

Aiming High for Disabled Children

Issue No.3 Summer 2010

This newsletter gives you more information about the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme and the difference it is making to families with disabled children. In this issue, we will be looking at the support available to enable families with disabled children to get out and about and make the most of the great British Summer!



Maximise your Summer Fun!

Did you know that all families who join Gateshead's Network of Children with Disabilities receive free Max cards?

The Max card scheme offers families free or discounted entry to 69 museums, galleries and heritage attractions across the North East. Many venues also have special family events and activities throughout the year.

Some of the places you could visit with your Max card this summer include:

- **Cragside House**
- Free entry for adults and children
- **Bede's World**
- Free entry for adults and children
- **Seven Stories**
- Free entry for adults and children
- **Alnwick Castle**
- £3.50 for adults and free for children

Gateshead's Network of Children with Disabilities is for all disabled children and young people who live in Gateshead. It's a way for us to stay in touch with families with disabled children and to help you keep in touch with us.

For more information about Gateshead's Network of Children with Disabilities or the Max card scheme please contact the Network Co-ordinator on 0191 433 5148 or e-mail info@aiminghighgateshead.org



Getting out and about

Have You Got A Blue Badge?



Did you know that parents and carers of disabled children may be eligible to apply for a Blue Badge so that they can park close to their destination when travelling with their disabled child?

You may apply for a badge if your child is two or older and any of these conditions apply:

- they receive the Higher Rate of the Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance
- they are registered blind
- they are unable to walk
- they have a physical disability that means they are unable to walk very far without experiencing severe discomfort
- the physical effort needed to walk could damage their health.

If your child is under two, you may apply if your child has a medical condition which means they:

- must always be accompanied by bulky medical equipment which cannot be carried around without difficulty, and/or
- need to be kept near a vehicle at all times, so they be treated in the vehicle, or can be quickly taken to a place where they can be treated.

To apply for a Blue Badge, contact Parking Services at Gateshead Council on **0191 433 3143**.

A small charge of £2 will be made and in some circumstances, your doctor may need to be contacted. Having a Blue Badge can make life a lot easier, but you must ensure that your child is always with you when using the badge.



Free bus travel for disabled children

Disabled children can apply for a Concessionary Travel Pass if they live in Tyne and Wear so that they can travel on buses for free. The passes are free of charge - application forms are available from any Nexus TravelShop.

Anyone applying for the Concessionary Travel Scheme on the grounds of disability has to be initially assessed by the Social Services Department of their Local Authority. Call **0191 433 5099** and ask to speak to the duty social worker.

Metro journeys are not free of charge but people can avoid paying full fares by buying an annual Metro Gold Card which costs £12 per year.



Aiming High for Summer Fun



From holiday schemes to activity days, the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme is supporting hundreds of families in Gateshead to have an action-packed, fun-filled summer!



See our enclosed **What's On?** insert for full details including Active Kidz and Reach holiday schemes, inclusive youth clubs, days out and not forgetting our annual **Summer Fun Day at Gateshead International Stadium on 29 July 2010**. This will be the biggest and best Summer Fun Day yet, so don't miss it!

To make sure you never miss out, why not subscribe to our e-bulletin? Simply go to www.aiminghighgateshead.org and enter your email address.

What will you discover?

The Discover Pass offers great savings again and again at top attractions across Tyne and Wear and the wider North East. Offers are valid until 31 March 2011, but you can keep checking the website for additional short-term offers exclusively to Discover Pass holders.

Passes cost just £2 online (inc. P&P) and are also available at selected Tourist Information Centres. Offers include 'buy one get one free' on entry to Mister Twister's Wacky World of Fun (Mon to Fri 10am-12noon). Discover Pass holders can also get a free cup of tea per adult with every child.

For more information visit www.discoverpass.co.uk or telephone **0191 440 5727**

Free cinema tickets for carers!



The Cinema Exhibitors' Association Card entitles the holder to one free ticket for a person accompanying them to the cinema. This means that each time your disabled child buys a ticket, one parent or carer will get in free. Terms and conditions of use apply. To apply for the card, your child will need be in receipt of the disability living allowance or attendance allowance or be a registered blind person.

The card is valid for one year from the date of issue. A processing fee of £5.50 is chargeable per card.

Application forms are available from cinemas across the UK supporting this card. Alternatively, download an application form to print out and fill in at: www.ceacard.co.uk



What is Aiming High for Disabled Children?

Aiming High for Disabled Children is a plan from the Government to help disabled children and their parents to get the support they need to live ordinary family lives. All local areas in England have received extra money to increase support and services for disabled children and young people.

Gateshead's programme has been running for over a year and is starting to make a real difference to families with disabled children.

This includes:

- **Short Breaks:** Increasing the quality and quantity of short breaks for disabled children and their families.

- **Individual Budgets:** Increasing families' choice and control over the support and services they receive.
- **Childcare:** Improving disabled children's access to childcare.
- **Transition Support:** Improving and co-ordinating services for disabled young people in transition to adult life.

Who's who in the Aiming High for Disabled Children Team?



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Why not visit our website at
www.aiminghighgateshead.org
for further information about the
Aiming High for Disabled Children
programme in Gateshead?

For more information about the programme, please contact:

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