst living for an extended period away from home with limited or no contact with parents. Wandsworth need to know that our children are safe and receiving appropriate care. We will help private foster carers and may be able to offer the family support and access to advice about benefit entitlements.

If you know about a private fostering arrangement or know someone who is planning to make one, please encourage them to contact us through the IPOC. A social worker will be able to give them advice and will arrange for someone to visit.

Please remember that safeguarding children and young people is everybody’s responsibility.

If you wish to know more about private fostering you can contact Beatrice Ogunbowale, Private Fostering Senior Social Worker:

Direct line: 020 8871 6471
The team: 020 8871 6419
Email: beatrice.ogunbowale@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

If parents, private foster carers or professionals are aware of a child who may be in a private fostering arrangement, then they should notify Wandsworth Children’s Services through our Initial Point of Contact:

Phone: 020 8871 6622
email: IPOC@wandsworth.gov.uk

How WAND aware is your GP surgery?

The search is on for examples of good practice when it comes to GP surgeries supporting DCR member parents visiting for appointments. Have you got a story to share with us of what has worked well or what you would find helpful? Below are some of the ways GP surgeries might help:

• Display WAND sticker in a prominent place to show that WAND members are welcome and can be assisted on request.

• Display WAND leaflets and/or posters in Reception/Waiting Room/Dr’s or Nurses consulting Rooms

• A named staff member link person is available to talk to about your specific needs.

• Help is available to make accessibility easier to the premises.

• Allocating first appointments/priority time slots or fast tracking WAND card holders and their carers (whenever possible)

• Text ten minutes before an appointment – reduces need to stay in the waiting room.

• Accessible toilets

• ‘WAND friendly’ times when children or young people can attend your surgery and get appropriate help as needed

• Quiet area (e.g. for attending to an agitated child) or for feeding a child or young person with SEND, if necessary

• Health checks for you as a parent/carer
Wandsworth Disability sport

My name is Kaity Hall, I have recently joined the Team at Enable Leisure and Sport as a Sports Development Officer working on the Get Out Get Active project and Disability Sport in the borough. I am originally from Glasgow and have moved to London for this role. My sport is badminton, I have played for Scotland as a junior, coached for around 12 years and in the last seven years coached the Scottish Para-badminton team as well as travelled around the world tutoring coaching courses on Disability Badminton for both Badminton Europe and Badminton World Federation, most recently to Uganda.

I am really looking forward to seeing how I can help grow disability sporting opportunities within the borough as well as supporting existing activities.

Tennis
Tennis is an incredibly inclusive sport, catering for all abilities and disabilities. Each session has specially trained coaches who know how to adapt and cater for all in their sessions.

Tennis National Tennis Centre SW15 5JQ
For: Downs Syndrome
Day: Tuesday, 6pm-7pm
Age: Open to all Ages
Contact: Katy Shephard
kshephard@fulhamfc.com
DSActive Team:
dsactive@downs-syndrome.org.uk

Tennis National Tennis Centre SW15 5JQ
For: Visual Impaired
Day: Tuesday, 7pm-8.30pm
Fortnightly from 8/1/19
Age: Open to all Ages
For: Wheelchair
Day: Tuesday
Time: 7pm-8.30pm
Fortnightly from 15/1/19
Age: Under 18
For: Wheelchair
Day: Tuesday, 8:30pm-10pm
Age: Adult

Contact: Matt Grover
matthew.grover@lta.org.uk
David Hardman
David.hardman@lta.org.uk

call: 020 3959 0038 or 07766 361 288
email: khall@enable.org
visit: www.enablelc.org/els

Swimming

Dolphins Swimming Club
The Latchmere Leisure Centre, Burns Road, SW11 5AD
The Dolphins Swim Club is for children and young people with learning Disabilities. All club members may attend swimming galas throughout the year to compete against swimmers of similar ability from other boroughs.

For: Learning Disabilities
Day: Friday, 7.30-9pm
Age: 5+
Contact: Pam Hall
pamhall55@iol.com
Eileen Beard 020 8672 1761
WASA Disability Swimming
Ernest Bevin School, SW17 7DF
Swimming lessons for disabled children of all abilities to learn to swim in a safe, supportive environment with qualified and friendly instructors. Swimmers are given 30 minute sessions with 1:1 support if needed.

For: Open to all Disabilities
Day: Saturday, 1.30-4pm
Age: 5-12
Contact: Will Collins
wblc111@hotmail.com

Dance

DanceAbility
(Please contact for dates)
George Shearing Centre, Este Road, SW11 2TF
DanceAbility is aimed at all children with a disability to participate in a fun session of music and dance lead by our wonderful instructor Kasia!

For: Open to all Disabilities
Day: Sunday Under 10: 10:40-11.25pm
Age: Under 10 and 11-18

Contact: Kaity Hall
Khall@enablelc.org

Cricket

Cricket is an inclusive sport that is adaptable and accessible for all abilities. The sessions below cater for a large range of disabilities and coaches strive to ensure all sessions are accessible to all.

Disability Cricket (Term Time)
Burnwood School SW17 0AQ
For: Open to all Disabilities
Day: Monday, 4pm-5pm
Age: 13-25
Contact: Alain Jason
alain@googlycricket.com

Disability Cricket (May-July)
Spencer Club SW18 3HF
For: Open to all Disabilities
Day: Monday, 4pm-5pm
Age: 13-17

I am really looking forward to seeing how I can help grow disability sporting opportunities within the borough as well as supporting existing activities.
Cycling

London Recumbents
Battersea Park, Carriage Drive North
SW11 4NJ
At London Recumbents in Battersea Park you can hire a range of modified cycles including trikes, side by side bikes, wheelchair bikes, tandems and more. Anyone with a WAND and WAND+ card can get free hire for 1 hour and one parent/carer or friend.

For: Open to all Disabilities
Day: Weekends and School Holidays
Time: 10am-4.30pm or one hour before dusk in Winter
Age: 3+
Contact: Nigel
info@londonrecumbents.com

Wandle Recreation Centre Gym
Mapleton Road, SW18 4DN
The Gym have provided easy access specialist fitness equipment and implemented staff training to ensure fitness is accessible for all.

For: Open to all Disabilities
Day: Gym Opening hours
contact 20 8871 1149
Age: 16+

Multi-Sports
Lilian Baylis School, SE11 5QY
Free sports and games sessions for children with disabilities. Sessions are 2 hours long with structured sports-related activities in the first half and supported free play for the second half.

For: Open to all Disabilities (siblings welcome)
Day: Saturday, 10.30am-12.30pm
Age: 5-14
Contact: Andrew
Andrew@keenlondon.org

Adventure Playground
KIDS Lady Allen Adventure playground, SW11 1HT
Lady Allen Adventure Playground provides opportunities for adventurous play for disabled children and their siblings from the borough of Wandsworth.

For: Open to all Disabilities
Day: Check Webpage for opening times
Age: 5-14
Contact: Sarah Oram
sarah.oram@kids.org.uk
www.kids.org.uk/lady-allen-adventure-playground

Wandsworth.

Basic badminton session. First three sessions are free, and you can bring along a buddy. The club has two sports wheelchairs if needed. Any ability, including beginners Welcome!

Disability Cricket
Spencer Club SW18 3HF
For: Downs Syndrome
Day: Monday, 5pm-6pm
Age: Open to all ages
Contact: Emma O’Connor
emmaoconnor@downs-syndrome.org.uk

Surrey County Cricket (May-July)
Spencer Club SW18 3HF
For: Low Level Ability Learning and Physical Disabilities
Day: Thursday, 5pm-6pm
Age: Open to all ages
Contact: Alain Jason
alain@googlycricket.com

Surrey County Cricket (May-July)
Spencer Club SW18 3HF
For: High Level Ability Learning and Physical Disabilities
Day: Thursday, 6pm-8pm
Age: Open to all ages
Contact: Alain Jason
alain@googlycricket.com

Inclusive Cricket
Spencer Club SW18 3HF
For: Open to all Disabilities
Day: Friday, 4.30pm-5.30pm
Age: 4-11
Contact: Alain Jason
alain@googlycricket.com

Football
DSActive Girls Only Football and Multi-Sports Session (Term Time)
Aspire Centre, Southfields Community Academy, SW18 5JU
For: Downs Syndrome (Girls Only)
Day: Wednesday, 5-6pm
Age: Open to all Ages
Contact: Kasha Petit
Kasha.pettit@afcwimbledon.org.uk
DSActive Team
dsactive@downs-syndrome.org.uk

Wandsworth.

Aspire Centre, Southfields Community Academy, SW18 5JU
Professional instructor to give one-to-one coaching and all equipment is provided along with a tactile aiming guide and foot locator. We welcome all members and the age of shooters ranges from as young as ten if accompanied.

Please do check the event calendar as sometimes the date needs to be changed.

For: Visual Impairment
Day: Sunday (every second Sunday from 13/1/19), 12-2pm
Age: Open to all ages
Contact: Fred Carpenter
freddy2cokes@yahoo.co.uk

Watersports
Watersports centre, Wimbledon Park
These sessions give children and young people with special educational needs and or disabilities, the opportunity to try a variety of watersports such as sailing, kayaking and canoing.

For: Open to all Disabilities
Day: please contact for dates and times
Age: 8-16
Contact: Kally Hall
Kally@enablelc.org

Archery
Aspire Centre, Southfields Community Academy, SW18 5JU

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For: Open to all Disabilities (siblings welcome)
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Age: 5-14
Contact: Andrew
Andrew@keenlondon.org

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sarah.oram@kids.org.uk
www.kids.org.uk/lady-allen-adventure-playground

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WAND+ ZONE

Get Set GO!

Get Set GO! Next Steps into Adulthood. An event to help young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) get into education, employment or training.

This annual free event is for Wandsworth’s children and young people with SEND in year 9 and above. They can talk to friendly experts about what support is available as they reach adulthood to achieve their aspirations, including:

- Choices after school or college
- Alternatives to education
- Local training and support activities and forthcoming events
- How to find a job or training place
- Where to live
- How to travel
- Local support groups and other services

This year Get Set GO! took place on 3 April 2019 in the Civic Suite, it opened at 10am and closed at 2:30pm. This year we were very pleased to welcome parties of students from all of Wandsworth’s Special Schools, who made up some of the over 300 visitors.

It opened with an entertaining keynote speech from Beverley Dawkins, CEO of Generate and Harry, a Generate youth group member, recalling his experiences with the youth group. Several young people with SEND shared their inspiring stories. To see and hear the event, please visit the Get Set GO 2019 Wiki http://bit.ly/2Pg7F5N We have videos of all the highlights, as well as some of the exhibitors.

Young people, their parents, carers and professionals were able to visit more than forty stalls and talk to experts about the support and services available in Wandsworth.

There were well attended and popular workshops from the Department of Work and Pensions, the council’s 0-25 Disabilities Team and a legal expert, Zach...
Esdaile, Head of Bowers Education and Disability Department. You can see some of the presentations from the workshops on the Wiki.

This was the fourth annual Get Set GO! event organised by Wandsworth Council and South Thames College, with funding from the Wandsworth Ambitions Careers Cluster and support from Positive Parent Action.

Cabinet member for employment and skills Cllr Rory O’Broin said: “We have a package of support to enable all our young people to develop the skills they need to get on in life – including our young residents with SEND.”

Cabinet member for children’s services Cllr Sarah McDermott said: “Get Set GO! is fun, informal and free, and will provide the information young people need to help them live fulfilled and independent lives.”

Feedback from visitors and exhibitors included lots of smiley faces and comments:

“Good Work!”
“Very good day, lots of useful information for organisations and parents” Paddock School
“Good range of stalls and presenters”, “Very good range of services and information”
“Talks by young people”, “Speakers were brilliant!”, Great to hear the young people’s experiences at the beginning of the event”, “Lovely meeting everyone. Inspirational young people!”
WAND+ ZONE

More work/learning opportunities for our young people

By Eleanor Thain

As part of the Get Set GO! organising team, I was really pleased that this year we were able to involve even more young people with SEND in the creation, presentation, organisation and recording of this event.

We will be working with some of the young people (Fynn, who spoke so movingly about how work was helping him to make friends, and Johnny who took video and has edited it for the Get Set GO! Wiki) who assisted with Get Set GO!, to improve all our information resources for young people, using video, Wikis and their ideas.

I have been supported by my colleagues from WorkRight, Sally Gale and Caroline Ridley, who are also part of the GSG Team, to offer some work experience to Julia, another one of the speakers who is 16 year old and uses a wheelchair, and paid work to Fynn and Johnny, preparing for, helping with and following up on Get Set GO!

It is also great to be able to say that South Thames College, another of the GSG Team members, is now offering supported internships in Wandsworth. These can be started at any time, and are not tied to the academic year. So, if you are interested, please get in touch with South Thames College. Or visit their website and look for “Supported Internships-Entry Level” http://bit.ly/2P6sE6

This Supported Internships programme is offered by South Thames College to students who are aged 16-24 and currently hold an Education, Health and Care Plan. It is specially and individually designed to facilitate learners’ progression into sustained employment.

Suitability for the programme is assessed by observations and transition reviews before joining college, at interview and during the first four weeks of the course.

After an initial assessment of four weeks, the student will be placed with an appropriate employer who will match the needs and wishes of the student. Learning will take place both on the job and complemented within the College training facilities. The tutors will work with the employers to identify areas the learner needs to improve to enable them to successfully gain employment at the end of the internship period.

Maths and English will be delivered at the appropriate level. Qualification opportunities are provided in line with the requirements of the job role. Dedicated tutor support provides for an excellent experience, enabling the internee to succeed.

Students will have the opportunity to engage in real work-related activities with a possible job outcome at the end of it.

This course is free. There may be a registration fee of up to £30.
Into Apprenticeships

Into Apprenticeships is a guide from the organisation, Disability Rights UK, for disabled people, parents and key advisers about applying for apprenticeships in England. It deals with common questions such as how to find an apprenticeship, whether the training will be accessible and what support is available in the workplace.

There are several stories written by disabled apprentices about their own experiences and the challenges they have faced. As well as taking advantage of the support on offer, the apprentices talk about the importance of their own creativity, perseverance and motivation. The guide also contains a useful resources section listing further websites, publications and organisations which can help.

Doing an apprenticeship is a great way to earn a salary, get training and qualifications and develop your career. Apprenticeships allow those aged 16 and over to receive practical training by working in a real job at the same time as studying. As an apprentice you will:

• work alongside experienced staff
• gain the skills necessary for work
• study for a particular qualification
• earn a wage

Usually apprenticeships involve working four days a week and spending one day a week studying.

Who can do an apprenticeship?

Anybody who is over 16, eligible to work in England and not in full-time education can apply for an apprenticeship. Apprenticeships should be open to anyone, including disabled adults who might reach this stage several years after leaving school.

How long do apprenticeships last?

Apprenticeships usually last for between one and four years depending upon the level. What levels are there?

• Intermediate Level: equivalent to five GCSEs Grades A* - C at Level 2
• Advanced Level: equivalent to two A Levels at Level 3
• Higher Level Apprenticeships; equivalent to Foundation degree, NVQ Level 4 and above
• Degree Apprenticeships: leading to Level 6 and 7, equivalent to a bachelor’s degree or master’s degree.

What kinds of jobs have apprenticeships?

The Get In Go Far website has lots of examples of different types of apprenticeship and videos of different apprentice experiences: www.getingofar.gov.uk

Almost all jobs have apprenticeship programmes. Types of apprenticeships include jobs in:

• Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care
• Arts, Media and Publishing
• Business, Administration and Law
• Construction, Planning and the Built Environment
• Education and Training
• Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies
• Health, Public Services and Care
• Information and Communication Technology
• Leisure, Travel and Tourism
• Retail and Commercial Enterprise
• Science and Mathematics

Be sure to research and choose carefully. Concentrate first on the subjects you’re interested in. Most types of apprenticeship can be made accessible with the right support.

A copy of the full Into Apprenticeships Guide from Disability Rights UK can be downloaded from www.disabilityrightsuk.org
Looking for a new direction and want to make a difference?

Have you benefitted from joining the DCR and the WAND card? How about helping to spread the word to others by joining us as a Parent Champion volunteer.

We are now looking for Parent Champion volunteers in Balham, Battersea and Roehampton to start training in September. We especially value the experience of volunteers whose children already hold a WAND or WAND+ cards and can promote its benefits to others.

The role involves talking to parents out and about around your area or in schools and other settings, plus making sure our posters and leaflets are present at clinics, GP surgeries, libraries and children’s centres etc in your area. Volunteers generally do 1-3 hours per week (term time only) and we are flexible to fit around family needs. This is a great way to build confidence, meet people and build your skills, whilst giving back to the community.

Interested? Check out our website for details or email Eleanor Thain to find out more. Briefing sessions commence the second week of September.

Direct payments

New brochure about Direct Payments, from the 0 to 25 Disability Social Work Team.

Direct Payments are a way of providing funding for short breaks directly to a parent to pay for extra support their child needs in order to access activities and services. The direct payment has to be agreed by the parent, social worker and a panel of professionals, but once agreed the parent can choose to manage the direct payment completely or with the support of the council’s appointed agency Vibrance.

Parents can also ask questions of the council's Direct Payment Officer, Kerri-Anne Beckford, who along with her colleagues has created a Direct Payments brochure to explain the Direct Payment set-up process to both parents and social workers. Ask your 0-25 Disability Team Social Worker for a copy.

Calling all WAND+ card holders

We are looking for suggestions of ways to use the WAND+ card that work for you.

Do you have a tip or suggestion about somewhere new you have used your WAND+ card which we can share with the other members of the scheme?

What would you like us to try and arrange for you to do? We’re gradually extending some of the WAND card offers, but is there something you’d like to do that’s just for your age group?

The DCR, WAND and WAND+ card team are all a bit out of the loop where Wandsworth’s 18 to 25’s are concerned. So please tell us what you have found fun or if there is a Wandsworth venue, activity or other way you would like to use your WAND+ card.

We’ll can’t promise miracles, but will try to work some magic to make it happen!

Email eleanor.thain@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk with your hints, tips and suggestions.