

# Let's Play Project Newsletter– November 2014



To find out about information, services & advice for families of disabled children , SEN & additional needs please go to:  
[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/disabilityinformation](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/disabilityinformation)

## [Online forum for isolated parents of disabled children \(From The Guardian\)](#)

Earlier this year, [Netbuddy](#) – the online community became part of Scope. Since its launch four years ago, Netbuddy provides a place for people to share experiences, swap practical tips and exchange information. Social networks such as Facebook have become firmly established as platforms for like-minded people to connect. But, for parents of disabled children, the benefits of being part of a community that understands and empathises with the challenges they face can run even deeper.

Since merging, Scope and Netbuddy have worked together to develop a new platform to give parents and carers a place to talk, share experiences and find support. The community sits on Scope's website and offers people an opportunity to connect with others in similar situations.

In addition to the forums, where people can talk about their issues and concerns, the new community also incorporates a [tips feature](#) where people can pick up practical ideas for dealing with a range of everyday issues – everything from bedwetting to specialist equipment. All the tips have been contributed by parents and carers, with first-hand experience of caring for a disabled child or adult.

The site also has a number of community advisors, who can answer questions in their specific area of expertise, such as education, speech and language therapy, technology and behavioural issues. Helping to run the community is a team of volunteers – parents of disabled children themselves, who see the value in supportive networks such as these.

*Scope's online community is open to parents who care for children and adults with a wide range of impairments, and disabled people who want to connect to others too.*

To find out more, visit the [online community](#).

Melissa Sheard HIPPOS Support Group

## [SEND Reforms Update](#)

Oxfordshire's developments has been receiving national recognition: The DfE SEN and Disability Professional Adviser highly praised our [Local Offer](#) and EHC Plan, the EHC Plan template is one of 5 appendices (and the only non-pathfinder) in the latest [information pack](#) on Education, Health and Care Plans, and Edward Timpson highlighted Oxfordshire's [EHC needs assessment animation](#) at the National Adult and Children's Services conference. We intend to build upon the successful EHC animation and produce something similar to illustrate a good transfer review. I have been delighted to hear from parents and professionals about how well transfer reviews have been going. People speak about how engaged the child and family were, the meaningful focus on longer term planning and aspirations, and the positive experience. People recognise that it is a learning journey for everyone and there is still lots to learn.

I hear that effective working relationships are developing when professionals are complementing each other's skills to ensure a balanced meeting. They are not working so well when there has not been sufficient preparation or the focus has been on getting through the process.

Everyone should be very proud of what has been achieved to date. Thank you for all your hard work and for embracing the cultural changes that these reforms require.

Kind regards, Janet

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Produced by CDC in partnership with the Department for Education this series of fact sheets, films and posters are designed to help children and young people understand some of the key themes of the new reforms including EHC plans, Post-16 support, the Local Offer and making decisions. <http://www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/resources/cdcs-resources/information-for-children-and-young-people-on-send-reforms/>

You can view or download:

Leaflets

[What are the reforms?  
Education, Health and Care plans  
Making decisions about your support  
Post-16 support  
The Local Offer](#)

Posters

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