

New Year 2014 Newsflash!

Edinburgh Education Update



Dear Parent/Carer

A Happy New Year from all at Kindred

Kindred would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family all the best for 2014!

It's also a chance for us to keep you informed of a couple of important happenings in relation to the education of children with additional needs in Edinburgh. Overleaf you will find information about the proposed budget cuts for children with disabilities in Edinburgh and a link to petition to stop them.

Detailed below are two meetings for parents of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder to find out more about Additional Support for Learning within the city and to contribute to ideas for future provision.

Additional Support for Learning (ASL) Forum **two meetings for parents of children with ASD living in Edinburgh**

Are you a parent of a child with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder)?

Do you want to find out the latest thinking in Edinburgh on education of children with ASD?

And are you keen to contribute to the discussion?!

The ASL Forum supports the liaison between parent representatives and the City of Edinburgh Council. The Forum has organised two meetings planned specifically for parents of children with ASD in Edinburgh.

The meetings will cover the development of the Autism Plan in Edinburgh in response to the Scottish Autism Strategy, and explore what makes for the 'best outcomes' for children with autism. We will discuss what is being done at present, and aspirations for the future.

Meeting 1 - Monday 27th January, 10 am – 12 noon, Business Centre, High St., City Chambers:
the development of the Autism Plan in Edinburgh in response to the Scottish Autism Strategy

Meeting 2 - Monday 3rd February, 10 am – 12 noon, Midlothian Suite, Lothian Chambers, George IV Bridge:
explore what makes for the 'best outcomes' for children with autism

You can attend either meeting or both of them.

For more information and to book a place contact kindred.enquiries@gmail.com

For information on any of the above please email kindred.enquiries@gmail.com or call 0131 538 5650

Stop cuts to Education for Children with Disabilities in Edinburgh.

You may have seen our **Stop the Cuts** campaign on Facebook, and indeed signed our petition against it? If not you may be interested to know Edinburgh Council are proposing large cuts to funding for Special Schools and Additional Support for Learning in their next budget.

The following has been prepared with the support of Alan Paxton and Ben Paechter, and includes a link where you can join our online petition to **Stop the Cuts**, and find out what other parents and professionals feel about them:

These cuts do not take account of the rising numbers of children with Additional Support Needs (according to the Council's own figures). It is also a very short-sighted measure as cuts will simply mean more tribunals and children being sent out of Edinburgh to extremely expensive out of authority placement. This is not at all desirable from anyone's point of view. It is really quite outrageous that the Council is making these proposals while speaking about early intervention and trying to bring down the rapidly rising numbers of Looked After Children. There are many excellent, dedicated staff within the Council and in special provision but they are being stretched to breaking point. It is completely ridiculous to say that cuts of £1 million will have 'no impact'.

The Council are in danger of failing to provide adequately under the Additional Support Needs legislation. These children, therefore, are not being provided with an education that meets their needs (hence the danger of ASN Tribunals). Perhaps Councillors will think this is not an issue which impacts on the majority of the constituents. But they would be wrong. Every parent knows what it is like for their child in mainstream to have to cope when there is a child with additional needs in the class who is not adequately supported.

You can sign the petition and comment with Twitter at #StopASLcuts, or online at www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/city-of-edinburgh-council-stop-cuts-to-education-for-children-with-disabilities

So far we have over 2500 people signed up to Stop the Cuts – we need more so please pass on this information to others.

Would you like to donate to Kindred?

You can do so online by going to www.justgiving.com/kindred

Alternatively go to www.kindred-scotland.org/fundraising or simply contact us for further details to donate by BACs, cheque or in person.

If you are interested in raising money for us, just let us know – we'd love to hear about your idea and we have sponsor forms and shaker tins that you might find useful.

Thank you



Above: some of the beautiful ceramic creations made by Kindred volunteer Jenny Harris, which helped raise over £223 for Kindred last year. Inspired?...please let us know if you would like to fundraise for Kindred.

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