



FAMILIES INFOCUS (ESSEX) E-BULLETIN

APRIL 2017 ISSUE



LOTTERY FUNDED **Big Lottery Funding Success**

We are delighted to announce that we have been successful with our Big Lottery Bid.

We have been awarded three year funding of £331,185 for the continuation of our Family Support Project across Essex, which aims to provide specialist, independent and person-led support to any Essex parent, carer or family that has a child or young person with any special educational need or disability.

Rachel Ellis, our CEO said

“We are absolutely thrilled to have been awarded three year funding from the Big Lottery, Reaching Communities Fund for our Family Support project across Essex.

As we also celebrate our 20th anniversary, it is a huge relief to know that we have a continued secure financial footing to go forward, so that we can carry on making the difference that matters for even more families with children and young people with any special educational need or disability”.

THE NEXT BRAINTREE DROP IN MORNING

Come and join us and other parents for a chat, a therapist will be offering free treatment and a trained Family Support Adviser will be on hand to discuss any queries you may have. Pre-school children welcome.

BRAINTREE: Alec Hunter Academy Learning village, Stubbs Lane, Braintree, CM7 3NR.

Date: **10TH May 2017**

Time: 10am – 12noon

JOB VACANCIES

Exciting new opportunities to join the team at Families InFocus (Essex). We are recruiting for the following positions:

- **FAMILY SUPPORT ADVISER**
- **37 hours per week, Salary £23,166 - £24,717 pa**

Experienced practitioner to provide quality information, advice, and practical/emotional support to families/young people including disability related benefits, education and reforms, health and social care.

- **HELPLINE CO-ORDINATOR**
- **18 hours per week, across 3 days, Salary FTE £20,456 - £22,434 pa**
- **Fixed term 12 month contract**

New post to provide a more streamlined service to meet increasing demand and complex enquiries. The post-holder will assist with answering telephone and email enquiries, providing gateway assessment for new referrals, and co-ordinating responses to the most appropriate level of intervention/support.

To apply for either post please visit our website:

<http://www.familiesinfocussessex.org.uk/volunteers/>

CLOSING DATE: 21st April 2017 at 3pm

INTERVIEWS to be held: 2nd to 4th May 2017



Kidzspace Events

Activities for the siblings aged 8+ living with a child who has a disability or special need.

Date: Saturday 1st July 2017

Event: Trampolining and Basketball

Where: Riverside Ice & Leisure Centre (Chelmsford)

Time: 1.00pm – 3.15pm

Cost: £7.00

To book a place please contact Jo:

helpline@familiesinfocussessex.org.uk

Or telephone: 01245 353575



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ACTIVITY CLUB

At Chelmsford Sport & Athletics Centre
Salerno Way, Chelmsford, CM1 2EH

SPRING PARTY

22nd April 2017

3.30pm to 5.30pm

£2.50 per child

Play activities for children with disability or special needs
and siblings, accompanied by their parent carers.

**TRAMPOLINE, GYMNASTICS, ENTERTAINER, ARTS &
CRAFTS**

RAFFLE AND REFRESHMENTS

Nice airy, secure and friendly environment

Meet new friends, relax, and chat to other parent carers

Booking essential - contact

helpline@familiesinfocussessex.org.uk

or telephone 01245 353575

INFORMATION AND USEFUL WEBSITES

We are aware of the difficulties some people are having with PIP claims, please find below a useful link to:

Contact a Family PIP guides for over 16's:

www.cafamily.org.uk/media/1039341/pip_guide.pdf

Also guidance on all disability related benefits:

www.benefitsandwork.co.uk

If you are getting the middle rate care part of DLA for your child, you may be entitled to apply for a grant from the Family Fund:

www.familyfund.org.uk

We also have a supply of forms available please contact us: Tel: 01245 353575.

ESSEX SHORT BREAKS, CLUBS & ACTIVITIES ONLINE SURVEY:

Online survey available for parent/carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities who live in Essex. Opportunity to provide information that will be used to shape future clubs and activities for children and young people.

To take part in the survey please visit:

<http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/OB4EI/>

Apex Parent Support Group – 5th Anniversary

Meet monthly on Thursdays at:

The Apex, Thriftwood School, Slades Lane,
Chelmsford, CM2 8RW

Join in the celebrations to say a big congratulations and thanks to everyone. Apex goes from strength to strength and supports positively with strategies, information, improved understanding and shared knowledge.

Next Meeting date: 20th April 2017

Time: 10am – 12noon

Refreshments from 9.30am but unable to offer crèche facilities.

For further details and directions contact:

clairejsmith13@gmail.com



**Independent Parental Special
Educational Needs Advice**

IPSEA has recently been awarded funding from the Legal Education Foundation for a post 16-SEN project. The aim of the project is to create some legal resources which will increase public understanding of how SEN law applies to young people aged 16-25, and enable young people and parents to use this law to obtain the right educational support.

A questionnaire has been developed by IPSEA which is centred on:

- Young people or their parent/carers understanding of the support they currently receive
- Understanding of what support is available up to the age of 25
- Where young people or their parent/carers obtain information on SEN support
- How, in the young person's view, information would best be presented

To take part in the survey please visit:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/JSTPYHV>



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FRIENDSHIP GROUP

For boys and girls expecting to start at
BOSWELLS – September 2017

A parent who previously run a Lego Club that was successful in helping to form friendships, would like to talk to parents whose children are due to start at Boswells from September 2017.

The aim of the group is to help children who experience social difficulties to form friendships before starting school. To ensure that the children have a friendship group they know well before the first day of term. Creating less anxiety, less vulnerability.

If you are interested in your child joining the group, please contact:

Karen on mobile number 07548 850770 or email:

constructionclubmates@gmail.com



www.constructionclubmates.org

COLCHESTER MERCURY THEATRE

PRESENTS

PETER PAN

Wednesday 9th August 2017

Time: 6.00 pm

RELAXED PERFORMANCE

Approx. 2 hrs including interval

Tickets: £24-£12 with discounts

To book visit

tickets@mercurytheatre.co.uk

or call 01206 573948

(Mention Families InFocus)

Helping to make a difference

Thank you to all our supporters for their
kind and generous donations

Families InFocus (Essex)

HELPLINE

01245 353575

Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm

Or Email

helpline@familiesinfocusessex.org.uk

WEBSITE

Recently updated please visit and see our new look.

www.familiesinfocusessex.org.uk

FOLLOW US ON



http://www.facebook.com/pages/Families-Infocus-Essex/135545906596117?_rdr



We post up to date information for the Activity Club and all the latest news regarding Families InFocus.

WISHING YOU ALL A VERY

