



December 2022

The Parents' Forum for Bradford and Airedale

Newsletter



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Latest news



We are pleased to be able to now take payments for Max Cards via PayPal. There is still the option to pay by bank transfer. For more information, and to apply for a card, please visit www.pfba.org.uk/resources. For some ideas for places to go during the Christmas break, see page 6.



On December 1st, local health services held an event in Saltaire to start thinking about what priorities there should be for children, young people and families across the Bradford District over the next few years.



The event was attended by the Director of Services, Bradford councillors and more than a hundred staff including representatives from the voluntary sector. Presentations were given on Bradford Children's Plan, Child Friendly Bradford, feedback from over 400 children and young people, and the latest data from Born in Bradford. It painted a very difficult picture and therefore made it even more important to ensure our families have a voice in deciding these priorities.

The PFBA Manager, Julie Bruce gave a presentation on lived experience and families of children with SEND and she will be joining the programme board. We will share this work as it develops and will be asking parent carers for their input to help to shape the work. The details of this plan will be shared in the new year.



You can read the latest edition of the Local Offer newsletter [here](#).



LS29 Time Under 5s Meet Up was launched in 2021 by the LS29 Special Needs Support Group. Part playgroup, and part support group for parents, it takes place on Thursday mornings, fortnightly, during term time at the Scout Hut in Ben Rhydding. They have a range of sensory and accessible play equipment, and different speakers or sensory themes each week. Children do not need to have a diagnosis to attend and booking is not required.

LS29 Time Trustee Jane Elliott said “We are a small local charity supporting children and their families at some of their most vulnerable times. Our Under 5s Meet Up offers the children sensory and accessible play, and the parents an opportunity to chat with others in a similar boat.”

Rhian Bullock, who attends the group with her daughter said “Lori loves the activities at the group and it’s been a great support for me. It’s very relaxed and I like that families can find out and share useful information.”

From January the meet ups will be run by Moor Time, as the staffed services provided by LS29 are splitting off to form a new charity.

In 2023 the meet ups are happening on:

12th January	27th April
26th January	11th May
9th February	25th May
23rd February	8th June
9th March	22nd June
23rd March	13th July



For more information about the Under 5s Meet Up please contact Jude on 07966670723 or ls29timetots@gmail.com

Over 500,000 children in the UK live with a brain condition. This can make normal activities such as learning, playing or simply experiencing the world a huge challenge. Through their research Cerebra offers solutions and advice to help these children and their families enjoy lives full of hope and discovery.



One of their services is a lending library. Users can borrow books for adults, books for children, and toys. There's no charge for borrowing the items and they deliver to you via a courier. You can find out what you can borrow, and how to join the library [here](#).



Alison who has a son Alfie, aged 9, who has complex physical disabilities told us, "it was so useful being able to borrow the [Sensory in a Suitcase](#) from Cerebra. It let us try out all kinds of different toys and sensory items to find out what Alfie liked best, without having to pay for them ourselves first. It can be costly to buy something to then find that your child doesn't like it!"

Cerebra also have a huge range of guides for parents, on disability related matters such as Disability Living Allowance and managing challenging behaviour. Many of the guides would be useful to parent carers of children with any disability.


Browse the guides available [here](#).



MAX CARD VENUES FOR CHRISTMAS



The Christmas holidays are here, and if you're wondering how you're going to spend the time, here are some ideas of local places you can use your Max Card. They may even be decorated for the festive season and have special events going on*.



Abbey House museum,
Kirkstall, Leeds

2 adults and 2 children free



East Riddlesden Hall,
Keighley


Free entry (not for special events)

Funzy inflatable park,
Bradford

20% discount for 2 adults and 2 children

Harewood House,
Harewood

2 children free with a paying adult




Lotherton Hall, Aberford,
Leeds

2 adults and 2 children free

Mother Shipton's Cave,
Knaresborough

2 adults and 2 children get a discount -
varies between peak and off-peak

Oakwell Hall, Birstall



2 adults and 2 children free



Shibden Hall, Halifax

Free entry


Stockeld Park, near
Wetherby

1 free adult



Tropical World,
Roundhay Park, Leeds

1 free carer



*Please check details with venues beforehand via www.mymaxcard.co.uk. Other attractions are available. To obtain a card, apply via www.pfba.org.uk/resources



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Looking ahead to 2023



We will be running more workshops for parent carers, looking at Education, Health and Care Plans. These are very small groups which gives each parent attending plenty of time to ask questions about the EHCP process that are important to them.

Unfortunately we don't have confirmed dates for these sessions yet, but once we do, they will be emailed to our members. If you are not already on our mailing list, we would love you to join - it's free! Go to our website and sign up [here](#).



A big thank you to everyone who has filled in our survey so far, about which services you would like to know more about. We will be using your responses to plan a series of events in 2023 so parent carers can find out more about certain services, and be able to put their questions directly to them.

Some of the most popular suggestions so far have been social care, activities for children and young people, finance/benefits and options for school leavers.

It's not too late to tell us what you think! You can tell us which disability-related services you would like to hear from, via [this link](#).

Lastly, everyone at the Parents' Forum would like to wish you a very happy Christmas and we hope you have a relaxing break during the school holiday time. May 2023 be a good year for you all.



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](#)