

December 2021

The Parents' Forum for Bradford and Airedale

Newsletter



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Wishing a very Happy Christmas to everyone who celebrates, and if you don't, we hope you have a good break from the school routines, and enjoy some time off.



PFBA Workshops

We were very pleased to be able to start offering in-person workshops again, and held several of these during the autumn at our office. Unless we have stricter covid restrictions back again, we are offering more dates for early 2022 - please see page 8 for these. We keep the number of attendees low so the sessions include plenty of time to discuss your own issues, with opportunities to ask questions. We provide a pack of notes, drinks/biscuits and a light lunch.

SENDIASS are holding an in-person workshop on 20th January which will include a short introduction of SENDIASS and what they do, what EHCPs are and how to request one, legislation/rights throughout the process and after, and 20 minutes Q&A with a SENDIASS caseworker. You can book a place [here](#)

Other sources of help

There is a huge amount of advice on the internet - we think the following are very helpful:

[Council for Disabled Children](#) - their videos on YouTube are excellent (their channel is called WatchCDC) and these are especially good for EHCP information:

[What is an EHCP and who is it for?](#)

[What is an Annual Review of an Education, Health and Social Care \(EHC\) plan?](#)

[The EHCP and The Person Centred Connection](#)

[IPSEA](#) - By law, children with SEND are entitled to educational support that meets their individual needs. Since IPSEA was formed in 1983, they have helped to improve educational support for thousands of children by providing free and independent legally-based information, advice and casework support. Visit their website to find out more [here](#)

July 2021

Magical Lights at Stockeld Park

Between late November and early January, Stockeld Park near Wetherby hosts spectacular illuminations. Deborah shared her experience of visiting this attraction:

We decided to visit as a new year treat a couple of years ago, and we were very impressed. When we arrived it was still light, so we had fun getting lost in the maze. There are hints if you get really stuck!



By the time we had found our way to the middle, and out again, it was dark, so time for a walk in the Enchanted Forest. And how amazing it was! You can stroll through at your own pace, and there are play areas along the way, as well as the fantastic lights to look at, and sounds to accompany some of the installations.

Some people had chosen to ski around the forest on the specially adapted path. There is also an ice rink if you are braver than I am! We enjoyed a hot drink in their cafe when we had finished looking at the lights.



You can get a free adult place too if you have a Max Card.

<https://mymaxcard.co.uk/stockeld-park/>

<https://stockeldpark.co.uk/events/winter-illuminations/>

We love to hear stories of places you have visited, especially if a venue has been particularly good for your disabled children so we can pass this onto other families. If you want to share a story with us about a day out, or a holiday you have had please email supportnews@pfba.org.uk

December 2021

Future Peer Support Workshops and Listening Events - what topics would you like us to cover?



The Education, Health and Care Plan workshops that we run are "Peer Support" sessions which means that the participants don't just have to sit and listen to someone talking for a few hours. Instead, they are encouraged, with the trainer's help, to share with the others their experiences of the EHCP process, which often results in the other parents benefitting from this, and considering new ways of managing the process.

Please see page 8 for the dates of the workshops for next term.



We have also run sessions with a presentation and questions afterwards. These included the topics of SEN Law, and Wills and Trusts when a dependent is disabled. The online Listening Events we organised this year covered SEN Education, Health/Social Care and Mental Health Support.

What subjects would you like us to cover next?

We asked the parents who attended our last Listening Event what they would like to see next - some of the responses were Carers' Assessments, social activities for struggling/excluded children, social anxiety, school refusal and ADHD.

Let us know your ideas - please email supportnews@pfba.org.uk or fill in the online form [here](#)

Preparing for Adulthood

Bradford Council began their Family Leadership Programme on 3rd November, and parents who attended heard an introduction to the subject, including information about their rights as their children move towards adulthood.

The next module is Friends, Relationships and Community Opportunities and is taking place online, on 26th January, from 1 pm to 3pm. You can find all the details, including how to book, via the Local Offer page: <https://localoffer.bradford.gov.uk/service/1533-bradfords-family-leadership-programme>

The other four modules cover these areas:
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



Snoop have recently started a PfA focused Facebook group - search for Snoop PfA Parent/Carer forum or click [this link here](#). In January 2022 they are launching their new focused sessions on the PfA pathway, for young people aged 14 to 25, who have autism and/or a learning disability. The sessions run from 3 pm to 6 pm every Thursday. To find out more, call 01274 292126.



Find more information about employment, independent living, health and much more on the Preparing for Adulthood website here: <https://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/>

October 2021

Future events – save the dates!



Neurodiversity Pathway Event, Thursday 20th January 2022

An information & engagement event for families whose children and young people (0-25) have autism concerns/on the waiting list or have a diagnosis.

Hear an update on the work carried out over the past year on Autism and Neurodiversity in the Bradford District. In addition, contribute and help develop and co-design the new project which aims to build a new Autism/ND system in Bradford that is needs driven, provides faster more effective access to assessments and specialist support and a more skilled and aware 'universal' workforce.

Parent/carers and Children and Young People's input is important to ensure that it is built around Bradford Families and those professionals and practitioners who support them. To book a place, please complete the form [here](#).

Education, Health and Care Plan Workshops

The dates for next term are:

Monday 27th January

Monday 17th February

Monday 21st March

At the time of writing this, we plan to hold these in our office in the Carlisle Business Centre, 10.30 am to 1.30 pm each time. If things change due to covid regulations, we will move to an online meeting instead. Please email supportnews@pfba.org.uk to book or find out more.

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