

Issue 8

**NOVEMBER 2013**

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## A Note from the Editor...

This is the 8th issue of the Richmond Autism News! I have to admit that I did not expect this when I wrote the first issue nearly a year ago... but I am incredibly happy and excited about it!

As you can see, this edition looks a little bit different again. Our newsletter has grown up from its humble beginnings to now be produced by our colleagues in the Print Unit. Thanks to the staff there the newsletter will now have a sleek new look and has the professional input it deserves!



**Rebecca, Autism Specialist Worker**

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You can contact us in the usual ways: email [autism@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:autism@richmond.gov.uk), or write to the Autism Specialist Worker, 2nd Floor Civic Centre, York Street, Twickenham, TW1 3BZ.

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## Christmas Party?

Our Wednesday evening carers meeting falls on the 18th December... that being so close to Christmas we thought that this is the perfect excuse to have a little bit of a Christmas party! What do you think? Everyone is on the guest list – service users, friends, family...

The party would take place between 6.30-8.00 pm on Wednesday 18th December at the Greenwood Centre, 1 School Road, Hampton Hill TW12 1QL.

Think mince pies, crackers and maybe even some home-baking and mulled wine... sound good?

# Training / Awareness Raising

## General Update

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Check out our training page (link as in text) for more information on the Autism Awareness training

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The full day Autism Training is proving so popular that our colleagues in the Workforce Training and Development Department have confirmed another additional date with places available:  
11th December 2013

This course is available for Richmond Council staff and for staff from the services Richmond Council commissions. For more information on the course and details of how to book check out our training page online ([www.richmond.gov.uk/home/health\\_and\\_social\\_care/autism/autism\\_training.htm](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/health_and_social_care/autism/autism_training.htm)). There are more dates to come and new training being developed so watch this space!

## Autism Awareness: e-learning

Thanks for all your feedback on this new training. The new e-learning courses will be going live at the beginning of December – watch the website for information.

# Other News

## Direct Payment Prepaid Card



This card will be the new way of receiving direct payments in Richmond. Basically, the council will open a “bank account” for you instead of you having to do it. You will receive a card in your name which works like a debit card: you can pay online and in shops, withdraw cash and set up standing orders and direct debits, but you can’t go overdrawn. You also will not get the bank statements, they will come to the council, so it’s less paperwork but you can still check the balance etc. online.

This system has been tried and tested in a lot of other local authority areas.

We will keep you informed of further developments.

## Carers Strategy

The Multi-agency Carers Strategy for the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames is being refreshed for 2013-2015. The draft Carers Strategy and its strategic aims have been written following extensive consultation with carers and other relevant organisations. The three priorities identified in the strategy are:

- Advice Information and Support
- Carers Health and Wellbeing
- Carers as Expert Partners in Care

The consultation opened on Monday 18 November and will close on Friday 6 December 2013.

To find out more about the consultation, read the draft strategy and complete the online questionnaire to give feedback, please visit: <https://consultation.richmond.gov.uk/adult-community-services/draft-carers-strategy-2013>



## SOCIALEYES

As reported in our August newsletter, Socialeyes is a new and innovative approach to learning social skills and social strategies primarily suitable for people with high functioning Autism and Asperger syndrome.

We can confirm that we will start a pilot-group for young people between 18-25 in the New Year. If you, or someone you know, are interested in attending, please contact Rebecca at [autism@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:autism@richmond.gov.uk) or 020 8487 5391.



## The Gatehouse Asperger Provision

Based at the Acton campus of Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College, The Gatehouse is a one to two-year transitional programme which has been set up to enable students with a diagnosis of Aspergers Syndrome or high functioning autism to prepare and acquire the skills and qualifications needed to access mainstream further education. Interested to find out more? They are having two Inclusive Learning - taster dates:

- Monday 9th December 2013
- Monday 10th February 2014

For more information please contact: [Lesly.corzo@wlc.ac.uk](mailto:Lesly.corzo@wlc.ac.uk) or on 0208 231 6520

## Carers

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Hope to see  
you at one  
of our catch-ups  
soon!

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We are pleased to announce we have now have dates set up for spring (see below).

We are currently organising speakers and will advertise who is coming as soon as we can. If you have any requests or ideas you can contact us in the usual way.

### Spring-term meeting dates

#### “Time to Talk”

Wednesdays from 6.30 – 8pm at the Greenwood Centre, 1, School Road, Hampton Hill TW12 1QL

- Wednesday 15th January
- Wednesday 19th February
- Wednesday 19th March

#### “Coffee and Catch-up”

Fridays from 10 am to 12 noon, St. Stephens Crossway Centre, 306 Richmond Road, East Twickenham, TW1 2PD

- Friday 24th January
- Friday 28th February
- Friday 21st March

## Things To Do



Dimensions continue their partnership with three major cinemas offering monthly Autism Friendly film screenings. The lights are turned up, the volume turned down and all advert trailers removed. Each participating cinema shows a different film from a selection of new releases and classics suitable for all age ranges. For more details go to:

[www.dimensions-uk.org/what-we-do/autism-care/autism-friendly-screenings/](http://www.dimensions-uk.org/what-we-do/autism-care/autism-friendly-screenings/)

It would be great if you could share any information you might come across for our “Things to Do” section.

# Reminder of Dates for your Diary...

NOVEMBER 2013						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

DECEMBER 2013						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## **Time to Talk: a coffee and catch-up meeting for carers / friends / family members**

Wednesday 20th November, 6.30-8pm:  
The Greenwood Centre,  
1 School Road, Hampton Hill TW12 1QL

## **Coffee and Catch-up meeting for carers / friends / family members run jointly with NAS Richmond Branch**

Friday 29th November, 10.30 – 12.00 noon:  
St. Stephen's Crossway Centre,  
306 Richmond Road,  
East Twickenham, TW1 2PD

## **Coffee and Catch-up meeting for carers / friends / family members run jointly with NAS Richmond Branch**

Friday 13th December, 10.30 – 12.00 noon:  
St. Stephen's Crossway Centre,  
306 Richmond Road,  
East Twickenham, TW1 2PD

## **Christmas Party!**

### **A Christmas Party for service users, friends and family**

Wednesday 18th December, 6.30-8pm:  
The Greenwood Centre,  
1 School Road,  
Hampton Hill TW12 1QL.