



SPECIAL NEEDS ACTION PANEL CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

Newsletter – Spring 2016

How parents have supported the redesign of Speech, Language and Communication provision

In 2015 the Special Needs Action Panel – SNAP, Bedford Borough Parent Carer Forum (BBPCF) in conjunction with Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Bedford Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council, sought the views and experiences of parent carers of young people with speech, language or communication difficulties in Bedford and Central Bedfordshire.

Several workshops were held and attended by both clinicians and parents. During these sessions you told us that you wanted:

- To be part of the assessment process
- More information to be made available and communicated to you about regarding your child's needs, pathways and resources available locally and nationally
- To be provided with training to support your child's needs
- Training provided to other professionals who regularly support children and young people with speech, language and communicational needs (for e.g. Teaching Assistants)
- Improved transition process for young people aged 18 plus

Emma Kilcommins, Joint Commissioner Manager for Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Bedford Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council, said, "Parents' views and engagement have supported us as Commissioners to commence discussions with the current provider to put in place some of these changes now and to develop a set of outcomes for a new specification for the future. This has been invaluable for helping us to understand how we can improve local speech and language services."

Update – New Consultation for Occupational Therapy and Physio Therapy

Over the coming months the Special Needs Action Panel and Beds Borough Parent Carer Forum will be working with Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Bedford Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council, along with other community health providers for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. The purpose of this is to review the current services Occupational and Physio therapy services provide and to look at what parent carers want from a newly designed service.

We would value your help and continued support to help us redesign these services. Can you please give your feedback and help to review Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy services? Thank you to the parent carers and professionals that attended the Focus meetings, if you would like to give your feedback to this review please email Kirsty Green talk2us@centralbeds.org.uk or call 07805 002163.

Preparing for Adulthood Overview

The 'Preparing for Adulthood' (PfA) Delivery Partnership is aiming to develop a transitions offer that responds to and meets the needs and aspirations of young people and their parent carers during the period when a child grows through adolescence into adulthood (14-25 years of age).

The approach being developed seeks to combine the input of education, health and adult social care, along with the contributions of parents and young people, to support the move to adulthood across an age range of 14 to 25. This will mean more coordinated working practices, earlier assessment, and improved planning approaches to support young people as they leave education and enter adulthood life.

The programme is based on a vision for adult life for young people – the key elements of which include:

- Getting a paid job
- Living independently
- Making friends and having positive relationships
- Making a community contribution (e.g. volunteering)
- Having good health outcomes and positive well-being

For parents and families the development of the new programme should result in a more streamlined approach with better coordination of support and better signposting and communication about what support is available, when and from where. Parents should also be in a better position to understand when key decisions about transition need to be made and who they can speak to in order to get more information or advice.

Co-production or Working Together - Underpinning the Preparing for Adulthood work is the core principle of 'co-production' – the idea of working together productively with all key stakeholders, especially young people and parents, to design, develop, and deliver the new ways of working. With this in mind a team of Young Researchers has been set up to support the development work, and SNAP – Central Bedfordshire's parent participation forum – has been invited to be a core member of the development group. The young researchers range in age from 16 to 21 and have different experiences of preparing for adulthood. They have all been involved in some of the preparatory work on the programme locally, and continue to contribute. It's important to state that each of the young people will be paid for the work they do on the programme.

Kirsty Green, one of the SNAP representatives working on the PfA programme, had this to say about the experience of working together with a range of professionals from education, health, housing and adult social care, "SNAP has welcomed the opportunity to become a member of the PFA board, being seen as an equal partner, feeding back the views of parents and carers to influence, shape and develop the services provided for our young people".

Central Bedfordshire Council, SEND Local Offer

The Local offer is live – however, we feel there is still lots of information missing and therefore we need your help. Please look at the local offer and feed back to them using the feedback button; alternatively let me know at listen ear yoursay@snapcentralbeds.org.uk It will only improve if we all work together, to make it the best it can be.

The Local Offer can be found on Central Bedfordshire Council website
<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/children/sen-disability/landing.aspx>

Here is where you can find information about the services you may need as a parent carer of a child or young person with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities; it is also informative for our young people. There is a feedback button within the site: please use this to inform the Local Offer if any of the information on there needs amending or updating. They are keen to gain our feedback to ensure they are delivering a website that we would find informative and helpful.

Listen Ear – Have your say about local services



As a forum we represent the views of parent carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities from birth to 25. Our parent representatives meet with the Local Authority, Health and Education to feed into the services that are being delivered. We need to ensure we are capturing as wide a range of views as possible.

Please let us know what is working well and what needs to be improved – we, like you, want the very best services for our families. We now have a real opportunity to make a difference as we are at the heart of the decision making and want to make sure your views are being represented. Contact us at yoursay@snapcentralbeds.org.uk and let us know your experiences.

All the information gathered as part of this campaign will be recorded anonymously and used to influence and drive SNAP's priorities as a forum. We record trends and use this information to improve local services.

SNAP would like to hold a workshop for parent carers regarding Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP).

Which of the following workshops would you find useful (we can run more than one)?

- a. How can you as a parent carer or young person play a key role in producing your EHC Plan?
- b. Parent views – find out about Section A of the EHC Plan – how do you write about your child or young person’s aspirations?
- c. Person centred planning and outcomes – Do you understand what a good outcome is?

Please contact talk2us@snapcentralbeds.org.uk or call 07805 002163 to let us know your thoughts

How to contact SNAP

Our Participation Manager Kirsty Green, can be contacted either by email talk2us@snapcentralbeds.org.uk or call 07805 002163

Our Administration Officer Helen Robinson, can be contacted either by email info@snapcentralbeds.org.uk or call 07984 545044 – please also contact her if you would like to be part of our membership database

Please follow us by liking our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/SNAPCentralBedfordshireParentCarerForum/>

Website: <http://www.snapcentralbeds.org.uk/>

Watch our video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R2UkrMq5Lpc&feature=youtu.be>