

## **The Parent Carer Council (PaCC) Bulletin, Autumn 2011**

### **Are You Happy With Communication?**

How well do practitioners communicate and consult with your child or young person? At the council's recent 'Consultation And Communication' group, which includes parents from the PaCC steering group, we discussed the introduction of symbol based leaflets at Seaside View as an example of good practice. We would like to hear your stories, good and bad, and also how you feel communication and consultation is going with **you** as a **parent carer**.

Please email Gillian at [gekitch@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:gekitch@tiscali.co.uk) with your comments

### **Watch Out For... The New Hospital 'Passport'**

The council's 'Therapies' group is discussing the introduction of a 'hospital passport', a system that is already used with adults who have additional needs. Put simply, it means that when you go to hospital with your young person you will carry with you a 'summary' of your child's method of communication, difficulties, medication and past medical history. This means that doctors will have an instant 'at a glance' insight into your young person. What do you think? What would you want to see in it? Tell us at [pacc@amazingbrighton.org.uk](mailto:pacc@amazingbrighton.org.uk)

### **Training Opportunities**

As part of the council's 'therapy review', the issue of training for parents came up. Where do you feel you have gaps in your knowledge? What kind of (council funded) training would you like to receive? One example of training that has been funded by the council is Makaton signing courses.

Please contact [debbie@amazingbrighton.org.uk](mailto:debbie@amazingbrighton.org.uk) with your training ideas...

### **The PaCC Awards Return! Nominate now...**

Our highly regarded awards, which celebrate the passion and professionalism of those working with our young people, return this year in a slightly different format. For each of the following sectors- **HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE, EDUCATION AND THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR**- we would like parents to vote for their 'Champion' of the year. You can nominate your chosen champion on the form in the forthcoming Amaze newsletter or online on the Amaze website ([www.amazingbrighton.org.uk](http://www.amazingbrighton.org.uk)). Nominations close on **November 8<sup>th</sup>** and parents will then be able to vote either at the Amaze event in November or online. Winners will be announced in early December.

### **£362 million – How Would YOU Would Spend It?**

Brighton & Hove City Council's Green administration is keen to hear how residents would spend the council's money if they held the purse strings and how they would divide up the budget for 2012/13. They've developed a budget simulator which asks you to make choices about services you might like to invest more money in (services for disabled children for example) and where you would make cuts to balance the budget.

Politicians say they'll use the findings when they're setting the budget for 2012/13. Go to <http://www.budgetsimulator.com/brightonandhove> and have your say on how local money should be spent!

### **Local Drive To Reduce Child Poverty**

The council is also looking at how to reduce child poverty across the city and is keen to garner the views of as wide a range of people and services as possible. We know that children with special needs are more likely to live in poverty and this is a vital consultation for PaCC members. Follow this link to the short online consultation <http://consult.brighton-hove.gov.uk/portal/bhcc/earlyyears/cpstrategy>. If you would like a set of more informal questions to start conversations with older children and young people please contact Sarah Colombo on [sarah.colombo@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.colombo@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

### **Essential Dates For Your Diaries...**

#### **The Amaze Health And Wellbeing Fair, Hove Town Hall, 9.30 to 1.30, November 10<sup>th</sup>**

This year's fair sees more than 40 stalls and displays, plus workshops, a PaCC discussion session and the Amaze AGM. There should be something for you whether your child is a toddler or a teenager, and whatever their additional needs. The event provides a unique opportunity to talk to local health professionals and pick up ideas and information to look after your child's health and wellbeing, and your own too.

As well as this, the PaCC is running a focus group from 12.15 to 1pm where you can share good and bad experiences of communicating with health services. Call the Amaze helpline on 01273 772289 if you would like to take part.

Amaze will hold its AGM from 1.30pm to report on the year's work and to appoint new trustees. You're welcome to stay, but again you'll need to book on 01273 772 289...

**Partnership Charter Launch November 22<sup>nd</sup> 10 to 12pm at TheBrighthelm Centre**

You are all invited to attend the official launch of the Brighton and Hove Partnership Charter. This is a very exciting piece of groundbreaking work that promises minimum standards for disabled children and their families in Brighton and Hove. Trained parent carers, working in pairs, will periodically visit service providers to assess how well the organisation is working to the standards set out in the Charter. Find out more about this charter by coming to the launch or read about it on the Amaze website [www.amazebrighton.org.uk](http://www.amazebrighton.org.uk)

**The Parent Carer Council Health Event February 8<sup>th</sup> 2012 9.30 to 11 (Lunch Provided)**

What do you think of our local health provision? Come to our very special health event early next year. This is your opportunity to get your views heard by key practitioners and managers in Brighton and Hove.

**Make sure it is in your diary... more details to follow in the next bulletin**