

- **Devon County Council has received a telephone call from Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI) to announce the inspection of the local area.** The inspection will commence on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December**. Inspectors will review the support provided by the local area to better understand how well it meets its responsibilities for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The inspection team will include the lead HMI, Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspector and an Ofsted Inspector.  
**During the inspection week:**
  - A series of focus groups meetings will take place
  - Site visits will take place on Wednesday and Thursday
  - Feedback will be provided on Friday[Find out more about the SEND Local Area Inspection](#)  
[Read the letter to all parent carers](#)
- **Christmas Open Day at Apple Tree Farm (Pippins Alpaca Therapy)** On the 15th December, from 10am to 2pm, there will be a Christmas Open Day where everyone is welcome, meet the animals, enjoy the play yard and create some amazing crafts in the barn. There will be a small Christmas Market for those last minute gifts and the usual hot drinks, cakes and snacks available. This is a free event although activities will incur small fees. To find out more go to: <https://www.facebook.com/events/317450745719113/?ti=ia>
- **Positive People Festive Fun Day** Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December 9.30am – 2.30pm, Barnstaple Rugby Club, EX31 1JH. Festive lunch, jewellery making, gingerbread decorating, relaxation and other activities included. Transport can be provided. To find out more call Tracey on: 07803 406776 or email: [traceyw@devoncf.com](mailto:traceyw@devoncf.com) Positive People also have a pop-up shop from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec, 10am - 5.30pm at 5 Mill Street, Bideford where you can buy unique handmade wooden gifts and decorations and personalise your own decorations with pyrography and painting. For more information email: [angela.markerdasilva@pluss.org.uk](mailto:angela.markerdasilva@pluss.org.uk)  
<https://www.positive-people.org.uk/>
- **Carers Allowance Earning limit** will increase to £123 per week from April 2019. This is the amount that can be earned up to after deducting care costs and half of any contributions to a work or personal pension in order to qualify for the Carers Allowance. For more details click [here](#)
- **Council for Disabled Children Publication of a Young Person's guide to SEND disagreement resolution**, following the 2017 review of disagreement resolution arrangements, the Department for Education commissioned Mott MacDonald, as part of the Delivering Better Outcomes Together (DBOT) consortium, to develop and publish a guide for young people aged 16-25 on how to resolve special educational needs and disability (SEND) disagreements. For more details go to the [website](#)
- **DisAbility Sportshall Athletics** A wide range of FREE activities are available including: Wheelchair Have A Go, Relays, Obstacle Relays, Seated throws, Standing long jump and many more. Sundays from 10.40 – 11.30am at Riverside Leisure Centre, Exeter, EX4 1AF For more information contact 07745 616852 or click [here](#)
- **Special Needs Jungle** Top tips for teaching social skills to children with and without autism.  
<https://specialneedsjungle.com/top-tips-for-teaching-social-skills-to-children-with-and-without-autism/>
- **University of Exeter Dyspraxia Research Project.** Researchers in the Department of Sport and Health Sciences are seeking volunteers to take part in a research study for children with dyspraxia (developmental coordination disorder). If you have a child between 8 and 12 years old with confirmed or suspected dyspraxia and would like more information please contact Kate Allen [kate.allen@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:kate.allen@exeter.ac.uk) Tel: 07721 236018.



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**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/>**

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