



Newsletter

For parents and carers of children and young people with disabilities and special educational needs in Sheffield.

Published by Sheffield Parent Carer Forum

September 2011. Issue 4

Greetings and a big welcome to our 4th newsletter!

This issue brings you up to date with different developments in the city, including the work and activities the Forum have been involved in.

We have redeveloped our website and made it a lot more user-friendly and easier to navigate. Have a look if you haven't yet seen it - you will find news, events, useful contacts and resources. You can also keep in touch with us via Facebook and Twitter. If you don't use a computer, you can always contact us by phone or by letter - our contact details are on the back of this page.

Good news is that the short breaks grants scheme is continuing (page 3) – this was a very popular scheme last year for parent carers. Welcome news too comes that SIGN - the information service for families with disabled children - has been saved from closure by Sheffield City Council (page 3).

We have a busy time ahead of us - just some of the things we will be working on include disability awareness training, speech and language workshops for parents, home-to-school transport, and transition. Our October conference this year will focus on transitions between schools - a particularly stressful and difficult time for our children. Oh, and we're planning a "No bangs, no surprises" Panto as a Christmas treat!

We would love to hear your views on this newsletter, and we are always looking for contributions from other parent carers, especially if you have an interesting story or useful tips you wish to share.

Best wishes

Jayne Woodward, Co-Chair



About us

The Sheffield Parent Carer Forum is an independent group of parents and carers of children with disabilities and/or special educational needs.

Our aim is to make sure the needs of our children are met. We understand the challenges you face on a day-to-day basis, because we are parents and carers too. We organise regular events where parents can meet each other. We can tell you about the most up-to-date sources of information for your children.

We are here to give parent carers a voice. By joining the Parent Carer Forum, we can work together to improve services for our children.

Membership is free, join us today!

Fill in the membership form at the back of this newsletter to join.

Get in touch

By Post:

Sheffield Parent Carer Forum,
c/o Sheffield Carers Centre,
7 Bells Court, Bells Square,
Sheffield S1 2FY

By phone: 0114 252 1913

By e-mail:

enquiries@sheffieldparentcarerforum.org.uk

Website:

www.sheffieldparentcarerforum.org.uk

Drop-in:

Currently by appointment only;
please contact us to arrange a time.



Would you like to be able to communicate more effectively with your baby?

If so, why not give baby sign language a try?



Ten week courses run on Fridays by a practicing midwife, who is also Level 3 British Sign Language qualified. (Weekend classes starting soon. Contact me for further details). All course materials provided and yours to keep.

Only £5 a class

For more information please contact Carrie:

Call: 07561 534 810

Email: enquiries@littlefingers.net

Visit: www.littlefingers.net

ADVERTISEMENT

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NEWS

Short breaks grants scheme continued

The Council's popular short breaks grant scheme has been continued for another year. The scheme offers families the opportunity to claim a one-off payment of up to £400 per family. The money can be used to pay for a holiday or short break activity, such as a weekend away, a health club membership, attraction tickets, car hire, etc.

Please note that the eligibility criteria are a bit different from last year - you now qualify automatically if your child receives the high rate care or high rate mobility component of DLA, OR has had a short breaks grant approved in the past 12 months, OR is entitled to an assessed short breaks service (i.e. via a CAF or social worker assessment). You may still be eligible even if none of the above applies, but you will need to submit additional evidence.

You can contact **SIGN** on **0114 2669476** to request an application form and

further information. The application form and guidance notes are also available for download from the Resources/Short breaks section of our website (www.sheffieldparentcarerforum.org.uk).

Please be aware that the closing date for applications is 31 December 2011, and families need to have taken their break by 31 March 2012.



Disability information service saved



In our last issue we reported that the future of the SIGN disability information service was under threat, as one of its funders (Sheffield Children's NHS Trust) was looking at removing their funding.

We are pleased to report that Sheffield City Council will continue to commission an information service for families of disabled children. Sheffield Information Link (SIL) will continue to run SIGN until the end of December this year, and intends to bid for the contract when it is put out to tender. The appointed service provider will officially take over on 2 January 2012.

New travel ID cards

Earlier this year, we organised two meetings with officers from the Council to talk about home-school transport for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Parents who attended these meetings expressed concerns that relief drivers and escorts might not be able to identify the children in their care.

The concerns were around children with communication impairments potentially being dropped off at a wrong address, or staff being unable to respond appropriately to medical emergencies.

Parents suggested that photo I.D. cards with medical and behavioural information and address details would help to solve this problem.

We were pleased that officers agreed to take the proposal forward. "Travel passports" will be piloted at Talbot special school from September, initially only for pupils who travel on council-run vehicles. The travel passports will be kept by escorts and securely locked away at the depot between journeys.

If take-up is good, the scheme will be rolled out to other special schools and extended to children who travel by taxi.

Legal Aid for SEN cases to be retained

A proposal to remove legal aid for all cases relating to Special Educational Needs (SEN), published in a Green Paper on Legal Aid last year, has been rejected.

Following consultation, the government has decided that cases relating to SEN will continue to be covered by legal aid.

This means that parents on the lowest incomes will still be able to get free legal advice for SEN appeals. This includes appeals against a local authority's decision not to assess a child for a statement, or against the content of a statement.



Ready Steady Go groups

Ready Steady Go groups are weekly toddler groups for pre-school children with additional needs/developmental delays.

They run in many Children's Centres across Sheffield, usually for two-hour sessions during school hours.

Ready Steady Go groups are smaller and less busy than mainstream toddler groups, and they have regular support from a number of partner services, including the Autism team,

the Visual Impairment team, the Speech and Language Therapy Service, Health Visitors, and the Early Years Inclusion team. These partners are able to meet with parents and offer advice, support and signposting.

You can download a complete list of Ready Steady Go groups with contact details from the Sheffield Parent Carer Forum website (under Resources/Childcare). If you haven't got access to the internet, please contact **SIGN** on **0114 2669476** to request a paper copy.



New childcare options for disabled children

Over the past 18 months, parents from the Forum have been working in partnership with officers from Early Years, SNIPS and the Sheffield Childminding Network to improve childcare for disabled children in Sheffield.

As a result, a number of new childcare options have now become available to parents of disabled children:



Student practitioners

These are students from relevant higher education courses (e.g. Childcare, Education, Social Work) who have undergone a specialist training programme delivered by the Sheffield Childminding Network and SNIPS. They are CRB checked, registered on the Ofsted Voluntary Register, and looking for paid work as self-employed carers. Student practitioners can provide a flexible childcare service for disabled children of all ages, either in the child's own home or by taking them out to activities.

Student volunteers

These students are also trained and CRB checked, but have less experience and offer a voluntary service (expenses to be paid by the family). Student volunteers can provide an "extra pair of hands" at family outings and activities and/or offer a befriending service, but should not be left in sole charge of children.

Specialist childminders

These are childminders who have undergone a specialist training programme to care for disabled children. They are CRB checked, Ofsted registered, and offer paid childcare for children and young people aged 0-19 in the home of the childminder. The childminders are able to access ongoing support and additional funding (if required) to care for children with disabilities.

Skool's out

Skool's out is a befriending service for disabled children and young people aged 8-18. A team of trained and CRB checked outreach workers is available to pick children up from school and take them to activities of their choice. The service is provided by the

Burton Street Foundation and subsidised by SNIPS. Parents pay £3.25 per hour plus any additional cost for transport and activities. The service is only available to working parents, and does not operate during the school holidays.

Extension of Early Years Intervention Grant

The Early Years Intervention Grant can be accessed by private, voluntary and independent childcare providers, including childminders, to cover the additional cost of caring for a disabled child under the age of five. The grant used to be term-time only, but has now been extended to cover school holidays.

Childcare information booklet

At the beginning of this year we asked parents of disabled children what sort of information they needed about childcare. We received over 100 responses in just three weeks, which helped us identify a number of information gaps. In response to the consultation, Sheffield City Council has now produced an information booklet about childcare for disabled children, which will be available from September.

For more information about student practitioners/volunteers and specialist childminders, or to order your free copy of the childcare information booklet, please contact the SIGN information service on 0114 2669476 or email sign@sheffinfoink.org.uk.

For more information about Skool's out, please contact the Burton Street Foundation on 0114 233 2908.

Forum website re-launched

We've re-designed our website to make it more interactive and easier to navigate. The URL is the same as before:

www.sheffieldparentcarerforum.org.uk

Please take a look – you'll find all the latest news, events and consultations, interesting links and documents, a list of volunteering opportunities, and lots more.



The new site will also make it easier for you to engage with our volunteers who attend meetings with the local authority as parent carer representatives. From September, they will publish their meeting notes on the website, and you will be able to write your own comments underneath. We hope that this will lead to more transparency and provide yet another way for parents to tell us their views.

Don't forget you can now also keep in touch with us via Facebook and Twitter (@ShefParentForum)!

Forum responds to SEN Green Paper



In our March issue we reported that the government had published a Green Paper (consultation document) outlining a radical reform of the special educational needs (SEN) system.

We organised a consultation workshop to find out what parents in Sheffield thought about the proposals. The workshop was attended by 18 parents/carers of children with a wide range of disabilities and SEN, spanning all age groups from pre-school to 16+.

Since many parents had not read the Green Paper (which is over 130 pages long!), we started off with a brief summary of the key proposals, before moving on to group discussions. Everyone worked very hard and we covered all of the paper's five chapters in just over three hours – just in time for a well-deserved lunch!

The day's discussions were used to shape our response to the Green Paper consultation, which we circulated to our email list before submitting it to the Department of Education at the end of June. You can download our response from our website, or ring us on **0114 2521913** to request a paper copy.

A big thank you goes to all the parents who attended the workshop, to our fantastic volunteers, and to facilitator Edmund Cross who provided his services free of charge!

Speech and Language workshops for parents

As part of our campaign for more and better speech and language therapy for our children, we organised a series of parent training workshops in June and July 2011. These gave parents an introduction to topics such as PECS, Makaton, cued articulation, assistive technology, and more. The workshops were funded by the Achievement for All pilot and delivered by the Sheffield Speech and

Language Therapy service and Early Years Inclusion Service. Feedback from parents was very positive, and we are planning to organise another set of workshops soon.

To register your interest please call us on **0114 2521913** or email enquiries@sheffieldparentcarerforum.org.uk

Short breaks consultation

Earlier this year, the Forum was commissioned by Sheffield City Council to find out what parents thought about their short breaks services (e.g. holiday playschemes, overnight respite, befriending services, direct payments). We helped to develop a questionnaire which was sent to all past and present recipients of short breaks services. Responses are currently being analysed by the Council.

To supplement the data collected via the questionnaire, we organised three consultation workshops and conducted a series of telephone interviews with parents. A total of 52 parents contributed their views, and some of their key messages were:

- Information must be provided more proactively, particularly with regard to eligibility, assessments and the range of services available.

- Quality of provision is variable and in some settings there are issues with staff training, safety and consistency of care.
- More consideration needs to be given to location, transport needs, length of sessions, provision for under 8s and over 18s, and the needs of siblings.

You can download a consultation report from the Parent Carer Forum website (under Resources/Short breaks).



Coming soon: disability awareness training

The Parent Carer Forum is in the process of setting up a training arm. We are currently recruiting parents of disabled children to deliver disability awareness training to schools, childcare providers, short breaks providers, council and NHS staff, and private companies.

The parent trainers would be self-employed and would be paid a sessional fee.

For more information, please call us on **0114 2521913** or email enquiries@sheffieldparentcarerforum.org.uk

Making a splash at Ponds Forge!



Disabled children and their families turned out in their droves on Sunday 15th May to enjoy a fun-filled afternoon at Ponds Forge, organised by the Parent Carer Forum with funding from Sheffield City Council.

Around 200 people attended the event, including over 80 children. They took part in a programme of activities which included swimming, trampolining, arts and crafts, street dance and ball sports.

But the event wasn't just about fun and games. While the children enjoyed the free activities, parents had a chance to find out about new childcare options (see page 6) and to make contact with specialist childminders and student practitioners/volunteers looking to provide childcare for disabled children.

"It was great to be able to go out as a family and not have to worry about my son's behaviour and other people's reactions," said a mum. "My children loved every minute of it!"



Barge trip

The Parent Carer Forum could not exist without its volunteers. So to thank our tireless helpers for all their hard work, we took them on a relaxing barge trip down the Sheffield and Tinsley canal – reflexology treatment and yummy lunch included. But of course there's no such thing as a free lunch – there was

a business part to get through as well. We carried out a skills audit in order to identify any skills gaps and training needs, and talked about some exciting new opportunities to get involved, such as our disability awareness training project (see page 9). There was a lot of interest, but we still need more people to get involved!



Office space: the final frontier! Can you help us?

We've grown too big for our cramped office at the Carers Centre, and need to move into bigger premises before someone disappears under an avalanche of files and boxes!

We are looking for a lockable office in central Sheffield or Sharrow with space for at least three desks and access to a meeting room.

And, of course, it's got to be as cheap as chips! If you spot anything, please give us a ring on **0114 2521913** and let us know.



Do you have a bit of time to spare?

Would you like to develop some useful skills that might even help you get back into work? We've got lots of paid and unpaid volunteering opportunities, from little projects you can do at home to more long-

term commitments. For a full list please visit our website (section Get involved/ Volunteering opportunities) or call us on **0114 2521913** for a chat.

Provision for disabled children at leisure attractions

Our members have told us that it can be hard to plan family days out which will be fun for everyone. Some leisure attractions are more accessible than others, and all too often there can be a nasty surprise on arrival – perhaps a venue isn't as disability-friendly as it looked, or some paperwork is unexpectedly required to access special rates and services.

With this in mind, we have contacted a range of leisure attractions and asked them about their provision for disabled children. We can only print a short extract here – however you can download the full article with additional information about these and other venues from our website (under Resources/Leisure). Please tell us about your experiences, good or bad, so we can keep improving this information!



Yorkshire Wildlife Park
Nr. Doncaster:
Brockholes Lane, Branton,
Doncaster, DN3 3NH
(Satnav – use DN4 6TB)
Tel 01302 535057

www.yorkshirewildlifepark.net

- **Access:** Most paths are wheelchair accessible. Three accessible toilets, one with hoist and adult changing facilities.
- **Queuing:** Book online to use fast track entrance.
- **Reductions:** Reduced entry fee for carers. DLA letter or proof of employment in a care facility required.
- **Other:** Free sensory pod with hoist system onsite. Can be used separately from park entrance for 30-minute sessions. Slots must be pre-booked.
- **Parent tip:** Tantrum alert - make sure your children wear long-sleeved tops and long trousers, as otherwise they won't be allowed on the slides in the play barn!



Ponds Forge International Sports Centre

Sheaf Street, Sheffield, S1 2BP
(Sat Nav: S1 1AA)

Tel 0114 223 3400

www.ponds-forge.co.uk

- **Access:** Full wheelchair access to all facilities and toilets. Toilet with hoist and changing bench. Hoist available for access to swimming pools.
- **Reductions:** 30% discount with Slice Card, free entry for Carers with Plus One card. Contact Activity Sheffield on **0114 2734266** for more information.



Jungle Mania Playcentres

Unit 6, Coleford Road
Business Centre, Coleford
Road, Sheffield S9 5NF

Tel 0114 242 2221

www.junglemaniaplaycentres.co.uk

- **Access:** Building is on one level, standard accessible toilet.

- **Other:** The Kids Together club (for children with special needs, their siblings and friends) meets at Jungle Mania every Tuesday from 6.30pm to 8.30pm - contact **Karen Barton** on **07881 573166**. Sheffield Deaf Children's Society also visit on the first Wednesday of each month - contact **Debbie** on **07877 487831**.

The Deep Aquarium

Tower Street, Hull HU1 4DP

Tel 01482 381 000

www.thedeep.co.uk

- **Access:** Fully wheelchair accessible with lifts to all floors. Disabled toilets at each level. First Aid room can also be used for changing if larger area required.
- **Queuing:** Disabled visitors may use the "Pre-booked/Group/Disabled" entrance to avoid queuing.
- **Reductions:** Essential carers get in free.
- **Other:** Venue runs scheduled Quiet Day events which include lighting turned on, background noise turned down and timed BSL signed presentations. Details can be found in the events listings section of the website. BSL signed tours are available free of charge when pre-booked with reasonable notice.



Alton Towers

Alton, Staffordshire,
ST10 4DB

Tel 0871 222 3330

www.altontowers.com

- **Queuing:** "Exit passes" (red wristbands) are available for guests with mobility or behavioural issues (those with visual or hearing impairments no longer qualify). These passes enable guests and up to three carers to go into a ride through the exit side, thus avoiding the queue. Documentation required:

blue parking badge or doctor's letter stating that the child would not be able to queue, accompanied by photo ID. DWP/DLA letters are not sufficient!

- **Reductions:** Free pass for one carer (disabled child pays standard child rate). Proof of disability required (blue parking badge, or doctor's letter plus photo ID).
- **Other:** Families with disabled children can apply for up to five free tickets per year from charity Merlin's Magic Wand (www.merlinsmagicwand.org).



Gulliver's Kingdom

Temple Walk, Matlock Bath,
Derbyshire, DE4 3PG

Tel 01925 444 888

www.gulliversfun.co.uk/matlock-bath

- **Access:** The site is wheelchair accessible but is on a hill and is very steep in places. A travelator has recently been installed in the steepest area at the top of the site. An access statement with ride-by-ride information can be found at www.gulliversfun.co.uk/matlock-bath/special-needs-guide.htm.
- **Reductions:** Disabled guests receive a £3 discount on the cost of entry. Blue badge or DLA letter required as proof of disability. No special rate for carers. Unfortunately disabled-rate tickets cannot be booked in advance due to the requirement to show proof of disability.

Disclaimer: Inclusion of a venue in this list does not constitute an endorsement by Sheffield Parent Carer Forum. We cannot guarantee the accuracy or completeness of the information presented. Please confirm details with the venue before your visit.

Information day on school transitions

A free information event for parents and carers of children with additional needs



Organised in partnership by the Sheffield Parent Carer Forum and Children Young People and Families (CYPF)

When: Friday 14th October 2011, 10am-2.30pm, (registration from 9.30am), Free lunch included!

Where: Reception Rooms A and B, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH.

If your child has additional needs, transitions between schools can be a cause of great anxiety for all concerned. You may be wondering where you can find the information you need to choose the right school for your child, and what the process and timescales are. Does it work differently if your child has a statement? How do you apply for a special school place?

If questions like these are keeping you awake at night, then our information day is for you! Come and listen to presentations from SEN officers, parents and school leaders which will cover:

- **Transition planning for children with and without statements**
- **Where to find information about schools**
- **The admissions process – how to apply for a mainstream / special school place**
- **Top tips from parents who've been there and done that**
- **What to do if you didn't get the place you wanted**

There will also be plenty of opportunities to talk to other parents and perhaps get an "insider's account" of the schools you're interested in!

Please note that this event will only cover admissions to primary and secondary schools, NOT transitions to post-16 education and training. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide a crèche.

Places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

To book your place, please register on <http://schooltransition.eventbrite.com> or fill in and return the booking form below (no stamp needed) by Friday, 7th October. Please note that we do not have the capacity to take telephone bookings.

Booking form for information event on school transitions

Names of people attending:

1. 2.

Contact details of person making this booking:

Address

Home phone number

Mobile phone number

Email

Do you have any special dietary or access requirements? Please specify:

Do you grant permission to Sheffield Parent Carer Forum to use photographs taken of you at this event for marketing and public relations purposes? Yes / No

Please cut out this form and post to the following freepost address (no stamp needed):

FREEPOST RSLJ-ULCE-ECSU, Sheffield Parent Carer Forum, 7 Bells Square, Sheffield S1 2FY

Support group news

Sheffield Deaf Children's Society

Sheffield Deaf Children's Society (SDCS) is a local charity run by parents and friends of deaf and hearing impaired children living in the boroughs of Sheffield, Rotherham and Chesterfield, and the surrounding areas of South Yorkshire.

We are affiliated to the NDCS (National Deaf Children's Society) which allows us to make use of their resources, information and experience. Our main aim is to give deaf and hearing impaired infants, children and their families the chance to get together for mutual support, to exchange information, and to have fun!

We provide information on infant and childhood deafness and give support to the families of deaf and hearing impaired children. We offer advice and support for families at particularly difficult times, such as diagnosis, choosing a school, the statementing process, and when there is concern about a child's educational progress.

We welcome fundraising for equipment, events and outings.



We have a full diary of great outings and social events throughout the year to enable deaf children to mix with their peers and to allow parents the time to talk and support one another. Most of our trips are either free or subsidised.

Our next events are:

Jungle Mania

which falls on the first Wednesday of each month and is open to anybody under the age of 11.

(contact **Debbie** on **07877 487831**).

Cinema Events

We hold regular subtitled cinema events at Cineworld in Centertainment. We also offer advice on how to get carer discounts. (Contact **Caroline** on **07853 212839**).

Snowboarding Sessions

We also have snowboarding sessions at Sheffield Ski Village on Saturday afternoons.

Parties

The most important dates in the social calendar are our famous **Halloween** and **Christmas parties**.

You can follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/sheffielddcs

There is an SDCS Website with updates on what's happening and useful information: www.sheffield-dcs.co.uk

You can email us on sheffielddcs@gmail.com

Brantwood Specialist School

Brantwood Specialist School is opening its doors in September 2011. The building is located in the beautiful area of Kenwood surrounded by a picturesque enclosed garden area for play. It will be registered as an Independent Special School and Children's Home for students aged 7-19 years.

Brantwood Specialist School is part of the Ruskin Mill Educational Trust (RMET), which for over 25 years has offered innovative and practical education in its three colleges: Ruskin Mill, The Glasshouse and since 2005, Freeman College in Sheffield.

Ruskin Mill Educational Trust caters for young people who are not achieving in mainstream education and have been diagnosed with Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, ADHD, emotional and behavioural problems and other learning difficulties.

RMET is inspired by the pedagogical insights of Rudolf Steiner, John Ruskin and William Morris. At Brantwood this will be emphasised by a curriculum that is based on the stages of child development and structured in

cross curricular hands-on projects with art, painting, music and drama. Individual therapies such as art therapy, speech and language therapy, counselling, massage and movement therapy will underpin this holistic approach. Literacy, numeracy and ICT will be fully embedded in practical experiences. The students enjoy being engaged in practical experiences and by doing so will achieve nationally accredited qualifications (GCSEs, NOCNs and BTECs) and also identify a vocational route. Many

RMET students move on to further or higher education, employment or volunteering. They also significantly improve their social skills and learn to live a meaningful life.

On inspection, Ofsted have graded all the colleges Good or Outstanding and Ruskin Mill College was awarded the Beacon Status. The school offers a range of residential provisions, opening 52 weeks of the year, term time only or even respite care if required.

We would like to invite interested parents to contact reception for an individual appointment with the Head Teacher or a tour of the school:

Telephone:
0114 258 9062

Email:
admin@brantwood.rmet.org.uk

www.rmet.org.uk



Your advert here? Would you like to advertise your products or services in our next newsletter? For a small fee, you could reach around 4,000 families in Sheffield. Please call us on **0114 252 1913** to discuss your requirements.

Dates for your diary

September

Friday 16th, 10am-12pm, Quaker Meeting House, 10 St James Street

Focus group: statements, transitions and school admissions

This is a meeting to discuss statementing, transitions between schools, and the process of applying for a special school place. Please come along and tell Council officers how these processes could be improved for families.

Friday 23rd, 10am-12pm, Quaker Meeting House, 10 St James Street

Focus Group: home-school transport

We've already had two meetings with the Travel Service where we discussed matters of health and safety, communication with parents, and SEN Travel policy. Changes are being made as a result, e.g. introduction of travel I.D. cards for children (see page 4). This meeting is a chance to check on progress and to flag up other issues.

October

Friday 7th, 12pm-2pm, Sheffield Carers Centre, 7 Bells Court

Education subgroup

Please come along to our Education group to talk to other parents about special educational needs, and find out what's going on in Sheffield. This is a friendly and informal group, and new members are very welcome!

October cont.

Friday 14th, 10am-2.30pm, (registration from 9.30am) Town Hall Reception Rooms, Pinstone Street

Information day on school transitions

A free information event for parents and carers of children with additional needs. Please see page 14 for more information.

November

Thursday 10th, 7.30pm-9pm, Quaker Meeting House, 10 St. James Street

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

This meeting is open to all Forum members. We will receive a report from the Co-Chairs, elect management committee members and review the annual accounts. Following the formal part of the evening, we will adjourn to a nearby pub for a drink (or two!).

Friday 25th, 12pm-2pm, Sheffield Carers Centre, 7 Bells Court

Education subgroup

Please come along to our Education group to talk to other parents about special educational needs, and find out what's going on in Sheffield. This is a friendly and informal group, and new members are very welcome!

To ensure that we've got a big enough room, it would really help us if you could let us know in advance if you're planning to come along to any of these meetings.

Sheffield Parent Carer Forum Application for Full Membership

Full membership is FREE and open to all parents and carers of disabled children and young people (0 - 19) who live in Sheffield or access services in Sheffield.

About you

First name Surname
Street and house number
Town/city Postcode
Email address (please print)
Home phone Mobile
Your ethnic group (optional)

About your disabled child/children

Child 1

Date of birth
Main disability
Other disabilities

School (name)

Child 2

Date of birth
Main disability
Other disabilities

School (name)

Child 3

Date of birth
Main disability
Other disabilities

School (name)

Please tick as appropriate :

- Please add me to your email list.
 Please add me to your text messaging list.
 Please add me to your postal mailing list.
I am happy to take part in consultations:
 by phone by email by post
 I am interested in volunteering for the Parent Carer Forum.

Signature

Date

Please note: We will not pass any of your details on to any third parties. Members of our email and postal mailing list will receive a regular newsletter. We may also contact you occasionally with important news updates or events information. You are free to opt out of this service at any time.

tear along here

Please glue here or seal with sellotape and fold along the dotted line

2



Freepost RSLJ-ULCE-ECSU
Sheffield Parent Carer Forum
7 Bells Square
Sheffield
S1 2FY

Fold along here



**Positive Change for our Children and Young People
with Disabilities and Special Educational Needs**