



Senia,  
PPA's Vice Chair



### PPA meetings/events

We meet during term time, at the Early Years Centre on the first Tuesday of the month. Meetings sometimes include guest speakers, from organisations, like Parent Partnership and the Family Information Service. It is a great way of finding out what is going on from professionals and parents.

We also run parent/carer events each term. On 2nd July we held a free legal workshop with a solicitor from City Law firm Irwin Mitchell. She explained about rights around the Statementing process and Schools. There was a good deal of positive feedback, so we may run a similar workshop another time. If you're interested please make sure you're on our contact list, so that we can let you know.

### Contact details

**Elizabeth Nassé** Parent Participation Facilitator  
Term time: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday  
Phone: 020 8947 5260

## Inspiration

PPA's Vice Chair, Senia reports:

I'm very happy to have volunteered as a London Ambassador during the Olympic games this summer. It was an amazing experience. Our job was to make visitors welcome at this world-class sporting event. The legacy that this event will leave our children is tremendous - new sports facilities, a new aquatic park with two 50m swimming pools, hockey fields, a new forest and parkland. It was very uplifting to learn that the UK was the first country to hold the Paralympics in 1948 and that the 2012 Paralympics were the most successful ever.

My children got inspired by the Olympians and Paralympians, who showed them what you can do with a lot of practice and hard work. The sports facilities will be used by our future generations and hopefully make their Olympic and Paralympic dreams come true.

It was clearly a bumper summer of sport in London and we are keen for families with disabled children of all ages to have equal opportunities to access popular sports like swimming, cycling and football. There are also new sports to try, like rowing in adapted boats at Barn Elms and Boccia.

If you have been inspired by the Olympics and Paralympics you can find out more about local specialist and inclusive sports from the **Family Information Service**, telephone: 020 8871 7899.

At the Early Years Centre we are holding a free workshop on **Tuesday 6th November 10.00am-1.00pm**, and lunch for parents/carers. Debbie Rix from the Hearing Impaired Service will be giving advice on how to get the best out of meetings with professionals working with your children. If you would like to come, please let Elizabeth Nassé know, RSVP by 2nd November on telephone: 020 8947 5260.

One of our parents recently completed the course and reports:

I attended a free "Family Partnership" course which covered:

- 1 how to prepare for a meeting with professionals
- 2 assertiveness skills

- 3 listening and communication skills
- 4 models of disability, eg the medical model
- 5 the approaches professionals might use when working with parents
- 6 what we mean by "partnership working" and how to achieve it.

I would recommend this course to any parent. It was absorbing and empowering and I gained so much. It has taught me life skills in how to get the best out of working with professionals, including how to set time limits and deadlines. It was very rewarding and gave me practical tips on getting the most out of professionals for my child but also in other walks of life too! If you get an opportunity to go on this course seize it.

Email: [elizabeth.nasse@cafamily.org.uk](mailto:elizabeth.nasse@cafamily.org.uk)  
or  
[positiveparentaction@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:positiveparentaction@yahoo.co.uk)



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

## PPA Newsletter

Autumn Term 2012



**Positive Parent Action (PPA)** is Wandsworth's parent forum. We are a group of parents and carers of children (aged 0 to 25 years) aiming to improve provision for all local families, whose children have additional needs. We are supported by **Contact a Family** ([www.cafamily.org.uk](http://www.cafamily.org.uk)) and are part of the **National Network of Parent Carer Forums** ([www.nnpf.org.uk](http://www.nnpf.org.uk)).

## PPA update

Welcome to the first PPA newsletter of the school year. Because of the long summer break, it has been a while since our last newsletter, but we are now back into the swing of things and hope you are too!

We continue to get together once a month, as we all feel strongly that parents and carers have more strength working together. We have found over the last couple of years that sharing experiences and information allows us to make the best of local services.

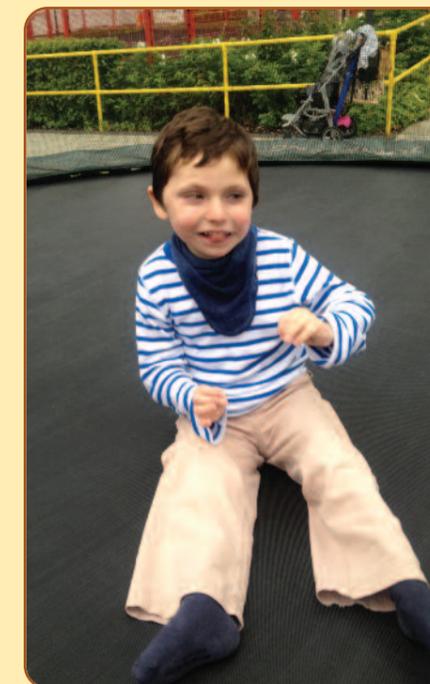
As well as taking part in regular Wandsworth Council steering groups, we also attend regional events run by **Contact a Family** and the **National Network of Parent Carer Forums (NNPCF)**, so we have an understanding of what is going on in other parts of London and the UK. The most significant national issues for us at the moment are around the SEN Green paper and school funding reforms, so we have included some background information on this as well as focussing on local matters.

PPA always welcomes new members, whether you just want to

receive updates and information or become more active and attend meetings and events. It is up to you.

We hope you find our newsletters useful, and always welcome feedback.

Don't forget we have a Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/PositiveParentAction](http://www.facebook.com/PositiveParentAction), so you can post your feedback on there too.



## Local News

Each term our Chair and Facilitator meet with **Carol Payne** (Wandsworth Council's Head of Children with Special Needs and Disabilities Service). At their September meeting, two things were highlighted:

### Transport Services

#### Consultation (Green buses)

Carol explained how Wandsworth Council are reviewing their travel assistance as a way of encouraging independence and to ensure the transport budget is not exceeded.

The Council has sent out consultation documents to families who currently use the service to gauge feedback. It is envisaged that some, mainly older and more able, children may be able to use other means of transport (with assistance) and the Council are looking at different modes. A report on the findings of the consultation will go to committee in October and proposals may be implemented from January 2013.

### Respite charges

Carol confirmed that the charging policy has been changed, so there is no more Council applied central charging for respite services. Service providers may still apply a local charge, e.g £3.50 a session at **Lady Allen**. This means charging will be universal for families, irrespective of the level of care they need. Concessions on the local charge may be made for families on low incomes.

### Free workshops

On **Tuesday 6th November, 10.00am - 1.00pm**, at the Early Years Centre we are holding a free workshop and lunch for parents/carers. Debbie Rix will be giving advice on how to get the best out of meetings with professionals. Read more on page 4. On **Thursday 15th November, 10.00am - 12.30pm** we are holding a free workshop on how to make the best use of communication Apps on the I-Pad. If you want to find out more, please get in touch. Places are limited, so please RSVP to Elizabeth Nassé by 2nd November.

## 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 Siward Road, London SW17 0LA  
[www.positiveparentaction.org.uk](http://www.positiveparentaction.org.uk) and [info@positiveparentaction.org.uk](mailto:info@positiveparentaction.org.uk)

# Background on Special Educational Needs Green paper and school funding reforms

The Government has recently published draft provisions to improve the support provided to disabled children and young people, and to their parents. It is worth pointing out that these are proposals and nothing has changed in the current statementing process.

In very broad terms the proposals mean that there will be:

- ✿ A new duty for joint commissioning which will require local authorities and health bodies to take joint responsibility for providing services.
- ✿ A requirement for local authorities to publish a local offer of services for disabled children and young people and those with special educational needs.

✿ New protection for young people aged 16-25 in further education and a stronger focus on preparing them for adulthood.

✿ Parents and young people, for the first time, to be entitled to a personal budget.

✿ For the first time Further Education colleges and all Academies, including Free Schools, will have the same duties as maintained schools to safeguard the education of children and young people with SEN.

The National Network of Parent Carer Forums (NNPCF) of which we are a part, has been briefed by the Department for Education about the draft legislative framework which shows the Department's intention to ensure that parent carers are kept informed, involved and listened to as the legislative process unfolds.



The draft proposal can be found at:  
<http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/s/sarah%20teather%20letter%20to%20education%20select%20committee.PDF>

## School Funding Reforms

These are being implemented from April 2013. The way funding for children with statements is provided will be changing.

The Council expects schools to deliver the same level of support to pupils as they currently do and are working out the best way of achieving this.

Let us know if you think there is any impact on your child's support in school.

*A recent NNPCF South London Cluster meeting*



## Feedback from Council Steering Groups

PPA members have attended a number of groups dealing with issues that affect our children. These are:

### Short Breaks

The Council have asked us which Short Breaks services work best for families, so if you are on our, or Contact a Family's mailing list, you will have received a very brief form with this newsletter to fill in and return. If you are not on our mailing list you can have your say on our Facebook page.

Wandsworth have responded to families' suggestions of introducing a card which helps access to local activities and promotes understanding in shops and community facilities.

Last month they launched the WAND card at Battersea Park Zoo and would like families to help

establish it, by suggesting venues and ways in which it can be used. If you think you can help, please contact:  
Lucia Daniels at:  
the Family Information Service  
telephone: 020 8871 7899

### Transition

Good news! Wandsworth have secured £1.3 capital funding for specialist provision for young people with complex needs at the Merton site of South Thames College.

24 part time places for 19-25 year old Wandsworth students will be available from September 2013. Please contact the Family Information Service for more details.

### Children with Special Needs and Disabilities strategy group

Discussions focused on the transport service consultation and Housing. Frank Whittle from

Wandsworth's housing department outlined how Wandsworth ensure landlords in the private rented sector maintain their properties and carry out essential works.

### Multi-Agency Sub Group for Safeguarding Children and Young People

The Inclusion Service is planning to publish an easy read leaflet about anti-bullying. Along with a DVD, this will be used in training and in schools to combat bullying.

A safeguarding policy added to the transition protocol, as it does not have one currently.

Hospital passport templates were made with St. George's Hospital and a prototype has been piloted.

You can read more about this and how best to support your child whilst an in-patient at St George's in the next PPA newsletter . . .

