

Kingston Connections

Summer 2007

[The newsletter for disabled children, their families and carers.](#)
[From the Editor:](#)

It seems nearly impossible to believe that summer is almost upon us already! Easter was a great time with many play schemes running for disabled children and young people offering a wide range of age appropriate and most important of all, fun activities for the young people.

Pam Jefferies retired in March and we were all very sorry to see her go. The lure of the South of France and the ability to enjoy hours of listening to and watching the England Cricket Team were too much for her to resist. She will be much missed and we all wish her well for her retirement, although the Country's Cricket team will not have allowed her much stress free down time during the World Cup at least!

As always I am looking for contributions to this newsletter from parents and am so pleased that Julie Pickering and Helen Levy were able to find time in their busy lives to write for this issue.

Parents and Carers often comment to me that they want to hear more from others in similar circumstances to their own, so if you could spare a few minutes to put a few thoughts on paper I would be very grateful and I know that your views would be much appreciated by the other parents and carers who read this newsletter.

The copy date for the next issue is not until Monday the 1st of October, so you have plenty of time. We would love to hear tales of your summer or recommendations of fun and

accessible activities that you unearth over the holidays.

All best wishes for as peaceful as possible and happy summer break

You can contact me on 020 8934 6378 or by email at:

Caroline.Baxter@kingstonhospital.nhs.uk

Caroline Baxter
Editor

The views, articles and suggestions in this newsletter are those of the individual contributors and are not necessarily supported by the Editor, EnhanceAble or the Team for Disabled Children. The Editor cannot accept responsibility for any goods or services mentioned or enclosed in the newsletter.

EnhanceAble, The Disabled Children's Register and the Team for Disabled Children distributes this newsletter.

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Disabled Children's Information and Advice Service –D.C.I.A.S

Since the last issue of Kingston Connections, which included the news of all the developments for the Information Service, we would now like to update you with the progress we have made.

We are delighted to announce that EnhanceAble have appointed two new members of staff to the newly renamed Disabled Children's Information and Advice Service.

Megan Naylor took up her post as the Parent Partnership Officer on the 30th of April and Patricia Farlow joined the team as an Information Officer on the 14th of May.

I am also very pleased to inform you that EnhanceAble's Equipment Loan Co ordinator, Linda Sargeant will be working with us at the Maple Children's Centre in the very near future.

The D.C.I.A.S will run along the same lines as the Information Service but with a broader remit and with more wide ranging advice and information as well as the specific advice we will be able to offer with respect to Special Education.

The service phone lines will be available on weekdays between 9.30 and 12.30. If you are unable to reach us immediately and you were to leave a message we will guarantee to get back to you the next working day at the latest. We will continue to be offering appointments allowing parents/carers to come and meet with us face to face.

The other big news from EnhanceAble is that we have a new CEO; Julie Hagarty has replaced Margaret Mattingly who retired at Christmas. Julie is very positive and excited about the development of EnhanceAble's Children's Services and the growing partnership work with RBK, and the local NHS Trusts.

You can contact the DCIAS on 020 8934 6378 or by Email on Caroline.Baxter@kingstonhospital.nhs.uk

The Children's Fund.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Ally Carnie and I am the new Children's Fund and Early Intervention Services Manager.

The Children's Fund was launched in November 2000 as part of the government's commitment to tackle disadvantage among children and young people. The programme aims to identify children and young people at risk of social exclusion and make sure they receive the help and support they need to achieve their potential.

Kingston's Children's Fund uses the grant to provide a wide range of preventative projects and services. We promote the active involvement of all our partner agencies, both statutory and voluntary sector and also encourage the active participation of children and their families. Kingston's Children's Fund has developed and established a programme of services in the borough and the intention is to support and further develop the existing projects into long-term sustainable services post March 2008, when government funding ceases.

Our focus is on supporting children and young people to achieve their full potential and supporting them to be able to successfully transition onto other services and programmes as they get older, linking them in with their local community and the services and programmes available.

The current services and programmes delivered under the Children's Fund are as follows;

- **Junior Citizen Scheme** – a half-day of citizenship and safety training provided in an educational format for Year 6 students.

- **Outreach Family Support** – A grant is provided to Welcare to provide family support to help parents assess their family's needs and set goals, which they are supported to achieve.
 - **Parents Forum** – this is a multi agency working group with both statutory and voluntary and community sector representation, which is a consultation forum for all parents and carers within the borough.
 - **Transition Project** – the scheme is an intensive and practical support service for targeted groups of young people during year 6 to 7 transition. The project is offered to children in year 6 who have been identified for needing additional support during transfer to secondary school.
 - **Young carer's project** – A grant is provided to Kingston Carers Network to support the work of the Young carer's development worker. The project supports young people who help to look after someone who has a long term illness, a disability, are suffering from depression or mental health difficulties, or have problems with alcohol or drug misuse.
 - **Big Buddy** – this project is a one: one mentoring service which supports young people aged 8-13 who will benefit from an adult role model and diversionary activities.
 - **Junior Splash** – the scheme is a specialist low cost holiday play scheme for vulnerable young people. The project supports vulnerable children aged 8-13.
 - **8-12 Splash clubs** – this scheme provides young people aged 8-12 with youth provision within their local community. The clubs are delivered over four nights, in four locations and are particularly aimed at vulnerable young people.
 - **Social Skills Group** – this scheme provides a youth and social skill development provision for young people with ASD or social and communication difficulties who attend mainstream education. Young people are aged 8-13 and two groups are run on a Saturday morning.
- The **Social Skills group** over the past 6 months has been developing, ensuring that the service continues to provide good practice and meet the needs of children and young people. With support from some funding received by parents we have;
- Consulted with parents and carers and are currently supporting them to set up and manage a new support group for parents of children and young people in primary and secondary school with autistic spectrum disorder, or social and communication difficulties who are attending mainstream schools.
 - Consulted with children and young people to ensure we are providing services that meet their needs and have begun looking at the further development of opportunities for them to be supported to access mainstream provisions in their community.
 - Delivered a family fun day event at Chessington World of Adventures for children and young people, parents and siblings.
- The next few months will be a time of change for many of the Children's Fund services, but an exciting change as we continue to ensure that we provide high quality early intervention services to support children and young people to achieve their goals and reach their full potential.
- For more information on the Social Skills group or any of the services, please contact me on 8547 5845 or ally.carnie@rbk.kingston.gov.uk

[News from Register Services on Kingston "I Count" Register for Children and Young People with Disabilities/Special Needs](#)

The 'I Count' card distributed to all registered children with disabilities and people with learning disabilities has been amazingly successful. Register Services were delighted that their bid to 'Awards for All' (The National Lottery) to fund the production and distribution of a 'plastic' 'I Count' card was successful. The Award enabled them to purchase the necessary printing equipment and software to produce the cards 'in house'. This means that confidentiality is preserved and the new cards have been sent to all those currently registered.

The list of organisations who accept the card continues to grow but Register Services are always pleased to hear from parents who have successfully used their cards elsewhere. An up-to-date list of accepting organisations is available on www.i-count.org and www.registerservices.nhs.uk

Parents of registered children will have recently received a letter informing them that next month their GP Practice will be offered access to their information on the 'I Count' Register. This development is to help ensure that they receive the best possible service from their GP.

This year's **Report 5** on the 'I Count' Register was published in March 2007 and can be accessed at www.registerservices.nhs.uk

At www.i-count.org information for families and children with disabilities is available.

If you would like more information about the Register please contact:
Rita Green
Tel. 020 8770 8061
Rita.green@smpct.nhs.uk

[The value of the "I-Count" card, from a parent's perspective.](#)

I have been using the excellent 'I Count Card' for some time to get carer/ concessionary discounts at a number of places, ranging from the Science Museum to Wimbledon Theatre (no booking fee either). The discounts don't apply to everything – the golden rule is ask! I usually say something like: "one of my children has a disability card. Do you give any discounts?"

My best successes have been at the Odeon Cinema where the carer gets in free and also at the Polka Theatre where in addition to a free Carer place, the child gets a concessionary price, reducing the two tickets from £18 to £6.

The Odeon provides its own Carer's card for £5, but Kingston's helpful staff have been happy to take the 'I Count Card'.

The more people who use the 'I Count Card', the more discounts likely to be offered. So, register your child (020 8770 8254) and get using it! And better still, let Caroline know about your successes so that we can build up the database of information and share it with each other.

Helen Levy

[News from the Maple Children's Centre: Babies, babies and more babies.](#)

Karen Reekie gave birth to Emily in December

Ambika Fox gave birth to a little boy Devlin in March

Vicky Blackburn gave birth to Rebecca in April.

Our congratulations to them all! The three mothers and their babies are all doing brilliantly.

News from Sports and Leisure

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Andy Mckee and I am the new Multi skills sports coach for disabled children working for the Sports and Recreation department at the Royal Borough of Kingston.

My role is a new one which is part funded by The Department of Culture, Media and Sport for 3 years.

I am employed on a part time basis of 2 and a half days a week. The rest of my working week is taken up by running sports projects for MENCAP (out of borough) as well as teaching fitness classes in a sports centre.

Working in Kingston is a bit of a dramatic change of scene for me as I have spent the last 7 years working for an adventure travel company leading trips all over the world in as diverse places as Cuba, Morocco, China, Papua New Guinea and Norway to name but a few.

Most of the trips I led were activity based such as Cycling, Walking, Cross country skiing and Canoeing. Previously to that I spent many years working in the Fitness Industry primarily managing Health Clubs.

My sporting pedigree is fairly modest though I have spent a lifetime playing competitive sport at club level.

Without wanting to give my age away I am still playing sport but purely on a social level. My main sports were Cricket and Athletics, though I also played competitive Rugby and Football as well as various other sports for fun.

I see my role in Kingston as not just one of coaching sport but also one of sports development.

I will be attempting to introduce new sports programmes in order to help increase the opportunities for disabled children to increase their involvement

in sport and to maximise their sporting potential. I am open to suggestions and advice so please do not hesitate to contact me at:

andy.mckee@rbk.kingston.gov.uk

Please keep an eye out in this publication for future programmes.

London Sports Awards 2007

The London Sports Awards, supported by The Lord's Taverners, London Sports Forum for Disabled People (LSF) and Sport England London, recognise the outstanding achievements of individuals and groups in the field of sport for disabled people.

The winners of the 2007 London Sports Awards were announced on March 8th at a gala dinner in the spectacular Living Room at City Hall. The evening was hosted by John Inverdale, BBC Sport Commentator, who shared his experiences of presenting the Paralympics. Guest speaker, Giles Long MBE, triple Paralympic medallist and former World Record Holder in 100m butterfly, also spoke of his triumphs over adversity and his many successes throughout his Paralympic swimming career, spanning the last 13 years.

Kingston Council were short listed for an award in the category of Local Authority of the Year, recognising the council's good work it has done providing sport and active recreational opportunities for Kingston's disabled residents. Kingston narrowly missed out on winning the award, which went to Tower Hamlets.

For more information on sport and active recreational opportunities for children / adults with a disability, impairment or special need please call 020 8547 5207 or visit our disability sport page.

[Updates on sports activities in RBK for young people with Special Needs:](#)

It has been recognised by the Sports and Leisure department that there is a real need for sporting activities for those young people between sixteen and nineteen. Consequently the groups that have recently been set up will now take young people up to the age of nineteen.

The 516 Club - The club runs fortnightly at The Arena Sports Hall, Kingston College.

10.00am – 11.30am -children aged 5 – 10 years

11.30am – 1.00pm - young people aged 11-19 years.

Each session costs £5

Tennis club – for children and young people aged between 10 and 19 years.

The tennis club started on Wednesday April the 18th and runs weekly between 4.30 to 5.30pm at Surbiton Racket and Fitness Club, Berrylands, Surbiton. Each session costs £3.

The Athletics Sports Club - for children and young people aged between 10 and 19 started on Tuesday 1st of May and runs fortnightly between 4.15 and 5.15pm. The sessions are held at Kingsmeadow Athletics Stadium, Kingston Road, Kingston, KT1 3PB. Each session costs £3.

The Football Club – is weekly for children and young people aged between 5 and 19 years of age and is run at the Kingsmeadow Athletics stadium.

The sessions are between 4.30 and 5.30 pm and cost £3.

The children and young people will receive quality coaching by coaches from Kingstonian Football Club.

Andy Mckee is also on the hunt for other activities that were highlighted by the questionnaire he sent out to all parents and carers on the Disabled Children's Register.

Cricket and Dance are two of the activities that Andy is working on at the moment but he did stress he was not planning to have everyone dancing in cricket pads!!

If you wish to contact Andy about the Cricket or the Dance he would be very pleased to hear from you. You can call him at andy.mckee@rbk.kingston.gov.uk

If you wish to discuss any of the other clubs mentioned in this article you can call **Sue Johnson** at RBK's Sports and Leisure department on **020 8547 5207**, this number is also the booking line for all of the clubs mentioned above.

Go along and have fun either watching or joining in with your children. The feedback that we have received from parents who contact the D.C.I.A.S is that the clubs are great fun for all and well worth a visit.

[Extended Schools news:](#)

There will be some road shows organised by the Extended Schools and Children's Centres during the first week of the summer holidays. Come along and enjoy a wide range of fun and healthy activities for you and your children as well as gaining access to information on loads of different activities within the borough for all children and young people over the summer holidays and beyond. Please find the dates, times and places for the road shows in the "Dates for your Diary" section of this newsletter.

[Practical ways to help our children by Julie Pickering](#)

A request: I would like to hear more from the families in the Borough, letting others know some of their way of life. I believe it helps both families and professionals by sharing our stories through, for example this newsletter. Whilst our burden of care does not diminish, sometimes reading other people's stories puts our own into perspective and maybe help us cope a little better. It does for me. I have written our Top 10 ways in which we cope, which I would like to share with you.

Firstly, some background.

Our son Ben, aged 9, has late Infantile Batten Disease, a genetic disorder. He was born seemingly normal and passed his 2-year check. Ben then developed severe epilepsy and over the last 5 years has lost his ability to walk, talk, see and eat as well as lose his mental ability. Despite all of this, he generally is a contented boy attending, when well, Dysart Special School, as well as a local mainstream school. We care for him at home, but rarely get a full nights sleep. He has only a few years left to live unless a cure is found. There is no doubt that this is a devastating disease and it has turned our life upside down.

The choices any family has to make and how they deal with the knowledge their child has a disease like this, will knock any individual and or family off balance and some never get back in control again. For us however, trying to gain control and keep our sanity with so much non-stop change was important. We came up with some ways of managing it all. Here is a summary of how we manage, with the hope that it may help other families too.

1. Communicate and Keep preparing the next step.

The various textbooks tell us that the best way of managing is to prepare

ourselves by understanding ways of dealing with the disease so not to be taken unawares and numbed each time it reaches a new stage, so being able to still capitalise on what is still possible.

We have had to face the disease full on but don't want to verbally keep repeating our story to professionals.

To do this we complete each year 3 reports to help the professionals support us and get our minds straight on what we want.

- A summary of Ben that states what has happened in the last year and particularly our expectations for the year ahead.
- An emergency care plan detailing the family's wishes
- 24 hour routine for carers

2. Use Pictures and Videos

We have edited our video footage to show Ben's development and regression in a 10-minute summary. Ben has about 60 professionals involved with his life.

Any new professional is shown it, so they can see what he and the family have gone through. They also see him more as a person, understand his personality and crucially not just as a passive person in a wheelchair!

3. Keep coming back to the Positive

It is so hard sometimes to see Ben for who he is. We always have to dwell and talk about the negative aspects with professionals. If I had to do that with my daughter, it would make me see her in a different light. We keep ensuring there is time to tell others, particularly his sister and his peers and ourselves what he CAN do.

4. Take Time out to enjoy what the family can do.

Keeping positive is hard with so many meetings with professionals. We now try to have no meetings with Ben's professionals between 1st June to the 1st September and in any school

holiday. This gives us time to just get on as a family; it can be a lovely time.

5. Take time out for Husband and me

All couples have to make decisions on family life and with Ben these are harder. It does put a strain on the relationship and therefore its even more important to make a time every so often to be together and talk!

6. Face the Fears

What happens if I go out and it's a new carer? What happens if we go away as a family somewhere? What happens, what happens etc?

Emotions can get the better of us sometimes and stop us from enjoying something just because of our fears. We try to put our emotions in a box and do a risk assessment of the situation and rise above the fear. The more we do this, go out and do things, the stronger we become, enjoying what we have and our ability increases in being able to make decisions for Ben.

7. Support the Siblings

Obviously make space and time for them.

There are other ways we have found really helps. By showing Anna and her friends what Ben can do and talking about him, they are not fearful of him. Anna's friends are quite happy to come and play at our house.

Making sure we celebrate his birthday and Christmas as normal with presents even if they are mainly socks!

This means that he is treated as a person just like Anna.

It is also useful for the extended family, as they have to think about him and what they can give too.

It's those little things that can make a big difference!

8. Think about what Ben has given us.

I am amazed at what Ben has taught us so far about life. I have learnt to enrich my life holistically and not materialistically.

But why have I had to go through the pain and emotion of having a Disabled Child to achieve this?

9. Use your partner and friends to balance your emotions

Everyone needs a foil. Mine is my husband and I thank him for all he helps me with. So far when I have been down he has been OK and vice versa. We also take great comfort of knowing our families and friends are there for us.

10. Use the Support Groups as your Bannister, local and National.

A vision of the journey of managing Ben's life was once given to us as like going down a dark spiral staircase with uneven steps. This staircase has a banister, a support to help and steady you on that journey...and for us that is our family, friends and the Local Parents Panel support group and the Batten Disease Family Association. We have now further developed this vision and dare to look up from the dark. Initially, particularly on diagnosis, all we saw was a cold wall and all we could focus on was the next step.

We mainly now look up to see the view beyond. Focusing on something to enjoy. I could not have done this without the support of our family, friends, support groups and the professionals that support Ben. We thank you all for that.

Hopefully some, or this entire article has been useful to you. My request now is please send in your story or any advice or frustration you have. It may help me and maybe others as well as you.

Thank you for your time in reading this.

Julie Pickering

TIME OUT FOR PARENTS

A GROUP FOR PARENTS OF DISABLED CHILDREN

A 6-week course and workshops for parents of disabled children

Supported by specialist health visitor, team for disabled children and speech and language therapists. What parents said about the last course..

"the strength of the course was the fact that it was for families of disabled children. It was a great opportunity to talk to parents with similar problems"

"It has made a real positive difference to my relationship with my kids..."

"The course was brilliant. It had helped so so much. The atmosphere in our home has really changed for the better and I feel so empowered"

If you would like more information about joining the next course please contact:

Sue McGuirk

Specialist Health Visitor for disabled children on

020-8546-1115

or

**Eleanor Hains
020-8547-6522**

Or email

suzanne.mcguirk@kpct.nhs.uk

MAPS (Maximising and Achieving Potential in Special Needs)

MAPS is a group run by and for parents and carers of children with special needs and disabilities in Kingston and surrounding boroughs. Existing members may remember when MAPS stood for Maple and Parents Special Needs Group. We soon realised that this was effectively excluding some parents/carers from joining because not everyone appreciated that all parents/carers are welcome regardless of whether their child attended the Maple Centre.

The committee therefore changed the name, as shown above, and we have seen a real increase in our membership with almost 100 families now having joined. We also feel that our new name encompasses what we strive to achieve as a group.

We have successfully initiated the setting up of various projects in the community, for example the Special Needs Story Time at New Malden Library, a Special Needs book collection in Chessington Library and the 516 Saturday Sports Club for children with special needs and disabilities.

We are currently discussing the commencement of a Music and Movement group after our very successful Music and Movement afternoon at Christ Church School in order to raise funds for MAPS.

Whilst the organisation of these are very much behind the scenes and managed by our committee of six, we rely heavily on member's feedback to gauge whether what we are proposing is actually wanted.

When therefore committee members attend meetings we only represent ourselves and do not represent MAPS. We are however happy to forward any information or concerns that MAPS members have, but make it clear to the chairperson of the meeting that

what we are saying is on behalf of a parent/carer. The committee finds that the most cost effective and quickest way to communicate to members is via email and occasionally the post and we are always happy to forward relevant information on to members via email.

In addition to the above, we also hold meetings approximately 6 times a year held at Warren Park NCH, Kingston Hill from 8pm –10.30pm. The meetings provide an opportunity to meet up with other members to exchange information in a friendly setting, and to hear speakers on a wide range of relevant topics. We also hold social events including ladies and men's nights out and a MAPS family outing in the summer.

Dates of our next meetings are:
29th June and 5th October

If you would like to become a member of MAPS or have information that would be relevant to parents/carers of special needs children then contact us on info@mapschildren.org.uk or telephone either Annette (020 8942 2945) or Angie (020 8942 4452).

Special needs book collection

There is now a Special Needs collection in stock at Hook and Chessington Library. This is aimed at parents or carers of children with special needs. The National Autistic Society – Kingston Branch, donated the bulk of the collection but there are also some items especially bought for the collection following suggestions from MAPS.

The collection of material is all on the library catalogue, and has the shelf mark "Special Needs". Anyone can borrow from it using an adult library card, and the items will be issued for the usual 3-week period.

Easter Holidays at Team for Disabled Children

Team for disabled children have had another busy Easter with 6 activity groups running for children and young people aged 4-19 years.

The 16 + Group enjoyed trips to London Zoo and Sporting activities.

The 14 + group enjoyed trampolining and The London Duck Tour.

C.A.G had a fun day out at Thorpe Park, eating at Pizza Hut, bowling and cinema.

The mini Activity group were also out about enjoying various exiting activities.

Tigers enjoyed Chessington World of Adventures and swimming.

Acorn group had fun painting, cooking and going for walks in the park.

The Acorn group had an un-announced Ofsted Visit and we were awarded "Outstanding". This is a great achievement and means that both Tigers and Acorns have an "Outstanding" report.

"Congratulations to Eleanor Hains and her team for achieving such a brilliant result!" from us all at Kingston Connections



Acorn's enjoying singing time



Mini Activity Group enjoying a tractor ride!



Story time for children with special needs

Stories, simple songs, finger plays and rhymes for
Children with special needs

Story times will be held every 3rd Saturday
of the month during term time
Age group: 3-8 years

Time: 10.30-11.30am

Place: New Malden children's library

Dates for summer term are:

19/05/07 & 16/06/07

Kingston Road

Tel no: 0208 547-6490

New Malden

Surrey KT3 3LY

www.kingston.gov.uk/libraries



Dates for your Diary

RBK Half Term week – 28th May – 1st June

RBK Summer Term Ends– Friday 20th July

June 10 th – 16 th	Carers week		
June 12 th	Parents and Carers Picnic	Warren Park	12.00pm
	Contact: Christine - 020 8547 1614		
June 15 th	Young Carers BBQ	Early Years Ctre	4.00pm
	Contact: Ela - 020 8287 2040		
June 15 th	Carers Pampering & Info Day	YMCA Surbiton	10.00am
	Contact: Kirstie – 020 8547 6124		
June 29 th	Dysart School	Inset Day	
June 29 th	MAPS meeting	Warren Park	8.00pm
July 24 th	Road show	Sheephouse Way	12.30pm
July 25 th	Road show	Kingsnympton Estate	12.30pm
July 26 th	Road show	Alexandra	12.30pm
July 27 th	Road show	Churchfields, Chessington	12.30pm

News from Bedelsford

In news from Bedelsford this time I thought you might like to know about our inclusion links with mainstream schools. Historically, Bedelsford has always made links with other schools. This contact continues to give our pupils an opportunity to meet peers, sometimes at their school and, more recently, by coming to ours.

The schools that include some of our pupils are St Joseph's, St John's and Surbiton High Junior School. Pupils from King Athelstan visit us weekly. Our nursery department go to Surbiton Hill Nursery on a regular basis, and a couple of our older pupils have been joining the post 16 provision at Dysart on a weekly basis.

Other inclusion initiatives include: Coombe Girls holding a drama production at Bedelsford; Tiffin Boys

School running a dance course and drama therapy; Kingston University students helping with drama every Friday. So there is plenty going on! We have also invited several primary schools to join us for drama workshops that have been really enjoyed by everyone.

To ensure all our pupils can be involved in Inclusion, we are developing "link" schools, so that the pupils and staff can make termly visits to each other. If you are interested in linking up with us in any way, please contact Sue Belshaw who is the Inclusion/Outreach co-ordinator at the school.

In the meantime, best wishes for the Summer Term and an extension of this wonderful weather.

Angela Evans
Head teacher
Bedelsford School

EnhanceAble's Parent Partnership Service

It is a pleasure to be able to introduce myself as the new Parent Partnership Officer for Kingston-upon-Thames.

The Service has now moved and is part of the Disabled Children's Information and Advice Service, that is housed at Maple Children's Centre on the hospital site and is managed by EnhanceAble, a local charity.

The Parent Partnership Service offers support in all the areas that it ever used to; however, its new home in the voluntary sector allows our advice to be completely independent, impartial and confidential.

If you are finding your relationship with your child's school a challenge, or if you are about to embark upon the long Assessment process, or if you have any other concerns about your child's education, I am here to help!

Ways in which I may be able to help you are:

- ✓ By discussing concerns you may have over the telephone, at our office, or in your home.
- ✓ By writing letters to teachers and other professionals.
- ✓ By helping you get in touch with the most appropriate professionals.
- ✓ By attending Annual Reviews and other meetings with you.
- ✓ By helping you write contributions for Statutory Assessments or the annual statement review.
- ✓ By visiting proposed placement schools with you, where possible.

I am also here to offer advice on:

- ✓ Assessment procedures
- ✓ Statements
- ✓ The Code of Practice
- ✓ Solving disagreements
- ✓ School entry and transition from primary to secondary schools.

You may well have accessed this service in the past when it was managed by RBK and was based at the Duke's Centre; **if so, please note our new contact details below!**

I am looking forward to assisting families living in Kingston and I will be working hard to provide a friendly yet professional service that parents can easily access. To that end, I would welcome any feedback you have about the Parent Partnership Service.

I will be working fulltime during school term time. If during the school holidays you feel you have concerns that you would like to address immediately please contact Caroline Baxter, at the number below.

Please do give me a call if I can be of any service!

Megan Naylor
Parent Partnership Officer

Telephone:
020 8934 6378

Email:
MeganNaylor@kingstonhospital.nhs.uk

Disabled Children's Information and Advice Service
Maple Children's Centre
28-34 Wolverton Avenue
Kingston-upon-Thames
KT2 7QD

Kingston Special Needs Toy Library

Open every Friday between 10am and 12 noon
(Except for August)

At the Friends Meeting House
(Next to Primark)

78, Eden Street
Kingston - upon -Thames
Surrey
KT1 1DJ

For more information ring:

Roma on 0208 398 6565

Charlotte on 0208 541 5157

Sarah on 0208 399 3247

Or Visit our new website at:

www.kingstonepublish.org.uk/kingstontoylibrary

Useful numbers and email addresses:

Disabled Children's Information and Advice Service		020 8934 6378
Team for Disabled Children		020 8547 6587
Children's Information Service	CIS@rbk.gov.uk	020 8547 6582
Portage Service	ann.Macpherson@rbk.kingston.gov.uk	020 8547 6698
Dysart School	DYS@rbksch.org	020 8412 2600
Bedelsford School	BDS@rbksch.org	020 8546 9398
St Philips School	PHS@rbksch.org	020 8397 2672
Surbiton Children's Centre	SHN@rbksch.org	020 8390 2555
Warren Park		020 8481 0200
Maple Centre		020 8934 2195
MAPS	info@mapschildren.org.uk	
SWAPS	swapskingston@googlemail.com	
21&co	tattyloulou@hotmail.com	
Children's Fund		020 8547 5847
Continence Clinic		020 8399 7111 ext 4105
RBK SEN Department		020 8547 4615
Kingston Carers Network		020 8547 1614
Contact a Family (Wandsworth)	wandsworth@cafamily.org.uk	020 8947 5260
Kingston Welcare		020 8546 3258
Kingston Mencap	gillcwood@blueyonder.co.uk	020 8540 1399
Kingston Centre for Independent Living		020 8546 9603
Benefits Enquiry Line		0800 882200
DLA Office		08457 123456
Child Tax Credit Office		0845 3003900
Disabled Children's Register		020 8770 8397