

Aiming High – Short Breaks Newsletter

April 2023

Edition 13



Welcome to the latest edition of the Aiming High – Short Breaks newsletter

To find a list of activities in your area, please go to the Aiming High page:

[Aiming High - Activities and short breaks | Staffordshire Connects](#)

Click on the calendar for a specific area or the grey area to see a whole week or month's activities. If your child/young person would like to take part in an activity or have any questions, **please call 0300 111 8007 (option 2, option 3)**

We want to make sure that bookings for our activities are accessible to everyone and so if you are unable to contact our booking team via the telephone, please email

sendreferrals@staffordshire.gov.uk

Please include information on your child's name, date of birth and the activity provider and date you are interested in.

Don't forget it is **two free** sessions in May and June

Booking your activities ...

Booking for May will **start on May 2nd**, and you have **until the 10th of May** to book your free activities, **from the 11th** you can call up to book additional activities but there may be a charge by the Provider as Staffordshire County Council will fund two free places. Expression of Interest activities will be confirmed as soon as possible after the 10th, in order for you to look at other activities.

Contact us at the inbox ...

Please remember, if you have any questions, queries, feedback or just general comments, please send us an email to the Aiming High inbox and also if you want to be added to our mailing list: aiminghigh@staffordshire.gov.uk



News and updates ...

Booking line telephone number ...

The booking line has had a slight change to the number, as of the 24th April, you will now need to call:

0300 111 8007 (option 2, then option 3) **it has changed from option 5 to option 3*

Staffordshire Wildlife ...



Our Home Education Skills sessions follow the Forest School ethos to develop learning through play and are child-led. The sessions aim to provide children and parents the opportunity to connect with the outside world and to learn a range of new skills. Activities may include fire lighting, tool use, shelter building, wildlife identification and a variety of outdoor crafts and games. Come and give it a go! We endeavour to finish the sessions with a campfire toasting marshmallows or similar (weather permitting) Suitable for ages 6 plus but younger siblings are welcome.

Next sessions will be:

16.5.23 Wolseley Centre: 10.30 – 1.30. The Wolseley Centre, Wolseley Bridge, Stafford ST17 0WT

23.5.23 Biddulph Grange Country Park: 10.30 – 12.30. Biddulph Grange Country Park ST8 7TZ, follow signs from the Hideaway Café.

Chuckle Productions ... (See attached poster)

Run their Kaleidoscope evenings for young people over the age of 18 at Stone Cricket Club on the following dates:

Wednesday 17th May 6.30 – 9.00pm

Wednesday 21st June 6.30 – 9.00pm

Wednesday 12th July 6.30 – 9.00pm



Stone Cricket Club. Facebook: @artshedkaleidoscope

Tickets: www.ticketsource.co.uk/chuckle-productions

DISCO – DJ- DANCING – BAR – FRIENDS (Tickets £5)

Families Health and Wellbeing Service ...

Have just launched their annual survey for the Families Health and wellbeing (0-19) service.

This survey is aimed at families with children and young people who have used the service in the last year. Please can you share with your networks and providers to promote it please.

The survey will run until 19th May 2023. Here's the link and QR code:

<https://forms.microsoft.com/e/XfNzRhCWSH>

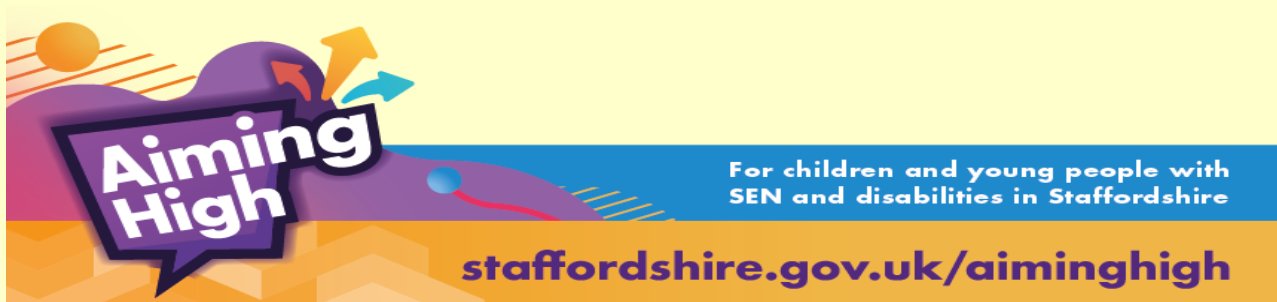
Families Health and Wellbeing
Service (0-19) Annual Survey



Feedback ...

We will be sending out feedback forms after some activities over the next few months to children/young people's families, in order to ensure our programme delivery meets the requirements of the children/young people and their families. We would be grateful if you could complete the form and give us any additional feedback if we send one out to you. We would also love to have any comments/pictures/words from the children/young people who attend our activities.

If an activity has been really enjoyed or made a difference to your child/young person, please send me an email and I can feature them in the coming newsletters.



Gartmore Riding School ...



MONDAY 8TH MAY



GARTMORE RIDING SCHOOL ARE DOING OUR OWN BIG HELP OUT AT ON THE MORNING OF THE 8TH MAY, FROM 10.30AM UNTIL 12.30PM.

Our Big Help out is for local carers and the people they care for, offering them the opportunity to spend a peaceful morning with us to enjoy morning coffee and biscuits and have a 'Meet a Pony' opportunity.

If you would like to give A Big Help Out here, we would be very grateful for time you can donate on the 8th May. We need people who can help with serving drinks and refreshments, who can show our visitors around the site and who can help with the 'Meet a Pony' part of the morning and to help us clear up at the end of the session.

If you can volunteer, please email me on gartmoreridingschool@googlemail.com or text on 07398 452481 to confirm your availability.

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU FOR THIS CHANCE TO HELP OUT AGAIN!



**Staffordshire
Together for Carers
Service**

Places still available in May:

Caudwell Children Purple Explorers at:

- 6.5.23 – Keele, 9:00 – 12:00pm
- 7.5.23 – Burton, 9:00 – 12:00pm
- 7.5.23 – Lichfield, 2:00 – 5:00pm
- 20.5.23 – Tamworth, 2:00 – 5:00pm
- 21.5.23 – Leek, 9:00 – 12:00pm

Doves Care:

- 26.5.23 – Tenpin bowling at Stafford, 5:00 – 7:00pm
- 29.5.23 – Peak wildlife park, 10:00 – 1:00pm
- 29.5.23 – Crazy golf and table tennis Newcastle, 2:00 – 5:00pm
- 30.5.23 – Holly bush garden centre, 10:00 – 1:00pm

Chuckle Productions:

- 10.5.23 – Chuckle Chillout, 5:00 – 7:15pm

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust:

- 16.5.23 – Home education Wildskills Wolseley, 10:30 – 1:30pm
- 23.5.23 – Home education Wildskills at Biddulph Wolseley, 10:00 – 12:30pm
- 30.5.23 – Wildfamilies at Biddulph Grange, 1:30 – 3:30pm

Let Us Play

- 7.5.23 – Coronation Street Party, 3:00 – 5:00pm **CUT OFF FOR BOOKINGS Wednesday 3rd May**

Stoke City Community Trust:

- Ability Counts at Rugeley on a Wednesday 6:00 – 8:00pm
- Ability Counts at Gnosall on a Thursday 4.30 – 6.30pm
- Ability Counts at Audley on a Friday 4.30 – 6.30pm
- Match Day Experiences:
 - with Match Day parking.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BOOK IF YOU USUALLY ATTEND THE ABILITY COUNTS SESSIONS

Some Ability Counts sessions have been cancelled this month due to unforeseen circumstances, the following dates will **not be running**:

4.5.23/25.5.23 Gnosall, 24.5.23 Rugeley, 26.5.23 Audley

We apologise for any inconvenience caused

Staffordshire Connects ...

We are pleased to announce that Staffordshire Connects has been upgraded and had a change of design to make it more user friendly and accessible for users. Our Aiming High page has been updated and upgraded please see below ...

The link which you have used in the past will still get you there!

The screenshot shows the Staffordshire Connects website. At the top is the logo with three stylized figures and the text 'STAFFORDSHIRE CONNECTS'. Navigation links include Home, Families, SEND, Care Leavers, Adults, and Contact Staffordshire Connects. A search bar is present with the placeholder text 'What are you looking for today? Enter key words to search'. The main content area is titled 'Aiming High - Activities and short breaks'. It features a calendar for April 2023 with the 26th highlighted. To the right of the calendar are buttons for 'Today', 'Tomorrow', 'Next 7 Days', 'Next 30 Days', and 'Any Day'. Below these is a section titled 'Aiming High Short Break Activities' which describes the program as being for children and young people aged 0-18 with a special educational need/disability (SEND). It lists two goals: 'boost children and young people's confidence' and 'and independence'. A sidebar on the right contains a 'Directory Feedback' button. The bottom of the page has a footer with the URL 'staffordshire.gov.uk/aiminghigh'.

STAFFORDSHIRE CONNECTS

Accessibility Language Sign In / Register

Home Families SEND Care Leavers Adults Contact Staffordshire Connects My shortlist 0

What are you looking for today? Enter key words to search

Home / Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Local Offer / Places to go, things to do / Aiming High - Activities and short breaks

Aiming High - Activities and short breaks

What's on calendar

April 2023

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6

Today Tomorrow Next 7 Days Next 30 Days Any Day

Aiming High Short Break Activities

Aiming High is a programme of activities and short breaks for children and young people aged 0-18 years old with a special educational need/disability (SEND) who live in Staffordshire. Activities are available to anyone with a need. An Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) is not needed.

The programme is designed to:

- boost children and young people's confidence
- and independence.

Some activities are open to the whole family while other activities are suitable for children and young people to attend independently.

Directory Feedback

staffordshire.gov.uk/aiminghigh

Not attending or need to cancel ...

PLEASE can you cancel any place with as much notice as possible if you are not able to attend an activity which you have booked, we have had several occasions when children/families **just do not turn up** to an activity they have booked – this means that other children could have missed out on a place. We will be monitoring non-attendance in order that we can ensure we do not have empty spaces that have been booked and planned for by the providers.

Thank you – Aiming High Team

