

Newsletter November/December 2012

Edition 06 / 12



Bexley Voice for Special Needs Children



Newsletter Update 2012 has been a challenging but very successful year for Bexley Voice. Our database and Facebook group is growing on a daily basis and with our 4 new committee members on board, the BV team are now attending more meetings and events. The Pathfinder Project has taken great steps forward and our 'School Visit Programme' is booked up this year! 2012 also saw the launch of our Dyslexia Campaign, new look website and the new 'Drop In Sessions' at Goals in Bexleyheath. Thanks to the hard work of all of the volunteer BV team, things are really moving forward and we are confident that 2013 will bring us many more new challenges to face!

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. **We would like to wish all of our BV members and everyone who has helped and supported us in improving the lives of special needs children, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2013!**

DYSLEXIA WORKSHOP



Committee member Frances attended a Dyslexia/Dyspraxia workshop on the 6th of October at Bexleyheath Academy, hosted by Snap. The workshop was led by Claire Stevens and Lyn Mills from Bexley Councils School's Progression Team. Margaret Cooper from the Dyslexia Association of Bexley, Bromley, Lewisham and Greenwich, (DABBGL) was also on hand selling books and resources and answering questions. This excellent workshop gave information about what these specific learning difficulties are, how children are affected by them and practical ways to help them learn.

Children were also invited, Margaret helped boost their confidence and gave them ideas on how to improve their learning. The workshop was well attended with parents/carers keen to understand their children's needs and better support them.

For more information on Bexley Snap and DABBGL visit our website.

NEXT 'DROP IN SESSION'

Our next parent/carer drop in session
(as part of the Bexley SNAP assessment morning)

for any parent or carer of a child with special need, additional need or disability is;

Thursday 29th November

9.30am—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 look forward to seeing you there!

If you have a child with special needs and live in Bexley, then why not join our facebook group today, keep up to date with events and information and join in

with our friendly chat!

facebook

DYSLEXIA CAMPAIGN

Launched in October, this will both raise awareness of Dyslexia and find out what support is available in Bexley schools. We are sending out a questionnaire to all Bexley schools in November, asking Head Teachers and Senco's to provide information about— the training staff have received/are undergoing, the resources and teaching aids available, what extra support is provided to children and their parents. We look forward to sharing the responses with you soon!

BV are holding an informal information evening for parents/carers about the campaign at the Bexley NAS Parents Corner on the 11th of December, 7pm—9pm at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Sidcup.

We will be discussing what support is available for your child at school and what help you get as parents/carers from the school. Please email rachel.bexleyvoice@hotmail.co.uk to book your place. For more information, advice on dyslexia with useful links to local and national organisations, please visit our website.

SCHOOL VISIT PROGRAMME

Ask your SENCo to contact us to arrange a convenient date when we can come to your child's school for an informal talk about what Bexley Voice can offer parents/carers of children with special and additional needs and update you on local and national issues. Our thanks goes to those schools who have welcomed us in already and we look forward to meeting parents and carers at the following schools very soon:

Bursted Woods Primary, Bexleyheath ~ Friday 9th November
Wentworth Primary, Dartford ~ Thursday 15th November

Days Lane Primary, Sidcup ~ Monday 12th November
Upton Primary, Bexley ~ Wednesday 21st November



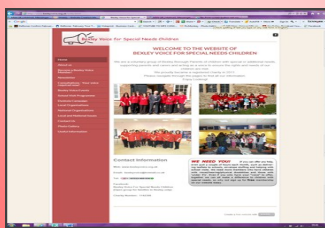


Bexley Voice PartyLite Fundraiser Day

On the 18th of October BV member Tracey, along with PartyLite host Julia, arranged a fundraiser day. Thanks to everyone who came along to support us. Together we raised almost £250!

NEW LOOK FOR BEXLEY VOICE WEBSITE

Our website has a new professional look with more information on Bexley Voice, local groups, national organisations, the Pathfinder project, our School Visit Programme and our Dyslexia Campaign. With many more links to websites and details on how to become a member, why not take a look now!



YOUR VOICE IS NEEDED!

We have been asked to comment on two draft documents:

- * Bexley's Short Break Services Statement (that is currently under review)
- * Direct Payments/Personal Budgets Handbook (produced by Inspire)

Both documents can be found on our website. We encourage all parents/carers to have a look and feed back direct via details on our website, (please copy BV in) or if you would like your response to be anonymous, let us have your thoughts to include in our response. **The deadline is the 30th of November!**

BEXLEY NAS The local branch of the

National Autistic Society is proudly announcing its new look website! Visit www.bexlynas.com



ABILITY COUNTS TEAM A great chance for boys and girls who are not able to play in mainstream football is offered by **Charlton Football Club**.

Indoors -Crook Log Leisure Centre, Bexleyheath. Contact barry.simmons@cact.org.uk

Outdoors -Charlton Training School, Eltham. Contact Brenda Osbourne on 07950 336735



BARNEHURST SCHOOL INFLATABLE DAY

On the 22nd of October, Bexley Voice members Claire, Debbie, Alake and Moji were happily positioned between the smells of the hotdogs and the DJ. As they danced the Macarana and Grease, they signed up new members, gave out information and advice to parents and carers and had lots of fun!

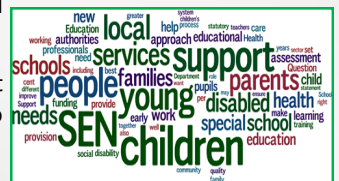
WE NEED YOU! Are you able to offer just a couple of hours each month, such as delivering leaflets to schools and children's centers, general admin and helping with school visits? Are you able to offer your 'voice' and we can include you in consultations? Visit our website for more information.

BV MEETS WITH CHILDREN'S SERVICE LEADERS

A very productive meeting was held on the 21st of September with members of BV Juli, Claire and Rachel, along with Mark Charters (Director of Education and Social Care), Moyra Pickering (Deputy Director of Schools and Education Improvement), Mel Newell (Head of Specialist Services), Lorraine Harker (Policy and Performance Manager) and Alison Rogers (Joint Commissioning Officer for Children and Young People) at the Civic Centre in Bexleyheath.

As well as offering an opportunity for BV to update everyone with our campaigns and projects, BV were able to explore how the Local Authority might be able to assist us with communicating with parents, identify opportunities to get more involved with projects and groups and discuss the thorny issue of future funding.

Everyone left feeling extremely positive about our working relationship and look forward to continuing to work together .



WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE BEXLEY VOICE NEWSLETTER?

If so, then become a member of Bexley Voice today! Not only will you receive our newsletter but much more information via email and texts on what the Bexley Voice team are doing, our latest updates from meetings and events, the Bexley/Government SEN change in the law plans and local event information and you can join our Facebook group for parents. Our newsletter will not be included within the Snap mailshot in the New Year. To act as a strong "voice" for parents/carers, we want to increase our database of members so that we have more contacts when we take part in consultations.

Visit our website for information on how to become a FREE BV member, open to parents and carers of children with special needs and also to relevant professionals who would like to be kept up to date with Bexley Voice.

CONTACT US

TEL: 07512 409936

EMAIL: bexleyvoice@hotmail.co.uk

WEBSITE: www.bexleyvoice.org.uk

FACEBOOK: Bexley Voice for Special Needs Children

