

- **Next Steps Youth Club Barnstaple** For young adults (16+) with additional needs. Refreshments will be available and a variety of themed activities planned each week such as Cooking, Art Workshops, Discos or any other suggestions welcomed. Every Thursday, starting 10th January, 6pm – 8pm, £3 per sessions. For more information call: 01271 859384 Or for further information about Next Steps click [here](#)
- **HANDi paediatric app.** With childhood illnesses on the increase due to the cold weather, doctors in Devon are reminding parents to download and consult the HANDi paediatric app. The free app, available to download onto any Apple or Android device, was launched specifically with children in mind and is loaded with expert advice, support and guidance for common childhood illnesses. To find out more click [here](#)
- **DIAS Information to help parents share their views** This term Devon Information Advice and Support Service launched new information that helps parents and carers share their views with professionals and get those views into the heart of any discussions. Aimed at any parent, carer or guardian with a child with SEND, this new DIAS web page is full of practical ideas to guide you through the process of sharing your views. There are suggestions for what to say and how much, tools you can use and advice about sharing your views in meetings too. Sitting alongside this is information about helping your child or young person share their views too. Whether you're talking to school about your child or going through an EHC needs assessment, this information will be invaluable. You can find everything on their [website](#)
- **The Sir Francis Chichester Trust** is once again offering FREE places on the 19 day Outward Bound 'Skills for Life Award' course to young people who live in Devon and who are aged 16-19 (at the time of the course, which will be July/August 2019). The course is designed to help participants make an effective transition into sixth form, further education or work and is a chance to have a life-shaping adventure. The Trust looks for candidates that wouldn't normally have a chance to undertake anything of this nature and will be able to enjoy and benefit from the experience. The Sir Francis Chichester Trust will meet the full course fee (excluding transportation to the outward bound venue) for successful applicants. Closing date for applications is Monday 4th February 2019 with interviews for those shortlisted being held 7th and 8th March 2019 in Exeter. Further details can be found at: <http://chichestertrust.org>
- **New special school coming to Tiverton** Following a meeting of the Regional Schools Commissioner head teacher Board in September, the Alternative Complementary Education (ACE) Schools Multi-Academy Trust has been given approval to sponsor a proposed new secondary special free school in Tiverton called Charlton Lodge. Charlton Lodge will be for children aged 11 to 16 with social, emotional and mental health needs and for Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) pupils who fall within the average to high ability range. You can find out more about the plans on the [Devon County website](#).
- **PANDA (Promoting Autism and Neuro Diversity Awareness)** is a new group in North Devon for young people with Autism. You can register with the group online and access blogs, news, stories, information and resources. To find out more go to: <http://pandacharity.org/>
- **Previously known as the Buttle UK Families Programme, the BBC Children in Need Emergency Essentials Programme** supports children and young people under 18 who are facing exceptionally difficult circumstances. The programme provides items for the most basic needs of vulnerable children and young people who may be: Living in severe poverty and suffering deprivation as a result; and/or Affected by additional social issues such as domestic abuse, substance misuse, estrangement, disability or serious illness, mental health or behavioural difficulties, abuse or neglect. Funding is available for critical household items such as furniture, cookers, baby equipment and other essentials. Where possible, items will be provided directly rather than awarding a cash grant. Applications must be made through an organisation that is supporting the family or young person, is capable of assessing their needs, and that can also administer the grant. Applications based purely on financial hardship will not normally be considered. Applications should be made online at <https://www.familyfundservices.co.uk/> or by post in exceptional situations.
- **The Curly Hair Project Autism and Mental Health Day** Exeter Community Centre, 4th February 2019. This event will give you insight and strategies on improving the mental health and wellbeing of autistic adults and children. With five different streams to choose from, attendees can select the material that is most relevant to them. To find out more about the day and ticket prices click [here](#)

This will be the last Northern Devon snippets of the year, the next will be sent out on Thursday 10th January. Hope you all have a fantastic Christmas, see you in 2019!



Find us on Facebook.....like the SIGNPOSTplus page for regular updates on all things related to children with additional needs.

An archive of the previous four weeks of snippets can be found at the SIGNPOSTplus page on the Devon Integrated Children's Services website: <http://devon.integratedchildrenservices.co.uk/signpostplus/>

If you no longer wish to receive these bulletins please let me know and I will remove your details from the mailing list.

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