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



Family Voice Norfolk Conference 2018: We need your views about childcare

Planning is already underway for next year's Conference and we are thinking about the facilities we provide each year for childcare. We would like to improve them by increasing the number of children with SEND who can attend and widening the range of SEND that we can cater for.

To this end, we are exploring the possibility of using one of the Norwich-based special schools to look after your child/children for the day. The school, The Clare, is just a short distance from the Conference venue, but it would mean that you would have to drop off your child/children there before you come and pick them up after the Conference. It does mean, however, that we could look after 50% more children than we usually take and we could look after children with complex (sensory/physical/health) needs as well as autism.

Before we can make any change, we need to have an idea of numbers and needs. We will shortly be sending out a very short survey to find out whether our proposals would make a positive difference for parent carers. We know that school holidays are busy times, but your response to the survey will help us to make sure the Conference meets your needs as fully as possible.

Family Voice Norfolk
Eighth Annual Conference
Saturday, 10 March 2018
John Innes Centre, Norwich
NR4 7UH



Update from the Reps Team



From Cheryl, Reps Lead

This month, along with existing workstreams, the Reps Team has been busy with several new meetings and projects.

Earlier in July, two members of the team attended a meeting with the Care Quality Commission Lead Inspector for Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust. The Trust is responsible for providing a range of community-based mental health services for children, young people and adults.

Two parent carers from the wider membership of Family Voice Norfolk also attended along with Representatives from Suffolk Parent Carer Network. Before the meeting, we worked with SPCN to gather information about family experiences of the services provided by the Trust.

The meeting was a valuable opportunity to tell the Lead Inspector about the reality in Norfolk of caring for a child or young person who is experiencing mental health difficulties. Relaying this information was understandably challenging and distressing for parent carers at times.

Parent carers represented a range of experiences and ages and Family Voice Norfolk would like to thank everyone who attended for their time, energy and bravery in sharing their stories. We felt that the contribution was well received by the Inspector and we hope that it will help to improve mental health services for children and young people in Norfolk in the future.

Family Voice Norfolk also attended the SEND Post-16 Learning Group this month. This working group has been set up to look at the landscape of Post-16 education for young people with SEND in Norfolk, identifying gaps in provision and areas for improvement. This meeting will be ongoing

for the next year and we strongly encourage families who have experiences of accessing Post-16 education services to share them with us so our Rep can take your views along to the next meeting. Our Membership manager Kate is always pleased to hear from you on 07950 302937 or membership@familyvoice.org.uk

Lastly, we are pleased to have started representing families of children and young people with SEND on the Carers Council meetings that take place across the different Norfolk localities and on the central Partnership Meeting that the various local groups feed into.

We have seen several very useful points arise from these meetings in the brief time we have been attending, one of which is the existence of Personal Health Budgets for children and young people with continuing care needs due to a significant health condition.

We are liaising with our partners in Health and the Education Inclusion Service to see how well this is currently embedded in the EHCP process. Again, if your family has any experience of accessing Personal Health Budgets, we would be very interested to hear from you.

We are currently looking for a parent carer to attend the Carers Council Eastern locality meeting (covering Great Yarmouth and the surrounding area) and are very keen to fill this vacancy as we can see how valuable attendance at these meetings will be – if you live in this area of the county and are interested in finding out more about what this would involve, please contact us at admin@familyvoice.org.uk.

The Reps team will be taking a well-earned break over August but already has a busy programme ahead for September.



SEN Support

In the June newsletter we reported on a piece of work that Family Voice is involved in with the local authority and a number of other partners to set down what education settings can be expected to supply in terms of **SEN Support**.

We had hoped to set up a **focus group** with parent carers to discuss the draft document (which can be found on the Local Offer at <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-local-offer/education-and-training-0-25/provision-the-local-authority-expects-to-be-made-available>) before the end of the summer term, but there was simply not enough time.

The local authority, acknowledging how important parent carer views are in this piece of work, have given us an extension so that we can discuss the document in September.

We would still be glad to hear from any members who have views about this as we know from your comments that schools can give conflicting information about how SEN Support relates to the decision to ask for an EHC Plan assessment. If you would like to make comments on the document or take part in the focus group next term, please contact Bernadette as soon as possible on admin@familyvoice.org.uk or 07535 895748.

Cracking the codes (3)

This month's selection of acronyms and abbreviations includes terms used within the Health Service. Let us know if there are other pockets of acronym-itis that need treatment!

HV Health Visitor

CWD Children with Disabilities

DASH Disability & Additional Specialist Health Needs

DH Department of Health

DNA Did Not Attend

ICES Integrated Central Equipment Service

JPUH James Paget University Hospital

LAC Looked After Children (by the local authority)

NSFT Norfolk & Suffolk Foundation Trust (Mental Health Provider)

QEH Queen Elizabeth Hospital

SPOR Single Point of Referral

PHE Public Health England

Speech and Language Therapy: How is it working for you?

You should recently have received a request from Family Voice Norfolk for your views on this subject. Last year Norfolk County Council and the NHS re-commissioned jointly the Speech And Language Therapy (SaLT) service for children and young people (0–19) and awarded it to East Coast Community Health and Care. As part of their remit to keep an eye on health services locally, NCC's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) will be reviewing the service in September.

Family Voice Norfolk were involved in the commissioning of the service and have now been invited to participate in the review. We would like to represent the views of our

members in our report to the committee, so, if your child or young person has received or is waiting to receive therapy from this service, we would very much like to hear from you about the quality of service you have received to date.

Please click on the link below to fill in a short survey by Friday 18 August for your voice to be included in our report to HOSC.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeQw-ufEgY67jjilp-CjwEhdpBVFXpoUipT1s-A0TZOI7J1UcA/viewform?c=0&w=1&includes_info_params=true



Executive Director of Children's Services



You may have seen in the press that this post has now been filled by Sara Tough, currently Director of Children's Services for Dorset County Council. We were pleased

to receive a message from Dorset Parent Carer Council congratulating us on the appointment of someone they have found to be a supporter of services for children and young people with SEND. Mrs Tough is due to take over from Interim Director Matt Dunkley at the end of October. She is a social worker by profession, with 32 years experience delivering services to children and young people. She has held a number of senior roles, leading social care, education and community health services.

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)

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 full of information about events and services in Norfolk that may be of interest to you and your family.

New Minister of State for Children and Families



Robert Goodwill was appointed to this post on 12 June. He has been Conservative MP for Scarborough and Whitby since 2005. His work to date has mainly been around farming, rural life and transport. His main responsibilities in this role are:

- child protection (including protection from child sexual exploitation and safeguarding), local authority children's social care and family law
- children in care, care leavers and adoption
- childcare policy including delivery of the 30 hours free childcare offer, inspection and regulation

- early years policy including inspection, regulation and literacy and numeracy
- funding for publicly funded schools in England to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils of all abilities (pupil premium and pupil premium plus)
- funding and policy on free school meals
- special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- school sports and healthy pupils
- cadets and military ethos in the education system
- improving social mobility in the 12 opportunity areas

Newsletter deadlines

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

