



# Child Concern Consortium Supporter's Newsletter



**Hello everyone,**

Your gift supports our 5 charities.

Welcome to the latest copy of your newsletter. With spring definitely on its way, a Royal



wedding to look forward to and an extra day's holiday – what a wonderful way to start the year!

And even if you're not a fan of the Royal Family, I'm sure we all wish Kate and Wills the very best for their future together. And what a fantastic way they are starting off, by asking family and friends to donate to charity instead of buying wedding gifts.

And if you'd like to join in the spirit of this lovely young couple, why not take a look at our latest two fundraisers on page three of the newsletter: GiveaCar and Ethictrade.

We're not actually asking you to donate a brand new car of course, but if you have a vehicle that's past its best, then GiveaCar are providing an easy, hassle free way of disposing of your unwanted vehicles for you. And if you believe in buying fair trade goods, then look no further than Ethictrade for your new spring outfit.

Two excellent new fundraising ideas, with no extra costs to you whilst still helping your favourite charity!

Thank you all for your continuing kindness and generosity.

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## Family Turnaround

### An empowering approach to help transform lives

When Nicola began attending an Essex-based Children's Centre, run by 4Children, she was struggling to cope. She had been experimenting with drugs and had been cautioned after being caught in possession. She was self-harming and her self-esteem and confidence were at rock bottom. Nicola was estranged from her family and was out of work. She and her baby faced a future living in poverty. Today, Nicola and her child are flourishing, they have a strong and positive relationship; Nicola is working and has gained qualifications and is looking forward to new opportunities.



Nicola was first introduced to the Children's Centre when she was helped by staff to set up 'Something Cute' - a local support group for potentially vulnerable children and their parents. Staff assisted Nicola with the various requirements for setting up such as how to set up funding and insurance. Since then Nicola has rebuilt her relationship with her family and is a local champion providing guidance to local teenage parents and young people. In 2007, with the backing of the Centre, Nicola also began an NVQ Level 2 Childcare course, run by 4Children, and hopes to go on to complete an NVQ Level 3 and become part of the Children's Centre team.

Nicola's journey shows that the key to turning families' lives around is about supporting them to change their own lives. Her transformation from 'vulnerable young mother' to 'active community champion' is a result of professionals taking an empowering and supportive approach which recognises the strengths in all families and individuals – even those with complex needs – and builds from there. Thank you so much for your support. [www.4children.org.uk](http://www.4children.org.uk)



## 50th Anniversary Celebration for Action for Sick Children

Action for Sick Children celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year, which is a huge success story for the wellbeing of sick children, young people and their families everywhere.

Fifty years ago the Department of Health made a proposal that parents should be able to stay with their sick children when they were admitted to hospital, but unfortunately this was never instigated. But then a group of parents got together on a park bench in London and formed Mother Care for Children in Hospital (MCCH), now known as Action for Sick Children.

MCCH was a constructive pressure group that encouraged professionals and parents to lobby hospital administration

until this goal, alongside others was eventually achieved. It was a long, drawn-out process and it was not until the mid 80s that the charity saw their objective finally implemented.

Paul (now 43), well remembers the day he was admitted to hospital at the age of 5 when he was only allowed to see his mother through a window once a week.



## New Beginnings

Easter is a popular time for many children as it usually means time off school and lots of chocolate! More importantly it is a time of new beginnings, something which BAAF helps hundreds of children achieve every year.

There are over 80,000 children in care in the UK, many of whom need to be adopted or fostered. They may have experienced abuse or neglect and are desperately in need of a family who can give them the love and life they deserve. BAAF helps to find new loving and permanent families for children who are no longer able to live with their birth parents and last year we helped 500 children to find their 'forever family'.

It is often those children who are deemed too old (at just five years or more), have a disability, need to stay with their brothers and sisters or who are from a black or minority ethnic background that have the most trouble finding their new family. BAAF works hard to make sure that they are given every opportunity to find the right family for them, giving them their new beginning. Because every child deserves a family.

As a supporter of Child Concern Consortium, you help BAAF to continue our life changing work – thank you so much

[www.baaf.org.uk](http://www.baaf.org.uk)



## Building on success

For many years our "Waving not drowning" network has provided information, advice and support to individual parents of disabled children who are facing the challenge of balancing caring responsibilities with paid work. While we are proud of our achievements so far, with over three hundred thousand families facing these challenges we are always looking for new ways to extend our reach and impact.

We are therefore delighted to be launching a new project to establish a network of parent groups across the UK, giving more families access to:

- Working Families' website and free Legal Advice Service, giving parents and carers advice on employment rights and social welfare benefits
- The Waving Not Drowning disability advice line and quarterly newsletter



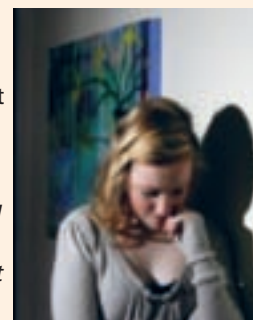
## Someone to turn to



We've been talking to young people who are fostered in Wales about bullying. Of course, bullying can be a problem for any child, but for children in foster care it can be even harder to cope with.

Bethan told us of her experience:

*"It had been a bad year for me - I moved in with new foster carers and put on loads of weight. Changing schools didn't help as I left all my mates behind. I was feeling really sad.*



*"At my new school people began laughing at me and teasing me. I discovered some girls were posting comments about me online and spreading lies about me: they said that I was having an affair with my teacher. I was so angry and upset I just wanted to explode. I felt abused and as if everyone had been laughing at me.*

*"I felt so powerless. I went on the PC, they were there. I looked at my phone, they were there. Emails, they were there. I didn't want to tell my foster mum, she had been so good to me and I didn't want to worry her.*

*"One day, my foster mum asked me what was wrong and I just broke down in tears and told her everything. It was a relief that it was finally out in the open.*

*"My foster carers contacted the school. The girls denied it, but it was sorted when the police got involved. The stupid thing was, that it was so pointless. Being bullied ruins you emotionally, it makes you think you're not good at anything, and you lose all confidence. Telling my foster carers was the best thing I've ever done."*

With your support we've given children who are fostered in Wales advice on how to avoid bullying and exactly what to do if it happens to them. It is so important that these most vulnerable children do not feel alone – thank you for your continuing support.

[www.fostering.net](http://www.fostering.net)

- Advocacy support for parents and carers through ground-breaking casework

We are keen to ensure that our network is driven by parents' needs and we will promote a proactive partnership with Working Families, enabling the parent groups to disseminate information to their members and contribute to research activity.

We hope to harness the power of parent groups in order to campaign for improved social welfare benefits and employment rights for parents who want to balance their caring responsibilities with paid work.

Many thanks for your continuing support.

[www.workingfamilies.org.uk](http://www.workingfamilies.org.uk)



**working families**  
changing the way we live and work



What's happening • What's happening • What's happening • What's happening

## Retirement & Payroll Giving



**Payroll Giving**  
We'll all be better off

### What are you planning?

Leaving the workplace doesn't have to mean leaving behind the things you care about.

Did you know that if you receive a works or personal pension, you can continue giving through payroll giving? This allows you to give after retiring in exactly the same simple and efficient way as you do now, with exactly the same tax benefits.

Simply inform your employer or pension provider how much you would like to give each month from your pension to continue supporting Child Concern Consortium and the many thousands of children we help each year.

**So whatever you're planning, enjoy your retirement!**

## Could you be the driving force behind this new scheme?



**Child Concern Consortium has signed up with Giveacar to help raise money for charities by scrapping or auctioning old and end of life vehicles.**

This is a great way of helping us to raise money in a completely new initiative by using what you already have with absolutely no cost to you.

Giveacar will arrange to collect any car free of charge anywhere within the UK; regardless of condition. They also guarantee a donation to CCC of between £40-£110, based upon the value of scrap metal or the sale price made at auction.

So if you're thinking of disposing of a vehicle or you know someone who is, why not raise money for CCC by donating it to Giveacar? It's a hassle free way of disposing of your unwanted vehicles whilst helping your favourite charity at the same time!

Just follow the link: [www.giveacar.co.uk/donate-a-car-to-charity/child-concern-consortium](http://www.giveacar.co.uk/donate-a-car-to-charity/child-concern-consortium) and we'll all drive away happy! Thank you so much.



## Looking for a new Easter Bonnet



Spring is finally 'springing'! And what better excuse for recycling the old and celebrating the new than with a fantastic new outfit from our fair trade partner, Ethictrade?

Ethictrade.com sells high quality, ethical and fair trade products from around the globe; ranging from fashion and homeware to CDs and toys. And with more than 1,200 products on offer, you're sure to find that perfect spring outfit or Easter gift for your loved one.

With over 700 ethical, fair trade shops to choose from and a massive 20% of your pre-vat purchase going to CCC, why not pop along there now to check out that new spring outfit? Just follow the link: <http://childconcernconsortium.ethictrade.com>

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## 50th Anniversary Celebration for Action for Sick Children

And still recalls the nurse telling him to 'stop crying' when his mother went home and left him behind, telling him 'to be a brave boy'!

This was the lynch pin on which Action for Sick Children went on to create its Charter points for hospital admissions, recently adopted by the European Association for Children in Hospital.

There always needs to be a group of interested people caring for children and championing their rights as they can so easily fall off the radar. Action for Sick Children has been filling this role for 50 years and with your kind support, will continue doing so – thank you so much.

Action for Sick Children is celebrating their 50 years with an Art Competition and Birthday Parties in Children's Departments in hospitals across the country. If you would like to know more, please visit our website.

[www.actionforsickchildren.org](http://www.actionforsickchildren.org)

Don't forget you can also find us on



and follow us on



## CCC COTM in Waitrose Community Matters Scheme



Generous shoppers have once again 'voted with their tokens' in the Waitrose Community Matters scheme, to the tune of **£419.00** for Child Concern Consortium!

CCC was just one of the three charities chosen by Waitrose as Charity of the Month for October 2010 and we are hugely grateful to them for introducing such a brilliant scheme in support of their local

community. Special thanks must also go to the lovely Candice for her enthusiasm and hard work on behalf of all the charities involved.

This fantastic sum of money, which just topped our previous total of £400.00, will really help us to help change children's lives for the better and we would like to thank everyone who voted for us.

## CCC Christmas Market

**On a freezing cold day at the beginning of December, we set up our market stall at Café Forever's Christmas Market with high hopes of an entertaining and fun-filled day.**

Well, the day was certainly full of fun but we hadn't realised that we would be shovelling snow and stamping our feet for warmth on what must have been one of the coldest December days in a decade! Nevertheless, we struggled on and had a fantastic time with all the children and local residents who braved the weather to join in the fun on the day. The weather had certainly changed since first reserving our

stall. And we were very grateful to Steve; our local Tesco's manager for providing plenty of warm pastries free of charge for us to hand out to hardy bargain hunters, which brought a smile to their faces and warmth to their hearts!

Highlight of the day (apart from the warm pastries), was definitely Santa's Xtra Factor Karaoke auditions for budding stars, closely followed by the lucky dips for Santa's *Good Boys & Girls* and *Naughty Grownups!*

We really did have a wonderful time and would like to thank Marlene and Hylton at Café Forever for providing us with the



Shovelling snow



Parker & North's Xtrafactor audition



Harry & Grace with their Lucky Dip



Tesco's Xmas Fayre!

opportunity of taking part in such a community spirited venture. Lots of hard work, but really worth it to see all those lovely smiles on all those children's faces.

**Get in touch – write to** Child Concern Consortium, 5th Floor, City Reach, 5 Greenwich View Place, London E14 9NN

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**Child Concern Consortium Reg. Charity No. 1103052 Company No. 4625902 Registered in England and Wales**

Member Charities:	Action for Sick Children Reg. Charity. No. 296295	BAAF Adoption & Fostering Reg. Charity. No. 275689	4Children Reg. Charity. No. 288285	The Fostering Network Reg. Charity. No. 280852	Working Families Reg. Charity. No. 1099808
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**CHANGE OF ADDRESS/DONATION FORM – I would like to advise you of my new address details/ I would like to make a donation that works five times harder! Please return to Child Concern Consortium - address above**

- I am enclosing a cheque for: £ ..... made payable to Child Concern Consortium.
- I have made an online donation of: £ ..... through www.childconcernconsortium.org.uk

**Please do not send cash through the post**

The Gift Aid declaration entitles us to reclaim the tax you have already paid and turns every £1 you donate into £1.25. All you have to do is tick below.

*giftaid it*

I am currently a:  standard rate  higher rate UK tax payer. Please treat all of my donations to Child Concern Consortium as Gift Aid until otherwise notified.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Today's date \_\_\_\_\_

NB: You must pay an amount of income tax and/ or capital gains tax equal to the tax we claim.

Title ..... Name .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Telephone .....

Email .....

Signature ..... Date .....

- Please send me:  A home moneybox so that my loose **change** can help **change** children's lives for the better.
- Some mobile phone/inkjet recycling envelopes to help raise up to **£30.00** per phone for CCC
- ..... CCC water bottles at **£2.99** per bottle. Cheque for amount £..... attached.
- A copy of CCC's Supporters' Questionnaire.