



SNAP PARENT CARER FORUM
CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

NEWSLETTER, Summer 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?

SNAP PCF CIC Ltd

Snap has become independent from their host charity Families United Network and is now a not for profit Community Interest Company. We have produced new leaflets and a website to advertise this. We are always looking for new members and parent carers to become Parent Representatives who we train and pay for their time. Please contact us if you would like further information.

Strategy Meeting

SNAP held its third Strategy meeting with local authority and NHS colleagues. Strategy meetings are organised by SNAP approximately once a year in order for us to bring together local providers and discuss what we see as the priorities for families living with SEND in Central Bedfordshire.

The key point to be raised at this meeting was that Education, Health and Social Care measure themselves at only 30% toward full implementation of the SEND reforms. This is why families are not feeling and seeing the changes at ground level. SNAP believe passionately that by working together to co-produce we can all improve this figure quickly. Therefore, SNAP PCF will run a mid-term Strategy Meeting at the end of September to see how far we have improved the 30% figure.

Please visit our website and look at the news tab to see our full report of our Strategy Meeting and the presentation we gave.

Short Breaks

Thank you to everyone who completed our short breaks survey. SNAP will be formally approaching the Central Bedfordshire Executive to request that our findings and reports are considered in the short breaks review. This is a positive step for co-production and we welcome the opportunity to do this.

During the process of the review of short breaks SNAP arranged meetings so that parent carers could directly meet the head of the Children with Disabilities Team, we have written a report on this and added our recommendations. We have worked with the local authority to ensure we have clear lines of communication and we are invited into the process. We have supported parent carers to complete the CBC survey by running a meeting and had our own survey which we are now presenting to the Children's' Overview and Scrutiny Board and The Executive Board for consideration. As a Forum, we have listened to what parent carers have told us and fed this into the local authority at a strategic level. The local authority will consider what we have told them, however we have no power in preventing the cuts to local services, we hope that families will be protected and will continue to voice our concerns and work with the local authority.

SNAP PCF upcoming events:

On Thursday the 22nd of June, 10-12 at The Rufus Centre, Steppingley Road, Flitwick MK45 1AH you are warmly welcome to attend our Speech & Language Therapy 'top tips' Information Meeting in conjunction with SEPT.

Come and meet a Speech and Language Therapist who will be attending to give top tips to parent carers, this is also an opportunity to find out more about how SEPT run this service.

On Monday, the 10th of July, 10-12 at The Hub, Ivel Valley School, The Baulk, Biggleswade, SG18 0PT you are also warmly invited to attend an EHCP information session we are running in conjunction with Core Assets.

- **Are you about to transfer from a Statement to an EHCP?**
- **Are you in the process of applying for an EHCP?**
- **Does your Child or young Person have an EHCP and you want to find out further information about the process?**
- **Are you aware of Independent Supporters who can support you through a new EHCP or a transfer to an EHCP?**

For further information or to book any of these free events, please see below how to contact SNAP or visit our Facebook to see the flyers advertising these events.

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@snapppcf.org.uk or call 07805 002163

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

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

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

Take a look at our new website: www.snapppcf.org.uk

The Local Offer for Central Bedfordshire

SNAP has worked with the Local Authority to co-produce 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. You can find the Local offer here:

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