

**ASSOCIATION OF
PAEDIATRIC
CHARTERED
PHYSIOTHERAPISTS**

NEWSLETTER



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CONTENTS

APCP Matters	3
APCP Conference 2010	7
APCP Posters and Leaflets	10
Research and Education	11
APCP Survey	12
Reports from APCP Regions	13
Reports from APCP Specialist Groups	16
Focus on Working Lives	19
Dreamflight	22
Here and There	24
Kidz Exhibitions/	27

The Editorial Board does not necessarily agree with opinions expressed in articles and correspondence, and does not necessarily endorse courses and equipment advertised.

We would like to apologise for the late distribution of this Newsletter.

Future editions of the Newsletter will be distributed in April, July and October 2010.

The APCP Journal will be distributed in April and October 2010.

The APCP Newsletter aims to disseminate information about APCP activities and about the paediatric physiotherapy profession and services for the children and families that we work with. We would therefore welcome contributions from APCP members – please contact the APCP Administrator:

APCP PO BOX 610 HUNTINGDON PE29 9FJ va@apcp.org.uk www.apcp.org.uk

APCP Matters

APCP Annual Conference 2010

The Annual Conference and AGM took place at Queen's University in Belfast in November 2009. It was another successful conference with over 170 delegates attending over the two days. The programme was varied and challenging and delegates particularly enjoyed the sessions on Legal Issues (Rosemary Wilson) and Medical Ethics (Bob Taylor). The interactive sessions with young disabled athletes were also very well received.

A selection of the conference presentations are available to view on the members' pages of the APCP website.

As ever, an important aspect of conference is the social events and networking time. This year the Conference Dinner took place in the prestigious surroundings of the Great Hall at Queen's University. Before dinner, members were entertained by a talented local group of Rhythmic Gymnasts. Dinner was followed by highly energetic salsa dancing – an opportunity to burn off a few calories!

A huge 'Thank You' to the members of the Organising Committee – pictured below – for all their hard work.

The report below was presented to APCP members by Laura Wiggins, APCP Chair, at the recent AGM in Belfast and summarises APCP's activities during 2009. The full minutes of the AGM will be available shortly for members to view on the APCP website.

Chairman's Report 2008-09

I would like to welcome you to the 36th Annual General meeting of the Association of Paediatric Chartered Physiotherapists and to thank Northern Ireland region for hosting this meeting.

'Enabling' is the essence of paediatric physiotherapy practice with our interventions being aimed at restoring, maintaining and improving a child's function; maximising their potential; promoting inclusion; and improving quality of life. To those aims, APCP has continued to promote the role and benefits of paediatric physiotherapy, to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and to support best practice for those working with children and young people.

Children's services are characterised by their complexity and the interdependency of key services including Health, Education and Social Services. Providing services where care is integrated, children are safe and families are considered, challenge many of our existing practices and beliefs and move us towards new ways of working. All of this takes place within a framework of ongoing organisational



change and differing legislation from the 4 countries.

In 2009 we reduced the number of National Committee meetings to 3 with additional meetings taking place the evening before the full day session. As many committee members require overnight accommodation, this arrangement optimised the time available for meetings. It also allowed us more time for Regional Representatives to meet together to discuss common issues, challenges and solutions; and similarly the representatives from APCP's Specialist Groups. The Specialist Groups (Neonatal Care, Musculoskeletal, Neuromuscular and PPIMS) defined their operating structures and organisational objectives. The Critical Care Group is dormant at present. We were also aware of the cost of full committee meetings and the increasing difficulty committee members have getting leave to attend. Much of the business of the committee is now carried out by e-communication with smaller group meetings held throughout the year to progress specific pieces of work.

Fiona Moore has continued in the role Virtual Administrator and contracting specific administration tasks such as processing membership, administration of the website and arrangements for meetings and courses has made us more efficient and is more cost effective than our previous arrangement.

We continue to collaborate with Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP) and to represent paediatric physiotherapy on behalf of the CSP. The 'Working together CIG/OG' project continues. CSP recognises that CI/OGs undertake important roles and provide essential expertise in key areas of work and are looking at a new model of 'focusing the work of CIOGs around key areas of the profession's work which could potentially maximise their impact, strengthen the links across the profession, reduce duplication and give the profession greater impact'. CSP is also seeking to strengthen the link with CIOG's and their governance structures.

Our contribution to the 'Charting the Future: a Physiotherapy Framework' has helped highlight the diversity of paediatric practice and the range of competencies required. We have just received an update on the framework and a further consultation sheet. Paediatric physiotherapy clinical competencies continue to be a topic of interest for our members.

CSP invited us to contribute on their behalf, to the NHS Education Scotland (NES) project around pre/post registration education for AHP's working

in children services. We contributed to Connecting for Health - Influencing the NHS England clinical content programme and represented physiotherapy at the NHS Workforce Review Team's Children's Workforce meeting, attended by Di Coggings the PPIMS group representative.

We have been invited to participate in the Care Quality Commission review of support for families with disabled children. This review will look at the delivery and commissioning of specialist health services for families with disabled children and includes an assessment of the quality of care in a geographical area linked to PCT boundaries.

In July we invited Bridget Hurley, CSP Project Officer, to National Committee to discuss Move for Health; a three year campaign which aims to encourage the public to take appropriate exercise, increase levels of physical activity and to promote the role that physiotherapists can play in preventing ill health and combating obesity. We contributed to the planning, preparation and materials for the Healthy School Day on 23 September. There was extensive media coverage of this event around the UK. I found leading an event stimulating and informative and can recommend the materials on the CSP Move for Health web pages.

Further raising the profile of paediatric physiotherapy, our PRO Chris Sneade and committee members have produced articles for Frontline highlighting our work for children with complex disability and the activities and benefits of membership of the Association. We are currently updating our leaflets and posters. The committee is also working to increase content of the APCP web pages and would welcome comment and contribution from the membership. We continue to recognise the valuable contribution made by the interactive CSP website and the work of the moderators. It is our aim that the two sites will be complimentary – not in competition.

In support of clinical excellence and best practice:

- Adare Brady contributed to the Neonatal Taskforce AHP working group, producing standards for equitable high quality neo-natal services across England;
- Jeanne Hartley reviewed RCN paediatric pain guidelines and contributed to the Baby Hip Health Campaign;
- the draft topic on Osgood-Schlatter's disease that is currently being developed by the NHS Clinical Knowledge Summaries authoring team is being reviewed by the MSK clinical group.

Our number of information products increased:

- the CSP' Evidence Note on Positional Talipes was developed by the Neonatal Group – in particular

Denise Hart and Fiona Price – utilising the CSP’s SKIPP process;

- ‘Guidance for Physiotherapists: Giving Advice for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs’ was launched in paper and downloadable format and has been supported with study days;
- Standing guidance has been submitted by a team lead by Sue Bush and is being prepared for publishing;
- we are currently in the process of reviewing our guidance on OBPP and on paediatric manual handling.

Sue Coombe is taking forward the national survey of physiotherapists’ time spent with children with cerebral palsy and their carers over a period of one year. The aim is to determine how much therapy physiotherapists working in the NHS are providing for children with cerebral palsy and to provide physiotherapists with a national reference against which their own advice can be set.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to the committee members and willing volunteers who take forward these projects in addition to work commitments and in their own time.

We continue in our aim to produce a journal that is recognised by scientific data bases, but recognise that this may be a challenging long term project. A decision was taken not to publish the journal in July to ensure quality copy for October. The journal will be published in April and October. For the journal we have moved away from submission deadlines in order to encourage a continuous cycle of submission. We will continue to publish the newsletter each quarter and once again urge members to contribute to both.

This year we have been in a position to offer further research bursaries and applications are being considered.

In an interesting development, this year we have had requests for support from families and physiotherapists overseas. This included request for assessment of a child’s needs and to provide a paediatric course to physiotherapists in Cyprus – APCP goes global!

In 2010 we anticipate the need for a working weekend to review the structure of our committee and committee roles. It is likely that we will once again review the issue of paediatric physiotherapy competencies.

As has almost become custom at this point I would like to thank Linda Fisher and Lorna Stybelska who will complete their terms of office and stand down from National Committee. Linda has been CIG Liaison Officer and short term secretary, and Lorna has been Publications Officer. Dawn Pickering leaves her post as education officer to pursue interesting challenges in research.

All have contributed tirelessly to our publications, committee workshops, courses and the general business of APCP. We will miss their energy and enthusiasm. Sue Coombe is also stepping down as CIG Liaison/Diversity officer, but will continue on national committee. We are also to lose Adare Brady and Jenny Sinclair from Northern Ireland. Adare has made a huge contribution over the years (former chair and founder member of the Neonatal Care Group) and Jenny has been instrumental in the arrangement of this conference. We hope to see them again in the future.

My thanks to the committee and to APCP members who continue to support the Association, proving our commitment resilience and dedication to the ‘enabling profession’.

Laura Wiggins
APCP Chair

CSP Fellowship Awarded to Terry Pountney

In 2009 National Committee elected to nominate Terry Pountney for a CSP Fellowship and we are pleased to announce that a fellowship was conferred on Terry at the CSP’s annual ceremony in November. Fellowships are awarded to CSP members of at least 10 years’ standing who have made a major contribution to moving the profession forward.

Terry is recognised for her contribution to the advancement of physiotherapy in neurodisability for adults, children and young people. Her work in clinical practice, paediatric physiotherapy and education and research is of the highest standard and she has advanced understanding of postural management and its links to physiotherapy intervention. She is widely respected for her expertise in research and its application to practice.



Members of National Committee – Belfast November 2010

Review of Clinical Interest and Occupational Group (CIOG) Structure

In 2008 the CSP began a review of the CIOG structure. The current structure has been in place since 1985 and there are currently 39 recognised CI/OGs and 22 unrecognised groups.

The review seeks to strengthen the relationship between the CSP and the CI/OGs and draws on work from earlier reviews. The CI/OGs are both needed and valued by the CSP but at the moment there is an increasing lack of clarity about roles, relationships and accountability and neither the CSP nor the CI/OGs are getting the best from each other. The CSP's aim is to find ways to harness the expertise and added value of the CI/OGs for the benefit of the profession as a whole, and to ensure that all parts of the CSP are pulling together in the same direction.

In December 2009 CSP Council considered the report, 'Review of the CIOG Structure' produced by Sh n Nicholas of Equality Works. This report was based on a consultation exercise with a number of CI/OG members and CSP staff, an assessment of work undertaken in previous reviews, and identification of potential options. APCP was involved with this initial consultation in 2008.

The consultation report sets out key areas for consultation taken from the main report.

- Proposals to strengthen governance and administrative arrangements

- Proposals for the creation of time limited and focused policy fora
- Proposals for the creation of broad alliance groups
- Proposals for new re-recognition criteria

CSP is keen to consult with the membership as widely as possible before finalising the new arrangements and as such the full report and consultation documents have been available for members to view on the CSP's website: <http://www.csp.org.uk/director/members/groupsandnetworks/clinicalinterestandoccupationalgroups.cfm>

APCP would encourage members to read the consultation document and to submit their responses to this process. National Committee recently met to discuss the proposals and APCP's official response to the consultation – we will be finalising our response by the end of this month (March 2010) and so would welcome comments/opinions from our members – please send comments to va@apcp.org.uk no later than Friday, 26th March 2010. Alternatively all members are invited to submit their responses individually via the CSP website.

The results of this consultation will be collated in April with a final report back to SMT and Management Group in May and Council in June 2010. Changes to the CIOG structure should be implemented from June 2010.



APCP National Conference
November 12th & 13th 2010

‘Function for the Future’

Techno Centre, Coventry





APCP Conference 2010
West Midlands
12th - 13th November

‘Function for the Future’

CALL FOR CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS

Abstracts should be submitted by 1st July 2010 in electronic format to the APCP Administrator - va@apcp.org.uk.

The abstracts will be selected by peer review according to the ‘Rules and Guidance for Authors’ that is available from the APCP website or from the APCP Administrator.

Three abstracts will be chosen for oral presentation. Other selected accepted abstracts will be presented in poster format.

The selected abstracts will be published in APCP’s Conference Proceedings.



FUNCTION FOR THE FUTURE

DRAFT PROGRAMME



Friday 12 November 2010

09.00 - 09.45	Registration
09.45 - 10.45	Chronic Fatigue Syndrome - Esther Crawley
10.45 - 11.15	Coffee & Exhibition
11.15 - 11.45	Free Paper Session
11.45 - 12.30	Spina Bifida Survey Feedback - Geraldine Long
12.45 - 13.45	Lunch
13.45 - 14.30	Neonates Lecture - title and speaker TBC
14.30 - 15.30	Transition - Kathie Drinan
15.30 - 16.00	Coffee & Exhibition
16.00 - 16.30	Free Paper Session
16.30 - 17.00	The Gap Between Acute and Community Respiratory Services – Shabnam Moledina
17.00 - 18.15	Exhibition
19.30 / 20.00	Conference Dinner

Saturday 13 November 2010

09.00 - 09.30	Registration
09.30 - 10.30	Outcome Measures – title TBC – Margaret Mayston
10.30 - 10.50	Jenx Award
10.50 - 11.20	Coffee & Exhibition
11.20 - 12.00	APCP AGM
12.00 - 13.00	FES – Christine Singleton
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch
14.00 - 14.30	Dogs for the Disabled
14.30 - 15.00	APCP Survey Update – Sue Coombe
15.00 - 15.30	Free Paper Session
15.30 - 16.30	Inherited Metabolic Disease – Liz Wright
16.30	Close of Conference – tea to finish

All timings, lecture titles and speakers are currently subject to change.



NEW!!

APCP POSTERS AND LEAFLETS

With this copy of the newsletter you should have received a sample of APCP's new leaflet:

*'Physiotherapy for Children
Fit for Play ... Fit for Life'*

We have also produced a series of 3 A2-sized posters - reflecting the same images and titles.

The leaflet will be used as promotional material for distribution at events such as the Kidz Exhibitions and Celtic Kidz. We would also be happy for members to use the leaflets for similar promotional events or for distribution to parents and professionals.

The posters could be displayed to promote both paediatric physiotherapy and APCP.



Both the leaflets and posters are available to APCP members only.

POSTERS – 1 complimentary set per member (upon request)

LEAFLETS – packs of 50 available for cost of post and packing (£2.50/pack)

Members requiring posters only should contact the
APCP Administrator – va@apcp.org.uk

Members requiring leaflets should send request and payment (cheques payable to 'APCP') to:

APCP, PO Box 610, Huntingdon, PE29 9FJ

Please remember to include your name, membership no. and a delivery address!!

Research & Education

This is my last report in the role of Education Officer for APCP. I would like to thank the National Committee for their support and encouragement during the past 4 years. Following on from my very able predecessors -Terry Pountney and Adele Leake - I would like to summarise how I think I have made a difference to the education agenda for APCP.

We have begun to accredit suitable courses to give some quality assurance standards. We have developed the Advanced Practitioner Course in Paediatric Orthopaedics to add to the Advanced Practitioner Course in Cerebral Palsy, as well as developing a study day to support the updated SEN document.

The Introduction to Paediatrics Course has run less frequently but has been managed by regions and the first inter-professional course (OT and PT) was run in Basingstoke in 2009 organised by Julia Graham and Rebecca Mills. The first Assistant's Course was run in 2006 on a national basis; however this was considered not cost effective for the membership and could be run at a regional level more efficiently.

By invitation, Jeanne Hartley and myself presented the Advanced Practitioner in Orthopaedics Course in Cyprus and so we are getting APCP on the map internationally!

I have had the opportunity to sit on an expert therapy panel on behalf of APCP, where therapy services were put out for tender. This was a challenging process but was handled in a fair manner and the decision has now been implemented.

The added value of having as administrator to manage the courses has been invaluable. I would like to echo what Fiona wrote in the newsletter that if you can offer a cheap venue and want a free place, APCP would be happy to run a course in your region.

APCP have secured a place on the British Association of Childhood Disability (BACD) and it has been agreed that the research officer and education officer would be alternates at these meetings twice a year.

I have enjoyed my time in this role; it has given me the chance to keep in touch with current practice and research with children and to make many new friends. I hope to maintain these links through my research activities (some of you might have seen the Pedal Power poster where we are looking at the effects of adapted dynamic cycling for children with CP) and will be happy to teach on future courses if that is required.

It's time for me to move on and I know that new people will bring fresh energy to the post and to develop it further for the benefit of APCP members. Two people have expressed an interest so watch this space for the announcement of my replacement. Diolch yn fawr (thank you)

Dawn Pickering
Education Officer

Research Bursaries

We advertised the next round of APCP Research Bursaries in 2009. Having made the process more rigorous by asking that those applying already have NRES approval, we now feel that this might have deterred potential applicants from applying. We will therefore be amending our criteria such that the process of IRAS should be underway, but could be pending rather than completed, at the time of APCP's application.

Further information about applying for an APCP Research Bursary will be available shortly on the APCP website.

Lesley Katchburian
Research Officer

APCP NATIONAL SURVEY TO ESTABLISH INTERVENTION LEVELS IN THE NHS FOR CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

Reasons for the Survey, and what we are aiming to achieve.

There is a lack of evidence to support how much, or what type of, intervention is required by children with cerebral palsy (CP). However, physiotherapists are increasingly asked to provide specific advice, particularly for education or legal reports, and for tribunals.

In the absence of such evidence, this survey aims to provide a national reference against which we can set our own advice by establishing the amount of direct intervention physiotherapists are currently providing for children with CP, at different severity levels and age groups, across the NHS in the UK.

However, it is important to emphasize that the survey will not establish whether the amount of time spent on interventions makes a measurable difference to the outcome for children with CP.

Survey method

Information about time spent over one year is needed for 2000 children, spread across geographical areas in the UK, and across the age groups and severity levels as described in the Gross Motor Function Classification System (GMFCS). Each physiotherapist completes a short questionnaire at 3-monthly intervals for each child included. Identities of both the child and the therapist must not be disclosed on the form, and physiotherapists need to obtain permission from their managers to participate.

The survey data is being collected for two years, starting in January 2009. A large number of participants started from January 2009, and more have joined during the year, until the last starting date of January 2010. Data collection will therefore be finished in December 2010. Participants send in the completed survey forms every three months for entry onto the database.

Recruitment to date

(a) Numbers of participating teams or individual physiotherapists

There has been a great deal of interest from a wide geographical spread across the UK. So far we have received data from a total of 75 participating teams or individual physiotherapists; with 8 more who have recently started the survey, and are yet to send



in their first set of forms. There are a further 13 volunteers from the earlier months who have either dropped out, or have not made any further contact.

(b) Numbers of children entered on the database based on age groups and severity levels

SEVERITY LEVEL	NUMBERS (all ages)
GMFCS I	379
GMFCS II	322
GMFCS III	212
GMFCS IV	274
GMFCS V	393
TOTAL	1580

AGE GROUP	NUMBERS (all severity levels)
0-2 years	122
2-4 years	215
4-6 years	249
6-12 years	620
12-18 years	374
TOTAL	1580

It can be seen from the figures so far, we need more children in GMFCS level III, and more in the age group 0-2. We have made further appeals to increase numbers in these categories, and have had a very positive response, particularly from the Neonatal Group, with more volunteers who have promised to start the survey from January 2010.

On behalf of APCP, I would like to thank all of the physiotherapists who have helped with this important survey so far. More numbers are needed, so if you still feel you can help by joining the survey from January 2010, please contact me:

Sue Coombe
Tel: 01603 286333
Email: sue.coombe@nnuh.nhs.uk

Reports from APCP Regions

EAST ANGLIA

Hopefully a number of you were able to attend Conference in Belfast in November. It was a great opportunity for me to meet up with some old friends, make some new ones, and to meet colleagues from our area. We were all made extremely welcome by our Irish hosts. The programme was very full and the entertainment fabulous. A hard act to follow - which is a bit unfortunate for us as that is exactly what we are going to be doing!!

East Anglia Region will be hosting the APCP Conference in 2011. This might sound like a long way off to you but I can assure you all there is a lot to do in order to ensure that we too are able to offer an exciting, stimulating and entertaining programme, such as has been the case over the past few years and the East Anglia Committee have already met to start preliminary plans.

For me a successful conference is one that delivers a programme which will appeal to members across all fields, but how are we to achieve this? How do we know what people want? I think one of the best ways to find out is to ask. If you are someone who has looked at the programme in the past and thought 'that's not really for me' now is your chance to address the issue.

Do you have any great ideas for conference speakers, topics to address or ideal venues. We need your thoughts and ideas. Please contact us with any suggestions – email va@apcp.org.uk

We tend to hold our committee meetings in the Cambridge area as this is fairly central for our region. Are you able to join us as part of the conference committee? We need enthusiastic people with bright ideas or just willingness to work as part of team and to have some fun. I am sure that being part a project such as this would be an excellent opportunity to develop and demonstrate many of our personal skills - communication, team work, organisation, and time management to name a few.

Please get in touch – don't leave it to someone else. We need your ideas and we need you!

We look forward to hearing from you

Maria Catchpole

LONDON

APCP London has started 2010 in good form. We have a very full and varied programme of evening

lectures and hope to see as many of you as possible. Your continued support means that we are able to keep charges to a minimum for members (usually £5). Please remember we pay speakers whether or not you turn up. So unless you cancel with 48 hours notice we will not offer you a refund, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Please note that we are using a few different venues for lectures so please check where you are going and don't assume it is the same as for the previous lecture.

Our next lectures are:

Vojta Therapy.

Tuesday 30th March – GOSH

Contact: Nicola Hubert hubern@gosh.nhs.uk

Talipes management.

April - date and venue to be confirmed

We appreciate all your suggestions so please keep the feedback coming. Lectures will be confirmed and advertised by email flyers, icsp and in Frontline.

There have been some changes on committee: Val Jennings and Monica Samuel have resigned and we want to say a big thank you to them both for all their work and support. Vathana Sackett will be taking over the role of Treasurer from Val; Sue Bush has taken on the role of Chair and is getting us all organized. We also have 2 new committee members, Karen Edwards and Debbie Beneke.

The APCP newsletter is looking for copy. I hear so many great things that are happening in the London Region. Please consider writing a small (or big) piece to share things with our colleagues e.g. groups or activities you are involved with, new innovations, achievements, courses, conferences and meetings, books and resources. Don't be shy – send any items to va@apcp.org.uk

Finally new APCP members are always welcome, so encourage all your paediatric colleagues to join too – the application forms are available on the APCP website to download.

Stephanie Cawker

NORTHERN IRELAND

Hello to Northern Ireland APCP. This is my first regional report as your newly appointed (coerced) Regional Representative.

The APCP conference which was held at Queens University in Belfast was a great success. We have had very positive feedback from delegates as well as from National Committee. We worked hard as a Conference Committee to organise this event and owe a huge thanks to Paula, who was our professional Events' Organiser.

Reports from APCP Regions

The task in hand now is to rejuvenate our Regional Committee (which had been hijacked by the conference) I would urge a good attendance at our next meeting and encourage members to consider joining the Regional Committee – it would be great to have province-wide representation on the committee.

We say a fond farewell to Jenny, our Regional Rep throughout the planning and organising of conference. We will all miss you Jenny and wish you well in the future.

We will be contacting members with details of our next meeting and hope that you will be able to join us.

Liz Fitzgerald

NORTH EAST

As usual things have been rather busy in the region, particularly for the committee members. Congratulations go to Abi who got married in the Autumn, and to Vicky who is currently on maternity leave. I also am expecting any day and so may be out of action for a while! I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Karen Roach and Lynn Witzmann, who are now standing down from committee, for their time and input whilst serving on the committee, and to wish them all the best for the future.

At the recent committee meeting it was decided that due to the current reduced size of the Regional Committee that we will only plan to host one study day – in conjunction with the Regional AGM – in the Autumn. We hope to have details available shortly.

The feedback from the hydrotherapy and rebound therapy day run in October was positive overall. There were a number of constructive comments from those who attended and these will be taken into consideration for the future courses that the Region organises. We are looking for any future ideas for trainings that you would like us to try to put in place, so if there is anything you feel is lacking then please email me.

We would like to be able to resume bi-annual regional training days but this will be dependent upon whether or not we can recruit new committee members. Please contact the APCP Administrator if you would be interested in joining the NE Regional Committee.

Helen Chamberlain

NORTH WEST

The North West Regional Committee have just confirmed details of their AGM and study day – see details below.

We hope that many of you will be able to join us. We would also like to welcome Harry Harrison from Cumbria onto the committee. As always new members are welcome to join the committee. Please contact us if you think you might be interested and would like to know more.

NW Region Study Day and AGM Hemiplegia

at
The Conference Centre at LACE,
Croxteth Drive, Liverpool, L17 1AA
Monday, 17th May 2010

A stimulating and comprehensive multi-disciplinary one-day course (includes North West AGM) that considers the theoretical basis of hemiplegia, including outcome measures and covers practical treatment strategies including constraint induced movement therapy.

Speakers:

Dr Margaret Mayston AM FCSP (University College, London)

Hemi Help Support Group

Further speaker on outcome measures - to be confirmed

Case studies from a patient / parent perspective

Costs:

£40.00 APCP North West members

£80.00 APCP members

£120.00 non-members

Includes lunch and refreshments plus a mini trade exhibition of related paediatric equipment.

Applications forms can be downloaded from the APCP website

Siobhan Goldstraw

SCOTLAND

My final pen to paper as the Regional Rep for Scotland, so I will make it short and sweet! Liz Gray has agreed to replace me as Regional Representative for Scotland I think she must still be recovering from her arm being twisted behind her back....

All is quiet up North with little to report. We have not met since our study day at the beginning of October – a very informative day on NHS QIS best practice DCD principles - we also managed to get a quorum for our AGM! Attendance was good taking into account the financial status of the NHS, and people left more informed than on arrival!

Our next study day will be in April/May 2010 and work is underway contacting speakers and

Reports from APCP Regions

confirming venues. Please look out for flyers on the APCP website.

As always, a final plea for ideas/topics for future study days – they are for you and your knowledge development so please let us know what you want!!

Thank you for all your support!

Julie Burslem

WEST MIDLANDS

The West Midlands Regional Committee are now committing much of their time to the planning of the 2010 National Conference – ‘Function for the Future’. For those of you who came to our recent AGM at Wilson Stuart School in Birmingham, you will know that we already have an exciting draft programme and venue at the Techno Centre in Coventry. More details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Obviously at this stage in the proceedings the committee is not in a position to run any regional courses, but keep thinking about any topics you might like to be presented once conference has finished and feed them back to any of the committee members. Time passes really quickly and before you know where we are we will once again be looking to do things at a regional level. Meanwhile, keep looking on the APCP web site and iCSP where you will find plenty of relevant courses and study days posted.

We hope that many of you will take the opportunity to attend the annual conference and look forward to seeing you there!

Sally Braithwaite

WALES

The Celtic Kids equipment exhibition in September was a great success and well organised - thanks to all the committee who were involved. It was good to meet up with old friends and new at this event. It is hoped that this will become an annual event and plans for the 2010 Celtic Kids are well underway – a flier is available to download already from the APCP website and so please download copies to help us to promote the event.

The plastering course with Dawn was well received - I hope all who attended are getting the chance to practice their new skills. The GMFM study day was hosted by the Children’s Bobath Therapy Centre in January.

APCP WALES AGM

Wednesday 21 April 2010

at

**Pedal Power, Pontcanna Caravan Park,
Off Dogo St, Cardiff CF11 9JJ**

Buffet lunch sponsored by Jenx Ltd

Includes welcome to Cardiff Pedal Power from
Sybil Williams, Project Manager

and Liz Atter speaking on:

**Neurodevelopmental Disorders: co-morbidity
& the wider functional impact**

Free of charge but booking essential as places
are limited.

Please contact Caroline Havard on 01633 274 832
or email:
physio.pedalpower@btconnect.com

The APCP committee in Wales is certainly very active with lots of motivated young paediatric physiotherapists as well as some older faithful ones.

Application forms for the AGM in April are available to download from the APCP website – I hope to see many of you there.

Julie Harvey

Reports from APCP Specialist Groups

NEONATAL GROUP

The neonatal group committee members met in London on the evening of Sunday 6th December to discuss the objectives that had been set for the previous year and to look at the future activity for the group. The following day was the joint NM /Neonatal Groups' study day on the 'Management of the Sick NM Baby' held at the Institute of Child Health in London. The course was oversubscribed and thanks must go to Marion Main and Helen Robinson for organising this very successful day.



Peta Smith and Adare Brady will be teaching a Lacey Assessment of Preterm Infants course in Edinburgh for four days commencing Monday 12th July 2010 – see details over page. For those who completed the course with Joan Lacey before 2000, it should be noted that there is now a manual and some of the elements of the assessment have changed to reflect advances in neonatal care.

The 'Tummy Time' poster is now completed and should be available shortly. Thanks to Helen Robinson and her team for their work in taking this idea forward. Helen is also going to lead on the new version of the 'Handle me with Care' publication.

The talipes project, as you all know, has been published but there has been a very poor response to the request from Denise Hart for more information. All APCP members who are involved with babies presenting with talipes need to help with this, even if they don't treat the condition.

There had been a request from some members on how to write a business case for neonatal physiotherapy posts. Fiona Price and Allie Carter are going to tackle this subject.

There is work to be done by the neonatal group on competences in relation to the skills required to work with neonates and this topic will be taken forward at the APCP working weekend in February 2010.

Thanks go to Anna Mayhew who has stepped down from the neonatal group committee – Anna has recently collated some information that will populate the Neonatal Group's pages on the APCP website.

Adare Brady

Reports from APCP Specialist Groups

Feedback from the Management of the Sick neuromuscular Baby Study Day

The Neuromuscular Group with the Neonatal Group held a study day in London in December 2009 on 'The Management of the Sick Neuromuscular Baby'. As this was the first joint event we had held, it was kept small and filled quickly, so we apologise to those of you who could not get a place.

The programme began with an essential overview by Professor Francesco Muntoni of the neuromuscular conditions seen in the neonatal period, and was followed by a very enlightening talk from Dr Stephanie Robb on the different forms and course of myasthenia, including neonatal myasthenia. The morning concluded with Michelle Chatwin from the Royal Brompton Hospital who gave invaluable insight into the respiratory management of these babies.

The parent's perspective was extremely well received and was given by the mum of a young girl with neurogenic arthrogryposis. Her session was heartfelt with the take home messages of; *"don't use technical language, try not to arrive in a crowd of professionals at the cot-side and talk among yourselves, treat the parents and baby with respect"*.

This was followed by a presentation from Caroline Nicholson from St. Mary's Hospital on following the baby from hospital to home. The afternoon concluded with the GOSH neuromuscular team looking at with assessing the neuromuscular baby and case presentations.

Feedback on the content and speakers was extremely good. We apologise to those of you who commented that there should have been a morning coffee break – we made a conscious decision not to schedule a morning break as we were conscious of setting reasonable start and finish times to allow for delegates' travel arrangements without reducing the programme content.

It may be possible to repeat the course at a later date (but not in London!) and are looking at other ideas – possibly a study day on the stronger neuromuscular child. We would welcome any suggestions from you.

Marion Main

**APCP NEONATAL GROUP
LACEY ASSESSMENT OF THE PRETERM INFANT
(LAPI) COURSE**

Monday 12th to Thursday 15th July 2010

**The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh
Organised by Neonatal Group APCP**

This course will teach the use of Joan Lacey's assessment of preterm infants. Joan's unique method of assessment has proven to have 86% sensitivity, 83% specificity and 96% negative predictive value for subsequent Cerebral Palsy and in 2004 was found to be a more reliable predictor than cranial ultrasound.

Please note: **This course is intended for physiotherapists working in neonatal intensive care and/or special care units, and can only be used up to term equivalent age.**

This four-day course will cover:

- usual development of the preterm infant
- factors influencing normal development
- atypical features seen in preterm infants
- development of the LAPI
- 'hands on' practice with the assessment in the nursery
- interpretation of assessment findings
- documentation using the recently revised assessment form
- follow-up outcomes

As part of the course, participants will be evaluated in their understanding and competency with the LAPI.

The course will be run by Peta Smith and Adare Brady, two tutors experienced in the use of the assessment. Adare (Northern Ireland) and Peta Smith (Kent), Clinical Specialist Neonatal Physiotherapists, have been using the assessment for many years. Peta has been involved with supervising its use here in the UK and assisted Joan in teaching of the assessment in the 2003 course in Australia. The last LAPI course run in the UK was in September 2007.

Course costs:

The cost of the course is £550 for APCP members and £650 for non-members. This will include morning and afternoon tea.

Delegate numbers will be strictly limited to twenty to allow for small group teaching sessions and easy access to the nursery. Due to the high demand for this course, places will be allocated to those therapists likely to be able to implement their learning to best effect. **Bookings will therefore not be confirmed until 10th April 2010**

Download an application form from the Courses pages of the APCP website.
For more information please contact: Adare Brady aabrady@talk21.com
or telephone 028 94424269

Focus on Working Lives

In this part of the Newsletter, we would like to feature articles that reflect the scope of practice of APCP members. We welcome articles from members that describe their working lives – these might include challenging posts and service developments, or projects and research that you are involved with.

The Development of an Advanced Neonatal Respiratory Physiotherapy Post for the Southern West Midlands Newborn Network

Nicky Hawkes - n.hawkes@nhs.net

I specialised in respiratory adult ITU for a number of years before taking up a post in Paediatric ICU (PICU) at the Birmingham Children's Hospital. In the earlier part of this decade a service level agreement was developed with a local Level 3 Neonatal Unit to provide teaching for medical and nursing staff on the theory and use of respiratory physiotherapy techniques for the premature baby. I took over this service, working with a neurodevelopmental physio, and saw the benefit this had on the management of infants with respiratory problems.



The South West Midlands Newborn Network (SWMNN) at this time employed an Occupational Therapist as the Developmental Care Lead. Her work had been the catalyst for the implementation of developmental care across the whole Network. Having seen the profound influence a lead post could have, I questioned staff in other local units and found that nursing staff had been using percussion for a number of years without any teaching from a specialist respiratory physiotherapist. My manager and I therefore put forward a proposal for a new post for an Advanced Respiratory Neonatal Physiotherapist. I gave a presentation to the Network Strategy Group on the role of the proposed new post and the potential clinical risk of carrying on without evidenced based respiratory practice. The proposal was positively received and funding secured to finance the new post.

I applied for the new position of Advanced Respiratory Neonatal Physiotherapist and commenced work in this role on Summer 2007. The post is part-time (3 days/week) and includes a session from the original service level agreement. I am still based at Birmingham Children's Hospital which means that I am still part of the respiratory team and still contribute to the out-of-hours service, as well as to the education of physiotherapy staff regarding the treatment of neonates on PICU.

The Newborn Network Developmental Care Lead, the Educational Lead who co-ordinates nursing education across the Network, and I work closely as a team. We meet with the Network Manager regularly and are fully supported by her as we seek to further advance and develop the roles.

On commencement in the post, percussion was seen as a routine part of many babies' care. Therefore, after baseline assessments of practice in the different units, I organised a structured educational programme primarily for nursing staff who on the neonatal units have historically used physiotherapy techniques, and for medical staff on the theory of respiratory physiotherapy techniques and their use. This includes examination of the chest, clinical reasoning, percussion, positioning, suction, and reviewing equipment and takes the form of formal teaching to all levels of staff, including undergraduate and post graduate university courses, as well as skills orientated cot side sessions. Teaching and practice have dovetailed very closely with that of the Developmental Care Lead as I advocate the adherence to guidelines for positioning and handling throughout all respiratory interventions.

At the Children's Hospital surgical premature babies are nursed on PICU and the neonatal surgical ward. I revived a 3 monthly multi-disciplinary meeting to raise awareness and improve care of the neonate in these clinical areas. This has been very well supported in particular with the formation of a nurses' group on PICU and the allocation of an equipment budget. Practice guidelines have been shared between the Women's Hospital and the Children's Hospital.

The lead posts have been very well supported by our Network Manager in educational opportunities. A vital part of the role is attendance at national conferences. With support of my physiotherapy manager I have been able to visit other units and compare practice with respected physiotherapy clinicians. This included a visit in July 2009 to Brisbane to participate in the neonatal physiotherapy course there and spend time with Judy Hough, who was the lead in the 2008 Cochrane Review 'Chest physiotherapy for reducing respiratory morbidity in infants requiring

Focus on Working Lives

ventilatory support'. This time was highly enjoyable, and was both encouraging regarding similar practice and stimulated thought into potential modification and advancement of current practice.

Key Achievements

- 1) Introduction and standardisation of new equipment across the Network including 'palm cups'- purpose made vinyl percussors – in two sizes. These replaced the facemasks that were previously used.
- 2) The production and distribution of the SWMNN Chest Physiotherapy Guidelines in May 2009.
- 3) The increased awareness of the appropriate use of respiratory physiotherapy for the premature baby, and subsequent increased profile of and respect for physiotherapy.
- 4) Nursing staff are now increasingly employing respiratory assessment techniques, and clinical reasoning. This has resulted in the selection of the most appropriate treatment for the baby. Percussion in particular and the use of saline is now only utilised in specifically selected babies.
- 5) The inclusion of neonatal physiotherapy competencies as part of the new starters' competency document at the Children's Hospital, and regular staff updates.
- 6) The post has been approved for recurrent funding.



Future Projects:

- 1) Production of a nursing competency document to accompany the guidelines and subsequent formal audit of practice.
- 2) Introduction of high flow humidified oxygen nasal cannulae.

This has been, and continues to be, a post that is full of variety; is challenging; and is very rewarding. It is very encouraging to witness the positive feedback that has been received and how practice has been changing. I look forward to the future with anticipation. We are currently looking at the

possibility of participating in part of the Advanced Neonatal Nurse Practitioner MSc course at one of the local universities in the near future.

All South West Midlands Newborn Network guidelines, including Chest Physiotherapy and Developmental Care can be found at www.newbornnetworks.org.uk following the link to the South West Midlands

Physical Disability Advisor to Luton Education Authority

Maxine Shearer

My main employment since September 2004 has been as Physical Disability Advisor to Luton Education Authority. Prior to this I was a senior physiotherapist working in the community paediatric team, working in special schools.

I do not work with children in a clinical capacity but my knowledge of children's conditions supports my advisory role. I work in special schools and as part of an outreach team going into mainstream schools to advise staff on adapting the curriculum for children with physical disabilities. I liaise closely with the community physiotherapists assisting them, and schools, to incorporate the children's physiotherapy programmes into school activities.

At my base (a school for severe learning difficulties) I am also the subject co-ordinator for physical education. I have trained to deliver rebound therapy and am also a trainer for staff within the school.

I am employed for 4 days/week during term time in this capacity and also see patients privately.

I would be interested to hear of any paediatric physiotherapists who have come across anyone with a similar role to mine.

Please contact va@apcp.org.uk if you would like to contact Maxine.

Focus on Working Lives

Working with small communities in Northern British Columbia and Northern Alberta

Deborah Humphries

I work as a contract physiotherapist in Northern British Columbia and Northern Alberta. Because it is hard to recruit physiotherapists in small northern communities, there are many vacancies.

I contract short term with School Districts and Child Development Centres, providing a consultation service while the agencies advertise their posts. Currently I cover 6 contracts, each one is different and brings its own challenges. Funding and equipment supply is different in each province.

My style of work means that I travel a great deal, putting an average of 60,000km per year on my car and flying to those places furthest away.

In some places I work with families and therapists from the agencies, in others I work with school teams. 'Teams' vary from working with an OT to working with an Educational Psychologist, SLP, Program Consultant and Consultants for the vision and hearing impaired.

Orthotics services are sadly lacking in northern communities, which means that families sometimes have to travel far (14 hour drive / expensive plane ride). If families get supplied out of town, it may mean a week's stay whilst casts are taken and orthotics fabricated and supplied. If there are problems this becomes an issue. I cast and supply Cascade DAFOs and am currently working with them to develop a different style which is very exciting.

Travelling can be stressful snow storms, icy roads, low temperatures (as I write the current temperature is -40°C) – and animals on the road – deer, moose, elk and bear are common. Winter usually starts around mid-October and lasts until April. Planes are not always reliable – many airports cannot land a plane in severe weather conditions, and what you thought was going to be a 'short ' trip (7 hours) can end up taking much longer (33 hours on one occasion!).

Despite all the challenges, the work is very rewarding. Working with different teams means that I feel that I am constantly learning new things.

If there are any paediatric physiotherapists who are looking for work or considering a change, and who enjoy the outdoor life and don't mind small communities and lots of driving - then this is a great place to be!!

I hope this gives you a small flavor of working in Northern British Columbia and Northern Alberta.

Dreamflight



Dreamflight is a charity whose purpose is to send seriously ill children on the holiday of a lifetime to the theme parks in central Florida. I have had the privilege of being the physio for the Dolphin Group since 2002. Our group serves the Yorkshire and Humber area.

The charity was started by Patricia Pearce and Derek Pereira, who were British Airways employees. The airline has always been very supportive of the charity and continues to provide a high level of assistance providing the aircraft, the crew and the facilities at the airport.

The first trip was in November 1987 when a Boeing 747 full of 288 sick children and adult helpers flew off to Florida for five magical days of fun and laughter. The original Dreamflight was only intended to be a one-off trip, but was such a success that it has been an annual event ever since.

There are 192 children on each trip between the ages of 8 and 14 who have either a long term illness or a disability. The trip is divided into 12 regional groups, each with 16 children, eight boys and eight girls. Each adult escort has two children who they care for throughout the trip. Each group has a group doctor with paediatric experience, a paediatric physiotherapist and at least two paediatric nurses. Other escorts may be British Airways cabin crew or individuals who have raised money for the charity. There is also a team of night nurses to care for the children so that the escorts can rest properly at night. Most of the adults use annual leave to join the trip.

Dreamflight

On arrival in Florida there is another large team of American helpers who support the groups in caring for the children and accompanying them to the parks. One of the most popular days is the visit to Discovery Cove to swim with the dolphins.

Some of the other parks visited are the Magic Kingdom, Universal Studios and Blizzard Beach,



Heather disembarking!!



Sir Cliff Richard, one of the patrons said:

"As they walk or are carried or wheeled by their carers to the aircraft behind the band of the Royal Welsh Regiment, I'm always humbled by their courage and inspired by the selflessness and compassion of the volunteers and escorts who give up their leave to accompany these children. I've often said that I find involvement with a charity often brings me far more than I could ever offer. Unarguably, that's true of Dreamflight."

You can nominate children for a place on Dreamflight – the application forms are now available on the Paediatric Network of iCSP.

For further information visit the Dreamflight website:
www.dreamflight.org

Heather Angilley
APCP Vice-Chair and 'Dolphin' Physio.



Here and There

Balance Bikes: A Parent's Perspective



In recent months the issue of balance bikes has become surprisingly important in my life. As the mother of 5-year-old and 2-year-old boys I looked at the issue of purchasing a first bike completely differently than I would have as a paediatric physiotherapist. It's funny how you think about things differently when you wear a different hat. So I thought it might be interesting to write down my processing on the subject. (Hey, it might be enlightening to somebody!)

When my elder son was 3 we did what all good parents do and got him a bike for Christmas. A shiny blue bike with a bell and stabilisers under the tree! At the time many of my friends were getting their children balance bikes and I sniffed—'a proper bike with stabilisers is what he needs!'

Nevertheless, by the age of 4, all my friend's children had progressed on to proper bikes without stabilisers. Meanwhile, my little love was still struggling on with his stabilisers banging from side to side. Being stubborn (and parsimonious) as I am, I refused to see it for what it was and persevered with the stabilizers – *'he'll get it soon enough, he just needs more practice!'*

A month before his 5th birthday my son was no closer to losing the stabilisers and a friend offered to loan me the balance bike that her 3 ½ year-old boy no longer needed (just stab me in the heart!). Would you believe that just 2 weeks after using the balance bike my little boy was completely independent on his proper bike (no stabilisers)!

Well, if that doesn't say it all you should see my 2-year-old whizz around on the balance bike now - I purchased it off my friend in the end! He's practically a BMX racer!

There are a number of lessons in this story. Firstly, I have discovered that the most difficult part of riding a bike is not pushing the pedals and coordinating the steering as I thought, but rather, learning to balance! I have also learned that not every new-fangled toy is a useless (and expensive) fad (although I would still say that most are). And lastly, I have realised that my knowledge and skills as a physiotherapist can have a place in my role as a mother (I've been advising children with Dyspraxia to forget the pedals and learn to balance on their bikes with their feet on the ground for years).

I now recommend balance bikes to many of my patients age 3 and up who have balance or coordination difficulties, motor delay, or poor core stability. I also recommend them to my friends—a physiotherapist's endorsement combined with personal experience goes a long way.

Jennifer Penston
East Anglia Region

Cerebral Palsy

Information, advice and support for Parents during the early years

Scope has produced a new guide for parents of children with cerebral palsy containing a wealth of practical information and advice as well as details on where to find support.

The guide has been produced by Scope Response - Scope's free information, advice and support network for disabled people, their families and the professionals that work with them. Scope works with all disabled people and has particular expertise in working with people with cerebral palsy.

The compact guide offers comprehensive advice on supporting a child with cerebral palsy, from everyday activities such as the best techniques to use for brushing teeth for a child with cerebral palsy to providing for a child's special educational needs.

It offers a range of handy hints based on parents' own experiences, such as advice on dealing with the wide range of professionals that provide support for disabled children.

Aimed at parents of children with cerebral palsy under the age of five years, the guide also includes a CD on play, which provides a range of tips on how to support your child's learning through play activities.

Susan Evans, whose three-year-old son Sonny has cerebral palsy, said there was a real need among parents for the guide.

"I know from my own experience how challenging and time-consuming it can be trying to get hold of all the information you need," she said. "Whether it's getting to grips with factual information about your child's condition, to dealing with the wide range of professionals that can provide support, there's a lot to take in. Having all this information in one place and set out in a clear way is really helpful. This is a really useful guide and I like the fact that is based on the experiences of other parents."



Cathy Warnock, Head of Scope Response, said:

"The parents of disabled children we work with have told us how important it is for them to get accurate information, especially around the time of diagnosis for their child and in the early years."

"This guide aims to provide a valuable resource for parents so they have all the information they need at their fingertips. We hope the guide will help them to find the right support so their children can enjoy the same opportunities and ambitions as non-disabled children."

The guide has been developed with disabled people, parents and professionals that work with disabled children.

Parents who would like a copy should contact Scope Response. The service can be contacted on 0808 800 3333, by email response@scope.org.uk or you can download a preview at: <http://www.scope.org.uk/downloads/scopeparent-pack-preview.pdf>

Here and There

Let's Get Physical

Activity advice for parents and carers of children with Down's Syndrome

Southampton Community Healthcare has produced a leaflet for parents and carers of children with Down's Syndrome.

The leaflet was produced in response to parents' and carers' concerns regarding the type of physical activity that could be safely undertaken by children and young people with Down's Syndrome, and was written by Clare Olsen (Community Paediatric Physiotherapist) and Chris Hardy (Associate Specialist in Community Paediatrics) following extensive consultation with colleagues and parents in April.



The leaflet emphasises the importance of encouraging physical activity to promote general health and fitness whilst explaining that there is no evidence that participation in sport increases the risk of spinal injury. It recommends that children and young people with Down's Syndrome have an examination of their neck and a neurological examination before participating in higher level sports such as trampolining tricks or competitive trampolining; high apparatus work in the gym; high board diving and contact sports such as rugby.

The leaflet also highlights the signs and symptoms that may suggest instability in the neck, such as abnormal head posture; deterioration in walking or use of hands; deterioration of bladder/bowel control; etc.

The leaflet is available at a charge of 50p/copy (cheques payable to 'Southampton City PCT) from Clare Olsen, Children's Physiotherapy Service, Ashurst Child and Family Centre, Lyndhurst Road, Ashurst, SO40 7AR.

Paediatric Hydrotherapy Course

Dr Heather Epps, Hydrotherapy Consultant

Two day course covering theoretical and practical elements of paediatric hydrotherapy

£250 including buffet lunch and refreshments

Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th June 2010

Post-Graduate Department, Royal Glamorgan Hospital, Llantrisant, CF72 8XR

For more information or to reserve a place, please contact Melanie Jones or Natalie Gragasin on 01443 688361 or email natalie.gragasin@wales.nhs.uk

Closing date for applications – Tuesday, 4th May 2010 – places limited.

Kidz' Exhibitions

Once again we are proud to report on the continued success and growth of our very popular 'Kidz' Exhibitions. We now have three events and they are the largest free exhibitions totally dedicated to disabled children, their families, carers and the professionals who support them. With over 120 exhibitor stands at each event, the exhibitions are an opportunity to 'try before you buy'. They offer a 'one stop shop' of equipment and products to enhance the quality of life, not only for the children, but their extended family. In addition there are a number of voluntary and statutory sector stands that provide information and support on a range of topics including funding, holidays and publications.

Parallel to the exhibitions are the very popular and topical programme of free seminars. The seminars provide a full and varied timetable of presentations which support our professional visitors in their continuing professional development. It has been highlighted by senior managers that releasing staff to attend these events has enabled their local authority to provide a comprehensive and improved quality of service to children in their area.

In 2009 the exhibitions attracted over 5,000 visitors from around the UK - Scotland, Cornwall, Dublin, Jersey, Isle of White to mention a few and some from a little further afield - Italy, Germany and America.

'Kidz South' was our first event of the year. Held annually in June at the Rivermead Leisure Complex in Reading this exhibition, now in its third year is developing to specifically support disabled children in the South of England. However, we still attract visitors from the North who are desperate for information and do not want to wait until later in the year.

'Kidz up North', took place in November at the Reebok Stadium and it is amazing to think it is in its ninth year. The Reebok is an excellent venue and very much associated with the 'Kidz' events. Visitors are assured of a warm welcome from our commercial partners and although the same companies attend, this is often the event of choice to launch new equipment. As this exhibition is near to the festive season, Santa and his helpers are always on hand. This year Santa's helpers were from Premex, a company specializing medico-legal reports and services and what an excellent job they did. I would also thank all our other volunteers over the years who, now ensure this event is a tremendous success.

To ensure that our exhibitions are as accessible to as many people as possible, we introduced our third event. In March this year, the exhibitions team

brought 'Kidz in the Middle' to the prestigious Ricoh Arena in Coventry. The event was an outstanding success attracting people from throughout the UK. It was identified by several visitors that due to the local airport and cheap internal flights from local regional airports that this venue was more accessible to people from further afield than we had originally thought. A big thank you goes to a team of volunteers from Barclays Bank in who ensured our visitors received a very warm welcome.

Disabled Living will continue to work in partnership with government and local services to ensure that the 'Kidz' events are an opportunity for visitors to access the most up to date information relating to equipment and services to promote inclusion and ultimately improve quality of life. Plans to further develop and expand the 'Kidz' events.

Kidz in the Middle:

11th March 2010

Ricoh Arena, Coventry.

Kidz South:

Thursday, 24th June 2010

Rivermead Leisure Complex, Reading

Kidz Up North:

Thursday, 25th November 2010

Reebok Stadium, Bolton

Carmel Hourigan



Kids in the Middle Exhibition

Thursday, 11th March 2010 - 9.30am – 4.30pm

At the prestigious
Ricoh Arena, 71 Phoenix Way,
Coventry, CV6 6GE

One of 3 of the largest FREE UK exhibitions totally dedicated to disabled children, their families and carers, and the professionals who work with them.

Information on mobility, seating, beds, communication, access, education, toys, transport, style, sensory, sports, leisure and much more...

Disabled Living is delighted to be back at the Ricoh Arena for its 2nd year. There has already been a great deal of interest primarily due to the success of our first event in March 2009, but also because the Ricoh Arena is an easily accessible venue, with the exhibition hall on the ground level.

Many companies that exhibit at the 'Kidz' events have chosen our exhibitions to launch new equipment and products, so make sure you visit all the stands. The company representatives are often experts in their field and usually have solutions to what may seem like unmanageable problems. So, do take the opportunity to pick their brains.

As a result of feedback from both visitors and exhibitors, this year we are expanding the exhibition space to 4,000 sq metres – twice the size of last year's exhibition!

There is more reason than ever to visit 'Kidz in the Middle' with the Government investing £340million in equipment and wheelchair services, short breaks and palliative care for children with disabilities. To support Government agenda and new for 'Kidz in the Middle' we have a significant area solely dedicated to leisure activities, with a sports arena where children can participate in inclusive activities. We are working in partnership with John Moores University in Liverpool and local recreation services to deliver these exciting activities.

We have some excellent speakers presenting our FREE seminars sessions who can provide you with information on best practice, new research and good practical advice. There will also be a series of FREE seminars specifically aimed at PE teachers and leisure centre staff. These sessions will provide a range of strategies and resources to include disabled children in sports activities. For our professional visitors, certificates of attendance will be available to support their continued professional development. Children and parents are very welcome to attend. The full timetable for seminars will be available in the New Year.

Alongside the exhibition we will be holding the very popular half day Paediatric Moving & Handling conference. This conference is designed to provide delegates with the essential update they require to ensure safe and best practice. The half day session, combined with an opportunity to view the latest moving and handling equipment at the Kidz in the Middle exhibition provides delegates with a comprehensive CPD update. The conference will be repeated in the afternoon.

Dates for your diary:-

- Kidz South – Thursday, 24th June 2010, Rivermead Leisure Complex, Reading
- Kidz Up North – Thursday, 25th November 2010, Reebok Stadium, Bolton

For more information on any of our Kidz events, or to order your visitors' FREE entry tickets contact the Exhibition Team at Disabled Living on 0161 214 5962/4599 email info@kidzupnorth.co.uk website www.kidzinthemiddle.co.uk



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