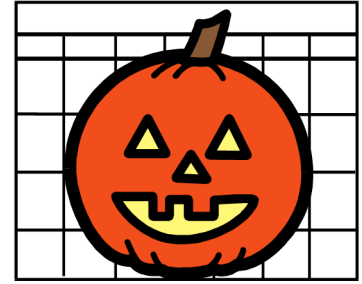




South Manchester
Down's Syndrome Support Group
Fulfilling Potential



October 2013

phone: 07593 542 107 email: contact@dsmanchester.org.uk website: dsmanchester.org.uk

**The South Manchester Down's Syndrome Support Group 2013 Annual
General Meeting Thursday 17 October 8pm**

Benchill Sure Start and Specialist Resource Centre, 22 Lyndene Road, Benchill, Wythenshawe, Manchester M22 4PZ Doors open 7pm for refreshments

It is vital that members of the group attend this meeting as we cannot carry out the business of the AGM without a quorum present, i.e. one tenth of our membership, so **please make every effort to come along**. The group is run entirely by a small committee of busy parent volunteers who need your help. Just think of all that this group offers to families – all organised on a voluntary basis. **It is your group**, every member needs to have their say and be actively involved or the group may cease to function. Please confirm your attendance at the AGM by 10 October via email: chair@dsmanchester.org.uk, telephone: 07593 542 107.

There will be a number of resolutions on which to vote, including a proposal to change the legal structure of the group. SMDSSG is currently an unincorporated charity registered with the Charity Commission. The Trustees are recommending that the group become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The CIO is a new legal structure, under the Charities Act 2011, designed specifically and only for charities. The Trustees believe it is in the group's interests to become incorporated through the CIO structure. Due to its limited liability, transferring to a CIO should make it easier for the group to recruit and retain Trustees and to engage in contracts. **For more information on CIOs**, please see the Charity Commission website: http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/FAQS/Registering_a_charity/FAQs_about_CIOs/default.aspx#1

As per our constitution, **all current Trustees, including the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, will retire at the AGM**. Some will stand for re-election but the Trustees would welcome new members onto the board. **If you would like to take an active role in your group and become a Trustee**, please email: chair@dsmanchester.org.uk or telephone: 07593 542 107 to register your interest. **If you have a family member, friend or colleague who is interested, we would very much like to recruit some non-parent Trustees**, just let us know before the AGM. **Trustee nomination forms need to be completed ahead of the meeting for anyone wishing to stand for election.**

Please think about how you and/or members of your family benefit from the range of activities offered by SMDSSG: Chatterbox, training, social events, drama club, social networking, etc.
Please consider giving something back to your support group to keep it going.

One small, easy thing you can do is fill in and return your membership form, which can be downloaded at: dsmanchester.org.uk. Following the AGM, there will be opportunities to give something back to your group in a less formal way than being a trustee. You could volunteer to take on a specific duty or role, such as establishing and running a tidying up rota for Chatterbox, staying and clearing away after Chatterbox once a year, organising the catering for the Christmas party, or organising a social or fundraising event. Please let us know if you can help in any way by emailing: chair@dsmanchester.org.uk or telephoning: 07593 542 107 or speaking to a committee member / Trustee.

SMDSSG Membership

Have you completed one of our membership forms ? **If not, please fill one in ASAP**

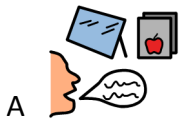
As a member, you can:

- Attend social events like Run Of The Mill, Christmas parties etc
- Take advantage of discounted training fees
- Vote at our AGM
- Join the committee
- Enrol for Chatterbox SLT sessions from September 2013

FEE: Per family £5 / £3 concessions

Forms can be downloaded at: dsmanchester.org.uk

Chatterbox Club



Heaton Moor Evangelical church, Green Lane, Heaton Moor SK4 3LH

A family social occasion providing the opportunity for children to meet with others of a similar age for group speech therapy. Sessions are delivered by qualified speech and language therapists who have specialist training in the specific communication needs of people who have Down's syndrome.

If you do not enroll for the SLT sessions, you are welcome to join us for all the other activities. Feel free to pop a donation in the box at the refreshments counter towards the cost of running the club.

We have arts and craft activities, sing and sign and yoga. We are sad to announce that Danka Chitryn is no longer able to deliver our arts and crafts but we are delighted that Katherine Long from Venture Arts will be delivering art activities for children to enjoy.

Dates: Oct 26th / Nov 23rd / Dec 14th

Themes: October-Body Parts; November-Actions; December-Christmas.

Sing and Sign Times: 10:15-10:35-2 and under; 10:40-11:00-3-5's; 11:05-11:25-over 5's

Come and join us for some half term fun at Run of the mill

Run of the Mill In door Play Centre Tuesday October 29 4.30-6.30pm

Pear Mill Ind Est Stockport Rd West, Bredbury, Stockport SK6 2BP is booked for our exclusive use. Halloween fancy dress optional & disco/party games. **Cost £5 per family, including children's food.**

This price is heavily subsidised so extra donations always welcome!

To book a place, contact Laura: Laura@dsmanchester.org.uk

Sharing Information

If you know of any events, information , training etc that would be of interest to other members of our support group, please share them with us so that the information can go in the newsletter:

contact@dsmanchester.org.uk Thanks



You can now find us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/SMDSSG>
Come and like the page and keep up to date with what the group is doing.

SMDSSG Training 2013

- Support and Practice in Secondary Education: Friday October 18 Gill Bird
- Supporting Early Development 0-4 years: Saturday October 19 Gill Bird
- Clicker-6: October 22 and 23 Jordan Butel from Crick Software
 - Introduction and Advanced Sessions
- Using Numicon to Teach Numeracy: November 5 and 6 Wendy Uttley
 - Introduction and Advanced Sessions
- Supporting Social Development and Behaviour: November 29 Gill Bird

Please see the outlines for each of these training days, which have been sent out previously.

Clicker training on October 23 is full. We have added an extra Clicker Introduction session on Tuesday October 22 from 12.30-3pm.

There is one booking form for all the training, so please complete it carefully.

If you want to attend training, please book ASAP.

It is important that schools get details of this training. If you are reluctant to take information into your child's school, please let us have the school's email or postal address and we'll send the information.

Other training : Meeting the needs of children with Down's Syndrome in the mainstream setting. November 6, 9am-3.30pm. The target audience for this training is SENCo's, teachers and support assistants working with children that live in Manchester - primary and secondary school staff. Schools will have been invited, but if your school needs more information, please contact Karen Bailey, SLT at

Funding News

A huge thanks to the following for their generous donations:

Ladies Fellowship St Michael and All Angels church

£50

Emergency Chocolate <http://www.emergencychocolate.co.uk/> who are donating a percentage of their profits to the group each month and have raised **over £100 in 3 months.**

KPMG who have made **two donations of £250** which we have used towards providing free primary training.

Thanks very much to our committee member **Penny Jones and her team** for completing the **Swim Britain Challenge and raising over £500.** There is still time to donate at:

<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/pennyjones1>

Ongoing activities

DSActive football sessions with Moorside Rangers* Victoria Lane (Beechfarm Playing Fields) Swinton Manchester M27 9LF. Sunday mornings every fortnight 11am-1pm. <http://www.dsactive.org/teams/moorside-rangers-dsactive/> Contact Ian Clarke at clarkey@parklife.fsworld.co.uk.

EST Donkey sanctuary Manchester, Green Fold Abbey Hey Manchester* M18 8RJ www.elisabethsvdentsentrust.org.uk/view/manchester. For children with additional needs and their families. Rides are booked in as you arrive from 10am—1pm. **Saturday clubs usually third Saturday of the month** Tel 0161 301 4051. Relax over a cup of tea/coffee, bring a picnic or have a snack and meet other parents, carers and supporters. **Call for holiday riding dates.**

Simply Cycling* No need to pre-book, just drop by, cycling for all abilities and opportunity to learn cycle skills with qualified teachers. £2 per rider. **Please call the numbers given in advance for details.**

Trafford Wheelers at Longford Park Athletic Stadium Ryebank Road, Stretford (Sat Nav M21 9LJ)

Monday: 9.30 – 12 noon

Thursday – SPECIAL RIDE OUT – PHONE TO BOOK

Friday: 9.30 – 12 noon **Session closed here on 12, 19 and 26 July so join us at Wythenshawe.**

Sunday: 1.00 – 3.00 pm **Session closed here on 21, 28 July and 11 August**

For more information call Helen on: **07871 621778** e.mail: helenhines68@hotmail.co.uk

Wythenshawe Wheelers at Wythenshawe Park Athletics Track

Wythenshawe Road, (Sat Nav. M23 OPH)

Monday: 9.30 – 12 noon

Tuesday: 9.30 – 3.00 pm

Weds: 9.30 – 12 noon

Thursday – SPECIAL RIDE OUT – PHONE TO BOOK

Friday: 9.30 – 3.00 pm

Sat: 1.00 – 3.00 pm

For more information please call Sue on: 07753 428937 e.mail: sueblaylock2708@aol.com

<http://www.wythenshawe-wheelers.org/>

CADS (Children's able and disabled sports) Clubs* www.seashelltrust.org.uk/cads

Please see attached flyer

Manchester Specialist Resource Team groups* Stay and play sessions for young children with disabilities are held throughout the city. For more information about any of these groups contact Donna Griffin on 219 2648

The Friendship Club* for school age children who have Down's syndrome, their siblings and friends to socialise together. Interested? Contact Caroline Sheehan on 0161-925-6153.

L'Arche prayer evenings* A chance for people with learning disabilities, their friends, carers, family and friends to pray and reflect together. Stay for a cup of tea and biscuits afterwards! Every first Wednesday in the month, 7.30pm, at Chorlton Central Church, Barlow Moor Road, Chorlton, M21 8BF (Corner of Zetland Road and Barlow Moor Road). Fully accessible venue. Contact: Kevin on 07714 397333 or at kevin.coogan@larche.org.uk.

***Please note: not run by the South Manchester Down Syndrome Support Group.**

For information only—we are not responsible for changes to date, time or venue.

Please use the contact information supplied to confirm details and to ask any questions.

N.E. Derbyshire Down Syndrome Support Group

A monthly support group for parents, grandparents & carers of children with Down's Syndrome.

See attached flyer

Manchester Parents For Change

PARENT CARERS DROP IN CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WELCOME

10.30am – 1.30pm

Every 2nd Wednesday

Somewhere to meet, have a drink and get information about the ongoing changes in support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

The following professionals will also be present to offer advice:

Katie Cragg – Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People

Laura Upton – Manchester's Pathfinder Project

A representative from Family Information Service

9th October 23rd October 6th November 20th November 4th December 18th December

For more information contact:

Laura Upton on 0161 2457309 or email: l.upton1@manchester.gov.uk

Location: Westwood Street Resource Centre, Westwood Street, Moss Side, M14 4PH

From Manchester Parents For Change:

We are currently developing a register of parents of children with SEN/disabilities who are willing to be involved in consultations/meetings/conferences/service developments etc and to represent the views of a wider group of parents. The register will record your skills, experiences and ways in which you are willing to be involved (meetings are not the only way in which parents can be involved and we value all parental feedback and contributions). This will help us to ensure that we are not relying on a small number of parents and feedback/involvement reflects the views of a wider group of parents/carers. If you would like to join the register please contact parents@manchester.gov.uk.

Be Hear Now: Half term musical discovery sessions for young people with additional needs and their families Friday 1 November at The Bridgewater Hall

Age 0-11: 11.00am - 12.30pm

Age 12-19: 1.30 – 3.00pm

Once upon a time...a special family met up with friends to explore music, storytelling and art in a fully accessible concert and workshop. Be Hear Now musical discovery sessions have been designed by The Bridgewater Hall Learning and Participation department, MY Hub and Live Music Now to provide fun, creative half term activities for young people with additional educational needs to enjoy alongside their parents or carers and siblings. Combining opportunities to listen and take part, with a special added Big Draw activity this autumn, the sessions have received excellent feedback from families and young people. Book online or via Box Office on 0844 907 9000. Tickets £5 Family ticket £20 (up to 5 people).

From the DSA:

The DSA has launched a campaign to protect the rights of children and young people with learning disabilities and we need your help.

Right now, a new piece of legislation is passing through Parliament that aims to transform the lives of children and young people – the Children and Families Bill. The Bill makes a number of changes for young people with learning disabilities, the biggest being replacing statements with education, health and social care plans. The government says the changes will make life easier for parents and better for children and young people.

But this law is a missed opportunity. The Bill fails to deliver:

Equal support for health and social care as well as education for those who need it

One place to appeal against local authority decisions

An end to the postcode lottery of local authority support

Guarantees that local authorities must provide and improve the support they offer

The rights and entitlements in reviews and reassessments that we have now

Strong enough guarantees to the right to mainstream education in special academies and further education colleges

We cannot afford to get this Bill wrong. We need to fix this Bill, making it fit for purpose for children and young people with Down's syndrome and their families.

So please – take action. Download our Action Pack, which tells you all about the Bill, what's wrong with it and what you can do to change it. Write to the House of Lords and your local MP to tell them to change this Bill – find out how in the Action Pack.

We can't let this opportunity pass us by. Let's get the Children and Families Bill right – for all children and young people.

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Dates for your diary

Drama Club	October 14 & 21
AGM	October 17
Support and Practice in Secondary Education	October 18
Supporting Early Development 0-4 years	October 19
Clicker-6 Training	October 22&23
Chatterbox	October 26
Run of the Mill	October 29
Drama Club	November 4, 11, 18 & 25
Using Numicon to Teach Numeracy	November 5 and 6
Chatterbox	November 23
Supporting Social Development and Behaviour	November 29
Drama Club	December 2, 9 & 16
Chatterbox	December 14
Christmas Party	December 21

The views and items in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the South Manchester Down's Syndrome Support Group. Mention does not necessarily mean recommendation or support.



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Registered Charity
No: 1147397

October 2013

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