



SNAP PARENT CARER FORUM

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

'Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.'

Annual Report March 2017 – March 2018

What is a Parent Carer Forum?

“Parent Carer Forums are representative local groups of parents and carers of children and young people with disabilities who work alongside local authorities, education, health and other service providers to ensure the services they plan, commission, deliver and monitor meet the needs of children and families” Para 1.13 SEND Code of Practice 2015

What is Special Needs Action Panel Parent Carer Forum (SNAP PCF)?

SNAP (Special Needs Action Panel) is a pro-active, independent forum of parent carers who all have children or young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). As members of the National Network of Parent Carer Forum’s we support the development of parent carer participation, a process in which parents work together with professionals to make improvements to local services. We act as a conduit for a wide variety of local professionals in their work with children and young people with SEND.

We focus on helping to raise the standard of social care, education and health services within the county, to these services are provided in a way that meets the needs of all disabled children and their families in the county.

As parents of disabled children and young people, we bring a real-life perspective and experience to the planning and development of the services that our families use. We constructively challenge decisions that are taken by our local council and health authority about the future planning of services; we work in partnership with our local council and health authorities to make decisions about services they deliver.

How we are funded & our company structure

We receive grant funding from the Department for Education, Contact a national charity hosts this grant for each Parent Carer Forum. This funding pays for the running of the forum and parent participation. We are also funded by Central Bedfordshire Council from the SEND implementation grant, this pays for the Participation Manager and a Business Support Administrator. We became a not-for-profit Community Interest Company in March 2017, prior to that we were hosted by Families United Network. We currently have two directors who oversee the running of the forum, we do this with the support of a steering group. We have engagement representatives who are paid volunteers and run our participation training for parents and engagement events.

SEND Conference – To inform and empower parents

SNAP PCF gained additional funding through Contact and from the Department for Education to hold a conference. 109 parents, 22 stall holders from local charities, a national solicitors firm, health, SENCO’s, local special schools, pamper sessions and information about young people preparing for adulthood were invited. Fifteen professionals from Central Bedfordshire Council, councillors and health held mini-surgeries. This enabled parents to have a unique opportunity to meet with key decision makers who they would not usually have access to. This also enabled the professionals to hear the real-life experiences of families and have an opportunity to offer some practical support and strategies.

We have developed a new website

As part of becoming a Community Interest Company we developed our website. Please take the time to look at our new website <http://www.snappcf.org.uk/> We are currently developing an events calendar, here you will find local events about all things SEND. You will find information on our useful links page that includes, local charities and support groups as well as national charities such as IPSEA and SEN SOS who can help you with your education enquires, Contact also has a helpline for parents and the Council for Disabled Children has helpful resources for parents.

SEND Satisfaction Survey

SNAP PCF are running a survey to gather parent's views on how well education, health and social care are doing in Central Bedfordshire. The feedback from the survey will be shared with heads of service at the local authority and health, will help to focus our priorities and will be shared with OFSTED and the Care Quality Commission when they carry out a joint area SEND inspection.

We would like to thank the 100+ parents who have already completed the survey, there is an opportunity to win a £25.00 M&S voucher for completing this. The link to the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/G6YVBNW>

We need to increase our membership

Due to new General Data Protection Regulations coming into force in May we need to start a new database to reflect this legislation, our old database will be deleted which means you will no longer receive our newsletters, invitations and information from us unless you complete a new membership form <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MembershipformtojoinSNAP> Please also follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

We are looking to find more members to join our Parent Panel. We want to hold coffee events across Central Bedfordshire. We already hold a successful coffee morning in Leighton Buzzard and will be starting a coffee morning at The Chilterns Secondary Site. Please get in touch if you would be interested in helping us to develop these across the county.

How can parents get involved and participate?

Parent Panels

Would you like to have an opportunity to meet other parents and give your feedback about the services you receive? We are looking for parents to help shape services locally and specifically feed into the following areas: Central Bedfordshire Council Local Offer. Preparing for Adulthood, Leisure Services and the re- commissioning of some local services.

We will give you a £15.00 Marks & Spencer gift voucher as a thank you for attending, you will also receive a newsletter from us informing how your feedback helped to develop the service.

How we work with the local authority and health authority?

What is CO-PRODUCTION?



Family engagement: Hart's ladder of participation

Central Bedfordshire Council SEND Vision

We have worked with the local authority to produce a set of guidelines of how we define co-production within Central Bedfordshire and a set of principles in how we will work together and co-produce services. This has been signed off by the council executive and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The agreed definition of how the local authority and health authority will work with SNAP PCF

'Co-production happens when service providers and service users recognise the benefits of working in true partnership with each other. This process is adopted 'from the start', when planning, developing, implementing or reviewing a service. It means that all the right people are around the table right from the beginning of an idea, and that they are involved equally to:

- Shape, design, develop, implement, and review services
- Make recommendations, plans, actions, and develop materials.
- Work together right from the start of the process, through to the end.

Consultation is not the same as co-production. A stage of consultation can be part of an overall co-production process. It usually occurs after the early stages of co-production have been completed.'

The views of parents and carers are presented through Central Bedfordshire's Parent Carer Forum - SNAP PCF (the Special Needs Action Panel). This is the parent carer forum comprising a representative group of parent service users.

SNAP bring a valuable independent perspective and constructive challenge to the future planning of services. We recognise the high value of the information derived from the informal networks SNAP has developed with other parents.

The Strategic Boards we are members of:

- The SEND Delivery Board
- School Transport Project Board
- The Local Offer Workstream
- Preparing for Adulthood Workstream
- Futures in Mind Transformation Steering Group
- Childrens Emotional Resilience and Wellbeing Board
- EHCP Integration board
- SEND working group



The consultations we have been part of:

- Short Breaks Review

The SNAP survey of March 2017 concluded that short breaks are vital for parent carers to enable them to function, allowing parents to work and rely less on benefits, social workers and GPs, therefore, develop their own self-worth. The short break keeps families together and functioning as a unit.

- School Transport Consultation

SNAP PCF compiled a review in response to the consultation regarding proposals to change the 'The Home to School/College Travel Assistance Policies for Central Bedfordshire'. SNAP are concerned that the proposed changes will have a detrimental impact on the lives of children and young people with SEND in Central Bedfordshire and their families. We also believe it will limit some individuals' ability to access education.

When SNAP PCF are involved in consultations with the local authority and health authority we always highlight the commitments of the SEND Vision and highlight the Children and Families Act 2014, Section 19 principles:

- The importance of listening to the views and wishes of children, young people and their families.
- Improved outcomes for children and young people across education, health and social care and wider life outcomes linking to employment, housing etc
- The need for integrated 0-25 services.

The recommissioning of contracts at Central Bedfordshire Council and the Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group

- Community Health Contracts

We were invited to listen to the bids of the companies who were tendering for the new health contract within Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and be part of the moderation of this. By being part of this we were able to highlight the need for good quality services that our community needs. We have met with the new providers and invited them to attend our conference to ensure we are developing strong links so we can co-produce the new services.

- CBC re-commissioning of the Children's Community Services

Some services that are commissioned by Central Bedfordshire Council are being reviewed to see how they can provide better, more integrated, locality-based support. The Council commissions a number of contracts that are due to end in 2018 and these services will be considered as part of this project. They include Children's Centres, services for children and young people with SEN, youth support services and some services for looked after children.

SNAP PCF Strategy Meeting

Once a year we hold a strategy meeting, this is when we invite heads of service from health, social care, education and leisure services as well as officers to highlight to them what families are telling us. You can see the previous presentation here:

<http://www.snappcf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Strategy-Day-2017-Final-Copy-Website-1.pdf>

We deliver training

We are now delivering Joint Outcomes Training with Beds Borough Parent Carer Forum and our Designated Clinical Officer. This training is for parents, healthcare, social care and education professional to be delivered the same training at the same time. At the end of the session you will have an overview of The 2014 SEND Reforms and local implementation, understand what Person-Centred Planning looks like, and what tools you could use to support this, what a good outcome looks like, how to write reports in an outcome focused way, the EHCP process with reference to Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire's procedures.

We have invited a trainer to run 'Expert Parenting' training to help parents navigate through health pathways and have run information sessions to develop parents understanding of the Education Health Care Plan process. We also invited Speech & Language Therapists to meet with parents to explain about the service they offer and to give parents 'top tips' to support the development of communication.

How to contact SNAP PCF?

Email admin@snappcf.org.uk

Phone 07984 545044

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/snappcf.org>.

Twitter <https://twitter.com/snappcf>

Website: www.snappcf.org.uk

Members of



National Network of Parent Carer Forums
'Our Strength is our Shared Experience'
www.nnpcf.org.uk

WORKING TOGETHER WITH

contact

*For families
with disabled children*