

SEND Family Voice

A monthly newsletter filled with news, information and events for all things SEND in the Redcar & Cleveland area.

A fond farewell

Michelle Caddy, one of the co-chairs of the forum, has decided to step down from her role. Michelle has been with the forum for over 4 years including during Covid which was challenging to say the least! Michelle has been a valued member of the forum and helped to support many parents through their journeys. Michelle will be sadly missed by forum members, parents, carers and professionals alike. Michelle has added a few words herself,

Dear Parent Carers,

I wanted to let you all know that by the time you receive this newsletter I will have stepped down as Co-Chair of SEND Family Voice, Redcar and Cleveland.

I have really enjoyed being involved in participation work as a Chair and Co-Chair of the parent carer forum since taking on the role in late 2019. Setting up a new PCF in the middle of a pandemic was no easy task but I was lucky to be able to gather some willing parents to get the PCF back on track and soon we were up and running, albeit all on Zoom and Teams!

I had ambition for the forum and quickly wanted to make sure that we could operate in a physical location and with as much independence as possible, so after a temporary move to an office in South Bank, it was brilliant to find a permanent location within the community at Grangetown United Hub.

Parent carers have come and gone within the PCF's steering group since 2019, but the constant has been the focus on engagement, empowerment, and influence so that services for all our families in the Redcar SEND community reflect what our children and young people need and deserve.

It is fair to say that there is still a mountain to climb in achieving this and we all know the political and financial climate we are in makes this seem impossible to achieve. But I do believe in the power and reach of SEND parents and hope that you all support and get involved with the PCF as much as possible to make this a reality.

Emma Hebb, who creates this wonderful newsletter each month is now Chair of the PCF and has a good team of parent carers around her to keep the work going. If you do want to learn more about PCF work, reach out via Facebook, send an email via the website or speak to PCF parent reps at any of the events coming up.

Love,

Your Voice

We are keen to hear your views and opinions about the SEND services in Redcar and Cleveland. Please take a moment to complete this on the "Your Voice" section of the website. Good, bad or indifferent we want to hear from you!

Michelle

News & Information

PINS Update

The PINS project is progressing nicely. Emma and Clare are meeting with the schools involved to discuss the project further and how they can support schools and families. Once we have met with all school leads we will be scheduling coffee mornings for parents and carers. This will be a chance for parents to provide their feedback. All upcoming coffee mornings will be advertised around schools, our Facebook group and newsletters.

Welcome to our new member

For those of you who follow us on Facebook, you will have seen we have a new parent who has joined the forum. Kerry Cassidy is a SEN mum to two gorgeous boys and has a wealth of experience with Early Years and Portage and with this experience, will be the Early Years and Portage lead on behalf of the forum. Kerry will also look after the parent memberships and the admin work that comes with that.

Some parents might have met Kerry at our soft play sessions and she will be at the Meet the Team event on Tuesday along with other members. Please say hello to Kerry if you see her at a future event and from us at SEND Family Voice, welcome!

Did you know there is a fab website called Discounts for Carers? You can sign up for free and receive weekly emails containing great deals and discounts to shops, days out and eating out! Sign up on the link below

https://discountsforcarers.com

News & Information cont

Forum Update

As a forum we are always looking at different ways we can support parents and carers. As well as our peer to peer support on Facebook and at coffee mornings we want to hear from you about what you would like to see. We have put a post on the Facebook page and some parents would like to have more professionals coming in to give talks and provide information on topics such as EBSA, puberty and autism in girls. We are working hard to bring a variety of events to the forum so please keep an eye on the Facebook page and future newsletters. We always welcome feedback from parents of what they would like to see as well, so please keep forwarding them to us.

Below you will find some upcoming events from the forum team.





SEND Parent and Carer Coffee drop in at Grangetown United Hub

Do you have a child who is diagnosed with Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND)?
Is your child on the pathway for assessment?
Do you have any concerns around your child's development or suspect they may have additional needs?
Would you like to meet and talk to other partners who understand what you are going through?

Tuesday 2nd July 10am - 12pm

Please feel free to come along with a relative or friend to meet other parents of children with SEN. There will also be information to takeaway. Free refreshments provided



SEND Parent and Carer Coffee drop in at Skelton Family Hub

Do you have a child who is diagnosed with Special
Educational Needs or Disability (SEND)?
Is your child on the pathway for assessment?
Do you have any concerns around your child's
development or suspect they may have additional needs?
Would you like to meet and talk to other partners who
understand what you are going through?

Monday 10th June 1pm - 3pm

Tuesday 2nd July 1pm - 3pm

Open to all parents and carers in Skelton and surrounding areas.

Please feel free to come along with a relative or friend to meet other parents of children with SEN. There will also be information to takeaway. Free refreshments provided

Important Contact Numbers

Sen Services - 01642 204503

Camhs - 0300 013 2000

Shortbreaks Self referral - 01642 771247

Daisy Chain Family Support - 01642 531248 (Option 1)

Carers Together - 01642 488977

Events





Awareness courses for Parents and Carers

RCBC has partnered with the Solihull Approach to offer free online courses to support the mental health and wellbeing of parents, carers, grandparents and teens living in the region.

The free online training and resources are available to parents and all professionals who work with children.

There are various online courses available, including:

- Supporting emotional health and wellbeing from 0-19+
- Understanding your child: from toddler to teenager
- Understanding your child with additional needs
- Understanding your teenagers brain

These sessions are a great resource which may help you in your role at work or at home as a parent. To access the online courses, please click this <u>link</u> and sign up for free, using the access code LEMONTOP

Please share within your teams and encourage your staff to enrol.

If you require any further support, please contact the Organisation and Workforce Development Team at <u>WorkforceDevelopment@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk.</u>







Events cont

Upcoming PDA webinar



Witherslack Group. Join us on Wednesday 26 June for a free webinar with Anne-Marie Harrison, Education Director from Ideas Afresh Education, exploring Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA), offering practical advice and strategies to support neurodiverse children.

https://pages.witherslackgroup.co.uk/understanding-pda





MAIN Summer Fair

Join MAIN on Sunday 30th June from 11.30am until 2.30pm for their Summer Fair. Located at The Finlay Cooper Centre with all proceeds going back to the charity.

Contact MAIN for any further information about the event.

SEN Sessions

In and around the Redcar and Cleveland area.





Session specifically for SEN -Children with Special Education Need

No general public admittance.



Where? Guisborough Family Hub When? 10am - 12pm How Much? Free

Dates: Saturday 4th May 2024 Saturday 18th May 2024

Saturday 1st June 2024 Saturday 15th June 2024 Saturday 29th June 2024

Saturday 3rd August 2024 Saturday 17th August 2024 Saturday 24th September 2024 Saturday 5th October 2024

Saturday 19th October 2024 Saturday 2nd November 2024 Saturday 16th November 2024

Saturday 30th November 2024





Guisborough

Family Hub



Providing Forest and Beach School sessions to families throughout Redcar and Cleveland.

At Woods & Waves children and young people have the opportunity to connect with nature, use tools, enjoy the warmth of a campfire, complete scavenger hunts, engage in nature-based arts and crafts and so much more. The sessions are very flexible and child-led, participants are the Forest School approach. Parent/carers stay and join in the fun too.

Children with additional needs are welcome to attend any of our sessions, and we also have SEND sessions every third Saturday of the month from 16th March.

To book a place visit our Facebook page @woodswavesforestandbeachschool Or use our booking link https://bookwhen.com/woodswaves





In addition we also have some availability on our fully funded 10 week SEND Forest School

Thanks to funding from Woodsmith Foundation we are able to offer fully funded small group Forest and Beach School to children and young people. To qualify the child/YP must: Be aged 5-18 years, live in Redcar and Cleveland, and have an additional need or disability

This is for a block of 10 sessions and we have a couple of remaining spaces for our Thursday 4pm sessions beginning in April, so you must be able to come along to Saltburn on this day and time to qualify. To express your interest in your child/young person been involved in this project please contact us: woodswaves2022@gmail.com / 07533366410









