Paediatric Occupational Therapist June Marshall tells the story of Paige, a remarkable and inspiring young lady.

Paige has had a recent diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis; each individual experiences the condition differently. Paediatric Occupational Therapy has therefore been involved in the assessment of Paige’s needs at home and at school.

As a part of the assessment Paige was asked what she wanted to be able to achieve. Paige stated that she wanted to be able to continue to study in order to meet her own personal goal of achieving high grades in her GCSEs.

A very individual request for a desk and chair was written, which proceeded to the Children and Young People’s High Cost Equipment Panel. Panel members from health, education and social care consider applications for equipment based on criteria and individual assessed need.

The request was successful. Below are Paige’s own words describing the impact the equipment has made.

“It has really supported me with my studies and I don’t think I would have successfully managed to revise for my GCSEs without it. I am now doing my A Levels and plan to go onto University to study medicine.”

New CAMHS Family Support Service

We are part of Rotherham Parents Forum; but we have been commissioned by Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group to provide support to local families who have a child who is accessing, or needs to access child and adolescent mental health services.

We are a team of four coordinators, all of us have children with additional needs and have faced some of the challenges that you may be facing with your own child and family. Over time we will be training and supporting other parent/carer volunteers to offer peer to peer support.

The types of things we can help you with could include supporting you at meetings about your child and family; helping you to access a mental health service; sharing strategies to help you support your child and to help you stay positive and make contact with other families.

To find out more information please contact us on 01709 296262 or email camhsfss@rpcf.co.uk

www.rotherhamsendlocaloffer.org/s4s/WhereILive/Council?pageId=980 to see case studies in full.

To receive this newsletter for free register online at:

www.rotherhamsendlocaloffer.org/s4s/WhereILive/Council?pageId=980
Disability employment advice
Weekly at 1pm – 4pm, Mowbray Gardens Library, call 01709 370038
18+ advice and support for people with disabilities wanting to move into work. Get help to search and apply for jobs; find work and training placements to improve your skills and confidence. This is a drop in service, no appointment required.

Take advantage of great discounts on attractions this Easter with the MAX CARD. Get up to 53% off Merlin attractions.
Rotherham Parents Forum Limited are an official distributor of Max Cards, 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.
Cards can be purchased through Paypal at: http://www.rpcf.co.uk
or contact: 01709 296262

New Boccia sessions starting soon in ROTHERHAM
Boccia has been a competitive sport in the Paralympic Games since 1984 and can be played by individuals, pairs, or teams of three. All events are mixed gender. The aim of the game is to throw the coloured red or blue as close as they can to a white target ball. It's a great way to have fun!!
If you are interested in playing Boccia please email sportsdevelopment@rotherham.gov.uk or call 01709 353355.

Splash and Learn Swimming lessons for children and adults - can either be booked for one-on-one sessions or groups (no more than 6 in a group). Also welcome SEND children and adults, as can be tailored to one-on-one sessions. Baby Splash - aimed at children from 3 months onwards - offers a 3 month structured course. Please contact for session times.
Telephone: 0781 8681369 Email: splashandlearn@aol.com

Easter Fun and Frolics
Saturday 26 March 2016, All Saints Square and Minster Gardens, 10.30am – 3.30pm
Throughout the day there will be lots of games to join in with, Easter crafts to make and take home, and Nature Safari are bringing a range of animals. Plus, the Mad Hatter’s Tea Party Show will be there to entertain you, and friendly creatures Professor Bramble and Mistress Nutkins will be delighting all ages as they make their way around town, so be sure to say hello!
For more information call 01709 835904

The Jonas Trust
is accepting applications for subsidised holidays.
We are a small charity that can offer holiday subsidies.
The Jonas Centre is in Wensleydale, North Yorkshire and has 12 self-catering log cabins. To become a partner organisation or to be referred for a subsidised holiday visit contact us.
For further information visit www.jonascentre.org or call 01969 624900.

Rotherham short breaks facility celebrates ‘good’ Ofsted report
Rotherham’s Liberty House, a short breaks facility for children with disabilities and behavioural issues, has received a rating of ‘good’ following an Ofsted inspection last month.
The Rotherham Council-run residential care home, which offers a breaks service for children aged 8 to 18, received positive acclamation from inspectors, who praised Liberty’s ‘sustained effectiveness’ as being a key factor in their final decision.

G O O D  N E W S

Post Diagnosis Support Booklet
Collaborative work between families and services is going on in the Local Authority around how to support families after receiving a diagnosis of autism for one of their children. Part of this work is the production of a Basic Strategies to Support Children with Autism (and other social communication difficulties) booklet.
Following a trial with identified families it is hoped that the booklet will become widely available after Easter. Further information will be available after the initial trials.

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BECOME A YOUNG INSPECTOR AND YOU CAN:
• Make sure services are meeting standards
• Make sure the voices of Rotherham’s most vulnerable are heard
• Act on behalf of Rotherham’s children and young people

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RMBC is placing young people at the heart of inspecting services delivered to children, young people and their families

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Rotherham Parents Forum Support Group
for parents and carers of children with additional needs, this is held monthly at Bramley Sunnyside Junior School on the following dates: **13/4/16, 18/5/16, 15/6/16, 13/7/16 1pm – 3pm**
If you’re child attends schools in Bramley, Sunnyside, Flanderwell and Wickersley please feel free to come and join us for a chat and refreshments.
RPFL can also visit support groups in schools or local areas, so please get in touch.
If interested or you would like more information please contact Jo Pilgrim on jo@rpcf.co.uk or call 07903761703 for more information.

Kimberworth Park Opening Doors Project – Tackling loneliness and Isolation
This project aims to tackle isolation and loneliness in the Kimberworth Park area through providing support and opportunities for young people, families and older people.
The Opening Doors project are keen to hear from anyone in the local area who feels they may benefit from this project or people who are interested in volunteering to help support others.
The team can be contacted at: The Chislett Centre, Kimberworth Park Road, S61 3JT (01709) 559805 or openingdoors@kimberworthpark.org.uk

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The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust
Learning Disabilities Lead Nurse - making visiting Rotherham Hospital easier for patients with additional needs.
Hospitals can be a daunting and stressful experience for patients with a learning disability.
Jennifer Turedi is the Trust’s learning disabilities Lead Nurse and helps to ensure easy access to care and treatment for young people and adults with a learning disability. The ‘Hospital Passport’ is used to provide patients and their families with the opportunity to record important information about a person’s everyday needs and wishes. The form should be completed by someone who knows the patient really well, ideally prior to them coming into hospital.
If you have a forthcoming hospital appointment and would like to find out more about the support available, please contact Jennifer on 01709 428371.

For up to date information on activities and events for disabled children or to go to: www.rotherhamsendlocaloffer.org or contact Andy Lound tel: 01709 336423 email: andrew.lound@rotherham.gov.uk