

May 2022

The Parents' Forum for Bradford and Airedale



Newsletter



In This Issue:

- 2 Latest news
- 3 Project toothPASTE
- 4 Engagement Manager Adele's visits
- 5 Parent's story
- 6 Have your say on the SEND Green Paper
- 7 Future events



We announced in the last issue that we would be holding an event focusing on SEND support in schools, on June 9th. Unfortunately we were not able to arrange for the right people to be there on the day, so we have postponed until a later date. We will share details as soon as we have them.

Carers' week this year takes place from June 6th to 13th. The theme this year is making caring visible, valued and supported.

The Carers' Hub have arranged some events and you can read about them, plus the rest of their newsletter [here](#).

Carers' Resource also have events organised, and you can read about what they are doing [here](#).

Research - Project toothPASTE

The University of Leeds is collaborating with the University of Sheffield, University of Manchester, University of Plymouth, and the Bradford Institute for Health Research, to carry out research about children's eating and toothbrushing habits. The focus is on young children who are autistic, and their experiences and challenges with teeth hygiene.

If you would like to take part, please contact the details on the flyer below. You can find out more about the programme [here](#).

NIHR National Institute for Health Research

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

We need your help for our study...

tooth PASTE

We want to find out:

How can we support autistic children to have good dental health?

Are you...

A family member of an autistic child (aged 5 years or younger) **OR** A parent of an autistic child aged 5-14

We would like to **Speak to you** about your experiences

We would like to **Speak to your child** about what they like and don't like about toothbrushing

You (or your child) will receive a £10 Amazon voucher & we are happy to answer any dental questions you may have.

Further details are provided in the information sheet.

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact a.bhatti@leeds.ac.uk / 07841514915

May 2022

PFBA Engagement Manager's visits



It was so lovely to spend the morning with ladies from the Bradford Stronger Together SEN group at Farcliffe Children's Centre. It was a powerful session where the ladies talked about their experiences as parent carers with each other.



I always find myself feeling so much admiration after sessions like this, that they've felt brave enough to share what they go through with each other, but love seeing the peer support beginning to take shape too. "My child eats the same tea every day." "Oh mine does too. I thought I was the only one!" "My child has such a good memory and repeats phrases from his favourite film which he watches over and over again." "Oh yes that's my child too!"

Afterwards, one of the ladies told me that she felt a lot more confident after the coffee morning. Just being able to get it off her chest with people that understood felt like a weight had been lifted. I know that they will be able to share things and support each other. PFBA will be building links with Bradford Stronger Together to be able to share parent carer experience and we look forward to this!!

Happy child in new school



H was born in Syria and was her parent's first child. They moved to Turkey when she was 6 months old. At 18 months old she could say words in other languages but could not respond or converse. There were no other children around for H's mum to know if this was usual or not. H used to repeat what other people said but never anything conversational.

At 3, H went to nursery and it was here that unusual behaviours were noticed. She understood the word book and what a book looked like but didn't understand how to open a book. She didn't understand instructions or verbs. H didn't make eye contact. The bus driver refused to take her to nursery as she cried and took up too much attention. H loves new places but doesn't want anyone to go with her. She doesn't sense danger.

As a result, H began twice-weekly 1:1 sessions with a specialist. They did think that H was autistic, however, after about 6 months they changed their minds because H had a sense of humour and understood facial expressions.

Then covid hit. It was really difficult for H as she wants to go out and doesn't like routine. She stopped responding. H's mum had the opportunity to come and study for a PhD in England so they came here in November 2020. The flight was tough. H did not want to put a seatbelt on or sit still.

The first month was very challenging. It took more than a month to get registered with the GP and find a house to rent before they were able to find a school for H. We were still in the grip of covid. After 2 months of no school her mum paid for a place at nursery when H should have been in reception. The nursery manager advised that H would need an EHCP going into school and was incredibly supportive at helping out with this. She was to be held back a year but this gave chance to get input from the GP, speech and language, paediatrics in place and an EHCP before starting school in September 2021.

H was offered an alternative to their school of choice and started there with a view to appealing and moving to the preferred school at a later date. However, H settled really well in the primary school and it was decided that she would stay as she was thriving and has excellent support.

H has travelled a lot in her short life. In Turkey, a specialist school would have been very expensive alongside the specialist medical support she would need. Her mum came here to study to enable her to provide a better life for her child. She was surprised at the difference between the two countries. In Turkey, the support is more how to train your child to behave where here it is more trying get everyone else to change to support the child and be more understanding.

PFBA thanks H's mum for sharing her story and glad they have settled in



SEND Review:

Right support
Right place
Right time



The government is seeking views on the green paper about the changes proposed for the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and alternative provision (AP) system in England.

The Parents' Forum for Bradford and Airedale are part of the National Network of Parent Carer Forums (NNPCF) All Parent Carer Forums in the UK are part of this. You can read more about how we fit into this [here](#)

The long awaited SEND Green Paper was published in late March. You can now view the recording of the NNPCF Co-chairs Tina Emery and Mrunal Sisodia as they share their response to the proposals. Tina and Mrunal outline different ways that parent carer forums and individual parents can respond to the consultation and have their voices heard.

The [recording of the session, presentation](#) and the results of the [Menti survey](#) taken during the session are now available.

The NNPCF publish their parent carer survey. The responses of the survey will help to coproduce the NNPCF's own response to the SEND Green Paper consultation. Co-chairs Tina Emery and Mrunal Sisodia said, "The Green Paper is an opportunity to reset the SEND system after the 2014 reforms failed to deliver the improvements that families of children with SEND so desperately need. It is vital that every parent carer's voice is heard and so we have launched a short, simple survey to gather parental views that we will use to inform our response to the Green Paper. We will, of course, also publish the survey results."

You can complete the survey [here](#)

Education, Health and Care Plan Workshops

As promised, we organised two evening workshops in addition to our daytime sessions. All have been very popular this term, and are now fully booked. We will be arranging more workshops after the summer break.



Facebook Live Q&A

Join us in our private Facebook group on 20th June at 10.30 am!

If you have a burning EHCP-related question, but can't make it to one of the workshops, join us in our Facebook group on Monday 20th June from 10.30 am.

The session will be recorded and available to view later. If you have a question but can't watch at the time, please send your question in advance we will answer it for you.

To join, you just need to be a member of our group, which you can join via [this link](#).

We would love to know what you think of this newsletter! Do you have any good ideas for future articles? Please let us know [**here**](#)