



Wakefield Parent Carer Forum

The Official Newsletter



Welcome! to the seventh edition of our newsletter...

We hope you are all ok. You might want to grab yourself a cuppa and take a few minutes to read our latest newsletter as we have

lots to tell you about in this edition. Plus lots of dates for your diary!

Make sure to keep checking our website for up to date

information of what's on when, and how to book yourself a place.

We hope to see you soon, Alexis, Janine & Heather

BREAKFAST CLUB

A new date has been added for our next Breakfast Club following the success of our trial run back in June. It was great to see so many of you attending and making new friends.

See inside for further details including how to book a place.



Cuppa & Chat
Join us Sunday's 7pm



Email

info@wakefieldparentcarers.co.uk
to request an invitation to join us

ADULT CRAFT SESSIONS

We have some amazing adult craft sessions starting in September as part of our continued wellbeing work. We recognise the difficulties that COVID-19 has brought on top of our normal daily lives, so we will be holding a regular adult craft session from our unit in Castleford. See inside for further details.



TOP TIPS SHEETS



NOW AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD FROM OUR WEBSITE

We have been working on a series of Top Tips sheets for parent/carers and professionals which are now available to download from our website.

We plan to add more Top Tips sheets over the coming months, so if there is something you feel would help you and other parent/carers please let us know.

www.wakefieldparentcarers.co.uk/top-tips-sheets

COMING SOON -
Top Tips for Transport,
Top Tips for Choosing A School
& Top Tips for Vaccination

OUR WEBSITE

Don't forget...

our website is packed full of useful information including telephone numbers you may need, jargon buster, plus all of the up to date information on activities and courses we are hosting. Make sure you keep checking it regularly so you don't miss anything!

www.wakefieldparentcarers.co.uk



Wakefield
Parent Carer Forum

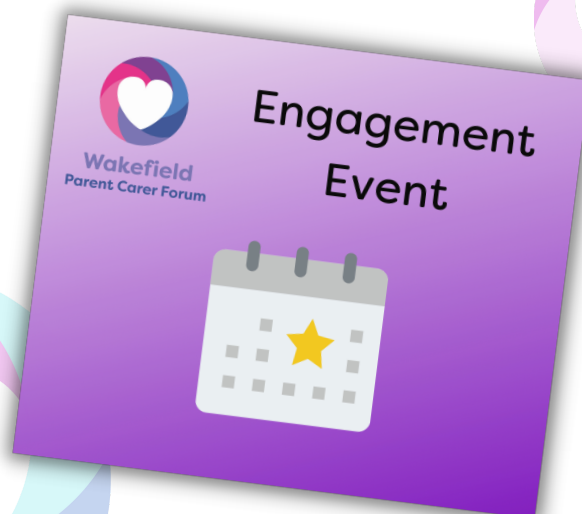




ENGAGEMENT EVENTS WITH WAKEFIELD COUNCIL

We have booked a range of engagement events over the next few months, where our forum members will be able to come and meet face to face with Wakefield Council and us to discuss a range of set topics.

We have based the topics on the issues we get asked most about from our forum members.



The dates of these events are listed below so be sure to add them to your diary now. Further dates will be added covering more topics so keep checking our website for details.

♥ **Transition to Adulthood Engagement Event** **- October 14th 2021 ♥**

This event is suitable for any parent/carer who is looking to gain information on what is available for their child transitioning to adulthood. This is a face to face event where you will be able to find out information, ask questions about transitioning and meet other SEND parent/carers in similar situations to you. This will be a great opportunity to find out answers to all of your what happens next questions..

♥ **Transition Engagement Event - November 2nd 2021 ♥**

This event is suitable for parent/carers with children of all ages and will cover transition from one year to another in their current setting, & moving on to a new school such as moving to high school or college. This session will give you ideas and support in making sure that your child has a robust transition plan in place to hopefully avoid some of the pitfalls that a poor transition can create.

♥ **Reasonable Adjustments/Meeting Needs** **Engagement Event - January 11th 2022 ♥**

This event is suitable for parent/carers with children of all ages and will give you ideas and support in making sure that reasonable adjustments needed by your child are in place, including what schools can put in place to support your child without the need of an EHCP. This is definitely a must attend session for anyone with children in education.

LATEST FORUM UPDATES

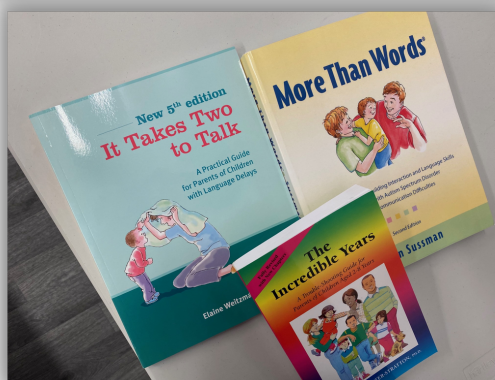
NEW LENDING LIBRARY



September sees the launch of our new Lending Library for parent/carers and their children.

We have managed to purchase lots of lovely SEND related books covering a whole range of topics. They have kept us busy getting them all backed in wipe clean plastic ready to lend out when we launch in September.

Remember the days of backing your school books? That's what it's been like at the unit for a few weeks now!



Here are some photos of the books we have bought so far. There are some amazing books here which we hope you will find really helpful.

We will be launching the library in September so watch this space for details on how it will run.



LATEST FORUM UPDATES

BREAKFAST CLUB

Back in June 2021 we launched our first Breakfast Club and were very happy to see such a great turn out.

Sadly we had to cancel the July Breakfast Club due to illness but we are excited to announce that the next Breakfast Club has been booked



Thursday 23rd September 2021
10.30am - 12.30pm
Birchwood Farm, Castleford WF10 4TS



Breakfast Club



If you would like to
book a place to join us
please email

info@wakefieldparentcarers.co.uk



ADULTS CRAFT SESSIONS

As part of our ongoing wellbeing support, we will be running a regular adult craft sessions from our unit in Castleford. We have lots of exciting classes planned which includes a range of crafts from card making, home decor, jewellery making, rubber stamping and more! Crafting has long been known as a relaxing hobby so we hope that you can join us for some relaxation, friendly chat and learning some new crafty skills.



Please keep checking our website and Facebook Chat Group as dates for each class will be released very soon & places are limited.

www.wakefieldparentcarers.co.uk

WORD SEARCH

JUST FOR FUN WORDSEARCH



T	I	C	B	W	N	T	G	S	Y	L	R	T	S
N	T	N	W	M	R	E	B	M	E	T	P	E	S
P	E	D	U	E	S	G	N	T	T	I	G	U	N
I	T	T	U	N	Y	E	Y	N	I	Y	S	B	S
O	U	Y	T	I	R	N	E	E	T	B	S	E	C
A	C	R	U	T	L	O	U	M	N	R	O	A	V
N	R	A	G	T	E	I	L	E	G	E	A	W	P
A	A	R	N	I	A	T	T	G	N	A	U	A	E
T	F	B	T	E	R	I	O	A	I	K	E	R	V
E	T	I	T	T	N	S	P	G	D	F	Y	E	E
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L	A	F	P	V	N	A	I	E	E	S	E	E	T
O	S	E	V	T	G	R	P	N	L	T	T	S	S
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AUTUMN
LEARNING
BREAKFAST
ENGAGEMENT
SEPTEMBER
TOP TIPS

EVENTS
AWARENESS
TRANSITION
CRAFTY
LIBRARY
LENDING



Who we are

Wakefield Parent Carer Forum is an independent parent led forum who work with families of children with special educational needs and/or disability, aged 0-25 years old, living in the Wakefield area.

The forum is led by a group of local parents who are looking forward to listening to, and representing the views of parents, young people and children in the future.

These parents all have a wide experience of what it is like to be a parent of a child with an additional need or disability in the Wakefield area.

We want to work together with you to make a positive difference and improve the quality of life for all children and families in Wakefield.

What we can offer you

- Reduce isolation for families
- Support services to enable families to cope better with the challenges resulting from interaction with various services
- Peer support for all SEND families in the Wakefield Area
- Support completing EHCP applications & other SEND paperwork
- Provision of family activities, sibling support groups
- Working with other services in the Wakefield area to make a positive impact for SEND families (LA, CCG, WESAIL, KIDS & local support groups)

Working together to make a positive difference and improve the quality of life for all SEND children and families in Wakefield.



Wakefield Parent Carer Forum



www.wakefieldparentcarers.co.uk



Wakefield Parent Carer Forum Chat Group



@carer_forum



info@wakefieldparentcarers.co.uk



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/wakefield-parent-carer-forum-8776891b8>

SHARE WITH US



We always love to see what your children have been doing during the holidays. So we are asking you what is your child's biggest achievement during the summer?

It can be anything which makes them or you really proud they have managed to do it.

You can send your story along with a photo of your child to

competitions@wakefieldparentcarers.co.uk

to be in with a chance of winning a prize!

Winners will be notified by email and advertised in our Facebook Chat Group. Entries need to be in by 30 September 2021.

LISTENING EAR **contact** *For families with disabled children*

You might be struggling emotionally and looking for strategies to help you cope. Or maybe you just need to talk to someone who understands the extra challenges you face and who can point you in the right direction to get the support you need for your family.

To help, the charity CONTACT offer 1-1 telephone appointments with a family support adviser for parent carers looking for a listening ear, reassurance and practical and emotional support.

Making an appointment is simple: Visit their Eventbrite page, choose the day (morning, afternoon or evening), and when you register choose the time slot you want. Appointments are regularly updated and are subject to availability.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/contact-for-families-with-disabled-children-30452924652>

CONTACT also have other courses available which can be found using the following link -

<https://contact.org.uk/help-for-families/family-workshops-and-events/>

NIGHT OWLS

NEW SERVICE FOR FAMILIES IN CRISIS



NIGHT OWLS
Overnight West Yorkshire
Listening/Advice Service

Night OWLS is a confidential support line for children and young people in crisis. Helping them, their parents and carers living in Bradford, Leeds, Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield.

We're available
8pm – 8am

Call this number for free:
0300 2003900
Text us on:
07984 392700
Chat to us on:
wynightowls.org.uk



If a child or young person you care for is in a crisis contact Night OWLS.
This service is for ALL families including those with children/young people who are Looked After, Adopted or with any additional needs.

If you feel:

- ♥ Worried
- ♥ Concerned
- ♥ Overwhelmed
- ♥ Need someone to talk to

Night Owls can offer: Listening, Advice, Support & Information



CHOOSING A SCHOOL FOR A CHILD WITH SEND

We often get asked about what to look for when choosing a new school which will be different for all families depending on their child's needs. However, there are some good examples which will be helpful to most families which we have included below.

The first question to ask when choosing a school for your child with SEND is:



Will the school be able to meet your child's needs?

On the next few pages we will highlight some of the things you need to consider when making your decision.

CHOOSING A SCHOOL FOR A CHILD WITH SEND

Initial Research

You may already know a particular school well because you have an older child at the school or have close friends who have a child there. You can find a list of schools within the Wakefield District on the [Local Offer website](#).

You can ask other parents, ask around locally, or look online if there are local online discussion groups like our [Facebook Chat Group](#) where you can find out more about parents' opinions and recommendations. But always remember that as all of our children have different needs, a school that doesn't suit one child might be the perfect choice for another and vice versa.

Visit the websites of the local schools in your area that might be suitable. Read the Prospectus of each school so that you get an idea of the aims and ethos of the school. You can also check the latest Ofsted report which should also be available on the school's website.

The school's SEN Information should tell you about the training staff have received as well as the staff's qualifications and experience in teaching children with special educational needs. It should also include information about how the school assesses and identifies pupils with special educational needs. If not these are questions you might want to ask the school directly.



Visiting Schools

It is always best to visit potential schools in person. Call the school and ask for an appointment to look around. You might choose to go without your child for the first visit or you may prefer them to join you.

Make a list of questions you would like to ask on your visit to school, this will help to prompt you during your visit as it is easy to forget things on the day.

Ask to meet the person responsible for SEN Support (SENCO) and discuss with them what types of support might be available for your child.

Ask the school what transition work and information will be provide for your child if they transition to their school.

CHOOSING A SCHOOL FOR A CHILD WITH SEND

Choosing a school for a child that does NOT have an EHCP

Look at the Wakefield [Local Offer website](#) to see which schools are in the area. When you are seeking an appropriate school for your child, it can be very useful to read the information provided by the school. However, this is no substitute for undertaking a visit in person to the school. Most secondary schools will hold Open Evenings when prospective parents can visit to learn more information about what the school has to offer. It is also worth reading the school's latest Ofsted report and any SEN Report both should be available on the school's website. However, we strongly advise parents of children with special educational needs to make an individual appointment to visit the school, to enable you to meet with the SENCO and discuss your child. You should also make a list of questions you would like to ask as it is easy to forget things on the day.



Choosing a school for a child WITH an EHCP

The process remains the same in terms of visiting a school and asking questions. However you also need to make sure that the school you are considering can meet your child's needs as outlined in your child's EHCP. Are there specific things that your child will need to enable them to access an education? Have a chat with the schools you are considering - they may ask you to send them a copy of your child's EHCP before allowing you to look around.

Look at the Wakefield Local Offer website to see which schools are in the area. When you are seeking an appropriate school for your child, it can be very useful to read the information provided by the school. However, this is no substitute for undertaking a visit in person to the school. Most secondary schools will hold Open Evenings when prospective parents can visit to learn more information about what the school has to offer. It is also worth reading the school's latest Ofsted report and any SEN Reports both should be available on the school's website. However, we strongly advise parents of children with special educational needs to make an individual appointment to visit the school, to enable you to meet with the SENCO and discuss your child. You should also make a list of questions you would like to ask as it is easy to forget things on the day. Don't forget to discuss how they will help your child transition to the new school, as this can be a time of great anxiety for children so it is important to get it right.

CHOOSING A SCHOOL FOR A CHILD WITH SEND

It can be useful to make a list of questions, which may include some of the following -

You might also find some of these answers on the school's own website:

- how many pupils attend the school?
- how many pupils in each class?
- how many pupils have SEND and the same diagnosis as your child (if your child has a particular diagnosis)?
- what experience and training has the school and staff have had in the last year (this could include your child's diagnosis)
- if relevant to your child, is any Speech and Language therapy/Occupational therapy/Physiotherapy available?
- What on site provision school have for example, separate safe space, chill out room, pastoral department, sensory space, physiotherapy room etc.
- What is their reasonable adjustment policy?
- Examples of good practice or successful outcome's they have had with their current pupils with SEND.
- What is the school inclusion policy?
- What is the school behaviour policy?
- How is bullying managed at the school?
- How are parents involved in the life of the school?
- Are all parts of the school and grounds accessible for my child?
- Do the school have any specialist equipment e.g. hoists?
- Ask for copy of the school SEND policy to read later and a contact name of the person who can answer any question which may arise later.
- What transition work and information will be provide for your child if they transition to their school?
- How does the school manage behaviour linked to a child's disability? Are all children expected to follow the rules or does the school make adjustments for individual pupils where needed?
- How does the school communicate with parents? Is there a home/school communication book? Are parents able to have a regular catch up with the teacher? What is their policy on how they respond to parent/carers? What is their response time for replying to email's? Do they have an open-door policy? (Open door policy encourages effective communication, openness and transparency)



As well as asking questions, there are other things to look out for on a visit to a school -

- **How happy do the children seem to be?**
- **Do the staff you meet seem positive about your child?**
- **Does the school have a good atmosphere?**
- **Is the school itself well cared for?**
- **Do the staff seem to value parents?**

CHOOSING A SCHOOL FOR A CHILD WITH SEND



After your visit to school

After your visit you will need some time to think about all the information you now have, before making a decision about whether this school is right for your child. It is a good idea to visit more than one school so you can compare them and get a feel for what it right for your child. It is also useful to talk things through with someone else, a partner, a friend or another parent of a child with special educational needs. You might find our Facebook Chat Group helpful for this.



BARNARDO'S / WESAIL

NEW Distance learning courses hosted by Barnardos/WESAIL.

More information can be found on the Barnardos Wakefield website using the following link - <https://barnardossendiass.org.uk/wakefield-sendiass/>



Why not take advantage of these great
FREE courses with no need to book,
simply access the course when it suits
you!



Free Learning for you!

We're excited to share with you **TWO** new distance learning packages

- *Confidence & Self-Esteem for Children & Young People
- *The Home Learning Environment for Early Years & beyond ~
Play, Communication & independence

To learn more, follow these links:
Click the link [Barnardo's SENDIASS Children and Young People](#) & look for [Learning online](#)
Click the link [Barnardo's SENDIASS -Parents and Carers](#) & look for [Distance Learning Packages](#)

You don't need to book on and can access the learning
anytime, anywhere!
Start learning at your own pace



End your
summer with
some new ideas!





USEFUL CONTACTS



Wakefield
Parent Carer Forum

WAKEFIELD PARENT CARER FORUM

Unit 2, Airedale Business Centre,
Kershaw Avenue, Castleford WF10 3ES
info@wakefieldparentcarers.co.uk
www.wakefieldparentcarers.co.uk

CAMHS SPA 01977 735865
CAMHS AIREDALE 01977 735900

CONTINENCE TEAM

01924 541009
01977 747066

SENART

01924 302465
senart@wakefield.gov.uk
Manager - mchester@wakefield.gov.uk
SENART, Block C, Normanton Town Hall,
High Street, Normanton, WF6 2DZ

PONTEFRACT OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Pontefract - 01977 747180
Pinderfields - 01924 541411

WESAIL/BARNARDO'S

07961 897036 OR 01924 304152
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TRANSPORT TEAM

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LOCAL OFFER

wakefield.mylocaloffer.org

EDUCATION, INCLUSION & ASSESSMENT SERVICE

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01924 307403

INFORMATION NETWORK

wakefield.mylocaloffer.org/information-
network

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CARERS WAKEFIELD

01924 305544

SCHOOL NURSING TEAM

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01924 541009 and 01924 541982

