

October 2021

The Parents' Forum for Bradford and Airedale

Newsletter



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Ofsted inspection

At the risk of sounding like a cracked record, we are still waiting for the inspectors to arrive in Bradford and start the inspection of Bradford Council's SEND services. This should be taking place soon after the half term break, as there are now just a few local authorities that have not been inspected. We will of course let you know when the inspection is announced



We have begun the return to in-person workshops, and the first one was very successful. The feedback received was very positive, with all parents saying the only downside was that they wanted it to be longer! One parent added "it's lovely to be here with people rather than on zoom!" We agree, and we have organised some more dates for next month. These are:

- Tuesday 9th November
- Thursday 18th November

Both sessions will be held here at our office in Manningham, and start at 10.30 am and finish at 1.30 pm. In the new year, we will be looking to hold workshops in different locations, including Keighley and other parts of Bradford.

If you would like to book a place, please email supportnews@pfba.org.uk

VIP hospital passport

This VIP Passport gives the hospital staff important information about you.

Please take it with you if you need to go into hospital. Keep it next to you at your bed. If you need help to fill it in ask a member of your family, a friend, a member of staff, your GP or nurse.



Help for people with learning disabilities while in hospital

I recently attended a presentation by Keighley People First, which focused on VIP (Vulnerable In-Patient) Passports. This was very interesting, as my son has learning disabilities, and while he has not had to go into hospital so far, I'd like to be prepared as much as possible, in case this does ever happen.

The form has space to write all kinds of information about the patient, including medical history, how they communicate, food issues and whatever help the person may need while in hospital.

The form is currently in paper form only - you can access the form and print it off from [here](#).

Have you ever used one of these for your child? Did you think it made the experience easier? It would be much appreciated if you could share this with us to help us inform other parents (we wouldn't name you). You can email supportnews@pfba.org.uk or use [this anonymous form](#).

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Trains, Trains and More Trains!



We had a message from a parent who had a lovely day out with her train mad son to the National Railway Museum in York. The day started off with a train journey from Leeds to York and after two years of not being on public transport, the excitement was immense. 2 glorious hours of trainspotting after much of the holidays being spent watching videos of trains!

You do need to book to go to the Railway Museum but entry is free. Find out more about the museum, including how to book [here](#).

One of the more heart-warming elements of the day was that there was a young person at the museum struggling with emotions a little bit and the staff dealt with it incredibly well. 2 members of staff calmly supported him and the young man was able to continue his visit. Always lovely to hear that autism awareness is there and the sunflower lanyard scheme gets the understanding and support it is meant to give wearers.

The best part of the day for our family was that the favourite train was there to be seen and it just topped the day off nicely. The Intercity 125 high speed train!



We love to hear stories of where you have visited and where has been good for and with your children so we can pass this onto other families. We also know that a lot of our young people really love trains. We'd love to see photos of your train experiences. If you want to share a story with us about a day out you have had (train related or not) please email supportnews@pfba.org.uk



Yorkshire & Humber Parent Carer Forum

There are 15 parent carer forums across Yorkshire and Humber and they are part of the National Network of Parent Carer Forums (NNPCF) with over 100,000 parent carer members.



National Network of Parent Carer Forums

'Our Strength Is Our Shared Experience'

We meet every term to share what is going well and not so well across Education, Health and Care services locally.

As a region we gather parent/carer voice which we feed into the National Network through our Y&H regional representative. Our regional rep sits on the Regional Send Network group alongside Send and Health leads from each local authority.

Sharing your feedback and stories are important and can help make a difference locally, regionally and nationally.

You can read more about how we fit in [here](#).

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

We need your help to improve services in our area for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

What can we offer you?

- Out of pocket expenses, if applicable.
- Hours to suit you and your circumstances.
- Free appropriate training and the possibility of learning new skills.
- Being a valued member of our growing team, striving to make a real difference to all children and young people with SEND and their families in the Bradford district.
- Opportunities to meet people and make new friends.

What type of person makes a good representative?

- A parent or carer of a child aged 0-25 in the Bradford district that has SEND, and a member of the Parents' Forum (which is free).
- The desire to want to improve services in the area for ALL children and young people with SEND.
- Time and enthusiasm to dedicate to this - we will provide training.
- Confident about speaking in a meeting setting.
- Able to report back to the Trustees and PFBA staff.



What can I be involved in?

PFBA reps were part of a Yorkshire & Humber regional event on creating minimum standards for young people with SEND (Preparing for Adulthood). We joined other forums and local authority leads in discussing what is important and what should be on offer across the Y&H area. Rotherham and Bradford have volunteered in piloting this work for the next meeting in February 2022.

Parent Carer Reps may attend one of the strategic meetings or steering groups where decisions are made about services for children and young people with SEND in Bradford. These are sometimes held online, or at venues in the Bradford area.

To find out more about the opportunity, please email Julie Bruce (PFBA Manager), julie@pfba.org.uk

Preparing for Adulthood

“Preparing for Adulthood” (also referred to as PfA) is the term used for young people who are reaching the age of adulthood, and the process of moving from children’s to adults’ services.

PfA should include these areas for each individual to achieve:

- Employment,
- Independent Living,
- Social and Community Inclusion, and
- Health and Wellbeing.

Bradford local authority has gathered feedback from parents and has identified that there is a lack of awareness of what options are open to young people as they become adults. To address this, the Family Leadership Programme is starting on 3rd November, and the modules will cover these areas:

Module 1 Introduction and Rights

Module 2 Friends, Relationships and Community Opportunities

Module 3 Independence and Independent Living

Module 4 Education, Learning and Work

Module 5 Planning for Good Health

Module 6 What Happens Next and Feedback

You can read more about what the modules cover on the Local Offer page which you can read [here](#)

Places can be booked on Module 1 via [Eventbrite](#)

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Future events – save the dates!



Listening Event, Thursday 25th November

We are jointly holding another online listening event and the focus this time will be on **mental health services for children and young people**. We are awaiting confirmation of which service representatives will be there, but as soon as we find out we will let you know their names and tell you a bit about what they do. The session will include a short presentation, and plenty of time for questions/comments. If you would like to book a place, you can do so [using this form](#).

Parent/Carer Social Event, Wednesday 12th January 2022, Kirkgate Centre, Shipley

Yes, we are holding our first in-person social for quite some time! We are lucky to benefit from a grant from Shipley Town Council to run this event. Come along for free tea and cake, and more - details to follow in due course.

We would love to know what you think of this newsletter! Please let us know [here](#)