



SEND
special educational
needs and disability



May 2017



Welcome to Add-On News

A Poole newsletter created for parents and carers with children who have additional needs. All children, in fact all people, have additional needs at times. These may be relatively minor or life altering; short term, long term or ongoing.

We will bring you this newsletter three times a year, sharing other parents' experiences and keeping you up to date with local services and activities you may find useful.

Why join the 'Add-On Register'?

Registering to 'Add-On' is voluntary and helps us to plan and develop appropriate facilities and services. It will keep you up-to-date with new developments and offer you a number of benefits:

MAX card: is a discount card for families of children with additional needs offering reduced admission costs to over 800 great days out and activities both locally and nationally.



Newsletter: a termly emailed newsletter sharing parents' experiences, activities and services available.

Membership: automatic registration to PAX - 'Parents Are Experts' - local Poole parent forum run by parents for parents.



Is a new register for families of children and young people who have additional needs for a variety of reasons:

- Developmental delays
- Speech, language, communication needs (eg dyslexia, speech/hearing impairments)
- Having a disability
- Health needs (eg diabetes, asthma etc)
- Emotional and mental health needs (eg challenging behaviour, ADHD, autism, OCD, bulimia etc)

- Online (visit website below and click on 'Add-On Register')
- Visit the Welcome Desk, Poole Family Information Service, above Poole Central Library, The Dolphin Centre



www.poolefamilyinformationdirectory.com/localoffer

A Parent's Perspective

My name is Nikki Jacques - during the week I am a teaching assistant at Winchelsea Special School and in my spare time I am Vice-Chair of PAX (Poole Parent Forum for parents and carers of children with disabilities and additional needs). But my most important role is as a mum to my three children, one who has been diagnosed with autism. As with many parents I experience daily challenges, frustrations and anxieties when trying to navigate through the local services and support available.

When I joined PAX, it helped me to meet other parents, sharing their experiences and find out about support services out there to help. I am now Vice-Chair of PAX and find it really inspiring how a group of parents with a common goal can help improve the system to make the journey easier for others.

I was approached by Poole Family Information Service to give my support to the new Add-On project, which is a fantastic initiative that is going to assist parents in practical ways, offering news, discounted days out and access to professionals through PAX and the Local Offer. I would encourage anyone who has a child with SEND or additional needs to register – it's really easy - find out more below.

I hope to contribute more in further editions focusing on a parent's perspective and local projects that we can all benefit from. If you need any further information on PAX please contact myself or the Chair Maureen Rolfe.

Nikki Jacques - PAX Vice-Chair

PAX Parents and carers
Are eXperts

Joining PAX

The PAX Forum is a parent led group made up of over 100 parents/carers of children age 0-25 years with any aspect of additional needs.

We meet regularly to discuss hot topics and gather the views of Poole parents/carers and share them with service providers and commissioners so they are able to develop and improve services for children/young people. We encourage parent/carer participation and representation and attend official meetings, undertake surveys and consultations. We also signpost parents/carers to relevant professionals and attend events.

By joining the 'Add-On Register' you will become an automatic member of PAX giving you the chance to meet other parents and help influence and improve the services out there. You can choose how involved in the Forum you want to be, we all lead busy lives which at times are pretty challenging! If you have time to spare you can get involved in a variety of ways or simply choose to be kept informed.

We look forward to meeting you at one of our next Forums!

Maureen Rolfe, PAX Chair: 0787 335 2217

Nikki Jacques, PAX Vice-Chair: 0787 335 2209

www.pax-parents.org

poole.snforum@gmail.com

Next Issue September...

- Contributions from parents at Winchelsea School
- Parent journeys
- Latest news and hot topics
- Reviews on exciting days out, courtesy of the Max Card!

If you, or your child's school, would like to get involved in future editions, please get in touch with Poole Family Information Service:

Carole Ward - Manager

01202 261970

familyinformation@poole.gov.uk

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Have you visited the Local Offer online directory? It offers information, advice and guidance on education, health, social care and leisure services for parents and carers of SEND children aged 0-25 years.