

Bexley Voice for Special Needs Children

Newsletter ~ September / October 2014

Issue 17

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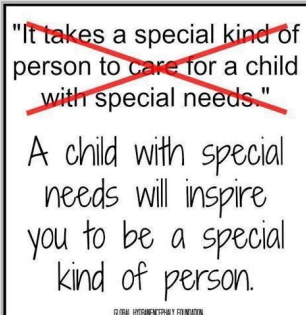
BEXLEY VOICE WELCOME

September is here and the new SEND reforms and law changes have now come into force. Do you know how the changes may affect your child? Are you ready for them? We have organised a free evening seminar and daytime workshop for parents and carers. Please read the article below. Places are limited so drop us an email and book your place soon!

A reminder that the **Bexley Voice AGM** is taking place on Thursday 11th September at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Bexley from 1.15pm. We are pleased to welcome Mel Bryne from the Dyslexia SPLD Trust who will be giving a short presentation on the support that they offer parents and schools in Bexley.

If you would like to attend our AGM, would like to nominate/require a voting slip or want more information about the role of a committee member/trustee, please contact us asap.

Our **Facebook group** is a daily support for many of our members. Thanks to Michelle who posted this picture that I wanted to share with you all.



If you are a parent/carer of a child/young person or a professional working with SEND in Bexley, you can become a member, gain support, information and join our 'voice'. Don't forget, membership is free!

If you have any ideas to share or articles you would like to include in the next BV newsletter, please contact rachel.bexleyvoice@hotmail.co.uk.

PARENT/CARER 'DROP IN' SESSIONS

Bexley Voice 'Drop In' sessions are an informal opportunity to chat with a BV member. We can offer support and information about many issues such as transition, EHC Plans, benefits, transport, local free events and workshops and much more. There is no need to book to see a BV member, just come along anytime.

The next session for any parent or carer of a child with special or additional needs is;

Monday 29th September 9.30am—12noon

Goals Football Centre, Bexleyheath (behind Asda).

This forms part of the Bexley SNAP assessment morning. You will need to pre-book via Bexley Snap if you wish to see a professional advisor on 0208 320 1488.

FREE SEN REFORMS WORKSHOP & SEMINAR

Bexley Voice are hosting a free daytime workshop and evening seminar for parents and carers in Bexley on 'Understanding the New Special Educational Needs Reforms'.

It will provide you with information regarding the new changes, implementation timescales, EHC (Education, Health and Social Care) Plans, how the new Children and Families Act may affect you and how you can be prepared.

The workshop/seminar is aimed at parents & carers of children and young people with special/additional needs or disabilities from birth to age 25.

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come-first served basis. To reserve your place email: rachel.bexleyvoice@hotmail.co.uk or Tel: 07512 409936.

For further information please visit our website.

Daytime Workshop ~ Friday 10th October 10.00am ~ 2.00pm (registration at 9.45am - times include a light lunch)

Evening Seminar ~ Thursday 23rd October 7.30pm ~ 9.30pm

Venue for both events: Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Bexley. DA5 3HL.

contact a family
for families with disabled children



We need you! BV is run by volunteer parent/carers of children with special/additional needs and disabilities living in Bexley. We always appreciate any support you are able to offer. Please see our website for more detailed information.

Free PIP & Disability Benefits Seminars

Bexley Voice, Bexley NAS, Bexley Snap and Bexley Mencap are jointly hosting 2 seminars for parents & carers who live in Bexley.

Both seminars will take place at:
Hurst Community Centre
Hurst Road, Bexley, Kent. DA5 3HL.

For more information visit the Bexley Voice website or contact:

- Bexley Mencap: 0208 303 6336 ~ kathryn@bexleymencap.org.uk
- Bexley SNAP: 0208 320 1488 ~ families@bexleysnap.org.uk
- Bexley Voice: 07512 409936 ~ rachel.bexleyvoice@hotmail.co.uk
- Bexley NAS: juli.atkinson@live.com

To reserve your place email: rachel.bexleyvoice@hotmail.co.uk or Tel: 07512 409936.



Introducing PIP Seminar Personal Independence Payment Thursday 16th October 2014 9.30am ~ 12noon (+ Q & A)

PIP is replacing Disability Living Allowance for aged 16+.
This seminar is aimed at parents and carers managing their young person's benefits from age 14 to adulthood and provides information regarding the new benefit, implementation timescales and the reassessment process for young people with a disability or additional need.

The guest speaker will be Lee Simpson from the Department for Work and Pensions.

Disability Benefits Seminar Thursday 27th November 2014 10.00am ~ 12.00noon

Oliver Mawdsley Outreach Manager for DWP - will be giving a talk on Carer's Allowance and Disability Benefits which will include the new Personal Independence Payment. Oliver will outline the entitlement conditions for these benefits, how to claim them, available support and sign post to other benefits. Oliver will also be available at the end to answer any questions you may have.

Introducing PIP

Bexley Voice, Bexley Snap, Bexley NAS and Bexley Mencap are hosting a free half day seminar for parents and carers on Personal Independence Payment (PIP).

PIP is replacing Disability Living Allowance for aged 16+.
This briefing is aimed at parents and carers managing their young person's benefits from age 14 to adulthood.
The seminar will provide you with information regarding the new benefit, implementation timescales and the reassessment process for children and young people with a disability or additional need.
The guest speaker will be Lee Simpson from the Department for Work and Pensions.

Thursday 16th October 2014

(9.30am ~ Refreshments & Registration)

Seminar 10.00am ~ 12noon

Q & A 12noon ~ 1.15pm

HURST COMMUNITY CENTRE

HURST ROAD, BEXLEY, KENT, DA5 3HL

For more information contact:

Bexley Mencap: 0208 303 6336 ~ kathryn@bexleymencap.org.uk

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Bexley Voice: 07512 409936 ~ rachel.bexleyvoice@hotmail.co.uk

Bexley NAS: juli.atkinson@live.com

To reserve your place:

Email: rachel.bexleyvoice@hotmail.co.uk or Tel: 07512 409936

Post: Send the completed reply slip below to: 1 Bullers Close, Sidcup, Kent, DA14 5LD

I would like to reserve a place at the PIP Seminar on 16th October 2014

Name: _____ Telephone number: _____

Email: _____

Disability Benefits Seminar

Bexley Voice, Bexley Snap, Bexley NAS and Bexley Mencap are hosting a free half day seminar for parents and carers on Carers Allowance and Disability Benefits.

The guest speaker will be Oliver Mawdsley - Outreach Manager from the Department for Work and Pensions.
Oliver will outline the entitlement conditions for these benefits, how to claim them, available support and sign post to other benefits.
Oliver will also be available at the end to answer any questions you may have.

Thursday 27th November 2014

(10.00am ~ Refreshments & Registration)

Seminar 10.30 ~ 11.30am

Q & A 11.30 ~ 12.00noon

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I would like to reserve a place at the Disability Benefits Seminar on 27th November 2014

Name: _____ Telephone number: _____

Email: _____

Local Free Workshops and London SEN Show

Free Dyslexia Workshops

are being hosted by the Dyslexia Association of Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich and Lewisham.

Does it add up?

A workshop for families, teachers and teaching assistants to learn fun ways of helping children with numeracy.
Saturday 4th October.

Dealing with Dyslexia at Secondary School

A workshop for parents, teachers and young people looking at ways to help Dyslexic secondary age students at home and in the classroom.
Saturday 18th October.

Both events take place at:
Church of the Good Shepherd,
Handen Road, Lee. SE12 8NR.
Time: 9.45am ~ 12.30pm.

For further information:
Email: info@dyslexiawise.co.uk
Tel: 07000 50 50 55
Website: www.dyslexiawise.co.uk



'Tes' SEN Show at the Business Design Centre in London

The UK's largest free dedicated special educational needs show is back this autumn with more advice and inspiration for school leaders, teachers, support staff, parents and carers with free seminars and over 150 exhibitors. Visit www.tessenshow.co.uk to register for your free entry ticket.



Bexley Moorings ~ New Young Adult Carers Service

At Bexley Moorings Project we support young people who have a significant caring responsibility for someone affected by long term illness, disability, mental health problems, and alcohol or substance misuse.

Chloe Airey, age 19 is one young person who has experienced first-hand the work that Bexley Moorings Project does. Chloe has a sister who has cerebral palsy and additional needs. Chloe helps her parents in supporting her sister on a daily basis. Chloe said "My sister is unable to walk and I have always helped my parents with things like moving my sister using the hoist or helping sort out her gastronomy pump through which she is fed"

The Bexley Moorings Project provided an adult befriender to give Chloe someone to take her out, be a listening ear and help her do things in her spare

time. She also attended the young carers group where she spent time with other young people in the same situation which helped remove some of her feelings she felt.

For Chloe's full story and more information about the new service, please visit the Bexley Voice website.

What's going on?

At The Bexley moorings project we have a new service.

What is this then?

It's a Young Adult Carers Service.

Are you?

18 – 25 years.

Who is this for then?

If your providing care to a parent, sibling or family member within the home who has a long term illness, mental illness, physical disability, substance dependent or alcohol misuses.

Would you like support with?

- Employment
- Education
- Health
- Benefit advice
- Peer support
- One to one support.

If this is you or you may know someone then get in touch with:

Ria Anderson

Young Adult Carers worker
Bexley Moorings Project

Office phone number - 0208 304 9609

By email - info@bexley Moorings.co.uk



Summer Holiday Events

Lark In The Park!

Bexley Voice enjoyed the sunshine at Sidcup's Lark in the Park on Friday 1st August. This was a free event running many different fun sessions for children and adults over 2 weeks every August. Volunteers Claire and Rachel spoke to parents and carers and signed up several new members. They gave out information on local support groups such as Bexley Snap and Bexley NAS.

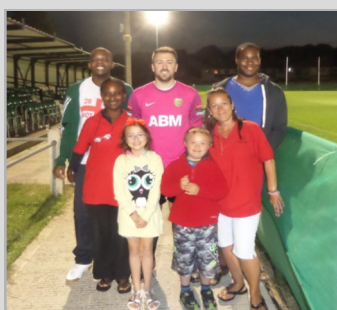
Thank you to Bruce at Asda in Bexleyheath for donating prizes for Bexley Voice's raffle/tombola. We raised an amazing £50.00 and all children and adults who purchased a ticket went away very happy, even coming back for many more turns.



Football Friendly Game!

BV was asked to be Match Sponsors for VCD Football Club in Crayford, on Tuesday 29th July, for a friendly game between VCD and Dartford. BV volunteers Mary, her boys and Lil, plus Claire, Gary and the twins enjoyed the football; starting at 7.45pm in brilliant sunshine and ending 9.30pm with floodlights. VCD beat Dartford 3:1.

BV had the honour of choosing 'Man of the match.' We chose the VCD Goal Keeper, who saved countless shots at goal and deflected a brilliant penalty (had it gone in.) We appreciated tea and cake at halftime and were given V.I.P treatment. Thank you VCD for a memorable evening and your hospitality.

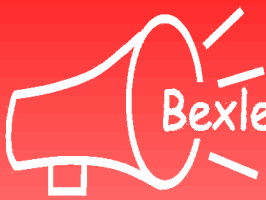


National Play Day Fun!

The National Play Day event took place at the Danson Youth Centre on the 6th of August and included entertainment and activities for over 1000 children of all ages - trampolines, donkey rides and an Astro Dome to name but a few, providing wonderful fun for all.

Bexley Voice volunteers Claire and Rachel, welcomed 8 new members, gave out information on the new EHC plans and raised £25 with our raffle, many thanks to Bruce at Asda for donating the prizes. Thanks to our new volunteers, Kerrie, Zoe and Shannon for your help on the day. Congratulations to Joy Toghill and her team for a superb event.





Bexley Voice for Special Needs Children

Bexley Voice for Special Needs Children
Charity number: 1142306

Are you a parent/carer of a child or young person under 21 with a disability, additional or special need living in Bexley?

Next Issue:

PERSON CENTRED PLANNING COURSE

- Bexley Voice AGM Report
- SEN Workshop feedback
- School Visit 'Best Practice'
- Parent/Carer Drop In Dates
- Bexley Beavers Swimming Club
- Dyslexia Conference for Schools
- Christmas is coming!

During the spring, 12 Bexley Voice parent/carer members attended a free 6 week Person Centred Planning Course in Bexleyheath.

The course was designed to introduce parents to the new EHC (Education Health and Social Care) plans using a person centred approach. The course covered:

- The history, struggles, dreams and nightmares as parents.
- How to create a one page profile for our child or young person.
- Creating an action plan—what is working and what is not working.
- Discussing and listing what is 'important to' them and what is 'important for' them.

The information gathered was then used to apply it to converting our children/young persons Statements of Educational Needs into the new EHC plan templates.

Parent Feedback:

"The course was emotional, it made me look at the needs of my child. I also have a better understanding of what other parents are going through. It gave me the confidence and knowledge to put things into action in an organised way. I really don't know how I have survived without a one page profile before!"

"It really made me question things about how my child feels and what he wants, not just at school but also into his future. It was good to reflect and share stories with other parents and there was much use made of the box of tissues!"

"Yvonne's enthusiasm and knowledge were amazing, the course left me feeling empowered."

Many thanks to Yvonne Linton and Family Footings for running this free course for Bexley Voice Parents.



Family Footings introduces families to the benefits of using person centred thinking tools and other key skills to assist parent/carers when they are interacting with professionals involved in the child or young persons life. If you would like to know how Family Footings can help you, visit their website at www.familyfootings.org.



CONTACT US

VOLUNTEER HELPLINE:
07512 409936

EMAIL:
bexleyvoice@hotmail.co.uk

WEBSITE:
www.bexleyvoice.org.uk

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1142306

BV Facebook Group

Why not join our parent/carer only Facebook group today? We have over 200 members sharing information, ideas and offering support on issues such as:

- Personal Budgets
- Mobility equipment
- Swimming sessions
- EHC Plans

We have recently changed to a 'secret group' to protect the identity of our members. Every Facebook member is registered on our Bexley Voice membership database. If you are an existing member of Bexley Voice and would like to join the group, send us an email request or complete the FB group request form on our website.



Bexley Voice Website

New pages have been added to provide information, local & national support for specific special needs such as ASD, Cerebral Palsy and Dyslexia.

Under construction is our new 'Financial Support' section to include information on various benefits such as Carers Allowance, DLA and PIP.

If you have any suggestions for information or links to be added to our website, please email rachel.bexleyvoice@hotmail.co.uk.

Allow parents and carers living in Bexley a 'voice'

Support and sign-post parent and carers

What do we do? How do we do it? How to get involved?

Events - We arrange workshops and information events such as our conference.

Together we can make a difference...