

# ESSEX FAMILY FORUM NEWSLETTER



Welcome to our termly newsletter, bringing you SEND news from across Essex



## *FOCUS ON:* THE NEURODEVELOPMENT PACK

Essex Family Forum has co-produced a Neurodevelopment Family Resource Pack along with two local charities - SEND the Right Message and Takiwatanga. Written by parents who have experienced the challenges themselves, they have shared their own

experiences, hints, tips and best practices, along with those from families, children and young people from across Essex. The pack provides information about:

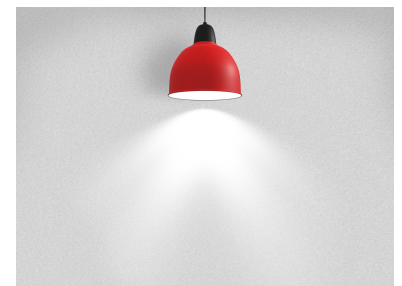
- **Neurodiverse conditions**
- **Diagnosis**
- **Education**
- **Health and Wellbeing – including: Speech and Communication, Sensory Processing Disorder and therapy, tips on exercise and diet, toileting**
- **Growing up**
- **Financial Help – e.g. how to apply for Disability Living Allowance**
- **Information for family and friends**
- **Useful reading list**
- **Lots of personal experiences, quotes and tips from families and young people**
- **Age appropriate information**
- **Myth Busting**

The pack is available to download or you can request a hard copy by [clicking here](#). Professionals wishing to purchase a copy can also do so by following the link.

## SPOTLIGHT ON SUPPORT GROUPS - DREAM THE CHANGE CIC

Dream The Change is a Community Interest Company in North East Essex which represents families who have children with

special educational needs and disabilities, from diverse backgrounds, especially from Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups. They organise social activities, days out, parent seminars, training days and workshops. [Click here](#) to find out more.



# OUR FAMILY IMPACT SURVEY IS LIVE!

Our second Family Impact Survey is live! Through this we want to measure the current levels of parental satisfaction with local services for SEND Families and to compare with the data collected within our survey that was conducted in October 2020. We want to find out what has improved for families and where the impact of improvement work has yet to be

felt by families. Please tell us what life is like for your SEND family. We want to know about everything from SEN Support and Education Health & Care Plans to Therapies and Assessments. [Click here](#) to find out more details and to take the survey now! Examples of some of the support and information that families told us they wanted that are now in place as a result of our findings from the previous survey include:



- Supporting your Neurodiverse Child resource pack – [Click here to view](#)
- ECC SEND Navigators
- SEND Roadshows (giving parent/carers opportunities to meet with representatives from Education, Social Care and Health.) - [Click here for details](#)

Don't miss this opportunity to share your feedback and experiences, the survey closes on Friday 4th March 2022. And don't forget you can always share your feedback/experiences via our graffiti wall by [clicking here](#)!



National Network of Parent Carer Forums  
'Our Strength is our Shared Experience'

## LATEST NEWS FROM A NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL

Jo and Julia (our Strategic Development Co-ordinators) have been selected to be part of a team conducting a Peer Review of Hertfordshire CC SEND services. With the OFSTED/CQC SEND Reinspection of our local area expected in the coming months, this opportunity will give our two experienced co-ordinators a valuable insight into how evaluations of SEND services are conducted by outside agencies.

**What happens?** - A Peer Challenge is not a "Mocksted" it is different in its intention and

*...continued on next page.*

execution, but it is an opportunity for key strategic stakeholders in the local area to reflect on the progress they have made in establishing the SEND reforms and most importantly to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND. The local area (Hertfordshire) identifies lines of enquiry for the peer challenge team to investigate, based upon the outstanding issues of concern highlighted through monitoring visits with DfE SEND Regional Adviser and NHSE SEND area lead (following their OFSTED/CQC SEND Inspection) .

### **Who's on the team?**

- Parent & Carer forum representative(s) – in this case, Jo and Julia!
- A local authority education officer
- A local authority social care officer
- A Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) officer and/or health provider representative (usually in role of Designated Clinical Officer - DCO)
- A young reviewer from a regional pool who are experts by experience and trained by the Council for Disabled Children (CDC).



## ESSEX SEND ROADSHOW

New dates in each quadrant have been released for the very popular and informative SEND Roadshows. These provide families with a chance to come along and ask questions about special educational needs and disabilities. Families will be able to find out information about services and help available across Health, Education and Social Care for

children and young people with SEND. You can attend any event in your quadrant, no need to book just turn up. We hope to see you there, please come over and say hello!

### **West:**

- RA Butler Infant & Junior (Saffron Walden) - Wednesday 16th March, 09:00 - 11:00
- Harlow Playhouse (Harlow) - Wednesday 23rd March, 09:00 - 11:00

### **North East:**

- Alton Park Junior (Clacton) - Friday 18th March, 09:00 - 11:00
- Chase Lane Primary & Nursery (Harwich) - Friday 25th March, 09:00 - 11:00

### **South:**

- Winter Garden Academy (Canvey Island) - Monday 28th March, 09:00 - 11:00
- The MegaCentre Rayleigh - Thursday 31st March, 09:00 - 11:00

### **Mid:**

- John Ray Juniors (Braintree) - Tuesday 22nd March, 09:00 - 11:00
- Ormiston Rivers (Burnham on Crouch) - Wednesday 30th March, 09:00 - 11:00

**Follow us on facebook, @essexfamilyforum for the latest news and events!**