

findability news!



A comprehensive website of information and services specifically targeted at Bristol's parents and carers and their disabled children and young people. Issue 11, Spring 2014

www.findabilitybristol.org.uk

The introduction of the Children & Families Bill places a duty on local authorities to introduce a range of changes, effective from September 2014. The changes include: personalisation; personal budgets; Education, Health and Care plans; keyworking; and the local offer.

We've been preparing for these changes for a while, and with September 2014 on the horizon, the pace will pick up. Bernadette Hurd, who many of you will have met, was project managing this work until end of 2013. Samantha Flowers is now the Project Manager - she'll be out and about meeting with groups and individuals over the coming weeks.

From February families, schools and colleges will be helping us to develop and test the Education, Health and Care (EHC) assessment

and plan. These will replace the Statement for new cases from September and all existing statements will be EHC plans within three years.

By moving to this simpler EHC plan we'll be better focusing on the child or young adult's life ambitions. Professionals from education, health and social care will plan services together along with the family to help them do this.

We'll extend the Single Assessment Framework, to include the new EHC assessment and plan. This will mean that families will only have to tell their story once.

For more information contact the project team at: sendplus@bristol.gov.uk



News from Bristol Parent Carers

Bristol Parent Carers participating in local SEND reforms

Bristol Parent Carers is playing a central role in communicating the voice of parent carers in the local work taking place to meet new national SEND legislation. We are working in partnership with Bristol City Council and NHS Bristol to shape how these reforms will best meet the needs of local families.

The Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) reforms are coming in from September 2014, and if you have a child with SEN or a disability, you need to know what is happening. The reforms include many changes – and NOW is your chance to have a say!

One of the ways you can find out more and share your opinions is to come to our **Free** Fourth Parent Carer Participation Event on Wednesday 5 March 2014, 9.45am – 2.30pm. You can:-

- Learn about the SEND reforms and help design the new services for families. We'll be presenting and working on:

- Education Health & Care plans
- Personal budgets for short breaks
- The 'Local Offer'
- An integrated service for children & young adults with SEND (0-25 years)
- Children's Community Health Services

- Hear from parent carers about their participation work with Bristol City Council & NHS Bristol
- Tell us your priorities for next year and discover how to stay involved.

This year we have a larger, more central venue - the top floor of Future Inn Bristol, Bond Street South, BS1 3EN. So ... more tickets for parent carers, free parking in Cabot Circus car park, access by many bus routes, and great views across Bristol!

Learn a lot, share your opinions, gather information, have a therapy, enjoy lunch, meet other parent carers and service providers - it's all **Free**. We can reimburse travel and childcare costs (please bring receipts if possible).

Booking is ESSENTIAL. So visit **www.bristolparentcarers.org.uk** to complete our Online Booking Form - on our News & Events page. Book early to avoid disappointment. Alternatively, email us or call the Bookings Line on 0117 937 5623

Participation only works

effectively if enough of our voices are heard - so tell other parent carers and bring them with you!

Update! On Parent Carers' Rights Campaign

You may recall in the last edition of Findability News! we highlighted the issue surrounding the omission of parent carers' rights in new legislation, and our campaign of action to try to address this.

With two new Bills coming in, the Care Bill and the Children & Families Bill, neither adequately ensures that parent carers will enjoy the same right to assessment and support as carers of adults and young carers. Lots of things have been happening behind the scenes since you all helped with the campaign and wrote letters to peers.

As a result of the letters and amendments tabled in parliament, parent carers were invited to talk about the issue with Department of Education and Department of

Health officials in December and early January. Following this, I as Chair of Bristol Parent Carers and the two Co-Chairs of the National Network of Parent Carer Forums went to the Houses of Parliament on 22nd January. Whilst it was interesting to see parts of the Lords and the Commons, more importantly we met with Lord Nash, Norman Lamb MP, their officials and Baronesses Pitkeathley, Tyler and Northover. Lord Nash told us that he will make a statement in parliament about the government's response to the parent carers' rights issue.

We are pleased to announce that the parliamentary debate took place on Tuesday 28 January, and Lord Nash agreed to introduce an amendment at the final stage of the

Children and Families Bill. Saying that a strong case had been made for consolidating the legislation and giving parent carers the same rights to assessment as other carers, the Minister committed to working with carers organisations and parent carers on the details of the proposal.

Whatever happens we, and the national carers' organisations, will continue to work with officials on the details, and continue to apply pressure on any elements that are omitted.

We look forward to seeing you at our event and will continue to keep you posted on developments on Parent Carers' rights.

Caroline Temple-Bird -
Chair, Steering Group



Caroline Temple-Bird,
Chair of BPC, at the Houses of
Parliament



Bristol Parent Carers
Shaping the future together

For families of children and
young people with disabilities
and special needs

Participation Forum

Working in partnership with BCC and NHS
Bristol to design better services for our children

Run by parent carer volunteers, for parent carers

Website: www.bristolparentcarers.org.uk

Email: info@bristolparentcarers.org.uk

Tel: **0845 642 0124** (Local Rate)



Bristol Parent Carers



@BRSParentCarers

TRAINING

Makaton for Beginners

Course Dates: Saturdays 8 and 22 March 2014 (Must attend both days)

Course Times: 10am - 4pm

Course Venue: The Barton Hill Settlement, 43 Ducie Road, Bristol, BS5 0AX

For more information please tel:

0117 908 0601 or

email training@peytu.co.uk

Claremont School

Tues, 4 March iPad

Introductory

Wed, 5 March iPad

training for complex needs

Fri, 21 March

Boardmaker Studio

Apply to Bristol Communication Aid Service at Claremont School for further details/application form.

Contact Melanie Reed, **0117**

340 3946 (Mon) **0117 353 3613**

(Weds), or Email: [melanie.reed@](mailto:melanie.reed@nbt.nhs.uk)

[nbt.nhs.uk](mailto:melanie.reed@nbt.nhs.uk)

Short Breaks Health Service training

Introduction To Autism - Thursday 20th March 2014, 10-12.30pm

Kathy Bache - EarlyBird Co-ordinator – will be exploring:

- What is autism?
- How do autistic children view the world
- Strategies to help manage challenging times

Venue to be confirmed. To book a place please contact :

Inclusive Play Project Bridging Workers on **0117 903 8250** or email: [inclusiveplayproject@](mailto:inclusiveplayproject@bristol.gov.uk)

[bristol.gov.](mailto:inclusiveplayproject@bristol.gov.uk)

[uk<mailto:inclusiveplayproject@bristol.gov.uk>](mailto:inclusiveplayproject@bristol.gov.uk)

‘UNIT’ - NEW project bringing young people with autism together

Are you 14-18? ‘UNIT’ is a **New** a monthly project bringing young people with autism together. This is part of the cheap, relaxed and informal activities brought to you by UWE students!

Sunday 9 March, 09:45 – Autism friendly film showing at Showcase Cinema, Cabot Circus: “Mr Peabody and Sherman”

Saturday 5 April, 11:00 – UWE’s Centre for Sport Climbing Wall

There will also be activities in May and June.

To register your interest or find out more please call

+44 (0)117 32 82334 or
email volunteering@uwe.ac.uk

Please book by Monday 3 March 2014.

Cost: Subsidised event