

In this issue:

- SEND leaflets co-produced by Family Voice
- Family Voice case study: ASD pathway to diagnosis
- Round the County parent participation events – come and have your say
- Bernadette Pallister
- Family Voice Conference 2017
- Government appointments

If there are issues you'd like to see in future newsletters, contact admin@familyvoice.org.uk or 0753 589 5748.

SEND leaflets for families

Over the past few months, Family Voice representatives have been working with NCC to create straightforward leaflets introducing key aspects of the Local Offer for families with children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). These are to be launched in September and will be widely available.

There are six leaflets:

- Joint commissioning
- The Local Offer
- Special educational needs (SEN) support
- Education, health and care (EHC) plans
- Personal budgets
- Preparing for adulthood

The leaflets introduce ways in which the Children and Families Act 2014 is actioned in Norfolk. Working closely with NCC to co-produce these leaflets, Family Voice has been able to ensure they focus on the issues that families tell us are most important to them.



Family Voice case study: ASD pathway to diagnosis

Family Voice publicity says:

We listen to the views of Norfolk families and represent their voices.



But what does that mean in practice? We aim to feature examples in the newsletter of where Family Voice has made a difference. Ambassador and steering group member Rachel Clarke writes:

At the beginning of May 2016, Family Voice was asked by the CCGs to consult with its membership on the new ASD draft pathway to diagnosis. Members who have children and young people with ASD, both diagnosed and undiagnosed, were invited to attend a consultation meeting in Wymondham on 23 May or to make contributions via email.

This is the first time that Family Voice has held an 'in person' consultation and we were delighted with how well this was received. It was a well attended meeting with parent carers present from all of the CCG areas involved.

Parent carers were asked to consider the draft pathway and provide feedback on the following:

- Setting up positive behaviour workshops pre-diagnosis
- The formal CAMHS pathway
- Proposed maximum timescales
- Services needed for ASD and associated anxiety
- How to log unmet need
- If, in future, there were additional resources available, what would be families' priority service development?

Documenting the comments, insights and feedback from all those parent carers who took part in the consultation, Family Voice was able to produce an in-depth report for the CCGs, from whom we have received thanks for the "thoughtful and comprehensive report" and assurance that the report will feed into the work being carried out on the pathway.

Family Voice also asked for feedback from participants as to how they felt the consultation meeting had been run. Comments received were highly encouraging and included:

"Thank you for the opportunity to make a difference."

"More please, keep up the good work."

"I felt this meeting was a brilliant way to give feedback and is a positive way forward."

It's vital that Family Voice Norfolk hears the views and experiences of families. You can:

- take part in consultations such as the one above or become a Family Voice Representative
- contact admin@familyvoice.org.uk and have your say
- update Membership Secretary Kate on membership@familyvoice.org.uk about your family situation
- come along to one of the **parent participation** events in your area, listed on the next page of this newsletter.





Round the County Parent Participation Events

Are you the parent of a child with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)?

Have your say – improve services!

Family Voice is hosting a series of events to gather parent carer views on subjects such as:

Education

SEN support – is it working?
EHC plans – what's happening?
Anxiety – how can schools help?

Social care

Short breaks and respite care...
Inclusion – how can young people with SEND access universal services?

Health services

Mental health difficulties – how does diagnosis, support and provision work for young people?

Preparing for adulthood

When is the right time to start?
What is Transition?
What works well?

- Meet other parents ● Share your concerns ●
- Learn about current issues ● Find out about our work ●

Check out your nearest event below and let us know if you can come at events@familyvoice.org.uk so we can arrange refreshments.

Tuesday 8 November 2016

10.30am – 12.30pm
Tesco Stores Ltd, Community Room,
Kingston Road, **Dereham**,
Norfolk NR19 1WB
(Meet at Customer Services at 10.15am)

Wednesday 9 November 2016

10am – 12pm
Sheringham Community Centre,
Holway Road, **Sheringham**,
Norfolk NR26 8NP

Wednesday 9 November 2016

6.30pm – 8.30pm
The Base, Hewett School, Cecil Road,
Norwich NR1 2TJ

Thursday 10 November 2016

10.30am – 12.30pm
Eternity Church, Sovereign Centre,
Sovereign Way, **Downham Market**,
Norfolk PE38 9SW

Saturday 12 November 2016

10am – 12pm
South Lynn Community Centre,
10, St Michaels Road, **King's Lynn**,
Norfolk PE30 5HE

Tuesday 15 November 2016

10.30am – 12.30pm
Shrublands Youth and Adult Centre,
Magdalen Way, Gorleston,
Great Yarmouth NR31 7BP

Wednesday 16 November 2016

6.30pm – 8.30pm
Ayton House, 11–17 Ayton Road,
Wymondham, Norfolk NR18 0QQ

Thursday 17 November 2016

10.30am – 12.30pm
The Colman Room, South Norfolk
Council, Cygnet Court,
Long Stratton, Norfolk NR15 2XE

Tuesday 22 November 2016

10.30am – 12.30pm
The Atrium, North Walsham High
School, Spenser Avenue,
North Walsham, Norfolk
NR28 9HZ

Introducing Bernadette

We are pleased to welcome and introduce our new administrator Bernadette Pallister, who joins us this month. Bernadette is rapidly getting to grips with Family Voice systems and comes to us with lots of administrative and accountancy experience and a real desire to support our work to improve services for families.

She can be contacted on admin@familyvoice.org.uk and 0753 589 5748.



Conference 2017

On the principle that we all have busy lives and it's never too early to save the date, the Family Voice Conference 2017 will take place on

Saturday 18 March 2017

at the John Innes Centre, Norwich Research Park, Colney Lane, Norwich NR4 7UH.

Government appointments

Since Theresa May took office in July, there have been a number of changes to posts in areas affecting special educational needs and disabilities. The National Network of Parent Carer Forums (NNPCF), of which Family Voice Norfolk is a member, seeks to have good access to and dialogue with those dealing with departments affecting SEND provision. A change of personnel involves new links needing to be made.

Department of Health



Secretary of State for Health is now Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health and Innovation is **Nicola Blackwood** MP. She has been an MP since 2010 and has not worked in Health before. However, she does seem to have an interest in children and young people. Outside her political career, it is reported that she is a trustee of a special school academy near her home and the patron of several charities. She is known for her national campaign against child

sexual exploitation, Childhood Lost, which is backed by the NSPCC, Children's Society, Barnardo's and Save the Children, and has resulted in amendment of child protection legislation to enable the police to better protect victims of sexual abuse.

Department for Education



Secretary of State for Education, and Minister for Women and Equalities is now **Justine Greening** MP. She is reportedly the first Education Secretary with a comprehensive school background.



Edward Timpson retains his role as the Minister with responsibility for SEND, as well as children's social care. He formerly practised as a family law barrister, specialising in the cases of vulnerable children. In the past he has been keen to hear the views of parent carers via NNPCF and earlier this year welcomed working with them (and the then Under Secretary for Public Health Jane Ellison) to identify national priorities in SEND. Parent carer forums will aim for this to continue.

