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Rochdale Parent Carers Voice Newsletter: April 2021

School uniform swap scheme

Many children have outgrown their school uniforms over lockdown and we've created a swap scheme where you can donate the items your kids have grown out of for bigger sizes. So far we've helped 10 families who needed uniform and we want to help more. We have loads of stock and we're going to keep the scheme going until autumn. This scheme isn't just for children and young people with additional needs and disabilities. Help us spread the word across Rochdale Borough.

Please email us at RochdalePCV@outlook.com if you need uniforms or if you have uniforms to donate.



You said...we did

After the first lockdown, many of you completed our survey describing your lockdown experience. Almost 40% of you said you didn't feel supported by health professionals **at all** and more than 70% of you felt isolated. We wanted to make sure that people in power knew how families were really feeling.

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care leads expressed concern that families felt so unsupported. As a direct result of this, Rochdale Parent Carers Voice has been asked to work with health and social care partners to improve communications between children's mental health services and families, to include #Thrive and Healthy Young Minds. We will be asking you to be a part of this work if you'd like to be involved. We will also be conducting a review of Short Break services and asking what sort of support you would like to see on the Local Offer. Thank you to everyone who completed our survey.

Alongside this, the [Getting Help portal](#) has gone live and together with CAONS, we are delivering new Neurodiversity training for Early Years workers (including Health Visitors and School Nurses) around the importance of positive and supportive language.



Parent Carers Voice 25+ group

We are setting up a group for people aged 25+ with disabilities and their families. This group will feed into the Rochdale Disability Forum. We are hoping to help shape services for people with disabilities locally. We are going to be involved with the work being undertaken to look at accommodation for people with disabilities in the Borough. Please let us know what you think our other priorities should be for adults in the Borough by emailing RochdalePCV@outlook.com



Rochdale Town Hall

Rochdale Town Hall are planning to include accessible toilets and a 'Changing Place' in their next refurbishment. Reps from Rochdale Parent Carers Voice reviewed the council's plans and suggested several changes based on their own experience. Some of the changes have already been agreed. Since then, we have reviewed the plans again with Occupational Therapy to suggest further changes. Huge thanks to the Occupational Therapy team for their help with this. Going forward, we have asked that we be included in future discussions about 'Changing Places' in other parts of the Borough.



Open consultations

Reforming the Mental Health Act. You can [respond to this consultation](#) here. The closing date is Wednesday 21st April 2021.



Come and have a chat with us...

Our next Coffee Evening is on Thursday 8th April at 7.30pm on Zoom. We will be discussing sleep issues with the Together Trust. There will also be a Zoom Coffee Morning on Tuesday 13th April at 10.30am.

Thursday 8th April Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82600712918?pwd=OERzRjBkNE5nRW16Z0VnbE1KWUR0QT09>

Tuesday 13th April Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89609219008?pwd=bEF6L3NrcXJvK0hwVUxIWFnQYzVDdz09>

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Co-production is about developing more equal partnerships between people who use services, carers and professionals. There are key principles for co-production around equality, diversity, access and reciprocity. Co-production can help make the best use of resources, deliver better outcomes for people who use services and carers, build stronger communities and develop citizenship. To do co-production, organisations need to make changes to their culture, structure and practice and to regularly review progress. (Taken from the SCIE website: <https://www.scie.org.uk/>)

SUGGESTION BOX

What would you like to see more of? What things should we be looking into?

Email us at RochdalePCV@outlook.com



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