



Newsletter

For parents, carers and families of children and young people with special needs and/or disabilities in North East Lincolnshire

ISSUE 6

SPRING / SUMMER 2017

FREE

WELCOME

We are very pleased to still be here with our 6th SEND Newsletter! Our continuing goals are to **keep** you up to date with changes that are happening locally, to **make** you feel engaged and involved in your SEND community and to **ensure** you know you are not alone!

This newsletter is made voluntarily by parent carers for parent carers with a little help from local sponsors so please please do feel free to "Tell The Editors" (see contacts below) if there's anything you want to see covered in future editions, if you have any comments about anything you've read, or if would like to receive an electronic copy via email.

We hope you enjoy this Spring/Summer edition – any questions, feedback or updates will be very gratefully received!

Happy Easter from The Editorial Team

"Tell The Editors"

- Text/call: 07583 474892
- Email: nelpf@virginmedia.com
- www.facebook.com/NorthEastLincsParentParticipationForum/
- Tweet @nelpf

SCHOOL POOL APPEAL REACHES £4K THANKS TO GRIMSBY BUSINESSES

A school which caters for pupils who have learning difficulties has taken a great step towards raising funds for a hydrotherapy pool with the help of businesses from across the Grimsby area.

Cambridge Park Academy have raised nearly £4,000 after completing a variety of fundraising initiatives which have been organised by the special needs school and Grimsby law firm Bridge McFarland Solicitors.

As well as completing the physically demanding National Three Peaks in 24 hours, which saw Bridge McFarland staff members cover almost 1,100 miles climbing Ben Nevis, Snowden and Scafell Pike, the law firm hosted a fundraising quiz night alongside sponsors Forrester Boyd at Grimsby Golf Club.

The Academy, in Cambridge Road, need to raise £15,000 to pay for the hydrotherapy pool, after being unsuccessful in their bid for Lottery Grant Funding.

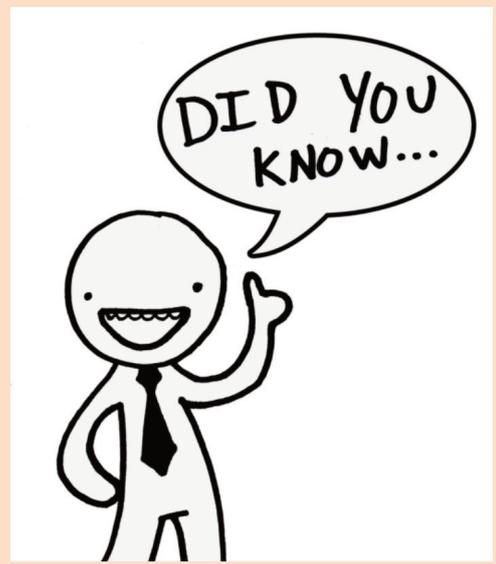
Once completed the pool will provide much needed alternative therapy and stress relief for children, young people and adults with disabilities and mental health issues. It will be made available to other community groups, families, children and schools across North East Lincolnshire.

Carole Howard, Deputy Principal at Cambridge Park Academy, said: *"The Charity Quiz night was a huge success and we were able to raise £2,000 from the evening alone thanks to the kind donations from local businesses. We are so very grateful for all of the support from Bridge McFarland and thankful to everyone who helped make the evening such a success"*.

Danielle Barney, Partner at Bridge McFarland Solicitors, said: *"We are delighted to be able to support Cambridge Park Academy with their fundraising and can't thank local businesses in Grimsby enough for helping us reach the £4,000 mark. The team that completed the National Three Peaks challenge were also able to raise £2,000"*.



Check the North East Lincolnshire Parent Participation Forum Facebook Page for details of the next event.
<https://www.facebook.com/NorthEastLincsParentParticipationForum>



Local Area SEND Inspections

...Local Area SEND Inspections are currently taking place all over the country to scrutinise all special educational need and disability (SEND) provision in each Local Authority - everything from education, to health, to social care is covered. Ofsted has teamed up with the Quality Care Commission (CQC) to complete these thorough five day inspections with only five working days' notice. North East Lincolnshire have not yet had theirs, so the reality is, the phone call could happen any day! A really important part of these inspections is PARENT CARER FEEDBACK.

Keep an eye on the NELPPF Facebook page for ways to contribute and of course when the inspection week is announced!

Big Changes at 'Best Futures' Special School

As I drove up to Best Futures SEMH (Social Emotional & Mental Health) Specialist School, I at first thought I was in the wrong place. The tranquil setting of this converted farmhouse in Aylesby was a far cry from most other settings, specialist or otherwise, that I'd driven up to before. No wrought iron gates or cold concrete driveways you normally find. Once inside (of course, there was the necessary safety locks and security measures to go in or out) the school rooms had lost little if any of their charming farmhouse feel. *"The most important thing is that the children feel safe, comfortable and at home here"* says Dawn Best, the founder and School Principal of Best Futures, a highly experienced learning disability inclusion practitioner and qualified counsellor to boot. *"If you don't get that right, how do you expect the children to learn anything?"* Dawn ploughed all her personal finances into setting up this independent not-for-profit school three years ago after being made redundant and has never looked back.

Best Futures School offers ten placements to Key Stage 1 and 2 children with complex educational, emotional and social needs and is the only kind in the area. Each pupil's package of education and support is unique to their needs but the aim is the same: to nurture the child back into full time mainstream education. I had read the prospectus before I went but still didn't feel I knew what their education looked like... however it turned out there was an excellent and refreshing reason for that – it entirely depends on the individual pupils they have at any given time. Whereas in other schools, there is a basic layout for all children which is then tweaked for a child who cannot cope, here the child is right at the centre of their education and behaviour plans. *"We work with their learning style, communication style, their interests, their SEMH needs, their sensory needs, their families, their everything really, to get the best out of them"* says Dawn as she shows me around the learning areas, the kitchen where the pupils have opportunities to cook, the garden they can tend, the library, the low sensory room, the pets they look after, the list is endless. I love being here and I bet the children do too. *"I hope so, some have decided to grow their own vegetables and are very excited about making hanging baskets this Spring to sell in the local community which also teaches them about Social Enterprise."*



Learning from and communicating with parents are high priorities with a minimum weekly face to face meeting... and parents learn a lot too. *"Our nurture mentors can collect and drop off the pupils who need it, that personal door to door service means that twice daily, the parents have an opportunity to talk to us. I know it's helped with their emotional health needs too as it rarely stops just with the child's."* But what about results? Is all this stuff actually working? Well yes. To date, 61% have made successful transitions back to mainstream and others are getting there too.

At the moment though, big changes are afoot for the children – moving the classrooms around to make more space and taking some facilities to the first floor of the building. But Dawn is unfazed by the planning ahead – *"It will be the children who decide what will go where when we get there, it's their space and the layout has got to work for them. The adults will just do the lifting!"*

If you want to know more about Best Futures, how to apply or to read the prospectus, go to www.bestfutures.co (there is no ".uk", it isn't a typo!). The school also warmly welcomes visits by appointment, so to make an appointment or for an informal chat ring the office on 01472 278978.

Written by Sarah Harrison

WHY MAKE A WILL?



Having a will is a responsible way of ensuring that your family and loved ones are protected when you die.

If you don't have a will then on death your possessions will be distributed in the standard way, as dictated by the law.

Writing a will is particularly important for people with caring responsibilities; you need to make sure that your dependents are provided for. In your will you can lay down your wishes about who will take custody of dependents in the event of your death; if you leave no instructions it will be up to the state to make the decision for you.

If you are unmarried and have children then your entire estate will likely pass to them regardless of whether or not you have a long term partner.

Making a will is the best thing for everyone involved and will ensure your loved ones are looked after per your wishes if the worst should happen.

By Jackie Johnson, Bridge McFarland (pictured)

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF



SHARON GEST

I am an Advisory Teacher and Deputy Manager of the Specialist Advisory Service of North East Lincolnshire. I have been working for the Local Authority for more than 20 years and, as Grimsby is my home town, it has been such a privilege to work within my local community, supporting our mainstream schools and children.

I lead the Key Stage Team (Yr1 to Yr11) and our job is to support mainstream schools to meet the needs of children with the most severe and complex learning difficulties, thereby enabling them to learn alongside their peers and make progress.

It would be impossible to describe a 'normal' day as my work is so varied but being in school is where I love to be; working with staff to support their best endeavours through planning, training, moderating, demonstrating, observing, advising and helping SENCOs adapt their policies and practices to align with the New Code Of Practice, the New National Curriculum and School Standards.

My role also includes contributing to Annual Reviews, Transfer Reviews and to a school's request for an EHCP. When the primary need is around Learning, I may also monitor individual children with Statements or EHCPs, if there are concerns.

And as well as this, of course, I have management duties which include responsibility for staff welfare, training and induction, organising special events such as the SENCO Forum, attending team and management meetings and so on.

So, as you can see, my work is varied and challenging and, as those of you who are familiar with me will know, it has always been my passion!

Special Educational Needs and Disability

Do you have a child with Special Educational Needs / a disability?

Do you need some help?

Are they aged 25 and under?

The law says that you can get information, advice and support.

We can help you with:

- Support at school, college or training
- Health services
- Care Needs

Phone: 01472 355365
 or email: nelincs@barnardos.org.uk
 for FREE, confidential and impartial information, advice and support.
www.barnardos.org.uk/nelsendiass

Believe in children.
 Barnardo's

Introducing 'MY PLAN'

If your child is identified as having a Special Educational Need and/or Disability (SEND), their education setting should take action to remove barriers to learning and put effective special educational provision in place. This is called 'SEN Support'. It can be accessed for children and young people with any level of need, not just those who need or have an Education Health & Care Plan (EHCP).

In North East Lincolnshire different settings have had their own way of recording the way they deliver SEN Support – you may have heard them called "Individual Education Plans", "Personal Learning Plans", "Pupil Passports", etc.

My Plan is a new universal way for all settings to record this information in a format that is jargon free and dovetails in with the Single Assessment used in North East Lincolnshire.

My Plan puts your child at the centre of SEN decision making. It records how the pupil themselves would like to be supported and what goals or outcomes they are working towards.

My Plan also records what the family, setting or other adults supporting your child may be worried about, what is working well, and what needs to happen next.

My Plan makes it easier if pupils move schools and help parents to be familiar with just one style of recording and reporting for their children.

Although this format is not compulsory for settings to use, we hope everyone finds it really useful and more importantly let us know if **My Plan** works for them.

By Clare Ward, SEN Services Manager

Peace of mind

EMERGENCY ALERT

THE HOLDER OF THIS CARD IS A REGISTERED CARER

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY PLEASE CALL CARELINK

ID No C 1234
Mrs A. Carer

Call
01472
242277

North East Lincolnshire
 NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
www.nelincs.gov.uk

NHS
North East Lincolnshire
Clinical Commissioning Group

Do you help look after a family member or friend?

Ever wondered what would happen if an emergency or crisis situation prevented you looking after that person?

The Emergency Alert Card could be for you!





LOCAL

www.nelppf.co.uk

North East Lincolnshire Parent Participation Forum (NELPPF) is one of over 150 voluntary parent-led parent forums across the UK, helping parent carers have a voice in how local services are shaped, find the information they need and meet other parents in similar situations.

www.barnardos.org.uk/nelsendiass

Find out how Barnardo's SEND Information and Advice Service (SENDIASS) can help you.

www.nelincs.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-and-local-offer

Advice, support and information about all things SEND, for your child / young person from 0-25years.

www.nelincs.gov.uk/children-and-families/family-hubs

Keep up-to-date with Family Hubs' (formerly Children's Centres) activity timetables here, including training opportunities, coffee mornings, play sessions and more. Highlights: 'Young Carers Project' Thursdays 3-5pm, Immingham Hub; 'Parents Supporting Parents' group Thursdays 12-2pm, Riverside Hub.

www.nelincs-downs-syndrome.co.uk

North East Lincolnshire Down's Syndrome Family Support Group is a voluntary parent-led charity for families living in the North East Lincolnshire area and are affiliated to the national Down's Syndrome Association.

www.lincinspire.com/enterprise/HealthandWellbeing_DisabilitySports

Keep up-to-date with Grimsby, Cleethorpes and Nunsthorpe Leisure Centre activities and services for the disabled, which includes a Sunday 2-4pm swimming session, perfect for school aged children.

www.bridgemcfarland.co.uk

For all you local legal needs from our esteemed sponsor!

NATIONAL

www.ipsea.org.uk

"Independent Parental Special Education Advice" (IPSEA) is a national charity that offers free and independent legally based information, advice and support to help get the right education for children and young people with all kinds of SEND.

www.sossen.org.uk

SOS!SEN is a national charity aiming to empower parents and carers of children with SEN to tackle successfully themselves the difficulties they face when battling for their children's rights.

www.cafamily.org.uk

Contact A Family is a national charity for families with disabled children, providing information, advice and support.

www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk/when-will-we-learn-campaign

A national campaign to stop the illegal exclusions of autistic school pupils.

If you have any useful links you think are worth sharing, or know any local SEND friendly resources, groups etc not advertised in this issue, let us know using the "Tell The Editors" contact details on the front of this newsletter.

Secondary Transfers - Checklist for Parents

Moving from primary to secondary education is a big step for any child but when your child has an additional need it can seem even more daunting. However if you plan in advance you can take some of the pressure off and feel more certain about your choice.

- Think about this as early as possible – Year 5 isn't too early to look at options;
- Check out OFSTED reports for schools as well as the school's own websites;
- You are entitled to ask to see the secondary school SENCO and discuss your child's needs before they start;
- Arrange to visit schools on Open Days to get a feel for the environment;
- Remember to involve your child as much as possible – attend any open evenings together or consider visiting at other times when your child can be with you.

It can be useful to make a grid of the important points so you can compare schools afterwards when making your choice with your son/daughter.

Questions to ask when looking around schools/provisions:

- Does the school have experience of helping children like yours?
- What support does the school usually offer to children with similar needs?
- What qualifications do the staff have at the school – are these useful to your child's circumstances?
- What other services/activities do they offer e.g. at lunchtimes / outside school hours?
- How is the school organised e.g. size of class groups?
- How does the school monitor progress?
- How often does the school send home reports / communicate with parents?
- Are parents encouraged to work in partnership with the school?
- How does the school care for pupils' welfare ('pastoral support')?
- What policies / provisions does the school have for when pupils are unhappy or misbehave?
- What is the post-16 provision like?
- How large is the school premises? Is it on multiple floors?
- Are the travel routes to and from school manageable?
- How is pupil safeguarding managed e.g. unattended or escorted leaving premises after school?

Points to look for when you visit schools:

- How are you received on arrival by staff/pupils?
- Does the school consider your visit important?
- Have arrangements been made for you to be shown around the school?
- Can you visit all areas that are important to you?
- Have all your questions been answered?
- Will this school provide the education and support your child needs?
- Did they ask about your child and their specific needs?

If your child has a Statement or an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), preparing for the Year 6 Annual Review well in advance to make a transition plan together with your child and both schools is really important.

REMEMBER: The deadline to complete the Local Authority's admissions form is 31 October of the year your child is in Y6.

If you feel you would like more information, advice or support then please contact Barnardo's SENDIASS team on 01472 355365



Shower, Wetroom, Bathroom & Kitchen Installation and Refurbishment Specialists

The range of services we provide include:

- Disability and Lifestyle Adaptations •
- Bathroom Design, Installation, Refurbishment and Adaptations •
- Kitchen Design, Installation, Refurbishment and Adaptations •
- Shower and Wet-room Installations • Wall and Floor Tiling •
- Plumbing and Heating • Electrical Work • Decorating •
- Access Adaptations (doorways, paths and ramps) •

To discuss your needs and get a free quote call us on: **01472 268 890**

For more information visit: able4u.org

Enterprise Village | Prince Albert Gardens | Grimsby | North East Lincolnshire | DN31 3AT



Disclaimer.

The information contained in this publication was correct at the time of printing, however, if you see something wrong please let us know.