



Portsmouth Parent Voice (PPV)
Run by parents for parents of children and
young people with additional needs or
disability

IMPACTING ON YOU

Newsletter

February 2017

Information, advice and support for parents/carers of children
and young people (0-25) with special needs and disability



CONTENTS

Page 2:	Content
Page 3:	PPV – Editorial
Page 4:	What's on?
Page 5:	Local Offer Live Event
Page 6:	Elective Home Education and SEN Workshop
Page 7:	Journey Mapping: Your experience of the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) process
Page 8:	Beat The January Blues in pictures
Page 9:	Survey result: transition to school
Page 10:	School SEN Champion
Page 11:	Parent Reps Update
Page 12:	Appreciation Award
Page 13:	Local Area Ofsted Inspection
Page 14:	Your Views and Consultations
Page 20:	Autism Hampshire recruitment
Page 21:	Wheels for All
Page 22:	Disability Sports Camp
Page 23:	Pet Companion Service
Page 24:	Autism Hampshire- Training Course
Page 25:	Regular Groups
Page 27:	News in Brief
Page 33:	How to contact Portsmouth Parent Voice

Portsmouth Parent Voice



Hi Everyone!

Already February, how time flies! It's probably due to the number of consultations, surveys and events happening both nationally and locally. You are all probably "surveyed" out but I can't emphasise enough how important it is to have your opinions heard. You will find more information in our consultations page.

Coming up over the next couple of months, we have several events and workshops planned including our big annual event, **LOCAL OFFER LIVE**, on 1st April 2017.

We are also meeting in a couple of weeks' time to discuss **our priorities** for 2017/18 and you are more than welcome to join us.

We have also planned a **Home Education and SEN workshop** on Saturday 18th March. More information in this newsletter but please register early as we need to have an idea of numbers as lunch will be provided.

Finally, PPV is now on Pinterest and Instagram but please bear with me as I am still working out how to use it!

See you soon!

Barbara and the Team

General enquiries: ppv@p-d-f.org

Barbara McDougall: PPVcoordinator@p-d-f.org.uk

Kara Jewell: engagementofficer@p-d-f.org.uk

Alison Cooper: ppvadmin@p-d-f.org.uk

What's On?

Events and workshops coming up soon

Are you a parent or carer of a child or young person with additional needs and disability and living in Portsmouth?

We run various coffee mornings, events and training sessions in partnership with various voluntary groups (**Autism Hampshire**, **Contact A Family**) and statutory agencies (such as **CAMHS**- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services)

Event	Date and Time	Venue
PPV: our aims for 2017/18 What would you like PPV do work on next year?	Thursday 16th February 10am to 12 noon	The Frank Sorrell Centre Prince Albert Road Southsea PO4 9HR
Home Education and SEN Workshop	Saturday 18th March 10 am to 2pm	The Frank Sorrell Centre Prince Albert Road Southsea PO4 9HR
PPV Coffee Morning	Tuesday 21st March 10 am to 12 noon	The Frank Sorrell Centre Prince Albert Road Southsea PO4 9HR
Local Offer Live! Information roadshow about services available in Portsmouth	Saturday 1st April 10 am to 3 pm	Miltoncross Academy Milton Road, Milton, Portsmouth, PO6 3EP

You will find further details in this newsletter about the booking details for our training sessions and workshops. Our coffee mornings and drop-ins are free to attend and you are always welcome to bring a friend or relative. Remember to check our Facebook page and Twitter for the latest information.

ppvadmin@p-d-f.org.uk or call 07825 182 608

PORTSMOUTH
**LOCAL
OFFER
LIVE!**

**This event
showcases the
services available
in the city, for
Children, Young
People and
Families with
Special
Educational
Needs and
Disabilities**

HOSTED BY



Portsmouth
Parent
Voice

Tel: 07825 185608

EMAIL: PPVADMIN@P-D-F.ORG.UK

FREE OPEN EVENT

Saturday 1st April 2017

**Miltoncross
Academy**

Milton Road, Portsmouth

10am-3pm



Activities

Workshops

Information

Back by
popular
demand!

Now in its 3rd year and following fantastic feedback from parent carers, the Local Offer Live 2017 event will showcase services, support and activities available to families with children and young people with special needs and disabilities aged 0-25 living in Portsmouth.

Light refreshments and activities will be on offer on the day.

Please note that pictures will be taken to be shared on social media and as part of future publicity and promotion. Please notify us if you do not wish to have your picture taken.

You can book via this link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/local-offer-live-2017-tickets-31021511175>



Elective Home Education And SEN Workshop

Saturday 18th March
10am — 2pm

The Frank Sorrell Centre
Prince Albert Road
Southsea

Where do I find support and resources?
What is Elective Home Education?



Portsmouth Parent Voice

would like you to come and share
your experiences of Elective Home
Education, or come to find out more
information.

Lunch provided

enjoy some pampering

£5 deposit per person required*

*Refunded on the day on completion of the workshop

To book online: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/elective-home-education-workshop-tickets-31595018551>

ppvadmin@p-d-f.org.uk or call 07825 185 608 for more information

Hosted by:



Portsmouth Parent Voice: Journey Mapping 2017



We will then work with the Local Authority to share any **good practices** across all the schools in Portsmouth and look at ways we can improve anything that is not working.



For more information please contact Portsmouth Parent Voice on 07825 185 168 or Email: ppvadmin@p-d-f.org.uk

We would like to hear about your journey through the new assessment process, whether you have transferred from **Statement to the new EHC Plan** or if you have requested an assessment for an EHC Plan. We want to **see what is working** for parents and what needs more work, so we can take this back to the Local Authority.

If you would like to share your journey with us, please join us at one of our **coffee mornings**. If you are unable to make them, please contact us and we can arrange a time that suits you. This is your chance to have your voice on the new process and you will also receive a **£5 voucher for your time**. You can also access the surveys online: New EHCP request:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/VNNRL9M>

Transfer from statement to EHCP: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/VXSGDQ8>



Beat the January Blues Event

Thank you to parents and professionals who took part in our event back in January.

We were lucky to have a team of professionals who designed sensory toys using recycled materials as well as some interesting conversations around support for sensory issues for children and young people with special needs and disability.

A huge thank you for the team of students from Highbury College who treated parents to some fantastic manicures!

Transition to senior school: The survey

Back in December last year, we asked you what was the most important factors were when choosing a school if your child has special educational needs and disability.

Thank you to all of you who took the time to complete the survey.

Here are the highlights of the comments made:

- On the whole, schools open day/ evening were welcoming. A few mentioned that it felt disorganised, cold and unwelcoming.
- 50% of the schools had presentations.
- When presentations took place, they were informative and helpful.
- Most parents said they had a guided tour of the school.
- Most of the guided tour were mainly conducted by SENCOS followed by support staff and pupils.
- 2/3 were able to look around the school.
- Parents spoke to teachers, SENCOs, support staff, pupils, other parents and a small percentage spoke to the Head teacher.
- Their questions were answered (in 80% of cases)
- 50% did not choose the school following their visit (reasons given ranged from lack of understanding of child's specific needs, told that the school was not appropriate for their child's need, not felt welcome, communication with SENCO was not good, environment was too busy and too big.)

This survey highlighted that parents not only look at the environment that the school provide but also need reassurance from professionals that their child will have their needs meet within the school. It is also important to note that some parents were told that this was not the school for their child. Having a conversation with the school SENCO was highly valued.

The key message we took back from this survey is the importance of "belonging" to a school, which is paramount when it comes to successful inclusion.

School SEN Champion

Would you like to be more involved in your child's school?

Would you like to find out more about the support for children with Send in schools?

Would you like to meet other parents of children and young people with Send at your child's school?

Would you like to work alongside your child's SENco and help improve the schools Send work?

If so why not become a school Sen Champion? We are looking for volunteers to help organise coffee mornings and help distribute information to parents.

We are looking for representatives across the city.

Full training and support will be offered as well as a free DBS check.

If you would like to find out more please email engagementofficer@p-d-f.org.uk

Parent Reps Update

Our parent reps either attend monthly meetings such as empowering Children and Families (ECAAF), our co-production group or take part in strategic meetings, training, tendering process or focus groups.

We are in the process of recruiting new members to join our team. We are particularly interested in hearing from parents of:

- **children in early years (0-5)**
- **children who are home-educated**
- children who have had a positive experience of **inclusion** in mainstream school
- **children with health needs** (such as epilepsy)

We are looking
for new parent
reps

We will provide full support and training and will also pay for any expenses you may incur including childcare costs. We are also in the process of finalising our remuneration policy to recompense your hard work and commitment.

Most meetings are during school hours and last approximately 2 hours although some preparations will be required which could take up to 5 hours a month.

You will be part of a great and friendly team and we would love to welcome new members.

"We need your
expertise and vision"

Most of all, we would welcome your expertise and vision as parent carers of children and young people with special needs and disability. You hold so many solutions to problems shared by families and we need to have your voice heard.

For more information, please contact: ppvcoordinator@p-d-f.org.uk or call 07825 185 608

You will find a list of all the projects we are currently involved on our website (<http://www.portsmouthparentvoice.org/Consultations.html>) so if anything is of particular interest to you or if you want to find out more, please get in touch. You can also fill in an online form to register your interest on the same webpage.


Appreciation Awards

The Appreciation Award was created by the Co-production Group (or CoPro) in order to celebrate and recognise professionals who have helped parents and families of children and young people with special educational needs and disability.

We are in the process of setting up a web page on our website to make it easier for you to nominate a professional who has helped you and your child/young person.

We often receive more complaints than compliments so it is important to recognise that there are individuals who are committed to make a difference to parent carers and their families.

Maybe by highlighting good practice in the city, we will be able to change the way services are delivered to you and benefitting other families in the same situation.



So go on, get nominating!

Our latest awards go to:

Miss Lewis- Priory School
Sarah Cristopher- Priory School
Katherine Hughes- Priory School
Miss Webb- Priory School
Miss Hamond- St Judes School
Les from City Wide Taxi

If you would like to nominate an individual who has made a difference for your child, young person or family, please contact Kara Jewell: engagementofficer@p-d-f.org.uk

Local Area OFSTED Inspection

More local areas have gone through the inspection since it started in May last year. 15 reports have now been published which you can access here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-area-send-inspection-outcome-letters>

A few of the authorities inspected have received recommendations following the reports which at time were quite critical.

Every local authorities will be inspected over the next 5 years.

Portsmouth hasn't received the phone call yet but it will happen sooner or later.

15 reports
published

You can find more information about the inspection here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/417435/Special_educational_needs_and_disabilities_guide_for_parents_and_carers.pdf

Special Needs Jungle have published a brilliant parent carer guide to the Local Area Ofsted Inspection.

You can find out more at: http://www.specialneedsjungle.com/parents-carers-guide-new-special-educational-needs-disability-inspections/?utm_source

Some of the inspection meetings will be conducted via a webinar. PPV are planning to run a trial webinar in the next few months to encourage parents to take part. It's an easy process and can be accessed via PC, Laptop, tablet or mobile phone.

Register early to
take part

Finally, if you would like to register your interest to take part in the inspection, please get in touch (ppvcoordinator@p-d-f.org.uk) with your name, contact details and area of interest such as education, health and social care. This information is strictly confidential and will not be shared with third parties. This information will enable us to get in touch with you quickly and effectively when we are notified of the inspection.

Your Views and Consultations

Consultations on Short Breaks and Home to School Transport

Some families with children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities are eligible for assistance with Short Breaks which are provided at two levels dependent on need and eligibility.

However like all councils, we're facing further cuts to the money we get from the government and in the next three financial years we need to make £24m of savings from our £117m net controllable spend. This is in addition to £86m of savings already made in the last six years.

As part of the budget savings that the council need to make we're reviewing how we provide our Level 1 Targeted Short Break Service - which is accessed directly by parents and carers for all children and young people with special educational needs and/or a disability.

In order to help us review this service we have launched a consultation and we'd like to hear your views on how we can save 10% from this budget.

Please access the consultation survey on line via the following link and tell us what you think: <https://www.research.net/r/PCCShortBreak>

Our Level 2 Service which is accessed by parent/carer self-referral or a referral by a lead professional from education, health and social care will remain unchanged.

To access the survey on Home to School transport, please use the link below:

<https://www.research.net/r/PCCTransport>

Both consultations close on 20th March.

Portsmouth Educational Psychology Team policy on reading difficulties.

Portsmouth Educational Psychology Team has produced some draft guidance for schools, colleges and parents about identifying, assessing and supporting children and young people who have reading difficulties. We have deliberately decided not to use the term "dyslexia" and we are referring to "reading difficulties" instead. "Dyslexia" can be a confusing term because it can cover so much. Our policy explains this in more detail. We have reassured schools and colleges that our assessments will continue to be very thorough and we will always provide advice and support based on current research and evidence based practice. We have spoken with school SENCOs and colleges already to answer their questions. We want to do the same with parents.

On **Friday 10th February** we are holding a meeting for parents at the Civic Office, room B (second floor) Guildhall Square from 9.30 to 11am to explain our policy and answer any questions or concerns from parents. We would really like you to join us for this meeting. To book, please contact Alison Cooper, PPV admin Assistant on 07825 185 608 or email ppvadmin@p-d-f.org.uk

We want to know what you think about Portsmouth Educational Psychology Team

"Has your child been seen by an Educational psychologist?"

If they have, you are invited to come along to a focus group meeting, hosted by Portsmouth City Council.

The aim of the meeting is to ask you for your opinion on the services the Educational Psychologist has given to your child so that the Educational Psychology Team can continue to improve their service.

This meeting is very relaxed and we would love to hear your views. All information will be treated confidentially.

If you are interested, please arrive at **The Portsmouth Academy for Girls on Thursday 9th February 2017 at 6:30pm.**

On the other hand, you may prefer to attend at **The Frank Sorrell Centre at 9:30am on Thursday 16th February 2017.**

The meetings are expected to last 2 hours.

Tea and coffee will be provided for you at both events. We hope to see you there! "

For more information please contact Portsmouth Parent Voice on 07825 185 608 or email ppvadmin@p-d-f.org.uk

Have Your Say: Family Carers of Individuals with LD

<p>Do you have a family member with learning disabilities? Have your say!</p>		<p><i>Many things are assumed about caregivers' perceptions & attitudes regarding caregiving for someone with LD.</i></p>
	<p><i>Now it's time to hear <u>your</u> perceptions of caregiving & other attitudes. #LDhaveyoursay</i></p>	

If you care for such a family member, our research team would like to hear from you. We're conducting a survey online and looking specifically for family members who are 18 years and older.

Your views will help greatly in understanding caregivers' experiences. Simply copy and paste the following link:

https://uclpsych.eu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_37CMEb2ZdwYusXH

Call at 07784297380 or email natasha.mitter.14@ucl.ac.uk for more information. #LDhaveyoursay

Our research group at University College London (UCL) is looking to gain a better understanding of family members' experiences of caregiving, with a particular focus on

perceptions and experiences relating to others' attitudes to learning disability. There has been quite a lot of research on attitudes to people with learning disabilities among professionals and the general public. There has been very little research though on family members' perceptions of others' attitudes and behaviours, both to their family member with a learning disability and to them as parent/sibling/aunt or uncle etc. In order to gain a better understanding of this we would be grateful if you would consider completing a survey. Your responses will be anonymous and completion of the survey on average will take 15 to 20 minutes. You will be asked about positive and negative experience you've had as well as about broader aspects of caring for/supporting your family member. There will be some additional questions about your family members' needs to help us put your responses into context.

We are looking to hear from family members of children as well as adults with learning disabilities. The study has formal ethical approval from University College London's Research Ethics Committee.

Have your say by accessing the survey at this

link: https://uclpsych.eu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_37CMEb2ZdwYusXH

Find us on social media: #LDhaveyoursay

Information on the Government's new green paper and consultation

The green paper sets out a ten-year vision of how the Government's will halve the employment gap for disabled people and people with long-term health conditions, through changing attitudes and working with employers to transform disabled people's access to employment.

You can access the green paper here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/work-health-and-disability-improving-lives>

The easy read version is here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/work-health-and-disability-improving-lives/work-health-and-disability-green-paper-plain-english-version>

The consultation closes on Friday 17th February 2017

Care Quality Commission

We want your views on changes we're planning to the way we regulate health and adult social care services.

The way that health and social care is delivered is changing, and we want to develop our approach to respond to emerging new care models.

We've also now carried out a comprehensive inspection of every NHS trust in England. We propose to use this understanding together with improved systems for gathering intelligence to move towards more targeted inspections for NHS trusts.

For more information and how to take part in the consultation, please go to:

<http://www.cqc.org.uk/content/our-next-phase-regulation>

Closing date: 14th February 2017

Understanding NHS Complaints - FREE Workshop

Thursday, March 9, 2017 from 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Healthwatch Portsmouth is the independent consumer champion for health and social care in Portsmouth.

- We provide people with **information, advice and support** about local health and social care services.
- We **gather views and experiences** of local people on the way services are delivered and provided.
- We **influence local services** based on the evidence that we gather and through our position on the Health and Wellbeing Board in the city.
- We work with other **Healthwatch organisations** to build a national picture of people's views on health and social care services.
- Our **advocacy service** offers support and guidance to people who wish to make a complaint about NHS care.

This practical, interactive workshop is designed to introduce the NHS complaints process and understand the local process.

The workshop will cover:

- How to make an NHS Complaint and offer support to others.
- Understanding the NHS Complaints system and underpinning legislation.
- How to identify where to go for help and support when making a complaint.
- Qualities of what good NHS advocacy support looks like.

By the end of the workshop you will feel more confident in raising concerns or supporting others dealing with NHS complaints and have an understanding of what good advocacy looks like.

If you have any questions regarding this training please contact us on Email:
info@healthwatchportsmouth.co.uk Tel: 02393 977 079

Makaton News - Online digital survey

Makaton is looking forward to continuing to support you in the best possible way. They are keen to listen to your suggestions on how they could help you via several surveys and focus groups. They are currently reviewing their online offering and would be grateful if you could tell them about your access to digital technology and your experience with learning and sharing resources online. To access the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Makaton-online> **New resources:** Using Makaton with Handa's Surprise is the latest title in their popular series of printable resources to help you get the most out of story time with your children. Handa's Surprise by Eileen Browne is a modern classic that's been named one of the best culturally diverse picture books in the UK. You can now get six for the price of five with their special offer bundle of £9.95. For more information:

<https://www.makaton.org/shop/shopping/downloadDetails/UsingMakatonWith-bundle>

The Lenehan Review

Dame Christine Lenehan is seeking evidence to inform her review into the experiences and outcomes of children and young people in residential special schools and colleges. She would like to receive evidence about:

- the characteristics of the children and young people currently in residential special schools and colleges;

- how and why these children and young people come to be placed in residential special schools and colleges;
- the pattern of provision across the country and how it is commissioned and procured;
- what good quality support looks like for these children and young people, both pre- and post-placement (including the role of early intervention, family support and community services);
- the experiences and outcomes of these children and young people and their families, and how these can be improved;
- how schools and colleges are supported to meet the needs of these children and young people by all agencies;
- how effectively the workforce in residential special schools and colleges meets the needs of these children and young people; and
- destinations for these children and young people.

Dame Christine Lenehan is interested in evidence from:

- people running or working in residential special schools or colleges
- children and young people who are attending/have attended residential special schools or colleges, and their parents/carers
- local authorities
- representative bodies from across the sector
- academics with an interest in this area

Please send responses to Lenehan.Review@education.gov.uk by 17 March 2017, along with any other enquiries about this call for evidence. For more information please click here <https://consult.education.gov.uk/special-educational-needs-and-disability-division/lenehan-review/>.

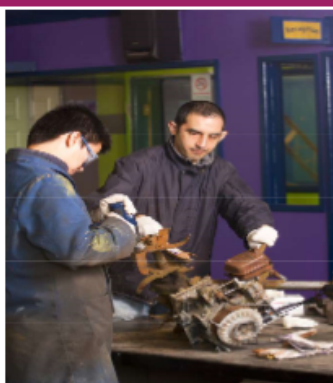
Download Lenehan review: independent call for evidence

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/special-educational-needs-and-disability-division/lenehan-review/consultation/download>.

RECRUITMENT ROADSHOW



Are you currently working in care?
Or looking for a career change?
Would you like a career that truly makes a difference in
the lives of other people?



We are looking for people who are
**inspiring, committed and
motivated** to join our Support
Worker team

No previous experience necessary
as full training provided



Come along to the Job Fair at
Portsmouth Guildhall to find out
more!

Wednesday 8th March 2017

10.00am — 2.00pm

Portsmouth Guildhall, Portsmouth, Hampshire,
PO1 2AB

If you are unable to attend and would still like to apply, please visit www.autismhampshire.org.uk alternatively contact Human Resources on 01489 880881 ext 223, or email marie.hall@autismhampshire.org.uk

"Autism Hampshire is committed to Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff, supply workers and volunteers to share this commitment"

Acceptance of the individual and their autism
A culture of continuous learning and personal growth for all
Personalised strategies developed with and for the person with autism



WHEELS FOR ALL
PORTSMOUTH

INCLUSIVE CYCLING OPPORTUNITIES
WE CATER FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES,
DEPRESSION, ANXIETY, POOR CO-ORDINATION, LIMITED
MOBILITY AND MORE!

WHEELS FOR ALL
Providing cycling opportunities for children and adults with disabilities and differing needs. Using specially adapted cycles for individuals and families that can cycle together, learn new skills or rediscover a previous past time.



LOCATIONS AND TIMES

Mountbatten Centre in Alexandra Park
Tuesday 13:00 - 15:30
Wednesday 13:00 - 15:30
Thursday 09:30 - 15:30
Saturday 11:00 - 13:00

Bransbury Park in Eastney
Tuesday 09:30 - 12:00
Wednesday 09:30 - 12:00

GET INVOLVED
If you would like to volunteer or access our sessions please email
Matt.Lewsley@PompeyITC.org.uk or call 023 9272 8899



POMPEY IN THE
COMMUNITY PRESENTS



DISABILITY *sports* CAMP



ALL DISABILITIES

SCHEDULE: FEB 24TH - 10AM TILL 2PM

LOCATION: PRIORY SCHOOL - PO4 0DL

AGES: 5 - 16

PRICES: PRE-BOOKED: £8

ON THE DOOR: £10



EMAIL FOR EXTRA INFO: MATT.LEWSLEY@POMPEYITC.ORG.UK

CALL TO BOOK ON: 023 9272 8899



Individual Needs

Dog Walking & Pet Companion @ Vets

ineedsdogwalking@gmail.com / ineedspetservices@gmail.com

Call: 07927 795 130



**A specialist & unique service for vulnerable owners
coping with Health problems.....**

**Living with Disabilities, recovering from Hospital treatment
and living in isolation.**

**Dog Walking of 3 dogs per group £7 per dog &
Pet Companion @ Vets £10 return**

Covering all areas of Portsmouth, Havant & Waterlooville

**Including a low price for
PDSA Clients
from Southsea to Cowplain Pet Aid Hospital**

*Ex Kennel Maid * Dog First Aid * Liability Insurance * DBS * ATA

www.individualneedspetservices.com



2017 Training Courses:

28th February 2017 Autism and Asperger Syndrome Training - Intermediate:
<https://www.autismhampshire.org.uk/our-services/training/training-courses/28th-february-2017-autism-and-asperger-syndrome-training-intermediate.html>

23rd March 2017 Autism and Communication Workshop:
<https://www.autismhampshire.org.uk/our-services/training/training-courses/23rd-march-2017-autism-and-communication.html>

23rd March 2017 Autism and Behaviour Workshop:
<https://www.autismhampshire.org.uk/our-services/training/training-courses/23rd-march-2017-autism-and-behaviour-workshop.html>

18th April 2017 Autism and Sensory Perception Workshop:
<https://www.autismhampshire.org.uk/our-services/training/training-courses/18th-april-2017-autism-and-sensory-perception-workshop.html>

18th April 2017 Autism and the Environment Workshop:
<https://www.autismhampshire.org.uk/our-services/training/training-courses/18th-april-2017-autism-and-the-environment-workshop.html>

19th October 2017 Autism and Asperger Syndrome Training - Intermediate:
<https://www.autismhampshire.org.uk/our-services/training/training-courses/19th-october-2017-autism-and-asperger-syndrome-training-intermediate.html>

Training Venue:

Fairways House, Mount Pleasant Road

Southampton, SO14 0QB

For further information contact:

Victoria Duboc, Training Department 1634 Parkway, Solent Business Park, Whiteley, Fareham Hampshire PO15 7AH

Tel: 01489 880881 ext 0 Email: trainingadmin@autismhampshire.org.uk

Regular Groups and Support

This is a small sample of groups and activities in the area.

For an extensive list of activities for children and young people with additional needs, please go to our website:

<http://www.portsmouthparentvoice.org/Links.html>

or the Portsmouth Local Offer website:

<http://www.portsmouthlocaloffer.org/>

New Theatre Royal Groups

Come along and learn a new skill, make new friends and be part of something great!

Here at New Theatre Royal we have a number of weekly engagement groups on offer for people of all ages and interests! Whether it is acting, singing or dancing there is sure to be something for you to participate in.

For details of prices, dates and how to sign up to one of our brilliant programmes, email our team on takepart@newtheatreroyal.com

Website:

<http://www.newtheatreroyal.com/taking-part/participate/weeklygroups/>

Portsmouth Wellbeing Centre

We are very excited to be opening our newest Wellbeing Centre in Southsea (100 Palmerston Road).

We are Solent Mind, a registered charity providing a wide range of high quality services to support people with mental health problems across the south.

Why not try our wellbeing taster sessions including mindfulness, yoga, PLEASE workshops and our employment clinic? Find out more about the range of services and support which will be available at the centre.

For more information, please contact the Portsmouth Support and Recovery Service supportandrecovery@solentmind.org.uk, or 023 9268 0200.

Wheels for All

Wheels for All provides cycling opportunities for children and adults with disabilities and differing needs. Using specially adapted cycles, individuals and families can cycle together, learning new skills or rediscovering a previous pastime. We are currently running weekly sessions every Saturday 12:00 - 2:00 at Alexandra Park. Feel free to check out our Facebook page. Any likes and shares would be appreciated. To find out when and where our next cycling session is, please phone 023 9284 1560, or email asha.lal@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

SEND BUTTERFLIES

SEND Butterflies aim is to support parent carers and other carers of children (aged 0-25 years) with special educational needs and/or disabilities by providing one monthly get together in the north of Portsmouth and one meet up in the south. These sessions are available to any person in the Hampshire County area. They could include coffee mornings, pamper sessions, relaxation techniques, the opportunities to meet professionals from relevant local services in the NHS and the Local Authorities, the chance to meet other parent carers/carers who are in the same or similar situations.

We would like to raise awareness in our wider communities of how parents of children with SEND are carers too. For more information, please contact sendbutterfliesnorthsouth@gmail.com

Horizon Leisure Centre

Havant and Waterlooville Leisure Centres' activities are all **fully inclusive** and we actively welcome those with additional needs. However, we also provide a few **specialty organised activity sessions** for those that prefer it.

For more information , please contact our Disability and Special Needs Coordinator, Debbie Jarman (023 9247 6026).

We have strong links with the Parent Voice, Activities include: Supported Swimming Lessons, Additional Needs Cricket Sessions, Additional Needs Badminton Club and many more.

For more information, please go to <http://www.horizonlc.com/activities/disability-sports/>

OmniArts

Our drama, music and dance school is open to anyone! We are an all inclusive group, and welcome anyone who is interested in the performing arts.

If you are worried about you/your child joining OmniArts due to a disability or confidence issues, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Becki, our director via email: becki@omniartsps.co.uk or call her on 07584 662225, to discuss meeting up with one or more of us before attending a lesson.

For more information, please go to <http://omniartsps.co.uk/>

NEWS IN BRIEF

Council for Disabled Children- Digest 2017

Welcome to your first Digest of 2017! A lot has been on the horizon at CDC and further afield, so your jam-packed issue includes:

- All the info about how to get involved in a call for evidence on residential special schools
- Recent case law updates from Steve Broach on child protection plans and Section I of EHC plans
- A guest blog from Tania of Special Needs Jungle, giving her opinion on how to support parents in achieving the best outcomes for their children
- All the latest resources and news from the sector

To access the newsletter, please click on the link below:

<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/field/attachemnt/Winter%20Digest%20February%202017.pdf>

The Portsmouth Youth Social Action Conference

The Portsmouth Youth Social Action Conference is taking place on Thursday 16 February. It is a full day of workshops, discussions and panels. It seeks to bring together professionals from the public sector, the third sector, Councillors, youth organisations, and most importantly young people, to discuss, "How do we enable more young people to get involved in volunteering and social action"?

Confirmed Speakers so far include:

- Alison Jeffery, Director of Childers Services and Education, PCC
- Dr Rania Marandos, Deputy Chief Executive, Step Up To Serve
- Peter Marcus, Portsmouth Youth Voice Network
- Flick Drummond, MP for Portsmouth South
- Clare Martin, Pompey in the Community and Portsmouth NCS scheme

Find out more and book your FREE place via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/portsmouth-youth-social-action-conference-2017-registration-28521263868>

Disability Equality Training and Inclusive Practice Training by Toucan Diversity

This training event is organised in 2 parts, starting with Disability Equality Training. This session is facilitated by Madissa Asgari, MA, BA (Hons) who has a physical impairment. Disability Equality training gives participants the chance to see disability as a human rights issue, which is based on the ideas of the 'Social Model.' The training, therefore, explores the various barriers that people with disabilities face and encourages participants to think about what can be done to remove them. The session is interactive and involves various group activities.

For more information about the training and how to book, please go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/disability-equality-visual-impairment-awareness-training-tickets-30855142562>

Free Powered 'Wizzybug' Wheelchairs for Children Under 5

The Wizzybug Loan Scheme provides fun, powered wheelchairs called Wizzybugs to children under five. Wizzybugs are built by the charity Designability who fundraise to be able to offer them to families across the UK without charge. The Wizzybug has been designed for children aged 14 months-five years and have been rehomed to children who have conditions such as cerebral palsy, spinal muscular atrophy, spina bifida and muscular dystrophy. But their only real eligibility criteria is that they go to children who could benefit from increased mobility, who are able to be safely seated in a Wizzybug and can demonstrate some independent control.

They give children the opportunity to gain some independence, explore as they choose and play more easily with their friends and family. They also prepare them for a bigger wheelchair when they're older. The Wizzybug team are there every step of the loan – from the day a family comes in to pick up a Wizzybug at their HQ in Bath, to the moment they return it back to them. If you would like more information, or would like to enquire about a Wizzybug for your child, please contact Designability on 01225 824103 or visit the website:

<http://www.designability.org.uk/product/wizzybug/>

Aunty Agatha's Little Big Sensory Shop

The team will be launching their new larger store in Fargo Village Coventry on Tuesday 14 February. They can also bring the shop to your school, group or event with Aunty Agatha's On The Road. In February, they will be starting Intervention Tuition for primary aged children and home schooled students across all Key Stages. The programme will be delivered by qualified teachers and Higher Level Teaching Assistants. The Intervention Tuition will be in Literacy and Numeracy.

For more information on any of the above or to book, please email info@auntyagathas.co.uk or visit the website at www.auntyagathas.co.uk/.

Enable Ability Sports Club news up-date

Where: Charter Sports Academy from 5.30 – 8.00 on Friday evenings during term time.

We have decided to review how Sports Club runs. Please note we have now **merged both age groups** and plan to run as follows:

5 - 5:30 - This will be set up time for Sports Club. Please note that children and young people cannot enter the hall until 5:30. The club will not start until 5:30.

5:30 – 7.00 - This will consist of both age group activities, including a warm up and then a range of sports and games. Please let us know in advance if there are any sports/activities you would like to see running. There will be a warm down activity at the end of the session. The session will be £2.00

7.00 - 7:45 - Swimming (optional). This session will be £2.00

The club will end at 8.00pm

Please feel free to email sports@enableability.org.uk if you have any questions or you can text Dave the Leader on the Sports Club mobile 07593 850882. Please add these details to your contacts.

We hope these changes in structure will improve the club and boost numbers.

Please let others know about the Sports Club.

Please 'Share' and 'Like' our [Enable Ability Sports Club for Mild to Moderate Disabilities Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/EAFridaySportsClub/): <https://www.facebook.com/EAFridaySportsClub/>

Portsmouth Carers Centre-e newsletter

The newsletter is packed with information for carers. Topics covered this month include the emergency card, free carer awareness training, as well as cooking sessions. To receive the newsletter, please email: carerscentre@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

WESC Foundation's Annual Visual Impairment Conference:

We are pleased to announce that the programme for our 2017 **Annual Visual Impairment Conference** is now available. The theme for this year's conference is **Transition**. Our confirmed speakers are **Peter White** (In touch BBC Radio 4), **Professor Graeme Douglas** (University of Birmingham), **André Imich** (SEN & Disability Professional Adviser from the Department for Education) and **Claire Dorer** (Chief Executive, NASS).

This conference will be held on **Thursday 4 May 2017** at our Exeter campus.

WESC Foundation's Annual Conference provides a fantastic opportunity for participants to gain professional development and find out about the latest information regarding 'transitioning to adulthood' for young people with visual impairment – plus much more!

We can confirm the following specialist speakers will be presenting:

- **Peter White, In Touch BBC Radio 4** 'Why has it become harder to make the jump from school to work...and what we should do about it!'
- **Professor Graeme Douglas/Rachel Hewett, Department of Disability Inclusion and Special Needs, University of Birmingham** 'Results of longitudinal study of transitions experiences of blind and partially sighted young people to adulthood'
- **André Imich, SEN and Disability Professional Adviser, Department for Education** 'Children and Families Act 2014 – implementation update – successes and continuing challenges'
- **Claire Dorer, Chief Executive, National Association of Independent Schools & Non-Maintained Special Schools (NASS)** 'Transitions in practice: cliff edges, voids, parachutes and flying machines'

If you are a SEN or healthcare professional with a particular interest in visual impairment, local authority commissioner, parent, carer or anyone who is interested in the field of visual impairment or eye health rehabilitation then this is an opportunity not to be missed!

This is going to be an extremely popular conference and therefore there will be a limited number of places so we recommend completing your booking form as soon as possible to guarantee your place. To watch our promotional film from a previous year please click the link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z4ErnwWqKdU>.

To attend the conference we are offering the special price of £120 per ticket. Parents of children with a visual impairment (VI) will be given a 50% reduction in cost.

Please complete the attached booking form and return to **Katy Gaulton, Marketing, Communications & PR Manager**, kgaulton@wescfoundation.ac.uk, along with your payment. You can now pay using our online facility clicking on the link www.wescfoundation.ac.uk/support-us/online-payment and selecting **Conference 2017** under the *item* drop down box.

Careers for autistic adults – IT and Compliance

by Auticon Ltd

Do you have an autism spectrum diagnosis? Are you interested in a career that focuses on your individual skills and strengths?

Birkbeck Upscale and Auticon are inviting you to an information evening on career opportunities at Auticon.

Programme:

6.00 – 6.15 pm Introduction Birkbeck Upscale and Auticon

6.15 – 6.45 pm Presentation Auticon

6.45 – 7.00 pm Q&A

7.00 – 8.00 pm Drinks reception

When:

Wednesday, 22 February 2017 at 6.00 pm

Where:

Birkbeck, University of London

Malet Street, WC1E 7HX London - Bloomsbury

To book, please go to: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/careers-for-autistic-adults-it-and-compliance-tickets-30918953422>

SCHOOL EXCLUSIONS AND PUPIL REFERRAL UNITS/ ALTERNATIVE PROVISION

BBC Radio 4 is making a documentary about school exclusions and alternative provision, sometimes known as pupil referral units – schools for kids who have been removed from mainstream. During our research, a number of issues have cropped up.

We want to get in touch with any parent carers who are concerned by what they see as repeated or inappropriate use of restraint or physical intervention on children attending PRUs/ AP schools.

We are also hoping to speak with parent carers who feel their child was unfairly removed from school, either through exclusion or through a ‘managed move’ that the family felt was unfair or inappropriate.

No one will make this decision for you. It is up to you if you want to get in touch. These are very important issues and it would be very kind of you if you could help us tell this story.

If you want more information, you can speak to the programme producer Alys Harte in complete confidence on 07912583640 or via alys.harte@bbc.co.uk [alys.harte@bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk) ”

Benefit Updates

- Many rates of benefit remain frozen due to the Welfare Cap.
- There is a small increase in disability benefits.
- Pensioner benefits to rise in line with the 'triple lock'.
- Changes to Universal Credit including a decrease in the earnings taper from 65% to 63%, removal of the first child element and changes for up to 2 children only.
- Child Tax Credit changes for up to 2 children only and the removal of the family element/ higher child element under Universal Credit.
- The loss of the WRAC component of ESA and equivalent in Universal Credit.
- The reduction in the Benefit Cap for those in London and the larger reductions outside of London.
- The Carer's Allowance Earnings Rule will be increased from £110 to £116 a week.
- Non-Dependant Deductions (NDDs) will also be up-rated in line with prices.

Evolve Event

Date: Tuesday 24th February at 10 am

Evolve is a consortium between Aspex, New Theatre Royal and Portsmouth Cultural Trust which seeks to provide opportunities for artists and audiences with disabilities. Throughout a one-year pilot project, funded by Esme Fairbairn Foundation, we have been developing artistic opportunities, exhibitions, workshops and residencies across the three venues.

One of the biggest challenges we have faced throughout this project, have been around the language we use and the labels that we put on both ourselves and others we work with. Where some artists actively promote their disability and the influence it has or does not have on their work, understandably there are many artists who choose not to disclose this information.

This has led us to question how mainstream organisations can effectively support artists, improve accessibility for audiences and embed diversity within our work without the use of labels?

With talks from artists and organisations with differing opinions on the issues of identity and labels, we aim to explore the subject further, open up discussion and lose the fear, so we can all move forward with the Creative Case for Diversity.

For more information and to book: <http://www.newtheatroyal.com/performances/evolve-symposium/>

You can keep in touch with us using the following



Website: www.portsmouthparentvoice.org



Facebook: Like our page Portsmouth Parent Voice



Twitter: You can follow us at @PparentVoice



Email ppvcoordinator@p-d-f.org.uk



Phone: 07825 185 608



Instagram: [ppvcoordinator](https://www.instagram.com/ppvcoordinator)



Pinterest: Portsmouth Parent Voice



Write: Portsmouth Parent Voice

The Frank Sorrell Centre, Prince Albert Road, Southsea, PO4 9HR