



BBPCF NEWSLETTER

March 2016

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Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP's) Update

How you can get involved

The forum is currently working with the SEND Team at Bedford Borough to ensure targets are being met in relation to the number of EHCP transfers from old style Statements being carried out, as well as to quality assure the plans being produced. A group consisting of officers from the Bedford Borough SEND Team, BBPCF members and representatives from Education, Health and Social Care meet twice per term to look at the following;

1. Numbers of EHCP transfers and new plans completed each half term.
2. Information on whether or not completion deadline targets were met, and if not the reasons why.
3. Examples of anonymised transfer EHCP's and new plans.
4. Issues or concerns being raised by any of the stakeholders in attendance.

The purpose of this group is to ensure good quality EHCP's are being produced and deadlines are being met, as well as to monitor whether or not true multi agency involvement is taking place and the reasons why if this is not the case. A terms of reference for this group is in place so that those attending have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities.

We have also been invited to attend Eastern region EHCP workshops where we can look at anonymised examples of different EHCPs from Local Authorities around the country, as well as build up our knowledge and understanding of what a really good plan should look like. This is a great networking opportunity where we can share ideas and questions with other Local Authority SEND teams and Parent Carer Forums.

It is at this point **we need help** from you the parent carers! As part of the quality assurance process we are looking for parent carers whose child/young person has been issued with an EHCP, whether it is a new plan or a transfer from an old style statement. We are keen to gather as much feedback as possible about the layout and content of the plan itself, as well as the whole process, including the support you did or did not receive. Basically we want you to come and tell us your story so we can gather examples to share with the SEND officers who are writing the plans, and ultimately make improvements where needed. If you would like to come and share your experiences with us (over a cup of coffee and a biscuit of course!) please contact Karen Russell via email at karenrussell.bbpcf@gmail.com or turn up to the following drop-in session:

Tuesday 8th March: 10am-12pm at St Johns Special School (Bedford Rd, Bedford MK42 8AA).

We hope to see you there!

Dates for your diary

EHCP Drop-In:

Tuesday 8th March: 10am-12pm at St Johns Special School (Bedford Rd, Bedford MK42 8AA)

Community Services Open Meeting—OT, Physio and Continence

Tuesday 26th April 10—12.30pm & 7-9.30pm at Kings House MK42 9AZ

From our Steering Group Member—Paul

Men are from Mars and women are from Venus.....

Not according to my wife who believes I am from the planet Zog many solar systems away. As a bloke (Zog), once Charlie was born with Downs Syndrome, which we were unaware of; my first thought was I need to build a team around us who we can rely on for help and support when we were in times of desperate need.

My other children made their way on their journey of growing up starting on small roads. And as they grew in confidence and experience enjoyed the B and A roads of life, making friends and learning stuff on the way. Until one day they got in the car I paid for (and the insurance — I am not bitter!), and made their way up the motorway to travel as far as they liked and turned off when they liked. This is a well-travelled road I used many decades ago.

Then along came my lovely Charlie. Charlie has two modes of travel, hot air balloon or sailboat. With the balloon we can get so high the views are fantastic but sometimes when the balloon drops you think it might crash.

What I am trying to say is

To have parents and carers who know how to pilot a balloon or sailboat, help with speech and language, physiotherapy, understand EHC Plans, school, respite etc. in your area a phone call away should not be missed.

Bedford Borough Parent Carer Forum, we only wish we had met them all sooner.

We now have our team Charlie and I am now

If you are interested in helping BBPCF represent the views of parent carers in any of the areas in this newsletter, please contact Tracy admin@bbpcf.co.uk or come along to any of our meetings.

How parents have supported the redesign of Speech, Language and Communication provision

In September 2015, BBPCF held two workshops in conjunction with Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG) and Bedford Borough Council (BBC) to seek the views and experiences of parents carers of young people with speech, language and communication difficulties in Bedford Borough.

During these sessions parent carers told us they wanted:

- To be a part of the assessment process
- More information, readily available and communicated to parents about : your child's needs, pathways and resources available locally and nationally
- To be provided with training to support your child's needs
- Training to be provided to other professionals who support children and young people with speech, language and communication issues (ie. Teaching Assistants)
- An improved transition process for young people aged 16 –25

Emma Kilcommins, Joint Commissioner Manager for BCCG in Bedfordshire said "Parents views and engagement has supported us as Commissioners to start discussions with the current provider to put in place some of these changes now and to develop a set of outcomes for a new specification for the future. This has been invaluable for helping us to understand how we can improve local speech and language services."

Over the coming months the Forum will be working with BCCG and Bedford Borough Council along with other community health providers, including SEPT to look at how this information is put into practice. We would value your continued input and support to help us redesign these services.

www.bbpcf.org.uk

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