

Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum

August 2014

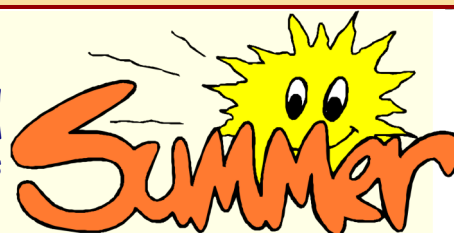
In this Issue:

Page

1	Coralie's update
1	Information on the Children and Families Act
2	Carol's Cookery Corner
2	50:50 Club
2	Sleaford area - New volunteer
2	Donations
2	Time to renew your registration
3	Coffee mornings
3	Q&A - SEND reforms
4	Louth area - New volunteers
4	Lottery
4	Contact us

Hello there,

Summer is upon us at last and at the time of writing this newsletter, we are in the high 20's and I am wondering why I am going abroad for my holiday this year!



Since April we have taken on 3 new volunteers and have given them our intensive induction. We have introduced them to you in this edition of our newsletter.

LPCF volunteers have been very busy with meetings which include the new SEND reforms. We have attended 67 meetings from April to the end of July, which is a massive amount of meetings for our committee. During this time we have also hosted our usual coffee mornings around the county and have also organised three SEND workshops for parents and professionals, to keep them informed about the changes in the new code of practice. These were well attended by 60 parents, 21 Professionals and 3 Lincolnshire County Council Representatives. Our report on these events will be published shortly and will be available on our website.

With the success of our workshops still foremost in our minds and at parents' request we have included in this newsletter, a couple of articles on the new SEND system due to take effect from 1st September. Hope you find it useful.

Hope you have a relaxing and stress free summer.

Coralie, on behalf of the LPCF team

Information on the Children and Families Act

The SEND reforms are intended to bring about a family centred system that enables children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities better outcomes compared to the previous SEN system. Briefly below are the messages published by the Department for Education about their intentions for the reforms:

The current SEN system is not working for families and children:

- ✗ Too many children with SEN have their needs picked up late;
- ✗ Young people with SEN do less well than their peers at school and college and are more likely to be out of education, training and employment at 18;
- ✗ Schools and colleges can focus too much on the SEN label rather than meeting the child's needs, and the current Statements/ Learning Difficulty Assessments do not focus on life outcomes;
- ✗ Too many families have to battle to find out what support is available and in getting the help they need from education, health and social care services; and
- ✗ When a young person leaves school for further education, they enter a very different system which does not carry forward the rights and protections that exist in the SEN system in schools.

The new SEND system is focused on:

- ✓ Children's SEN are picked up early and support is routinely put in place quickly;
- ✓ Staff have the knowledge, understanding and skills to provide the right support for children and young people who have SEN or are disabled;
- ✓ Parents know what they can reasonably expect their local school, college, LA & local services to provide, without having to fight for it;
- ✓ Aspirations for children and young people are raised through an increased focus on life outcomes, including employment;
- ✓ For more complex needs, an integrated assessment and a single Education, Health and Care Plan are in place from birth to 25; and
- ✓ There is greater control for parents and young people over the services they and their family use.

Further information on the new SEND system can be found on page 3.

Carol's Cookery Corner

This recipe is another favourite with everyone, not just the children; it is the lighter version, but it is very nutty and sweet. Perfect for picnics or even the lunchbox (if they get that far). The dark chocolate recipe is more indulgent and in my opinion more suited to tea parties or special occasions.

Light Walnut and Chocolate Brownies.

3oz (75g) plain chocolate, broken into pieces,
4oz (100g) margarine,
3 eggs,
12oz (350g) caster sugar,
4 1/2 oz (120g) plain flour,
1 teaspoon baking powder,
6oz (175g) walnut pieces (chopped)

Method

Pre heat oven to 180deg C / 350 F / gas 4. Grease and line tin 12" x 9". Melt chocolate and margarine together slowly over a pan of hot water, then cool a little.

In another bowl whisk together eggs and sugar until light. Add the cooled chocolate mixture and stir well to mix. Sift the flour and baking powder into the mixture and carefully fold in, stir in the chopped nuts then pour into prepared tin. Level the surface.

Bake in oven for 40 minutes or until cake is well risen and a dull crust has formed. The brownies should still be gooey in the centre, allow to cool in the tin for a few minutes before turning out on to a wire rack. Cut into squares when cool. Enjoy! Next time - Lemon Drizzle Cake!



50:50 Club –fundraising idea.

One of our lovely volunteers, Michelle came up with this brilliant idea!

Aim: To raise money for LPCF funds while at the same time giving participants a chance to win 50% of the money raised.

Donation: £1 to be placed in envelope provided. Available at our coffee mornings or events.


Totals: An ongoing total will be shown on the LPCF website.

Draw: The Prize draw will take place, in public, twice a year. The first one being held at Christmas 2014. Be sure to join in the fun!

More about our new volunteer –Michelle Davies
I am a parent/carer of 3 children; my 2 boys have been diagnosed with autism, ADHD, Tourette's

syndrome. Life has been a battle with education, health and social care. I had done my research and needed answers, that's when I found LPCC now known as LPCF. I attended the coffee mornings and expressed my concerns. I was actually listened to and signposted to areas that I needed. It was a great feeling to share my exhausted life style, and this made me feel I was not alone when talking to other parents in the same situation. I decided that the volunteers at LPCF do a fantastic job of helping families so I offered my help where ever I can, so I too can help parents that have/are having a battle to get support where it is needed. Michelle.



A Big Thank you to the following people:-
Mr Woodcock who gave us a generous donation towards our funds at our recent SEN Workshops.
Eric and Theresa who have donated their winnings from our lottery club.
An anonymous donation has been made from a lady who won the Monks Road Working Men's Club Lottery. **Thank you** from all of us. 
We really appreciate your kindness and this will go a long way to continue our work supporting families raising children with SEN & disabilities.

URGENT! We need you to register your details...By law, we have to make sure our records are up to date. We need you to re-register every couple of years. It is time to renew your registration. [For postal registrations:](#) If you have not completed a new registration form, we have enclosed another form with this newsletter as we need to review your details for data protection purposes. [For online:](#) please click on subscribe and complete the details on our website. If you do not complete the form, you will NOT receive a newsletter/information in the future. If you are on our postal list and now have access to a computer, you can complete it on our website at www.lincspcf.org.uk and click 'subscribe'. Thank you.



LPCF Coffee mornings—Where and When?



BOSTON 10.00-11.30am	New England Hotel, Wide Bargate, Boston, PE21 6SH	Monday 15th September 3rd November
LINCOLN 12.30-2pm	The Homestead St Johns Park, Canwick Road Bracebridge Heath, Lincoln	Wednesday 10th September 15th October
SKEGNESS 11.00-12.30pm	The Vine Hotel (Best Western) Vine Road, Seacroft, Skegness PE25 3DB	Friday 26th September 17th October
SPALDING 10.00-11.30am	The Castle Sports Complex Albion Street, Spalding	Tuesday 16th September 4th November
LOUTH 11 -12.30am	Best Western, Kenwick Park Hotel, Kenwick Park Estate, Louth, LN11 8NR	Tuesday 9th September 21st October
GRANTHAM 10.30-12.00 noon	The Urban (Ramada) Hotel, Swingbridge Rd, Grantham, NG31 7XT	Wednesday 24th September 5th November
SLEAFORD New Time 11.00—12.30	NEW VENUE Jolly Scotchman, 18 Lincoln Road, Holdingham, Sleaford, NG34 8NP	Monday 29th September 20th October

The aim of our coffee mornings are for parents and carers to meet in an informal environment and enjoy a 'FREE' tea or coffee with like minded people. Each coffee morning is hosted by an LPCF volunteer, who can signpost parents to information relevant to their needs and keep them informed of work the LPCF are involved in. We also from time to time have 'invited' guests to tell us about what they can offer parents of children with disabilities and SEN.

Parents have told us "it was refreshing to feel that other parents felt the same and it was 'normal' to feel the way I did. The coffee morning gave me the chance to have a little 'me' time and do something just for myself".

Details of all of our coffee mornings and events, including directions to venues, are available on our website and also on our facebook page. Please feel free to pop in; we look forward to seeing you.

Information on SEND reforms

Question: Is it true that School Action and School Action Plus are going to be replaced?

Answer: Yes. School Action/Plus are the current methods how schools put in extra assistance and provision to help children and young people. These are being replaced by the 'SEN support' system which involves a graduated approach to help children and young people who have special educational needs. The approach recognises that there is a continuum of special educational needs and that, where necessary, increasing specialist expertise should be brought to bear on the difficulties that a child or young person may be experiencing.

Question: is it true that new statements of educational needs are not going to be issued from September?

Answer: Yes, this is true. Statements of educational needs are to be replaced by a single integrated plan called an Education, Health and Care plan which focuses on the holistic child's or young person's outcomes they wish to achieve and identifies what needs to happen to make those outcomes achievable.

Our forum has been heavily involved in the preparations for the SEND reforms and we have meetings with Lincolnshire County Council as the process continues. If you wish to check out Lincolnshire's SEND preparations, go to www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/parents/support-and-aspiration.

We need your help if you have a child that is aged 15 or over...

We are currently collating information on your experiences of supporting your young person entering or staying in post 16 provision such as college or sixth form.

Please complete the survey on our website to help give us a county picture of what is happening and how parents fare when they come to this stage in their child's education. We aim to present the findings to service providers.

Here's where to find it:

www.lincspcf.org.uk

Thank you for helping in anticipation.

We would like to welcome and introduce our new Louth coffee morning hosts, Michelle and William Cooper.

We are parents to two beautiful children, Charles 13 and Natasha 11. After researching on the internet support groups for children with special needs, we came across the Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum. William visited the next coffee morning in Louth and was pleased to meet a group of like minded parents in a relaxed atmosphere over coffee. Our



main interest in the forum at the time was people's own experiences of getting a statement and transition from primary to secondary school. Since then, we have attended some very useful and informative workshops about the changes to the SEN system due to take place in September 2014. As parents, we have made new friends, who understand and have similar experiences to ourselves, we have become much more informed and confident in what the future holds for our children as a result of being part of the Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum and as a result now want to help and support other parents who join the forum through our coffee morning in Louth. The forum is a valuable voluntary group which provides a vital link for parents who at times may feel isolated and not listened to. Come and say 'hello' at our next coffee morning in Louth, on the 9th September at 11am till 12.30pm at Kenwick Park Hotel, we would love to see you. *William & Michelle*

Reminder— check out our LPCF website for details of the new SEND reforms, coffee mornings & events, new additions to our library with lots of interesting information, our external agency website with details of events held by other organisations and much more. See www.lincspcf.org.uk.

LOTTERY CLUB NEWS

You've got to be in it to win it! The odds are in your favour...this is a small lottery club and you have a high chance of winning. Everyone is welcome to join. The best news is, once we have more members, the prize money will go up!!!

If you'd like to join our lottery or purchase an extra number, please call 07593 553 609 or e-mail carol.lotteryclub@gosberton.plus.com

All funds raised help our charity to support families raising children with SEN and disabilities by giving them a voice to help shape services needed.

You can join via our website too!

June's Lucky Winners...

£50 - A Wilson

£10 - C Cross

£5 - M Spiteri

July's Lucky Winners...

£50 - M Davies

£10 - E Ormond

£5 - M Cross

Our Contact Details:

To find out more about our coffee mornings or other events and activities, please use the email address or phone number below. If you phone, please leave a message and we will return your call.

Website: www.lincspcf.org.uk

Tel: 0845 33 11 310

Email: admin@lincspcf.org.uk

Address: LPCF, PO Box 1183, Spalding, PE11 9EE

To subscribe to the Lottery Club, Tel : 07593 553 609 **or E-mail:** carol.lotteryclub@gosberton.plus.com