
Include Project - E Bulletin

December 2009

Include
Project

This Issue...

Welcome to the December 2009 edition of The Include Project National E-Bulletin. This edition is packed full of information and resources that we hope you find useful, if you have any information you would like added to future editions please contact [Toni-Marie Smith](#)

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News from The Children's Society Include Project

The end of the year is upon us again. We would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support of the Include Project and to wish you all a Happy Festive Season and a Happy New Year.

We are pleased to announce that Michelle Lineros has recently been promoted to Programme Manger of the The Children's Society Hampshire Children's Centres. Unfortunately this means she will not longer be National Development Worker at the Include Project. We are sad to see her go but wish her the best of luck in her new role.

Breaking News!

New Grant Opportunity from the Innovation Fund

The National Young Carers Coalition (NYCC) has announced the aims, process and timescales for applications for the new £1million fund provided by The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and launched by Baroness Morgan on 26th November to help more voluntary sector young carers projects to adapt the support they offer to better focus on lifting young carers out of inappropriate caring roles and provide sustainable solutions to their difficulties.

At an event in Westminster Baroness Morgan spoke about the work done by Young Carers across the country:

“Young carers do a fantastic job, against the odds and often in circumstances that would seem impossible even to people of more mature years. We should salute them for what they do, and give them our support.”

"But we must also recognise that they have their own lives to live, and we owe it to them not to allow their childhoods to be swallowed up by taking on inappropriate caring roles. I believe that by working together, all of us here today can prevent that from happening."

Funding will be delivered through an open grants programme coordinated by the National Young Carers Coalition and managed by The Princess Royal Trust for Carers as the budget holder.

The Innovation Fund's aim has been driven by an increasing recognition that support and respite for young carers themselves is beneficial but will not, on its own, remedy the factors which cause children to have to take on, or continue in, excessive or inappropriate caring roles. It is important that approaches are developed which address the broader problems and provide improvements in outcomes for the whole family. The new approaches will take into account not only the child, but also the needs of the cared for person and the whole family.

Applications must be submitted by Friday 29th January 2010 and application packs with forms and guidance notes are available on line at www.carers.org Contact grants@carers.org with any queries or ring the Grants Team at The Princess Royal Trust for Carers on 0844 800 4361

YCF 10th Birthday DVD!

Did your project manage to make it to the 10th birthday of the young carers festival? If your project was, then there is now the chance to relive the fun of those festive few days back in June this year. 1465 young carers from 78 projects all came together to celebrate 10 years of the YCF's achievements in promoting the voices of Young Carers. This DVD, we hope, will make a wonderful keepsake for the young carers themselves or for your project as a whole.

To order please email include-project@childrenssociety.org.uk and request an order form.

National Include Partnership Update

Include Training

The Children's Society in partnership with The Princess Royal Trust for Carers is currently working on a DCSF funded project to deliver training to 9 Local Authorities, one in each Government Region. We are now currently working in Stockton-on-tees, Calderdale and Salford, and are reviewing work in Shropshire, Slough and Wandsworth.

We have recently received further funding to deliver this training package to another 6 Local Authorities across England so please watch the website for any further news.

Think Family: Putting the Vision into Practice – Regional Events

In collaboration with The National Treatment Agency The Children's Society and The Royal Princess Trust for Carers will be delivering a series of regional events with a focus to support agencies to join together to develop services specifically for families where there is parental

substance misuse, parental mental health and dual diagnosis where children are in a caring role.

Delivery of this programme will commence in early 2010 with regional conferences in Newcastle, Manchester and Birmingham. If you are interested in attending please contact [Toni-Marie Smith](#)

The National Young Carers Forum

In the last two months the National Young Carers Forum (NYCF) have continued to be involved in the development of the Include Partnerships work and sharing this knowledge with others. In September some members went along to meet The Children's Society Trustees board and share with them the work they have been doing and the activities they have been involved in. The trustees were very impressed with the NYCF achievements.

At the beginning of October the NYCF got together at Boreatton Activity Park in Shropshire to discuss the issue of stigma and respect for young carers and their families. A write up of this event will be available on our website soon.

For further information about the Include Training Partnership and the NYCF visit The Children's Society Include Training Programme [Webpages](#)

Other News

The Young Carers Coalition

On the 26th November a group of leading organizations came together to launch the first ever National Young Carers Coalition at an event held in the Jubilee Rooms in The Houses of Parliament. The Childrens Society are proud to be members of the coalition alongside The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, Crossroads Caring For Carers, Disabled Parents Network, Family Welfare Association, NCH and Barnardo's. The University of Nottingham Carers Research Group and YMCA Fairthorne Manor.

Grant for Disabled Parents Network

Disabled Parents Network (DPN) is a small national charity of and for parents who are disabled, and their families. DPN provides information, advice and support to disabled parents, their families and those working alongside them.

A two year grant from Comic Relief is enabling the organisation to expand its Advocacy Service to provide support to disabled parent families. This support is particularly crucial where there are young people who have already been identified as having caring responsibilities to a parent and/or siblings.

Working alongside young carers projects predominantly in the South of England, the Advocate's remit is to provide practical support and information and to identify disabled parent families who may directly benefit from advocacy support.

The Family Advocate consult directly with parents as well as establishing a trusting relationship with children in the family. This relationship will enable the advocate to find out why/how they are caring for their parents or sibling, discern their aspirations and what is needed to relieve them of those responsibilities. Working closely with the family, the Advocate will negotiate with adult and child care services to ensure they meet their statutory duty regarding their shared accountability in providing support to the whole family.

Ensuring adult services assess the parent's personal needs, as well as any support required to fulfil their parenting responsibilities to all the children in the family, should substantially reduce the level of inappropriate caring responsibilities undertaken by children/young people in the household enabling them to enjoy childhood with reduced anxiety and caring responsibilities.

The project will also provide useful learning for other organisations considering similar work.

If you would like more information about Disabled Parents Network or the Advocacy Service, please visit the [website](#) or telephone 0300 3300 639.

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Legislation, Policy and Guidelines

The Autism Bill

On the 26th October The Autism Bill made it through its last parliamentary stage, and will now become the Autism Act 2009: the first-ever disability-specific law for England!

The Act will guarantee a future Adult Autism Strategy that will introduce a range of legal duties to improve local services. We will of course continue to campaign until the strategy makes a real difference to people affected by autism.

For further details please visit the [website](#).

The Education Bill

The Children's Secretary Ed Balls has launched the first draft of the new Children, Schools and Families Bill in Parliament.

The bill includes measures to offer catch-up support for children who fall behind academically, pupil and parent education guarantees and home school agreements to improve behaviour in schools.

It also gives schools greater control over budgets and introduces the School Report Card, which will grade schools on their performance.

A home educators registration system, a professional licence to practice for teachers and new powers for local authorities and the Secretary of State to intervene to raise standards in schools are among other measures outlined in the bill.

Balls said the bill would realise his vision for a 21st century school system.

He said: "It is right to ensure that parents and pupils have a clear set of expectations about what education they should receive. It is also right that they play a full part in working with schools to ensure their children behave. This will give head teachers the authority they need to say parents must play their part."

He added that the bill would take parental engagement and responsibility "to a new level" while giving schools the freedom to deliver for pupils and parents.

Children & Young People Now 19 November 2009

News From the Children's Legal Centre

In October this year, The Children's Legal Centre has been involved in a case concerning the entitlement of two young carers to support and services from Essex County Council. A High Court judgement recently found in their favour. The case concerned two vulnerable children aged 11 and 13 who live in Essex with their disabled father, a lone parent. Due to their father's disability, the children have had to shoulder the burden as carers from a young age. They regularly assist with their father's care and running the family home, including shopping, cooking, cleaning and bathing. The children's most pressing need is for care when their father is admitted to hospital; an event which has occurred five times over the last two years. They also need support on a day-to-day basis, and the provision of activities, both individually and with their father, to enable them to have normal lives.

Over the past three years, the family received very little, if any, help from Essex County Council. This had caused both children significant emotional difficulty. The Children's Legal Centre argued that, due to the family circumstances, the welfare of the children could not be safeguarded and promoted without appropriate services being provided by the local authority. This, in our view, made them 'children in need' under s.17 of the *Children Act* 1989. Essex County Council did not agree.

The court found that the young carers were 'children in need' under s.17 and that the local authority owed the children duties to support them and safeguard their welfare. As part of the Order, the local authority must now provide at least 20 hours of respite care a week to each child and will provide and fund regular respite breaks, including family activities and holidays. In addition, the local authority are required to produce a detailed care plan to

identify any other services these children may require and what the local authority will be required to do if the children's father falls ill and is hospitalised again.

(Article written by Kelly Everett, Solicitor, the Children's Legal Centre)

The Children's Legal Centre provides free legal advice on all areas of child law. Please call our freephone number on [08088 020 008](tel:08088020008).

Resources and Publications

Having a parent with a mental health problem

The Royal College of Psychiatrists has produced a new film aimed at young carers themselves, in which young carers talk about their lives caring for a parent with a mental health problem. Narrated by Chineye, a young carer herself, the film also explains in a very simple and visual way how the brain is believed to work and what happens when things go wrong - described as 'the filter that only allows through information that is needed can go wrong and the person's brain can become flooded with information and the person feels overwhelmed with emotions.' Medication is described as a plaster rather than a cure which is somewhat of an over-simplification, but the film could be valuable to children and young people seeking to gain some basic understanding of mental health from a biochemical perspective. To view the film please click [here](#):

'Just Ask' - the New National Campaign to help parents.

The Just Ask campaign aims to raise awareness of the rights of parents to ask for additional support when something is affecting their child's learning. Children may not be reaching their full potential due to a diverse range of issues and the situations that lead to pupils needing extra help can also include many social and emotional factors.

The initiative seeks to highlight the help available, from issues arising through bullying and dyslexia through to family bereavement and coping with divorce - or any other situation that might impact on a pupils' learning.

The Just Ask campaign will encourage parents to visit the Just Ask [website](#) and to find out about the services available through the advice service Enquire. Just Ask will run from November 2 until March 28, 2010.

The campaign covers a wide range of issues, including: bullying, bereavement, young carers, autism, illness, visual impairment, physical or learning difficulties, language difficulties and many more.

The campaign consists of a range of infomercials running on Scottish TV and within the daily 'magazine show' The Hour, supported by the micro site www.stv.tv/justask. Just Ask will also tour the country using field marketing, supported by wider media coverage.

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Consultations & Petitions

'Young Carers and Education' research project

The University of Nottingham received funding from the Princess Royal Trust for Carers and the ESRC for a research project entitled 'Young Carers and Education.'

The team is comprised of Alex Fox (PRTC), Professor Saul Becker, Dr Siobhan Laird and Meredith Beaumont (The University of Nottingham).

The aim of this project is to:

1. Raise awareness of the educational needs of young carers;
2. Support practitioners to develop and improve educational experiences and opportunities for young carers;
3. To create knowledge.

To achieve these aims, we would like to invite young carers to complete a survey (which takes about 20 mins) at www.youngcarerssurvey.co.uk so please could you share this with young carers you support so that we can ensure we get their views about education.

The young carers that complete the survey can leave their personal details to enter a draw to win an I-pod, although this is optional. The survey remains open until February 2010.

Published results will be released in late 2010 and sent to centres and projects by the Princess Royal Trust for Carers.

To be involved or to get further information, please e-mail [Meredith Beaumont](mailto:Meredith.Beaumont@nottingham.ac.uk), or phone on 07949024011.

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Funding

Tesco Community Award

Need between £500 and £4000 grant funding? Try the Tesco community Awards at http://www.tescopl.com/plc/corporate_responsibility_09/community/making_difference/charitablegiving/tesco_charity_trust/cagapr09.pdf . In the past they funded a variety of projects including youth clubs, minibuses and playgrounds.

Flagship Scheme

Biffa's Flagship scheme for grants of £150,000 to £500,000 will re-open in spring 2010, so now is the time to start thinking about your project. You have to be within 25 miles of a Biffa operation, and within ten miles of an active landfill site. More details at <http://www.biffaward.org/about/foverview> .

Comic Relief Grant

Comic Relief grants of up to £10,000 are being distributed by Community Foundations. To apply, you must contact your local Community Foundation - see details at http://www.communityfoundations.org.uk/finding_uk_community_foundations/

The Children's Society, Include Project, Unit 4, Calford House, Wessex Business Park, Wessex Way, Colden Common, Hampshire, SO21 1WP
Telephone: 01962 711 511 Fax: 01962 177 512
Charity Registration Number: 221124

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include-project@childrenssociety.org.uk