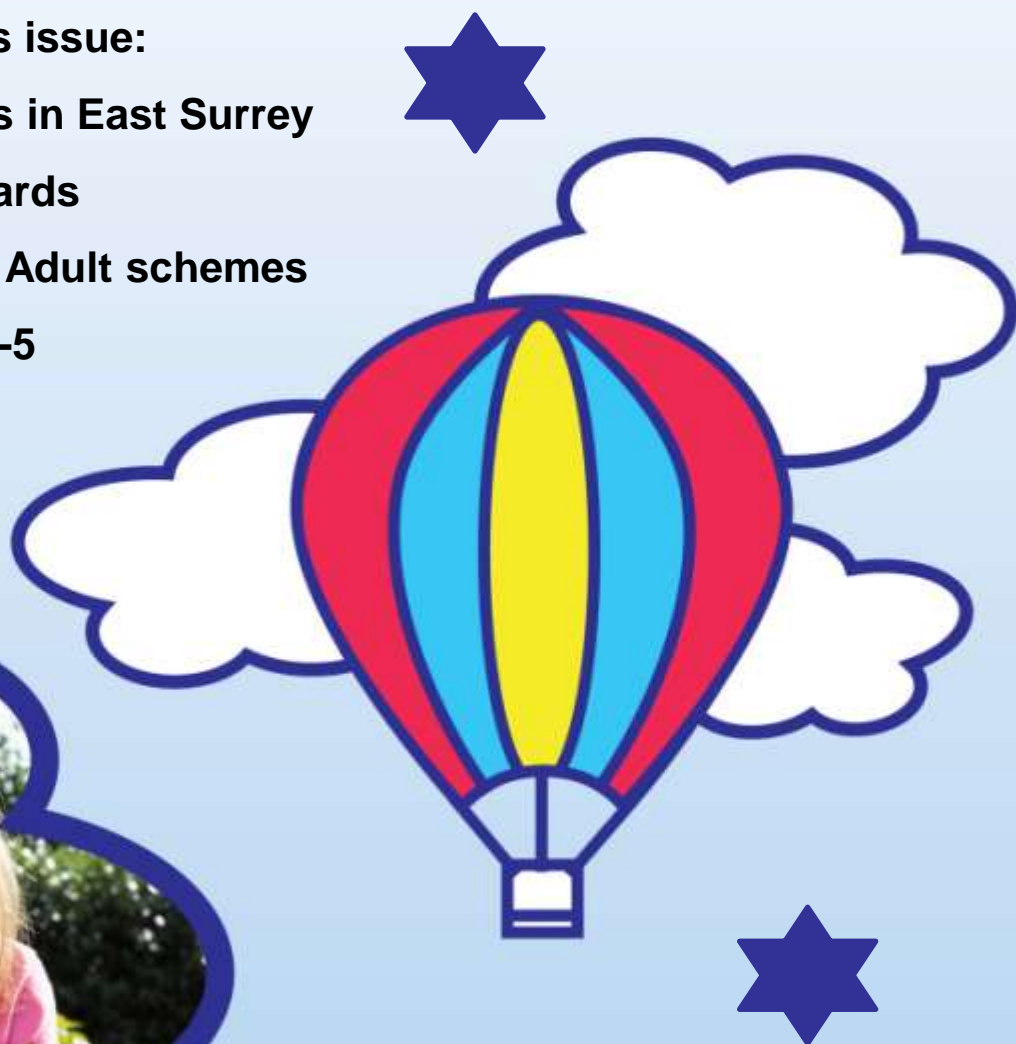


# Surrey Short Breaks for Disabled Children Autumn Newsletter 2013

Featuring inside this issue:

- New YMCA services in East Surrey
- Capital funding awards
- Challengers Young Adult schemes
- Services for ages 0-5  
and much more!



# Hello from the Short Breaks Team!



Welcome to the Autumn 2013 edition of the Surrey Short Breaks Newsletter.

The Short Breaks team has been out and about across Surrey talking to disabled children, young people and their families about the services they are accessing and those that they need. If you would like to give us your views and feedback about short breaks in Surrey, you can contact us on the details at the bottom of this page.

Also this summer we welcomed our colleague Sheila Bray into the Short Breaks team to continue her role as the Surrey Children's Disability Register Coordinator. More information about registration on the Surrey Children's Disability Register can be found by visiting [www.surreycc.gov.uk/shortbreaks](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/shortbreaks) or by contacting 0208 541 8792.

## Short Breaks in the future

Surrey County Council is currently in the process of re-commissioning short break services for disabled children, young people and their families.

This process is an ideal opportunity for the council to review service and ensure disabled children and young peoples needs are met whilst developing more flexible and innovative services from April 2014 and beyond.

Disabled children, young people and parents/carer representatives will be involved in the evaluation process to support decision making and ensure outcomes for disabled children, young people and their families remain central to all parts of the process.

## Introducing 'E-Newsletters'

From 2014, the Surrey Short Breaks Newsletter will no longer be posted to home addresses, however will continue to be sent along with a range of short break information to all families on the Short Breaks team E-mail database.

To be added to the E-mail database and ensure that you continue to receive future newsletters please provide your email address on the enclosed postcard or by contacting the Short Breaks team on the details below. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the team to arrange for hard copies to be posted to you.

### Contact us!

01372 833073 / 833638

[shortbreaks@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:shortbreaks@surreycc.gov.uk)

[www.surreycc.gov.uk/shortbreaks](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/shortbreaks) / [www.facebook.com/surreyshortbreaks](http://www.facebook.com/surreyshortbreaks)

## New club for VBuddies



The Reigate and Redhill YMCA VBuddies project provides 1:1 befriending and regular social events in east Surrey to young people with disabilities aged 11-19.

From September 2013, VBuddies members aged 11-15 are invited to join the brand new, weekly VBuddies Befriender Club at the YMCA Sovereign Centre in Reigate.

The Befriender Club provides opportunities for young people to try a range of new activities, meet new friends and meet potential befrienders. Regular features of the club will include an in-house cinema and interactive gaming experience and on selected dates will include workshops involving sports, art and music.



The club is free of charge, and will run every Friday from 5pm until 8pm with the flexibility for children and young people to drop in and out at times suitable for them and their families.

To find out more about joining VBuddies and to keep up to date:  
**Phone:** 01737 222859 **Email:** Robert.thatcher@ymcaredhill.com

## New Inclusive Sports Project

The Reigate and Redhill YMCA Inclusive Sports Project runs a range of inclusive sports schemes across the east of Surrey that are accessible for all people with disabilities aged 14-30.

The schemes are now running from various locations in east Surrey providing opportunities for young people to participate in a range of sports, work towards sport leadership awards and volunteering opportunities for both those with and without disabilities.



Current schemes include:

- Bikeworks sessions at the YMCA Sovereign Centre in Reigate
- Dance Club at the Orpheus Centre in Godstone
- Multi Sports Club at the Malthouse Youth Centre in Dorking
- Mini Boccia and Table Cricket at Day Space in Caterham
- Multi Sports at De Stafford Sports Centre in Caterham
- Inclusive Sports at West Hill School in Leatherhead
- Football Club at the Edge Youth Centre in West Ewell
- Cricket Club at the Ashtead Youth Centre in Ashtead

To find out more information, contact the scheme coordinator John Brunswick:  
**Phone:** 01737 222859 **Email:** john.brunswick@ymcaredhill.com



# Parent panel a 'roaring' success in 'Dragons Den' style funding awards!

During 2013, Surrey Short Breaks for Disabled Children were delighted to once again award capital funding to a range of short break services in Surrey to improve facilities and equipment for disabled children. This year, organisations were invited to present their requests to a panel of parents and carers of Surrey children and young people with disabilities (courtesy of Family Voice Surrey) enabling parents and carers to have a true voice in how local authority money is spent. Following the funding awards many projects are now completed; here are a few of the successful recipients!

**Cherry Trees** short break centre received **£28,252** to give their outdoor play area a face-lift .

Their old structure has now been replaced by an exciting Astroturf covered 'hill', which incorporates a crawl-through tunnel, climbing wall and slide. (pictured right).



**LinkAble's** redevelopment of their premises was a major project, with Paralympian David Weir officially opening the newly refurbished 'The Link' building on 6 June. (pictured left)



The Woking based charity received **£96,571** from the Short Breaks capital programme, which enabled the charity to equip a new soft play area, outdoor play structure and landscaping, and furthermore purchase a medical changing bed and an IT network for both office staff and visitors to their new internet café.

The programme provided **halow's** youth and young adult service with **£8,000** to purchase a car for their buddies service providing them transport around Guildford and Waverley.





Meanwhile at Tadworth Court, **The Children's Trust** used their **£26,294** grant funding to upgrade a woodland nature trail in their extensive grounds (pictured left). The new pathway will provide better access for the children and young people using the centre.

In Runnymede, Chertsey charity **White Lodge** received **£41,689** for new seating for their nursery scheme (pictured right) and a minibus to enable their users to get out and about in the community.



Cycling charity **Wheels for All** benefitted from a **£47,500** grant. This will be used to purchase a range of specialist cycles for the Wheels for All centres at Woking (Sheerwater Athletics Track) and in West Ewell (The Harrier Centre). The funding also provided storage on site at the Sheerwater venue (pictured left).

The capital funding programme also provided the **Challengers Big Build** project with **£500,000**, which is going a long way to help fund the new Guildford Playcentre. (pictured right)



The redevelopment on the Stoke Park site will provide more space and a better play environment for the Guildford play schemes. It will also reorganise the office space to make it more efficient.



The increased space will enable expansion to services for more than 400 disabled children and young adults (including a new 'Sidekicks' services for Young Adults, and Play and Youth services).



Challengers are planning to move into the new building from as early as January 2014. Keep up to date with progress on Challengers' Big Build website: <http://challengersbigbuild.tumblr.com>



# Fun for all at the Surrey Supercycle!



On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July Dunsfold Park welcomed over 400 cyclists for the second inclusive Surrey Supercycle event. In temperatures nearing 30 degrees, adults, children and families made the most of the fantastic weather to try out a range of adapted bicycles in all shapes, sizes and types on the Top Gear test track.

The Community Games event was staged by the Surrey Consortium of Play and Leisure providers and leading disability charities across the county who teamed up again in a joint attempt to encourage children, young people and families to get cycling, get fit, have fun and raise funds. Medals and certificates were awarded to everyone who took part.



British Paralympian hand-cyclist Rachel Morris was the special guest of the Reigate and Redhill YMCA and was eager to try one of the tandem hand cycles, completing a 5k lap with 11 year old Esme Hemmings (pictured right). Thirty-four year old bronze medallist Rachel, who was born in Guildford and lives in Farnham, lost both her legs to Complex Regional Pain Syndrome as a teenager. She achieved her Paralympic success last year in the women's H1-3 road race at Brands Hatch but understands only too well the frustrations and limitations suffered by young people with disabilities.

Rachel addressed those taking part at the event and said, "The wonderful thing about the Surrey Supercycle is that it brings families out together and gives them the tools to do something that isn't always either easy or possible. It has been a huge achievement for many people here today to take the bicycles out on the track – no matter how far they went."

Ian Burks, Chief Executive of the R&R YMCA, thanked all the volunteers who supported the event and said, "The Supercycle is all about inspiring people of all ages and abilities to take up cycling. Many young people were cycling for the first time today and lots of families were able to enjoy taking part together. It was also a great opportunity for disability charities to work as a team to raise the profile of our vital services across Surrey."

All money raised will go towards supporting vital local projects helping disabled children and young people in Surrey.



# 'Spokes' the Supercycle Mascot!

Many of you will have met the Supercycle bear mascot at the Surrey Supercycle. We are pleased to report that he now has a name – SPOKES! The voting was very close, but Spokes pipped second favourite name 'Pedlo' to the post.

The winning name was suggested by 9 year old Benjamin Caligari .Amanda and Joanna from the Short Breaks team met Ben at Challengers in Farnham, where Spokes and Katie Gatt, Community Games coordinator from YMCA, presented him with his prize. Ben had drawn Spokes a picture and was very happy to have won the competition and meet Spokes.



Many thanks to everyone who entered the competition!

Merlin  
Annual  
Pass

## Farewell to the Merlin Pass Lottery

Since the start of the free 'Merlin Pass Lottery' earlier this year, hundreds of applications have been pouring in from families wishing to win an Annual Merlin Pass. The scheme was so popular that we are pleased to announce that 560 passes have been won by disabled children and young people in Surrey!

Many families have enjoyed some great days out over the summer using the annual pass which allows both the disabled child or young person and their carer to enter any of the Merlin Attractions for free for a full year.



All the passes have now been claimed, so please don't send in any more applications.

If you won a pass but haven't got round to collecting it from the attraction, please don't forget to pick it up. If you've lost your letter, then do let us know, and we'll arrange for a replacement letter to be sent to you.

*"We would like to thank you very, very much for the Merlin Passes our children won in your June Lottery. We have had the most amazing summer making good use of the theme parks and attractions! We decided to buy our daughter an annual pass too, so that we could go along as a family, which was great fun! We are so grateful that you run this fantastic competition and were absolutely delighted to have won! We can honestly say this has been the best summer ever because of the Merlin Passes!"*



## Moving up with Challengers Young Adult Schemes

Challengers run regular activities for disabled young people age 18-25 in Guildford and Farnham as well as holidays away. The young adult schemes are run by Challengers but with a more mature approach, including trips out to night clubs balanced with old favourites like trips to the seaside.

There is a high number of trained staff at the scheme and spaces every session for young people who have complex impairments and who need one-to-one support.

Challengers Guildford Young Adult Scheme is a well established project that has been part of the service for more than 10 years and runs every Saturday, Tuesday nights, half term, Easter and summer. There is a full programme of 'out and about' activities as well a range of events based at the youth centre in Guildford.

Challengers Farnham Young Adult scheme is a newer project based at the Farnham youth centre and runs Friday nights (7pm-9pm) in the term time. There is a mix of local 'out and about' activities and evenings based at the youth centre.



Challengers Young Adult Holidays started in 2012 with holidays in Devon and Bath. The young adult team plans a week holiday with all the care and support that young people need while providing a very normal experience – time away with friends sightseeing, eating out, surfing, Christmas shopping in Bath, air shows, panto and more.

Challengers Young Adults in the future – Challengers told us: “We know that all the young people who come through our youth schemes would like something to move on to at Challengers. At the moment we only run regular activities for young adults in Guildford and Farnham. Over the next few years we hope to be able to add more young adults schemes so that we can have a young adult scheme for each youth scheme to move on to.”

For more information visit:

[www.disability-challengers.org/youngadults](http://www.disability-challengers.org/youngadults) or call: 01483 230 939.



# Fun for the little ones! (under 5 years)

Did you know there are a range of play and leisure services available to children aged 0-5 with disabilities across Surrey? Below are just some of the 0-5 years services provided by local charities that work with the Surrey Short Breaks team to provide services for disabled children:

**Challengers** in Farnham runs an inclusive playgroup on weekdays and a parent and toddler group on Tuesday afternoons. To find out more call Challengers on 01483 230930.

**White Lodge** in Chertsey runs an inclusive nursery on weekdays and 'Little Stars' playgroup on Tuesday mornings. To find out more call White Lodge on 01932 577981.

The **YMCA Sovereign Centre** in Reigate runs a stay and play session on Friday mornings. To find out more call the Reigate and Redhill YMCA on 01737 222859.

**Shooting Star Chase** runs 'Sparkle Day Care' at Shooting Star House in Hampton on weekdays for children with life limiting conditions. To find out more contact Shooting Star Chase on 0208 783 2000.

Furthermore, many more of the services working with Surrey Short Breaks provide services from 0-18 years. For more information about all of these services check out the new Surrey Short Breaks Directory at [www.surreycc.gov.uk/shortbreaks](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/shortbreaks) or contact the Short Breaks team on 01732 833073/833638.



In addition to the above, many local Sure Start Children's Centres provide a range of services to children with disabilities aged 0-5 and their families including Addlestone, Chertsey, Earlswood and Reigate, Godalming, Guildford, Hamsey Green, Horley, New Haw, Farnham, Merstham, West Molesey, Stanwell and Woking.

To find out more about your local Sure Start Children's Centre visit [www.surreycc.gov.uk](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk) and search 'Sure Start.'



Many local organisations offer services to young children with disabilities in their community. To find out more about services in your local area, contact Social Information on Disability (SID) by calling 0800 453 9395 or visit their 'Family Activities and Breaks (FAB) website [www.asksid.org.uk/fab](http://www.asksid.org.uk/fab).

# Barnardo's Moving Forward Project



Barnardo's Moving Forward project continues to provide a range of services supporting disabled children and young people to move towards greater independence.

The Moving Forward project is seeking new members to join the One Voice forum. The forum provides children and young people (with a range of disabilities) with the opportunity to express their views and opinions about the services they access in Surrey. The forum meets fortnightly on a Thursday at the Bookham Youth and Community Centre in Surrey.

## A date for the diary!

Barnardo's will be hosting a Christmas Party 'club night' experience for disabled young people aged 13-20 on Thursday 19 December 7:30pm–10pm!

For more information about the forum, Christmas Party and all of the services available:

**Phone:** 0208 685 1979

## How much do you know about welfare benefits?



Get WISE is a brand new and free independent confidential service to provide information, advice, and support in respect of welfare benefits to all people in Surrey, including families with disabled children.

The service provides a range of support including home visits, comprehensive benefit checks, support to complete claims and can help with access to other services.

For more information:

Telephone: 0300 030 9432

or visit: [www.getwisesurrey.org.uk](http://www.getwisesurrey.org.uk)

Disability Grants

## Disability Grants Directory

There are many charities across the UK offering grants to disabled children and their families, however it is not always easy to know where to start in finding them. The Disability Grants website '[www.disability-grants.org](http://www.disability-grants.org)' provides a directory of a wide range of charitable grants to help towards the cost of equipment, holidays, days out and more. Why not check it out and see if your family can benefit?

# Short Breaks Funded Play, Leisure and Support Services

Surrey Short Breaks for Disabled Children funds a number of organisations across Surrey to provide Short Breaks to children and young people with disabilities.

Below and overleaf are some of the play and leisure services around Surrey that can be accessed directly by families.

To find out more about these services and to see the full range of short breaks available to families with disabled children in Surrey, visit [www.surreycc.gov.uk/shortbreaks](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/shortbreaks) and view the new 'Surrey Short Breaks Directory.'

**Action for Blind People** – Social activities in Surrey for children aged 5-19 with a visual impairment. Email [south.london@actionforblindpeople.org.uk](mailto:south.london@actionforblindpeople.org.uk) or phone 0207 635 4960.

**White Lodge** – Day care, tea visits and overnights for children aged up to 18 years based in Chertsey, and Saturday and holiday schemes based in Chertsey and locations in North Surrey for ages 4-18. Email [tbroom@whitelodgecentre.co.uk](mailto:tbroom@whitelodgecentre.co.uk) or phone 01932 577981.

**Surrey Heath Arena Leisure Centre** - Disability swimming for ages 5-19 years. Email [enquiries@arenaleisurecentre.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@arenaleisurecentre.co.uk) or phone 01276-417119.

**National Autistic Society** – After school clubs across Surrey for children with ASD aged 5-19 years.

Email [SEResourcecentres@nas.org.uk](mailto:SEResourcecentres@nas.org.uk) or phone 01483 869553 or 01483 869552.

**Crossroads Care** - Saturday clubs in Leatherhead and Walton for ages 5-19 years and home care across Surrey for ages 0-19 years.

Email [enquiries@crossroadscaresurrey.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@crossroadscaresurrey.org.uk) or phone 01372 469942.

**LinkAble (Previously known as Link Leisure)** - Clubs, trips and holiday schemes for children with learning disabilities of all ages based in Woking and Camberley.

Email [info@linkleisure.org.uk](mailto:info@linkleisure.org.uk) or phone 01483 770037.

**halow** Social activities in Guildford and Haslemere for young people aged over 16 years with learning disabilities. Email [info@halowproject.org.uk](mailto:info@halowproject.org.uk) or phone 01483 447960.

**The Children's Trust** – Saturday clubs and holiday schemes for children with complex needs aged 5-18 based in Tadworth.

Email [lgray@thechildrenstrust.org.uk](mailto:lgray@thechildrenstrust.org.uk) or phone 01737 365090.



# Short Breaks Funded Play, Leisure and Support Services continued...

**Reigate and Redhill YMCA** - Saturday, holiday and after school play and youth schemes for ages 5-16 and buddying service for ages 11-19 based in Reigate. Phone 01737 222859.

**Disability Challengers** – Weekend, holiday, after school and evening play, youth and adult schemes across Surrey for ages 4–25 years. Email [information@disability-challengers](mailto:information@disability-challengers) or phone 01483 579 390.

**Rainbow Trust** – Community support service for children with life limiting/threatening disabilities aged 0 -18. Phone: 01372 363438.

**Badshot Lea Youth and Colts Football Club SAINTS** – A football club for ages 5-19 near Farnham. Email [simonrslater@btinternet.com](mailto:simonrslater@btinternet.com) or phone 07976 293 520.

**interAKtive** Easter and summer holiday scheme based at Linden Bridge School for children with ASD aged 5-16 years. Email [info@interaktive.org.uk](mailto:info@interaktive.org.uk) or phone 07876 762178.

**Shooting Star Chase** – Sparkle Day Care service for children with life limiting disabilities aged 0-5 years based in Hampton. Phone 020 8783 2000.

**KIDS Direct** – Community short breaks for children aged 0-18 across Surrey. Email [arlene.dearlove@kids.org.uk](mailto:arlene.dearlove@kids.org.uk) or call 07584349188.

**Wheels for All** – Accessible cycling scheme based in Woking and Ewell for children with disabilities of any age. Email [matthew.wing@cycling.org.uk](mailto:matthew.wing@cycling.org.uk) or phone 07790 757216.

**Spelthorne Millennium After School Club** – For children aged 4- 12. Email [vdickson@whitelodgecentre.co.uk](mailto:vdickson@whitelodgecentre.co.uk) or phone 01932 577961.

**Cherry Trees** – Day care, tea visits and overnights based in East Clandon for ages 0-19 years. Email [care@cherry-trees.co.uk](mailto:care@cherry-trees.co.uk) or phone 01483 222506.

## Contact us!

01372 833073 / 833638

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