

May 2010 No. 32

Dear Parents/Carers,

The **parent surveys** have made very interesting reading. I have only had 38 back, so far, and I would appreciate many, many more. People have been using them as a chance to say some lovely things which we appreciate, and to air some grievances which will be listened to and acted upon. But as importantly, they have provided direction for the Centre, and concrete statements of what you want for your children and young people when we are writing for funding. They only take 10 minutes to complete. If you haven't done it yet, please find time to do so.

The 12 week pilot of **Apt Club** has come to an end. The young people who made use of this new service had a ball. We are currently finalising the structure of the new 12 month scheme for these young people and we will resume Apt Club as soon as possible.

With Easter Playscheme packed away, the arrangements for **Summer Playscheme** are starting to come together. The tentative structure is for all playschemes to be running together for the period beginning Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> until Aug 20.

PS 1 at the Children's Centre

PS 2 at Watford Boys' Grammar – 6<sup>th</sup> form centre

PS 3 at Watford Boys' Grammar – Sports Hall

Once finalised I will get forms out to you.

It is envisaged that PS 2 & 3 would register at the separate locations, but both would use all the facilities of both areas. In this way the children and young people would have a greater freedom and range of activities.

We have been contacted by the local PCT who is interested in gathering stories of your experiences with the NHS when dealing with a patient with learning disabilities. They want to hear about positive experiences so they can spread examples of best practice, and negative experiences to reassess what they do. If you have anything you would like to contribute please contact Veronica

Chamberlain at Head Office on 01923 713637 or by email [development@watfordmencap.org.uk](mailto:development@watfordmencap.org.uk) .

There is a new group called “**Stepping Out**” who have been funded to provide support **for young people 14-19** to access mainstream activities. They are based at Adrian Rd. These activities can be for one off events, clubs, hobbies as long as it gets the young people out doing things they want to do, but can't access without support. They cannot provide transport but can help the young people access public transport. If you want more information you can call Rob Wyatt 01923 267 607 or email [rob.wyatt@actionforchildren.org.uk](mailto:rob.wyatt@actionforchildren.org.uk) .

We are running a **special short break day** in partnership with Aldenham School **for young people 14-19** from Hertsmere. It is on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and will be a day of various hands on activities. Lunch is included and it will be free for all participants. There will be WM staff there to assist. If you would like your child to join in, just give me a call.

A big thank you to Leigh Fleming and her mum Fran, for all the help they gave at the Watford 10k event. If it wasn't for people such as these, the events we run could not run as smoothly.

Ro. Linton

Children's, Young Peoples' and Families' Services Manager