

In this issue:

- Together we are stronger: survey responses
- Update from the Reps Team
- Contacting Family Voice
- Carers' Rights Day
- SEND e-Newsletter
- Home improvement programme

- Family Voice, Family Chat
- Conference 2018
- Co-production film
- Transitions from Statements to the EHCP process
- Newsletter deadlines

If there are issues you'd like to see in future newsletters, contact admin@familyvoice.org.uk or 07535 895748.

Together we are stronger: Thank you for your responses

School and college holidays are often the busiest times of the year for families. This summer, in the newsletter and by direct contact, we asked you to give us your views and experiences on a number of important topics: Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT) provision, Short Breaks, our Family Voice, Family Chat plans and your childcare needs at our 2018 Conference.

Your responses to all of these were brilliantly informative and useful. We have been able to make progress on our plans for Family Voice, Family Chat and the Conference and your anonymised responses on Short Breaks and SaLT have been aired to those who can make a difference (see Cheryl's Reps report on page 2) and have already resulted in very focussed discussion and calls for action.

You can find our full SaLT report, including your responses, on the Family Voice website, Facebook pages and <http://www.familyvoice.org.uk/index.php/news/151-salt-report>

This month, we are asking for evidence regarding **Health Short Breaks**. If you are one of the relatively small number of families that receive these, we are keen to hear your family's experience of this service, especially if the way your service needs are assessed or the kind and amount of provision you receive has changed. As always, we would like to hear about the effect the service has on your family as a whole, as well as on the child or young person receiving the Short Breaks.

We will shortly be attending a meeting with one of the service commissioners at which we can raise any issues you tell us about.



Update from the Reps Team



From Cheryl, Reps Lead

September has been a very busy month for the Family Voice Norfolk Reps team. We have attended 22 meetings with

Education, Health and Social Care partners and have also been pleased to welcome four new Reps to the team to help with our growing schedule of meetings. Three of our new Reps live in the Great Yarmouth area, allowing us better to represent parent carer voices from across the whole county.

The more Reps we have, and the wider their range of experiences, the better. No one is ever obliged to do more than they feel comfortable with and expressing an interest doesn't commit you to anything. As always, if you are interested in finding out more about Family Voice Norfolk, the Reps team and our work, we would love to hear from you. Please email admin@familyvoice.org.uk or ring 07535 895748.

The Carers Council meetings continue to prove a successful way of making connections and raising the issues being faced by parent carers of children and young people with SEND. This month, through these meetings, we have connected with a CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) Senior Community Engagement Manager and now hope to attend Community Engagement Panels throughout Norfolk to ensure SEND voices are heard in the planning and commissioning of new health services for our children and young people.

During the summer, we asked for your experiences of the recently commissioned SaLT (Speech and Language Therapy) service. We heard from over 70 parent carers and submitted a report to NHOSC (Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee) based on what you told us.

During the NHOSC hearing about SaLT services, Family Voice was given the opportunity to present highlights of our report. It was also used by committee members in questioning the Local Authority and service provider about the issues it highlighted within the service.

NHOSC recommended the establishment of a "stakeholder group", which will aim to address the concerns discussed at the meeting. The experiences of families will feed into this group through Family Voice Norfolk Reps, who aim to work together with partners to improve the service.

We invite you to continue to send us anything you would like us to raise about SaLT provision in Norfolk, so our Reps can take current information to the stakeholder group meetings. Please be assured that as far as possible we make sure your views are anonymous. Names of you and your family and any individual therapists involved are not attached to your evidence, and where we can we don't specify whether the child or young person involved is male or female. If there are any other details that you feel might be more identifying than you are comfortable with, do let us know when you send in your experiences.

Remember...

If you have news or views to share with us, you can contact our Membership manager Kate on 07950 302937 or membership@familyvoice.org.uk or



www.familyvoice.org.uk



[FamilyVoiceNorfolk](https://www.facebook.com/FamilyVoiceNorfolk)



[@familyvoicenfkc](https://twitter.com/familyvoicenfkc)



Carers' Rights Day

Each year Carers UK holds Carers' Rights Day to bring organisations across the UK together to help carers in their local community know their rights and find out how to get the help and support they are entitled to. If you are caring for someone at the moment and would like to find out more about your rights and how to get help, go to Carers UK website at <https://www.carersuk.org/news-and-campaigns/carers-rights-day>

SEND e-Newsletter

If you do not already subscribe to Norfolk's SEND e-Newsletter, you can do so easily on the Local Offer website (www.norfolk.gov.uk/send).

The newsletter is full of information about events and services in Norfolk that may be of interest to you and your family.

WellChild

This charity wants all children and young people with serious illnesses or complex care needs to be cared for at home with their families, wherever possible. WellChild Helping Hands is a home improvement programme which, with volunteers from local companies, transforms gardens and bedrooms for children and young people with exceptional health needs across the UK. They have received the maximum number of applications that can be considered at the next committee meeting but all completed applications that are received now will be held for the next closing date, which is 20th January 2018. To apply, go to <https://www.wellchild.org.uk/supporting-you/garden-bedroom-makeovers/how-to-apply/>

Family Voice, Family Chat

Our plans for these new get-togethers at which parent carers can meet, talk and gain useful information about subjects of interest will be beginning after half term. Look out for news by email, mail, or on the website or Facebook about events in your area.



Conference stalls and speakers

We are busy planning the speakers, stalls and workshops that will feature in our 2018 Conference. Each year we ask you to fill in a feedback form after the Conference to see what you found valuable and what else you would like to see and hear. If since then you have come across service providers that you think should have a stall or have a particular interest in a topic that you would like to learn more about in a workshop, please let us know. The Conference is for **you**, and we want the content to be as relevant as possible.

There are lots of ways you can let us know (frequently mentioned in this newsletter!) by email or phone to Bernadette, via the website or via Facebook. Each year the Conference gets bigger and better. 2018 should be the best yet.



Co-production film

Earlier this summer we reported that we celebrated National Co-production Week (3–7 July 2017) by making a short film about co-production in Norfolk – and, of course, co-producing it. The idea came from the Local Offer Manager and was enthusiastically welcomed by Family Voice Norfolk, as the parent carer forum for our region. Jacob Furniss, who directed, filmed and edited the film, is himself a young man with special educational needs. With an officer from the Local Offer as his sound man, he filmed a wide variety of events demonstrating Norfolk's commitment to co-production. Family Voice Norfolk with the Local Authority and Health colleagues are seen working together to improve services for children and young people with SEND, while the voices of young people themselves focus on the issues that most concern them. The film was fun to make and stands as a continuing pledge of Norfolk's commitment to co-production. It can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Dpql9xNknc&feature=youtu.be>



Transitions from Statements to the EHCP system



The new Minister of State for Children and Families, Robert Goodwill, featured in our last newsletter, has written to all Directors of Children's

Services about the 31 March 2018 deadline for the transfer reviews for children and young people with Statements of Special Educational Needs. This is the deadline by which local authorities should have reviewed all Statements and transferred them to the EHCP assessment process where appropriate. In the letter, the Minister says:

- It is important that all local authorities meet this deadline, and achieve it in a way that ensures good quality assessments are undertaken and high quality plans are in place. It is vital that families have a good experience of the new Education,

Health and Care needs assessment process and that this leads to clear outcomes and appropriate support to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND.

- It is also important to note that any statement of SEN for which a transfer review has not been completed by 31 March 2018 will continue to remain in force from 1 April 2018, until a transfer review has been completed and a decision is made about future provision. This ensures that children and young people who have statements, for which a review has not been completed by 31 March 2018, do not lose support. For these children and young people, local authorities will remain responsible for ensuring that provision in their statements is met.

Newsletter deadlines

The next newsletter will appear at the end of October. If there are issues that you would like to see covered, please contact Bernadette at admin@familyvoice.org.uk or leave a message on 07535 895748 before 24 October 2017.

