Welcome...

to the spring edition of SNIX NEWS, a newsletter for children with special educational needs or disabilities and their families.

Local Offer

The SNIX magazine is produced by the Local Offer team and we welcome articles from a variety of providers. Everything that you find in SNIX can be found on our website (www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/localoffer). In the SNIX magazine you can find information about a range of services for children and young people, and their families who have a special educational need or disability.

In this edition find out more about the Toy Library in Northampton, the new Personal Assistant Job site, The Dance with A Difference new programme of activities for over 18’s and the films produced by Northamptonshire Sport that hope to encourage people with disabilities to get more active. The National Association for the Blind are running a Have a Go day in April and everyone will be welcome.

Please send us your photos and articles about the clubs and activities you have been to. New parents are always signing up for the SNIX magazine and using the Local Offer is a great way to get your club and events known.

If you need further information or details about any article in this or any other issue of SNIX NEWS please email: localoffer@northamptonshire.gov.uk

www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/localoffer

SNIX NEWS is compiled by the Local Offer Team.
Northamptonshire Have a Go Day

British Blind Sport are working in partnership with Northamptonshire Association for the Blind (NAB) and Northamptonshire Sport to bring a VI sports taster day to Northampton!

Date: Saturday 25th April
Time: 10am-3pm
Venue: Kingsthorpe College, Boughton Green Road, Northampton, NN2 7HR

Bring your friends and family along to try a range of sports such as Football, Guide Running, Cricket, Judo, Acoustic Shooting and more!

For more information please contact our Participation Officer Alex at alex@britishblindsport.org.uk or call 01926 424247

To register your interest for this event please visit the link below:
https://britishblindsport.wufoo.com/forms/z1l3hrly0z7o4c3/

Registered Charity Number: 1168093 Company Limited by Guarantee Number 10009918
PARALLEL WILL HOST ITS FIRST REGIONAL EVENT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM

ABOUT US
Parallel is an innovative social enterprise, shining a positive light on disability inclusion. We aim to remove barriers and enable as many people as possible to challenge themselves; whilst also creating significant fundraising opportunities for charities.

Parallel provides a unique way for companies to create both internal and external brand engagement, showcase their commitment to diversity and inclusion and raise vital funds for charity.

We welcome all ages and abilities, all mobility aids and have no cut off times. Our multiple, accessible push/run/walk distances include 100m, 1km, 5km and an innovative Super Sensory Course. Alongside these, is the Parallel Festival of Inclusivity, with featured zones for 2020 including Active Lifestyle, Family, Technology and Food and Drink.

“We are delighted to partner with Parallel for their first all-ability challenge event on University Park. We share the belief that opportunities should be open and accessible to all.”
Professor Sarah Sharples, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at the University of Nottingham.

We are proud to have helped raise over £1m for charity and won various awards, including Best Participation Event and The Diversity and Inclusion Award at the BT Sport Industry Awards and gained substantial national media coverage from BBC, ITV and Channel 4.

START TOGETHER, FINISH WHENEVER

HOW TO GET INVOLVED
We offer bespoke opportunities to partner with Parallel University of Nottingham – for example entering mixed ability employee teams, developing activations within our festival or supporting with volunteers on the day.

PARALLEL UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM
17 MAY 2020
Sign up now!
www.parallellifestyle.com

For more information, just email us at contact@parallellifestyle.com
Northamptonshire Sport have announced that they have a grant from the National Lottery to fund people from under-represented groups (including those with a disability) for sports and volunteer coaching.

They are encouraging coaches, volunteers, ‘activators’ and instructors to inspire more people to get more active by offering two funding grants for education and training in sports.

They have two funding pots available for coach education and training:

1) **Inspiring Bursary Scheme** - for individuals looking to lead or support sport or physical activity sessions. Applications are welcome from paid coaches or volunteers aged 16+ who are coaching, or are planning to coach within Northamptonshire.

2) **Diversity Workforce Fund** - for organisations that are working with a group of coaches to lead or support sport or physical activity sessions.

Examples of education and training may include ‘UKCC Level 1 or 2 coaching courses’, ‘community sports leadership’ awards, ‘exercise instructor’ course, ‘activator’ courses and ‘inclusive activity’ programme leaders.

### The rounds for applications in 2019-2020 are:

**Round Three : Closing Date 15th March 2020**

Please note that applications must be submitted before the course starts. Detailed information including terms and conditions and the application forms can be found on the Northamptonshire Sport website: [https://www.northamptonshiresport.org/coaching-framework](https://www.northamptonshiresport.org/coaching-framework).

**If you would like to find out more about this opportunity please email coaching@northamptonshiresport.org.**

There is also practical support from Northamptonshire Sport for people setting up sporting clubs for young people with additional needs such as startup equipment costs, marketing, venue hire. Contact Mathew Peleszok for more information.

**matthew.peleszok@firstforwellbeing.co.uk**
New Films Released to help Inspire More People with Disabilities to Get Active!

A series of short films have been released to help encourage more people with disabilities in Northamptonshire to get active. The films which are part of a project entitled ‘See Active Be Active’ have been created by Screen Northants in partnership with Northamptonshire Sport and Northamptonshire Federation of Disability Sport. Funded by grants obtained from Northampton Borough Council, Tesco’s/Groundworks Bags of Help and Local Giving.

The See Active Be Active project was officially launched at an event held at Franklin’s Gardens home of Northampton Saints. This was attended by the film stars and their families as well as an audience of invited guests who all got to see the films shown for the very first time.

Each of the four films features a person from Northamptonshire with a disability, or long term health condition and shows them participating in a form of physical activity. These include Kascie who has Cerebral Palsy playing wheelchair rugby and Kian enjoying swimming despite having a visual impairment as a result of various health issues. The other two are Carole doing the Northampton parkrun in her day chair that she uses due to a long term pain condition and Ellie who has Down’s syndrome, but hasn’t let this stop her from participating in gymnastics.

The films are all now available for people to view and share on the Northamptonshire Sport You Tube channel via the following link: https://www.youtube.com/NorthantsSport

Northamptonshire Sport’s lead officer for work on disability development, Graeme Wilson stated:

“We are extremely excited and proud to be releasing these films. Screen Northants have done fantastic job of making them and the four people who starred in them were absolutely brilliant. They are all perfect advocates for physical activity and we hope that other disabled people watch the films, see how much benefit these people have got from being active and decide to give it a go themselves. Disabled people are currently half as likely to be active as non – disabled people, so we’d really appreciate people’s help addressing this by watching and sharing the films.”

To find out more information about the films and opportunities for disabled people in Northamptonshire to get active please contact Graeme by phone on 07766 991828, or email Graeme.Wilson@firstforwellbeing.co.uk. Further details can also be found on the disability section of the Northamptonshire Sport website.
Every day throughout the school year, the Northamptonshire Highways transport team organises home to school travel assistance for over 1300 children with an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) within Northamptonshire and beyond. To ensure that this is carried out in a safe and timely manner, certain deadlines are required so that our dedicated teams are able to co-ordinate such a complex requirement.

There are two teams who deal with travel assistance applications that are submitted:

- The Travel Co-ordination Unit (TCU) are responsible for assessing and approving applications for children aged 4 – 16.
- The SEN School Transport Team are responsible for assessing and approving applications for children after age 16.

TCU – Travel Assistance for children aged 4 to 16 (with an EHCP)

New Education, Health & Care Plan

When your child first receives an Education, Health & Care Plan you will receive a letter from the EHC Team confirming the plan and naming the school which your child will attend. This letter also directs you to the TCU website and the NCC Home to School Education Transport Policy for further information regarding eligibility for home to school travel assistance and how to apply.

To prevent any unnecessary delays, we would encourage you to submit your application as soon as possible and attach any supporting evidence that is requested in the guidance notes (e.g. proof of free school meals entitlement or low income).

Whilst we will endeavour to process all applications as quickly as possible, it can take up to 30 working days from receiving the application for a final travel solution to be arranged.

Change of Circumstances

It is your responsibility to report any change of circumstances that may affect your eligibility for travel assistance and all changes will trigger a review of current arrangements. Please note that when notifying us of a change of address it can still take up to 30 working days to put new transport arrangements in place, so the more advanced notice you give us the better.

Reviews

If the EHC plan was issued after March 2019, all travel assistance is subject to review on an annual basis. This could lead to a change in travel assistance offered, and could result in existing arrangements being cancelled. In this situation we would write to inform you of any changes that are being made.

Important Deadline

Year 7 - Applications for Travel assistance for the next academic year (September 2020)

If your child will be in year 7 from September 2020, once you have received confirmation of a place being allocated to your child, you need to apply to the TCU as early as possible for consideration and planning for the next academic year. We cannot guarantee that travel assistance will be in place at the beginning of the new school year for any application received after 31st May 2020.

Any current travel arrangements for students transitioning from primary school to secondary school (academic year 6 to year 7) but remaining at the same school, will not automatically be renewed - in this situation, a new application form must be submitted to the TCU for consideration.

When all applications have been approved and processed, the SEN transport team will then make the necessary arrangements before contacting you directly with further details. We anticipate that this will be during week commencing 17/08/2020.
Parents and carers remain responsible for ensuring that their child attends school each day during the application process and we thank you in advance for your patience during what will be a very busy period.

The policy document and the online application form can both be found on Northamptonshire County Council website. If you need support to complete the application form you can contact the NCC Customer Service Centre on 0300 126 1000 and they will assist you.

The SEN School Transport Team – for students who are age over 16 (with an EHCP)

For those families that have a child approaching 16 (or even already at this age and older), it may seem early to be thinking of the next academic year but there are key dates that you may need to take into consideration.

If your child is looking at staying within education you will need to look at ways in which they will be able to get there. Some families are able to make travel arrangements for their sons and daughters, but there are some that are unable to. In these instances, if the student is eligible, then they may be entitled to access assistance from Northamptonshire County Council. Full details of the policy can be found on the Northamptonshire County Council’s website for school transport – post 16 transport policy which explains costs and who may be eligible for support.

If you are eligible, then to guarantee a seat on transport you will need to complete your application so that it is received by us by the on or before the 3rd Friday in May prior to the September of that academic year, which this year is 15th May. The on-line application form can be found on the Northamptonshire County Council’s school travel webpages:

If your application is not received on or before this date, then we cannot guarantee that a seat will be available for your child from the beginning of the new academic year. Any applications that are received in August, September or October may not be processed until the October half term. You may have to arrange and pay for your own travel arrangements until the late application can be processed.

It is important to remind all parents that applications are for only one academic year and therefore new applications will be required on an annual basis.

When your application has been received, we will send you confirmation that we have received it. Please note that we only accept online applications.

Once you have received confirmation of your transport, be aware that transport is only provided at the start and end of the day as indicated to us by your chosen educational establishment and does not take account of individual course timetables. You will need to make alternative arrangements if course timetables do not coincide with these times.

The SEN transport team can also offer further support to look at other ways in which a young person can get to their educational establishment and help develop their own independence. Such schemes include the use of the public transport system and we are currently working with colleges and schools concerning independent travel schemes. If you require further information on this or any other methods of travel, please e-mail us on sentransport@kierwsp.co.uk.

NB: The Local Offer will provide links to these webpages so if you are not reading this on-line you will still be able to find the documents referred to in this article.
As some of you may know, in the last year the Education Select Committee has been running an inquiry into the state of special educational needs in England. The committee has looked at over 700 pieces of submitted evidence from Ministers, LA personnel, other professionals, parent carers as well as children and young people with SEND.

You can read the full report by clicking the link below:

The Northants Parent Forum is pleased to see that the report reflects many of the key themes that we have heard from our membership and we contributed via the National Network of Parent Carer Forums (NNPCF) who provided evidence. You can see the NNPCF evidence by clicking the link below:
http://www.nnpcf.org.uk/december-2018-educational-select-committee/

The following areas were flagged up:
- Adequate funding for SEND services
- Greater accountability across the system
- The low prioritisation of SEND across Health and Social Care was raised as a concern
- Incentives across the system are not aligned to be inclusive
- A greater voice for families

We are pleased all of these themes are reflected in the report and parent carer forums and individual stories are referenced in the report.

The Northants Parent Forum Group has met with Gwyn Botterill, Strategic Lead for SEND for NCC and we have identified local areas of improvement:
- Early interventions based on need rather than diagnosis
- Inclusion in mainstream schools
- Exclusions of pupils with SEND
- Quality of EHCPs including measurable and meaningful outcomes
- Pathways to Adulthood
- Post 16 provision gap

Moving forward we are planning four “Solution Focussed Events” across Northamptonshire, where parent carers and professionals come together to co-produce service improvements relating to the above topics.

The details for the events are still being finalized but the dates have been set:

**Wednesday 26th February 2020**
10:00h-14:00h
Kettering, venue tba

**Wednesday 4th March 2020**
10:00h-14:00h
Wellingborough, venue tba

**Tuesday 10th March 2020**
10:00h-14:00h
Towcester, venue tba

**Tuesday 17th March 2020**
10:00h-14:00h
Northampton, venue tba

So, if you feel you can contribute to the above discussions please join us! Check out our Facebook page or sign up to our e-bulletin on www.npfg.co.uk to find out the latest information.
SEND 4 DAD

SEND 4 DAD is a voluntary organisation that organises social events for dads/male carers to go to by themselves or with their Special Educational Needs/Disabled child. You do not have to have a diagnosis and your child can be of any age (even in adulthood).

Our social events are very laid back, you will find friendly people that are in a similar situation to yourself, whilst you can enjoy good conversation or participating in activities such as pool, darts etc. whilst most importantly relaxing. There is no commitment to come to any event and you can come and go as you please.

We currently have two groups within Northamptonshire and would welcome anyone else that would like to start up a group in their area.

Our Northampton group meets up on the 2nd Monday of each month from 7:30 pm at the main bar in the Obelisk Centre, Northampton, NN2 8UE. In addition to this, on the fourth Saturday of every month at 9 am, there is a social breakfast meet up at the Café Track on Northampton Market Square.

Our Corby group also arranges regular meet ups and breakfast mornings and we are always looking for volunteers to help with the events.

This year we will also be looking at more wellbeing events as well as repeating our successful comic/sci fi convention for our families. We are always looking for help with our events and any budding writers that would like to contribute to a regular magazine/newsletter, so please do contact us if you are interested.

Further information about us and our events can be found on our Facebook pages by searching for SENDS 4 Dad in and also we are currently working on our website to provide further information and services so please do check on there (www.sends4dad.org.uk).

Alternatively you can e-mail us at sends4dad@gmail.com for any further information or to be added to a distribution list.

THE COUNTY TOY LIBRARY

4 Park Square, Kings Heath, Northampton NN5 7LQ
Phone: 07843 642320
www.northamptonshirecountytoylibrary.wordpress.com Email: northamptonshiretoylibrary@gmail.com

The County Toy Library provides a quality toy and equipment lending service for families, groups, schools, Children’s Centres and childminders in Northamptonshire.

The County Toy Library is a charity and is located in a shop unit on the Kingsheath estate in Northampton. The toys and equipment are for children aged 0-12 years old and for children with additional needs. The County Toy Library has a wide range of fun, stimulating and educational toys.

A family with a child with additional needs can apply for one of the 24 free annual membership, plus a £30.00 credit to spend in The County Toy Library, to support their children. This offer includes group membership for voluntary or charitable groups supporting families with additional needs children.

Specialist toys and play equipment are often expensive to buy and being able to borrow it from The County Toy Library benefits children with additional needs by being able to practice skills and to find out if they like the toys or the equipment.

To register please come into the shop and bring a proof of your name and address on a Tuesday or Thursday. Then after registering and joining The County Toy Library you will be able to go to the shop during all our opening hours.

The County Toy Library have £3,000 to spend on new toys and equipment for children with additional needs, therefore these will be coming soon!

The County Toy Library is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 9.30am to 4pm, once a month on a Sunday from 10am to 1pm and from September, on a Friday(term time only) from 10am -2pm.
The County Toy Library have £3000 to spend on new toys/equipment for children with additional needs. We are offering a number of children with additional needs & additional needs groups one year’s free membership along with a voucher to spend on toys/equipment of your choice!

Pop along for details on how to apply for free membership!
**Volunteering**

**Could you make a difference to a child in care?**

Do you have a few spare hours to spend with a child who is in care? Would you like to be a volunteer Independent Visitor?

Each volunteer is carefully matched with a child who is in care and who then takes them out to participate in a variety of fun activities, act as a confidante, role model. Young people are aged from 6 years to 19 years. All expenses for the Independent Visitor are paid by the service. All Independent Visitors attend initial training, and then will receive four group supervisions during the year as well as ongoing telephone support as needed.

Independent visitors can support the children by helping to build self-confidence and self-esteem and help them develop new interests and skills. Independent visitors offer a feeling of continuity for the children who often live in busy placements where there is little time for a one to one relationship, just for them.

Independent visitors are matched with children based on likes, interests and personality as well as particular skills you may have, such as an awareness of complex needs, disabilities or attachment needs. Some of our children have additional needs such as autism, physical disabilities or health conditions.

Other children have had lots of moves, so need some stability in their lives. Some wish to have a person who enjoys the things they enjoy or to try new things they have not done before.

**Sarah’s Experience of having an Independent Visitor**

Sarah was referred about 18 months ago by her social worker. The social worker was leaving shortly and Sarah had experienced several changes of professionals in recent months. It was felt that Sarah would benefit from a volunteer to give her some continuity as well as an opportunity to try out new things and places with a person that had time to spare once a fortnight just for her. Sarah uses a wheelchair and uses sign language to communicate. Sarah is in foster care with a lovely family who immediately saw the benefits of having a person just for her.

A lady came onto our training just a few weeks after I had met Sarah who was bubbly, friendly and talked about her passion for working with children who have disabilities. I discussed Sarah with her and introduced them a few weeks later.

They have been going out every two weeks ever since and having a fantastic time together. It is wonderful hearing about the places they have been and the fun times they have had together. This has included craft fairs, concerts, meals, cinema, parks and the theatre, so far. At Sarah’s last review it was apparent how much she loves going out with her Independent Visitor and how much her confidence has grown in many ways, but especially with speaking. Sarah now talks rather than using sign language. They have lots of plans for the future and Sarah told me she loves having her Independent Visitor to go to new places with and because she is kind.

Could you be an Independent Visitor to a Child?

The department currently has a little boy aged 8 years who is fun and bubbly with a real sense of humour. He lives in foster care in the north of the county.

He enjoys playing with his cars, going to the park to play on the swings, feeding the ducks, going to the library and having stories read to him. Other things he loves are: trampolines, the cinema and ‘Toy Story’ as well as looking round the shops.

He needs a person who has lots of energy and a sense of humour, who is able to be firm but fair and willing to get down and get involved with his play.

The little boy has global development delay and uses PECS to assist his communication.

Could you be his friend and make a difference to his life?

If you would like to find out more contact us on

childrensrights@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Or call to have an informal chat

Wendy Owears 07990916388
Samantha Linton 07788321826

Could you make a difference to a child in care?
Interested in Volunteering?

Northamptonshire Carers are launching a new service using volunteers to look after children with additional needs for a few hours.

We are currently recruiting volunteers and hope to start running the service in Spring.

**The service will be available Mondays to Fridays from 9am - 8pm**

The volunteering required will depend on the child but may be befriending or babysitting.

No personal care or medications can be given.

Training will be provided but experience of children with additional needs would be beneficial.

If you are interested in volunteering please contact
sittingservice@northamptonshire-carers.org
The young people who make up the Shooting Stars focus group celebrated Christmas with each other by having a meal at The Mandarin Chinese Restaurant in Northampton.

The evening was an opportunity for the Participation Officers to say thank you to the young people for all of their hard work and commitment to the group over the last year.

Each young person received a gift and advent calendar which was greatly appreciated.

If you would like to become involved in the group then you can contact Lorraine Flute, Participation Officer on lflute@childrenfirstnorthamptonshire.co.uk or 07515 189630

---

**Shooting Stars**

...It doesn't matter if you have a disability. You're still a shooting star in my mind...

---

**Stylesstars Dance with a Difference**

A brand new class designed for adults aged over 18 with additional needs

Classes run on a pay as you go scheme and are held at Headlands United Reform Church, 247 The Headlands, Northampton NN3 2NU

**Monday - Fun, Dance and Glow**

“Get ready to keep fit and glow away” in this fun 45 minute dance session. With Zumba styled simplified routines it’s a great way to keep active. (please note lights are minimal and disco lights used)

**Wednesday - Dance Academy**

“Let’s dance the night away” our open dance academy sessions are welcome to all abilities working on different dance styles and routines helping to build confidence and learn a new skill.

**Thursday Dance Academy**

“Let’s dance the afternoon away” our open dance academy sessions are welcome to all abilities working on different dance styles and routines helping to build confidence and learn a new skill.

**Friday - Drama Lama**

“Realise your inner dramatic side” Our drama class work towards building confidence and character, working towards stage productions and pantomimes.

**Friday- Musicals Rock**

“Get ready to break free and defy gravity” In our musical theatre class working on all three disciplines of singing, dancing and acting combined.

If you require any further information email- stylestarz@hotmail.com or phone 07511877177
Groups and Clubs
www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/localoffer

summer playschemes & activities

www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/localoffer

---

groups and clubs

Come join our weekly inclusive sport and art activity club for any under the age of 25. Take part in a different sport each week including dodgeball, football and trampolining.

If sport isn’t your thing then why not try out our art zone, dance with Michelle Gibbs or our playground games?

We also have lots of games and small activities such as table tennis, Lego and sensory toys around the hall for you to enjoy!

---

**Date** | **Sports Hall** | **Studio 2** | **Studio 3** | **Art Zone**
---|---|---|---|---
25 February | Football | Dance 6 - 7 | Games | Dragon Masks
3 March | Dodgeball | Dance 6 - 7 | Games | Pug Scratch Art
10 March | Trampolining | Bouncy Castle | Dance 6 - 7 | Games | Poster Paint Sticks
17 March | Short Tennis | Dance 6 - 7 | Games | Plate Decorations
24 March | Football | Dance 6 - 7 | Games | Colouring Kits
21 March | Dodgeball | Bouncy Castle | Dance 6 - 7 | Games | Wide Weird Masks
28 March | Football | Dance 6 - 7 | Games | Colouring Kits
31 March | Dodgeball | Bouncy Castle | Dance 6 - 7 | Games | Plate Decorations

---

**Date** | **Sports Hall** | **Studio 2** | **Studio 3** | **Art Zone**
---|---|---|---|---
25 February | Football | Dance 6 - 7 | Games | Dragon Masks
3 March | Dodgeball | Dance 6 - 7 | Games | Pug Scratch Art
10 March | Trampolining | Bouncy Castle | Dance 6 - 7 | Games | Poster Paint Sticks
17 March | Short Tennis | Dance 6 - 7 | Games | Plate Decorations
24 March | Football | Dance 6 - 7 | Games | Colouring Kits
21 March | Dodgeball | Bouncy Castle | Dance 6 - 7 | Games | Wide Weird Masks
28 March | Football | Dance 6 - 7 | Games | Colouring Kits
31 March | Dodgeball | Bouncy Castle | Dance 6 - 7 | Games | Plate Decorations

---

**Date** | **Sports Hall** | **Studio 2** | **Studio 3** | **Art Zone**
---|---|---|---|---
25 February | Football | Dance 6 - 7 | Games | Dragon Masks
3 March | Dodgeball | Dance 6 - 7 | Games | Pug Scratch Art
10 March | Trampolining | Bouncy Castle | Dance 6 - 7 | Games | Poster Paint Sticks
17 March | Short Tennis | Dance 6 - 7 | Games | Plate Decorations
24 March | Football | Dance 6 - 7 | Games | Colouring Kits
21 March | Dodgeball | Bouncy Castle | Dance 6 - 7 | Games | Wide Weird Masks
28 March | Football | Dance 6 - 7 | Games | Colouring Kits
31 March | Dodgeball | Bouncy Castle | Dance 6 - 7 | Games | Plate Decorations

---

Follow us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/YIPclub
For more information contact Jackie Ackroyd on 01933 352 981 or email: jackie.ackroyd@freedom-leisure.co.uk

---

rushden inclusive swim club

come and work on your swimming confidence or splash around in a relaxed and friendly environment!

only £5 inclusive membership per year and only £1 per session to swim
carers and family members also can swim for £1
every saturday, 11am - 12:30pm

for more information please contact Splash Pool Reception on 01933 410 505
or email: activecommearnthants@freedom-leisure.co.uk

---

multi activity club

at the pemberton centre, rushden

For people living with a disability.

**Date** | **Sports Hall** | **Studio 2** | **Studio 3** | **Art Zone**
---|---|---|---|---
27 Feb | Rebound Therapy (Trampolining) | Inclusive Gym Session with Freedom Fitness Team from 11:00 | | |
5 Mar | Football | Inclusive Gym Session with Freedom Fitness Team from 11:00 | | |
12 Mar | Rebound Therapy (Trampolining) | Inclusive Gym Session with Freedom Fitness Team from 11:00 | | |
19 Mar | Basketball | Inclusive Gym Session with Freedom Fitness Team from 11:00 | | |
26 Mar | Rebound Therapy (Trampolining) | Inclusive Gym Session with Freedom Fitness Team from 11:00 | | |
2 Apr | Football | Inclusive Gym Session with Freedom Fitness Team from 11:00 | | |
9 Apr & | NO SESSION | | | |
16 Apr | | | | |
23 Apr | MAC RETURNS | | | |

Come join our weekly inclusive sport and art activity club for everyone living with a disability.

**Inclusive Fitness Session in the Gym with our Freedom Fitness Team**
A PAR-Q will need to be completed before entering the gym.

Weekly Activities include:
the sensory area... bouncy castle... pool... table tennis... match much more!

Follow us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/activecommearnthants
For more information contact Jackie Ackroyd on 01933 352 981 or email: jackie.ackroyd@freedom-leisure.co.uk

---

inclusive holiday swim sessions

A friendly inclusive session every Tuesday of all school holidays

Splash leisure pool, Rushden

£1 per swimmer

for more information please contact Splash Pool Reception on 01933 410 505
or email: activecommearnthants@freedom-leisure.co.uk

---

young inclusive people club

at the pemberton centre, rushden

For young people under 25 living with a disability.

**Date** | **Sports Hall** | **Studio 2** | **Studio 3** | **Art Zone**
---|---|---|---|---
25 February | Football | Dance 6 - 7 | Games | Dragon Masks
3 March | Dodgeball | Dance 6 - 7 | Games | Pug Scratch Art
10 March | Trampolining | Bouncy Castle | Dance 6 - 7 | Games | Poster Paint Sticks
17 March | Short Tennis | Dance 6 - 7 | Games | Plate Decorations
24 March | Football | Dance 6 - 7 | Games | Colouring Kits
21 March | Dodgeball | Bouncy Castle | Dance 6 - 7 | Games | Wide Weird Masks

## Groups and Clubs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASP &amp; MAHD: Term Time 2-3.30pm &amp; 4-5.30pm</td>
<td>ASP &amp; MAHD: Term Time 2-3.30pm &amp; 4-5.30pm</td>
<td>ASP &amp; MAHD: Term Time 2-3.30pm &amp; 4-5.30pm</td>
<td>ASP &amp; MAHD: Term Time 2-3.30pm &amp; 4-5.30pm</td>
<td>ASP &amp; MAHD: Term Time 2-3.30pm &amp; 4-5.30pm</td>
<td>ASP &amp; MAHD: Term Time 2-3.30pm &amp; 4-5.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 Age 8-11</td>
<td>65 Age 8-11</td>
<td>65 Age 8-11</td>
<td>65 Age 8-11</td>
<td>65 Age 8-11</td>
<td>65 Age 8-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASP &amp; MAHD: Term Time 2-3.30pm &amp; 4-5.30pm</td>
<td>ASP &amp; MAHD: Term Time 2-3.30pm &amp; 4-5.30pm</td>
<td>ASP &amp; MAHD: Term Time 2-3.30pm &amp; 4-5.30pm</td>
<td>ASP &amp; MAHD: Term Time 2-3.30pm &amp; 4-5.30pm</td>
<td>ASP &amp; MAHD: Term Time 2-3.30pm &amp; 4-5.30pm</td>
<td>ASP &amp; MAHD: Term Time 2-3.30pm &amp; 4-5.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASP &amp; MAHD: Term Time 2-3.30pm &amp; 4-5.30pm</td>
<td>ASP &amp; MAHD: Term Time 2-3.30pm &amp; 4-5.30pm</td>
<td>ASP &amp; MAHD: Term Time 2-3.30pm &amp; 4-5.30pm</td>
<td>ASP &amp; MAHD: Term Time 2-3.30pm &amp; 4-5.30pm</td>
<td>ASP &amp; MAHD: Term Time 2-3.30pm &amp; 4-5.30pm</td>
<td>ASP &amp; MAHD: Term Time 2-3.30pm &amp; 4-5.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 Age 8-11</td>
<td>65 Age 8-11</td>
<td>65 Age 8-11</td>
<td>65 Age 8-11</td>
<td>65 Age 8-11</td>
<td>65 Age 8-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASP &amp; MAHD: Term Time 10am-3pm &amp; 10am-3pm</td>
<td>ASP &amp; MAHD: Term Time 10am-3pm &amp; 10am-3pm</td>
<td>ASP &amp; MAHD: Term Time 10am-3pm &amp; 10am-3pm</td>
<td>ASP &amp; MAHD: Term Time 10am-3pm &amp; 10am-3pm</td>
<td>ASP &amp; MAHD: Term Time 10am-3pm &amp; 10am-3pm</td>
<td>ASP &amp; MAHD: Term Time 10am-3pm &amp; 10am-3pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 Age 8-17</td>
<td>65 Age 8-17</td>
<td>65 Age 8-17</td>
<td>65 Age 8-17</td>
<td>65 Age 8-17</td>
<td>65 Age 8-17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Groups and Clubs

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SHORT BREAKS SERVICE**

Register your interest for our groups by calling: 01604 752553 or emailing: Northants.Disability@actionforchildren.org.uk

A member of our team will reply to your enquiry and discuss your child or young person's requirements.

---

**Groups And Venue Addresses**

**ACTION FOR CHILDREN GROUPS VENUE ADDRESSES**

- **Corby AFC Club**: Maplefields Academy, Tower Hill Road, Corby, NN18 0TH
- **Kettering AFC Club**: Isbrook School, Eastleigh Road, Kettering, NN15 4FT
- **Wellingborough Youth Club**: Olympus Care Services, 38 Oxford Street, Wellingborough, NN8 4JG
- **Wellingborough AFC Club**: Olympus Care Services, 38 Oxford Street, Wellingborough, NN8 4JG
- **Weston Favell Youth Club**: Olympus Care Services, Olympus House, Billing Brook Road, Weston Favell, Northampton, NN3 8JH
- **Grange Park Youth Club**: The Kairo Centre, Wilks Walk, Grange Park, Northampton, NN4 5DW
- **Northampton AFC Club**: Blackthorn Community Centre, Longmead Court, Northampton, NN3 8BD
- **Daventry Youth Club**: Daventry Methodist Church, & Golding Close, Daventry, NN11 4FH
- **Brackley Youth Club**: Magdalen College School, Waynflete Avenue, Brackley, NN13 6AF
- **Daventry AFC Club**: Daventry Hill School, Ashby Road, Daventry, NN10 0QE

**GROUNDPWORK GROUPS VENUE ADDRESSES**

- **Corby Free Rangers Club**: Stephenson Way Community Centre, Stephenson Way, Corby, NN17 1DA
- **Kettering Free Rangers Club**: The Green Patch, Valley Walk, Kettering, NN16 0LU

---

**Northamptonshire Short Breaks Service**

For all **Action For Children** enquiries please call 01604 752553 or email Northants.Disability@actionforchildren.org.uk

For all **Groundwork** enquiries please call 01536 521555 or email vickybowden@groundworkuk.org.uk
A three-year project by a local charity has given over 500 children with special needs more ambition and confidence about their future after school.

The tailored three-year programme was delivered by Teamwork Trust – a Northamptonshire charity which helps adults with mental health needs, learning and physical disabilities – to bridge the gap of support in schools and colleges in Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough.

As part of the Children in Need funded project, former teacher John Akers has worked closely with teaching staff at the schools since 2016 to identify and assist pupils in Years 11 to 13 who need extra help planning their future post-school.

John, Teamwork’s Transition Officer explains:

“I have worked with students with a range of disabilities in small groups and 90 children more intensively on a one-to-one basis, to provide a programme of work experience and education projects so that the prospect of leaving the structured school system is less daunting. There has been a wide range of disabilities, from Asperger’s to hearing difficulties, and the programme has made a huge difference.”

The social impact is impressive. 80% of students are more confident about searching and applying for jobs and training and 92% feel equipped with the skills for them get a job. The project met a need in all students with a positive impact on attendance and self-belief.

John added: “Although the Children in Need funding has ended, we have made provisions to ensure that the project continues. We will now offer these services under Teamwork’s general programmes which means that even more children will benefit from the support in the future.”

Transitions Leader, Isebrook College said: “John’s invaluable support to our learners has been of real benefit. We have seen their confidence, communication skills and independence grow, and they’ve gained a real awareness of the working world.”

Teamwork Trust has three centres - in Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough. The charity works with and supports its Northamptonshire members – adults with mental health needs, learning and physical disabilities – who can choose from enabling and education projects, activities and counselling programmes.

Teamwork Trust offers a friendly, supportive environment where individuals can make new friends, access education and employment experience and regain self-esteem and confidence.

Teamwork Trust works with businesses to help realise their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) goals. It has logistics facilities at each of its three centres, where all its members benefit from vocational work placements on the ‘factory floor’.

www.teamworktrust.co.uk
Part of the commitment to make Northamptonshire a person-centred authority is to obtain the opinion of children and young people with special educational needs about their lives. Viewpoint, as an approved international provider and designer, has been commissioned by the Local Authority to create an online survey for children and young people who have a current Education Health and Care Plan. The survey is to be completed by each child or young person when their annual review is due in order to be able to inform the SEN Officer who will review the EHC plan.

Children and young people with an EHC plan will be invited to complete an online survey about their life in school, at home, out and about and when using health services. (Children under the age of 7 may not be able to understand the concept or the questions). The SEN Case Workers will use the results of the individual surveys to inform the “voice of the child” in the EHC plan and to create an understanding and knowledge of the student directly from them.

Case Workers are able to access the survey results as part of the preparation for the annual review.

The survey can be completed in school, at home, at a youth club, or anywhere where the young person can access the internet. The survey can be listened to, as well as read.

Young people should be able to complete the survey independently, but will need encouragement to participate.

The surveys can be completed at two levels, one is much simpler and was designed following consultation with one of our special schools and a primary special unit and is based on the same questions as the second survey aimed for independent readers. The easy read version also has pictorial symbols as used in our special primary schools. However both versions have technology that will read the questions out loud. The questions have been developed with the EHC team and young people. They have been tested by the Shooting Stars, students from Northgate School and East Hunsbury SEN Unit. They ask about education, health and home life.

Research by Viewpoint suggests that students can complete the surveys quicker when working independently, but that in order to get young people to take up the opportunity there needs to be an adult/professional guiding them to it in the first instance. This was confirmed when tested by Northamptonshire students.

All the young people who tested it reported that they thought it really important that they were able to express their opinions and they welcomed the opportunity to complete the survey.

Completion of the survey is voluntary and should be seen as an opportunity for the voice of the student to be included in their annual review. However, should parents not wish for their son or daughter (if under 16) to complete the survey, this is acceptable. There is nothing controversial in the questions which were compiled by EHC staff and young people.

The website link is [www.vptol.co.uk](http://www.vptol.co.uk) and the Organisation Name is Nhantsehc. The user name and password are issued as the same, but the students can change their password.

Please encourage your son or daughter to complete the survey. It is one of the few surveys in the country that encourages young people with special educational needs to independently contribute. Some students complete the survey very quickly, others take longer.

There is a “retro” computer game to play at the end of the survey.
PBSS Personal Assistant Job Site

The Local Offer Governance group were asked about helping parents recruit personal assistants and agreed to take this to the Commissioners. They agreed that the Personal Budget Service (PBSS) in Adult Social Care would set up ‘job site’ to place adverts for personal assistants.

This site can be found on the NCC main website, on the Jobs and Careers webpage, and of course if you search the Local Offer you will be directed there. The job site is also for people looking for PA’s for adults as well as for children.

Parents in receipt of a ‘Direct Payment’ and referred to the PBSS for support can ask to have an advert placed on their behalf. People who are self-funding their support can ask for help from the PBSS, but there will be a charge to use the service.

The PBSS department have created a PA Register which is a list of people who are looking for work within the care industry. These people are notified about vacancies as they arise and their details are passed onto the prospective employer if the carer is interested in the vacancy. People who wish to be added to the PA register need to complete an online form to register. Customers or parents aren’t able to view the register themselves.

We recommend that you discuss the job site with your social worker when you agree a personal budget or direct payment. There is more information on the Local Offer website about the job site and about personal budgets.

My Health and Care Directory now live on NHCP website

Northamptonshire’s new comprehensive and reliable online directory of local health and care services is now available for public use on the NHCP website.

My Health and Care Directory brings together service listings held by NHS and care organisations throughout the county into one place. It's free and easy to use, enabling anyone to search for health and care services in their local area using a simple location or postcode search. The directory is already being used by health and care professionals, including GPs and hospital staff, as a quick and easy reference and signposting tool to support patient care. It includes a whole host of information about local services including contact information, opening hours, key details, availability and how they can be accessed.

The directory will continue to extend and add more services over time. We recommend that you return to the site.

To access My Health and Care Directory visit myhealthandcare.directory
**OPEN SESSIONS**

Is Teamwork Trust for you?

**VISIT US**

**on our next Open Session - 10.15am-12pm**

See how we support adults with mental health needs, learning and physical disabilities

**Open Session Dates**

Wellingborough - Friday 28th February

Corby - Friday 6th March

Kettering - Tuesday 24th March

Corby - Friday 3rd April

Wellingborough - Monday 6th April

Kettering - Friday 17th April

Unit 0, St Marks Rd, St James Ind Est, CORBY, NN18 8AN

1 Stanier Close, KETTERING, NN16 9XW

38a Oxford Street, WELLINGBOROUGH, NN8 4JG

Telephone 01536 511993

[www.teamworktrust.co.uk/open-sessions](http://www.teamworktrust.co.uk/open-sessions)
Information

www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/localoffer

Editorial Note
The Local Offer reserves the right to edit any submitted materials. The articles printed and the views expressed are not necessarily those of Northamptonshire County Council. Items are correct to the best of our knowledge, but we do not take any responsibility for any errors in information provided to us for inclusion.

Contact Details
Local Offer
telephone: 0300 126 1000 option 5
or email: localoffer@northamptonshire.gov.uk
or use our online forms on the website: www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/localoffer

IASS (Information, Advice and Support Service)
telephone: 01604 364772
email: contact@iassnorthants.co.uk
website: www.iassnorthants.co.uk

NPFG
e-mail: enquiries@npfg.co.uk
website: www.npfg.co.uk

Shooting Stars
telephone: 01604 368051
or: 07515 189630

SSS (Specialist Support Service)
e-mail: sss@northamptonshire.gov.uk
website: www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/specialistsupportservice

Deadline Dates
Should you wish to advertise your organisation, submit a personal story or place an article in the SNIX newsletter – please note our deadlines.

Articles submitted should be in a Word format as this will result in a better finish from our printers.
We are unable to take responsibility for the quality if submitted in another format.

Summer edition deadline
20 April 2020

Autumn edition deadline
11 September 2020

Local Offer
If you have found something new in SNIX or the Local Offer, please let the Local Offer team know.
Do you go to a group and want to show off what you have done recently?
Do you need new members?
Please let us know and we will advertise for you on the Local Offer and in the next SNIX. The Local Offer is being updated all the time, and we also post out information on Twitter and Facebook.

Paid Adverts
Please note that in order to keep the SNIX magazine produced, the Local Authority is now having to charge businesses to advertise in the SNIX magazine. Therefore some of the articles in the magazine may have been paid for by the provider. Adverts will continue to be relevant to the audience of SNIX. Please note that the Local Offer does not endorse or support these services.

SNIX would welcome more opportunities to generate an income to keep the magazine free for families and anyone wishing to take up an advert with us, should get in touch by the deadlines. Sponsorship would also be considered.

Paid Adverts
Please note that in order to keep the SNIX magazine produced, the Local Authority is now having to charge businesses to advertise in the SNIX magazine. Therefore some of the articles in the magazine may have been paid for by the provider. Adverts will continue to be relevant to the audience of SNIX. Please note that the Local Offer does not endorse or support these services.

SNIX would welcome more opportunities to generate an income to keep the magazine free for families and anyone wishing to take up an advert with us, should get in touch by the deadlines. Sponsorship would also be considered.

Milton Keynes Council Print Services
Signed into a carbon capture scheme in October 2013. This enabled us to reduce the overall spend on paper and do something good for the environment.
Calculations of the amount of CO2 emitted during the production and transport of our paper purchases and plant native species of trees right here in the UK through Premier and the Woodland Trust
This woodland helps not only to improve the environmental standards of the country but it also provides habitats for wildlife.
01908 252350

MKC Print Services
Signed into a carbon capture scheme in October 2013. This enabled us to reduce the overall spend on paper and do something good for the environment.
Calculations of the amount of CO2 emitted during the production and transport of our paper purchases and plant native species of trees right here in the UK through Premier and the Woodland Trust
This woodland helps not only to improve the environmental standards of the country but it also provides habitats for wildlife.
01908 252350

The Local Offer reserves the right to edit any submitted materials. The articles printed and the views expressed are not necessarily those of Northamptonshire County Council. Items are correct to the best of our knowledge, but we do not take any responsibility for any errors in information provided to us for inclusion.

Contact Details
Local Offer
telephone: 0300 126 1000 option 5
or email: localoffer@northamptonshire.gov.uk
or use our online forms on the website: www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/localoffer

IASS (Information, Advice and Support Service)
telephone: 01604 364772
email: contact@iassnorthants.co.uk
website: www.iassnorthants.co.uk

NPFG
e-mail: enquiries@npfg.co.uk
website: www.npfg.co.uk

Shooting Stars
telephone: 01604 368051
or: 07515 189630

SSS (Specialist Support Service)
e-mail: sss@northamptonshire.gov.uk
website: www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/specialistsupportservice

Deadline Dates
Should you wish to advertise your organisation, submit a personal story or place an article in the SNIX newsletter – please note our deadlines.

Articles submitted should be in a Word format as this will result in a better finish from our printers.
We are unable to take responsibility for the quality if submitted in another format.

Summer edition deadline
20 April 2020

Autumn edition deadline
11 September 2020

Local Offer
If you have found something new in SNIX or the Local Offer, please let the Local Offer team know.
Do you go to a group and want to show off what you have done recently?
Do you need new members?
Please let us know and we will advertise for you on the Local Offer and in the next SNIX. The Local Offer is being updated all the time, and we also post out information on Twitter and Facebook.

Paid Adverts
Please note that in order to keep the SNIX magazine produced, the Local Authority is now having to charge businesses to advertise in the SNIX magazine. Therefore some of the articles in the magazine may have been paid for by the provider. Adverts will continue to be relevant to the audience of SNIX. Please note that the Local Offer does not endorse or support these services.

SNIX would welcome more opportunities to generate an income to keep the magazine free for families and anyone wishing to take up an advert with us, should get in touch by the deadlines. Sponsorship would also be considered.

Milton Keynes Council Print Services
Signed into a carbon capture scheme in October 2013. This enabled us to reduce the overall spend on paper and do something good for the environment.
Calculations of the amount of CO2 emitted during the production and transport of our paper purchases and plant native species of trees right here in the UK through Premier and the Woodland Trust
This woodland helps not only to improve the environmental standards of the country but it also provides habitats for wildlife.
01908 252350

MKC Print Services
Signed into a carbon capture scheme in October 2013. This enabled us to reduce the overall spend on paper and do something good for the environment.
Calculations of the amount of CO2 emitted during the production and transport of our paper purchases and plant native species of trees right here in the UK through Premier and the Woodland Trust
This woodland helps not only to improve the environmental standards of the country but it also provides habitats for wildlife.
01908 252350