

July 2023

The Parents' Forum for Bradford and Airedale

# Summer Newsletter



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## Spotlight on Services



As part of our Spotlight on Services events, we were really keen to start holding face to face sessions for parents again. We have held two sessions so far. We want to say a massive thanks to the passionate, brave parents who came along. Tears were shed and their voices were heard (as they should be) and we intend on holding more sessions like this with people and services families want to communicate with so watch this space!

The first one was with Charlie Lowe, SEND Team Service Manager, Integrated Assessment Team and was held on 7th June at Carlisle Business Centre.

Even though Charlie is leaving the service in September, a lot of parents and carers attended to ask Charlie the questions that were important to them.



Charlie did a presentation on the SEN assessment team and the floor was opened to parents to ask away. We had so many questions (as you can probably imagine) that we didn't have enough time to get through them all. We promised to send the questions onto Charlie who said his team would respond to them. You can read the questions [here](#) and once we have had the response we will post to our webpage and also on Facebook.

We were happy to welcome David Stephens, Service Manager Children's Complex Health or Disabilities Team, on 28th June to our Spotlight event and were really pleased to see two young people accompanying their parents who asked questions. David was honest about the limitations of the service but hopeful that things can improve for the better. We will be posting questions and answers from the session on our website and social media very soon!

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## Peer Support Coffee Morning Report

Adele Jones, Engagement Manager at the PFBA has been delivering peer support coffee mornings in schools for more than a year now. 21 schools have been visited and it has been a real pleasure and an eye opener to speak to so many parents who are navigating the SEND journey and help link them together.



We have written a report showing what we have found over this past year. This report has been shared with the SEND Strategic Partnership Board and the Children's Young Person and Families Health Partnership Board and has been described as 'powerful reading.'

We would love you to have a read of it [here](#) and let us know what you think.



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## Summer Holiday Activities



The summer holidays are here again! It doesn't feel like very long since the last one does it?!

Read on for a few ideas for ways to spend the time.

You may know that throughout West Yorkshire, bus fares are capped at £2 per journey, whatever the distance. A day ticket costs £4.50.



Visit [www.wymetro.com](http://www.wymetro.com) for more information about fares.



Between 22nd July and 6th August, there will be brick figures to discover around Bradford city centre.

The Loyal Free app will give you all the details of where to find the figures, or you can find a map and more details on the website - click on the picture above.

Find 35 giant bears and 50 cubs around Leeds on the Bear Hunt Trail.

You can find the locations of the bears, and download a map by following [this link](#).



## Summer holiday activities

Bradford's parks have a lot to offer all year round, but there's more going on during the holidays! And it's all free!



- Activities are aimed at children 5 – 14 years
- All children must register their name and school on arrival
- Parents are responsible for the supervision of their own children
- Wear casual clothing according to the weather. Trainers are the best footwear
- In the event of bad weather, events may be cancelled for safety reasons
- No booking, just turn up and play!
- Free packed lunches for children on benefits-related free school meals.

There are dates throughout the six-week break - see which is the best location for you on the list you can see [here](#).

If you use Facebook, there are lots of pages and groups dedicated to activities for children. Try the [Free Things to do in 6WKS Holidays](#) Group for some great, cheap ideas for things to do.

[Yorkshire Tots to Teens](#) also has lots of useful information about attractions. Their guide for this summer is [here](#).

Bradford Council recently circulated a survey to find out what parents think of the proposed new Local Offer website. The first stage has now closed, but watch out for future updates and opportunities to have your say.



You can read the latest issue and previous issues of the SEN newsletter [here](#)

An illustration of two Max Cards. One is green with a yellow star and the number '1234 5678 9012 3456'. The other is white with a black stripe. They are surrounded by colorful circles in green, blue, and pink.

Max Cards will be available again in September - keep an eye on our webpage [www.pfba.org.uk/resources](http://www.pfba.org.uk/resources)



And finally.... after almost 9 years of working for the PFBA, I am moving on to a new challenge. I began my involvement with the Forum back in 2008/9 and I was a volunteer for a number of years before becoming a paid worker.

I'm sure I won't be disappearing completely; my son's disability means that I will never be far from the disability-related issues that affect our lives so much.

Many thanks, and best wishes to all the parent carers who I've met over the last decade. I hope you all have a good summer break. Louise



**We would love to know what you think of this newsletter. You can let us know, or suggest future articles [here](#).**