

Inclusive Calderdale

SUMMER 2017



A magazine for families with disabled children

Calderdale
Council

NHS
Calderdale
Clinical Commissioning Group

**Unique
Ways**
supporting families with disabled children





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Welcome

to the Summer 2017 Edition
of Inclusive Calderdale



This marks my first edition of Inclusive Calderdale and I look forward to serving all our members in the best way possible. As most of you are probably aware Calderdale Parents &

Carers has transformed into

Unique Ways as we explore becoming more resilient and sustainable in the current financial climate. There have been staff changes too as our long serving Chief Executive Amanda Goulding has moved on for new pastures. On behalf of our members, staff and trustees I would like to take this opportunity to thank Amanda for all her work over the years.

In our endeavour to improve the quality of our services, and I am pleased to say we achieved the Quality for Health accreditation late last year. Unique Ways has also just been confirmed as a Disability Confident Employer.

As we continue to strive to serve you, our members in the best way possible, we always welcome your comments and suggestions on how we can improve. In the current climate of austerity, we welcome the help of the Calderdale community in raising funds to continue providing much needed support services and ensuring your voice is heard.

Please do get in touch with us through social media and on our website for details of forthcoming events and training.

Saj
CEO Unique Ways

Calderdale Council

Welcome to the summer edition of the Inclusive Calderdale magazine, in this issue we can share some of the success stories of the five day offer and a new project called Gig Buddies. In response to demand we are also running more activities in Todmorden (see page 17 for more details).

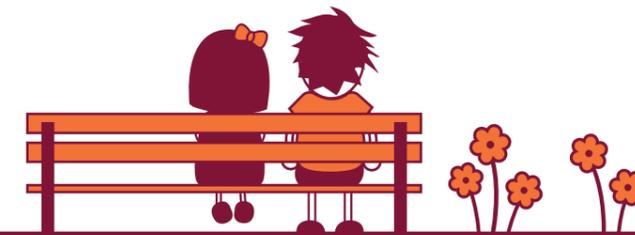
We have an update about our transfers to EHC plans and there is an opportunity for you to share your views anonymously about the EHC plans through the POET survey, see page for more details.

This issue also includes information on ways of taking care of yourself as a parent carer and some of the different support that is available for you to access from talking therapies to courses we hope there is something in here for you.

Calderdale Council
short.breaks@calderdale.gov.uk



BIG LOTTERY Ordinary Lives Project



Unique Ways are pleased to announce that in March 2017 we were awarded 3 years Big Lottery funding to help us continue offering our to our ever increasing membership (now over 1000 members!!)

See
page 31
for how you
can help
Unique Ways
to support
families

The project called 'Ordinary Lives' will offer over the three years

- 1:1 Support, Signposting and Information
- Group peer support – at least twice monthly on different days and at different times
- 1:1 peer support – to meet families' specific needs
- Group information sessions
- Help for parent carers to access services
- Self-advocacy skills workshops and self-advocacy skills on a 1:1 basis
- Workshops specifically developed for parent carers
- Help parents carers find and implement the right strategies to solve issues (e.g. sleep)

We now have 2 practitioners, Helen Norris and Lucy Armour, headed up by our project co-ordinator Sunny Freakley and ably assisted by our Membership Officer Amanda Rorrison.

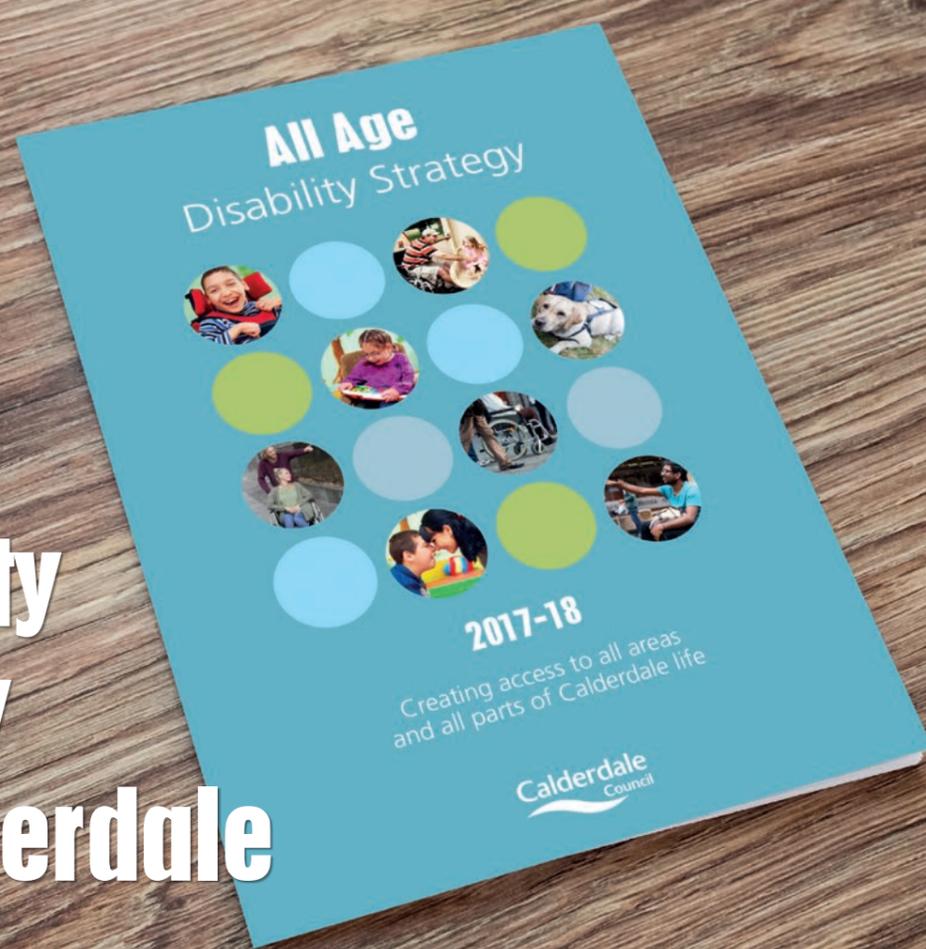
Over the next few months you will find all 4 of the practitioner team out and about in your locality.

If you need to contact one of our practitioners you can email them on practitioners@uniqueways.org.uk or give them a call on **01422 343090**.

We also welcome Heidi Coney as the new Family Voice supporter to Unique Ways as Lucy Armour moves over to the Ordinary Lives project.



All Age Disability Strategy for Calderdale



Calderdale Council has supported the development of an initial All Age Disability Strategy for Calderdale. Our vision is to be The Best Borough in The North for everybody and an important part of this is being a place where we all work together so disabled children, young people and adults can access all areas and all parts of Calderdale life.

The initial Strategy, formally launched in July 2017, is about everyone, disabled people, family members, carers, friends, neighbours, employers, educators, decision makers, funders and planners. It aims to challenge thinking, change attitudes and inform Calderdale that disability and removing barriers is everyone's responsibility and everyone has an important part to play. We want disabled people to be independent and equal in society, and have choice and control over their own lives.

In 2017 we undertook a survey, attended a wide range of meetings and events and held a range of events with different groups of people; their views were recorded, discussed and shared. Over 800 people had their say and we discussed the strategy with over 50 groups, services and organisations. Our specific strategy events took place in Halifax, Todmorden and Brighouse and were 'live streamed' on the internet. Our consultation materials were available online and paper in different formats such as Braille, Easy Read, Large Print and different languages. This ensured that the voice of disabled people, their families and carers drove the priorities within this strategy.

88% of all the people completing the survey online agreed that our vision was right. A total of 44 parents/carers completed the online survey and over 50 were included through range of focus groups and events.

The following quotes were provided by parents and carers during our consultation.

“ My son should be supported to live a fulfilling stimulating life and continue to learn and be as independent as he can be. This requires support, provision of services and help in accessing those services. It should not depend solely on his carer. ”



“ I'm hoping it will increase my daughter's opportunities to do things and go places in Calderdale. ”

“ If my daughter and brother have good support, a good life and are free from abuse then I become a mum and a sister, not a carer. ”



“ At the moment we are not accessing activities because my son is attending college out of the area, but it would be great to have opportunities to access things like swimming when there are no children and lots of people in the pool, as my son is very noise sensitive and cannot cope in noisy surroundings. ”

“ Disability should be discussed more in school. People are ignorant in their communities. They think that people act differently because they are odd and not because of a disability. I have a child with autism and people stare and snigger. ”



The full strategy and consultations report can be found at:
www.calderdale.gov.uk/all-age-disability

For more information about the consultation and the Strategy please contact

Julia Redgrave
Project Manager

Tel: 01422 392743 or
Email: julia.redgrave@calderdale.gov.uk



The Flexible Five Day Offer

Celebrating the first anniversary of 5DO in Calderdale



A year ago, the Flexible Five Day Offer was first introduced to students in Calderdale. The main focus has been on ensuring that students with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan experience a positive transition from school to college and employment within the Calderdale area. Since then, three students from Ryburn High School and five students from Ravenscliffe School have successfully taken part in this new project. All of them have attended courses at Calderdale Adult Learning (CAL) on their days off from their college timetables, or gone on to enjoy positive part-time employment.

The next cohort of transitional students promises to be even more exciting as approx 30 Year 14 students will be involved. In addition to this, students have also been invited to take part in the first-ever Calderdale Project Search with CAL as a central partner in its pilot delivery.

What has The Five Day Offer included?

- **Meeting students and parents** (at school and at home) during their final term at school, getting to know their plans, needs and hopes for the future and inviting them to take part in Taster Sessions at CAL.
- **Arranging activities during the summer holiday**, including visits to
 - Ignite Day at Calderdale College (this year it will be held on 17 August)
 - sports facilities at North Bridge Leisure Centre
 - Hardcastle Craggs and along the Rochdale Canal
 - Huddersfield Art Gallery and Bankfield Museum
 - social meet-ups in Halifax and Sowerby Bridge.

- **Creating links to Calderdale Adult Learning** at Heath, Halifax, including:
 - inviting students, parents and carers to Open Days, Taster Sessions and coffee mornings
 - inviting students to sign up to new and existing Learning Disability courses
 - working with students to strengthen their independence and confidence in key life skills including travel.
- **Creating stronger links between various agencies** within Calderdale including: Calderdale College, Calderdale and Kirklees Careers, Scope, The Orange Box, Creative Minds, Lead the Way and Gig Buddies.

Key success stories

Delan

has attended two full days at CAL for over six months whilst studying Level 1 Animal Care at Calderdale College. His courses include cookery, craft, gardening and art. He was an ambassador for CAL at the recent Local Offer event at the Shay stadium; has become an independent traveller and appears to be more confident, happy and mature.

Godspower

regularly attends CAL courses on his day off timetable, studying Employability and Life Skills at Calderdale College. He now travels independently by taxi and is currently enjoying eight week's Work Experience at Flutter-bites Café in Manor Heath Park in Halifax. Links to Springboard Plus at Ravenscliffe have been a very welcome addition to the Five Day Offer.

Andy

is progressing onto his Level 2 Art and Design course at Kirklees College and attends two afternoon art sessions at CAL. He is now able to travel independently by bus and will be exhibiting his art work at Elland Library in June as part of a new CAL initiative for learners with a learning disability. He also hopes to exhibit at Calderdale Open Art Competition at Bankfield Museum this September.

Sam

currently enjoys a full day at CAL, travels by taxi and is fast becoming more independent, sociable and decisive. We are now helping him gain employment experience in the voluntary sector.

The key to The Five Day Offer's success lies with its highly flexible and personalised approach: we take care to ensure that we listen to each and every student (plus their parents/carers) so that an individualised plan is put in place. We also keep in regular contact throughout people's first year at college. Several of the initial cohort will be extending their courses at CAL and/or enjoying employment opportunities during their second year at college.

For more information please email Glenn.Swindell@calderdale.gov.uk or Mary.Ellen@calderdale.gov.uk



Project SEARCH update

This is a Transition Programme and is a one-year internship for Young People with Education Health and Care Plans, often in their last year of school or college whose goal is paid employment.

Project Search adopts the supported employment model which is based on the principle that learning in the workplace (as opposed to in a classroom) is the most effective way for people with a learning disability to achieve paid work. Project Search will be available in Calderdale from September 2017.

June marks a very important milestone for Project SEARCH in the UK. They can show that since 2010 more than 500 young people have gone into paid full time employment in the UK as Project SEARCH

graduates. Everyone involved knows how life changing that can be and work is on-going to develop and continuously improve this very aspirational, elegant and effective transition programme. It is testament to the hard work of everyone past and present in the sites in the UK from the Education Sector, Supported Employment Partners, Host Businesses of many kinds and Government but of course most of all the young people who have been involved in achieving these fantastic outcomes. Let's hope that we soon reach the 1.000 marker in the UK!

Progress to Date

- A Project Board is set up and key partners include members of Family Voice Calderdale, the Local Authority, Calderdale College, Ravenscliffe School, C&K Careers, Lead the Way and Project Search. The Board meets monthly to track progress towards implementation
- Approval has been obtained for Calderdale Council to be the host business for the first term whilst discussions continue with a major employer in the area to become the long term host employer. An on-site base and a variety of internships that teach core job skills will be provided
- Calderdale College are the Education Provider and provide an instructor and employability skills curriculum – on site with the host employer. Short listing of applications for the instructor post has taken place and the interviews were held on 16 May
- Job coaches employed by Ravenscliffe and the College will contribute to providing job skills support
- Application forms for internships have been produced and are now available for completion
- Initial training has been delivered for wider partners.

Next Steps

- Project Search will provide training for the tutors/employment support and job coaches on 4 & 5 July
- A base room will be identified by the Local Authority for interns starting in Sept 2017
- Suitable internships will be identified and profiled
- Board members will publicise the project and assist learners to complete applications
- Applications will be shortlisted and young people invited to the assessment day on 26 June
- Successful applicants will be notified and supported through the next steps
- Summer School delivered by C&K Careers will commence over the summer holidays to help prepare young people who have been offered places on Project Search
- Negotiations will continue with the potential long term host employer
- Links with other key businesses will be established to offer a wider range of employment opportunities to interns following completion of the Project Search course.

**For further details please contact:
Julie.killey@calderdale.gov.uk**

**If you would like a copy of the application form please contact:
Laural@calderdale.ac.uk**

About Hft

Hft Bradford has been appointed to provide the specialist employment support on site with the host employer.

Hft is a national charity, supporting more than 2,500 people with learning disabilities. We were founded in 1962 by a group of parents who wanted their relatives to live the best life possible. That is still our aim today. We provide the specialist care and support that helps people, including those with the most complex and challenging needs, to live with as much independence, choice and dignity as possible. Our services range from residential care to supported living at home – from a few hours a week to 24 hours a day. We also provide the kind of extra help that means people with learning disabilities can experience life to the full – from finding employment, to having an active social life.

Hft delivers support in a way that is unique. Our Fusion Model of Support puts the emphasis on how we provide support, not what support we provide. This model is based on the concept of Person-Centred Active Support (PCAS). This is a way of supporting people so they are engaged in meaningful activity and relationships as active participants, exercising more control over their lives and experiencing greater levels of inclusion independence and choice.



About Hft's involvement in Project SEARCH

Hft Supported Employment is an experienced established team supporting over 100 people with learning disabilities in Bradford into open paid employment in various work settings. We have been involved with Project SEARCH in Bradford since September 2013.

Hft's role in Project SEARCH is to provide a full time coach to prepare people for employment by providing training for individuals to develop the skills to meet the needs of future employers.

The Project SEARCH offers students, aged between 18 and 25, the chance to spend five hours a day gaining on the job experience. During the nine month internship students undertake tasks in three different departments within the host business completing more than 900 hours. Time is also spent in the classroom at the beginning and end of each day, supported by a job coach and teacher, to cover any training needs required.

Since its launch the scheme has proved to be a real success. Having a job can transform a person's life. It empowers people to be more independent, widens friendships and enables people to have more choice. By working in partnership we are able to empower individuals to develop new skills, gain on the job experience, and for many, to help realise their ambition of finding a job.

We are really excited about working in Calderdale supporting young people at the start of their journey into the world of work. If you would like to find out more about the Bradford Project SEARCH please visit the website www.projectsearchbradford.org.uk/

Have a disabled child?

Well you are not alone

You are not alone, there are many parent carers like you facing the challenges of caring for a child or young person with an additional need, health condition or a disability. Unique Ways can help you connect with other families so you can share ideas and learn from each other. We can help guide and support you through the maze of emotions, anxiety and needs. For example you can pop into one of our coffee mornings or an afternoon tea session and meet staff who can help or other parents in a similar situation. Here are a few tips:

Parent Carers need to be cared for too!

As a parent carer you are caring for your child constantly. As a person you are special and need to be cared for too. It is okay to ask a friend or family member to help with household chores now and then, or go out for a meal, or do things that you enjoy. Do take time out for yourself and enjoy a treat, you are worth it!

You are a superhero!

You may not wear your underwear on the outside or fly, but rest assured you are a superhero. On a daily basis you manage situations that most parents will find impossible. As a parent carer of a disabled child you are not just a parent, you are a therapist, a friend, a doctor, a nurse, but defiantly not just an ordinary parent.

Enjoy your children!

Superhero parents are mad busy and snowed under with daily routine duties. While all these are important, it is critical you make time to play, laugh, be silly and just enjoy your child(ren). Playing board games; hugging; reading; walking; driving things that share the time that they see as important.



It's not a sprint it's a marathon!

In a marathon, you don't have a break, to stay in the race, you eat, drink and do what is needed while running. In our situation the marathon will last for the foreseeable future and beyond. It's not about winning but getting to the line, so it's okay to have break along the way, then got back on track. Give yourself respite moments, even if it's brief.

Trust your instincts!

No one knows your child like you do. All the professionals - Doctors, teachers, therapists are there to support you and work with you. If your child's needs are not being met get a second opinion. If no one seems to be listening do not be afraid to fight for your child's right. The professionals are experts in their areas, you are the expert on your child.

Just remember you are not alone - Unique Ways is here for you. We help support and guide you.

Unique Ways Coffee Mornings are held on the first Tuesday of the Month, 10am-12pm (except school holidays) and our Afternoon sessions are held the third Wednesday of the month, 12.30-2pm (except school holidays) at Hanson Lane Enterprise Centre, Hanson Lane, Halifax, HX1 5PG

You can keep checking for upcoming events on our website at www.uniqueways.org.uk/events

LET'S GET TALKING

Speech, language and communication skills... what are they? It's all just talking, right? So why is it so hard for some people? What goes wrong?



Let's take it back a step and break it down. Let's think about the different skills we need to talk before we attempt to answer the million-dollar question!!

How do we communicate? Well by talking of course! It seems straight forward and, of course, it is but what about the people who can't use words to communicate? Babies, for example, are still able to let you know that they are happy, sad, need a nappy change or want feeding. They do this through their facial expression, their crying, babbling and their laughter. And how many people out there have a mobile phone? I'd guess that it's the majority of early teens to adults. And how many people use that mobile purely as a phone? I know that I text and email, I use social media and the internet to communicate on my phone far more than I use it to talk. Some of my strongest friendships are with people that I've never spoken to on the phone but I have regular contact with. Now we're thinking about it, how else do we

communicate? Writing, drawing, music, pointing, gesture, facial expression. You can tell from across a room what someone is thinking or feeling. You can know if they are asking you for a cup of tea or telling you to turn down the music without being able to hear the words that they are saying.

It's important to remember this when speaking to a child who finds it difficult to talk. We want to support their communication development as best we can and as quickly as possible but, in the meantime, they may still have excellent communication skills and have a clear message that they are trying to tell us. We need to look for this message and respond to it positively. Let them feel listened to just as we'd want to be.

There are lots of things that you can do to help your child to develop their language skills. Here are some of my top tips for things that you can easily do throughout each day.

- 1 Make sure that you get your child's attention – say their name and get down on their level. Make sure that you are both listening to one another and that you are sharing the same topic or object. Let them know that you want to communicate with them.
- 2 Make it easier for your child to listen by turning off the TV or the radio.
- 3 Give your child lots of time to think. Count to ten before you say any more to them. Children need time to think about what has been said to them and think about how they are going to respond.
- 4 Copy back what your child says to you whether this is sounds or words. This is early conversation and helps your child understand that when they do or say something it will change what you do or say.
- 5 Repeat what you say – children need to hear a word lots of times before they are able to understand or use it.
- 6 Don't ask too many questions. Try to use the hand rule – 1 question (your thumb) for every four comments (your fingers). This stops it feeling like a test for your child and gives them lots of language to copy.
- 7 Show them the right way – rather than correcting your child and getting them to 'say it again', repeat back what they've said but using the correct language – rather than saying 'say cat', say, 'that's right, you saw a cat'.
- 8 Extend what your child says so that they are able to hear more language. For example, if they say 'car', you could say, 'that's right, it's a big red car'.
- 9 Make it easier for them to talk – take out their dummy. Dummies affect how clear a child's sounds are and can act like a plug stopping them from speaking.
- 10 Most of all, have fun with language – use lots of car and animal noises, pull funny faces and make up songs. Help your child to be interested in communicating.



For more resources to encourage listening, understanding, interaction and play you can go to your local Children's Centre for ages 0-5 or take a look at the Communications Trust resources for any age group

<https://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/resources/resources/resources-for-parents/>



TALKING THERAPIES

Are you feeling low, anxious, or stressed? Are you finding it hard to cope? We can help you.

Everyone goes through difficult times; sometimes our problems affect our day-to-day lives and we feel that we can't cope. If you are in this situation, you are not alone. We can help you if you are experiencing common issues such as:

- low mood
- depression
- anxiety
- stress
- panic
- anger
- trauma
- bereavement
- loss
- relationship difficulties
- family problems
- phobias

Our services offer a range of talking therapies, advice, information and support. Talking therapies can help you to understand and work through your difficult feelings and develop strategies for coping better. The best therapy will depend on your particular situation.

Insight Healthcare is the largest not-for-profit provider of talking therapies in the UK; our services are free, as they are funded by the NHS. We have therapists with a broad range of specialist skills, allowing us to provide the best support for your particular needs.

How do I arrange an appointment?

You can self-refer to our service in the following ways:

- Fill in the online form on our website www.insighthealthcare.org
- Call us – 0300 555 0191 (local rate)
- Email us – calderdale@insighthealthcare.org
- Ask your GP for a referral

Once we have received the referral, a member of the administration team will contact you to arrange an appointment. Please note that it is our usual policy to withhold telephone numbers when we call you.

Contact us:

Telephone:
0300 555 0191 (local rate)

Email:
calderdale@insighthealthcare.org



Saturday Splat!



Saturday Splat is a group for Parents and Carers of children with additional needs and their siblings of any age. We provide a fun environment where families can engage together in varied activities.

Families can have fun together in a relaxing environment and learn activities which they can do together at home. This is a drop-in session and therefore no booking required.

Saturday Splat is Only £1.50 per family. First Saturday* in every month 10.00-11.30am

1 July, 5 August, 2 September, 7 October, 4 November and 2 December 2017.

* On Bank Holiday weekends this is the second Saturday

For more information contact
**Wellholme Park Children's Centre on
01484 714768**

**Sure Start
Children's Centres**
North Halifax Partnership

INCLUSIVE SPORTS, DANCE & PLAY at Todmorden Sports Centre

Supported by Calderdale Short Breaks Programme

Delivered by coaches and staff from Calderdale Sports Services and Calderdale Play Development Service, 'free' new inclusive sport, dance & play sessions will take place on the following dates

- Wednesday 28 June*
- Wednesday 5 July
- Wednesday 12 July*
- Wednesday 19 July

All sessions will run from 3.30-6.00pm
* Inclusive dance 3.45-4.30pm

Debbie Greenwood 01422 341527
email: debbie.greenwood@calderdale.gov.uk

Sarah Kay 01422 380995
email: sarah1.kay@calderdale.gov.uk



Upcoming Courses at Unique Ways



We will be running our 3 very successful courses, **Insider's Guide**, **Parenting for Health and Emotional Wellbeing** and **Planning for Your Child's Future** over the course of this financial year.

Insider's Guide

The Insider's Guide is a group-based learning course, designed by and for parent carers of children with additional needs. It focuses on building resilience and finding practical solutions to everyday challenges, encouraging parent carers to feel positive and confident in their abilities.

The main goals of the Insider's Guide are to:

- Give parents the opportunity to share and explore their journey with others
- Develop trust between parents and professionals
- Recognise and build upon the skills parents have already acquired
- Map parents' needs in preparation for the next part of their journey
- Practise and rehearse possible strategies for building on the parents' strengths
- Develop positive solutions to problems
- Encourage person-centred thinking

The Insider's Guide is a modular course that can be tailored to the needs of the parents attending. There are five different variants of the course, each with a different focus:

Under Fives, Under 12s, Teens, Complex Health Needs and Challenging Behaviour

Each course variant shares three common modules, combined with three course-specific modules that focus on the different challenges parent carers can face.

To find out more about the Insiders Guide, check out our website
<http://www.uniqueways.org.uk/insiders-guide/>

Parenting for Health and Emotional Wellbeing



Children with additional needs are more than four times as likely to develop a diagnosable psychiatric disorder than those who do not have additional needs. Many parent carers who come to Unique Ways worry about their child's emotional wellbeing, and whether they can provide the support they need.

Our Parenting for Health and Emotional Wellbeing (PHEW) course for parents and carers of 11 to 18 year-olds with additional needs focuses on building a parenting relationship with teens that supports their mental health needs.

We encourage parents to see the PHEW course as just one step in their journey as parents of teens with additional needs. We don't have all the answers about what's best for your child – after all, you're the one who knows them best.

One of the most important things the course encourages is realism. We want to be realistic about what we are able to be as parents. It's not about being your child's therapist, or gaining a professional qualification as a practitioner.

Instead, the aim of the course is to share tools, ideas and insight that will help you to recognise and improve the mental health and wellbeing of your teen.

It is then up to you how to best use this information to support your child, and if you believe that your teenager needs further professional support then we'll be able to point you in the right direction.

The course is divided into a number of sessions and exercises, including: Hopes and fears, Triggers and early warning signs, Communication and relationships and self care.

To find out more about the Parenting for Healthy Emotional Wellbeing Course, check out our website

<http://www.uniqueways.org.uk/parenting-for-health-and-emotional-wellbeing/>

Planning for Your Child's Future Course

If your child has additional needs or a disability, and you are requesting an EHC assessment or are unsure if you need one, then the Planning for Your Child's Future course can help.

It is also very useful for parent carers that already have a Special Educational Needs (SEN) statement in place for their child, and need to transfer it to an EHC plan.

More broadly, the course provides support for parent carers who are struggling to help people understand their child, or to get them the help they need at school.

The Planning for Your Child's Future course is person-centred, which means ensuring that someone with a disability is at the centre of

decisions which impact their life. The course aims to provide parent carers with an understanding of:

- Person-centred thinking and approaches
- The importance of resilience, community and family support
- The important of ensuring that a child is at the centre of thinking and planning, and that they should have choice and control over their future
- Aspirational planning, processes, potential services (both specialist and mainstream) and community
- The EHC process, and if and when their child needs an EHC
- The benefits of planning for the future and working towards achieving outcomes, even if their child is not eligible for an EHC
- Personal budgets
- The wealth of opportunities within local communities, leading to cost-effective ways of meeting outcomes

We've found that parent carers who have been on the course have been able to navigate the EHC process with a lot more confidence, working with their child to achieve the best possible outcomes.

It also helps parents who are at an earlier point in their journey of caring for a child with additional needs see their children in a different way, seeing the positives and focusing on what they can do, rather than what they struggle with.

To find out more about the Planning for Your Child's Future course, check out our website
<http://www.uniqueways.org.uk/preparing-for-your-childs-future/>



Course Dates:

Insider's Guide

Thursday 14 September -
10:00 to 13:00 for 6 x consecutive Weeks

Monday 1 November -
10:00 to 13:00 for 6 x consecutive Weeks

Tuesday 9 January 2018 -
10:00 to 13:00 for 6 x consecutive Weeks

Monday 26 February 2018 -
10:00 to 13:00 for 6 x consecutive Weeks
(last week moved forward to Thurs 29 March)

** If you feel that this course would benefit you, please contact Amanda Rorrison so we can add you to the waiting list; please keep an eye on our website and e-bulletins for confirmed course content.

Parenting for Emotional Healthy Wellbeing

Tuesday 17 October and Wednesday 18 October 2017 -
10:00 to 14:00

Wednesday 17 January and Thursday 18 January 2018 -
10:00 to 14:00

Thursday 22 March and Friday 23 March 2018 -
10:00 to 14:00

Planning for your child's future

Monday 18 September -
6:30pm til 9pm for 4 x consecutive Weeks

Wednesday 31 January 2018 -
10:30 - 13:00 for 4 x consecutive weeks

Tuesday 27 February 2018 -
10:30 - 13:00 for 4 x consecutive weeks

All courses are held at Unique Ways Offices, Hanson Lane Enterprise Centre, Hanson Lane, Halifax, HX1 5PG

You can keep up to date with all our current courses and information sessions at <http://www.uniqueways.org.uk/events/>

For more information or to book on any of our courses, please contact Amanda Rorrison on 01422 343090, or email hi@uniqueways.org.uk



Family Learning



Calderdale Council Family Learning (part of Adult Learning) and Unique Ways are embarking on an exciting and new partnership. By working together it will enhance the existing opportunities that are available for families.

Family Learning will be offering a range of free, fun and informal learning activities for adult and family members, including children, to participate in. Some of these will include: Themed Cookery such as Food from Around the World and Baking, Art & Craft, Gardening, Music, First Aid and many more!

In March/April 2017, six families including mums, dads, carers, grandparents and siblings attended an Easter Art and Craft course

for three sessions from 6.00-7.30 pm at the Adult Learning Centre at Heath. Families enjoyed making Easter baskets, eggs, gardens and bonnets. At the same time they learnt about different methods to construct the items using a range of resources, spent quality time learning together as a family, had lots of fun being creative, but most of all were very proud of their family's achievements.

The course was a great success and this is what the families had to say ...

"It was wonderful to come to a place without being judged"

"My children love making things, so it was perfectly suited to them"

"It was a chance to meet new people, make something, and make new friends"

"Great free opportunity not to be missed"

(Quotes abstracted from the learner feedback - 5 April 2017)

Further details about future adult and family activities will be advertised via Unique Ways.

Please contact Mrs Sharon Pye, Family Learning Manager on 07940 916883 if you have any suggestions for activities.



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GIGBUDDIES CALDERDALE

Gig Buddies Scheme - An exciting New Project
with Square Chapel for the Arts

What are we?

Gig Buddies is a new initiative within Calderdale which aims to promote social inclusion among people who have a learning disability. The scheme is funded by Calderdale Council and is part of their long term vision of 'Everyone Different, Everyone Matters' which is related to research from October 2015 to March 2016 identifying that young people with a learning disability have significantly smaller social networks than their non-disabled peers.

Square Chapel for the Arts has been chosen to deliver the scheme; it having being recognised for commitment to increasing opportunities for local people to access arts and culture, as well as a commitment to developing an extensive network of volunteers which are integral to the successful management of the organisation.

The Gig Buddies initiative was founded by Brighton based charity Stay Up Late and has been successfully running since 2013.

What will we do?

The scheme aims to reduce the barriers faced by people with a learning disability in relation to accessing social activities. These have been identified as attending the theatre, cinema or gigs and anything else that a person may wish to engage with in their leisure time.

Our scheme will recruit volunteers who will be our 'Gig Buddies' and who will attend 'gigs' with 'Gig Goers' where similar interests have been identified.

We recognise that there are many ways for people to socialise and we aim to hold regular social events for buddies and gig goers to create opportunities for people to socialise, spend time outdoors and meet new people with similar interests.

Our Aims

We believe that everyone should have access to arts and culture and that a lack of awareness of what is on offer in the local and wider community should not be a barrier to this. We recognise the importance of choice and control among people who have a learning disability and will establish a regular focus group for gig goers to tell us what they want in order to shape our scheme.



Where we are now

Our project is currently brand new with our Project Coordinator having recently started at Square Chapel. We are currently raising awareness of our aims and indeed our scheme among key partners and already established organisations. We are in the process of arranging to meet with groups to gain understanding of how we can respond to the social needs of people who have a learning disability.

We will be working on our website in conjunction with the already established Square Chapel site which will soon contain dates for launch events and updates.

All Gig Buddies will be subjected to enhanced DBS checks.

Get in touch!

If you want to get involved in Gig Buddies we'd love to hear from you so please get in touch

Phone our office on
01422 353073

Email Gemma at
gemma@squarechapel.co.uk

Look up information about
similar projects online at:
www.gigbuddies.org.uk

Local Offer *update*



The Local Offer gives children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities and their families' information about what support services are available in Calderdale.

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The Calderdale Local Offer Live Event took place on Thursday 11 May 2017 at The Shay Stadium - A marketplace to allow parents, carers and young people access to face to face advice and support from a wide range of services available locally to support children and young people with SEND. The event was organised jointly by the Local Authority and Family Voice Calderdale, and a range of multi-agency partners supported the event and was designed to help raise awareness of our Local Offer:

www.calderdale.gov.uk/localoffer

We had 141 visitors consisting of 90 separate groups including parents/carers, families members and young people.

Thinking of coming to the next event?

We got lots of positive feedback from the event and here are a few of the quotes:

Please, please run these again – a must for all parents with newly diagnosed child, they should run quarterly so we can find out all information with minimal delay.

This event has been overwhelmingly brilliant! My son is 16 and I have been searching for social things he can feel able to access. I leave today full of hope that I've found him many possible places and that there is help and support we can access. Thank you very much.

This event has been absolutely FANTASTIC!! I am overwhelmed with how much help and support is out there that I have never known about. I am so glad I attended. It has given me a lot of hope.

Love to see the progress from babies to 25. We all want to see where our children can move onto next.

I have struggled to find help for 5 yrs. Got lots of info today, thank you.

Very good range of information, now I know what questions to ask and arrangements for daughter moving to high school.

Brilliant that so many different professionals are here.

So glad I came because I've come away with information and even an appointment to see someone to get help.

Follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with what's on locally and for details of our next event taking place autumn 2017:

 **Calderdale Local Offer**

To contact us call Sam Wasilewski on 01422 392164 or email local.offer@calderdale.gov.uk



Transition from young person to an adult

Transition means change and we know this can be a very difficult time for young people and their families, so in Calderdale lots of different services have been working together to make it better and easier. An important part of this is writing and agreeing the 'Transition Protocol' for Calderdale that is agreed by Councillors and Senior Managers.

Transition from young person to an Adult information is now available in the following formats as PDF downloads; English, Czech, Polish and Urdu, these are also available in Easy Read versions too that use plain language supported by pictures.

All these can be found under '**Preparing for Adulthood**' section of the Local Offer website <http://www.calderdale.gov.uk/localoffer>

Education, Health and Care Plans

The SEN Team continues to make significant progress with the Calderdale EHC Transfers. At the beginning of June 2017 there were 149 Statements of SEN still in place. Of these more than half are well into the transfer process. It is still anticipated that working with schools and families the Team will be able to complete all EHC transfers by the March 2018 deadline.

Children, young people and families have been central to the transfer process. All EHC Plans have the views, interests and aspirations of the child or young person and the family at the centre.

The EHC Plan process, both new assessments and transfers, continues to have good support from parents and carers. Comments from young people, through the **POET survey**, have been particularly positive.

The Independent Supporters approach has been extremely positive with independent supporters both supporting families to develop person centred contributions to Plans and helping schools develop wider person centred approaches.



At the beginning of June Calderdale maintained 961 EHC Plans - together with the remaining Statements of SEN the authority currently has 1110 EHC Plans and Statements of SEN across the 0 - 25 age range.

For further information on EHC Plans and the EHC transfer process can be found on the Local Offer or through John Perry, SEN Manager via: john.perry@calderdale.gov.uk

POET (Personal Outcomes Evaluation Tool)



Locally, we will use the results of this survey to monitor how well EHCP's are working for you, how we are doing and how we can continue to improve the prospects for children and young people. The information you give us will also be used in a national report to help improve the way things are done for others in England. You will not need to give any personal details and there will be no way of identifying individuals.

In Control, with the help of children, young people, families and practitioners from across the country, have devised questionnaires for a range of people to complete about the process of obtaining an EHCP this will give us an all-round view.

A national report with the results will be published in autumn 2017 and Calderdale will receive an individual benchmarking report, subject to us providing sufficient returns. We will share the results and what we will be doing as a result of the findings. If you are interested in the results or have any further questions, then please contact sarah.dickinson@calderdale.gov.uk

Questionnaire Survey

We are asking for your help in finding out how Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP's) are working for children, young people and families in Calderdale.

Email Sarah Dickinson to ask for the electronic link, or you can ask your SEN Team worker or Unique Ways for a hard copy. Alternatively you can use the links below to complete the questionnaire that is relevant to you:

Survey for Parents of Children and young people who have an Education Health and Care Plan
<http://puttingpeoplefirst.limeask.com/survey/index/sid/331996/newtest/Y/lang/en>

Survey for Children and Young People who have an Education Health and Care Plan, their life and the support they get
<http://puttingpeoplefirst.limeask.com/survey/index/sid/315861/newtest/Y/lang/en>

Survey for Practitioners working with children and young people who have an Education Health and Care Plan
<http://puttingpeoplefirst.limeask.com/survey/index/sid/324457/newtest/Y/lang/en>



Elaine Baulcombe, SEN and Disability Professional Adviser 0-25 SEN and Disability Unit for the Department for Education visited Calderdale on 4 of May 2017 to assess our progress regarding the implementation of the SEND Reforms.

The focus areas of the short visit determined by the DfE are detailed below:

- Progress regarding meeting the 31 March 2018 deadline for transfers of Statements to Education Health and Care Plans
- Completion of new Education Health and Care assessments within 20 weeks
- Our work with the Parent Carer Forum and co-production
- How we are developing and reviewing our Local Offer and how we are involving parents, carers children and young people
- Joint commissioning arrangements and progress
- Post 16 provision and support.



Colleagues from Family Voice Calderdale, the Local Authority and Health were involved in the visit and provided information directly to Elaine.

Elaine was very positive regarding the provision and partnership work in Calderdale, it was clear she had done some prior research including looking at our data compared to national averages and viewing our local offer. Elaine said it was clear we had a focus both on quality and timescales with regards to both transfers and new plans. Our Local Offer is dynamic and it is clear that co-production is embedded in Calderdale. She also commented that Calderdale has lots interesting work taking place in the areas of joint commissioning and Post 16.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the visit and all those who work in this area. We are pleased the visit was so positive but also recognise we need to continue with our focus on SEND as it needs to remain a priority for Calderdale.

Calderdale Early Years SEND Conference

Our first ever Early Years SEND conference in Calderdale was held Saturday 11 March. The event was for parents, Early Years Practitioners and Professionals from Calderdale and external organisations. The conference was organised, promoted and supported by DCATCH alongside the Portage and Early Years Support Teacher Team, Specialist Inclusion Teams, Local Offer and representatives from Family Voice Calderdale and Unique Ways.

The day was a huge success, emotional at times as parents shared their unique individual journeys into the world of SEND but also practical, inspiring and above all FUN. Feedback included many statements about how good it was to hear from parents, to see and meet parents as well as comments from the parents themselves about how good it was to be alongside professionals for this kind of event. Parents will continue to be a big feature of any future events we hold.

The parental feedback included

I don't feel so alone

I felt very welcomed and part of everything

Good to meet other parents

Great ideas to do at home

My child will get lots from these ideas

Those who attended from outside Calderdale were keen to hear our models of working and have requested further meetings to share practice.

The keynote speaker injected lots of energy into the final hour of a long day

and the feedback tells us the "time just flew by". DCATCH training contributed to the costs of the keynote speaker and ideas from him are already being written into our Early Years DCATCH training and workforce development plans for 2017-18.

Other Feedback included

Fabulous day

Lots of practical things we can do at no extra costs

Can't wait to do this at our setting

Great to meet others and talk about our ideas and share practice

Good to hear what's happening locally and nationally

Excellent venue

Great Saturday conference

Very professional conference

We would like to thank everyone for their continued support of Early Years SEND services. We know we have much to do in the future but we have been energised by the conference. We look forward to continuing to support very young children with SEND and their families to become more able to meet their child's needs, to have dreams for their futures and to raise aspirations for independent ordinary lives, by diminishing the differences on all fronts through holistic early support.

Save the date...

Calderdale's 2nd Early Years SEND Conference - Sat 14 Oct for more details please contact peyst@calderdale.gov.uk

Make a difference and donate.....

Due to the austerity measures over the past few years Unique Ways has seen its grant income fall. As such like most charities, Unique Ways will have to rely on donations to continue providing support for years to come.

Our services are a lifeline for disabled children and their families. (We use the term disability to include physical disability; learning disability and ongoing health conditions). We do not require a formal diagnosis and our support is available to anybody with a disabled child ages 0-25 in Calderdale who needs it, free of charge.

We need the support of our local community to support families with disabled children. If you like the work Unique Ways does or we have helped you or your family, please consider making a donation, or asking your friends and relatives to make a donation. Unique Ways relies entirely on grants and donations and would not exist in years to come without the generosity of our local community.

By giving just £2 per month you can help us provide this vital service to disabled children and their families. Our funding from the Local Authority or the NHS is restricted to provide a specific service, and is not guaranteed in the long term. We need friends of Unique Ways donating regularly to provide a stable source of funds long term to fund the support that is critical for our members.

You can do this on line at:

<http://www.uniqueways.org.uk/donate-to-us/>

Send us a cheque or speak to one of our team to see how you can help.

For further information or advice please contact:

Unique Ways

T: 01422 343900

E: hi@uniqueways.org.uk

W: www.uniqueways.org.uk

Hanson Lane Enterprise Centre,
Hanson Lane, Halifax HX1 5PG



Unique Ways
supporting families with disabled children



**For any further information
or advice please contact:**

Unique Ways

T: 01422 343090

E: hi@uniqueways.org.uk

W: www.uniqueways.org.uk

Hanson Lane Enterprise Centre,
Hanson Lane, Halifax, HX1 5PG

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