

Children, Young People and Families Newsletter



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December 2012



Welcome to the December edition. We hope that you will find the information useful. Please contact Amanda at TVA. Tel No: 01495 742457
Amanda@tvawales.org.uk

The Big Welsh Walk

Over a thousand young people celebrated **Youth Work Week** with the Big Welsh Walk on **Saturday 3rd November**. This event saw young people from Wales walk the perimeter of the country along the Wales coastal path as well as Offa's Dyke. Monmouthshire County Council arranged the walk which covered an impressive 1,047 miles split into manageable sections. Young people, with adult support, took part from each of the 22 Welsh local authorities and the Council for Wales. **To read comments from Torfaen participants and see more pictures from the day please visit the TVA website www.tvawales.org.uk**



Third Sector & Community News



Three Counties Play Association is currently looking towards the future, the Business Plan is in development and funding streams and projects are being investigated. If you think you can assist with any of these or any other possible development, we are looking for volunteers from the community to join us and support the future of play across Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen. **Could you make a difference in your local community? Could you work with children and young people aged 5- 15 years?** The Play Association is now on Email, Facebook and Twitter. Email: threecountiesplayassociation@yahoo.co.uk, Facebook: [threecountiesplayassociation](https://www.facebook.com/threecountiesplayassociation) and Twitter: [3cplay](https://twitter.com/3cplay). **If you would like to know more, contact Alexa Hinnem Play Project Co-ordinator, Tel: 01495 742466 or email alexa@tvawales.org.uk**

Three Counties Community Play Project: The Tranch Play club (Wed's 4.30-6pm) is developing nicely, having recruited another volunteer recently – however, we are still looking for additional volunteers and would welcome enquiries from people living in the area. Resulting from the annual play provider audit and discussions with Torfaen Play Service, the project has now identified additional areas throughout Torfaen where there is a shortage of play opportunities. We would therefore welcome enquiries from those living in communities who feel a play club is needed in their area, and/or are interested in supporting the process. If you are interested in volunteering, or would simply like to ask a few questions, please contact **Dominic Tel: 01495 742472, or E-mail dominic@tvawales.org.uk**

TVA's Christmas Bazaar: Saturday 15th December – for more information see the events page.

Llanyrafon Manor Update - the Manor opened on 9th June and visitor figures rose quickly. The café has also been a major draw for the public and they have many regulars who visit every week and some even every day. The Raspberry Tearooms source local ingredients to produce quality teas, coffees, cakes and sandwiches. The Hall space is now available for conferences, meetings, weddings and other functions. The Tudor Hall will now play host to meetings and conferences alongside the Great Chamber. It is intended to seat a maximum of 40 people and features original beams and architecture. The cost for this room will be £240 per day, £140 for half a day and £50 per hour (under 4 hours). The Great Chamber is their slightly smaller room, seating a maximum of 30 people and featuring an original Tredegar House fireplace and an interactive E-board. The cost for this room is £120 a day, £70 for half a day and £25 per hour (under 4 hours). There are plans to license the entire building in order to hold weddings, as well as receptions hosted by the Raspberry Tearooms. They have taken their first school booking for a Tudors and Stuarts session in mid-November. They look forward to many more school visits and will be offering sessions on Tudors and Stuarts, Victorians, WWII, Biodiversity and Victorian Christmas.

Cwmbran Centre for Young People - CCYP: latest developments. Three new activities for young people have been launched at CCYP. **Amplified, a monthly band night;** the first Friday of every month, **YODO (you only dance once) club night every Saturday** and also **Sit Down Sundays** where the centre is open for young people from 2pm until 5pm. **CCYP will also be opening on Christmas Day** for disadvantaged people within the local community to receive a Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings (please contact CCYP to book a lunch). Their main hall has been transformed; it was painted and mirrors and logos added making it look just like a club - a magnificent effort by young people. Volunteers and staff have built a dance floor, a DJ booth and also a bar area. **Amplified** was launched on November 9th with three different bands...this attracted over 100 young people. **YODO** launched on November 10th and attracted 130+ young people. **Sit Down Sunday** was also a success with 70 young people relaxing in the CCYP after the weekends partying. **For more information or if you know someone who would like to book for Christmas lunch; contact CCYP directly 01633 875 851 or call in to the centre in Cwmbran Town Centre, adjacent to the new cinema and Bowling complex.**

Third Sector & Community News

Events running from or in the Log Cabin, Woodlands Field, Penygarn from late November to Christmas. Beginning on December 4th - the Christmas lights are being switched on at 5pm (College Road, Penygarn). **Saturday December 8th** - from 1pm until 4pm there is a Christmas fete, £4 a table, toy stall, bric a brac, raffles, face painting, mulled wine, mince pies & refreshments. **Sunday December 9th** - shopping trip to Cardiff Bay. **Saturday December 15th** - Woody workers Christmas cavalcade - starting at 5pm from the log cabin. **Sunday 16th December** - 66 children and supporting adults are visiting Santa via the Blaenavon Steam train. **Thursday 20th December** - the children who take part in the safe walking bus to school initiative are to enjoy a reward trip to see panto 'Babes in the Wood' in Blackwood and finally **Saturday 22nd December** - children's Christmas party, Hoppers disco & party games. **For more information Tel: 01495 742127 or visit www.woodlandsfield.com/**

Ti a Fi Toddlers - if you're keen to learn a little Welsh with your toddler then why not come along to our group on Thursday afternoons, 1pm – 3pm St Mary's Church Hall, Panteg on the Highway, New Inn. The sessions begin with a hot drink, then craft activities around the table. In the run up to Christmas we will be making Christmas cards, decorations, baking Christmas muffins and so much more. A healthy snack is served to the children followed by a short Welsh story and Welsh nursery songs. So much fun is had - come along and see for yourself. Just £2 per child (an additional £1 for siblings). **Contact Stephanie Beesley on 07815 422 151 or just turn up on the day, no need to book. Diolch**

Able Radio, Pontypool. All the production staff are volunteers and the radio station is a well respected and hugely successful Social Enterprise. Please follow link to read an article about Able Radio www.wcva.org.uk/all/dsp_news.cfm?newsid=1948&display_sitedeptid=4

Story/Rhymetimes held in Torfaen Libraries: Blaenavon Library - Tuesday 2.15pm under 5's Storytime and Thursdays 10am Bookstart Rhymetime. **Cwmbran Library** - Monday 2pm under 5's Storytime and Friday 10am Bookstart Rhymetime. **Pontypool Library** - Wednesday 2.15pm Bookstart Rhymetime and Fridays 10am (term-time) Welshstart (story and Rhymetime). Come along with your baby/toddler and join in the fun! For more information: Tel: **Sue Bradfield on 01495 766158.**

Pontypool Museum has reduced many of its books ready for Christmas sales! For a good read over the holiday period – browse our reduced selection of books, which includes some very unusual children's stories; buy a book or DVD of local interest for the person who has everything! Reduced books are priced from £10 down to £1 and range from local history to ancient history. *Gift Shop has a wide range of gifts & jewellery at very reasonable prices!* **NEW BOOK 'Who killed Dripping Lewis' by Monty Dart – at Pontypool Museum NOW!**

Positive Play Planning – The summer playschemes were discussed with successes being highlighted, which included the fact that over 2000 children and young people were registered, with weekly attendances estimated to be closer to 4000 over the 35 sites. There were more play opportunities in Torfaen during the summer than any other neighbouring local authority area. 140 children and young people accessed playschemes due to one-to-one support being provided. Winner of best overall site was won by the Tranch.

Core Aim 1 – Early Years: A meeting took place on 29th November. **Torfaen Play Service's Toy Library** was discussed and how this could be further promoted. For a small joining fee and hire charge it is open to any groups and also parents. **Play Sufficiency Assessment** – The Welsh Government are the first in the world to make play a statutory requirement; an action plan group has been set up and work is to be completed by 31/3/13. **Welfare Reform Update** – Discussions around the changes that will be taking place. The Genesis project is working on increasing awareness of these changes and how to deal with them. **Family Information Service** – undergoing a marketing revamp to be completed by January 2013; will have a new website and hope to increase usage by parents. They conducted a 'Childcare Costs Survey' this year and a report will be available on their website shortly.

Core Aim 1 Plan Update – this was discussed with a copy made available to everyone.

Funding News

Torfaen Voluntary Alliance (TVA) has been successful in securing funding from the Welsh Assembly Government under the **Community Facilities and Activities Programme (CFAP)** to distribute to Voluntary/Third Sector groups in Torfaen which have an annual income of not more than £20,000 by way of capital grants from £300.00 to £3,000.00. Visit the TVA website: www.tvawales.org.uk and click on the link on the right hand side to print an application form. If you require an electronic version contact TVA directly on 01495 742420. **The next round will close on 14/12/12.**

The Santander Foundation has launched a new £1.23 million fund. Grants of up to £5,000 are available to help with specific costs, such as the cost of salaries, equipment or materials, for projects that directly benefit disadvantaged people within the UK. The scheme is open to small local UK registered charities. National charities can also apply for local projects. Nomination forms may be submitted at any time. **To find out more go to www.santanderfoundation.org.uk/aboutus**

Fancy £1500 towards your community sport project? Community Chest offers grants of up to **£1500** in any 12 month period for activities that: encourage more people to become more active, more often and raises the standards of existing activities. Please note; applicants are able to claim a second £1500 if their application is based on one of the 2 priority areas. To be eligible they must demonstrate that their application **either**: better prepares clubs to cater for interest generated via 2012; **or** tackles inequality - BME, disability (inclusion), women and girls, social inclusion. The next deadline is **Monday 7th January 2013**. **For more information visit: <http://www.sportwales.org.uk/funding--support.aspx?tab=1>**

The Engagement Gateway - WCVA is inviting expressions of interest again from organisations that would like to develop and submit proposals to deliver high quality activities and opportunities for economically inactive and unemployed individuals that will result in positive outcomes for those individuals. The Engagement Gateway project aims to make a significant contribution to raising levels of employment and reducing economic inactivity in Wales. It will fund organisations that engage with economically inactive and unemployed people, many of whom will have multiple barriers; and prepare them for employment through the use of a range of activities that build their confidence and skills to move towards sustainable employment. There will be three levels of funding available under the Engagement Gateway: up to £25,000 – match funding is not discouraged but not required for this level. £25,000 to £75,000 – an element of match funding will be required and £75,000 to £150,000 – an element of match funding will be required. There are anticipated to be three rounds of invitations to apply for grants, with closing dates between December 2012 and April 2013; the opportunity to submit a prequalification questionnaire will remain open within this period, **until the final closing date of 15 March 2013**. **For further information visit: www.wcva.org.uk/europe/index.cfm?sub=4&display_sitetextid=226**

Sky Arts: Futures Fund Sky Arts and Ideas Tap have jointly launched a third application round to the Futures Fund, offering five young artists a bursary of £30,000 each to bridge the gap between formal education and becoming a working artist. The scheme operates across the UK. The application guidelines have been updated for this bidding round. There are five application categories: performing arts; dance; music; visual art; creative producing. **The closing date is 19 December 2012.**

Funding News

McDonalds Kick Start Scheme - local community football teams can apply for grants of between £500 and £2,500. The grant covers activities such as improving club facilities; grounds-keeping tools; training courses; pitch hire; van hire; washing machines for kit etc. Individuals can apply for a grant on behalf of their club, as long as they are recognised by their national FA, and have at least one team at or below junior (U18) level. Applicants must be over 18 and involved with the club at some level, such as a coach, volunteer or parent. <http://www.mcdonalds.co.uk/ukhome/Sport/Football/Investment/small-grant.html>. The next closing date for applications is the **30th December 2012**

The Dulverton Trust Fund - The Community Foundation in Wales is administering grants on behalf of The Dulverton Trust which operates within the following main areas of activity: Youth Opportunities, General Welfare, Conservation and Preservation. Grants of £500 to £5000 will be awarded to small charities and organisations normally with an annual income of under £200,000. **Application deadline: 18th December 2012**
Visit: [The Dulverton Trust Fund Criteria](#) [The Dulverton Trust Fund Application](#)

The Monmouthshire Further Education Trust Fund. To provide financial support to individuals under the age of 25 who are pursuing further/higher education or training and who **reside in the Gwent area** (specifically the County of Monmouthshire as it existed in 1956), excluding Newport. Grants from the Monmouthshire Further Education Trust Fund will fund: costs associated with entering into further/higher education including equipment, materials, travel and course/exam fees and costs associated with preparing to enter a trade or profession including equipment, materials and training. Please click on the links below in order to download the criteria and application form
[Grant Criteria](#) [Application Form](#) Applications will be considered ONCE a year.
The closing date for the next grants round will be in summer 2013.

Training

Level 3 Safeguarding Training: Topic – Keeping Child Focused. How hostile and unco-operative parents manipulate us. A one day workshop on sustaining a child focused approach **Trainer:** Jan Little. **Aims:** To explore best practice when dealing with hostile or uncooperative carers. **Target Group:** Social Services, Probation, Health Boards, Police & Youth Offending Services. Attendees should have completed their level 2 training prior to attending this event. **This course is appropriate for professionals who work directly with families.** Attendees will be expected to draw on personal experiences of dealing with hostile and uncooperative parents. **Thursday 28th March 2013. Venue:** The PowerStation. **Time:** 9.15 – 4.30pm. **If you would like to attend please e-mail nichola.champion@torfaen.gov.uk. Enquiries: 01495 766674.**

Level 3 Safeguarding Training - Topic: Getting the Best Out of Supervision. A one day workshop to focus on how managers and supervisees can get the best out of supervision processes. **Aims:** To develop the supervision as a means of improving outcomes to children and families. **Target Group:** Managers who have responsibility for supervision amongst statutory agencies such as Social Services, Probation, Health Boards, Police & Youth Offending Services. Attendees should have completed their level 2 and 3 training prior to attending this event. **Date: Tuesday 19th February 2013. Venue:** Newport YMCA. **Time:** 9.15 – 4.45pm (Tea/coffee available). **Lunch will be provided. Closing date:** December 17th 2012. **Please send nominations to: nichola.champion@torfaen.gov.uk or Tel: 01495 766674.**

Training

Gift Aid registration surgery - five simple steps to Gift Aid: 7th February 2013. To provide practical information for participants so that they are able to understand the benefits of income they could generate from Gift Aid and the process of registration. Gift Aid enables charities and community amateur sports club to reclaim the tax paid on donations from individuals – for every pound your organisation is given you can claim an additional 25 pence from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). Learning Outcomes: Know how to register with HMRC to claim Gift Aid; Encourage your donors to complete Gift Aid declarations; maintain appropriate records; Make a claim for Gift Aid; Promote Gift Aid; Ensure your organisation complies with relevant legislation and best practice and know where to go for further information, help and advice. Cost: £10 for Voluntary Organisations. **To book a place:** www.wcva.org.uk/all/dsp_event_details

Recognising & Responding to Bullying Behaviours: 25th January 2013, Merthyr Tydfil. Evidence and practice shows that bullying affects the emotional well-being and mental health of children and young people. This one day course will provide an overview of bullying, addressing the following areas: understanding bullying and the complexity of behaviours that arise through bullying incidents, recognising when bullying may be occurring, responding effectively to reports of bullying and identifying strategies to prevent bullying behaviours. COST: Children in Wales Members £115, Non-members £135. This course is also offered as in-house training, for more information email: claire.sharp@childreninwales.org.uk

Getting to Grips with Child and Family Policy in Wales - This course is designed for managers and practitioners who wish to gain a clearer understanding of how their organisation, and key areas of work, fit into the main policy areas concerning children, young people and families in Wales. Participants will learn about distinct Welsh policies that influence both national and local planning and relevant funding streams. There will be opportunities to share practice and network with others. COST: Children in Wales Members £80, Non-members £100. Date: **6th February 2013, Swansea.** This course is also offered as in-house training, email: claire.sharp@childreninwales.org.uk

Personal Relationships and Sexuality: 17th January 2013, Swansea. This course aims to help you understand your role in supporting adults/young adults with their relationships and sexuality. People with learning disabilities have a right to develop and explore their own personal and sexual relationships. **This course is designed for:** anyone supporting people with learning disabilities who would like to feel more confident in their role when supporting someone looking for, starting, or within a personal relationship. **Booking & Fees:** Members £135, Non-members £156, Parents/Carers/ Person with learning disability £51. **For more information or to book a place Tel: 029 2068 1161**

Person Centred Planning Transition: 19th February 2013. This one day course aims to look at and try to understand how transition can impact young people, and how you can incorporate PCP into your own practice. It looks to examine how the Real Opportunities Project works with young people, families and professionals to overcome some of the difficulties faced around transition. **Cost:** Members £135 and Non-members £156, Parents/Carers/Person with learning disability £51. To book a place email: training@learningdisabilitywales.org.uk. **If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us on 029 20681174**

Training



TORFAEN VOLUNTARY ALLIANCE 'FREE' TRAINING



Torfaen Voluntary Alliance's learning and development activities are promoted across the whole of Torfaen. We are able to offer a variety of courses and try to answer the needs of the community. We support the development of voluntary organisations and offer courses pertinent to their development such as Principles of Governance, Committee Skills, Minute Taking and Chaining Skills to name a few. A calendar of courses is regularly produced to show what is being delivered by TVA in the near future and can be found under training opportunities on TVA website www.tvawales.org.uk

We can produce a course appropriate to the group, so please ring 01495 742454 for more information or contact via e-mail pauline@tvawales.org.uk

TVA has the following courses taking place in 2013



Assertiveness Training - 30th January 10am – 4pm

Taking Minutes - 22nd February 10am – 1pm

Venues: TBC

Contact Pauline Griffiths at TVA to book a place Tel: 01495 742454 or email Pauline@tvawales.org.uk

Welfare Reform 6th February 2013 - The consequences of the new Welfare Reform Act will start to come into force from April 2013. This will be the biggest social security shake-up in forty years. **Course Aims:** This course aims to help you understand the changes in Welfare Reform, their likely impacts and to help you begin to prepare for them. **Fees:** Learning Disability Members £72, Non-Members £83, Person with a learning disability £25, parent or unpaid carer of disabled person or a paid carer supporting someone to attend £25. To book a place **Email:** training@learningdisabilitywales.org.uk. **If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact them on 029 20 681174**

Do you work with children with additional needs and disabilities? Or are you the parent or carer of a disabled child or a child with additional needs? If so, are you willing and enthusiastic and would like to find out what Early Support can offer you? Would you like to come to our one-day training course to learn more? **The training is free and materials are included.** Early Support will be a key element of the statutory reform of statementing in Wales - this means that the training will be very useful to you because it will help you to take Early Support forward in your area. If you attend this one-day Early Support course you will learn much more about the Early Support principles, approach and resources. It will position you to improve support for families and implement a partnership approach to working. **Date: 25th January 2013** Venue: Social Care Training Unit, Tredegar. If you are interested in finding out more about this one-day training then please visit www.earlysupportwales.org.uk/training, send an email to Marcia Jones: marcia.jones@childreninwales.org.uk or call on 029 2034 2434. Time is running out to take advantage of this **FREE** training - so book now to avoid disappointment!

Training

Torfaen Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP)

'Free' courses for People Working in Childcare in Torfaen

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TRAINING SCHEDULE SPRING TERM 2013

| | | |
|--|---|----------------------|
| Introduction to Special Educational Needs | 10/01/13 | Time 6.15pm - 8.15pm |
| Behaviour learning (3 sessions) | 21st & 28 th Feb 2013 and 07/03/13 | Time TBC |
| Level 2 Food Safety | 12/01/13 | Time 9.30am - 4.00pm |
| Outdoor Learning | 17/01/13 | Time 6.15pm - 8.15pm |
| Observing, Recording and Reporting | 21/02/13 | Time 6.15pm - 8.15pm |
| Paediatric First Aid (2 sessions) | 19/01/13 & 26/01/13 | Time 9.30am - 4.00pm |
| Paediatric First Aid (2 sessions) | 23/02 & 02/03/13 | Time TBC |
| Foundation Phase Experiential Learning | 24/01/13 | Time 6.15pm - 8.15pm |
| Risk Assessments | 07/03/13 | Time 6.15pm - 8.15pm |
| General Nutrition | 31/01/13 | Time 6.15pm - 8.15pm |
| Level 2 Food Safety | 9/03/13 | Time 6.15pm - 8.15pm |
| Good Practice in Play and the Role of the Adult | 07/02/13 | Time 6.15pm - 8.15pm |
| Child Development | 14/03/13 | Time 6.15pm - 8.15pm |
| Team Management | 21/03/13 | Time 6.15pm - 8.15pm |

All courses must be booked by email: workforce.development@torfaen.gov.uk or telephone: 01633 647423

Working with Groups 29th & 30th January 2013, Merthyr Tydfil - [Booking Form](#)

Delegates will explore the role of the group facilitator, and be able to use facilitation skills to engage constructively with group participants from a variety of groups running in different settings. The course will enable delegates to base their work on the principles of equal opportunities. The course will develop delegates' understanding of and ability to use active listening and communication skills within a group context. **COST:** Members £165, Non-members £195. This course is also offered as in-house training, please contact claire.sharp@childreninwales.org.uk for more information

Coleg Gwent: 3D Junk Art: a 12 week course at either Monmouth Learn IT Centre or Cwmbran Learn IT Centre starting on **31st January 2013**. Cost £67. The College also run NVQ's in Playwork at level 2 and 3 see the website for details, including costs.
<http://www.coleggwent.ac.uk/>

Stop it Now! Wales is a child sexual abuse prevention programme funded by the Welsh Government and the Lucy Faithfull Foundation. They work to protect children and young people from sexual abuse by working with parents and carers, multi-agency professionals as well as members of the public through awareness raising and education. They also offer a **confidential helpline** to those who are concerned about sexual abuse taking place on **0800 1000 900**. They are currently offering the following child sexual abuse prevention activities across Wales, **free of charge:** **Parents Protect! Sessions** – 2 hours session to raise awareness and inform parents and carers on the facts around child sexual abuse and our responsibility to prevent it. **Parents Protect! Plus Courses** - 2 hours per week for 5 weeks, courses to educate and build confidence in parents and carers on issues around child sexual abuse prevention, internet safety, sexual development in children and young people and positive preventative action. **If your organisation is interested in these training courses contact Claire Short Tel: 07720 590129 or email: CShort@lucyfaithfull.org.uk**

Events



Celtic Café – Music Sessions every Wednesday during term time, acoustic folk sessions for young people. Instruments provided or bring your own; suitable for youngsters aged 8+. Parents welcome to join in or enjoy a coffee whilst the group plays. New members welcome. Blaenavon World Heritage Centre. **Tel: 01495 357816.**

North Torfaen Youth Theatre: every Wednesday during term time. Learn to sing and act at this fun weekly session, with lots of opportunity to perform. Suitable for youngsters aged 8+. **Venue:** Blaenavon World Heritage Centre. **Tel:** 01495 357816 **Event Time: 6pm-8pm.** Ticket Information: **£1.50 per session.** **Date: 5th December 2012.**
For more information email: info@head4arts.org.uk

Me and My World Heritage: 4th December 2012. Are you from Blaenavon and surrounding areas? Would you like to know about your family history? The history of your house and street? The history and archaeology of the landscape in which you live? Come and join us to explore your past, visit new sites, and create your very own exhibition! Please bring a packed lunch. **Every Tuesday until the end of January: 9am – 4pm.** Free heritage programme open to all. **Venue:** Blaenavon World Heritage Centre **Tel:** 01633 648029 or email: ashley.taylor@torfaen.gov.uk

Ebbw Valley Brass Christmas Concert with the world famous Cory Band and other special guests. **Venue:** Ebbw Vale Sports Centre. **Date:** Thursday 6th December 7.30pm. Tickets priced at £10/£6. **For tickets and more information** call Yvonne Stone 01495 301059, Dean Woods 07949 826955 or email: ebbwvalleybrass@aol.com

Baby Rhymetime: Sessions for babies every Friday morning from 7th December including school holidays. **Free of charge** - no booking required. **Venue:** Cwmbran Library. **Tel:** 01633 647676. **Event Time:** 10am.

Welsh Storytime/Rhyme/Craft every Friday morning from 7th December. **Venue:** Pontypool Library. **Tel:** 01495 766160. **Event Time: 10.30am -11.30am.**

Santa Run/Bike/Scooter 8th December in Cwmbran. Come along and join in the festive spirit, you can run, cycle or scooter around in your Santa outfit! In aid of St David's Foundation Hospice Care. **Tel:** 01633 851051. For more information: www.stdavidsfoundation.co.uk or fundraising@stdavidsfoundation.co.uk

Three Counties Community Play is holding a Cross County Training Event on **Saturday 8th December 2012 at Serennu Centre, Newport Time: 10.00 am – 4.30 pm.** **Tutor: Ally John 'Inclusive Play: a background and practical methods'.** If you are interested or would like more information contact **Dominic on 01495 742472**

Victorian Christmas: Llanyrafon Manor, Cwmbran on **15th and 16th December** 10am – 4pm. Visit to Father Christmas - £2 per child. Go along and see their beautifully decorated Christmas trees, or how about making a Christmas cracker filled with sweets? Join them for Christmas Carols and mince pies with their Victorian residents. Special guest – Father Christmas!! **For more information llanyrafonmanor@torfaen.gov.uk or Tel: 01633 648562.**

Events



Christmas Celebration Evening 11th December. The true magic of their sparkling Christmas lights and the full effect of their seasonal decorations can be appreciated at the Farm after dark. Their unique Christmas Production will be held (in it's one and only evening showing), there will be twilight tractor rides, storytelling and creative Christmas craft. Santa will be in his grotto and there will be plenty of stocking fillers and Christmas present ideas not only in their very own gift shop but also in their Christmas Shopping Village. All in all an ideal Christmas Celebration Evening! **Venue:** Greenmeadow Community Farm - Cwmbran **Tel:** 01633 647662. **Ticket Information:** Adults free/ children £3.60 (including Santa) **Visit:** <http://www.greenmeadowcommunityfarm.org.uk>
greenmeadowcommunityfarm@torfaen.gov.uk

TVA Christmas Bazaar: Saturday 15th December 11am – 2pm. **Venue:** Garndiffaith Millennium Hall. Attractions include jewellery, gifts, Santa's grotto, refreshments, raffle and lots more. If you would like to fundraise for your group or a local charity and would like to have a table **contact Marie Williams at TVA on 01495 742420.**

Christmas Family Night Nadolig Llawen! 15th December. Jolly good family fun with a visit and gift from Sion Corn aka Santa! Disco, bar and party games too. **The White Hut is a registered charity and is run by volunteers.** **Venue:** The White Hut - Coed Eva & Hollybush Hall – Cwmbran. **Tel: 01633 864270.** Event Time: 7.30pm-11pm. Ticket Information: £4 adult/£2 child (Under 2's free). Visit: www.thewhitehut.org

Festive Trails Saturday 15th December 2012 – Thursday 3rd January 9.30am – 4.30pm. **Location:** Big Pit National Coal Museum. Pick up a trail sheet when you arrive at Big Pit and see if you can solve the festive quiz. The whole family can join in and there will be special treats if you return your trail, completed, to the Shop before you leave. **For further information contact 02920 573650**

Victorian Christmas at Stack Square 16th December. Experience the sights, sounds and smells of a Victorian Christmas with a visit to Blaenavon Ironworks! The event will include: Christmas craft workshops, carol singing, festive storytelling and music, Father Christmas and families from BBC's Coal House. **Free event: with hot refreshments and seasonal gifts to purchase.** **Venue:** Blaenavon Ironworks **Tel:** 01495 792615. **Event Time:** 10.30am-4pm. www.cadw.wales.gov.uk

Happy New Year! 31st December. See in the New Year with us! **Great family fun to be had with party games and great music.** Ask our DJ for any music requests! The White Hut is a registered charity and is run by volunteers. **Venue:** The White Hut - Coed Eva & Hollybush Hall – Cwmbran **01633 864270: Ticket Information:** £4 adult/£2 child (Under 2's free) Visit their website: www.thewhitehut.org

February Fun 12th February 2013 - The London Chinese Acrobatic Company
Celebrating the Chinese New Year with a colourful display of the fabulous Lion and Ribbon Dance! **Venue:** Cwmbran Shopping **Tel:** 01633 872121
Event Time: 11am, 12.30pm and 2pm **Visit:** www.cwmbranshopping.co.uk

Consultations

'When I am Ready' – Planning transition to adulthood for care leavers. This consultation seeks your views on a proposed scheme, entitled "When I am Ready", which aims to ensure better support for care leavers in their transition to adulthood and independence. Please submit your comments by **4th January 2013**. **To take part in this consultation or to find out more visit:**

wales.gov.uk/consultations/healthsocialcare/ready/?lang=en&status=open

The Rights of Children and Young Person's (Wales) Measure 2011 – a consultation considering Section 7 'Application to Young Persons'. They are seeking your views on whether this should apply to Welsh ministers. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child includes rights and optional protocols. They are consulting on whether these rights and protocols should apply to people aged 18-24. This would be in addition to the provisions set out in Section 7 of the Rights of Children and Young Person's (Wales) Measure. **Please submit your comments by 28th December 2012. To find out more and to take part visit:**

wales.gov.uk/consultations/childrenandyoungpeople/rights/?skip=1&lang=en

School consultation - Consultation has begun after proposals of the closure of three schools were debated in October, in the first step of a £257.6 million school transformation programme. The proposals would help tackle surplus places, improve the use of school resources and raise pupil attainment. They would result in the following: Two Locks Nursery School shutting, with the age range of Nant Celyn Primary School expanded from 4 -11 to 3 -11; Pontymoile Primary School shutting, with pupils going to predominantly George Street and New Inn primary schools; The Autistic Special Needs Resource Base at Pontymoile Primary School relocating to Nant Celyn Primary School Kemys Fawr Infants Schools shutting, with pupils attending Griffithstown Primary School. People can voice their views by attending a meeting, writing to the education department and/or email: **primaryreview@torfaen.gov.uk** or visit **mysay.torfaen.gov.uk** **Consultation ends on 14th December.**

Shape travel routes and win prizes - This is your chance to have your say on Torfaen's walking and cycling routes and win prizes by doing so. **There are four £25 vouchers for X-Trail Cycles up for grabs** to residents who take part in a short online survey. Torfaen council is working with the Welsh Government, SEWTA and Sustrans to develop a new walking and cycle route for cyclists and walkers to use for commuting and recreational use. The route will help connect you with the town centre, bus and rail stations, parks, local shops and other facilities, like doctor surgeries, work places and schools. This will be a safer, healthier, greener and more sustainable way to travel. To get involved and for your chance to win one of the vouchers visit: **www.mysay.torfaen.gov.uk**. For more information contact: Sue James or Carla Kavanagh on 01633 648809. **Respond by 31st March 2013.**

Consultation on measuring child poverty. Launch date: Thursday 15 November 2012
Closing date: Friday 15 February 2013. During the summer, the Government announced it would consult on developing better measures of child poverty which include income, but provide a more accurate picture of the reality of child poverty today. This consultation asks how we can best reflect the reality of child poverty using a multidimensional measure. **For more information and to take part in this consultation follow the link:**
www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/departentalinformation/consultations/a00216896/measuring-child-poverty

Consultations

Young I Matter We Matter - Children in Wales is looking for organisations and agencies who work with children and young people to enable them to engage with the future of social services. **I Matter We Matter** wants to hear the views of all those who want to improve organisations, services and communities to ensure that people have choice, control and a feeling of mutual well-being and independence. This will include those receiving support now and those who might do in the future as well as those who support others. **I Matter We Matter** is asking people: What are the things that are important to you in your life? What helps you to do these things? Children in Wales is facilitating **Young I Matter We Matter** which is collecting information about what matters to children and young people. To do this we would like to hear from: organisations or groups who are in a position to talk to children and young people about the I Matter - We Matter questions and about any previous work that has been undertaken and any reports or other materials you may have which address some of these issues. We will be collating this information **between November 2012 and January 2013**. During February there will be a process for pulling all this information together and there will be an opportunity for common themes to be shared. **For more information:**
www.childreninwales.org.uk/areasofwork/socialservices/imatterwematter/index.html

Consultation on ground-breaking legislation to end violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence. Minister for Local Government and Communities Carl Sargeant has launched a White Paper for consultation on the Welsh Government's legislative proposals aimed at ending violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence in Wales. **End of consultation: 22/02/2013.** Follow the link:
<http://wales.gov.uk/newsroom/housingandcommunity/2012/121126vawconsult/jsessi/0nid=807A288A7CE0ECF49C03260FA3176D23?lang=en>

Opportunities

Your Childhood Memories in Wales Children in Wales are delighted to announce that it will be celebrating its **20th Anniversary in 2013**. As part of the festivities they will be publishing a collection of short stories, from children, young people and adults alike, about their memories in Wales. You do not have to have been born in Wales, just have some recollections. You can send us your story in English or Welsh and include a picture if you wish. Your story should not be more than 500 words and they can be kept anonymous.
Please send your story to: Louise O'Neill, Membership & Marketing Co-ordinator
Email: membership@childreninwales.org.uk

The 2012 free Anti-Bullying Week Competition is now open for entries. Win £100's worth of prizes for you and your school, college or youth club. Final date for entries is the **14th December 2012**. We want you to show us how the theme for this year's anti-bullying week can be best presented. The theme is: **"We're better without bullying"** Entries can be done in just about any format: pictures, photographs, drawings, paintings, collages or video and sound, songs, films, documentaries or written work: poems, short stories. All work must be your own original work. **Closing date for entries is 14th December 2012.** Please send all entries to Actionwork with a completed entry form signed by your parent/guardian. **For more information visit: <http://www.antibullyingweek.co.uk/>**

Information



Youth work office space scheme gets funding boost - An initiative that gives young people the opportunity to set up youth projects and businesses in disused office spaces has received a funding injection. **Livity, a youth-led media and communications agency**, has been awarded £50,000, to expand its somewhere to _ initiative. The UK-wide project helps young people find a space to set up sport, culture and arts projects, or run a business. **To read more:** <http://www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/news/1075199/youth-office-space-scheme-funding-boost?>

Portal supports children and young people's voices in Wales - a Participation Hub has been launched which will help children and young people seek support and have their say in decisions that affect them. **Visit the website:** www.participationhub.org.uk/

Child Poverty Solutions have upgraded their website and it's a wonderful one stop shop for data, information and inspiration. It may well be both a time saver and make life easier for finding out figures on e.g. numbers of free school dinners/school etc. They also have a Communities First area. It's really quick to register with CPS to be able to upload practice examples. Visit: www.childpovertysolutions.org.uk

The Children's Commissioner for Wales offers an advice and support service, including a free fone and free text service, for all children in Wales. The service aims to let children and young people know of their rights and help them express their views and wishes. **The service is open to all, including Gypsy and Traveller children** who can often be subject to more barriers than most in the struggle to get their views heard. John Harford, who works for the Children's Commission for Wales has made the following statement, "I am conscious that we do not receive very many calls from families and children from the Gypsy and Traveller Community and I completely understand the reasons why. Any help that you are able to give in actively promoting our service would be very much appreciated. Also if you think it is appropriate, we would very much like to come out and meet with groups of Gypsy and Traveller children and young people directly, possibly in school, or within the community, so that we can tell them about our service and how it may help them now or in the future. If you feel that it may be appropriate for one of their officers to come along and meet with children or groups that you support, they will be very happy to do so, or we can arrange for you to bring groups to their offices. Their main office is in Swansea. Contact **John 01792 765600 e-Mail johnh@childcomwales.org.uk**

Latest safeguarding information including updates on neglect, emotional abuse and definition of domestic abuse visit: www.blaenau-gwent-lscb.org.uk/blog/?m=201210

Online threats to children can now be reported directly to authorities through a new app developed between Facebook and the **UK's Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (Ceop)**. The ClickCEOP app provides parents and children with advice about online safety and also the ability to report suspected grooming or inappropriate sexual behaviour. Advice covers issues including cyber bullying, viruses, hacking and can be accessed from users Facebook homepage.

National minimum wage increased in October 2012 to £6.19 for ages 21 and over, and for apprentices the minimum wage will rise to £2.65. Acas has an employment law update page with this and other recent changes at www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=3898

Information



Embrace is a young Newport LGBT Group. They provide a safe, supportive and confidential environment for young people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. **If you would like more information: contact the Information Shop on 01633 255031.**

RSPB to examine children's experience of nature - the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is to attempt to measure children's connection to nature as part of efforts to **encourage outdoor play**. The organisation hopes regular quantitative analyses of children's interaction with the outdoors will convince the government to take action, following growing evidence that shows children's appreciation and experience of nature is diminishing. Children are also being asked to complete an online questionnaire, which will provide a more general picture of their connection to nature.

Introduction to Universal Jobmatch: from 19th November 2012, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) will launch Universal Jobmatch – a new, free* online job posting and matching service. This new online service will improve the recruitment service for both companies and jobseekers by speeding up the recruitment process, making it quicker and easier for companies to find suitable jobseekers. Anyone looking for work will be able to set up an account and create a CV or upload CVs they already have. The new technology will automatically match their CVs and skills to suitable jobs that are posted by companies on the new service. From November, companies will need to post all their jobs online using Universal Jobmatch, as it is replacing the current Jobcentre Plus vacancy services - Employer Direct, Employer Direct Online and Job Warehouse. **Please see their frequently asked questions for more information click on the link: www.tvawales.org.uk/usrpdf/729.pdf**

The Participation Unit supports a Youth Panel who feed into the work of Save the Children and represent based on the views and opinions of all children and young people in Wales. Workshops were delivered to the young people to gather the views and stories of their experiences of facing discrimination when trying to have a say in decisions that affect their lives, and were supported to develop basic animation skills. The animation will be used as an awareness raising tool with young people aged 11 - 25 years old, practitioners and policy makers. The **'If you listened to me' animation** was launched at **Cineworld, Cardiff in November**. The animation will be available to view on the PWNW website. **For more information contact Rebecca: r.horder@savethechildren.org.uk**

Torfaen Play Service has a **Play Lending Library** with many toys and activities on offer for the small price of £10 to join and a small weekly rental charge. This service is open to any group as well as parents themselves. They have a catalogue available containing all the toys they have for hire. Training on how to use certain pieces of equipment will be provided. They also have specialist disability equipment available. Contact Stuart Rhys on 01495 742952 or email stuart.rhys@torfaen.gov.uk for more information and to register. **View the 2012 catalogue of Play Lending Library equipment here**

Changes to Disclosure and Barring: What you need to know. This leaflet tells you about important changes which the Government made to criminal records and barring arrangements from September (2012) and how they affect you. This leaflet is for organisations (employers, voluntary organisations and charities) who engage people to work with vulnerable groups including children. **Click on the following link: <http://cvsc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/Important-changes-in-Vetting-and-Barring-from-Sept-2012-What-you-need-to-know.pdf>**

Information



New help sheet sets out the essentials for starting a social enterprise. Click on the following:

www.socialenterprise.org.uk/uploads/files/2012/07/start_your_social_enterprise.pdf

Cerebra Signposts is a new service to help you find the information you need as quickly and directly as possible. The service is accessed from our website and lists reliable and trustworthy websites which provide impartial, clear, accurate, balanced and up-to-date information and advice. The topics include information about conditions, treatments and therapies, health, financial matters, education and transition, carer's courses, family support, childcare and respite, recreation, rights and legal issues, home adaptations and equipment. **You can find more information here:**

<http://www.cerebra.org.uk/English/signposts/Pages/Home.aspx>

NAS Befriending Cerebra are helping to spread the word about the National Autistic Society's e-befriending scheme. For more details on this valuable scheme please visit:

www.autism.org.uk/our-services/residential-community-and-social-support/social-support/befriending-and-mentoring-new/what-is-befriending.aspx

Keep us Close. More than half a million UK families face a daily challenge to get support for their disabled child. In this new video, the young narrator tells his family's story as they try to get the local support they need for his disabled sister Emma.

www.scope.org.uk/keepusclosed

Doing Services Differently. Independent think-tank nef and Scope have been collecting examples of innovations developed by local authorities and providers that show how services can improve disabled people's lives and save money. To read the report:

<http://www.scope.org.uk/news/doing-services-differently-report-launch>

Suicide Prevention Study Launched - A major research project designed to identify ways of reducing suicide and self-harm among young people has been launched. Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge and several universities in Europe are to assess the effectiveness of interactive online resources that provide young people with information and an opportunity to discuss concerns. To read more:

www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/news/1075273/suicide-prevention-study-launched

To mark Anti Bullying Week 2012, Barnardo's Cymru, Changing Faces, Cardiff Against Bullying, Shan Jones Education Consultancy and the all Wales School Liaison Core Programme have been working together to produce a range of activities, lesson plans and programmes to support on-going work on anti-bullying and respect within schools. These anti-bullying partnership resources are available bilingually on the All Wales School Liaison Core Programme website www.schoolbeat.org/en/teachers/anti-bullying-week/ For more information Tel: **01639 620 945** or email: vikki.butler@barnardos.org.uk

A guide to help parents teach their children about the commercial nature of the internet has received the backing of children's minister Edward Timpson. The guide, put together by [Media Smart](http://www.mediasmart.org.uk/), alongside the Advertising Association, among others, outlines how children can be exposed to advertising on the internet, from search engine results to games. Timpson, said: "As a father myself, I see this pack as a welcome step in equipping parents with the relevant information to help them educate their children about the commercial techniques used in an increasingly digital world." www.mediasmart.org.uk/

Information



What is a Skoog? Meldreth Manor School uses these musical instruments to enhance disabled students' communication and IT skills, and most importantly, to have fun! **To find out more visit: www.scope.org.uk/news/blogs/scope-blog/meldreth-manor-school-and-skoog**

Facebook and ChildLine have joined forces to tackle online bullying through a new application on the social media site. The **'Step Up: Stop Bullying'** campaign aims to raise awareness of the issue and offer guidance on services, tools and people who can help if someone is being bullied. Sue Minto, head of ChildLine, said: "The campaign helps people speak up for each other. Bullying has become the second most common reason children and young people call ChildLine and we believe everyone has the responsibility to tackle this worrying rise." **Click on the link above (in bold) to find out more.**

As many as 1,500 families are to get help with essential money skills after charity Family Action linked up with Lloyds Bank. **Family Action** will help deliver **money management workshops** throughout next year through **Lloyds' Money for Life programme**. A recent report by Family Action found that some of the families the charity supports have less than £2 per person a day to spend on food after household bills. Helen Dent, chief executive of Family Action, said: "This scheme will help our families manage their money better and prosper. With the increasing pressures family budgets are facing it's important, now more than ever, that we're able to build up our work supporting families to manage their finances."

Capital investment for Flying Start announced. The Welsh Government has announced £19 million investment into infrastructure and facilities to support the expansion of the Flying Start programme across Wales. Flying Start is the Welsh Government's early years programme for families with children under 4 in the most disadvantaged areas of Wales. It provides free childcare places for 2-3 year olds, enhanced health visiting services, and access to parenting programmes. The Welsh Government has committed to expanding Flying Start from 18,000 to 36,000 places. The funding for infrastructure comes in addition to £55 million available over the next 3 years to pay for the expansion. Further details about Flying Start can be found on the **[Welsh Government website](#)**.

Recycle on the Go Wales! WRAP Cymru has launched its new package of support to help venues and event organisers introduce recycling facilities for their visitors. The Recycle on the Go project offers grants of up to £50,000 towards the cost of recycling equipment, plus consultancy support to help businesses choose the right solutions for them. A wide range of private, public and **third sector organisations** will be able to apply for funding, including sports and leisure venues, transport hubs, shopping centres and colleges. In addition, WRAP Cymru has published new technical and communications guidance plus communications templates; these are available for free download at **www.wrapcymru.org.uk/rotgwales** – where you'll also find lots of other useful information.

Donate to your favourite charity without spending a penny. You can give £50 to charity – at no cost to you. Thousands of stores will donate to charity when you shop with them online. **Choose your favourite charity and find out more – click on the link: <http://www.giveasyoulive.com/>**

Information



Change4life are focusing on an alcohol campaign in the lead up to Christmas, with campaign activity started during Alcohol Awareness Week 19-25 November. They are aiming to reach people who are drinking above the recommended guidelines and are gradually increasing the amount they drink – whether at home or out socialising. **Drinks Checker:** to help people identify whether they are drinking above the guidelines and to check their units we have created a handy online calculator <http://change4lifewales.org.uk/adults/alcohol/drinks-checker> **The Change4Life Alcohol Leaflet ‘Don’t Let Drink Sneak up on you’** is now available to download: wales.gov.uk/docs/dhss/publications/c4l/120403c4lalcoholen.pdf If you would like to order some hard copies, please contact the Change4Life mailbox: change4life@wales.gsi.gov.uk

My Benefits are Changing Website: see link below which provides useful information about the forthcoming changes to benefits. **Visit:** www.yourbenefitsarechanging.co.uk/

Transition into Adulthood - New Transition Pack is now available. As young people move from childhood to adulthood, they experience a number of changes and it can be a time of uncertainty and anxiety for the young person and family members, especially when the young person has a disability or additional needs. Some young people aged 13-19 need a Transition Plan to help them with their Transition into Adulthood. This plan is particularly important if the young person needs additional support in school or college, or from Health and Social Services. If you would like paper copies of their Transition Information Pack please contact the ‘Your Life Your Choices’ project email: mike.logan@torfaen.gov.uk or Tel: **Office - 01873 857893**. Otherwise the pack is available at: www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/HealthSocialCare/Disabilities/Transition-into-Adulthood/Transition-into-Adulthood.aspx. You can also download their information packs for young people and their families and watch their videos about transition.

Employment Support Service – Information for Employees. This is a **free**, confidential service offering advice and support. Are you worried about your alcohol and/or drug use? Have you missed work or been late because of a hangover? Do you feel your concentration is affected by alcohol, drugs or prescribed medication? Is the alcohol and/or drug use of someone close to you having an impact on your life? **For more information: email ess@drugaidcymru.com or call 01685 721991 or visit www.drugaidcymru.com**

Employment Support Services (ESS) is a free service which: offers bespoke training to promote awareness of substance misuse issues to encourage a safe and healthy working environment (half day, full day, two day options for all staff and / or managers). Provides support to people affected by substance misuse, to remain in employment and improve their general state of health (based on individual need, e.g. brief interventions, counselling and coaching, signposting and referrals). Supports employers in developing policies and procedures in the workplace relating the use of alcohol and drugs. **As an employer, it will help you:** maintain a stable and productive workforce, minimise disruption and problematic issues in the workplace as a result of substance misuse, Reduce sickness absences and save money! Achieve targets set in The Corporate Standards, Health at work. **If you have any questions regarding this service please contact Katy Cherrington, Employment Specialist, Recruit Plus Tel: 07879 434911**

Information



Playday 2013 - Wednesday 7 August. Promotional items will be available to order by the end of the year and event registration will re-open in the spring. Hopefully you are planning to get involved in some way next year. Don't forget that Playday celebrations can be big or small - what really matters is that collectively we celebrate and raise awareness about children's right to play! **Visit: www.playday.org.uk/default.aspx**

The portal for the Good Practice Wales site - lots of case studies of services which have been identified as good practice. **Visit the website: www.goodpracticewales.com/**

Introductory letter from Martin Davies of the Welsh Government, in his new role as **Third Sector Grant Policy Manager**. Click on the following: **[Martin Davies - introductory letter](#)**

How can small companies offer big employee incentives? With a Gwent Hospitals Contributory Fund health cash plan! Even the smallest organisations can protect the health of their workforce and offer employees cover for everyday treatments such as dental and optical care. Invest in your employees and make your workplace a happier, healthier place to be. The health plans provide employee benefits for as little as **£1.95 a week**. **To find out what the plan offers: www.ghcf.co.uk**

Cerebra's November e-briefing is entitled 'Disabled Children Parents' Guide: Employment.' This is the 4th and final guide in the series: Education, Health, Social Care and Housing, Money Matters and Employment. Please go to their website to see the full guide and download a copy.
www.cerebra.org.uk/English/getinformation/disabilityrightslegalissues/Pages/DisabledChildrenParent'sGuideEmployment.aspx

Girlguiding Cymru – Information sent to Contact a Family by the Development Officer for Girlguiding in Wales. I am contacting you about my **initiative to attempt to give every girl in Wales, with a disability, the opportunity to enjoy the experiences available through Girlguiding.** Girlguiding in Wales is an opportunity for girls aged 5+ to learn new things, make new friends and develop new skills. We work to provide all girls, regardless of their situation, with unique experiences, that they may not otherwise have been able to enjoy. Meeting weekly, girls are able to develop in a safe, girl-centred environment, where they can share their new experiences, and grow to achieve their full potential. I am passionate about ensuring that all girls, of all abilities, receive the same opportunities through Girlguiding. Part of my new initiative involves plans to introduce Girlguiding units into hospitals, hospices and SEN schools, to bring Girlguiding to girls who may not have been able to access it in the past. I also want to encourage parents and guardians of girls with disabilities to approach us at Girlguiding in Wales, to discuss the needs of each individual girl and enable us to best help reduce any concerns they may have. Girlguiding is a very flexible and supportive organisation, and we regularly alter our programme to best suit girls who need extra support. **If any parents/guardians would like to learn more about the opportunities Girlguiding can offer,** or the ways in which we can ensure each girl has a chance to experience these opportunities, they should feel free to contact me at **07568 320731, or email: holly.rust@girlguiding.org.uk**. I will happily listen to their concerns, and discuss with them the best way we can meet the needs of their daughter.