

Richmond Autism News, 4th edition

It has only been a few weeks since the last edition of RAN, but so much has happened that it feels like more than that... Please see below for a brief update on what we've been working on during the national Autism Awareness Month!



Richmond Joint Health and Social Care Strategy for people with ASC 2013 – 2016

Sign (or Lift?) Off!

Our local autism strategy, the Richmond Joint Health and Social Care Strategy for people with Autism Spectrum Conditions, has been signed off by all required partners (Adult Services, Children Services and the Clinical Commissioning Group for Health)!!! This means that all partners have now signed up to work together towards achieving the tasks and changes listed in the strategy.

To download a copy of the strategy go to www.richmond.gov.uk/autism and click on the link or contact Rebecca at the address below to be sent one in the post.

Project Groups

Now the really hard work starts: actually making the changes happen! We are putting together a project group for each of the four priority areas of the strategy, as well as one group which will oversee everything. Each project group will have at least one expert by experience (person with ASC, family member or carer): if you're interested to become involved, please contact Rebecca at autism@richmond.gov.uk



+++++++ **BREAKING NEWS** +++++++

Seminar / Drop in / (Social, although it's not called that!) Group

Funding for a seminar / drop in group for adults on the autism spectrum who do not have access to other services (such as learning disability or mental health services) has been agreed for the next 12 months! The plan is to have two groups, possibly one older and one younger, who each meet once a fortnight; and to invite speakers on a wide range of subjects, provide support for one-off questions and problems etc. as well as meet others and have fun.

We really need the help of those likely to attend such a group to help us start planning and making it happen! If you are interested / know someone who might be happy to help please contact Rebecca at autism@richmond.gov.uk (or the address below) and / or come to our first planning meeting:

Wednesday, 29/05/2013, 6-8pm

Function Room, The Aleksander Pub (formally Marble Hill Pub), 277 Richmond Road, Marble Hill, East Twickenham, TW1 2NP

If you're not sure where that is or would rather not go into the pub on your own, meet Rebecca at 5.50pm at the bus stop across the road, in front of St. Stephens Church.

Rebecca will send out some more information about the planning required and questions that are likely to be asked ahead of the meeting to those that have been in touch with her to express their interest in attending.



Information Technology / Internet etc.

Webpage

The new Autism webpage from Richmond Council is now up and running! It's not quite the final format yet and we will do some more work over the coming weeks to make it easier to use, clearer and generally much nicer, but it's there! Check it out at: www.richmond.gov.uk/autism
We will also continue to update and add to the information on the page, so if you have anything you would like to share / add please contact us!



Coffee / Catch up meetings

Evening meeting at Linden Hall

Thanks to everyone who came to the last meeting at Linden Hall – it was great to see you again and to have a chance to catch up! We discussed future meetings, too: Linden Hall appears to be a suitable venue so we will continue meeting there for now. We agreed to have the next meeting on Wednesday, 22/05/2013 from 6-8pm. There has also been a proposal for a new name: Time to Talk. What do you think?

Joint meeting with NAS Richmond

The first joint coffee morning with NAS Richmond went ahead on the 10th May! Thanks to everyone who came – it was great to see you again / meet you! Rebecca was there and talked through the new Richmond strategy. The next meeting will be on the 07/06/2013, again from 10.30am – 12noon at the Crossway Centre and Rebecca will be there again, too.



Dates for the calendar

22nd May 2013, 6-8pm: Linden Hall, Linden Road, Hampton, TW12 2JG

Time to Talk / Coffee and catch up meeting for carers / friends / family members.

29th May 2013, 6 – 8pm: Function Room, The Aleksander Pub (formally Marble Hill Pub), 277 Richmond Road, Marble Hill, East Twickenham, TW1 2NP

The first planning / idea gathering meeting for the seminar / drop in groups for adults with ASC. Come along, let us know what you want and help us make this group happen!

7th June 2013, 10.30am – 12noon: 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.

Hope to see you soon!

Amanda, Ann, Anna and Rebecca

You are receiving this email / letter as you gave your (email) address stating that you would like to be kept informed of the progress of the Richmond Joint Autism Strategy. If you no longer wish to receive information please contact autism@richmond.gov.uk or write to Autism Specialist Worker, 2nd Floor, Civic Centre, 44 York Street, Twickenham, TW1 3BZ. Thank you.