



**SPECIAL NEEDS ACTION PANEL**  
CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

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## NEWSLETTER, Spring 2017

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A parent participation Forum creating opportunities for parent carers to work with service providers to improve the delivery of Social Care, Education and Health Services

### What is Happening Locally?

#### **Short Breaks**

SNAP have continued to work with the Local Authority (LA) around the review of their short breaks service. The local charities who may be affected by this review are Autism Bedfordshire, Families United Network, Bedford District Cerebral Palsy Society and Special Needs Out Of School Club. The LA is consulting on proposed changes and has produced a survey which closes on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2017. We encourage you to complete this: <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/council/consultations/short-breaks-disabilities/short-breaks.aspx>

It is vital if you use these services you have your say. SNAP will be holding a Short Breaks Focus Meeting to give you an overview of the proposed changes and will have paper copies of the LA survey for you to complete. We will also have our own short survey which picks up on some of the issues we feel are important to families and need considering as part of the review. As your local parent carer forum this a clear pathway in which you can have a voice in this review. Details of the Focus meeting can be found on page two of this newsletter, we hope you can make it.

#### **Leisure Centres**

SNAP received feedback from parent carers who require a carer to support their child or young person during leisure activities, they were finding it difficult to know when and where they were able to have a carer attend a leisure centre within Central Bedfordshire without having to pay. We approached the Local Authority about the inconsistencies and they have listened to our concerns. SNAP has co-produced a carers policy which all leisure centres within Central Bedfordshire have signed up to which can be found on the Local Offer

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The Local Authority also run a 'no limits' activity club for children with disabilities. We have been able to feedback to the Local Authority concerns of parent carers who are unsure when it is appropriate to leave their child or when they should stay at a 'no limits' session. The Active Lifestyles Manger has confirmed: *'In terms of the no limits classes, unless there is a 1:1 need, Parents are free to wait in the café etc. The specific need if they need to stay should get picked up on the first session as part of the registration process which parent/carers can check directly with the instructor.'* We hope this enables more families to access the classes.

**The Special Needs Action Panel (SNAP)** will become a Community Interest Company on the 1<sup>st</sup> April and will be known as SNAP PCF, we felt it was important to show the letters PCF (Parent Carer Forum) to create a stronger identity for the forum. We are currently designing a new website and leaflets. We will also be running more events to support parent carers to participate in local issues. We are always looking for new members, please see below how to join (it's free). We are currently looking for Parent Representatives to join us as paid volunteers, we particularly need reps with experience of dealing with health and those who are moving into adulthood. Please contact [Kirsty@snappcf.org.uk](mailto:Kirsty@snappcf.org.uk) if you wish to find out more about becoming a Parent Rep for SNAP PCF.

# SNAP PCF upcoming events:

- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February – **Short Breaks Focus Meeting**, 10am – 11.30 am Parkside Hall, Woburn Street, Ampthill, MK45 2HX
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February – **Education Health & Care Plan (EHCP) Workshop** 10.00 – 12.00, Henlow Park Pavilion, Groveside, Henlow, SG16 6AP
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March – **Expert Parenting Course** 9.30 am – 2.30 pm (a light lunch is included) Astral Park Sports and Community Centre, Johnson Drive, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 4QR
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March – **Speech & Language Therapy ‘top tips’ Workshop.**  
Come and meet a Speech and Language Therapist and a Augmentative and Communication Therapist who will be attending to give top tips to parent carers, this is also an opportunity to find out more about how SEPT run this service.  
10am -12pm Astral Park Sports and Community Centre, Johnson Dr, Leighton Buzzard LU7 4QR

For further information or to book any of these free events, please see below how to contact SNAP or visit our Facebook to see the flyers advertising these events.

## What is SNAP?

SNAP is a pro-active group of parents who all have children or young people with additional needs or disabilities. We have come together as a group of parent carers to work with other individuals and organisations to help influence and improve the local services that are provided for our children and young people within Central Bedfordshire.

We focus on helping to raise the standard of social care, education and health services within the county, to ensure that these services are provided in a way that meets the needs of all disabled children and their families in the county.

As parents of disabled children and young people, we bring a real-life perspective and experience to the planning and development of the services that our families use. We constructively challenge decisions that are taken by our local council and health authority about the future planning of services; we work in partnership with our local council and health authorities to make decisions about services they deliver.

## How to contact SNAP

Our Participation Manager, Kirsty Green, can be contacted either by email [Kirsty@snappcf.org.uk](mailto:Kirsty@snappcf.org.uk) or call 07805 002163

For administrative or membership queries, please email [admin@snappcf.org.uk](mailto:admin@snappcf.org.uk) or call 07984 545044

Please follow us by liking our Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/SNAPCentralBedfordshireParentCarerForum/>

Website: [www.snappcf.org.uk](http://www.snappcf.org.uk) (new website currently under construction)

Watch our video:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R2UkrMq5Lpc&feature=youtu.be>

## The Local Offer

SNAP has worked with the Local Authority to co-produce the Local Offer - the aim of this website is to offer parent carers a ‘one stop shop’ to find information about services you may need if you have a child or young person with SEND. You can find the Local offer here:

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/children/sen-disability/landing.aspx>