

Neurodiverse Parenting Group

16.05.23

Michelle Collard – CEO ChAPS (Cheshire Autism Practical Support)

- *ChAPS is a voluntary organisation
- *There is a public and closed facebook group
- *ChAPS offer regular activities and social events including coffee mornings
- *Autistic children support; swimming lessons (Northwich), face to face activities
- *Autistic adult support – social care provision, counselling
- *Monthly ChAPS newsletters shared
- *ChAPS can fund breaks for carers
- *ChAPS members (£10 per month)
- *Adapting the learning for children with ASD
- *Parents choosing their battles
- *Alter your parenting for your child(ren) who are neurodiverse and those that aren't
- *Can be difficult for siblings to understand if a sibling is neurodiverse
- *Cheshire Carers Trust information on website
- *If a child has a diagnosis of ASD (or ADHD) they have a disability. The child may be entitled to DLA. School can support with DLA applications.

Link shared by a parent to help with completing DLA form:

<https://cerebra.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/DLA-cerebra-dla-guide-jun21.pdf>

- *Parents are the advocate for their child
- *Woodlands are obviously a supportive school due to being invited to attend the Neurodiverse Parenting Group
- *Discussed EHC Needs Assessment Request
- *AM discussed how some children who have ASD and/or ADHD their needs can be met in school without an EHCP
- *ChAPS membership – don't need a diagnosis but need to be on the pathway for assessment
- *Who do they support? Family support for children and adults with Autism
- *ChAPS was established in April 2010, set up by 3 parents from Frodsham, now support 600 families and 150 adult members
- *Offer face to face activities and online sessions every month

*Training for parents/carers and professionals

*MC handed out a leaflet on applying for an 'Attention card and keyring.' For people that have an ASD diagnosis

*AM shared that if ADHD and ASD are suspected, the Community Paediatricians assess for ADHD first

*Teenage girls who may be Autistic are sometimes misdiagnosed as having a mental health difficulty

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ADHD conference Sat 10th June - https://www.eventbrite.com/e/adhd-conference-chester-schools-together-parents-staff-tickets-629234727007?aff=eemailordconf&utm_campaign=order_confirm&ref=eemailordconf&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eventbrite&utm_term=viewevent

This is the link to the SEND group in Ellesmere Port <https://endorphins.uk/log-in/new-locations/>