**Autism in Schools - Parents Supporting Parents Forum**

**Tuesday 7th March 2023 - Grimsby Town Hall**

The Forum was led Nicola Chappel and facilitated by Maureen Morris from CONTACT, other practitioners that attended included:

* Carol Batchelor, SEND Sleep Assistant from [KIDS](https://www.kids.org.uk/)
* Vicky McGuire, Autism Education Trust & Cambridge Park Academy
* Sarah Allen, CPY from Compass Go!

At today’s Forum we discussed the following subjects.

* Carol Batchelor discussed the support currently available around sleep for more information please see the PowerPoint below or email Carol or Karen:

[Carol.Batchelor@kids.org.uk](mailto:Carol.Batchelor@kids.org.uk) or [Karen.Tyas@kids.org.uk](mailto:Karen.Tyas@kids.org.uk)



* Vicky McGuire delivered an awareness session on the use of visual aids.
* 6 parent carers attended and 1 apology was sent.
* 5 school champions and 1 deputy champion attended the session and 2 apologies were sent.
* A wide range of different visual aids was available for parent carers and school champions to make and take away.
* Questions were encouraged throughout and at the end of each of the sessions led by Carol and Vicky
* Parent carers were asked to complete an audit on the training and workshops that they have attended.
* Once the guest speakers had finished their presentations time was allowed for networking and having a look at the visual aids.
* A buffet lunch was served.
* The remainder of the forum was spent creating visual aids to be used at home and in school to provide the child/young person with continuity between home and their educational setting.
* At the end of the session parents/carers were asked to complete an evaluation form to get their feedback and help us develop future forums. Please see some of the comments below.
* All the information on Autism in Schools can be found on NEL’s Local Offer  [NELC SEND Local Offer | Autism in Schools (nelincs.gov.uk)](https://sendlocaloffer.nelincs.gov.uk/neurodevelopmental-conditions/autistic-spectrum-disorder-autism/autism-in-schools/)

Upcoming dates/times of training workshops:

Details on how to book on any of the workshops is available in the attached flyers.

**Educational Support Workshop for School Age Children:**

Monday 24 April 10.30 am - 12.30 pm Face-to-face at Grimsby Town Hall



**Sensory Workshop:**

Thursday 27 April 10am - 12pm - Online via Zoom



**Calm Solutions for Emotional Situations Workshop: (previously Encouraging Positive Behaviour)**

Thursday 4 May 10.30am - 12.30pm - Face-to-face at Grimsby Town Hall



**School Age Transition Workshop:**

**This is a pre-recorded workshop** on supporting children and young people get ready for a change in school year or a move from primary to secondary school.



The next Parents Supporting Parents Forums are on:

**Tuesday 2nd May 2023**

**Infants & Primary Schools - to include live Transitions Q&A session**

**9.30am - 11.30pm**

**and**

**Secondary Schools**

**1pm - 2.30pm**

**Both are at Grimsby Town Hall**

Any further questions please get in touch

* Abi Fleming [**abi.fleming@nelincs.gov.uk**](mailto:abi.fleming@nelincs.gov.uk)
* Nicola Chappel [**nicola.chappel@nhs.net**](mailto:nicola.chappel@nhs.net)

Please send any feedback regarding the Local Offer to:

* Lauren Thompson [**Lauren.Thompson2@nelincs.gov.uk**](mailto:Lauren.Thompson2@nelincs.gov.uk)

**Feedback from parent carers, school champions and guests**

**AIS Parenting Supporting Parents Forum - 7th March 2023**

Always helpful and friendly – great to share ideas and thoughts”

“It was nice to see a wide range of resources”

Like: “How well everyone get on and supports one another”

Liked: “Meeting people, sharing ideas”

“Good resources and information”

Learnt: “How to use visuals effectively”

“good resources and new things that will help at home”

Guest: “What a great, useful morning – valuable to parents”

“I like how friendly everyone is and how willing everyone is to share”

“I have felt like part of a team”

“I learnt how to accurately us the visual aids and to be able to adapt them to what is best for my child”

Learnt: “More about how sleep deprivation impacts behaviour”

“Our school needs to have a consistent approach to visuals – we need to create ‘a bible’”

**Photos of the session creating visual aids**

A group of people sitting at tables

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

 A group of people sitting at tables

Description automatically generated with low confidence

Women sitting at a table

Description automatically generated with medium confidence A group of people sitting at a table

Description automatically generated with low confidence