The Children’s Disability Register has been run by Kent County Council for over 15 years and we have decided to update and make some changes to the design of our leaflet and form. This will allow us to learn more about the services that you would like for your family.

The register remains voluntary, and important for planning future services, so please let your local organisations and schools know about it and promote it as much as you can.

Many charities and organisations are looking for ways of funding and use the statistics from the register to support grants for funding. So you will be helping many people in your local area.

Sue Snooks
Disability Register Co-ordinator
The Willows
Hilda May Avenue
Swanley
Kent
BR8 7BT

Tel: 01322 611045
Fax: 01322 6116449
Email: cdr@kent.gov.uk
Resource Directories

Resource directories are currently being planned, designed and information collated to provide families of disabled children with a handy book of information about services in their local area. The funding has come from the Short Breaks Transformation Programme.

Content will include useful websites, national organisations, local organisations (including inclusive services), transport, rights and benefits, aids and equipment, leisure, short breaks, holidays, transition, education, direct payments and health. Hard copies of the directory will be printed and distributed initially to the families of children and young people known to Social Services. An accompanying website will be produced and linked to the Kent Resource Directory and relevant district and borough council community portals.

Please check www.kent.gov.uk/cdr to see when available.

children’s disability register

Many new families have contacted the register over the past few months requesting information on a variety of issues. Welcome to all the new parents and carers and I would like take this opportunity to clarify what the register is for.

The register was set up in 1991 as a requirement of the Children Act 1989 (c.41) for every local authority to have a register to plan for the future.

Your views are important in the planning as you have the everyday care of your child. It also:

- Identifies gaps in services for disabled children and their parents/carers
- Provides information to influence plans for services to meet the needs of children and their parents/carers
- Gives information about disabled children, the nature of their disability, the types of services they currently receive and what type of services they may need in the future
- Provides information to help to plan services for when your children leave school
- Gives up to the date information about the services available in your area, for example local groups. (However, being placed on the register does not itself mean you will automatically be entitled to services, as all requests are considered and assessed individually)

Parents/carers, or young people with disabilities are the only people who can consent to putting names on the register. The Register is voluntary and names can be removed from the register at any time.

Finally, you will receive a newsletter twice per a year.

Unfortunately the register doesn’t give access to services or funds.
Cinema Exhibitors' Association Card

This is a national card that can be used to verify that the holder is entitled to one free ticket for a person accompanying them to the cinema. To apply visit [http://www.ceacard.co.uk](http://www.ceacard.co.uk) Terms and Condition of use apply.

To apply for the card, you will need to meet one or more of the following criteria:
1. Be in receipt of the disability living allowance or attendance allowance.
2. Be a registered blind person.
The card is valid for 1 year from the date of issue.
A processing fee of £5.50 is chargeable per card. This is to be sent along with the completed application.
RNIB can offer information about audio description services in cinema, on DVD, on digital television and in the theatre.

For information regarding subtitles and audio description for cinemas visit [www.yourlocalcinema.com/](http://www.yourlocalcinema.com/) If you have any difficulty, please contact:

The Card Network (Tel: 0845 123 1292)
Network House
St Ives Way
Sandycroft
CH5 2QS

KASBAH

Did you know KASBAH is an out-reach service in the Dartford and Gravesend area that offers tailored support at home and in the community to enable you to live a full and active life? For more details contact Becky on 01322 386841

KASBAH is pleased to announce it is working in partnership with Gravesend Churches Housing Association (GCHA) to set up a new supported living scheme in London Road in Northfleet. The property will house approximately 25 flats in total; KASBAH will manage five one-bedded flats and two two-bedded flats, all in one wing of the property. All properties will be disabled friendly; two will be completely wheelchair accessible. The current building is being demolished and a new build is due to be completed in April 2011. If you are ready to move on and will benefit from on-site support as and when you need it, contact us to put your name on the waiting list for this new scheme, and please let us know if you require a one or two bedded flat.

Call the KASBAH Office on 01474 536501 or email admin@kasbah.org.uk to indicate your interest. This may be the opportunity you have been waiting for.
Faversham Children’s Centre Celebrate their 1st Birthday

Sixty local families had a great day out at our first birthday celebration on 19 September 2009. Traditional party games, badge-making and face-painting were just some of the free activities on offer to celebrate a successful first year for Sure Start in Faversham. “The feedback from parents, carers and children shows that they enjoyed the day. I’m pleased that we registered some new families who were previously unaware of the services we offer. Thank you to staff and volunteers who worked very hard to make the day a big success.” Kevin O’Reilly, Faversham Children’s Centre Manager.

Comments from parents and carers
"We had a lovely time. There were lots of fun things to try and do."
“Very well organised. My two year old really enjoyed himself.”

Faversham Children’s Centre: 01795 591101 stmcc01@kent.gov.uk
Find your local children’s centre at www.kentchildrenscentres.org.uk

Kent Parent Participation Network (KPPN) Update

Following on from the successful “Wellbeing” events earlier in the year, several organisations met in September to discuss next steps and it was agreed to bring together a steering group for the County. This seems the most practical method of delivering the second phase of the parent participation grant for Kent. A logo has been chosen for the KPPN following on from the design competition, so it’s good that the KPPN now has its own unique branding.

The next steps will put into practice the aims of the grant which will be rolled out later this year. One of the key considerations for the steering group is recognizing the challenges it faces in developing a parent participation network to cover the size of Kent.

As mentioned in the minutes from the meeting in September:

‘The overarching aim of the parent participation grant programme is to provide funding to help develop a “sustainable structure or mechanism that will support the effective involvement of parent carers in consultations to shape changes to existing services and participation in planning and commissioning services”.’

Further information can be found at www.togetherfdc.org/default.aspx

At present we are looking at lines of communication, a website will be set up and in discussion it was agreed the following might be used: e-bulletin, social networking, facebook/twitter, text alerts directing parents to a new posting on the website. There’ll be a further update in the next Newsletter – so watch this space!
Shepway Jigsaw

....is a newly formed parent led group set up to support parents and carers of children with all levels of additional needs across Shepway.

'We aim to provide information and advice, guest speakers and plenty of support at our meetings. We would also like the opportunity to ask for your views on the issues facing parents and carers in Shepway - if there is a service you need but can't get, let us know! We can't promise anything, but we will pass the information on and the more people get involved, the louder we can shout!

For more information contact Gill Reeves, Foxwood School 01303 261155 or

Website for Teenagers

This is a Website set up and written by a 15 year old named Josh. He was diagnosed aged 9 with Aspergers Syndrome and invites other teenagers on the Autistic Spectrum to look at 'The Good Side' and lists a few famous people with ASD www.teenagerswithaspergers.com

Kent Autistic Trust Support Groups

There are many meetings planned for parents and carers in Kent. Kent Autistic Trust has been providing high quality services for people with Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) and their families since 1989. They offer individual, tailor made, person centred solutions of support for adults through living and day vocational and life skill services.

The team has a wide range of expertise and provide consultancy services that aim to empower people with ASC through providing specialist assessments and training for the people who work with or support them.

KAT is a Family Support Service offering advice and information for people with ASC, their families, carers and the people who work with them.

Call us on: 01634 405168 or email: office@kentautistic.com to see if we can help.

A SIGH OF RELIEF

A support group for parents and carers of children with additional needs. Meet and greet others in similar situations. 1st Monday of the month in Tonbridge and 3rd Monday of the month in Tunbridge Wells. Come along and have a coffee and talk to others who understand.

Contact ADHD and ASD Family Support Organisers
Pauline at tidyp3@yahoo.co.uk 01892 683518
Thanet Inclusive Community Garden

In March 2008, The Children’s Society was contacted by Pfizers who were seeking a large community volunteer project for their staff. The Children’s Society were, at the same time, undertaking discussions and consultation with parents of disabled children in Thanet.

A major theme arising from this was that there are few, if any, places that families felt that they could go with their children where they felt relaxed and safe – away from uncomfortable stares, lack of understanding of disability and negative attitudes as well as safe in terms of their needs.

The Inclusive Children’s Garden is intended to offer an outdoor play space designed around the needs and wishes of disabled children, where children with any impairment and their families can feel relaxed and safe, in an environment which is stimulating and fun.

A consultation event was held where parents, children and young people, professionals, educationalists were given the opportunity to express their views and opinions on the garden project.

Top suggestions for equipment included: sensory area, secret house, climbing equipment, shaded sandpit, sensory plants, musical instruments, insects, basket swing, wormery and museum, sunken trampoline, finger stream. Safety features were also discussed such as two gate entry system with swipe card entry etc.

The garden is not yet up and running it is still being developed by volunteers from Pfizers and should be completed by September 2010.

Did you know that the Science Museum in London is FREE?

They also have a regular programme of deaf events for families. These events are absolutely free and they welcome everyone whether you're deaf or not. All the events are accompanied by a British Sign Language interpreter; they take place on the first Saturday of every month.
On these days they offer.....
12.00: a fast paced show, suitable for ages five and up
13.30: an interactive tour, suitable for ages five and up
14.30: a storytelling session, suitable for ages seven and under

Please visit www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/bsl to find out more about these exciting events.
The Children's Disability Register had a request from BBC Roar offering a day out for six disabled children at Howlett Zoo. Snaap took up the offer, this was Kerian’s account of the day.

ROAR by Kieran Quaterman

The journey to the zoo
It seemed like a very long journey. I felt happy and very excited. We had a dance in the car. It was raining when we arrived, but I was still happy. I was pleased to be going on telly and felt very happy wearing the ROAR t-shirt and hat.

We saw the monkeys playing about, swinging and throwing straw at each other. We also went to see the tigers and they were lying down asleep. They had a baby cub. We went to see some fish in a cave/shop, me and Joe were singing in the shop.

Lunch
I had fish fingers and chips and white mayonnaise. We played Chinese whispers with some other children.

Filming
I asked the keeper about the Ocelot and the Honey Badger. I felt excited and nervous when they were filming. I read the questions. I saw him take away one of the mice and eat the other ones (the ocelot).

Play park
We had a play in the play park and I built a sand castle and I went on the obstacle course. There was a tractor driving behind the bushes.

“I would love to go again”

Young Carers Enjoy a Zooper Day Out

The trip, courtesy of Drusillas Park was arranged through Carers FIRST; an independent charitable organisation that supports and helps carers throughout Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks, Edenbridge, Paddock Wood, Cranbrook and the surrounding areas.

Twenty young carers from West Kent enjoyed a visit to Drusillas Park, to give them a well earned break from their normal roles and responsibilities.

The young carers aged between seven and eleven, all look after someone close to them that requires additional help due to illness or disability. This invariably means that the children’s own lives are restricted.

During their visit, the children encountered a host of furry and feathered creatures along the zoo route. There was also time for the children to explore the play areas and take a ride on the Thomas & Friends™ train.

Drusillas Park’s Managing Director, Laurence Smith commented:
“We are delighted to be able to support Carers FIRST, with the visit to Drusillas Park. All of the children undertaken a massively important and commendable job and thoroughly deserve a fun day out.”
Looking for ideas for Christmas?
The book section in the newsletter has proved very popular, so why not try audio books for a special treat.

The Reluctant Dragon  
(BBC Audio)  
[Audiobook] (Audio CD)  
by Kenneth Grahame  
Harry Potter - The Complete Story: Collected Audio Edition [Audiobook]  
by J.K. Rowling

Do you know a child or teenager in need of a “Big Hug”?  

Project Linus is a voluntary organisation providing quilts free of charge to children and young people who are going through a particularly bad time in their young lives, whether through disability, serious illness, or trauma through bereavement, abuse or neglect. These quilts give a sense of security to a child and are a great comfort....if you know of a child or teenager who would benefit from one please get in touch. There are co-ordinators for the organisation in different parts of Kent but in the first instance please contact www.projectlinusuk.org.uk

Kent Charities Christmas Draw 2009.
The Kent Charities Group is a unique group of carefully selected, diverse, independent registered charities. Prizes include dinner bed & breakfast at Eastwell Manor, annual family pass for Howlett and Port Lympne Zoo, P&O ferry, Tea for Two at the House of Commons, £150 Tesco vouchers and lots more. Draw tickets are just £1.00 each and are available from KASBAH www.kasbah.org.uk 01474 536501