

West Sussex Parents Forum – Membership Forum

If you would like to become a member of the West Sussex Parents Forum, please fill in this form and return it via the freepost address provided below.

Name & Details

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ Post Code _____

Daytime Tel _____ Mobile Tel _____

Email _____

Details of your Child or Young Person

Name of your child/young person _____ Age _____

Disability Diagnosed/Non Diagnosed _____

Name of your child/young person _____ Age _____

Disability Diagnosed/Non Diagnosed _____

Name of your child/young person _____ Age _____

Disability Diagnosed/Non Diagnosed _____

Name of your child/young person _____ Age _____

Disability Diagnosed/Non Diagnosed _____

Questions about you

The running of West Sussex Parents Forum is undertaken by Parent Volunteers who believe that by having the same VOICE parents can make a difference to the services available for their children and young people. If you would like to get more involved with the Forum then please let us know. Expertise/Skill you can bring to the Forum _____

Would you like to attend meetings as a Parent Representative? Yes No

Would you be willing for WSPF to pass your details onto other organisations? Yes No

If you are unable to attend meetings would you be able to help in other ways? Yes No

If yes, how much time a month are you able to give (it can be as little as one hour a month).

Thank you for completing this Form, please return it to us at our FREEPOST address.

updates..

Parent Information Events – SEN & Disability Green Paper

Come along and find out more about what this will mean for you and your children and young people...

Date/Time	Venue/Area
Thurs 5 th May 2011 10-12noon	East Grinstead Children & Family Centre, East Grinstead Library, 32-40 West Street, East Grinstead, RH19 4SR
Fri 6 th May 2011 10-12noon	St Matthews Church, Tarring Road, Worthing, BN11 4HB
Mon 9 th May 2011 7:30-9:30pm	Broadfield Children & Family Centre, Creasys Drive, Crawley, RH11 9HJ
Fri 13 th May 2011 10-12noon	Kingston Buci Children & Family Centre, Middle Road, Shoreham-by-Sea, BN43 6G
Tues 17 th May 2011 1-2:30pm	Sidney West Children & Family Centre, Leylands Road, Burgess Hill, RH15 8HS
Thurs 19 th May 2011 7-9pm	QE11 School, Comptons Lane, Horsham, RH13 5NW
Fri 20 th May 2011 10-12noon	QE11 School, Comptons Lane, Horsham, RH13 5NW
Tues 24 th May 2011 7-9pm	The Venue, Quarry Lane Industrial Estate, Spur Road, Chichester
Wed 25 th May 2011 10-12noon	Swanfield Community Centre, Swanfield Drive, Chichester, PO19 6GH
Fri 27 th May 2011 10-12noon	The Locomotive Pub, Lyminster Road, Littlehampton, BN17 7LW
Fri 27 th May 2011 7-9pm	Maybridge Children & Family Centre, The Strand, Worthing, BN12 6DR

We are running these events in partnership with the following organisations and groups; Parents 4 Autism, Radar (formerly SNAP), Educational Equality, PACSO, You Can Do It!, W.A.M. Parents Group, SPACE, Autism Support Group Crawley.

To give as an idea of numbers at the above events we would appreciate it if you could let us know what meeting you are aiming to attend.

Future Dates for the Dairy...

'That Monday Thing' – meets weekly, alternating between QE11 School and Horsham C&F Centre

Starting from Monday 9th May 2011, a new support group for families with disabled children aged birth to eight. They meet on the 1st & 3rd weeks of the month at Horsham Nursery C&F Centre, Harwood Road, Horsham and the 2nd & 4th weeks at QE11 Silver Jubilee School, Comptons Lane Horsham. Between 10am and 11:30am term time only. For more information call 01403 266215 or 01403 224444.

Parents for Autism – Meets bi-monthly – Maybridge Children's Centre, The Strand, Worthing

Next meeting is on Monday 13th June 2011, when our guest speaker will be Inspector Lowe from Worthing Police. Entry just £1. For more information contact Lindsey on 07876196944 or lindseybutter@ntlworld.com

W.A.M. (What About Me) Support Group, Burgess Hill

W.A.M. is a parent carer support group that meets Tuesday lunchtimes every 4 weeks at the Gattons Family Centre, George Road in Burgess Hill. For more information please contact Vicky on 07879 676218 or Inga on 07817 260074.

Saturday Morning Fun, Findon C & F Centre (in partnership with East Preston C&F Centre)

Run by fully-trained respite support staff to give you time to play with your children. For children with additional support needs, sessions include circus skills, 'Life music' and drama. Sat 7th May 2011 (10:30-12:30noon) and Sat 9th July 2011 (10:30-12:30noon). Please book in advance by calling 01903 270455.

East Preston C & F Centre – 4th June 2011 Trip Littlehampton Interactive Room

Two sessions for families to visit the new Interactive Room at Inspire Leisure in Littlehampton, 9.30 – 10.30am and 10.30-11.30am. Please phone for further information on 01903 270470.

Autism Sussex Parent Workshops

Mon 23rd May – What is Aspergers Syndrome? 10am-2pm

Wed 22nd June – Puberty and Sexuality 10am-2pm

To be held at Arundel, £18 per session. To book call 01424 773366 or email training@autismsussex.org.uk

Half term Session – Horsham Nursery C&F Centre

Wednesday 1st June 2011, 10am-11:30am play session for more information call 01403 224444.



Newsletter

Issue 8 – May 2011



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Message from Lara



Hello and welcome to the latest edition of the WSPF Newsletter. May I take the opportunity to introduce myself; I am Lara Roberts and I am the new Chair of the Management

Committee of the Forum, a role that I have taken on until at least November 2011 when it will be reviewed. I take over the role from Kelly Willard, who after four years loyal service to the Forum decided to step down last month. On behalf of the forum and the Management Committee, I'd like to thank her for her dedication and to congratulate her on all that she achieved in the last few years. We wish her all the best as she moves onto new challenges within her own life.

The Forum is moving into a time of change at the moment, so I take on the role of Chair very seriously and hope to support the team through this period of transition. We are changing our legal status to that of a Company Limited by Guarantee in the next few months as well as taking on our own paid workers, so there is a lot to be done. These changes of course will enable us to operate effectively as an organisation, but do not come at the expense of the day to day work that we are involved in and in the coming months we are as busy as ever.

We are 'on the road' during the month of May, getting out to as many areas in the County as we can offering parents the opportunity to come along and learn more about the SEN & Disability Green Paper and what it will mean for families. Another date for diary is the Q&A Evening happening in Billingshurst in June - full details of both events can be found in this newsletter. Please do try to get along to one of these events as it would be great to meet you and to hear your point of view.

Bye for now!
Lara

Who we are...

West Sussex Parents Forum is a parent led organisation that improves the quality of information and services by representing parents/carers of children and young people in the County who have learning difficulties and disabilities.

Our newsletter is our way of communicating to our members about the latest news affecting disabled children, young people and their families both locally and nationally. We also use this as a way to give you information about all that we have been involved with in West Sussex.

Meet the team...



Lindsey Butterfield
Committee Member



Ranti Fallowfield
Committee Member



Kim Paul
Committee Member



Carrie Phillips
Committee Member



Lara Roberts
Chair



Kelly Willard
PAT Mark Co-ordinator

Steve Pollard
Committee Member

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SEN and Disability Green Paper Information Events

Throughout May we are holding a series of Parent Information Events around the County. The focus of these events is to explore the SEN and Disability Green Paper that was published by the Government last month. This is your chance to find out more about what the proposals will mean for your child, young person and you so please do try and come along to one of the meetings.

We have tried to offer a mixture of day time and evening meetings for parents as we recognise that getting out to meetings and events is not easy. A full list of the times, dates and venues of the meetings can be found on page 7. Please let us know which meeting you are hoping to attend as this will help us plan for the numbers of people to expect.

We have until the end of June to go back to the Government with feedback from our parents so your attendance and opinions really are important to us. If you want to have a look at the Green Paper before one of the meetings then please go to: www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/CM%208027.

Transport Consultation

West Sussex County Council is currently proposing changes to the transport policy in respect of students of sixth form age. We wrote to members last month encouraging parents to make comments on the proposal, together with a hard copy of the consultation questions. If you have not yet had the opportunity to respond then you can also access the consultation on: www.bmgsystems.co.uk/westsussex/kms/dmart.aspx?noip=1&filter_status=1

Don't Cut Us Out!

You may be aware of the 'Don't Cut Us Out campaign' that is currently underway in West Sussex. The campaign's aim is to lobby the County Council to reconsider the decisions made about Adult Care in February to cut the criteria from moderate care to substantial and critical care. This decision may not directly affect you and your family now, but it will affect your child once they reach adulthood. We are encouraging all our members to sign the petition and to increase the pressure on local councillors to reconsider their decisions. To sign the petition online please follow the following links.

http://epetition.westsussex.public-i.tv/epetition_core/community/petition/1482

www.youtube.com/user/DontCutUsOut

PAT Mark Celebration Event

On the 15th March 2011, WSPF held its first celebration event for the PAT Mark initiative. PAT stands for Parent Assessment Team and it is the first quality charter mark of its kind - awarded by trained parent and carers of disabled children and young people.



The celebration event saw several Parent Carer Assessors awarded with a certificate which means that they are now trained to go out and assess settings that provide services for disabled children and young people in West Sussex. As well as acknowledging the assessors, the evening also awarded several organisations who had been assessed - their new certificates and window stickers giving their organisation the 'thumbs up' and letting people know that they have been successfully assessed in this way. In the coming months we are expecting more organisations to be given the 'thumbs up' so look out for the purple logo at a setting somewhere near you.

If you represent a service or organisation that would like to know more about having an assessment please contact Kelly Willard - PAT Mark Coordinator on 07545628603 or email us on patmark@westsussexparentsforum.co.uk

The Independent Living Association

The Independent Living Association has been awarded a new contract by West Sussex County Council from 1st October 2010 for the provision of a West Sussex Direct Payments Support Service.

There are two distinct separate services for direct payments support:

1. Direct Payments Information and Advice Service - this service is for members of the general public and people already receiving a direct payment.
2. Personal Assistants Engagement Support Service - this is a service dedicated to providing advice and support to assist an individual in engaging a personal assistant (PA).

For more information about the ILA please call 08456 0123 99 between Monday - Friday 8am-6pm. The Independent Living Association runs regular Support Groups to help you with certain aspects of being an employer. For more information about these meetings and groups please email iaa@ilawestsussex.org



Your opinion

On Tuesday 14th June 2011, WSPF will be hosting their annual Question and Answer session/event at Billingshurst Village Hall between 7pm and 9pm. The aim of this session is to give our members the chance to ask questions around issues relating to health, education and social care to service managers within each area.

As usual we are organising the evening so that all questions can be asked regardless of whether you are able to attend or not. We will be providing a full transcript of the Q&A's to those who are not able to attend.

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

My Question relates to (please tick)

- Health
 Education
 Social Care

Other (please state) _____

My question is as follows:

I will / will not be able to attend the Q&A session on Tuesday 14th June 2011 (please delete as appropriate, so we have an idea of numbers attending).

Please ensure that we are in receipt of your question NO later than Friday 13th May 2011.