



Welcome to the Autumn 2015 PPA newsletter

As we settle into a new school year, PPA is still going strong, but needs some new people to get involved and help take the lead on local parent participation.

So, at the end of September we held a joint annual meeting with Contact a Family to raise awareness of the need for more PPA volunteers.

Twenty-five parent/carers came to the Kairos Centre, in Roehampton and heard from Wandsworth Council, The Council for Disabled Children, Contact a Family and Positive Parent Action. Over lunch parent/carers made useful contacts and found out about provision in Wandsworth.

Besty Clark, PPA's Chair explained why she thinks it is so important for

parent/carers to get involved in shaping local services and urged more people to join PPA.

WE NEED YOU!

We hope you find our newsletter of interest and if you would like to join us, please email us at:

positiveparentaction@yahoo.co.uk

OR phone us on: **020 8947 5260** **OR**

Like our facebook page, to find out when our meetings are: **www.facebook.com/PositiveParentAction**

PPA update

Thank you to those of you that recently completed registration details and entered the prize draw. It is really helpful to have more details, so that we can communicate with you more effectively.

Congratulations to the parent from SW18 who won the £50 prize draw!

Positive Parent Action is part of the National Network of Parent Carer Forums (NNPCF). Membership is free and anyone who cares for a child or young person (0-25 years) with special needs in the Borough is welcome to join.

We are run by a steering group of parent/carer volunteers. Some of our steering group members are also parent reps and Co-Chairs on the Council's workstreams that are implementing the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) reforms in Wandsworth.

We are currently looking for volunteers to take on more Parent Rep roles in the SEND workstreams.

Here is what they do:

- ❁ Come to PPA meetings at the EYC once a month, during term time.
 - ❁ Attend Council or Health meetings and give a general parental view, so professionals can better understand.
 - ❁ Review documentation.
 - ❁ Provide brief written feedback on the meetings that they attend.
- ### Here is what they get back:
- ❁ In depth knowledge of what is going on locally.
 - ❁ The opportunity to shape local services.
 - ❁ Support from other parent/carers in the same position.
 - ❁ Training.
 - ❁ Small reimbursement for time volunteered and expenses.

If you want to know more about these roles or would like to come to a PPA meeting or make suggestions about how it could work better for you, please look at our website/Facebook or get in touch.

Our work needs to reflect all your views, so please let us have your contact details if you have not already - your email address would be perfect.

Save the Date

Wednesday 27th January 2016, 10am - 2pm

Understanding the Education Health and Care Plan process and how to agree 'outcomes'

A workshop for parent/carers who want to know more about the new SEND system. Claire Lazarus from 'In Control', Contact a Family Independent Supporters and PPA will be talking through how the system is working in Wandsworth and how to get the most out of the process, with a particular focus on how best to draft 'outcomes' in an EHC Plan.

Please let Elizabeth know if you would like to attend, so that we can make sure you have the details.

The SEND reforms one year on

It is hard to tell if parents and young people feel the new processes are an improvement on the old system and it is going to take a while for feedback to be collected and acted upon. This is an area of focus in the coming months and years and will include a new framework of Ofsted inspection of how Local Authorities and Health are working together and with parent carers and young people to improve outcomes. Ofsted are currently consulting on what they should be looking for in their inspections and would really welcome views from parent/carers and young people. You can find the consultation here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-area-send-consultation>

PPA's continued involvement in Wandsworth's implementation of the reforms has included participating in meetings, giving a parental perspective; reviewing documentation, taking part in Education Health and Care plan Panel meetings, attending conferences and training. We have recently been asked to join workgroups on setting up the use of Wikis and developing a Short Breaks questionnaire with the Council.

There are lots of places to find out more about the SEND reforms, including:

Council for Disabled Children
www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk

Contact a Family
www.cafamily.org.uk

NNPCF
www.nnpcf.org.uk

Information, Advice & Support Services Network
www.iassnetwork.org.uk

IPSEA
www.ipsea.org.uk

Special Needs Jungle
www.specialneedsjungle.com

Family Information Service
www.wandsworth.gov.uk/fis

Positive Parent Action
www.positiveparentaction.org.uk

News from the National Network of Parent Carer Forums (NNPCF)

The latest NNPCF news can be found on-line on the Contact a Family and NNPCF websites, but we wanted to hi-light their recent article on:

GP Learning Disability Register

Contact a Family and the NNPCF Steering Group has recently been working with the Department for Education and the Department of Health to increase the number of children and young people registered on their local GP's Learning Disability Register.

Evidence shows that young people with a learning disability often have difficulties accessing health services and face inequalities in the service they receive. Some steps have been taken to improve the situation, such as the introduction of annual health checks for those with Learning Disabilities, but one of the key challenges is that many of this group are not actually known to their local GP. Increasing the number of young people with learning Disabilities who are on their GP's LD Register, will help to ensure that better and more person centred health care will be offered to this group.

Over one million people have a learning disability in the UK but only 200,000 are on the GP learning Disability Register.

They encourage parent carers to ask their GP about the LD Register. Also, they suggest that parents could collectively encourage Local Authorities to include the sharing of Education, Health and Care Plans with GP's as part of their local process.



PPA Contact details

Elizabeth Nassé
Parent Participation Facilitator

Available Term time:
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

tel: **020 8947 5260**

email: **elizabeth.nasse@cafamily.org.uk**
or:

positiveparentaction@yahoo.co.uk

Positive Parent Action
c/o Contact A Family
1 Siward Road London SW17 0LA

WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE
and **WE DO NEED YOUR INPUT TOO!**
PLEASE COME AND JOIN US

Local News

Osteopathy



Tara Harris Brown from the Osteopathy Centre came to our meeting in September. She showed us a video of what the service does and explained how children and young people can benefit from therapy.

The Osteopathic Centre for Children is a charity specialising in paediatric osteopathy; an effective and gentle treatment for children aged 0-18 years with a variety of health issues. Paediatric osteopathy is also effective for children with special needs and disabilities. The treatments will not cure disabilities and learning difficulties but it will help children function as best they can as it can help alleviate symptoms; making them easier to manage.

There is a charge for the service, but some PPA parents have accessed it in the past and have given really positive feedback.

Address:

22a Point Pleasant, Wandsworth, London SW18 1GG

Clinic opening times:

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday (9.30 am - 5.00 pm)

Appointments and enquiries:

tel: **0208 875 5290**

email: **enquiries@occ.uk.com**

website: **www.occ.uk.com**



Local News

Enhanced Children's Centre

PPA recently visited the West Hill Enhanced Children's Centre which provides:

A service for families with young children aged 0-5 years that need additional support, whether due to a disability, medical need or for reasons that are not yet clear.

It has great facilities, events and workshops and staff are really welcoming. The Centre is setting up a 'parent forum' for users of the Centre, so they can share experiences and ideas about the Centre. We would like to build links with the group once they are established, so we can make sure that we are representing the views of families of pre-school children too.

You can find the Centre at:

**West Hill Primary School,
5 Merton Road**

London SW18 5ST

tel: **020 8877 0758**

email:

enhancedcc@wandsworth.gov.uk

Local Offer

The Local Offer on Wandsworth's Family Information Service website shows what is available locally for children and young people with special needs.

The Council has a duty to provide the information in the Local Offer and also has to respond to feedback from you.

Whether you are looking for information on schools or for things to do in the holidays, it is the best place to start your search.

You can find it on-line at:

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/localoffer

or speak to someone at:

The Family Information Service

tel: **020 8871 7899**



Osteopathy
Clinic