

# Southampton Parent Carer Forum

## NEWSLETTER

October 2025


Welcome to this month's Southampton Parent Carer Forum newsletter!



We're here to keep you connected, informed, and inspired as we continue working together to make sure every parent carer's voice is heard across Southampton. In this issue, you'll find updates on upcoming events, local SEND news, and ways you can get involved in shaping the services that matter most to our families. Thank you for being part of our community and for everything you do to support children and young people with additional needs.


### Key Updates

- Parent carer needs assessments are available from the Children's Resources Service or Jigsaw.
- 1:1 chats with professionals are now available at some events.
- Keep an eye on Facebook for updates.
- SENDIASS phone number: 0300 303 2677.
- The Adult Social Care Direct Payment Policy is available for consultation on the Southampton City Council website.
- Coffee mornings will now be called SEND Get Togethers.



### Team in the Spotlight

SENDIASS are the Southampton Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice, and Support Service. They provide factual information found in SEND law and practices as well as local knowledge and signposting. They give impartial advice on what steps to take in the areas of Education, Health, and Social Care.



### Meeting in the Spotlight

SEND Partnership is a meeting held each half term with a wide range of professionals. One topic discussed was parental mental health. We acknowledge that many families are struggling at the moment for a variety of reasons. Following the meeting, the Forum has been asked what can be done to improve support. If you have any thoughts or ideas, please get in touch.

### Key Dates - More info on the following page

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October -  
High Score family  
event

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October -  
Oaklands swimming  
family event

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November  
- Send get together  
with great minds

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>  
November - SEND get  
together with ND MDT  
team

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>  
November - SEND get  
together with Sarah  
Carers Lead

Monday 24<sup>th</sup>  
November - SEND get  
together with Jigsaw  
(Social Care)

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November -  
Carers Rights day

Scan the QR code for  
the link to our facebook  
page for the most up to  
date info.



# Continued...

# SPOOKY VIBES

## A message from the New Carers Lead at Southampton City Council

Hello, I'm Sarah Brightwell. I'm excited to introduce myself as the new Carers Lead, based in Adult Social Care at Southampton City Council. My role is all about improving our services for unpaid carers, to make sure they're of high quality and accessible for everyone.

Over the coming months, I'll be leading a piece of work that sets out a clear plan for how we'll make long-term improvements for unpaid carers in Southampton. I want to make sure your views and experiences are at the heart of this plan, so I'll be working closely with our partner organisations, including the Parent Carer Forum, to offer a range of opportunities to share your views in the way that works best for you. I'll also be sharing new ways to help shape our services for unpaid carers – stay tuned for updates.

With warmest wishes,  
Sarah Brightwell



Sarah will be at a SEND get together on 19<sup>th</sup> November, details on next page.

## Community Inclusion Project (Mystery shopping leisure and cultural venues)

As part of an ICB project, we need parent carers and young people to mystery shop a range of local leisure and cultural venues – e.g. leisure centres, museums, cinemas, and theatres.

Once you have visited a venue and completed the survey about your experience, you will be reimbursed for one young person and one adult ticket.

If you would like to get involved, please email [chair@sotonpcf.org.uk](mailto:chair@sotonpcf.org.uk). We can then let you know which venues we still need families to visit.

The visits need to be completed by the end of 2025, but ideally in October or November.

## Looking for

Parent Carer representatives

Are you ...

- the parent of a child with a additional need aged 0-25years old?
- living in Southampton?
- with a few hours to spare each month during term time, 9.30am-2.30pm

We match you with your lived experience of SEND. You could attend occasional meetings to represent the views of Southampton Parent Carers or listen to families who attend our events to share their experiences. We pay you for your time and expenses.

Email: [chair@sotonpcf.org.uk](mailto:chair@sotonpcf.org.uk)



# Whats on ..



Date	Event Info	Time	Location
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	SEND get together with ND (Neurodiversity) Multi Disciplinary Team	10-12	Freemantle and Shirley Community Centre, Randolph Street, Southampton. SO15 3HE
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Family Event with SCC SEND team popping along (Please book via website)	6.45-7.45 and 7.45-8.45	High Score, East Street, So14 3HH
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> October	Family Swimming event (Please book via website)	2.30-3.30	Oaklands Pool, Lordshill. SO16 8LX
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	SEND get together with Great Minds about the key worker programme	10-12	Climbing Hanger, Third Ave, Southampton SO15 OLD
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	SEND get together with ND (Neurodiversity) Multi Disciplinary Team	10-12	Jumpin Jax, Ashley Crescent, SO19 9NA
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	SEND get together with Sarah Brightwell (Carers lead)	10-12	Walnut Tree, Adanac Dr, Nursling, SO16 0AU
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Carers Rights day	10-2	Portswood Church, Portswood Rd, Portswood, Southampton SO17 2FY
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	SEND get together with Jigsaw (Social Care)	10-12	Harbour Lights, Southampton SO14 3TL
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	SEND get together with Rebecca Latham (Designated Clinical Officer) focusing on health section of EHCPs	10-12	High Point, Bursledon Rd, Thornhill, Southampton SO19 8BR
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	SEND get together with ND (Neurodiversity) Multi Disciplinary Team	10-12	Freemantle and Shirley Community Centre, Randolph Street, Southampton. SO15 3HE