

# DISABILITY MATTERS

Issue 112

Spring Edition 2020

20 Pages

Welcome to Disability Matters, the newsletter for parents & carers of children & young people with disabilities in the Middlesbrough area.

In this edition of the long running newsletter, we feature information on the annual Big Event - a free family fun day which will be held at the Rainbow Centre, come along for fun and the chance to share your views in our consultation. There is also an Easter Disco to look forward to, as well as news and updates on a range of services and activities in the coming months.

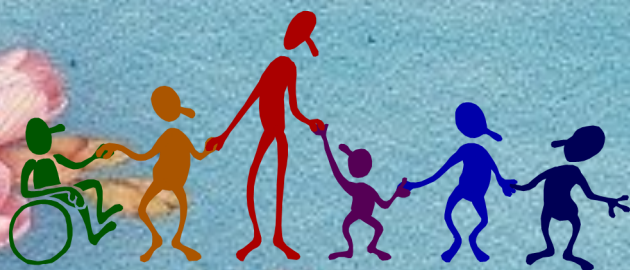


FIND THIS NEWSLETTER ONLINE ON THE CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES PAGE WITHIN MIDDLESBROUGH'S LOCAL OFFER WEBSITE: [WWW.MIDDLESBROUGH.GOV.UK/LOCALOFFER](http://WWW.MIDDLESBROUGH.GOV.UK/LOCALOFFER) AND DON'T FORGET TO JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP: [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/DISABILITYMATTERS1](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/DISABILITYMATTERS1)

*DISCLAIMER: Disability Matters is completed using contributions from external agencies, therefore the Children with Disabilities Team cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information provided by them. Any queries regarding this information should be raised with the organisation(s) directly. Featuring providers in this newsletter does not mean that Middlesbrough Borough Council is promoting the service or that there is any contractual / commissioning relationship with them. This newsletter is for information purposes only.*

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# UPCOMING PUBLIC EVENTS - SPRING EDITION 2020

## Boro vs Cardiff City

Saturday 25th April 2020 - 3pm kick off



Boro's final home game of the season sees them play hosts to Cardiff City at the Riverside. Can Boro finish their season on a high with a win over their Championship rivals and get revenge for their defeat in the reverse fixture earlier this season?

Visit [www.mfc.co.uk](http://www.mfc.co.uk) for more information on purchasing tickets, or call 01642 757691 for information on support available to fans with disabilities.

## Moon Song @ The Hullabaloo (Darlington)

Tickets: £7 each or £24 for family ticket



An enchanting and sensory adventure in space for young audiences on the autistic spectrum.

Moon Song tells the story of Megan who falls asleep dreaming of space where she sees comets, shooting stars and silvery creatures. Welcomed into the performance with relaxing music, audience members are invited to join Megan on a space-themed adventure.

This enchanting, intimate production is designed to put audience members at ease throughout, giving them space and time to move freely and experience the show in their own way.

Using Bamboozle's calm approach, incorporating invitation and interaction, this sensory show caters for groups of six children on the autistic spectrum along with their families. For more information, visit:

<https://www.enjoyteesvalley.com/whats-on/moon-song-p1049191>

All above events are subject to change. For any queries please contact them directly using the contact details provided.



If you would like to advertise any events, please call us on 01642 579160 to discuss this with a member of the team.



# Changing Places toilets In Middlesbrough

Changing Places are larger than standard accessible toilets and are designed for adults and children with complex needs and include a changing bench, a hoist, a toilet, often a shower and plenty of space.

There has been a national campaign for several years to raise the awareness of the need to have Changing Place (CP) toilets for people with profound and complex needs. Too many people cannot enjoy getting out and about in their communities due to the lack of suitable facilities or have to struggle with existing public toilets. **Changing Places toilets are now available in Middlesbrough at the following locations:**

- **Bus Station**
- **Neptune Leisure Centre, Rainbow Centre and Middlesbrough Sports Village**
- **James Cook University Hospital**
- **Cumberland Resource Centre x2 (Linthorpe)**
- **The Orchard x3 (Lansdowne Road)**
- **Stewart Park (behind the Visitors Centre)**
- **MyPlace (Customs House)**



A brand new Changing Places toilet has just opened at **Newham Grange Farm** in **Coulby Newham** close to the café and soft play area. Changing Place toilets should be designed to include:



1. **height adjustable changing bench/trolley**
2. **ceiling track hoist**
3. **adequate space (3x4m) for a disabled person and up to two carers**
4. **centrally placed toilet with grab bars**
5. **privacy screen/curtain**
6. **wide paper roll to cover the bench**
7. **large disposal bin**
8. **slip resistant floor**

A membership scheme is in place at the Bus Station only to ensure only people who need to use the Changing Place toilet can gain access to it to avoid it being abused. You can join the Changing Place membership scheme by taking two forms of ID to:

The Contact Centre, Middlesbrough House, Corporation Road, Middlesbrough TS1 2YQ.

**Please note you do not have to be a member to use the Changing Places toilets at any of the other locations in Middlesbrough.**

Please contact Middlesbrough Council on **01642 245432** for more information about the Changing Places toilets in Middlesbrough. Further details of national Changing Places toilets is available at [www.changing-places.org](http://www.changing-places.org) along with additional information, a location map of existing Changing Place toilets across the UK and real life stories.

# Middlesbrough Borough Council's Young Commissioners

In a way to include more children and young people in the commissioning process Middlesbrough Borough Council recently recruited a group of young people as volunteers to support with this task. These young commissioners (aged 13-19) were provided the full training and support as soon as they signed up so they could hit the ground running.

After finishing their initial training in January the group jumped straight into getting involved in the recommissioning of the Advocacy Service for children and young people commissioned by the five Tees Valley local authorities. The young commissioners role was to carry out consultation with children and young people, which they did in two ways:

- ⇒ Firstly, by developing an online questionnaire which was made available via the Councils consultation portal
- ⇒ Secondly by supporting in the organising and hosting a fun event which took place during the recent February half-term; this event was held at MyPlace.

These young volunteers have already made a fantastic contribution to the work that is being carried and will continue to get involved in the commissioning of any services aimed at children and young people.

This group is open to any young person, all they need to be able to do is to communicate within a team, support workers are more than welcome to attend the group with the young people if required. Meetings take place either after school or during school holidays on days and times agreed as a group.

If you or anyone you know may be interested in getting involved with the young commissioners group, is aged between 13-19 years old and is confident working as part of a group, please contact Sharon on 01642 729309

# MFC Foundation

**FREE** Football Sessions for children with disabilities. Held each week during school term times, see the table below for more details including sessions for a range of needs.

For more information contact Lee Grace 01642 757674 or [lee.grace@mfcfoundation.co.uk](mailto:lee.grace@mfcfoundation.co.uk)

Session	Age	Day	Time	Venue
Borobility - Blind & Partially Sighted	5-16	Every <b>Monday</b> during term time	4.00pm-5.00pm	The Kings Academy, TS8 0GA.
Borobility - Cerebral Palsy	5-16	Every <b>Tuesday</b> during term time	4.45pm-5.45pm	Acorn Centre, TS5 8QB.
Borobility - Deaf and Hard of Hearing	5-16	Every <b>Tuesday</b> during term time	5.45pm-6.45pm	Acorn Centre, TS5 8QB.
Borobility - U12's PAN Disability (All Disabilities)	5-11	Every <b>Wednesday</b> during term time	4.45pm-5.45pm	Acorn Centre, TS5 8QB.
Borobility - U16's PAN Disability (All Disabilities)	12-16	Every <b>Wednesday</b> during term time	5.45pm-6.45pm	Acorn Centre, TS5 8QB.



## Foundation



## SEND Parents/Carers Drop In Sessions

Come along to our SEND Drop in sessions, speak to members of the SEND Assessment team about your child, share your views around the Local Offer and services in Middlesbrough for children and young people with Special Educational Needs.

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March      at      Newport Community Hub  
1.00pm – 2.30pm                      St. Pauls Road, Middlesbrough, TS1 5NQ

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May        at        Thorntree Community Hub  
1.00pm – 2.30pm                      Birkhall Road, Middlesbrough, TS3 9JW

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June         at        Grove Hill Community Hub  
9.30am – 11.00am                      Bishopton Road, Middlesbrough, TS4 2RP

#### The Sound of MAIN

Do you enjoy dance, performing arts and musical theatre?  
Why not come along and join in the fun while making new friends?

Fridays 5-7pm. Age 5-18 years. £20 per session. Transport included. Siblings welcome.



#### Upcoming Training Courses

##### Introduction to the Autism Spectrum Disorders:

Dates: Thursday 5th March 9.30 am - 12 noon or Monday 20th April 9.30 am - 12 noon  
or Wednesday 20th May 9.30 am - 12 noon

Fees: Online booking: unpaid carers and people on autism spectrum £25; professionals £50 (+ booking fee).  
Invoice booking: unpaid carers and people on autism spectrum £50; professionals £80.

##### Behaviours that Challenge and the Autism Spectrum (Promoting Positive Behaviours):

Dates: Monday 16th March 9.30 am - 3.30 pm or Wednesday 29th April 9.30 am - 3.30 pm or Wednesday 6th May 9.30 am - 3.30 pm

Fees: Online booking: unpaid carers and people on autism spectrum £50; professionals £90 (+ booking fee). In-voice booking unpaid carers and people on autism spectrum £70; professionals £100.

##### How to Write Social stories:

Dates: Wednesday 11th March 9.30am - 3.30pm or Thursday 14th May 9.30am - 3.30pm

Fees: Online booking: unpaid carers and people on autism spectrum £50; professionals £90 (+ booking fee). In-voice booking: unpaid carers and people on autism spectrum £70; professionals £100.

##### Introduction to Pathological Demand Avoidance:

Date: Monday 18th May 9.30am - 12 noon

Fees: Online booking: unpaid carers and people on autism spectrum £25; professionals £50 (+ booking fee). In-voice booking: unpaid carers and people on autism spectrum £50; professionals £80.

##### Introduction to Social and Emotional Behavioural Difficulties:

Dates: Thursday 12th March 9.30am - 12 noon or Monday 11th May 2020, 9.30am - 12 noon

Fees: Online booking: unpaid carers and people on autism spectrum £25; professionals £50 (+ booking fee). Invoice booking unpaid carers and people on autism spectrum £50.; professionals £80.

##### ONE Awards - Level 2 Accredited course Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders:

Date: Thursday 2nd April 2020; 9.30am - 3.30pm

Fees: Online booking: £95 + booking fee. Invoice booking: £130.



# Specialist financial protection for those who need it most.

BESPOKE  
FINANCIAL  
*Extra Care*

## Bespoke Financial Extra Care “Exclusively Inclusive”

A new division of Bespoke Financial Group has been launched that will help families to protect themselves against the cost of passing away or becoming seriously ill.

Whilst Bespoke Financial Extra Care can help any family, they will have a particular focus on supporting those who have disabilities or who have caring responsibilities.

The difference between the Extra Care team and other financial advisers, is that they all have experience of supporting families affected by disabilities.

The organisation was developed by Simon Duffy who is the principle of the Extra Care division who met Stuart Myers at one of his motivational talks, delivered to Simon and his team. Simon was blown away by Stuart and his experiences and talks began quickly to develop the concept of Extra Care.

Simon currently is the Protection Manager at the organisations sister company Bespoke Financial Group and currently supports 32 advisers. Simon has worked within the industry for 5 years, although up until last year had worked with children and families with Learning disabilities as a Registered Manager, of children’s homes with Ofsted.

Stuart Myers is one of the Protection Advisers. Stuart was born without arms so has personal experience of the need for financial security whilst living with a disability. He also has 18 years experience of working within disability services, and managing financial support & advice services. In addition to that, Stuart has a wife and 2 children, and he understands the importance of protecting them should the worst happen. Stuart is very passionate about helping others achieve the same peace of mind for their families.

Sadly, it is a fact of life that people will get poorly and pass away. Having the correct level of life and critical illness cover can remove a huge burden at a very difficult

time in a person’s life and a package can be built to suit your budget.

Also in the Extra Care team are Angie Kerr who is a protection adviser like Stuart and Liam Senior who is a mortgage broker and will be able to support clients with their specific mortgage needs. Both have experience of working with people who have been affected by disability. They both bring extensive knowledge from different areas of expertise in the service and are committed to helping families gain protection.

All advice offered by the team is completely FREE of charge and appointments will be arranged to suit you.

For more information, please call 07590 547158



# CWD Easter

Face

FREE Disco

painting

Music

Dorman's Social Club

5pm until 8pm

Games

Thursday 9th April 2020

Come along for a fun night of music, dancing, games and more!

There is no need to book in advance, the event is free and the whole family is welcome! The event can get busy and spaces are limited, so arrive early to avoid disappointment.

# Children with Disabilities Team

## The Big Event Family Fun Day

*Face painting*

*Free Entry!!*

### Rainbow Leisure Centre

*Bouncy castles* 10am until 4pm *Arts & Crafts*

### Thursday 16th April 2020

The Big Event is a long running family fun day full of activities, games, bouncy castles, arts and crafts, face painting and much more! Your chance to share your views on issues affecting disability services.



*Share your views*

*Interactive Workshops*



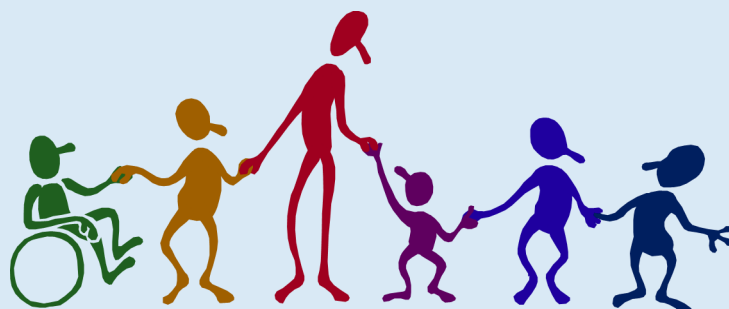
# Disability Matters has it's own Facebook Group!

If you are on Facebook and would like to find out more information about our events, services and support, then why not search for “Disability Matters—Middlesbrough” or go to [www.facebook.com/groups/DisabilityMatters1](http://www.facebook.com/groups/DisabilityMatters1) and request to join the group. There has never been a better time to join now that Disability Matters has gone digital and is no longer being printed.

The Disability Matters Closed Group will be available to join and used to advertise events and services that we feel may be of interest. It can also be used to engage with families in our area in order to gather their feedback and views on a variety of topics, it also allows us to keep you informed between editions of the newsletter.

However, this group should not be used instead of the established routes to contact the team, basic questions may answered if it is felt that other people may benefit from viewing the response, but individual cases and circumstances should be directed to the Children with Disabilities Team on 01642 579160 or to your social worker if you have one.

Any abusive, foul or inappropriate language or content being shared on the group will not be tolerated and anyone found to in breach of this will be expelled from the group and will not be permitted to re-join.





# Information for Parents/ Carers about the Davison Trust

**Have you considered making an application to the Davison Trust?**

**If you are going to apply for help with a holiday or outings during the summer you should try to send your application before the end of April.**

The Davison Trust for Children is a local charity which can help children and young people living in Middlesbrough who are sick, or who are recovering from an illness or who have a disability. The Trust does not have a lot of money - but sometimes a quite small amount of money can make a big difference. The Trust tries to help people who can not get help from anyone else. Examples of help provided by the Trust include:

- Helping to pay for a holiday where the family would not otherwise be able to have a break
- Helping to pay for carpets for a family who have had to move house because their child needs special accommodation
- Helping to replace a bed for a child who has broken their bed
- Helping to fund activities and outings which will help the child to have fun and which the family could not afford.
- Helping to provide a washing machine for a family where there is a lot of washing because of the child's special needs

Full details about the Charity and how to apply can be seen on the website [davisontrust.co.uk](http://davisontrust.co.uk)

Application forms are available from the website. The Charity only considers applications which are sent to the following address:

The Davison Trust for Children  
PO Box 519  
Middlesbrough  
TS1 9GS

The Trustees meet to consider applications every two months, so if you wish to ask for a contribution towards a summer holiday or summer activities you should make sure that your application is sent before the end of April.



# MIDDLESBROUGH SPORTABILITY CLUB

Holmwood School

**Saturday  
mornings 10am**

**Get active, play and have fun**

**MORE INFO**

**Email - [tj2408@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tj2408@hotmail.co.uk)**

**CALL 07988201107**

# DO YOU HAVE MONEY TO BURN?

DELIBERATE FIRES COST  
CLEVELAND COMMUNITIES  
OVER £17 MILLION IN 2018/19



**Arson is everyone's problem - let's tackle arson together:**

- Report issues such as fly-tipping in your area to [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com)
- Report incidents anonymously to Crimestoppers 0800 555 111
- Store bins and refuse securely away from your property



[www.clevelandfire.gov.uk](http://www.clevelandfire.gov.uk)



# Have you joined the Local Offer Facebook Group?

If you want to keep up to date with the latest developments with Middlesbrough's Local Offer, as well as find out about the latest events, services and activities, there is no better place than on the Local Offer Facebook Group.

The group has been established for over a year and is currently sharing information to over 200 people in our area. The group is updated regularly to ensure that you don't miss out of the latest news and events.

Simply visit [www.facebook.com/groups/LocalOfferMiddlesbrough/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/LocalOfferMiddlesbrough/) and request to join the group. Alternatively, you can search Local Offer Middlesbrough on Facebook.



## SUNDAY High Needs Session

3rd Sunday of the month.

Booking essential, bookings will open on the first Monday of the month.

**Session time 11am - 2pm.**

Relaxed family session for children who are unable to access our Saturday activity days due to their specific needs and the structure of the sessions.

Siblings welcome.  
Parental supervision required at all times.

**Variety of activities including soft play, sensory fun, outdoor play area and more!**  
**Opportunity to visit the outdoor animals after 1pm.**

**For further information and to book, please call the Care Team 01642 531248.**



**£6 for the 1st child, £3 per sibling.**







# Middlesbrough Local Offer

## Who is it for?

- Children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) from birth to 25 years
- Parents, carers and families
- Professionals

## What information does it provide?

- Education and training
- Early years and childcare
- Health and wellbeing
- Leisure activities
- Social care & support services
- Money and benefits & much more

For more information on Middlesbrough's Local Offer, please visit



[www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/localoffer](http://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/localoffer)

or call 01642 727 598

# maxcard



## Have you got your **FREE** Max Card yet?

The Max Card is a discount card for foster families and families of children with additional needs. Families simply show their Max Card upon entry to a venue in order to obtain free or discounted admission.

The scheme is designed to help these families save money on great days out at castles, zoos, bowling alleys and more. The card aims to provide a sense of community through stimulating learning experiences and enjoyable days out for everyone.

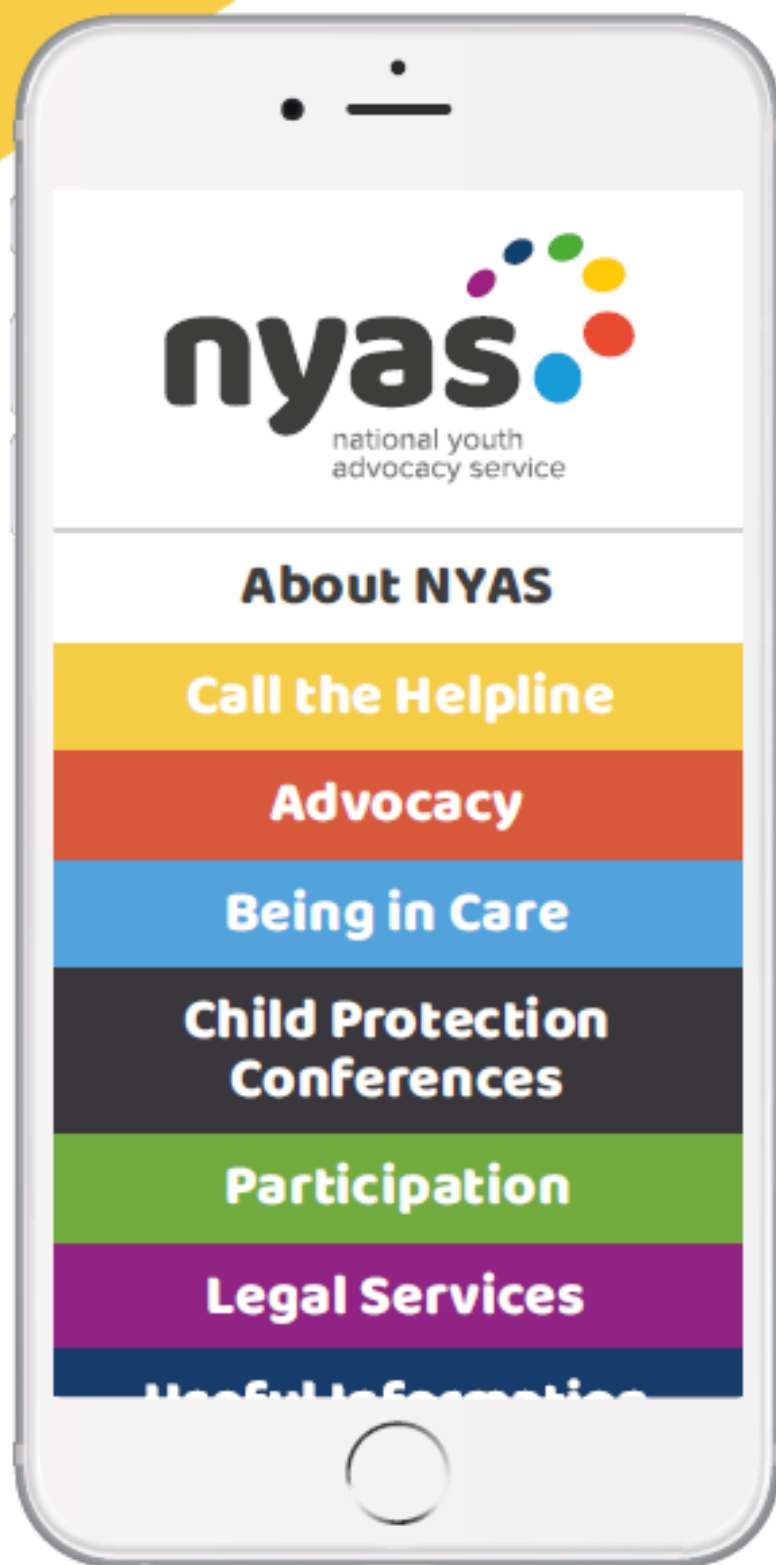
The cards are provided by local authorities and selected charities, who administer the cards to eligible families in their areas. If your Max Card is due to expire in May 2019, a new card can be provided if you contact the Children with Disabilities Team on 01642 579160.

For more information on the Max Card scheme and a list of the many venues that the card can be used at, please visit their website:

[www.mymaxcard.co.uk](http://www.mymaxcard.co.uk)

Or, for more information on how to apply for a Max Card, please call the Children with Disabilities Team and ask for a member of staff from Short Breaks on 01642 579160.

**New!**  
and free to download



## **NYAS Advocacy** Available on Mobile & Tablet

- The only advocacy app available for young people
- Direct contact to the NYAS helpline
- Content available offline
- Provides young people with information about a range of issues as well as rights and entitlements. Check it out now!



**Free to  
Download  
Now**

**Free to Download Now**



**[youngpeople.nyas.net](http://youngpeople.nyas.net)**

Registered Charity No. 1012485

# USEFUL NUMBERS

<i>Children with Disabilities Team</i> .....	01642 579160
<i>Multi-Agency Children's Hub (Social Work &amp; Occupation Therapy Referrals)</i>	01642 130700
<i>Daisy Chain</i> .....	01642 531248
<i>Parents 4 Change</i> .....	01642 200526 / 07584055639
<i>MAIN</i> .....	01642 608012
<i>Action on Hearing Loss</i> .....	01642 245114 / 07391017935
<i>SEND Single Point of Contact</i> .....	01642 201831
<i>Welfare Rights</i> .....	01642 729242
<i>South Tees Home Support Team</i> .....	01642 579178
<i>CAMHS / LD CAMHS</i> .....	01642 529720
<i>Darlington Association on Disability</i> .....	01642 049920
<i>Disability Living Allowance Helpline</i> .....	0800 121 4600

## GET IN TOUCH

Our aim is to provide you with useful information. If you have any thoughts about this newsletter or ideas for future issues let us know by phone, email or post. All feedback and contributions are gratefully received.

### CONTACT US BY

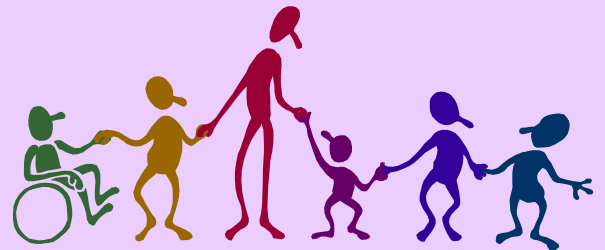
Telephone: **01642 579160**

Email: [disabilitymatters@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:disabilitymatters@middlesbrough.gov.uk)

Alternatively, please fill in the slip below and send it to:

**Children with Disabilities Team , 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Hemlington**

**Medical Centre, 21-25 The Viewley Hill Centre, Hemlington, Middlesbrough, TS8 9JH**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: