

Summer 2007

The Baby Café comes to Torrington



Mums and mums to be in Torrington and the surrounding area will be able to get advice and support on breastfeeding their young infants thanks to the launch of the Bluecoat Baby Café.

The Bluecoat Children's Centre seemed the ideal place to run a Baby Café, in a relaxed and understanding atmosphere where you can have a coffee and a rest.

With Mothers Day the day before the launch we felt we would like to pamper our mums and mums to be with mini beauty treatments, black and white photos of mum and baby and refreshments.

The baby café will be open every Monday from 1.15pm – 3.15pm for any pregnant or breastfeeding mums to get support advice and encouragement from Health Visitors and midwives as well as support and encouragement from other mums. Partners, supporters and health professionals are also welcome to attend.

The Baby Café is a Drop-In centre offering breastfeeding help, information and support for pregnant



and breastfeeding mums whatever stage they're at. Midwives or Health Visitors are on hand every week to provide support, advice and one-to-one consultations about breastfeeding. Other mums are also there to listen to and share their experiences of breastfeeding, which can often be helpful. It's also a chance to relax, talk and breastfeed in a breastfeeding friendly environment.

Bluecoat's Baby Café can help parents decide how they will feed their baby, get them started and continue breastfeeding for as long (or short a time) as they choose and support them as breastfeeding comes to an end. Staff support mums if they experience challenges and difficulties such as

illness and premature birth, if they return to work whilst breastfeeding and guide them when offering breastfed babies solid foods.

Midwives and Health Visitors working in the Torridge area feel that with the launch of the Café in Torrington they are hoping to add extra support in the community to mums and potential mums as well as raise the number of mothers exclusively breastfeeding from birth.

Breastfeeding rates in the UK are low compared to other developed countries. Less than three-quarters of babies are ever breastfed and only 21 per cent are still breastfed at six months.

In Devon there are currently Baby Cafés in Crediton and Cullompton and now one in Torrington too! The funding for the Bluecoat Baby Café has been provided by the national Government Children's Centre programme with the aim of accepting and encouraging breastfeeding.

The children's Centre team will also be targeting local businesses trying to encourage more breastfeeding-friendly working and social environments in a bid to make it easier for mothers to continue breastfeeding, even if they go back to work.

More information about the Baby Café initiative is available at www.thebabycafe.co.uk Information and statistics about the benefits of breastfeeding are available at www.babyfriendly.org.uk.



Celebrating in style with novelty cakes

Ofsted Update

New Electronic Application Forms available	
CM2	Declaration and Consent Form
DC1	Application Form for Day Care
DC2	Declaration and Consent Form
DC3	Notification to Ofsted of involvement in the registration of a day care Provider

Applicants can fill in these forms on the computer and then print them out. However, please note, these forms cannot be submitted electronically. All application forms require the signature of the applicant. Therefore applicants must post the completed forms to the National Business Unit, Manchester, in the usual way.

The electronic versions of the forms can be located on the Ofsted website by selecting the care and early education link in the forms and guidance section.

Important information for day care providers on filling in Ofsted forms from the Registration and Inspection advice team

DC1 This application form should be completed by the registered person, and asks for information about the registered person, and the premises on which he/she intends to provide day care.

DC2 This form should be completed by the applicant or day-care provider including:

- the person in charge of the day-to-day running of the provision
- the applicant or day-care provider where they intend to work directly with
- the nominated person representing the provider
- committee members
- partners
- directors.

Definitions

Registered person: a person deemed qualified to care for children and whose name appears on the certificate of registration. The registered person has overall responsibility for ensuring that the requirements of the national standards are met. A company, committee or other group may be the registered person.

Manager: the person in day to day charge of the setting. The manager need not be the same person as the registered person. If not, the manager will be recruited and vetted by the registered person. A manager must have appropriate qualifications and experience.

Please call the registration helpline 01392 385536 before making any changes to your registration in order that we can advise you.

The Early Years Foundation Stage – Update

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

From September 2008, the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) will be a single quality framework of learning, development and welfare for children from birth to the end of the Foundation Stage. It will provide an integrated approach to care and education, underpinned by a play based approach.

The EYFS will reflect continuity with the principles and approach of: the Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage, Birth to Three Matters and the National Standards for under Eights Day Care and Childminding. The overarching aim of the EYFS is to bring together all aspects relating to young children's development and achievement, in relation to the five Every Child Matters outcomes: Staying safe, being healthy, enjoying and achieving, economic wellbeing and making a positive contribution

When will the EYFS be implemented?

The EYFS will begin to be implemented in all registered early years settings and maintained and independent schools from September 2008.

What will the EYFS look like?

Publication of the final documents will be on March 16th, Devon will receive copies at the end of March. There will be an EYFS pack of resources containing:

- Statutory Framework for EYFS booklet
- Practice Guidance for EYFS
- A1 Poster
- 24 cards
- CD Rom

Will this mean more work?

Feedback from the consultation highlighted the positive response that there will now be just one framework which relates to all aspects of children's learning, development and welfare from 0-5 years. Those who are familiar with the existing frameworks will find that the principles and approach remain largely the same

What about training and support?

There are National Strategy briefing sessions for headteachers in Spring 07 and there will be EYFS briefing sessions for managers of settings in Summer 07. The Early Years Adviser team will be offering training sessions to staff from settings and schools across Devon from the Autumn 07. We will give briefing sessions on the structure of the EYFS and all training courses will relate to the framework from Autumn 07 onwards

How will we get the EYFS?

The EYFS framework boxes will be delivered to central points in Local Authorities. We will then organise distribution to settings, schools and childminders. This will be during the summer term 07.

Update from Helen Stephenson, Out of Schools Development Worker

TRAINING TRAINING TRAINING

As you can see from the heading I am going to talk about training this term. I am aware that some of you want to know what training is available which is specific to Out of School clubs. There are various relevant training courses available, some compulsory others for fun and to help you improve your practice.

I recently attended the Child Protection Course which is delivered by Multi Agency Teams. This is an excellent two day course for Supervisors and Managers. The course covers basic knowledge and understanding of child abuse issues, the signs of child abuse, how to respond and action to take, the role of other agencies and the importance of sharing information. I would strongly recommend that if you haven't done any child protection training before or are in a supervisory role, this course is for you. Please contact Jolene Roberts at Kingfisher House in Exeter for course details.

For other staff we also provide the Child Protection Awareness courses and again contact Kingfisher House for details about this course.

This round of Ofsted update Training is coming to a close for this term but below is the next set of dates for the summer term. These sessions are very important for settings to attend. We have found that Out of School clubs and Holiday clubs are not attending these sessions and with the constant changes to Ofsted requirements, it is very important that managers, supervisors, committee members attend these meetings to keep up to date with the changes.

Barnstaple	5th June	10-12pm
Tiverton	20th June	1-3pm
Bideford	19th June	1-3pm

Other courses which are available for play workers are:

Active Club	Barnstaple	11th June
Certificate in Playwork	Bideford	28th April – 16th June
Everyone can Play	Exeter	18th June & 25th June
Give us a game	Exeter	19th April & 7th June
Introduction to Playwork	Exeter	14th April – 28th April
Know your policies	Exeter	25th April
Know your policies	Barnstaple	30th May
Peer on peer observation	Exeter	12th June

The courses are being delivered by Playlines. You

can contact Elly Wilmott at Great Moor House, Exeter on 01392 382031 or e-mail elly.wilmott@devon.gov.uk

Devon Play are providing a course called 'Playing for Real'. This course is a practical hands on consultation process for developing and designing outdoor play areas and other play provision. Details of this course can be obtained from Devon Play at helen.miller@devonplay.co.uk tel: 01392 383221.

Don't forget to consult your training manuals for NVQ courses and any other courses which you would like to do. There are two Transitional Awards which experienced Level 3 Practitioners can take - the Level 3 Award in transferring from Children's Care Learning and Development (CCLD) to Playwork and a Level 3 Award going from Playwork to CCLD. These enable skilled and qualified workers to obtain relevant qualifications without having to do a whole new two year course.

Training is important not only for staff development but Ofsted expect it.

Interested in Developing Childcare?

Come along to our information sessions

(Please note :- funding for any childcare development will be subject to an audit of need)

Northern and Mid Devon Information Sessions

Dates: Friday 11th May 2007
Friday 21st September 2007
Friday 25th January 2008

Time: 10.00 am – 12.00 noon

Venue: Filleigh Village Hall

To book yourself onto one of the above sessions please contact:-

Karen Baker, District Administrator
Early Years and Childcare Service
Room 402A, Civic Centre, Barnstaple, EX31 1EE
Tel: 01271 388901
Email : karen.x.baker@devon.gov.uk

Educational Psychology Service Helpline

A helpline is available for all Early Years Settings who are concerned about a child in your setting who might have special or additional needs? Would you like to talk to someone in confidence, for support and/or advice?

Call 01392 686300 and speak to an Educational Psychologist.

The Helpline will be open every Tuesday Morning 9.00am – 12.30am, during term time.

Update from PLA

I know everyone would want to join us in wishing Karen Dennis, PDW, well as she is recovering from a serious illness.

We have been continuing our support to groups by helping them to look at their budgets, sadly many groups have had to make changes to help make them viable. But now that you are so much better at putting together a minimum of three terms predictions it is giving you time to make adjustments or perhaps to apply for grants. Please make sure when calculating your budgets you allow for the increase to the minimum wage. If you foresee any problems don't hesitate to get in touch.

Some of you have had Ofsted inspections recently please let us know as soon as Ofsted visit you in case there is something we can help you with.

Please remember to get all visitors to sign in / out in your visitors books and check ID if you don't know them!

During our visits this term, many of you have given us feedback on various issues at the forefront of Early Years, most especially the Transformation Fund and EYPS. We, of course, pass these comments on. Please can we urge you to ensure that you also respond to consultations on subjects you feel really strongly about. It is really through responding to Consultations that your opinions are taken into account before things are put in place. There is an interesting article in the March Under 5 magazine about how important it is to reply to questionnaires / surveys.

Don't forget any topical issues will be discussed at our National AGM in London June 29th.

Start planning your representatives' trip to London now. We may be able to help with funding some of the travel costs. If you don't want to travel on your own please let us know and we will put you in touch with others going from your area. If you really can't find someone to attend, watch out for information on how to send postal votes. You should have received your first set of papers during January. Watch out for more information in April's Under 5 magazine.

We know you sometimes find it difficult to get people to represent your setting at meetings or information sessions. It is really important that you try to get someone to the Ofsted update sessions.

It was brought to our attention that we as an organisation hadn't put on any support meetings for a while - this really has come about as several other meetings have started and we appreciate you can't get to everything. However representatives from



Rainbow Pre-school at Merton and Abbotsham & Alwington Pre-school attended a County meeting and found it very useful to chat to each other about their positions on their pre-school committee. A few weeks later Rainbow kindly hosted an evening for us just for committee members. Judging by the evaluation sheets that everyone kindly filled in for us it was a great success and all said they would like us to do it again on a regular basis. As many settings have their AGM in the Autumn term we are thinking about possibly organising more then. If you have any ideas on committee related subjects that you would like us to discuss please let us know. Although I think the part of the evening that was particularly helpful for them was to sit in groups of Chairs, Treasurers, Secretaries and other important positions to chat about how they approach similar issues in their groups. Sadly we were so engrossed in what we were doing I forgot to take any photos for this article!

Managing a Charitably Constituted Setting

This publication will assist Alliance member settings running to the Pre-school Learning Alliance Model Pre-school Constitution 2005, as well as other versions of the Alliance's constitution.

This publication aims to increase understanding and provide practical information on how to be an effective trustee (committee member).

Areas looked at in detail include charity registration, responsibilities of the committee, roles of committee members as well as committee activities. Guidance notes to the 2005 constitution provide an explanation of various clauses, which will prove extremely useful.

We also have a new publication "Employment in early years settings" this takes you through the process of recruitment, staff management and development. There are a range of useful template letters and forms included. To enable you to keep up to date with changes, updates will be available from our website.

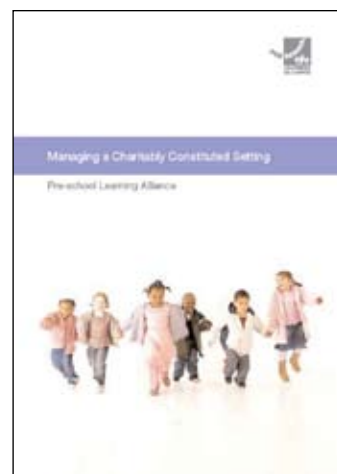
Both of these will be useful to the committee.

Order now at www.pre-school.org.uk/shop or contact the Pre-school Learning Alliance Mailing House on 0870 603 0062 or pre-school.mh@plas-tek.co.uk

As always if you need any help contact your local Pre-school Development worker

Denise can be contacted on 01769 520705: Pat on 01647 24828 and Kirsten on: 01884 820637.

Or visit our web site www.pre-school.org.uk



21 Years of Child Minding Support

Devon Child Minding Association is celebrating 21 years of providing support, advice and information to childminders, parents and childcare professionals as well as training for childminders. To help us celebrate we are inviting childminders to join us at an event planned for National Childminding Week (18th – 22nd June). At the time of going to press, the venue and date haven't been confirmed but if you are interested in finding out more and to put your name on the list of interested childminders please ring Erika Willson on 01598 763209. As we were successful in receiving a grant from Awards for All there will be a number of free entries to the venue – first come first served!



share of £1 million available this year from the Local Network Fund for Children & Young People.

2007 will be the last chance for groups to apply for grants of between £500 and £7,000, with grant making coming to end in September.

Funds are also available for groups helping young people aged up to 25 with learning disabilities.

Anyone interested in applying can email vicky@devoncf.com or phone 01884 235887

BBC Children in Need

Funds for charities, local groups and voluntary organisations working with disadvantages young people up to 18 years. Projects should aim to improve the lives of those suffering from long term illness, distress abuse or neglect, any kind of disability, behavioural or psychological problems or living in poverty or situations of deprivation.

Contact pudsey@bbc.co.uk or telephone 020 8576 7788

Help Yourselfes

Help Yourselfes aims to support adults and young people working together. Created by Save the Children and British Gas, the 'here to HELP' Awards want to get young people involved in dynamic and lasting community projects. There are up to £1,000 to give away as well as a small number of grants of up to £3,000.

Funding is for projects and activities that help children and young people who are excluded and isolated as well as those living in noted areas of deprivation.

Contact: helpyourselfes@savethechildren.org.uk or write to Anne Carey, Save the Children, 5th Floor, Hawthorns House, Halfords Lane, Smethwick, West Midlands. B66 1BB

Lankelly Foundation – Summer Playschemes

Preference is give to small local playchemes which last 4 – 6 weeks, and groups planning special activities for youngsters who are disadvantaged or who have a disability.

Application forms for Summer 2007 are now available and can either be downloaded from the website – www.lankellychase.org.uk or requested from The LankellyChase Foundation, 1 The Court, High Street, Harwell, Didcot, Oxon. OX11 0EY

Applications need to returned by 11th May 2007.

Yapp Charitable Trust

The Yapp Charitable Trust makes small grants, for running costs and salaries, to small charities

FUNDING

Inclusive Funding Grant

The aim of this funding is to provide childcare for working parents and carers and could be used to provide or develop wraparound sessions to existing respite care. Grants can be allocated up to a maximum of £2000 per setting per annum. This funding will be allocated to increase staffing ratios to promote the inclusion of groups of disabled children in out of school settings offering childcare, minimum ratio one member of staff to support two children.

For more information contact:

Liz Carroll

Inclusive Play Co-ordinator

Kingfisher House

Western Way

Exeter

EX1 2DE

Tel: 01392 386557

e-mail: liz.carroll@devon.gov.uk



Devon Communiity Fund

Devon Community Foundation is urging voluntary and community groups helping children and young people to get their skates on and apply for the

registered in England or Wales to help sustain their existing work with children and young people aged 5 – 25.

Application forms can be obtained by contacting Margaret Thompson on www.yappcharitabletrust.org.uk or by telephoning 01484 683403

Lloyds TSB Foundation

Community Open programme – this programme supports charities whose work helps people who are disadvantaged to play a fuller role within the community of their choice. Under this project the Foundation will support existing and innovative new work and core and project funding.

You are strongly advised to discuss any potential applications with the grant making team before submitting any applications.

Contact: www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk or phone 01823 444032

Funding Information Contacts at County Hall, Exeter

External Funding Team

Based in the Children and Young People's Service, the External Funding Team can offer advice and information on developing and funding educational and community projects. The team can provide up to date guidance on specific funds, including lottery grants.

Contact Kate Osment, External Funding Team, Children & Young People's Service, Devon County Council, County Hall, Exeter. Tel: 01392 382076 or email kate.osment@devon.gov.uk

Community Council of Devon County Council

Offer support for all rural communities in Devon, encompassing a whole range of services aimed at helping those communities work towards a better future for rural communities in Devon.

Contact Terry Black, Community Council of Devon on 01392 383443 or email terry@devonrcc.org.uk

Guidance On Infection Control in Schools and Other Child Care Settings

Prevent the spread of infections by ensuring : routine immunisation, high standards of personal hygiene and practice, particularly hand washing, and maintaining a clean environment.

Please contact your local Health Protection Unit (HPU) on 01803 861833 if you would like further advice or information, or to download a copy of the poster go to www.hpa.org.uk – search under Infections A-Z Schools Infection Control.

Free training sessions on essential Ofsted information (for childminders, crèches, nurseries, out of school clubs, pre-schools)

Course content includes:

- Essential toolkit for day care providers
- Ofsted childcare register
- Childcare Sufficiency assessment
- Childcare Referral Service

Bookings are necessary. Places are limited to two people per setting and can be arranged by calling Lindi or Sarah, Devon Early Years Inspection Support Team on tel. 01392 385 536.

Exeter		
Exeter	4 June (Mon)	10 am – 12 noon
Exeter	7 June (Thurs)	7 – 9 pm
North Devon		
Barnstaple	5 June (Tues)	7 – 9 pm
Mid Devon		
Tiverton	20 June (Wed)	1 – 3 pm
Teignbridge		
Buckfast	26 June (Tues)	6.30 – 8.30 pm
East Devon		
Honiton	13 June (Wed)	6.30 – 8.30 pm
West Devon		
Okehampton	12 June (Tues)	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Tavistock	28 June (Thurs)	1 – 3 pm
South Hams		
Kingsbridge	18 June (Mon)	6 – 8 pm
Torridge		
Bideford	19 June (Tues)	1 – 3 pm

Nominations for Children's Star Awards

4Children is searching for the best playworkers, childcare teams, extended schools and children's centres to reward and acknowledge at the Children's Star Awards 2007.

The TDA is sponsoring the award for the best extended school team of the year.

To nominate, download a form at www.4children.org.uk/stars

Deadline is 21st April 2007.



Springfield Nursery Expands



Springfield Nursery with its rural farm setting and superb views over the estuary, makes it the perfect place for children to develop their early learning skills.

It has a spacious outdoor playground with separate areas for bikes and ball games etc. There is an orchard with a "pets corner" which includes rabbits, guinea pigs, ducks, chickens, ponies, a pig and a vegetable garden for the children.

Situated just 2 miles from Barnstaple it's accessible to everyone.

The Nursery was the brainchild of Anna and Richard May and Judith Dark. It was conceived in the aftermath of the foot and mouth episode and after opening in 2002 it has proved extremely popular.

The nursery has been extended to provide further placements and includes a 15 placement baby unit and a sensational sensory room. The nursery has also extended the outdoor play area, pets corner and includes an outdoor classroom.

The Nursery will also provide a breakfast club, after school club and Holiday Club, which will accommodate children up to the age of 11 years.

Call 01271 329028 or visit www.springfieldnursery.com for more information.

Extended Services Partnership Working DVD out now!

A DVD resource pack and workshop session tools that show how crucial effective partnership working is to the delivery of extended services is available now. The pack highlights important themes such as working with the voluntary sector to reorganise school staff structures for multi-agency working, and integrated delivery of health and other services. For more information, contact Orbital on 0845 6060 323 or email tdapublications@omsg.co.uk quoting reference TDA/02.

Children's Centre Update

Devon's target is for 31 Children's Centres by 2008, which will mean that Children's Centre services will be available to nearly 22,000 children and by 2010 Children's Centre services will be available to every community. This is being developed in three phases:

Phase 1 2004 – 2006: 6 Children's Centres developed from 4 existing Sure Start Programmes, 1 Early Excellence Centre and an NCH Family Centre and covered the top 20% most deprived wards.

Phase 2 2006 - 2008: A further 24 Children's Centres will be developed, 8 of these from existing Mini Sure Start programmes, Sure Start programmes and an Early Excellence Centre. The remaining 16 new Centres have been commissioned to a range of providers following an extensive tendering process. The new Centres will start to delivery services from April 2007 and aim to be fully operational by April 2008. For Northern Devon, the new providers will be:-

South Molton : NCH

– contact **Barnstaple Children Centre on 01271 321411**

Braunton : NCH

– contact **Ilfracombe Children Centre on 01271 865825**

Holsworthy : Bluecoat Children's Centre

- contact **Bluecoat Children's Centre on 01805 625830**

Disqualification and Your Staff

As early years and childcare providers, you'll already know that it is an offence to employ someone who you know to be disqualified from working with children. What you might not know is that if one of your childcare worker lives with someone who is disqualified from working with children, your worker automatically becomes disqualified as well. Whilst it is possible to apply for a "waiver" from Ofsted (which could take anything from 2 weeks to 2 months approx) to allow your worker to continue their employment, you would need to suspend them during the period when their waiver is being considered by Ofsted. This may all sound rather dramatic, but the implications are very serious. Someone who is disqualified from working with children should not, in most circumstances, be permitted to have an "access route" to children and young people. Making Ofsted aware of such situations keeps the safety and security of the children in your care at the very heart of your business.

It is, therefore, very important that your staff are

informed about this matter, and encouraged to be forthcoming if they are concerned that their living arrangements might have an impact on their work in your childcare setting. If a worker fails to disclose that they are living with a disqualified person, it could potentially result in the cancellation of a registration, or criminal proceedings against an employer. In the light of this, we are recommending that recruitment and selection policies are updated by employers to ensure that this issue is covered during the recruitment process, and continually reiterated during induction, supervision and appraisal, to ensure changes to living arrangements are not overlooked.

For more information about this, and the waiver application process, please refer to the Ofsted leaflet "Disqualification: How to apply to Ofsted for consent to waive disqualification", (available to download at www.ofsted.gov.uk and search on "disqualification"), or call the Early Years & Childcare Services' Workforce Development Helpline on 01392 385398. You can also email your queries to childrensworkforce-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

For more information about suspensions and pay, you can visit the ACAS website on: www.acas.org.uk

Child Protection Training

Child Protection Training will be taking place in early April. To find out more details contact:

The two day Child Protection for Leaders and Managers only:

Anita Davidson
Child Protection Training Co-ordinator
Learning and Development
Room A229, The Annexe, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter, EX2 4QR
01392 383366
Anita.davidson@devon.gov.uk

For the two hour awareness training:

Helen Ayling
Redworth House, Ashburton Road, Totnes, TQ9 5JZ
01392 386810
Helen.ayling@devon.gov.uk

Plaster of Paris Hazard Alert

In an incident a girl was mixing Plaster of Paris with water by hand, intending to make a plaster cast of her hand. The mix became very hot, the girl suffered serious burns and her hands had to be amputated. The safety Data Sheet supplied with the product did warn against making casts of the hand.

Although Plaster of Paris is used for setting bones, in such cases it is never put in direct contact with the skin and, in addition, it is used in relatively thin layer so the heat can dissipate. In bulk the temperature can reach 60°C or so.

Before using plaster of paris to make casts of the children's hands or feet, please check with the product manufacturer that it is safe to do so.

Congratulations

Below is a photograph of North Devon College Graduates for October 2006. A special ceremony was held in Barnstaple for the first Plymouth Graduates here and the first cohort on the FDA Early Childhood Studies. Nine students have progressed to BA Hons Early Childhood Studies third year and hopefully will be graduating this year. Two have places on PGCE programmes and one is looking at doing a Masters and the others are hoping to find employment locally. Congratulations to you all. For further information contact Lee Hurrell at The North Devon College, Social and Community Studies Department on 01271 338061



This Newsletter is produced by Devon County Council, Early Years and Childcare Service, Northern Devon. The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of Devon County Council. If you would like to contribute to this Newsletter, share good news etc please contact Karen Baker on 01271 388901 or e-mail karen.x.baker@devon.gov.uk or write to Early Years and Childcare, Room 402, Civic Centre, Barnstaple EX31 1EE with your article and pictures.

This Newsletter can be requested in other formats, including audio tape, large print, symbols and other languages, please contact us on 0800 056 36 66 for further information.