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4th March, 2014

Dear Parent/Carer

The SEND Local Offer and Nottinghamshire Participation Hub (NPH)

The provision of services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) are currently undergoing radical reform through the Children and Families Bill. This new legislation is due to take effect from September 2014. It is therefore timely for Nottinghamshire County Council to renew and expand its commitment to involving the parents and carers of children and young people with SEND, as well as the young people themselves, in the development of the services that they use, and in the decisions which affect them and their families directly.

As part of the reform programme Nottinghamshire is publishing a SEND local offer which will describe the range of services and provision that are available to families living in the County. This will incorporate public services across education, health and social care, as well as those provided by the private, voluntary and community sectors. In order for the SEND Local Offer to be effective it will need to be responsive to the changing needs, interests and aspirations of the families using it. You can find the SEND Local Offer at <http://nottinghamshire.sendlocaloffer.org.uk>. This information is also available by putting this web address into the browser of your smart phone or tablet.

Nottinghamshire County Council is committed to involving the parents/carers of children and young people with additional needs, as well as the young people themselves, in the planning and development of the services that they use.

We recognise that parents and carers have a wealth of knowledge and expertise about their children. So it is really important that we work in partnership with them to improve the quality and effectiveness of the services we provide and to ensure that the young people themselves achieve the best possible outcomes.

To this end, a new county-wide forum for parents and carers of children and young people with additional needs has been established. This is known as the Nottinghamshire Participation Hub. The Hub has a steering group of parent and carer representatives from across the whole county. This group will work with local

parent/carer forums, support groups and individual parents to ensure that their views are heard. This information will then influence the review and extension of services and provision contained within the SEND Local Offer and for informing the development of arrangements across Nottinghamshire for supporting children and young people with SEND from birth to age 25.

We are keen to hear from as many parents and carers of children and young people with additional needs as possible, so we really want to encourage you to join the forum. Joining the NPH does not mean that you will have to commit lots of time and attend lots of meetings. You are welcome to join and receive information and then decide on whether or not you would like to be more involved, and in what way.

Opportunities to become involved

Over the next few months, we will be creating a range of opportunities for you to find out more and hopefully to become a member of the NPH.

“Including Parents” Conference

19th March, 2014 at Bestwood Lodge Hotel, Bestwood Country Park, Nottingham NG5 8NE

9.45am - 2.30pm (Daytime Session) 6.45pm - 9pm (Evening Session)

There will be a market stall at our annual conference for parents/carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities in Nottinghamshire, where you will be able to meet and talk to NPH representatives. For more information about the conference itself, or to book a place, please contact Sue Harris on 01623 433326, or at susan1.harris@nottscc.gov.uk).

Participation Events

Following the conference, a number of participation workshops are planned across the county where you will be able to find out more about participation and the work of the NPH and how you can become involved.

County-wide Participation Event

28th March, 2014: 10am - 2pm at A Place to Call Our Own, Unit 15, Botany Park, Botany Avenue, Mansfield, Notts NG18 5NF

North Nottinghamshire

12th May, 2014: 10am - 2pm at St Giles School, Babworth Road, Retford, Notts DN22 7NJ

Central Nottinghamshire

14th May, 2014: 10am - 2pm at: A Place To Call Our Own, Unit 15 Botany Park, Botany Avenue, Mansfield, Notts NG18 5NF

East Nottinghamshire

21st May, 2014: 10am – 2pm at Bridge Community Centre, Lincoln Road, Newark, Notts NG24 2DQ

South Nottinghamshire

22nd May, 2014: 10am - 2pm at: West Bridgford Library, Bridgford Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 6AT

You are warmly invited to attend any of these events. For further information about the workshops or about the NPH in general, please contact Katie Morton, Participation Coordinator, on 01623 629902, or at katie.morton@aptcoo.co.uk

I do hope that you will consider becoming involved in this forum so that together we can improve our services and make a real difference to the lives of children and young people with additional needs and their families.

Yours sincerely



Anthony May

Corporate Director for
Children, Families and Cultural Services
Nottinghamshire County Council