



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

# IMPACTING ON YOU Newsletter

September 2018



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

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Hi Everyone!

Welcome to the latest edition of Impacting on you. It has been a long hot summer and I know that you have all been busy keeping the kids entertained over the holidays.

I have seen many pictures of children with happy faces on their first day back at school. As the front cover mentions, it's not back to school for everyone. We have received enquiries from parents whose children haven't got a school to go to or have decided to try home education whether by choice or as a last resort. It can be painful for parents to see their friends and family's children returning to school when this is not the reality for them. As a personal message to these parents, you are not alone and there are plenty of support available to help you.

Portsmouth has a thriving community where parents donate their time to help others in the same situation. You will find a list of support group on the Portsmouth Local Offer website (<http://www.portsmouthlocaloffer.org/>) and we are always here if you need support or information.

Never forget that as parent carers, you do an amazing job raising our incredible children and young people.

Hope to see you soon 😊

Barbara and the Team

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# 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 several voluntary groups ( **Autism Hampshire, Portsmouth Carers** ) and statutory agencies (such as **CAMHS**- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services)

Event	Date and Time	Venue
<b>PPV Coffee Morning</b> Support and Information session	<b>Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September</b>  <b>10 am to 12 pm</b>	<b>The Frank Sorrell Centre</b> Prince Albert Road Southsea PO4 9HR
<b>PPV Coffee Morning</b> Support and Information session	<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October</b>  <b>10 am to 12 pm</b>	<b>The Frank Sorrell Centre</b> Prince Albert Road Southsea PO4 9HR

These sessions are opened to parent carers of children and young people with additional needs and disability. Feel free to bring a friend or family member. Parking is available in the Frank Sorrell Centre car park. Light refreshments provided. For more information, email [ppvadmin@p-d-f.org.uk](mailto:ppvadmin@p-d-f.org.uk) or call 07825 185 608

# Worried about your child, where do you start?

**Children** develop at different rate and if you are at all concerned about your child's progress or behaviour at school, always speak to your child's teacher.

A special educational need can be short or long term and can cover speech and language difficulties, reading difficulties to diagnosed conditions such as autism and behavioural difficulties.

It can be very daunting for a parent to know where to start. If your child has identified special educational needs, your school SENCo (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) will talk to you about it and what actions and support will be put in place to address those needs.

Do check your child's school SEN Report on the school's website or via The Portsmouth Local Offer: <http://www.portsmouthlocaloffer.org/> The report will list what the school will put in place to help your child.

You will find below a list of organisations you can get in touch with:

## **Education**

If you need further support, **The Portsmouth Information Advice and Support Service (IASS)**

[http://www.portsmouthsendiass.info/en/Main\\_Page](http://www.portsmouthsendiass.info/en/Main_Page) can help you with advice and information.

There is also a handy guide on SEN Support which you can view here:

<http://www.portsmouthlocaloffer.org/local-offer-search/item/370>

**IPSEA** offers independent legally based advice, support and training to help get the right education for children and young people with special educational needs and disability.

<https://www.ipsea.org.uk/>

**Sentas** provides parents and young adults with information, advice and advocacy around issues with SEND home to school transport.

<http://sentas.co.uk/>

## **Benefits**

If your child or young person has identified needs, you may be entitled to receive Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Personal Individual Payment (PIP).

**DIAL** (Disability Information and Advice Line) can provide you with information and support in applying for benefits.

<http://www.p-d-f.org.uk/en/dial> or call 023 9282 4853

**Citizens Advice Portsmouth** offers free, impartial and confidential advice in person, on the telephone and online to the people of Portsmouth.

If you need advice about debts, housing, benefits, employment, family breakdown or your rights then they can help you.

<https://caportsmouth.org.uk/>

## **Support**

Parents often tell us that they find more information by meeting other parents rather than professionals. Do join support groups as they are an invaluable source of information and support. A lot of groups in the city are run by parents who volunteer their time to help others in similar circumstances. If you feel nervous about joining a group or attend on your own, do call them beforehand as they might suggest that you bring a friend or family member.

There are many **support groups** operating in Portsmouth, you can find the full list on the **Portsmouth Local Offer** website including details of **Stand Up** and **SEND Butterflies** who also offer activities for children.

**The Early Help and Prevention** service in Portsmouth is a new way of doing things – providing extra practical help with families early on, to stop problems getting worse. We talk with families about the things that are most important to them, what might help and what we can do differently to help them. This is how we start working together with the whole family to help get things back on track.

Help is available for families with children aged 0-19.

<https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/learning-and-schools/pre-school/childrens-centres>

<https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/documents-external/ey-early-help-parents-leaflet.pdf>

**Portsmouth Carers Centre** is a one stop shop for carers, offering a variety of support, including emotional support, carers breaks, sitting service, cooking sessions, training, carers groups, support for young carers and adult mental health carers, as well as volunteering opportunities.

We have a wealth of information within the building, and members of staff who have a wide knowledge of services in the local area. Anyone can drop in to the centre during opening hours. Or you can make an appointment if you prefer.

[carerscentre@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:carerscentre@portsmouthcc.gov.uk) or call 023 9285 1864

## **Short Breaks**

Short Breaks provide disabled children and young people with an opportunity to spend time away from their parents or carers.

<http://www.portsmouthlocaloffer.org/local-offer-search/item/14>

For more information, email [shortbreaks@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:shortbreaks@portsmouthcc.gov.uk) or call 023 9268 8842

This is not an exhaustive list but will give an idea of where to start. For more detailed information, always refer to the Local Offer (see page 8 of this newsletter)

# The Portsmouth Local Offer Website



The Portsmouth Local Offer website was launched over 4 years ago and was designed in co-production with Portsmouth City Council (PCC) and Portsmouth Parent Voice (PPV). A group of parent carers still meets monthly to review the information the website contains and to ensure that the resources provided are easily accessible.

A parent representative now meets the officer in charge of the website also on a monthly basis to produce the “You Said, We did” report which you can find on the newsfeed on the left hand side of the front page of the website. We use parent’s feedback to inform us when the information can’t be found, is not worded correctly or out of date which in turn are amended accordingly.

If you **use the website as a parent carer, young person or professional**, do use the **feedback button** on the top right hand corner to give your comments not only if you **can’t find the information** but also if you **can’t find a service or support** you are looking for as it will help us identify gaps in services. We want to take the website further, not only to give information but also to **change the way services** are commissioned in the city.

Go on, have a look! <http://www.portsmouthlocaloffer.org/>



# Response to Your Feedback

**You** may recall a survey circulated asking for your views about **CAMHS** (Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services) and **CPMS** (Community Paediatric Medical Services). Sonia King, Service and Quality Manager / CAMHS Manager, has kindly responded to some of your comments.

*Your feedback:*

*Parents told to attend behaviour management courses such as Stepping Stones or Triple P before being seen by CAMHS or CPMS. The information about these courses is confusing and sometimes difficult to access. The courses are valued by some parents particularly when it is opened to other family members such as grandparents. Some parents have been repeatedly told to attend those courses several times which was unhelpful.*

Response from Sonia King:

These courses run 3 times a year. CAMHS LD staff run these with the specialist Health Visitors. A professional working with the family can make the referral or a parent can book by making a request through one of the Family Hubs in the city.

Parents who are waiting for a course will be contacted when the next one is due to start and be invited to attend. The course runs for 5-6 weeks and for a further 2 weeks parents are given things to do to help embed the content of the course.

Courses are run when children are at school which is a problem for some parents who are at work. We have run course in the evening for other groups but have had problems with attendance as not all parents can get child care in the evenings.

We recommend parents/ carers to attend behaviour management courses where there are challenging behaviours reported. This is to enable parents to explore ways of parenting according to their child's individual needs. This is often suggested prior to a neurodevelopmental assessment in order to minimise the risk of misdiagnosing children. However, some behaviour management courses are also helpful for those parents with children with neurodevelopmental difference.

**Additional comment from Dr Jenny Gonde; ‘CPMS is a totally separate service from CAMHS; We don’t make any stipulations about families having to attend Triple P etc. before seeing us but do have clear referral criteria. CPMS would take referrals from Health visitors, Early Years Panel, school nursing, GP or Speech and Language,**

***or hospital services for concerns regarding possible ASD up to 6 years and wouldn't insist on any triple P etc being done first'.***

*Your feedback:*

*Parents complain about the lack of support around anxiety at school and no support from CAMHS.*

Response from Sonia King:

CAMHS are not paid by Commissioner to provide support in school. We do however recognise the need to support schools around Mental Health presentations. Given this we do provide school clinics in the 10 Senior Schools in the city. We do not have enough staff to provide input to all 68 schools in the city.

Schools can buy resources from CAMHS. 2 primary schools use some of their funding to buy additional time from CAMHS.

Schools can purchase training from CAMHS to set up their own anxiety management groups.

*Your feedback:*

*"More holistic services needed such as art therapy, sensory integration"*

Response from Sonia King:

For young people who meet the criteria for CAMHS we are able to offer Art Therapy if this is identified as a need at assessment. We have also offered some Sensory Integration intervention and Consultation. Unfortunately we no longer have any Occupational Therapists in the service. We are planning to recruit an Occupational Therapy role for our CAMHS LD team. However due to a national shortage of staff with this qualification it has been hard to recruit to.

*Your feedback:*

*"Parents report long waiting list before being seen."*

Response from Sonia King:

We do have a waiting list. There has been an increase in waiting due to an unusually high turnover of staff in our Single Point of Access Team and Extended Team who offer follow up for longer pieces of work.

The current wait time from referral to Options (first assessment appointment is 5 weeks).

Follow up appointments are currently 20 weeks which should reduce once we have fully recruited.

CAMHS –LD have seen all families for a first appointment within 8 weeks. They have 2 month follow up for treatment due to a high turnover of staff in their team as well.

*Your feedback:*

*“Parent told that primary school could not ask CAMHS for assessment because no funding was available.”*

Response from Sonia King:

It is unclear what kind of assessment is being referred to here. Any young person with a mental health presentation can be assessed by CAMHS.

*Your feedback:*

*“A lot of parents would more help with dealing with anxiety.”*

Response from Sonia King:

We do offer assessment for anxiety. We run Controlling Worries Groups from age 8-12 and for Teenagers to help them manage their anxiety. Work could also be completed on a 1-1 basis if a young person cannot access a group.

The Single point of access team have developed a training programme that they will be delivered in schools to help schools support children with anxiety. Schools will be buying this training from us.

*Your feedback:*

*“Sensory Integration- parents referred by 3 professionals and told that because not commissioned by LA, child can’t access it.”*

Response from Sonia King:

CAMHS are not commissioned to offer this. However we have been able to offer some input to children on our LD team caseload when we had an Occupational Therapist (OT) in post.

*Your feedback:*

*“Parents would like to access MAKATON, PECS...NVR (Non Violent Resistance ) courses should also be offered in the evening for working parents.”*

Response from Sonia King:

We do not offer MACKATON or PECS. I understand that Speech and Language offer this. However I do not have the details of when this runs. I have also been informed that the Special Schools run PECS.

NVR is offered by the Family Hubs as part of the parenting offer and can be accessed via the Family Hubs. Feedback around the timing of these groups should go to Early Help.

*Your feedback:*

*“Access to weighted blankets”*

Response from Sonia King:

These need to be used with guidance from an Occupational Therapist who need to make an assessment of the type and weight of the blanket. They could then offer advice to a parent if they wanted to purchase one.

**PPV Comment: Parents can also access weighted blankets via the “Try before You Buy” service provided by Autism Hampshire Community Access Portsmouth Office: <https://www.autismhampshire.org.uk/how-we-can-help/information-advice/>**

*Your feedback:*

*“Waiting list for ASD assessment”*

Response from Sonia King:

Our current wait for Neuro developmental assessment which would include ADHD is as follows:

Neuro developmental Clinic: Assessment and feedback takes place on the same day. Up to 4 families can attend for a clinic.

Shortest wait 20 weeks- longest 42 weeks

Partnership- For complex presentation. Assessment completed by a clinician

Shortest 11 weeks- longest 41 weeks

*Your feedback:*

*“Long waiting times. No access to appointments in a timely manner. Very slow to take action and actually hear and listen actively. Inaccurate words on write ups based on interpretation rather than what is said. No access to therapeutic help other than medicine, inadequate review and follow up .Poor attendance at meetings and minimal amount of input. Treated as just another case not a human.”*

Response from Sonia King:

We do have challenges with wait times as there has been an increase in demand for CAMHS. However we have not had additional resources such as increased staff numbers to manage this demand.

Young people in crisis or presenting with an urgent mental health presentation are seen within 72 hours depending on the level of risk. Routine first appointment is 5 weeks. There is a duty line should there be any concerns and risks whilst a family is waiting. Calling this line will enable us to review the plan and expedite any treatment where this is clinically needed.

Talking therapies is the first line of treatment for the majority of children. However, this is dependent on the child's needs and ability to access therapy.

We endeavour to attend meetings, however we may not be able to attend should there be a young person with urgent mental health needs. If we are unable to attend a meeting we can offer any information to the chair prior to, and can be contacted following the meeting.

We are aware that reports could be clearer and be easier for families to read. We have 2 members of staff who are working on accessible information. This means that all information we produce should be accessible to families. There will be an element of clinical judgement as well as what is reported by families, in any report as expected from an assessment. However, we will feedback to staff the importance of checking the accuracy of reports with families.

**PPV comment: Should you be at all concerned about your child or young person's mental health and wellbeing, please refer to the guide and poster via our website: <http://www.portsmouthparentvoice.org/links/>**

*Your feedback:*

*“Parents feeling judged when they are sent on a parenting course when their parenting skills are not always the cause.”*

Response from Sonia King:

We are not making judgements about their parenting and often find parents think this and perhaps we need to get better at explaining our rationale. Parents are asked to attend parenting course as this would be one of the interventions that would be needed following any assessment. The reason parents are asked to do this is to gain other ideas on how to parent a child with a different presentation. It can be helpful to get other ideas on how to manage if a child is on the autistic spectrum as they may not respond to techniques used with children without these difficulties.

We have run workshops for parents in CAMHS in the past for children on the autistic spectrum which has helped them gain an understanding of the child perspective and what they could do to support and manage the issues that come up.

*Your feedback:*

*Parents have reported that some of the letters they receive from clinicians are difficult to understand and very clinical. Those letters often do not reflect what the parent felt was discussed during the meeting.*

Response from Sonia King:

We can feed this back to clinical staff to help them improve their practice. As previously mentioned we are working on making letters more accessible.

*Your feedback:*

*The main message is that parents still feel that it is a battle to access services. The signposting for support is still poor and a lot of issues around waiting list and lack of coordination between school and health providers.*

Response from Sonia King:

We are working closely with schools as part of the whole school strategy in the city to try and improve this.

There is a parent guide for both Mental health and behaviour which has been co-produced with Parent voice. A professional's version of this has gone out to all professionals who parents come into contact with and would consider referring to CAMHS.

*Your feedback:*

*"Issues between transition from CPMS and CAMHS services".*

Response from Sonia King:

We are currently working on a Single Point of Access Service for all Neuro Developmental cases which would help make this transition smoother. We will keep you update on the progress.

*Your feedback:*

*Parent would like more information about what to expect from the services offered.*

Response from Sonia King:

We are currently working on a new website which is being coproduced with Parent Voice.

We are also looking into having information for families to take away with them from the Options appointment to help them understand wat is expected going through to the next agreed stage of treatment.

There is a information on the options appointment letter about what to expect at the Options appointment.

*Your feedback:*

*“Amazing in every way even with delays.”*

Response from Sonia King:

Thank you, this is much appreciated.

*Your feedback:*

*“Experience of A&E and other services when young people are held in police cells due to mental health breakdown and transferred to secure unit 100s miles away”.*

Response from Sonia King:

This is a Commissioning issue as there are inadequate inpatient units for young people in the Hampshire area who may need to be admitted to hospital. Investment would need to be made to address the lack of resource

CAMHS staff did work extra shifts and support part of the stay on an Adult Ward whilst waiting for a more suitable bed to be found.

**PPV is very grateful for the time Sonia gave to us to discuss the issues raised by parent carers and for her response. We will have regular meetings over the coming months and will use your feedback and comments to find possible solutions- you can complete the survey on page 16.**

# Your Views and Consultations

## Wellbeing and mental health support- your views and experience.

We would like to find out about parent carers' experiences of services and support in regards to wellbeing, emotional and mental health issues for their children and young people (0 to 18).

Your feedback is so important and will enable us to share this information with commissioners and service providers in order to improve services and identify gaps.

If you have accessed the Community Paediatric Medical Services (**CPMS**), Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (**CAMHS**) or had an admission to **A&E**, we would value your input. The survey should take between 5 and 10 minutes to complete.

To complete the survey, please follow this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/QCH5ZV2>

## U Matter

The U Matter Service was launched in 2017 and we would like to hear your views on the services if you have accessed it whether as a parent or a young person.

You can find more information about the service here: <http://www.portsmouthlocaloffer.org/local-offer-search/item/357>

And complete the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WXJ2P25>



**Would you  
like to join  
us....?**



Are you a parent carer of a child or young person aged 0 to 25 with special needs or disability?

We are looking for parent carers to share their views on local services, what is working and not working in Portsmouth.

We need parent carers who can commit around 1-2 half days each month to help us:

- Find out what is working well for you and other families in the city
- Find out what could be done to improve what is not working so well
- With feedback on education,

**In exchange for your time you will get:**



- Shopping vouchers to spend at high street stores.
- Travel and expenses paid.
- Skills to add to your CV.
- Help improve local support services
- Opportunities to meet other parents

For all enquiries contact:

**[ppvadmin@p-d-f.org.uk](mailto:ppvadmin@p-d-f.org.uk)  
or call 07825 185 608**

If you are interested in taking part or learning more about how you can become a Parent Rep please complete the online form. Alternatively please contact a member of team using the details provided. Once we have received your note of interest we will call you.

Small changes,  
big differences.

### Triple P Primary Discussion Groups

Age 5-12yrs

*"For anyone who wants to help their child to be the best they can be."*

**Managing Fighting & Aggression**  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 12.00- 2.30pm - at Somerstown Family Hub,  
Omega Street, Southsea PO5 4LP (02392 821816)

**Dealing with Disobedience**  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018 - 9.30-12 noon - at Paulsgrove Family Hub,  
Cheltenham Road, Paulsgrove, PO6 3PL (02392 389559)

**Developing Good Bedtime Routines**  
Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018 9.30-12- at Landport Family Hub,  
221 Arundel Street, Portsmouth PO1 1NF (02392 815005)



**Dealing with Disobedience**  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018- 12-2.30pm- at Somerstown Family Hub,  
Omega Street, Southsea PO5 4LP (02392 821816)

**TO BOOK YOUR PLACE, PLEASE CALL THE RELEVANT FAMILY HUB**

For more information please contact Lorraine Morgan- Specialist Family Support Worker  
(Parenting) - 02392 733440

[www.triplep.net](http://www.triplep.net)

Small changes,  
big differences.

### Teen Triple P Discussion Groups

12-16yrs

*"For anyone who wants to help their child to be the best they can be."*

**Getting Teenagers to Cooperate**  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018 - 9.30-12.00- Somerstown Family Hub, Omega Street,  
Somerstown, Portsmouth PO5 4LP (02392 821816)

**Reducing Family Conflict**  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018 - 12.00-12.30- at Buckland Family Hub, Turner Road,  
Buckland, PO1 4PN (02392 733 440)

**Building Teens Survival Skills**  
Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018 12.00-2.30pm - at Landport Family Hub,  
221 Arundel Street, Portsmouth PO1 1NF (02392 815005)

**Dealing with Teens Emotions**  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018- 10.00-12.30pm- at Northern Parade Family Hub,  
Doyle Avenue Hulsea, PO2 9NE (02392 680866)

**TO BOOK YOUR PLACE, PLEASE CALL THE RELEVANT FAMILY HUB**

For more information please contact Lorraine Morgan 07768 050 055

Tracy Brooks- Specialist Family Support Worker (Parenting)

[www.triplep.net](http://www.triplep.net)





**Autism**  
Hampshire

If you are an adult and have **high functioning autism** or **Asperger's** and want to meet new people come along to the **Red Lion hotel** for the **Cosham Social Group**. The group will be meeting in this spacious pub and is a convenient and relaxed setting for our social group


The group will be meeting:

**Wednesday 18th July 2018 4-6pm**  
Then every fortnight



If you have any questions about the group please contact Jamie on 02380 766 162 or email [Jamie.pratt@autismhampshire.org.uk](mailto:Jamie.pratt@autismhampshire.org.uk)



 **Hampshire**  
County Council



**Autism**  
Hampshire

Surrey and Borders Partnership  
NHS Foundation Trust



## Portsmouth Adults Autism Service

### How to access the Surrey and Borders Diagnostic Assessment Service

The Portsmouth Autism Assessment service carries out diagnostic, cognitive and communicative assessments. The diagnostic service which is provided by Surrey & Borders Partnership Foundation NHS Trust works in close collaboration with the support service provided by Autism Hampshire who can be sourced for support prior to your assessment.

A referral from a G.P. must be made. The process is that a GP letter must be sent by secure e-mail to [rx.portsmouth-asd-diagnostic-service-sabp@nhs.net](mailto:rx.portsmouth-asd-diagnostic-service-sabp@nhs.net) or Fax : 01372 206279. Please provide your patient with this Information sheet. If you or your patient have questions about referrals/appointments, contact the Administrator on 01372 205749

### The Diagnostic Process

You will initially receive a diagnostic assessment lasting approximately 2-3 hours with the Autism Specialist practitioner. The in-depth assessment usually takes place on a single day. For some with more complex presentations a further two hour appointment with the Psychologist and two hour appointment with the Speech Therapist will be arranged, you will be given a break between these assessments for your comfort. On occasion you may need to see the consultant Psychiatrist for further clarification of the presentation and diagnosis. Once diagnosed personalised recommendations regarding support you may find helpful will be offered to you and your family. At this stage, with your consent, you will be offered support from Autism Hampshire's Community Access Service in Portsmouth. If you or your patient have questions about the diagnosis process contact the Administrator on 01372 205749

### Autism Hampshire Community Access Pre, During and Post Diagnosis Support

Community Access is an Information, Advice and Guidance Service. The Community Access Officer has extensive knowledge of services in and around the city of Portsmouth which may be beneficial to you. Support from the Community Access Officer is available to you pre, during and post diagnosis. Referral can be from yourself or a family member as well as any professionals that you are working with including Surrey & Borders Partnership Foundation NHS Trust. Please be assured that a referral from someone will not be accepted without your consent. We are based in the Frank Sorrell Centre, Prince Albert Road, Southsea, PO4 9HR.

Please contact Jackie Harvey, Community Access Officer in Portsmouth for more information about the Support Service. 023 9281 4723 or [jackie.harvey@autismhampshire.org.uk](mailto:jackie.harvey@autismhampshire.org.uk)

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## South Locality Family Hub Programme - 3rd Sept - 19th Oct

| stronger  
futures



<http://www.portsmouthparentvoice.org/news/south-locality-family-hub-programme-3rd-sept-19th-oct/>

You can find the full programme list for all Portsmouth Family Hubs here:

<https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/learning-and-schools/pre-school/childrens-centres>

## Victory Hants Dry Night

Come along and find us at Victory Hants and dance yourself dizzy without any mind altering substances in a safe, welcoming environment for everyone. Dance, enjoy a game of pool or relax with good company and enjoy one of our healthy smoothies, shakes or healthy snacks. This is an inclusive activity for anyone aged over 14.

Held on the first Wednesday of every month, the next session will be on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, at The Old Barn, 174 Milton Road, Southsea, PO4 8PR, 7.30 pm to 10:30 pm

For more details, go to:

[https://m.facebook.com/pg/VictoryHants/events/?ref=content\\_filter&mt\\_nav=0](https://m.facebook.com/pg/VictoryHants/events/?ref=content_filter&mt_nav=0)

## Portsmouth Youth Project September 2018 Programme



For full details, please go to: <http://www.portsmouthparentvoice.org/news/portsmouth-youth-project-september-2018-programme/>

## Disability Equality & Autism Awareness Training

Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM – 12 PM

Gunwharf Quays, Portsmouth, PO1 3, United Kingdom

This training event is organised in 2 parts, starting with Disability Equality Training. The first 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, please go to:

[https://m.facebook.com/events/592456771116030?\\_referral\\_info\\_referrer\\_type=page&\\_referral\\_info\\_mechanism=unknown](https://m.facebook.com/events/592456771116030?_referral_info_referrer_type=page&_referral_info_mechanism=unknown)



## **SEN Legal Newsletter**

Each quarter, SEN Legal hand-picks a selection of questions from their social media, decipher otherwise hard to understand case law or choose a common theme and their Solicitors write easy to understand articles which are put into a newsletter and distributed to both parents and professionals working within the Special Educational Needs and Disability sector.

The professionals newsletter is slightly more comprehensive, the parents newsletter is intended to be 'jargon free' and easy to understand.

To receive the newsletter, please go to: <https://www.senlegal.co.uk/our-newsletters>

## **Blue Badge scheme extended to include hidden disabilities**

Back in July, the government announced that the Blue Badge scheme in England will be expanded to include people with hidden disabilities, such as autism or mental illnesses.

This is the biggest change to the Blue Badge scheme since the 1970s. It comes after an eight-week consultation, which received over 6,000 responses.

To read the full article, please go to: <https://contact.org.uk/news-and-blogs/blue-badge-scheme-extended-to-include-hidden-disabilities/>

## **Back to school: autism resources**

Returning to school, or indeed beginning school for the first time, is a time of enormous change for autistic pupils and involves new routines, environments and people.

Network Autism have gathered together a number of articles and resources for school staff on how best to support autistic pupils on their return to school. Some of the information is for all ages but we have also included specific sections for pre-school, primary and secondary ages. The document also contains some useful information for parents too.

You can download the resources here:

<https://network.autism.org.uk/sites/default/files/ckfinder/files/Back%20to%20school%202018.pdf>

## **Special educational needs and disability (SEND) complaints: A guide for Young People in education**

The guide for young people aged 16 to 25 is useful if you want to know who to talk to if you are unhappy with the help you are getting for your special educational needs or disability at school or college.

You might also find this guide useful if you are an organisation supporting young people.

You can view the guide here: <http://www.portsmouthparentvoice.org/news/special-educational-needs-and-disability-send-complaints-a-guide-for-young-people-in-education/>

## **Adoption support fund (ASF)**

The adoption support fund (ASF) provides funds to local authorities (LAs) and regional adoption agencies (RAAs) to pay for essential therapeutic services for eligible adoptive and special guardianship order (SGO) families.

The ASF model is based on the existing statutory framework for the assessment of adoption support/SGO needs and the provision of support services.

For more information, please go to: [https://www.gov.uk/guidance/adoption-support-fund-asf?utm\\_source=a01b9e39-520c-4837-804a-3b09123e8a25&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=weekly](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/adoption-support-fund-asf?utm_source=a01b9e39-520c-4837-804a-3b09123e8a25&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=weekly)



## You can keep in touch with us using the following



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Facebook: Like our page Portsmouth Parent Voice



Twitter: You can follow us at @PparentVoice



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