



BBPCF NEWSLETTER

September 2015

Vol 1 Issue 8

Speech & Language Therapy Now & The Future

Current situation—BBPCF raises the issues.

In April SEPT sent a letter to parents of pupils in Special Schools warning of a lack of Speech Therapy services. We raised the issue with Bedford Borough Council and Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and they were unaware that the letter had been sent. As a result of our continued pressure to find a solution, there should now be a full service back in Bedford special schools.

Recruitment to the vacant posts has been successful and there should be a full service by the end of September, with a locum to cover until the new staff are fully in place. Please let us know your experiences now that 'normal service' has been resumed—we need you to tell us what is happening! If you are still having any issues with Speech and Language therapy provision—keep reading and come and give your views at our open meeting....

Future Service- Next Steps!

BBPCF is working with SNAP (Central Beds Parent Carer Forum), Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Central Bedfordshire Council and Bedford Borough Council to review the Speech, Language and Communication Service, including Speech and Language Therapy services. The intention is to identify what the service needs to look like in order to meet the needs of children & young people in Bedfordshire. Parent carers and those that use the service often know what needs to change to make it better, so...

We need your views & experiences of the current service!!!

- * What works?
- * What do you want to keep?
- * What could be better?
- * What needs to change?
- * What is most important to you?

Please do come along to one of our open meetings:

Monday 28th September

Kings House, 245 Ampthill Rd, Bedford, MK42 9AZ—(First Floor W2)

10.00am to 12.30pm OR 7.00pm to 9.30pm



Find out more information on our Facebook page: [Bedford Borough Parent Carer Forum](#)

Parent Reps

A big welcome to our new parent reps!

Carol King, Gary Parker, Karen Marshall, Kerri Rennie, Mark Love and Nigel O'Shea !!!

We are really pleased to welcome some new parent reps to BBPCF and we will be getting everyone involved in the work of the forum over the coming months.

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.

Council for Disabled Children Keyworking Training

Keyworking is an approach that can make a huge difference to how well families are supported and BBPCF is working to develop a keyworking approach in Bedford Borough. The Council for Disabled Children are running Keyworking Training in Bedford on 9th November. It is aimed at professionals from health, education and care. Parent carers who want to know more about the keyworking approach are very welcome to attend too.

**9th November 2015 King's House, Ampthill Rd, Bedford,
MK42 9AZ**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cdc-key-working-training-bedford-ag-tickets-17979850216> To book your FREE place

Children & Families Act **A year on...**

Well, we've been working on the SEND Reforms for over a year now so it's probably a good time to ask—how are we doing?

Education, Health & Care Plans (EHCP's)

We do have a process that was developed with parent carers and the plan for converting statements into EHCP's is going well in Bedford. In fact Bedford Borough is pretty much top of the local authority 'tables' for converting statements.

But...are the new EHCP's as good as we expect them to be?

So what are we doing....?

BBPCF and Bedford Borough Council have set up a focus group to look at the quality of the EHCP and look at where improvements can be made.

Can you help?

We are also looking for 'mystery shoppers' - if your child is due to have their statement converted we'd like to hear from you!

The Local Offer

The [Bedford SEND Guide](#) has been up and running for a year and has been getting lots of views and visitors. There is a lot of information on it for families with SEN and disabilities in Bedford Borough.

But...who is using it? Does it have all the information on it? Does it look how we want?

So what are we doing....?

BBPCF and Bedford Borough have set up a focus group to look at how we can continue to develop the Local Offer and how we can get closer to the vision of the local offer that you wanted when we asked you back in 2014.

Can you help?

Have you used the website? Tell us what you think. Is there anything missing? Get in touch if you would like to get involved.

www.bbpcf.org.uk

Email Tracy @ admin@bbpcf.org.uk

Tel : 07943 524553



[Parent Carer Forum—Bedford Borough](#)



[BedsBoroughPCF](#)