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



Family Voice Conference 2018

It was busier than ever and we received very positive comments. We hope that all of you who attended filled in feedback forms so that we can make sure next year's Conference is even better. If you didn't, it's not too late to tell us what you thought. Contact Kate on 07950 302937 or email her at membership@familyvoice.org.uk

There were lots of highlights and some things we already hope to improve next year. A full report will be available shortly but first impressions are:

✓ **You liked** the workshops, the variety of stands, speed-dating, the refreshments, the venue, the chance to talk to providers and decision-makers.

✗ **You didn't like** the background noise during workshops in the Link area. Our aim was to be able to supply more workshops, which are always popular, and we have used the Link for this before successfully, but the combination of stands and workshops in that area didn't work well. Unfortunately, another area that we could have used had been damaged by the snow and was out of bounds. We will come up with a solution for next year.

And speaking of next year, it's never too early to put this date in your diary:

Family Voice Conference 16 March 2019



You are warmly invited to...

Family Voice Norfolk AGM

on Tuesday, 15 May 2018

at Ayton House, Ayton Road, Wymondham NR18 0QQ

There will be light refreshments from 6.00pm to 6.30pm,
when the meeting will begin.

If you would like to come, contact Bernadette on
07535 895748 or admin@familyvoice.org.uk

Elusive emails...

Recently, a number of members have told us that they haven't received emails that we have definitely sent. They haven't bounced back to us, so the addresses were probably fine.

We wonder if they are disappearing into trash or junk files, never to be seen again.

To make sure this doesn't happen (and if it happened to this newsletter, you won't be reading this, so we might be pleading in vain),

please do put admin@familyvoice.org.uk and membership@familyvoice.org.uk into your email address book or safe senders list or look at your preferences to see if emails are being deleted before you get to them (easily done with the number of emails most of us receive these days) or are not turning up in your inbox for some other reason.

We'll happily send you a test email if it helps.

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.

Remember...

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

 www.familyvoice.org.uk

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

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





Are you the parent of a child or young person with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)?

**Do you want to find out about
PREPARING FOR ADULthood?**

Join us for coffee at one of our information and feedback sessions to talk about **TRANSITION** and what it means for your family.

We've invited Frank Crowdy, Transition Lead for Norfolk County Council, to tell you about the **NEW TRANSITION SERVICE**.

- Ask questions about what transition could mean in your family.
- Find out who can help and advise you.
- Share ideas with other parent carers.
- Make sure NCC knows what most concerns families like yours.



Tuesday 5 June 2018
10.30am – 12.30pm
Ayton House, 11–17 Ayton Road,
Wymondham, NR18 0QQ

Tuesday 19 June 2018
10.30am – 12.30pm
Community Room, South Lynn Community
Centre, 10 St Michael's Road,
King's Lynn, PE30 5HE

Thursday 21 June 2018
10.30am – 12.30pm
Charles Burrell Centre, Staniforth Road,
Thetford, IP24 3LH

Thursday 28 June 2018
10.30am – 12.30pm
Atrium, Spenser Avenue,
North Walsham, NR28 9HZ

If you can come, please email us at events@familyvoice.org.uk or call/text on 07535 895748.

Family Voice Norfolk newsletter deadlines

The next newsletter will appear at the end of April. If there are issues that you would like to see covered, please email admin@familyvoice.org.uk or leave a message on 07535 895748 before 24 April 2018.

DIARY DATES

Further details in this newsletter.

15 April 2018
NCC SEND
sufficiency
consultation
ends

21 April 2018
NDCS Expert
Parent
Programme
Wymondham

24 April 2018
Family Voice
Norfolk
newsletter
deadline

15 May 2018
Family Voice
Norfolk AGM
Wymondham

5 June 2018
Family Voice,
Family Chat
Wymondham

19 June 2018
Family Voice,
Family Chat
King's Lynn

21 June 2018
Family Voice,
Family Chat
Thetford

28 June 2018
Family Voice,
Family Chat
North Walsham

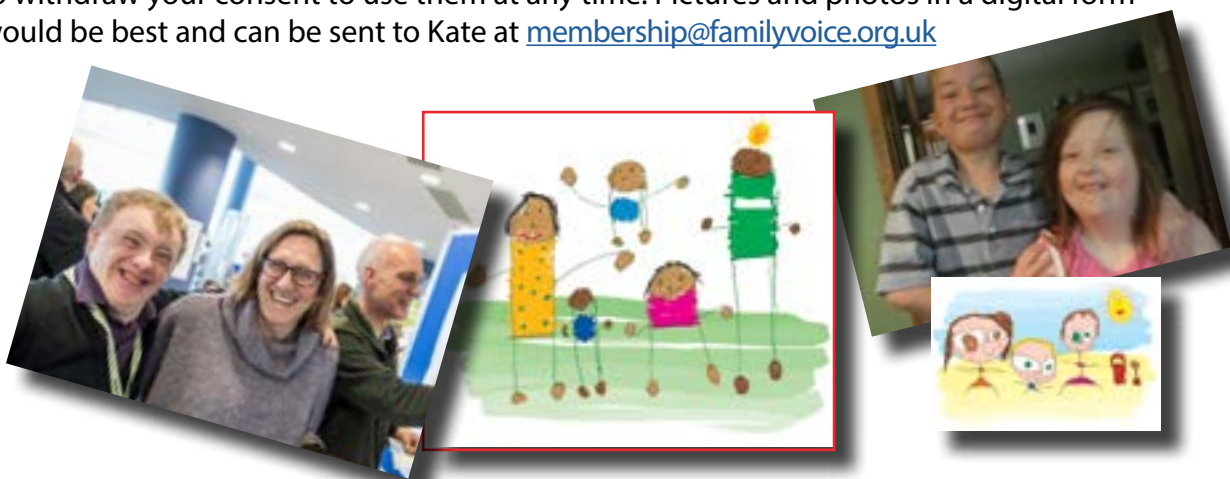
16 March 2019
Family Voice
Conference



Website underway...

Our new website, which we announced in December 2017, is well underway and will soon be ready for testing. We are looking for happy, smiling faces to make the website even more gorgeous. We could source these from an agency but would much rather show real Norfolk families. These could be either family photos or colourful works of art from children and young people, especially showing families and what they love to do together. After all, the needs of families are what Family Voice Norfolk is all about.

We would be very clear about how we would use the photos/pictures and you would be able to withdraw your consent to use them at any time. Pictures and photos in a digital form would be best and can be sent to Kate at membership@familyvoice.org.uk



Do you want to know more about your child's rights?

Knowing your child's rights – Expert Parent Programme

21 April 2018
Ayton House, Ayton Road,
Wymondham NR18 0QQ

This event for parents and carers with deaf children aged 0-18 years is an opportunity to learn about how to get the right support from health, education and other services.

- Meet other parents
- Find out about support
- Learn about your child's rights

Book your place today:

Email: wendy.gallagher@ndcs.org.uk

Phone: 028 9332 4010 / 07968 143165

National Deaf Children's Society, registered charity in England and Wales (1016532) and in Scotland (SC040779). Registered address: Ground Floor South, Castle House, 37-45 Paul Street, London EC2A 4LS.



FAQs



How much does it cost?
The event is free, booking is essential

Will refreshments be provided?
Lunch and refreshments will be provided free of charge

Can I bring my children?
This is an event for parents and carers only. There will be no childcare at this event. If you do require any help or support with this in order to attend an event please contact our event's organisers who will be happy to discuss this with you.

I need an interpreter. Do you provide one?
Communication and language support is available upon request. This would include British Sign Language and other language interpreters.

Is this event for me?
Yes! If you have a deaf child/young person aged 0-18 years and would like learn more about your child's rights and how to support them.

www.ndcs.org.uk/link

NATIONAL DEAF CHILDREN'S SOCIETY, REGISTERED CHARITY IN England and Wales (1016532) and in Scotland (SC040779). Registered address: Ground Floor South, Castle House, 37-45 Paul Street, London EC2A 4LS.



Travel training for ages 11–16

A new independent travel training scheme has started in Norfolk. It is aimed at young people who are in school years 7–11, who are currently using specialised home-to-school transport.

The scheme offers a daily home-to-school training journey over a number of weeks. It uses skilled travel trainers, supporting and teaching young people how to complete their journey safely and enjoyably. Each young person is matched with a trainer who will support them throughout their training, building skill and confidence so that the young person can make a diverse range of journeys in the future.

If you would like your child to learn to travel independently, find out more from Karl Chapman, Independent Travel Manager, (karlchapman@hctgroup.org or 01603 222707).

SEND sufficiency consultation

The local authority has a responsibility to ensure that there are enough good school places for all pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). The government has set aside £215 million of capital funding nationally for children with Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans to:

- Create new (additional) places at good or outstanding provision
- Improve facilities or develop new facilities.

Norfolk's allocation is £2.7 million split over the next three years.

The local authority would like your views on how this funding should be prioritised. On the Local Offer home page (www.norfolk.gov.uk/send), there is a button for a SEND sufficiency consultation. This is a very short survey that will be open until 15 April 2018.

INTU Chapelfield opens Changing Place Facility

Amazing news for all those families who have children or adults with complex health needs in or visiting Norwich!

A new state-of-the-art Changing Place Facility, which is situated on the dining terrace, was officially opened by Sheridan Smith (Marketing Manager), Jo Bates (Operations Manger) and 8-year-old Gabriel Karimi-Ghovanlou on 7 March 2018, along with other local families who would use the facility, and Family Voice rep Caroline. Gabriel is her grandson.

The new facility includes a height-adjustable changing bench and a ceiling-mounted hoist. In addition, the 12-metre-square room, which has been fitted to the Changing Places Gold Standard, has a fully automatic, height adjustable wash basin and mirror, a privacy screen and a non-slip floor. Access is via a Radar Key.

The Chapelfield team have been working with the Changing Places Consortium for more than 18 months to secure the right location and the £50,000 investment. They are delighted that it's now ready for their customers to use.



Local Offer for children and young people



Kate writes: the new Local Offer for children and young people website was launched at this year's Family Voice Norfolk Conference. Claire Jones and Wayne Doman from the Local Offer have been busily working on this with many different groups of children and young people in Norfolk, to find out what they wanted information about and how they

wanted to access it. The result is an easy-to-navigate, colourful website.

This part of the Local Offer is aimed at children and young people between the ages of 10 and 25 years. Please explore and share it with your children and young people. You can find it at www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-local-offer/local-offer-for-children-and-young-people

Local Offer for children and young people

Welcome to the area of the SEND Local Offer which is for young people age 10-25



Get to know me →



My health →



My education →



My job →



My money →



My rights and the law →



My free time →



My home →



Wishing all our readers a happy and peaceful Easter break