



FAMILIES INFOCUS (ESSEX) E-BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 2017
ISSUE

We hope that you all had an enjoyable summer break. We are pleased to introduce and welcome our new staff members that have recently joined Families InFocus (Essex).



Theresa Taffurelli joined us in June as a part-time Helpline Coordinator, providing telephone support and advice. Her previous experience working as a pastoral assistant in a secondary school and her many advisory roles in the charity sector

will greatly benefit our charity. Theresa says, "Hopefully too, my experience of having five children and studying for my degree in Education and Childhood Studies as a mature student, enables me to empathise with day to day family life. I am really pleased to have joined the team, learning about the work of Families InFocus and seeing where I can help".



Debra Wood joined us as a Family Support Adviser in July, covering Mid and South Essex. Most recently she worked in an enhanced learning provision for children with challenging behaviour/complex needs, and as a

Learning Mentor, based in Chelmsford and Wickford respectively. With over twelve years' school based experience, she is looking forward to supporting SEND children and their families. Debra says, "It's a challenging, varied role, but I am thoroughly enjoying meeting and working with a diverse range of families".



Martin Baker joins us as an Activity Club coordinator. He started his career as an entertainer and dancer, going to the BRIT school for performing arts. He has worked around the UK in various holiday and theme parks, doing family

entertaining and at kids' and teenage clubs. Most recently, he has been volunteering for Maldon based charity, H.E.L.P organising youth activities from arts and crafts to creative games, sports and problem solving. Martin says, "I hope we can have lots of fun and make the activity club amazing for all the families that visit us each Saturday".

SATURDAY ACTIVITY CLUB

Come along and see the changes we have made following your valuable feedback, meet our newest staff member Martin Baker who has joined us and will be co-ordinating the activities, encouraging the children to take part in new games and challenges. We hope that a more structured approach will encourage more children to join our club and enjoy the facilities on offer, including new toys and games. Open every Saturday 3.30pm to 5.30pm (unless advertised).

COME ALONG AND JOIN IN WITH ALL THE FUN AND GAMES!!!

FAMILIES INFOCUS (ESSEX)

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

ACTIVITY CLUB

Every Saturday

3.30pm to 5.30pm

Closed

23RD and 30TH DECEMBER 2017.

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

TRAMPOLINE, GYMNASTICS, ARTS & CRAFTS, GAMES, TOYS, GO-KARTS AND TRIKES

Nice airy, secure and friendly environment

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

For further information contact

helpline@familiesinfocusessex.org.uk

or telephone 01245 353575





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WE ARE RECRUITING JOB VACANCY

Projects & Communications Assistant
Hours 28-37 per week (flexible)
Salary: FTE £20,456pa to £22,434pa
(Depending on experience)

We are looking to recruit a highly motivated, experienced individual to join the team and provide effective project, communications and administrative support to maintain and develop the efficient running of the charity. The ideal candidate will be an enthusiastic team player with excellent interpersonal, IT, written and verbal communication, analytical and organisational skills with proven experience.

For full details of this role and to apply please visit our website. No CVs please. **Closing Date: 19th September**
<http://www.familiesinfocusessex.org.uk/volunteers/>

BRAINTREE DROP IN

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: **13th September 2017**
Time: 10am – 12noon

BRAINTREE INDULGENCE DAY

For parents/carers of children with SEND
Friday 3RD November 2017
The Alec Hunter Academy Learning Village
Stubbs Lane, Braintree, CM7 3NR
10am to 2pm
Donations welcome
Come along for a day of pampering and lunch
CONTACT JO TO BOOK YOUR SLOT
Email: helpline@familiesinfocusessex.org.uk

INDEPENDENT SUPPORT – EHCP WORKSHOPS FREE SEN INFORMATION SESSION for Essex Parent Carers.

Short relaxed sessions especially for Parent Carers to give **Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)** information, resources and contacts to help you make the right choices for your Son/Daughter. The sessions are written, planned and delivered by a Parent Carer from within the trained Independent Support Team – Families InFocus (Essex) is proud to be the key delivery partner within the Independent Support Project for Essex.

Scheduled Dates:

- 12/09/2017 EHCP WORKSHOP COLCHESTER - Evening
- 20/09/2017 EHCP WORKSHOP HARLOW
- 26/09/2017 EHCP WORKSHOP CHELMSFORD
- 04/10/2017 EHCP WORKSHOP RAYLEIGH
- 24/10/2017 EHCP WORKSHOP PITSEA - Evening
- 01/11/2017 EHCP WORKSHOP EPPING
- 14/11/2017 EHCP WORKSHOP CLACTON
- 15/11/2017 EHCP WORKSHOP CHELMSFORD
- 22/11/2017 EHCP WORKSHOP HARLOW
- 28/11/2017 EHCP WORKSHOP COLCHESTER

Reserve your place(s) online here:

<http://interactchelmsford.wufoo.com/forms/s198xqw50592o77/>

Alternatively, if you cannot make any of the above dates/venues or would like more information please call Sarah on the EHCP Helpline: **01245 608300** or email info@isessex.org.

If you are on Facebook you may also wish to look at the Facebook Page here:

<https://www.facebook.com/SENDEssex/>

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU.

Want to influence the way we are run?

The Board of Trustees, which is made up of volunteers, is responsible for overall management and running of Families InFocus (Essex), working closely with Rachel Ellis, CEO. We always welcome new Trustees, in particular parents whose families use the services of the charity. If you are interested and would like to know more, please contact Rachel on 01245 353575 or email: rachel@familiesinfocusessex.org.uk



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Kidzspace Events

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

Date: Saturday 23rd September 2017

Event: Open Day

Where: Chelmsford Sports & Athletics Centre

Time: 1.00pm – 3.00pm

Cost: £FREE

Date: Thursday 26th October 2017

Event: Rainbow Rural Farm

Where: Great Dunmow (mini bus included)

Time: 10.00am – 4.00pm

Cost: £8.00

Date: Saturday 18th November 2017

Event: Roller-skating

Where: Madison Heights, Maldon

Time: 12.00 noon – 2.00pm

Cost: £6.50

To book a place, please contact Jo on 01245 353575 or email: helpline@familiesinfocusessex.org.uk

**FAMILIES INFOCUS (ESSEX)
ACTIVITY CLUB**
at Chelmsford Sport & Athletics Centre
Salerno Way, Chelmsford, CM1 2EH



Join us for the
CHRISTMAS PARTY
Saturday 16TH December 2017
3.30 Till 6.00 pm

Booking essential
Contact Jo on 01245 353575 or email
helpline@familiesinfocusessex.org.uk

Please bring a wrapped labelled present for your Child(ren)
All children must be accompanied by an adult.
DONATIONS WELCOME



Santa visit
Bouncy Castle
Games and Raffle Prizes
Buffet

Families InFocus (Essex) is a registered charity no. 1062311 and a limited company registered in England and Wales no. 3287829

Events for your diary!

FAMILIES INFOCUS (ESSEX) – AGM

Confirmed speakers for our AGM on the evening of Wednesday 15th November 2017.

Lesley Bailey, Emotional, Mental Health & Wellbeing lead at Interact Chelmsford and **Malcolm Reeve**, Trustee of Centre Algarve.

Lesley will talk about 'Helpful strategies to support young people's mental health including how to respond and how to recognise symptoms early'.

Malcolm will talk about Centre Algarve, the fabulous holiday centre in Portugal, which is fully equipped to allow people with special needs, young and old to experience a wonderful holiday with their family or carers.

Please register your interest now by email to helpline@familiesinfocusessex.org.uk



FAMILIES INFOCUS (ESSEX)

Come and join us for Panto Time!!!

SATURDAY 30TH DECEMBER 2017

TIME: 6.00PM

Ticket Price: £9.00 each

At Chelmsford City Theatre

To book your tickets contact

Jo on 01245 353575

Or email:

helpline@familiesinfocusessex.org.uk



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Contact for families with disabled children

Contact a family have changed their name and look of their website. They have made these changes to help reach more families with disabled children and to highlight the wide variety of work they do.

Amanda Batten, CEO of Contact, explains what prompted the rebrand:

"Our new brand aims to bring out the true essence of what lies at the heart of everything we do: This is an exciting time for us as a charity. Who we are hasn't changed and the way we work hasn't changed either - we support families, bring families together and help families take action for others. But the challenges families with disabled children face are ever more complex, and the demand for our services is rising. We are determined to reach out to more families and are ambitious about what we can achieve."

<https://www.cafamily.org.uk/>

Families InFocus (Essex)

HELPLINE

01245 353575

Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm

Or Email

helpline@familiesinfocussessex.org.uk

WEBSITE

www.familiesinfocussessex.org.uk

Visit our website to complete an online referral form,
or for all the latest news and information.

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.
