



Downright Special Update – July 2022

Welcome to our latest update. The aim of these newsletters is to keep Downright Special families up to date with what is going on in Friday Group sessions, term dates, training courses, social and fundraising events, as well as health and education news. This half termly newsletter will also have a particular focus on feedback from the recent questionnaire.

Family and Education Questionnaire

Firstly, thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to the recent feedback questionnaire. Some key themes emerged from your feedback:

1. **Social events** – these are clearly very important to your child/children but equally for parents/carers. You also asked for a variety of events to keep things fresh, as well as being mindful of our children with complex needs when planning events. See Social Events update below for how we intend to respond to these points.
2. **Training** – School staff still seem unsure about all the different training opportunities we offer. Our teaching staff will therefore give a copy of the training programme to TA's on visits / at group. Please can we ask families to continue to highlight relevant training to school as well. The need for different training and feedback forums for parent/carers also emerged. Further information is included in this newsletter.
3. **Further support for families of children with complex needs** – see the update below.
4. **Further support for young people preparing for adulthood** – see the update below.
5. **Communication to families about school visits** – whilst the majority of schools pass feedback from our visits to parents, you have told us this does not always happen. Downright Special Teaching staff will therefore copy parents into any future reports.

This is how we plan to respond to and develop the themes identified through feedback:

1. Social Events

In line with feedback from the Parent/Carer Questionnaire, we continue to expand the range of activities we offer our families. So, in July, our Youth Club attended an Art session where they created their own seascape on canvas. The feedback from this event was very positive and the artwork produced was amazing! Thank you to the Dynamix Friends Fund for sponsoring this event.

Our next event will be **Saturday 23rd July - Densholme Farm Fun Day from 10am. Tickets have sold out for this event. It is all set to be a super day. Remember your picnic. All we need is a bit of sunshine....!**

The farm do their level best to ensure their facilities are fully inclusive so please email kate.long@downrightspecial.co.uk if you have any questions regarding accessibility.

Further information about this event for attendees will follow.

In addition, as part of our commitment to increase inclusivity, all new events including this farm trip will be supported with photos and a social story to help describe the event in advance.

Future dates for the diary:

SAVE THE DATES...Exciting times ahead...

- **Friday 12th August 2022 – Informal summer social catch up for families at East Park from 11am. Please register your interest via the email you will have received, or via Facebook.**
- **Sunday 18th Sept – Football Party at Soccer Kings, Hull – Juniors session – under 12 yrs (11am)**
- **Sunday 18th Sept – Football Party at Soccer Kings, Hull – Youth Club session – 11yrs and above (1pm)**

[Click here to book on either of these events](#)

- **Thursday 22nd September 9.30-11.30am -Parents' Coffee Morning at Bodmin Road Church.** One of the key themes emerging from the recent questionnaire was the request to give parent/carers a forum to meet up for a chat, so we have organised our first cuppa and chat session. We will be in the front 'café' area of the church. There will be toys out if anyone is bringing children. No need to book a place.
We will ascertain the level of interest in this type of event and build further opportunities if there is the appetite from families.
- **Sunday 30th October – Halloween Fancy Dress Dance Party, Swanland Village Hall – Juniors session (am) and Youth Club session (pm)**
- **Sunday 11th December – Christmas Party, Lazaat's, Cottingham 12pm-3pm (including quiet Santa time for children with sensory needs. Further details to follow)**

Any questions, please email social@downrightspecial.co.uk or call 01482 420160

Join the Downright Special Team as a volunteer Social Events Coordinator(s)

As we continue to develop the range and type of social activities we offer families, we are looking for one or two volunteer social Events Coordinator(s) to join our team. This really is an exciting opportunity for anyone wanting to make a difference to a local charity and have a lot of fun in the process! We are flexible about this role/roles, so if you feel you would like to do part of the role, but do not have capacity for all the role, don't let this put you off. Please get in touch to discuss. The main thing is that we find the right person/people to join the team. See attached for full role description:

<https://www.downrightspecial.co.uk/our-current-vacancies>

To apply or discuss further, please contact kate.long@downrightspecial.co.uk.

Closing Date for applications is Friday 9th September.

2. Autumn Term Training for schools/nurseries

We have an exciting programme of training to support schools, nurseries and other professionals working with children/young people with Down Syndrome. ***Whilst we do make professionals aware of future training, it is always worthwhile having a chat with your child's school/nursery about relevant training opportunities, so they do not miss out.***

- **Introduction to working with children with Down syndrome - Teams online course**
Wed 21 Sep 2022 - 3:45PM - 5:45PM
- **Introduction to working with children with Down syndrome - Teams online course**
Wed 28 Sep 2022 - 3:45PM - 5:45PM
- **Planning and Preparing the Curriculum Workshop**
Bodmin Road Church
Thu 13 Oct 2022 - 9:30AM - 4:00PM
- **Teaching Reading to pupils with Down syndrome: Phonics and Sight Vocabulary - Teams online course**
Wed 19 Oct 2022, - 3:45PM - 5:15PM
- **Teaching Maths to pupils with Down syndrome: Numicon Firm Foundations and the Maths Mum – online course**
Wed 9 Nov 2022, - 3:45PM - 5:45PM
- **Teaching Maths to pupils with Down Syndrome: Numicon Breaking Barriers and the Maths Mum – online course**
Wed 23 Nov 2022, - 3:45PM - 5:45PM
- **Teaching Reading to pupils with Down syndrome: Comprehension Skills – Teams online course**
Wed 7 Dec 2022 - 3:45PM - 5:15PM

Click [here](#) for more details and to book.

Parent Power

Again, linked to your feedback, we have launched Parent Power, a project designed to empower our families in a variety of ways including training and co-

production forums. Hopefully you can see from this newsletter that Parent Power is starting to gain momentum, with increased opportunities for families to feel connected and empowered. Further details to follow.

3. Building a Brighter Future – Preparing for Adulthood

We've now had two meetings with parents of teenagers to look at the issues faced at this stage in their young person's life. There's been lots of information sharing and it has been lovely to speak with people with the same thoughts and worries, as well as sharing the good stuff!

The first meeting in June looked at the challenges faced, what was working well and what parents would wish for if they had a magic wand! At the second meeting we looked at the output from the first meeting and feedback from our recent surveys, dividing them into the four areas of Preparing for Adulthood – Independent Living, Employment, Friends/relationships/Community and Good Health. We then chose to look at Good Health in detail, with lots of good ideas about what would be helpful especially around training, information, self-management and case studies.

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 21st September 7pm-9pm at Bodmin Road Church**. It isn't too late to join us if you'd like to come along. Just call 01482 420160 or email gillian@downrightspecial.co.uk.

4. Complex Needs Steering Group Update

We have now held two sessions with parents who identify their child as having complex needs. Based on your feedback and research, we have identified key themes for this project to focus on. Linking in with feedback from the questionnaire, the first theme we are exploring is Social Events and how these can be more inclusive in our planning, design and delivery stages. The steering group came up with some exciting ideas and we are currently prioritising these thoughts into easy wins, medium term goals and long-term goals (require funding bid, new project etc). This is a long-term project so please do get involved if you would like to contribute to shaping our strategy around Complex Needs. Our next meeting is due to take place **online on Thursday 28th July (evening) at 8pm till 9.30pm**.

Email Sam for more details and to join: sam@downrightspecial.co.uk

Term Dates – Autumn term

Our Friday morning group will run on the following dates:

9th Sept am only, 16th, 23rd, 30th

Oct 7th, 14th, 21st

*****Half Term*****

Nov 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th

Dec 2nd, 9th

If your child attends a Friday afternoon session, you will have received a separate email confirming dates.

Our team put so much time and effort into preparing resources, so please email us on office@downrightspecial.co.uk as soon as you can, if you are unable to attend a session.

Fundraising Opportunities

It's the biggest time of the year for fundraising and there are lots of fun sporty events happening locally for you to get involved with. Here is a list. Please let us know if you sign up for anything

Event	Date	Information and how to book
Skydive GB Bridlington	Several dates available – booking required	https://www.skydivegb.com/charity/downright-special/
Whitby - Bridge Bungee Jump	Several dates available – booking required	https://ukbungee.co.uk/locations/whitby

Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge	Several dates available – booking required	https://www.threepeakschallenge.uk/yorkshire-three-peaks-challenge/
Inflatable 5K Leeds	30 th July 2022	https://www.ukrunningevents.co.uk/events/inflatable-5k/inflatable-5k-obstacle-run-leeds-west-yorkshire-30th-july-2022
South Cave 10k	31 st July 2022	https://www.southcave10k.co.uk/
Tough Mudder Skipton	30 th & 31 st July 2022	https://toughmudder.co.uk/events/yorkshire/
York 10k	7 th August 2022	https://www.runforall.com/events/10k/york-10k/
Gilberdyke 10 mile	28 th August 2022	https://www.theentrypoint.co.uk/events/gilberdyke-10-mile-6lL7WOJBmOpx1rB
Bridlington Beach 5K and Fun Run	4 th September 2022	http://www.bridlingtonrr.co.uk/brid%20beach%20race.htm
Humber Bridge Half Marathon and Fun Run	25 th September 2022	https://humber-half.org.uk/

Yorkshire Marathon York	16 th October 2022	https://www.runforall.com/events/marathon/yorkshire-marathon/
East Riding PB Breaker Half & 10 km Burton Constable Hall	19 th November 2022	https://www.beyondevents.org.uk/e/east-riding-pb-breaker-half-and-10-km-7906

The Movement for Good awards are donating £1000 to Charities.

To nominate Downright Special please complete the short nomination form below:

https://movementforgood.com/?utm_source=Email-giving&utm_campaign=MFG-launch&cmp=1&utm_medium=HTMLEmail

Our Charity Number is: **1175863** Charity Type: **Disability**

Winners are drawn in September, and December.

Other ways to fundraise – Easy Fundraising

Easy Fundraising is an online shopping directory which features major online stores, including ebay and Amazon. Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk whenever you shop online and we'll receive a free donation of up to 15% from every purchase you make.

SEND Review Consultation – make your voice heard!

SEND Review consultation closes 22 July...

There are some significant changes to SEND law and guidance being suggested in the Green Paper. The deadline to respond to the Government's SEND Review

consultation is just around the corner. You can share your views as part of the Down Syndrome Association response by completing this [short survey](#).

Here are some further resources about the SEND Review:

- The DSAs [briefing document on the SEND Review here](#) as well as a recording of the presentations from their recent policy update session on the SEND Review.
- [The SEND review website itself](#)
- [The SEND review report](#)
- [The consultation website](#)
- [All the latest news on the SEND review from Special Needs Jungle](#)
- [Special Needs Jungle have also put together a useful guide for people who want to respond to the consultation.](#)

*****STOP PRESS! Down Syndrome Act Consultation now Live*****

As we write this termly update, The National Down Syndrome Policy Group has just announced that their online consultation for gathering information for the Down Syndrome Act is live and can be accessed via consultation.ndspg.org

We encourage everyone to get involved: people with Down syndrome, families, carers and people working with children and/or adults with Down syndrome.

Suggestions and Ideas

If you wish to chat about anything in this update, have suggestions or ideas for events, training or support you would like, or you'd like to pass on any tips, please do get in touch. We have been really encouraged by the increased participation from parents sharing top tips on the closed facebook group. Let's keep sharing our knowledge, concerns, support and wisdom.

Summer break

With the summer holiday on the horizon, Sam Findlay, our Health Lead, will be working on 22nd July, 12th August, 2nd Sept. So, if you wish, please contact her for advice related to health or behaviours (referrals, services, general concerns, access to care, behaviour management, health passport, navigating the care pathway, other health related resources).

Also, we will still be checking emails weekly, so whilst we might not respond as quickly as we normally do, please do contact us the usual way if you need us:

Email: office@downrightspecial.co.uk Telephone: Office: 01482 420160

We would like to wish all our Downright Special Families a healthy, happy summer break.