

Upcoming Events & News

Upcoming Events

Monthly PPA meeting

8th July, 10am-12pm
Early Years Service,
1 Seward Road

Local Battersea SEN meeting

9th July, 10am-12pm
Platform 1, Café,
9-10 Bramlands Close, SW11 2NT

Evening SEN meeting Earlsfield

details to be confirmed -
We would like to know if this would be
of interest to anyone?

**Please let Elizabeth know if you
would like to come to any of these.**

Disability Sports Coach

*My daughter has been attending
the new sports club run by
Disability Sports Coach since it
started in September. It's been
really inspiring to see her
participate (with lots of help) in
physical activities which were
previously completely inaccessible
to us. Sports are individually adapted
for each child, and the coaches are
very patient, positive and encouraging.
So far she has played adapted football,
polybat (a form of table tennis),
goal ball, basketball and boccia,
and we're looking forward to
cricket soon! This has become a high
point in her week, and I'd really
encourage you to go along and
give it a try.*



Independent Supporters programme

The Government recognises that families
may need some extra help understanding
these major **SEND** changes, so have asked
the Council for Disabled children to
commission some extra support services.

£30 million has been allocated for
supporting the programme across
England. It is anticipated that there will
be newly appointed Independent
Supporters employed in each borough,
initially for 12 to 18 months.

Independent Supporters may be used by
young people over 16 and by parents/
carers. They will not be employed by the
Local Authority and are there to give
impartial advice and help to families.

The club is for young people aged 11 to
25 with disabilities.

Every Tuesday during term time
5.00pm to 6.00pm.

Contact:

Phone:
020 7928 4267

Email:

clubs@disabilitysportscoach.co.uk

Web:

www.disabilitysportscoach.co.uk

Disability Sports Coach

Wandsworth Disability Sports Club
Battersea Sports Centre,
Hope Street,
Wandsworth,
London
SW11 2DA

National Network of Parent Carer Forums

www.nnpfc.org.uk

There are over 30 Parent/Carer forums
across London and another 120 nationally.

Positive Parent Action is part of the
National Network of Parent Carer Forum's
South London Cluster group and regularly
attends meetings with the other forums
from this region.

We last met on 13th June, in Merton.
There was a lot of talk regarding the
reforms and which approaches were
working and which were not.

The NNPCF intend to keep issuing
guidance on the reforms and other
issues to maintain a consistent message
from forums across the country.

The network is now a well established
key player in parent participation;
working with Contact a Family, Council for
Disabled Children
and the DfE.

PPA Newsletter

Summer Term 2014



Positive
Parent
Action

for disabled children and young people in Wandsworth



Welcome to the Summer 2014 PPA newsletter

In this issue we focus again on the
**Special Educational Needs and
Disabilities (SEND)** reforms and
how Positive Parent Action is
involved in the implementation of
the reforms in Wandsworth.
SEND systems will start changing
from September 2014, so we are
anticipating another busy year
representing Wandsworth families.
We have included a leaflet about
the reforms which the Council
have developed with us - we hope
you find this useful.

We recently received the first half

of a Department for Education (DfE)
grant for £15k for 2014/2015, so we
are planning activities that we
think will help us all make the
most of local provision. One of the
aims for this year is to find a more
effective way to communicate with
you all, so we make sure everyone
gets the chance to be heard.
Please get in touch if you have any
ideas or you would like to know
more about us. Use our website,
Facebook page, email or phone . . .



**. . . we do need your
thoughts too!**

What is Positive Parent Action (PPA)?

**You may now be familiar with the name, but may not
know much about Positive Parent Action.
Here's PPA in a nutshell . . .**

Positive Parent Action was formed
in 2009, as a result of the previous
Government's Aiming High initiative.
PPA is Wandsworth's forum for
parent/carers and our aim is to
engage with and represent all
families in the Borough who have a
child with a disability or special
needs. We meet each month,
during school term time and
undertake activities that aim to
enable parent/carers to make the
most of local services. Anyone
with a child with special needs in
the Borough is welcome to be part
of the forum - we are increasing
membership each year and are

currently in direct contact with
over 250 parent carers.

PPA is run by a volunteer steering
group of 16 parent/carers and a
facilitator employed by Contact a
Family. Many of our steering
group members are parent reps
and Co-Chairs on the **SEND**
workstreams. Between them they
have clocked up a vast number of
hours skilling themselves up and
contributing to Council meetings.

Our thanks go to those who have
and who continue put so much time
and effort into establishing and
running a successful forum.

We welcome new members . . .

Please get in touch if you would like to come to the next meeting
Positive Parent Action c/o Contact A Family, 1 Seward Road, London SW17 0LA
www.positiveparentaction.org.uk and info@positiveparentaction.org.uk

PPA's Steering Group

We elect the officers of the steering
group each year and recently we have
had a few changes:

Our new Chair is Meagan Leggett, who
is also Co-Chair of the SEND
reform, **Preparing for Adulthood**
workstream.

The new Vice Chair, Betsy Clark, is also
Co-Chair of the SEND reform **Local
Offer** workstream.

New Secretary, Ashling Barvé, is also
Co-Chair of the SEND reform **Joint
Commissioning** workstream.

Justine Colburn, has been a forum
member since 2009 and Treasurer
since 2010.

Facilitator, Elizabeth Nassé, has been a
forum member since 2009 and
employed by Contact a Family since
2010.

A special mention goes to our out-going
Vice Chair, Senia Dedic who was
recently invited to a Queen's garden
party - a fantastic acknowledgement
for all her voluntary work in the
Battersea community, for Contact a
Family and also Positive
Parent Action.



Out-going Vice Chair Senia Dedic

If you want to read more about PPA,
please look at our website, which
includes our annual reports,
newsletters, events, consultations and
participation efforts.

All of our work needs to reflect the
views of the whole community, so
please let us have your contact details,
if you haven't already, your email ad-
dress would be perfect.



Contact details

Elizabeth Nassé

Parent Participation Facilitator

Available Term time:
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

Phone: 020 8947 5260

Email:

elizabeth.nasse@cafamily.org.uk

or:

positiveparentaction@yahoo.co.uk

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

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



Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) Reforms

We held a really successful event with the Council on 17th March, attended by over 250 parents/carers and professionals. The numbers were unexpectedly huge and almost overwhelmed our reception arrangements! We'll know for next time . . .

Our speakers included:

Phillippa Stobbs from the **Council for Disabled Children**, who talked about the history of the reforms and what is happening nationally.

Claire Lazarus from **'In Control'**, who talked about personal budgets and how they are helping councils and families make them work.

Carol Payne, Head of Children with Special Needs and Disabilities Service, and **two PPA parents**, talked about how the reforms were being implemented locally.

Their slides are available on our website: www.positiveparentaction.org.uk and the Family Information Service website: www.wandsworth.gov.uk/fis. We are very grateful to all of them for delivering engaging talks to such a big audience.

The morning presentations were followed by smaller workshops after lunch.



Questions were raised and some were answered, but inevitably the implications of such a shake up in the system will take time to understand and adjust to.

Thank you to all the people that came and provided feedback.

Here are some of things the professionals considered:

It was really useful to have an event with parents and to hear their views first hand, there were useful workshops, but so many unanswered questions and concerns over how all the changes are meant to be effected with little time or additional resources.

Here is what the parents and carers thought:

It was really useful to hear from professionals; anxious about what the implications of the reforms are and concerns about existing provision.

Will need more support to access the new systems - want things to be easier, not harder.

We are pleased so many people found it useful and are grateful to everyone who helped make it such a success. We will address the feedback and let you know of the next **SEND** event - make sure we have your details.

The new laws around **SEND** will be in place in September 2014 and the reforms are now being implemented across the country. Wandsworth Council have started trialling some of the new processes and will be changing to the new systems over the next three years.

We have 13 parent/carers Co-Chairing and representing parental views on the following workstreams.

A snapshot of the issues they have been talking about in their meetings is included on the following page:

Education, Health & Care plans
EHC will replace Statements
Wandsworth have drafted a template for its EHC plan and are now trialling it on about 25 families. They have asked for parent/carers' comments on the draft plan, which the PPA are helping with.

Conversion of all existing Statements to **EHC plans** will take time and will be done gradually; conversions will happen at key transition reviews, like a child moving from nursery to primary or primary to secondary school.

Local Offer
available services and eligibility
A designated website is being developed, which will be accessed through the Family Information Service website.

Parents have asked for icons, symbols and colours to be incorporated to make it easy to navigate. Parents have also asked for a parent/carer comments forum to be included.

Personal Budgets
these will be optional
The group has been learning from the model of Personal Budgets used in

Workstream feedback

adult services. From September 2014, **Personal Budgets** for children with **EHC plans** may start to be introduced, but at the moment some are being trialled. **Personal Budgets** will be allocated based on outcomes in the EHC plan and efficient use of resources.

Areas where **Personal Budgets** are being considered include: home schooling, transport, therapies, one to one support, equipment, overnight care, short breaks and health budgets.

Preparing for Adulthood transition to adult services
The group has been looking at how the **EHC plan** will reflect the needs of those approaching or in adult services. They have been doing this by understanding how adult services work and how people are assessed for Adult Social Care and NHS Adult Continuing Care.

A sub-group has been set up to look at ways in which the views of young people can be fed into commissioning of social care in the future, for example; making it easier to arrange social opportunities for young people.

The group has also started to review ways of improving the communication between professionals working with young people as they transfer from children's to adults services.

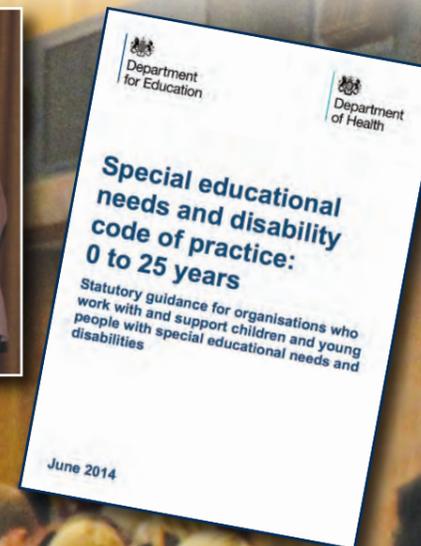
Joint Commissioning
An explanation of the joint commissioning process will be put onto the Family Information Service website.

There will be a trial of **jointly commissioned** therapies and nursing services. One or two special schools will be invited to take part. The idea is to develop a model for effective commissioning and look at best practice.

The SEN Panel and the Complex Needs Panel are to merge. During the trial phase parent/carers may be invited to join the panel.

SEND Code of Practice
At a national level, the new **SEND Code of Practice** has been finalised. It can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/319639/Code_of_Practice-Final-10June2014.pdf



PPA parents and Wandsworth Council delivering the SEND reforms event together.