



**Family Voice  
Peterborough**  
Registered Charity  
1171389

Special points of interest:

- **Participation News**
- **National and Regional News**
- **Local Participation News**
- **Spot Light**

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**Welcome to latest newsletter!**

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2019. We have been very busy already and have much more planned to keep us busy right until the end of term.

We are also working hard to ensure you are updated about all things participation and after listening to concerns about how to get informed and involved we are looking

at exploring new and innovative ways of facilitating participation. Any ideas and of you may have are most welcome and you can share these with us via participation@familyvoice.org.

In this newsletter you can find out what activities and events are taking place and where you can get support. We are also taking bookings for

the 2019 season in our caravans and on page 7 you can find out how to book a short break with us.

Thanks for staying involved and we hope you enjoy reading this newsletter.

FVP

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



**Trustee Update**

The Trustees Are:

- John Ravenscroft (Chairperson)
- Wendy Gray (Treasurer)
- Natasha Leahy (Secretary)
- Mandi Rennie
- Graham Casey.

To contact the board of trustees email: secretary@familyvoice.org

The trustees are currently planning the work of the forum for 2019 to 2020 and will be putting out information in the next few e-news letters and on the website. Keep an eye out for any updates.

**Your Newsletter  
Your Voices  
Your Participation**

## National and Regional News

### NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL EVENT 2018

On the 22 November, 200 attendees representing 87 parent carer forums from across England attended Contact's and the NNPCF's annual Parent Participation conference in Coventry.

At the event marking an incredible 10 years of Contact supporting parent carer forums, key note speaker, Children's Minister Nadhim Zahawi, addressed the conference, noting that the growth in parent Carer Forum membership in the last 10 years has been 'staggering'. To hear more about the difference parent carer forums have made in 10 years.

Over the last 10 years parent participation has grown from a seed of an idea in 2008 with only 465 parent carers known to be involved in planning local services in England, to the influential movement it is today of almost 95,000 parent carers.

We've been the Department for Education's delivery partner for these vital forums giving parent carers a much-needed voice - since 2008, helping to set up and run them, and distributing grants to them.

Through our work we help forums give parent carers across England a voice and the opportunity to work with local education, health and other bodies on services and policies that make a real difference to families' lives.

"Bringing parent carers together to learn from one another and share their experiences of strategic involvement is a vital part of what Contact and the NNPCF do. The collective noise and passion of so many parent carers in one place is very inspiring and everyone comes away with renewed energy for championing the changes they want to see for all families with disabled children." Gail Walshe, Contact Head of Parent Participation.

### Webinars

On the Contact website there are a series of webinars that parent carers can view/ download to find out more on a range of subjects.

**Transport** presented by Stuart Hall Strategic Director of Wiltshire Parent Carer Council and Kay Henry of Parent Carer Cornwall. This webinar looks at legislation, what does the picture look like across the country, challenges and pressures on LA budgets, what else could be done and much more.

**'Decision making for adults lacking capacity'** presented by Helen Smith Solicitor with Irwin Mitchell LLP. This webinar covers an introduction to the Mental Capacity Act 2005, the Court of Protection and the legal framework in place from a health and welfare perspective and much more.

**'Preparing for Adulthood'** presented by Julie Pointer NDTIs children and young people's lead. This webinar covers

the four PfA life outcome areas: Employment, Independent Living, Friends, relationships and community inclusion & The best possible health

**'Continuing Healthcare'** presented by Charlotte Wilson Solicitor with Irwin Mitchell LLP, focusing on: Entitlement to continuing healthcare, Assessing eligibility, the appeal process and common problem.

**'CQC and Ofsted inspections'** with NNPCF National Rep Carol Kelsey and Fazilla Amide from Enfield Parent Carer Forum. .

**'SEND Consultation: Parent Carer Forums'** delivered by Ofsted. This webinar looks at the new SEND inspection framework proposals and how parent carer forums can support their parent members to contribute to this important public consultation.

**'Short Breaks Services, the journey so far..'** This webinar explains: what short breaks services are; responsibilities of statutory authorities; how parent carer forums can be involved; and useful resources.

**'Using the law to challenge cuts to short break services - Steve Broach [PDF].'** Please note that although Local Authorities will be setting their budgets for 2015/15 in February, the content of the webinar will remain relevant both to the ways in which any proposed budget cuts are implemented and to budgets for future years, which are likely to see further proposed

## National and Regional News Cont.

reductions in funding for children's services including short breaks.

**'Engaging with Health - how Contact can help Parent Carer Forums'** presented by Lynn Hoppenbrouwers Contact Strategic Health Lead.

**'Transforming Care for children and young people with learning disabilities, autism or both'** presented by Mary Busk, NNPCF Steering Group member for London and Sue North, the children's social care and education adviser for the Transforming Care programme.

**'First steps towards understanding and working with the health system.'** With Contact a Family associate Anna Gill and Rachel Trueman from South Gloucestershire Parent

Carer Forum, this webinar includes: a bird's eye view of how the health system is structured; an introduction to commissioning within the health system; identifying key levers for change within health and much more.

**'Improving health services for disabled children'**. View the presentation associated with this webinar.

To view all the webinars use the link below

[https://www.contact.org.uk/get-involved/parent-carer-participation/resources-\(general\)/](https://www.contact.org.uk/get-involved/parent-carer-participation/resources-(general)/)

### NNPCF NEWS

Secretary of State for Education announcements - NNPCF response

December 18, 2018  
On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December, the Secretary of State for Education Damien Hinds made a number of key announcements relating to SEND, details of which can be found on the DfE website.

In response NNPCF Co-chair, Mrunal Sisodia said:

*We welcome the news that the Secretary of State for Education has responded to calls from the sector for increased resources for SEND services. Over the course of this year, the NNPCF have been consistently highlighting the impact of resource constraints on services for our children.*

*We are also pleased that the role of parent carers in co-producing effective services*

### Funding

- SEND resourcing
- Joint commissioning

### Legislation and policies

- Education Health and Care Plans
- SEN Support
- Preparing for Adulthood
- Transport
- Working with Health
- Transport
- CAMHS
- Short breaks

### Accountability

- Inspections
- Tribunals
- Local authority powers

### NNPCF PRIORITIES

We are telling government that:

There is simply not enough money in the system to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND

Poor understanding of needs, a lack of shared priorities and joint commissioning mean that what money there is in the system is not being spent effectively.

More needs to be done to improve the implementation of legislation when it comes to key areas (those to the left).

Parent carer forums must co-produce these solutions.

There are many examples of good practice but these are still too rare.

We must continue to improve the accountability in the sys-



@familyvoice1



www.familyvoice.org

www.facebook.com/FamilyVoiceCaravan, www.facebook.com/fvpcommunity

www.facebook.com/FVP-Goldhay-Community-Centre

## Local Participation News

### UPDATE

There is much happening again locally that we would like to update you on. However firstly a quick note about participation more generally.

#### **Being Heard**

You do not need to be part of FVP to have a voice; we know there is power in working together and sharing your views collectively but this is not for everyone. If you wish to be heard independently you can always go the Local Offer website and provide feedback, views and concerns.

#### **Focus Groups**

So far this year we have already held two focus groups where parent carers were able to provide input into different services. 5 parent carers attended a session focussing on the current ASD strategy which is under reviews. Another 6 parent carers reviewed the draft Personal Budgets Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Reports of both these sessions will be available on our website in due course.

#### **Guidance and Strategy Development**

A draft guide for parent carers all about "Preparing for Adulthood" has also been co-produced and is now out for wider consultation. So far 12 parent carers have provided feedback. The guide is designed to help parents know what to expect as their young person approaches adulthood (between 14 and 25). Feedback has been positive, with parents asking for more clarity on areas such as housing.

The first stage of the SEND

Strategy development and consultation has now finished and over the course of its development over 100 parents had a say. The strategy can be viewed on the Local Offer. Work is now under way to develop the action plans that will sit behind the strategy. Effectively the what and how plans. Further details in this article.

#### **Myth busting**

With all the changes taking place some misconceptions have developed.

1. FVP are not funded with any funding intended for short breaks
2. Short breaks funding has not been cut by the Local Authority; every few years the services are re-commissioned to ensure they benefit the greatest possible number of young people.
3. FVP do not complete DLA/ PIP form filling for anyone and have never received any funding to do so.
4. FVP do not work with individuals, but rather facilitate participation for all.
5. FVP do not lobby or campaign and are not allowed to as a forum.
6. FVP look for solutions and work together with partners to shape services for the needs of many rather than raising individual concerns and complaints.
7. FVP do not represent individuals and any trained parent representatives attend

meetings as representatives of parent carers in general rather than representing any one person/ group.

8. FVP do not fight against, but rather work in partnership equally with professionals across services.

### SHORT BREAKS

The current short breaks provision has been under review by PCC Commissioning for the past year and changes have been made to what will be offered to families from Peterborough and how it can be accessed. No funding has been cut in this review, it is how the service will be delivered that has changed.

Following on from this review a series of focus groups are being planned where people can come along, hear first hand what is happening and share their views with professionals from PCC Commissioning.

#### **Focus Group Details Booking is Essential**

**Date:** 11th February  
**Time:** 10am to 12pm  
**Venue:** 105 Paynels, Peterborough, PE2 5QP  
**Booking:** office@familyvoice.org

## Local Participation News Cont.

### PETERBOROUGH EXPECTS

Peterborough City Council are developing guidance for schools on how they expect SEND services to be delivered. This guidance is being co-produced and your input is still being sought. There is a focus group to look at the guidance so far and provide input. Please do come along

#### **Focus Group Details Booking is Essential**

**Date:** 5th February  
**Time:** 10am to 12pm  
**Venue:** 105 Paynels,  
Peterborough, PE2 5QP  
**Booking:**  
office@familyvoice.org

### SEND STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council are looking for people to input in to the development of the SEND Action Plans which will be based on the aims and

outcomes identified in the county wide SEND Strategy. They are holding a series of workshops which are free to attend.

- ⇒ 7th February 10am - 12pm, Richard Young Suite, Boathouse Business Centre, Wisbech
- ⇒ 8th February 10am - 12pm, Suite 2, Stanton House, Huntingdon
- ⇒ 12th February 12.15pm - 14.15pm, Main Hall, Ely Community Centre, Ely
- ⇒ 13th February 10am - 12pm, Fleet Peterborough
- ⇒ 14th February 10am - 12pm, Orchard Park Community Centre, Cambridge
- ⇒ 15th February 10am - 12pm, Sports Pavilion, Cambourne

To Book Email:  
transformation.team@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

v.uk

### Schools Offer

We currently work in partnership with a number of schools in the Peterborough Local Authority Area. As part of this we regularly attend coffee and breakfast mornings on site to enable us to meet and gain the viewpoints and experiences of parent carers. Here are our upcoming school mornings, please contact the schools directly if you wish to attend:

- Arthur Mellows - 01/02/2019
- West Town - 12/02/2019
- William Law - 13/02/2019

## Communication Channels

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

#### **Facebook**

www.facebook.com/fvpcommunity  
www.facebook.com/FamilyVoiceCaravan  
www.familyvoice.com/FVP-Goldhay-Community-Centre

#### **YouTube**

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

#### **Twitter**

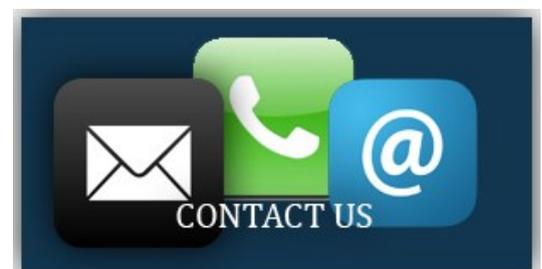
@familyvoice1

#### **Website**

www.familyvoice.org

#### **Email**

participation@familyvoice.org



## Activities/ Events/ Support/ Training/ Fundraising

### Community Litter Pick

A new initiative in conjunction with Peterborough City Council, Neighbourhood Watch and Local Councillors.

- Saturday 2nd February - 10.30 arrival, start at 11am
- Saturday 16th February— 11.30 arrival start at 12pm
- Saturday 2nd March—10.30 arrival, start at 11am

Lunch provided free of charge to attendees who book in advance

To book: [office@familyvoice.org](mailto:office@familyvoice.org)

### SEN Support Workshop

#### Booking Essential

Date: Monday 4th February

Time: 1pm—2.30pm

Venue: 105 Paynels, PE2 5QP

Booking: [office@familyvoice.org](mailto:office@familyvoice.org)

Topics:

What is SEN Support?

What is the Graduated Approach?

Decoding the Census Guidance.

Local Offer Support

Questions you could ask during meetings

### Half Term Boogie

#### Booking Essential

Date: Wednesday 20th February

Time: 4.30pm-6.30pm

Venue: 105 Paynels, PE2 5QP

Price: £3pp entrance to include

sweet bags for children.

To book: [office@familyvoice.org](mailto:office@familyvoice.org)

### Movie Afternoon

#### Booking Essential

Date: Friday 22nd February

Time: 2pm-4.30pm

Venue: 105 Paynels, PE2 5QP

Price: £4 per person, to include a goodie bag for each attendee

To book: [office@familyvoice.org](mailto:office@familyvoice.org)

### FVP Bake Off

#### Booking Essential

Date: Friday 15th March

Time: 2.30pm—2.30pm

Venue: 105 Paynels PE2 5QP

Price: £5 to enter a bake, £2pp to taste test

Baking will take place in our community kitchen with basic ingredients provided.

To book: [treasurer@familyvoice.org](mailto:treasurer@familyvoice.org)

### Mothers Day Afternoon Tea

#### Booking Essential

Date: Sunday 31st March

Time: 1pm—3pm

Venue: 105 Paynels, PE2 5QP

Price: £8 per adult and £4 per child

To book: [office@familyvoice.org](mailto:office@familyvoice.org)



### PDDCS Upcoming Events

#### Deaf friendly Swimming Lessons

Stamford Leisure Pool

Drift Road

Stamford

PE9 1UZ

Every Friday 6-7pm

For more info please contact

Amy on 07816911744

#### Deaf Toddlers/ Audiology Drop in

Every other Thursday 10-11.30am

105 Paynels

PE2 5QP

A relaxed play session for Toddlers and parents.

Save a trip to Audiology and come and see Matt for

new Molds. If your child is at school and needs Molds

please drop in and get their Molds done too!

For more info please contact Gina on 07908463118

## Useful sources of Participation and SEN Information

National Network of Parent Carer Forums (NNPCF)

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

Contact for families with

disabled children

<https://www.cafamily.org.uk/>

Peterborough City Council

Local Offer

<https://>

[www.peterborough.gov.uk/](https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/residents/special-educational-needs/local-offer/)

[residents/special-educational](https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/residents/special-educational-needs/local-offer/)

[-needs/local-offer/](https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/residents/special-educational-needs/local-offer/)

## Spotlight—Disability Peterborough

Message from CEO—Sandi Burns

Dear All

We are now no longer able to help disabled children (parents and carers) to fill in Disability Living Allowance Applications. You will be aware that our funding for this service was cut last year but we have carried on seeing the children under tolerance, using our own reserves. Our managing trustees have said that sadly this cannot continue. We can however help with a limited amount of mandatory reconsiderations and appeals subject to capacity as funding remains in place for this service.

We have checked with the following agencies to find out their current position on helping with children's DLA forms. The responses we received are as follows:

Family Voice - do not offer this service - refer to Disability Peterborough

Contact a Family - do not offer this service - refer to Disability Peterborough

CAB - unable to get through on the phone line to ask the question. Referrals are coming to us via CAB telling the parents to contact us and not via Refernet.

DWP - can only help vulnerable people and the disabled childrens parents /carers would be expected to do this for the child.

Any future referrals we receive from agencies will unfortunately have to be returned.

We do not want to leave the parents of disabled children with no service provision. Does anyone know who we can sign post for practical help with DLA form applications?

Kind regards

Sandie Burns

CEO DIAL/Disability  
Peterborough

JMC Western Ave

Dogsthorpe

Peterborough

PE1 4HX

Tel 01733 265551

https://

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

Disability Peterborough incorporating Shopmobility, Inspire Peterborough and the Disability Forum

Registered Charity number  
1089250

Family Voice are aware that this is leaving a gap in service provision in Peterborough. If you have any concerns please do get in touch so that these can be logged with commissioning.

### Caravan Update

We have two caravans:

Haven Caister; 2014 Serenity Swift—8 berth, Privilege Passes included.

Butlins Skegness; 2017 Willerby Premier Wheelchair—6 berth Wristbands included.

Booking for the 2019 season is now well and truly underway. Prices are set to enable families of children with additional needs to have a break.

To book a contract must be completed and a £100 deposit paid. All details, bookings and requests for information can be directed to [holidays@familyvoice.org](mailto:holidays@familyvoice.org)

You can check availability by going to the calendar on our website  
at

[www.familyvoice.org/caravan](http://www.familyvoice.org/caravan)

## Dates to look out for

- ⇒ 02/02/19—Orton's Litter pick out of the Goldhay Centre
- ⇒ 04/02/19 SEN Support Workshop
- ⇒ 05/02/19 SEN Peterborough Expects Focus Group
- ⇒ 11/02/19 Short Breaks Focus Group
- ⇒ 22/02/19—FVP Movie Afternoon
- ⇒ 15/03/19 FVP Bake Off Competition
- ⇒ 31/03/19 FVP Mothers Day Afternoon Tea
- ⇒ 13/04/19 Easter Fayre

## All About Us

FVP started as group of parent carers who came together to actively seek 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. The main aim is to be the strategic consultative body within Peterborough for families, providing a liaison point for statutory and voluntary bodies. FVP also endeavour to bring parents and carers together to have a strong voice ensuring the future for their children and young people is a good one. As well as this FVP arrange national and local trips and activities for the whole family and provide short breaks at the seaside. FVP are also a registered charity.

Family Voice  
Peterborough

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



Family Voice Peterborough  
105 Paynels  
Peterborough  
PE2 5QP

Office: 01733 685510  
E-mail:  
office@familyvoice.org

## All Contact Details

### Email:

office@familyvoice.org

### Phone Numbers:

Office 01733 685510

### Address:

105 Paynels, Peterborough, PE2 5QP

### Website:

www.familyvoice.org

### Facebook:

facebook.com/fvpcommunity

facebook.com/FamilyVoiceCaravan

Facebook.com/FVP-Goldhay-Community-Centre

### Twitter:

@familyvoice1

We're on the Web

@  
www.familyvoice.org



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