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Torbay PPF Facebook Group (members only)

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JANUARY 2017

Happy new year and welcome to the first **PPF Newsletter** of 2017. If you have any comments or suggestions on what you would like to see in future issues, please contact us on the e-mail address above

PPF NEWS AND INFORMATION

Are you a member of Torbay Parents Participation Forum? PPF members receive regular newsletters and invitations to all our events, including the FREE '**Fair Play Day**' and FREE **Santa Special** steam train ride. It's easy to join, via our website www.torbayppf.org.uk

SURVEYS AND CONSULTATIONS

Don't forget to check out Torbay's **Local Offer**, and give feedback to [Local offer](#)

In most countries across Europe, severe financial cuts in public spending are affecting everybody, particularly disabled people and their families. **The European Academy of Childhood Disability** wants to learn about the experiences of families with disabled children and young people, to make these widely visible to policy makers. They want to hear about the **good and positive things** that help and support participation in fun activities with family and/or friends and access to health, education and social services, as well as the **challenges and barriers**. Complete their questionnaire at : http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/3216034/Survey-for-Families*

The **Department for Education** is introducing a **national funding formula** to make funding fair for local areas, children and young people. This consultation seeks views on the detailed design of the formula, building on the earlier consultation on the principles and structure. You can have your say at https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/high-needs-funding-reform-2/*

OTHER NEWS AND INFORMATION

FREE TRAINING COURSE FOR PARENT CARERS

'**Face2Face**' are offering training which will help you to develop a deeper understanding of the emotions you faced when discovering your child had additional needs and the impact it has had on your life.

Being part of Face2Face means that you will benefit from the emotional and practical support of other parents and also be able to use your own experiences to offer support.

Where? Newcourt Community Centre, Blakeslee Drive, Exeter EX2 7FN.

When? An eight-week long course MONDAYS; 9.30 am - 2.30 pm, starting Jan 23rd

If you would like to register or have any questions, please get in touch with Bel McDonald, Face2Face Co-ordinator: mobile 07825 739171 bel@face2face-exeter.org.uk

SIGN UP FOR WESC OPEN DAY

Are you exploring pre and post 16 options for a young person or adult (up to 25 years old) who is visually impaired (VI)? Do you want to find out how WESC Foundation can support VI learners in mainstream school, colleges and universities?

WESC Foundation is holding an open day on **Tuesday 7 February, 10am-2pm**, aimed at parents, carers, commissioners, teachers and SEN professionals to find out all about WESC services including: the school and college, outreach services, social enterprises research & development, assessments (including the Cortical/Cerebral Visual Impairment (CVI) Range assessment), a tour of the campus, lunch

For more information or to reserve your place please call Katy Gaulton on 01392 454235 or email kgaulton@wescfoundation.ac.uk by Monday 30 January 2017.

See more at: <https://www.wescfoundation.ac.uk/about-us/news/sign-wesc-open-day/#sthash.G07NEZma.dpuf>*

PARENTS' EXPERIENCE



One of our members, Woody, recently took his family to an **Autism Friendly Screening** of "Frozen" at Vue Cinema, Paignton (Woody's youngest son, six year old Daniel, has recently been diagnosed as being on the autistic spectrum, and the family are exploring ways of living with his condition. Woody said they were all able to enjoy the outing to a relaxed environment where people understood the needs of children and families with autism.

The adjustments the cinema made included :

- lights left on low
- sound turned down
- no trailers or advertisements
- staff trained in autism awareness
- disabled access
- freedom to move around and sit where you like
- you can bring your own food and drink
- free entry for carers with valid [CEA Card*](#).

Autism friendly screenings are on the last Sunday of each month at 10.15 in Paignton, but check with the cinema for details and to book your tickets ([Vue, Paignton](#))*

If you have had an experience (good or bad) that you would like to share with other parent/carers, please e-mail it to info@torbayppf.org.uk