

INclusive Calderdale

AUTUMN 2018



A magazine for families with disabled children



Contents

Welcome	4
Meet the Team	5
Exciting times ahead at Halifax Society for the Blind	6
Local Offer	7
'Can do 100' Photos Project	8
Charity Challenge	10
Disability Sports Development, XS Inclusive School Holiday Programme	11
Spotlight on North Halifax Locality Coffee Mornings	12
Calderdale Emotional Health and Wellbeing website	14
SEN Climbing Club	15
Inclusion Fund	16
We asked, you told us, we did	17
Patelvis - taking care of business.... in Calderdale	18
Unique Ways Training Courses	19
Dear Sunny	20
Project Search	22
A Family's Story	24
Family Voice Calderdale	26
Snow White at The Victoria Theatre	27
Save the Date	

**Back
cover**

Welcome

I hope you like the new look 'INclusive Calderdale' - keep it with you in your bag whilst you travel..... as the great Oscar Wilde said "I never travel without my diary. One should always have something sensational to read on the train."



Wow, time moves fast. I can't believe it's over eight months since I joined the team at Unique Ways.

We are more than half way through our free training course programme for the year already with our next 'Challenging Behaviour' course (starting on 7th November) fully booked before the start of the summer school holidays! It's a course that's in high demand so we are now keeping a reserve list in-case anyone currently booked on can no longer attend. If you need this course, ensure you apply early for the one starting in January.

Keeping with the diary planning theme, in this edition there are some key diary dates to take note of, including the Unique Ways AGM, Unique Ways Member's Children's Christmas party and Family Voice Calderdale's Annual Conference 2019.

This edition also features our first community fundraising activity in a long time, organised by our newly formed Community Fundraising Committee. 'Patelvis' - the Indian Elvis entertained our guests back in June - watch this space for his comeback special, you won't want to miss it.

I must take this opportunity to congratulate two members of the Unique Ways staff team who literally went the extra miles for our charity this Spring. Martin Reynolds and his wife Toni ran the Great Manchester Run for us on Sunday 20th May, then they both joined our Project Co-ordinator, Sunny Freakley in also running the Leeds 10k on Sunday 18th July. Our heartfelt thanks go to our colleagues for taking on this personal challenge and raising vital funds for us.

Finally, talking of challenges, 2019 is a landmark year for Unique Ways as we reach our 16th birthday. Throughout the year we will be encouraging our members, supporters and indeed the staff team and trustees to undertake a personal charity challenge in 2019 for Unique Ways. If you have ever said to yourself, "I should do something" make it happen in 2019 - think about what you want to do, plan for it and then to quote a famous sports brand "just do it".

Hope you enjoyed the sunshine this summer, time to get ready for the long dark cold nights now - what a shock to the system that is going to be!

Shona Walsh
Chief Executive Officer - Unique Ways

Calderdale Welcome

I hope you are enjoying the new look **INclusive Calderdale**, the size is reduced but the content is as big as ever. We have introduced a new section on the back page - 'Save the Date' so you can see all those dates for your diary in one place.

Calderdale Council

short.breaks@calderdale.gov.uk

Meet the Team

Amanda Rorrison
Membership Officer
with Unique Ways



I am the first port of call for new members in the Calderdale area who contact Unique Ways to find out about our services and discuss ways in which we can support them and their families. If a parent/carer rings the office, I advise them to become a member online, completing our online membership form from a link on our very user friendly website. When a parent/carer has completed a membership form, I receive the form via email and add all the details onto our database. I then call the parent/carer to discuss their family situation to get an idea of the issue(s) and consider what support offered by Unique Ways they might benefit from.

I discuss the services that Unique Ways offer members including our specialist team of Practitioners e.g. specialists in Education, Sleep and Self-Advocacy, Max Cards, various training courses and our peer support with coffee mornings, afternoon teas here at Hanson Lane and also in our locality areas.

I run the Central Halifax coffee mornings/afternoon teas. These take place twice a month at regular dates and times and provide a 'safe haven' for parents to come to our offices, have a cup of tea and a biscuit or slice of cake and meet other regular members or new members.

I also provide 15 minute slots for new members to have 1:1 time with me if they feel their first visit to our peer support coffee mornings are too daunting.

Amanda Rorrison
Membership Officer

01422 343090
hi@uniqueways.org.uk





Exciting times

ahead at Halifax
Society for the Blind

The Halifax Society for the Blind, which was founded in 1879, has announced a major investment to improve its service over the next 12 months, which should see more services, reaching more people. The kinds of changes we are talking about include:

- The service becoming the natural hub of information and support activity for people with sight loss, including children, young people and parents.
- A new resource centre, offering people the opportunity to try equipment and devices that make daily living and accessing information easier.
- The re-launch of our newsletter, and for this to be available in audio and Braille formats.
- Much more joint work and collaboration with local support and services, as well as local charities.
- For volunteering to become a prominent feature of our work, to enable us to extend our reach. This will naturally include recruitment of, and support for, volunteers - including those with sight loss.
- Two new posts (Chief Officer and Volunteer Manager) which will decisively change the capacity for action, and the direction this goes in.

- The development of staff posts (Sight Advice Worker and Activities Organiser, and Caretaker).

These changes follow a major consultation and review of our activities and positioning within other local organisations that help people with sight loss.

Pete Hoey, Vice Chair of the Society said:

“The Society has around 400 members – the vast majority of whom are retired, and this reflects the picture nationally. But sight loss impacts across all age groups, and we intend to arrange better options for young people and families.”

The organisation is only at the start of this journey. Its improvement plans come from what people with sight loss said in the consultation. The coming changes should be an exciting time for all involved. This ambitious programme will impact on how The Society works with all local organisations.

If you would like to know more, please call our office on:

01422 352383 or email **halifaxblindsociety@gmail.org.uk**

Calderdale Local Offer



We have questions for you

Do you know what the Local Offer is?

Do you know where to get help and support for your child or young person with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities?

And the answer is

The Local Offer is a one stop shop of information on the support and services available in Calderdale for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities and their families.

You can find the Local Offer here:

www.calderdale.gov.uk/localoffer, we also have a Facebook page where we share relevant posts – find us on **Calderdale Local Offer**.

We would like to come along to parent carer groups and school coffee mornings – please tell us about any you know of so we can arrange to attend – thank you.

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

'Can Do 100'

Photos Project



by disability charity -
Leonard Cheshire

Leonard Cheshire was born in 1917 and became the most decorated bomber pilot of the second world war. Perhaps Cheshire's most famous role in Bomber Command was as the Wing Commander of 617 squadron. Their first mission immediately made 617 famous and coined their name **'The Dam Busters'**.

Those without a personal interest may not at first understand the link between 617, 'The Dam Busters', and the man known for his charities, Cheshire Homes and humanitarian work. But it was his experience as a bomber pilot during the war, and his immediate life thereafter, that motivated Leonard Cheshire to personally make a difference.

At the end of the conflict, Leonard realised that he was one of the lucky ones and was seized with a desire to make the world a better place. Many ventures failed until he received a call from a local hospital, asking if an acquaintance who was dying could come and live with him. The home grew and in 1949 Le Court had 24 residents.

This started a lifetime of humanitarian work with disabled people, fighting injustice and working towards a society in which everyone is equally valued.

As word spread, referrals came from the new NHS hospitals already struggling to cope with waiting lists of people needing urgent care. Disabled people were at the very bottom of the list of priorities, often left to manage on their own, or rely on others to help them get through each day. As Le Court became established, and people from different parts of the UK began to rally in response to local need for a similar home for people in their communities, the charity now known as Leonard Cheshire Disability began.



In Celebration of what would have been the founder's 100th birthday, in 2017, Leonard Cheshire Disability Charity undertook a project to do '100 things for Leonard.' The West Yorkshire offering was a little late but well worth the wait.

The idea was to bring together 100 photographs from 100 young disabled people which showed their lives, and the things that are important to them. They had no idea what they would end up with. They didn't quite have 100 young people, but they ended up with 1000's of photos which were whittled down to 100 - most of which were displayed at Hebden Bridge Town Hall



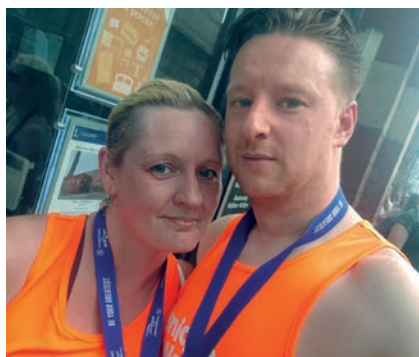
for a month in July. After that time some were moved to local libraries, and shop fronts in Halifax town centre.

Some of the photos show what it is like for young people, some show their ordinary lives, and others are a bit vague and arty which challenges us to see things from the young person's point of view. It's ended up being an eclectic group of photos from an awesome group of individuals.



Sunny Freakley
Ordinary Lives Project
Co-ordinator
01422 343 090 -
hi@unquieaways.org.uk

Charity Challenge



In May and July this year, Members, Staff and their Friends and Family took on the Manchester 10K and Leeds 10K raising over £1,500 for Unique Ways. A special thank you to Sunny, Martin, Toni, Felicity and Gareth and Chris.



If you would like to take on a charity challenge for Unique Ways, whether its sitting in a bath of beans or running a marathon, get in touch with us on **01422 343090** or email **martin.reynolds@uniqueways.org.uk**



XS Inclusive School Holiday Programme

Based at North Bridge Leisure Centre and providing 'fun' activities for children and young people during all school holidays, the XS programme is coordinated and delivered by Calderdale Council Sports Service staff. All staff are National Governing Body (NGB) qualified coaches to ensure appropriate delivery of all activities. The programme also ensures the full inclusion of participants with additional needs through the provision of additional sports/support staff for children and young people wishing to attend the scheme.

Trampoline and Fun-Swim Sessions

Commencing September 2018, the disability sports development programme will include additional trampolining and fun-swim sessions which will take place at Sowerby Bridge Pool & Fitness Centre (fun-swims) and North Bridge Leisure Centre (trampoline).

Brighouse & Sowerby Bridge Fun-Swim dates and times (dates for your diary):

	Sowerby Bridge Pool	Brighouse Pool
Sunday 23rd September	time tbc	3-4pm
Sunday 14th October	time tbc	3-4pm
Sunday 11th November	time tbc	3-4pm
Sunday 9th December	time tbc	3-4pm

For further information on the XS Programme or dates and times for our other disability sessions please contact Debbie Greenwood, Disability Sports Development Officer:

Email **debbie.greenwood@calderdale.gov.uk** or call **01422 341527**

Website **<https://www.calderdale.gov.uk/v2/sports-and-fitness/advice>**

SPOTLIGHT on...

North Halifax Locality Coffee Mornings



I'm the Practitioner for North Halifax which means I am responsible for making links with parents, professionals and other agencies in this area. I have recently set up my locality coffee mornings which have run in both May and June. Whilst these sessions are intended to be peer led, as part of my role I am there to ensure that parents can talk to me about any concerns they have or issues they are wanting to address and try and resolve. My area of responsibility at Unique Ways is Education and this is always a popular subject so parents can either grab some time with me 1:1 about this or anything else they're concerned about or they want to know more about.

Sometimes it's just nice to be in a space where you feel other people understand what it's like raising a child with a disability or additional need.

It's early days, however in June, we had 11 parents and a professional attend which was great and demonstrates that it's definitely a welcome move to start running our locality outreach sessions.

Coming through the door to somewhere new can be a nerve wracking experience but I understand these butterflies and am here to support you along the way. If you live in North Halifax and have a child with a SEN or additional need

then please come along for a chat – it's a great way to find out more about what's going on in your local area and how we (at Unique Ways) can be supporting you, to ensure you are in the best place to support your child.

North Halifax – Ilingworth Children's Centre

4th Wednesday every month: 1.30–3pm

Central Halifax – Unique Ways, Hanson Lane

Coffee Morning 1st Tuesday every month: 10am-12noon
Afternoon Tea 3rd Wednesday every month: 1-2.30pm

Upper Valley – Salem Centre, Hebden Bridge

2nd Monday every month 10.30am-12.00noon

Lower Valley – Rowley Powley's Play Gym Brighouse

Last Friday every Month 1-2.30pm

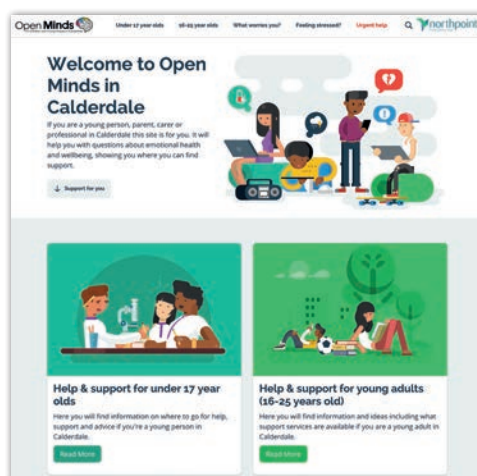
For further information, Contact Unique Ways on **01422 343090** or email **Hi@uniqueways.org.uk**

Alongside the North Halifax Coffee Morning Unique Ways offers Peer Support Groups across Calderdale.



Calderdale Emotional Health and Wellbeing Website

Following extensive consultation with children, young people, families and professionals we are delighted to announce we have made some further developments to the **Open Minds** website. This website is intended to give advice, support and signposting on local and national services that help children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing.



www.openmindscalderdale.org.uk

For further information please contact
Joanna.marshall@calderdale.gov.uk



SEN Climbing Club

Before we started the SEN climbing club, Michelle was asked by her children if they could try climbing. Little did they know that in the Calderdale and Kirklees areas there wasn't any provision, club or group for them or anybody else who require additional support to access this adventurous sport.

Undeterred, Michelle created the Special Educational Needs Climbing Club with the aim of not just enabling her own children to climb, but to enable anybody with additional needs (aged 5 and above) to access this fantastic sport.

The SEN climbing club encourages its members to work at their own pace, while providing support and positive encouragement while

simultaneously enabling them to develop not only their own skills and fitness levels, but also social interaction and teamwork too.

The club meets every Friday at 4:30pm at the Huddersfield Leisure Centre, in the town centre. It's £8 per climber, book a week at a time - no block bookings. Advanced booking is essential to ensure the correct staffing levels are in place.

If you're interested, please visit the SEN Climbing Club's facebook page or email Michelle at SENClimbingClub@outlook.com



Inclusion Fund

Following the 2017 DCATCH consultation and discussions with Elected Members, a decision has now been taken on future allocation and funding arrangements. Having listened to the feedback from parents and professionals, this funding has been protected by both the Council and Cabinet. We can therefore confirm there are no immediate plans to change the current arrangements.

Providers will continue to receive funding for all children currently identified for support, in line with the application and monitoring processes in place.

EHC plans will continue to be funded via the DCATCH funding process.

Providers are reminded to continue to provide high quality inclusive practice and to use all funding available to each child (EEF, EYPP, Deprivation Supplement and DAF funding) as part of their graduated approach to meeting the needs of individual children with SEND. Providers must also remain mindful of their

duties within the Equality Act 2010, EYFS 2017 and SEND code of Practice 2017 regarding the inclusion of children with SEND to avoid potential discrimination.

Providers and parents should be aware that this funding decision remains subject to future Council budget setting exercises. Should there be a requirement to consider alternative future budget delivery models we will consult with providers and parents about the impacts of any future changes.

Finally, to more closely reflect the statutory guidance, we are changing the name of the DCATCH funding stream to now be known as 'Inclusion Fund.' Over the course of the next few months you can expect to see the new name on your paperwork and on our website. There will be a gradual transition in the DCATCH Training portfolio as it takes on the Inclusion Fund branding but the current year's training will continue to be called DCATCH Training.

All enquiries regarding the Inclusion Fund should be made via inclusionfunding@calderdale.gov.uk



In March 2018, we ran our Annual Survey and once again, we received a record number of responses. The survey was split into three parts:

About Unique Ways, About Public Services and About Family Wellbeing.

The whole document will be publicised in the Autumn.

Headlines about Unique Ways:

91% of Parent Carers said that Unique Ways offered a consistent and high quality welcome.

Unique Ways helped:

91% of Parent Carers find out about services that are available to them and their family.

88% of Parent Carers access services that are available to them and their family.

86% of Parent Carers feel more resilient and able to cope with being a parent carer.

87% of Parent Carers feel understood, included and connected to others in similar situations.

86% of Parent Carers feel that their voice is heard and taken into account regarding their child's needs.

91% of Parent Carers said they would recommend Unique Ways to other parent carers.

We did:

Unique Ways have sat down to analyse the results of the survey. Through these responses we have ensured that:

- our courses run on different days, with some in the evenings,
- set up peer support groups in local neighbourhoods (not just at our base), and
- set up a Saturday morning peer support group.

In September, the findings of the survey around public services are being presented to the Disabled Children and Young People Strategy Board and will be distributed throughout the SEND work streams that our Parent Representatives sit on.



PATELVIS

taking care of business ... in Calderdale

On a balmy June summer night, PatElvis (the Indian Elvis) arrived in Halifax via India and Memphis to create a wonderful night of fun and fundraising for Unique Ways.

This fundraising event was held at 'Cinnamon at the Mill', Greetland and was the first event organised by our newly formed Community Fundraising Committee.

As well as a delicious buffet meal, guests enjoyed an evening of first-class entertainment from PatElvis as well as a raffle in aid of Unique Ways consisting of quality prizes.

Our fundraising committee plan to hold another event later in the year.

If you missed this one, you won't want to miss out on our next event so keep an eye on the Unique Ways website and social media to ensure you are part of the fun next time round.

Shona Walsh
Chief Executive Officer
Unique Ways

Call 01422 343090
or email hi@uniqueways.org.uk

Training Courses at Unique Ways



Delivered with funding from Calderdale Council

Insiders' Guide

Our Insiders' Guide focuses on what it means to be a parent carer of a child with additional needs.



Insiders' Guide: Challenging Behaviour

Wednesdays 7 November – 12 December 2018 (Course Full)

Fridays 11 January – 15 February 2019

** Topics covered include: understanding and managing challenging behaviours.

Insiders' Guide: Teenagers

Tuesdays 9 October – 20 November 2018

** Topics covered include: Social Skills and Sexual Development; barriers to joining in socially; navigating around puberty; exploring emotions and difficulties in establishing interpersonal relationships.

Insiders' Guide: Complex Health Needs

Tuesdays 8 January – 12 February 2019

** Topics covered include: getting the best out of Education and Health Care; connecting with other families and sharing experiences with other families; understanding stress and building long term strength.

PHEW: Parenting for Healthy Emotional Wellbeing

Wednesday & Thursday 3 – 4 October 2018, Fridays 1 & 8 March 2019

** Share tools, ideas and insight that will help you to recognise and improve the mental health and wellbeing of your young person.

PCP: Person Centred Planning

Tuesday 18 September, Monday 24 September, Mondays 1 & 8 October 2018 (Evenings), Tuesdays 15 January & 18 – 5 February 2019

** Discover how person centred planning can be used to create unique and personalised EHC plans which focus on your child's aspirations and outcomes for the future.

To read more about our courses please visit our website at
<http://www.uniqueways.org.uk/courses-training/>



Dear Sunny



Q I am worried about how my child will cope with Halloween, every year it becomes a major stress point for my son. He can't cope with the costumes or trick or treating, he would love to be able to go out and trick or treat but we never quite manage it without a meltdown. How can I try to help him cope?

A Halloween is an exciting time for many kids, but a minefield for lots of different reasons for many kids with SEND. If you are worried about sensory overload with your child there are several things you can do. If, on the day, Halloween is increasing your child's anxiety levels and they don't want to take part, don't light a pumpkin outside your house, most families won't knock on a door that isn't decorated. If you would like to join in at a distance, you could light a pumpkin at the end of your driveway with a bowl of goodies for children to help themselves to.



A spooky notice might be a good way for your child to join in, you can both watch from a window if they are comfortable with that.

If your child does want to try to go out themselves, try these tips to help prepare them.

- Create a visual story with pictures to help prepare your child.
- Try on costumes prior to Halloween, consider costumes that involve using their normal clothes using wings, capes and headbands.
- If they don't feel comfortable in their costume, don't make them wear it.
- Consider going to a friendly neighbour's house and practicing during the day.

Good luck and I hope you and your child are able to enjoy Halloween on whatever level your child is happy with. Don't feel the need to join in just because others expect it.

Q My child doesn't struggle with sleep most of the time but she struggles when the clocks go back or forward. It totally throws her body clock and she cannot get to sleep on time after the clocks change, this makes her anxious and that makes trying to get to sleep worse. I am dreading the change in October. Do you have any advice that can help my daughter cope with the change?

A Daylight saving is a difficult time for many children and re-adjusting their sleep pattern can seem impossible. I do have some tips to help though. The easiest way to transition when the clocks go back is to gradually change their bedtime over a few weeks.

From the beginning of October bring bedtime forward by just 5 minutes each week, by the time the clocks change, your child will be going to bed 20 minutes early already, once they change

on Sunday 28th October, bring bedtime forward by 15 minutes and then continue to bring bedtime forward by 5 minutes every week during November.

Hope this helps.



If you have a burning question you would like answering, contact:

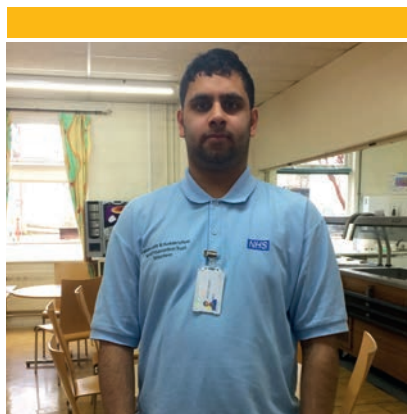
Sunny Freakley on **01422 343090**
or email **sunny.freakley@uniqueways.org.uk**

Project SEARCH

ProjectSEARCH is a new work-based learning option for young people with a learning disability who want paid employment.

The course runs for one academic year starting in September and finishing in June. **On Tuesday 10th July at the Halifax Town Hall the first ever ProjectSEARCH Calderdale Graduation Day took place.** The students, their families and the ProjectSEARCH Team attended, along with mentors and managers from all 3 rotations. Also in attendance were representatives from Calderdale Council, Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Trust, Calderdale College and HFT.

Two of this year's ProjectSEARCH students have already been offered Apprenticeships and another has won the Calderdale College Outstanding Employability Skills Star Award.



Ahmed has been offered a Customer Service Apprenticeship at The Carlton Hotel, Halifax. He will be able to use the skills he learned on rotation at Calderdale Royal Hospital as a porter, checking deliveries and stock and as a housekeeper, making beds and keeping everything clean and tidy.



James completed two rotations in the Pathology department of Calderdale Royal Hospital. His manager and mentor were so impressed and offered James a clinical Apprenticeship, which starts in September 2018.



Steven with the display boards he created for 'Dying Matters Week' (8th-16th May 2018) whilst working with the Macmillan Unit at Calderdale Royal Hospital. These display boards were used to help promote the work the Trust's palliative care team do across both the Calderdale and Huddersfield sites.

This course is free for students age 16 – 18 and 19+ with an EHC Plan. For students 19+ please contact our Student Services Team on 01422 399367 for more information.

For more information visit the Calderdale College website:
<https://www.calderdale.ac.uk/courses/project-search-supported-internships/>
or contact: Lisa Hunter (Job Coach) on 07556 191346
or email: lisa.hunter@hft.org.uk

A Family's Story

My family and I returned to the UK last June having spent 3 years in South Africa. We lived in Johannesburg with our children, my son who has ADHD, ODD and mild dyslexia and my daughter, who was diagnosed with dyslexia whilst we were there. My son had previously had a statement of special needs in the UK but it was no longer valid and although the SEN Team in Calderdale were helpful, they could not assist us with finding a school. So when we began planning our return, we did a lot of work looking at high schools which would be able to manage both their needs and had a good standard of pastoral care.

We have had great support from the school we chose, and my daughter has been doing really well in Y7, but since the second term, my son has been struggling in Y8. He disengaged academically and hadn't made any friends in his form, but he did have a safe place to go to during breaks and both the SENCO and one of the assistant heads were keeping a close eye on him.

Some friends, who also have a child with autism, had mentioned Unique Ways, and then school also mentioned them when we began to discuss an EHCP for Justin.

I first met Helen Norris when I rang Unique Ways and she invited me to attend a 'Person Centred Planning' (PCP) course which would help me understand the new process of applying for an EHCP and some of



the longer term issues for my son, as he negotiated being a teenager. Having been out of the loop of the education system and children with additional needs in the UK for some years, it was really helpful having someone explain it and also work through it with me, both as a professional and as a parent. Nothing you say as a parent shocks the team at Unique Ways, they don't just talk the talk, they are walking the walk and they walk it alongside you.

I attended the PCP course and then had several sessions with Helen, compiling the Parents View section of the application. It was incredibly reassuring and helpful to have someone who knew what was needed and knew what it would take to get the paperwork submitted; even with a supportive school, it is a challenging and frustrating system, and incredibly slow. It was also a timely reminder for us to go back over my son's life and realise the journey we have taken with him and the challenges he faces in his education.

At the moment, we are waiting for his application to be submitted by the end of the academic year with the hope that there will be something in place early in the first term. **But whatever the outcome, we know that we have a group of people who are alongside us and the challenges we face, and that is priceless.**

If you feel your family need some support contact Unique Ways on 01422 343090 or email

Hi@uniqueways.org.uk

Family Voice Calderdale

Summer Update

Family Voice Calderdale (FVC) is the Parent Carer Forum for Calderdale, representing the lived experience of families with children who have additional needs of any kind, when services are making decisions. It is a distinct project of local charity, Unique Ways.



We have just heard that we have been awarded another year of grant funding from the charity 'Contact', which administers the grant for the Department for Education. This enables us to carry on with our work for another twelve months.

The Annual General Meeting has just elected a Steering Group for the next school year and the greater part of the meeting was taken up celebrating some of the successes of the last twelve months – there wasn't time to celebrate all of them!

We are starting to engage with groups that previously were out of our reach to represent a parent dimension – this includes a number of Health Service / Local Authority groups, for example the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Autism Strategy Group. This is in addition to the ongoing work with the SEND work streams, notably Preparing for Adulthood and Project Search, Assessment and Planning and the Local Offer. Each of these has produced great examples of parents and professionals and practitioners working together as equal partners so

that services are better able to meet the needs of our children. We have also continued to work on Short Breaks.

Steering Group members and Parent Representatives are all parent carers of children and young people in Calderdale with additional needs of any kind who develop their skills and knowledge to represent a parent dimension with services. We are a friendly group of like-minded people. We offer lots of support to enable parents to do this, as well as a gentle introduction, being buddied up with a more experienced parent.

Any parent of a child or young person with an additional need interested in this voluntary work, can contact Heidi Coney at Unique Ways for more information hi@uniqueways.org.uk

Our Steering Group meets once a month, generally on the second Wednesday of the month.

Email: family.voice@uniqueways.org.uk
Tel: 01422 343090



Snow White

THE
VICTORIA
THEATRE HALIFAX

Thursday 13 December 2018
to Saturday 5 January 2019

Come and join us for the fairest pantomime of them all this festive season with the magical fairy tale Snow White at the Victoria Theatre Halifax.

Once again, the Victoria Theatre will have all the ingredients for a perfect family panto, with a dastardly villain, a hapless comic and a hilarious panto dame, as well as spectacular sets and costumes, fabulous songs and dances and bags of slapstick fun!

Snow White can be enjoyed by anyone of any age with our special performances that are adapted to be inclusive and also with the addition of a touch tour for blind or partially sighted theatre goers.

The Side of Stage Performance (Wednesday 19 December at 10.15am) aims to improve access to the pantomime for hearing impaired people who use British sign Language (BSL). The interpreter stands stage left and interprets the performance for the audience.

Integrated Signed Performances (Saturday 29 December, 5.30pm & Sunday 30 December, 1.00pm) include two BSL interpreters who are involved in the action on stage and take part in the performances!

The Relaxed Performance (Friday 4 January, 10.30am) is designed to be welcoming to everyone and especially to adults and children who may feel unable to access theatre performances for a variety of reasons, for example, parents/carers with noisy infants, people who need or want to move around



and/or vocalise during the performance, people with dementia, autism or with other complex access or inclusion needs.

The Touch Tour (the morning of Saturday 22 December) provides access to the stage and set, and the opportunity to handle selected props, costumes and furniture. **The touch tour is free but places are limited so make sure you book early!**

For more information about Snow White and the inclusive performances, please visit:

www.victoriatheatre.co.uk/whats-on/snow-white
or call the Box Office on 01422 351158



Save the date!

Thursday 8th November 2018

Unique Ways Annual General Meeting

Sunday 2nd December 2018

Unique Ways Members' Children's Christmas Party

Thursday 7th February 2019

Family Voice Calderdale Annual Conference

For any further information or advice please contact:

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

T: 01422 343090

E: hi@uniqueways.org.uk

W: www.uniqueways.org.uk