



# January 2025 Newsletter

## SHORTBREAKS

Thank you to all the parents, carers and professionals who came along to the two consultations on short breaks criteria and eligibility.

It was good to see so many attend and give feedback to the team.

As the new year starts, Medway Parents and Carers Forum will have the short breaks statement firmly on the agenda as this needs to be revisited and finalised into a working document for families in Medway.

Look out for details about this throughout the Year.

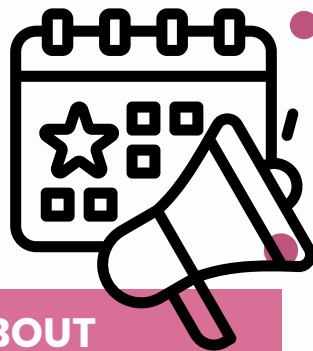
## EVENTS ATTENDED

There have been many events and meetings going on that MPCF have been invited to, despite the cold winter nights!

Thank you to our colleagues for always inviting us.

Our dedicated team have been at The Youth Service have a go and Christmas events, Child Friendly Medway Town Hall event at Ninja Warrior, various Christmas activities held by Child Friendly Medway, Medway Go Christmas event, Snapdragons Christmas party and Social Care staff training day.

Our wellbeing breakfast was well attended again and we had lots of lovely feedback so we are hoping to be able to hold one again in 2025.



## OUT AND ABOUT IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Thank you to the schools and colleges for inviting us to parents evenings and coffee mornings. We have met families at Mid Kent College, Rivermead School, Parkwood Primary school, Rochester Grammar School for their TSAT meeting and also attended the Military families coffee morning.

Good to work in collaboration to empower families to improve outcomes for their child/young person.

If you would like to see us at your child's school please ask them to email [info@medwaypcf.org.uk](mailto:info@medwaypcf.org.uk).

We had many invitations to Christmas Fayres,

Thank you to Greenvale School, All Faiths, All Saints, Riverside, New Road, Twydall and Featherby for inviting us along and St Peters for inviting us to watch their Christmas play.

We enjoy meeting the school communities and speaking to as many families as we can about all of the work we do to help families in Medway.

## ADHD MEDICATION SHORTAGES

While the shortage of ADHD medication continues, please make sure you tell your school if you feel that your child may need extra support to manage if their medication is unavailable.

Current information available on this link [Patient information for ADHD supply disruption :: NHS Kent and Medway](#).

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who shared their examples of how transition has been for your family.

This information has been passed on and we hope to have better guidelines available this year.

## MCH SESSIONS

We attended the question and answer session that MCH run every Monday at Parkwood Health centre.

It is run by an Occupational Therapist and a Physiotherapist with years of experience and all the parents who attended gave great feedback.

The Forum wanted to see what it was actually like before we could signpost and we would highly recommend it.



Booking is essential. Please call the Snapdragons number and ask to book on 0300 123 3444.

## COFFEE MORNINGS

Our Christmas meet the professionals coffee morning was a huge success, we were lucky to secure lots of different services under one roof so that families could speak to them individually regarding anything SEND.

Thank you to all of the professionals for giving up their time for us.

If there are any particular speakers you would like to see at our coffee mornings in 2025 or there is an area you'd like us to arrange to meet in please email [info@medwaypcf.org.uk](mailto:info@medwaypcf.org.uk) with any suggestions.



### New Year MPCF catch up and information morning

January 21st 10am  
Medway Park, Mill Road,  
Gillingham, Kent

Parents and Carers are invited to come along and meet the MPCF team, find out all about upcoming work, get advice and speak to our family support team about DLA/PIP. No need to book. Please register your car at reception for free parking.



Thank you to everyone who participated in our Annual SEND survey, the feedback gained from this is sent to all partners across Medway to let them know what life is like for you as a SEND parent/carer. Congratulations to our 3 winners, who all got a £50 Amazon voucher in time for Christmas.

## UPCOMING COFFEE MORNINGS



**Our next coffee morning is**  
**January 21st 10:00-12:00** Where we will discuss general information about what we do. Our family support team will also be available for DLA/PIP advice.

Upcoming Coffee mornings are on :  
**February 28th 10:00-12:00**  
**March 21st 10:00-12 :00**  
venues and speakers to be confirmed.

Online evening meetings will be arranged monthly.

Don't forget to check our facebook page for dates and information on upcoming coffee mornings and events.



# Volunteers needed

We are looking for more volunteers !

As our success grows we are being asked to attend more and more meetings and events.

Whether you would like to be part of our family support team, help out at coffee mornings or join the strategic meetings with partners we would love to hear from you.

We are also still looking for more Trustees so if you would be interested in becoming a Trustee or would like to learn more about what this involves then please get in touch.

please email [info@medwaypcf.org.uk](mailto:info@medwaypcf.org.uk)  
We would love to hear from you.