

# Parents Voice IW

Tel: - 01983 823898 ext. 2838. Email: joanne@peoplematteriw.org

Dear All

Parents Voice IW is a friendly group led by a team of volunteer parent carers, who themselves have children or young people (0-25) with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Our forum aims to improve services for local families on the Isle of Wight by helping to shape changes to services and enabling the voice of local families to be heard.

If you would like to find out what the **opportunities are for you to get involved** please don't hesitate to get in touch with us, you may be able to help with being a parent representative and attending meetings, help to run a HUB offering a regular get together for parent carers, maybe you have some fundraising ideas that you could share, and we would really like some help with developing our website. There are lots of different ways to be involved.

Please contact 01983 823898 ext.2838 for more information.

Or Email: [parentsvoice@peoplematteriw.org](mailto:parentsvoice@peoplematteriw.org)

**NEWS FROM PARENTS VOICE IW** - We held a very successful training day in March for both parents and professionals. It was presented by the Council for Disabled Children and was around "Supported Decision Making." We will be holding another training event after Christmas so look out for the date and be sure to book your place!

Thank you for those of you that attended our recent Coffee Morning at the Riverside Centre. It was good to see the support that was being shared and the relaxed chatting over coffee. Hopefully you will be able to attend our next coffee morning on the 14<sup>th</sup> December at the Riverside Centre.

Our AGM will be on the **28<sup>th</sup> September 2017**. Watch out for more details.

We are currently planning an event on the **14<sup>th</sup> November 2017** so keep your eyes out for more information.



## Upcoming Events

**28<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

### **SHORT BREAKS FUN DAY**

Medina Leisure Centre Field  
10am to 4pm

**Thursdays** – weekly

### **RAINBOW CLUB**

**Stay and play session** for all ages *during the Summer.*

**10am til 12pm**

Refreshments available, lots of toys and games.

**East Cowes Family Centre,**  
Beatrice Avenue, PO32 6PA.

[www.iowrainbowclub.webs.com](http://www.iowrainbowclub.webs.com)



## MEET THE SEND TEAM – OCTOBER – RIVERSIDE CENTRE – 9.30 TO 12.30

We will be holding another MEET THE SEND TEAM meeting in October, giving our members the opportunity to come and ask questions to the people who support our children in the Local Authority. Our focus for this meeting will be on **SEN support**. Please come along to meet other parents, our parent reps and the practitioners that are there to support you and your family. Use this opportunity to ask questions directly about SEN Support, what it means and what you should expect. *(Date to be confirmed.)*

### WHAT IS SEN SUPPORT?

#### **SEN Support is the school based provision for supporting your child in school.**

When a child or young person has been identified as having special educational needs, schools should take action to remove barriers to learning and put effective special educational provision in place called SEN Support. This SEN Support should take the form of a four part cycle (assess/plan/do/review) through which earlier decisions and actions are revisited, refined and revised with a growing understanding of the child's needs and what support the child in making good progress and securing good outcomes. This is known as the graduated approach.

The people to approach first with queries around your child's SEN Support would be the SENCO, the Head Teacher or the schools SEND Governor.

---

### **Some of the responses to the questions asked by parents at our last "Meet the SEND Team Meeting".**

---

*I keep hearing people say that my child's Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) should be "specified and quantified". Could you tell me what that should look like and does that mean it should say, for example, that my child should receive a service and then say how many sessions, and how often they should have it?*

*Yes, that is exactly what it means. The wording in the EHCP should reflect the provision that the child requires and should state a minimum of the input that each service will provide in order to meet the child's needs. This could change at each Annual Review.*

*Can a child with suspected Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) get an EHCP for the social/emotional/behavioral side even if they are doing OK academically?*

*This is crops up a lot. The answer is that not all children with an ASD will need an EHCP however if the impact of the social, emotional and behavioral difficulties begins to impact on educational progress then serious consideration at SEN Panel will be given to agreeing to start an EHC assessment.*

*My child is at pre-school, but I believe that they might be autistic. How do I get them referred so that we can get some specific help around autism? Their behavior can be quite challenging and I've read that it is really important to get help as early as possible, but how do we go about getting a diagnosis and the right support for them?*

*Early assessment for an ASD is always very carefully considered as it is not always easy to differentiate ASD between, for example, language and communication difficulties or learning difficulties. A diagnosis should not be necessary for good quality support to be put in place.*

## More News

**Friday 28 July, 10am to 4pm**  
**Medina Leisure Centre Field, Fairlee Road,**  
**Newport, PO30 2DX**

**For children and young people with disabilities**  
**and/or additional needs and their families**

**FREE PARKING**  
**NO BOOKING**  
**REQUIRED**  
**FREE ACTIVITIES AND**  
**ENTERTAINMENT:**  
**FACE PAINTING**  
**ARTS AND CRAFTS**  
**FALCONRY SHOW**  
**CHARACTERS MAGIC**  
**AND MUCH, MUCH MORE...**

For more information check out  
[iwight.com/shortbreaks](http://iwight.com/shortbreaks)



SENDIASS stands for Special Educational Needs and Disability Information and Advice Service. In addition to offering an impartial, confidential service to parents and carer's of children and young people with SEN and disability, we now offer a service to children and young people, who may want to receive information, advice or support themselves – see our page specifically for children and young people.

Contact us on 01983 825548 Email on [sendiass@iow.gov.uk](mailto:sendiass@iow.gov.uk)



Free confidential, independent and impartial information and support to help you through the Statutory Education Health and Care planning and Assessment journey.

**What can an Independent Supporter help me with?**

- Help filling in your “our/My story” paperwork.
- Provide information on Personal Budgets.
- Help you understand the EHCP process.
- Act as a named contact for you whilst you are going through your EHCP journey and help you to gather any information you may need for your EHC plan.
- Support you to get additional help when you have an issue which our Independent Support team are unable to help you with (known as signposting).

Contact us on 01938 823898 ext. 2838

## NEW SERVICES TO THE ISLAND



Using Rally Round means that family and friends can easily support someone you all care about



### Rally Round helps families and communities help each other

Rally Round is a free social networking tool available on the Island to enable family, friends and carers to create a secure support network for someone they care about.

Anyone can set up a Rally Round network by inviting people they know and trust to join their network. Members can add tasks that need doing such as shopping, help with transport or organising a social outing to the 'to do list'. Rally Round's 'notifications' feature keeps everyone in the loop with email or text alerts to ensure everyone knows when tasks have been completed. It also has a 'noticeboard' where members can add important information – this could be someone's favourite food or contact details for their local surgery.

Rally Round is here to help you arrange support for someone frail or vulnerable, but can also be used in a variety of other ways, e.g. coordinating volunteers or organising community groups.

To sign up, please visit: [www.rallyroundme.com/iow](http://www.rallyroundme.com/iow) Rally Round has a helpful online chat facility or you contact Citizens Advice Isle of Wight if you have any queries: 01983 823898 / 09.30am-15.30pm / Mondays-Fridays (Excluding bank holidays).



## Earl Mountbatten Hospice

A new service is being launched by experts at Earl Mountbatten Hospice to reach out to older children and young adults. This service hopes to support these young people who may have

complex diagnoses and who are facing the sometimes daunting task of moving from children's into adult services

Earl Mountbatten Hospice believes that every young person with a life limiting or life-threatening illness should have access to appropriate care and support tailored to his/her individual needs and preferences. To achieve this, a young adult's service has been set up for those aged 14 to 25, and new coordinator Kate Golding has been appointed to lead the work. Kate said

"I am looking forward to working with young people, their families and in partnership with teams which have already been established on the Island in other health, education and social care settings. We know that social isolation is an important factor for such young people and we hope to develop services where young people can come together to mutually support each other in the right setting, with access to the right services. However, I am very keen for the new service to be based on what people want and need, so my first task is to find out what young people and their families would like to see develop from this opportunity,"

If you know of someone who might benefit from this service, or you are a professional wanting to refer into the service (with appropriate consent), contact Kate by email or telephone.

[kate.golding@iwhospice.org](mailto:kate.golding@iwhospice.org) or phone (01983) 217370 – 07923 494985

---

## HOUSING INFO SESSION

### Could you get involved?

#### Information Event being planned for 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

The CCG and the Local Authority are arranging an event focused on Independent Living housing options for local people who have additional needs, such as Learning Disabilities and/or Autism.



There will be information on Supported Living, and talks on Home Ownership and Shared Lives. They will be joined by David Abbey from [My Safe Home](#), who will be able to explain more about Shared Ownership and the HOLD (home ownership for people with long term disabilities) scheme.

The event is being held at **Westridge** (behind Tesco), Ryde, between **10.30am to 2.30pm** (with talks likely to be around 11.00am and 11.30pm). *Further information will be available nearer the event.*

\*\*\*\*\*

We have also been contacted by a parent who would like to explore ways of improving our local housing options for all disabled people on the Island, but particularly the concept of 'semi independent living' options for autistic adults. They would like to get into contact with anyone that is considering a different housing option to their current one, so that they can form an interest group.

If you would like to get involved or learn more about the above then please call: 01983 823898 ext. 2838 or email [joanne@peoplematteriw.org](mailto:joanne@peoplematteriw.org).



### Did you know?

**LOCALOFFER**



The Isle of Wight **LOCAL OFFER** is a source of local information, help, support and advice for parents, carers, children and young people. It includes information about organisations, where to find help and support regarding educational issues, health, social care, and links to local activities and support networks.

**There is a useful Glossary on the website, explaining terminology used in the world of SEN, local authority, social care, health and schools when talking to you about their services.**

The website also allows you to provide feedback about what is needed locally. You can tell us what works well or raise concerns.

[www.iwight.com/localoffer](http://www.iwight.com/localoffer)

# Autism Ambassador

Southampton - Hampshire  
Isle of Wight - Portsmouth

**Do you want to help your local community?**

**Make your business/organisation Autism friendly**

*‘the smallest change can make the biggest difference’*

Autism Ambassador is a scheme launched by the Autism Partnership Boards of Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton & Isle of Wight to enable all our communities to become more Autism-friendly.

For more information please visit:  
[www.ascambassador.org.uk](http://www.ascambassador.org.uk)

Volunteers will be introduced to the Ambassador role, receive Autism awareness training, pledge how they will make a difference and meet fellow Ambassadors.

**Tuesday 5 September 2017**  
at Adult & Community Learning Service, Westridge, Brading Road, Ryde,  
Isle of Wight, PO33 1QS from 9.30am to 3.30pm

To register your interest to take part in this fantastic project, please email  
[admin@ascambassador.org.uk](mailto:admin@ascambassador.org.uk)

Join over 250 Ambassadors already appointed – *sign up now!*



## What have our Parent Representatives been up too?



### **NHS Children and Adult Mental Health services meetings.**

Discussing with NHS / CAHMS Professionals how to develop and improve services

### **Learning Disability Partnership Group (LDPG)**

A regular meeting to discuss services for people with Learning Disabilities.

### **Carer's Group**

A regular meeting to discuss how to improve support for Carers, including Parent Carers.

### **Regional NNPCF (National Network of Parent Carer Forums) Meeting.**

A regional meeting that gives our reps a chance to meet other forums and exchange ideas and successes

### **Rainbow Club**

A local support group for families of children with SEND. (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)

### **IW NAS Meeting (National Autistic Society)**

A local branch of the National Autistic Society supporting families affected by Autism.

### **Housing Meetings**

Attending meetings to raise concerns around our young people's housing choices for the future.

### **SE19 Meetings**

A group meeting of 19 regional local authority areas from the South East (SE19) exchanging ideas and promoting working together.

### **Short Breaks Panel**

Reviewing grant applications from potential providers alongside member of the Short Breaks Team.

**Plus ongoing work liaising with the Local Authority, including the SEN team and Social Care, NHS Health Services and other local voluntary and community organisations.**

*And finally.....*

Thank you to those of you who have completed our survey already. The closing date for this is the end of July. If there are any of you who still haven't could you please spend some time to fill it out with your opinions as they are so important.

Below is the link that will take you straight to our survey online.

**Are you the parent or carer of a child or young person age 0-25 with special educational need and/or a disability (SEND)?**

**Parents Voice IW**, the Island's Parent Carer Forum need your help! We have launched a survey to help gather the views of local parents of children with SEND. We would really like you to tell us your recent experiences around the support you, your children and young people have received. In September 2014 there were reforms to legislation (Children and Families Act 2014), often referred to as the "SEND Reforms", and we would really appreciate your views, opinions and experiences since then, to help improve our local services and also to highlight areas which you think work well.

For more information or to take part in the survey, please see here <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PVSEENDSURVEY2017> .

Alternatively, if you would like a copy of the survey sent to you, or if you would like some help to fill it in, please contact **Jo** on **01983 823898 ext. 2838** or email [joanne@peoplematteriw.org](mailto:joanne@peoplematteriw.org) .

The survey can also be found on our website here [www.parentsvoice-iw.co.uk](http://www.parentsvoice-iw.co.uk)

**Have a fabulous Summer Holidays**

**Thank you for your time**