

## Parent Carers Edition 1



Irwin Mitchell is proud to sponsor the Doncaster Carers Newsletter

### **CARERS CENTRE SERVICES**

#### **Enquiry line**

Monday /Thursday 9.30 – 1.00  
first contact providing advice and information

#### **One to One Appointments**

Available 9.30 - 1.00 Monday  
Thursday providing emotional and practical support

#### **Advocacy Service**

AVAILABLE TO ALL CARERS  
Support to access services, attend meeting etc: is flexible to accommodate individual carer needs

#### **Carers Telephone Befriending Service**

AVAILABLE TO ALL CARERS  
The service provides a friendly voice at the end of the phone on a regular basis, one to one appointments at the Centre can be arranged if needed. Is flexible to suit carer needs (evening calls by arrangement)

#### **Open House**

Wednesdays between 10.00 - 2.30 the Centre opens up for all Carers to meet up and socialise with other carers. Members of Open House arrange regular social outings and trips.

## *Doncaster Parents' Voice*

Doncaster Parents Voice (DPV) is the Parent Participation forum for parents, carers and families of children and young people 0-25yrs with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

The Steering Group is made up of parents/carers of children with SEND who work in partnership with the Local Authority, Education, Health services and other providers to ensure the services they plan and deliver really meet the needs of disabled children and their families. DPV is an opportunity for you to share information, raise issues, be involved in and consulted on the development of services. We are keen to engage with as many parents as possible. Membership is free and we have different levels of involvement from joining the mailing list to volunteering with the forum.

Members of the steering group are involved in decision making regarding services, we sit on various boards including; The SEND Partnership Board, Information and Communication Steering Group, Education, Health and Care Plans Steering Group and ADHD Pathway Steering Group

### **EHC Project**

The EHC project will work with schools, parent carer groups and individual parent carers to raise awareness of and provide information on the new EHC plans which come into force from Sept 2014 (see over for more information).

### **Information Pack**

An Information Pack will be available for parent carers from the Carers Centre very shortly.

To order your copy or to book a meeting with the EHC worker contact the Carers Centre



## **Parent Carer Social club**

Every THIRD Tuesday Parents of children with a disability / additional needs meet up at the Centre for a chat and a cuppa. New friendships are made with peoples who understand the difficulties a parent of a child with additional needs face.

Members of the Parent Carer Forum (DPVoice) regularly attend the group along with reps from other organisations working with children and young people such as the Aiming High team, Healthwatch, Autism team (children's) and EHC project worker.

### **Dates of Meetings**

16<sup>th</sup> Sept 14

21<sup>st</sup> Oct 14

25<sup>th</sup> Nov

### **Times**

10.00 – 12.00

**Doncaster Carers Centre  
2 Regent Terrace  
Doncaster  
DN1 2EE**

**Tel: 01302 637566**

**Email:  
dpfc@doncastercarers.  
org.uk**

## **Two new acts are being introduced over the coming months - The Children and Families Act and The Care Act**

### **The Children and Families Act**

This comes into force in September 2014 is changing the way in which children and young people with Special Educational Needs and disabilities are supported at school and in the community.

Education, Health and Care Plans will replace Statements of Special Educational Needs and Learning Disability Assessments (LDAs). Over the next few years, children with an existing statement will be transferred to an Education, Health and Care Plan. There will be agreed procedures for this and parents / carers and young people will have a say in these. Existing rights, for example rights of appeal, will continue during the transfer.

Education, Health and Care Plans can continue to support young people up to the age of 25 if the local authority considers that the young person needs more time to complete their education or training. SEN support will replace School Action and School Action Plus. Schools will still be required to identify children who need additional support, involve parent carers and children and young people in planning how to meet these needs and call on specialists from outside the school when they need to.

From September 2014 every local authority will need to have a "local offer" which informs parent carers and young people what is provided in their local area, including what to expect from local early years providers, schools, colleges, health and social care. It will include information on how decisions are made about how services are allocated, how to request a personal budget, how to access more specialist support and how to complain or appeal. Local authorities must involve parent carers, children and young people in developing their local offer.

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### **The Care Act**

The Care Act is the biggest change in social care legislation in England since the formation of the NHS nearly 70 years ago, with wide-reaching implications for carers and carers' services. The majority of the Care Act will come into force in April 2015, with the remainder in April 2016. So what do you as a carer stand to gain from this new law?

During its passage through Parliament more than 100 amendments were proposed following the Joint Committee's scrutiny and recommendations from both the Dilnot Report and the Francis Report. The Act strengthens the rights and recognition of carers in the social care system including, for the first time, giving carers a clear entitlement to receive services. In the current system local authorities weren't required by law to provide support to carers. Now if a carer is eligible for support for particular needs, they will have a legal right to receive support for those needs, just like the people they care for. It will also put a limit on the amount anyone will have to pay towards the costs of their care.

***These are by far the strongest rights for carers yet. We wait to see how this will translate into better provision when the law comes into force***