



Welcome to the Chance to Meet's first edition for 2017.

Firstly, Happy New Year to you all from all of us at BID Services Lincolnshire! As you will hopefully be aware by now, we re-branded to BID Services earlier last year. We also moved our offices to Greetwell Place in Lincoln. Contact details are at the back page of this newsletter. We would like to give a BIG THANK YOU to all of you who supported our activities for the last 12 months.

So what have we been busy doing over the last year you ask?

Well, we have continued to run our weekly sessions at the youth club in Lincoln and we have lots of exciting ideas for 2017. We have two volunteers who run these sessions. Thank you to Andy Merrikin and our new volunteer Hazel Holden for your support. We also aim to have 1:1 support for young people who may need additional support within the group. Find more details about the youth club in the next few pages. We would

also like to develop the idea of a youth club in the south of the county, perhaps Boston. We already have some interest and would love to hear your ideas. Call us! Email! Talk to us and let us know if you would be interested in this idea.

We have also had some great activities including bowling in Grantham and Boston. A day at the beach and not one grain of sand in our sandwiches! Lots of fun games and a lovely warm day, we even dipped our toes in the sea.

What we did in 2016!



In September, we had a visit to Woodside Falconry and saw so many interesting animals and mammals including feeding time for the White Wolves. We also watched animal antics at the indoor show including rats running across ropes, birds flying in from trees and foxes searching for food imitating their natural habitat. We had a great turnout.



We visited the Toy Library in Lincoln for the first time and had some new families join us. Thank you to Charlie Beeston for coming along to support with the younger ones and also to Ginny Matthew from Sense. Some of us adults had a great time working out how to get through gaps which were the size of a small child. We did it though!



In April, we had a joint session with Sense at their stables at Pinchbeck and even though it was another cold and blustery day, we met some new families. In fact, this session ran over by more than an hour because everyone was having such a good time! Sadly, we have recently heard from Sense that these stables have had to close due to funding restrictions but if we have any positive developments for the future, we will let you know so watch this space!

We had a great session with families with visually impaired children under 5 at Birchwood Children's Centre. The team from SEST Sam Campion, Carole

Wood, Jo Clark, Elaine Smith and Gill Gillbank did a great job at making this a success and one we will continue to support. Also thank you to Sainsbury's at Carholme Road who gave us some funding from their Community Fund to provide lunch for everyone.

Ice skating fun!



Our annual ice skating session in Lincoln had almost 100 people there again and McDonalds have told us that next year, we can use their area upstairs for food - which is great because it means no more balancing burgers, fries and hot drinks across a busy market area again!

Finally our Christmas party was a great event. We beat previous records and had over 120 people attending.

Our usual buffet, chocolate tomobola (thanks to Julie Broome) Hamper (thank you Sarah Reed), Sensory Den (thank you Ginny Matthew) VI activity (thank you Sam Champion) and also to Elaine Smith, Abigail Sommers, Suzanne Taylor and Isabel Widdowson for supporting with the arts and crafts and putting up Santa's grotto. Also to the face painters Deborah Miles and Denise McTighe. Andy Merrikin, thank you for being the

big man and also putting up the grotto. Jo O'Boyle and Rebecca Houltby-Jessop kindly volunteered their time from Lincolnshire Sensory Services and Norma Clarke for supporting with anything we asked her to do! Craig Willey did a great job interpreting the fast-paced Pantomime Peter Pan. Oh yes he did! We couldn't have made all our activities a success without our colleagues from SEST (Sensory Education Support Team), Sense and Lincolnshire Sensory Services. Our volunteers who are there at all our events and support in planning them and finally thank you to you all for joining us in having fun and contributing to the continued success of our Chance to Meet sessions.



We have some exciting events coming up in 2017 and also some you know and love. Any ideas for fundraising are always welcomed so please do talk to us about any ideas you have. We have fundraising packs and we can support you with any events or ideas.

Thank you from all of us at BID Services Lincolnshire and we look forward to seeing you all again soon!

Chance to Meet Activities for this year!



Free drink included!

**Come and join us for
February Fun at Darmon's!
Monday 13 February
from 10:30am - 11:30am**

Station Road, Sleaford NG34 7RG

This activity is suitable for those under 10 years old but as always, everyone is welcome!



Two games!

Bowling session

Saturday 11 March at 11am

Lincoln Bowl,
Washingborough Road,
Lincoln LN4 1EF

£2 per person.
Maximum £5 per family.



Accessible to all!

Adventure at Easter!

Saturday 8 April 2017

Belton House Adventure
Playground and Discovery Centre,
Belton House,
Grantham NG 32 2LS

Meet at Visitor Reception
10:30am. Bring a packed lunch or
buy from the cafe.

£3 per person,
Maximum £5 per family.

Contact Jorja Le Gallienne for more info.....

Email Jorja.legallienne@bid.org.uk or call on 07702 939170.

Sensory activities included!



Bring warm clothes and good footwear as there may be a cold breeze from the sea. Brr!

Gibraltar Point visit

Tuesday 30th May, 10:30am - 12:30

Beach scavenger hunt, bird listening & watching, Pond dipping and sensory exploration. Binoculars can be hired and we will be able to go out towards the sea and watch wildlife in its natural habitat.

Car park, £3 for the full day. Cafe and shop will be open for refreshments and souvenirs.

Located at Skegness, PE24 4ST. Meet at the Visitor Centre at 10:30am.

FANCY DRESS WALK TO RAISE MONEY FOR FUTURE CHANCE TO MEET EVENTS



Any costume - present will be awarded for the most creative!

Humber Bridge Fancy Dress Sponsored Walk

July date to be confirmed

Meet at the north side visitor centre cafe at 11am. Minibus will take you to the other side and walk back for games and a picnic. To book your place and receive a sponsorship form, contact Jorja.



Beach Day at Mablethorpe!

Tuesday 15th August,

11am - 3pm

Open to all children, young people and their families!

Contact Jorja for further information.

Yet more **Chance to Meet** activities...!

Join our closed Facebook group for more updates: BID Lincolnshire (Chance to Meet)



All materials supplied and take home what you make!

Crafter's session during October Half term

**Tuesday 24 October 2017
11:45am - 2:45pm**

Learn print making and felt making by designer Deborah Miles.

Active Nation, Yarborough Leisure Centre, Riseholme Road, Lincoln LN1 3SP. Disabled facilities.

£3 per child including a packed lunch. Maximum £5 per family.

Suitable for all ages and abilities.

BID Services Lincolnshire would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to Sainsburys Local on Carholme in Lincoln for choosing us to be their local charity for 2016. We have received a donation of £2077.96 and they also bought the selection boxes, on behalf of Santa for our Christmas party and ice skating session in December. They also, as



Two games!

Bowling session

Saturday 18 November 2017

Boston Bowl, Rochford Tower Lane, Boston, Lincolnshire, PE21 9RH.

£2 per person.

Maximum £5 per family.

previously mentioned contributed £20 from their Community Fund for the under 5s visually impaired children and family session we supported the Sensory Education Support Team to run last year. Sheila who is the Customer Service Assistant for this branch has been really supportive to our events and attended the above session to meet some of the families.

Thank you again, it is the generosity of people who visit this store as well as the staff in particular Sheila that have and will make our Chance to Meet sessions possible.

News....

Does your child have a visual impairment? Would they like to go to an activity near to where you live? Maybe Scouts? Guides? Brownies?

St John's Ambulance? A sports group? We have been successful in being awarded a Short Breaks Grant to provide a Buddy to support them to attend the group until they feel confident to go on their own.

We will also be running workshops at different venues throughout the county to provide visual awareness training and real experiences from young people to the group leaders.

For more information about this project, please contact Jorja via email to Jorja.legallienne@bid.org.uk or 07702 939170.



Early Years groups for Children with Visual Impairments.

After our very successful 'come and play' morning at Birchwood Children's centre in April, we tried to organise another event for our pre school children in October at Lincoln Toy Library. However, due to low numbers and difficulties with transport for some families, we unfortunately had to cancel. We would like to try and arrange more opportunities for our little ones to meet up and are considering organising

smaller, more localised groups around the county so that people do not have so far to travel.

If you have a pre school age child with a visual impairment and would be interested in meeting up with other families nearby, please contact sam.campion@lincolnshire.gov.uk or Jorja.LeGallienne@bid.org.uk and we will try to organise some group activities in your area. We hope to see many more of you in 2017!

About Lincoln Deaf Children's Society

We are a family friendly support group in Lincolnshire who offer guidance & support to families who have children with a hearing impairment from birth onwards. We welcome all children with a hearing impairment of any kind, with or without any additional needs.



We meet once a month at Sure Start Central to have some fun baking, craft activities & playing games. Enjoy picnic's out in the summer. For more information on group dates/times, please email Lincoln@ndcsgroup.org.uk or call Dawn on 07791 806414 or Sarah on 07722 880291. You can also find us on Facebook with Lincoln Deaf Children's Society.

A Thank you note to....

All the **staff and volunteers at BID Services Lincolnshire**, the **Sensory Education Support Team, Ginny Matthew and the team at Sense**, the **parents and carers who run Lincoln Deaf Children's Society, Children in Need** for your grant and a very big big thank you to all the **families** who have come to enjoy and support our events over the last year!

Other events....



**Sensory Youth Club
for young people aged 8 to 18
with sensory needs
and their friends and family**

**Every Friday evening
from 6:30pm - 8:30pm**
Yarborough Youth Centre,
Riseholme Road, Lincoln LN1 3SP

Cookery, drama, music, sports
and much more.
£2.50 per session, includes food

A great way to meet new friends!

Contact Andy Merrikin
on 07432572233/email:
andymerrikin@me.com
or Jorja LeGallienne on 07702



Turn up 'N' Play!
Come along and take part in this 1
hour social football session and
earn fantastic rewards.

Disability Football sessions,
Male & female participants
8 - 18 years old

Indoor Sports Hall
Deans Sport & Leisure Centre,
Lincoln College, N2 5HQ

£2 per session.
Contact Michelle Marshall for more
information or to register:
078134 58812
Email: michelle.marshall@
lincolnshirefa.com

See, Hear, Live Well
Thursday 6th April 2017, 11am-2pm
Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln, LN1 3DY

The event is free and open to anyone interested in finding out more
about sight and/or hearing loss. There will be information, advice, support
and practical solutions for living with sensory loss

For more information: Email: Contact@lincolnshiresensoryservices.org.uk
or call 01476 589513 or text: 07710155104



BID Services Lincolnshire

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