

December 2018

## SEND Newsletter .....encouraging everyone to raise their expectations for children and young people with SEND

Welcome to the Winter SEND newsletter - an opportunity to share some updates about what is happening in Oxfordshire.

### Update from Oxfordshire Parent Carer Forum



1. Following a very successful year since the Inspection, Oxfordshire now has a fully functioning Parent Carers Forum. It is still in its fledgling stage, but is growing all the time.
2. We made the decision, within the Steering group, to have it fully branded and given a very identifiable image. This has been achieved with huge success and is receiving much praise.
3. Our launch at the Better Together event, has already lead to very positive guidance being given to several families that attended the event, their feedback clearly evidencing how their family situation has improved. It also identified a pathway to

information held by school nurses that was exceptionally valuable.

4. We are actively recruiting new members and have attended Parents Evenings in 2 special schools, an after-school activity club and 3 specific support group events. We have even recruited to the steering group, which is often challenging.
5. What we are hearing, from both parents and teaching staff, that are approaching us, is that they want to feedback and be involved, alongside each other. We are currently discussing the concept of having a Professionals membership list as well. A number of professionals and parents we spoke to gave us valuable insight, into highly successful strategies they were using in their departments, that could easily be transferred to others settings at little if any cost. ie the use of a simple visual cue on a child's hospital notes to identify ASD, much like the hidden disabilities lanyard used, very successfully within Airports.
6. All parents wishing to be involved at Board room level, will undertake training entitled Parents Participating Confidently. This was delivered very successfully before, by SENDIASS and provides parent Carers with the skills they need to effectively share the wealth of information and experience they all have.
7. The Actions and Outcomes, collated from the Better Together event will be shared by OxFSN and we will in turn disseminate this out to parent/Carers across our website, Facebook, contact Schools and Parent mail.
8. We have been asked by several parents to specifically raise awareness, of the huge challenges faced by families where the child concerned has complex health needs. These families are finding it exceptionally difficult to access the support they need. We are currently gathering case studies to look at how we can best address these issues and secure positive outcomes for them.

Under the supportive umbrella of OxFSN and with a Steering Group of committed Parent Carers, we are well on our way to having a strong Forum, working alongside OCC, OUH and OH.

Our logo keeps the child at the heart of all our decisions and is a powerful image to remind us all why we do what we do.

For more information or to contact Oxfordshire Parent Carer Forum:

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Twitter: @OxPCForum

Instagram: ox\_parentcarers\_forum

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- National network of parent carer forums: <http://www.nnpf.org.uk/> The National Network of Parent Carer Forums (NNPCF) is the independent national voice of parent carer forums.
- In partnership with OxFSN <https://www.oxfsn.org.uk/> Oxfordshire Family Support Network (OxFSN) is a not-for-profit organisation run by and for family carers of people with learning disabilities – both children and adults.

## Update from the SEND Programme Board

The Department for Education has announced a programme of revisits to those local areas which were asked to produce a Written Statement of Action (WSoA) following their SEND inspections. Information about revisits can be found [here](#). Revisits will focus on the progress made against the areas of significant weakness identified by the inspection and addressed by the WsoA.

Local areas will usually be revisited within 18 months of their WSoA having been accepted as fit for purpose by Ofsted and CQC. [Oxfordshire's WSoA](#) was agreed March 2018. The local area will receive 10 days' notification of the revisit, which will last between 2-4 days. A report will be published on the Ofsted and CQC websites, usually 33 days after the inspectors have finished the revisit. It will set out whether the local area has made sufficient progress against each area identified for development in the WSoA.

Oxfordshire had its 4<sup>th</sup> monitoring visit from the DfE and NHS in November meeting with representatives from Oxfordshire Parent Carer Forum, Education, Health and Care. Feedback from the visit is positive. They can see progress being made against the 5 areas of significant weakness identified during inspection. The Area now needs to embed work and ensure it is sustained and developed.

## All Age Intensive Support Team

Following feedback from families of children and young people, the service provided by the Intensive Support Team (IST) has been expanded to assist those supported by the Learning Disability Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS).

The IST will provide support to those

- At risk of hospital admission due to behaviours or mental wellbeing.
- At risk of out of area educational provision.
- At risk of not developing to their full functional potential or able to engage in appropriate activities.

The IST is accessed via a closed referral system in consultation with the Learning Disability CAMHS team. The role of the IST is to provide an additional intensive and focused support in terms of effective assessment and treatment intervention. This will be centred upon supporting the young person to be able to access all preferred activities in a safe way.