

# What's New for Carers?



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## Local News and Events

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Details of events and activities at the Carers Support Centre in August.



### Thames Playscheme

The Thames Explorer Trust runs summer playschemes for disadvantaged children (this includes disabled children,

### Ping!

Croydon's Table Tennis Festival is underway and is

young carers and those from low-income families). The Richmond scheme runs from Monday 3 to Friday 21 August, and the Chiswick scheme runs on 5, 6 and 20 August.

For more information go to [www.thames-explorer.org.uk/families/summer-playscheme](http://www.thames-explorer.org.uk/families/summer-playscheme).

## Kids' Summer Fun

Croydon Council is working with Play Place to provide summer playschemes for children and young people aged eight and over.

The project is aimed at children who live in the housing estates hosting the playschemes, but other children are welcome, although estate residents will be given priority. All playscheme venues are accessible, but parents of disabled children are advised to contact Play Place to discuss their child's needs.

For more information visit [www.playplace.org](http://www.playplace.org) or contact Play Place directly on 01689 867 366.

## Other Summer Activities



Details of other events and activities for children and young people over the summer:

- Croydon Young People's Service (activities for 11-19 year olds).
- Local Offer - Leisure.
- Croydon Libraries.
- Leisure and culture.
- Game Changer (free sport for 14-25 year olds).
- Free swimming for under 16s.

with us until Friday 21 August. To find out where your nearest free table tennis facilities are go to [www.pingcroydon.co.uk](http://www.pingcroydon.co.uk).

## Early Bird

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## Summer Parks Project

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For more information go to [www.croydon.gov.uk](http://www.croydon.gov.uk).

## PIP Newsletter

Parents in Partnership's **summer newsletter** has lots of ideas for activities during the summer holidays.

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## Special Educational Needs Support

There are now two organisations in Croydon offering support around Special Educational Needs (SEN).

**Kids Croydon SENDIAS (Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support) and Mediation Service**

**Contact details:**  
07469 154 315 (Aurelija)

07469 154 314 (Virginija)  
020 8684 2878 (office)  
croydon@kids.org.uk  
KIDS, Suite 35, Challenge House, 616 Mitcham Road, Croydon CR0 1AA

**Main services:**

Advice and information around education, health and social care to parents/carers of children and young people (and young people aged 16-25 directly) with special educational needs and disabilities.  
Independent mediation and disagreement resolution service.

More information at [www.kids.org.uk](http://www.kids.org.uk).

**Family Lives Croydon Independent Support Service**

**Contact details:**

020 3131 3150  
parentssupport@familylives.org.uk  
Carers Support Centre, 24 George Street, Croydon CR0 1PB

**Main services:**

Information and support to parents/carers of children and young people (and young people aged 16-25 directly) with special educational needs and disabilities who are being assessed for or being transferred to an Education Health and Care (EHC) plan.

More information at [www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk).

## Living with Brain Injury

The Neurorehabilitation Service at Broad Green offers a programme of four educational groups for people who are living with a head injury or neurological condition and their family and carers.

**1. Understanding brain injury and neurological conditions**

Wednesday 2 September

**2. Managing thinking problems**

Wednesday 9 September

**3. Managing communication difficulties**

Wednesday 16 September

**4. Managing mood and emotions**

Wednesday 23 September

For more information or to book a place call  
020 8274 6492.

## Carers Workshops

**Laughter Workshop**

Thursday 17 September, 10am – 1pm



The South West London Law Centre in Croydon has moved to 5th Floor, Davis House, Robert Street, Croydon CR0 1QQ.

The contact number remains 020 8767 2777.

For more information go to [www.swllc.org](http://www.swllc.org).

## Domestic Violence Support

Bromley Women's Aid (BWA) offers information, advice and support to women experiencing domestic violence.

BWA offers a drop in session every Thursday, 1.30 - 4pm, at Community House, Relate Office, South Street, Bromley BR1 1RH.

To find out more go to [www.bromleywa.org.uk](http://www.bromleywa.org.uk) or call  
020 8313 9303.

*Have fun, reduce stress and feel energised.*

### **Siblings Workshop**

Tuesday 29 September, 10am – 3pm  
*For parent carers of a disabled child aged under 18 who are concerned about the impact this is having on other children in the family.*

Both sessions are held at the Carers Support Centre and are for carers aged 16+ who are living in Croydon.

To book for either of these workshops contact Ruth Laws (020 8649 6280, [ruthlaws@carersinfo.org.uk](mailto:ruthlaws@carersinfo.org.uk)).

BWA services are available to Croydon residents.

## **Mental Health Carers' Strategy**

South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM) is asking mental health carers to give their feedback on their draft *Family and Carers Strategy*.

The consultation is open until 28 August 2015.

Find out more and take part at [www.healthwatchcroydon.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchcroydon.co.uk).

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## **National News**

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### **How Will You be Affected?**

The Chancellor announced £12bn in welfare cuts in the Summer Budget

These welfare cuts will be phased in and will not affect anyone until April 2016 at the earliest, with many changes affecting only new benefit claimants.

Read more detail on the welfare cuts and how they could affect you on our website: [www.carersinfo.org.uk/news/summer-budget](http://www.carersinfo.org.uk/news/summer-budget).

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## **Dementia Care Failing**

A survey of over 1,000 family doctors by Alzheimer's Society has found that dementia patients rely on the support of family and friends because they are being let down by the health and social care system.

Key findings include:

- Seven in ten GPs say people with dementia are left unsupported

## **Care Cap Delayed**

The Department of Health has announced that it is delaying plans to introduce a £72,000 cap on care costs until April 2020.

This means that previous advice to self-funders to approach Croydon Council from October 2015 to request an assessment of need to trigger the setting up of their Care Account (if they are found to have eligible care needs) is no longer correct. If the

because of a shortfall in accessible local services.

- A further 61% say lack of cooperation between the NHS and social care acts as a barrier to patients getting support.

Read more at [www.alzheimers.org.uk](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk).

## Reports & Research

*Better Care for Carers?*  
by Carers Trust

*The Importance of Carer's Allowance*  
by Carers UK

*Right here, right now – help, care and support during a mental health crisis*  
by the Care Quality Commission

## Learning Disability Helpline

Hft - the learning disabilities charity - offers a free helpline service for carers of people with learning disabilities. The helpline is open Monday to Friday, 8.30am – 4.30pm on 0808 801 0448. Email support can be accessed via [familycarersupport@hft.org.uk](mailto:familycarersupport@hft.org.uk).

Find out more at [www.hft.org.uk](http://www.hft.org.uk).

## Disabled Students Allowance

Take part in a consultation on funding for disabled students in Higher Education from 2016/17 onwards: [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

Government sticks to its current agenda, self-funders would not need to contact the local authority until October 2019.

Read more at [www.carersinfo.org.uk](http://www.carersinfo.org.uk).

## Parent Carers & Employment

Contact a Family has published a guide for parent carers who are thinking of moving back into work: *Moving into work: Employment and childcare rights for families in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales*.

The guide includes information about benefits that can be paid while parents are working, help with childcare costs and information about employment rights.

## Social Care Farming

Social Care Farming is the therapeutic use of farming practices to provide health, social or educational care services.

Social Care Farms are commissioned to provide services by agencies such as social services and community mental health teams. Clients can also self-refer if they are receiving a direct payment, or be referred by family members.

To find out more go to [www.farmbuddies.org.uk](http://www.farmbuddies.org.uk) or [www.carefarminguk.org](http://www.carefarminguk.org) or Google 'social care farming'.



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