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| **Rutland Parent carer voice christmas Newsletter 2017**  Welcome to our Christmas newsletter & 2017 round-up!  2017 has been our busiest year yet! Some of the event’s we have facilitated this year include an EHCP workshop with Anna Gill, a consultant from the Council for Disabled Children. We have hosted various consultations, coffee and catch up’s, presented at the SEND event at Oakham Castle, compiled a survey to accompany the recent Ofsted inspection and held our first summer picnic at the castle. Which we are planning to book again next year. The castle is a great accessible venue and the ladies from the castle did a fantastic job entertaining the children with their arts and crafts.  Our commitments have also increased. Our representatives regularly attend the Children’s Board, Disability Partnership Board, Independent Support governance group and Healthwatch Rutland events .  We have been invited to contribute questions for and sit on interview panels for new members of staff at RCC and have also supported local groups and events; Kendrew Barracks with Aiming High, Rutland Rotaract Family Support Centre, Sunflowers and RCC’s Personal Assistant event and Choice Unlimited. We also send representatives to regional parent carer training and consultation events.  I’m happy to report that the RPCV Steering Group has at last grown! We now have 9 members who all bring a huge amount of lived experience and knowledge to the SG. We all have a passion for supporting Rutland’s families who have children and young people with additional needs.  We have made strong connections with other Parent Carer Forums in the East Midlands region and have plans to organise some joint projects in 2018, including a Preparing for Adulthood conference in March.  Our Facebook page has 74 followers and our data base has increased to over 70 Rutland families.  However, there is always room for more so please feel free to sign post other families our way! **National news**  In November, Ofsted and Care Quality Commission launched their “[One Year On](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/652694/local_area_SEND_inspections_one__year__on.pdf)” report. Which can be found on the GOV.UK site. Inspections began in May 2016 and offer a chance for chance for parents and professionals to give feedback on special education in the area.  Robert Goodwill, who replaced Edward Timpson as Minister of State for Children and Families, confirmed last week that there would be an additional £45m to provide additional help for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The additional funding will be used for councils and organisations to continue transforming SEN provision and put families at the heart of the system. He confirmed that £4.6 million will to support the work between parent carer forums and local decision makers.  The minister also committed £29 million for local authorities and an additional £9.7million has been set up to create new supported internships, helping to bridge the gap for some of the most vulnerable young people between education and employment.  24 % of UK parents of disabled children provide an unimaginable 100 plus hours of care every week.  This is the equivalent of working three full-time jobs simultaneously and without any of the usual benefits like regular or sick pay, holidays or a pension. |
| **local news**  We would like to share some feedback from the events we have attended over the last couple of months.  October Coffee catch up  It was great to see some new faces and fill up the room at the Nelson. We were joined by a member of the CCG health, and he is hoping to make this a regular event. Parents were representative from pre school to college, so plenty of discussion. Venue seemed more popular as privacy in the room and the coffee was delicious. Please join us this month to mix with other parents/guardians to discuss any topical issues.  Transition meeting  14th November we held our Transition meeting at RCC with input from Bernadette Caffrey, Lesley Hawkes, Christine Bellairs and Lorraine Tarrent. It was well attended with parent’s representative of children aged five to twenty-three. The Ofsted feedback was given with the areas of suggested improvement , full details of the report can be found on the Local Offer  Christine explained her role in overseeing the EHCP process. Lorraine transition manager of social services explained the eligibility, their projections for the future and the work in progress towards careers and housing. Further details can be sourced on the website.  An informative workshop with lots of feedback both ways  National Network of Parent Carer Network & Contact AGM  On the 27th and 28th November the National Network of Parent Carer Forums held their AGM and Annual Conference in Manchester. Over 200 parent carers who were representing 109 Parent Carer Forums from thought=out England attended the conference. Some of the issues discussed were Preparing for Adulthood, SEN support, Transport and the Capacity and Sustainability of parent carer forums. It was a great opportunity to share good practice as well as network with other parent forums from across the country.  East Midlands Regional Meeting  It was really helpful to hear what is happening in our neighbouring PCV’s.  Lincolnshire has recently hosted a ‘Meet the Professionals’ event.  Derbyshire were holding their annual Carers Wellbeing event for parents and carers so were unable to attend, but RPCV would really like to organise one in the new year.  We also heard the Leicester City have a representative on the ‘Resource Allocation Panel for EHCPS’ which is the same as Rutland’s ‘Panel’. It was great to hear that participation is working well across the border.  We also discussed hosting a regional ‘Preparing for Adulthood’ event in March, where every PCV will have an allocation of up to 20 parents and carer places from their own area. Details are TBC.  Please see the enclosed bulletin for Independent Support and SEND Strategy group news.  Thank you to everyone who entered Our Christmas Card competition. Big congratulations to Oli Appleton for his wonderful winning Christmas card design!    **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**  Coffee and catch up at The Nelson  Tuesday 30th January  Tuesday 27th February  Preparing for Adulthood March 2018 TBC  On behalf of the RPCV Steering Group members I would like to thank you all for your continued support for the forum and for getting involved with the work we do - we really couldn’t do it without you! |

We hope you have a very merry Christmas!

