

## **Family Support and Information Day – September 2015**

Parents and carers of children or young people with a disability or additional needs in the Cookstown area recently attended a support and information day at The Burnavon in Cookstown.

The aim of the event was to ensure parents and carers were aware of services available locally to help them better support their child and families.

The free event was organised by the Cookstown and Magherafelt Locality Planning Group in Partnership with Family Fund and the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP).

Ursula Marshall, Chair of Disability Forum welcomed the initiative, saying "It is a great opportunity for parents/carers to be able to see and hear of all the support that they can avail of in one place."

Ross McCrea, Manager, "Family Fund is a UK-wide charity that has been providing grants to families on a low income raising a disabled or seriously ill child aged 17 and under for over 40 years. Last year in Northern Ireland, we were delighted to be able to support over 4, 000 families with over £1.4 million in grants for essential items such as washing machines, sensory toys, family breaks, bedding, clothing and computers.

We understand it can be a struggle financially, emotionally and physically for families raising a disabled or seriously ill child, and these grants can help break down many of the barriers families face, improve their quality of life and help ease some of the additional daily pressures.

We are very pleased to be working with CYPSP to organise this Family Support and Information Day and we really hope this event will help more families across Mid-Ulster find out how to access the support available from a variety of organisations that can help them meet some of their pressing needs."