

September 2016

Salford Parent Voice

Newsletter

Salford Parent Voice



Welcome one and all to the second edition of the Salford Parent Voice (SPV) Newsletter. Salford Parent Voice is a group of parents/carers of young people with a disability and or additional needs,

0 – 25years. We represent your voice as parents/carers and work alongside you, local authority, schools, health services and other providers to make sure the services they plan and deliver meet the needs of your children and families. We are an information and networking hub providing support to families

SPV's first ever Coffee and Information Session

On Saturday 2nd July 2016 SPV hosted their first Coffee and Information session at the Beacon Centre.

The session included 3, one hour long workshops, on Disability specific benefits, Salford City Councils Local Offer and Education and Health Care Plans.

The aims of this session was to engage parents and carers of young people with disabilities or additional needs, provide them with information that can be beneficial and create an atmosphere in which people are happy to network and feel comfortable airing their views.



Event Summary

Robert Rayner from Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) explained the process of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and Personal Independence Payment (PIP) and how the transition from DLA to PIP will work. Robert offered his support to all parents and carers in Salford and urged people to contact him to gain more knowledge and be better prepared for the process. He highlighted the importance of demonstrating the impact of needs on daily living. Robert also advised people to contact CAB and seek support if their PIP application is declined. He told the group that 95% of appeals are awarded!

You can contact Citizens Advice Salford on 0844 826 9695

Rachel Binns from Salford Information and Advice Service (SIASS) delivered the next workshop on the Local Offer. Rachel has worked with SPV in the past and is eager to ensure that the cities new look Local Offer is as informative and accessible as possible. Rachel delivered a presentation on the Local Offer explaining what it is and how to use it. She also requested that parents provide feedback on the user friendliness and accessibility of the Local Offer to ensure it meets the requirements of families within Salford.

To get in touch with the SIASS team contact 0161 778 0335

Cheryl Jennings and Dominic from Special Educational Needs (SEN) Access and Inclusion delivered the last workshop which focused on Education and Health Care Plan's (EHCP). Cheryl explained what EHCP is and the process to transfer from an SEN statement to an EHCP. This workshop seems to create some healthy debate within the room with parents/ carers outlining the lack of sufficient time during meetings with schools as a barrier to their understanding on the topic.

To speak with a member of the SEN access and inclusion team contact 0161 778 0406

What else have SPV been up to?

A representative from SPV attended a Young Persons Network Development day on 5th July. This event was organised by the North West (NW) Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Regional Network.

The aim of this event was to create a steering group made up of young people with additional needs or disabilities who will represent the North West region and act as the voice of young people. This steering group will consult with other



young people and feedback on a range of topics that affect their lives. SPV are pleased to say that a young person called Robert Wright has been put forward by You Can Community Club to sit on this steering group. Robert currently sits on Salford's Youth

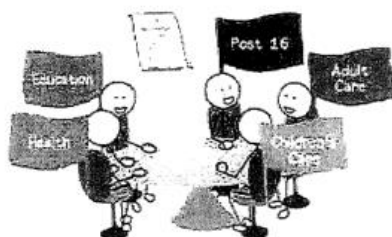
Council and provides a voice for young disabled people. Robert is also on the You Can Inspire programme, the You Can Leo's project and recently went on the Ocean Youth Voyage with Integrated Youth Services. Robert has experience of group forums and will act as a fantastic ambassador to the young people of Salford.

On Tuesday 2nd August 2 representatives from SPV attended a 'Children and Families Act' board meeting. Lynda Barnett (chair) and Deanne Shaw (Vice chair) attended to give a voice to parents in Salford and to develop relationships with key people within the local authority. Lynda and Deanne delivered a presentation to those present about SPV, our journey so far, what has been achieved and what the group hopes to achieve in the future.

SPV distributed (via email) a short survey about the EHCP form format. This was to gather opinions from parents about the user friendliness of current forms. Unfortunately the response from parents and carers to this survey was almost not large enough to draw any real conclusions. We would like to use this opportunity to encourage parents/

carers to engage with the group in one way or another. We are happy to explore ways of participation that work for parents/ carers whether that be online or hard copy surveys, drop in sessions, face to face meetings, coffee and information sessions, events or any other ideas that parents/ carers may have. Furthermore we are keen to engage with parents/ carers who have not historically had the opportunity to have their voice heard. Please can parents/ carers keep this in mind and inform friends or anyone who may benefit about SPV.

Education Health and Care Plan – Parental Views – High School/College



Name of Young Person:	
Age:	
School:	
Parents Name:	
Home Address:	

Dates for Your diary

SPV Coffee and Information Sessions

SPV Coffee and Information Sessions will allow parents and carers to network and share experiences over a nice cuppa and biscuit. Salford Parent Voice will also ensure these sessions are informative by inviting professionals to attend and provide updates on areas of interest.

On **Wednesday 24th September from 11-2pm**

&

Wednesday 28th September from 10-1pm

&

Wednesday 27th September from 6-8:30pm



SPV in partnership with the Teenage to Adult Group (TAG) is delivering a 'Preparing for Adulthood Road show'. These events will see TAG deliver

workshops to provide parents/ carers with all the information they need to know about preparing young people for a smooth transition into adulthood.

*For more information and to book onto one of these road shows please contact Janet Adams on Tel:07912341788, Email: YPtransition@srft.nhs.uk
Alternatively you can contact SPV on 0161 603 6833 or email: info@salfordparentvoice.co.uk*

On **Saturday 28th January 2017** the group welcomes all parents and carers to attend their official Annual General Meeting. Here the group will elect officers and discuss strategy.

The final confirmed date is **Saturday 18th March** at the Beacon Centre, London Street, M6 6QT between 11am -2pm. Details about what will be available at the event will be provided at a later date.

Information about any additional upcoming events will be communicated in later editions of this newsletter, through the SPV email distribution lists and via the group's website and facebook pages.





**For more information or to keep updated about SPV activities
contact:**

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