

Newsletter May / June 2012

Edition 03 /12



Bexley Voice for Special Needs Children



Newsletter Update

Summer is finally here so lets hope the sunshine comes soon! The last 2 months have been very successful for the BV team. We are delighted by the massive success of our free Parent Conference and overwhelmed by the generous donations and sponsorship received from the fun run. We are now focusing on our School Visit Program and the SEN Green Paper Pathfinder Pilot Scheme. (More information can be found on our website.) Do you have any suggestions, ideas or relevant information you would like to include in this newsletter? If so, please contact us with your information.

NEXT PARENT OPEN MEETING

Our next Open Meeting date (as part of the SNAP assessment morning) for any parent or carer of a child with special need, additional need or disability is;

Thursday 28th June 10am–12noon

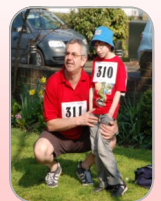
At Goals Football Centre, Bexleyheath.

Join us and meet our members for an informal chat over a coffee about any issues you may have. We will also be updating you on the Pathfinder Project. We look forward to seeing you there!



Bexley Voice Sponsored Fun Run

A lovely afternoon walk in the sunshine whilst shaking the Bexley Voice donation bucket was had by some of our members on Saturday 24th of March by doing a 3 mile sponsored walk around Sidcup with our children, to raise money for Bexley Voice. It is a great event, organised and supported by Sidcup Christ Church. We finished with a much needed cool drink in the local pub! We had great fun and raised over £450 so thank you very much for all your donations and sponsorship!



PARENT EMPOWERMENT COURSE

Bexley Voice welcomed Julie O'Neil, a qualified life coach, at the BV open parent meeting in April for a taster session of her FREE "Parent Empowerment" course in Erith. Everyone was really enthusiastic with what Julie has to offer. Knowing that you're not the only parent with problems was a great relief! If you would like more information or to discuss your needs, please call Julie on 07727 662977 or email julieoneilcoach@live.co.uk.

CRAY WANDERERS COMMUNITY SCHEME A new scheme supporting and enhancing inclusivity of sporting activities.—catering for disabled and non-disabled young people, in the hope of raising physical activity participation levels and health. It is an initiative that allows young people with SEN a chance to be introduced to different sports. It will take place during the school holidays from 10am-2pm. Please call Tyrone on 07951 289797 for more information.

PATHFINDER UPDATE

Things are moving ahead with the Bexley pilots for the Individual Budgets (IB). A number of families have been identified to take part and it is intended that Bexley Voice will be providing support to them as they negotiate their way through the process.

Three member's of Bexley Voice attended a Stakeholders meeting in Bromley on Friday 27th April where they joined senior members of Health, Education and Social Care teams in Bromley and Bexley along with councillors from both boroughs. Bexley Voice alongside Bromley Parent Voice presented on our progress to date with regards awareness raising and future plans. Bexley Voice is looking forward to consulting with parents regarding "choice" and options available. This scheme will see some of the biggest changes to the SEN system in almost 30 years and is your chance to have your say, so please visit our website for more information. Don't wait until the changes have already happened, have your say NOW!

Autism Specific Play Scheme.

MCCH will be running a week long holiday provision from the 28th May—1st June for the children/young people who attend out of borough schools whose holiday's do not coincide with Bexley. All activities are community based such as Dog Racing, Swimming, Cinema and Crazy Golf. Opening hours depend on the activity but are normally 10am-3pm with one evening activity. The cost of attending is £10 per day plus the activity cost.

The **MCCH Half Term Holiday Provision** runs from 6th-8th June 9.30-4.00 at a cost of £25.00 per day at the Arrows Football Club, Perry St, Crayford. It is open to all children with a learning disability or ASD with many different activities.

For more information or to book a place, please contact Denise or Mandy on 01322 344295 or 077856 11235.



Registered Charity Number; 1142306



Bexley Voice for Special Needs Children

Thank you!

We could not carry out the work that we do without the support that we receive.

We would like to thank;

Sandra Williams (Cupcake!)

Christchurch, Sidcup

DIARY DATES

Next Open Meeting

Thursday 28th June

WE NEED YOU!

If you can offer any help, even just a couple of hours each month, such as delivering leaflets and envelope stuffing amongst other roles like helping with school visits. Even if you only have your "voice" to offer, together we can all make a difference so why not sign up for free membership on our website today.

SCHOOL VISIT PROGRAMME Our schedule of visiting Infant, Primary, Secondary and Special schools within Bexley is now underway. Organized by BV member Janet, our school visit coordinator, who will be contacting more local schools soon to arrange a date. We would love to come for an informal chat about what Bexley Voice can offer parents and carers of children with special needs and update you on issues such as the Pathfinder Project. It is extremely important that parents get the chance to get their voice heard. If you would like us to visit your school, then please get in touch by telephone or email.

WELLING COMMUNITY FUN DAY!

Saturday 16th June

12noon—5.00pm

Shoulder of Mutton Green, Shooters Hill.

Lots of fun is to be had at the community fun day, so come and meet the Bexley Voice team!



BEXLEY VOICE PARENT CONFERENCE WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

More than 140 parents and carers attended our first Parent Conference at Hall Place in Bexley on the 15th of March. The 15 free seminars covering



subjects such as dyspraxia, ASD, dyslexia, transition and the pathfinder project were mostly fully booked. 21 local services such as Bexley NAS and SNAP provided information and support. Bexley Mayor Ray Sams and Director of Education and Social Care Mark Charters joined the conference and met many of the members and speakers. The BV team welcomed existing and many new members, creating a more varied voice to help improve the lives of children with special needs. Lots of suggestions were given for future seminars and open meetings. An overwhelming amount of positive feedback was received from both parents and professionals to say the conference was a massive success. One quote in particular summed up how we all felt... "I now know that myself and my child are not alone." The Newshopper and Bexley Times covered the event and it was great to see the reports in the paper. Hall Place catering service have sincerely apologised for the lunch provision and as a gesture of goodwill have waived the cost, allowing Bexley Voice to spend this on future events. Parents and carers left feeling well informed, more positive and are looking forward to future Bexley Voice events. A big thank you goes out to all the Bexley Voice team who worked so hard to make it happen and to the Co-op Community fund who helped to make it possible.



?? DID YOU KNOW ??

Dyslexia is now more widely recognised as a special need, thanks to the work and support by the Dyslexia Association of Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich and Lewisham. Dyslexia coffee mornings, including a short talk on various dyslexia related issues with time to share ideas and resources with the support team over tea and homemade cake. They are now being held on the first Thursday of every month (excluding August and January) from 10am—12noon. Thanks to the funding provided by the Co-op Community fund, they are free to attend, no need to book, just drop in! Venue: Community House, South Street, Bromley, BR1 1RH. On the 5th of July, BBGL have an open meeting with a very informative talk on "Emotional Intelligence" that is a must for your diaries! For more information, details on other forthcoming events and membership contact BBGL. Tel; 07000 505055 or visit www.dyslexiawise.co.uk.



Bexley Branch

Bexley NAS welcomes you to a talk by internationally renowned and respected Wendy Lawson, about Autism, Anxiety, Mental Health & Stress Reduction at 8pm on Friday 25th May at Danson Youth Centre, Bexleyheath. It is essential to book your place by calling 07826 950496.

CONTACT US

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WEBSITE: www.bexleyvoice.org.uk FACEBOOK: Bexley Voice for Special Needs Children

