



The Court House, Broadway, Town Square, Bracknell RG12 1AE
www.promiseinclusion.org admin@promiseinclusion.org
0300 777 8539
Chair of Trustees: Jill Ward
Chief Executive: Mary Durman

28th October 2021

OCTOBER WOKINGHAM & BRACKNELL JOINT MAILING

Dear Member,

Welcome to Suzanne Botley, our new Office Co-ordinator, who joined our Team on 18th October. Suzanne will be the new 'face' of Pinc as she will be answering the phone and responding to the admin emails and letters.

Exciting news – we are moving offices!!

We hope to be moving our office in mid-November from The Court House in Bracknell (which is scheduled for regeneration at some point) to the new Charity and Community Hub based in Wokingham town centre. We do not yet have a definite date for the move but we hope our new office will be up and running by 22nd November. Please be patient with us at this time as it may take a little longer to get back to you and the mobiles or email may be the best way to contact us. We will notify you of our change of address once it is confirmed, but we will be able to collect post from our old office for a while. We look forward to welcoming you to our new office when we have settled in and the Hub is open to visitors.

Carers Respite Event - Christmas Buffet and Quiz

We have organised another respite event for carers – a Christmas Buffet and Quiz – to be held on Wednesday 1st December from 12pm-3pm at the Binfield Memorial Hall, Binfield. Rob from Interrupt the Routine has kindly donated his time to run the quiz for us so come along for some festive fun!! For more details and how to book please see attached flyer.

Children & Family Christmas Party - Friday 3rd December

Our ever popular Children & Family Christmas Party is back with face painting, circus skills, Christmas arts and crafts and even a visit from Father Christmas himself. The event takes place at The CresCent Centre, Lower Earley from 5.30pm to 7.30pm. For more details and how to book please see attached flyer.

Reminder - Membership increase to £20 from January 1st 2022

Earlier this year and as announced at our AGM, the Trustees made the decision to raise the annual membership fee to £20 from 1 January 2022. This is the first increase since 2014 and will help to cover some of our administrative costs including admin time, printing and postage costs for our mailings.

As a membership organisation we would like to increase our membership numbers so that we can better represent the people we support and have a stronger voice locally.

Being a member of Pinc offers both access and protection.

Access to information, to our Family Liaison Service, to events and to all our clubs and activities.

Protection as all members and their family members are covered by our insurance at all our activities, clubs and events, ensuring everyone is included.

We appreciate that for some £20 may be hard to find and we are always willing to have a confidential discussion with families suffering genuine hardship.

Current Members will be sent an invoice for this fee in December.

Easthampstead Rotary's Community Christmas Draw is back!

Get your tickets and support Promise Inclusion. You could be in with a chance of winning: 1st Prize £500, 2nd Prize £250, 10 prizes of £100 or 5 prizes of £50.

£1 Tickets will be in books of 5. Please contact Suzanne on admin@promiseinclusion.org if you would like to buy any tickets. Further information can be found at: Christmas Community Draw - Rotary Club of Easthampstead (rotary-ribi.org)

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Volunteers for Christmas Fundraising events

This year we are once again having fundraising stalls at the Wokingham Winter Carnival on Sunday 28th November from 11am-5pm and at the Woodley Christmas Fayre on Sunday 5th December from 10am-3pm and we need volunteers to help us man the stalls. We also have the opportunity to do a collection at Ascot Racecourse on Saturday 18th December from 1.30pm to 5.30pm and need helpers for this. If you can help at any of these events please contact the office.

Remember – Let's Talk Pinc!

Please keep talking Pinc to your family, friends, neighbours, anyone and tell them who we are and what we do. You can talk to them face to face, by phone or on Social Media. Maybe they need our support too and they could become members of the charity OR they might want to volunteer for us or work for us OR maybe they could fundraise for us OR they could just follow us on Social Media. There are lots of ways to be involved with the charity. Please join us and talk about PINC!

Job Vacancy – Gateway Co-ordinator

We have an exciting job opportunity for a Gateway Co-ordinator to expand our Gateway Award programme into the Wokingham area. The role is to organise, support, supervise and lead in providing a life skills programme for adults aged 18 plus with learning disabilities and /or an Autism Spectrum Condition (Gateway Award). The Gateway Award is similar to Duke of Edinburgh. The post requires an average of between 10-12 hours per week and the salary is £11 per hour. (See final page for more information or contact the office).

As Christmas approaches support Promise Inclusion with Amazon

You shop. Amazon gives.

Amazon donates 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) of eligible purchases to the charitable organisation of your choice. Support us by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.co.uk. Use this link to raise funds for us: <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1122662-0>

AmazonSmile customers can now support Promise Inclusion Ltd in the Amazon shopping app on iPhones and Android phones! Simply follow these instructions to turn on AmazonSmile and start generating donations.

1. Open the Amazon Shopping app on your device
2. Go into the main menu of the Amazon Shopping app and tap into 'Settings'
3. Tap 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to complete the process

If you do not have the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app, update your app. Click <https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/browse.html?node=17337655031&ref%5F=pe%5F4117511%5F491346141&pldnSite=1>

and follow the instructions.

Shop online and raise money for Promise Inclusion

Please support Promise Inclusion on #easyfundraising, you can raise FREE donations when you shop online with over 5,900 retailers. It's simple and only takes 2 minutes to sign up! Plus, once you have raised your first £5, easyfundraising will match it! Sign up now:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/promiseinclusion/?invite=SQ5ABI&referral-campaign=c2s&utm_source=stwsharebox

Help us reduce our costs and be environmentally friendly

We are looking to reduce the amount of newsletters being sent out by post to help with the environment and to reduce our costs. If you have an email address and are happy for us to use this for future communications, please let us know by emailing admin@promiseinclusion.org. *Thank you to those who have made the swap!*

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NEWS AND EVENTS FOR CARERS

Face to face meetings have returned but we are still taking precautions as Covid is still in the community.

Wokingham Carers Lunch – Tuesday 9th November at 12.15pm in the Rose Room, Rose Street Methodist Church, Wokingham. To help us plan please contact the office or Tracey to confirm your space by Monday 8th November. Please note that we are not yet providing lunch, so feel free to bring your own, but we will have drinks and cakes.

Bracknell Carers Lunch – Thursday 18th November at 12pm to 2pm in the Priestwood Community Centre. Please contact Christine directly or the office to confirm your space. Please note that we are not yet providing lunch, so feel free to bring your own, but we will have drinks and cakes.

Family Liaison Support

Don't forget our Family Liaison Team can help with both emotional and practical support such as with benefits, form filling, support in meetings, information on subjects such as housing, supported living, transition, schools and colleges, EHCPs, mental capacity, power of attorney, deputyship and more. If you would like to talk to a Family Liaison Worker you can call:

Simone (Wokingham – transition and adults) on 07827 340408
Tracey (Wokingham – transition and adults) on 07423 686965
Christine (Bracknell – transition and adults) on 07798 707574

NEWS AND EVENTS FOR CHILDREN

Smiles for Sibs Clubs

We run two siblings groups, one in the Wokingham Borough and one in Bracknell Forest.

Wokingham – Mondays (term-time only) 4.30pm–6.15pm at Woodley Airfield Community Centre, Hurricane Way, Woodley. Cost is £1 a session. Ruth Hatch runs this group and can be contacted on 07551 159072 or contact the office on 0300 777 8539 for further information. There are spaces at the group for new children. Club will restart on Monday 1st November.

Bracknell – Thursdays (term-time only) 4.30pm–6.15pm at Braybooke Community Hall, Makepiece Road, Bracknell. Cost £1 a session. Lynn Nicholas runs this group and can be contacted on 07929 114324 or contact the office on 0300 777 8539 for further information. There are spaces at the group for new children. Club will restart on Thursday 4th November.

Youth Club @ Addington

The Youth Club @ Addington School runs every Wednesday during term-time from 7.00pm–8.45pm. Young people with learning disabilities between the ages of 13 (year 9) and 19 are welcome to come along for a fun-filled evening. Each week a variety of different activities are planned and there is a tuck shop and more. The Co-ordinator for this group, Annah, can be contacted on 07551 159073 or phone the office on 0300 777 8539. There is a weekly charge of £5 (to be invoiced in advance). You can pay for Youth Club from your Short Breaks budget. Club will restart on Wednesday 3rd November.

Please note it is important that if you wish your child to come along to any of these groups that you do not just turn up, but contact us in advance to ensure that we can inform you of our Safety Measures.

NEWS AND EVENTS FOR ADULTS

Paul's Karaoke

Paul's Karaoke meets in the Rose Room, Rose Street Methodist Church on the middle two Wednesdays of each month. The group is currently closed, but is open to anyone over the age of 16 who has a learning disability. For more information, please contact the office at admin@promiseinclusion.org or 0300 7778539. The group is currently not meeting.

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Acorn Social Group

@The Acorn is our weekly social club for adults 16+ with learning disabilities, including those with profound and multiple learning disabilities in Wokingham. The club runs every Tuesday evening from 7.00pm-9.00pm and is returning in person to the Acorn Community Centre, Woosehill from 2nd November. Please note due to safety precautions there will be limited numbers so please contact Debbie to book a place on 07436 418705 or email acorn@promiseinclusion.org or contact the office on our temporary number 07827 340405 if you would like to join a meeting. There is a £4 club fee for attending each activity, which will be invoiced.

Bracknell Social Group

This group meets in different venues in the Bracknell Borough every Tuesday and is open to anyone over the age of 18 with a learning disability. In November the group will be going on trips to South Hill Park and out for dinner. If you would like to join a meeting of this group, contact Natasha, who is running this group and can be contacted on 07557 231360 or by email at bsg@promiseinclusion.org. There is a £3.00 club fee for attending each meeting to be invoiced plus the cost of the activity.

WOKINGHAM NEWS

Wokingham Borough Council Coronavirus Information

For the latest information from Wokingham Borough Council about the pandemic, please click here: <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/health/public-health-campaigns/coronavirus/> This webpage is updated regularly, so please do check back for updates.

CLASP News and Information

CLASP is a self-advocacy group for people with learning disabilities in the Wokingham Borough. Here is what is happening at CLASP in November and December:

Their Coffee Shop takes place every Tuesday from 10am to 12 noon at the Bradbury Centre, Wokingham. We have events and guests visitors:

- Book Corner – On Tuesday 2nd November, Heather from Wokingham Library will join us to talk about Halloween and Guy Fawkes Night.
- Dancing to Music – On Tuesday 9th November, Aby Jones will be running their regular movement to music session.
- Book Corner – On Tuesday 7th December, Heather will join them again to talk about festivals.
- Christmas Bazaar – On Tuesday 14th December, we will be celebrating Christmas and fundraising for CLASP with our Christmas Bazaar. Please check the CLASP website for more information.
- Take Notice – this is their campaigning group which meets every Friday from 10am to 12 noon. Sessions cost £2 and you need to be a member to attend but new members are welcome.
- On Friday 26th November, there will be a workshop run by the LD Nurses about Dental Health.
- Anti-Bullying Week is taking place nationally from 15th to 19th November. On Friday 19th November, CLASP will be running a Friendship Workshop from 10am to 12 noon at the Bradbury Centre.
- Other activities, such as a Skittles evening on Thursday 18th November are being planned so please check the CLASP website for more information.
- Choir – their all-inclusive choir will be meeting on Friday 12th November, Friday 26th November and Friday 10th December from 12.30pm to 1.30pm at the Bradbury Centre.
- On Saturday 11th December, CLASP members will be taking part in a Sing Healthy Christmas Concert (see the CLASP website for more information) and on Friday 17th December, the choir will be doing a fund-raising sing out outside Waitrose from 10am to 12 noon.
- Happy and Healthy Club – This is CLASP's club to keep your body and mind healthy. They meet once a month on Wednesday 24th November from 10.30am to 11.30am for seated pilates.

If you would like more information or to join any of their sessions, you can contact CLASP by mobile: 07780 749 453 or email: admin@claspwokingham.org.uk.

Please check <http://www.wokinghamclasp.org.uk> for details on any of the sessions.

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Rose Buddies

Rose Buddies is run by Creative Support as a Community Support Service for adults with learning disabilities, who live in Wokingham Borough. For more information please contact the office on 0118 9799 106 or email: Rosebuddies@creativesupport.org.uk

Come and join them for some crafty fun on Wednesdays, during term times only. Time: 10am - 12pm
Where: The Cornerstone, Norreys Avenue, Wokingham, RG40 1UE. Cost: £2 per person, each week - paid in advance. BOOKING IS REQUIRED.

Bloom Buddies runs on a Tuesday 3pm-5pm at Oakfield Court, Barkham Road, Wokingham, RG41 2SW for members and clients of Optalis and it is free. They help maintain communal gardens and make bird boxes and bug hotels.

SEND Voices Wokingham Parent Carer forum - Are you a member?

SEND Voices Wokingham is the independent parent carer forum for Wokingham Borough. It was set up to ensure that the families and carers of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and disabilities between 0-25 years of age in the Wokingham Borough, can have a voice and participate fully in the development of services. Membership is FREE to parent carers living in the Wokingham Borough with a child or young person aged 0-25 with any Special Educational Needs or Disability. You will receive our e-bulletins and newsletter with updates on our work, events, training courses, consultations and relevant information that may affect you and your family.

In addition, we are currently able to offer all members of SEND Voices Wokingham a FREE Max Card. The Max Card is the UK's leading discount card for families of children with additional needs age 0-25. Families can use their Max Card at venues across the UK to get free or discounted admission.

For more information about SEND Voices Wokingham, what we do, and the Max Card please visit our website: www.sendvoiceswokingham.org.uk or email: info@sendvoiceswokingham.org.uk

SEND Voices Wokingham are hosting the following SENDIASS training sessions for Wokingham Borough parent carers:

SEN Support in School ~ A Parent's Guide

This SENDIASS training course will help you to understand what you can expect from a school and how to build a good working relationship so that everyone works together to meet the needs of your child.

Date: Wednesday 3rd November 2021

Time: 10.00 - 11.00am

EHCPs ~ A Parent's Guide (for those going through the EHCP process for the first time)

Are you thinking of applying for an EHCP Needs Assessment, or have you just applied? This SENDIASS training course will help you to understand the process and to participate fully. (Please note, this training is not suitable if your child already has an EHCP)

Date: Tuesday 9th November 2021. Time: 8.00 - 9.30pm

EHCP Annual Review ~ A Parent's Guide

Does your child have an EHCP? Do you know what should happen with their Annual Review? This training will help you to understand the process and to participate fully.

Date: Thursday 11th November 2021. Time: 9.30 - 11.00am

Effective Communication ~ A Parent's Guide

This SENDIASS training will give you some advice on how to build a good working relationship so that everyone works together to meet the needs of your child, giving you an insight into the different ways of communication and sharing some communication skills that you can use. It is suitable for parents and carers of any child with SEN, both those supported by school and those with EHCPs.

Date: Wednesday 17th November 2021. Time: 7.30 - 9.00pm

More details about all these FREE training courses can be found on their website here: www.sendvoiceswokingham.org.uk. All the courses will be run by Julie Monahan and the team from Wokingham SENDIASS via Zoom.

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Earley Crescent Resource Centre Upcoming Courses
Confidence Building – Weds 3rd November at 9:30am
Personality Profiling for Job Searches – Mon 8th November at 9:30am
Get Started With Computing – Fri 12th November at 10am
Returning to the Workplace – Weds 17th November at 9:30am
Using LinkedIn – Weds 17th November at 1:30pm
Interview Skills – Mon 22nd November at 9:30am
Food Safety – Thurs 25th November at 9:30am
Group Interview Skills – Mon 29th November at 9:30am
Interview Presentation Skills – Weds 1st December at 9:30am
Is Volunteering For You? – Mon 6th December at 9:30am
For more information: <https://www.earleycrescent.org/courses>

Loddon Valley Leisure Centre

SEN soft play sessions every Sunday at 8.30am. Ideal for children up to 12. Sessions are bookable at reception on 0118 9312066.

Tuvida

General Carers Group – Meets on the second Wednesday of every month from 10am–12pm. Booking is Essential

10th November, 8th December, 12th January at The Bradbury Community Centre, Rose Street, Wokingham, RG40 1XS. Join them for chats, activities and help with caring for your loved one. For more information or to book call 0118 324 7333

You may be eligible for a carer's card.

Carer's cards help make others aware that somebody is dependent on you. Having a carer's card can be useful if you need support or assistance when you're out and about. Carer's cards are free for unpaid carers of all ages and can be used across Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham. The cards are available from a local carer's charity TuVida. TuVida can also help to create an 'emergency plan' setting out who should be contacted should you become unwell/involved in an accident/delayed and emergency support is needed for the person you care for. Your nominated person's contact details will be added to the back of the carer's card. To find out more, contact TuVida's Berkshire Carers Hub:

0118 324 7333 or berkshire@tuvida.org

Mind in Berkshire

18 or older, experiencing mild-to-moderate mental health challenges and registered with a Wokingham GP practice? Mind Wellbeing Workers are offering free one-to-one sessions for people who may be experiencing mental health issues or other social or lifestyle issues that are impacting on their wellbeing. The support provided aims to encourage and enable people to link in with local community support, and develop tools to increase their ability to manage their own wellbeing. This service is provided by Mind in Berkshire (Oxfordshire Mind) and available through all 13 Wokingham GP practices – just speak to a member of staff and ask for a referral to the Wokingham Wellbeing Service. Questions? Struggling to get through to your GP practice? Please feel free to get in touch with us: wokinghamwellbeing@oxfordshiremind.org.uk

Wokingham Borough Libraries

You can access their online library and find out the latest about library services and opening times here: <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/libraries/>

It is now also possible to join the library online at <https://wokingham.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/OPAC/JOIN>

E-Services

Did you know you can borrow a range of e-books, e-audio, newspapers and magazines completely free of charge if you are a library member? Just go to <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/libraries/library->

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[services/e-books/](#) or download the Libby app and use your library card and PIN number to create a free account.

E-books

- Read books on your home computer, smartphone or tablet
- Borrow 6 books at a time for up to 21 days
- Choose from over 2800 books, with new titles added every month

E-audio

- Listen to audio books on your phone, MP3 player, iPod or computer
- Choose from over 2000 books, with new titles added every month
- No limit on the number of titles you can borrow

Press Reader

E-newspapers and magazines are available via the Press Reader App, please visit:

<https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/libraries/library-services/e-magazines/> for more information.

The service allows you to:

- Read and download newspapers and magazines on your computer, smartphone or tablet
- Read the current copy of most daily and Sunday newspapers, many local newspapers and a wide selection of magazines
- Access a selection of newspapers and magazines from all over the world

Check out the libraries Blog on <https://wokinghamboroughlibraries.wordpress.com/> for different book ideas and information about library events.

The Home Library Service is currently operating a non-contact door-step delivery service. For more information please email libraries@wokingham.gov.uk

Has someone made a DIFFERENCE TO YOU?

This could be your opportunity to nominate them for a 2022 Civic Award. Wokingham Town Council is in search of people and organisations from all parts of the community and of all ages, who have made an exceptional contribution to our town. They are looking for those who have:

- worked to make Wokingham a truly welcoming and inclusive town •
- provided exceptional service to their family or community •
- added to the cultural life of the town •
- found ways of making us a more environmentally friendly and sustainable town.

For examples and full criteria see the Civic Award section in www.wokingham-tc.gov.uk/civic All being well, an official ceremony will take place on Friday 21 January 2022 when the Mayor will present awards to successful nominees. The deadline is Friday 26 November 2021.

Citizens Advice Wokingham

Citizens Advice Wokingham has now launched its Mobile Advice Unit' called Advice on Wheels. It will begin taking to the streets of Wokingham Borough, giving advice and information services directly into communities. The new advice unit has three key aims, which are to:

- Support communities across the borough facing increased issues of hardship and deprivation to help people 'make ends meet' and get the support that they're entitled to
- Increase access to its free, confidential, and impartial advice and information services.
- Work with other charities and services to help people get the most effective support for their issues, including local domestic abuse charities and foodbanks.

To see how Citizens Advice Wokingham can help you and your family, [visit their website](#). [Citizens Advice Wokingham – Helping the people of Wokingham Borough find a way forward](#)

BRACKNELL NEWS

Bracknell Forest Borough Council

Please see the attached link detailing Bracknell Council Services operating at this time

<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/coronavirus-information-and-support/council-services-during-coronavirus>.

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SIGNAL4carers

Carer coffee mornings - When: Monday 1st and 15th November. Where: Forget-me-Knot, Wildridings Square, Bracknell, RG12 7SJ. Places must be booked in advance. Call the SIGNAL office on 01344 266088 to book, to join or for more information.

The Ark

The Ark continues with a 1000-mile challenge which you can find on walk1000miles.co.uk. Friends at The Ark are all pulling together and doing their bit, adding their miles to a virtual map.

Project 73 is meeting up weekly. This is aimed at 18-35 year olds on the Autistic spectrum with minimal support needs. They go out for meals, cinema, laserquest plus many more things including trips to Comicon and gaming events. They are going to Comicon in November and everyone is very excited!

The Ark host a Stay Up Late session monthly. This group is called Night Owls and encourages people to stay up late if they wish to. To join this group please contact The Ark

Crafty Coffee is back from 5th November – 10th December. This is £40 (paid in advance) for 6 weeks and is from 10am-12noon every Friday at Trax, Mill Ride (Off Fernbank Road), North Ascot, SL5 8JW

The Ark also run a Facebook group called Friends@theark - this began in March 2020 and the group has gained over 150 members. They did host a lot of Zoom chats and activities on this page up until recently. They are still promoting events on there and have the occasional Zoom chat and enjoy seeing what everyone has been up to.

Out and about is their new group for trips, local activities, mini breaks and days out. These will be group activities; the size of the group will vary depending on the activity and so will the cost. You will need to pay for the cost of the activities, entrance fees, etc. and contribute to travel and their costs such as staffing. There are no trips planned as yet, they are gauging what people want before sending out flyers for days out.

Tovertafel

When: Thursdays, 10.30am — 12noon. Where: Forget-me-Knot, 9 Wildridings Square, Bracknell, RG12 7SJ. Cost: £50 (paid in advance) Group interactive games and activities

The Friday Night Project (FNP) is open again. Open 7pm-10pm as they are supporting the #nomorebedtimes campaign and you will not be able to access the venue until 7pm—so please don't arrive too early! Entry will still be £5 but they have suspended the Loyalty Card scheme until January 2022 and, at the moment, there will not be a tuck shop

Drama Group

When: Thursdays, 9.45am — 2.15pm (half hour break for lunch). Where: TRAX, Mill Ride (off Fernbank Road), North Ascot, SL5 8JW. Cost: Drama can be paid per week at £17 for the 4.5.hour session)

Join Lottie for fun activities, singing, dancing and drama games; suitable for everyone. You will also work towards a 'showcase' performed on the last week of term which you will be able to invite a limited number of family and friends to. If you usually have support, please bring them with you and please bring a packed lunch and drinks. Term dates: Half-term: 25th — 31st October. Finish date: Friday 10th December.

Contact Information: Tel 01344 266899. Email info@theark.org.uk. TRAX, Mill Ride (off Fernbank Road), North Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 8JW

Stepping Stones Recovery College

Stepping Stones is a recovery college for the people of Bracknell. They are an independent charity but work closely with all local services and other voluntary groups. They offer learning as a positive, life-changing experience and they hope that this will be a very special place for anyone experiencing challenges to their mental, physical or emotional wellbeing. They are here to help them and their supporters better understand what they're experiencing and develop the skills, strengths and confidence to build a happier, more fulfilling life. They provide a relaxed, non-judgmental place where they hope

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students will find renewed purpose and meaning in their life. Check out their website <https://www.steppingstonesrecovery.co.uk/> for lots more information about workshops or you can contact them via reception@steppingstonesrecovery.co.uk or 01344 300333.

Crowthorne Three Year Strategy

Crowthorne Parish Council is seeking the input from all residents and businesses in Crowthorne (both sides of the Borough boundary!) into its strategy and priorities for the next 3 years. Please visit their website to let them know what is important to you. They are planning to have a more 'green' focus, where possible and also welcome your input in this regard. Your feedback will also help them to determine how they spend the Community Infrastructure Levy funds they hold. Click here to complete the survey.

[Three Year Strategy Plan \(crowthornepc.org.uk\)](https://www.crowthornepc.org.uk)

NEWS FROM OTHER GROUPS

The Advocacy People

The Advocacy People accept referrals for people who need an advocate to help them speak up. A family member or care staff can refer as well. If anyone feels that they need help please contact the local authority to make sure they do the referral. If in doubt their Contact Centre will be pleased to assist on 0330 440 9000 as well as their website - www.theadvocacypeople.org.uk. They are recruiting for staff and volunteers on the website. If you are looking for a rewarding opportunity please take a look. The Advocacy People have supported a large number of people to get their complaints to their local Trusts this year even through the pandemic. There are a lot of people who have not made complaints but have not had the service they expected from their GP, local hospital or NHS Trust. There are reported shortages of staff, shortages of equipment and these lead to things going wrong. If you feel that your experience was not as good as it could have been you can complain, although you can think of it more as getting an answer to what went wrong. They are there to support people to get through the Complaints Process. Email info@theadvocacypeople.org.uk

Ozone Rink

Their SEN sessions are on Mondays Term Time 4pm until 5pm and cost £7 including skate hire they have some exciting new equipment for skaters to use as well. Please head over to their website to book your place. www.ozonerink.co.uk <https://ozonerink.co.uk/sen-inclusive-skating-group/>

New Assisted travel lounge at Reading station

The Mayor of Reading, Councillor David Stevens, and the Borough council's deputy leader Tony Page, have officially opened a new assisted travel lounge at Reading station to help passengers with disabilities and offer a calm, pleasant place to wait for their trains. Network Rail has spent £180,000 to create the facility in an empty shop in the main station concourse. The lounge is open from 10am to 6pm daily and is staffed by a member of train operator GWR's customer ambassador team, who can help passengers requiring assistance. - Click the link for more details <https://bit.ly/2Y7Vmbe>

The Berkshire Autism Alert Card

The Berkshire Autism Alert Card has been rebranded to become the Thames Valley Autism Alert Card, as a result of an initiative by Autism Berkshire and Thames Valley Police to expand the scheme to Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. The alert card provides a simple way for autistic people of all ages and their parents or carers to explain the condition quickly and easily to others, or get assistance, giving cardholders and their families more confidence to go out and about. And cardholders (or those applying on their behalf, such as a parent, carer or social worker) can choose to share some additional information about how autism affects them, and any particular support needs that they have, with Thames Valley Police, which officers can access if they are shown an alert card to help provide appropriate support.

For more information about the alert card and to apply online, see

<https://www.autismberkshire.org.uk/thames-valley-autism-alert-card/>

Delivering on the promise that all people matter

Promise Inclusion

Registered Office Address: The Court House, Broadway, Town Square, Bracknell, RG12 1AE
Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered Charity Number 1122662. Company Registered Number 6407883

Autism Berkshire and their partners Parenting Special Children

Autism Berkshire and their partners Parenting Special Children provide [autism](#) and [ADHD](#) support for children and young people aged 5 to 25 and their families on behalf of the [Berkshire](#) West NHS Clinical Commissioning Group.

The Berkshire West Autism & ADHD Support Service is available to help people who are registered with a GP surgery that is part of the CCG, which serves the [West Berkshire, Wokingham and Reading](#) council areas, providing a range of free online workshops and courses and other advice and support.

For more details of the service, see <https://www.autismberkshire.org.uk/berkshire-west-autism-adhd-support-service/>, email contact@autismberkshire.org.uk or call 01189 594 594 (option 1).

Sesame Street

Sesame Street has created more resources to help families with autistic children, including expanding its range of online materials featuring autistic muppet Julia.

These include a new video where Julia learns to cope with her fear of the dark and colouring and activity sheets. Click the link for more details <https://bit.ly/3oGYhm8>



If you have any questions about anything in this mailing, please call the office on the temporary 07827 340405 or email admin@promiseinclusion.org.

Kind regards

Mary Durman, Chief Executive Officer

**GATEWAY CO-ORDINATOR
WOKINGHAM**

Average 10-12 hours per week - £11 per hour

The Gateway Award Project is a life-skills programme (similar to the Duke of Edinburgh Award) working with adults with learning disabilities and/or autism. The project involves running a half-day workshop on a day and at a venue to be determined, plus working in the office (admin for the project) and at other venues as required. We have a vacancy for a Co-ordinator to supervise staff and volunteers and promote and facilitate the Mencap Gateway Award including supporting adults to enrol on the Award and verify evidence collected by individuals to send for external verification. To lead in providing activities at the workshops and organising trips off-site to meet the requirements of the Gateway Award. To attend training, meetings, outings and special activities as required.

For further details, application form and job and person specification please contact us on 0300 7778539 or email admin@promiseinclusion.org

Closing Date: Sunday 21st November

References, an Enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) and a Right to Work check will be carried out on the successful candidates.

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