



Family Voice Peterborough

Registered Charity
1141009

Special points of interest:

- Participation News
- Opportunities to participate
- FVP Charity News

Inside this issue:

Welcome to latest newsletter!

Happy New Year

We had a very busy 2015 with some trustee changes and new staff being employed. The core team of volunteers and parent representatives has continued to work hard for FVP.

Much work has been taking place around CAMHs and the ASD/ ADHD waiting lists over the past few months and will

continue in 2016. Work also continues on the Local Offer and EHC processes.

All reports of work involving parents is available to download from the FVP website. Details on opportunities to participate can also be found on the website.

We will continue working on health and local authority participation in 2016 and hope to see a

further increase in the number of parents actively participating.

Please do read this latest newsletter to see what has been happening and what is planned for the coming year.

FVP Trustees

Don't bin me, pass me on to other parents!

Trustee Update

The FVP Trustees are:
John Ravenscroft (Chair Person)
Mandi Rennie (Treasurer)
Sara Rourke
Jenny O'doherty

The trustees are happy to have Sara re-join the board and be able to share her experience and knowledge.

The trustees have also set the date for the next AGM which will be on Tuesday 26th April 2016.

Details and the AGM notice will be posted on the FVP website in the next few weeks.

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**Your Newsletter
Your Voices
Your Participation**

National and Regional News

A farewell message from Sue North

It is with sadness that I say goodbye to parent carer forums across England, the National Network Steering Group and the Participation Team. Over the last six years it has been a privilege and a pleasure to get to know, work with and support parent carer forums across England. Through Aiming High for Disabled Children, the green paper and the SEND reforms we have seen significant changes over the years, but it has been fantastic to see the huge impact parent carer forums have had locally, regionally and nationally. Not always plain sailing - and often very challenging, the commitment and persistence of parent carer representatives has been inspirational. I wish you all the very best for the future.

And hello from Gethyn Williams

Gethyn Williams joined Contact a Family in September as our Director of Development and Engagement - a brand new post that leads Contact a Family's Parent Carer Participation activity, The SENDirect Team and

our network of local groups. Collectively this new Department is responsible for parent carer participation, family linking, volunteering, stakeholder engagement and business development.

Gethyn says: "This is a new Directorate for Contact a Family which both honours our core history and reflects the ambition of our new strategy. I am excited about working across the organisation, and closely with the NNPCF, to develop the unique and pivotal role we can play in the lives of families with disabled children. For Parent Carer Participation in particular we must not forget that the individuals with whom we work in local forums give their time freely, and I hope all my experience in working with volunteers and in community development will only help to strengthen this."

Gethyn comes to Contact a Family from the Olympic and Paralympic volunteering legacy charity 'Join In' where he was Head of Partnerships.

Prior to this he worked in the youth sector and voluntary sector

infrastructure, including as Director of Workforce Development at the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS) and Head of Policy and Knowledge at the London Voluntary Services Council (LVSC). Gethyn is also a trustee of charities working in the youth, art and community development sectors.

Direct From NNPCF October 2015 Bulletin

Engaging your community with the Local Offer

Responding to feedback, including practice examples. Now is the time if they haven't already for local authorities to seek and publish comments on their Local Offers from local children, young people and parents. This is something which must be done at least annually, with comments published alongside the Local Offer.

Importantly, comments should be sought not just on the Local Offer itself (e.g. is it searchable, is all the information accurate) but also on the content, including the quality of the provision.

Local authorities then need to take the comments into account when reviewing the sufficiency of

Communication Channels

Facebook

www.facebook.com/fvpcommunity

YouTube

<http://www.youtube.com/user/FamilyVoicePeterboro>

Twitter

@familyvoice1

Website

www.familyvoice.org

Email

participation@familyvoice.org

You can keep informed by linking with us through all these channels of communication.



National and Regional News Cont.

provision in its area, as required by section 27 CFA.

A number of authorities have already made a positive start in publishing and responding to feedback on their local offers.

Wigan has published a report on its website entitled, 'Feedback on the Local Offer July 2015'. This authority has opted to provide a single report showing trends and insight, along with examples of how they will develop the Local Offer in light of feedback received. The report also explains how parent carers will continue to be involved and highlights their focus on supporting young people to participate.

<http://www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Education/Special-Educational-Needs-and-Disability/Pathfinder.aspx>

The Isle of Wight has taken a 'you said' 'we did' approach, based on individual comments received.

<https://www.iwight.com/Council/OtherServices/Local-Offer/How-to-use-the-IW-Local-Offer>

What do children and young people with SEND say about engaging with the Local Offer?

The Final Impact Report of the SEND pathfinder programme (reference DfE RR471) was published on the gov.uk website in July 2015. While it was very positive about families' experiences of EHC assessment and planning, the report also noted that only a minority in both the pathfinder and comparison groups had heard about, and looked at, the Local Offer. Of course, significant progress has made since the evaluation field work was completed and the quality, coverage and awareness of Local Offers has greatly improved. At the one year point however, ensuring increased uptake of the Local Offer remains a priority and local authorities are reminded of the need to work closely with children and young people when reviewing their Local Offers; and to think about ways of making them more accessible and promoting them more effectively.

NHS England Mandate

The mandate to NHS England sets the government's objectives for NHS England, as well as its budget. In doing so, the mandate sets direction for the NHS, and helps ensure the NHS is accountable to Parlia-

ment and the public.

In accordance with the Health and Social Care Act 2012, the Secretary of State must publish a mandate each year, to ensure that NHS England's objectives remain up to date.

A new mandate to NHS England is due to be published following the completion of the Spending Review, to take effect from April 2016. The consultation document sets out how the government proposes to set the mandate to NHS England for this Parliament. The final mandate will be subject to the outcome of the government's Spending Review.

Direct from NNPCF website

To see all articles and read more use these links

<http://www.nnpcf.org.uk/nhsenglandmandate/>

<http://www.nnpcf.org.uk/category/joint-bulletin/>

<http://www.nnpcf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/DfE-SEND-October-Newsletter-2015.pdf>



Investing in our children and young people and facilitating a good future and better life chances for them all requires participation from the whole community

Local Participation News

SEND Participation

There is still much happening around Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and plenty of opportunities to help inform the ongoing development of processes and systems being put in place to support those children and young people (CYP) who have SEND.

Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP)

Details on how to request assessments of need for EHC's can be found on the city council website. A form can be downloaded that can be completed by parents or professionals. This takes account of parents having a right to request an assessment of needs for their own CYP. There is also an "at a glance" guide that can be viewed that provides basic information about the EHC process. This guide was co-produced with local authority, health and parent carers.

The development of processes and documentation is ongoing and parent carers are invited to get involved in focus groups or become trained as parent representatives to be involved in strategic meetings and work-streams. Focus groups have already taken place to look at some of the documentation relating to EHC's and the reports can be downloaded from our website. Parents, professionals and young people who have now been through the EHC process have also been asked to complete a survey using POET to see if outcomes are being achieved. There have been 153 new EHCP's produced between September 2014 and January 2016. A report was produced by FVP that details some

of the data around requests for assessment, plans produced and transfers. Also in the summer/ autumn of 2015 a parent pack was produced that was sent to all those known to the city council who had CYP with statements; this pack detailed timescales for transfers to EHC plans and support services. If you never received this pack and have CYP on a statement please get in touch and we will get one out to you.

Local Offer

The Local Offer (LO) has been live since 1st September 2014 and has been under continuous development and change; the LO is intended to be a "live" website and to reflect the needs of CYP with SEND and their parent carers & family.

There have been ongoing focus groups and surveys utilised to enable parent participation in this development work. Reports from all this work are available on the city council LO and the FVP website. They detail what parents have said and also changes made by the city council.

There are now coloured icons on the LO and a feedback page by which people can leave feedback on the LO content and raise areas of unmet need. Feedback can be on content and lack of content not just the accessibility, usability and look of the LO.

Recently a LO event was held for heads of service, frontline staff and parent representatives to look at the LO, what the legislation says about the LO and being compliant and what needs to be done to make further changes to LO entries

specific to services.

More work will be taking place to further develop the LO in terms of content, look and feel and parent carers to can help this through involvement via FVP or directly via the LO feedback facility.

Personal Budgets

Work has taken place to co-produce guidance and a policy related to the use of personal budgets and a new guide is now available for download from the LO.

As of yet not many personal budgets have been requested for all aspects of the EHC plans that have been produced.

Preparing for Adulthood

A Preparing for Adulthood (PFA) group which reports to a SEND Project Board has been formed to look at various aspects of PFA. The group has been working on a pilot using planning live events to enable young people to plan for their future; possible supported internships and employment opportunities are also being discussed.

The PFA group brings together the local authority, children's and adult social care, colleges, special schools and a parent representative to look at enabling young people to achieve good outcomes as they approach adulthood.

Health Participation

FVP also has parent representatives involved in work in the health sector.

Local Participation News cont.

This work is related to the SEND work that FVP have been involved in since the SEND reforms work started.

CAMHs Transformation

FVP have parent representatives involved in discussions at a strategic level and have facilitated parent carers to be involved via focus groups and survey completion. Parent carers have reported satisfaction with the CAMHs service once in it but dissatisfaction with referrals and waiting lists while trying to get access to CAMHs.

From the work that has taken place FVP and Pinpoint have started work in delivering support and training to parent carers especially those waiting for assessment for ASD and ADHD as well as behaviours that challenge. This work has started since the waiting list for assessment was suspended.

The workshops that are taking place cover understanding behaviours that challenge, ASD and ADHD and are being run in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire during January to March. The workshops are co-designed and co-delivered by a CPFT clinician and a parent representative. All booking details can be found on the FVP and Pinpoint Website and Facebook Pages.

The support groups are being run by Pinpoint with support from FVP and also cover Cambridgeshire and Peterborough; they are led by parent representatives and Pinpoint staff. Bookings to attend the support groups are made with Pinpoint.

This work is being carried out by FVP and Pinpoint in partnership and

means that parent carers across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have the same opportunities.

The parent representatives have been enabling commissioners involved in the CAMHs transformation to understand the views of parent carers which are being included in the transformation plans.

Peterborough City Hospital

FVP have a parent representative who attends the children's board for the hospital and who is also involved with healthwatch Peterborough. The board looks at children's services within the hospital.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning group

FVP have a parent representative on the children, young people and maternity programme board for the CCG. The representative feeds back to the board and the forum to ensure parent carer views are incorporated in planning relating to children's health services.

Transformation work groups set up by the CCG programme board are attended by other parent reps and this ensures parent carer views are included in service development as well.

Hard to Reach Groups

Work has been taking place with enabling parent carers from groups traditionally seen as hard to reach to be involved in parent participation locally.

The parents attend workshops and

training opportunities as well as a working breakfast meeting; these give the parent carers the chance to participate in the way they like. It has also been decided by the parent carers that it is the services who are hard to reach not families.

Ways to Participate

Parent carers can participate via a variety of methods either with FVP or independently via the LO.

FVP provide opportunities through focus groups, surveys, an annual conference, social media and parent representation. To be a parent representative training will need to be undertaken and an agreement signed with FVP.

To find out what is happening and participate please keep an eye on the FVP website www.familyvoice.org and Facebook page www.facebook.com/FVPcommunity. Parents can also email FVP on participation@familyvoice.org to request further details.

SHARE YOUR VIEWS

BECOME A PARENT REPRESENTATIVE

MAKE OUR SHARED VOICE A LOUD VOICE

Activities/ Events

Thanks to a donation from The Rudolf Fund and funds raised via raffles FVP will be running two coach trips in the Summer.

Robin Hood Festival—Saturday 6th August

To book use the following link
[https://
www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/
RobinHood2016](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RobinHood2016)

Hunstanton— Saturday 3rd September 2016

To book use the following link

[https://
www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/
HunstantonSept2016](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HunstantonSept2016)
If you cannot book on via the links then please phone us on 01733 313184 and the booking will be taken over the phone.

Confirmation of places will be made via letter or email once a booking form and deposit to secure places has been received.

Deposits will be refunded on the coach and are £5 per person.

Due to limited places people will only be able to book on one coach trip.
If FVP are able to secure funds for further trips/ activities these will advertised in the next Newsletter or via a leaflet sent out in the post.

Caravan Bookings for 2016

Bookings for the 2016 season opened on 1st November 2015 and some holiday dates have already gone.

The caravans are sited at Butlins Skegness and Haven Caister and both sleep 8 people. Prices include the cost of renting the caravan (not per person), utilities and wristbands/ passes to access the resort facilities.

Dogs are welcome for an extra

fee but this must be agreed upon before the holiday starts with FVP to ensure site rules are not broken.

The caravans can be booked for Friday to Friday seven night Breaks; Friday to Monday three night breaks and Monday to Friday four night breaks.

Prices are available on request and can also be found on the FVP caravan Facebook page and FVP

website.

[www.facebook.com/
FamilyVoiceCaravan](http://www.facebook.com/FamilyVoiceCaravan) and
www.familyvoice.org

All enquiries should be directed to 01733 313184 or holidays@familyvoice.org



BUTLINS



HAVEN



Family Voice Peterborough—Charity News

Five Year Anniversary

This year will mark the fifth year FVP have been a registered charity; FVP first registered on 31st March 2011. The past five years have seen much growth and change within the charity with trustee changes as well.

The current board of trustees have been working on trustee development and charity development to ensure compliance under charity law and to enable them to meet their legal obligations and duties in the running of the charity.

The trustees are responsible for the following six main duties:

1. Ensure the charity is carrying out its purpose for the public benefit
2. Comply with the charity's governing document and law
3. Act only in the charity's best interest
4. Ensure the charity is accountable
5. Manage the charity's resources responsibly
6. Act with reasonable care and skill

All this work is carried out by the trustees on a voluntary basis and takes much time especially as the time approaches to ensure all annual returns and reporting are made in time for the AGM.

Staffing

AS FVP have expanded there has been a need to take on staff as well as volunteers and parent representatives; staff do carry out volunteer work in addition to their paid hours. For one staff member to be employed permission was sought from the charities commission and a declaration of interest for this is made by both the employee and trustees.

FVP will be looking to take on more staff in an admin position from April to help meet capacity. This will be advertised by a variety of methods so do keep an eye out for details.

Move

FVP are moving to new premises. This move will help the expansion of the charity and enable further development to meet the charity objects.

FVP will be moving to:

The Goldhay Centre
105 Paynels,
Peterborough
PE2 5QP

All website details and email addresses will remain the same as they are now.

The new premises will be closed during February and Part of March to allow time for all necessary work to be sorted in relation to the move. FVP can be contacted during this time by email, phone or Facebook.

Annual General Meeting Notice

Date: Wednesday 26th April

Time: 10am to 11am

Venue: FVP Premises

Proposed Resolutions:

1. Adopt new term of office for trusteeship
2. Reappoint current board of trustees

To attend please book by contacting the secretary
secretary@familyvoice.org

Family Voice Peterborough—Fundraising News

FVP are looking for people to join a fundraising sub-group and support the fundraising lead in raising funds in a variety of ways to support the continued growth and development of the

charity. All monies raised go towards supporting parent carers and their families.

FVP Network Dinner & Participation Awards

In 2015 FVP were pleased to help raise

vital funds for Heltwate School and Families First.

In 2016 FVP will be raising funds for Inspire Peterborough and Peterborough & District Deaf Children's Society



Dates to look out for

- ⇒ March 2016 Butlins and Haven Season Begins
- ⇒ AGM 26th April 2016
- ⇒ Robin Hood Festival 6th August
- ⇒ Hunstanton 3rd September

All About Us

We are a group of parents and carers who are on a **voluntary** basis actively seeking to improve services in all areas of the lives of children and young people with disabilities or additional needs between the ages of 0–25 years. We aim to be the strategic consultative body within Peterborough for families, providing a liaison point for statutory and voluntary bodies. We also endeavour to bring parents and carers together to have a strong voice ensuring the future for our children and young people is a good one. As well as this we arrange national and local trips and activities for the whole family.

We are also a registered charity.

Family Voice
Peterborough

Together improving services for
children and young people with
disabilities and additional needs



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facebook.com/fvpcommunity

facebook.com/fvpfundraising

facebook.com/FamilyVoiceCaravan

Twitter:

@familyvoice1

We're on the Web

@
www.familyvoice.org



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