



# Doncaster Parents/ Carers Newsletter

Edition 5

Newsletter sponsored by



## Carers Centre Refurbishment

### CARERS CENTRE

#### Enquiry line

Monday /Thursday 9.30 – 1.00 first contact providing advice and info

#### Drop In

Available 9.30 - 1.00 Tuesday and Thursday providing emotional and practical support

#### BACUP

Providing a FREE Counselling Service & Telephone Befriending

The service provides face to face counselling and a friendly voice at the end of the phone on a regular basis and is flexible to suit carer needs

#### Legal Clinic

A FREE legal advice service for Parents / carers available By appointment only

Referrals for all the above by organisations / groups welcome or you can self-refer

During volunteer week in June staff from Marks and Spencer Doncaster Branch came into the centre and decorated the main activities room and the counselling room which were in much need of refurbishment. Staff who volunteered to take part in the task worked with great enthusiasm though out the week. We would especially like to thank Veronica for all her hard work in making it happen. She worked tirelessly in the months leading up to June organizing staff and helping the centre to apply for funds from Marks and Spencer's community fund 'Sparkle' the funds were used to provide chairs, a rug and accessories for the counselling room. We were also supported by CRS Redhouse (B&Q Woodlands) community team who provided paint, emulsion and lots of other decorating resources. Doncaster Refurnish who provided furniture for the counselling room and main activities room. Sainsburys Local Intake branch provided cleaning materials and refreshments. B&M Armthorpe provided paint brushes, rollers etc. The newly refurbished rooms were officially opened in Carers Week by the Deputy Civic Mayor of Doncaster



# You can now purchase the **MAX CARD from DPVoice**

**Cost  
£5.00**

## **What is the Max Card?**

The Max Card is a discount card for families of children with additional needs. Families simply show their Max Card upon entry to a venue in order to obtain free or discounted admission.

The scheme is designed to help families save money on great days out across England, includes castles, zoos, bowling alleys and much more.

To find out how to obtain your card contact DPVoice on 01302 637566 or  
Email: [dpvoice@doncastercarers.org.uk](mailto:dpvoice@doncastercarers.org.uk)

Please provide proof of child's / young person's additional needs  
For more info on the MAX CARD visit <http://www.mymaxcard.co.uk/>

*Need your help!*  
**THE LOCAL OFFER**

We want our pages to be personalised for families in Doncaster. Therefore for each of the different pages we want people with a special educational need / disability to design some images for us that we can upload to the different sections.

The image must be: - horizontal - A4 size - relevant to the section e.g. Preparing for adulthood may include a house, a job, transport - name and age if you would like to be acknowledged Please note if we receive several pictures for the same section, we will change the image on a regular basis so your picture may not appear immediately.

Please send all pictures to:  
Email- [fis@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:fis@doncaster.gov.uk)  
Address – Families Information Service,  
Floor 3, Civic Office, Waterdale, DN1 3BU

We would also welcome feedback from children, young people, parents / carers and practitioners on the content and how accessible and helpful the information is within the Local Offer. If you have any queries, please contact Families Information Service – 0800 138 4568

## **What is the Local Offer?**

The Local Offer provides information for children and young people with special educational needs and disability (SEND) and their parents or carers in a single place.

## **Young people will benefit from new Special School in Doncaster**

Doncaster Council has released further details about the Special School for Communication and Interaction special educational needs that will be established in Doncaster.

The school will primarily be for children and young people with Autism Spectrum Disorder, specifically high functioning ASD and Asperger's.

The cohort may also have social, emotional and mental health needs and specific learning difficulties.

Working with the Department for Education, the new school is envisaged to be on the Hungerhill Enterprise Park site.

This school would have places for 100 children and young people, 80 of which would be filled by the council, with the remaining 20 offered to neighbouring authorities.

The school will be closely associated with another secondary school to enable pupils to access a mainstream curriculum where this is appropriate.

Atherton Godfrey is delighted to be sponsoring the Parent Forum newsletter. We have also been invited to have a regular feature in the newsletter where we will be answering legal questions from parents and carers. We will also be holding monthly Legal Information Clinics at the Doncaster Carers Centre on South Parade.



**ATHERTON  
GODFREY**  
s o l i c i t o r s

## TRAINING IN SCHOOLS

Earlier this year, I had the opportunity of attending a forum group meeting organised by Parent Voice where parents were able to ask questions of the key education service leads at Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council. It was a great event and although much of the discussion was certainly very positive and lots of useful information was shared with parents about the services available to support their children, there was one point that came up which I found very striking.

At least two parents raised concerns about schools not organising appropriate training for their teaching and/or support staff. The excuses given to parents seemed to centre on funding problems and waiting lists. Yet we heard from the local authority in response that there are training programmes in place which all schools – including Academy schools – can access. Therefore the story about the child being restrained inappropriately while the school is on a waiting list for training – apparently since September – was especially difficult to understand.

Whilst I would hope these examples do not represent the majority, the consequence for schools of not taking advantage of these training opportunities, which are clearly available to them, is that they may find themselves having to respond to claims from parents about disability discrimination of their child which can be heard in the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal.

There schools cannot hide behind funding issues or unreasonably lengthy waiting lists: if the SEND Tribunal orders training to take place then schools have no choice but to complete the training within the timeframe set by the tribunal.

Any parents who need further advice on the issue should contact the local SAIDSEND service initially or take legal advice.

*Angela Sandhal*

**Education and public law solicitor  
Atherton Godfrey**

**CONTACT US**

info@athertongodfrey.co.uk  
www.athertongodfrey.co.uk  
8 Hall Gate, Doncaster DN1 3LU



*Ladder Group*

### The Young Persons Disability Forum

We are currently recruiting for the steering group,

Do you have Special Education Needs / Disability (SEND)?

Are you passionate about getting the voice of young people with SEND heard?

Are you a sibling of a child or young person with SEND and would like to contribute to the work of The LADDER Group?

Contact us on 07917690590 or email [dpvoice@doncastercarers.org.uk](mailto:dpvoice@doncastercarers.org.uk) to find out more

## REFRESHED SHORT BREAKS STATEMENT 2017

### What is a short break?

A short break is a break or time away from a caring role, which used to be called 'respite' and forms part of a range of services which support children with additional needs and their families. A short break gives disabled children and young people experiences away from their main carers and also gives parents and carers a valuable break from their caring responsibilities. A break from a caring role can include activities which last a few hours, a day, an evening, overnight, a weekend or for longer. They can take place in or away from the family home and can include supporting a family to take a short break together.

**The refreshed short breaks statement is now available at**  
<http://www.doncasterchildrenandfamilies.info/thelocaloffer.html>

## Open House

Every Wednesday between 10.00 - 2.30 the Centre opens up for Carers of all ages to meet up with other Carers.

We have regular social outings.

## Parent Carer Forum Steering Group

Meet on the Second Thursday of the month 5.00 – 6.30

## Parent Carer Drop In

All parents carers welcome,  
First Thursday of the Month  
10.30 - 12.30

## Ladder Group

(Young Persons SEND Forum)  
(age 12-25)

Meet on the third Thursday of the month 5.00 – 6.15

## Your Space

Social arm of the LADDER GROUP for young People with a disability their friends and siblings aged under 25's is on the first Tuesday of the month @ Trades and Labour club Frenchgate  
6.00 – 8.00  
Entrance £2.00 Carers FREE

## Male Carers Group

This new group which meets twice monthly at the Carers centre

## Doncaster Carers Forum

Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month  
1.00 – 2.30

# Doncaster Parents Forum DPVoice

We are an independent group of volunteer parents and carers of children and young people (0-25) with disabilities and special educational needs. We are funded by DfE to encourage and facilitate Parent Participation

## Who can join a parent carer forum?

Parents or carers of a child/ young person with an additional need or disability are welcome to join. Joining your forum does not mean you have to commit lots of time. You can join and just receive information, and then decide if you want to get more involved at your own pace.

## What we do

We encourage parents to become actively involved in participation and co-production of local services  
Our aim is to ensure the needs of all children and young people (aged 0-25) who are disabled / have additional needs in Doncaster are met.

Our vision is that all children, young people and their families living with disabilities/additional needs in our town enjoy the same opportunities, hopes and aspirations as other families in Education, Health, Social Care and leisure.

We bring together parents/carers from across the borough to provide mutual support, share experiences and exchange information.

We work with parents, children's services and parent groups in Doncaster collecting stories and

experience of families and using information gained to influence change and encourage parents to get involved in participation and co-production of services

## Emotional and practical support for parents

We also provide a range of support services for parents of C&YP with SEND

- Telephone support Tuesday and Wednesday 9.30 – 1.00, Thursday 1.30 – 6.30pm
- Holistic Therapy sessions (one to one and group work)
- Counselling
- One to One support at meeting

We work with other parent support groups in Doncaster and with SAIDSEND and CORE ASSETTS to support parents and families going through the process of an EHC plan

**The more active members we have,  
the louder our voice is**

**More hands make light work  
so come along and join us**

**The Steering group meet once a month on a  
Thursday 5pm - 6.30pm**

**To find out more call 01302 637566 / 07917690590**

*Contact details...*

Find us on Facebook  
Follow us on Twitter



Doncaster Carers Centre  
2 Regent Terrace  
Doncaster  
DN1 2EE  
Tel: 01302 637566  
Email: [dpvoice@doncastercarers.org.uk](mailto:dpvoice@doncastercarers.org.uk)