

Newsletter



Issue 3



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or
call 0208 466 0790



to speak to Rob about the service

Delivered by:



Bromley Third Sector Enterprise

Funded by:



Bromley

Clinical Commissioning Group

Referrals: We have seen more new referrals over the past few months and have seen plenty of people coming back to use the service again. I have met a number of groups for people with a learning difficulty or disability and will be out around the borough to spread the word about the service and what it can do for you.

Monthly Workshops and Drop-ins

We have recently completed our workshops on healthy living and were pleased to see some new people join us. We hope to have helped those who attended to be able to make healthy eating and lifestyle choices and to feel more comfortable at their doctor and hospital appointments. We even did a session on staying positive, so everyone should have a great summer with all of their new tips and techniques!

We will be running a new set of workshops for the autumn, starting on September 1st and we hope to see lots of new faces.



Outreach

I have been attending informal outreach sessions in Cotmandene and Mottingham on alternate Wednesdays. If you are in the Cotmandene or Mottingham areas, look out for our flyers in the window to see when I am there next. Spaces are first-come-first-served.

Call or email Rob Morgan if you would like any more information about the Learning Disability service on 020 8466 0790, mobile 07482 558 660 or email robert.morgan@bromleywell.org.uk



NEWS - Learning Disabilities

Sarah Gordy Awarded MBE



In the Queen's Birthday Honours List, Sarah Gordy of Bromley has been awarded an MBE.

Sarah, who has Down's syndrome, will receive the honour for services to the arts and people with disabilities. Sarah, who attended a primary school in Orpington, has been in BBC's *Call the Midwife* and *Upstairs Downstairs*. Sarah also performed a series of dance pieces at the My Perspective International Photography Competition Awards Ceremony in June 2016 which is held each year by the Downs Syndrome Association (DSA). She will be the first woman with Down's syndrome ever to receive an MBE. Sarah is an ambassador for Mencap and has spoken out against bullying and in favour of diversity in the media. She promoted Learning Disability Week and increasing the representation of disabled actors at the Oscars.

<https://sarahgordy.com/>

Petition – Prevent Avoidable Deaths

1 in 4 healthcare professionals has never had training on learning disability or autism. Two thirds want more training, and 1 in 3 think a lack of government leadership is contributing to the problem of avoidable deaths. The Government must ensure all healthcare professionals get mandatory training to address the huge health inequalities facing people with autism and a learning disability. You can sign the petition here <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/221033>

NHS England Newsletter

Read the latest easy read newsletter here <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/nhs-england-learning-disabilities-news-summer-2018.pdf>

Autism Friendly Theme Park Opens In America



Sesame Place, a theme park based on the television show *Sesame Street*, is the first amusement park in the world to be classified as a Certified Autism Centre. The park has a sensory guide, which visitors can download before coming to the park to map out their day based on any sensory sensitivities. The park created two "quiet rooms" for guests who want to relax or take a break from all the stimulation. Noise-cancelling headphones are available at the park's entrance, which can help people with sound sensitivities navigate the theme park more comfortably. Also, 4-year-old Julia, *Sesame Street*'s first character with autism, will be at the park to greet guests. Staff members have undergone extensive training to help meet the needs of children with autistic spectrum disorder.



Last year *Sesame Street* made history by introducing Julia, their first character with autism, described as doing things "a little differently". The Certification was granted by the International Board

of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards (IBCCES), and the park, which opened in April. Park employees must pass an autism competency exam and retrain every two years to keep the certification, according to IBCCES.

We hope that this will encourage similar projects in the UK. <https://sesameplace.com/philadelphia/help/autism-resources/>