



## Welcome to the first ever SPCF Newsletter

APRIL 2022

Our newsletters will contain details of events, information, surveys or anything else we think would be good to share with you all. This edition will look at:

- The Emergency General Meeting
- The Open Forum Event
- The Launch Event
- Feedback Methods
- Changes to Mental Capacity Act Code of Practice
- Activities Unlimited
- Beans – Woodbridge Drop In
- Neurodevelopmental Pathway – East & West Suffolk
- Membership Agreement
- SEND & AP Review Green Papers
- PACT – Parents and Carers Together Flyer

### Emergency General Meeting

The Management Committee have called an Emergency General Meeting on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 10:00am. The reason being is to discuss one agenda item, the proposed change of the Forum's structure and governance. It will be held virtually due to the brief nature of the meeting.

SPCF are currently an **Unincorporated Association** as we followed the governance of the previous Forum. It has come to our attention that this structure holds all members of the forum liable should there be any matters of concern. It is also used mainly for organisations who have an income of less than £5,000. Because there is no recognised legal structure, we do not have the capacity to enter into any contracts.

We would like to change the structure to a **Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)**. This will mean that the Forum will be legally separate from its members, providing protection to you, our membership. It would register the Forum as a charity with the Charity Commission and be regulated under them, therefore we will be able to apply for charitable grants, where we would not be able to with the current structure. Our finances would be submitted annually to the Charity Commission allowing financial transparency.

The registration link for the EGM can be found here:

[REGISTRATION](#)



### Open Forum Event

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022 from 10:00am to 12:00pm at The Mix Stowmarket, 127 Ipswich Street, Stowmarket, IP14 1BB

We cannot wait to finally be able to meet parent carers in person. To have the opportunity to discuss any concerns or feedback with you all and find out what else we can do as a forum to better represent your views and experiences. We will be joined by representatives from:

PACT, Activities Unlimited, BEANS, Sendiass, the Vaccine Inequalities team, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk's Clinical Commissioning Group, CYP Engagement Hub and more...

We hope that you are able to join us, please could you register by booking on Eventbrite: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/spcf-open-forum-event-tickets-314596004117](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/spcf-open-forum-event-tickets-314596004117)

### Launch Event

As you may be aware, we hosted our Launch Event on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022. It was a great success and we have received a lot of positive feedback. We were also aware that our Waveney colleagues were not able to attend which meant information for that cohort was lacking. We have made a request for some information which we will share on the website once we receive it. The presentation slides, along with any links or information that was referenced is now available to view on our website: [www.suffolkpcf.co.uk/current-projects/](http://www.suffolkpcf.co.uk/current-projects/). If you have any issues downloading the information, please do not hesitate to contact us via the usual channels.

### Feedback Methods

We want to ensure that providing feedback is as private as possible so we have devised a feedback section on our website which is always available to receive feedback. It can be found here: [www.suffolkpcf.co.uk/feedback/](http://www.suffolkpcf.co.uk/feedback/). Members are also able to message the Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/suffolkpcf](https://www.facebook.com/suffolkpcf) or email: [info@suffolkpcf.co.uk](mailto:info@suffolkpcf.co.uk).

Please keep an eye out on our Social Media pages for any additional requests for Feedback.



### Changes to the Mental Capacity Act Code of Practice and implementation of the Liberty Protection Safeguards

An open consultation has been launched regarding the Changes to the Mental Capacity Act Code of Practice and implementation of the Liberty Protection Safeguards. To provide some background. The Mental Capacity Amendment Act 2019 introduces the Liberty Protection Safeguards. The Act is about the new procedure to be used when a person (16 and over) who lacks capacity to consent, needs to be deprived of liberty. It will replace Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) and Community DoL Orders.

The consultation is open to people with lived experience who might be affected by the changes in legislation and for parents / carers or anyone else who has an interest in this. For more information and a link to the relevant documentation, including an easy read consultation version and link to the online survey, please go to:

[www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-the-mca-code-of-practice-and-implementation-of-the-lps?fbclid=IwAR3BQ9TdX5GvAQ0xnxIQSxnWSbC6YGTxpYbfffP0t3PYWuAfeI445Nqjmud4](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-the-mca-code-of-practice-and-implementation-of-the-lps?fbclid=IwAR3BQ9TdX5GvAQ0xnxIQSxnWSbC6YGTxpYbfffP0t3PYWuAfeI445Nqjmud4)

To respond, please follow: [www.consultations.dhsc.gov.uk/610acfb8a64e52104077efde](https://www.consultations.dhsc.gov.uk/610acfb8a64e52104077efde)

### Activities Unlimited

Welcome to our Easter Holiday Guide 2022!

Bringing you lots of exciting activities for disabled children and young people to take part in this holiday. We're pleased to continue to offer sessions through the Holiday Activity Fund (HAF). Look out for the logo throughout the guide, these organisations are offering free activity days, including meals, for children and young people who are eligible for free school meals. If you know of a great resource that might benefit families, let us know! All suggestions welcome, just drop us a line at [info@activities-unlimited.co.uk](mailto:info@activities-unlimited.co.uk) and, as ever, we love to see photos of what you get up to.

We wish you a Happy Easter. The Activities Unlimited Team

[www.access-unlimited.co.uk/assets/AU-Easter-Guide-22.pdf](https://www.access-unlimited.co.uk/assets/AU-Easter-Guide-22.pdf)

More details about Activities Unlimited and what they offer can be found on their website:

[www.access-unlimited.co.uk/activitiesunlimited/](https://www.access-unlimited.co.uk/activitiesunlimited/)



## Beans - Woodbridge Drop In

Woodbridge Drop In sessions!

**Wellbeing Drop-In sessions for parents and carers of neurodivergent children and young people.**

**What is it?**  
A monthly group for parents and carers to ask questions, receive non judgemental support and guidance.

**What is Neurodivergent?**  
Autism/ASD, ADHD, Tourette's, Tic Disorder, FASD, Dyspraxia/DCD & more.

**When?**  
The 2nd Monday of every month  
11am - 1pm.  
(Starting 14th March).

**Where?**  
The Pavilion Cafe,  
Jetty Lane,  
Woodbridge,  
Suffolk IP12 4BA.

Starts 14th March!

For more information or questions contact



✉ [beans@accessct.org](mailto:beans@accessct.org)  
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🌐 [www.accessct.org](http://www.accessct.org)

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### Neurodevelopmental Pathway – East & West Suffolk

After seeing a lot of comments regarding ADHD/ASD referrals recently and feeding back to the service we were concerned that there was some very mixed messages about the service so we have asked for some information to be shared with you:

'We have been working on improvements to the East and West Suffolk Neurodevelopment Pathway according to feedback from families. The new pathway will be for children, young people and families who have concerns about Autism, ADHD and/or behaviours that challenge. The new referral form is to launch from 25th April 2022. Further information about the pathway and how you may be able to access support will be released in the coming weeks. We will also explain the type of support that is on offer with or without a diagnosis.'

We are happy to feedback any questions about the service directly to them and hope that this provides a little bit of clarification.

### Membership Agreement

We sent out an email to all members back in January and a reminder sent in March about the Membership Agreement that we had implemented. If you haven't seen it, it can be found here: [www.suffolkpcf.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/SPCF-Member-Agreement.pdf](http://www.suffolkpcf.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/SPCF-Member-Agreement.pdf)

There are just a few members that haven't yet agreed but we have been advised that the emails may have gone into spam folders so we wanted to just pop a reminder here. Agreement can be sent via email, or through the social media messaging facility.

### SEND & AP Review Green Papers

On 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022, the government published a green paper on the future of the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and alternative provision (AP) system and is undertaking a public consultation on the green paper's proposals. There is now a 13-week consultation about the green paper, which closes on 1 July 2022. Parents and carers are being asked for their views. The Council for Disabled Children have produced a page with resources, information and how you can get involved:

[SEND Green Paper](#)



## PACT – Parents and Carers Together

We will close our newsletter with a flyer from PACT who we are very lucky to have as one of our Partner Organisations.

The flyer for PACT (Parents and Carers Together) features a white background at the top with a purple dot-matrix graphic of a map of Suffolk. To the right of the map, the word 'pact' is written in a large, bold, purple, lowercase sans-serif font. Below 'pact', the text 'PARENTS AND CARERS TOGETHER' is written in a smaller, purple, uppercase sans-serif font. The bottom half of the flyer has a pink background with a black curved border at the top. The main headline is '"Supporting you, supporting your child"' in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font. Below the headline, the text 'Suffolk Support for parents and carers of children and young people with mental health issues' is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The website address 'www.parentsandcarerstogether.uk' is written in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font. The helpline number 'Helpline number (07856) 038799' is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font, with '(not 24/7)' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font to the right. At the bottom, the text 'Support group for parents and carers of children and young people with mental health issues' is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The Twitter handle '@pactenquiries' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with a blue Twitter icon to the left. The Facebook page name '/parentsandcarerstogether/' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with a blue Facebook icon to the left.