



STOCKPORT DISABILITY DATABASE  
4TH FLOOR, BECKWITH HOUSE,  
WELLINGTON RD NORTH, STOCKPORT  
SK4 1BS  
TEL: 426 5514



November 2008

Email: [elaine.mounter@stockport-pct.nhs.uk](mailto:elaine.mounter@stockport-pct.nhs.uk) [www.stockport.gov.uk/disabilitydatabase](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/disabilitydatabase)

Hello everyone,

I am delighted to introduce you to Cath Millington, (pictured here with me). She is our new Head of Service and you will find out more about her on page 2.

Meanwhile, reading the Disability Now magazine I see that Dogs for the Disabled have launched a new project that partners children with autism and dogs. It takes two years to train an autism assistance dog. Six more dogs will be partnered with children this year and another eight in 2009.

Now over to Jane:

Things are changing now we are part of the Children and Young People's Disability Partnership. It's definitely for the better. We will keep you informed through the newsletters of these changes. As on Page 4, Cath would be delighted to hear your views on short breaks-it's the Parent/Carers views that count after all.

In this edition there are a couple of parent stories which are very moving but at the same time very inspirational.

Also included is an article a mum wrote about Fundraising for the youth



group GR8 Mates—it is proof that there is generosity and kindness in people!

Don't forget to go down to the Kidz up North Exhibition which is to be held on Thursday 20th November at the Reebok Stadium. There is always lots to see and great stalls to wander round.

Elaine and I would like you to fill in the short questionnaire on the back of the newsletter and send it back to us in the envelope provided. We would like some feedback on what you as parents/carers think of the Disability Database, thank you.

That's it for now. We wish you all a very Happy Christmas,

Elaine and Jane

**INSIDE:**

<i>Cath Millington</i>	<i>pg 2</i>
<i>Common Assessment Framework</i>	<i>pg 3</i>
<i>Aiming High for Disabled Children</i>	<i>pg 4</i>
<i>Michael Gilbourne</i>	<i>pg 5</i>
<i>Women's Centre, Wizard of Oz, Music Lessons</i>	<i>pg 6</i>
<i>Yoga for Asperger Syndrome, Tuesday Club, LAMBS, Stockport Impact</i>	<i>pg 7</i>
<i>Fund Raising, PLINGS, Blue Badge, Christmas Holidays, SNAGS</i>	<i>pg 8</i>
<i>Dyspraxia, One day Help! Programme, Challenging Behaviour Foundation</i>	<i>pg 9</i>
<i>Foster Care, Kidz Up North, Turn2us</i>	<i>pg 10</i>
<i>Independent Options, Planning for the Future</i>	<i>pg 11</i>
<i>Conduction Education</i>	<i>pg 12</i>
<i>ADHD-A parent's Story</i>	<i>pg 13/14</i>
<i>Benefits, Easy-Go Travel</i>	<i>pg 15</i>
<i>Journey to Nepal</i>	<i>pg 16</i>
<i>AMOS House, Database Questionnaire</i>	<i>pg 17</i>

The Stockport Disability Database has made no checks and therefore can make no recommendations of the services advertised in this newsletter.



## COMMON ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

# WORKING TOGETHER IN THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S DISABILITY PARTNERSHIP

This is the first in a series of articles about changes in the way the Children and Young People's Disability Partnership works.

All the services in the Partnership have been busy working behind the scenes to improve the service they provide to parents, carers and children. They have realised that when a child has additional or complex needs, parents and carers are having to make several phone calls and repeat their story every time in order to access the necessary services.



They have agreed that there will be one telephone number for the Partnership which will act as a point of contact for referrals.

They have also agreed to use one form. This is called a Common Assessment Framework and is used to record the details of your request. Some of you may have already heard of the CAF, or had a CAF completed, as Stockport has been using the CAF since 2005. However, the CAF is now a national government initiative so even people from outside Stockport may be using it as well.

The CAF is a way to find out what your child's needs are and what is working well in your child's life. A worker will visit you and ask you some questions about this. You, and possibly your child as well, are involved in answering the questions and the worker will write this down on the form. At the end of the form there is a plan of action so you will know what will happen next. There is also a section which you sign to say who can see the content of the form. So that you can remember what's been written you will receive a copy of the full form when it has been completed.

The CAF will be sent to the Partnership who will work out which services are needed. The CAF will then be passed on to the service you need. If you need several services then you will then be invited to a meeting— called a Child In Need meeting. This is to co-ordinate who will do what. This means that all the services in the Partnership will know who else is working with you and your child which should mean less duplication for you. One of the workers will be chosen to be the lead professional and they will be your main contact person if you have any problems.



The advantage of completing a CAF is that you will not have to repeat your story over and over to the various services and you have a record of what's been agreed. Parents and carers who have been involved with the CAF have told us how much better it is to know what's been said and they also appreciate the support provided by the lead professional. They liked the way the process saved time and how it helped everyone know what was going on. The CAF resources are available on the internet if you want to look at them:

**[Http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/deliveringservices/caf/](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/deliveringservices/caf/)**

The local Stockport information on CAF is available on-line too:

**[www.stockport.gov.uk/caf](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/caf)**

For information about the Children and Young People's Disability Partnership:

**<http://www.stockport.gov.uk/content/cyps-services/cypdisp/?a=5441>**



















*This was sent by Pat, a Grandparent of a very special young lady who is on our database.....*

In 1988 I watched a programme on Conductive Education and set out to raise the money to take 'K' to the Peto Institute in Budapest, Hungary because at that time there were no facilities in England except in Birmingham which was just opening. When we left for Hungary I expected to find an ultra modern building full of specialist equipment. What a shock! They only had wooden tables and chairs with their Conductors dressed in white, wearing peculiar white shoes and ankle socks. As 'K' could not, sit, eat or chew any food without liquidising and was incontinent, I nearly left immediately, but thank goodness common sense prevailed and I decided to stay and at least give the system a fair trial. First instructions given were to remove the children's nappies and dress them in their shorts and t-shirts, (I really could not understand the thinking 'ha in five minutes she will be wet' or even worse) and yes she had many accidents but within the month she was out of nappies and better still beginning to eat normal food. She was sitting on a small step with feet flat on the floor-what, is this magic? No it wasn't magic it was me being taught how to enable her to sit. Her speech improved dramatically too - as a result of the children learning through song plus being in this small group and experiencing real social skills. We had some down days, some tears but I firmly believe without the physical input she had she would not be in the same place as she is to-day.

Any weekend you can find her in one (or more) Night Clubs in Manchester, still in a wheelchair with a large group of friends doing 'normal' things. Last year she flew to Romania to work with a Charity together with a Duke of Edinburgh Group as part of her Gold Award and in November she will attend St James Palace to be presented with it. ***I truly believe if I hadn't given 'K' the opportunity of Conductive Education, I wouldn't have been empowered to allow her to lead such an active and independent life.***

And now on to Eva.....

Seven years ago I came to England and met a very special girl who used a wheelchair. She had attended the Peto Institute in Hungary for four years. I assisted her and I quickly became very interested in Conductive Education. So I returned



home and successfully applied for training. I was trained in the Peto Institute for four years. After I graduated as a conductor-teacher I went to Germany practicing for a year and I recently came back to England to work with children with a disability.

Conductive Education:

- Helps families understand their child's particular needs;
- Introduces children and their families to the basic skills young children need to acquire and shows them how to work together to achieve these skills;
- Helps parents find ways of encouraging their child's motor development, e.g. Active movement or the use of hands in playing;
- Advises parents of appropriate techniques and toys to encourage the development of social and play skills;
- Provides advice and support on the management of daily activities and routine;
- Provides opportunities to meet other parents of children with special needs;
- Helps parents prepare their child for the most appropriate nursery education;
- Develops child's range and control of movement;
- Develops child's abilities in self-help skills such as dressing, feeding and toileting;
- Develops the child's social and daily living skills;
- Develops child's expressive and receptive language skills;
- Helps to liaise with other professionals as appropriate.

If you are interested or you would like to discuss anything about Conductive Education or request an assessment for your child please contact me at [sebi03@citromail.hu](mailto:sebi03@citromail.hu) or phone me on the above number. I'm living in the Bramhall area and I'm available at any time if you wish to speak to me. Regards,  
Eva Sebeszta.

A parent's story: Sam never slept as a baby, he was on the go continuously, he had lots of energy and he also developed an allergy to dairy products which then caused bowel problems. He was a lovely baby but really hard work. My Health Visitor could see the problems I was having with him and thankfully, she gained Sam a place at a social services nursery. You could only gain a place by referral and recommendation from a professional as this nursery had specially trained staff for children with behavioural and other difficulties. Sam would hide from the staff, he was an excellent hider, he would have staff panicking. They couldn't figure out how he had got out of the nursery, but of course he hadn't got out, he was just hiding. But this was just the beginning of his long career in running away and hiding in his educational life. Staff recognised Sam had issues, he was so lively, he would have them running in circles. When he was three years old he was referred to the Child Psychiatrist at Stepping Hill, where we were told we were "doing a marvellous job" and "don't know why you are panicking!". He left us sitting in the office, exhausted and feeling helpless, we just weren't getting our concerns across. He went to see Sam in another room, after 20 minutes he returned saying "I'm not saying Sam hasn't got a problem". And he arranged to come to our home for a visit. It was important for that professional to see Sam in his own environment, where he threw objects at him, tied his laces together and swung off the curtains. He could really see how life was for us. But we were still offered no support or diagnosis.

He started school and just about managed to cope but still had many issues and problems. We were referred to the Family Therapy Team because we said we were not coping with Sam. He was fighting with his brothers and was disrespectful to adults at such a young age. He was a very angry little boy and we just didn't know why. He was not achieving at school he could not keep up with his peers, we didn't know what was wrong. We have 4 other children and they did not show any of these behaviour traits. The school recognised he had behaviour difficulties but they were still putting it down to him being a naughty boy. By the time he was seven years old we were all attending Family Therapy sessions. The other children came with us and we would talk through play issues with two nurses on a weekly basis. And then later it was just Sam, his dad and me on a monthly basis. The nurses went into school and explained his difficulties and this did help with the schools understanding. Sam was still running away and hiding and the school was extremely concerned for his safety. The nurses were able to give support and advice to the school to cope with this issue. But at this time CAMHS disappeared and all therapy sessions stopped. We were left alone to cope with something that had no name and no explanation, we felt lost. What was going to happen to us now? We were not kept informed of when there would be support again and when we chased it up we were told there was no service available. Meantime, our son's behaviour deteriorated, he was getting bigger and harder to handle. We did have a supportive school and we really appreciated their support. They discussed excluding him at lunchtimes but we had a meeting and they agreed to cancel that idea. We worked hard to form a relationship with the school visiting every few weeks to keep in touch with events. This proved highly successful, we couldn't manage alone, we needed the schools invaluable support.

At age 11 he went to high school and his behaviour really deteriorated. His behaviour became even more challenging, violent towards his peers and he showed a grave disrespect to anyone in authority. But if he thought there was any injustice for anyone else he would jump in with both feet to support the person who he pictured as the victim. He could not resist getting involved even when it was nothing to do with him and he would get into even more trouble through this. He cannot see the bigger picture, he has such tunnel vision, he is very literal and sees only what's in front of him. He will always tell the truth even if a little white lie would keep him out of trouble, if confronted by anyone to repeat what he said, he will not matter what it was and to his detriment. On the bright side he had an excellent head of year at school and form tutor.

We came to the stage when we said we can't handle or manage this child any more. We went back to our GP. Sam had been excluded from school many times even though as I said earlier he did have some supportive staff. The GP referred us back to the Paediatrician. Continued over ....









# STOCKPORT DISABILITY DATABASE

## Stockport Disability Database

### What are your views?

There are going to be many changes now we are a part of the new Children and Young People's Disability Partnership and we would value your thoughts about the database as a whole. We will keep you up to date with the changes and hope the articles in this issue have helped in keeping you in the picture. Meanwhile, we have never asked before what you think of the database and as we have been up and running for 11 years its perhaps time to take a look at how we are doing:

What do you think of our visits to you?    Excellent                  Good                  Poor

Were the visits helpful?                          Yes                          No

Are the newsletters we send to you informative, do they give you the information you require?

Yes                  Sometimes                  No

Are the packs we provide useful?                  Yes                  Sometimes                  No

How did you hear about the Database?

Health Visitor    GP                  Paediatrician    Social Worker    Other

Please state: \_\_\_\_\_

How could we improve the Database?

Any other comments:

PLEASE RETURN IN THE PREPAID/ADDRESSED ENVELOPES.  
Many thanks.