

Sutton Parent Carer Forum - The Hidden Disability Sunflower Scheme



The Hidden Disability Sunflower Scheme was founded in 2016 and has now been adopted globally by airports, many supermarkets, railway and coach stations, leisure facilities, some NHS settings and emergency services, as well as an increasing number of large businesses and organisations. [The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower \(hiddendisabilitiesstore.com\)](http://hiddendisabilitiesstore.com)

Organisations and business that join the Scheme receive lanyards, badges and awareness posters, but most importantly have access to training videos for their staff, so that they will all recognise the logo and know how to support someone with a hidden disability.

Wearing the Lanyard indicates discreetly to people around the wearer that they need additional support, help, or maybe just a little more time. There are various ways someone can display the Sunflower logo. There are lanyards, badges, wrist bands, lead covers for assistance dogs, ribbons and clothing. The most common way is by wearing the Sunflower lanyard which can also hold an ID card with information about the wearer such as: I am non-verbal, I lip read, I am visually impaired, I am exempt from wearing a face mask or I may need a little support to Socially Distance correctly

The Sutton Parent Carer Forum Steering Group know that a lot of Sutton families with children and young people of all ages with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) use the Sunflower scheme; they appreciate the extra support it can provide in certain environments and that staff are aware that it means they may need extra time and consideration.

During the pandemic, in stores where staff are not aware or trained, our families are being asked for written proof that they are a carer. Where staff have had the Sunflower training, they understand that we may need to take our child or young person into a supermarket with us because they need a carer and cannot be left at home or alone, like another child or young person of the same age

Of course, the scheme doesn't just apply to children and young people with SEND, but to all those who have a hidden disability.

SPCF are delighted that Michele Rahman has taken up our request for the local area vaccination site to join the scheme and that staff will be trained to recognise and support anyone wearing the logo. We would love to see this rolled out in other NHS settings such as clinics and hospitals in the local area.

We are asking the Health and Wellbeing Board to ensure that Sutton Council leads by example and signs up to the Sunflower Scheme to ensure all their staff recognise the Sunflower logo and are trained in supporting those with hidden disabilities.

This simple idea can make little everyday things, which are huge hurdles to some of the community, so much easier especially in the current climate where tolerance and understanding are often stretched.

We believe this scheme will benefit the whole community if it is widely adopted and supported in Sutton,

Thank you for listening

Jane Knowles and Linda Morbin on behalf of Sutton Parent Carer Forum Steering Group 25.1.2021