

West Sussex Parents Forum Membership Form

Your Name and Details: _____

Address: _____

Tel No: _____

Email: _____

Details of your Child or Young Person

Name of your child/young person: _____ Their Age: _____

Your child/young person Disability Diagnosed/Non Diagnosed: _____

Name of your child/young person: _____ Their Age: _____

Your child/young person Disability Diagnosed/Non Diagnosed: _____

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Your child/young person Disability Diagnosed/Non Diagnosed: _____

Questions about you

The running of West Sussex Parents Forum is under taken by a very few passionate parents who think that if you all have the same VOICE we can make a difference to Change things for our children and young people for the FUTURE. I know there are many of you who can help us by bringing your skills and expertise to the Forum to make it the type of organisation other organisations will seek and value as a VOICE of parents in West Sussex.

Expertise/Skill you can bring to the Forum: _____

Would you be willing to attend meetings as a representative of West Sussex Parents Forum?

Yes No

Would you be willing for West Sussex Parents Forum to pass your details on to other organisations?

Yes No

If you do not wish to be contacted to attend meetings, would you be willing to help West Sussex Parents Forum in other ways.

Yes No

If yes how much time (this can be as little as an hour per Month): _____

WSPF – What we do...

Our mission is that we (West Sussex Parents Forum) exist to improve the quality of, and access to, information and services by giving a voice to, and representing , parents of children and young people in West Sussex who have learning difficulties and disabilities.

One of the ways that we achieve this is through representing the views of parents and carers at various meetings within health, education and social care. The meetings that we are currently involved in are as follows:

Children with Special Needs and Disabilities – This meeting is made up of representatives from health; Child Development Centres, Child Disability Team, Education; Connexions, Special Schools, Transition and Social Care as well as representatives from Aiming High for Disabled Children, voluntary sector organisations such as The Springboard Project. We currently have two parents that attend on behalf of the Forum. The group directly is responsible for informing the Children's Trust Board about the needs of children with special needs and disabilities in West Sussex.

Aiming High for Disabled Children – West Sussex Parents Forum have played a vital role to the development of Aiming High for Disabled Children in West Sussex. Over the last year we have been involved in several meetings and projects, and we continue to be. Aiming High is being called a 'transformation programme' and the aim is to ensure that disabled children and their families, can access all areas of society. Obviously, there is A LOT of work to do, but we are pleased with the progress that has been made already. Our Aiming High for Disabled Children themed news-letter will be out soon!

Early Years Support Implementation Group – It is essential that the voice of parents is heard with regards to Early Years support, as this is a vital time for parents. Being the parent/carer of a child under 5 can be a very isolating and lonely experience and the support that parents receive when they are first given a diagnosis, needs to be greatly improved. We are particularly interested to hear from parents who have preschool aged children, who might be interested in getting more involved in this area, please contact us if you are interested.

Parent Carers Planning Group – This meeting happens bi-monthly at Brinsbury College and is open for any parent / carer in West Sussex to attend. Dates of the rest of the meetings this year can be found on the back page.

That's not all! As well as these meetings we have both the **transition** and **transport** which have been ongoing projects for the Forum. Other significant work includes, **Improving Parental Confidence** in relation to out of school learning and special educational needs (SEN), and the **Individual Budgets Pilot**, where we have been looking at the affordability and effectiveness of self directed support .

It is essential that the voice of parents and carers is heard and that we play that influencing role within West Sussex.

Future Dates for the Diary...



Here are a few dates of meeting that may be of interest to you:

Parent/Carer Information Event – Tuesday 11th May 2010, Palatine School, Worthing

This is a FREE drop in from 7-9pm, where a variety of short break providers, together with the Aiming High Team will be together to informally discuss what services they offer. Come along for a coffee and chat with other parents.

Parents for Autism

Is a parents group that meets bi monthly about issues relating to Autism and their children/young person. We meet at the Maybridge Children and Family Centre, Worthing for further information contact Lindsey at lindseybutter@ntlworld.com or call her on 07528418149.

Dates for May/June are:

Monday 17th May 2010, 7.30-9.15pm

Guest speaker Rachel McDonald-Taylor from the Social Communication Team.

Monday 21st June 2010, 7.30-9.15pm

Guest Speaker TBC.

Kidz Stuff, 4th-6th June 2010, Horsham

Park, Horsham. This gigantic festival will take place over the weekend of 4th-6th June. Friday 4th June is being reserved for special needs children together with their families and friends. To reserve tickers and to get further information see www.kidzstuff.org.uk

Question and Answer Session, Thursday 17th June 2010, Billingshurst Village Hall,

Billingshurst. This event gives you the opportunity to ask Managers with Health, Education and Social Care questions that you would like answers to in relation to services for

disabled children and young people in West Sussex. The event will run from 7-9pm.

Mums in Business – Parent & Family Care Foundation Training.

In partnership with Brighton based trainers, Mums in Biz, we are holding FREE introductory training in how to become self employed for unemployed or non-working mums of children with disabilities. The training will be delivered over two days and will cover all the major issues you need to know about in order to go it alone, including marketing, time management, self confidence, communication skills, business planning, budgeting, etc.

The dates and venues for the training are as follows:

11-12th May Palatine Road Primary School, Worthing

15-16th June Horsham Nursery School Children & Family Centre, Horsham

6-7th July Chichester Nursery School Children & Family Centre, Chichester

If you would like further information about this training and/or would like to book a place on the course, please contact the www.parentandfamilycare.org.uk or Sophie Spearman on 07879660410.

Summer's Coming...

With summer on its way, we want to be able to use the dates for the diary page, to advertise events that are happening over the coming months in our next newsletter, which is our 'Summer Extravaganza' edition. If you have any suggestions of events or real places of interest that are fully inclusive that we can advertise, then please let us know, by Friday 14th May 2010, so that we can print them in our next edition.

West Sussex Parents Forum

Freepost RRZJ-ZHLX-CLSH, PO Box 3328, Littlehampton, BN16 9EX. Tel: 07528 418149

Email: parents@westsussexparentsforum.co.uk • www.westsussexparentsforum.co.uk

WEST SUSSEX PARENTS FORUM...



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ISSUE 3
May/June 2010

Who we are...

West Sussex Parents Forum is a group of hard working parents/carers who volunteer their time to ensure that the views of parents and carers are heard in the planning of services for disabled children and young people aged 0-25 who live in West Sussex.

We currently have over 400 members and we aim to represent the views of all parents with disabled children and young people in West Sussex in all that we do.

This newsletter is our way of communicating to our members of the latest updates in services and decisions that affect families in West Sussex.

Meet the Team...

The Parents Forum is run by parents for parents. We are all volunteers and below is a list of who we are and what we currently do for the forum.

Kelly Willard
Chair



Kim Paul
Treasurer



Lindsey Butterfield
Secretary



Lyn Aaron-Ferrigno
Website



Ranti Fallowfield
Publicity



Rod Brown
Committee Member



Message from Kelly...

Thank you for taking the time every other month, to read through our newsletter. Thank you too for all your feedback regarding our 'new look' and the votes that have been made regarding the strap-line, we aim to announce the most popular choice in the next issue.

Our biggest challenge as WSPF is ensuring that we truly represent all our members. Over the next few months, we will be making this our main priority, so expect to hear more from us, asking you, how you want us to represent you. If you have any ideas at this stage, then please let us know.

I feel really honoured to be part of WSPF and even though change is a slow process, I believe that we are making a difference. More and more people are hearing about the work of the Forum, and we have taken the time, in this issue, to let you know how the Forum currently influence various decisions that affect the lives of our children and young people.

Enjoy this issue and please keep telling us what you think!

Love Kelly



Updates



Together for Disabled Children

Parent Participation Conference, March 2010

In March, we represented parents and carers in West Sussex at the Parent Participation Conference in London that was hosted by Together for Disabled Children and Contact a Family. The event was excellent and the message that we came away with was the role of parents and carers to transform disabled children's services across the Country.

The Rt Hon Ed Balls MP, Secretary of State, Department for Children, Schools and Families was the key note speaker and the message (regardless of party politics) was that parents are the experts when it comes to their own children, so it is right and proper that parents play the vital role in transforming services in their own areas with regards to services for disabled children and their families.

As the West Sussex Parents Forum, this is one of our aims, that we ensure that parents are not only heard, but play the significant role in making decisions that are going to affect all disabled children in West Sussex. It is something that we take very seriously and we want to support parents in order to take on this role effectively. In July we will be hosting training for parents and carers who want to become more involved in representing the views of parents in West Sussex.

If you would like to attend this training please contact Daniel Cheesman (Parent Participation Worker for Aiming High for Disabled Children) on 07595 070833. (Current training dates are provisionally planned for 1st and 8th July 2010).

Transport Update

Thank you to everyone who has sent us feedback with regards to the Transport Charter. We are in the process of moving onto the next phase, which will involve meeting with the Transport Working Group. We aim to ensure that all the recommendations are considered regarding the charter before it is signed.

If you would still like to comment on the recommendations, then please contact us by the end of April.



PAT Mark

A Parent Quality Mark for West Sussex

WSPF are currently working with six other areas in the South of England to develop a Parent Quality Mark that will be awarded to organisations and settings that provide activities and short breaks for disabled children and young people. The quality mark is the first of its kind and will mean that parents and carers can award a PAT mark to a setting meaning that they would

be happy to recommend the setting to other parents.

The PAT Mark is currently in the very early stages, but we hope to see it be developed across West Sussex. If you would like to find out more about the PAT Mark, or if you are interested in becoming a future Parent Assessor, then please contact Kelly on: 07582 418149.

Review of Services

for Children and Young People with Complex Needs in West Sussex

A lot of parents and carers around the county have been involved in the review of services for children and young people with complex needs. The review is being undertaken by Dame Phillippa Russell and has involved several workshops around the county. Further consultations are to be

undertaken within Health, Education and Social Care and the Forum will ensure that we voice as many concerns as we can. Please could you contact us, if there is anything that you want raised within this review, it's essential that we don't miss the opportunity.

Situation Vacant...

Would you like to become a Meeting Representative for the Parents Forum? We currently have vacancies for parents and carers who want to get more involved in attending meetings and represent the views of our members. We would offer you support and a buddy to accompany you initially to meetings.

For more information about this vacancy, then please contact us on 07528 418149.

Your Opinion...

On Thursday 17th June 2010 the West Sussex Parents Forum will be hosting a Question and Answer at Billingshurst Village Hall between 7pm and 9pm. The aim of this Q&A Session, is that our members get the chance to ask questions around issues relating to health, education and social care to service managers within each area.

We are organising the evening so that all parents and carers questions can be asked regardless, of whether you are able to attend or not. We will be providing a full transcript of the questions and answers to those who are not able to attend (this will be available, after the event on request).

Please let us know what question you would like to ask below, please remember that the Forum is not able to represent specific issues, relating to a single parent/carer about their child, so please ensure that any questions is as generic as possible.

My Question relates to (please tick)

Health Education Social Care Other (please state):

Q. My question is as follows:

I will / will not be able to attend the Q&A session on Thursday 17th June 2010 (please delete as appropriate, so we have an idea of numbers attending).

Please could you ensure that we are in receipt of your question NO later than Tuesday 1st June 2010.

Please complete these questions and return to the following contact details:

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