

October 2022

The Parents' Forum for Bradford and Airedale

Newsletter



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Carers UK's new report **Heading for Crisis: caught between caring and rising costs**, focuses on the impact of the cost of living crisis on unpaid carers, in terms of their finances as well as their health and wellbeing.

The research is based on a survey of over 13,000 unpaid carers, who completed our State of Caring survey 2022.

The report finds that:

- 1 in 6 carers are in debt as a result of their caring role, increasing to 2 in 5 for carers in receipt of Carer's Allowance.
- The proportion of carers unable to afford their utility bills has more than doubled since last year to 14%.
- Carers in receipt of Carer's Allowance are more likely to be cutting back on food and heating.
- Nearly all carers who are struggling to make ends meet (93%) agreed that the increase in the cost of living was having a negative impact on their mental and physical health.

You can read the full report [here](#).



The latest newsletter from the Carers' Hub is [here](#).

It includes information about how you can meet other carers, opportunities to get involved, how to access support for young carers and other useful resources.

Latest update on the Ofsted inspection



Following the inspection of the district's Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) services that was carried out by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in March this year, Bradford Council and the West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) were asked to produce a written statement of action outlining how it would make improvements to five areas of service where there were significant weaknesses in local practice.

The statement of action has explained how the following areas would be improved:

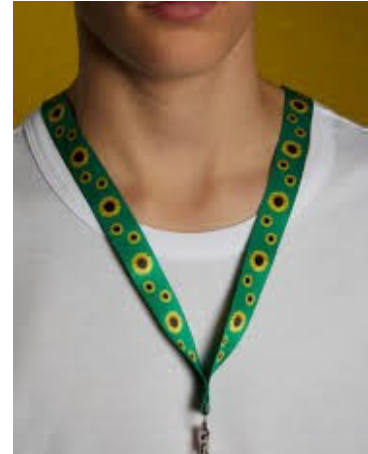
- Poor communication between stakeholders across education, health and care.
- The variable quality of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP), including plans which do not fully describe the provision that children and young people with SEND need.
- The inconsistent delivery of the 0 to 19 health visiting, school nursing and specialist nursing services.
- Children and young people wait too long for assessments, treatment and diagnosis. There is insufficient support for children and young people with SEND who are waiting for provision, services, diagnosis or equipment.
- Education, health and care services do not work together well. The arrangements for joint commissioning are underdeveloped



You can read the full report and the statement via the Local Offer website [here](#).

Sunflower Lanyards - a parent's experience

The airport can be an uncomfortable place for some of our children. Sensory wise it's loud, warm, bright, busy So I just wanted to share our recent experience. We were lucky enough to go abroad in the summer and I had booked special assistance for my son as I usually do. You go to the special assistance desk and they sort you out from there. This allows us to move quickly through check in and security and board the plane first.



It's been a game changer really. But, this experience was different. My son never normally wears a sunflower lanyard but he does in the airport. This time, as soon as the Jet2 staff (I can't comment on any other airline as we will only fly Jet2) saw the lanyard they came over to us and asked what we needed. We were straight to the front to check our cases in and a lovely man took us to the front of the security queue. We were then shown to a special assistance area where we could wait for our flight. It had USB charging ports (perfect for phones and Switch) to keep young man busy. Just before our gate was announced a member of staff came and found us and took us to the gate and we boarded first. This was the same at the other end when we were flying home too. It just goes to show how far sunflower lanyard recognition has come. Even though I had booked special assistance, it wouldn't have mattered if I hadn't really. If you are flying you can pick up a lanyard at the special assistance desk in the airport or at customer services in a lot of supermarkets. Hidden disability understanding matters!

What are your experiences of using the lanyard? Let us know on our Facebook/Twitter posts, or via [this link](#).

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Family Outing to Harewood House

Harewood House is one of the attractions that offers a discount with a Max Card. The offer is currently two children free with a full-paying adult. This is a "Grounds and Below Stairs" ticket.

Alternatively, a carer can go free with a full-paying person.



A parent who recently bought a Max Card from us, to prepare for their visit said "We've been before and always enjoy it. My kids enjoy the play area (youngest especially) and the farm and bird garden (especially the eldest) so there's something for everyone. The walk through the woods is lovely especially this time of year but it can be quite a walk and my youngest especially complained about this. The house is really interesting and we went for the first time inside it. There's a café area which is nice, shop and ice cream hut."

Getting there

This is a place that is much easier to get to if you have a car. It's about 15 miles from Bradford. The website says that buses are available but only from Leeds or Harrogate.

LS17 9LQ is the postcode to use with a SatNav

To find out more and to plan a visit, go to [their website](#).



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Half-Term Activities



From 27th to 29th October, visit Bradford city centre to spot carved pumpkins with a music theme. There's also a carving workshop on Friday 28th October, 11 am to 3 pm in the Broadway shopping centre.

(Photo is from the pumpkin trail in 2020)

There will be a lantern parade in Lister Park on Friday 28th October.

You can make a lantern at Cartwright Hall, located in the park, on Thursday 27th or Friday 28th October. Call 01274 431212 to book a place.



There are more events taking place in the Bradford district over the half term, find out more [here](#).

Activities throughout Yorkshire can be found on the [Yorkshire Tots](#) webpage (not just for little ones!). The page has lots of great ideas for things to do, including Halloween trails, and activities for rainy days.

Bradford's Local Offer Improvements

The Local Offer website is currently undergoing a refresh and the new version will be available in late November. As part of this improvement process, parent carers are invited to be involved. How this is going to be organised is still being planned, but it's suggested that this could include monthly meetings. However, if you feel that you would like to be involved, possibly by reviewing pages and providing feedback, please get in touch. Email supportnews@pfba.org.uk or use [this link](#)

All local authorities must publish a Local Offer, setting out in one place information about provision they expect to be available across education, health and social care for children and young people in their area who have Special Educational Needs (SEN) or are disabled, including those who do not have Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans.



Click on the logo on the right to go to the Local Offer webpage.

The Local Offer has two key purposes:

- to provide clear, comprehensive, accessible and up-to-date information about the available provision and how to access it; and
- to make provision more responsive to local needs and aspirations by directly involving disabled children and those with SEN and their parents and carers, and disabled young people and those with SEN, and service providers in its development and review.'



You can get the latest Local Offer news by email, including updates to local disability related services, future activities, opportunities to get involved and more, by signing up [here](#)

You can read previous issues [here](#)

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Halloween Photo Competition – win a voucher!



- The competition is open to parent carers who are in our closed FB group and meet the criteria for being in the group. To request to join the group click [here](#).
- Photos for the competition should be shared on the original post or added as a separate post – they will all be put in an album by ourselves for the purpose of the competition.
- The photo can be of your child on their own, with friends/siblings, or with a family group.
- The photo must be of either your child/ren in Halloween costume, OR be in a Halloween related place, such as a decorated room, on a pumpkin trail, etc.
- Photos must be added to the group by 10 am on November 2nd.
- The members of the group will be able to vote for their favourite photo/s by clicking like.
- The photo with the most likes by 10 am on November 9th will win the voucher. If two or more photos are tying for first place at this time, there will be a further period where group members can vote for the tying entries.
- We will share the winning photo in our next newsletter.

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](#)