

Newsletter ~ November/December 2013

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Bexley Voice for Special Needs Children

Charity Number:
1142306

BECOME A BEXLEY VOICE MEMBER TODAY! IT IS FREE FOR PARENT/CARERS & PROFESSIONALS!

Bexley Voice is a voluntary group of parent/carers, aiming to ensure the rights and needs of children with special needs/disabilities are taken into consideration within the Bexley Borough. Caring for a child with special needs/disabilities can be quite daunting at times and occasionally everyone needs a helping hand, especially with the radical changes to SEN legislation coming into force next year.

If you are a parent or carer of a child or young person living in Bexley, you can become a member, gain support and information and join our 'voice'.

FIND US ON

facebook

With so much information to pass onto our members, visit our website and facebook page as they are full of up to date information and daily chat about many issues, join in today. More detailed information can be found on our website at www.bexleyvoice.org.uk.

Do you have any relevant information you would like to include in the next BV newsletter? If so, please contact rachel.bexleyvoice@hotmail.co.uk.



FREE PARENT/CARER CONFERENCE



THURSDAY 14TH NOVEMBER

9.30AM ~ 2.30PM

HALL PLACE, BOURNE ROAD,
BEXLEY, KENT. DA5 1PQ

Visit our website for full information and a booking form for our free seminars!

SCHOOL VISIT PROGRAMME

Our visits to schools in Bexley have been a great opportunity for us to make contact with parents and carers. We are able to give information and ask for your thoughts on consultations that we are doing. Ask your Senco/Head Teacher to contact us and let us update you on various issues and about other support groups. Dates are already being booked for January 2014, so get in touch soon.



PARENT/CARER 'DROP IN' SESSIONS IN BEXLEYHEATH

Our Drop In sessions are an informal opportunity to chat with a BV member over a coffee about any issues you have. We can offer support, advice and sometimes a much needed shoulder to cry on. All BV members have a child with special needs and/or disabilities, so you are not alone, we understand how you feel. Come along anytime, no need to book. A Bexley Voice BME (Black Ethnic Minority) member will also be there for support and advice. We can help you complete a membership form if you need to. We look forward to seeing new and existing members there.

Bexley Voice's next 'drop in' session (as part of the Bexley SNAP assessment morning) for any parent/carers of a child with special needs, additional needs or any disability is;

Monday 25th November 9.30am—12noon

Goals Football Centre, Bexleyheath, Kent.



BEXLEY VOICE CHILDREN'S PARK ACCESS SURVEY RESULTS COMING SOON!

The prize draw for all completed surveys received by the 14th of November 2013 will be drawn at lunchtime by the Mayor of Bexley at our Parent/Carer conference. Thank you to Bruce at Asda Community Life for donating a £20 gift voucher.



BEXLEY VOICE 4TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 4th AGM of Bexley Voice took place on the 12th of September at the Mencap Offices in Bexleyheath. It was a very successful AGM where we were delighted to welcome 4 new trustees and new volunteers. Sean is very proud to show off his new red t-shirt! It was great to listen to a speech from our chairlady, Claire, who reminded us of all the fantastic things we have achieved over the last year as a charity.



Thanks to everyone who came, it was lovely to see some new and existing members. We look forward to another positive year as the red t-shirt family and "Together we can make a difference to the lives of children with special needs"



BEXLEY VOICE UPDATES

SEN Code of Practice – Parents and Parent forums are being strongly encouraged to respond to the consultation on the draft Code of Practice for the new SEN legislation. Please see our Facebook and Website for the links so you can have your say now and be included in the BV response. **Deadline 8th December!**

Care Bill— Please see our website for the outline of concerns by Parents as this bill moves through Parliament. We would really appreciate your feedback on this important national issue soon!

SENDirect and Bexley's Local Offer — BV members Juli and Rachel went to meet with SENDirect, a national on-line brokerage service which will support parents with SEN and disabilities to help manage their personal budgets. We gave our ideas on how the new website should look and must be user friendly to help parents find services and products. BV would like to thank our members who have completed the survey on our Facebook and Website to give their suggestions.

Emergency Carers Card – BV have been working with the Disabled Children's Service to develop a card to be carried by anyone with a caring responsibility for a child or young person with special needs and/or disabilities. If the parent/carer should be incapacitated, the card will give details to the emergency services of who to call. We hope this will be available at our parent conference this month.

Children's Development Centre — The CDC at Queen Mary's Hospital are keen to gather feedback from parents, carers and children on the experiences of services received. BV members Claire and Nicki are continuing to develop the new internal audit system using a bright and colourful jungle, rain forest and animal theme!

Christmas Shopping and FREE Easy Fundraising

It's Christmas shopping time again and for those that lead a busy life, on-line shopping is the answer. So whilst you are ordering presents for your family, or turkey for the table, sign up for free at www.easyfundraising.org and help us raise extra funds for Bexley Voice.



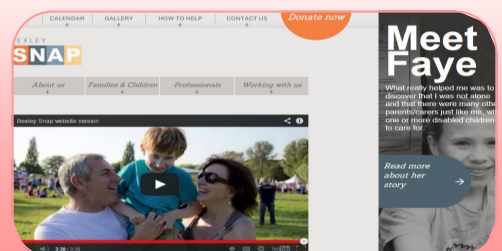
Badminton Club

Free Badminton sessions for Bexley Voice members every Thursday (2pm—3.45pm) at Erith Sports Centre.

All abilities are welcome so come along and have some fun!



Bexley SNAP New Website is live! www.bexleysnap.org.uk



CONTACT US

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FACEBOOK: Bexley Voice for Special Needs Children

