



25th January 2018

JANUARY WOKINGHAM MAILING

Dear Member,

Happy New Year to you all. We have moved to our new office in Bracknell. **Our new address is: The Court House, Broadway, Town Square, Bracknell, RG12 1AE.** Our telephone number remains the same: **0300 777 8539.**

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. Although we have started to charge to attend these groups, the charges do not cover the total running costs so we still have to fundraise to subsidise them. **We need you** to 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 Scorch
- 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

We will be selling tables of 10, so you could either get together with a group of friends and book table of 10 or come on your own or with a partner and we can seat you. A booking form is attached. We look forward to seeing you at what will be a fabulous event that will also help raise funds for our charity – bring your dancing shoes!

We also need you to ask family and friends if they work for a company that would give us a prize e.g. Dinner for 2 at a restaurant, a game of Golf, oven cleaning, baby sitting, a manicure, a hairdressing voucher 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.

Wokingham, Bracknell & Districts Mencap

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admin@wokinghammencap.org
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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



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: **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@wokighammencap.org attaching a full CV or telephone Heather or Mary on 0300 777
: 8539 for an informal chat.
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NEWS AND EVENTS FOR CARERS

Carers Coffee Morning

The next carers' meeting will be our Coffee Morning on **Tuesday 8th February** from 10.00am to 12.00noon in the Rose Room at Rose St Methodist Church. Come along for free tea and cake and a chat with other carers.

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. 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.

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 small weekly charge of £2. 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 and we recognise that this may need to be subsidised with additional fundraising.

Can you help us by answering these questions below?

Do you know if you will be receiving Direct Payments? YES/NO

Are you willing to pay £5 per hour (£10 per session)? YES/NO
If not, how much would you be willing to pay?

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

(You can send your responses back by email to admin@wokinghammencap.org)

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 February they will meet on **Wednesday 14th and Wednesday 21st February**. 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 February include:

- **Tuesday 6th February – Arts and Crafts Spring Scene**
- **Tuesday 13th February – Valentines Party**
- **Tuesday 20th February – Quiz Night**
- **Tuesday 27th February – Games Night**

There is a small charge of £3 per person which includes drink, snacks and different activities every week.

TGIF/Friday Alternative

This social group is for adults aged 16+ with Aspergers Syndrome/high functioning autism. It meets 3 times a month on the first and second Wednesdays and the last Friday.

In February the next meetings are:

- **Wednesday 7th February – Wokingham Super Bowl at 7pm. £9.95 for 2 games.**
- **Wednesday 14th February – Nandos Chicken Restaurant, The Lexicon at 7pm. £18.00-£25.00**
- **Friday 23rd February – The Olde Leathern Bottel, Wokingham. £15.00-£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 TGIF/Friday Alternative. This can be paid in 2 instalments. This fee helps to cover the cost of staffing the group.**

Gateway – Bracknell

Our new Gateway Co-ordinator, Katherine Sephton, has started employment with us and is currently learning about the project and making preparations to get the project up and running again. In due course she will contact individuals who were taking part in Gateway when the project had to be suspended and a date to re-start the group will be arranged. It is hoped to then also open up the project to new participants.

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 15th February
Thursday 22nd March
Thursday 19th April

ROYAL MENCAP SOCIETY – MENCAP DIRECT

Mencap Direct has changed to the Learning Disability Helpline. They're still available as normal, from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. You can phone 0808 808 1111 or email helpline@mencap.org.uk and they'll get back to you. The Learning Disability Helpline is a free help and advice line. Advisors can offer you advice and information about learning disability and help you to find the right support and Mencap services in your area.

REACH WOKINGHAM

The Local Area OFSTED inspection is likely to happen in the next few months. REACH want to ensure that they collect the views of as many parents as possible so that when OFSTED come, even if parents cannot make it to the meetings, we can ensure that their views on the SEND services provided by the council, health and education in the borough are heard. REACH Wokingham therefore have a number of activities planned to capture information:

1. SEND self-evaluation questionnaire: All local authorities have to produce a self-evaluation of current services for children and young people with special educational needs & disabilities (SEND) in their borough. This will form part of the OFSTED Local Area review of SEND services when it happens. [REACH Wokingham](#) have been asked to help Wokingham Borough with their evaluation and we would like to get feedback from as many parents as possible so that we can check that the views of the council, health and education in the local area matches the experience of local families. Please complete the [SEND Self-evaluation survey](#) so that we know your views and experiences. The feedback from this survey will be shared with the Council, Health and Education but all responses will remain anonymous. The survey should take around 15 minutes to complete. As a thank you for completing the survey your name will be entered into a **free prize draw** for a **£20 John Lewis voucher**. Closing date for the survey is **Friday 9th February**. To get a hard copy of the survey please contact Terri at REACHWokingham@hotmail.co.uk

2. Collecting more detailed information on specific topics - REACH Wokingham would also like to conduct some more targeted information collection with parent carers on specific topics that we know OFSTED will want to have feedback from parents on. We know that some of you have activities/sessions planned in the next few weeks/over half term and would be grateful if you could let us know of any opportunities there might be to gather parents views on topics such; SEN support in schools, CAMHS, Therapies, the Local Offer or Early Identification of Needs. We would either be happy to come along to one of your sessions or provide sheets/flip charts to collect the views of parent. If you would like more information or wish to discuss this further please let me know.

3. REACH Wokingham parent carer event - on Wednesday 28th February (evening) we will be holding an event for parent carers to come along and share their views and experiences. More details to follow on this event very soon and we would be grateful if you could circulate this information to your parent members when it is available

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. The first signature is 'H Young' and the second is 'M. Durman'. They are written on a light-colored background.

Mary Durman and Heather Young
Joint Chief Executives
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