What is the Umbrella group?

The Umbrella group has been running since 2013 and is a parent led, ASD support group for parents and carers.

I run the group which is unfunded on a voluntary basis and I am **not** a professional but a parent of a young man with autism and severe learning difficulties. At present, the Umbrella parents have children and young adults ranging from 3yrs -30 and are in a number of different settings ranging from mainstream to special schools and colleges, as well as adult services and independent living. We also have parents who have children who are Home-schooled or at home because there wasn't a place that could meet their needs or they were unable to cope with a school environment. The children range from needing substantial support to those who need some support to function in their daily lives. Level of intelligence and academic capability, is not necessarily an indication of how much support is needed. The one element that seems to be common with all of them is anxiety.

The group usually meets on the fourth Saturday of the month but this can vary due to school holidays. The meetings are from 10am-1230 in the Pool room at Portfield School, Hurn.
I often try to arrange a speaker to come and talk to parents and am always looking for suitable people. If you know of anyone who would be interested in talking to parents on a subject relevant to ASD please let me know. I send out information to parents of the group as well as those who are involved in assessment and working with children and young people with ASD.

It can be quite isolating when you have a child with ASD, especially if they attend a mainstream school, so The Umbrella group gives parents an opportunity to meet other parents of children on the spectrum. We now also have coffee mornings held at The Arcado Lounge Christchurch 1030 -1230 on Wednesdays (Usually the first in the month) and Fridays which vary each month.

I now have another parent from the group, Clare Lockyer, who is helping me to run The Umbrella group so that it can continue to support parents of children and young people with ASD. She is the mobile contact.

Debbie Muldoon-Hall
The Umbrella Group
Support for parents of children with ASD
Theumbrellagroupbh@gmail.com

The Umbrella group Clare Lockyer 07450 210911
https://m.facebook.com/groups/312179982770667?ref=share