

West Berkshire SEND Local Offer Newsletter Spring 2022



Welcome

A message from the Family Information and Local Offer team:

Thank you for taking a moment to read through our latest SEN Newsletter – I hope you'll find lots of information on local services, groups, and activities.

We've been working hard to try and improve our What's On page on the Directory; you can check it out here:

https://directory.westberks.gov.uk/kb5/westberkshire/directory/whats_on.page

and our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/West-Berkshire-Family-Information-and-Local-Offer-Service>

If you have any one-off events or activities that you think would be relevant to either (or both!) our What's On page or Facebook page, please let us know! You can email the details to:

Fis@westberks.gov.uk

If you have a regularly running weekly or bi-weekly group or activity, we'd encourage you to complete a record for the Directory, so this can be added to our rolling calendar. You can register for a record via the Directory homepage

<https://directory.westberks.gov.uk/kb5/westberkshire/directory/home.page>

Thanks, and happy reading!

A message from the SEN team at West Berkshire Council:

“The West Berkshire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy sets out a vision for how West Berkshire can achieve “right support [...] at the right time” for all children and young people with SEND. Originally written in 2018, the West Berkshire SEND Strategy highlighted five core strategic objectives to achieve this:

- Support early years settings and mainstream schools to improve inclusion and educational outcomes for children with SEND
- Develop a continuum of local provision to meet the needs of children with SEND (including autistic spectrum disorder [ASD] and social, emotional and mental, health difficulties [SEMH])
- Enable children and young people with SEND to enjoy good physical and mental health and wellbeing
- Improve post 16, education, learning, employment and training
- Develop positive transitions for young people with SEND to enable them to prepare for adulthood

Over the last few years, the council has been able to progress a number of actions in its Strategy action plan which have had a positive impact on the lives of children and young people with SEND.

- We have developed a document entitled “Provision for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in West Berkshire schools”. As well as setting out pathways of support for practitioners in schools working with children and young people with SEND, this document also highlights what support schools are ordinarily expected to provide. A training directory and Autism toolkit have also been written.
- The Therapeutic Thinking Strategy and Support Team have been in place for some time now. We believe this has had a positive impact in reducing the number of exclusions locally. Work is now beginning to review the Therapeutic Thinking Strategy to continue to drive this agenda forward.
- Very comprehensive guidance has been

written and shared setting out a graduated approach to managing the needs of Emotionally Based School Avoidance learners. A professionals EBSA forum has also been established to monitor cases and provide a space for joint problem solving.

- Autism Advisory Team Co-ordinator post and two Higher Level Teaching Assistant posts have been recruited to within the Autism Team.
- Route to Recruit and Wow+ provision has been successful– offering young people with SEND supported internships.
- Newbury College worked closely with partners to redesign provision for SEND learners from Sept 20.

In the wake of the pandemic, West Berkshire council has continued to address the priorities highlighted in the Strategy.

- Planned Social Emotional Mental Health Provision for Secondary aged children is under development. A partner school has been identified along with a potential site. We plan to take our first cohort in September 2022.
- School age and Early Years toolkits for professionals are under review as part of some wider revisions to the Local Offer website.
- A Transition to Adulthood booklet and guidance under development for families.”

Jack Caine

SEND Strategy Officer

Swings & Smiles

- Proudly Supporting Disabled Children and their Families

Swings & Smiles provides specialist support for disabled children and their families. We operate from our unique and accessible centre in Berkshire, as well as through our Outreach service to schools, groups and individuals. In 2021 Swings & Smiles provided over 7251 hours of support to disabled children and their family members.

From our centre we offer family play and respite sessions for disabled children after school, at weekends and during school holidays. Children with a range of disabilities are able to attend these sessions and take part in lots of fun activities with our experienced staff. The centre is fully accessible with a large sensory room and a brilliant garden including a wheelchair accessible swing, trampoline and slide.

We also offer 4 youth clubs a week, 3 for children who attend mainstream schools and 1 for children who attend a special needs school or unit. These groups are for children and young people aged 8-19 years old and are a great opportunity to socialise with peers benefiting from the support of our staff. Our timetable also includes sessions for children under 5, and support for parents too.

We run 7 fun-filled sessions a month dedicated to children who have a sibling with special needs, meeting in different age groups starting from children in year 1. This is a chance for siblings to meet other children who understand their situation. In 2021, Swings & Smiles provided 916 hours of support to siblings through these sessions, as well as our five-week sibling support course which is run in schools.

As well as everything on offer at the centre, Swings & Smiles also delivers sessions in the community. The joy of Swings & Smiles gets taken out and about to schools, groups and individuals and those who may not be able to make it to the centre. Our Outreach service is free of charge within a 40 mile radius.

If you're interested in visiting Swings & Smiles or would like to find out more, you can visit our website www.swingsandsmiles.co.uk or get in touch on 01635 285170 or office@swingsandsmiles.co.uk



March at Swings & Smiles

All sessions must be booked in advance by calling **01635 285170** or emailing **office@swingsandsmiles.co.uk**.
If it's your first time visiting please get in touch for a registration form and we'll let you know which sessions are right for you and your family.



swingsandsmiles.co.uk

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday																								
1st March After School Club 3.30 - 6pm	2nd March Minis with Dingley's Promise 9.30 - 11.30am After School Club 3.30 - 5.30pm	3rd March Mini Spec 4.30 - 6pm Spectrum 6.15 - 7.45pm	4th March Family Play 3.30 - 5.30pm Youth Club 6 - 7.30pm Older SIBSupport 6 - 7.30pm	5th March SIBSupport SPARK 9.30 - 11am 11.30 - 1pm 1.30 - 3pm	6th March Family Play 10 - 12pm	7th March After School Club 3.30 - 5.30pm Oasis 6.30 - 8pm	8th March After School Club 3.30 - 6pm	9th March Minis with Dingley's Promise 9.30 - 11.30am After School Club 3.30 - 5.30pm	10th March Mini Spec 4.30 - 6pm Spectrum 6.15 - 7.45pm	11th March Family Play 3.30 - 5.30pm Youth Club 6 - 7.30pm	12th March Family Play 10 - 12pm Respite 1 - 4pm	13th March Family Play 10 - 12pm	14th March After School Club 3.30 - 5.30pm Oasis 6.30 - 8pm	15th March After School Club 3.30 - 6pm	16th March Minis with Dingley's Promise 9.30 - 11.30am After School Club 3.30 - 5.30pm	17th March Mini Spec 4.30 - 6pm Spectrum 6.15 - 7.45pm	18th March Family Play 3.30 - 5.30pm Youth Club 6 - 7.30pm	19th March SIBSupport 9.30 - 11am 11.30 - 1pm Abingdon Outreach 2 - 4pm	20th March Family Play 10 - 12pm	21st March After School Club 3.30 - 5.30pm Oasis 6.30 - 8pm	22nd March After School Club 3.30 - 6pm	23rd March Minis with Dingley's Promise 9.30 - 11.30am After School Club 3.30 - 5.30pm	24th March Mini Spec 4.30 - 6pm Spectrum 6.15 - 7.45pm	25th March Family Play 3.30 - 5.30pm Youth Club 6 - 7.30pm	26th March Respite 10 - 3pm	27th March Family Play 10 - 12pm	28th March After School Club 3.30 - 5.30pm Oasis 6.30 - 8pm	29th March After School Club 3.30 - 6pm	30th March Minis with Dingley's Promise 9.30 - 11.30am After School Club 3.30 - 5.30pm	31st March Mini Spec 4.30 - 6pm Spectrum 6.15 - 7.45pm



Please visit our website for the prices and more information on each of the sessions www.swingsandsmiles.co.uk

Registered Charity Number 1120598



On Friday 22nd April
Time 10-12pm & 1-3pm
At Swings & Smiles,
Lower Way, Thatcham,
RG19 3RR

Joint Events at Swings & Smiles

We're holding two fun-filled joint sessions at Swing & Smiles this April, with Dingley's Promise, the West Berkshire Autism Team, PALS, The Watermill and West Berkshire Mencap all joining us!

These sessions are suitable for any child with special needs and will take place at our fully accessible centre. Siblings are welcome and the sessions will cost £5 per family. You will have access to all of our indoor equipment, our sensory room and our garden, and there will be fun activities running too.

Please make sure you book in advance by emailing office@swingsandsmiles.co.uk. If you feel you need to attend a quieter session, please let us know and we'll let you know which would be best for your family.



Registered Charity Number 1120598

Parenting Special Children Upcoming events

Please follow the links
for booking and information:



Autistic/ADHD Girls Monthly Workshop & Support Group:

Thursday 24th March, 7pm. For parents/carers.

Information and booking link:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/autisticadhd-girls-monthly-workshop-support-group-registration-289363252277

Let's Get Creative! Adopted Children (Age 5 -12):

Saturday 2nd April, 10am.

Information and booking link:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lets-get-creative-adopted-children-age-5-12-registration-269209461747

The Adoptive Mums Support Group also runs during this session.

Let's Get Creative! Kinship Families (Age 5 -12):

Saturday 2nd April, 12:30pm.

Information and booking link:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lets-get-creative-kinship-families-age-5-12-registration-269215118667

Dads and Male Carers Support Group:

Monday 4th April, 7.30pm. Bookings will open soon.

Supporting Neurodiverse Learners (Autism and ADHD) in the Classroom:

Wednesday 6th April, 10am. For secondary school staff.

Information and booking link:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/supporting-neurodiverse-learners-autism-and-adhd-in-the-classroom-registration-264193067577

Challenges for Children Affected by Alcohol During Pregnancy:

Wednesday 6th April, 10am. For parents/carers.

Information and booking link:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/challenges-for-children-affected-by-alcohol-during-pregnancy-parentcarers-registration-266711159257

Autistic/ADHD Girls Monthly Workshop & Support Group:

Thursday 28th April, 7pm. For parents/carers and girls age 11+. Bookings will open soon.

Pre and Post Assessment ADHD - 3 linked workshops:~

Thursday 5th, 12th and 19th May, 7pm. For families registered with a Berkshire West NHS GP surgery.

Bookings will open soon.

Sleep Well Workshop (Trauma Informed):

Friday 6th May, 10am. For parents/carers. Bookings will open soon.

Dads and Male Carers Support Group:

Monday 9th May, 7.30pm. Bookings will open soon.

ADHD and Medication - Two linked workshops:

Wednesday 11th & 18th May, 7pm. For parents/carers.

Information and booking link: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/adhd-and-medication-registration-255099829457

Sleep for Parents/Carers of Children & Young People with Additional Needs:

Friday 13th May, 10am. For parents/carers of children who live, or attend a school, in the West Berkshire Council area. Bookings will open soon.

Managing Sexualised Behaviours in Autistic Children:

Tuesday 24th May, 10am. For professionals who care for, or work with, autistic children and young people.

Information and booking link: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/managing-sexualised-behaviours-in-autistic-children-professionals-registration-252041642337

Dads and Male Carers Support Group:

Monday 6th June, 7.30pm. Bookings will open soon.

Pre and Post Assessment ADHD - 3 linked workshops:

Thursday 10th, 16th and 23rd June, 7pm. For families registered with a Berkshire West NHS GP surgery. Bookings will open soon.

Helping Neurodivergent children and young people to thrive:

Monday 13th June, 10am. For professionals working with neurodivergent children and young people. Bookings will open soon.

Interoception Workshop:

Monday 13th June, 7pm. For parents/carers. Bookings will open soon.

Supporting Children with Trauma/Insecure Attachment at School:

Thursday 23rd June, 1pm. Two linked workshops for professionals.

Information and booking link: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/supporting-children-with-traumainsecure-attachment-at-school-professionals-registration-250272901987

Dads and Male Carers Support Group:

Monday 4th July, 7.30pm. Bookings will open soon.

Sleep for Parents/Carers of Children & Young People with Autism or ADHD:

Monday 11th July, 7pm. For families registered with a Berkshire West NHS GP surgery.

Information and booking link: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sleep-for-parentscarers-of-cyp-with-autism-or-adhd-berkshire-west-registration-223923811147

Dads and Male Carers Support Group:

Monday 8th August, 7.30pm. Bookings will open soon.

For further details on events and booking information please visit the Parenting Special Children website: [Home Page - PSC \(parentingspecialchildren.co.uk\)](http://parentingspecialchildren.co.uk)

Support Services



West Berkshire

Family Groups are a safe space to come along and bring your child/children. It is a friendly and supportive toddler group where you can meet other parents and have fun.

They are held weekly, term-time only:
Monday 10.30-12.30 - Calcot
Tuesday 10.30-12.30 Greenham
Wednesday 10.30-12.30 Newbury

Our volunteers can come and support you in your own home. Our trained volunteers can help you to:

- Help get advice on debt and budgeting
- Help you to get organised with your paperwork and in the home
- Get into routines
- Play with the children
- Support good mental health
- Help you to get out of the house



If you have been experiencing low mood since the birth of your child we have a Perinatal Peer Support Group where you can meet mums who feel just like you. Our kind and supportive group runs weekly, term-time only:

Tuesdays 10.30-12.30 Newbury
Thursdays 10.30-12.30 Thatcham

If you have a child under the age of 11 and you are struggling to manage your child's behaviours, we have a specialist support worker who can provide 6 sessions to reduce conflict within the home. Your child may be awaiting a diagnosis or they might be finding life difficult after a traumatic experience. Contact us to find out more.

If you are a family wishing to be supported please email us: office@home-startwb.org.uk If you are a professional wishing to refer a family, please download our referral form at www.home-startwestberks/referrals

Chance to Dance Stars CIC
Dance and Movement Class
Fortnightly Sunday Sessions



Venue Beansheaf
Community Centre,
Reading, RG31 7AW

Subscription Payment
£14.00 a month



Time
9am till 9.40am
Ages 3 years upwards

Booking: chance-to-dance.class4kids.co.uk

Contact Vicky: 07736343570 or sendanceclub@hotmail.com

Website: www.sendaclub.co.uk

SEND Local Offer Short Breaks with Chance to Dance Stars CIC

Schedule of the Day (27th February is 9am till 1pm due to hall commitments)

10am Arrive
 10.15am till 11.15am Surprise Activity chosen by the students each week
 11.15am Morning Snack and Hygiene
 11.30am till 12.30pm Kids Zumba, Generation Pound and Yoga
 12.30pm Lunch
 1pm till 1.50pm Singing
 2pm Home



Booking

chance-to-dance.class4kids.co.uk/camp/17

Facebook: @C2DStars

Email: sendanceclub@hotmail.com

Call/Text: 07736343570

If your child requires 1:1 support please contact Chance to Dance Stars CIC before booking

Dates

20th February

27th February

6th March

13th March

27th March

3rd April

Venue

Beansheaf Community Centre

RG 31 7AW



Costing

£10 for Reading Borough Council Residents

£20 for Everyone who lives outside of RBC

Funding has been provided by Brighter Futures for Children

Kyle had the BEST time!!! These pictures are fabulous!!! Thanks so much to you all!!! See you next week!! Natasha & Kyle-Parent Reference

Easter Holiday Camp with Chance to Dance Stars CIC

Schedule of the Day

10am Arrive
 10.30am Sports
 11.30am Snack/Hygiene
 11.45am Dance
 12.45pm Lunch and Outside Play
 2pm Messy/Sensory Play

2.45pm Snack and Hygiene
 3pm Kids Zumba, Generation Pound and Yoga

Booking

chance-to-dance.class4kids.co.uk/camp/18

Facebook: @C2DStars

Email: sendanceclub@hotmail.com

Call/Text: 07736343570

If your child requires 1:1 support please contact Chance to Dance Stars CIC before booking



Costing

£25 for Bracknell Forest Council Residents

£30 for Everyone who lives outside of RBC

Funding has been provided by Bracknell Forest Council

Thanks a million for these wonderful sessions! Kyle's looking forward to the next lot! And I got tonnes of work done while you had him! So mummy and boy very happy indeed! - parent review.

Dates

Monday 4th to Wednesday

6th April 2022

Venue

Carnation Hall, Bracknell,

RG42 7PA



OPEN DAY

MONDAY 2ND MAY 2022

We are delighted to once again invite you to our Open Day - this year back to its normal time and 'in person'! Come and see for yourself why Mary Hare offers so much to deaf children and young people.

Go to our website to book your place now:

www.maryhare.org.uk/admissions/events-open-days



*Securing the future of
deaf children and young people*