

# SEND

## Newsletter

**SPECIAL  
EDUCATIONAL  
NEEDS AND  
DISABILITY  
0-25<sup>IN</sup>  
KNOWSLEY**

ISSUE 10  
NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2019

**SEND 0-25** Flourishing and achieving; becoming fulfilled and purposeful adults

# MAKING SCHOOL TRANSPORT BETTER

**Knowsley Parent Carers Voice (KPCV) has recently had an article published in the National Network for Parent Carer Forums newsletter around transport in Knowsley.**

The article focusses on My Route, with KPCV confirming that they had worked with the council, contractors and schools to co-produce My Route, the new online, mobile-friendly portal helping parents to apply for school transport. Parents had helped to test My Route.

KPCV also state that communication between the council and parents has improved and they look forward to working with the council on further improvements to SEND support and services.

It's great for our joint working and innovative practices to be shared as best practice at a national level.



**MY ROUTE**

HELPING YOU ON YOUR WAY





## Short Breaks - share your views

Short breaks give children with additional needs an opportunity to join in with fun activities and make friends, as well as giving parents or carers a break from their caring role.

The service is currently being reviewed to help the council to understand what works well and what could be improved.

Your feedback will help to improve services in the future, so please take a few minutes to complete the survey.

You also have the chance to enter a prize draw offering £10 'One4All' gift vouchers.

To ensure that everyone can have their say, there's a survey for parents and carers, and one for children and young people.

**The closing date is Friday, 13 December 2019.**

## Head Teacher speaker at a National Conference



Natalie Menagh, Head Teacher at Alt Bridge School in Huyton, was invited to speak at the National Autistic Society PDA conference in November. Natalie focussed on the conflicts and strategies for PDA (Pathological Demand Avoidance) pupils in education. We look forward to working closely with Natalie over the coming months to deliver a similar presentation at a local level as part of our workforce development offer and wider SEND engagement work with parents, carers and young people.

# FLOURISH OPENS ITS DOORS

**A brand new post-19 specialist provision for young people with high needs 'Flourish' has opened in Knowsley.**

The provision has been established by Knowsley Council, parents and carers, Knowsley Parent Carer Voice and Bluebell Park School working together to ensure Flourish meets the needs of learners.

This new SEND post-19 provision will enable learners who would otherwise have had to go out of borough to stay in Knowsley for further education. The aim is to prepare the young people for adult life in the local community and ultimately develop their independence.

There will be lots of involvement with local voluntary and community groups which the learners will continue to access when they leave Flourish at the end of three years.

Deborah Smith, Chair of Knowsley Parent Carers Voice and mum to Flourish learner Harvey, said

"I'm speaking on behalf of all the parents when I say even though they're young men, the thought of them going out of borough where they're not known, in an unfamiliar building with staff they don't know, and then after three years coming back and having that transition again is very worrying.

"Having Flourish on the doorstep with some staff they already know from Bluebell Park and in a building they know, we feel like we've won the lottery, it's just a dream come true."

Flourish is delivered by FACE - Knowsley Council's adult education provider - and is funded through the government Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

Flourish will deliver a three year programme and support up to four new students each academic year accommodating up to 12 learners.



# INFORMATION, ADVICE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

# ANIMATION



The Council for Disabled Children has produced a 5-minute animation that provides an introduction to SEND local Information, Advice and Support Services (IASS). IASS are a statutory function of local authorities and provide support to children and young people with SEND, and parents, about matters relating to SEND. We hope you find it useful and informative, and that it is a communication tool.

You can access the animation here: <https://youtu.be/54R4cDbX6L8>

## KNOWSLEY EMPOWER JOB CARVING PROGRAMME

Knowsley's Empower Job Carving Programme is going from strength to strength and 10 local businesses and organisations are taking advantage of the benefits job carving brings.

The programme was developed by Knowsley Council in partnership with All Saints Catholic High School, Eastcroft Park Primary School and the First Ark Group to create meaningful and sustainable employment opportunities for Knowsley residents with a learning difficulty and / or disability.

Job carving takes less skilled tasks from different jobs and combines them into a single role ideally suited for a person with a learning difficulty and / or disability, which frees up time for other staff to concentrate on the more skilled aspects of their roles.

Once a job carved role is created, Knowsley Council produces job specifications in easy read and video format making the recruitment process more accessible for potential applicants. Potential candidates have an informal meet and greet with the new employer and complete a work placement to see if the role is right for them. If the employer and the candidate are happy with the role created, the placement moves to a paid position.

Seven placements have successfully moved into paid job roles, three additional job carved roles are at the placement stage and we are working with a further three organisations to help them create job carved positions and placements within their organisations.

If you'd like to find out more about job carving, contact Sue Temple-Fielding, Supported Employment Co-ordinator on **0151 443 3054** or **07976 582 255**, or email Sue at [susan.temple-fielding@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:susan.temple-fielding@knowsley.gov.uk)



## SEND Review

In their November 2019 newsletter, The Department for Education has announced that it has launched a cross-cutting review of SEND, looking at how the system has evolved in the five years since the Children and Families Act was introduced, how it can be made to work best for all families and ensure quality of provision is the same across the country.

It will conclude with action to boost outcomes and improve value for money, so that vulnerable children have the same opportunities to succeed, as well as improving capacity and support for families across England.





# KNOWSLEY PARENT CARER VOICE COFFEE MORNINGS



Come along and meet the Knowsley Parent Carers Voice and other parent / carers to share your experiences and find out more about the support available at the informal coffee mornings organised by the Knowsley Parent Carers Voice. The next events will take place from 10am until 12 noon on the following dates:

- **Monday, 13 January** at All Saints Catholic High School, Kirkby
- **Wednesday, 26 February** at Alt Bridge School, Huyton
- **Tuesday, 24 March** at Yew Tree Primary School, Halewood
- **Friday, 24 April** at Bluebell Park, Kirkby
- **Thursday, 14 May** at Finch Wood Academy, Halewood
- **Monday, 15 June** at Northwood Community Primary School, Kirkby



Wishing all of our children and families a very

**HAPPY  
CHRISTMAS  
AND  
BEST WISHES  
FOR THE NEW YEAR**

# LOCAL OFFER Website

Our local offer website - [www.knowsleyinfo.co.uk](http://www.knowsleyinfo.co.uk) - is designed to be a one stop shop of information, support and advice around SEND support and provision in Knowsley.

If there are activities taking place in your local area, we can promote them on the local offer website.



# CONTACT US

If you have any feedback on the services you are receiving or would like us to include information about a certain topic in a future newsletter, please tell us. You can email [send@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:send@knowsley.gov.uk)

The Knowsley Parent Carer Voice (KPCV) can be contacted on **0151 549 1412**.

Parent / carers and children / young people with SEND can contact SEND IASS for impartial information, advice and support via telephone on **0800 012 9066 (option 2 for Knowsley)** or via email at [liverpoolandknowsleysend@wired.me.uk](mailto:liverpoolandknowsleysend@wired.me.uk)

SEND IASS have also launched their own newsletter, if you would like to sign up and subscribe you can do so by emailing [iasmanager@wired.me.uk](mailto:iasmanager@wired.me.uk)

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