Welcome to the Spring edition of SNIX NEWS, a newsletter for children with special educational needs or disabilities and their families.

During the half term holiday in October 2015, the Local Offer team went to Wellingborough Shopping Centre and Northampton town's Grosvenor Centre in the Green Room. Not many people came to chat in Wellingborough, but Northampton and Weston Favell were more popular.

We would like to do this more often to meet you and talk to you. And we would like to know where you would like us to go.

So, would you like us to come to your town regularly? Where would you like us to be? We could come to the library on a regular day, or your local children’s centre, or possibly at one of the hospital clinics. Would you like us to come to parent’s evening at your school?

What would work well for you and your family? This is an opportunity for you to have a say on how the Local Offer works in the future. We will be able to help you search the Local Offer, and perhaps suggest some resources that you might not have known about.

Get in touch, send us an e-mail, or use one of the feedback forms on the Local Offer at:

www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/localoffer

What is really interesting is that a lot of people read the SNIX magazine, but haven’t used the Local Offer. Everything that is in SNIX is on the Local Offer, with more! The Local Offer team have been producing the SNIX magazine for over a year.
Happy 2016! From the Shooting Stars Group

We are the Shooting Stars Group and we meet once a month to help people here in the council to improve services for other young disabled people in Northamptonshire. In October half term we ran a training day for social workers based around person-centred approaches. Paul Blantern, the Local Authority Chief Executive (pictured with two Shooting Stars), attended the session and kindly shared this with others on his weekly blog. The group successfully recruited 17 new members to its core group which now brings our membership to 25. We will continue to engage with young people in schools, colleges and groups. We also had our Annual BIG Meeting which took place in November where we launched our new film which looks at employment. If you would like to see this film along with our other films you can find them on the Local Offer website.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSYQ5vqMbA

The group have helped the county council design a new Short Breaks Statement.

For information about our group and the work we do please contact us: 01604 368051

---

Viewpoint Survey

The Local Offer now has a survey designed for young people and children to use to say what they think of the Local Offer in Northamptonshire. It is on the Get Involved page of the Local Offer. It will only take a few minutes to complete, and then there are on-line games to play afterwards. If you are reading this online the link is:

https://www.vptol.co.uk/sqvpstSpecSurveyIntro.asp?&canvas=n&tablet=n&phone=n&brand=loca loffer&org=nhantslos

The Children and Families Act states that we must ask young people what they think of the Local Offer, and this is another opportunity to tell us.

---

Name the Local Offer

EPIC – a group of 16 young people who the government have consulted with about the SEN reform legislation have stated that they think it is important that each Local Authority’s Local Offer should have a local name and a description.

The Work-stream group that meets to plan the content of our Local Offer think that we should ask Northamptonshire users of the Local Offer what name they think we should use that describes ours. (You can read the minutes on the Local Offer.)

If you have a good idea, please tell us, and then we will let people vote. I am sure that there will be a prize for the winning name.

If you like the Local Offer as a name, then tell us that too.

www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/localoffer
SNIX Registrations

Did you know that the law states that the Local Authority must have a register of children and young people who are or consider themselves to be disabled? (The Children Act 1989) Did you know that there is no obligation to be registered on it if you are disabled or consider yourself to be?

The Local Offer team now manage the register and produce the SNIX magazine. Everyone who is on our disabled children’s register in Northamptonshire is able to get a copy of the SNIX magazine sent to them.

In the past, this registration information was kept separately to all the other information that the Local Authority has to keep about children in Northamptonshire. It is now kept on the Local Authority database which is called “Capita ONE”.

Staff who work with children with a special educational need or a disability don’t get told, and can’t see, who is on the SNIX register even though it is on the same data base they use for their work. This means that everything that you tell us for the SNIX register is kept secret. Only the Local Offer team can see it.

All staff who work for the county council work to high professional standards that include confidentiality. We believe that it is reasonable for staff working with children and families on the SNIX register to be able to see that there is a SNIX registration. But our current policy doesn’t allow this and we suggest that it should be changed. There is a draft policy on the Local Offer on the Get Involved page for you to read and send in your comments to us about it so that if everyone agrees, we can change it.

The county council complies with the Data Protection Act 1998 and this is the statement about all of the data that is held by the county council for all residents.

Capita ONE Privacy Note

Why do we collect personal data about you?
We collect personal data from you so we can provide education and children’s services to you and your family; to monitor our work; to report on progress made; and to let us fulfil our statutory obligations and statutory returns as set by the law.

How we protect and use your personal data?
All personal data we collect from you complies with the data protection principles, as stated in the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and NCC’s Data Protection Registration with the Information Commissioner’s Office.

The personal data we collect may be held as an electronic record on data systems managed by Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) or as a paper record. The records are only seen by staff who need the personal data so they can do their job. The security of the data follows NCC policies on Information Management.

We make every effort to keep your personal data accurate. If you tell us of any changes in your circumstances, we can update the records with the personal data you choose to share with us.

We will keep the personal data for no longer than is necessary. Sometimes, the law sets the length of time personal data must be kept.

Sharing personal data
So we can provide the right services at the right level, we may share your personal data within county council services or with relevant organisations in line with NCC data registration, please see link above.

Where this is necessary we will comply with all aspects of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Your rights
You have the right to ask us to stop processing your personal data in relation to any council service. However, this may stop us delivering a service to you. Where possible, we will do as you ask, but we may need to hold or process personal data to comply with a legal requirement.

If you find that the personal data that we hold is no longer accurate, you have the right to have this corrected. Please contact the service holding the personal data or our Customer Services Centre for this.
Top tips for searching on the Local Offer website

The Local Offer website holds information about services in Northamptonshire for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities aged 0 – 25 years. This includes information about schools, youth clubs, support groups, health services and more. It aims to put all of the information in one place.

The web address is: www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/localoffer

You can search in two ways on the Local Offer:

**Picture Tiles**

These will search for all of the services in a specific service area, so if you don’t know what you’re looking for, you can scroll through the results.

However, if you do know what you are looking for, we recommend you use the search bar.

**Search Bar**

Using the search bar you can search by: category, keyword, postcode or location.

These tips will help you make the most out of the filter options without losing useful search results.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Do</th>
<th>Don’t</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use single words, rather than a whole sentence. E.g. “autism” instead of “my child has autism”</td>
<td>Don’t use too many search options. Try to use no more than two. E.g. keyword and location.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use quotation marks around your search term if you would like them to appear together in your result. E.g. “wheelchair basketball”</td>
<td>Don’t use too specific, technical or medical words. E.g. “hearing impairment” instead of “Bilateral Sensorineural Deafness”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Press Ctrl + F5 if you experience a problem with the search engine to refresh the page. E.g. if you get the message “Something went wrong”.</td>
<td>Remember to tell us if you can’t find what you are looking for!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You will get two result lists: “Search results” and “Information and articles.”

“Search results” show all of the services your search term comes up with, “Information and articles” hold related documents and other useful information.

For example, if you enter a school name into the keyword search, you will find the school details in “Search results” and their special needs policy in “Information and articles”.

**Further Refining**

You may want to filter your results further at this stage. A bar will appear on the right side of your results. This allows you to filter by:

- Age – an upper and lower age limit for who the service supports. If you are a parent looking for support, enter 16 with no upper limit.
- For people with/ who are – services that have declared experience supporting specific needs.
- Local town – services in your local town.
- Categories – level of support “specialist, targeted or universal”.
- Facilities – details the facilities available at the different services.
- Provider type – this filters by what the services offer, for example “advice and information” or “groups, clubs and activities”.
Languages – details languages the staff speak at different services.

Note: You will need to click “apply” for the refiners to affect the search results, except for the “age” refiner, which applies automatically.

Again, we suggest that you do not fill in too many refiners as this will limit your results.

You can now save your search results as a shortlist and email them to a friend.

There is a lot more to the Local Offer than the search results. We have web pages that sit behind it, with information about books, a glossary, a what’s on page (which lists one off events and training) how to get involved, and a help page.

You can connect to our YouTube channel, our Facebook and Twitter and our newest function from the web developers, a blog.

Still can’t find what you’re looking for?
Contact the Local Offer team.

Email: localoffer@northamptonshire.gov.uk
Telephone: 0300 126 1000 (option 5)
Facebook: www.facebook.com/lonorthants
Twitter: @LONorthants

Short Breaks in Northamptonshire: Service Statement 2016

The Short Breaks Statement is for families living in Northamptonshire who have a child or young person with a disability and/or sensory impairment. It includes information on the purpose of the Short Breaks Services and the range of short breaks available in Northamptonshire. Short Breaks aim to benefit children and young people with disabilities, complex health needs, and/or sensory impairments. Children and young people are offered experiences that foster and improve their individual and social development. Short Breaks can occur at different times – during the day or evening; overnight or at weekends, and can span a few hours or a number of days.

The statement can be found on the Local Offer by searching “Short Breaks Statement”.
Debra Charles is one of the estimated 20% of the UK’s entrepreneurs that are dyslexic.

Following a career in technology at companies including Westinghouse and Apple, Debra has gone on to become CEO of Novacroft, the smartcard programme and software solutions company that she founded in 1998, which is now a multi-million pound turnover business. Debra’s success story since leaving school is inspirational, and illustrates the successful businesswoman’s long-held belief that dyslexia can be a great advantage in business, and a very positive card to hold.

“When I was at school,” says Debra, “I could never have imagined that my future could have been what it is. Dyslexic people don’t run businesses, don’t spearhead groundbreaking innovations, don’t have the capacity to be successful in business. Except, they do. They absolutely do. And they can be great at it. It’s about tapping into a different skill set, nurturing less traditional learning patterns, harnessing creativity and unleashing a passion and talent that shouldn’t be constrained by society’s norms. ‘It took me a long time to realise that the perceived barriers of dyslexia were barriers that I put in my own way. I learnt the hard way that the common misconceptions and ‘labels’ about dyslexia in society were just that, misconceptions. The strength to overcome them came from me, from valuing myself and my own ideas and talents.”

With so many of the UK’s entrepreneurs estimated dyslexic, there has been significant research into the particular skills that enable these people to thrive. Julie Logan, of Cass Business School, has identified that skills including oral-communication, problem solving, creative tasks and delegation come more naturally to entrepreneurs, and that these are often the very skills that help businesses thrive.

Debra’s own skillset reflects this thinking - Debra says:

“I have a vision for business, for how our business can make people’s lives easier. I’m a creative and very visual person. I quite literally illustrate my visions to share with my team, so they can see my meaning without trawling through a huge document. It makes more sense to me. I did a visual process map not long ago and jokingly named all the characters I drew. Now everyone around me is referring to Stella and Derek from my drawings as if they’re part of the team, and they’ve taken centre stage in their project it’s truly brought it to life.”

Novacroft now has a team approaching 300 people, who, together, have reduced the processing time Transport for London’s Oyster photocards from 48 days to 24 hours, that produced the first online data management system in the smart ticketing world, and that was named Northamptonshire Business of the Year in 2013. In the same year Debra herself was Cranfield University’s Entrepreneur Alumnus of the Year, and she has previously been shortlisted for the NatWest everywoman Awards. For Debra, overcoming the challenges of dyslexia lay in learning to wear the ‘label’ of dyslexia with confidence, and embracing the positive differences it gives:

“Dyslexia gives you a rare perspective. I know from experience. And it’s not just me...there are many, many dyslexic entrepreneurs, talented and accomplished people who have used their strengths to stand out from the crowd - think Richard Branson, Steve Jobs - people I’ve always admired. It could be you too.”
**Autism Concern Activity Days and Youth Clubs**

Do you have a child with an autistic spectrum disorder? Looking for social groups and activity days for evenings and weekends?

Autism Concern run days where children and young people are supported according to their needs.

**Saturday Clubs**
- A wide variety of activities including arts and crafts, sports, sensory play days, cooking and much more
- For young people aged 8 – 18 with ASD
- **Venue:** The Abbey Centre, 10 Overslade Close, East Hunsbury, Northampton, NN4 0RZ
- **Time:** 10:00 – 15:00
- **Cost:** £10 per day

**Go 4 It Youth Groups**
- Senior Go 4 It (13 – 18 year olds) and Junior Go 4 It (8-12 year olds) run on alternating Tuesday nights
- Corby Go 4 It (13 – 18 year olds) runs one Thursday a month
- A wide ranging variety of activities whilst being supported by autism specialist staff
- These groups then do trips out in the holidays, past excursions include Leicester Space Museum, London Eye and Harry Potter Studios
- **Time:** 18:00 – 20:00
- **Cost:** From £3

Holiday activity days will be running throughout Easter 2016. Dates and times to be confirmed. You can keep updated on our Facebook & Twitter pages or by visiting our website on the link below.

To register your child on the appropriate scheme contact us on: 01604 239404
email: marieanne@autismconcern.org
visit: [www.autismconcern.org](http://www.autismconcern.org)

---

**FACT Northampton**

A support group for the families of children and young adults with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Asperger’s Syndrome and ADHD.

Meetings: the second Wednesday of each month (term time only), 7.30 - 9.30pm at:
Cedar Road School (Broadway Entrance)
Cedar Road
Northampton
NN3 2JF

FACT Northampton
factnorthants@yahoo.co.uk

---

**NAB Easter Event**

Our Easter holiday event for visually impaired children and their families will be held at the Riverside Hub, Northampton on:

**Wednesday 6th April from 10am until midday**

Please reserve your place no later than Friday 1st April.

Tickets cost: Children £3, Adults £1.50

To register for an upcoming event please call Hugh on NAB’s Helpline on:
01604 719193 or
Email: helpline@nab.org.uk
Visit: [www.nab.org.uk](http://www.nab.org.uk)

**FACT Northampton**

A Support group for the families of children and young adults with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Asperger’s Syndrome and ADHD

Meetings the Second Wednesday of each month, (term time only) 7.30pm – 9.30 pm at:
Cedar Road School (Broadway Entrance)
Cedar Road
Northampton
NN3 2JF

FACT Northampton
factnorthants@yahoo.co.uk
Kettering Music & Performing Arts Centre

NMPAT Kettering

Relaxed Sing Alongs!

FREE for everyone - Parents, Children, Carers and Siblings!

Featuring Music, Dance & Drama performances from KMPAC!

5th March
10:30am - 11:30am

Latimer Arts College, Castle Way, Barton Seagrave, NN15 6SW

With multi-sensory effects, switches and instruments - these events are particularly suitable for children with special needs due to their relaxed and supportive atmosphere!

For further information Tel: 01604 637 117 Email: kettering@nmpat.co.uk

www.ketteringmusiccentre.co.uk or Find us on Facebook!

Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust
The first GAMENATION event took place on Saturday 9th January at Kings Park Conference Centre. The event aimed to give parents and young people practical advice and support relating to staying safe online. Simon Aston, e-safety officer from Northamptonshire County Council gave a talk, outlining how to stay safe.

A selection of both electronic games and traditional games were available to play on the day. Chess and table tennis proved particularly popular.

The events have been organised by Information, Advice and Support Service (IASS), Northamptonshire Association of Youth Clubs (NAYC) and Core Assets Children's Services. The next event is:

- **Saturday 20th February 2016 – 11:30 -1:30pm**
  Daventry United Reformed Church, 45 Sheaf Street,
  Daventry, NN11 4AA

For more information and to book a place, email Emma Harrison at:

**EmHarrison@northamptonshire.gov.uk.**

---

The Lawn Tennis Association offers regular coaching sessions for people with Down’s syndrome and are now looking to expand their work to other groups. Maddee Blair is now leading the development work and she ran some taster sessions at the Down’s Syndrome summer social event which were very well received and helped to introduce the sport of tennis to a number of young people who had not previously had the opportunity to try it.

Following on from this success the Northampton Disability Tennis Network (the NDTN) would like to offer the same opportunity to other groups. Therefore if you work/volunteer for, or are aware of any such organisations who will be running similar social events in the foreseeable future at which there may be an opportunity for the NDTN to run some taster sessions please contact Maddee either by phone on: 07977 753614 or email: mbtenniscoaching@yahoo.co.uk to find out more about what can be offered and make arrangements if both parties are happy to do so.
## Special Olympics Northamptonshire Is Coming Soon!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you like playing sport?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would you like to be part of one of the biggest sports programmes in the world?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you answered yes to the questions above then Special Olympics is for people like you!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A group will be starting in Northamptonshire, read on to find out about how you can get involved</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## What are the Special Olympics?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Special Olympics was started in the USA in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eunice Kennedy Shriver said that the Special Olympics could give confidence and hope to people with learning disabilities and their carers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Special Olympics includes over 4 million athletes in over 170 countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Great Britain there are</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 150 Special Olympics clubs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- over 3,000 volunteers,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- over 8,000 athletes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Is it the same as the Paralympics?

No, The Paralympics is a sport competition for the best disabled athletes with physical and learning disabilities. The Special Olympics holds sport competitions for people with learning disabilities of all levels all year round.

Why take part in the Special Olympics?

The Special Olympics offers a lifetime of learning through sport and benefits people of all ages and ability levels.

Taking part in the Special Olympics improves the quality of life of people with learning disabilities and their families.

What is happening in Northamptonshire?

Northamptonshire Sport is working with clubs and coaches to offer training and different sporting competitions to people with learning disabilities.

If you care for someone with a learning disability who would like to take part or you would like to help out contact:

Graeme Wilson, Northamptonshire Sport Disability Development Officer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>01604 367953</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Gwilson@northamptonshire.gov.uk">Gwilson@northamptonshire.gov.uk</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To find out more about Special Olympics GB visit their website http://specialolympicsgb.org.uk/
Special Olympics Northamptonshire is Coming Soon!

Would you like to be part of one of the biggest sports programmes for people with learning disabilities in the world?

If you’ve answered yes to both of the questions above then Special Olympics is for people like you! A group will soon be starting in Northamptonshire, so read on to find out more about how you can get involved...

The Special Olympics Movement was founded in the USA in 1968 by the late Eunice Kennedy Shriver, sister of President John F Kennedy. Shriver believed that the Olympic ideals of sport could give confidence and new hope to people with learning disabilities as well as to those who cared for them. Today the Special Olympics reaches over 4 million athletes in more than 170 countries worldwide.

Since its formation in 1978, as part of the global Special Olympics Movement Special Olympics Great Britain (SOGB), has transformed the lives of tens of thousands of people through sport. There are currently 150 Special Olympics clubs in Great Britain, run by over 3,000 volunteers, and involving 8,000 athletes who benefit from the sports programme. They are a recognised member of the Olympic family with a unique role to play.

The Paralympics provides sports competitions for elite level disabled athletes with physical and sensory disabilities, including learning disabilities, while Special Olympics fosters community sport year-round at all levels for those with learning disabilities.

The Special Olympics offers a lifetime of learning through sport and benefits individuals of all ages and ability levels – from those with low motor abilities to highly skilled athletes. It is proven that taking part in the Special Olympics Programme improves the quality of daily life of people with learning disabilities and their families through sport.

Northamptonshire Sport are currently in the process of finalising the formation and accreditation of a Special Olympics group in the county which will be ready to launch later this year. The plan is for it to offer training and competitive opportunities in a number of sports provided by clubs and coaches with a great deal of experience in delivering to people with learning disabilities from around the county.

If your son or daughter, (or someone you care for), would like to become a Special Olympics athlete, or you’d like to help out as a volunteer for the programme then please contact Graeme Wilson (Northamptonshire Sport Disability Development Officer) either by phone on 01604 367953, or email Gwilson@northamptonshire.gov.uk.

To find out more about SOGB then visit their website http://specialolympicsgb.org.uk/
Unlocking Talent and Building Belief

The FA Disability Talent Identification Programme (TIPs) will be the entry point to the England Talent Pathway. The programme will identify and signpost players to the ‘right’ environment and help players progress up the England Talent Pathway.

The initial England Talent Day will be open to all abilities and will be an opportunity for players to experience disability football for the first time. If players are successful at the England Talent Day they will be invited back to attend a six week player assessment and signposting period, were they will have the opportunity to progress up the England Pathway.

England Talent Day

The Northamptonshire England Talent Day will take place on:

Sunday 13th March 2016
Manor School
Raunds
Wellingborough
NN9 6PA
11:00am - 1:00pm

Boys and girls aged 11 to 16 in one of the below categories are eligible:

- Amputee
- Deaf
- Blind
- Partially sighted
- Cerebral palsy
- Learning Disability

If you are interested in being part of the England Talent Day, please register your interest by visiting our website:


For more information please contact:
Amber Wildgust
Disability Football Development Officer – Northamptonshire FA
amber.wildgust@northantsfa.com
07474 200720
Fun Disability Sports for £5

Super Fun Fridays

10.30am - 12pm

☑ Multi-sports sessions adapted for any ability.
☑ Suitable for ages 16+
☑ Now bigger & better with computer games, arts & crafts, giant games, tuck shop & more!

OCTOBER 30th
NOVEMBER 27th
DECEMBER 18th
JANUARY 22nd
FEBRUARY 19th
MARCH 18th
APRIL 15th
MAY 13th
JUNE 10th

Hindu Centre, Highfield Road, Wellingborough, NN8 1PL

SUPERSTAR SPORTS academy

Phone or text: 07539 234 160
Facebook / SSArcoaching
UK Deaf Sport

Posh Deaf (Peterborough Football Club), Northamptonshire Football Association and UK Deaf Sport are pleased to announce the first Deaf and Hearing Impaired Football Coaching Course (FA Level One) in March 2016

The course will be held at Netherton Football Club with a BSL signer funded by Peterborough United’s Deaf Football Teams and £1,000 available to help fund coaches who are able to coach deaf players in the Peterborough area.

“It’s great to see partnership working with Northamptonshire FA and Peterborough United’s Deaf Football teams to create the opportunities for people who are deaf start their coaching journey.

Not enough people who are deaf becoming coaches therefore UK Deaf Sport have also provided a coach bursary to help stimulate interest.” (Clive Breedon – UK Deaf Sport, National Participation Officer)

Once coaches attend the course they will gain useful life skills and a nationally recognised qualification to help improve opportunities for deaf people to participate in football.

Andy Palmer who is the coordinator of Peterborough United’s deaf football project said:

“The future of deaf football depends on having deaf-aware coaches and coaches that can use sign language. There just isn’t enough of them.

Using Lottery funding we’re able to work with Northamptonshire FA and UK Deaf Sport to not only fund the sign language element of this course but contribute towards the cost too so we get as many people qualified as possible and find the coaches of the future Posh Deaf football teams.”

Full details of the course are listed below:

Dates & Times:
Thursday 3rd March 2016 (6.30pm – 8.30pm)
Tuesday 8th March 2016 (6.30pm – 9.30pm)
Thursday 10th March 2016 (6.30pm – 8.30pm)
Saturday 19th March 2016 (9.00am – 5.00pm)
Sunday 20th March 2016 (9.00am – 5.00pm)
Saturday 26th March 2016 (9.00am – 5.00pm)

Venue:
Netherton Football Club
The Grange
Peterborough
PE3 6HQ

Cost:
£100

Book online at:
www.northamptonshirefa.com

Or contact Debbie Preston on:
e: debbie.preston@northantsfa.com
T: 01604 678408
Sensory Development and Difficulties in the Early Years

Wednesday, 2nd of March 1:00-2:45
Northampton

A fun, interactive workshop that introduces parents and professionals to sensory processing development. We will also discuss how sensory processing difficulties can impact on a child’s behaviour, attention and coordination. Sensory strategies for self-regulation and keeping the child calm and engaged are introduced.

To book your spot:
https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sensory-development-and-sensory-difficulties-in-the-early-years-tickets-19854752098

For more information contact us at:
courses@thriveots.com or 07874 210864

Dear Parents,

Do you have a picky eater?

Does your child have handwriting difficulties?

Does your child have difficulty regulating his/her behaviour?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, please let us know! We are looking to develop fun activity groups during the half term breaks for children of all ages and would like to hear what would be most valuable for you and your child. You can drop us an email at: info@thriveots.com, post on our wall on Facebook or tweet us (ThriveOTs) and tell us which topic(s) were most relevant to you.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Just For Parents:

“Ask Thrive OT” - Free Drop In sessions
We offer free drop in sessions at three sites in Northamptonshire. Do you have concerns about your child’s development, coordination or sensory issues? We’re happy to have a chat, offer advice and sign post you to the resources you need.

Drop In Sites:

Riverside Hub:
When - Feb 5th, May 6th, July 1st
What time - 6:45-7:45

Northampton East Children’s Centres:
(for parents living in East Northampton with children under 5) @Ecton Brook Children’s Centre
When - Sep 23rd, Oct, 21st, Nov 25th, Dec 16th, Jan 27th, Feb 24th, Mar 23rd, Apr 27th, May 25th, Jun 22nd, Jul 20th
What time - 1:30-2:30

Pen Green Children’s Centre:
When - monthly
Contact us for specific dates and times.

Any questions, please contact us at:
info@thriveots.com or 07954241052
Giggles Play

Inclusive sensory & soft play sessions, encouraging cognitive, physical and social development through play.

We offer play designed for children with additional needs in a friendly, quiet environment.

We open once a month 10am – 1pm at:

Sargeant Memorial Hall
Church Lane
Brafield on the Green
NN7 1BA

on the following dates:

Sunday 6th March
Sunday 3rd April
Sunday 1st May

£5 admission for 2 hours play, £1 siblings, £1 under 6 months. Parents/carers free.

No need to book!

Private hire for parties also available.

Visit www.gigglesplay.co.uk for more details.

NAB Children & Families Service

Supporting visually impaired children and their families across Northamptonshire.

We offer a range of support from the moment a child is diagnosed with a sight condition through each key stage of their development up until the age of 25.

Hugh Spence, our Children and Families Support Worker can give you, your child and your family the help and support you need.

We can help with:

• Specialist advice and information over the telephone and in the home.
• Family and young people’s events.
• Advocacy support.
• Sports and leisure advice and guidance.

To find out more or register for an upcoming event please call Hugh on NAB’s Helpline on:

01604 719193 or

Email: helpline@nab.org.uk

Visit: www.nab.org.uk

Autism Concern’s Family Support Team

Autism Concern’s Family Support Team can advise and support parents, carers, professionals and people on the Autism Spectrum. It is not necessary to have a diagnosis to access our services, which include:

• Emotional Support
• Behavioural Advice
• Signposting to community services
• Understanding Autism Spectrum Conditions
• Support with filling in benefit forms and applications

To contact the Family Support Service:

Email – iag@autismconcern.org Or call – 0808 808 9090 (free from landlines)

Charity Number: 1062611
ADHD Matters
Raising Awareness in Northamptonshire

Do you look after a child with ADHD/ADD?

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder,
Information Advice and Information Advice & Guidance Service
Supporting families and young people with ADHD/ADD and the professionals who support them throughout Northamptonshire

We provide information and advice to help you to support your child’s needs and help you to find local services.

We support you in getting the help you need to improve the quality of life and opportunities for your child, taking into account your needs as a carer and the effects on your family.

Call us on: 01604 239200  Mobile: 07799 850033
Email: jacky@adhdmatters.co.uk or admin@adhdmatters.co.uk
Website: www.adhdmatters.co.uk
Write to: 39-42 Burlington House, 369 Wellingborough Road
Northampton, NN1 4EU
Megan’s Flutterby Fund
Helping local special needs children

Megan’s Flutterby Fund is dedicated to Megan who died, aged 13 years of a life limiting illness. Its aims are to enrich the lives of local children like her by helping towards specialist equipment that is not funded by the health service.

Contact Gisela & Anna Bell:
01604 755974
www.meganflutterbyfund.blogspot.com
Charity Tax No. XT32154
Patron: Jo Whiley

Giggles Play
Organising an event or party for children with additional needs? Need to create a sensory room for a special occasion?

Giggles Play offers interactive sensory lighting and sensory dens which you can hire for your home or selected venue. Or combine with our soft play and book a private Giggles Play session.

Our sensory equipment is suitable for babies, children or adults and available from just £30.

We also hold monthly drop in play sessions at:
Sargeant Memorial Hall
Church Lane
Brafield on the Green
NN7 1BA

On the following dates:
Sunday 6th March
Sunday 3rd April
Sunday 1st May
Visit www.gigglesplay.co.uk for more details.
Secondary School Transfer
Year 5 Seminar

Supporting the positive transfer to secondary school for children with Special Educational Needs

This seminar is for you if you are a parent or carer of a child in Year 5

- With a statement/EHC plan
- Or who is receiving SEN support at school

Venue: The Abbey Centre, Northampton, NN4 0RZ
Date: Thursday 3rd March
Time: 10am-12 noon

Venue: Corn Market Hall, Kettering, NN15 7QA
Date: Tuesday 8th March
Time: 12:30 – 14:30

Booking is essential - please contact us to register for your place before Friday 26th February 2016, and indicate whether you will be in Group 1 or Group 2 during the session.

Email: EmHarrison@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Seminar Programme

9:45/12:15  Registration and coffee
Welcome and Introductions
An overview of how secondary schools work and what to consider when choosing a school

The Application Process:

- **Group 1:** For children with statements/EHC plans
- **Group 2:** For admission to mainstream schools for children receiving school action +/- SEN support

Question Time

11:30/14:00  Session closes

www.iassnorthants.co.uk

Information, Advice and Support Service (IASS)
Springfield, Cliftonville, Northampton NN1 5BE

01604 636111

via e-mail: EmHarrison@northamptonshire.gov.uk
Bright Futures
Preparing for Adulthood Together
Tuesday 22nd March 2016
10am to 2:30pm
Park Inn, Silver Street,
Northampton NN1 2TA
FREE

Information Advice and Support Service (IASS) are hosting a conference for parents of young people with SEND.

The aim of the conference is to give parents key information and tools to support them in ‘Preparing for Adulthood Together’ with their young person.

The conference will explore what Independence means and what it may look like for families.

Other workshops on the day will include:

- SEND Reforms
- The Care Act
- Parents and young people’s rights and responsibilities
- Developing Yourself
- Circle of Support
- Benefits

This conference will follow an event for young people held earlier in the month called ‘Moving on Up’, which was about ‘Preparing for Independence and Adulthood’.

Booking is essential.

To book please contact Emma on:
01604 636111
Or email:
EmHarrison@northamptonshire.gov.uk
**South Northants Children’s Centre Services**

**Special Stars**

A monthly drop-in sensory stay and play experience session using a range of activities and toys to stimulate all senses for children 0-5 years with additional needs.

A peaceful, quiet space for babies and children to learn through their senses.

**Venue:** Towcester Children’s Centre, Islington Road, Towcester, NN12

**Dates:** 4th Wednesday of the month

**Time:** 10:00 am to 11:30 am

For more information please contact us: 01327 350272

**Email:** EN.SSTowcester@actionforchildren.org.uk

**Website:** www.actionforchildren.org.uk/south-northants-childrens-centres

**Facebook:** http://www.facebook.com/southnorthants.childrenscentres

---

**Rowan Gate Pre School Group**

**Who are we?**
A friendly, supportive group for Parents/Carers of babies and preschool children with additional needs.

**When is it?**
- **Tuesday at Rowan Gate Primary School East, Rushden**
  - Mornings currently but capacity to offer afternoon sessions
- **Thursday at Rowan Gate Primary School, Wellingborough**
  - All day - 3 groups running currently

**Who can attend?**
The group is open to all preschool children with additional needs, regardless of parental preference of primary school.

**What do we do?**
We meet in the Parents Room where children and parents/carers have access to a range of activities. The group then accesses our sensory room, the soft play and the outside covered early years play area. Hydrotherapy pool only available at Wellingborough. The group then reconvenes for snack time and parent refreshments, before saying goodbye.

You will be most welcome - All enquiries please contact Lorraine on the below numbers or alternatively email: lorraine.amey@rowangate.northants.sch.uk

For more information, please see our website: www.rowangateprimary.co.uk

---

**RUSHDEN**
Hayway, Rushden, Northamptonshire NN10 6AG
Tel: 01933 351200

**WELLINGBOROUGH**
Finedon Road, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire NN8 4NS
Tel: 01933 304970

---

**For Parents / Early Years**

www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/localoffer
Towcester Sensory Room

Our Sensory Room is a safe environment specially designed to provide a unique, tactile sensory experience. The room is particularly beneficial for children with additional needs of any age as well as babies and young children.

Book today for a relaxed and special sensory experience with your child.

Venue: Towcester Sure Start Children’s Centre, Islington Road, Towcester, NN12 6AU

PLEASE GIVE US A CALL AT THE CHILDREN’S CENTRE TO BOOK YOUR 30 MINUTE SENSORY SESSION

For more information please contact us: 01327 350272
Email: EN.SSTowcester@actionforchildren.org.uk
Website: www.actionforchildren.org.uk/south-northants-childrens-centres
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/southnorthants.childrenscentres
South Northants
Children’s Centre Services

Towcester SNUG

Come along to a parent led group for families with children with any kind of diagnosed special needs. This is your chance to meet other parents/carers in a similar situation. The Sensory Room will be open and other toys will be available.

Special Needs Umbrella Group

Venue: Towcester Sure Start Children’s Centre, Islington Road, Towcester
Dates: 1st Wednesday of every month
Time: 9.30am – 11.30am

For more information please contact us: 01327 350272

Email: EN.SSTowcester@actionforchildren.org.uk
Website: www.actionforchildren.org.uk/south-northants-childrens-centres
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/southnorthants.childrenscentres
Pen Green Centre

Groups for children with additional needs and their families

Parents of children with additional needs
Mondays (Term Time) 10-11.30
A support group for adults in a caring role offering an opportunity to share the highs and lows of family life
Creche available

Premature Babies
Mondays 1-3

Deaf Support
Wednesdays 1-3

Let’s Play Together
Fridays 9.30-11 / 1-3
A chance to play together and meet other children and their families. Opportunity to use extensive resources, including soft room, snoozelen and water therapy room.

Hope Project
Fridays (Term Time) 1-2.30
An 8 week parent advocacy project. Share your child’s unique needs with other parents, and (if you wish) create a booklet telling your child’s story.

A creche is available for adult groups, please just let staff know if you will require a creche place

Families are also always welcome to use our shared spaces (8am-6pm) and drop-in facilities (9-3)

To join any of these groups please speak to Sandra or Amy

Pen Green Centre
Pen Green Lane,
Corby,
Northamptonshire
NN17 1BJ
Tel: 01536 400068
Web: www.pengreen.org
email: pengreenenquiries@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Pen Green Centre
Pen Green Children’s Centre
@pengreen_corby
pengreencentre
Do you know about Annual Health Checks for children and adults with learning disabilities?

Young people aged 14 and above with learning disabilities should be invited by their GP practice to attend an Annual Health Check.

What are the benefits of an Annual Health Check?
The Annual Health Check is a chance for a young person to have a head to toe checkup. Sometimes signs and symptoms of illness may present differently in someone with a learning disability in comparison to someone without. Therefore, it can be complex to recognise, investigate and treat illnesses.

Research shows that regular health checks for people with learning disabilities often uncover treatable health conditions. Most of these are simple to treat and make the person feel better, while sometimes serious illnesses are found at an early stage when they can be treated.

Although a young person may have other health professionals involved such as the paediatrician and school nurse etc., there will be a time when the responsibility for a young person’s healthcare is transferred to the GP. Attending the Annual Health Check from age 14 provides an opportunity to review transitional arrangements for that time. It can also provide the opportunity for a young person and the GP to begin to establish a more direct, adult relationship in preparation for changes to decision making when a young person reaches the age of 16.

What happens at an Annual Health Check?
The Annual Health Check is a designated appointment for you and the young person to talk about their health. The appointment should be a minimum of 20mins but ideally 30-40mins.

During the health check, the GP or practice nurse will carry out the following for the patient:

- a general physical examination, including checking their weight, heart rate, blood pressure and taking blood and urine samples
- discussion about emotional and mental health
- discussion about any lifestyle issues that may contribute to poor health
- a check on whether any chronic illnesses, such as asthma, epilepsy or diabetes, are being well managed
- a check on any prescribed medicines that are currently being taken
- if there is a specific known cause for a learning disability, the GP or practice nurse will often do extra tests for particular health risks. For people with Down’s syndrome, for example, they may do a test to see whether their thyroid is working properly.

The GP or practice nurse will then formulate a Health Action Plan. This will detail any actions that are needed to maintain and improve the health of a young person and any help needed to achieve this.

If you are experiencing problems with your GP practice providing Annual Health Checks or you are concerned about the quality of them, please contact The Learning Disability Strategic Health Facilitators who will be able to address concerns with the GP practice.

Emma Baross - GP’s in the South of the county
Contact details: 01604 651148 07824 608174

Siouxie Nelson - GP’s in the North of the county
Contact details: 01604 651108 07824 608141
WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

sex
contraception
exam anxiety
BULLYING
family issues
alcohol
SMOKING
HEALTHY EATING
body image
social networking & cyber bullying
SELF HARM
MENTAL HEALTH
relationships

for friendly, helpful advice
TEXT YOUR SCHOOL NURSE ON
07937 947 966

We do not usually inform your parents, teachers or anyone else if you contact the school nurse. We might inform someone if we were concerned about your safety, but we would usually speak to you first. Your messages are stored and can be seen by other healthcare staff who follow the same confidentiality rules. We aim to reply to you within one working day and you should get an immediate bounce-back to confirm we received your text. Texts will not be seen outside of normal working hours. If you need help before you hear back from us, contact a member of school staff or your doctor. Our text number does not receive voice calls or MMS picture messages. Prevent the school nurse from sending messages to you by texting STOP to our number. Please respect your school's mobile phone policy. Messages are charged at your usual rate.
Editorial Note:
The Local Offer reserves the right to edit any submitted materials. The articles printed and the views expressed are not necessarily those of Northamptonshire County Council. Items are correct to the best of our knowledge, but we do not take any responsibility for any errors in information provided to us for inclusion.

Deadline Dates
Should you wish to advertise your organisation, submit a personal story or place an article in the SNIX newsletter – please note our deadlines.

Articles submitted should be in a Word format as this will result in a better finish from our printers. We are unable to take responsibility for the quality if submitted in another format.

Summer Edition deadline
22nd April 2016

Autumn Edition deadline
19th September 2016

The Caring and Sharing Trust launches a new website
www.northamptonshirelearningdisability.org
– which is full of information on services and resources for children and adults with learning disabilities. Whether you are looking for Day Centres, parent support groups, clubs and activities, housing choices, sport and leisure opportunities, or just need a bit of help working your way through the care system this site is for you.

Anyone who has tried to find out about services will know how hard it can be to get hold of relevant information and Caring & Sharing have hopefully done a lot of the donkey work, but if you know of anything we have missed, please tell us so it can be included on the site. We are also keen to get lots of feedback so we can make the site as user friendly as possible so do have a browse and let us know what you think.

For more information, please contact John Bishop at:
The Caring & Sharing Trust, Cotton’s Farmhouse,
28 Whiston Road, Cogenhoe, Northants, NN7 1NL
Tel: 01604 891 497
email: admin@cottonsfarmhouse.org

Local Offer and Co-Production
Feedback and co-production is really important to the Local Offer. We are obliged under the new legislation to publish comments and while we have had lots of really positive things said to us, we also need to have them in writing so that we can post them on our website. If you like what you read, have found something new in SNIX or the Local Offer, please let us know.

Do you go to a group and want to show off what you have done recently? Do you need new members? Please let us know and we will advertise for you on Local Offer and in the next SNIX. The Local Offer is being updated all the time, and we also post out information on Twitter and Facebook.

I look forward to hearing from you about what you are doing.

Resources from Photosymbols have been used in this document.

SNIX Newsletters
You can access a limited number of back issues of Snix News on our website: www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/snx

If you would prefer to get your SNIX newsletter sent to you by e-mail, please let us know by e-mailing: localoffer@northamptonshire.gov.uk with SNIX in the subject and we will get them sent to you electronically.

If you have received a copy of the newsletter, but no longer wish to, please let us know and we will remove you from the mailing list.

Information
www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/localoffer