



Family Voice Peterborough

Registered Charity
1141009

Special points of interest:

- Participation News
- Trustees Update
- Caravan Breaks
- Family Voice Peterborough Our Story

Inside this issue:

Welcome to our 6th volume of this newsletter!

Hello and welcome to our latest newsletter; this is issue 1 of Volume 6.

In this issue we will give you some updates on parent participation nationally and locally, let you know what is happening around the SEND reforms and provide you with some short breaks news.

We also have some updates from the trustees for you and will give you a brief

overview of who we are, what we do and how we started.

2014 was a very busy and productive year for FVP and the work around the SEND reforms enabled so many more parent carers to have a voice and 2015 will hopefully be the same.

There has never been so many opportunities before for so many parent carers to get involved, have a

collective voice and participate across so many services for children and young people with disabilities and additional needs so please help us keep this going.

Happy New Year from FVP

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

AGM Notice

Family Voice Peterborough's next AGM will be held on 21st April 2015. If anyone wants to attend, find out more or know what's involved in being trustee please contact us by 17th February 2015 by emailing secretary@familyvoice.info.

This will mark the start of FVP's fifth year as a registered charity and six years since the creation of FVP.

**Your Newsletter
Your Voices
Your Participation**

National and Regional News—Direct From NNPCF

Confirmation of the Parent Carer Participation Grant for 2015 - 2016

We are pleased to inform you that the Minister has confirmed that the Parent Carer Participation grant will be available for forums for 2015/16 at the same amount as this year - £15,000.

This is great news for forums and a recognition from the Department about the value of parent carer participation and the forums, particularly as the reforms continue to be implemented. The Department are currently re-tendering for an organisation to support forums for 2015/16 so once this is confirmed, more details will be available about the application process for 2015 -2016.

Update from the Department for Education

Minister Edward Timpson has written to LA Chief Executives, DCSs and lead members seeking their personal support in implementing the SEN and disability reforms, especially in relation to arrangements for Education, Health and Care needs assessments whenever a child or young person with a Statement or Learning Difficulty Assessment is transferred to an Education, Health and Care plan. [Click here to read the letter](#).

DfE is issuing a monthly e-mail on SEN and disability issues, which summarises recent and upcoming announcements, and includes

questions and answers on implementation issues which LAs and their partners have raised. It can be shared widely. If you would like to receive it, please e-mail the SEN Implementation team.

The DfE have published the latest thematic studies from SQW which focus on pathfinder learning. There are three new reports, covering between them the local offer, support for 19 -25 year olds and progress with workforce development. They are all available from the progress with workforce development. They are available from the GOV.UK website.

Minister announces more funding for SEND Reforms

The Department for Education has announced it will invest a further £31.7 million in 2015 to 2016 to help local authorities in England continue to meet the costs of implementing the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) reforms.

Children and Families Minister, Edward Timpson, said: "Our reforms put children and parents right at the heart of the system. We're on the beginning of a journey to provide simpler, improved and consistent help. Local councils have made a strong start in implementing these life-changing reforms, but we want to give them more help to take delivery to the next level. The timescale has always been for them to bring children into the new system over the next 3 years - this

extra money will help them to do that."

Edward Timpson has today also invited Ofsted to formally inspect local areas on their effectiveness in fulfilling their new duties. They will do this along with the Care Quality Commission and a local authority officer. It is hoped that robust and rigorous inspections will ensure that parents and young people receive as much information as possible about what is being offered.

Challenging Times

We know that as the reforms are implemented and areas face challenges as local authorities make efficiencies and cuts in services that it can and does feel as though some of the principles of participation and co-production are not being utilised as we would like and the improvements that we are all aiming for are not happening as we might want.

We know how frustrating and challenging this is and how it may make you feel like giving up. We want to encourage you during these difficult times to never underestimate the impact of your participation and involvement. These are long term cultural changes, being implemented in difficult financial times and we just wanted to thank you all for your hard work, time and investment, and please hang on in there.

SEND Reforms Update

The reforms started in earnest on 1st September 2014 and changes have taken place with many ongoing. This was the start of the journey for parent carers and professionals alike. As the NNPCF have said in their latest newsletter which is referred to in the previous article there is still a long way to go and parent carers should not underestimate the impact they can have. The journey ahead of us is going to be a long one, may be frustrating and seem never ending but hopefully it will be worth it eventually for all our children and young people.

Local Offer

The Local Offer (LO) can be accessed in its current form via www.peterborough.gov.uk, it is

still undergoing development and parent carers and young people can have input into it going forward.

Email

SENDreforms@peterborough.gov.uk to get involved.

Your feedback on the LO is required to help get it right.

Education, Health and Care Plans

Local Authorities have until April 2018 to convert existing statements to Education, Health and Care Plans (EHC). The EHC plans are outcome focused and enable young people and children and their parent carers to define their aspirations. Parent carers can request an EHC plan for their child/ young person and the details of how to do this can be found on the LO. The more information that can be given at the time of making a request that details what the needs of the child/

young person are the more this will help the LA in making a decision to proceed to completing a needs assessment.

Preparing for Adulthood

One aspect of the reforms is "preparing for adulthood" which has led to in extension to some services to 18 to 25 year olds and this includes EHC plans.

Information about preparing for adulthood can be found on the LO and there will be information on housing, employment and training and day opportunities. The Care Act also contains important legislation to sit along side the Children and families Act for 18 to 25 year olds.

“Your Child
Their Service
Your Voice”

Communication Channels

Facebook

www.facebook.com/fvpcommunity

YouTube

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

Twitter

[@familyvoice1](https://twitter.com/familyvoice1)

Website

www.familyvoice.info

Email

participation@familyvoice.info

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



Local Participation News

Current Parent Reps

Parent carers who act as parent reps are Tanya Smith, Sarah King, Mandi Rennie, John Ravenscroft, Maxine McCulloch and Sara Rourke.

SEND Work streams

- ⇒ SEND Strategy Group
- ⇒ SEND Operational Group
- ⇒ Local Offer Work Group
- ⇒ Personal Budgets Work Group
- ⇒ Other ad hoc workshops i.e "preparing for adulthood"

FVP Work streams

FVP are not only involved in the SEND Reforms work; there are many other ongoing work streams involving parent representation.

- ⇒ Health Child Programme
- ⇒ Emotional Health and Wellbeing Group
- ⇒ Carers Partnership Board
- ⇒ CCG Care Design Group
- ⇒ 0 to 25 redesign
- ⇒ Learning Disability Board
- ⇒ Autism Sub Group
- ⇒ Easter Region Parent Carer Forum
- ⇒ Direct Payments work group

⇒ Other ad hoc work programmes ie "wheelchair services"

Wheelchair Services Survey

Thank-you to the 22 parent carers who took the Peterborough Wheelchair Services Survey; 32 people took Pinpoints Cambridgeshire version as well. From the parent carers who took the FVP wheelchair services survey 18 parent carers reported being dissatisfied with the current wheelchair service. The majority of parent carers received their wheelchairs from "Provide". 15 parent carers stated it took over 18 weeks to get a new wheelchair. The full results were sent to Jo Rooney Commissioning Officer for Cambs and Pboro CCG. The results passed to Jo will inform decision making around commissioning of the wheelchair service for children and young people.

Working with Pinpoint

There will be more cross border working with Pinpoint due to many health services being commissioned for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough jointly by Cambs and Pboro CCG. Services like CAMHs are provided by CPFT for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

and this is something both forums will be looking at working on.

Upcoming Work

FVP will also be conducting a survey about continence aids with a view to the information gathered informing commissioning of the service; the results will be passed to Jo Rooney. The survey can be accessed by using the following link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Pborocontinence>.

Getting Involved

You can ring 01733 313184 or email participation@familyvoice.org to find out what is happening and put your name down to take part in focus groups, take surveys and express an interest in parent rep training.

Can I please encourage parents of children with SEND to be not only informed but involved on improving and shaping future services available to our children and YPs as this will not only benefit them but empower u as a parent to ensure ur child/ren get all the support they need by raising any concerns u may have across to the relevant professionals in a positive manner, it is all about working together x (Tanya Smith, Parent Rep)

Trustees Update

The Trustees will be putting together regular updates for your benefit especially at this time of unprecedented change due to the SEND reforms. Family Voice Peterborough (FVP) have been honoured to be so actively involved in the changes locally enabling the parent carers of Peterborough to have a voice in many ways. We couldn't have done this without the hard work of Sara Rourke and Louise Ravenscroft in their new roles as Financial Administrator and Participation Lead respectively. It has been a pleasure enabling them to move from their previous roles as trustees to their new roles as employees of FVP over the past six months.

We would also like to acknowledge the work of the volunteers and parent reps; both current and past that have done so much to keep the office running and attended meetings to share the voices of so many other parent carers. We would also like to wish Lisa Carter and Emma Bullimore all the best in their move into employment and we valued their support and involvement over the past year.

We also wanted to update you on who we are and take this opportunity to officially welcome our newest Trustee Janet Clarke; Dr Janet Clarke many of you may remember from her time as a Paediatrician in Peterborough who spent many years getting to know so many families and their children. We are excited to have her on board at this time as we work to grow the

charity and support the ongoing work of the forum.

The trustees and their roles are as follows:

John Ravenscroft - Chair Person

Mandi Rennie - Treasurer

Lisa Clissett - Training

Maxine McCulloch -

Membership

Janet Clarke - Health and Participation

We recently had feedback from the DfE SEND Advisor on Peterborough's co-produced EHC template which is very positive and wanted to say thank-you to you as parent carers who contributed to the development of the plan.

Our engagement with parent carers is going from strength to strength which will be detailed in a report that is currently being produced by Louise in her role as Participation Lead; many more parents who are representative of many parent groups in Peterborough and whose children and young people have a variety of disabilities/ additional needs are taking part in online surveys, Facebook discussions, face to face meetings and focus groups.

There has been an increase in parent representation and work streams that FVP have become involved in and this includes a move to being involved in health sector participation. Mandi has implemented a couple of coffee groups that help parent carers share issues, enable views to be gathered around mental health and provide a point for signposting. The groups run on the 2nd and 3rd Tuesday of the month and cover behaviour and adolescent mental health.

We really hope you find this update useful and look forward to providing more of the same. If anyone has any queries please do not hesitate to get in contact with the Trustees via email:

committee@familyvoice.info



Training

Expert Parent Programme

Louise Ravenscroft, Maxine McCulloch and Lisa Clissett are approved trainers of the "Expert Parent Programme" and are looking to deliver this in 2015. The programme was piloted in October 2014 and feedback from this will be used to inform the next presentation of the work shop. Please do keep an eye out for further details.

SEND Reforms

John Ravenscroft, Lisa Clissett, Maxine McCulloch and Louise Ravenscroft will be developing and delivering a series of work shops relating to the reforms and these will cover SEN support, EHC Plans and Processes, Independent Support, Personal Budgets and Preparing for Adulthood.

Microsoft Basics

FVP have developed a day work shop which covers the basics of word, excel, publisher and powerpoint. It is hoped that this workshop will be delivered again in 2015. This workshop is usually delivered by Maxine McCulloch and Lisa Clissett

Caravan News

News

FVP own two caravans to provide families with children and young people with disabilities and additional needs low cost short breaks. The caravans are sited at Butlins Skegness and Haven Caister. Both caravans sleep 8 people, have ramped access and prices include all utilities and wristbands/ passes for accessing site facilities.

Bookings

Bookings opened for the 2015 season on 1st November 2014. School holiday dates get booked up very quickly and only some of the summer break is left. Bookings are confirmed on receipt of a completed contract and £100 refundable deposit. Full caravan

details and pricing can be found at www.familyvoice.org and www.facebook.com/FamilyVoiceCaravan. To request details on dates and how to book please phone 01733 313184 or email holidays@familyvoice.info

Available Dates

These dates are correct at the time of this newsletter publication.

Butlins

22nd to 25th May - £260
29th may to 1st June - £254

17th to 24th July - £589

23rd to 30th Oct - £458

Haven

17th to 24th July - £589
24th to 27th July - £300
31st July to 7th Aug - £589
14th to 21st - £589
21st to 28th - £594
28th Aug to 4th Sept - £458

23rd to 26th Oct - £254

All prices listed are for the hire of the caravan and are the whole holiday price they are not per person.

Contact

Phone: 01733 313184
Email: holidays@familyvoice.info

Short Breaks

Families with children and young people aged between 0 and 25 can access a variety of short breaks; from after school clubs

and youth clubs through to LINK care depending on eligibility. For further details on what is currently available and how to

qualify please check out Peterborough's Local Offer

Family Voice Peterborough — Our Story

2008-2011 FVP The Beginning

In 2008 through Aiming High for Disabled Children the Government announced a £430m package of resources to improve services for families, this included £370m for respite care, £35m for childcare, £19m for transition support and £5m to develop parents forums. This meant there was up to approx £30,000 per authority.

From March 2009 to October 2009 the Voluntary Sector forum helped to facilitate the development of Family Voice Peterborough. They applied for Phase 1 and 2 of this money which totalled £13, 000

The three co-chairs on FVP were Bev Walshe (VSF), Michelle King and Louise Ravenscroft. The steering group initially consisted of approximately 20 parent carers. There was representation from the NAS with Jackie Luland being on the steering group and PDDCS with Liz and Dean Monaf.

A lot of hard work went into running some parent carer meetings, input in the first disability directory through parent representation and setting up the formal structure of the forum.

Unfortunately the VSF lost their funding in the summer of 2009 and FVP had to go it alone; a treasurer had to be found and bank account set up to hold funding made available to the forum from the DfE.

FVP held the official launch event of the forum on 15th October 2009 and took the opportunity to

thank the VSF for all their support before they officially closed. From this time on Michelle and Louise acted as co-chairs.

It was a time of hard work and steep learning for the steering group as everyone had to run a committee and the forum. It was also hard work getting to understand how grant monitoring took place and what was involved in applying for the next round of DfE funding. A huge thanks has to go to Christine Atkinson and PCVS at this time for all the support, use of filing cabinet space, meeting room time and admin support. Christine acted as FVP treasurer during this time and worked hard to manage the accounts and support the admin of the forum.

From January to March 2010 work took place to source extra funding to enable parent carers and their families further opportunities to spend time together and participate in different things. FVP became the first group in the city to be awarded short breaks funding to provide a wraparound short breaks service in the form of trips and activities for the whole family. FVP were awarded £6500 and ran activity days locally and coach trips to the seaside, the Robin Hood Festival, Black Country Living Museum and much more.

Between March and September 2010 time was spent running the trips and activities, attending meetings and having involvement in short breaks commissioning,

transitions and regional forum meetings. Parents started acting as parent representatives and work began on building a voice for parents locally.

September 2010 it was felt time to hold the first official general meeting of the forum and truly formalise the committee. This marked a change in structure and change in those running the forum with Louise becoming Chair Person and Paula Thacker MBE becoming Vice-Chair and different parent carers in the roles of treasurer and secretary.

After the meeting the new committee decided to start looking at the future of the forum, issues around funding and capacity as a result it was decided the best thing to do to insure sustainability of the forum was to gain charitable status.

Much time was spent by the committee researching what would be involved if FVP became a charity and what impact this may have. After making the decision to become a charity a general meeting was held in public where over 15 member of the forum were in attendance along with committee members and the decision to become a charity was approved. The committee then completed the registration process and charitable status was achieved on 31st March 2011.

Dates to look out for

AGM—21st April 2015
Annual Conference—TBC

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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We're on the Web @
www.familyvoice.info



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