



# SPECIAL NEEDS NEWSLETTER

## NEWSLETTER – Autumn 2008

Havant & Petersfield Special Needs Forum Children 0 –19 Special Needs / Disabilities  
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### Are you missing out!

Many families are feeling the financial strain with the cost of living continuing to rise. Some families though are missing out on available financial assistance by not applying for benefits and tax credits that they are entitled to. Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is the main benefit for disabled children. This is usually paid every four weeks and is not means tested. DLA has two parts; 1. Care component, if your child needs a lot of looking after or help with personal care. There are three rates depending on the level of care required. 2. Mobility Component, if your child needs help getting around, they may qualify for mobility component. There are two rates, the lower rate is for those who can walk but need someone to supervise or guide them and the higher rate is for those who have severe difficulties.

Tax Credits for working people and for people with children. There are two tax credits – Working tax credit – means tested for working people on low incomes, and Child tax credit – means tested for people with children. If you are on low income there are a range of benefits you may qualify for such as Income Support, Personal allowances, Premiums, Housing & Council tax credit and The carer premium. There are also Community Care grants – a payment to ease exceptional pressures. Fares to hospital treatments.

Once your child turns 16 they may be able to claim Incapacity Benefit, DLA and Attendance Allowance.

Each have their own eligibility criteria, so for help and advice on any of the above call Contact a Family on their Benefits Enquiry Line 0800 88 22 00 Go on, you can only gain.



### Financial Help from Charities

The Family Fund helps families with severely disabled children to have choices and the opportunity to enjoy ordinary life.

We give grants for things that make life easier and more enjoyable for the disabled child and their family, such as washing machines, driving lessons, hospital visiting costs, computers and holidays. Call 0845 130 4542 or 01904 621115 or visit [www.familyfund.org.uk](http://www.familyfund.org.uk)

The Child Care Action Trust has helped more than six hundred disabled children, living in the United Kingdom (some many times), by the provision of many other forms of equipment and facilities such as Conductive Education, to provide relief for these children, that are not freely available from the health service, social services or affordable by their families. This equipment, that makes such a difference, includes walking frames, special needs garden swings, electric wheelchairs, special needs beds, text communication aids for children unable to speak, special support "second skin" suits and visual activity equipment to help children with learning disabilities. [www.thechildcareactiontrust.org.uk](http://www.thechildcareactiontrust.org.uk)

## Appropriate Secondary Education

There are a large number of families in the Havant and Petersfield area that are concerned about the lack of appropriate secondary level education for children with ASD and similar disorders. Several of the local Support groups have joined together to campaign for specialist provision within the Havant & Petersfield area to be provided. To give a true perspective of the issues, we would like to establish how many children there are in the area with any social communication disorder or mild learning difficulties, especially those who are high functioning. If you do not belong to Flash, Space, PAAS or H&P SNF then we would like to hear from you, whether you have a young child who is just starting in the education system, just about to move up to secondary school, struggling to cope in school, have been withdrawn or expelled from school or have achieved at secondary school. Please speak to Cathryn on 078679 23995 or e-mail your story to [handpsnf@hcff.org.uk](mailto:handpsnf@hcff.org.uk) Together we can make a difference.

## Funding for Inclusion



Could your child access mainstream school clubs, childcare or holiday provision if there were extra staff or equipment available. Did you know that groups can apply for extra funding towards staff costs or special equipment to allow inclusion. £8.50 per 2.5 hour session is available to private, voluntary and independent registered settings and in high need cases up to £11.50 per session. Children must meet the criteria but do not need a statement. This money cannot be used to pay fees. It is paid by the Early Education and Childcare Unit to the setting. Ask your Area Inclusion Co-ordinator for more details. 03292 259906

## Useful Contacts & sites to visit

Carers Together - Help, support and advice for all carers.  
02392 595455 [Sylvia@carerstogether.org.uk](mailto:Sylvia@carerstogether.org.uk)

Wheatshaf Trust - Employment access centre 02392  
498950 [lucy.havanteac@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lucy.havanteac@yahoo.co.uk)

Contact a Family - for families with disabled children.  
[www.cafamily.org.uk](http://www.cafamily.org.uk) or [Debbie.ravensdale@cafamily.org.uk](mailto:Debbie.ravensdale@cafamily.org.uk)

Council for Disabled Children - [www.ncb.org.uk/cdc](http://www.ncb.org.uk/cdc)

Working Families - [www.workingfamilies.org.uk](http://www.workingfamilies.org.uk)

Help for the Hyperactive Child - [www.hacsg.org](http://www.hacsg.org)  
01243551313

Petersfield Society for Special Needs - 01730 823437

Parent Partnership Service - Advice and support on your  
child's education and related issues 01962 845870



## Do you use your Library?

Visually impaired, learning difficulties, dyslexia, disruptive or even problems holding a book. Ask you Library about an altered status borrower card. These are access cards for special needs borrowers, which allow them free hire of all audio- visual items. That's free DVD's, Talking Books and Videos.

## Disclaimer

While every effort has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information in this newsletter, the Forum cannot accept any liability for loss or damage that result from error or omissions

Havant & Petersfield Special Needs Forum  
Invites You to our

## Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2008 - 9.30 - 11.30 am  
Guest Speaker Jayne Baines form National  
Childminders Association - Including Everyone  
Project

at

Sharps Copse Family Centre, Prospect Lane,  
Havant PO9 5PE.

All welcome Refreshments provided