



Preparing for Adulthood

Health Employment Housing
Community, Friendships & Relationships

Growing Up Event

On Thursday 16 September Sarah Kumar and Anthony Clayton attended the Children's Quarter Growing Up conversation at the Midlands Arts Centre. The meeting was informal and conversational with speakers from Seven Up, Stuart Wilson School/Hive college, Open Theatre, Trinity College, Creative Active Lives, Calthorpe Academy and Hamilton School who shared their work and experience to ignite conversations. As well as schools and organisations, parents also spoke of their lived experience and how difficult it is to navigate services in order to get support for their children.

Discussions explored how young people, with additional needs, could be better integrated and the barriers to that happening. At the event it was clear to see people's passion for the work they do and the will to make a difference, but also the upset, trauma and frustration that people face when trying to find services that best meet their child's needs.

Preparation for Adulthood wanted to be involved in the event to be at the start of something that will lead to better chances for young people, particularly those with multiple disadvantages, as they transition to adulthood.

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We are very pleased and excited to welcome two new Family Support Workers to the PFA B.R.I.D.G.E Team



Hi I am Patricia Noel, I recently moved to the PFA BRIDGE Team. As you can see I love plants. These are my flowering broad beans before the pods came out. I got quite excited, as this was my first year of growing them in pots. I had baby courgettes, beautiful beetroot, green beans, peas, potatoes, and very skinny onions, but alas not 1 carrot. Anyway I digress, I am looking forward to working in the Adult Social Care arena, having moved from Children's Services. I am learning loads around the new young people and the team I am working with. The PFA team have been great, welcoming and supporting us newbies.



Hi everyone, I'm Tracy Pater and I am joining the team as a Family Support Worker. I come from a social worker background. I worked as a senior support worker and engagement officer in a Community Project for over 9.5 yrs. I previously worked in The Netherlands as a Mental Health Social worker and a Children and Families social worker. I am passionate about supporting those in need in order for them to be able to find their place and way into our society. I love baking, travelling, exploring and learning from different cultures and traditions. I'm excited to be part of the team and learn from each other.

Transitions Hub

As part of PFA, we commissioned a Transitions Hub that is run by St Bails. There are 3 young people living in the Transitions Hub, 2 are on floating support and we are also looking at 2 further referrals. Young people accessing the Hub have complex needs and sometimes their behaviour has presented as very challenging, so the Team has worked hard to maintain relationships and engage them in services. Many have been let down by support providers in the past or have been excluded from accommodation due to behaviours, so staff have been working hard to build professional relationships with these young people and engage them in the holistic services on offer. Both the Clinical Psychologist and Occupational Therapist are providing specialist assessment and therapeutic interventions for young people, as well as being an on-site mental health resource for the wider staff team.

There is a programme of communal activities put into place and staff are exploring community activities/engagement. There has also been communal lunches whereby young people have been supported to cook lunch for others





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Report on the YES! Group by Anthony Clayton

The YES group had a little break over the holidays, but we did have a meet up at Cannon Hill park. All of us had a brilliant time together, especially being face to face for the first time since the team got together. It was lovely to spend time with the PFA team and to catch up with Carmel who previously worked in the team.

Over the last month many of YES! have been involved in much wider co-production work with the Council. Members were heavily involved in the co-creation of a very important customer survey about the new Customer Service Strategy.

The team also met with the Women in Theatre (WiT) group to discuss their lived experiences of care and support. YES! members have agreed to help with the co-production of a play that is in the early stages of being created.





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The PFA are shining the spotlight on a number of youth forums, starting with Rise youth forum and The Wellbeing youth forum

After a relaxing break over the summer Birmingham's Wellbeing Youth Forum and RISE Youth Forum hit the ground running this term.

Rise Youth Forum

The Rise Youth Forum met with the new Assistant Director for Education and Skills, Pauline Madison, and let her know how they felt things were going in Birmingham and how the school term has been going so far. Although many felt the school term had been going well, some members expressed their concerns for upcoming exams and if reasonable adjustments would go far enough to support them. Some members expressed anxieties re the format of exams, suggesting that they felt more confident completing oral exams and can find it hard to articulate their point within written exams. They felt this was a barrier to them when trying to achieve the grade which they would want.

The RISE Youth Forum also seen the completion of their video to support their campaign #AdditionalNotSpecial!

To watch and support their video please click the link below.

[The RISE Youth Forum #additionalnotspecial - YouTube](#)

The #AdditionalNotSpecial campaign was created as part of an effort to see a change in culture with using the term SEND! The forum members feel this term is outdated and is not representative of their needs. They have put a petition together to have this term changed in the Children and Families Act 2014 and replaced with Additional Needs. They would like to be referred to as Children and Young people with Additional Needs.

Please support them by signing and sharing their petition.

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/584547>

The Wellbeing Youth Forum

The Wellbeing Youth Forum has also been keeping busy this term with the creation of a questionnaire's and posters which is due to be sent out to all schools and colleges in Birmingham in the coming weeks.

The Forum members are experts by experience and would like to help teaching staff in schools and colleges across Birmingham support other young people with their Wellbeing and Mental Health across the city. They have created questionnaire's and posters to see if there are any gaps within teaching staff's knowledge and aim to upskill them by providing training devised by the forum then delivered by forum members to ensure the best Wellbeing and Mental Health support is given to the young people of Birmingham.

The Wellbeing Youth Forum is proud to be Birmingham's pupil voice on all issues surrounding Wellbeing! They are honoured to advocate for pupils to ensure the service they are receiving is fitting with pupil voice at the heart of it.

For more information on both forums, or if you would like to be a member of either forum please email us at: youthforum@birmingham.gov.uk





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Beneficial Activities in Birmingham (BAB)

- live the life you want

A free event for adults with autism and/or ADHD and their carers, support workers, social workers and activity providers. All welcome to attend.

Join us on Friday 29th October at the Queen Alexandra College, Harborne:

Light refreshments provided

Morning - 10am to 1pm
or
Afternoon - 1pm to 4pm.

<p>Meet providers and professionals. Find out more about groups and activities for developing the skills to help you live the life you want.</p> <p>Try out some fun, beneficial activities for free on the day.</p>	<p>*Pre-booking is recommended*</p> <p>Booking information: <u>Beneficial Activities in Birmingham (BAB) Tickets, Fri 29 Oct 2021 at 10:00 Eventbrite</u></p>	 
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This event is in support of the work of the Birmingham Autism and ADHD Partnership Board - BAAPB.

Upcoming Events

The Autism and ADHD partnership board are having an event in October – ‘Beneficial Activities in Birmingham’ (BAB for short 😊)
 Below is the Eventbrite link for bookings which is highly recommended.

[Beneficial Activities in Birmingham \(BAB\) Tickets, Fri 29 Oct 2021 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)

How to contact us

If you would like to make a connection request or receive an electronic copy of our comms, please call us on 0121 303 1888 or email via preparationforadulthood@birmingham.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/preparation-for-adulthood>

