



Newsletter

For parents, carers and families
of children and young people with
special needs and/or disabilities
in North East Lincolnshire

ISSUE 7

AUTUMN / WINTER 2017

FREE



Family Fund

Helping disabled children

WELCOME

We are very pleased to still be here with our 7th SEND Newsletter! Our continuing goals are to **keep** you up to date with changes that are happening locally, to **make** you feel engaged and involved in your SEND community and to **ensure** you know you are not alone!

This newsletter is made voluntarily by parent carers for parent carers with a little help from local sponsors so please please do feel free to "Tell The Editors" (see contacts below) if there's anything you want to see covered in future editions, if you have any comments about anything you've read, or if you would like to receive an electronic copy via email.

We hope you enjoy this Autumn/Winter edition – any questions, feedback or updates will be very gratefully received!

Happy Reading from The Editorial Team

"Tell The Editors"

- Text/call: 07583 474892
- Email: nelppf@gmail.com
- www.facebook.com/NorthEastLincsParentParticipationForum/
- Tweet @nelppf

FAMILY FUND - Helping Disabled Children

Family Fund is the UK's largest charity providing grants to families raising disabled or seriously ill children aged 17 and under. Our grants for family breaks, sensory equipment, clothing, white goods and much more help to break down the additional barriers that families face, and ease some of the daily pressures.

Ten year old Thomas has been diagnosed with autism and ADHD. His mum, Caroline said, "It's a 24/7 job trying to keep him on path and keep him engaged!" Recently, Family Fund awarded Thomas with a grant for a new computer. "Thomas loves design and animation, but my laptop just wasn't up to the job. We used our grant to buy him his own computer with a graphics card so he can design to his heart's content, and he can also use it to help with school work."

Not only has having the new computer given Thomas the freedom to practice his animation skills, but it's also given him a sense of independence. "No one's allowed to touch his computer – it's his and his only! It's great, because it means he's got something all to himself, and he doesn't have to share. He has total control over it, it's like his own little world. We've also received brilliant technical support, I'm not great with technology but they've been so helpful. The new computer has really had an amazing effect on our lives, we're truly grateful!"

Family Fund's support is not only financial - our sleep hub, tiredout.org.uk, brings together advice and resources to help families get a good night's sleep, while our Digital Inclusion programme allows families to get the most out of their digital devices through individual or group training sessions.

To find out more, including how to apply, please visit www.familyfund.org.uk You can also find us on Facebook ([facebook.com/FamilyFund](https://www.facebook.com/FamilyFund/)), Twitter (@FamilyFund) and Instagram



Law firm calls for action over staffing levels to protect patients

A leading law firm who promote justice for people affected by medical accidents and the development of better patient safety calls on health bosses to act urgently to improve staffing levels and safeguard services.



**Bridge
McFarland
Solicitors**

Experts at Bridge McFarland say proposals to transfer key services between Scunthorpe General Hospital and the Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital in Grimsby may result in patients waiting longer for appointments with the consequent risk to treatment plans.

Chris Green, a Senior Solicitor and experienced medical negligence lawyer, said Bridge McFarland is working in conjunction with local and national advocacy groups such as NELPPF to support the local NHS, GPs and other health professionals in making the case for better healthcare.

Samantha Jones, a former nurse who is now a Legal Assistant in Bridge McFarland's medical negligence department, said that the Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust (NLaG), must act to recruit more staff and prevent "the downgrading of Grimsby hospital by stealth".

NLaG has outlined plans to reconfigure some of its services, with urology treatment to be based at Scunthorpe and ear, nose and throat (ENT) only available at Grimsby. Both hospitals would continue to offer out-patient services, but Samantha said patients will have to travel further if they need surgery or other specialist treatment. "Basically the services will be halved.

If there are plans to enhance it in any way, the Trust isn't telling anyone. They have already admitted there is a shortage of staff so I don't think there is going to be an improvement in the quality of care.

"One of the main issues that patients will face is transport. There will be increased demand for patient transport and that will make it more difficult for people to access services. Patients are likely to face longer waiting times and it may take longer for them to receive a diagnosis. There will also be a lack of continuity of treatment for someone who is an out-patient at one site and then has to visit another for surgery as they will have a different team. The infrastructure as a whole is there but the problem is that the Trust doesn't have enough staff. What measures are being taken to secure more staff? Is there any concerted recruitment drive? I am genuinely concerned for our town, the public and those employed within the NHS and that we may be seeing the slow downgrading of Grimsby Hospital".

Bridge McFarland has represented a number of clients with claims arising from conditions which have become more serious because of a mismanagement of their condition. Chris says "We are keen to support local health professional and lobby groups by making a case for better healthcare. Part of what we do is about encouraging better standards of healthcare and trying to ensure that mistakes are not repeated. As a firm we are keen to support people who are seriously affected by medical accidents with a view to upholding the level of service that people need in this category of case. Part of that process is helping to raise standards of healthcare where there are identified failings.

"We know from experience that where there are shortcomings in the provision of healthcare it can often mean poorer patient care which can result in health problems deteriorating and becoming much more serious. Where, for example, there is a delay in getting an appointment, that can result in a delay in diagnosis and therefore treatment options can be adversely affected. That situation can only be exacerbated by service cuts like this."



Workshops for Parents

DLA and Benefits Workshop run by Cerebra

What? Learn about the issues and problem areas around claiming DLA, how to complete the form effectively and ensure getting the correct rate of benefit. A light lunch will be provided.

When? Tuesday 31st October, 10am – 2pm

Where? Business Enterprise Centre, Grimsby DN31 3AT (bus 10 stops by The Range, then 2min walk down Lower Spring Street)

How to book... email or call NELPPF, see Editor's Contact Details on front cover

SEND Surgery Workshop run by Contact (formerly Contact A Family)

What? Topics include SEND support, EHC assessments and plans, one page profiles, etc plus a chance to discuss individual cases.

When? Wednesday 1st November, 10am – 12noon

Where? Carers Support Centre, Town Hall Square Grimsby

How to book... karen.hoe@contact.org.uk

Sleep Clinic run by Cerebra

What? Only six 1hr places available for a one-to-one consultation with a qualified sleep practitioner, so booking a time slot is essential.

When? Thursday 9th November, 9am – 3pm

Where? Carers Support Centre, Town Hall Square Grimsby

How to book... email or call NELPPF, see Editor's Contact Details on front cover

Sleep Clinic Drop-In / SEND Clinic Drop-in run by Cerebra & Contact

What? Drop by to discuss your concerns with a sleep practitioner and/or SEND expert and get practical advice.

When? Thursday 30th November, 10am – 2pm

Where? Carers Support Centre, Town Hall Square Grimsby

How to book... email or call NELPPF, see Editor's Contact Details on front cover

Coming soon...

- Early years (0-5yrs) workshops and surgeries starting in January 2018 run by Contact
- Wills and trusts workshop run by Bridge McFarland Solicitors TBA

Keep an eye on NELPPF Facebook page for updates on these and/or to register your interest.

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**The Annual SEND Parent Carer Event
Wednesday 14th March 2018
The Pelham Suite, Cambridge Road**

- Over 40 local public and private sector SEND service providers all under one roof
- Find information, ask questions, meet the people who can directly help your family
- Parents, caregivers, professionals, all welcome to drop by anytime between 10am & 2pm
- Expert workshops throughout the day, guest speakers and free buffet lunch
- Look out for official flyers in the New Year!



**Good luck
for the
forthcoming
festive season!**

Art Excel Workshop Grimsby, April 2017

An amazing adventure began in Grimsby for some special students from St Martin's Preparatory School. As well as having fun the students successfully completed the ART Excel Programme run by the ART Of Living Foundation – a programme that puts the fun back into human values and teaches self-discipline, stress management techniques as well as emotional resilience, social skills and leaderships.



The students confidently took up the challenge of making a difference to their school environment, even volunteering to go back to school in the school holidays! Armed with plastic aprons, sandpaper and brown varnish, they painstakingly sanded and painted the playground benches.

Proud head teacher Mr Thompson said their effort was incredible and worthy of an Outstanding Grade. Consultant paediatrician and parent Dr Swathi Pai advised the students this was just the medicine the community needed to bring a smile to everyone's faces.



5K Cleethorpes Colour Run

Once again, Bridge McFarland teamed up with NELPPF, this time also with Zebedee Management, to raise money in this year's 5K Cleethorpes Colour Run for the two organisations.

Zebedee Management is a new venture that hopes to increase the representation of people with disabilities within fashion, media and the arts. The belief is that people with many unique characteristics should have the same opportunities as 'mainstream' artists. The team is lead by Zoe Proctor and Laura Johnson: Zoe has over 20 years experience teaching performing arts and has modelled for many years. Laura is a fully qualified social worker, who has extensive knowledge and experience as well as being a mummy of a child model herself.

This is the start of a very exciting journey – all those 'mainstream' campaigns, prepare to be challenged! **Facebook @zebedeemanagement**



Spotlight on... FAMILY HUBS

Family Hubs (formerly children's centres) work across community clusters and work with other partners and the community, to offer services for children and young people aged 0-19yrs and their families, as opposed to the previous 0-5yrs model. Family Hubs are inclusive for all, which includes support for children with additional needs.

Some of the ways they meet the needs of the community include:

- **early education and childcare, or links to them, within the local community;**
- **health services for young children, parents and prospective parents;**
- **training and employment services to assist parents and prospective parents with links to Job Centre Plus;**
- **information and advice services;**
- **activities for young children and their parents/carers;**
- **support for families that have children and young people with additional needs.**

For families that need it, Family Hubs can also provide extra help and support to work through issues that may arise during a child or young person's life. This may be provided by a range of professionals including family hub advisers, health visitors, school nurses and other family support services.

How do I request support?

Talk about your concerns to a family hub advisor in your local family hub. You can also talk to your school, school nurse or health visitor. With your consent they may submit a referral to the family hub to look at what support is needed.

Sensory rooms

Our sensory rooms can be tailored to offer a relaxing or stimulating space away to calm or nurture children. They can be used by all, but are ideal for children with sensory impairment. Our sensory rooms can be adapted to individual needs, with advice from our Family Hub staff or parental input where applicable.

Find your nearest Family Hub at
www.nelincs.gov.uk/children-and-families/family-hubs/



LOCAL

www.nelppf.co.uk

North East Lincolnshire Parent Participation Forum (NELPPF) is one of over 150 voluntary parent-led parent forums across the UK, helping parent carers have a voice in how local services are shaped, find the information they need and meet other parents in similar situations.

www.barnardos.org.uk/nelsendiass

Find out how Barnardo's SEND Information and Advice Service (SENDIASS) can help you.

www.nelincs.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-and-local-offer

Advice, support and information about all things SEND, for your child / young person from 0-25years.

www.nelincs.gov.uk/children-and-families/family-hubs

Keep up-to-date with Family Hubs' (formerly Children's Centres) activity timetables here, including training opportunities, coffee mornings, play sessions and more. Highlights: 'Young Carers Project' Thursdays 3-5pm, Immingham Hub; 'Parents Supporting Parents' group Thursdays 12-2pm, Riverside Hub.

www.nelincs-downs-syndrome.co.uk

North East Lincolnshire Down's Syndrome Family Support Group is a voluntary parent-led charity for families living in the North East Lincolnshire area and are affiliated to the national Down's Syndrome Association.

www.lincinspire.com/enterprise/HealthandWellbeing_DisabilitySports

Keep up-to-date with Grimsby, Cleethorpes and Nunsthorpe Leisure Centre activities and services for the disabled, which includes a Sunday 2-4pm swimming session, perfect for school aged children.

www.bridgemcfarland.co.uk

For all you local legal needs from our esteemed sponsor!

NATIONAL

www.ipsea.org.uk

"Independent Parental Special Education Advice" (IPSEA) is a national charity that offers free and independent legally based information, advice and support to help get the right education for children and young people with all kinds of SEND.

www.sossen.org.uk

SOS!SEN is a national charity aiming to empower parents and carers of children with SEN to tackle successfully themselves the difficulties they face when battling for their children's rights.

www.cafamily.org.uk

Contact (formerly Contact A Family) is a national charity for families with disabled children, providing information, advice and support.

www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk/when-will-we-learn-campaign

A national campaign to stop the illegal exclusions of autistic school pupils.

If you have any useful links you think are worth sharing, or know any local SEND friendly resources, groups etc not advertised in this issue, let us know using the "Tell The Editors" contact details on the front of this newsletter.

Parents' Cuppa
A group by Parent Carers for Parent Carers

Meet other parents, make friends and gain confidence

Advice on school support, Special Educational Needs and/or Disability Law, support from services and share experiences

NO NEED FOR A FORMAL DIAGNOSIS

Usually the 1st Tuesday of every month*

7th November
5th December
*9th January
6th February
6th March

10am to 12noon

VENUE: The Carers' Support Service, 1 Town Hall Square, Grimsby, DN31 1HY



Free, safe and anonymous online support for 10-18 year olds in North East Lincolnshire NOW!

**Monday - Friday, 12pm - 10pm
Saturday - Sunday, 6pm - 10pm**

Kooth is an online counselling and emotional well-being support service for children and young people available free at the point of use when commissioned in their area. As an early intervention solution, Kooth helps to reduce waiting times for young people seeking help while removing the stigma associated with accessing mental health support.

One in ten children and young people (aged 10-18) have a clinically diagnosable mental health problem, yet 70% have not sought appropriate interventions. Kooth offers an early intervention solution for young people accessing support, by providing a safe, confidential and anonymous service available through any connected device.

Young people can log on to Kooth through their smart phone, tablet or computer to access BACP accredited counsellors online up to 10pm, 365 days a year. Young people can also read self-help materials co-produced by other young people, join live moderated peer-to-peer support forums and access a goal-based journal. Our team of accredited counsellors, therapists and support workers provide guided and outcome-focused support for each individual.

As a self-referral service, Kooth offers young people the choice and autonomy they need, while providing an easy route to face-to-face counselling and other services. We are continuously collaborating with local authorities, CCGs, foundation trusts, charities and other organisations to provide an early intervention solution with clear escalation and de-escalation pathways.

SEND Parent Drop-In Dates

with Clare Ward (NE Lincs Council SEND Manager) plus representatives from Barnardo's, SENDIASS* and NELPPF

Thursday 28th September 2017, 10am at East Marsh Family Hub, Victor Street

Thursday 19th October 2017, 10am at Immingham Family Hub, Margaret Street

Thursday 16th November 2017, 10am at West Marsh Family Hub, Macaulay Street

Thursday 7th December 2017, 10am at Nunsthorpe Family Hub, Sutcliffe Avenue

Thursday 22nd February 2018, 10am at Reynolds Family Hub, Machray Place Cle

(January date to be advised)

Come and have an informal discussion about any concerns you have about your child's education at a "Family Hub" near you (formerly Children's Centres)

*Special Education Needs & Disabilities Information Advice & Support Service

Disclaimer.

The information contained in this publication was correct at the time of printing, however, if you see something wrong please let us know.