



## Reading Families Forum (previously AHDC Parents' Forum)

Dear Parent/carers

As you may notice we have a new logo and the name of the forum has changed. This is because the Aiming High for Disabled Children government funding has come to an end and so to mark a new era we have changed the name and used the logo that you may recognise from activities run by Reading Sport and Culture.

The good news is that there will continue to be government funding for short breaks, although sadly not as much so there will probably be changes in some of the activities/short breaks that have been provided. However the local authority are now having to concentrate on providing short breaks which allow families a 'true' break where the child or young person with a learning difficulty or disability will not need their parent to attend.

We will keep you up to date with how short breaks are going as soon as we know. Do keep an eye on what activities/short breaks are available by looking at emails from Family Resource Centre and the forum.

This term **Reading Families Forum** has two events for parent/carers:

- **Wednesday 9 February – Supporting Siblings run by SIBS UK** at the Town Hall, refreshments, lunch, workshops, relaxing, informative day – 10am to 2.30pm
- **Monday 14 March – Information day – transition to adult services** at the Avenue Centre, informative, interesting day – 9.30am to 2.30pm

For more information please see attached flyers.

**We need** more parents to be involved in **Reading Families Forum** so that we can make sure that the services that are provided for families in Reading are what is really needed and wanted. We can do this:

- Attending decision making meetings
- Being part of a group who decide the way forward for the forum

For more details please contact Ruth Pearse, at [ruth.pearse@btinternet.com](mailto:ruth.pearse@btinternet.com)

As you may know we have had three forums with the NHS, this has given parent/carers from Reading, Wokingham and West Berkshire the opportunity to ask questions about the services that the NHS provide, for example, speech therapy, occupational therapy. Attached are notes from the last meeting.

**Do get in touch if you have any suggestions regarding the Reading Families Forum or would like more information.**

**Ruth Pearse, Alison Ries Coward (Facilitators)**