



SNAP PARENT CARER FORUM
CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

NEWSLETTER, Autumn Edition 2017

A parent participation Forum creating opportunities for parent carers to work with service providers to improve the delivery of Social Care, Education and Health Services

What is Happening Locally?

Update on Central Bedfordshire Council School Transport Consultation.

Thank you to the parent carers who got in touch with SNAP and attended our meeting about the School Transport Consultation. The feedback was strong around the issue of removing school transport if you had a motability car. The local authority has listened to us and recognised this, at the transport meeting they announced they have removed the motability part from the consultation. In light of the responses from our community the local authority are setting up a school transport project board, SNAP will have membership of this board. Please keep in contact with us and let us know what your experiences are of school transport. We are an independent forum which is made up of parent carers. Even if it is a couple of lines emailed to admin@snappcf.org.uk, it will be helpful to inform the feedback we give at the panel as we have an opportunity to effect positive change to the service we receive. You can find the report we wrote about our concerns around school transport here: <http://www.snappcf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/SEND-Travel.pdf>

Short Breaks

SNAP presented our short breaks consultation to the Overview and Scrutiny Board and the Executive. We have been working with the local authority around the redesign of short breaks. The provision will be delivered in a four tier approach the first tier will be having up-to-date information on the Local Offer <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/children/sen-disability/landing.aspx>.

Any changes to the short breaks service will be done so gradually over a three year period the document outlining the changes can be found here <http://centralbeds.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s74528/Transforming%20Short%20Breaks%20Provision%20to%20Disabled%20Children.pdf>

Max Cards

We are delighted to be offering families the opportunity to purchase a Max Card. The Max Card is a discount card for families of children with additional needs. Families simply show their Max Card upon entry to a venue to obtain free or discounted admission. They cost £3.70 each and are available from our website <http://www.snappcf.org.uk/max-cards/> where you can also find a list of venues where they are accepted locally.

SNAP PCF upcoming events:

New, coffee mornings in Leighton Buzzard run by parent carers for parent carers at Astral Park Sports & Community Centre, Johnson Drive, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 4AY. Free to attend and your children are welcome.

Dates & Times:

Monday	15th January	9.45am - 11.45am
Monday	19th February	9.45am - 11.45am
Monday	19th March	9.45am - 11.45am

For further information please contact admin@snappcf.org.uk or call 07984 545044 and leave a message, we will call you back.

What is SNAP?

SNAP is a pro-active group of parents who all have children or young people with additional needs or disabilities. We have come together as a group of parent carers to work with other individuals and organisations to help influence and improve the local services that are provided for our children and young people within Central Bedfordshire.

We focus on helping to raise the standard of social care, education and health services within the county, to ensure that 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 to contact SNAP?

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

For administrative or membership queries, please email admin@snappcf.org.uk or call 07984 545044

Follow us by liking our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/snappcf.org.uk/?ref=bookmarks>

Follow us on Twitter <https://twitter.com/snappcf>

Look at our new website: www.snappcf.org.uk

Why not join SNAP?

We are always looking for new members. You can become involved a little or a lot! Like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and join our mailing list.

Why not become a parent rep or join our steering group? We remunerate you for your time and it's a great way to meet others and help to develop and shape the services that is delivered to our families.