



Spring Term 2020

NEWSLETTER



SNAP PARENT CARER FORUM
CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE



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Welcome to our Spring Term 2020 Newsletter

About us

Parent Carer Forums were set up as part of The Children & Families Act 2014.

There are currently 152 Parent Carer Forums set up across the country, we are members of The National Network of Parent Carer Forums (NNPCF) which means not only do we feedback to our Local Authority and Clinical Commissioning Group, we also feedback through the NNPCF who then collate this information for the government.

We are an independent parent forum who work alongside Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) and the Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG) as a strategic partner and critical friend.

We have built strong working relationships, and have a trusted role as parents of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities aged between 0-25 years.

We take the views of families and feed them into Central Bedfordshire Council to improve the services that we all receive. We are experts by experience and as such, have a unique understanding of how challenging life can be raising a family.

It is important families tell us what is working well and what needs to be improved so we can feed this back to ensure there is a clear understanding of how families are feeling about the services they are receiving.

How to contact us

admin@snappcf.org.uk

Call 07984 545044

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

<https://twitter.com/snappcfext>



The members of our Steering Group are:

Kirsty Green, Director
Andrea Holmes Taylor
Anne Collinson
Emma Jane Clark
Jo Blair Stuart
Sarah Oliver
Sonia Phillips
Tracy Jones

If you would like to know how to get involved with the work that we do, please email admin@snappcf.org.uk

Benefits of becoming a member of SNAP PCF

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

If you work for the charity sector, in education, health, social care or are interested in following us then please complete our professional membership form.

You will receive our termly newsletter and event flyers that you can share with the families you support.

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SNAP_Professionals

PARENT CARER MEMBERSHIP

You need to be a parent of a child or young person aged between 0-25 years and live in Central Bedfordshire to become a member of SNAP PCF.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MembershipformtojoinSNAP>

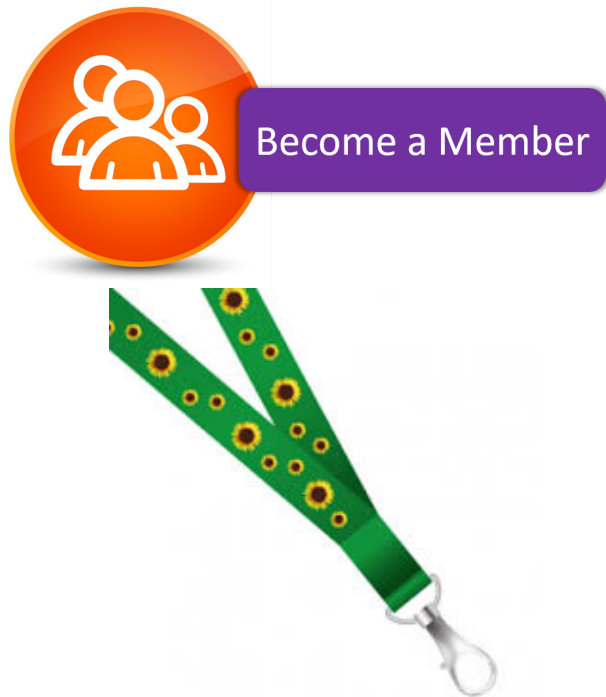
FREE TRAINING

For our parent carer membership we offer training sessions to inform and empower our members so they can better advocate for their child.

FREE MAX CARD

As a thank you for becoming a member of SNAP PCF we currently give our parent carer members a free Max Card, this is a discount card that can be used at local and national venues, further details can be found on our website <http://www.snappcf.org.uk/max-cards/>

To apply for a Max card please email admin@snappcf.org.uk and we will pop one in the post to you.



SUNFLOWER LANYARD

The hidden disabilities sunflower lanyard is a discreet way for a child or adult with a hidden disability to show they need more support or time.

SNAP PCF gives their members a free lanyard, please email admin@snappcf.org.uk to request yours and we will pop one in the post for you.

Many organisations recognise the sunflower lanyard scheme and also give free lanyards to their customers. Marks & Spencer, Tesco, Sainsburys and Luton Airport are a few of the organisations involved.

Further information can be found here: <https://hiddendisabilitiesstore.com/>



Area SEND Inspection OFSTED & CQC

During November 2019 Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) carried out a Joint Local Area SEND Inspection of Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) and the Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG). The purpose of the inspection was to assess how well the local area identifies and meets the needs of children and young people aged 0-25 years who have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND).

The report has now been published <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50146631> unlike other inspections a rating is not provided however, where inspectors find areas of significant weakness, they can require the local area to complete a Written Statement of Action (WSOA). Central Bedfordshire Council and the Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group have been identified as having significant areas of weakness in the local area's practice by the Inspectors, therefore a WSOA is required. A reinspection will take place on the WSOA usually between 18 - 24 months after the publication of the inspection letter. The Department for Education and NHS England will support CBC & the BCCG by attending monitoring visits usually at four, six and twelve months.

During the inspection SNAP Parent Carer Forum played an important role representing parents' views and experiences. We presented our findings to the Inspectors from our Satisfaction of SEND Services Survey results and the accompanying report which can be found on our website along with the previous survey results we carried out in June 2018 <http://www.snappcf.org.uk/strategy-meeting-25th-june-2018-update/> We would like to thank the parents who took the time to complete the survey, our voice is stronger when we work together to share good practice and raise our concerns. You will see from our report that we reported

"The forum is still seeing too many families struggling to understand and navigate local SEND services and provision. The 154 families that completed our survey are still feeling that their views are not being actively sought or listened to; that different services are not communicating and working together effectively; that local provision in the county is not adequate to meet their child's needs; and that their children are not receiving the help and support that they need to reach their full potential."

We are pleased that OFSTED & The CQC agreed with us.

We will continue to be a critical friend to CBC and the BCCG, to ensure the parent voice is listened to and acted upon. We will also continue to push the agenda so parents' experiences are heard. This is to be able to improve services, as too often parents report the need to 'fight' for the services they need. We look forward to seeing how CBC and The CCG propose how they are going to work with SNAP PCF on the WSOA of the inspection report.

We were disappointed that despite our best efforts to increase our membership numbers OFSTED & The CQC have commented "they do not represent the views of most families within the area and, too often, families do not know of their existence." Please support us by becoming a member to strengthen our voice.

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<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MembershipformtojoinSNAP>



OFSTED/CQC NEXT STEPS

The OFSTED/CQC Inspection letter was published on the 12th of February, Central Bedfordshire Council and The Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group are wanting to work at pace to understand parents views, review how they deliver services and understand how this fits within the Written Statement of Action (WSOA) therefore, this will enable them to deliver a service that parents have confidence with.

Initially due to the desire to book meetings at pace to hear the views of parents meetings were being booked too fast with less than a weeks notice. We raised this with Central Bedfordshire Council who listened to us and took action to rearrange the meetings and to offer more meetings. Please see our response and Central Bedfordshire Response below.

SNAP PCF Response - "Meet the Director" meetings. Some parents may have seen adverts today for meetings next Wednesday to "Meet the Director". SNAP PCF have raised to CBC and the CCG that parents need at least 3 weeks notice of any meeting. The reason a meeting was being put in place at such short notice was due to a strong desire by both CBC and CCG to hear from the broadest range of parents as soon as possible. We would like to thank Sue Harrison, Director of Children's Services for listening to SNAP PCF. The meetings next week are CANCELLED! We will be working in partnership with CBC and CCG to arrange meetings across the county over a 6 week period...

Central Bedfordshire Council Response - We are aware that a provisional date had been published in the local press and on social media about a public meeting with SEND parents on March 11. Unfortunately, this was a provisional date that was publicised in error and a number parents have also said that it was too short notice. We want as many parents as possible to be able to attend and contribute, so we are looking to rearrange to a more convenient date to enable this to happen, and we are working with the SNAP PCF to do this. The rescheduled meeting will have directors from Central Bedfordshire Council, the Health Service and SNAP in attendance, and be an opportunity for us to work together, with parents, to improve our SEND services around education, health and social care, with specific regard to the areas identified by Ofsted. Once a new date agreed, we will communicate the new dates with SNAP and through our SEND Local Offer web pages, our Ward Members, to subscribers of our SEND email news alerts, Facebook, Twitter and the local press. Interested parents can register for our email alerts at: <https://public.govdelivery.com/account/UKCBCC/subscriber/new>

**The Big Conversation....
Meet the Directors
Have
your say and influence the future**

The start of a big conversation about SEND services in Central Bedfordshire.

Following the recent joint Ofsted and Care Quality Commission inspection and feedback from parents, Anne Murray (Chief Nurse, BLH Commissioning Collaborative), Sue Harrison (Director of Children's Services) and Emily Green (Director SNAP PCF) will be holding sessions to give parents the chance to share views on what's working, what's not working and how we improve our services.

This will give you, as parents, the opportunity to speak individually to the Directors and other senior staff from CCG and NHS.

Please book your place to attend any of the sessions below using the link
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-big-conversation-meet-the-directors-registration-99698755662>

24th of March 2020: 18:00 -20:00
Rufus Centre, Steppingley Rd, Flitwick, Bedford MK45 1AH

31st of March 2020: 11:00 -13:00 and 18:00 – 20:00
Astral Park Sports and Community Centre, Johnson Drive, LU7 4AY

1st of April 2020: 10:00-12:00 and 18:00 – 20:00
The Orchard Community Centre, Biggleswade, SG18 8SZ

Please don't worry if you can't make any of these sessions, more are planned over the next few months.



OFSTED/CQC NEXT STEPS

Meet the Director Meetings a message from Central Bedfordshire Council

"We are very sorry to have to inform you that unfortunately, in line with Government guidance around Coronavirus, Central Bedfordshire Council and the NHS have had to take the decision to postpone the 'Meet the Director' SEND sessions that were due to take place on the 24th March 2020, 31st March 2020 and 1st April 2020."



SNAP PCF understand parents may feel disappointed and let down by the decision to cancel the Meet the Director meetings, we ask you to try to understand that we are in unprecedented times at the moment and will work with CBC and the CCG to find other ways parents can participate and have their say.

SNAP PCF have been invited to attend a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) meeting to feed in our members views to the Action Plan for OFSTED and the CQC, unfortunately this meeting has been delayed due to Coronavirus. The Inspection letter made it clear that the SEND reforms need to be worked at with pace to ensure services are improved. Unfortunately as we are all working from home and self isolating this may cause some delay. We are having meetings remotely but this is not the same as being in a room together where we can influence the discussions around our members views. Please be patient with us, we will continue to be a strong voice for families and will keep you updated.

Childrens Overview and Scrutiny Board

We have been invited to speak at the next Childrens Overview and Scrutiny Board we are working on a report to evidence what we are currently working on, what our members are telling us and the culture change we need to see. The Ofsted/CQC report was discussed at the March meeting which you can see here:

https://centralbedfordshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/480974

The agendas and papers for previous and future meetings can be found on CBC website:

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/31/meetings/212/childrens_services_overview_and_scrutiny_-_meetings_and_agendas/2

Working with CBC & The BCCG



We thought it may be helpful for you to see the current projects and working groups we are members of

We have been busy working alongside the Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group on the following projects:

- Personal Health Budgets
- Neuro-Developmental Pathways
- Local Offer Health information
- Complex Health
- Personalised Care
- Mental Health & Well-being Board
- Sensory Needs Training
- Community Pediatric Co production



We have continued to work alongside Central Bedfordshire Council on the following projects:

- Short Breaks
- School Transport
- Alternative Education Provision
- Joint Commissioning
- Preparing for Adulthood
- SEND Delivery Board
- SALT Tool Kits for early years settings and schools
- The Local Offer
- Schools for the future
- Preparing for Adulthood



Our work with our health partners



Parents have been informing SNAP PCF about the delays to access The Edwin Lobo Centre and The Child Development Centre. We would like to thank Lydia for giving parents an update for our newsletter.

You may have experienced long waiting times whilst accessing the community paediatrics services at Redgrave Gardens (Luton) or the Children's Development Centre (Kempston). The feedback we receive from families is reflective of this, and we recognise the strain this causes to families awaiting these appointments.

Due to the growing populations across Bedfordshire, the demand for our services currently outweighs the capacity we have to deliver the services, resulting in delays for appointments. We recognise this is not an acceptable level of service for families, and have been working hard to improve the situation.

In both Luton and Bedford we have employed an agency locum paediatrician to increase staffing levels within the teams. Saturday working has been implemented, extra admin support has been put into place, and a specialist nurse post for Bedford has gone out to advert, with interviews taking place in March.

Meanwhile, we are completing an in-depth 'demand and capacity modelling' project across paediatric Community Services, which will provide a business case to present to commissioners for the additional funding that is needed to meet the needs of our children and young people.

We apologise for any difficulty that experiencing delays may have caused for your family, and we value your support and patience during this time. We continuously value your feedback of our services and work closely with SNAP Parent Carer Forum, please do continue to use the forum to feedback your concerns or good news stories.'

Lydia Rosseter

Co-Production Lead
Bedfordshire Children's Services



**Bedfordshire
Community
Health Services**

Short Breaks Consultation



About the short breaks consultation

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) are proposing a new funding and delivery model for non-residential short breaks for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities (SEND) and their families. CBC have defined non-residential short breaks as all social, leisure and play activities that are organised by charities, the council and other local groups. This includes activities after school, at weekends and during school holidays ranging from 30 minutes to full days (not overnight). The aim of the new model is to improve the range and geographical spread of options for families whilst maintaining a degree of funding stability for organisations. CBC currently provide grant funds to six organisations:

- Autism Bedfordshire
- Bedford and District Cerebral Palsy Society (BDCPS)
- Families United Network (FUN)
- Special Needs out of School Club (SNOOSC)
- Leighton Buzzard Mencap
- Bedford Mencap

CBC are proposing a grant funding process that will enable all relevant, local, organisations to bid for funding. CBC believe these changes will provide more choice and locations for children, young people and families to access social, leisure and play activities.

Further information can be found on CBC website

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/38/consultations/733/short_breaks_for_children_and_young_people_with_send_consultation/6

The consultation closes on Friday the 22nd of May, here is the link to the consultation

<https://centralbedfordshire.app.box.com/s/1wmh9h4mz17ie5b79mfg74jmgve2qggz>



Joint training with CBC SEND Team
Please email admin@snappcf.org.uk for further
information or book a place



SNAP PARENT CARER FORUM
CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

Education, Health & Care Needs Assessment

- Find out the process of applying for a EHC Needs Assessment
- Would you like to meet the CBC SEND Team?
- Discover what the legislation is and how to ensure your child's outcomes are achieved
- Find out about the Graduated Response

7th May 2020 6pm - 8pm
Meeting Room 1, Parkside Community Hall
Amphill MK45 2HX

Please contact admin@snappcf.org.uk
or call to book a place 07984 545044



SNAP PARENT CARER FORUM
CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE




SEND SUPPORT TRAINING
Stage 1 & 2


- Do you have a child at SEN Support?
- Would you like to meet the CBC SEND Team?
- Discover what the legislation is and how to ensure your child's outcomes are achieved.
- Find out about the Graduated Response
- Learn some top tips when attending meetings

Please contact admin@snappcf.org.uk
or call to book a place 07984 545044


18th May 10-12pm
The Stocksfield Room, The Rufus Centre, Flitwick



SNAP PARENT CARER FORUM
CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE



MAKING MY CHILD'S EHCP WORK



Does your child have an Education Health Care Plan?
Would you like to meet the CBC SEND Team?
How do you ensure your child's outcomes on their plan are being worked towards, monitored and achieved?
What does the legislation say?

10th June 6-8pm
Henlow Park Pavilion, Groveside
Henlow, SG16 6AP

Please contact admin@snappcf.org.uk
or call to book a place 07984 545044
Training is for our members which is free to join
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MembershipformtojoinSNAP>



SNAP PARENT CARER FORUM
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Education, Health & Care Plan Annual review training
3rd July 10.30 – 12.30
The Reading Rooms,
Husborne Crawley MK43 0XE

**DOES YOUR CHILD CURRENTLY HAVE AN EDUCATION HEALTH AND CARE PLAN?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE ANNUAL REVIEW TRAINING FROM THE CBC SEND TEAM?**

TRAINING AGENDA

- UNDERSTAND THE ANNUAL REVIEW PROCESS
- TIMESCALES
- REQUEST FOR CHANGE OF PROVISION
- FOCUS ON OUTCOMES FOR THE CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON

The training is for our members only. It is free to join SNAP PCF, please fill in our membership form using this link prior to attending the training.
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MembershipformtojoinSNAP>



Updates to our website
www.snappcf.org.uk

Events Calendar

Do you want to know what is on locally?

As parents ourselves, we know how difficult it is to find out what is happening locally so we have designed an events calendar for our website., please take a look
<http://www.snappcf.org.uk/events-calendar/>

There are currently 61 activities advertised on our Events Calendar for March 2020

If your event is not shown please email admin@snappcf.org.uk with the details and we can advertise this for you.



Event Resources from our training sessions

We have uploaded some of our training presentations which may be useful to you, please take a look:

- SEN Legal - The legal test for an EHC Needs Assessment - entitlement & provision
- SEN Legal - Navigating the SEN Maze - entitlement, provision & the appeals process.
- The training delivered by CBC SEND Team
- SEN support in School your childs rights
- EHC Needs Assessment
- EHCP - Annual Review/Interim Review Process
- EHCP Phase Transfer Process
- Making my Education Health Care Plan Work

<http://www.snappcf.org.uk/event-resources/>



Parent training

We are a small group of eight parents who are members of our Steering Group. We run training for parents in addition to our strategic work co-producing with CBC & the BCCG, We understand how important it is for parents to know their rights and understand local policy.

As parents we have our own children to care for and we also have limited funds to provide training therefore, we find it a challenge to run training other than during school hours. We also cannot fund training across the whole of Central Bedfordshire although we always try to spread out the training to the areas.

We would love to record our training and upload this onto our website which would help more parents to gain the knowledge of the training without having to take time off of work to attend the training.

If this is something you can help with please get in touch by emailing admin@snappcf.org.uk

Useful links to local organisations

The Local Offer

SNAP has worked with Central Bedfordshire Council to improve the Local Offer – the aim of this website is to offer parent carers a 'one stop shop' to find information about services you may need if you have a child or young person with SEND in Central Bedfordshire.

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/children/sen-disability/landing.aspx>

Central Bedfordshire Special Educational Needs & Disability Information, Advice & Support Service (SENDIASS)

This is a statutory service, working at arm's length from the local authority and offers a free confidential support service for parents and carers of children with special educational needs.

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/children/sen-disability/send-partnership/overview.aspx>

Carers in Bedfordshire

Carers in Bedfordshire strive to identify and support all carers of family and friends. They enhance carers health and well-being by offering specialist support according to their needs and wishes.

<https://www.carersinbeds.org.uk/>

Leighton Buzzard Rotary Club (disability sports)

Yes we Can Is open to all young people with a disability, please come and join its going to be fun.

<http://leightonlinladerotary.com/yes-we-can/>

Autism Bedfordshire

Autism Bedfordshire's services help break down the barriers to social participation for people with autism and their families by providing places where they can go and feel comfortable, accepted and not judged by society. <https://www.autismbedfordshire.net/>

Spectrum Community Arts

Disability is not an inability! Here at Spectrum Community Arts, our aim is to enable participants to develop their self-esteem and self-expression in a safe, encouraging environment.

<http://www.spectrumca.co.uk/>

Bedford & District Cerebral Palsy Society (BDCPS)

We focus on ABILITY rather than disability. We go to great lengths to ensure all clubs are inclusive, creative, inspiring and empowering.

<http://www.bdcps.org.uk/>

Home Start Central Bedfordshire

Home-Start Central Bedfordshire helps young children and their families who are struggling with physical and mental ill health, disabilities, bereavement and domestic abuse.

<https://www.home-startcentralbeds.org.uk>

Families United Network (FUN)

FUN is a member-based charity supporting children and young people living with additional needs or disabilities throughout Bedfordshire.

FUN provides service for families with children and young people aged from birth to 40 years.

<http://familiesunitednetwork.org.uk>



Useful links to local organisations

Outside-iN

Outside-iN is dedicated to supporting and educating families, adults and professionals living with or working with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASC) and associated conditions.

<https://outsidein-solutions.com/>

Freddie and Friends Sunshine Stop

Making a difference to our Additional Needs community in Leighton Buzzard.

<https://www.freddiesunshine.co.uk/>

Families in Focus

Families in Focus CIC provides parenting courses that support parents, grandparents and adoptive parents in their local community to bring harmony, balance and enjoyment to family life.

<http://www.familiesinfocus.co.uk/>

Kids in Action - Dunstable

Transforming lives, supporting those who need it the most.

<https://www.kidsinaction.org.uk/>

Useful links to national organisations

Contact

Supports families of disabled children across the UK, whatever their condition or disability. They provide information, advice and support and bring families together so they can support each other.

<https://contact.org.uk/>

Council for Disabled Children

Are an umbrella body for the disabled children's sector bringing together professionals, practitioners and policy-makers.

<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/>

IPSEA

Provides independent legally based advice and support for the families of children with SEN and/or a disability.

<https://www.ipsea.org.uk/>

SOS!SEN

Offer a free, friendly, independent and confidential telephone helpline for parents and others looking for information and advice on Special Educational Needs and Disability.

<https://sossen.org.uk/>

SENTAS

A non-profit Community Interest Company and was formed to provide parents and young adults with information, advice and advocacy around issues with SEN home to school and college transport

<http://sentas.co.uk/>

SCOPE

Provide practical information and emotional support when it's most needed, and campaign relentlessly to create a fairer society.

<https://www.scope.org.uk/>

I CAN (speech & language)

Through our various programmes and services available throughout the UK, we can reach out to parents, practitioners and the children with speech and language difficulties. <https://www.ican.org.uk/>





How to get involved?

**There are various ways you can become involved
with your Parent Carer Forum**

Complete our membership form

<http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MembershipformtojoinSNAP>

Attend our training which is provided free of charge

Get involved with our Parent Panels to give your views

Want to be more involved?

We need parents to become Parent Representatives of SNAP PCF and also Steering Group members. You will be using your lived experience to help look at key trends that are important for families who live in Central Bedfordshire and use this experience to attend strategic meetings to help to influence and develop services within education, health and social care.

For further information either email admin@snappcf.org.uk or call 07984 545044 and leave a message with your name and contact number and we will return your call.

