



Wokingham, Bracknell & Districts
Mencap
The Court House
Broadway
Town Square
Bracknell
Berkshire RG12 1AE
Tel: 0300 777 8539

admin@wokinghammencap.org
www.wokinghambracknellmencap.org

26th February 2019

FEBRUARY WOKINGHAM MAILING

Dear Member,

AGM – Save the Date

Our Annual General Meeting will take place at Easthampstead Park Conference Centre on **Monday 29th April at 7.30pm**. Please come along and support our organisation and hear about our successes over the last year and plans for the coming year. The Bracknell Forest Borough Mayor, Alvin Finch, will be presenting the Gateway Award Certificates at our AGM. Please email admin@wokinghammencap.org or phone 0300 777 8539 if you intend to come along to our AGM.

Joint Chief Executives
Mary Durman
Heather Young

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.

**A local Charity
supporting
local people to
be included in their
local
communities**

**Bracknell Forest
Borough Mayor's
Charity of the Year
2018-2019**

Membership

We would like to remind members that the **membership fee for 2019 is OVERDUE**. 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 office address. Our bank details are:

Affiliated to but not funded by
Royal Mencap Society



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 2019.

Bracknell Forest Mayor's Charity of the Year:

Mayor's Spring Soiree Friday 22nd March



Join us for this great fundraising event at Bracknell Rugby Football Club on Friday 22nd March. Tickets cost £24 per person and include a 2-course Spring Buffet and live music. **Book by 4th March.** All proceeds will go towards our Gateway Project. To book a place go to www.bit.do/bwmencap or call 01344 352000.

Clothes Banks Donations

If you would like to help raise funds for our charity you can donate your unwanted clothes to one of the clothes banks, which are located in car parks around the Bracknell Forest Borough, where it states that the proceeds go to the Mayor's Charity, as these will be donated to our charity.

Social Media

Look out for us on the Bracknell Forest Mayor's social media at **mayorbfc** on Facebook and on our Facebook page and like us and share our posts on Facebook and Twitter.

Help us raise funds as the Mayor's Charity

We are looking for brave volunteers to take part in a **sponsored skydive** for the charity – we already have 4 volunteers, but the more who take part, the more money we can raise. You need to raise a minimum of £400 sponsorship which will include the cost of the skydive – but what an experience!

We are also looking for runners and non-runners to sign up for the Bracknell half-marathon which will take place in May 2019. Or you could think of your own sponsored challenge! If you are interested or have an idea for a sponsored event please let us know at the office and we can work with you to make this happen. **All the money raised by the Mayor's Charity this year will go towards the Gateway Project to help keep it running.**

NEWS AND EVENTS FOR CARERS

Carers Lunch

The next meeting will be a lunch on **Tuesday 12th March** from 12.15pm to 2.00pm at **Rose Street Methodist Church, Rose Street, Wokingham**. Joanne McShane, CLASP Manager will be coming along to talk to carers about the Learning Disability Partnership Board. Please see the attached flyer for more details and how to book.

Thinking Ahead Workshop

We have organised another workshop for carers as part of our Thinking Ahead series. The workshop will take place on **Wednesday 27th March** at the **Town Hall, Wokingham** and will focus on Health and Wellbeing for carers. As always a lunch and refreshments will be provided. For more information please see the attached flyer and details of how to book your place.

Notice to Club Members

(Bracknell Social Group, The Friday Alternative, @ The Acorn, Youth Club@Addington)

Everyone accessing our clubs and activities **must** be a fully paid up member of Wokingham, Bracknell & Districts Mencap in order to ensure they are covered by our insurance. (The membership fee is £15 per year and is due on 1st January every year).

For our clubs and activities to run, all participants must also pay the relevant annual Club fee. (This covers staff and volunteer costs, publicity and stationery costs, hall hire, activity costs etc). Participants will be invoiced for this fee on a yearly basis but you can arrange to pay in instalments. If you do not pay the invoice within 30 days of receiving it, you will have to pay **double the weekly fee** when you attend a Club.

If you do not pay the Wokingham, Bracknell & Districts Mencap membership and Club fees, unfortunately, you will not be allowed to continue to participate in any of the activities. Please be aware, if we do not receive enough club fees, then sadly clubs may have to close.

This policy was agreed by the board of Trustees on 31st January 2019 and is effective from 1st March 2019.

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. There are spaces at the group for new children. Ruth Hatch runs this group and can be contacted on 07551 159072 or contact the office on 0300 777 8539 for further information.

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 a weekly charge of £5 (to be invoiced in advance). **You can pay for Youth Club from your Short Breaks budget.** The Co-ordinator for this group and can be contacted on 07551 159073 or phone the office on 0300 777 8539.

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. The next meetings are **Wednesday 13th March and Wednesday 20th March**. The group is open to anyone over the age of 16 who has a learning disability. There is a charge of £4 per session. **Please note that the group will not meet on Wednesday 17th April.**

@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 5th March – Karaoke** (No need to bring CDs as we can use Spotify)
- **Tuesday 12th March – Games night**
- **Tuesday 19th March – Musical theatre Show** (performed by the dancers who rehearse at The Acorn on Tuesday evenings)
- **Tuesday 26th March – Mother's Day crafts**

Please note that there is a weekly fee of £4 to attend this group which is invoiced annually.

Friday Alternative

This social group is for adults aged 16+ with Asperger's Syndrome/high functioning autism. In March the next meetings are:

- **Wednesday 13th March – Calzone Italian Pizza Restaurant, 95B Bean Oak Road, Wokingham.** The table is booked for 7pm and a meal and drinks will cost between £15.00-£25.00.
- **Friday 29th March – Dinner/drinks at The Olde Leathern Bottle, Wokingham.** The table is booked for 7pm and a meal and drinks will cost between £18.00-£25.00.

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 Friday Alternative. This can be paid in 2 instalments. This fee helps to cover the cost of staffing the group.**

NEWS FROM OTHER GROUPS

Wokingham Learning Disability Partnership Board

The partnership Board will be running their next Roadshow on Tuesday 5th March from 10am to 11.30am at The Rose Room, Bradbury Centre, Rose Street, Wokingham. For more information please contact the Partnership Board on 01189 796364 or email: admin@partnershipboard.org.uk

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 that we have a new larger venue. The dates for future meetings are: **Thursday 14th March, Thursday 11th April, Thursday 9th May, Thursday 13th June, Thursday 11th July.**

Wokingham Borough Council SEND strategy consultation/REACH AGM

WBC is currently consulting on their new draft strategy for supporting children & young people with special educational needs & disabilities (SEND) 2019-2022. The strategy has been produced by WBC, other public service partners and schools in the first instance and now they would like to hear the views of parents and carers. A link to the on-line consultation is now **LIVE**: [SEND Strategy Consultation 2019](#).

WBC have extended the closing date to 31st March (not 9th March as stated on the website). REACH have also asked that the appendices mentioned in the strategy are made available to parents. As soon as these are available on the website they will let you know. REACH Wokingham will be reviewing the strategy in detail and are encouraging as many parents as possible to comment on this key strategy that will focus how the council will support children & young people with SEND in our Borough. Paul Doherty the new Assistant Director, Education will be attending the **REACH AGM on 6th March** to present the new 0-25 SEND Strategy and talk to parents. All the details of the AGM and how to book tickets for this FREE events are here: [AGM/0-25 Consultation 2019](#)

NHS Long Term Plan

NHS Long Term Plan - In January, the NHS unveiled its 'Long Term Plan' to ensure the NHS is fit for the future for patients, their families and the people who work for the NHS. It includes autism alongside learning disability as a clinical priority and commitments to tackle inequality and improve health and social care services across the country. You can read the plan here: <https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/>

Short Breaks Survey

Following the changes over the last year to Short Breaks and Respite care in the Wokingham Borough, REACH Wokingham are carrying out a short survey. We would like to know how the changes have affected families in the Borough so that we can continue to work to improve this service for families. The link to the survey can be found at: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3T72QJW>

The closing date for the survey is 10th March and results will be available later in the year on the REACH Wokingham website later in the year.

CAN Network Contact Details

Please note the changes to the contact details for the CAN Network:

Maria Walker,
CAN Network Co-ordinator,
People Services,
Woodley Airfield Centre,
Hurricane Way,
Woodley RG5 4UX,
Telephone: 0118974 6897 Mobile: 07789652168

Royal Mencap Society National Survey

Royal Mencap Society is running the first national survey of people with a learning disability in 15 years! This national survey will be a chance for people with a learning disability to tell Mencap about their everyday lives and experiences. The survey will be asking questions on topics that people with a learning disability have told Mencap are important to them, such as health, relationships, employment and inclusion. The results will help Mencap to provide better support and further improve the lives of people with a learning disability. Go to:

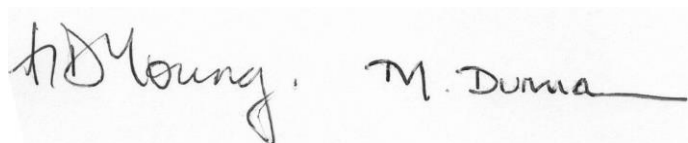
www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/big-learning-disability-survey

Optalis SES Pancake Pantry

Clients from the Optalis Supported Employment Service will be serving up pancakes at the Rainbow Café, Acorn Centre, Wokingham on Monday 4th March from 12noon-2.30pm. There is a selection of fillings to choose from and all pancakes are served with a tea or coffee. To book your place, tel: 0118 977 8636 or email: supportedemployment@optalis.org.

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

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink on a light-colored background. The first signature is 'H Young' and the second is 'M. Durman'.

Heather Young and Mary Durman
Joint Chief Executives

Enclosures