

Hello again ...and welcome to the 13th edition of the children's Disability Newsletter.

In this issue we update you on the SEND reforms, and give you some useful links, there's exciting News from Embrace and also don't miss out on the Summer activities from Leisure For All.



As Always we welcome your thoughts and comments and suggestions for future articles. If you are a parent/carer and would like to get involved or be referred to any of our services, please contact: Liz Saunders on 01942 486102 or

Liz.saunders@wigan.gov.uk

Summer Activity Days

Embrace will once again be running activities throughout August on the following dates.

MONDAY

4th AUGUST 11th AUGUST 18th AUGUST

WEDNESDAY

6th AUGUST 13th AUGUST 20th AUGUST

FRIDAY

8th AUGUST 15th AUGUST 22nd AUGUST

The what and the where is yet to be confirmed but will be circulated on our Facebook Page and via the Children's Disability Data Hub



FANTASTIC NEWS!

Embrace are please to announce that they have been successful in once again securing the Parent Support commission from Wigan Council, for at least the next 3 years.

This will enable us at Embrace to continue to offer Advice, Advocacy, help with filling in forms, Training and Key working to the families of Wigan. The Commission also now includes Participation workers role (Liz Saunders). Watch out for more UP events and UP training!

She will continue to work collaboratively with the council for the purpose of running the Disability Data Hub and producing the Children's Disability Newsletter - this helps keep parents informed and involved, and also brings with it a closer working relationship with the whole of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities team.

TI 01942 233323 www.embracewiganandleigh.org.uk



Embrace 1 Smithy Court Smithy Brook Road Wigan WN3 6PS

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The SEND reforms:

What parent carers need to know and

What is happening?

The Children and Families Act will change the way in which children and young people with Special Educational Needs and disabilities are supported at school and in the community. The Act will be implemented in stages starting in September 2014.

What is in the Act?

The Act responds to concerns parent/carers have raised about the SEND system over the last few years. It includes some key principles to improve parent carers experiences. These include:

- More Participation: the Act includes new responsibilities on local authorities and others to make sure parent carers and young people are much more involved in decisions that affect their lives. It also makes clear that local authorities and health partners should work with parent carers and young people to improve services across their local area.
- **Better Outcomes:** the Act requires education, health and social care services to look at how they support children and young people in a way that improves progress and supports the outcomes they want and need in their lives.
- **Better joint working:** the Act requires services that families use, in particular education, health and social care to work more closely together and commission services together. This should improve the experiences of children, young people and their parent carers.

What does this mean in real life?

Education, Health and Care Plans will replace Statements of Special Educational Needs and Learning Disability Assessments (LDAs). From September 2014, no new statements or LDAs will be available. In stages, over the next few years, children with an existing statement will have their statement transferred to an Education, Health and Care Plan. There will be agreed procedures for the changeover and parent carers and young people will have a say in these. Existing rights, for example rights of appeal, will continue during the transfer.

SEN support will replace School Action and School Action Plus. Schools will still be required to identify children who need additional support, involve parent carers and children and young people in planning how to meet these needs and call on specialists from outside the school when they need to.

Local offer: from September 2014 every local authority will be required to have a "local offer" which informs parent carers and young people with SEN or disabilities what is provided in their local area, including what to expect from local early years providers, schools, colleges, health and social care. In addition it will include information on how decisions are made about how services are allocated, how to request a personal budget, how to access more specialist support and how to complain or appeal. Local authorities must involve parent carers, children and young people in developing their local offer.

Information and advice: Local authorities already have to make information and advice available to parent carers about SEN, through parent partnership services. From September, local authorities must make information and advice available that also covers disability, health and social care and is also available directly to young people as well as parent carers - building on the services (like parent partnership services) they already have in place.

Families with children or young people going through a statutory assessment leading to an education, health and care plan may also be able to get help from an Independent Supporter – someone who doesn't work for the local authority who can help parents and carers, and young people, through the process.

Other changes: there are lots of other changes, but these are some of the main ones. There are also things that are not changing, for example the disability discrimination duties in the Equality Act are the same as they were before the SEND reforms started.

what they need to do

How can I find out what early years providers, schools, colleges, social care and health should do?

A new SEND Code of Practice will be published. It will set out how decisions should be made for children and young people with Special Educational Needs or disabilities. This is statutory guidance and early years providers, all schools, colleges, local authorities and health partners must have regard to it when they decide what to do.

What can I do if I am worried about how this will affect my child?

There is a range of "mythbusters" that have been produced to help clarify concerns parent carers may have, or have been told might result from the changes. You can find them here: http://www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/childrenandfamiliesbillmyths and at http://www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/childrenandfamiliesbillmyths-ehcps

Parent Carer Forums have put a number of questions forward about the changes. You can read these questions and the answers from the Department for Education here.

When is this going to happen?

The law will start to change the arrangements in September 2014. Most local areas are making preparations and plans for this right now. It will take some time for local areas to make all of the changes that are required, so changes will take place over a number of years.

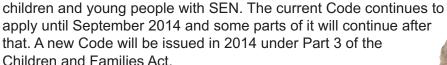
Glossary

SEN: special educational needs

SEND: special educational needs and disabilities

Children and Families Act: Part 3 includes new laws on SEN and disability, which will be brought into force from 1 September 2014.

SEN Code of Practice: this is statutory guidance for people and organisations who have duties towards



Statutory guidance: where statutory guidance applies to someone, they cannot ignore it and they must have a good reason for doing something different from what the guidance tells them.

Local Support:

Wigan Parent Partnership Service: Sheila Robinson Tel: 01942 486131 email: Sheila.Robinson@wigan.gov.uk

Parent Support:

Embrace Wigan and Leigh: Tel: 01942 233323 email: info@embracewiganandleigh.org.uk





Monthly Event For Kids Disabilities & Their Carers ! First Tuesday evening in every month

Like us on Facebook for the latest news!

Like

We provide a safe soft pl

Large Ball Pool • Climbing & Obstacle Features 7.3m(kength)Roller Slide • 4.2m(height)Spiral Slide Large Separate Sports Area • Quad Bikes(ET) Play Shapes • Puzzles • Rockers & Games 2.1m (height) Tube Slide · Aerial Runway Interactive Panels & Building Blocks

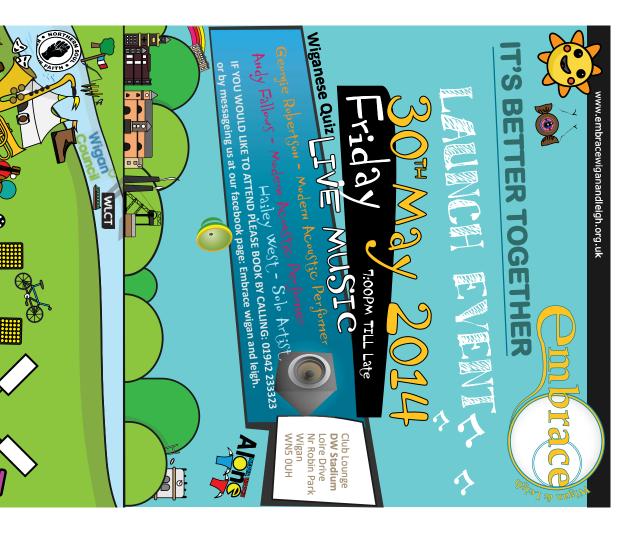


£4.50 per child or £6.00 Play & Eat

Idult food from £3.95

Tel: 01942 248 222 Email: giocoplaycentre@gmail.com Web: www.giocoplaycentre.co.uk

Email: giocoplaycentre@gmail.com. Rules of play apply – see website for full details. Adults may enter the play equipment only for the purposes of supervising children and must not play or use slides. Age & height restrictions apply regardless of disability. Please call Gioco prior to arrival to ensure the event is on. Gioco reserve the right to cancel the event without notice. Consumption of food and drink not purchased at Gioco is prohibited.



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Family Learning Courses

Family Learning courses are for families with children from birth to 14 years.

Some of the courses are for parents/carers and their children, while others are for parents/carers only.

Family learning aims to

- Enable parents/carers to support their children's learning and development
- Help children to improve their skills
- · Help adults to improve their skills

Some courses that we run include:

Early Start – adult and child joint course for parents and carers of children who are 0-12 months

Play and Learn – adult and child joint course for parents and carers of children 18 months to 21/2 years

Early years' foundation stage - adult only course for parents and carers of children 2-5 years

Keeping up with the children Literacy/Numeracy – adult only course (with some partly joint courses) for parents and carers of children at different Key Stages in school (courses are offered from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 3)

Family Science – adult and child joint courses for parents and carers of children of primary school age. Some of these courses are aimed just at fathers and other male carers.

Family Finance - designed to help parents and carers of children manage their family finances.

Moving Up - designed to help parents and carers of children currently in years 1, 2 or 3. Parents will learn how children are taught maths as they enter Key Stage 2. Children attend for part of 2 sessions.

Another course called "Helping and Working in School" is designed to support those wishing to volunteer in school and has been used by some parents and carers as a first step towards a career as a Teaching Assistant or another professional role in school.

Courses are staffed by qualified and experienced teachers and the atmosphere created within the classes is supportive and sensitive to people's needs.

Eligibility Criteria (Who is this service for?)

Courses are aimed at families with children 0-14. Families could include childminders, grandparents and other carers.

All courses are free to all learners

If you are interested in any of these courses please contact myself, Helen Barraclough on 01942 489713 or email me at helen.barraclough@wigan.gov.uk quoting reference Saunders.





Week 1					
Date	Venue/Activity	Lunch	Details	Times and Cost	Additional Information
Monday 21st July	Penson St, WCVYS Building. WN1 2LP	Packed Lunch required	Local walks, watching DVD's, board games, books, arts and crafts, Lego etc. Cinema optional activity (additional £6).	9-30am – 4-30pm £14 (+£6 if going to cinema)	Please bring your cinema pass if you have one. Penson St is accessible throughout and has a hygiene suite with hoist and changing bed. Age range 8yrs+
Tues 22nd July	Natures Den Worsley Woods Land art	Packed lunch required	Accessible transport provided, drop off and pick up at Robin Park Arena, Wigan.	9-45am – 3-15pm £18-50	Please bring appropriate footwear and clothing for the activity as the whole day is based outdoors. There are toilets but no hygiene Suite on site. Age range - open
Weds 23rd July	Penson St, WCVYS Building. WN1 2LP. (Rivington Walk – leave from and return to Penson St)	Packed Lunch required	Nature day - Local walks to Haigh Hall, Mesnes Park, local valley and an optional afternoon hill walk at Rivington (additional £5 for transport and drink)	9-30am – 4-30pm Walk 1pm – 4pm £14 (+ £5 if on walk)	Please bring appropriate footwear and clothing for the walk. Penson St is accessible throughout and has a hygiene suite with hoist and changing bed. Age range - open
Thurs 24th July	Chester - City Walls and Museums Chester	Lunch provided	Walk along the city wall and look around the many museums, cathedral etc. Accessible transport provided, drop off and pick up at Robin Park Arena, Wigan.	9-30am – 4-30pm £20 incl. lunch	Please bring appropriate footwear and clothing as there will be lots of walking. Age range - open
Friday 25th July	Penson St, WCVYS Building. WN1 2LP	Packed Lunch required	Art and Craft day.	9-30am – 4pm £13	Penson St is accessible throughout and has a hygiene suite with hoist and changing bed. Age range - open
Week 2 Date	Venue/Activity	Lunch	Details	Times and Cost	Additional Information
Mon 28th July	Penson St, WCVYS Building. WN1 2LP	Packed Lunch required	Construction activity day	9-30am – 4-30pm £14	Penson St is accessible throughout and has a hygiene suite with hoist and changing bed. Age range - open
Tues 29th July	Kitty Wake cruise from Wigan Pier To Crooke and return	Lunch in the Crooke Inn, Crooke, Wigan	Cruise along the Leeds to Liverpool canal, watch the Local wildlife and enjoy a quiz about the local area along the way. Lunch in the award winning Crooke Inn before cruising back to the Pier.	10-30am – 4pm £18 incl lunch and Drinks.	Children and young people must be able to climb up and descend the three steps into the canal boat independently. Age range - open
Weds 30th July - Thurs 31st July	One night break at Waddow, Clitheroe				For further information please contact Kelly or Lynne. Please note – this break has been previously advertised.

Week 3					
Date	Venue/Activity	Lunch	Details	Times and Cost	Additional Information
Mon 4th Aug	Penson St, WCVYS Building. WN1 2LP	Packed Lunch required	Outdoor Learning – Make a bird feeder, Planting etc.	9-30am – 4-30pm £14	Penson St is accessible throughout and has a hygiene suite with hoist and changing bed. Age range - open
Tues 5th Aug	Penson St, WCVYS Building. WN1 2LP		Local walks, watching DVD's, board games, books, arts and crafts, Lego etc. Cinema optional activity (additional £6).	9-30am – 4-30pm £14 (+£6 if going to cinema)	Please bring your cinema pass if you have one. Penson St is accessible throughout and has a hygiene suite with hoist and changing bed. Age range – 8yrs+
Weds 6th Aug	Alton Towers Alton Towers Resort, Alton, Staffordshire, ST10 4DB New C Beebies Land Now open!	Packed lunch required, evening meal provided	Accessible transport provided, drop off and pick up at Robin Park Arena, Wigan. We have been very fortunate in being offered a very competitive group booking rate at Alton Towers and so are able to offer this activity for less than in previous years.	9am – 9pm £48 including evening meal	Please wear appropriate footwear as there is lots of walking. Please send packed lunch/drink in a throw away bag. Wheelchair access is good; there are many DDA compliant toilets. Age range – open although some of the faster / larger rides have minimum height restrictions.
Thurs 7th Aug	Sensory Zone Skelmersdale	Lunch provided in the café	Enjoy 1½ hrs in the multi sensory room and 1½ hrs in the hydro pool, lunch in the café on site. Accessible transport provided, drop off and pick up at Robin Park Arena, Wigan.	10am – 3pm £24 incl lunch and Transport	The Sensory Zone is fully Accessible, the pool has a hoist. Age range - open
Friday 8th Aug	Natures Den 3 Sisters, Ashton. Mini-beast day	Packed lunch required	Meet at the 3 Sisters play area.	9-45am – 3-15pm £15	Please bring appropriate footwear and clothing for the activity as the whole day is based outdoors. There is a fully equipped hygiene suite on site with hoist and changing bed. Age range - open





Week 4					
Date	Venue/Activity	Lunch	Details	Times and Cost	Additional Information
Mon 11th Aug Tuesday 12th Aug	York – two night break York	Landin	Dotaile	Timido una Goot	For further details please contact Kelly or Lynne. Please note – this break has been previously advertised.
13th Aug	York				
Fri 15th Aug	Penson St	Packed Lunch required	Film day Choice of walking to cinema at Robin Park to watch a film or stay at Penson St and watch a choice of DVD's and film themed activities	10am – 4pm £12 (+£6 if going to cinema)	Penson St is accessible throughout and has a hygiene suite with hoist and changing bed.
Week 5 Date	Venue/Activity	Lunch	Details	Times and Cost	Additional Information
Mon 18th Aug	Penson St	Packed Lunch required	Local walks, watching DVD's, board games, books, arts and crafts, Lego etc	9-30am – 4-30pm £14	Penson St is accessible throughout and has a hygiene suite with hoist and changing bed. Age range – 8yrs+
Tues 19th Aug	Blackpool Zoo Blackpool	Packed lunch required	Accessible transport provided, drop off and pick up at Robin Park Arena, Wigan.	9-30am – 4-30pm £22	Accessible throughout, DDA compliant toilets available. Age range - open
Tuesday 19th Aug	Skate Night, Wigan Roller Rink. Swan Meadow Rd, Wigan.	There is a snack bar, you must not bring your own food/drinks.		6-30pm – 9pm £6 per child, one free carer / parent.	Age range - open
Weds 20th Aug	Happy Mount Park, Morecambe	Packed lunch and drinks required, an evening meal will be provided.	Play miniature golf, adventure playground, have fun in the outdoor splash zone, feed the ducks, miniature railway, floor level trampolines and much more.	10-30am – 7-30pm £30 this includes an evening meal	A change of clothing and towel is required. Spending money for refreshments / rides etc maximum £15.00 Age range - open
Thurs 21st Aug	Gullivers World Warrington	Packed lunch required	Gulliver's World Theme Park, enjoy the many rides and attractions	10am – 4-30pm £20	Weather appropriate clothing and shoes required as there is lots of walking. Age range open although the park states that the activities are targeted to children upto 13yrs.
Fri 22nd Aug	Penson St	Packed Lunch required	Pamper day – Hand massage, nail art, hair up / plaits etc	10am – 4pm £12	Penson St is accessible throughout and has a hygiene suite with hoist and changing bed. Age range - open



Week 6					
Date	Venue/Activity	Lunch	Details	Times and Cost	Additinal Information
Mon 25th Aug	Bank Holiday				
Tues 26th Aug	Natures Den Worsley Woods Bush crafts	Packed lunch and drinks are required		9-45am – 3-15pm £18-50	Please bring appropriate footwear and clothing for the activity as the whole day is based outdoors. There are toilets but no hygiene Suite on site Age range - open
Weds 27th Aug	Penson St	Packed Lunch required	"Lights, Camera, Action"!!! A day of photography and frame making.	9-30am – 4-30pm £14	Penson St is accessible throughout and has a hygiene suite with hoist and changing bed. Age range – open
Thurs 28th Aug	Trentham Gardens Stoke	Packed lunch required for picnic lunch. An evening meal will be provided	Enjoy finding the hidden fairies, play on the adventure play equipment, build sandcastles in the sand pit, enjoy a boat ride on the lake, walk through the monkey forest and see how many "free-roaming" monkeys you can spot in the trees.	10am – 7pm £30	The whole site is very accessible with DDA compliant toilets and flat paths throughout. Age range - open
Fri 29th Aug	End of summer party	Buffet lunch and soft drinks provided.	Venue to be confirmed.	11-30am – 2-30pm £6 incl one free Friend / parent / Carer / PA etc. All additional tickets are £6 per person, under 3yrs free.	We have limited supported places available for the party. You are also welcome to join us with your family, friends, PA, siblings etc

The Leisure for All service is available to children and young people aged 3 – 18yrs inclusive with disabilities who live within the Wigan Borough (reside in a house that pays council tax to Wigan). The service offers a wide range of short breaks after school, at weekends and in school holiday periods. We also offer short holiday breaks of up to three nights during school holiday periods.

The Leisure for All staff have a wide range of experience and are able to meet the needs of children and young people with a range of disabilities including: learning disabilities, physical

disabilities and medical conditions. The staff have received training in medication administration, first aid, moving and handling including hoist use, autism awareness, epilepsy awareness including emergency rescue drug administration, PEG feeding and much more. The staff team are highly experienced and the majority have been with the service since it started over 7 years ago.

We have now prepared our Summer 2014 programme of activities and breaks. If your child / young person is interested in attending any of these please contact Kelly, Lynne or Kat on 01942 486073 or e-mail k.piper@wigan.gov.uk, lynne.harrison@wigan.gov.uk stating the dates they would like to register an interest in attending. Please note – requesting a date does not mean that it will be allocated to you. Please do not send any payment until allocations are posted to you.

The closing date for requests is noon on Wednesday 18th June 2014. After the closing date, places will be allocated as fairly as possible. We will accommodate peoples choices in preference order wherever we can.

Leisure for all

Skate Nights 2014

Leisure for All have booked several further Skate Nights at Wigan Roller Rink for 2014. The rink is fully accessible and wheelchair users can access the rink in their wheelchair if required. There is a hygiene suite with hoist and changing bed available.

Each skate session is from 6-30pm – 9pm and the Leisure for All team has sole use of the rink within these times.

You are welcome to come along and skate with siblings, family members, friends and neighbours, the cost is £6 per child / young person with one free carer / parent, all other skating guests are £6 each (this is a discounted rate), spectators and children under 3yrs are free. Leisure for All also have some staff available to support children and young people wanting to attend, these places are limited and must be booked in advance. The rink has a snack bar, please do not bring your own food / drink

If you would like to attend any of the sessions, please contact **Kelly, Lynne** or **Kat** on **01942 486073**. Alternatively, if you do not require support, just turn up on the night.

Wigan Roller Rink, Unit 2 Eckersley Mill, Swan Meadow Road, Wigan WN3 5BD.

Tuesday 8th July / Tuesday 19th August.



We can now confirm that Wigan and Leigh Carers Centre will be remaining at their premises in Hindley. The Centre is intent on expanding its services and the support offered to carers and will be holding a **Celebration Day on Thursday 12th June** and would like to offer an informal invitation to carers and stakeholders to join us from 1pm-4pm for free tea/coffee and cakes to

find out about our exciting plans on how we are improving our support for carers. Staff, Trustees and advisors will be available during the day to listen to any issues you may want to raise.

On the day there will be an opportunity for you to browse/purchase a unique range of ladies fashions at a fraction of the High Street prices.

CARERS FORUM EVENT 23 MAY 2014

Wigan and Leigh Carers Centre have been working with the Carers Forum to engage new members in order to identify a priority of concerns for carers across the Borough. The purpose is to widen the membership, working with other forums establishing short term task and finish groups engaging with Local Authority to influence the Carers Strategy ensuring carers are listened to. If you would like to be involved, the Carers Forum are holding an event on 23rd May 2014 at St Peter's Pavilion, Hurst Street, Hindley from 09.00 – 12.00 pm, where you can get further information and have an opportunity to set your own priority.

For further information on either event please telephone the Carers Centre on 01942 705959



The Children's Disability Data Hub

The Children Act 1989 requires that every local authority maintains a register of children and young people with disabilities living in its area, in order to help plan for future services and ensure families receive up to date appropriate information.

What information will it hold?

It will hold data on your child such as: name, date of birth, address, ethnicity, gender, child's disability / additional need and the services they receive, plus some basic details about you such as: name and address (if different to your child) and if applicable an e-mail address.

Inclusion on the database is voluntary and all personal information is kept confidential. Names can be deregistered at any time.

Who will have access to my information?

Wigan Council and NHS Ashton, Leigh and Wigan will have access to your information, but this will be on a need to know basis only.

What are the benefits?

- You will receive up-to-date information.
- We will be able to consult with you on the development of disability services.
- We will have better information that can be used to plan the right services for the right people.

If you do not start to receive emails from me within a fortnight of registering please send an email to liz.saunders@wigan.gov.uk stating your child's name and D.O.B. to ensure I have the correct address.

Please take the time to complete and return the Speech Language and Communication Needs Questionnaire

By now you should have received a letter asking you to complete a speech, language and communication needs questionnaire. We would really appreciate as many responses as possible.

The term speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) encompasses a wide range of difficulties related to all aspects of communication in children and young people. These can include difficulties with fluency, forming sounds and words, formulating sentences, understanding what others say and using language socially.

Speech, language and communication skills are key to a child's social and educational successes. Making friends, learning and enjoying family life are all activities that require effective communication skills. Educational attainment and future employment prospects are all built upon good communication skills.

In November 2013 Wigan Council and partners across the health and education sectors commenced the undertaking of a comprehensive strategic review of speech, language and communication (SLCN) provision for children aged 0-19 years across the Wigan Borough. The findings from this review will be captured in a needs assessment which will in turn form the basis of a SLCN Strategy and inform the decisions that will be taken to shape the provision available across the ages and thresholds of need in Wigan.

This process will also identify any significant gaps in service and skills and will enable a strategic response to workforce training.

If you haven't already received this you should do shortly.

If you have any concerns or questions around this please contact Gaynor Waddington on 01942 486140

Data Hub for Children and Young People with a Disability / Additional Needs Registration Form

Details of Child

First name:	Surname:
Date of birth :	Gender:
Address:	
Postcode:	
Ethnicity:	First Language:
Details of Primary Carer	
First name:	Surname:
Date of birth :	Gender:
Address:	
Postcode:	
Ethnicity:	First Language:
Tel No.:	Mobile No:
*Email:	
 If you do not start to receive emails from me within a fo liz.saunders@wigan.gov.uk stating your child's name a 	
Disability / Additional Need In what ways does your child's disability / additional need	I affect them? (tick all that apply)
	vioural / Emotional
Other (please state)	
Does your child have a formal diagnosis?	Yes No
If yes, what is this	
service to assist with planning and providing service	ith professionals across the local authority and health s. Information will be shared on a need to know basis sed as participants of the Wigan Parent/Carer Forum. 1 Council
Signed:	Dated:

Please reply to: Liz Saunders

Wigan Council, Progress House, Westwood Park Drive, Wigan WN3 4HH.

Phone: 01942 486102

E-mail: shortbreaksteam@wigan.gov.uk

www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Health-Social-Care/Children-with-disabilities/Short-break-services.aspx