

Aiming High in Staffordshire



Newsletter and Activities Brochure

Summer 2010

Aiming High
for Disabled Children and Young People in Staffordshire

Welcome to the summer 2010 Staffordshire Aiming High newsletter. The past year has been a very busy one for Aiming High in Staffordshire and we have many NEW activities and developments to tell you about. Read on to find out about our progress in Staffordshire and details of some of the NEW activities which we are funding over the next year.

What is Aiming High?

Aiming High is a centrally funded government programme aimed at transforming services for disabled children:

“The vision behind Aiming High for Disabled Children is for all families with disabled children to have the support they need to live ordinary family lives, as a matter of course.”

Aiming High is funded by a direct central government grant. This grant is currently due to finish by 31 March 2011.



Who is Aiming High in Staffordshire for?

Disabled children and young people aged 0-18 years old who are ordinarily resident within Staffordshire County Council boundaries.

What do we mean by disabled?

Aiming High focuses on some specific groups of disabled children and young people:

- Children and young people with Autism Spectrum Disorders – who also have severe learning disabilities and / or challenging behaviour
- Children and young people with complex health needs
- Children and young people with life limiting conditions
- Children and young people requiring palliative care
- Children and young people with complex health needs and other physical, cognitive or sensory impairments
- Children and young people aged 11+ with moving and handling needs that will require equipment and adaptations. (These children are likely to have physical impairments, and many of them will also have cognitive impairments and / or sensory impairments)
- Children and young people where challenging behaviour is associated with other impairments (e.g. severe learning disability)
- Young people aged 14+ who are severely disabled and require services that are appropriate to their age.



What has Aiming High achieved so far in Staffordshire?

We estimate that last year 1474 disabled children and young people in Staffordshire received a short break; this is nearly double the amount of children and young people supported the previous year.

Aiming High has provided funding to enhance the main council services and commissioned additional services. Staffordshire County Council fund a number of short break services (such as overnight residential care for children with complex needs and/or special circumstances, and family based care and equipment). Last year Aiming High and other existing funding helped families enjoy:

- **6525 overnight stays**
- **14,843 day care hours**, including care in the child's home and outreach to support children and young people to access community activities
- **11,848 hours** of specialist provision in school holiday schemes, weekend activities, specialist youth clubs

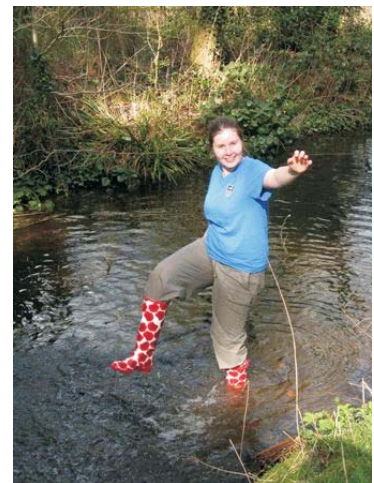
These services give disabled children and young people an opportunity to have fun and socialise with their friends, whilst providing carers with a break. By 31 March 2011 we hope to have supported at least 2100 disabled children and young people with short break opportunities.

Recent Developments

Many parents told us about how difficult it is to find 'places to go' that meet the needs of their child. The county council has 5 residential special schools; Horton Lodge, Saxon Hill, Walton Hall, Cicely Haughton and Loxley Hall. Aiming High funding has enabled the schools to offer a range of additional activities to a wider group of disabled children and young people during school holidays and weekends.

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust at Wolseley Bridge were successful in gaining an Aiming High grant as part of our aim to encourage outdoor play for disabled children. This will allow Staffordshire Wildlife Trust to install a range of features including a paddling ford, shelter building area, balancing beams and wild play trail. All of the features will be designed to be accessible to all children. Many of the features have a sensory element encouraging children to run, jump, splash, build using natural materials, feel different textures, hide and explore.



Beacon Park

Aiming High funding will also contribute to Lichfield District Council's plans to provide inclusive play opportunities in Beacon Park with the development of an accessible café, fully accessible disabled toilets and changing facilities.

Quick Accessible Support

Parents told us that sometimes they just need a bit of one-off help. In response we developed a scheme where a professional working with a disabled child or young person who has a Common Assessment Framework (CAF) can access short term funding to meet a specific need that cannot otherwise be met. Disabled children and young people with a CAF have been able to access additional resources.

This included:

- Leisure activities for children with disabilities
- A piece of equipment to support a disabled child's access to activities
- Recreational activities that cannot be funded from elsewhere
- Transport that enabled a child or young person to access activities.

Nearly 100 children have been supported through the project and it will continue until 31 March 2011.

Aiming High Family Fun Days

Since February, we have held four Family Fun Days for disabled children and their families where we gathered the views of parents on Aiming High and gave families the chance to take part in some fun activities including African drumming, circus skills, dance, canoeing, football and climbing.

Parents were very positive about the days:

"I attended with my daughters and we all thoroughly enjoyed it. It was really well organised ...and all my daughters kept saying was "When can we go again!" "

"Thank you for giving us the opportunity to have a day with all the family, where just this once all the children were totally included... It was a very special day for us."



The G8way Project

This spring we have appointed seven community based workers to work across the county. They will support families of disabled children and young people within each district to access short break and other activities in their community. They will become a source of information on local activities, network with service providers, voluntary and community organisations and parent groups and promote the inclusion of disabled children in mainstream community based activities and may organise 'one off' local events for families of disabled children. Above all they will listen to parents and children and feed back information to the Aiming High programme.

You can contact the G8way Project at g8way@staffordshire.gov.uk or by calling 0800 0930414

Aiming High Parent Participation Service

We want to make sure parents and carers are at the heart of any Aiming High developments so we are funding a Parent Participation Service. The service will be run by the Parent Partnership Service.

More than 50 parents and carers came to events held in May 2010 to find out more about the service and how they might become involved to make a difference. The service will develop an Aiming High Parent and Carer Board. The Board will link with other parent support groups to ensure as many views as possible are represented at meetings. The Parent Participation Service are currently recruiting parent representatives to sit on the Board.

Look out too for the new e-forum where parents can post questions, begin discussions, voice concerns and support each other. Issues that arise will be included on the agendas for the Parent Board to discuss. Please visit www.aiminghighforumstaffs.co.uk to see the new site.

If you would like more information, or to find out how you can get involved, phone 01785 356919 or email spps@staffordshire.gov.uk





Mark Fosbrook, Aiming High Sports and Activities Officer

You may have met Mark as he gets to know individuals, parents, coaches and people who work with disabled children and young people across the county. He started work in January 2010 to promote disabled children and young people's access to sport and activities.

Mark says: "I am a double below-knee amputee with congenital deformities to my hands. Basically I have two fingers on each hand and no feet or ankles. This was a condition I was born with and has an official name of Ectrodactyl.

"Having this disability has in no way stopped me from achieving my goals. I found sport at a young age and soon realised that I could use it to show that my disability did not affect me. I went through mainstream education and faced numerous challenges, but I used sport as my motivator. In the past I have managed fitness clubs, run a sports department at a Specialist college and been the Performance Manager for the Great Britain Wheelchair Rugby Squad.

"I am now really looking forward to developing opportunities for disabled children and young people throughout Staffordshire."

Mark is developing the disability section of the Sport Across Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent (SASSOT) website www.sportacrossstaffordshire.co.uk so it will be a one-stop shop for all disability sport information. He is supporting coaches, volunteers and teachers to have the appropriate skills to work with children and young people with disabilities. Mark is working with sports clubs to enable them to become more inclusive and setting up some multi sport clubs.

Mark is also planning three 'Reach For It' family Fun Days after the summer holidays. Each day will have a sport and activities focus.

To find out more about Mark's work, or to sign up for his new Disability – E Newsletter contact him on 01785 619398 or mfosbrook@staffordbc.gov.uk

Aiming High invests in Outdoor Education

Aiming High has been investing in the county council's four Outdoor Education Centres to increase the accessibility of activities for disabled children and young people. At the Standon Bowers centre many of the activity areas have been made more accessible with pathways constructed to and from the building and the ground around the climbing wall resurfaced to allow access for all. At the Chasewater centre there is now ramp access to the 'mess deck' and new disabled access washroom and shower facilities. We are also planning to improve the facilities and enable greater access throughout the buildings at the Laches Wood centre and a significant new development is at the planning stage for the Shugborough centre.

Beyond the centres there has also been welcome investment in outdoor activity equipment that can be taken out to schools and the wider community. We hope you will see the accessible 'Rock'n'road' mobile climbing wall at one of the many planned Aiming High events.



What's Coming Up?

Staffordshire's five residential Special Schools and four Outdoor Education Centres have grouped together to form hubs across the county. The hubs will provide short breaks during the evening, weekends and school holidays targeted at specific groups of children with disabilities.

Each hub offers activities from arts and crafts to climbing and outdoor activities; the hubs have considerable expertise in working with disabled children and young people.

Activities are available to children and young people attending special and mainstream schools in the hub area or living in the area. In order to reach as many disabled children and young people as possible some of the activities are targeted at specific groups of children and young people with particular disabilities. These children and young people have been identified and invited to participate through education databases, so you may well receive an invitation to your home address. However, if places are available they will be offered out more widely. Events include activity day trips and overnight stays.

For up to date information get in touch with the Hub Contact detailed below or contact the G8way team. Details will also be available at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/disabledchildren or www.youfind.me.uk

Hub based short break activities Newcastle and Moorlands Hub

Provider: Cicely Haughton Residential Special School

Target Group: Children and young people with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties (BESD)

Venue: Cicely Haughton Residential Special School

Contact: Head of Care, Karen Rutter or Headteacher

Email: office@cicelyhaughton.staffs.sch.uk

Address: Cicely Haughton Residential Special School, Westwood Manor, Mill Lane, Wetley Rocks, Stoke-on-Trent, ST9 0BX

Tel: 01782 550202

Provider: Horton Lodge Residential Special School

Target Group: Primary and Secondary aged children and young people with physical disabilities

Venue: Horton Lodge and Standon Bowers Outdoor Education Centre

Contact: Headteacher, Ruth Zimmerman

Email: office@hortonlodge.staffs.sch.uk

Address: Horton Lodge Residential Special School, Rudyard, Leek, Staffs, ST13 8RB

Tel: 01538 306214

Provider: Standon Bowers Outdoor Education Centre

Target Group: Children and young people with hearing impairments and visual impairments

Venue: Standon Bowers Outdoor Education Centre

Contact: Chris Dillon, Head of Outdoor Education

Email: chris.dillon@staffordshire.gov.uk

Address: Standon Bowers Outdoor Education Centre, Standon, Stafford, Staffs, ST21 6RD

Tel: 01782 791422

East Staffordshire and Tamworth Hub

Provider: Loxley Hall Residential Special School

Target Group: Children and young people with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties

Venue: Outdoor Education Centres across Staffordshire

Contact: Head of Care, Peter Hogg or Headteacher

Email: office@loxleyhall.staffs.sch.uk

Address: Loxley Hall Residential Special School, Stafford Road, Uttoxeter, Staffs, ST14 8RS

Tel: 01889 256390

Stafford and South Staffordshire Hub

Provider: Shugborough Outdoor Education Centre

Target Group: Primary aged children with moderate learning difficulties, primary aged children with behavioural emotional and social disorders attending mainstream schools, children and young people with autistic spectrum disorders

Venue: Shugborough Outdoor Education Centre

Contact: Chris Dillon, Head of Outdoor Education Centres

Email: chris.dillon@staffordshire.gov.uk

Address: Shugborough Outdoor Education Centre, Shugborough Park, Stafford, Staffs, ST17 0XA

Tel: 01782 791422

Provider: Walton Hall Residential Special School

Target Group: Children and young people with moderate and severe learning difficulties

Venue: Walton Hall Residential Special School

Contact: Head of Care, Carol Hart or Headteacher

Email: office@waltonhall.staffs.sch.uk

Address: Walton Hall Residential Special School, Stafford Road, Eccleshall, Stafford, Staffs, ST21 6JR

Tel: 01785 850420

Cannock and Lichfield Hub

Provider: Saxon Hill Residential Special School

Target Group: Children and young people with profound and multiple learning disabilities, children and young people with physical disabilities.

Venue: Outdoor Education Centres across Staffordshire

Contact: Head of Care, Kim Thomas or Headteacher

Email: office@saxonhill.staffs.sch.uk

Address: Saxon Hill Residential Special School, Kings Hill Road, Lichfield, Staffs, WS14 9DE

Tel: 01543 414892

Provider: Laches Wood Outdoor Education Centre

Target Group: Children and young people with autistic spectrum disorders, severe learning disabilities, physical disabilities

Venue: Laches Wood Outdoor Education Centre

Contact: Chris Dillon, Head of Outdoor Education, Education Centre

Email: chris.dillon@staffordshire.gov.uk

Address: Laches Wood Outdoor Education Centre, Laches Lane, Slade Heath, Wolverhampton, WV10 7PA

Tel: 01782 791422

Community Based Short Break Activities

To book on the following activities contact the organisations directly using the contact details provided.

Activity: Cricket sessions

Venue: Newcastle, Leek and East Staffordshire

When: Half day sessions during the summer holidays

Cricket club and coaching sessions for disabled children and young people and their siblings.

Provider: Staffordshire Cricket Board

Contact: Alison Grimley

Mobile: 07708129643

Email: alison.grimley@ecb.co.uk

Activity: Stay and Play Club for children with autistic spectrum disorder

Venue: Littleworth Community Centre, St Thomas Street, Stafford, Staffs

When: Two Saturdays a month during term time - 10.30 – 12.30pm. Plus activities in the school holidays.

Play based and sensory activities for children aged 3-12 years and their siblings, and friends. Activities include bouncy castle, ball pool, bikes & cart, climbing frame, sensory room, arts & crafts, LEGO groups and social eyes. Also a chance for parents and carers to meet up. Families can access the club by drop in.

Provider: National Autistic Society

Contact: Drop in sessions or for more information contact:

Tel: Mandy Binns - 07789 032153/Ruth Howard - 07500 089529

Email: stafford@nas.org.uk / ruth.howard@nas.org.uk

Activity: Youth Club for young people aged 11-16 years with autistic spectrum disorder

Venue: Littleworth Community Centre, St Thomas Road, Stafford, Staffs

When: Two Saturdays a month during term time

Youth club offering a range of activities within the community centre and accessing activities in the community e.g. cooking, bowling, archery, woodcrafts, cinema.

Provider: National Autistic Society

Contact: Mandy Binns/Ruth Howard

Tel: Mandy Binns - 07789 032153/Ruth Howard - 07500 089529

Email: stafford@nas.org.uk / ruth.howard@nas.org.uk

Activity: Football coaching programme for disabled children and young people

Venue: Sessions across the County

When: After school clubs, school holiday activities and weekend trips

Football coaching, football activities, disabled football clubs and match day experiences with trips for the whole family to football clubs.

Provider: Staffordshire Football Association

Contact: Matt Hancock

Tel: 07816 536450

Email: matt.hancock@staffordshirefa.com

Website: www.staffordshirefa.com

Activity: Wheelchair football sessions

Venue: Blackfriars Special School, Newcastle and Shobnall Leisure Complex, Burton

When: After school clubs, school holiday activities and weekend trips

Football coaching, soccer schools, wheelchair football clubs and match day experiences with trips for the whole family to football clubs.

Provider: Staffordshire Football Association

Contact: Matt Hancock

Tel: 07816 536450

Email: matt.hancock@staffordshirefa.com

Website: www.staffordshirefa.com

Activity: Range of activity days, holiday and weekend clubs

Venue: Cannock Chase

When: After-school, holiday and weekend clubs taking place throughout the year.

Part of the 'Chase it' programme. Offering arts and sports based sessions and daytrips.

Provider: Cannock Chase Council

Contact: Deborah Pearce, Community Recreation Booking Officer

Tel: 01543 464379

Mobile: 07973 933698

Email: deborahpearce@cannockchasedc.gov.uk

Activity: Youth club for teenagers with life limiting conditions

Venue: The Donna Louise Children's Hospice Trust, 1 Grace Road, Trentham, Stoke on Trent

When: Monthly youth club for young people to get together and try a range of activities e.g. crafts, drama, cookery, computer games, and music. Plus residential and trips out. Transport can be provided.

Provider: The Donna Louise Children's Hospice Trust

Contact: Jane Jones

Tel: 01782 654440

Email: jane.jones@donnalouisetrust.org

Activity: Day trips out

Venue: Staffordshire Moorlands

When: During the summer holidays

A range of day trips out for the whole family in the summer holidays.

Provider: Special Matters

Contact: Faith Asplin

Mobile: 07966 053040

Email: special.matters@staffordshire.gov.uk

Website: www.specialmatters.co.uk

Activity: Arts Club

Venue: Walton Hall Special School, Near Stafford and Blackfriars FE College, Bucknall, Stoke on Trent.

When: Saturdays mornings, during term time, 9:30-12:30

A choice of different arts activities on offer each week for children and young people aged 5-18 - including dance, drama, singing, film making, animation, music, visual art, painting, photography, sculpture, ceramics, costume making, crafts, design and printing.

Provider: FRONTLINEdance Ltd.

Contact: Rachael Lines

Tel: 01782 826588

Email: rachael@frontlinedance.org.uk

Website: www.frontlinedance.org.uk

Activity: Range of fun activities e.g. arts and crafts, swimming, clubs and trips out

Venue: Cannock Chase, Lichfield, Tamworth, Burton and Uttoxeter

When: After school clubs, weekend activities and holiday clubs

- Range of trips out on a Saturday 10am-3pm e.g. bowling, visits to farms, parks, cinema
- Swimming lessons for children with physical, sensory or learning difficulties
- After school club at Rocklands School, Lichfield Wednesdays 5pm-8pm- arts and crafts, drama and music, plus opportunities for children with complex needs to use sensory resources
- Teen club for 12-18 year olds after school on a Wednesday, 6-10pm
- Family outings
- Taster sports workshops

Provider: Staffordshire Shared Care

Contact: Beth Ashby

Tel: 01543 510143

Activity: Activity days for children and young people with autistic spectrum disorders and their families

Venue: Outdoor Education Centres across Staffordshire

When: Weekends and school holidays, throughout the year

Activity days for children and young people with autistic spectrum disorders and their families at one of the Staffordshire Outdoor Centres across Staffordshire. Families will get to try out a range and choice of outdoor activities.

Provider: Staffordshire Outdoor Education Centres

Contact: Chris Dillon

Tel: 01785 791422

Email: chris.dillon@staffordshire.gov.uk

Activity: 'Reach for it' family days

Venue: Tamworth, Newcastle and East Staffordshire

When: From September 2010

Three 'Reach for It' family days with a focus on sport and leisure activities. Opportunities to try out new activities as a family. Local clubs available to provide information on activities locally.

Provider: Sport Across Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent

Contact: Mark Fosbrook

Tel: 01785 619398

Email: mfosbrook@staffordbc.gov.uk

Website: www.sportacrossstaffordshire.co.uk

Support Service

Activity: Sitting service and mentoring service

Venue: Across the county

When: Throughout the year

A sitting service within the family home plus a mentoring support service, for children and young people aged 0-18 years across Staffordshire. Access to these services will be via a social work or other professional assessment and approval by Disability Social Work Team Manager.

Provider: Staffordshire Shared Care

Contact: Rose Tomlinson/Jane Townsend

Address: The Old Library, Bird Street, Lichfield, Staffs, WS13 6PN

Tel: 01543 510143

Participation and Engagement Activities

Activity: Children and Young People Participation Activities

Venue: Cannock Resource Centre, Hawthorns and Staffordshire Shared Care

When: Throughout the year

Gaining the views of disabled children and young people attending the above venues through digital media and animation activities.

Provider: Letting in the Light

Contact: Sarah Bonam

Tel: 01782 714776

Email: sarah@lettinginthelight.org.uk

Website: www.lettinginthelight.org.uk

Training for Parents and Carers and Professionals

Activity: 'Time2Sleep' workshops and one to one support for families with sleep disorders

Venue: Across the county

When: July 2010 - Nov 2010

Workshops for parents and carers and professionals on sleep disorders to increase knowledge and skills by providing tips, strategies & resources to try at home. Plus parent support groups and one to one support to families who require more individualised guidance on sleep disorders.

Provider: SCOPE's Sleep Solutions

Contact: Karen Hunt / Vicki

Tel: 01432 355308 / 07714853763

Email: karen.hunt@scope.org.uk / vicki@face2facenetwork.org.uk

Activity: Training sessions to provide the skills and knowledge to deliver football training to disabled children and young people

Venue: Venues across the county

Training sessions with parents and carers, volunteers and coaches to provide the skills to run football training and activities to disabled children and young people.

When: Dates throughout the year

Provider: Staffordshire Football Association

Contact: Matt Hancock

Tel: 07816 536450

Email: matt.hancock@staffordshirefa.com



Further information:

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/disabledchildren

Contact:

aiminghigh@staffordshire.gov.uk