



28th February 2018

FEBRUARY WOKINGHAM MAILING

Dear Member,

Data Protection

Help Wokingham, Bracknell & Districts Mencap keep in touch with you. Please read the attached letter and return it to us with your answers via email or post as soon as possible. Please remember to include your name. **It is important that you respond to allow us to continue to contact you.**

Membership

We would like to remind members that the membership fee for 2018 is now due. Paying the membership allows you to continue as a member of our organisation and to continue to have access to our services. The membership fee is £15 for the year and can be paid by cash or cheque or into our bank account. Cheques should be made payable to Wokingham, Bracknell & Districts Mencap and **sent to our new office address.** Our bank details are:

Name of Account: Wokingham, Bracknell & Districts Mencap Ltd
Account Code: 03839646
Sort Code: 30-91-11
Bank: Lloyds, High Street, Bracknell RG12 1BT

Thank you to those members who have already paid their fees for 2018.

AGM – Save the Date

Our Annual General Meeting will take place at Easthampstead Park Conference Centre on **Thursday 5th July**. Further information about this event will be sent out in a few months' time, but PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!

20th Anniversary Ball

Our **Anniversary Ball** has been arranged for **Saturday 5th May 2018** at Hilton St. Anne's Manor, Wokingham. The money raised at the Ball will go towards keeping our social groups for adults running. Why not get together with friends and buy a table for 10 people or just buy tickets for yourself and we can seat you on one of the tables. This will be a great night out and a chance to dress up in your posh frocks. Tickets are **£55** per person and will include:

- A glass of sparkly on arrival while you are dazzled by the close up magic of Kerry Scoriah
- A delicious 4-course meal with half a bottle of wine each
- Auctions – live and silent
- A great raffle
- Live music from 'Flashback' who recapture all the excitement of the golden age of Swing and Rock'n'Roll featuring the iconic hits of the 1940s and 1950s.

The evening will be compered by Rainer Hersch, the hilarious international Comic Conductor. **Please add this event to your Facebook/twitter/LinkedIn and help us publicise it and sell as many tickets as possible.**

Wokingham, Bracknell & Districts
Mencap

The Court House
Broadway
Town Square
Bracknell
Berkshire RG12 1AE
Tel: 0300 777 8539

admin@wokinghammencap.org
www.wokinghambracknellmencap.org

Interim Chair
Ray Clark

Joint Chief Executives
Mary Durman
Heather Young

**Celebrating our 20th
Anniversary**

**A Local Charity
supporting
Local People to
be included in their
Local
Communities**

Affiliated to but not funded by
Royal Mencap Society



Do you have family or friends who work for a company that would give us a prize e.g. Dinner for 2 at a restaurant or pub, a game of Golf, oven cleaning, baby sitting, a manicure, a hairdressing voucher, a Spa session etc. that we can use either as an auction prize – live or silent, or a raffle prize? Please help us if you can. The more prizes we get, the more money we can raise on the night.

Job Vacancies

We have a number of vacancies at the current time including one for an Office Co-ordinator. We also have vacancies for a Bookkeeper and for a Co-ordinator for our Gateway group. Further details are included below.

OFFICE CO-ORDINATOR

20 hours per week - £18,200 pro rata (based on 35 hr wk)

To provide administrative support to enable the day to day functioning of the Wokingham, Bracknell & Districts Mencap office and to assist on other projects as required

BOOKKEEPER

5 hours per week - £21,840 pro rata (based on 35 hr wk)

To maintain the accounts on Sage and be responsible for the financial accounts of Wokingham, Bracknell & Districts Mencap and its projects.

GATEWAY AWARD PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR - Bracknell

Average 10-12 hours per week - £11 per hour

The Gateway Award Project is a life-skills programme (similar to the Duke of Edinburgh Award) working with adults with learning disabilities and/or autism. The project takes place at workshops on Monday and Thursday evenings in Bracknell, the office (for admin for the project) and at other venues as required. We have a vacancy for a Co-ordinator to supervise staff and volunteers and promote and facilitate the Mencap Gateway Award including supporting adults to enrol on the Award and verify evidence collected by individuals to send for external verification. To lead in providing activities at the workshops and organising trips off-site to meet the requirements of the Gateway Award. To attend training, meetings, outings and special activities as required.

**Closing date for applications for these vacancies is Friday 16th March.
Interviews will be held during the week beginning Monday 26th March 2018**

Could YOU be a trustee?

We need trustees to run this amazing charity that provides support to children and adults with a learning disability/autism spectrum condition, their carers and families across the Boroughs of Wokingham and Bracknell. We cannot run this organisation without trustees. We are looking to appoint trustees to strengthen the expertise of our board and to help meet the challenges of delivering its strategy of growth. Of particular value would be expertise in one or more of the following fields:

- Marketing
- Project Management
- IT
- Fundraising
- HR

Understanding of legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship of a charity would be an advantage, but training will be provided. In accordance with the Charity Commissioner's regulations, no remuneration is payable for these positions, but expenses will be reimbursed. If you can commit to up to 6 evenings and a few days per year to keeping this vibrant organisation running, please contact the Chief Executives at admin@wokinghammencap.org attaching a full CV or telephone Heather or Mary on 0300 777 8539 for an informal chat.

NEWS AND EVENTS FOR CARERS

Carers Lunch

The next carers' lunch will be on **Tuesday 13th March** from 12.15pm to 2.00pm at Rose Street Methodist Church, Rose Street, Wokingham. Carers Lead at Wokingham Borough Council Simon Lock will be coming along to talk to carers. A flyer is attached so that you can book a place at the lunch.

Thinking Ahead Workshop – Tuesday 17th April

Our fourth 'Thinking Ahead' workshop is taking place on Tuesday 17th April from 9.45am. Speakers will include Boyes Turner who will talk about Wills & Trusts and Malcolm Phillips the Fraud Victim Support Officer Please

note the venue for this event will be The Bradbury Centre, Rose St., Wokingham. Contact the office on 0300 777 8539 to book your place for this event.

NEWS AND EVENTS FOR CHILDREN

Smiles for Sibs Club

The **Smiles for Sibs Club** runs weekly during term time on **Monday evenings from 4.15pm-6.00pm** at Woodley Airfield Community Centre and costs just £1 a session. The last session for this group before the Easter holidays will be on Monday 26th March. There are spaces at the group for new children. The Co-ordinator for this group is Debora Hughes Casabal. Debora can be contacted on 07584 582776 or contact the office on 0300 777 8539.

Smiles for Sibs Trips

We are organising 2 trips for siblings: **Wednesday 4th April** a trip to **Chessington World of Adventures** and **Saturday 14th April** a trip to see **Madagascar** at South Hill Park. See attached flyer for further details and how to book a place.

Youth Club @ Addington

The **Youth Club @ Addington School** runs **every Wednesday** during term-time from **7.00pm-9.00pm**. Young people with learning disabilities between the ages of 13 (year 9) and 19 are welcome to come along for a fun filled evening. Each week a variety of different activities are planned, including board games, sports, movie nights, pizza making, a tuck shop and more. There is currently a small weekly charge of £1. Bethanie Cook is the Co-ordinator for this group and can be contacted on 07551 159073 or phone the office on 0300 777 8539.

*This group is currently funded by a Wokingham Borough Council Short Breaks grant, but as from April 2018 Wokingham Borough Council will give Wokingham, Bracknell & Districts Mencap and other organisations significantly reduced funding in order to transition to a system of Direct Payments. In effect this means that they will no longer give us any grant to run the Youth Club as they expect parents to pay for their child to attend the group from their Direct Payment. However we are aware that some parents will not receive Direct Payments. This means that to keep the group running we will have to increase the cost of young people attending the Youth Club, but recognise that not everyone will get a Direct Payment so will have to self-fund. **Currently the cost of running this group is approximately £15 per young person per session based on 15 attending but we recognise that this may need to be subsidised with additional fundraising. We will advise the new weekly charge at the beginning of April.***

Going forward from April we will have to invoice in advance on a termly basis but longer term if we do not get sufficient income from the fees the club may have to close.

NEWS AND EVENTS FOR ADULTS

Paul's Karaoke

Paul's Karaoke meets in the Rose Room at the Rose Street Methodist Church usually on the middle two Wednesdays of each month. In March they will meet on **Wednesday 14th and Wednesday 21st March**. The group is open to anyone over the age of 16 who has a learning disability. There is a small charge of £3 per session.

@The Acorn Social Group

@The Acorn is our weekly social club for adults 16+ with learning disabilities, including those with profound and multiple learning disabilities. The club runs every Tuesday evening from 7.00pm-9.00pm at the Acorn Community Centre, Woosehill. The activities in March include:

- **Tuesday 6th March – Arts and Crafts – Mother's Day**
- **Tuesday 13th March – Bongos**
- **Tuesday 20th March – Seed Planting** (bring an apron)
- **Tuesday 27th March – Arts and Crafts - Easter**

There is a small charge of £3 per person which includes drink, snacks and different activities every week. In light of current funding cuts, we are reviewing this weekly charge and may have to increase it.

TGIF/Friday Alternative

This social group is for adults aged 16+ with Aspergers Syndrome/high functioning autism. It meets 3 times a month. In March the next meetings are:

- **Wednesday 14th March – Gravity Force.** £11.00 + £2.00 for socks. Train fare £4.60 from Wokingham
- **Friday 23rd March The Olde Leathern Bottel, Wokingham.** £15.00-£25.00
- **Wednesday 28th March – a meal at Calzone Pizza Restaurant.** £18.00-£20.00

(Please note that dinner at the Olde leathern Bottel will be on the third Friday of the month in March)

Ruth Hatch runs the group and can be contacted by email at autism@bracknellmencap.org, or phone/text 07929 114179. **Please note that there is an annual charge of £60 to attend TGIF/Friday Alternative. This can be paid in 2 instalments. This fee helps to cover the cost of staffing the group.**

Friday Alternative visit to Oxford & Pitt Rivers Museum

Ruth has organised a visit to Oxford and the Pitt Rivers Museum on **Saturday 17th March** travelling by train from Wokingham to Oxford. The cost will be approx. £25 for travel plus extra money for food etc. Meet at Wokingham Station at 9.30am. *If you would like to go we need to know by Wednesday 14th March.* Ruth will send out further details to Friday Alternative members.

Gateway – Bracknell

Unfortunately the Co-ordinator that we employed to run the Gateway project has had to resign for personal reasons. We are now re-advertising the post, but in the meantime we are really disappointed to have to continue suspending the group.

NEWS FROM OTHER GROUPS

Carers' Crafts

This is a drop-in craft group for carers run by carer Pat Regan. The group meets every month and does a variety of craft activities, drinks lots of tea and chats. The group runs from 10am to 12noon at Wokingham Fire Station, Easthampstead Road, Wokingham. Please note that there is no parking on site, but there is a public car park next door. If you intend to come along please bring a small sewing kit with you containing needle, thread, scissors, pencil and ruler. We do have a theme each month but also have cards available to decorate. Members are welcome to bring their own projects to finish and/ or give ideas to others. No need to book a place now we have a new larger venue. The dates for future meetings are: **Thursday 22nd March** and **Thursday 19th April**

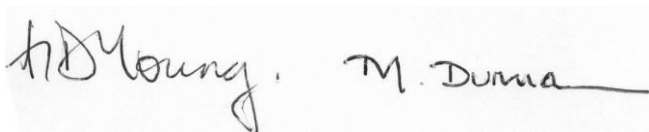
Kidz to Adultz Events

FREE events for children and young adults up to 25 with disabilities and additional needs, their families, carers and professionals who support them. Kidz to Adultz Middle is taking place on Thursday 15th March 2018 from 9.30am to 4.30pm at the Ericsson Exhibition Hall, Ricoh Arena, Coventry. Kidz to Adultz South will take place this year on 17th May 2018 at Farnborough International, Farnborough. For more information go to: Disabled Living, email: info@disabledliving.co.uk; tel: 0161 6078200; www.kidzexhibitions.co.uk.

ASSIST workshops Autism Awareness – Level 1 on Tuesday 20th March, 2018 from 9.30am to 1.15pm at Woodley Airfield Centre, Hurricane Way, Woodley, RG5 4UX. For more information or to book a place, please contact: ASSISTworkshops@wokingham.gov.uk or telephone 01189088053.

If you have any questions about anything in this mailing, please call the office on 0300 777 8539 or email admin@wokinghammencap.org.

Kind regards



Mary Durman and Heather Young
Joint Chief Executives

Encs

PS We need a kitchen wall cabinet to put up in our new office. If you have an old cabinet that you don't want, please let us know. It doesn't matter what colour it is!