

Kool club

Kool Club is a place for teenagers and young adults with learning disabilities to make friends, improve social and life skills, and most of all have fun.



Kool Club members meet at the Pulse Youth Centre, in the centre of Totnes, between 10am and 4pm on a fortnightly basis, alternating weekly with our second group 2 Kool Club.

The clubs offer a supported and caring environment to practice life skills and promote independence through fun activity learning.

The Pulse venue boasts an abundance of facilities including a well equipped kitchen, games room including table football and pool tables, computers, music systems, arts and crafts areas, and the all important chill out area to catch up with friends. The Kool Club also encourages outdoor excursions including lunch out, trips on the train, walks in the countryside and beach trips to name just a few.

Following the success and interest in our Totnes Clubs, Lifeworks is also working with the Children with Disabilities Team at Torbay Borough Council to re-introduce Kool Club in the Torbay area in April 2010. The club will meet fortnightly at the Harbourside Link in Paignton.

" There's nothing else like it anywhere around. Our son really enjoys himself at *Kool Club* and everything he does there is geared to learning something and giving him a bit more confidence to do the sort of every day things that most of us take for granted." *Parent of a Kool Club Member*

Kool Club aims to help members become more confident with the skills they need to be able to integrate happily with the larger community. Even being able to handle going for a pub lunch may need some practice in how you're expected to behave in a public place, but that's the sort of thing that teenagers do, so that's what we help them to achieve.

" We expect quite a lot and deliberately try to move our young people on a bit further; that's something that is probably easier for us to do than it is for parents ... it's all about getting members to realise what they can do and then giving them the confidence to do more." *Kool Club Coordinator*



If you are interested in finding out more about any of our Kool Clubs, please complete the form on our website www.lifeworks-uk.org or contact Jo Parsons on 01803 840744.

AIMS OF KOOL CLUB

To support members in the following areas:

1. Being Healthy
2. Staying Safe
3. Enjoying and Achieving
4. Making a Positive Contribution
5. Achieving Economic Wellbeing

Being Healthy

There will be an introduction to a variety of sports and leisure activities, and the promotion of regular participation. We will offer guidance on nutrition and healthy eating, with the opportunity to cook simple meals and dine out.

Staying Safe

We will teach and reinforce good road safety practice whilst out and about. Planning how to get around and using public transport will be a regular experience.

Raise the awareness of dangers posed by strangers and strategies for dealing with unwelcome attention.

Ongoing education around personal safety issues, encourage good practice as a day to day routine as a means of avoiding injury.

Enjoy and Achieve

Create a fun place that enables socialisation.

Making a Positive Contribution

Involvement in planning and decision making in respect of day to day running of the club, as well as participation in wider charity events and fundraising campaigns.

Develop positive relationships and choose not to bully or discriminate.

Develop self-confidence and successfully deal with significant life changes and challenges.

Achieving Economic Wellbeing

Engage in further education, employment or training on leaving programme.

DELIVERY

An annual programme will be set up to support the aims of the project. Membership will be limited to a maximum of 12 members per group. Support ratios will be a minimum of 1:3.

We run 3 groups, from two locations.

Members will have the opportunity to be involved in a variety of activities, we will encourage participation in new experiences.

The main emphasis will be on developing life and social skills.

OPERATING TIMES

- Annual programme of 23 sessions per member.
- Saturday 10am - 4pm
- Fortnightly

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Learning Disabled
- Age 14 plus
- There is no provision for personal or intimate care therefore members must be assessed to be reasonably independent.
- Behaviour must not cause risk to themselves, other members or staff.
- Commitment to one year programme - exception will be made for unforeseen circumstances.
- Members and parents/carers are committed to working with staff to plan targets, monitor outcomes, provide formal feedback.

COSTS

Subsidised annual membership - £1,200

PAYMENT

One off annual membership or via direct debit over 12 months.

FUNDING OPTIONS

- Direct payments
- Payments via the local authority.
- Self funding.
- Individual grant.



If your child has a learning disability you will most likely qualify for funding through 'Fair Access to Carers Breaks' scheme.

Under Section 17 (11) of the Children Act 1989, the Local Authority has a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. They have a responsibility to establish whether a child is in need by providing an assessment of their needs. Children with a disability are classified by the Act as children in need.

The Carers (Recognition and Services Act) 1995 gives a right to an assessment of their own needs, for carers who provide a substantial amount of care on a regular basis. This includes young carers (young people under 18) and parents of disabled children.

The Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000 also allows for parent carers and disabled young people who have been assessed to receive Direct Payments in lieu of service provision.

The Carers Equal Opportunities Act provides a duty to ensure parent carers are made aware of their right to a carer's assessment.

We would recommend putting your request for an assessment in writing to your local social services.

If you require any support in doing this we will be happy to advise you.

Below are the local contact points for requesting an assessment.

South & West Devon Children with Disabilities Team
Parkers Barn, Parkers Way, Totnes TQ9 5UF Tel: 01803 869300

South & West Devon Children with Disabilities Team
Teign House, Kingsteignton Road, Newton Abbot TQ12 2QG Tel: 01392 384900

South & West Devon Children with Disabilities Team
Abbey Rise, Whitchurch Road, Tavistock PL19 9AS Tel: 01392 386990

Torbay Children's Disability Service
Torbay Council, Parkfield House, 38 Esplanade Road, Paignton TQ3 2NH Tel: 01803 402779

Advice and Assessment Service
Children's Services, Plymouth City Council, Plymouth PL1 2AA Tel: 01752 308600