

## *Under the Umbrella* eNews

- Umbrella Jazz Night: 8 November: tickets selling fast!
- Youth Club for 9-12 year olds proposed for January
- Aspirations launches just after half term
- Next Open meeting is on getting help in Emergencies
- Read the DFES advice to schools on autism
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### Jazz Night in aid of Umbrella on 8 November

A charity Jazz Evening is to be held in of Umbrella Autism on Friday, 8 November at 7.30 pm. The evening features Jeff Dempsey's Jazz Band, a buffet meal plus a fun auction. The acclaimed Duxford Lodge Hotel is providing the venue and buffet. Proceeds from this event will go toward setting up our pioneering youth club for children with AS aged 9-12. Tickets are available from Ken Stevens Music Shop in central Cambridge or by ringing 01223-561234. *Hurry! Tickets are already selling fast!*

You can download a pdf copy of the poster for this event which is attached with this newsletter. *Note design flair on the Umbrella theme!*

### Aspirations Project launches after half term

Our innovative Aspirations Programme has now secured funding for the next three years. [Our thanks to our partners in this, local educational disability charity Red Light Green Light, for their assistance and hard work on behalf of people with AS.] Aspirations is a specially designed full time learning programme for 16-20's and 21's and up with AS or similar conditions. It includes people skills, life skills, a special individual project, computer skills and getting to know the AS internet community, skills for work and supported employment. The programme will launch soon and people are signing up already. For more information ring Aspirations Co-ordinator, Susan Owen, on 01638 508 430

### Youth Club for 9-12 year olds proposed for January

We're working to set up a Youth Club for 9-12 year olds with AS based in Cambridge. We've identified a venue and, with the help of Romsey Mill Centre in Cambridge, identifying a qualified youth leader to facilitate the

group. We're also in the process of bringing together a small team of University student volunteers to assist. The group would be a "chill out" club, for fun and to meet others, not structured social skills training. We're hoping to have Play Stations and fun electronic and other games. We're bringing together a small working group to help get the group going. Are you interested in know more about the group or in helping others to get it set up? If so ring, Karen on 01223-413032. Help us raise funds for the group by coming to the Jazz Evening on 8 November --- or by contributing items or services for the auction. Ring Karen (01223-413032) with your ideas for the auction

**Next Open meeting is on *Autistic Emergencies: what to do?***

Our November Open Meeting will be on Tuesday 19 November from 7.30 finishing at 9pm to allow more time for networking after the meeting. The topic is Autistic Emergencies: what to do?

Umbrella volunteers find themselves supporting families dealing with emergencies and urgent situations. Some families report there either are no emergency services or routes to urgent help. So, what is an emergency or an urgent situation? What are families or carers to do? Do the services have procedures to help in emergencies or urgent situation? What services do carers, workers, families or affected people want? Representatives from services are hoping to join us. We will end the meeting with some concrete suggestions to pass on to service providers. An important topic and a meeting not to be missed

--- note it in your diary now! Ring or email Robin (rww20@cam.ac.uk or 01223-368203) if you have specific issues you want raised.

**Read the DFES advice to schools on autism**

Teachers, Learning Support Assistants, parents and other carers may find the DFES document on autism interesting and useful. We're all learning as we go along when supporting the learning of people with ASDs. The DFES have brought together lots of information and examples of practice. You can read it on the website and also download the document from the website.

You can access the guidance at

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/sen/viewDocument.cfm?did=401>

**Diary dates**

- **Tuesday 22 October** Support Group for parents of older teens and adults 7.30-9pm Hilltop Carers Centre, Primrose Street off Victoria Road (allow time for parking in nearby streets)

- **Friday 8 November** Jazz evening and buffet at Duxford Lodge Hotel (get your tickets NOW from Sally on 01223-56123 or Ken Steven music shop in Cambridge city centre)
- **Tuesday 19 November** Open Meeting on ASD Emergencies 7.30-9pm at the Hilltop Carers Centre, Primrose Street (allow time to park in nearby streets)
- **Sunday 5 January** Umbrella Family Party 3-5 Ida Darwin Fulbourn (book with Karen on 01223-413032)

### Looking for PECS training?

A 2 day workshop on PECS will run on February 17/18 in Cambridge (at Fitzwilliam College) . The cost for parents is 130, professionals 240. There is an optional follow up for parents (60) and professionals (120). Contact Pyramid Educational Consultants UK on 01273 609 555 for details and for other training and venues.

### Can you help?

The Umbrella Christmas party will be on January 5th 2002. Karen Hosking (413032) is looking for others to join in planning this ASD-friendly family event and/or being on hand to help at the event.

Would you like to join with others in planning the new youth club for AS children age 9-12? Find out how you can help by ringing Karen on 01223-413032.

Do contact us if you have items of news for Umbrella members or comments/questions about items in this edition of Umbrella eNews