

In this issue:

- Voting for young people with disabilities
- All About Voting: free event – 3 June 2017
- Family Voice Ambassadors
- SEND e-Newsletter
- Family Voice Conference: 10 March 2018
- Family Voice contact details
- Cracking the codes (2)
- Family Voice AGM 17 May 2017
- Learning disability annual health checks
- Family Voice newsletter deadlines

If there are issues you'd like to see in future newsletters, contact admin@familyvoice.org.uk or 07535 895748.

Voting for young people with disabilities

Whether they have a physical disability, a learning disability or mental health challenges, young people who are over 18 and registered to vote are entitled to do so. What is more, the Returning Officer and assistants at polling stations are obliged to make sure that there are no barriers to this. For example, a young person with a disability is entitled to:

- Ask for help in marking the ballot paper. This could be from the Presiding Officer, who can mark the ballot paper for them, or a close family member who is over 18, or a support worker or other helper who is entitled to vote themselves.
- Use a tactile voting device. This is fixed on to the ballot paper so visually impaired people can mark their ballot paper in secret.
- See a large print version of the ballot paper for reference. This should be clearly displayed in the polling station and a copy can be given to a voter to take into the polling booth. But, a

voter must still only mark their ballot paper.

- Have assistance to gain access to the polling station. If a voter can't enter the polling station because of a physical disability, the Presiding Officer may take the ballot paper to the elector.

Of course, young people with disabilities can also apply for a postal vote, although the deadline for that for the June 8th election has now passed.

Mencap supplies easy-read guides to voting for people with a learning disability and their supporters at <https://www.mencap.org.uk/get-involved/campaigning/guides-voting?q=get-involved/campaigning/voting-and-registering-vote>

You can also find easy-read versions of **political parties' manifestos** on the Mencap website.

Turn over for a Norfolk event on 3 June 2017 that you might also find helpful.





All about Voting

A **free** event for people with learning disabilities and their friends, carers, support workers and families



Pop in between these times and stay for as long as you want



Edith Cavell Building
Norwich Research Park
Norwich, NR4 7TJ

Meet people from the main political parties

Learn how to do your vote paper

Learn about politics

Free parking at the Edith Cavell Building car park



Easy Read poster by Opening Doors
☎ 01603 631433

Photo Symbols®



Family Voice Ambassadors

- Are you the parent carer of a child or young person with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND)?
- Would you like to help improve services for families like yours?
- Do you have 10 hours a term to spare for a paid role that can really make a difference?

Family Voice Ambassadors each cover an area of Norfolk and make sure that families like yours know about our work and how we can help your views to be heard by decision-makers and service providers.

They achieve this by doing things you are probably already doing – attending events related to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and talking to other families. They also make sure that leaflets, posters and news of our events are displayed in the area.

The Ambassadors meet up from time to time to share tips and experiences, and the Ambassadors Lead, Rachel Clarke, is there to give friendly help and advice.

At the moment we have vacancies for Ambassadors in **Long Stratton**, **Loddon** and **Harleston**.

If you think you could help, do contact Bernadette at admin@familyvoice.org.uk or 07535 895748.

SEND e-Newsletter

If you do not already subscribe to Norfolk's SEND e-Newsletter, you can do so easily on the Local Offer website (www.norfolk.gov.uk/send).

The newsletter is sent out as an email and is full of information about events and services in Norfolk that may be of interest to you and your family.

Save the date...

Family Voice Norfolk Eighth Annual Conference Saturday, 10 March 2018

Remember...

If you have news or views you'd like us to know, contact our Membership manager Kate on 07950 302937 or membership@familyvoice.org.uk or

 www.familyvoice.org.uk

 [FamilyVoiceNorfolk](https://www.facebook.com/FamilyVoiceNorfolk)

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

Cracking the codes (2)

Continuing our mission to demystify some of the jargon, acronyms and abbreviations used around our young people, here are some more frequently used terms:

SALT Speech and Language Therapy

EPSS Educational Psychology and Specialist Support

OT Occupational Therapy

SRB Specialist Resource Base

CYP Children and Young People

SENDIASS Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Independent Advice and Support Service (Norfolk SEND Partnership)

IEP Individual Education Plan

MASH Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub

TITAN Travel Independence Training Across the Nation

NNUH Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital

ESA Employment Support Allowance

PIP Personal Independence Payment

DLA Disability Living Allowance



Family Voice AGM 2017

We were pleased to see so many members at the Family Voice Annual General Meeting on 17 May in Wymondham. The AGM documents, including the Chair's and Treasurer's reports, can be found on the Family Voice website: www.familyvoice.org.uk. There is also information about the activities Family Voice has been involved with in the past year and reports from the Conference and Special Events Lead and the Ambassadors Lead.

During the AGM, steering group members were re-elected. Their roles are:



Chair
Tracey Sismey



Vice Chair
Alison Furniss



Treasurer
Trevor Wang
(also Conference Lead,
Administrators Lead)



Reps Lead
Cheryl Bould



Ambassadors Lead
Rachel Clarke



Policies Lead
Lorraine Devere



Communications Lead
Nicola Baxter



Events Lead
Claire Jack

All members of the steering group are also Reps and some are Ambassadors, too. Further members can be co-opted to the group, so get in touch if you are interested. Or come along to a steering group meeting – they happen monthly – and see what is involved, by contacting Bernadette on admin@familyvoice.org



Kate Draycott, Membership Secretary, and Bernadette Pallister, Administration Manager, also make key contributions to steering group meetings.



Learning disability annual health checks

From the age of 14, people with a learning disability should be invited by their GP for an annual health check. If an invitation doesn't come, you can ask for one.

By beginning these checks as soon as they are available, a young person becomes used to knowing what to expect and families can help both health staff and the young person to know how best to communicate and make the most of the appointment. This is also useful preparation for later years when the young person may be living independently or with other support.

In addition, annual health checks mean that the GP has up-to-date information should you need him or her to give a report or sign a certificate for DLA, PIP or ESA (see previous page!)

Newsletter deadlines

The next newsletter will appear at the end of June. If there are issues that you would like to see covered, please contact admin@familyvoice.org.uk or 07535 895748 before 24 June 2017.

