



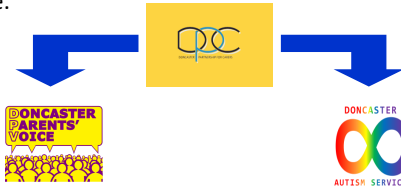
DONCASTER CARERS CENTRE

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

Introduction and Welcome

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2024. We are excited for the year ahead, delivering quality workshops, supporting parents and carers and helping the voices of parents and carers be heard. Towards the end of the year we saw our membership grow and in light of this we thought we would provide you all with an overview of how we operate and the services we offer.

We are made up of Doncaster Partnership For Carers, Doncaster Parents Voice and Doncaster Autism Service.



As you can see above, Doncaster Partnership For Carers (DPFC) is the over-arching body, and Doncaster Parents Voice and Doncaster Autism Service operates alongside Doncaster Partnership For Carers. This means that we are able to provide a wide range of services for carers, parent/carers, and autistic children, young people and adults through these 3 services. Below is an overview of each of the services:

Doncaster Partnership For Carers (DPFC)

DPFC is based on Regent Terrace and is the hub for most of the activities across all the services and is known as The Carers Centre. The Centre is run by Doncaster Partnership For Carers, a local charity which was set up in 1991 by family carers for family carers. Since opening our doors in 1992 at the Lansdowne Centre in Intake, DPFC has been instrumental in local changes in service provision and support for carers of all ages and their families.

DPFC has moved premises many times, but since 2012 we have been located in the city centre on Regent Terrace. We are an independent charity who regularly raises funds to enable us to continue our work by applying for grants, running raffles and hiring out rooms at the Carers Centre. As we are a charity we always welcome donations which are very much appreciated. We are run predominately by a team of volunteers who enable the Carers Centre to continue being a place where carers can receive support. DPFC purpose has been to have a presence on local decision making boards in the council and health services, as well as providing emotional and practical support to carers of all ages. Services offered at DPFC include, counselling, telephone befriending service, benefits appointments, coffee mornings, and advice and information. You can keep up to date on all the latest from us on our [Facebook page](#).

Doncaster Parents Voice (DPV)

Is a platform for parent carers and their families to come together and have their voices heard when local decisions involving education, health and social care are being made. Our aim is to ensure the needs of all children and young people with SEND (aged 0 – 25) are met. We are run by a steering group made up of volunteers who give up their time to ensure parents voices are heard. We do this by working with other local SEND support groups, attending SEND parents coffee mornings in schools and we also work closely with Doncaster Autism Service on some of the services they offer. We work alongside the Carers Centre who provide us with administration support, and host and facilitate our groups/coffee mornings, and meetings for parents, children and young people so that we can hear their stories, suggestions and ideas to feed into the local decision making arenas. Funding permitting we arrange family activities and days out in the school holidays for all the family including siblings. We also hold social groups and workshops, provide therapies, benefits and counselling appointments, and provide advice and information to families. Check out our [Facebook page](#) for more information.

Doncaster Autism Service (DAS)?

DAS is a collaboration between NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (formerly Doncaster Clinical Commissioning Group), Doncaster Council, Doncaster Parents Voice, Doncaster Partnership For Carers and the ASCETS Team. DAS services have been designed to build on existing services currently offered by DPV and ASCETS but with a specialism in autism. DAS works with DPV and DPFC to support autistic people of all ages and their families. DAS offers a wide range of services such as post diagnostic 1:1 support, workshops, social groups, therapies, counselling, benefits appointments and information and advice. Please visit our [Facebook page](#) here for further information.



Doncaster SENDIAS provides confidential information, advice, and support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and their families. Find out more at www.doncastersendias.co.uk



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January Workshops	
18th January 2024 10.00am—12.30pm Workshop—What is Autism? - For adults	25th January 2024 10.00am—12.30pm Workshop—Improving Well-being for autistic adults
February Workshops	
Thursday 1st February 2024 10.00am—12.30pm Sleep and ASD	Tuesday 15th February 2024 10.00am—12.30pm School Stress
Tuesday 20th February 2024 10.00am—12.30pm GDA Pathway	

NEWS UPDATES	
 Family Fund Helping disabled children	New grant - SFDC Family Fund have a new grant, Support for Families with Disabled Children (SFDC). Funded by the Department for Education and managed by Family Fund, the SFDC programme provides a wide range of grant items to families in England with a low-income, who are raising a disabled or seriously ill child or young person. For further information and eligibility criteria please visit the Family Fund website here Family Fund
	Newly elected Co-Chair Person Debbie Osborne, Manager at DPFC has been elected as Co-Chairperson for the Carers Strategic Board which helps to shape services for all carers in the city. If you would like to know more and how you can get involved and make your voice heard, please contact us via email: manager@doncastercarers.org.uk
	Making a Difference Group This group is about change, if you are passionate about making the journey of education better for children with special educational needs/disabilities, helping schools understand the importance of providing support and/or making reasonable adjustments for access to education, then come and join us! We meet half termly and have two online sessions you can attend on 18th January 2024 , either at 10.00am – 11.00am or 8.00pm – 9.00pm . To book your place or for more information or to join this group and make a difference, please call Doncaster Parents Voice on 01302 637566 or email: dpvoice@doncastercarers.org.uk
	Free School Meals Campaign Contact - For families with disabled children have recently won their campaign for local authorities and schools to update their guidance to state that disabled children are legally entitled to reasonable adjustments (such as supermarket vouchers) if they can't access their free lunches in the regular way. To find out more about this campaign and the recent parliamentary debate which led to this change, please visit the Contact—For families with disabled Childrens website.

Are you a member?

Being a member of Doncaster Parents Voice allows you access to all of our workshops, groups and events. By joining us, your support helps us to continue working towards getting the best outcomes for children and young people with SEND in Doncaster. Membership will also enable you to apply for a Max Card, and best of all membership is free!



Please visit www.doncasterparentsvoice.co.uk to find out more about membership and to download a membership form.



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Getting out and about and finding support in 2024

There are lots of groups around Doncaster that you can join either for yourself or for your children/young people. If you haven't joined any groups as yet, 2024 might be the year to give them a go. Below are some of the groups in Doncaster. These groups are for a variety of childrens/adults needs and age ranges:

The Sen Den
A playgroup for children with special educational needs and disabilities in Doncaster. Based in Cantley, these sessions take place every Friday at 4.00pm—6.00pm at Cantley Community Centre, DN4 6DF. Booking is essential. Please click here for further information.
Doncaster Youth Hubs— SEND Social
A social session for ages 8—25 years (must be SEND or pathway). Based at My Place in Bentley, these sessions take place every Tuesday at 4.00pm - 6.00pm. Booking is essential, please contact Doncaster Youth Hubs on 01302 735704 or 01302 737993 or e-mail YouthHubs@Doncaster.gov.uk or click here
Bubble Support Group
Bubble Support Group is a social group that is for anyone living with ASD/ADHD/SEND/mental health conditions including parents/carers/families. This group is based in Rossington. For further information please contact Jenny on 07709 752694 or email Jenny.King@rethinkassociates.org or click here for their Facebook page.
ACE+s—Autistic Childrens Evening and Siblings
These sessions take place at the Danum Gallery, Library and Museum (DGLAM) on the first Thursday of every month starting at 5.00pm—6.00pm. Meet in the Childrens Library. No need to book. For further information please see the DGLAM facebook page
Aspire Autism Coffee Mornings
Based in Mexborough, this is a place where you can meet other parents and carers of ASD and ADHD children, free entry, and tea and coffee. Please see their facebook page for dates and further details.
SEND Parent/Carer Coffee Morning
Scawsby Social Club hold a peer support group for parents/carers of children/young people with SEND. No diagnosis necessary. The coffee mornings take place on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month, 9.00am—12.00pm at Greenwood Centre, Latin Gardens, Scawsby, DN5 8TE, no booking necessary.
Cura-Care Yorkshire Ltd
Cura-Care Yorkshire Ltd provide respite and community care for children and adults with disabilities, please see their facebook page for further information and events.
Care2Dance
Care2Dance offers dance/movement classes in Doncaster for individuals with a disability. Please see their facebook page for further information
Dungeons and Dragons Club
A collaborative roleplaying game for young autistic people aged 14+ . Embark on epic quests and tell legendary stories filled with fantasy and fun. Sessions take place at the Doncaster Carers Centre and Askern Library. Please see the Doncaster Parents Voice Facebook page for the dates and times.


Max Card is the UK's leading discount card for days out for families of SEND and looked after children.

A Max Card gives you and your families access to discounted days out all across the UK to include top attractions like Butlins, Thorpe Park, Lego Land Windsor Resort and many more!

To get your Max Card please contact Karen on **01302 637566** or email us at karen@doncastercarers.org.uk

maxcard

Cards cost £6.00



You can keep up to date with all of the latest events, news and workshops happening at the Carers Centre by following us on our Facebook pages below:

-  [Doncaster Partnership for Carers](#)
-  [Doncaster Parents Voice](#)
-  [Doncaster Autism Service](#)

For any enquiries please contact us on our central number 01302 637566, or email dpvoice@doncastercarers.org.uk or visit our website www.doncasterparentsvoice.co.uk