**Family Support Partnership Service**

The Family Support Partnership is a new service specifically for parents/carers of children with a disability or SEN. The project is funded by the National Lottery and delivered in partnership with the charities **Includes Us 2, For Us Too and Space 2 Be Me**. The service is being offered across the 9 districts in Kent where the charities currently operate:

**Includes Us 2: Ashford, Folkestone & Hythe, Dover**

**Contact:** **familysupport@includesus2.org.uk**

**For Us 2: Thanet, Canterbury & Swale**

**Contact:** **info@forustoo.org**

**Space 2 Be Me: Maidstone, Tonbridge & Malling & Tunbridge Wells**

**Contact:** **support@space2beme.org.uk**

**Programme Overview:**

* This new service aims to assist parents/carers of children who have a disability or SEN by providing a tailored package of support for up to 12 weeks.
* Some families may only require a short period of support; such as being given information or advice on a specific issue or signposting to a specialist provider.
* Families who have more complex issues and require a longer period of support will be invited to complete an **Initial Assessment** which will look at a range of factors that may be impacting on the family, such as diagnosis, education, access to health and social care, behavioural issues or isolation.
* Once the key areas of support needs have been identified, an **Action Plan** will then be developed with the parent/carer to identify both long and short term goals, areas where support is needed and the steps to be taken to achieve the desired outcomes.
* This initial stage of the programme will take approximately 3 hours and can be completed over 2 or 3 sessions if the parent/carer chooses.
* After the Initial Assessment and Action Planning, the designated Family Support Officer will then work with the parent/carer over a period of up to 12 weeks to work through the agreed action plan and support the family to achieve their specified goals.

**The types of support the FSO can provide and the expected outcomes for families include:**

* Supporting Parents to ensure their child has an effective **Education and Health Care Plan** in place, if required
* Providing **information, support and advice** to enable parents to have confidence to deal with issues around their children’s schooling, such as ensuring their child is in the best education setting to support their needs
* Supporting parents who are seeking to obtain a **diagnosis** for their child.
* Providing (or signposting to) **specific training and support** so parents have a better understanding of their children’s condition
* Providing parents with advice and support regarding **managing their child’s symptoms or behaviours**
* Supporting parents to **access benefits advice** in relation to their child’s disability
* Providing information and support regarding other **specialist provision that is available in their area**
* Encouraging parents to **access family events and peer support networks** run by each of the three charities to reduce isolation for parents and their children and promote increased friendship and support networks;

If you are aware of any families who would benefit from The Family Support Partnership Service, please contact the appropriate charity using the contact emails above.