

Chat from the last Ribble Valley forum on the 7th December 13:00-15:00

We had a festive Jacob's Join at the meeting and I have to thank Allison, Gabi and Lesley for providing an extravagant spread of sandwiches, cream cakes and other festive foods.

So, not too much chat and a lot of eating. After my third sandwich we started talking about how we could publicise the group and if there was anything we could do to encourage more parents to drop in.

I asked if everyone thought the venue was suitable, the general agreement was that it was, it has parking, it is accessible, has brew making facilities and it is hard to lose a building that has huge red doors and sometimes a Fire Engine outside- this chat proved energy sapping and we had a mince pie break.

This was followed by a brain storming session on how we could publicise the group.

Suggestion made were:

Updating the Local Carers Link branch with our 'chats' and make sure they have a list of dates and speakers when available. The groups thought that a lot of carers would be interested in some of the speakers we have attending our meetings.

Putting leaflets and posters into Doctors Surgeries.

Making contact with the local Children's Centre (Ribblesdale) could they pass our details on to any parents and or carers who may be interested in attending our group.

The quick fix for our meeting on the 11th January is that everyone will try to bring a guest (friend/ grandma/acquaintance) Our speaker is Fiona Maudsley (some parents may remember her as Fiona Owen the manager of Ribblesdale Children's Centre) Fiona is carrying out a mapping exercise of Children's services in the area and she would love to hear parents experiences of the local services and included them in her consultation..

Amanda Higgins from Healthwatch will also be attending talking about home care packages and domiciliary care.

Then last but not least, congratulation to Lesley (really to her son William who works at the Printed Cup Company) who was awarded Apprentice of the year at Lancashire Business View Sub36 Awards, The awards mark the achievements of remarkable men and women from across the county who are aged under-36 and setting the pace in the business world

The event was held at Blackpool Winter Gardens and I am sure it will have involved a new dress for the very proud mum.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the next meeting 11th January, same time, same place

Give me a call if you have any concerns you want to raise or topics you would like me to find out about

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