

# **SOUTHAMPTON PARENT CARER FORUM**



**Are you a parent Carer of a child  
or young person(Age 0-25) that  
has a special education need or  
disability (SEND)?**

**Would you like to have a say in current  
and future services for your  
child/young person?**



Hampshire and Isle of Wight

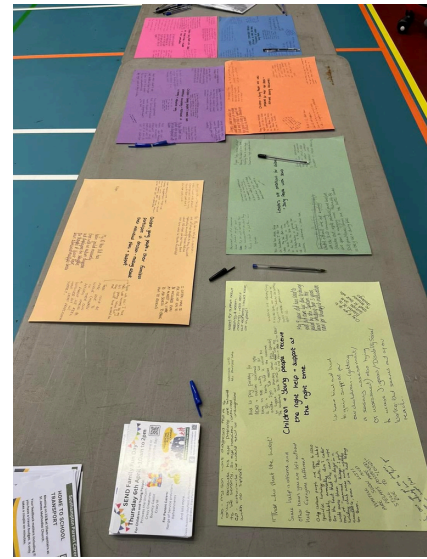


# WHAT IS A PARENT CARER FORUM?

A parent carer forum is a group of parents and carers of children with a special educational need and/or disability (diagnosed or not) who work with local authorities, education settings, health providers and other providers to make sure the services they commission, plan and deliver meet the needs of SEND children and families in the local area.

The National Network of Parent Carer Forums (NNPCF) is made up of all of the parent carer forums from across England. The NNPCF ensures that local parent carer forums are aware of national developments. It promotes opportunities for the voice of parent carers to influence at a national level including to the government ministers.

The NNPCF works closely with the Department for Education, the Department of Health, and other partner organisations to improve outcomes for children and young people with disabilities or additional needs and their families.



Feedback collected at Inftazone Feb 2023

## PURPOSE, VISION AND VALUES

### Purpose

Southampton Parent Carer Forum exists as a force for positive change. At its core, our purpose is to make life better for parents of children and young people with additional needs in Southampton by creating a loving and supportive community in which we all belong, where our challenges are truly acknowledged, our voices are heard and respected, and together, we can shape the services that our children deserve.

### Vision

Our Vision is for an accepting and empathetic wider community where the daily challenges faced by Parent Carers are recognised and understood, and there is a shared commitment to overcome them.

### Values

Making life better for people and speaking up to fix a broken system isn't always straightforward or easy so we lean on each other and all of our amazing employees, volunteers, stakeholders, partner organisations and family members to keep us going.

**Found the group friendly and was nice to meet like minded parents and share our experiences. (Parent carer at a swimming session)**

# FAQ AND MYTH BUSTERS

## Who are we?

We are a group of parents of children with Special education needs or disabilities.



It was great to hear about the new ND team and how they can support us. (Parent carer at Coffee Morning)

## Are we a campaign group?

No, but we acknowledge the important role a campaign group have in helping to get the parent carer voice heard. At the forum we are happy to work with campaign groups by providing them information and feeding back the issues they raise.



## So what do we do then?

We promote parent voice through participation and co-production. We sit on working groups with statutory organisations. We also run coffee mornings, workshops and family events to allow families to get together to see what help and support is out there and feedback their experiences. The forum also provides information and training.

## Who do we work for?

No-one! We represent parent carers but are entirely independent of any statutory organisation.



## What is co-production, participation?

Co-Production is a Parents and Professionals working jointly together to develop, decide, design and do as equal partners. Participation is Parents and professionals working in groups to decide what should happen and to shape services.



# SNAP SHOT OF MEETINGS ATTENDED

Below are some examples of the meetings we have attended recently



# CAN YOU HELP?

Southampton Parent Carer Forum is a thriving and active organisation driven by the desire to improve and shape services for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

We do this by influencing the design of policy and provision in the city of Southampton at the highest levels.

The more we grow and develop our presence, the more we need to add to our dynamic team of change makers.

Would you be interested in:

- representing the voice of Southampton parents and carers at meetings and partnerships?
- being involved in surveys and consultations about aspects of provision in the city?
- supporting with events and promotional activity
- having access to training and activities that develop your skills and aspirations

If so then we need to hear from you.

I enjoy my role as a parent rep, as we get to hear about local developments before other families. We can give our feedback on them which can make a difference. Supporting at the events reminds me I am not alone as SEN parent.

## KEEP IN CONTACT FOR UPDATES



<https://www.facebook.com/southamptonparentcarerforum>



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Scan the QR code  
for link to  
facebook (above)  
and website  
(below)

Members of



National Network of Parent Carer Forums  
'Our Strength is our Shared Experience'  
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