



Kent Parents Participation Network (KPPN) is a virtual network of parents, carers and practitioners working with, and for, disabled children and young people in Kent.

October 2010 Newsletter 3

Welcome to the third Kent Parents Participation Network newsletter!

If you have any comments or you would like to submit something for our next edition please e-mail admin@kentppn.com

Kent Special Educational Needs Strategy Review

One of the key aims of KPPN is to enable more parents to be part of strategic decision-making processes in Kent. KPPN is recruiting parents to be part of a parent reference group for the current Kent Special Educational Needs Strategy Review. This will involve attending occasional meetings and possibly commenting on documents sent to you.

The Special Educational Needs Strategy Review is a local process which aims to positively change how the needs of children with special educational needs in Kent are met.

Please contact Jane Bracey on 01622 350640 or via admin@kentppn.com if you'd like to be involved with this group or if you'd like more information.

Government Green Paper: Children and Young People with Special Educational Need and Disabilities—Call for Views

On 10 September the Minister of State for Children and Families, Sarah Teather, invited views from everyone with an interest in services for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) or disabilities in England. All views and perspectives received will be considered by the Government. This is part of developing proposals for a Green Paper on SEN and disability to be published this autumn.

The closing date for responses is 15 October. You can find the consultation document at <http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/>

Events

A list of disability-related events, workshops, talks and drop-ins is kept on the KPPN events page. We also keep an updated list of events on our Facebook page which you can access from the website. (You do not have to have a Facebook account.) If you know of any events happening in Kent, please let us know or add them to the Facebook page yourself.

Parent Groups in Kent

In future KPPN will focus on strengthening links to, and between, parent support groups in Kent. This will hopefully make it easier for information to be shared between groups and to parents. Overall the aim is to develop a sustainable communication structure which ensures that as many parents as possible are kept informed and updated and can influence service development in Kent.

Note for groups

Adele Meader, is the Local Groups Officer from Contact a Family. She can provide advice and support for groups about how to get going, registering as a charity, on-going development and everything in-between. You can also register your group on the Contact a Family database so parents who call Contact a Family can be directed to your group. Adele can be contacted on 01799 543 043 or adele.meader@cafamily.org.uk

New group

A new group has been set up by parents in Shepway for teenagers who have Autism Spectrum Disorder or Aspergers. The purpose of the group is to increase positive friendships, independence, social skills and social interaction. The group meets on the second Saturday of the month. All participants must be accompanied by parent/carer, siblings welcome. For more information please contact Wendy on 01303 773171 or Sandra on 01303 279680.

Young Inspectors' Programme

Kent Parent Partnership Service is working with **Kent Youth Service** to set up a Young Inspectors' Programme. This programme will support disabled children and young people to 'inspect' services in their local community to help shape future developments. **Places are still available** so if know of a disabled child or young person who may be interested in becoming a Young Inspector please call Victoria Clarke on 01622 350640 or e-mail victoria.clarke@kent.gov.uk

Training

Kent Parent Partnership Service is offering parents free 'Parents Participating Confidently' training. This course aims to help strengthen parents' knowledge and skills to enable them to feel confident in participation. Parents who've been trained have been very positive about the training. Once trained you can join a network and attend informal events to practice and develop your skills.

A new programme of training dates is currently being developed. If you would like to like to take part contact Suzanne Leviton, Regional Co-ordinator on 01622 350640 or email suzanne.leviton@kent.gov.uk.



This Newsletter is sent to groups within Kent with an interest in disabled children and young people and children and young people with special educational needs. To receive a personal copy join the Kent Parents Participation Network at www.kentppn.com/jointhenetwork.html

This newsletter can be made available in different formats and languages. For more information please contact admin@kentppn.com